



RF NEWS

April 2017

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Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Web: www.brarc.org

Email: brarc@brarc.org

President	Jon Reise, WA9JBR
Vice President	Robin Hudson, KK5RH
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 Ty Mixon, KA1TY
Repeaters:	146.790 - and 444.400 + (PL tone 107.2) Both Yaesu System Fusion
Nets:	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

Proclamation

THE CITY OF BATON ROUGE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

BE IT KNOWN THAT

THE MAYOR-PRESIDENT OF THE CITY OF
BATON ROUGE AND THE PARISH OF EAST
BATON ROUGE

HAS PROCLAIMED

APRIL 23, 2017

AS

AMATEUR RADIO DAY

*In recognition of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club's 80th Anniversary,
and the many years of their service in the Baton Rouge Community.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of
Baton Rouge and the Parish of East Baton Rouge to be affixed upon this twenty third day
of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen.



Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor-President

From The President

This past month, we had a most interesting tour of the Forecast Center of the National Weather Service (NWS) in Slidell, LA. Thornton Cofield, K5HLC setup the trip with Frank Revitte of NWS. Nine of our members enjoyed the 2-hour tour of the forecast center, the Lower Mississippi Forecast Center, and the outdoor Doppler radar and communication antenna installation. A permanent Amateur Radio HF and VHF/UHF station is operated by local hams during severe weather. This station was a vital link to the National Hurricane Center during Katrina, when the internet and phone lines went down. It's amazing the sophistication that goes into the NWS centers. We had a delicious local seafood lunch afterwards, and then headed back to Baton Rouge.

I hope you have been attending our monthly meetings. I have had several positive comments about the quality of the programs. We have a lot of very experienced hams in our club who can talk on a variety of topics. What we need, is for more members to volunteer to give a presentation. Most of the talks are 40-minutes, but many times we have two 20-minute presentations. And many times our presenters, me included, will augment the talk with a YouTube video. There is plenty of Amateur Radio content on YouTube. A spirited discussion usually follows, which answers a lot of those nagging questions that we have. Please consider giving a talk your fellow members would be appreciative.

Just contact one of our Board members with your topic and we will get you scheduled. And thanks to our presenters over the past year.

May will be another active month with **2 USS KIDD activations** planned. We plan to exhibit at the **Maker Expo on 29 April** at the Main Library, and later that day we will be at our **Astronomy Day** booth at HPRO. See this newsletter for the details. Plan on coming out to operate or just help promote Amateur Radio to the public.

In closing, let me say good bye to Dick Burroughs and his wife Eileen, who will be moving to the Dallas area, to be close to their family. Dick will be leaving in the first week of May, but says he will be back once in a while to visit friends and hopefully his ham buddies. I have only known Dick for the three years that I have been in Baton Rouge, but he has always been the first to help when we needed a presenter at our meetings or we needed advice about our antennas or operating. Dick was a big help to me, giving me advice about club issues and recently being the chairman for the Bylaws committee. We will miss him, but we should see him every June at Ham-Com in Dallas. **If you are reading this before Tuesday, 25 April, please come to the club meeting on the 25th to say goodbye to Dick.** We will partake in some cake and refreshments and share some stories of Dick's ham career.

73, Jon, WA9JBR

80th 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.



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
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
[HRPO Astronomy Day](#)

29 April (Sat) Redstick Festival
Making Expo
Goodwood Library
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
[Making Expo](#)

2 May (Tue) Board Meeting
Red Cross Building 6:30 PM

20 May (Sat) Armed Forces Day
USS Kidd Special Event
10 AM – 4 PM

29 May (Mon) Memorial Day
USS Kidd Special Event
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM



30 May (Tues)

The Annual BRARC
Eat & Meet Club Meeting
will be held at the
Highland Road Park Observatory

Program Topic: Field Day Preparation

Please bring prepared foods if your suffix
begins with:

A – I	Main Dish
J – R	Side Dish
No call	Side Dish
S-Z	Desert or salad



VE Testing Dates

At Goodwood Library

April 25
October 31

***July 25**
Red Cross Bldg

Contest Corral

29 April [Florida QSO Party](#)

6 May [Contest Corral](#)

7th Call Area

Delaware QSO

Indiana QSO

New England QSO

ARI International DX

[ARRL Contest Link](#)

Tour of National Weather Service Facility Slidell, LA

April 8, 2017 Saturday

Frank Revitte led a tour of the NWS Facility in Slidell, LA for 9 BRARC members. We first gathered in the conference room where Frank talked about the organizational structure of NOAA and where the NWS fits in. Oddly enough, the NOAA is actually under the Department of Commerce. We learned that NWS-Slidell not only serves as a weather forecast center, but also as the Lower Mississippi Forecast Center for river flow from north of Memphis and northeast of Chattanooga to the Gulf of Mexico. The Slidell center operates 24/7, and this Saturday there were 4 meteorologists and hydrologists working. The Center employs approximately 40 staff members.



