

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 19 Issue 12

December, 1996



President:

Ron Grimes - WASSCE
(713)341-7137

Vice-President:

Louis House - KD5GM
(713) 498-5639

Recording Secretary:

Jackie Burton - KC5OHJ
(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
Allen Mattis - N5AFV(appointed)

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!

From the Editor

By Scott Pederson, K15DR

Welcome to December's issue of the B-VARC Newsletter. In case you didn't notice, there's a new editor. The time has come for Jackie to pass on the torch, and let someone else have all the fun!

Just a quick note to say *thank you!* to Jackie for all the hard work she has done with the Newsletter, and also for helping me get up-to-speed.

This next year looks to be a landmark year for B-VARC. As one of the premier Amateur clubs in the nation's 4th largest city, we stand ready to advance the amateur hobby to all new levels.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ron Grimes, WASSCE

1996 is coming to a close as is the tenure of the current Board and officers. Some will be returning in other capacities, and other new officers will be stepping up to offer their time and services to B-VARC. Because our November meeting was on another odd day, I am unfortunately not able to congratulate the new officers by name.

Thinking back on this last year, I would especially like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and assistance during 1996.

Vice President Louis House, KD5GM, has done a great job as usual, especially standing in for me when I had to be out of town on meeting nights. We especially appreciate his arranging the Boy Scout exhibit at West Oaks Mall and his code class for those wishing to upgrade.

Recording Secretary Jackie Burton KC5OHJ, played Superwoman, taking care of not only the secretary's job, but the job of newsletter editor, Monday night net controller, and home page helper.

Corresponding Secretary Jim Cahanin, KB5TBZ, did a great job keeping track of our membership records, and, along with Jackie and John Moore, was instrumental in helping to develop and maintain B-VARC's home page on the Internet.

Treasurer Pete Norris, KJ5SS, kept us solvent throughout the year and helped set up a program for disposition of life member dues. He also ran (and will be running again soon, I think) a Novice/Tech class to continue to encourage new hobbyists and hopefully new B-VARC members.

Director Terry McCoy, KK5RL, is now the world's leading expert on meeting locations in west Harris County and eastern Fort Bend County. When our meeting times began to get squirrely earlier this year, Terry went on a thorough campaign to see if there was a better deal available. There wasn't.

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Thanks, Terry, for all your time spent for the club.

Speaking of meeting places, each of us owes a very special thanks to Bud King, N5UOG, for making arrangements with the Sugar Land Parks and Recreation for our meeting space. For those that don't know, that is not a trivial task. Thanks also to Bud for setting up our Annual Awards Banquet site and for being the official "mover of motions" at the Board meetings.

The fact that you are reading this newsletter is evidence of the thanks we owe Claude Sessions, K5HFY, for his help in arranging for KHTV - Channel 39 to allow us to print the newsletter at their facility. Claude has also arranged meeting sites for our code and theory classes.

A special thank you also to Allen Mattis, N5AFV, for stepping in to fill the Past-President post. All the other ones left town out over the last few years, and Betty was beginning to think she had a permanent job she hadn't exactly planned on. Hopefully, I will break that recent trend - I'm perfectly happy here in Fort Bend County.

Of course the club couldn't have functioned without the special of Gailen Marshall (Programs), Allen Brier (Field Day), Sam Wilson (75 meter net), Harold Parker (VE Exams), Daryl (Coffee and meeting room set-up), Steve Gottlieb and Joe Sams (breakfasts, lunches, and dinners), and many others.

Finally, there were innumerable other members that contributed tremendously with their time and talents to give meeting programs, help at Field Day, assist with Public

Service events, administer VE testing sessions, get the newsletter folded, stamped and mailed, and many other tasks.

Thanks to all of you for your help during this past year. I enjoyed my tenure and really do appreciate the support of the Club.

I wish good luck and great fun next year to our new President, Board members, and the cadre of volunteers I know they will enlist.

See you at the January Awards Banquet! Please get your tickets soon.

