



# 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 1978, 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.

To obtain information about the club and its various activities, please call the Houston Amateur Radio Helpline (713) 488-4HAM (488-4426). For information about joining the club, contact Randy Pollard AK5G: residence 729-6484 or work 224-3930.

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February 1992

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1630  
Missouri City, Texas 77459



## B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

**Thurs, Feb. 13 General Meeting**  
**7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center**  
**Program: HF Operations**

**Thurs, Mar. 5 Board Meeting**  
**7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station**

Allen Mattis N5AFV  
5314 Wigton  
Houston, TX 77096



# February 1992

## B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	<b>3</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	<b>4</b> 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	<b>5</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>6</b> 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.090 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station	<b>7</b> Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	<b>1</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146. 84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
<b>9</b> 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	<b>10</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Stroke Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146.82	<b>12</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>13</b> 7:30pm General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	<b>14</b> Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	<b>15</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Side-walk Sale 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
<b>16</b> 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	<b>17</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	<b>18</b> 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	<b>19</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	<b>22</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146. 84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
<b>23</b> 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	<b>24</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	<b>25</b> 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	<b>26</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>27</b> 7:30pm West Side Social	<b>28</b> Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	<b>29</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146. 84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32

## B-VARC Awards Banquet

by Allen Mattis, N5AFV

The annual B-VARC Awards Banquet was held at the Marriott Hotel West Loop by the Galleria during the evening of January 9, 1992. A total of sixty persons attended the event. A special DX surprise was that Tony Williams, J73TW, from Dominica was present at the banquet. The menu of prime rib or chicken florentine was enjoyed by all.

A number of advertisers in the B-VARC *Bulletin* were very supportive. Door prizes were contributed by EPO, Madison Electronics, Gadgeteer's, and City Electronics. Next time you visit these stores please thank them for their support of B-VARC. This support allows us to keep dues at an affordable level, and it also helps us provide a more diverse program of activities.

Many club members were recognized during the presentation of awards. The following members received Marathon Warm-up Series mugs for working all three races in the series: Steve Dunkelberger, N5JBL; Bill Dessens, N5KXU; Allen Mattis, N5AFV; Don Wade, WB5IBT; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Henry Morrison, W5RIY; Mike Warden, WB3HZP; Clem Inford, WB5SHU; and Bud King, N5UOG.

Harold Parker, ND5F, presented the Dr. Bill Award to Cass Germany, KG5IT, for his outstanding work and support in B-VARC's Volunteer Examination Team. We are very proud of the fine work Cass does for B-VARC and the amateur radio community in the Houston area.

Mel Thatcher, KB5ION, presented the Loop and Zepp Award to Charles Prochaska, KG5KV, for his continued support of high frequency (HF) operation by club members. Hardly anyone in B-VARC has not heard of Charlie's work at the Ronald McDonald House, and we all remember the fantastic Pitcairn Island program at the September B-VARC meeting.

A surprise was the presentation by Randy Pollard, AK5G, of the Order of the Key Award to Allen Mattis, N5AFV. The Order of the Key was given to Allen in recognition of his work for B-VARC in a variety of areas during the past four years.

Randy also presented an award from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG. The special certificate recognized Stu's efforts for many years in B-VARC's Novice/Technician classes.

## B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

### January 1, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KE5SR, W5GLD, KG5KV, N5MPN, KB5DNT, W5GHK, WD5CJL, N5AFV, WN5A

### January 8, 1992

KB5ION NCS, W5EFB, N5AFV, KE5SR, W5IHY, WB5SRN, KB5DNT, KB5IIL, KI5CE, N5MPN, W5GHK, WA5AFA, WN5A, N5KXU, WB5NES

### January 15, 1992

KB5ION NCS, W5EFB, KG5KV, W5GHK, N5MPN, N5AFV, WN5A, KI5SC, N5VRR, N5KXU, WA5SCE, WA5ETS, N5VRP, WA5ACF, N5UOG

### January 22, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KB5IIL, WB5SRN, W5EFB, W5IHY, KB5LFU, KG5KV, KI5CE, N5MPN, KB5DNT, AK5G, WA5SCE, KI5SC, N5AFV, K5KV, N5ECP, N5KXU

### January 29, 1992

KB5ION NCS, N5MPN, KE5SR, W5IHY, KB5LFU, W5EFB, KG5KV, N5KXU, AK5G, N5AFV, W5GLD, KB5LDY, KB5DNT, KI5SC, N5WMB, KG5CB, N5VRR, N5BNU

Comments regarding the banquet are still being heard. The consensus is that it was a great success. The facilities and service were good, garage parking was available, and everyone who attending appeared to have a good time. Many thanks to Suzanne, KB5BAY, and Gerry Borg, N5APW, for their help in coordinating and arranging this first-class event.

