

# the B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 19 Issue 2

February 1996



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**1-Year Board Member:**  
Claude Sessions—K5HFY  
(713) 242-6069

**Past President:**  
Carl Cunert—WB8SVR

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Ron Grimes—WA5SCE*

For those that did not make the banquet, we missed you. Congratulations to Louis House—KD5GM, who needed a hand cart to carry away all the awards he received. In case you haven't heard, Louis got the Dr. Bill Award for outstanding VE service and the Order of the Key, B-VARC's highest honor. Congratulations are also in order for Sam Wilson—N5CPA, for his receipt of the Loop and Zepp award for outstanding HF operation. Way to go, guys!

A special B-VARC thank you is due these folks for contributing door prizes to the banquet:

**Les at Electronic Parts Outlet (EPO)** for contributing a 1996 ARRL Amateur Radio Handbook and 1996 Antenna Handbook

**Alex at City Electronics** for contributing a 1996 Antenna Handbook.

**Elton Kytyle** for contributing a B-VARC shirt

For all those that attended the banquet and won a free subscription to World Radio, Carl will be sending the free subscription cards to B-VARC in time for the February meeting. If you received a voucher, bring it to me at that meeting and I will give you your subscription information.

Past President, Carl Cunert, passed along his best wishes to everyone via e-mail, saying he was thinking about us at the banquet, and misses the club and its members, and he may be down for a meeting in June.

At the banquet, I announced that we would have a Program Committee this year, not just a single program chair. Well folks, not only do we have a committee, we have the A-team! Gailen Marshall—N4SKR, will chair the group, and he will be assisted by Randy Pollard—AK5G, Bill Kemp—KG5CB, Joe Ross—AA5BD, and Rick Hiller—KF5NU.

Their program list for the coming year is quite impressive:

- Building Simple Antennas - (Feb. mtg.)
- Ham Radio & the Internet
- Contesting - HF and VHF
- Digital HFing-What? Why? and How?
- Basic Radio Repair

- New Product Show and Tell
- Building Radio Equipment-A Beginner's Guide
- RF Aspects of Field Day
- DXing - Is it for you?

The program listing nicely compliments the activities we will have at Field Day. Allen Brier—WB5BIR, has agreed to an encore performance as chairman of the Field Day committee. He will be needing a lot of help with planning and details, so please pitch in when he calls you. We did pretty well last year, and should have another great time in June 1996. At least it's not on our anniversary this year—right, N5RQO?

73, Ron—WA5SCE

## FROM THE EDITOR

*by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ*

In last month's issue, I mentioned the fact that we would be starting a column entitled "Profiles." I have gotten no response (except from Steve) to my request as of yet. As you complete your profile, please send it to me and I will publish one per issue. Please—don't make me have to beg or come looking for you!

The Editor

## 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 Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ*

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on January 4, 1996. This was the first board meeting of the calendar year. The meeting was called to order by President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, at 7:30 p.m.

The following Board Members and guests were present: Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, Louis House—KD5GM, Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, Donn Washburn—N5XWB, Pete Norris—KJ5SS, Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ, Victor Richard—N5NAS, Terry McCoy—KK5RL, Bud King—N5UOG, Claude Session—K5HFY, Harold Parker—ND5F, Allen Mattis—N5AFV, Sam Wilson—N5CPA, and Mel Thatcher—KB5ION.

1995 Recording Secretary, Louis House—KD5GM, presented the December minutes. The minutes were approved with a motion that passed unanimously.

1995 Treasurer, Donn Washburn—N5XWB, presented the Treasurer's report dated January 4, 1996, showing a balance of \$5,070.71. Donn stated that B-VARC had a total of 71 paid members, including 4 life members. He also stated that as of 1/4/96, there were 45 people signed up for the B-VARC annual banquet, including 2 guests of B-VARC from Channel 39. He stated that the cutoff date to sign up for the banquet was 1/8/95. President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that he would appoint an audit committee to conduct an audit since it was the end of the 1995 Treasurer's term. 1996 Treasurer, Pete Norris—KJ5SS, presented a new signature card to be filled out and signed by the new officers of B-VARC. The Treasurer's report was accepted with a motion that passed unanimously.

