



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.

Volume: 15 Issue: 8

August 1992

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, Aug. 13 General Meeting
7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center
Program: *The South Texas
Balloon Launch* by Andy
McAllister, WA5ZIB

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

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

August 1992

B-VARC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>2</p> <p>7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873</p>	<p>3</p> <p>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</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30pm RACES AMTDR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32</p>
<p>9</p> <p>1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873</p>	<p>10</p> <p>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</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00pm Amateur Exam (Suebs Jesse College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30pm General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32</p>
<p>16</p> <p>7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873</p>	<p>17</p> <p>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</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32</p>
<p>23</p> <p>1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873</p>	<p>24</p> <p>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</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00pm B-VARC RAG- CHEW 3.960 (Busy?) + 3 KHz)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am How Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32</p>
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Notes From The President . . .

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

We are nearing the season for all of us to put our emergency radio training to use. Not only is it Hurricane season, but it is also the "running and bike riding" season. First let's talk about hurricane season. One never knows when one of these will pop up and with what intensity it will hit. When one is near, the frequencies to tune to are: Gulf Coast Hurricane Net 3.935 Mhz, Harris County EOC 146.84 Mhz, and Ft. Bend County EOC 145.49 Mhz. Next is the communication for all of the running and biking that B-VARC traditionally handles. Make plans to help on some or all of these events. It will take time, but with all of the fun and fellowship the time passes quickly.

The speaker for the August 13, 1992 meeting will be Andy McAllister WA5ZIB who will talk about and show the South Texas Balloon Launch.

Special thanks go to Dick N5OUT and Betty KAOTEN for their organization of the ice cream social and especially to all of the members who made and brought the ice cream and cakes. This was another great and successful meeting!

73 de AK5G

B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, July 2, 1992

by Paula Holcombe, N5ULY
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Funds in the club treasury to date: \$3,772.29.

Randy Pollard reported that he sent letters of thanks on behalf of B-VARC to Gerry Borg, Bill Dessens, and Larry Levy for their help with the special events station; to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center for allowing us to use their radio equipment for the Special Events Station; to Bill Kemp for his invaluable help in the coordination of Field Day this year; and to Mr. Walt Peckahm, Director of Bear Creek Park, for his cooperation and help in allowing us to hold Field Day at the park.

Glenn Edwards advised the board that B-VARC has been asked once again to coordinate communications for next year's MS-150 event and that Septem-

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS 3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays Compiled by Melvin Thatcher KB5ION

July 8, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KE5SR, K15SC, KB5DNT, N5AFV,
W5IHY, W6EFB, N5KXU, J73TW, W5GHK,
N5VRR, KB5LFU, N5JBL

July 15, 1992

KB5ION NCS, N5AFV, K15SC, W5EFB, W5SRN,
KB5LFU, W5GHK, W5IHY, AK5G, KG5KV, K5DIY

July 22, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KB5IL, W5EFB, W5IHY, K15SC,
KB5DNT, WA5SCE, K5DIY, K15CE, KB5LFU, AK5G,
WB5SRN, N5AFV, KG5KV, VP2MCW, N5KXU

ber 21st thru October 26th is the tentative schedule for the next Novice/Tech class.

Field Day went well with estimates of 100-125 in attendance.

Paid club members as of this meeting were 206.

Rag Chew Net check-ins are low due to mid-summer vacations, etc.

The Board has reviewed sample certificates to be issued for participation in the Special Events Station; they will be going to press soon.

The World of 10-10 International

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

The big news this month in Ten Ten International centers on the election of five new directors for the organization. There are eleven candidates running for the five positions, and the elected directors will serve a four-year term. One of the candidates is Dave Prichard, KA5OVO, from southeast Houston. If you have not received your ballot in the mail, please check to see if your dues are current. If you feel your ballot was lost in the mail, contact our Area Manager, Grace Dunlap, K5MRU, at P. O. Box 13, Rand, CO 80473.

