



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



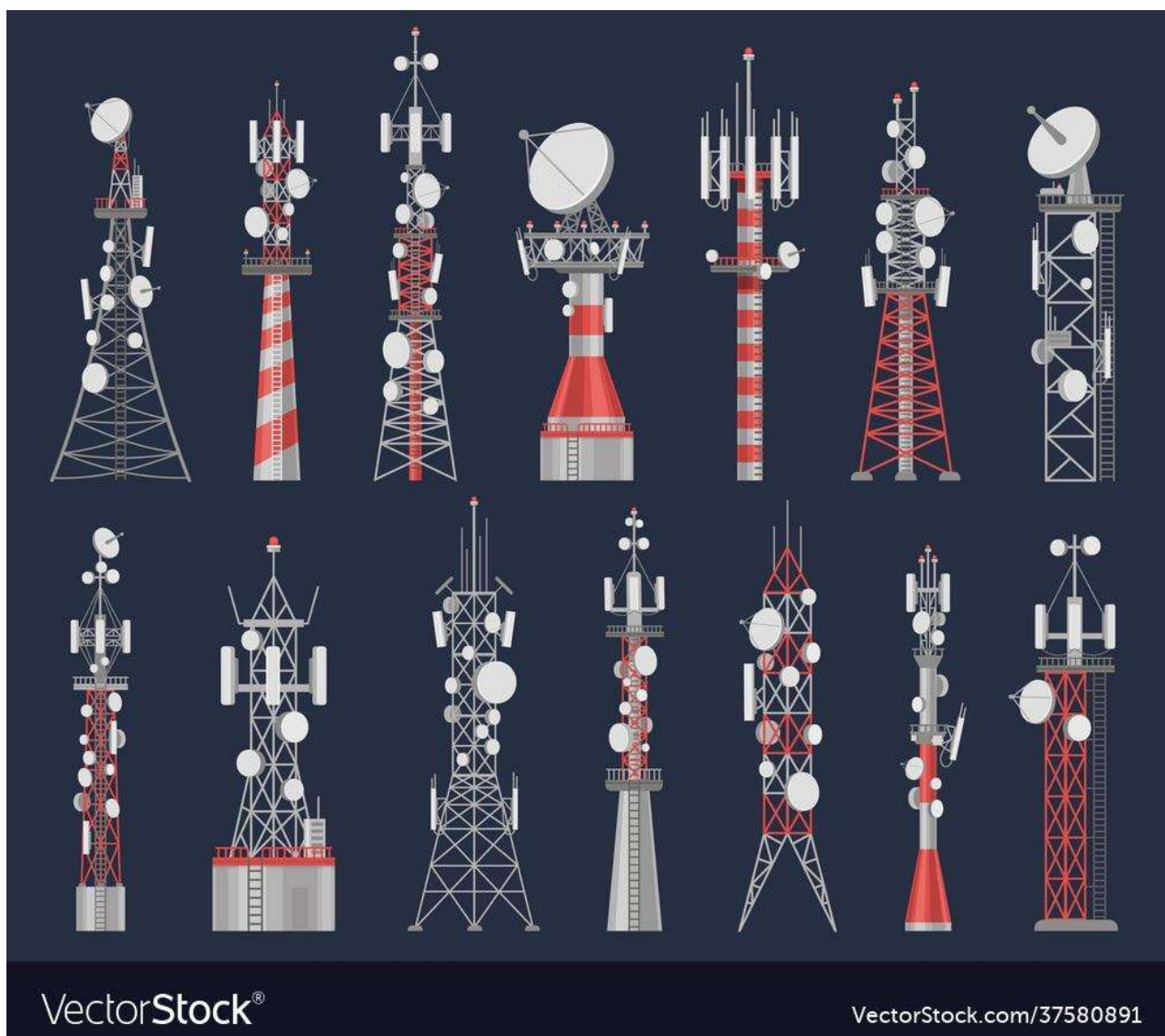
RF News

January 27 – Club Meeting, 7:00 pm

St. George Fire Prevention District, 14100 Airline Hwy,
Baton Rouge, LA

Topic: **Repeater Linking**

Presenter: **Randy Spraul, N5XQS**



January-February 2026



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



February 24 – Club Meeting, 7:00 pm

St. George Fire Prevention District, 14100 Airline Hwy,
Baton Rouge, LA

Topic: **Technology and Radio History**

Presenter: **Russ London, NS5W**

Topic: **LACP – Louisiana Auxiliary Communications
Program**

Presenter: **Joe Roppolo, K5ROP**





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the St. George Fire Prevention District at 14100 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA. We hope to see you there where there will be snacks and comradery.

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**Check out the club member
build on page 14!**





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



From the President

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to another great year of ham radio!

