

Membership renewal information:

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

Awards Banquet

Members are encouraged to make nominations for awards to club members to be presented at the Awards Banquet on January 4, 2002.



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

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 AWARDS BANQUET IS ON
JANUARY 4**

contact Rex Ritz,
icrex@yahoo.com

or any Board Member for
additional information
and reservations

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

Board of Directors:

Kevin Foto, President - KD5O, foto@texas.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

Silent Key

HENRY CALK, JR., WB5IIB, died peacefully on November 23, 2001 in his boyhood home in Pleak, Texas. He was a lifetime member of B-VARC. A jack of all trades and master of some, he was a flamenco guitarist, a photograph, aviator, scuba diver, handgun collector, sailor, maritime navigator, and ham radio operator.

We will always remember Henry for his friendship, willingness to pitch-in, and deep, melodious voice. The club wishes to express our warmest condolences to his family.

Notes from the President –

Prez Sez:

As the year 2001 comes to a close, I reflect back on an eventful year for the club. We have strived to promote Amateur Radio.

Field Day attracted enough interest to generate a news article in the the Houston Chronicle. The article mentioned the benefits of our emergency communication training and the benefits to the community during disasters. A photograph of Paul Gray, N0JAA operating his 10 meter station, topped off the article.

Our club presentation at the Fort Bend ISD PACE Presentation was well received by the students. We succeeded in enlightening these young minds to the marvels of our hobby.

The board has also strived to bring interesting technical presentations to our membership meetings.

I wish the best for the new board of 2002. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president this past year.

73,

Kevin/KD50

B-VARC HAS AN ELMER, ROSS LAWLER, W5HFF

Ross, W5HFF, has agreed to be the *ELMER* for the club. He will help prospective hams and new members get started in Ham Radio and the club. His email is w5hff@juno.com and phone is 281-342-3340.

Many thanks to Ross for this undertaking.

SCHEDULE OF BVARC Activities

VE Sessions Change of Location:

NOTE: The January VEC exams will be on Wednesday, January 16 because of scheduling conflicts.

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
10141 Cash Road, Stafford, TX
Parking in the rear –**

Month	General Meeting	Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
Dec	11	Home Brew Night	4	11
Jan	4	Banquet	10	16
Feb	14	TBA	7	12

**E
P
O**

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TWO B-VARC'ers HAVE ARTICLES PUBLISHED

John Endsley, KD5IDU has an article in the December 2001 issue of 73 Amateur Radio Today entitled "Subdivision Subterfuge". This has to do with his "stealth" antenna. John has another one in the pipeline

Allen Matis, N5AFV, has an article to be published in the February or March issue of World Radio concerning DXing while on a cruise ship. Excerpts of this are published below with the permission of World Radio.

B-VARC is mostly a social club, not a contest club...Right?

You might note that the Dec. QST report on the 2001 Field day results showed BVARC was the highest scoring TX club in the 5A category. There were 4 stations from TX in that category. Of the Houston area clubs, CLARC was also in the 5A category.

Larry

Results of Election for 2002 B-VARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
Vice President – Robert Moore, KK5UO
Treasurer – Rex Ritz, KC5EEU
Corresponding Secretary – Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
Recording Secretary – Bill Allen, KD5IIU
Past President – Kevin Foto, KD5O
One-year Board Member – John Gilmore, AC5TL*
Two-year Board Member – Paul Gray, N0JAA
Three-year Board Member – Ross Lawler, W5HFF
*Appointed by BOD

**BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting – November 1, 2001**

President Kevin Foto called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. with a quorum.

Those in attendance were:

President Kevin Foto-KD5O, Corresponding Secretary John Whiteman-K5LKJ, 1-Year Director Robert Moore - KK5UO, Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM, 3-Year Director Paul Gray-N0JAA, Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU, 2-year board member Mike Hardwick - N5VCX, Vice President Claude Sessions - K5HFY, Past President Larry Jacobson-K5LJ

Recording Secretary Report by Bill Allen-KD5IIU: Reviewed the September and October 2001 BOD minutes. Motion made by Robert Moore and seconded by Claude Sessions to approve September 2001 BOD minutes and motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Robert Moore and seconded by Claude Sessions to approve October 2001 BOD minutes and motion carried unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report by John Whiteman-K5LKJ: As of October 4th the club had 133 members with 71 in the ARRL, 16 life members and 11 family members. Changes and updates of the roster were discussed and current rosters were passed out. John has asked not to be re-elected to the position and stated he would help the

successor to the position in their duties initially. He also stated he would like to still assist the club in a different manner.

