

B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor-in-Chief: Irv Smith, KBSEXM 437-4803 (home)
Production Manager: Roland Torres, KBSEQH 622-7810 (0700-1600 hrs)

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 that offers examinations in all levels of HAM licenses.

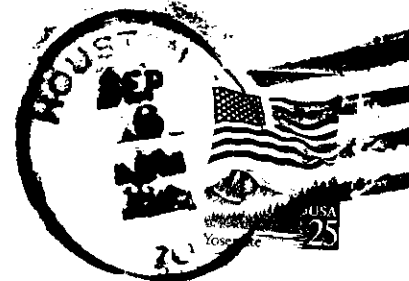
For information about the club and any of its activities, please call Stu Lamkin, WBSIGG, (713) 777-3345.

Volume: 12 Issue: 9

September 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

Thurs, September 14 General Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station
(Meet at Hitching Rail for BBQ @ 6:30)

Thurs, October 5 Board Meeting
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton
Houston, Tx 77096

B-VARC ALLENDAR: SEPTEMBER 1989

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>HOUSTON AREA V.E. EXAM INFO: STU (MBS/SG) 713-777-3345</p> | <p>FUTURE MEETINGS: OCT 5: BOARD MEETING OCT 12: GENERAL MEETING</p> | <p>FUTURE B-VARC & PUBLIC-SERVICE EVENTS: OCT. 14: ALA-200 BIKE RIDE TO SAN ANTONIO</p> | | | | |
| <p>3 W HOUSTON RACES 2000 hrs 146.56</p> | <p>4 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47</p> | <p>5 10 X SHOT AMSAT 2000hrs 2200 hrs 28.488 145.45</p> | <p>6 B-VARC RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2030 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 (Busy? +3 hrs) 147.32</p> | <p>7 BOARD MEETING 1930 hrs M.C. FIRE STATION #1 (KEY MAP STD-1)</p> | <p>8 LUNCH BUNCH 1130 hrs. LOCALE VARIES (CHECK IN: 442.5 OR 443.15)</p> | <p>9 C.W. B-VARC BREAKFAST 2030 hr. 0730 hrs DENNY'S 147.32 SHARPSTOWN</p> |
| <p>10 W HOUSTON RACES 2000 hrs 146.56</p> | <p>11 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47 NOVICE CLASS STARTS</p> | <p>12 V.E. EXAMS 1930 hrs, STRAIGHT RESULT STU (MBS/SG), 777-3345</p> | <p>13 B-VARC RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2030 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 (Busy? +3 hrs) 147.32</p> | <p>14 GENERAL MEETING 1930 hrs @ M.C. F.S. #1 PROGRAM: T.B.A. OPTIONAL BBQ @ 1800 hrs HITCHING RAIL: STAFFORD</p> | <p>15 LUNCH BUNCH 1130 hrs. LOCALE VARIES (CHECK IN: 442.5 OR 443.15)</p> | <p>16 TERRY FOX 10-K RUN DOWNTOWN VICINITY RALPH (NESSON) 463-5454</p> |
| <p>17 W HOUSTON RACES 2000 hrs 146.56</p> | <p>18 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47 NOVICE CLASS</p> | <p>19 10 X SHOT AMSAT 2000hrs 2200 hrs 28.488 145.45</p> | <p>20 B-VARC RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2030 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 (Busy? +3 hrs) 147.32</p> | <p>21 LUNCH BUNCH 1130 hrs. LOCALE VARIES (CHECK IN: 442.5 OR 443.15)</p> | <p>22 LUNCH BUNCH 1130 hrs. LOCALE VARIES (CHECK IN: 442.5 OR 443.15)</p> | <p>23 C.W. B-VARC BREAKFAST 2030 hr. 0730 hrs DENNY'S 147.32 SHARPSTOWN</p> |
| <p>24 W HOUSTON RACES 2000 hrs 146.56</p> | <p>25 ARES B-VARC NET 2000 hrs 2100 hrs 147.30 145.47 NOVICE CLASS</p> | <p>26 10 X SHOT AMSAT 2000hrs 2200 hrs 28.488 145.45</p> | <p>27 B-VARC RAG-CHEW PRACTICE 2030 hrs 2030 hrs 3.960 (Busy? +3 hrs) 147.32</p> | <p>28 LUNCH BUNCH 1130 hrs. LOCALE VARIES (CHECK IN: 442.5 OR 443.15)</p> | <p>29 LUNCH BUNCH 1130 hrs. LOCALE VARIES (CHECK IN: 442.5 OR 443.15)</p> | <p>30 ZOO RUN RUN HERMAN PARK AREA JACK (MBSA) 495-1121</p> |
| | | | | | <p>NOTE: Nets meet weekly even if not shown</p> | <p>Please send info and corrections to the (MBS/SG) 437-4803</p> |

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

What is B-VARC?

