



# the B-VARC BULLETIN

of  
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Ft. Bend and Harris Counties, Texas

Vol. 5, No. 3

March 1982

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

Production -- Ron Bolyard KA5GYG                      Dick Hagerman WB5SRN  
                    Richard Shankle N5KV

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## CALENDAR

Next B-VARC -- Regular membership meeting - Mar. 11, 1982  
                    -- Regular Board of Directors meeting - Mar. 18, 1982  
                    -- Hidden transmitter hunt - To be announced

Nets -- B-VARC 2 M. Public Service - Mondays, 9 PM, 147.60/00 MHz  
            -- B-VARC 10 M. Ragchew - Wednesdays, 8 PM, 28.700 MHz  
            -- Ft. Bend County RACES - Tuesdays, 9 PM, 146.16/76 MHz  
            -- West Houston RACES - Sundays, 146.07/67 MHz

Super Saturday Sidewalk Sale -- Second Saturday each month, 7800 Bissonnet

Conventions -- ARRL West Gulf Division - Oct. 1-3, 1982 in Houston  
                    -- 1983 ARRL National - Oct. 6-8, 1983 in Houston

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## OUR PRESIDENT SAYS .....

As you saw at the February meeting, we are off to a tremendous Club year! The Order of the Key has a new member. The Awards Committee has come up with some great stuff to buy and raise funds and some certificates are forthcoming. The display at the mall will give us a lot of public notice. The Hospitality Committee is getting off to a good start. News of a coming Club repeater (finally!) is almost best of all, along with our new 10 meter ragchew net. Richard N5KV, Repeater Committee Chairman, needs ideas, help, and equipment. If you'd like to help, please get in touch with him. People are interested, excited, enthusiastic! Can you feel it?

-- Continued on page 2

Our President Says.....(Cont.)

Personally, I feel very honored to be a part of it all. The response so far has been great. Ron KA5GYG, Programs/Activities Chairman, tells me that upcoming activities and programs are going to be the best yet. There's a picnic coming up in the summer, field day, contests, public works, and on, and on, and on.

Do your best to bring in new membership, guests, and friends. Bring your XYL or OM. But even if you come alone -- we'll be glad to see you!

And in addition: TO ALL Members ---

The next time you're playing shutterbug with your camera, take two special pictures. One, of you in your shack, and the other, of your antenna system. The format doesn't matter -- Polaroid, 35mm, 110, or whatever. When you have 'em developed, write your name and call on the back of each, and bring them to any Club meeting between now and April, or mail them to me at:

18115 Wild Willow Lane, Katy TX 77449,

where they'll be put in an album for display at any public event we hold. And they'll make for a good remembrance for the Club.

73 for now,

Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ

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TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Period Jan. 15, 1982 - Feb. 11, 1982

|                                  |              |                  |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Beginning balance, Jan. 15, 1982 |              | \$ 331.23        |
| Receipts:                        |              |                  |
| Ham Com 81                       | \$ 125.00    |                  |
| Club dues                        | 55.00        |                  |
| ARRL renewal dues                | <u>20.00</u> | 200.00           |
| Disbursements:                   |              |                  |
| Supplies and postage             | 40.25        |                  |
| Ham Com 82 donation              | 100.00       |                  |
| ARRL renewal dues                | <u>18.00</u> | <u>158.25</u>    |
| Balance on hand, Feb. 11, 1982   |              | <u>\$ 372.98</u> |

Harold Parker, KC5HZ, Treasurer

Please note the \$2.00 difference between the two "ARRL renewal dues" items in the above. That's what the Club gets when you renew your ARRL membership or join the League through the Club. Call Harold for details. His phone number is 664-9044. -- ED.

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MARCH REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Ron Bolyard KA5GYG, Program Chairman, tells us that our featured speaker will be our own J. Leeds W5VXD, one of the Club's at-large directors, and that J. tells him his subject will be "A Shocking Experience", but that J. won't give him even a hint as to the subject matter! But having heard from J. before, we can expect an interesting, lively, and entertaining discussion of the subject. And, there'll be a door prize. Come and get it!

