



B-VARC BULLETIN

The Monthly Publication of the
BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Serving Fort Bend and Harris Counties

Editor in Chief: Kelley Hughes N5ULZ (713) 499-9806 FAX: (713) 499-0279

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, as well as information about joining the club, contact Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN, at (713) 859-6512.

Volume: 17 Issue: 3

March 1994

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



B-VARC MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 10 7:30 pm	Regular BVARC Membership Meeting - Sugar Land Community Center
Thursday, April 7 7:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting Sugar Land Community Center

Allen Mattis N5AFV
5314 Wigton Drive
Houston, TX 77096



March 1994 B-VARC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
6 7:30 PM A.R.E.S. Net 147.30	7 7:30 PM 34-94 Swap Net 146.94 8:00 PM Fort Bend County Emergency Net 145.49 9:00 PM BVARC Net 145.47 & Linked Repeaters	8 8:00 PM 10-10 SHOT Net 28.488 10:00 PM AMSAT 147.10	9 8:00 PM B-VARC Rag Chew 3.960 (Busy? +3 Khz)	10 7:30 PM Membership Meeting Sugar Land Community Center	11	12 7:30 AM B-VARC Breakfast 8:30 AM CW on 147.32 9:00 AM Hou. Emer- gency Management NET 146.84 (9:30 on 3.905)																																																																																																		
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Notes from the President by Doug Holley, KE5SR

With all the ice we had in February, our regularly scheduled meeting attendance was down significantly. Our scheduled speaker for the Army MARS program was unable to travel the treacherous highways from his home in Tomball to the meeting site for his presentation. Areas north and west of Richmond were severely hit by ice. His program has been rescheduled for our March 10 meeting, weather permitting.

The presentation about the M.E.R.A. repeater given by Randy Pollard, AK5G, at the February meeting was both informative and productive. There were many things that I did not realize, like the site restrictions and antenna problems that we face. The repairs and antenna upgrade are needed for the 145.47 MHz repeater. M.E.R.A. has been allocated a 440 MHz repeater frequency pair. I think we should take advantage of the site and frequency pair allocation to purchase and install a 440 MHz repeater pair

After all the work is completed on the 145.47 machine. I, along with M.E.R.A., ask for your support with these two important projects. The two lifelines of communication that bind the BVARC organization together are the repeater and the BVARC Bulletin.

The March 3, 1994 Board meeting is the date we will schedule the rest of the yearly events on our calendar. Included will be all known special event programs, campout, picnic, ice cream social, chili supper, and other events. If you have special religious holidays or other dates of events that might conflict with our schedule, please attend so your dates can be taken into consideration.

Please remember that all BVARC board meetings are open to everyone, even non-members. This past board meeting we had two people attend that were not even BVARC members, and they both joined the club before they left the meeting.

Before the General Membership meeting in March, we will vote on whether to raise the general yearly membership

B-VARC RAG CHEW CHECK-INS

3.960 MHz 8:00 pm Wednesdays

Compiled by Melvin Thatcher, KB5ION

February 9, 1994

KB5ION (Net Control), AB5OK, W5EFB, N5OAC, KI5SC, N5CPA, W5IHV, KB5PAJ, KE5SR, W5GHK, N5YKR, N5UOG, W5GLD, N5KXU, KB5LFU

February 16, 1994

KE5SR (Net Control), KB5ION, W5EFB, WA5OEN, N5CPA, KI5SC, KB5PAJ, N5UOG, N5OAC, N5AFV, W5GHK, WN5A, KB5LFU, N5YKR, WD5DRB, AB5OK, KK5W

February 23, 1994

KB5ION (Net Control), KI5SC, N5AFV, KB5PAJ, WA5OEN, AB5OK, N5OAC, KE5SR, KK5W, N5CPA, W5GLD, N5YKR, KB5NUS

dues from \$12 to \$16, still prorated on the calendar year. The new rate will take effect April 1, 1994. If you have already paid \$12 for 1994, or pay in March, the increased rate will not affect your 1994 membership.

As our club has grown over the years, so have expenses. We have been fortunate to have had extremely economical printing for our Bulletin and donated materials for many of our projects which today we do not enjoy so plentiful. The last increase in dues has been over six years ago, and even this modest increase works out to about five percent per year. Considering the cost of our hobby, this is a bargain. A two-thirds majority vote is required to amend the bylaws, thus I urge you to attend the March meeting and vote for the bylaw amendment. It's a good investment in our future.

See you at the March meeting. Good DX and 73's.

Doug, KE5SR

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JANUARY BOARD MEETING

by Bud King, N5UOG

A quorum of the BVARC Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land community Center on February 3, 1994. This was the second meeting of the Board members for the 1994 calendar year. The following Board members were in attendance: Doug Holley, KE5SR; Mel Thatcher, KB5ION; Betty Wilcox, KA0TEN; Sam Wilson, N5CPA; Victor Richard, N5NAS; Claude Sessions, K5HFY; Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS; Gerry Borg, N5APW; and Bud King, N5UOG.

