

the B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 18 Issue 11

November 1995



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Recording Secretary:

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Corresponding Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Donn Washburn—N5XWB
(713) 498-0569

3-Year Board Member:

Bud King—N5UOG
(713) 494-3741

2-Year Board Member:

Claude Sessions—K5HFY
(713) 242-6069

1-Year Board Member:

Vic Richard—N5NAS

Past President:

Doug Holley—KE5SR
(713) 342-8028

FROM THE EDITOR

by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ

1995 is just about over. I have always tried to use the closing months of the year as a time to reflect upon my actions over the past year and my plans for the future. The following article was passed along to me, anonymously, and adapted for inclusion in the newsletter. I thought it would give all of us, as members of B-VARC, an opportunity to see how we stand and what the future may hold for us next year.

Hello fellow "B-VARCians." As I write this, I know that those of you who are reading this must have taken the time to sit down to bring yourself up to date about our club. I would only suggest that since you are enjoying the hobby that we share, you might also want to take the time and head for a B-VARC meeting to see what is going on.

Many organizations are like amateur radio clubs. You have those who not only pay their dues, but also serve as officers and do the work of the club. Many of us who are also officers in B-VARC see that we can work our tails off and it goes without compensation, and sometimes, without acknowledgement.

We are quickly coming to the end of yet another year, and like many clubs, B-VARC will be holding its elections. Many of our members merely send in a check each year, and don't know much beyond that. Most clubs have newsletters, as does B-VARC. If you are paying solely for the right to read the nice little articles, you are letting yourself down.

If you can take the time to read this, I ask that you take the time to see if you can make a contribution to the club(s) you might belong to. Attend a meeting

and see what the few you entrust with your club are doing with it, and make an effort to get involved. Look around the room and greet your fellow members. See who is sitting in those chairs. Find out if there is something you can do to make next year the best year ever.

Think about some of the older members. Our club has a long history, and many of the people that are in it have many years behind them. Call them up and see if they would like a ride to the meetings. Heck, it might just be the kick in the pants some individual needs to keep on going. Some of the people who are, for the most part, existing in the shells of their homes, might find it invigorating to once again rub elbows at our meetings.

Amateur radio has a long history and tradition, with many problems and successes. Whatever club you may belong to, become an *active* part of it. Remember—you can only get out of something what you put into it.

—Anonymous

SPECIAL THANKS

All of us at B-VARC would like to extend our gratitude to the management at KHTV, Channel 39, for the use of their equipment and facilities in order for this bulletin to be published.

We would also like to thank Claude Sessions—K5HFY, and all the other B-VARC members who volunteer their services in helping to put the bulletin together. It couldn't be done without you.

B-VARC BOARD MEETING*by Louis House—KD5GM*

A quorum of the B-VARC Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on October 5, 1995. This was the tenth meeting of the calendar year. In the absence of acting President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, the meeting was called to order by Louis House—KD5GM, at 7:33 p.m.

The following Board members and guests were in attendance: Louis House—KD5GM; Billy Jones—KC5EVD; Donn Washburn—N5XWB; Claude Sessions—K5HFY; Victor Richard—N5NAS; Bud King—N5UOG; Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ; Mike Hardwick—N5VCX; Sam Wilson—N5CPA; Al Mattis—N5AFV; Dwayne Jones—KB5YTA; Pete Norris—KJ5SS; Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ; Terry McCoy—KK5RL; Jack Roberts—KB5TMY and Larry Wilson—N5YYP.

Recording Secretary, Louis House—KD5GM, presented the September minutes. The minutes were accepted with a motion that passed unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary, Billy Jones—KC5EVD, reported that the appointed committee for the proposed changes to the by-laws regarding the pay cycle of club dues had not had a chance to meet. Billy said the committee would like to keep the issue open for proposals at a later date. A motion was made to table the proposed changes to the by-laws to a future date. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer, Donn Washburn—N5XWB, reported a balance of \$3,431.48 in the bank. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the report as read. Donn also reported a membership of 218 to-date.

Rag Chew Net Manager, Sam Wilson—N5CPA, reported that the net had a low of 8 and high of 18 check-ins for the month of September. Sam also reported longer band conditions are starting to take effect, making it easier for the more distant stations to make the net. Sam also said that there are no plans to change the net time for the winter months.

B-VARC Public Service Net Manager, Dwayne Jones—KB5YTA, reported that the PSN is doing well and that there are three volunteer stations to cover the net while he is in code class on Monday nights. These are: Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, Peter Mendoza—KD6QZH, and Bruce Paige—KK5DO. Dwayne also reported that he is having good success getting Newsline from the group in Conroe, TX. Dwayne stated that he will not be doing the net manager position next year (1996).

