



the
B-VARC
BULLETIN

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

Vol. 6, No. 2

February 1983

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

Production -- Vic La Rocca K5KNH Cathy Schneider KA5BNC

Publication Deadline:

The 3rd Thursday
of each month.

CALENDAR

Next V-VARC -- Regular membership meeting - Feb. 10, 1983
-- Board of Directors meeting - Feb, 17, 1983

Nets -- B-VARC 2M - Public service - Mondays, 9PM, 144.85/145.45 MHz
- Ft. Bend County ARES - Wednesdays, 9PM, 144.85/145.45 MHz

-- B-VARC 10M - Ragchewer - 8:30PM, 28.700 MHz

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

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

-- Hella Hams Fone Patches for Sick Kids - Wednesdays, 7:30PM, 3.955 MHz

Conventions -- ARRL National - Oct. 6-8, 1983 in Houston

PAY 1983 DUES

SEE PAGE 7

OUR PRESIDENT SAYS --- Members and friends of B-VARC, this message is the first of twelve to appear in these pages during the year. My intent is to use this space to keep members informed of goals, problems, plans, activities, etc.

We are well on our way to a successful year for the Club. Our first annual banquet was well-attended -- we even had to be moved to a larger room! We have chairmen for all but two committees. The Board of Directors has recommended that the Club pursue the ARRL Special Service Club designation. To be successful will require lots of support from the membership and will be an accomplishment we all can be proud of. This year Club members already have supported the Houston Marathon, and we will support other upcoming civic events, the Bellaire and Houston Fun Runs, the Ft. Bend County March of Dimes Walkathon, the Houston Festival, Lake Houston Regatta, etc.

Committee chairmen will be encouraged to enlist the help of all members to attain our goals.

Finally, I would like to squash a myth. Meetings of the Board of Directors are not closed to the general membership. I want to encourage all members who are interested in the destiny of B-VARC to attend the February Board meeting at my home on the Thursday (Feb. 17) following the regular membership meeting on Feb. 10. It will start at 7PM, and all officers, other directors, and heads of committees will be there to discuss specific goals, plans, problems, and solutions, if you care to be there.

As a group, we have tremendous resources, so let's use them in 1983!

73, Steve WA5OEN

JANUARY BANQUET

If you were not one of the 45+ who were at our first annual banquet on January 13, held this year at the Swinging Door Restaurant on FM359, you really missed a treat. The food was great, the fellowship even greater! Many of us were delighted to meet others' YFs (wives), and it seemed to be everyone's opinion that a banquet for our January meeting each year is a great idea and that they already were looking forward to the next one!

The only speeches came from immediate Past President Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ and 1983 President Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN.

Dick expressed his deep regret at his enforced curtailed activity during part of his term, and gave his sincere thanks to those who made it possible

--Continued on page 3

VP QSO --- On page 5 is a list of committees and respective chairmen. It depicts a very broad cross-section of people who have volunteered their services to B-VARC for 1983.

These people will be putting together various activities, functions, programs, training sessions, and special events throughout this year. They will be needing a lot of assistance from the membership to make these activities a success.

Please feel/^{free}to contact any of the chairmen or any of the officers of YOUR Club if you feel you can offer any suggestions or ideas that will improve OUR Club in the future. This is the year for the ARRL National Convention in Houston and WE hope to be an integral part in its success.

Our goal for the year is to become eligible for a SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB by ARRL. It will require a supreme effort by the entire membership to achieve this objective. I believe we have the people; all we need now is make the commitment to do, and have the motivation to perform.

73, Ron WD5GYG

P.S. All committee chairmen are asked to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors on the third Thursday of each month. Time and place of each meeting will be announced on the nets and at membership meetings. Please bring your suggestions and ideas to the next Board meeting on Feb. 17.

Ron

January Banquet (Cont'd. from page 2)

for the Club to continue its steady growth in 1982. He was pleased to present to Ron Bolyard KA5GYG the Club's third Order of the Key award (more about that on page 7). And as a final act of his presidency, he turned over the office of president of the Club to Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN/

Steve thanked the membership for its vote of confidence in him, and introduced the new officers for 1983. He then made a few remarks about his hopes and general plans for the Club in 1983. He promised to do his best to help B-VARC improve its standing as the best ham club around!

