



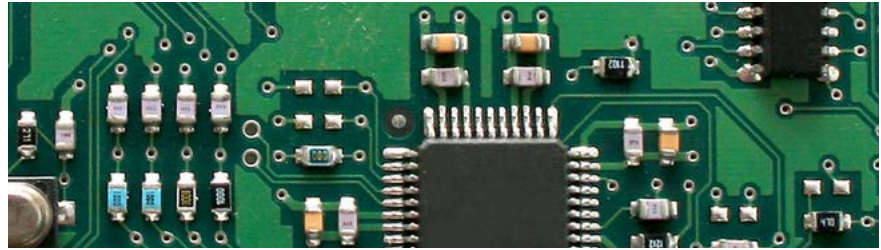
RF News

March 2021

Tidbits From Todd

The last month has been a great month for the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club. We had our first “ZoomFest” for the presentation at February’s club meeting. We had our typical 20 or so participants for the meeting, and everyone enjoyed the program. Several items were displayed by club members who were present, and phone numbers and Email addresses were exchanged. It was not as fun as an actual Swapfest or Hamfest, but I sure was happy to present it to the membership in this pandemic time. I believe it was a success. I would like to believe that with the downward trend in coronavirus cases, the ZoomFest we had last month was a one-time event. I want things to return to normal, and speaking hamfests, the MissLou Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a “Junk in the Trunk” Swap fest next month in Livingston, Louisiana. More information on this swap fest can be found in this issue of the RF News. This will be the first meeting of this type that I have been to since January of last year, which was the SELARC hamfest in Hammond. The coronavirus has caused all other hamfests in Southeast Louisiana to be either canceled or postponed, so I am happy to see these events being scheduled again. Speaking of meetings, last Saturday (March 6), a group of area hams met at Frank’s Restaurant & Grill in Prairieville for lunch, and we had a great time. I was expecting around 15 people, and we just about doubled that count. Twenty-Eight people showed from both the BRARC and Ascension Radio Clubs, and it was so nice seeing a big group of people in person again. We will be doing these luncheons quarterly, with the next luncheon scheduled for Saturday, June 5, at Frank’s in Prairieville. Do not forget about the next club meeting via Zoom on March 30. Elmer Tatum (N5EKF) has a presentation on coax cable that he will be presenting for us. Until then, as always, have fun and stay safe.

73, Todd-AB5TH



Upcoming Events

3/2/2021

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM

3/30/2021

Monthly BRARC Club Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

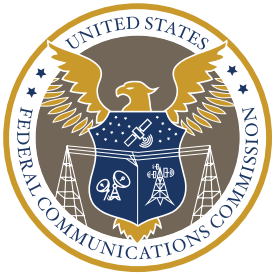
PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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



Unanimous Vote Establishes Federally Funded Broadband Discount Program

WASHINGTON, February 25, 2021—Today, the FCC voted to formally adopt a Report and Order that establishes the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to provide qualifying households discounts on their internet service bills and an opportunity to receive a discount on a computer or tablet.

“Today the Federal Communications Commission made history. It adopted rules for the nation’s largest-ever program to help households nationwide afford broadband service. This \$3.2 billion program was designed to lower the cost of high-speed internet service for those struggling to get the connectivity they need during the ongoing pandemic. It’s a challenge that is all too real for too many families.

“This is a program that will help those at risk of digital disconnection. It will help those sitting in cars in parking lots just to catch a Wi-Fi signal to go online for work. It will help those lingering outside the library with a laptop just to get a wireless signal for remote learning. It will help those who worry about choosing between paying a broadband bill and paying rent or buying groceries. In short, this program can make a meaningful difference in the lives of people across the country. That’s why our

work is already underway to get this program up and running, and I expect it to be open to eligible households within the next 60 days as providers sign up and program systems are put in place. I have confidence in our staff that we will do this carefully, swiftly and the right way,” said Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program will provide eligible households with discounts of up to \$50 a month for broadband service, and up to \$75 a month if the household is on Tribal lands. It also will provide a one-time discount of up to \$100 on a computer or tablet for eligible households.

Under the law, the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is open to households that participate in an existing low-income or pandemic relief program offered by a broadband provider; Lifeline subscribers, including those that are on Medicaid or accept SNAP benefits; households with kids receiving free and reduced-price lunch or school breakfast; Pell grant recipients; and those who have lost jobs and seen their income reduced in the last year.

What Is the Benefit?

Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services; Up to \$75/month discount for broadband services for households on Tribal lands; and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased

through a participating provider. The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household.

Who Is Eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit?

A household is eligible if one member of the household: qualifies for the Lifeline program, including those who are on Medicaid or receive SNAP benefits; receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year; experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year; or meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider’s existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

When Can Eligible Households Sign Up?