Louis House—KD5GM, reported that the B-VARC Code Practice Net on 146.47 is doing well with an accumulated total of 13 check-ins for the month of September. Louis expressed his thanks to Claude Sessions—K5HFY, for calling the net on Monday nights while the Code Class is in session.

Dwayne Jones—KB5YTA, reported that the B-VARC picnic was not getting a warm response. Dwayne asked the Board's opinion concerning continuing or cancelling the picnic plans. After some discussion, it was decided that the Club was late in starting the picnic plans, and that most of October was already committed to other events. The conclusion was to postpone the picnic until next Spring so there would be more time for the organization of the event. Much appreciation was expressed for Terry Van Slyke—N5KID, for volunteering on such short notice to organize the picnic.

B-VARC Special Events Coordinator, Mike Hardwick—N5VCX, reported with a heavy heart that he was going to have to relinquish the B-VARC Special Events Coordinator position, including for the remainder of 1995. Mike cited that his occupational work load was very heavy, and second, there is not enough participation forthcoming from the club membership to put on the 14 plus events each year. Mike stated that he would get all the paperwork in order and that he would counsel with anyone who would volunteer to take the position of Special Events Coordinator, but that his time will be limited. Mike also expressed his concern that "B-VARC was built up on the basis of a Public Service Club" and that the board this year and for 1996 would have to determine what the overall mission is for B-VARC as a Public Service Club. The Board and all guests gave Mike Hardwick—N5VCX, a warm round of applause and thanks for doing such a fine job for so long.

B-VARC Bulletin Editor, Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, stated that the deadline for articles for the Bulletin is the 15th of the month. Jackie said that she has to be firm about this date in order to get everything done on time.

Al Mattis—N5AFV, speaking for the Nominating Committee, spoke to the Board concerning the slate of candidates who will run for offices for the 1996 term of office. Al stated that the offices of President and Vice President had candidates for nomination, but that nominees for the offices of Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and one at-large Board Member are still being sought. Al said that anyone interested in being an officer of B-VARC should make their interest known to the Nominating Committee. Please contact one of the Committee Members. They are: Betty Wilcox—KA0TEN, Randy Pollard—AK5G and Al Mattis—N5AFV.

Bud King—N5UOG, reported that he had received a call from Mr. Don Roberts of the Fort Bend Radio Control Club asking if B-VARC members would mind changing rooms with his group, which normally meets next door at the same time as our general meeting, December 14, 1995. The FBRC Club will be holding an auction on this date, and needed more room. After a little discussion, a motion was made and seconded to change rooms with the FBRC Club for the 14th of December. The motion passed unanimously.

Bud King—N5UOG, reported that he had received a letter from the City of Sugar Land, addressed to the club, thanking B-VARC for the \$20.00 donation to the City of Sugar Land for the 10th annual Halloween Fun Night. The Board thanked Bud for seeing that the donation was made.

Board Member, Claude Sessions—K5HFY, stated that even though the B-VARC Bulletin shows in print our appreciation for the use of the facilities at KHTV, something more should be done to show our appreciation in a greater way. Some discussion yielded a motion to have a plaque made to honor KHTV Channel 39 for being our corporate sponsor, and to invite the General Manager of KHTV to our annual banquet. At that time, the plaque will be presented. The motion, with a second, passed unanimously.

With no further business, Louis House—KD5GM, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m., with a motion, second and unanimous vote.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT***by Donn Washburn—N5XWB*

As of October 12, 1995, the current membership for the club is:

220

NOMINATION OF B-VarC OFFICERS FOR 1996

by Allen Mattis—N5AFV

The election of B-VarC officers for 1996 will take place at the November 9, 1995, general membership meeting. At this time, the club will elect the following:

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Three-year Board Member

The club's by-laws provide for a standing nominating committee composed of three past presidents of the club whose responsibility it is to see that at least one qualified person is nominated for each position.

This year the committee is made up of:
Betty Wilcox—KAOTEN (Chairperson), 859-6512;
Randy Pollard—AK5G, 667-5123; and
Allen Mattis—N5AFV, 721-3637.

Please contact one of the persons listed above if you wish to have your name on the November ballot. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the election meeting.

The qualifications to run for office are:
1) You must be a member of B-VarC, and 2) for President you must hold a General Class or higher license, and for all other positions you must hold a Technician Class or higher license.

