



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



RF News



Summer is quickly approaching, and that means thunderstorms. Do you have your lightning protection in place? This month we'll talk about what you can do to minimize the risk of damage to your radio equipment. Sure to be an interesting topic!



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Club Meeting March 25

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the St. George Fire Prevention District at 14100 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA. We hope to see you there where there will be snacks and comradery.

This month's topic will be

The OARC Lightning Rig Saver (LRS)

presented by **David Hartley K5OZ**





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



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Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Frequency	Net
146.79- MHz PL tone 107.2	Region 2 ARES Net Sunday 8:00 PM
146.79- MHz PL tone 107.2	BRARC Public Service Net Sunday 8:30 PM
146.46 MHz 147.47 MHz	Baton Rouge Simplex Net Monday 7:00 pm
28.450 MHz USB	Ten Meter Net Monday 7:30 PM
7.043 MHz CW	Slow CW Net 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 pm
442.2+ MHz PL tone 107.2	MissLou Net Wednesday 7:00 pm
146.835- MHz PL tone 114.8	MissLou Net Wednesday 8:00 pm
146.79- MHz PL tone 107.2	Friendship Net Thursday 7:00 PM
444.400+ MHz PL tone 107.2	W5GIX Fusion Repeater

Repeaters & Nets



© Fire Radio By 2003.

Elmers:

Todd Huovinen AB5TH
 Jerry Cloutre AG5AY
 Dan Lott KF5TQN



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

2025 Board Officers

President

K5ROP

Joe Roppolo

Vice-President

AB5TH

Todd Houvinen

Secretary

N5UKZ

Mike Blazek

Treasurer

N4XEG

Jeff Sibley

Board Members:

WA9JBR

Jon Reise

K5HLC

Thornton Cofield

KF5TQN

Dan Lott

AG5AY

Jerry Clouatre

NS5W

Russ London

KI5ZAZ

Jason Mullins

KD5MLD

Mike Nolan



Webmaster	WA5MLF	John Krupsky
Volunteer Examiner	WA9JBR	Jon Reise
Field Day	AD5VC	Dana Browne
Public Info & Outreach	K5HLC	Thornton Cofield
Repeaters	N5DGK	Brook Samuel
Education & Training	K5ROP	Joe Roppolo
RF News	AG5AY	Jerry Clouatre
Loaner Program	KF5TQN	Dan Lott
Emergency Operations	KD5MLD	Mike Nolan
QSL / Awards	WA9JBR	Jon Reise
USS KIDD	WA5MLF	John Krupsky





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



From the President

Welcome to March, my friends! Let's start with a Happy Mardi Gras! Then have a great St. Patty's Day and St. Joseph's Day in a couple weeks. I have gotten very good feedback on our small antenna build and I loved the fact that my daughter participated and built one, and says she is open to making the time to study for her Technician License in the midst of her middle school curriculum and extracurricular activities. I want to send a big "thank you" to Jerry AG5AY for helping to make this project a reality and to bring back "builds" to BRARC. We have more great programs this year and our Planning and Presentation committee is working hard to bring you new and exciting activities!

I may sound like a broken record, but this club belongs to all of the members, and the board always wants your feedback, ideas, participation, and your willingness to share what excites you with the club.

Thank you and 73!

Joe K5ROP





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

Upcoming Club Events

- March 4 Mardi Gras
- March 11 BRARC Board Meeting
- March 5 Ascension Amateur Radio Club
Prairieville Fire Department Training Center at 14517 LA Highway 73
- March 25 BRARC Monthly Meeting
- April 1 BRARC Board Meeting
- April 5-6 LA QSO Party
- April 29 BRARC Monthly Meeting
- May 3 International Astronomy Day
- June 28-29 Field Day

Do you ever listen to Podcasts?

Here's some of my favorites:

- Solder Smoke
- Ham Radio Workbench
- QSO Today

SolderSmoke
podcast



Ham Radio
Workbench

Let us know your favorites so we can
share with everyone!





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Member Profile

Michael J. Nolan, KD5MLD Licensed as WN5FXN in March 1963 and, later, as a General Class, WA5JSK, I re-entered amateur radio in 2000 receiving my third callsign, KD5MLD. I have had the good fortune to earn my Extra Class license in 2010. I enjoy digital modes of communication including CW. My SKCC NR is 9574. I am an active member of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliate Service Club, in Baton Rouge, LA. I am a Life Member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Chapter 109. I am a member of Ten Ten, #76262, and the Pelican Chapter, # 173.