Treasurer Report by Rex Ritz - KC5EEU: Was not present due to personal reasons.

Vice President Report by Claude Sessions-K5HFY: Claude Sessions made a motion for the clubs annual donation of 40.00 dollars to the parks and recreation department who allows us to use the building which we use for our club meetings The motion was seconded by Robert Moore and the motion passed unanimously. He stated the club has the ability to order more jackets if anyone was interested.

Presidential Report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: The PACE presentation members were thanked for their efforts and it was viewed as a positive response for the club. He also stated that he would like to see the club do it again next year. A workday for the clubs storage area was discussed. Chili supper details were finalized. The Rick Hiller JOTA patch donation to the boy scouts was discussed and it was decided that Robert Moore made a movement that the club pay for the kid's patches only for a total \$80.00 and the motion passed unanimously.

1-Year Director Robert Moore: Nothing new to report at this time.

2-year board member Mike Hardwick: Nothing new to report at this time.

3-Year Director Paul Gray- N0JAA: Nothing new to report at this time.

Past Presidents report by Larry Jacobson: The latest updates for next years Board of directors were discussed. As of the November meeting the following nominees were as follows: President Mike Hardwick' Vice President Robert Moore, Rex Ritz Treasurer, Cameron Mitchell Corresponding Secretary, Ross Lawler 3 Year Director, John Gilmore 1 year director, Bill Allen Recording Secretary.

New Business: News Letter details were discussed and Bruce Paige was to be contacted on the specifics related to the discussions. Club web page changes were discussed.

Motion was made to adjourn by Paul Gray and was seconded by John Whiteman. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU

HOUSTON
AMATEUR RADIO
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George DiLetto, K0EWW
PRESIDENT

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SCANNER JACK'S Corner
by Jack Roberts, KBSTMY

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**RESULTS OF THE December 11th
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, December 11, 2001 at HCC's Scarcella
Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
John Moore, KK5NU

Five examination elements were administered during the
course of the evening to four applicants for a new license;
one applicant for upgrade; and one applicant for
"Grandfathered" pre 1997 General. All five of the
examinees attained a passing grade. The "pass rate" for
the evening was 100%.

William H. Black - - Technician
Candace G. Cogan - - Technician
Steven H. Jordan - - Technician
James M. Kern - - Technician
Elton L. Ray - N5HAR - General
Oscar A. Serna - KD5NYC - Extra

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

John Moore - KK5NU

eMail - jwm@hal-pc.org
Homepage - www.hal-pc.org/~jwm

MONDAY NIGHT PSN check-ins
(KC5VYZ net control)

10/1 - 17 - Cam
10/8 - 24 - Bruce
10/15 - 30 - Jack
10/22 - 26 - Jack
10/29 - 24 - Doug
11/5 - 25 - Cam
11/12 - 24 - Jack
11/19 - 16 - Jack
11/26 - 32 - Cam
12/3 - 24 - Doug
12/10 - 29 - Jack
12/17 - 16 - Cam

**B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for November
2001 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.

11/07/01--N5CPA (NC), K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA,

W5GHK, K5LJ, WB5SRN, KM5HP, WC5S. (9)
11/14/01-N5CPA (NC), K5CEK, KD5PZT, K5JWM,
K5LJ, KD4JQD, N4AEP, WN5A. (8)
11/21/01-K5LJ (NC), K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM. (4)
My Thanks to Larry for calling the net.
11/28/01-N5CPA (NC), K5JWM, KB5F, K5CEK,
KE5SR, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WC5S, W5GHK,
KD5PZT.(10)

Prior Planning – Key to a Successful DX Cruise Allen Mattis N5AFV

(Excerpts from an article to be published in World Radio magazine.)

