

The BVARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 18 Issue 7

July 1995



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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Carl Cunert - WB8SVR

Hello once again from the shack of WB8SVR. It is June 8th and a day of many outstanding happenings occurred today AND many more will happen over this weekend

To start the day off right was my wife's and my 22nd wedding anniversary. Now most HAMS would question this as being Radio-Newsworthy, and yes, perhaps in the true sense of the hobby it is not, but when one thinks of what our spouses go through (especially mine!), when we are preoccupied with our own world, I think that our wives/husbands deserve a lot of kudos. Thank you Susan, I love you.

Enough of that, there are other great things that also happened at the general membership meeting. I listened as Randy - AK5G announce to the Club that a caravan of BVARC members were heading up to Arlington for the hamfest (June 9-11); and that anyone else was welcome to join along. I also saw the excitement and enthusiasm generated by a 2 mtr Morse code practice net, led by Louis - KD5GM and the upcoming Field Day activities, coordinated by Alan - WB5BIR.

Then, at the traditional BVARC standing roll call, where each guest and new member to the Club received an applause of warm welcome and a hearty acknowledgment from the rest of the room.

Now this is what 'my' hobby is all about, fellowship and loyalty to each other. These seemingly small gestures by a group of HAMS bind us in a long lasting friendship yet allows new friendships to form with new HAMS joining our hobby. It also builds the trust between each of us, the necessary trust in the time of emergency service (such as hurricane situations) that is vital to the Amateur Radio Service and our community.

Great Job BVARC !!

Then, the last bit of news came somewhat unexpectedly when I got home. NO! - my wife is not expecting. Still better news came for the general membership. A new BVARC member, Jackie Burton - KC5OHJ, has stepped forward and volunteered to be Editor in Chief for the BVARC Bulletin. And I want to be the first to send this NEW member my thanks and any help she may need.

For July (this issue), Larry - WD5DRB will finish out his *Pro Tempore* position. He and Jackie will get together and make the transition smooth and complete. Let us do our part and offer Jackie our input for the Bulletin.

It has been suggested that the scope and importance of the BVARC Bulletin warrant the formation of a committee dedicated to a monthly newsletter. To stop and think about it, this has already happened in reality if not officially.

In addition, the position of Bulletin Editor may deserve elevation to a recognized board position. Both of these ideas will be considered by the Club board of directors.

By the time you read this, the hamfest in Arlington and Field Day both will be history. Look forward to recap both of these events at the meeting in July.

As a challenge, I urge everyone to bring a guest to the July meeting. Whether a former BVARC member, a HAM who is yet to join the Club, or perhaps a friend or neighbor who has expressed interest or curiosity about what you do with those wires and radios. Invite someone and share the fun that you know HAM radio to be.

73, Carl - WB8SVR

BVARC BOARD MEETING

by Louis House - KD5GM

A quorum of the BVARC board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center, On June 1, 1995. This was the sixth meeting of the calendar year. In the absence of President Carl Cunert, WB8SVR; the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice President Ron Grimes - WA5SCE.

The following Board Members and Guests were in attendance: Carl Cunert - WB8SVR; Ron Grimes - WA5SCE; Donn Washburn - N5XWB; Louis House - KD5GM; Billy Jones - KC5EVD; Victor Richard - N5NAS; Bud King - N5UOG; Sam Wilson - N5CPA; Mike Hardwick - N5VCX; Dwayne Jones - KB5YTA; Carl Hacker - KB5LDY; Allen Brier - WB5BIR; Betty Wilcox - KA0TEN; Larry Levy, WD5DRB; Al Zermeno - KK5W; Jackie Burton - KC5OHJ; Mark Vaglianti - KC5FMT; Casy Allen Kirkgard - KC5NMS.

Treasurer Don Washburn, N5XWB; presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$ 4299.12 on June 1, 1995. A motion to accept the report was approved unanimously.

Recording Secretary Louis House - KD5GM; presented the minutes for April and May. In the May minutes, the second sentence of the eleventh paragraph should read [The Soap Box Derby Officials " do not " want our help.], and the fourth sentence of the tenth paragraph the word " consciences " should be spelled " consensus ". With these corrections the minutes were approved with a motion that passed unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Billy Jones - KC5EVD; reported that the labels for the June newsletter are finished. Billy stated that he is still looking into some options for ID badges for those who may wish to get one. Billy also reported he had attended a Hurricane workshop early in the day and that June 1 is the start of hurricane season and according to predictions from officials the 1995 season could have as many 9 named storms and 6 of these may become be hurricanes and possibly 2 of the these hurricanes may have winds of 110 mph or more.