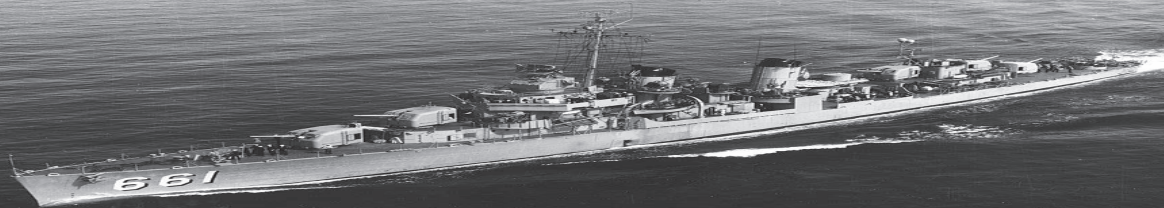
The FCC expects the Emergency Broadband Benefit program to be open to eligible households before the end of April, 2021. Please check the FCC’s website, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, regularly for the latest information.



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



ST PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATING ON THE AIR

The event runs over the full 48 hour period over the 17th March worldwide, 12 noon on the 16th March to 12 noon on the 18th March UTC.

SPD Station Award: To qualify you must be a registered St Patrick Day Station, and have transmitted on the 17th as part of the St

Patrick Award.

Fixed/Portable Station Award: To qualify you must make direct two way communication with a minimum of 10 SPD award stations from a fixed location using either mixed modes or CW only.

Digital Station Award: To qualify you must make direct two way communication with a minimum of 20 SPD award stations using any digital mode (this includes FT8, DMR, JT65, DStar, Echolink etc.)

Mobile Station Award: To qualify you must make direct two way communication with a minimum of 5 SPD award stations from a mobile location using either mixed modes or CW only.

Short Wave Listener Award: To qualify you must log two way communications between a minimum of 10 SPD award stations utilizing any mode.

<https://stpatrickaward.webs.com/>

OVER NEIGHBORS' OBJECTIONS, SHELBURNE OPERATOR GETS THE GREEN LIGHT FOR HAM RADIO TOWERS

Joel Banner Baird - Burlington Free Press
SHELBURNE – One-on-one talks with fellow amateur radio operators as far away as Moscow are now firmly on the horizon for a Shelburne man. The erection of two antenna towers on Zachary Manganello's rural property on Dorset Street — a source of contention with his neighbors for at least a year — was approved by the Telecommunications Review Board this week.

On paper, and later, in balloon tests that attempted to approximate the towers' altitude, the structures struck some folks as too tall for the neighborhood.

Radio towers downsized

Compromises were struck along the way. The new structures will be measurably less of an eyesore. Originally conceived at 70 feet, Manganello's ham radio project is getting off the ground with slim, guywire-supported towers that extend up 40 and 60 feet. If the towers ever collapse, they'll remain on his lot. If he moves, he'll have to pay for their removal.

Manganello's persistence — and patience — draws on more than a century of niche science. His community of fellow amateurs, also known as "hams," have swapped notes, both casual and urgent, over non-commercial radio frequencies (originally in Morse code) since the 1890s.

Hams tout the technology as a fore-

runner of the internet, and one that still serves to connect, entertain and alert far-flung communities of emergencies when cellphone and broadband service goes down. The FCC takes these hobbyists seriously enough to require them to get licensed.

Shelburne limits such antennae's height to 35 feet in this part of town, which lies roughly equidistant between Spear Street and Hinesburg Road.

Ham radio offers backup emergency communication

The prospect of backup emergency communication offered by a local ham radio operator, as well as Manganello's openness to public education and research projects, eventually swayed the citizen-run review board.

So did the Federal Communications Commission, which strongly suggests that local regulators make "reasonable accommodations" to amateur operators — not just for practical reasons, but for "the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

Aside from Moscow, Manganello lists Japan and Hawaii as among his over-the-air "targets." And he is an amateur only in the limited, technical sense. Now in his early 40s, Manganello got his first ham license when he was 14, according to his application to Shelburne.

He has held the highest class of

amateur license since he was 17; he is now a card-carrying member of the Vermont Department of Public Safety's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service.

"My own technical investigations," Manganello wrote in his application, "have included wireless mesh networking, internet linking, radio astronomy, weak signal propagation evaluation, and antenna design."

The new towers will take about a year to build. They'll have no lights — they lie beneath the FAA's 200-foot threshold for interference with air traffic.

Call sign K1ZK is able to stay on the air if the grid goes down. And if the grid goes down in an ice storm? Manganello's in-house station (call sign K1ZK) will, thanks to a solar-charged array and a cluster of Tesla Powerwall batteries, maintain a connection.

BRARC 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, or via PayPal at www.brarc.org.