1996 Corresponding Secretary, Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ, had questions about several names on the mailing list for the newsletter. After some discussion, 4 out of the 6 names were removed from the mailing list at the direction of President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE.

Bud King—N5UOG, stated that the Sugar Land Community Center had no large room for us in 1997, and that we would have to use the Wedgewood North room for our meetings. We will, however, be able to keep all of our regular meeting dates for both board meetings and general membership meetings for 1997. The dates for the board meetings in the last six months of 1996 will be the first Thursday of the month as usual; however, the dates for the regular meetings will be changed as follows: July 18, 1996; August 22, 1996; October 17, 1996; and November

21, 1996. Bud suggested that the club think about finding a new meeting place for 1997. Allen Mattis—N5AFV, suggested that the club consider the new civic center in Missouri City. Bud also stated that the banquet was arranged with HESS for 1997. The Board discussed calling members from the roster to see if we could get the banquet attendance up. President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, presented a draft of the program for the awards banquet to be reviewed by members of the Board for any corrections/comments.

Claude Sessions—K5HFY, indicated that he had received several inquiries from people interested in joining amateur radio clubs. He also stated that he had used the club's call sign—KC5OIG, to get a Ten Ten number for B-VARC. The Ten Ten number for B-VARC is 67832.

B-VARC Rag Chew Net Manager, Sam Wilson—N5CPA, reported that the net is doing well, and that the check-ins ranged from 11 to 18 for the month of December. He further stated that there were several distant stations that checked in, including Carl Cunert—WB8SVR and KI5SC.

B-VARC Public Service Information Net Manager, Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, reported that the Monday night Public Service Information Net was going well, but she welcomed suggestions on how to handle the check-ins on the net. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the running of the net should be left to the discretion of the Net Manager, and that any new net procedures should be stated in the preamble.

Louis House—KD5GM, reported that the B-VARC Code Practice Net was going well. The net currently runs 3 nights per week.

President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that the club had need of several committees: Program Director, Parliamentarian, and Field Day. He stated that he possibly had someone lined up for Program Director. Louis House—KD5GM, stated that Allen Brier—WB5BIR, stated that he would be handling Field Day again for 1996.

President Grimes also brought to the Board's attention the Public Service Guidelines which were presented at the December 1995 meeting by Mike Hardwick—N5VCX. Item 7 of these Guidelines, concerning members of B-VARC operating sag and other vehicles, was discussed. Ron said that this issue

needed further review and that the issue needed to be made clearer. He further indicated that he would possibly appoint an ad hoc committee to review and comment on these guidelines. He also mentioned the fact of possibly preparing a form to be signed by public service event volunteers in accordance with the guidelines.

President Grimes also brought up the recent by-law changes that were made at the December 1995 Board of Directors meeting. Discussion was had concerning the life membership issue. The issues discussed were the possible bankrupting of the club (e.g. cost of sending the newsletter), and counting life members would make it difficult to attain a quorum to vote in the annual election. Several solutions were discussed, including the possibility of increasing the multiplier for the life membership dues, possibly putting the money in an interest-bearing account, and the possibility of changing the word "member" to "resident" to help with the quorum issue.

Louis House—KD5GM, indicated that he and Steve Gottlieb—WA5OEN, met with Pat O'Malley with the Tatanka District Boy Scouts. The manned radio station will be set up in front of the JC Penney store at West Oaks Mall. He stated that he will soon be attending a meeting with Mr. Welch to check out the roof and to lay the groundwork for the event. The issue of liability was discussed, and Mr. O'Malley stated that he believed B-VARC participants would be covered under the Boy Scouts' insurance, since B-VARC was invited to participate. Louis indicated that he would confirm this. Also, the Boy Scouts' radio merit badge was discussed, and Louis is trying to obtain literature to be distribute in that regard.

