

THE B-VARC BULLETIN

Volume 24, issue 1
January 2001

Membership renewal information:

Members whose membership has expired or is near expiration will find their membership date highlighted on the mailing label.



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

ARRL Membership - Members are urged to renew their ARRL membership through BVARC, allowing the club to take advantage of reduced insurance rates. Contact John at 281-530-0432 for information

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B-VARC General Meetings
are now on the second Thursday
of each month!!!

Board of Directors Meetings
are on the first Thursday
of each month.

Many thanks to John Moore for printing this month's issue and to Claude Sessions for production.

Board of Directors:

Kevin Foto, President - KD5O, alpine@wt.net
Claude Sessions, vice-president - K5HFY, claudes@juno.com
Bill Allen, Recording Secretary - KD5IUI, william_allen@csicontrols.com
John Whiteman, Corresponding Secretary - K5LKJ, jw@heatingtapes.com
Rex Ritz, Treasurer - KC5EEU, icrex@yahoo.com
Robert Moore, 1-Year-Director - KK5UO, kk5uo@hal-pc.org
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, 2-Year-Director, n5vcx@worldnet.att.net
Paul Gray, 3-Year-Director - N0JAA, n0jaa@aol.com
Larry Jacobson, Past President - K5LJ, k5lj@nstci.com

Notes from the President - January 2000

Prez Sez,

I would like to wish all B-VARC members a Happy New Year. As you are probably already aware, I have decided to take up the post as President. I did so in spite of my limited time because I feel strongly in the merits of our existence as a club. I am relatively new to the club, joining after taking my Technician+ exam in August '98. I have never held an office before so this is all new to me. I hope to perform the task as B-VARC President in keeping with my predecessors. Claude Sessions has taken my place as Vice President.

The annual awards banquet was held on Friday, January 5th. I was unable to attend but I am told that everyone enjoyed the event. There were 49 people in attendance. Mike Hardwick received the Order of the Key Award. The Dr Bill Award was presented to John Moore. Sam Wilson received the Loop and Zepp Award and Special Appreciation was awarded to Cameron Mitchell.

In this new year I would like to continue to foster the great fraternity of amateur radio by spreading the word about our hobby in the public schools and through public service events. With the new satellites, the International space station and the 11 year solar peak, it is a very exciting time to be in Amateur radio. I will work with the board to come up with some interesting technical programs for this years meetings. If anyone has any thoughts on the subject, please come forward. I am always open to suggestions.

Please make note of the schedule changes. Our monthly board meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month with the general membership meeting on the second Thursday of the month. Our February program will consist of a discussion on Grounding followed up with an update to the previous PSK31 program. Claude Sessions will also be there to take orders for club caps, T-shirts, patches and jackets. I hope to see you all at the meeting!

Thanks and 73,

Kevin KD5O

SCHEDULE OF BVARC Activities

VE Sessions Change of Location:

The ARRL VEC amateur license tests which are given by B-VARC on the second Tuesday of each month has been moved to:

**Houston Community College,
Scarcella Technology Center, Room W106
10141 Cash Road, Stafford, TX**

Month	General Meeting	Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
Jan	5	Awards Banquet	4	9
Feb	8	Grounding by Glen Jenkins, WB4KTF and More on PSK31 by Larry Jacobson, K5LJ	1	13
Mar	8	TBA	1	13

**HOUSTON AREA
2001 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS
AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

Event-Location-Date-Hams Needed-Contact

- HARRA 10K Fun Run Houston March , 2001 15
- BlueBonnet Bike Ride Hempstead March 18, 2001 35
- Arthritis Joint Walk Houston April 1, 2001 15
- Ft. Bend Special Olympics Rosenberg April , 2001 10 Don LeRoux
- Tour de Cypress Katy April 1, 2001 30
- MS150 Bike Tour Houston April 21/22, 2001 120 Mike N5VCX
- March of Dimes Walk Houston April 29, 2001 40 Marty Blaise
- Tour de Braz Alvin June 2, 2001 30 Steve White
- Katy Flatland Bike Ride Katy July 22, 2001 35
- Sealy Crossroads Sealy September, 2001 25 Dan White
- 20K Warm-Up Run Houston October, 2001 25 Steve Dunkelburger
- MADD Country Classic Montgomery October 7, 2001 25 Rudd Merriam
- Wings Over Houston Houston October 20 & 21 60 Bill Terrell
- 25K Warm-Up Run Houston November, 2001 25 Allen Mattis
- Novemberfest Bike Ride Sealy November, 2001 25 Robert Temple
- 30K Warm-Up Run Sugarland December, 2001 25
- Houston Marathon Houston January, 2002 130 Carl Hacker

Here is the calendar of public service events for 2001. As the dates become final, I will update the calendar. If you are interested in putting on together, let me know and I will get you with the event coordinator. This is one of the best ways to promote amateur radio and the more that we are in the public's eye the better. I saw a letter to the editor in the Chronicle today talking about how CB radio was helping keep San Salvadorians in the US in contact with their family back home (I wonder if he was talking about amateur radio and just didn't know the difference or what). If we enjoy our hobby and would like to keep it, we need to provide a reason for its use.

