

RF News



The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



January 2024 Issue

Happy New Year!

New Officers and Board of Directors for 2024 were sworn in at the Christmas Party.

Officers:

**President – Dan Lott KF5TQN
Vice-President – Joe Roppolo K5ROP
Secretary – Mike Blazek N5UKZ
Treasurer – Tom Harrell KE5LVQ**

Board Members:

**Hank Ellis K5HDE
Russ London NS5W
Todd Huovinen AB5TH
Jon Reise WA9JBR
Pat Crawford K5AHE
Jeff Sibley N4XEG
Paul Smith KG5HLB**



**Pictured (L-R) Paul, Todd, Hank, Tom, Russ, Dan, Mike, Joe, Pat, Don, Jeff
Thanks to all who are serving the BRARC.**



From the Office of the BRARC President

Dear Club members:

I'm looking forward to making the operation of our club more responsive to the needs of our membership & more transparent to our members. I'm personally exploring the possibility of bringing one or both of our repeaters online, but I'd like to know what you'd like to see from your club: be it more how-to's, more events, more kit-bashes or builds, more public service, more EMCOMM/AUXCOMM -- I want to know what tunes you in to ham radio. To that end: I'm throwing open the door, for every member of the club to please email me at kf5tqn@brarc.org and tell me what you'd like to see in ****YOUR**** ham radio club!

73,
Dan
KF5TQN

Club Meetings

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month.

EFFECTIVE January 30 - We are meeting at the **St. George Fire Prevention District Training Center** 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 your experience.

New Meeting Location Address:

Saint George Fire Prevention District (Training Center)
14100 Airline Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA
70817

January 30th Meeting Program is “Antennas”
Presented by: Jerry (AG5AY) & Todd (AB5TH)

HUNGRY? For good food and friendship?

You are invited for Breakfast. Guests are always welcome.

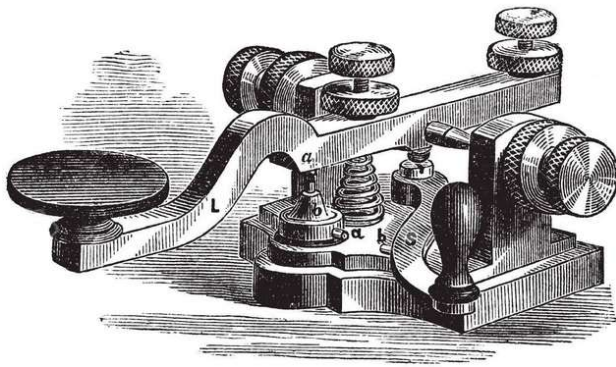


Waffle House @ I-12 and Walker Rd. in Walker - Wednesdays @ 06:30

Franks @ Old Cortana Mall on Airline – Fridays @ 08:00

Yeager’s Down-Home Restaurant on Bass Pro Blvd. – Saturdays @
06:15

Club Events:



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Slow Speed CW Net

We will meet on **10.115** MHz at 6:30 (18:30) local time on the SECOND and THIRD Tuesday of the month.

Weekly BRARC Nets:

Region 2 ARES Net - Sunday, 8:00 (20:00) local time – meets on 146.790- pl 107.2

BRARC Traffic Net - Sunday, 8:30 (20:30) local time – meets on 146.790- pl 107.2

Ten Meter Net – Monday, 7:30 (19:30) local time – meets on 28.450 MHz USB

Friendship Net - Wednesday, 7:00 (19:00) local time – meets on 146.790- pl 107.2

The Friendship Net is an open net for new radio operators and experienced members who want to help get them to be more comfortable on the air.

BRARC 2023 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual club Christmas Party was held at Big Mike's in Denham Springs on Saturday, December 9th and serves as our December meeting where the Officers and Board are sworn in for the next year.





A great time was had by all. It was also nice of Big Mike's to put the "We're kind of a big deal" sign to celebrate BRARC! (We do try to stay humble).

News:



Five Candidates Test for Licenses

The BRARC VE team conducted the final exam session of the year on Saturday, December 2nd at the EBR Main Library on Goodwood. The five Candidates pre-registered and we had no walk-ins. Two of the Candidates had not been licensed before. Three examination rooms were used at the library. The successful Candidates and their new issued license were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| • Pamela Welsh, KF5IPJ | General |
| • Michael Barrett | Technician |
| • Glenn Jeff Methvin Jr. | General |
| • Carroll Bevan Callicott, KI5QJL | Extra |
| • Daron Hohanson, K5DRN | General |

This session's VE Team was comprised of:

- Jon Reise, WA9JBR
- Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY
- Hank Ellis, K5HDE
- Paul Smith, KG5HLB
- David Cohen, N7TC
- Joe Roppolo, K5ROP

Jerry filled in as our PIO in Room B to handle the promotion of the hobby and our club. Three 2024 BRARC complimentary memberships were given out to the new hams that entered the hobby.

