



RF News

January 2021

Tidbits From Todd

Greetings everyone!! I hope all of you are well and that everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. I am looking forward to what 2021 has in store for us as far as Amateur Radio and the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club are concerned. I realize that 2020 has been an extremely difficult year for many of us due to the Coronavirus pandemic among other things but I want to be optimistic on what the new year brings. The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club has had an interesting year. We started meeting via the Zoom teleconference platform in June and it has been nice. I really like the flexibility that Zoom brings us as a club. Programs and PowerPoint presentations are easy to share on Zoom. I still miss us meeting in person though and I look forward to the day when we can begin meeting at the Bluebonnet Library again. Hopefully, with the two vaccines that are currently being administered for the Coronavirus we will start to see the numbers of active cases decline. Perhaps we can start going to hamfests again. I am also hopeful that we as a club can start holding both VE Sessions and education classes again this year. I am looking forward to Field Day in June. Last year's Field Day from our houses was different and still fun but I miss getting together at the Highland Road Observatory like we have always done in the past. Hopefully, we can have Field Day in person again. Finally, I bet you all have noticed a bit of different look to the RF News this month. I want to thank Bert Lousteau (K5AJL) for offering to be the RF News editor because I have to admit that I am not too skilled in newsletter appearance. Bert sent me an advance copy of what he has been working on. It looks really nice. Thank You, Bert. That's about all that I have for this month. Have a great month and I'll see you on Zoom at the next club meeting on January 26th.

7 3, Todd - AB5TH



Upcoming Events

1/5/2021

January Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM

1/26/2021

Monthly BRARC Club Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

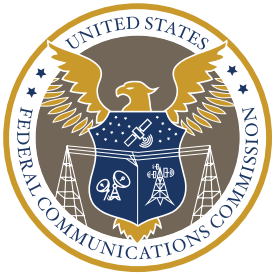
PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

www.brarc.org

President	Todd Houvinen - AB5TH
Vice President	Jennifer Bordelon - K5NMT
Secretary	Thornton Cofield - K5HLC
Treasurer	Jerry Clouatre - AG5AY
Directors	Jon Reise - WA9JBR Brook Samuel - N5DGK Jeremy Gerald - N5EKF Elmer Tatum - N5EKF Robin Hudson - KK5RH Ken Shutt - W5KQ Dan Lott - Kf5TQN

Club Repeaters 146.790 - PL 107.2 (FM, System Fusion)
444.400 + PL 107.2 (FM, System Fusion)

BRARC Nets Two Meter Net (Club Net)
Sundays 8:30 PM on 146.790 Repeater
Ten Meter Net
Mondays 7:30 PM on 28.450 USB



FCC ANNOUNCES APPLICATION FEE CHANGES

WASHINGTON, December 29, 2020 - We adopt the categories of personal license application fees proposed in the NPRM. The Commission proposed a fee of \$50 for each of these applications. The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), and many individual commenters contend that the proposed \$50 fee for Amateur Radio Service applications is too high and will prevent amateurs from joining the amateur radio service; instead, they contend, the Commission should adopt no fee or a nominal fee. We agree with commenters asserting this fee is too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications and therefore adopt a reduced amount of \$35 fee for all personal license application fees.

In 2019, the Commission received over 197,000 personal license applications. Several services in the personal licenses category will be subject to new fees, such as Amateur Radio Service licenses, which were not listed on the fee schedule in the prior version of section 8 of the Act, but are now subject to fees under the RAY BAUM'S Act. In the NPRM, we sought comment on adopting cost-based fees for personal license applications.

Numerous commenters suggest that amateur radio licenses should be exempted or are exempt under section 8(d)(1) of the Act. We disagree and note as a starting point that the Commission has no authority to create an exemption where none presently exists. Thus, if an exemption exists, it must be contained within the wording of section 8(d)(1) of the Act. None of the listed exemptions apply to exempt Amateur Radio Service licenses.

