



B-VARC BULLETIN

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

Editor in Chief: Roland Torres, KB5EQH 622-7810 (0700-1600 hrs)

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 that 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: 13 Issue: 8

August 1990

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs.	August 9	General Meeting
	7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
		Program: "Antennas, Ground Systems & Propagation"
Thurs.	Sept. 6	Board Meeting
	7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station

August 1990

B-VARC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	6	8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145.47	7	8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	8	8:00p B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) 9:00p SPECIAL EVENT NET 147.00
12	7:30p Harris County RACES 146.94	13	8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145.47	14	8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	15	8:00p B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) 9:00p SPECIAL EVENT NET 147.00
19	7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	20	8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145.47	21	8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	22	8:00p B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) 9:00p SPECIAL EVENT NET 147.00
26	7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	27	8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145.47	28	8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	29	8:00p B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) 9:00p SPECIAL EVENT NET 147.00
				30		31	Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 Randell's Steak House, 8225 Guil Fwy Monroe Exit
					16	17	Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Great Charcoal Chicken, 1000 Campbell Road
					23	24	Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Fuddrucker's, on Chimney Rock at Richmond
					9	10	Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at El Fenix, Galleria
					1	2	7:30p BOARD MEETING Missouri City Fire Station #1
					3	4	Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Moose's, 6818 Chetwood
					11	18	7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 8:30p C.W. 147.32
					18	25	7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 8:30p C.W. 147.32
					9	10	7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 8:30p C.W. 147.32

July Meeting

We pleaded, we begged, we cajoled, and we asked, and it all came together. So many people helped. I know already that I'm going to be in trouble for forgetting or not knowing the names of some of the wonderful people that made the B-VARC July "once in a row annual ice cream fest and kiddie toy night" such a record success.

We had lots of new chairs and tables, thanks to Doug, Lucy and Dottie at the Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department. We had sound, thanks to Bill, N5KXU. Jack, WN5A, brought his VCR to match up with my TV so all could watch Harold's, ND5F, and Ray's, WA5F, tapes of the picnic and airplane meet.

We had radio controlled airplanes with brief presentations by Joe, AA5BD, Randy, AK5G, Bob, N5PJI (NARS), sailboats by Ralph, KB5DNT and Damion, N5FVM (Amsat), and a racing car by Ray, WA5F.

Debbie, N5RAR, and Beth, N5PKW, brought brownies, Thais (Dick, N5OUT's XYL) made cookies, Harold, ND5F, and Mary (Mel, KB5ION's XYL) brought cakes, and Peg (my XYL) brought the spoons, forks, plates, bowls, napkins and cup cakes. And thanks to the person or persons that brought the "toppings" for the ice cream (Now I'm in trouble!)

We had ice cream, lots of ice cream, and we ate it. There were approximately one and one half quarts left.

We started off with Rick's, KA5YSL, then went through Mel's, KB5ION; and Elton's, NO5C; Bill's, N5KXU; Nick's, N5PRP; Charlie's, KG5KV; Randy's, AK5G; and Gerry's, N5APW. Due to a malfunction in the ice, Ray, WA5F, was unable to get his mixing to freeze. So, he took it home to work on it so it will be ready for next year's "second in a row annual ice cream fest and kiddie toy night." At-A-Boy, Ray. It's never too soon to start.

Dick, N5OUT, did a magnificent job of coordinating the ice cream. Now, I will "fess up." We (Dick and I) had no idea how many people would be there and how much ice cream we would need. When it all started out, I had asked Dick to try to get 10 gallons. We had 9 gallons pledged, 8 of which we used. At the last minute, Peg, my XYL, suggested that we get some "insurance." So, she grabbed our

ice chest, drove to Randall's and bought 4 half gallon containers of "Homemade(tm) Vanilla, packed it in ice, and put it in the car in case we ran short. We had announced earlier that we would only be serving Homemade Ice Cream, but if we needed it, after all, we could use it, since it was "Homemade(tm) Vanilla."

It was a great success. Bill, N5KXU, was able to conduct his business section through the PA system while people ate, the presentations of models went smoothly, and the socializing, tape viewing and eating were all fabulous.

