



RF NEWS



Club Meeting: March 26, 2024

Jeremy Gerald AD5XY - Fire Safety

HELP, I LET THE OHM GNOME OUT OF MY HOUSE!!!

Over the past 30 years I have been a Naval Aviation Electronics Technician, a Baton Rouge Firefighter, and an Amateur Extra. At this month's meeting I will entertain you with the experiences obtained through trial, errors, and family mishaps that will inform you how to minimize the risk of, as a ham operator, burning your house down, and what to do if you have a fire. I am Jeremy Gerald, AD5XY.

We will discuss the following topics, time permitting: what is fire, #1 cause of fires in the home, Not your grandma's furniture, early detection and proper placement of smoke detectors, fires can happen anywhere, fire extinguishers are not hand grenades, fire extinguisher use and size, How did this not burn when everything else is gone, insurance, and electrical safety. Shortly after I was born, my mom picked me up from my grandparents in my dad's purple Javelin. With the engine running and me in the car seat, my mom loaded up the car. Before all was said and done, the car was on fire. No, I was not hurt, but the car... not so much. The people in my life have provided ample opportunities for educational material. No one is safe, including me, from being included if there is a lesson that can be learned.

This should be fun. No one should be worried as no gnomes will be injured in the course of this discussion.

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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.**

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YEARLY CLUB DUES OF \$25.00 WERE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 2024.

NOTICES OF REMOVAL FROM CLUB ROLLS WILL BE GOING OUT APRIL 1, 2024 (NO APRIL FOOL'S JOKE)

PAYMENT OF THE \$25.00 YEARLY DUES IS RELATIVELY EASY:
GO TO [Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club](http://Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Website) Website. (BRARC.org)

Select the MEMBERSHIP category and follow the listed instructions:

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

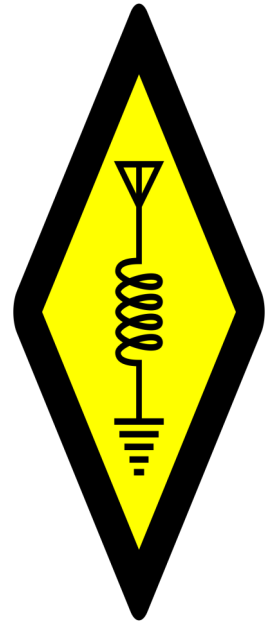
or

Pay by PayPal and follow the instructions

or

Bring cash/check to a meeting!

PAYMENT IS QUICK, EASY, AND PAINLESS!



Louisiana Section Manager Election Results

02/23/2024

On Tuesday, February 20, at ARRL Headquarters, ballots were counted for two Section Manager elections that were conducted this winter.

ARRL members in Louisiana elected Houston Polson, N5YS, of Winnfield, to become the next Section Manager of the ARRL Louisiana Section starting on April 1, 2024. Polson received 200 votes, and incumbent Section Manager Matt Anderson, KD5KNZ, received 169 votes.

Polson was first licensed in 1984, and he has been a member of the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club in Omaha, Nebraska, ever since. He is also a Volunteer Examiner and an active member of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club.

Anderson, of Covington, has served as the Section Manager for the ARRL Louisiana Section since August 31, 2023, when he was appointed to fulfill the remainder of the term after John Mark Robertson, K5JMR, stepped down



—Excerpt from <https://www.arrl.org/news/view/winter-season-section-manager-election-results>

Weekly BRARC Nets...

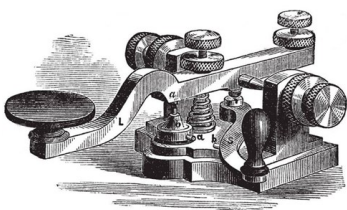
Region 2 ARES Net - Sunday, 8:00 (20:00) local time – meets on 146.790- pl 107.2

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.



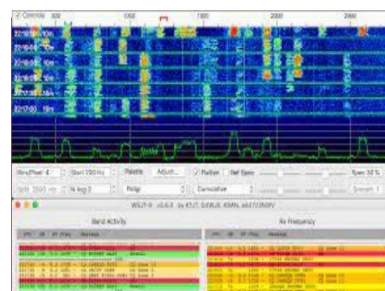
Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Slow Speed CW Net
Meets on **10.115** MHz at 6:30 (18:30) local time on the **SECOND** and **THIRD** Tuesday of the month.

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.



ED FONG presented on February 27, 2024 by

—Joe Roppolo K5ROP

Ed Fong WB6IQN, renowned Professor and Creator of the Ed Fong J-Pole Antenna, was gracious enough to give Baton Rouge ARC a zoom presentation on how he created his famous J-pole Antenna and the variations and results of his modifications over time.

