



B-VARC BULLETIN

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

Editor in Chief: Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS 774-7651 (0800-2100 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.

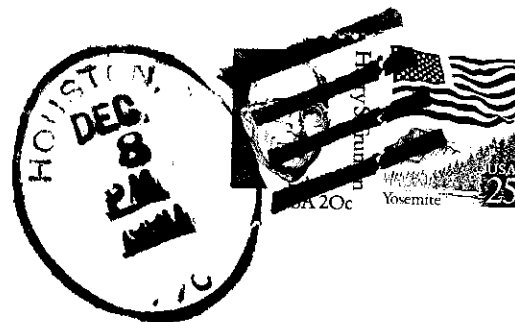
For information about the club and any of its activities, please call Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG, (713) 777-3345.

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December 1990

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 1630
Missouri City, Texas 77459
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B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs,	Dec. 13	General Meeting
	7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station
		Program: "Electrostatics"
		by Terry Onda, K15FO

Thurs,	Jan. 3	Board Meeting
	7:30 pm	Missouri City Fire Station

Thurs,	Jan. 10	Annual Banquet
	7:00 pm	Marriott Hotel 610 & San Felipe

Stu Lamkin WB5IGG
7401 Heilig
Houston, TX 77074

December 1990

B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	3 8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145. 47	4 8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	5 8:00p B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) +3 Khz)	6 7:30p BOARD MEETING Missouri City Fire Station #1	7 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Moose's, 6818 Chetwood	1 7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 8:30p C.W. 147.32
9 7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	10 8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145. 47	11 7:00p Amateur Exams Given at Strake Jesuit 8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	12 8:00p B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) +3 Khz)	13 7:30p GENERAL MEETING Missouri City Fire Station #1	14 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at El Fenix, Galleria	8 7:00a GAAC 30K Marathon Warm-up Race at First Colony 7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 8:30p C.W. 147.32
16 7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	17 8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145. 47	18 8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	19 8:00p B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) +3 Khz)	20	21 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Great Charcoal Chicken, 1000 Campbell Road	22 7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 8:30p C.W. 147.32
23 7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	24 8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145. 47	25 8:00p 10 X SHOT 28.488 9:00p Experimenters Net 442.5 & 145.47 10:00p AMSAT 146.82	26 8:00p B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) +3 Khz)	27	28 Lunch Bunch -- Talk-In 442.5 at Fuddrucker's, on Chimney Rock at Richmond	29 7:30a B-VARC Breakfast 8:30p C.W. 147.32
30 7:00p Harris County RACES 146.94	31 8:00p ARES 147.30 9:00p B-VARC Net 145. 47					

A Word From The President . . .

by Bill Dessens, N5KXU

The November election meeting was a great meeting. Some really good nominations came out of it, as well as the election of our officers and a director for 1991. The process works, and we have elected some real fine people to be the leadership of our club as we continue into the 1990s. I would like to especially express my personal thanks to Jack, WN5A, and the election committee for their hard work and efforts during these past 2 or 3 months.

It is with mixed feelings that I vacate the office of President of B-VARC. I will admit that it was a lot of work, and the responsibility that goes with the office caused me to put in a lot of extra hours, both at my business and at home. But it was well worth every bit of it. The club is moving forward at a record rate in every area, from membership to meeting attendance to exam activity, as well as activity of a lot of folks in B-VARC who are making it all happen. Believe me, it has been a real honor and privilege to have served as your President during this past year. My sincere appreciation for all of you who supported me and helped me and the club. The efforts have been worth it.

Some special thanks are in order for those who have gone the extra mile this year. Allen, N5AFV, was always very helpful and supportive. Of course, there was Dick, N5OUT, who as parliamentarian kept me out of trouble more than once, and who as Recording Secretary kept excellent minutes of the board meetings. Also, Randy, AK5G, who made sure that our books were, and are, in beautiful order. Also, Susan, KB5ICO, and Glenn, WB4LZG, who kept up with the membership and roster. Gerry, N5APW, and Carl, AA5JW, were always helpful and supportive. Then, there's Jack, WN5A, without whose help this job would have been much harder. He always insisted that he had time for me when I would ask dumb questions, and I relied upon him immensely for advice and support. He was always there, and I sincerely appreciate his wisdom and help.

Then there was Bill, N5MPN, the Program Director, who deserves more credit for B-VARC's success than most of you realize. He was, and is, a tremendous inspiration for all of us for devoting so much time and energy even when he didn't necessarily feel like it. Bill, you are one of a kind, and I am deeply indebted to you and grateful for everything that you have done, for me and for B-VARC.

The various committee members all did a bang-up job. I can't begin to name them all, but you know them, from Finance, Publications, Technical Advancement, Picnics, the upcoming Banquet, Net Managers, Public Service Events — and don't forget B-VARC's intense involvement in the W90ES Special Event Station, which would not have enjoyed the success that it did without involvement of some 35 to 40 of our members.

We are winding up the year with just under 200 paid members, which is a phenomenal accomplishment. Our VE Program and Novice Classes deserve a lot of credit for this, because in this area, B-VARC is now rated among the tops in the nation, I am told. How about that, sports fans?

