



B-VARC BULLETIN



The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor-in-Chief: 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: 13 Issue: 3

March 1990

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

Allen Mattis *N5AFV*
5314 Wigton
Houston , TX 77096

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, March 8	General Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
Program:	"Walkaround" Show & Tell Slumgullion Dinner
Thurs, April 5	Board Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station

NOTES FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT
by Al Mattis NSAFV

A Word From The President . . .

A lot has happened at B-VARC since the beginning of the year. A lot of committees are in place and have really been active in a lot of areas. Also, we have had activities from 3 other special committees that were appointed.

One main thing that is very gratifying is that new B-VARC members are becoming active in our Club. A list of all officers and standing committees are in this Newsletter, and we invite anyone interested in any particular area to call the chairperson of that particular committee and volunteer to serve. We can use the new fresh ideas.

I have taken the opportunity to visit the radio shack at M. D. Anderson Hospital on a couple of occasions, and these visits have proven to be very interesting. Dr. Al Zermeno, KK5W, operates this station. You may remember that Al visited B-VARC several months ago and talked to us about what are doing there. Anyway, plans are being formulated to have a Special Events Station at the hospital commemorating the Economic Summit to be held in Houston in July, and B-VARC is playing a major role in this. I have asked Steve, N5PRC, to head up a special committee to assist in the organization of this, and several people have already volunteered to help him. There will be a lot of publicity on this event, locally, nationally and internationally, and we certainly want to be a part of this. More on this as things develop.

I can't say "Thanks" enough to the many people who have been working very hard to make B-VARC the club that it is. Enthusiasm is at a real high, and we can all be very proud of the accomplishments that are taking place.

73,

Bill, N5KXU

Greetings to you again. This past month sure has gone quickly for me because of the automobile accident I was involved in the evening of last month's B-VARC general membership meeting. I have had many things to take care of as a result of that unfortunate incident. The lesson to be learned is to drive carefully and avoid what happened to me.

I want to especially thank all the club members and other regulars on the MERA repeater who directly assisted me, offered to help if needed, or patiently stood by so that I could use the repeater. Because I had my 6 year old son with me, it was necessary that I contact my wife so that she could pick him up. A special thank you to Irv Smith, KB5EXM, and Bill Hickox, K5BDZ, for their direct assistance. I also want to thank Gerry Borg, N5APW, and the MERA Board, for providing us with a dependable repeater. We often take such things for granted, but really shouldn't.

As a result of my missing last month's meeting, the new Public Service Event Guidelines were not distributed to the membership. They will be found elsewhere in this newsletter, and additional copies will be available at the March general membership meeting. The meeting promises to be a good one, and I'm looking forward to again enjoying Bill Todd-Brown's (NSMPN) legendary slumgullion.

How many of you caught the early morning DX on the MERA repeater Monday, February 12th? Quite a number of us worked Matta, XE2NHM, located southeast of Monterrey, Mexico. A number of stations from West Texas and the Fort Worth area were also making it into the repeater. This propagation opening lasted until at least 8 AM, and provided a little excitement for many of us during the morning commute to work.

The Wednesday evening Rag Chew Net at 8 PM on 3.960 mhz has been doing well. Check-ins have been averaging 18 per net this year, and Randy Pollard, AK5G, and Bill Todd-Brown, NSMPN, have been assisting with net control when I have been unable to make the net. The club owes a special thank you to those members who help out by acting as net control on our nets. We could use additional members helping out on both the Rag Chew and Public Service Nets.

That's it for this month.

**B-VARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES
PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT GUIDELINES
by Al Mattis NSAFV**

At its February, 1990, meeting, the B-VARC Board of Directors approved a set of new guidelines and procedures for the club's public service activities. The Public Service Event Guidelines are printed in this newsletter.

In addition to these guidelines, two new procedures were also approved by the Board:

1) All future B-VARC public service events must be approved in advance by the Board of Directors. It is important that organizations wishing B-VARC to provide communications for them contact our Public Service Events Chairperson, Ray Dillard, WAFS, far enough in advance of their event to allow time for Board approval to be obtained.

