# RF News



The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club





October 2023 Issue

# The following members are serving our club since their election in December 2022 or earlier:

#### **Officers:**

Bill Smith – President (several positions 2015 to present) \*
Todd Huovinen – Vice Pres. (several positions 2014 to present) \*
Thornton Cofield – Secretary (2022 to present) \*
Jerry Clouatre – Treasurer (2022 to present) \*

**Board Members:** Dan Lott

**Brook Samuel** 

John Reise

**Don Austin** 

**Paul Smith** 

Joe Roppolo

**Russ London** 

<sup>\*</sup> indicates leaving position in December 2023



Thanks to all who are serving the BRARC.

#### **FAREWELL:**

#### BRARC Membership:

I will be stepping down as president of the BRARC Club following the Christmas Party in December. I want to thank each of you for a great 2022/2023 as president. I have served as president, treasurer or a board member since 2016. I have really enjoyed working with each you. I also appreciate all the support and hard work from the officers and members of the Board of Directors. These fine folks volunteered their efforts for the club tirelessly. You can be proud of them. I encourage you to support the new slate of officers and directors when they start 2024. I wish them "Good Luck."

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you on the airwaves. 73

Sincerely, Bill Smith KE5TA

Tidbits from Todd AB5TH

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to drop a quick note in this month's RF News to let all of you know that it has been a privilege and honor to serve as Secretary, Vice President and President of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club over the past 9 years. I am stepping down from the Board of Directors effective Saturday December 9th at the conclusion of the BRARC annual Christmas banquet at Big Mike Sports Bar and Grill in Denham Springs. I will continue to manage the Sunday Night Public Service Net as well as continue to call the 10-meter net on Monday evenings. I would like to ask paid members of the BRARC to consider serving on the Board of Directors as either a director or an officer as there are currently positions open for 2024 that need to be filled. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve with such a great group of Amateur Radio Operators. I look forward to 2024 at our new meeting location at the Saint George Fire Prevention District on Airline Highway staring on January 30th, 2024.

7 3, Todd-AB5TH

At the end of 2023 I'll be stepping down as your Treasurer. Thank you all for allowing me to serve on the Board of Directors since 2018. Wow, that's 6 years of serving, including the last 3 years as Treasurer! It's been fun, but it's time to move aside and allow the next person to serve. Please consider helping our club by being part of the Board. We need new faces and new ideas. We have an active board that always has the best interest of the club at heart, while trying to keep it interesting and encouraging everyone to 'play radio.' I know I've grown in my skills thanks to all of you, and I look forward to what the next board has in mind.

Jerry AG5AY

# The BRARC has several committees, and we could use your help. These committees and their leaders are:

**Education and Training – Joe Roppolo** 

**Equipment Management – Don Austin** 

PIO/Outreach - Thornton Cofield

USS Kidd – John Krupsky

**Volunteer Examiner – Jon Reise** 

**Equipment Loaner Program – Don Austin** 

Webmaster – John Krupsky

Finance – Open

Net Manager – Open

### Hamfest coming up this year:

#### Slidell October 6-7

## **Club Meetings**

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month. We are meeting at the Bluebonnet Library at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there. We are always looking for subject matter experts to present at our meetings. Let us know if you wish to share.

## **Meeting Location Change Effective January 30, 2024**

#### Greetings Everyone,

We were told by the Bluebonnet Library staff that they will begin a remodel project in early 2024, which means the meeting rooms we use for our monthly meetings will not be available for us to meet starting in January. I had a suggestion from a club member that the meeting room at the Saint George Fire Prevention District may be a good place for us to have our monthly meetings. I reached out to Meg Kling at the Saint George Fire Prevention District, and she invited me to come tour the facility. Thornton Cofield (K5HLC), Russ London (NS5W) and I met with Meg on Friday Afternoon September 15<sup>th</sup> and toured the meeting room. I had reservations at first due to the distance to the Saint George fire station from many parts of Baton Rouge. The library's location is at least centrally located for many of our club members. Any reservations that I may have had due to the meeting room location and distance

instantly went away when we entered the meeting room. The room is MUCH nicer than the any of the other



Photo Credit: Thornton Cofield-K5HLC

rooms that the club has met at in the past. All three of us were in unanimous agreement that the club should move our monthly meetings to the Saint George Fire Prevention Center effective with our January club meeting on January 30, 2024.

