

RF NEWS

April/May 2018

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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 Vice President Secretary Treasurer	Robin Hudson, KK5RH Todd Huovinen, AB5TH Brett Hebert, KG5IQU Tom 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
Nets:	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



May 19 (Sat) Armed Forces Day Special Event at USS Kidd 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

May 25 (Fri) Deadline to submit articles for RF News

May 28 (Mon) Memorial Day Special Event at USS Kidd 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

May 29 (Tues) BRARC Meeting 6:00 PM Meet & Eat Club Meeting Highland Road Park Observatory See Page 3

June 2 -3 (Sat/Sun) Museum Ships Event USS Kidd 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM See Page 5

June 5 (Tues) BRARC Board Meeting 6:30 PM Bluebonnet Library

June 23-24 (Sat/Sun) Field Day Highland Road Park Observatory See Page 6

June 26 (Tues) BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM Main Library Goodwood Branch Topic: 6 Meter Operating by Hank Ellis, K5HDE

Hamfest Calendar

May 18 – 20 Dayton Hamvention Greene City Fairgrounds Xenia, OH http://hamvention.org/

June 8 – 10 Hamcom 40th Anniversary Plano Event Center Plano, TX https://sites.google.com/view/hamcom/home

July 21

Ozone Amateur Radio Club Slidell EOC Hamfest John Slidell Park Gymnasium Slidell, LA http://www.w5sla.net/hamfest-2018.htm

August 10 -11

Shreveport Hamfest LA State Fairgrounds Ag Building Shreveport, LA <u>http://shreveporthamfest.k5sar.com/index.html</u>

Contest Dates

June 9-11 June VHF <u>http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf</u>

June 16 Kids Day <u>http://www.arrl.org/kids-day</u>

Contest Corral Calendar http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20 Corral/2018/June%202018%20Corral.pdf



Tuesday May 29 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Eat & Meet Club Meeting will be held at the Highland Road Park Observatory 13800 Highland Rd Observatory Website

Program Topic: Field Day Preparation

Please bring prepared foods. If your suffix begins with: A – I Side Dish J – R Main Dish No call - Side Dish S-Z Desert or salad

Bring your family and friends.



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 and 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 .



Please submit articles, activities, fun facts, and photos by <u>May 25</u> to ^{rfnews@brarc.org}. The anticipated publication date is June 10. 73, *Jerv*, K5NMT

W5KID Operating Schedule USS Kidd



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

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Meeting March 27, 2018

President Robin Hudson, KK5RH, presented Jon Reise, WA9JBR, with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as the BRARC President in 2017.



Michael Blazek, N5UKZ, presented the program topic of Introduction to APRS.



From left to right: Speaker Mike Blazek N5UKZ, Jon Reise WA9JBR, Vice President Todd Huovinen AB5TH, President Robin Hudson KK5RH, Elmer Tatum N5EKF, Ferrell Spruell AC5H

Pictures submitted by Thornton Cofield, K5HLC



USS KIDD W5KID Special Events Operations

Memorial Day Monday - May 28 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Calling All Operators

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.

 Contact Dave Thomas,K5CGX, to sign up for your time to make contacts or log. 225.572.7836

Museum Ships Weekend

Saturday & Sunday June 2-3 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM



It is a FUN Event!

Sponsored by The Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station

0000Z June 2 - 2359Z June 3

<u>Note:</u> The club will activate W5KID, but you can also work the ships from your home station. See details at <u>http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/</u>.



"ARRL Field Day is the single most popular onthe-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!" (Source ARRL)

June 23-24

Highland Road Park Observatory



<u>Setup Time</u> – Saturday June 23 at 8:00 AM

Operating Times:

Saturday June 23 1:00 PM until Sunday June 24 12:59 PM

Details will be discussed at the club meeting on Tuesday, May 29. Also, check the next issue of RF News for updates.

Recap of Field Day 2017

- 3 Stations
- 5 Antennas
- 35 Operators
- 15 Operators in the log
- 315 CW Contacts
- > 218 SSB Contacts
- 104 Digital Contacts
- 80 GOTA Station Contacts

Field Day is a 24-hour operation so we need equipment, a set-up crew, operators, loggers, visitors, nice weather, food and coffee. Those who persevere until the end will be rewarded.

Invite your friends and family to join in the fun!



