



the
B-VARC BULLETIN

of

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

Vol. 4, No. 3

March 1981

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CALENDAR

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

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

Houston-Harris County CD Net - Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, 146.28/88 MHz

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

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

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

Bellaire High School 5-Mile Run - March 22, 1981 (see Dick WD5SRN for info)

Field Day - June 27-28, 1981 - Site to be announced

ARRL National Convention 1983 - Dates and places in Houston forthcoming

AT THE FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The following minutes of the February 1981 regular membership meeting were submitted by the Club Secretary:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ, who then introduced Ray Wangler W5EDZ, Director of ARRL West Gulf Division, and his lovely YF. A standing roll call of B-VARC members and guests was made.

Minutes of the February membership meeting were approved as published in the BULLETIN. Club Treasurer Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN then gave the Treasurer's

March 1981

AT THE FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Cont.)

Report showing a balance of \$367.01 with no unpaid bills in the Treasurer's possession, and the report was approved by the membership.

Ray Wangler W5EDZ then talked on several ARRL topics, among them being: reorganization of the West Gulf Division into areas, each with its own Assistant Director; a hopefully expected change in FCC Chairmen; the FCC's proposed rewrite of the Amateur Radio Regulations, Part 97; the pending proposed Experimenter no-code license; problems being encountered in obtaining a reciprocal licensing agreement with Mexico; and his talk was highlighted by his presenting to the Club its ARRL Affiliate Charter.

Dick Bigelow announced that the BVARCFAUC (Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club First Annual Uncontest Contest!) will start 0000Z March 14 and end on March 22 at 2400Z.

The Texas Instruments group will sponsor a Skywarn class on a date and at a time to be announced.

The February transmitter hunt will be held on February 14 at 1 PM. (It was won by the team of WD5HEH, WB5RDK, and WB5SUR.)

Bob Spradling W5UBD reported on the status of the repeater project. We are awaiting receipt of a required tax-exempt certification by the IRS which apparently has become ensnarled in an inter-city relocation of the pertinent department of the IRS District. (Burocracy! Pui! - ED.)

The business meeting was then adjourned and the floor turned over to Larry Charson N5BYJ, Program Chairman, who did a fine job of demonstrating his own RTTY station, as a substitute for a more varied demonstration by two volunteering non-members who cancelled out at the last minute before the meeting. A number of those present at the meeting accepted Larry's invitation to "lay hands on" the equipment, and it turned out to be a very interesting program.

- Phil Steinbach WB5SUR, Secretary

TRIVIA (from the collection of Alan N5BSW)

Any tool dropped from any point while working on a car will roll underneath the car to its exact center.

You'll always find the lost item in the last place you look.

The other line always moves faster.

Just when you run out of spray, one more bug shows up.

MARCH 12 MEETING PROGRAM

After the business part of the meeting is concluded, we will hear from Dr. David Safadi who will fill us in on the effects of and treatment for electrical shock, whether man-made or from lightning, and other aspects of first aid. What he has to tell us might some day be the difference between making it or not after an accident. It promises to be of great value and I

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MARCH 12 MEETING PROGRAM (Cont.)

hope we have a good turnout for him.

Incidentally, my invitation is still open to receive suggestions from any member as to what he would like to have discussed or covered at a monthly meeting. Such suggestions will be very much appreciated. B-VARC is our Club, so help me arrange programs you want or will enjoy!

- Larry Charson N5BYJ
Program Director

VPQSO

How safe is your station? Many of us go on year after year, accumulating equipment, magazines, parts, test gear, etc. etc., and it seems to always end up on the table in front of, on top of, or around the central area of our shacks. If you're like me, about every six months or so you dive in to clean it up, shovel in hand. Everything is fine and then 6 months later you do it again.

Safety goes beyond grounding and lightning protection. Safety for both you as an operator, your guests in the shack, and your family also means that exacto knives and soldering irons are out of childrens' reach. No coils of coax to get underfoot. A fire extinguisher handy just in case. A pie plate or whatever to catch the oil oozing out of your "Antenna" Proper grounds and lightning protection. No overloaded electrical outlets. A master power switch for emergency cutoff if necessary. And the list goes on and on.

Doublecheck your shack- a safe shack is probably also one which is both easy and a pleasure to operate. Safety is your responsibility - to yourself, your guests, and your family.

