

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 23, issue 1
January 2000

<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>
--	---	--

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>What's in this issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notes from the Prez – P. 2 ➤ BVARC Activities – P. 2 ➤ Board of Directors Minutes, Jan. 13 - P. 2 ➤ V.E.C. Exam Results - P. 3 ➤ Monday Night PSN Check-ins - P. 4 ➤ BVARC Rag Chew Net - P. 4 ➤ Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 4 ➤ B-VARC Calendar - P. 5 ➤ Ham Exams on-line - P. 5 ➤ PRB - 1 Petition from ARRL - P. 6 ➤ Banquet Pics. - P. 6 	<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: Larry Jacobson, President - K5LJ, k5lj@nstci.com Glen Jenkins, WB4KTF, vice-president - wb4ktf@pipeline.com Doug Woodruff, Recording Secretary - KC5VYZ, dwoodruff@houston.geoquest.slb.com Irv Smith, Corresponding Secretary - KK5QQ, kk5qq@aol.com Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, Treasurer - mitchl@hal-pc.org Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, 3-Year-Director, n5vcx@worldnet.att.net Robert Moore, 2-Year-Director - KK5UO, kk5uo@hal-pc.org Darrell Kirk, One-Year-Director - KC5JAR, darrell@ev1.net John Moore, Past President - KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org</p>
---	--

Notes from the President - January 2000

The awards banquet was held on 7 January at the San Francisco Steakhouse and, as everyone who was there will attest, was a great success. Fifty-five people enjoyed good food and congenial company that evening. At the last BOD (13 January), we agreed to continue the event at that location for 2001.

As we enter the final year of the 20th century (yes, I am one of those – we count centuries 1-100 not 0-99, there was no year zero; the year preceding 1 A.D. was 1B.C.), there are some momentous changes occurring in Ham Radio. The FCC has returned to a vigorous enforcement posture and amateur license restructuring will become a reality on 15 April of this year. Much emotion is being (and has been) expressed on this subject but the die is now cast and we must move forward. I hope BVARC will take the lead in Elmering all the new hams getting on the HF bands so that the worst fears of the most pessimistic will not be realized. We hope to offer both code and theory classes again this year – probably a code class before 15 April and a theory class in late spring (need to find out, first, what the new question pool will contain). If the last VE exam session was any indication (23 people passed some exam elements), these will be popular courses. The code can no longer be used as an excuse for not upgrading, folks!

Keep your calendars open on 24-25 June for FD. BVARC scored very well in the 1999 FD – let's see if we can better that in 2000! We will probably also have a BBQ that Saturday evening to which all club members and spouses are invited. Of course, volunteers are needed for setup and operating - it should be a fun event.

73, see you at the next meeting,

Larry K5LJ



Paige Computers, Inc.
Bruce Paige, KK5DO
Authorized Sales & Service for:
EPSON
OKIDATA
LEXMARK
Warranty & Non-Warranty Repairs
7625 Boone Rd.
Houston, TX 77072
281-933-8385 Ext 201
Fax 281-933-3544

Schedule of BVARC Activities

Please see the expanded schedule on p. 5.

Public Service Events:

3/2000

Bluebonnet Bike Ride

4/15-16/2000

MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Ride. Mike Hardwick, home: 713-771-4625, work: 713-463-0022 ext. 221, n5vcx@worknet.att.net

Board Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club January 13, 2000

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting - January 13, 2000

President Larry Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm with a quorum. Those in attendance were president Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, vice president Glenn Jenkins - WB4KTF, treasurer Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM, corresponding secretary Irv Smith - KK5QQ, past president John Moore - KK5NU, 3-year board member Mike Hardwick - N5VCX, 2-year board member Robert Moore - KK5UO, and recording secretary Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ. Those not in attendance were 1-year board member Darrel Kirk - KC5JAR. Visiting were Louis House - KD5GM and Claude Sessions - K5HFY.

Recording secretary report by Doug. Motion made to approve the December BOD minutes made by Mike and seconded by Robert. Approved unanimously as recorded.



**Complete
Computer
Solutions**
Services and Products:
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: www.completecomputers.com

Corresponding secretary report by Irv.
131 Members start of year
145 End of year

42 join in 1999 (about half brand new -- 16 of them after special invitation via NL)
26 not renewing after expiring in 1999

3 SK in 1999

Membership breakdowns

14 Life (includes 1 family)
131 Annual (includes 24 family)

10 ARRL Life
74 ARRL annual
19 not ARRL
42 unknown ARRL status

40 Extra
27 Advanced
16 General
21 Tech Plus
27 Tech
2 Novice
12 not licensed
The report was accepted as presented.

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

Treasurer report by Louis and Cameron. A complete report can be obtained from the treasurer. The CD will come up for renewal in February 2000. Doug made motion to accept the treasurer's report seconded by Irv. Approved unanimously. All accounts are up to date through January 13, 2000.