Link to rules: http://www.arrl.org/field-day

> Stats from RF News July 2017 By D. Browne, AD5VC Jen, K5NMT

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Ham Radio Remote Operation via Internet

During the past several years, a few of my ham radio friends in Alabama tested some software and hardware approaches for remote operation of HF radio equipment. Prior to my move to Baton Rouge I had a few occasions to try one of the remote operation solutions that connected to a friend's transceiver. During 2017 my friends began to explore use of software from <u>RemoteHams.com</u>. One ham set up his Elecraft K3 transceiver, with antenna tuner and amplifier, for any-time remote operation. Everyone who tried this remotely-controlled station was impressed with its ease of use and audio quality for voice operation.

In a <u>single software package</u>, RemoteHams includes rig control (along with CW keying, memories and DX spotting) and audio transport. Some previous approaches required the use of separate audio transport (e.g. Skype) and control software.

The RemoteHams software was designed to interface with the Elecraft K3 transceiver, but currently supports many other brands and models. A single, universal operator interface is provided for control of any supported transceiver.

Anyone thinking about remote station operation may like to install the free RemoteHams (RCForb) **client** program and listen to some of the online stations listed in the RemoteHams directory. You can find many on <u>this Online Map</u>. The client software runs on Windows computers and Android devices. I have used it on both. The RCForb client enables the remote operator to receive and transmit (depending on permissions granted by the station owner) and to select frequencies, modes, power levels and other parameters configured at the remote station. The diagram below shows the components at the remote operator's location. The <u>Documentation</u> section has a good "getting started guide" along with client and server manuals.

The diagram also shows a central RemoteHams server that is used for:

- registration and authentication of licensed remote operators
- publishing a directory of online stations that can be used with the RemoteHams software

The central server is contacted each time a remote station's server software or a remote operator's client software is started but is not involved in the client-server traffic.

A remote station is not required to be listed online. Some owners of remote stations choose to operate on a non-listed basis but allow their friends or club members to access their station with a non-listed link.

To set up a station for remote operation requires interfacing a (supported) transceiver to a Windows computer that is running the free RCForb **server** program. The diagram shows the components at a remotely-operated station. Transceiver interfacing for running the many digital modes (PSK, FT8, etc.) provides the same capabilities needed for the RCForb server program.

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If you decide to explore this solution for remote operation, I recommend consulting the server manual in the <u>Documentation</u> section and the <u>Support Forum</u> section of RemoteHams.com for additional documentation and tips from other users. The RemoteHams software also provides remote operation of supported antenna tuners, amplifiers and rotators.

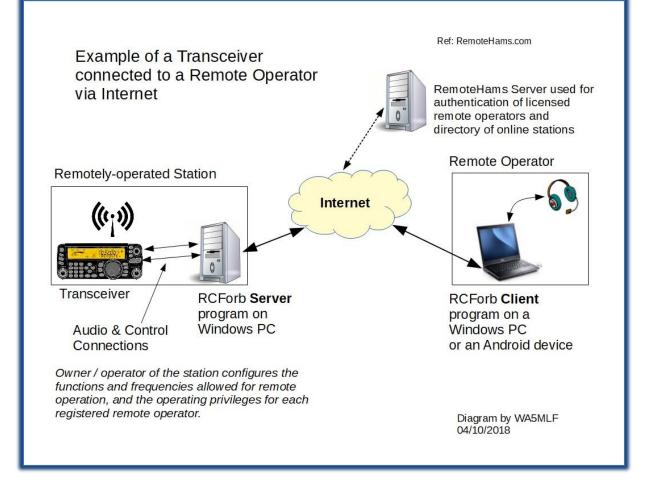
Other topics that must be considered for the establishment of a remotely-operated station include:

- Control of electrical power to radio and computer equipment
- Ability of radio and computer equipment and software to restart if power is interrupted
- Protection from lightning and electrical surges

 Remote access to the server computer if changes to the server software settings are needed

Remote control software provided by radio manufacturers for their radio products may provide additional capabilities that are not available through the RemoteHams software, such as SDR panadapter displays. I suggest that you evaluate the capabilities of any remotecontrol solution for your radio equipment and decide based on features that are most important to you.

John Krupsky, WA5MLF Baton Rouge, LA 04/10/2018





THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CQ CQ CQ HAM OPERATORS WHO ARE US MILITARY VETERANS

Did you serve? If so, you may be eligible to join the American Legion. Interested? Read on...

AMERICAN LEGION/MISSION

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Hundreds of local American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time. It is a service organization that stresses community service in all aspects of life as well as aid to veterans and their families that are in distress.

