

B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor-in-Chief: Irv Smith, KB5EXM 437-4803
Production Manager: Roland Torres, KB5EQH 933-4143

About the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club . . .

Organized in 1977, the club has been growing steadily. It is a gathering place for HAM radio operators in Fort Bend and Southwest Harris Counties, and surrounding communities. It is a general-purpose type of HAM club offering a variety of activities open to all interested persons. Membership is open, not only to licensed HAM operators, but also to anyone interested in the hobby. In addition to regularly-scheduled membership meetings, the club each year conducts classes leading to amateur radio licenses, and each month sponsors a volunteer-examiner team which offers examinations in all levels of HAM licenses.

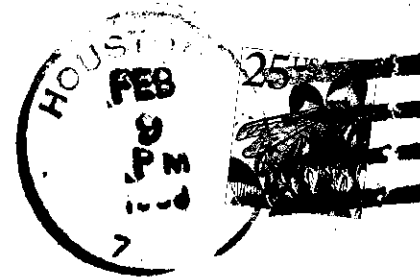
For information about the club and any of its activities, please call Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, (713) 777-3345.

Volume: 12 Issue: 2

February 1989

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 1630
Missouri City, TX 77459
Telephone: (713) 777-3345



B-VARC Meeting Schedule

Thursday, February 9	General Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
	Informal dinner before meeting at Hitching Rail BBQ (formerly Vaso's)
	Lori Valencic: <i>Dietary Tips for Hams</i>
Thursday, March 2	Board Meeting
7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
Thursday, March 9	General Meeting

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
7401 Heilig
Houston, Tx 77074

B-VARC CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTE: ALL NETS MEET WEEKLY (Even if shown only once)						
			1 B-VARC RAG CHEW 2030 hrs. 3.960	2 B-VARC BOARD 1950 hrs. M.C. FIRE STATION	3	4 MARDI GRAS RUN GALVESTON
5 M. HOUSTON RACES 2000 hrs. 146.06	6 ARES 2000 hrs. 147.30	7 10X SHOT 2000 hrs. 28.488	8 ASH WEDNESDAY C.M. NET 2030 hrs. 147.32	9 B-VARC GENERAL 1950 hrs. M.C. FIRE STATION "Dietary Tips"	10	11 C.M. NET 2030 hrs. 147.32
12 LINGOLN'S BIRTHDAY MOTHER HUBBARD 1430 hrs. RICE UNIVERSITY	13 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVED	14 VALENTINES DAY B-VARC V.E.'s 1900 hrs. STRAKE JESUIT STU (713-777-3345)	15 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	16	17	18 RODEO 10K ASTRODOME
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	<p>FUTURE EVENTS:</p> <p>March 2 B-VARC BOARD</p> <p>March 9 B-VARC GENERAL</p> <p>C.A.S. RADIO USE</p> <p>HUB RAILIFF (NSMXC)</p>			
<p>OTHER VOLUNTEER EXAM SESSIONS:</p> <p>2/04/88 Angleton Steve Ray 409-297-7494</p> <p>2/04/88 Humble J. Shotwell 713-443-2812</p> <p>2/11/88 Cleveland Sam Neal 713-222-3274</p>						

PLEASE SEND CORRECTIONS AND NEW ITEMS TO IRV SMITH (KB5EXM), 3915 Point Clear, Missouri City, TX 77459

MESSAGES FROM DAVE DYER

1) Breakfast Anyone?

Saturday morning, 8:00 am, there's Steve (WA50EN) on the repeater! He's mobile, heading for the Denny's on the Sharpstown Mall parking lot.

Soon, other hams are checking in. There's Glenn (WB4LZG), Susan (KB5ICO/KT) and family. Ed (KC5JC) is there with his family. And don't forget Randy (AK5G), or our most faithful non-member, Jeff (N5ECP) - they are usually there.

Besides the "regulars", there are a few of us that sporadically partake of the festivities. Allen (N5AFV), Dave (AA5GA), Karla (N5LGS), Debbie (KB5GUY), get in on the fun occasionally.

