



RF NEWS

July 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

From The President July 2017

I hope you are staying cool during these dog days of summer. My wife and I were fortunate that we could cool off during our Alaska – California trip in June. Although I missed our June club meetings and Field Day, I saw a lot of beautiful sights in the western part of our country. Part of the trip was an Alaskan cruise. I can tell you first hand, that cruise lines are not supportive of ham radio operators. I was told by Holland America Lines, to leave my HT home, it would not be permitted on the ship. During an onboard presentation by the captain, we were told that the ship's radios could communicate on HF, VHF/UHF as well as satellite. So my travelling friend, W2HZ and I did not get any operating time in during the trip.

I heard that the club's Field Day operation was an overwhelming success. Thanks go out to Dana Browne, AD5VC and the crew for putting together another great FD. The USS KIDD operation on July 4th scored a first with JT-65 digital mode being used to make contacts. Thanks to Dave Thomas, K5CGX and Brett Hebert, KG5IQU for their efforts.

Speaking of the USS KIDD, Dave Thomas and I will be meeting with the Museum Director about installing an antenna on the roof of the museum. This would allow us to once again operate a station in the museum lobby for special events.

Our webmaster, John Krupsky, WA5MLF has updated our website calendar, so you can keep track of upcoming events. One event to schedule now is our **DXpedition to Grand Isle, LA for October 27-29, 2017**. This will again be an IOTA NA-168 operation running 2-3 rigs from a house on the beach. Come for one night, the day, or stay the weekend. It's a fun operating event. Contact Vernon Morris, AA5O, if you are interested.

Todd Huovinen, AB5TH, our Secretary, is already thinking about the club for 2018. Todd is our **Nominating Committee Chairman** and is putting together a slate of candidates for the November election. We are looking for any club member interested in helping participate in club business activities during 2018. There are no qualifications other than being a club member and holding an Amateur Radio license. We are in need of candidates for all the offices and Board positions, so please consider volunteering a little of your time. Please contact Todd at if you are interested in running for an office.

We are in need of a member to head up our **Fall Technician Class**. The class materials, format, and power points are already created and several members have agreed to teach. This individual would be responsible for coordinating the class and the instructors. These classes would be conducted at the Main Library on Goodwood. If you are interested, please contact me at .

Jennifer Bordelon, K5NMT continues to do an outstanding job as editor of our RF News. Thank you, Jennifer. As you can see, while reading this edition, the quality of our newsletter is superior to many other clubs. However, this newsletter will only be a success if our members supply information to be printed. Articles are always valued, but even if you only have a paragraph, or a couple of sentences, that you want to convey to members, please send it to Jennifer at .

We are into hurricane season, and our July club meeting will focus on emergency communications. Steve Irving, WA5FKF and Gerard DuCote, W5TZX will present *EMCOM & Public Safety*. This meeting will take place at the **American Red Cross Building** and will be preceded by a VE exam session at 6 pm. We will be touring the **Red Cross Communications Center** and hearing how you can participate as an operator during an emergency. Please use the south side entrance to the building. Hope to see you there.

73,
Jon, WA9JBR

DON'T FORGET!

July Meeting Location
Red Cross Building
Sherwood Commons



25 July (Tue) VE Testing 6:00 PM

***Red Cross Bldg**

4655 Sherwood Common Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

25 July (Tue) BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM

***Red Cross Bldg**

4655 Sherwood Common Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Program Topic: *Emcom/Public Service*

1 Aug (Tue) BRARC Board Meeting

Red Cross Building 6:30 PM

21 Aug (Mon) Solar Eclipse

29 Aug (Tue) BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM

Goodwood Library

Program Topic: Winlink, Global Radio

Email - By Daniel Webb, K5DMW



Fridays at Frank's in
Baton Rouge at 7:30 AM

Saturdays at James Grill in
Denham Springs at 6:30 AM

Hamfest Calendar

12 August

Delta Division Convention
Shreveport Bossier Hamfest
Shreveport, LA
[Shreveport Hamfest Link](#)

22 September

Central Louisiana ARC Hamfest
Alexandria, LA
[CLARC Hamfest Link](#)

11 November

Greater New Orleans Hamfest
Crescent City Amateur Radio Group
Harahan, LA
[GNO Hamfest Link](#)



Please submit any topics, articles or photos by August 15.