Our new Officers and Directors for 1991 are primed and ready to go. They have taken on a sizable responsibility, and deserve our support and help. I know that the membership will extend to them the same courtesies and assistance that were given to your 1990 Board. We are on a roll, and bigger and better things will happen as a result. Just watch our smoke!

73,
Bill, N5KXU

Notes from the Vice-President

by Al Mattis N5AFV

Greetings to you again. This past month went very quickly for me, as I began preparations for my term as club president. I wish to thank the members of B-VARC for their confidence in me, and hope our club continues the successful trend it has followed for the past few years.

The success of B-VARC not only depends upon the officers, but also upon its members. I have already approached approximately a dozen members to ask their help in carrying out the club's programs for next year. I must say that I have been disappointed in the response. What you get out of B-VARC is directly proportional to what you put into it. Your club is in need of help. B-VARC will only be as good as you make it. If I or another club member approach you to ask for help, please volunteer. In fact don't wait to be asked — call me if you can spare some time to help the club.

The communications provided by B-VARC for the GAAC 25K race at Cinco Ranch last month were greatly appreciated by the race officials. A total of 20 club members participated in the event. The only complaints heard were that the race was the same time as the Houston Com-Vention '90, where another contingent from the club also worked hard at the B-VARC sponsored forum. The members who participated in these events are listed in the Public Service Honor Roll. In addition, the B-VARC VE team, headed by Harold Parker, ND5F, conducted VE test sessions at the Com-Vention on Sunday morning. A list of the participating members of the VE Team appears elsewhere in this newsletter in Harold's monthly summary of the VE Team activity.

We have another public service event coming up on December 8th, when the First Colony 30K race will be held. By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have contacted all club members who have volunteered to work the event, and final preparations will be in progress. Thank you to all of our members who have supported B-VARC's public service activities during the past year.

If you haven't checked into the Rag Chew Net on Wednesday evenings for a while, it's time for you to check it out again. A new format has been instituted that emphasizes HF operation. Discussions have been lively, and stations from outside Texas even join the net on occasion. The Rag Chew Net has averaged 15 check-ins per week for the entire year, making it the largest non-traffic HF net in the Houston area. Stations checking into the net during the past month are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

That's it for this month. Hope to see you at the December meeting.

73 de N5AFV

January *Bulletin* Deadline

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the January issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than December 27th. Please give such to Vincent Orlando WA5ETS.

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

October 31, 1990

N5AFV NCS, N5MPN, KB5ION, AK5G, N5KXU,
W5IHY, WB5IGG, KB5LFU, KB5DNT, N5PRC,
AA5LF, N5QQJ, WN5A

November 7, 1990

N5MPN NCS, KB5ILL, KB5ION, N5RAR, WN5A,
W5IHY, N5AFV, N5KRU, KB5LFU, AA5JW, WB5IGG,
WA5SCE, K5DIY, KB5JIZ, WB5RAP, AA5LF, K5BDZ,
K5KXU, WB5IBT, KI5AN, WD5CVK/5, ND5F, AA5SR

November 14, 1990

N5MPN NCS, K5BDZ, KB5ION, N5PRC, N5AFV,
W5IHY, WN5A, AK5G, KB5DNT, AA5TB, WB5IGG,
N5FNA, KB5LFU

November 21, 1990

N5MPN NCS, WN5A, N5AFV, KB5DNT, W5IHY,
WB5IGG, WA5SCE, KB5ION, KB5ILL, WB5SRN,
KI5CE, KA5WJB, AK5G, N5FNA

November 28, 1990

N5MPN NCS, WB5SRN, WA5SCE, KB5ION,
WB5IBT, KG5KV, KI5CE, WB5IGG, WN5A, AA5TB,
N5AFV, N5RAR, KB5LFU, N5ILI, N5KXU, KB5ILL,
W5IHY

50 Years to 1990

by Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN

To help you, the reader, to understand what this piece is all about, let me explain that Bill, N5KXU, asked me to write an article about our 1990 programs. Everyone with an interest already knows what the 1990 programs have been, but of more interest — why? For me to answer that requires your insight into my perspective.

My first receiver, in retrospect, was probably the most enjoyed piece of gear I have ever owned. I swept a store room for 10 cents a week to earn the 35 cents, plus 5 cents postage, to buy a galena crystal and "cat's whisker." I wound my coils on baking powder cans and empty "Mother's Oats" boxes, scrounged the wire, varnished it, etc., built the head phone from remnants of a hand piece off a crank type telephone that came out of a house fire, and hunted and hunted for a "hot spot."

The next year, after I turned 10, I built my first "one tuber" CW transmitter and a two tuber Het receiver. Within a year I met my first 2 men with the "little gold badges." It seems that my signal was getting

out farther than our neighborhood gang area. (This was a small town — very small — and a neighborhood gang in those days was any and all kids that could think of something to do of common interest, said interest lasting 15 minutes or more.)

While the two men "with the little gold badges" and one very scared 12 year old (me!) looked on, my Dad took one very large hammer to my very small "one tuber" and miniaturized it. To dust! (This, I believe, was one of the first, if not the first, sub-compact miniature.)

