Membership renewal information:

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

Awards Banquet

Members are encouraged to make nominations for awards to club members to be presented at the Awards Banquet on January 4, 2002.



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?

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B-VARC AWARDS BANQUET IS ON JANUARY 4

contact Rex Ritz, icrex@yahoo.com

or any Board Member for additional information and reservations

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

Board of Directors:

Kevin Foto, President - KD5O, foto@texas.net
Claude Sessions, vice-president - K5HFY, claudes@juno.com
Bill Allen, Recording Secretary - KD5IIU,
william allen@csicontrols.com
John Whiteman, Corresponding Secretary - K5LKJ,
iw@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, k5li@nstci.com

Silent Key

HENRY CALK, JR., WB5IIB, died peacefully on November 23, 2001 in his boyhood home in Pleak, Texas. He was a lifetime member of B-VARC. A jack of all trades and master of some, he was a flamenco guitarist, a photograph, aviator, scuba diver, handgun collector, sailor, maritime navigator, and ham radio operator.

We will always remember Henry for his friendship, willingness to pitch-in, and deep, melodious voice. The club wishes to express our warmest condolences to his family.

Notes from the President -

Prez Sez:

As the year 2001 comes to a close, I reflect back on an eventful year for the club. We have strived to promote Amateur Radio.

Field Day attracted enough interest to generate a news article in the the Houston Chronicle. The article mentioned the benefits of our emergency communication training and the benefits to the community during disasters. A photograph of Paul Gray, NOJAA operating his 10 meter station, topped off the article.

Our club presentation at the Fort Bend ISD PACE Presentation was well received by the students. We succeeded in enlightening these young minds to the marvels of our hobby.

The board has also strived to bring interesting technical presentations to our membership meetings.

I wish the best for the new board of 2002. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president this past year.

73.

Kevin/KD50

B-VARC HAS AN ELMER, ROSS LAWLER, W5HFF

Ross, W5HFF, has agreed to be the *ELMER* for the club. He will help prospective hams and new members get started in Ham Radio and the club. His email is w5hff@juno.com and phone is 281-342-3340.

Many thanks to Ross for this undertaking.

SCHEDULE OF BVARC Activities

VE Sessions Change of Location:

NOTE: The January VEC exams will be on Wednesday, January 16 because of scheduling conflicts.

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 10141 Cash Road, Stafford, TX

Parking in the rear -

Month	General Meeting	Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
Dec	11	Home Brew Night	4	11
Jan	4	Banquet	10	16
Feb	14	TBA	7	12



SHIP TO WAREHOUSE: 9101 LIPAN HOUSTON, TX 77063 719 767-0569 713 268-1044 fax

TWO B-VARC'ers HAVE ARTICLES PUBLISHED

John Endsley, KD5IDU has an article in the December 2001 issue of 73 Amateur Radio Today entitled "Subdivision Subterfuge". This has to do with his "stealth" antenna. John has another one in the pipeline

Allen Matis, N5AFV, has an article to be published in the February or March issue of World Radio concerning DXing while on a cruise ship. Excerpts of this are published below with the permission of World Radio.

B-VARC is mostly a social club, not a contest club...Right?

You might note that the Dec. QST report on the 2001 Field day results showed BVARC was the highest scoring TX club in the 5A category. There were 4 stations from TX in that category. Of the Houston area clubs, CLARC was also in the 5A category.

Larry

Results of Election for 2002 B-VARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
Vice President - Robert Moore, KK5UO
Treasurer - Rex Ritz, KC5EEU
Corresponding Secretary - Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM
Recording Secretary - Bill Allen, KD5IIU
Past President - Kevin Foto, KD5O
One-year Board Member - John Gilmore, AC5TL
Two-year Board Member - Paul Gray, N0JAA
Three-year Board Member - Ross Lawler, W5HFF
*Appointed by BOD

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Board of Directors Meeting - November 1, 2001

President Kevin Foto called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. with a quorum.

