



B-VARC BULLETIN

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

Editor in Chief: Kelley Hughes N5ULZ (713) 499-9806 FAX: (713) 499-0279

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, at (713) 667-5123.

Volume: 17 Issue: 1

January 1994

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



This will be your LAST newsletter if you have not renewed your membership!!

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday Jan. 27 Annual B-VARC Awards Banquet
6:30 pm Houston Engineering & Scientific
 Society, 3121 Buffalo Speedway

Thursday Feb. 3 Board Meeting
7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton Drive
Houston, TX 77096

January 1994

B-VARC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	3 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM B-VARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	4 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	5 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	6 7:30 PM B-VARC Board Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	7	8 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 8:30 AM CW on 147.32 9:00 AM Hou. Emergency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
9 1:30 PM Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	10 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM B-VARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	11 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	12 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	13 NO GENERAL MEETING	14	15 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 8:00 AM Sidewalk Sale 8:30 AM CW on 147.32 9:00 AM Hou. Emergency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
16 6:00 AM Houston- Tenneco Marathon 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	17 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM B-VARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	18 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	19 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	20	21	22 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 8:30 AM CW on 147.32 9:00 AM Hou. Emergency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
23 1:30 PM Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	24 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM B-VARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	25 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	26 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	27 6:30 PM Annual B-VARC Awards Banquet Houston Engineering & Scientific Society Building 3121 Buffalo Speedway	28	29 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 8:30 AM CW on 147.32 9:00 AM Hou. Emergency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
30 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	31 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM B-VARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters					

December 93

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 94

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Please report any changes or corrections to Kelley Hughes, N5ULZ, 499-9806

B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting

December 2, 1993

by Bud King, N5UOG

A quorum of the B-VARC Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on December 2, 1993. This was the twelfth meeting of the Board for the 1993 calendar year. The following Board members were in attendance: Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN; Doug Holley, KE5SR; Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS; Sam Wilson, N5CPA; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Victor Richard, N5NAS; Mel Thatcher, KB5ION; and Bud King, N5UOG.

President Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN, opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

The minutes of the November 4th meeting were submitted by Bud King, N5UOG, and approved as modified, and published, in the December Bulletin.

Club Treasurer Sam Wilson, N5CPA, reported a balance of \$3699.69 in the Treasury as of November 30, 1993. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Vice President Doug Holley, KE5SR, reported that the B-VARC code class would have a test session, conducted by the V.E. Team headed by Harold Parker, ND5F, on December 13, 1993. The test session would end the activity for the time being. Doug made it known that if sufficient interest was indicated there was a possibility that the B-VARC code class could be resumed after the first of the year.

Claudia Kozinetz, N5VCX, who chairs the B-VARC Public Service Events Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Claudia had previously submitted the committee's 1993 Annual Report to Betty Wilcox. The report consisted of five topics: Events; Participation; Publicity and Newsletter; Materials and Preparations; and Recommendations. President Betty Wilcox expressed her appreciation for a job well done to Claudia at the time she accepted the report. Allen Mattis, N5AFV, gave the Board a brief "Human Events" report on the last 25K warm-up race. He stated that an expanded report will appear in the January issue of the Bulletin.

Mel Thatcher, KB5ION, reporting on the B-VARC Rag Chew Net stated that they continue to have an average of fifteen check-ins every session.

Michael Ricco, N5YKR, expressed his gratitude to those who participated with him as the Net Control for the B-VARC Public Service Net in 1993. Randy Pollard, AK5G, as President of the M.E.R.A. repeater board of directors, explained to those in attendance the policy of the M.E.R.A. repeater board as to the disposition of the repeater control codes.

Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS, reported that Kelley Hughes, N5ULZ, has accepted the position of Editor in Chief of the B-VARC Bulletin. Vincent also reported that the Club membership had reached 275. A lively discussion followed Vincent's report concerning the cost of the Bulletin the mailing of the Bulletin; and the possibility of raising annual dues in order to defray the increased expenses. A motion was approved by the Board to appoint Carl Hacker, KB5LDY, as

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION

November 24, 1993

KB5ION (Net Control), N5CPA KI5SC, AB5OK, N5KXV, WN5A, N4YNM, W5IHY, KI5CE, N5YKR, KE5SR, N5UOG, W5GLD, KG5KV

December 1, 1993

KE5SR (Net Control), N5UOG, KG5KV, KB5ION, N5CPA, N5OAC, N5AFV, KI5SC, WA9YNJ, KK5W, AA5JW, W5IHY, W5EFB, N5YKR, WASOEN

December 8, 1993

KB5ION (Net Control), KE5SR, AB5OK, KI5SC, WB5SRN, W5GHK, W5EFB, WA5DIG, N5UOG, N5OAC, N5CPA, W5IHY, KG5KV, N5YKR, KK5W, AA5JW, KB5PAJ, KB5KJT, N2QQH, KB5IAU/MM, WA5IBT, KD4BLA, NL7YV

December 15, 1993

N5CPA (Net Control), KB5ION, N5OAC, KG5KV, KA5WMO, W5IHY, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, WN5A, AB5OK, WA5DIG, KK5W, N5YKR

December 22, 1993

N5CPA (Net Control), W5IHY, KG5KV, KI5SC, WA9YNJ, N5UOG, KB5ION, W5EFB

December 29, 1993

KB5ION (Net Control), AB5OK, N5OAC, KG5KV, KI5SC, N5AFV, W5GHK, N5CPA, WA5DIG, N5UOG, N5YKR

chairman, and any number of available past presidents of B-VARC to a committee for the purpose of studying and formulating a plan to keep B-VARC solvent. It is expected the committee will report back to the Board at the February Board meeting.