My current equipment includes the IC-746, IC-706MKIIG, IC-7300, IC-2820H for DStar, and Yaesu FTM100DR/DE for my Honda Odyssey. In addition, I use the AmQRP's NUE-PSK Digital Modem for PSK31. My antennas include an inverted G5RV, various dipole configurations, and the GAP






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Challenger DX. No amplifiers as I run barefoot. HTs include the IC 91AD and the Yaesu FT2DR.

I am an active member of ARES and have served as the ADEC for Louisiana ARES Region 2's Training & FM net Coordinator. I have participated with the American Red Cross's Capital Area Chapter Communication Teams in Hurricanes, Andrew, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, and Isaac and the Greater Baton Rouge Flood of 2016. As a Registered Nurse and Respiratory Therapist, I assist with medical communication for our disaster health services teams during emergencies. I am an active member of AMARS and SHARES.

I am an Eagle Scout and registered as an active Scouter with the Istrouma Area Council, BSA, teaching Radio Merit Badge, Emergency Preparedness, and Wilderness First Aid. I have served as our Council Commissioner. Presently, I am the Council's National Representative. I am the Trustee for K5ASR, Avondale Scout Reservation Radio Society near Clinton, LA.

I am committed to introducing amateur radio to our youth. Toward that endeavor, I have volunteered to serve as our Louisiana Section Youth Coordinator. My goal is to see that our affiliate clubs, once a quarter, sponsors a program to attract our youth to our hobby. For example, there are various opportunities in our public schools to assist our science programs with the wonders of the electromagnetic spectrum. The future is bright and so is amateur radio. 



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

VE Testing and News



A license exam session is scheduled for **Saturday, March 1, 2025, 10:00 am – 12 noon** at the East Baton Rouge Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, in the **Technology Lab on the 2nd floor** (Rooms 2A, 2B, Tech Lab). If you want


to take an exam for a new license or to upgrade an existing license, please register at [this page](#).

If **upgrading**, bring a copy of your current license. It will be submitted with your application by the Volunteer Examiner Team.

If you are taking your first test, you must register with the FCC and get your FRN number (FCC Registration Number). This will be used on the forms instead of using your Social Security number. You can register for the FRN at [this page](#).

- Future Exam Dates**
- **Saturday, March 1, 10 am**
 - **Saturday, May 31, 10 am**
 - **Saturday, September 6, 10 am**
 - **Saturday, December 6, 10**

To take the test in person, candidates need to bring the following:

- Photo ID
- Copy of your current FCC license or CSCE (for those upgrading)
- \$15 cash or check made out to ARRL VEC
- Two #2 pencils with erasers and a black ink pen.
- Calculator – Optional. If used, you must demonstrate the memories are blank. 



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International Astronomy Day

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club will again be an exhibitor at International Astronomy Day at the BREC Highland Road Park Observatory. This yearly event will take place on Saturday, May 3 from 3 – 10 pm. This event is open to the public and has many visitors viewing the exhibitor's demonstration tables.

BRARC will be setting up a working Amateur Radio station using the club call W5GIX. The station will be located indoors in the outer ring of the observatory. We will either use the onsite Yagi or the OCF dipole located on the tree line.



We will be demonstrating radio wave propagation through the ionosphere using the FT8 digital mode. We will be showing




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propagation paths on different bands at different times of the day on the two table monitors using PSK Reporter. We will have the ability for guests to make digital mode contacts and receive a First Contact certificate.

Dana Browne, AD5VC will again be providing an exhibit table for K5LSU outdoors and demonstrating the use of Morse code in Amateur Radio Communication.



We will need BRARC members to help man our table indoors to promote Amateur Radio and discuss the value of the ionosphere in propagating radio waves. A signup sheet is available on our website with time slots for interested members. Please consider helping with this event. 



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Amateur Radio Emergency Services



146.79- MHz PL tone 107.2
Region 2 ARES Net Sunday 8:00 PM



Your Latest SKYWARN Spotter Class Schedule



Note: Any inclement weather during the day or time of the scheduled class could lead to postponement. We'll let you know if that happens.

