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# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

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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: Cameron Mitchell, AC5QZ

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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 first 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 Steve, wa3pmt@aol.com. Phones: 281-879-6951 or 281-999-9408.

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#### B-VARC Meeting Schedule

Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup> B-VARC Meeting

7:30 p.m. Sugarland Community Center

Note: NOW 1<sup>st</sup> THURSDAY of each month!!!

#### B-VARC Eating Schedule

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

Also at 7:30 a. m. Location: Ms. Janie's, 9920 Highway 90A in Sugar Land

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday dinners - 6:30 p.m. SHARP! Location TBA

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

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VOLUME 21 ISSUE 9

September 1998


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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Bud King K5CEK  
814 Bel Mar  
Sugar Land TX  
77478 Jan 99

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 21, issue 9  
September 1998

<p><b>Houston Ham Help Line</b> 24-Hours 281-495-3495</p> <p>Get information about local clubs and testing sessions.</p>	<p><b>Membership renewal information:</b></p> <p>Members whose membership has expired or is near expiration will find their membership date highlighted on the mailing label.</p>	 <p><a href="http://www.ham-pc.org/~bvarc">http://www.ham-pc.org/~bvarc</a></p>
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**ARRL Membership** - Members are urged to renew their ARRL membership through BVARC, allowing the club to take advantage of reduced insurance rates. Contact Larry, K5LJ, at 281-341-0436 for information

## What's in this issue?

- Notes from the Prez - P. 2
- 1998 Meeting Schedule - P. 2
- Public Service Events - P. 2
- Sept. Board of Directors Minutes - P. 3
- Houston Shot News - P. 4
- BVARC Rag Chew Net - P. 5
- VE Exam Results - P. 5
- Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 5
- Monday Night PSN Check-ins - P. 6
- Homebrew Contest - P. 6
- BVARC Order Form - P. 7
- This Month's Snaps - P. 8
- Ads - P. 9

## Annual Chili Supper Friday, November 20, 1998

This is a very important meeting. Not only will be have chili and all the fix'ins but this is also the **Election Meeting for BVARC**. It is of utmost importance that as many club members show up as possible so that we can elect the new officers for 1999.

Please note that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in November. This is one of the irregular meetings for the year. Since it is a Friday, I hope that many more of you can attend.

73, Bruce

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

Also, Thanks to Claude Sessions, K5HFY, for being in charge of production.

### Board of Directors:

Bruce Paige, President - KK5DO, [kk5do@amsat.org](mailto:kk5do@amsat.org)  
John Moore, Vice President - KK5NU, [jwm@hal-pc.org](mailto:jwm@hal-pc.org)  
Steven Deaktor, Corresponding Secretary - WA3PMT, [wa3pmt@aol.com](mailto:wa3pmt@aol.com)  
Rex Ritz, Recording Secretary - KC5EEU  
Larry Jacobson, Treasurer - K5LJ, [mailto:k5lj@nftci.com](mailto:mailto:k5lj@nftci.com)  
Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, [darrellk@swbell.net](mailto:darrellk@swbell.net)  
Gailen Marshall - N4SKR, [marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu](mailto:marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu)  
Bud King - K5CEK, [cking@hal-pc.org](mailto:cking@hal-pc.org)  
Claude Sessions - K5HFY, [cesjr@wt.net](mailto:cesjr@wt.net)

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

## PRESIDENT'S Article - Bruce, KK5DO

If you missed the meeting at the beginning of September, then you missed an excellent presentation from our very own Andy, W5ACM. He talked about the Balloon Launches that the South Texas Balloon Launch Team has done. He brought along the payloads and packages from BLT-1 and BLT-13 (the first and the most recent launches). It is amazing to see how small the cameras, radios, and other components have to be in order to fit in the small packages. Andy also showed a 20-minute video of BLT-13.

This month, our meeting will be on October 1<sup>st</sup> and we will have Robert White, KF5ZL as our featured speaker. He is with the Houston Office of Emergency Management, which is located in the TranStar operation on Old Katy Road. Bob runs the 146.84 repeater, the emergency management frequency for Houston. Want to learn what you can do in an emergency? Want to know what you should not do during an emergency? Come listen to Bob and learn some of the neat things that are done to help us and to help protect our neighbors.

Here it comes, elections. They are right around the corner. They will take place at the November 20<sup>th</sup>, *Annual Chili Super* (food again). If you have a suggestion for someone that you think will make a good club officer, please contact one of the members of the nomination committee. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Serving as one of the club officers is not only rewarding but a great help to the ham community.

