



# RF NEWS



## Next Club Meeting on May 28th is our annual covered dish / eating meeting and... Planning for Field Day!

—Joe Roppolo K5ROP

### Dana Browne presents... The BRARC Strategy for ARRL Field Day

Dana Browne AD5VC will be bringing us up to speed for our Field Day Strategy! Every year, we use this meeting, open to family members to come and see a presentation and participate in planning for Field Day and see how we plan for this annual event.

*This is also our annual “eating meeting” and here is the list for covered dishes to bring, by call-sign suffix (the first letter after the number).*

If your callsign suffix	Please bring...
A-I	Dessert or Salad
J-R	Main Dish
S-Z or No callsign	Side Dish

The club will provide drinks, plates, flatware and napkins, I look forward to seeing all of you at the Highland Road Observatory on May 28.

#### Inside this issue

- 2024 Officers ..... 2
- The VP View..... 3
- Club Meetings..... 4
- BRARC Nets ..... 4
- Software Presentation ..... 5
- Meeting Photo Gallery..... 6
- Meet Jeremy AD5XY ..... 8
- Meet Len W5ZDW ..... 11
- Starter Kit for sale..... 12
- Contact info/RF News..... 12
- Last Laugh..... 12



## **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 been really moving forward this year, but sometimes we have setbacks, too. Unfortunately, the General License Class offering had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. We had only one person sign up and with all the preparation involved and reserving of the rooms at the EBR Main Library, we can't do a class without a minimum number of students. I did get feedback from a few others that timing was bad for this class.

We have worked together with Ascension ARC and they are planning on having a Technician License class in September and that may be a good opportunity to schedule a General License Class for BRARC in the October/November timeframe.

We have many members that overlap between 2 or 3 clubs and working together, including the members of multiple clubs brings us all closer within the Louisiana Section!

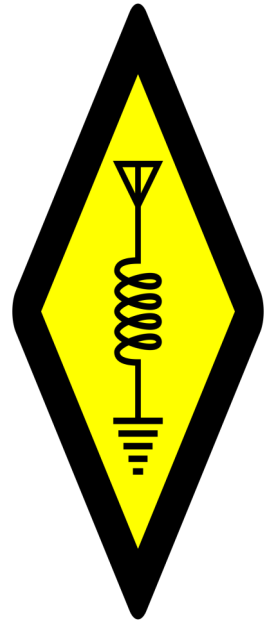
Field Day 2024 is on the horizon and it's never too early to start planning and this

month is our annual Covered Dish and Eating Meeting (with family) / Field Day Planning meeting at Highland Road Park Observatory, led by Dana Browne AD5VC.

We are looking forward to a great turnout for the "eating meeting" and of course, for Field Day itself! We will be sending a reminder out and as usual, doing a call sign first letter range to determine what type of food to bring to the eating meeting. (Main, side, dessert, etc.)

Did you hear some new call signs lately? We have some new members on our nets and at our meetings. Come out and welcome them! We can do more when have more people working together!

Are you looking to help out in the Club? Perhaps you want to be on the Finance Committee? Would you like to publish the RF News? Become an officer in the Club? How can you almost immediately give back to the Club? How about becoming a Volunteer Examiner? We can always use VE's and it's a great way to help out!



## Club Meetings

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
**Remember that this month, it's at the Observatory at 6:00 PM on *May 28th!***

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 for MAY:

### Highland Road Park Observatory

13800 Highland Road  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70817



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

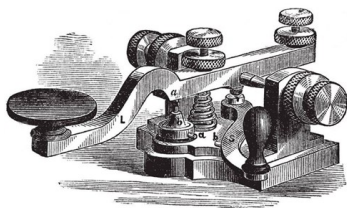
BRARC Traffic Net - Sunday, 8:30 (20:30) local time – meets on 146.790- pl 107.2

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

*Friendship Net has now moved to Thursday...*

Friendship Net - Thursday, 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



### **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.

## Dan Lott presents software to expand how we use our Amateur Radio lifestyle.

—Joe Roppolo K5ROP

Dan started his presentation by making sure that any members still needing or having any issues with their BRARC.ORG login were helped as other members were still settling in and grabbing a drink and snack.



He continued on how ham radio can be augmented by internet tools and applications. He went over installing the software on Windows, Linux, and Apple products, demonstrating a few installs on different platforms and showing installation steps. He then demonstrated some of their uses. Some of applications discussed were Echolink and WinLink.