Sometimes things get a little out of hand. Like Jan. 7, when 16 B-VARC members were joined by 8 non-members. That's right, 24 strong, we descended on the place ... almost completely taking over one end of the building!

The gatherings are informal. Timing is not critical. Any Saturday, between 8:15 and 8:45, you will find the gang gathering at Denny's on the Sharpstown Mall parking lot.

You are more than welcome to join in. But, remember, everybody goes dutch.

WHAT IS A "10-10 NUMBER?"

Amateurs operating on 10 meters are often bewildered by requests for "10-10 numbers." 10-10 numbers are assigned by the 10-10 International Net, Inc. A number is available to any amateur who works ten 10-10 members and submits the log data to the appropriate 10-10 Call Area Manager. The purpose of 10-10 is to promote interest and activity on the 10-meter band. For further information, send a business-size SASE to Chuck Imsande, W6YLJ, 18130 Bromley St, Tarzana, CA 91356.

2) HELP WANTED ... RODEO RUN

The second Rodeo Run ever held is scheduled for Feb. 18. This is a big run, stretching from downtown to the Astrodome. We need a lot of help for this one.

Please contact Suzanne (KB5BAY) or Dave (AA5GA) to volunteer. When you call, please let us know what 2-meter rigs you have to use for this event (HT, mobile, or both). In addition, we need your T-shirt size.

Phone numbers are in the B-VARC directory, or we monitor 145.47 (the MERA repeater).

THE ARRL Letter

Volume 8, No. 1

January 13, 1989

NOVICE ROUNDUP REMINDER

Looking for a great way to interest non-hams in Amateur Radio? How about that Novice down the street who hasn't been active? Why not invite someone to operate Novice Roundup from your shack?

Novice Roundup takes place from 0000 UTC Saturday, January 28, 1989 until 2400 UTC Sunday, February 5. The objective is for Novice and Technician operators in the US to contact as many stations as possible on the Novice bands. Higher class operators work Novices and Technicians only.

The exchange consists of the signal report and ARRL/CRRL Section (country for DX stations). Novices/Technicians should send slant "N" or slant "T" to signify their license class.

Certificates to every Novice/Technician entrant who submits a valid entry. Endorsements to top Novice and Technician in each ARRL Section/Division. Non-Novice or Technician entrants are *not* eligible for awards. For further information contact Billy Lunt, KR1R, Manager, Contest Department at HQ.

PRESIDENT TALK

1989 is off to a super start. I believe the intensity and fellowship experienced at the January Board Meeting and the Awards Dinner to be evidence of great things in 89. My thanks to Dave AA5GA and the entire 1988 Board for leaving the basic structure necessary to hit the ground rolling.

First I would like to congratulate Greg K5LTW who will be serving as our one year board member filling in the vacancy left by me when I assumed my new position. My special thanks to Rick KA5YSL, Irv KB5EXM and George ND5E for offering to fill the position.

The awards dinner was a super success with all attending having a great time. Thanks Suzanne KB5BAY and Brenson KF5VZ for their efforts in planning and arranging the festivities.

Finally I want to congratulate our awards winners.

Suzanne King KB5BAY for "ORDER OF THE KEY"

Harold Parker ND5F for "Dr. BILL OSSENFORT AWARD"

Both extremely deserving individuals.

Novice Classes will begin the last Monday in February for information please call Stu Lamkin WB5IGG at 777-3345.

We are trying to arrange for a QRP Building Special Interest Group to begin in the first quarter of 89. As soon as we have a location and date we will pass it on.