Those in attendance were:

President Kevin Foto-KD5O, Corresponding Secretary
John Whiteman-K5LKJ, 1-Year Director Robert Moore KK5UO, Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM, 3-Year Director
Paul Gray-N0JAA, Recording Secretary Bill AllenKD5IIU, 2-year board member Mike Hardwick - N5VCX,
Vice President Claude Sessions - K5HFY, Past President
Larry Jacobson-K5LJ

Recording Secretary Report by Bill Allen-KD5IIU:
Reviewed the September and October 2001 BOD minutes.
Motion made by Robert Moore and seconded by Claude
Sessions to approve September 2001 BOD minutes and
motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Robert
Moore and seconded by Claude Sessions to approve
October 2001 BOD minutes and motion carried
unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report by John Whiteman-K5LKJ: As of October 4th the club had 133 members with 71 in the ARRL, 16 life members and 11 family members. Changes and updates of the roster were discussed and current rosters were passed out. John has asked not to be re-elected to the position and stated he would help the successor to the position in their duties initially. He also stated he would like to still assist the club in a different manner.

Treasurer Report by Rex Ritz - KC5EEU: Was not present due to personal reasons.

Vice President Report by Claude Sessions-K5HFY: Claude Sessions made a motion for the clubs annual donation of 40.00 dollars to the parks and recreation department who allows us to use the building which we use for our club meetings The motion was seconded by Robert Moore and the motion passed unanimously. He stated the club has the ability to order more jackets if anyone was interested.

Presidential Report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: The PACE presentation members were thanked for their efforts and it was viewed as a positive response for the club. He also stated that he would like to see the club do it again next year. A workday for the clubs storage area was discussed. Chili supper details were finalized. The Rick Hiller JOTA patch donation to the boy scouts was discussed and it was decided that Robert Moore made a movement that the club pay for the kid's patches only for a total \$80.00 and the motion passed unanimously.

1-Year Director Robert Moore: Nothing new to report at this time.

2-year board member Mike Hardwick: Nothing new to report at this time.

3-Year Director Paul Gray- N0JAA: Nothing new to report at this time.

Past Presidents report by Larry Jacobson: The latest updates for next years Board of directors were discussed. As of the November meeting the following nominees were as follows: President Mike Hardwick' Vice President Robert Moore, Rex Ritz Treasurer, Cameron Mitchell Corresponding Secretary, Ross Lawler 3 Year Director, John Gilmore 1 year director, Bill Allen Recording Secretary.

New Business: News Letter details were discussed and Bruce Paige was to be contacted on the specifics related to the discussions. Club web page changes were discussed.

Motion was made to adjourn by Paul Gray and was seconded by John Whiteman. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU



George Dilletto, Koenw P外面包括他的FT

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SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

Here are the frequencies for Brazoria Co T.R.S.

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RESULTS OF THE December 11th 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, December 11, 2001 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

Larry Jacobson, K5LJ Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM John Moore, KK5NU

Five examination elements were administered during the course of the evening to four applicants for a new license; one applicant for upgrade; ane one applicant for "Grandfathered" pre 1997 General. All five of the examinees attained a passing grade. The "pass rate" for the evening was 100%.

> William H. Black - Technician Candace G. Cogan - Technician Steven H. Jordan - Technician James M. Kern - Technician Elton L. Ray - N5HAR - General Oscar A. Serna - KD5NYC - 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 John Moore - KK5NU

eMail - jwm@hal-pc.org Homepage - www.hal-pc.org/~jwm

MONDAY NIGHT PSN check-ins (KC5VYZ net control)

10/1 - 17 - Cam

10/8 - 24 - Bruce

10/15 - 30 - Jack

10/22 - 26 - Jack

10/29 - 24 - Doug

11/5 - 25 - Cam

11/12 - 24 - Jack 11/19 - 16 - Jack

11/26 - 32 - Cam

12/3 - 24 - Doug

12/10 - 29 - Jack

12/17 - 16 - Cam

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for November 2001 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

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.