Left to Right:

**Michael KD5MLD, Mary WB5LBR,
Steve WA5FKF, Frank Revitte, Ken W5KQ,
Mike Shields, Mary KF5DSR, Jon WA9JBR,
Todd AB5TH, and Dan KF5TQN**

In the operations room, we met meteorologists Mike Shields and Mike Efferson who showed us some of the forecast weather modeling they were working on. Frank told us that the NWS Centers augment their weather data by launching a weather balloon twice each day at the same time from a point just outside the main building. Approximately 90 NWS Centers located throughout the US follow this same routine every day. The balloons are tracked by GPS, and data such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, atmospheric pressure, etc. are sent back to the site which released the balloon payload.



John Guthans, AA5UY, Emergency Coordinator for Region 9 and Ron Riviere, WB5CXJ, with the Ozone Amateur Radio Club were also present to answer our questions on that aspect of the operation. Their HF transceiver is an ICOM738 which feeds a 75/40 m 40 ft inverted V antenna located just outside the building. Should all else fail, weather operations would continue from the Mobile, Alabama and/or Lake Charles, Louisiana NWS Centers.

All good things come to an end and with that we left Frank and the NOAA-NWS Facility about 11:30, and drove another 15 minutes down to Vera's Seafood Restaurant and had a nice seafood meal.

By Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

Photo of Ken holding white balloon payload: Michael Nolan, KD5MLD and Ken Shutt, W5KQ. At 90,000 to 100,000 ft, the white payload is released when the weather balloon bursts. Several of white instrument packages have been recovered, returned, and reused.

Besides battery backup Slidell also utilizes 2 diesel generators for emergency electrical power to the operation center and for the Doppler Radar located just outside the building. Should routine communication channels fail, a 700 MHz system and a VHF/HF system are activated.



Left to Right: Mary WB5LBR, Steve WA5FKF, Jon WA9JBR, John Guthans AA5UY, Ron Riviere WB5CXJ, and Michael, KD5MLD



ARES Region 2 Local EC Report

Membership

- # of Region 2 ARES registered locally is 64, a 7.8% increase since last reported
- # of Region 2 LA ARES Section registered is 35, 54.7%
- # of Region 2 BRARC Club members registered is 31, 51.6%
- # of Region 2 Receiving Text Messaging is 28, 43.8%

Region 2 Net

- 4 nets held since the last report with an average of 13 check ins

Training

- 16 Emergency Amateur Radio Operators (EAROs) attended the Region's 2nd Quarter ARES training session at the American Red Cross Capital Area Chapter's Headquarters on Sherwood Commons.

The co-hosts, Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD, and Steve Irving, WA5FKF, presented topics covering emergency amateur radio communication authorization, and responsibilities, and Red Cross's Disaster Services Technology. In addition, attendees toured Red Cross's Communication Center.

There will be a **2nd Quarter exercise in May** to test the Region's response to a declared emergency.

The 3rd Quarter training meeting is being scheduled to be held at the **EBRP Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness** on **June 13, 2017**, at 7pm, on Harding Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA. More information will be forthcoming.

Link: [LA ARES Emergency Op Plan](#)

By Michael Nolan, KD5MLD

Scouting



- There is ongoing club recruitment for AROs to assist with Radio Merit Badge. Contact Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD, Radio Scouting Coordinator for more information.
- Any Scout or Scouter interested in utilizing Avondale Scout Reservation Radio Society's vanity call sign, please contact Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD.
- There were 6 Club AROs that assisted with operating K2BSA/5 at the Istrouma Area Council's Centennial Celebration, March 24-

- 26, 2017, at BREC Fair Grounds on Airline. Round robins, 15 to 20 minute presentations, on *What is Amateur Radio?*, *Radio Protocols*, and *Station Operations* was held when weather permitted. Attendance was estimated to be about 300 people and was light due to severe weather. A Scouting "Thank You" was held at the Club's March program meeting where the Istrouma Area Council Centennial Celebration patch was presented individually to the volunteers. Recipients were Cory (an Eagle Scout), KG5QCU; Elmer, N5EKF; Paul (Past Council Physician), WA4MXT; Thornton, K5HLC; Jon, WA9JBR; and Mike (an Eagle Scout), KD5MLD, Radio Scouting Coordinator.

By Michael Nolan, KD5MLD



"Making Expo"

Saturday, April 29

Goodwood Library

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

****Dan has requested homemade rigs and kits for the exhibit.**

Link: [Red Stick '17 Info](#)

Dan will be setting up at 10:00 AM

Contact Dan Lott, KF5TQN



Chris Overbey, WA5DM, hosts a Radio Scouting Net on the second Thursday of every month. Time is 9 PM Central on Echolink *JOTA-365* (480809). Check in and compare notes about your JOTA station and all Radio Scouting topics. We're getting a good turnout of experts, newbies, and everybody in-between, sharing insights into what works and what doesn't work so well. Don't miss it.

