



RF News

October 22, 2016

From The President

Upcoming club activities include a visit to Mr. Charlie, a retired offshore oil rig, and several other interesting attractions in the Patterson area on October 29. See elsewhere in this edition of RF News for details on this and other events.

Save the date of December 10 for the club's annual holiday luncheon at Mike Anderson's restaurant on Lee Drive. Details will follow soon.

The club meeting on October 25th is your opportunity to nominate members for a board or officer position. This year, a single two year board position and all officer positions are open. Please confirm that any potential nominee is agreeable to his or her name being placed in nomination. The current officers and board members are, as always, listed in the RF News. Elections are scheduled for the November meeting and new officers and board members, if any, will be installed at the December holiday luncheon.

Both repeaters seem to have benefited significantly from the recent instillation of new equipment and are working well. Let's put them to use!

73, Dick N5KIP

Upcoming Events Calendar

10/25/2016-BRARC Monthly Club Meeting, Goodwood Library. 7:00 PM. Program: Shortwave Listening Tips by Todd Huovinen-AB5TH/Raspberry Pi based electronic keyer by Paul Catrou-WA4MXT. VE Test session prior to club meeting at 6:00 PM.

10/29/2016-"Mr. Charlie" Field Trip-Morgan City, LA.

11/1/2016-November Board of Directors meeting. Meeting location TBA.

11/11/2016=Veterans Day Observance-USS Kidd 9:30AM-3:30PM

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, AB5TH
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 Yaesu System Fusion

Nets: BRARC Club Net - Sunday 8:30 PM
146.790 (PL tone 107).
Ten Meter Net - Monday 7:30 PM
28.450MHz USB
ARES Net 146.790 Sun 8:00 PM

RF Bytes

Members, whose station were affected by the floods, can check out equipment from our Radio Loan Program with the rental fee waived. We know this is a small consolation to the members that flooded, but we want to do what we can to get you back on the air quickly.

Jon Reise, WA9JBR

Here is a link to an interesting news story from WUSA-TV channel 9 in Washington D.C. about Amateur Radio:

Morse Code Man

<http://www.wusa9.com/travel/open-road/morse-code-man/319351895>

There will be a VE Session prior to this month's club meeting on Tuesday October 25th at 6:00PM

Congratulations to Jennifer Bordellon (KG5OSN) for recently passing her General License exam

FOR SALE

For Sale

Tektronix 2215 oscilloscope

60mhz bandwidth. Works perfectly. Comes with two 100mhz probes. Printed copy of instruction manual downloaded from Tektronix web site.

\$100. For more info contact Hank k5hde

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 (AB5TH).

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, AB5TH.

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

October

Tech

T0C02 (B)

Which of the following frequencies has the lowest value for Maximum Permissible Exposure limit?

- A. 3.5 MHz
- B. 50 MHz
- C. 440 MHz
- D. 1296 MHz

General

G9B08 (A)

How does the feed point impedance of a $1/2$ wave dipole change as the feed point is moved from the center toward the ends?

- A. It steadily increases
- B. It steadily decreases
- C. It peaks at about $1/8$ wavelength from the end
- D. It is unaffected by the location of the feed point

Extra

E8C10 (A)

What spread-spectrum communications technique alters the center frequency of a conventional carrier many times per second in accordance with a pseudo-random list of channels?

- A. Frequency hopping
- B. Direct sequence
- C. Time-domain frequency modulation
- D. Frequency companded spread-spectrum

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, \$15 for the VHF base radio, and \$5 for the 2m/440 HT.

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, external antenna tuner, and G5RV antenna.
 - 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 IC-2100H VHF FM Transceiver** with power supply, microphone, and external magnetic mount 144 MHz mobile antenna.

2 meters, 55 W (4 power levels), 200 memories with scanning, WX alert, aviation frequencies (118 – 136 MHz).



