



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.

Volume: 16 Issue: 10

October 1993

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Note the Change in Date!

Thurs, Oct. 21 ↙ 7:30 pm General Membership Meeting
Sugar Land Community Center
Program: *Radio Security Systems*
by James Carter

Thurs, Nov. 4 7:30 pm Board Meeting
Sugar Land Community Center

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton
Houston, TX 77096

B-VARC Calendar of Events

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 4 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145. 47 & linked repeaters | 5 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 6 8:00pm E-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 7 6:30pm RACES AMTOR Net 7.080 7:30pm Board Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center | 1 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) | 2 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) |
| 10 2:00pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 11 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145. 47 & linked repeaters | 12 7:00pm Amateur Exams (Strike Jesuit College Prep) 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 13 8:00pm B-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 14 | 15 | 16 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 8:00am Sidewalk Sale 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) |
| 17 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 18 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145. 47 & linked repeaters | 19 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 20 8:00pm E-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 21 (note change of date!) 7:30pm General Meeting: Sugar Land Community Center | 22 | 23 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) |
| 24 1:30pm Texas State RACES Net 7.248 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | 25 7:30pm 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00pm Ft. Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00pm B-VARC Net 145. 47 & linked repeaters | 26 8:00pm 10-10 SHOT NET 28.488 10:00pm AMSAT 147.10 | 27 8:00pm B-VARC Rag-Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz) | 28 | 29 | 30 7:30am B-VARC Breakfast 9:00am Hou Emergency Mgmt Net 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905) |
| 31 7:30pm South Texas ARES Net 3.873 | | | | | | |

Notes from the President . . .

by Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN

As the days shorten and the night temperatures begin to drop to provide blessed relief from the stifling heat of a Texas summer, I am reminded of how quickly this year has passed. The time has already rolled around to start thinking about nominating new officers for B-VARC. Our society teaches us to be modest and not talk about ourself, but this is a time when that is not necessarily true. We want people in these positions of leadership who have talents and know they do and are willing to step forward to say, "Consider me." Bill Dessens, N5KXU, Allen Mattis, N5AFV, or Randy Pollard, AK5G, would be pleased to hear from you. It is a very difficult job that they do as members of the nominating committee to try to find at least one new candidate for each position to be filled.

New officers are officially nominated and elected in November and take office in January. November is the month for our annual chili supper. First we eat; then we take care of the business of electing new officers. This combination has worked well in the past. At the last meeting (Sorry I was unable to be there) a new ham, James Summerall (I don't know his call) volunteered to organize this gastronomical event. That's the spirit we like!

Also at this time of year we start reminding people of the awards that are given out at our annual January Awards Banquet. You are the ones who choose the recipient of these awards. These awards will be described in another area of this *Bulletin*. Your nominations must be in writing, and the last day for me to accept nominations will be the December 9th general meeting—so let's get started.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who help B-VARC continue to grow. New hams are passing their exams and getting their tickets at a rate that is astounding. Just look at how fast the call signs went from KB5 to KC5. These new hams were looking for a club, and we are glad they found us. B-VARC is an ARRL affiliated club and as President I would like to recommend that all members have a copy of *The FCC Rule Book* published by the ARRL. It can be found in *QST* under the ARRL Publications Catalog and currently sells for \$9.00. This is what we live by. It is the Bible, the standard, for hams' operations and behavior. Not only does it tell what a ham can do, it specifically

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION

September 8, 1993

KE5SR NCS, KB5ION, AB5OK, N5OAC, N5CPA, W5GHK, W5IHY, KK5W, KA0TEN, WB5SRN, WB5UTM, KB5JC, W5TWL, N5AFV

September 15, 1993

KB5ION NCS, N5AFV, KI5SC, N5CPA, W5GHK, AB5OK, KB5LFU, N5KXU, KE5SR, WN5A, N5YKR, KA0TEN, W5GLD

September 22, 1993

KB5ION NCS, KI5SC, W5EFB, W5GLD, AB5OK, KE5SR, W5GHK, N5CPA, N5KXU, KK5W, N5AFV, KA0TEN, KB5ZRV, KB5YSL

September 29, 1993

KE5SR NCS, KI5SC, N5CPA, N5OAC, N5AFV, WA5OEN, KB5ION, W5IHY, KK5W, W5GHK, KB5ZRC, KB5LFU, N5YKR, KB5VTE, WN5A

describes what s/he can't do, such as play music, conduct business, or use foul language. These issues have recently been discussed at our board meeting because of an incident on 2-meters, and B-VARC endorses these FCC rules completely.

