



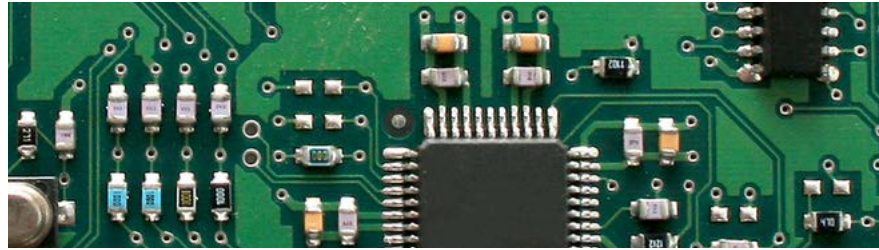
RF News

February 2021

Tidbits From Todd

The month of January was a good month for the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club. We had a great meeting on Zoom with an excellent presentation on Hurricane Zeta presented by Hank Ellis (K5HDE). Usually, during the last weekend of January, my wife Jessica-KD5SXF and I are either at the Houston Auto Show or the Capitol City Hamfest in Jackson, Mississippi. Both events were canceled this year, so I participated in Winter Field Day for the first time. Three club members and I participated in both days of the contest. The bands were pretty good, but there was a local QRM issue that we could never diagnose completely, so we could only make about 20 SSB contacts and 40 CW contacts. This month, we will try something a little different for the program during the club meeting on Zoom on February 23rd. If you have anything you would like to sell or get rid of, show it on your webcam at the club meeting this month. If you prefer not to use a webcam, you can tell everyone what you are selling and its price, or you can send me an e-mail with the item info, and I will read it out loud during the club meeting. I'll go down the list of those who are in attendance, and it will be almost like a show and tell. I will call on people one at a time because we cannot all talk at once, or Zoom goes nuts, and it becomes confusing. Since we cannot attend hamfests right now due to the coronavirus, Hank Ellis-K5HDE thought Zoomfest would be a neat idea. I am continuing to remain optimistic that with the number of CoVid 19 vaccinations taking place, we can significantly reduce the number of cases and start doing normal club functions again. By June, let's hope that the numbers are low enough to meet in person again and have Field Day at the Highland Road Observatory. That is about it from me for this month. I hope to see most of you at the next club meeting via Zoom on February 23rd.

73, Todd-AB5TH



Upcoming Events

2/2/2021

February Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM

2/23/2021

Monthly BRARC Club Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

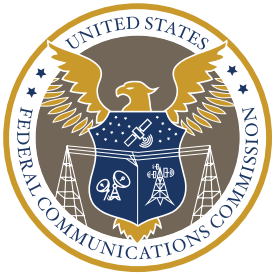
PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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



Carr Praises 5G Workforce Bill

WASHINGTON, DC, February 2, 2021—Commissioner Brendan Carr praised legislation introduced in the Senate today that would advance government-wide efforts to expand the skilled workforce needed to build 5G.

The Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act, introduced by Senators Thune, Tester, Wicker, Peters, and Moran would create an inter-agency working group led by the FCC to develop recommendations to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry.

“By modernizing our country’s infrastructure rules, America is now home to the strongest 5G platform in the world, and Internet providers are adding new cell sites at an unprecedented pace. To complete America’s 5G build, we need nearly to double the number of skilled tower techs and telecom crews working in this country. Doing so would not only advance U.S. leadership in 5G and create thousands of new jobs, it would help ensure that we have the workforce in place to extend the reach of high-speed Internet services at a time when so many Americans are relying on the Internet to work from home and utilize services such as telehealth and remote learning,” said Carr. “I applaud Senator Thune and his colleagues for their leadership in

taking on this workforce challenge and introducing legislation that would create thousands of good-paying jobs.”

Carr leads a 5G jobs initiative aimed at standing up tower tech training programs through community colleges and trade schools. Those programs have now been launched in South Carolina, South Dakota, North Carolina, and Oklahoma and more trade school programs are in the works.

