



RF NEWS



Club Meeting: February 27, 2024

ED Fong - Development of the J-Pole Antenna!

Our guest speaker for the February meeting will be Ed Fong (WB6IQN). As many of you know, he is the inventor of the DBJ-1 and DBJ-2 antenna that was featured in the February 2003 and March 2007 QST. His most recent antenna was the TBJ-1 – a triband base antenna that was published in March 2017 QST. The DBJ-1 is a highly effective dual band VHF/UHF base station antenna and the DBJ-2 is the portable roll up version. The DBJ-2 won the QST Plaque of the Month Award. Both of these antennas are featured in the ARRL VHF antenna Handbook and also in the ARRL Antenna Classic Handbook. There are over 40,000 of these antennas in use today. About half are used by hams and the other half by government and commercial agencies. Ed will give a history on how these antennas were developed and the theory on how and why they work so well. There is no “black magic” to antennas. He will explain in a nonmathematical manner to convince you for overall performance and simplicity his approach is one of the most practical.

Biography: Ed Fong was first licensed in 1968 as WN6IQN. He later upgraded to Extra Class (when 20 WPM was required) with his present call of WB6IQN. He obtained the BSEE and MSEE degrees from the Univ. of California at Berkeley and his Ph.D. from the Univ. of San Francisco. A Life Senior Member of the IEEE, he has 12 patents and over 40 published papers and books in the area of communications and integrated circuit design. Presently, he is employed by the University of California, Santa Cruz (previously with Berkeley from 1997- 2010) as an instructor teaching graduate classes in Antenna Design, RF design and high speed interface.

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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 had a great start to the new year! We had our first meeting at our new location at St. George Fire Prevention on Airline Highway and set a new record of 51 in attendance!

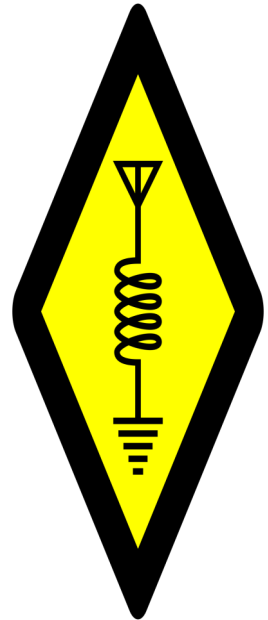
The program given by Jerry Clouatre AG5AY and Todd Huovinen AB5TH on Antennas was great and brought plenty of interaction with the crowd! We recorded the presentation and hope to make it available for those who missed it or for new members joining in the future.

At the meeting, President Dan Lott KF5TQN discussed some future plans for the upcoming year, including antenna builds

and other future projects.

We encourage all of our members to contact Officers and Board Members with any suggestions or concerns. We are only as strong as when we all stand together and share our ideas and we are looking for new ideas or the rebirth of past activities that would spark interest among new members who weren't around when something cool was done.

This year we will be looking at more training and getting input and ideas on how to get our fellow or future hams licensed or upgraded. When all else fails, ham radio works!



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. (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!

Weekly BRARC Nets...

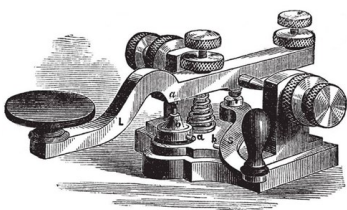
Region 2 ARES Net - Sunday, 8:00 (20:00) local time – meets on 146.790- pl 107.2

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.



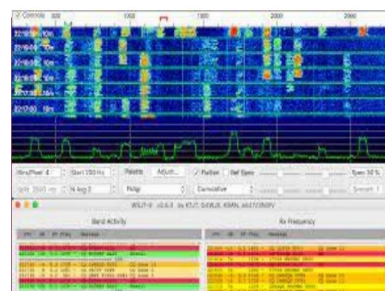
Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Slow Speed CW Net
Meets on **10.115** MHz at 6:30 (18:30) local time on the **SECOND** and **THIRD** Tuesday of the month.

