THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 21, issue 1
January, 1998

http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc

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Welcome to B-VARC 1998!

A Special Thanks to the First Colony Church of Christ for the use of their facilities which make this newsletter possible.

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Last letter from Gailen, N4SKR:

QST..QST..QST!!

Happy Holidays, Ham dudes and dudettes! By the time you read this there will be cold turkey leftover in the fridge and a few extra turkey pounds on your transmission stabilization position (aka tushies). Hopefully 10 meters was wide open and you made QSLs all over the place.

The elections occurred without a hitch and (as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter) your new Board will take control at our annual banquet on January 8. They will meet with the current Board at our December meeting to effect a smooth transfer. Wish them well when you see them and VOLUNTEER to help.

Since this is my last newsletter column as president, I want to take a minute to thank everyone who helped me make BVARC work this year. The Board was phenomenal ! Rick Hiller served as VP and program chairman.. the speakers and topics were great! Thanks Rick! The secretaries, Terry van Slyke and John Dryton were always available and did a great job in so many ways. They will both be very hard acts to follow. Nizar Mullani kept us "solvent" in his role as treasurer. Thanks Nizar. Then there were the at large members. - Bud King, Terry McCoy and Jackie Burton. They were available to help us as a club in many ways - and I greatly appreciate their support. And finally, I want to thank you , the members of BVARC, for allowing me to serve you as your president in 1997. It is an honor that I will cherish for a very long time.

Don't forget the December meeting and the HOME BREW night. Even if you don't build, you can have a lot of fun looking at what other have done. And our January banquet promises to be a grand evening of food , fun and fellowship. Be sure to buy your tickets ($20) by the December meeting.

All the best to you and your families for a safe, warm and happy holiday.

73 de N4SKR ...-.-

Schedule of BVARC General Meetings for 1998

- February 5
- March 5

- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- June 27 & 28 Field Day
- July 2
- August 6 Ice Cream Social
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5 Chili
- Supper/Elections December 3
- January 14, 1999 BVARC Banquet

Article for amendment to by laws

The Board of Directors recommends the following changes to the Club's
By Laws. These changes will be voted on at the February 5, 1998 General Meeting following a brief discussion of each:

Article V Section F shall be amended to read:
The Corresponding Secretary shall notify members of the Club of each membership meeting by written notice monthly. Such notice may be included in the Club newsletter indicating the time and date of the next meeting. Newsletters may be handed out to members at the monthly meeting and mailed to those not in attendance the day after the meeting. Notice shall also be given via electronic means on the World Wide Web and by announcement over the Club's FM Public Service Net.
Article IX Section B shall be amended to read:
Proposals for amendments to the By Laws shall be submitted in writing to the President of the Club to arrive at the Club's postal box on the day prior to the board meeting. The Corresponding Secretary shall include any proposed amendments in a meeting notice to members in accordance with the provision in ARTICLE V, Section F of these By Laws

New President's Article – Bruce, KK5DO

Well, this starts a New Year for BVARC and with it comes a new President. My name is Bruce, KK5DO and I will be the President of the club for 1998. I am sure that with a little help from each of you we can have a good time, have some good functions and maybe even see some upgrades and more new members.

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

One of the things that you might have noticed as you peruse the pages of the newsletter is a QSL card. This is going to be a monthly feature and any of the members can submit their favorite QSL card along with an explanation about it. Please bring your cards to the monthly meeting, I will take them, scan the one or two that are chosen as the monthly favorite and return it to you at the next meeting.

QSL cards mean a lot to hams, they show where we have had a contact. That Special Event Station, that King or Queen of a Country, that rare DX Island, or even that card from the guy across the street. Each card is something special to us and we cherish them and can not wait for the day it arrives in the mail. As an ARRL Special Service Club one of the features afforded us by the ARRL is the ability to send all our QSL cards in one group to the QSL Bureau. This will save each of us a lot of money.