USS KIDD - W5KID



Pearl Harbor Remembrance – 7 December 2023

Our club operated W5KID aboard the USS KIDD, in remembrance of the [attack on Pearl Harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor) on 7 December 1941. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor)



Our operators for the morning were Elmer Tatum (N5EKF), Pam Welsh (KF5IPJ), and Russ London (NS5W). They made 91 SSB voice contacts on the 20 m band that included the following USA states: AL, AR, AZ, CT, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MI, MO, NC, NE, NH, OH, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI. Most of these states had 1 to 7 stations in the count, but Florida exceeded our expectations with 23 stations in our log! A ship-to-ship contact with [WW2LST](https://www.lstmemoial.org/) (<https://www.lstmemoial.org/>) aboard the USS LST 325 was one of several Indiana stations we logged. We also logged two Canadian stations.



At 1:00 pm we switched to CW, with operators Leonard Bowman (W5ZDW) and Dayna Bowman (WA5YSS). They made 8 contacts on the 20 m band, including Washington, DC as well as IN, KS, PA, and VA. One Canadian station was contacted. On the 10 m band we logged a ship-to-ship contact with [NB6GC](https://nb6gc.org/) (<https://nb6gc.org/>) aboard the USS HORNET, an aircraft carrier in California.

We concluded our operations at 2:00 pm.

This was our final radio activity aboard the ship prior to the USS KIDD going to dry dock early next year for much needed repairs.

73,

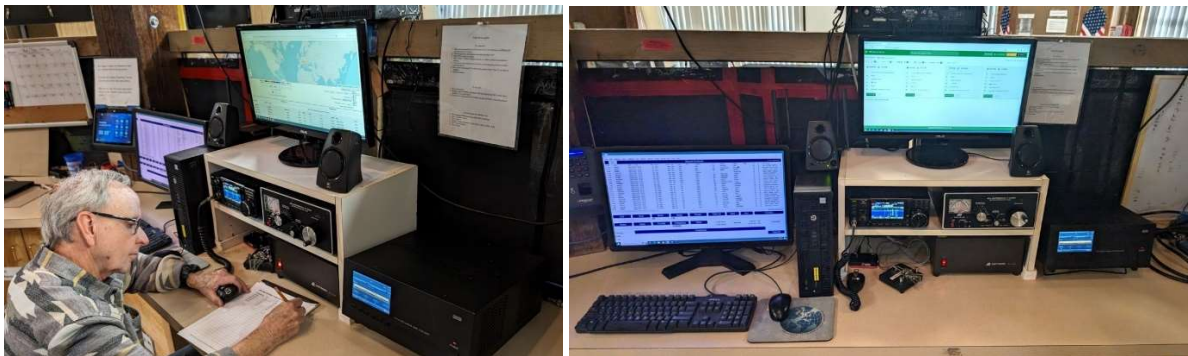
John Krupsky (WA5MLF)

W5KID radio gear moves to Observatory

As announced earlier, the pending move of the USS KIDD to a drydock for repairs required us to remove all of our club's equipment. On December 19, Jon Reise and I collected our club's radio gear, computer, accessories, and miscellaneous items from our operating compartment on the port side of the ship. With the help of a cart belonging to the museum, we transported everything (in 3 trips) to our parked vehicles.



On the afternoon of December 20, we unloaded the radio and computer equipment at the Highland Road Park Observatory. We set up our station to operate as **W5GIX**. An area of the countertop, in the “inner circle” of the building, was available for our equipment.



After setting up and connecting the equipment we verified its operation, including the computer interface. We made test transmissions on multiple bands, using the installed tri-band Yagi antenna, which was pointing toward the south. Jon verified the favorable SWR levels on each band for which the antenna is designed.

There are two drawers, under the left side of our operating position, where we can store manuals, headphones, and other accessories.

We plan to schedule multiple operating dates, coordinated with the Observatory staff, to demonstrate amateur radio to visitors and to enable our club members to gain experience on the HF bands. Details will be published via email and on our website.

73,

John WA5MLF

Training for 2024

We are planning on holding another General License Class in 2024 (Late Spring?) for Technicians to upgrade and get on HF!

