

# the B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 19 Issue 3

March 1996



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(713) 341-7137

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(713) 498-5639

**Recording Secretary:**  
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(713) 460-1968

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ  
(713) 438-0927

**Treasurer:**  
Pete Norris—KJ5SS  
(713) 342-9089

**3-Year Board Member:**  
Terry McCoy—KK5RL  
(713) 641-4595

**2-Year Board Member:**  
Bud King—N5UOG  
(713) 494-3741

**1-Year Board Member:**  
Claude Sessions—K5HFY  
(713) 242-6069

**Past President:**  
Carl Cunert—WB8SVR

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Ron Grimes—WASSCE*

[Not available.]

## FROM THE EDITOR

*by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ*

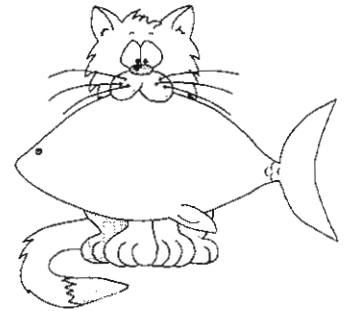
I don't mean to complain, but I am having difficulty getting my contributing editors to get articles in by the deadline. I know that we all have busy schedules, but it takes a lot of planning to get this newsletter together, and it's hard enough when the deadline is met. When I have to wait until the very last minute and then some to get the newsletter together, it makes my life a little rougher and a lot more stressful. I am trying to make this a "fun" project for everyone involved. Writing for the newsletter is fun, folks! (Say that over and over, at least 50 times. You will be convinced!)

Please try your best to cooperate and get your article(s) to me by the deadline. Otherwise, it/they will not be printed. I can no longer extend the deadline. Sorry if this sounds a little harsh, but I'm trying to be as fair as possible.

By the way, I am very disappointed in the response, or lack thereof, that I am getting for the "Profiles" column. I've never met a ham radio operator, or anyone else for that matter, who didn't like to talk about themselves! Come on, guys, I know you want to tell everyone how you got into ham radio. I know, you don't like to write. Fine, call me and dictate it to me and I'll write it for you. There. You have no excuse now! I think the other members who don't know you or anything about you would find your story interesting. Get those brains rolling and try to remember why and how you got into ham radio.

See ya'll next month!!!!

The Editor



## SPECIAL THANKS

All of us at B-VARC would like to extend our gratitude to the management at KHTV, Channel 39, for the use of their equipment and facilities in order for this bulletin to be published.

We would also like to thank Claude Sessions—K5HFY, and all the other B-VARC members who volunteer their services in helping to put the bulletin together. It couldn't be done without you.

**B-VarC BOARD MEETING***by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ*

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on February 1, 1996. This was the second board meeting of the calendar year. The meeting was called to order by President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, at 7:30 p.m.

The following Board Members and guests were present: Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, Louis House—KD5GM, Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, Pete Norris—KJ5SS, Jim Cahani—KB5TBZ, Terry McCoy—KK5RL, Bud King—N5UOG, Allen Mattis—N5AFV, and Sam Wilson—N5CPA.

**Recording Secretary.** Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, presented the January minutes. The minutes were approved with a motion that passed unanimously.

**Public Service Net Manager,** Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, reported that the Monday night Brazos Valley Public Service Information Net was going well, with a high check-in of 46 on January 15, 1996.

**Treasurer,** Pete Norris—KJ5SS, presented the Treasurer's report dated January 31, 1996, showing a balance of \$4,540.09. Also included was a summary of the banquet costs, with the total cost of the banquet to B-VarC being \$51.21. Pete stated that we now had two accounts, the checkbook account and a cash account. Pete also stated that B-VarC currently had a total of 81 paid members. Pete passed around a club property list for anyone to make corrections/additions to.

**Corresponding Secretary,** Jim Cahani—KB5TBZ, had nothing to report.

**Vice-President,** Louis House—KD5GM, stated that he would like to get together a package including an introductory pamphlet entitled "What is B-VarC?" which George Jolly is putting together, along with a current newsletter to send to people on the ARRL's newly licensed ham list, inviting these new hams to join B-VarC.

**B-VarC Rag Chew Net Manager,** Sam Wilson—N5CPA, reported that the net is doing well, and that the average check-ins were up, with a low of 12.

**Louis House—KD5GM,** reported that the B-VarC Code Practice Net was going well. The net currently runs 3 nights per week, with 13 accumulated check-ins for January. Louis stated that when the code class starts in March, there will be no Code Practice Net on Monday nights throughout the duration of the course.