## Notes From The President . . .

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

B-VARC has had a unique opportunity to showcase amateur radio during the Christmas season. With all of the heavy rains and river flooding, hams have been pressed into service. The Fort Bend County EOC officially requested B-VARC to assist them during this flood. Thanks go to all of the operators who responded to this plea. Thanks also go to MERA for the use of the repeater. All of the operator training sessions really paid off in a big way. Once again B-VARC, along with all of its officers and

directors, appreciates the way so many members helped in so many ways during the flood.

This year B-VARC will have a special event station. This is for the 15th year anniversary of our club's founding. Bill Dessens, N5KXU, is the chairman of this grand event. Bill is still planning so keep tuned for all of the details.

The annual banquet was a first class event. Allen did a fine job organizing the event. All of the sixty people in attendance had a great time. The award winners were: Order of the Key Award — Allen Mattis, N5AFV; Dr. Bill Award — Cass Germany, KG5IT; Loop and Zepp Award — Charlie Prochaska, KG5KV; ARRL Award — Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG. These awards were given to truly the best in our club. Great job, guys!

The February 13th meeting at the Sugar Land Community Center will feature a panel of B-VARC members talking on the subject of HF radio. They will tell us all of the tricks and traps of HF that are not found in books.

Scheduled to speak to us at the March 12th meeting is Mr. John B. Holmes, Jr., W5ALC, who is the District Attorney of Harris County. This promises to be an interesting evening, so make plans now to be there.

73 de AK5G

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## **B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, January 2, 1992**

by Paula Holcombe, N5ULY, Recording Secretary

Members present at the meeting were: Allen Mattis, N5AFV; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Gerry Borg, N5APW; Bill Dessens, N5KXU; Mel Thatcher, KB5ION; Glenn Edwards, WB5LZG; Don Wade, WB5IBT; Paul Holcombe, N5ULY; Steve Shirk, N5SDL; Lawrence Cox, N5OUZ; Bud King, N5UOG.

Allen opened the meeting. Minutes of the last Board meeting were read and approved.

Randy presented the treasurer's annual report which was approved. The 1991 year began with a balance of \$3000.00+ and ended with a \$4000.00+ balance.

The 1992 officers' names and addresses were presented and checked for accuracy.

President Elect Randy presented the format for the regular 1992 B-VARC business meetings:

7:30 pm Roll Call

7:30-7:50 Announcements, etc.

(Sign-in sheets for announcements will be available.)

7:50 Presentation of program by speaker

(Announcements will continue, if necessary)

Mel is in charge of the coffee pot detail. Ralph and Bud are in charge of the room set-up. Don is in charge of name tags. Lawrence is in charge of monies, collections, membership applications, and explaining B-VARC to visitors and others. Randy will greet and recognize the program speaker.

Randy presented the programs and speakers for the 1992 meetings. He also distributed copies of the By-Laws and other pertinent information regarding B-VARC. This information will help B-VARC board members and potential members in becoming involved in the club.

New signature cards for the bank account were presented for the President, Vice President, and Treasurer to sign.

Randy named Jack Van Demark, WN5A, and Ron Grimes, WA5SCE, as the 1991 Audit Committee. Ron will serve as audit chairman. The audit report will be presented at the February board meeting for final approval.

Randy led a discussion on the up-coming Field Day. Bear Creek Park was chosen for the location. A check will be sent to Harris County to reserve our space. A volunteer to chair the Field Day event will be asked for on the net. Randy will announce the appointment.

Don, Corresponding Secretary, reported 218 paid members in 1991. As of this date, 81 members have paid their 1992 dues. The 1991-1992 roster, complete with both 1991 and 1992 members was presented. Mike Schuster's name was again omitted. Don stated that this error was being rectified.

Allen gave the incoming president and recording secretary copies of correspondence, files and pertinent records for the 1991 B-VARC year. He also discussed the upcoming annual banquet. Seven door prizes have been donated by advertisers and two magazine subscriptions will be given by the club.

The following committee reports were made:

Steve, N5JBL, reported that the Houston Marathon Race will be handled by Clem Winford, Jr., WB5SHU.

Bill, N5KXU, reported the Special Events Station will endeavor to involve club members in various areas of planning. Suggestions for a late May date and locations will be made to the board for approval.

Under unfinished business, comments concerning (1) ELMER status, (2) request for operating procedure assistance, and (3) public service event procedures were made.