As of October 12, 1995, the following candidates have agreed to be considered for office next year:

President - Ron Grimes—WA5SCE
Vice-President - Louis House—KD5GM
Recording Secretary - Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ
Corresponding Secretary - Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ
Treasurer - Pete Norris—KJ5SS
Three-year Board Member: Bill Clarke—WB5YDD,
Dwayne Jones—KB5YTA, Terry McCoy—KK5RL,
Robert Moore—KC5MBV, Jack Roberts—KB5TMY

OUT OF THIS WORLD HAM RADIO ACTIVITY

by Bruce Paige—KK5DO

Segment: Amps and Preamps for your station

We previously talked about the types of radios for use when working satellites and the types of coax to use. Now, I will discuss amps and preamps. Since they

play an important part in a satellite station, I will attempt to give you some things to look for when selecting a preamp.

If you are thinking about adding an amp to your satellite station, you should consider several things: First, how much output power do you need? Second, how much power does your radio put out? Third, if you are going to have a preamp, how much power will the preamp pass without blowing out the finals?

Now, let's consider a radio with a 25 watt output. If you purchase a linear that takes a maximum of 30 watts in, you will be safe and not blow out the linear. If you purchase a linear with a maximum 20 watts in, you will blow the linear finals if you output more than 20 watts. Also, if the 25 watt output will drive the linear to 100 watts output and you are going to use a preamp, be sure the preamp will pass the 100 watts; otherwise, you will blow out the finals.

I use an RF Concepts linear on 70 cm and it is rated at 30 in and 100 out. My radio outputs 35 and it gives me 120 out. For most of the satellites, this is way too much power; however, if you are going to work sideband or terrestrial, then this is great. On the 2m side, I also use a RF Concepts linear rated at 40 in, 170 out. My radio outputs 45 watts and I get 200 out of the linear.

When I was looking for a preamp, I had to make sure that if I were working 2m sideband and had the preamp on and then transmitted the full 200 watts that I could easily pass it through the preamp. Several models out there only pass up to 150 watts with coax switching. I found a SSB preamp that would pass 200 watts with coax switching and 750 watts with PTT switching. The only kicker is that the amps isolate any voltage that the radio passes through the coax, and that means that if I have the linear in the circuit, then I cannot use the preamp on coax switching. So, when I operate satellite, I have the linear out of the circuit and when I operate 2m sideband, I connect it back up.

When deciding on a preamp, look at the signal gain and the noise factor. Some preamps will give you 20db signal gain and a noise factor of .8db. Others might give you 15db signal gain and a noise factor of 1.2db. You want to get the highest signal gain and the lowest noise factor. If you could get a preamp with a signal gain of 20db and a noise factor of

0db, then that would mean that the signal is improved without the addition of any additional noise. Since this is not possible, you want the noise factor as low as possible. As I mentioned in previous sessions, there is a price to pay as the noise factor is reduced and the signal is increased. The larger the signal gain and the lower the noise factor, the more expensive the preamp will be.

Remember last time when I talked about coax line losses from the different types of coax? If you are using a coax that has a 2db loss on a 100 foot run and you added a preamp that gave you 10db gain, you would be overcoming the loss of the coax and have 8db effective gain. Also, if you have a coax with a 3db loss and are using a 40 watt radio, that would be like cutting your power in half. Now, add a linear that gives you 80 watts out and your effective radiated power would be 40 watts, not counting any loss or gain from the antenna. So, if you cannot get the best coax, you could compensate for the losses by adding an amp or preamp to your station. However, which is more expensive, the \$200 preamp and \$150 linear or the \$300 in coax? So, it might actually be cheaper to purchase the hardline at \$2 or \$3 per foot than to purchase a preamp or linear to compensate for the coax or even a poor antenna.

There are so many things to consider when setting up your satellite station. You really should think about every aspect of it carefully before you jump in and make some of your purchases. As you can see, if you bought some coax at \$1 per foot and found you were not satisfied, you could then buy a linear and preamp. Now you may find that you can do some things that you could not do before, but you might eventually decide to run the better coax. You might say that a satellite station is like a home stereo. You can always seem to find better speakers, better receivers and better turntables or tape players. At some point, you become satisfied and feel you have the best for your money.

Well, now you have a basic idea of some of the components for your station. I went with Flexi 4XL cable that is similar to Belden 9913, except it has a stranded core. This makes it easier to bend and withstand rotation on the rotor. My radio is an ICOM 970H, although I used to use a Yaesu 736R. I have an SSB 2m mast-mounted preamp that will pass 200 watts on PTT. I have the RF Concepts 4-310 70cm and 2-315 2m linears. The only

thing I haven't talked about yet are the antennas, and you're just going to have to wait for another segment for that.

You will find people using Mirage, Landwehr, Empire and a variety of other manufactured and homebrewed amps and preamps. It really doesn't matter whose product you purchase as long as the specs meet the minimum you require to operate your station.

