

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 20, issue 10

October, 1997



<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Night of the 10's!
This month's meeting is on 10-10, 10 meters, and occurs on October 10th!
Makes for a "Perfect 10" evening!
Page 3.

What's in this issue?

Map to HamCom '97 P. 9
President's message - P. 4
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Marathon Warm-up volunteer help needed - P.6

November's meeting will be Elections and the Annual Chili Cook-off!
Mark your calendars for November 13th!

A Special Thanks to the First Colony Church of Christ for the use of their facilities which make this newsletter possible.

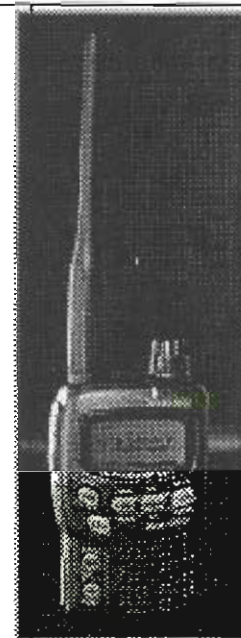
Home Gulf Coast Ham Convention



Houston Ham Convention October 17, 18, and 19!

Grand prize this year is a brand new Icom IC-706 MK II HF Rig (above)

Pre-Registration prize is a Yaesu VX-1 Handheld (right)



THE B-VARC BULLETIN

President:

Gailen Marshall - N4SKR

Vice-President:

Rick Hiller - W5RH

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Terry McCoy - W5TEM
(713) 641-4595

1-Year Board Member:

Bud King - N5UOG
(713)-494-3741

Past President:

Ron Grimes - WA5SCE
(713) 341-7137

PSN Check-ins for September 1997

By Jackie, KC5OHJ

9/1 - 31

9/8 - 40

9/15 - 50

9/22 - 30

9/29 - 38

73 de KC5OHJ

IP: 44.76.4.118

<http://www.nol.net/~jburton>



Every Meeting a Hamfest

Don't forget!

The monthly meetings are a perfect time to bring your junk box to trade with other hams who bring their Junk Box! Remember, one ham's junk is another ham's Junk!

- 2nd 7:30 p.m. - B-VARC Board Meeting
- 9th 7:30 p.m. - B-VARC Regular Meeting
- 26th - Last Sunday Luncheon - TBA

Public Service Events!

- **Alamo Challenge on Oct 11 & 12, Sat & Sun.** This is a two-day event, 40+ hams needed! 2-Day ride to San Antonio.

MARATHON WARMUP SERIES

- **Oct 19, 1997** Gables Residential 20K Championship - Contact Steve Dunkelberger 713-781-6703 or Dunk@ix.netcom.com
- **Nov 16, 1997** HMSA Classical 25K Contact Allen Mattis. See article in this month's newsletter.
- **Dec 7, 1997** All-Tel SLT First Colony 30K Contact Scott Pederson, ki5dr at (713) 460-5852.

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- **January 18, 1998** Houston Marathon.
Contact Carl Hacker KB5LDY.
- **April, 1998** MS-150 2 day ride from
Houston to Austin (The "Big" One!) Contact
Bret Prichard 713-526-8967

Meeting Program

10 METER NIGHT--October 9th.

The October meeting of B-VARC will be "10 METER NIGHT". First, the main program will be Al Matis, N5AFV, and Mike Davidson, N5MT presenting a program on the 10-10 International Organization to which they both hold national positions. They will discuss 10 meter operation, propagation and activity around the Houston SHOT Chapter. In addition, Gailen Marshall, N4SKR, (our Prez.) will showcase his arsenal of 10 meter equipment both for mobile and portable operation in the Product Corner.

Technical Corner

10 meter antennas (verticals, loops and yagi's) will be the highlight of the Technical Corner presented by Rick Hiller, W5RH. Come join us for a look at 10 meters and the promise of a great solar cycle peak!

THE ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER-- November 13th.

Join us for a night of Chili sampling and some ham radio camaraderie. Of course, we will have something of technical interest there to satisfy your hunger for 'ham radio stuff' too!

HOMEBREW CONTEST NIGHT-- December 11th.