2) In addition, the Board voted to require that at public service events, "each participating B-VARC member be provided with some type of identification (i.e.: badge, card, cap, T-shirt, vehicle pass, etc....) that clearly grants permission for the communicator to cross security, crowd or spectator control lines in order to perform the desired communications functions." This procedure should eliminate some of the problems experienced by our members at past public service events.

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Slum-gul-lion (Slum'gul'yan); n. 1. Slang. A watery meat stew. 2. British Slang. A weak beverage. 3. The residue of a whale carcass, after butchering [Earlier, slum, slime, perhaps from the German Schlamm, mud, from Middle High German slam.]

For those of you who attended the last B-VARC MPN Slumgullion feed, you already know that it is none of the above, or perhaps all of the above.

But what it really is, is a good social gathering of people with a common interest (Amateur Radio), tempered with soft drinks and French bread by Jack, WNSA; coffee by Vick, NSNAS; desserts by Harold, NDSF, and slumgullion by Bill, NSMPN. And hopefully, lots of exotic QSL card displays and many "Favorite Radio Gadgets" ranging from QRP rigs, tuners, clocks, mikes, magnifiers, chair cushions, etc., from each member. Please attach a tag or sticker with your name and call to each "gadget". Tables will be available for your displays to facilitate the viewing and eating (viewing of gadgets and eating of whatever turns you on.)

The March 8th meeting will start promptly at 7:30 P. M. with a short business session and FOOD service starting at 7:50 P. M. Don't eat beforehand; there will be plenty. Please bring your appetite and gadgets.

See you then!

73,

Bill Todd-Brown, NSMPN

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The February 8 membership meeting was, by the recollection of several "Old Timers," the largest attendance ever experienced by the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club at a regular monthly meeting.

Andy MacAllister, W5ZIB, presented an excellent program on RF Satellites and the 6 new Microsats that were launched on 21 January.

If you missed the meeting, be sure and ask one of the attendees for a copy of the "handouts" that Andy distributed. The "handout" contained data on receiving Dove; a "Poor Boy Satellite Station" paper by Allan J. Fox, N5LKJ; Amsat Info.; NASA Info.; a complete list of currently operational Amateur Radio Satellites with frequencies; Microsat equipment needs; an "Introduction of JAS-1b (Fuji Oscar 20)" paper; another paper on Getting on Amsat-Oscar-13, What It Takes"; plus other tables and data. Some of the papers and data are hard to come by. Andy deserves a big "Thank You" for assembling and distributing the material.

Allan Fox, N5LKJ, very kindly assisted Andy in setting up the exhibits, satellite station and handouts. Thanks, Allan.

I'm sure that all of the members of B-VARC join me in inviting Andy, Allan, Damian and the other members of AMSAT to our Sluagullion feed at the 8 March membership meeting.

Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN

PROGRAMS

March, April and May

The March Sluagullion feed and social gathering are discussed in some detail in another article in this Newsletter.

The April meeting will feature Tom Comstock, N5TC. Tom and "His Bride" will drive in from College Station to speak to us on the ARRL, its programs and benefits. It has been several years since B-VARC has been able to have a "Jefe" from the ARRL come and speak to us, so please, mark your calendars and plan on giving Tom and "His Bride" a big audience and a hearty welcome. After all, B-VARC is THE ARRL affiliated club of the area, and we can do it.

The May meeting will feature Mr. Don Busick, K5AAD, W5UW, speaking on "What's New in Amateur Radio". It has been several years since Don has been out to address B-VARC and he has been missed. Don is, for you new members, the consummate authority on equipment. For the old members, Don can bring us up to date on the many changes. We have had excellent attendance at Don's previous talks, so come early, have some of Vick's, N5NAS, excellent coffee and enjoy.

There will be more on future meetings in the next Newsletter.

73,

Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN

B-VARC
BRAZOS-VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
IS OFFERING FREE
NOVICE LICENSE CLASS

MARCH 5, 1990
7:00 P.M.

