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B-VARC BULLETIN

Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Fort Bend County, Texas

Vol. 5, No. 2 February 1982

Editor -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, 7401 Heilig, Houston TX 77074
Production -- Ron Bolyard KA5GYG Dick Hagerman WB5SRN
Richard Shankle N5KV

CALENDAR

- Next B-VARC -- Regular membership meeting - Feb. 11, 1982
- Regular Board of Directors meeting - Feb. 18, 1982
- Hidden transmitter hunt - To be announced

- Nets -- B-VARC 2 M. - Mondays, 9 PM, 147.60/00 MHz
- B-VARC 10 M. - Wednesdays, 8 PM, 148.700 MHz
- Ft. Bend County RACES - Tuesdays, 9 PM, 146.16/76 MHz
- West Houston RACES - Sundays 8 PM, 146.07/67 MHz

- Super Saturday Sidewalk Sale -- Second Saturday each month, 7800 Bissonnet

- Conventions -- ARRL West Gulf Division - Oct. 1-3, 1982 in Houston
- 1983 ARRL National - Oct. 6-8, 1983 in Houston

OUR PRESIDENT SAYS

Greetings to all B-VARC members. It is with great pleasure that I write this, my first monthly column in the B-VARC BULLETIN!

We are off to what is going to be an outstanding year for the Club. Committees have been formed, activities planned, and the only missing element is participation by each and every member.

This year should be a banner one for V-VARC, and you are going to see

Our President Says(Cont.)

some things happen that have never happened before in this organization. We have had suggestions from inside sources, outside sources, and suggestions of all types of means for getting things done.

If you are interested in public service, that opportunity is here. If you are interested in public activities, that opportunity also is here. If you are interested in repeaters, that activity will soon be available. In order for us to succeed in this year each of us must depend on each other. Then we will have the spirit to carry out whatever plans we make.

Here's looking forward to all of us enjoying the best year ever for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club!

COMMITTEES FOR 1982

At the January general membership meeting, Club President Dick Bigelow WD5CTQ reported that a number of standing committees had been appointed for 1982. Following is a list of these committees, together with their chairmen and their phone numbers.

If you have not already been asked to serve on a committee, or if you'd like to serve on one or more, call the chairmen and volunteer. And if a chairman asks you to help on a committee, please take part in the operation of the Club by accepting his invitation, and do your part in making 1982 a banner year!

The scope of activities of each committee, as shown below, is not necessarily all-inclusive or exclusive, according to President Dick. Each committee is autonomous and generally will function without specific direction from the president or the Board of Directors.

The committees and their chairmen are:

HCSPITALITY -- Hal Fuglaar N5BXP, fone 342-4610

Pre-meeting fellowship -- new member orientation -- name badges.

YL/XYL ACTIVITIES -- Joanne Morpew K5HOY, fone 664-1726

Activities for both licensed ladies and non-license holders.

PROGRAMS/SPECIAL EVENTS -- Ron Bolyard KA5GYG, fone 342-1365

Monthly meeting programs -- Coordination of special projects, such as shopping mall demonstrations, convention exhibits, etc.

NET OPERATIONS -- Steve Gottlieb WA5QEN, fone 437-3586

Coordinating all net activities of the Club, including liaison with other 2-meter nets.

Committees for 1982 (Cont.)

DXing/CONTESTS -- Henry Freedenberg N5HF, fone 494-7242

Coordinating activities with respect to DX and contests of all kinds --
Field Day -- DX/CONTEST column in BULLETIN.

AWARDS -- Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH, fone 438-2088

Certificates -- Order of the Key -- Awards and symbols of recognition
by the Club -- Provision for hats, caps, jackets, badges, shirts, etc.

PUBLICITY -- Mike Armatta N5APC, fone 495-1170

Publicity on Club activities, both before and after the fact.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS -- Chairman appointment pending

Planning for, training in, and coordination of Club activities in
emergency conditions communications.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Program Committee Chairman Ron Bolyard KA5GYG announces that the featured speaker of the evening will be Steve Ray KA5KRI. Steve will discuss some aspects of 2-meter antenna construction. It promises to be an interesting and informative program because Steve has done some design and construction of very high performance 5/8 wavelength 2-meter whips.

