

RF NEWS

February 2018

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Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Web: brarc.org
Email: brarc @ brarc.org

PresidentRobin Hudson, KK5RHVice PresidentTodd Huovinen, AB5THSecretaryBrett Hebert, KG5IQUTreasurerTom Harrell, KE5LVQ

Directors Brook Samuel, N5DGK

Dave Thomas, K5CGX Ken Shutt, W5KQ

Thornton Cofield, K5HLC Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY Jennifer Bordelon, K5NMT

Bill Smith, KE5TA

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



Feb 24 (Sat) W5BMC Eagle Expo Special Event Morgan City, LA *See Page 7

Feb 27 (Tue) BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM

New Location: Bluebonnet Library 9200 Bluebonnet Boulevard

Program: CHIRP Programming Software

by Dan Lott, KF5TQN

Repeater Operating Procedures by Brook

Samuel, N5DGK

Mar 1 (Thu) Technician Licensing Classes 6:00 PM Main Library on Goodwood 2nd Floor Technology Lab *See Page 4

Mar 6 (Tue) BRARC Board Meeting 6:30 PM Bluebonnet Library

Mar 15 (Thu) Deadline to submit articles for *RF News*

Mar 27 (Tue) BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM Bluebonnet Library Program: Introduction to APRS by Michael Blazek, N5UKZ

Mar 29 (Thu) W5KID Vietnam Veterans Day Special Event (K5CGX) USS KIDD Museum Ship DD-661, Baton Rouge, LA

Hamfest Calendar

February 24

Orange Hamfest
Orange County Convention & Expo
Center Orange, TX
http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/..HamfestInfo

March 9-10

58th Acadiana Hamfest
ARRL Louisiana State Convention
Rayne, LA
www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/

March 17

Greater Houston Hamfest Rosenberg, TX http://houstonhamfest.org/

April 21

NELA Hamfest
West Monroe Convention Center
West Monroe, LA
nelarc.org/hamfest.html

Contest Dates

March 3-4
ARRL International DX – Phone
www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

March 17
Louisiana QSO Party
laqp.louisianacontestclub.org



Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

The Warehouse Restaurant

12328 South Choctaw, Baton Rouge
Between Flannery and Sherwood Forrest

Fridays at 7:30 AM

Frank's on Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge

Saturdays at 6:30 AM Now Two Locations

James Grill & Cafe
205 Florida Ave, Denham Springs

The Warehouse Restaurant, Baton Rouge

BRARC Elmers

Buddy Brown, N5BUD buddybrown@cox.net

Keith Davis, KE5LVT ke5lvt@gmail.com

If you need assistance, please contact one of the above. If you would like to be an Elmer, please contact a Board Member or email the Club at

From the President



Robin Hudson, KK5RH

Thank you all for electing me to be your 2018 BRARC President. This will be our 81st year promoting the hobby in the Baton Rouge area. I am looking forward to another great year serving with the other officers and board of directors.

I was first licensed in 1977 down at the New Orleans Field Office where you had to be there by 8 o'clock sharp with pencil in hand. No calculator. I currently hold the now eliminated Advanced Class License. Over the years my interest in the hobby hasn't changed much, I still enjoy HF Communications and local rag chews on our VHF/UHF repeaters. Because of my hearing loss, most of my operating time these days is spent on CW.

Professionally, I am a Commercial Realtor with Latter & Blum CRE in the Baton Rouge Office.

My goals this year are to promote education (we have a wealth of knowledge & experience collectively among our ranks), and also plan some fun group activities throughout the year. It's a hobby, let's have fun!!

Please continue to watch the club webpage <u>brarc.org</u> and <u>Facebook page</u> for all the latest club & ham radio news.

Best 73, Robin KK5RH



Technician Licensing Classes Begin in March 2018

Amateur Radio Technician license classes will begin March 1, 2018. The classes will be held on Thursdays at 6 PM. The classes will conclude on April 19, 2018 with a VE License Exam Session. The classes and the exam will be located in the 2nd floor Technology Lab of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library's Main Branch at 7711 Goodwood Boulevard.

The recommended text for this year is Stu Turner's <u>hamradioschool.com</u> Technician and General Class License Course Books. The ARRL Ham Radio License Manuals are also recommended as supplemental references. All are available for purchase online.