Here are some thoughts from Thornton on the meeting room:

Todd, Russ, and I visited the location and met with Meg Kling, Public Education Officer. We may have 10 meetings there a year so driving distance may not be an issue for most of us. We have access to 2 different projection media. The room can easily hold 80 people, it is bright, clean, and we will have easy access to the facilities. Our access to the room appears to be stable and consistent unlike the Main Library and the Bluebonnet Library facilities.

Meg told us that the staff will show us how to use the facilities including the various media platforms. -Thornton There is no charge to use the facilities, and there are fire department members who are there 24 hours a day. The meeting room also has a kitchen area for us to use as well, along with full audio capabilities. I do not believe that we ever had that at our current location of the Bluebonnet Library. Parking is excellent too with several handicapped parking spaces directly outside the meeting room door. Lastly, the Little Village Italian Restaurant is right across the street, so it is a win for me. - Todd

The address for the Saint George Fire Prevention District is:

14100 Airline Hwy Baton Rouge, LA 70817 Meeting Rooms A & B

73,

Todd-AB5TH

### **Upcoming club meeting presenter and subject:**

October club meeting – Jeremy Gerald – Fire Safety in the Ham Shack

#### You are invited for Breakfast.

Waffle House @ I-12 and Walker Rd. in Walker - Wednesdays @ 06:30 Franks @ Old Cortana Mall on Airline – Fridays @ 08:00 Yeager's Down-Home Restaurant on Bass Pro Blvd. – Saturdays @ 06:15

The food is always good. Hope to see you soon. Guests are always welcome.



(Look at those mugs.)

#### **Club Events:**

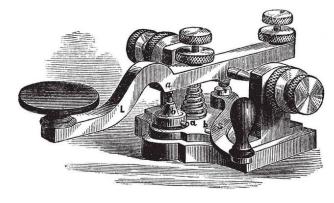
**BRARC Auction** – Big Mikes, 123 Aspen Sq. Denham Springs, La. 225-243-5258. – November 28, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (1800-2000). This is an excellent opportunity for the club to make a few dollars and have a fun time. If you have any equipment, you no longer use/want, bring it.



**BRARC Christmas** Luncheon – Big Mikes, 123 Aspen Sq. Denham Springs, La. 225-243-5258.– December 9, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (11:30 – 1400).



## News:



# **Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Slow Speed CW Net**

We will meet on 10.115 MHz at 6:30 (18:30) local time on October 10th and 17<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to hearing you soon. I will attempt to be net control on the 10<sup>Th</sup>.

Bill KE5TA

#### **SSTV**

From the International Space Station from October 03, 2023, to October 05, 2023, images will be transmitted via the SSTV protocol as part of the experiment "About Gagarin from Space".

The theme of the program is the first artificial satellite of the Earth, amateur radio satellites, school satellites.

SSTV images will be transmitted at a frequency of 145.800 MHz using a Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver. They are expected to use the PD-120 SSTV format.

Schedule: Transmission starts: October 03, 2023, at ~14:

40 UTC.

End of transmission: October 05, 2023, at ~18:15 UTC.

#### **Amateur Radio Class**



### Ready to upgrade your General License to Amateur Extra?

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club is teaching an Extra Licensing Class during October and November 2023. The class will be a hybrid format class with three in-person Saturday sessions and 4 evening online sessions during the week. There is no cost for the class, and we will follow the ARRL Extra License curriculum which corresponds with the ARRL Amateur Extra License Manual.