As we embark on another year... well, let's keep it short. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club is 89 years old this year and we didn't get this far by just saying what we are going to do, but by doing it. That goes for all of us. Let's do things! Our Officers, Board of Directors, and Committees have been working on a lot of things. We have most of our presentations set for the entire year. Our VEC is moving us into the modern age with license testing on computers and tablets. We are planning on another build this year. I want to try new things for Field Day.

Let's do this!

Oh, and please pay your dues. The reality is that we can't run the organization without us all chipping in to pay our dues. They cover refreshments, builds, field day costs, equipment upkeep and insurance. Y'all know how it works. Dues are still only \$25/year and we have easy ways to pay electronically or can take cash/check as well. Thank you.

Almost forgot.

Are you a member of ARRL? If you want to join for the first time, let us do the paperwork and the club gets a commission that will help keep us from raising dues in the future. A new member commission is \$15 that we get from ARRL and if you are up for renewal, the club gets \$5. You are paying the same amount to ARRL, so why not support the club and let some of those dollars stay here and not fly off to Connecticut?

We'll be making the forms available and you just pay the Treasurer as you would your normal dues and then we'll send the forms and your payment to ARRL as a club monthly and when they process it, they'll send the club the commission.

Thank you all for all you do to make your club a great experience for all our members!

73

Joe K5ROP





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



ARRL the national association for
amateur radio®

ARRL AFFILIATE CLUB ARRL AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Membership Application

Get Automatically Entered When You Join

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES

www.arrl.org/DreamStation

☐ New ☐ Renew ☐ Previous Member ☐ Unlicensed

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth MM / DD / YYYY

My Family Member is Joining or Renewing (\$12 each; must reside with primary member and have corresponding membership dates.)

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____

☐ Please note my new address ☐ I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

Your Annual Membership Dues*

Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

	1 Year	3 Years
Standard membership	\$59	\$174
Family	\$12	\$36
Student (must be under age 26) - apply at www.arrl.org/student		
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	\$12	\$36
International membership	\$59	\$174
International membership + QST via mail	\$95	\$282

Add Print Subscriptions (US and its territories)

QST, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs.

☐ 1 Year \$25* ☐ 3 Years \$75*

On the Air, For beginner-to-intermediate level radio amateurs.

☐ 1 Year \$25* ☐ 3 Years \$75*

QEX, A Forum for Communications Experimenters

☐ 1 Year \$29

NCJ, National Contest Journal

☐ 1 Year \$25

Add a Donation

Your Diamond Club donation supports ARRL beyond basic dues.

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Gift Choice - Check One

1 Year Membership (choose one)

☐ On the Air Special Issue

☐ Here to There: Radio Wave Propagation book

☐ 3 Year Membership - FREE Gil Mug (#2 in series)

☐ No gift ☐ Ship/mail gift

Payment Information

ARRL Membership: \$ _____

Family Membership: \$ _____

Add-on Print Subscriptions: \$ _____

Add a Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

*A print subscription for QST and/or On the Air requires an ARRL membership. Dues and subscription rates are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable.

Charge to: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Discover ☐ Check Enclosed

☐ YES, sign me up for **Auto-Renewal** using the credit card below!

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Signature _____

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1400 USA
Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • membership@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/join

ARRL Staff Initials
CLUB
form rev 1/25

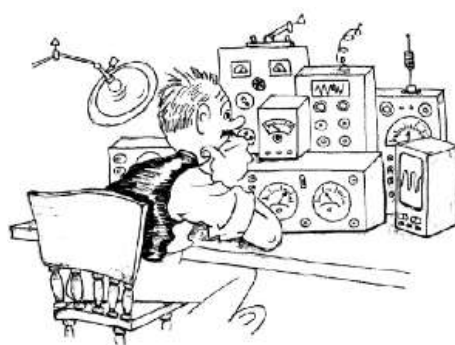


Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Upcoming Club Events

- January 27 BRARC Monthly Meeting: "Repeater Linking" Randy Spraul, N5XQS
- February 3 BRARC Board Meeting
- February 4 Ascension Amateur Radio Club
- February 24 BRARC Monthly Meeting: "Technology and Radio History" Russ London NS5W and "LACP – Louisiana Auxiliary Communications Program" Joe Roppolo K5ROP
- March 3 BRARC Board Meeting
- March 31 Ascension Amateur Radio Club joint meeting with BRARC
- March 31 BRARC Monthly Meeting "ARRL Presentation" Houston Polson N5YS, ARRL Louisiana Administrator





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Do you ever listen to Podcasts?

Here's some of my favorites:

- Solder Smoke
- Ham Radio Workbench
- QSO Today

SolderSmoke
podcast



Ham Radio
Workbench

Let us know your favorites so we can
share with everyone!



We had a great time at the BRARC November Auction at Big Mike's. Some interesting items turned up. We're still trying to figure out what some of the items are. This is our biggest fund raiser, and it's also a fun raiser. Looking forward to next November! there: November 18 at Big Mikes!