And for anyone who'd like to get in a little visiting before the call to order at 7:30 PM, the Hospitality Committee will have some coffee and goodies ready beginning at 7:00 PM.

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FROM THE AWARDS CORNER

Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH, Chairman  
Awards Committee

Last month I asked a question which resulted in my being appointed to a committee! I "volunteered" to look into the possibility of having Club jackets, caps, etc. A local distributor of specialty items was located who was extremely helpful in showing me several such items. He loaded me down with a number of them and some catalogs, which I presented to Club members at the February meeting. They showed a great deal of interest in windbreakers and caps, and here are prices of such on an each basis:

|                     |         |              |          |
|---------------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| Lined windbreaker   | \$20.00 | Denim jacket | \$ 13.00 |
| Unlined windbreaker | 10.00   | Cap          | 4.50     |

These prices are not firm, as quantity pricing will apply, along with a quantity discount. For further information, please give me a call at home on 438-2088, which is attended by an answering machine. Net prices and exactly what will be on the garments will be published in the next BULLETIN.

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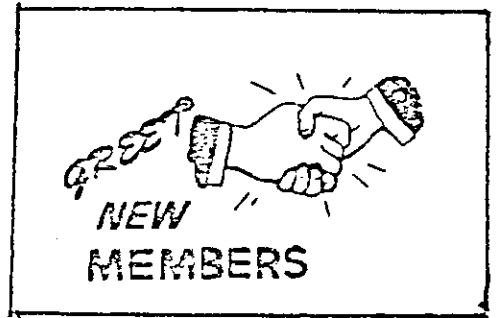
NES SCHEDULES FOR MARCH - APRIL

|                  |               |             |             |             |             |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2 meters</u>  | -- 3/1 WA5OEN | 3/8 WD5DRB  | 3/15 N5DWP  | 3/22 KC5HZ  | 3/29 WA5OEN |
|                  | 4/5 WD5DRB    | 4/12 N5DWP  | 4/19 KC5HZ  | 4/26 WA5OEN |             |
| <u>10 meters</u> | -- 3/3 WA5OEN | 3/10 KA5GYG | 3/17 N5CIQ  | 3/24 WA5ACF | 3/31 WA5OEN |
|                  | 4/7 KA5GYG    | 4/14 N5CIQ  | 4/21 WA5ACF | 4/28 WA5OEN |             |

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Y'all welcome the following new members of B-VARC. You can recognize them by the red and blue borders on their name badges. Introduce yourself and make 'em glad they joined us!

Don Lamont WD5AAH      Paul Jaeger KD5BX  
Eva Huge KA5CYZ      Mark McGrath (Call pending)



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THE TELEGRAPH - Part 3 of 3

Joe Rice W4RHZ

WIRELESS

Hundreds of telegraph companies sprang up across the country and in large cities like Chicago over a million messages were sent daily. A "message a minute" by the top "bonus" operators of the day was claimed.

Most companies merged with large concerns like Western Union and Postal Telegraph. Railroads recognized the advantages of the telegraph to speed up communications and to make railroading easier for everyone.

Railroads carried their time into areas and thus each city could keep correct time. Telegraph companies would send a long dash at noon to set watches across the country. Later on, when radio or wireless, was born, the U. S. Navy established a spark transmitter at Arlington, Virginia, using the call letters NAA. This was in 1923 and it was the beginning of the Bureau of Standards. Radio stations used this to set their clocks.

Many people were experimenting with a device which did not need wires to send messages; hence the name WIRELESS! Radio would go through space. Men could not explain how these waves went through air. They used the old Greek word "Aether", later shortened to "Ether", which translates into "a vacuous substance", or invisible medium.

Meanwhile, men found out they could "read" the relays of Morse by ear without resorting to looking at the paper. The first man to do this was James Francis Leonard of Frankfort, Kentucky. He is buried there alongside the grave of Daniel Boone.