US GOVERNMENT URGES APPLE TO SWITCH ON HIDDEN FM RADIOS INSIDE HANDSETS

Your iPhone might have a secret chip in it that could save your life. But it’s not switched on.

The US telecoms regulator has asked Apple to activate the FM radios that are in some of its phones so they can be used to relay messages in an emergency, like a storm, that knocks out data connections.

But Apple says that only some of its phones have the chip, and that it’s not been installing them in recent models. Neither the iPhone 7 or 8 have the right technology, “nor do they have antennas designed to support FM signals, so it is not possible to enable FM reception in these products”, the company said in a statement.

Apple is the only major phone company that hasn’t yet activated the chips, the FCC said. “I hope the company will reconsider its position, given the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria,” chairman Arjit Pai said in a statement.

Apple said that it has activated and engineered a whole range of different systems in its phones, all intended to keep their users safe. The company has “engineered modern safety solutions into our products. Users can dial emergency services and access Medical ID card information directly from the Lock Screen, and we enable government emergency notifications, ranging from Weather Advisories to AMBER alerts,” it said in a release, making clear that all the same it wouldn’t be able to comply with the FCC request.

The company has been showing off some of those security and privacy features this week, as part of the launch of a new website and the new phones.

It’s not clear whether the FCC could force Apple to turn on the chips in the phones that do have them, or to compel them to install the feature in future phones. It didn’t reply to Apple’s statement that it couldn’t actually comply with the request.

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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

continued from page 2

Mobile phone networks have been wiped out in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, after storms there.

The FM radios allow the phones to pick up signals far more easily and over longer distances, allowing them to be used to relay information even when normal networks are down.

The FM radios will have come as part of other internal parts bought by Apple to add into its phone. As such, it's likely that Apple never actually intended to use them, and it's possible that they couldn't even be turned on.



A Unique Opportunity for Ham Radio Operators in Berwick

In Cooperation, the Town of Berwick and BEARS have permanently installed a 55' MA550 US Tower equipped with a Cushcraft A3S antenna at the Southwest Reef Lighthouse Park. The Tower was Donated to the town by the family of Ray Rasberry, WB5LKR-SK. It has been dedicated to his memory and his many contributions to the town of Berwick. The antenna was

donated by Councilmand Raymond Price.

This Setup is available for use by ANY visiting amateur radio operator! Just bring your own radio and a table. The permanent installation includes the tower with tri-bander antenna, and the coax and rotor are secured in a pelican box in the the nearby pavilion. There are instructions on the box for any visitors listing contact numbers to provide instructions for access to the equipment box. It's a lovely spot to operate under the pavilion with electricity, ceiling fans, and swings, right on the Atchafalaya River in Berwick Lighthouse Park.

BEARS (Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Service) and the Town of Berwick are pleased to be able to provide this unique opportunity to all hams!



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/>

NEW QUANTUM RECEIVER THE FIRST TO DETECT ENTIRE RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM

A new quantum sensor can analyze the full spectrum of radio frequency and real-world signals, unleashing new potentials for soldier communications, spectrum awareness and electronic warfare.

Army researchers built the quantum sensor, which can sample the radio-frequency spectrum—from zero frequency up to 20 GHz—and detect AM and FM radio, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and other communication signals.

The Rydberg sensor uses laser beams to create highly-excited Rydberg atoms directly above a microwave circuit, to boost and hone in on the portion of the spectrum being measured. The Rydberg atoms are sensitive to the circuit's voltage, enabling the device to be used as a sensitive probe for the wide range of signals in the RF spectrum.

"All previous demonstrations of Rydberg atomic sensors have only been able to sense small and specific regions of the RF spectrum, but our sensor now operates continuously over a wide frequency range for the first time," said Dr. Kevin Cox, a researcher at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, now known as DEVCOM, Army Research Laboratory. "This is a really important step toward proving that quantum sensors can provide a new, and

dominant, set of capabilities for our Soldiers, who are operating in an increasingly complex electro-magnetic battlespace."

