



# 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.

To obtain information about the club and its various activities, please call the Houston Amateur Radio Helpline (713) 488-4HAM (488-4426). For information about joining the club, contact Randy Pollard AK5G: residence 729-6484 or work 224-3930.

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Volume: 15 Issue: 5

May 1992

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*From: Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1630  
Missouri City, Texas 77459*

## B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

**Thurs, May 14**    **General Meeting**  
**7:30 pm**    **Sugar Land Community Center**  
**Program: *The Fun of DXing* by**  
**Don Busick, K5AAD**

**Thurs, June 4**    **Board Meeting**  
**7:30 pm**    **Missouri City Fire Station**

# May 1992

## B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b> ALA Clean Air Ride 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	<b>4</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	<b>5</b> 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	<b>6</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>7</b> 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
<b>10</b> 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	<b>11</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strake Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	<b>13</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>14</b> 7:30pm General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) <b>B-VARC Special Event</b>
<b>17</b> 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 <b>B-VARC Special Event</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	<b>19</b> 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	<b>20</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
<b>24</b> 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	<b>25</b> 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County RACES Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	<b>26</b> 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10	<b>27</b> 8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
<b>31</b> 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873						

## Notes From The President . . .

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

All of us in the Club were deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of Bill Todd-Brown, N5MPN on March 18, 1992. Bill had done many things for the club. Some of the them were: HF net manager, program chairman 1992 and 1990, 1989 recipient of the Loop and Zep Award, 1990 recipient of the Order of the Key Award, and chief cook of the slumgullion feeds the Club would have. Bill will be missed by this club, and we will all have to pitch in to take up the slack that this has created.

This month's meeting will be on May 14, 1992, at 7:30 pm at the Sugar Land Community Center. The speaker for the meeting will be Mr. Donald Busick, K5AAD. Don will talk to us about DXing. The host for this meeting is Jack Van Demark, WN5A.

Remember that the B-VARC Special Event Station will be in operation from 7 pm May 15 to 7 pm May 17 at the MD Anderson Hospital. Make plans to work a station during this event. Also Field Day is at Bear Creek Park on June 27-28, 1992.

The new radio classes have started. With Glenn Edwards WB5LZG and Gerry Borg N5APW as teachers, I know that the classes will be top notch. I was there for the opening night class and invited all to our next B-VARC meeting.

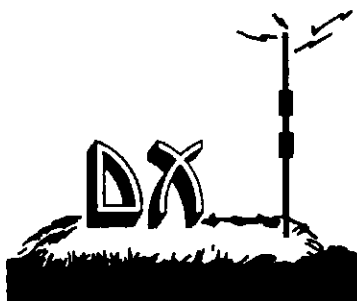
The meeting in June will feature Mr. Jim Jennings KE5HE, who will be driving all the way from Hearne, Texas, to talk to us.

73 de AK5G

## The World of 10-10 International

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

One of the more exciting aspects of 10-10 International is working DX stations. Many countries are active on ten meters, and 10-10 International has a Countries Award available to those who pursue this aspect of amateur radio.



### B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

*April 1, 1992*

KB5ION NCS, N5AFV, KE5SR, KI5CE, W5IHY, KB5IIL, KB5QLQ, KI5SC, KB5LFU, N5VRR, AK5G, KA7VRM, WB4LZG, N5ECP, KG5KV, N5YKR, N5MCK

*April 8, 1992*

KB5ION NCS, KB5IIL, KE5SR, W5IHY, W5EFB, KI5CE, W5GHK, KI5SC, N5AFV, KB5LFU, N5NXS, AK5G, N5VRR, KG5KV, N5XYF, N5OAC, WN5A, N5KXU

*April 15, 1992*

KI5CE NCS, KB5ION, N5AFV, W5IHY, W5EFB, KB5IIL, KG5KV, KB5LFU, N5VRR, WA5YNJ, N5SCO, KB5DNT, N5URI, N5KXU, WA5ETS, KE5SC

*April 22, 1992*

KB5ION NCS, KB5IIL, W5EFB, WB5SRN, KI5SC, KI5CE, N5VRR, N5YKR, KB5LFU, W5IHY

*April 29, 1992*

KB5ION NCS, KB5LFU, W5EFB, KB5IIL, KI5SC, KG5KV, AK5G, WB5SRN, N5WMB, N5KXU, W5IHY, KB5DNT

The current leader in 10-10 DX is Mike Davidson, KC5CP, the chapter head of the S.H.O.T. chapter. Mike has collected 10-10 numbers from 222 countries, and has 212 of these countries confirmed with QSL cards. Mike also writes the TenX DX News column in the *10-10 International News*. The second and third place stations in DX standings are WB5SKQ (Gay in New Orleans) and PJ2WG (Willy in Curacao).

