



B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor in Chief: Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS 774-7651 (0800-2100 hrs)

About the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club . . .

Organized in 1977, the club has been growing steadily. It is a gathering place for HAM radio operators in Fort Bend and Southwest Harris Counties, and surrounding communities. It is a general-purpose type of HAM club offering a variety of activities open to all interested persons. Membership is open, not only to licensed HAM operators, but also to anyone interested in the hobby. In addition to regularly-scheduled membership meetings, the club each year conducts classes leading to amateur radio licenses, and each month sponsors a volunteer-examiner team that offers examinations in all levels of HAM licenses.

For information about the club and any of its activities, please call Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, (713) 777-3345.

Volume: 14 Issue: 5

May 1991

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 1630
Missouri City, Texas 77459
Telephone: (713) 777-3345*

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, May 9	General Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
	Program on <i>Electrical Safety</i>
	by Raborn Reader of HL&P
Thurs, June 6	Board Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station

Allen Mattis *N5AFV*
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

May 1991

B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 American Lung Association Challenge Ride 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	6 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	7 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	8 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	9 7:30pm General Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station #1 7:30pm "Electrical Safety" program	10 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	11 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Balloon Launch 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
12 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	13 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	14 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strake Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146.82	15 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	16	17 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	18 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
19 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	20 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	21 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	22 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	23 7:30pm West Side Social	24 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	25 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146. 84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
26 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	27 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.47 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	28 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	29 8:00pm B-V/ RC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	30	31 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	

Notes From The President . . .

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

Greetings to you again. I am pleased to report to you that B-VARC continues to grow — our club membership now stands at approximately 170 members, clearly making us the largest club in the Houston metropolitan area. This continue growth is due, in large part, to the fine support the officers and directors of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club receive from the membership. Thank you to everyone who has pitched in and helped out the club.

Attendance at the last sidewalk sale on the third Saturday of April was down a little, because of competition from two events. Amateur radio operators, including numerous B-VARC members, were providing communications for the MS-150 Bike Tour, and there was a large swapfest over near Austin. Despite this competition, 150 or so persons stopped by the sidewalk sale. Among them was WA1THK, Bob, a visitor from New Hampshire. Bob had talked to Steve, WA5OEN, on the MERA repeater, and received the customary B-VARC welcome and invitation to come by. Bob took Steve up on the invitation, and came by the Saturday B-VARC breakfast just as we were breaking up to go back to the sidewalk sale. Congratulations to Bob, and his wife Kit, WA1WQM, on the recent birth of a grandchild here in Houston. Look for Bob on 15 meters, 21.325 MHz about 0630 local time when when he has a schedule with Luxembourg.

The next big project for B-VARC will be ARRL Field Day on June 22nd and 23rd. Randy Pollard, AK5G, and his various subcommittees are well into their planning phase for the event. If you can help out please contact Randy. If no one contacts you, or you don't hear any announcements about Field Day, ask about it on the Monday evening Public Service Net or at this month's general membership meeting. Make plans to participate now, because this is one Field Day you will not want to miss.

Before I close for this month, I want to comment on our present meeting facilities at the Missouri City Fire Station. If you missed our last meeting, you may not be aware that the spacious room we used in the past has been subdivided into two rooms, and we now have half the space we previously enjoyed. The first reaction by almost all who were present at the meeting was to seek other facilities in which to hold our general membership meetings. In truth, we can fit into that space for most of our meetings. Some of our social oriented meetings with larger attendance

may encounter a space problem. I suggest that we approach this problem in a level-headed manner and avoid any knee-jerk reaction. Let's see how it goes for the next meeting or so, and explore other options in a methodical and thorough manner lest we jump out of the frying pan into the fire. Anyone with any suggestions or constructive comments about this situation is asked to please contact me or any of the club's officers or directors.

That's it for this month. Hope to see you at the May meeting.

