Volume 24, issue 4
April 2001

Membership renewal information:

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

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

What's in this issue?

- Notes from the Prez – P. 2
- B-VARC Activities – P. 2
- Public Service Calendar - P. 2
- Board of Directors Minutes, March 1 - P. 3
- Scanner Jack's Corner - P. 3
- V.E.C. Exam Results - P. 3
- Monday Night PSN Check-ins - P. 4
- B-VARC Rag Chew Net - P. 4
- B-VARC Committe Members - P. 4
- B-VARC Committee Activities - P. 5
- Links to Other South Texas Clubs - P. 5
- AO-40 Failure - P. 5
- MS-150 Pics - P. 6

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 - KD5IIU, 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 - April 2001

Prez Sez:

The EOC folks provided an excellent presentation on emergency communications at the last general meeting. Special thanks to Mike Hardwick for putting this together.

As stated at the last meeting we still have not made a final decision on the Field Day location. We have reserved the Katy Park location as backup if no other location is finalized. Fort Bend County does not allow overnight usage thus ruling out some of the best alternative options. All other West Harris County Parks are booked up.

The May General meeting presentation has yet to be determined. I look foreward to next months meeting. Come on out and enjoy a Dog and Coke with good company.

73s,

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
Parking in the rear --

Month	General Meeting	Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
May	10	TBA	3	8
June	14	TBA	7	12

Public Service Events
by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

Over the next few weeks there are a few more events using amateur radio for event communications. If you are free and would like to come out and help, contact these event coordinators and let them know.

ARTHRITIS JOINT WALK - MAY 20TH

It is that time of year for the annual Arthritis Joint Walk. It will be held at the Kelsey Sebold Clinic on Holcombe Blvd. on May 20th. Amateur radio operators are needed for communications for the event beginning at 8am. If you are free for a Sunday morning and would like to put your radio and license to a very good use, send me an e-mail and let me know. About 15 radio operators are needed. We will be using VHF simplex and a hand-held radio will work just fine.

Mike Hardwick
N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net
713-771-4625

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Board of Directors Meeting – April 5, 2001

President Kevin Foto called the meeting to order at 7:34pm with a quorum.

Those in attendance were:
President Kevin Foto-KD5O, Vice President Claude Sessions-K5HFY, Corresponding Secretary John Whiteman-K5LKJ, Treasurer Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU, 3-Year Director Paul Gray-N0JAA, 1-Year Director Robert Moore - KK5UO, 2-Year Director Mike Hardwick-N5VCX, Past President Larry Jacobson-K5LJ. Visiting were Cameron Mitchell –K5CAM, Allen Brier –N5XZ, Charles Taylor – WB5VYR and son his son

Recording secretary report by Bill Allen-KD5IIU: Reviewed the March 2001 BOD minutes. Motion made by Robert Moore and seconded by Claude Sessions to approve March 2001 BOD minutes and motion carried unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary report by John Whiteman-K5LKJ: Reported the club has 109 members with 55 in the ARRL, 14 life members and 11 family members.

HOUSTON AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY, INC.

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MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
John Moore, KK5NU
Mark Winslet, KM5WR

Nine examination elements were administered during the evening to six applicants. Two unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses; a Technician upgraded to General class; and two upgrades to Extra were earned with the total number of elements passed being 6. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 66.66%.

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

Peter T. Farver - {KD5OCR} - Technician
Patrick T. Forristal - {KD5OCS} - Technician
John E. Frazier - KD5NEZ - General
Larry G. Orr - K5UOI - Extra
Edward L. Runner - K5PNX - Extra

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

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.

2/9 - 24 - JAR
2/12/-26 - Doug
2/19 - 32 - Jack
3/12 - 30 - Bruce
3/19 - 21 - Jack
3/26 - 28 - Cam
4/2 - 21 - Darrel
4/9 - 17 - Bruce
4/16 - 28 - Jack

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

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

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for March 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.

3/7/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, WB5SRN, K5VRJ, AB5BA, N5VXU, N5XWB, KD5FWD. (8)
3/14/01--N5CPA, K5CEK, K5LJ, K5JWM, WB5SRN, K5VRJ, AB5BA. (7)
3/21/01--N5CPA, K5CEK, WB5SRN, KM5HP, N5VXU, N5XWB, NM5K. (7)
3/28/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5HFY, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KD5FWD, WB5SRN, W5GHK. (8)

BVARC COMMITTEES
Updated 06-Apr-01

Entertainment -- Chairman: (open)
Kevin Foto, KD5O
Robert Moore, KK5UO
Randy Pollard, AK5G
Rex Ritz, KC5EEU
Jack VanDemark, WN5A

Field Day -- Chairman: Paul L. Gray, Jr., N0JAA
Curtis Barber, Jr., KD5KTT
Curtis Barber, Sr., KD5JXH
Alan Bryer, N5XZ
John Endsley, KD5IDU
Harry Hammond, WD5EOF
Jerry Harper, AD5CL
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
Scott Medbury, KD5FBA
Robert Moore, KK5UO

Treasurer report by Rex Ritz - KC5EEU: Members can obtain the details of the finances of the club from Rex. Dues for World Radio were discussed. Ways to contact the members whose dues are late were discussed. Signature card discussions were finalized. All accounts are current. Larry Jacobson made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Mike Hardwick and then passed unanimously.