73 for now

Dick

WD5CTQ

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

Article IV of the Club's By-Laws specify that the Board of Directors shall consist of the Club officers and three at-large directors. No provision was made for the Club mandatorily to receive the benefit of the outgoing president's expertise and knowledge of the Club's ongoing affairs during the following his term of office. In order to provide this benefit to the Club by mandate and to increase continuity on the Board, it has been suggested that there be added to Section A, Article IV - Board of Directors, a new Paragraph 2 to read as follows:

"2. In addition, the immediate past president of the Club shall be a member of the Board of Directors during the calendar year following his term as President of the Club."

By order of the Board of Directors, this addition to the By-Laws shall be placed before the regular membership meeting on March 12, 1981 for consideration and action.

- Phil Steinbach WB5SUR
Secretary

NOVICE CLASS SATISFACTORILY SUCCESSFUL

Wade Eilers WN5TEN

The Novice class, held during the first six weeks of this year, is over. Alan N5BSW and Sydney KA5GLJ and I feel that the effort was worth it for ham radio.

The class started with 11 candidates and finished with 8 of them passing the 5 WPM code requirement at various times during the period, with 2 being very close to being able to do it at this time, and with only 1 of the original 11 dropping out before the end.

All the students were very interested in learning ham radio, and I hope we've inspired the prospective hams to upgrade to General class and higher some day. I personally enjoy teaching serious people who want to learn the radio art.

The candidates who are waiting to hear from the FCC are: OM Leonard and YF Linda Gilbert, Mary Fuglaar, Howard Landry, William Franz, Farrell Murders, Hank Mroczkowski, and Paul Burger. Let's all encourage and help Everett Westbrook and William Winston in their race to get over the 5 WPM hurdle! All you old-times -- remember your struggle to get over that first barrier?

On behalf of B-VARC, Inc. I want to thank Mrs. Alice Church at City Hall who made the class possible by scheduling us to use the FB facilities in the Missouri City City Hall.

SUPPLYING POWER FOR THOSE INEVITABLE EMERGENCIES

Mike Armatta N5APC

It is probably not news to most of you that Amateur Radio is usually called upon to provide emergency communications during times of natural disasters. The term "natural disaster" is used here to indicate widespread emergencies where normal communication channels (telephone, public service, etc.) are either non-existent or severely overloaded. Aggravating this situation is the fact that normal electrical service is usually also affected. This article will give you some ideas about preparing to operate under these conditions.

By now, most of you are probably saying "I will probably be operating on 2 meters, and I have an HT with spare batteries, so I'm ready to go.: Well, maybe so and maybe not! It would take several battery packs to operate continuously for several days, possibly with high power and with higher than normal transmit duty cycles. It should be apparent that you need a larger power source that can handle several items at once. Among other power needs may be an HF rig, a scanner, a CB rig, lights, etc. It can add up very quickly.

I have outfitted an automobile storage battery to fulfill these requirements. First, I standardized all my low power equipment on one type of plug. I used a 2-conductor Cinch-Jones plug with the large pin wired negative and the small one as positive. The reason for this scheme is that it is possible to connect the small pin into the large socket. By wiring the large socket as negative, a missed connection would result in only an inoperative piece of equipment; whereas, wiring in the other direction could have disastrous results. I've been using these for years and have found it economically attractive to continue their use.

Much has been said and written about using automobile storage batteries in this way. There are basically two types to choose from -- the deep discharge often associated with marine use, and the so-called "Maintenance Free" type. The deep discharge type would at first appear to be the best choice. On further study, I found that the "maintenance free" types contain an additive of antimony which, among other things, prevents self-discharge of the cells when not in use and the battery thereby holds a charge for a longer time. This is an important consideration in this type of service.

The next problem that you will run into is the distribution of available power. To solve this problem, I bought a battery case normally used for

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SUPPLYING POWER FOR THOSE INEVITABLE EMERGENCIES (Cont.)

marine batteries and mounted an aluminum box on top. On one side of the box are mounted 3 of the Cinch-Jones plugs. Adjacent to and connected to each connector is a 5-amp circuit breaker. On the opposite side is mounted the second most popular connector for 12-volt use -- the cigarette lighter plug, and it is also breakered, but at 15 amps. Also on this side of the box is the most popular connector, a pair of terminals. These were manufactured from some 1/4" bolts and wingnuts and insulated with a piece of scrap plexiglass. This branch has a toggle switch to disconnect power, when not in use, and an internal 40-amp circuit breaker.

This box has been in operation for about a year and even though it has not seen any real emergencies, it has been quite handy for occasional portable operations.

