



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



RF News

Welcome to the May-June issue of the RF News. 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. Dana Browne, AD5VC will be going over our plan for our club to participate in this exciting event. Join us for a Pot-Luck “Eating-Meeting” held at the Highland Road Park Observatory at 13800 Highland Road on May 26. We’ll start the meeting an hour earlier than usual, at 6:00 pm. See you there!



Here is the food list for the Eating Meeting:

Callsign Suffix	Please Bring
A-I	Side Dish
J-R/No Call	Dessert or Salad
S-Z	Main Dish



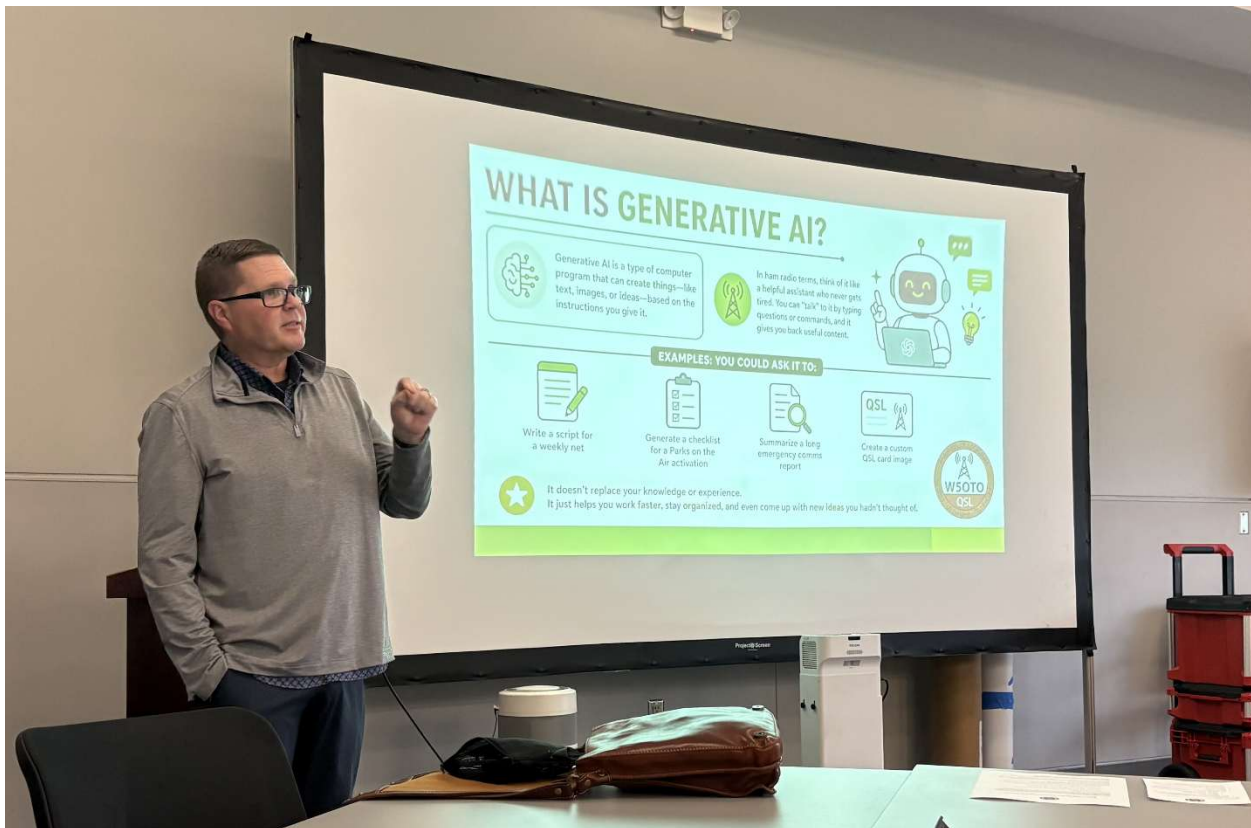


Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



April Club Meeting

The last meeting was held on April 28 with a presentation on *Artificial Intelligence and Amateur Radio* by Matthew Edmonds, W5OTO. It was very well attended with lots of questions for Matthew.





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



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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





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

Upcoming Club Events

- May 13, 20, 27, 30 General License Class (see website for details)
- May 26 Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club special meeting: “Eating-Meeting” held at the Highland Road Park Observatory at 13800 Highland Road. We’ll start the meeting an hour earlier than usual, at 6:00 pm.
- June 2 BRARC Board Meeting
- June 3 Ascension Amateur Radio Club
Prairieville Fire Department Training Center at 14517 LA Highway 73
- June 6 License Exam 10:00 am – 12 noon, EBR Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge (see website for details)
- June 28-29 Field Day
- June 30 BRARC Monthly Meeting
- July 7 BRARC Board Meeting





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



From the President

CQ my friends!

