

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 22, issue 1
January 1999

<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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ARRL Membership - Members are urged to renew their ARRL membership through BVARC, allowing the club to take advantage of reduced insurance rates. Contact Gene, N5XGT, at 281-438-1811 for information

<p>What's in this issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notes from the Prez - P. 2 ➤ Minutes of December BOD meeting - P. 2 ➤ Minutes of January BOD meeting - P. 3 ➤ Meeting Schedule - P. 4 ➤ 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 ➤ Marathon Warm Up Vols - P. 7 ➤ This Month's Snaps - P. 8 ➤ Ads - P. 9 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hot Dawg</i></p> <p><i>Hot Dogs and Drinks for Members - FREE</i> <i>Come one, come all to the BVARC monthly meeting and join us for Hot Dogs and Soft Drinks. Starting with the June meeting you can visit with your friends and enjoy a hot dog and drink on the club. Serving starts at 6:30pm and goes until 7:30pm. There is no charge for club members. We will have mustard, catsup, onions and pickle relish as dressings for your dogs. Drinks will include Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite and Diet Sprite.</i></p>
<p>A Special Thanks to the First Colony Church of Christ for the use of their facilities which make this newsletter possible.</p> <p>Also, Thanks to Claude Sessions, K5HFY, for being in charge of production.</p>	<p>Board of Directors: John Moore, President - KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org Larry Jacobson, Vice-President - K5LJ, k5lj@nstci.com Doug Woodruff, Recording Secretary - KC5VYZ, woodruff@Houston.GeoQuest.SLB.COM Irv Smith, Corresponding Secretary - KK5QQ, kk5qq@aol.com Gene Russell, Treasurer - N5XGT, hbrussell@aol.com Robert Moore, 3-Year-Director - KK5UO, kk5uo@hal-pc.org Darrell Kirk, Two-Year-Director - KC5JAR, darrellk@swbell.net Bruce Paige, Past President - KK5DO, kk5do@amsat.org Claude Sessions, 1-Year-Director - K5HFY, claudes@juno.com</p>

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PROGNOSTICATIONS & PREDICTIONS FROM THE PREZ --

Unaccustomed as I am to writing for monthly publications (If you truly believe that, let me sell you some waterfront property complete with a bridge in Arizona); permit me to a slight invasion into your reading sphere to introduce you to the year of 1999 as it concerns the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.

First and foremost, kindly remember and please don't lose sight of the fact that it's your club, you/we the members, and as such, tis only and exactly a reflection of the efforts of you, the membership. Your elected Officers and Directors are merely the custodians of, and caretakers for, you, the members of the organization. Hopefully, under the efforts of all of us, the organization will be best served. Any and all suggestions will be entertained by your Board of Directors in an effort to allow you to get the maximum out of your investment of time and energies that you put into the organization. It's been said before, any organization is only a reflection of the members involved - and the 1999 edition of B-VARC is no different. We need membership involvement to make a success of the club.

As I look back and reflect on my association with the hobby of Amateur Radio starting about 1948 or thereabouts; there have been some truly awesome changes in our hobby. I've been present to witness the birth of the transistor and the apparent demise of the vacuum tube. Seen the first man set foot on the Moon and now the first permanent facility in space in the form of the International Space Station. It's been exciting and challenging, fast moving and changing; and there is no apparent end to it all.

Just a few short years ago, there were only a mere handful of the B-VARC membership with an eMail addresses -- today, as I make a hasty scan of the membership roster; we're about 80% connected to the electronic society that we know so well. And, ham radio operators have been at the forefront, as usual.

In this year leading into the next millennium, the year 2000, bugs and glitches notwithstanding, I have every reason to believe that we, as a collective group, will still be in the



Claude, K5HFY, receives the BVARC Order of the Key from Bruce.

lead. There's something for everyone in the world of amateur radio; you just have to make a small effort to contribute to take advantage of it all.

So, whatever your point of view, be it Public Service, traffic handling, DX or county hunting; let's get and stay involved this next year.

Remember, somebody notable said "Either lead, follow, or get out of the way to avoid getting run

over."