Louis House—KD5GM, also brought to the Board's attention the use of registering the various B-VARC nets under the club's call sign. He indicated that the trustee of the call stated that it was not appropriate to use the call for the nets. After some discussion, Louis indicated that he would register the B-VARC nets under the respective net manager's call sign.

Harold Parker—ND5F, stated that he had received an FCC Form 610V, which he would pass along to the trustee of the club call sign. He suggested that possibly the club could hold a contest to select a vanity call for the club, and issue some type of prize to the member who gave the winning call.

President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that he had received the newly printed, corrected membership forms from George Jolly. He also stated that he would like an inventory of the club's equipment to be prepared. Pete Norris—KJ5SS, will bring an inventory and distribute copies of it at the February Board of Directors Meeting.

Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ, brought up the issue of the plastic name tags that are in his possession. After some discussion, he stated that he will come up with a plan as to what to do with them in the future.

President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, raised a question concerning the next Novice/Technician and Code class. Louis House—KD5GM, stated that he will check into starting the classes and try to see if he can get any volunteers to help teach these classes. It was also brought to the Board's attention that we need to advertise these classes at least 2 to 3 months in advance in order to get more participation. Louis stated that the new code class would be starting March 10, 1996, but that the location was pending. He stated that he would send a letter to the First Colony church of Christ concerning the use of their facilities for the classes. The code class will last 8 to 10 weeks, ending on May 6, 1996, and runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Louis also stated that he would like to upgrade the version of the ARRL code practice tapes used for the classes. He stated that he would write to the ARRL to see if we could get a special rate on these tapes. It was also brought to the Board's attention that the writer of the shareware, Super Morse, was a charter member of B-VARC, and that we could possibly contact him concerning distribution of this program to the next code class.

Allen Martis—N5AFV, brought to the Board's attention the issue of past presidents of B-VARC. He stated that he believed that the club was straying away from following the by-laws. He further stated that the club's Parliamentarian, Carl Hacker—KB5LDY, had not been attending the board meetings to act in such capacity. He further stated that the President could appoint a parliamentarian without the board's approval. Allen also brought up the fact that a past president should be a member of the Board, and that the President should appoint someone to fill Carl Cunert—WB8SVR's, position as past president. President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that he would contact past presidents to see if any were interested in filling this Board position. Newsletter Editor, Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ, asked if Carl

Cunert—WB8SVR's name could be put on the first page of the newsletter as Past President. After some discussion, the Board felt that this would be okay.

Vic Richard—N5NAS, stated that he felt the Board should spend one night in going over the club's by-laws to become more familiar with them. President, Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, stated that he thought this was a good idea and would try to arrange something in that regard.

The meeting was adjourned by Ron Grimes—WA5SCE, at 9:35 p.m. with a motion, second and unanimous vote.




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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Pete Norris—KJ5SS

As of January 11, 1996, the current membership for the club is:

# 73

This figure includes 5 life memberships.

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## OUT OF THIS WORLD HAM RADIO ACTIVITY

by Bruce Paige—KK5DO

### Segment: Maidenhead Grid Squares

This month's topic is Maidenhead Grid Squares—what they are and where they come from.

Have you ever worked a satellite or sideband contact and the operator says "I'm in EL29hk"? I know where Houston is and I know where New York is, but where is EL29hk?

Where do those funny letter and number combinations come from? At a conference in Maidenhead, England many years ago, an international group decided this type of coordinate system would be

used because the older QRA locator system could have a duplicate location outside Europe.

Maidenhead grid squares, or simply "grid squares," represent a position on the Earth based on latitude and longitude. The world is first divided into 324 large areas. These areas, called fields, cover 10 degrees of latitude by 20 degrees of longitude. Each field is divided into 100 squares. This is where the name grid squares comes from. Each of these 100 squares represents 1 degree by 2 degrees. This gets us the EL29, which is what most people will exchange and also what is used for awards such as the VHF UHF Century Club award.

