

B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor-in-Chief: Irv Smith, KB5EXM 437-4803
Production Manager: Roland Torres, KB5EQH 933-4143

About the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club . . .

Organized in 1977, the club has been growing steadily. It is a gathering place for HAM radio operators in Fort Bend and Southwest Harris Counties, and surrounding communities. It is a general-purpose type of HAM club offering a variety of activities open to all interested persons. Membership is open, not only to licensed HAM operators, but also to anyone interested in the hobby. In addition to regularly-scheduled membership meetings, the club each year conducts classes leading to amateur radio licenses, and each month sponsors a volunteer-examiner team which offers examinations in all levels of HAM licenses.

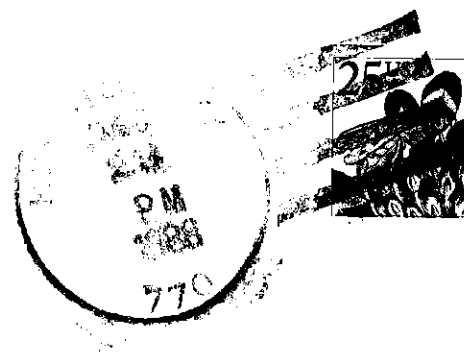
For information about the club and any of its activities, please call Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, (713) 777-3345.

Volume: 12 Issue: 1

January 1989

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 1630
Missouri City, TX 77459
Telephone: (713) 777-3345



B-VARC Meeting Schedule

Thursday, January 5	Board Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
Thursday, January 12	Annual Banquet
7:30 pm	Regal Ranch (Stafford)
Thursday, February 2	Board Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
Thursday, February 9	General Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
	Informal dinner before meeting at Hitching Rail BBQ (formerly Vaso's)

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
7401 Heilig
Houston, Tx 77074

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

by: Irv, KB5EXM

BISSOTWO, etc

Nobody has triumphantly claimed to know what bisso-two and its bretheren mean, and I suspect no one really cares; however, printed elsewhere in this Newsletter is a copy of the page from *International Code of Signals* giving the Standard International Phonetics for the digits.

BISSOTWO is to 2 as *BRAVO* is to B.

I first saw the chart of phonetics for the digits in the radio room of a Chinese passenger ship sailing the Yangtse River from Chongqing to Wuhon. In the several ensuing years, I've found it only twice: On the *Cunard Princess* cruise ship, where the radio officer showed me the aforementioned *International Code of Signals*, and later in the same book on an ocean-going offshore drilling rig.

Now perhaps you can help me: Who knows exactly where this comes from? I suppose the ITU has something to do with it. For that matter, who decided that *BRAVO* and not *BUFFALO* would stand for B?

NEXT MONTH'S QUIZ

The last quiz generated such interest that we'll try another.

How is C.W. transmitted between Chinese-speaking operators?

WEATHER SPOTTER'S GUIDEBOOK

Beginning this month we will start reprinting Version 1.3 of this excellent manual, written by B-VARC member Allen Mattis (N5AFV). Two pages (or more) will be published each month. Save these, and by the time the severe-weather season arrives, you will have the complete manual.

Al was somewhat reluctant to have it broken up in this manner, but his chapters conveniently are about a page long, so we can do it without losing much continuity

HEATHKIT H.T. UPDATE

My dual-bander continues to give good service, and I understand that Lee (KA5WJB) likes his, too. The new Heath catalog shows receive capabilities from 130-170, 360-400 and 418-470 MHz. Heath is sending me the info for the keyboard commands to invoke these expanded ranges.

It also may be modified for CAP, etc., transmission. Heath says proof of authorization to operate out of the ham bands must be furnished before they will provide modification info, but I suspect the knowledge will become widespread soon.

Heath for some reason has discontinued the handy metal window bracket, but they still have some in stock (P/N HWA-170, \$7.95). I recommend that this be obtained, along with the speaker mike, if you plan mobile use.

TEXAS COUNTY MAPS UPDATE

Several months ago I suggested buying the \$20 book of maps from the state highway department. I hope you didn't, because now a much better book is available.

Instead, you should buy *The Roads of Texas*, by Shearer Publishing (\$12.95). It is the size of a standard road atlas, and has the county maps (with all roads, cattleguards, railroads, etc.) on the same 3.5 miles/inch scale as in *County Maps of Texas*.

The main improvement is that the writing is large enough to read without a magnifying glass. Also, the maps are color-coded, which helps readability.

Each double page is one segment of a 78-unit grid covering Texas. Driving east-to-west, you merely flip the page every 72 miles to find the continuation of your journey. Going in a north-south direction, you have to turn to a new page every 50 miles, but that is much better than the maddening search for the new county (and where you are in it) as you cross every county line when using the unwieldy official map book.