11/07/01--N5CPA (NC), K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA,

W5GHK, K5LJ, WB5SRN, KM5HP, WC5S. (9)
11/14/01—N5CPA (NC), K5CEK, KD5PZT, K5JWM,
K5LJ, KD4JQD, N4AEP, WN5A. (8)
11/21/01—K5LJ (NC), K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5JWM. (4)
My Thanks to Larry for calling the net.
11/28/01—N5CPA (NC), K5JWM, KB5F, K5CEK,
KE5SR, K5VRJ, AB5BA, WC5S, W5GHK,
KD5PZT.(10)

Prior Planning – Key to a Successful DX Cruise Allen Mattis N5AFV

(Excerpts from an article to be published in World Radio magazine.)

Could a new satellite operator successfully conduct a DX operation from a cruise ship? It was a little over a year ago on July 16, 2000, that I made my first amateur radio satellite contact. A few weeks earlier I had seen a satellite demonstration by Bruce Paige, KK5DO, at Field Day. When I was first licensed in 1978, I thought I wanted to work satellites, but I did not get around to it until Bruce piqued my interest. I soon became active on the FM satellites, UO-14, AO-27 and SO-35. I had been working the satellites for about a year when my wife and I began making plans for a Caribbean cruise, and I decided to take the light of the operation to go well, so I put a great deal of effort into the planning and preparation, just like the "big guns" do for a major DX-expedition.

My first step was to investigate licensing requirements, and determine where I would be able to operate. In order to operate maritime mobile from a ship, it is necessary to obtain a license from the country in which the vessel is flagged, and to have permission of the captain of the ship. The ship we had booked was the Ocean Princess, flagged in the United Kingdom. A visit to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) web page (http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/) indicated that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT) agreement T/R 61-01 gives US amateur radio operators operating privileges in the United Kingdom. I would still have to obtain permission from the captain to operate amateur radio from the ship, but I had crossed the first hurdle.

I also began to investigate operating from the various islands we were scheduled to visit. Again, the ARRL web page was extremely helpful. The CEPT agreement also included permission to operate from Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles. An International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) available from the ARRL would give operating privileges for Isla Margarita, Venezuela, so I promptly applied to the League for an IARP. I knew that my US license was valid in St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands. Information was also available for obtaining a

reciprocal license from The Bahamas. Both Richard Long, W4AKE, and Al Lee, WA4EWV, were helpful in providing me with assistance during the application procedure, and I filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission in Nassau. In some cases it may take several months for reciprocal license applications to be processed, so it was important to apply well before my scheduled departure. Other scheduled stops on the cruise were Barbados and Dominica, but since our stops were for only one day, and reciprocal licenses had to be applied for in person after landing on those islands, I decided to pass on obtaining licenses to operate from those islands.

My next step was to determine what equipment to take on the cruise. I sent E-mail to John Sheets, N8QGC, and Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK, who had both operated on . cruises during the past year, and asked for suggestions and recommendations. Both John and Ramon responded with excellent suggestions and help. John had operated on his cruise with an Arrow handheld beam, but after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we live in a different world. While operating satellites in the Houston metropolitan area after September 11th, I was frequently questioned by police and security guards attracted by my Arrow beam antenna. Therefore, I felt that I would not be allowed to operate from the ship with an Arrow antenna. On his cruise, Ramon had successfully operated with a Premier AL800 telescoping antenna and an HT. I decided to go that route, and the AL800 and my Icom IC-W32A HT became my choice of equipment. In case the AL800 antenna was not allowed due to security reasons, I selected an MFJ-1717 high gain dual band rubber duck antenna to be my backup antenna. Most cruise lines prohibit the playing of radios on deck because they disturb other passengers, so I decided to use an MFJ-288I headset with my HT. I also planned to take along a small, voice activated tape recorder to record the passes so that I would not have to log the contacts by hand. It would be difficult to write down contact information on a windy deck, in the dark, or in the rain, and the tape recorder would solve that problem. Next, I purchased a Garmin GPS unit. The GPS unit would give my exact position and grid square, give the exact time in UTC, and tell me what direction the ship was heading so that I would know which side of the ship to operate from. Both the tape recorder and the GPS unit use AA batteries, so I planned to take along a generous supply of batteries. My final equipment decision dealt with how to obtain satellite pass predictions during the cruise. I decided to travel light and not take along a lap top computer or Palm Pilot. I ran satellite pass predictions for the entire cruise at home using Nova for Windows on my home PC, and printed out hard copy sheets to take along.

