



RF News

April 2021

Tidbits From Todd

Things are beginning to get back to “normal” here in Southeast Louisiana. We had our first swap meet in Livingston, Louisiana on April 17th and it was a lot of fun. I want to thank my friend Skip Breeden (AB5SB) and the rest of the group from the MissLou ARC in Saint Francisville, Louisiana for putting this event together. The weather was a little wet but 100 or so people attended the swap meet anyway. I understand that plans are already being made to have another swap meet this fall. The next hamfest will be in Huntsville, Alabama on the weekend of August 21-22. The Baton Rouge ARC will be deciding on Field Day soon. I would like to have Field Day at the Highland Road Observatory like we have done in the past, but I am also aware that the CoVid cases are on the rise again in Louisiana. I will keep the membership advised on what the club’s plans for Field Day are going to be via both E-mail and the club nets so stay tuned as they say. I also want to get everyone’s input as to whether we should keep holding our club meetings via Zoom or if we should start meeting at the Goodwood Library again. I absolutely LOVE Zoom because of the flexibility that it provides for presentations, but I also am hearing from club members who want to resume meeting in person. I miss that too. I will send out a survey to the membership this week and see what everyone’s thoughts on meeting in person are and if I receive enough positive responses on the subject, I will contact the Goodwood Library and get the club back on the list for the big meeting room. Our next club meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday April 27th at 7:00 PM. I am still working on a program for the meeting so I will advise you all what the topic will be prior to the meeting. Until the next club meeting stay safe.

73, Todd-AB5TH



Upcoming Events

4/6/2021

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM

4/27/2021

Monthly BRARC Club Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

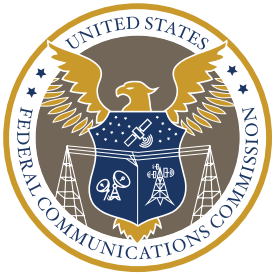
PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

www.brarc.org brarc@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



DEMOCRATS PRESSURE FCC TO DENY SALE OF SPANISH-LANGUAGE RADIO STATION IN FLORIDA BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS

WASHINGTON, April 19, 2021

Congressional Democrats recently called on the FCC to reject the sale of a Spanish-language radio station in South Florida based purely on politics. According to the Democrat Representatives, the FCC must block this change in ownership to prevent what they view as a progressive broadcast station from beginning to air conservative viewpoints to Miami's Hispanic community.

As Newsweek reported, "Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) mobilized ... to pressure the Federal Communications Commission to ... reject the sale of the well-known Miami radio station Caracol 1260 AM." Separately, Newsweek wrote that Florida Democrats are sounding the alarm and reported that one former Obama Administration official called the sale of the station "a problem' for the party." Former Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell added that "To win in 2022 this must stop!" in reference to the Newsweek story.

FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr issued the following statement in response:

"This attempt by Democrats in Congress to pressure the FCC into blocking the sale of a Spanish-language radio station based on the political viewpoints that it would broadcast to South Florida's Hispanic community crosses a line drawn by the First Amendment. The FCC has no business doing the Democrats' bidding or using our regulatory process to censor political opinions that Democrats do not like. What's worse, the Democrats appear to be treating the FCC as merely an arm of the DNC—expressly pressuring the agency to take action that they believe will increase their electoral odds in Florida in 2022.

"This is a deeply troubling transgression of free speech and the FCC's status as an independent agency. I call on my FCC colleagues to join me in publicly rejecting this attempt to inject partisan politics into our licensing process. Doing so would go a long way in assuring the public that the FCC will review this proposed transaction free from political pressure and according to our long-standing rules and precedents."



FCC PERMITS HOT-CAR SENSORS TO SAVE CHILDREN

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2021

The Federal Communications Commission today paved the way for new in-car radar-based technology to monitor for children left in dangerous, hot cars and trigger alerts that could save lives.

The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted six waiver requests from equipment manufacturers and automakers to supply and operate these in-cabin radars in the 60 GHz spectrum band.

"Technology is providing new ways for families to help keep their children safe," said FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. "That's why I'm proud that the FCC can play a role in protecting kids from the avoidable danger of deadly heatstroke. With summer fast approaching, these waivers are a first step toward implementing a more permanent policy framework for promoting innovations like these life-saving auto safety technologies."

In 2019, more than 20 leading automobile manufacturers committed to implementing rear seat reminder systems as standard equipment in their vehicles no later than the 2025 model 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



The graphic features a rocket launch against a backdrop of Earth from space. In the top left is a blue circular emblem with Russian text and a portrait. In the top right is the word "RUSSIA" in red, stylized font, and a blue diamond-shaped emblem with "PCP" and a radio symbol. In the bottom left is a globe with "MILLER-DX-CLUB" written on it. In the bottom right, the call sign "RN61YG" is written in large, red, outlined letters. Centered text reads: "Special Callsign dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the first manned flight into space."