We had 77 members and guests present to set a new B-VARC attendance record. And last but not least, thanks to Uncle Vic, N5NAS, for the coffee and to Mel, KB5ION, Glenn, WB4LZG, Dick, N5OUT, Bill, N5KXU and all the others that helped me clean up. Take a bow, B-VARC. You deserve it!

73,
Bill, N5MPN

A Word From The President . . .

At this particular time I feel that I have all kinds of time on my hands. It seems that with Field Day, program consultations with Bill, N5MPN, the Special Event Station, to name just a few (there are just about a zillion other things that have been happening), time on my hands has been something that I was beginning to just dream about. But at least some of these things are in the past now.

I have mixed feelings on this. We all were caught up in the excitement and action of Field Day, and now that it is over and was such a success in every way, where do we go from here? Jack, WN5A, *et alii* did a super job on the organization of this event. There is just no way to know what all goes into this unless one actually participates in the planning and execution of a Field Day. To one and all who did participate, "you done good."

The Special Event Station went off very well, also, and the folks at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center were very warm in their praise for the way it was handled. There was a lot of participation in the planning and carrying out of the programs, and B-VARC members were in evidence everywhere. Over 4,000 contacts

were made, and already we have some 600 responses and requests for certificates. The certificates won't be printed for a few weeks in order to get a better idea of how many will be needed for printing purposes. The special W90ES tee shirts were snapped up just about as fast as they could be printed. I think that Elton, NO5C, had at least 3 printing sessions. And, he did this without any profit at all to himself. The actual cost of the shirts and material alone, no labor included, was what was charged for the shirts, plus less than a dollar extra which permitted us to give some away free. As it turns out, he just about broke even. Thanks to Elton, and to everyone else (it is impossible to name them all!) who worked so hard to make this the success that it was.

And that ice cream party! Another record turnout, and a tremendous success. Special thanks to Bill, N5MPN, and Dick, N5OUT, who planned and carried it out. And, of course, special credit is due to those (Bill, N5MPN, named them in his July Meeting column in this issue) who provided the other goodies, such as the ice cream, cake, cookies, etc., as well as those who brought the radio controlled airplanes and boat models, a racing car and the video productions and the VCR and television. To those who missed it, you missed a biggie!

And through it all, B-VARC just continues to grow in our membership. Our B-VARC *Bulletin* advertising program is taking off, and we are at a record level of about 170 paid memberships. I wonder just how far we would have to go to find another radio club that can match this, as well as our activities. For instance, our reputation for our licensing and examinations expertise is already well known, and we are already being called upon for special activities in the November, 1990 Ham-Vention.

As I said before, it makes me feel really privileged to be a part of B-VARC at this particular time.

Enough for this month. Stay cool.

73,
Bill, N5KXU

Overheard at a B-VARC meeting: "I must have reached middle age, because my wife told me to pull in my stomach, and I already had."

The same wife referred to him as her better three-fourths.

Question: What has eight legs and eight eyes.
Answer: Eight pirates.

Results of July 10th Exam by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, July 10, 1990, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:
George Walker, KQ5W
Bill Kemp, KG5CB
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
Harold Parker, ND5F

A total of fifteen (15) exams were administered during the evening to eleven (11) applicants. Eight (8) candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of eleven (11) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was seventy-three (73%) percent.

Congratulations to all the following who upgraded and/or passed exams:

Charles Burns — Element 2
Robert Carlson, Pending — General
Mark Chambers, KB5LXG — Advanced
Bob Chmielewski, N5PJI — Advanced
Michael Elder, N5JNN — Extra
Jim Gilmore, N5QQJ — Extra
Nick Hardy, N5PRP — Advanced
Rick Rule, KI5HC — Extra
Marty Smith, WD5DZC — General

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month.

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 ...

August Meeting

There are more antennas and antenna systems than one can count. There are modifications of modifications of a changed idea of an original concept. One of the greatest joys of the typical ham is to "invent" a new antenna. That is one of the few creative things that is left for the radio amateur since experimentation with solid state devices, transmitters, etc. require far more test and bench equipment than a dozen hams, pooling resources, could begin to afford.

But—and it is a big But—equally important and usually treated as an afterthought is "The Ground." People either count on the electrical system ground, put in a 4 foot rod, fasten a wire to a water pipe or fill the yard with copper wire; and they may or may not have a ground. We will talk about this, and we have some actual case studies within B-VARC by its own members to very aptly illustrate the point.

