



# RF NEWS

October 2017

## Featured Articles

<b>From the President</b>	<b>Pg 2-3</b>
<b>Contests</b>	<b>Pg 3</b>
<b>Events &amp; Hamfests</b>	<b>Pg 4</b>
<b>Christmas Banquet</b>	<b>Pg 5</b>
<b>Bylaws &amp; July Exams</b>	<b>Pg 6</b>
<b>S 14+ Noise Level/ Yaesu 450 D</b>	<b>Pg 7-9</b>
<b>Raffle</b>	<b>Pg 9</b>
<b>USS Kidd &amp; Silent Keys</b>	<b>Pg 10</b>
<b>VE Schedule &amp; Pot Luck Mtg</b>	<b>Pg 11</b>
<b>2018 Board of Directors</b>	<b>Pg 12</b>
<b>ARES Report</b>	<b>Pg 13</b>
<b>For Sale / Radio Loan</b>	<b>Pg 14</b>

## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Web: [www.brarc.org](http://www.brarc.org)

Email: [brarc@brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org)

<b>President</b>	Jon Reise, WA9JBR
<b>Vice President</b>	Robin Hudson, KK5RH
<b>Secretary</b>	Todd Huovinen, AB5TH
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Shutt, W5KQ
<b>Directors</b>	Vernon Morris, AA5O Brook Samuel, N5DGK Daniel Smith, N5KHM Steve Irving, WA5FKF Dave Thomas, K5CGX Brett Hebert, KG5IQU
<b>Repeaters:</b>	146.790 - and 444.400 + (PL tone 107.2) Both Yaesu System Fusion
<b>Nets:</b>	Region 2 ARES Net Sundays 8:00 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2)  BRARC Club Net Sundays 8:30 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2)  10 Meter Net Mondays 7:30 PM 28.450 MHz USB



## From The President September 2017

Let me open this month by thanking one of our Board members, **Ty Mixon, KA1TY** for his nine months of service on the Board. Ty resigned due to personal reasons, and we appreciate his hard work on the Board. Since Ty's Board seat runs through 2018, the Board will be deciding how or if the vacancy will be filled. We are still looking for members to run for the 2018 Board and Officer positions, so please contact Steve Irving, WA5FKF if you are interested.

I am happy to announce that the **revision to the BRARC Bylaws** passed overwhelmingly at the Sep 26<sup>th</sup> club meeting. The revised Bylaws took effect on 26 Sep 2017 and can be found on the BRARC website. Thanks to the Bylaws Committee for the hard work they put in.

Nominations have opened for the 2017 **B.R. Award** and the **Stan Preston Award**. The **B.R. Award** may be awarded annually to an active member who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio.

The **Stan Preston Award** may be awarded annually to any licensed Amateur Radio Operator, who has demonstrated continued "Good Samaritan" activities through Amateur Radio.

If there are individuals that you want to nominate for each or just one award, please email me by Nov 7.

The awards will be presented at our Anniversary Banquet on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

With all the recent talk about patriotism and honoring our flag, come out and honor our veterans on **Veterans Day, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**, at **the USS KIDD**. As we do every year, we will be activating W5KID from the USS KIDD and working stations around North America as well as the world. With the new addition of a 40 m dipole on the museum building, we have the capability of operating a station in the museum as well as on the ship. The museum station (Ten-Tec Jupiter) could be a CW or digital mode station. Contact Dave Thomas, K5CGX to reserve your spot.

I hope you are all collecting your "not needed" radios, antennas, accessories, and electronic parts for the **club auction** during our Nov 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is our annual **fund raiser** with all proceeds benefiting the club. David Assaf, W5XU will again be our auctioneer. This will also be our Pot Luck dinner and election of 2018 Board members.

**Continued on Page 3**

## FTP Continued -

So bring your cash for the auction, a food dish for the dinner, and most important, come to cast your vote for your 2018 Board. **This will be a 6 pm start**, so mark your calendars now.

We are pleased to have a guest speaker addressing our club at our Oct 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. **Mike McCrary, WB5LJQ from Shreveport**, will be talking about Fundamentals of D-Star Operation. Mike has a long bio, which you can read on [www.QRZ.com](http://www.QRZ.com), but we invited Mike because of his extensive experience with D-Star. He is currently the System Admin for numerous D-Star systems in northern Louisiana. In addition, he is a charter Member of the Shreveport Digital Team, a D-Star Trustee of W5SHV and a Certified D-Star Gateway Register. Numerous club members have D-Star radios. Although the Baton Rouge D-Star repeater gateway is down right now, we have been told that work will be done to reconnect to the gateway. In the interim, several club members are using the DVAP dongle or the DV4mini, with their computer to connect to the D-Star system. These will be discussed in Mike's presentation and we hope to demonstrate these devices at the meeting. If you have a D-Star HT, bring it to the meeting. It is Halloween Night and anyone in costume will be taken care of.