FOR REGISTRATION
OR INFORMATION,
CALL: STU LAMKIN
(713) 777-3345

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS		N O V	D E C	F E B
KF 5 VZ	BRENSON ABBOTT	X	X	
AA 5 JW	CARL ALBRECHT		X	X
N 5 POH	FRANK BERNER		X	
KA 5 MCP	RUSSELL BLACK	X		
N 5 APW	GERRY BORG			X
N 5 PKW	BETH BROWN	X	X	X
N 5 NTO	DON BROWN	X		X
KB 5 KLY	DON BROWN, SR.	X	X	X
KB 5 DNT	RALPH CHEEK	X		
WB 5 YDD	BILL CLARKE		X	
	ERIC COLE		X	
WD 5 L	RICK COVERT	X	X	X
KB 5 JOS	LAWRENCE COX			X
N 5 NVV	JULIUS DANZIGER			X
N 5 KXU	BILL DESSENS	X	X	X
K 0 FPK	ADRIAN DEWAAL		X	
WA 5 F	RAY DILLARD	X	X	
KB 5 KNC	ALICIA DYER	X	X	
AA 5 GA	DAVE DYER	X	X	
KB 5 GUY	DEBORAH DYER	X	X	
N 5 LGS	KARLA DYER	X	X	
WB 4 LZG	GLENN EDWARDS	X		X
KB 5 KLH	MELANIE EDWARDS	X		
KB 5 ICO	SUSAN EDWARDS	X	X	X
N 5 LRC	DOUGLAS EGGLESTON		X	
	ROBERTO FLAMENCO		X	
KB 5 EIN	BILL FORKNER		X	
	CRAIG FORKNER		X	
N 5 LKJ	ALLAN FOX			X
KB 5 ???	FLOYD FOX		X	X
K 5 LBU	CHARLES FROST		X	
WA 5 OEN	STEVE GOTTLIEB	X	X	X
WB 5 SRN	DICK HAGERMAN			X
N 5 ???	NICK HARDY	X	X	X
W 5 WVX	ED HARWELL	X	X	
N 4 KKC	JIM HAWKINS			X
WB 1 CCH	EARLE HERBERT		X	
KB 5 JIZ	GEORGE HICKOX	X		
N 5 JXO	FRED JUCH			X
N 5 OUT	DICK KRUSE		X	X
NO 5 C	ELTON KYTLE		X	
WB 3 IGG	STU LAMKIN	X	X	X
WB 4 PGF	TERRY LEATHERLAND			X
K 5 LTW	GREG LEFEBVRE	X	X	X
	HARRY LEVINE		X	
WD 5 DRB	LARRY LEVY	X		
KB 5 JMI	KIRBY LYDE		X	
WA 5 ZIB	ANDY MacALLISTER			X
N 5 AFV	AL MATTIS	X	X	
KA 5 DKS	KEN MCANINCH			X
KB 5 ???	MARK McELVY	X		
KA 5 NYI	MARK McGRATH			X
AA 5 LF	STEVE MOYNIHAN	X		X
N 5 GZW	HERB NANCE			X
KB 5 KJS	TERRY ONDA		X	
WA 5 ETS	VINCENT ORLANDO			X
ND 5 F	HAROLD PARKER	X	X	X
KB 5 LFU *	ROGER POKLADNIK		X	X
AK 5 G	RANDY POLLARD	X	X	X
KG 5 KV	CHARLES PROCHASKA		X	X
AA 5 OA	RANDY PUGH	X	X	
	GAIL RATTERREE			X
N 5 NAS	VICK RICHARD	X	X	
N 5 JKD	ROBERT RICKETTS	X		
N 5 PNx	EDDIE RUNNER			X
KA 5 TUQ	DON SCHEXNAILDER			X
N 5 FVM	DAMIAN SCHUMACHER			X
K 5 CNU	TOM SELLERS			X
N 5 PHL	RON SHORTHOSE	X	X	X
KB 5 LDJ *	DAWN SINIBALDI	X	X	X
KB 5 KMN	STEVE SKELTON	X		X
KB 5 EXM	IRV SMITH		X	X
N 5 PHM	TIM STANLEY		X	
K 5 DIY	JOE TARRANT	X		X
KA 5 SLG	DAVID TAYLOR	X		
KB 5 IDN	MELVIN THATCHER	X		X
N 5 MPN	BILL TODD-BROWN			X
WN 5 A	JACK VAN DEMARK	X	X	X
WB 5 IBT	DON WADE	X		X
KB 5 JWQ	SIDNEY WARREN			X
* = NEW CALL	TOTAL	39	44	48

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1990 PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL
compiled by Allen Mattis NSAFV