**Vice-President,** Louis House—KD5GM, stated that the ham radio presentation for the Tanka Boy Scout Festival is coming together nicely. He stated that volunteers were needed to help with the event. He stated that there would be demonstrations of a VHF-FM station, a packet station, 1 HF station, and computerized tracking of satellites (display only). He further stated that the location of the event had been changed 50 ft. from the original location, but that it was still in front

of the JC Penney store. Louis talked with Pat O'Malley regarding the insurance question. Mr. O'Malley is to supply B-VarC with a copy of their insurance policy and in return wants a copy of B-VarC's insurance policy. He stated that he thought we would be covered. Louis indicated that we are still in need of someone to donate a packet station for this event. He also indicated that he had received the ARRL information on the Boy Scout radio merit badges to pass out at the event.

**Vice-President,** Louis House—KD5GM, stated that he had purchased two ARRL videotapes: Vol. 2 - SAREX and Vol. 4 - Operating Modes and Interests. He requested that B-VarC pay for these videotapes at \$12.00 each. This was approved with a motion that passed unanimously.

**President,** Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that the proposed changes to the By-Laws would be voted on at the general meeting in February. He also stated that Public Service Guidelines should be published in the newsletter as they were presented (a copy of the Public Service Guidelines is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein by reference.) Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, stated that she had these guidelines on a disk and would get them in the newsletter. Ron also brought up the issues of Past President and Parliamentarian positions on the Board. He stated that he was still working on the parliamentarian, and would be contacting Carl Hacker—KB5LDY concerning that position. He stated that he had contacted several past presidents concerning filling this board position. Allen Mattis—N5AFV, stated that he would be happy to fill the position. Allen Mattis—N5AFV, was then appointed to the Board position of Past President with a motion that passed unanimously. Ron further indicated that he would be appointing an audit committee to audit the financial books and records of B-VarC for 1995.

**Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ,** brought up the possibility of B-VarC obtaining a web page on the Internet. After some discussion, she stated that she would get with John Moore—KK5NU, and try to get the specifics on cost, upkeep, etc.

**President,** Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, mentioned the fact that we had a voice mail/information line which is donated by Bruce Paige—KK5DO. A question was raised as to what control the club had over the information presented in this voice mail system. Ron stated that he would check into this.

**Vice-President,** Louis House—KD5GM, stated that he had talked to Al Zermeno—KK5W, and Larry Levy—WD5DRB concerning conducting theory classes. A suggestion had been made to have multiple theory teachers rather than just one person handling the entire course. Pete Norris—KJ5SS, volunteered to coordinate the instructors for the class.

**Bud King—N5UOG,** stated that B-VarC should really get to work on finding a new

meeting place. President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, appointed Terry McCoy—KK5RL, to look into the Missouri City Civic Center as a meeting place.

**Vice-President,** Louis House—KD5GM, stated that we needed a syllabus and tapes for the upcoming code class. He stated that he talked to Glen Swanson with the Education Department of the ARRL, to see about getting materials at a discount. All that is needed to obtain this discount is a Federal tax identification number. Louis stated that he would get this set up with the ARRL so that we can take advantage of this discount.

**President,** Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, presented mail from George Jolly regarding a promotional offer made by Buckmaster CD-ROM. Ham Call. If we put B-VarC's club call on their list and provide them with a photo of our membership, for every 10 pictures of individual members we submit, we will receive 1 free CD-ROM. After some discussion, no action will be taken in this regard.

**President,** Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that the regular meeting for February would have a lengthy presentation, and that the first half of the meeting needed to be narrowed down so that there would be enough time for the presentation in the second half.

**Corresponding Secretary,** Jim Cahani—KB5TBZ, stated that the dates of the February meetings listed in the B-VarC Bulletin were wrong. President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that a schedule of the meetings for the calendar year 1996 should be published in the newsletter. He also suggested that the February 8, 1996 meeting date be announced over the repeater frequently, as well as an announcement being made on the Monday night Public Service Information Net.

**President,** Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that we needed to start thinking about finding someone to organize the club picnic for 1996. He would check into this, and possibly had a spot for us to hold the picnic.

**Treasurer,** Pete Norris—KJ5SS, stated that we needed to have a schedule/calendar of events to avoid conflicts in scheduling of B-VarC events. President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that he would appoint a committee to put this together.

The meeting was adjourned by Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, at 9:10 p.m. with a motion, second and unanimous vote.



**MEETING DATES**

*by Bud King—N5UOG*

Please note that the dates for the regular meetings will be a little different in 1996. For the first six months of 1996, the regular meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month as usual. The next six months will be changed as follows:

- July 1996: July 18
- August 1996: August 22
- October 1996: October 17
- November 1996: November 21

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

*by Pete Norris—KJ5SS*

As of February 15, 1996, the current membership for the club is:



Stay tuned 'til next month to find out.

**HOUSTON HAM INFO. LINE**

The Ham Information Line is available 24 hours a day by calling

**495-3495**

with a touch tone phone. Information on local clubs and test sessions is provided.

