



the
B-VARC BULLETIN

of

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

Vol. 4, No. 2

February 1981

Editor-in-Chief -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, 7401 Heilig, Houston TX 77074

Production Editors -- Ron Bolyard KA5GYG

Dick Hagerman WB5SRN

Associate Editors -- Mike Armatta N5APC

Joanne Morpew K5HOY

Alan Shapiro N5BSW

Richard Shankle N5KV

Hal Fuglaar N5BXP

Dick Hagerman WB5SRN

Larry Charson N5BYJ

Phil Steinbach WB5SUR

Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ

Bob Spradling W5UBD

CALENDAR

B-VARC Public Service Net -- Mondays, 9PM, 147.60/00 MHz

Ft. Bend County CD RACES Net -- Tuesdays, 9 PM, 146.16/76 MHz

Houston-Harris County CD Net -- Wednesdays, 9 PM, 146.28/88 MHz

West Houston RACES Net -- Sundays, 8 PM, 146.07/67 MHz

Next B-VARC Membership Meeting -- Feb. 12, 1981, 7:30 PM, Missouri City
Fire Station on FM 2234

Next B-VARC Transmitter Hunt -- Feb. 14, 1981, same time, same place

Field Day -- June 27-28, 1981

1983 ARRL National Convention -- Dates and places in Houston forthcoming

AT THE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The following minutes of the January meeting were submitted by the
Secretary of the Club:

AT THE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Cont.)

The meeting was called to order by the outgoing president and the new officers and directors for 1981 were introduced. The incoming president, Richard N5KV then took charge of the meeting.

Bob Spradling W5UBD, the outgoing president, was presented with the Club's first "Order of the Key" award for his outstanding leadership and service to the Club during 1980.

A standing progressive roll call followed, with non-member visitors being especially recognized and welcomed.

The Treasurer's Report was made by Steve WA5OEN and it was approved.

Minutes of the December 11, 1980 regular membership meeting were read by Steve WA5OEN and approved as read.

Bob W5UBD reviewed the status of the Club's 2-meter repeater which is scheduled for installation at the Southwest Memorial Hospital on Beechnut later this year.

Approval was accorded the recommendation by Dick WD5CTQ that the Club invite a comparable club in the Minneapolis area to become our "sister" club for the mutual benefit of both groups.

Also approved was the suggestion by Dick WD5CTQ that B-VARC introduce and hold the first one this year of a new kind of contest - the "Uncontest Contest. Lively discussion indicated that it should be a lot of fun.

After a considerable discussion, a motion was lost which would have resulted in the Club's Field Day activities being held in an area shopping mall as a public relations demonstration of Amateur Radio. It was agreed, however, that the idea deserved developing, not as a Field Day activity, but as a special public relations activity of the Club. Henry N5HF will chair a committee to explore the feasibility of the project.

It was reported that the Ft. Bend County fairgrounds may not be available to the Club for this year's Field Day activities, and Bob W5UBD agreed to chair a committee to locate a Field Day site, with the possibility of having a joint Field Day program with the Texas Instruments ham club.

Dave Moore, Explorer Scout Executive, spoke to the group about Explorer Scout activities, and a motion was adopted for the Club to sponsor an Explorer Post.

Wade WN5TEN reported on the progress of the Novice Class sessions, and Stu WB5IGG on certain aspects of the Club's affiliation with ARRL.

By motion duly made and seconded, the business portion of the meeting was adjourned. After a short break, J. V. Leeds W5VXD gave an interesting talk on standing wave ratios. As he had hoped, a very lively discussion followed.

- Phil WB5SUR, Secretary

ARRL AFFILIATION CHARTER

Ray Wangler W5EDZ, Director, West Gulf Division of ARRL, has told us he will attend our February meeting and present to the Club our affiliate charter. We're looking forward to having Ray with us and are hoping we'll have a record turnout for the event.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We had quite a large turnout last month for our first meeting of the year. And, in the tradition of New Year resolutions, we had a number of important business items arise.

First, let's discuss some upcoming Club activities. Remember, the success of these activities depend upon members of the Club supporting and participating in them. Surely there is an activity in the following list that is right up your alley:

- Transmitter hunting
- The Amateur Radio Explorer Scout Post that Brazos Valley is sponsoring
- Field Day
- The Brazos Valley "Uncontest Contest"
- B-VARC's "sister" club activities
- The new repeater

Second, at the next membership meeting which will be held on February 12, Ray Wangler will present us with a certificate proclaiming our ARRL affiliation. We also are looking forward to a combination discussion and demonstration of RTTY at the meeting.