Bud King - N5UOG; Reported that the Club's ginpole is in the possession of Frank Wood - W5GLD; if it is needed

for Field Day arrangements to pick it up can be made by giving Mr Wood a call at home.

Bud King - N5UOG; Reported that the Sugar Land Police Department is starting it's own EOC Bud and Harold Parker - ND5F were contacted by Dale Culler, the soon to be EOC for Sugar Land, to assist in the setting up of emergency communications equipment for their new building. Bud said he would like to have permission from the board to follow up with assistance for the Sugar Land Officials. A motion was made for Bud King - N5UOG and Harold Parker - ND5F to act in behalf of BVARC in this matter and was passed unanimously.

Vice President Ron Grimes, WA5SCE said that the May Newsletter looked really good and thanked Larry Levy - WD5DRB for his nice work. Larry thanked all the contributors of articles for the newsletter for their timely response. Larry reported that because Claude Sessions - K5HFY was ill at the time of the printing, the newsletter was printed at Kinko's for a cost of \$138.00. Except for a few glitches, most of the newsletters reached the members and copies were distributed to the usual stores in the area.

Rag Chew Net Manager, N5CPA; Reported check in numbers from 9 to 18 for May. Because of other commitments Sam will not be NCS for the June 14 Net and knows there will be an alternate NCS for that night.

Special Events Coordinator Mike Hardwick - N5VCX; reported some of the upcoming events will be: The Katy Flatland on July 23, the Alamo Challenge on September 23 - 24 and the MS Duro Skate in October. Mike offered information concerning the future of Amateur Radio frequency allocations. In basics, the big business of commercial communications is interested in gaining as much frequency spectrum as possible and government may swing to allocate more frequency spectrum to these services. There was some discussion on the subject. Mike said, that helping put on public service events will help keep Amateur Radio in the publics eye and hence a reason to occupy the Amateur Bands.

Field Day Chair. Allen Brier - WB5BIR; reported on Field Day 1995. Allen said he, John Hall - KC5EHW and Dwayne Jones - KB5YTA would be doing a program on Field Day for the membership meeting, Thursday June 8. Allen also reported that there will be three stations on the air for the event. Carl Hacker reported that he is planning on 80 or so people to have pasta dinner at Field Day. Dinner should be served at 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. For those who want lunch they should make their own plans.

Al Zermeno - KK5W; reported on Houston Ham Comm. The dates are still set for November 3, 4, and 5. Al received a letter from NASA advising that they are trying to locate an Astronaut who is a licensed Amateur to speak at the Houston Ham Comm. Al is looking for anyone who will chair a session of the Ham Comm. The Chairs job will be to find speakers for such subjects as antennas, packet, public service events, traffic handling, technical, or other topics of interest to Amateur Radio.

Donn Washburn - N5XWB; brought to the Board's attention the need to decide if BVARC wishes to renew the \$ 60.00 per year donation to *World Radio*. Followed by discussion about the benefits of this program, a motion was made and passed to continue with this program. He also presented Allen Brier - WB5BIR with a Club Banner to be used for Field Day if he wished.

President Carl Cunert, WB8SVR acknowledged our two new visitors, Jackie Burton - KC5OHJ and Allen Kirkgard - KC5NMS and then adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.



SCANNER JACK'S Corner
by Jack Roberts - KB5TMY

Beginning June 1st, the official season for severe thunderstorms and hurricanes began. Already we have experienced a number of 'frog stranglers' that have flooded areas of town. For those of you who enjoy to listen "in on the action", the following is a list of 'new' trunked frequencies used by the city of Houston EOC and Dept. of Public Works. Go ahead, program these frequencies into your scanner. For simplicity, in order to monitor during weather alerts, enter the frequencies in order and limit the scan to these channels. Since these are for a trunked system, do not use the 'delay' feature. If a partial bank is used, 'lock out' those channels not utilized. A 'data' channel is used for each of these group which does change automatically at regular intervals. Once that channel is determined, lock it out until it changes. Keep a log as to which freq/when is used for data and you might be able to plot out a pattern.

856.2625	856.4375
857.2625	857.4375
858.2625	858.4375
859.2625	859.4375
860.2625	860.4375

856.7375	856.7625
857.7375	857.7625
858.7375	858.7625
859.7375	859.7625
860.7375	860.7625

856.9375
857.9375
858.9375
859.9375
860.9375

This column will be a somewhat regular feature of the BVARC Bulletin. If you have questions of a general interest about scanners, monitoring methods, or frequencies, direct them to either Jack - KB5TMY or the editor of the newsletter. As questions are received, effort will be made to print a response in a following Bulletin

VE EXAM RESULTS
JUNE 1995

by Harold Parker - ND5F

The following covers the results of the June 13, 1995 VE Exams, given at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory.