The two men "with the little gold badges" were most abrupt and brutal in their comments and threats of what would happen to one 12 year old if he should ever, ever, ever get on the air again without a license. My Dad finalized my understanding of the situation, after they left, with his belt.

So, I still had my "2 tuber" receiver that operated well off of one of my grandfather's 6 volt truck batteries (I'd switch it weekly for a charged up one out of one of his trucks — I think, in retrospect, he knew). Within a few months, World War II broke out and all amateur radio was shut down for the duration.

When I was old enough (17) I enlisted, and radio almost did me in again. While in the Armored School at Fort Knox during a hurry up and wait period and after 14 hours of sitting in place in a hot tank, for the heck of it, I keyed the transmitter and started a round of "I'm Crazy." At the time I was 6 feet and 210 pounds — muscle, not flab. That did not deter the biggest, meanest, first field sergeant you ever saw from reaching down through the hatch and actually lifting me, with one hand, up out of my seat, through the hatch, and dropping me seven feet down to the ground. I'll spare you the details of the agony and extra duty of the next month of my military service.

After the military came the railroad, college, marriage, field geology (more radios to mess up!), kids, and again, now that we were settled in Houston, back to amateur radio. Then a job change, lots of travel, and more radios to play with (company and bush planes.) Then I went "on my own" and as my business prospered (very slowly) there were more radios — in my trucks, field cars, boat, etc. Finally, after retiring because of health reasons, I really was able to get back into active, legitimate amateur radio.

During the ensuing years, my yearning to tinker, experiment and "make it work better" never wavered. But with the advent of the transistor, I.C., etc., after a few rigs, I now limit my experimenting to antennas, ground, propagation and my greatest love, helping others into enjoying this wonderful world of Ham Radio.

Several years ago I joined B-VARC and a whole new world of ham radio was opened up to me. Instead of a "Lone Ranger" getting things on his own, here was help, common interest, socializing — in effect, here was "the gang" of my youth. What a wonderful gift this has been to be twice blessed.

The opportunity to repay, in a small way, some of the enjoyment that B-VARC has given me, was afforded to me last January at the annual banquet when Bill, N5KXU, asked me to be program chairman. We later met and determined a mutually agreeable course.

The first order of my procedure was to count the number of novices, technicians, generals, advanced and extras on the roster, then try to, by questioning others, subdivide the membership into interest groups, i. e., VHF, UHF, CW, Phone, HF, Packet, Highly Technical, purely social.

And then look at the timing. (Hey — 4 miniature satellites are going up! Let's get a speaker on that while it is hot, etc.) During the past year it has been impossible to please everyone all the time. But we have had programs tailored to your general group interest. For those that gripe about the "Eating Club," there have been technical programs also. For those that want socializing, we have had 2 sessions entirely devoted to it. For general interest, we've had that too. For the record, let's review the year (after the banquet):

February — Andy MacAllister, WA5ZIB - Amsat
March — Slumgullion Social
April — Tom Comstock, N5TC - ARRL
May — Don Busick, K5AAD - What's New
June — Lou McFadin, W5DID - Ham in Space
July — Ice Cream Social and Kiddie Toy Night
August — Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN - Grounds,
Antennas and Propagation
September — Jim Jennings, KE5HE - Amlink
(Amtor, Packet)
October — Kim Mathews - NiCAD Batteries
November — Election and Chili Social
December — Terry Onda, KI5FO - Electrostatics

It's been a good year. Besides all of the articles, letters and phone calls relative to speakers and programs, I have had a full year now on my propagation study, and have received much needed help and support from quite a few B-VARC members as well as Hams in Australia, New Zealand, South America and England. It's working!

It has also been my privilege to give a number of talks on "grounds" and HF propagation during the year, locally, in West Texas and in New Mexico. There have also been several occasions when I've been able to help others straighten out stations and experiment with a new beam that Mel, KB5ION, and I are planning. The next year promises more delights, plus, hopefully, I will be able to fulfill a request for 3 articles for national publication. All of this is, of course, contingent on a health problem.

So now, maybe after all of this, it will help you, the reader, to understand why B-VARC, having been program chairman and just plain being a "Ham" mean so much to me. It took me 50 years to get here!

73,
Bill, N5MPN

Results of the November Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur radio Examinations that were held on two different occasions this month. The first exams were given on Sunday morning, November 11th at the Sheraton Crown Hotel during the Houston Com-Vention '90, the ARRL South Texas Convention.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Ray Dillard, WA5F
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Henry Morrison, W5RIY
Harold Parker, ND5F
Jim Pettitt, WA5YKR
Randy Pollard, AK5G
Joe Ross, AA5BD
Mark Tyler, K5GQ

A total of seventy-four (74) exams were administered during the morning to forty-eight (48) applicants. Eight (8) unlicensed candidates received new licenses, five (5) Novices and three (3) Technicians. Twenty-one (21) other candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of forty-six (46) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the morning was sixty-two (62%) percent.