I welcome your contributions, comments and complaints.

Jen k5nmt



Excitement is building for the Solar Eclipse on 21 August, both for the spectacular show, and how it will affect the propagation map.

The Highland Road Park Observatory
is hosting an event
11 AM - 3 PM

Link: [Eclipse](#)

NASA Link: [NASA Eclipse](#)



Space.com Link: [Eclipse](#)

Contest Corral

[ARRL Contest Calendar](#)

[Non ARRL Contests Link](#)

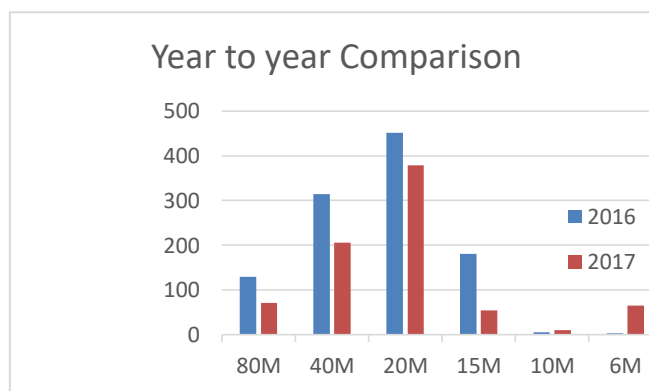
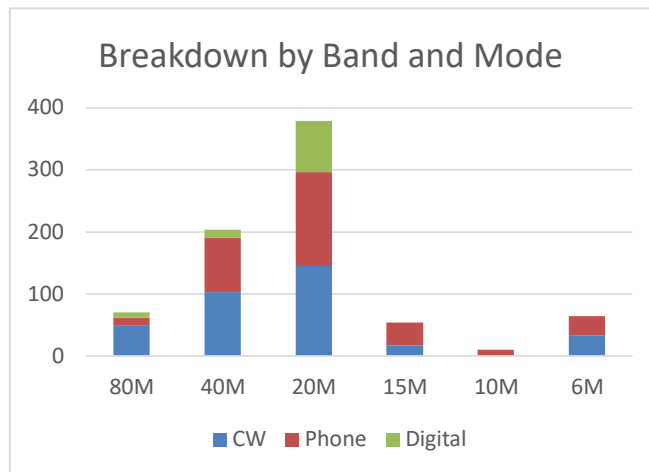
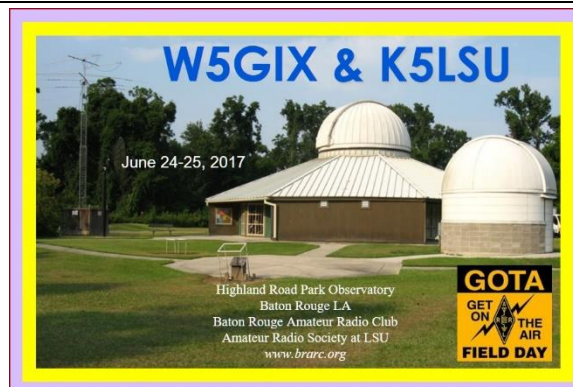
Summary of Field Day 2017

As usual, the Baton Rouge ARC operated as W5GIX from the Highland Road Park Observatory. We used two tribanders, one supplied by AD5XY, two 40m dipoles, and an 80m dipole. Our participation was lower than it has been in years past. I counted 15 different operators in the log, at least 20 others not in the log, and 4 members of the public participated at the GOTA station. We think this low turnout was due in large part to the bad weather forecast for the weekend that kept the public away. Despite the weather prediction, we had to stop only once, for 20 minute, on Saturday afternoon, due to lightning in the vicinity.

