

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 21, issue 5
May 1998

<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:</p> <p>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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ARRL Membership - Members are urged to renew their ARRL membership through BVARC, allowing the club to take advantage of reduced insurance rates. Contact Larry, K5LJ, at 281-341-0436 for information

<p>What's in this issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notes from the Prez – P. 2 ➤ 1998 Meeting Schedule – P. 2 ➤ May Board of Directors Minutes - P. 2 ➤ Field Day, 1998 - P. 4 ➤ Houston Shot News - P. 4 ➤ Icom Giveaway - P. 5 ➤ BVARC Rag Chew Net - P. 6 ➤ VE Exam Results - P. 6 ➤ Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 6 ➤ Monday Nite PSN checkins. - P. 7 ➤ BVARC Gin Pole - P. 7 ➤ New BVARC members - P. 7 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hot Dawg</i></p> <p><i>Hot Dogs and Drinks for Members - FREE</i> <i>Come one, come all to the BVARC monthly meeting and join us for Hot Dogs and Soft Drinks. Starting with the June meeting you can visit with your friends and enjoy a hot dog and drink on the club. Serving starts at 6:30pm and goes until 7:30pm. There is no charge for club members. We will have mustard, catsup, onions and pickle relish as dressings for your dogs. Drinks will include Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite and Diet Sprite.</i></p>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">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 - K5CEK, ceking@hal-pc.org Claude Sessions - K5HFY, cesjr@wt.net</p>

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PRESIDENT'S Article - Bruce, KK5DO

This is going to be a very busy month. Lot's of planning for Field Day a great monthly meeting with Ed Manuel, N5EM on QRP rigs and operating.

Ed has a great program planned for the June 4 monthly meeting. He brings many of his tiny QRP rigs, some antennas and gives a wonderful talk. If you haven't seen Ed do this before, you will certainly not want to miss this meeting. If you have seen it, you know you won't want to miss seeing it. If you are a camper, a biker, or a candlestick maker, he has a radio and antenna for you.

Field Day is June 27 and 28. We will be joining the Clear Lake ARC at Bay Area Park on Bay Area Blvd. See the full story in this newsletter.

For the August 6 meeting, we are going to have our Annual Ice Cream Social. It was rough, but I finally found a volunteer that will plan everything for us - Rex Ritz, KC5EEU.

We will be in need of bowls, spoons, napkins, sprinkles, toppings, nuts, canned whip cream, and yes, many varieties of ice cream (both store bought and home made, with sugar and sugar free). If you plan on bringing something and I hope each of you will, please give Rex a call at 713-780-2391 and discuss that with him.

73, Bruce, KK5DO

Schedule of BVARC General Meetings for 1998

B-VARC Program Calendar - 1998

June 1998

- 4 - General Meeting
QRP Operations
N5EM@flash.net
- 9 - VE Test
- 11 - BOD
- 27 - 28 Field Day Operations with CLARC

July 1998

- 2 - General Meeting
Transmitter Hunting / DF
WD8RZ@aol.com
- 9 - BOD
- 14 - V E Test

August 1998

- 6 - General Meeting
Ice Cream Social

10 - BOD

11 - VE Test

September 1998

3 - General Meeting
ATV

8 - VE Test

17 - BOD

October 1998

1 - General Meeting
10 - 10 International
N5MT Mike Davidson

5 - BOD

13 - VE Test

November 1998

10 - VE Test

20 - General Meeting
Chili Supper/Elections

27 - BOD

December 1998

3 - General Meeting
Homebrew Night
nexus15@flash.net

8 - VE Test

14 - BOD

Other Dates:

ARRL West Gulf Convention on Friday - Sunday, June 5 - 7.
Ham-Com '98, Arlington Convention Center, Dallas - Ft.
Worth.