**B-VARC ROSTER CHANGES**

Please note that any changes, additions, etc. to the B-VARC roster/mailling list should be directed to the following:

Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ  
(713) 438-0927

e-mail: jcahanin@starbase.neosoft.com

**HAND GUN**  
**Carry Concealed Permit**  
CLASSES

Bill Reid Don Brown

(713) 341-1500

Texas D.P.S. Certified Handgun Instructors

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**Westheimer Airpark**  
*a Division of Reid Management Co.*

Don Brown, Sr.  
Operations Manager

(713) 341-9641  
Alt. #s: (713) 392-3587  
(713) 240-1009

24215 FM 1093 • Richmond, TX 77469  
One and One-half Mile West of Grand Parkway  
Flight School • Hangarage • Tie Downs

**OUT OF THIS WORLD HAM RADIO ACTIVITY**

*by Bruce Paige—KK5DO*

**Segment: Awards for Satellite Operators**

This time, I thought I would talk about the different awards that are available for those working satellites. Since there are many new hams trying satellites, this information will be very helpful. For the old timers, you may not be aware of the W4AMI award.

The first award is the Satellite Communicators' Club. This award is given to any operator for making their first contact. To apply for this award, you need to send a report of your contact to AMSAT SCC Manager, PO Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044. You also need to send 2 units of postage and \$1 for members and \$2 for non-members.

The Oscar Satellite Communications Achievement Award takes a little bit more work. It consists of working 20 contacts on any satellite. A contact is defined as one with a station in another state, DXCC country or Canadian call area. Once you have a contact with a station in that area, you must hunt for another. So, if you work 6 Canadian stations that are all VE3's, then you can only submit one of them towards this award. To submit for this award, you need to send copies of the front and back of your confirmed QSL cards to WA5TWT Mike Scarcella, AMSAT Awards Manager, 310 Lombardy, Sugar Land, TX 77478. The cost is \$3.50 for members and \$5 for non-members. Also, send two units of postage for your return certificate.

The next award is the Oscar Sexagesimal Award. This is the same as the Oscar

Satellite Communications Achievement Award, but is given for 60 contacts. All the qualifications and costs are the same. I just received certificate #97, so there have not been many of these given out.

Next, there is the Oscar Century Award. This is the same as the other two awards, but is for 100 contacts. Qualifications and costs are the same.

Please note that the previous 3 awards are aggregated. Once you have worked 20, that applies towards your 60, so you only need 40 more contacts. The same is true for the 100—once you get 60, you only need 40 more for your 100.

South Africa has a nice award, which is called the South Africa AMSAT Satellite Communication Achievement Award. It is for 25 contacts on phase 2 satellites. These satellites are Fuji-Oscar 20, AO-21, AO-27 and RS satellites. These contacts may all be in the same state or Canadian call area. AO-10 and AO-13 contacts do not count. The costs are the same as previous awards, and are also sent to Mike Scarcella.

The K2ZRO Memorial Station Engineering Award is an award for station excellence in receiving. Periodically during the year, Andy MacAllister—WA5ZIB, will conduct this test. He transmits a series of 5 digits at beacon strength in CW on AO-13. He will then reduce his power by 50% or 3db. He transmits another series of 5 digits. He will continue to reduce power by 50% until he is transmitting at 30db below beacon strength or level A. You attempt to copy the 5 digits to the level you can hear and send your report to Andy MacAlister, 14714 Knightsway Dr., Houston, TX 77083, along with 2 units of postage and the usual \$3.50 for members and \$5 for non-members. The first time you submit, you will receive a certificate. After that, you will receive endorsement stickers to place on the certificate. There is no fee for the endorsement stickers other than 1 unit of postage.

Our newest satellite award is the W4AMI Satellite Operator Achievement Award. It is awarded for the submission of 1,000 satellite contacts on OSCAR-6 or later satellites. There is an endorsement for each additional 1,000, and a special certificate at 5,000. To receive the award, send \$3.50 for AMSAT members or \$5.00 for non members and 2 units of postage to Mark Rosenberg, AD4KS, 331 South Yates, Memphis, TN 38120. To date, W4AMI has certificate number 1, I have number 2 and Andy, WA5ZIB, has

number 3. So, if you have 1,000 or more contacts on satellite, send in for this nice award and get one of the low numbers. Remember to keep a log of every contact. Every time you say hello to your friend on a satellite, log it. In no time at all, you will have enough for the award.

There is an award from the VHF/UHF Society called VHF/UHF Century Club or VUCC, which is awarded for working 100 different grid squares. Endorsements are for each additional 25 grids worked. You can get information and an application from the ARRL by calling the ARRL at (203) 666-1541. Remember the segment last time on how to find the grid squares of stations that you have worked that should get you going on this award.

Another award from the ARRL is the Worked All States or WAS. For this you must contact a station in each of the 50 states. Here again, you can request an application from ARRL headquarters. There is no 5-Band WAS for Satellite.

If you are looking for someone to check your QSL cards and can't find someone at your local club, I am an ARRL Awards Manager and can verify your cards and application. You can send your cards and application to me at my call book address. Please include sufficient postage for return of your cards, sending your application to the ARRL and getting your certificate from the ARRL. I can verify WAS, 5-band WAS and VUCC awards.