In order to use this service, you must be a member of the ARRL and of BVARC. You are welcome to bring your QSL cards to the monthly meeting. Be sure they are properly sorted per the ARRL. Then they will all be merged together and sent to the ARRL. Instead of each of us paying the minimum fee for sending cards, we group them together. If you send only 10 or fewer cards, you would have to pay $1. if you sent up to one pound, it would be $4. A pound of cards is 150 cards. Each participating member will pay only $1 for all his cards. Those that would like to send less than 10 cards may do so free of charge. You must also bring a Xerox of your ARRL membership card or the label off your copy of QST to be included with the shipment. The club will then send the cards to the ARRL and pay the postage from the funds collected. Any money that is extra will be deposited in the club treasury.

This is truly a bargain. Here is another feature that you may not have been aware of that is available to us as BVARC club members and ARRL members. Don't forget, the QSO is not over until you have QSL'd.

A final note. Due to a conflict at the Sugar Land Civic Center for the 2nd Thursday meetings, we have to change the meetings to

the 1st Thursday of the month for the entire year. Please mark your calendars now for the 1st Thursday of the month so that you won't forget.
73, Bruce KK5DO

Meeting of the Board of Directors of The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club December 4, 1997

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on December 4, 1997. This was the twelfth meeting of the calendar year. The meeting was called to order by President, Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, at 7:32 p.m.

The following Board Members and guests were present: Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, Rick Hiller -- W5RH, Terri Van Slyke -- W5BKK, John Dryton -- KM5HP, Bud King -- N5UOG, Terry McCoy -- W5TEM, Jackie Burton -- KC5OHJ, Ron Grimes -- WA5SCE, Bruce Paige -- KK5DO, John Moore -- KK5NU, Steven Deaktor -- WA3PMT, and Mike Hardwick -- N5VCX.

Recording Secretary, Terri Van Slyke -- W5BKK, presented the November minutes. John Moore -- KK5NU, stated that the number of hits to the web should be corrected to 3, 419.

Mike Hardwick -- N5VCX, discussed malicious interference.

Board Member, Bud King -- N5UOG, presented a certificate from the Sugar Land Community Center, thanking B-VARC for its' sponsorship of the Center's Annual Halloween Fun Night. He also stated that he had received a letter from the Center announcing that reservations would be taken for 1999 on January 2, 1998.

President, Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, said that he had received nominations for two individuals for two different awards for this year's Awards Banquet. He asked that each Board Member send him their vote by e-mail. He stated that the December Board Meeting was the last opportunity for nominees for these awards to be submitted. Some discussion followed regarding expanding the scope of

the Dr. Bill Award to include other activities. Gailen suggested giving additional special awards to those who had contributed to the club during the year and several nominees were listed.

Steven Deaktor -- WA3PMT, asked if a cost comparison had been done between having the newsletter printed at the church vs. having it done commercially. Bud King -- N5UOG, responded that it cost less money to print it at the church. Bruce Paige -- KK5DO, stated that CLARC distributes its' newsletters at meetings and mails them to those unable to attend. Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, stated that some B-VARC members were receiving newsletters electronically.

President, Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, stated Jackie Burton -- KC5OHJ, and Terry McCoy -- W5TEM, had resigned as Board Members. He said that Claude Sessions -- K5HFY, and Bud King -- N5UOG, had agreed to fill these positions with Claude filling the two year position and Bud filling the one year position. A motion was made to accept this recommendation that passed unanimously.

Board Member, Bud King -- N5UOG, suggested a house committee be appointed to represent the club regarding meeting room arrangements at the Sugar Land Community Center. Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, stated that the Board had discussed switching the regular club meeting night from the second Thursday to the first Thursday of the month, because that night was available each month.

President, Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, stated that the newsletter had been a source of complaints for the last year. He suggested that next year's board clearly define what is expected of someone in the position of newsletter editor.

