


THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 22, issue 3
March 1999

<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 Irv, KK5QQ at 281-437-4803 for information

<p>What's in this issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notes from the Prez – P. 2 ➤ Meeting Schedule – P. 2 ➤ Houston Shot News - P. 3 ➤ BVARC Rag Chew Net - P. 3 ➤ VE Exam Results - P. 4 ➤ Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 4 ➤ Monday Night PSN Check-ins - P. 5 ➤ Humor - P. 5 ➤ Field Day Participation - P. 6 ➤ 1999 Public Service Events - P. 7 ➤ This Month's Snaps - P. 8 ➤ Ads - P. 9 	<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>
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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>Also, Thanks to Claude Sessions, K5HFY, for being in charge of production.</p>	<p>Board of Directors: John Moore, President - KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org Larry Jacobson, Vice-President - K5LJ, k5lj@nstci.com Doug Woodruff, Recording Secretary - KC5VYZ, dwoodruff@houston.geoquest.slb.com Irv Smith, Corresponding Secretary - KK5QQ, kk5qq@aol.com Gene Russell, Treasurer - N5XGT, hbrussell@aol.com Robert Moore, 3-Year-Director - KK5UO, kk5uo@hal-pc.org Darrell Kirk, Two-Year-Director - KC5JAR, darrellk@swbell.net Bruce Paige, Past President - KK5DO, kk5do@amsat.org Claude Sessions, 1-Year-Director - K5HFY, claudes@juno.com</p>
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Notes from the President - March 1999

Looks as how the 'typo' gremlins struck again -- kindly note that the 'new' FCC Form replacement for our old and familiar 610 is the updated and now in issue Form 605 - *not* Form 405 as I mentioned last month. Get them on the www if your interested.

And - while we await the Commissions edicts on licensing restructure and attendant rules and regulations; one needs no crystal ball to see that the FCC is now getting active in the enforcement areas. Upgrade irregularities with licenses being rescinded in several matters; action taken to limit licensees operating privileges, both on HF and VHF; letters of warning and actions taken against unlicensed operations have all been in the news recently. The enforcement 'bear' is very much alive and in action; and you just thought the Houston office no longer existed. We should all strive to keep our operating habits well within the confines and boundries of what the law requires, lest we find ourselves on the receiving end of that 'pink slip'. Squirrel season is definitely open. And he/she/they best have a rather deep pocketbook - The latest NAL from the F(riendly) C(andy) C(ompany) has a price tag of \$7,000!!

Field Day '99 is just around the corner. Please mark the last weekend in June, June 26th and 27th on your calendar. B-VARC plans are in a state of flux at this writing; if you have any input please feel free to contact our Field Day Chairman, Rex Ritz, KC5EEU. Katy County Park at the intersection of Katy-Hockley Cut Off and Morton Road has been reserved for our use. And the gourmands in our group are hard at work to insure your gastronomic satisfaction. Now - if WN5A and AK5G just don't forget the mayo for the burgers, we should have a first rate time.

Further addressing the club project agenda; Louis, KD5GM has volunteered to conduct an entry level to whatever speed desired by the group, code class. Here's your chance to learn from one of the masters all about the tricks and traps of CW. He would like to have at least six or more participants to start off. A structured series of classes, coupled with individual practice with a testing session scheduled at the conclusion should enable all to acquire a passing score on one of the Element 1 sections.

73 de John Moore, KK5NU

Schedule of BVARC Activities

April 1999

- 1 - General Meeting
Rick Hiller, W5RH, 10 - 12- 15 meter
antennas.

8 - BOD Meeting

13 - VE Test

May 1999

6 - General Meeting

Al Mattis , N5AFV, 10 - 10 International.

11 - VE Test

13 - BOD meeting.

(see the December 1998 issue for a long-term schedule.)

Other Dates:

BVARC Public Service Events:

Fort Bend Co. Special Olympics, March 27, 1999, 10 hams needed.

Tour de Cypress, April 11, 1999, 25 hams needed.

MS150, April 17 & 18, 1999, 100 hams needed.

March of Dimes WalkAmerica, April 25, 1999, 30 hams needed.

