



RF News

May 15, 2020

Tidbits from Todd

Hello Everyone,

I hope that all of you are well and safe from the CoVid19 virus. We are all fine here at the Huovinen household. I am pleased to see our great state of Louisiana opening back up from the stay at home executive order that we've all been under since March 17th. I am sure that Field Day will be a bit different this year but we will all get through these uncertain times together,

Unfortunately, the BRARC has suffered a very big loss as one of our long time members has become a Silent Key. Much of this month's edition of the RF News will be dedicated to the memory of our longtime fellow club member and friend Richard "Buddy" Brown (N5BUD) who passed away at his home on Saturday May 9th. Buddy was a longtime member of the club and he held many positions throughout the years. Most recently he served as Education Chairman and head of our Volunteer Exam team. Buddy also held a position on the Board of Directors this year. We all will miss Buddy but we are all privileged to have had the honor to call him our friend. – 7 3, Todd-AB5TH

Upcoming Events Calendar

5/26/2020 **May 2020 Club Meeting**

7:00 PM-"Over the Air" meeting.
146.790 Repeater
PL Tone 107.2 Hz.

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Web: www.brarc.org email: brarc@brarc.org

President	Todd Huovinen-AB5TH
Vice President	Jennifer Bordelon-K5NMT
Secretary	Thornton Cofield-K5HLC
Treasurer	Bill Smith-KE5TA
Directors	Vernon Morris, AA5O Brook Samuel, N5DGK Buddy Brown-N5BUD-(SK) Jerry Clouatre-AG5AY Robin Hudson-KK5RH Ken Shutt-W5KQ Dan Lott (KF5TQN)
Repeaters:	146.790 - and 444.400 + (PL tone 107.2) System Fusion
Nets:	BRARC Club Net - Sunday 8:30 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2) System Fusion Ten Meter Net - Monday 7:30 PM 28.450MHz USB

PLEASE NOTE!!

Club Dues
Payable January 1

- Dues are payable annually January 1.
- Regular membership is \$25 per year.
- Student membership is \$5 per year.
- Send dues to PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or deliver in person at a club meeting.

For your convenience club dues can now be paid on line via a link on the club website.

Major credit cards are accepted as well as PayPal. NOTE: Credit card payments for dues

CANNOT be accepted at club meetings at this time.

Breakfast



Restaurants are starting to re-open now that we're under Phase 1 of the CoVid 19 recovery and the Stay at Home directives have been allowed to expire. Frank's has re-opened and is operating at 25 percent capacity. I don't know the status of the other two restaurants that we have our breakfast meetings at but I will post them in next month's RF News when I find out who is open or still closed.

Late info: Mike Davidson (N5MT) notified me that James' Grill in Denham Springs will be opening on Monday May 18th.

Todd-AB5TH

BRARC Facebook Page

If you haven't done so, please visit and "like" our BRARC Facebook page. You will find a link at the club's website: <http://brarc.org/>

We're using Facebook to keep the membership better informed in a timely manner about what's going on in your radio club. This page is also a good way for BRARC members to keep in contact with each other.

73,
Robin, KK5RH

Area Nets

Sunday-Post Office Net (3.905 Mhz. 75m) 7:00-7:30 AM
Delta Net (3.905 Mhz. 75m) 7:30-7:45 AM
QCWA (3.905 Mhz. 75m) 8:00 AM
ARES Region 2 Net (146.790 PL 107.2) 8:00 PM
BRARC Public Service Net (146.790 PL 107.2) 8:30 PM

Monday-BRARC 10 meter net (28.450 Mhz) 7:30-8:00 PM
Tuesday-LOHSEP 2 meter net (147.165 Mhz PL 107.2 hz)-Livingston 7:30 PM

Wednesday-MISSLOU 2 meter net (146.835 Mhz PL 114.8 hz)-Jackson, LA 8:00 PM. Echolink Node: KD5UZA-R
SELSA Net: 146.52 Mhz Simplex-Wilson, LA 9:00 PM.

Thursday- LARS Net (146.730 PL 107.2 hz) Walker, LA 7:00 PM
K5ARC Ascension Radio Club Net (147.225 Mhz PL 107.2) 8:00 PM
EchoLink Node: K5ARC-R
Amateur Radio Newsline is also ran during this net.

[Do You Have Topics or Suggestions for the RF News?](#)

Do you have pictures, articles, links or other ham radio related items for inclusion in the RF News?

Contact the club president/newsletter editor, Todd (AB5TH). Deadline is the 15th of each month.