Board Member, Bud King -- N5UOG, stated that the January Board Meeting would fall on January 1, 1998. It was decided that a Board meeting would not be held in January. Bud asked for a final head count for the January Banquet. Gailen stated that he would receive it on December 11.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President, Gailen Marshall -- N4SKR, at 8:10 p.m.

B-VARC Home-brew Contest Results
By Rick Hiller, W5RH

The First Annual B-VARC Home-Brew contest last night was a great success.
Below is the summary of the winners.
We had a total of 28 entries in the 3 categories.
Home brew Category Winners
1 Sine Wave Generator-Dick KB5WZI
2 Tuna Tin Transmitter-Rick-WD5L
3 Portable Power Generator-Pete KJ5SS
Antennas Category Winners
1 Tunable Dipole-AL KK5W
2 30 thru 10 meter delta-Larry K5LJ
3 440 MHz. Quad-Jim KA4ZSM

Kit/Modified rigs/Packaged Rigs Category Winners
1 Automatic Antenna Tuner-Glen WB4KTF
2 HW-100 Heath Kit-Ron WA5SCE
3 Portable VHF Station-Bud N5UOG
Thanks to all who participated and helped.
Happy Holidays and 73...Rick

HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for January, 1998
by Al Mattis - N5AFV

Ten Ten International has announced the appointment of a new awards manager for the 100 to 900 Bar Awards program. Effective January 5, 1998, Dan Morris, KZ3T, assumed responsibility for the program. Morris replaces Bob Pescha, K7QXG, who stepped down from the position because he and his wife are planning to do some extensive traveling now that Bob is retired.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome K7FD, KA4WAC, DH4JQ, DJ2UB, DK0KWS and DL1EK as its newest members. The chapter currently has 381 local members, and 1304 non-local members, for a total membership of 1685. The fact that the last four new SHOT members are all from Germany results from recent improvements in propagation, and the fact that the newly formed Neanderthal chapter in Dusseldorf has interested many German amateur radio operators in participating in the

activities of Ten Ten International.

Visit the Houston SHOT chapter home page at http://www.clarc.org/shot/ when you get on the Internet. The site contains information about the chapter, past editions of the Houston SHOT News, and the Ten Ten DX column written Mike Davidson - N5MT, the SHOT chapter head. The chapter thanks Bruce Paige - KK5DO, for constructing and maintaining the page, and the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) for providing space on their server for the page.

In the next month or so, the requirements for the SHOT chapter awards will be increased because of the improvement in propagation resulting from the upswing in Cycle 23. During the past low in the solar cycle, the SHOT chapter reduced the requirements for the various awards in the chapter award program.

Remember that 28.170 MHz is used by many Ten Ten members as a CW calling frequency. The frequency of 28.335 MHz is used by many Ten Ten members while mobile.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz, 28.375 MHz, and 28.825 MHz during band openings. The Eagle Watch (AL), Twin Cities (MN), Mule Town (TN), Kansas Trails (MN), Pirates of the Mississippi (IL), Peach State (TX), Portland 500 (OR) and Electric City (FL) chapters have announced specials for paper chasers to promote activity when the band is open. Many of the chapters have home pages on the Internet. Links to these pages may be found on the Ten Ten International page. The Houston SHOT page contains a link to the Ten Ten International page.

Ten meter propagation continues to show improvement. Domestic openings occur almost every day, and band conditions are improving. Openings to the South Pacific, Europe and Africa are being reported more frequently, and Latin American and Caribbean contacts continue to be reported by Houston stations.

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 Ten International and wish to join the organization, please check in to the net. There are many exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the ten meter band.

