



# RF News

## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



June 2023 Issue

Veterans Crisis Line – dial 988 then press 1 or text 838255

**The following members are serving our club since their election in December 2022:**

**Bill Smith – President**  
**Todd Huovinen – Vice President**  
**Thornton Cofield – Secretary**  
**Jerry Clouatre – Treasurer**

**Board Members:**

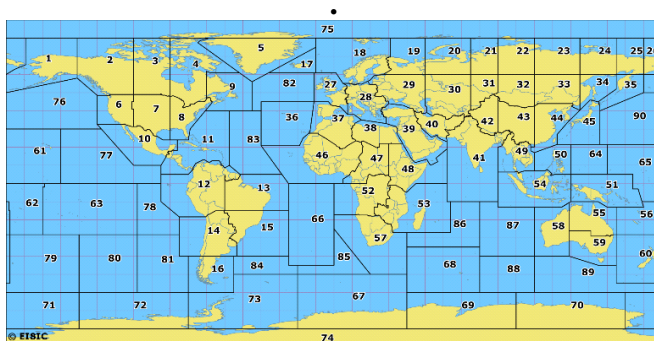
**Dan Lott**  
**Brook Samuel**  
**John Reise**  
**Don Austin**  
**Paul Smith**  
**Joe Ropollo**  
**Russ London**



**I encourage you to please consider running for office in 2024. There are open positions, and we need you. Several of our Officers and Board members will be leaving after their terms are over in December. I thank each of them for their generous service.**

## **Field Day:**

**Preparations for Field Day 2023 are underway. We will be at the observatory again this year. Please plan to attend our club meetings at the Bluebonnet Library on the last Tuesday of the month at 07:00 p.m. for more conversation about Field Day.**



**The BRARC has several committees, and we could use your help. These committees and their leaders are:**

**Education and Training – Joe Ropollo**  
**Equipment Management – Don Austin**  
**PIO/Outreach - Thornton Cofield**  
**USS Kidd – John Krupsky**  
**Volunteer Examiner – Jon Reise**  
**Equipment Loaner Program – Bill Smith**  
**Emergency Operations – Open**  
**Finance – Open**  
**Net Manager – Open**  
**Red Stix DX – Open**  
**Repeaters – Open**  
**Webmaster – John Krupsky**

**There are a couple of Hamfests coming up and they are:**

**Huntsville – August 19 and 20**

**Slidell October 6-7**

## **Club Meetings**

**BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month. We meet at the Bluebonnet Library at 7:00 p.m. We hope to**

**see you there. We are always looking for subject matter experts to present at our meetings. Let us know if you wish to share.**

## **MAY 2023 BRARC**

### **“Eating Meeting”**

**5/30/2023**

**The membership of the Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club held their annual “Eating Meeting” at the Highland Road Observatory on Tuesday, May 30th. There was plenty of food and fellowship. The crowd was about half the size of the crowd that we had at last year’s “Eating Meeting”. Twenty-Five people were in attendance this year. After dinner, Dana Browne (AD5VC) presented the yearly Field Day pep talk. The annual ARRL Field Day event will be held on the fourth weekend in June (June 24th-25th) from 1:00 PM Saturday afternoon until 1:00 PM on Sunday Afternoon. The club will participate in Field Day at the Observatory again this year.**

**73,**

**Todd-AB5TH**

**Meet us for Breakfast.**

**James @ Florida and Range in Denham Springs - Wednesdays @ 06:30**

**Franks @ Old Cortana Mall on Airline – Fridays @ 08:00**

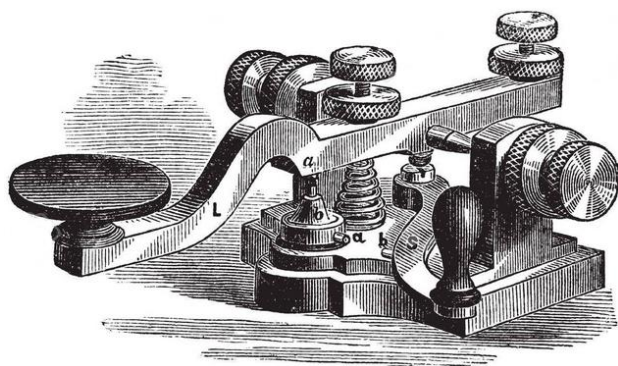
Yeager's Down-Home Restaurant on Bass Pro Blvd. – Saturdays @ 06:15

We have a great time, and you are encouraged to come meet everyone.