BRARC Elmers

Todd Huovinen-AB5TH
E-Mail: ab5th@arri.net

If you need assistance, please contact one of above.
If you would like to be an Elmer, please contact the club president Todd, AB5TH

HamCom 2020 (Plano, Texas) CANCELLED!!

I have received the following information from the Hamcom Steering committee:

“While we held out hope that this year we would be able to host HamCom 2020 as a light at the end of the long tunnel of the CoVid19 virus, it is with great sadness that we must inform all that we are cancelling HamCom 2020 and the event is postponed until June 17-19th 2021-Todd (AB5TH)



I have been in quite a few E-mail discussions over the last week with Dana Browne (AD5VC), Christopher Kersey (KE5PQO) who is the manager of the Highland Road BREC Observatory and several board members. Right now, we cannot make an immediate final decision on Field Day 2020 until more is learned about Phase 2 of the reopening of our economy here in Louisiana. All of us are very concerned about social distancing and what kind of an affect that it will have on our Field Day operation this year. Christopher would like very much for the club to hold our Field Day at the observatory but there is great concern over crowd size and contact with others as well as the wearing of masks which could have an effect on phone operation. The ARRL has suggested that Field Day operations be conducted from home stations under the D or B (Battery) or E (Emergency Power) classifications. I favor this personally for no other reason than safety concerns. I'm not so concerned about my personal safety as I am for all of you and any guests that may show up should we have a Field Day setup at the observatory. The next board meeting will be on Tuesday June 2nd. I don't believe that the East Baton Rouge Parish library system will be reopened for general operation by then so we'll probably end of holding it via an online teleconference platform such as Zoom. The board will be voting on how to hold Field Day as well as (unfortunately) filling Buddy Brown's (N5BUD) board position. If you have a question or suggestion on Field Day or anything else please e-mail any board member.-Todd
ab5th@arrl.net

In Memoriam (N5BUD)



Richard H. "Buddy" Brown, Jr., N5BUD. a resident and native of Baton Rouge, passed away on May 9, 2020 at his residence at the age of 79.

Buddy retired from Foxboro Co. as an IT service tech. He was an active member of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club. His hobbies included making model airplanes, woodworking, and other numerous interests. One of his known hobbies to amateur radio operators was collecting, selling and trading amateur radio operators telegraph keys which he displayed at numerous hamfests, especially the AARA Hamfest held in Rayne, Louisiana for a number of years. Buddy and Mel WD5CAE, could usually be found sharing tables. On Field Day, Buddy would be one of the Baton Rouge ARC operators. Buddy was involved with the USS Kidd Museum Ship during special events operating CW which was one of his favorite modes. You could usually find him on HF on every morning on 3905 KHz around 0530 Central time. He was a great person to talk with and had a "laid back" easy going disposition. He will be immensely missed by all who knew him. Please keep Buddy and Family in your prayers.

73 Buddy de All Amateur Radio Friends

A private graveside service was held Wednesday May 13, 2020 at Green Oaks Memorial Park in Baton Rouge, LA.

Submitted by Herman Campbell (KN5GRK) Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc. Lafayette, Louisiana

“OVER THE AIR” MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

We had a great time on April 28th for our “Over the Air” club meeting, The weather was pretty stormy and I was having power problems due to a bad Anderson PowerPole connector but we made it through the net and tied our March 2020 check in count of 23. I will be doing it again for our May club meeting on May 26th at 7 PM on our 146.790 2 meter repeater.
Todd-(AB5TH)

Annual “Eating Meeting” POSTPONED

Due to the lack of availability of the Highland Road Observatory pavilion this month, it has become necessary to postpone the annual “Eating Meeting” until a later date. Stay tuned and we will keep you posted on the status of this event. I will work with Christopher Kersey at the Observatory to get this annual event rescheduled.-Todd (AB5TH)



Experiences with my new ICOM 7300

By Thornton Cofield K5HLC

My hearing like many of us who are moving on the older side of 75 is not quite what it used to be. The letters s, f, t, z, c, b, d all begin to sound alike. Sometime after BRARC's skype with Bob Heil I researched and eventual purchased his Parametric Receive Audio System along with the matching 5" speaker system. Expensive, but then my Father paid as much for a matching speaker for his Collins 75-A3 back in the 1950s.

A few weeks later I thought with the excellent sound system it would certainly help if I upgraded my Yaesu 450D to something with more selectivity and sensitivity. I put my credit card down and on April 7 the IC 7300 arrived but I did not get to it until Thursday April 9. The next day I turned everything on and "Nothing- no static, no audio, DOA". The next day I played with it and discovered that the screen came up but with no sound. I did a master reset and still had no sound. The RF/SQL control was acting squirrely in that I couldn't bring up the MENU display unless the RF/SQL was in the 11 O'clock position.