MISSLOU Amateur Radio Club

Tailgate Sale



Location:

Circle Drive Park Pavilion

LA 1035-4 at US-190

Livingston, Louisiana

Saturday, April, 17, 2021

8:00AM – till

Talk In-146.835 PL 114.8

Tailgating is free!

Bring your old stuff & Buy, Sell or Trade!

Bring your own table and chair!

Coffee, Donuts & Lots of conversation

For More Information, contact:

Skip Breeden - AB5SB (225) 954-0763

Dwayne Rogers - W5PTL (318) 880-1330

Jake Graves - KD5UZA (225) 572-8512



BRARC Board Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021 6:30 pm via Zoom

Members Present:

Todd Houvinen, *President* (1)
Jen Bordelon, *Vice President* (1)
Thornton Cofield, *Secretary* (1)
Jerry Couatre, *Treasurer* (1)

Members Absent:

Dan Lott, *Director* (2)
Brook Samuel, *Director* (1)
Jon Reise, *Director* (1)
Elmer Tatum, *Director* (2)
Robin Hudson, *Director* (1)
Jeremy Gerald, *Director* (1)
Ken Shutt (2)

Visitors:

John Krupsky, WA5MLF

() Number of years served in stated position.

Minutes approval from 02/21: Dan moved to accept the minutes of Feb. 21, 2021 and seconded by Elmer.

Treasurer Report: Jerry reported a balance as of Feb. 26 of \$11,201.58. \$125 in mailed in dues, PayPal direct account of \$167.79 and a transfer of \$1,845.69 from the PayPal account. The PayPal account is now working and properly setup and secure.

Committee Reports

Education: Nothing to report and no one has been appointed to chair this committee.

Equipment-Jerry: Jon asked what has been done with the equipment that is owned by the club. Jerry said that his list of equipment owned by the club is approximately 95% complete. He does not have the list of equipment donated by Tom Harrel. Noting that the equipment is stored in several different locations no decision was reached on how to consolidate the equipment into one location. A decision was reached on not renting a storage unit for equipment storage.

PIO/Outreach /Mbr-Thornton: Thornton report we had 50 paid/comp/lifetime members as March 3, 2021. It is time that we get a list of club members out to the membership and I would like to include physical addresses and phone numbers. I have only seen one application that did not want their phone number distributed. If no one objects I would like to send the membership list of those who are members as well as those who have not yet renewed their membership. The Advo cate on Feb. 7, page 5D had a photo of Todd presenting Tom Harrell his plaque for being an outstanding service member of BRARC.

EMCOM: Nothing to report

Repeater-Brook: The repeaters are functioning well.

SS Kidd Club: John had nothing to report at this time since everything is shut down due to the COVID threat.

VE Team: Jon reported that Hank Ellis is working with someone who is studying to take his Technician and General class test. They are waiting for the library to open. Once the library opens Jon will advertise the testing date to the club members.

Old Business

PayPal capability on club website: Resolved and functioning well.

Club Tax Status Update-Jerry/Todd: Jerry reported that he has the accounting information complete and his accountant is now working on resolving the conflict of our club being organized as a 501c4 organization instead of the correct 501c3 organization.

Club Programs for the year: Last Board meeting each of us was asked to bring at least one suggestion for a General Meeting Presentation. Every year we go through the same issue- we don't present a proposed monthly list of presentations and we struggle to come up with a presentation every month. Then we lament that it is difficult to fill out our Board of Directors and Officers positions. If we all contribute one suggestion at the beginning of the year we would have at least a starting point.



BRARC Board Meeting Minutes *(continued)*

New Business

Website hosting upgrades at the recommendations of John Krupsky (WA5MLF) and Bert Lousteau (K5AJL): *(I have taken the liberty of copying John's recommendation to the Board since he wrote it much more succinctly than I could paraphrase).*

After some service problems last summer, our hosting service for BRARC.org has been stable in recent times. Several contacts with Godaddy have recommended that we upgrade to a newer plan. This would bring greater reliability, faster performance and better security.

Our current plan, Deluxe WordPress, costs \$167.88 / year (or \$13.99 / month). After some hacking problems a few years back we added Website Security Essential for \$83.88 / year (or \$6.99 / mo). The WordPress software dashboard has advised that our version of PHP (5.6.27) is insecure and should be upgraded. Godaddy advised that it cannot be upgraded within our current plan.

The recommended plan is WordPress Ultimate and costs \$215.88 / year (or \$17.99 / mo) if paid for a year in advance. It would renew at \$19.99 / mo afterward. This plan includes the Website Security Essential for no extra cost and also provides an SSL certificate at no cost. The certificate would enable our site to be reached with greater security, using https:// in a visitor's web browser. This prevents web browsers from tagging our site as insecure.

I recommend upgrading our service to take advantage of the benefits described above. Our December 2020 payment of \$167.88 would be applied to the upgraded plan on a prorated basis. Our next renewal for the > \$83.88 Website Security Essential is scheduled for April this year.