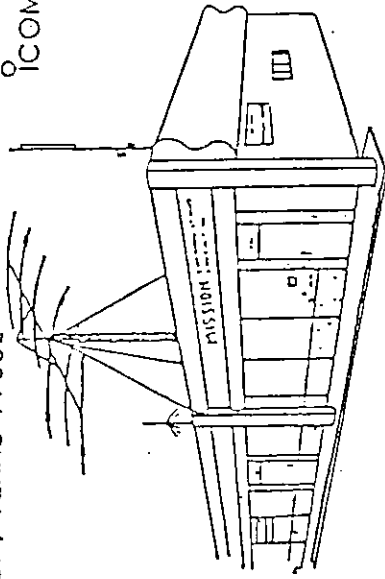
73

Jack Van Demark WN5A

MISSION CONSULTING, INC.
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11903 Alief-Clodine Suite 500
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ICOM



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SPECIALISTS, CRB RESEARCH, DAIWA, DIAMOND, HENRY,
HUSTLER, HAM RADIO, INTL. CRYSTAL, INTL. WIRING & CABLE,
KANTRONICS, KACHINA, KENPRO, KDK, KLM/MIRAGE, LUNAR,
LARSON, MOBILE MARK, MFJ, NEUTECH, NCG, NYE, PERIPHIX,
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In house service available.

Just write, or give us a call!

(713) 879-7764

Telex 166872 MCON UT

R-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECKINS

3.960 MHZ 8:30PM WEDNESDAY
compiled by Allen Mattis N5AFV

DECEMBER 28, 1988

NO NCS, NO NET

JANUARY 4, 1989

WB5IGG NCS, N5AFV, N5ECP, WN5A, AK56,
NSMPN, KE5SR, AR56A, WA50EN, KG5KV

JANUARY 11, 1989

WB5IGG NCS, N5AFV, WN5A, W5RNN, K65KY,
AK56

JANUARY 18, 1989

N5AFV NCS, WN5A, AR56A, AK56, K65KY,
N5IGG

THANK YOU FROM A RACE DIRECTOR

By: Allen Mattis, N5AFV

The following is from a hand-written note of thanks received from Andy Stewart, director of the 30K race B-VARC worked on 12/10/88:

12-19-88

Al,

My hat is off to you and B-VARC. Our running club workers were all commenting on your assistance. Some say they would have been swamped otherwise.

Thank you for making the 30K a success. The runners were all upbeat about the run, in no small part due to your help.

Tell the people thanks for taking charge rather than being only observers. If anyone else needs a T-Shirt, just let me know.

I hope we can work together again in the future. Your people save lives. I under-estimated them going in - but not again. They are professionals.

Thanks again. Merry Christmas.

*Andy Stewart
FLS*

REVITALIZING HARC

by: Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG

Houston Amateur Radio Club (HARC) is now in its 71st year and is, if not the oldest, close to being one of the oldest general membership HAM clubs in the U.S.A.

It has been in the doldrums for quite a few years but several of the immediate past-presidents - one of whom is our own Ray Dillard (W4SF) - have been making progress in bringing it back.

Its current president, Dave Paperman (WQ5Y), has outlined in a recent issue of the *HARC NEWS* the current status of the revitalization that is under way.

I believe it would be in the best interests of the hobby to have HARC regain its former dynamic position in this area.

If you'd like to know more about it, call Dave at 448-7834 (W) or 449-0191 (H), or Irene Gordon (N5AYX), work number 774-6393. They'll probably be glad to send you a copy of their January issue.

Or, you can get it from me by sending a SASE and 30 cents for reproduction cost. My address is 7401 Heilig, Houston, TX 77074.

MURPHY'S LAW:

If anything can go wrong, it will.

Corollaries:

1. Nothing is as easy as it looks.
2. Everything takes longer than you think.
3. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.
4. If you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong, and circumvent these, then a fifth way will promptly develop.
5. Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.
6. Whenever you set out to do something, something else must be done first.
7. Every solution breeds new problems.
8. It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious.
9. Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

by: Irv Smith, KB5EXM

ANNUAL BANQUET

About 50 members and their guests attended the Regal Ranch affair. We had a good fajita dinner prior to the installation of new officers and presenting of awards.