Our setup on Saturday morning went smoothly despite the very soggy ground. We set up two stations devoted primarily to SSB and CW, and one station that was used for digital modes and some SSB. 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 315 CW QSOs, 218 SSB, and 104 digital contacts on the 3 HF stations. Six meters opened up for several hours, providing 34 SSB and 33 CW contacts. The GOTA station, which operated under the K5LSU call, got 80 contacts, mostly on 20 and 15, thanks to Brynn, KG5KRV, Logan, KG5LLM, and Jen, K5NMT. Our efforts netted every ARRL section one US section, NNY, and five Canadian sections, ONE, NT, AB, MB, NL. CW continues to be our workhorse mode. We really did not utilize 80m as much as we could have, with no phone QSOs on 80m. We also had no significant effort on 10m, which apparently was not open for very long. We did have three times as many digital contacts as last year, primarily on 20M, due to the work of the Hebert clan KG5IQU, KG5IRS, KG5KRV, KG5LLM, plus Gerry AG5AY, Mike KD5MLD and Elmer N5EKF. The CW and SSB numbers are down by 40% over the previous year. Once again, Lee, W5ZDW, put in a long stint overnight on CW and Vern AA5O also worked CW for a while. For phone, the log shows the efforts of Jen K5NMT, Vern AA5O, Mary WB5LBR, Synomen KG5IRS, Mike KD5MLD, John WA5MLF, Todd AB5TH, and Tom KE5LVQ. There are undoubtedly others who were not recorded in the log. Our QSO points came to 1134 versus 1758 last year.

We also did a number of activities in addition to operating. N5BUD had his Morse code sending table, and Dan KF5TQN had his SDR radio set up. While we did send out a press release, we did not get a reporter to come this year like in years past. Because of the flooding the week prior, our Red Cross representative had to beg off her visit.





Mike KD5MLD soldering under Vern AA5O's tutelage



KG5IRS Synomen at the digi station



Gerard W5TZX helps a GOTA operator

The food Saturday night, from our “Extra Class” cook Robin KK5RH, was delicious, as was the Sunday breakfast that Gerard, W5TZX provided. Overall, we had fun playing radio, we ate well, and we showed off amateur radio to some of 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

- Note: As a direct result of Field Day we did get a renewal of an older member, David M. Hunter, W5DUU. He is the son of John Hunter, Ham, and past President of LSU. He and Buddy, N5BUD, knew each other from way back. – Thornton Cofield, K5HLC



March 2017 VE TEST RESULTS

2017 continues to be a great year. The winter licensing class resulted in three new technicians. The March 16, 2017 VE team consisted of Brett KG5IQU, Dick N5KIP, Wayne N5YFC and Synomen KG5IRS.

The newly licensed Technicians were:

Clint Gremillion KG5SJQ of Port Allen, LA

Karl Domangue KG5SJR of Baton Rouge, LA

Sam Armand KG5SJU of Prairieville, LA

Congratulations to all.

73 de Brett KG5IQU

April 2017 VE TEST RESULTS

The 2017 2nd quarter added more Amateur Radio operators to the roll. The April 25, 2017 VE exam session saw three achieve technician licenses and one achieve both technician and general in the same sitting. The VE team consisted of Synomen KG5IRS, Michael KD5MLD, Daniel N5KHM, Todd AB5TH, Vernon AA5O, Robin KK5RH and Buddy N5BUD.

Chad Grand KG5TBK of Baton Rouge, LA achieved Technician and General Licenses.

The newly licensed Technicians were:

James Harvey KG5TBL of Denham Springs, LA

Nathan Lemoine Jr. KG5TBM of Baton Rouge, LA

Gary Fulton KG5TBN of Baton Rouge, LA

Congratulations to all.

