



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 1978, 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: 15 Issue: 4

April 1992

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 1630
Missouri City, Texas 77459*

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, Apr. 9 **General Meeting**
7:30 pm **Sugar Land Community Center**
Program: *Early Days of B-VARC*
by Bill Dessens, N5KXU, et alii

Thurs, May 7 **Board Meeting**
7:30 pm **Missouri City Fire Station**

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

April 1992

B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	6 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	7 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	1 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	2 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station	3 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	4 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Mgmt. Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
12 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	13 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	14 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Stroke Jesus College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	8 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	9 7:30pm <i>General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center</i>	10 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	11 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Mgmt. Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
19 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	20 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	21 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	15 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	16	17 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	18 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am Houston Emergency Mgmt. Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
26 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	27 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	28 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00pm Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	22 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	23 7:30pm West Side Social	24 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5/145.47	25 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Houston Emergency Mgmt. Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32 MS-150 Bike Ride
MS-150 Bike Ride			29 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	30		

Notes From The President . . .

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

VARC has planned many public service events that every member should try to participate in. Your participation in these events not only helps our club but also helps foster goodwill between the community and hams.

Thanks go to all of our newsletter advertisers. Be sure to thank them for running their ads in our newsletter the next time you stop by to make a purchase.

The April 9th meeting will feature "old timers" of our club. They will talk about the early days of B-VARC. Many hours of research have gone into this program; so thanks go to Larry Levy, WD5DRB; Allen Mattis, N5AFV; and Bill Dessens, N5KXU.

The May 14th meeting will feature Don Busick, K5AAD, who will talk to us about DXing.

Finally, how is B-VARC related to MERA? The two organizations are not at all related legally; however the repeater is run by a board made up of mostly of B-VARC members. MERA got started about 12 years ago, over coffee, after a B-VARC meeting by members who wanted a "club repeater" but did not want the club to own a repeater. Thus if you have any questions on how the 145.47 repeater is operated or any questions on the phone patch you need to contact Gerry Borg, N5APW. The members of the current board of MERA are ND5F (charter member), AK5G, AA5GA, WN5A, N5JKD, WJ5B, WA5F, NI5I, WB5MXX (charter member), and N5APW.

73 de AK5G

April General Membership Meeting

by Bill Dessens, N5KXU

1992 marks the 15th anniversary of B-VARC's existence. In order to recognize those early members who had so much to do with shaping our club, the April General Membership Meeting will be dedicated to these early members. An all out effort is being made to invite all past members to this meeting. Although a lot of time and effort is going into contacting as many as possible, I know that time constraints and the pressures of business will

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

March 4, 1992

KE5SR NCS, KG5KV, W5IHY, N5AFV, AK5G, N5MPN, KB5DNT, W5GHK, N5JKY, WB5SRN, KB5LFU, N5MCK, KB5IIL, WA5SCE, N5WMB, N5VRR

March 11, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KB5LFU, KI5CE, KB5IIL, N5MPN, KI5SC, W5IHY, WN5A, WB4LZG, W5RNK, N5AFV, WA5SCE, W5GHK, KB5DNT, N5WMB, KG5KV, N5OAC, NB5H, KK4QL, N5KXU, W5EFB, N5VRR, N5YKR

March 18, 1992

KB5ION NCS, WA5SCE, WN5A, N5AFV, KE5SR, KI5SC, KI5CE, WA5ETS, W5IHY, KB5IIL, W5EFB, W5GLD, KG5KV, W5GHK, N5KXU, KB5DNT, KB5LFU, KG5CB, KB5NUF

March 25, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KG5KV, KB5IIL, WA5ETS, KE5SR, W5IHY, N5AFV, KI5SC, W5GHK, WA9YNJ, W5EFB, KI5CE, N5KXU, KK4QL, N5OAC

not allow me to contact them all. I will appreciate it if the Membership will assist me in remembering to invite these folks.

Special recognition will be given to three groups in particular. One will be to Charter members. Another will be to members who began their association with B-VARC prior to 1980. The third is for all past presidents of our club. Although we are trying to get as many present and former members as possible to the meeting, special attention is given to these groups.

Plans are to ask selected members of these three groups to share with the Membership some of their early experiences and tales as relates to early B-VARC days. All members, old and young, will benefit from seeing our history unfold and reveal itself just a little. We look forward to a great turnout.

As a final note, it is with great sadness that I write this column. B-VARC, and I in particular, just lost a very good friend. I can't begin to detail the dedication and contributions to our club by Bill Todd-

Brown, N5MPN. No one ever asked for his help without receiving it and much more. B-VARC honored him by presenting to him during the past few years the *Loop and Zepp Award*, and the prestigious *Order of the Key Award*. To the memory of Bill, therefore, I would like to dedicate this column.

