



# RF NEWS



**Club Meeting: April 28, 2024**

**Dan Lott presents...**

## Computer Technology in Ham Radio

—Joe Roppolo K5ROP

At the next BRARC , President Dan Lott will be giving a presentation on Office 365, WinLink, EchoLink and other computer software that is used to enhance our experience as Amateur Radio Operators.

Many club members are already on the BRARC Office 365 under our BRARC.ORG organization, but many are still not. Dan will discuss and assist getting you an email account, such as [K5ROP@BRARC.ORG](mailto:K5ROP@BRARC.ORG) (mine) and how to use our MS Teams and have the ability as a One-stop location to join meetings, chat, use your email account, view meeting recordings, and share files to a name a few features.

Dan will also demonstrate WinLink which allows for email to be sent and received over radio and is one of the best way to transmit forms during an emergency.

EchoLink is a way to get a repeater online and available over the internet using an application on your computer or App on your phone. This may be especially useful for new hams who don't have a lot of equipment.

Dan has a tremendous amount of experience in IT, Amateur Radio, and Emergency Communications and will share his knowledge and experience with you at the next meeting! This should not be missed by new or experienced Operators!

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## **2024 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  
(Jon Reise not pictured)  
Thanks to all who are serving the BRARC.**

## The VP View...

—Joe Roppolo K5ROP, BRARC V.P.

BRARC has had a great first quarter this year!

We found a new home for our meetings at St. George Fire Prevention. We've also had 3 great meetings with great topics on Antennas and Fire Safety.

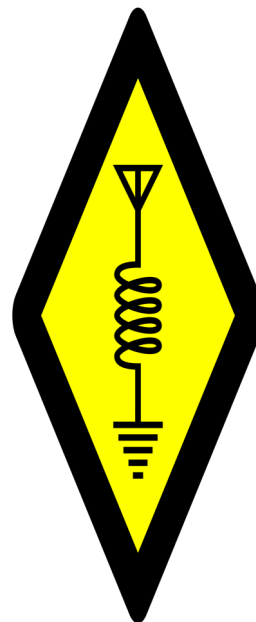
Houston Poulson N5YS, our new Section Manager, took office on April 1st. We thank Matt Anderson KD5KNZ, our previous Section Manager for his service as Section Manager.

Field Day 2024 is on the horizon and it's never too early to start planning. In May, We will have our annual Covered Dish Eating Meeting (with

family) / Field Day Planning meeting at Highland Road Park Observatory where Dana Browne AV5DC will lead us through preparation for Field Day. We will follow up at our June meeting with a recap of Field Day and assess our accomplishments from that day!

We are making recordings of Board Meetings available for members to watch if you are unable to attend via MS Teams. Look for a link later in the RF News.

We look forward to an even better 2nd quarter and look forward to input from all our members! Please get involved!



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

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

GO TO [Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Website](http://Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Website). (BRARC.org)

Select the MEMBERSHIP category and follow the listed instructions:

Pay by check, mail check/ application to the listed address

or

Pay by PayPal and follow the instructions

or

Bring cash/check to a meeting!

PAYMENT IS QUICK, EASY, AND PAINLESS!

## Club Meetings

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
That is **April 30th** for this month!

We hope to see you there. There are snacks and comradery. We are always looking for subject matter experts to present at our meetings. Let us know if you wish to share your experience.

## Meeting Location Address:

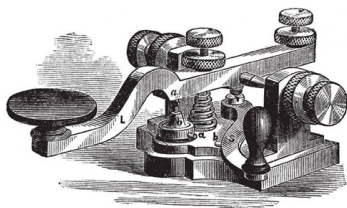
Saint George Fire Prevention District (Training Center)  
14100 Airline Hwy  
Baton Rouge, LA



It's coming soon... Field Day 2024

## 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.



**Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Slow Speed CW Net**  
Meets on **10.115** MHz at 6:30 (18:30) local time on  
the SECOND and THIRD Tuesday of the month.

## Jeremy gives a smoking hot presentation about Fire Safety and avoiding the Ohm Gnome

—Joe Roppolo K5ROP

Jeremy Gerald AD5XY captivated the club with anecdotes and hard-hitting facts about fire safety at our March meeting. Jeremy revisited some of his experiences in Amateur Radio as well as his background before and after becoming a firefighter.

He presented a number of insights on firefighting, home safety, types of fires, prevention, types of fire extinguishers and tips on how not to release the magic smoke in your electronic equipment as well as respecting the “Ohm Gnome” away.