A serious back-roader will want both books, to get the many detailed auxiliary sheets (with city maps showing the name of every street) accompanying most counties' maps.

73, Irv (KB5EXM)

V.E. SESSIONS IN JANUARY

by: Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

Following are Radio Amateur license exam sessions scheduled to be held in this area in January 1989. The listing information is as follows:

- A. Sponsored by
 - B. Date & Site location
 - C. For details, contact
- 1) A. Brazos Valley ARC
B. January 10 in Houston, TX
C. Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, 713-777-3345
 - 2) A. Golden Triangle Exam. Committee
B. January 7 in Beaumont, TX
C. Sid Phillips, 409-886-2732
 - 3) A. Sam Houston AR Klub
B. January 14 in Cleveland, TX
C. Sam Neal, N5AF, 713-222-3274

NET DIRECTORIES

Sunday	West Houston RACES
8:00 p.m.	146.06 (-0.6)
Monday	Fort Bend ARES
8:00 p.m.	147.30 (+0.6)
Monday	B-VARC Public Service
9:00 p.m.	145.47 (-0.6)
Tuesday	10X Houston SHOT
8:00 p.m.	28.488
Tuesday	AMSAT
10:00 p.m.	145.45 (-0.6)
Wednesday	B-VARC 75m Ragchew
8:30 p.m.	3.960
Wednesday	CW Net (25 to 13 wpm)
8:30 p.m.	147.32 (+0.6)
Saturday	CW Net (25 to 13 wpm)
8:30 p.m.	147.32 (+0.6)

FUTURE B-VARC EVENTS

January 5	Board Meeting
January 12	Banquet: <i>Regal Ranch</i>
February 2	Board Meeting
February 9	General Meeting
	Lori Valencic (Dietitian), <i>Dietary Tips</i>
March 9	General Meeting
	Hub Ratliff (NSMXX), <i>CAP Radio Use</i>

MEMO FROM RAY DILLARD

Once again I want to thank everyone and the clubs that helped out in the MS-150 in 1988. The 1989 tour will be about the same size (if not bigger) and we will need all the help we can get. The date is April 8 and 9 so mark your calendar.

South Texas hams provided communications using VHF and UHF repeaters and 2 meter packet for 3,080 cyclists in this year's MS-150 Mega Bike tour from Houston to Austin. Thanks to the repeater trustees and the Societies that keep them on the air:

Katy Amateur Radio Society 147.2, Columbus Amateur Radio Club 147.14, Fayetteville County Office of Emergency Management 146.8, Austin Repeater Group 147.06, and WJ5B for bringing out his 440 Portable repeater with two 2 meter links all duplexed into one antenna.

Radio clubs: Brazos Valley ARC, Katy ARS, Ham and Egg ARS, Houston Echo ARS and Northwest ARS.

Volunteers: W5NKQ, W5WVX, W5SRN, WN5TEN, AA5BD, WA5F, WK5M, WJ5B, WN5A, WT5U, KF5ZL, KG5CB, KA5ZTX, KB5AEJ, KB5ART, KB5BAY, KB5DNT, KB5EYP, KB5EXM, KB5EYK, N5APW, N5BHQ, N5ECP, N5GZW, N5LRB, N5LXE, N5MBN, and N5MFD.

And a special thanks to David Hammer for work on the MERA repeater.

RAY DILLARD
A.R.S. WA5F

Special thanks to Bill Walker Royalton District Manager of Warner Cable, for donating the use of their copier and supplies for printing the newsletter.

RESULTS OF THE DEC. 13TH EXAM:

by: Harold Parker, NDSF

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, December 13, 1988 at Strake Jesuit in Houston.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:

Jim Heil, K5SAWM
Bob Biekert, K5GLX
Ray Dillard, W5F
Stu Lamkin, W5IGG
Harold Parker, NDSF

A total of fifty-five (55) exams were administered during the evening to twenty-seven (27) applicants. Of those, four (4) are new Novice's and twelve (12) upgraded their license with a total of thirty-two (32) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was fifty-eight (58%) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and passed exams:

Carl Albrecht, K5QLQ - Extra
Donald Brown - Technician
Julius Danzinger - Element 1A
Susan Edwards - Technician
Curt Furtado, K5BCL - General
Sandra Hawley, K5HSG - Element 3B
Norman Kalson - General
Wally Kielkowski - Novice
Brenda Kosa, K5HXG - Technician
John Lambuth - General
Beverly Lipke - Element 3A
Don Lipke - Novice
George Modisette, N5NKB - Advanced
Lori Modisette, K5HVI - Technician
Michele Monasco - Novice
Ronald Monasco - Novice
Delbert Oehme, W5QHK - Extra
Rick Rule - Technician
Bob Schaer, N5DIB - Extra

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants for their time and efforts that have made B-VARC's exam program a great success during 1988.