Amateur Radio Serving Children (ARSC) at the Ronald McDonald house asks that we remind hams interested in working with children that they still have a need for your help. Larry, WD5DRB, is our liaison person with that organization. They ask only for one ham on one Saturday per month to help out. If Saturday is not good for you, they are flexible. ARSC is planning their second annual brunch for October. Tentatively, it is scheduled for October 9th beginning with a tour of the facilities at 9:30 am. Brunch will begin around 10:00 am. A minimal charge will cover the cost of breakfast with any excess used to defray postage expenses throughout the year. All interested hams are welcome.

Hope to see you at the next meeting, October 21st, at 7:30 pm at the Sugar Land Community Center. Y'all come!

73 de Betty

B-VARC Public Service Events

by Claudia Kozinetz, N5VCZ

The runners will soon be warming up for that big event in January 1994, the Houston-Tenneco Marathon, by participating in two upcoming runs, the 25K run on Sunday November 21st and the 30K run on December 11th. B-VARC supports both of these runs by supplying amateur radio operators for the race communications. Let me summarize the contribution that the members of B-VARC make to public service events with a section of a document recently written by Allen Mattis for the race director of the 25K.

Communications is one of the most vital needs for any large race. ... Race officials make plans for race day, but seldom make contingency plans for the unexpected. They always assume that nothing will go wrong. In the ideal race, nothing does go wrong, and communications only plays a minor role. In fact, communications may not even be needed if everything goes according to plan. When something does go wrong or the unexpected occurs, however, the need for communications quickly becomes apparent. The 1991 25K at Cinco Ranch illustrates this point. A hot air balloon landed on the course just as the race was about to start. If the runners had started the race at the scheduled time, they would have literally run into the balloon which stretched across the course about 1.5 miles from the start line. Communications allowed the start of the race to be delayed until the balloon was cleared off the course.

Please contact the following if you would like to volunteer as an amateur radio operator for race communications at any or all of the following:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 25K Marathon Warm-up Run Sunday, November 21st | Downtown Houston Contact: Allen Mattis, N5AFV |
| 30K Marathon Warm-up Run Saturday, December 11th | First Colony Contact: Don Wade, WB5IBT |
| Marathon Sunday, January 16th | Downtown Houston Contact: Carl Hacker, KB5LDY |

Upcoming Club Awards

by Allen Mattis, N5AFV

Beginning in October of each year, the B-VARC membership can submit their nominations of candidates for the club's annual awards, which are presented at the January banquet. The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club has three major awards.

I. *The Order of the Key*

The Order of the Key is unique to our club and is the highest honor that can be conferred by B-VARC. With this award, we recognize the B-VARC member who has made outstanding contributions to the

progress of the club. These contributions might take the form of a long-term consistent commitment to service, or might represent an extremely high level of service for a shorter time. In any case, the award represents exceptional service and commitment to the goals of B-VARC.

Nominations for the Order of the Key may be made by an B-VARC member. The nominations must be made in writing to the club president, and should include a description of the nominee's contributions to the club. The President will then poll the Board of Directors secretly to allow them to vote on the nominations, and only he knows the results of the poll. The vote by the Board of Directors must be unanimous for the award to be conferred.

II. *The Dr. Bill Award*

In 1988, B-VARC initiated the presentation of the Dr. Bill Award, which was originated by Keith and Eva Hugu (KA5F and KA5CYZ) in honor of Dr. Bill Ossenfort, NG5C, now a silent key, who was very active in the Volunteer Examiner Program in the Houston area. This award may be presented each year to the B-VARC member recognized as the outstanding participant in the B-VARC Volunteer Examiner Program.

In honor of Dr. Bill's memory, Keith and Eva Hugu 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 Award may be made by any member of the club, and must be submitted in writing to the President of B-VARC not later than the December regular membership meeting. The nomination should include a description of the nominee's contributions to the club's VE program. As with the other club awards, the Board of Directors selects the recipient(s).

