

RF News



The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



November 2023 Issue

Prepared by KE5TA

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

Officers:

TBD In December

Board Members:

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

*** indicates leaving position in December 2023**



Thanks to all who are serving the BRARC.

Club Meetings

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month. We are meeting 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.

Meeting Location Change Effective January 30, 2024

The address for the Saint George Fire Prevention District is:

14100 Airline Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA
70817

You are invited for Breakfast.

Waffle House @ I-12 and Walker Rd. in Walker - Wednesdays @ 06:30

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

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

The food is always good. Hope to see you soon. Guests are always welcome.



(Look at those mugs.)

Club Events:

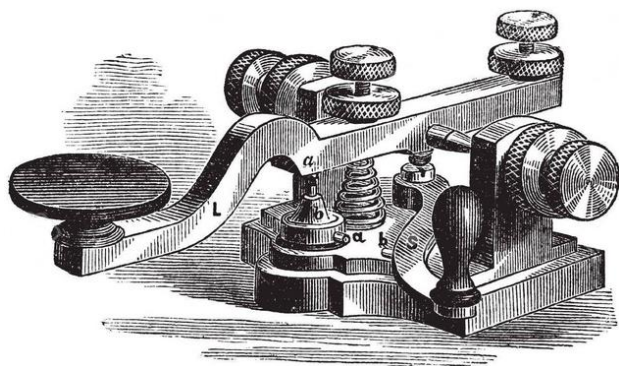
BRARC Auction – Big Mikes, 123 Aspen Sq. Denham Springs, La. 225-243-5258. – November 28, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (1800-2000). This is an excellent opportunity for the club to make a few dollars and have a fun time. If you have any equipment, you no longer use/want, bring it.



BRARC Christmas Luncheon – Big Mikes, 123 Aspen Sq. Denham Springs, La. 225-243-5258.– December 9, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (11:30 – 1400).



News:



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club Slow Speed CW Net

We will meet on **10.115** MHz at 6:30 (18:30) local time on November 7th and 14th.

Updating The Amateur's Code

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

There have been several versions of the Amateur's Code since it was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928. Here's the version that currently appears in Ethics and Operating Procedures for the

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE... He never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... He offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country,

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through which Amateur Radio in his country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... He keeps his station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY... He operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

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

PATRIOTIC... His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

Well, now the IARU is updating Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur, and I'm part of the group that's working on the update. One of our tasks is to make the text more gender-neutral. The ARRL has a somewhat gender-neutral version of the Code, but really all they did was to replace "he" with "he/she."

That being the case, I've taken it upon myself to create not only a gender-neutral version of the Code, but to also clarify some of the language. Here's what I've come up with so far:

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE... The radio amateur never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... The radio amateur is loyal to and supportive of other amateurs, local clubs, and the IARU Radio Society in their country.

PROGRESSIVE... The radio amateur's station up to date, well-built, and efficient. Their operating practice is above reproach.

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FRIENDLY... The radio amateur operates slowly and patiently when requested and offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners. They are also cooperative and considerate of the interests of others.

BALANCED... Radio amateurs realize that radio is a hobby and never allow it to interfere with their duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC... The radio amateur's station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

Not only do I think that my version is clearer, I think that it is more parallel than the previous version.

I posted this to my blog and got some great feedback from my followers on LinkedIn and Mastodon. For example, Jesse, WB2IFS, pointed me to his version of the Code, which he published

PROGRESSIVE...An Amateur is curious. An Amateur is enthusiastically and continuously learning new techniques, technologies, countries, and cultures with the understanding that everyone is an Amateur.

I got quite a few comments on Mastodon. Several folks wanted me to reconsider the use of the term "patriotic." Christopher, M0YNG, said, "I'm not a massive fan of "patriotic" and wonder if it could be more "humanity focused" rather than country[-focused]? Not sure on the words though." Jevid, KE8DET, opined, "Patriotic is often conflated with, and co-opted by nationalism, which contains an inherent aspect of 'my country first.' This sits in opposition to amateur radio being a means to foster international good will."

Andreas, DJ3EI, had a number of comments, but this one I found to be the most appealing. He says, "The old Code requires 'operating practice ... [to be] above reproach.' I highly recommend [a change] to 'always be eager to try something new.' You'll enjoy! I certainly do!"

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Learning+studying is one of the official goals of our hobby! Thus, we may become beginners on a regular basis, bound to make beginner's mistakes. An 'above reproach' angst only hinders."

Sam, N9MII, says, "Perhaps focus on safe and well-considered operation? As in something that doesn't spike all over the band and whatnot." I think that safety is something the Code is surely missing.

Onno, VK6FLAB, also weighed in. In his version of the Code, he changes the word "patriotic" to "supportive." He writes, "The Radio Amateur is SUPPORTIVE...knowledge, station and skills always ready for service to country and community." I'm not sure that's quite the right word, either, but the idea is that the radio amateur is ready to pitch in when needed.

As you can see, there's still some work to be done here. If you have any comments on this, please feel free to email me directly or to add a comment on my blog.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not writing about amateur radio, he tinkers with electronics projects and operates POTA and works CW on the HF bands.