Thirty-one attended the meeting in-person and an additional 3 were online for the presentation. Ed was very open to questions and interacted as if we were having an in-person discussion. As he moved through his presentation, he would get to a point of wanting to show us something and just ran to the other side of his office to grab something and bring it out. All in attendance, with or without engineering knowledge, enjoyed the program. There are many facets of Amateur Radio and whether you want to build one of his antennas yourself or purchase one, Ed discussed how it is made, even giving you the model number of the UV-resistant PVC pipe.

Upon ending his presentation, Ed made a very generous Antenna offer whereby Club Members can receive 20% off an original Ed Fong Antenna. See page 9 of this month's RF News for this great deal!!

A copy of the Ed Fong presentation can be found at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/fPBDdamaV1ss3RyHAXh0H5W85HRdAxV-0ssZKimxS_luiC8BvZgvOo5Uaah6ovQz.wB54-pXPurq5kfYc?startTime=1709081770000

Passcode: +bP4gj%6

Special thanks to Paul KG5HLB for setting this presentation up with Ed!



Club Meetings

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. That is **March 26th** 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

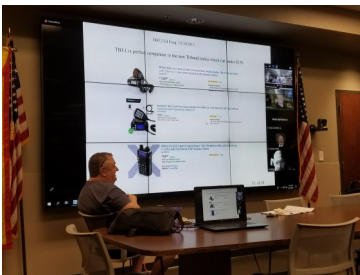
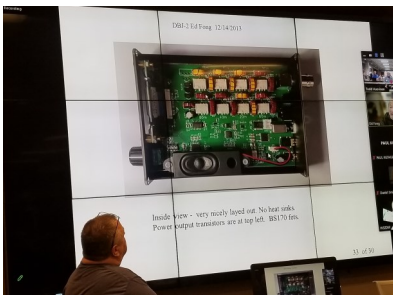


PHOTO GALLERY February 27th



Photos by Thornton K5HLC & 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



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



Ten Candidates Test for Licenses

—Jon Reise, WA9JBR



The BRARC VE team conducted the first exam session of 2024 on Saturday, March 2nd at the EBR Main Library on Goodwood. Seven Candidates pre-registered and we had three walk-ins. One of the Candidates upgraded from Technician to General. Three rooms were used at the library. One room was for administration, a second room was used for a pretest and post-test meeting area. Thornton Cofield, K5HLC introduced the Candidates to Amateur Radio and gave out one-year complimentary memberships to BRARC. The testing took place in the Technology Lab on the 2nd floor of the library.

The successful Candidates and their new issued license were:

Mark St Romain	Technician
Amy Northrop	Technician
Charles Northrop	Technician
Michael Barrett, KJ5DMI	General
Ethan Parizeau	Technician
John Pentony	Technician
Daryl Davis	Technician
Andre Jeansonne	Technician
Russell Knaps	Technician
Christian Bordelon	Technician



Pictured: Ethan Parizeau, Mark St. Romain, Michael Barrett, Daryl Davis, Andre Jeansonne, Christian Bordelon, Russell Knaps, John Pentony, Charles "Justin" Northrop, Amy Northrop

This session's VE Team was comprised of:

Jon Reise, WA9JBR
Michael Nolan, KD5MLD
Russ London, NS5W
David Cohen, N7TC
Thornton Cofield, K5HLC
Todd Houvinen, AB5TH



Pictured: Michael KD5MLD, Todd AB5TH, Jon WA9JBR, David N7TC, Thornton K5HLC, Russ NS5W

BRARC will be conducting the next test session at the library on Saturday, June 1 at 10 am:

If you hold a Technician or General class license, think about upgrading at one of our test sessions. Registration can be done on the BRARC website, www.brarc.org. If you are a VE and interested in joining the BRARC VE Team, contact Jon Reise, WA9JBR at jreise92@gmail.com

CLUB EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL OFFER—ED FONG ANTENNA OFFER

Greetings Amateur Radio Operators,

This is a follow up to the 27 February 2024 Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club meeting that feature Ed Fong presentation of the various antennas he has designed and marketed. Ed generously offered the BRARC a limited time offer for 20% off his antennas, but the order has to be a consolidated BRARC order and accomplished within 60 days. **Deadline for orders to be received by BRARC is 23 April 2024.**

This is a great opportunity and here is how you can take advantage of the offer.