News:

CW



### Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Slow Speed CW Net

*Last month we introduced the Slow Speed CW Net. This month we'll look at how to join in:*

## Procedure

Here's what we're planning to use to check into the NET. Don't be too critical, this is new to me too! I've never been a CW net control, so please be patient both with me and everyone checking in. And let's have fun!!!

- Checking In: Net Control (NC) will call:

"CQ CQ CQ BRSN CQ BRSN DE AG5AY QNI K"

QNI means it's time to check in. Just listen, if no one else is sending, send DE, then your call sign. This is a slow net, so please keep it slow (8-12 wpm). And put a space between DE and your call sign. If the NC misses your call sign, he'll send "AGN?" and you should resend your call.

- After the initial contact, the NC will acknowledge by repeating all the call signs. The NC will call again "CQ BRSN DE AG5AY QNI K" and if your call was not heard, simply call again.
- Wait for the NC to call you again for any comments you have, such as

"W1ABC DE AG5AY KN"

KN means that he is only expecting W1ABC to respond. As you respond, you can make whatever comments you wish (keep it fairly short) or simply say 73. End with:

"AG5AY DE W1ABC KN"

- After hearing from a few stations, NC will call "QNI K" The NC will then continue to call stations until everyone has had a chance to comment.
- Finally, the NC will close the NET after the last comment.

"73 BRSN IS NOW CLOSED DE AG5AY NC 73 SK"

## Amateur Radio Class

### **Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club successfully completes 2<sup>nd</sup> General License Class!**

BRARC conducted its second General License Class this February 2023 and successfully helped bring new candidate into the world HF Radio!

We conduct our classes in a hybrid format, starting with two in-person Saturday classes held at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library for the first and last classes, with three additional online classes using Microsoft Teams held in-between. This schedule is such that the Saturday that follows the last class is the quarterly VE session, so the students can take their License Exam while everything is fresh in their mind. Ten students enrolled in the class. 7 took their General Exam on March 4<sup>th</sup> and all passed. One student went on to pass the Amateur Extra exam as well.

Joe Roppolo, K5ROP, led this effort as Education Coordinator and relied heavily on member volunteers to teach modules of the class using their expertise and experience to not just teach the material, but make the students understand the context. Joe stated, “Anyone can go over slides and read parts of a manual, but the experience and knowledge shared by our members adds the most value. We have great members willing to give their time to this effort!”

The General License Class followed the ARRL Manual and the Slides that ARRL provided for training. Our instructors customized the materials as their own and gave feedback to authors to help improve them.

We want to thank these members for volunteering their time to educate the future of Amateur Radio:

Jon Reise, WA9JBR

Elmer Tatum, N5EKF

John Krupsky, WA5MLF

Thornton Cofield, K5HLC

Bill Smith, KE5TA

Joe Roppolo, K5ROP

COMIN SOON: BRARC is planning to hold an Amateur Extra License Class later this year!





## Introducing Bill Smith – KE5TA

### 1. WHAT IS YOUR NAME? AND WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO NOW? IF RETIRED WHAT WAS YOUR WORK?

William A. Smith Jr. I Retired from the Federal Aviation Administration after 30 years. I am a pilot by trade and have somewhere around 7500 hours of flight time. I was an active flight instructor in single engine land and sea, multi engine land. I enjoyed the instrument training the most. I conducted accident investigations, tested new pilots, and ended up flying a desk as the manager of two offices, Oklahoma City and Baton Rouge.

### 2. WHEN DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN AMATEUR RADIO?

I became interested at a young age. Somewhere about age 5 when we lived in Brunswick, Maine.

### 3. WHY DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN AMATEUR RADIO?

I must have been born with a microphone in my hand. I spent a lot of time in the attic of our home in Maine with my dad. I remember seeing the tubes red light glow on the wall behind his radio. I remember the smell of the tubes. I had a summer job with the Riverside Missouri Police Department as a radio dispatcher. More microphones. I started flying at the age of about 14 and there were radios in the aircraft.

### 4. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST RADIO SETUP?

My first contact was with a cheap piece of wire in the basement of my home in Overland Park, Kansas. I spoke with a guy for about 30 minutes. I finally asked his location and he said Toyoko Japan. I was hooked.

