



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.

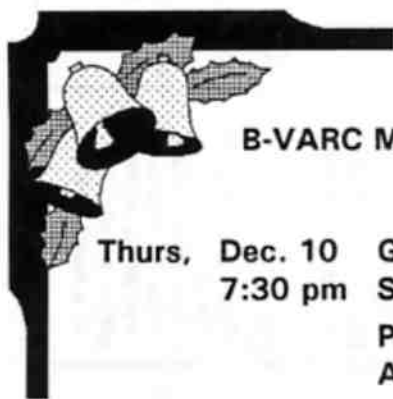
To obtain information about the club and its various activities, please call the Houston Amateur Radio Helpline (713) 488-4HAM (488-4426). For information about joining the club, contact Randy Pollard AK5G: residence 729-6484 or work 224-3930.

Volume: 15 Issue: 12

December 1992

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thurs, Dec. 10 General Meeting
7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center
Program: *Cold Fusion* by
Al Zermeno, KK5W

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



Allen Mattis *N5AFV*
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

December 1992

B-VARC Calendar of Events

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 6 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 7 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 | 1 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 2 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 3 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Missouri City Fire Station | 4 | 5 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32 |
| 13 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 14 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 | 8 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strake Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147. 10 | 9 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 10 Award Nominations Due 7:30pm General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center | 11 | 12 30K Warmup Run 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32 |
| 20 Happy Hanukkah! 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 21 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 | 15 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 16 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 17 | 18 | 19 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32 |
| 27 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 28 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 | 22 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 23 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 24 | 25 Merry Christmas! | 26 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3. 905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32 |
| 20 Happy Hanukkah! 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 21 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 | 29 8:00pm 10 X SHOT 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 30 8:00pm B-VARC RAG-CHEW 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 31 New Year's Eve | | |

Notes From The President . . .

by Randy Pollard, AK5G

Happy Holidays! This is my last column, and I had a great year being your president. Congratulations to all of the new 1993 officers:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| President | Betty Wilcox, KAØTEN |
| Vice-President | Doug Holley, KE5SR |
| Treasurer | Sam Wilson, N5CPA |
| Rec. Secretary | Bud King, N5UOG |
| Corr. Secretary | Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS |
| Directors | Vic Richard, N5NAS Mel Thatcher, KB5ION Gerry Borg, N5APW |

Thanks to all of the 1992 officers and committee chairmen for all of them had work throughout the year.

Once again, our annual banquet will take place in January. The banquet will take the place of our monthly meeting on January 14, 1993. This first-class event will start at 6:30 pm with cocktails and dinner at 7:30. Buy your ticket at the December meeting. We already have a good many door prizes to be given away.

Special thanks to Bill Dessens, N5KXU, and Betty Wilcox, KAØTEN, for their organizing the chili cookoff. Also thanks to all who made and brought the chili, cakes, and all the fixin's. This was another great meeting!

Our December meeting speaker will be Al Zermeno, KK5W. He will talk on the status of "Cold Fusion". Also, all of the award nominations must be in to me by this meeting.

Finally, thanks to all who took such an active role in the recent tornado disaster. This was truly hams working and helping their community.

73 da AK5G

The World of 1Ø-1Ø International

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

Last month I promised to give you the results of the 1Ø-1Ø International Summer Phone QSO Party in this month's column. Unfortunately, the Suncoast Chapter in Florida did not finish scoring the QSO

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

November 4, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KB5LFU, KG5KV, KB5USL, W5EFB, N5AFV, K15SC, N5KXU, W5GLD, WA5OEN, K5DIY, AA5PB, W5/J73TW, K15CE

November 11, 1992

KB5ION NCS, K15CE, N5CPA, KB5USL, W5EFB, K15FO, W5IHY, K15SC, KG5KV, W5GHK, N5AFV, N5UOG, KE5SR, WA5ETS, N5YKR, KB5LFU

November 18, 1992

KB5ION NCS, KG5KV, K15SC, W5IHY, W5EFB, W5/J73TW, N5AFV, W5GHK, KE5SR, W5GLD, KB5DNT, N5JBL, W5SRN

party in time for the results to appear this month, so watch next month to see if the Houston S.H.O.T. chapter continues its winning streak.