The VE Teams were:

Carl Albrecht -	AA5JW
Minh Ha -	AC5AW
Harold Parker -	ND5F

The Assistants were:

Cass Germany -	KG5IT
Don Schexnailer -	AB5IV

All of us at BVARC again thanks Vincent - WA5ETS and everyone at Strake Jesuit for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

73. Harold Parker - ND5F

June 13th Results

A total of 25 exams were given to 13 applicants. One unlicensed candidate received a new Technician license and 6 others upgraded with a total of 16 elements passed. The overall 'pass rate' for the evening was 64%.

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

Emmet Bargrasser - Element 2
 Mark Holbert - KC5DJL - Advanced
 Herbert Jansen - KC5OCT - Ele 4A
 Mark Jemison - Element 2
 Fredenck Kracke - KC5OPK - General
 James Lingenfelter - Technician
 Patricia Lingenfelter - Element 2
 Reginald Olive - N5SSK - General
 George Pavlik - N5MCK - Extra
 Robert Sabol - Element 2
 David Topp - KC5OPL - Advanced
 Irv Smith - KB5EXM - Advanced
 new call is KK5QQ

CODE-THEORY CLASSES

Classes for the Morse Code Novice and Tech No-Code exams are scheduled throughout the year. Currently no classes are being conducted, though with interest that can & will change.

WELCOME NEW EDITOR
by Larry Levy- WD5DRB

A new HAM and new member of BVARC has stepped forward and accepted the important role as Newsletter Editor effective 1 July. Please welcome Jackie Burton - KC5OHJ. Let's all meet her deadlines, promptly, via any of the following:

Jackie Burton - KC5OHJ
 7500 Pinemont Dr Apt 2102 / 77040
 460-1968 - HM - 267-3828 - WK
 460-8368 - FAX w/ warning call
 Internet: jburton@nof.net
 Compuserve: 71573.471

EMERGENCY WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

by S T Ormnutt

Hurricane Allison hit the SE of the USA on June 4th, less than a half a week after the 'official' season for hurricanes started in severe WX, any one of us may be called to assist an official agency. Are you ready?!?!?!?

1st - prepare a list of things to do. Do this in the calm, so when a situation does arrive, you know what to do, not "What to do?".

2nd - prepack for yourself a ready "emergency equipment" case. This can be grabbed on short notice.

3rd - develop an awareness of what are 'WX net procedures' and learn what information is appropriate to be conveyed, when!

4th - HAMs are communicators. Our hobby is exchange of information. In severe WX situations, members of official agencies are trained to perform actions that may be quite dangerous. Amateur radio is spelled HAM not 'hero'. Learn to 'pass traffic' rather than be the 'subject of traffic'.

Join us at the July BVARC General Meeting and hear our guest speaker, Bob White, Administrative Supervisor of the City of Houston Emergency Operations Center. Prior to his five year stint with Houston EOC, Mr. White was with both DPS and the Harris County EOC. The program topic is "HAMs, How they can help and be helped during bad weather".

OUT OF THIS WORLD HAM RADIO ACTIVITY

by Bruce Paige - KK5DO

As part of a series heard both on the Houston AMSAT Net and on 'This Week in Amateur Radio' EZSATS, a set of ten different subjects are to be presented. Albeit an introduction, it is a starting point. The series will begin in the July 1995 issue of the BVARC Bulletin. Hang on to your copies and make a complete set.

- =====
- (1) What are Beacons?
 - (2) Types for Radios for Satellite stations
 - (3) Types of Coax for Satellite stations
 - (4) Types of Amps and Preamps
 - (5) Types of Satellite Antennas
 - (6) What are Maidenhead Grid Squares?
 - (7) What are Keplerian Elements?
 - (8) How to work the Russian Sputniks
 - (9) Satellite Awards available
 - (10) AMSAT QSL Bureau



Segment 1: Satellite Beacons

Here is a look at beacons. Beacons come in many different flavors and several will be covered here. There are beacons which transmits data that requires a decoding program to decipher; while others send data in CW, able to be copied directly.

The easiest thing to discuss is what beacons do and how to use them. First, a beacon provides us with a gauge to determine how much transmit power we should use. If you send your signal and compare it to the beacon strength, you can then adjust your transmit power up or down to match the beacon. That would be an optimum transmit power setting for your station. Second, beacons provide a schedule of the satellite's activity, such as on/off cycles.

