



R F News

July 20, 2016

From The President

Many thanks go out to Dana (AD5VC) for organizing another very successful BRARC field day effort. Thanks also to Robin (KK5RH) and his assistants for a great jambalaya dinner Saturday night and to all the club members supporting the event. Despite oppressive heat, less than ideal band conditions and a few Saturday morning antenna issues, everything seemed to settle in and the club turned in another solid performance.

The July meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on July 26 at the Main EBRP Library on Goodwood. I will present briefly my thoughts regarding the cw mode and whether it still has a role in amateur radio in the twenty-first century. Members will be on hand to demonstrate various cw paddles and keys. Matt (KD5KNZ) will discuss the Yaesu System Fusion repeaters recently installed on the club's 146.79 and 444.400 MHz repeaters. Members of the Repeater Committee will demonstrate the digital capability of the new system. I encourage all to attend to get the latest update.

Both new repeaters are, in my opinion, performing extremely well. Currently, however, neither has a "courtesy tone" and squelch tails are short. Please remember to leave a few seconds between transmissions to allow other stations to call. If you are annoyed by hearing digital signals on your analog radio, tone squelch should eliminate the issue once the programming of the new repeaters is completed. Matt can explain how and answer this and other questions at the meeting.

73, Dick N5KIP

Upcoming Events Calendar

7/26/2016-BRARC Monthly Club Meeting-Goodwood Library.

Program-CW Mode Discussion (N5KIP)

Yaesu System Fusion Repeater-(KD5KNZ)
System Fusion Demonstration-BRARC
Repeater Committee.

8/2/2016-Monthly BRARC Board of Directors meeting
Red Cross Building

8/25-8/28 NPOTA multi day activation. See RF Bytes on page 2 for more information.

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Web: www.brarc.org

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| President | Dick Burroughs, N5KIP |
| Vice President | Jon Reise, WA9JBR |
| Secretary | Todd Huovinen, KB5TMD |
| Treasurer | Ken Shutt, W5KQ |
| Directors | Vernon Morris, AA5O Brook Samuel, N5DGK Daniel Smith, N5KHM Steve Irving, WA5FKF Dave Thomas, K5CGX Brett Hebert, KG5IQU Robin Hudson, KK5RH |

Repeaters: 146.790 - and 444.400 +
(PL tone 107.2) **BOTH** Repeaters
are Yaesu SystemFusion capable analog
and digital.

Nets: BRARC Club Net - Sunday 8:30 PM
146.790 (PL tone 107.
Ten Meter Net - Monday 7:30 PM
28.450MHz USB

RF Bytes

A Technician Class is being planned for January 2017, to run for 16 weeks on Thursday evenings at the EBR Main Library on Goodwood. More information will be coming in the next few months.

A National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) activation is being planned by Brett, KG5IQU for August 25 – 28. This will be a portable operation in the field at the parks. All are invited to participate. Contact Brett, KG5IQU for more information.

Welcome everyone to the *Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Enthusiasts sub-Reddit*. Reddit is Bulletin Board Service, where you can post items, ask questions or answer questions from other Amateur Radio operators in our area. We would love to make this an active place for locals to meet, hang out, and plan things for on air, in person, and online activities! You can find it at <https://www.reddit.com/r/BRARE>.

Ever had a radio question at 07:00 UTC (02:00 CT) and wanted to get an answer from someone with hands on experience? It can be kind of tough, most days. However, now there is a way for us locals to chat, & help each other out, no matter the time!

I'd like to welcome everyone to the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Enthusiasts sub-Reddit. You can find it <https://www.reddit.com/r/BRARE>.

“What is Reddit?,” you may ask. It's similar to the old BBS boards, or forums like QRZ or Eham. What makes this particular sub-reddit special, to us, is that it is aimed at our local area. It's a place where we can pose questions for other locals, or share news and activities. As I write this, there is a post about the Maker class coming up July 26th, and a post by a new local ham asking about repeaters he can hit with an HT stock antenna.

I'm sure many of you would have great information for both those topics, as well as many others. We would love to make this an active place for locals to meet, hang out, and plan things for on air, in person, and online activities!

Hope to see you there soon!