III. *The Loop and Zepp Award*

In 1989, the Loop and Zepp Award was originated to recognize B-VARC members for their efforts to promote operation on the high frequency (HF) bands. These efforts may take the form of dedicated participation in any form or forms of HF activities, the promotion of HF activities or the assistance in furthering HF activities.

Nominations for the Loop and Zepp Award may be made by any member of the club, and should be submitted in writing to the president of the club no later than the December membership meeting. The nomination should include a description of the nominee's contributions to HF operation. As with the other club awards, the Board of Directors selects the recipient(s).

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

Results of September Amateur Exams

by Harold Parker, ND5F

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, September 14, 1993, at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

The V.E. Team

Harold Parker, ND5F
Don Schexnailder, AB5IV
Joe Tarrant, K5DIY

Assistants

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Craig Culver, AB5OK
Cass Germany, KG5IT

A total of thirty-five exams were administered during the evening to twenty applicants. Eight unlicensed candidates received their new codeless technician licenses. Three others upgraded with a total of twenty-one elements passed. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was sixty percent.

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

Frank Ewing, N5EXH — General
Michael Falcone — Technician
Stavros Fanos, KB5UJP — Extra
James Julian — Technician
Arthur Kirkland, II — Technician
Neil Koutnik — Technician
Pete Norris, KB5IWB — Element 3B
Rex Ritz — Element 2
Frances Shreiber — Technician
Daniel Tetzlaff — General
Hank Vat, Jr. — Technician
David Wagner — Technician
James Wynn — Technician
Ryan Wynn — Element 3A

