

**Membership renewal
information:**

Members whose membership has expired or is near expiration will find their membership date highlighted on the mailing label.



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

ARRL Membership - Members are urged to renew their ARRL membership through BVARC, allowing the club to take advantage of reduced insurance rates. Contact John at 281-530-0432 for information

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B-VARC General Meetings
are now on the second Thursday
of each month!!!

Delicious hot dogs are served.

Board of Directors Meetings
are on the first Thursday
of each month.

**Many thanks to John Moore for printing this
month's issue and to Claude Sessions for
production.**

Board of Directors:

Kevin Foto, President - KD5O, alpine@wt.net
Claude Sessions, vice-president - K5HFY, claudes@juno.com
Bill Allen, Recording Secretary - KD5IU, william_allen@csicontrols.com
John Whiteman, Corresponding Secretary - K5LKJ, jw@heatingtapes.com
Rex Ritz, Treasurer - KC5EEU, icrex@yahoo.com
Robert Moore, 1-Year-Director - KK5UO, kk5uo@hal-pc.org
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, 2-Year-Director, n5vcx@worldnet.att.net
Paul Gray, 3-Year-Director - N0JAA, n0jaa@aol.com
Larry Jacobson, Past President - K5LJ, k5lj@nstci.com

Notes from the President - May 2001

Prez Sez:

Thanks again to Scanner Jack for providing the informative presentation on Trunk Tracking Scanners.

Jim Paul will discuss the topic of "PIC Controllers" for the June Meeting. These inexpensive and versatile devices have many applications in Amateur radio hardware.

Paul Gray, N0JAA and the Field Day crew have certainly been busy lately. As stated previously, the Field Day Committee has chosen the Richmond Fire Training Center as our Field Day location. It sounds like we will have more than adequate facilities for a successful operation. As one of the entertainment committee members, I request assistance with coordination of food and beverages for Field Day. For more information about Field Day 2001 or to sign up for operations please contact Paul, N0JAA.

I hope to see you at the next meeting!

73,

Kevin/KD5O

SCHEDULE OF BVARC Activities

VE Sessions Change of Location:

The ARRL VEC amateur license tests which are given by B-VARC on the second Tuesday of each month has been moved to:

**Houston Community College,
Scarcella Technology Center, Room
10141 Cash Road, Stafford, TX
Parking in the rear --**

Month	General Meeting	Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
June	14	PIC Controllers - Jim Paul	7	none
July	12	TBA	5	10

*The HCC facility is not available in June.

**FIELD DAY 2001 IS NEAR!!
from PAUL GRAY, Jr., N0JAA**

B-VARC's annual ARRL Field Day contest will be held at the Fort Bend County Fire Training Center at 260 Clay Road in Richmond on June 23 - 24, 2001. The contest will run from 1 PM Saturday, June 23 to 1 PM Sunday, June 24. Talk-in frequencies will be the 145.470 MHz MERA repeater, and locally on 146.500 MHz FM simplex.

To get to fire training center, take US-90A south from Houston To Second Street (the first street you will come to in Richmond; please refer to the map on page 7). Turn right on to Second Street. Go to the end; the street will curve to the left and become Clay Road. Turn right into the private driveway immediately after the junkyard. The training center is at the end of the driveway on the right.

I have several HF transceivers lined up already for the contest, including one for the Novice/Tech station. Also, I have a 6-meter station and the 2-meter talk-in station committed. We still need stations for PSK31, FM satellite, and a QRP station.

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713 787-0500
713 208-1044 fax

Also, are needed are antennas, extension cords, power supplies, lots of rope, etc. We have plenty of room for stringing up wire antennas and dipoles, so if you have an antenna or long wire you would like to try out, feel free to bring it! Field Day will also be a good opportunity to try out any homebrew equipment you may have.

I will also need volunteers to do the cooking for the barbecue and breakfast for Field Day. Contact Keven Foto, KD5O, on the Entertainment Committee, for details.

I need operators! You can't have a field day contest if there is no one to man the stations. If you are free that weekend, please feel free to come by and operate for a few hours. or help with logging, set-up, etc. We will start setting up around 9 AM on the 23rd.

