



RF News

January/February 2023

Bill Notes

Happy New Year everyone. We are one month into 2023 and things are moving very fast.

Before you know it, we will be getting ready for Field Day 2023. This is an incredibly fun and useful event held every year.

We will be having presentations at our BRARC meetings starting in about May addressing Field Day plans.

Just a reminder that we are meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at the Bluebonnet Library at 19:00. Hope to see you there.

Bill Smith
KE5TA

Upcoming Events

2/4/2023 - License Classes Start

see www.brarc.org for more details

2/7/2023 - Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

Via MS Teams

2/28/2023 - Club Meeting - 7:00 - 800 pm

Bluebonnet Library

3/4/2023 - License Exam -

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Main Library BR - 2nd Floor Technology Lab

BRARC Annual Dues

Dues are payable annually on 1/1
Regular Membership \$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 available on the club website.

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

www.brarc.org

brarc@brarc.org

President	Bill Smith - KE5TA
Vice President	Todd Houvinen - AB5TH
Secretary	Thornton Cofield - K5HLC
Treasurer	Jerry Clouatre - AG5AY
Directors	Jon Reise - WA9JBR Brook Samuel - N5DGK Joe Ropollo - K5ROP Paul Smith - KG5HLB Dan Lott - KF5TQN Bert Lousteau - K5AJL & WRJL785 Don Austin - KF5OHZ

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

***If you would like to contribute to
the RF News, please email articles
rfnews@brarc.org***



USS KIDD, W5KID

Operating Frequencies and Times:

Mon – Fri: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm CT (1600 – 2130 UTC)

Sat & Sun: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm CT (1600 – 2130 UTC)

Check for spots on dxsummit.fi

SSB: around 14.240, 7.240 MHz

CW: around 14.060, 7.060 MHz

Regular open hours for the Museum are 9:30 to 3:30 daily.

March 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day

April 11 – Kamikaze Attack Remembrance

May 31 – Memorial Day

June 3 & 4 – Museum Ships Weekend

July 4 – Independence Day

October 13 – US Navy Birthday

September 2 – V-J Day

October 13 – US Navy Birthday

Nov 11 – Veterans Day

Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

License Classes

Ready to upgrade your Technician License to General?

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club is teaching a General Licensing Class in the month of February 2023. The class will be a hybrid format class with 2 in-person Saturday sessions and 3 evening online sessions during the week. There is no cost for the class, and we will follow the ARRL General License curriculum which corresponds with the ARRL General License Manual.

The class schedule is as follows:

Saturday, February 4 – In-person class at Baton Rouge Public Library (Goodwood) 9:30-3:00 Tuesday, February 7 –

Online class via MS Teams 6:30-8:00

Tuesday February 14 – Online class via MS Teams 6:30-8:00 (we can discuss changing this for VD) Tuesday, February 21

– Online class via MS Teams 6:30-8:00

Saturday, February 25 – In-person class at Baton Rouge Public Library (Goodwood) 9:30-3:00

If you are interested in learning more about the class offering, please contact Joe Roppolo (K5ROP), Director of Training at K5ROP@BRARC.org

Please sign up on Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BAEA82FA6F4C52-february>

Discord for Hams

At the January BRARC club meeting, I had the privilege of presenting on the topic of Discord, a cross-platform community-building application. I've been using Discord personally since 2017, and after joining the radio club last year, it occurred to me that it would be a great fit for the club. So I brought it up at a board meeting and was invited to speak on the matter.

As previously mentioned, Discord is completely cross-platform and would reasonably be available to everyone in the club. It's available on Windows, Mac, and Linux as a desktop app, on Windows, Android, and iOS as a mobile application, and if you aren't interested in installing software, it also runs directly in the browser by logging in to Discord.com directly. It's entirely free to use and doesn't have any ads anywhere on the platform. There are paid upgrades for the service that the club may elect to purchase in the future, but we'll get to that in a moment. Let's first talk about what the service does.

At its core, Discord is a message board where users join a server (one owned by BRARC, for instance) and can post text in various channels that are separated by topic. It's entirely possible to have channels devoted to antennas, radios, POTA, DXing, CW, or any other topic the club might be interested in.

