



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2003

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9

Emergency Vehicle Showcased at BVARC Meeting



BVARC members gather in front of the TARMMA trailer

Joe Fanning (N6RRJ) and Rodney Rod (KD5HQB) brought the emergency response trailer they designed and outfitted to the September BVARC meeting. Officially named the Texas Amateur Radio Mutual Aid (TARMMA) trailer, it might otherwise be called the "trailer that has everything". The trailer is available to any group assisting in disaster relief, provided they pay for gas and agree to be responsible for it. The outside of the trailer sports a variety of antennas, suitable for frequencies used by hams, local firefighters and law enforcement, ordinary citizens and (gasp) even CB operators.

You will find radios to match are inside the trailer. There is a portable repeater, complete with generator, batteries, and antenna, that two people can roll out of the trailer via a ramp. The list of supplies doesn't stop with just radio gear, though. In addition to food, water and first aid supplies, there are manuals for all the equipment, tools, and enough spare parts to start a small electronics store. There are chemical protective suits and respirators for two people, as well as a Geiger counter. Most of the equipment is stored in cabinets suspended from the side of the trailer, leaving enough room for approximately six

people. One fixed and two pull down desks serve as comfortable ham stations.

The trailer has already seen service during the Shuttle disaster.

If you want to find out how your group might use the trailer or donate money to help Joe recover the \$16,000 of his own money that he put into the project, you can contact Rodney at 832 912-1441

So, Who Wants to Be President?

Elections are coming up in November and it is time for members to step up and volunteer. This December will mark the end of the 2 year term of BVARC President, Mike Hardwick.

Recording secretary and one at large position will also be vacated at this time. These positions must be filled for club functions to continue. The Presidency must be filled by a club member with a General class license or higher. Elections will be held in conjunction with the Chili Supper during the November General Membership Meeting. If you can provide a small amount of your time and want to help the club to continue into the future please contact me by phone at 281-277-5886 or by e-mail at kd5o@texas.net. BVARC's future depends on membership participation.

Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

NOTE FREQUENCY CHANGE 3910 KHz

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

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 BVARC 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.

08/06/03 K5JWM, KE5SR, K5CEK, KA5JKI, KG5RQ, KB5WBL K5VRJ, AB5BA, WD6CQO, N5CPA, K5LBU, KB5FKD5WHD AD5KB, K5LJ, K5HFF, KD5O .check-ins(17)

08/13/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, N5CPA, KA5JKI, KG5RQ, K5VRJ AB5BA, K5LJ, KE5SR, W5HFF,

KB5F, KB9WVG.check-ins(12) 08/20/03 K5JWM, N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KA5JKI, WB5VYR KB5F, K5CEK, K5HFF, KG5RQ, K5LJ. check-ins(11)

08/27/03 K5JWM, KE5SR, K5CEK, N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA KB9WVG, N5VXU, K5LBU, KB5F, K5HFF, NM5K, WB5VYR WA5VRB, K5LKJ, W5UFG, WB5QXT, K5IHV. check-ins(18)
07/30/03 K5JWM, K5CEK, N5CPA, W5HFF, KA5JKI, K5LJ WA5VRB, KG5RQ, WB5VYR, NM5K, K5VRJ, AB5BA. check-ins(12)

Ham-Radio Cam Built For Outer Space

By Alan Boyle, MSNBC

The international space station also happens to be the world's highest radio station -- and now the groundwork is being laid for direct transmission of pictures as well as sound between Earth and outer space. The SpaceCam1 project could be up and running as soon as next year, amateur-radio volunteers say.

THE RADIO system would be separate from the multibillion-dollar satellite network that NASA uses to communicate with the station. Although it's called a *slow-scan television system*, SpaceCam1 can send only stills, and not full-motion video. But unlike NASA's system, the SpaceCam1 feed would be freely accessible to schools and radio users around the world, said Miles Mann, one of the project's managers.

"Anybody with a police scanner and a simple outdoor antenna will be able to receive images directly from the space station when we put them on the air," Mann told MSNBC.com.

The project was developed jointly by Mann's MAREX-MG club and by Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, the volunteer effort that manages the orbital outpost's ham operation.

With NASA's blessing, space station astronauts use the amateur-radio equipment as an unofficial channel to chat with family, friends, operators and particularly school students. Just last week, a remote-controlled Progress cargo ship delivered new ham equipment to the station, and the SpaceCam1

equipment could go up on a similar Progress flight next January.