If you are interested in learning more about the class offering, please contact Joe Roppolo (K5ROP), Director of Training at K5ROP@BRARC.ORG

We will also be announcing details on our webpage and Facebook pages. Please visit our pages to learn more about club activities and come visit us at our monthly meetings.

Tentative Dates (based on in-person meeting location availability):

In-person (Saturdays, 10 am-3 pm)

Oct 14

Nov 4

**Nov 18** 

Online (Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm)

Oct 17

Oct 24

Nov 14

Nov 21

Club Meeting Nov 28 (optional)

VE Exam Session Dec 2 (optional, but you WILL BE READY!)

### **Successfully Studying for the Extra Exam**

I recently passed the Extra test and have had several people ask what my process was, so here is what I did.

First, I thought back 10+ years to what I did to study for Tech (and General) successfully. I was going through a BRARC class at that time, but I used QRZ.com and did practice tests on a kind of daily basis. Since that practice was successful, I started out occasionally doing those practice tests. And I wasn't doing so good on the tests. The Extra test has more questions and they are of a more technical nature. So, I had to re-vamp my process.

I re-examined why I was actually willing to put in the time to really study for this upgrade. I have never really had a reason to upgrade because I can do everything I want to with a General License. But Jeremy has pestered me all these years and I had the time to devote to studying, so I committed to getting it done. I set a goal of 4 months of study and to consistently score in the 85% on the QRZ practice tests before I tested.

Next, I downloaded all of the Extra questions. I remember from that first Tech class that there were some things I didn't understand and just had to memorize, there were some things that I had a slippery grasp of, and some things were easy to remember. And after working on the air after I had my License much of the slippery things clicked into place and some of the things I didn't understand moved up to the "slippery slot." So, I printed out the Extra questions and started reading 1 section per day. If there was something I didn't have a grasp of (and there was A LOT) I would look it up in the Extra Exam Study book from the ARRL. At the time I supplemented this process with sporadic use of qrz.com practice tests. Even after doing the reading and research, I wasn't improving on my practice test scores in any significant way. Some changes were needed.

I did some web searching and found hamstudy.org. In their free section they have some flash cards and on the "back" of the cards there is a brief explanation of the question and sometimes there are hints or memory jogs to the questions. I went through those cards and wrote on my printed-out list of questions notes and hints. And continued with my QRZ practice tests. And I bumped my scores a bit. Success!

I continued to have issues with questions that were very similar but had different answers and I was having issues with questions that had graphics attached. I went back to the list of questions I originally downloaded and started grouping the questions in a way that made sense to me. My list was a pdf, so I used copy and paste to cut the questions and put them in a word document. For example, I put all of the questions relating to Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) together. So, when I studied EME, I also studied the digital modes associated, the best time for making those contacts, etc. I also wrote in the hints that I found helpful from hamstudy.org. And I started making my own mnemonics for some questions (ask me about Chebyshev filters). I read about a section per day and I started consistently doing 3 QRZ practice tests per day. I was only studying about 1 hour per day and my scores improved greatly.

I found that I was zipping through those QRZ practice tests after about a month of consistently doing 3 tests per day and I wanted to find a way to mimic paper and pencil test. After a bit of searching, I found hamexam.org. Their tests are structured so that you answer all of the questions and then click "score." For me, that process slowed me down and made me concentrate on the questions a bit more instead of clicking through. I added one of those tests to my daily practice. When I did that my QRZ scores dipped a little for a brief time, but quickly came up. I eventually made it through the study questions I printed and I was testing in the 88 – 90% on both QRZ and hamexam tests. At this point I

was about 2 ½ months into my 4-month goal and studying about 30 minutes per day.

I started searching for a testing event. Although BRARC tests often, there are also testing events at most of the hamfests and other local clubs. BRARC's schedule fit perfectly with my study schedule. I had a month after I scheduled to continue my daily practice of 3 QRZ tests and 1 hamexam test to keep my scores up and my knowledge fresh.