Get ready for B-VARC's HOMEBREW CONTEST NIGHT by building a piece of amateur gear and bringing it to the meeting. Prizes will be given for the the best homebrew or home modified equipment. Randy, AK5G, will bring his doppler based direction finding rig and a 440 MHz. repeater; Daryl, KC5JAR, is bringing his ATV antennas and gadgets. Join us for a night of 'homebrew excitement' and place your homebrew gadget in the contention for the great prizes. If you haven't built any gear yet come out and see what this part of the hobby is all about! Please contact Rick, W5RH, if you should have any further questions. See the Contest Rules and Prize listing in the November and December Newsletters.

B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS 3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 8:00PM

by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

Just WHAT IS the Rag-Chew Net? Well, it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-VARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! What?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using our Rag Chew Hotline announced at the beginning of each net.

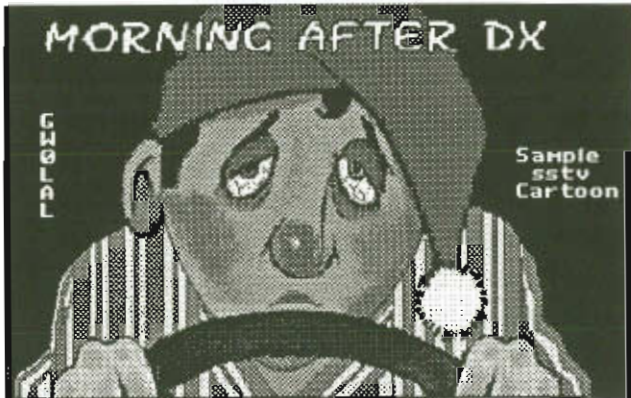
08/06/97 N5CPA, WA5TWL, KC5KGI,
W5IHY, KJ5SS, KK5UO, K5LJ, N5VXU. (8)

08/13/97 N5CPA, W5EFB, W5GHK, W5GBR,
K5LJ, AK5G, KJ5SS, KK5W,
W5IHY, WN5A, WA5KXP, W5TEM. (12)

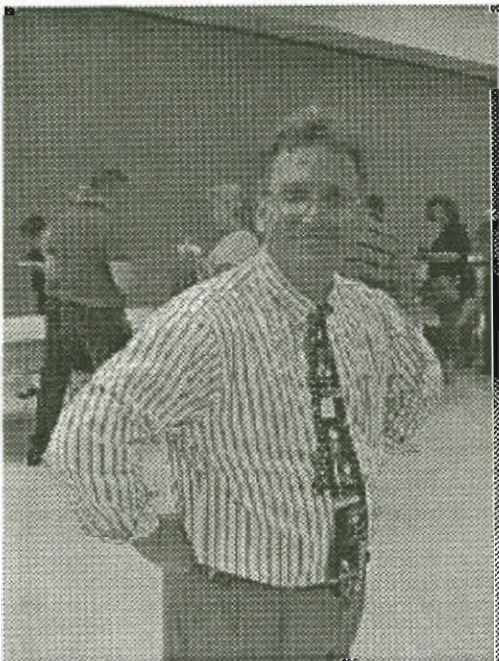
08/20/97 N5CPA, W5EFB, K5LJ, WA5TWL,
W5IHY, KJ5SS, WN5A, W5GHK,
KK5UO. (9)

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08/27/97 N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5EFB,
N5OAC, KC5KGJ, W5IHY, KB5NSL,
K5LJ, NM5K, N5LHN, KM5ID, KK5UO,
AB5OK, KJ5SS. (15)



President's Message for October



QST, QST, QST. Hello again, friends and fellow hams. Fall is in the air. There are squirrels, nuts and leaves all around. Kids are in school and

football is in the air...HS, College, Pros (who cares?). Opportunities for hamming are all around! The low bands are picking up again. Public service opportunities abound. And BVARC is still there for you.

This month's program is going to be great fun! Did you ever want to know all about 10 meters, 10-10 International, propagation, HF handhelds and more? Then come to the October BVARC meeting and you will find out all about it. There will be info about antennas, lotsa 10 Meter gear and really, really good information in a discussion led by our own Al Mattis N5AFV and . . . Whether you are new to amateur radio or a seasoned veteran, there will be something for you at this meeting. You'll be glad you came.

The November meeting is extremely important to BVARC members. That is our annual election of officers for 1998. The Nominations committee is hard at work generating a slate of candidates for your leadership. If you have a desire to serve BVARC in any capacity, please contact any of the current Board members or the Nominations chair, Ron Grimes WA5SCE. All names and numbers are good in the current roster. If you want to lead, be sure you have a heart for service, lotsa patience and maybe even a bit of a "thick skin". It all comes in handy at times. But most of all, you need good ideas to support and promote the BVARC goals...frequencies, food and fun! So look at BVARC, what we are and what we can become. If you think you could make a difference, well...you'll never know unless and until you try!