Betty Wilcox discussed the annual banquet as to the door prizes, awards, and the program.

Randy Pollard requested that a committee of B-VARC members be formed for the purpose of attending an organizational meeting of the Houston Ham Com, Inc.. This request was the result of an invitation sent to Randy by Richard T. Shankle, N5KV, the president of Ham Com, Inc.. The committee will consist of the following: Doug Holley, KE5SR, Harold Parker, ND5F, and Claudia Sessions, K5HFY.

Bill Dessens, N5KXU, requested and received permission to accept Lou Kronberg's, W5IHY, proposal to furnish B-VARC a three-foot by ten-foot banner at a cost of \$120.

The Board, as a whole and separately, congratulated Betty Wilcox for doing such a fine job during her year as President of B-VARC. Randy Pollard thanked the officers, Board members, and all Chairpersons for their services they had contributed to B-VARC during 1993.

Betty Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE DOW CHEMICAL DOWNTOWN 25K

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

The amateur radio operators who provided communications for the Dow Chemical Downtown 25K in November will be interested to learn that the biggest round of applause at the finish was for Robert London, the blind runner who finished the race in 2 hours 41 minutes. Robert, who plans to run the Houston-Tenneco marathon, took one wrong turn in the race, but was immediately helped by nearby runners. We all wish Robert the best of luck in his effort to run a marathon.

Another runner, Gary Heintman, was not as lucky. Gary collapsed with severe leg pain near mile 14 just east of Waugh Drive, and was taken by ambulance to St. Joseph's Hospital. It was determined that he had a several-day-old stress fracture of the left femur, and according to doctors, his running days are over. Gary had been training for the Houston-Tenneco marathon. The 25K race director, Bill Hadley, visited Heintman at the hospital and presented him with a finisher's T-shirt.

Again, on behalf of the race officials, thank you to all of the amateur radio operators who helped provide race communications.

Beltone
BETTER HEARING THROUGH PROFESSIONAL CARE
AND AUDIOVISUALS

LAWRENCE COX, BC, NBC-HIS
CERTIFIED AUDIOLOGIST

BELTONE HEARING AID CENTER

3410 AVENUE H HOUSTON, TEXAS 77071 713/342-1206	5700 FONDREN HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054 713/977-8781
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DX-VACATION PLANNED!

B-VARC member Don Daze, KC5AK, and Amy Reenan, KC5DJI, will soon be combining their two favorite hobbies: DX and Travel. They will operate /VP2M from the Island of Montserrat in the British West Indies. Both SSB and CW will be utilized to contact as many stations as possible on the 80 through 10 meter bands. QSL with an SASE to KC5AK, 8706 Winningham Lane, Houston, TX 77055. DX stations may QSL via the Bureau. Operation will take place from January 30 through February 5, 1994.

SUMMARY OF B-VARC's 1993 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 most active group of Volunteer Examiners in the South Texas area.

B-VARC's Exam Teams administered exam sessions every month of 1993 except in June when Strake Jesuit was remodeling the classrooms. Exams were also conducted for the Spring B-VARC Novice class, the Fall B-VARC Novice/Technician Class, the "special" Morse Code Class and for the 6th consecutive year at the Houston Ham Convention in November. B-VARC Teams examined only 30 candidates at the 1993 Houston Ham Convention, a significant reduction from the crowds in past years, probably because of poor advertisement of the convention. Our regular Tuesday night sessions continue to be very popular however, averaging 17 candidates per session. Twenty-one (21) candidates attended the January and July sessions and twenty-two (22) attended in December.

A total of 425 exams were administered during the year. 228 applicants, a slight reduction from 1992. New licenses were issued to 79 candidates: 6 Novice, 14 Technician w/HF and 2 General, but the "codeless" Technician License was again the most popular with 57 being issued! Fifty (50) others upgraded by passing a total of 279 elements: 14 Technician w/HF, 10 General, 14 Advanced and 12 Extra's. The overall "pass rate" on all the exams taken during the year was nearly 66% percent.

The FCC and the ARRL allows all exam groups to recover the actual expenses associated with administering the V.E. Program by retaining up to \$4.00 of each applicant's test fee collected at each examination. B-VARC's exam Teams have never incurred any significant expenses so we continue to send 100% of all fees collected directly to the ARRL after every test session. No fees have ever been retained from any examination sponsored by B-VARC.

Many thanks to all the V.E. Team Members and Assistants who volunteered their valuable time and effort each month. Again, you have made a significant contribution to B-VARC's great success this past year. All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory for making these excellent classroom facilities available for our exams each month.

We will be looking forward to another great year during 1994!