Results have been announced for the 1Ø-1Ø International Spring CW QSO Party which was held May 2-3, 1992. The S.H.O.T. chapter took second place with 6 logs submitted for a total of 353 points. The Possum Trot chapter in North Carolina easily placed first in the contest with 14 logs and 904 points.

The S.H.O.T. chapter held a 1Ø-1Ø Forum at the recent ham convention in Houston. It was nice to see several B-VARC members in attendance. The S.H.O.T. chapter did pick up two new members as a result of the forum.

The big 1Ø-1Ø news for Houston concerns the October issue of 1Ø-1Ø International News which featured a picture of KB5UEO, Casey, on the cover. Casey, who lives in South Houston, is seven years old and is the youngest member of 1Ø-1Ø International. Casey has been working on upgrading to general class and passed Element 3B at a recent B-VARC VE test session. Casey was also featured in a recent issue of World Radio. It's always nice to see national coverage of a local ham and especially if the person has ties to B-VARC.

Propagation on 1Ø meters has been very good lately, and if you have not been on the band, you have missed a lot of fun. So please join us! Remember,

the Houston S.H.O.T. net meets every Tuesday evening at 8:00 local time on 28.488 Mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in, even if they do not have a 1Ø-1Ø number. If you are not a member of 1Ø-1Ø International and wish to join the organization, please check in to the net. There are a lot of exciting activities in 1Ø-1Ø, and many friendly people can be found on the 1Ø-meter band.

73 de N5AFV

The City of Houston Repeater

by Bob White, KF5ZL

The 146.84 repeater (KF5ZL) is owned and operated by the City of Houston's Emergency Operations Center. It is the primary repeater for any emergency operations in the Houston area.

New equipment was installed in May 1992, and the call was changed to KF5ZL. The repeater is located in Allen Center, which is in the southwest corner of downtown Houston. The repeater consists of a 50-watt Kenwood commercial repeater and an S-Com controller.

Control Operators:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Bob White | KF5ZL |
| Dick Wilkie | N5SPU |
| Gene Whitehurst | WA5GZX |
| Scott Byrd | N5KEU |
| Bill Read | KB5FYA |
| Dick Wells | KH6FHS |
| Harold Parker | ND5F |
| Ron Hogan | N5HNE |

Repeater access is open with the rare exception of those times when conditions require using a 103.5 Hz PL tone on the repeater's input frequency to prevent natural or man-made interference.

The status of the repeater will be announced by a combination of courtesy tones and the morse ID. "Normal" status consists of a low-toned courtesy beep and "KF5ZL/R" morse ID.

An "alert" status for the repeater is announced by a high-pitched courtesy tone. This tone should aid in gaining the attention of all persons monitoring the repeater. When this tone is heard, the use of the frequency is restricted to whatever operation or alert is in progress. Also, a 250.3 Hz PL tone will be transmitted by the control operator to "open" receivers

that have a decode capability for those persons who wish to "silent monitor" 146.840.

When the high-pitched alert tone is engaged because the Houston National Weather Service office has issued a weather watch or warning of any kind, the CW identifier will be supplemented by a "WX". When "WX" is heard, the weather watch or warning may or may not affect the Houston area. Nonetheless, the repeater is to be kept as clear as possible so that the Houston Weather Service office may exchange information with the areas it serves.

The Houston Weather Service office serves the following counties: Houston, Trinity, Madison, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Walker, San Jacinto, Washington, Montgomery, Liberty, Austin, Waller, Harris, Colorado, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers, Wharton, Jackson, and Matagorda.

Any questions about this repeater and its use may be directed to either Bob White or Dick Wilkie at the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management. The phone number is (713) 236-7750.