Here are the products that are offered:

- DBJ-1 This is a dual band base station antenna available in HAM frequencies (144-148 MHz and 440-450 MHz) or Commercial frequencies (152-157 MHz and 460-470 MHz). Retail price is \$55.00, **our price: \$38.00.**
 - DBJ-2 This is a dual band roll up (portable) antenna available in HAM frequencies (144-148 MHz and 440-450 MHz) or Commercial frequencies (152-157 MHz and 460-470 MHz). Retail price is \$60.00, **our price: \$40.00.**
 - TBJ-1 This is a triband antenna 2m, 220 MHz and 70 cm. Price includes 6 foot piece of PVC pipe. Retail Price is \$90.00, **our price: \$65.00.**
 - GMRS 5dB gain base antenna. Retail price is \$60.00, **our price: \$43.00.**
 - 6 Foot extension cable (BNC male to BNC Female, **our price: \$6.00.**
 - BNC female to PL259 (adapter for roll up DBJ-2 to mobile or base, **our price: \$2.50.**
 - 220 MHz Base Special, **our price: \$30.00.**
- USDX+ Transceiver (This was mentioned in Ed's presentation), **our price: \$155.00** (This is not a discounted price, nor is it an Ed Fong produced product).

We are only accepting cash or checks for payment and payment must be made at the time of your order. You can mail your order and check to:

**Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 4004
Baton Rouge, LA 70821**

Order and payment can also be made at the monthly BRARC meeting scheduled for 26 March 2024. When ordering, please include your name and call sign.

Any questions please reach out to Paul Smith at 703 915-3573 or KG5HLB@gmail.com

Copy of the Ed Fong presentation can be found at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/fPBDdamaV1ss3RyHAXh0HSW85HRdAxV-0ssZKimxS_luiC8BvZgvOo5Uaah6ovQz.wB54-pXPurq5kfYc?startTime=1709081770000

Passcode: +bP4gj%6

73

Paul, KG5HLB

BATON ROUGE AMATEUR RADIO MEMBER PROFILE

Meet Hank K5HDE...

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

Henry Ellis. Everybody calls me Hank. After a 40 year career as a helicopter mechanic, took early retirement in 2020. (Thanks Covid)

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

My father was a self-taught TV and radio repairman and ran a one man band shop. One of his customers was a radio amateur who came in for tubes and other things he needed for his shack. One day I got an invite to see his shack. This 10 year old kid was amazed at all the knobs and glowing tubes. QSL cards were tacked on the wall from exotic places like New Jersey. The seed was planted.

Fast forward to 2008 when Hurricane Gustav blew through. Tree fell and crushed the house. Lost all communications, internet, cell voice, and land line. Could text but the turnaround time was hours. After the rebuild pondered on what I could do for backup communications. Everything kept pointing to amateur radio. Licensed in 2010. Got into amateur radio for disaster preps and stayed for the fun.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST RADIO SETUP?

Like everybody else, got an HT. Quickly figured out that 5 watts and a rubber ducky antenna limits what you can do. Next up is a Kenwood TS-2000 which covered 160m to 70cm. Got DXCC with it and still use it for VHF/UHF work. Due to HOA restrictions all my antennas are in the attic.

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

Definitely my prior experiences lead me to amateur radio. My first job as a mechanic was doing avionics installs. Later on doing transponder certifications and autopilot troubleshooting This was in addition to my main duties in airframe and powerplant maintenance. A strong electrical/electronics background certainly helped me in getting my ham ticket. I knew all those Heathkits from Radio Shack I built in the 60's and 70's would pay off. Wish they were still around.

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

Contesting. Specifically VHF contesting. The June ARRL VHF contest is where I geek out running FT8 on 6m. I like the challenge.

Got a few builds in the works. One is a Bitx 40. Another is an unfinished battery monitor kit that Buddy N5BUD sk put together as a club group build.

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

My first HF QSO. 17m phone with a gentleman in California.

My first satellite QSO. Talking to an Ukraine freighter captain anchored in Jamaica through a Japanese satellite. Too cool.

Answering a CQ on 12m phone. Explained that I was a new ham and just getting my feet wet on HF. 20 minute QSO and as he was signing off he thanked me saying "I don't get to ragchew like this very often." After I signed off there was this huge pileup and I couldn't figure out why. It was ZD7FT on Saint Helena island. I didn't recognize the prefix.

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

Not a clue. However I do think that software will play a bigger role in the future. Possibly AI predicting propagation.

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

Keep pushing forward. If you're a new Tech, study now for General. There is about a 60% overlap in the question pool so a few more weeks of studying and you will have your General ticket in your pocket.

DO YOU HAVE INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF AMATEUR RADIO?