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**1993 ATTENDANCE ROSTER
B-VARC GENERAL MEETINGS**

| | | J U L | A U G | S E P | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|----|-------|
| AA5JW | Carl Albrecht | | ✓ | ✓ | WD5DRB | Larry Levy | ✓ | ✓ |
| KB5KJT | Carl Albrecht, Jr. | | ✓ | | N5VXU | David Litchford | | ✓ |
| KI5WV | John Ashmore | | ✓ | | KB5VTO | Gary Lewis | | ✓ |
| KC5CJD | Tom Bailey | | ✓ | ✓ | WA5HGG | Jack Lewis | | ✓ |
| WA2EJO | Robert Berger | | ✓ | | KB5ZBT | Jim Lewis | | ✓ |
| KC5BAJ | Chris Blankenship | ✓ | | | N5VXU | David Litchford | ✓ | |
| AA5ZK | Bob Brigham | | | ✓ | | George Lolley | ✓ | |
| KB5YPC | Bill Brown | ✓ | | ✓ | N5AFV | Mindy Manley | | ✓ |
| KB5KLY | Don Brown, Sr. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | KA5DKS | John Martin | | ✓ |
| N5XWT | Bill Clemmons | | | ✓ | N5UGG | Al Mattis | | ✓ |
| WD5L | Rick Covert | | ✓ | | N7ZVB | Ken McAninch | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5OUZ | Lawrence Cox | | | ✓ | KG6JCM | Excercia McCasland | ✓ | |
| AB5OK | Craig Culver | ✓ | | ✓ | KB5PZU | Mike McCasland | ✓ | |
| | John Davis | | | ✓ | KC5CMU | Scott McCasland | ✓ | |
| KC5AK | Don Daze | ✓ | | | N5WLY | Keith Megeff | ✓ | |
| KB5WWW | Larry Daze | ✓ | | | | Patricia Meleka | | ✓ |
| WA3PMT | Steven Deaktor | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N5RBT | Robert Meyers | ✓ | |
| N5KXU | Bill Dessens | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | KC5BQT | Leticia Molina | | ✓ |
| | Jason Dillon | ✓ | | | KD4IWB | Ed Montross | | ✓ |
| | Vicki Duke | | ✓ | | WA5ETS | Art Neumeyer | | ✓ |
| WB4LZG | Don Edwards | | ✓ | | KB5ZRV | Larry Nix | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Glenn Edwards | | ✓ | | | Pete Norris | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Kathy Edwards | | ✓ | | ND5F | Vincent Orlando | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Mark Ehrensberger | | ✓ | | | Bruce Paige | ✓ | ✓ |
| W5LK | Ed Evans | ✓ | ✓ | | KI5DR | Sebastian Paige | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5EXH | Frank Ewing | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | KB5LFU | Harold Parker | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5XVZ | Rick Fitch | ✓ | | ✓ | AK5G | Mary Ann Parker | ✓ | |
| W5GHK | Allen Glueck | | | ✓ | KB5VTB | Scott Pederson | | ✓ |
| | Beckey Glueck | | | ✓ | | Roger Pokladnik | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Jerry Goodson | | ✓ | | N5YKR | Randy Pollard | ✓ | ✓ |
| KA5IJK | Karen Goodson | ✓ | ✓ | | | Lanny Poteet | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Mark Goodson | ✓ | ✓ | | N5NAS | Jessica Ricco | ✓ | ✓ |
| WA5OEN | Sandra Gottlieb | ✓ | ✓ | | | Michael Ricco | ✓ | ✓ |
| KB5LDY | Steve Gottlieb | ✓ | ✓ | | KB5TMY | Robert Ricco | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5VRR | Carl Hacker | ✓ | | ✓ | N5VRP | Vic Richard | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Don Hadley | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Rex Ritz | | ✓ |
| N5VCX | Reeda Hadley | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | KC5CIV | Jack Roberts | ✓ | ✓ |
| KB5WZI | Mike Hardwick | ✓ | ✓ | | K5HFY | Dennis Rogers | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Richard Harrison | ✓ | | ✓ | | Brandon Seay | | ✓ |
| | Mail Holbert | | ✓ | | KB5EXM | Frank Seay | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5JQH | Paul Holcombe | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | KB5ZKO | Claude Sessions | ✓ | ✓ |
| KE5SR | Doug Holley | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N5WMA | Sameer Sheth | | ✓ |
| | Marie Holley | | ✓ | | N5RKM | Irv Smith | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5RZN | Emmett Jackson | | ✓ | ✓ | | Don Sommer | ✓ | |
| | Guy Jackson | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | K5DIY | Oraida Starr | | ✓ |
| N5YKV | Marc James | | | ✓ | AB5LT | Ted Sumnerlin | | ✓ |
| KB5YTA | Dwayne Jones | | ✓ | ✓ | KB5ION | James Sumrall | | ✓ |
| KA0TEO | Roxy Keller | ✓ | | | KB5UPZ | David Tarrant | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5XGW | Charles Keng | | ✓ | | KA5LPH | George Taylor | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5UQG | Bud King | ✓ | ✓ | | KD5JC | Melvin Thatcher | | ✓ |
| AB5LI | Bob Kline | ✓ | | ✓ | KB5ZKN | Leon Toler | ✓ | ✓ |
| KB5VTE | Greyson Knapp | | | | WB5IBT | Jerry Tripp | ✓ | |
| | Naveen Korivi | | | | KB5ZBR | Ed Truitt | ✓ | |
| N5VCZ | Claudia Kozinetz | ✓ | | ✓ | N5XWB | Clifford Tubbs | ✓ | ✓ |
| W5IHY | Lou Kronberg | | | | N5ZUE | Don Wade | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5OUT | Dick Kruse | | ✓ | | KF5ZL | John Wardlow | ✓ | ✓ |
| KC5CJA | Lee Lawson | ✓ | | ✓ | N5UQA | Donn Washburn | ✓ | ✓ |
| N5PTN | Michael Lay | ✓ | ✓ | | KA0TEN | Gerald Webb | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Patricia Layton | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | N5CPA | Bob White | ✓ | ✓ |
| KB5TIB | Thomas Layton | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | KC5BQU | Mark Widerstorm | ✓ | |
| K5LTW | Greg Lefebvre | | ✓ | ✓ | W5GLD | Betty Wilcox | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | ✓ | ✓ | KK5W | Sam Wilson | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | Henry Wise | | ✓ |
| | | | | | | Frank Wood | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | Al Zermeno | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | TOTAL: | 65 | 74 62 |

November *Bulletin* Deadline

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

MERA Repeater Group Elects New Board by Harold Parker, ND5F

M.E.R.A., the Memorial Emergency Radio Association, is the group that operates the 145.47 repeater. Several B-VARC members were elected to their board of directors in a special meeting held at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory on Tuesday evening, September 7, 1993. The new board of directors is composed of the following:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Randy Pollard, AK5G | President |
| Jack VanDemark, WN5A | Vice-President |
| Harold Parker, ND5F | Secretary/Treasurer |
| Bill Deesens, NFKXU | Director |
| Ray Dillard, WA5F | Director & Trustee |
| Bud King, N5UOG | Director |
| Allen Mattis, N5AFV | Director |
| Vick Richard, N5NAS | Director |
| Mike Warden, WB3HZP | Director & SWMH Liaison |
| Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN | Director |

Many interested visitors were present to show their support for the re-organization and offered their suggestions and assistance. We all understand the concern and greatly appreciate everyone's interest. We all hope that the repeater will be operating in top condition soon.