Newly licensed Amateur Radio Operators and anyone interested in learning about Amateur Radio are welcome to attend. All Club members are invited to stop by and say hi and join the fun.

More information may be found on the Club's website brarc.org or by emailing the Club brarc.org or brarc.org

Future VE Licensing Exam Dates

April 19

April 24

July 31

October 30

www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session

W5KID Operating Schedule USS Kidd



29 March Vietnam Veterans Day

19 May Armed Forces Day

28 May Memorial Day

2 – 3 June Museum Ships Weekend

4 July Independence Day

11 Nov Veterans Day

7 Dec Pearl Harbor Day

Times and dates may vary, and will be included in RF News. Operating times on the weekend are usually 10 AM – 3:30 PM. Sign-up sheets will be available before the events. **Contact Dave Thomas, K5CGX, 225.572.7836.**

Operating the W5KID station provides a great opportunity for new and experienced hams to build camaraderie, learn to operate equipment, and manage pile ups.

USS KIDD Museum Ship W5KID Special Event Operation

Vietnam Veterans Day Thursday March 29, 2018



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.



W5KID Special Event Operation

Station Equipment:

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club assists with maintaining 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. The HF station consists of a Yaesu FT-450D 100 W transceiver with an antenna tuner, to a random wire, 150 ft. long in the ship's rigging.



Operating Frequencies and Time:

SSB 14.240, 7.240 MHz 10:00 am - 3:30 pm CST

cw 14.060, 7.060 MHz or as Museum dictates

For more information about operating W5KID:

Dave Thomas, K5CGX, 225.572.7836

For great pictures and history of the USS KIDD which is celebrating the 75th anniversary of her February 28, 1943 launch check out the websites below. http://www.usskidd.com/home.html

The <u>USS KIDD Veterans Museum</u> is a non-profit organization and supported solely by admissions and contributions. 305 South River Rd. Baton Rouge, LA 70802



13TH ANNUAL EAGLE EXPO

February 22-24, 2018 Morgan City, Louisiana



The BEARS of Morgan City will be hosting a Special Event station Saturday February 24, 2018 to publicize the 13th Eagle Expo. Please refer to Cajun Coast Visitor Center to review all of the information on the various educational events that will take place.

www.cajuncoast.com/13th-annual-eagle-expo-more

On Saturday the 24th, the club will go on the air at 10am until 4pm hoping to make contacts throughout the country. The station will be set up at the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium where many of the educational seminars will take place.

The club will be working 20m and 40m and is listed in the Special Event list of the ARRL.

We hope friends from the Baton Rouge area will try to contact us, and if anyone attends the event, please come by the station and visit.

Club call is W5BMC and Echo Link contacts are also welcome on W5BMC-R, 507010.

For more information contact Jackie, KA5LMZ at jelprice@att.net

Club Build Project



Buddy, N5BUD, has selected a kit from the Four State QRP club called the CRICKET 80a for a club build project. The cost will be approximately \$30.

Contact Buddy, N5BUD, at

<u>__n5bud@arrl.net</u> or (225) 573-2111 so that he can determine how many kits to order. Further details are in the <u>December issue</u> of RF News.

RIED STICK IDX ASSOCIATION

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

The <u>ARRL International DX Phone Contest</u> will be held on March 3 - 4. UTC converts to 7:00 PM Friday, March 2 – 6:59 PM Sunday, March 4 CST. This is equivalent to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for (phone) DX contesters. It is rumored that some operators have postponed sleep and meals to work a rare or needed DX. Posting in a forum adds to the fun and competition.

"DX spotting" means that another operator assists you in making your contact such as posting the frequency in a Facebook group or sending you a text. If you submit your log to the ARRL, spotting assistance is allowed in the 3.2. Single Operator Unlimited Category.

Hope to see you there! 73, Jen, K5NMT



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Report ARES, Region 2

Membership

- # of Region 2 ARES registered locally is 81, an increase of 2 members since last reported.
- # of Region 2 LA ARES Section registered is 33; no increase.
- # of Region 2 BRARC Club members registered is 32; 40%.

Region 2 Net

• 4 nets held since the last report with an average of 13 check ins; an increase of 3 since last month.