Furthermore, you can create channels that are exclusive to specific members, providing the club a way for just the board members to message one another, for instance. The real power in Discord, though, is the fact



that it supports much more than just text. You can post pictures, audio files, text files, links to websites, embed videos, and more. In this way, it would be possible for club members to post pictures of their rigs, ask for help with software problems, post pictures of equipment they have for sale, share links to websites, and would even be a convenient place to keep Excel files concerning club membership, club equipment loans, volunteers for Field Day, sign-up sheets for the KIDD and more.

Discord also has the ability to create voice and video channels where users can talk to one another in real-time or have video conferences like the monthly club board meeting. I think this would be superior to other services the club has used in the past like Zoom, where a link to the meeting has to be shared for people to use. With Discord, the servers are persistent and need only be clicked on to join. If the club meeting is in progress, simply open the app, click on the server where the meeting takes place, and you're in.

As mentioned before, the service is

completely free with a few limitations that most people won't come up against. Namely, there is a file-size limit of 8GB, so longer videos and HD photos are sometimes too big to post without being compressed. The good news is that if that limitation is ever a problem, anyone in the server can pay to "boost" the server and raise the file-size limit. This is something I imagine the club would pay for if they see fit, but personally, I've been using the program since 2017 and have never paid a penny, so I don't see the paid options being necessary.

For all the aforementioned reasons, I think the service would be a good fit for any radio club. Even if clubs don't decide to make one, I would still encourage hams check out the service and join one of the many public servers that are available. If you can't find one you like, make one yourself and if you do, send me an invite!

73,
Erik Herrmann Jr. K5EDH

December VE Test Session - Nine New Hams Join the Hobby



The BRARC VE team conducted an exam session on Saturday, December 3rd at the EBR Main Library on Goodwood. Ten Candidates either received new licenses or upgraded to General by passing the exams.

This session's VE Team was comprised of:

Jon Reise, WA9JBR
Joe Roppolo, K5ROP
Michael Nolan, KD5MLD
Todd Huovinen, AB5TH

Russ London, NS5W
David Cohen, N7TC
Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

Thornton Cofield, K5HLC, the BRARC Secretary, and Todd Huovinen, AB5TH acted as the PIOs by introducing the Candidates to the benefits of Amateur Radio. Each Candidate received a packet of information about ham radio and a complimentary 12-month membership in BRARC.

Thornton and Todd occupied the "Holding Room" which was dedicated to the Candidates before and after they completed their test and were waiting for the results. Thornton talked about basic HF backyard antennas and operating modes. The Candidates had many questions, which Thornton and Todd were happy to discuss.

Congratulations to Thornton for recently receiving his VE credentials from the ARRL.

BRARC will be conducting test sessions in 2023 at the library on the following dates at 10 am:

Saturday, Mar 4 Saturday, Jun 10
Saturday, Sep 2 Saturday, Dec 2

If you hold a Technician or General class license, think about upgrading at one of the upcoming test sessions. Registration can be done on the BRARC website. If you are a VE and interested in joining the BRARC VE Team, contact Jon Reise, WA9JBR at

jreise92@gmail.com

Congratulations and Welcome to the Hobby.

Technician

*Brandon Paulk
Lisa Champagne
Corey Badeaux
Eric Evans
Mike Gebhart
William Clenney
Audrery Charmant
Thomas Thompson
Robert West*

General

Charles Badeaux

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club History

1970



With the availability of many surplus commercial radios (like the famous “80-D” FM), there was no shortage of opportunity for hams. In the Baton Rouge Area, many of these rigs were converted to two meters and the first popular two meter repeater went up through the efforts of hams like Bill Mixon (K5SVD), Fred McMurray (WA5ZHD), and others. Bill and Fred worked in the Civil Defense Branch of City Parish Government.

The original “94” repeater was a split site system with the transmitter at the Old Civil Defense Office in the basement of the Old BR Junior High. This site was linked by a dedicated phone line to the receiver site atop the State Capitol building. Since everything in those days was crystal controlled, it was convenient to use 146.94/34 for repeaters in all the major cities in the state and surrounding states, too.