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) is the largest, most active ham radio club in the Southwest Houston area. It was organized in 1977, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Stafford and Missouri City when required. Since that time, B-VARC has grown and expanded its activities to bring together many diverse interests.

Today, B-VARC is truly a general-interest club, with an impressive record of public service. This commitment to service has been recognized by the American Radio Relay League with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members, who represent the finest in Amateur Radio.

B-VARC Public Service Events

We participate in a large number of public events during the year, providing radio communication when needed. Doing so provides us with the fellowship of ham radio, and at the same time provides a useful service to the community. B-VARC members have helped at the Tennesse Marathon, the Rodeo Run, marathon warm-up races, fun runs, parades and other special events.

Our largest such event is the annual MS-150 bicycle ride. This event, which raises funds for Multiple Sclerosis, is a two-day trip from Houston to Austin. Much of this time is spent away from cities, so radio communication is quite valuable. When accidents or injuries occur, prompt access to information is essential. We are proud of our record of service to this event.

B-VARC Operating Events

Each summer B-VARC participates in Field Day, a contest designed to demonstrate emergency preparedness. Clubs all across the country set

up stations with their own power supplies in rural areas. B-VARC radio operators vie with one another in making voice and Morse code contacts with other operators all over the country.

B-VARC runs a Mother's Day Message Exhibit in a local shopping mall, accepting and relaying Mother's Day greetings from shoppers to mothers all over the world.

B-VARC License Examinations

B-VARC has been active in the Volunteer Examination program since its inception. Each month we hold examinations on the second Tuesday of the month. In 1988 we conducted the examination session at the Houston Ham-Convention.

Anyone wishing to take an examination should call Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, at 713-777-3345 for more information.

B-VARC License Classes

Each year B-VARC conducts two license classes designed to take a beginner at least to the Novice license. Those who wish to continue are trained in the Technician material as well. We have had excellent success with our students, and have now assisted quite a few people into the world of amateur radio.

Anyone wishing to participate in a license class should call Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, at 713-777-3345 for more information. Stu also keeps track of classes conducted by other area Clubs.

A Heartfelt Acknowledgement

B-VARC is very fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct its license examinations and classes in the fine classroom facilities of the Strake Jesuit school. We thank Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit for making these facilities available to us each month.

B-VARC Meetings

We have two meetings each month. Both begin at 7:30pm and are held at the Missouri City Fire Station, upstairs in the meeting room. The Fire Station is located on FM-2234 about one mile south of US 90-A.

On the first Thursday of the month we hold our monthly Board of Directors meeting. This meeting is a business meeting in which matters requiring board votes or planning are handled. All members are welcome to attend and participate in the planning.

On the second Thursday of the month we hold our regular membership meeting. At this meeting we have an interesting program, and discuss events of interest to members. It is a pleasant evening of fellowship and "eyeball QSO" as well.

Before the regular membership meeting each month, a number of members meet for dinner at the Hitching Rail on 90-A. This gets the evening off to a good start with fellowship and barbeque. We gather there anytime from 6pm on, so come on out and join us on the second Thursday of the month.

B-VARC Annual Banquet

There is one exception to our regular meeting schedule. Each January on the second Thursday of the month we hold our annual banquet. The location varies from year to year, but it is always a fine evening. It is at this time that we present awards to recognize outstanding achievement. Of these awards, the most prestigious is the B-VARC Order of the Key.

The Order of the Key

The Order of the Key is an award which is unique to B-VARC. With this award, we recognize those members who have made outstanding contributions to the progress of the Club. These contributions might take the form of a long-term, consistent commitment to service, or might represent an extremely high level of service for a shorter time. In any case, the award represents true service and commitment to the goals of B-VARC.