The next day I called ICOM tech support and we went through everything from the beginning. We did another master reset and even tried to get an AM station but to no avail in regards to audio. The menu selection would work when the RF/SQL was in the 11 o'clock position. The waterfall worked, frequency was displayed, every thing appeared to work except the audio. With the AF control all the counterclockwise and the RF/SQL control set at 12 o'clock position the fan would continuously cycle on and off.

The ICOM Tech recommended sending the 7300 in for warranty repairs so I sent the IC 7300 off to the ICOM Service Center in St. Joseph, MI on April 13.

On April 17 the Tech Support person checked out the 7300 and wrote that he did not find anything wrong with the unit except the RF/SQL control was set on the 2 o'clock position and it should be set at the 12 o'clock position. The 7300 was sent back to me.

The 7300 arrived on my doorstep on Tuesday, April 28. I turned it on and experienced the same exact condition as stated before. No audio, no menu display except when the RF/SQL was in the 11 o'clock position. I called Todd Huovinen, AB5TH, for assistance. He agreed to come over that Friday. When Todd arrived at my house, I had the Yaesu 450D on and we agreed everything was functioning. Swapped out the 450D with the IC 7300 and we met with the same conditions as I previously had with the IC 7300. Todd noticed the TX/RX light flickering and he thought perhaps the auto tune relay must be stuck. We also noticed that on 20m when changing frequencies using the main dial the fan would tun on and off as the frequencies changed. Both of us talked with the IC Tech person and he suggested we change out the power supply cord which we did. That did not change anything. He then suggested the power supply might be the problem but we doubted that since it ran the 450D and it was putting out 13.9 volts which was within the variance of +- 15% allowed for the IC 7300. In the end he agreed to check out the 7300 one more time and agreed to pay for the shipment back.

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Fast forwarding to May 6 I received a call from the IC Tech and he reported that everything checked out and the IC 7300 functions as it should. He volunteered to send the 7300 to another Service Center but I told him I had located another power supply and to send it back.

Driving back from my daughter's house later that afternoon I called the Tech back and we talked a little more. I told him we were operating the 7300 without any connected accessories except the antenna, power cord, ground, and microphone. The only non-essential accessory attached to the 7300 was the microphone-could that be our problem? He thought for a minute and said that he now remembers 1 or 2 problems like that but it was extremely rare.

I received my IC 7300 on Tuesday, May 12, and sure enough it was the microphone causing the problem. I called the Tech, thanked him, and I received my upgraded microphone on May 15. Everything works. I guess the moral of this story is that nothing is too small to be overlooked.



Submitted by Thornton Cofield (K5HLC) *Nice Parametric Receive Amp-ed* ☺

LWARN Linked Repeaters

Livingston- 444.350 + pl 136.5

West Feliciana- 443.625 + pl 156.7

Greensburg- 442.275 + pl 156.7

Washington Parish- 442.425 + pl 156.7

EBR (Central)- 442.400 + pl 156.7

St Tammany Parish- 443.425 + pl 156.7

These repeaters are part of the Livingston Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LOSHEP). Amateur operators are welcome to use them.

D-WARN (System Fusion) Linked Repeaters

Baton Rouge: 145.490 (-) PL 107.2

Baton Rouge: 443.375 (+)

Bush, LA: 443.400 (+) PL 114.8

Bush, LA: 145.470 (-) PL 114.8

Jackson, LA: 443.850 (+)

Livingston: 145.230 (-) PL 107.2

Madisonville: 444.875 (+) PL 114.8

New Iberia: 442.025 (+) PL 103.5

New Orleans 444.225 (+) PL 114.8

Parks, LA 443.200 (+) PL 103.5

Shreveport 444.875 (+)

Slidell 442.125 (+) PL 114.8

St. Francisville 147.285 (+) PL 107.2

Sunshine Bridge:443.275 PL 107.2

West Monroe: 444.700 PL 127.3

Use PL Tones for Analog FM Operation

DG ID TX01 RX00 to connect to D-WARN digital network

Richard (Buddy) Brown-N5BUD (1939-2020)

Rest in Peace My Friend. You will be missed!!



Please keep checking the club website at www.brarc.org for the latest updates on club functions. John Krupsky (WA5MLF) is regularly updating the club Calendar of Events.

73-Todd-AB5TH