This is a great net for anyone interested in ham radio and Scouting. Well organized and covers topics like scout camps on the air, Field Day, and JOTA/JOTI (Jamboree On The Air/Internet).

Also on Saturdays many Scout camps are on HF. Suggested frequencies are 14.290 MHz, 7.190 MHz, and 3.940 MHz.

– By Elmer Tatum, N5EKF

Saturday 29 April
3:00 – 7:00 PM



Follow link [Astronomy Day](#)
Highland Road Park Observatory

BRARC will be available to help the kids send their names in CW, and possibly make repeater contacts, and/or HF contacts.

For more information contact Dana Browne, AD5VC.

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

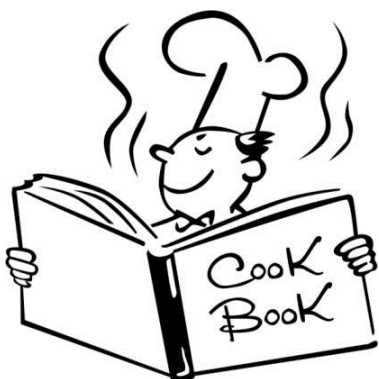
Hamcom, Irving, TX

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

12 August

Shreveport Hamfest, Shreveport, LA

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



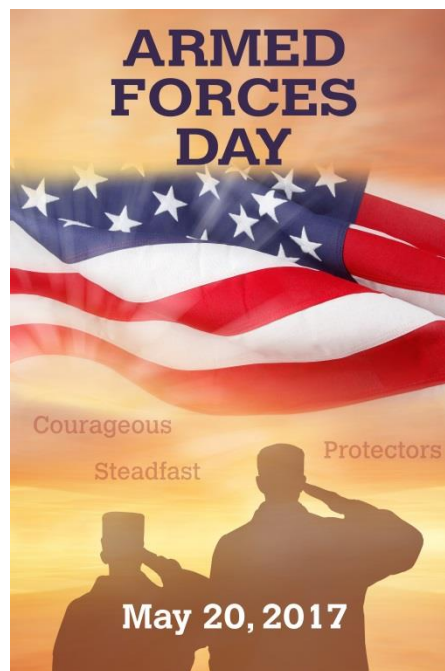
BRARC 50th Anniversary Cook Book

Does anyone have a copy of the 50th 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 80th Anniversary year.

Contact Rick Pourciau, NV5A, at 757-1545

USS KIDD SPECIAL EVENT

20 May 17



Operators Needed

1000 - 1630

This event is listed in the June issue of QST that will be distributed during the first 2 weeks of May. Last year, operators made 75 contacts on Armed Forces Day, and it was my first time to operate.

Contact *Jen*



W5KID



Club members activated W5KID on Saturday 18 March for the Louisiana QSO party. We were happy to have newly licensed operators and special guests visit. Jen was able to make a confirmed contact with an operator in Sweden. We also made a few contacts when the bands were open on Wednesday 29 March in observance of Vietnam Veteran's Day. The next special event is on Armed Forces Day on Saturday 20 May.



**Leonard Bowman, W5ZDW;
grandson Trent, and Robin Hudson,
KK5RH**



**Clay, new technician and
Brett Hebert, KG5IQU**

W5KID

Saturday 18 March

We enjoyed an unexpected visit from Andy Allen, KF5ORM, President of the Shreveport Amateur Radio Association (SARA) Club and his family. He extended an invitation to the Shreveport Hamfest on 12 August.



**Donnie Allen; Andy Allen, KF5ORM, President of Shreveport SARA club;
Logan Hebert KG5LLM; Brett Hebert, KG5IQU, and Jen Bordelon, K5NMT**

Pictures by Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

THE OTHER SIDE OF DX'ING IF YOU CAN HEAR THEM, CAN THEY HEAR YOU?

Several months ago Dick Burroughs, N5KIP, gave a talk on how to adjust your receiver to pull in those weak signals to a level that they could be understood. This short article takes the other side with the equation of what good is hearing them if you can't get through the pileups and all the QRN and QRM on that frequency.

A short 4 column response to the above equation can be found in QST's 2017 March's edition in a section called, "The Doctor is In" written by Jack R. Hallas, W1ZR. He looks at 3 variables in getting your signal out: height of the antenna with the base line comparison being a 35 ft dipole, the addition of a linear amplifier, and the further addition of a 3 element yagi antenna. Propagation and other variables were not considered.

My understanding of the short article is the following.