The two letters that follow a grid square further define your location within that square by dividing each square into a subsquare. These subsquares are 5 minutes by 2.5 minutes. If I remember my high school math, 1 minute of latitude is equal to 1 mile. It is more difficult to calculate longitude, since 1 minute of longitude at the equator is equal to 1 mile, and decreases as it goes towards the poles. Therefore, each subsquare, such as EL29hk, is equal to 5 miles by 2.5 miles. Thus, the grid square, EL29, is equal to roughly 120 miles by 60 miles.

As you can see, one grid square covers a large area. In fact, you will almost find everyone in New Jersey that you might work to be in FN20. It seems that is one of the most densely populated areas of the country for hams that operate satellite.

So, now that you know where these numbers come from, how do you find out what yours is? I live about 2 miles from an airport. I called the FAA and asked them for the latitude, longitude and elevation of the airport. They looked it up in a book and gave me those numbers. Then, I loaded the values into my Instant Track program under station information. Instant Track did some calculation and showed me my grid locator on the screen. Instant Track needed this information so that it could tell me what direction to point my antennas in order to work a satellite. It also told me when that satellite would rise and fall at my location.

But, what if you have just worked a station, got the QSL card, and there is no mention of a grid square? You worked him and you have earned credit for that grid square. There are several programs that you can get from packet or a BBS—GRID.COM, GRID.ZIP, GRIDLOC.ZIP and GRIDX.BAS. All of

these programs do basically the same thing, with only a few different whistles and bells. You just input a latitude and longitude, and out comes the magical grid square. You can also go the other way—input the grid square and out comes the latitude and longitude.

So, your next question is simple. Where do I get the latitude and longitude of the station I worked? That is not too difficult in the U.S. I use a program called MAP EXPERT by Delorme. You can also use AUTOMAP by Automap. When you enter the name of the particular city, the latitude and longitude is displayed for you. You can locate any place in the U.S. in no time at all. For foreign stations, you will have to look in an atlas and figure it out. And finally, the ARRL publishes a World Grid Locator Atlas. This is great if you know a major city near where the station says it is. Sometimes you get a city that is tiny and does not appear on all maps. Of course, the best thing is to get into the practice of saying "I'm located in EL29, what is your grid square?" Almost everyone on satellite knows their grid square.

So, there you have it. My grid square is EL29hk. I have worked stations in 193 different grid squares that I have confirmed so far. As you work more stations on satellite, keep track of your grid squares and in no time at all, you will have your first 100 and earn your VUCC award.

## THE INTERNET

by Jackie Burton—KC5OHJ

The following article is the fifth in a series of articles John Moore—KK5NU, has written for publication in the B-VARC Bulletin.

Also, please remember that Jim Cahanin—KB5TBZ, 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, jcahanin@starbase.neosoft.com, for inclusion in the next printing of the roster.

The Editor

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## All You Want to Know About the Internet and More

by John W. Moore—KK5NU

### How Do I Make the Connection?

With your personal computer as a terminal, communication with the world is as close as your telephone. Using one of the "communications" programs to enable and control your modem, through the public, switched telephone network (POTS), and with the mere dialing of a local telephone exchange number, you are able to get "on-line." Or, with the alternative method of using your Terminal Node Controller (TNC), you can, by accessing the local packet radio network, accomplish the same results. Either method that you choose will suffice to get you connected. But once you have established the connection, how are you able to communicate?

Much as the familiar "Q" signals are understood by amateur radio operators around the world, the internet operates on a standard or "protocol." This is the strange animal commonly referred to as "TCP/IP" or Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. With this so-called standard method of communication, all of the wide and varied computers that make up the internet are able to make themselves understood to each other. Thus, the DOS-based personal computer (PC) is able to converse with and be understood by the Macintosh (MAC), the UNIX-based systems and the VAX, or whatever else may be connected and on-line.

For amateur radio purposes, the standard is AX.25. Each machine along the vast and varied network is able to read, decode and determine just what to do with every "packet" of information that comes down the wire. So, from your personal computer via the local telephone dial-up network, through the switched packet network, over the high-speed T-1 or T-3 or fiber optic cable connections, through the world-wide satellite network, the information is sent and received around the world. Each "packet" has an identifying header that shows where it originated, where it belongs in order of delivery, and the destination to which it is to be forwarded. And, it all travels at the speed of light, so the keystroke that you enter is transmitted in a flash to the receiving end. And just who and where is that? We'll take that up in due course.