Could a new satellite operator successfully conduct a DX operation from a cruise ship? It was a little over a year ago on July 16, 2000, that I made my first amateur radio satellite contact. A few weeks earlier I had seen a satellite demonstration by Bruce Paige, KK5DO, at Field Day. When I was first licensed in 1978, I thought I wanted to work satellites, but I did not get around to it until Bruce piqued my interest. I soon became active on the FM satellites, UO-14, AO-27 and SO-35. I had been working the satellites for about a year when my wife and I began making plans for a Caribbean cruise, and I decided to take the opportunity to work the satellites from the cruise ship. I wanted the operation to go well, so I put a great deal of effort into the planning and preparation, just like the "big guns" do for a major DX-expedition.

My first step was to investigate licensing requirements, and determine where I would be able to operate. In order to operate maritime mobile from a ship, it is necessary to obtain a license from the country in which the vessel is flagged, and to have permission of the captain of the ship. The ship we had booked was the Ocean Princess, flagged in the United Kingdom. A visit to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) web page (<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/>) indicated that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT) agreement T/R 61-01 gives US amateur radio operators operating privileges in the United Kingdom. I would still have to obtain permission from the captain to operate amateur radio from the ship, but I had crossed the first hurdle.

I also began to investigate operating from the various islands we were scheduled to visit. Again, the ARRL web page was extremely helpful. The CEPT agreement also included permission to operate from Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles. An International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) available from the ARRL would give operating privileges for Isla Margarita, Venezuela, so I promptly applied to the League for an IARP. I knew that my US license was valid in St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands. Information was also available for obtaining a

reciprocal license from The Bahamas. Both Richard Long, W4AKE, and Al Lee, WA4EWV, were helpful in providing me with assistance during the application procedure, and I filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission in Nassau. In some cases it may take several months for reciprocal license applications to be processed, so it was important to apply well before my scheduled departure. Other scheduled stops on the cruise were Barbados and Dominica, but since our stops were for only one day, and reciprocal licenses had to be applied for in person after landing on those islands, I decided to pass on obtaining licenses to operate from those islands.

My next step was to determine what equipment to take on the cruise. I sent E-mail to John Sheets, N8QGC, and Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK, who had both operated on cruises during the past year, and asked for suggestions and recommendations. Both John and Ramon responded with excellent suggestions and help. John had operated on his cruise with an Arrow handheld beam, but after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we live in a different world. While operating satellites in the Houston metropolitan area after September 11th, I was frequently questioned by police and security guards attracted by my Arrow beam antenna. Therefore, I felt that I would not be allowed to operate from the ship with an Arrow antenna. On his cruise, Ramon had successfully operated with a Premier AL800 telescoping antenna and an HT. I decided to go that route, and the AL800 and my Icom IC-W32A HT became my choice of equipment. In case the AL800 antenna was not allowed due to security reasons, I selected an MFJ-1717 high gain dual band rubber duck antenna to be my backup antenna. Most cruise lines prohibit the playing of radios on deck because they disturb other passengers, so I decided to use an MFJ-288I headset with my HT. I also planned to take along a small, voice activated tape recorder to record the passes so that I would not have to log the contacts by hand. It would be difficult to write down contact information on a windy deck, in the dark, or in the rain, and the tape recorder would solve that problem. Next, I purchased a Garmin GPS unit. The GPS unit would give my exact position and grid square, give the exact time in UTC, and tell me what direction the ship was heading so that I would know which side of the ship to operate from. Both the tape recorder and the GPS unit use AA batteries, so I planned to take along a generous supply of batteries. My final equipment decision dealt with how to obtain satellite pass predictions during the cruise. I decided to travel light and not take along a lap top computer or Palm Pilot. I ran satellite pass predictions for the entire cruise at home using Nova for Windows on my home PC, and printed out hard copy sheets to take along.

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A few days before departure, I called Continental Airlines, to find out how the new security regulations would affect the transporting of amateur radio equipment on an aircraft. I was told that transporting the IC-W32A HT should not be