And let us not forget Madison Electronics who continue to support and assist us.

73, Richard N5KV

VPQSO

February 1981

While watching the "General Electric Theatre" on December 28, 1980 - a show entitled "Omnibus", the host, Hal Holbrook, made an interesting commentary remark. He indicated that the

VPQSO (Cont.)

general unrest in society today, exhibited by high crime rates, youth disturbances, international stress, even inflation and a host of other woes can all be traced to a general distaste in and distrust of Government on the part of the American people. Whether or not you agree really isn't the point. What is the point is that we in amateur radio may well be undergoing similar changes.

I was first licensed in 1958, and many of you go way back before that. There's no arguing that our hobby has changed, and with that change, it has brought about some not-so-nice-things. Could it be that our current crop of local repeater jammers, on the air tuner uppers, CQ callers without listening first and the host of foul language operation heard everywhere can be traced to a similar source?

It appears to me that the FCC which is basically powerless to stop this nonsense, and our own voice, the ARRL, which seems equally unable to do anything but expand, are both agencies in which there is considerable distaste and distrust among the amateur community. The social problems are often answered with a wry "yeah, but times were simpler in the forties and fifties". The same is true among amateurs. If you think this is the cause, then think again!

There is no question that things in general are more complicated than they were forty years ago, but we've had forty years to adjust. The way to cure governmental unrest is to get involved and vote-take an active role. The same is true of the amateur radio world. If you're tired of repeater jammers- ignore 'em, don't egg them on. If you're being interfered with on HF, insist that the frequency is occupied and stand up for it. Follow the rules and unwritten laws of courtesy yourself and insist that others do too! We'll have a better hobby because of it.

73 for now


WD5CTQ

Autopatching the Emergency Services...
A Dispatchers View.

Those of us who frequent the 2 meter FM band and wish to provide service to the public in the amateur tradition are keenly aware of the efficiency and PR advantages of autopatches. There are several patches in the Houston area that provide routine calling and a few repeaters have "Emergency Only" patches. This article is to acquaint you with the dispatcher's concerns and needs when receiving an emergency call.

Since most emergency situations arise when you are out on the road, this article will deal with the premise. The first thing to do is to determine which service is needed. This will probably break down into three main groups - Police, Fire or Ambulance. Obviously, this will be determined by the nature of the incident. A major accident would require a call for an ambulance and a police unit. Whenever a person is injured, the ambulance should be called first. It won't hurt the car to stay out in the street a little longer but it might be fatal to leave someone that is badly injured. With the service needed determined, the next step would be to determine whose jurisdiction you are in - in southwest Harris and Fort Bend counties this is no easy task. The reason that it is important to contact the the appropriate agency first is that most services will not cross boundaries unless requested to do so by the service whose territory is where the incident has occurred. Calling the wrong agency will eventually get the proper one but valuable time will have been lost. It frequently gets confusing but hopefully everyone knows at least the boundaries of their own city and since this is presumably where you will encounter most of your emergencies you should know the numbers of your own emergency services. All telephone directories have a list of numbers on the inside cover for emergency services in the area. It is a simple matter to cut off the cover of an old phone book and keep it in the car with you (I tape mine to the sunvisor).

Now that you have determined that an emergency service is needed, which service(s) is needed and whose jurisdiction the incident is in, you are ready to place the call. What information will the dispatcher want?

Autopatching the Emergency Services...(Cont.)

The first thing the dispatcher will want is "the nature of the call" - why did you place the call. This can be an automobile accident, fire in a building, shooting, auto pedestrian, etc. The next piece of information should be the location which will normally be a street address. If it is an accident at an intersection, then the two street names should be sufficient. If a house is involved or the incident is not in an intersection, then a street name and house number will be needed. If you give a house number, you may be asked for a cross street, which is the nearest street (not the largest) that intersects the street where the incident has occurred. Do not try and give directions to the scene because you don't know where the equipment will be coming from and because most emergency services carry extremely detailed maps of the area they serve. You will probably be asked for a "call back number" which you will obviously not be able to supply. The dispatcher should know right away that you are talking on a half duplex radio circuit. If you say that you are on a mobile phone and don't have a number that will usually satisfy them. This is not the place to describe amateur radio regardless of your desire to do so. If the dispatcher asks for your name, this should be given. Anyone placing a call for emergency services will incur no obligation from charges for services such as ambulance as long as the call was placed in good faith.