Contests:

May 23 - 24, Texas QSO Party
May 30 - 31, CQWW WPX CW
June 13 - 15, ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June 20 - 21, All Asia DX CW
June 27 - 28, ARRL Field Day

May Board of Directors Minutes :

Board of Directors Meeting
The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
May 14, 1998

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on May 14, 1998. The meeting was called to order by the President. The following board members attended: President Bruce Paige - KK5DO, Vice President John Moore - KK5NU, Corresponding Secretary Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, one year Director Bud King - K5CEK, and two year Director Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY. Also present were Cameron Mitchell - K5GJZ,

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and Dan White - KD5DDW. Three year Director Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR was not present.

Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KK5EEU presented the April minutes. One error was corrected and the minutes were then accepted. Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted. Cash and checking account total was \$2551.99 plus a CD for \$1860.39 and the total treasury is \$4412.38. The field day fund is at \$130.00.

Corresponding Secretary Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT advised that the membership roster is currently up to date, and that a notice needs to be included in the newsletter to have members renew ARRL membership through B-VARC so we can remain qualified for the reduced "service club" insurance rate.

President Bruce Paige - KK5DO reported that the club's old "gin pole" turned up. Jack VanDemark - WN5A had it stored in his garage for two years and had just loaned it out to Dave Litchford - N5VXU who then loaned it to somebody else who is not a club member. Bruce told him not to lend it out because of the club's liability if something happened, such as an injury, while it was in the hands of a nonmember. If a club member does use it and is injured we are covered because of our liability insurance. The question is: do we keep it and loan it out to club members and have them sign a waiver for damage or liability to the club. The other option is to sell it. It cost about \$400 when B-VARC bought it about two years ago. Bruce feels B-VARC should not be in the business of loaning out equipment which has so great a potential for causing damage or injury. Also, per Bruce, we are not qualified instructors for teaching someone how to use the gin pole.

Bud King - K5CEK moved to sell the gin pole and it was seconded. Discussion ensued. John Moore - KK5NU asked if we could absolve ourselves of the liability why would we sell it? Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT remarked that there are club members who may be financially strapped and wish to put up a tower with the use of the gin pole. Bruce Paige - KK5DO reiterated the point that our liability insurance would only cover club members use of the gin pole and if they would borrow it and have non-club members help them put up a tower there is a potential for a serious lawsuit in the event of damage or injury. Bruce suggested we ask Carl Hacker - KB5LDY who is an attorney to investigate how we can keep the gin pole and reduce or eliminate our club liability, keeping in mind that we are not charging for the use and also, per John Moore - KK5NU, a club member is in effect borrowing his own piece of property. The motion to sell the gin pole was tabled until we contact an attorney (e.g. Carl Hacker) to draft a proper waiver form for use of the gin pole by club members only.

The B-VARC liability insurance policy was brought out on the table and discussed. Bruce asked Treasurer Larry Jacobson -

K5LJ to make note that this policy was paid up until September. The policy was delivered to the Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU. Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT suggested an inventory be done of all B-VARC equipment and/or property and Bruce advised that this was almost done. This includes the club banner, audio-visual equipment and everything except for the gin pole, and filters.

Bruce Paige - KK5DO said the officers and board need to organize a check list of standard action items and due dates to pass on to the new officers each year for such things as the annual audit results and property inventory, banking documents and petty cash, standing roster of available speakers for programs.

John Moore - KK5NU reported that B-VARC will be getting a bill from HALPC for renewal of the web page. Bruce suggested we move to the CLARC web page server due to ease of access over the HALPC address (i.e. WWW.BVARC.ORG). John Moore volunteered to check with HALPC to clarify our non-commercial status as a 501.C7 organization, a non-profit, non- tax exempt entity. Rany Pollard - AK5G is responsible for filing our tax forms.

Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT proposed that the club furnish complimentary hotdogs and soft drinks for each monthly meeting as a benefit to members and to promote recruiting of new members/renewals. This is to be in addition to the complimentary coffee served. Steven feels we need an extra incentive to increase attendance at meetings and offer a social hour time prior to the 7:30 meeting time. Steven said people need to realize that the club is doing something for them! Traditionally, our two biggest turn outs for the year are for the ice cream social, and chili cook-off. The board discussed whether we should ask members to donate towards refreshments or just pay for everything out of the club treasury. The cost breakdown for supplying hotdogs, condiments, paper plates, napkins, and sodas was determined to be no more than \$50/month or \$600/year and well within our annual operating budget. Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY reported by example that we spend about \$60/month on postage and printing for the newsletter. This complimentary "dinner" could be served before every meeting starting at 6:30 and could bring in all those members who otherwise meet somewhere else for dinner prior to our meeting.