73 de Synomen KG5IRS

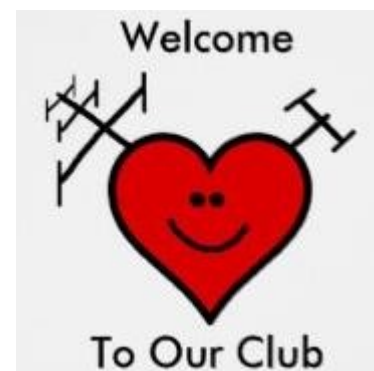
Upcoming VE Testing Dates

July 25

***Red Cross Building
on Sherwood Commons**

October 31

Goodwood Library



**BRARC Meeting 29 June
"Backyard HF Antennas"
Dave Redfearn from
The Lafayette Radio Club**



From left to right: Don Austin, KF5OHZ; Dave Redfearn, N4ELM; Paul Catrou, WA4MXT; Brook Samuel, N5DGK

Introducing antenna landscaping, revisiting that old nemesis, SWR, and illustrating the concept of antenna modeling Dave brought us to point where we might want to take another look at our antenna setup. Most of us either have or had wire antennas of the dipole or long wire type either made by ourselves or inexpensively bought from the many vendors that are available.

But the question remains,
"Are we getting our signal out to where we want it to be and hopefully heard?"

Landscape design is simply laying out pictorially your antenna's axis position in relation to your property elements such as house, trees, power lines, and RF lobe direction coverage of your signal.

Antenna modeling software allows a person to do "what if" scenarios of radiated power using such variables as ground type, antenna height and type, coaxial cable type and length, etc. Depending on the information entered good modeling software will deliver such valuable information as dB loss, SWR, and different graphic presentations of your radiated signal.

The question yet to be answered is, "Does the modeling results display actual conditions and accurate radiated power and direction coverage."

Antenna modeling provides the framework for good antenna design and effectiveness but one other tool is needed to address efficiency. That tool is an Antenna Analyzer whose principle value lies in the realm of measuring actual antenna conditions. Generally a handheld device, the antenna analyzer allows the tweaking of such antenna components as antenna height, wire length, and cable type to achieve lower SWR and dB loss.

Dave Redfearn ended his presentation with several pages of good reference sources. To view his presentation please visit <http://brarc.org/photos/club-meetings/>

By Thornton Cofield, K5HLC



BRARC ARES Region 2 Report July, 2017

Membership

- # of Region 2 ARES registered locally is 69, an increase of 3 members since last reported;
- # of Region 2 LA ARES Section registered is 29, same as last month;
- # of Region 2 BRARC Club members registered is 32; 46.4%.

Region 2 Net

- 4 nets held since the last report with an average of 15 check ins.

Training

The next quarter training is being planned to be held on the second **Tuesday of September, 09.12.17**, at **19:00 CDT**. The Planning & Training Committee will meet in early August to plan locations and future training agendas for the upcoming year (September thru August, 2017-2018).

We would like to hold the meetings in different Parishes of Region 2. If you have a facility that can accommodate 20 to 30 participants, please contact Michael, KD5MLD. If you have any topics of interest that you would like to see covered in training, please contact Michael, KD5MLD.



As of this writing, Michael, KD5MLD, is Jambo bound to the Summit in West Virginia for the 2017 National Scout Jamboree. The event is held every four years on 10,000 acres overlooking the New River Gorge. 31,000 Scouts, Venturers, and Scouters will be attending. K2BSA Amateur Radio Association will be operating as K2BSA. You are invited to tune into the various bands modalities, and make contact with the Scouts who will be working on their Radio Merit Badge. Activities include communicating with the astronauts aboard the ISS, fox hunting, ballooning, satelliting, utilizing voice, and the various digital modalities including CW to communicate around the world. For a complete rundown including days of activities, operation, bands, and modalities, click on K2BSA Association at <https://www.k2bsa.net>.

By Michael Nolan, KD5MLD

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

Fireworks on the 4th



W5KID explodes across multiple modes!