We will also talk about some very simple and much maligned antennas that work. No formulas, no heavy math, no theory—they are tested, tried and proved, again by B-VARC members, among hundreds of others.

We will touch on the propagation study that some of the B-VARC members, as well as hams in Australia, New Zealand, England and the U. S. have been helping me on for the past 10 months.

It's a chalk board talk, so bring something to scratch on if you need dimensions or notes.

I'll try to make it interesting and perhaps throw in a surprise or two that may change some of your operating ideas or methods.

Hope to see a good turnout at the August 9th meeting.

73,
Bill, N5MPN

The Preacher stopped in the middle of his long, elaborate sermon, signalled to a member of the congregation and said, "There's a man sound asleep in the second row, and he's starting to snore. Wake him up."

"No, sir," replied the layman. "You put him to sleep; you wake him up."

Another B-VARC member relayed how he was driving his creditors crazy. He sent out change of address cards, and then didn't move.

Notes from the Vice-President

by Allen Mattis, N5AFV

Greetings to you again. We usually see an increase in public service events as the weather cools down, and this year will be no exception. The Long Distance Running Committee (LDR) of the Gulf Association of the Athletic Conference (GAAC) has again requested that B-VARC provide radio communications for their Marathon Warmup Series of races held the second weekends of October, November, and December. The Alamo Challenge Bike Tour in October, and the Houston Ham Convention in November have also requested club involvement. It's shaping up to be a busy season with multiple events on some weekends. We have managed similar schedules in past years, and with the club's record membership this year, the task should be easier. So, if you're interested in working public service events, get your equipment ready, and look for announcements in the newsletter, at our meetings, and on our nets.

One of the larger ham radio events of the Houston area is now behind us. The special event station for the Economic Summit was a great success, with over 4,000 contacts being made. Many B-VARC members participated, and we hope to list these members on the Public Service Honor Roll in next month's *Bulletin*. While I didn't operate the special event station myself, I did work the station five different times, on four different bands, and using three different modes. During all of my contacts, the operation sounded efficient and well managed.

The Rag Chew Net continues to be active, and I wish to recognize N5MPN, KB5ION, N5PRP, and KB5DNT for filling in as net control when I have been unable to make the net. Net check-ins have dropped to about 10 to 12 per net during the last two months, but will pick up again in the Fall.

The July general membership meeting was a wonderful success. The delicious ice cream even managed to break the summer heat for a few days! A special thank you to Bill, N5MPN, and Dick, N5OUT, for all their efforts in planning the meeting,

and thank you also to the numerous members who brought things to the meeting, or just helped out when they saw something that needed to be done. We might want to consider making the B-VARC Ice Cream Social an annual event.

That's it for this month.

73 de N5AFV

B-VARC Financial Audit Committee 1989 Report

The following recommendations were approved at the Board of Directors meeting on July 5th.

To: B-VARC Board & Members
From: Lawrence Cox & Gerald Borg
Date: July 5, 1990

We have reviewed the statements and books of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club for the Year 1989.

Although we could not find receipts or other documentation for some checks that were issued, it seems that all transactions have been executed with diligence.

We would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) Since we could not find receipts for all checks issued, we recommend that signed receipts be required before any payment is made and that BOTH signers of the check review the receipts.
- 2) We have noticed that people accumulate receipts before submitting a request for payment. We suggest that members be advised to present bills in a timely manner. Monthly payment of bills would help the club determine it's financial status more easily.
- 3) The Board may consider designing a *Payment Request Form* which outlines these rules. It

will also minimize the possibility of losing receipts or requests for payment and make it easier to conduct audits or spot checks, if necessary.

September Meeting

Did you know that there is an international digital data system that is now in operation" Pass your message by packet to one of the three "Hub" stations in the U. S. and it will be forwarded by Amtor to just about anywhere in the world, where there are "Hub" stations located, and it will be locally dispatched by either packet or Amtor. And, usually in less than 2 hours. It is called APLINK. Get used to the name. It's here today and will be bigger tomorrow.

The NTS is now using it. (They should have started 20 years ago — my comment.) There are several of the state OEMs trying to come up to speed on it.