Alfred Vail gets the credit for making the first manual telegraph key. A whole new era of manual telegraphy was born. In 1903 another person named Martin invented the semi-automatic key, to be named later "THE BUG".

Morse code became known as American Morse and many other countries of the world developed their own codes to fit their particular alphabets. There are codes for Russia, Germany, Arabia, Japan, and many other countries today.

Wireless was born that day in December of 1901 when Guglielmo Marconi received the first signal across the Atlantic of the letter "S".

Marconi again shook the universe with the stentor bellowings of his Rotary Spark Gap station located in South Wellfleet, Massachusetts on January 18, 1903. He successfully completed a two-way contact between the United States and England. President Theodore Roosevelt and King Edward VII

Wireless Cont.)

of England exchanged messages. In 1912 the International Ship Act was passed making it mandatory that all ships have wireless apparatus installed aboard and carry duly licensed operators. Although there had been a conference in 1853 to establish a universal code, it was not until 1912 that a new code we now know as the International Morse Code was officially adopted. The Land-Line Morse, as the old code was called, ran side by side with the new code for many years thereafter. The U. S. and Canada refused to use the new code on land line wires.

Today the only code in use on radio in the U. S. is the international code.

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MORSE CODE DOES IT AGAIN

Most non-hams, when contemplating or entering a novice class, ask "Why do I have to learn Morse code? I won't ever use it. I just want to talk." Here's an actual case where knowledge of the code by two people might well have saved the life of one of them.

Stranded in a snowdrift late one night at the top of a Colorado mountain pass, a motorist started to walk down the highway to the closest help but the intense cold quickly drove him back to his car.

He had no radio but finally heard a high-flying airplane overhead. Frantically he flashed SOS with his car headlights until the plane went out of hearing range. He was overjoyed, however when, not long after, two vehicles from a nearby sheriff's station arrived and helped him escape from his predicament.

Fortunately, a passenger on the "right" side of the airplane happened to be looking down out the window, saw the dididit dahdahdah dididit flashes, recognized them, and notified the plane's captain, who soon had help on the way to the man who was stuck in a snowdrift, 12,000 feet high and 20 degrees below zero cold.

You never know when knowledge of Morse code might come in handy!!

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(Advertisement)

MADISON ELECTRONICS SUPPLY

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Houston TX 77010

Fone 658-0268

H O T   S P E C I A L S

KENWOOD TS-530 - Call \*

R-1000 - \$449.

TR-7730 - \$289.

ICOM IC-2AT - \$249.

IC-25A - \$309.

SWAN 103BX - \$1,095.

\* Call for quote.

Kenwood service manuals and all line accessories available.

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AMATEUR'S CODE

- THE AMATEUR IS BALANCED -- Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school, or his community.
- THE AMATEUR IS PATRIOTIC -- His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.
- THE AMATEUR IS FRIENDLY -- Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are marks of the amateur spirit
- THE AMATEUR IS CONSIDERATE -- He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- THE AMATEUR IS LOYAL -- He offers his loyalty, encouragement, and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club, and to the American Radio Relay League, through which amateur radio is represented.
- THE AMATEUR IS PROGRESSIVE -- He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

--Paul M. Segal

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From an editorial in a Bluebonnet Amateur Radio Federation newsletter:

".....I try to keep amateur radio in its place as a hobby following the first predicate adjective in the :Amateur's Code": BALANCED. My wife does not always think I manage to put my radios in their place--and if you were members of my congregation, there would be times that you would probably agree with her, but all things considered, I think I do fairly well. Maybe that is just my excuse for the tower that is only half finished after two years, the keyer that gathers dust, and the log sheets that turn yellow before they get filled.

"Most of us struggle to walk the tight rope of balance in amateur radio, never allowing our hobby to interfere with any of our duties we owe to our home, our school, or our community, and think we do a fair job of it. Others may see our performance as walking the tight rope to the Big Top where we need pay little heed to balance. We must at times see our hobby with the eyes of those with whom we live and work, lest we find ourselves wallowing in the nets below the tight rope--or dashed to the ground, never to perform again.