Suzanne King (KB5BAY) received the *Order of the Key* award for her many efforts in behalf of B-VARC. The arrangements for this and the last banquet are examples of her work.

Harold Parker was given the *Doctor Bill Ossenfors* award for outstanding work in the VE Program. This award had been established by Keith and Eva Hugu in honor of Silent Key Dr. Bill (NG5C).

Outgoing president Dave Dyer (AA5GA) passed the gavel to Jack Van Demark (WNSA). Jack announced that Greg Lefebvre (K5LTW) would take the director's slot vacated by Jack becoming president.

Gerry Borg (NSAPW) supplied the sound system and acted as MC. Thanks to Gerry for this, and especially (from this writer's standpoint, at least) for playing the music softly before and during dinner so all could visit.

The meal price of \$12.00 was a bargain, considering that unlimited soft drinks and beer were included. We had exclusive use of the facility. One wish was for the cold front to have held off for about six more hours, but the large fireplace provided a nice atmosphere.

Cold weather or not, I would vote for Regal Ranch again next year, but I certainly wouldn't object to the Swinging Door, which also has been suggested.

QUIZ (Cont'd)

How is C.W. transmitted between Chinese-speaking operators? (Hint: The scheme uses the English alphabet.) Answer in a future Newsletter.

WEATHER SPOTTER'S GUIDEBOOK

We are continuing to reprint Version 1.3 of this excellent manual, written by B-VARC member Allen Mattis (NSAFV). Save these pages, and by the time the severe-weather season arrives, you will have the complete manual.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL WANTED

Roland and I always can use more news items. (How about some equipment reviews!) We like camera-ready, but can readily use ASCII files on 3.5" (preferred) or 5.25" diskettes, or we will transcribe your input from hand-written copy. We especially need advance notice of the public service events.

Please send material directly to either of us at the addresses given below. You also can use the B-VARC box number, but this actually slows down delivery somewhat. Deadline is the third Thursday.

Irv Smith, KB5EXM
3915 Point Clear Dr.
Missouri City, TX 77459

Roland Torres, KB5EQH
15519 Rio Plaza Dr.
Houston, TX 77063

MS-150 BICYCLE TOUR

Keep the April 8th weekend open for this event. This is perhaps B-VARC's biggest single public service event, so we need all the help we can get. Ray Dillard (WASF) is coordinating communications.

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 1989 ACTIVITY ROSTER

compiled by Allen Mattis NSAFV

A. HOUSTON TENNECO MARATHON

Borg, Gerry	NSAPW	A
Cheek, Ralph	KB5DNT	A
Dilliard, Ray	WASF	A
Dyer, Dave	AA5GA	A
Dyer, Karla	N5L6S	A
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZ6	A
Edwards, Melanie		A
Edwards, Susan	KB5ICD	A
Eason, Mike	N5KRU	A
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A
King, Suzanne	KB5BAY	A
Larkin, Stu	WB5I66	A
Morrison, Henry	W5RIY	A
Parker, Harold	NDSF	A
Harden, Mike	WB3HZP	A

PLEASE REPORT CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO NSAFV

Special thanks to Bill Walker Royalton District Manager of Warner Cable, for donating the use of their copier and supplies for printing the newsletter.

RESULTS OF THE JAN. 10TH EXAM:

by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, January 10, 1989 at Strake Jesuit in Houston.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:

Henry, W5RIY
Dave, AA5GA
Ray Dillard, W5F
Stu Lamkin, W5SIGG
Harold Parker, ND5F

A total of thirty-three (33) exams were administered during the evening to twelve (12) applicants. Of those, four (4) were unlicensed and are new Technicians and five (5) upgraded their license with a total of nineteen (19) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was fifty-eight (58%) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and passed exams:

Daniel Cano - Technician
Julius Danziger - Technician
Marion Eicher - Technician
Bill Kilpatrick - Element 2
Jim Knox, K5SIDG - Technician
Richard Rule - Element 3B
Larry Sharon, N5DQS - General
Glenn Sparks, K5ZYP - Technician
Phillip Tusa, K5SHXC - Technician
Henry Voss, W5JSF - Extra
Waylan Waits - Technician

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants for contributing their time and efforts each month. B-VARC is very fortunate to have many interested and dedicated Volunteer Examiners (VE's) waiting in reserve and ready to serve at a moments notice when called upon. This depth and wealth of volunteer resources is responsible for the great success of our exam program.