The members are:

Gailen Marshall, N4SKR (Chair) email  
[marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu](mailto:marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu)

Harold Parker, ND5F email [hparker@hal-pc.org](mailto:hparker@hal-pc.org)

Louis House III, KD5GM email [tsinewu@juno.com](mailto:tsinewu@juno.com)

Claude, K5HFY is the main dude-in-charge for our *Annual Chili Supper*. He has already started a list for those that can bring chili, rice, corn chips, drinks, hot pepper, and other goodies. If you would like to volunteer to bring something, please get in touch with Claude. You can send him email [claudes@juno.com](mailto:claudes@juno.com)

Remember, this year it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

As we have done for the past 4 months, there will be hot dogs and cold drinks from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM for club members. Come have a dog and chin wag with those you talk to on the repeater.

See you at the meeting.

73...Bruce, KK5DO

## Schedule of BVARC Activities

### October 1998

1 - General Meeting  
Emergency Management  
[robert.white@bbs.hal-pc.org](mailto:robert.white@bbs.hal-pc.org)  
5 - BOD  
13 - VE Test

### November 1998

10 - VE Test  
20 - General Meeting  
Chili Supper/Elections  
[claudes@juno.com](mailto:claudes@juno.com)

### December 1998

3 - General Meeting  
Homebrew Night  
[nexus15@flash.net](mailto:nexus15@flash.net)

8 - VE Test

14 - BOD

### January 1999

8 - BVARC Banquet  
[k5lj@nftci.com](mailto:k5lj@nftci.com)

12 - VE Test

14 - BOD

### February 1999

4 - General Meeting  
Scanner Technology  
Jack Roberts-KB5TMY

## Other Dates:

### Contests:

June 20 - 21, All Asia DX CW

June 27 - 28, ARRL Field Day

## Public Service Events Needing Ham Volunteers:

- October 10 & 11, 1998 - Alamo Challenge - contact Mike Hardwick
- October 17 & 18, 1998 - Wings Over Houston Air Show - contact Bill Terrell
- October 18, 1998 - 20k Warm-up run - contact Steve Dunkleberger
- November 15, 1998 - 25K Warm-up run - contact Allen Mattis
- December 6, 1998 - 30K Warm-up run - Position open
- January 17, 1999 - The Houston Marathon - contact Carl Hacker

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

You can always contact me if you are unable to contact the event coordinator.

Please let me know if you are interested!!!!

Thanks,

Mike Hardwick  
N5VCX

## September Board of Directors Minutes :

Board of Directors Meeting  
The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club  
September 17, 1998

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on September 17, 1998. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President. The following board members attended: 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, and two year Director Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY. Absent were President Bruce Paige - KK5DO, Past President Gailen Marshall - N4SKR, and three year Director Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR.

Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU presented the August 10 minutes which were approved. Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ reported the current club treasury balance of \$4249.49 which was approved. Vice President John Moore - KK5NU reported the B-VARC Web Page has over 6000 cumulative "hits" now, since March 1996. Also, our complimentary HALPC account has been extended until April 1999. Approximately 18-20 of our members currently have Internet access through HALPC.

Under old business a motion was made and seconded, and carried to authorize B-VARC to pay the \$4.00 supplement in addition to the \$20.00 the members will pay for our annual awards banquet on Friday, January 8, 1999 at The Old San Francisco Steak House. This is in keeping with what has been done in the past. The motion also authorized the President, Bruce Paige - KK5DO to contract with this restaurant for the banquet.

Under new business two year Director Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY made a proposal to the board to make B-VARC emblem merchandise available to club members, and requested permission for expenditure of funds in the amount of \$344.00 for the one time art work set up and an initial patch order for sale to club members. There is no price break on

ordering patches but they must be bought in increments of ten and Claude recommended that we sell the patch for our cost plus a mark up to \$5.00. He also advised that there will be B-VARC order form for all special order merchandise. A pricing structure was proposed by Claude as follows:

	Sales Price	B-Varc Cost	Order Quantities
patch only	5.00	3.50	10 per order
cap	10.50	6.50	12 minimum order
polo shirt	23.00	14.30	no min., size s-xl
	25.00	16.50	size xxl-5xl
	1.5 per additional art work/ e. g. call sign, name, etc.		