All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, W5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exam program during 1988.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !

FCC-ISSUED CALL SIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of amateur call signs issued by the FCC as of November 1.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	WO0G	KE0YU	N0JWH	KB0DIZ
1	NU1A	KC1MC	N1GBL	KA1SOJ
2	WK2Q	KE2JT	N2IRI	KB2GMI
3	NS3M	KD3KB	N3GPO	KA3TSA
4	AB4LE	K44JI	N4UEP	KC4HFS
5	AASIM	KG5OT	N5NJO	KB5HON
6	AA6LG	KJ6OB	N6TOU	KC6AKH
7	WU7F	KF7PB	N7LVL	KB7FZE
8	WM8D	KE8JU	N8KBA	KB8FPP
9	WE9C	KE9NQ	N9HXL	KB9BQB
Guam	KH2K	AH2CC	KH2DM	WH2ALT
Hawaii	**	AH6JG	NH6RS	WH6CAK
Alaska	**	AL7KL	NL7PB	WL7BSK
Virgin Is	NP2E	KP2BN	NP2CR	WP2AGE
Puerto Rico	**	KP4PU	WP4RX	WP4IFK

** indicates that all 2 x 1 call signs have been assigned in those areas.

The ARRL Letter

225 Main Street
Newington, Connecticut 06111

OBSCENE LANGUAGE CONVICTION

Gary Ray Roach, of Porter, Texas, was recently convicted of transmitting obscene, indecent, and profane language by radio. Though Roach doesn't hold an Amateur Radio license, his transmissions took place in the 2-meter band.

Roach was convicted of a felony count and sentenced to three years of supervised probation and a \$1000 fine. In addition, Roach was restricted from purchasing or using any radio capable of operation on a frequency for which he does not have an FCC-issued license. The investigation was conducted by the FCC Houston Field office, in cooperation with the US Attorney's Office.

ARRL DIVISION DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

Votes were counted for ARRL Division Directors and Vice Directors at Headquarters on November 21, 1988 under the watchful eye of a Price Waterhouse auditor. Newly elected representatives and those who were unopposed will take office January 1, 1989, and will serve two-year terms. Here are your newly elected representatives, and the vote counts for each candidate:

West Gulf Division, for Director:

Jim D. Haynie, WB5JBP, 2768
Thomas W. Comstock, N5TC, 1802

Jim begins his second term as Director. He was first licensed in 1971, and has served as President and Vice-President of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club and is Assistant Dallas County RACES officer. Jim has participated extensively in disaster communications, including Hurricane Alicia and the Mexican and Guatemalan earthquakes. Jim is Chairman of the ARRL Publications Committee.

West Gulf Division, For Vice Director:

Sam C. Sitton, KV5X, (unopposed)

A new Vice Director, Sam was first licensed as WN5OAP in 1964 at age 14. His call was changed to KV5X in 1982. A former Assistant Director, he currently holds field appointments as Section Traffic Manager, Net Manager and Official Relay Station. His primary interest has been in the National Traffic System. Sam is an attorney with a JD degree from the University of Houston, and lives in Edmond, Oklahoma.

ARRL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AS OF OCTOBER

The following are the membership statistics as of the end of October 1988. The total includes all Full and Associate members.

	1988	1987
Atlantic	15,559	14,888
Central	11,896	11,391
Dakota	3,244	3,079
Delta	6,061	5,682
Great Lakes	13,203	12,540
Hudson	9,804	9,506
Midwest	7,015	6,756
New England	11,126	10,563
Northwestern	8,672	7,881
Pacific	9,926	9,416
Roanoke	9,929	9,215
Rocky Mountain	4,461	4,236
Southeastern	14,518	13,732
Southwestern	13,864	13,228
West Gulf	10,310	9,951
Foreign	5,699	5,710
Grand Total	155,287	147,774

Radiotelephone procedures

Reception of safety messages

Any message which you hear prefixed by one of the following words concerns SAFETY

MAYDAY (Distress) Indicates that a ship, aircraft or other vehicle is threatened by grave and imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.

PAN (Urgency) Indicates that the calling station has a very urgent message to transmit concerning the safety of a ship, aircraft or other vehicle, or the safety of a person.

