



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.

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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November 1992

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, Nov. 12	General Meeting
7:30 pm	Sugar Land Community Center
	Program: <i>Election of Officers</i> & <i>Chili Cookoff</i>
Thurs, Dec. 3	Board Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station

Allen Mattis *N5AFV*
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

November 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	2 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 9:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145. 47 & linked repeaters	3 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	4 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	5 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station	6 Ham Comm	7 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
8 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 Ham Comm	9 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 & linked repeaters	10 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strake Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	11 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	12 ELECTIONS! 7:30pm General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	13 Have you mailed your ARRL ballot?	14 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
15 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	16 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 & linked repeaters	17 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	18 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	19	20	21 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
22 25K Wimpout Run 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	23 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 & linked repeaters	24 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	25 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 KHz)	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
29 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	30 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 & linked repeaters					

Notes From The President . . .

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

What is B-VARC? We are an organization of people who like to talk and socialize. We are not a DX club. We are not a 10-Ten club or a QCWA club or an Extra Class club or a breakfast club or a contest club or a special event club or a repeater club or a ... club. Our club is not any one of these clubs, but we are all of these clubs. We all like to meet and talk about every topic under the sun. How do we keep things going? The answer is member involvement. Help with some of our events. Go up to Vincent, WA5ETS, our newsletter editor and say "I would like to write an article for next month's newsletter." Go up to Steve, N5JBL, our public service liaison and say: "I will chair the next public service race that our club plans to work." Go up to Randy, AK5G, and say "I will plan a monthly meeting program." All in all, it is help, cooperation, and the willingness to step forward that makes this the best club in Texas!

The November meeting will be our annual elections and chili cookoff. If you are interested in an office, please contact N5AFV. Those wanting to help in the chili department (chile, plates, spoons, drinks, bread, salads, tabasco, etc.) should contact N5KXU or JAØTEN. The December meeting will feature Terry Onda KI4FO who will speak on and demonstrate the topic of "electrostatics."

Finally, please be thinking of people that you feel should be recognized and then submit nominations for B-VARC's special awards: The Order of the Key, The Dr. Bill Award, or The Loop and Zep Award. Nominations should be in writing and given to me by the December meeting.

73 de AK5G

The World of 1Ø-1Ø International

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

The long awaited winter propagation season is finally here, and ten meters has had some spectacular openings. Both DX and stateside stations have been easy to work at times. Unfortunately, there are still periods of poor propagation, and the current solar cycle will not be remembered for consistent and reliable communications on the HF bands. With the increase in activity on the band, 1Ø-1Ø paper chas-

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS 3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

October 7, 1992

KB5ION NCS, N5UOG, W5IHY, N5NXX, KI5SC, W5EFB, N5KXU, N5CPA, KI5CE, WA5ETS, N5WMB, N5YKR, KG5KV, KB5USL, KI5FO, KAØTEN, N5OAC

October 14, 1992

KB5ION NCS, N5UOG, W5EFB, N5AFV, KE5SR, W5IHY, KI5SC, WA9YUJ, KG5KV, N5FLQ, KB5DNT, WA5SCE

October 21, 1992

KB5ION NCS, K5HQR, W5IHY, KE5SR, KI5SC, KB5USL, N5CPA, WA5SCE, WB5SRN, W5GKH, N5AFV, KB5LFU, WA9YNJ, N5KXU, KG5KV, KB5DNT, KI5CE, N5UOG, N5YKR

October 28, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KB5ION, KI5CE, WB5SRN, KB5LFU, WA5ETS, N5AFV, KB5USL, W5IHY, KB5DNT, KI5SC, KG5KV, N5YKR, W5GLD, N5KXU, N5UOG

ers have been active. Two new chapters have been formed: the *Coffee Cup Net* and the *Tin Lizzy*. Look for paper chasers at 28.345 MHz in the novice/technician portion of the band, and on 28.825 MHz in the general portion of the band.

The election for the 1Ø-1Ø International Board of Directors is over, and the Great Smokey Mountain Chapter has completed counting the ballots. There were eleven candidates running for five positions. The winners were: WA9TSG from the state of Wisconsin, W9WYN from Illinois, K4CIH from Alabama, WB2SJK from New York, and WØERZ from Missouri. Dave Prichard, KA5OVO, from Houston, finished seventh in the election and did not win a seat on the board. Prichard is the Supply Manager of 1Ø-1Ø International.

The results of the 1Ø-1Ø International Summer Phone QSO Party will soon be announced. The QSO Party was held August 1-2, 1992, and is being scored by the Suncoast Chapter in Florida. The Houston S.H.O.T. Chapter made an effort to win the contest, but local participation was down compared to previous contests. The contest results will be in the next 1Ø-1Ø International Newsletter which should be mailed to 1Ø-1Ø members during late

October. A summary of the contest results will be included in this column next month.

The Houston S.H.O.T. net meets every Tuesday evening at 8 pm local time on 28.488 MHz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a 1Ø-1Ø number. If you are not a member of 1Ø-1Ø International and wish to join the organization, please check in to the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in 1Ø-1Ø, and many friendly people can be found on the 1Ø-meter band.

73 de N5AFV

B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, October 1, 1992

by Paula Holcombe, N5ULY
Recording Secretary

B-VARC was well represented at Houston Ham Comm. While there, Randy Pollard proposed and later designed and printed a schedule of local clubs, contacts, meeting dates, repeaters, etc. with a full map indicating locations of all clubs on the back. These will be included in the Houston Ham Comm flyer next year.