Congratulations to the following who upgraded and passed exams:

Judith Bailey, KB5IMY — Element 3B
Richard Bearden, KB5MHJ — General
Joseph Bertani, N5NQF — Element 3B
Boyd Bilger, W9NUQ — Advanced
Floyd Caylor, N5OTK — Advanced
John Corelyou, KB5KFM — Technician
Janet Craig, KB5LTI — Technician
Helene Crump, KB5MSY — Technician
Luther Duett, KB5IQN — Advanced
Dennis Freeman — Technician
John Garland, Pending — Technician
Bruce Goyer, KA5VYE — Technician
David Harris, N5RHV — Element 1B
David Kitson, N5ROZ — General
Charles Lester, KA5YBW — Technician
Jon Littmann, KB5MKP — Technician
Mario Martinez — Technician
Pat McColloster — Novice
James Meisner, KB5MKQ — Technician
Cliford Miller, KB5NCU — Technician
Randall Miller — Novice
Michael Moore, KA5TNM — Technician
Gary Morris, N5QWC — Advanced
Jeffrey Muehl — Technician
John Paquette, N5RBD — Element 3B
Raymond Peacoe — Novice
Jerry Ross — Novice
Jay Rubens, N5QVT — Advanced
Larry Sherwood, N5QKS — Advanced
William Smith, KB5LKE — Technician
Brian Stevens, KB5NZK — Technician
James Sumerlin, N5RKM — Element 3B
Donna Tant — Novice
Thomas Watkins, KB5LDL — Element 3B
Thomas Zeugin, KB5JRT — General

Many thanks to all the Team Members and Assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each year at Com-Vention time.

The second exams were the regular monthly ones given on Tuesday evening, November 13th, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team and Assistants:

Cass Germany, KG5IT
Irene Gordon, N5AYX
Stu Lamkin, WB5IGG
Harold Parker, ND5F
Randy Pugh, AA5OA
Joe Ross, AA5BD
Joe Tarrant, K5DIY

A total of twenty-eight (28) exams were administered during the evening to fifteen (15) applicants. One (1) unlicensed candidate received a new Novice license. Seven (7) other candidates upgraded their licenses with a total of eighteen (18) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was sixty-four (64%) percent.

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

Roy Anders — Elements 4A & 4B
Martin Blaise, N5OHN — Element 4B
Donald Chapman, KB5NWM — Element 3B
Darrell Collins — Element 2
Miguel Elias, KB5NUQ — Extra
Steven Hovater, KB5OAZ — Technician
Kelvin Lyons — Elements 2 & 3A
Russell Meek, KB5NVU — Technician
John Menna, KB5NAV — Technician
John Overmeyer — Novice
Johnie Perry, KB5NOA — Technician
Howard Russell — Element 4A
Gary Seymour, WA5TQW — Advanced
James Williams, KB5NRN — Technician

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...

Election Night

by Bill Todd-Brown

Election night meetings come and go with more "ho-hum" than notice. But not this year! The sky opened up — and did it ever. While driving down South Main (normally 55 to 60 mph), I apologized to

Lou, W5IHY, for only going 25 mph since visibility was so limited. He replied, "Don't apologize; I was just going to ask you to slow down some more, as I can't see the hood ornament." Not to worry, Lou. We were in my wife's car and it doesn't have a hood ornament.

When we arrived at the Missouri City Fire Station, there was Uncle Vic, N5NAS, inside the fire station next to the fire trucks, with his propane burner on high and his "oil tank with handles" bubbling out the essence of dreams — good chili.

Doug, Lucy, Dot and the rest of the Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department once again came through for us with sufficient chairs and tables to seat everyone, so that we could eat and vote in comfort. We certainly cannot thank them enough. They have really worked hard to help us with a successful year.

Speaking of "Thanks," I'm probably going to leave someone out and be in trouble again, but here goes. Vic, N5NAS, supplied the chili, in its entirety, he purchased the meat (and ground it up by stomping it with his cleated shoes) — (but not to worry; he put down fresh newspapers to stomp it on), he cooked it, seasoned it and brought it. We suspect that Pat played more than a small role in it. Thanks, Vic; it was superb. (In fact, it was so good that Harold, ND5F, and his wife went over to Vic's house after the meeting to help dispose of what was left.)

And thanks to Charlie, KG5KV, and his wife, Julia. They brought a cake, rounded up other desserts from Karla, N5LGS; Steve, AA5LF; Lou, W5IHY; Steve, N5PRC; and Lawrence, N5OUZ. Then they (Charlie and Julia) cut and placed each piece on individual plates, with a fork, to help speed up the serving. So, to each of you, our thanks.

Thanks also to Dick, N5OUT, for helping me serve the chili and for bringing the onions, crackers and salt. Thanks to Ralph, KB5DNT, for the garlic bread. Thanks to Randy, AK5G, for the coffee, aluminum foil and paper towels. Thanks to Dave, AA5GA, for the 24 cans of soft drinks, and the crock of butter. Thanks to Dick, WB5SRN, for the 24 cans of soft drinks. Thanks to Don, KB5KLY, for the 24 cans of soft drinks. Vic, N5NAS, also made a big and small pot of coffee, and I helped out with my 36 copper. Bill, N5KXU, brought his big ice chest with ice and the sound system, and I got the eateries (bowls, etc.).