Nominations for the Order of the Key may be made by any member of the Club. The nominations must be made in writing, and should include a description of the nominee's contribu-

tions to the Club. Nominations must be submitted to the President of the Club not later than the December regular membership meeting. The President will then poll the Board of Directors secretly to allow them to vote on the nomination. Although any member may enter a nomination, voting is done only by the Board of Directors. The vote must be unanimous for the award to be given.

The Dr. Bill Award

In 1988 B-VARC initiated the presentation of a new award, called the Doctor Bill Award. This award will be presented each year to the person identified as the outstanding Volunteer Examiner. Dr. Bill Ossenfort, NG5C, now a Silent Key, was well known across the Houston area as a vigorous contributor to the Volunteer Examination program. His hard work and cheerful personality are missed by those who knew him.

In honor of his memory, Keith and Eva Hugel (KA5F and KA5CYZ) have prepared a beautiful plaque on which the names of the award recipients will be inscribed. Each recipient will also receive a smaller plaque suitably inscribed. Our first Dr. Bill award was bestowed upon Harold Parker, ND5F, at the January, 1989 annual banquet.

Nominations for the Dr. Bill award may be made by any member of the Club. They must be made in writing, and must be submitted to the President of the Club not later than the December regular membership meeting.

B-VARC Nets

Each Monday night at 9pm B-VARC conducts its Public Service net. This is a 2-meter FM net held on the 145.47 MHz repeater. During this net, news of interest to Club members is exchanged. Opportunities to announce equipment for sale, or requests for technical assistance are also provided. When available, we also provide the current Westlink news report, which lasts about ten minutes.

Each Wednesday night B-VARC conducts a less formal ragchew net on 80 meters. Nominally on 3.960 MHz, this net is a friendly roundtable discussion on any topics of interest to participants. One nice aspect of this net is that members who no longer live in the local area often check in.

B-VARC's Sister Organization — MERA

B-VARC is closely associated with the Memorial Emergency Repeater Association (MERA). MERA owns and operates the 145.47 MHz repeater as an emergency communications service to the Memorial Hospital system. By long-standing agreement, B-VARC members stand ready to assist with backup communications should medical communications be disrupted. MERA was founded, and is run, by B-VARC members to provide and maintain the repeater equipment vital to such communications.

B-VARC Officers and Directors (1989)

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Jack Van Demark, WN5A |
| Vice President | Bill Dessens, N5KXU |
| Treasurer | Brenson Abbott, KF5VZ |
| Recording Secretary | Robert Ricketts, N5JKD |
| Corresponding Secretary | Larry Overacker, KB5AKS |
| Activities Chairman | Suzanne King, KB5BAY |
| 3-Year Director | Allen Mattis, N5AFV |
| 2-Year Director | Carl Albrecht, AA5JW |
| 1-Year Director | Greg Lefebvre, K5LTW |

Roster of the Order of the Key

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1980 | Bob Spradling, W5UBD |
| 1981 | Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG |
| 1982 | Ron Bolyard, KA5GYG |
| 1983 | Wade Eilers, WN5TEN |
| 1983 | Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN |
| 1984 | Harold Parker, ND5F |
| 1984 | Allen Hanus, KA5RXX |
| 1985 | Dick Hagerman, WB5SRN |
| 1985 | Vance Patterson, N5FLQ |
| 1986 | Ray Dillard, WA5F |
| 1987 | George Jolly, ND5E |
| 1988 | Suzanne King, KB5BAY |

Roster of the Doctor Bill Award

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 1988 | Harold Parker, ND5F |
|------|---------------------|

B-VARC Past Presidents

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1978 | Jerry Albright, WD5HQU |
| 1979 | Wade Eilers, WN5TEN |
| 1980 | Bob Spradling, W5UBD |
| 1981 | Richard Shankle, N5KV |
| 1982 | Dick Bigelow, WD5CTQ |
| 1983 | Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN |
| 1984 | Ron Bolyard, KA5GYG |
| 1985 | Harold Parker, ND5F |
| 1986 | Steve Schuster, WA5G |
| 1987 | George Jolly, ND5E |
| 1988 | Steve Yates, KA5DUU |
| 1988 | Dave Dyer, AA5GA |
| 1989 | Jack Van Demark, WN5A |

Silent Keys

| |
|-----------------------|
| Bill Alexander, K5DRG |
| John Amarin, N5ISW |
| Bill Campbell, N5EUL |
| Joe Noles, N5BOK |
| Bill Ossenfort, NG5C |
| Bob Spradling, W5UBD |
| Robert Weber, KA5SLO |



Donna Carson / Special to the Chronicle

Jack Van Demark, president of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, says his club members are always ready to set up a communications network in time of emergencies. Van Demark is pictured at home with the equipment he uses as a "ham" radio operator.