A few days before departure, I called Continental Airlines, to find out how the new security regulations would affect the transporting of amateur radio equipment on an aircraft. I was told that transporting the IC-W32A HT should not be

a problem if I could turn it on and show that it worked, and had my amateur radio license along. I was also told that the Premier AL800 antenna would have to be transported in checked baggage because it could be taken apart and used as a weapon. In addition, it was prohibited to carry most tools in carry-on baggage, so my emergency tool kit consisting of two screw drivers and a needle nosed pliers was also destined for checked baggage. Dave Paperman, W5WP, also suggested to me that extra battery packs for the HT be carried in checked baggage, because they could not be opened to show that they did not contain prohibited materials. I finalized my plans for packing - the HT with one battery pack and its regular rubber duck antenna, the MFJ-1717 high gain dual band rubber duck antenna, the trickle charger, the GPS unit, and the tape recorder would travel in carry on baggage. All other radio gear and related equipment would go into checked baggage. This distribution of equipment provided the ability to operate if the checked baggage was lost.

The trip from Houston to Florida went without incident.... I took the opportunity to check my radio equipment by operating a UO-14 evening pass. I was totally surprised when I did not hear the bird – there was dead silence. What was wrong? The times shown in my computer printout indicated that the satellite should be present, but Mr. Murphy appeared to be present instead. I logged onto the Internet and went to the Heavens Above web site (http://www.heavens-above.com/). I soon determined that the pass times on my printout for Florida were incorrect. I spot-checked my printouts for other locations on the cruise, and the pass times appeared to agree with those in Heavens Above. It appeared that only the pass times for Florida were erroneous. Mr. Murphy had failed to inflict any serious damage.

The next day we boarded the ship.... The next step was to obtain permission to operate on the ship. ... In response to my request, a letter was delivered to my stateroom giving written permission to operate, but not at full power. Since power seemed to be a sensitive issue with the radio officer, I located the ship's VHF antennas on the upper deck. I did not want to operate near the ship's antennas because I did not want to take the chance that my transmissions would

interfere with the ship's radio system.

I was ready for my first satellite pass as a maritime mobile. It was an evening pass.... I turned on the radio, and within a minute I could hear the satellite. I turned on the tape recorder and made my first call. Bruce, KK5DO, was my first contact, and I proceeded to work nine different stations in that pass.

During the next ten days I operated 34 satellite passes, and made a total of 235 contacts from 21 grid squares. These totals include operating at sea, and operating from Curacao, Venezuela, US Virgin Islands, The Bahamas, and from Florida on the day we docked. Contacts were made with stations in Canada, United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Trinidad and Brazil. I also operated 6 other satellite passes, but made no contacts. It was frustrating to operate from grid squares GK02 and GK03 east of the Windward Islands and bear myself in the downlink, but have no one else on the bird.

Another rewarding aspect of ham radio on the trip was working a number of local operators on two-meter repeaters as we sailed among the islands....

After I returned home, John, N8QGC, sent me a tape he made of the satellite passes when he worked me. It was very instructive for me to hear how the passes sounded in Michigan using a good antenna - I could hear stations calling me on the tape that I did not bear using the AL800 antenna. After listening to the tape several times, I estimate that I could have made as many as 50% more contacts on some of the passes if I had used an Arrow antenna. Another noticeable occurrence was that many stations gave their call signs rapidly without using phonetics. I had difficulty on the ship copying these call signs, and it was not much easier on John's tape. If these stations had used phonetics and slowed down just a little, it would have also increased the number I contacts I made. Despite these lessons learned, ham radio operation on the cruise was certainly a success. The attention given during planning and preparation paid off. I plan to take a cruise again someday, and ham radio will be part of it.