On the day of the test, I kept to my schedule and did 3 practice tests on QRZ, then headed off to the library. My normal test taking process is to glance through the test questions, then to start answering the questions I know and skipping those I am unsure of. I put a tick mark by those so I remember to come back to them. On bubble tests I always check that on the 5's (5, 10, 15) that I'm on the right question. I felt really good about the test and all of my studying as I handed the test in for grading. I missed 3 questions. I felt that my whole process was successful and the time I devoted was adequate and worthwhile!

#### To sum up:

- 1. Know why you are going for an upgrade. There will be days when you don't want to study and remembering the "why" will get you over that hump.
- 2. Set a time frame goal. This makes studying urgent. And you won't have to do it forever.
- 3. Find a class / mentor so you are accountable to someone and you can share your success.
- 4. There are free resources out there use them. These were mine:
- Hamstudy.org (flash cards)
- Hamexam.org (practice tests, flash cards)

- QRZ.com (practice tests are under resources)
- ARRL and ARRL test prep books (even if it's not current, the theory and explanations are solid)
- 5. Be consistent in your study habits. Pick a time that is easy to be consistent. For me, it was first thing in the morning, then I checked email.
- 6. Stay consistent after you schedule your test until the day you test. Just because you have your test scheduled doesn't mean you can stop drilling through those questions. It also keeps you focused while you wait for the test date to arrive.
- 7. Celebrate! Whether you pass or fail this particular exam, if you stuck to the process, you accomplished something you haven't done before.

Addendum – about 2 weeks after I passed my Extra, I got a phone call from a ham in north LA passing traffic to me from a ham in Nova Scotia. I didn't know either of the hams and it was a weird phone call. Not to mention, my phone number isn't published anywhere except with FCC. Maybe it's a female thing. But Jeremy and I were at the Jackson MS hamfest and I got to talk with David Norris about this. He was able to explain that some of the traffic nets will send these messages as practice for actual traffic nets instead of made-up practice. After he explained this process and what the traffic nets were doing, it felt less weird. I still don't know how that guy got my phone number, but I guess he's a great traffic net worker! Just know that sometimes the traffic nets use these updates to pass "real" traffic and they are real time using their skills.

#### Ava Gerald



Preparing the kite known as Marconi kite, which supported the receiving aerial for reception of the first transatlantic telegraph signals, at St John's, Newfoundland. Guglielmo Marconi, the Italian physicist and inventor can be seen on the extreme left. 12th December 1901

#### **USS KIDD - W5KID**

US Navy Birthday, Friday, 13 October 2023



#### 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. Reserve your operating/logging time slot now. A sign-up sheet is available from our website home page.

#### Prepared by KE5TA





#### **Station Equipment:**

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club maintains 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. We run an ICOM IC-7300 100 W transceiver, an ACOM 600S linear amplifier and an MFJ-986 antenna tuner, to a random wire, 150 ft. long in the ship's rigging. Much of this antenna is the ship's original HF wire antenna.



Operating Times and Frequencies:

SSB near 14.240, 7.240 MHz Hours of Operation:

CW near 14.060, 7.060 MHz Mon-Fri 10:00 am - 3:00pm

Sat-Sun 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Check for spots on dxsummit.fi

Regular open hours for the Museum are 9:30 to 3:30 daily.

For great pictures and history of the USS KIDD check out: www.usskidd.com

To reserve your operating times:

Go to the operator sign-up sheet for either event on our home page: www.brarc.org

Or contact:

- John Krupsky (WA5MLF) 225.916.4136
- Jon Reise (WA9JBR) 225.623.8127

## W1AW/VOTA Louisiana Operating event



Louisiana has one remaining week to operate as W1AW/5, December 6-12. W5WZ Scott Dickerson is the Louisiana coordinator for both weeks. Visit <a href="https://www.w5wz.com/vota/">https://www.w5wz.com/vota/</a> for more information and scheduling. Please join in.