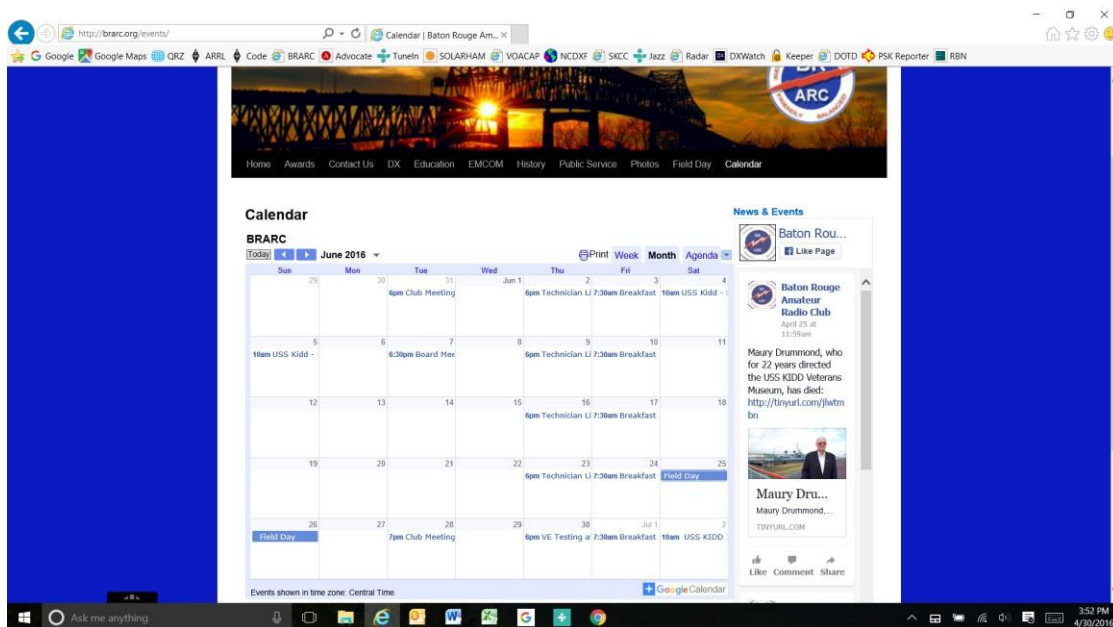
- Yaesu FT-50R Dual-Band Hand-Held Transceiver with NC-60B charger.
2 meters / 70 cm TX & RX
76-200, 300-400, 400-540, 590-999 MHz RX
5 W (4 power levels) output



To participate in the Program, download the [application](#), fill it out and send it to [brarc](#). 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 operating

Keep up to date on upcoming 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.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the BRARC website. The address bar shows <http://brarc.org/events/>. The website has a blue header with a navigation menu: Home, Awards, Contact Us, DX, Education, EMCOM, History, Public Service, Photos, Field Day, and Calendar. Below the header is a large banner image of a bridge at night. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a Google Calendar for June 2016, showing events such as "4pm Club Meeting" on June 28, "4pm Technician LJ 7:30am Breakfast" on June 29, and "Field Day" on June 30. The right column contains a "News & Events" section with a "Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club" logo and a news item about Maury Drummond, who has died. The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system clock indicating 3:52 PM on 4/30/2016.

BRARC EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

	MFG	Model #	SERIAL #	LOCATION	AVAILABLE
Antenna Analyzer (Flood Damaged)	MFJ	259		K5DFD	No
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 Transceiver/941C Tuner	Icom/MFJ	IC-730		WA9JBR	Yes
2M mobile rig	Icom	IC-2100		WA9JBR	Yes
				KG5OSN	No
Dual-Band HT	Yaesu	FT-50			

David Ducote (K5DFD) Cell (225) 603-0801

ARES/Red Cross Activation-August 2016

By Steve Irving, WA5FKF

Amateur Radio Operators were called by the American Red Cross to provide backup communications during the recent flooding in South-central and Southeastern Louisiana beginning August 11th. With cell phone coverage diminished because of a flooded switch station, Steve Irving, the Disaster Services Technology (DST) lead for the Red Cross in LA, activated the local DST Amateur Radio operators. Soon after activation, the entire AT&T communications system failed in the affected area, which required more communication help. Irving then requested activation of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to support Red Cross shelter communications.

ARES is a corps of trained emergency radio operators maintained by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national organization of Amateur Radio operators. The request was made to Adam Tamplain, the Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator for ARRL. "Trained operators were vital to a successful response", Irving said. Most of the DST volunteers had been through the Red Cross training including intensive training on Red Cross equipment. ARES also trains their volunteers and many of the Amateur Radio operators have had prior disaster experience. Forty Amateur Radio operators, including Red Cross DST and several ARES groups, participated in the effort. The week-long activation included operators from Alabama, as well as Arkansas and Mississippi. American Red Cross DST Amateur Radio operators came from as far as Ohio, Florida, Texas, and Arkansas to support the operation.