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



From the Treasurer

The issue with the Post Office box has been corrected and we can now receive your dues through the mail.

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





Hey, guys! Dues are due in January!

**KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY
YOUR DUES**

Dues can also be paid in person at any club meeting,



Online Payment:
scan the QR code
  Pay
or **Credit Card**



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



VE Testing and News



End of Year Testing Yields 5 New Hams and 2 Generals

The BRARC VE team conducted the final exam session of the year on Saturday, December 6th at the EBR Main Library on Goodwood.

Future Exam Dates

- **Saturday, March 7, 10 am**

Seven Candidates tested for new licenses or upgrades to their existing license. Three rooms were used at the library. The successful Candidates and their new issued license were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| • Ashley Downing | Technician |
| • Gideon Rossman, KI5PDG | General |
| • Jason Williamson, KI5CDO | General |
| • Dane Domingue | Technician |
| • Annamaria Rossman | Technician |
| • William Gaddy | Technician |
| • Christopher Ruiz | Technician |

This session's VE Team was comprised of:

- Jon Reise, WA9JBR
- Hank Ellis, K5HDE
- Todd Huovinen, AB5TH
- Bill Smith, KE5TA
- David Cohen, N7TC



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Thornton Cofield could not join us for the exam, since he had prior commitment. Thornton put together information packets for each Candidate. Todd Huovinen, AB5TH filled in as our PIO in Room B to handle the promotion of the hobby and our club. Todd handed out the packets and several 2026 BRARC complimentary memberships to the new hams that entered the hobby.

BRARC will be conducting the next test session at the library on Saturday, March 7 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 Dec2025

From Left to Right:

1. Jason Williamson
(KI5CDO) upgraded to
General
2. William Gaddy
3. Christopher Ruiz
4. Annamaria Rossman
5. Gideon
Rossman (KI5PDG)
upgraded to General
6. Ashley Dunning
7. Dane Domingue