#### USS Kidd

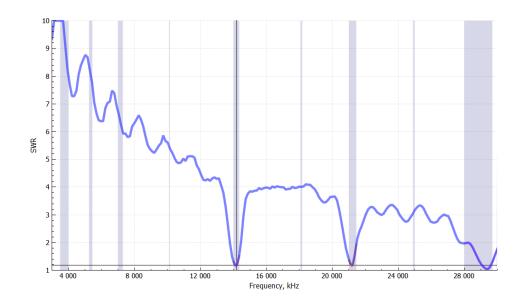
The USS Kidd will be headed for dry dock and much needed repairs late in the fall of 2023.

### Tri-bander Yagi Antenna at the Observatory

This is a report of SWR and impedance measurements made on the Tribander Yagi antenna that is mounted on the crank-up tower at the Highland Road Park Observatory. On 9/7/2023 I went to the Observatory with my RigExpert AA-30 antenna analyzer. The tower was in its low position and the antenna was pointing to the **east**, as verified by compass. A photo of the antenna is shown below.

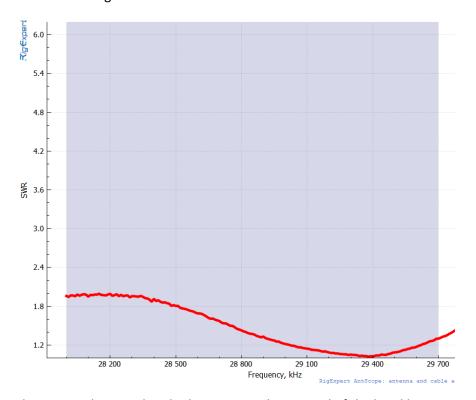


I connected my analyzer to the coax cable that feeds the antenna and connected my laptop PC to the analyzer to run the RigExpert AntScope software and collect the data. To get started, I ran a sweep from 3 to 30 MHz, even though I did not expect to find any significant response below 14 MHz. A plot of SWR vs frequency is shown below. The vertical gray bands identify the ham bands. You can see that the antenna has nice low SWR values for the 10, 15, and 20 m bands.

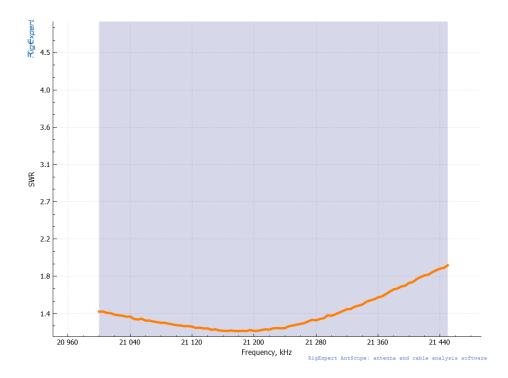


#### Prepared by KE5TA

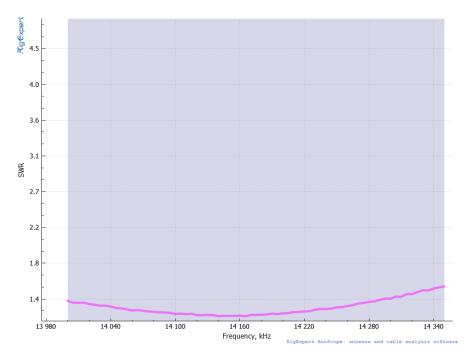
The next three figures show the graphs of SWR vs frequency for each of the bands for which the antenna is designed.



The SWR in the 10 m band is lowest near the top end of the band but is reasonable elsewhere.



On the 15 m band the SWR is lowest near the center of the band and highest near the top end.



The SWR is good across the entire 20 m band, with the best near the center of the band.

I also captured and saved plots of resistance, reactance, and impedance vs frequency across the same three bands and can share them with interested members. I have a large number of exported data points for the three bands and the overall 3 to 30 MHz range. These can be used for closer study or for making custom plots with other software.