'Hams' have a Field Day

Local amateur radio club tests emergency shortwave skill

By DENNY ANGELLE
Houston Chronicle Correspondent

On an ominous Saturday morning a month ago, some 40 members of an amateur radio club turned on portable generators and set up equipment under tents for what they called a "Field Day."

The morning was rainy and downright messy, and the choppy seas of the Gulf of Mexico would soon give birth to Tropical Storm Allison. It was a perfect time for a Field Day.

If Allison had turned into a hurricane and threatened the Houston area, members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club would have been ready to mobilize and provide emergency communications. The club staged its Field Day June 24-25 at Bear Creek Park in west Harris County.

Amateur radio hobbyists, better known as "hams," are able to contact and converse with other ham stations around the world. Using the shortwave radio bands available to amateurs, they speak with each other on two-way transceivers or converse via the International Morse Code.

At the Field Day, hams attempt to contact as many stations as they can during a 24-hour period. Working under primitive conditions, members sharpen emergency skills by practicing techniques that could be used during any situation that cuts telephone and electric services.

As it turned out, the services of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, or B-VARC, weren't needed on the weekend before Allison. Club president Jack Van Demark, 40, says the nasty weather was a plus for the participating members, though. "It was a good test, an exercise in ad-libbing under less-than-perfect conditions," he says. "A few days later, the area we were in was closed and under water. So it was a good taste of what we could really expect in a true emergency."

If an crisis cuts communications to any part of the world, hams are organized to help establish contact with the stricken area. When Hurricane Gilbert raked Jamaica last year, Houston-area hams hailed radio operators on the Caribbean island and helped determine the extent of damage and what supplies were needed. During the deadly Mexico City earthquake of 1985, hams served the same purpose.

"When we're needed, a radio officer works with the authorities, and all the volunteer members go to a preassigned position to set up a communications network," Van Demark said. Some hams relay only

information between official and government agencies. Others are available to the general public for individual communications. "Like trying to find out if your Aunt Minerva is OK," said Van Demark.

Local radio clubs like the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club normally lend their services to events such as the Tenecco Marathon, fun runs, bicycle races, parades and other special activities. The club also operates an examination program, conducting exams for licenses required by the Federal Communications Commission. With a membership of 80, the club serves much of west Harris County and east Fort Bend County.

Bill Dessens, 58, the club's vice president, entered the hobby two years ago at the suggestion of his son, who is a cross-country runner. Dessens says he loves the unpredictability of the hobby, never knowing whom he will contact next.

"You'd be surprised how many hams from other countries speak English," he said. "But when we make contact, we ask questions about each other. We never, never talk politics."

Hams like to talk about their lives and their equipment, and they readily lend themselves to the grim details of a potential emergency. "I can only speak for myself, but I'm willing to volunteer only when my family's safe," says Van Demark. "Some guys will stick out just about anything. It stands to reason that your family's welfare should come first."

Many amateur radio operators are members of Skywarn, a national program that educates and registers official weather "spotters" who report adverse conditions to the National Weather Service.

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Missouri City Fire Station. Hams also "meet" on the air at a preset time each week to discuss topics of interest and emergency exercises. Called "nets," these meetings usually feature information programs as well as conversations between hams.

The B-VARC "net" signs on at 9 p.m. each Monday, on the 145.47 Megahertz (MHz) frequency. Non-hams can listen in on any multiband radio that receives the VHF public service bands. Another "net," this one from Harris County, meets at 146.94 MHz Sundays at 9 p.m.

Harold Parker, 55, is an engineering consultant and a long-time member of B-VARC. He serves, on a

volunteer basis, as the assistant District Emergency Coordinator for Harris County and is an adviser to the state's office of Emergency Management.