This article was written to try to stir up interest in preparation for emergencies. Should you decide to implement such a system, it is a good idea to keep as much equipment as is practicable with you in your vehicle. Recent lessons learned during actual operations revealed that sometimes you end up operating from wherever you happen to be when the situation develops. You can't always run home for your rig and other equipment!

Here's hoping that when the next disaster happens and your services are asked for, you'll be ready to go to work without having your own "natural disaster" trying to assemble the equipment necessary to do the job!

73, Mike N5APC

UPGRADED RECENTLY?

We're proud to chronicle the following license upgrades that have been have been reported to us the last few months. We'll make this a continuing feature in the BULLETIN, probably in each successive issue, but for sure periodically during the year. Be sure to let us know when we can add add your accomplishment to the list.

And for sure, we want to know when anyone gets the initial ticket -- you'll note on the roster there are 6 "pending" calls!

If you've upgraded during the last three months and are not on the list on the next page, let us know and we'll add you to the list!!

(Continued on page7)

UPGRADED RECENTLY? (Cont.)

In November 1980 -- Sam Wilson N5CPA to General
Joanne Morpew K5HOY to Advanced
In December 1980 -- Alan N5BSW to Advanced
Tom Shapiro KA5GJO to Advanced
Ken Andrews KC5GR to Advanced
Harold Parker KA5HZP to Advanced
In January 1981 -- Ray Morpew K5EST to Advanced

ARRL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't forget that the Club Treasury gets \$1.50 if you send your ARRL membership renewal through the Club. And nobody has to work at it except the Club Treasurer -- and he loves the job!

The same applies if you are not now a member and decide to join ARRL. The Club Treasurer has a supply of application blanks, one of which he would be pleased to fill out for you through a phone call.

Just call Treasurer Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN for details; you can get his phone number from the roster.

PUBLIC SERVICE

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Some Club members have been participating in the public service activity of providing communications for civic events, such as the Houston-Tenneco Marathon, the Clear Lake Women's Marathon, and the Mission Bend 10K Run. In addition, B-VARC is coming to the front in local ham groups, as is attested by a growing list of annual events at which the Club is being sought out for help. Two of these in 1980 were the Mission Bend 10K Run and Houston Ham-Vention 80. It's gratifying to receive letters of thanks from organizations we help and the latest one is reproduced on following page 8.

Our latest request for help is on the Bellaire High School 5-Mile Run, a new annual event, and the first is on March 22, 1981. Dick Hagerman WB5SRN

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HOUSTON HAM CONVENTIONS, INC.

P. O. Box 79252
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

January 19, 1981

Mr. Dale Williams WD5AJC
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
2822 Greenfields Dr.
Sugarland, TX 77479

Subject: Houston Com-Vention 80

Dear Dale:

We would like to thank you and the following personnel for the excellent job that you did helping to direct traffic and parking during Com-Vention 80:

Dick - WB5SRN

Henry - N5HF

Ron - KA5GYG

Tom - KA5GJL

Stu - WB5IGG

Rodney - K5YKC

Glenn - KA5BIU

Believe it or not, I received several compliments on how smoothly various parking problems/delays were handled and I'm sure your group were responsible for the nice reports.

Many thanks for a job well done and for your part in making Com-Vention 80 a gratifying success.

Very truly yours,


Russell Seto W5TMH

Facilities Chairman

EDITORIAL -- PUBLIC SERVICE (Cont. from page 7)

is making the arrangements for the communications team and he tells us he's going to need a bunch of us to handle the job we've been asked to do because of the layout of the runcourse.

Let's respond to his call and do this job 100% with B-VARC hams!!

B-VARC PUBLIC SERVICE NET CONTROL OPERATORS

Kudos to the members who are doing such a fine job as Net Control Ops on the Monday night nets of the Club. The stable now consists of:

WD5CTQ Dick Bigelow	WA5OEN Steve Gottlieb
KA5F Keith Huge	WB5SUR Phil Steinbach
WD5HEH Lloyd Phelps	W5UBD Bob Spradling
N5HF Henry Freedenberg	

If you'd like to join this elite group and some experience and skill that you might find right handy some time in an emergency, make application either to Bob W5UBD or to Dick WD5CTQ.

