



B-VARC BULLETIN

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

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The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was originally organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active Ham radio club in the southwest Houston area.

Today, BVARC is truly a general-interest club, with an impressive record of Public Service. This commitment to service has been recognized by the Amateur Radio Relay League with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members, who represent the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available on the 145.47 and 444.55 MHz repeaters.

To obtain information about the club and its various activities, as well as information about joining the club, contact Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN, at (713) 859-6512.

Volume: 17 Issue: 10

October 1994

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



Don't forget! BVARC picnic is Saturday, October 29th!

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, Nov. 3 7:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting Sugar Land Community Center
Thursday, Nov. 10 7:30 pm	General BVARC Membership Meeting - Sugar Land Community Center

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton Drive
Houston, TX 77096



November 1994

B-VARC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	7 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	8 6:00 PM Amateur Exam Session Strake Jesuit College Prep. 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	9 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	10 7:30 PM Membership Meeting Sugar Land Commu- nity Center	11	12 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emer- gency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
13 1:30 PM Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	14 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	15 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	16 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	17	18	19 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emer- gency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
20 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	21 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	22 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	23 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	24	25	26 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emer- gency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)
27 1:30 PM Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	28 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	29 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	30 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	31	1 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	2 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)
				3 7:30 PM B-VARC Board Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	4	5 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 9:00 AM Hou. Emer- gency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Notes From the President

by Doug Holley, KE5SR

The annual BVARC picnic is October 29 and will be catered by Schultz Barbecue. If you would like to donate a dessert, it would be appreciated by all. People will start gathering at noon to sit and visit; the food will be served at 3:00, so arrive when you can. This year we will be joined by the Stephen F. Austin Radio Club group. We are looking forward to meeting new friends. Like the campout, bring your lawn chairs and drinks (tea will be served with the meal). This year we need some extra tables; if you can fit one in your trunk, it would be much appreciated. There will be good food and good times for all, so plan to attend.

Marie and I took a two-week vacation in September/October and traveled to New England to see the leaves turn. The season was early, so we did not see the full beauty until we reached Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The view made the trip all worthwhile. The weather was rainy and cool, so we did not get to camp out but two nights, once in New York and once in North Carolina.

Along the way we made many ham friends on the radio. Hams helped us when we got lost or informed us of the things to see that we did not know about—they were most helpful. Just having call plates and an antenna on the car brought us many calls from passing hams on 146.52. I ran across one ham which was located temporarily on Mt. Greylock in Massachusetts at an elevation of 3400 feet with a nine element beam. I was in New York state, 300 miles away, and I worked simplex. My contact was no match for the Canadian stations he was able to work. The radio made our long trip a little more enjoyable and the miles go by a little faster.

The first planning session for our future Gulf Coast Hamvention has been scheduled for October 15, so I will have more to say in the November newsletter.

73 de KE5SR

BVARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Mel Thatcher, KB5ION

September 7, 1994

KE5SR (Net Control), W5EFB, N5UOG, KG5KV, WA5SCE, WN5A, W5IHY, WD5CJL, N5CPA, N5YKR, W5AFV, W5GLD, WB5VYR, AB5OK

September 14, 1994

KE5SR (Net Control), W5EFB, WN5A, N5CPA, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, W5GLD, WD5CJL, KG5KV, WA5SCE, WB5VYR, N5UOG, KD5GM, W5GHK, KB5ZRV

September 21, 1994

N5CPA (Net Control), N5UOG, KG5KV, W5GHK, WA9YNJ, N5OAC, W5GLD, KB5ZRV, KF5NU, WD5CJL, W5EFB, WA5SCE, WB5NES

September 28, 1994

N5CPA (Net Control), WD5CJL, N5AFV, N5OAC, WJ5B, N5UOG, N5YKR, AB5OK, KG5KV, WA5SCE, W5IHY, WB5VYR, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, WN5A, KB5LFU, W5GHK, KD5GM

Don Hadley Becomes a Silent Key

by Doug Holley, KE5SR

On September 24, 1994, Don Hadley, N5VRR, passed away after a lengthy illness. Don had a stroke and lapsed into a coma earlier this year and never regained consciousness.

Don worked as a Safety Engineer and was a reserve Harris County Sheriff's Deputy. Both Don and his wife Reeda, KC5CCS, have been long term members of BVARC. Don was well respected and liked within the BVARC membership. Whenever a need came up within our group, Don was always there to lend a helping hand. Don will be missed by BVARC and friends. We all wish Reeda well and good things in her future.

