

<p>Houston Ham Help Line 24-Hours 281-495-3495</p> <p>Get information about local clubs and testing sessions.</p>	<p>Membership renewal information: Members whose membership has expired or is near expiration will find their membership date highlighted on the mailing label.</p>	 <p>http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc</p>
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<p>What's in this issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Notes from the Prez – P.2➤ 1998 Meeting Schedule – P.2➤ Proposed amendment to the By-laws. - P. 2➤ B. O. D. minutes. - P. 3➤ March Meeting presentation. - P. 4➤ Thanks to Scott Pederson. - P. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ European Reciprocal Licensing. - P.5➤ Shot News - P.5➤ Rag Chew Net. - P. 6➤ Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 7➤ Monday Nite PSN checkins. - P. 7➤ Favorite QSL. - P. 8 <p>Special Events - P. 9</p> <p><i>Welcome to B-VARC 1998!</i></p>
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<p>A Special Thanks to the First Colony Church of Christ for the use of their facilities which make this newsletter possible.</p>	<p>Board of Directors: Bruce Paige - KK5DO, kk5do@amsat.org John Moore - KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, wa3pmt@aol.com Rex Ritz - KC5EEU Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, ljacobson@halnet.com Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, darrellk@swbell.net Gailen Marshall - N4SKR, marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu Bud King - N5UOG, ceking@hal-pc.org Claude Sessions - K5HFY, cesjr@wt.net</p>
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B-VARC Newsletter Sponsors

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President's Article - Bruce, KK5DO

We have reached the end of our first quarter and it looks like there is more fun to come. This month at the general meeting, our speaker will be from Houston Lighting & Power. Want to find out where all that noise is coming from? Come listen and learn.

The proposal to change the bylaws did not pass at the meeting. A quorum is 25% of the membership, which we easily had. But it also required a 2/3 margin to pass and we were split almost 50-50. So the newsletter will continue to be mailed before the meeting. This makes the deadline for submitting articles to the editor the 15th of the month in order to make the printing and mailing schedule.

We collected \$73 towards Field Day at the March meeting. For the rest of the year we are going to sell raffle tickets for \$1 each. Then we will draw one of the tickets after the break and the winner will get half of the collected money and the club will keep the other half to go towards Field Day. There will also be a door prize drawing. This month's door prize will be a *Seiko Personal Organizer with Travel Alarm*.

We also need to start considering where to have the January Awards Banquet. Bud, K5CEK has resigned from HESS and we will not be able to use their facilities again. If anyone has any suggestions on a location, please let me know so that we can follow up on it. In the past, the meal cost members \$20 each and the club subsidized \$3. I contacted Old San Francisco on Westheimer and they have a dinner for \$24 so that is in the ballpark with what we had been paying. The potato, vegetable and desert must be chosen in advance but the choice of meat can be elected when you arrive. It also included salad and their famous block of Swiss cheese. They would bring in their flambé table and those that want the special deserts (cherries jubilee,

etc) could get that on their own.

The Ice Cream Social (August 6) is not too far off and we would like to have someone that can spear head the operation. Make sure we don't get 5 gallons of vanilla ice cream and 10 containers of chocolate syrup. If you think you would like to organize it, let me know

The Solar Flux Index reached 120 on Sunday, March 15 and this is great news for those operating 10 meters. The band seemed to come alive with activity from all over. South America seemed overly strong and the South Pacific was 58. V51 was 59 for most of the morning. If your license does not allow you to operate on 10m this might be a great time to upgrade. As the Solar Flux Index rises, it becomes easier to work around the world with 10 watts on 10 meters. You don't want to miss out on the opportunity as it rises over the next year or two. I also suspect that radio manufacturers will bring out new HF gear to meet the demand created by the band activity.

Schedule of BVARC General Meetings for 1998

- 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
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Board of Directors Meeting The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

It will be held on the third weekend of September, 1998 from 0001UTC on Sept 19th until 2359UTC on Sept 20th. Full rules are at The Razorback Radio Club web site:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k5xs>

HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for March 1998 by Al Mattis - N5AFV

April Meeting Technical Corner :

Antenna Modeling Service

An free antenna performance modeling service will be provided by Rick, W5RH. Those B-VARC members desiring such an analysis will be asked to fill out a form that outlines your antenna's measurements and it's relation to ground. It will then be modeled and you will be given a plot of the gain and angle of radiation.