The Maunder Minimum by Al Mattis N5AFV

With the many recent articles written about sunspots and the beginning of Cycle 23, we have all heard about the Maunder Minimum. This period, which occurred from 1645 to 1715, was named after Walter Maunder, an English astronomer. The period was characterized by the almost complete absence of sunspots. As we know, sunspots affect the propagation of high frequency radio waves. After Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, read an article about the Maunder Minimum in the May, 1992 issue of Astronomy, he posted a comment in an amateur radio news group on the Internet that stated if another Maunder Minimum "occurs at the end of this cycle, you can take down all your antennas for 20M and above unless you like VHF work - kind of a depressing thought." Even though radio had not yet been invented during the Maunder Minimum, nearly all amateur radio operators understand the effect that an almost total absence of sunspots for such a long period of time would have on radio communications.

The historical record contains evidence of the effects of the Maunder Minimum on phenomena other than the propagation of radio waves. The increased solar radiation associated with sunspots causes an increase in aurora borealis, commonly known as the northern lights. During the Maunder Minimum, there were no sightings of aurora borealis reported in London. In early 1716, historical records describe a marvelous display of aurora borealis in the London area. People reportedly stayed up all night to view the northern lights. This display of aurora borealis clearly indicated that the Maunder Minimum was over.

Historical records also provide evidence of

climatic effects during the Maunder Minimum. The period was marked by colder temperatures, and in northern Europe this event has become known as the Little Ice Age. There is some evidence that extreme solar cycles may affect the earth's climate. However, a detailed study of the climate of southern Spain during the Maunder Minimum indicates the occurrence of a number of abnormal events such as floods and droughts, but does not confirm a definite relationship between climate and a minimum in solar activity. With the current political focus on global warming, scientists are examining possible relationships between solar activity and climate.

One group of scientists studying the Maunder Minimum theorize that the diameter and rate of rotation of the sun has changed. These scientists believe that during the Maunder Minimum, the diameter of the sun was larger, and its rotation was slower than today. The astronomical telescope was invented in 1609, and this theory is based on observations recorded by astronomers during the Maunder Minimum. There is some disagreement about whether the sun is continually shrinking, or whether it's size and rate of rotation change in a cyclic manner.

In an attempt to learn more about phenomenon like the Maunder Minimum, other scientists have been studying stars that are similar to the sun in age, mass and activity. It appears that 25% of the stars surveyed could be in a Maunder-like state. Therefore, these scientists argue, the sun might spend approximately 25% of its time in a Maunder-like state. Unfortunately, this research is based on records from 30 years of observation, and data from a much longer time period are needed to draw any definite conclusions.

Most amateur radio operators are interested in predictions regarding the level of solar activity that will occur during Cycle 23. A number of scientists involved in research on the Maunder Minimum believe that we may be approaching another Maunder-like period. They predict that either we will have a strong Cycle 23 followed by a

Maunder-like period, or that both Cycles 23 and 24 will be weak. Other scientists, however, call for a continuation of regular and steady solar cycles. Even today, there is disagreement about when Cycle 23 actually began. The difficulty identifying the end of Cycle 22 and the onset of Cycle 23 certainly illustrates the uncertainty scientists face in predicting solar cycles. The bottom line is that no one knows what the level of solar activity will be during Cycle 23.

1997 Technical Programs in review

The B-VARC members who have attended the monthly meetings have seen a lot of different technical programs in 1997. These programs tried to emphasize as much as possible the 'hands-on' aspect of our fine hobby. The diversity of the programs shows that everything is interesting. Just because you don't partake of that particular aspect of the hobby, doesn't mean that you are not at least interested and can gain a little knowledge.
My thanks, along with N4SKR's and KM5HP's, go out to the folks that presented the topics and spent their time putting these presentations together. I might add that we received a fair amount of nice compliments, both directly and indirectly, concerning these presentations. This shows that we were 'hitting the nail on the head'.
Review the events of 1997, listed below, then think of a topic or technical corner that we didn't present and make a note to present this topic yourself sometime in 1998. Give John, KK5NU, the new program chair, a call and let him know that you've got something you'd like to present.