73, Ron WA5SCE

ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY THE DECEMBER MEETING

As was announced in the November newsletter, the time is drawing near for you to get your nominations for members you think should be honored by receiving the awards listed below. These awards are:

The Order of the Key is B-VARC's highest honor and is presented to the B-VARC member who has made outstanding contributions to the club.

The Dr. Bill Award is presented to the outstanding participant in the B-VARC Volunteer Examiner Program.

The Loop and Zepp Award is given to B-VARC members in recognition of their efforts to promote operation on the high frequency bands.

Allen Mattis probably has more details elsewhere in this newsletter. At the December club meeting, we will have more details of the

awards.

As mentioned in the November newsletter, to nominate a member, please submit your nomination in writing to any member of the Board of Directors preferably by the December 12 General Meeting but no later than December 16. In the nomination, please state why you feel the member is worthy of the honor. The Board of Directors will vote on the nominations via a telephone poll and the awards will be presented at our January 9 Annual Awards Banquet in January.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Pete Norris, KJ5SS

As of November 7, 1996, the current membership for the club is:

162

HOUSTON HAM INFO. LINE

713-495-3495

The Ham Information Line is available 24 hours per day by calling the above number with a touch-tone phone. Information on local clubs and test sessions is provided.

Results of 20K marathon

by Claudia, N5VCZ

This year, the 20K was being used for the Women's National Championship for 20Ks. Over 20 top women runners from over the US participated. This was the largest number for the Houston 20K ever. There was a change of course this year but it did not effect the race communications. There were 5,582 runners.

THE WORLD OF TEN TEN INTERNATIONAL

by Al Mattis-N5AFV

Ten Ten International has announced that Scott Brackeen - A11M, is the new award manager for the Worked All States Program. Scott has taken over the position from his mother, Susan Brackeen - KA1CAD, who had held the position since 1982.

If you surf the Internet, remember to check out the Ten Ten International web page at <http://www.lehigh.edu/lists/tenten-1/>. This web page has information about Ten Ten International, as well as many of the Ten Ten chapters throughout the world. The web page contains links to pages maintained by several chapters as well as by individual members.

The Houston SHOT chapter has announced its third annual special. During the month of November, 1996, collect Discovery award upgrade numbers for 2 points each, and Voyager numbers for 1 point each. List collected points in log format, including call sign, SHOT number, Discovery and/or Voyager number(s), and date worked. Submit a list of the claimed points along with an SASE by December 15, 1996, to Allen Mattis, N5AFV, the chapter certificate manager. Please include your ten ten number, SHOT number and current point value. Your SHOT point value will be increased by one fifth of the points collected during the special. Take advantage of this opportunity to upgrade your SHOT point value outside of the regular chapter upgrade program. Enough Discovery and Voyager upgrades have been issued so that it is possible for SHOT members to more than dou-

ble their point value during this special.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz and 28.375 MHz when the band is open. Chapters with specials this month include Houston SHOT (TX), Eagle Watch (AL), and Springbok (DX). The Ten Ten International Paper Chasers Update reports that the Aftershock (CA) chapter has gone QRT.

The trend set the past several months has continued, and propagation on ten meters was not very good during the last month. A few domestic E-layer openings continue to occur, especially in the evening, and a few Latin Americans may be worked with F-layer propagation when conditions permit. We all look forward to propagation on ten meters improving in the coming months as we head into the next solar cycle.

Remember, the Houston SHOT (Space Houston On Ten) 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 Ten Ten number. If you are not a member of Ten International and wish to join the organization, please check into the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the ten meter band.

RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 12TH AMATEUR EXAMS

by: Harold Parker, NDSF

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, November 12, 1996 at Strake Jesuit College

Preparatory in Houston.

V. E. TEAM:
Harold Parker, NDSF
Randy Pollard, AK5G
George Walker, KQ5W

ASSISTANTS:
Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
John Moore, KK5NU

A total of 7 exams were administered during the evening to 5 applicants. Two (2) unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses and one (1) other upgraded with a total of 5 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 71%

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and/or passed exams:
Jake Driver - KC5WXA - Tech
Phillip Forney - Element 2
James Thompson, KB5GTK - Gen
Scott Williams - KC5WWZ - Tech
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.