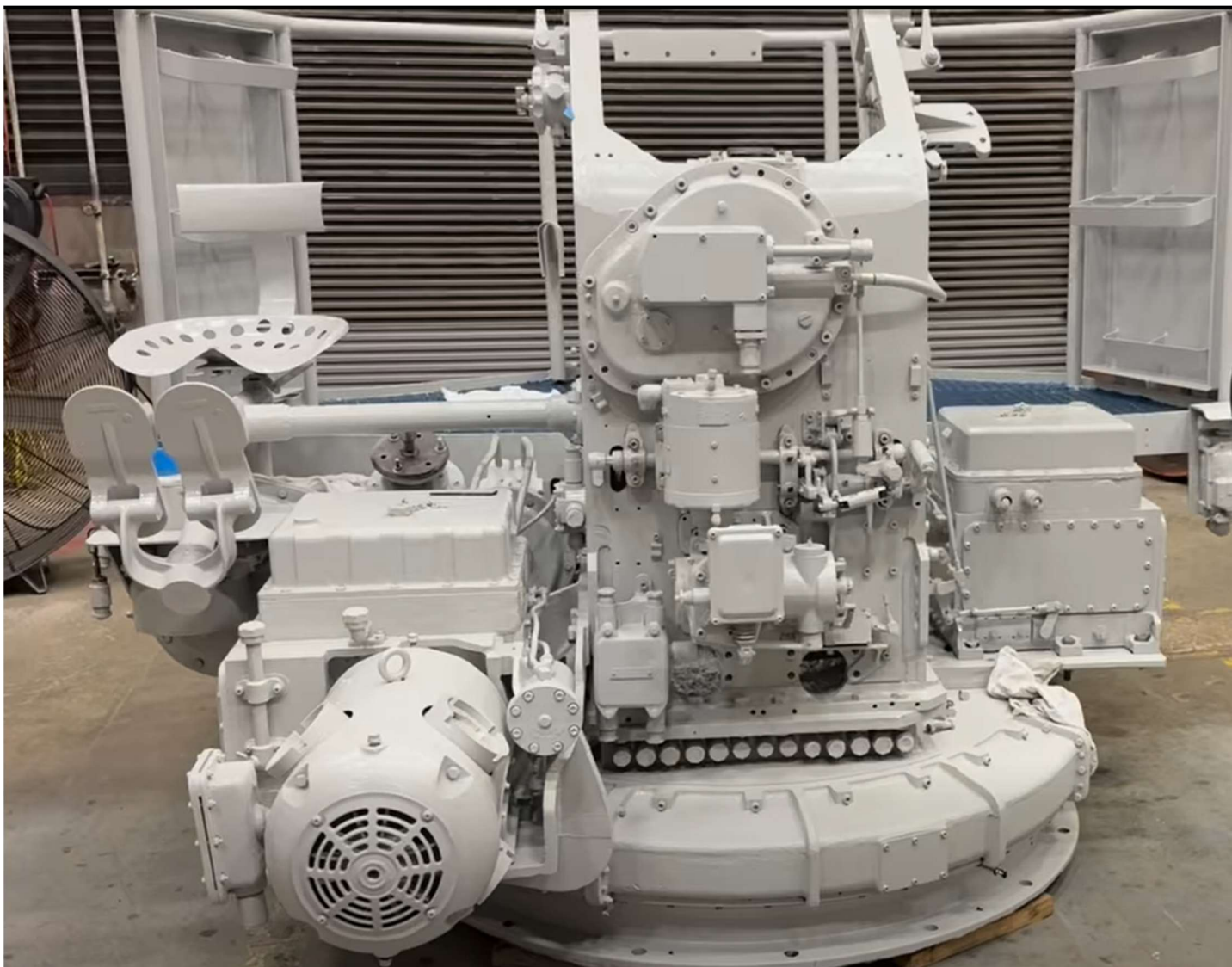




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USS KIDD



Reassembly of the Mount 41 twin 40mm Bofors gun mount off USS KIDD (DD-661) is coming along. The central stand is now mounted back to the newly refurbished rotary base assembly, with the crew platform repaired, cleaned, painted, and reattached.



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Hamfests

- Jackson MS Capital City Hamfest – January 31



- HamCation (Orlando, FL) – February 13-15



- Acadiana DX Association Rayne Hamfest – March 20-21



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



BRARC Member Projects

Here's a project submitted by Sahasranshu Purohit N5SPY, a 30Ah LifePO4 battery pack with solar Charge capability. Here's Saha's description:

Steps with Illustrative Diagrams for building the battery pack N5SPY / BRARC

1. Let us first start by mounting the battery **(Part 7)** in the box, preferably towards the middle for even weight distribution and mount the

integrated digital gauge **(Part 8)**. One can cut a paper template of the gauge then glue the template to the box and mark the sides with a utility knife and then cut it out with a heated blade cutter or heated utility knife

2. The other side of the box we can mount the switch, breaker, Anderson power pole and USB power outlet **(Part 4,5,7,9,10)**.

One can use the same method by cutting a paper template and then cutting out the sections for these fittings





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



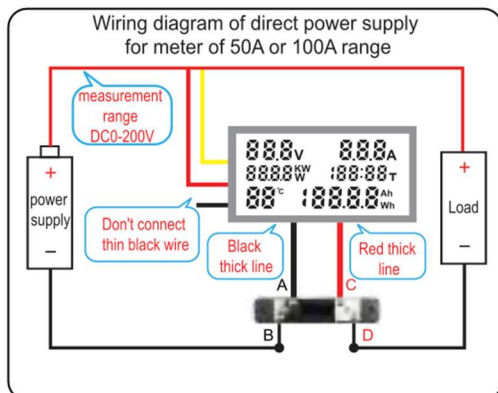
3. Now let's start by setting up the initial connections

- a. XT60 solar input with an inline 30 Amp fuse then gets connected to MPPT input
- b. Connection from battery with an inline fuse gets connected to the DPST switch then gets connected to MPPT charger battery connection, **the idea behind adding a switch here is to cutoff the connections to the charger when battery box / solar panel is in storage.**

