


THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 21, issue 12
December 1998

<p>Houston Ham Help Line 24-Hours 281-495-3495</p> <p>Get information about local clubs and testing sessions.</p>	<p>Membership renewal information:</p> <p>Members whose membership has expired or is near expiration will find their membership date highlighted on the mailing label.</p>	 <p>http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc</p>
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ARRL Membership - Members are urged to renew their ARRL membership through BVARC, allowing the club to take advantage of reduced insurance rates. Contact Larry, K5LJ, at 281-341-0436 for information

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BVARC Awards Banquet

The Awards Banquet will be held at
The Old San Francisco Steak House
on Friday, January 8.

Contact Larry, K5LJ, for reservations

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

**Also, Thanks to Claude Sessions, K5HFY, for being in
charge of production.**

Board of Directors:

Bruce Paige, President - KK5DO, kk5do@amsat.org
John Moore, Vice President - KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org
Steven Deaktor, Corresponding Secretary - WA3PMT,
wa3pmt@aol.com
Rex Ritz, Recording Secretary - KC5EEU
Larry Jacobson, Vice-President - K5LJ, k5lj@nstci.com
Darrell Kirk - KC5JAR, darrellk@swbell.net
Gailen Marshall - N4SKR, marshall@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu
Bud King - K5CEK, ceking@hal-pc.org
Claude Sessions - K5HFY, cesjr@wt.net

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PRESIDENT'S Article - Bruce, KK5DO

Well, it's almost over. Yes, 1998 will be gone by the time you read this article and with it comes the passing of the hat. Not being President any longer will mean that I can sit back and enjoy some of the club activities again. It also means that a new set of officers will be at your disposal.

Remember that the club is only as good as each of you makes it. At times, it seems that the same people volunteer for the same thing year after year. Maybe they don't even volunteer but are expected to do it. If each of you would take on one of the tasks for the club, it would make things much easier and give those that continually do it a break.

The club's Vice President is in charge of all the great speakers that we have at the monthly meetings. But, he could always use some help. If you know of someone that you think would make a good speaker at one of the meetings, ask them and then talk to the Vice President and see if you can get them on the schedule for a particular month.

As I pass the reins over to John, KK5NU, I would like to say thanks to each of you that have helped this year. John, KK5NU gave us some really great speakers. Claude, K5HFY, took care of the Chili Supper and the making of the caps, hats and jackets. Rex, KC5EEU did the Ice Cream Social. Bud, K5CEK was always there at the board meetings to keep us in line and stood in line twice a year at 5am to reserve the Community Center. Larry, K5LJ kept the money straight and never lost a penny (trust me). Steve, WA3PMT suggested the Hot Dogs and cold drinks before the meeting. Darrell, KC5JAR, Mr. Coffee still does that job and could really use some help. Mike, N5VCX, although never appointed, seems to be the annual Public Service Chairman. Sam, N5CPA does the Wednesday night Rag Chew Net. Mitch, AC5QZ edits this newsletter. Randy, AK5G audits our books. Many others helped at field day and other club events (this covers me for the lapse of memory if I missed someone). Last but not least, myself....Net Control for the Monday Night Public Service Net.

Can you help? Can you do any of these jobs? Can you do it once so that someone could take a break? Let the new board know they will be happy to add you to the list of those that help the club.

There will be no club meeting in January, as it is the month for our Annual Awards Banquet. Hope to see you there and at a meeting in 1999.

73...Bruce, KK5DO

Schedule of BVARC Activities

January 1999

8 - BVARC Banquet
k5lj@nstci.com
12 - VE Test
14 - BOD

February 1999

4 - General Meeting
Scanner Technology
Jack Roberts-KB5TMY

(see the article with 1999 activities below.)

Other Dates:

Contests:

June 20 - 21, All Asia DX CW
June 27 - 28, ARRL Field Day

Public Service Events Needing Ham Volunteers:

- January 17, 1999 - The Houston Marathon - contact Carl Hacker

You can always contact me if you are unable to contact the event coordinator.

Please let me know if you are interested!!!!

Thanks,

Mike Hardwick
N5VCX

Results of the December Homebrew Contest conducted by Rick Hiller, W5RH

Home brew--Bill Pearson--HF Antenna Tuner

Robert Moore--KK5UO--Portable Power Source

Antennas--Harold Parker--ND5F--J-pole

Kits/Modifications--Larry Jacobson--K5LJ--TenTec 2 Meter Transceiver

(Please see "snaps" below.)

73...Rick...W5RH

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HOUSTON SHOT NEWS for December 1998 **by Al Mattis - N5AFV**

This year the Houston SHOT chapter did not hold a November special. The chapter established the November special in 1994, to promote activity on the band during the low in the last solar cycle. Because of the onset of Cycle 23, activity on the band has increased greatly during the past year, and the chapter felt that a November special was no longer needed. Unfortunately, word of this decision did not reach all paper chasers, and a few upgrades were received for a November special. The Houston SHOT chapter regrets any misunderstanding resulting from the decision not to hold a special, and apologizes to anyone inconvenienced as a result.

