



B-VARC BULLETIN

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

Editor in Chief: Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS 774-7651 (0800-2100 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.

To obtain information about the club and its various activities, please call the Houston Amateur Radio Helpline (713) 488-4HAM (488-4426). For information about joining the club, contact Randy Pollard AK5G: residence 729-6484 or work 224-3930.

Volume: 14 Issue: 8

August 1991

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, August 8 General Meeting
7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center
226 Matlage Way
Great Handie-Talkie Shootout
Videos of Field Day

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

August 1991

B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	5 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	6 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	7 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy? + 3 Khz)	8 7:30pm <i>General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center</i>	9 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	10 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146. 84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
11 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	12 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	13 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strake Jenit College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146.82	14 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy? + 3 Khz)	15	16 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	17 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Side-walk Sale 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146.84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
18 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	19 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	20 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	21 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy? + 3 Khz)	22 7:30pm West Side Social	23 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	24 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146. 84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
25 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:00pm Harris County RACES 146.94 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	26 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47	27 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 146. 82	28 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy? + 3 Khz)	29	30 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	31 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Management Net 146. 84 8:30pm C.W. 147.32

Notes From The President . . .

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

Greetings to you again. Last month's B-VARC general membership meeting was certainly a huge success. I counted approximately 70 persons in attendance, and everybody seemed to really enjoy the great field day video prepared by N5SDL, the balloon launch video, the ice cream, and the chance to socialize with other club members.

I was especially pleased to see so many of our new members present. Many of these members had just received their licenses after a long wait. I remember when I received my license in 1978. I took the exam before the FCC examiners in early May, and didn't receive my license until late June. The six week wait seemed an eternity. Some things in amateur radio have not changed! Please join me in welcoming these new amateurs to our club.

B-VARC membership has now reached 197. Nine persons joined the club at the July meeting, and we anticipate setting a new club membership record any day now. Early in the year, we projected that the club membership would exceed 200 near the end of the year. That point has been reached in midyear. Thank you to everybody who has helped us have such a successful year. All of your efforts to help the club and your participation in club activities have paid off.

The club nets continue to draw a good number of check-ins. Our Monday night Public Service Net is one of the most popular nets in the metropolitan area. The Wednesday evening Rag Chew Net on 75 meters has continued to draw ten to twelve check-ins during the summer months when participation usually drops off. Please remember to thank those members who serve as net control for our nets, or better yet, volunteer to do net control yourself for one net. Gerry Borg, N5APW, and Mel Thatcher, KB5ION, our net managers, will be happy to help you try your hand at net control.

Finally, I wish to thank those members who helped with the tables and chairs for the July meeting at the Sugar Land Community Center. The mechanics of moving the chairs and tables to and from the storage room went better than the previous month. More members helped, and also some of the younger members got involved. We could use a few volunteers to work with Steve Shirk N5SDL and Bud King N5UOG on a rotating basis to help insure that this aspect of our monthly meeting goes smoothly. If you

can spare the few extra minutes to help Steve and Bud on meeting nights, please call them and offer your services.

That's it for this month. Hope to see you at the August meeting if you survive the summer heat.

73 de N5AFV

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

July 3, 1991

KB5ION NCS, WA5ETS, N5MPN, WB5SRN, W5IHY, KB5DNT, KB5LFU, KI5CE, N5AFV, KG5KV

July 10, 1991

N5FNA NCS, WB5SRN, W5IHY, N5MPN, WA5ETS, KG5KV, WA5EFV, N5AFV, WA5FCE, KB5LFU, AA5BD, KA5OAI (Sam in San Angelo)

July 17, 1991

KB5ION NCS, N5MPN, WB5SRN, KB5DNT, N5AFV, W5IHY, W5EFB, KB5LFU, N5KXU, N5QCE, W5GHK

Results of the July 9th Amateur Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, July 9, 1991, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team

George Jolly, ND5E
Mark Leuchter, AA5XM
Harold Parker, ND5F

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Ron Grimes, WA5SCE

A total of forty-three (43) exams were administered during the evening to twenty-three (23) applicants. Six (6) unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses. Six (6) others upgraded their licenses with a total of twenty-two (22) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was fifty-one (51%) percent.

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

John Ashmore, KB5OTQ — Element 4A
Frank Berner, N5POH — General
William Bierman — Element 2

Conrad Butts — Technician
Paul Flesher, N5SJQ — Advanced
David Glass — Technician
Don Hadley — Technician
Dick Hawkins, W5DWI — Extra
Jewel Johnson — Technician
Tom Kirages, KB5PXZ — Technician
Robert Meyers — Element 2
Dennis Rogers — Technician
David Schraudt — Technician
Richard Snitkin, KB5NHL — General
John Stevens, K5ERP — Extra

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, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

73's ... ND5F

Volunteers for Meeting Setup & Teardown by Steve Shirk, N5SDL

Our new meeting place has been great, and the meetings have been running 70 to 75 persons. The problem has been that we are having to set up more chairs and tables to accommodate the larger turnout. Bud King N5UOG has been great at helping to get things set up and torn down but can't do it alone. We need volunteers to come 30 or 40 minutes early to help set up and stay after to help tear down. Please call me, Steve N5SDL at 933-4737 if you can help and leave a message if I am not home. (Ignore my answering machine message. I have a weird sense of humor.) We need at least 7 or 8 more people.

