

B-VARC

BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Fort Bend and Harris Counties, Texas

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AN
AFFILIATED
CLUB

PUBLICATION DEADLINE:
THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Volume 7, No. 2

February, 1984

About the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club

First organized in 1977, the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club has been a gathering place for local Ham Radio Operators in Southwest Harris County, Fort Bend County and surrounding communities. Using various activities, the club has something to offer ham operators no matter what their persuasion. For prospective new amateurs, the club regularly schedules classes for those interested in obtaining their novice license. All persons; men, women and children are cordially invited to come to a meeting and see what we are all about. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Missouri City Police Station, 2 miles south of South Main on FM 2234.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

I wish to take this time to thank all of the members that supported BVARC in 1983 and that have shown a true interest with offering support in 1984. Your club needs the help of ALL members to be continually successful in improving our status in the local community and within the ARRL organization. At the time this is being composed, I believe that we will be receiving our certificate designation BVARC as a Special Service Club or SSC. With this distinction will come a commitment and cannot be attained nor maintained by just a few interested members. I therefore request that ALL members please contact the chairmen of the various committees that are available and OFFER suggestions and IDEAS so that we can proceed with our goals and objectives of making BVARC the best SSC in the Houston area, if not in the entire gulf coast.

I, as your President, am committed to perform to the best of my abilities to upgrade BVARC, BUT I need the help of all officers, co-chairmen, and MEMBERS to fulfill my personal goals. I know that OUR goals are compatible.

Tnx for the support in 1984!!

RON KA5GYG

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND - it's worth \$2.00 to the Club treasury if you join or renew your ARRL membership through the Club; and there's a bonus to you personally if you are over 64 or under 18. Call Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH, Club Treasurer, at 438-2088 for details.

VP-QSO

1984 is shaping up to be a great year for BVARC. The "Special Service club" application has been submitted to our Affiliated Club Coordinator and we will be looking forward to his review and comments.

All our committees have been appointed with enthusiastic chairmen and they will be trying to maintain the quality and momentum of our activities and programs. They will be encouraging the participation of the entire membership in all our activities, so please join with us whenever you can.

We started off the year with seventy-four members and based on our past experience, we are going to have a record year at BVARC. It is great to see so many of our new members involved in the working committees and to see the new faces at our Board meetings. I encourage everyone to pitch in and assist the new Officers and Committee Chairmen by offering your help and suggestions, as we will need lots of support to make this the best year for BVARC.

I hope that we can again attract a great many new members into our Club this year. We need to somehow tell everyone in the area that we are here and available to help them become an Amateur Radio Operator. I can certainly remember the "mystery" of how to get that Novice License when I first became interested in our hobby.

This is going to be a fun year for me and I will be looking forward to our Field Day activities, the picnic and all the other get-togethers that we will be having to give us all an opportunity to get to know each other better.

Please join with me in resolving to help make this the best year ever for BVARC.

73's Harold, ND5F

MINUTES OF THE MEMBERSHIP/BANQUET MEETING, JANUARY 12, 1984
submitted by Ken McAninch, KA5DKS, Secretary

No business was conducted during the January meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club which is the annual dinner and awards meeting held again this year at The Swinging Door Restaurant in Richmond. After a delicious dinner and fine fellowship, Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN, as one of his last official acts as President made the following presentation:

Order of the Key presented to Wade Eilers, WN5TEN, for outstanding service, dedication and superior performance to Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club 1983.

Officers for 1984 were introduced and appropriate remarks made by: Lloyd Phelps, WD5HEH, Treasurer, Ken McAninch, KA5DKS, Secretary, Harold Parker, ND5F, Vice-President and Ron Bolyard, KA5GYG, President. Directors for the coming year were also announced. Ron Bolyard, KA5GYG, as one of his first official acts as President made the following presentation:

Order of the Key presented to Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN for outstanding service, dedication and superior performance to Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club 1983.