73 de N5AFV

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

March 27, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5MPN, W5IHY, AA5TB, WB5IGG, AK5G, KG5KV, WB5PNL, WN5A, WA5SCE, N5ECP, N5SNA, AA5BD, WA5ETS, N5AFV

April 3, 1991

KB5ION NCS, WA5ETS, KB5IIL, N5AFV, KG5KV, N5MPN, KB5DNT, W5IHY, WB5SRN, WB5IGG, WN5A, WB5PNL, WA5SCE, KB5LFU, W6NEG, KF5NU, W0NZQ

April 10, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5ECP, AK5G, N5MPN, W5IHY, N5AFV, WB5SRN, KB5DNT, WA5ETS, N5QCE, KB5LFU, N5KXU, WA5SCE, WN5A, KG5KV

April 17, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5MPN, W5IHY, N5AFV, WB5SRN, WN5A, WN5IGG, WA5SCE, KB5LFU

April 24, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5MPN, KB5DNT, N5SNA, WB5SRN, WN5A, WB5IGG, KB5LFU, N5KXU, W5IHY, N5NXS, WA5ETS, WG5KV, AK5G

April Meeting Recap

by Steve Shirk, N5SDL

Well gang, if you went to the April meeting and left hungry, it wasn't because food was in short supply. I would like to thank everybody who brought something and made this a great event. Time and space prevent me from naming everyone, but this bird would not have gotten off without your help. I'll be calling on you who did not get a chance to help this time for the Ice Cream Social in July.

As our guest for the May meeting, we will have Raborn Reader from Houston Light and Power to talk about electrical safety — not only for our radios but for ourselves also. Hope to see you there . . .

73's Steve (N5SDL)

Results of the April 9th Exam

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, April 9, 1991, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team

Bill Kemp, KG5CB
Harold Parker, ND5F
Jim Pettit, WA5YKR

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Irene Gordon, K5AYX
Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

A total of thirty-two (32) exams were administered during the evening to eighteen (18) applicants. Five (5) unlicensed candidates received their Technician Licenses and one (1) the General Class. Six (6) other candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of twenty-two (22) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was sixty-nine (69%) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and/or passed exams:

William Abbott, KB5MVE — Technician
Kathleen Blum, Pending — Technician
Mark Chambers, KB5LXG — Element 4B
John Collins, KB5PBN — Technician
Tony Cypert — Element 2
Martin Draznin — General
Richard Dumas, K15JS — Extra
Susanna Friedman — Technician
Jay Goldberg — Technician
Carol Haney — Technician
Larry Haney — Technician
David Hanus, N5RCQ — General
Louise Morewitz, KB5OMJ — Technician
Casey Mumpire — Element 2

Eddie Newman — Technician

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

73's ... ND5F

Volunteer for Public Service

by Stephen Dunkelberger, N5JBL

Do you enjoy providing communications for races, rides, and other types of events? B-VARC has earned a reputation around Houston as being able to provide reliable and responsible radio communications for these events. Sometimes, event directors call us at the last minute asking the club to provide communications.

As Public Service Events chairman, I am developing a callup list of amateur radio operators that enjoy working public service events and would like to be solicited on a regular basis to work these events, sometimes on short notice. By placing yourself on the callup list, you are not automatically volunteering for an event but rather telling us that you would like to be considered for an event.

If you are interested, please give me a call, Stephen Dunkelberger, at home at 781-6703, drop me a letter, or see me at the B-VARC club meetings.

Some of the upcoming B-VARC sponsored public service events for 1991:

May 5, Sun	American Lung Association Clean Air Challenge Ride
Oct 12, Sat	GAAC Marathon Warmup Series 20K run
Nov 9, Sat	GAAC Marathon Warmup Series 25K run
Dec 7, Sat	GAAC Marathon Warmup Series 30K run

**B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting
Action & Comments, April 4, 1991**

by Dick Kruse, N5OUT, Recording Secretary

Cash on hand in the club treasury is \$2,887.14. Our checking account will be moved to a bank with no service or checking account charges.

The B-VARC meeting location and time will be listed in *World Radio* magazine at a cost of \$60.00 yearly. In addition we will receive: nine free subscriptions to be given as prizes, mailing labels of all new hams and those with license changes in our area, and \$1.00 for our club from each new or renewal subscription.