Vice President Report by Claude Sessions-K5HFY: The club still has some caps w/logo's and many club patches for sale now and at the general meetings. He stated he has the order forms new jackets, caps and shirts. We will sell the caps for ten dollars and the patches for five dollars. The club will continue to sell these for at least two months from now. A six jacket minimum order is necessary and anyone who is interested needs to get in there order now. Larry Jacobson made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Bill Allen and motion then passed unanimously.

Presidential report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: It was noted by the President that most of the Presidents issue were already covered during the previous reports. There were numerous discussions on location for field day. There was a discussion on field day details, policies and who will follow up on these details. The clubs insurance status was discussed. The next club program was discussed. Rex Ritz made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mike Hardwick

Old business: Paul Gray- Committee Coordinator mentioned some Field Day updates and many different locations were discussed but no decisions were made at this time. He is asking for assistance and anyone who would like to assist it would be greatly appreciated. He is on the club roster.

New business: The majority of new business was discussed during the previous reports. Paul Gray reviewed the committees and explained what each committee was all about in detail. Field day pins were discussed and it was decided that they would be ordered

Motion was made to adjourn by Claude Sessions and seconded by John Whiteman. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU.

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SCANNER JACK'S *Corner*
by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Here are some frequencies to monitor during severe weather.

2m ham
145.490 FT. BEND EOC
146.840 HOUSTON EOC
147.020 MONTGOMERY COUNTY
14.325 HURRICANE NET H.F USB.

COAST GUARD
157.100 VHF FM
6.501 HF USB
8.764 HF USB
13.089 HF USB
4.316 HF USB
8.502 HF USB
12.788 HF USB
17.314 HF USB

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281 774-0830 fax
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RICK ZAMARRIPA

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713 266-1044 fax

RESULTS OF THE APRIL 10
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, April 10, 2001 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

James "Big Jim" Retzlaff, KA4ZSM
Rex Ritz, KC5EEU
Claude Sessions, K5HFY

Nets -- Chairman: Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ
Jerry Harper, AD5CL
Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
Darrell Kirk, KC5JAR
Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
Jack VanDemark, WN5A
John Whiteman, K5LKJ
Sam Wilson, N5CPA

Newsletter -- Chairman: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
Pumphandle Fawcett, WA5CYI
Claude Sessions, K5HFY
John Whiteman, K5LKJ

Public Service -- Chairman: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
Bill Allen, KD5IIU
Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
Dale Samuelson, KD5KWL
Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ

Publicity -- Chairman: John Endsley, KD5IDU
Harry Hammond, WD5EOF

DESCRIPTION OF BVARC COMMITTEES
Compiled by Paul L. Gray, Jr., N0JAA
3-year Director
Committee Coordinator

Entertainment Committee: Plans and coordinates the annual Ice Cream Social and the annual Chili Supper; coordinates refreshments at General Meetings and other club functions; plans and coordinates, in conjunction with the Field Day Committee, the annual Field Day barbecue and breakfast.

Field Day Committee: Plans, coordinates and oversees all aspects of BVARC's annual Field Day contest event; assists the Entertainment Committee in the planning of the Field Day barbecue and breakfast.
Chairman: Paul L. Gray, Jr., N0JAA

Nets Committee: Coordinates all aspects of BVARC's on-the-air net meetings, and other nets as required.
Chairman: Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ

Newsletter Committee: Plans, coordinates and administers all aspects of The BVARC Bulletin, including production and distribution.
Chairman: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM

Public Service Committee: Plans and coordinates public service activities for BVARC; assists in, and acts as liaison between, BVARC and other clubs in the coordination of public service events.
Chairman: Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

Publicity: Assists the Board of Directors in the dissemination of information concerning BVARC and about Amateur Radio; publicizes licensing classes and test sessions in cooperation with the VE Team.
Chairman: John Endsley, KD5IDU

Club Links
Some web page links to clubs in the Southeast Texas area -- Cameron Mitchell
(Not all active)

Brenham ARC:
http://www.alpha1.net/~barc
Texas DX Society:
http://n5uh.tech.uh.edu/~tdxs
Houston Echo Society:
http://www.qsl.net/echo
Northwest ARC (Houston):
http://www.w5nc.org
John Space Center ARC
http://www.w5rrr.org
COMPAC Radio Club:
http://www.houston-intranet.com/~cpqham
Katy ARS:
http://members.aol.com/karsradio
Stephen F. Austin ARC (Bellville area):
http://users.argolink.net/danwhite/W5SFA/W5SFA_index
Hou-Texins ARC (Stafford):
http://www.hal-pc.org/~tiarc/
Brazos Valley ARC:
http://www.hal-pc.org/~tiarc/
Tidelands ARC (Texas City Area):
http://www.tidelands.org
South East Texas ARC (Tomball):
http://setac.homestead.com/setachome.html
Victoria ARC:
http://www.viptx/net/varc/
Clear Lake ARC:
http://www.clarc.org

(Please advise of additions. Thanks.)