More to come...

John Moore—KK5NU

## VE EXAM RESULTS JANUARY 1996

by Harold Parker—ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, January 9, 1996 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

### The VE Team consisted of:

Steve Moynihan -	AA5LF
Harold Parker -	ND5F
Lanny Poteet -	KB5VTB

### The Assistants were:

Carl Albrecht -	AA5JW
Cass Germany -	KG5IT

A total of 25 exams were administered during the evening to 13 applicants. Four (4) unlicensed candidates received their new licenses—1 Novice and 3 "codeless" Technician licenses. Five (5) others upgraded with a total of 17 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 68%.

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

John Dryton—KC5QZD - Element 3B  
 Jack Featherstone—KC5R7Y - Element 4B  
 John Gilmore—KC5KGL - Advanced  
 Arnold Jones—KC5NMR - General  
 Steve Massie—KC5RGL - Advanced  
 Terry McCoy—KK5RL - Extra  
 Marion Medwedeff - Novice + Element 3B  
 Mary Pacheco - Technician  
 Matt Powell—WA3UUM - Extra  
 Joe Sam - Technician  
 James Tichenor - Technician

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

## THE WORLD OF TEN TEN INTERNATIONAL

by Al Mattis—NSAFV

A recent study published by the U.S. Department of Commerce contained good news for radio amateurs. The study predicts that the low in the current sunspot cycle will occur in May, 1996. Predicted sunspot numbers for late 1997 are higher than sunspot numbers were during all of 1995. 10m propagation is

pected to improve as sunspot activity increases.

The November, 1995 special upgrade program conducted by the Houston S.H.O.T. chapter has been completed. A total of 25 stations took the opportunity to upgrade their point value by participating in the special program. During 1994, a total of 34 stations participated in the November special. The S.H.O.T. chapter is considering making the November special an annual activity.

The S.H.O.T. chapter is pleased to welcome KC5OIG, the B-VARC club station as our newest local member. Claude Sessions—K5HFY, went to the effort of activating the club station, and working the necessary Ten Ten members for the club to obtain a Ten Ten number. Thank you Claude for your efforts to support activity on the 10m band.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345MHz when the band is open. Chapters with specials this month include Kansas Trails (MN), Fort McHenry (MD), Cornerstone (MD) and Eagle Watch (AL). Even with the sporadic propagation, many paper chasers continue to work on chapter upgrades.

Propagation on the 10m band has settled down into what appears to be the sunspot low. There continue to be domestic band openings, but they are usually of short duration and characterized by strong QSB. During the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, the band was open almost every day. DX can be worked at times, particularly Latin American stations. Remember, even during a low in the sunspot cycle, 10m will still have band openings, so check the band occasionally and you may be pleasantly surprised.

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.

## 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 December:

### December 6, 1995

N5CPA (NCS), KK5DO, WA9YNJ, WB8SVR, KB5TBZ, K5HFY, W5GLD, W5IHY, KG5KV, N5UOG, KJ5SS, WD5CJL, KK5RL, W5EFB, KK5W

### December 13, 1995

N5CPA (NCS), W5EFB, KJ5SS, KK5DO, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, WA5TWL, WA5SCE, KG5KV, KK5JJ, W5GLD

### December 20, 1995

N5CPA (NCS), KE5SR, N5AFV, KF5NU, KG5KV, N5ECP, KK5DO, AB5OK, WA5TWL, WB8SVR, N5OAC, WN5A, WD5CJL, WA5SCE, W5IHY

### December 27, 1995

N5CPA (NCS), W5EFB, N5AFV, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, KC5HJN, KB5TBZ, KG5KV, KF5NU, WD5CJL, N5OAC, N5KXU, KJ5SS, W5IHY, WN5A, AK5G, KK5RL, KG5CB

## UPCOMING SWAPFESTS . . .

### Victoria Swapfest 1996

Date: March 9, 1996  
 Sponsor: Victoria Amateur Radio Club  
 Place: Knights of Columbus Hall  
 3610 N. Ben Wilson  
 Victoria, Texas  
 General admission: \$5.00.  
 Talk-in: 145.190- /145.130- (PL 103.5)  
 For further information and table presale, contact:

Victoria Amateur Radio Club  
 121 South Main Street  
 Suite 205  
 Victoria, TX 77901  
 (512) 573-0821.