5. DID YOUR FORMAL EDUCATION PREPARE YOU OR LEAD YOU TO AMATEUR RADIO OR WAS IT JUST THE REVERSE?

No formal training. I just got with the books and started learning. I had my dad as an Elmer and that really helped.

6. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO NOW AND WHY? Can list multiple items. (Modes of operation, contesting, etc.)

I got hooked on FT-8 just before I retired. It is an easy mode to master, and I have about 17,500 contacts. I am now spending most of my time on CW. I Used Long Island CW Club and I recommend their program to anyone wanting to get started. Now if only the bands would improve. I have a new QRP rig and am looking forward to getting out in the parks and trying some five watts or less operation.

7. WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING EVENT THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER REGARDING YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH AMATEUR RADIO?

I did some air mobile communications in a Cessna 414 I used to fly. You would be amazed at what you can do on two meters and half a watt at 15,000 feet (about half the cruising altitude of a commercial jet). I got to talk to a ham who was in the hospital doing pretty poorly. We had a good visit.

8. WHAT DO YOU THINK AMATEUR RADIO WILL BE LIKE IN 20-30 YEARS?

More Power, smaller transceivers, better communications. I truly hope we can get these younger kids involved in Ham Radio.

9. WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO A NEWLY LICENSED AMATEUR TODAY?

Make it fun and keep it fun. Share what you have learned with the younger and newly licensed operators.

10. WHAT CAN BRARC DO TO ENHANCE YOUR RADIO ENJOYMENT?

We need more members to step up and get involved with the Board of Directors and Officer positions. It is always better to have fresh ideas.

11. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

Nope, that is about everything.

## W1AW/VOTA Louisiana Operating event

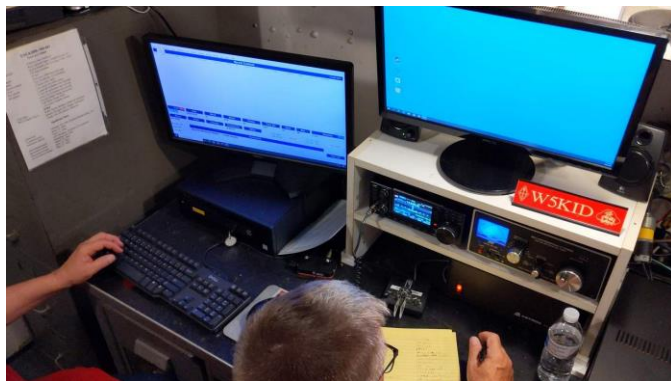


This Year Louisiana will have two weeks to operate as W1AW/5. June 6-12 and December 6-12. W5WZ Scott Dickerson is the Louisiana coordinator for both weeks. Visit <https://www.w5wz.com/vota/> for more information and scheduling. Please join in.

## USS Kidd

Memorial Day at USS KIDD – 29 May 2023

Our club station W5KID was on the air for this solemn holiday. We logged 92 contacts including the following 32 states: AL, AR, AZ, CO, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI, WY. We also had one contact with Cuba. All contacts were on 20 m SSB voice.



The operators were: Eric (KI5ZAO), Elmer (N5EKF), Russ (NS5W), and John (WA5MLF).



Many contacts were veterans of the US Armed Services or have family members who served.

W5KID will be on the air for the annual Museum Ships Weekend on June 3 & 4. This event is sponsored by [The Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station](#). 100 ships are registered to participate. We look forward to many contacts, since there is a certificate for stations that make confirmed contact with at least 15 museum ships (10 for DX stations).

73,

John WA5MLF

Memorial Day



Remember those who sacrificed everything to give us a better life. God Bless Our Military.

I will try to send out each publication by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you have something to contribute, please send it to me by the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month.

@

[williamfk100@outlook.com](mailto:williamfk100@outlook.com)

**I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this?**

**Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat."  
 \_\_\_Attributed to Albert Einstein**

Dah dah dit dit dit - dit dit dit dah dah

Dah Dah Dit – Dah Dah Dah – Dah Dit Dit /

Dah Dit Dit Dit – Dit Dah Dit Dit – Dit – Dit Dit Dit- Dit  
 Dit Dit / Dah - Dit Dit Dit Dit- Dit/

Dit Dit Dah – Dit Dit Dit – Dit Dah