See you at the Meeting!

73... Bill, N5KXU

The World of 10-10 International

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

A big change in Ten Ten International during the past month concerns the quarterly newsletter *10-10 International News*. Effective immediately, Chuck Insande, W6YLJ, is the new editor for the newsletter, and he plans a new look for the publication. Laser scanning of photographs to produce better images and a new style and size of type are two of the planned changes. Insande has been doing the 10-10 International News column in *Worldradio* for the past several years, and he plans to continue writing the column every other month in the magazine.

A notice of B-VARC's upcoming Special Event Station to celebrate the club's 15th anniversary has been sent to the *10-10 International News*. We hope to see some publicity for the station in the next issue. It is planned that the station will use Larry Levy's call, WD5DRB. Larry is a charter member of B-VARC, and he has a 10-10 number. Operation of the station on 10 meters will be on 28.488 mhz, the net frequency for the Houston S.H.O.T. chapter of 10-10.

Remember the Houston S.H.O.T. net every Tuesday evening at 8 pm local time on 28.488 mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a 10-10 number. If you are not a member of 10-10 International and wish to join the organization, please check in on the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in 10-10, and many friendly people can be found on the 10 meter band.

73 de N5AFV

Help Needed for New Club

by Guy Shechter, N5URI

Just this past February an amateur radio club was formed at Bellaire High School. It has been appropriately named BEL-ARC. Under the leadership of two teachers, Ms. Elizabeth Haw and Mr. Frank Secor, this new club hopes to stimulate interest in, and attract new members to, the exciting world of amateur radio. Ms. Haw holds an advanced license, and her call is N5LCY; Mr. Secor holds a commercial license and soon hopes to get his ham ticket.

The club already has about twenty members and has elected officers for the remainder of this school year. I, Guy Shechter, am serving as President. I am currently a Junior at Bellaire High School and have a General Class license. Jay Oliver is Vice-President; Brian Brock, Secretary; and Tania Andrews, Treasurer.

Our first objective, providing classes leading to a Technician license or above, has already been initiated. We expect that by the middle of May these students should be ready for their exam. Our next goal is to obtain some equipment for use by the club. This is where you who are reading this may be able to help out. We would appreciate almost anything, but an HF rig and antenna would be particularly useful to us.

If you would like to help out or have any questions, please call me, Guy, at 776-2643 anytime after school hours.

Results of the March Amateur Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, March 10, 1992, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team

Bob Brigham, AA5ZK
Henry Morrison, W5RIY
Harold Parker, ND5F

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Irene Gordon, N5AYX
Glenn Lewis, KI5CE

A total of twenty-seven (27) exams were administered during the evening to eighteen (18) applicants. Four (4) unlicensed candidates received their new "no-code" Technician licenses, and six (6) upgraded with a total of seventeen (17) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was sixty-three percent (63%).

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

Ramon Arredondo — Element 2
Donald Barnett, KB5QPB — Technician
Jesse Brookover, N5XKY — Technician
Esteban Cordova — Element 2
Karl Herrmann — Technician
Paul Hodges, KB5QMV — General
Michael Lay, N5PTN — Element 3B
Mark Robinson — Technician
Lou Smith, KB5QYF — Technician
Michael Suggs — Technician
Jerry Tripp, KA5LPH — Technician
Randall Victory — Technician
Wolfram Volpi — Element 2
Keith White, N5RVZ — 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, 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

May Bulletin Deadline

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the May issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than April 28th. Please give such

Vincent Orlando WA5ETS; 8900 Bellaire Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77036-4699 or FAX (713) 774-6427.

On The Bands

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

WA5F now has mobile HF rig ... Late night gang going strong on 145.47 ... Gerald Webb has a new 741! no call sign yet! ... Amateur radio at its worst on 14.313 the BARF net ... Always glad to see members at board meetings like N5WLY, N5UOG, KE5SR: where was N5APW? ... Good info on repeaters during the flood on Wednesday March 4th ... All bands on the weekend of March 7-8 were open; ducting on 2 meters and on 440; many talked into Louisiana, Florida and Mexico ... B-VARC RECORD: 100 members at the March meeting, thanks again to John Holmes! ... N5PRC is now the meeting night supper chairman; he picked out a good chinese place for us to eat at ...

73 de AK5G

B-VARC 15th Anniversary Special Event Station WD5DRB

by Bill Dessens, N5KXU

To commemorate B-VARC's 15th anniversary, we plan to operate a special event station starting at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 15th, and concluding at 7:00 pm on Sunday, May 17th, 1992. Location of the station will be the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center radio station, which is located in the Clark Tower, and which was the site of the 1990 Economic Summit Special Event Station. B-VARC members played a major roll in the success of this event. Al Zermeno, KK5W, has given his permission to use this station for this event.