Little interference was experienced between those repeaters (except with band openings) since the systems in those days were not very long ranged. Early ham rigs for two meters were all crystal-controlled with 6 or more channels. Each channel required two separate crystals, one for transmit and one for the receive frequency. Every two meter ham radio in those days came with 146.94 crystals and 146.52 simplex.

By 1970, just about every ham in the Baton Rouge area had two meter FM capability. BRARC installed a second repeater on 146.88 and most hams

used either 94 or 88. It was easy to get to know every ham in the area that had two meter gear. Al Heine (W5OVV) kept a list of those he came across. By the time the list grew to 50 or more, Al decided to make a Directory of 2 meter hams in the BR area. Perhaps a few of these Directories are still around.

The annual BRARC hamfest was moved to Father Colbert’s Camp on the Comite River.

1972

In 1972 the club began meeting at Catholic High School. Al Heine (W5OVV) was one of the instructors who set up a station in the back of the Chemistry Lab. It was often used after lab sessions to let the students experience what ham radio is all about. The students later formed the Catholic High School Amateur Radio Club.



**Our work is possible
because of people like you.**

Discover the role that’s right for you.
Join us today!



BRARC's December 15, 2022 Christmas Banquet & Installation of the 2023 Officers and Directors

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club had its annual Christmas Banquet and installation of officers at Big Mike's Sports Bar and Grill in Denham Springs on Saturday December 15. The menu was varied, the food was good and everyone had a great time. Conversation was lively and sprinkled with the nice door prizes awarded toward the end of the Banquet. Thanks for everyone who had a hand in making the banquet a success and for Joe Roppolo for taking the photographs.



From left to right: Joe Roppolo K5ROP; Don Austin KF5OHZ; Brook Samuel N5DGK; Bill Smith-President KE5TA; Todd Huovinen-Vice President AB5TH; Jon Reise WA9JBR; Jerry Clouatre-Treasurer AG5AY; Paul Smith KG5HLB. Not pictured Thornton Cofield-Secretary K5HLC; Dan Lott KF5TQN, Bert Lousteau K5AJL.



Left to right: Don Austin (KF5OHZ), Ann Clouatre, Jerry Clouatre (AG5AY), and August Levert (KF5NA).



Bill Crummett (K5WPC), Vern Morris (AA5O), Ken Shutt (W5KQ), Pat Crawford (K5AHE), Carolyn Crawford, Mike Blazett (N5UKZ).

BRARC Christmas Banquet Door Prizes



Jon Reise WA9JBR, ARRL Steel Insulated cup



Luanne Reise, The ARRL Handbook 100th Ed.



Dayna Bowman, Yaesu FT-4X Transceiver



John Krupsky (WA5MLF), Mary Ann Krupsky (KA5BZL), Ryan Trotter (W5TRN), Randall Nethery (KI5MSN), Paul Smith (KG5HLB).

BRARC Christmas Banquet Door Prizes



Todd Huovinen (AB5TH) winner of the Baofeng 6T-5TP Handheld Transceiver.



Mike Davidson N5MT Maglight



From Left to Right: Margie Davidson, Mike Davidson (N5MT), Lee Bowman (W5ZDW), Dayna Bowman (WA5YSS)

USS KIDD, W5KID

Pearl Harbor Remembrance - 12/7/2022

Our club members operated W5KID for about 4 hours on this date. Starting at 1000 CST Leonard (W5ZDW) and Dayna (WA5YSS) tried 20 m and 40 m CW. Both bands had unusual noise levels and marginal signals. After a mere 3 contacts across the two bands, Leonard decided to try the 10 m band. A lot more activity was present there. In addition to calling CQ, we made use of the Reverse Beacon Network to locate other stations calling CW on 10 m and answered their calls to log several more contacts. Shortly after 1100 CST, Leonard switched to voice (SSB) and many more contacts were made.

At about noon, Russ (NS5W) arrived to help with logging while John (WA5MLF) took over the pile-up that Leonard had started, staying on 10 m SSB for the remainder of our session. Among the interesting contacts were: WX1USN, who reported contacting 22 museum ships during the summer event; KB1OYB, who had a nice signal from his 66 ft vertical wire antenna suspended by trees; KA6ASF, whose mother served as a WAVES aircraft technician at Oahu; K1FRC, who served aboard the carrier USS America during the 1980's and K7OOS, who served aboard the destroyer USS Epperson.

