



# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



## RF News

Welcome to the March-April issue of the RF News. The weather is getting nice – soon it will be hot! Get outdoors and work portable Parks on the Air (POTA), or stay indoors and chase the operators of POTA. Either way, just get on the air! And send me pictures of you operating, either portable or in your home shack.





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

## Club Meeting March 31

BRARC Member Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there where there will be snacks and comradery. We are always looking for subject matter experts to present at our meetings. Let us know if you wish to share your experience.

This month's topic will be an ***ARRL Presentation*** given by ***Houston Polson, N5YS***





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



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

## Repeaters & Nets





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

## Upcoming Club Events

- March 31      Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting, Saint George Fire Prevention District (Training Center), 14100 Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA
- April 1        Ascension Amateur Radio Club  
Prairieville Fire Department Training Center at 14517 LA Highway 73
- April 7        BRARC Board Meeting
- April 28      BRARC Monthly Meeting
- June 28-29    Field Day



### ARRL Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 31,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



## From the President

CQ my friends!

We have some exciting things coming up over the next few months!

March 31 st , we're having a joint meeting with Ascension ARC and have also invited LOHSEP and MissLou clubs to attend, as well as any Ham Radio operators or interested parties for a presentation by Houston Polson N5YS, our Louisiana Section Manager.

Do you have your General License? If not, we have a class planned for May which will prepare you for the VE Session on June 6 th . It's a hybrid class starting with an in-person Saturday session, 3 x 90-minute Teams sessions once each week in the evening, and a final Saturday Session a week before the exam! It's a good time to get your General!





## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



I want to congratulate all those who got their ticket or upgraded their Amateur Radio License at our March VE Session.

Keep Field Day on your radar for June! Have some new ideas? Want to go around the clock? Let's make this field day even better than last year! SSB, Digital, CW, QRP, etc. Let's do it all!

Just a reminder, 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. Don't forget you can renew your ARRL dues through the club and the club gets a commission to help cover our costs and do more events. Please see Jeff N4XEG, our Treasurer. Thank you.

Don't forget that we are 89 years strong and we want to have a great 90 th anniversary next year, so please feel free to submit ideas!

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

## VE Testing and News



### First Paperless Exam Session is Successful

The BRARC VE team conducted their first paperless, exam session using the ExamTools online software now required by the ARRL VEC. The session was conducted on Saturday, March 7th at the EBR Main

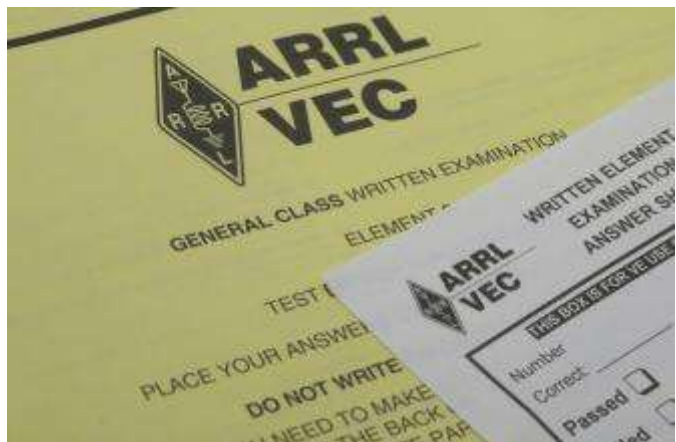
Library on Goodwood. Seven Candidates tested for new licenses or upgrades to their existing license. Four Candidates were successful. Three Candidates said they will continue to study and hopefully return for the Technician test. Two of these Candidates were 12 and 13 years old. Their grandfather, of one of the boys, encouraged them to get involved in the hobby. He said he will continue to encourage them and will help them study for the next test.