The meeting adjourned with all members looking forward to next year's awards dinner.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 15, 1984

Balance as of December 15, 1983 \$762.26

RECEIPTS:

Membership dues to date	\$148.00
Annual Banquet receipts to date	99.00
ARRL Membership renewals	45.00

Total	\$1054.26

EXPENSES:

ARRL	\$41.00
Allan Hanus (Bulletin)	17.00
Lloyd Phelps (Order of Key materials for 2)	95.56
Lloyd Phelps (Check Deposit Only stamp)	8.48
Art Copy (Club Roster printing)	22.90
The Swinging Door (Annual Banquet)	392.21
Bank Service Charge	2.00

Balance as of January 15, 1984 \$475.11

Submitted by Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH
Treasurer

MERA REPORT

The MERA sponsored repeater is now on the air and working. The frequency is 144.65/145.25. The repeater is open to all for use by those duly licensed for that frequency and mode. One very important note, the IDer is not operable at this time, so it is mandatory that the repeater be voice IDed at least every 10 minutes. The call of the repeater is now W5RNK/RPT. Hopefully this will be for just a short period of time. This repeater is now on the air because of the tremendous work performed by many people. It took all the following people to realize this goal:

Muirl Robinson, W8QK -- Tower donation	Jon Hill, N5BHQ -- Assistant coordinator
Larry Charson, N5BYJ -- Ringo Ranger antenna	Louis House, KD5GM -- Assistant coordinator
Larry Levy, WD5DRB -- Tower top piece	Bob Grady, N5DQR -- Assistant coordinator
Jim Arnold, W5RNK -- Coordinator	Vic LaRocca, K5KNH -- Finance Chairman
	Tom Cole, WB5MXX -- MERA Hospital coordinator

And many, many more people that have donated their time and funds to the success of this project. THANKS to all!!! The future holds some very exciting additions and improvements to the MERA system. Hopefully we will have the support of many people so that we can keep this repeater on the air with quality. Stay tuned for future announcements and items concerning the progress of the MERA system.

Many thanks, Ron KA5GYG, Vice-Chairman MERA.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 19, 1984

submitted by Ken McAninch, KA5DKS, Secretary

The meeting in the offices of Vic, K5KNH, was called to order shortly after 7:30 PM by the President, Ron, KA5GYG.

Ron, KA5GYG, and Steve, WA5OEN stated they would meet with Missouri City Secretary, Alice Church, to secure a permanent club meeting place.

After discussion, a motion was made by Carter, KD5XX and seconded by Lloyd, WD5HEH that the Board of Directors meet the first Thursday of each month. The motion carried.

Ron, KA5GYG, suggested a "bulletin board" to disseminate B-VARC news that club members with computers can access. Lloyd, WD5HEH stated he will publish in the bulletin the method to access his "bulletin board".

Ron, KA5GYG reported that B-VARC had donated \$100 seed money to Ham Com and stated that the club could expect a substantial return on the investment. Board members were encouraged to think of worthwhile projects for the money.

Harold, ND5F reported it is time for an annual audit

Harold, ND5F suggested that net control be published in the bulletin monthly. George, ND5E co-chairman of Operations and Net Activities, will be requested to solicit volunteers so that net control can be rotated.

Harold, ND5F stated he had nothing to report yet on the application for B-VARC to be designated a Special Service Club.

Ron, KA5GYG stated there will be a meeting Thursday, January 26, of the Board of Directors and all committee chairmen.

Vic, K5KNH complimented Sallie, KA5RXW and Allan, KA5RXX on the newsletter and also Harold, ND5F for his dedication to the preparation of the Special Service Club designation application.

Allan, KA5RXX and Sallie, KA5RXW reported that they were trying to maintain a 6 page newsletter.

Steve, WA5OEN suggested mailing the bulletin to various schools such as Rice University, the University of Houston, and Dulles High School for a 3 month period to try to stimulate interest in the club.

Harold, ND5F suggested also mailing the bulletin to new hams in the area as listed in the quarterly supplement to the Call Book, which he receives.

Ron, KA5GYG read a statement written by Challenger Minerals on DWI which will be published in the bulletin because we are a public service club.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

B-VARC Public Service Honor Roll

A. Houston Marathon: January 15,1984

Chris Armatta, N5GQK	A	Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG	A
Mike Armatta, N5APC	A	Jay Maynard, K5ZC	A
Pat Armatta, N5GIK	A	Harold Parker, ND5F	A
Henry Freedenberg, N5HF	A	Ed Truitt, KD5JC	A
Dick Hagerman, WB5SRN	A		

FCC KILLS NO-CODE HAM LICENSE PROPOSAL

submitted by Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
courtesy of W5YI Report

The long considered codeless class of amateur radio license came before the FCC on December 14, 1983 at their regular Open Commission Meeting. The ham community has been waiting for a final ruling on the issue since Docket 20282 first proposed the no-code "Communicator" class back in 1974. The FCC has been actively considering a code-free amateur radio operator license for more than 10 years. Ever since, various FCCs have toyed with the code ham concept in various forms.