Frank Bauer, ARISS' international chairman, said the slow-scan television system represents a significant step toward turning the space station into a full-fledged broadcast TV station.

"Some of the plans are to have a video capability several years down the road -- a live video uplink and downlink," he told MSNBC.com. "That's some of the vision of where we're going. I think we've got the foundation now."

HYBRID MEDIUM

Slow-scan television, or SSTV, is a hybrid of audio, imagery and data that's been around since the late 1950s. Shuttle astronauts traded the first ham-TV images back and forth in 1985, and Mann helped get Russia's Mir space station wired for SSTV in 1998.

SpaceCam1 will be "a whole generation different," Mann said: A standard-looking Webcam plugs into one of the astronauts' laptops, and software translates the Webcam imagery into audio data. Those signals then pass through cables to the ham-radio equipment, which transmits the screech of data down to Earth. On the ground, radio receivers pick up the signals and pass them to a computer for conversion back into on-screen images.

Radio operators can use the same system to send imagery up to the space station. The signal range should be about 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers), Mann said. SpaceCam1 transmissions will be

compatible with SSTV software that is already being sold for terrestrial use, and Mann said a free "receive-only" version of the SpaceCam1 software would be made available over the Web.

SMALL PACKAGE, BIG CAPABILITY

Bauer said the only pieces of equipment that need to go up on the Progress are the cables and a hardware conversion device that's smaller than a computer mouse.

Once the system is up and running, space station astronauts could point their Webcam out the window and set the software to send down the equivalent of a 2-by-3-inch (5-by-7.5-centimeter) image automatically every 2 minutes. They could send and receive snapshots, or beam down pictures of themselves while they're chatting with schoolchildren on another ham frequency. Earthbound amateur-radio users could even use the space station as a relay station.

"Somebody in California could send a picture to somebody in New England just by communicating through the space station," Bauer said.

If you include the value of all the volunteer labor, the cost of developing SpaceCam1 would be on the order of \$50,000, Mann said. The components are currently being tested for space worthiness, and they're due to be shipped to Russia in November. Mann had high praise for Bauer and the ARISS team, which built the hardware: "They did all the tons of paperwork. ... We could not get to space today without his team's help."

Bauer cautioned that the delivery of the equipment in January isn't absolutely, positively guaranteed, since it's up to space station managers to determine what supplies go on which flight. But whether SpaceCam1 goes live sooner or later, the system should give the general public better access to the view from space.

"The infrastructure that's required to do a contact through the space agency channels is very expensive, and what's done in the ham-radio community is very inexpensive, with a lot of volunteers," he said.

The system also will give students more of a learning experience, Bauer said:

"The students are making the contact, the students are involved, and the students are tracking the space station. ... It produces an element of teamwork, and as anybody knows, the only way you really learn is by doing it yourself."

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Results of the September VE Session

by John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC administered the ARRL-VEC Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, Sept. 9th at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

- Dennis D. Deitrich, W5DDD
- Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- George Ontiko, KM5VP
- Don Schexnailder, AB5IV

Two examination elements were administered during the evening to two applicants. One unlicensed candidate received his new Technician license; and a Technician licensee upgraded to General, with the total number of elements passed being 2. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 100%. Congratulations to the following who passed an exam and/or upgraded:

- Mark C. Williams KD5ZBX Technician
- Abdo G. Azar KD5YSX General

Many thanks to all the team members and assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. All of us at BVARC thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

Amateur Radio Legal Issues List

by Paul Gray, N0JAA

Amateur Radio in the 21st Century is being bombarded on every side by attempts to take away spectrum or eliminate the service altogether. It is time for us as operators to get up off of our collective padding and do something to defend our hobby against those who would steal our frequencies.

To this end, I have created an email list known as the "Amateur Radio Legal Issues List." Its purpose is to discuss legal issues, distribute news concerning the defense and preservation of our hobby, educate Amateur Radio operators in what they can do to defend and preserve the hobby, and then disseminate this information to other operators so that they, too, can join the fight to preserve and protect Amateur Radio.

If you are interested in being part of such a list, please send a blank email to arli-subscribe@topica.com, or email me at n0jaa@aol.com and I will send you an invitation to join.