1997 Programs

Antenna Modeling, building and practical theory-N4SKR, NONM and W5RH

Refurbishing boat anchors-K8WOZ

Transmitter finger printing-N7SNI (and some people still didn't take the hint!)

Ice cream social-W5BKK
Mobile antennas-W5RH

DXpedition ARRL video (a quick fill in presentation)

Amateur Television- N5EM and members of the Houston ATV group

10/10 Ten meter night- antennas and gear- N5AFV and N5MT

QRP, QRP, QRP!-- N5EM

Chili supper

Home-brew contest

Enthusiasm was also generated for Ham Radio basics through the Technical and Product Corners, organized by John, KM5HP..

Grounding

FCC Rules

Microphones

Home brew VHF yagis

wire antennas

10 meter yagi's from old TV antennas

Soldering

Kit building

If you have a pet subject or project, bring it and show it. I know that all of you don't operate all of the time. A lot of reading, studying and building is going on. It doesn't matter whether you are a novice or expert, a technical prestation is a 2 way street. You will learn as much as you pass on. 73....Rick W5RH

B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS

3.960Mhz +/- 3Khz Wednesdays at 8:00 PM by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

12/03/97--KK5DO (NCS), N5UOG, K5LJ, N5CPA, KK5W, W5GHK, W5IHY, NM5K, N5ECP, WN5A, KG5KV. (11)

12/10/97--KK5DO (NCS), AB5BA, K5VRJ, KB5PAJ, KI5SC, N5UOG, K5LJ, KG5KV, KK5W, N5ECP, NM5K/M, W5EFB, W5GHK, WN5A. (14)

12/17/97--N5CPA, N5UOG, KK5DO, W5EFB, N5OAC, NM5K, W5RIY, KK5W, KG5KV, WA5TWL, KM5ID, KD5GM, K5LJ, KI5SC KB5PAJ, KAOTEN. (16)

12/24/97--NO NET HELD---CHRISTMAS EVE--

12/31/97--N5CPA, K5LJ, W5EFB, KK5DO.--(4)

Sunspots - A Review of the Basics
by Al Mattis N5AFV

Sunspots are dark areas on the surface of the Sun. They were observed as early as 467 BCE by the Greek philosopher Anaxagoras, and in 28 BCE by Chinese astronomers. Galileo observed sunspots in 1610 using a telescope. Sunspots are often large enough to be seen with the naked eye, but direct observation of the Sun is both painful and dangerous. For this reason, a variation of the pin hole camera has often been used to observe sunspots. When sunspots are present in larger numbers, the Sun's radiation is greater. This increase in solar radiation causes ionization in the Earth's ionosphere, and thus affects the propagation of radio waves. During times of increased sunspot activity, the Earth's ionosphere will refract higher frequency radio waves, resulting in improved propagation on the high frequency bands.

The occurrence of sunspots is cyclic in nature, and both short term and long term cycles exist. Short term cycles relate to the Sun's rotation. The rotational period of the Sun is approximately 28 days. Thus an area of sunspot activity on the solar surface faces the Earth for 14 days, and is then hidden on the back side of the Sun for 14 days. The reappearance of clusters of sunspots as the Sun rotates results in short term cycles. Larger groups of sunspots usually have a longer life span, and sunspot groups have been observed to exist for as long as 100 days.

Long term solar cycles are related to the overall occurrence of sunspots. Sunspots occur in an approximate 11-year cycle. The first complete sunspot cycle observed by scientists began in 1755, and was termed Cycle 1. We are now in the early stages of Cycle 23. The first sunspots of a new cycle appear at higher latitudes near the Sun's polar regions. As the cycle progresses, the sunspots slowly move into lower latitudes near the Sun's equator. During the transition between cycles, sunspots from the old cycle are present near the solar equator, while sunspots from the new cycle are located in the Sun's polar regions. Late in Cycle 22, a group of new sunspots was observed at mid-latitude on the solar surface. Because these

sunspots were not located at a high latitude, there was some confusion about whether this group of sunspots was related to Cycle 23, or whether it represented a final burst of activity for Cycle 22. During Cycles 20, 21 and 22, the first sunspots of the new cycle appeared 13 to 19 months before the solar minimum. The minimum of a solar cycle is defined by the 12 month smoothed sunspot number, and there is a six month time lag before the smoothed sunspot number can be calculated. We now know that May, 1996, marked the end of Cycle 22, and the beginning of Cycle 23.