Most of us can not compete with these top notch operators and their stations, but there is plenty of 10-10 DX that we can work with a wire antenna and 100 watts or less output. For example, during a recent weekend, I worked the following 10-10 DX stations: G4XBP and G4KHF in England; ZL3KR in New Zealand; NH6SJ, KH6DRT, and NH5WJ in Hawaii; JA1QGT in Japan; VK4SJM in Australia; F5BXQ in France; DL8YBM and DK0RT in Germany; and VE5BF, VE7YM and VE3PUA in Canada. I also worked 17 states the same weekend, and only spent approximately 3½ hours on the air.

The thrill of a DX contact is one aspect of amateur radio that has not changed in decades. It is very exciting to speak to someone in another country and learn about their culture or life style. The opportunities for DX contacts on 10 meters are numerous, and many DX stations with or without 10-10 numbers may be easily worked.

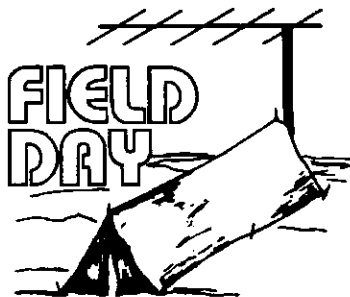
Remember the Houston S.H.O.T. net every Tuesday evening at 8 PM local time on 28.488 Mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a 10-10 number. If you are not a member of 10-10 International and wish to join the organization, please check in to the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in 10-10, and many friendly people can be found on the 10-meter band.

73 de N5AFV

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### **1992 Field Day** by Bill Kemp, KG5CB

This year's Field Day activities promise to be the most exciting and fun in the history of B-VARC. As our Field Day Chairman, I hope to provide activities for everyone! Field Day allows us to show our emergency preparedness capabilities as a club and at the same time have fun. The object is to construct temporary operating stations and work as many stations as possible for points. We will have several changes this year in our Field Day activities, including a satellite station, catered dinner, and reserved operating times!



Field Day is scheduled for the weekend of June 27th at Bear Creek Park. We currently are planning the following stations for the event:

- ◆ Voice Station
- ◆ CW Station
- ◆ RTTY/AMTOR Station
- ◆ Packet Station
- ◆ Satellite Station

Committees are now forming to help with the planning of the event in the areas of operation stations, logging, food, local communications, and publicity. For this event to be successful, we need the help of many of our club members. If you are interested in helping, please call me at 550-8102. More B-VARC Field Day information will be available on the Monday night nets and in the June *Bulletin*.

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### **Results of the April Amateur Exams** by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, April 14, 1992, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

**The V.E. Team**  
Glenn Lewis, KI5CE  
Harold Parker, ND5F  
Joe Ross, AA5BD

**Assistants**  
Carl Albrecht, AA5JW  
Cass Germany, KG5IT

A total of twenty-five (25) exams were administered during the evening to sixteen (16) applicants. Six (6) unlicensed candidates received their new licenses: 1 Novice, 1 Technician, and four (4) "no-code" Technicians. Four (4) others upgraded with a total of twenty (20) elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was seventy-six percent (76%).

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

Jason Alprin — Novice  
Esteban Cordova — Technician  
Robert Graham — Technician  
Marty Haley, N5XHN — Advanced  
Thomas Layne — Element 2  
Robert May, Jr. — Element 2  
John McKinney — Technician  
Herbert Miller, KA5SLK — Element 1B  
William Newton — Technician  
Frank Sanders, N5SPZ — Advanced  
Guy Shechter, N5URI — Advanced  
Zvi Shechter — Technician  
Mitchell Simons — Element 2  
Harriet Williams, KA5HCW — 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's ... ND5F

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### **On The Bands** by Randy Pollard, AK5G

The HF and VHF bands are still in good shape for some DX contacts ... Good information being exchanged on the Monday night net ... Where is the code practice net? ... If you have any information for this column tell me or Vincent ASAP ... We talk on frequencies not channels. ... The word *Break* should be used for emergency or priority traffic only. ... When signing with a station always use his call sign first followed by your call sign last. ... We all had fun trying to follow and contact STS-45. ... FLASH! new Z signals: see page 93 of the April '92 QST ... I like ZSD and 74 ... Just in time for Dayton Icom IC-P2AT ... Bring back memories Johnson Avenger ... Texas QSO party May 2-4 see page 100 April QST for details ... Saw ad that the TH-77 is now a close-out. ... Big BOOM in Brenham; did you feel it? ... N5UNE has a new J-38. ... New call N5ZUE ... Still some good ducting these foggy mornings ... Another GREAT program thanks to N5KXU and crew. ...

73 de AK5G

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### **B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, April 2, 1992** by Paula Holcombe, N5ULY Recording Secretary

Cash on hand in the club treasury as of March 31st was \$3553.33.