“New to HF Training” at the Observatory (the USS Kidd equipment’s temporary home while the ship goes to drydock) has been very successful and we are looking forward to holding more sessions.

If you are interested in attending or would like to volunteer to help teach a class module, or have other ideas for training, please let us know.

Contact our Training Coordinator and VP, Joe Roppolo, K5ROP at K5ROP@BRARC.org



Elmers Wanted

We currently have 3 Elmers listed, but we know there are various areas of Amateur Radio and if you want to volunteer to be an Elmer in a specific area, please let us know. Can you be the “go-to person” with Satellites? Antennas? Tools? ARES? POTA? IOTA? SOTA? (not sure where we have Summits unless you count the mounds at LSU).

Our current list of Elmers:

- Todd Huovinen AB5TH
- Jerry Clouatre AG5AY
- Dan Lott KF5TQN

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN THAT REMINDERS ARE SENT OUT TO ALL MEMBERS, BOTH COMPLEMENTARY AND PAYING MEMBERS, THAT YEARLY CLUB DUES OF \$25.00 ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 2024.

PAYMENT OF THE \$25.00 YEARLY DUES IS RELATIVELY EASY:

GO TO Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Website. (BRARC.org)

Select the MEMBERSHIP category.

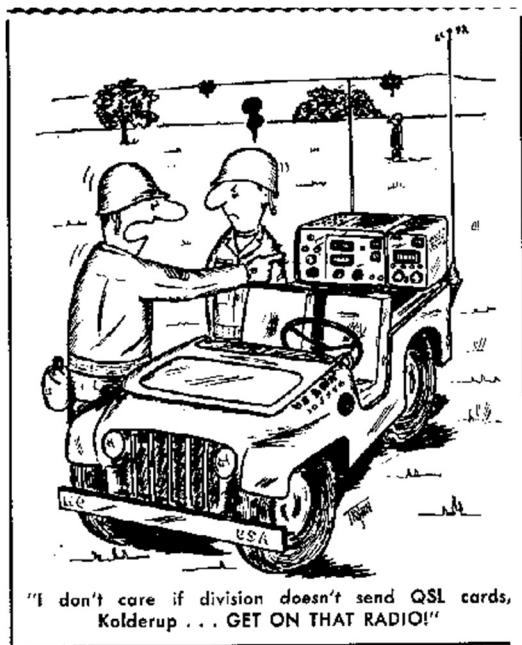
Follow the listed instructions:

Pay by check and mail your check and application to the listed address.

or

Pay by PayPal and follow the instructions.

PAYMENT IS QUICK, EASY, AND PAINLESS!



Introducing Dan Lott, KF5TQN:

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

I'm Dan Lott. I do IT work, managed networking services & mesh networking.

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

I first became interested in ham radio in the mid to late 90s, but was unfortunately too busy at the time with school. My interest was renewed in the aftermath of Katrina when I was living in Hammond. I started looking into the requirements & went to my exam at the Jackson Hamfest.

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

My first "radio" was my cell phone, I used EchoLink with my cell to connect to the Ascension club's 225 repeater.

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

In my case, my background helped because I had some knowledge of how the government tends to write the rules as well as my interest in electronics design had me knowing most of the formulas already.

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

I look forward to Field Day operations for the chance to get on HF. I also enjoy working in emergency & practice conditions. I admit that contesting holds a lot of allure for me, but I'm taking my time to make sure I get the right radio for me.

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

I fondly recall assisting in the EOC at GOHSEP during hurricane Laura. I wouldn't trade that experience for anything.

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

I think Machine Learning will bring a new paradigm of innovation in Ham Radio where messages can be passed to the intended recipient with automatic selection of band, frequency, antenna & mode based on prevailing conditions.

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

Get on the air & have fun. No one thinks less of those who've been off the air a while & no one expects anyone to be an expert in operating procedures –we're amateurs after all!

9. WHAT CAN THE BATON ROUGE CLUB DO TO ENHANCE YOUR RADIO ENJOYMENT?

I look forward to hearing from everyone in the club about how we can enhance their enjoyment of our shared hobby.



Local Hamfests coming up...

1/20/24 - SELARC Hamfest (Ponchatoula)

3/8/24 - Acadiana DX Hamfest (Rayne)

RF NEWS

I will try to send out each publication no later than the 5th of the month. If you have something to contribute, please send it to me by the 21st day of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

Email your articles to Joe Roppolo at K5ROP@BRARC.org

RF News is a publication of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

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