The Rydberg spectrum analyzer has the potential to surpass fundamental limitations of traditional electronics in sensitivity, bandwidth and frequency range. Because of this, the lab's Rydberg spectrum analyzer and other quantum sensors have the potential to unlock a new frontier of Army sensors for spectrum awareness, electronic warfare, sensing and communications—part of the Army's modernization strategy.

"Devices that are based on quantum constituents are one of the Army's top priorities to enable technical surprise in the competitive future battlespace," said Army researcher Dr. David Meyer. "Quantum sensors in general, including the one demonstrated here, offer unparalleled sensitivity and accuracy to detect a wide range of mission-critical signals."

The peer-reviewed journal Physical Review Applied published the researchers' findings, Waveguide-coupled Rydberg spectrum analyzer from 0 to 20 GigaHerz, co-authored by Army researchers Drs. David Meyer, Paul Kunz, and Kevin Cox.

The researchers plan additional

development to improve the signal sensitivity of the Rydberg spectrum analyzer, aiming to outperform existing state-of-the-art technology.

"Significant physics and engineering effort is still necessary before the Rydberg analyzer can integrate into a field-testable device," Cox said. "One of the first steps will be understanding how to retain and improve the device's performance as the sensor size is decreased. The Army has emerged as a leading developer of Rydberg sensors, and we expect more cutting-edge research to result as this futuristic technology concept quickly becomes a reality."

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

February 2, 2021 6:30 pm via Zoom

Members Present:

Todd Houvinen, *President* (1)
Thornton Cofield, *Secretary* (1)
Jerry Couatre, *Treasurer* (1)
Dan Lott, *Director* (2)
Brook Samuel, *Director* (1)
Jon Reise, *Director* (1)
Elmer Tatum, *Director* (2)

Members Absent:

Jen Bordelon, *Vice President* (1)
Robin Hudson, *Director* (1)
Jeremy Gerald, *Director* (1)
Ken Shutt (2)

Visitors:

None

() Number of years served in stated position.

New Business

Forming a program committee: Elmer mentioned that he handles the programs for his club. Dan said that he has a series of videos on various radio topics. Thornton suggested that if each of the board members offered one topic at the next board meeting we could have the remainder of the year covered for presentations.

Tentative General Meeting Program Suggestions:

February - "ZoomFest"

March - No program listed - March 6 - Quarterly noon lunch at Frank's in Gonzales

April - 6 Meters - Hank Ellis (K5HDE)(tentative)

May - Eating and planning - Field Day Preparations (Dependent on CoVid conditions)

June - Field Day recap

July - October - No program listed

November - Equipment Auction and Banquet (CoVid dependent)

December - December 4 - Christmas Banquet at Mike Andersons (CoVid dependent)

Old Business

Paypal capability on club website - Todd brought up the cost of using PayPal is 2.9% of the transaction plus .30 per transaction. After some discussion Dan moved that we setup a new PayPal account under BRARC.ORG with the Treasurer and the President the only two members who have access to that account. The motion was seconded by Jerry and the motion was passed unanimously.

Club Nonprofit Tax Status - club is set up as a 501c4 Non-Profit foundation. We should be a 501 c3 non-profit organization, NOT a foundation. -update.

A discussion ensued on the value of having our club listed as a 501c3 entity. The discussion centered around do we have enough equipment donated to the club to warrant a cost to correct the first filing as a 501c4 organization. Refiling as a 501c3 organization would allow tax incentives for donating equipment to the club and also allow us to not pay tax when we purchase certain items. The correct filing would also reduce the paper work on filing as a 501c4 organization. Dan moved that we pursue changing the Club's Federal Tax status from a 501c4 to a 501c3 tax status and authorize Jerry to contact Marvin Owen and seek his assistance in changing the tax status to a 501c3. The motion carries a limit of \$1,500 to accomplish the change in BRARC's tax status from a 501c4 to a 501c3. The motion was seconded by Thornton and approved unanimously.

Minutes approval from 01/21: Dan moved to accept the minutes of Jan. 5, 2021 and seconded by Jerry.

Treasurer Report: Jerry reported we had \$8,813.00 as of the Jan. 29 bank statement. Elmer moved to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Dan.