A bit of trivia: The LSU Memorial Tower was commissioned and funded by the American Legion and dedicated in 1926 to serve as a memorial for those Louisiana residents who died in WWI. Additionally, The American Legion was instrumental in creating the Memorial Oak Grove, also on LSU campus, that honors those LSU graduates that were killed in WWI.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Why should I join? Well, here are just a few reasons to join:

- Veterans helping veterans, families, and communities.
- American Legion serves as an advocate to help veterans secure benefits.
- Contribute your opinions and support of veterans at both state and national government/legislative offices.
- Support for youth programs.
- Discounts at travel, medical, car rental and many other businesses.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

Here is another GREAT reason to join the American Legion if you are a licensed amateur radio operator.

In May 2011, The American Legion National Executive Committee authorized the establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC).

As you know, our club fully participates and supports local, state and national ARES operations. Membership in TALARC could be a valuable tool in your ARES tool kit.

"The beauty of amateur radio is that it attracts folks of all career interests, from doctors, Ph.Ds., engineers, rocket scientists to mechanics, housewives, construction and office workers, students and everything in between," says Robert L. Morrill, chairman of the Legion's Public Relations Commission.

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The club has established an amateur radio station at National Headquarters with the call sign K9TAL (K9 The American Legion) in order to conduct special-event operations on The American Legion Birthday, Veterans Day, etc.; operate SKYWARN during local severe weather; and provide members an opportunity to operate the station during visits to National Headquarters. A special QSL card is provided to all amateur radio stations that work K9TAL on the air.

Legionnaires who are hams can help others get licensed, coordinate with local emergency authorities, provide counseling and assistance to schools, and a whole array of other support.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP

I personally belong to the Boyd-Ewing Post 58 that is affiliated with LSU and meets on campus monthly. It is your choice what post to join. All are good and all support veterans and veteran's issues. There are many American Legion Posts across the state and several in the Greater Baton Rouge Area.

Please visit the following site for membership information:

https://www.legion.org/membership/whyjoin

THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

Membership is free!! Please visit this site for information on how to join TALARC: <u>https://www.legion.org/hamradio</u>

TALARC NETS

Oh yea, don't want to forget that The American Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) conducts multiple nets on HF (20m, 40m and 80m), Echolink, D-Star, VHF/UHF/NoIP, IRLP. What a great way to meet other Ham Operators who are also veterans. Net listings and other information can be found by going to <u>https://www.legion.org/hamradio</u> and clicking on the "NET SCHEDULE LINK."

Mode	Devi	Data	Time	Band	Encourance
wode	Day	Date	Time	Band	Frequency
D-STAR KM4QOY	1st Monday	May 7	0000 UTC		D-Star REF56C
IRLP (with Echolink)	2nd Wednesday	May 9	0100 UTC		*CROSSRDS* Conference/ IRLP Node 9735
EchoLink	2nd Saturday	May 12	1600 UTC		*FMCA-ARC* Conference
HF (20M)	2nd Saturday	,	1700 UTC		14.275 MHz [+/- 5 kHz]
HF (40M) KE6RWB	3rd Sunday	May 20	2300 UTC		7.274 MHz [+/- 5 KHz]
HF (40M)(Weekly) K5TAL			0000 UTC		7.238 MHz [+/- 5 KHz]
HF (80M)(Weekly) K5TAL			0000 UTC		3.825 MHz [+/- 5 KHz]
D-STAR KM4QOY	1st Monday	June 4		D-Star REF56C	

If you would like to talk about membership, or if I can assist in any way, I would be happy to meet with you anytime in person or via text or by phone.

Paul Smith, KG5HLB KG5HLB@gmail.com



Disaster Preparedness Resource Fair

Location: Living Faith Christian Center

Saturday, May 19

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The event is free and open to the public. For more information on this event call 225-478-1499.

Link: <u>http://www.brproud.com/news/local-news/the-saint-benard-project-plans-for-disaster-preparedness-resource-fair/1121807105</u>

Thanks to Dan Lott, KF5TQN, for providing the information.