Vice president report by Glenn discussed possible program for February on APRS by Carl Hacker - KB5LDY. A conflict will be resolved for the February meeting will be resolved. Some topics for future programs maybe radio controlled planes, repeaters, PSK-31 digital mode, HF operating for newcomers for home and mobile, and ARRL information.

President report by Larry. The board needs to look into helping members with the new restructuring of the license classes.

Old business: 2000 Award Banquet was a success. Old San Francisco steak house will likely be the location of the 2001 banquet. Doug suggested that the board look into the award nomination process so that it will be easier for the board to come to a decision on future awards when a unanimous

decision is needed to declare award winners.

New business: Field Day is approaching and we need to reserve the location and obtain a chairman. Glenn suggested looking into the county park on beltway 8. The location at Katy will be reserved in the meantime so that there will be a location for Field Day reserved. Larry suggest to amend the By-laws to provide for notifications of club meetings by email and to notify members when the newsletter is on the website. This will be discussed at the next regular meeting. The Volunteer Examiners Team (VE) needs some new members since several current members are desiring to retire from this service. The current VE team has done an excellent job with the VE sessions. John will look into adding members to the VE Team. John presented the calendar of the reserved dates for the 2001 regular and BOD meetings at the Sugar Land community center. The CD at the bank is coming up for renewal in February. The fees of four new life memberships can be added to the CD. Robert made a motion to add \$640 to the CD account, seconded by Mike. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mike and seconded by Glenn. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by recording secretary Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ

HOUSTON	
AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY, INC.	
GEORGE DiLETTA, KDØRW PRESIDENT	
EXIT 68 I-45 NORTH 181 CYPRESSWOOD DRIVE SPRING, TX 77388	800 471 7373 281 355 7373 FAX 281 355 8007

RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 11TH 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 11, 2000 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

V. E. TEAM:
Harold Parker, ND5F
George Walker, KQ5W
Bob Warren, N5RW

ASSISTANTS:
Carl Albrecht, AA5JW

Cass Germany, KG5IT
John Moore, KK5NU
Don Schexnailder, AB5IV

A total of 23 exams were administered during the evening to 22 applicants. Four (4) unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses. Two (2) others upgraded with a total of 20 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 87%.

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

Joseph Clements, W5BAK - Element 4B
Rosemary Cody, KA5MWF - Technician Plus
John Endsley, KD5IDU - Element 3B
Roberto Gasparini - Technician
Gary Grobe - Element 2
Joseph Hardy - Technician
Christopher Heston - Element 2
Raymond Johnson, Jr., KD5IWF - Element 3B
Randall Johnston, KD5IWE - Element 3B
John Koppenhaver, N0BNA - Element 4B
James Kravetz, KK5VG - Element 4B
Howard Leverenz, KD5DJJ - Element 3B
Billy Lowery, WB5PKD - Element 4B
Steven Morton, KD5GEL - Element 3B
Raul Ruiz - Technician
Clarence Shaw, KD5IWD - Element 3B
James Sitton - Technician
James Slouber, KF6TIE - Element 3B
William Usher, KD5ENO - Element 3B
Mark Winslet, KD5IQE - Advanced

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



Alex-WA5UHT

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

EMAIL: ajs@cityelectronics.com
WEB SITE: <http://www.cityelectronics.com>

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

Monday night PSN check-ins (KC5VYZ net control)

11/15 - 27 Doug
11/22 - 25 Cam
12/6 - Doug - 18
12/13 - Doug - 16
12/20 - Doug - 29
12/27 - Doug - 21
1/3 - Doug - 26
1/10 - Doug - 29
1/17 - Doug - 21

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for December 1999 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.

12/1/99--N5CPA, KM5DG, KK5VE, AK5G, W5EFB, W5GHK, WN5A, KG5KV, KK5XR, W5RIY, WB5VYR, W5HFF/Mobile5. (12)

12/8/99--N5CPA, KM5DG, K5LJ, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KK5VE, N5OAC, KK5UO, KG5KV, W5TEM, W5HFF/Mobile5, KC5SQD. (13)

12/15/99--N5CPA, KC5SQD, W5GHK, N5OAC, K5VRJ, AB5BA, N5VXU, K5LJ, W5EFB, KB5DNT, KK5XR, K5CEK. (12)

12/22/99—N5CPA, W5EFB, KB5DNT, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, KB5TRA, KD5FWD, KM5DG, KG8MG, KD5FPQ, AB8CC, K5HFX, KA4DXY, KE4WQW, KA4GBZ, N5LUI, W7RUB, W5ELT, K7JUT, K5CEK. (21)

12/29/99—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK, WB8VYR, W5RIY, WB8YWA/Mobile5, KK5W, AB8CC, AK5G. (11)

SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

S. Jack Roberts KB5TMY
14208 Laterna Ln.
Houston, Texas 77083-5730

Here are the freqs and ID's that Law Enforcement used during the Jester inmate escape:

TDCJ Freqs:

CH		
1	154.980	Building
2	153.815	Central and Jester Repeater
3	154.950	Statewide Car to Car
4	155.370	Intercity
5	153.905	Common CMD Post

Ft. Bend CD, S.O.I.D.'s

1	2256	Patrol South
2	2384	Patrol North
3	2352	Car to Car

	2480	TAC 1
	2608	Administration
	3536	T.H.P.

DPS and T.H.P.