FCC AUTHORIZATION OF FIRST 6 GHz WI-FI DEVICE

WASHINGTON, December 7, 2020 - The Federal Communications Commission today authorized the first Wi-Fi device for use in the 6 GHz spectrum band (5.925–7.125 GHz). In April, the Commission adopted new rules to expand unlicensed operations in the 6 GHz band, ushering in Wi-Fi 6—the next generation of Wi-Fi—and boosting the growth of the Internet of Things. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai issued the following statement on today's news:

“Today, we get an exciting glimpse of America's Wi-Fi future. This is the FCC's first authorization of a device to provide unlicensed services in the 6 GHz spectrum band under the Commission's new rules. The Commission cleared the way for such advances with its landmark action earlier this year,

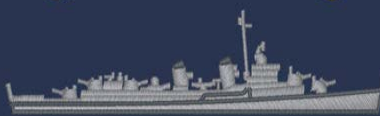
making up to 1,200 megahertz of spectrum available for higher powered unlicensed use. Today, we are starting to see the fruits of this work, and consumers will now start to benefit in a big way.

“We expect Wi-Fi 6 to be over two-and-a-half times faster than the current standard. This will offer better performance for American consumers at a time when homes and businesses are increasingly reliant on Wi-Fi. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we've all seen how Wi-Fi has enabled everything from work-at-home to telehealth to remote learning to streaming and gaming. Wi-Fi 6 will turbocharge each of these and more, and will also complement commercial 5G networks. Bottom line: The American consumer's wireless experience is about to be transformed for the better.

“I'm grateful that the full Commission approved this bold vision for the 6 GHz band. This is not the time, and this is not the agency, for tinkering around the edges. And I thank the incredible team in our Office of Engineering and Technology for their management of our equipment authorization system as well as their thoughtful work on the 6 GHz band proceeding earlier this year.”



USS KIDD



DD-661



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

Breakfast

Wednesdays - Frank's Restaurant Grill & Bar - 6:30 AM

17425 Airline Highway Prairieville, LA 70769

Fridays - Frank's Coffee House - 6:30 AM

8353 Airline Highway Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Saturdays - Yeager's Down Home Cooking - 6:30 AM

240 Range Ave, Suite 121 Denham Springs, LA 70726



Todd Houvinen, *President* and Thornton Cofield, *Secretary* presented an award of appreciation to Tom Harrell, *KE5LVQ*. Tom donated almost his entire HAM Shack to the BRARC after moving to an assisted living facility where no outdoor antennas are allowed.

Thank you, Tom for your generous donation to the BRARC!





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

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

SO WHAT IS GMRS? DO I NEED A LICENSE? DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE GMRS REPEATERS & NETWORKS?

In case you have not noticed; lately, there has been a growing number of GMRS repeaters being put online in our area and across the country. So what is GMRS? Do I need a license? Yes, you do need a license, but with the new FCC fees going into effect, the GMRS license will now be the same price as your amateur license, \$35 for 10 years. The previous license fee was \$70. A big advantage of holding a GMRS license is that anyone in your immediate family is covered under your license and call sign. So to next question, If I have an amateur license, do I still need a GMRS license? YES, you will have to hold 2 different licenses and 2 different call signs. I do get confused at times and announce the incorrect one, as some of you may have heard me do in the past. Another advantage to a GMRS license is that there is no test required; you only have to fill out the FCC application, pay your fee, and a couple of days later, you will have your call sign and be able to start talking.

So what is GMRS?

GMRS, General Mobile Radio Service, radios share channels 1-7 with the FRS, Family Radio Services, but have their own specific channels of 15-22. On channels 15-22, GMRS radios can be used in duplex modes, whereas on channels 1-7 all radios can only be used in

simplex mode. In general, GMRS radios are higher powered, have an increased range, and are typically a bit more expensive (but also higher quality) than the FRS radios. The main, but often unknown, difference between the two is that in the United States, GMRS radios can only be used by licensed operators.