See you around the bands (10 meters , of course).

73 de N4SKR (10-10# 46091)

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HOUSTON SHOT NEWS

by Al Mattis - N5AFV

HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for September, 1997
Next year is election year for Ten Ten International. Elections for officers and directors will be held, and nominations are now open. The following officers will be elected: president, vice president, secretary and 5 directors. Any member wishing to run for office or nominate someone for an office is asked to contact Al Britton, N6TXT, the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The Chesapeake Bay (MD) chapter of Ten Ten International will be one year old in November. To celebrate this event, the chapter will hold a special QSO Party on November 8-9, 1997. Only Chesapeake Bay members are eligible for awards in the QSO Party, but the QSO Party is designed to qualify non-members for membership in the chapter. More information about the upcoming event may be found on the Chesapeake Bay chapter home page at <http://members.aol.com/Cchapter/cbc.htm>.

The Battleroad (MA) chapter of Ten Ten International will hold their annual chapter get-together on September 21, 1997. The event begins at noon, and centers around a "bring your own" picnic lunch. Anyone interested in attending the event may obtain additional information by contacting Tom Jones at KA1YHI@JUNO.COM, or by telephone at 508-263-0494.

The Houston SHOT chapter will present the program for the October 9, 1997 Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) meeting, which will be held at the Sugar Land Community Center at 7:30 pm. The chapter looks forward to the

meeting, which will provide an opportunity for many chapter members to meet in person. The program will include information about Ten Ten International and the Houston SHOT chapter, and how to become a member of both groups.

Visit the Houston SHOT chapter home page at <http://www.clarc.org/shot/> when you get on the Internet. The site contains information about the chapter, past editions of the Houston SHOT News, and the Ten Ten DX column written Mike Davidson - N5MT, the SHOT chapter head. The chapter thanks Bruce Paige - KK5DO, for constructing and maintaining the page, and the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) for providing space on their server for the page.

August was a busy month for the SHOT Certificate Manager. The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome the following new local members to the chapter: Van Rathgeber, KC5JRM; Wil Cannonier, KK5JJ; Marcia Cannonier, N5NND; Don Rhode, KM5ID; and Chip Ewing, KD5ATA. During the past month, the chapter was also pleased to welcome KB0YFN, N1WCZ, KA4RVZ, KB8OKK, N1YKL, KI8AP and KC5QBG as non-local members. The increase in propagation, as well as the August QSO Party, have caused this increase in applications for SHOT membership and upgrades.

Remember that 28.170 MHz is used by many Ten Ten members as a CW calling frequency. The frequency of 28.335 MHz is used by many Ten Ten members while mobile.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz and 28.375 MHz during band openings. The occurrence of summer E-layer propagation has brought more activity to the band. The Branding Iron (TX), Steel City (IL), Peach State (TX), Route 66 (IN), Twin Cities (MN) and Pirates of the Mississippi (IL) chapters have

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announced specials for paper chasers to promote activity when the band is open. Ten Ten members were happy to hear that Ray Dobson, N5DAS, of San Antonio, has been released from the hospital following treatment for a cardiac problem. Dobson is the chapter head and certificate manager of the South Texas Light Horse Brigade chapter of Ten Ten International.

Ten meter propagation continued to show improvement during the past month. Summer E-layer propagation was particularly good in early August. A number of openings between Europe and the eastern United States were reported, and frequent Latin American contacts were reported by Houston stations. Even though the current low of the solar cycle continues to linger on, there are signs that propagation is improving.

Remember, the Houston SHOT (Space Houston On Ten) net meets every Tuesday evening at 8 PM local time on 28.488 MHz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a Ten Ten number. If you are not a member of Ten Ten International and wish to join the organization, please check in to the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the ten meter band.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MARATHON WARM-UP SERIES 25K RACE

Al Mattis N5AFV

This year's 25K Marathon Warm-Up Series Race will be held on Sunday, November 16, 1997, 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 sixth 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 seven of the last ten years, injured runners from the 25K race have been taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Because the race starts at 7 am, communications volunteers need to arrive by 6 am. The race lasts several hours, and all communications volunteers were released by 10:45 am last year.