Mel, KB5ION, Charlie, KG5KV, Jack, WN5A, and several others (I'm in trouble!) set up and took down tables, chairs, etc. Thanks to all.

So far it sounds like all we did was eat. Well, that was a big part of it, but not the most important part. The meeting and election went so smoothly that it was a joy.

To each of you that won your desired seat or position, our heartfelt congratulations. To the losers, don't fret; wait until next year and throw the buggers out.

By the time the meeting was over, the rains had subsided. We all headed for home — with a good feeling — for having been privileged to elect good people to run our club next year, for good food (Note: Uncle Vic's chili is pre-programmed not to cause indigestion, if at all, before 3:00 o'clock the next morning!), and most importantly, for good fellowship.

73,
Bill, N5MPN

Upcoming Club Awards

by Harold, ND5F

B-Varc Order of the Key

In November of each year, the B-Varc membership can submit their nominations of candidates for the "B-Varc Order of the Key Award". Candidates should be only those members who have made significant personal contribution to B-Varc during the year or over an extended period of time.

This prestigious award is presented **only to B-Varc members** by the general membership. Each candidate must receive unanimous approval of the Board of Directors. This distinction can only be earned through voluntary service for the advancement of the Brazos-Valley Amateur Radio Club.

The following standards are diligently applied to all prospective recipients as the means of preserving the meaning and importance of this very special award.

1. The extra special effort or extraordinary performance by a member after volunteering for a special task or project. Such

a significant service to the Club could take place over a relatively short period and represent loyalty or effort that is normally "beyond the call of duty".

2. The performance of sustained, outstanding and dedicated voluntary service to B-Varc over an extended period of time.

Nominations for a club member to be a candidate for the Order of the Key Award **must** be made in writing, addressed to the B-Varc Board of Directors and be in the hands of the President no later than the December membership meeting. The nominations should state the reasons why the nominee has earned the award. The President polls each of the Board Members personally and only he knows the results of the poll. The awards, if any, will be presented at the Club's annual banquet in January.

This award is unique to B-Varc. It was conceived by a Club member and was first bestowed on Bob Spradling, W5UBD/SK, for his dedicated service to B-Varc.

The Club's Annual Roster includes the impressive list of recipients of the "B-Varc Order of the Key". Hopefully, it will inspire YOU to join the ranks of those who have done the most to make the Brazos-Valley Amateur Radio Club what it is today.

Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award

In December of each year, the membership of B-Varc has the opportunity to submit their nominations of candidates for the "Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award".

Dr. Bill Ossenfort, NG5C, now a Silent Key, was well known in the Houston Area as a vigorous contributor to the Volunteer Examination Program. His hard work and cheerful personality are missed by those who knew him.

This award was initiated by B-Varc in 1988 and is presented each year to the person identified and selected as the outstanding Volunteer Examiner in the Houston Area. To receive the award, the candidate must receive unanimous approval of the B-Varc Board of Directors.

In honor of Dr. Bill's memory, Keith and Eva Huges, KA5F and KA5CYZ, have prepared a beautiful plaque on which the names of the award recipients are

inscribed each year. The recipient holds the plaque during the year of presentation and passes it on to the next one who is honored. Each recipient also receives a smaller inscribed plaque as a permanent possession. This award is also unique to B-VARC.

Nominations for the Dr. Bill Ossenfort Award must be made in writing and submitted to the President of B-VARC no later than the December membership meeting. These written recommendations should state the reasons why the nominee has earned the award. The President polls each of the Board members, and the award is presented at the Club's annual banquet in January.

November 11, 1990

Al Mattis
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club
5314 Wigton
Houston, Texas 77096

Dear Al:

Please convey to your membership, and particularly to those who worked the 25km at Cinco Ranch on Saturday, November 10, our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your continued association with this race. We all know that this type of event cannot be done without the radio contact and support that you offer. Without you, it would be like waiting for the hurricane to strike with no radio to warn you. You know something's happening, but what? With your group out there, there are no surprises; we can be prepared.

Again, on behalf of Houston Masters Sports Association, thanks to each and every one of you. We certainly hope your participation in this event will continue.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne McBrayer, Coordinator
Marathon Warm-Up Series

December Meeting

by Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN

This will be our last regularly scheduled meeting of the year. Let's all turn out and make it the largest attended meeting of the year. If each of you regular-

ly attending members would call at least one other member that normally does not attend and get that member out, we would be able to close out the year with trumpets and fanfare. All the officers, board members, program committee members and volunteers have worked hard to present a diversity of programs during the past year.

Now, we are asking you to help us. Just a couple of phone calls is all we ask. Let's get the non-attendees to attend. They, and you, might like it.

The December 13 meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM at the Missouri City Fire Station. And have we got a hair-raising program for you! Terry Onda, K15FO (one of our own), will present his program on "Electrostatics" complete with working displays, equipment, slides and methods of shielding, etc. Terry has given this program to a diversity of groups, and has yet to come away without being told what a hair-raising experience it was.