Ten Ten International has announced that the 1999 Ten Ten International Convention will be held June 10-13, 1999 at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge, TN. The convention is being hosted by the Springbok Chapter (ZS), and James Whittlesey, KC4RHW, is the convention chairman.

The Houston SHOT chapter is pleased to welcome Richard Orsak, KB5VNM, as its newest local member. The chapter also welcomes ON4CAS, DK7LA, DK0SL, N1PDV and DE3WAF as its newest out-of-town members. The chapter currently has 385 local members, and 1334 non-local members, for a total membership of 1719.

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.

Many of the chapters of Ten Ten International 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.

Paper chasers continue to be active on 28.345 MHz, 28.375 MHz, 28.425 MHz and 28.825 MHz. The Branding Iron (TX), Castle Craig (CT), Flying Tigers (RI), Restoration Project (VE), GB Ten (G), Twin Cities (MN), and Electric City (FL) chapters are conducting specials for paper chasers to promote activity on the band. The certificate manager for the Camilia Capital (CA) and River City (CA) chapters has been hospitalized, and members are asked not to submit upgrades to those chapters until further notice. The wife of KC4RHW, US certificate manager for the Springbok chapter, has also been hospitalized, and US Springbok members have been asked not

to submit upgrades until after December 15, 1998.

Ten Ten International is pleased to welcome the Elmer J. Fudd Net (NY) as its newest chapter. Terry Fulton, K2HO, certificate manager for the new chapter, announced that the chapter's net will be held Fridays at 12:30 UTC on 28.340 MHz. A new chapter is also reportedly being formed in Germany, and will be called the Cast Iron Tower chapter.

A number of chapters of Ten Ten International have recently gone QRT. The Pirates of the Mississippi (IL), Samuel Clemens (CT), King Arthur's Court (CT), Colorado Bighorn (CO), Gold Coast (VK) and Australian Capital (VK) have all been declared QRT. Some of these chapters were popular with paper chasers for many years, and it is always sad when Ten Ten loses a chapter.

Propagation on ten meters continues to be very good, especially for DX. Contacts with Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia and the South Pacific take place on the band almost daily. Domestic openings to both the East and West Coasts are also a frequent occurrence. Cycle 23 appears to be here.

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.

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for October **by Sam Wilson, N5CPA**

3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 8:00PM

Just WHAT IS the Rag-Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-VARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! What?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

11/04/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, KK5UO, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KA8SAK, W5GHK, K5LJ, K5CEK, K5HFY, W5TEM, KB5DNT, KD5EZU, NM5K, WN5A, KC5SQD, AB8CC, KT4SHM, W7NQF, N5VXU. (20)

11/11/98---N5CPA, K5CEK, KA0VNX, W5EFB, N5OAC, KB5DNT, K5LJ, KE4YS, KB5NDR,

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KK5NU, KM5DG, K5VRJ, AB5BA, W5GHK,
KK5W, KA0TEN, W5RIY, W5TEM, NM5K,
KG8MG (20)

11/18/98---N5CPA, W5EFB, KM5DG, K5VRJ,
AB5BA, KB5NDR, W5GHK, KG8MG, N4AEP,
KA8SA, KK5NU, W5TEM, WD8MLD, KE4YBY,
K5CEK. (15)

11/25/98---NO NET.

RESULTS OF THE DECEMBER 8TH AMATEUR EXAMS

by: **Harold Parker, ND5F**

B-VARC again sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examinations that were held on Tuesday evening, December 8, 1998 at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.

V. E. TEAM:

Carl Albrecht, AA5JW
Louis House, KD5GM
Harold Parker, ND5F

ASSISTANTS:

Cass Germany, KG5IT
John Moore, KK5NU

A total of five exams were administered during the evening to two applicants. Two unlicensed applicants received their new licenses:

One (1) Technician Plus and one (1) Technician. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%

Congratulations to the following:

Eugene Doremus - Technician Plus
Donald LeRoux - Technician

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 ND5F

SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Jack Roberts, KB5TMY
14208 Laterna Ln
Houston 77083-5730

Here are the freqs for TDCJ Prison Unit that are good to monitor during escapes.

