



# RF NEWS

March 2018

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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:

<b>President</b>	Robin Hudson, KK5RH
<b>Vice President</b>	Todd Huovinen, AB5TH
<b>Secretary</b>	Brett Hebert, KG5IQU
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Harrell, KE5LVQ
<b>Directors</b>	Brook Samuel, N5DGK Dave Thomas, K5CGX Ken Shutt, W5KQ Thornton Cofield, K5HLC Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY Jennifer Bordelon, K5NMT Bill Smith, KE5TA
<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



**Mar 27 (Tue)** BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM

**New Location: Bluebonnet Library  
9200 Bluebonnet Boulevard**

Program: Introduction to APRS by Michael Blazek, N5UKZ

**Mar 29, Apr 5, April 12 (Thu)**

Technician Licensing Class

6:00 PM Main Library Goodwood Blvd  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Technology Lab

**April 1**



**Apr 3 (Tue)** BRARC Board Meeting

6:30 PM Bluebonnet Library

**Apr 15 (Sun)** Deadline to submit articles  
for *RF News* [rfnews@brarc.org](mailto:rfnews@brarc.org)

**Apr 18 (Wed)** World Amateur Radio Day

**Apr 19 (Thu)** VE License Exam Session

6:00 PM **Main Library Goodwood Blvd**

**Apr 21 (Sat)** Astronomy Day at Highland  
Road Park Observatory

**Apr 24 (Tue)** VE License Exam Session 6PM  
**Bluebonnet Library**

**Apr 24 (Tue)** BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM  
**Bluebonnet Library**

## Hamfest Calendar

**April 14**

Mobile Hamfest

Abba Shrine Center

Mobile, AL

<http://www.w4iax.net/hamfest.htm>

**April 21**

NELA Hamfest

West Monroe Convention Center

West Monroe, LA

[nelarc.org/hamfest.html](http://nelarc.org/hamfest.html)

**May 18 – 20**

Dayton Hamvention

Greene City Fairgrounds

Xenia, OH

<http://hamvention.org/>

**June 8 – 10**

Hamcom 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Plano Event Center

Irving, TX

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

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### Contest Dates

**March 24 - 25**

**CQ WW WPX Contest – SSB**

<http://www.cqwp.com/index.htm>

**April 7**

**Mississippi QSO Party**

<http://www.arrlmiss.org>

**Texas State Parks on the Air**

<http://www.tspota.org>

**April 15**

**ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone**

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>



## Weekly

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

### From the President Robin Hudson, KK5RH

Hello Fellow Operators,

I hope this month's newsletter finds you all in good health and blessed. Last Saturday on a whim, I decided to go down to the USS KIDD and put W5KID on the air. It is always lots of fun working "pileups" from the KIDD. BRARC members who hold at least a general license can operate the station during the museum's normal operating hours. Before your first visit, please contact a board member to review operating procedures. Don't forget to sign the log book! Operating W5KID is a great club activity, and I think it would be nice to activate more often on Saturday mornings. It provides a great opportunity for a new ham to learn HF operating.

Speaking of new hams, Buddy N5BUD and Brett KG5IQU have a large number of students in the Spring Tech Class this year. I just helped Dana Browne AD5VC hold a VE Test at LSU where all 5 passed (4 Generals & 1 Tech). Our hobby is alive and well!

If you have a subject, related to amateur radio, that you would like to present at one of our monthly club meetings, please contact one of your board members.

I'm looking forward to another great Field Day in June, maybe an IOTA activation in July, and of course the ever popular mini DXpedition to Grand Isle, LA in October.

Best 73,  
Robin Hudson – KK5RH



## Technician Licensing Classes March-April 2018

Amateur Radio Technician license classes are continuing with classes on March 29, April 5, and April 12. The classes are being held on Thursdays at 6 PM in the 2nd floor Technology Lab of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library's Main Branch at 7711 Goodwood Boulevard.

The classes will conclude on April 19, 2018 with a VE License Exam Session.

More information may be found on the Club's website [brarc.org](http://brarc.org) or by emailing the Club [brarc@brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org)



## Future VE Licensing Exam Dates

- April 19 - Main Library
- April 24 - Bluebonnet Library
- July 31 - Main Library
- October 30 - Main Library

[www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session](http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session)

## W5KID Operating Schedule USS Kidd



29 March Vietnam Veterans Day  
**\*\*Canceled - Ship closed until April 23 for maintenance and repairs.**

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.