Hands-on Tutoring for FT8 & FT4 Digital Modes at HPRO

If you are new to the digital modes FT8 & FT4 and want to learn the basics of making contacts, this session is for you. We will be offering 2-hours of hands-on based learning covering the following:

- Introduction to WSJT-X software and JT Alert software
- Downloading software and setting up on your computer
- Basics of making contacts
- Logging software basics
- Using PSK Reporter website

You will be instructed by an Extra class amateur radio operator at the Highland Road Park Observatory, operating W5GIX. After you learn the basics of the WSJT-X software, you will make digital FT8 & FT4 contacts with other hams around the country using the ICOM-7300 transceiver and the Yagi trib-ander. Reserve your time slot now on our club website, www.brarc.org.



Club Meetings

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. That is **February 27th** 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

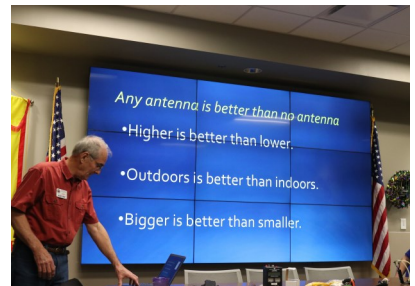


Jerry AG5AY & Todd AB5TH

PHOTO GALLERY January 30th



51 attended the meeting



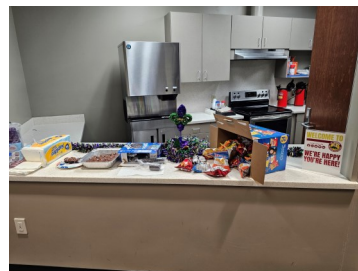
“Any antenna is better than no antenna!”



“Let’s talk Antennas”



Antenna parts



Snacks



Jon WA9JBR discussing FT8/FT4 training

Photos by
Thornton K5HLC
&
Joe K5ROP



The crowd went wild!

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

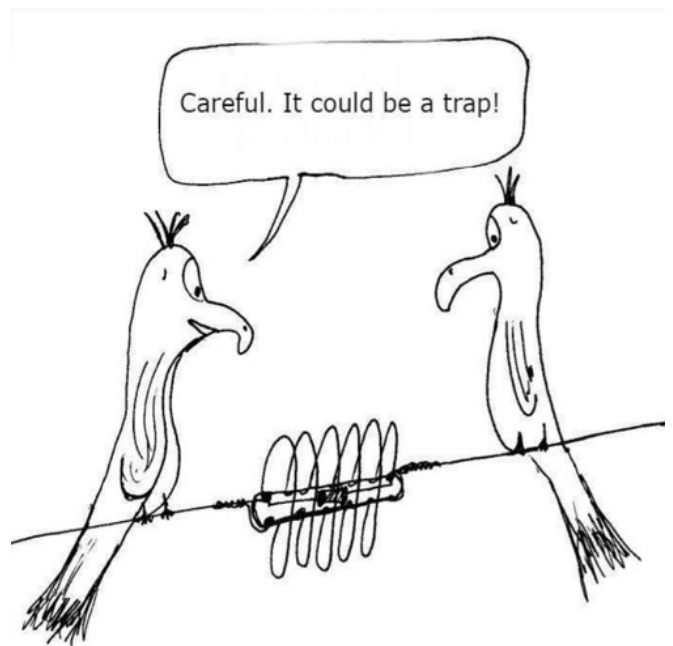


Elmers Wanted

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



Anzio and Ingenuity – Birth of the Foxhole Radio

—Jeff Sibley N4XEG

Exploring a simple radio built in the field during WW2 by soldiers who wanted a little

This January marks the 80th anniversary of Operation SHINGLE, better known as the Anzio beach-head. The goal was to outflank the German line in Italy and liberate Rome. The execution didn't go as planned and to make a long story short, the troops got pinned down in one of the worst stale-mates of the Italian campaign, lasting over four months.