73,

Ty KA1TY

USS KIDD

Independence Day Operation



On a beautiful, sunshine filled Saturday July 2, BRARC members activated W5KID on the USS KIDD to observe July 4th Independence Day. A full slate of 12- operators and loggers contacted stations around North America during the 6-hour operation on 20 m SSB. 168 stations were contacted in 36 states, including Canada and Puerto Rico!

Since it was a holiday weekend, there were many visitors to the USS KIDD. Many of them stopped in the radio room, intrigued by the wireless contacts we made with Hams all over North America. We use this as a chance to promote Amateur Radio, especially to young people. Our own Marvin Owen N5HE, brought his family of Ham Radio Operators, who were visiting from Dallas. They all took part in operating or logging with the assistance of Marvin, their Dad and Grandfather.

3-Generations of Hams



From left to right:

Kim Chance KG5DPS (daughter of Marvin)

Rachel Chance (age 7-getting her license within a year)

Marvin N5HE (Dad and Grandfather)

Nicholas KG5KEQ (grandson)

Stuart Chance KG5DPT (son-in-law)

Brett KG5IQU, handles the deluge of QSL requests with a colorful QSL card and descriptive brochure about the USS KIDD. He QSLs through the mail, as well as LoTW and soon to add eQSL and QRZ.com.

The USS KIDD station uses a Yaesu FT-450D, running 100 W and a MFJ-969 antenna tuner, feeding a long wire strung from the mast. Many times on the air, we encounter pileups, similar to Field Day. That was certainly the case during Museum Ships Weekend in June. The station is now equipped with an easy-to-read *Startup/Shutdown Guide*, for quickly activating the station. A guide for the MFJ Antenna Tuner lists tuner settings for operating frequencies.

Any BRARC member is allowed to use the station, during normal Museum hours. Please contact Jon Reise WA9JBR or Buddy Brown N5BUD to gain access to W5KID. If you are a new operator to the station, you will have to be checked out by Jon or Buddy. Contact them to arrange a meeting.

The USS KIDD, W5KID is an excellent way for Technicians or new Generals to gain some HF experience, with an experienced Ham showing you the ropes! Come and join in on the fun. You don't have to wait for the next scheduled activation; you can schedule your time when it is convenient for you. The next scheduled activation is Veterans Day, 11 November 2016.



John WA5MLF, racking up the contacts as Ken W5KQ keeps up with the logging duties.

BRARC Introduces the *Radio Loan Program*

Our club recently received two radios as donations, along with associated accessories, to be used as the club saw fit. With all the newly licensed Technicians and Generals joining the club, it was decided to make the radios available to members that don't have equipment yet, but want to operate the bands before they invest in their own radios. With that in mind, the *Radio Loan Program* was established. A BRARC member can check out a radio package and get on the air quickly. The loan period is 90-days, with a \$20 fee for the Icom IC-730 HF Transceiver and a \$15 fee for the Icom IC-2100H VHF Transceiver. Preference will be given to newly licensed members, but any club member can check out a radio. BRARC mentors will assist the newly licensed members with antenna recommendations, construction, and installation. The cost of the antenna will be the responsibility of the borrower.

Program details and the loan application will be found on the BRARC home page website, under the dropdown menu for "Radio Loan Program".



Radio Loan Program

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

Are you a newly licensed Technician, who would like to operate VHF before investing in a radio? Maybe you've upgraded to General and want to experience the HF bands before you decide on a transceiver to purchase. Members may want to operate portable, but don't have the equipment. If that's the case, this program is for you.

Radios are loaned to BRARC members for a 90-day period – just like checking a book out from the library. All that is required is that you are a current member, completion of the application, and payment of the \$20 rental for the HF radio or \$15 for the VHF radio.

If you are newly licensed, we will assist you in determining the best antenna for your location and assist you in the construction and installation of your antenna. The cost of the antenna will be the responsibility of the borrower.

The available radio packages are:

- **Icom IC-730 HF Transceiver** with power supply, microphone, and external antenna tuner.