Let me know if you would like to work and event this year.

Thanks,
Mike Hardwick
N5VCX

RAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting - January 4, 2001

Past President Larry Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:40pm. There was a quorum with the members present.

Those in attendance were:

Past president - Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
treasurer - Rex Ritz, KC5EEU
corresponding secretary - John Whiteman, K5LKJ
3-year director - Paul Gray, N0JAA
2-year director - Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

HOUSTON
AMATEUR RADIO
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GEORGE DILETTO, K0BRW
PRESIDENT

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Those not in attendance were:

Recording secretary Bill Allen - KD5IUI
1-year director Robert Moore - KK5UO

Visiting:

Claude Sessions - K5HFY.
Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM
Irv Smith - KK5QQ

Minutes taken by Mike Hardwick.

Motion made to table approval of December meeting minutes since the recording secretary was not there. Corresponding secretary report by John Whiteman with information from Irv Smith. Currently 163 people on the roll with 124 active, 14 life and 25 family. There are 98 members that are in the ARRL as well.

Treasurer report by Rex Ritz and Cameron Mitchell. Motion to accept by Paul and seconded by John. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice President Kevin Foto, KD5O, arrived and the meeting was chaired by Kevin and Larry.

Discussion on the president position being open and the problems that it is causing. Rex discussed the club checking account and the problem with the signatures since no president has been elected. The three signatories on the account are the

president, vice president and the treasurer of which two must sign the checks.

General discussion on about electing a president and what by-laws say about electing or appointing one. General discussion of the duties of the president and vice president. Meeting programs for the next few meetings discussed.

Several discussions on filling the president's position. Claude Sessions said that he would be willing to take over the vice president's position if it became open. Discussion on Kevin becoming president. Both Kevin and Claude agreed. Larry made a motion to accept Kevin becoming president and Claude vice president. The motion was seconded by John and the vote was unanimous.

Rex requested that the people authorized to sign on the checking account be put in the minutes. The three people are Kevin Foto, president; Claude Session, vice-president; and Rex Ritz, treasurer.

Kevin discussed having a homebrew night for a club program. Larry suggested that Kevin and Claude work on the program. Kevin said he will call Glen and check on the February program.

Larry and Paul discussed the meeting dates for the rest of the year for the general meeting as well as the board meeting. The general meeting will be the 2nd Thursday of the month and the board will meet on the first Thursday of the month. The only exception are at the end of the year in December with the dates moved to Tuesday. (A complete calendar will be listed in the newsletter next month).

Claude and Larry brought up the clubs records being audited. Larry said that we need to contact Randy Pollard, who has done the books in the past, and see if he would audit them again. Rex said that he would call Randy and check on getting the audit process started. The completion date was discussed with no date agreed on.

Claude said that he had applied for the first 6 months of 2002 for the space at the Sugar Land Community Center but has had no reply from the city of Sugar Land.

Claude presented information on caps, shirts, patches, and windbreakers. Prices were discussed as well as ordering information. He said that he will have order forms at the meetings and he gave a form to Cameron to be published in the newsletter.

John Whiteman brought up several items and they were discussed on bringing in new members. His three main ideas were;

1. To start an elmer net for the new hams in the area as well as for people who just listen.
2. A workshop program

3. Kit building - basic skills in kit building with kits such as a 1 tube transmitter kit. Larry went over some kit-building rules
4. Tailgate Sale for a program - discussion on the old tailgate sale that used to be held and the insurance requirements.

Mike brought up that the Monday night VHF net is being linked to many repeaters statewide and that the net control operator needs to know that the response times are slow on replies.

Paul brought up having fox hunts for a program and homebrew workshop especially for the younger hams.

Kevin brought up about approaching the Boy Scouts and junior high kids.

Mike brought up about approaching Houston Community College and putting an ad in their paper for testing, code and upgrade classes, and the B-VARC meetings.