Several Baton Rouge area Amateur Radio operators spent lengthy shifts operating the Red Cross Communications Room as well as deploying to several shelters to provide needed communications support. Amateur Radio operator Jennifer Bordelon (KG5OSN) provided communications at the Celtic Shelter in the early days of the disaster. Operator Dan Lott (KF5TQN) was on duty during the early hours of August 14th, when the shelter he was at on Flannery Road in BR began to flood. He notified the Red Cross DOC using Amateur Radio of the flooding so a new shelter could be arranged, with cots and supplies delivered.

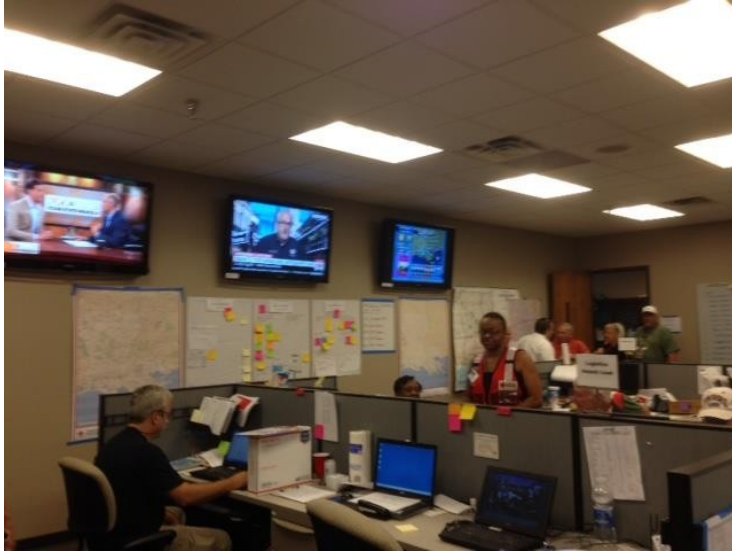
With local and parish resources stretched to the limit, Amateur Radio volunteers served as the communication link between the Red Cross shelters and command centers, relaying vital information on the needs of each shelter back to the Red Cross offices.



Dana Browne AD5VC (left) and Steve Irving WA5FKF (center) handling shelter requests in the Red Cross Comm Room



Gary Alberstadt KA3FZO, checking in with the National Hurricane Center on the movement of Hermine



Red Cross Disaster Operations Center (DOC) where shelter messages were delivered

An Invitation to Members of the BRARC, a Special Service Club of the ARRL

Why should I join ARES? Because it is an important service to your community. Why should you join? Because each one of us as an active member of our club has special gifts and talents and a willingness to share. ARES is great way to serve your neighbors during communication emergencies. General Honore indicated that one of the top key components in an responsive emergency plan is communication. ARES serves that mission with its partnered agencies, such as FEMA, Red Cross, RACES, and many of the faith based groups.

There is no additional cost to apply to be a member, no binding commitment if you cannot serve, and it is easy to register by going online to the <http://www.laarrrl.org> website. Once there, click on ARES at the top. Scoll down to ARES REGISTRATION and click. Complete the form and hit the submit button. If you need training, the ARRL & FEMA courses are online. I will be glad to assist you with the training and answer any additional questions. My contact information is below. Thank you for your consideration and all that you do for amateur radio.

Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD (formerly WA5JSK)



USS KIDD

W5KID Special Event Operation

Veterans Day, Fri, 11 November 2016



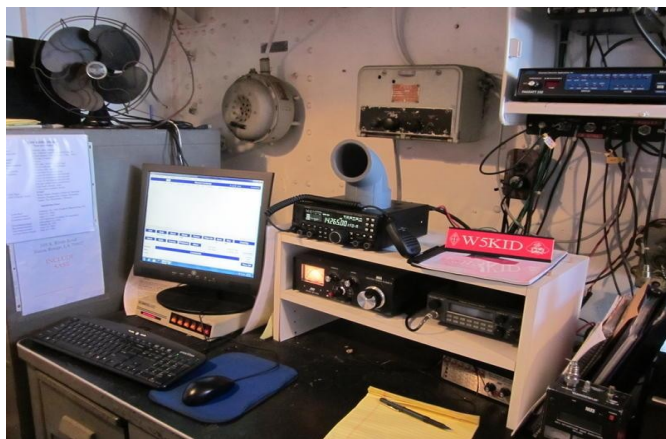
Operators Needed:

Operators of any class license and loggers are needed for this Special Event. Technicians are encouraged to participate and gain first-hand experience operating the phone bands with a skilled operator as your mentor. General and Extra Class operators can experience the excitement of working pile ups, which often occur when W5KID is on the air. Operating time slots can be as long or short as you like.



