



<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

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***Welcome to B-VARC 1998!***

**A Special Thanks to the First Colony Church of Christ for the use of their facilities which make this newsletter possible.**

### **Board of Directors:**

Bruce Paige - KK5DO, [kk5do@amsat.org](mailto:kk5do@amsat.org)  
John Moore - KK5NU, [jwm@hal-pc.org](mailto:jwm@hal-pc.org)  
Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, [wa3pmt@aol.com](mailto:wa3pmt@aol.com)  
Rex Ritz - KC5EEU  
Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, [ljacobson@halnet.com](mailto:ljacobson@halnet.com)  
Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, [darrellk@swbell.net](mailto:darrellk@swbell.net)  
Gailen Marshall - N4SKR, [marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu](mailto:marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu)  
Jack Roberts - KB5TMY  
Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ, [doug.woodruff@pidwights.com](mailto:doug.woodruff@pidwights.com)  
Mike Hardwick - N5VCX, [n5vcx@worldnet.att.net](mailto:n5vcx@worldnet.att.net)  
Dave Scott - WD8RZA  
Bud King - N5UOG, [ceking@hal-pc.org](mailto:ceking@hal-pc.org)  
Claude Sessions - K5HFY, [cesjr@wt.net](mailto:cesjr@wt.net)

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## President's Article - Bruce, KK5DO

Well, looks like this year is starting off with a bang. We have finished our first month and there are plenty of Public Service events to follow. For those of you that have some extra time, the Fort Bend EOC will be having their Poly exercise in March and this one they plan on testing all of their emergency evacuation routes. This will require a pretty good handful of hams so you might want to consider this if you have some spare time available. Then we have the K-9 Fun Run, this is a 1 mile run and needs some volunteers.

Besides Public Service events we have started making plans for Field Day. Yes, it is not until the end of June, but we don't want to wait until the last minute. As I am on the Board of Directors of CLARC as well as BVARC, I approached them back in December about joining forces with their club. Why? When we discussed this at the BVARC Board of Directors meeting in December and then again at the Club's General meeting in February, everyone was of the consensus that BVARC is not a contest club. It is a social and Special Service Club. If that is the case, then why shouldn't we join with another club. See how they do

things, meet with other hams and share our experiences and expertise.

The members that were present at the February meeting were in total agreement with this as most of you would be as well. No, we won't be listed in QST and have a score. But when I asked how many people looked in QST to see the score, there were only three hands. When asked if you looked 'just to see if BVARC was there, there was one hand'. So this means that the other two were actually looking to see what the score was and where we ranked. This year, we will join with CLARC at Bay Area Park in Clear Lake and have a great time. CLARC typically has a dinner Saturday evening that the club buys Barbecue Brisket and then members bring all the different side dishes, hot dogs, hamburgers etc. We will chip in for purchasing the main course and then bring some of our own stuff. They also have a Boy Scout troupe there and they cook the breakfast Sunday morning. They get to earn a communication merit badge and a cooking merit badge.

Fun for all is in store this year and it only takes you to say 'Yes, I will pitch in'.

73...Bruce

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## Schedule of BVARC General Meetings for 1998

- March 5 (door prize)
  - April 2
  - May 7
  - June 4
  - June 27 & 28 Field Day
  - July 2
  - August 6 Ice Cream Social
  - September 3
  - October 1
  - November 5 Chili
  - Supper/Elections
  - December 3
  - January 14, 1999 BVARC Banquet
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## Article for amendment to by laws

The Board of Directors recommends the following changes to the Club's By Laws. These changes will be voted on at the March 5, 1998 General Meeting following a brief discussion of each article.

Article V Section F shall be amended to read:

The Corresponding Secretary shall notify members of the Club of each membership meeting by written notice monthly. Such notice may be included in the Club newsletter indicating the time and date of the next meeting. Newsletters may be handed out to members at the

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monthly meeting and mailed to those not in attendance the day after the meeting. Notice shall also be given via electronic means on the World Wide Web and by announcement over the Club's FM Public Service Net.

Article IX Section B shall be amended to read:

Proposals for amendments to the By Laws shall be submitted in writing to the President of the Club to arrive at the Club's postal box on the day prior to the board meeting. The Corresponding Secretary shall include any proposed amendments in a meeting notice to members in accordance with the provision in ARTICLE V, Section F of these By Laws

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## **Board of Directors Meeting The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club February 12, 1998**

A quorum of the new Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Community Center on February 12, 1998. This was the first meeting of the calendar year as the Board had decided at the December meeting that a meeting would not be held in January. The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Paige - KK5DO at 7:33 PM.