Enjoy the beautiful weather and the rise in propagation. The DX is rolling in on 20 and 17 meters in the late afternoons. Of

course, 40 and 80 meters are a lot of fun at night and the early mornings. Look for **David Assaf's VK9MA operation from Mellish Reef** starting Nov 3rd. Enjoy operating and until next month, take care.

73,  
*Jon, WA9JBR*



## [ARRL Contest Calendar](#)

### October 2017

16-20 **School Club Roundup**

### November 2017

4-5 **EME - 50 to 1296 MHz**  
4-6 **Nov Sweepstakes – CW**  
18-20 **Nov Sweepstakes – Phone**

## [Non ARRL Contests Link](#)

**WA7BNM Calendar**

**CQ WW DX, SSB**  
**Oct 28 0000Z – Oct 29 2400Z**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 21 (Sat)** BR Mini Maker Faire  
10:00 AM – Goodwood Library

**Oct 21 (Fri-Sun)** JOTA-JOTI  
Avondale Scout Reservation  
See Page 7

**Oct 26 (Thurs)** VE Testing 6:00 PM  
Goodwood Library

**Oct 31 (Tue)** VE Testing 6:00 PM  
Goodwood Library

**Oct 31 (Tues)** BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM  
Goodwood Library  
Program Topic: *Fundamentals of D-Star  
Operation by Mike McCrary, WB5LJQ*

**Nov 7 (Tue)** BRARC Board Meeting  
Red Cross Building 6:30 PM

**\*\*Nov 7 (Tue)** Deadline for  
Award Nominations

**Nov 11 (Sat)** Veterans Day  
W5KID Activation

**Nov 14 (Tues)** 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter ARES Training  
Red Cross Bldg 7 PM

**Nov 15 (Wed)** Deadline for submitting  
articles for RN News

## Breakfast



Fridays at Frank's in  
Baton Rouge at 7:30 AM

Saturdays at James Grill in  
Denham Springs at 6:30 AM

---

## Hamfest Calendar

### November 11

Greater New Orleans Hamfest  
Crescent City Amateur Radio Group  
Harahan Lions Club Building  
1001 Hickory Ave. Harahan La. Talk in will  
be Harahan, LA

[GNO Hamfest Link](#)

### December 16

MARA Annual Christmas Hamfest  
Minden, LA

[Christmas Hamfest Link](#)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**DECEMBER 9, 2017**

**12 - 3 pm**

**CHRISTMAS BANQUET AND**

**CELEBRATION OF 80TH ANNIVERSARY**

**OF**

**BATON ROUGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**At Mike Anderson's**



**RSVP to Todd Huovinen, AB5TH**

**[Ab5th@arrrl.net](mailto:Ab5th@arrrl.net)**



## BRARC Members Vote to Approve Updated Bylaws at September 26, 2017 Club Meeting

The club's updated bylaws were approved and adopted by the BRARC membership at the September 2017 club meeting. The bylaws had previously been approved for adoption by the Board of Directors at the August 1, 2017 Board meeting.

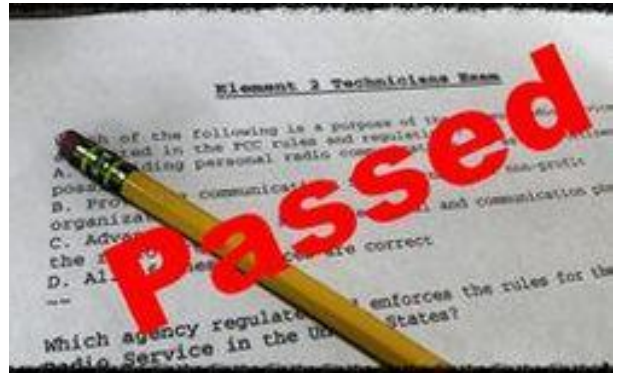
The updates clarified the club's membership categories, terms of office and added Public Information and Outreach as well as Finance to the standing committees.