There was a lot of question and answer, mostly about the ham shack, but also a lot about the ways to be safe at home. Especially in the kitchen and bedrooms. Jeremy also discussed overall preparedness for a fire and how to keep your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and any combination devices up-to-date. The rule of thumb when setting your clocks is the time to test your detectors is still valid, but there are many detectors that long-lasting batteries or sealed batteries that you purchase and then replace the entire unit.



There are also a number of safety items, including fire blankets, specialized extinguishers, and exit devices that can make your house safer in the event of a fire. In most cases, your best course of action is to leave the house and let the professionals put out the fire.

We discussed timely issues with fire safety and Fire Department response, including EVs and fires that are metals-based. These fires are particularly difficult to fight and in some instances are left to burn themselves out after many applications of water to contain them from spreading.

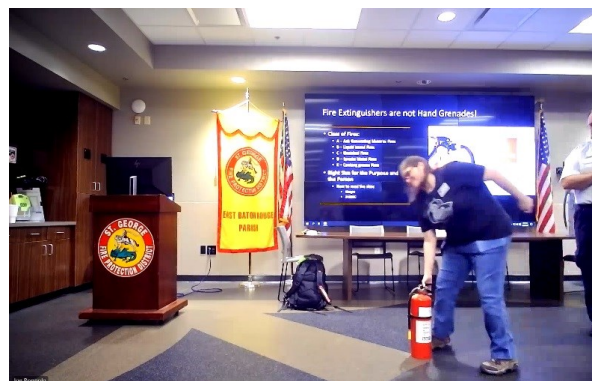
Remember to be safe with power in your house and your ham shack. If you aren't sure what you are doing, consult with an expert when it comes to running your own wiring, grounding, bonding, etc. Make sure you keep the Ohm-Gnome at bay. Never overdraw more electrical power than your electrical system can handle. This includes safety for radio equipment at home and in your car. We all learned a little more than we thought we knew and it was a reminder to keep our homes and families safe. Thanks Jeremy!





# PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by  
Joe K5ROP



## HUNGRY?

### *For good food and friendship?*

You are invited for Breakfast and 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



Hey Breakfast guys! Feel free to get me some new pics for the RFNEWS! Thanks!

## 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



## BATON ROUGE AMATEUR RADIO MEMBER PROFILE

### *Meet Russ NS5W...*

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

John A. London, III a/k/a Russ London I have been a trial lawyer for over 46 years. Still working full time but hope to retire soon. Tried to close down at the end of 2023 but have been really unable to do so.

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

I took an electronics correspondence course when I was 13 or so that discussed radio theory and provided various electronics parts, tests, experiments

#### **WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST RADIO SETUP?**

One of the projects was making a low watt 10 meter radio. Used it to attempt to listen and got very interested in obtaining a ham license. Studied for the test and practiced morse code. Unfortunately I was one of five children living in Jackson, Louisiana and could never talk my parents to make the trip to New Orleans for testing.

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

I was a History, later Pre-med, finally a Government (international relations) major so probably not. I have in the course of preparing for many case involving the failure of electronic and related technical failures learned a lot about engineering and related issues,

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

I have an extra ticket, am a VE, and have been very active in ARES. I am also on the board of director of BRARC. I work a lot at the USS Kidd. I have also helped with Red Cross at times. I have HF, VHS, am have been very interested in QRP and Parks on the Air etc.

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

I have fully enjoyed the entire experience and am still trying to learn. I worked with ARES at times and during Hurricane IDA to the point of near exhaustion due to trees falling and other damage. We also lost power at my home that was filled family refugees. I was scheduled to be net control at 12 midnight when, despite requesting to be awakened at 11:30 was not informed until seconds prior to the appointed time. I had insufficient time to fully wake up and am sure that some of the listeners felt I was drunk. I return to the air two hours later and hopefully I convinced everyone that I was just tired.



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

Not at all sure. At my age there is a good chance that I will not be around in 30 year. I have seen some of my friend's children with what appears to be a ham setup but only communicate solely via video on the internet . However, I have been dealing with multiple internet problems including loss of internet and cell service at the same time for many years. The increase of the number of license holders is also very encouraging. Equipment has vastly improved and am still trying to learn digital communication. Failure of other means of communication has always been the basis for the existence of Ham Radio for over 100 years. I seriously hope, under the circumstances, that the ham service will survive.