Station Equipment:

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club maintains a permanent amateur radio station on board the USS KIDD, DD-661. The station is in the aft radar jamming compartment on the 01 deck. We run a Yaesu FT-450D, 100 W transceiver with an antenna tuner, to a random wire, 150 ft. long in the ship's rigging. Much of this antenna is the ship's original HF wire antenna.



Operating Frequencies and Time:

SSB	14.240, 7.240 MHz	9:30 am – 3:30 pm CST
CW	14.060, 7.060 MHz	

For great pictures and history of the USS KIDD check out the websites below.

www.usskidd.com and www.w5kid.org

For more information contact:

- Jon Reise, WA9JBR 225.388.5776
- Buddy Brown, N5BUD 225.573.2111



Gerard DuCote W5TZX presenting info at the Oct 12th ARES training course

ARES Training Meeting

On Wednesday, 10.12.16, 22 amateur radio operators (AROs) participated in an Introductory Emergency Communication course in Baton Rouge. Sponsored by BRARC and coordinated by the Region 2 Planning Committee, five of the participants presented best practices utilizing the ARRL's publication *ARES Field Resources Manual* as a guide for the emergency communicator. Overall, the course evaluation score was 4.5 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest. One suggestion included rotating future courses in different locations in the Region. Also suggested were topics that would cover SkyWarn, digi modalities, & speakers from various Served Agencies regarding their respective ARO credentialing requirements and processes. Below this update, there is a handout attached from Gerard Ducote, W5TZX, as requested from the course participants. It gives a very good perspective of what the government agencies are requesting from AROs prior to being deployed. If you have additional questions, contact Gerard .

The LA Section ARES Simulated Exercise Testing (SET) will be held Saturday morning, 10.22.16. ARES members as well as amateur radio clubs in Region 2 will be notified of the SET by email with follow up phone calls to individual ARES Region 2 members listed on the Region 2 database. Region 2 is setting up a phone tree to follow up on initial emails during any & all activation. LA Section ARES, our State leadership, will be posting information via their Facebook & Google accounts as well. If you have not enrolled online into the LA Section ARES database, please do so immediately as well as the Facebook & Google accounts. The website is www.laarrrl.org. Once on the website, click on ARES and the on next page on the left for ARES Registration. Register as "**a new member**" as the system has been purged and is being updated this year. Then go back to the home page and click on the Links and scroll down to the Facebook and Google accounts and click. You will get all the latest information from LA Section ARES leadership.

Region 2 will be kicking off its ARES Net on Sunday, 11.06.16, at 18:00 CST, on the 146.790 (-) FM repeater, 107.2 PL. It will be a roll call by groups beginning with the 1st letter in the suffix of your call sign. We are in need of net controllers for either the 2nd, 4th, or 5th Sunday of the month. This is a great way to practice running nets and networking with your fellow AROs prior to an emergency. For more information, please contact Michael J. Nolan.

Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD



2016 Jamboree On The Air Report Aboard the USS Kidd

CQ, CQ, CQ JOTA! Istrouma Area Council of BSA, the USS Kidd Veterans Memorial Museum, QCWA's Chapter 109, and the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club were the hosts for the 59th Annual Jamboree-on- the-Air (JOTA) aboard the USS Kidd, a Fletcher Class destroyer museum ship in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, All Scouts, Girls &

Boys, were invited on Saturday, October 15, 2016, to share their Scouting experiences with their Scouting peers around the world using two-way amateur radio. Scouts, non Scouts, and adults had the opportunity to communicate directly with other Scouts throughout the United States and Western Hemisphere. Using high frequency and VHF digital amateur radio bands, the Scouts greeted and shared their Scouting experiences. In doing so, the Scouts demonstrated their communication skills. The JOTA annual event contributes to better understanding and mutual respect between youngsters in different countries as part of citizenship of the world.