## ANTENNA COLUMN

by Rick Hiller—KF5NU

[Watch for Rick's exciting antenna column in the next issue.]

## SCANNER JACK'S CORNER

by Jack Roberts—KB5TMY

[Not received this month. Stay tuned for Jack's column in the next issue.]

## RFI, EMI AND OTHER STUFF

by Pete Norris—KJ5SS

This month, the subject falls in the category of "Stuff." A club member recently mentioned he had an intermittent failure in his HTX-202, a handheld 2m rig. The output power would, at times, drop to essentially zero, as indicated by the unit's output power display. "TX" was displayed, however, indicating the "push to talk" (PTT) switch and associated circuitry were working. The "LOW POWER" switch had no effect on the output power. Furthermore, it was determined the failure was independent of the power source: the 9-volt power pack or an external 12-volt power supply produced the same results. The loss of output power was confirmed using an SWR meter configured as field strength meter and another 202. The bad news was the unit would inexplicably recover and operate normally, sometimes for days!

Although the unit could have been returned to the manufacturer, there was no assurance that it would fail at the appropriate time and therefore a repair charge might be incurred and nothing gained. The problem, then, was to determine the area of the unit where the failure was most likely to be occurring, or to induce a permanent failure without damage to the unit.

The 202 schematic examination revealed the unit consists of 3 RF stages, an RF output level detector, the power level switch and associated control circuit, as well as a multitude of internal connections, which were all considered likely locations for such a failure.

There are many techniques to establish a weakness or potential failure areas in electronic equipment. The approach often is to simulate or exaggerate the operating or storage environment. This may be accomplished through testing and is often done prior to committing an item to production, or prior to final acceptance. This is sometimes called a "Qualification Test," and may be performed on a single item or a preproduction "lot."

These tests are usually mechanical, thermal or electrical in nature. The Unit Under Test (UUT) may be mounted to a

vibration or "shaker" table and vibrated over a frequency range from a few hertz to many kilohertz, or the UUT may be subjected to acoustical vibration by equipment not unlike that installed by some local residents in their vehicles. Simpler tests involve dropping the UUT from a specified height or placing it on an edge and letting it pivot fall. Temperature tests may consist of cold and hot "soaks" where the UUT is held at some temperature for some period of time or temperature cycling where the UUT is repeatedly taken to temperature extremes. We, in our hobby, regularly subject our treasures to these tests by dropping, and by storing and operating our equipment in our vehicles, which is a notoriously severe environment.

Next time: Inducing the Failure.

## CODE CLASSES BEGIN

by Louis House—KD5GM

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its spring Morse Code Classes beginning on March 11, 1996. The classes will be held at the First Colony church of Christ in room 121 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each Monday evening for approximately 9 weeks.

The church is located at 3119 Sweetwater Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas. You can get there by taking US 59 South to the Sweetwater Blvd. exit, then turn left, going over the bridge. Continue on Sweetwater Blvd. for about 1.6 miles to the church, which is on the right side of the street, just past a bayou. Parking is in the back of the church.

A current issue of the ARRL's "Your Introduction to Morse Code" will be used as a training aid for this class. These tapes may be ordered from the ARRL or purchased locally at some of the electronics stores.

We would like to know if you plan to attend the class. Also, if you have any questions about the class, please call Louis House—KD5GM, at (713) 498-5639 after 7:00 p.m. any evening.

Come and join the fun and excitement of Morse Code.