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

Take your time and not hurry to qualify for everything. Ham radio was on my bucket list and I was in my 60s when I began. Earned my extra really before I even owned a radio. There of lots of people to help if you just ask. People are not always in a hurry. Slow down and just enjoy the process of learning.

### **WHAT CAN THE BATON ROUGE CLUB DO TO ENHANCE YOUR RADIO ENJOYMENT?**

BRARC has vastly improved recently but we still need people, particularly younger members, to volunteer and take leadership. The core of leadership is aging and really need help.

### **IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?**

One of the best ways to learn is to attend outside meeting for breakfast and other meals. The hams that you meet are some of the nicest people that you will ever meet, are willing to share. You will quickly learn how much more you need to know.



## BATON ROUGE AMATEUR RADIO MEMBER PROFILE

### *Meet Pat K5AHE...*

#### **Biography and Early Interest**

I am a retired LSU professor who grew up in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, and I was first licensed in 1955 as KN5AHE with a brand new Heathkit AT-1(tx), a BC-348K(rx) and 1 crystal centered in the middle of the novice cw portion of 80m. ....that was fun! Not knowing what I wanted to do, I followed my radio interest and got a Physics degree that gave me an invitation to graduate school in a Medical School Physiology and Biophysics Department where I received a Ph.D. Next, followed 4 years at Iowa State University pursuing a degree in Veterinary Medicine while working in the Biomedical Engineering Program that was sponsored jointly by the E.E. Department and College of Veterinary Medicine. My role in the BEP was on the Artificial Heart team that was doing studies on the "venous control of an artificial heart". I had access to the ISU Amateur Radio Club Collins station on the top floor of the E.E. building with a tri-bander beam on a 20ft tower on top of the building. On Saturdays we had a morning gross anatomy lab and before class I would operate the station looking for Southern stations. Subsequently, I was offered a position in the new School of Veterinary Medicine at LSU.

I didn't have much of a station between high school and my first real job at LSU but, a Kenwood 520 arrived within about 2 years and I was having fun again.....followed by a Kenwood 850 I still have. I bought a Heathkit SB-200 for an amplifier that was used on 20m packet which was more fun. I still have the SB-200. My current station alternates between a Flex 5000a, which I am using to building a software and hardware interface for satellite communication, and a Flex 6700 that is a multi-band / multi-mode transceiver. I have been successful in operating WSJTX or FLDIGI or both on 2 bands simultaneously. The radio is capable of operating 8 bands all at once. The current goal is to be able to operate 4 bands. My favorite mode is cw, although the other digital modes are a close second. Another interest that has been in and out of my mind is building ham equipment from kits or magazine articles. My kids and grandkids all live out of state so that leaves me with more time than I need to enjoy this hobby.

#### **Exciting Events and BRARC Enhancement**

My most exciting events in this hobby all involve passing tests. First of all, passing the 13 wpm test to move from a Novice to a General license. Secondly, retaking the code test to restore my license (WA5RKJ). Thirdly, passing the 20 wpm code test to move from Advanced to Extra Class (legacy)\*. Each of these tests were just gateways to more bands/modes and responsibilities to the hobby, especially to the local BRARC. Other exciting events were the 1st cw contact with St. Martinsville, LA on 80m.....my contact with Hawaii..... and the accumulation of states contacted. The last events were centered on the local club which included election to the Board twice and to the Presidency twice. I will tie my thoughts on the enjoyment of an organized club such as BRARC to this paragraph. Having a club like BRARC means to each member a source of: 1) New friends (hopefully like-minded), 2) Organized activities that enhance the hobby enjoyment and/or provide a public service using the hobby. 3) Club officers and Board members who are responsible to the club by-laws and responsive to the club members' changing needs. My enjoyment in the club is all the things mentioned above and below. But all of this enjoyment

needs volunteers and club membership growth to insure a future supply of these essential members. This is not a new idea. About 30 years ago, as a Board member, I was concerned about a declining membership, I spent club money to help write, edit and mail a newsletter to every ham in 20-30 mailing codes in the BR area. The newsletter talked about the club meetings, social events, licensing classes, VE testing and, of course, field day weekend. It even had pictures. Each letter was individualized from databases at ARRL, FCC, and others I don't remember to identify the ham's ARRL membership, license class, mailing address. A membership application was included that also had check boxes for license upgrade classes and VE testing for licensing. Mailing was expensive and no responses were received. That was the only attempt at recruiting. Later, we learned that recruitment is hard and requires multiple attempts. In the meantime, BRARC has strong program through personal contacts for getting potential individuals into licensing classes and then allowing them to appear at club-based VE sessions to test for the various licenses. The club also has outreach through Highland Road Observatory, USS Kidd, Field Day weekend and other events for potential new members. All of the things mentioned above require volunteers. Hello, out there! Find your thing and join in.