1. For working 20 m, a wire dipole antenna at a minimum height of 35 ft is the base standard for this article. It is also the most economic approach to getting your signal out around the world.
2. For another \$800.00 to \$1,000 for a kW linear amplifier, the signal strength can be boosted 10 dB or about 1.7 S-units while still using the wire dipole located at a 35 ft. height. 1.7 S-units will get your through some pileups when your signal

simply can't be heard or requires too much effort on the part of the DX contact to read you.

3. Forgo the amplifier and put up a 3 element Yagi antenna at 35 ft and you get a 4.5 dB increase or approximately a .75 S-unit increase. However, acquiring a properly functioning Yagi antenna with the cost of the Yagi, rotor, and installation could easily exceed the cost of a kW amplifier. Many subdivisions also have restrictions on antenna types and height so putting up a 3 element Yagi or even a hex beam may not be legally possible or even desirable.

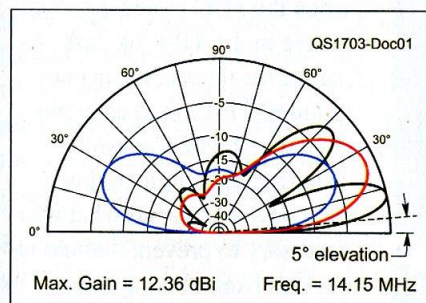


Figure 1 — Comparison of the EZNEC elevation patterns of the three antennas used in the comparison. The blue pattern is that of a 20-meter wire dipole 35 feet above typical ground (conductivity, 0.005 S/m, dielectric constant, 13), the red pattern is that of a three-element Yagi at the same height, while that of the same antenna at 75 feet is shown in black. While the peak gain of each may be of interest, the intensity at 5° elevation (dotted line) was used in the comparison, as discussed in the text.

So where are we going with all of this. Take a look at Table 1 along with Figure 1 in the article.

Continued on Page 15

Table 1**Comparison of DX Effectiveness of Different Station Upgrades on 20 Meters**

Configuration	Signal Change in Strength (dB)	S-Meter Increase (S-units)
Baseline; 100 W, dipole at 35 feet	0	0
Linear Amplifier — 500 W	7.0	1.2
Linear Amplifier — 1,000 W	10.0	1.7
Linear Amplifier — 1,500 W	11.8	2.0
Three-Element Yagi at 35 feet	4.5	0.75
Three-Element Yagi at 75 feet	10.7	1.8
Linear 500 W + Yagi at 35 feet	11.5	1.9
Linear 1,500 W + Yagi at 35 feet	16.3	2.7
Linear 1,500 W + Yagi at 75 feet	22.5	3.8

Several scenarios are presented. Best of all worlds, we could use a 1500 W amplifier coupled with a Yagi antenna at 75 ft and we could have a 3.8 S-unit reading over a simple 35 ft dipole. Read the article, look over the chart and graph and decide your course of action.

Material is taken from 2017 March edition of QST, "The Doctor is In". "Making Your Signal Stronger at That Location". page 62-63. Author is Joel R. Hallas.

Submitted by Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

New ARRL Publication

Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur

by H. Ward Silver, NØAX

Good practices for electrical safety, lightning protection and RF management.

NEW!

[Order Now](#)



The topic of grounding has led to many spirited conversations with varying opinions. This publication may be a good resource for safety and for saving friendships. – Jen

[Order Now](#)



Congratulations to the members of BRARC on the 80th Anniversary from the members of Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Service, BEARS, in Morgan City.

-Jackie ,KA5LMZ

Editor's Note: I received this report from Jackie Price, KA5LMZ, on the Black Bear Special Event Station on 22 April.



Ramona Jobe, KG5HNO; Esther Simon, N5YOP; Deborah Price, N5FMI; Rudy Duchan, WA5QNH; Herman Campbell, KN5GRK; Mel Simon, WD5CAE; Jackie Price, KA5LMZ; Margaret Musso, XYL of SK Frank, WA5QHV; Frank Price, N5LOD

"We had a great day on the banks of the Bayou Teche. Counting hams and visitors, we had a total of 22 people.

Unfortunately, 40 and 20 m decided not to make an appearance or do so just briefly. We were able to make a few contacts each time the band came up, but that was not often. Everyone who tried to reach us had the same result, dead band. We did make a couple interesting contacts for Marconi Day, one with a nuclear ship and then the last contact with the Dominican Republic. If you have ever worked and set up a special event station on site, you know exactly what we ran into."

***Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club
Founders' Day
23 April 2017***



***Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club
Founders' Day
23 April 2017***



Photos submitted by Robin Hudson, KK5RH
and Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

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](#) and click on the picture below.



Radio Loan Program

Visit [BRARC.org](#) for
More information and
Application.



Thank you to those who contributed to this issue. Please contact your editor with any comments, suggestions, or topics of interest. – Jen K5NMT