There were 14 Cub and Boy Scouts, 4 non Scouts and 9 adults reported making contacts. Assisting with the event were 6 amateur radio operators. Using the W5KID amateur radio station aboard ship, the participants were able to talk to an ***Island On The Air*** station, IOTA NA168 W5, W5GIX. In addition, there was a DStar station that was utilized to talk to Scouts in Chilliwack, Trinidad, and Guatemala during the day's event at the USS Kidd. In addition, the Scouts communicated with W5GAS at Garland Scout Ranch in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, as well as with Scouts from New York and Texas. Prior to making contact, the Scouts received an introduction to amateur radio by one the JOTA amateur radio operators. The Scouts were able to demonstrate how to use a microphone and speak correctly by preparing a script and using radio phonetics.



BRARC's Ava, KE5UQE, presents Introduction to Amateur Radio to Scouts.

Aboard the USS Kidd, Chris stated," It was fun contacting IOTA NA168, W5GIX, on Grande Isle." Steve, WA5FKF, was the Control Operator.



Johnny & Nathan show off their JOTA USS Kidd QSL cards.



SAVE THE DATE

October 29, 2016

A DAY TRIP TO VISIT THE FIRST OFFSHORE OIL RIG AND A VISIT TO THE WEDELL-WILLIAMS AVIATION AND CYPRESS SAWMILL MUSEUMS



The International Petroleum Museum- "Mr. Charlie"

Visit the first offshore submersible transportable drilling rig in the United States. Located in the Atchafalaya River in Morgan City it was first built in 1953 and served as a drilling platform for offshore drilling from 1956 until 1984. A guide will explain what it was like to work and live offshore 7-14 days at a time. Visit a real drilling rig and walk in the steps of roustabouts, roughnecks, and drillers.

After our rig tour we will visit Morgan City where we can walk the 21 foot wall that protects the city from flooding. We will eat at a typical South Louisiana cafe and then take a short drive to Patterson, Louisiana to visit the **Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museums**. Jimmie Wedell and Harry Williams were nationally prominent during the "Golden Age of Aviation" and formed an air service in Patterson in 1928. Patterson, LA was also once home to the largest cypress sawmill operation in the world!

Plan to leave in the morning on Saturday. We will tour Mr. Charlie beginning at 10 am and the tour should last 1.5 hours. We will eat and then tour the two museums. We may have a little lagniappe for you on the way back through Pierre Part, Louisiana.

No open toe shoes and we will be climbing steel grated stairs. Tour will not take place if it is raining.

OCTOBER 29, SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Cost of the Mr. Charlie Tour is \$5.00 per person. You can pay me while waiting for the tour. The lunch at Boiling Madd should be no more than \$15.00 including tip and you will pay the waitress.

This is a perfect trip to bring wives, children 10 years and older, and friends. If you know someone whom you think would like to know more about Louisiana invite them.

If you would like to carpool or drive down together please be at St. Paul Lutheran Church for 8am Saturday.

Please RSVP to: Thornton Cofield KG5HLC

by October 25.

Cell 278-3344.

Further information will be sent to you once you sign up to go.

For those who would like to carpool or travel together we will meet at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in the parking lot at 8am and leave promptly at 8:15am.** St. Paul Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Tara Blvd. and Old Hammond Hwy.

St. Paul Lutheran Church 2021 Tara Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806

We will take I10 south down to I10Exit 182 toward Donaldsonville, right on LA22 and then left on LA70 at the Cajun Village.

We will follow LA 70 until we get to Morgan City. **ONCE IN MORGAN CITY PLEASE SEE ACCOMPANYING MAP FOR RIG LOCATION.**

On LA70 and past the intersection with LA1 we will pass **Bayou Corne** where a collapsed underground salt dome sinkhole was formed in August 2012 and 312 residents were advised to evacuate. A lawsuit concerning the sinkhole is ongoing.

This area in South Louisiana is the site of numerous salt domes with some being used for strategic petroleum storage by the federal government.

Pierre Part is home to the Swamp People for those who watch reality TV shows.

As we turn left at **Belle River** notice the Atchafalaya Basin levee on your right and the retaining flood wall on top of the levee. On the other side is what is called the Atchafalaya Basin which is one of the largest drainage basins in the U.S. Some of the best crawfish is said to come from this area.

