



# RF NEWS

March 2017

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## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Web: [www.brarc.org](http://www.brarc.org)

Email: [brarc@brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org)

<b>President</b>	Jon Reise, WA9JBR
<b>Vice President</b>	Robin Hudson, KK5RH
<b>Secretary</b>	Todd Huovinen, AB5TH
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Shutt, W5KQ
<b>Directors</b>	Vernon Morris, AA5O Brook Samuel, N5DGK Daniel Smith, N5KHM Steve Irving, WA5FKF Dave Thomas, K5CGX Brett Hebert, KG5IQU Ty Mixon, KA1TY
<b>Repeaters:</b>	146.790 - and 444.400 + (PL tone 107.2) Both Yaesu System Fusion
<b>Nets:</b>	Region 2 ARES Net Sundays 8:00 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2)  BRARC Club Net Sundays 8:30 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2)  10 Meter Net Mondays 7:30 PM 28.450 MHz USB

## From the President

If you were not able to make the February Club meeting, you might not know that we ran into technical problems with the projector at the library. I'm sorry to say that Gerard DuCote, W5TZX was not able to present *Ham Radio Deluxe, Logging and Operating Software*, as planned. This was going to be a very informative talk about the advantages of electronic logging and controlling your rig from your computer. He was also going to cover the N3FJP software, which we use on Field Day and on the USS KIDD, W5KID station, as well as the advantages of using the ARRL Logbook of The World (LoTW). Since this is such a hot topic, Michael Nolan, KD5MLD and Steve Irving, WA5FKF have graciously offered to move their Public Service talk to July, to accommodate Gerard's talk at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I am happy to say that this year, I was able to get over to Rayne, LA for the **Acadiana Hamfest on March 10 & 11. Pictures on Page 13.** A couple of our members took advantage of the FEMA courses offered on Friday. On Saturday I saw about 10 of our members looking for deals at the tables as well as taking in several good forums. I was surprised at the number of manufacturer's booths this year. Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, MFJ, RT Systems, and our SignMan of Baton Rouge were all there. Several of our members purchased their BRARC name badge from Rick, the SignMan. If you don't have yours yet, you can order on line at [The SignMan](#).

I encourage members to wear their badge at our meetings and events, so that the new members can put a name with a face!

As you know our club is 80 years old this year. Gerard and Robin are heading up our **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities** and doing a great job. We now have a store front on the **Lands' End** website, where we can order clothing items with our embroidered BRARC logo. As I said earlier, Club name badges are now available from the SignMan of Baton Rouge's website. See the details for both these websites in this newsletter. And wait, there's more - I hear that BRARC coffee mugs will be available soon.

**We are activating the USS KIDD, W5KID for Vietnam Veterans Day on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.** Come out and join in the fun of working the pileups that we often experience! Contact Dave Thomas, K5CGX to reserve your spot.

If you are experiencing the Solar Minimum Blues, then April is for you. We can't offer you any more sunspots, but we can offer you an April packed with club activities.

**On April 8<sup>th</sup>, our Club will be touring the National Weather Service forecasting station in Slidell, LA.** This is a follow up to the SKYWARN training we received in January. Watch for the invitation and reserve your spot with Thornton Cofield, K5HLC.

**Continued on Page 3**

Then on April 23th, we will be celebrating the founding of BRARC which took place on April 23, 1937. Our club will be operating a commemorative HF station at the Highland Park Road Observatory (HPRO). As an extra bonus, our own Chef Robin, KK5RH will be cooking up a pot of jambalaya for all to enjoy!

The following **Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**, Dana Browne, AD5VC will be running the BRARC booth for **Astronomy Day at HPRO**. Last year our booth was very popular with youngsters wanting to know a little about Morse code and giving them the chance to get on the air on HF and VHF. This is a great event to bring the family out to!

You can read about all these events in this newsletter or our website. So get out of the shack and come and enjoy in the April festivities! Hope to see you in April.