On a beautiful summer day in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, while celebrating the independence and freedom that were declared 241 years ago, W5KID also declared its freedom and independence. Inside the USS KIDD Veterans Museum Ship's Radar Jamming Room it was like digital, CW & phone fireworks were set off. The oohs and aahs rang out from the W5KID operators, loggers and the amateur radio operators able to make a QSO with the KIDD. In what is a recent record, the radio room was jammed with nine amateur radio operators at one time! Everyone kept their cool and enthusiasm as 110 contacts from 31 states popped in on 2 bands and 3 modes.

W5KID began the day operating levee portable from the banks of the Mississippi River on 40m in the digital mode JT65. Once on board the ship, the waterfall continued to light up, this time on 20m. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club members were able to make successful JT65 contacts as W5KID using JT65-HF HB9HQX software and a Yaesu FT991 connected via USB to the radio room's PC. Those present commented how the digital mode allowed elmering to continue inside the tight quarters of the W5KID radio room.

Dah di dah dit dah dah di dah was next as Dana (AD5VC) produced a key and began calling CQ on 20m CW. His efforts were soon rewarded, and W5KID recorded its second mode of the day. As Seth logged, they were able to make eight contacts in eight different states in a short period.

John (WA5MLF) would close out the afternoon on 20m phone. John was able to make contact with a good friend of W5KID, Kappy (WA4WTG) who has made 8 contacts with the USS KIDD over the past 2 years. John continued to work them right until the end when the ship began to make preparations for its nighttime spectacular.

Thanks to all who helped make it a successful operating event. Digital Thank Yous go to Jerry (AG5AY), Dana (AD5VC), Gerard (W5TZX), Glen (KF5FNP) & Elmer (N5EKF) for the guidance and encouragement on digital modes.

Those participating at the museum were Bill (KE5TA), Mary (WB5LBR), Dave (K5CGX), Mike (KD5MLD), Brett (KG5IQU), Synomen (KG5IRS), Brynn (KG5KRV), Logan (KG5LLM), Ken (W5KQ), Dana (AD5VC), John (WA5MLF), and Thornton (K5HLC), as well as Seth and Tyler, 2 LSU students currently studying for their licenses. Special Thanks to the staff of the USS KIDD Veterans Museum for their hard work and support.

More information on the USS KIDD Veterans Museum is available at www.usstkidd.com

The next planned activation of W5KID is in the fall. Look for details in the RF News and brarc.org.

By Brett Hebert, KG5IQU



Seth (LSU student) and John, WA5MLF



Brynn, KG5KRV, Synomen, KG5IRS, and Logan, KG5LLM



Mike, KD5MLD, and Brett, KG5IQU



Dana, AD5VC, and Tyler (LSU student)

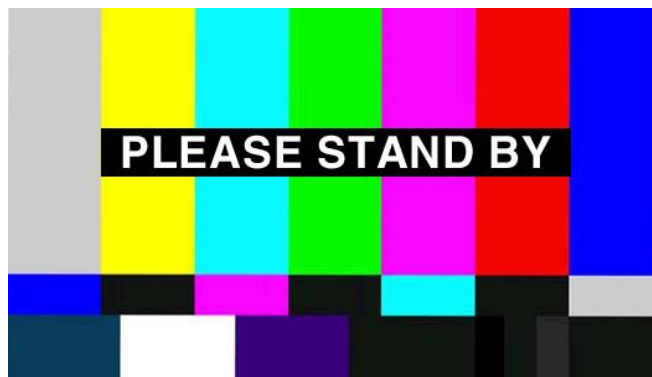
Snippets from your Secretary

I am heading up the election committee for the club this year. Gerard DuCote (W5TZX), Robin Hudson (KK5RH) and I will be seeking club members to fill all positions for next year. We will be returning to paper ballots for the election. I will send an electronic copy of the ballot to Jennifer to publish in the October edition of the RF News. You can print and cut the ballot out of the RF News and bring them with you so the Election Committee can tally the votes during the program of the November club meeting which will be the annual club auction. I will also have a few paper ballots with me at the November meeting for those who do not have access to a printer.