73's Steve N5SDL

B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Action & Comments, July 1, 1991 by Dick Kruse, N5OUT, Recording Secretary

The minutes of the June Board of Directors meeting were read and approved.

Cash on hand in the club treasury is \$2,836.75. Five people joined B-VARC and paid their dues since the last meeting. The club now has 188 members.

Club President Allen Mattis, N5AFV, discussed the difficulties he had communicating with the ARRL to inform them that Glenn Edwards, WB4LZG, was appointed our Amateur Radio Instructor of record and Steve Dunkelberger, N5JBL, is the new ARRL Liaison. Among other things done for the club during the last month, Allen communicated our new meeting location to World Radio Magazine; sent a Thank You letter to Lou McFadden, W5DID, for being our guest speaker at our last general meeting; and sent the check for the next quarterly payment to the Ham Radio Helpline.

75 people signed the guest register at Field Day, June 22 and 23, at Bear Creek Park. Six stayed all night. Approximately 1,200 contacts were made. \$135 was spent on food, \$43 short of what was collected. The club made up the \$43 difference.

To remain within the FCC Rules & Regulations for all future Public Service events, we must be sure to communicate only those items that are for health and safety. A letter will be written carefully spelling out club guidelines for all future Public Service events. A July 1991 article in *QST Magazine* provides additional information. Four Public Service Events are scheduled: October 12, 20K Warm-Up Race at Walden on Lake Conroe and the Alamo Challenge Bike Tour; November 9, 25K Warm-Up Race at Cinco Ranch; and December 7, 30K Warm-Up Race in First Colony.

There have been fourteen to fifteen checkins to the Rag Chew Net each week.

Gerry Borg, N5APW, Trustee of the M.E.R.A., 145.47 repeater, reported that different volunteers are calling the Public Service Net, Monday night, 9 pm. Randy Pollard, AK5G, is the newest member of the M.E.R.A. Board of Directors. Improvements are being made to the repeater with a Micor repeater to run 30 watts, a new antenna with about 6 db more gain, and new coax. Installing an Auto Patch will be discussed at the next M.E.R.A. board meeting July 17th.

The program for the General Membership meeting July 11th, will be an Ice Cream Social with videos of Field Day.

Forty-one exams were given at the last VE test session.

The next Novice/Tech No-Code class will begin October 7.

The Sidewalk Sale in June was successful, but the rain ended it about 9 A.M. Approximately thirty-three of us went to breakfast at Champs.

A thirty-cup coffee pot will be purchased for future club functions.

**1991 ATTENDANCE ROSTER
B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS**

	M	J	J
	A	U	U
	Y	N	L
Elizabeth Brigham			✓
Robert Brigham			✓
Marge Clarke			✓
Bill Clemmons		✓	
Tony Cypert		✓	
Henry Downs			✓
Susanna Friedman	✓		
Clifton King	✓	✓	
Terri McRae		✓	✓
T. J. Onda		✓	✓
Eric Owens		✓	
Dennis Rogers			✓
Gene Russell		✓	
Louise Sanders			✓
Ray Sells	✓	✓	
Jim Wilkinson		✓	✓
Jack Van Demark		✓	✓
Al Mattis	✓	✓	✓
Gerry Borg	✓	✓	✓
Jim Heil	✓		
Suzanne Borg			✓
Emmett Jackson	✓		
Bill Kemp		✓	✓
Earle Herbert		✓	
Glenn Lewis	✓		
Sam Wilson	✓	✓	✓
Jim Harper			✓
Lou McFadin		✓	
Ken McAninch		✓	
Ralph Cheek	✓	✓	
Jim Jeffries		✓	
David Stevens		✓	
Vincent Orlando	✓	✓	
Irv Smith	✓		✓
Ray Dillard	✓	✓	✓
Harold Parker	✓	✓	✓
Ron McDonald		✓	
Terry Onda		✓	✓
Damian Schurnacher		✓	
Randy Pollard		✓	
William Wilson	✓		
Herb Nance	✓		
Don Wade	✓	✓	✓
Stu Lamkin	✓		
Melvin Thatcher	✓	✓	
Stephen Dunkelberger	✓		✓
Ed Truitt			✓
Robert Ricketts		✓	
Carl Albrecht		✓	
Don Brown, Sr.	✓	✓	✓
Benny Owens		✓	✓
Charles Prochaska	✓	✓	✓
Bill Dessens	✓	✓	✓
Rick Covert		✓	
Dawn Sinibaldi	✓		
Steve Moynihan	✓	✓	
Roger Pokladnik	✓	✓	✓
Glenn Edwards		✓	
Bill Todd-Brown	✓	✓	✓