Online Classes

Date/Time	Class	Class Registration Link
Friday, March 7th 5:30 - 8PM CST	Advanced Course	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/240987704387315643 <u>8</u>
Thursday, March 20th 6 - 8PM CST	Basic Course	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/169591136740005052 <u>2</u>



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Introduction to HF Radio

W5GIX at HRPO

Hands-on Tutoring for HF Radio

If you want to learn the basics of making HF radio contacts, this session is for you. We are offering personal sessions of hands-on learning covering the following:



- Introduction to our station equipment
- Basics of making contacts
- Logging software basics
- Using the PSK Reporter website for mapping CW or FT8 digital contacts

You will be instructed by an Extra class amateur radio operator at the Highland Road Park Observatory, operating W5GIX. After you learn the basics, you will make radio contacts with other hams around the country using our ICOM IC-7300 transceiver.

Sign up for a personal session [on this web page](#). We'll focus on one or more modes of operation (voice, CW, FT8 digital) according to your interests.



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Station Equipment:

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club maintains a club station at the Highland Road Park Observatory. We run an ICOM IC-7300, 100 W transceiver, with an antenna tuner, to a tribander Yagi or wire antenna.



We suggest that radio operators / members wear their callsign or club badges or apparel to help identify themselves to the BREC staff and visitors as representatives of our club and the amateur radio community.

Jon Reise, WA9JBR
jreise92@gmail.com

John Krupsky, WA5MLF
wa5mlf@arrl.net





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USS KIDD



The rudder is finally returning to its WWII specifications, bringing the USS KIDD (DD-661) even closer to



her August 1945 target date. This is Update #6 of the USS KIDD's drydocking period. Our rudder has been a popular subject of question and criticism since being raised up in drydock. In this video Ship Superintendent Tim NesSmith talks about how the decision to shave

off the bottom led to the return to WWII specifications. What's the difference between the Cold War rudder and WWII rudder, anyway? All that and more... <https://youtu.be/LS7fLAUV8eM>



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Hamfests

- Acadiana DX Association Hamfest March 21-22
- Dayton Hamvention May 16-18



3rd Annual Acadiana DX Association



2025 Rayne Hamfest & Swapmeet

Friday March 21st - 3PM to 8PM

Saturday March 22nd - 8 AM to 2PM

Rayne Civic Center 210 Frog Festival Dr. Rayne La.

Just South of Interstate 10 - Exit 87 (follow Hamfest Signs from Interstate)

Crawfish Friday Night At 6 PM

On Pre-Order Basis

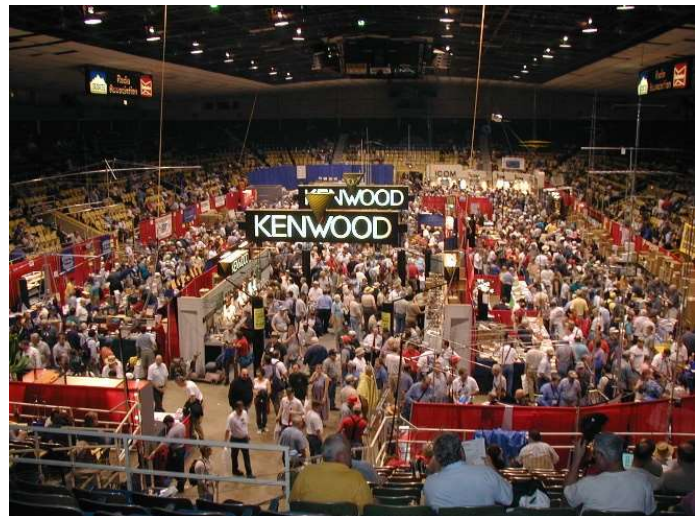
Bingo on Saturday 8:30am – 11:30am

www.acadianadx.org

hamfest@acadianadx.org



- Four Days in May – May 15-18
- Huntsville Hamfest August 16-17,
- Ozone Hamfest Slidell – November (pending)





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DX, Special Event, Contesting



March

- 1-2 ARRL Int DX Contest, SSB
- 8-9 Oklahoma QSO Party
- 8-9 Idaho QSO Party
- 9-10 Wisconsin QSO Party
- 15-16 Russian DX Contest
- 15-15 Virginia QSO Party
- 29-30 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

April

- 5-6 Louisiana QSO Party
- 5-6 Georgia State Parks on the Air
- 5-6 Missouri QSO Party
- 5-6 Mississippi QSO Party
- 12-13 Texas State Parks on the Air
- 12-13 New Mexico QSO Party
- 12-13 North Dakota QSO Party
- 12-13 Georgia QSO Party
- 18-19 World Wide Holyland Contest
- 19 Nebraska QSO Party
- 19-20 Michigan QSO Party





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HD8G Team will be active from Galapagos Islands, IOTA SA - 004, 18 - 25 April 2025. They will operate on HF Bands. QSL via MOURX.