The update of the bylaws continues to reflect the club's core values and is recorded in the bylaws as follows:

*ARTICLE II PURPOSE The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club is a nonprofit Corporation organized to facilitate the exchange of radio knowledge and information among its members; to promote operating skills; to conduct its programs and activities to be of service to the general public and to educate members and the public concerning Amateur Radio in the areas of public service, emergency communications, and communications technology; to advance the interest and welfare of Amateur Radio.*

Thanks to all those that contributed to this update that reinforces the club's vision and provides guidance for the future.

- Brett Hebert, KG5IQU



## July 2017 VE TEST RESULTS

The 2017 3rd quarter VE exam session was held on July 25, 2017. All currently available license classes were earned during the session. One Extra, two General and five Technician licenses were achieved. The Volunteer Examiner team consisted of Brett KG5IQU, Dana AD5VC, Daniel N5KHM, George W5GG, Hank K5HDE, Jerry AG5AY, Synomen KG5IRS and Todd AB5TH. Brynn KG5KRV assisted as a non-VE helper.

Upgrading to Extra was:

**Ethan Smith W5SNU** of Baton Rouge, LA

Earning Technician and General at the same session were:

**William Branson KG5UKA**

of Saint Francisville, LA

**Greg Parker KG5UKB** of Denham Springs, LA

The five newly licensed Technicians were:

**Jonah Vice KG5UJW** of Baton Rouge, LA

**Dwayne Primeaux KG5UJV** of Baton Rouge, LA

**Mark Champagne KG5UJX** of Baton Rouge, LA

**Anthony Champagne KG5UJY** of Baton Rouge, LA

**Kenneth Champagne KG5UJZ** of Baton Rouge, LA

Congratulations to all.

73 de Brett KG5IQU

## S14+ Noise Level on 20m with a Yaesu 450D . . .



Old transformer outside my house which was NOT the problem.

- By Thornton H. Cofield, Jr., K5HLC

That is pretty much what I faced when I first hooked up my new Yaesu 450D back in November 2015. My first thoughts were, "Is this thing working or did I get a lemon." New to ham radio, well since 1963, I gave a call to Buddy, N5BUD, and talked to him about what I was experiencing. First suggestion was to pull the power off my house line and see if the noise goes away. I hooked up a 12v portable battery and noise level was still there. I knew the receiver was working since I was receiving really strong signals greater than S14.

I built the 20m dipole so I knew it wasn't the antenna since all the connections checked out ok. I talked with Dave Assaf, W5XU, at the 2015 BRARC Christmas Dinner who suggested it was a line noise problem probably due to line transformer

issues, and I should try to locate the problem via a little portable AM radio. That led to the "Aha" epiphany in that I discovered the problem was related to our electrical provider Entergy. Driving my vehicle while tuned to a local AM station, 1150 KHz, I could literally map the area where the static noise virtually wiped the AM signal out. Numerous streets in my subdivision suffered extensive noise on that frequency. I documented the problem closest to my house, printed the subdivision street layout, and circled the streets in my immediate area where the line noise was excessive. I also noted the location where the noise was the strongest.

Relief! I called Entergy and reported the problem. The lady politely told me that was *my* problem. We talked a little more, and she said that she would send someone out to check out my complaint. Several weeks went by and no one came out. This was Christmas time so I let it go until January. I called Entergy again, and of course, I got a different person and she said that Entergy had no record of my conversation, and that *my* problem was not their problem. I talked to her for a while longer, and then told her I was going to file a complaint with the Public Service Commission and that the FCC may get involved. None of that seemed to faze her.

**Continued on Page 8**

## Noise Level Continued -

Several days later I called the Public Service Commission, and faxed my detailed complaint against Entergy and a street map of where the noise problem was to the Public Service Commission. The next day, I received a call from an Entergy engineer and we had a pleasant conversation. I faxed another set of documentation papers over to him. He told me that he would send a technician out the next day.

The Entergy technician showed up the next day, and I explained the problem and showed him the noise was not only on my Yaesu 450D but also on my AM station at 1150 KHz. He told me that he noticed the static on the AM station when he was driving to my house. We walked to the intersection about a block from my house where the noise was the loudest. Several days later he and another technician showed up with an RF directional antenna and located a nearby possible source of the problem a step down line transformer located in the next block. Another week or two passed and the technician showed up with a crew, and tested the transformer as well as the insulators. He thought it was a leaking insulator, and they replaced it. The line noise did disappear except for intermittent noise spikes. The technician said it was going to be difficult to pin that one down.