AMSAT DETAILS LIKELY AO-40 FAILURE SCENARIO (from ARRL Newsletter, March 23, 2001)

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has issued a likely explanation of why AO-40 suddenly went silent in mid-December. Haighton's March 16 statement outlines a three-part failure scenario theorizing that AO-40's problems began with a fault in a helium valve.

"Initial thoughts were that the spacecraft was completely dead and that chances of recovery were remote, with the possibility that AO-40 was in multiple pieces," Haighton said. The satellite's 2-meter beacon quit while ground controllers were testing the onboard 400-newton motor system after anomalies with an orbit-shifting burn that lasted several minutes too long. It was almost two weeks before ground controllers were able to reset the onboard computers and restart a beacon on 2.4 GHz.

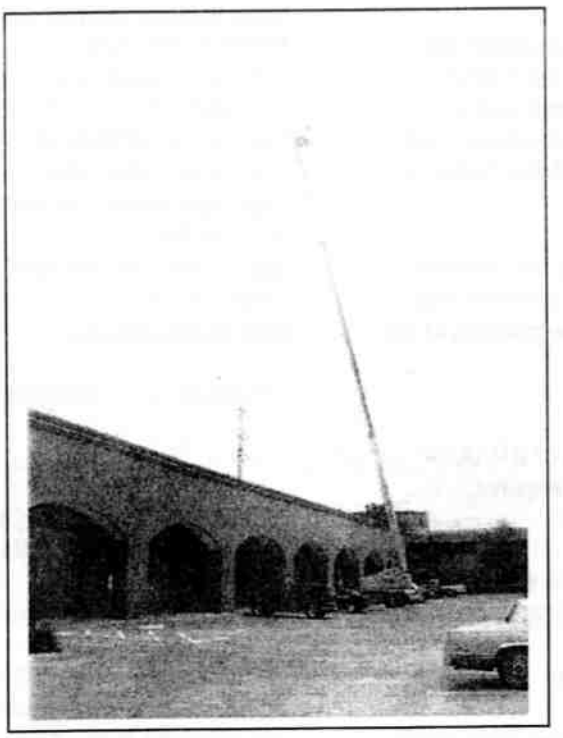
Ground controllers have been somewhat successful in regaining control of the next-generation amateur satellite since telemetry transmissions resumed Christmas Day, but Haighton concedes some onboard systems may not be recoverable.

Haighton said that while the Phase 3D team may never know exactly what happened, the likely scenario includes what Haighton told ARRL was "a minor explosion" aboard AO-40, as out-of-place fuel mixed and then ignited as a result of a blocked exhaust port on a helium valve.

"We think it was a human error thing," Haighton conceded in an interview with the ARRL. He did not elaborate. Ground controllers have used AO-40's magnetorquing system to reduce the satellite's spin rate to around 5 RPM and are optimistic that they'll be able to re-orient the satellite for communication with Earth. The satellite's omnidirectional antennas appear to be lost, but ground controllers hope the high-gain directional antennas still work and that reorienting the spacecraft will bring about a resumption of signals from other transmitters.

AO-40's heat pipe system--which could not work at the higher spin rates--has begun operating again too, considerably reducing internal temperatures. But ground controllers are pessimistic about being able to restore AO-40's 2-meter and 70 cm transmitters.

Yet to be tested is the onboard arc-jet motor, which ground controllers hope to use to reorient the satellite so that the high-gain antennas will face the Earth.

"Following the reorientation it will be possible to test the remaining systems on board the spacecraft and to determine which systems and bands will be available for future operations and under what conditions," Haighton said.

Here are three of the fifteen pictures which will be available on the web. They are pictures of the amateur radio command center for the MS150 bike ride. Most of the people in the pictures are members of the Tidelands ARC; they include Rhea Ann Crowe, KD5HTJ; Martha Petit, KD5HTL; Tim Lewellen, KD5FPU; James Luhn, WA5AOO; Garth Crowe, N7XKT; Ray Seanz, N5SZ; John Ottis, N5BCK and Lewis Petit, WB5BMV. Others in the pictures include include Harold Merit, KD5HWW and Bill Allen, KD5IIU. Some others not shown are Paul Gray and Cameron Mitchell