73 de John Moore, KK5NU

Board of Directors Meeting The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club December 14, 1998

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on December 14, 1998. The meeting was called to order by the President. The following board members attended: President Bruce Paige - KK5DO, Vice President John Moore - KK5NU, Recording Secretary Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, and one year Director Bud King - K5CEK. Board members absent were Corresponding Secretary Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, two year Director Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY, three year Director Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, and Past President Gailen Marshall - N4SKR. Guests in attendance were Mike Hardwick - N5VCX, Robert Moore - KK5UO, Gene Russell - N5XGT, Irv Smith - KK5QQ, and Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ.

The minutes of the October 5, 1998 Board of Directors meeting as published in the newsletter were approved (there was no November board meeting due to the scheduling problem at the Sugar Land Community Center). Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ reported the current club treasury balance of \$4880.89 plus an additional \$205.00 field day "slush fund" which was approved. Larry advised that B-VARC collected \$540.00 to date for the the 29 attendees signed up for the annual awards banquet at the Old San Francisco Steak House, with \$40 outstanding. It was reported under Old Business that Claude Sessions Jr. - K5HFY realized \$236.50 receipts for sale of merchandise since the October board meeting.

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President Bruce Paige - KK5DO reported under new business that Rick Hiller - W5RH had requested a \$50.00 donation from B-VARC to purchase club patches for the Boy Scouts for "Jamboree on the Air". President Paige also reported that several B-VARC club purchases had been made [not recently] with sales tax charges added. He reminded the board that B-VARC is a federally qualified 501c Corporation and is a tax exempt organization under the IRS Code. We likewise have a State of Texas Sales Tax Exemption Certificate (not printed in these minutes) for which we should be referencing any time a club purchase is made. The unnecessary sales taxes we have been paying are "eating our lunch" and Bruce asked each board member to be aware of this, and to make use of the Texas exemption certificate forms.

Mike Hardwick - N5VCX asked the board to remind all B-VARC members that he has held the position of Public Service Event Coordinator for about four years and that volunteers are welcome to see Mike to offer him assistance in these worthwhile endeavors. There are on average 10 to 14 events annually, such as the Houston Marathon and the MS-150 Austin bike ride, that rely on Ham Radio operators and B-Varc usually supplies the majority of volunteer personnel.

Mike Hardwick - N5VCX also reported to the board that the Memorial Southwest repeater [frequented] by B-VARC had a squelch problem that has been [identified] - a bad television cable was the source of the interference.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Page - KK5DO, at 7:50 PM.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Association January 14, 1999

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on January 12, 1999. The meeting was called to order by the President. The following board member attended: President John Moore - KK5NU, Vice President Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, Recording Secretary - Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ, Corresponding Secretary Irv Smith - KK5QQ, Treasurer Gene Russell - N5XGT, two year board member Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, one year board member Claude Sessions - K5HFY. Guest attending were Bud King - K5CEK, Cameron Mitchell - AC5QZ. Absent were past president Bruce Paige - KK5DO and three year board member Robert Moore - KK5UO who could not attend because he was receiving his 50th year Masonic award. Congratulations Robert.

Corrections to the December minutes concerning interference

in that the 145.47 MERA repeater interference has not been corrected but only identified as a problem of cable TV nature and that the repeater is frequented by BVARC members on a regular basis. Motion to approve December minutes by Claude seconded by Darrell, no opposition, approved.

Treasurer Gene and Vice President Larry gave treasurers report. BVARC's total balance is \$3843.69 including checking, cash on hand and a CD which is coming up for renewal Jan. 22, 1999 with an automatic renewal. Caps, T-shirts, jackets paid out \$959.00 and received \$711.00 with \$247.00 deficit. It was decided that treasurer's report would be deleted from BOD minutes put on the internet web page.

VP Report for 1998 that 7100 hits to web page since March 24, 1998. List of club property was checked for any changes.

Presidents report by John. 100% of all BOD members have e-mail addresses. Went over information available currently on the web site. ARRL club report filed with the ARRL for 1999. BOD wants to get programs for 1999 to retain current members and recruit new and former members actively.

Old business, consensus of board is to continue hot dogs at beginning of regular monthly meetings for members only. Meeting schedule for BVARC and BOD meetings for 1999 and first half of 2000 was presented and Sugar Land Community Center is reserved. Schedule is available on the web site. VE team leader Harold Parker, newsletter editor Mitch Cameron, and newsletter handler Claude Sessions positions will remain the same for 1999.