SECURITE (Safety) Indicates that the station is about to transmit a message concerning the safety of navigation or giving important meteorological warnings.

If you hear these words pay particular attention to the message and call the master or the officer on watch.

Table 1

Phonetic Alphabet and Figure Spelling Tables

(May be used when transmitting plain language or code)

Letter	Word	Pronounced as	Letter	Word	Pronounced as
A	Alfa	<u>AL</u> FAH	N	November	NO <u>VEM</u> BER
B	Bravo	<u>BRAH</u> VOH	O	Oscar	<u>OSS</u> CAH
C	Charlie	<u>CHAR</u> LEE or <u>SHAR</u> LEE	P	Papa	<u>PAH</u> PAH
D	Delta	<u>DELL</u> TAR	Q	Quebec	KEH <u>BECK</u>
E	Echo	<u>ECK</u> OH	R	Romeo	<u>ROW</u> ME OH
F	Foxtrot	<u>FOKS</u> TROT	S	Sierra	SEE <u>AIR</u> RAH
G	Golf	GOLF	T	Tango	<u>TANG</u> GO
H	Hotel	<u>HOH</u> TELL	U	Uniform	<u>YOU</u> NEE FORM or <u>OO</u> NEE FORM
I	India	<u>IN</u> DEE AH	V	Victor	<u>VIK</u> TAH
J	Juliett	<u>JEW</u> LEE <u>ETT</u>	W	Whiskey	<u>WISS</u> KEY
K	Kilo	<u>KEY</u> LOH	X	X-ray	<u>ECKS</u> RAY
L	Lima	<u>LEE</u> MAH	Y	Yankee	<u>YANG</u> KEY
M	Mike	<u>MIKE</u>	Z	Zulu	<u>ZOO</u> LOO

Note: The syllables to be emphasized are underlined.

Figure or mark to be transmitted	Word	Pronounced as	Figure or mark to be transmitted	Word	Pronounced as
0	NADAZERO	NAH-DAH-ZAY-ROH	6	SOXISIX	SOK-SEE-SIX
1	UNAONE	OO-NAH-WUN	7	SETTESEVEN	SAY-TAY-SEVEN
2	BISSOTWO	BEEES-SOH-TOO	8	OKTOEIGHT	OK-TOH-AIT
3	TERRATHREE	TAY-RAH-TREE	9	NOVENINE	NO-VAY-NINER
4	KARTEFOUR	KAR-TAY-FOWER	Decimal point	DECIMAL	DAY-SEE-MAL
5	PANTAFIVE	PAN-TAH-FIVE	Full stop	STOP	STOP

Note: Each syllable should be equally emphasized.

Examples of distress procedure

1. Where possible, transmit **Alarm Signal** followed by spoken words Mayday Mayday Mayday. This is ... (name of ship spoken three times, or call sign of ship spelt three times using Table 1) Mayday ... (name or call sign of ship) Position 54 25 North 016 33 West I am on fire and require immediate assistance.
2. Where possible, transmit **Alarm Signal** followed by spoken words Mayday Mayday Mayday ... (name of ship spoken three times, or call sign of ship spelt three times using Table 1) Mayday ... (name or call sign of ship) Interco Alfa Nadazero Unaone Pantafive Ushant Romeo Kartefour Nadazero Delta X-ray. "(Ship) in Distress Position 015 Degrees Ushant 40 miles I am sinking."
3. Where possible, transmit **Alarm Signal** followed by spoken words Mayday Mayday Mayday ... (name of ship spoken three times, or call sign of ship spelt three times using Table 1) Mayday ... (name or call sign of ship) Interco Lima Pantafive Kartefour Bissotwo Pantafive November Golf Nadazero Unaone Soxisix Terrathree Terrathree Whiskey Charlie Bravo Soxisix. "(Ship) in Distress Position Latitude 54 25 North Longitude 016 33 West I require immediate assistance I am on fire."

22"