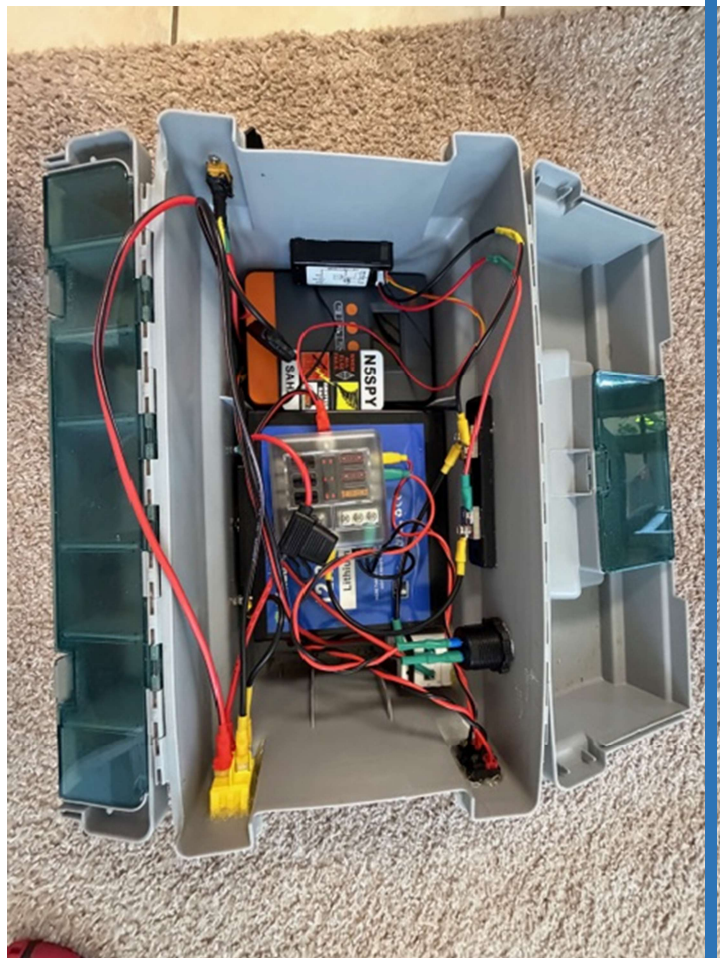
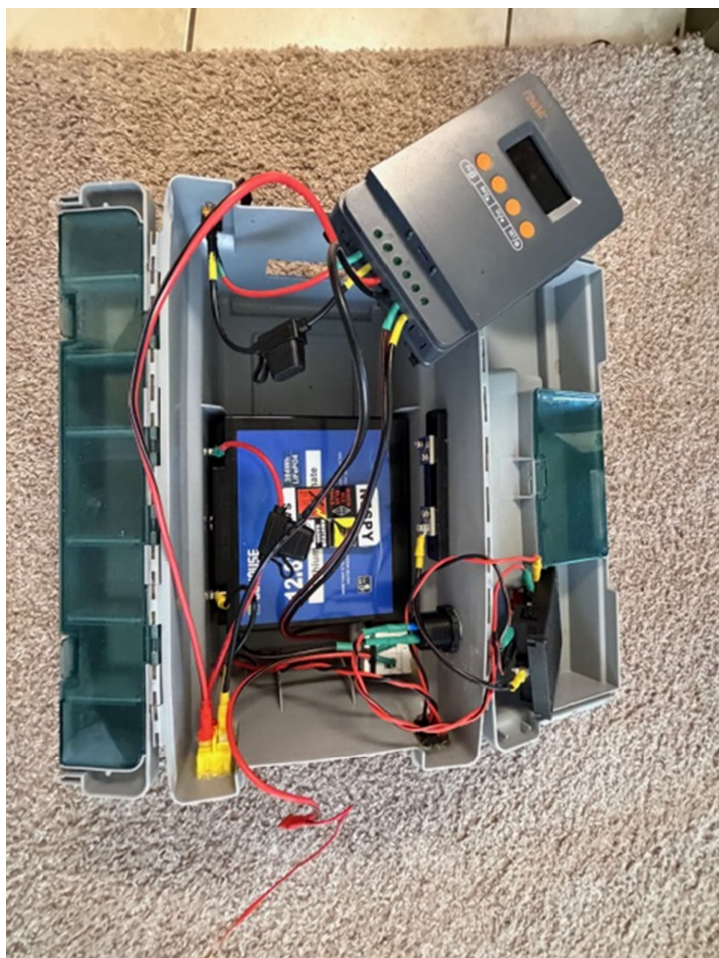


- c. Output Load from the MPPT charger gets connected to a DC DP Breaker and then gets connected to the master fuse box (**Part 6**) from where we will supply the power to our devices, **but we must make some additional connections to connect the digital gauge for reading important parameters in the output circuit**

- d. In the diagram below consider the power supply as output from DC DP Breaker and Consider the load as our master fuse box



4. Below is the picture of everything seated inside the box with all connections





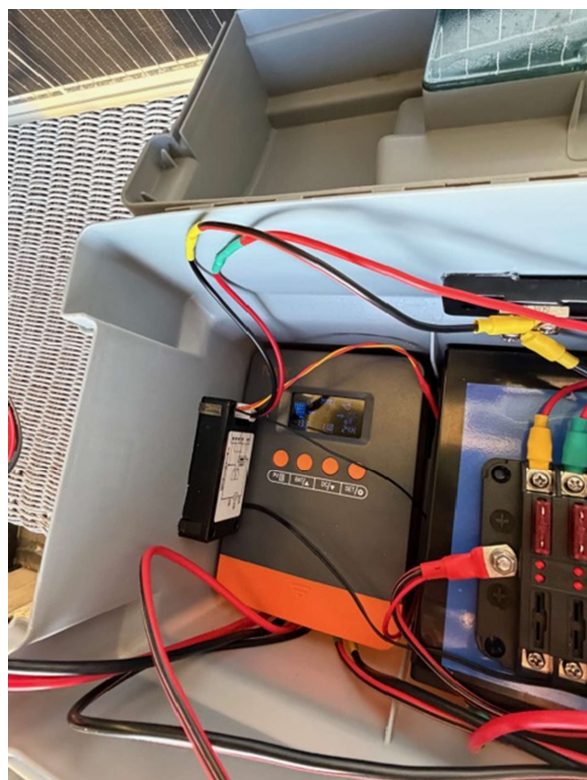
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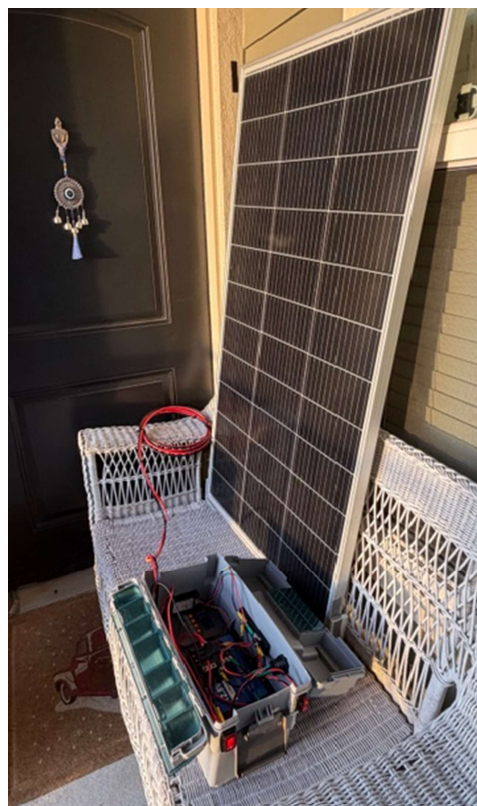
5. Charging Phone and Laptop with the battery pack through USB outlets