155.535	Repeater
154.695	Car to Disp.
155.445	Disp to Car
123.025	Air

B-VARC Calendar for 2000 and 2001

Month	General Meeting Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
Year 2000			
Jan*	Banquet	13	11
Feb	3 APRS - Carl Hacker, KB5LDY (tentative)	10	8
Mar	2	9	14
Apr	6	13	11
May	4	11	9
Jun	1	8	13
Jun	24 & 25 Field Day - TBA		
Jul	6	13	11
Aug	3 Ice Cream Social	10	8
Sep	7	14	12
Oct	5	12	10
Nov	2 Chili Supper/Elections	16	14
Dec	4		12
Year 2001			
Jan	4	11	9
Feb	1	8	13
Mar	1	8	13
Apr	5	12	10
May	3	10	8
Jun	7	14	12
Jun	23 & 24 Field Day - TBD		
Jul	5	12	9
Aug	2 Ice Cream Social	9	7
Sep	6	13	11
Oct	4	11	9
Nov	1 Chili Supper/Elections	8	13
Dec	6	13	11

Ham Exams Online ----

There are several sites on the 'net where you can take a sample exam and have it graded 'while you're on-line'. These are all based on the current question pool contents for amateur radio exams.

One place close to home is at the Ham Exam page maintained by Stephen McClaran, KK5QE. The URL <http://w5ac.tamu.edu/ham-exam/> will always take you to the current version of Ham Exam. Online now is Ham Exam 2.0. All of the question pools are current and figures are included for all elements. The previous version is still available and is now dubbed Ham Exam 1.0.

A second popular site is that of Simon Twigger, AA9PW. This is a question pool generator based on a Java script. The URL is <http://www.biochem.mcw.edu/Postdocs/Simon/radio/exam.html>

Welcome to the AA9PW Amateur Exam practice pages. If you are new to the site and would like an introduction to the facilities, check out the Help page.

The questions used here are from the current official question pools provided by the FCC and are selected from the same subelements as would be used for an official examination. Therefore they are accurate representations of the real thing. This site is intended to provide practice for the US Amateur Radio examinations required to obtain a US license. To obtain an Amateur Radio licence you will have to take the exams at a testing session run by an accredited Volunteer Exam Coordinator.

For more information on how to become an amateur radio operator and where you can take exams in this area, try the ARRL Examination Search page at:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

Another recently added site is:

<http://hamtest.com/test/index.html>

This page is located at artsci.net. To take a Sample Test requires a Java compatible browser. This site also makes use of the Java applet by Simon Twigger, AA9PW.
de John Moore, KK5NU

ARRL ASKS FCC TO RETHINK PARTS OF PRB-1 PETITION DENIAL

(From the ARRL Newsletter.)

The ARRL wants the FCC to declare that its limited federal preemption policy known as PRB-1 applies to amateurs who live in areas governed by deed restrictions, covenants, CC&Rs, or condominium regulations just as it does to hams regulated solely by local zoning laws. In a Petition for Reconsideration, the League has formally asked the FCC to rethink its November dismissal of a 1996 ARRL Petition for Rule Making. That petition called on the Commission to expand and clarify PRB-1.

In November, the FCC said PRB-1 excludes restrictive covenants in private contracts as "outside the reach of our limited preemption," although it strongly encouraged associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to "follow the principle of reasonable accommodation" with respect to Amateur Radio. But the FCC drew the line at proposing specific rule changes to bring private restrictive covenants under the umbrella of PRB-1.

In asking the FCC to rethink its November Order, the League said the FCC's disclaimer "is no longer a valid premise" and no longer accurately reflects FCC jurisdiction over private

land use regulations. Since the advent of PRB-1 in 1985, the ARRL pointed out, the FCC has made it clear that it has Congressional authority to prohibit restrictive covenants that could keep property owners and even renters from installing antennas to receive TV, satellite and similar signals. The League asserts the same principle applies to Amateur Radio, in which the FCC has said it has a "strong federal interest."

The League called on the FCC to clarify that PRB-1 applies to private land use regulations, leaving hams free to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with local homeowners' associations just as they do now with governmental land use regulators.

The League also asked the FCC to provide some relief from "prohibitive and excessive fees" that localities might impose on amateurs for permits and fees. The ARRL said that such costs can be "the functional equivalent of a prohibition of amateur communications" and asked the FCC to state that "excessive costs associated with land use approvals fail the 'reasonable accommodation' and 'minimum practicable restriction' tests of PRB-1."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Reconsideration is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/prb-1/prb1-recon.pdf>

Banquet Pics (these can be viewed better on the B-VARC web page.)