There was a lengthy discussion regarding what the quantity of patches should be in the first order. It was noted that the B-VARC average membership is currently 133 and the average attendance at the monthly meetings is running about 40-50. Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT suggested we can also use a supply of the patches in monthly meetings as raffle prizes for the raising of donations for annual field day and other club expenses. The board determined that the first patch order will be for a quantity of 50 patches. There will be no advanced order of caps or shirts as these will all be special order items per individual member. Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT asked Claude if he could also obtain pricing for B-Varc emblem club light weight windbreakers.

The total amount of the funds proposed, and authorized by the board, to the vendor was \$344.00 for 50 patches and set ups consisting of:

\$99.00	club emblem embroidered patch one time art work set up fee
70.00	club emblem screen one time set up fee for shirts
175.00	initial order for supply of 50 patches at \$3.50/patch

The board further voted that any special orders be in writing, and paid in advance.

One Year Director Bud King - K5CEK proposed that the club purchase a table at the annual Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department Halloween fund raiser in the amount of \$20.00 as has been our practice in prior years. This motion was passed by the board.

Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU reported that a club member had expressed a desire to have a B-VARC tail gate sale on a Saturday morning. The view of the board was that B-VARC would definitely not sponsor or promote any such activity as a club function due to the consequences of governmental tax liabilities, laws and/or regulations. Nevertheless, B-VARC takes no position if an amateur radio enthusiast desires to hold such an event at their own risk.

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Finally it was noted under new business that two year Director Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY has volunteered to Chair the Chilli Supper event scheduled for November 20, 1998.

The board hereby gives special thanks to Henry D. Calk - WB5IIB for calling the Monday night net on September 14, 1998.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Vice President John Moore - KK5NU, at 8:20 PM.

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## HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for September 1998 by Al Mattis - N5AFV

Results of the 10-10 International election have been announced. The officers elected for the next term were Tom Henderson, K4CIH, President, and Chuck Insande, W6YLJ, Vice President. Dave Prichard, KA5OVO, from Houston, was elected Secretary. The five directors elected were Ed Redwine, K5ERJ; Bob Pescha, K7QXG; Rex Holiford, K0NO; Jerry Heien, N9AVY; and Bob Ryan, K6RVY. A straw vote taken on whether or not 10-10 International should affiliate with the ARRL passed with 1573 votes in favor and 741 votes against the proposal. A total of 2513 ballots were cast in the election.

Mike Elliott, KF7ZQ, a member of the 10-10 International Board of Directors, has been elected ARRL Section Manager for Idaho.

Keith Schlotzman, KR7RK, 10-10 International Treasurer, recently took a trip to the Bahamas and operated as C6AKI. Anyone who worked Keith may QSL to his home address in Arizona.

The Data Manager for 10-10 International, Jerry Gross, WA6POZ, will be on vacation for most of September. Jerry, who lives in Nebraska, is responsible for issuing new 10-10 numbers and maintaining the official membership list. A delay can be expected in the processing of applications for new members and renewals.

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 N7GTW as

its newest member. The chapter currently has 382 local members, and 1324 non-local members, for a total membership of 1706.

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 GB Ten (DX), Springbok (DX), Peach State (TX), Portland Bridges (WA) and Electric City (FL) chapters are conducting specials for paper chasers to promote activity when the band is open. The Bauxite Chapter (AR) has announced that Peg Porterfield, KC5BKT, is their new Certificate Manager. Many 10-10 members were saddened to hear that Bill Tutauha, ZL1DAY, of New Zealand has become a silent key. Gayle Fawcett, KC4TAR, from FL, has been having health problems and is no longer able to operate her radio. Other well known 10-10 members who have been recently hospitalized include Hal Carter, KA1VFN; Buddy Aimes, N5CUD; and Art Bartholomew, N0KDA. We wish a speedy and full recovery to these members. 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.

Summer E-layer propagation is still present at times on ten meters, but in general, this past summer's E-layer openings were not as good as what was experienced last summer. Regular F-layer propagation has produced a few openings to Europe during the past month, as well as a limited number of domestic openings. DX propagation to Latin America and the South Pacific has also continued in recent weeks. It appears that good domestic and DX propagation should return to ten meters on a limited basis this coming winter.

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.

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

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

3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 8:00PM

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.