This special event Callsign will be active from 4/12/21 to 4/25/2021

UPDATED RADIO FREQUENCY EXPOSURE RULES BECOME EFFECTIVE ON MAY 3, 2021

The FCC has announced that rule changes detailed in a lengthy 2019 Report and Order governing RF exposure standards go into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile — such as different antenna or placement or greater power — will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

“In the RF Report and Order, the Commission anticipated that few parties would have to conduct reevaluations under the new rules and that such evaluations will be relatively straightforward,” the FCC said in an April 2 Public Notice. “It nevertheless adopted a 2-year period for parties to verify and ensure compliance under the new rules.”

The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

“For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the

categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation,” said Greg Lapin, N9GL, chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC).

“Ham stations previously excluded from performing environmental evaluations will have until May 3, 2023, to perform these. After May 3, 2021, any new stations or those modified in a way that affects RF exposure must comply before being put into service,” Lapin said.

The December 2019 RF Report and Order changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria. The R&O also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure.

Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under

the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

The ARRL Laboratory staff is available to help amateurs to make these determinations and, if needed, perform the necessary calculations to ensure their stations comply. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who helped prepare ARRL's RF Exposure and You book, explained it this way.

“The FCC did not change any of the underlying rules applicable to amateur station evaluations,” he said. “The sections of the book on how to perform routine station evaluations are still valid and usable, especially the many charts of common antennas at different heights.” Hare said ARRL Lab staff also would be available to help amateurs understand the rules and evaluate their stations.”

RF Exposure and You is available for free download from ARRL. ARRL also has an RF Safety page on its website.

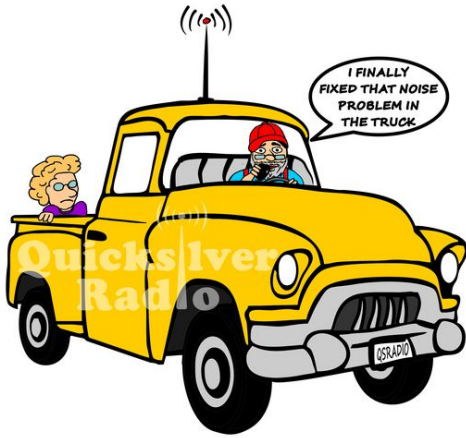
The ARRL RF Safety Committee is working with the FCC to update the FCC's aids for following human exposure rules — OET Bulletin 65 and OET Bulletin 65 Supplement B for Radio Amateurs.

In addition, ARRL is developing tools that all hams can use to perform exposure assessments.

MISSLOU Amateur Radio Club

Tailgate Sale

A Special Thanks to Todd for the pictures.



BRARC Board Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021 6:30 pm via Zoom

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Jen Bordelon, *Vice President* (1)
Jerry Clouatre, *Treasurer* (1)
Robin Hudson, *Director* (1)
Ken Shutt (2)

Visitors:

None
() Number of years served in stated position.

EMCOM: Nothing to report

Repeater-Brook: Brook reported there were no problems with the repeater.

SS Kidd Club: Jon reported that he had to talk with John K concerning possibly operating and participating with Ships on the Air. Our operating and participating with Ships on the Air depends upon the USS KIDD Museum rules at the time.

VE Team - Jon/Todd: Jon noted that he is waiting for the library to open. The Board also discussed what study materials we should use. Ham Radio School was discussed along with the ARRL study materials. After some discussion the Board decided to use the ARRL study materials because most of the material is free and the majority of the Board felt more comfortable with the ARRL study material. Dan volunteered to be the Education Committee Coordinator and he was accepted by the Board. Dan will begin gathering the necessary material together for a combination Tech/General class intensive training class over possibly 2 weekends. Dan volunteered to contact the Red Cross building for a training location and schedule the first training class for possible June 12 and 13.

Old Business

Website Hosting Update: Dan and John Krupsky talked about the two web accounts and Dan sent John his website bills for review. Both websites use WordPress while BRARC uses GoDaddy as their website provider. No determination as to a preferred website provider was made at this time.

Club Tax Status Update- Nothing new on the club status update on moving to a 501c3 status.

New Business

Do we want to resume in person club meeting? The Board would like to resume in-person club meetings. It is first a question of safety and secondly finding a suitable location. We may be able to meet at the EBR parish Bluebonnet Regional Branch location. Todd will confirm the Bluebonnet location at a later date.

Minutes approval from 03/02: Dan moved the minutes be accepted, seconded by Jeremy.

