

# THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 22, issue 8  
August 1999

<p><b>Houston Ham Help Line</b> <b>24-Hours</b> <b>281-495-3495</b></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.hal-pc.org/~bvarc">http://www.hal-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 Irv, KK5QQ at 281-437-6755 for information**

<p><b>What's in this issue?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Notes from the Prez – P. 2</li> <li>➤ BVARC Activities – P. 2</li> <li>➤ Board of Directors Minutes, July 1999 - P. 3</li> <li>➤ Monday Night PSN Check-ins - P. 4</li> <li>➤ BVARC Rag Chew Net - P. 4</li> <li>➤ Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 4</li> <li>➤ Ice Cream Social - P. 5</li> <li>➤ "To the Edge" - P. 5</li> </ul>	<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><b>A Special Thanks to the First Colony Church of Christ for the use of their facilities which make this newsletter possible.</b></p> <p><b>Also, Thanks to Claude Sessions, K5HFY, for being in charge of production.</b></p>	<p><b>Board of Directors:</b> John Moore, President - KK5NU, <a href="mailto:jwm@hal-pc.org">jwm@hal-pc.org</a> Larry Jacobson, Vice-President - K5LJ, <a href="mailto:k5lj@nstci.com">k5lj@nstci.com</a> Doug Woodruff, Recording Secretary - KC5VYZ, <a href="mailto:dwoodruff@houston.geoquest.slb.com">dwoodruff@houston.geoquest.slb.com</a> Irv Smith, Corresponding Secretary - KK5QQ, <a href="mailto:kk5qq@aol.com">kk5qq@aol.com</a> Gene Russell, Treasurer - N5XGT, <a href="mailto:hbrussell@aol.com">hbrussell@aol.com</a> Robert Moore, 3-Year-Director - KK5UO, <a href="mailto:kk5uo@hal-pc.org">kk5uo@hal-pc.org</a> Darrell Kirk, Two-Year-Director - KC5JAR, <a href="mailto:darrellk@swbell.net">darrellk@swbell.net</a> Bruce Paige, Past President - KK5DO, <a href="mailto:kk5do@amsat.org">kk5do@amsat.org</a> Claude Sessions, 1-Year-Director - K5HFY, <a href="mailto:claudes@juno.com">claudes@juno.com</a></p>

## Schedule of BVARC Activities

### Notes from the President - August 1999

FCC Amateur Enforcement continues with NOV's, NAL's, License Modifications, Restrictions and even cancellations; don't let your name get on that list by your "on the air conduct" -- they are out there listening and watching these days.

Our entry level Novice Class CW course is now history -- look for our class of graduates out there in the radio world. And when you encounter them "on the air", remember we didn't all start at the top either.

<b>E P O</b>	<b>ELECTRONIC PARTS OUTLET</b>
	ELECTRONICS / COMPUTERS & MORE <b>THE ELECTRONIC SOURCE</b>
	3753 FONDREN HOUSTON, TEXAS 77063 713 784-0140 713 784-9740 fax <b>STORE MANAGER KEN TURNER</b>
	17776 TOMBALL PKWY HOUSTON, TEXAS 77064 281 807-9600 281 774-0830 fax <b>STORE MANAGER RICK ZAMARRIPA</b>
	<b>SHIP TO WAREHOUSE:</b> 9101 LIPAN HOUSTON, TX 77063 713 787-0599 713 268-1044 fax

And now we've scheduled a Novice/Technician Theory Class starting on Thursday, September 23rd running for seven weeks till November 4th; with the B-VARC November 9th VE Testing session available. Contact Robert Moore, KK5UO <kk5uo@hal-pc.org> for details.

The FCC 'Universal License Service' is now a matter of fact -- the old FCC Form 610 can continue to be used through February 16, 2000, so long as the applicant writes their TIN (SSN or Licensee ID Number) at the top right corner of the form. For access to the ULS is to simply point your browser to <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and select the TIN/Call Sign Registration option. You'll have to enter personal information, including selection of a 'Password' and keying in your callsign -- that gets you into the system for future use.

Again the Chili Supper and our Annual Election of Officers and Directors is closing in on us together with the nomination for our Annual Awards to be presented at the B-VARC Banquet on January 7, 2000. Kindly notify any of the members of the Board of your candidate for the nominations.

73 de John Moore, KK5NU

### Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

W5DPA

NOVICE/TECHNICIAN  
THEORY CLASSES  
(Elements 2 and 3a)

First Colony Church of Christ - Room 215  
3119 Sweetwater Boulevard  
Sugar Land, Texas

Starting Thursday, September 23, 1999, from 7:00 till 8:30 p.m. and each Thursday night thereafter thru October 28th.