If you wish to help provide communications at this year's 25K race, please contact Al Mattis, N5AFV, at 281-597-2516 during the daytime, or 713-721-3637 in the evening before 9 pm, or by E-mail at afmattis@hal-pc.org.

SB OST ARL ARLB057

ARLB057 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, SK

Submitted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

Acclaimed ham radio icon Milton F. "Doug" DeMaw, W1FB, died September 28. He was 71. One of the most widely published technical writers in Amateur Radio, DeMaw was diagnosed with leukemia earlier this year and had been in failing health in recent weeks.

DeMaw was first licensed in 1950 as W8HHS. An electrical engineer, he was a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff for 18 years--from

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1965 to 1983--and served as Technical Department Manager and Senior Technical Editor from 1970 to 1983. During his tenure at HQ, DeMaw served as editor of The ARRL Handbook. In 1970, he engineered the shift in emphasis toward solid-state design in QST and the Handbook.

He has hundreds of articles in QST and other publications to his credit. DeMaw also was founder and publisher of VHFer Magazine. (His Wife, Jean, W1CKK, also worked on the Headquarters staff.) DeMaw was a life member of the ARRL and a senior member of the IEEE.

After retiring to the family farm in Luther, Michigan, he was elected chairman of the Lake County Board of Commissioners and continued to write books and articles. He also tried his hand in the Amateur Radio business as proprietor of Oak Hills Research. Among his other books, DeMaw wrote W1FB's Design Notebook, W1FB's QRP Notebook, W1FB's Antenna Notebook, and The ARRL Electronics Data Book, which remain popular. In recent years, DeMaw also penned a regular column for CQ magazine.

A former ARRL colleague, Membership Services Manager Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, counted DeMaw among his friends. "Doug loved to experiment with circuits and antennas. He also loved to encourage others to try their hand at building," he recalled. Hutchinson said DeMaw not only wrote prolifically about ham radio but also about gardening, another of his avocations. "He was an avid gardener and cook," he said. DeMaw also was an outdoorsman and hunter. "He loved to hunt with bow and rifle--both modern and muzzle loader. He was very good at throwing a knife or hatchet," Hutchinson said. Paul Pagel, N1FB, also was one of DeMaw's colleagues during his days at ARRL HQ. "Amateur Radio benefited greatly from his work,"

Pagel said. "He was a multifaceted man. I doubt there was anything he couldn't do if he set his mind to it." Jerry Hall, K1TD, who also worked with DeMaw during his years at HQ, called DeMaw a writer of "uncanny" ability. "Doug could write it once, and it was done," he recalled.

Survivors include DeMaw's wife, Jean, and a son, David, N8HLE, a technical writer who lives in Connecticut.

JOTA

The Scout/Ham Radio Jamboree On The Air will take place this year on October 18th and 19th. (Yes, it conflicts with the Houston Ham Convention). I am looking for hams that would like to participate either at their homes by inviting Scout troops to visit or at a remote site by volunteering their time.

I will be publishing a listing of stations in Houston that will be on the air in the next newsletter. B-VARC hams will then be able to pass out this information when asked by a local Girl/Boy/Cub Scout group how they can participate.

Call me if you need further information or you would like to get on the list.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Fair

The Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America is holding a merit badge fair on Saturday, October 25th. I am looking for a few volunteers to assist me in setting up a station early that morning. The station would be in operation later that day for completion of the merit badge requirements.

Give me a call if you can help.

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Rick. W5RH. (713) 774-5102 or
nexus15@flash.net

Scanner Jack's Corner

By Jack, KB5TMY

This month Jack brings us some good information on monitoring aircraft communications, particularly the Houston air show.

All frequencies are in Mhz.

- Air Boss - 118.00
- Ground - 121.600
- General VHF Search - 108.000 to 137.000
- General UHF Search - 225.000 to 400.000

Public Service Corner

By Scott Pederson, ki5dr

Once again it's time for the Public Service Event season; A season which brings out folks from the woodwork to participate in a whole range of events to benefit worthy causes.

It always amazes me the sheer number of people that participate in these events. Some are corporate groups sponsored by companies, some are individuals who get sponsors from friends and family.

It's understandable why so many people participate. There is a great sense of satisfaction that by participating in these events, you "Make a Difference". Why else would some 5,000 riders trek to Austin each year... Over 1,000 runners would brave the SLEET and FREEZING RAIN in the Houston Marathon, when they could sit at home and watch TV???