Over several months, I logged the line noise spikes, and they became more frequent and of longer duration. I again contacted the Entergy engineer and

discussed my finding with him, and he sent out the same technician. We walked the area again, and came to the conclusion that the only item left was the old transformer. The technician put in a request for an Entergy truck with lift bucket to come out and check the transformer. The Entergy crew took the transformer off line, and the line noise disappeared. This was done twice while I was at my house communicating with the technician via telephone. Note that when the transformer was taken off line, several houses lost electricity at that time. My house was fed by a different step down transformer and did not lose power. The technician said he would put in a request to replace the transformer and he felt sure it would be approved but he couldn't tell me how long.



Replaced transformer a block away which was the location of the problem.

Maybe 3 weeks later, I noticed that the random power line noise spikes were no longer occurring. The technician came by the house later in the week, and I thanked him for his work and thought that the transformer replacement did the trick.

**- Continued Page 9**



## Noise Level Continued -

I invited him into my house and showed him the difference in S levels on my radio.

A month later, I called the engineer in charge and thanked him for his work, and also complimented the technician who kept in touch with me and the line noise problem. The whole process took over 6 months, but several things played a major role in resolving the problem. **First item** was good documentation including a street map of the area where not only the noise on 20m was documented, but also the noise static on the 1150 AM radio was documented. I knew the physical location of the generated electrical noise, but did not know if that was the only source. **Second item** was that the technician also realized there was a problem. I did not have to convince him. **Third item** was I was a partner with the technician and the engineer in trying to resolve the problem. **Fourth item** was that Entergy was interested in resolving the problem.

- By Thornton H. Cofield, Jr.  
K5HLC



September 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting



Winner John Krupsky, WA5MLF  
And Robin Hudson, KK5RH

Photo by Thornton Cofield Jr., K5HLC

If you have any articles, information or suggestions for RF News, please submit to the editor Jennifer Bordelon. K5NMT, at [Jenk5nmt@cox.net](mailto:Jenk5nmt@cox.net)



# VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

## November 11, 2017

# W5KID USS Kidd Station Event

## Saturday, November 11

## 9 AM – 4 PM

BRARC members are planning to operate the club station W5KID on the USS Kidd on Veterans Day. It is a fun opportunity for new operators to experience the magic of HF. We made 108 contacts last year, and anticipate a busy day this year with Veterans Day on a Saturday.

If you would like to participate, contact Dave Thomas, K5CGX at [dthomas11@cox.net](mailto:dthomas11@cox.net) to reserve your operating time.

**The next operating event is scheduled on Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day.**



### David M. Hunter, MD, W5DUU

Dr. Hunter was an Ophthalmologist with a medical practice in Colorado Springs. He was a graduate of the University Lab School, LSU and LSU Medical School. His parents were, John M. Hunter, President of LSU from 1962 to 1972 and Doris Hunter. Mrs. Hunter taught English at Baton Rouge High for many years.

I had the privilege of knowing the Hunter family. Their son, Andy is about my age. Dr. John Hunter, had a Collins S-Line in a Collins factory console install at the LSU Presidents residence on Lakeshore Drive. I remember seeing the station, it looked like something from a broadcasting control room.

Walter Cockerham, N5NV, also an Eye Doctor, remembers David Hunter from his LSU year and all joining the 80 meter net run by Al Heine, W5OVV. Walt adds that, he rode to the BRARC Club meetings with Stan Preston, W5GIX. David Assaf, W5XU, during his three terms as Club President would correspond with David Hunter to discuss the BR Award. The BR Award was sponsored by David Hunter to honor his father John Hunter. Dr. Hunter's passing ends an era and will be noted in our Club history.

*Gerard DuCote, W5TZX*

### David Eanes, N4AZI

David was active in Moon Bounce, satellites and 2-meter SSB. David was last residing in Virginia. Our thoughts and prayers go out to David's family and friends.



Exams are scheduled on

**Thurs Oct 26**  
**Tues Oct 31**

To take a test, candidates need to bring the following:

- Pencil(s)
- \$15 check made out to ARRL VEC (We prefer checks, but will also accept cash.)
- Photo ID
- Copy of your current FCC license or CSCE (for those upgrading)
- Calculator – This is optional and you must be able to demonstrate that the memories are blank.

Test time is 6:00 pm; plan to arrive by 5:30

pm. These test sessions occur once a quarter and are held at 6:00 pm.

In addition, we recommend, if you are taking your first test, that you register with the FCC and get your FRN number. This can be used on the forms instead of using your Social Security number. You can register [here](#).



**Tues Nov 28**  
**6:00 PM**

✓ Pot Luck Dinner

✓ Club Auction

✓ Election of  
2018 Board Officers

Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd

Please bring the following food according to the suffix of your call sign.