10AM: Our first stop will be the International Petroleum Exhibition (Mr. Charlie) and the physical address is:

Rig Museum 111 1st. St. Morgan City, LA 70380

The Rig Tour begins at 10AM and lasts between 1 hour and 1.5 hours depending upon the asked questions.

After the tour we will have a short discussion about the repeater operating on "Mr. Charlie". After the repeater discussion, we will proceed to Front St. and park just after Frerer St. to view the 21ft Floor Wall.

We will then proceed to have lunch at **Boiling Madd Cafe** located at 400 Hwy 90 West in Patterson, LA. Their phone number is 985-395-4629. GPS may not give the exact location but it is directly across from the Word of Life Family Church which will be on your immediate left. Boiling Madd Cafe is located in a one story red brick building located at least 100 ft from the road on your right. Attached is the menu for Boiling Madd. Lunch should cost no more than \$15.00 including tip.

After lunch we will visit the **Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum** which are located in the same building.

Physical Address is 118 Cotton Rd., Patterson, LA 70392.

The museum is located in the Kemper-Williams Park and has an F4 aircraft positioned just in front of the museum. You will have to make a u-turn on Hwy 90 after you exit the Cafe.

The entrance to the Museum is located just east of the museum building and just follow the directions to the museum.

We will watch a short, interesting, and informative video on the early years of cypress logging (late 1800s and early 1900s) and after viewing some of the early logging equipment we will make our way to the Aviation part of the museum.

The aviation part of the museum has a special effects seating arena where multiple screens, wind, sound, and moving chairs all enhance the learning experience about Louisiana's early aviation pioneers.

Depending upon your interest you can expect to leave Patterson, LA no later than 2:30pm and you should be home by 4:30pm.

A Review of the September BRARC Club Meeting

Frank Revitte with the National Weather Service spoke to the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club on severe weather forecasting in Louisiana at the club's October 27 meeting. Weather conditions proved to be extreme for Louisiana and the Midwest beginning in early 2016 and continued throughout August. Mr. Revitte reported that warm December temperatures and higher than normal atmospheric moisture content to heavy rainfall without accompanying snow contributed to high water run-off throughout the Midwest basin. By March, rainfall totals in Louisiana were already exceeding extreme probability occurrence levels.

By early August the southern part of the U.S. was experiencing a slow moving low pressure system from the East and when combined with the Gulf waters which were unusually warm, extremely high atmospheric moisture, and several other weather related factors which lead to rainfalls far exceeding the ground's ability to disperse the runoff without flooding the urbanized areas. While North Louisiana had its share of flooding in March it wasn't until the heaviest recorded rainfall of 31.39" over a 72 hour period in Watson, Louisiana and the cresting of several rivers at 5 feet above the last recorded flood stage did the Baton Rouge area realize the full brute force of an unnamed weather occurrence. Mr. Revitte ended his talk by stating that the Weather Service was still trying to determine what happened weather wise and what is the overall meaning of what we experienced. In answer to a question from the audience Mr. Revitte stated that typically global warming is associated with extreme weather conditions.

The meeting ended by Jon Reise reminding the members of the upcoming "National Parks on the Air" on Oct. 1 in Eunice, LA and Dan Lott reminding members of the "Mini Maker Faire" on Oct. 8-10 at the Goodwood Library. Robin Hudson reported that there was still room for additional people for the Oct. 14 weekend "Island on the Air" event on Grand Isle and Michael Nolan asked for a few more volunteers for the upcoming amateur radio's "Jamboree on the Air" involving Boy and Girl Scouts at the Ship Museum and the USS Kidd on Oct. 15. Thornton Cofield reported on the Oct. 29 trip to Morgan City and Patterson, LA to learn more about Louisiana's "First in the World" accomplishments.

Contributed Photo:



Left to right: Mike Nolan, Steve Irving, Frank Rivette, and Jon Reise

BRARC Activates IOTA NA-168

By J. Reise, WA9JBR

Six members of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club travelled to Grand Isle, LA to activate Islands On The Air (IOTA) NA-168 as W5GIX. The DXpedition, as it is now called, ran on 14-16 Oct 2016 and is the 4th year that it that Grand Isle has been activated by BRARC. Only one other Ham lives on Grand Isle and he holds a Technician license.