All looks hopeful for the club's request for a meeting room for the next year in the Sugar Land Community Center.

There was an overwhelming (and much appreciated) response to requests for volunteers to assist with the Brazos Bend race.

Plans are proceeding well for the 25k race which will be November 22nd.

Novice classes are to begin October 19th, and turnout promises to be good for this class as there have been many inquiries already.

December *Bulletin* Deadline

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the December issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than November 25th. Please send the material to Vincent Orlando WA5ETS; 8900 Bellaire Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77036-4699 or FAX (713) 774-6427.

Low Band Excitement

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

A number of B-VARC members have recently become interested in the long wave band which consists of the frequencies below 540 KHz (below the AM broadcast band). This band has a number of different uses, and some serious experimentation and research is underway on these low frequencies. Some of the current spectrum uses are maritime and aeronautical mobile and radio navigation, military communications, LORAN and Omega navigation, time standard stations, European and African broadcast stations, and even a 30-KHz wide experimental radio band. Various long wave aspects will be discussed in a series of future articles, but let's take a look at what has already caught the interest of some club members.

A large portion of the long wave band is occupied by aeronautical and maritime radio-navigation beacons. This frequency range is useful for these beacons because changes in the ionosphere due to solar flares do not have a significant effect on long wave propagation. There are over 7,500 non-directional beacons (NDB's) in North America that operate 24 hours a day with power ranging from 10 to 2,000 watts. The beacons identify continuously in slow, CW, and are located at airports and key maritime locations. A radio listener with the proper equipment can log hundreds of these beacons. In the last 5 weeks, I have logged 103 beacons in 13 states and 7 foreign countries.

A number of B-VARC members have been helpful to me. WB4LZG, KB5KLY and WA5ETS provided me with useful information from an aviator's viewpoint. N5UOG and WA5OEN are also monitoring long wave

Selected Non-Directional Beacons

KHz	Identifier	Location
269	AAP	Andrau, Houston, TX
296	Q	Galveston, TX
326	JY	IAH, Houston, TX
350	CZM	Cozumel, Mexico
355	LI	Little Rock, AR
371	TS	Memphis, TN
379	HS	IAH, Houston, TX
382	VKS	Vicksburg, MS
388	SCR	Hull, Sugar Land, TX
591	DDP	San Juan, Puerto Rico
595	HU	Hobby, Houston, TX
596	ZBB	South Bimini, Bahamas
407	SWA	Swan Island, Honduras
418	CW	Lake Charles, LA
521	DWH	D. W. Hooks, Tomball, TX

beacons. WA5OEN build a loop antenna to null QRM and enhance reception of the beacons. N5TGM and K5LTW are also interested in this project. If you've a receiver that covers the long wave band, you might want to join us. I have included a list of selected local and DX beacons. Monitoring the NDB's is one way to study long wave propagation. Watch in future editions of the B-VARC *Bulletin* for articles about the exciting long wave band.

for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

73's ... ND5F

B-VARC To Provide Race Communications by Al Mattis, N5AFV

The second race of the GAAC marathon warm-up series will be held on Sunday morning, November 22, 1992. The 15.5 mile race, which begins at 7 am, will be held in downtown Houston.

Providing communications for this race will provide a real challenge to our club. Much of the race preparation, and possibly even the start, will take place before daylight. There will be restricted access along the race course, and parking along the course will be limited. The water stations will have only bottled water, with no access to running water. It is anticipated that there will be between 1500 and 2000 runners. All of these factors make our amateur radio communications vital to providing a safe event for the participants and spectators.

Larry Wilson, N5YYP, and I will be contacting all B-VARC members who expressed an interest in working this event. If you have not signed up to work the race, you may still do so by contacting me at (W) 752-5752 or (H) 721-3637. Larry and I look forward to working with many of you on November 22nd.

Results of the October Amateur Exams by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, October 13, 1992, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team

Ron Grimes, WA5SCE
Henry Morrison, W5RIY
Harold Parker, ND5F

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KG5IT

A total of twenty-three exams were administered during the evening to fourteen applicants. Three unlicensed candidates received their new "codeless" Technician licenses. Two others upgraded with a total of thirteen elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was fifty-seven percent.

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

Matthew Erickson — Technician
Melanie Erickson — Element 2
Casey Haley, KB5UEO — Element 3B
Charles Hluchan, N5XVY — Technician
Steven Johnston — Technician
Allen Lopley — Technician
Herman McKinney, Pending — Elem 3B
Howard Russell, N5XGT — Elem 3B
Ronald Smith, Pending — Elem 3B
Willard VanDevender, KJ5FN — Extra

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

On The Bands

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

October was a busy month ... Thanks to N5KXU ... Thanks to KB5DNT and WB4LZG .. BIG thanks to Doug (KE5SR) and Marie Holly for the FB picnic ... Saturday breakfasts average about 35 people now; don't be late! ... N5VRP held up by N5VRR; the "V" boys are at it again. ... New novice class up and going strong thanks to N5APW and WB4LZG and others ... N5UOG has meeting rooms for next year lined up. ... The Houston Ham-Comm will be November 6, 7, 8; BE THERE and be sure to wear your