In a stunning and decisive decision, the present Commission has declined to establish a class of Amateur Radio operator license which would not require proficiency in the International Morse Code. The Commission concluded that the five-word-per-minute slow-speed Morse code requirement for the present entry level Novice and Technician class licenses in the Amateur Radio Service should be retained and noted that "there is still substantial everyday use of the Morse code" in the Amateur Service.

Chairman Mark Fowler stated that "Radio amateurs have contributed vitally to our country. Just recently, they were stalwart in their services that were performed in communications with Grenada. There are so many parents out there that are very grateful to the American amateurs for their dedicated efforts in a time of emergency when their loved ones were there on the island. Fowler also praised amateur communications efforts during weather disasters, saying it "...can be very important ...even critical, in getting messages through".

When chairman Fowler called for the vote on the subject, the vote was unanimous, all Commissioners voting to retain the present slow-speed International Morse Code entry requirements in the Amateur Radio Service.

Thus ends over a decade of no-code consideration!

NET CONTROL SCHEDULES

2	2/6 KD5GM	2/13 N5FAB	2/20 ND5E	2/27 KA3JJF	
METER	3/5 KD5GM	3/12 N5FAB	3/19 ND5E	3/26 KA3JJF	
10	2/1 K5EST	2/8 N5HF	2/15 KA5GYG	2/22 WB5IGG	2/29 K5EST
METER	3/7 N5HF	3/14 KA5GYG	3/21 WB5IGG	3/28 K5EST	

ANY NET CONTROL WHO CAN NOT MAKE SCHEDULED DATE PLEASE NOTIFY ND5E. WE WILL BE REPLACING ONE NCS PER MONTH WHICH YIELDS A FOUR MONTH TOUR OF DUTY. VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL OR BEYOND PLEASE CONTACT ND5E.

ORDER OF THE KEY AWARDS by Stu Lamkin WB5IGG

In addition to the fellowship, great food, and introduction of 1984 officers and directors, a highlight of the January banquet meeting was the presentation of Order of the Key awards to two members who have served BVARC long and faithfully, and have made significant contributions in making our club one of the outstanding ham groups in ARRL West Gulf Division. These awards were popularly approved as evidenced by the prolonged applause following each presentation.

The first presentation was made by Steve Gottlieb WA5OEN, outgoing President of the Club to Wade Eilers WN5TEN. Steve didn't know, of course, that one also was about to be presented to him, and was obviously astonished a little later in the proceedings when he was called to the podium by incoming President Ron Bolyard KA5GYG, also a holder of an Order of the Key award.

The Order of the Key represents the grateful appreciation of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to a member for outstanding service rendered. It results from a recommendation made to the Awards Committee and the subsequent unanimous approval by the Club's Board of Directors.

RECIPROCAL OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS and 3rd PARTY TRAFFIC

submitted by Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

On December 22, 1983 the FCC issued a Public Notice which contained, among other items, a list of those countries with which reciprocal operating arrangements have been made, and a list of those countries with whose amateurs the Amateur Radio Operators licensed by the FCC are permitted to handle traffic, either written or verbal, participated in by unlicensed persons at either end of the amateur radio contact.

Any licensed citizen of certain foreign countries may obtain permission to operate his radio equipment in this country by filing FCC Form 610-A with the FCC at Gettysburg, PA. 17325. He will be authorized, however, to operate only within the parameters of his license issued by his country.

With respect to 3rd party traffic, the December 22 Public Notice stated that "International amateur radio communications are limited by the International Radio Regulations, which state in part that they shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified. Business messages are prohibited."

"At the end of an exchange of international third party communications, each amateur radio station must transmit the call sign of the foreign station in addition to its own call sign (See Part 97.84)."
(cont on page 7)

Y'all welcome the following new members who joined us at the last Club meetng. They and others who've joined us this year wear red-bordered name badges. If you have not alerady done so, introduce yourself and let them know how glad you are they've become one of us!

Mel Godbold, KD5YA Claudia Godbold, KA5PWE (their address are in the BVARC Roster.)