Treasurer Report: Todd gave the treasurer's report that BRARC had \$11,305.00 in the check book balance. Dan moved we accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jon.

Committee Reports

Education: Nothing to report.

Equipment-Jerry: Nothing to report.

PIO/Outreach /Mbr-Thornton: We have 64 paid/comp members as of Apr. 4, 2021. Thornton proposed that we send out the paid/comp membership to only those members and to include addresses and phone numbers excluding those who did not want their phone numbers or addresses included. No one had any objections. Other suggestions ranged from reaching out to other radio clubs and ARRL for prospective members.



BRARC Board Meeting Minutes *(continued)*

Field Day thoughts?? Should we have Field Day at the Observatory this year? Or should we follow the ARRL guidelines and do it at home like we did last year. The Board is in agreement to follow ARRL guidelines which is not to meet in groups as we did in the pre-COVID days.

BRARC Annual Christmas Banquet-Saturday, December 4th- Mike Anderson's now charges to use the meeting room. This, combined with the restaurant no longer allowing us to have separate checks, makes me want to look elsewhere for the club to have our annual Christmas banquet. After a discussion a motion was made by Jeremy, seconded by Thornton that we have Christmas Dinner at Frank's Restaurant in Prairieville. Todd will call Frank's and see if we can reserve the Cypress Room for 40 members.

Todd noted that we are still slated to have a quarterly luncheon at Frank's on June 5.

Tentative Program Suggestions

April 2021 General Meeting: Six Meters (Hank Ellis-K5HDE). This is still confirmed and will be held over Zoom.

May 2021-Field Day: If we have the eating meeting as the Observatory Thornton will investigate ordering box lunches from Jason's Deli. Dan also volunteered to do a series on the GNU/Linux radio should we not have the eating meeting as planned.

June 2021-Field Day Wrap Up-Dana (AD5VC) depending on how Field Day is done this year. The Board agreed to wait and make a final decision in May. The Board is in agreement to follow ARRL guidelines.

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

Aug. 2021- Open

Sept. 2021- Open

Oct. 2021- Open

Nov. 2021- Open

Dec. 2021- Christmas Luncheon will most likely be at Frank's given the Mike Anderson's recent restrictions including room cost increases.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Thornton Cofield K5HLC
BRARC Secretary



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.

We May Be Looking At Severe Shortages Of Some New Ham Radio Gear Due To AKM Factory Fire

FROM: The SWLing POST - www.swling.com

Recently, I've received a number of emails from readers who are frustrated because new ham radio transceivers are out of stock and used prices have increased.

At first, I thought this might be due to supply chain and logistics issues due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. If it is, it's only a partial explanation.

As of this morning, I've heard from three trusted sources in the radio industry (from retailing and manufacturing) who tell me that the lack of inventory is a supply chain issue, but directly linked to the October 21, 2020 fire at Asahi Kasei Microsystems (AKM) Nobuoka semiconductor Plant "Fab2".

According to Converge:

"This factory mainly produces large-scale integrated circuits (LSI) used in audio equipment, home appliances, TCXO oscillator, and other products. Due to the recent fire, AKM has been forced to stop production and delays are to be expected."

Fortunately, according to the article, AKM has been moving some IC production to external companies, but it could take some time to re-tool. A number of markets have been affected by this disruption including the pro audio industry.

There's no need to panic

If you've been looking for a specific radio model, you may find that retailers have been back-ordered and can only offer a vague shipping timeline; 2-6 weeks out, for example.

Some models (including the popular IC-7300, IC-705, Yaesu FT-DX10, and Yaesu FT-991A) are still in-stock at some retailers.

Several readers have been trying to purchase the popular Yaesu FT-891 and found that no one has inventory at pres-



Free Shipping!

YAESU FT-891

HF + 50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver With MH-31A8J Mic
Regular Price: \$639.95

Additional Savings
-\$30.00 Yaesu Mfr Coupon (Exp:03/31/21)

Out Of Stock - Delivery Will Be Delayed!
HRO Discount Price: \$609.95*

Buy It

*After Coupons & Promotions.

Tweet Share Save Add To Wish List

ent. We may be looking at extended delays for this model and others once inventory is depleted.

But again, I don't think this is a panic situation. This supply chain disruption has been in play for a number of months already and you can bet the industry is already working on solutions.

My advice would be that if you're getting close to pulling the trigger on a new transceiver, if it's in stock, I'd jump on it now. Otherwise, you'll simply need to be patient as new inventory eventually makes its way back to retailer shelves. Used prices on some of these models may be inflated until new inventory returns.



AKM Factory Fire (Image (Strata-Gee.com))

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@brarc.org