BVARC is pleased to announce its newest members:

Richard David	KB5ODS
Vene' Davis	KD5ACI
Dennis Harper	KC5QDN
Dan White	KD5DDW
Howard Zeh	WA5ZRG

1998 Air Force Anniversary QSO Party:

In response to an enormous number of requests following the Air Force 50th Anniversary QSO Party in September 1997, the AF Anniversary QSO Party is now an annual event!

Ten Ten International has announced that the 1999 Ten Ten International Convention will be held June 10-13, 1999 in Oak Ridge, TN. The convention is being hosted by the Springbok Chapter (ZS), and James Whittlesey, KC4RHW, is the convention chairman.

The Houston SHOT chapter will host this year's Board of Directors meeting of Ten Ten International. The meeting will be held June 12-13, 1998, at the Hobby Airport Ramada Inn. This meeting will give Houston area 10-10 members a chance to meet the national officers and directors.

The Chesapeake Bay Chapter (MD) has begun a weekly slow speed CW net Monday evenings at 6:45 PM EST (2345 UTC) on 28.140 MHz. Herman Turner, WK3P, located near Annapolis, MD, is net control. Code speed for the net is approximately 8 wpm. It's great to see the CBC chapter helping Ten Ten members increase their code speed.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome W5DF, DJ2YE, DL0XX, W6NCK and DL2KG as its newest members. The chapter currently has 382 local members, and 1312 non-local members, for a total membership of 1694.

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

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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 GB Ten (G), Eagle Watch (AL), Twin Cities (MN), Kansas Trails (MN), Flying Tiger (RI) and Peach State (TX) 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 Ten members were saddened to learn that Jerry Morin, KA1JFT, has been hospitalized in Rhode Island. Morin, who is chapter head of the Flying Tigers (RI) chapter, is being treated for pneumonia, and for paralysis in his legs. Word has also been received that Charles Turner, KC5LTK, of Jennings, LA, has been hospitalized for treatment of a cardiac problem. Turner is an active member of the Springbok (ZS) chapter.

Ten meter propagation improved greatly in late February. The band was open almost every day during the last week of February, with both domestic and DX contacts taking place. The solar flux has been near the point where just a small change will shift conditions above or below the point where propagation occurs. As we get farther into the Cycle 23, small changes in the solar flux will not have as large an effect on propagation.

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.

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

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Ten Ten International has announced a slate of candidates for the 1998 election, which will be held in June. President, vice president, secretary and 5 directors will be elected. Information about the candidates appears in the January, 1998 issue of the 10-10 International News.

The Houston SHOT chapter will host the next Board of Directors meeting of Ten Ten International. The meeting will be held June 12-13, 1998, at the Hobby Airport Ramada Inn. This meeting will give Houston area 10-10 members the chance to meet the national officers and directors.

The 1998 Winter Phone QSO Party will be held February 7-8, 1998. Due to complaints from many members about inflated scores, QSO party rules have been changed to eliminate the use of call sign prefixes as a multiplier. Under the new rules, contacts with stations without a 10-10 number are worth 1 point, contacts with US stations with a 10-10 number are worth 2 points, and contacts with DX stations with a 10-10 number are worth 3 points. The SHOT chapter will hold a net at 8 PM local time on 28.488 MHz both evenings during the QSO party.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome N7SG, KB7ZGP, KB5UNX and N0PFY as its newest members. The chapter currently has 381 local members, and 1306 non-local members, for a total membership of 1689.

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Ten meter propagation was down a little from last month. There were fewer domestic openings, and DX openings were also fewer in number. In general, the solar flux was a little lower than last month. Just a slight increase in solar flux will bring the ten meter openings we have been waiting for.

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.

