



the B-VARC BULLETIN



of
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Ft. Bend and Harris Counties, Texas

Vol. 6, No. 1

January 1983

Editor -- Stu Lamkin WB5IGG, 7401 Heilig, Houston TX 77074

Production -- Vic La Rocca K5KNH

CALENDAR

- Nest B-VARC -- Annual Banquet - Jan. 13, 1983
- Board of Directors Meeting - Jan. 13, 1983
- Nets -- B-VARC 2M - Public service, Mondays, 9PM, 147.60/00 MHz
- Ft. Bend County ARES, Wednesdays, 9PM, 147.60/00 MHz
- B-VARC 10M - Ragchew, Wednesdays, 8:30PM, 28.700 MHz
- West Houston RACES - Sundays, 8PM, 146.07/67 MHz
- Ft. Bend County RACES - Tuesdays, 9PM, 146.16/76 MHz
- Hella Haws Fone Patches for Sick Kids - Wednesdays, 7:30PM, 3.955 MHz
- Conventions -- ARRL National - Oct. 6-8, 1983 in Houston

JANUARY BANQUET

Beginning in 1983, the January regular membership/^{meeting}of the Club will be a seated banquet. The only items of business will be the installation of officers and the presentation of any awards that might be appropriate.

The 1983 event will be held at the Swinging Door Restaurant on FM 359 about 3½ miles west of US 90-A out from Richmond on Jan. 13. Tickets must be obtained prior to Jan. from Ray and Joanne Morpew. Call them at 664-1726 for information about tickets.

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1.

AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

Thanks are due Tom Casey WA5ACF for a most interesting and informative discussion of power supplies. We're sure all of us learned a lot about the subject and noted a number of items to look for when considering the purchase of a commercially-built unit. And for those of us with the capability (which does not include Ye Olde Editor!) he had several recommendations for modifications of existing units to make sure that we don't some day have a smoked-out rig resulting from a sudden malfunction in the power supply, throwing excess volts or amps into the rig.

Thanks, Tom, for a job well done ----

Y'all throw a "howdy" to the following who joined B-VARC at our December meeting, thereby being our first new 1983 members:

Harold and Marilyn Murdock, 1717 George St.
Rosenberg TX 77471; home fone 342-7561;
work fones: Harold 723-1050, Marilyn 654-0816;
both have calls pending and neither is a member of ARRL yet.

Doug Holley N5EUC, Rte. 2, Box 149-B, Rosenberg
TX 77471; home fone 342-8028; work 679-1284;
Tech Class; not a member of ARRL yet.

Walt Holmes WD5GAZ, Rte. 1, Box 419, Richmond TX 77469; General Class;
not a member of ARRL yet.



ROSTER CHANGES

1. Jerry Curtis (call pending) - change apt. no. to 1414-1.
2. Larry Levy WD5DRB - change address to P.O.Box 1262, Missouri City TX 77459; delete home fone; new work fone 521-1477.
3. Richard Shankle N5KV - change address and home fone to 203 Arrowwood, Lake Jackson TX 77566; fone 1-297-8656; delete work fone.

1983 DUES ARE DUE!

That time is here again. If you didn't pay yours at the December meeting and don't attend the banquet on January 13 or the regular membership meeting on February 10, you should send your payment to Club Treasurer Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH, 14614 Echochase Lane, Missouri City TX 77489 as soon as possible.

1983 Dues (Cont.)

The 1983 dues schedule is: \$8.00 if only one ham in family joins the Club. If there are more than one licensed ham in the family, \$8.00 for one of them and \$2.00 for each addition ticket holder who wants to be a Club member.

Under the By-Laws, if a membership is not renewed by the close of the February general membership meeting, that membership is automatically terminated.

LEST YE FORGET --- if you renew your ARRL membership, or join the League, through the Club, the Club gets \$2.00 for its treasury. Call Club Treasurer Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH at 438-2088 for details.

And if you're over 64 or under 18, you yourself save \$5.00!.