One that is not very difficult is the WAC or Worked All Continents. This requires contacting a station on each of the 8 continents. This award is also administered by the ARRL. Cards and application must be sent to the ARRL. There is no other way to receive this award.

The most difficult award to attain on satellite is the DXCC award. This requires contacting 100 different DXCC countries on satellite and getting QSL cards out of them. Applications are available from the ARRL.

**THE INTERNET**

*by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ*

The following article is the sixth in a series of articles John Moore—KK5NU, has written for publication in the B-VARC Bulletin.

Also, please remember that Jim Cahanan—KB5TBZ, is in the process of

adding e-mail addresses to the roster. If you have an e-mail address, please relay that information to him via e-mail at jcahanin@starbase.neosoft.com.

The Editor

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**All You Want to Know About the Internet and More**

*by John W. Moore—KK5NU*

**Where Can I Make the Connection?**

At this juncture, you have a big—or not so big, choice. For the moment, let's assume that you just want to seek out and investigate the Internet. Sort of a "trial run," so to speak, without having to invest a whole lot of time, effort and not to say the least, your money, in order to see just how to get better acquainted with what's out there in the vast unknown.

Well, in order to connect to that "network of networked computers" that we so often refer to as "the Internet," without spending a huge amount of your own time and money, you need to find one of those mysterious "terminals" that enables you to make a direct, real time connection. So, you need to use a little diligence to find someone, somewhere, who will let you get a connection, however brief or short that time may be, to enable you to see just what is out there on the "information superhighway." Ask some of your more technologically inclined friends and acquaintances. A next door or across the street neighbor; one of your co-workers; the helpful little person behind the counter at the neighborhood public library. Someone you know is bound to have a clue as to just where you can get just a little "Net" time. In fact, close to home, try asking one of your children. Since early inception, the Internet was primarily a teaching and learning tool. A public or private school, more likely than not, at a college or university level, is an excellent place to inquire.

Of course, it helps to ask your source not only to introduce you to the location of the termination from which you can connect, but that they also take just a few minutes of time to show you how it works. And, like anything else, most people are ready and willing to show off some of their skills and knowledge to the new kid on the block. Take advantage of that and get a jump start on how it all works. You may just find that it is extremely addictive—time spent seems to be a vast, black hole that leads you on from one interesting site to another.

Of course, you can always use your own personal computer and explore one of the many free to low cost services that are available. Beware that they all want to get you hooked on the net and signed up with the service that they have to offer. One of the more widely known, so-called national internet connections claims to be signing up in excess of 200,000 new accounts each month. Free "trial offer" software disks are everywhere. At this writing, there are in excess of 80 Internet service providers with telephone dial-up access in the Metropolitan Houston area.

So, why are you waiting?? Let's get wired and find out what it is all about.

More to come...

John Moore—KK5NU

**VE EXAM RESULTS  
FEBRUARY 1996**

*by Harold Parker—ND5F*

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, February 13, 1996 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The VE Team consisted of:

- Chuck Andrews - NI5I
- Harold Parker - ND5F
- Tom Weldon - KK5VE

The Assistants were:

- Cass Germany - KG5IT
- George Pavlik - N5MCK
- Lanny Poteet - KB5VTB
- Don Schexnailder - AB5IV

A total of 18 exams were administered during the evening to 8 applicants. Six (6) unlicensed candidates received their new licenses—1 Novice, 4 Technician and 1 "codeless" Technician. Two (2) others upgraded with a total of 15 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 83%.

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

- David Gullette - Technician
- Herbert Jansen—KC5OCT - Extra
- Kevin Johnson - Technician
- Leo Lanza - Technician
- Kenneth McWatters - Technician Plus
- Paul Monroe - Technician
- Nicole Stachowicz - Novice
- James Tichenor—KC5SJT - Technician Plus

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, Harold Parker—ND5F

## THE WORLD OF TEN TEN INTERNATIONAL

by Al Mattis—NSAFV

Ten Ten International has been taking advantage of the Internet to keep members informed about Ten Ten activities during the current period of poor propagation associated with the sunspot cycle. Both a listserv and a web page are being used. Anyone with access to the Internet may use these 2 services.

The web page contains information about Ten Ten International and some of the 200 chapters located around the world. Anyone with a web browser may access the web page at: <http://www.lehigh.EDU/lists/tenten-1/> Information about how to join Ten Ten, the many Ten Ten activities and awards, and how to contact various officers and managers may be found on the web page.

The Ten Ten listserv is available to anyone who has an E-mail connection to the Internet. E-mail messages sent to the listserv address are resent to all Ten Ten members who subscribe to the listserv. The listserv functions much like an amateur radio repeater. The listserv provides a convenient way to provide information to many people by sending a single E-mail message. To subscribe to the Ten Ten listserv, send a one line E-mail message to [listserv@lehigh.edu](mailto:listserv@lehigh.edu) with the message "subscribe tenten-1 <your name> <your call>". For example, "subscribe tenten-1 Allen Mattis N5AFV." A short time later, the listserv will send you a welcome message and information about how to use the listserv.

