



## 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: 15 Issue: 9

September 1992

---

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



### B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

**Thurs, Sept. 10 General Meeting**  
7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center  
Program: *Services of the*  
*ARRL by West Gulf Director*  
Tom Comstock, N5TC

**Thurs, Oct. 1 Board Meeting**  
7:30 pm Missouri City Fire Station

Allen Mattis *N5AFV*  
5314 Wigton  
Houston, TX 77096

# September 1992

## B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	7 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 & linked repeaters	1 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	2 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz	3 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station	4	5 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9: 30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
13 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	14 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 & linked repeaters	8 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strake Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	9 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz	10 7:30pm General Meeting: Super Land Community Center	11	12 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9: 30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
20 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	21 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 & linked repeaters	15 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	16 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz	17	18	19 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9: 30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
27 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	28 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 & linked repeaters	22 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	23 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz	24	25	26 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9: 30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
		29 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	30 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz			

## Notes From The President . . .

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

Why how time seems to fly! Here we go already starting the last third of the year. But don't feel that the club can just coast into the New Year. For B-VARC the busiest part of the year is just beginning. We have to provide communications for the GAAC races and the ALA bike race. We will be administering the testing at the Houston hamcomm. We will have four more meetings, seventeen more Monday night nets, seventeen more Wednesday night nets, seventeen more Saturday morning breakfasts, four more sidewalk sales, and three more monthly newsletters. Also, we will have our annual picnic and our annual election of officers as well as one more novice class. Whew! what a year left! I cannot do all of this by myself so get off of your walkie talkie and help volunteer for or chair one of these events.

The speaker for the September 10th meeting will be Tom Comstock, N5TC, who is our West Gulf ARRL Director. Tom will talk to us about the workings of the ARRL. Remember that B-VARC has been recognized by the ARRL with the coveted status of *Special Service Club*.

October will be Vice-President month. Ralph Cheek, KB5DNT, will write next month's newsletter article, arrange the program, and conduct the meeting. See you in two months.

73 de AK5G

---

## Election Ballots Arrive Soon

by Harold Parker, ND5F

This fall the members of the ARRL's West Gulf Division again have the opportunity to choose the director who will represent us on the League's Board of Directors for the 1993-1994 term. There are a total of fifteen ARRL Directors serving two-year terms who govern all of the League's activities: seven elected in the odd numbered years and eight in the even numbered.

The directors of the ARRL are required regularly to make decisions on the controversial issues which seriously affect our daily ham activities, and it is particularly important this year that we elect the official who has the knowledge, experience, and leadership ability to do the job.

## B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS 3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

July 29, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KB5JL, W5EFB, N5WMB, WB5SRN, K15SC, W5IHY, N5AFV, KB5LFU, KG5KV, AK5G, N5JBL, N5YKR

August 5, 1992

KB5ION NCS, W5EFB, K15SC, N5AFV, N5OAC, AK5G, W5GLD, N5UOG, N5WMB, W5IHY, KE5SR, N5KXU, KB5DNT

August 12, 1992

KB5LFU NCS, KB5ION, KE5SR, KB5DNT, W5IHY, W5EFB, N5AFV, KG5KV, AK5G

August 19, 1992

KB5ION NCS, N5WMB, W5EFB, W5IHY, KE5SR, N5AFV, K15SC, K5DIY, N5MCK, WA5OEN, K5BDO, KB5DNT, N5KXU, KG5KV, KB5LFU

August 26, 1992

KB5ION NCS, N5MCK, K15SC, W5EFB, W5IHY, KB5LFU, KE5SR, K15CE, W5GLD, K5DIY, N5WMB, N5AFV, WA5OEN, KG5KV

As you know, these are crucial times for the future of amateur radio. The League needs dedicated directors who can meet the challenges of these rapidly changing times. The only way to make sure *the right person is elected is for each member of the division to study carefully the record of each candidate and VOTE!*

The job of ARRL director is demanding. It requires a person who knows the issues, knows how to work with others, and who is a proven leader.

The very familiar name that you will be seeing again on this year's ballot for the ARRL West Gulf Division Director is Tom Comstock, N5TC. Tom is well known to all of us at B-VARC. He has been active in all our West Gulf Division activities for many years. We elected Tom our director in 1991, and he has done an outstanding job serving us for the past two years. He will be the feature speaker at B-VARC's September membership meeting, and I hope that you all plan to attend to welcome Tom back to B-VARC.

Tom has served amateur radio at the national, division, and section levels for the past seventeen years. He is committed to excellence in amateur

radio. His years as an ARRL director and vice-director, as volunteer examiner, teacher, emergency communicator, traffic handler, section official as well as his daily on-the-air involvement in all phases of amateur radio have given him the experience required to do this important job for us. Please consider Tom's excellent record and outstanding qualifications for this job when you mark your ballot.

# VOTE!

All ARRL members living in the West Gulf Division will begin receiving their ballots in the mail shortly after October 1st. Your ballot must be received at the ARRL Headquarters before November 20th in order to be valid.

When you receive your ballot, carefully consider the qualifications of all the candidates and VOTE!

*Be sure to mail in your ballot before November 14th.*

## NWS Weather Spotter Meeting

by Allen Mattis, N5AFV

On August 13, 1992, Mr. Bill Read, KB5FYA, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the League City office of the National Weather Service held a meeting with Houston area amateur radio operators who were interested in weather spotting. This weather spotter meeting coincided with the August B-VARC general membership meeting. The conflict in scheduling was unintentional, and Bob White, KF5ZL, who hosted the meeting at the Houston EOC apologized for the conflict.

