

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 23, issue 6
Jun 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>
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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>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, April 13 - P. 2 ➤ Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 3 ➤ V.E.C. Exam Results - P. 3 ➤ Monday Night PSN Check-ins - P. 4 ➤ BVARC Rag Chew Net - P. 4 ➤ This Month's Pics - P. 5 	<p style="text-align: center;">Field Day Contact John, K5LKJ to volunteer to help with Field Day, June 24 & 25 281-530-0432</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Many thanks to John Moore for printing this month's issue and to Claude Sessions for 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, kc5vyz@arrl.net Irv Smith, Corresponding Secretary - KK5QQ, kk5qq@aol.com Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, Treasurer - K5CAM@arrl.net 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 - June 2000

Prez Sez,

All you newbie Generals and Extras (as well as the old jaded ones) that are wondering what you should do your new privileges might want to try the new hot mode PSK31. I have gotten involved with this mode over that last couple months and it is a lot of fun and doesn't require a \$10k investment in new equipment to do it. It is basically a very narrow band digital mode similar to RTTY that uses a reasonable competent PC to encode and decode the signals that are passed via a soundcard from your transceiver which is operating in the SSB mode. And what's even better is all the software to run it is FREE. You can communicate around the world on 50w and a dipole because of the mode's narrow bandwidth and good low signal level decoding ability. It is almost an article of faith amongst the PSKers that you will not run high power. Recently I had a 45 minute chat with a guy in Paraguay and on another day I chatted with an aussie for over 30 minutes - all of us running only about 50w.

While the election of new club officers is still a ways off, you should be thinking about how you might serve your club by throwing you name into the pot for one of the numerous positions available. With all the new upgrades to General (and higher) in the club there is no excuse for not volunteering. All organizations like B-VARC live or die by the willingness of the members to become involved in running the organization. So let any of your BOD members know of your interest in serving and especially John Moore as he will head up the nomination committee for the 2001 BOD.

At the next meeting, Glen Jenkins and friends will be putting on sequel to the mobile operating program of a couple months ago. This time they will bring their mobile rigs to the meeting and everyone will be able to go out into the parking lot and see how it is done and ask questions about installation details. See you there!

73,

Larry K5LJ

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Schedule of BVARC Activities

Month	General Meeting	Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
July	6	Demo of Actual Installed Mobil Gear - Dale, KC2PZ and Glen, WB4KTF		
Aug	3	Ice Cream Social	10	8

(A long-term calendar of B-VARC events is available in the January 2000 issue.)

Board Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, June 8, 2000

President Larry Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:31pm with a quorum. Those in attendance were president Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, treasurer Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM, past president John Moore - KK5NU, corresponding secretary Irv Smith - KK5QQ, 2-year board member Robert Moore - KK5UO, and recording secretary Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ. Those not in attendance were vice president Glen Jenkins - WB4KTF, 1-year board member Darrel Kirk - KC5JAR and 3-year board member Mike Hardwick -N5VCX. Visiting were John Whiteman K5LKJ and Paul Gray - N0JAA.

Recording secretary report by Doug. Motion made to approve the May BOD minutes with corrections made by Robert and seconded by John. Approved unanimously.

Corresponding secretary by Irv reports 179 members with over 100 in ARRL.

Treasurer report by Cameron. Copy of treasurer's report is available for members from the treasurer. Robert made a motion to accept the treasurers report seconded by Doug. Approved unanimously.

Glen was not present for the vice president report. July meeting will discuss mobile radio installations.

President report by Larry. No presidential matters were brought up. Looking for someone to coordinate the ice cream social for the August general meeting.

Old business: Field Day coordinator John Whitehead discussed Field day preparation. Things are coming along for the June 24-25th event. Larry has the antennas and Glen has the filters. Robert said that five students have finished the technician class on Wednesday nights with 2 already passing the technician written test. John discussed the VE sessions and needing more volunteers to show up at the (continued on page 4)

PUBLIC SERVICE UPDATE

Well it's that time of the year again to come out and see who will volunteer for public service events. There are several events scheduled over the next six months and quite a few hams are needed. Remember if you can set aside a Saturday or Sunday and work an event, this will help keep the community aware of amateur radio and what we are available for. There are many organizations that would like to have us provide communications for them, but I have turned several of them down due to the amount of events each year. I know that most of the events are bike rides and runs but the organization have been made aware of the service we provide and have asked about a group of operators for the event.

If you would like to volunteer to work or chair an event please let me know and I will be glad to get you the information on the event. If you are just interested and have never worked an event and would like more information, please let me know.