All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, W5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exam program each month.

SUMMARY OF 1988'S AMATEUR EXAMS:

by: Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC sponsored and our VE Teams administered 13 ARRL Amateur Radio Examination Sessions at Strake Jesuit in Houston plus one Session at the Houston Ham-Comm during 1988.

A total of 419 exams were administered during the year to 216 applicants. Of those, 21 earned their new Novice license and 103 upgraded for an overall "pass rate" of 57+% for the year.

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants for your time and efforts. You have made B-VARC's exam program a great success during the past year.

These Exam opportunities are another of the valuable Public Service efforts that B-VARC continues to provide to the members of our communities.

All of us at B-VARC again thank Vincent, WA5ETS, and everyone at Strake Jesuit, for providing these excellent classroom facilities every month for our Exam program.

We are looking forward to another great year at B-VARC !

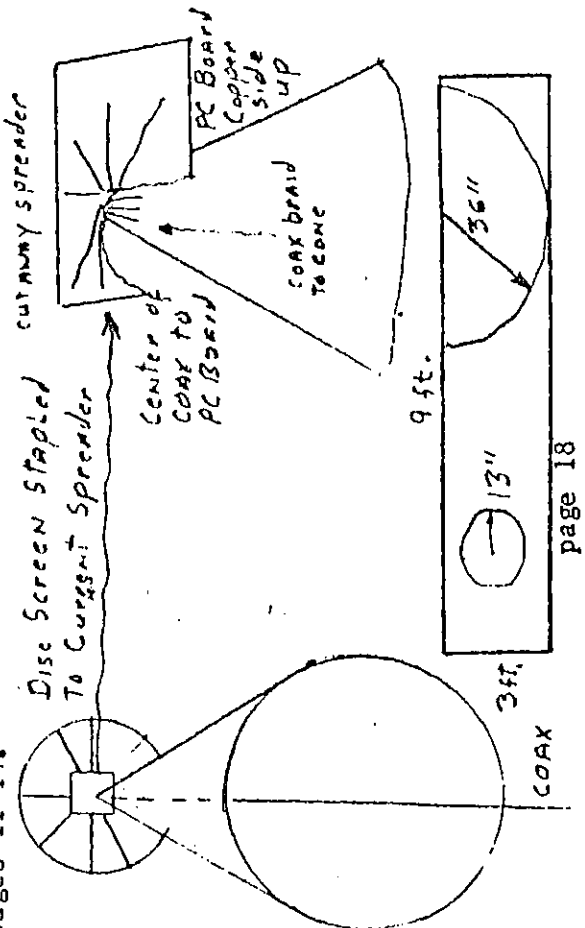
THE BUDGET DISCONE

from the AARC newsletter

The Budget Discone antenna can be built in about an hour's time for less than \$10.00

Steel window screening was procured for the project for less than \$7.00, and chicken wire can be used for even less. The only "expensive" item was the "one side copper clad PC board" for the disc current spreader.

Simplicity and performance are the features of this antenna. This design is best used indoors. It lends itself well to being suspended way up in the attic. Monofilament fishing line serves nicely as the suspension. The cutting patterns shown provide final antenna dimensions for a 60-degree cone and fundamental resonant frequency at 82 to 84 MHz. A nearly perfect line termination (with RG-8/U) will be experienced in the 144 MHz, 220 MHz, and 430 MHz bands. The low radiation angle, efficiency, excellent SWR, and a large capture area are the main features of this horn-type antenna. These practical advantages yield a few db of extra performance over its theoretical low gain. For reference, check the ARRL Antenna Book, 14th edition, pages 11-14.