Also, Treasurer Harold Parker KC5HZ reminds us that the February meeting is the last one at which 1982 dues can be paid for inclusion on the 1982 Roster.

AND -----

Hospitality Committee Chairman Hal Fuglaar N5BXP tells us that from 7 PM until the meeting is called to order at 7:30 PM, there'll be coffee and some kind of goodies for those who'd like to come a little early and do a little visiting. Sounds like a great addition to our monthly programs!

NEW NOVICE CLASS ON THE WAY

Wade Eilers WN5TEN reports that his 1982 Novice class is off to a fine start, but that there aren't as many enrolled as last year. This year's group, however, gives promise of being one of his very best.

New Novice Class on the Way (Cont.)

Something new this year is a sponsor program whereby each student has a Club member for a sponsor, to whom he can go for help, encouragement, and solace(!) in his studies of Morse code, radio theory, FCC rules, operating practice, etc..

In addition, each student has been put on the BULLETIN mailing list for three months to introduce him to ham radio club activity.

The class is composed of the following students, with his sponsor:

Martin Burniston	Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
Jerry Curtis	Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN
Gary Dow	Joe Dow WB5WHT
Greg Grimes	Ron Bolyard KA5GYG
Daniel Tse	Paul Burger N5DXT

THE AMATEURS

Edgar A. Guest

There's something about them you've got to admire,
They work for the love of the task, not for hire.

Everyone of them's blessed with the heart of a boy!
What's a job to the drudge unto them is a joy.

While we to our regular schedules are keeping,
The amateurs do without eating or sleeping.

They worry their wives - since so short is a day,
They don't get to bed when they should but they stay,

Sending calls on the air; catching calls from afar,
And I think as I hear them how patient they are!

How much better we'd work here, if only we knew it,
In that amateur spirit of wanting to do it!

Professionals weary sometimes and they shirk,
Since they're paid to perform, they look on it as work!

They begin with reluctance; they're glad when it's done,
And they measure in money whatever they do.

But the amateur never begrudges a minute,
He goes to the job for the joy that is in it.

So here's to the amateurs; brave-hearted throng,
Though short be their waves, may their lives all be long.

Make up for the nights when they go without sleep,
And may we, in their spirit and deep understanding
Of work and its joy, keep our amateur standing!

Ed Note - Our thanks to Harold Parker KC5HZ who submitted the foregoing poem by Edgar A. Guest, as a reprint from DOTS and DASHES, a publication of Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

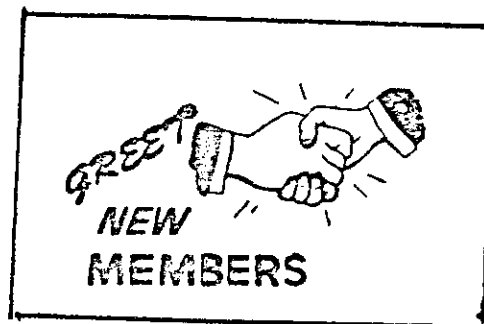
Y'all welcome the following new members of B-VARC. You can recognize them by the red and blue borders on their name badges. Introduce yourself and make 'em glad they've joined us!

Leonard Spolyar N5APY
375 Electra
Houston TX 77024

Mike Blair N5MB
5011 Glenmeadow
Houston TX 77096

Steve Ray KA5KRI
319 Pine
Lake Jackson TX 77566

Jerry Curtis (call pending)
7400 Bissonnet, Unit 1112
Houston TX 77074



And congrats to Louis House on his upgrade to Advanced. His new call: KD5GM.

1982 DUES ARE DUE!

Your 1982 dues are due and the February membership meeting will be your last chance to pay them at a meeting and be on the 1982 Roster. If you haven't yet renewed, will not be able to attend the February meeting, please mail your check for the \$5.00 dues to Harold Parker KC5HZ right now. We plan on going to press with the new Roster immediately after that meeting in order to mail it out to 1982 members shortly after March 1.

The March 1 Roster will be the new B-VARC BULLETIN mailing list. And if you're not on it, you'll miss the concluding installment of "The Telegraph".