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Training Opportunity

If you or anyone you know is interested, here is the information for our upcoming, free, live General Class Licensing course on Zoom.

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio General Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Nov 2, and will run through Thursday, January 11. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Prerequisite is to have or be studying for the Technician Class License. Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email Roland Anders, K3RA, at roland.anders@comcast.net

USS KIDD - W5KID



US Navy Birthday Recognition – 13 October 2023

Our club operated W5KID aboard the USS KIDD, to commemorate the 248th birthday of the US Navy. Our operators for the morning were Pam

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Welsh (KF5IPJ) and Jeff Welsh (KF5ENP), guided by Jon Reise (WA9JBR). They made 15 voice contacts, on the 20 m band, which included multiple USA states (including Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, and Illinois) and Belise. Other club members present were Russ London (NS5W), Thornton Cofield (K5HLC) and John Krupsky (WA5MLF). Thornton arranged for The Advocate to send a reporter and a photographer to interview our participants. Their article was published in the October 23rd edition.



We have two remaining scheduled operating dates aboard the USS
KIDD:

- Saturday, Nov 11 - Veterans Day
- Thursday, Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day

Sign-up sheets for both dates are available from our BRARC.org home page. They include phone and email contact information for your questions or sign-up.

After the Dec 7 operation we will move our radio gear to the Highland Road Park Observatory to operate on selected dates during 2024 as W5GIX. The USS KIDD will go to dry dock in early 2024 as soon as the river level permits. We expect the ship to be gone for many months, undergoing major preservation work.

73,

John WA5MLF

2023 Annular Solar Eclipse

On Saturday morning October 14th, my family and I had the opportunity to view the Annular Eclipse of the Sun. The Eclipse started at 10:23 AM CDT on the Southwest coast Oregon and continued a southeasterly path eventually going off the Texas coast at Corpus Christi at around Noon.

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The maximum annularity (Ring of Fire) was approximately 91 percent where we were on Mustang Island. The sky



was an eerie blue color. It was a long all-day drive from our house in Walker, Louisiana but it was all worth it in the end. The next opportunity to see an annular solar eclipse like this one will be on June 21, 2039, and that eclipse will only be visible mostly in Alaska. Maybe we should take an Alaskan Cruise at that time. The next Total eclipse of the sun will be less than 6 months from now in North Texas. The path of totality will go right over the DFW area northeastward to New Brunswick, Canada. Set your calendars for Monday April 8, 2024, for this eclipse. It's going to get quite dark here in Baton Rouge that day with a totality of 85.4 % for about 2.5 minutes.

Photo by Jessica (KD5SXF)

I was a little worried at first that we would not be able to view the eclipse as a blanket of clouds moved in around 11:00 AM, but they moved out around 11:45 AM and we were able to see the Ring of Fire through our eclipse glasses (Never look directly at the sun unless the solar eclipse is total). My wife Jessica was able to capture the above photo using her I-Phone 12 shooting through a pair of eclipse glasses. Our 8-year-old daughter Erin looked through the eclipse glasses for a few seconds and said “neat” and went back to playing in the water as we were able to drive my car right on the beach.

I didn't bring any radio gear with me except for the Yaesu FTM-400 that's in the car already, but I did have an Eton Traveler III shortwave radio with me. I'm guessing that someone must've activated Mustang

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Island State Park which was only about a mile north of us for POTA because I could hear someone giving out park numbers. It was a KK5 call. I couldn't hear the other side of the QSO's because the radio was just a \$60 cheapo radio. The regular Medium-Wave section worked well though. WWL (870) in New Orleans came in almost as well as the local Corpus Christi AMs thanks to the excellent ground conductivity of the saltwater being right there on the beach. The distance to New Orleans from Mustang Island is about 500 miles. After the eclipse was over, we found an excellent seafood restaurant called Joe's Seafood and I went back to doing what I do too much of.... eat.

I guess I'd better find a full-service car wash somewhere around here because the car is full of sand, and I imagine that the salt spray isn't good for the car's paint either.

73,

Todd-AB5TH

W1AW/VOTA Louisiana Operating event



Louisiana has one remaining week to operate as W1AW/5, December 6-12. W5WZ Scott Dickerson is the Louisiana coordinator for both weeks.

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Visit <https://www.w5wz.com/vota/> for more information and scheduling. Please join in.

Importance of Rev. Murgas 1

Due to permanent conflicts with the bishop's secretary, Murgaš had to emigrate to the [United States](#) in 1896, where he was assigned a Slovak parish in the city of [Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania](#). Having no possibility for painting, he started to deal with natural sciences again, especially electrotechnology. He established a laboratory in Wilkes-Barre, in which he primarily investigated radiotelegraphy. His article in the *Tovaryšstvo* magazine of 1900 shows that his radiotelegraphy studies had achieved a high level. In 1904, he received his first two US patents: the *Apparatus for wireless telegraphy* and *The way of transmitted messages by wireless telegraphy*. Fifteen additional patents followed between 1907 and 1916. Based on the first two patents, he created the Universal Aether Telegraph Co., which organized a public test of Murgaš's transmitting and receiving facilities in September 1905. The test was successful, but a storm destroyed the antenna masts three months later, which led to the dissolution of the company.