Let me know if you have questions or need more information. I have multiple screenshots and invoice copies from Godaddy and transcripts from two recent support chat sessions.

My plan for W5KID.org is to reuse its stranded content in a subdirectory of BRARC.org. Currently W5KID.org redirects to the subdirectory that I designated. To host W5KID.org separately (as it was many years ago) would require either an additional hosting plan or a change to a different plan that would require a lot more work to reassemble the two independent websites.

Dan brought up that he runs his business server at a much cheaper cost and offered to talk with John about an alternative web hosting. John said that he would like to talk to Dan about his internet setup. Jon moved that we look at an alternative web hosting for the club and the Board unanimously agreed. Note that the entire Board agreed to take Dan up on his offer to meet with John and discuss an alternative to what the Board is using at this time. This was not a motion but essentially a consensual agreement.

Tentative Program Suggestions:

March 30, 2021 - Coax Tips (Elmer Tatum-N5EKF)

April 2021 - Six Meters (Hank Ellis-K5HDE)

May 2021 - Field Day ???

June-2021 - Field Day Wrap Up-Dana (AD5VC) depending on how Field Day is done this year.

July-2021 - FT-8 Tips - Live Demonstration via Zoom - Todd AB5TH

Aug 2021 - OPEN

Sept 2021 - OPEN

Oct 2021 - OPEN

Nov 2021 - Club Auction

Dec 2021 - Christmas Banquet

Thornton H. Cofield

BRARC Secretary

March 11, 2021

ARISS Columbus Radio System Once Again Operational!

March 14, 2021—The ARISS Columbus Radio is back on-the-air! This, after it was rendered non-operational following a January 27 EVA (spacewalk) which was conducted to install a cable for the Bartolomeo commercial platform. During the January 27 spacewalk, the Bartolomeo HMU-601 cable, described in the March 10 ARISS Press conference (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hm4h4rBE9k&t=2214s>), was installed in series with the ARISS antenna cable (HMU-895).

As part of a spacewalk conducted yesterday, March 13, Astronaut Michael Hopkins successfully completed the installation of three PAPOS connectors for the new Bartolomeo platform on the Columbus Module. After this task, Hopkins started the ARISS task. He moved to the opposite side of Columbus, where he removed the HMU-601 cable from the APCU J02 connector and reinstalled the ARISS antenna cable (HMU-895) connector back into the APCU J02 connector. This returned the ARISS system back to its pre-January 27 configuration. *2M Uplink 145.990 MHz PL 67 70cm Downlink 437.800 MHz*

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Update

LOS ANGELES - QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, announced that the next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will commence on March 13-14, 2021, over a period of 48 hours. The first QSO Today Expo was a great success with over 16,000 attendees and the March 2021 event is anticipated to be even larger. The QSO Today team has been working hard to make this upcoming Expo even better with new speakers, panel discussions, kit building workshops, and much more. Anyone can attend from their home or office. Early Bird Tickets are just \$10 (to help cover the cost of this event, \$12.50 at the “door”) and include entry for the Live 2 day period as well as the 30-day on-demand period). Registration can be found at www.qsotodayhamexpo.com.

Eric and his team have put together a world-class line-up of 60+ speakers to address this conference from the virtual Expo’s auditorium. ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® in the United States, is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Flexradio is the Expo’s Platinum Sponsor, and Gold sponsors as of this time include Elecraft, RFinder, and CSI.

“The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn. Expect to bump into friends and well known experts and personalities from throughout our worldwide ham radio community!” said Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Product Development Manager



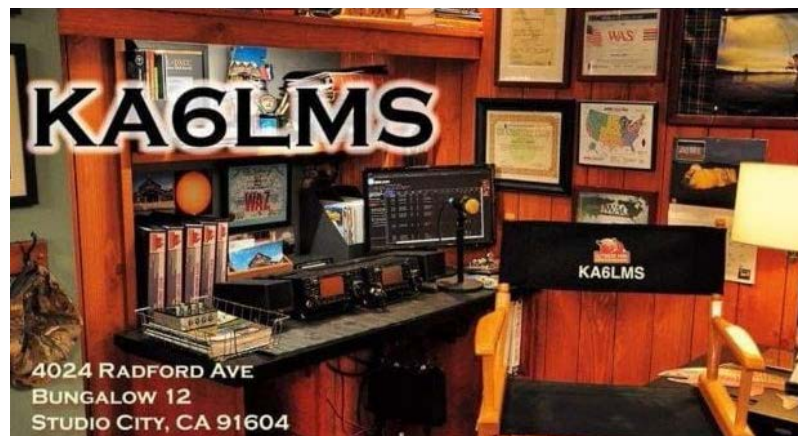
Last Man Standing Going QRT

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