

# the B-VARC BULLETIN

of

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Fort Bend County, Texas

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Vol. 3, No. 4

October, 1980

Editor-in-Chief -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, 7401 Heilig, Houston TX 77074  
Production Editor -- Dick Hagerman WB5SRN  
Associate Editors -- Gary Richardson N5ANF  
Dick Hagerman WB5SRN  
Phil Steinbach WB5SUR

---

---

## CALENDAR

- Brazos Valley Public Service Net - Every Monday, 9 P.M. local, 146.70/00  
Ft. Bend County Civil Defense Net -- Each Tuesday, 9 P.M. local, 146.16/76  
✓ B-VARC Oct. Meeting -- Thurs., Oct. 9, 7:30 P.M., Missouri City fire station  
✓ Houston COM-VENTION -- Oct. 3-5, Marriott Brookhollow Hotel, Loop 610  
North at U.S. 290.  
✓ Houston 10-X Hambash -- Nov. 8-9, 1980, Bear Creek Park pavilion area.  
ARRL National Convention 1983 -- Dates and places in Houston to be announced later.

---

---

## I WONDER IF THIS APPLIES TO YE OLD EDITOR?

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

---

---

AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

George Caldwell WB2RIT was scheduled to be our speaker of the evening but problems on the job got in his way, and he had to tell us he hoped he could make it another time.

The proposed revised By-Laws, a copy of which were included with the September BULLETIN, were adopted after discussion.

Various other items of Club business were discussed, including the Club repeater project. The sub-band split 144.85/145.45 MHz has been assigned to the Club by Dick Fenner, area frequency coordinator.

---

---

FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Transmitter Hunt Committee  
Gary A. Richardson N5ANF, Chairman

There were 10 persons registered. Mike KA5BYF was the hidden transmitter for this hunt.

The winning team was Dave WB5MSX and XYL Charlotte. For the winners of this month's hunt, MADISON ELECTRONICS donated a 5/8 wave Buckbuster antenna and a magnetic mount. MANY, MANY thanks to Madison Electronics for sponsoring our hunts.

When you go to Madison Electronics, please mention the Club. This will let them see their sponsorship is not in vain.

The next transmitter hunt you can attend will be at the COM-VENTION 80 on Sunday morning. The next Club transmitter hunt will be on October 11. Try to make both hunts.

FOR INFO, CALL GARY N5ANF at 981-7742.

---

---

EDITORIAL

Election of officers and directors

Article II of the Club's By-Laws includes provisions for a standing nominating committee to present to the members at the regular meeting in November a slate of candidates, one for each office, for officers for the year beginning the following January. Under the By-Laws this committee this year will be chaired by Wade WN5TEN, the immediate past president of the Club, with two additional members to be appointed by Bob W5UBD, president of the Club.

Article IV includes a provision for the election at the November meeting of three at-large directors, one for a 1-year term, one for a 2-year

EDITORIAL - Election of officers and directors (Cont.)

term, and one for a 3-year term.

All members are urged to give thoughtful consideration as to whom they would like to see carry on the fine job next year that our present officers and directors have done this year. Our progress has been outstanding toward the development of an organization that bids fair to render a real public service to our community.

In this connection, we believe you should consider it an honor to be asked to fill one of these positions of trust and responsibility.

In any event, the nominating committee will need your help in building a slate of proposed officers for 1981, and we urge you let them have your recommendations.

---

FROM WORLDRADIO, September 1980

### Tip from W8DRW

"FOUND! An inexpensive antenna protector!"

If on a weekend and the antenna party is all set to raise your beam and you're fresh out of Krylon spray to protect the steel bolts and other parts — don't fret. I have been coating the steel bolts and nuts, etc. on my antennas for years with plain asphalt roofing cement. I apply it with a small welder's flux brush and it can be thinned with turpentine or paint thinner if need be. Whenever disassembly is needed, apply a little turpentine or thinner and the bolts and nuts come right apart. The last beam I took down after five years — bolts and nuts — were good enough to use over again.

I find that if you do have Krylon spray, use it first since it penetrates into small spaces, and then coat with asphalt roofing cement. There is really no need for damaged antennas because of rusted bolts. Once you've tried this method, you will like it. Roofing cement is relatively inexpensive and every home handy-man should have a can around.

- Triple States RAC-OH

OFF THE BEAM PATH.....

by

Phil Steinbach WB5SUR

Since my ham shack is out in the garage, it's pretty hard to get real ambitious and sling solder around to build great things these dog-day afternoons. When the mercury reached well above the century mark one week-end, I decided to retreat to the comfort of the indoor air and write about the great things I want to build.

What I have been doing may interest those who have wondered what it would be like to operate six meters. If you have the ability to dial up 147.435 MHz on your 2-meter FM radio, you can now at least listen to 52.525 MHz FM. As soon as I finish building up another carrier operated relay, I will also be able to talk to six meters. The system consists of an old Motorola Motrac transceiver which is dedicated to 147.435 MHz and an even older Motorola T-Power transceiver which is dedicated to 52.525 MHz. The two are connected by a pair of carrier operated relays so that when one transceiver hears a signal it operates the transmitter of the other transceiver and rebroadcasts what it hears. The operation of the system is similar to a repeater except that the "split" is pretty big (a 94.91 MHz offset!!) and that this system can swap its input and output, depending on the condition of the COR's. In other words, a 2-meter station can listen and operate on six meters as well as a 6-meter station can listen to and operate on two meters.

With that aside, 6-meter FM shares some of the propagation characteristics of both two meters and ten meters. Groundwave is a little better than on two meters but tropospheric effects are not as good. Sky-wave propagation is similar to ten meters but openings tend to be not as strong, of shorter duration, and almost entirely restricted to daylight hours.

Until I work the bugs out of this patch cord wonder, or make some provision to shut the turkey in the event a transmitter hangs up, its operation will be limited to evenings and weekends. So, if you happen to dial up 147.435 MHz and hear a squelch tail, give out a 'CQ 6 meters' and see what happens!!

---

---

WORTH GIVING A THOUGHT TO

"TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE"  
from Put Your Arms Around the City  
by James W. Angell

LOOK TO THIS DAY!

For it is life, the very life of life.

In its brief course lie all the verities and realities  
of your existence:

The bliss of growth,

The glory of action,

The splendor of beauty.

For yesterday is but a dream,

And tomorrow is only a vision;

But today well-lived makes every yesterday a dream of  
happiness,

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

LOOK WELL THEREFORE TO THIS DAY!