FCC CORES Registration system -

FCC CORES System registration is now *manditory* for all wishing to do any business with the Commission. For the average amateur radio operator it means just one more hoop to jump thru. Even with several cross-registration events that have been done, it would behoove all to make a quick pass at one of the online callsign servers to insure that you have a current CORES registration number. This should show up as a ten digit number styled FRN: xxxxxxxxxxx associated with your callsign.

To get an FRN Number go to ULS Online System - http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls to Register - CORES/CALLSIGN; here you can get the FRN number assigned after giving the system the required information. Then go back thru the same area and associate your new FRN Number with your callsign.

Remember the password you have selected — it is your key to access the system in the-future to update your information — read to change your address and other information that the Commission requires from you, and to renew or modify your license online. — John Moore

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS FROM MIKE HARDWICK, N5VCX

Regular monthly Tailgates:

1st Sat-Dallas Tx Jim Geer WB5LXZ jbgeer@swbell.net

3rd Sat- Humble/Kingwood Tx Herb <u>KF9RX@pdq.net</u> 145.430(-)

The next get together will be December 15th. Beginning next year the schedule will be quarterly since the once a month was a little much. There are no fees or charges for the tailgate. Just come onby the parking lot of the law office building that is one block south and one block east of the Humble city cafe in. Humble. Informal talk-in is on the local repeater, 145.430 minus offset with no tone. Someone is always on the repeater.

Herb
KF9RX kf9rx@pdq.net

3rd Sat. Tandy Parking lot on North Main St & Terminal Rd across from Meacham Field in Fort Worth, Texas:
(Thanks Betty)

4th Sat-McKinney, Tx Ed Padget KK5WT@arri.net

Here are a few interesting sites:
http://www.phonebookofbrazil.com/
http://computingorntral.msn.com/internet/speedtest.asp

Here is something to think about, how, if at all, has amateur radio

Have a good holiday and remember to put your radio and license to a very good use.

Thanks,

Mike Hardwick N5VCX

January 20, 2002
Carl Hacker - KB5LDY
E-mail Address(es): chacker@sph.uth.tmc.edu
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
School of Public Health
RAS W312
1200 Herman Pressler
Houston, TX 77030
Voice: 713-500-9185
Facsimile: 713-500-9171

Georgetown Sunday Swapmeet in San Gabriel Park Feb 3, 2002 Setup 10AM open at 12noon-3PM Exams in A.M.

Jeff NSMNW 255-6753 n5mm@arrl.net

Phelicopter Landing Zone Training
9AM Shoreline Christian Center
Feb 9, 2002
Dan KC5SWU Motorcycle Support Team
mstaustin@juno.com

Home: (512) 280-6702 Pager: (512, 307-8301

Motorola Marathon

Austin, Texas
Febuary 17, 2002
APRS and voice ops
km5ct@arrl.net

Brenkam Bluebonnet Swapmeet

Washington county fairground March 30, 2002 lindan@industryinet.com

Belton Ham Expe

hamespa@tarc.org http://www.tarc.org

April 13, 2002 Mike LeFan, WA5EQQ

MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Ride

http://www.msi50.org

April 20 & 21, 2002

Sign Up now and make this the biggest amateur radio public service event in Texas! Over 100 operators are needed for this two day hike ride! VHF, UHF, HF, APRS, Satellite Cell phones, even amole signals are used!

Mike Hardwick - N5VCX

E-mail Address(cs): n5vcs@worldnet.att.net



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@arri.net Production: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, claudes@juno.com John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org

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 (PL 123.0) 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. New members and prospective hams should contact the Club's "Elmer", Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@juno.com.

B-VARC Meeting Schedule

The next general membership meeting is the Awards Banquet on January 4. Usually meetings are on the second Thursday of each month.

Location for General Meetings:

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 - The 3rd Friday dinner in January will be Jan. 18th at the Ranch House Barbecue. 12821 Southwest Frwy. (US 59), on inbound side a short distance north of US90A overpass-6:30pm SHARP!

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 12

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB P.O. BOX 1630 MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

December 2001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

