



RF News

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



July 2023 Issue

Veterans Crisis Line – dial 988 then press one 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 Roppolo
Russ London

< indicates leaving position in December



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: 2023



The 2023 Field day was a success. As you can see from the photos, we had quite a crew. Thanks to all who participated.





LAST BUT NOT LEAST THE CELEBRATORY WATERMELLON.

Thanks to AB5TH for all his coordination efforts on another successful Field Day.

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

Education and Training – Joe Roppolo

Equipment Management – Don Austin

PIO/Outreach - Thornton Cofield

USS Kidd – John Krupsky

Volunteer Examiner – Jon Reise

Equipment Loaner Program – Don Austin

Finance – Open

Net Manager – 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.

Meet us for Breakfast.

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

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

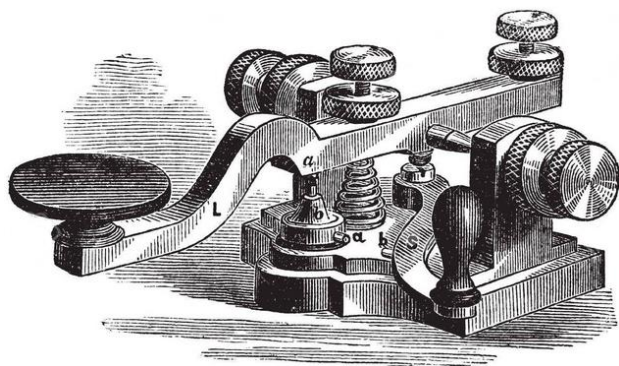
Yeager's Down-Home Restaurant on Bass Pro Blvd. – Saturdays @ 06:15

We have a wonderful 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”

BRARC Slow Speed CW Net date, time, and frequency:

Dates: Starting July 11, 2023, Every 2nd and 3rd Tuesday thereafter.

Time: Starts at 18:30 (6:30 p.m.)

Frequencies: start @ 14.040, if busy QSY to 14.035 or 14.030

Amateur Radio Class



Ready to upgrade your General License to Amateur Extra?

Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club is teaching an Extra Licensing Class during October and November 2023. The class will be a hybrid format class with three in-person Saturday sessions and 4 evening online sessions during the week. There is no cost for the class, and we will follow the ARRL Extra License curriculum which corresponds with the ARRL Amateur Extra License Manual.

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

We will also be announcing details on our webpage and Facebook pages. Please visit our pages to learn more about club activities and come visit us at our monthly meetings.

Tentative Dates (based on in-person meeting location availability):

In-person (Saturdays, 10 am-3 pm)

Oct 14

Nov 4

Nov 18

Online (Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm)

Oct 17

Oct 24

Nov 14

Nov 21

Club Meeting Nov 28 (optional)

VE Exam Session Dec 2 (optional, but you WILL BE READY!)



Bill Smith, KE5TA, assisted Todd Houvinen, AB5TH, at the Harvest Manor Retirement Home in Denham Springs, La, on 6/23/2023. Todd's presentation centered around Ham Radio operations in a Retirement Center where radio operations are not allowed or are restricted.



Great presentation Todd.

Zachary Police Department

The Assistant Police Chief reached out to the club to see if we could assist them with emergency operations as a backup. We will meet with them soon. More information to follow.



June Exam Sessions Results in Three New Licenses

The BRARC VE team conducted the second exam session of the year on Saturday, June 10th at the EBR Main Library on Goodwood. All five Candidates either earned a new license or an upgrade to General. The Candidates found pre-registering on our club website to be easy and effective. Thanks to John Krupsky for setting up and maintaining the pre-registration page. Two of the Candidates traveled to Baton Rouge from Lafayette and Hornbeck, LA for the exam.

The successful Candidates and their new license are:

- Donald Brock Technician
- David Brazzle Technician
- Samuel Hildebrand General
- Lisa Champagne, KI5ZAE General
- Calvin Harper, Jr, KN6ZXJ General



This session's VE Team was comprised of:

- Jon Reise, WA9JBR
- Michael Nolan, KD5MLD
- Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY
- Hank Ellis, K5DHE
- Bill Smith, KE5TA
- David Cohen, N7TC
- Thornton Cofield, K5HLC
- Paul Smith, KG5HLB



Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY acted as the Exam Room Moderator, answering questions, and moving test papers between the Candidates and the Admin Room. Thornton Cofield, K5HLC and Hank Ellis,

K5DHE met with the Candidates before and after the exam, to discuss their interest in Amateur Radio and give them a ham radio welcome packet and a complimentary 1-year membership in BRARC. Hank was able to add a lot to the discussion because of his many years in the hobby.

We welcomed Paul Smith, KG5HLB as our newest VE to our team. Paul upgraded to Extra in our last exam session and recently qualified as a VE with the ARRL.