73 & hope to see you there de KD5GM

## SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY NETS

	<b>Monday</b>
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
	<b>Tuesday</b>
8:00 p.m.	Ten Ten SHOT Net 28.488MHz
10:00 p.m.	AMSAT Net 147.10MHz
	<b>Wednesday</b>
8:00 p.m.	B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960MHz (+/- 3kHz)
8:30 p.m.	B-VARC Code Practice Net 146.47MHz (receive only)
	<b>Friday</b>
8:30 p.m.	B-VARC Code Practice Net 146.47MHz (receive only)
	<b>Saturday</b>
9:00 a.m.	Houston Emer. Mgmt. Net 146.84MHz (Sky Warm/RACES)
	<b>Sunday</b>
7:30 p.m.	ARES Net 147.30MHz
	<u>2nd &amp; 4th Sundays</u>
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. CST. 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 20 wpm. The signal type is MCW on the 2m frequency and CW on the 10m frequency. 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. Check-ins are welcomed at the start of the net (on 10m, check-ins are taken from 8:15 to 8:30 p.m.). Tune in on 146.47MHz simplex or on 28.146.47MHz CW, with a desire to increase your code proficiency and have a good time.

The net roster for the month of November lists a total of 13 stations checking in. These are: K5HFY, N5UOG, KK5RL, KC5HNJ, KC5KGG, KC5EUS, KC5MBV, KB5WZI, KB5WZE, WD5DRB, KC5JRL, N5LYB, and KD5GM/NCS.

Have fun and...73 de KD5GM/NCS AR SK

## TATANKA DISTRICT BOY SCOUT FESTIVAL

by Louis House—KD5GM

On March 9, 1996, the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will be manning an amateur radio station, operating under the club's call sign—KC5OIG. B-VARC has been invited to display and demonstrate amateur radio at the Tatanka District Boy Scout Festival, which will be held in the West Oaks Mall from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The mall is located on State Highway 6 at Westheimer Road. There will be many other educational displays participating in this festival.

We will plan to have a VHF FM station, a VHF packet station, an HF station, a satellite tracking display on computer and message handling through the National Traffic System will be offered to the public.

There will be a need for equipment for this event, i.e. radios, computers, antennas and support hardware. There will be an even greater need for operators throughout the day, so, if you like to operate packet, handle messages via SSB or on digital modes, or if you like to meet the public in the name of amateur radio and present the educational aspects of amateur radio to the young scouts in our area, you can have a lot of fun.

Please mark your calendar for March 9, and come out and help with a very important event.

You may contact Steve Gontieb—WA5OEN, Rick Hiller—KF5NU or Louis House—KD5GM to volunteer your equipment and/or time for your club's display at this event.

## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

### Changing of the Guard

by James Belk—KC5ODL

As everyone has probably heard, Mike Hardwick—N5VCX, has resigned as the B-VARC Public Service Event Coordinator due to business conflicts. After much thought and many questions, I have volunteered to take over his position. As you can tell, my call is a new one and I've only been a ham since May of 1995, taking my test at B-VARC of course. I'm bringing a lot of enthusiasm and energy into this position and have already begun planning for some of the activities. Everyone will be hearing a lot from and probably about me over the coming months as I start getting other newer hams involved, along with

some of the more chronologically challenged members. In some of the past coordinators and past club presidents, I have found a wealth of advice that I will be drawing on to make my decisions on the set-up and planning of events. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of you as more volunteers are needed during some of the coming events.

*73s KC5One Day Late*

#### Volunteers needed for the following:

##### Mar. 10th—Sunday

K-9 Fun Run

Contact: Steve Dunkelberger—N5JBL  
(713) 781-6703

The next issue of The B-VARC Bulletin, will include a set of guidelines to be followed for public service events.

#### MARATHON WARM-UP SERIES VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

*by Al Mattis—N5AFV*

The Houston Area Road Runners Association (HARRA) is very appreciative of the role amateur radio communications provides in the Marathon Warm-Up Series. This series of three races helps prepare runners for the Houston Tenneco Marathon. Runners who complete all three of the warm-up series races receive a finishers mug.