Martha Chertok, KA5SNC 6060 Gulfton #1203 Houston, Texas 77081
Home phone = 271-8111



Following are the countries listed in the Public Notice:

Reciprocal	3rd Party	Country	Rep	3rd	Country	Rep	3rd	Country
	X	Antigua	X	X	Grenada	X	X	Peru
X	X	Argentina	X		W. Germany	X		Phillipines
X	X	Australia	X	X	Guatemala	X		Portugal
X		Austria	X	X	Guyana	X		Seychelles
X		Bahamas	X	X	Haiti	X		Sierra Leone
X		Barbados	X	X	Honduras	X		Soloman Is.
	X	Barbuda	X		Iceland	X		Spain
X		Belgium	X		India	X	X	St. Lucia
X		Belize	X		Indonesia		X	St. Vincent & the Grenadines
X	X	Bolivia	X		Ireland	X		Suriname
X		Botswana	X	X	Israel		X	Swaziland
X	X	Brazil	X		Italy	X		Sweden
X	X	Canada	X	X	Jamaica	X		Switzerland
X	X	Chili	X	X	Jordan		X	"4U1ITU only
X	X	Columbia	X		Kiribati	X	X	Trinidad
X	X	Costa Rica	X		Kuwait	X	X	Tobago
	X	Cuba	X	X	Liberia	X		Tuvalu
X		Denmark	X		Luxembourg	X		United Kingdom
X	X	Dominican Republic		X	Mexico	X	X	Uruguay
X	X	Ecudor	X		Monaco	X	X	Venezuela
X	X	El Salvador	X		Netherlands Antilles	X		Yugoslavia
X		Fiji	X		Netherlands			
X		Finland	X		New Zealand			
X		France	X	X	Nicaragua			
	X	Gambia	X		Norway			
	X	Ghana	X	X	Panama			
X		Greece	X	X	Paraguay			

As a final note, if you want to know how a U.S. amateur can get a permit to operate in one of the above foreign countries -- see Keith, KA5F!

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73, Don Busick, K5AAD

B - S - S MART

FOR SALE OR TRADE

1. HEATH SB-401 transmitter, SSB 100W with microphone.
2. HEATH HG-10B VFO, 2 - 80M.
3. ICOM RM-2, digital controller.
4. HEATH "Mohican", solid state general coverage receiver, 10 - 80M, portable, battery powered.
5. COLLINS 390-A general coverage receiver, 500KC - 31MHz, digital mechanical tuning, crystal and mechanical filters.

Bob Grady N5DQR
 work 977-0202 home 781-5809

FREE GIVEAWAY

8 ft. long, 2-lamp fluorescent ceiling light fixture, commercial grade.

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
 777-3345

FOR SALE

- HW-16 & HG10 VFO \$125
- SB-300 Needs work, \$75
- GENERAL COVERAGE RECEIVER, NC101, \$50
- Antennas galore, 80 foot tower, Rotors, etc. Inquire
- Antenna work done
- Wanted: Remote antenna switch

Muir Robinson, W8QK
 776-3067

For Sale

Beam Antenna, 3 element, 3 band.
 Contact Larry Levy, WD5DRB 494-7242

The following is reprinted courtesy of Challenger Minerals, Inc., Jim Wallace, Corporate Attorney.

Effective, January 1, 1984, a "new" DWI law is in effect in Texas. Because the new DWI law is much tougher than the old law, I have listed below a few of its provisions you should be aware of:

1. You can be convicted of DWI even if found driving on private parking lot.
2. Failing a breath test is now considered to be defacto proof of intoxication (or guilt); whereas in the past the test results used to be merely a presumption of intoxication. Once the State introduces into evidence the results of a failed breath test, they have made their case and the jury must return a guilty verdict.
3. You can be convicted of DWI, for using drugs while driving; even prescribed drugs. If you are given a shot/pill at a doctor's office which sufficiently impairs your ability to drive, you can be found guilty of DWI.

(cont on next page)

THE COMPUTER CORNER

To those of you who have computers, this section will try to help you access other computers in the Houston area that have call-in facilities. Some of these computers will have sections devoted to amateur radio, and also specific articles for and about BVARC. I am not going to list all the phone numbers for the various systems, but will list two that are supported by members of BVARC.

The first one is Blue Ridge RCP/M. The System Operator (Sysop) is Lloyd Phelps, WD5HEH, and the access number is 438-2247. The system is on line 24 hours a day, and due to its popularity in the area, is sometimes difficult to access.

To access Blue Ridge RCP/M, load the communications software for your computer. Do what your specific modem and software require to dial 438-2247, and establish a connection. When the connection is established, press "ENTER" or "RETURN" on your keyboard. The system will respond with a "LOG ON" or "WELCOME" message of some sort. If you are familiar with CP/M and its associated commands, look through the system to your own satisfaction.

If you wish to leave a message for the Sysop, or specifically for BVARC, enter "MESSAGE" at the "A>" and press "ENTER". You may then leave your message. If you make a mistake on the line you are typing, backspace to make the correction, and keep on typing. Once you go to the next line, you may not go back and edit the message. When you have input the text of your message, exit the "MESSAGE" facility by doing a "CONTROL-C" on your computer. Some computers have a "CONTROL" key, while others require two or more keys pressed at the same time to generate the "CONTROL-C".