The geographical location of the Galapagos Islands is the Pacific Ocean, near the equator. This territory falls under the jurisdiction of Ecuador. In total, 19 islands and hundreds of rocks of different heights can be counted in the archipelago.

The history of the emergence of the first piece of land here goes back to the era of tectonic activity, about 10 million years ago. The formation of the youngest islands has not yet ended, the eruption of 10 years ago is direct evidence of this.

VK9CU Team will be active from Cocos Keeling Islands, IOTA OC – 003, Australia, 4 – 11 March 2025.

They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, RTTY, FT4, FT8.

QSL via DL2AWG, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

Keeling is an island with a rich historical past. During its existence, the locality has changed several types of power, stages of government. The discoverer was Captain William Keeling in 1609. For a long time there was minimal interest in the new land. It was not rich in resources, did not represent an economic benefit.

In 1827, the first settlement was laid out, marking the beginning of the area's historic formation. In 1835 the Clunies-Ross dynasty took over the islands. A few decades later, the Australian government bought the rights to the land and included it in the Outer Australian Territories.

The history of the islands is quite rich and saturated, despite the fact that there were no active hostilities or battles on the territory. The area has undergone many changes that have accelerated its development and establishment as tourist islands. Due to its remoteness from the mainstream world and its unusual structure, Keeling has been able to preserve its naturalness and purity (minimal interference from the modern world). Today, tourists come here mainly for the solitude, the opportunity to enjoy nature untouched by man.



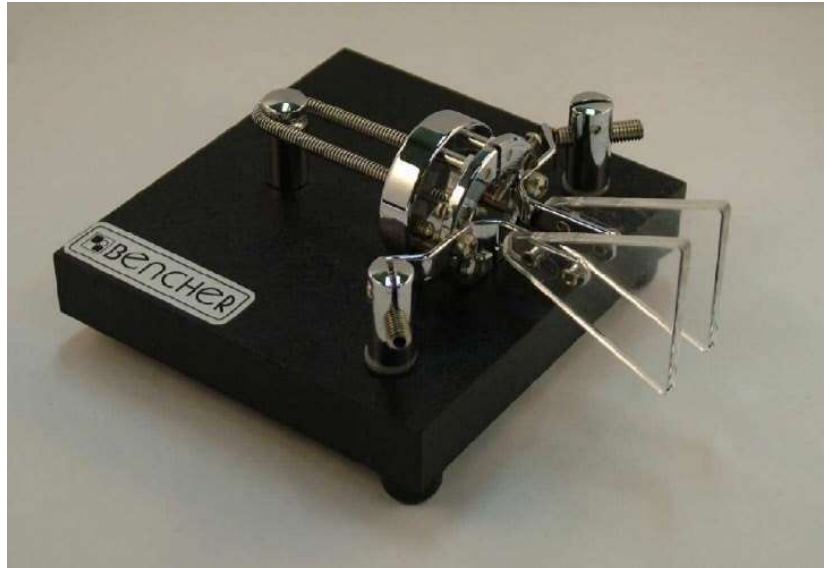
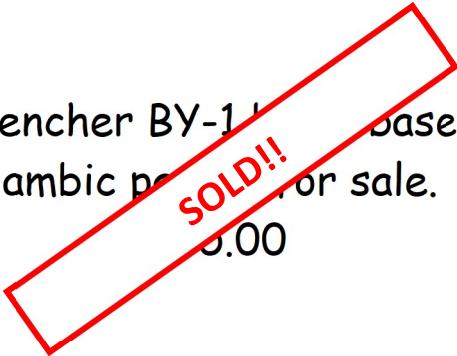


Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

Swap Shop and Club Items

Name Badges, Mugs and Clothing with Club Logo available on the BRARC.org website.

Bencher BY-1 base
iambic p... for sale.
\$5.00



Do you have a ham item to sell? List it here for fast results and include a couple pictures. Try to get it to me before the end of the month for next month's publication.





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To whom it may concern,
I have a used antenna tower (approx. 40' tall) that I would like to give away to anyone that may be interested, but it does need some minor work to assemble it. I am doing some yard cleanup and just need it gone. I am reaching out to this group to see if anyone is interested in it. Please see attached pictures and someone can contact me if interested.