73,  
*Jon, WA9JBR*

## World Amateur Radio Day April 18



## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Name Badge

### Example



Badges are Available for Purchase from  
Rick Pourciau, NV5A  
The SignMan of Baton Rouge

Follow the link to place your order.

[80th Anniversary Name Badge](#)

### 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**24 March (Fri) 6-10 PM**

**25 March (Sat) 8 AM – 4 PM**

### **K2BSA/5 Special Event**

100 Years of Scouting

BREC Fairgrounds on Airline Hwy

Baton Rouge

**28 March (Tue)** BRARC Club Meeting

Program Topic: Logging Software -  
*Ham Radio Deluxe Software by Gerard  
DuCote, W5TZX*

Goodwood Library 7:00 PM

**29 March (Wed)** Vietnam Vets Day

USS Kidd Activation

9:30 – 3:30

**4 April (Tue)** Board Meeting

Red Cross Building 6:30 PM

**8 April (Sat)** NWS Station Tour

Slidell, LA 8:00 AM

**11 April (Tue)** ARES Training

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Training

Red Cross Building 7-8:30 PM

**18 April (Tue)** World Amateur Radio Day

**23 April (Sun) Founders' Day**

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event

Highland Road Park Observatory

**25 April (Tue)** VE Testing

Goodwood Library 6:00 PM

**25 April (Tue)** BRARC Club Meeting

Goodwood Library 7:00 PM

Program Topic: ***JT65: A Musical Digital  
Mode***

**29 April (Sat)** Astronomy Day

Highland Road Park Observatory

## ARRL Contest Dates

**16 April**     **Rookie Roundup – Phone**  
**1800 – 2359 UTC**

[ARRL Contest Link](#)



## VE Testing Dates

At Goodwood Library

**April 25**

**October 31**

**\*July 25**

**Red Cross Bldg**



## Tour of National Weather Service Facility Slidell, LA

**April 8, 2017 Saturday**

Our club has been invited to visit the National Weather Service Facility located in Slidell, LA on April 8 at 9:30 a.m. The drive down to their facility should take almost 1.5 hours so we need to leave Baton Rouge at 8:00 a.m. The tour is expected to last between 1.5 and 2 hours depending upon the interest and questions asked by club members. We plan to have lunch at one of the local restaurants in Slidell once the tour is over. The tour is free and lunch will be on your own.

Frank Revitte who headed the Skywarn class back on January 24 at the EBR Main Library will be giving the tour at the NWS Facility in Slidell. I've never been there so it will be a surprise for all of us as to what we will see. Judging from the photos on their website it should be quite interesting. The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas. Hopefully, Frank will touch on how the data are collected and how much of it is managed in their office.

*By Thornton Cofield, K5HLC*



**NOTE:** Tour group size is limited to 20, so if you are interested, please contact Thornton Cofield, K5HLC, as soon as you know you are interested in the tour. Further information will then be sent out.





**Club Founders' Day  
Sunday April 23, 2017**

**You are invited to attend  
the 80<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club**

**On Sunday, April 23, 2017  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Highland Road Park Observatory**

**On the Menu: Jambalaya provided by Robin Hudson, KK5RH  
and Anniversary Cake**

**Activities: We plan to set up and operate portable HF rigs  
under the pavilion.**

**Please extend the invitation to all club members.**

**By Robin Hudson, KK5RH**

## Louisiana ARES Region 2 Emergency Net Update



Region 2 ARES Sunday evening nets are being held on the 146.790, PL 107.2, BRARC repeater.

***During an activation it will be the primary***

***repeater for net control unless you are notified otherwise.*** Through the end of February, the net was averaging 14 check-ins. As of this writing, the net roster has 59 emergency amateur radio operators (EAROs) listed. That is an increase of 4 EAROs since last month. Of that number only 33 are listed with the Louisiana Section ARES group. If you are not registered with the Section, you are encouraged to do so at [laarri.org](http://laarri.org). It is easy to do. There are no cost or mandatory public service requirements. Click on ARES at [laarri.org](http://laarri.org) and, then click on ARES REGISTRATION. Be sure to list yourself as new as the system was purged in order to update the system. While there, you may want to join Facebook or Google to get the latest Section information.