Bud King - K5CEK suggested there would be a problem getting people to bring the food, cook and serve, and clean up the kitchen. Bruce Paige - KK5DO volunteered his wife can buy the food items, he will bring the cooler and ice, and that the only cooking involved would be to heat up the hotdogs in water. Whoever gets to the meeting early can set up for the meal. Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT was very adamant that we need to take such a measure to curtail our drop off in attendance (Steven also strongly recommended we open the

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door to invite member input on other ways to improve attendance as well). Bruce believes this will go over because people really enjoy getting something "for free". John Moore - KK5NU moved that B-VARC begin this complimentary hotdogs and drinks meal at the next meeting and the motion passed.

Rex Ritz - KC5EEU volunteered to chair the August 6 ice cream social. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Paige - KK5DO at 8:54 PM.

FIELD DAY 1998 **by Bruce Paige, KK5DO**

Here comes Field Day 1998. June 27 and 28 are the dates and we hope that each and every one of you will be able to come and enjoy this event. This year, BVARC will be joining with CLARC for Field Day at Bay Area Park. **The frequency for 2-meter talk-in is 146.47 simplex.**

We will be in the SE Corner of the park. Bay Area Park is located on Bay Area Blvd. between Space Center Blvd. and Red Bluff. Setup begins Saturday morning at 7am and lot's of people are needed to erect the two towers and beams, set up the canopy area, run the wire antennas through the trees, set up the power distribution and sink ground rods for each station. There is a lot of work to be done to get things ready for the start at 1pm. We will provide lunch for those that are helping set everything up.

The whole goal is to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public, let people (licensed or not) operate and log, try out bands you don't have rigs for, try H.F. or packet. We also have a good time. Plan to bring family and friends out to the Pot-Luck-Dinner on Saturday night (the club will be providing barbecue brisket). Of course, you need to bring some FOOD to share (that's what makes it pot-luck!).

Now comes the long midnight shift when the bands really get going. 40 meters and 80 meters will be hopping with activity. When morning rolls around, the Boy Scouts will be earning merit badges and they will be cooking the breakfast for those that stayed the night.

Where do the Rigs & Equipment come from? From YOU, we need you to bring out your H.F., VHF/UHF, cable tuners, power supplies, antennae, keyers, headphones, mikes, etc. Someone will be there the whole time to watch over the equipment. Remember, we have to share!! Please treat others equipment like it was your own.

EVERYONE is Welcome, we will have a sign-in book for operators, visitors, etc. Everyone can operate at Field Day, we will have control operators to assist.

We will be using the callsign K5HOU. We will also have a Novice/Tech+ station and we will chose a Novice or TECH+ callsign to use on that rig.

I can't stay out there for 24 hours, so what do I do? Well, come for an hour, or two or? We don't have a schedule. Come when you can and operate, log, ask questions. See all the different things that hams do. ATV, APRS, 6m, 2m, 70cm, 1.2g, 5g, all the hf bands.

Are you going to be out of town, If so, please consider donating the use of a rig, power supply, antenna, food, drinks, \$\$\$.

You don't want to operate. No problem, you can help setup, you can take photos or video, log contacts for operators, bring supplies or make an ice run. Help us tear down, spray for mosquitoes, enter the logged contacts into a computer, there is always plenty to do.

We really hope you will take this opportunity to see what ham radio is really like. Enjoy operating a band or mode you have never done before. See different kinds of rigs and equipment. It's a lot of fun.

If you would like to volunteer to bring any equipment, help setup or help tear down, please give me a call at 281-933-8385 extension 201 or send me email kk5do@amsat.org.