Larry discussed about making a donation to the MERA group. Rex made a motion to make the donation. Kevin requested that the motion be tabled for the next meeting which was agreed on unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn by Paul and seconded by Larry. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX



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SCANNER JACK'S Corner
 by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

- Here are the frequencies for t.v. and radio news and traffic
- 450.0875 ch.2 news
 - 450.2875 ch.2 news
 - 450.5125 ch.11 news
 - 450.8625 ch. 13 news
 - 161.700 ch. 13 news
 - 490.6875 ch 26 news
 - 490.9375 ch. 26 news
 - 450.7125 metro traffic

450.3125 krbe traffic
 455.9125 93Q traffic

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 281 774-0830 fax
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 RICK ZAMARRIPA

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 HOUSTON, TX 77083
 713 787-0500
 713 268-1044 fax

RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 9TH B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION by: John Moore, KK5NU

B-VARC sponsored and administered the ARRL's Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2001 at HCC Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

- Larry Jacobson, KSLJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- John Dryton, KM5HP

A total of 10 examination elements were administered during the evening to five applicants. One unlicensed candidate received a new Technician license, one received a new General license, and one received a new Extra license; and one Technician upgraded to General class with the total number of elements passed being 9. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 90%.

- Thomas Galetic - - Technician
- John G. Hackney - - General
- Michael L. Lloyd - - Extra
- Scott M. Shemwell - KD5LYL - General

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 everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

..... 73

72/73 de John Moore, KK5NU
 eMail: jwm@hal-pc.org
 www - <http://hal-pc.org/~jwm>

A review of the records for the past year reveal that the activity level of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club's VE Team has been relatively high. Examinations were held on a regular


monthly basis on the Second Tuesday of each month for the year; with a special 'Upgrade Only' session being held in conjunction with the May 4th regular membership meeting.

A total of 177 applicant's were served; taking 203 examination elements over the course of the year. 152 examination elements were successfully passed, resulting in an overall "pass rate" of 74.87%. 28 Technician, 7 Tech w/HF, 32 General, 1 Advanced and 35 Extra Licenses were attained thru the teams efforts.

With the transfer of Father Vincent Orlando, WA5ETS to Tampa, FL in August, our 12 year affiliation with Strake Jesuit Preparatory High School was terminated; however, we were able to secure the use of the facilities at Houston Community College's Scarcella Technology Campus in Stafford for our monthly examination sessions.

-- 30 --

72/73 de John Moore, KK5NU
eMail: jwm@hal-pc.org
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Alex-WA5UHT

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EMAIL: ajs@cityelectronics.com
WEB SITE: <http://www.cityelectronics.com>

Store Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-5:00

MONDAY NIGHT PSN check-ins (KC5VYZ net control)

B-VARC conducts a public service net every Monday at 9 PM on the 145.47 repeater and several linked repeaters. Everyone with 2 meter privileges is welcome to check in.

12/4 - 32 - JAR
12/11 -24- Doug
12/18 repeater down
12/25 -15 - Doug
1/1 - 22 - JAR
1/15 - 29 - Jack
1/22 - 26 - Doug

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for December 2000 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM ←PLEASE
NOTE TIME CHANGE FROM 8:00 TO 7:00

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.

12/6/00--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, N5XWB, WB5SRN, KM5HP, K5DIY, K5LJ, KK5W, KA0TEN, K5HFY, KM5DG. (13)

12/13/00--N5CPA, K5LJ, K5CEK, K5JWM, N5VXU, K5JRB, K4PPT, KC0HBD, KC5HJ, KM5HP, N4AEP. (11)

12/20/00--N5CPA, WB5SRN, W5GHK, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, K5JWM, AA5TB, KM5DG. (10)

12/27/00--N5CPA, N5VXU, K5CEK, WB5VYR, KM5UK, W5GHK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5HFY, KD5HNZ, KM5DG. (11)

Belton Hamfest

HAM EXPO -- the Spring 'Fest: Saturday, April 14, 2001, at Belton, Texas. From Interstate-35 take Exit 292 west to the Bell County Expo Center.

ADMISSION: \$1.00. Handicap accessible. Huge INDOOR TAILGATE arena. Doors open 7:00 a.m. Talk-in 146.820 MHz (-), PL 123.0 Hz. Dozens of door prizes given away throughout the day, plus great grand prizes. Must be present to win. This year Expo includes an auction to help tailgaters get rid of their "treasures" (so you won't have to haul it home again).

Sponsored by Temple Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 4511, Temple, TX 76505.
WA5EQQ 254-773-3590; e-mail: hamexpo@tarc.org. Expo webpage - <http://www.tarc.org>.