Gary Tilton of the Fort Bend EOC has informed me that we WILL have access to the jump tower! This means that our ability to erect more and better antennas has improved greatly.

As an aid to finding the contest site, we would like to have some volunteers to help design and construct some signs to direct people to the training center.

I will dispatch a letter to the Fort Bend EOC and assorted Fort Bend Police and Fire Departments inviting them to observe our Field Day operations. This will be a good way to get better acquainted with the local authorities, and it will give them a good idea of how Amateur Radio can serve them in an emergency.

Please contact me at 281-627-2340 or email me at n0jaa@aol.com if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul L. Gray, Jr., N0JAA
3-year Director
Field Day Committee Chairman

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting - May 3, 2001

President Kevin Foto called the meeting to order at 7:34pm with a quorum.

Those in attendance were:

President Kevin Foto-KD5O, Vice President Claude Sessions-K5HFY, Corresponding Secretary John Whiteman-K5LKJ, Treasurer Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IU, 3-Year Director Paul Gray-N0JAA

Recording Secretary Report by Bill Allen-KD5IU:
Reviewed the April 2001 BOD minutes. Motion made by Paul Gray and seconded by Claude Sessions to approve April 2001 BOD minutes and motion carried unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report by John Whiteman-K5LKJ: Reported the club has 111 members with 66 in the ARRL, 15 life members and 12 family members. Bill Allen made a motion to pass and was seconded by Kevin Foto and motion then passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report by Rex Ritz - KC5EEU: The details of the club's finances are available from the treasurer. It was decided that the board of directors would decide any treasury issues on an individual basis. There was one treasury decision made at this meeting regarding dues. All accounts are current. Claude Sessions made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by John Whiteman and motion then passed unanimously.

Vice President Report by Claude Sessions-K5HFY: The

club still has some caps w/logo's and many club patches for sale now and at the general meetings. He stated he has the order forms new jackets and shirts. A six jacket minimum order is necessary and anyone who is interested needs to get in his or her order now. We will sell the caps for ten dollars and the patches for five dollars. The club will continue to sell these throughout the year. It was decided that the club would increase the number of prizes at the club meetings as long as supplies last. Advertising in local media publications was also discussed. John Whiteman made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Paul Gray and motion then passed unanimously.

Presidential Report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: There were many discussions on field day details. The future club programs were discussed. Various parking lot events possibilities were discussed. Rex Ritz made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Claude Sessions and motion passed unanimously.

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At Large Report by Paul Gray-N0JAA: It was announced that the 2001 Field Day events would be held at the Richmond Fire Center this year. Next year's location was discussed. Many suggestions and decisions on acquiring new members were made. A motion was made by Claude Sessions and seconded by John Whiteman and motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn by Kevin Foto and seconded by John Whiteman. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IU.

SCANNER JACK'S Corner
by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Here are the weather frequencies
CH1 162.550 GALVESTON
CH2 162.400 HOUSTON
CH3 162.475 BEAUMONT
CH4 162.425 BAY CITY

Here is the fip codes for the SAME weather radios.
048167 GALVESTON CO
048201 HARRIS CO
048157 FT. BEND CO
048039 BRAZORIA CO
048339 MONTGOMERY CO
048245 JEFFERSON CO
048361 ORANGE CO
048321 MATAGORDA CO
048239 JACKSON CO.

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**RESULTS OF THE MAY 8
B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
BY: JOHN MOORE, KK5NU**

RESULTS OF THE May 8th
B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION
by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's
Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on
Tuesday, May 8, 2001 at HCC's Scarcella Technology
Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
Mark Winslet, KM5WR

Eleven examination elements were administered during the evening to nine applicants. Three unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses; one examinee passed Elements 3 & 4; three Technician upgraded to General; and one upgrade to Extra was earned with the total number of elements passed being 9. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 81.8%.