THE INTERNET

by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ

The following article is the second in a series of articles John Moore—KK5NU, has written for publication in the B-VARC Bulletin. In addition, John has been kind enough to provide a listing of some amateur radio-related sites on the Internet for your enjoyment, which you will find at the end of his article.

Also, please remember that Billy Jones—KC5EVD, is in the process of adding e-mail addresses to the roster. If you have an e-mail address, please relay that information to him via e-mail at his Internet address, bjones@aramco.com, for inclusion in the next printing of the roster.

The Editor

All You Want to Know About the Internet and More

by John W. Moore—KK5NU

How Did It Get Started?

The Internet as we know it today had its inception in a rather innocuous project initiated by the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency. They were instrumental in developing the protocols and standards that are used today to enable widely diverse computer systems to talk the language that enables them to communicate with each other. This was then put to use by the National Science Foundation to link the six NSF Supercomputer center sites with each other as the NSFNet. Throughout was the desire of the educational and research community to communicate rapidly, securely and reliably with all of their members. Fueled by the "Cold War" and funded in the main by the Department of Defense, the Internet was seen as an almost instantaneous, safe, secure, reliable, diverse, multi-point transfer network, with the ability to connect the

far-flung arms of the military in the event of nuclear attack, to insure command and control of communications deemed so vital and necessary to the interests of this country. Places of the like such as Oak Ridge National Laboratory, White Sands Missile Range, Los Alamos, Cheyenne Mountain North American Air Defense Center, the Pentagon War Room, Strategic Air Command Headquarters Offats AFB, Vandenberg AFB Western Missile Command, the Presidential and Congressional Underground Command Post Complex far removed from the nominal site of government in Washington, DC, Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Pearl Harbor Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Thule AFB Greenland, Redstone Arsenal, Cape Canaveral, Guam, Rhein-Mahn AFB; wherever the military response might come from were all tied into the network. And by its very design, a break or severance of the line to one location would not necessarily be noticed and would not crash the system. The AT&T Long Lines Microwave Transmission Network and the Transcontinental Telephone Network all became integrated into the system. What appeared to the public as a nice and handy telephone and television coaxial transmission network also served to carry data for the huge internetwork of computers that became linked together. Almost every university of higher education in the country was joined as a part of the system. By 1989 this Internet backbone was composed of some 14 separate networks, primarily of colleges, universities, and Defense Department installations around the world. First the transoceanic cable network and then the worldwide satellite network were also tied in as well. Today, the wiring and connections go all over the world, affording access to all points of the globe. You may recall the American in Baghdad as a part of the United Nations inspection team held briefly by Iraq, who used his cellular telephone to fax certain documents from the parking lot back to headquarters halfway around the world. That gives you a true representation of the reaches of the Internet.

More to come...

John Moore—KK5NU

Amateur Radio-related Internet Sites

Surfin' the Internet

The following is an updated listing of some of the more popular and flavorful World Wide Web (WWW) sites located

on the Internet. As of the date of this compilation (October 11, 1995), there are in excess of 8.5 million WWW sites from a search made by the Lycos search engine located at Carnegie-Mellon University. And for what it's worth, the Universal Resource Locator (in layman's language, the address to point your www browser toward) for Lycos is <http://www.lycos.com/>. Following the rules, capitalization and spelling is most critical. So, away we go...

<http://www.acs.ncsu.edu/HamRadio/>

Home of Amateur Radio on the Internet at North Carolina State University and maintained by Lou Williams, KE4ARM

<http://www.arrrl.org> *new address*

The American Radio Relay League's World Wide Web Service.

<http://www.fcc.gov/>

Federal Communications Commission home on the net. And the site of the updated Amateur Radio License Database. It is huge and not very user friendly for searching. However the daily updates can be found about 11 a.m. EDT each day of the week except on Monday, when the entire database is renewed; and on Saturday, when no information is currently furnished.

<http://www.ualr.edu/doc/hamualr/callsign.html>

Courtesy of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, a neat site for searching the Amateur Radio Database can be found. You might be surprised what can be found under your callsign.

<http://www.qrz.com/cgi-bin/webcall> *new address*

The online QRZ CD-ROM database. It will ask for your e-mail address and add it to the listing when the next update of the CD-ROM is issued.

<http://www.amsat.org>

AMSAT-NA, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, has information about the amateur space program. Download the latest Keplerian Elements or browse the downloadable software from <ftp.amsat.org>

<http://www.acs.oakland.edu/barc/introbarc.html>

Home of the Boston Amateur Radio Club and the site of a wealth of information, including a vast amount of downloadable files.

<http://www.tapr.org:80/tapr>

The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio homepages. All you ever wanted to know about Packet Radio and then some.

<http://www.ssd1.com/hamradio/>

Compaq Amateur Radio Club's Information Page and close to us. Links to Texas HAM resources.