To promote our club and ham radio, it was decided to assist the Houston Amateur Radio Helpline (488-4426) financially. The Helpline telephone bulletin board (voice) lists activities and functions of area amateur radio clubs and will promote amateur radio in general. An initial \$50.00 payment will be made plus \$25.00 each quarter for one (1) year.

Three items were considered by the Rules Committee in their meeting: the Dr. Bill award, changes in the Order of the Key award, and changes that will make the Loop and Zepp award conform to the other awards. This was tabled until the next meeting.

There were ten to twelve weekly check-ins to the Rag Chew Net during March. Also, there are some regular check-ins from out of town.

Gerry Borg, N5APW, thanked all those that are filling in as Net Control each Monday night at 9:00 P.M. during the B-VARC Public Service Net.

The board approved providing communications for the M.D. Anderson Hospital 5K Run and the American Lung Association Clean Air Ride. A Public Service sign-up sheet has been started for those that wish to work the various runs and rides. Call Steve Dunkelberger, N5JBL, to be put on the list.

An ice cream social is being planned for July. A video of Field Day will be made and presented during the social.

Ads for the B-VARC *Bulletin* are being renewed.

Half way through the Novice class we have the lowest number of drop-outs ever. Approximately twenty-seven attend each class.

The need for a short-wave listening station and a ham station to be installed at Ronald McDonald House was presented to the board by Charley Prochaska, KG5KV. He suggested organizing a city-wide ham group to operate the station to provide needed communication between medical patients and their families who frequently live in another

**1991 B-VARC
PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL**

Compiled by Stephen Dunkelberger N5JBL

- A. Houston Tenneco Marathon
- B. Woman's Hospital 5K Classic
- C. M.D. Anderson 5K Run/Walk

Borg, Gerry	N5APW	A,C
Chambers, Marion	KB5PAJ	B
Chambers, Michael	N5QCE	A,B
Cheek, Ralph	KB5DNT	A,B,C
Deaktor, Steve	WA3PMT	C
Dessens, Bill	N5KXU	C
Dunkleberger, Steve	N5JBL	A,C
Dyer, Alicia	KB5KNC	C
Dyer, David	AA5GA	C
Dyer, Debra	KB5GUY	C
Dyer, Karla	N5LGS	C
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	A
Edwards, Susan	KB5ICO	A
Freedenberg, Henry	N5HF	A
Garland, Trey	KB5OEE	A
Gordon, Hy	NC5A	A
Gordon, Irene	N5AYX	A
Grimes, Ron	WA5SCE	C
Grimes, Sharon	N5RQO	C
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A
Lance, David	KB5EYK	C
Mattis, Allen	N5AFV	B,C
Morrison, Henry	W5RIY	A,B
Nance, Herb	N5GZW	A
Orlando, Vincent	WA5ETS	A
Parker, Harold	ND5F	A
Pokladnik, Roger	KB5LFU	B
Shirk, Steven	KB5OLF	A,C
Smith, Irv	KB5EXM	C
Stanley, Tim	N5PHM	A
Van Demark, Jack	WN5A	A
Wade, Don	WB5IBT	A,B
Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	A
White, Bob	KF5ZL	A
Winford, Clem	WB5SHU	A


Please report corrections or additions to N5JBL

country. Charley was appointed to study this idea and report back to the board how we can best support this public service effort. Charley also suggested that call books be purchased by the club so members could use them. This idea was tabled until next month's meeting.

