



# RF NEWS

**December 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)

<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
<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



## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club 2018 Board of Directors



Seated from left to right: President Robin Hudson KK5RH, Vice-President Todd Huovinen AB5TH, and Board Member Jennifer Bordelon K5NMT

Standing from left to right: Board Member Thornton Cofield K5HLC, Board Member Bill Smith KE5TA, Board Member Jerry Clouatre AG5AY, Board Member Dave Thomas K5CGX, Treasurer Tom Harrell KE5LVQ, Board Member Ken Shutt W5KQ, Secretary Brett Hebert KG5IQU, and Board Member Brook Samuel N5DGK



## From The President December 2017

We've come to the end of an active and enjoyable year for the club. We participated in a lot of fun operating events during the year, including celebrating 80-years of the club history. I've been told that for a club to have existed 80-years in Baton Rouge that is the exception rather than the rule. So thanks to all the members that have kept the club going and made all the events as successful as they were. And this December was no different.

We again operated on Pearl Harbor Day from the USS KIDD on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Dave Thomas reports that 50 contacts were made and 10 of our members participated as operators. Thanks Dave for organizing this event and all the W5KID events during the year!

If you weren't able to come to the Christmas and Anniversary Banquet, you really missed a great event. We had 42 people attend, with many spouses joining us this year. And boy, did they get a meal! Mike Anderson's offered us a comfortable, holiday decorated venue with Christmas music and a menu of delicious entrees that

pleased everyone. I had a program of slides running during the cocktail hour highlighting our 2017 activities.

During desert, Gerard, W5TZX presented a club history and I followed with a slide deck showing the significant accomplishments of 2017. And thank you Thornton, K5HLC for the beautiful BRARC anniversary cake. We conducted the induction of the new Officers and Board members for 2018. Robin, KK5RH concluded the program by presenting over \$500 of door prizes to the members and guests. In addition, each lady took home a beautiful Christmas poinsettia.

I was happy to hand out three awards for Outstanding Service to members that did an extraordinary job for the club. The first award went to John Krupsky, WA5MLF our webmaster, who updated, expanded, and maintained our website over the year. Many new attendees to our monthly meetings first heard about us at [www.brarc.org](http://www.brarc.org).

The second award went to Jennifer Bordelon, K5NMT, our Editor of RF News. Jennifer created a new look with added artwork and articles which have received great reviews. I have heard that the Advocate has contacted her, but hopefully she will be staying with us!

Our last award went to Buddy Brown, N5BUD for his many years of service in heading up the training classes, VEC testing, and the USS KIDD, W5KID events.

- Continued on Page 4

FTP Continued -

When I first joined the club, Buddy was coordinating all these efforts. Now with the help of others, Buddy has a little more time to himself.

Thank you John, Jennifer, and Buddy from all the members of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club. We appreciate the extra time you spent in making our club more fun to be a part of!

With a new slate of Officers and Board members for 2018, this is my last month to act as your President. The other Board members that are leaving are Steve Irving WA5FKF, Daniel Smith N5KHM, and Vernon Morris AA5O. I want to thank these individuals for their years of service to the Board. Your work and your guidance have been most appreciated.

I am excited about our new Board, with several new faces, anchored by a group of experienced officers. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to enjoying the events that they will plan for 2018. I am happy to pass the torch to our new President, Robin Hudson, KK5RH and I know he will continue to make the club enjoyable and inclusive to all.

I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Make it a safe holiday time and I look forward to seeing you in 2018!

73,  
Jon, WA9JBR

## [ARRL Contest Calendar](#)

### January 2018

- 1      **Straight Key Night**
- 6      **Kids Day**
- 6-7    **RTTY Roundup**
- 20-22   **January VHF**

## [Non ARRL Contests Link](#)

### January 2018

- 13      **North American QSO – CW**
- 20      **North American QSO – SSB**
- 27-28    **Winter Field Day**



## [Winter Field Day Rules](#)



**Kids can tell Santa their wishes on the Santa Net. Click on the info link below.**

[Santa Net Link](#)

# 2018

## Events



**Dec 27 – 30** Boy Scouts Winter Camp at Avondale  
\*\*See Page 9

**Jan 2 (Tues)** BRARC Board Meeting  
Red Cross Building 6:30 PM

**Jan 30 (Tues)** BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM  
Goodwood Library



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

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

## Hamfest Calendar



**January 20, 2018**  
SELARC 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest  
Hammond, LA  
[SELARC Hamfest](#)

## ANNOUNCING RED STICK DX ASSOCIATION

We invite you to join the Red Stick DX Association Facebook Page managed by Robin Hudson, KK5RH.