PSN CHECK-INS

by Jackie Burton, KC5OHI

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

October 7, 1996 - 45

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October 14, 1996 - 51
 October 21, 1996 - 46
 October 28, 1996 - 56

**B-VARC RAGCHEW NET
 CHECK-INS**

3.960 Mhz +/- 3Khz
 Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

By Sam Wilson, N5CPA

10/02/96 -

N5CPA (NCS), N5UOG, KG5KV,
 W5GLD, W5SNH, W5EFB,
 KK5DO, W5GHK, KK5RL,
 WB5TBZ, WD5CJL, W5IHY,
 N5VXU, KK5XR, WA5TWL.

10/09/96 -

N5CPA (NCS), W5EFB, AK5G,
 N5ECP, W5SNH, WA5TWL,
 KB5TOJ, KK5RJJ, WB5NES,
 W5GHK, KC5KG, WB8SVR,
 KD5GM, WD5CJL.

10/16/96 -

N5CPA (NCS), W5SNH, KM5DG,
 WA5TWL, KK5RL, WD5CJL,
 KD5JM, KK5DO, KG5KV,
 KD4FDP, N4ECP.(N5ECP? Ed..)

10/23/96 -

N5CPA(NCS), N5UOG, N5ECP,
 KE5SR, W5SNH, KI5SC, KB5PAJ,
 KA4FDP, KB5ION, WB8SVR,
 N5OAC, W5EFB, W5GLD,
 WD5CJL, WA5TWL, KE4PPT,
 KK5RL, KG5KV.

10/30/96 -

N5CPA (NCS), N5ECP, W5EFB,
 KM5DG, WD5CJL, AK5G,
 KG5KV, W5SNH, W5IHY,
 W5GLD, KC5VKK, WB8SVR,
 KK5RL, KC5QZD.

UPCOMING SWAPFESTS

None reported.

SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Recently Jack has received several requests for a listing of Brazoria County's 800 Mhz trunking frequencies. He also has received several requests for League City.

This month Jack brings us the following listings by request:

Brazoria County 800 Mhz -
 866.7875, 867.2875, 867.8125,
 868.2875, 868.5625

Nationwide TAC frequencies -

ITAC1 - 866.0125
 ITAC2 - 866.5125
 ITAC3 - 867.0125
 ITAC4 - 867.5125
 ITAC5 - 868.0125

League City 800 Mhz frequencies -

856.9875, 857.9875, 858.9875,
 859.9875, 860.9875

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

by Scott Pederson, ki5dr

December 8, 1996

30K Warm-Up
 Contact: Don Wade, WB5IBT
 (713) 242-6706

January 12, 1996

Houston Marathon
 Contact: Carl Hacker, KB5LDY
 (713) 977-9754

B-VARC CODE PRACTICE NET

by Bruce Paige, KK5DO

B-VARC sponsors a Morse Code Practice Net, called BCN, on Monday and Wednesday nights at 8:30 p.m. central time, with the exception of the last Monday of the month. The purpose of this net is to offer a consistent code practice schedule for all amateurs who are working on their upgrades./ The practice text is sent at approximately 5, 8, 10, and

13 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 25-30 minutes. Check-ins are welcome at the start of the net (on 10m, check-ins are taken from 8:125 to 8:30 p.m.) Tune in on 146.470 MHz simplex or 28.146.47 MHz CW, with a desire to increase your code proficiency and have a good time.

All copy will come from QST and code generated from a computer text file.

I am looking for someone to take over the code practice net for 1997 as Louis, KD5GM, did it for 1995, and I have done it for 1996. If you can help, please call me at 933-8385 x201 or email me at kk5do@amsat.org

Meeting of the Board of Directors of The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 7, 1996

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on November 7, 1996. This was the eleventh board meeting of the calendar year. The meeting was called to order by President, Ron Grimes--WA5SCE, at 7:36 p.m.