Advertisement

MADISON ELECTRONIC SUPPLY

1508 McKinney Houston TX 77010 Fone 658-0268

H O T S P E C I A L S

KENWOOD	TS-180S - \$899.	TS-520SE - \$549.	R-1000 - \$449.
	TR-9000 - \$449.		
ICOM	IC-251A - \$599.	IC-255A - \$339.	with TTM
SWAN	102BXA \$999.		

Kenwood service manuals and all line accessories available.

MORE TRIVIA

No one's life, liberty, or property is safe when the legislature convenes.
Warranties often expire upon payment of invoices.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I'm sure a number of our members have received the latest issue of the Houston Amateur Radio Club (HARC) Newsletter. If you haven't, you should get one. That HARC group, as well as the B-VARC group, are filling a need for a different form of communication -- that of the printed word.

All of this clears the way for what I wanted to say. Stu Lamkin has been busy, producing what is Houston's finest amateur radio club publication. It's not the only such publication now but it is by far the best.

By the way, that sort of stature does not come easily. He works hard at it. If you can help him in any way -- volunteer -- and respond when he hollers for help!

Stu -- job wel done!

73, Richard N5KV

* * * * *

ED Note -- Printed by order of the President! But thanks, Richard, not only from me but on behalf of (1) my gal, Beth, without whose loving help and tolerant forbearance I couldn't possibly handle this job, and of (2) the Associate Editors, without whose contributions this rag would be pretty monotonous, and of (3) the Production Editors, without whose untiring help we wouldn't be able to produce the BULLETIN in its present format and content.

INTERESTING PAPER SHELF

With this issue, we institute a new feature -- the Interesting Paper Shelf. The BULLETIN has come into possession of a number of articles, lists, etc., each of which is, in our opinion, interesting and/or informative. However, it also is our opinion that each of these would be interesting or worthwhile to only a limited number of Club members because we have a pretty wide variety of interests among us.

So.....to save space in the BULLETIN, time in preparing it for distribution, and members' time in scanning items to determine to take the time to read all or part of them, we'll list them with a brief description of each, and will send copies to any member requesting same along with a 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " X 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " SASE. If you request 5 pages or less, your SASE will need only 15¢ postage affixed; more than 5 pages will require 28¢.

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INTERESTING PAPER SHELF (Cont.)

Optimum Mounting of Trap Vertical Antennas - 2 pages

It was with a great deal of regret that we received a note from Frank Sullivan WB5ZMZ, one of our old-time members, saying that his work location, Houston traffic, and the price of gasoline have forced him to move to the other side of town. He also expressed a great deal of regret that he had to make this decision, and said that he will miss very much his association with Club members and participation in Club activities.

As a parting gift, he sent us a number of copies of graphs showing comparative performances on the 5 HF bands of a trap vertical antenna in 3 different mountings -- roof, pole, and ground, with and without radials.

With the sheet of graphs is a discussion of test results and conclusions drawn therefrom.

Another Way To Increase Your Code Speed - 1 page

Most of us give lip service to a desire to increase our code speed. For some reason, most of us don't do anything about it!

This is a description of a very novel way/^{to} build code speed fast and to develop the ability to "read" CW transmissions as if they were in plain language.

According to the author of this article, this method requires 2 people working together, thereby increasing the skills of both.

Is Your Ground Wire Causing RFI? - 2 pages

If your ground wire is over 8 feet long, it might be causing RFI in your or your neighbors' TV set or other home entertainment equipment.

This one relates one ham's experience with TVI and how he cured it with a coax cable ground lead.

FCC Dockets and Rule Making Petitions

ARRL Headquarters has sent us a list of pending, as of January 31, 1981, matters before the FCC entitled PENDING DOCKETS AND PETITIONS FOR RULEMAKING IN THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE. It's 6 pages long, printed back to back on 3.

STILL MORE TRIVIA!

The race is not always to the swift or the battle to the strong, but that's the way to bet.

Where you stand on an issue depends on where you sit.

Friends come and go but enemies accumulate.

NEW MEMBERS

Y'all welcome the following new members who've joined us since the January meeting. They, together with others who've joined us this year, will have a red and blue border on their name badges. Introduce yourself and make 'em glad to be with us!



Kc5AC Fred Jones	WD5EFC Herb Crosby	WA5RNL Roger Bryant
WA5ACF Tom Casey	WD5HQU Jerry Albright	Pending: Paul Burger
N5AUV George Kremkau	KA5JVR David Graessle	William Franz
KA5BNC Cathy Schneider	WD4OPK Larry Garfield	Lonnie Moak
N5BSZ John Baker	WD4OPN Jim Raines	Hank Mroczkowski

A special welcome back to Jerry WD5HQU and Tom WA5ACF, two of the founding fathers of the Club, with Jerry being our first president. It's great to have you two back!