While the solar cycle is regarded as having an 11-year period, observed solar cycles have ranged from 9 to 14 years in length. Cycle 22 was a little less than 10 years in length, and continued the trend observed since 1913 of solar cycles having a period shorter than 11 years. Solar activity increases more rapidly than it decreases during a cycle. The average length of time from a cycle minimum to a cycle maximum is 4.3 years. However, the average length of time from a cycle maximum to a cycle minimum is 6.6 years. The solar activity related to Cycle 23 is expected to peak in late 2000 or early 2001, and Cycle 24 should begin in late 2007.

The 11-year sunspot cycle is actually part of a longer solar cycle. During a sunspot cycle maximum, the solar magnetic polarity reverses. Thus, the 11-year solar sunspot cycle represents one-half of a solar magnetic cycle. Each solar magnetic cycle consists of two sunspot cycles, with the two sunspot cycles having opposite magnetic polarity. Other solar cycles, with longer periods, are also believed to exist.

The next amateur radio School Club Roundup will be February 9-14, 1998.

The W5NB club station at Northbrook Middle School in Houston (Spring Branch ISD) will be participating again this year. Thanks to all who supported W5NB last year. We plan to be on the air more hours this time. In addition to HF, we will spend time on 2 meters simplex for local contacts. 146.49 has

tentatively been selected for W5NB's primary 2 meter simplex operations. Other schools in the area participating may want to join in on the same frequency to make it easier for local stations to work schools for the certificate.
Licensed students who attend a school that isn't participating may wish to operate from W5NB during after-school hours. Just let me know so arrangements can be made.
Below is the official announcement of the event. Feel free to spread the word on this to others who might be interested. I've only got e-mail addresses for the few clubs I belong to out of the many in the area.
73, Dave K4DA

The Twelfth Annual School Club Roundup (1998)

School Club Roundup (SCR) is sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Amateur Radio in the New York City Schools (CAAR/NYCS), the ARRL and its Hudson Division Education Task Force to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs.
The SCR is a great way to get young operators on the air. Very often a new operator will be intimidated by the fear of not knowing what to say to the stranger on the other side of the radio. The exchange info helps to overcome this fear in a low pressure contest format. Operators are encouraged to take some time to chat beyond the contest exchange.

In response to several requests and suggestions, the time of day restriction is changed to a limit of 6 hours in any 24 hour period. It is expected that this will increase DX participation. Award certificates will be issued for separate Elementary, Middle School, High School and College/University levels for USA and DX entries.
Rules:
1. Object: All stations to exchange QSO information as below with as many other stations as possible, especially school clubs.
2. Contest Period: Monday through Friday in the second full week in February.
Start 1300
UTC on Monday
February 9 and end
0100 UTC on Saturday
February 14, 1998,
(800 EST Monday
through 2000 EST

Friday, February 9-13). Operate no more than 24 of the possible 108 hours. There is a maximum of 6 hours in any 24 hour period. Logs must clearly show on and off dates and times. Off periods must be at least 30 minutes.

3. Classes, single transmitter only:

(I) Individual or Single Operator (non-club)

(c) Club or multi-operator group (non-school)

(S) School club or group (grades k-12, colleges and universities). (Any station operated at a school for the contest period. This includes any group formed for the sole purpose of participating in the SCR.)