The beacon can also be used to aid in tuning a radio in order to compensate for Doppler shift. Since a beacon is suppose to be on a certain frequency, we can calculate where our signal will be based on the current reception of the beacon.

Let's look at the beacon or telemetry for Dove 17. Dove only sends data, with an occasional synthesized voice transmission. Data transmissions can be received using standard FM 1200 baud packet tuned to 145.825 MHz. Gleaned from the data will be the power supply information, temperature, location in the sky, status of the on board computer, and other things that I am not even sure of.

Another beacon is found on AO-13, one of the high orbit satellites. This beacon is USB and can be heard at 0 and 30 minutes past the hour. The beacon transmits about 5 minutes of 10 wpm CW. At 15 and 45 minutes past the hour, the beacon transmits RTTY for 5 minutes. The RTTY is at 50 baud, however most 45 baud machines will be able to copy it. All other times are used to transmit the PSK engineering data and telemetry.

Some of the things that you can get from the CW beacon is the mode the satellite will be in at which phase counts, Keplerian data and other general announcements. The RTTY bulletins contain the same data as the CW plus satellite status telemetry.

Most satellites have a beacon, normally at the top or bottom end of the frequency spread for that satellite. Some have two beacons, such as AO-13; one beacon at 145.812 MHz and the other at 145.985 MHz. AO-10 also has two beacons, one at 145.987 MHz and another at 145.810 MHz.

RS-10 has a beacon at 29.357 MHz and 29.403 MHz, both CW. FO-20 has a beacon at 435.795 MHz.

There are many more beacons. A beacon frequency guide is available from AMSAT headquarters. Also available is an AMSAT publication which explains how to decode some of the beacons, entitled *Decoding Telemetry from the Amateur Satellites*. This would be a handy reference if you are interested in snooping at the various numbers that appear in the beacon listings.

BVARC RAG CHEW

3.960 MHz NET CHECK INS
compiled by Sam Wilson - N5CPA

3 MAY 95 - N5CPA - NCS, KB5ION, W5GHK, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, KE5SR, WN5A, WD5CJL, KF5NU, KJ5SS, W5EFB, KD5GM, W5GLD, AB5OK, WA5SCE, KG5KV, W5IHY, W5RIY (18)

10 MAY 95 - N5CPA (NCS), KB5ION, W5GHK, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, N5OAC, N5UOG (TEL), KF5NU, W5EFB, W5GLD, AB5OK, WA5TWL, KG5KV, W5IHY, (14)

17 MAY 95 - N5CPA (NCS), KJ5SS, WA5TWL, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, KK5W, KF5NU, W5EFB, AB5OK, KK5DO, W5IHY, (11)

24 MAY 95 - N5CPA (NCS), KJ5SS, WA5TWL, KG5KV, WD5CJL, AK5G, KF5NU, KK5DO, W5IHY, (9)

31 MAY 95 - N5CPA (NCS), KJ5SS, WA5TWL, N5OAC, KB5ION, W5GLD, KF5NU, W5EFB, W5RIY, WD5CIJ, W5IHY, KG5CV (12)

QST ARRL MEMBERS

BVARC members who are presently, or those who wish to be members of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) - Please keep in mind that you may renew or join through our Club treasurer, Donn Washburn - N5XWB. By doing so, your ARRL membership will bring \$5.00 to the BVARC treasury.

Here is how you can do that:

- 1) Complete an ARRL membership form or your renewal notice.
- 2) Decide your term of membership and determine the amount to pay to the ARRL.
- 3) Write the check, in that amount, payable to: **BVARC**
- 4) Give both to Donn and tell him that you want the Club to gain \$5.00 from ARRL, from you!
- 5) Pass it on to others this easy way to donate to the Club.

ANTENNAS - BUY THEM OR BUILD THEM?

by Rick Hiller—KF5NU

HAM stations consist of three basic devices: a radio, to receive and generate radio signals, a transmission line, to pass RF signals to or from the radio, and an antenna, which captures or radiates these signals.

We typically purchase a commercially built radio and connect it to an antenna through commercially built coaxial transmission line. Generally one radio or one type of coax is as good as the next and nowadays we can do very little to improve either. Here is where the antenna is a different animal. We can always improve our antenna system by purchasing a new commercially available antenna. We can, however, take control of the complete antenna situation and design and build it ourselves.

There are as many different antenna designs as there are past issues of the monthly HAM magazines. Said in jest but true, look at your stockpile of old QSTs or CQs. There is at least one, if not more, antenna write ups every month and this has been going on since the beginning of the hobby. What this shows is that antennas have always been the cornerstone of 'HAM ingenuity'.