6. Testing the charge of the battery box with solar panel (Part 2)



Close up
Image of
MPPT
charger
display
confirms
charging





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



7. Behind the Scenes LOL –
Since I don't have an electric heated blade to cut plastic, I used butane burner to heat up the utility blade to cut out the sections



APPENDIX

These are general non-affiliated links to the parts and supplies used in making this battery pack

1. 30 Ah LifePO4 Battery: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/286570348209>
2. 195 Watts Solar panel : <https://www.ebay.com/itm/125712596333>
3. 25 A Solar MPPT Charger: https://a.aliexpress.com/_mPwcB0N
4. XT60 Chassis mounted Combo: https://a.aliexpress.com/_msWeM2z 60be-m PKGA
5. Double Pole 40 Amp DC Breaker: https://a.aliexpress.com/_mNigOuh
6. 6 Way Blade Fuse Box: https://a.aliexpress.com/_mtrI5CH
7. USB Power outlet: https://a.aliexpress.com/_mOPWPCI 83W 4 Port with wire
8. Integrated Digital Gauge: https://a.aliexpress.com/_mr0dTJT KWS DC200-50A
9. Anderson Power Pole: https://a.aliexpress.com/_mOsr11f
10. 30 Amp Double Pole ST DC Rocker Switch : https://a.aliexpress.com/_mqfhQot



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

SKYWARN Newsletter

Program Update: 2026 Edition



Winter 2026 Virtual Classes Announced!

UPCOMING ONLINE COURSE SCHEDULE:

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Tue, Jan 13th: 6 - 8 PM CT

ADVANCED COURSE:

Date: Wed, Jan 28th: 5 - 8PM CT

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Thu, Feb 5th: 6 - 8 PM CT

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Thu, Feb 19th: 6 - 8PM CT

BASIC COURSE:

Date: Wed, Feb 25th: 6 - 8 PM CT

ADVANCED COURSE:

Date: Thu, Mar 12th: 5 - 8PM CT

IN-PERSON COURSE SCHEDULE:

None yet, as they will be announced
on a class-by-class basis. Check back!

The NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office is happy to announce another round of Basic & Advanced SKYWARN courses to be offered virtually for the Winter 2026 Season! Be sure to spread the news to family and friends or anyone that would be interested! As a reminder, it is recommended that you attend refresher courses every two to three years.

These courses are always presented live, with interactive polls to maximize engagement. You will also be able to interact and talk with a NWS forecaster during a Q and A session at the very end!

TO REGISTER, VISIT:

[WEATHER.GOV/NEWORLEANS/SKYWARN](https://weather.gov/neworleans/skywarn)

Course dates may be subject to change, especially if hazardous weather threatens the area during the scheduled class time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Basic Course: [UPDATED TOPICS & FORMAT!]
Covers all the basics associated with tornadoes, hazards, the EF-scale, and local climatology, then dives into other forms of severe weather, including pulse (summer) storms, microbursts, squall lines and flash flooding. Each Basic course includes interactive polls, and ends with a short quiz to apply all you have learned. This course lasts around 2 hours, not including any discussion or questions at the end.

Advanced Courses: [UPDATED TOPICS & FORMAT!] [Highly recommended to take the Basic course before the Advanced Course]
Topics include severe weather forecasting; radar and its applications; storm mode and motion; and supercells and types of tornadoes. Each Advanced course includes interactive polls, and ends with true/false tornado myths. This course lasts around 2.5 hours, not including any discussion or questions at the end.