N5NAS	Vic Richard		✓	✓
KB5NUS	Joe Bly	✓		
KB5NZK	Brian Stevens		✓	✓
WA5OEN	Steve Gottlieb	✓	✓	✓
KI5OT	Lawrence Whitehead		✓	✓
N5OUT	Dick Kruse	✓	✓	✓
N5OUZ	Lawrence Cox	✓	✓	✓
KB5PAJ	Marion Chambers	✓	✓	
KB5PMF	Harry Lavine	✓	✓	
WA3PMT	Steven Deaktor		✓	✓
N5PNX	Eddie Runner		✓	
KB5OBB	Edward Runner, Jr.		✓	
N5PHL	Ron Shorthose			✓
N5POH	Frank Berner		✓	
NL7PQ	Ian George		✓	
N5PRC	Steve Skelton		✓	✓
N5PRP	Nick Hardy	✓		
N5PTN	Michael Lay		✓	✓
KB5PVE	Cy Schaadt		✓	
N5QCE/AA	Michael Chambers	✓	✓	
N5QVI	Jordan Kossack		✓	
N5RNM	Doug Vandevera		✓	
N5RQO	Sharon Grimes		✓	✓
N5RYZ	Richard Bearden	✓		
WA5SCE	Ron Grimes		✓	✓
N5SDL	Stephen Shirk	✓	✓	✓
WB5SHU	Clem Winford		✓	✓
N5SJR	Bob Brigham	✓	✓	
N4SKR	Garlen Marshall	✓		
KE5SR	Doug Holley			✓
N5SPZ	Frank Sanders			✓
WB5SRN	Dick Hagerman	✓	✓	✓
N5STD	Doug Barrett	✓		
N5TBG	John Brzovskis		✓	
N5TBI	Max North	✓		
N5TM	Dan Bales		✓	
N5TRM	Ed Newman		✓	
N5TRQ	Susanna Friedman		✓	
N5ULY	Paula Holcombe		✓	✓
N5ULX	Jan Hays			✓
N5ULZ	Kelley Hughes			✓
N5UND	Ron Earl			✓
N5UNC	Vincent Emmitte			✓
N5UNE	Tony Cypert			✓
NB5UOB	Ray Sells			✓
N5UOG	Bud King			✓
N5UOH	Max Hays			✓
KF5VZ	Brenson Abbott			✓
KK5W	Al Zermeo			✓
KF5XQ	D. C. Weiss			✓
WB5YDD	Bill Clarke	✓		✓
K5YFL	Gene Chapline			✓
KF5ZL	Bob White			✓
	TOTAL:	42	69	55

September *Bulletin* Deadline

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the September issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than August 27th. Please give such to Vincent Orlando WA5ETS; 8900 Bellaire Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77036-4699 or FAX (713) 774-6427.

Field Day Past and Present or You Can't Keep A Good Antenna Down

by Steve Shirk, N5SDL

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream. Well there were no screams but lots of mmmm's for all the good flavors that we had. I didn't count how many gallons, but there was plenty for all including some homemade strawberry (that was peppermint that you liked so much Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN), also tons of chocolate. Thank you one and all that brought the ice cream and helped out with the set up and tear down.

For those of you who missed the "World Premier" of the *Field Day Past and Present* video, there will be another showing at the August meeting, and we will be letting you know how to get a copy if you want one. Randy Pollard AK5G, Allen Mattis N5AFV, and myself N5SDL are working out a way to make good copies and raise a little money for the club. We'll get back to you with more details.

The next month's meeting is titled "The Great Walkie Talkie Shootout" or "What do you mean I need more than an H. T.?" Randy AK5G is spearheading a panel to discuss the pros and cons of different brands of H. T. If you would like to help with this, talk to Randy on 145.47 or 442.5 or call him at 729-6484. Everybody be sure to bring your H.T. if you have one, especially if you have an old model so we can all see how far H.T.'s have come over the years. So come one, come all to the August meeting. Who knows maybe Steve Skelton N5PRC will wear a brighter cap.

73's all!
Steve N5SDL

What's Happening on 145.47 !!!!

by Gerry Borg, N5APW

On Wednesday, July 17, 1991, the M.E.R.A. board voted to activate the autopatch on the 145.47 MHz repeater.

Although the patch will be open to all hams with privileges on this frequency, there are some procedures and courtesies that need to be observed.

Access to the autopatch will be granted only after completing and submitting an application. A committee with M.E.R.A. has been established to oversee this responsibility. The application asks several questions that need to be answered in full. Upon receipt of the application, the committee coordinator will review the form and mail the applicant the Phone Patch Access Code and a copy of the autopatch rules and policies. This additional measure is necessary to help prevent abuses to our repeater.

Autopatches can be very controversial but, if everybody exercises courtesy and common sense, the autopatch will be a useful and valuable addition to the repeater.

Additionally, we are waiting for the arrival of some crystals for the Micor repeater we intend to install as the primary repeater on 145.47 MHz. The present repeater will then become our primary backup repeater.

If you need additional information, please contact me at 771-2969.

Stay Tuned,
Gerry — N5APW



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