• Training/Drill or Exercises

The 1st quarter meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Location is to be determined. The meeting will focus on EAROs role playing as a net control station, a station checking into an emergency net with vital information, and what a "Go Bag" should contain. The actual quarterly drill or exercise will be held in March and will be unannounced. Please watch for notifications by email and text.

• Region 2 Public Service Activity

In January, the LA ARES Region 2 was requested to assist with secondary communication for a Search & Rescue event with the Louisiana Search & Rescue Dog Teams. The event was held at Camp Avondale, ASR, near Clinton, LA. There were over 300 participants that took part including EMS, Fire & Law Enforcement, and the Boy Scouts. Notifications were sent to the Region members. The team that assisted with amateur radio emergency services included Thornton Cofield, K5HLC, and Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD.



Scouting, K5ASR

The Search & Rescue merit badge was offered at a camporee in January as part of an event for "Prepared for Life". The Scouts learned the value of amateur radio when normal communication between search teams and the Incident Command Post failed. Amateur radio operators from the BRARC, K5HLC and KD5MLD, were able to relay messages to the Incident Commander from the Louisiana Search & Rescue Dog Teams on their locations and whether medical assistance was needed during the day & night scenarios. The members of the dog team are "hams" because they have had

several experiences where normal communication has been interrupted and know the value of amateur radio in saving lives. The Scouts witnessed the importance of amateur radio during the scenarios and the after action critiques by the Incident Commander. Amateur radio operators interested in becoming a Radio, Electronics, and/or a Computer Merit Badge Counselor for the Boy Scouts of America are encouraged to contact Michael Nolan, kd5mld@arrl.net, for information and training.

- Michael Nolan, KD5MLD



Volunteering With the Cajun Navy

In an effort to keep Baton Rouge residents safe, the United Cajun Navy partnered with the American Red Cross, the Baton Rouge Fire Department, and the Louisiana State Fire Marshal to install smoke alarms in Baton Rouge area homes. Over 100 volunteers were out in force on Saturday, February 3rd to assist with this effort. Volunteers headed out all across the parish with screwdrivers, stepladders, smoke detectors and lots of batteries while Phyllis Horn was at the Baton Rouge Fire Department Headquarters monitoring the group's progress with a phone app.

Those in need of a smoke alarm may request one free of charge by contacting the Baton Rouge Fire Department, the Louisiana State Fire Marshal or the American Red Cross. Local news affiliates publicized the event leading up to the weekend to get the word out to the community, as well as reporting the group's success. In January and February, over 1,000 smoke detectors have been installed in homes in Baton Rouge.

Dan Lott (KF5TQN), Mike Starr (KF5INT), and Louie White helped out by programming dual-band radios, documenting model and serial numbers of radios, and installing power poles. They also setup a mobile command post to support the volunteer activity. Dan shared the benefits of being a licensed Amateur Radio operator with Todd Terrell of the United Cajun Navy expressing how Amateur Radio is often a disaster resilient form of communication. One local news personality shared his interest in Amateur Radio that dates back to his childhood. Dan encouraged him to come to our next club meeting, as well as our Field Day operations.

Thanks to Dan Lott, KF5TQN, for providing the information. (Editor)

January Meeting





Brook N5DGK presents the raffle winnings to Dennis KE5OT.

Robin KK5RH diagrams an upside down HF station.





Club Meetings in February, March and April will be held at the

Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library 9200 Bluebonnet Boulevard

The library is located on Bluebonnet between Perkins near Highland.

The meeting room is located to the right of the circulation desk at the main entrance.

This will also be the location for the Board Meetings until further notice.

Check the club's website <u>brarc.org</u> for changes to upcoming meeting locations.

Weekly 10 Meter Nets

Mondays 7:30 PM Baton Rouge 10 Meter 28.450 MHz USB

Saturdays 10:10 AM Louisiana Pelican <u>10-10</u> 28.450 MHz USB

All are welcome to join in to connect with your fellow hams, share information about your adventures in radio or life events, and have fun operating while helping to generate some action on 10 meters.

Radio Loan Program



Radios are available for loan to BRARC members for a 90-day period. Visit our website to view equipment and complete the application.

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.