The S.H.O.T. chapter is pleased to welcome Gene Morris—KC5FFH, Kent Porter—KC5KGI, and Rick Snell—KC5JJS as our newest local members. The chapter made a good effort to participate as a group in the recent Winter Phone QSO Party held February 3-4, 1996. The chapter members who monitored 28.488MHz during the contest had a very enjoyable time chatting with each other and meeting local SHOT members they had not worked before.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345MHz when the band is open.

Chapters with specials this month include Branding Iron (TX), Kansas Trails (MN), and Eagle Watch (AL). A new chapter, the Tom and Jerry chapter, has formed in Florida. The chapter head is KB4ZSM, and the certificate manager is KS4ZI. Propagation on the 10m band has settled down into what appears to be the sunspot low. There continue to be domestic band openings, but they are usually of short duration and characterized by strong QSB. Occasional DX can be worked at times, particularly Latin American stations. During the recent Winter Phone QSO Party, Houston area stations worked CO, NC, VA and the British Virgin Islands. Even during the sunspot low, ten meters will still have band openings, so check the band occasionally and you may be pleasantly surprised.

Remember, the Houston S.H.O.T. net meets every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. local time on 28.488MHz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a Ten Ten number. If you are not a member of Ten Ten International and wish to join the organization, please check into the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the 10m band.

## B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS

by Sam Wilson—N5CPA

The B-VARC Rag Chew Net is held on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. on 3.960MHz, +/- 3kHz. The following check-ins were reported for the month of January:

### January 3, 1996

N5CPA (NCS), W5EFB, KB5ION, N5UOG, KK5SS, W5IHY, WB8SVR, WD5CJL, KG5KV, AB5OK, WA5DIG, WA4GTK, KC5HJ, WA5SCE, W5GLD, N4SKR, KK5RL, K5HFY, WN5A, N5RAR, KG5PP/YV5.

### January 10, 1996

N5CPA (NCS), KG5KV, KE5SR, W5GHK, WD5CJL, N5ECP, N5UOG, KB5ION, W5EFB, WB4TVY, KK5DO, W5IHY, WB8SVR, KK5JJ, KC5HJ, KB5TBZ, AK5G, WA5SCE, WD8RZA.

### January 17, 1996

W5IHY (NCS), KG5KV (NCS), KK5RL, WA5TKC, WN5A, WD5CJL, KB5ION, KJ5SS, N5CPA, WB8SVR, KG5PP/YV5, W5EFB.

### January 24, 1996

N5CPA (NCS), WD5CJL, KK5DO, N5ECP, KG5KV, KF5NU, KB5ION,

KI5SC, KB5PAJ, W5EFB, N5UOG, W5IHY, WB8SVR, KJ5SS, KB5TBZ, K5HFY, AK5G, KK5RL, WN5A.

### January 31, 1996

N5CPA (NCS), KF5NU, WD5CJL, KK5DO, KB5ION, W5EFB, N5ECP, N5UOG, KG5KV, AK5G, KK5RL, KC5NMR, KE5SR, WA5TWL, KD6QZH.

## PSN CHECK-INS

by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Public Service Information Net had the following check-ins for the month of January, 1996. Only the count is listed, as there is not enough room to list individual callings:

January 1, 1996: 24  
January 8, 1996: 38  
January 15, 1996: 46  
January 22, 1996: 23  
January 29, 1996: 36

## UPCOMING SWAPFESTS . . .

### Victoria Swapfest 1996

Date: March 9, 1996  
Sponsor: Victoria Amateur Radio Club  
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall  
For further information and table presale, contact:

Victoria Amateur Radio Club  
121 South Main Street  
Suite 205  
Victoria, TX 77901  
(512) 573-0821

### Lafayette Swapfest

Date: March 8, 9 and 10, 1996  
Sponsor: Acadiana ARA  
Place: Holiday Inn Holidome  
For further information, contact:  
Nolen Griffith—K5ARH  
318-989-9039

### Sidewalk Sale

Date: March 16, 1996  
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Place:  
C.E.C. Electronic Parts, Inc.  
13003 Murphy Road, Ste. B-7  
Stafford, TX  
For further information, contact:  
Donn Washburn—N5XWB  
(713) 498-0569

**ANTENNA COLUMN**

*by Rick Hiller—KF5NU*

[Watch for Rick's exciting antenna column in the next issue.]