Suffix

A-I            Dessert or salad

J-R            Main Dish

No Call       Side Dish

S-Z            Side Dish

## **2018 BRARC Board of Directors Election – Tues Nov 28, 2017**

<b>Current</b>	<b>Nominee(s)</b>
President-Jon Reise (WA9JBR)	Robin Hudson (KK5RH)
Vice-Pres-Robin Hudson (KK5RH)	Todd Huovinen (AB5TH)
Treasurer-Ken Shutt (W5KQ)	Tom Harrell (KE5LVQ)
Secretary- Todd Huovinen (AB5TH)	Brett Hebert (KG5IQU)
Dir #1-Brett Hebert (KG5IQU)	Jon Reise (WA9JBR)
Dir #2-Steve Irving (WA5FKF)	Dan Lott (KF5TQN)
Dir #3 Vernon Morris (AA5O)	Bill Smith (KE5TA)
Dir #4 Daniel Smith (N5KHM)	Jennifer Bordelon (K5NMT)
Dir # 5 Ty Mixon (KA1TY)	Ken Shutt (W5KQ)
Dir #6 Brook Samuel (N5DGK)	Brook Samuel (N5DGK)
Dir #7 Dave Thomas (K5CGX)	Dave Thomas (K5CGX)

Submitted by Election Committee Chair,  
Steve Irving, WA5FKF





## LA ARES Region 2 Report October, 2017 BRARC Club

### Membership

- # of Region 2 ARES registered locally is 78.
- # of Region 2 LA ARES Section registered is 30, 38.5%;
- # of Region 2 BRARC Club members registered is 33, 42.3%;

### Region 2 Net

- 4 nets held since the last report with an average of 15 check ins;

### Activation

- As of the date of this report for the month of October, there has been no activation.

### Training

- Training for the 4th quarter will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the Red Cross Chapter in Baton Rouge at 7pm. Topic will be review of the SET and the Region's EOP.

-By Michael Nolan, KD5MLD

## “Force of 50” Volunteers’ Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Mission Ends

10/18/2017  
ARRL

The 22 “Force of 50” radio amateurs who deployed to Puerto Rico earlier this month as American Red Cross volunteers have ended their mission and will be back on the US mainland by week’s end. They had been in Puerto Rico for about 3 weeks.

“The Force of 50 volunteers demonstrated an extraordinary range of skills possessed by this accomplished team,” said ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. “There was no task that they wouldn’t tackle. It also demonstrated the generosity of these volunteers, who not only performed their roles as communicators, but also engaged the population with their many acts of personal kindness.”

Val Hotzfeld, NV9L, who filed situation reports documenting the team’s activities, said the volunteers accomplished everything they went to Puerto Rico to do, “and then some.” She said that the Red Cross felt they had exceeded all expectations.

“We opened a lot of peoples’ eyes when we started going to the ESF-2 communications task force meetings. They had no idea of our capabilities,” Hotzfeld told ARRL. “When they heard what we’d accomplished, we were swarmed; everybody was wanting us.”

Hotzfeld said the volunteers’ initial mission was to provide a way to gather outbound health and welfare messages and put them into the Red Cross’s Safe and Well System using *Winlink*. However, the mission changed once they were on the ground when they discovered the needs were much greater . . .

“I was so proud of our guys,” Hotzfeld said in summary. “They were rock stars.”

[Click Link to Full Article](#)



Like us on  
**Facebook**

## BRARC Facebook Page

Please visit and "like" our BRARC Facebook page. You will find a link at the club's website: <http://www.brarc.org>.

## Radio Loan Program



Radios are available for loan to BRARC members for a 90-day period. The procedure is to complete the application available on our website, and pay the rental fee of \$20 for the HF radio, \$15 for the VHF base radio, and \$5 for the 2m/440 HT.

**If you are newly licensed**, we will assist you in determining the best antenna for your location and assist you in the construction and installation of your antenna. The cost of the antenna will be the responsibility of the borrower.

**For Details, Pictures, and Loan Application:**

Go to [www.brarc.org](http://www.brarc.org), and click on the Radio Loan tab.



KT 34 A Antenna on ground ready for PU  
\$400.00

Calvin Foreman  
KB5OI  
225-202-4420

### BRARC Elmers

Buddy Brown, N5BUD

Keith Davis, KE5LVT

If you need assistance, please contact one of the above. If you would like to be an Elmer, please contact the club secretary, Todd, AB5TH at [Ab5th@arrl.net](mailto:Ab5th@arrl.net)



- Jen, K5NMT