THE TELEGRAPH - Part 2 of 3

Joe Rice W4RHZ

THE ELECTRO MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH

Sam Morse traveled extensively in Europe as an artist and also taught art in New York. On one of his voyages in a sailing ship he struck up a conversation with another passenger about electricity. At that time it was all new and it evoked romantic visions of an entirely new world for man.

--Continued on page 6

THE TELEGRAPH -- The Electro-Magnetic Telegraph (Cont.)

Wire had not been invented yet, but men of vision could imagine that electricity could be sent for miles if they only knew how. The Greeks knew about static electricity as long ago as 600 B.C. They sent charges of electricity along a rope which had been dunked in water.

It was found later by men like Joseph Henry and Michael Faraday that current going through a small, round strip of metal affected the needle of a compass. It didn't take long before they reasoned that if a coil of wire was wound on a spool, they could actually create a magnet. Until that time, man had to get rocks which were called LOADSTONES for his magnets.

Morse thought that if he could devise a code for each letter, numeral, and punctuation mark, he could make a magnet duplicate what he sent. The code was laboriously worked out and a piece of iron, called an armature was placed above the pole pieces of the magnet in such a way that it would pull in when current was run through the coil. He knew he could signal far more distant than anyone ever had done before.

Morse was not a mechanic and he certainly did not know anything about electricity. He labored and struggled almost 12 years with his idea until he met a man by the name of Alfred Vail. Vail was a mechanic and knew something about electricity. With the mind of Morse and the hand of Vail, a crude electro-magnet was formed.

Morse obtained a patent on June 20, 1840. It was called TELEGRAPH SIGNS. This system of type he called PORT RULE. His system was fully automated. He had metal cast with signs to represent letters of the alphabet. They were set up much like a printer sets type to form the words. This worked for sending words; and for receiving he had a system of gears and clock-work which pulled a thin strip of paper over rollers and a pencil actuated by his electro-magnet made marks on the paper. An "operator" read these marks and wrote down the appropriate letters for the message.

The days of the pony express, carrier pigeon, and semaphore were numbered. The colorful pony express required 10½ days to carry a message from St. Joseph, Missouri to San Francisco. The stage coach required 44 hours to bring news from New York to Washington. The electro-magnet telegraph transmitted signals almost instantaneously. At last the chains which slowed development of communications to a snail's pace were broken, permitting the eventual invention and development of radio and television.

On May 24, 1844 Samuel Morse sent the first message ever sent over wire, using a code. The message was sent from the Supreme Court to a railroad depot in Baltimore. That first message was chosen by Annie Ellsworth, a daughter of a patent examiner, from the Book of Number 23:23, and this message will live forever in the history of mankind: "WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?"

In 1843, Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the magnetic telegraph, received permission from Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to lay, or string, four telegraph wires along their right-of-way from Baltimore to Washington. The terminals were in the Pratt Street depot in Baltimore and in the Supreme Court chambers in Washington, D.C. Then Morse had his friend Annie Ellsworth indite the first message. It was she who first brought word to Morse that Congress had voted him a grant of \$30,000 so that he might demonstrate the practicality of his invention. A photo of the first message, along with the signature of Samuel Morse, resides in the Library of Congress.

THE TELEGRAPH -- The Electro-Magnetic Telegraph (Cont.)

Morse used up over \$20,000 of the grant in digging a ditch to place the wires in. This proved unsatisfactory, as water seeped in and shorted out the wires. He hurriedly strung wires on trees and poles for a distance of forty miles and got his system working.

* * * * *

The concluding Part 3 of this bit of history, entitled "WIRELESS", will appear in the March 1982 issue of the B-VARC BULLETIN. Don't miss it! -- ED.