WHAT IS SEVERE WEATHER?

The weather conditions responsible for causing severe weather are not always predictable. For this reason, the National Weather Service has instituted the system of weather watches and weather warnings. Many people confuse the terms "watch" and "warning."

The National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Missouri, issues severe weather watches when conditions appear favorable for the possible development of severe weather. These watches are usually issued 1 to 6 hours before the predicted possible development of severe weather. Because watches are usually issued for areas approximately 140 miles wide and 200 miles long, severe weather conditions may develop at different times within various parts of the watch area. For example, if the weather system involved is moving from west to east, the eastern portion of the watch area should not expect conditions favorable for the development of severe weather until late in the watch period. A watch does not mean that severe weather will occur - it only means that conditions are favorable for the possible development of severe weather in and close to the watch area. Depending on the weather conditions existing at the time, the National Severe Storms Forecast Center will issue either a severe thunderstorm watch or a tornado watch. Flood and flash flood watches are also issued when conditions warrant.

Weather warnings are issued by local National Weather Service offices. A warning means that severe weather has developed and been reported to the National Weather Service. Warnings are usually issued for a 1 hour period, and a specific area of warning is specified, usually a county or portions of counties. In many parts of the country, weather spotter reports are used as the basis for issuing weather warnings. Depending on the type of severe weather reported to the National Weather Service, a severe thunderstorm warning or a tornado warning will be issued. Flood and flash flood warnings are also issued if conditions warrant.

Remember, a weather watch means that conditions are favorable for the possible development of severe weather in and close to the watch area. A weather warning means that severe weather has actually occurred.

Severe weather may be defined as weather which results in the occurrence of one or more of the following phenomena: flash flooding, frequent lightning, large hail, excessive straight line winds, downbursts, and tornadoes. These weather-related phenomena all occur in conjunction with thunderstorms. Houston Intercontinental Airport averages approximately 60 to 65 days per year with thunderstorm activity. A general rule of thumb is that one out of every ten days

of thunderstorm activity has the potential to generate severe weather. Thus, in an average year, the Houston metropolitan area has six to seven days when the potential for the occurrence of severe weather exists.

There are several definitions of a severe thunderstorm. All of these definitions include the presence of some type of severe weather. A thunderstorm is considered to be severe if it is accompanied by any of the following:

- Winds greater than 57 miles per hour
- Hail 3/4 inch (dime size) or larger
- Lightning at the rate of 30 or more strokes per minute

Severe thunderstorms may also be associated with the other types of severe weather - flash flooding, downbursts, and tornadoes.

FLASH FLOODING

Flooding is the Houston metropolitan area's number one weather related problem. Because of our proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, tropical weather systems sometimes pass through our area. These tropical systems have the potential to produce large amounts of rainfall and associated flooding. The national 24-hour rainfall record of 43 inches was set at Alvin when tropical storm Claudette came ashore in 1979.

Severe thunderstorms may also cause flash flooding. The heaviest rain in a severe thunderstorm usually occurs as the storm is dying out. In effect, the moisture is drained out of the storm cloud. This period of heavy rainfall may cause flash flooding.

Flash flooding occurs when heavy rains cause the water level in drainage systems to rise rapidly with little advance warning. Survivors of a 1987 flash flood tragedy along the Guadalupe River near Comfort, Texas, reported that the water in the river rose from their ankles to their shoulders in less than five minutes. Because flooding occurs more frequently in our area than other types of severe weather, our civil authorities are better prepared to handle the problems associated with it. The experience we have gained from past flooding has given us a basic understanding of the amount of runoff our drainage systems can handle before flooding occurs.

Weather spotters should report any flash flooding they observe. Prolonged heavy rainfall should also be reported. Rainfall is usually described by spotters as being light, moderate or heavy. Accurate and reliable spotter reports may give civil authorities the opportunity to provide residents of threatened areas with sufficient warning time to take action to protect themselves or their property from flooding.