Jerry Borg, N5APW, is scheduling operators for the operation of the station. He plans to have a Novice station plus another HF station, a CW station, and possibly a 2-meter station using the Texas Connection Simplex frequency of 147.58 MHz. He is asking that members interested in operating the station contact him for scheduling.

Don Wade, WB5IBT, is working on the design of a certificate to be used to mail to people supplying a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Larry Levy, WD5DRB, is handling publicity, which has included so far the notification of numerous

publications as to scheduling of the event. He is also contacting various media and local personalities for recognition. Larry's plans also include a special commemorative certificate to be awarded to those stations contacting our Special Event Station that weekend. Additionally, current and former members of B-VARC are eligible for a special endorsement indicating their historical participation with B-VARC.

This promises to be a real "Special Event" for B-VARC. Please make plans to participate. For operators, we need licensed operators to operate the station, and can also use unlicensed people as support for these operators. For those who haven't had a chance to do something like this, you are in for a real treat. The station is an excellent facility, and you will be on the receiving end of pileups. It is really a lot of fun. Don't miss out on it!

73... Bill, Special Event Chairman

Silent Key Leaves Void in Club and Hearts

by Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS

Early Thursday morning, March 19th, Bill Todd-Brown N5MPN passed from our midst. The amateur radio community, B-VARC, and indeed many of us personally lost a close friend. Most people who regularly check in on the Wednesday night B-VARC HF Ragchew Net feared that something was amiss when Bill himself did not check in. It was, I believe, the only session of the net that he had ever missed since it was started several years ago. He had also often served as Net Control Station whenever the person normally in charge of the net was unable to be on the air.

In addition to the Ragchew Net, Bill was frequently active on the Monday night Public Service Net and on the Tuesday night Experimenter's Net on 145.47. He became the local guru of ground systems and helped several other hams install elaborate grounds that boosted the performance of their rigs dramatically. He also assisted whenever he could in both raising and razing antennas. Additionally his experiments and propagation studies on HF are well known.

Many members of B-VARC will remember the huge caldron of *Slumgullion* that Bill and his wife cooked up once a year for one of the meetings during the

colder months. This was a deliciously spicy stew and a welcome warming in the winter weather. (The alliteration is in honor of Bill who loved to use this literary device in most of the articles that he wrote for the *Bulletin* over the years.) Bill also served B-VARC as Program Chairman during 1990 under Past President Bill Dessens. He set a real tradition of lining up an excellent series of informative and interesting topics as well as guest speakers who could capture and hold the attention of the audience.

With all of this involvement and expertise in amateur radio, one would think (as I did) that Bill had been a ham for a very long time. However, he received his Novice ticket and his first call, KB5ESL, early in 1988 after being given his exam by Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG. Then in April of the same year in one of the VE sessions at Strake Jesuit, he upgraded to Technician. At first, he experienced a great deal of difficulty in becoming proficient with Morse code, but he managed to upgrade to General at a VE session in July, 1988, and shortly thereafter to Advanced in October of '88. Bill joined B-VARC sometime about the middle of that same year.

Bill was a caring man always concerned with other people. He went out of his way to be of service wherever he could and did so with pleasure and great cheerfulness. We thank you, Bill, for all your contributions to our club, to the hobby, and to our lives. We will miss you, and we will remember you with great fondness. We wish you all the best with God's blessings in your new QTH.

Requiescat in pace.

B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, March 6, 1992

by Paula Holcombe, N5ULY
Recording Secretary

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Because of the Special Events Station centered around the upcoming anniversary of our club, the board has been seeking information on the formation and, more specifically, the date of the first meeting. As a result the club has received some very helpful information from members which has been a tremendous help in reconstructing the history of the club as well as in planning for the station.

Plans for the Special Events Station are progressing smoothly. Operators are currently being scheduled for the event.

The sign up for the MS-150 is going well; however, additional volunteers are welcome and appreciated.

Plans for the B-VARC annual picnic were discussed. Because of other events taking place in October, it was recommended that the picnic take place over the 3rd or 4th weekend of the month. The Board settled on October 24th with the 31st as a potential rain date. A committee will be formed to coordinate those who wish to bring food, and the Board will be seeking volunteers to help during the event and possibly to make ice cream. Anyone wishing to volunteer may contact Doug Holley, KE5SR.