Antenna Lineup

The HAM antenna lineup offers quite a selection of available and buildable designs. There are antennas for local QSOs, DX QSOs, VHF/UHF mobile, and HF mobile. There are directional antennas, omni-directional antennas, rotatable, stackable, phaseable antennas; top-loaded, center-loaded and base-loaded antennas; shortened, extended, folded, center-fed, end-fed, off-center fed, vertical, horizontal, circular, sloping, and loop antennas; Hs, Js, Ls, Ts, Vs, and Xs; UNIs, Bls, Dl's, TRI's, and QUADs; tower vs ground mounted, curtains, dishes, and helixes; single or multi element, etc... However and wherever you wish to communicate, there is an antenna designed for that specific purpose.

Choices

Selection of the proper antenna type for a particular application is a subject for a future full column. For now, it is probably best to follow suite and use an antenna type that everyone else is using. *De facto* standards are hard to beat. As you increase your knowledge about the characteristics of different antenna types, then you will be able to make more informed choices and move away from these old standards.

Commercial Grade

The antenna type you chose to use will most likely be made commercially and sold at your local electronic emporium or through a mail-order house. Most HAMs will buy an antenna because of its off the shelf availability and/or ease of installation. Just read the instructions, connect coax and radio and get on the air. Most commercial antennas assemble easily and all cables are pre-made. Tuning also is easily done with the included step by step instructions. It is probably best, at least initially, to enlist an "Elmer" to help you with your antenna selection, installation and to get you through those "Murphy's Law" rough spots. Hopefully, you will end up pleased with the installation and happy with the on-the-air results.

Homebrew

But what about that little bug in all of us that tugs us to try doing some things from scratch and possibly save a little money. Designing, building and deploying an antenna is not at all difficult. It's downright fun! Some of the parasitic or phased arrays may seem a bit complicated at first, but let me state that all antennas play off the same basic principles of physics. There is no difference in the on-the-air performance of a commercially made antenna and the do-it-yourself version of the same design, if sound mechanical and electrical practices are adhered to by the builder. In fact, the home-brew antenna may seem to perform better because of the personal 'pride factor'.

Many books and magazine articles have been published on the subject of antennas, both in general terms and on specific antenna types. Typically, all the published antenna designs are proven and should work first time. Most of these follow a "cookbook" where you just follow directions to build then tune the antenna.

Start building with something simple, such as a dipole for HF or a wall mounted 300 ohm twin lead J-pole for 2 meters. These will get you going and will help you establish the basic skills for constructing more complex antenna designs. Materials for most antennas, masts, ground systems, and support poles etc. are readily available from local hardware stores, such as Home Depot or Builders Square (Editor's note: also see advertisers in this Bulletin). In conjunction with physical construction designs, you will learn about characteristics of antennas and antenna systems, i.e., physical length vs. frequency, physical vs. electrical length, feed impedance, angle of radiation, SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) etc. and how these relate and interact. Some of the theory that you worked so hard to learn for your license exams will finally start to make sense.

Throughout your ham radio lifetime you will always be trying to improve your station's performance, either by changing or modifying antennas, to increase height, increase gain, change polarization, etc. Familiarity with basic antenna characteristics and different antenna types will improve your understanding of antenna systems and your enjoyment of the ham radio hobby. So get with your Elmer, pick an antenna, build it, install it and use it. You'll be glad you did.

THE WORLD OF TEN TEN INTERNATIONAL

by Al Mattis N5AFV

Ten Ten International was established to promote operation on the ten meter band. It is especially important to encourage operation on ten meters during times of poor propagation such as now, during the low in the solar cycle. To join Ten Ten International, just work ten meters on ten meters, and collect their call sign, name, state and Ten Ten number.

Send this along with \$10 to:
 Grace Dunlap - K5MRU
 PO Box 13
 Rand, CO 80473-0013.

Grace will issue you your own Ten Ten number, and send you a membership certificate. You will also receive the 10-10 International News, a 32 page bulletin published quarterly. Ten Ten International has over 200 chapters located around the world. The local chapter is the Space Houston On Ten (SHOT) chapter, founded in 1976.

The Houston SHOT net meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. 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 into the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the ten meter band.

The SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome Tom Sellers-K5CNU, our newest local member. The number of check ins to the Houston SHOT chapter's weekly net remains healthy, and when the summer shortskip is in, out-of-state stations check in almost every week. During the past month, stations from AR, AZ, KS, CA, CO, and KS have checked in. Those of you working on the "Worked All States award might find the state you need on the SHOT net.