The successful Candidates and their new issued license were:

- Willie Brown Jr, KJ5MUG      General
- Christopher Carroll      Technician
- Eileen Eichenauer      Technician
- Weston Turner      Technician

This session's VE Team was comprised of:

- Jon Reise, WA9JBR
- Hank Ellis, K5HDE
- Dana Browne, AD5VC
- Bill Smith, KE5TA
- Thornton Cofield, K5HLC
- Dan Lott, KF5TQN
- Joe Roppolo, K5ROP
- John Krupsky, WA5MLF





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Thornton put together information packets for each Candidate. Thornton and John Krupsky acted as our PIO in Room A to handle the promotion of the hobby and our club. Thornton handed out the packets and several 2026 BRARC



Left to Right: Willie Brown Jr, Eileen J. Eichenauer, Weston Turner, Christopher W Carroll

complimentary memberships to the new hams that entered the hobby. John went over the RF Safety requirements mandated by the FCC. Dan Lott managed the Tech Lab where he assisted one of the hams with the programming of his new HT.

In 2025, the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) started moving to a completely digital program. Printed booklets and supply shipments are now discontinued. The ARRL VEC is now using the ExamTools exam system for online or printed amateur radio exams. BRARC has decided to move to the electronic ExamTools system and is now conducting test sessions in-person, online, and paperless.

Candidates are required to pre-register on our club website. They then receive an email with instructions for testing and the requirement of registering on the ExamTools website to obtain a



Left to Right: Josiah D Smith, Ken D Harris

PIN. Each Candidate is instructed to come with a laptop or tablet to take the test.



Aaron H Faulk

The first on-line, paperless test session went very well. The electronic testing was much quicker to administer with the Candidates getting their test results immediately upon completing the exam. The CSCE is electronically generated and emailed to the Candidate immediately. Candidates receive their new license or upgrade within a week.



# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



BRARC will be conducting the next test session at the library on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. If you hold a Technician or General class license, think about upgrading at one of our test sessions. Pre-registration can be done on the BRARC website, [www.brarc.org](http://www.brarc.org). If you are a VE and interested in joining the BRARC VE Team, contact Jon Reise, WA9JBR at [jreise92@gmail.com](mailto:jreise92@gmail.com)

JLR March 2026





## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



# Hands-on Tutoring for HF Radio

If you want to learn the basics of making HF radio contacts, this session is for you. We are offering personal sessions of hands-on learning covering the following:

- Introduction to our station equipment
- Basics of making contacts
- Logging software basics
- Using the PSK Reporter website for mapping CW or FT8 digital contacts



You will be instructed by an Extra class amateur radio operator at the Highland Road Park Observatory, operating W5GIX. After you learn the basics, you will make radio contacts with other hams around the country using our ICOM IC-7300 transceiver.

Sign up for a **personal** session [on this web page](#). We'll focus on one or more modes of operation (voice, CW, FT8 digital) according to your interests.

### Station Equipment:

The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club maintains a club station at the Highland Road Park Observatory. We run an ICOM IC-7300, 100 W transceiver, with an antenna tuner, to a tribander Yagi or wire antenna.



# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



We suggest that radio operators / members wear their callsign or club badges or apparel to help identify themselves to the BREC staff and visitors as representatives of our club and the amateur radio community.

Jon Reise, WA9JBR  
John Krupsky, WA5MLF





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



## USS KIDD



From Jeff Goad on Facebook: USS Kidd Returning 🚢 (THIS SPRING)

- ❤️ A celebration will be held to welcome the ship back on Saturday, May 23, according to the USS Kidd Veterans Museum. The museum noted that the celebration does not coincide with the date of the arrival of the ship in Baton Rouge, nor is it indicative of the date of the ship's reopening to the public for touring. 💙 "Those dates are still to be determined, dependent entirely upon river levels," the museum said. 🚢 The USS Kidd has been in Houma for more than a year as it underwent major renovations before returning to Baton Rouge. 🚢
- ❤️ 💥 The attack on the Kidd, which has been the centerpiece of the USS Kidd Veterans Museum in Baton Rouge since 1984, killed 38 sailors and wounded 55 more. 💥 🚢 Although the Kidd stayed afloat, it was sent to California for repairs and did not return to action for the rest of the war. 🚢
- ❤️ 🗓️ Mark your calendars and come celebrate the USS Kidd, Saturday May 23.