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

Henry A. Flowers	- N5STF - General
John E. Frazier	- KD5NEZ - Extra
Richard H. Gomer	- KD5MOA - General
Winfred Itima	- - Technician
Mark G. Janzer	- K5MGJ - General
John A. Mitchell	- - Technician
Michael G. Reid	- KC5FZW - Elements 3 & 4
Edwin Terry	- - 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 everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73

72/73 de John Moore, KK5NU
eMail: jwm@hal-pc.org
www - <http://hal-pc.org/~jwm>

**MONDAY NIGHT PSN check-ins
(KC5VYZ net control)**

B-VARC conducts a public service net every Monday at 9 PM on the 145.47 repeater and several linked repeaters. Everyone with 2 meter privileges is welcome to check in.

3/12 - 30 - Bruce
3/19 - 21 - Jack
3/26 - 28 - Cam
4/2 - 21 - Darrel
4/9 - 17 - Bruce
4/16 - 28 - Jack
4/30 - 25 - Doug
5/7 - 17 - Darrel
5/14 - 27 - Darrel
5/21 - 37 - Jack



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FAX: 713/983-0413

EMAIL: aje@cityelectronica.com
WEB SITE: <http://www.cityelectronica.com>

Store Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-5:00

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for April 2001 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM ←PLEASE
NOTE TIME CHANGE FROM 8:00 TO 7:00

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.

4/4/01—K5CEK (NCS), N5XWB, K1SDR, K5LJ. (4)

My thanks to Bud for calling the net in my absence.

4/11/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LJ, K5JWM, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5HFX, N5XWB, W5GHK. (9)

4/18/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5JWM, W5GHK, KB5ION. (5)

4/25/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5HFX, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KD5FWD, WB5SRN, N5XWB, N5VXU, K5JWM, KE5SR, W5RFL, KB5F. (13)

Club Links

Some web page links to clubs in the Southeast Texas area — Cameron Mitchell
(Not all active)

Brenham ARC:

<http://www.alpha1.net/~barc>

Texas DX Society:

<http://n5uh.tech.uh.edu/~tdxs>

Houston Echo Society:

<http://www.gsl.net/echo>

Northwest ARC (Houston):

<http://www.w5nc.org>

John Space Center ARC

<http://www.w5rrr.org>

COMPAC Radio Club:

<http://www.houston-intranet.com/~cpqham>

Katy ARS:

<http://members.aol.com/karsradio>

Stephen F. Austin ARC (Bellville area):

http://users.argolink.net/danwhite/W5SFA/W5SFA_index

Hou-Texins ARC (Stafford):

<http://www.hal-pc.org/>

Brazos Valley ARC:

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~tiarc/>

Tidelands ARC (Texas City Area):

<http://www.tidelands.org>

South East Texas ARC (Tomball):

<http://setac.homestead.com/setachome.html>

Victoria ARC:

<http://www.viptx.net/varc/>

Clear Lake ARC:

<http://www.clarc.org>

(Please advise of additions. Thanks.)

ARRL AND REACT TO SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (from ARRL Newsletter)

Representatives of the ARRL and REACT met in Dallas, Texas, May 16 to sign a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. The agreement is intended to promote joint coordination of the resources between ARRL and REACT and to facilitate the flow of information to and from the public during emergencies.

ARRL president Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and REACT International president Chuck Thompson, N5IAG, signed on behalf of their respective organizations.

"This memorandum of understanding is part of our efforts to establish a common front in dealing with emergencies and disaster communication and with other issues facing the radio hobby, including such things as antenna ordinances," Haynie said. Thompson said the memorandum will strengthen the organizations' "common goal of providing assistance to the public."

While REACT has been associated primarily with Citizens Band in the past, the organization has widened its focus to embrace amateur and other services. ARRL and REACT share common goals in terms of emergency communication. The primary mission of REACT is "to provide public safety communications to individuals, organizations, and government agencies to save lives, prevent injuries, and give assistance wherever and whenever needed."

The memorandum of understanding calls on the two organizations to "cooperate and utilize their resources from time to time to optimum mutual benefit to both parties." Among specific principles, the agreement will involve cooperation during emergencies and disaster relief and the elimination of "duplicative or technically inferior service" during such responses. "The parties will generally

encourage ongoing liaison with each other and urge members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communications and cooperation," the agreement states.