Parker says the public is generally unaware of how hams can help individuals in an emergency. "It (an emergency) can happen anywhere, even on the other side of the world. It's the kind of thing people think will never happen to them," says Parker. "A ham can put people in touch with relatives who are vacationing where a hurricane hits, or any place where communications go down."

But, Parker adds, in most cases people have no idea how to get in touch with an active ham. "It's a problem — there's no real surefire way to locate the nearest radio operator," he says. He suggests calling a local radio/electronic equipment store to get the name of a local ham, or attending a meeting of a local radio club such as B-VARC.

Club president Van Demark agrees. "My only suggestion would be to find a radio and tune us in. We're there all the time."

Courtesy of the
Houston Chronicle.

I understand the ham shack pictured actually belongs to Stu (WB5IGG). We will give him credit even if the Chronicle didn't.

The "Non-Sequitur Award" goes to the paragraph about Bill (N5KXU), for stating "... at the suggestion of his son, who is a cross-country runner."

(I suspect they edited out the rest of this thought, which may have ended thus:

"... at Virginia Polytech, where he is a member of the ham radio club, enabling he and his father to talk weekly via ham radio."

In any event, this was a very good article about ham radio in general, and B-VARC in particular!

MEDICAL CENTER HAM STATION

Did you ever dream of running a kilowatt station, much less two? You can do this and help out a good cause at the same time.

M.D. Anderson Hospital has such a ham shack. It also has a packet setup. It was installed primarily to help the patients contact their loved ones, but also is available for the staff, and for volunteers who handle the traffic.

Steve Lhamon, a new B-VARC member and also a new ham (awaiting call!) told us of this at the July General Meeting. The station is coordinated by Dr. Zermeno (KK5W). To get more information, or to volunteer to help, call 792 '44

RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 8TH EXAM:

by: Harold Parker, NDSF

B-UIARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, August 8, 1989 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The U.E. Team and Assistants:

George Walker, WQSW
Henry Morrison, WSRIY
Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KGSIT
Harold Parker, NDSF

A total of forty-three (43) exams were administered during the evening to twenty-one (21) applicants. One (1) unlicensed candidate received her new Novice License and one (1) his new Technician License. Twelve (12) candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of twenty-five (25) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was fifty-eight (58%) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and/or passed exams:

Martin Blaise, NSOHN - Element 3B
Thomas Bowden, KBSIZL - General
Don Brown, Sr. - Technician
Alicia Dyer - Element 2
Deborah Dyer, KBSGUY - Technician
Glenn Edwards, WB4LZG - Advanced
Melanie Edwards - Technician
Godik Gyldenege - Technician
Lester Kendall, KASSTD - Technician
Larry Moore, KBSKCJ - Element 3B
Terrance Onda - Technician
John Queen, KBSGXN - General
Richard Rule, NSNIN - Advanced
Don Schexnailder, KASTUQ - Advanced
Karen Shorthose - Novice
Ronnie Shorthose - Technician
Steve Skelton - Technician
William Sullivan, KBSIFD - Element 3B

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

All of us at B-UIARC again thank Vincent, WASETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

VOLUNTEER EXAM SESSIONS FOR SEPT. * OCT.

Following are Amateur Radio license exam sessions scheduled for this general area in September and October 1989. The listing information is: A. Sponsoring group, B. Date and session location, and C. Whom to contact for detailed info.

- 1.A. Brazos Valley ARC
B. 9/12 & 10/10 in Houston
C. Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, 713-777-3345
- 2.A. Houston Echo Society
B. 9/23 (or 9/30?) in Houston
Irv Block NZ5V, 713-497-8750
- 3.A. Sam Houston AR Klub
B. 10/14 in Cleveland TX
C. Sam Neal N5AF, 713-592-2257
- 4.A. Unsponsored
B. 9/9 & 10/14 in Humble TX
C. Jim Shotwell WA5BUV, 713-443-2812

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11

That's the date of the first class meeting of B-VARC's Fall '89 Novice Course to prepare to pass the exams for a Novice license.

Call Stu Lamkin at 713-777-3345 for detailed enrollment and other information.