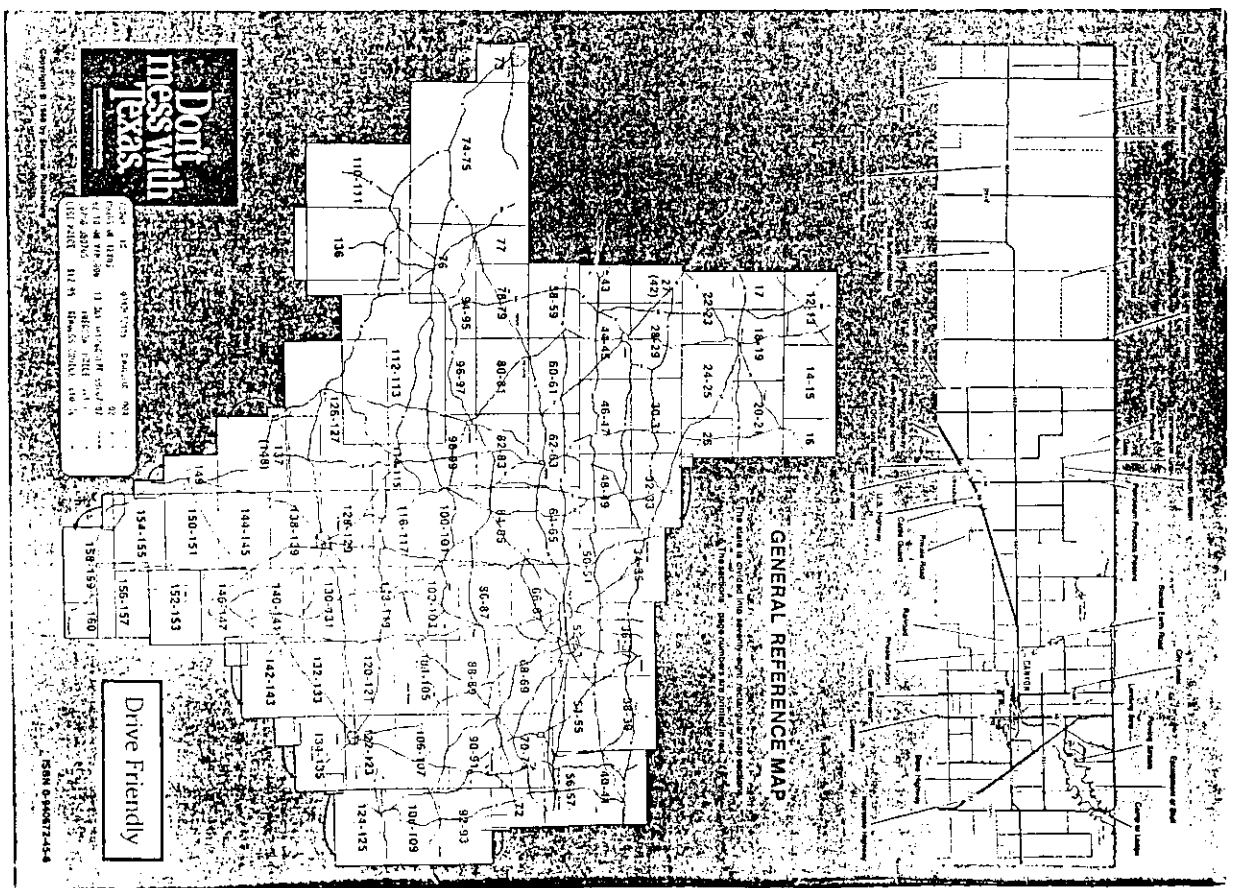
THE ROADS OF TEXAS



ALL THE ROADS OF TEXAS FROM THE INTERSTATES TO THE BACKROADS... PREPARED BY THE TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY CARTOGRAPHICS LABORATORY... THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION... FOREIGN ROADWAYS... CITIES, TOWNS, AND COMMUNITIES... STATE AND NATIONAL PUBLIC FACILITIES... MEMBERS OF TEXAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY... TOWNS AND PLACES... MISSIONS AND BOUTS... EXPLORE/AVIATE/GET FROM POINT A TO POINT B



22"



15"

THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR ARTICLES OF INTEREST TO YOU.
IT COULD BE SUBJECTS ON THE FOLLOWING:

Equipment Reviews

Questions to Ask Our Readers

Equipment for Sale

Personal experiences with Ham Radio

Radio-tunes (funny pictures)

Etc.

Etc.

Etc.

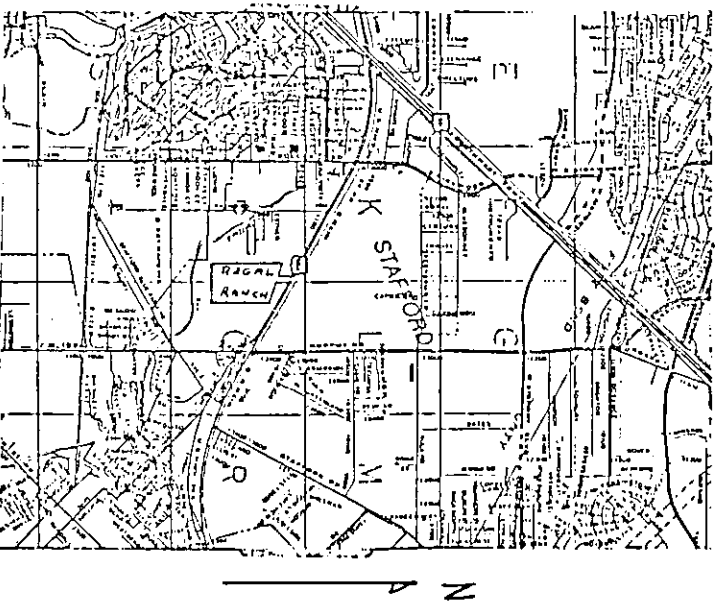
SO GET THOSE FINGERS TYPING ON THAT ARTICLE TO SEND TO
THE B-VARC NEWS LETTER.