NCS SCHEDULES FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

2M Pub. -	1/3 WA5OEN	1/10 WD5DRB	1/17 WA5ACF	1/24 KC5HZ	1/31 WA5OEN
<u>Serv.</u>	2/2 WD5DRB	2/9 WA5ACF	2/16 KC5HZ	2/23 WA5OEN	
10M Rag -	1/5 KA5GYG	1/12 WB5IGG	1/19 K5EST	1/26 N5HF	
<u>--- chew</u>	2/4 KA5GYG	2/11 WB5IGG	2/18 K5EST	2.25 N5HF	

- Notes to NCSs: 1. Mark your calendars now for your assigned dates. If you can't meet your date, arrange to exchange with another NCS.
2. At the first evidence of malfunction of the 60/00 machine, immediately move the net to the backup repeater.

MADISON ELECTRONICS SUPPLY

1508 McKinney Houston TX 77010 Fone 658-0268

TO ALL HAMS --

We carry in stock or can order for you any item you want from any major manufacturer of ham gear, including all line accessories and Kenwood service manuals.

Call me, identify yourself and wants, and I'll quote our HOT SPECIAL prices available to you.

73, Don Busick K5AAD

Code in the Head

By John F. Davidson, KA0NPN
(ex VE5GL, VE7GL)

Learning the code is no problem. The problem is how you learn it! Most old-timers learned it the wrong way, and even today the teaching methods might be improved. Let me offer my credentials for teaching code. First of all, I learned it in the wrong way, of course, in the mid 30's. I picked up the alphabet and numerals plus normal ham punctuation and then hit a plateau at about 8 wpm. I was told that this was normal, and I could get over this with continued practice. Eventually, I did, and passed the 10 wpm code test in Canada and was assigned the call VE5GL. I operated for a couple of years, until September 1939, when we were closed down due to World War II.

Shortly thereafter, I was teaching physics in an RCAF school in Vancouver, when the brass discovered that I held an amateur license. I was immediately assigned the job of teaching code to the incoming airmen, several of whom had been told that they couldn't learn code! I inadvertently hit upon a teaching system that worked! I didn't know why at the time, but I do now after forty years of teaching at all levels from kindergarten through Ph.D. Our record of teaching success is shown by some thousands of airmen who took the final exam, and every one of them scored 100%. We never did have a single error in copying — on the final!

In the introduction to the class on our first meeting, I asked the men to write down the letters as I dictated them. Then I simply spelled out "M-O-R-S-E C-O-D-E" in plain language. When I found that nobody had made errors, I promised them that they would pass the code test. All we were going to do was change the name of the letters. Instead of "M," that letter was going to be "Dadah," etc. At no time did we allow, or even admit, the existence of dots or dashes. To prevent the students from breaking down the letters into their component parts, the letters were sent at approximately 25 wpm, but for copying practice, they were spaced — well spaced in terms of time, poorly spaced in terms of good code.

So-called "recognition runs" were made from time-to-time, where the student was not expected to copy, but just listen for "oddball" letters. For example, during the first half-hour session, the class was taught the dit sequence from E to 5. After a half dozen runs, with the five characters well spaced, a 25 wpm run of the letter S was presented with the occasional I or H inserted. The students' job was to pick out the "oddballs" in the run, both letter and the number. Five half-hour sessions were used to teach the characters needed.

In subsequent lessons, the drills always contained some "oddball" speed passages, and the students liked them very much. After the alphabet had been learned, every session ended with an exam. We used the official examination form, and conducted the test just as the final would be given. They scored their own tests, and deducted 5 points for each error. Scores typically ranged from minus 125 down to minus 350 or so. They kept a graph of their progress, and we had marvelous celebrations when students got up to zero!

Speed was picked up, of course, by merely shortening the spaces between letters, and this was quite insidious. So much so, that I sneakily sped up their daily exams and other speed tests. I'd tell them, "Okay, let's try 6 wpm." Then, I'd send the passage at 7½ or 8. We had them copying 12 and 13 wpm while they believed it was 8! They were supposed to leave us at 8 wpm, but all were capable of 15, and most were up to 20 in 30 hours of instruction time. By the way, we started the program with one hour every second day, and changed to a half hour each day for five days a week. That was the program, and now after many years, I know why it was successful.

We proceeded directly from sound to letter. No intermediate interpretation was permitted. The fast letter speed forced the beginner to go from sound to letter. The code was sent too fast for a beginner to break the letter down into its components. Since it was a training program that did not require thinking or analysis, short sessions at frequent intervals were preferred over longer, less frequent sessions.