Keep up to date with the restoration progress by following the Facebook site, USS KIDD Veterans Museum at <https://www.facebook.com/USSKIDD661> and the YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@usskidd661/videos>.

The project will continue through May of this year, but so far no word on when the radio room will be operational.



# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



## Hamfests

- Mobile Amateur Radio Club Hamfest – **April 18**
- Dayton Hamvention **May 16-17**
- Four Days in May – **May 14-17**



- Shreveport-Bossier Hamfest – **08/07/2026 - 08/08/2026**
- Huntsville Hamfest **August 22 & 23**
- Ozone Hamfest Slidell – **September 4 & 5**





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



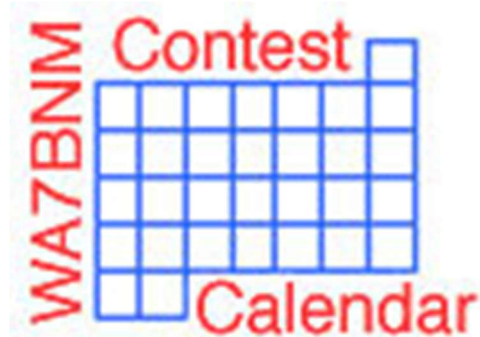
## DX, Special Event, Contesting

### April

- 4-5 Louisiana QSO Party
- 4-5 Mississippi QSO Party
- 11-12 Missouri QSO Party
- 11-12 Georgia QSO Party
- 17-20 Florida State Parks on the Air
- 18-19 Georgia State Parks on the Air
- 18-19 Michigan QSO Party
- 25-26 Florida QSO Party

### May

- 2-3 Indiana QSO Party
- 2-3 Delaware QSO Party
- 2-3 New England QSO Party
- 16-17 Arkansas QSO Party





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



JR3QFB will be active as T88JH from Koror Island, IOTA OC - 009, Palau, 21 - 24 May 2026.



TX9W Team will be active from Marquesas Islands, IOTA OC - 027, 19 - 30 April 2026.





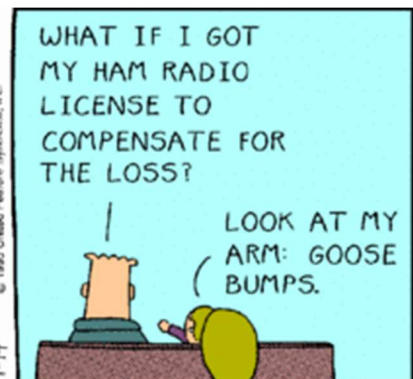
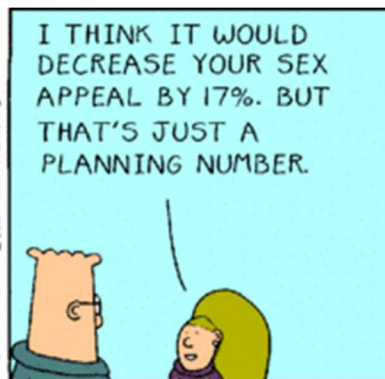
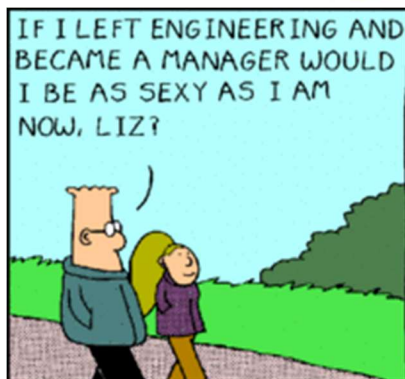
# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

## Swap Shop and Club Items

Name Badges, Mugs and Clothing with Club Logo available on the [BRARC.org](http://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](mailto: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

## XIEGU G-90 GO BOX BUILD with Windows PC

**Sahasranshu Purohit, N5SPY**

1. This is the inside of the Go-Box with the G-90 Radio, a fuse box for power distribution, a windows 11 mini-PC for rig control and logging. Since all components are in a small area there is a possibility of RFI among these devices hence every cable going into / coming out of these devices are added with snap-on ferrites.