The following Board Members, visitors and guests were present: Bruce Paige - KK5DO, John Moore - KK5NU, Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT, Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, Doug Woodruff - KC5VYZ, Jack Roberts - KB5TMY, Mike Hardwick - N5VCX, and Dave Scott - WD8RZA. Board members absent were Gailen Marshall - N4SKR, Bud King - N5UOG, and Claude Sessions - K5HFY.

Recording Secretary, Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, presented the December minutes which were accepted. Treasurer Larry Jacobson - K5LJ, presented the Treasurer's report which was accepted. Current club assets total "about \$4000". Discussion ensued regarding planned annual expenses. The only forecasted known items are \$840 for the newsletter which is running about \$70 per month and \$200 for ARRL insurance, if we qualify as a special service club. It was confirmed that Rand Pollard - AK5G will initiate an annual audit of the club's books and accounts.

The Registered Agent of the club was changed from George Jolly - ND5E to Randy Pollard - AK5G. Also Rand was also nominated for appointment as trustee of the KC0IG club call sign and application to make that change will be submitted to the FCC.

Dave Scott - WD8RZA was nominated as the club's representative as Official Observer on the ARRL South Texas Official Observer Team.

Cameron Mitchell - K5GJZ was appointed as newsletter editor of "The B-VARC BULLETIN".

There was discussion regarding a change to the bylaws authorizing electronic distribution of the newsletter. A newsletter web site browser page is recommended by the President as the most efficient way to make it available because not everyone will want a personal copy. The members not receiving a newsletter at the monthly meeting can at their choice be provided a copy by mail. The club can save hundreds of dollars in this way. (Editor's note: The on-line presentation of the newsletter will be at URL: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>.)

M.D. Anderson hospital has been contacted to gain permission to install a two meter code practice beacon at the same site as the present ham shack tower. This would give us an antenna at 350 feet. John Moore - KK5NU reported that he has been in contact with Lanny Poteet - KB5VTB who is trustee of the M.D. Anderson station. Bruce Paige - KK5DO has volunteered to donate a computer that can generate

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code on a continuous basis. Also a radio transmitter will be needed that has an independent and separate ID feature not tied to the computer. We are looking for people to work on this project. Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT suggested other clubs might also be interested.

The 1998 field day at Bay Area Park as a joint venture plan with the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) was discussed. Discussion ensued regarding methods we can legally employ on the Sugar Land meeting property grounds for raising funds to contribute toward the cost of typical meals provided at the CLARC field days. B-VARC is questioning what is the fairest way to ask for money from membership. Also it is a problem to estimate how many extra meals to plan for when family members and/or guests also come. The point was made by Bruce Paige - KK5DO that B-VARC is not a "contest" club and therefore members would be willing to join forces with CLARC which is more into the "contesting" aspect of field day. Tickets can be given to draw for a door prize and we can "pass the hat" to get donations toward the entree at CLARC.

Novice - Technician class training was discussed. Bruce Paige - KK5DO feels we are in a dying hobby because people aren't advancing and nobody

really wants to hold the classes. Steven Deaktor - WA3PMT suggested we might consider partnering with other local ham clubs.

The newsletter monthly inputs cut-off date was established. It will be the 20th of each month, except for February, which will have a 02/15/98 cut-off.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Paige - KK5DO at 8:36PM.

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## **Scott Pederson -- Thanks and Best Wishes**

I would like to express the Board of Directors appreciation and also my personal appreciation to Scott, KI5DR for doing the newsletter for the past several years. He did an excellent job and I know that it was getting hectic for him during his move and job change. He managed to hang in there and kept that newsletter coming.

Our new editor, Mitch, K5GJZ will have big shoes to fill but we are going to give him all the support he needs to help do the excellent job the members are used to seeing and reading.

Bruce Paige, President

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## **March Meeting Presentation**

**(There will be a door prize drawing at the March meeting.)**

March meeting presentation will deal with Stealth Antennas. Don't let deed restrictions or a picky spouse deter your amateur radio desires. This presentation by Rick, W5RH, will focus on hiding antennas in your house and on your property. Some very effective antenna systems can be built and used BUT never seen by your neighborhood committee hawkeye. The presentation will start with antenna basics so whether you are a Novice, Tech, Tech Plus or Extra, there will be something in it for you.

## **April Meeting Technical Corner :**

### **Antenna Modeling Service**

An free antenna performance modeling service will be provided by Rick, W5RH. Those B-VARC members desiring such an analysis will be asked to fill out a form that outlines your antenna's measurements and it's relation to ground. It will then be modeled and you will be given a plot of the gain and angle of radiation.