With Echolink, a Licensed Amateur Radio operator can connect to a repeater that has been connected to the internet and interact using a computer or smartphone by running the Echolink application. Using an internet connection instead of RF, you get into the repeater and communicate with other repeater users in a like manner as if you were connecting via RF. You use the speaker and mic on your phone as you would the speaker and mic on your radio. When you install Echolink, you must put in your callsign and it announced when you join or leave the repeater to which you connect.



WinLink allows you to send and receive email over RF by connecting a mail server that is connected to the internet. Through your WinLink client software, you use your radio as the medium to send and receive data which is your email. This is an important tool for emergency situations, as we know many emergency services are using technology extensively and sending Incident Command System (ICS) Forms electronically, e.g., the ICS 213 message and ICS 213RR resource request. These forms can be transmitted via email or text using WinLink whereby they are submitted on one end, sent digitally via RF, then received and processed at the destination.



Remember that Dan is not only our President, but also an Elmer, so feel free to call upon him if you need help as he has always been generous with his time.



# PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by  
Thornton  
K5HLC  
April 30 Meeting



## 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 Jeremy AD5XY...*



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

My name is Jeremy Chad Gerald. Yes, I am eternally cursed with three first names. I am a member of the Baton Rouge Fire Department, the Baton Rouge Fire Prevention Bureau, and a student at Louisiana State University. Some have told me that I am a life-long student. I tend to agree with them.

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

In 1991, Bob Walker gave my stepfather a copy of the No-Code Technician book from Radio Shack. He brought it home along with several 10-in-1 and 50-in-1 electronics kits for us to play with. Our goal was to get the license in my sophomore year of high school. This was interrupted by several years of summer school and life. I remember my stepdad listening to code tapes all summer and trying to get ready for the 5-wpm test.

In 2003 I met Jerry Hunt through his daughter Patty. He told me to get in touch with the club and they held classes from time to time. I took the class and passed technician first time. This was the last test I passed on the first time... or even the fifth time. My call sign was KD5WWH, or as I used to say, KD5 Will Want Help. When I got my official notification of my license, Jerry gave me a radio to use until I got one of my own. My first contact was Bob Walker.

In 2006 I successfully upgraded to Amateur Extra.

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

My first radio I still have. It was a Kenwood G707 2m/70cm mobile rig. It worked well for running around town in my truck, but I wanted something with a little more power. Then I upgraded to an Icom 706, which I also still have. My first HF station was simply a wire strung up between the old Civil Support siren at the Sharp Rd Fire House and the Hose Tower behind the station. Both of them are gone now. I made lots of contacts at the station every night I worked. Sadly I had to set it up and tear it down every day.

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

From 1995 to 2004, I served in the US Navy as an Aviation Electronics Technician. This helped prepare me for the electronics side of the hobby. I spent 9 years being a glorified TV repairman, but some of the electronics we repaired helped me understand what I was doing. I didn't know the electronics theory as well as I probably should have but as I got into the hobby but through the help of Wayne Gordon, Buddy Brown, Jim Giamanco, and Russ Allor, I believe I got an effective education of electronic, and operations.



## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO NOW AND WHY?

In recent months I have worked several contests. I have always enjoyed working Field Day, and Museum Ships on the Air, but many of the contest I had viewed as something to work around, and was an inconvenience. Last year I put up a 250' SkyLoop and thought I burned up not one but two radios. First off nothing was burned except the dust on my tuner. When I hooked the radios up and got them tuned the bands were dead, so I thought. When I say dead, I didn't hear static as a noise floor. It was dead quiet. I thought I hooked the tuner up wrong (I did) and my Elmer N5IB looked at it and said I needed a jumper to use ladder line. The radios tuned properly without releasing the magic smoke locked inside the radio and I worked the middle east on 20 meter voice with less than 50W.

The next event I worked was the 13 Colonies. In 20+ years of working the radio I have had my off times and on times. Most of the on times have been in the solar minimums and have never experienced talking to China on 15m with a wet noodle, but the Solar gods smiled on me over that one weekend. I got all 13 Colonies on voice in two days. Ok, Contesting is pretty cool.

I've played with FT4 and FT8 a little but as David Assaf would say I need to learn the language of the gods, and CW is my next thing to tackle, but that will be after I finish school.