4. Exchange: Your call sign, RS(T), class ("I", "C", or "S"), U.S. State or DX country. For example W2CXN answers N2RQ's call by sending "N2RQ DE W2CXN 57(9) S NY". (Multi-operator group stations must choose only one callsign to use for the whole contest).

5. Scoring: Stations may be contacted once each on phone and CW (Packet, RTTY and others count as CW). No repeater contacts except satellite and "real time" packet. One point for each phone QSO. Two points for each CW QSO. Multiplier: [Number States plus DX countries] plus 2x ["C" class QSO's] plus 5x ["S" class QSO's]. School stations get a multiplier of 5 which should make them the most desirable stations to work. Contacts with Marty, KA2NRR will count as a 5x multiplier. (KA2NRR was the founding Chairman of the CAARS/NYCS and creator of the contest that became the SCR). Final Score: Multiply QSO points by multiplier. PLEASE USE OUR SUMMARY FORM TO AVOID ERRORS, especially if this is your first time in the SCR. (See 6 below.)

Suggested frequencies: All amateur bands except 30, 17 and 12 meters are permitted. On VHF and uh, repeaters are not to be used. Only recognized simplex frequencies may be used, such as 144.90-145.00; 146.49, .55, .58; and 147.42, .45, .48, .51, .54, and .57 MHz. The national calling frequency 146.52 MHz may not be used.

CW 1800-1810 (kHz) Novice CW
3530-3580
3685-3705
7030-7080
7110-7130
14,030-14,060
21,050-21,080 21,110-21,130
28,050-28,080 28,110-28,130

Phone 1855-1865 Novice Phone
3850-3880
7225-7255
14,250-14,280
21,300-21,330
28,550-28,580 28,250-28,400

6. More info: Sample LOG and ENTRY forms are available for a large self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) (or a label and postage). SCR-LOG V3.x written by AD8B for IBM and compatible PC's is included with email requests to: caarnycs@aol.com

7. Reporting: Logs must include exchange information, bands, and signature of all operators (and authorized club official or trustee). Indicate the number of hours and operator/loggers and type of school. Dupe check sheets are required for entries over 100 QSO's. (Computer entries on disk are appreciated. Use SCR-LOG or follow the ARRL Suggested Standard File Format. Please include a printed summary sheet and instructions as to the disk file names and formats. If you are not sure if we can handle your files, call or write and ask us.) Entries should be mailed to School Club Roundup, c/o Lew Malchick, N2RQ, Brooklyn Technical HS, 29 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217. Postmarked not later than 30 days after contest end (March 16, 1998).

8. Awards: 8.5 x 11 inch Certificates for the top three entries in each class. The school club class will be divided into elementary, middle, high school and college/university. DX will be listed separately at the end of US entries in each category. A certificate for any station contacting ten or more school clubs. Send a large (9x12 inch) SASE or a mailing label and sufficient postage or IRC's for complete results and more info about CAAR/NYCS. (Note: We have always sent a certificate for each entry. We will try to

continue that practice, but, because of increased participation and the associated workload, those who do not send appropriate postage or IRC's and an envelope or mailing label cannot be assured of getting a certificate.)
...de Lew Malchick, N2RQ
Chairman, CAAR/NYCS

Monday night PSN check-ins

Here are the check-ins for December 1997:
12/1/97 - 40
12/8/97 - 38
12/15/97 - 32
12/22/97 - 23
12/29/97 - 24

73 de KC5OHJ
IP: 44.76.4.118
http://www.vdazone.org/~kc5ohj
http://www.nol.net/~jburton