If the situation is of a serious nature, you should stay at the scene after placing the call and if no equipment has arrived in an appropriate amount of time, replace the call in case the location was misunderstood. In non critical cases such as fender benders your presence is usually not needed and you should move on. In other situations such as possible explosion or civil disturbances, your personal safety may be in jepordy and the prudent thing again would be to keep moving (remember a moving target is harder to hit).

In most cases, autopatching is the preferred method to report an incident because direct contact between someone on the scene and the dispatcher of the services needed reduce the chance of error and the time element involved.

Hopefully this short article will help you the next time you have the need of an emergency service and here's hoping that it won't be for yourself or a loved one.

MESSAGE FRM UR PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

N5BYJ LARRY

FIRST, A HAPPY ES HEALTHY NEW YR TO ALL. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING WILL FEATURE A PROGRAM OF "HANDS ON RTTY". THIS MEANS THAT IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENTATION BY RTTY OPS, EACH MEMBER WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT DOWN AT THE KEYS ES OPERATE. A NUMBER OF TERMINALS WILL BE BROUGHT SO THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPARE THE RELATIVE MERITS ES FEATURES OF EACH. MANY OF THESE UNITS ALSO OPERATE ON CW, SO YOU MORSE CODE "BUGS" WILL ALSO FIND THAT APPEALING.

IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FER PROGRAMMING, PSE FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL AT 666-4567 IN THE EVENING. IT COULD BE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SEE OR SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOURSELF. ALL SUGGESTIONS ES IDEAS WILL BE MOST APPRECIATED. TNX LARRY

TA HUNT

I hate to report that some of our members are begatting a monotonous monopoly on the transmitter hunts as winners. This is due in part to skill and in part to the lack of competition. The times are still quite long and wide open for improvement. I'm beginning to believe that whenever Richard N5KV needs anything he just goes to the transmitter hunt and wins it. He and Ron KA5GYG won the January hunt but there were four prizes -- excellent technical books, courtesy of Madison Electronics. (When you visit them, tell them you are a B-VARC member.)

Try a hunt with us -- sometimes just a look at the rabbit is worth the trip! Did you ever see a female rabbit with a wig and a moustache? Hi! Hi!

73, Bob W5UBD

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ FOR THE CLUB TREASURY

Now that we are affiliated with the ARRL, we can put \$1.50 into our Club treasury for each renewal or new member joining ARRL. Here's how:

For renewals -- when you receive your renewal notice, fill out the card

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ FOR THE CLUB TREASURY (Cont.)

as directed thereon, make a check or money order for the specified amount of dues payable to Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc., and send them promptly to the Club Treasurer, Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN, 627 Stephanie, Missouri City TX 77459. He will send your renewal card and the Club's check for \$1.50 less than your remittance to ARRL Headquarters prior to the deadline date shown on the renewal card.

For new memberships -- Do the same as detailed above for renewals, except that you will complete the ARRL membership application form. In addition, you should furnish Steve your home phone number for inclusion on the roster.

This is an easy way for the Club to pick up additions to the treasury!

1981 B-VARC DUES

Article VI of the Club's By-Laws provides that annual dues must be paid prior to the day following the February regular membership meeting in order to maintain continuity of membership in the Club and continue to receive the B-VARC Bulletin -- (we hope that might be an incentive!!). If you are not among the 45 who have paid their dues, and you will not be able to attend the February 12 meeting, please mail them to Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN, Club Treasurer, 627 Stephanie, Missouri City TX 77459 right now so he will receive them by that date.

We're on the way to a great Club year and hope everyone on the 1980 roster will be with us on the roster for 1981!!

FCC LICENSE UPGRADED?

We were happy to hear from Alan N5BSW -- but too late to make last month's issue that he had upgraded to Advanced in late December, happy to hear at the January meeting that two of our members had just upgraded, and happy to just learn from another about his upgrade.

Beginning with next month's issue, we'll have an UPGRADE BOX to carry this happy bit of news during the Club year. Let us know when to include you!!