- 1 153.965 Input
154.995 Huntsville Wynn Goree
- 2 154.980 Input
153.815 Ellis 1-2 East Ham
- 3 154.950 Statewide car to car
- 4 155.370 Statewide intercity
- 5 153.905 Common all units
- 6 153.785 155.025 Input Michals Cofield
- 7 153.815 154.085 Central Sugar Land Jesters
- 8 155.025 153.755 Darrington Ramsey 123
- 9 153.785 154.055 Clemens Retrieve
- 10 154.115 Sort Body Alarms
- 11 153.785 Talk Around
- 12 DPS
- 13 453.05 TDCJ Hospital
- 14 453.300 Warden
- 15 453.350 Warden
- 16 453.400 Warden
- 17 453.450 Clements in Amarillo
- 18 453.500 Warden
- 19 453.550 Car to Car

Monday night PSN check-ins (KK5DO net control)

- 11/23/98 - 22
11/30/98 - 25
12/4/98 - 21
12/14/98 - 17

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B-VARC Program Calendar - 1999

Meeting Date	BOD	VE Test
Jan* 8 OSF- ^	B-VARC Banquet k5lj@nstci.com	14 WN 12
Feb 4 WS -	Scanner Technology Jack Roberts-KB5TMY	11 WN 9
Mar 4 WS		11 WN 9
Apr 1 WS		8 WN 13
May 6 WS		13 WN 11
Jun 3 WN		10 WS 8
Jun* 26&27 -	Field Day	
Jul 1 WN		7 WS 13
Aug* 5 WN	Ice Cream Social	12 WS 10
Sep 2 WN		13 WS 14
Oct 7 WN		18 WS 12
Nov* 4 WN	Chili Supper/Elections	15 WS 9
Dec 2 WN		13 WS 14

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B-VARC Program Calendar - 2000

Jan* 6 WS? -	B-VARC Banquet	13 WN 11
Feb 3 WS		10 WN 8
Mar 2 WS		9 WN 14
Apr 6 WS		13 WN 11
May 4 WS		11 WN 9
Jun 1 WN		8 WS 13
Jun* 24&25 -	Field Day	
Jul 6 WN		13 WS 11
Aug* 3 WN	Ice Cream Social	10 WS 8
Sep 7 WN		14 WS 12
Oct 5 WN		12 WS 10
Nov* 2 WN	Chili Supper/Elections	16 WS 14
Dec 7 WN		14 WS 12

Note: This revision reflects the Monthly Meeting Dates being moved to the First Thursday of each month as a result of room availability at the Community Center.

RR Red Room WN Wedgewood North WS Wedgewood South

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Where from?



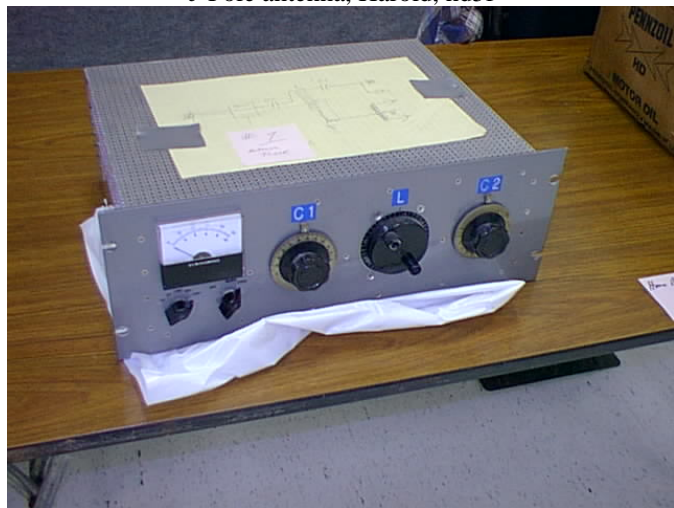
Home Brews: Portable power source, Robert KK5UO



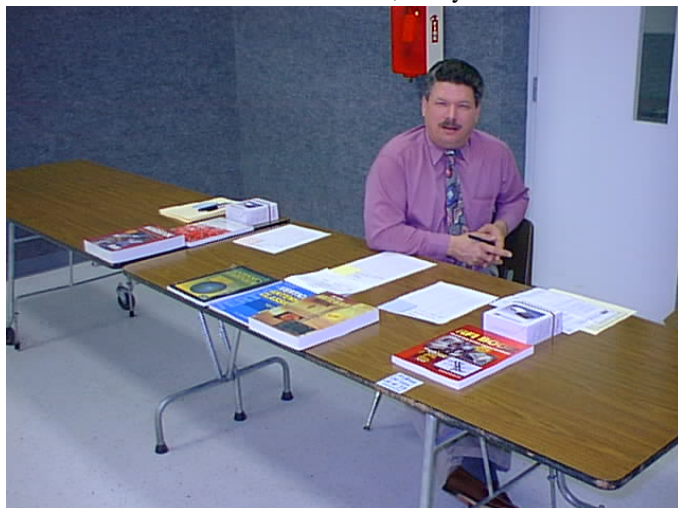
J-Pole antenna, Harold, nd5f



Ten-Tec modification, Larry K5LJ



HF Antenna Tuner, Bill W5RJA



Homebrew chief, Rick W5RH

(Better viewed on the web page.)

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