Ascension Amateur Radio Club K5ARC Meeting

BRARC Member Elmer Tatum, N5EKF, has invited BRARC members to attend the 6 June 2018 meeting at the Gonzales Fire Department meeting room on Orice Roth Road. The 225 machine is being repaired, and hopefully will be ready in the next few weeks. The Ascension Club net meets on Wednesday night at 19:00 on 145.31- repeater. If anyone would like to contribute to the club newsletter "Ascension Airwaves," please contact Elmer Tatum, N5EKF, elmer.tatum21@gmail.com



Volunteer Operators Needed for Louisiana Special Olympic Games

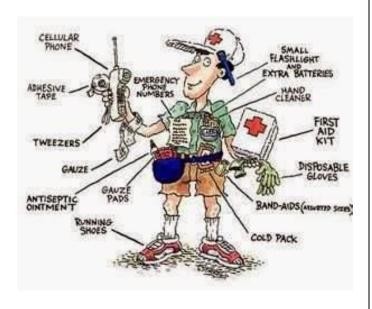
May 19 - 20

The Louisiana Special Olympic Games will be held on the Southeastern LA University campus on May 19-20.

Our job is to provide communications support for the logistics (water, ice, safety) and medical teams.

We will be operating on VHF FM simplex (147.480MHz) around the campus, so all you will need is your handi-talky and spare batteries. Most events will be outdoors, so you will want to bring comfortable clothes, your sports chair, sun protection and/or rain gear.

If interested, contact Bob Priez, WB5FBS, as soon as possible at WB5FBS@arrl.net.



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BRARC ARES Region 2 Report April 2018

Membership

- # of Region 2 ARES registered is 82, no increase of members since last reported.
- # of Region 2 LA ARES Section registered is 33; no increase.
- # of Region 2 BRARC Club members registered is 33 (39%).

Region 2 Net

• 5 nets held since the last report with an average of 11 check ins; a decrease of 1 since last month.

Training/Drill or Exercises

The 1st quarter exercise was held on Sunday, March 25, 2018. It was an unscheduled exercise even though it was held at the time of a scheduled weekly emergency net. The description of event was notification from the NWS for spotter information due to severe weather and flooding. Reports of levee boils were issued to the River Parishes EOCs as well. The Alert and notification of spotter request from NWS and possible flooding was disseminated. LA ARES R2 NCS received requests from ARC and several Parish EOCs for backup communication. Text and email were sent to members that had provided current contact information. There were 21 EARO participants (81% BRARC members) and 6 "serve agencies" reporting.

The goals of the exercise were as follows:

- 1. To conduct the quarterly emergency exercise via LA ARES Region 2 NCS with "serve agencies" (NWS, Slidell; Region 2 Parish EOCs; and American Red Cross).
- 2. To identify Region 2 repeaters that can be used by the Region's "serve agencies".
- 3. To provide EARO services to "serve agencies" as requested.

All the goals were met and assisted in identifying areas for improvement which included, but were not limited to:

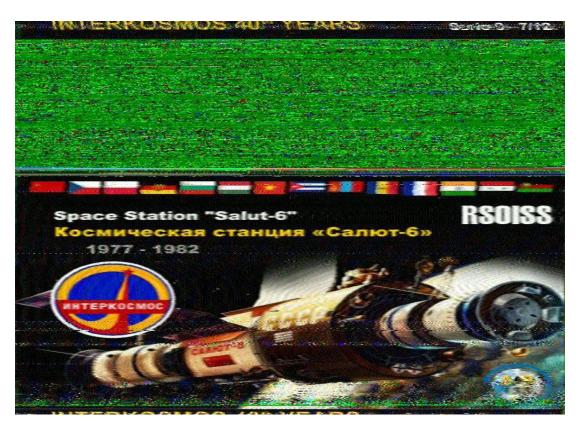
- 1. EBRP MOHSEP repeater, 146.940.00, worked intermittently and did not provide coverage to the entire EBRP.
- 2. Enhance Region 2 voice & data capabilities by upgrading the BRARC's 146.790 repeater;
- 3. To continue development of amateur radio emergency services with Region 2 Parish EOC's Emergency Communication Officer or Lead.

The following BRARC emergency operators have been recognized for their support & participation:

K5CGX	KG5HLB	KD5MLD	N5UKZ	W9YZ
WA5DRK	KF5HVW	K5NMT	N5ULA	
N5EKF	W5KQ	K5PRN	AD5VC	
WA5FKF	WB5LBR	KK5RH	NS5W	

Submitted by Michael Nolan, KD5MLD

International Space Station SSTV



My XYL thinks when I go to the Shack and get on the radio that I am communicating with the Mother Ship. Hearing the PSK-31, JT-65, or FT-8 tones being emitted from my radios, I can see how she comes to this conclusion. Standing in my backyard downloading SSTV signals from a real space ship has only served to reinforce this belief. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights (Apr 12, 13, & 14) the International Space Station was transmitting SSTV signals on 145.800 MHz. This was to commemorate Cosmonautics Day on 12 April. The first active Ham in space was Owen Garriot, W5LFL, on STS-9 back in November 1983 onboard the Space Shuttle Columbia (which I worked!).