5 bands, 100 W, SSB, CW, AM

Receive only on 30, 17, and 12 meter bands

Pass Band Shift Control, Noise Blanker, VOX, SWR meter



- **Icom 2100H VHF FM Transceiver** with power supply, microphone, and external magnetic mount 144 MHz mobile antenna.
2 meters, 55 W (3 power levels), 200 memories with scanning, WX alert, aviation frequencies (118 – 136 MHz).



To participate in the Program, download the [application](#), fill it out and send it to [the club](#). [One](#) of the club's mentors will contact you to discuss the antenna options for your station and to arrange the next steps. If there is more than one request for a radio, preference will be given to those who have the least experience with HF or VHF operati

Do You Have Topics or Suggestions for the RF News?

Do you have pictures, articles, links or other ham radio related items for inclusion in the RF News?

Contact the club secretary, Todd (KB5TMD).

BRARC Elmers

Dick Burroughs, N5KIP
Buddy Brown, N5BUD
Keith Davis, KE5LVT

If you need assistance, please contact one of above.
If you would like to be an Elmer, please contact the
club secretary Todd, KB5TMD.

BRARC Facebook Page

If you haven't done so, please visit and "like" our BRARC Facebook page. You will find a link at the club's website: <http://brarc.org/>

We're using Facebook to keep the membership better informed in a timely manner about what's going on in your radio club. This page is also a good way for BRARC members to keep in contact with each other.

73,
Robin, KK5RH

VE Questions

July

Tech

T7C01 (A)

What is the primary purpose of a dummy load?

- A. To prevent the radiation of signals when making tests
- B. To prevent over-modulation of your transmitter
- C. To improve the radiation from your antenna
- D. To improve the signal to noise ratio of your receiver

General

G6B07 (D)

Which of the following is an advantage of an LED indicator compared to an incandescent indicator?

- A. Lower power consumption
- B. Faster response time
- C. Longer life
- D. All of these choices are correct

Extra

E5B05 (A)

How long does it take for an initial charge of 20 V DC to decrease to 7.36 V DC in a 0.01-microfarad capacitor when a 2-megohm resistor is connected across it?

- A. 0.02 seconds
- B. 0.04 seconds
- C. 20 seconds
- D. 40 seconds

BRARC EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

| ITEM DESCRIPTION | MFG | Model # | SERIAL # | LOCATION | AVAILABLE |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Antenna Analyzer | MFJ | 259 | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Bandpass Filter 10m | W3NQN | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Bandpass Filter 15m | W3NQN | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Bandpass Filter 20m | W3NQN | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Bandpass Filter 40m | W3NQN | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Bandpass Filter 80m | W3NQN | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Crimping Tool | West Mountain Radio | Power Crimp | | K5DFD | Yes |
| FM Deviation Meter | Lampkin | | 185 | K5DFD | Yes |
| Power Supply (13.8V @ 20A) | Icom | PS-55 | 5194 | K5DFD | Yes |
| Kit Building Tools | | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Power Supply (12 V/A) | ER | PS-104 | | K5DFD | Yes |
| Wattmeter | Bird | 43 | 127199 | K5DFD | Yes |
| 5w Slug | | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| 50w Slug | | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| 100w Slug | | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| 250w Slug | | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| 1000w Slug | | | | K5DFD | Yes |
| 2500w Slug | | | | K5DFD | Yes |

RADIO LOAN PROGRAM

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|--|-------|-----|
| 160M-10M HF Tranceiver | Icom | IC-730 | | N5KIP | Yes |
| 2M mobile rig | | | | | |
| David Ducote | K5DFD | (225) 603-0801 (cell) | | | |

Upcoming Area Hamfests:

8/13/2016-Shreveport Amateur Radio Association (SARA) Hamfest

<http://shreveporthamfest.com/>

Editor's Note: I attended this hamfest last year and it was a lot of fun. It looks to be even bigger this year!! Also, reports from the Ozone ARC Hamfest in Slidell, Louisiana were that it was a great hamfest. I will try and make it next year-Todd KB5TMD

Upcoming Area Hamfests-continued

Huntsville Alabama Hamfest-August 20-21 2016- yes, I know this is a bit of a drive but everyone I have talked to says that it is the best hamfest in this part of the country. Here is the link to the Huntsville Hamfest:

www.hamfest.org

Keep Up to Date on BRARC Events

Now use our new BRARC Google calendar to find out about upcoming club events. Click *Calendar* on the drop down menu on our home page, www.brarc.org. We are posting events through 2016 as they become available. If you have an event you want posted, contact our webmaster John Krupsky, WA5MLF . john@brarc.org