Bill Read began the meeting by summarizing changes currently underway within the NWS. The installation of the doppler radar at League City this past spring was discussed, and a number of doppler images from recent severe weather episodes in the Houston area were shown. Read then presented a brief history of the development of weather spotting.

Current spotter activity was discussed, and Read indicated that the NWS wants reports from spotters regarding the following items:

1. Confirmation of tornadoes
2. Tornado precursors - storm structure
3. Winds greater than 50 mph or damage reports
4. Hail 3/4 inch diameter or larger
5. Flooding
6. Measurable rainfall greater than 1 inch
7. Verification of public reports of severe weather

Read also indicated that the NWS was interested in reports of intense lightning activity. He feels that disciplined spotters should maintain silence unless they have something to report. The NWS would like to have weather nets in each county. These nets should be operated by local authorities and would be activated by NWS call up or by local initiative. The NWS will not conduct these nets. Reports from the various county nets should be relayed to the NWS on the 146.84 repeater which is maintained by the Houston Office of Emergency Management.

Read then discussed the Houston NWS Skywarn Plan, which consists of the following steps:

1. Identify potential weather spotter groups - Fall, 1992
2. Provide basic weather spotter training - January and February, 1993
3. Exercise the system during 1993 severe weather season
4. Re-evaluate for necessary modifications and additional training - late 1993

The NWS would like to have all spotter groups set up and trained prior to the 1993 severe weather season. Any amateur operators interested in weather spotting should watch for future announcements of training sessions.

## Meeting Notes From Your Vice-President

by Ralph Cheek, KB5DNT

Ham radio operators from B-VARC are known as dependable when it comes to providing communications for public service events and in emergency situations. When normal communications systems are either overloaded, disrupted because of a disaster, or non-existent over the area required, B-VARC is there to provide communications assistance for officials who are protecting our life and property.

So how well do we look out for our own safety while on the Houston streets, in our homes or automobiles? Can we reduce our vulnerability and



that of our family and friends as crime statistics creep every closer to our neighborhoods? Can we react to crime in a way that would improve our odds survival or that will better protect our selves and our family from burglary, assault, or rape?

How would you deal with an attacker when he points a knife or a gun at you? What should you do if a car-jacker steals his way into your car, points a weapon at you and says "Drive." (Calling CQ is not the answer.)

These and many other questions will be answered in a valuable seminar that may one day save your life or that of a family member. **This free personal safety seminar will be the program for our regular October B-Varc meeting.** Hope to see you there on October 8, 1992. This would be a good meeting for wives and husbands to attend!

---

### **B-Varc Public Service Dates**

by Stephen Dunkelberger, N5JBL

B-Varc will sponsor a public service training seminar on September 21st. This seminar will provide information on the role of HAM radio communications in public service events. It is recommended as either a refresher for more experienced hams or as an introduction for those new to the hobby or to public service. Topics will include:

- What's it all about
- Guidelines
- Discussion of procedures
- In class practice
- Staying within the FCC guidelines

Bring your 2-meter handie talkie!  
Talk in frequency: 145.470

**DATE: September 21, 7:00 - 9:00**

**PLACE: Strake Jesuit College Preparatory  
8900 Bellaire Boulevard**

---

HAM volunteers are needed for the following public service events this fall:

20K Warmup Run	October 10
ALA Bike Ride	October 17-18
25K Warmup Run	November 22*
30K Warmup Run	December 12
Houston Marathon	January 24

\* Note: the 25K Run has been changed to November 22

If you would like to register for any of these events or have questions about any of them, please call Stephen Dunkelberger, N5JBL, at 781-6703.

---

### **The World of 10-10 International**

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

The Ten Ten Summer Phone QSO Party took place on August 1-2, 1992, and the Houston S.H.O.T. Chapter made another run at winning the chapter competition. Thanks to all the operators who checked in to the contest nets giving valuable points to the chapter. During the contest, I worked KG5IT, WA5OEN, KB5ION, N5OUT and W5EFB, who are all B-Varc members. If you missed the contest, you missed a couple of super summer openings on ten meters. Because of limited operating time, I had one of the lower scores in the chapter, but I still worked sixteen states and three foreign countries. Both DX and non-local stateside stations were coming in 59 at times.

If you are a S.H.O.T. member and worked the contest, please send your log to Mike Davidson, KC5CP, as soon as possible. In one past contest, a Houston station sent in a log with sixteen contacts for thirty-two points. The S.H.O.T. Chapter won the contest by less than thirty points that year! The chapter needs all logs, no matter how many or how few contacts they represent.

The week end of August 15-16, 1992, was the annual Ten Ten paper chasers' get together in Reno, Nevada. This group of certificate collectors has been meeting in Reno for the last ten years. Attendance at the meeting in recent years has ranged from fifty to seventy-five people. These avid ten-meter operators come from all over the United States and even from Canada. It's always a pleasure to meet someone in person after you have been talking to them on the air, and it's even more enjoyable when they live in another state.

The Houston S.H.O.T. net meets every Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm local time on 28.488 Mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a Ten Ten number. If you are not a member of Ten Ten International and wish to join the organization, please check in to the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the 10-meter band.

73 de N5AFV