Contact Mike Hardwick n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Contests:

June 20 - 21, All Asia DX CW

June 27 - 28, ARRL Field Day

Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club February 11, 1999

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on February 11, 1999. The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:33pm. The following board members attended:

President John Moore – KK5NU, Vice President Larry Jacobson – K5LJ, Recording Secretary – Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ, Corresponding Secretary Irv Smith - KK5QQ, three year board member Robert Moore – KK5UO, and one year board member Claude Sessions – K5HFY. Absent were Past President Bruce Paige – KK5DO, Treasurer Gene Russell – N5XGT and two year board member Darrell Kirk – KC5JAR. Guest attending were Bud King – K5CEK and Mike Hardwick – N5VCX.

Corrections to the January 14, 1999 BOD minutes concerning minor wording were discussed. Motion to approve January minutes as corrected by Claude and seconded by Irv, no opposition, approved.

Corresponding Secretary by Irv reports that current BVARC membership list 124 current members with 11 life members totaling 135 members. Motion made to allow the corresponding secretary to email renewal forms to former members that have lapsed memberships. Also to authorize the corresponding secretary to send membership applications and

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a newsletter to prospective members in the area that have been recently licensed or show an interest in our hobby. Motion made by Robert and seconded by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report by Irv in the absence of Gene included a limited report only that some cash on hand has been added to the bank account. Anyone needing a detailed treasurer's report is asked to contact President John Moore or Corresponding Secretary Irv Smith.

VP Report that the March meeting will be hosted by Mike Hardwick with speakers to discuss public service events. Rick Hiller is scheduled for the April meeting to discuss building antennas for 10,12, and 15m operation. Al Mattis will discuss 10-X International and SHOT for the May meeting. A program to include the South Texas Section Manager or other ARRL representatives was discussed whereby the membership can get information and ask questions about the latest happenings in the ARRL especially concerning the recent proposals to license restructuring. The VP will work toward this goal. It was decided that the BOD does not feel any extra expense should be made to bring in a speaker.

Presidents report with no new business. Old business that Randy Pollard is progressing with the audit process. A Field Day location is reserved for Katy Park as a tentative location unless a more suitable location can be acquired in the mean time. Rex Ritz - KC5EEU is considering and exploring other locations from suggestions made by the membership. The life membership fee was discussed. A motion by Larry and seconded by Claude to set the life membership fee to 10 times the annual membership dues which will be currently \$160. Motion carried unanimously. Louis House - KD5GM has volunteered to teach a CW class for new hams. Some interest has been noted for classes to teach the Technician or Tech plus license with theory for both Novice and Technician entry level and possibly higher level class for General/Advanced. Claude will attempt to secure the church facilities for this. Entry level class is tentative for late spring and CW later depending on Louis's schedule. Discussed a future Saturday meeting to get interested members to build a J-pole antenna for their HT. There was interest expressed in this at the last meeting.

New business. Irv discussed membership rosters could be made available as an e-mail list to current members. Doug asked about the procedure to renew ARRL membership through the club.

Motion to adjourn by Claude and seconded by Doug. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted by the Recording Secretary
Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ

HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for March 1999 by Al Mattis - N5AFV

Tom Henderson, K4CIH, president of Ten Ten International, has announced that many of the logs sent in for the last QSO Party did not conform to contest rules. The scoring chapter reports that a significant number of the logs did not include proof of paid membership, state or country for the contacts, or dupe sheets. A new rule does not require dupe sheets for log submissions with 25 or less contacts.

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 Springbok Chapter (ZS) is hosting the convention, and James Whittlesey, KC4RHW, is the convention chairman. Advance registration for the convention began on January 1, 1999. For information about convention registration contact Tom Henderson, K4CIH, at k4cih@earthlink.net.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome KA1PFQ and KD6HWD as its newest out-of-town members. The chapter currently has 385 local members, and 1339 non-local members, for a total membership of 1724.

A new addition to the chapter web page consists of a database listing all SHOT members in order by 10-10 number and their point value. The SHOT number does not appear in the database, and can only be acquired by working the member over the air. This current list of the point value of all SHOT members will help those working on the SHOT upgrade program. To check out the membership database, visit the Houston SHOT chapter home page at <http://www.clarc.org/shot/>. The site also 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 server space for the page.

Many of the chapters of Ten Ten International 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.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz, 28.425 MHz and 28.825 MHz. The GB Ten (G) and Electric City (FL) chapters are conducting specials for paper chasers to promote activity on the band. The Portland 500 (OR) chapter has announced that Leon Hixon, W6NCK, is the new certificate manager for the chapter. The Neanderthal Chapter

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(DL) has announced that Torsten Willms, DL2KG, has been appointed certificate manager for the chapter. Due to a recent computer crash, Al Longo, NN1J, certificate manager of the Flying Tigers (RI) chapter, asks that members hold up sending in upgrades for a few weeks. Another new chapter of Ten Ten International has been formed in Germany. The Waterkant (DL) chapter was affiliated on February 27, 1999. The certificate manager for Waterkant is Wolfgang Dethlefs, DK7LA. The Samuel Clemens and King Arthur's Court (FL) chapters have relocated to Florida. Robert Stein, WB1HJC, is the new certificate manager for those chapters.