**Thanks, Joe
German
1-225-252-2015**

Joegerman11@gmail.com



Operating Tech and Tips

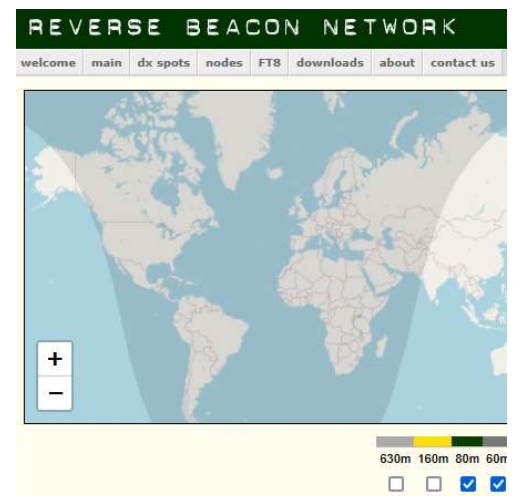
Using the Internet to Monitor Your Signals: A Guide for Amateur Radio Operators

As amateur radio operators, we all love the thrill of reaching far and wide on the high-frequency (HF) bands, whether we're transmitting in CW (Morse Code), FT8 (digital mode), or SSB (Single Sideband). But how do you know how far your signal is actually traveling? Is your signal being heard on the other side of the world, or is it limited to your local area? In today's interconnected world, the internet provides a powerful tool to monitor your transmissions and determine where your signals are being received globally.

Online Signal Monitoring Services

There are a number of online tools and websites that allow you to see how far your HF signal travels. These services offer real-time monitoring of various frequency bands and can even give you an estimate of signal strength. Some of the most popular platforms include:

- **Reverse Beacon Network (RBN):** One of the best tools for monitoring CW and FT8 signals, RBN tracks signals received by a global network of SDR (Software Defined Radio) receivers. These receivers are spread across the world and listen to specific frequencies, reporting back to the RBN server. By checking the RBN website, you can see when and where your CW or FT8 signal is being heard.







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- **WSPRnet (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter):** WSPR is a digital mode used for monitoring propagation conditions and testing antennas. While it is often used for weak signals, many operators use WSPRnet’s database to see how their signals are propagating on different bands, from low frequencies all the way up to 10 meters.
- **PSKReporter:** Primarily used for digital modes like FT8, PSKReporter provides a worldwide map showing where your FT8 signals are being received. It’s an easy way to visualize propagation in real time and helps determine whether your signals are reaching distant stations.
- **Global SDRs:** Some websites host public SDR receivers, allowing you to tune into HF frequencies from different parts of the world. You can use these services to listen to your own transmission and see how well you're being received from other locations.

	KB5AVY WebSDR -NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA- Raspberry PI FUNcube Pro Rcvr 5 HF BANDS	14.154 - 14.346 MHz
	http://[2600:8807:50c0:b:5bad:de45:b8e0:a8c]:8903/	7.134 - 7.326 MHz
	EM40wa; 0 users	462.088 - 463.112 MHz
	KB5AVY WebSDR -METAIRIE LOUISIANA- Raspberry PI FUNcube Pro Rcvr 5 HF BANDS	7.154 - 7.346 MHz
	http://kb5avy.hopto.org:8901/	
	EM40wa; 0 users	

How to Monitor Your Signals

1. **CW (Morse Code):** When transmitting in CW, the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) is your best bet for monitoring your signal’s reach. Each time you transmit a CW message, it is automatically picked up by RBN’s network of receivers. The website will display where your CW signal has been heard, including signal strength and distance. You can see your call sign, frequency, and time of reception in a clear format. If you use logging software that supports integration with RBN, this process becomes even more seamless.
2. **FT8:** FT8 signals are often picked up by a large number of stations due to the mode's low power and short transmissions. PSKReporter is an excellent tool for checking how far your FT8