My conclusion from the testing is that the tri-bander should perform well for any BRARC special events at the Observatory, not counting Field Day. It would be best to have an operational rotator, but a reasonable spread of stations to the east should be reachable with the antenna's current direction. It would be good to know the power rating of the antenna (specifically for the traps) if we consider running more than 100 W of transmitter power.

Send me an email if you have any questions or would like a copy of the additional plots and data.

73,

John Krupsky, WA5MLF

#### **Introducing Joe Roppolo**

# 1. WHAT IS YOUR NAME? AND WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO NOW? IF RETIRED WHAT WAS YOUR WORK?

Hi, I'm Joe (Joseph) Roppolo aka K5ROP/WRUP205. Currently, I am looking for work in Emergency Management. I have almost 30 years of experience in Information Technology and Technical Training. I worked at Microsoft for 9 years, then started my own training and consulting company in NJ (Strattis Consulting) and I am in a Photography partnership with my Wife, Cler, Roppolo Photography LLC.

# 2. WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN AMATEUR RADIO AND WHAT LED TO YOUR INTEREST IN AMATEUR RADIO?

The roots of my interest really started in my teens when I didn't really know too much about it in the 80s. CB radio was starting to wane, but we had used CBs primarily on road trips and with a small 23-channel base station at home and 4 x Channel 14 "walkie talkies." I learned Morse Code well enough on paper for Boy Scouts, but I had only heard it in movies and never thought about a "big test" on it and didn't know of any Amateur Radio Operators at the time. I heard a little about it at Radio Shack which was my second home as I was buying parts and had 11 free battery cards and I believe none of the workers or managers cared how many batteries I got because I was always

buying something every trip into the store. I think I was 14 or 15 when they offered me a job, but you needed to be 16.

I guess the real interest was kindled in 2016 when we were not thrilled at our loss of communications during the Flood. Afterwards, I started to look into better ways to communicate. I still had a house in NJ that was empty since my Dad passed away in 2016 and in 2017, a sink faucet blew out and flooded, destroying the entire house by water flowing through the first floor and depositing about 150,000 gallons of water in the 1200 sqft basement. Luckily, my homeowner's insurance took care of the costs, but the house was a loss. I was able to use contents insurance to replace the old CB units and walkies with a Mobile Ham Radio and 4 x Baofeng Bf-F9v2+ HTs, but not knowing anything, I just let them sit.

The real connection happened in 2021! My Daughter Arianna is a regular at Science Academy at Highland Park Road Observatory and we were invited to Field Day 2021! I spoke with Jon Reise, Bill Smith, Todd Huovinen, and was intrigued by Hank Ellis doing digital over 6m. Jon told me I can't use my radios until I get licensed and told me to get the Technician License Class Manual and be ready to test at the September VE session and check out BRARC.org for more information. I did as he suggested and in September I got my ticket, started to come to club meetings, took my General at the next VE session and passed, and the VE session after that passed my Extra exam. Immediately after passing my Extra, I sent in my VE application as I knew this was my quickest way to "give back" to the club!

# 3. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST RADIO SETUP?

The Baofeng HT or the Mobile? I still use them. I am actually behind in setting up a dedicated shack. I call the BRAR traffic net and ARES

Region 2 net from my truck on the mobile using my Tram 17' antenna via a 50-foot LMR400 coax. I am still in the process of organizing and mounting my antennas: a G5RV, a dual band Yagi, and moving the Tram to a better location. No HOA in my subdivision! I hope to get my ICOM 7200 in a permanent location soon. I am grateful that a member of the club sold it to me for a low-cost with a tuner, speaker, etc. to get me started on HF.

# 4. DID YOUR FORMAL EDUCATION PREPARE YOU OR LEAD YOU TO AMATEUR RADIO OR WAS IT JUST THE REVERSE?

I have a BS in Computer Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology (go Highlanders!), so that gave me a pretty deep electrical engineering background and was in lab most of the time and a student member of IEEE. Now, Ham Radio led me to ARES and in an effort to do my online and in-person classes listed in the ARES Task Book, I became interested in Emergency Management and have taken over 90+ classes, including graduating from FEMA Basic Academy and becoming qualified as an ICS Instructor. Ham Radio led me to train for an Incident Management Team position of COM-T and I am working through my task book to be credentialed by the State of Louisiana in that function.