**SCANNER JACK'S CORNER**

*by Jack Roberts—KB5TMY*

The following are Harris County Sheriff's Office 800MHz frequencies, i.e. all constables, Life Flight, Harris County Hospital District, Harris County D.A.:

868.7625	858.7125
868.4875	858.4875
868.2375	858.4625
867.9125	858.2375
867.6625	858.2125
860.7125	857.7125
860.4875	857.4875
860.4625	857.4625
860.2375	857.2375
860.2125	857.2125
859.7125	856.7125
859.4875	856.4875
859.4625	856.4625
859.2375	856.2375
859.2125	856.2125

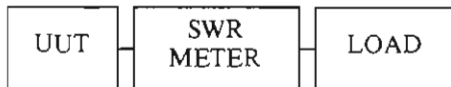
TAC Frequencies:

866.0125
866.5125
867.0125
867.5125
868.0125

**RFI, EMI AND OTHER STUFF**

*by Pete Norris—KJ5SS*

Returning to our problem, it was noticed the radio's malfunction could apparently be corrected on occasion by a modified drop test: a good rap on the table or a slap of the hand could restore the output power to a normal level! A more quantitative and controlled approach was considered desirable and so a test set was devised. This setup consisted of an SWR meter used as a power meter and a dummy load as shown below.



The UUT could be replaced by a properly functioning 202 in order to calibrate the test set.

This done, several tests were performed. The first was the previously mentioned modified drop test. This proved to correct but not induce the failure.

Confusion was added to the testing by an intermittent cable failure, and is mentioned to emphasize the necessity of calibration capability. Even so, isolating a bad cable can be a nuisance even in a simple test set.

The second test was a form of high temperature soak: The UUT was connected to the external (12v) power supply and the PTT switch depressed for a period of time sufficient to achieve a stable internal temperature. The kitchen oven might be used for a non-operating soak, but I would not have the confidence to run such a test without previously calibrating the oven. Internal heating induced the failure several times, but the unit recovered. At one point, the unit was declared failed, but two weeks later the unit recovered, causing some amount of frustration.

The third test was a cold soak using the refrigerator freezer to cool the unit. After several soaks and induced failures, an apparent "hard" failure occurred and the output power level could not be restored. The second 202 being used as a "standard" was then tuned to the UUT output frequency and held near the UUT. A low level signal was detected when the UUT PTT was depressed, strongly suggesting a failure in one of the RF stages.

With this information, the repair facility will have better information to troubleshoot with. The unit was then returned to the owner with a verbal summary of the tests and results and an offer to discuss the information with the vendor.

**CODE CLASSES BEGIN**

*by Louis House—KD5GM*

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its spring Morse Code Classes beginning on March 11, 1996. The classes will be held at the First Colony church of Christ in room 121 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each Monday evening for approximately 9 weeks.

The church is located at 3119 Sweetwater Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas. You can get there by taking US 59 South to the Sweetwater Blvd. exit, then turn left, going over the bridge. Continue on Sweetwater Blvd. for about 1.6 miles to the church, which is on the right side of the street, just past a bayou. Parking is in the back of the church.

A current issue of the ARRL's "Your Introduction to Morse Code" will be used as a training aid for this class. These tapes may be ordered from the ARRL or purchased locally at some of the electronics stores.

We would like to know if you plan to attend the class. Also, if you have any questions about the class, please call Louis House—KD5GM, at (713) 498-5639 after 7:00 p.m. any evening.

Come and join the fun and excitement of Morse Code.

73 & hope to see you there de KD5GM

**SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY NETS**

	<b>Monday</b>
7:30 p.m.	34.94 Swap Net 146.94MHz
8:00 p.m.	Ft. Bend Cty EM Net 145.49MHz
8:30 p.m.	B-VARC Code Practice Net 146.47MHz (receive only)
9:00 p.m.	B-VARC 145.47MHz
	<b>Tuesday</b>
8:00 p.m.	Ten Ten SHOT Net 28.488MHz
	<b>Wednesday</b>
8:00 p.m.	B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960MHz (+/- 3kHz)
8:30 p.m.	B-VARC Code Practice Net 146.47MHz (receive only)
	<b>Friday</b>
8:30 p.m.	B-VARC Code Practice Net 146.47MHz (receive only)
	<b>Saturday</b>
9:00 a.m.	Houston Emer. Mgmt. Net 146.84MHz (Sky Warn/RACES)
	<b>Sunday</b>
7:30 p.m.	ARES Net 147.30MHz
10:00 p.m.	AMSAT Net 147.10MHz
	<u>2nd &amp; 4th Sundays</u>
1:30 p.m.	TX State RACES Net 7.248MHz

**B-VARC CODE PRACTICE NET**

*by Louis House—KD5GM*

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club sponsors a Morse Code Practice Net, called BCN, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 8:30 p.m. CST. The purpose of this net is to offer a consistent code practice schedule for all amateurs who are working on their upgrades. The text is sent at approximately 5, 8, 10, 13

and 20 wpm. The signal type is MCW on the 2m frequency and CW on the 10m frequency. The source of the text is announced in CW before the text is sent. The length of the net is usually 25 to 30 minutes. Check-ins are welcomed at the start of the net (on 10m, check-ins are taken from 8:15 to 8:30 p.m.). Tune in on 146.47MHz simplex or on 28.146.47MHz CW, with a desire to increase your code proficiency and have a good time.