"This new year is a good time to review all of the Amateur's Code and strive to live by it. Most of the problems that we encounter or create with our hobby could be eliminated thereby.

Gil Franke WB5RFQ"

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ED Note -- Roger Shaper W6CKC, Harris County ARRL EC and Texas District 21 RACES Radio Officer, attended the state-wide Emergency Preparedness (formerly Civil Defense) conference in Austin on Feb. 17-18 and brought back a series of 4 papers titled Tornado Safety Tips. This is a timely subject for this area. Two of the papers are reproduced below and the other two will appear in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

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### Tornado Safety Tips

#### TORNADOES: ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

Tornadoes kill approximately 100 of us each year and cause millions of dollars of property damage.

These killer storms can appear in any state, in any season, and at any time of the day or night.

While a tornado's path of destruction cannot be changed by man, there are some things that can be done to save lives. Such actions are outlined in these Tornado Safety Tips, and will be augmented by radio and TV stations, National Weather Service bulletins, newspapers, and police on a timely basis.

No state is immune, but tornado experts tell us that few areas of the country are more favorable to the formation of tornadoes than the continental plains and the Gulf Coast states.

The tornado season can begin as early as February, when the center of maximum frequency lies over the Central Gulf States. During March and April this center moves northwestward, reaching the southern plains in May. From there it moves north to the Great Lakes and upper Midwest areas during the summer. Generally, May is the peak month for tornadoes.

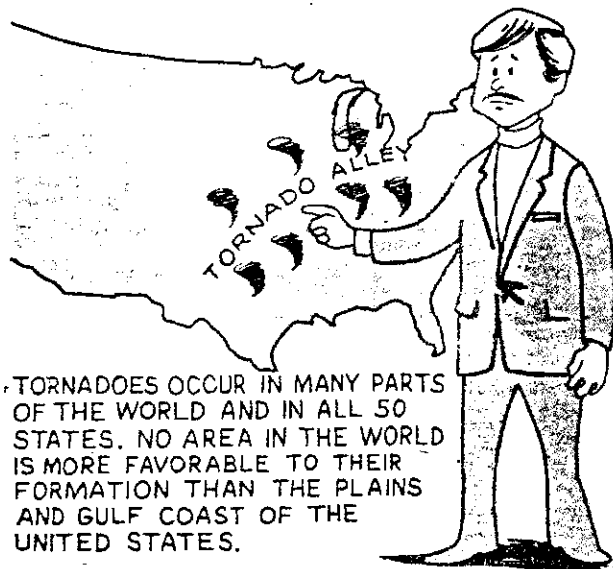
Movement of the center is due to the increasing penetration of warm, moist air from the Gulf into the cool, dry air of the north.

A tornado usually develops from a severe thunderstorm, with winds turning usually counter-clockwise at speeds varying from under 100 miles per hour to nearly 300 miles per hour. Their destructive force works through the combined action of strong rotary winds and flying debris.

Tornadoes are classified as weak, strong, and violent. Weak tornadoes comprise 62% of all tornadoes but cause only 2% of the fatalities. Strong tornadoes comprise 36% and cause 30% of the fatalities. Violent tornadoes are only 2% of the total, yet they cause 68% of the fatalities.

There is help, however, to warn about possible tornadoes moving through a community. That help comes from the National Weather Service, which is able to track all the intense systems with sophisticated radar. Because of this they are usually able to give adequate advance warning for strong and violent tornadoes, as well as for severe thunderstorms.

# DID YOU KNOW ?



Tornadoes: Anytime, Anywhere (Cont.)