In frustration, Churchill said, "I had hoped that we were hurling a wildcat onto the shore, but all we got was a stranded whale." With the troops pinned down, under constant artillery threat, they dug in. Retrieving building supplies from the nearby towns of Anzio and Nettuno, the soldiers built elaborate underground facilities like movie theaters and published newspapers for this dug-in city of nearly 70,000.

Necessity is the mother of invention and out of this situation was born the Foxhole Radio.

Easy to construct and with materials that the soldiers could salvage on the battlefield, they constructed simple crystal radios to listen to the propaganda station in Rome or Allied stations in Naples and Navy ships. While the station did fill its broadcast with propaganda, it also played the latest music from back home and the latest POW status. Private Eldon Phelps is credited with building the first foxhole radio after a United Press reporter wrote about it. Picked up by US newspapers and the Stars and Stripes, the legend was born.

Private Phelps built his radio with parts he scavenged on the battlefield. He had learned about radios from his older brother who explored amateur radio as a youth and built a career in designing radios for aircraft. He was able to scrap all the parts he needed to build a crude crystal radio except for the crystal. He remembered a safety razor blade could be substituted for the detector.

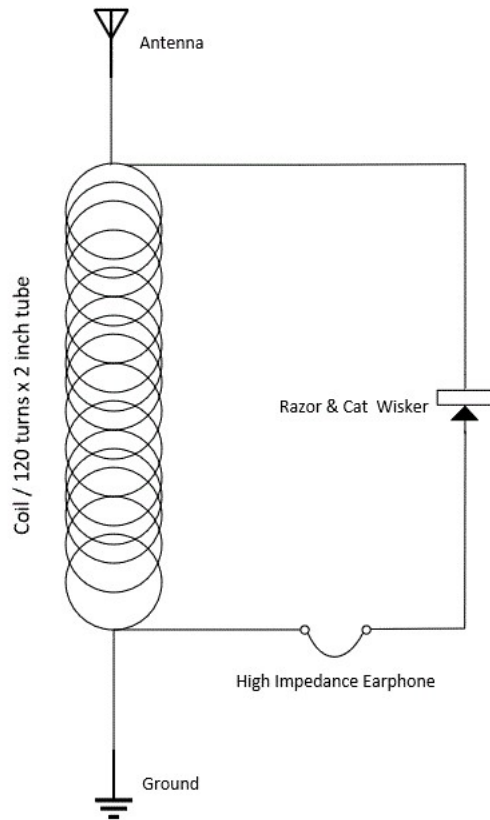
In this article, we will focus on the foxhole radio and explore constructing a working model with supplies we can currently source. A good source of information is the ARRL archives.

July 1944 QST / P62

Oct 1944 QST / P86

Sep 1945 QST / P53

The original design used a safety pin, acting as a cat's whisker, and a 'blue' safety razor blade as the detector (crystal). The blue blades were a heat treatment some safety razors came with but can easily be accomplished with a shop torch.



Materials

- Insulated magnet wire ~200 ft
- High impedance earphone
- Safety razor blade (blue)
- Cardboard tube (toilet paper)
- Large safety pin
- Lead pencil
- Thumb tacks
- Alligator clips
- Paperclips
- Wooden base

I plan to give an update on construction after I receive the parts ordered and build my working model.

Jeff Sibley / N4XEG

References

QSP Archives (listed above)

Foxhole Radio: the ubiquitous razor blade radio of WWII by Brian Carusella (2019)

All About Radio and Television by Jack Gould (out of print)

Online

https://cdn.makezine.com/make/wp_foxholeradio.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4j1QsUNrM4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skKmwT0EccE>

BATON ROUGE AMATEUR RADIO MEMBER PROFILE

Meet Mike N5UKZ...

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

Mike Blazek, I currently work in industrial sales.

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

A childhood friends father was an amateur radio operator (Bob WB5IXK, SK)

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST RADIO SETUP?

My first radio setup was an SWL setup built around a DX-160 receiver; my first amateur station was a mobile setup with an Icom VHF rig.