1992 ATTENDANCE ROSTER B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS

		F	M
		E	A
		B	R
AA5JW	Carl Albrecht	✓	✓
35MUF	Jim Bledsoe	✓	
B5NUS	Joe Bly		✓
KB5KLY	Don Brown, Sr.	✓	✓
N5XWT	Bill Clemmons	✓	
	Dennis Copp		✓
N5OUZ	Lawrence Cox	✓	
KB5PAJ	Marion Chambers		✓
KI5SC	Michael Chambers		✓
KB5DNT	Ralph Cheek		✓
N5YKY	Barbara Creel		✓
N5LYB	Fred Creel	✓	✓
N5UNE	Tony Cypert	✓	✓
WD5AIN	John Davidson	✓	✓
N5KXU	Bill Dessens	✓	✓
KG5JT	Mark Dessens		✓
WA5F	Ray Dillard	✓	
	Ted Donaho		✓
	Martin Doyle		✓
N5YKX	Bob Duer		✓
	John Dugat	✓	
N5JBL	Stephen Dunkelberger	✓	
WB4LZG	Glenn Edwards	✓	✓
N5XVZ	Rick Fitch	✓	
W5GHK	Allen Glueck		✓
	Becky Glueck		✓
WA5OEN	Steve Gottlieb	✓	✓
WA5SCE	Ron Grimes	✓	✓
KB5LDY	Carl Hacker	✓	✓
5VRR	Don Hadley	✓	✓
B5SRN	Dick Hagerman	✓	✓
N5VCX	Mike Hardwick	✓	
N5ULX	Jan Hays		✓
N5UOH	Max Hays		✓
N5JQH	Paul Holcombe	✓	✓

N5UJY	Paula Holcombe	✓	✓
W5ALG	John Holmes, Jr.		✓
N5RZN	Emmett Jackson	✓	
WA9YNJ	Mike Kelly	✓	
N5XGW	Charles Keng		✓
KG5CB	Bill Kemp	✓	
N5UOG	Bud King	✓	✓
N5VCZ	Claudia Kozinetz	✓	✓
W5IHY	Lou Kronberg	✓	✓
N5OUT	Dick Kruse		✓
N5PTN	Michael Lay	✓	✓
K5LTW	Greg Lefebvre	✓	
KI5CE	Glenn Lewis		✓
N5YUE	Shuchia Lin	✓	
KB5IGK	Don Lipke	✓	
	Greg Massey		✓
	Al Mattis	✓	
N5AFV	Robert Meyers	✓	✓
N5WLY	Terry Michnimer		✓
N5YKS	Gerry Moak	✓	
N5GHG	Steve Moynihan	✓	✓
AA5LF	Max North	✓	✓
N5TBI	Vincent Orlando	✓	✓
WA5ETS	Harold Parker	✓	✓
ND5F	George Pavlik	✓	✓
N5MCK	Scott Pederson	✓	
KI5DR	Roger Pokladnik	✓	✓
KB5LFU	Randy Pollard	✓	✓
AK5G	Charles Prochaska	✓	✓
KG5KV	Julia Prochaska		✓
	Joe Rando		✓
N5YKR	Michael Ricco	✓	✓
N5NAS	Vic Richard		✓
N5VRP	Dennis Rogers		✓
AA5BD	Joe Ross	✓	
N5PNX	Eddie Runner	✓	✓
KB5OBB	Eddie Runner, Jr.	✓	✓
N5XGT	Gene Russell	✓	✓
WB5RDK	Mark Schneider		✓
N5UOG	Ray Sells		✓
K5HFY	Claude Sessions	✓	✓
N5SDL	Steve Shirk		✓
N5PRC	Steve Skelton	✓	
N5VPC	Victor Skinner	✓	
KB5QYF	Llew Smith	✓	
N5YYO	William Smith		✓
N5VTV	Richard Snitkin	✓	✓
N5WMA	Oraida Starr	✓	✓
WB5VYR	Charles Taylor		✓
KB5ION	Melvin Thatcher	✓	
KD5JC	Ed Truitt		✓
WN5A	Jack Van Demark		✓
WB5IBT	Don Wade	✓	✓
N5XWB	Donn Washburn	✓	✓
	Glenn Washburn		✓
	Gerald Webb	✓	✓
	Bob White		✓
KF5ZL	Mark Widerstrom	✓	✓
N5UOA	Betty Wilcox	✓	✓
KA0TEN	Jim Wilkinson		✓
N5WMB	Tony Williams	✓	✓
J73TW	Bill Wilson	✓	
KA5GHI	Larry Wilson	✓	✓
N5YYP	Sam Wilson	✓	✓
N5CPA	Clem Winford		✓
WB5SHU			
TOTAL:		65	77

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