Under new business, a discussion was developed concerning the Ham Hot Line. A decision was made to honor our monetary commitment of \$50.00 for the first quarter of 1992. Further studies will be made to determine future action.

A discussion of the recent flood in Fort Bend County, the EOC requests, and participation by B-VARC members followed.

The meeting was adjourned by the president at about 9:15 p.m.

James Benson, KB5OZO — General  
James Bledsoe, Jr., KB5MVF — Technician  
George Clark, KB5QNS — Advanced  
Jeff Cox, N5YFU — Element 4A  
Paul Fukuda — Technician  
Robert Helton — Element 1B  
Edd Hendee, Pending — Technician  
Scott Kelly — Technician  
Todd Kendall — Technician  
Clifton Lawley — Technician + Element 3B  
Shiraz Mir, KB5JNF — Advanced  
Howard Russell, N5XGT — Element 4A  
Frank Sanders, N5SPZ — Element 4B  
William Smith — Technician  
Michael Suggs — Element 2  
Sumfok Thai, Pending — Technician  
Lawrence Wilson — Technician  
Sonny Wu — 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

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## Results of the January Amateur Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, January 14, 1992, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

### The V.E. Team

Jim Pettit, WA5YKR  
Randy Pollard, AK5G  
Harold Parker, ND5F

### Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW  
Cass Germany, KG5IT  
Irene Gordon, N5AYX

A total of forty-one (41) exams were administered during the evening to twenty-five (25) applicants. Seven (7) unlicensed candidates received their new licenses: one (1) Technician and six (6) "no-code" Technicians. Seven (7) others upgraded with a total of twenty-eight (28) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was sixty-eight (68%) percent.

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

Robert Adams — Technician  
Clifford Alprin — Element 1A  
Jason Alprin — Element 1A

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## On The Bands

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

KE5SR has a new Icom 765 ... Congrats go to WA5SCE and N5RQO on the birth of N5BOY ... Saturday Breakfast had a good one; KE5SR called requesting help during the floods; thanks to KG5KV for helping ... N5AFV, please buy a new HF rig ASAP ... AA5BD has a new toy: 10M Ranger ... N5PRC new 10m module for 741 ... Anyone have the new Radio Shack 2m talkie? ... Has anyone dropped their talkie more than six times? I have and it still works! TGIK ... Thanks to WB5SHU for the great job organizing communications for the marathon ... Square wave people WA5F, N5UNE, N5PRC, N4SKR, N5UOG, KI5DR, AA5BD, KG5CB ... N5RXZ has a new dual bander ... N5APW stood tall at the banquet ... Congrats to N5JBL on the new arrival ... 145.47 late nighters N5JQH, N5XWB, W5DMH ... Sidewalk sale January 18th, rain; still had thirty for breakfast ...

73 de AK5G

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## Summary of 1991 Amateur Exam Program by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC initiated the ARRL's Volunteer Testing Program on February 23, 1985 in the Training Room of the Missouri City Police Department, a short while after the FCC discontinued their Amateur Testing Program. We continue to be the most active group of Volunteer Examiners in the south Texas area. B-VARC's exam teams administered exam sessions every month during the year at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, at both Novice/Tech classes, and again at the Houston Ham-Com for the fourth consecutive year.

The FCC and the ARRL now allow the exam groups to recover the actual expenses associated with administering the V. E. Program by retaining a portion of the test fees collected at each examination. B-VARC's Exam Teams have never had any significant expenses so we will continue to send 100% of all fees collected directly to the ARRL every month. No B-VARC Examiner has ever retained any of the testing fees.

We examined seventy-seven candidates at the 1991 Houston Ham-Com, a record number for our group. The Tuesday night session in May was also unusually active with 45 candidates present. We averaged 21 candidates at each of our monthly sessions.

A total of 568 exams were administered during the year to 327 applicants — **up 22% from last year**. New licenses were issued to 111 candidates and 73 others upgraded by passing a total of 371 elements. The new no-code Technician license introduced in March was very popular; 82 have already been issued! The overall "pass rate" on all the exams taken during the year was 65%.

Many thanks to all the V.E. Team members and assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. You all have made a significant contribution to B-VARC's great success this past year.

We will be looking forward to another great year during 1992!

## March *Bulletin* Deadline

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

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**See you at the B-VARC meeting**

**Thursday, February 13th at 7:30 pm  
Sugar Land Community Center**

**Program: Panel on HF Radio & HF Operations**

**BRAZOS VALLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB, INC.**



**P.O. BOX 1630  
MISSOURI CITY  
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**OFFICERS**

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