HARRA has also made the finishers mug available to any amateur radio operator who works at all three of the races. A total of seven amateur radio operators worked the entire 1995 Warm-Up Series. Those amateur radio operators were: Bill Brune—N5XWU, Steve Dunkelberger—N5JBL, Bud King—N5UOG, Darrell Kirk—KC5JAR, Jack Roberts—KB5TMY, Claude Sessions—K5HXY and Larry Wilson—N5YYP. A total of 38 amateur radio operators worked one or more of the 1995 Warm-Up Series races.

Thank you to Andy Stewart of HARRA for making the finishers mugs available to the amateur radio communications volunteers.

#### THE EPICUREAN HAM

*by Carl Hacker—KB5LDY*

This recipe is from the first place winners at the 1995 Duncanville Harvest Fest Dutch Oven Cookoff. Bill and Cindy Williamson of the Exploradors Dutch Oven Team report that this recipe uses several Texas products and yields about 8 servings.

12 inch Dutch Oven  
Mesquite briquettes

¾ cup	Vegetable Oil
15	Corn tortillas cut into ½" strips
3 cups	cooked chicken, shredded
3 cups	Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
1½ cups	Onion, finely chopped
6	Poblano chiles, seeded and finely chopped
2	Jalapeño chiles, seeded and finely chopped
1½ cloves	Garlic, finely chopped
¾ cup	Whipping cream
⅛ teaspoon	Salt

Prepare Exploradors' Green Sauce by placing onion, chiles, garlic, and oil in Dutch Oven over medium heat (12 coals under bottom), stirring occasionally, until onion is tender. Stir in whipping cream and salt; reserve.

Place chicken and oil in Dutch Oven over medium to high heat (approx. 18 coals under bottom), and cook until brown. Shred and reserve.

Place tortilla strips and oil in Dutch Oven over high heat and cook until light golden brown, 30 to 60 seconds. Drain and reserve.

Grease bottom of Dutch Oven, then heat by placing 14 coals on bottom and 8 coals on top.

Layer half of the tortilla strips in the bottom of the Dutch Oven; top with chicken, half of the green sauce, and 1 ¼ cup of cheese. Gently press layers down. Repeat with remaining tortilla strips, sauce, and cheese.

Bake 30 to 45 minutes or until cheese is golden brown.

#### B-VARC LADIES LUNCH

*by Sandra Mayfield Gottlieb—KC5IWL*

Several of our ladies liked the idea of a Saturday brunch (especially for those who don't go to breakfast, and also some who don't have their license) once a month, just to go to a different restaurant (kind of like our Friday night dinners).

We are trying to put one together for the month of February, but haven't got a restaurant in mind yet. We will be holding the brunch on the first Saturday of each month.

If anyone is interested, please let me know, via e-mail, at gotsan@tenet.edu.

#### PROFILES

[None provided.]

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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

### Membership Application

New  Renewal  Roster Update Only

Bring to a Club meeting, or mail with check to:  
B-VARC, P.O. Box 1630, Missouri City, TX 77459

Regular membership dues are \$16.00/year. Life Memberships are \$160/person. Additional family members may join B-VARC for only \$2.00/year each with no additional copy of the newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Remittance:

Regular Membership _____	+ Family Membership _____	=	Amount _____
B-VARC Life Memberships at \$160/person	Qty _____		Amount _____
ARRL Memberships (\$31.00/year)	Qty _____		Amount _____
Worldradio Subscription (\$15.00/year)	Qty _____		Amount _____
			TOTAL _____

I agree to observe the By-Laws of the Club and the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_







# 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  
e-mail: jburton@nol.net or CompuServe—71573,471

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, February 8th 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: New York Coffee Shop, 9720 Hillcroft @ S. Braeswood	
Thursday, February 15th 7:30 p.m.	B-VARC Regular Meeting Sugar Land Community Center Program: <i>Building Simple Antennas</i> by Rick Hiller—KF5NU and Nizar Mulani—K0NM. Program will include a hands-on demonstration with simulation and construction.	3rd Friday Dinners—6:30 p.m. SHARP! Locations announced each month	

Volume 19 Issue 2 February 1996

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
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MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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