***** 1981 ROSTER *****

The new 1981 Roster will be at the March 12 meeting for distribution to Club members. It will be in a different format and arrangement that is both attractive and readily usable, and it has more information than in past rosters.

Come on to the meeting and get your copy! If you can't make the meeting a copy will be mailed to you. The more copies we can pass out at the meeting, the more money the Club will save in mailing expense!

AREA 2-METER REPEATERS

Here's a list of 2-meter repeater frequency assignments, originally furnished by Dick WB5SRN, and updated from information in the last two quarterly issues of Texas VHF-FM Society News.

Please let us have any changes or corrections that you may note, and we'll keep this list updated in upcoming issues of the BULLETIN, also utilizing frequency changes made by the Area Frequency Coordinator as reported in the VHF-FM Society News.

AREA 2-METER REPEATERS (Cont.)

SUB BAND MHz

144.73 - 145.33 Rosenberg
144.81 - 145.41 U. of H.

144.75 - 144.35 Houston NW
144.85 - 144.45 Houston SW

146 MHz

*715-115 Galveston
01 - 61 Houston NE
04 - 64 Johnson Spc. Cntr.
10 - 70 1 Shell (closed patch)
13 - 73 Tomball/Bay City
16 - 76 Sugar Land/Seguin/La Grange
17 - 79 Baytown
22 - 82 Texas Med. Center
25 - 85 Greenway Plaza/Huntsville
28 - 88 De Walt
31 - 91 Cleveland
34 - 94 Houston SW
37 - 97 Houston Center

147 MHz

60 - 00 De Walt
63 - 03 Conroe
66 - 06 Gulfgate
69 - 09 Houston N (patch)
72 - 12 Pasadena
75 - 15 Texas City/Columbus
78 - 18 New Waverly
81 - 21 Alvin
84 - 24 Galena Park
87 - 27 (in-out) LaPorte/Deer Park
90 - 30 Houston NW (closed)
93 - 33 Exon Bldg.
96 - 36 Galleria
99 - 39 Clute
*255-855 Brenham

*Reverse split-split

FCC PROPOSED REVISION OF AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE RULES, PART 97

PR Docket 80-279

ARRL has just sent us the following letter to affiliated clubs:

"PR Docket 80-279, a proposed revision of the Amateur Radio Service rules in "Plain Language" is a docket of concern to us all. Because of its importance, we are sending a copy free of charge to each ARRL affiliated club. An article will be appearing in QST for February 1981.

"The deadline for comments to the FCC is June 19, 1981, reply comments August 19, 1981.

"The ARRL will be filing comments, to be sure. But the FCC is also interested in receiving comments from involved amateurs and from groups of amateurs, such as your club. Please send your comments, along with five copies, to the Secretary, Federal Communication Commission, Washington DC 20554.

"Thank you very much for your interest, concern, and time."

ED NOTE - Not only is this a revision of existing rules but it also contains some new rules where none exists in Part 97 now. For example, if AR Rule 55 is adopted, hams will not be able to make third party phone patches. We understand there are a number of such "sleepers" in this proposal.

The complete proposal is 50 pages from the Federal Register of December 19, 1980. We'll send it to any Club member who would like to study it -- on a first come, first served basis.

B - S - S MART

The BULLETIN will be glad to run in this department a listing of want to BUY, want to SELL, or want to SWAP items. We'll run it in the first issue after we receive it.

FOR SALE -- Heath HW-101 with CW filter, speaker, and power supply. Very good condition.

Heath HW-8, a QRP CW transceiver. Mint condition.

John Baker N5BSZ
fone 493-3308

FOR SALE -- Standard C-146 HT with 5 channels with 94/94, 34/94, 28/88, 16/76, and 69/09. Also with external mic, drop-in charger with SO-239 connector for external antenna, ni-cad battery pack, and mobile adapter with antenna and power connectors.

Icom IC-22A, a 22-channel mobil 2-meter transceiver with 16 sets of crystals for local FM repeaters; also Vista III-A power supply and 10W in/25W out amplifier. Rig just back from factory for check out.

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
fone 777-3345

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If you can laugh as you review

The various foolish things you do,

You will be certain while you live

Another's folly to forgive.

- Edgar A. Guest