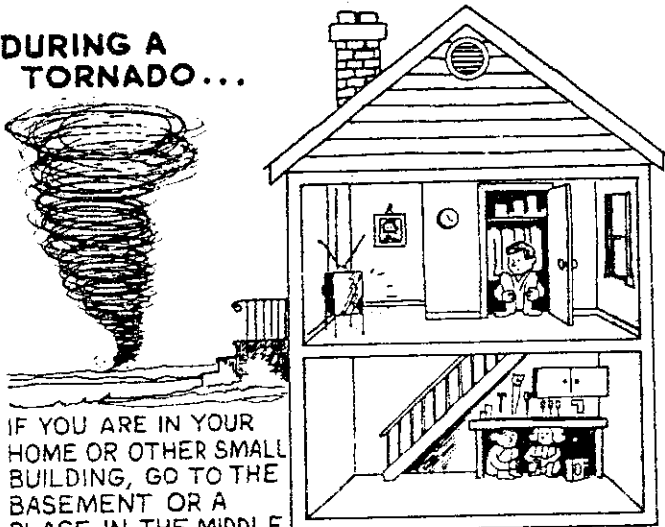
In 1980, 850 tornadoes were reported--an increase over the yearly norm of 722. However, the number of fatalities--28--was well below the normal average of 111. That decrease in fatalities can be attributed primarily to the issuance of timely watches and warnings.

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# DID YOU KNOW ?

## TORNADO WATCHES AND WARNINGS

**DURING A  
TORNADO...**



IF YOU ARE IN YOUR HOME OR OTHER SMALL BUILDING, GO TO THE BASEMENT OR A PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HOUSE, LIKE A CLOSET, BATHROOM OR INTERIOR HALL, GO TO THE LOWEST FLOOR. GET UNDER SOMETHING STURDY.

Even long-time residents of tornado-prone areas sometimes fail to recognize the distinction between a tornado WATCH and a tornado WARNING.

When the National Weather Service issues a tornado WATCH, atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes. Residents in the watch areas should listen to broadcast advisories and be ready to take cover.

If a tornado WARNING is issued, a tornado has been sighted in the area or is strongly indicated by radar. Warnings are issued for individual counties and are accompanied by a description of the speed and direction of the tornado.

Both watches and warnings are transmitted by local radio and TV stations, which receive information from the local office of the National Weather Service. Many communities also have local warning systems, such as sirens.

An important means of disseminating tornado watches and warnings is through the National Weather Radio, which broadcasts information on the watches and warnings directly from the National Weather Service office.

While there are tornado watches and warnings, no one can prevent or stop a tornado. There are, however, precautions which can be taken to safeguard lives and property.

Tornadoes may come and go quickly, so there may not be time for a warning to be issued. During a tornado watch, be alert for violent wind, hail, heavy rain, frequent lightning, funnel-shaped clouds, and a roaring noise. When in doubt, take cover. Tornadoes often are obscured by rain or dust and can occur at night.

Some basic rules apply no matter where you are when a tornado strikes. The best shelter is a basement or lowest level of a building, away from windows and doors. When possible, get beneath a sturdy piece of furniture. Make yourself as small a target as possible. Curl up on the floor, and protect your head and chest; tornado-related deaths are often due to head and chest injuries.



Tornado Watches and Warnings (Cont.)

If you are in a public building, look for a predesignated shelter. Stay inside the building, for you are generally safer inside a structure than in the open. However, do not stay under long-span, unsupported roofs, like those found in malls and gymnasiums. Never run for your car; which is one of the least safe places to be.

ED Note - The other two parts of this series, TAKING SHELTER SAVES LIVES, and CARS ARE UNSAFE IN TCNRADOES will appear in the April BULLETIN.

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## Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

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Washington, D. C.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR PUBLICATION: April-May 1982

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to award nine scholarships for the academic year 1982-1983. The Foundation, composed of fifty local area amateur radio clubs, fully funds two of these scholarships from the proceeds of the Gaithersburg (MD) Hamfest. It administers, without cost to the donors, two scholarships for the Quarter Century Wireless Association and one each for the Richard G. Chichester Memorial, the Radio Club of America, the Young Ladies' Radio League, the Edmund B. Redington Memorial and the Amateur Radio News Service. The last named award is new this year.

