



## 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, at (713) 667-5123.

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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, Sept. 9 General Membership Meeting  
7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center  
Program: *Traffic Handling  
Techniques*

Thurs, Oct. 6 Board Meeting  
7:30 pm Sugar Land Community Center

Allen Mattis N5AFV  
5314 Wigton  
Houston, TX 77096

# September 1993

## B-VARC Calendar of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	6 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	7 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	1 8:00pm B-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	2 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	3	4 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
12 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	13 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	14 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strake Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	8 8:00pm B-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	9 7:30pm General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center	10	11 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
19 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	20 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	21 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	15 8:00pm B-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	16	17	18 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
26 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	27 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	28 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10	22 8:00pm B-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	23	24	25 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) 12:00pm B-VARC PICNIC 2:00pm Barbecue Served 8:30pm C.W. 147.32
28 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873	29 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm ARES 147.30 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145.47 & linked repeaters	30	29 8:00pm B-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	30		

## Notes from the President . . .

by Betty Wilcox, KAØTEN

August has come and gone, and I think I missed it. The intense heat has made many people stay in air conditioned buildings or homes. Me too.

Several ham friends have been under the weather, but I hear that they are improving. We wish them good health.

Dick, N5OUT, pulled off a fantastic ice cream social at the August meeting. I didn't count how many gallons were there, but if you didn't eat all you wanted, it wasn't because we had a shortage of dessert. Many thanks to all those people who signed up with Dick to bring something and also to those people who didn't sign up. It is a comfort for a chairperson to know that the club will always come through.

We decided that the best solution to the ice cream melting problem was to eat it instead of trying to cool it. Rapid consumption seemed to work fairly well.

Sure hope that you noticed our new, bigger and better coffee pot. No problem now of running out of coffee.

September's meeting will be a presentation on ARRL approved traffic handling technique. This is only the first phase in a joint effort with many clubs in the greater Houston area to work with the American Red Cross to put into place an emergency communications plan.

October's meeting will be held on the 21st instead of the 14th. When the year's calendar was presented to the Sugar Land Community Center, they had already reserved the 14th for another organization. However, B-VARC can probably handle this slight change.

HATS (Houston Amateur Television Society) held their monthly meeting for August, and I am pleased to report that their repeater is up. Of course, every new project has bugs that need to be worked out, and I'm sure they will be. Their location is not as high and does not get out as far as they had originally hoped, but it works. They are transmitting on 70 cm and 23 cm.

## B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION

*August 11, 1993*

AB5OK NCS, KB5ION, N5AFV, N5OAC, N5CPA, W5GHK, W5/KJ73TW, KB5VTB, W5GLD, KB5TMY

*August 18, 1993*

KB5ION NCS, AB5OK, K5DIY, W5IHY, KI5SC, N5OAC, N5CPA, N5AFV, W5GHK, WA5OEN, KAØTEN, WN5A, KB5VTB, KB5LFU, N5UOG, KK5W

*August 25, 1993*

KB5LFU NCS, KB5ION, N5AFV, AB5OK, WB5SRN, KI5SC, W5IHY, W5GHK, W5EFB, N5CPA, WA5TWL, N5KXU

*September 1, 1993*

W5GHK NCS, KB5ION, W5EFB, N5CPA, AB5OK, W5IHY, KI5SC, N5OAC, WA5OEN, KB5LFU, N5AFV, WB5UTM, KK5W

Thanks to John, KB5ZBR, I now know that the 1993 Houston Ham Convention will be November 12-14 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Richard, N5KV, is the Houston contact person at (409) 297-0841.

73 de Betty

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## 1993 B-VARC Picnic

by Doug Holley, KE5SR

The annual B-VARC picnic this year will be held on September 25th. The place will be at Doug (KE5SR) and Marie Holley's home in Rosenberg. The picnic will be catered as was last year's. The affair will crank up at noon with the barbecue being served at 2:00 pm.

Three meats plus beans and coleslaw will be provided. We are asking members to bring a dessert side dish. Everything else will be supplied as part of the catered meal.

Tickets will be sold by Sam Wilson at the meetings, or you may purchase your ticket from Sam at the picnic. The cost of the tickets is \$5.00 per person.



Attendance at the picnic is open to everyone, not just B-VARC hams. Bring your family, friends, and any one else to the picnic!

Lots of fun, good eating, and fellowship should be had by all. See you there!

73's, Doug

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## **The World of 10-10 International**

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

The S.H.O.T. chapter of 10-10 International wishes to thank all Houston area radio amateurs who helped the chapter during the recent Summer Phone QSO Party which was held August 7-8, 1993. Local participation was about the same as the last couple of QSO parties, but there seemed to be a little more enthusiasm. Maybe losing the Winter Phone QSO Party held February 6-7, 1993, was not all bad for the S.H.O.T. chapter.

Propagation during the QSO party was poor on Saturday, but on Sunday things changed. Propagation was excellent from about 9:00 am until 12:30 pm local time. Signals were 59+ from many stations in nearby states. All states bordering Texas were heard, and at one point the sporadic E skip was so short that I was able to work a station located in Big Bend National Park. I missed most of Sunday's superb opening, but I still ended up working 14 states and 2 foreign countries using a wire antenna and an Icom 735.

More importantly, everybody had a great time operating in the laidback contest atmosphere. A number of local amateurs collected the necessary 10 ten-ten number so that they could obtain their own number. The S.H.O.T. chapter also picked up a couple of new members. If you are a S.H.O.T. member and operated in the QSO party, please send your logs to Harlan Moore, K15UG; 7406 Standard Road; Magnolia, TX 77355. Harlan is the chapter's contest coordinator. He will check your log over to make sure the paper work is complete and forward it on to Ten Ten International's scoring chapter.

The summer propagation season is still with us, so check the 10-meter band occasionally for sporadic E openings. Summer is the time of the year to work nearby states on ten meters. The states along the

east and west coasts will be easy to work during the winter. Novice and technician plus operators find that *Worked All States* is a very achievable goal on ten meters.

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 10-10 number. If you are not a member of 10-10 International and wish to join the organization, please check into 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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## **B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, August 5, 1993**

by Bud King, N5UOG

A quorum of the B-VARC Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on July 1, 1993. This was the eighth meeting of the Board of Directors for the 1993 calendar year.

President Betty Wilcox, KAØTEN, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

The minutes of the July 1st meeting were submitted by Bud King, N5UOG, and approved unanimously by those present.

Club Treasurer, Sam Wilson, N5CPA, reported a balance of \$4,100.29 in the treasury as of July 31, 1993. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Vice President Doug Holley, KE5SR, reported that those in attendance at the B-VARC Camp Out enjoyed it, in spite of the heat. His report also included the date of the Club Picnic as September 25th and the cost to be \$5.00 per ticket. Doug will once again conduct a "Code Class." The classes will begin Monday evening at 7:00 on August 9th and continue every Monday evening at the same time until the objectives of those attending have been reached. Claude Sessions, K5HFY, has arranged for the class to be held in the First Colony Church of Christ; 3119 Sweet Water Boulevard; Sugar Land, Texas.

Mel Thatcher, KB5ION, confirmed the "well being" of the Rag Chew Net.