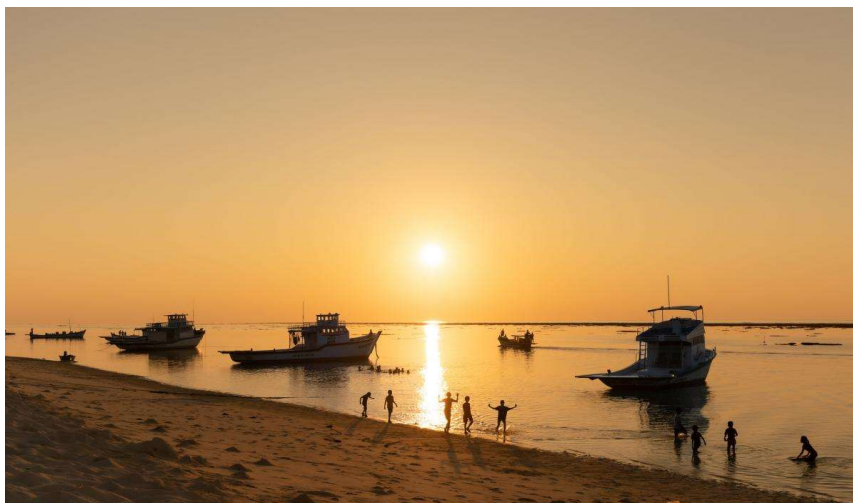


Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club




DX, Special Event, Contesting

AU7RS Team will be active from Agatti Island, Lakshadweep Islands, IOTA AS - 011, 8 - 14 February 2026.



NE8Z is currently active as HC1MD/2 from Provincia de Santa Elena, Ecuador. He will operate on HF Bands mostly CW.

Philippe, F1DUZ is currently active again as FG4KH from Guadeloupe, IOTA NA-102, 20 January - 10 February 2026. He will operate on 80 - 10m, SSB. 





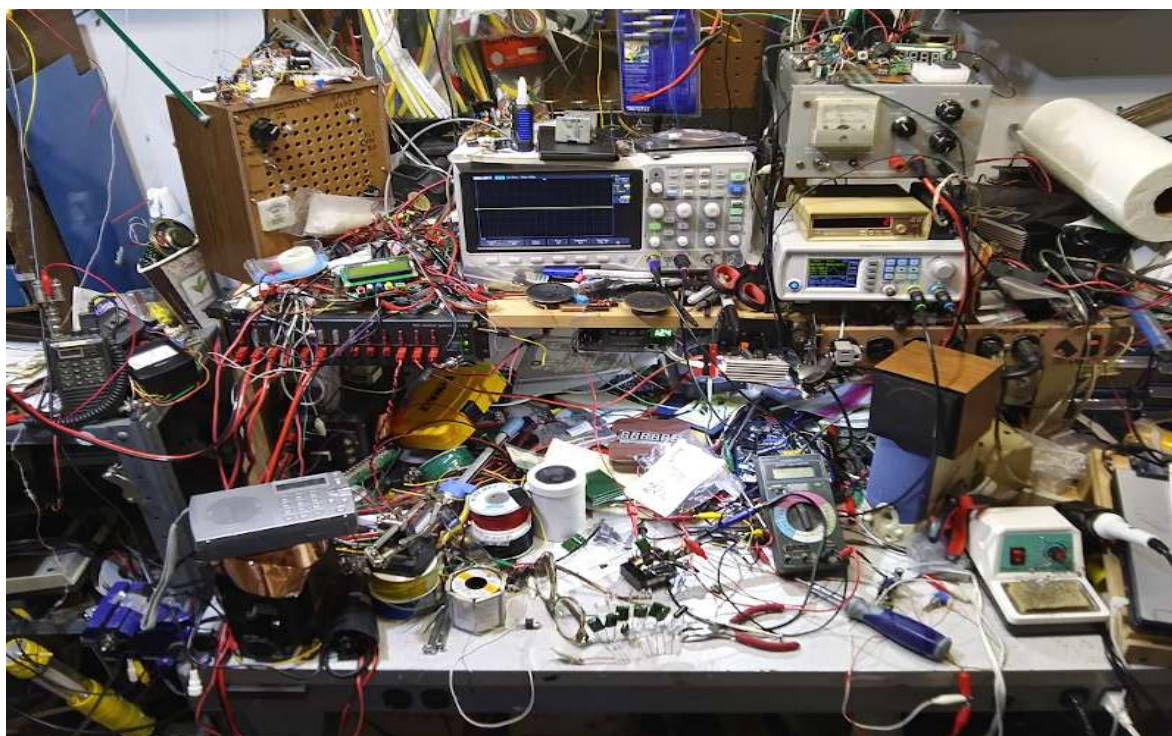
Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Swap Shop and Club Items

Name Badges, Mugs and Clothing with Club Logo available on the BRARC.org website.