We logged a total of 58 contacts, with 55 being on 10 m. Contacts beyond our usual range of US states and Canada included: Balearic Islands, Brazil, Canary Islands, France, Mexico, Scotland and Spain. The unique US states contacted were: AZ, CA, CT, FL, ID, LA, MA, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OR, UT. Canadian provinces contacted were: Manitoba, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

73, John WA5MLF



Veterans Day - 11/11/2022

W5KID was on the air for Veterans Day. The operators & loggers included: Jon (WA9JBR), Mike Gebhart, John (WA5MLF), Elmer (N5EKF), Russ (NS5W), Marvin (N5HE), Michael (KG5EPT), Matthew (W5OTO), Jamey (K5PEW), Leonard (W5ZDW) and Dayna (WA5YSS).

101 contacts were logged, comprising 76 on the 20 m band and 25 on the 10 m band. Voice (SSB) accounted for 89 contacts and 12 contacts were on CW. USA locations were 95 of the total contacts, with 32 unique states represented: AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV. Other countries contacted were: Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Zambia.

The museum ship USS Hornet (CV-12), operating as NB6GC, was our ship-to-ship contact. Another notable contact was with a Navy veteran Radioman who served aboard the USS KIDD during the Korean War.

73, John WA5MLF



To reserve your operating time slot

Go to the operator sign-up sheet for either event on our home page:

www.brarc.org

Or contact

John Krupsky (WA5MLF)

225.916.4136

WA5MLF@arrl.net

Jon Reise (WA9JBR)

225.623.8127

jreise92@gmail.com

Breakfast

Wednesdays - James' Grill - 7:00 AM

205 Florida Blvd Denham Springs, LA 70726

Fridays - Frank's Coffee House - 8:30 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

BRARC Club Code

BRARC members strive to exhibit:

SERVICE with stations and skills always ready for service to country and community. Members offer loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESS with knowledge of science, well-built and efficient stations and operating practices that are above reproach.

FRIENDLINESS with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to beginners, kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCE Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

Area Repeaters

GMRS Repeaters

Location	Frequency	PL Tone	
AARC, Sunshine Bridge	462.550	210.7	Open
Delta 269, Chalmette	462.575	141.3	Open
DS600, Denham Springs	462.600	141.3	Open
LOHSEP 700, Livingston	462.700	Unlisted	Members Only
New Orleans	462.575	114.8	Open
P,ville-625, Prairieville	462.625	141.3	Open
WRDR343 (725), Baton Rouge	462.550	110.9	Open

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

D-STAR

Location	Frequency	Offset
Baton Rouge	442.9250	+

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

Area Repeaters

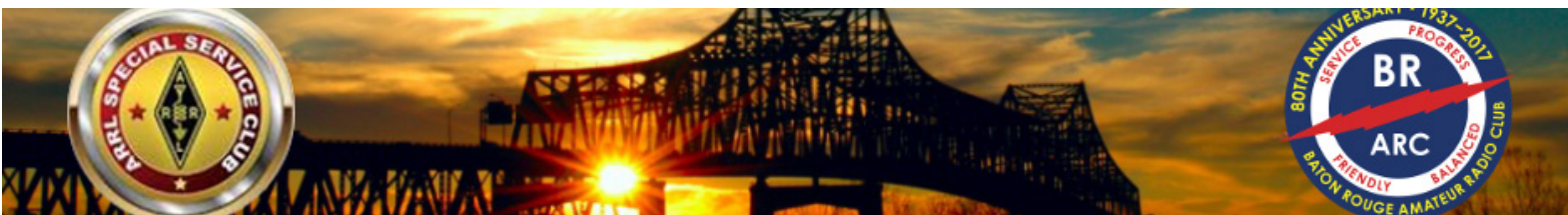
Gulf Coast Link Repeaters - DMR

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 reported to be back on the internet.

www.gulfcoastlink.com



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 Newsline 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