The following Board Members and guests were present: Ron Grimes--WA5SCE, Louis House--KD5GM, Jackie Burton--KC5OHJ, Jim Cahanin--KB5TBZ, Pete Norris--KJ5SS, Terry McCoy-- KK5RL, Bud King--N5UOG, Claude Sessions--K5HFY, Allen Mattis--N5AFV, Sam Wilson--N5CPA, and Rick Hiller--W5RH.

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Recording Secretary, Jackie Burton--KC5OHJ, presented the October minutes. The minutes were approved with a motion that passed unanimously.

Treasurer, Pete Norris--KJ5SS, presented a corrected Treasurer's report for September showing a balance of \$4,691.75. He also presented an report for October, showing a balance of \$4,924.30.

He stated that he would be sending a check in the amount of \$73.00 to Newsline. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion that passed unanimously. Pete stated that B-VARC currently has a total of 162 members.

Corresponding Secretary, Jim Cahanin--KB5TBZ, stating that he was sending an e-mail reminder to all B-VARC members with e-mail addresses of the upcoming elections at the November meeting.

Vice President, Louis House--KD5GM, had nothing to report.

Board Member, Terry McCoy--KK5RL, had nothing to report.

Board Member, Bud King--N5UOG, stated that the Houston Engineering and Scientific Society (HESS) was moving to 5430 Westheimer. Further information concerning the January awards banquet would be forthcoming as soon as he had more information.

Board Member, Claude Sessions--K5HFY, had nothing to report.

Past President, Allen Mattis--N5AFV, stated that the 25K race was coming up on November 17, 1996,

and that he had enough volunteers to handle the event. He also stated that we had a slate of officers for the elections to be held at the November regular meeting. It was suggested by President, Ron Grimes--WA5SCE, that the old board member call their new replacement to give them a run-down of their duties on the Board of Directors. Ron stated that the new board would take effect in January 1997.

B-VARC Rag Chew Net Manager, Sam Wilson--N5CPA, reported that the net is doing well, and that the check-ins for the month of October ranged from 11 to 18. He stated that check-ins seemed to be down.

Public Service Net Manager, Jackie Burton--KC5OHJ, reported that the Monday night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Public Service Information Net was going well, with fairly high check-ins ranging above 50 for the month of October. She mentioned the fact that Newsline was now a long distance call to whoever records it for the net, and that we should discuss how we wish to handle this in the future. President Grimes stated that something was mentioned about this at the M.E.R.A. board meeting, but he couldn't remember what, and after some discussion, nothing was decided.

President, Ron Grimes--WA5SCE, stated that we had 162 paid members, which means that we need approximately 41 or 42 paid members for a quorum at the November election meeting. It was suggested that we divide the roster and have each board member call a page of the roster, reminding everyone to attend the November regular meeting. Jim Cahanin--KB5TBZ stated that he had prepared a sign-in sheet so membership could be verified against the ros-

ter.

President, Ron Grimes--WA5SCE, asked about the status of the Stu Lamkin memorial. It was mentioned that Larry Levy--WD5DRB, was working on this, but no information was available as to the status.

President, Ron Grimes--WA5SCE, stated that he and Bud King--N5UOG had attended the meeting of the Sugar Land Community Center. He stated that there was still no change in our use of the facilities, and that it was still the best deal we could find.

Treasurer, Pete Norris--KJ5SS, stated that he had received information from Compass Bank concerning interest-bearing accounts for our life membership funds. He stated that the money market rate was 3.3%, the 13-month CD rate was 5% and the 5-year CD rate was 6%. It was his suggestion that we put the money into the 13-month CD. We have a total of 11 life memberships, which, put into a 13-month CD at the rate of 5%, would yield approximately \$7.75 per life membership. He also suggested that we increase the life membership dues to twenty times the regular annual dues, or \$320.00. He stated that he thought the regular dues should stay the same. He then made a motion to put the life membership funds into a 13-month CD at a bank with the most favorable rate, in any event not to be less than 5%. The motion was seconded and approved with a unanimous vote. He then made a motion to increase the life membership dues to twenty times the annual dues, effective immediately. After much discussion, the motion was seconded and approved.

Pete also stated that he had 8 people

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