The net roster for the month of November lists a total of 13 stations checking in. These are: KB5WZI, K5HFY, N5UOG, KK5RL, KC5HJ, KC5KGG, KC5EUS, KB5VTB, WD5DRB, KC5JRL, KC5RGK, and KD5GM/NCS.

Have fun and...73 de KD5GM/NCS AR SK

## TATANKA DISTRICT BOY SCOUT FESTIVAL

by Louis House—KD5GM

On March 9, 1996, the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will be manning an amateur radio station, operating under the club's call sign—KC5OIG. B-VARC has been invited to display and demonstrate amateur radio at the Tatanka District Boy Scout Festival, which will be held in the West Oaks Mall from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The mall is located on State Highway 6 at Westheimer Road. There will be many other educational displays participating in this festival.

We will plan to have a VHF FM station, a VHF packet station, an HF station, a satellite tracking display on computer, and message handling through the National Traffic System will be offered to the public. There will be a need for equipment for this event, i.e., radios, computers, antennas and support hardware. There will be an even greater need for operators throughout the day. So, if you like to operate packet, handle messages via SSB or on digital modes, or if you like to meet the public in the name of amateur radio and present the educational aspects of amateur radio to the young Scouts in our area, you can have a lot of fun.

Please mark March 9 on your calendar and come out and help with a very important event. You may contact Steve Gottlieb—W5OEN, Rick Hiller—KF5NU or Louis House—KD5GM to volunteer your equipment and/or time for your club's display at this event.

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

by James Belk—KC5ODL

Volunteers needed for the following:

### March Events!!!

MS Walk - Houston	March 9
K-9 Fun Run	March 10
MS Walk - Woodlands	March 24
Bluebonnet Express Bike Ride	March 31

### K-9 Fun Run

by Steve Dunkelberger—N5JBL

It's time again for the Houston Humane Society K-9 Fun Run. The event will be held this year on Sunday, March 10, 1996. The event is a fun run held in downtown Houston. The best part is that the participants bring their dogs along with them for the event. Those that have volunteered for the event in the past know that this is a fun, different, and casual event. For information or to sign up, please contact me at 241-3044 (wk) or 781-6703 (hm)

## THE EPICUREAN HAM

by Carl Hacker—KB5LDY

## PROFILES

### Allen Mattis—N5AFV

My interest in radio began when I was 10 years old. My father used to repair radios and televisions for neighbors, and one day he brought home a radio a neighbor had given him. The radio had shortwave coverage that went from the AM broadcast band up to 5MHz. The first evening I listened to the radio, I picked up CHU, the Canadian time station. After that evening, I was hooked on radio. I enjoy all aspects of radio, and to me, amateur radio is just one facet of my hobby.

When I was a teenager, I used to listen to the 80 and 160m ham bands. The common voice mode was AM, which some now call ancient modulation. I remember hearing the operators discuss sideband, which was just coming out. The operators all agreed that it sounded like you were talking with a clothespin on your nose, and that sideband would never become the preferred mode. I wanted to become an amateur radio operator, but in my small home town, there were no hams. I heard that one lived about 15 miles away, but I did not know him. In those days, the beginning license was novice class, and it was only a one year

license. The nearest FCC test point was 125 miles away. I soon gave up on getting a license.

After high school I went on to college, and for a whole decade I attended various colleges and universities that had amateur radio clubs. I was too busy studying to find time for radio, and to this day, I regret that I did not get involved in ham radio with one of the school clubs. After college, I took a job in Tulsa, Oklahoma. One day while shopping in a Radio Shack store, I saw a study guide for getting an amateur radio license. I bought it, and began to study. Tulsa had FCC exams four times a year. I went to take the test on the next exam date, but did not pass the code test. In those days, you could not take the written portion of the exam until you passed the code. Four months later I was ready, and passed the test for technician (equivalent to today's technician plus). It seemed to take forever for my license to arrive—the FCC had just switched to a new computer system to issue amateur radio licenses, and my license was issued the first month the new system was in use.

My job as a petroleum geologist has required me to travel to many places, and I have taken amateur radio with me on a number of those trips. In 1978, I was sent to the Ocean Victory, a drilling vessel located 100 miles offshore New Jersey. I operated 2m FM as N5AFV maritime mobile region 2. On good days, I could make it in to repeaters on the East Coast, and during a two week period I worked seven states. I have also operated amateur radio in Alaska during business trips.

My principal HF operating band is 10m, and I am very active in Ten Ten International. I recently joined W5OEN, WD5DRB and others on 40m CW to see who can work all states first. I have worked all states before on several occasions, and have even worked them all on CW, but not all on 40m. I also enjoy contesting, and in 1979, I took first place in Oklahoma in the ARRL Novice Roundup for technicians licensed less than two years. In 1984, I took first place in Oklahoma in the CW portion of the ARRL 10m contest. In recent years, I have been hampered in contest operation by antenna limitations and RFI problems with neighbors.