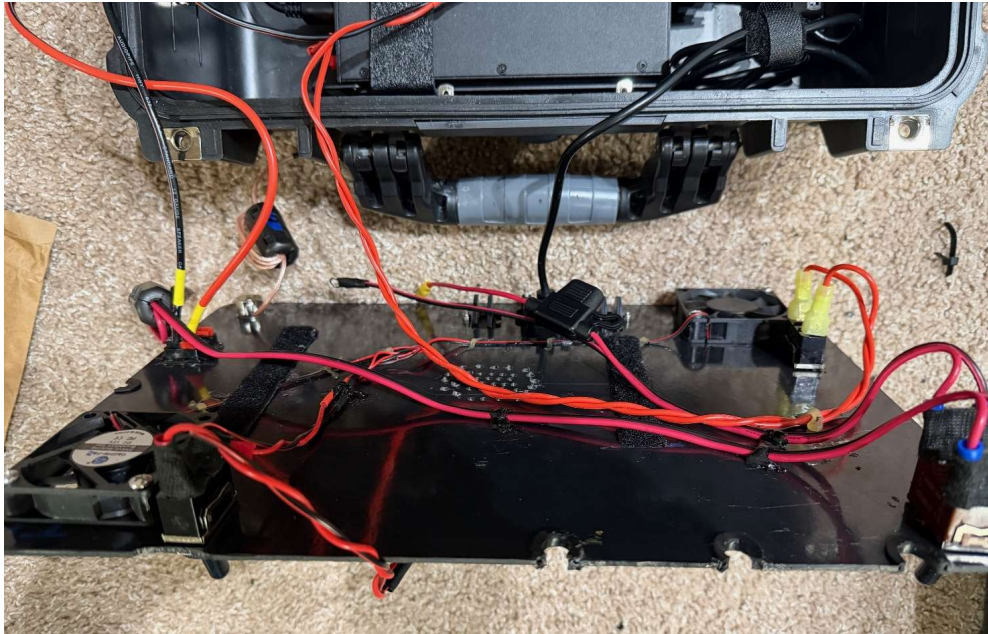
2. The box is covered with an ABS sheet with cooling fans, switches, and SO-239 connector which goes into the Radio. The cooling fans are positioned one at the top left corner which pulls in cool



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air and another cooling fan at the bottom right which pushes out hot air. One switch is added for cooling fans, one for the radio and one for the computer / monitor combo and one pair of Anderson power pole.



3. After closing the box and ABS sheet this is how the box looks like, the top of the ABS sheet houses the G-90 head unit, a keyboard which comes with trackpad and the 13.3-inch display is also touch capacitive. When operating on the fields the keyboard which is secured with Velcro can be taken out of the box and worked at ease. If anyone considers making a box like this with a G90 radio, I would highly recommend getting the combo with DE-19 sound card which makes interfacing with the computer much streamlined along with FT-8 Digi operation.

4. Lastly this is how the outside of the box looks like. The power bank supplies power to the





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radio, fans, the PC and the display. While many operators prefer to keep the battery inside the go-box I kept it outside as a personal preference as it keeps the box light weight and less size and I retain the flexibility of using the box at my shack with a switching power supply.

5. At the end of this project, I had some left-over ABS sheet and toroid, so I thought of making an antenna out of it. I cut an X shaped panel and zip tied a 49:1 home brew UNUN



6. The eye bolt (top left) is connected with the wire antenna, and the other end (top right) is connected with counterpoise. A 100-pf capacitor is added between the two leads of the antenna as it is said to improve the performance of certain bands.



7. To make this weather resistant this is wrapped with a heat shield. Below is the



finished look with about 66 feet of wire antenna resonant on 10-15-20-40 M bands with a counterpoise wire. The antenna wire can be strung up on a tree, or it can be hanged on a fishing pole if you are operating somewhere were trees are not accessible.