Like to know more? Like to know how it works? Like to know if it really is going to be the primary mode of communication for the future?

Come out to the September 13 meeting and hear Jim Jennings, KE5HE, chat about it. Jim is presently one of the three active Hub stations in the U. S.

Jim also was one of the principal speakers at Arlington this year. Jim is also an ex B-VARC member who now lives in Hearne, Texas.

So plan now. We will have more next month.

73,
Bill, N5MPN

September *Bulletin* Deadline

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the September issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than August 30th. Please give such to Roland Torres KB5EQH, Bill Dessens N5KXU, or Vincent Orlando WA5ETS.

**BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1990 PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL**
Compiled by Allen Mattis N5AFV

A. Houston Tenneco Marathon B. Woman's Hospital 5K
C. Azalea Run 5K D. MS-150 Bike Tour
E. Hungry Jack 50


Abbott, Brenson	KF5VZ	A
Albrecht, Carl	AA5JW	D,E
Albrecht, Carl, Jr.	KB5KJT	E
Borg, Gerry	N5APW	A
Brown, Beth	N5PKW	D
Cheek, Ralph	KB5DNT	A,B,D,E
Cox, Lawrence	N5OUZ	F
Deaktor, Steve	WA3PMT	F
Dessens, Bill	N5KXU	C,F
Dessens, Mark	KG5JT	F
Dillard, Ray	WA5F	A,B,C,D,E
Dyer, Karla	N5LGS	A
Eatwell, Bill	N5PWH	F
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	A
Edwards, Melanie	KB5KLH	A
Edwards, Susan	KB5ICO	A,D,F
Fox, Floyd	N5PXY	A,F
Freedenberg, Henry	K5HF	A
Gordon, Hy	NC5A	A
Gordon, Irene	N5AYX	A
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A,D
Hammer, Cindy	N5LXE	D,F
Hammer, Dave	WJ5B	D,F
Hardy, Nick	N5PRP	B,C,F
Harris, Ron	N5MKO	F
Harrison, Terry	KB5UE	F
Hickox, Bill	K5BDZ	F
Jacobs, Bradley	KB5JON	A
Jacobs, Nathan	KB5KTZ	A
Jacobs, Travis	N5DON	A
Kemp, Bill	KG5CB	D,F
Kruse, Dick	N5OUT	C,F
Lamkin, Stu	WB5IGG	A,F
Lance, David	KB5EYK	D
Lay, Michael	N5PTN	B,D,F
Mattis, Allen	N5AFV	A,F
Morrison, Henry	W5RIY	A
Moynihan, Steve	AA5LF	F
Nance, Herb	N5GZW	A,F
Parker, Harold	ND5F	A,F
Ricketts, Robert	N5JKD	A,D,F
Pokladnik, Roger	KB5LFU	F
Prochaska, Charles	KG5KVU	F
Pugh, Randy	AA5QA	F
Richard, Victor	N5NAS	F
Ross, Joe	AA5BD	D,F
Shorthose, Ron	N5PHL	D
Sinibaldi, Dawn	KB5LDJ	B,C,F
Skelton, Steve	N5PRC	F
Smith, Irv	KB5EXM	D
Stanley, Tim	N5PHM	F
Todd-Brown, Bill	N5MPN	F
Van Demark, Jack	WN5A	A,F
Wade, Don	WB5IBT	A,E,F
Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	A