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



Please submit articles, links or other ham radio related items for inclusion in the *RF News* by March 15th.

Contact *RF News* editor Jennifer Bordelon, K5NMT Jenk5nmt@cox.net



January 2018 BRARC Club Meeting

On January 30th the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club held its monthly general meeting at the EBR Main Library. The meeting was preceded by a VE licensing exam session. After the pledge and introductions, BRARC president Robin Hudson, KK5RH, shared the list of upcoming activities. Hamfests and the International DX contests were among the highlighted events.

The planned topic for the night had to be rescheduled, and in its place was a subject dear to all Amateur Radio operators, Antennas. A <u>Youtube video</u> by Dave Casler, KE0OG, covering the Section 6.1 Antenna Basics of the ARRL General Class License Manual for Ham Radio was presented.

Thornton Cofield, K5HLC, commented that Dave Casler's explanations were both visually and verbally enlightening. Thornton stated that Casler's explanation of impedance at the antenna feed point and the explanation of an isotropic antenna versus a real operating dipole helped to clarify his understanding of antennas.

Dave Casler's videos are available here https://www.youtube.com/user/davecasler/pla vlists

Thanks to Thornton Cofield, K5HLC, for providing his input. (Editor)



Are you a member?

March 5 will be the 80th Anniversary of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club's ARRL Affiliation. BRARC is also an ARRL Special Service Club. The ARRL provides many beneficial resources and publications that will keep you connected to the world of radio. A fellow ham who lives out of state found the club for me by searching the ARRL website. Follow the link <u>ARRL Membership</u> to join today.

Jen, K5NMT

Congratulations to John Mark Robertson, K5JMR

ARRL members in Louisiana have elected John Mark Robertson, K5JMR, as Section Manager for the next 2-year term of office that starts on April 1.

An ARRL Life Member and radio amateur since 2008, Robertson currently serves as Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator. He is a past president and board member of the Shreveport Amateur Radio Association and the current secretary of the Amateur Radio Club of Shreveport. He is also a director of the Louisiana Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (Frequency Coordination), an active member of the Shreveport Digital Team, and a charter member of the Minden Amateur D-STAR.

Source ARRL Website February 20, 2018 http://www.arrl.org/news/louisiana-elects-new-section-manager

John Mark, K5JMR, served with BRARC during the August 2016 Flood, and frequently attends Hamfests and Section Meetings around the state. (Editor)

PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES

- 2018 Club Dues are now being received by Treasurer Tom Harrell, KE5LVQ.
- Regular Membership \$25
- Student and Unlicensed Memberships - \$10
- You can pay the by check, or cash at the club meeting on Feb 27, 2018.



Ham Talk

While new hams try their best to use proper etiquette and courtesy, some of the lingo and operating procedures involved with ham radio can be quite confusing and a bit annoying. My friends in the 100 Watts and a Wire Facebook group answered my post with some of their grievances. This is a compilation of both their answers and my hard lessons learned with intermingled sarcasm.

- ✓ "Sugar Baker Germany" "Ugly Duckling Engineering" Wait, What?? It's not on my laminated chart!
- √ 73 or 73s? Kindest Regardses?

- ✓ What is a lid? Hint: They own the frequency.
- ✓ Use of Q codes on phone? QSL?
- ✓ Phone? Where is SSB on my band chart?
- ✓ Know thy boundaries. Never, ever cross into SSTV land. Don't you hear the weird sound?
- ✓ "Hi Hi" Can't I just laugh on phone?
- ✓ Define YL All lady operators OR single lady operators? XYL wife of operator OR married lady operator? I am neither an X wife or X operator, and when I hear "YL only," I'm your girl.
- ✓ Never say "over and out." Choose one.
- ✓ "Roger" or "Roger Roger" or QSL? Copy that?
- ✓ Will the FCC revoke my license if I announce K5NMT instead of Kilo 5 November Mike Tango?
- ✓ Is it CW or code?
- √ "de" = Duh?
- ✓ Thou must learn CW to be a real operator.

Copy that? 73s & 88s, de Kilowatt 5 Norway Mexico Tokyo. Over and Out.



Thank you all for your contributions.
Send your comments to rfnews@brarc.org

Respectfully Submitted - Jen, K5NMT