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## REMINDER . . .

The deadline for articles to be placed in the B-VarC Bulletin is the **15th** of each month. Please make every effort to have your article(s) to me by that date. If you know that you will not be able to meet the deadline but are planning to contribute to the newsletter for that month, you may call me to make special arrangements. Otherwise, if I do not have your article(s) by the deadline, it/they will not be published in that issue. Thank you for your cooperation.

—The Editor

### Membership Application

New  Renewal  Roster Update Only

Bring to a Club meeting, or mail with check to:  
B-VarC, P.O. Box 1630, Missouri City, TX 77459

Regular membership dues are \$16.00/year. Life Memberships are \$160/person. Additional family members may join B-VarC for only \$2.00/year each with no additional copy of the newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Remittance:

Regular Membership _____	+ Family Membership _____	=	Amount _____
B-VarC Life Memberships at \$160/person	Qty _____		Amount _____
ARRL Memberships (\$31.00/year)	Qty _____		Amount _____
Worldradio Subscription (\$15.00/year)	Qty _____		Amount _____
			TOTAL _____

I agree to observe the By-Laws of the Club and the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



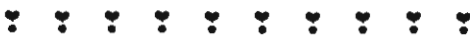
## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) who participate in public service events provide their own radio equipment, and volunteer their time, without remuneration, to serve the general public. The safety of event participants, spectators, and workers is of primary concern, and any benefit to the event organizer is incidental. These amateur radio operators, or HAMS, are expected to act in a responsible manner, and to perform their assigned duties courteously, professionally, and in a manner that reflects favorably on both B-VARC and the Amateur Radio Service.

In order to accomplish these objectives, it is important that B-VARC members do not attempt to perform functions for which they are not properly trained. Functions such as medical assistance, traffic control, and security are the responsibility of event officials, and the officials usually have trained personnel at the event to provide these functions. The amateur radio operators of B-VARC provide communications that allow a more timely and efficient use of these trained personnel. The amateur radio operators are also able to provide communications between key event officials. The members of B-VARC possess the equipment and expertise to provide dependable communications, and the emphasis of B-VARC participation at public service events is on providing communications.

Therefore, at public service events, members of B-VARC:

- . **DO NOT** handle money or tickets for the event.
  - a. **DO NOT** direct traffic, either on streets or in parking lots.  
**DO** report traffic-related problems to appropriate event officials so that properly trained personnel may be dispatched to handle the problem.
  - b. **DO NOT** perform direct security functions such as crowd control, or road guard.  
**DO** report security-related problems and dangerous situations to appropriate event officials so that properly trained personnel may be dispatched to handle the problem.
  - c. **DO NOT** administer first aid.  
**DO** notify appropriate event officials and/or properly trained medical personnel of any medical-related problem.
  - d. **DO NOT** transport persons requiring medical assistance.  
**DO** report the location of persons requiring medical assistance to appropriate event officials and/or properly trained medical personnel so that transport may be arranged.
  - e. One of the means that event organizers are using today to draw more participants is by serving alcohol at the events. Putting temptation aside, we should always remember that we, as amateurs, are there to act professionally and in a responsible manner.
  - f. **DO NOT** provide or operate “sag wagons” or other vehicles for use in transporting supplies or persons.  
**DO** encourage event organizers to have such vehicles, and to arrange in advance for an amateur radio operator to be assigned to each such vehicle.
  - g. **DO** remember that we, as amateur radio operators, are there to provide communications and provide information and suggestions to the event officials, pulling from our past experiences working these events. We, as amateur radio operators, are there for the good of the event and to make sure it is run safely and efficiently using our experience. We, as amateur radio operators, are there to promote the goodwill and helpfulness of amateur radio.





# the B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the  
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Serving the Greater Houston Area  
(Club Call Sign—KC5OIG)

Editor-in-Chief: Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ (713) 460-1968  
e-mail: jburton@nol.net or CompuServe—71573,471

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) 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, B-VARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active HAM radio club in the southwest Houston area.

Today, B-VARC is truly a general-interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The commitment to service has been recognized by the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) 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 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available on the 145.47, 444.55 and 442.5 MHz repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining B-VARC, contact Betty Wilcox—KA0TEN, at (713) 859-6512

## B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 7th 7:30 p.m. Open to <u>All</u> B-VARC Members	Board of Directors Meeting Sugar Land Community Center
Thursday, March 14th 7:30 p.m. Program: ??	B-VARC Regular Meeting Sugar Land Community Center

## B-VARC EATING SCHEDULE

Saturdays—7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Location: New York Coffee Shop,  
9720 Hillcroft @ S. Braeswood

3rd Friday Dinners—6:30 p.m. SHARP!  
Locations announced each month

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March 1996

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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