By the time you receive this *Bulletin*, the Ten Ten Summer Phone QSO Party will be history. This

year's Summer Phone QSO Party will take place August 1-2, 1992, and the Houston S.H.O.T. Chapter is making another run at taking first place. Announcements have been made on local nets asking for help in the contest. Remember, even if you do not have a Ten Ten number, your contact is still worth one point to each Houston S.H.O.T. member who is participating in the contest. Please support the local chapter and try to help them out in the QSO parties. The S.H.O.T. chapter has set an all-time record by winning eight consecutive Ten Ten International Phone QSO Parties. In recent years, the chapter has also won a couple of the CW QSO parties.

This monthly column does bring you the latest news concerning Ten Ten International. In fact, last month's column gave you information about the winners of the 1992 Winter Phone QSO Party. To my knowledge, this column contained the first published list of the winners — remember, you read it first in the B-VARC *Bulletin*!

The Houston S.H.O.T. net meets 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 Ten Ten number. If you are not a member of Ten Ten International and wish to join the organization, please check in to the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the 10-meter band.

73 de N5AFV

Plan for Public Service

by Stephen Dunkelberger, N5JBL

Do you enjoy providing communications for races, rides, and other type of events? B-VARC has earned a reputation around Houston as being able to provide reliable and responsible radio communications for these events. Sometimes, event directors call us at the last minute asking the club to provide communications.

As Public Service Events chairman, I am developing call-up list of amateur radio operators that enjoy working public service events. You would regularly be asked if you would like to work an event, sometimes on short notice. By placing yourself on the call-up list, you are not automatically volunteering

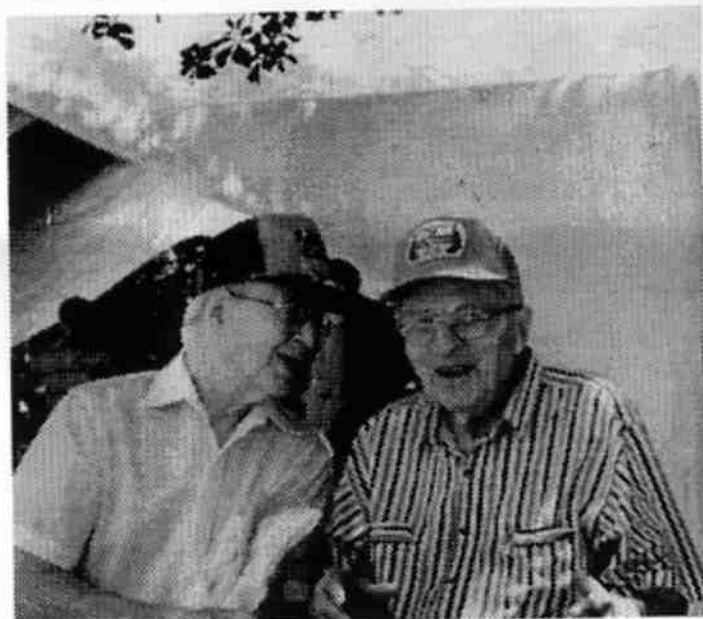
for an event but rather telling us that you would like to be considered regularly for an event. (I did have a list last year, but I would like to start the list over from scratch. If you were on the previous list and would like to be on the call-up list again, you'll have to let me know.)

IF you are interested, please give me Stephen Dunkelberger a call at home at 781-6703 or drop me a letter or see me at the club meetings.

1992 Field Day Summary

by Bill Kemp, KG5CB

This year's Field Day was held the weekend of June 27-28 at Bear Creek Park in West Houston. We had the largest turnout of operators and visitors in recent



Cass Germany KG5IT and Stu Lamkin WB5IGG socialize during Field Day

memory. As usual we had to put up with the hot and muggy wx along with the traditional morning thunderstorm!

Here is a rundown on our final score:

Total Contacts:	654
Total Points:	2818

Most of the activity was on 20m and 40m. Our longwire balloon antenna was a real success after we changed tuners and got it up and running. We also had probably the most publicity ever for this event. Numerous articles covering our field day were



Betty Wilcox KA0TEN logging Field Day contacts

found in the local media, and we were interviewed by several local radio stations.

I wish to thank everyone of the volunteers who helped plan this event and made it our most successful field day ever!

Look for our results in *QST* later this year.

CQ FIELD DAY!