So it is up to you. We have an excellent program and speaker (Terry); we have an excellent facility (Missouri City Fire Station); we have plenty of notice (all meetings the 2nd Thursday of the month); we have the very best of coffee (Vic, N5NAS); and now, WE NEED YOU. Please make a call or two and get at least one other "non-attending" member to come out. And, by the way, if anyone wants to bring a crock of hot cider or a punch bowl of egg nog, or cookies, it would be welcome. All non-alcoholic, of course. Just get together with others and call me at 723-0130, and I'll make arrangements for tables and what-ever.

We will be looking for you at the "last meeting of the year." Let's make it the biggest.

73,
Bill, N5MPN

High Frequency

A Movie Review by Dave Dyer (AA5GA)

Next time you stop by your favorite video tape rental store, check out the movie *High Frequency*.

My significant other, Karla (N5LGS), brought this movie to my attention. Having never heard of it, I knew it would be a waste. Unfortunately, all the good videos were rented. With choices limited to

titles like *Beastmaster* and *Krull*, I resigned myself to my fate and rented *High Frequency*.

As you might guess, amateur radio plays a big role in this movie. As with most movies that involve ham radio, there are some stupid inaccuracies that the technical advisor should have easily caught and corrected. The acting is not academy award caliber. Neither is anything else.

In spite of this, *High Frequency* is a sleeper. My whole family (all Hams) enjoyed this movie. In fact, we liked it well enough to sit through it again when our friend Doug (N5LRC) came over to visit. Yes, this is a good excuse to pop some popcorn, break out the cold ones, and invite a few hams over to share good company, good munchies, and good entertainment.

The story is a suspense, spy-thriller. A young boy makes a DX contact with a commercial satellite relay station in the Alps. Together, the two share a friendship, a mystery and an adventure. The plot involves murder, international intrigue and, of course, a beautiful girl in great danger. Does amateur radio save the day? Check out *High Frequency* and see!

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1990 B-VARC PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Compiled by Allen Mattis N5AFV

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Houston Tenneco Marathon | E. Hungry Jack 50 | I. Alamo Challenge Bike Trek |
| B. Woman's Hospital 5K | F. ARRL Field Day | J. GAAC 25K |
| C. Azalea Run 5K | G. KK9W/W90ES | K. Ham Comm-Vention Forum |
| D. MS-150 Bike Tour | H. GAAC 20K | |

Abbott, Brenson	KF5VZ	A	Kyle, Elton	NO5C	G
Albrecht, Carl	AA5JW	D,E,I,K	Lamkin, Stu	WB5IGG	A,F
Albrecht, Carl, Jr.	KB5KJT	E	Lance, David	KB5EYK	D,I
Blackwell, A.J.	WB5YLB	H,J	Lay, Michael	N5PTN	B,D,F,I
Borg, Gerry	N5APW	A,G,K	Leatherland, Larry	WB4PGF	G
Brier, Allen	WB5BIR	G	Lefebvre, Greg	K5LTW	K
Brown, Beth	N5PKW	D	Linzer, Larry	N5PAA	G
Carlson, Bob	N5RBE	H,J	Mattis, Allen	N5AFV	A,F,H,J
Chambers, Michael	N5QCE	G,H,I,J	Mills, David	N5QMK	H
Cheek, Ralph	KB5DNT	A,B,D,E,G,I,J,K	Morrison, Henry	W5RIY	A,H,J
Covert, Rick	WD5L	G	Moynihan, Steve	AA5LF	F,G,J
Cox, Lawrence	N5OUZ	F	Nance, Herb	N5GZW	A,F
Deaktor, Steve	WA3PMT	F,G,H,J	Onda, Terry	KI5FO	G,I,J
Dessens, Bill	N5KXU	C,F,G	Orlando, Vincent	WA5ETS	J
Dessens, Mark	KG5JT	F,J	Parker, Harold	ND5F	A,F
Dillard, Ray	WA5F	A,B,C,D,E,G,I	Pokladnik, Roger	KB5LFU	F,G
Dunkleberger, Steve	N5JBL	H,J	Pollard, Randy	AK5G	H,J
Dyer, David	AA6GA	H,K	Prochaska, Charles	KG5KV	F,G,K
Dyer, Karla	N5LGS	A,H,K	Pugh, Randy	AA5OA	F
Eatwell, Bill	N5PWH	F	Richard, Victor	N5NAS	F,G
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	A,J	Ricketts, Robert	N5JKD	A,D,F,G,I
Edwards, Melanie	KB5KLH	A	Ross, Joe	AA5BD	D,F,G
Edwards, Susan	KB5ICO	A,D,F,G,I,J	Runner, Eddie	N5PNX	G
Fox, Floyd	N5PXY	A,F,G	Shorthose, Karen	N5PMO	G,I,J
Freedenberg, Henry	K5HF	A	Shorthose, Ron	N5PHL	D,G,I,J
Gordon, Hy	NC5A	A,G	Sinibaldi, Dawn	KB5LDJ	B,C,F,I
Gordon, Irene	N5AYX	A,G	Skelton, Steve	N5PRC	F,G,K
Gottlieb, Steve	WA5OEN	K	Smith, Irv	KB5EXM	D
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A,D,I	Stanley, Tim	N5PHM	D,F,I
Hammer, Cindy	N5LXE	D,F	Thatcher, Melvin	KB5ION	G,K
Hammer, Dave	WJ5B	D,F	Todd-Brown, Bill	N5MPN	F
Hardy, Nick	N5PRP	B,C,F,I	Van Demark, Jack	WN5A	A,F,H
Harris, Ron	N5MKO	F,G	Vandevere, Douglas	KB5MVM	I
Harrison, Terry	KB5UE	F	Wade, Don	WB5IBT	A,E,F,G,H,J
Hawkins, Jim	N4KKC	G	Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	A,H,J
Hickox, Bill	K5BDZ	F	Warren, Sid	KB5JWQ	G
Jacobs, Bradley	KB5JON	A	Winford, Clem	WB5SHU	J
Jacobs, Nathan	KB5KTZ	A			
Jacobs, Travis	N5DON	A			
Jolly, George	ND5E	K			
Juch, Fred	N5JXO	G			
Kemp, Bill	KG5CB	D,F			
Kruse, Dick	N5OUT	C,F,G			