B-VARC Second Tuesday VE Exam Session November 9, 1999 at 6:30 pm

CONTACT: Robert Moore, KK5UO    kk5uo@hal-pc.org  
Ross Lawler, Jr., W5HFF    elawlerw5hff@juno.com

### September 1999

2 - General Meeting

13 - BOD Meeting

AMSAT Report & Phase 3D Update

Andy MacAllister, W5ACM

<b>Complete Computer Solutions</b>	<b>Services and Products:</b> Custom Built Computers Repairs/Upgrades Network Design/Installation Components/Software/Accessories
13891 Southwest Freeway Sugar Land, TX 77478 Phone: (281) 277-0220 Fax: (281) 277-0230 Website: <a href="http://www.completecomputers.com">www.completecomputers.com</a>	

### 14 - V E Test

### October 1999

7 - General Meeting

Baluns & Transmission Lines

Rick Hiller, W5RH

12 - VE Test

18 - BOD Meeting

### November 1999

4 - General Meeting

Chili Supper/Elections

9 - VE Test

15 - BOD Meeting

December 1999

- 2 - General Meeting  
SWL Radios and Listening  
Jack Roberts - KB5TMY
- 13 - BOD Meeting
- 14 - VE Test

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

**Upcoming Public Service Events:**

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, home 713-771-4625  
work 713-463-0022 n5vcx@worldnet.att.net  
Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ, home 281-232-8452,  
work 713-350-4575, kc5vyz@arrl.net  
Bill Randolph, KC5KGJ, home 713-468-3771

Event	Date	Hams needed
Wings Over Houston Air Show	October 16 & 17	60 (2 day event)
Alamo Challenge Bike Ride	October 9 & 10, 1999	55 (2 day event)
20K Warm-up Run	October 17, 1999	25

**Board Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes  
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club  
August 12, 1999**

A quorum of the Board of Directors met at Sugar Land Community Center on August 12, 1999. The meeting was called to order by President John Moore, KK5NU at 7:38PM.



## Paige Computers, Inc.

**Bruce Paige, KK5DO**

*Authorized Sales & Service for:*





Warranty & Non-Warranty Repairs



**7625 Boone Rd.  
Houston, TX 77072  
281-933-8385 Ext 201  
Fax 281-933-3544**

The following members were present: president John Moore - KK5NU, vice president Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, three year board member Robert B. Moore - KK5UO, assistant treasurer Louis House - KD5GM and recording secretary Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ. Absent were past president Bruce Paige - KK5DO, treasurer Gene Russell - N5XGT, corresponding secretary Irv Smith - KK5QQ, one year board member Claude Sessions - K5HFY and two year board

member Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR. Mike Hardwick - N5VCX attended as a visitor.

Recording Secretary Report by Doug: A motion to approve the July minutes with no corrections was made by Doug and seconded by Robert. There was no discussion and so approved. Doug reported on a live oak tree to be planted in memory of life member Don Brown - K5DXS to be placed at Westheimer Airport later.

Corresponding secretary report by John in Irv's absence: Membership consist of 13 life members, 102 active members and 24 active family members with a total of 139 members. The Memorial Emergency Radio Association will be mailing out a request for support and would like to have access to the BVARC mailing list. Louis made the motion to allow MERA access to the BVARC member mailing list for the purpose of sending out a request for funds to help support the 145.470 and 444.525 repeaters. Seconded by Larry and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report by Louis: All bills due have been paid except for the ARRL. A complete balance sheet can be obtained from the BOD if requested for club members.



**HOUSTON  
AMATEUR RADIO  
SUPPLY, INC.**

**GEORGE DiLETTA, KD0RW**  
PRESIDENT

EXIT 68 I-45 NORTH  
181 CYPRESSWOOD DRIVE  
SPRING, TX 77388

**800 471 7373**  
**281 355 7373**  
**Fax 281 355 8007**

Vice president's report by Larry: Discussed the remaining meeting programs. A full meeting schedule is done through the end of the year. January will be the annual banquet and Larry will try to have a program for February 2000 possibly on APRS.

President's report by John: Reservations for the BVARC annual banquet have been made at the Old San Francisco Steakhouse for Friday, January 7, 2000. Skewed board meetings for the remainder of the year. Our field day reports have been filed with the ARRL for a total of 3110 QSO points plus other bonus points will be added by the ARRL. The squirrel reports are on the ARRL web site. The VE group did not meet this month. The FCC is converting over to the Universal Licensing System and will not accept any license transaction until the conversion process is completed. All hams will need to register with the ULS to be able to modify license information. Access to the ULS to update information will be done through a computer connection to a special 800 number. The ice cream social was a great success. Steve

Deaktor did a great job coordinating the event. Thank you Steve!

Old Business: Mike Hardwick gave a report on some other local repeater nets. Discussion of a reduced member dues rate for students and senior members was tabled by the board because it is felt that a fee of \$16 a year is not too much to ask to support the club and pay for the newsletter postage. Larry made the motion and seconded by Louis and passed unanimously. Code classes have concluded and were a huge success. Robert and Ross W5HFF will be conducting Novice and Technician theory classes starting in September at the First Colony Church of Christ.

Motion was made to adjourn by Doug and seconded by Robert. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by recording secretary Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ.