NEW FALL '89 NOVICE COURSE

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG

B-VARC's Fall '89 Novice course is scheduled to have its first class meeting on Monday, Spetember 12 in a classroom on the Strake Jesuit Ptep. School campus. There will be no tuition fee and students must obtain their own copies of the NEW 8th edition of the ARRL publication TUNE IN THE WORLD WITH HAM RADIO. It will be available in the ham radio stores or directly from ARRL after mid-August.

The 7th Edition will be obsolete because the Novice question pool has been from 301 to 372 questions and examinations given after October 31 must obtain questions from the new pool.

For more details or any question, call Stu Lamkin WB5IGG at 713-777-3345.

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1989 ACTIVITY ROSTER
compiled by Allen Mattis N5AFV

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| A. HOUSTON TENNECO MARATHON | B. CHALLENGER CUP 5K |
| C. FINE ARTS 5K | D. MOTHER HUBBARD 5K |
| E. CONOCO RODEO RUN 10K | F. WOMEN'S HOSPITAL 5K |
| G. AZALEA RUN 5K | H. HULL AIR SHOW |
| I. MS-150 BIKE TOUR | J. MAGIC CIRCLE 10K |
| K. ALA CLEAN AIR BIKE RIDE | L. DAD'S DASH 6K |
| M. ARRL FIELD DAY | N. USTS TRIATHLON |
| O. SHAREABLE WEARABLES | |

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Abbott, Brenson | KF5VZ | E, I |
| Albrecht, Carl | AA5JM | H, I |
| Black, Russell | KA5MCP | M |
| Borg, Gerry | N5APW | A, B, C, E, G, H, I, M |
| Cheek, Ralph | KB5DNT | A, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N |
| Covert, Rick | WD5L | M |
| Cox, Lawrence | KB5JQS | M |
| Dessens, Bill | NSKXU | C, G, H |
| Dessens, Mark | K65JT | M |
| Dilliard, Ray | W5AF | A, C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N |
| Dyer, Alicia | | I, M, N |
| Dyer, Dave | AA5GA | A, C, E, F, I, M |
| Dyer, Debbie | KB56UY | A, C, I, M |
| Dyer, Karla | N5LGS | A, C, E, F, I, M |
| Edwards, Glenn | WB4LZ6 | A, C, D, E, H, I, K, M, N, O |
| Edwards, Melanie | | A, C, D, M, N |
| Edwards, Susan | KBSICO | A, C, D, F, H, I, K, M, N, O |
| Eilers, Wade | WN5TEN | I |
| Foster, Greg | KB5IQP | H, M |
| Gottlieb, Steve | WA5OEN | H, M |
| Hammer, Cindy | N5LXE | I, M |
| Hammer, Dave | WJ5B | I, M |
| Harris, Ron | N5MKO | E, H |
| Hickox, Bill | K5BDZ | M |
| King, Suzanne | KB5BAY | A, C, D, E, F, G, H, I |
| Lawkin, Stu | WB5IG6 | A, M |
| Lance, Dave | KB5EYK | C, E, H, I |
| Lance, Lee | KB5EST | H |
| Mattis, Allen | N5AFV | B, C, E, F, H, L, M |
| Morrison, Henry | WSRIY | A, C, D, E, I, M, N |
| Nance, Herb | N5GZW | H, I, M |
| Overacker, Lawrence | KB5AKS | M |
| Parker, Harold | NDSF | A, E, F, G, H, I, J, L |
| Pollard, Randy | AK5G | C, H, J, L, M |
| Prochaska, Charles | K65KV | F, M, O |
| Ricketts, Robert | N5JKD | I, L, M, N |
| Smith, Irv | KB5EXM | E, I, M |
| Todd-Brown, Bill | N5MPN | M |
| Van Demark, Jack | WNSA | D, F, H, I, J, M, O |
| Warden, Mike | WB3HZP | A, E |

UPCOMING B-VARC PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR 1989
compiled by Allen Mattis N5AFV

| ACTIVITY | DATE | CHAIRPERSON |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| TERRY FOX 5K | SEP 16 | KB5DNT |
| ZOO RUN 8K | SEP 30 | WNSA |
| GAAC 20K | OCT 14 | WB5YLB |
| ALAMO CHALLENGE BIKE TREK | OCT 14-15 | NSJKD/KB5DNT/W5AF |
| HOUSTON HAM CONVENTION | NOV 3-5 | NDSF |
| GAAC 25K | NOV 11 | N5AFV |
| GAAC 30K | DEC 9 | |