During the past month, ten meters has come alive. Summer E-layer propagation has been very good. On a recent Saturday, I was able to work 23 states in six hours, using an ICOM 735 and a wire antenna. Some of the better band openings this past month have lasted for over 24 hours. Even with such excellent openings, there are periods of two to three days when

only very poor propagation exists. Occasional DX propagation to Latin America has been reported, but the majority of the openings have been domestic.

Paper chasers are Ten Ten members who collect certificates and awards from the various chapters throughout the world. These paper chasers are active on 28.345 MHz. This is a good frequency to check to determine if the band is open, but it is not courteous to carry on a long QSO on that frequency. Just remember, hundreds of paper chasers monitor 28.345 MHz, and listen to all of the contacts that take place there. Ten Ten chapters with specials for paper chasers this month include Certificate Chasers (KY), Steel City (IL), Peach State (GA.) and GB Ten (G).

Monday BVARC Net

At any moment one of us may be called upon to act as a Net Control Operator (NCO). It may be because one of us is the 'first' at a disaster scene (Oklahoma City; Sakhalin Island, or just a motor vehicle accident), or it may simple be because a 'pre-assigned NCO forgot or could not meet a commitment. Rather than ask over the air "Whose turn is it to call the net?" or "Net was suppose to start 5 minutes ago!", why not just 'call the net'? Whether an Extra Class or Technician Class licensee, you can do it, just do it! A copy of the BVARC Net Protocol is included in this issue. Keep a copy handy and be ready to say: This is Net Control Operator

The Epicurean Ham

by Carl Hacker, KB5LDY

This column will appear now and then in the BVARC newsletter to complement articles on such traditional topics associated with amateur radio such as operating and contesting techniques. Collectively, Bvarcians are known for their technical skills and dedication to public service, but they are as well-known for their passion to meet and eat. This column will therefore feature recipes that are best enjoyed in groups. Because we must be able to operate at remote sites. I will emphasize recipes that can be prepared out-of-doors over charcoal or propane.

This month's recipe is called, *Mr. Austin's Delight*, and was offered at the 1995 BVARC Field Day dinner. The recipe was created by Claudia (N5VCZ) and me as a dessert for a fruit-stuffed pork tenderloin, but it goes well with other meats. It also is great with a glass of cold milk as a late-night snack during contests

MR AUSTIN'S DELIGHT

List of Ingredients:

- 3 ½ cups flour
- 3 apples, pared, cored, and chopped
- 2 apples, pared, cored, quartered, and thinly sliced
- 1 cup corn oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 2 tablespoons saleratus (baking powder is the modern equivalent)
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon cloves

Blend all ingredients except the thinly sliced apples.

Pre-heat a 12-inch Dutch oven for 15 minutes with 15 briquettes on the lid and 12 underneath. Pour batter into the pre-heated oven. Bake (400° F) for 20 minutes with 16 bnquettes on the lid and 8 underneath. Place the lower briquettes around the periphery of the oven. Quickly arrange thinly sliced apples on top of the cake, and bake an additional 30 minutes with 24 briquettes on the lid and 8 underneath. Allow to cool. **Serves 14-16.**



BVARC MONDAY NIGHT NET PREAMBLE

Save this for the possibility that **YOU** are the person who is in the position to call the Monday night net. Use this as a **GUIDE** rather than a **protocol set in stone**.

QST QST QST This is YOUR CALL SIGN. Net Control Station for the Monday night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club - Public Service Information Net. All amateurs are encouraged to check in to this net. This is a directed net, and all calls should go through Net Control.

If there is any emergency or priority traffic, please come now.

Hearing none, the agenda for tonight's net will be Check ins; BVARC Club News and Other Announcements; Amateur Radio Equipment for Sale; questions; and News Line.

I will now take check ins, in any order. Please come now with your call sign and if you have any traffic for the net, please let me know while you are checking in. Please come now to check in.

[Take a list of check ins - no more than 10 minutes].

Again, this is YOUR CALL SIGN. Net Control Station for the Monday night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club - Public Service Information Net.

Are there any BVARC Announcements?
[Take list and Run list]

Are there any people with other announcements?
[Take list and Run list]

Are there any people with equipment for sale?
[Take list and Run list]

Again, this is YOUR CALL SIGN. Net Control Station for the Monday night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club - Public Service Information Net.

Are there any people with questions, or does anyone have an ARRL Bulletin to read?
[Take list and Run list]

Are there any late check ins, announcements, amateur radio equipment for sale or questions?
[Take check ins - max of 5 minutes]

Again, this is YOUR CALL SIGN. Net Control Station for the Monday night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club - Public Service Information Net.