ANNUAL BANQUET

This year's banquet will be held at Regal Ranch on Thursday, January 12th. It is on South Main, about a mile west of Murphy Road (see map). If coming down the Southwest Freeway, it is best to exit at Airport Exit and then turn left on Kirkwood (2nd underpass). Turn left into the east-bound lane after crossing the RR tracks; Regal Ranch will be on your right in 1/2 mile.

We will have a "Go-Western" theme, but you don't have to dress up to come. We will have chicken and beef fajillas to eat. There will be unlimited cokes, coffee, beer and wine. The charge is \$12 per person, and reservations may be made through me.

73, Suzanne King (KB5BAY)



NEWSLETTER NOTES

C.W. ARTICLE CREDIT ADDITION

Last month we reprinted an article from the *L4 Times* and gave credit to Jack (WNSA) for sending it in. Thanks are due also to Clint Gilliland (NSFNA) for finding it in the first place and sending it to Jack for our possible use.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL WANTED

Roland and I always can use more news items. (How about some equipment reviews!) We prefer camera-ready, but can readily use ASCII files on 3.5" or 5.25" diskettes, or we will transcribe your input from hand-written copy.

Please send material directly to either of us at the addresses given below. You also can use the B-VARC box number, but this actually slows down delivery somewhat. Deadline is the third Thursday.

Irv Smith, KB5EXM Roland Torres, KB5EQH
3915 Point Clear Dr. 15519 Rio Plaza Dr.
Missouri City, TX 77459 Houston, TX 77083

HURRICANE GILBERT REVISITED

by Al Mattis NSAFV

Much has been written within the last several months about the role of amateur operators in providing assistance during Hurricane Gilbert. I am going to write about a number of amateur operators who did not provide assistance at that time. It wasn't that these operators didn't want to help. They even volunteered on local nets to assist if needed. But, many of these volunteers found their offers of assistance politely declined.

The problem was that these amateur operators were not affiliated with their local ARES or RACES groups. The ARES and RACES groups participate in nets and training drills year round. When an emergency situation develops, these emergency groups are ready to respond with a trained group of operators. It is too late to train new members when a hurricane enters the Gulf. For that reason, offers of assistance from many radio amateurs not affiliated with ARES or RACES were declined.

Many of these radio amateurs felt anger or disappointment when their offers of assistance were declined. I can understand their feelings from personal experience. I once volunteered to assist after a flood struck Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1978. I had only been a licensed amateur for a few months, and because I had not been active in the local RACES group, my offer was declined. I joined the local RACES group the next month.

I encourage any members of B-VARC who are not active in ARES or RACES to become affiliated with these groups. Next time our community is faced by a disaster, don't feel like you are on the outside looking in. Make a New Year's resolution to become involved in these groups. Both Fort Bend and Harris Counties have active ARES/RACES programs, and many B-VARC members participate in them.

B-VARC 1988 ACTIVITY ROSTER

COMPILED BY AL MATTIS N5AFV

A. HOUSTON TENNECO MARATHON	Q. AZALEA RUN
C. BAYOU CITY FUN RUN	D. MS-150 BIKE TOUR
E. JDF 10K FUN RUN	F. MARCH OF DIMES
G. MOTHER'S DAY	H. 10K RODEO RUN
I. ARRL FIELD DAY	J. HULL AIR SHOW
K. ZOO RUN	L. GAAC 20K
M. MOONLIGHT RAMBLE	N. SYMPHONY RUN
O. MS TRICK-OR-TREAT TREK	P. GAAC 25K
Q. JUVENILE DIABETES WALK	R. DINOSAUR DASH 5K
S. HOUSTON HAM-COMM	T. CITY RACE V
U. GAAC 30K	V. JINGLE BELLS RUN