<http://www.cc.columbia.edu:80/~fuat/cuarc>

Columbia University Amateur Radio Club has a variety of listings of materials that are of interest to the ham community. They also have pointers to other ham radio related sites.

http://www.yahoo.com/yahoo/Entertainment/Radio/Amateur_Radio

The Yahoo search engine's starting point for information on all aspects of Amateur Radio. Look for the HamRadio IRC Channel, the Elmers Resource Directory, Amateur Radio Operator-Online Magazine, Ham Radio on the Internet, Low Profile Amateur Radio, the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment—SAREX—the list is seemingly endless.

This is only the tip of the iceberg—there are literally thousands more out there on the Net, and like the desert sands, they are forever changing and shifting.

Happy surfing—73's

John Moore—KK5NU

VE EXAM RESULTS OCTOBER 1995

by Harold Parker—ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, October 10, 1995 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The VE Team consisted of:

Minh Ha -	AC5AW
Harold Parker -	ND5F
Don Schexnailder -	AB5IV

The Assistants were:

Carl Albrecht -	AA5JW
Cass Germany -	KG5IT
Irene Gordon -	N5AYX

A total of 29 exams were administered during the evening to 13 applicants. Four (4) unlicensed candidates received their new licenses—1 novice, 2 technician and 2 technician plus. Two (2) others upgraded, with a total of 19 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66%.

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

Shirley Cox - Element 2
 Carlos Estevez - Novice
 Jack Featherstone - Technician
 David Gullette - Element 2
 Charles Hobley—WB5ZLT - General
 Larry Jacobson—W5SNH - Extra
 Donald Krolls - Element 2
 Alton Lane, Jr. - Technician
 Ty Le - Element 2
 Robert Raleigh - Tech+
 Robert Warren—KC5QIP - Element 4B
 Michael Westerman—KC5LMT -Tech+

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, Harold Parker—ND5F

B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS

by Sam Wilson—N5CPA

The B-VARC Rag Chew Net is held on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. on 3.960MHz,

+/- 3kHz. The following check-ins were reported for the month of September:

September 6, 1995

KG5KV (NCS), W5EFB, KJ5SS, W5IHY, N5OAC, N5AFV, KK5RL, WA5TWL

September 13, 1995

N5CPA (NCS), KE5SR, N5OAC, WA5TWL, W5GLD, KB5ION, KG5KV, WD5CJL, W5IHY, W5GHK, W5EFB, KJ5SS, WN5A, KC5HNJ

September 20, 1995

N5CPA (NCS), N5UOG, KG5KV, WA5TWL, W5EFB, KK5RL, KK5QR, N5AFV, AB5OK

September 27, 1995

KG5KV (NCS), KE5SR, KB5ION, N5CPA, N5UOG, KK5RL, N5SSK, WN5A, W5IHY, WA5TWL, K15SC, KB5PAJ, KF5NU, N5OAC, WD5CJL, KJ5SS, KB5VTB, W5EFB

REPEATER INFORMATION

MERA Repeater to Use Subaudible Tone

The MERA Board of Directors has approved the use of a subaudible tone (CTCSS) of 123.0Hz on the 145.47 repeater for a two-week trial period. Repeater access will require the use of the subaudible tone 24 hours a day from December 1-14, 1995. At the December 14, 1995 B-VARC general membership meeting, repeater users will have the opportunity to discuss the results of the two-week trial period with MERA board members. It is hoped that 24-hour a day use of the subaudible tone will alleviate recent interference problems.

New Frequency Coordinators

The Texas VHF-FM Society has announced the appointment of new frequency coordinators for Southeast Texas (Zone 2). The repeater coordinator for the 10m, 6m, 2m and 222MHz bands is Howard Smith—KB5VAW, of Bryan, Texas. The frequency coordinator for the 440MHz, 900MHz and 1.2GHz bands is Mark Cheavers—KC5EVE, of Sugar Land, Texas.

THE WORLD OF TEN TEN INTERNATIONAL

by Al Mattis—N5AFV

The Houston Space Houston on Ten (S.H.O.T.) chapter of Ten Ten International will present a forum about Ten Ten at the Gulf Coast Ham Convention which will be held November 3-5, 1995, at the Humble Convention Center. This forum will provide an opportunity for amateur radio operators at the convention to learn about the organization. A slide show assembled by Ten Ten International will be shown. If you are interested in attending the forum, check the convention schedule for time and location.