- - passed required 20 wpm code test

### **More memories of high school ham activity and advice to a new ham**

Several veterans of WWII returned to my hometown with radio technology and Morse code training. They organized as a group to get licensed and to operate ham stations. They started by just listening to a Hallicrafters receiver that one of the guys had bought. It was placed in a 2nd or 3rd floor office in the County Court House with a long wire out the window. It was available to all interested parties. I was invited to the group as the only Boy Scout with a Radio Merit Badge. They passed around a paper tape code machine that I used to get ready for my 5 wpm Novice license code test. I soon received a loaner Navy receiver that I paired with my newly build AT-1 and (with the group's help) a 80m dipole at 20ft. The receiver only tuned 1.5 MHz to 18 MHz but, my operations as a novice were limited to 80 and 40m for which the receiver sensitivity was very good. The Navy receiver was replaced by a brand new HQ-140X, which was a real amateur band receiver at the time. It had 2 knobs for tuning. One for setting the band and one for tuning the band. It also had defined filters and some noise limiting ability. It was followed by a Viking Challenger transmitter which was both am and cw and had an output of about 50-75w. That was my station for about 10 years after high school.

My advice to a new licensed ham would be to gain access to a real amateur radio by any means. A list of means would include: 1) the BRARC, 2) neighborhood hams, 3) buying a used amateur radio with saving or family assistance, 4) looking for mentors with operational stations who would share time with you, 5) signing up for time at the BRARC station located at the Highland Observatory (not available at this time). One important warning: Please, absolutely know the different band frequencies and their limits.

*(continued on next page)*

## ***Pat K5AHE... (continued)***

Remember? You learned that for your licensing test. You should also review the particular bands and frequency segments of those bands that you can legally transmit on before you ask a mentor for help. If the new licensed ham has acquired a radio he/she should set it to the low band edge (20m, 14.0 MHz recommended). By slowly tuning up the band (i.e. increasing the frequency), start matching what you hear (ssb, cw, digital ft-8) with the ARRL band-plan for 20m. Another idea would be to tune to one of the Standard Time frequencies (5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 MHz). The Standard Time 15 MHz signal would be best heard during the day. Be sure to set the mode on the radio to am or sam.

### **More memories 2 of high school ham activity and family matters (if you are still reading this)**

WWII surplus radio equipment conversion to amateur radio use was a big deal in the 1950s. We had 7 hams in town and only one was rich. He and his son (also a ham) ran a complete Collins station (75A-4, KWS-1 and 30L-1). The rest of us bought cheap retail, homebrewed or converted military surplus following the ARRL handbook or magazine articles. My AT-1 transmitter had only 1 output tube (6L6) that probably put out about 8-12 watts on the low bands. I wanted more power. My first conversion was an ARC-5 (BC696) Navy aircraft transmitter (cw, mcw, and voice). It covered 3.0-4.0 MHz, had 12v filament finals, a worm gear driven tuning dial, and a pop-up mirror that displayed a magic tuning eye for zero-beating a crystal calibrator.

At 400-500v on the plates, it was a 60w cw transmitter with a minor chirp. I joined Army MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System ) and served as net control for the cw net on alternate Tuesday nights on 3.289 Mhz. I had a separate dipole cut for the MARS frequency that stealthy extended into my neighbor's tree. MARS members were also eligible to receive surplus equipment at the state level. My biggest surplus item was a 5 KW generator complete with 4-cylinder Jeep engine(1600#). I had it mounted on a 1936 Chevy truck front axle and wheels with a tow bar. welded to the front of the frame. When it was running it sounded magnificent all the way up and down the street. Then, I graduated from high school and everything changed. I focused on college and, by accident, my license expired. It was several years later when I retook the General, Advanced and code tests and was issued WA5RKJ which I used until I was able to reclaim my original call some time in the 1970s. Packet radio captured me in the 1990s and I followed it into the digital modes and radios of today. My involvement with BRARC in the 1990s led me to upgrade to Extra Class out of interest in the VE licensing program that ARRL still sponsors and BRARC administers. I am still just an average cw operator in love with a VIZKEY vertical bug.