**It's a great way to help each other work a rare DX entity or meet our DX goals.** It's also a good meeting place during any contest. It adds a little humor to the events. Coming soon is the North American QSO Party – CW on January 13, and the North American QSO Party – SSB on January 20. I plan to post during the SSB contest, and hope to see you there. Of course, we will all follow the log submission rules.

**The main objective of the group is to "do radio together."** DX is icing on the cake. Hope to see you there!

73,  
Jen, K5NMT

## W5KID Event Pearl Harbor Day



Operators present included: Buddy Brown, N5BUD; Dan Lott, KF5TQN; John Krupsky, WA5MLF; Thornton Cofield, K5HLC; Mary McDonald, WB5LBR & Charlie Mercier, KG5VTE

I think everybody had a good time, we made approximately 50 contacts. Idaho, Quebec, New Mexico, Florida, and the North East were well represented. It was cold outside, but the heater worked fine, and we were warm inside. We had a few visitors. I encourage all to participate in future operations.

73, Dave, K5CGX

There were interesting contacts during my turn, including Navy veterans, offspring of Navy vets, one **500 W mobile** station at San Francisco Bay, and stations who have worked other museum ships. Some 20 m contacts had sudden QSB and others were steady. – John, WA5MLF

# Stay Tuned

... for W5KID 2018  
Operating Events  
Or visit [www.W5KID.org](http://www.W5KID.org).

### PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES

- **2018 Club Dues** are now being received by Tom Harrell, KE5LVQ. You can pay the \$25 by credit card, check, or cash at the club meeting on Jan 30, 2018. And remember, you can pay for additional years and lock in the current rate.
- Our membership application has been revised and is now available on our Website Home and Contact page.

[Membership Application](#)

## Auction and Election Night at the BRARC Meeting

From all reports our club had a very successful night of food, camaraderie, and personal acquisition of much needed ham radio necessities at the November 28 Election and Auction night. Food arrangements were handled by Vernon Morris (AA5O) while Brook Samuel (N5DGK), Jen Bordelon (K5NMT), and Dan Lott (KF5TQN) made sure all the auction material was laid out in such an arrangement that rivaled our food display. Speaking of food, the buffet food choices were well worth attending the meeting just to eat. Copious amounts of food from jambalaya, fried chicken, and beef to apple pie, pumpkin pie, cake, and homemade cookies were laid out on the table for our enjoyment.

Entertainment was provided by our club's intrepid world traveler David Assaf (W5XU). When David has a country that he hasn't worked, he travels to that country via amateur radio expedition to make at least a physical contact. With over 20 auction items ranging from a compound bow, quiver, and arrows, to an MFJ micro code tutor, to a solar panel to trickle charge a car battery the auction had it all. Straight man for the auction was Dan Lott (KF5TQN) who handled the logistics of the auction and provided the operating minutiae of each delicate and fully functional piece of equipment. David was so good at his second calling that he had one hapless member bidding against the person who donated the equipment. It was a fun night with the club bringing in \$403.

Our real business of the night was to elect officers and board members for 2018 and that was done. Steve Irving (WA5FKF) was Chair of the Nominating Committee and handled the election. There were no nominations from the floor and the following members were elected:

### 2018 Board Officers

President	Robin Hudson	KK5RH
Vice-President	Todd Huovinen	AB5TH
Treasurer	Tom Harrell	KE5LVQ
Secretary	Brett Hebert	KG5IQU

### 2018 Board Directors

Jerry Clouatre	AG5AY
Thornton Cofield	K5HLC
Jennifer Bordelon	K5NMT
Ken Shutt	W5KQ