B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS
3.960 MHZ 8:30PM WEDNESDAY
compiled by Allen Mattis N5AFV

JULY 19, 1989
N5AFV NCS, NSMPN, KB5DNT, W5RNK, AK5G, K65UJ

JULY 26, 1989
N5AFV NCS, KB5DNT, NSNTP, K65KV, K65UJ, AK5G, NSMPN, WNSA

AUGUST 2, 1989
N5AFV NCS, KB5DNT, NSNTP, K65KV, K65UJ, NSMPN, KASWJB

AUGUST 9, 1989
N5AFV NCS, NSMPN, NSNTP, WB5IG6, AK5G, KBSICO, WB4LZ6, W5RNK, K65KV, KB5DNT, K65UJ, WJ5B

AUGUST 16, 1989
N5AFV NCS, KB5DNT, K65KV, WNSA, KASWJB, WB5IG6, NSMPN, WB4LZ6, NSNTP, KBSICO

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Kevin KB5AGV has put both himself and the local Amateur Radio community, including CLARC, on the Amateur Radio map in a big way!

He has just won one of Amateur Radio's highest prizes, the 1988 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award.

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award goes to the outstanding young Ham of the Year, the individual who best exemplifies the purposes of Amateur Radio - service, communication, and experimentation.

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award is an extremely sought-after prize, with young people from all over the country nominated, and Kevin is the first winner from the South Texas area. The ARRL Board of Directors makes the final decision. Kevin will receive a plaque and a cash award of \$1000 at an Amateur Radio convention - he'll learn time and place eventually, we assume.

Kevin didn't even know that he had been nominated for the award until after ARRL Bulletin #42 came in and he began receiving congratulatory phone calls and radio and packet messages. John Nickel, WD5EEV, Emergency Coordinator, Harris County, Clear Lake sector, submitted the nomination.

Among the accomplishments that brought Kevin the award were his role in founding CLARC and serving as a CLARC officer, his work with the Novice classes, his DXing, and his communications with the Soviet Union.

All of us in CLARC join in congratulating Kevin KB5AGV and thanking him for all the work he's done on behalf of CLARC. We're sure Ruth N5JVV and Bob KA5GLX are as proud of Kevin as the rest of us!

LAST MONTH I COULDN'T SPELL NETT KRONTROLLE AND NOW I ARE ONE!

Suggestions for what to do when acting as Net Control for a local Public-Service event.

THE DAY BEFORE

Find out what repeater will be used and that permission granted.
Is there backup repeater? .Simplex frequency? .

Program your radio(s) for net frequencies, offsets and PL tones.
Test to be sure you can access repeater.

Set up local police etc frequencies if want to monitor on scanner.

Know how to access a repeater to speed-dial ambulance.
Determine if you or race official will call ambulance.
Have map, so could give directions to scene of accident.

Prepare lists of participants, obtained from Event Coordinator.
Sort in order of call-sign suffix.
For large net, other sorts might be useful also.
Position: (Start line --> wtr stops --> Finish Line).
First name of ham.
Names of race officials with each ham.

So over list of equipment and other items to bring.
Checklist will appear in a future Newsletter.
(Send the editor one for starters if you have one)

Decide where you will set up net control.
Study map; get near center of event - not in dead spot.
But, position yourself away from the action at your location.

Set your watch with WWV or other standard.

BEFORE NET STARTS

Have QSO with a regular user of repeater, to advise of plans.
Or, put out a QST call telling of imminent net use.
And, give chance for last minute traffic or call.

Explain that is directed net; all traffic to go through you.
Urgent traffic should be preceded by "BREAK-BREAK"

Call roll of net participants, finding out the following:
Their call and name (for benefit of other net members).
What is their position and mission?
Are they in position? Any problems?
Who is race official with them? (Name and function)

Arrange with event coordinator to shift hams to cover any no-shows.

Suggest that "roving" hams annotate their map with mileage info.
Ambulances, supply vans, etc.
Know where "landmarks" are (especially in rural areas).
Do on first traverse of course.