Advertisement

MADISON ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

1508 McKinney, Houston TX 77010 Fone 658-0268

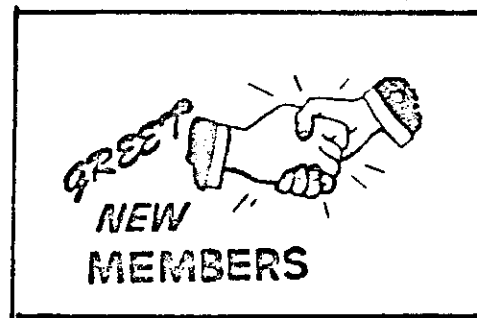
H O T S P E C I A L S

KENWOOD	TS180S - \$899.	TS520SE - \$549.	R-1000 - \$449.
	TR9000 - \$429.		
ICOM	IC251A - \$599.	IC255A - \$319.	
SWAN	102BXA - \$999.		

Kenwood service manuals and all line accessories available

ROSTER

Y'all welcome the following new members who joined us at the January meeting. Please add them to your roster to keep it up to date until you receive your new 1981 roster.



Richard Bach WD0GIV, 12261 Fondren # 505, Houston 77035, fone 728-2181
Ken Andrews WD5FNS, 8807 Ferris, Houston 77096, fone 665-6348
David Kaszubski WB3FYV, 9001 Town Park Dr., # 186, Houston 77036, fone 988-8991
Wilburn Bruce W5ACZ, 2006 Tangle Lane, Richmond 77469, fone 342-8418
Ed Harwell W5WVX, 1303 Twining Oaks, Missouri City 77459, fone 437-3835
Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH, 14614 Echochase Dr., Missouri City 77489, fone 438-2088
Mark Schneider WB5RDK, 7018 Triola Lane, Houston 77074, fone 981-5922
Lonnie Moak, 702 East Park, Sugar Land 77478, fone 494-2084

Note that Ed W5WVX is in the above list as a new member. Ed was one of the charter members of B-VARC but had to drop out last year because of job requirements on his time and place. Seems that's changed now, and it's good to have you back with, Ed. Welcome!

Please change the address of John Black KB5AG to 3612 Flint, Greensboro, North Carolina 27405. John has gone to greener pastures; we wish him god-speed but we'll miss him.

You'll remember that we told you in the December BULLETIN about the transfer back to California of Jim Shaw WA6PXU. We were delighted to get a note from him that things are going well and inclosing his 1981 dues! We're pleased he wants to keep up with the Club and his many friends here.

E
D
I
T
O
R
I
A
L

LET'S HELP WITH THE 60/00 OPERATING COST

We'd like to repeat an editorial we ran in the September 1980 BULLETIN under the heading "SUPPORT THE REPEATER YOU USE" which said:

"It's been customary in these parts for users of a repeater to contribute to the operating cost of the repeater they hang out on or normally use, by making either a one-time or continuing contribution. Many of us have done this on several machines as our usage has varied.

"We have not been asked to do this by the operators of the 60/00 machine, and this is not an official Club request, but for the convenience of anyone who might wish to make such a contribution, it should be sent to Russ Seto W5TMH, Cypress Repeater Group, 14610 Dale Hollow Lane, Cypress TX 77429."

If you would like to join the Cypress Repeater Group, we're told they would like to have you, and to inquire of Russ Seto for the procedure to follow in making application.

EXPLORER POST ON THE WAY

According to Hal Fuglaar N5BXP, organization of the Boy Scouts Explorer Post the Club agreed to sponsor is moving right along. The Committee, which will oversee the operations of the Post, is made up of Hal Fuglaar N5BXP Chairman, Richard Shankle N5KV, and Mary Fuglaar. They will be assisted, as needed by Debbie Steinbach WD5JWJ. Phil Steinbach WB5SUR will act as liaison officer between the Club and the Post. Post Advisor will be Kathy Schneider KA5BNC and husband Mark WB5RDK will be Assistant Advisor. Carl Ray K5WLJ will be "Unofficial Advisor" and also is, apparently, the "Official Acquirer" for the Post -- he already has arranged for about \$5,000 worth of equipment; ham equipment, that is, such as two complete HF stations, two synthesized 2-meter HT's, a tower, an HF tri-band antenna, two 2-meter beams, etc.!!!

About 125 letters are being written to selected teen-agers in the Club area, inviting them to join the Post. By "Club area" we mean, primarily, Missouri City, Stafford, Sugar Land, Richmond, Rosenberg, Alief, etc. Recipients of the letters will be those who, on a survey, listed electrical engineering as one of two primary career choices, and those who showed CB/HAM Radio as a hobby interest.