Abbott, Brenson	XFSVZ	E, I, P, Q, R, U
Albrecht, Carl	KASQLQ	J, L, P, U
Blackwell, "AJ"	WBSYLB	P, U, V
Borg, Gerry	NSAPW	D, I
Cheek, Ralph	KBSOBT	D, E, I, L, M, N, P, T, U
Creel, Fred	MSLYB	I, V
Dessens, Bill	MSKXU	I, N, S, V
Dilliard, Ray	WASF	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, L, N, O, Q, R, S, T, U, V

Dyer, Dave	AA56A	B, C, D, F, G, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, S, U, V
Dyer, Debbie	K956UY	I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, T, U, V

Dyer, Karla	NSL6S	B, C, D, F, G, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, T, U, V
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Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZ6	I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, T, U, V
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Edwards, Melanie		L, M, N, O, Q, T, U
Edwards, Susan		P, T, U, V

Eason, Mike	NSKRU	B, I
Germany, Cass	K65IT	S

Getz, Andy	KB5EYP	D, G
Gottlieb, Steve	WA5OEM	G, J, S

Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A, D, L, S
Hammer, Cindy	NSLXE	B, D, F, G, I

Hammer, Dave	WJ5B	B, D, F, I
Harris, Ron	NSMKO	F, I

Harwell, Ed	NSWVI	D, G, P, U
Holley, Doug	K65SR	M, R, U

Jolly, George	N0SE	H, S
Jolly, Kathy	KASXMK	H

Keap, Bill	K65CB	D, I
King, Suzanne	KB5BAY	D, G, H, I, K, L, M, P

Larkin, Stu	WB5I66	A, S
Lance, Dave	KB5EYK	B, C, D, I

Lance, Lee	KB5EST	B, I
Lefebvre, Greg	K5LTM	K

Levy, Larry	W0SDRB	M
Mattis, Allen	N5AFV	B, C, G, J, L, M, P, T, U

Meyer, Rick	KASYSL	I
Miles, Bud	NSMFO	B, D, I, M

Miles, Stephen	NSM8N	B, D, I, M
Morrison, Henry	WSRIY	E, I, P, S

Nance, Herb	NS6ZM	C, D, G, I, S
Odu, Andy	K65RU	I

Parker, Harold	NDSF	A, S, T, U
Pettitt, Jim	WASYKR	S

Pollard, Randy	AK56	C, I, G, H, J, K, L, O, P, S
Prochaska, Charles	K65KV	Q

Ricketts, Robert	NSJKD	I, P
Ross, Joe	AA5BD	D, I

Scism, Mike	W5VM	S
Smith, Greg	KB5PE	S

Smith, Irv	KB5EXM	D, G, I, Q
Van Demark, Jack	WNSA	D, G, I, J, K, M, S, U

Walker, George	K9SM	Q
Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	M, P, U

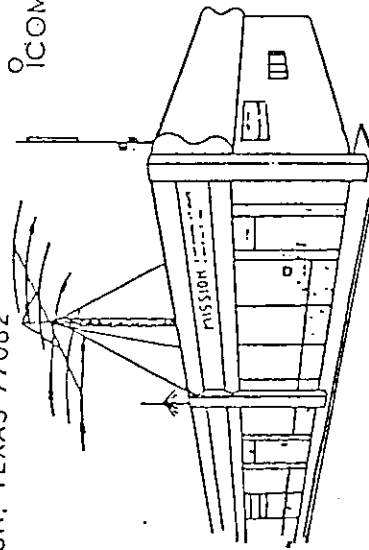
Whitehurst, Tom	KC5UN	F
Yates, Laura	KAS5GM	I
Yates, Steve	KAS0UU	I

PLEASE REPORT ADDITIONS AND
CORRECTIONS TO N5AFV



ICOM

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MISSION COMMUNICATIONS
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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77082



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SPECIALISTS, CRB RESEARCH, DAIWA, DIAMOND, HENRY,
HUSTLER, HAM RADIO, INTL. CRYSTAL, INTL. WIRING & CABLE,
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LARSON, MOBILE MARK, MFJ, NEUTECH, NCG, NYE, PERIPHEx,
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COMPILED BY AL MATTIS N5AFV

NOVEMBER 23, 1988

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NOVEMBER 30, 1988

WB5I66 NCS, WN5TEN, NSMNP, WNSA,

WB4LZ6, AK56, N5AFV

DECEMBER 7, 1988

N5AFV NCS, WB4LZ6, WNSA, N5ECP,

K65SR, WN5TEN, NSMNP

DECEMBER 14, 1988

WB5I66 NCS, N5AFV, N5ECP, WNSA,

WB4LZ6, NSMNP, KC5CP, K65KV

DECEMBER 21, 1988

WB5I66 NCS, N5AFV, NSMNP, K65SR,

WNSA, AA56A, K65KV

B-VARC SUPPORT OF MARATHON WARMUP SERIES SUCCESSFUL

by Al Mattis N5AFV

This year's communications support provided by B-VARC for the GAAC Marathon Warmup Series of 3 races was a clear success for both the GAAC and B-VARC. GAAC officials and the individual race directors were very pleased with the communications support provided by B-VARC. As a result of this successful public service project, the image of both B-VARC and amateur radio within the community have been strengthened.