Presently, our Region 2 net is looking for a net controller for the 4th Sunday of the month. The Net Controls are:

- 1st Sunday: N5KHM - Daniel
- 2nd Sunday: KK5RH - Robin
- 3rd Sunday: KD5MLD - Mike
- 4th Sunday: OPEN
- 5th Sunday: W5CGX - Dave

By Michael Nolan, KD5MLD

Please contact Michael J. Nolan, if you are interested in becoming a net control station for the LA ARES Region 2 Emergency Service Net.

The LA ARES Section has issued its Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). As an EARO you are encouraged to read it. It is located on the [laarri.org](http://laarri.org) website under ARES. If you are interested in being deployed to one of the served agencies, (i.e. Red Cross, Parish EOCs, NWS) you need to read the section regarding responsibilities (protocols). In addition, please note and make copies of the documents listed that you will need for operating during an emergency. Remember, served agencies may have their own protocols & documents for emergency communication.

**The 2nd Quarter training** is scheduled for **April 11th**. Location is the American Red Cross at 4655 S. Commons, Baton Rouge, LA. The training will be held from 19:00 CDT to 20:30 CDT. EARO responsibilities and documentation will be shared from the Section EOP along with the Region 2 EOP. In addition, Steve Irving, WA5FKF, will share ARC emergency communication protocols, documentation, and a show & tell of their communication center. There will be a **quarterly exercise held on May 13, 2017**, from 10:00 CDT to 12:00 CDT.

**Link to**  
**[LA ARES Emergency Op Plan](#)**

## Cape Cod National Seashore to Host W1MGY *Titanic* Memorial Special Event

Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts has invited organizers of an Amateur Radio special event in April marking the 105th anniversary of the RMS *Titanic* disaster to set up at its Salt Pond Visitor Center. The *Titanic*/Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod -- W1MGY -- is sponsoring the worldwide commemoration to honor the approximately 1,500 passengers and crew who died when the *Titanic* -- thought to be unsinkable -- struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage from England to the US. W1MGY operators have permission to operate from the national park for 3 days and 2 nights.

Sponsors point out that the 740 *Titanic* survivors were rescued by the *Carpathia* as a result of wireless messages sent from Marconi's Wellfleet Station, today preserved within Cape Cod National Seashore as its "Marconi Beach" site.

Between April 13 and April 22, the national park will host commemorative events, including the special event, centering on the *Titanic* disaster and the evolution of wireless communication, culminating in the worldwide International Marconi Day. All *Titanic* events will be held at the Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham. Events are free and open to the public.



**"We will operate from there on April 13, 14, and 15 until 0527 UTC**, the time the *Titanic*'s last radio message was heard by the *Virginian*. The vessel foundered 20 minutes later," said Barry Hutchinson, KB1TLR -- the new trustee of W1MGY, which itself recalls the *Titanic*'s MGY call sign. W1MGY, which has been on the air for past *Titanic* on-the-air events, will transmit a message at the time the ship foundered.

For more than a decade, W1MGY special operations have marked *Titanic* anniversaries. ARRL Lab staffer Mike Gruber, W1MG, became W1MGY's trustee in 2003, and he and others operated *Titanic* special events in April from the *Titanic* Museum in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts.

W1MGY will set up two stations staffed by about two dozen volunteers and operate on CW, SSB, and possibly PSK31. All operating will be done in the General class band segments. As starting points, Hutchinson suggested 3.950 MHz, 7.270 MHz, and 14.285 MHz, adding that band conditions would dictate whether they try 15 and 10 meters. **W1MGY will be on the air for a public demonstration on April 15, from 9:30 AM until about 2 PM EDT**, when the Cape Cod National Seashore will show the movie *Titanic* to close out the event.

Hutchinson said park visitor center staffers have been enthusiastic and very supportive of the event, and he hopes the park will be willing to host future *Titanic* events.