NCS SCHEDULES FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH

<u>2 Meters</u> --	2/1 WA5OEN	2/8 WD5DRB	2/15 N5DWP	2/22 N5HF	3/1 WA5OEN
	3/8 WD5DRB	3/15 N5DWP	3/22 N5HF	3/28 WA5OEN	
<u>10 Meters</u> -	2/3 WA5OEN	2/10 KA5GYG	2/17 N5CIQ	2/24 WA5ACF	3/3 WA5OEN
	3/10 KA5GYG	3/17 N5CIQ	3/24 WA5ACF	3/31 WA5OEN	

It has been decided to suspend the two 10-meter CW nets, partly because of lack of checkins and partly because of the unavailability of a staff of net control stations. It is believed, however, that a need for these CW nets still exists, and it is hoped they can be resumed in the not too far distant future.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Brenham Amateur Radio Club (BARC) will sponsor a special event station to commemorate the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836 at Washington on the Brazos. The station will operate at The Star of the Republic Museum at Washington on the Brazos, Texas on February 26, 27, and 28, 1982.

Operating hours will be from approximately mid-afternoon on February 26 to 4 PM on February 28. Operation will be in the General Class phone HF bands. No specific frequencies are planned--the station will operate + QRM, except for 2 hours on Saturday night, when it will check into the Central Gulf Coast Hurricane Net, 7 - 9 PM, and the Southwest Traffic Net, 9:30 - 10:30 PM, both on 3.935 MHz.

You will receive a commemorative QSL if you work the special event station WB5STR/5 during its operating hours, and send your QSL and a 4" X 9½" SASE to BARC--WB5STR/5, P. O. Box 44, Brenham TX 77833.

Special Event Station (Cont.)

Bob Hicks KA5BLB says that they need operators to sign up, equipment to be loaned, and in general, hams to help WARC to run this special event. If you'd like to participate, call him week days at 463-1167 from 10 AM to 4 PM for more information as to sleeping, camping, or RV parking arrangements.

It sounds like a mini-DXpedition right in our own back yard that would be a great deal of fun!

HOUSTON AREA TRAFFIC NET

Steve Ray KA5KRI

Starting February 1, 1982 the Traffic Jam Net will be replaced by the Houston Area Traffic Net (HATN). This new net will meet at 6:30 PM local time every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on the 147.60/00 MHz repeater. Monday night NCS will be Louis KD5GM, with Don WD5AAH as liaison station. Wednesday night it will be Steve KA5KRI as NCS and Al WA5RVT as liaison station. On Friday night Don WD5AAH will be NCS with Lindy AK5N as the liaison station.

Public service, such as traffic handling, is an important part of the amateur community. Quoting from the ARRL Public Service Communications Manual:

"Amateur radio exists because it qualifies as a service. Throughout our history, we amateurs have established a reputation for public service communications which is one of the items of greatest importance to our continued occupation of the frequencies . . . It is perhaps significant that Part 97 of the FCC's Rules and Regulations mentions, as the very first principle under "Basis and Purpose", the following: (A) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary and non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

I am sure you will find public service operations very enjoyable. We do need help! If you would like to fill in at times, or if you would like a regular assignment, contact me, the Net Manager at 319 Pine, Lake Jackson TX 77566, phone number 297-7494.

B - S - S MART

ED Note -- We'll run your advert for any ham-related item to buy, sell, or or swap. Send your copy to Ye Olde Editor.

* * * * *

FOR SALE (No trade) KENWOOD TR-9000. 2-Meter transceiver. FM, SSB, CW.

D. J. Morris N5CIQ
494-7892

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

If you join the ARRL or renew your membership through the Club, our treasury get \$2.00 free and clear. Every little bit helps. Call Harold Parker KC5HZ, Club Treasurer, for details.

(Advertisement)

MADISON ELECTRONICS SUPPLY

1508 McKinney Houston TX 77010 Fone 658-0268

H O T S P E C I A L S

KENWOOD TS-530 - Call * R-1000 - \$449. TR-7730 - \$289.

ICOM IC-2AT - \$249. IC-25A - \$309.

SWAN 103BX - \$1,095. * Call for quote.

Kenwood service manuals and all line accessories available.

ADDRESS CHANGED?

If you received this issue of the BULLETIN at an address other than the one on the original mailing label, please let us know so we can keep our file of mailing addresses correct and current.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

For every minute you are angry,
you lose 60 seconds of happiness.

--Anon.

B-VARC BULLETIN
7401 Heilig
Houston TX 77074

FIRST CLASS MAIL