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Public Service Events

By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President

Here are a few events for the next few months. Come out and help and put your license and radio to a good use. If you like the hobby, this is one of the best ways to promote the hobby and help a worthy cause at the same time. Remember, one of the main reasons for amateur radio is to help the community. If interested in these events, call me and I will send you the information. 713-771-4625 or e-mail n5vcx@arrl.net.

Moonlight Ramble Bike Ride October 12, 2003

Shriner's Fall Classic Bike Ride October 18, 2003

Wings Over Houston Air Show October 18/19, 2003

Jamboree Over the Air (JOTA) October 18/19, 2003

20K Warm-up Run October 19, 2003

Novemberfest Bike Ride November 8, 2003

25K Warm-up Run November 9, 2003

30K Warm-up Run December 7, 2003

Houston Marathon January 18, 2004

Frost Bike 50 bike ride February 1, 2004

MS150 Bike Ride April 17 & 18, 2004

02/03

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President's Corner

By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President

Another year is quickly coming to an end. With this, three positions will be open on the board of directors of the club. We need members to step up and help with club functions and management of the club. Without your help or support the club will not last. If you would like to help, contact Kevin Foto, KD5O and let him know that you are interested.

Where has everyone gone? When I joined BVARC about 10 years ago, the 145.470 repeater was one of the most active. Today I can listen for hours and never hear a soul. I know that in the past there were problems both with the repeater as well as interference. The interference has not been on the repeater for nearly two years and the repeater is working well (most of the time). So dust off your radio and start talking. If not on the "47" then on one of the other 50 or so repeaters in the Houston area.

Don't forget BVARC is holding the 3rd Annual Mix-N-Match Swap Meet on February 28th, 2004. Volunteers are needed to help with this club function. The entire community center will be available for the club to use. There will be a tailgate area at the back of the community center as well as tables inside. If you are interested in helping, contact one of the board of directors and let them know.

73's

N5VCX

Upcoming Hamfests

Nov 8th - CLARC Hamfest Bay area community center - 9:30 AM -2:00 PM, 5002 NASA ROAD 1 Seabrook Texas Entry \$4, Tables \$10 (\$15 at door) John AJ5TT@arrl.net or 281-221-0739

Nov 15th - Austin Radio Roundup, the AARC-ARO hamfest is back! St Louis Catholic Church 7601 Burnet Rd, Jeff N5MNV@arrl.net or Lori KM5MQ@arrl.net 512-255-6753

Feb 1st - Georgetown Superbowl Sunday Swapfest - San Gabriel Park, Exams- 8:30A.M. Setup-10AM, open to public 12noon-3PM, www.wcarc.com

Feb ?? - Smithville Swapfest - Bastrop ARC, open to public, <http://www.qsl.net/kb5yae/>

Feb 28th - BVARC Mix-N-Match Swap Meet Sugar Land Community Center setup 7:30 to 8:30 Open at 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact Mike at <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/> or n5vcx@arrl.net for more information.

March 20 - Brenham ARC Swapfest - Contact Dan Lakenmacher, N5UNU, 10312 Highway 36 N Brenham, TX 77833 Phone: 979-836-8739 Email: llakenmacher@yahoo.com <http://www.alpha1.net/~barc>

2003 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
abrier@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Mack Arp, W5EET
w5eet@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Joe Morgan, K5JWM
k5jwm@att.net

One Year Board Member:

Dave Scott, WD8RZA
wd8rza@aol.com

Two Year Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@juno.com

Past President:

Kevin Foto, KD5O
foto@texas.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way

Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each
month at the HCC Scarcella Technology
Campus, 10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford.
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

Eating Schedule

Third Friday Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts -

7:00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop
9720 Hillcroft, Houston
7:30 a.m. Viking Den
2939 S. Main, Stafford

Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/- 3KHz Wednesdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Public Service Net

Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at
9:00 PM

Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

Sept 04, 2003

Attendees: President, Mike Hardwick-N5VCX, 2 -Year Director/Club Elmer Ross Lawler-W5HFF, Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer, Mack C Arp-W5EET, Vice President Allen Brier N5XZ, 1-Year, Past President Kevin Foto-KD5O, Past Secretary of Treasurer Camron-K5CAM. Recording Secretary, Joe W Morgan - K5JWM. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by President Mike Hardwick.

Comments: Ross reports that in the storeroom we have plastic cups and other utensils for the chili supper or some other event that the club might have.