**The ARRL Letter for March 9, 2017**



## Upcoming Hamfests

**29 April**

Northeast Louisiana Hamfest, Monroe, LA

<http://twincityhams.org>

**19-21 May**

2017 Dayton Hamvention, Xenia, OH

<http://hamvention.org/>

**9-10 June**

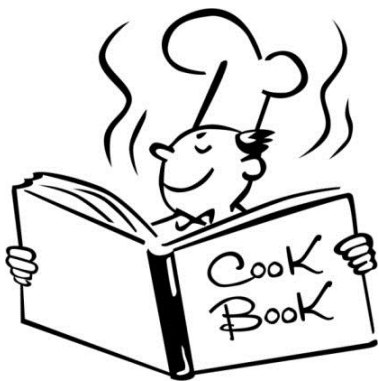
Hamcom, Irving, TX

<https://www.hamcom.org/>

**12 August**

Shreveport Hamfest, Shreveport, LA

<http://www.shreveporthamfest.com/>



### BRARC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cook Book

**Does anyone have a copy of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cook Book?** It was very popular, and includes some of the best recipes from club members. It would be great to publish during our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

**Contact Rick Pourciau, NV5A, at 757-1545**



### JANUARY 2017 VE TEST RESULTS

2017 is off to a good start. Five new licenses and two upgrades were achieved during the VE exam session held on January 31, 2017. The VE team consisted of Brett KG5IQU, Daniel N5KHM, George W5GG, Synomen KG5IRS and Todd AB5TH.

**Paul Smith KG5HLB** of Baton Rouge, LA, upgraded to General.

**John Garruto KC5DJ** of Baton Rouge, LA, upgraded from Advanced to Extra.

The five newly licensed Technicians are:

**Nick Musso KG5RPM** of Baton Rouge, LA

**Wayne Spurlock KG5RPN** of Baton Rouge, LA

**William Holtman Jr. KG5RPO** of Baton Rouge, LA

**Valerie Reid KG5RPP** of Baton Rouge, LA

**Brandon Graugnard KG5RPQ** of Slaughter, LA

Congratulations to all.

73 de Brett KG5IQU



**WE WANT YOUR...**

**ARTICLES**

**STORIES**

**INFOGRAPHICS**

**PICS**

**...AND WE MIGHT MAKE YOU  
SOMEWHAT FAMOUS (MAYBE)**

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE – APRIL 15**

**Contact your Editor, Jen, K5NMT**

## USS Kidd W5KID

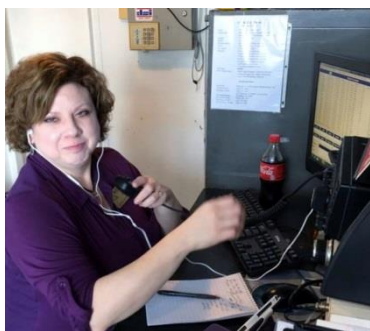


### Event Report on 27 Feb

Jon, WA9JBR opened up the radio room, and helped with troubleshooting after several very unfavorable signal reports from disappointed operators.

Jen, K5NMT made 50 contacts during 90 minutes of operation after Robin, KK5RH solved some technical difficulties which included changing the power supply to the Yaesu.

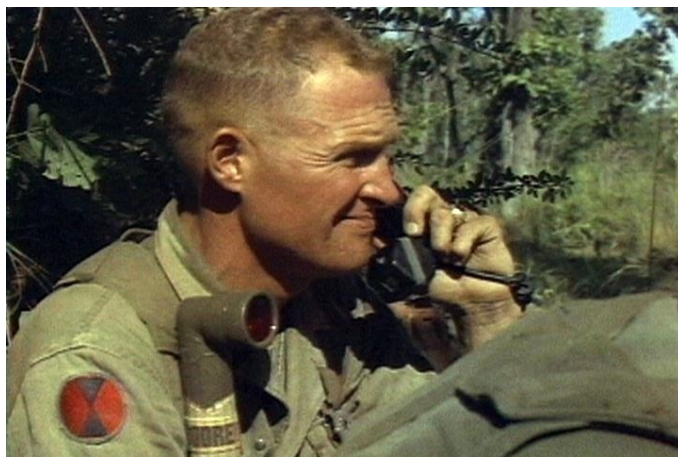
It was a technical learning experience, and quality operating time on a station that many hams enjoy contacting. I was able to contact a few members of the 100 Watts and a Wire Facebook group. I encourage new hams to come aboard, and have fun. I can guarantee that you will make contacts. *Jen, K5NMT*