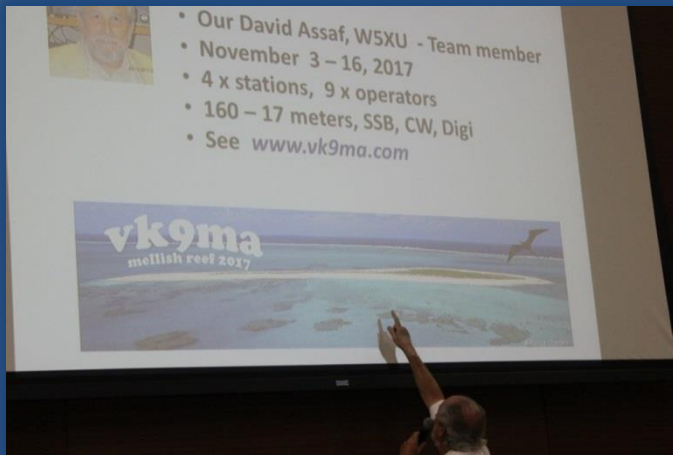
Brook Samuel, N5DGK, Dave Thomas, K5CGX, and Bill Smith, KE5TA, will serve 1 year on the Board.



**The Buffet Feast**

- By Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

# Auction



**Geographic Lesson on David's  
Last DX'pedition**



**"Can you hear me now?"**



**Serious Negotiations Over a  
Code Tutor**



**Sometimes a Little Persuasion is  
Needed**



**Steve Irving, WA5FKF  
Nominating Committee Chairperson**

Photos by Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

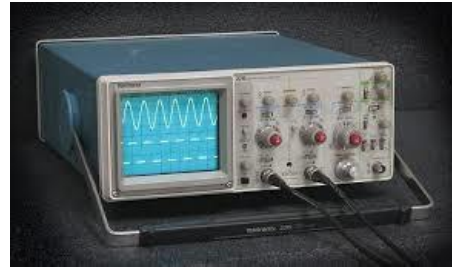
## Donation of Test Equipment

Hank Ellis, K5HDE, one of our club members, has been kind enough to donate three pieces of test equipment to the club. With Hank's donation, we were able to replace our MFJ-269 antenna analyzer. We lost our club's last analyzer in the flood and we are glad to have a replacement. This is a great tool for checking out your antennas and keeping a log of SWR readings for comparison in the future.



**MFJ-269**

For those DYIers, we now have a Tektronix 2215 oscilloscope available for use. Whether you are fixing or building new, this instrument allows you to observe amplitude, frequency, distortion and others over time. It is complete with test probes and a manual.



**Tektronix 2215**

The last test instrument is a RF frequency counter. It is an Eldorado Electronics 1615K1Y2-14 frequency counter. A frequency counter usually measures the number of oscillations or pulses per second in a periodic electronic signal.



**Eldorado Frequency Counter**

BRARC club members can use any of these instruments for your personal use. Contact Jon Reise, WA9JBR for more information.

Thanks to Hank, K5HDE for his kind donation. If you want to make a tax exempt donation to the club for the benefit of the members, please contact us.

*Submitted by Jon Reise, WA9JBR*

## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club ARES & Scouting Report November, 2017



### ARES, Region 2, BRARC Report

#### Membership

- # of Region 2 ARES registered locally is 78, an increase of 1 member since last reported
- # of Region 2 LA ARES Section registered is 32 same as last month
- # of Region 2 BRARC Club members registered is 33; 42.3%

#### Region 2 Net

- 4 nets held since the last report with an average of 14 check ins

- **Training**

The 4th quarter training was held on the second Tuesday of November, 11.14.17, at 19:00 CDT. The training covered the La ARES and Region 2's Emergency Operation Procedures and included important documents need to support the service. Certificates of attendance and training were issued to the following EAROs: Gerald, AG5AY; Dave, K5CGX; Michael, KE5EUA; Jon, WA9JBR; Tom, KE5LVA; Robin, KK5RH, Jeff, KW1SKY; Dan, KF5TQN; Robert, N5ULA; Russ, NS5W. A big thank you to our training instructors: Jon, WA9JBR; Robin, KK5RH; Robert, N5ULA. If you have any topics of interest that you would like to see covered in training and/or are in being a training instructor, please contact Michael, KD5MLD .



### Scouting, K5ASR

Amateur radio operators interested in becoming a Radio, an Electronics, and/or a Computer Merit Badge Counselor for the Boy Scouts of America are encouraged to contact Michael Nolan for information and training. The merit badges are being offered at Camp Istrouma, Avondale Scout Reservation, Clinton, Louisiana, during the upcoming Winter Camp. The cool adventure is from Wednesday, December 27, 2017 to Saturday, December 30, 2017. You can go to the [iac.bsa.org](http://iac.bsa.org) website to learn more about the program and activities.