The plateau, which apparently still occurs with some students who are learning the code, is the result of interpreting the sound as something other than the letter itself. For example, "Dididadit" is two dots, a dash, and a dot, and that is an F. Counting the elements takes time, and one can do this at slow speeds, but it becomes very tough at 8 to 12 wpm. This is why the plateau occurs at this level, and the plateau persists until one learns, letter by letter, to go directly from sound to letter. If you first learned that "Dididadit" is merely another name for F, then the phone or speaker just spells out the words for you, and your limitation is your writing speed. As I said in the beginning, learning the code is no problem!

* * *

--ARRL Instructor's Newsletter, Dec. 1982

RECIPROCAL AMATEUR OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS....

The U.S. has arrangements to grant reciprocal operating permits to visiting foreign amateur operators. An alien amateur radio operator licensed by one of the following countries, who is also a citizen of that same country, may apply for a permit to operate his/her ham station in the United States. Unlicensed U.S. citizens can not apply for reciprocal permits even if they hold foreign amateur radio licenses.

Argentina	Ecuador	Israel	Peru
Australia	El Salvador	Italy	Philippines
Austria	Fijio	Jamaica	Portugal
The Bahamas	Finalnd	Jordan	St. Lucia
Barbados	France	Kiribati	Seychelles
Belgium	Fed. Rep. Germany	Kuwait	Siera Leone
Belize	Greece	Liberia	Solomon Islands
Bolivia	Grenada	Luxembourg	Spain
Botswana	Guatemala	Monaco	Suriname
Brazil	Guyana	Netherlands	Sweden
*Canada	Haiti	Netherlands Antilles	Switzerland
Chile	Honduras	New Zealand	Trinidad & Tobago
Colombia	Iceland	Nicaragua	Tuvalu
Costa Rica	India	Norway	United Kingdom
Denmark	Indonesia	Panama	Uruguay
Dominican Republic	Rep. of Ireland	Paraguay	Venezuela
			Yugoslavia

(*=Arrangements with Canada authorize operation by Canadian amateur radio operators in the United States without a reciprocal operating permit and vice versa.)

An alien amateur operator may apply for a permit by completing FCC Form 610-A, available from any FCC office or, in some cases, from United States missions abroad. The permit is valid for one year or until the date of expiration on the appliant's license, whichever comes first. Reciprocal amateur operator privileges are those authorized by the operator's own country, but not to exceed those of the FCC Amateur Extra Class operator license. American hams who wish to apply for operating privileges in foreign countries should write to the radio licensing authority in the government of the country to be visited. The regulations of that country apply.

(Edited from FCC Public Notice #893 dated: November 19, 1982.)

NEW THIRD PARTY COUNTRY ADDED TO AMATEUR SERVICE LIST

The United States has arrangements for third party communications and for reciprocal operating privileges in the Amateur Radio Service with many countries. Recently, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was added to the third party list. Third party amateur communications is defined as messages and communications exchanged between ham operators on behalf of other individuals.

International third-party amateur radio communications are limited to non-business communications that you would not normally use commercial (public) telecommunications for. While the FCC recently eliminated the requirement that you identify the station with which you are in contact, this does not apply when engaging in international third party traffic. You are required to identify all foreign amateur stations by call sign at the end of the communication when passing third party traffic of any kind. All traffic must be in plain readily understood language.

New Third Party (Cont.)

THIRD PARTY COMMUNICATION ARRANGEMENTS EXIST WITH....

Antigua & Barbuda	Costa Rica	Guyana	Nicaragua
Argentina	Cuba	Haita	Panama
Australia	Dominican Republic	Honduras	Paraguay
Bolivia	Ecuador	Israel	Peru
Brazil	El Salvador	Jamaica	St. Lucia
Canada	The Gambia	Jordan	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Chile	Ghana	Liberia	Uruguay
Columbia	Guatemala	Mexico	Venezuela

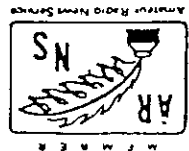
(Also with ITU station: 4U1ITU, Geneva Switzerland)

Ed Note - Preceding two articles from W5YI Report, Dec. 15, 1982.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There's nothing either good or bad
but thinking makes it so.