With the increase of repeaters, repeater owners are starting to link their stations with others across the country, creating national networks where people can talk across the country, similar to DMR, D-Star, and Fusion. Two of the most popular national networks are <http://myGMRS.com> and TGLN (The GMRS Linked Network) <http://GMRS.network>. If anyone in your area is linked to these network(s) and they give you access, you will have the ability to talk around the country

You can also build a simplex node, a modified H.T., sound card, and Raspberry Pi with custom software, which you can get from either of the two sites mentioned above.

With the simplex node attached to your local home network, you will have the ability to link into one of these GMRS networks as a "Simplex Node" and have a low power repeater in your home.

You will also find that the chatter on the GMRS frequencies will tend to be a little less formal than what

you hear on the amateur side. I find that there are usually longer conversations on GMRS geared more to a family type atmosphere. So if you enjoy talking and want to explore, get your call sign and start looking for repeaters. You can go to <https://www.mygmrs.com> where there is a repeater locator that will list all the repeaters in your area. If you want to get out across the country and the repeater in your area is not linked, get a simplex node, and you are ready to start talking.

**73, Chris Reine
KI5JSE & WRFT828**

BRAC Annual Dues

Dues are payable annually on 1/1

Regular Membership is \$25 / year

Student Membership is \$5 / year

Mail Dues To:

BRARC

PO BOX 4004

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dues can also be paid in person at any club meeting.

Credit Card Payment is not available at this time. We hope to have that ability in early 2021.

BRARC Board Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2021 6:30 pm via Zoom

Members Present:

Todd Houvinen, *President* (1)
Jen Bordelon, *Vice President* (1)
Thornton Cofield, *Secretary* (1)
Dan Lott, *Director* (2)
Brook Samuel, *Director* (1)
Robin Hudson, *Director* (1)
Jeremy Gerald, *Director* (1)
Jon Reise, *Director* (1)
Elmer Tatum, *Director* (2)

John Reise, *WA9JBR* and Elmer Tatum, *N5EKF* were sworn in as new board members by Todd Hovinen, *President*.

Minutes approval from 12/1 - Thorton: Dan moved we accept the minutes, seconded by Robin.

Treasurer Report - Bill: Treasurer's report of a balance of \$8,513.77 as of January 1, 2021 was accepted by Elmer and seconded by Dan.

Committee Reports:

Education - No report.

Equipment - No report.

PIO/Outreach /Mbr - Thornton - Nothing new to report.

EMCOM - No Report.

Repeater - Brook - Everything appears to be working. Jeremy brought up a comment on the WBR option to place a repeater in West Baton Rouge parish. No discussion ensued.

USS Kidd Club - Nothing to report due to the Covid-19 shutdown.

Members Absent:

Jerry Couatre, *Treasurer* (1)
Ken Shutt (2)

Visitors:

None

() *Number of years served in stated position.*

New Business

Newsletter Editor - Todd announced that Bert Lousteau (K5AJL), a new member, will become the new RF Newsletter effective with this month's edition of the RF News.

Todd brought up the possibility of having quarterly luncheons as a way of getting to know more of our members. He thought the December 5 gathering was very productive in terms of a social gathering.

Old Business

VE Testing Update?? - Jon - Jon reported that we are pursuing paperless in-person testing. One of the reasons for main taining in-person testing is to meet the people taking the test and introduce them to BRARC. Jon has a team in place and 4 VEs are going through training on the new testing procedures. The plan is to wait for the library to open up to complete the training. Jon acquired all the materials needed for VE testing.

Comments / Questions / Concerns

No one is in charge of training at this time. Fortunately, the library computer lab is not open at this time so training is somewhat a mute point. Jeremy noted that we could use the training room at one of the fire stations on a Saturday. A discussion was held concerning the optimum length of training for the technician class license. Several members noted that a day class held on a Saturday worked for several clubs. Thornton brought up we need to think about offering classes for the general class licensing. The germane issue everyone noted is that we do not have any offers to lead training for either license class. In the past the club has used HamRadioSchool.com Technician and General License Courses book by Stu Turner W0STU.