Please report corrections or additions to N5AFV

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS

1990
S O N
E C O
P T V

	Angie Brooks	X		
	Marian Chambers	X	X	
	Marge Clarke	X		
	John English	X	X	
	Katrina Faul		X	
	Rich Jessup	X		
	Bud King		X	
	Jakub Miketta			X
	T. J. Onda			X
	James Pettitt, III		X	
	Matthew Pollard		X	
	Gene Russell	X	X	X
	Stephen Shirk		X	
	Leona Warren		X	
WN5A	Jack Van Demark			X
N5AFV	Al Mattis	X	X	X
N5APW	Gerry Borg	X		X
WJ5B	Dave Hammer			X
KB5BAY	Suzanne Borg			X
AA5BD	Joe Ross		X	
WD5BDX	Craig Davidson	X		
N5CIY	Kevin Triplett	X		
K5CNU	Tom Sellers		X	
WB3CPU	Frank Spanbauer	X		
K5DIY	Joe Tarrant			X
KA5DKS	Ken McAninch			X
KB5DNT	Ralph Cheek	X	X	X
WD5DZC	Marty Smith	X		
ND5E	George Jolly	X	X	
N5ECP	Jeff Salmons		X	
WA5ETS	Vincent Orlando	X	X	X
KI4EU	Win Rister		X	
KB5EXM	Irv Smith	X	X	X
ND5F	Harold Parker	X	X	X
WA5F	Ray Dillard	X		
KI5FO	Terry Onda	X		X
AK5G	Randy Pollard	X	X	X
AA5GA	Dave Dyer	X		X
W5GLD	Frank Wood		X	
KB5GUY	Deborah Dyer			X
N5GZW	Herb Nance	X		X
KE5HE	Jim Jennings	X		
WB5IBT	Don Wade	X	X	X
KB5ICO	Susan Edwards	X		X
WB5IGG	Stu Lamkin	X	X	X
W5IHY	Lou Kronberg	X	X	X
N5ILI	Henry Bell	X		
KB5ION	Melvin Thatcher	X	X	X
N5JKD	Robert Ricketts		X	
KG5JT	Mark Dessens			X
AA5JW	Carl Albrecht	X	X	X
KB5JWQ	Sid Warren		X	X
KB5KLY	Don Brown, Sr.	X	X	X
KB5KNC	Alicia Dyer			X
KG5KV	Charles Prochaska	X	X	X
N5KXU	Bill Dessens	X	X	X
KB5LDJ	Dawn Sinibaldi	X	X	X
AA5LF	Steve Moynihan		X	X
KB5LFU	Roger Pokladnik	X	X	X
N5LGS	Karla Dyer	X		X

N5LRC	Douglas Eggleston	X		X
N5LXE	Cindy Hammer			X
N5LYG	Bill Rimmes	X		
WB4LZG	Glenn Edwards	X		
VP2MCW	Wilbert Cannonir	X		
N5MPN	Bill Todd-Brown	X	X	X
N5NAS	Vic Richard	X		X
N5NND	Marcia Cannonir	X		
W5NRJ	Bill Braunig	X		
N5NTO	Don Brown, Jr.		X	X
KA5NYI	Mark McGrath	X	X	
AA5OA	Randy Pugh			X
WA5OEN	Steve Gottlieb	X	X	X
N5OFE	Gary Tucker	X		
N5OUT	Dick Kruse	X	X	X
N5OUZ	Lawrence Cox	X	X	X
N5OWZ	John Norris	X		
N5PAA	Larry Linzer			X
N5PHL	Ron Shorthose	X		X
N5PHM	Tim Stanley		X	X
N5PKW	Beth Brown		X	X
N5PMO	Karen Shorthose			X
WA3PMT	Steven Deaktor	X	X	X
N5PNX	Eddie Runner		X	
N5PRC	Steve Skelton	X	X	X
N5PRP	Nick Hardy	X	X	X
N5PTN	Michael Fay		X	
N5QCE	Michael Chambers	X	X	
N5QMK	David Mills	X	X	
N5QVI	Jordan Kossack	X	X	X
N5QWE	Roy Taylor	X		
N5RBE	Bob Carlson	X	X	X
N5RBT	Art Neumeyer	X	X	
WA5SCE	Ron Grimes		X	
WB5SHU	Clem Winford		X	X
KE5SR	Doug Holley		X	
WB5SRN	Dick Hagerman	X	X	X
N5TC	Tom Comstock	X		
WB5YDD	Bill Clarke	X		
WA5YKR	Jim Pettitt, Jr.		X	
WB5YLB	A. J. Blackwell	X	X	
KA5YSL	Rick Meyer		X	X
KF5ZL	Bob White	X		
N5??? *	Sharon Grimes		X	