Club membership now stands at 178 members.

A letter was sent on behalf of the club to District Attorney Johnny Holmes to thank him for speaking at the March general membership meeting.

The Ham Help Line is doing a fantastic job in getting information to the public about B-VARC. The board discussed and approved a motion to continue the club's level of support to the Ham Help Line by subscribing for an additional year.

The novice classes are going well with about 16 regular attendees.

Participation in the Rag Chew Net is now at 17 check-ins down from 19 of the previous 2 weeks.

The special events station is kicking into high gear. As the certificate manager for the SHOT chapter of 10-10, Al Mattis N5AFV wrote a piece for the 10-10 magazine announcing the Special Events Station which Bill Dessens N5KXU is chairing. Larry Levy WD5DRB has also sent in an announcement to the same publication.

There will be a Severe Weather Seminar sponsored by the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management which will span 2 evenings, June 8th and 9th (Monday & Tuesday) 7-10pm. This will be a more lengthy and in-depth presentation than the one which B-VARC co-sponsored last year.

Bill Kemp KG5CB, field day chairman, reported that field day is now set to be held at Bear Creek Park the last full weekend in June (June 26-28th). Currently plans are to have 4-5 stations with sign-up sheets for those who wish to work a station. Bill has also proposed the formation of committees to help with items like computers, food, equipment, etc. Those wishing to volunteer to assist with any portion of the field day activities should contact Bill as soon as possible.

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### **June *Bulletin* Deadline**

Articles and other material destined to be printed in the June issue of the B-VARC *Bulletin* should be submitted by no later than May 28th. Please give such to Vincent Orlando WA5ETS; 8900 Bellaire Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77036-4699 or FAX (713) 774-6427.

Please correct the home telephone number in the B-VARC roster for Larry Levy, WD5DRB, to 432-0008.

## Two Workshops on the Weather

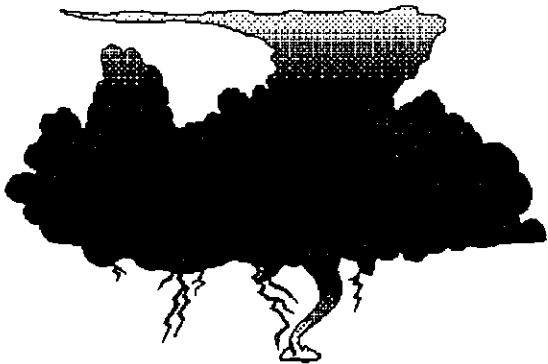
by Al Mattis, N5AFV

### NWS HURRICANE WORKSHOP

The National Weather Service (NWS) will present its annual Houston/Galveston Hurricane Workshop at 9:00 am on Friday, June 5th, at the South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center. This annual half-day conference will examine the flood potential of hurricanes and tropical storms. The program will feature a number of speakers including: Dr. Elbert Friday, Director of the NWS; Dr. Robert Sheets, Director of the National Hurricane Center; and Dr. Neil Frank, Director of the KHOU-TV Weather Department. The workshop is free and open to the public. Further information may be obtained from the NWS at 713-337-5074.

### FT. BEND COUNTY SEVERE WEATHER WORKSHOP

Hurricane season begins June 1, 1992, and with all the rain we have had this year, there is concern about potential flooding if the Houston area is struck by a hurricane or tropical storm. The Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management is sponsoring a Severe Weather and Hurricane Workshop. The workshop will be held June 8 & 9, 1992, from 7 to 10 pm at the George Memorial Library in Richmond, Texas. Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and tropical storms will all be discussed in the workshop.



This workshop is also free, and attendance is open to the public. This two-evening series of presentations will be particularly beneficial to any amateur radio operator interested in severe weather and weather spotting. The first evening will focus on severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, while the second evening will address hurricanes, tropical storms, and flooding. It has been several years since such an in-depth severe weather program has been available in the Houston area, so do not miss this opportunity. Please plan to attend the workshop, and bring a friend with you. Further information may be obtained from Ron Bolyard at the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management (713-341-4430).

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## Houston Area V.E. Exam Sessions

### *Brazos-Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC)*

2nd Tuesday

6:15 pm Check-in

7:00 pm ARRL Tests

Contact: Cass Germany, KG5IT  
(713) 682-6897

### *Brazosport Amateur Radio Club*

1st Saturday (Each Quarter)

8:00 am ARRL Tests

Contact: Paul Webb  
(409) 265-6439

### *Clear Lake Amateur Radio Klub (CLARK)*

2nd Saturday

9:30 am ARRL Tests

Contact: Harvey Vordenbaum, K5HV  
(713) 488-2886

### *Compaq Amateur Radio Club*

Wednesday

7:00 pm ARRL Tests

Contact: Tim Wettick, N2TW  
[H] (713) 89 4-5629 [W] (713) 378-7298

### *ECHO*

1st Saturday (6 sessions/year)