The Houston S.H.O.T. chapter will conduct its second annual November Special during the month of November, 1995. During the month, S.H.O.T. members may collect Discovery numbers for 2 points each, and Voyager numbers for 1 point each. A member's point value will be increased by one-fifth of the points collected. A total of 130 Voyager numbers have been issued to S.H.O.T. members who have attended selected meetings and conventions. The Discovery award is the chapter's highest upgrade, and a total of 47 Discovery awards have been issued. S.H.O.T. members participating in the November Special should submit a list of claimed points in log format to N5AFV, the chapter Certificate Manager, by December 15, 1995.

Propagation on the 10m band has been poor the past month. There continue to be a few domestic openings; however, propagation to Latin America has become more common. These poor conditions may be expected for the next six to eight months, but propagation should begin to improve in late 1996.

Remember, the Houston S.H.O.T. net meets every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. local time on 28.488MHz. 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 10m band.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Al Mattis—N5AFV

This year's 25K Marathon Warm-Up Series Race will be held on Sunday, November 12, 1995, and volunteers are needed to provide communications for the event. Providing communications at a public service event is a lot of fun, and it helps provide a positive image of amateur radio in the community.

For the fourth consecutive year, the 25K race will be run along Memorial Drive, with the start and finish lines being located in downtown Houston. Amateur radio communications has played an important role in previous years. Houston area race directors still talk about the year that a hot air balloon landed on the 25K course, just as the race was about to start. The course was blocked, and amateur radio operators were able to notify the race director and delay the start of the race until the balloon was cleared. Amateur radio also played a key role in past years in passing medical traffic. The race covers a distance of 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) and is a serious athletic event rather than a "fun run." In six of the last eight years, injured runners from the 25K race have been taken to the hospital by ambulance.

If you wish to help provide communications at this year's 25K race, please contact me at 609-5711 during the daytime, or 721-3637 in the evening before 9:00 p.m.

UPCOMING SWAPFESTS

by Al Zermeno—KK5W

The Gulf Coast Ham Convention is being held November 3-5, 1995, at the Humble Convention Center, which is located on the north side of Houston, off of Highway 59. The convention will officially open at 12 p.m. on Friday, November 3, and close after the last VE testing in the afternoon on Sunday, November 5. There will be informative and interesting seminars taking place all day Saturday, and a special speaker is planned for the luncheon. Registration is \$10/person, and plenty of free parking is available. Talk-in will be on 444.4 and 147.08 (no tone).

Everyone be sure to attend the convention and let's make this a regular event for Houston.

SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

by Jack Roberts—KB5TMY

Here are some frequencies to monitor during TDCJ escapes:

TDCJ

154.98
153.815 Sugar Land
154.95 Cars
155.37 Intercity
153.905 Common
153.785
154.085
155.025
154.055
154.115
153.755
154.995 Huntsville
153.965
453.050 Hospital
453.300 Wardens
453.350 Wardens
453.400 Wardens
453.450 Wardens

DPS

154.680 Car
155.460 Hou. Disp.
154.950 Car to Car
155.370 Intercity
155.505 TX Rangers/Houston
154.695 Car
155.445 Dispatch
155.535 Richmond
159.090 TX Rangers
154.665 Dispatch
154.920 TX Rangers
154.935 TX Rangers
159.210 TX City/Houston
155.475 TX Rangers
154.905 TX Rangers
156.210 TX Rangers
158.730 TX Rangers/Austin
158.910 Mobiles
159.150 Mobiles
451.200 TX Rangers/DPS/Amarillo
456.200 TX Rangers/DPS/Amarillo
453.550 TX Rangers

Houston PD

460.325 North Shepherd
460.125 NE
460.025 SE
460.050 SW
460.425 City-wide Pub. Serv. Events
460.100 Central
460.350 Special Ops.
460.325 Car-to-car
460.400 Det.
460.450 Hom.
460.475 NW
460.150 West side
460.075 Police choppers
460.375 Police choppers
460.550 South Central
460.525 Intercity

Misc.

33.52 Alief Community Vol. FD
453.700 IAH PD
453.900 HOU PD

ANTENNA COLUMN

by Rick Hiller—KF5NU

Stay tuned for Rick's exciting antenna column in the next issue.

FOR SALE

The gin pole which is owned by B-VARC is now being offered for sale, at a price of \$450.00. For more information please contact Donn Washburn—N5XWB, at 498-0569.

ICOM 2340H dual-band w/remote microphone chip. For information, contact Bill Randolph—KC5KGJ, at 973-6540.

THE EPICUREAN HAM

by Carl Hacker—KB5LDY

[Not available. Keep watching for that article about dutch ovens, which will hopefully appear in the December issue.]