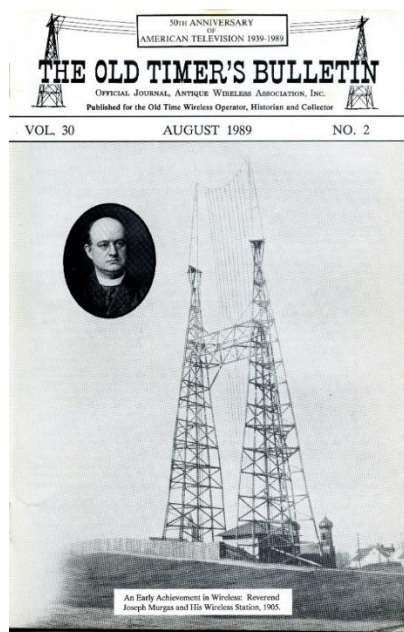
In 1905, Murgaš achieved radiotelegraph transmission between Wilkes-Barre and [Scranton, Pennsylvania](#), a distance of 20 miles (32 km). The tone system used sounds of various frequencies, i.e. for [Morse code](#), Murgaš substituted a higher pitched tone for "dots," and a lower tone for "dashes".

[Thomas Edison](#) paid remarkable attention to Murgaš's experiments and he is said to have informed [Guglielmo Marconi](#) of Murgaš's success.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Jozef Murgaš
15 languages

1 Taken From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Introducing Brook Samuel, N5DGK :



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

I'm Brook Samuel, N5DGK. I'm an electrical engineer working for a consulting engineering firm. My main area of expertise is electric utility system engineering - high voltage transmission, distribution, and substation design. This career started in 1980 when I graduated from LSU.

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

I became interested in amateur radio in the late 70's, and I was first licensed in 1980. I learned about amateur radio from my first radio hobby, scanning. My parents gave me a VHF receiver a few years earlier as a Christmas gift. Through it, I heard amateur radio traffic on the local 2-meter repeaters. That caught my attention because 2-meter operators were way more interesting, and easier to understand, than the typical CB operator of the day. I thought, I'd like to be part of this.

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

My first setup was an Icom IC-2550A, a 2-meter mobile rig. It had 3 memories, no CTCSS tone capability, FM analog (of course), and 25 watts on high-power. For years, this was my only ham gear and it got used a lot on all the local repeaters.

But you could operate the phone patch on the club repeater!

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

Most definitely, it prepared me. I have a BS degree in electrical engineering from LSU, and I can say all electrical engineering studies apply to amateur radio principles – voltage, current, and power relationships, phase angle, reactance, reflected power, transmission lines, grounding. Name anything electrical about ham radio, it applies.

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

I really enjoy casual contesting (where a lot of contacts can be made in a short time), Field Day, working DXpeditions, and satellites.

I've come to enjoy low power portable operating, especially CW (even though I'll never get good enough at it), and I'm starting to enjoy data-mode communications.

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

The most exciting event I can think of is my first contact with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. It was on July 13, 2010. I was mobile at the time and the astronaut was Col. Doug Wheelock. The ISS was booming in (as usual) and I received a "Loud and Clear" signal report in answer to my call.

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

I have no clue. When I got licensed in 1980, I never imagined every ham shack would have a computer (or two), that you could talk through satellites or to astronauts in space, that you could receive digital signals on HF that were below the noise level, that there would even be an internet, or that I would enjoy this hobby so much.

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

First of all – listen, ask questions, and learn. Listen to the local repeaters, watch YouTube videos, listen to experienced hams, ask for help.

Join ARRL, subscribe to QST and their other publications.

When you're preparing for a license exam, study to learn something – not just to pass the test. Once you earn a Technician ticket, keep going all the way to Extra.

Study and try to become proficient at CW. It will open up a new world of making contacts with low power and under adverse conditions.

Figure out which part of our hobby you like best, and then get good at it.

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

I always enjoyed group events sponsored by BRARC - kit-building classes, fox hunts, Field Day, our mini-DXpeditions to Grand Isle, and club meetings.

I always enjoy whenever we can get together to do something. So, I say to the Club, keep on doing these things.

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

To the club membership –

Take part in club activities. Attend club meetings, be a visitor at board meetings, make suggestions to the Board for topics you'd like to discuss.

Put on a presentation at a club meeting. Put together a program describing your current shack setup, or how you'd like to set up a shack, a memorable radio outing you've taken, a new piece of ham gear, or an antenna that's really worked well for you.

Volunteer to become a club officer. Start by serving on the Board of Directors. See how the club is run and make constructive suggestions.

Remember, we're all friends here. Everyone that's taken on a responsibility in the club is an unpaid volunteer. They're spending their time and effort to make the club better. Don't criticize. Offer to help.

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6/1/2023

I will try to send out each publication no later than the 5th of the month. If you have something to contribute, please send it to me by the first of the month. @

Happy Birthday USMC