B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS

by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

B-VARC RAG-CHEW NET CHECK-INS
3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 8:00PM

Just WHAT IS the Rag-Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-VARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! What?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

2/04/98---N5CPA, WN5A, N5UOG, K5LJ, N0NBD, W5IHY, NM5K. (7)

2/11/98---N5CPA, N5VXU, KM5ID, N5RSJ, KG8MG, KC5KGJ, KG5KV, W5EFB, KC5VAK, K5HFY, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, NM5K, WD5BSC, KF4UET, KE4PPT, W0VDQ/5, KF4JJH, WB5TGR/MM. (19)

2/18/98---N5CPA, KG5KV, KA4JDU, K5LJ. (4)

2/25/98---N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, NM5K, K5LJ, W5IHY, W5EFB, KG5KV, N5VXU. (9)

RESULTS OF THE MARCH 10TH AMATEUR EXAMS

by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, March 10, 1998 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

V. E. TEAM:
Harold Parker, ND5F
Don Schexnailder, AB5IV
Tom Weldon, KK5VE

ASSISTANTS:

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Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KG5IT
John Moore, KK5NU
Lanny Poteet, KB5VTB
Louis House, KD5GM

A total of 5 exams were administered during the evening to 3 applicants. One (1) unlicensed candidate received a new Technician license one (1) applicant upgraded with a total of 3 elements passed.

The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 60% .

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

Lisa Hanneman, N7UNB - General
Abdul Ismail - Technician

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.

More on Stealth Antennas Rick...W5RH

After giving the Stealth Antenna presentation at the March meeting I thought about what I had said concerning the feeding, grounding and type of inside antennas. I don't think that I had explained myself very well on these slightly intertwined topics. For one, I really hadn't thought about it before hand on how to say it and on the other hand I was talking, as usual, at 100 MPH. I would like to state here what should have come across during the presentation.

Indoor antenna feeding. There are 3 ways to feed these antennas. One is with coax to a matched balanced antenna (ie. a dipole), another is using tuned open wire feeders and the third is using an automatic antenna tuner at the feed point. Each of these methods has it's advantages and of course disadvantages.

Coaxial feed. Utilizing coax means that the antenna is matched to the coax fairly closely in order to prevent high standing wave ratios on the line, which cause additional losses....certainly something to be avoided when operating a compromise type of antenna system. In practice you can most probably can get away with coax in an unmatched situation if your HF feed line is fairly short say under 50 feet or so. It is best, however, to use RG-8 or 213/214 or even the 9913 low loss type. You will, of course, be having to readjust your matching network at the rig for possibly even minor frequency changes. Even still, the losses incurred using coax need not occur and can be avoided by using one of the following 2 methods.

Open wire is probably the best method, as even with high SWR you can expect minimal losses from the open wire feeder (OWF). One problem with OWF's is that they must pass completely clear of metal objects to avoid radiation within the feedline. This is something that you might have trouble doing on an inside antenna with AC wires and water pipes running through the attic and walls.

Placing an automatic antenna tuner at the feed point is certainly an additional way to consider feeding an antenna in light of the various automatic tuners available in both complete units and kits. This way you can run coax, which is self shielding, so running the feedline near metal would not be a problem. The transmission line will always be matched to the coax so minimal losses will occur, I still recommend using RG-8, 3213/214 type

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of coax. A run of 12 volts to power the tuner can be run in a parallel line or run phantomly down the coax. This phantom power method has been used in the downhole seismic instrumentation world for years and is documented well in various QST or CQ remote antenna tuner articles.

RF Grounding. A good DC ground is required for safety protection, we all know that. What is also needed is an RF ground so that the station is at a low impedance point in the scheme of things within the antenna system. One method of doing this is to place a 1/4 wavelength piece of wire, for each band you intend to operate, at the ground point on the antenna tuner and run it out length wise.

You must be careful though, as depending on the type of antenna used, you might be placing this 1/4 wave length section as a critical part of the 'antenna radiating system' and therefore be radiating out of a wire that is lying at your feet and well within the region of 'void' of RF exposure. During the presentation, I read a short paragraph about which antenna radiating element lengths to use and (this is where I really got blank stares as if to say'and your point is?')...so.....I wish to repeat it here in black and white so that you can interrupt it yourself.

Quote,"...In general, long wire lengths, close to a multiple of half wavelength (plus or minus an eighth wavelength or so) are best to deal with as they have minimal ground return requirements. Lengths close to multiples of a quarter wavelength can be difficult to deal with due to feedline radiation or, in the absense of a feedline, power cord radiation, or radiation from something near a quarter wavelength long connected to ground which is trying to "make the other half of the antenna"....." end quote.

This above paragraph is addressing exclusively the unbalanced type of antenna which is the

verticals and endfed wires. It would be wise to heed the suggestion here in order to meet with minimal RFI in the shack and in the RF ground system. In light of this, balanced antennas are recommended by most experienced hams utilizing inside antennas.