## ***Call for Operators*** ***WED 29 March*** **Vietnam Veterans Day**

For more information, contact  
Dave Thomas, K5CGX.

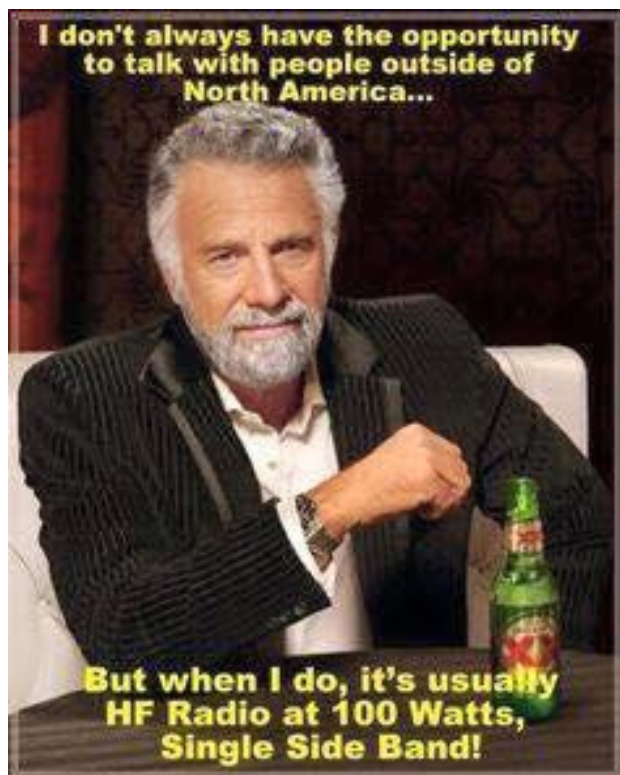
Operators made 128 contacts last year.



**Lt Col Hal Moore**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Btn, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry**  
**Ia Drang Valley**  
**1965**

**Lt Gen Hal Moore retired in 1977,**  
**and passed away on 10 Feb 2017.**

**Visit W5KID on QRZ.com for**  
**Complete Operating Schedule**



## ARRL CONTEST International DX– Phone

On March 4-5, I eagerly participated in my first DX contest. After weeks of careful planning, I had many things in order including: a new mic, logging software, official ham radio DX map, new ear buds, coffee, prepared food, sleep schedule, and husband visitation schedule. (Husband will confirm.) I had consulted many experienced operators to develop my operating strategy.

I had NOT planned to teach an anatomy class on Saturday morning. I had to sleep on Friday night and missed the sunrise. Bummer! I slept about 20 hours in shifts from Friday night to Monday.

I made exactly 50 contacts in 32 new DX entities. My farthest contact was 5,000+ miles in Croatia. I was very happy to make contact with him and also an Ireland station that I chased for 2 days. To date, 18 stations have confirmed on LoTW.

- Jen, K5NMT

## Lands' End BRARC Storefront

Lands' End Clothing has set up a storefront for BRARC members to purchase clothing and other items embroidered with the club logo.

To set up your account at your convenience, control + click on the link below.

[BRARC Store](#)

You can also go to [BRARC.ORG](http://BRARC.ORG) and click on the picture below.



Did you click on the above picture?  
It's only a picture.



Special thanks to Gerard DuCote, W5TZX  
for setting up the club account.