A. HOUSTON TENNECO MARATHON

Abbott, Brenson	KF5VZ	A
Borg, Gerry	N5APW	A
Cheek, Ralph	KB5DNT	A
Dillard, Ray	WA5F	A
Dyer, Karla	N5L6S	A
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	A
Edwards, Melanie	KB5KLH	A
Edwards, Susan	KB5ICO	A
Freedenberg, Henry	N5HF	A
Gordon, Hy	NCSA	A
Gordon, Irene	N5AYX	A
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A
Jacobs, Bradley	KB5JON	A
Jacobs, Nathan	KB5KTZ	A
Jacobs, Travis	N5DDN	A
Lamkin, Stu	WB5IGG	A
Mattis, Allen	NSAFV	A
Morrison, Henry	WSRIY	A
Nance, Herb	N56ZW	A
Parker, Harold	N05F	A
Ricketts, Robert	N5JKD	A
Van Demark, Jack	WNSA	A
Wade, Don	WB5IBT	A
Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	A

PLEASE REPORT CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO NSAFV

PREAMBLE FOR B-VARC RAG CHEW NET

QST, QST, QST... This is _____, net control station for this evening's session of the B-VARC Rag Chew Net. This net originates from the Houston, Texas metropolitan area, and is a public service of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club. This net meets each Wednesday evening at 8 PM local time on or near the frequency of 3.960 Mhz. Amateurs with license authorization for this frequency are welcome to join us each week.

This is _____, and my name is _____. I will now accept check-ins for the net. Any station wishing to check in please come now with your call sign.

(Wait for about 5 seconds of silence, then repeat call signs. Ask for relays. Repeat request for check-ins at least twice.)

Tonight's agenda will include:

- 1) B-VARC club news and general announcements of interest to amateur radio operators.
- 2) Equipment for swap, sale, or purchase.
- 3) Calls for technical assistance.

Any stations with B-VARC club news or general announcements please come now with your call sign only.

(Record call signs. Call each station for his/her turn.)

Any stations with equipment for swap, sale, or purchase please come now with your call sign only.

(Record call signs. Call each station for his/her turn.)

Any stations with calls for technical assistance please come now with your call sign only.

(Record call signs. Call each station for his/her turn.)

This concludes the formal portion of tonight's net, and I would like to thank all stations who checked in. We had _____ check-ins this evening. I would also like to remind all stations about the B-VARC Public Service Net held Monday evenings on 145.47 Mhz at 9 PM. This is _____ releasing this frequency for normal amateur use.

RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 13TH EXAM:

by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, February 13, 1990 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:

- Carl Albrecht, AASJW
- Mike Scism, KV5M
- Cass Germany, K6SIT
- Randy Pugh, AA5OA
- Stu Lanin, WB5I6G
- Harold Parker, ND5F

A total of twenty-one (21) exams were administered during the evening to ten (10) applicants. Two (2) unlicensed candidates received their new Novice License and one (1) a new Technician License. Three (3) other candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of twelve (12) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was fifty-seven (57%) percent.

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

- Henry Bell, N5ILI - Advanced
- Marion Chambers - Element 2
- Mark Chambers - Novice
- Michael Chambers - Technician
- John Danziger - Novice
- Henry Flowers, K8SLMA - Technician
- Randy Hessler, KB5HAB - General

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

All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, WA5E7S, and everyone at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us each month for our exams.

W1AW SCHEDULE - JAN. 1990 QST
(FOR OCT. 29 THRU APRIL 1)

ALL TIMES ARE C.S.T.

by: Harold, ND5F

MON, WED & FRI	TUE, TH, SAT & SUN
8:00 AM-SLOW CW PRACTICE	8:00 AM-FAST CW PRACTICE **
9:00 AM-CW BULLETIN	9:00 AM-CW BULLETIN **
10:00 AM-TELE BULLETIN	10:00 AM-TELE BULLETIN **
3:00 PM-FAST CW PRACTICE	3:00 PM-SLOW CW PRACTICE
4:00 PM-CW BULLETIN	4:00 PM-CW BULLETIN
5:00 PM-TELE BULLETIN	5:00 PM-TELE BULLETIN
6:00 PM-FAST CW PRACTICE	6:00 PM-SLOW CW PRACTICE *
7:00 PM-CW BULLETIN	7:00 PM-CW BULLETIN
8:00 PM-TELE BULLETIN	8:00 PM-TELE BULLETIN
8:45 PM-VOICE BULLETIN	8:45 PM-CW BULLETIN
9:00 PM-SLOW CW BULLETIN	9:00 PM-FAST CW BULLETIN **
10:00 PM-CW BULLETIN	10:00 PM-CW BULLETIN
11:00 PM-TELE BULLETIN	11:00 PM-TELE BULLETIN
11:45 PM-VOICE BULLETIN	11:45 PM-VOICE BULLETIN