My wife, Carolyn, and I were married while I was in graduate school. Within 4 years our family of 1 daughter and 2 sons was complete. They all have families and we enjoy 8 grand kids ages 30 to 12. None are hams, although the 2 oldest granddaughters are working in technology/engineering fields. The 3rd oldest granddaughter will graduate in a few weeks with a degree in math and a minor in physics and engineering. She is the strongest possibility. There is always hope!



## John Krupsky WA5MLF shares configuration settings for N3FJP for interfacing with the ICOM 7300

From: <http://www.n3fjp.com/help/righelp.html>

### N3FJP Amateur Contact Log (AC Log)

Settings, Rig Interface, Icom2

Use the same baud rate that is set in IC-7300 and WSJT-X.

Command to read frequency

Change the 64 in string to ID of your rig – 94 for IC-7300

Command to read mode

Change the 64 in string to ID of your rig – 94 for IC-7300

The YouTube example changes 64 to 94 for IC-7300.

Choose COM port and click Test

If successful, N3FJP displays the rig's frequency and mode.

From: <http://n3fjp.com/help/wsjt-x-integration-with-n3fjp-software.html>

### WSJT-X integration with N3FJP Software

See the Configuration section and **Local Unicast** section of the document for WSJT-X to communicate with N3FJP AC Log by itself.

See the **Multicast** section of the document for WSJT-X to communicate with **both** JTAAlert **and** N3FJP AC Log. This is what we use for W5GIX. It also works fine if JTAAlert is not running.



It's coming soon... Field Day 2024

## John Krupsky WA5MLF shares some operating tips on WSJT-X settings for N3FJP logging software...

### N3FJP Amateur Contact Log (ACLog) Settings for radio operating modes

#### **SSB or CW:**

Ensure WSJT-X and JTAlert are **NOT** running.

In ACLog Settings, Rig Interface, Select Rig must be set to **IC-7300**.

#### **FT8 or FT4**

Start WSJT-X first and select desired band.

Start JTAlert (optional)

Start AC Log

In ACLog Settings, Rig Interface, Select Rig must be set to **None**.

All required log data will be sent to the log via the API using IP multicast.

When a contact is completed, click the button in the Log Contact pop-up window.

The contact data will appear in ACLog.

#### References:

- WSJT-X Integration with N3FJP Software

- ACLog settings for JTAlert

- WSJT-X UDP Setup

## General License Class in May!

BRARC will be holding a General License Class during the month of May. The dates are as follows:

Saturday, May 4, 10 AM—3 PM\* at EBR Main Library on Goodwood

Wednesday, May 8, 6:30-8:00 PM Online

Saturday, May 11, 10 AM—3 PM\* at EBR Main Library on Goodwood (TENTATIVE)

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30-8:00 PM Online

Wednesday, May 22, 6:30-8:00 PM Online

Tuesday, May 28, 7:00 PM BRARC Meeting at St. George Fire Prevention

Saturday, June 1, 10:00 AM VE Session (You will be prepared if you want to test this day!) at EBR Main Library on Goodwood

\*please bring a lunch as there is not enough time to go out and come back and still stay on schedule. We will have snacks and drinks throughout the day.

This class is free and is open to anyone who is Technician Class Licensed and is looking to upgrade to their General Class License.

Signups are live via Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BAEA82FA6F4C52-49072912-may2024>



**It's coming ... sooner than you think! Field Day , June 22-23 . 2024**

**[ARRL.ORG/FIELD DAY](https://www.arrl.org/field-day) for more information!**

## RF News

I will try to send out each publication by the first week 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.

Feedback is always welcome and please be patient as I am always working to improve the format and readability. Email your articles to Joe Roppolo

[K5ROP@BRARC.ORG](mailto:K5ROP@BRARC.ORG)



## For Sale to get you started...

Perfect for the new radio amateur. Just add coax.

Yaesu FT-2900

- 2m FM transceiver. 75w output.

Kenwood KPS-15 power supply

- 13.8 volts at 23 amps output

Arrow dual band J-Pole

- 2m and 70cm vertical

\$250 for the package.

Hank K5HDE

225-931-8811

[hankellis@aol.com](mailto:hankellis@aol.com)



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Facebook: The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club-BRARC or direct to [www.facebook.com/groups/951998299448838](https://www.facebook.com/groups/951998299448838)



## Last Laughs



"Sorry OM, I can only work QRP at the moment!"