IT'S \$2.00 for B-VARC --- if you renew your ARRL membership or join the League through the Club. And if you're over 64 or under 18, you yourself save \$5.00. Call Lloyd WD5HEH at 498-2088 for details as to how to go about it.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This meeting will be on February 13, 1983 at the Missouri City Fire Station on FM2234; with fellowship at 7PM and call to order at 7:30PM. Speaker of the evening is Andy MacAllister WA5ZIB and his subject will be "Amateur Satellites and AMSAT." Andy is real big on amateur satellite operation and his program will be most interesting. Y'all come, and if you know of anyone who is interested in this subject, bring him.

B-VARC ORDER OF THE KEY

At the January banquet, outgoing President Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ presented the Club's third award of the Order of the Key to Ron Bolyard KA5GYG, 1982 Chairman of the Programs and Special Projects Committee. The inscription on the award reads:

TO
RON BOLYARD KA5GYG
FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE
AND CONTINUOUS DEDICATION
TO B.V.A.R.C.
DURING 1982

Space on the plate did not permit the inclusion of many other factors in Ron's performance last year which led to the recommendation and approval of the award by the Board of Directors: such as, tireless effort to have several programs scheduled and published in advance, ceaseless search for ways to make the Club a beneficial organization for all its members, willingness to take on any assignment asked of him, broad participation in all Club activities, etc. He is a very deserving recipient of this highest award the Club can make.

The Order of the Key award is available to any Club member. It is to be activated by a letter of recommendation to the Board of Directors, and upon unanimous approval by the Board after due consideration, will be presented to the recipient at the annual banquet in January.

There is no limit to the number of awards which may be made in any one year; the Board of Directors will give due consideration to any such recommendation it receives.

NEW LOW-PRICED HOME COMPUTERS COMING

Texas Instruments dropped a bombshell at the recent Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show by introducing a new TI-99/2 Basic Computer that will sell

1983 COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN

1. PUBLIC RELATIONS --
 - A. PROGRAMS -- Provide programs for regular membership meetings.
Co-Chairmen -- Ken McAninch KA5DKS and Doug Holley N5EUC
 - B. SPECIAL EVENTS -- Plan and arrange for shopping mall and other public demonstrations, convention exhibits and Club-sponsored walkathons, marathons, civic events, etc.
Co.Chairmen: Dick Hagerman WB5SRN and (open).
 - C. PUBLICITY -- Publicity on Club activities, both before and after the fact or event.
Chairman: Mike Armatta N5APC
 2. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS -- Planning for, training in, and coordination of Club activities in emergency conditions.
Co-Chairment: Gary Richardson N5ANF and Tom Casey WA5ACF/
 3. OPERATIONS AND NET ACTIVITIES -- Coordinates all net activities of the Club including liaison with other 2m and HF nets.
Co-Chairmen: Mark Mc Grath KA5NYI and (open).
 4. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT -- Organize and upgrade license classes, Organize training sessions with other appropriate committees;; study groups; licensing activities.
Chairman: Wade Eilers WN5TEN
 5. CONTESTS -- Coordinate activities for Field Day. Maintain up-to-date contest scheduling.
Chairman: Louis House KD5JC
 6. DXing -- Demonstrations and exhibits on good DX operations and activities. Methodology and mechanics.
Chairman: Henry Freedenberg N5HF.
 7. LADIES' ACTIVITIES -- Activities for ladies, both hams and non-hams.
Chairman: Open.
 8. AWARDS -- Awards and symbols of recognition by the Club, such as, certificates, Order of the Key, etc. Provision for hats, jackets, caps, etc.
Co-Chairmen: Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH and Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ.
 9. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES -- Pre-meeting fellowship; name badges; annual banquet; picnic; telephone pyramid for member notification.
Chairman: Barry Brubaker N5FAB
 10. REPEATER LIAISON -- Coordinate all activities on the 144.85/145.45 MHz repeater. Develop liaison with other 2M repeaters in the local area in conjunction with the Operations and Net Activities Committee.
Chairman: Mark Schneider WB5RDK.
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FINAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1982

For the Period November 19, 1983 - December 31, 1982

Beginning balance		\$ 40.65
Receipts: B-VARC dues	\$ 214.00	
ARRL dues	<u>20.00</u>	234.00
Disbursements: ARRL	18.00	
Postage	<u>20.00</u>	<u>38.00</u>
Ending balance		<u>\$ 236.65</u>

Harold Parker ND5F
Treasurer, 1982

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board held its January 20, 1983 meeting at the home of the Club President. Attending were President Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN, Secretary Hal Fuglaar N5BXP, Treasurer Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH, and at-large directors Harold Parker ND5F and Stu Lamkin WB5IGG.

The following items of business were handled:

1. Nominations were made for an at-large director to serve out the remaining two years of the term of Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN who resigned that office when elected president of the Club for 1983. Mark Schneider WB5RDK was elected, and has accepted the appointment.