Thompson and Haynie are long-time friends, and Haynie is a member of REACT in the Dallas area. Haynie was the instructor for Thompson's Novice Amateur Radio license class. He says Thompson recruited him to REACT membership.

From CQ Magazine News:

License Renewal Rate Jumps
Posted: 2001-05-02 11:45:22.570

The rate at which amateur licenses are being renewed jumped to nearly twice the average in January and February of this year, according to FCC statistics gathered by the W5YI Report. Since August, 1999, the average renewal rate for expiring amateur licenses has been approximately 47% (meaning that 53% of hams whose licenses expired during the period had either died, lost interest in the hobby, or forgotten to renew). In the first two months of 2001, however, the renewal rate jumped to 92.9% and 90.3%, respectively.

W5YI cautions that direct month-to-month correlations are not accurate, as licenses may be renewed anytime from three months prior to two years after expiration. And it is too early to know if this higher renewal rate is a fluke or a trend. It is noteworthy, however, that both months are within the three-month renewal window for the first group of codeless Technician licenses, which were issued beginning February 14, 1991. If this is the beginning of a new trend, it could indicate that hams licensed under the new program are renewing in much greater numbers than their pre-no-code counterparts. We will continue to watch the numbers.

FCC TO AMATEURS: DETAILED REGULATION "NOT IN THE PICTURE" (from ARRL Newsletter)

The FCC says the ball is in the court of the Amateur Service to determine the course of future Amateur Radio regulation. Speaking May 20 at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said that the days of Commission-imposed regulation are past.

"Detailed regulation of the nitty gritty of communication services, including the Amateur Service, is not in the picture," Cross said. "Rather, the FCC is shifting to strong and effective enforcement of truly necessary regulations." The FCC, he said, now plans to look to the amateur community to reach consensus on any new regulations it thinks it wants and needs.

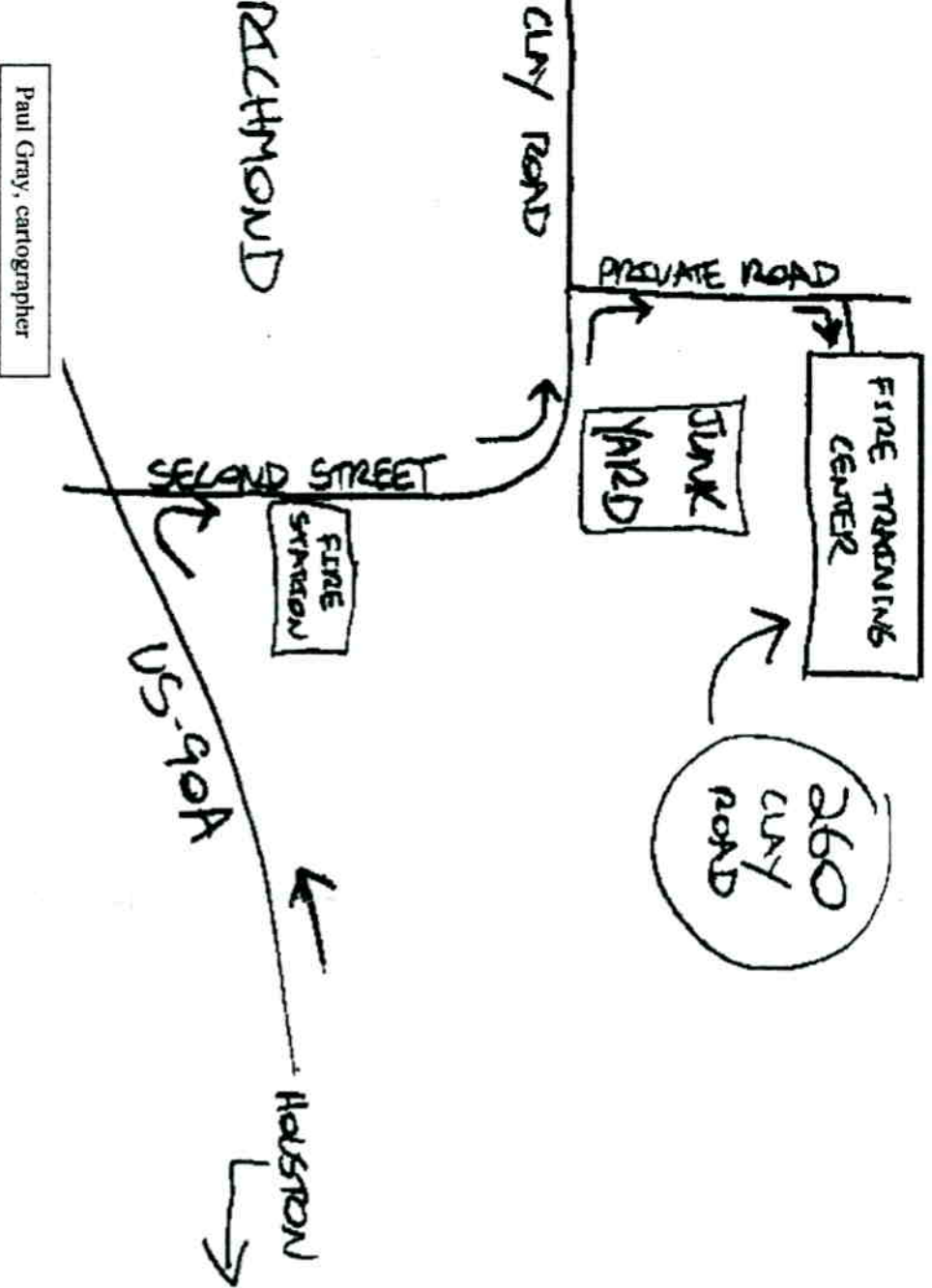
"I hope that those of you who are thinking about asking us to carve up a band by fiat will think again," he told the packed forum. "You really are asking us to tie your hands regarding your use of your spectrum."