Emergency Business: Elections coming up positions open will be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and 1-year director. **Old Business:** Mike said he would have by-laws next week at the Board meeting. Prepare Calendar for the year for new board of directors meeting. Program schedule for the rest of the year will be September-Emergency Amateur Communications, October-QRP update & Jota, November-Chili Supper and Elections, December- Home brew night, January-Banquet.

New Business: Mack hands out Treasurer report for approval was read and approved by the board. Reading & Approval of the August minutes. Submitted by Joe and they were read & Approved. Mack hand out Membership status and reports that the club is down a little in membership.

Announcements: Antenna Seminar by Rick Hiller, Theory, and Design, Modeling & Building. October 4, 2003 Field day will be at the Fire training center same place as last year.

Public service event coming up - Bike to the Lake-September 20th & 21.

Membership count: 129

Adjourn: 9:05

Submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM

Silent Key

Harold Wallis Sanders, W5HWS, member of the Executive Committee of the Wings Over Houston Air Show, and former secretary of the Pearland Radio Club, die August 30th, 2003. Sanders worked in Emergency Services for the city of Pearland and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was born and raised in Beaumont, TX, graduating from Beaumont High School in 1947, after which he joined the Air Force. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Nina Slay Sanders, and numerous relatives.

Calling All Cooks

If you can supply chili, beans, or corn chips, etc for the BVARC Annual Chili Supper, contact Kevin Foto at 281-277-5886 or by email at kd5o@texas.net.

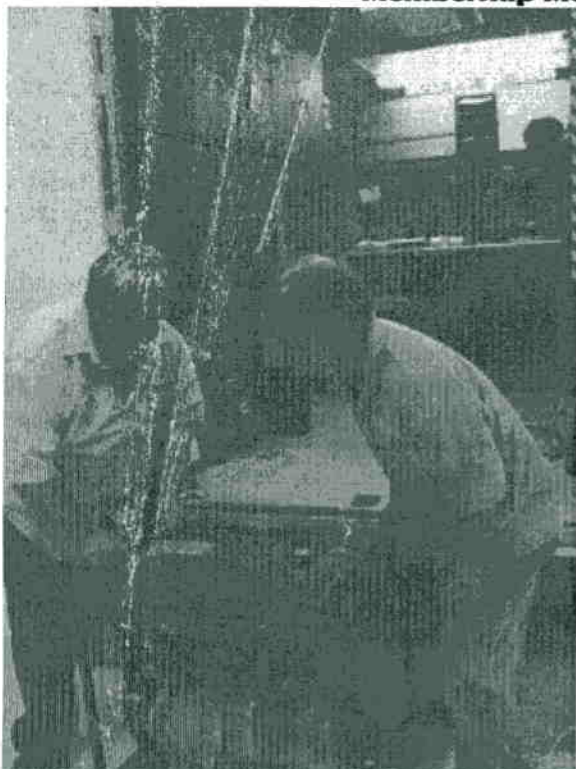
Monday Night Public Service Net Check-ins

8/4 - 27 - Cam, k5cam
8/11 - 29 - Kevin, kd5o
8/18 - 17 - Doug, kc5vyz
8/25 - 18 - Doug, k5cam

9/8 - 26 - Cam, k5cam
9/15 - 24 - Joe, k5jwm
9/22 - 22 - Kevin, kd5o kc5vyz
9/1 - 20 - Cam, k5cam