Using some information I found on Acadiana Amateur Radio Club's Facebook page, I was able to copy this image using only my Yaesu VX-6 HT, iPhone, and Android tablet for a ham's favorite price- FREE! I downloaded ISS Tracker on my iPhone to track the space station, and on my tablet I used Robot 36 in the DP120 mode to translate the SSTV audio tones from the ISS. I even used my regular antenna on the HT. I just put the tablet next to the speaker on my handheld

On Thursday night, I used the "Auto Mode" on Robot 36, and did not yield very good results. I did hear a good signal from the ISS that lasted about 3 ½ minutes as they passed over 240 miles up, and traveling at 17,000 mph. On Friday night there was a longer window, and the pass lasted just over 6 minutes. I used the DP120 mode (the correct setting), and was able to copy 2 different images pretty well. Both of these passes were visible to the naked eye. On Saturday night, the pass was much further west, and was only 14 degrees above the horizon so I was not able to hear them. I even tried my new tape measure yagi to no avail.

Thank you to Elmer Tatum, N5EKF, for sharing the details of his successful contact.



Contact Jeff Tircuit, N5SOE 225-687-0858

\$120 Kenwood tr-751A 2 meter all mode mobile

\$60 Pryme PR-222 220 MHz HT Needs battery, otherwise, as new.

\$100 for all 3 Icom U400 UHF mobile 35W (2) Icom HTs - U16 UHF 5W Freq 450-470 MHz All need batteries.

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 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



Getting started in ham radio can be overwhelming and expensive. The BRARC Radio Loan Program is a great way for new hams to get on the air quickly, and also provides a try-beforeyou-buy opportunity. Your first set-up can be an entertaining process that usually involves some crawling, climbing, throwing, and taping. Wear appropriate PPE.

A variety of radios are available for loan to BRARC members for a 90-day period. Visit the club website to view equipment and complete the application. Link: <u>Radio Loan</u>

The **Icom IC-730** HF Transceiver package includes power supply, microphone, external antenna tuner, and G5RV antenna.

The Icom **IC-2100H** VHF FM Transceiver package includes power supply, microphone, and external magnetic mount 144 MHz mobile antenna.

Also available is a **Yaesu FT-50R** Dual-Band Hand-Held Transceiver with NC-60B charger.

Contact the club at brarc @ brarc.org for assistance.



https://www.facebook.com/Baton-Rouge-Amateur-Radio-Club-237428189631038/



Future VE Licensing Exam Dates

July 31 October 30

Main Library – Goodwood Blvd

For more info on BRARC testing procedures go to <u>http://brarc.org/education/license-exams/</u>.

For other testing locations go to <u>http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session</u>.



You are invited to join the 100 Watts & A Wire Community Tune Up on June 8-10

Visit the website <u>100wattsandawire.com</u> for information on the podcast, and for details of the Tune Up go to: <u>100wattsandawire.com/activities/</u>.

I will be participating, and would consider making it a club activity if there is enough interest. –Jen, K5NMT



Hamshack Hotline

Hamshack Hotline is a free dedicated VoIP for ham operators. Its intended use is to enable the transmission of emergency and/or tactical traffic when normal radio traffic handling is overloaded or unavailable. It's another tool in the bag for emergency operators.

Operators can also be a part of conference bridges that connect hams worldwide in real time. As of April 24, there were 35 operators who have activated accounts. A phone book is available on the website: http://apps.wizworks.net:9091/.

To open an account, you will need to purchase a SIP capable phone. Then go to the website and open a ticket: <u>http://apps.wizworks.net:9090/</u>.

For FAQs, visit the Hamshack Hotline website: <u>https://hamshackhotline.com/</u>.

Information provided by Robert Hobbs, N5ULA

Thank you very much to all who contributed to a very informational newsletter. It's a busy time of the year for the club with our eat & meet meeting, several activations of the USS Kidd station, Field Day, and preparations for hurricane season. Along with Field Day info, I would like to feature articles on <u>disaster preparedness</u> and/or your experiences in <u>emergency comms</u> in the June issue of RF News. I plan to have the next issue completed by June 10. Feel free to submit your articles early, and contact me anytime at

rfnews@brarc.org. 73, Jen, K5NMT