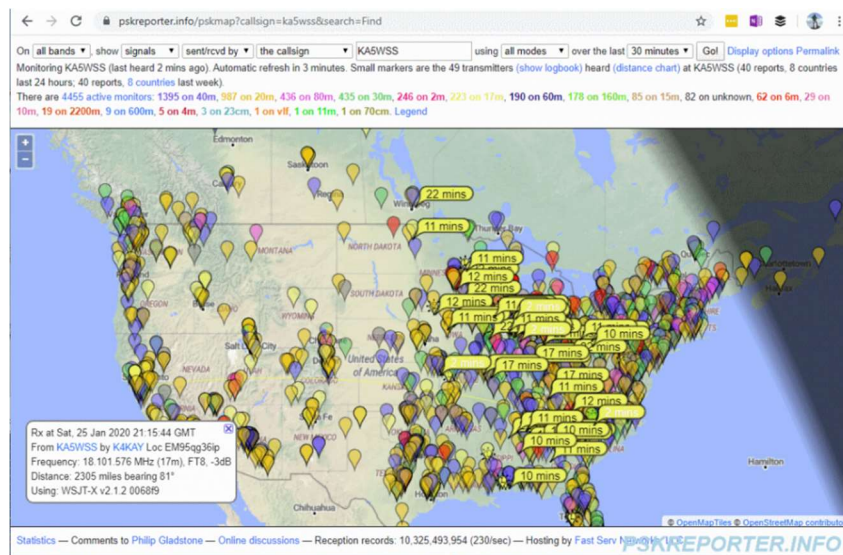


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signal is traveling. When you transmit, your call sign is logged by stations worldwide, and you can see exactly where your signal is being received. You can also get insight into the band conditions by comparing your reception data with other operators.

3. **SSB (Single Sideband):** Monitoring your SSB transmissions is a bit trickier, as the signals are less likely to be automatically logged. However, you can still use services like Global SDRs to tune in to HF frequencies in different regions. These receivers will allow you



to hear how your SSB signal sounds from other locations. You can also check the propagation maps on sites like RBN and PSKReporter, which can provide a rough

estimate of where your voice signal might be reaching.

Benefits of Online Monitoring


1. **Global Reach:** You can track your signals across continents, helping you determine the best frequencies and times to transmit for maximum reach.
2. **Propagation Insights:** By seeing where and when your signal is being received, you can better understand HF propagation, which can fluctuate with solar activity, time of day, and seasonal changes.



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3. **Signal Strength:** These services can give you feedback on how strong your signal is being received in various regions, helping you adjust your setup for optimal performance.
4. **Real-time Data:** Unlike traditional logging, which only shows local or regional contacts, online monitoring provides real-time data on global propagation, helping you quickly assess your station's performance.

With the internet, amateur radio operators can now easily monitor their HF transmissions and gain valuable insight into how far their signals are reaching around the world. Whether you're using CW, FT8, or SSB, services like RBN, PSKReporter, and Global SDRs give you a powerful way to understand the effectiveness of your signal propagation. So, the next time you hit the airwaves, take advantage of these tools to get real-time feedback and improve your station's reach. Happy monitoring and good DX! de AG5AY 

Hungry?

For good food and friendship? You are invited for breakfast, and guests are always welcome.

Wednesdays @ 06:30
James Grill, 205 Florida Avenue SE
in Denham Springs

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

Saturdays @ 06:15
Yeager's Down-Home Restaurant
on Bass Pro Blvd. Denham Springs





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

February Antenna Build



By everything I've heard, the antenna build was a success, or at least a lot of fun. Let us know what you think of this project. We have lots of ideas for future projects, but we want to hear from **you**, what you would like to

do. Send an email to brarc@brarc.org and let us know what you think. And if

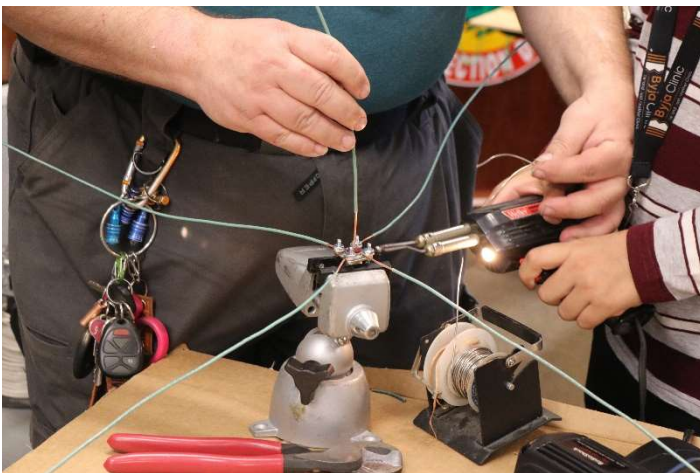


the antenna build was fun, let us know that too!





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Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

Other Stuff

- Be sure to check out BRARC.org for the latest news
- Don't forget to check in on our Facebook page – show us pictures of your shack!
- What would you like to see in this newsletter?
- How about writing an article! Tell us about your latest DX contact, contest results, new equipment....

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club-BRARC

Public group · 70 members



+ Invite

Share

Joined