* = NEW CALL TOTAL: 65 59 61

We would like to extend a special thank you to **Parkshire Center** for allowing B-VARC to hold its sidewalk sale in their parking area on the third Saturday morning of each month. We have been holding this sale here for some time now, and it is an excellent location with plenty of room for displaying our goods for sale and for parking, as well as just good fellowship. Let's all help these folks build up their center, for all the help they have provided us. Parkshire Center is located on Murphy Road at the Southwest Freeway.

The person who agrees with everything you say either isn't paying attention or else plans to sell you something.

B-VARC Banquet, 1991

The B-VARC Banquet will be held instead of the January 1991 general membership meeting.

The banquet will be at the MARRIOTT HOTEL, Loop 610 at San Felipe in the Ballroom, on the second Thursday in January, which is January 10th, 1991. This will be a "sit-down" dinner and a full staff will be in attendance. A cash bar will be open at 7:00 PM, and dinner will begin at 7:30 PM. Awards will be presented right after dinner.

The menu consists of:

8 oz. Prime Rib Baked Potato Vegetables Iced Tea or Coffee Dessert

If you have any special dietary needs, please convey this at the time of payment. The cost of the banquet is \$18.00 per person, which also includes gratuities, tax and the use of the cash bar.

Please contact Randy, AK5G at 729-6484 for reservations. **Payment has to be made by December 31, 1990.**

No walk-ins will be accepted, so please make your reservations soon. Stay tuned to the Monday night net for any additional details.

Hope to see you there.

73,
Suzanne, KB5BAY

1991 Election Report by Jack, WN5A

All that attended the November meeting know what a great time was had with the super food and fellowship. The main function of the November

meeting each year is to elect the new officers and board members to serve in the upcoming calendar year. Bill, N5KXU, asked that I report on the results.

1991 Officers and Board Members

President	Allen Mattis, N5AFV
Vice President	Gerry Borg, N5APW
Treasurer	Randy Pollard, AK5G
Recording Secretary	Dick Kruse, N5OUT
Correspondence Secretary	Don Wade, WB5IBT
3 Year Director	Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION
2 Year Director	Glenn Edwards, WB4LZG
1 Year Director	To Be Appointed at the January Board Meeting
Past President	Bill Dessens, N5KXU

Wow! What a super group of folks to carry the largest and finest amateur radio organization into 1991. I know all of you will join me in congratulating the newly elected officers.

73,
Jack, WN5A

Before boarding the train with her young son, a mother cautioned him, "If the conductor asks your age, say you're 5 years old."

The conductor did ask his age, and the little fellow replied that he was only 5.

"You're a big boy for 5," said the conductor. "How soon will you be 6?"

"Just as soon as I get off this train," the young boy replied.

Dear Son,

I'm writing this slow 'cause I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left. Your dad read in the paper where most accidents happen within twenty miles of home, so we moved.

I won't be able to send you the address as the last family that lived here took the numbers with them for their next house so they would not have to change their address.

This place has a washing machine. The first day I put four shirts in it, pulled the chain and haven't seen 'em since. It only rained twice this week, three days the first time and four days the second time.

The coat you wanted me to send you, your Aunt Sue said it would be a little heavy to send in the mail

with them heavy buttons, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

We got a bill from the funeral home, said if we didn't make the last payment on grandma's funeral, up she comes.

About your father - he has a lovely new job. He has over 500 people under him. He is cutting grass at the cemetery.

About your sister - she had a baby this morning. I haven't found out whether it is a boy or a girl, so I don't know if you are an aunt or an uncle.

Your Uncle John fell in the whiskey vat. Some men tried to pull him out, but he fought them off faithfully, so he drowned. We cremated him. He burned for three days.

Three of your friends went off the bridge in a pickup. One was driving the other two were in the back. The driver got out. He rolled the window down and swam to safety. The other two drowned. They couldn't get the tailgate down.

Not much more news this time, nothing much has happened. Write more often.

Love, Mom.

(Reprinted from The Rockdale Reporter)

Ever notice how nothing changes the color of paint like putting it on a wall?

A professor was sitting quietly with a discussion group. Everybody was having his say, but the professor remained silent.

Finally, someone asked him, "Why don't you join in the discussion?" The professor smiled.

"I learn more by listening," he said. "After all, anything I would say I already know."

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