Word has been received that Jacob Rutz, WK6S, is home and recovering from surgery. Rutz, from Lodi, CA, is very active on the band, and the SHOT chapter wishes him a speedy and full recovery.

Propagation on ten meters continues to be good. DX contacts with Europe, Africa, Latin America and the South Pacific have been very good during the past month. Domestic propagation also continues to produce contacts with both coasts almost every day.

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 for February **by Sam Wilson, N5CPA**

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.

2/3/99--N5CPA, KK5W, KA0TEN, N5VXU, KK5VE, W5TEM, K5CEK, KE5SR, W5GHK, K5LJ, N5OAC, KM5TY, WB5VYR. (13)

2/10/99--N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK, WB5VYR, KK5W, KA0TEN, KE4YS. (8)

2/17/99--N5CPA, W5EFB, WA5OEN, W5GHK, K5CEK, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, KM5TO, KM5ID, (9)

2/24/99--N5CPA, KK5W, KA0TEN, W5EFB, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KK5VE, KM5ID, W5TEM, W5GHK, K5LJ. (13)

RESULTS OF THE MARCH 9TH 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 9, 1999 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

V. E. TEAM:

Cass Germany, KG5IT
Harold Parker, ND5F
George Walker, KQ5W

ASSISTANTS:

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
John Moore, KK5NU

A total of 9 exams were administered during the evening to 5 applicants. One (1) unlicensed candidate received a new Technician license. A total of 3 elements were passed and the overall "pass rate" for the evening was 33%

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

Linda Arnold, KA5BOB - Element 4B
Nicholas Prince - 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.

..... 73

SCANNER JACK'S Corner **by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY**

Jack Roberts, KB5TMY
14208 Laterna Ln
Houston 77083-5730

Here is the Fort Bend County trunking system:
868.825
868.5375
868.2625
867.7625

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867.7625
866.3125

I TAC 3 867.0125
I TAC 4 867.5125
I TAC 5 868.0125

Here are Sugar Land, Missouri City, and Stafford trunking system frequencies:

860.9625
859.9625
858.9625
857.9625
868.5125
866.7375
866.0875

Monday night PSN check-ins (KK5DO net control)

2/15/99 - 19
2/22/99 - 19
3/1/99 - 19 (KC5VYZ)
3/8/99 - 21 (KC5VYZ)
3/15/99 - 12 (KD5FWE)

Nationwide car-to-car:
I TAC 1 866.0125
I TAC 2 866.5125



QSL Card from King Hussein (SK) of Jordan to Bruce, KK5DO

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The annual ARRL Field Day is just around the corner
only 20 weeks, or three more meetings away:

Saturday June 26, 1999

We need to think about it, discuss it, make some decisions, and get on with it! We need to know: What do you want? Please complete this questionnaire now, or take it home for further study:

What location/operating site? _____
last year w/CLARC in Clear Lake. Your suggestion?

Saturday night supper ideas? _____
catered meal?, pot luck + meat provided?, etc?

Sunday morning breakfast? _____

Do you know a group/person that wants to cook? _____

Volunteers and gear are needed in the following areas. Please check where appropriate:

Technical Foreman & assistants Night shift crew chief & sleep-overs

Contestors radios _____ / _____ / _____

antennas _____

Operators ATV _____ satellite _____ packet _____

other _____

Talk in station

Public information contact person photographer net shots

Kitchen crew & grounds clean up

Logistics set up Saturday

Logistics take down Sunday

Refreshments service : snacks & drinks server

Logistics needs you can help with:

truck or trailer for logistics _____

portable electrical power & accessories _____

tents & shelters _____

air conditioned trailers/vehicles _____

portable lighting & fans _____

water containers, ice chests & coolers _____

lawn furniture _____

camping and cook gear : tables & chairs, mosquito netting, etc. _____

Your printed name call land line fax e-mail

Remember that after you complete this questionnaire you have the right to grumble and complain! Please return to John Moore. Larry Jacobson, or Rex Ritz, or just call in to volunteer.

Thank you.

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Exchanges welcome.

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