# Acadiana Hamfest

## Rayne, LA

### March 11



Photos submitted by Todd Huovinen, AB5TH





## **BRARC History**

### **Continued from January Issue of RF News**

*The following history of BRARC could not have been completed without the dedication of Al Heine (W5OVV) who published many articles in the RF New and our 50th anniversary directory in 1986. Al joined the club in 1947 and was an active member until is passing in 2009.*

### **1939**

The club adopted a new constitution and reported that 100% of their members also belong to the ARRL.

### **1941-1944**

All activities moved to the Naval Reserve Headquarters in early 1941. After the start of WWII, Congress suspended all amateur radio operations and many of the younger hams were called to active duty as radio operators.

In June 1942, at the insistence of the American Radio Relay League, the US government created the War Emergency Radio Service (WERS).

WERS was a precursor to the civil defense and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES ) groups, and it would remain active through 1945.

WERS provided communications in connection with air raid protection, and communications during times of natural disaster. WERS licenses were given to communities and not individuals.

In March of 1941, BRARC wrote to the ARRL and provided the following update:

- Four of the club members were called to active duty and a fifth was expected to be called within days.
- Seven active members were reported
- No meetings were held in the previous three months.

### **1946**

After the War ended many veteran hams returned to Baton Rouge. The re-organized club first met at LSU. A number of faculty and students also regularly attended the club meetings. Later, the club moved its meeting place to the radio shop of Les Wilson (W5MZA) on St. Louis Street not far from the present location of the River Center. Some of the members included:

- Al Hayes (W5MHZ)
- George Hidalgo (W5DGB)
- George Perry (W5LVX)
- Stan Preston (W5GIX)
- Vince Rosso (W5KC)
- Jack Whitaker (W5HEZ)

In 1948, several local hams worked as control operators at WJBO.

**Continued on Page 15**



WJBO Control Room

## 1950

Always ready to foster interest in all aspects of ham radio, several members of the club formed a mobile group. They operated on 3805 KHz using low power AM transmitters and one tube converters on their AM car radios. The **Deep South Mobile Club**, with up to 30 members, met each Sunday afternoon at the Glas House Restaurant on Florida Blvd. While the group drank coffee and socialized, one member went off to hide a transmitter and the hunt followed. This group also formed caravans to attend nearby hamfests with a dozen or more units in a continuous round-table as they traveled. Between 1950 and 1980, BRARC met at several locations, including the following:

- “The Shack on the Track” – WIBR Radio Station (Ed Case was the Chief Engineer and several hams also worked at the station)
- Dixie Electric on Airline Highway
- Miller Buick on Florida Blvd.
- Burke Brumfield’s Shop (K5SNE) on Choctaw
- EBR Civil Defense / EOC on Florida Street
- St. Pius Church on Hooper Road in 1979

The Baton Rouge Civil Defense tower was featured on the cover on the December 1952 edition of CQ Magazine. This tower was originally constructed by a local ham and was later donated to the city.

The original plan was to move the tower by helicopter; however the neighbors didn’t like the idea of wind and noise so close to their houses.



Baton Rouge Civil Defense

**To Be Continued . . .**

**Please share your stories of the history of BRARC and your experiences through the years.**

# FOR SALE FOR SALE

ICOM 706 transceiver  
with accessories,  
including mic in perfect  
shape. \$550.00



Hi-Gain 3-element  
beam with gam match  
\$50.00.

Quality guaranteed.

Contact John Garruto,  
KC5DJ  
225-266- 3088

## Radio Loan Program

Visit [BRARC.org](http://BRARC.org) for  
More information and  
Application.

### Things to Remember

- ✓ Find your BRARC Cook Book
- ✓ Order your name badges
- ✓ Get a new club logo outfit
- ✓ Sign up for the NWS Tour
- ✓ Mark your calendar for  
Founders' Day
- ✓ Come to the USS Kidd on  
29 March
- ✓ Get ready for star gazing
- ✓ Stay tuned for World  
Amateur Radio Day
- ✓ [Special Event Stations](#)
- ✓ Write an article for RF News
- ✓ Read the ARES Emergency Op  
Plan
- ✓ Come meet us for breakfast