Now I will run News Line. [Go ahead, Run News Line]

Thank you for listening to the Monday Night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club - Public Service Information Net. This Net meets Monday at 9:00 p.m. local time. There were ___ check ins tonight.

Have a good week. This is YOUR CALL SIGN. Net Control Station closing the net and returning the MERA 145.47 MHz repeater to normal amateur use.

[Modify as needed. Be Flexible for the occasion.]

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BVARC PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

by Mike Hardwick - N5VCX

Well, the long hot summer is here and public service events are thinning out. There are only two events on the calendar between June and October. The Soap Box Derby, which BVARC was going to work, fell through. After finally talking to the race chairman, he said he "...would hate for us to waste our time..." coming to work his event. There appears to be an internal political event in that group and BVARC doesn't need to get involved.

Here is a list of all upcoming events through October that BVARC will assist or has a connection. All events that show "Contact: Open - Volunteer Needed" are invitations for YOU to step forward as an event coordinator. If YOU are interested to learn more, give me a call. I will be happy to work with anyone who may be new, unfamiliar, or uncertain as how to out an event together.

Mark Your Calendars Now

JULY 23rd - Sunday

Katy Flatland Century Bike Ride
Contact: Bret Prichard - N5VOY
713 - 645-5400

SEPT 23th & 24th - Saturday/Sunday

ALA Alamo Challenge Bike Tour
Contact: Mike Hardwick - N5VCX
713 - 771-4625

OCTOBER 8th - Sunday

20K Marathon Warm-up
Contact: Open - Volunteer Needed

OCT 21st & 22nd - Saturday/Sunday

Houston Symphony Classic
Contact: Bret Prichard - N5VOY
713 - 645-5400

OCT 21st & 22nd - Saturday/Sunday

Wings Over Houston Air Show
Contact: Bill Terrell
713 - 486-4552

OCTOBER 28th - Saturday

MS Endurosate
Contact: Open - Volunteer Needed

OCTOBER 29th - Sunday

Texas Coastal Bike Ride
Contact: Bret Prichard - N5VOY
713 - 645-5400

Mark Your Calendars Now

Also, if you would like to volunteer to work an event, but are not quite sure that YOU have the 'right' equipment, or 'enough' experience, give me a call! Don't let the newness of the hobby scare you away. Participation in Public Service Events will help YOU improve your skills as a in communicating, while helping the community as well.

Remember, if you wait, and rely on "they will do it" or believe that "someone will step forward" - LOOK IN THE MIRROR - Everyone else relies on "You will do it"; everyone believes that "You will step forward".

Opinion / Editorial

All amateur radio operators need to remember that as the world grows more 'information-highway' hungry, our amateur frequencies become more valuable to big business. Recently, a portion of the 220 MHz band was lost to 'big business' and it could happen to other amateur bands. Amateur radio is no longer a hobby that allows us the freedom of 'burying our heads' in the sand when things get bad. As HAM radio enthusiasts we must continue to make the hobby a valuable community service. If we fail, then the hobby as we know it today will disappear. I urge that each of us, every amateur radio operator, to do something responsible with our hobby right in the community where we live. Participation in public service events is not the only way to promote and demonstrate that this hobby is a 'community asset'. For example: In the schools - help with science fairs, or volunteer to demonstrate how HAM radio can fit into the classroom - geography, science, foreign language.

Contact the libranan at the local library and arrange to present a demonstration of packet radio, CW, voice, or even SAREX program.

Introduce yourself (and the hundreds of HAMs like yourself) to the fire chief, police chief, city officials, etc., so these community leaders hold in their minds what an important role HAM radio might serve in certain situations.

Certainly you will recognize other opportunities to 'toot our own horn' and at the same time, keep the hobby viable. As it is said: "Just Do It!".

BVARC VE testing produces about 120 totally new HAMs a year. With other clubs around Houston, another 200 or so are added to our ranks as well. Yet even with over 300 new

HAMs taking up amateur radio a year, there is still a decline in the membership in all clubs. The number of HAMs in the area continues to grow, but the amateur community continues to diminish.

Last year, the oldest chartered amateur radio club (HARC - Houston Amateur Radio Club) was disbanded. The club could trace its roots back to 1917 or 1918. It is a shame that a club with such a long history and tradition died with the growth of the amateur community all around it. A former HARC officer mentioned to me that he thought that the fellowship in amateur radio is no longer there. I hope that he is wrong.

Enough of my soapbox. All I am asking is that, if you enjoy the hobby, give something back to it through the community, so HAM radio will exists for others in the future.

Do something enjoyable with HAM Radio this week.