DALLAS HAMFEST ANNOUNCEMENT

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club (W5FC) is holding their annual Ham Radio Auction on Saturday, February 21, 1998 at 9:30am. Auction to be held at HMK Auctioneers; 1207 Tappan Circle, Suite 104, Carrollton, Texas 75004. You may bring any amateur radio related equipment to the auction to offer for sale. The DARC will receive a 10% donation fee for each sale. There are no minimum bids, however, if the seller's equipment does not receive a satisfactory bid to the seller, the seller may make the highest bid in order to retain the equipment, but will be required to submit a 10% donation fee on the seller's bid price to the DARC, the auction sponsors. The DARC is also asking for donated amateur radio equipment to be auctioned and 100% of the proceeds will go to the benefit of the DARC. The DARC will make arrangements to pick up any radios and small equipment at your home, if you desire to donate equipment to the auction. Any large pieces (Towers, antennas, etc..) may be auctioned by photograph.
Set up will be at 7:00 am and preview will begin at 7:30 am. All equipment is sold as is , where is and the DARC assumes no responsibility for the condition or functionality of any auctioned items. This has been in the past and will surely be a great event this year.
So, BRING ON those unused radios,

boatanchors, HT's, computers and all other ham radio gear. Anyone with questions or donations may call Bob Peters, K1JNN at (972) 288-0484 (Email - soundimp@pobox.com) or Glen Kitto, KC5WBQ at (972) 383-7507 (Email - gkitto@pobox.com) or visit our web site at: http://www.w5fc.org.

Why is our standard Coax Impedence 50 ohms?

"The impedance of 50 ohms is accepted as standard for RF systems, except in the cable TV industry. The reason for this diversity is that power handling ability and low-loss operation don't occur at the same characteristic impedance. For example, the maximum power handling capability for coaxial cables occurs at 30 ohms, while the lowest loss occurs at 77 ohms; 50 ohms is therefore a reasonable trade-off between the two points. In the cable-TV industry, however, the RF power levels are miniscule, but lines are long. The trade-off for TV is to use 75 ohms as the standard system impedance in order to take advantage of the reduced attenuation factor."
Taken from the second edition of the "Practical Antenna Handbook" by Joseph Carr.

Thanks and 73...Rick W5RH

Public Service Events!

MARATHON WARMUP SERIES

- **January 18, 1998** Houston Marathon. Contact Carl Hacker KB5LDY.
- **April, 1998** MS-150 2 day ride from Houston to Austin (The "Big" One!) Contact Bret Prichard 713-526-8967

From the Editor's Desk

By Scott, KI5DR

Happy New Year to all my friends in B-VARC! 1997 has been a monumental year, and 1998 is shaping up to be even better.

I am sad to announce that this will be my last B-VARC newsletter as Editor. I have really enjoyed working with Gailen, Rick, and the other board members on the newsletter the last 14 months. And many thanks to everyone who contributed articles, it's Y'all that make up the newsletter, not me. I simply assemble the pieces.

Back in 1995 when Jackie asked me to take over for her, I had a

lifestyle that was much simpler. But over the last year, a job change, a new home, my own business, a couple of new hobbies, and 3 growing children (which soak up ALL my free time) that are interested in hockey, karate, soccer, rollerblading, etc., have changed my priorities, and I no longer have the resources to dedicate time to the newsletter like I used to.

I really enjoyed working everyone on the bands, Field Day, Transmitter Hunting with the "Quick Response Team", and all of the fantastic programs at the B-VARC meetings (of those I could drag the kids to...)

I also enjoyed participating in all of the Public Service Events over the last year. Unfortunately I won't have as much time to devote here either.

If there is anything I hope B-VARC continues, it's the tradition of being the club in Houston that participates in more (by far) in PS events than any other club. These events are **so vital** to the survival of Ham Radio.

So what's in store for Scooter? Among other things, I have renewed my devotion to music, and am in the process of constructing a completely computerized digital recording facility in my home. I've made partnerships with a couple of gurus in the business, and between their recording knowledge and my computer and music background, I am going back to writing music after a ten year hiatus.

And you thought radios were expensive???

I wish everyone the best of luck in 1998 and look forward to catching you all on HF during the next sunspot cycle. It's shaping up to be a wonderful year!

73's my friends es 73,
de Scooter - ki5dr

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