President Holley, KE5SR, opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. The minutes of the January 6th Board meeting were submitted by Bud King and approved unanimously.

The Club Treasurer, Sam Wilson, N5CPA, reported a balance of \$3,988.76 in the treasury as of January 31, 1994. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Mel Thatcher, KB5ION, reported the "Rag Chew" net continues to maintain its average number of weekly check-ins. Mel related an incident about a check-in from a mobile unit that was in the vicinity of Junction, Texas.

Items held over until the March 3rd Board meeting include the BVARC audit report for 1993 and the Public Service Net reports.

Claude Sessions, K5HFY, reported that his supervisor had notified him that his request for the use of their copying equipment to print the BVARC Bulletin had been approved. This news brought forth a discussion on the use of a Bulk Mail permit. A motion was approved to apply for a Bulk Mail permit in the name of BVARC.


Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS, provided President Holley with a written copy of a proposal to amend the BVARC By-Laws, as prescribed by Article IX, Section B, of those By-Laws. The proposed amendment concerned

the raising of the annual BVARC membership dues from \$12 to \$16 per calendar year.

Bud King, N5UOG, suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent to the General Manager of the Houston Engineering and Scientific Society thanking them for their efforts which helped to make our annual awards banquet such a success. The suggestion was approved by the Board and the President indicated he would prepare and send out the letter.

President Holley discussed the program planned for the February General Meeting, which will include a presentation about the MARS program.

Discussion concerning the Code and Theory classes for the Spring sessions were held without any definite conclusions reached. Doug Holley, KE5SR, adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.



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Lou Kronberg
Chairman of the Board
WSIH

The Passing of a Great Lady

by Doug Holley, KE5SR

Beth Lamkin passed away on February 5, 1994. Beth was best known as the wife of Stu Lamkin, one of the founders and cornerstones of BVARC and also a Past President. Beth died of complications following a short illness. Beth and her daughter, Lori, were also members of BVARC in past years.

Beth will be greatly missed by my family as well as the membership of BVARC.

1994 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

by Michael Hardwick, N5VCX

The organizational meetings for the upcoming Public Service events have been going well. There are still a few more slots open for the K-9 Fun Run on Sunday, March 13, 1994. I am also taking names for the ALA Clean Air Bike Ride which is May 1, 1994. The MS-150 is coming together very well, but we can always use more people.

Our friends over at ECHO will be working the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon on Sunday, April 17, 1994. That event will have around 25,000 participants and ECHO will need about 30 Hams for the event. Here is a list of the upcoming events and their contact person:

EVENT	DATE	CONTACT
K-9 Fun Run 2 mile run/walk	Sunday March 13	Mike Hardwick, N5VCX W/443-8636 H/662-6800
Blue Bonnet Bike Ride	Sunday March 27	Bret Pritchard, N5VOY WA/645-5400
March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon	Sunday April 17	Don Daze, KC5AK W/853-7644 H/464-7286
MS150 Bike Ride	Sat/Sun April 23, 24	Bret Pritchard, N5VOY W/H/645-5400
ALA Clean Air Bike Ride	Sunday May 1	Mike Hardwick, N5VCX W/443-8636 H/662-6800
Katy Flatland	Mid-July	Mark Cole, KB5WZB H/479-1800

If anyone would like to work any of these events, please call the event coordinator for that event and sign up. Have yourself a Fun and Useful time using Ham radiol

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PRESSURE MOUNTING FOR LOW FREQUENCY HAM BAND

by Allen Mattis N5AFV/KL7

For many years in the United States, the frequency range from 160 to 190 kHz (1750 meters) has been available for license free operation limited to a power of one watt or less, and an antenna and transmission line not exceeding 50 feet in length. This license free allocation may be affected by recent research, including Project Beacon here in Houston, which has lead to a nationwide interest in a possible relationship between low frequency radio waves and earthquake prediction.

In September, 1993, Ken Cornell, W2IMB, of Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, started an effort to petition the FCC to allow amateur radio operators to transmit signals in the 160 to 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.

The ARRL 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 amateurs need "A new, shared allocation in the vicinity of 190 kHz (a new LF allocation, for experimentation)."

The interest in these low frequencies is not restricted to the United States. Papua New Guinea recently authorized a new amateur radio band from 160 to 195 kHz. Power is limited to an ERP of 10 watts, and there is no restriction on antenna size. Great Britain is considering implementation of a similar LF amateur band with a power limit of 8 watts. As more IARU countries give amateur radio operators LF privileges, the pressure will mount for the FCC to do so here in the United States.

With other IARU countries already authorizing amateur radio operation on 1750 meters, how long will it be before we have a similar frequency allocation in the United States? Can the first trans-Atlantic LF contact be far behind? Watch for updates about a possible new low frequency amateur radio band in future articles.