Do you have something to sell? This is where you can advertise it. Just send a note to jerry.clouatre@gmail.com and I'll put it in the next issue of **RF News!**






Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Operating Tech and Tips

Changes are here! So, I've been doing this newsletter for a year now. Tell me what you like and I'll keep it. Tell me what you don't like and I'll get rid of it. It takes several days to put this together and I don't want to spend time chasing something no one cares about, so please let me know!

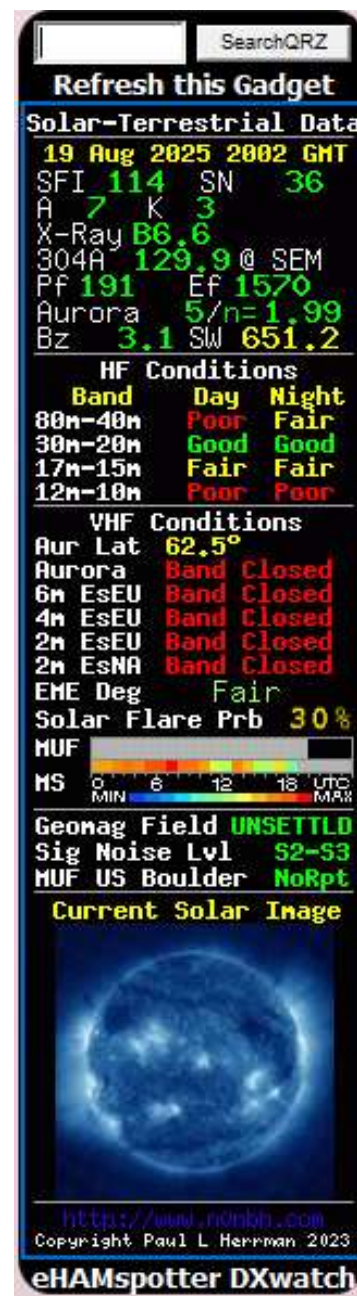
We're now trying to publish every other month. Again, let me know what you think.

Don't forget about this little symbol, . The first one to email me wins a prize! (a small prize) (a very small prize!!)

By the way, if you'd like to add this nifty little gadget to your computer screen, just let me know and I'll send you the link. It's free.

73

Jerry
AG5AY





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Frequency	Net
146.79- MHz PL tone 107.2	Region 2 ARES Net Sunday 8:00 PM
146.79- MHz PL tone 107.2	BRARC Public Service Net Sunday 8:30 PM
146.46 MHz 147.47 MHz	Baton Rouge Simplex Net Monday 7:00 pm
28.450 MHz USB	Ten Meter Net Monday 7:30 PM
7.043 MHz CW	Slow CW Net 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 pm
442.2+ MHz PL tone 107.2	MissLou Net Wednesday 7:00 pm
146.835- MHz PL tone 114.8	MissLou Net Wednesday 8:00 pm
146.79- MHz PL tone 107.2	Friendship Net Thursday 7:00 PM
444.400+ MHz PL tone 107.2	W5GIX Fusion Repeater

Repeaters & Nets



© Fire Radio by 2003.

Elmers:

Todd Huovinen AB5TH
Jerry Cloutre AG5AY
Dan Lott KF5TQN



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



2025 Board Officers

President

K5ROP

Joe Roppolo

Vice-President

AB5TH

Todd Houvinen

Secretary

N5UKZ

Mike Blazek

Treasurer

N4XEG

Jeff Sibley

Board Members:

WA9JBR

Jon Reise



K5HLC

Thornton Cofield

KF5TQN

Dan Lott

AG5AY

Jerry Cloutre

NS5W

Russ London

KJ5IVB

William Buck

KD5MLD

Mike Nolan

Webmaster	WA5MLF	John Krupsky
Volunteer Examiner	WA9JBR	Jon Reise
Field Day	AD5VC	Dana Browne
Public Info & Outreach	K5HLC	Thornton Cofield
Repeaters	N5DGK	Brook Samuel
Education & Training	K5ROP	Joe Roppolo
RF News	AG5AY	Jerry Cloutre
Loaner Program	KF5TQN	Dan Lott
Emergency Operations	KD5MLD	Mike Nolan
QSL / Awards	WA9JBR	Jon Reise
USS KIDD	WA5MLF	John Krupsky





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Other Stuff

- Be sure to check out BRARC.org for the latest news
- Don't forget to check in on our Facebook page – show us pictures of your shack!
- What would you like to see in this newsletter?
- How about writing an article! Tell us about your latest DX contact, contest results, new equipment....

Hungry?

For good food and friendship? You are invited for breakfast, and guests are always welcome.

Wednesdays @ 06:30

James Grill, 205 Florida Avenue SE
in Denham Springs

Fridays @ 08:00

Franks @ Old Cortana Mall on Airline

Saturdays @ 06:15

Yeager's Down-Home Restaurant
on Bass Pro Blvd. Denham Springs

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club-BRARC

Public group · 70 members



+ Invite

Share

Joined ▾