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

9:00 PM - FAST CW PRACT.	6:00 PM - FAST CW PRACTICE
	7:00 PM - SLOW CW PRACTICE

NOTE: * - NOT TRANSMITTED ON SUNDAY
** - NOT TRANSMITTED ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE 1-1-90	\$1,883.14
BALANCE 1-31-90	\$1,495.61
BALANCE 2-1-90	\$1,495.61
BALANCE 2-20-90	\$1,393.54

RANDY POLLARD, AK5G
TREASURER

B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS
3.960 MHZ 8:00PM WEDNESDAY
compiled by Allen Mattis NSAFV

JANUARY 24, 1990

NSAFV NCS, K8SDNT, N5MPN, K65KV, W5RNK,
K4SWOT, N5KRU, K4SDUU, AK5G, W5S1BT,
N5PRC, W4SSCE, W5I6G, KF5VZ, K851ON,
W4LZG, K8S1CO, K8SKLH, A4SLF, WJ5B

JANUARY 31, 1990

AK5G NCS, A4SOA, K5DIY, N5MPN, WJ5B,
W5I6G, N5NVV, K4SDUU, N5KXU, K65KV,
K4SWOT, W5G6G, N5KRU, K851ON, W4LZG,
K8S1CO, A4SLF, N5PRC

FEBRUARY 7, 1990

NSAFV NCS, A4SOA, N5MPN, W5RNK, K5DIY,
K4SDUU, K4SSGH, K65KV, W4LZG, K8S1CO,
A4SLF, W5S1BT, K851ON, N5KXU, W5I6G,
W4SSCE, K8SDNT

FEBRUARY 14, 1990

NSAFV NCS, A4SGV, N5KXU, N5MPN, WJ5B,
W5RNK, W4LZG, K8S1CO, KF5VZ, K8SDNT,
K851ON, W5I6G, W5SSRN, N5ILI, N5PRP,
AK5G, A4SOA

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
(B - V A R C)
1990 - 1991

OFFICERS

N5KXU Bill Dessens President
Res: 721-1844; Bus: 782-1212
6014 Wigton, Houston, TX 77096

N5AFV Allen Mattis Vice- President
Res: 721-3637; Bus: 752-5853
5314 Wigton, Houston, TX 77096

N5OUT Dick Kruse Recording Secretary
Res: 530-0470; Bus: 530-0470
11509 Beechnut, Houston, TX 77072

KB5ICO Susan Edwards Corresponding Secretary
Res: 498-7425
15802 Los Altos, Houston, TX 77083

AK5G Randy Pollard Treasurer
Res: 729-6484; Bus: 729-6484
5507 Braesvalley, Houston, TX 77096

DIRECTORS

WB4LZG Glenn Edwards 3 Year Director
Res: 498-7425; Bus: 776-4024
15802 Los Altos, Houston, TX 77083

N5APW Gerry Borg 2 Year Director
Res: 771-2969; Bus: 953-8521
8426 Stroud, Houston, TX 77036

AA5JW Carl Albrecht 1 Year Director
Res: 495-6443; Bus: 495-6443
11711 Bolero Ct., Stafford, TX 77477

WNSA Jack Van Demark Past President
Res: 495-1121; Bus: 975-8670
7514 Winter Glen, Houston, TX 77072