**Contact Dave Thomas, K5CGX,  
225.572.7836**



## February 2018 BRARC Club Meeting

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club held its monthly general meeting at the EBRPL Bluebonnet Regional Library. Along with the pledge and introductions, BRARC president Robin KK5RH shared the list of upcoming activities which included the Rayne Hamfest, the LA QSO Party and the March 29<sup>th</sup> W5KID activation for Vietnam Veterans Day. Robin also noted that the EBRPL Bluebonnet Regional Library will be the meeting location for the March and April Club meetings as well as all Board meetings. Buddy N5BUD invited anyone interested in participating with the upcoming club build to contact him. John WA5MLF shared information about the upcoming Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day event as well as the electronic recycling offered by the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council.

The night's programs began with Brook N5DGK sharing best practices for communicating via repeaters.

Here are a few of the items to remember that Brook shared with the group:

- Listen First
- Identify with callsign
- Use Plain English, no phonetics or Q signals required
- Be Pleasant and Avoid Controversial Topics
- Pause before beginning a transmission to give time for others to join the group.
- When more than two operators are present utilize a round table format and pass the conversation over to the next operator by saying their name or callsign.

Brook reiterated that the FCC rules and guidelines for repeaters were the same as those on simplex and HF e.g. use the minimum amount of power required to make the contact.

Dan KF5TQN, followed with a demonstration of how CHIRP software may be used to program several types of radios. CHIRP is a free, open-source tool for programming your amateur radio. It supports a large number of manufacturers and models, as well as provides a way to interface with multiple data sources and formats. Key takeaways from Dan's presentation were to ensure you have the correct cable and drivers for the model of radio, utilize the integrated online directory searches e.g. Repeater Book proximity to find nearby repeaters or prepare for a trip, and above all have patience.

CACRC <http://www.cacrc.com>

CHIRP software <https://chirp.danplanet.com>

**Of special note:** The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio club welcomed the Haviland family as another family of all licensed amateur radio operators: (parents) Chad and Sonya Haviland, and (sons) Samuel and Owen.



Photo from left to right: Samuel Haviland (KG5AYI), Chad Haviland (KG5AYJ), Dan Lott (KF5TQN), Owen Haviland (KG5JTA), Robin Hudson (KK5RH), Brook Samuel (N5DGK)

Thank you to Thornton Cofield, K5HLC for providing information and photos.



## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Report ARES Region 2 February 2018

### Membership

- # of Region 2 ARES registered locally is 82, an increase of 1 member since last reported.
- # of Region 2 LA ARES Section registered is 33; no increase.
- # of Region 2 BRARC Club members registered is 32; 40.2%.

### Region 2 Net

- 4 nets held since the last report with an average of 12 check ins which represents a decrease of 1 since last month.

- **Training/Drill or Exercises**

The 1st quarter training meeting was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 7:00pm to 8:30pm. The meeting was hosted by Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness in Livingston, LA. Arrangements were made with Brett, K5BAH. The meeting focused on EAROs role playing as a net control station, a station checking into a “scheduled emergency net” versus an “emergency net” with vital information. Another topic presented was what essentials should be in a “Go Bag”. The meeting ended with a discussion of WinLink and its role with our Region 2 parish’s EOCs, Red Cross, and individual EAROS. Attendees received a certificate of attendance. The respective presenters were Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD, Steve Irving, WA5FKF, and Mike Blazek, N5UKZ.



Submitted by Michael Nolan, KD5MLD

## **Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Featured in City Social Magazine**



The March-April 2018 issue of *City Social* features an article on the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio club's 2017 Christmas Party and Awards Banquet on page 14. Pictures of the award recipients were included. *City Social* presents itself as the area's premier social magazine, and introduces our club to our city and neighboring towns.

Free printed copies can be found at such places as: Sammy's Grill, Whole Foods, Jones Creek Library, and Baton Rouge Visitor's Bureau. Other locations may be found on the *City Social* home page under Find a Copy <http://www.citysocial.com/find-a-copy.html>. Click the Read City Social Online tab.

