


THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 21, issue 4
April 1998

<p>Houston Ham Help Line 24-Hours 281-495-3495</p> <p>Get information about local clubs and testing sessions.</p>	<p>Membership renewal information:</p> <p>Members whose membership has expired or is near expiration will find their membership date highlighted on the mailing label.</p>	 <p>http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc</p>
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<p>A Special Thanks to the First Colony Church of Christ for the use of their facilities which make this newsletter possible.</p>	<p>Board of Directors: Bruce Paige - KK5DO, kk5do@amsat.org John Moore - KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, wa3pmt@aol.com Rex Ritz - KC5EEU Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, ljacobson@halnet.com Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, darrellk@swbell.net Gailen Marshall - N4SKR, marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu Bud King - K5CEK, ceking@hal-pc.org Claude Sessions - K5HFY, cesjr@wt.net</p>
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PRESIDENT'S Article - Bruce, KK5DO

Here we are in the month of April. Our monthly meeting was great. Dennis, N5TZ did a wonderful job. This was a great meeting. Dennis talked about all types of noise from power lines and how you can help HL&P locate it. After all, if their lines are arcing, then they are losing money. They want to find the source of the noise just as much as you want to get rid of.

Our monthly meeting on May 7 will be on AMSAT. We are pleased to have Andy MacAllister, W5ACM as our speaker. He is Vice President of User Services for AMSAT. He will show how you can get on a satellite with an HT (2m/70cm) and a small antenna. There will be some gear that he uses when he goes on trips as well as some other club members will bring their satellite equipment. This is a meeting you don't want to miss if you are interested in operating the amateur satellites. Also information about the new Phase 3D Satellite that is due to launch later this year.

By the time you get this newsletter, B-VARC will have its own listserver. Now, anyone wishing to send a message to B-VARC members can do so by sending a single message to BVARC@CLARC.ORG. Also, there is another listserver that has been set up to send a message to the board members. That email address is BVARCBOD@CLARC.ORG. Is this going to be great or what?

CLARC has graciously offered us the remailer service of their server. If I start to see spam or undesirable traffic, I will make the listserver closed, for members only. Hopefully this will not happen.

To join the listserver and get any messages posted to the group, send a message to MAJORDOMO@CLARC.ORG. No subject is required. In the body of message enter SUBSCRIBE BVARC MY@EMAIL.ADDRESS (note, there is a space between subscribe and BVARC and between BVARC and your email address)

To unsubscribe, change SUBSCRIBE to UNSUBSCRIBE. (You will also receive instructions on unsubscribing from the robot when you have subscribed.

This should be a benefit to the club in getting information moved quickly to the members.

73, Bruce, KK5DO

Schedule of BVARC General Meetings for 1998

- May 7
- June 4
- June 27 & 28 Field Day
- July 2
- August 6 Ice Cream Social
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5 Chili
 - Supper/Elections
- December 3
 - January 14, 1999 BVARC Banquet

March Board of Directors Minutes :

Board of Directors Meeting
The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
March 12, 1998

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on March 12, 1998. The meeting was called to order by the President. The following board members attended: President Bruce Paige - KK5DO, Vice President John Moore - KK5NU, Corresponding Secretary Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, and one year Director Bud King - K5CEK. Board members absent were three year Director Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, and two year Director Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY. Also present were Cameron Mitchell - K5GJZ, and Dan White - KD5DDW.

Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, presented the February minutes which were accepted. Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted. Current club assets total \$4032.78. It was determined by the President that the field day funds collected at the general meetings to provision for meals at CY98 joint CLARC site are not to be accounted for in the club treasury per se.

President Bruce Paige - KK5DO reported under old business that the change in bylaws authorizing newsletter distribution at the general meetings, with mail outs to those not in attendance failed to pass at the February general meeting - there was a quorum of at least 25% of membership present, but there was less than a 2/3 majority of those present who voted in favor of the change. In favor were 19 votes, 15 against, and 7 abstained. Under new business Larry Jacobson - K5LJ raised the question of changing the post office box. It is presently in Missouri City. Board members decided it was too much trouble to move it to Sugar Land due to change of address cards, and payment of postage forwarding fees. Also Bud

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King - K5CEK reminded the board that our present general meeting location is not assured beyond 1999 in any event.