New business, Randy Pollard AK5G has agreed to chair an audit committee made from club members. Motion by Irv seconded by Claude and carried unanimously. Bank signatures updated for club officers for Treasurer, VP and President as any two signatures to authorize bank transactions. Motion by Claude and second Irv, approved unanimously. Motion to use BVARC@juno.com as a free email account as a back up for communicating with BOD members monitored by John and Doug. Motion by Irv seconded by Claude passed unanimously. The Houston Amateur Radio Club (HARC) is no longer an active club and their call sign and name could be picked up by BVARC to keep this club name and call sign active but DBA BVARC. Motion made to pursue this by Darrell, second by Irv, carried unanimously. Rex Ritz has agreed to head up field day for 1999 and BVARC plans to have its' own field day location in 1999.

The BOD wants to acknowledge that the 1999 BVARC Banquet was a great success at the Old San Francisco Steakhouse and has resolved to hold the 2000 banquet at the same location. The banquet was attended by 37 members. Motion was made by Darrell and second by Irv to refund the

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money of the two who could not attend and this passed unanimously. The fee for lifetime membership to the club is currently set at \$320 which is a 20-year membership commitment. Before and since the life membership fee was raised from \$160 to \$320 approximately two years ago, there have been no additional life memberships. It was resolved that the BOD be ready to discuss this issue at the next BOD meeting in February. Questions have been asked about theory and code classes in the future. Discussion for activities or projects during the monthly meetings to get our membership enthused about attending meetings such as simple antennas, APRS, etc. Field day funds collected by selling raffle tickets at the monthly meetings should be placed in the general fund in the bank and accounted for separately and continue selling raffle tickets at meetings to help fund field day.

Motion to adjourn by Larry and second by Darrell passed unanimously and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted.

Doug Woodruff KC5VYZ

Schedule of BVARC Activities

February 1999

- 4 - General Meeting
Scanner Technology
Jack Roberts-KB5TMY

March 1999

- 4 - General Meeting
- 9 - VE Test
- 11 - BOD Meeting

April 1999

- 1 - General Meeting
- 8 - BOD Meeting
- 13 - VE Test

(see the December 1998 issue for a long-term schedule.)

Other Dates:

Contests:

June 20 - 21, All Asia DX CW

June 27 - 28, ARRL Field Day

HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for January 1999

by Al Mattis - N5AFV

Tom Henderson, K4CIH, president of 10-10 International, has announced that a group of volunteers from around the country is being formed to represent 10-10 International at local conventions and hamfests. Members of the group will make oral presentations and give out information about 10-10

International. Any 10-10 member wishing to participate in this group should contact Henderson at k4cih@earthlink.net.

Jeff Ritter, N5VAV, in Richland Hills, TX, has announced that his 10-10 chatroom on the Internet is again up and operational. A password to use the chatroom may be obtained from Ritter at n5vav@flash.net. Ritter is the Information Manager for 10-10 International.

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 Springbok Chapter (ZS) is hosting the convention, and James Whittlesey, KC4RHW, is the convention chairman. Advance registration for the convention began on January 1, 1999.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome KB9RPX as its newest out-of-town member. The chapter currently has 385 local members, and 1335 non-local members, for a total membership of 1720.

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.

Many of the chapters of Ten Ten International 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.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz, 28.375 MHz, 28.425 MHz and 28.825 MHz. The Branding Iron (TX), Castle Craig (CT), Cornerstone (MD), Flying Tigers (RI), Fort McHenry (MD), Kansas Trails (MN), Restoration Project (VE), GB Ten (G), Twin Cities (MN), Portland 500 (OR), Route 66 (IN) and Electric City (FL) chapters are conducting specials for paper chasers to promote activity on the band. The Branding Iron (TX) chapter is now accepting upgrades by E-mail at branding@vvm.com. Sad news was received from Lynn Jenkins, KB0HKW, in MO, that his son has passed away after a long illness from cancer.

The Worked All State Capitals Award manager for 10-10 International, Glen Johnson, N4JII, in TN, suffered a heart attack in late November. Glen spent the Holidays at home recovering. We all wish Glen a complete and speedy recovery.

Propagation on ten meters continues to be very good,

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especially for DX. Contacts with Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia and the South Pacific take place on the band almost daily. Operating mobile with 25 watts, I have been able to work Europe and Asia in the last month, as well as 14 states and 3 Canadian provinces. Cycle 23 has certainly made 10-meter operation enjoyable.