Remember working the events puts our good side forward, provides the community a service and last but not least puts your radio and your license to a very good use.

HOUSTON AREA 2000 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

<i>EVENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>HAMS NEEDED</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
Katy Flatland Bike Ride - Katy	July 23, 2000	35	Looking for a ham coordinator
Alamo Challenge Bike Ride	October 14&15, 2000	65	Mike Hardwick 713-771-4625
Houston to San Antonio			
20K Warm-up Run - Houston	October 22, 2000	25	Looking for a ham coordinator
Wings Over Houston Air Show	October 21&22, 2000	60	Bill Terrell
25K Warm-up Run - Houston	November 12, 2000	27	Allen Mattis
Novemberfest Bike Ride - Sealy	November 4, 2000	25	KARS
30K Warm-up Run - Houston	December 2, 2000	25	Looking for a ham coordinator
Houston Marathon - Houston	January 14, 2001	130	Carl Hacker

August Ice Cream Social Something Different

The August BVARC ice cream social will have a little twist on it this year. There meeting will start at 7:00pm to allow time for our guest speaker Loyld Perry, from the Houston FCC office, to discuss enforcement problems and issues in the amateur community. This will take up the about first 25 mintues. At 7:30 we will start with the ice cream social which this year will be a real social event. We will be inviting the Houston amateur community to our event. This will be truly a new experience for Houston hams as well as BVARC. We will be notifying as many of the Houston area clubs and organizations to our social to really socialize. We hope to notify all the groups from the Alvin area to the Tomball bunch. We hope this meeting will foster new contacts and help the amateur community as a whole. If any one is interested in helping on this adventure, please let me know and I will be glad to get you involved. Mark your calender for a unique ice cream social.

Mike Hardwick
N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

VE sessions. (ARRL has a 6 to 8 week backlog of VE sessions to process before licenses are issued by the FCC.

New business: Robert made the motion seconded by Doug for the board to order 20 Field Day pins for \$5 each to be given to Field Day participants. Robert reported that he and Ross Lawler have the Presbyterian church setup for Tuesday nights for September and October class for General and Extra class license. The code classes are scheduled at the Red Cross about the same time. The board is looking for candidates for officers for 2001.

Motion was made to adjourn by John and seconded by Irv. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.
Respectfully submitted by recording Secretary Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ



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SCANNER JACK'S Corner
by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Here are the severe weather frequencies to monitor.
 2m 146.840 hou. e.o.c.
 2m 145.490 ft. bend e.o.c.
 20m 14.325 hurricane net.
 162.400 n.w.s. hou.
 162.550 n.w.s. gal.
 155.460 and 159.210 d.p.s. hou.
 155.445 and 155.535 d.p.s. pierce

For trunk tracker scanners id's
 32944 hou. e.o.c.
 4016 and 43152 ft. bend co. e.o.c.
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RESULTS OF THE June 13th AMATEUR EXAMS
by John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2000 at Strake Jesuit HS here in Houston.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

- Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
- Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- Lannie Poteet, KB5VTB

A total of 11 examination elements were administered during the evening to 9 applicants. There were five (5) applicants for upgrade under the new rules and regulations. By examination, three (3) unlicensed candidates received their new Technician license; one (1) unlicensed candidate received his new Technician w/HF license; one (1) upgrade to General and four (4) upgrades to Extra with a total of 11 examination elements passed. In addition, there were three (3) upgrades to General and three (3) upgrades to Extra under the new rules now in effect. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%

Albert A. Alexy, Jr.	WB5BGQ	Extra
Edward E. Barger	N9WNP	General
Janet R. Collins	K0DVN	General
Joseph W. Gaddus	--	Technician
Darrell D. Garrison	KC5AW	Extra
Lee K. Gleeson	N5ZMR	General
Auzie L. Grogan, Jr.	KB5TFP	Extra
Arthur C. Hickman	K5OWC	Extra
Jack W. Lester, Jr.	--	Technician
Dan G. Luce		Technician
Kenneth L. Menelandes	K5KEV	General
Paul Savage	KA5MXN	Extra
Charles R. Sirman, Jr.	K5CFE	Extra
Dott E. Smith, III	--	Technician w/HF
Albert D. White, Jr.	W5AOV	Extra

Many thanks to all the Team Members who contributed their time and efforts.

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

72/73 de John Moore, KK5NU
eMail: jwm@hal-pc.org

Monday night PSN check-ins (KC5VYZ net control)

5/1 - 22 Doug
5/8 - 32 Doug
5/15 - 22 Doug
5/22 - 20 Larry
5/29 - 13 Mahana
6/5 - 16 Doug
6/12 - 22 Doug



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B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for May 2000 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.