The screenshot displays the BRARC website with a Google Calendar integrated. The calendar for June 2016 shows the following events:

| Date | Event |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| June 30 | 6pm Club Meeting |
| June 31 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 1 | 10am USS Kidd |
| July 2 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 3 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 4 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 5 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 6 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 7 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 8 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 9 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 10 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 11 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 12 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 13 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 14 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 15 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 16 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 17 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 18 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 19 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 20 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 21 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 22 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 23 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 24 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 25 | 6pm Technician LI 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 26 | Field Day |
| July 27 | 7pm Club Meeting |
| July 28 | 6pm VE Testing at 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 29 | 6pm VE Testing at 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 30 | 6pm VE Testing at 7:30am Breakfast |
| July 31 | 6pm VE Testing at 7:30am Breakfast |

W5GIX/5

Grand Isle, LA
Jefferson Parish

October 2014

IOTA: NA-168
US Island: LA1038
Grid: EL59af



Red Stick DX Association
Baton Rouge Amateur
Radio Club
KB5TMD, W5XU, N5HE,
W5KQ, AA5O, AD5VC,
N5DGK
Seated: WA9JPR, KK5RH



Grand Isle Expedition

- Arrive Friday Oct 14; leave Sunday Oct 16
- Contact Vernon (AA5O) for information
- Preregister with \$50 payment prior to Sept 16
- Minimum of 10 members preregistering for trip to proceed
- Preregistration Fee returned if trip canceled due to lack of interest

Items for Sale

Mary McDonald (WB5LBR) will have a few items for sale at the next club meeting:

The list includes:

PL Fittings

MFJ Artificial Ground

Antenna Brackets and Screws

Also, she has a half size violin and case for sale if anyone is needing one.

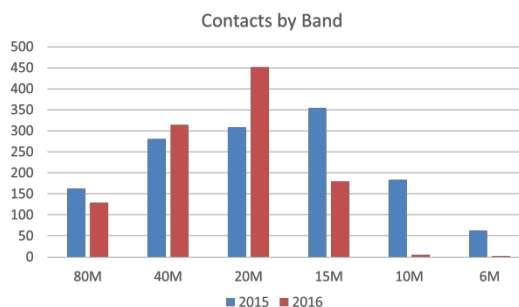
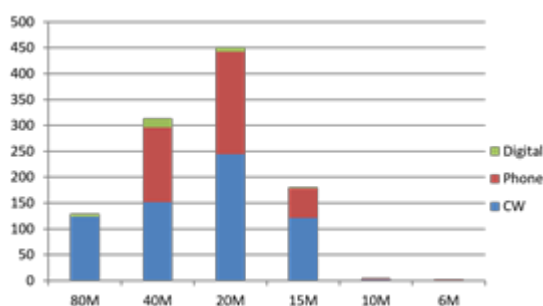
Summary of Field Day 2016

As usual, the Baton Rouge ARC operated from the Highland Road Park Observatory. We used the two tri-banders, a 40m dipole, and 80m dipole, a 20m vertical and the jumpered multiband dipole. We had great participation, both from the local ham community and the public. I counted 33 different operators in the log, at least 9 other operators not in the log, and 22 members of the public participated at the GOTA station. According to Chris Kersey, the Observatory Director, we had a total of 120 people participating on Saturday.

Our setup on Saturday morning went pretty smoothly. We set up one CW station, a CW/SSB station, and a SSB/digital station. We had a GOTA station, and a station for 6m as well. We used a HSMM network and N3JFP's Field Day software for logging, and it worked without a problem.