Well, the same is true for the hundreds of volunteers who help out each year. This includes the Hams.

"We Make a Difference".

Each ham who helps out during PS events should understand that many of these events would **SIMPLY NOT HAPPEN** if it weren't for the hams.

The ability to provide reliable, dependable logistical communications for these events are tantamount to their success. Oh, sure. You could buy everyone a cell phone (Expensive, unreliable in roaming areas), Or rent/purchase some commercial radios (Also expensive, and most events cover enough area to require either a repeater system or trunking radios. Most volunteers for these events lack the knowledge to operate these systems reliably, not to mention the ability to maintain a communications protocol (net control) during the event).

Fact is, if hams were unavailable for these events, most would be a logistical nightmare for whoever coordinates the event. We are needed. You are needed! If you haven't participated in an event recently, please try to help out with **ONE** event before the end of the year.

This year I am trying Bribery. I've committed to personally donating a Ham Radio-related gift certificate at the end of this year to one lucky volunteer. Each event you participate in will get you one entry in the drawing, which will be held at the end of the year. I'll draw one name, and that person will get a gift certificate for \$25.00 to a local ham store. I am also looking for more prize donations. If we had two prizes, we can draw two names. Everyone who participates in an event this year will get a chance to win.

Drop me an Email if you have any suggestions.

Don't forget to volunteer!!!!!!

73, Scott

ki5dr@flash.net

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B-VARC Newsletter Sponsors

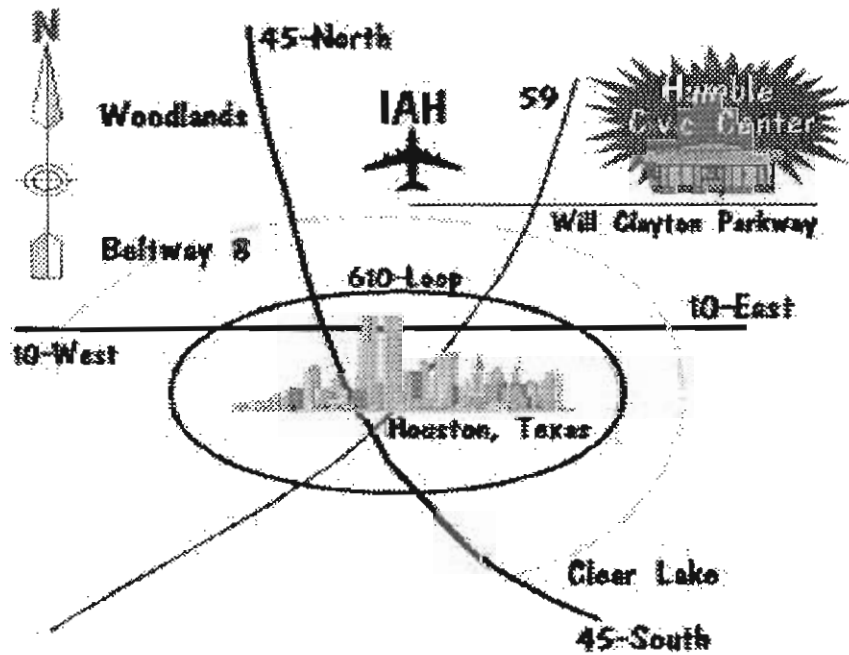
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Gulf Coast Ham Convention

Humble Texas



THE B-VARC BULLETIN



The Monthly Publication of the
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving the Greater Houston Area.
Club Callsign - KC5OIG

B-VARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Editor-In-Chief: Scott Pederson, KI5DR
(713) 460-5852

E-mail address: ki5dr@flash.net

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 Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the Commitment to service 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 in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining B-VARC, contact Scott Pederson, KI5DR, at (713) 460-5852.

B-VARC Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 2nd Board of Dir. Meeting
BMOTA 7:30 p.m. MERA Repeater 145.470
Open to all B-VARC Members

Thursday, October 9th B-VARC Meeting
7:30 p.m. Sugarland Community Center

B-VARC Eating Schedule

Saturdays-7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Location: New York Coffee Shop, 9720 Hillcroft @ S. Braeswood

Also VICTOR'S DELI, SUGAR CREEK AND 59 South in Sugarland

3rd Friday dinners - 6:30 p.m. SHARP! Location TBA

Last Sunday Lunches - 2:30 p.m. Location TBA

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October, 1997

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB
P.O. BOX 1630
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630
address correction requested

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE