



# R F News

November 15, 2020

## Tidbits from Todd

Hello Everyone,

I hope all of you are doing well and are staying safe during this difficult year. We had a great October club meeting on Zoom last month. The program was on Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). It was presented by Elmer Tatum (N5EKF). I really enjoyed the presentation until my laptop decided to crash and kick me off the internet. It's kind of embarrassing when the president of the club, who is the host of the Zoom meeting gets bounced off. My biggest fear is that I may have taken all of you with me when I got disconnected but luckily that didn't happen. Fortunately, Elmer had presented the same program on DMR a month earlier for the Ascension Radio Club where he currently serves as club Secretary/Treasurer. On another note, if you see Elmer be sure and congratulate him as he has been named Ham of the Year for the State of Louisiana by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). In other news, I was really hoping that we would be able to meet in person this month at the Bluebonnet Library like we did up until March of this year but unfortunately the Coronavirus cases are on the rise here in Louisiana again like they were last spring so we are still in Phase 3 reopening restrictions for the foreseeable future. This means that our November club meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM as usual. We will introduce the new Board of Directors for the 2021 calendar year and we will also take nominations from the (virtual) floor for all of the positions as per the club bylaws. After that, I will do a short presentation on Shortwave Radio. I even have a new radio that I picked up off of E-Bay a couple months back that works surprisingly well. I show it during the presentation. Until then Stay Safe Everyone!!

73-Todd (AB5TH)

## Upcoming Events Calendar

**11/24 November Club Meeting-via Zoom teleconference platform.**

**Program Topic: Shortwave Radio  
Todd Huovinen-AB5TH**

**12/1 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM**

## 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>	Todd Huovinen-AB5TH
<b>Vice President</b>	Jennifer Bordelon-K5NMT
<b>Secretary</b>	Thornton Cofield-K5HLC
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Smith-KE5TA
<b>Directors</b>	Vernon Morris, AA5O Brook Samuel, N5DGK Jeremy Gerald-AD5XY Jerry Cloutre-AG5AY Robin Hudson-KK5RH Ken Shutt-W5KQ Dan Lott KF5TQN
<b>Repeaters:</b>	146.790 - and 444.400 + (PL tone 107.2) System Fusion
<b>Nets:</b>	BRARC Club Net - Sunday 8:30 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2) System Fusion Ten Meter Net - Monday 7:30 PM 28.450 MHz 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.
- Unfortunately, we are not able to accept credit card payments via PayPal at this time. We hope to have that issue resolved in early 2021.

**Breakfast**



We meet for breakfast 3 days each week:

Wednesday: Frank's Restaurant Grill & Bar  
(17425 Airline Highway Prairieville, LA 70769)  
6:30 AM.

Friday: Frank's Coffee House (8353 Airline  
Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA 70815) 6:30 AM

Saturday-Yaeger's Down Home Cooking (240  
Range 12 Ave, Suite 121 Denham Springs, LA  
70726) **NEW LOCATION!!** 6:30 AM

Saturday-The Warehouse Restaurant (12328  
S. Choctaw Drive Baton Rouge, LA. 70815)  
6:45 AM.

**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

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**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 played 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

#### **BRARC Elmers**

Todd Huovinen-AB5TH  
E-Mail: [ab5th@arrl.net](mailto:ab5th@arrl.net)

Jerry Clouatre-AG5AY  
E-Mail [jerry.clouatre@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.clouatre@gmail.com)

Dan Lott-KF5TKN  
E-mail: [kf5tkn@gmail.com](mailto:kf5tkn@gmail.com)

## **BRARC Board Meeting Agenda**

**Nov. 02 Nov. 2020, 6:30 pm**

**Zoom Teleconference**

### **Members Present:**

President- Todd Huovinen (1), Treasurer- Bill Smith (1), Secretary- Thornton Cofield (1),  
Directors- Jeremy Gerald (2), Jerry Clouatre (2), Ken Shutt (2), Vernon Morris (1), Dan Lott (2),

### **Members Absent:**

Vice-President-Jen Bordelon (1), , Robin Hudson (1), Brook Samuel (1)  
( ) Number of years to serve on board in stated position.

**Visitors:** Ava Gerald

**Minutes approval from 10/20:** Bill moved to accept, Jerry seconded.

**Treasurer Report-Bill:** Bill reported \$8,608.36 balance with an expenditure of \$12.00 and \$16.33 for Zoom.

Report accepted by Thornton, seconded by Jerry.

**Programs** – see below

### **Committee Reports:**

Education- No report

Equipment-Jerry- No report

PIO/Outreach /Mbr-Thornton- No report

EMCOM-No Report

Repeater-Brook- No report

USS Kidd Club- Todd reported work is on hold until Phase 3 is updated

## Old Business

**Remote VE Testing?? –Jerry-** Jerry reported that we will be ready for moving to testing by computer but not for Zoom testing implementation. A question was raised concerning ARRL giving radio clubs a variance on the requirement of holding a minimum of 4 ARRL license tests per year.

**Christmas Banquet -Update-** The club will invite Tom to the Christmas Banquet and at that time present him with his Plaque.

### **December-Club Banquet at Mike Anderson's on December 5<sup>th</sup>**

The Board had an interesting discussion on how to handle payment for the Christmas Banquet. Ava suggested we use Paypal but there are still unresolved issues with our club's account with Paypal so at this time that is not an option. It was agreed that people attending the Banquet should pay in advance. Checks should be made out to BRARC and sent to Bill Smith, club treasurer. Todd will contact Mike Anderson's and send out the menu selection and total cost to the club members. We are limited to 30 people due to "social distancing".

If BRARC wants to continue using Paypal as a money transfer agent we must secure a Paypal account accessible only to club members approved by the BRARC Board. Todd will look into what is required to make this change and report back at the next Board meeting.

## New Business

**2021 Board of Directors Update-** Jeremy moved that we appoint a nominating committee chair and for the chair to report back to the Board in time for an election prior to the Installation of Officers and Directors at the club's December 5 Christmas Banquet and general meeting. Vernon said that would serve again so at this date we are looking for only 2 replacement Directors which will serve a 2-year term.

## Comments?Questions/Concerns

## Tentative Program Suggestions

November- Eating Meeting (contingent on Louisiana entering Phase 3 Reopening)  
Bluebonnet Library 6:00 PM. Todd will reach out to Hank Ellis asking him to give a presentation on his experiences on Cozumel during Hurricane Zeta for the club's November general meeting. This meeting will probably be via Zoom.

**Backup options:** Show and Tell

## **BRARC 2021 Board of Directors**

### Officers

President-Todd Huovinen-AB5TH  
Vice President-Jennifer Bordelon-K5NMT  
Treasurer-Jerry Clouartre-AG5AY  
Secretary-Thornton Cofield-K5HLC

### Directors

Jeremy Gerald-AD5XY (1 Year)  
Dan Lott-KF5TQN (1 Year)  
Ken Shutt-W5KQ (1 Year)  
Jon Reise (WA9JBR) (1 Year)-remainder of Jerry's (AG5AY) term.  
Elmer Tatum-N5EKF (2 Years)  
**Brook Samuel-N5DGK (2 Years)**  
**Robin Hudson (KK5RH) (2 Years)**

**The above candidates were recommended by Bill Smith (KE5TA)-Election Committee Chairman.**

## 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



## USS KIDD News

Due to the CoVid19 outbreak we will not be able to operate in the USS KIDD Museum or ship radio room until further notice.

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



## **Cancellation Announcements**

It is with much disappointment that I inform you that due to the recent increase in CoVid 19 cases, I have received many cancellations for the Christmas Banquet that was scheduled to be held at Mike Anderson's Seafood in Baton Rouge next month on December 5th. Everyone is concerned about the Coronavirus and the ability to safely Social Distance and the board of directors totally understand these concerns.

Therefore, the board feels that the best thing to do under the present circumstances is to go ahead and cancel the Christmas banquet. Our club treasurer will be shredding all checks that have been received. Any checks that have been deposited for the Christmas banquet will be refunded. I apologize for any inconvenience and I hope that we can plan this event again next year.

73,

Todd Huovinen-AB5TH  
President-Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

## Life on the the Seward Johnson II research vessel

Walker Winans (WB5MPV) sent me this very interesting article on the time that he spent aboard the Seward Johnson II research vessel. I will split Walker's journal in two parts. Part 2 will be in next month's RF News. I hope you all enjoy reading this as much as I have.

### **PART TWO:**

#### **Dr. Harry Roberts and the Hydrate Hounds in Search of Gas Hydrates in the Gulf of Mexico 2002**

by  
Walker Winans  
Coastal Studies Institute  
Louisiana State University

#### **Abstract:**

Dr. Harry Roberts of LSU was the principal investigator (chief scientist) for this voyage of the Research Vessel Seward Johnson II. This work is an on-going experiment funded primarily by the U. S. Minerals Management Service to study gas hydrates in the Gulf of Mexico as a potential energy source.

Floyd De Mers is a colleague with whom I have traveled and worked with for over twenty years. He's in charge of the Coastal Studies Institute fabrication shop and Marine Operations.

Several persons from MMS were aboard for the cruise and actively contributed in data collection and preliminary analysis. There were other persons aboard from LSU and the oil industry studying the geology and marine life in the vicinity of the hydrate sites under study. The total science party under Dr. Roberts direction consisted of eighteen scientist/technicians of various disciplines.

Friday, May 24, 2002

We arrived at the Green Canyon site around 6am.

I had breakfast at 6am. Floyd and I assisted the sub crew in preparing for the first dive on the site where most of my instruments were located.

The seas were still too high for sub ops. We just circled on site for the remainder of the day. Several people did some fishing off the stern. The captain ran close to some oil rigs. They managed to hook up several times. They caught a couple sharks and a small tuna (15lbs).

I just rested and finished my book. By now I have acquired my "sea legs" and am getting around fine.

AT 7pm I met with the gang on the radio for a fine chat.

I went to bed early

Saturday, May 25, 2002

The seas have calmed considerably. The swells were ranging from 2 to 4 feet. Submarine ops are on!.

The sub was deployed at 8am with Harry riding in the front with the pilot and one of the MMS scientists in the chamber with a sub technician. The communication system in the sub failed and the dive was aborted. When it surfaced, we recovered it back aboard the ship. The communication system is a 30 to 37kHz SSB transceiver. They installed another transceiver and all tested ok. The air tanks and battery had to be recharged.

The sub was deployed again at 12pm when the sub reached 200 ft several alarms sounded indicating a failure of watertight integrity of the aft chamber. The dive was aborted and recovered aboard the ship. This time the alarm was caused by seawater getting in to an external wiring junction box shorting out some of the control cabling.

The sub crew spent a couple hours correcting the problem.

Meanwhile I setup the acoustic command system on the main deck and gave it a system test. All worked well. The game plan is to attempt recovery of the underwater current meter mooring located at this site. I would lower a sonar transducer into the water and attempt to electronically release the current meters from their anchor. When prompted to do so I sent the command to enable the transponders and I ranged on it. To my surprise it worked well, I expected the batteries to be exhausted. Harry told me to go ahead and transmit the release command. I did. I sent lookouts aloft and advised them that we should see the buoy surface within 7 to 8 minutes. It had to ascend 1700 ft of water. It never surfaced. I ranged on it again and it reported that it had not moved. I sent the report status command and it responded with the proper codes indicating that it was vertical and that the release had actuated.

Harry decided that on the next dive he would go down and inspect it. I suggested they bump it with the manipulator arm. If that failed then the sub dudes could replace the manipulator hand with a cable cutter to be used on a following dive.

At 4pm the sub was deployed again. Everything worked well. When they arrived at the mooring site everything appeared normal. I asked them to bump the mooring just below the release system with the subs arm. When they did, the mooring let go the anchor and started up. Seven and a half minutes later the buoy was spotted about 200 yards ahead of the bow. We maneuvered alongside it and recovered two current meters, two temperature loggers, the release system and the buoy in less than 30 minutes. Meanwhile the sub picked up one hydrate instrument package and two temperature loggers. The sub surface and was aboard by 7pm with the booty. All went well.

The sub crew began preparation to re-deploy the sub again later that evening. Floyd and I removed all the goodies, cleaned them and put them in the dry lab for data offloading later.

Harry asked Floyd and I to setup the BioSonics Sonar for the next dive. It took only an hour to set it up. We tested it and couldn't get the "main bang". The computer was talking to the transducer correctly but we couldn't get it to ping. It had both of us stumped. Anyway, we had to abort our effort because the sub was ready. We disconnected the computer and interface box and left the transducer so the sub could get back to work.

The sub was deployed again at 8pm to recover more of my toys from the bottom. This time they recovered the acoustic Doppler system. Harry had also gathered some bottom samples.

The sub was back aboard the ship by 10:30pm. Floyd and I took the doppler cleaned it and stored it in the dry lab and brought the samples to the wet lab. We then went back to work on the BioSonics. At 1:30am we threw in the towel concluding that it was more likely a Windows related problem. All static tests of the hardware indicated that it was functioning OK

I never turned on the ham rig today there was just too much happening. Some scientists were analyzing fresh samples from the bottom. Some looking at the small (microscopic) animals while others were examining sediments. Two 1 ft cores were taken as well. Both the wet and dry labs were buzzing with activity. Some even ventured to ask my opinion... "Yup! Looks like mud to me!"

Floyd and I went to bed...

Sunday, May 26, 2002

Got up early and went down for breakfast and coffee.

I Told Harry the results of our findings on the BioSonics. He said not to worry, we were out of time for this site anyway we'll correct it and have it ready for trials on the next trip. It is a prototype that works in the shop. I guess it doesn't like ships, hmmm...

We prepared the sub for bottom sampling and removed the BioSonics transducer to make room for more samples.