John Moore - KK5NU opened discussions about a club vanity call sign that the trustee, Randy Pollard - AK5G, asked to be brought up. Apparently there was some concern that time is of the essence to gain a special vanity call suitable for the B-VARC. The consensus was that the club call sign was O.K. as is - we really don't do any operating where a special "club" call sign is used. Bruce Paige - KK5DO pointed out that we don't do contesting on field day anyway. The \$50 fee was not an issue. There was no really "good" idea of what the vanity "call" should be anyway. The Board determined not to pursue this matter for the present time.

Inputs for the newsletter are due to the club editor, Cameron Mitchell - K5GJZ, on the 15th of the month.

Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT suggested a cash raffle for field day funds. Discussion ensued about the legality in the perspective of our landlord. President Bruce Paige - KK5DO decided the April door prize for field day funds donations will be a cash kitty split 50/50. This is an acceptable and legitimate raffle procedure according to Dan White - KK5DDW who is a member of another organization which has raffled cash prizes legally here at the Sugar Land Community Center.

Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT raised the question of offering a reduced price membership of \$10 down from the regular \$16 to out of state B-VARC members, and for students. Steve advised that the former roster of about 200 names is now down to 140 plus names. Steve recommends this reduction as an incentive to keep the renewals up as well. Also, discussion ensued regarding enclosing a 32 cent stamped envelope in any newsletter going to a member who's dues are expiring. President Bruce Paige - KK5DO suggested it is much easier to keep former members than to recruit new ones. The total membership on EMAIL is about 60% so this way of notifying renewals would not be totally effective. No official changes were made in the renewal procedure.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Paige - KK5DO at 8:30 PM.

April Board of Directors Minutes :

Board of Directors Meeting
The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
April 9, 1998

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on April 9, 1998. The meeting was called

to order by the President. The following board members attended: President Bruce Paige - KK5DO, Vice President John Moore - KK5NU, Corresponding Secretary Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, one year Director Bud King - K5CEK, two year Director Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY, and three year Director Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR. Also present were Randy Pollard - AK5G, Cameron Mitchell - K5GJZ, and Dan White - KD5DDW.

Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KK5EEU presented the March minutes. Two errors were corrected and the minutes were then accepted. Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted. Cash and bank account total was \$2341.99 plus a CD for \$1860.39 and the total treasury is \$4202.38. The field day fund is at \$104.00. Corresponding Secretary Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT advised that the membership roster is currently up to date.

President Bruce Paige - KK5DO raised old business regarding getting patches made. Director Claude Sessions Jr.- K5HFY reported that the first patch ordered costs about \$75-80 due to set up time, and that he is investigating order quantities and price breaks for the club. Vice President John Moore - KK5NU mentioned that Harold Parker - ND5F has made a scanned image of the B-VARC emblem suitable for a patch. Discussion ensued about ordering patches, and caps with the B-VARC emblem on them.

The May program will be a "fox hunt" sponsored by David Scott - WD8RZA. Members are to be encouraged to bring their "HT's" and any special antennas to the May meeting as we will be hunting for the Dave Scott "fox".

Vice President John Moore - KK5NU presented a run down of upcoming monthly programs in planning: June meeting plus field day, Andy McCallister for July, August is the ice cream social, the ATV people for September, TEN TEN group for October, November is the chilli supper, "home brew" night in December, and the annual awards banquet in January.

Sponsorship of ARRL memberships and renewals was discussed. Randy Pollard - AK5G pointed out that B-VARC is an ARRL special service club, we have dealt with them ever since our existence, the ARRL is a good organization and that our membership should be encouraged to join ARRL. ARRL reimburses B-VARC \$15 for every new member as well as \$5 for every renewal signed up. A motion was moved and passed to resume our former policy of handling ARRL membership paperwork. President Bruce Paige - KK5DO discussed the official new officers signatures for our banking purposes, and it was determined that updated signature authorizations will be accomplished through the Treasurer, Larry Jacobson - K5LJ.

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Randy Pollard - AK5G presented archival documentation about the club, including awards qualifications and information, current bylaws, and club license usage, life memberships and order, tax ID number, Internal Revenue 501C7 status as a social and business club, and the original articles of incorporation filed with the state in October of 1979. However, Randy believes we were actually incorporated prior to that time and that the B-VARC is really 20 years old now. A letter also indicates the first meeting was recorded as being held in 1977.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Paige - KK5DO at 8:15 PM.

HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for April 1998 by Al Mattis - N5AFV

Tom Henderson, President of Ten Ten International has announced the appointment of Brad Kimble, WA4KUP, of Inver Grove Heights, MN as the new editor for the Ten Ten International Awards and Chapter Guide. The awards guide lists the requirements and managers for all awards issued by Ten Ten International, as well as information regarding the awards program of each chapter of Ten Ten International.

Many Ten Ten members attend the Dayton Hamvention, and this year two nets will be held for Ten Ten members at Dayton. The Dayton Hamvention Parking Lot Net will be held on both Friday and Saturday, May 15th and 16th, on 28.345 MHz at 2200 UTC. Net control will be Carl Durnavich, W9OO.

The Tenth Annual Hill Country Picnic will be held May 31, 1998 at the home of Jack Moore, K5CC in Bulverde, Texas, near San Antonio. A number of Canadian members and several Ten Ten officials have made plans to attend. It is expected that at least seven club stations will be represented at the gathering. This event is a good opportunity for Houston area Ten Ten members to meet active members from outside the Houston area.

Remember, the Houston SHOT chapter will host this year's Board of Directors meeting of Ten Ten International. The

meeting will be held June 12-13, 1998, at the Hobby Airport Ramada Inn. This meeting will give Houston area 10-10 members a chance to meet the national officers and directors.

Ten Ten International has announced that the 1999 Ten Ten International Convention will be held June 10-13, 1999 at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge, TN. The convention will be hosted by the Springbok Chapter (ZS), and James Whittlesey, KC4RHW, is the convention chairman.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome W8TTS as its newest member. The chapter currently has 382 local members, and 1313 non-local members, for a total membership of 1695.

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.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz, 28.375 MHz, and 28.425 MHz during band openings. The Twin Cities (MN), Kansas Trails (MN), and Flying Tiger (RI) chapters have announced specials for paper chasers to promote activity when the band is open. Many of the chapters have home pages on the Internet. Links to these pages may be found on the Ten Ten International page. The Houston SHOT page contains a link to the Ten Ten International page. A new chapter, Westward Ho, has been formed in Council Bluffs, IA. The chapter head is Russ Holford, KBOFMM, and the certificate manager is Rex Holford, K0NO.

Ten Ten members were saddened to learn that Hal Carter, KA1VFN, certificate manager of the Samuel Clemens chapter, has been having serious medical problems, and is confined to a wheel chair. Gerry Morin, KA1JFT, chapter head of the Flying Tigers (RI) chapter, remains hospitalized for pneumonia and paralysis in his legs, but is improving. Word has also been received that Charles Keller, WA4GLO, of Alexandria, VA was hospitalized for a cardiac problem, and had a pacemaker implanted.

Ten meter propagation continues to improve. The band is

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open almost every day, with both domestic and DX contacts taking place. Many stations have been able to work H40AA, the new DX country in the Solomon Islands, on ten meters. In general, the domestic openings have not been as good as the DX propagation on ten meters during the last few weeks.

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 many exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the ten meter band.

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

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 the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

3/04/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, K5CEK, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, NM5K, KG5KV, K5LJ, WN5A, AK5G, W0VDQ/5, WA5TWL. (12)

3/11/98---N5CPA, K5LJ, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, KB5DNT, KM5DG, NM5K, K5CEK W5GHK, WN5A. (10)

3/18/98 N5CPA, K5CEK, W5GHK, KM5DG, NM5K, K5LJ, W5EFB, KG5KV, KB5DNT W5RH, N5KXU, WA5TWL, (12)

3/25/98---N5CPA, K5LJ, W5EFB, W5GHK, KG5KV, N5ECP, W5IHY, KB5DNT, K5CEK, WB5VYR. (10)

The Seasonal Ham(hi) by James Duffey--KK6MC/5

It is spring and a ham's fancy turns to antennas. Spring is a good time for antenna work and I thought I would suggest a few simple projects that you may wish to undertake to improve your signal:

0. Read L. B. Cebik's Web Page on antennas;

<http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~cebik/radio.htm1>.

Replace your feedline with something that has lower loss;

a) replace RG174 with RG58

b) replace RG58 with RG213

2. Make your single band antenna into a multiband antenna;

a) add parallel dipoles to an existing dipole. Parallel 20 M and 10 M

dipoles to your 40 M dipole. Keep the ends well separated to prevent interaction, preferably by dropping the last foot or so of the 20 M and 10 M dipoles down perpendicular to the antenna.