73...Bruce

HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for May 1998 **by Al Mattis - N5AFV**

Spring and summer are very busy times for Ten Ten International, with a number of exciting activities taking place.

Many Ten Ten members attend the Dayton Hamvention, and this year two nets will be held for Ten Ten members at Dayton. The Dayton Hamvention Parking Lot Net will be held on both Friday and Saturday, May 15th and 16th, on 28.345 MHZ at 2200 UTC. Net control will be Carl Durnavich, W9OO. A 10-10 Forum will also be held at Dayton on Saturday.

The Tenth Annual Hill Country Picnic will be held May 31, 1998 at the home of Jack Moore, K5CC in Bulverde, Texas, near San Antonio. Out-of-state guests this year are expected to include the President of Ten Ten International, Tom Henderson, K4CIH, and Chuck Imsande, W6YLJ, the Vice President of Ten Ten International. Garry and Janis Cameron, VE7ACM and VE7AAP, from Canada are also scheduled to

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attend. At least seven club stations, including the Ten Ten International club station W6OI, will be represented at the gathering. This event is a good opportunity for Houston area amateur radio operators to meet Ten Ten members from outside the Houston area. Further information about the Hill Country Picnic may be obtained from Jack Moore, K5CC, by E-mail at jmoore@texasnet.net.

Remember, 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 annual Paper Chasers Gathering in Reno, Nevada will be held August 13-16, 1998 at the Circus-Circus Casino and Hotel. Ten Ten members usually ask for rooms on the second floor of the Main Tower. A special room rate is available for those attending. Further information may be obtained from Phil Harlos, WB6NYM, by E-mail at wb6nym@softcom.net.

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

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome DJ6DO, DF0AD, KE3LE, and DJ5JO as its newest members. The chapter currently has 382 local members, and 1317 non-local members, for a total membership of 1699.

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.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz, 28.375 MHz, and 28.425 MHz during band openings. The Twin Cities (MN), Kansas Trails (MN), and Flying Tiger (RI) chapters have announced specials for paper chasers to promote activity when the band is open. The Bay Area Chapter (CA) has announced that Jim Jensen, W6KVA, is the new chapter head. 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 be affected by the solar minimum. The band is not open every day, but in general, propagation continues to improve. Domestic openings have

not been as good as the DX propagation on ten meters during the last few weeks. Summer E-layer propagation will soon provide good domestic openings.

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.

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by Al Mattis -

ICOM GIVEAWAY By Bruce Paige, KK5DO

UPGRADE to General and get a Free Radio

Okay, you have a Technician Class license and you could care less about upgrading because you don't have the money to buy a new radio. You can't figure out what HF stands for? Well, if you could get a free ICOM 706 Mark II radio for earning your General License would you upgrade then?

If the answer to the last question is yes, then ICOM has a deal for you.

Any person who has earned a U.S. or Canadian issued amateur radio license upgrade of General class or higher dated between 4/1/98 and 3/31/99 is eligible for the drawing.

Upgrading hams need to mail in a QSL card or 3x5 card with their name, address, and zip code, along with a photocopy of their government issued license to:

ICOM America
Hear Comes the Sun Giveaway
2380 116th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

No entries will be returned so make sure you do not mail your original license.

The last week of every month, starting 5/98 and ending 4/99, ICOM America will give away a new IC-706 MKII to a winner drawn from all entries received for the previous month.

So, what are you waiting for, Sun Spot Cycle 23 has begun and you don't want to miss out on all the great fun that is out there with the increasingly good propagation. Now is the time for you to upgrade.

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If you need further information, you can get it at ICOM's web site <http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/>

73...Bruce

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

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

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.