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 for December 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.

12/02/98---N5CPA, KB5DNT, KI5SC, KB5PAJ,
K5LJ, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK, KK5W,
KA0TEN, K5CEK. (11)

12/09/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, K5LJ, W5GHK,
KK5W, KA0TEN, KB5DNT, K5VRJ, AB5BA,
WB5IIB, KK5VE, K5CEK. (12)

12/16/98---N5CPA, KB5DNT, KM5DG, KK5VE,
W5GHK, K5VRJ, N5OAC, AB5BA, K5LJ,
AB8CC, N5VXU, W5TEM, K5CEK. (13)

12/23/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, W5GHK, K5CEK,
KK5VE, K5VRJ, AB5BA. (7)

12/30/98---N5CPA, K5CEK, W5GHK, KK5UO,
K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, WA9YNJ, N5OAC,
K5LTW, NM5K. (11)

RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 12TH AMATEUR EXAMS by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday

evening, January 12, 1999 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

V. E. TEAM:
Louis House, KD5GM
Harold Parker, ND5F
Don Schexnailder, AB5IV

ASSISTANTS:
Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Cass Germany, KG5IT
John Moore, KK5NU

A total of 8 exams were administered during the evening to 5 applicants. One (1) unlicensed candidate received his new Novice license and three (3) others upgraded with a total of 6 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%

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

Jim Burrough, N5DTT - Advanced
Gene Doremus, KD5FWD - General
Rodney Green - Novice
Alex Raney, KC5VAK - Advanced
Gary Raney - Element 3A

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 ND5F

SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Jack Roberts, KB5TMY
14208 Laterna Ln
Houston 77083-5730

Here are the freqs for TDCJ Prison Unit that are good to monitor during escapes.

- 1 153.965 Input
154.995 Huntsville Wynn Goree
- 2 154.980 Input
153.815 Ellis 1-2 East Ham
- 3 154.950 Statewide car to car

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4 155.370 Statewide intercity
5 153.905 Common all units
6 153.785 155.025 Input Michals Cofield
7 153.815 154.085 Central Sugar Land Jesters
8 155.025 153.755 Darrington Ramsey 123
9 153.785 154.055 Clemens Retrieve
10 154.115 Sort Body Alarms
11 153.785 Talk Around
12 DPS
13 453.05 TDCJ Hospital
14 453.300 Warden
15 453.350 Warden
16 453.400 Warden
17 453.450 Clements in Amarillo
18 453.500 Warden
19 453.550 Car to Car

Monday night PSN check-ins (KK5DO net control)

11/23/98 - 22
11/30/98 - 25
12/4/98 - 21
12/14/98 - 17
12/21/98 - 15
12/28/98 - 18
1/11/98 - 24

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**1998 Marathon WarmUp Series Communications Volunteers (the names in boldface will receive commemorative mugs)
by Al Mattis - N5AFV**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>20K</u>	<u>25K</u>	<u>30K</u>
Brune, Bill	N5XWU	X	X	
Cheek, Ralph	KB5DNT		X	X
Dunkelberger, Steve	N5JBL	X	X	X
Elam, George	W5EPR	X		
Grimes, Ron	WA5SCE	X	X	X
Hacker, Carl	KB5LDY	X	X	X
Hardwick, Mike	N5VCX	X	X	X
House, Louis	KD5GM	X	X	X
Kirk, Darrell	KC5JAR	X	X	X
Kozinetz, Claudia	N5VCZ	X		
Mattis, Allen	N5AFV	X	X	
Merriam, Rud	KD5DTV	X	X	X
Morrison, Henry	W5RIY	X	X	X
North, Max	N5TBI		X	X
Onda, Terry	KI5FO	X	X	
Smith, Irv	KK5QQ	X		
Temple, Dale	KC5HNJ		X	X
Whitehurst, Tom	KC5UN		X	X
Wilson, Bill	KA5GHI		X	X
Woodruff, Doug	KC5VYZ		X	X
	Total	14	17	14

20 amateur radio operators participated in providing communications for the 1998 Marathon WarmUp Series

8 amateur radio operators worked all 3 races

9 amateur radio operators worked 2 of the races

3 amateur radio operators worked 1 of the races

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1999 BVARC Awards Banquet



(Better viewed on the web page.)

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