# 5. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO NOW AND WHY? Can list multiple items. (modes of operation, contesting, experimentation, kit building, etc.)

When I got my ticket, I was excited and made a list of all the things I wanted to do... From getting licenses, buying equipment, bouncing signals off satellites, the moon, the ISS, etc. I enjoy calling Nets,

doing ARES, building antennas, learning new things, teaching, and sharing this hobby. Field Day is how I got started and I love sharing that opportunity with new and prospective Hams. I really enjoy teaching and showing my Daughter about Ham radio.

# 6. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MORE EXCITING EVENTS THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER REGARDING YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH AMATEUR RADIO?

I love to work the USS Kidd station, W5KID and working Field Day. I usually split my Field Day between BRARC and Ascension ARC. I hope to get into Contesting, POTA, and working/bouncing off the ISS.

# 7. WHAT DO YOU THINK AMATEUR RADIO WILL BE LIKE IN 20-30 YEARS?

"Alexa, what bands are hot today?"

In the near future, I think digital will explode and gain a lot of followers. DMR will become very popular but will rely more on internet connectivity and personal hotspots than repeaters.

I think in the next 20 years, we will also go back to Analog and Digital over RF communications (as long as we can keep our bands), because people will rely on internet connected communications too much and will need an alternative again. I can see from an Emergency Management perspective that since Ham Radio can be powered up and work almost immediately but moving in a COW (Cellular on

Wheels) or getting a Starlink suitcase can take a while to re-establish communications, Ham Radio will be the main backup.

When all else fails, Ham radio works!

## 8. WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO A NEWLY LICENSED AMATEUR TODAY?

- 1. Listen to the nets on whatever you have, HT, Mobile, DMR, Echolink, or anything else to see how it works.
- 2. Join a local club or 2, ask questions and you'll be assisted on your journey and build relationships.
- 3. Don't be discouraged if you join a Facebook group and there are a few old bitter people who don't want to answer questions, chat, or help you. Move to a different group and talk to the people who put the bitter ones in their place.
- 4. Join ARRL and see what resources they have for you to use. They are the main representative of our craft and have helped to create or defeat government legislation to keep us going.
- 5. Get ALL your licenses through Amateur Extra while you are in the flow. I don't recommend cramming and not remembering anything and then seeking info later. Do the work, space exam out and keep on track. I have met a lot of people who go back after 20 years to get their Extra and it is harder for them than if they did it right after General as the information builds from one exam to the next.

# 9. WHAT CAN THE BATON ROUGE CLUB DO TO ENHANCE YOUR RADIO ENJOYMENT? Be specific if possible!

I think we need to share more of our skills among the membership so that we know "who knows what." I think everyone can be an Elmer in something. I'd love to know what everyone is into! I would also like to see BRARC get back to doing hands-on activities with a kit build or something that hasn't bene done in a long time.

Looking on BRARC.org, there are older trips for IOTA at Grand Isle and other excursions to make QSOs. I would like to do something like this!

I think an organized trip to a Hamfest would be cool and possibly see about some carpooling and maybe everyone books at the same hotel, maybe plan a dinner together (or breakfast if not included with hotel), get spouses and kids together doing something else that may interest them other than Amateur Radio.

# 10. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

I really enjoy being a member of BRARC and all the people that I have met. I hope we can do more activities together and make more friendships. I liked the Cats in Shack Calendar that ARRL put out last year and have 6 cats at home (A 3-year-old Mom and all 5 of her kittens, now 2 years old), so I hope to put a Cats Calendar together once I get my shack set up! 7 3!

I will try to send out each publication no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you have something to contribute, please send it to me by the first of the month.

### williamfk100@yahoo.com



Have a safe Halloween.

73