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B-VARC Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes, September 2, 1993

by Bud King, N5UOG

A quorum of the B-VARC Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on September 2, 1993. This was the ninth meeting of the Board of Directors for the 1993 calendar year.

President Betty Wilcox, KAØTEN, opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

The minutes of the August 5th meeting were submitted by Bud King, N5UOG, and approved unanimously.

Club Treasurer, Sam Wilson, N5CPA, reported a balance of \$3,414.79 in the treasury as of August 31, 1993. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Vice President, Doug Holley, KE5SR, reported that the date of the Club Picnic would be Saturday, September 25. The cost of the dinner will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. The "Code Class" conducted by Doug, for those interested in upgrading, has had an attendance rate of 7 to 21 per class.

Mel Thatcher, KB5ION, stated that the "Wednesday Nite Rag Chew Net" was holding it's own insofar as the check-in's are concerned.

Claudia Kozinetz, N5VCZ, informed the Board that the next B-VARC sponsored public service event would be the ALA Bike Ride to be held Saturday and Sunday, October 2-3.

Bud King, N5UOG, suggested the Club contribute \$20 to the City of Sugar Land Halloween Fun Festival. The Board approved the expenditure unanimously.

Michael Ricco, N5YKR, reported that the older MERA repeater had been repaired and was now on frequency with no deviation. The coax cable has also been replaced. He also stated that he had the newer Spectrum repeater in his possession; it was not passing audio.

Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS, notified the Board that the club membership now stands at 261. No one as yet has come forward to take over the responsibility of putting out the *Bulletin*. Several names were discussed by the Board members.

Bill Dessens, N5KXU, volunteered to get information on the status of the Banner Committee and to report his findings to the Board.

AL Zermeno, KK5W, discussed the advantages of organizing a group of members who would be interested in a transmitter hunt activity. The group

could share information with like groups in other ham clubs in the area. Motron Electronics supplied Al with information about a product they sell that can "finger print" every transmitter whose signal it receives. A discussion concerning the product followed with no Board action taken.

Mark Widerstorm, N5UOA, reported on the methods being used by him and other persons, authorized by the local F.C.C. office to gather information on persons or equipment that are making illegal transmissions on the HAM bands.

Proceedings for the nominations for B-VARC club awards and for the 1994 club officers were discussed along with preparations for the annual banquet.

Paul Holcombe, N5JQH, read a statement to the Board which was critical of the language used by a member of the club during a transmission on the 2-meter band. Much discussion followed without any conclusive action taken by the Board.

Betty Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

What Will Project Beacon Lead To?

by Allen Mattis, N5AFV

During the past eight months I have written a number of articles about Project Beacon and the exciting work being done by a group of interested amateur radio operators in the Houston metropolitan area. All of the effort and time put in by these volunteers has lead to a nationwide interest in a possible relationship between low frequency radio waves and earthquake prediction.

Ken Cornell, W2IMB, of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, is organizing an effort to petition the FCC to allow amateur radio operators to transmit signals in the 160-190 khz band in order to further earthquake prediction experiments. Cornell is best known for his *Low and Medium Frequency Radio Scrap Book*, now in its 8th edition. This collection of circuit diagrams for low-frequency receivers, transmitters, antennas and other related equipment has become one of the primary reference books for low-frequency experimentation. Also involved in this effort is Vince Migliore, N5UML, of Santa Clara, California. Migliore is editor of *Geo-Monitor*, a monthly newsletter dedicated to earthquake prediction and related field. It is possible that the ARRL will become involved in this effort. The League has long wanted a band in the low frequency range. In the January, 1993,

issue of *QST* (page 9), ARRL Executive Vice-President David Sumner, K1ZZ, states "Yet, we have no allocation in the interesting low frequency range..." when he discusses future amateur radio spectrum needs. In the same issue of *QST* (page 82), ARRL Senior Editor James Cain, K1TN, relates how the ARRL has filed comments with the U.S. Department of Commerce that state that amateurs need "A new, shared allocation in the vicinity of 190 khz (a new LF allocation, for experimentation)."