Radio Amateurs holding at least an FCC General Class license or equivalent may compete for one or more of these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment in an accredited university, college or technical school. The scholarship awards range from \$300 to \$900, with preference given in some of them to residents of specific geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs.

Additional information and an application form can be requested by a letter or QSL/postcard, postmarked prior to May 31, 1982 from:

Hugh A. Turnbull, W3ABC  
6903 Rhode Island Avenue  
College Park, Maryland 20740

The FOUNDATION is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE WORKS

Ron Bolyard KA5GYG

- March -- Regular membership meeting, March 11 -- See page 3.
- CPR class, March 13, 9 AM to 3 PM, at Missouri City Fire House with 1 hour for dutch treat lunch -- Instructor: Mike Armatta N5APC. If interested and not already enrolled, call Ron at 342-1365.
- April -- Regular membership meeting April 8 at 7:30 PM-- Speaker: Mike Blair N5MB -- Subject: "How Much Should I Worry About SWR?" There's a difference of opinion and some misinformation on this matter among hams, and it'll be good and informative to hear Mike's discussion on the subject.
- March of Dimes WALK AMERICA walk-a-thon, April 25, 8 AM - 5 PM between Missouri City, Stafford, and Sugar Land -- Supervision by Stafford Police Department, communications by B-VARC with Ed Truitt N5DPE as coordinator.
- This kind of activity is fun for us hams and provides tremendous PR for the amateur radio and the Club. Call Ed at 499-8746 for assignment.
- Blue Bonnet Trail Mini Convention, sponsored by Brenham ARC. No specific date set yet and continuation of planning will depend upon show of interest in participation by hams in 50 - 75 mile radius of Brenham. For more information, call Ron at 342-1365.
- May -- Send-a-radiogram-to-Mom display and demonstration in Sharpstown Center on May 1, 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. -- RTTY, HF, and VHF operations -- Houston Area Traffic Net will participate. This will be a first for B-VARC and, we believe, for any area shopping center.
- Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN is chairman of committee. Call him on 437-3586 to get in on it. You'll be glad you did!!
- Regular membership meeting, May 13 -- Speakers: Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ and Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN will talk about "SWL Activities". There's a lot more to it than you think!
- June -- Coronado 15 District Championship Regatta, June 5-6, sponsored by Lake Houston Sailing Club. We did such a good job on this last year, they want us back! Call Dick Hagerman WB5SRN at 729-2516 for assignment.
- Field Day -- Third weekend in June. Call Henry Freedenberg N5HF for information and participation.
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NOVICE CLASS

Wade Eilers WN5TEN, Novice Class Instructor, reports that a new member, Mark McGrath, joined the class and promptly passed the 5 WPM code test, along with two others, Martin Burniston and Greg Grimes. At this writing, it's been three weeks since their Forms 610 went in, and the three upcoming hams are still waiting for their first exams. The other class members are right at the point of being able to copy 5 WPM.

Two of the class members, Jerry Curtis and Mark McGrath, have joined B-VARC and we're mighty glad to have them in the Club.

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CLUB LIBRARY

It's about time for the Club to have a reference library. Wade Eilers WN5TEN has started the ball rolling by putting out a call for any ham-related reference books, manuals, code tapes, either instructional or practice, study guides, etc., that have served their purposes with you. Such material would be used in license classes, by individuals in home study, project research, etc.

If you have any such that need a new home, bring them to a Club meeting, or get the items into Wade's hands in some way.

In addition, inquiry has been made to ARRL as to what might be available to an affiliated club, to become a part of that club's library. Such information will be forthcoming in the BULLETIN.

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1982 ROSTER

As soon as all necessary information is received, a 1982 Roster, similar to the one for last year, will be printed and sent to all members.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

When arguing with a stupid person,  
be sure he isn't doing the same thing.

--Anon.

B-VARC BULLETIN  
7401 Heilig  
Houston TX 77074

FIRST CLASS MAIL