2. It was agreed to adopt the WB5RDK/R repeater for use by the Club during 2M met operations. The repeater frequency pair is 145.45 MHz output and 144.85 MHz input.

3. The Club has financially supported Houston Ham Conventions, Inc. the last two years by donating seed money for advance convention costs. Each of these donations have been returned to the Club, plus a prorata distribution of the excess of convention receipts over costs. The 1983 convention will be the National Convention of ARRL, and a motion to continue this seed money support to the extent of \$100 was made and passed.

4. Considerable discussion centered around basic planning for the year in the form of standing committees, their general scope of activities, and potential committee chairmen. Principal in this discussion was the selection of Vice President Ron Bolyard KA5GYG as Club Coordinator under the new ARRL "Special Service Club" program, to coordinate B-VARC's activities toward qualifying as a Special Service Club. We already have satisfied the first requirement, that of becoming an ARRL Affiliated Club.

5. It was agreed that Board meetings in 1983 would be held during the evening of the third Thursday of each month, and that Committee Chairmen would be asked to attend the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15PM.

Hal Fuglaar N5BXP
Secretary

New Low-Priced Computers (Cont. from page 4)

for \$99.95 and compare with the Sinclair-1000. Not to be outdone, a brand-new Sinclair-2000 will sell for \$200 -- maybe \$150. The TI-99/2 was developed in less than 4 months and will be software compatible with the TI-99/4A, allowing upgrading without losing your software investment! The Sinclair-2000 has typewriter keys, a larger memory, graphic capabilities, and color! The \$200 low end (apparently) drops to \$100!

--W5YI Report, January 15, 1983

NCS SCHEDULES FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH

2M. Pub. Serv. --	2/7 WD5DRB	2/14 WA5ACF	2/21 ND5F	2/28 WA5OEN
	3/7 WD5KRB	3/14 WA5ACF	3/21 ND5F	#/28 WA5OEN
10m. Rag Chew --	2/2 KA5GYG	2/9 WB5IGG	2/16 K5EST	2/23 N5HF
	3/2 KA5GYG	3/9 WB5IGG	3/16 K5EST	3/23 N5HF 3/30 KA5GYG

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY ---

pay your 1983 dues before the close of the February meeting. Why? For several reasons: (1) To continue your membership in the best ham club in these here parts; (2) To be included on the 1983 Roster which we're aiming to send out with the March BULLETIN, and (3) To stay on the mailing list of the B-VARC BULLETIN and other Club mailings!

MADISON ELECTRONICS SUPPLY

1508 McKinney Houston TX 77010 Fone 658-0268

TO ALL HAMS --

We carry in stock or can order for you any item you want from any major manufacturer of ham gear, including all line accessories and Kenwood service manuals.

Call me, identify yourself and wants, and I'll quote our HOT SPECIAL prices available to you.

73, Don Busick K5AAD

ROSTER

Following are changes in Roster information:

1. Ed Harwell W5WVX -- delete work phone number.
2. Larry Levy WD5DRB -- New home phone is 495-3662.
3. Doug Holley N5EUC -- Is now a member of ARRL.
4. Harold Parker KC5HZ -- New call and license class are ND5F and Extra.

With respect to the 1983 Roster -- Effective as of the close of the February 1983 general membership meeting, the 1982 Roster will become obsolete. A new 1983 Roster will be mailed to 1983 members with the March issue of the B-VARC BULLETIN.

NEW MEMBER BADGES

A change has been made in the identification of new members. Instead of the red and blue line borders which have been used the last two years, New members can now be recognized by the solid red borders at the bottoms of their badges. All you old members make it a point to introduce yourselves to our new members, bid them welcome, and make them glad they're one of us!

HOUSTON AREA TRAFFIC NET (HATN)

The Houston Area Traffic Net (HATN) is entering its second year of service to the Houston and surrounding area as a local net in the National Traffic System (NTS). The purpose of HATN is to handle formal written traffic into and out of the local service area, but it is also a training net. All amateurs who are licensed for 2M are invited to check in to the net.

HATN presently is meeting on the 147.60/00 MHz repeater on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:30PM local time. Please come and check in with or without traffic.

HATN also is looking ^{for} amateurs who might like to serve either as a Net Control Station or as a liaison station to the NTS. Anyone interested should contact me at 498-5639 or on the net.

Louis House KD5GM
Net Manager, HATN

WHEN YOU HEAR A MABIN CALL FOR HELP

Harold Parker ND5F

The code distress call is SOS and the voice distress call is MAYDAY. MAYDAY is derived from a French word meaning "help me" and these distress calls have absolute worldwide priority over all other types of transmissions.