More of Rodney's and Joe's Brainchildren

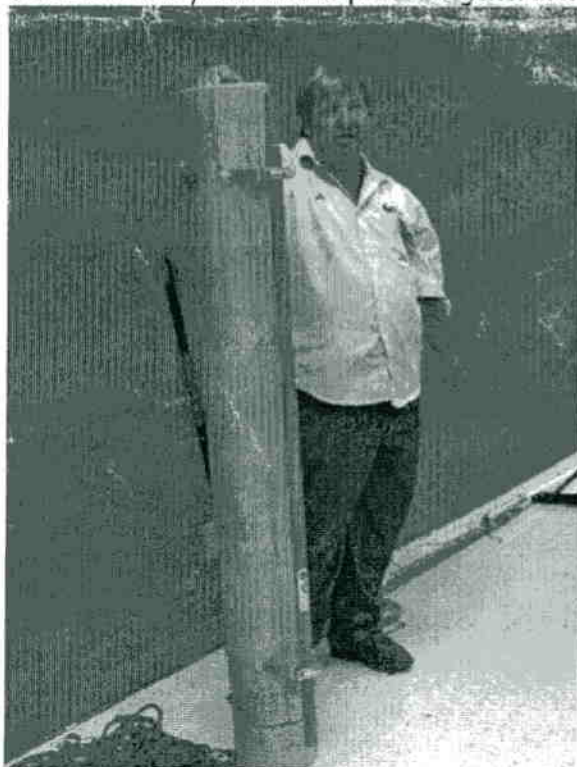
Membership Meeting, September 9



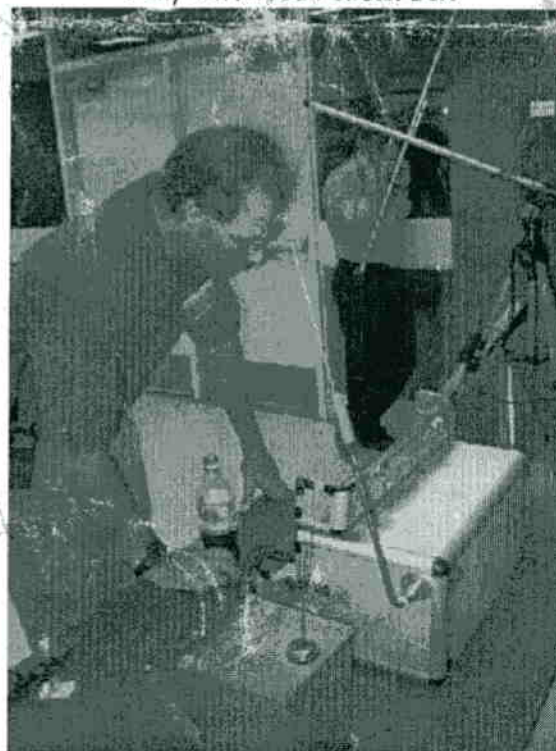
Joe and Rodney unload the portable generator



Fully outfitted Pelican Box



Portable antenna, designed to be attached to a standard light pole



Scott, NT5SM, studying one of Rodney's gadgets

October 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	2 BOD Meeting 7:30PM	3	4
5	6 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	7	8 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	9 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	10	11
12 Moonlight Ramble Bike Ride	13 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	14 VE Session 6:30 pm	15 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	16	17 WOH Air Show	18 WOH Air Show JOTA Shriner's Bike Ride
19 WOH Air Show JOTA 20K WarmUp	20 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	21	22 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	23	24	25
26	27 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	28	29 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	30	31	

Third Friday Dinner: 6:30 p.m.(sharp) at October 17, 6:30p.m.(sharp) at TIO PEPE'S SPANISH RESTAURANT, 5213 Cedar, in Bellaire. It is 1 block N. of Bellaire Blvd. and 2-1/2 blocks E. of Chimney Rock.. Saturday morning breakfasts 7.00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop. 9720 Hillcroft, Houston. 7:30 a.m. Viking Den 2939 S. Main. Stafford

November 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	4	5 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	6 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	7	8 Novemberfest Bike Ride
9 25K Warm Up Run	10 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	11 VE Session 6:30 pm	12 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	13 Chili Supper & Elections 7:30 pm	14	15
16	17 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	18	19 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	20	21	22
23	24 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	25	26 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

Third Friday Dinner NOVEMBER 21, 6:30p.m. (sharp) at THE HICKORY BARN BARBECUE 11534 Wilcrest. It is 1-1/2 blocks N. of US59 (SW Frwy.)



Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio in Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County

Club Call sign - KC5OIG, W5DPA
BVARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>
Editor: Marie Schaer, KD5UJT, schaer@hal-pc.org
Production Team: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arrl.net
John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org

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

Today; BVARC is truly a general interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the clubs commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the some of 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 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 \$20 per year.

BVARC administers ARRL-VEC license exam sessions on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. A Public Service Net is held at 9 PM. each Monday on the Memorial Emergency Radio Association's 145.47 & 444.55 repeaters.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities contact the Club's "Elmer". Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@juno.com.

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9

September 2003

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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**Membership Meeting on October 9th
7:30p.m., Sugar Land Community Center**

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If your mailing label is highlighted in color its time to renew your membership