The first meeting of the Post, known as "The First Nighter", is set for

EXPLORER POST ON THE WAY (Cont.)

March 5 at an as yet undetermined place. Based on past experience, it is expected that 30 - 45 youngsters will be at the First Nighter to learn what it's all about.

Hal says they plan to make a survey at the February 12 Club meeting to identify interest areas of Club members who might be available to help in specific instances on call.

He also points out that anyone interested in being a part of the adult group in the Post will be more than welcome -- that the Advisors and Committee members can use all the participation available in Post activities. Just make your availability known to any of the above-named adults and you'll be welcomed with open arms!

MISCELLANIE

Rhoda and Larry WD5DRB welcomed Rebecca when she joined their family on December 29, just in time to be another FIT exemption! Rhoda and Rebecca are doing well, Larry and Sammy (No. 1 son) are pleased and proud, and it is believed that Tigger and Chutzpah, the Leve pussy-purr-mews are, also.....Apprehension has been voiced by some Club members that, with the installation of our repeater, the Club will become a repeater-oriented group. We are told it is the sense of the Board of Directors that this shall not be -- that the Club will continue a broad, general-interest group, as is evidenced by the varied activity list already adopted for this year, and which, we are confident, will continue in future years.....If you missed the link hookup with the 2-meter group in Reno NV last week spear-headed by Richard WDØGIV, and employing his phone patch and a WATTS line operated from the Reno repeater, you missed an interesting experience. Richard says they're going to do it again, We're sure he'll announce their plans on the Club's Monday night net.....

1981 COMMITTEES

The following standing and ad hoc committees have been established by the President, together with their chairmen:

PROGRAM -- Larry Charson N5BYJ
TRANSMITTER HUNT -- Bob Spradling W5UBD
FIELD DAY -- Henry Freedenberg N5HF
FIELD DAY SITE -- Bob Spradling W5UBD
AUDIT -- Frank Williams WB5ZMZ
ARRL AFFILIATION -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
PUBLIC RELATIONS -- Bob Spradling W5UBD
BY-LAWS -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG

CODE PRACTICE

Alan N5BSW submits the following W1AW code practice and bulletin transmission schedules for the benefit of those who might not have access to them. We suggest that membership in ARRL will bring these schedules into your shack and keep you current when changes occur:

W 1 A W S C H E D U L E

UTC Slow CW Practice:	MWF: 0300, 1400 TThS: 0000 Sn: 0300, 2100
Fast CW Practice:	MWF: 0000, 2100 TTh: 0300, 1400 S: 0300 Sn:0000
CW Bulletin	Dy: 0100, 0400, 2200 MTWThF:1500
RTTY Bulletin	Dy: 0200, 0500, 2300 MTWThF: 1600
Voice Bulletin:	Dy: 0230, 0530

Code practice and CW bulletin frequencies: 1.835, 3.58, 7.08, 14.08, 21.08, 28.08, 50.08, 147.555 MHz.

RTTY Bulletin frequencies: 3.625, 7.095, 14.095, 21.095, 29.095, 147.555 MHz.

Voice Bulletin frequencies: 1.835, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 21.39, 28.59, 50.19, 147.555 MHz.

Slow practice is at 5, 7½, 10, 13, and 15 wpm

Fast practice is at 35, 30,25,20,15, 13, and 10 wpm

CW Bulletins at 18 wpm, RTTY sent at 60 wpm with 170 Hz shift, then repeated at 110 Baud ASCII.

And along this line, Dick WB5SRN reports that code practice transmissions are being made by Bill K5BY on Sundays starting at 8 PM on 147.42 MHz simplex. Transmission speeds are set by the limitations of checkin stations. For further information, call Bill on the 04/64 machine.

B - S - S MART

The BULLETIN will be glad to run in this department your listing of FOR SALE, wanted to BUY, or would like to SWAP items. We'll run it in the first issue after we receive it.

WANTED -- a 4-1000 amplifier tube and/or socket for a 4CX1000 tube.

Frank Wood W5GLD, fone 342-2414

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Life is shaded, through and through,

Mostly by man's point of view.

Count your troubles -- you'll be sad!

Count your blessings - you'll be glad.

- Edgar A. Guest



FIRST CLASS MAIL

B-VARC BULLETIN
7401 Helms
Houston TX 77074