--Shakespeare

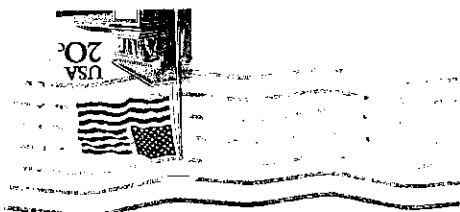


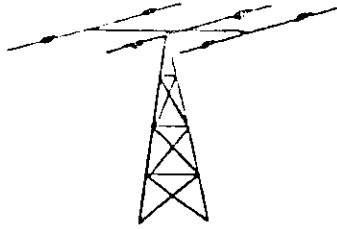
NSCPA
WILSON, SAM F.
5931 FONTENELLE
HOUSTON TX 77035

FIRST CLASS MAIL



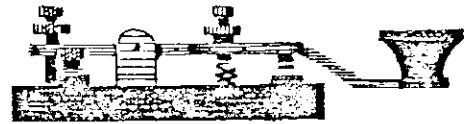
E-VARC BULLETIN
7401 Helms
Houston TX 77074





AMATEUR RADIO NOVICE CLASS

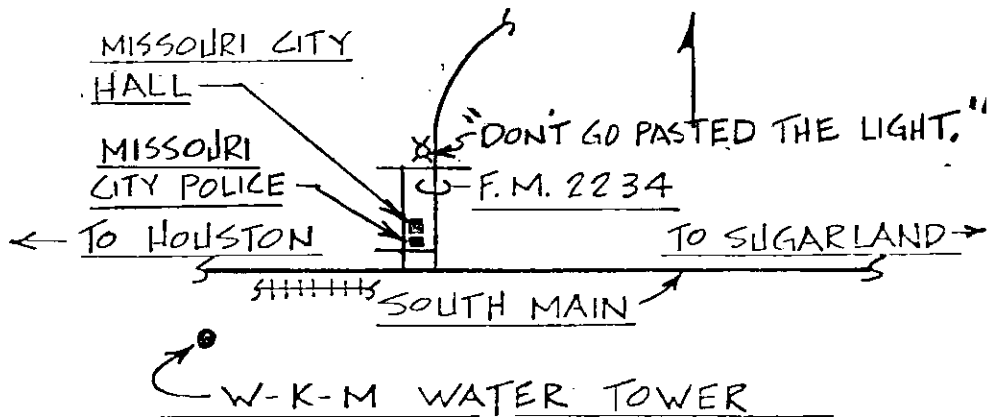
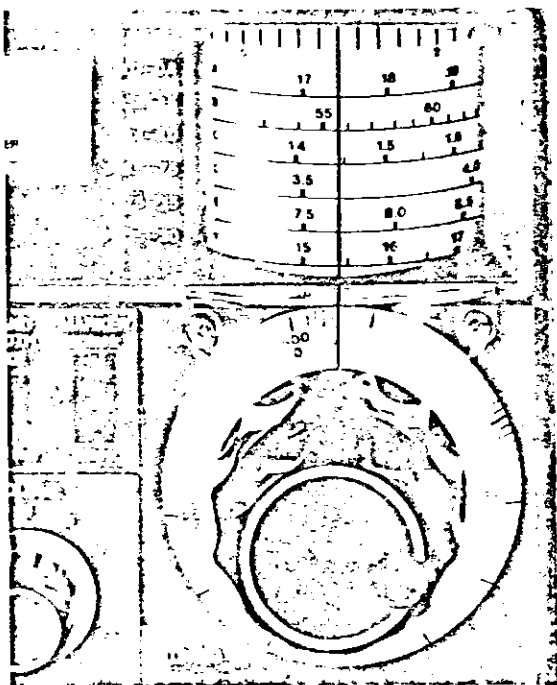
"WANT TO GET A HAM RADIO"
LICENSE?



THE BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE STARTING A NOVICE CLASS BEGINNING FRIDAY JAN. 8, 1982 7:30 PM @ MISSOURI CITY HALL.

THE CLASS WILL LAST ABOUT 6 TO 8 WEEKS FOR APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS EACH FRIDAY NIGHT. THE CLASS WILL CONSIST OF LEARNING THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE @ 5 W.P.M.; F.C.C. REGULATIONS; BASIC ELECTRICITY AND BASIC RADIO ELECTRONICS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
WADE @ 499 4230
SYD @ 499 4385
SOUTH!



RAG CHEW

10 METER "BVARC" ~~NET~~

WED. NIGHTS 8 PM

28.735 MHZ