73, Mike Hardwick - N5VCX

Mike - I am convinced. Let me stand up and give back to the community.

I commit to participate in the following:

- Katy Flatland Century Bike Ride
- ALA Alamo Challenge Bike Tour
- 20K Marathon Warm Up
- Houston Symphony Classic
- Wings Over Houston Air Show
- MS Endurosate
- Texas Coastal Bike Ride

Name

Call Sign

Address

Telephone

Save for future reference

WEEKLY NETS

MONDAYS

- 7:30 p.m. - 34-94 Swap Net
146.94 MHz
- 8:00 p.m. - Ft Bend Cty EM Net
145.49 MHz
- 8:30 p.m. - BVARC Code Net
146.47 MHz - Rcv
- 9:00 p.m. - BVARC Net
145.47 MHz
and Linked Repeaters

TUESDAYS

- 8:00 p.m. - Ten Ten SHOT Net
28.488 MHz
- 10:00 p.m. - AMSAT Net
147.10 MHz

WEDNESDAYS

- 8:00 p.m. - BVARC Rag Chew
3.960 MHz (+/- 3 kHz)
- 8:30 p.m. - BVARC Code Net
146.47 MHz - Receive Only

FRIDAY

- 8:30 p.m. - BVARC Code Net
146.47 MHz - Receive Only

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. - Houston Emergency
Management Net
146.84 MHz
- 9:30 a.m. - Houston Emergency
Management Net
3.905 MHz

SUNDAYS

- 7:30 p.m. - ARES Net
147.30 MHz
- 2nd & 4th Sundays
1:30 p.m. TX State RACES Net
7.248 MHz

Save for future reference

BVARC VE EXAMS

6:00p.m.CHECK IN -July 11th
Second Tuesday Each Month
Strake Jesuit College Prep School
Room 503

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL :
Harold Parker - ND5F
(713) - 464-9044 or
Cass Germany - KG5IT
(713) 682-6897

\$ 5.90 Exam Fees (Check OK)
Photo ID plus one other ID
Original License and 1 copy
Original Credit Certificates and
one copy of each cert held
2 - 4 Sharp Pencils
One Fee covers all exams taken
during the same test session.

No Fee for Elements 2 & 3A Only

Check In is at 6:00 p.m. RM 503

Code Exams - 20, 13, & 5 WPM
are given in that sequence
Written Elements given in lowest
to highest sequence
Written exams may be taken
while the code exams are given
*** Quiet Please ***
OR

Written exam(s) may be started
after all code exams have been
completed - your choice.

Save for future reference

BVARC MEETINGS

7:30 p.m. July 6th at Sugar Land
Community Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Open to ALL BVARC Members

7:30 p.m. July 13th - Sugar Land
Community Center
Program: Bob White - Houston
EOC - Hurricane
Awareness & Preparedness

CW PRACTICE NET

QST QST QST de KD5GM BT

A Morse code practice net has been
established in response to the last
BVARC Code Class's desire to have
a common place to practice. The net
meets on **Monday, Wednesday and
Friday** nights at 8:30 p.m. on the
simplex frequency of 146.47 MHz.

The BVARC CODE NET will have a
voice check in, though no check in is
necessary. A text will be transmitted
by modulated tones on FM (MCW)
with the source announced in Morse
code: speeds of 5 to about 9 WPM
are presently sent.

As many as eight check ins an even-
ing participate, but that does not
count the 'just listening' bunch. Join
the fun, check in if you wish or just
tune in and copy along.

CUL ES 73 de KD5GM AR SK

Errata: Please note that the
listings for the 2 mtr CW Net and
the 75 mtr Ragchew net have
changed from the June 95 Bulletin.



BVARC BULLETIN

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

Editor Pro Tem: Larry Levy - WD5DRB (713) 777-0008

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was originally organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active HAM radio club in the southwest Houston area

Today, BVARC is truly a general-interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The commitment to service has been recognized by the Amateur Relay League (ARRL) with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available on the 145.47 and 442.50 MHz repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining BVARC, contact Betty Wilcox - KA0TEN, at (713) 859-6512.

BVARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 6th Board of Directors Meeting
7:30 p.m. Sugar Land Community Center

Thursday, July 13th BVARC Membership Meeting
7:30 p.m. Sugar Land Community Center

BVARC EATING SCHEDULE

Saturdays - 7:00 a.m. Kettle Restaurant to
9:00 a.m. Chimney Rock and
Westpark / NE corner

21 July - 6:30 p.m. @ LA TRATTORIA
6504 Westheimer Rd - 713-782-1324

Volume: 18 Issue 7

JULY 1995

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
PO BOX 1630
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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