4/01/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, K5CEK, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, KM5DG, KG5KV, W5GHK, WA5TWL. (9)

4/08/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, KG5KV, WA5TWL, KB5DNT, AK5G, W5RIY, K5CEK W5RH, NM5K, WN5A. (11)

4/15/98 N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LJ, KM5DG, W4PXF/5, W5IHY, WB5VYR, KK5FY, NM5K, WA5TWL, KB5DNT, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, KG5KV, N5KXU. (15)

4/22/98---W5IHY, N5CPA, W5EFB, NM5K, KC5SQD. (5)

4/29/98---N5CPA, K5LJ, N5VXU, KC5SQD, W5EFB, W5RIY, W5IHY, AK5G, K5CEK, KB5DNT, N5LHN, KG5KV, W5RH/RICK, RICK'S BOY SCOUT GUESTS: SCOTT, RICHARD, AND SHERMAN, KB5Q. (17)

RESULTS OF THE MAY 12TH AMATEUR EXAMS by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, May 12, 1998 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

V. E. TEAM:

Harold Parker, ND5F
Randy Pollard, AK5G
Don Schexnailder, AB5IV

ASSISTANTS:

Cass Germany, KG5IT
John Moore, KK5NU

A total of 7 exams were administered during the evening to 5 applicants. One (1) unlicensed candidate received their new license and 1 upgraded with a total of 3 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 43%

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

Frank Gendusa, KD5CZB - Advanced
Thomas Myers - 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.

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SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

How to search for aircraft freqs for civilian aircraft:

Step 1: Go to the airshow.

Step 2: Must use 2 Hyperscan scanners.

Scanner 1 - Search 118.0 to 125.0.

Scanner 2 - Search 125.0 to 137.0.

Here are the Scholes Airshow freqs:

127.95 Air Boss Ch 1 Pri.

123.300 Air Boss Ch 2 Secondary.

123.050 Pilot to Pilots.

132.775 Pilot to Pilots.

122.725 Pilots talking over the PA system.

119.275 ATIS

Next month I will show you how to search for military aircraft freqs.

How to search for 800 mhz and 900 mhz trunking system:

Step 1: Got to the location where you are going to search like P.D., F.D., etc.

Step 2: Need 6 Hyperscan scanners.

Scanner 1 - Search 806.0 to 811.0 mhz.

Scanner 2 - Search 811.0 to 816.0 mhz.

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Scanner 3 - Search 816.0 to 821.0 mhz.
Scanner 4 - Search 821,0 to 823.995 mhz.
Scanner 5 - Search 849.05 to 851.0 mhz.

For 900 mhz trunking system:

Scanner 6 - Search 896.0 to 902.0 mhz.

Monday night PSN check-ins

Here are the check-ins for the Monday night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Public Service Information Net for the month of April 1998:

4/6/98 - 16
4/13/98 - 31
4/20/98 - 36
4/27/98 - 21

<http://www.vdazone.org/~kc5ohj>

<http://www.nol.net/~jburton>

Gin Pole for Sale

BVARC owns a Gin Pole for Rohn 25 and 45 towers. We are offering it for sale to a member, first. If no member comes forward to purchase it by the July 2 meeting, we will offer it for sale to the public.

If you would like to purchase the Gin Pole, which originally cost the club \$400 please contact me or any other board member and give your offer. If the board finds the highest offer satisfactory, it will be yours.

BVARC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

N5ZUA, KD5DTS, WA5F, KD5DTV, N5TBI, and KA5GHI.

 <h2>Paige Computers, Inc.</h2> <p>Bruce Paige, KK5DO</p> <p><i>Authorized Sales & Service for:</i></p> <p>EPSON OKIDATA LEXMARK</p> <p>Warranty & Non-Warranty Repairs</p>  <p>7625 Boone Rd. Houston, TX 77072 281-933-8385 Ext 201 Fax 281-933-3544</p>	<p><i>Dream Catcher Products, Inc.</i></p> <h2>BOOKS</h2> <p>11790 Wilcrest at SW Frwy Houston, TX 77099 281-568-6622</p> <p>Romance Horror War Sci Fi Westerns Mystery and more . . .</p> <p>Exchanges welcome.</p> <p><i>COME BY - KISS! Pete</i></p>
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(BVARC advertising rates are \$50 for one year)



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