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

Amateur Radio provided me the ability to work the LSU football games. The Monday night after Katrina LSU played the football game that was canceled due to the storm. I was working the First Aid Stations and decided to go watch a little of the game. When I made it out to the concourse a deputy I knew told me about a man that passed out in front of the elevators. I radioed Mickey Sharp to meet me at the elevator to check the individual out. We found a man with no pulse and not breathing. There were 4 minutes left in the fourth quarter when I made the call. Once we got the man stable, breathing and a pulse we packed him up to bring him down to the medical facility and turned him over to Acadian where they had landed Air Med on the 25 yard line of the field. The stands were empty when we finished packing up our equipment. The game had gone into double overtime. We had worked him for over an hour. We tail-gated for another 5 years together. He retired two years ago and is doing well.

Working with Russ Allot, N5ADF and Meghan Radtke, KC7MOC on the Kidd was always my favorite events. Russ taught us to work pileups and to tune the radio. This is where I learned to operate and log. Between working with the Boy Scouts and special events, the Kidd will always hold a special place in my heart. It was where I worked Hawaii the first time. We would stay on the ship working till 3am some nights. Those were the fun times.



# Jeremy AD5XY (continued)

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

Ham Radio will be a Hodge Podge of digital computer functions but will still have the basics. I believe NASA will continue sending HAMs on space missions and it's just a matter of time for someone to make contact with someone on the Moon and someone to win that hideous trophy the ARRL has for making contact with Mars. The basics will always be there and people will always experiment with new technologies. I wouldn't be surprised if there is more interest in the microwave bands in the future as well as the long wave bands. These are typically under used and will possibly be passed on to us if traditional technology abandons portions of the band.

We will have to fight for our legitimacy in the future. Many organizations believe that since we have cell phones, the need for amateur radio is not as prevalent as it has been in the past. I believe one day we will be called upon and we will be the saving grace for the Nation, or at least the disaster area.

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

Grab the Mic and the Key. Don't be afraid to screw up. Lord knows my B's and R's got mixed up more that I want to admit when sending code. I still struggle with them. If there is a reason to operate go operate. Put a rig in your car and burn up the airways on the repeater. The only way we can justify having the frequency allocation, the equipment and the insurances is to have people use the repeaters. When I first started off in 2003 we had phone patches on the 79. This is gone now, not only because of technology changes, but because of lack of use.



**Interested in what went on at the BRARC Board Meeting?  
You can see the meeting by following the link below...**

[brarc.org/boardmeeting](http://brarc.org/boardmeeting)



## BATON ROUGE AMATEUR RADIO MEMBER PROFILE

### *Meet Len W5ZDW...*



Leonard Bowman W5ZDW

Retired Union Ironworker.

Introduced to ham radio by my Father, around 1967. He was taught CW in the CCC camp in Franklinton LA. Which he referred to as Mr. Roosevelt's sugar coated army. He was a member of the United States Naval Armed Guard, and USN RM2. W6IKF after war in 6 land, and W5ZDW around 1954 back home. Worked for DOTD as radio repair man.

First License was a Novice, 1969 WN5YSS. Rock Bound and 75 watts dc input to the final.

My first radio set up was a Heath-kit HR 20 receiver and Hallicrafters HT-40 transmitter. Major fun on Novice bands, with only 5 Crystals. Upgraded to General Class around 1973, Advanced and then Extra later on. Navy Mars license NOSDO.

Enjoy checking in some nets, QCWA and 10-10, to check with old friends. Like Field Day CW operations, and POTA.

I am glad to see CW making a comeback , always had fun with it. Hope it continues forever, as a fun mode. USS KIDD afforded many hours of great fun for me and Wife Dayna, WA5YSS.

Have enjoyed being a member of BRARC for many years. Would encourage any new ham to "have fun with which ever facet of it you favor".

73's W5ZDW.

## RF News

I will try to send out each publication by the second 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 at [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)



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio  
Club (BRARC)

PO Box 4004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4004

Website: [www.brarc.org](http://www.brarc.org)  
Email: [brarc@brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org)  
Facebook: The Baton Rouge  
Amateur Radio Club-BRARC or  
direct to [www.facebook.com/  
groups/951998299448838](https://www.facebook.com/groups/951998299448838)



## Last Laughs