The sub was in the water at 8am. The bottom is 2200ft at this site. It would take around 25 minutes to reach the bottom. They collected the 2<sup>nd</sup> hydrate package and attempted to recover the 2<sup>nd</sup> Doppler. It appears to be frozen in place by an ice layer and the sub was unable to break it free. It now belongs to Neptune along with several of our temperature loggers. By 10:30am the sub surfaced and was recovered with plenty of samples from the bottom. Oh Joy!

We sailed to the west about 20 miles or so to the next dive site.

Floyd and I removed the samples and put them in the wet lab then cleaned the doppler and moved it to the dry lab. While Floyd rigged the samplers for the next dive I began offloading and processing instrument data. The current meters had 14 months of good current data. The Hydrate packages were a different story. The one from the first site had 3 months of data then it had become clogged with crude oil. The second Hydrate package collected only a couple days worth of gas flow data before it became clogged with ice and oil. The remaining instruments had their main batteries completely depleted but their memory backup batteries still had 2.97vdc (they are 3.34vdc when fresh). I shall return those instruments back to my lab at LSU before I make any more download attempts. I hope they contain data in their memory and I don't want to take any chances on losing those data.

We were on station at 12:30pm with the sub launched by 2pm for gathering samples and exploring nearby sites.

The seas have calmed down to 1 to 2 ft swells and the winds were now SE at 5 to 10 knots. The cook setup the barbeque pit on the main deck to grill some steak and tuna (fresh tuna caught a couple days ago). Some of the tuna was set aside for sashimi.

The ship recovered the sub which went smoothly. The sub was aboard by 6:30pm.

I had dinner then went up to the ham shack around 7:05pm. The noise level was very high around 15-20 db over S9. I couldn't hear anything. I checked on 14.3mHz for the maritime net and could hear nothing but noise. I gave it up around 7:30pm.

Floyd had already taken the samples in to the wet lab for the scientist to paw over.

The captain headed for our next site some 60 miles or so to the west. It is about 125 miles SSW of Port Fourchon, La.

I went down to the lounge picked up a novel to read and headed to the afterdeck for coffee and a cigarette. The book was a Robert Ludlum number. I can't even remember the name of it but it was very slow going for the first half of the book. After a couple of hours, I gave it up and put the book away and went to bed.

Monday, May 27, 2002

I got up early and went down to the galley for breakfast and coffee.

We rigged the sub for the mornings dive ops. I hung a Styrofoam cup in the battery compartment. An 8 oz cup will be squeezed down to the size of a shot glass or smaller on a dive like this. We go through a lot of cups on these trips. The sub was in the water by 8am The depth of this site is 2880 ft.

Floyd decided to go up for a nap and I headed up to the ham shack with a fresh cup of coffee.

The bands were much better today. I worked a few stations on 20 and had a nice rag chew QSO with a fellow in Honduras.

After lunch the ship recovered the sub. Floyd and I collected the samples and took them to the lab then we setup the sub for the afternoon dives.

Then we decided to go back into "mess off mode" while the scientist gathered to play with their mud. Oh boy!

The sub crew works well together like a well oiled machine. These guys are pros and it is a joy to see them in action.

They were busy preparing for the next dive while a number of our guys were fishing off the back deck.

The sub was launched at 2pm for the final sampling mission for my section of the cruise.

The sub was recovered at 6:30pm. Floyd took care of the samples so I could get one last group QSO in before the end of the cruise. It went well. Most of the gang were there to greet me. I sure enjoyed having my radio aboard for the cruise. The guys from BRARC made it possible by being there whenever they could.

The ship set course for Port Fourchon, La. at 7pm.

Tuesday, May 28, 2002

I got up early and went down for breakfast and coffee.  
The ship was about 2 hours away from port and the seas were calm.

We arrived at Port Fourchon around 8am.

Note: My thanks to the "gang" for greeting me on 40m almost every night.

A special thanks to Pharoah (KC5ZZ), Thanks again for calling Melinda during the QSO's so she could participate. I hope this will encourage her to upgrade in the near future.

# **STOP THE PRESS!!**

## **Late Edition to the newsletter**

I was just about to send this month's edition of the RF News out to the club membership when I received an E-mail from Jerry Clouatre (AG5AY) advising me that there is a 250 watt AM broadcast transmitter for sale in the area. Please contact John McWilliams (KF5WTL) on his cell phone at (225) 270-1307. John says that the owner of this transmitter is looking to get rid of it very soon. I don't know anything about AM broadcast transmitters but perhaps it can be retuned for 160 meters??



**That's about it for this month. If you have something that you would like to submit to the newsletter, my email address is [ab5th@arrl.net](mailto:ab5th@arrl.net) .**

**73, Todd-AB5TH**