Please report corrections or additions to N5AFV

ATTENDANCE ROSTER 1990

B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS	M	J	J
	A	U	U
	Y	N	L
Betty			X
William	X		
Michael Brown	X	X	X
Marian Chambers		X	X
Frances Dillard			X
John English	X		
Bob Fisher		X	
Jim Gilmore	X		
Margaret Kytle			X
Harry Levine	X		
Charlie Litchfield		X	
Frank McCoy	X		
Terry McCoy	X		
Mark McElvy	X		
Gene Russell		X	
Mrs. Thatcher			X
Peg Todd-Brown			X
Leona Warren	X	X	
Jack Van Demark		X	X
Don Busick	X		
Al Mattis	X	X	X
Gerry Borg		X	X
Dave Hammer	X		
Joe Ross		X	X
Elton Kytle	X	X	X
Bill Kemp		X	
Gary			X
Joe			X
Ralph Cheek		X	X
Travis Jacobs	X		
Marty Smith	X		X
George Jolly	X	X	
Jeff Salmons		X	X
Vincent Orlando		X	X
Irv Smith	X		
Ray Dillard		X	X
Harold Parker	X	X	X
Terry Onda		X	
Damian			X
Randy Pollard	X	X	X
Dave Dyer	X	X	
Carl			
Herb Nance		X	X
Don Wade	X		
Susan Edwards	X	X	X
Doug Barrett		X	
Stu Lamkin		X	
Lou Kronberg	X		
Henry Bell	X		
Melvin Thatcher	X	X	X
Carl Albrecht		X	
Sid Warren	X	X	X
Melanie Edwards			X
Don Brown, Sr.	X	X	X
Charles Prochaska	X	X	X
Bill Dessens	X	X	X
Rick Covert	X	X	X
Dawn Sinibaldi	X	X	X
Steve Moynihan	X	X	
Roger Pokladnik	X	X	X

N5LGS	Karla Dyer		X		
N5LRC	Douglas Eggleston	X			
WB4LZG	Glenn Edwards	X	X	X	
KB5MRD	Arthur			X	
N5MPN	Bill Todd-Brown	X	X	X	
KB5MRD	Art Neumayer		X		
KB5MVM	Doug Vandevere		X		
N5NAS	Vick Richard	X	X	X	
N5NTO	Don Brown, Jr.		X		
N5NVW	Waylan			X	
AA5OA	Randy Pugh	X		X	
WA5OEN	Steve Gottlieb	X	X	X	
N5OFE	Gary Tucker	X		X	
N5OUT	Dick Kruse	X	X	X	
N5OUZ	Lawrence Cox	X	X	X	
N5PGF	Terry Leatherland		X		
N5PHL	Ron Shorthose		X		
N5PHM	Tim Stanley	X		X	
N5PJI	Bob			X	
N5PKT	Jennifer			X	
N5PKW	Beth Brown		X	X	
WA3PMT	Steven Deaktor		X	X	
N5PNX	Eddie Runner	X			
N5PRC	Steve Skelton		X		
N5PRH				X	
N5PRP	Nick Hardy	X	X	X	
N5PRQ	James Higgins	X			
N5PTN	Michael Fay	X		X	
N5PWH	Bill Eatwell		X		
KB5PXY	Floyd Fox	X	X	X	
N5QCE	Michael Chambers	X		X	
N5QMI	Ike			X	
N5QMK	David Mills		X	X	
N5RAR	Debbie			X	
WB5SHU	Clem			X	
WB5SRN	Dick Hagerman	X		X	
KF5VZ	Brenson Abbott	X	X		
KK5W	Al			X	
W5WVX	Ed Harwell	X			
KA5YSL	Rick Meyer	X		X	
WB5YWS	Howard Gerber	X	X	X	
* = NEW CALL		TOTAL:	52	54	69



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W5IHY

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777-2673

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS
3.960 MHz 8:00pm Wednesdays
Compiled by Allen Mattis N5AFV

June 27, 1990
N5AFV NCS, KB5ION, KB5IIL, W5IHY, N5PRC, KB5DNT, AK5G, WA5SCE, WB4LZG

July 4, 1990
N5AFV NCS, N5MPN, AK5G, KB5ION, WB5SRN, WB5IBT, K5DXV, WB5IGG, N5PRC

July 11, 1990
N5AFV NCS, N5MPN, N5ECP, KB5DNT, KB5ION, WB5IGG, AA5OA, N5PRP, AK5G, WB5SRN, W5IHY, KI5AN

When Jay Wilkinson, a youthful alumnus of Harvard graduate school, took on veteran Oklahoma Congressman Tom Steed, it promised to be quite a battle. Young, handsome and idealistic, Wilkinson had a good image for an ad agency to project. One TV commercial used in the campaign showed the fresh-faced Wilkinson walking through a pasture, soulfully looking up to the sky.

"I may not have had a fancy education like your Wilkinson," responded the veteran Steed when I was asked about the ad, "but I know enough to look at the ground when I'm walking through a cow pasture."