5/3/00--N5CPA, K5CEK/AG, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WB5SRN, K5HFY/AG, NM5K, W5GHK, N5VXU. (9)

5/10/00--N5CPA, K5CEK/AG, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK, K5LJ, KB5DNT, K5HFY/AG, KD5FWD, KI5SC, W1MGC, WA5VRB, KB5LFU/AE. (13)

5/17/00--N5CPA, K5CEK/AG, K5HFY, W5GHK, K5LJ,

WB5SRN, W5EFB, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KK5SC, N5VXU. (11)

5/24/00--N5CPA, K5CEK/AG, NM5K, K5HFY, W5GHK, WB5IIB, KB5DNT, KC5SQD, KD5FWD, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, KK5SC, KI5SC, W1MGC. (15)

5/31/00--N5CPA, WB5SRN, N5VXU, K5CEK/AG, WA5VRB, W5GHK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5HFY, NM5K, KM5TO. (11)



Alex-WA5UHT

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Notice:

The Newsletter mailing labels now have the class of license on them. Please check to see if yours is correct and, if not, notify Irv, KK5QQ.

MERA UPDATE from the MERA Board of Directors

Over the past few months there have been several problems with the 145.470 and 444.550 repeaters and several comments have been made that there has been no work done to repair them. MERA has been working very hard on keeping the machines up and operating but we would like everyone to know that it does take time. MERA will be sending out updates on the condition and status of both repeaters to let everyone know in BVARC know what is happening with the system.

Currently there are five items being worked on.

1. The **“crackling noise”** is being traced down. It has been looked at from both the audio and RF areas and we are trying to narrow it down. There are several other radio systems on the roof at the hospital, most with very poor installations. The high power paging system (300 watts continuous) is only 30 feet from the MERA repeaters (for those who need to ask, yes we do have a filter for that frequency) and it can cause the noise we are hearing. There may be problem with the duplexers and we are checking on having them rebuilt but at a cost of over

\$400.00, it will take a little time.

2. **Repeater sensitivity** has been measured several times and it is within spec (.25 Mv). There have been several things in the Houston area that may have affected the coverage area. Several large buildings have been built over the years causing a blockage in a particular direction. Smaller buildings and apartment complexes have been built causing an increase in ground clutter. Both of these can cause a attenuation of the signal getting to the repeater. The reason that I mention this is that the repeater still seems to work extremely well from northwest to southwest with about a 20 mile range. There was a pre-amp on the 2-meter repeater but it has since gone south and we have not replaced it. When it was installed it was the main culprit on the paging station getting into the repeater, even with the filter (in checking the antenna VSWR, I noticed a quarter watt of energy coming down the antenna line from the antenna, apparently from the paging station! This is with our repeater in receive. In fact I can just have the watt-meter hooked up to the antenna only and the reading will be the same!).

3. **Repeater Output** is about 25 watts out of the radio. With the losses in the duplexer and connections, there is about 18 watts to the antenna. The radio is a 75 watt Motorola Micor and with the power output set at 1/3, this will allow the finals to last a very long time. To increase the operating range (and everyone should know this) we would need to increase the output at least to 75 watts to make any major difference. Currently the receive and transmit range are fairly close.

4. **The repeater was going to sleep**, even during the middle of a transmission. This turned out to be a bad tone board that affected the repeater, even with the tone turned off. The board has been replaced and that problem has gone away.

5. Everyone needs to remember that the **anti-103.5 filter** is in place and is operating. This is to allow all tones to bring up the repeater, when it is open, except for the 103.5 tone. This is to help stop some of the interference coming from the Orange repeater. They operate with a 103.5 tone and several of their operators have their antennas on a 50 or 60 tower. The 103.5 filter does operate at all times.

This is just the first of the updates on the MERA repeaters. We will try and have an update every month to let everyone know the status and happenings at MERA.

MERA Board of Directors

QRP Club Invitation

The Houston QRP Club will meet this Saturday morning between 9 and 11 at Union Planters Bank on Woodway. Bring your stories of Dayton, Dallas, Belton, ETC. Bring your show-n-tell. There will be a main program by friend and NARS type, George Carlin who will explain PSK 31. This is a true QRP Mode.

Come and bring a Kilowatt friend.
George F. Pierce III
W5GFP

Email: pierce@rice.edu

72/73 de John Moore, KK5NU

eMail: jwm@hal-pc.org

About the Newsletter de K5CAM.