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

Electronics classes at Baton Rouge High School helped establish my knowledge of theory; while not exactly amateur, time at WBRH helped with the mechanics of radio,

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO NOW AND WHY? Can list multiple items. (modes of operation, contesting, experimentation, kit building, etc.) DX'ing, digital modes, special event stations, light contesting (I won Single Op Low Power for La in the 2008 VHF/UHF contest where I just might have been the only person who turned in a log!)

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

My first DX Contact (GOEHQ in England), working stations way past rational bedtime when 10 meters was really hot (20 wasn't too shabby either...), hearing the ISS on an HT.

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

We'll be using gear and modes we can't even imagine while we'll be doing some of the exact same things we're doing today.

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

Don't be afraid to try new things, RTFM, and listen, listen. Listen...

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

Maybe a group construction project (simple digital interface, antenna project, etc) Classes for basic skills (how many brand new hams know how to solder?)

ARRL Louisiana Section Meeting and SELARC Ham-

—Joe Roppolo K5ROP

The Louisiana Section Meeting was led by Matt Anderson KD5KNZ, Section Manager. Presentations were made by Jim Coleman AI5B, ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, Elmer Tatum N5EKF, the newly appointed Affiliated Club Coordinator, and Michael Nolan KD5MLD the Youth Coordinator.



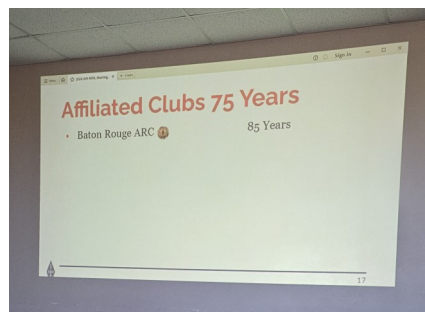
Matt KD5KNZ discussed the ARRL recent activity and accomplishments with regards to the FCC and the state of the Louisiana Section and Delta Division.

Jim AI5B brought everyone up to speed on how and at what levels ARES activations take place and how coordination with the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) takes place.

Storm Preparations Local Activities

| Level | Who Involved | Emergency | Normal day |
|------------|--|---|---|
| National | ARRL | ARRL Emergency Response Team (ERT) | ARRL Emergency Response Team (ERT) |
| Section | Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) | Section Emergency Response Team (SE-ERT) | Section Emergency Response Team (SE-ERT) |
| Local | Local Emergency Coordinator (LEC) | Local Emergency Response Team (LE-ERT) | Local Emergency Response Team (LE-ERT) |
| Club | Club Emergency Coordinator (CEC) | Club Emergency Response Team (CE-ERT) | Club Emergency Response Team (CE-ERT) |
| Individual | Individual Emergency Coordinator (IEC) | Individual Emergency Response Team (IE-ERT) | Individual Emergency Response Team (IE-ERT) |

Elmer N5EKF presented the resources that are available to clubs from ARRL and at point presented a list of Affiliated Clubs and how long they have been affiliated. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club has been the longest affiliated club in Louisiana and the sole club listed in the 75+ category with 85 Years!



Michael KD5MLD presented Youth Resources for getting future generations of operators into our clubs as well as ways our clubs can reach out and get young people enthusiastic and involved with Amateur Radio

Congratulations to Russ Plyler, WI5ARD, SELARC President and the SELARC club for holding a fun, educational and by all standards, a very successful Hamfest.



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 working on format changes.

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



Section Manager Election

ARRL members: Remember to get your ballots mailed back for the Section manager election!

Ballots must be received no later than February 16, 2024 by 4:00 PM local time.

Matt Anderson KD5KNZ, Section Manager is running for re-election after stepping up when John Marc Robertson K5JMR resigned for health reasons.

He is being challenged by Houston Poulson N5YS.

Their bios and platforms are included with your ballot that was sent out by ARRL.



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)

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Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4004

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Email: brarc@brarc.org
Facebook: The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club-BRARC or direct to www.facebook.com/groups/951998299448838



Last Laughs