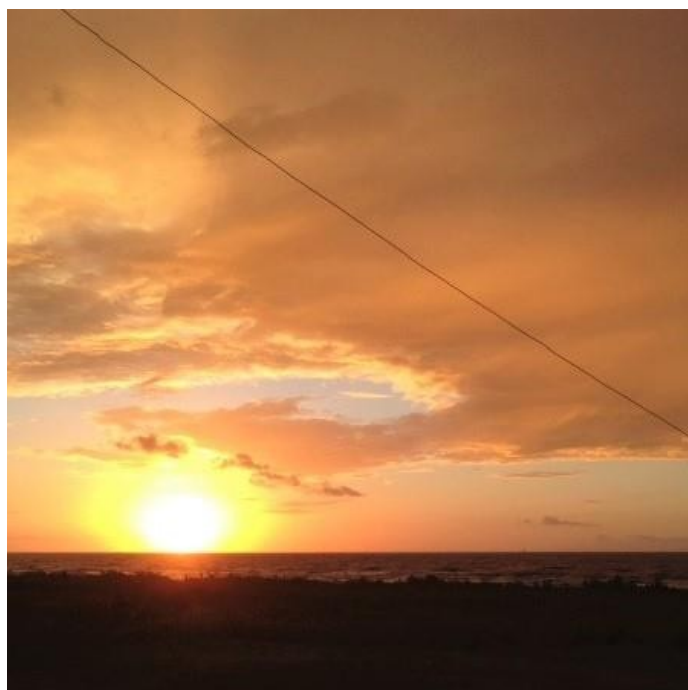
IOTA is an amateur radio activity program designed to encourage contacts with islands world-wide. The oceans' islands have been grouped into some 1200 "IOTA groups" with qualifying islands, in each. The objective, for the island chaser, is to make radio contact with at least one station in as many of these groups as possible and, for the DXpeditioner, to provide such island contacts. 21 separate certificates are available for island chasers, graded in difficulty.

The DX 'pedition was organized and led by Robin KK5RH, and included Brooke N5DGK, Todd AB5TH, Leonard W5ZDW, Daniel N5KHM and Jon WA9JBR. Leonard was the designated CW operator, while Robin was the designated cook and SSB operator. A house camp, looking out on the Gulf of Mexico acted as the base of operations, as it has for the past 4 years. The team setup the antennas and rigs Friday afternoon and made the first contact around 4 pm CT with W2HZ in Tucson, AZ. The operation ran Friday night and all day Saturday, through the evening. The station was disassembled Sunday morning, with the team arriving back in Baton Rouge in the early Sunday afternoon.

The station consisted of two rigs, a Kenwood TS-590 and a Yaesu FT-897, each running about 100 W with external band-pass filters. The team decided to simplify the antenna installation this year and erected 80 m and 40 m dipoles, along with an end-fed, all-band long wire, mounted as a sloper. The rigs were operated simultaneously, with the station being shut down during the night and during the LSU game.

A total of 212 contacts were in 40 states and 9 countries on SSB and CW. The primary bands of operation were 80, 40 and 20 meters. A little excitement ensued when Jon, WA9JBR was called by IZ8DFO in Italy at 5 pm on 40 m SSB. We were running 100 W and the dipole – don't count wire antennas out! Pileups were frequent, but the constant noise level of S7 proved to be the challenge of the operation. The noise source could not be traced to anything in the house, but did decrease in intensity during a light rain. We decided it was radiated noise interference, probably from a bad pole mounted transformer or faulty pole mounted insulators. Many more contacts could have been made with a lower noise floor. The weather was beautiful, with low 80s during the day and low 70s at night. The team enjoyed working the pileups and mixing some beach time in with the operation. Robin provided his customary cuisine – this year jambalaya for lunch and fried shrimp and red fish

at night! The team is already talking about next year's DXpedition. Hope to see you on that one!



Sunrise on Grand Isle 10/15/2016



Robin (KK5RH) and Brook (N5DGK) securing the mast.



All Band antenna using a “hot stick” as a mast.



Robin (KK5RH) and Brook (N5DGK) operating the SSB stations



Our Base Camp. Picture taken by Jon Reise (WA9JBR) from the “beach”.



(L-R) Todd AB5TH, Leonard W5ZDW, Jon WA9JBR, Robin KK5RH, Brook N5DGK, Daniel N5KHM