Members and friends are invited (**encouraged!**) to submit articles to the Newsletter. Most articles which are submitted will be published subject to space availability and, perhaps, timeliness. The Newsletter is usually 6 pages in length, but as you see from this issue, it might be longer. We prefer to have an even number of pages.

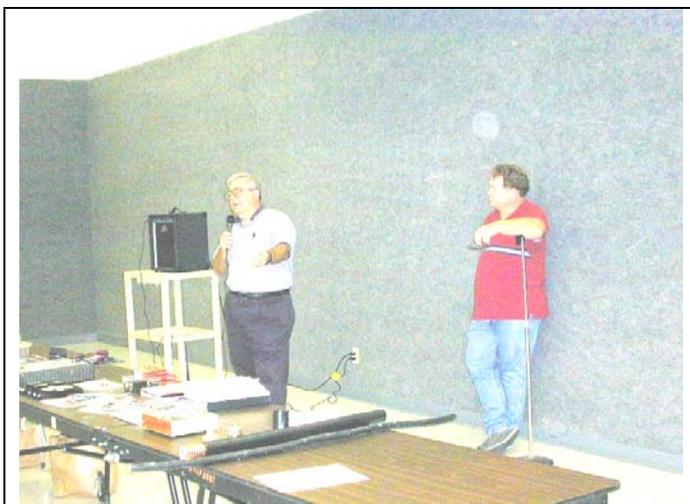
When preparing an article for submission, the preferred format is Windows Office 97 Word. However, e-mail text is fine.

When spacing text to create indents or columns, please **do not use spaces** (I will have to remove them since your spaces and my spaces are probably not the same). Use tabs for spacing **even if it does not appear to line up in your document**. Also, **please do not use two tabs together**, unless you are indicating two columns, one being blank. (I use Word to "place" the tabs.)

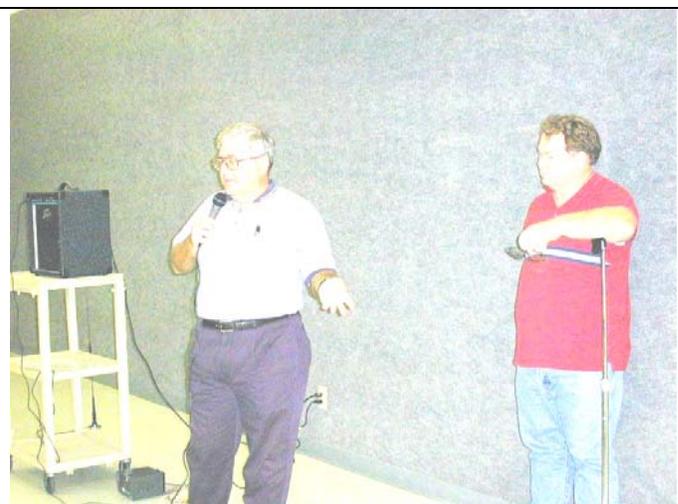
Please send articles in the form of a computer file. I don't do typing very well.

Also, you are encouraged to send pictures. I can scan them, but if you already have them in .jpg form, I would appreciate receiving them.

Thanks!!!!



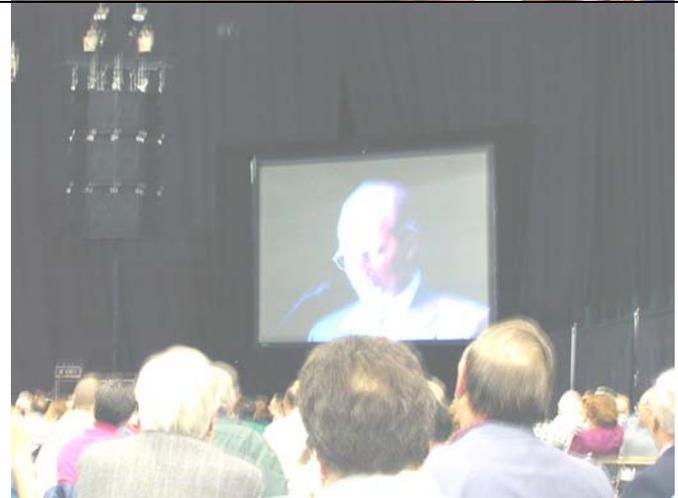
Randy, AK5G, and Mike, N5VCX
talk about repeaters



June B-VARC meeting



Some scenes from Dayton



Hollingsworth speaking at the banquet