Committee Reports:

Education - No report.

Equipment - No report.

PIO/Outreach /Mbr - Thornton - reported we have 34 paid/comp/lifetime members as of February 2, 2021. Six of the 34 members only have a technician license.

EMCOM - No Report.

Repeater - Brook - Everything appears to be working.

USS Kidd Club - Todd reported that John Krupsky received a letter from a man in Montana asking if we were going to operate from the USS Kidd. The Board decided after a discussion not to setup operations on the deck of the USS Kidd due to health concerns related to Covid-19.

VE Team - Nothing new to report on the VE team.

BRARC Board Meeting Minutes *(continued)*

Old Business

Education Head for the club - update - Todd no longer has access to the education material that we used at the library for the testing sessions. I like to renew or agreement with HamRadioSchool.com

Todd reported that he contacted Stu Turner by email. Everything Is free, even the use of videos but we must use his books and material. The Board agreed to continue with the HamRadioSchool.com course materials.

Dan volunteered to serve as the Education Coordinator and Todd volunteered to work with Dan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm - Thornton H. Cofield (K5HLC), Secretary

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Returning in March

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will return March 13 – 14 for a full 48 hours, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. ARRL is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful. The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities.

Registration is required, and to help cover the costs of staging this event, there will be a charge to attend. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 at the “door”) and include entry for the live, 2-day show as well to the 30-day on-demand period.

At the Expo, visitors can: Learn from a line-up of such well-known ham radio personalities as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on “My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted;” Michael Foerster, W0IH, on “Using the Arduino in Your Shack,” and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on “3D Printer Basics.”

Take part in live virtual kit-building workshops. (Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to attendees in time for the Expo.)

Those planning to attend the Expo may take advantage of new speaker calendar technology to create their own calendar of presentations in their time zones, which can be saved to a Google or Outlook calendar.



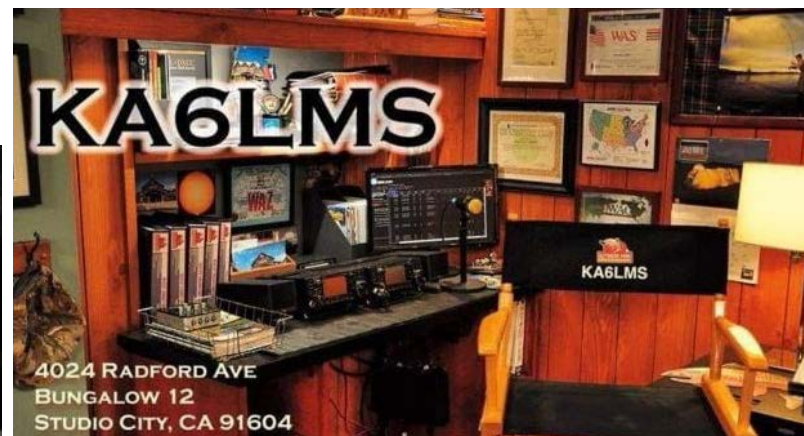
Last Man Standing Going QRT

The 9th and final season wraps shooting March 30. Tim Allen (aka Tim Dick), KK6OTD, does have his Technician Class license which he earned back in September 2014. Over 20 crew members and the producer of LMS are also hams. On the show he uses a fictitious call sign KA0XTT (ex Tool Time). He has 2 stations on the show, 1 in his office and another in his basement at home. The station office set is functional and goes under the call sign KA6LMS (Last Man Standing) which crew members can work on their lunch breaks.

To commemorate the end of the show KA6LMS will be on the air as a special events station from March 14 until March 30th. They will be working CW, SSB, FT-8, DMR, and D-Star. For more information you can go to <http://gsbarc.org/lms/> or LMS Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KA6LMS/videos/1534856270041060>.

A special QSL will be available after the show ends at this address:

KA6LMS
11684 Ventura Blvd Suite 810
Studio City, CA 91604



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	
Jerry Clouatre	AG5AY	
Dan Lott	KF5TKN	

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