If you hear a ^{marine} /distress call--assume that it is genuine ^{and} /since there are severe penalties for falsifying such a transmission, it seldom occurs. Anyway-it would be better to be fooled than to take a chance on not helping someone that is really in distress.

After you get over the initial shock and disbelief, don't panic because the people sending the distress call have enough problems without having to put up with a terror-stricken operator that responded to their call for help.

The first station that is acknowledged by the station in distress is in charge of the distress communications but if it is obvious that some other responding station can handle the distress traffic better, control may be transferred if the station in distress agrees to the change.

If you are the first station to respond to a distress call, you should obtain the following information:

- 1) Name of vessel
- 2) Registration number or identification
- 3) Exact nature of distress or danger
- 4) Description of vessel (size,color etc.)
- 5) Number of people involved
- 6) Injuries or deaths
- 7) Geographic location
- 8) Radio frequencies that can be used
- 9) Home port
- 10) Exactly what is required
- 11) Weather conditions
- 12) Authority of the distress call

As soon as you have determined all of this information, you should call the appropriate search and rescue (SAR) organization. There are many Federal and local agencies that participate in American search and rescue efforts but the two most useful are the Air Force and Coast Guard. SAR activities are coordinated by the Air Force from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and their toll-free phone number is 1-800-851-3051 and should be used for EMERGENCIES ONLY.

NEVER interfere with emergency communications in progress.

Emergencies Happen When Least Expected

by Maureen Thompson, KA1DYZ

Summer and fall are the time clubs participate in emergency communications preparedness. Mock nuclear attacks, severe weather and California brush fires are dramatized throughout communities across the U.S. Mock disasters are tests of a club's ability to handle emergency situations. No one can fully prepare for the "real" thing, but practice helps.

At a recent emergency exercise in Contra Costa County, CA, East Bay Amateur Radio Club members viewed informative films and demonstrations, all under the auspices of ARRL's ARES and Contra Costa County's RACES. Subject material included "firestorms" (major wildland fires), earthquakes, and hazardous materials incidents. Instructors from the American Red Cross and Civil Defense Dept. attended the all day session. Those in attendance learned "if you are going to help during emergencies, you must participate in training exercises." Become part of the solution to the problem, not part of the problem!

The crash of Air Florida flight 90 is an example of club preparation. This disaster occurred January 13, 1982, and the Alexandria ARES was ready. Why? They participated in a simulated air crash near National Airport on November 7, 1981. (See June 1982 QST for

further details). Your club's activities may be planned for warmer weather, but if you live in northern areas of the U.S., emergencies happen during the winter, too. Prepare for the cold season: Carry extra clothing in your car.

Two important emergency communications activities your club should participate in annually are Field Day, and the Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Field Day's roots stem back to June 1933 when approximately 50 stations participated in a test of "portables" in the field. SET's origin is around November 1935. That year's QST announced the formation of a group known as the ARRL Emergency Corps (AEC). Its definition: Amateurs and amateur organizations possessing suitable equipment for operation in an emergency when regular power and communication facilities are disrupted. Its goal: To place an Amateur Radio Emergency Station in every community! Though the emergency situations of today may be of a different nature from those of 1935, this motto holds true. Why not involve your Amateur Radio club in an emergency exercise soon? You never know when your services will be needed.

MAYBE YOU CAN HELP FATTEN THE CLUB TREASURY -- without flattening yours!

Here's how: Vic La Rocca K5KNH

has a very nice office in a very nice location in close proximity to the intersection of Harwin and Roark Road. His landlord is offering tenants of the office complex a cash bonus for any new tenants referred by them. And these bonuses run from \$75 to \$250.

Vic has offered to be the intermediary for any such referrals by a B-VARC member and to pass along to the Club any resulting bonuses.

If you are interested, or know of someone who might be a prospect, call Vic at 995-4115 for details as to how to proceed.

A FINAL REMINDER -- Be sure to pay your 1983 dues before the close of the February meeting. If you can't come to that meeting, the address of Club Treasurer Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH is 14614 Echochase Drive, Missouri City TX 77489.

B - S - S MART

We'll be happy to list any ham-related gear you might want to buy, or sell, or swap. A pretty high percentage of the items listed herein have found new homes. Just send us your listing by deadline date and it'll be in the upcoming issue of the BULLETIN.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I find the great thing in this world is,
not so much where we stand
but the direction in which we are moving.

-- Goethe



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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