Our log had 633 CW QSOs, 404 SSB, and 33 digital contacts on the HF stations, and the GOTA station got 112 contacts, thanks to the Hebert clan (KG5IQU, KG5IRS and KG5KRV). Our efforts netted every ARRL section save four: NT, VI, NL, and ONE. CW continues to be our workhorse mode, in large part thanks to the usual crowd (David W5XU, Vernon AA5O and Leonard W5ZDW) who pounded away at station 1. Six meters stayed closed almost all weekend, despite N5IB's Moxon antenna. Six meters got only 3 contacts, but one of them was Jerry W5AJD's first contact on 6m ever, and Jerry has been in this hobby a long time. We really did not utilize 80m as much as we could have, with no phone QSOs on 80m. Compared to last year, we had more 20m contacts this year, but that was pretty much offset by a decline in 15m contacts. We also had no significant effort on 10m, which apparently was not open for very long. The low activity on the upper bands may have been a result of declining solar activity.

Contacts per band



We continued last year's experiment with digital modes, with Gerard, WA5TZX, Dave, KF5CGX, and John, WA5MLF accumulating 33 QSOs (11 less than last year). Again, struggled to get people to reply to our calls. A suggestion for would be to try something like RTTY, which is a better mode for bands.



we
next year
busy

1 Why won't they talk to us?

We also got a number of additional points for public outreach and media attention. N5BUD had his Morse table set up, and we had lots of traffic at the GOTA station. On Sunday, the Hebert clan sat down at the GOTA station and racked up 75 QSOs, the most I have seen at the GOTA station. Unfortunately, they won't be "newly licensed" next year, so we will need to get some new folks there. Miriam, Brooke and Angela all were unlicensed but worked at getting multiple contacts at the GOTA station, and Jennifer put in a good stretch Saturday night on the SSB station. Hopefully we will get them as licensed operators next year.



We had not one, but two reporters from the Advocate, with two nice articles. One of the reporters, Caroline Ourso, spent three hours with us and even made a contact at the GOTA station. Steve Irving, WA5FKF, was our perennial representative from the Red Cross. The links to the articles are theadvocate.com/news/weeklies/16221522-123/club-competes-in-radio-field-day

theadvocate.com/features/people/16177390-123/1070-contacts-in-24-hours-baton-rouge-ham-radio-enthusiasts-have-field-day-during-annual-contest

We also got a nice segment on the Channel 2 news. Thank you, Thornton, for your work on publicity. Robin KK5RH did a nice job advertising our activity on Facebook. We also took advantage of all of the bonus points offered to do extra things like solar powered QSOs with N5IB's fancy sun-following solar panels (and they don't work at all when the cloud comes by). N5IB and N5KIP copied the W1AW bulletin, and Mike KD5MLD send message to our section manager and 10 messages through the NTS system. This year, we implemented the safety officer position, which was shared by Jon WA9JBR, Steve WA5FKF and Mike KD5MLD.



This year saw a number of people returning for their second Field Day: Thornton, KG5HCL, Duane KG5HLF, as well as some newly licensed operators: KG5NKY, KG5TQN and the Hebert family. No one can say that this club is failing to attract new blood to the hobby!



As expected, Robin's Saturday dinner was excellent, and LuAnn Reise's breakfast Sunday morning was great wakeup for a bunch of bleary-eyed operators. The watermelon was delicious. Of course, this was thanks to KG5IRS who ran to store at the last minute because your Chair forgot to assign someone to get it.

Once again, we had fun playing radio, we ate well, and we showed off amateur radio to the public. None of this would happen without all of you who contribute your time and equipment.

Thank You,

Dana Browne-AD5VC
Field Day Chair

Repeater News!!

On Thursday June 30th the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Repeater Committee met at the 146.790 (-) offset 2-meter repeater site and installed a brand new Yaesu System Fusion repeater. The repeater is operational in both Analog and Digital modes. The PL Tone (in analog mode) is the same 107.2 hertz that it has always been. The repeater is set on “automatic” mode select which allows it to switch back and forth between digital System Fusion mode and analog mode depending on what the repeater is receiving. The club has also been operating a 70 centimeter repeater on 444.400 Mhz (+ offset) since April 30th and it too is functioning very well.

For more information on the Yaesu System Fusion mode please try to attend our monthly club meeting on Tuesday July 26th, 2016. Matt Anderson (KD5KNZ) and the Repeater Committee will be demonstrating how the repeaters work. Matt will also have a short presentation on Yaesu System Fusion.

Here is a picture of the antenna at the 2-meter repeater site:

73-Todd (KB5TMD)