**RFI, EMI AND OTHER STUFF:
Some Fixes**

by Pete Norris—KJ5SS

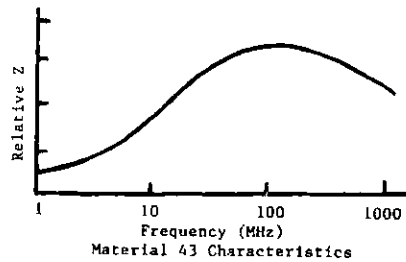
Having determined the 12 volt fan motor power cord was acting as a transmitting antenna, it was decided to attack this RFI source first. Before discussing the details of the "fixes," the tools available will be considered.

Capacitors are not "ideal." They may be "modeled," however, as an ideal capacitor in series with the two leads which act as inductors. This series LC circuit will become series resonant at some frequency, depending on the length of the leads and capacitor value, and thus appear as a short circuit at the resonant frequency. Above this frequency, the reactance increases, reducing the effectiveness if the capacitor is used as a bypass or shunt. Larger capacitors are used at low frequencies and smaller values used at higher frequencies.

Ferrite beads are often used to provide attenuation, acting as a series inductor, when placed on leads conducting undesired signals. The effectiveness of the beads varies with the characteristics of the ferrite material used to make the bead and the frequency. Beads made of

"material 43" are used from 30MHz to 400MHz. Material 64 is used up to 1000MHz while material 77 is used at lower frequencies. The relative impedance versus frequency for beads made of material 43 is shown below. The curve is typical for other materials, but would be displaced in frequency.

Next time: The Implementation.



SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY NETS

- Monday**
- 7:30 p.m. 34.94 Swap Net
146.94MHz
- 8:00 p.m. Ft. Bend Cty EM Net
145.49MHz
- 8:30 p.m. B-VARC Code Practice Net
146.47MHz (receive only)
- 9:00 p.m. B-VARC
145.47MHz
- Tuesday**
- 8:00 p.m. Ten Ten SHOT Net
28.488MHz
- 10:00 p.m. AMSAT Net
147.10MHz
- Wednesday**
- 8:00 p.m. B-VARC Rag Chew
3.960MHz (+/- 3kHz)
- 8:30 p.m. B-VARC Code Practice Net
146.47MHz (receive only)
- Friday**
- 8:30 p.m. B-VARC Code Practice Net
146.47MHz (receive only)
- Saturday**
- 9:00 a.m. Houston Emer. Mgmt. Net
146.84MHz (Sky
Warn/RACES)
- Sunday**
- 7:30 p.m. ARES Net
147.30MHz
- 2nd & 4th Sundays**
- 1:30 p.m. TX State RACES Net
7.248MHz

B-VARC CODE PRACTICE NET

by Louis House—KD5GM

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club sponsors a Morse Code Practice Net, called BCN, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 8:30 p.m. The purpose of this net is to offer a consistent code practice schedule for all amateurs who are working on their upgrades. The text is sent at approximately 5, 8, 10, 13 and 18 wpm. The signal source is modulated tones on FM (MCW). The source of the text is announced in CW before the text is sent. The length of the net is usually 25 to 30 minutes. Voice check-ins are welcomed at the start of the net, but are not necessary to participate. Just tune in on 146.47 (simplex), with a desire to increase your code proficiency and have a good time.

The net roster for the month of September lists a total of 13 stations checking in. They were: K5HFY/NCS N5UOG, KK5RL, KC5HJ, KC5KGG, KC5EUS, KC5MBV, KB5WZI, KC5EUX, N5LYB, KB5DXP, WD5DRB and KC5JRL. Have fun and... 73 de KD5GM/NM/NCS AR SK

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Volunteers needed for the following:

Dec. 9th—Saturday
30K Marathon Warm-Up
Contact: Don Wade—WB5IBT
(713) 242-6706

Jan. 14th (1996)—Sunday
Houston-Tenneco Maraton
Contact: Carl Hacker—KB5LDY
(713) 977-9754

Mar. 10th—Sunday
K-9 Fun Run
Contact: Steve Dunkelberger—N5JBL
(713) 781-6703

PROPOSED FCC BUDGET CUTS

by Allen R. Brier—WB5BIR

Last month, we printed a list of our Senators and Congressmen, asking you to write concerning the Legislation in Congress proposing to cut the budget of the FCC by 20%. If you have not done so by now, please take the time to do so. It is very crucial to our hobby in amateur radio.

73 Allen R. Brier—WB5BIR

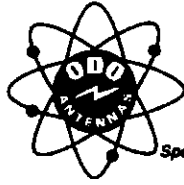
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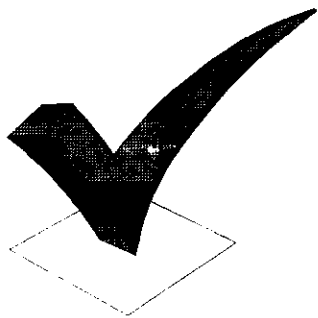
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Chairman of the Board



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REMINDER . . .