8/05/98---N5CPA, K5CEK, N5OAC, W5EFB, KB5PGY, KM5DG, NM5K, KC5KGJ, W5GHK, K5LJ, KC5AW, WA5TWL, W5RIY. (13)

8/12/98---N5CPA, W5GHK, KB5PGY, KM5DG, W5IHY, K5LJ, K15KV, W5TEM, KK5NU, KC5PFC, K5CEK. (11)

8/19/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, W5GHK, KC5AW, K5CEK, WB5VYR, W5RIY, W5RH, KG5KV, N5VXU, K5HFY, N5OAC, W5TEM. (13)

8/26/98---N5CPA, K5CEK, K5HFY, KB5PGY, W5EFB, NM5K, W5RIY, K5LJ, W5GHK, N5OAC, K5SDNT, N5AFV, W5TEM, KK5SC, ---(14)

## RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AMATEUR EXAMS

by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, September 8, 1998 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

### V. E. TEAM:

Cass Germany, KG5IT  
Harold Parker, ND5F  
Don Schexnaider, AB5IV

### ASSISTANTS:

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW  
John Moore, KK5NU

A total of three exams were administered during the evening to an applicant who upgraded to Technician Plus and successfully passed two elements. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 67%

Congratulations to: Craig Haynie, K5SNDR who upgraded to Technician Plus and passed the Element 1B code exam:

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 .....

## SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

These are the frequencies to monitor during hurricane season every hour on the hour.

### COAST GUARD

4a-6a	4.426	USB
10a-12p	6.501	USB
4p-6:30	8.764	USB
10p-12a	13.089	USB
	17.314	USB
	21.82	USB (Calling Freq. Distress)
540p	2.670	USB
5a	8.983	USB

### High Seas Weather HF Freqs

4a-6a	4.402, 4.363
10a-12p	8.722
4p-6:30p	8.749
10p-12a	13.083

### COAST GUARD VHF Aircraft Freqs

157.050 FM	282.8 AM
157.100 FM	381.8 AM
157.150 FM	381.7 AM
157.075 FM	383.9 AM
157.125 FM	
157.175 FM Aux	
156.8 Calling Freq Distress	

### NATIONAL HURRICANE NET

14.325 USB

NOAA WEATHER HOUSTON	162.400
IAH	162.55
BEAUMONT	162.495
AUSTIN, MATAGORDA	162.500, 162.525
SHIPS/OIL RIGS	6.227, 6.224

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

## Monday night PSN check-ins

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

8/10/98 - 26  
8/17/98 - 21  
8/24/98 - 22  
8/31/98 - 20  
9/7/98 - 12  
9/14/98 - 24

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## Second annual B-VARC Homebrew Contest December 3rd meeting

### Contest Categories

#### Homebrew equipment

Any equipment built from scratch; ie. rigs, tuners, amplifiers, keys, keyers, software (must be demonstrated).

#### Antennas

Homebrew antennas, designs, descriptions and/or modeling examples of actual antennas (instead of displaying large HF antennas).  
No commercially made antennas.

#### Kits and Modified Equipment

Any piece of gear assembled from a commercial kit; significantly modified or rebuilt older radios; or packaging of total systems.  
Before/after pictures are required for rebuilds.

### Prizes

#### Homebrew

1--98 Handbook  
2--Solid State Design Bk  
3--MFJ 24 Hr clock

#### Antennas

1--ARRL Antenna Handbook  
2--Antenna Compendium  
2--Vertical Antenna Classics

#### Kits, etc.

1--73 or CQ--1 year  
2--ARRL RFI Hdbk  
3--MFJ 24 Hr clock

Last years winning entries not allowed to enter this year.

Questions to W5RH at rhiller@sysdev.com or via the B-VARC reflector.

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# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

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## B-VARC JACKET- SHIRT- CAP Order Form

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JACKET SIZES S – XXL --- \$25.00    XXX --- \$27.00

PLEASE PRINT SIZE AND NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:    RED                  ROYAL BLUE

THIS SNAP-UP WIND-BREAKER COMES WITH THE EMBROIDERED LOGO ON THE LEFT FRONT. YOU MAY ORDER EXTRA EMBROIDERY, NAME, CALL, ETC..FOR \$3.50 FOR ONE LINE AND \$4.50 FOR TWO LINES. PLEASE PRINT:

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SHIRT SIZES S – XL    \$18.00    XXL – XXXXXL                                  \$20.00

*SIZE* \_\_\_\_\_

THIS WHITE JERSEY-KNIT GOLF SHIRT COMES WITH THE CLUB LOGO SILK-SCREENED ABOVE THE POCKET ON THE FRONT AND THE LARGE LOGO SILK-SCREENED ON THE BACK.