Thank you to Thornton Cofield K5HLC for promoting our club.



It would be my pleasure to include your article or photos in the April issue of RF News. Please submit by April 15 to [rfnews@brarc.org](mailto:rfnews@brarc.org)  
**73, Jen, K5NMT**

## **Fox Hunting at the Rayne Hamfest**



Second place in a fox hunt isn't bad for a first timer, eh? At the Rayne Hamfest, Samuel (KG5AYI) and I began our hunt for the fox with our HTs in hand. With 3-4 second transmissions coming every minute and a tricky hiding place, it was very difficult to locate the fox. After receiving a hint, we were searching ever so closely for it. Kirby (KI5EE) found the fox before us, so we gratefully accepted 2nd place. With the 2nd place finish came a prize of 50 door prize tickets. Samuel and I split the prize in half. I now see why hams bring a stamp with their name and call sign on it! I had to recruit some help from my sister Brynn (KG5KRV) to aid in writing my name and call sign on my share of the winnings. Another exciting thing was being interviewed by Tommy (N5ZNO) of AmateurLogic . Samuel had been on the show years ago when he was eight, but this was my first time. I'd say it was a pretty successful hunt, and I look forward to doing it again. I can't wait for the next hamfest to try to win 1st place. **Logan KG5LLM**

AmateurLogic Episode 115  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dA-sQ3j4KA&t=3564s>

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Highland Road Park  
Observatory**

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual**

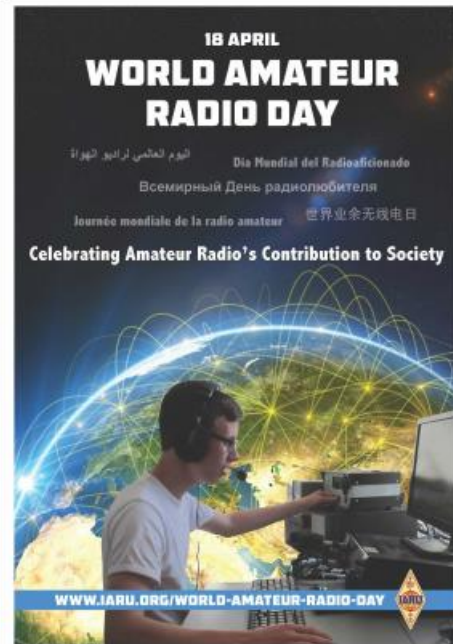
**INTERNATIONAL  
ASTRONOMY DAY**

**Saturday, 21 April  
3:00 pm to 11:00 pm**

[http://www.bro.lsu.edu/programs/astro\\_nomy\\_day.html](http://www.bro.lsu.edu/programs/astro_nomy_day.html)

**18 April 2018**

**World Amateur Radio Day**



“World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.”

For Special Event Station Activations, go to <http://www.iaru.org/world-amateur-radio-day.html>.

The IARU HF World Championship Contest is on July 14-15, 2018.

<http://www.iaru.org/contests.html>



## Radio Loan Program



From HTs to HF rigs, 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](http://www.brarc.org), and click on the Radio Loan tab.



### Are you a member?

March 5, 2018 was 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. Follow the link [ARRL Membership](#) to join today.

## Weekly 10 Meter Nets

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

Saturdays 10:10 AM  
[Louisiana Pelican 10-10](#)  
28.450 MHz USB

All are welcome to join in. It is a great way to connect with your fellow hams and have fun all while helping to generate some action on 10 meters.

## *From the Editor*

As I listened to the bands fade on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of CQ WW WPX Contest, the thought occurred to me that this event would be better shared. The weather is perfect, and I have a lot of room here at my house where we could get together next year. There is room for another radio in my shack or on the connecting patio. I also have room for another antenna. We love to entertain guests, and have plenty of room for parking. So here is my invitation for March 30-31, 2019. Who's in? (Now I will really know who reads RF News.)

Thank you to those who contributed, especially our newest contributor Logan KG5LLM who earned an A+ on his Fox Hunt article.

Remember to pay your dues by April 1st. Dues may be submitted in person at a BRARC monthly club meeting. To pay online email the [BRARC membership form](#) to [brarc @ brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org)

I wish a Happy Easter to you and your families.

Respectfully Submitted -

*Jen, K5NMT*