8:30 am ARRL Tests

Contact: Paul Owen, N5NXS  
[H] (713) 894-7758 [W] (713) 492-0550

### *Houston Area Communicators (HAC)*

2nd Saturday

7:00 pm W5YI Tests

Contact: Jim Shotwell, WA5BUV  
(713) 446-2812 146.96 Repeater

### *Houston Amateur Mobile Society (HAMS)*

1st Saturday

9:00 am ARRL or W5YI Tests

Contact: Tony Stevens, N5LSQ  
(713) 489-9571

### *North Houston Group*

1st Saturday

10:00 am W5YI Tests

Contact: Gary Eades, N4IOQ  
(713) 590-7261

### *Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS)*

3rd Saturday

9:00 am ARRL Tests

Contact: Paul Frantz, KF5SB  
(713) 351-8930

### *Orange Amateur Radio Club*

1st Saturday (June, Aug, Oct, Dec)

8:00 am ARRL Tests

Contact: Sid Phillips, W5SP  
(409) 886-2732

### *Sam Houston Amateur Radio Klub (SHARK)*

2nd Saturday (even months only)

9:30 am ARRL Tests

Contact: Sam Neal, N5AF  
(713) 592-2257



# 1992 B-VARC PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Compiled by Stephen Dunkelberger, N5JBL

A. Houston Marathon

B. MS 150

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Albrecht, Carl	AA5JW	B	Levy, Larry	WD5DRB	A
Borg, Gerry	N5APW	A	Lockhart, Steve	N5ZUC	B
Brigham, Bob	AA5ZK	B	Mattis, Allen	N5AFV	A
Cheek, Ralph	KB5DNT	A,B	Michimer, Terry	N5YKS	B
Cypert, Tony	N5UNE	B	Morrison, Henry	W5RIY	A
Dessens, Bill	N5KXU	A	North, Max	N5TBI	B
Dillard, Ray	WA5F	A,B	Onda, Terry	KI5FO	B
Edwards, Glenn	WB4LZG	A,B	Orlando, Vincent	WA5ETS	A
Edwards, Susan	KB5ICO	A,B	Parker, Harold	ND5F	A
Eilers, Wade	WN5TEN	B	Pearce, Tim	N5YQU	B
Firth, Dave	KH9AE	B	Pederson, Scott	KI5DR	A,B
Freedenberg, Henry	N5HF	A	Pokladnik, Roger	KB5LFU	B
Garland, Trey	N5RXZ	A	Ricketts, Robert	N5JKD	B
Gordon, Irene	N5AYX	A	Rogers, Dennis	N5VRP	B
Hacker, Carl	KB5LDY	A	Ross, Joe	AA5BD	B
Hagerman, Dick	WB5SRN	A,B	Shirk, Stephen	N5SDL	A,B
Hammer, Dave	WJ5B	B	Shorthose, Ron	N5PHL	B
Hardwick, Mike	N5VCX	A,B	Smith, Irv	KB5EXM	A
Harris, Ron	N5MKO	A,B	Stanley, Tim	N5PHM	A,B
Hughes, Kelly	N5ULZ	A	Van Demark, Jack	WN5A	A
Jackson, Emmet	N5RXN	A	Wade, Don	WB5IBT	A
Kemp, Bill	KG5CB	B	Warden, Mike	WB3HZP	A
King, Bud	N5UOG	A,B	White, Bob	KF5ZL	A
Kozinetz, Claudia	N5VCZ	A	Wilson, Bill	KA5GHI	B
Lay, Michael	N5PTN	A,B			

Please report corrections or additions to N5JBL

# SEVERE WEATHER & HURRICANE WORKSHOP

George Memorial Library  
Conference Room  
Richmond, Texas

June 8 & 9, 1992  
7 - 10 pm

## *SCHEDULE*

### **June 8**

- 7:00 pm Welcome  
Mel Speed, Emergency Coordinator  
Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management
- 7:10 pm Thunderstorms & Severe Weather  
Ron Stagno, Warning & Preparedness Meteorologist  
National Weather Service, League City
- 8:25 pm Break
- 8:40 pm National Weather Service Video  
*Severe Thunderstorms*
- 9:00 pm The Weather Spotter's Guidebook  
Allen Mattis, N5AFV

### **June 9**

- 7:00 pm Hurricanes & Tropical Storms  
Ron Stagno, Warning & Preparedness Meteorologist  
National Weather Service, League City
- 8:15 pm Break
- 8:30 pm *Hurricanes & Tropical Storms* booklet  
Allen Mattis, N5AFV
- 8:40 pm Brazos River 1992 New Year's Flood:  
Lessons Learned & Future Applications  
Ron Bolyard, Administrative Assistant  
Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management