Replace your coax feedline with twin lead. If you don't have a tuner, use the famous Cecil "No Tuner" match technique;

<http://people.delphi.com/cecilmoore/mystery.htm>

\$10 worth of 300 Ohm twinlead and some double banana plugs or DPDT switches from Radio shack should keep you occupied for hours and hours.

3. Install a choke balun if you don't already use one. This will keep your feedline from radiating which has a lot of benefits. Air core 1:1 "choke" baluns made from coiled coax work fine and are easy to make. The Handbook, as well as the ARRL Antenna Handbook, has designs for these, although better designs as well as a better understanding of how they work can be found at;

<http://www.berkshire.net/~robbins/technote/airbalun.html>

4. For you vertical owners;

a) Install a choke balun to reduce feedline radiation. See 3).

b) Install more radials.

c) If the vertical is ground mounted you may have better luck with it elevated a bit. Put it on top of your roof, or mount it on a fence.

5. Build a 2 M ground plane to improve your Handie-Talkie coverage over that of the rubber duckie. An S0-239 connector from Radio Shack, and 10 feet of 10 or 12 gauge household wire from Home Depot will improve your signal immensely. Mount it outside if possible.

6. If you constantly work in a specific direction, consider putting up a fixed gain antenna in that direction. If you like to work Europe in the morning put up a fixed Yagi from wire in that direction, or if you like to work the South Pacific in the evening put up a fixed Yagi in that direction. A fixed 10 M beam to South America and the Carribean will work a lot of DX, particularly during an contest. Also if you work a sked, such as mine with my dad, WA0OML, you may wish to

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erect a fixed beam in that direction. Two element Yagis can be built simply, have reasonable gain, 4 dB, and good front to back ratio to get rid of QRM.

7. Install an antenna for bands you don't work much. With the solar flux on the rise, put up antennas for 12 M and 10 M.

8. Be a contrarian. See how the other half lives. If you use a I am sure you can think of other projects. Now is the time to do it. October will be too late. - Duffey Kk6MC/5

SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Here are the DPS frequencies for the State of Texas

1. 154.680 Car to Disp
2. 155.460 Disp to Car
3. 154.950 Car to Car
4. 155.370 Intercity
5. 155.505 Tx Rangers
6. 154.695 DPS Pierce Car to Disp
7. 155.445 DPS Pierce
8. 155.535 DPS Base Both Disp to Car to Disp
9. 159.090 Tx Rangers
10. 154.665 DPS Pierce Base
11. 155.475 Tx Rangers
12. 158.730 DPS Security Exective
13. 159.210 TxCity Hou DPS Base
14. 154.920 DPS Car to Disp Tx Rangers
15. 156.210 TABC
16. 154.905 TABC

dipole, install a vertical, if you use a vertical install a dipole. If you use resonant antennas, install a tuned feeder system. If you use tuned feeders build parallel dipoles

9. Just for kicks install and optimize an indoor antenna system. Next winter when the ice and snow takes down your antenna you can still get on the air.

17. 156.060 TABC
18. 159.0975 Tx Rangers
19. 159.15 Tx Rangers
20. 159.2175 DPS Houston
21. 155.4675 DPS Hou Tx Rangers
22. 155.5125 Tx Rangers

Monday night PSN check-ins

Here are the check-ins for the Monday Night Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Public Service Information Net:

- 3/2 - 37
- 3/9 - 22
- 3/16 - 35
- 3/23 - ??
- 3/30 - 24

<http://www.vdazone.org/~kc5ohj>
<http://www.nol.net/~jburton>



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My favorite QSL Bruce, KK5DO

Back in November and December of 1997, the Amateur Radio Club, FR5KJ of Reunion Island built replica of the original Sputnik. This replica was nicknamed RS17. It lasted on internal batteries for approximately 7-8 weeks. If you heard its beeping from space on the 2m band, then you could send in for the special QSL card.

This is what that QSL card looks like. I sent in for mine on the last day they were accepting requests and received #943. So about 1,000 hams worldwide sent in for a special QSL card.

There is a duplicate Sputnik Junior and it might be launched from the MIR sometime this year.

Join the B-VARC Listserver

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Send and email message to
MAJORDOMO@CLARC.ORG
No subject is required. In the body of message enter
SUBSCRIBE BVARC MY@EMAIL.ADDRESS
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BVARC and between BVARC and your email address)

To Send a message to the Board of Directors
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To Send a message to the members of the B-VARC Listserver
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