# 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**

**AJ5AK**

**William Buck**

**KD5MLD**

**Mike Nolan**



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



@ Fire Radio by 2003.

### Elmers:

**Todd Huovinen AB5TH**  
**Jerry Cloutre AG5AY**  
**Dan Lott KF5TQN**



# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



## THE OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN

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NO. 3



The DeFOREST CF-122 AUDION CONTROL BOX  
(See page 29)



# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



## TELECOMMUNICATION

Editor: Don de Neuf, WA1SPM



## TESLA — MORE THAN BIG SPARKS

Mention the name of Tesla and no doubt you'll hear a lot of people say "*Oh, yes, he was the fellow who developed the induction coil which produced an intensive high frequency discharge*". He did a lot more than that.

Tesla was born in Smiljan, Lika, Austria-Hungary (Croatia) in 1856. He studied at the Graz Polytechnic School specializing in physics, mathematics and mechanics, and followed this with two years at the University of Prague where he studied philosophy no less. He began work as a telegraph engineer with the Austrian government and soon showed his inventive talents. He developed a telephone repeater for which he was granted a patent. He migrated to the United States in 1884 and began work in Edison's laboratory on electric motor and generator design. It was at this point in time where an important change in the history of electric power generation and distribution took place.

Tesla was discussing with Edison a number of possible improvements in the dynamo when Edison casually remarked "*There's fifty thousand dollars in it for you if you can do it*". Tesla did it and then asked Edison for the money. Edison's reply was "*Tesla, you don't understand our American humor*". Tesla was a very touchy and somewhat eccentric character and resigned at once. This unfortunate incident was to have repercussions on Edison's future.

After leaving Edison, Tesla gained the support of George Westinghouse and eventually succeeded in developing alternating current as a solution to making motors more simple, while his transformers solved the inherent problems of transmitting power over long distances. Edison was slow to take the new threat against his DC power plans seriously but eventually realized that he would lose a battle fought solely on economic grounds.

Electricity was new and it was easy to fuddle much of the public mind. Edison took advantage of this and constantly warned of the great dangers of high voltage AC. In 1890 William Kemmler was the first man to be electrocuted

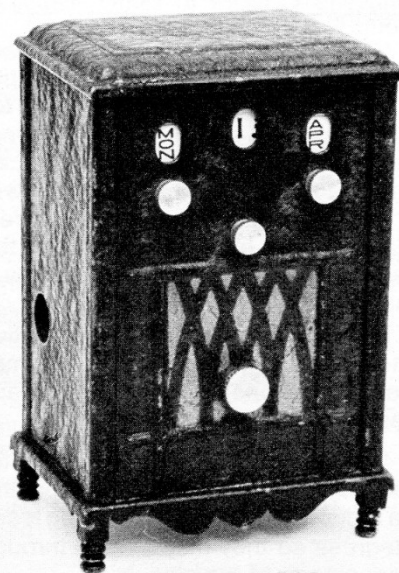
in the Auburn State Prison (by AC) for a murder, and psychologically in the minds of many people AC became synonymous with death. But during the next few years, AC began to take over and Edison turned his attention to developing the phonograph among other things.

Tesla was one of the first to use a high frequency alternator as a means of wireless transmission, and in 1899 he produced one having a frequency of 30,000 Hertz. He recognized the practical application of electromagnetic wave reflection for detecting the presence of solid objects like ships. In 1900 he wrote, long before "*radar*" was developed, an article indicating that reflected waves could be used to determine the location, speed, and course of a ship at sea. Some years later he experimented with the generation of an arc in a magnetic field, and this principle was used by Poulsen in building some of the most powerful wireless transmitters ever constructed.

When Tesla died in 1943 he had more than 700 patents in his name.

### THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY RADIO...

(See last page for answer.)





# Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Be  
sure  
to

check out **BRARC.org** for the latest news