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#### **Monday night PSN check-ins (KC5VYZ net control)**

7/5 - 12 KC5VYZ  
7/12 - 20 KC5VYZ  
7/19 - 25 K5CAM  
7/26 - 12 KC5VYZ  
8/2 - 23 KC5VYZ  
8/9 - 26 KC5VYZ  
8/16 - 24 KK5DO  
8/23 - 35 KC5VYZ

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#### **B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for July 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.



**Alex-WA5UHT**

**7015 Atwell Dr  
Houston TX 77081-6005  
PHONE: 713/663-6066  
FAX: 713/663-6413**

**EMAIL: [ajs@cityelectronics.com](mailto:ajs@cityelectronics.com)  
WEB SITE: <http://www.cityelectronics.com>**

**Store Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-5:00**

**7/7/99--N5CPA, K5CEK, WD8RZA, N5ECP, KK5W, KA0TEN, W5GHK, N5VXU. (8)**  
**7/14/99--N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KM5ID, KK5VE, W5RIY, KK5W, KB5PGY, W5EFB, K5CEK. (10)**  
**7/21/99—KE5SR (NCS), K5CEK, K5VRJ, KK5VE, WD8RZA, K5LJ, KG5KV, WB5VYR, WA5TWL, N5CPA, N5VXU. (11)**  
**7/28/99—KE5SR (NCS), AB5BA, K5VRJ, K5LJ, KA0TEN, KK5W, W5GHK, K5CEK. (8)**

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

This is for scanner bugs with trunks:

When your electricity goes out monitor HL&P. Here are their ID Codes:

16 Katy Service Center and Disp.  
18 Disp.  
30 Disp. Service Center East  
48  
624 Sugar Land West Zone Disp.  
528 N. W. and S. W. Disp. Sugar Land  
1232 Crosby Dayton  
1040 North and East Disp.  
1808  
816 Disp.  
720  
432  
912  
3120  
3772  
1810  
1136 N. W.  
2192  
112 Service Center  
1328 Disp.  
208 Katy Service Center

**The ICE CREAM SOCIAL was a success  
by Steve Deaktor, WA3PMT**

The club's annual ice cream social held this year on August 5th was a tremendous success. The homemade ice cream participants of Irv KK5QQ, John KK5NU and Robert KK5UO tried diligently for the "best of show" but were unsuccessful in their attempt. Betty KA0TEN captured the blue ribbon prize of a \$20 gift certificate to Electronic Parts Outlet (EPO). The event drew an enormous gathering for which there were many items, other than homemade ice cream available. As a result there was a special drawing for these contributors and Doug KC5VYZ took home a \$10 gift certificate from EPO. In the door prize drawing, a 1999 Radio Amateur's Handbook was won by Scott KD5FBA.

As chairman of this year's event, I would like to thank everyone that contributed in any way. However, on behalf of the club, a special recognition goes to Les WB5KRN at Electronic Parts Outlet for their generous gift of the Radio Amateur's Handbook as the door prize. In addition, EPO even increased a \$15 gift certificate to \$20. Finally, my thanks to all who came, thereby making it possible to enjoy a wonderful evening of camaraderie and fellowship.

73's  
Steve WA3PMT

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**"To the Edge of Space"**

That was the focus of Houston's Balloon Launch Team on Saturday morning, June 5th at BLT-16 from the Wharton County Municipal Airport. Just a short 60 miles down US-59 to the South; the festivities were scheduled to commence with a launch window from 1000 to 1200 local time.

After filling both of the 3 meter latex balloons with helium to a positive buoyancy of some 6.5 pounds each; the launch vehicle was carefully assembled with a dual harness for the two balloons attached to the parachute assembly below followed by the instrument package and "Mr. Balloon" at the bottom.

The instrument package payload consisted of a crossband voice repeater: 147.435 in, 446.600 out; GPS data via AX.25, 1200 baud packet data streams on 440.950 and 442.750; a color ATV camera on 1255 MHz FM horizontal polarization; and two HF CW 'Fireball' beacon transmitters, one on 28.322 and the other on 50 MHz. Outside temperature was reflected by the rate of the CW beeps from the beacon.

Launch went flawlessly as the package payload string lifted off about 11:20; proper notification was given to the FAA local area control and we all sat back to view the absolutely beautiful pictures being sent down from the on-

board ATV. The data burst streams from the GPS unit gave a visual display of heading, altitude, air speed and position as the unit rose in a clockwise spiral and made almost a perfect 360 degree turn about the Hungerford, Tx area some 10 miles to the northeast of the launch site.

As the ascent reached altitude the 2 meter cross band repeater gave a footprint reaching as far to the North as the Plano and Mineral Wells area. Amazing what a little bit of altitude will do for an antenna.

The ascent to some 84,000 feet took a little over an hour and one-half; when only one of the balloons burst. With a negative buoyancy, BLT-16 then commenced its slow but sure descent at approximately 700 feet/minute drifting slowly to the westward toward the vicinity of Garwood. The package was located on the ground at the Eagle Lake city limits after landing about 4:30 pm.

The next launch party is scheduled for September.

73 de John Moore, KK5NU