Before the FCC initiates any rulemaking proceedings in the Amateur Service to change privileges, Cross said it wants to see proposals involving the implementation of "new and more modern communications technologies," such as digital. In addition, he said, any future proposal "must include all licensees, and it must include all bands," and—most important—the amateur community must reach a consensus on the topic.

Cross said the FCC does not want and cannot handle "multiple proceedings that address piecemeal changes in operating privileges" that affect only certain classes of licensees or certain bands. "You, collectively, need to reach agreement on how you want to use your spectrum," he reiterated.

Cross said he expected the issue of restructuring operator privileges to come up "in a couple of years" at the outside. "Changes in operating privileges for the different classes of operator licenses are inevitable," he said.

Here are directions to the Fire Training Center. This assumes that you are proceeding west from Sugar Land and on US 90A. Second Street is just west of the Brazos River.



THE B-VARC BULLETIN



The Monthly Publication of the
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving the Greater Houston Area.
Club Callsign - KC5OIG

B-VARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Editor: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrrl.net

Production: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, claudes@juno.com

John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) was originally organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford, when required. Since that time, B-VARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active HAM radio club in the Southwest Houston area.

Today, B-VARC is truly a general-interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the Commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held generally at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz repeaters. Membership dues are \$16 annually.

B-VARC conducts A.R.R.L. VEC license exam sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. B-VARC also conducts a Public Service Net at 9:00 P. M. each Monday on the 145.470 and 444.55 (MERA) repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining B-VARC, contact John, K5LKJ, at 281-530-0432.

B-VARC Meeting Schedule

The next general membership meeting is Thursday,
June 14.

Location:
7:30 p.m. Sugar Land Community Center, 226
Matlage Way, Sugar Land Texas

B-VARC Eating Schedule

Saturdays-7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Location: New York Coffee Shop,
9720 Hillcroft.

Also at 7:30 a. m. Location: Viking Den on 90A, Stafford.

3rd Friday dinners - The 3rd Friday dinner in June will be June 15, 6:30pm sharp
at CASA OLE MEXICAN RESTAURANT at 10421 S. Post oak Road. It
is 1 or 2 blocks south of W. Bellfort, on the east side of
the road.

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 5

May 2001

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