**1991 ATTENDANCE ROSTER
B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS**

	F	M	A
	E	A	P
	B	R	R
Darlene Bowman	✓		
Kathy Edwards	✓		✓
Susanna Friedman		✓	✓
Carl Hacker	✓		
Eddie Heikkila	✓		
Michael Howard	✓		
Harry Levine		✓	✓
Clifton King		✓	✓
Jakub Miketta			✓
Terri McRae	✓	✓	✓
Tory Onda			✓
Matthew Pollard		✓	✓
Stuart Ross		✓	
Gene Russell		✓	
Lawrence Whitehead	✓		
Jack Van Demark	✓	✓	
Al Mattis	✓	✓	✓
Tom Morton		✓	
Gerry Borg	✓		
Dave Hammer		✓	
Emmett Jackson	✓	✓	
Elton Kytle	✓		
Bill Kemp		✓	
Earle Herbert		✓	✓
Larry Stenger	✓	✓	
Sam Wilson		✓	✓
Dick Bigelow	✓		
Ken McAninch	✓	✓	
Ralph Cheek	✓	✓	✓
Robert Beniger	✓		
Vincent Orlando	✓	✓	✓
Irv Smith		✓	✓
Harold Parker	✓	✓	
Terry Onda		✓	✓
Ron McDonald		✓	✓
Clint Gilliland	✓		
Terry Onda	✓		
Randy Pollard	✓	✓	✓
Herb Nance		✓	
Mike Strong	✓	✓	
Gary Garrison		✓	
Don Wade		✓	✓
Susan Edwards	✓		
Stu Lamkin	✓	✓	
Lou Kronberg	✓		✓
Melvin Thatcher	✓	✓	✓
Stephen Dunkelberger		✓	✓
Robert Ricketts		✓	✓
Carl Albrecht	✓	✓	
Fred Juch		✓	
Melanie Edwards			✓
Don Brown, Sr.		✓	
Alicia Dyer			✓
Charles Prochaska	✓	✓	✓
Bill Dessens	✓		✓
Dawn Sinibaldi			✓
Steve Moynihan		✓	✓
Roger Pokladnik	✓	✓	✓
Glenn Edwards	✓		✓
Bill Todd-Brown	✓	✓	✓
Mark Fields		✓	
Vick Richard			✓
Eddie Runner, Jr.	✓		
Steve Gottlieb		✓	✓
Stephen Shirk	✓		
Dick Kruse		✓	✓
Marion Chambers	✓		
Ron Shorthose	✓		
Tim Stanley			✓

WA3PMT	Steven Deaktor	✓		
N5PNX	Eddie Runner, Sr.	✓		
N5PRC	Steve Skelton			✓
N5PRP	Nick Hardy			✓
N5QCE	Michael Chambers	✓		
N5QQJ	Jim Gilmore		✓	
N5QVI	Jordan Kossack	✓	✓	
N5RQO	Sharon Grimes	✓		✓
N5RYZ	Richard Bearden	✓	✓	
N5SAX	Kelvin Lyons		✓	
WA5SCE	Ron Grimes	✓		✓
N5SDL	Stephen Shirk	✓	✓	✓
WB5SHU	Clem Winford		✓	
N5SJQ	Paul Flesher			✓
N4SKR	Garlen Marshall			✓
WB5SRN	Dick Hagerman			✓
KA5TOQ	Don Schexnailder		✓	
WB5TTS	Steven Garrett		✓	
WB5VYR	Chuck Taylor	✓	✓	
KF5VZ	Brenson Abbott	✓		
KA5YSL	Rick Meyer	✓		✓
WA5ZIB	Andy MacAllister		✓	
KF5ZL	Bob White	✓		
TOTAL:		49	52	45



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June Bulletin Deadline

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the May issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than May 27th. Please give such to Vincent Orlando WA5ETS; 8900 Bellaire Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77036-4699 or FAX (713) 774-6427.

Up, Up and Away!

May 11, 1991

9:00 A.M.

This is launch time for *Balloon 2*, and it looks like a very good package. With a CW beacon on 28.322 MHz, packet telemetry on 147.435 MHz, ATV on 434.0 MHz and digitized voice on 439.250 MHz, there will be a lot of things going on. Let's hope for the best!

Field Day — June 22-23

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will have Field Day on June 22-23, 1991, at shelter 3 in Bear Creek Park. All are welcome, and please feel free to bring interested friends.