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

NET MANAGERS

N5APW Gerry Borg
B-VARC Monday Night Public Service Net

N5AFV Allen Mattis
B-VARC Wednesday Night Rag Chew Net

PARLIAMENTARIAN

N5OUT Dick Kruse

STANDING COMMITTEES

ARRL LIAISON

WB5IGG Stu Lankin, Chairperson
Special Service Club

ND5F Harold Parker

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Field Day

WNSA Jack Van Demark, Chairperson
NSPRP Nick Hardy
KF5VZ Brenson Abbott

Picnics

N5NAS Victor Richard and
KB5BAY Suzanne Borg, Co-Chairpersons

Transmitter Hunts

N5JKD Robert Ricketts, Chairperson

Banquet

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

W5WVX Ed Harwell, Chairperson

FINANCE

AA5GA David Dyer, Chairperson
Newsletter Advertising
Other Fund Raising

MEMBERSHIP

KB5ICO Susan Edwards, Chairperson
B-VARC Roster
Name Tags and Member Packets
New Members
Renewal Members

PROGRAMS

N5MPN Bill Todd-Brown, Chairperson
N5NAS Victor Richard
ND5F Harold Parker
WNSA Jack Van Demark
N5OUT Dick Kruse
WB4LZG Glenn Edwards
N5KXU Bill Dessens

PUBLICATIONS

KB5EQH Roland Torres, B-VARC Newsletter Editor
KB5EXM Irv Smith, Bulletin Preparation, Mailing

PUBLIC RELATIONS

N5PRC Steve Skelton, Chairperson

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

WA5F Ray Dillard, Chairperson

TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT

Volunteer Examination Program

ND5F Harold Parker
WB5IGG Stu Lankin

Novice Classes

WB4LZG Glenn Edwards
N5APW Gerry Borg

Initial Coordinator - Novice Class

WB5IGG Stu Lankin

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 Tenneco 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 contributions 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 Huges (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 (1990)

President	Bill Dessens, N5KXU
Vice President	Allen Mattis, N5AFV
Treasurer	Randy Pollard, AK5G
Recording Secretary	Dick Kruse, N5OUT
Corresponding Secretary	Susan Edwards, KB5ICO
3-Year Director	Glenn Edwards, WB4LZG
2-Year Director	Gerry Borg, N5APW
1-Year Director	Carl Albrecht, AA5JW

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
1989	Roland Torres, KB5EQH
1989	Jack Van Demark, WN5A

Roster of the Doctor Bill Award

1988	Harold Parker, ND5F
1989	Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

Roster of B-VARC 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
1990	Bill Dessens, N5KXU

Silent Keys

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

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS OF THE
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Members of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) who participate in public service events provide their own radio equipment, and volunteer their time, without remuneration, to serve the general public. The safety of event participants, spectators, and workers is of primary concern, and any benefit to the event organizer is incidental. These amateur radio operators - or hams - are expected to act in a responsible manner, and to perform their assigned duties courteously, professionally, and in a manner that reflects favorably on both B-VARC and the Amateur Radio Service.

In order to accomplish these objectives, it is important that B-VARC members do not attempt to perform functions for which they are not properly trained. Functions such as medical assistance, traffic control, and security are the responsibility of event officials, and the officials usually have trained personnel at the event to provide these functions. The amateur radio operators of B-VARC provide communications that allow a more timely and efficient use of these trained personnel. The amateur radio operators are also able to provide communications between key event officials. The members of B-VARC possess the equipment and expertise to provide dependable communications, and the emphasis of B-VARC participation at public service events is on providing communications.

Therefore, at public service events, members of B-VARC:

- 1) DO NOT handle money or tickets for the event.
- 2) DO NOT direct traffic, either on streets or in parking lots.
DO report traffic-related problems to appropriate event officials so that properly trained personnel may be dispatched to handle the problem.
- 3) DO NOT perform direct security functions such as crowd control, road guard, etc...
DO report security-related problems and dangerous situations to appropriate event officials so that properly trained personnel may be dispatched to handle the problem.
- 4) DO NOT administer first aid.
DO notify appropriate event officials and/or properly trained medical personnel of any medical-related problem.
- 5) DO NOT transport persons requiring medical assistance.
DO report the location of persons requiring medical assistance to appropriate event officials and/or properly trained medical personnel so that transport may be arranged.
- 6) DO NOT provide or operate "sag wagons" or other vehicles for use in transporting supplies or persons.
DO encourage event organizers to have such vehicles, and to arrange in advance for an amateur radio operator to be assigned to each such vehicle.