To log off the Blue Ridge RCP/M system, enter "BYE" at the "A>" and press "ENTER". This will properly log you off and get the system set up for the next caller.

The second system is PC-EVE. The Sysop is Walter Holmes, WD5GAZ, and the access number is 955-7564.

To access the PC-EVE system, follow the same procedures to access Blue Ridge RCP/M except dial 955-7564.

When a connection is established, press "ENTER" on your computer, and the PC-EVE system will respond with a welcome message and detailed instructions on how to operate the system.

These two systems operate at 300 baud. If the modem and software you have for your computer will allow you to access CompuServe, The Source, or some other information system, you will have no problem in accessing Blue Ridge RCP/M or PC-EVE.

In the very near future, Blue Ridge RCP/M will have a true bulletin board installed, which will make it easier to access and leave messages for BVARC members and articles for the BVARC Bulletin.

Next month, I'll list some more phone numbers for other systems in and around the Houston area that may be accessed by telephone.

For those that do not have computers, and have no desire to purchase same, do not be alarmed that Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club is going to become a computer club. This section is being provided for those that do have computers and wish to find new ways of using their computers, preferably to aid amateur radio operations in some manner.

73's
Lloyd Phelps WD5HEH

PENALTIES

- A. Punishment Range (no serious bodily injury)
 - 1. No prior convictions:
 - (a) fine, \$100 to \$200 and
 - (b) jail, 72 hours to 2 years (you must serve at least 3 days in jail)
 - 2. One prior conviction:
 - (a) fine, \$300 to \$2,000 and
 - (b) jail, 15 days to 2 years
 - 3. Two or more prior convictions:
 - (a) fine, \$500 to \$2,000 and
 - (b) jail, 30 days to 2 years or prison from 60 days to 5 years
- B. Punishment Range (with serious bodily injury)
 - 1. No prior convictions:
 - (a) fine, \$600 to \$2,000 and
 - (b) jail, 63 days to 2 years
 - 2. One prior conviction:
 - (a) fine, \$800 to \$2,000 and
 - (b) jail, 75 days to 2 years
 - 3. Two or more prior convictions:
 - (a) fine, \$1,000 to \$2,000 and
 - (b) jail, 90 days to 2 years or prison from 120 days to 5 years

IN ADDITION

- 1. Your driver's license can be suspended upon a first conviction, 90 to 365 days.
- 2. If you refuse to take the breath test:
 - a. Automatic suspension of your driver's license
 - b. Your refusal to take a breath test is now admissable in court (the jury will know you refused the test).
 - c. Arresting officer can video tape you at the arrest scene for use in court.
 - d. In certain circumstances, your car can be confiscated permanently by the State.
 - e. A mandatory automobile insurance surcharge will be added to your car insurance premium.

Be aware that driving while intoxicated (alcohol or drugs) is now a very serious offense in Texas. Further, there is a great deal of political pressure on the Courts (especially in Harris County) to get tough with drunk drivers.

Please don't give the Court the chance to hold you up as an example to others. Given the present mood in the community, you will be bar-be-que'd!

P.S. The average attorney's fee for handling a first offense DWI charge runs around \$500 to \$1,500.

Submitted by Ron Bolyard, KA5GYG

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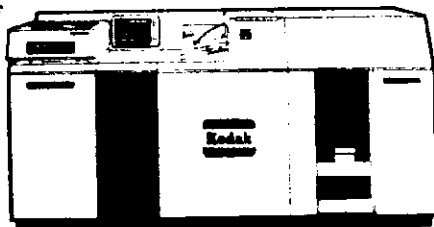
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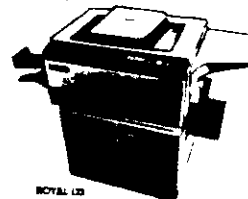
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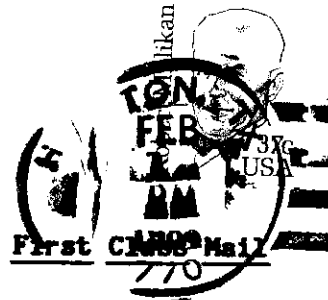
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind.

-- Robert Frothingham

1351 Gentle Bend
Missouri City, Texas 77489

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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Lamkin, Stu

7401 Heilig
Houston

TX 77074