One other comment on RFI and operating. If you do seem to be tearing apart the apartment block telephone system or the condo associations TV system you can always change your operating hours. Operate when 'most' normal folks are asleep....between the hours of 1AM and 6AM. There is always a band open to somewhere. 160, 80, 40 are the night time standards but soon 20 meters will be open on fairly regular occasions in the middle of the night to all parts of the world and that is fun, fun, fun.

I do hope you enjoyed the presentation. I intend to refine it a bit and place it in my stable of antenna presentations. If any of you should have any comments, corrections or complaints to improve my Stelath Antenna presentation please feel free to give me phone call or e-mail so that I can revise the talk and add to my knowledge, accordingly. All input is welcome, as usual.

Thanks and 73...Rick...W5RH....nexus15@flash.net or (713) 266-5667 (work)

Scanner Jack's Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Here are freqs to monitor for severe weather Ft. Bend Co. 800 MHZ.

868.825
868.5375
868.2625
867.7625
867.2375
866.7625
866.3125

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Sugar Land, Missouri City, Stafford
860.9625
857.9625
858.9625
857.9625
868.5125
866.7375
866.0875

145.490 Ft. Bend EOC 123.0 Tone
444.525 Ft. Bend EOC
146.840 Hou EOC 103.5 Tone
NOAA Same Weather Radio
FIPS Codes for 162.400 MHZ:
Harris County 048201
Ft. Bend County 048157
EAS PIES 450.5875

Monday night PSN check-ins

2/2/98 - 32
2/9/98 - ? (NCS - Al Zermeno, KK5W)
2/16/98 - 29
2/23/98 - 17 (basically shut down by squirrel activity)

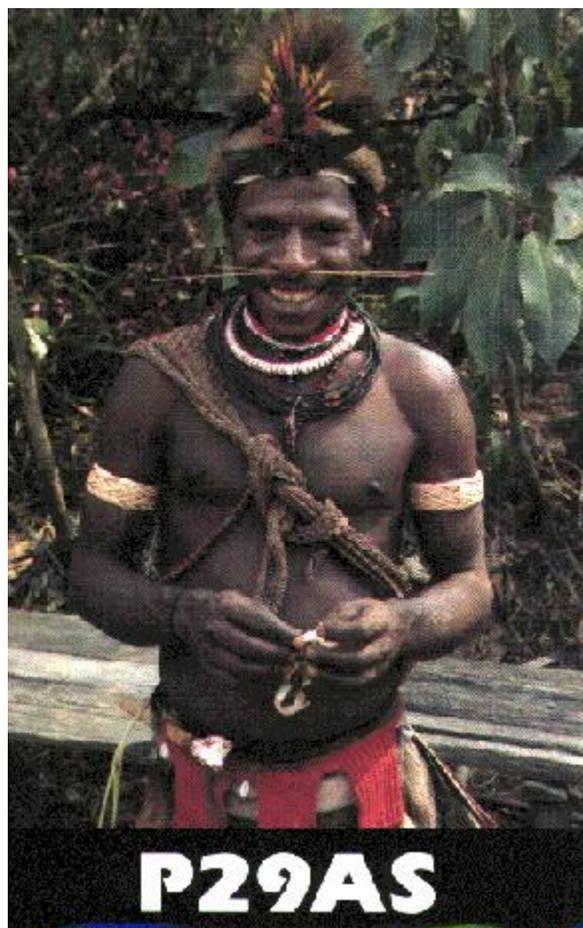
<http://www.vdazone.org/~kc5ohj>
<http://www.nol.net/~jburton>

My favorite QSL Larry Jacobson, K5LJ

This was from last fall's DXpedition to Pupuia New Guinea by a group from Dallas. One of the operators is N6ZZ who presently lives in Dallas. He is a personal friend of nearly 40 years. We attended the same high school (he was a year behind me) and the University of Wisconsin back in the late 50's and early 60's. For the last 25 years he has been taking two weeks in the fall and going off to some exotic spot to operate either the CQ phone or cw DX contest (sometimes both). I asked him if

the handsome guy on the card was one of the operators!! Over the last several years I have worked him as 3C5Z (in '96) and as 3B8/N6ZZ (in '95 - from 3B8CF's shack). The year before that he was in Mongolia - but that was before my recent revived interest in DXing.

Larry - K5LJ





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