I will be contacting the current officers and board members to see if they are still planning on serving on the board of directors for next year. I will publish the open positions in the August and September editions of the RF News. We will reveal the slate of new officers at the October club meeting. The newly elected officers will be sworn in at the BRARC 80th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday December 9th. If you are interested in serving on next year's Board of Directors please contact me.

My phone # is 225-788-2668
You can also contact either Robin or Gerard as well.

73,
Todd-AB5TH



... for more information

28 November

BRARC Meeting
Pot Luck, Annual Club Auction,
and Election of Officers

9 December

80th Anniversary Banquet
at Mike Anderson's
New Officers' Induction

- There are many 80th Anniversary Commemorative Items available for purchase from various vendors.

The newest item is a BRARC Clock
\$29 from Ham Crazy [Link](#)
See Gerard DuCote for further info.



80th Anniversary Commemorative Name Badges and Mugs



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

Follow the link to place your order.

[The SignMan Badges and Mugs](http://www.brarc.org)



BRARC Facebook Page

Please visit and "like" our BRARC Facebook page. You will find a link at the club's website: <http://www.brarc.org>.

Radio Loan Program

Radios are available for loan to BRARC members for a 90-day period. The procedure is to complete the application available on our website, and pay the rental fee of \$20 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.

For Details, Pictures, and Loan Application:

Go to www.brarc.org, and click on the Radio Loan tab.



CW Slow Code Practice
Mondays ~ 10 meter net 28.450 USB
8:00pm



August 19 & 20

The BEARS Morgan City Club will be working a special event station Aug 19 & 20 as part of the International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend. They will operate the club call sign W5BMC.

The lighthouse is the Southwest Reef Light House that was moved to Berwick in the '90s, and is the feature piece of Berwick's Lighthouse Park. They will be operating from the Berwick river front. Besides the ham radio SES, there will plenty of food, music, and arts & crafts.

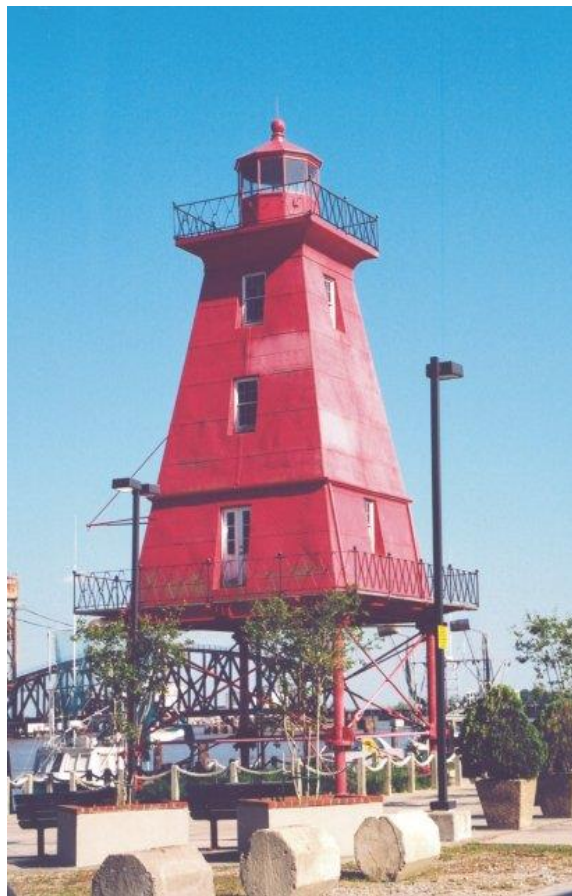
For further information, contact Jackie, KA5LMZ.