Synchronize watches throughout net.

SPECIAL-EVENT NET CONTROL SUGGESTIONS (Continued)

BEFORE AND DURING EVENT

- Take calls in order received (unless "BREAK-BREAK" heard)
- Put call sign in margin of note tablet; message to right.
- Normally people will use only call suffix for brevity.
- Use judgment to switch order (e.g., to Timer at start of race).
- Attempt to satisfy traffic from calling station.
- Pass message to appropriate station.
- Cross out message when traffic query handled.
- Follow up later if query not responded to initially.
- Allow hams to communicate directly if expeditious.
- Control to return to you when finished.
- Suggest lengthy QSO's be done on alternative frequency.
- Give ID every ten minutes.
- Use event timer to remind you.
- Give your complete call.
- State purpose of net so newly-tuned-in regular users will know.
- Do not leave frequency unattended.
- Ask other station to take over if you need to leave radio.

AFTER THE EVENT

- Release hams when they report that their function completed.
- Thank them for participating.
- Return repeater to normal use when all functions completed.
- Thank repeater trustee or regular user if can reach.
- Be sure car battery is not dead before others leave vicinity.
- (Your checklist should show a spare one in trunk.)
- Be sure B-VARC Activities Manager has list of participants.
- Send any suggestions to Event Coordinator for use next year.
- e.g., Recruit Conoco hams to help us with Conoco-sponsored run.
- (Might get some new B-VARC people and future event workers.)

15-E RODEO RUN FEBRUARY 18, 1989
 DOWNTOWN TO ASTRODOME
 TALK-IN: 14
 COMMUNICATIONS: 14
 BACK-UP REPEATER:
 SIMPLEX:
 B-VARC COORDINATOR: DAVE DYER (AASGA)

| CALL PRE DT SI | NAME FIRST LAST | ASSIGNMENT STATION DUTY | RACE OFFICIAL |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| N 5 AFV | AL MATTIS | 0 START LINE | DARYL DAUER |
| N 5 APN | GERRY BORG | -2 INFO TABLE & DONE | GEORGE MCATEER |
| KB 5 BAY | SUZANNE KING | SUPPLY VAN | S. LANCASTE |
| KB 5 DWT | RALPH CHEEK | 0 START LINE | VALERIE SHERLOCK |
| KB 5 EBN | IRV SMITH | -3 NET CONTROL | JOHN RACE |
| KB 5 EYK | DAVE LANCE | 3 MAIN & CLEBURNE | EDITH PARKER |
| WA 5 F | RAY BILLARD | 0 START LINE | MARILYN THIBODAU |
| ND 5 F | HAROLD PARKER | 0 START LINE | TOM CASBEER |
| AA 5 GA | DAVE DYER | 0 START LINE | BEN BOLDT |
| WB 5 GDB | JONARDY RUMSEY | 5 MAIN & GREENBRIAR | LINDA WILLIAMS |
| WB 5 HLP | NITE WARDEN | 1 MAIN & CONGRESS | CLAUBETTE DE CINCO |
| N 4 ICC | JIM HARTKUS | -2 INFO TABLE & DONE | LISA MATHER |
| N 4 LGS | KARLA DYER | 0 START LINE | KAY BENEKE |
| N 5 LDU | CATRY EASON | 0 START LINE | SUE COLLIER |
| N 5 LYB | FRED CREEL | 4 MAIN & UNIVERSITY | PAT WARREN BURGER |
| WB 4 LZB | GLENN EDWARDS | 9 FINISH LINE | MARY ANNE ACRAYER |
| N 5 MKD | RON HARTIS | 10 ROAD GUARDS | TOM BUNDY |
| KB 5 MRY | JULIUS DANTISER | -2 INFO TABLE & DONE | CYADI TUCKER |
| N 5 MFS | CIPPY RODRIGUEZ | -1 BUS: FANNIS & TEXAS | BILL RONNIE |
| N 5 R1Y | HENRY MORRISON | 2 MAIN & PRAIRIE | CAROLYN RUSSELL |
| WB 5 SRN | DICK HAGERMAN | 0 NS & ASTRODOME | BILL BULLOCK |
| KF 5 VZ | BRENSON ABBOTT | -2 INFO TABLE & DONE | DON GHTZ |