As justification for this proposed petition, Cornell and Migliore cite LF research projects, including Project Beacon. In a recent letter, Migliore requested that Cornell be supplied with technical information regarding Project Beacon. Cornell believes that it will be necessary to show that the frequency shifts observed by Project Beacon monitors are real, and not a function of voltage instability or other factors related to receiver performance. Ray Cole, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, who has documented frequency shifts of AM broadcast stations along the New Madrid fault, has also been asked to supply technical data for use in preparation of the petition.

When Project Beacon began back in February, none of those involved would have believed that the project might result in amateur radio operators being given privileges in a new LF band. The scientific data from the project is exciting, but the possible impact on amateur radio was totally unexpected. Watch for updates about the proposed petition to the FCC in future articles.

The World of 10-10 International

by Al Mattis, N5AFV

The S.H.O.T. chapter of 10-10 International reports that all logs from the Summer QSO Party turned in to Harlan Moore, K15UG, the chapter's contest coordinator, have been submitted to the scoring chapter. S.H.O.T. thanks all the local operators who supported the chapter's participation in the QSO party. Now, the long wait for the results of the QSO party begins.

Ten Ten paper chasers are still active on 28.345 mhz. Ten Ten chapters with specials for paper chasers this month include Steel City of Illinois, South Texas Light Horse Brigade and Branding Iron II of Texas, and Brooklyn Bridge of New York. Eagle

Watch of Alabama will begin a new certificate program on September 25, 1993, called Wildflowers. This new program is designed to salute all the YL's who do so much for amateur radio but get little recognition for their efforts.

The big news for September was the Ten Ten International Convention which was held in Wichita, Kansas, on September 25-26. The convention was hosted by the Air Capitol chapter and was held at the Ramada Broadview Inn located on the banks of the Arkansas River. Many forums of interest to Ten Ten members, a paper chasers' net, and a banquet were planned.

Summer propagation is still with us, and band conditions have not been very good the last few weeks. Sporadic E openings have not been as strong or frequent as earlier in the summer. There have been a few good DX openings to Latin America and the South Pacific, and occasional openings to the West Coast. During the next month or so, ten meter propagation can be expected to shift to the winter pattern of primarily F layer mode. Remember to occasionally check ten meters, and you may be rewarded with a late summer opening.

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

Nomination of B-VARC Officers for 1994

The election of officers for B-VARC will take place at the November 11, 1993, general membership meeting. At this time the club will elect:

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Three-year Board Member

The club's by-laws set up a standing nominating committee composed of the three past presidents of the club whose responsibility it is to see that at least one person is nominated for each position.

This year the committee is made up of:

Randy Pollard, AK5G, Chairman — 667-5123
Allen Mattis, N5AFV — 721-3637
Bill Dessens, N5KXU — 721-1844

Please contact one of the persons listed above to get your name on the November ballot.

The qualifications to run for office are: (1) you must be a member of B-Varc, and (2) for President you must hold a General Class or higher license and for all other positions you must hold a Technician Class or higher license.

Again, please feel free to contact any of the above listed names to be put on the ballot.

Code Classes

by Doug Holley, KE5SR

B-Varc morse code classes are continuing. Five WPM classes have been completed, and five to thirteen WPM is currently being taught. Make-up five WPM time can be scheduled for those that need it or missed it.

Attendees are hams, non hams, and others who have attained their license in the past but want to upgrade or increase their proficiency. All are encouraged to attend.

The classes are being held each Monday evening at the Church of Christ located at 3119 Sweetwater Boulevard. Classes start at 7:00 pm and end around 8:00 pm.

If information is needed, call Doug Holley at 342-8028. See you there.

Hams Wanted!

The 36th annual Boy Scout "Jamboree-on-the-Air" will take place during the week-end of **October 16-17, 1993**. This jamboree will fill the airwaves worldwide with the brotherhood of Scouting. Scouts will be able to talk with other Scouts around the world with the help of a network of amateur radio operators.

That is where **YOU** come in! Hams are needed to help with this project by providing equipment and communication skills. If you would like to help a troop of Cub Scouts participate in the 1993 "Jamboree-on-the-Air", please contact Mr. Doug Bohn at 568-6267. But hurry!



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