Brook brought up that he had a number of equipment such as an IC7300, IC930, and an amplifier and power supply that had been donated to the club by Tom Harrell. He would like to find a place for this equipment.

Dan volunteered to develop the Member Directory.

Todd reported that he renewed the repeater license for W5GIX and was not sure about the W5KID license renewal.

Tenative Program Suggestions

January - Hank Ellis, *K5HDE* Hurricane Zeta Damage in Cocumel, Mexico.

June Field Day - Dana Browne generally handles this program.

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:35 pm, Thornton Cofield, *Secretary*.

Area Repeaters

LWARN Linked Repeaters

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

Location	Frequency	Offset	PL Tone
EBR (Central)	442.4000	+	156.7
Greensburg	442.2750	+	156.7
Livingston	444.3500	+	136.5
St Tammany Parish	443.4250	+	156.7
Washington Parish	442.4250	+	156.7
West Feliciana	443.6250	+	156.7

D-WARN Linked Repeaters - System Fusion

Location	Frequency	Offset	PL Tone	Notes
Baton Rouge	145.4900	-	107.2	
Baton Rouge	443.3750	+		
Bush	443.4000	+	114.8	
Bush	145.4700	-	114.8	
Jackson	443.8500	+		
Livingston	145.2300	-	107.2	
Madisonville	444.8750	+	118.8	
New Iberia	442.0250	+	103.5	
New Orleans	444.2250	+	114.8	
Parks	443.2000	+	103.5	
Shreveport	444.8750	+		
Slidell	442.8750	+	114.8	
St. Francisville	147.2850	+	107.2	
Convent	443.2750		107.2	
West Monroe	444.7000		127.3	Use PL Tones for Analog Operation

www.dwarn.org

Area Repeaters

Gulf Coast Link Repeaters - DMR

Location	Frequency	Offset	CC
Baton Rouge	443.1000	+	1
Convent	442.0750	+	1
Laplace	442.6750	+	1

Talkgroups			
Name	TS	TG	Access
Local / Cluster	1	2	Full-Time
Worldwide English	1	91	PTT
North America	1	93	PTT
TAC 310	1	310	PTT
Southeast USA	1	3174	PTT
Hurricane Net	1	3199	Full-Time
First Coast (NE FL)	1	31121	PTT
ArkLaTex	1	31229	PTT
AMSAT	1	98006	Full-Time
Local or Reflector	2	9	PTT
Louisiana	2	3122	Full-Time
Gulf Coast DMR	2	31011	Full-Time
Louisiana Chat	2	31220	Full-Time
Southeast Louisiana	2	31225	Full-Time
Public Safety Chat	2	31623	PTT

Note: The Baton Rouge Repeater is currently experiencing internet connectivity issues.

www.gulfcoastlink.com

D-STAR

Location	Frequency	Offset
Baton Rouge	442.9250	+

Note: The Baton Rouge Repeater is currently experiencing internet connectivity issues.

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 MHz - PL 107.2	8:00 PM
BRARC Public Service Net	146.790 MHz - 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	7:30 PM

Wednesday		
MISSLOU 2 Meter Net	146.835 MHz - PL 114.8 Echolink KD5UZA-R	8:00 PM
SELSA NET (Wilson, LA)	146.520 MHz Simplex	9:00 PM

Thursday		
LARS Net	146.730 MHz - PL 107.2	7:00 PM
Ascension Radio Club Net	147.225 MHz + PL 107.2 Echolink K5ARC-R	8:00 PM
<i>Amateur Radio Newslines is played during this Net.</i>		

BRARC Elmers

Todd Huovinen	AB5TH	ab5th@arrl.net
Jerry Clouatre	AG5AY	jerry.clouatre@gmail.com
Dan Lott	KF5TKN	kf5tkn@gmail.com

Want to contribute to RF NEWS?
Email your article / event / news submission to brarc.