Results of the November Amateur Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations this past month. Because of the Houston Ham Convention the exams were offered twice this month: once at the Sheraton Crown Hotel on Sunday morning, November 8, and again at the regularly scheduled second Tuesday evening, November 10, 1992, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The Ham Convention V. E. Team

Bob Brigham, AA5ZK
Henry Morrison, W5RIY
George Walker, KQ5W

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Ray Dillard, WA5F
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Ron Grimes, WA5SCE
George Jolly, ND5E
Allen Mattis, N5AFV
Harold Parker, ND5F
Randy Pollard, AK5G
Joe Tarrant, K5DIY
Mark Tyler, K5GO

A total of one hundred and nine exams were administered during the morning to fifty applicants. Twelve unlicensed candidates received their new licenses: six Technicians and ten "codeless" Technicians. Seven others upgraded with a total of fifty-two elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the morning was forty-eight percent.

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

Scott Beeman — Element 2
Jeffrey Brown — Element 2
James Caharin, KB5TBZ — Element 4B
Mark Cole — Element 2
Patrick Collins, K5DEP — Advanced
Rob Christie — Technician
Lawrence Daze — Technician
Tommy Elliott, KF5SS — Element 4B
William Fowler — Technician
Joyce Gent — Technician
Richard Hedrick — Technician
Marc Hendrickson, N5XWN — Element 3B
Rickey Hood — Technician
Debra Hooten, N5OIA — Element 3B
Scott Hooten — Element 2
Brian LeVack, KB5ESE — Advanced
Jerome Levi — Element 2
Jon Littmann, KB5MKP — Element 1B
G. N. Livingston — Element 2
Billy Lowery, WB5PKD — Technician
Kenton Maulsby — Technician
Matthew Mucker, KB5FWG — Technician
Matthew Owens, KB5UJC — Technician
Edwin Pate, N5RZO — Element 3B
Teresa Perry, KB5VUD — Technician
Elmer Pumphrey — Element 2
Robert Rice, WB5PKN — Element 4B
Fred Schaefer — Technician
Justin Sheffield — Element 2
James Sutherland, N5SBP — General
George Taylor — Technician
Billy Vaselo — Technician
David Waddell — Technician
Brandt Welker — Element 2
Ollie Williams — Technician

The Regular 2nd Tuesday Session V. E. Team

Glenn Lewis, K1SCE
Harold Parker, ND5F
Joe Tarrant, K5DIY

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Ray Dillard, WA5F
Cass Germany, KG5IT
Hy Gordon, NC5A
Irene Gordon, N5AYX
Michael Lay, N5PTN

A total of 33 exams were administered during the evening to 20 applicants. Eleven unlicensed candidates received their new licenses: 1 Technician and 10 "codeless" Technicians. Four others upgraded with a total of 27 elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was a fantastic 82%.

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

John Albers, Jr. — Technician
Scott Beeman — Technician
Rome Burns — Technician
Brian Burton — Element 2
Rob Christie, Pending — Advanced
Mark Cole — Technician
Craig Culver, KB5USL — Advanced
Melanie Erickson — Technician
Richard Harrison — Technician
Tim Hebert — Technician
Allen Lepley — Element 3B
Gerald Livingston — Technician
Robert Martin, KB5MWU — Technician
Herman McKinney — Element 4A
Rodney Miller — Technician
Christopher Mogannam — Technician
Byron Ratterree, KB5NOZ — Element 1B
Kenneth White — Technician
William Wilkerson, W5DPL — Advanced

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

73's ... ND5F

November Election Meeting

by Allen Mattis, N5AFV

The November B-VARC general membership meeting was a great success, and everyone seemed to enjoy the meeting. Over ninety persons were in attendance, and the chili and refreshments were delicious. Thank you to Bill, N5KXU, and Betty, KA0TEN, for coordinating the refreshments, and a special thank you to everyone who brought something to eat or helped in any way.

The program consisted of the election of officers for 1993. Congratulations to the new officers whom Randy has already named in his column. Randy himself, AK5G, will serve on the board as the immediate past president of the club. The new