EXTRA EMBROIDERY ABOVE THE POCKET IS \$3.50 FOR ONE LINE AND \$4.50 FOR TWO. PLEASE PRINT:

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CAPS    \$10.00ea. THESE ARE WHITE GOLF CAPS WITH THE CLUB LOGO EMBROIDIED ON THE FRONT. EXTRA EMBROIDERY IS \$1.50 PER LOCATION ON THE CAP.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not write below this line \_\_\_\_\_

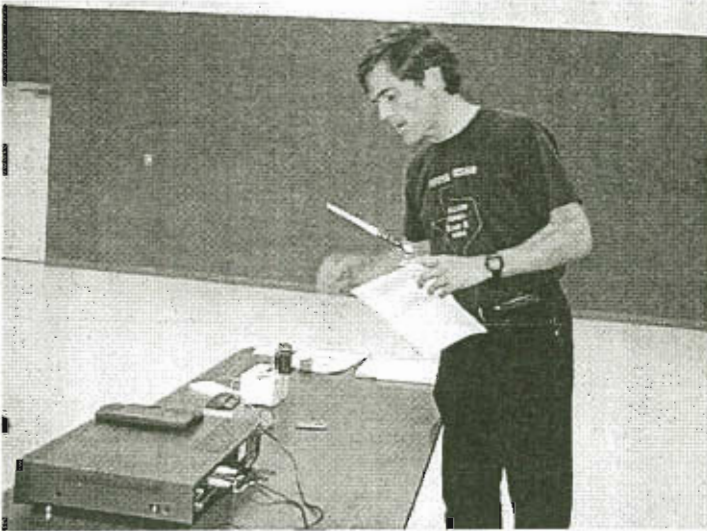
Total Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ Jackets \_\_\_\_\_ Caps \_\_\_\_\_

Special Embroidery \$ \_\_\_\_\_

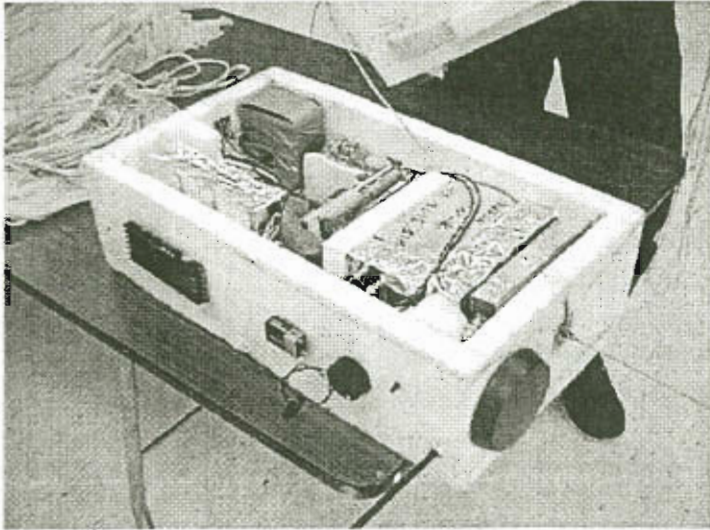
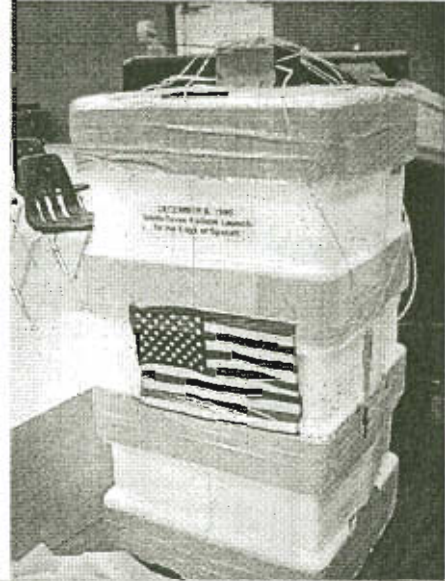
Total cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# THE B-VARC BULLETIN



Andy, W5ACM, discusses balloon launches



New members: Kevin, KD5EZX; Harry, WD5E0F;  
Mark, KC5Z0I

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN



## Paige Computers, Inc.

Bruce Paige, KK5DO

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