## December 2017 QST Announcement



### The ARRL International Grid Chase Get ready to kick off 2018 with a new year-long operating event!

*Bart Jahnke, W9JJ  
ARRL Contest Branch Manager*

You may not know this, but your station is in a *Maidenhead grid square*. The entire world is divided into thousands of these 1° latitude × 2° longitude squares, each one with a unique designation. They're all part of a geographic location system adopted in the 1980s at a meeting of the VHF Working Group in Maidenhead, England.

Unless you are a VHF enthusiast, this nugget of information may not mean much. But at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2018, the global Amateur Radio community will be very interested in grid squares.

#### **Get in the Chase**

The objective of the ARRL International Grid Chase is simple: Work stations in as many grid squares as possible and upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World. If you are not currently registered with Logbook of The World, this is a good reason to get started. Go to <https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/getting-started/>. Registration and uploading are *free*.

Link to full article [Grid Chase](#)

## A Note from Buddy, N5BUD

I have recently been asked about doing another club build project by a number of members, so I looked around for a suitable kit to build. I settled on a kit from the four state QRP club called the CRICKET 80a. It is a minimalist 80 meter transceiver, very easy to build, with NO coils to wind and all through hole components. The cost will be less than \$30 depending on how many builders we can get. This will be a good kit to learn soldering with and the 4SQRP club has a nice certificate available for all who make 10 QSOs with it. This, we could possibly do with each other the same night of the build, so practice your Morse code. Contact me, Buddy – N5BUD, at (225) 573-2111 so that we can determine how many kits to order.

Remember, the final cost is determined by the number of kits. You will also need stereo headphones or ear buds and a 9 volt battery.

Let me hear from you, Buddy, N5BUD





## **LA ARES Region 2 4th Quarter Exercise Critique**

On Friday, December 8, 2017, at 10am CST, the quarterly net was held on the 147.165, PL 107.2 Livingston repeater. KD5MLD was the initial NCS. KG5OOW closed the net as KD5MLD was not being heard by the Region AROs. There were nine (9) AROs recorded into the net by KD5MLD. Signal reports received by KD5MLD were from "loud & clear to weak and readable". The net lasted 15 minutes. The AROs reported severe winter weather conditions from their locations which included NCS signal reception, snow accumulation (2.5" to 3"), and road conditions. Locations reported in the Region included Livingston, Ascension, and East Baton Rouge parishes.

The following recommendations are being made, but not limited, to improve amateur radio communication in Region 2:

- In addition to who is calling the net and what frequency, an alternate NCS and frequency will be listed on the "Alert" emails and text messages as primary and secondary frequencies may not be operational or provide coverage. (see IC 205 Communication Plan)
- In the event neither NCSs are heard on the assigned frequencies, any emergency ARO can call the net. The ARO will create a roster from the stations checking into the net and complete a report of events, traffic listed, and other activities. The report will be submitted to the Region's DEC. See "Duties of the Net Control Station", page 19, of the LA ARES EOP.
- During an emergency, all AROs will limit their transmissions to only information requested from the NCS.

I want to personally thank Brett Hutchinson, K5BAH, Livingston Parish Planning, Training, and Exercise Coordinator for allowing LA ARES Region 2 to utilize their 147.165 repeater for this quarter's exercise. Also, thank you to those AROs that participated; KG5OOW, WZ5A, KE5TA, NS5W, K5RMP, KF5ZFS, KW1SKY, N5EKF. Without your participation, we cannot improve our communication response during an emergency. If I left anyone out, please accept my thanks as well. Please forward any additional comments or suggestions.

**Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD**  
**LA ARES Region 2, ADEC**  
**Planning, Training, NCS Coordinator**

## 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](http://www.brarc.org), and click on the Radio Loan tab.

### 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, AB5TH.

## New Year's Resolutions A Fresh Perspective

**A destination I'd like to visit:**

**A food I want to eat more of:**

**I'd like to spend more time doing:**

**A class I'd like to take:**

**A bad habit I'm going to break:**

**Something I need to fix:**

**I'm going to work harder at:**

**I want to wear more of:**

**I want this for my ham shack:**



*I wish you a Merry Christmas,  
and anticipate an eventful  
2018. 73, Jen K5NMT*

*Merry Christmas*