The deadline for articles to be placed in the B-VARC Bulletin is the **15th** of each month. Please make every effort to have your article(s) to me by that date. If you know that you will not be able to meet the deadline but are planning to contribute to the newsletter for that month, you may call me to make special arrangements. Otherwise, if I do not have your article(s) by the deadline, it/they will not be published in that issue. Thank you for your cooperation.

—The Editor



PUBLIC SERVICE UPDATE

by Mike Hardwick—NSVCX

On October 8, 1995, the Gallery Furniture 20K Warm-Up Run for the Houston-Tenneco Marathon was held in downtown Houston. The event had over 2,400 people registered, with 2,170 finishing the event. The event went very well, with very few problems. I received the letter at left from the Houston Striders thanking us for a job well done. This event has become the largest organized 20K run in the U.S., of which B-VARC has been a part for the last 8 years, and has been an asset to the running organizations that have put on and coordinated the event.

B-VARC has also been involved in all the warm-up runs, the marathon, as well as many other events over the years. This is what has made B-VARC a public service-oriented club. Over the past two years, I have been the public service coordinator for the club and have coordinated over 10 events, as well as working the other 15 or so events put together by other event coordinators. This has been a very rewarding position as well as a very tiring one (coordinating the two-day events normally starts 6 months prior to the event and can have as many as 1 meeting a week the month before the event.) Due to an ever-increasing work schedule, I will no longer be able to function as public service coordinator for B-VARC. This appointed position is not one to be taken lightly. This position requires you to meet with organizations across the city, attempting to sell amateur radio as a very valuable commodity. When I meet with the chairpersons of an event, it is a business meeting to the nth degree. I promote, advertise and sell the

club's and the amateur community's expertise at the highest level. At every meeting this year, there was a new person that I had to introduce to the hobby and explain to them that amateur radio is much more than "CB" radio and that the amateur community as a whole can function as a communications pathway to help and enhance their event.

I informed the B-VARC board on October 5 that I would no longer be able to perform my duties as public service coordinator, and that someone would need to be appointed near the first of the year. All events up to the K-9 Fun Run on March 10 have an event coordinator, and filling the position at the first of the year will allow for a smooth transfer of information, thus allowing the new person to get his/her feet wet. When I am in town, I will always be available to help the new coordinator. I am not simply leaving and turning my back on B-VARC. The time I have been doing this has been very rewarding, and I wish I could continue in the position.

The one thing I would like to pass on to the new coordinator is to maintain strong club support. This is one thing I have seen that has hurt other clubs around the state. B-VARC is a fairly large club, but in talking to other amateur groups around the country, the 220 members that B-VARC has is what some other clubs have for committee and special project groups. As long as B-VARC is an interesting and active organization, new members will come in by the droves.



P.O. Box 721405 • Houston, Texas 77272-1405

October 16, 1995

B-VARC
6144 Carew
Houston, TX 77074

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the Houston Striders, I want to thank you and your club for helping us with this year's Gallery Furniture 20K. We had 2170 finishers making this year's race close, if not the largest of its kind. We obviously couldn't have managed a race of this magnitude without your help. Again thank you.

Regards:

Bob Gulliver, Co-Race Director

cc: Walt Sklenar, Co-Race Director



the B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Serving the Greater Houston Area
(Club Call Sign—KC5OIG)

Editor-in-Chief: Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ (713) 460-1968

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) 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, B-VARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active HAM radio club in the southwest Houston area.

Today, B-VARC is truly a general-interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The commitment to service has been recognized by the Amateur Radio 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. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available on the 145.47, 444.55 and 442.5 MHz repeaters.

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

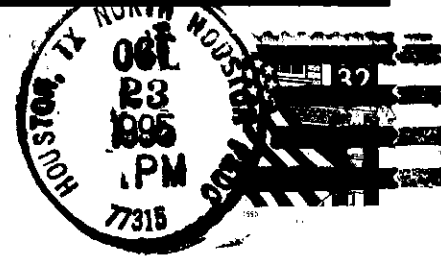
B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE		B-VARC EATING SCHEDULE	
Thursday, November 2nd 7:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting Sugar Land Community Center Open to <u>All</u> B-VARC Members	Saturdays—7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Location to be announced. Stay tuned to the Monday night net for more info.	
Thursday, November 9th 7:30 p.m.	B-VARC Membership Meeting Sugar Land Community Center Program: Chili Supper/Election of Officers	3rd Friday Dinners—6:30 p.m. SHARP! Locations announced each month	

Volume 18 Issue 11


November 1995

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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