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## Reciprocal Licensing in Europe

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 13 ARLB013  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT February 12,  
1998  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB013  
ARRLB013 US to join CEPT

US to participate in CEPT guest  
license arrangement

US amateurs soon will not need  
to apply for reciprocal licenses  
in order to operate during short  
visits to most European  
countries.

While an official announcement  
still may be a few weeks away,  
it's been learned the US  
request to participate in the  
European guest license  
arrangement has been  
approved. Similarly, most  
European hams visiting the US  
no longer will have to submit  
FCC Form 610A.

Approval of the US request  
came in late January at a  
meeting of the CEPT Radio  
Regulatory Working Group  
(WGRR), in Groningen, The  
Netherlands. The European  
Radiocommunications Office  
(ERO) has been instructed to  
officially notify the FCC of the

decision approving US  
participation.

Last September, the US State  
Department applied for US  
participation in the European  
Conference of Postal and  
Telecommunications  
Administrations (CEPT)  
Amateur Radio licensing  
system. A holders of a CEPT  
license can operate in CEPT-  
participating countries without  
having to apply for a reciprocal  
license.

The State Department's action  
came at the urging of the ARRL  
that the US take advantage of  
the CEPT Recommendation  
T/R 61-01 arrangements and  
issue a license that would be  
recognized by CEPT-  
participating administrations  
and would be valid for brief  
visits.

Also last fall, the FCC proposed  
amending the Amateur Radio  
rules to make it easier for hams  
holding a CEPT license or an  
International Amateur Radio  
Permit (IARP) to operate during  
short visits to the US.

Under the soon-to-be-  
implemented arrangement, a  
US Technician license would be  
recognized as a CEPT Class 2  
(VHF-only) license, with full  
privileges above 30 MHz.  
Holders of Tech Plus through  
Extra tickets would be given a  
CEPT Class 1 license, with full  
privileges on HF and VHF.

Novice licensees would not be  
eligible for a CEPT equivalent  
license since most CEPT  
countries don't offer a license of  
this type.

Once the ERO formally advises  
the FCC of the decision, the  
FCC must complete the steps  
to implement the participation  
before CEPT licensing can  
become effective.

"We've been urging the  
Commission to do this since  
1991," said ARRL Executive  
Vice President David Sumner,  
K1ZZ. "Now that CEPT has  
given the green light, we hope  
the FCC will step on the gas."

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## HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for February 1998 by Al Mattis - N5AFV

Ten Ten International has  
announced a slate of  
candidates for the 1998  
election, which will be held in  
June. President, vice  
president, secretary and 5  
directors will be elected.

Information about the  
candidates appears in the  
January, 1998 issue of the 10-  
10 International News.

The Houston SHOT chapter will  
host the next Board of Directors  
meeting of Ten Ten  
International. The meeting will  
be held June 12-13, 1998, at



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the Hobby Airport Ramada Inn. This meeting will give Houston area 10-10 members the chance to meet the national officers and directors.

The 1998 Winter Phone QSO Party will be held February 7-8, 1998. Due to complaints from many members about inflated scores, QSO party rules have been changed to eliminate the use of call sign prefixes as a multiplier. Under the new rules, contacts with stations without a 10-10 number are worth 1 point, contacts with US stations with a 10-10 number are worth 2 points, and contacts with DX stations with a 10-10 number are worth 3 points. The SHOT chapter will hold a net at 8 PM local time on 28.488 MHz both evenings during the QSO party.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome N7SG, KB7ZGP, KB5UNX and N0PFY as its newest members. The chapter currently has 381 local members, and 1306 non-local members, for a total membership of 1689.

Visit the Houston SHOT chapter home page at <http://www.clarc.org/shot/> when you get on the Internet. The site contains information about the chapter, past editions of the Houston SHOT News, and the Ten Ten DX column written Mike Davidson - N5MT, the SHOT chapter head. The chapter thanks Bruce Paige -

KK5DO, for constructing and maintaining the page, and the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) for providing space on their server for the page.

Remember that 28.170 MHz is used by many Ten Ten members as a CW calling frequency. The frequency of 28.335 MHz is used by many Ten Ten members while mobile.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz, 28.375 MHz, and 28.825 MHz during band openings. The Eagle Watch (AL), Twin Cities (MN), Kansas Trails (MN), Flying Tiger (RI), Peach State (TX), Portland 500 (OR) and Electric City (FL) chapters have announced specials for paper chasers to promote activity when the band is open. Many of the chapters have home pages on the Internet. Links to these pages may be found on the Ten Ten International page. The Houston SHOT page contains a link to the Ten Ten International page.

Ten meter propagation was down a little from last month. There were fewer domestic openings, and DX openings were also fewer in number. In general, the solar flux was a little lower than last month. Just a slight increase in solar flux will bring the ten meter openings we have been waiting for.