Talk in will be on 145.47 MHz. If you would like to help with the radios, please call Steve N5PRC at 444-5824. If you would like to help with the food, please call Jack WN5A at 495-1121. In any event, plan to attend. **Radio, Food, and Fun!**

Any questions? Call Randy AK5G at 729-6484.

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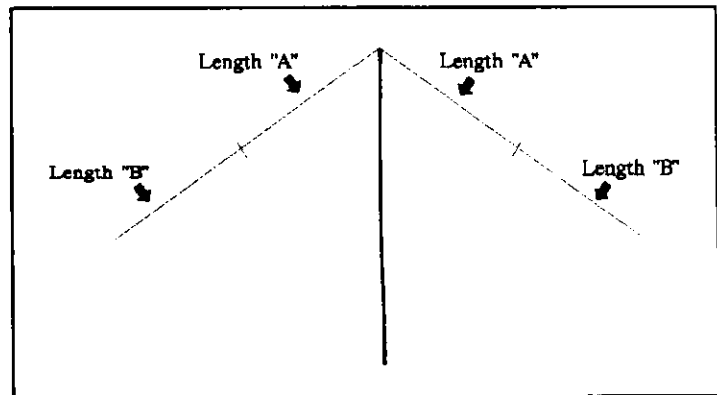
This dipole antenna takes on some very interesting characteristics unlike its predecessor the "simple dipole". Unlike the simple dipole, this one is very broad banded. Normally, the bandwidth of this coaxial dipole is around 500 KHz wide in the average installation, and it has an SWR under 2:1. The higher SWR occur of course at band edges. The SWR will be absolutely flat when the antenna is of the proper length at design frequency.

By proper choice of design frequency, one may have an SWR on one band edge equal to that of the opposite band edge. If this is your preference you will want to establish a design frequency somewhere in the top half of the band. As an example, for the 75-80 meter band the design frequency should be about 3.920 MHz. At the 4 MHz end of the band the SWR will be about 1.5:1 with the SWR at 3.5 MHz at about 1.5:1. This is all without the aid of a "match box". However, antenna parameters may vary slightly from one antenna location to another.

Harmonics of the operating frequency are also greatly reduced by this antenna. This feature, as well as the others mentioned earlier, result in substantial savings in cost since "matchbox", low-pass filter, balun, etc. are eliminated.

An 80-meter antenna will be used as an example, however lengths are given for the other bands. Any 52-ohm coax may be used such as RG 58A/U. For 80-meters, use 120' of coax; measure out from center point of this 120' length in both directions a distance 30' 6" and solder the inner conductor to the outer conductor of the coax. These are the sections marked "A" in the diagram and form the 52-ohm matching section and the balun. You should waterproof these soldered joints well. Next, at both ends of the antenna, the inner conductor must be shorted to the outer conductor. These may need trimming later for tuning purposes; after tuning, they should also be waterproofed. These are the sections marked "B" in the diagram.

At the center of the antenna, remove 1 inch maximum of vinyl jacket ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch each side of center). Cut the shield in the center all the way around the coax, but do not cut the insulation or the center conductor. Form 2 leads with the shield. These leads are the feed point of the antenna. Next, connect the feedline to these leads by soldering the feedline center conductor to one lead and taping; then solder the shield of the feedline to the remaining lead. Waterproof this joint. Random lengths of feedline may be used; however, 57', 87', or 103' are an optimum for 75-80 meter use. The same coax type should be used for both antenna and feedline.



After erecting the antenna, measure the SWR and trim the length for desired resonance. Be sure to solder the ends of the antenna (shield to center conductor) before measuring the SWR. This antenna is designed for use as a "Flat Top" or as an "Inverted V". Waterproof and enjoy!

BAND	LENGTH A	LENGTH B	TOTAL
75-80 M	30' 6"	29' 6"	120'
40 Meters	16' 9"	14' 9"	63'
20 Meters	8' 9"	8' 0"	33' 6"
15 Meters	5' 7"	5' 10"	22' 10"
10 Meters	4' 2"	4' 5"	17' 2"