The participation of our club in this event involved a total of 32 persons. The 30K race held December 10, 1988 was worked by 16 amateur radio operators plus 7 friends and family members. The 25K race held November 12, 1988 was worked by 15 amateur radio operators plus 4 family members and friends. The 20K race held October 8, 1988 was worked by 12 amateur radio operators plus 8 friends and family members. A total of 11 persons associated with B-VARC worked all 3 events and received a commemorative mug from the GAAC Long Distance Running Committee as a token of appreciation. Congratulations to all participating B-VARC members and friends for a job well done.

THE WEATHER SPOTTER'S GUIDEBOOK

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by Allen F. Mattis, Ph.D.
NSAFV

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Version 1.3

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My experience in weather spotting began in 1975, when I moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. I was fortunate to be able to participate in the weather spotter program of the Tulsa Repeater Organization. Most of what I have learned about weather net operations comes from participating in weather nets, and from seminars taught by Mr. Tom Shaw, KSOVT. My meteorological knowledge of severe storms comes from attending spotter training programs taught by Mr. Ben Barker of the National Weather Service office in Tulsa.

After moving to Houston, in 1985, I became active in a number of Houston area radio organizations. I subsequently met Mr. Ron Bolyard, KASGYG, who urged me to share my knowledge of weather spotting with the members of Fort Bend County Emergency Management. In August, 1987, I made an oral presentation to that group, and planned to eventually turn my notes from that presentation into a more formal written guidebook. Mr. Ed Harwell, W5VYX, rekindled my interest in that project. During preparation of this guidebook, Mr. Harlan G. Low gave generously of his time to read early versions of the manuscript, and to make many useful suggestions.

THE WEATHER SPOTTER'S GUIDEBOOK

by Allen F. Mattis, Ph.D.
NSAFV

INTRODUCTION

My experience with severe weather spotting comes from living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for 10 years before moving to Houston in 1985. I was a licensed radio amateur for 7 of those 10 years, and was active in several local radio groups. The Tulsa amateur radio community has always been a leader in the development of weather spotting procedure. In fact, the national Skywarn program is patterned after a local weather spotter net system used in Tulsa almost 20 years ago. In today's Tulsa weather nets, the net control station is located in the radar room at the National Weather Service office. The spotters in the field and the radar operator work very closely together.

The Tulsa amateur radio operators also remain active after the severe weather passes. Many of the amateur operators assist the Red Cross by performing disaster assessment surveys of the stricken areas. These surveys allow Red Cross management to determine whether their local resources are adequate to handle the disaster, or if additional assistance should be requested from Red Cross chapters in other cities.

During the time I lived in Tulsa, the Tulsa metropolitan area was struck by tornadoes six different times. Twice, tornadoes caused damage in my neighborhood. On April 19, 1981, a tornado passed a few hundred feet from my house. A house located five lots away from mine was totally destroyed, with only a pile of debris left standing on a concrete slab. I was the first to report the tornado on the weather net, and on the basis of my observations, Tulsa Emergency Management sounded the city's tornado warning sirens. On December 24, 1982, another tornado struck the neighborhood. It didn't actually touch the ground, but it came low enough to twist my radio antennas and blow them down.

Since I became an amateur radio operator in 1978, I have participated in almost 50 weather nets. All but one of these nets involved severe weather or the potential for severe weather. On July 11, 1979, a special "weather" net was called the day Sky Lab fell back to Earth. NASA was unable to tell precisely which orbit would be the last for Sky Lab, and the possibility existed that it would fall over the central United States. We were activated to watch the sky at dawn for what turned out to be Sky Lab's last complete orbit. On the next orbit, Sky Lab fell back to Earth over the South Pacific and Australia.

During the seven years that I participated in weather spotting in Tulsa, I attended a half dozen training seminars taught by National Weather Service and Red Cross personnel. Much of the material on which this guidebook is based comes from those seminars. This guidebook does not discuss hurricanes. Most of you are already familiar with these powerful storm systems, and many of you have heard the fine presentation on hurricanes given by Mr. Ron Stagno of the National Weather Service.