Certainly do. Been a competitive marksman in the shooting sports for over 30 years. Have shot USPSA, Trap, and currently Mid-Range Prone. Another thing I'm involved in is skydiving. Used to compete at that also. Then the big way bug hit and started doing what we call 'the blots'. Formations of 100 people or more. Had a lot of success there. Currently sitting at 2,000 jumps.



BATON ROUGE AMATEUR RADIO MEMBER PROFILE

Meet Paul KG5HLB...

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

Hello fellow hams. My name is Paul Smith, and I am proud to be associated with the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club. I am retired from both active duty with the U.S. Army as well as retired from Civil Service working in support of the U.S. Army. In total I served just over 39 years. I have always said that I bleed olive drab green.

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

Way back when I was around 15, there was an older kid in my neighborhood in Muskegon Michigan and both he and his dad were amateur radio operators. I was intrigued by all the antennas in their yard, and I had bought a used bicycle from them. They were good ambassadors of the hobby, but I was already bitten by the perfume and gasoline bug and did not follow through with the idea. Over the years I have had a few friends and co-workers that were ham operators, and I always had the thought in the back of my mind that it would be good to pursue the hobby. Over the years, life, work, and family kept that thought in the background, but when I retired in 2014 and moved to Baton Rouge, I knew it was time. I contacted the club, met with Buddy (what a great ambassador of the hobby he was), and signed up for the technician course and was licensed in the spring of 2015.

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST RADIO SETUP?

My first rig was a Baofeng UV-5RT. Bought it from Buddy and I still have it and it is still going strong, not bad for a \$25.00 investment! My first HF rig was a Ten-Tec Jupiter from Wayne (also a club member and also now a silent key) and really enjoyed

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

My formal education is in the area of a business degree and a Masters in National Resource Strategy, so no, my civilian formal education did not prep me for the hobby. However, my training in the Army did help my pursuit of the hobby. I was trained in electronics as a Wire Guided Missile Repairer. I was trained in both tube and solid-state theory and of course, never saw any missile equipment in the field with tubes! It was good training and although I really thought I had forgotten all that from way way a long time ago, I was surprised that a lot of it came back as I studied for the different classes of licenses. I passed my Extra Class last year and I believe the Army training did help me in passing the technical parts of the exam.

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

I am learning CW and I love this mode of the hobby. It is a great way to communicate and connects me back to the roots of the hobby and the science. I am just getting into digital, and I also like that aspect of the hobby, like the idea of both CW and digital using very low power to operate and that points to the QRP aspect of the hobby, I have an Elecraft Kx3 and really enjoy using that as a QRP rig.

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

Oh gosh, my first VHF contact on the ICOM I had borrowed from the club. I had forgotten the model, but my first contact was on the Sunday night net, and I was thrilled. My first CW contact sticks in my mind and that was with Paul, WA4MXT back in 2020. I still remember the Lithuanian SSB contact, my first DX, and jumping around like a little kid.

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

WOW!! That is a great question, and I would love to be around to see it but doubt I will be so lucky. I think the digital capabilities will become more sophisticated and continue to grow in popularity. I also believe that the satellite part of the hobby will become more popular and many new ways to use radio in conjunction with satellites will really grow.

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

Easy, remember this is a hobby! You are not getting paid, your rent is not dependent on it and you are not competing with anyone but yourself, so take it easy, enjoy what you are doing, have fun.

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

The monthly meeting is a great opportunity to help operators build skills and find new aspects of the hobby. Keep those meetings informative and helpful. I would like to see more build opportunities. The last build we did was years ago, and it was for an 80m Cricket, CW, QRP rig. It was great fun, and I learned a lot from that, more of that sort, please.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

Thank you for this opportunity to share a bit about myself. I look forward to seeing all of the members giving their details here in the RF News as well. This is a great group of operators. 73 to all this is KG5HLB, Paul.



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



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



Last Laughs

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)

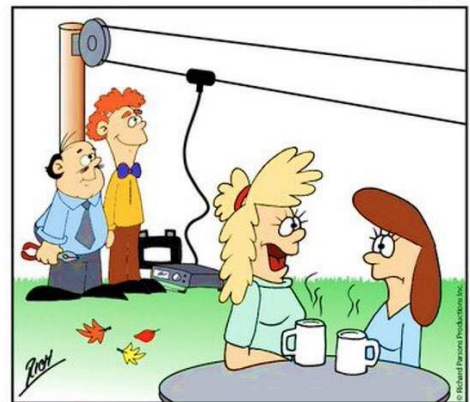
PO Box 4004
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4004

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



SUCH A HAM

SH-005



Stan & Cliff have been working all day on installing my clothesline, Mary.