BRARC will be conducting the next test session at the library on Saturday, September 2nd at 10 am:

If you hold a Technician or General class license, think about upgrading at one of our test sessions. Registration can be done on the BRARC website, www.brarc.org. If you are a VE and interested in joining the BRARC VE Team, contact Jon Reise, WA9JBR at jreise92@gmail.com.

JLR 11Jun2023

Introducing Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY



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

Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY. I am a retired electrical engineer. I specialized in instrumentation in both petroleum exploration in South Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the various chemical industries in Baton Rouge

2. WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN AMATEUR RADIO AND WHAT LED TO YOUR INTEREST IN AMATEUR RADIO?

My first call sign was WN5UPQ, as a novice in about 1968. I was in high school, and several teachers were amateur operators. I was pretty active at first, but unfortunately once career, kids, and other obligations began, I didn't continue my practice of ham radio.

3. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST RADIO SETUP?

My first radio was a Knightkit Star Roamer receiver. Of course, it didn't work when I finished building it. My elmer went over my work and finally got it going. Eventually I bought a used Drake 2B receiver, which I still have, and used it along with a homebrew 10-watt transmitter to make cw contacts.

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

My formal education followed my hobby, which was electronics, which led to amateur radio. I have always had a passion for building electronic projects and this continued through my education and career. Amateur radio really feeds that passion, allowing me to always have a project on the bench. My latest was a 40-meter cw

transmitter about the size of an ink pen, complete with internal battery. I actually made contacts with it!

5. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO NOW AND WHY? Can list multiple items. (modes of operation, contesting, experimentation, kit building, etc.)

The thing I enjoy the most is exploring new things in amateur radio, new modes, QRP, SSTV, FT8, satellites, contesting, project building and on and on. My favorite mode is CW, although I'm still not very proficient.

6. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MORE EXCITING EVENTS THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER REGARDING YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH AMATEUR RADIO?

The most exciting things are successfully working a new mode or new DX contact and getting a confirmation. I got a QSL card in the mail a couple of days ago from VU2WJ in India. I was like a child at Christmas showing off my new present! My XYL was polite and smiled and said atta-boy, but somehow, she was just humoring me.

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

I cannot imagine what the future holds for amateur radio. It seems like new innovations just keep happening over and over. I really enjoy satellite communications. There are plans for LunART, a lunar amateur radio transponder. How cool is that!! I think we will continue to grow amateur radio in directions not yet thought of. And the equipment manufactures keep coming out with incredible radios. They appear to be expensive, but compared with the prices and

inflation, no more than they were 30 years ago. And so much more sophisticated!

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

Don't try to do it all at once! Keep looking for new modes but go slow and enjoy where you are. This is a lifetime hobby with something new always calling you, whether it's an antenna design, SDR, or even a step back to tube designs.

9. WHAT CAN THE BATON ROUGE CLUB DO TO ENHANCE YOUR RADIO ENJOYMENT? Be specific if possible!

My biggest enjoyment comes from projects, either kits or homebrew. I'd like to see more opportunities to share the experience of building. The ham radio community is made up of some very talented folks who are willing to share their ideas and I hope we as a club can capture more of this. Maybe more show-and-tell, not just of our shacks, but our projects, successful and not, and what we learned from the experience.

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

One thing is that this always needs to be fun. If it isn't, then I'm in the wrong hobby. The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club has some great members that have helped me get involved. I'm still a new ham at only seven years, and I want to thank everyone that has answered my many questions, passed on equipment, and demonstrated what ham radio is all about. 73

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

USS KIDD Going to Drydock

The Ship Superintendent at the USS KIDD Veterans Museum notified me recently that the ship will be going to drydock in the Spring of 2024. The exact date for the move is unknown and depends on the level of the Mississippi River. In rare cases the river has been high enough as early as late January. While in drydock necessary repairs to the hull will be made that are not feasible while the ship rests on its cradle during low water levels.

Prior to the move we must remove all club equipment for safekeeping. This includes radio and computer equipment, accessories, and wall certificates from our operating compartment. On the starboard side of the ship, we also have storage space with a work bench where we must gather various hand-tools, test equipment, and components. With assistance from the Museum staff members, we must also remove and store all antennas.

We are advised to begin removal of our club property soon after our planned radio operations on Pearl Harbor Day. We can start earlier on removing those items not required for our remaining radio operations of 2023. We'll need to box the many items we plan to keep and transport them to our club's storage space. I'm counting on help from club members with this project.

73,

John WA5MLF

WA5MLF@ARRL.NET

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

@

williamfk100@outlook.com

A police officer called the station on his radio.

"I have an interesting situation here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

"Have you arrested the woman?"

"No, the floor's still wet."

Dah dah dit dit dit - dit dit dit dah dah