Results of the July Amateur Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

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

The V.E. Team

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Harold Parker, ND5F
Joe Tarrant, K5DIY

Assistants

Cass Germany, KG5IT
Irene Gordon, N5AYX

A total of thirty-nine exams were administered during the evening to twenty-one applicants. Ten unlicensed candidates received their new "no-code" technician license. Five others upgraded with a total of thirty elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was seventy-seven percent.

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

Michael Arnett — Technician
Richard Arnett — Element 2
Richard Basaldua, KB5SJK — Advanced
Henry Blassingame — Technician
Phillip Cates — Technician
Esteban Cordova, KB5TAJ — Element 4A
Rick Fitch, N5XVZ — Advanced
Michael Garner, N5YIP — Technician
Michael Gregg — Technician
Ronan Gregg — Technician
Russell Greve — Element 2
William Hermann — Technician
Joseph Hsieh — Element 2
Daniel Kerr — Technician
Sheldon Parks — Element 2
Henry Pham — Technician
Eric Ritzie — Technician
Eddie Saifi — Technician
Don Schexnailder, KA5TUQ — Extra
Lew Smith, KB5QYF — 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's ... ND5F

On The Bands

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

Some good late night ducting on these hot days ... Had 80 people at the ice cream social meeting — GREAT! ... Anyone go to the Texas City hamfest? ... How about the Austin Hamcomm? ... Ester passed her Tech Test ... Any more upgrades? ... Get Well Soon to W5IHY ... N5UNE and KG5CB still experimenting with cross-band repeating via airplanes ... N5UOG still taking great pictures of all our events ... N5VRR new rig Yaesu 5200 ... AK5G speaker at QCWA meeting ... Recent people at Saturday Breakfasts: N5UOF, KA0TEN, KG5KV, N5TIB, N5VRR, N5UOA, N5WMA, N5WLY, KB5EXM, N5PTN, WA5OEN, N5UNE, AA5BD, KG5CB, N4SKR ?, N5PRC ?, W5GLD, KE5SR, KB5TOJ, K5HXY ... July Sidewalk Sale was big: over 150 lookers ...

73 de AK5G

Farewell to a Friend

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

I viewed the building thunderstorm near Lake Eufala from the window of the airplane. It looked like an illustration from a textbook as the setting sun illuminated the towering clouds. It was a fitting backdrop for my thoughts as the aircraft headed south to Houston.

I had not known Gerson very well. We had always talked about computers, radio, and electronics in general, but never some of the more important things in life. In the last eight hours, I had learned how similar he and I were. I had reached that conclusion by going through his radio equipment and the various papers from his shack. I had missed his funeral; it came during a particularly busy period at work when I was handling operations on three drilling wells. My wife, Anita, flew up to Tulsa to represent our family. That was almost a year ago.

The aircraft banked, and I could see a line of thunderstorms ahead. We were turning to avoid flying through the heavier storms. The captain made the usual announcement about fastening seat belts, and also instructed the flight crew to suspend cabin service and take their seats. I thought again of Gerson, and the interest we shared in monitoring the weather nets in Tulsa during times of severe weather. I do not remember hearing Gerson check in to the weather nets, but in our next conversation it would be clear that he had been listening. He listened far more than he transmitted. Gerson, WB5ZMI, had a technician class license and had been licensed longer than I.

Looking through Gerson's radio equipment had told me a lot about him. Most of his equipment was the same vintage as mine. I learned that at one time he had operated OSCAR satellites. CW did not come easy for him, but he operated CW on the HF bands. Now he was a silent key, and I had agreed to help sell his gear.

The airplane ride was smoother now, as we put the line of thunderstorms behind us. I asked the flight attendant for a cup of coffee, and settled down to enjoy the rest of the flight. As I drank my coffee, my thoughts were still on Gerson. I had finally forgiven myself for missing the funeral, and I was in a better frame of mind. 73 Gerson, my friend, WB5ZMI de N5AFV.

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Contact: Steve Gottlieb, WA5OEN
bus. 785-4646, res. 933-7249

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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 27th. Please give such to Vincent Orlando WA5ETS; 8900 Bellaire Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77036-4699 or FAX (713) 774-6427.

