



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, at (713) 667-5123.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Note the Change in Date!

Thurs, Oct. 21 ↙ 7:30 pm General Membership Meeting
Sugar Land Community Center
Program: *Radio Security Systems*
by James Carter

Thurs, Nov. 4 7:30 pm Board Meeting
Sugar Land Community Center

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

Notes from the President . . .

by Betty Wilcox, KAØTEN

As the days shorten and the night temperatures begin to drop to provide blessed relief from the stifling heat of a Texas summer, I am reminded of how quickly this year has passed. The time has already rolled around to start thinking about nominating new officers for B-VARC. Our society teaches us to be modest and not talk about ourself, but this is a time when that is not necessarily true. We want people in these positions of leadership who have talents and know they do and are willing to step forward to say, "Consider me." Bill Dessens, N5KXU, Allen Mattis, N5AFV, or Randy Pollard, AK5G, would be pleased to hear from you. It is a very difficult job that they do as members of the nominating committee to try to find at least one new candidate for each position to be filled.

New officers are officially nominated and elected in November and take office in January. November is the month for our annual chili supper. First we eat; then we take care of the business of electing new officers. This combination has worked well in the past. At the last meeting (Sorry I was unable to be there) a new ham, James Summerell (I don't know his call) volunteered to organize this gastronomical event. That's the spirit we like!

Also at this time of year we start reminding people of the awards that are given out at our annual January Awards Banquet. You are the ones who choose the recipient of these awards. These awards will be described in another area of this *Bulletin*. Your nominations must be in writing, and the last day for me to accept nominations will be the December 9th general meeting—so let's get started.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who help B-VARC continue to grow. New hams are passing their exams and getting their tickets at a rate that is astounding. Just look at how fast the call signs went from KB5 to KC5. These new hams were looking for a club, and we are glad they found us. B-VARC is an ARRL affiliated club and as President I would like to recommend that all members have a copy of *The FCC Rule Book* published by the ARRL. It can be found in *QST* under the ARRL Publications Catalog and currently sells for \$9.00. This is what we live by. It is the Bible, the standard, for hams' operations and behavior. Not only does it tell what a ham can do, it specifically

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

September 8, 1993

KE5SR NCS, KB5ION, AB5OK, N5OAC, N5CPA, W5GHK, W5IHY, KK5W, KAØTEN, WB5SRN, WB5UTM, KB5JC, W5TWL, N5AFV

September 15, 1993

KB5ION NCS, N5AFV, KI5SC, N5CPA, W5GHK, AB5OK, KB5LFU, N5KXU, KE5SR, WN5A, N5YKR, KAØTEN, W5GLD

September 22, 1993

KB5ION NCS, KI5SC, W5EFB, W5GLD, AB5OK, KE5SR, W5GHK, N5CPA, N5KXU, KK5W, N5AFV, KAØTEN, KB5ZRV, KB5YSL

September 29, 1993

KE5SR NCS, KI5SC, N5CPA, N5OAC, N5AFV, WA5OEN, KB5ION, W5IHY, KK5W, W5GHK, K5ZRC, KB5LFU, N5YKR, KB5VTE, WN5A

describes what s/he can't do, such as play music, conduct business, or use foul language. These issues have recently been discussed at our board meeting because of an incident on 2-meters, and B-VARC endorses these FCC rules completely.

Amateur Radio Serving Children (ARSC) at the Ronald McDonald house asks that we remind hams interested in working with children that they still have a need for your help. Larry, WD5DRB, is our liaison person with that organization. They ask only for one ham on one Saturday per month to help out. If Saturday is not good for you, they are flexible. ARSC is planning their second annual brunch for October. Tentatively, it is scheduled for October 9th beginning with a tour of the facilities at 9:30 am. Brunch will begin around 10:00 am. A minimal charge will cover the cost of breakfast with any excess used to defray postage expenses throughout the year. All interested hams are welcome.

Hope to see you at the next meeting, October 21st, at 7:30 pm at the Sugar Land Community Center. Y'all come!

73 de Betty

B-VARC Public Service Events

by Claudia Kozinetz, N5VCZ

The runners will soon be warming up for that big event in January 1994, the Houston-Tenneco Marathon, by participating in two upcoming runs, the 25K run on Sunday November 21st and the 30K run on December 11th. B-VARC supports both of these runs by supplying amateur radio operators for the race communications. Let me summarize the contribution that the members of B-VARC make to public service events with a section of a document recently written by Allen Mattis for the race director of the 25K.

Communications is one of the most vital needs for any large race. ... Race officials make plans for race day, but seldom make contingency plans for the unexpected. They always assume that nothing will go wrong. In the ideal race, nothing does go wrong, and communications only plays a minor role. In fact, communications may not even be needed if everything goes according to plan. When something does go wrong or the unexpected occurs, however, the need for communications quickly becomes apparent. The 1991 25K at Cinco Ranch illustrates this point. A hot air balloon landed on the course just as the race was about to start. If the runners had started the race at the scheduled time, they would have literally run into the balloon which stretched across the course about 1.5 miles from the start line. Communications allowed the start of the race to be delayed until the balloon was cleared off the course.

Please contact the following if you would like to volunteer as an amateur radio operator for race communications at any or all of the following:

25K Marathon Warm-up Run Sunday, November 21st	Downtown Houston Contact: Allen Mattis, N5AFV
30K Marathon Warm-up Run Saturday, December 11th	First Colony Contact: Don Wade, WB5IBT
Marathon Sunday, January 10th	Downtown Houston Contact: Carl Hacker, KB5LDY

Upcoming Club Awards

by Allen Mattis, N5AFV

Beginning in October of each year, the B-VARC membership can submit their nominations of candidates for the club's annual awards, which are presented at the January banquet. The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club has three major awards.

I. *The Order of the Key*

The Order of the Key is unique to our club and is the highest honor that can be conferred by B-VARC. With this award, we recognize the B-VARC member who has 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 exceptional service and commitment to the goals of B-VARC.

Nominations for the Order of the Key may be made by an B-VARC member. The nominations must be made in writing to the club president, and should include a description of the nominee's contributions to the club. The President will then poll the Board of Directors secretly to allow them to vote on the nominations, and only he knows the results of the poll. The vote by the Board of Directors must be unanimous for the award to be conferred.

II. *The Dr. Bill Award*

In 1988, B-VARC initiated the presentation of the Dr. Bill Award, which was originated by Keith and Eva Huges (KA5F and KA5CYZ) in honor of Dr. Bill Ossenfort, NG5C, now a silent key, who was very active in the Volunteer Examiner Program in the Houston area. This award may be presented each year to the B-VARC member recognized as the outstanding participant in the B-VARC Volunteer Examiner Program.

In honor of Dr. Bill's memory, Keith and Eva Huges have prepared a beautiful plaque on which the names of the award recipients are inscribed each year. The recipient holds the plaque during the year of presentation and passes it on to the next one who is honored. Each recipient also receives a smaller inscribed plaque as a permanent possession. This award is also unique to B-VARC.

Nominations for the Dr. Bill Award may be made by any member of the club, and must be submitted in writing to the President of B-VARC not later than the December regular membership meeting. The nomination should include a description of the nominee's contributions to the club's VE program. As with the other club awards, the Board of Directors selects the recipient(s).

III. *The Loop and Zepp Award*

In 1989, the Loop and Zepp Award was originated to recognize B-VARC members for their efforts to promote operation on the high frequency (HF) bands. These efforts may take the form of dedicated participation in any form or forms of HF activities, the promotion of HF activities or the assistance in furthering HF activities.