-Submitted by Elmer Tatum, N5EKF

[Link: International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend](#)

[Link: QCWA Article](#)

➤ Perhaps a Club Road Trip?



Southwest Reef Lighthouse photo in 2004

BRARC Elmers

Buddy Brown, N5BUD

Keith Davis, KE5LVT

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



PLEASE SUPPORT Senate Bill 1534 "Amateur Radio Parity Act"

This legislation is near and dear to my heart. I live in a deed restricted neighborhood, and have gone around with the HOA over my meager antenna set up. I know for many of you this is not a concern but some of us it keeps us from having decent antennas up at our QTH's. As much as would love to have a giant antenna farm with a 3 element 40m beam, 6 element tribander and 15 element 2m beam, I just want to put up some dipoles, maybe a quad and have my 2m vertical at a decent working height. So please write your Senators, and ask them to support Senate Bill 1534.

Senator John Kennedy

<https://www.kennedy.senate.gov/content/contact-senator>

Senator Bill Cassidy

<https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/contact>

Thank you, Elmer Tatum, N5EKF

Update from the ARRL

07/13/2017

The [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) of 2017 was introduced in the US Senate on July 12, marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are the Senate sponsors. The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowner's association (HOA) or subject to any private land use regulations, the right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes. The Senate bill, S. 1534, is identical to H.R. 555, which passed the US House of Representatives in January.

"Amateur Radio continues to be a critical part of our emergency communications operations," Wicker said. "Mississippians learned firsthand after Hurricane Katrina how Amateur Radio operators can provide a resilient, distributed network to first responders and disaster relief organizations when other communications tools fail."

"Amateur Radio operators provide an invaluable service to their communities by assisting local emergency communication efforts when disasters occur and main lines are down," Blumenthal said. "This bipartisan measure ensures that operators have access to the tools they need to support our first responders when lives are at stake."

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai applauded the bill in late January, saying that it would "help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, expressed the League's appreciation to the Senate sponsors. "ARRL is grateful for the support of Senators Wicker and Blumenthal for sponsoring this important piece of legislation, and for advocating this bill for the past 3 years," he said. "Their continuing support is critical to the success of our efforts." President Roderick also thanked Senator John Thune (R-SD), who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee, for "championing the Parity Act in the Senate since the beginning of our effort."

The bill has enjoyed widespread, bipartisan support. In the 114th Congress, nearly 130 cosponsors signed onto the legislation in the House and the Senate. The legislation, which strikes a carefully crafted balance for all concerned parties, is the result of months of work culminating in the accord reached by ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI). The measure provides for the guarantee of an effective outdoor antenna while protecting the aesthetic concerns of HOAs.

In a statement, ARRL said it looks forward to working with the bipartisan leadership of the Senate and the Commerce Committee to help move the Wicker-Blumenthal legislation through the Senate and to the President's desk.



Clark Ruffner, KE5LS, retired newscast director of WBRZ-TV Channel 2 has passed away. Clark worked with Gerard DuCote, W5TZK, in the early 1980s. Please keep Clark's family in your thoughts.

[Link to Full Obituary](#)

- Submitted by Todd Huovinen, AB5TH

From the Editor

The Club has had a busy summer with more activities to come. This was my first Field Day as a licensed ham, and I experienced the most enjoyment from getting to know our club members on a more personal level. I claim the victory over Idaho this year, and I tried for at least an hour after midnight to make a confirmed QSO with Guam, but he could not copy my entire report. Even though he copied most of my report, I exercised my integrity to let him go.

I'm eagerly anticipating the Solar Eclipse because something exciting may happen, and I'm a borderline optimist. Does anyone have any plans?

THANK YOU to everyone who submitted articles and photos for this issue. It makes my job easier and more enjoyable! You certainly made RF News your club newsletter this month.

Please consider sending me a one-liner on your FD memories for the August issue of RF News. I will also include a collage of photos.

I leave you with a picture of the reward for those who endured 'til the end.

73 - Jen, K5NMT