B-VARC Program Calendar - 2001
 (Meetings on 2nd Thursday's of the month)

Meeting Date	BOD	VE Test
Jan* 5 - B-VARC Banquet - OSF Steakhouse	4	9
Feb 8	1	13
Mar 8	1	13
Apr 12	5	10
May 10	3	8
Jun 14	7	12
Jun* 23&24 - Field Day Location - TBD		
Jul 12	5	9
Aug* 9 - Ice Cream Social	2	7
Sep 13	6	11
Oct 11	4	9
Nov* 8 - Chili Supper/Elections	1	13
Dec 11	18	11

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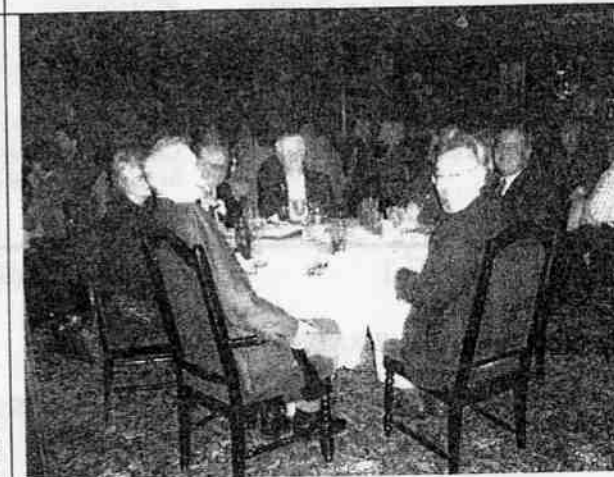
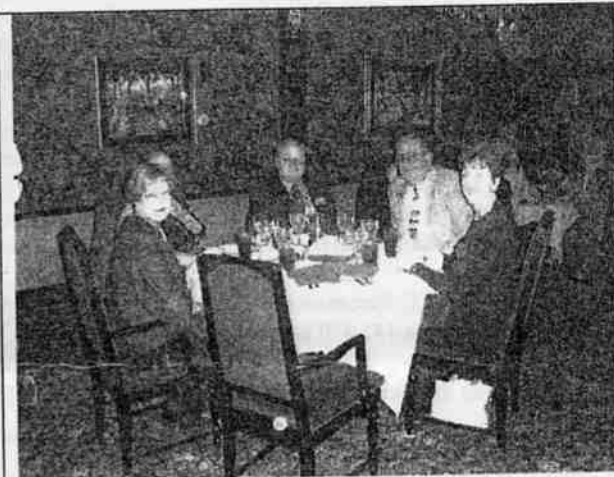
B-VARC Program Calendar - 2002

Jan* 4 ?? - B-VARC Banquet	3	8
Feb 14	7	12
Mar 14	7	12
Apr 11	4	9
May 9	2	14
Jun 13	6	11
Jun* 29&30 - Field Day Location - TBD		
Jul 11	4??	9
Aug* 8 - Ice Cream Social	1	13
Sep 12	3	10
Oct 10	3	8
Nov* 14 - Chili Supper/Elections	7	12
Dec 12	5	10

RR Red Room

WN Wedgewood North

WS Wedgewood South



Some pics from the Awards Banquet.
These and other pics can be on the B-VARC website.

THE B-VARC BULLETIN



The Monthly Publication of the
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving the Greater Houston Area.
Club Callsign - KC5OIG

B-VARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Editor: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arrl.net

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The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) was originally organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford, when required. Since that time, B-VARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active HAM radio club in the Southwest Houston area.

Today, B-VARC is truly a general-interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the Commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held generally at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz repeaters. Membership dues are \$16 annually.

B-VARC conducts A.R.R.L. VEC license exam sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. B-VARC also conducts a Public Service Net at 9:00 P. M. each Monday on the 145.470 and 444.55 (MERA) repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining B-VARC, contact John, K5LKJ, at 281-530-0432.

B-VARC Meeting Schedule

The next general membership meeting is Thursday,
February 8.

Location:
7:30 p.m. Sugar Land Community Center, 226
Matlage Way, Sugar Land Texas

B-VARC Eating Schedule

Saturdays-7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Location: New York Coffee Shop,
9720 Hillcroft.

Also at 7:30 a. m. Location: Viking Den on 90A, Stafford.

3rd Friday dinners - February 16 at Panda Garden
Chinese Restaurant, 1043 Eldridge Road (FM 1876), at Jesse Pirtle Blvd.
in Sugar Land - 6:30 p.m. SHARP!

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 1

January 2001

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



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