1994 BVARC Officers and Directors

President.....	Doug Holley, KE5SR	342-8028
Vice-President.....	Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION.....	499-2179
Treasurer.....	Sam Wilson, N5CPA	723-9952
Recording Secretary.....	Bud King, N5UOG	494-3741
Corresponding Secretary.....	Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS	774-7651
3-Year Director.....	Claude Sessions, K5HFY	242-6069
2-Year Director.....	Vic Richard, N5NAS	461-3331
1-Year Director.....	Bill Dessens, N5KXU	721-1844
Past President.....	Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN	859-6512

Board of Directors Meeting

by Bud King, N5UOG

A quorum of the B-VARC Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on October 6, 1994. This was the tenth meeting of the Board for the 1994 calendar year.

The following Board members were in attendance: Doug Holley, KE5SR; Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN; Sam Wilson, N5CPA; Victor Richard, N5NAS; Bud King, N5UOG; Claude Sessions, K5HFY; and Bill Dessens, N5KXU.

President Holley, KE5SR, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Bud King, N5UOG, submitted the minutes of the September Board meeting, and they were approved unanimously.

Sam Wilson, N5CPA, the Club Treasurer, reported a balance of \$3,247.67 in the treasury as of September 30, 1994. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously. Sam Wilson also reported that the Club membership was up to 239.

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, in his report to the Board, stressed the need for additional member participation in the events sponsored by B-VARC. Mike indicated a need for a "Work Shop" devoted to the training of new HAMS to be effective volunteer communicators for future events. Mike introduced Steve Leslie of Troop 1631, Sugar Land who explained the Boy Scouts "JAMBOREE ON THE AIR" event to the Board, and was enlisting the help of any of our members who cared to participate. Mr. Leslie indicated that a sponsorship of Troop 1631 by B-VARC would be welcomed.

The Rag Chew Net continues to be alive and well, as reported by Doug Holley. Check-in's continue to range in the 14 to 18 number, per session.

Al Zermeno, KK5W, reported that he and Kenny Manchester, NZ5I, had arranged a meeting of individuals from 15 separate HAM Clubs on October 15 for the purpose of discussing the formation of an organization that would address the problems of promoting a HAM CONVENTION for the Gulf Coast Area.

A motion was passed unanimously to purchase a Gin Pole.

The Board was reminded of the "B-VARC CAMP OUT" which is set for October 22nd.

Randy Pollard, AK5G, presented to the Board information

concerning a project that B-VARC may want to explore for future action. The project concerns the re-transmission of the Space Shuttle Audio. Randy will present the information to the General Membership at the October 13th regular meeting for the purpose of obtaining membership feed-back.

Bill Dessens, N5KXU, mentioned the need for a uniform method of recognizing the deceased XYL's of B-VARC members in the "Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club" pamphlet. After much discussion it was decided that the subject should be studied further before a firm decision would be made by the Board.

President Holley adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

REVIEW OF THE NEW ICOM IC-T21A

by R.L. Caron, KK8GP

INITIAL IMPRESSION

Measuring about 4.5H x 2W x 1.5D, the T21A is among the smallest of the current crop of miniature radios on the market. Design is definitely contemporary, but without that sculpted pseudo-cell-phone-in-pastel-grey look of other recent offerings from ICOM. This is a radio men who do not carry bags should like. The radio has a quality feel about it: the battery fits tightly in its compartment and the backlit buttons are solid in operation. The audio is remarkably robust for such a small unit, proving that feeble audio is not a price one has to pay for compactness. The T21 fits naturally into either hand, and should be very comfortable to use.

THE NEW CONNECTOR

The antenna itself is smaller than usual at about 3.5 inches and is quite slim, very much in proportion to the overall design. And the familiar BNC connector is gone. ICOM claims the much smaller SMA connector is more reliable and offers better efficiency for VHF and UHF. As many of us have experienced problems with BNC's under portable conditions, it's hard to argue the dependability angle, but it remains to be seen if this change will become widespread enough to warrant easily-available antennas and adapters. Motorola has used this connector for some time in their commercial gear.

COVERAGE

This is a 1 1/2-bander, meaning full transmit/receive on either 2 meters (T21A) or 440 (T41A), with receive-only capability on the other. Out of the box or after reset, it's strictly ham band on both sides. Once expanded with a simple keyboard mod, it blossoms to what appears to be DC to daylight coverage, even with 30khz spacing in certain forbidden zones! But alas, the little radio is deaf under 10C and over 500 megs, regardless of what that dial says! While