Remember, the Houston SHOT (Space Houston On Ten) 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 many exciting activities in Ten Ten, and many friendly people can be found on the ten meter band.

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## B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS

### B-VARC RAG CHEW NET CHECK-INS

3.960Mhz +/- 3Khz  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM  
by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

1/07/98---N5CPA, KK5D0, K5LJ, W5EFB, N5UOG, KC5HNJ, W5IHY, W5RH, WA5TWL, AA5OA, KM5ID, KG5KV, W5GHK. (13)

1/14/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, N5UOG, N5VXU, KM5ID, W5GHK, NM5K, KK5DO, KK5JJ, W5IHY, KG5KV, N5OAC. (12)

1/21/98---N5CPA, N5KXU, KE4UK--NET STOPPED BECAUSE OF LIGHTNING.

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1/28/98---N5CPA, W5EFB,  
K5LJ, W5RIY, KG5KV,  
KD5TOK, W5GHK.(7)

Scanner Jack Roberts  
KB5TMY

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## Scanner Jack's Corner

Here is the new Harris County  
800 mhz trunked system. If you  
do not have a trunked tracker  
scanner, this is how you would  
program your scanner or take 2  
scanners and half up the freqs  
and scan that away. If you  
have any questions call  
Scanner Jack at 281-498-3502.

860.7125	860.2375	
859.7125	859.2375	
858.7125	858.2375	
857.7125	857.2375	
856.7125	856.2375	
860.2125	868.975	New
859.2125	868.950	New
858.2125	868.0875	New
857.2125	868.0375	New
856.2125	867.9875	New
868.7625	867.9625	New
868.4875	867.9375	New
868.2375	867.5875	New
867.9125	867.5375	New
867.6625	867.4625	New
860.4875	867.0625	New
859.4875	866.9375	New
858.4875	866.5625	New
857.4875	866.4875	New
856.4875	866.4625	New
860.4625	866.0375	New
859.4625	ITAC1	866.0125
858.4625	ITAC2	866.5125
857.4625	ITAC3	867.0125
856.4625	ITAC4	867.5125
	ITAC5	868.0125

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## Monday night PSN check-ins

1/5 - 27  
1/12 - 29  
1/19 - 37  
1/26 - 33  
73 de KC5OHJ  
IP: 44.76.118  
<http://www.vdazone.org/~kc5ohj>  
<http://www.nol.net/~jburton>

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## Public Service Events!

- **April 18-19, 1998**, MS-150 2  
day ride from Houston to  
Austin (The "Big" One!)  
Contact Mike  
Hardwick(N5VCX) at  
713-771-4625 or  
1-800-247-1671

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## From the Editor's Desk

By Cameron Mitchell,  
K5GJZ

I'm sure that all the members  
will applaud Scott Pederson,  
KI5DR, for his tenure as editor  
of the B-VARC newsletter. He  
has done a fine job in a job  
which is mostly thankless. My  
experience as a home  
association newsletter editor is  
that there are very few rewards  
except satisfaction in a job well-

done. Usually, all an editor  
gets is complaints. (It seems  
that one receives compliments  
about rather odd things that are  
put in the newsletter.) We all  
trust that Scott will have more  
time to spend with his family.

Hi, I'm the new editor. As most  
can observe, I have taken the  
previous month's newsletter  
(obtained from Scott) and did  
some cutting and pasting,  
mostly trying to survive my  
start-up period. If anyone has  
suggestions, please let me  
know.

Cameron Mitchell (Mitch)  
mitchl@hal-pc.org.

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## My Favorite QSL Card

from Bruce, KK5DO

The description for mine is..

This QSL card is special to me as it was the first one that I received for having heard a shuttle mission. I got my No-Code Tech license in April, 1993 and this mission was came two weeks later. I was amazed when I heard them on my HT as I was driving from Houston to Corpus Christi. I sent off for the card and it now represents my first of 13 with 4 more for MIR contacts. The most prized shuttle mission card is my STS-79 card 9/23/96. The astronauts only made 12 contacts on that mission and I was one of them.

What is your favorite card? Bring it to the meeting with a

description so we can put it here next month.

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The following is from *Clarc's Radio Amateur Gazette*:

## CLARC & BVARC Join for Field Day 98



The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club and the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club will join forces for this years ARRL Field Day.

BVARC will join CLARC at our Bay Area Park Field Day site and provide a 5KVA Generator, a TH6 H.F. Beam, and a tower to compliment all the other fine rigs, antennae, etc. that CLARC members supply.

**It's great to work with other clubs and let's show BVARC our great CLARC hospitality!**