Hello fellow hams and club members!

Pot Luck/Field Day

This month, we have our Pot Luck dinner aka the "eatin' meetin' and we hope to have a good turnout as we share comradery and food together with all our families. We will strategize with our Field Day Coordinator, Dana Browne AD5VC. *Don't forget, it starts at 6 pm and is at Highland Road Park Observatory. More info coming out from our VP, Todd Huovinen, AB5TH.*

I know Field Day will be a fun event and maybe we'll get to try new things just to see if we can! This is Ham Radio's Open House! It's exciting to share our love of the hobby with new people of all ages who come by to see what magic we do in sending voice and data invisibly through the air across the US and even around the world... then we tell them we weren't even plugged into the wall outlet.

Remember, it will only be as great as you make it! We always have drinks and snacks with a light dinner on Saturday evening to keep us going and the traditional watermelon after we clean up and put everything away on Sunday. Please make sure you have it on your calendar... Field Day begins on Saturday (Friday?) with setup (we'll discuss time at the meeting) and runs from 1 PM local time Saturday until 1 PM Sunday. This is great time to come out and learn more or share your knowledge with others.





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To make a long story, short... (Too late?) Field Day is where I got my first taste of Ham Radio. So be open and friendly to new people who are interested and let's make new friends and get some new members!

The rest of the year...

Our presentations committee has been working hard this year (started last year) to secure guest speakers and presentations for the year. Some of things we've already seen this year have been amazing... CW with QRP rigs, Artificial Intelligence/LLMs, Radio History, Louisiana Auxiliary Communications Program, etc.

BUT WAIT! There's more... we'll have Casual Contesting Jerry Clouatre AG5AY, A panel discussing "What do you do now?" - On the Air Pod Casts for AM Radio, Learning Tools for CW by Bill Buck KJ5IVB, Repeater Operating Etiquette, BRARC Nominations, and our annual Auction!

Dues

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. 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? It's easy, just see our Treasurer, Jeff Sibley N4XEG as you would pay 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!

7 3 DE K5ROP (Joe Roppolo, your humble President)



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

VE Testing and News

A license exam session is scheduled for **June 6, 2026**, **10:00 am – 12 noon** at the East Baton Rouge Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Please **PRE**-register. See <https://brarc.org/education/license-exams/> for full details.

TRAINING for the GENERAL LICENCE CLASS



See **BRARC.org** for full details and to sign up for the classes.

- Saturday, May 9, 10 AM—3 PM* at EBR Main Library on Goodwood
- Wednesday, May 13, 6:30-8:00 PM Online
- Wednesday, May 20, 6:30-8:00 PM Online
- Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 PM BRARC Meeting at Highland Road Park Observatory (optional)
- Wednesday, May 27, 6:30-8:00 PM Online
- Saturday, May 30, 10 AM—3 PM* at EBR Main Library on Goodwood



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



From the Treasurer

Hi everyone! We wanted to give you a quick update on where the club stands financially after a busy April. The Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club remains in a strong position, ending the month with a total balance over \$7K in our checking account.

During April, we saw \$326.00 in new funds come in, primarily driven by membership dues and our 50-50 drawing. These contributions are what allow us to keep our repeaters running, host our monthly meetings, and continue our mission of public service and member development.



On the spending side, we had \$317.60 in outflows. This covered our usual necessities like storage for club gear and our communication lines, as well as some social perks like meeting refreshments.

We also invested \$163.54 into supplies (TV to utilize as a monitor) for W5GX1 to share activity with the public before FD26.

Overall, we ended the month with a small surplus of \$8.40. Because we've kept our balance healthy, we didn't have to pay any monthly service fees to the bank, which keeps more of our money working for the hobby.

Thanks to all of you for staying current with your dues and supporting the club's activities!

Jeff Sibley, N4XEG Treasurer



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



USS KIDD



(from the [USS KIDD Veterans Museum](#) Facebook page)

USS Kidd “Welcome Home” Celebration Delayed Due to Historically Low Mississippi River Levels

Baton Rouge, LA — The return of the USS Kidd to its protective cradle along the Baton Rouge riverfront has been temporarily delayed due to historically low water levels on the Mississippi River. While this development prevents the ship’s scheduled reinstatement in May, the team behind the beloved historic vessel remains optimistic and energized about her eventual return to a prominent and celebrated place in the heart of downtown Baton Rouge.

Current river conditions have made it unsafe to position the ship back into its cradle at this time. As a result, the highly anticipated “Welcome Home” celebration originally planned for May 23rd will be postponed. Organizers emphasize that this decision was made with the utmost care for the long-term preservation of the vessel.

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>.



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Hamfests



- Shreveport-Bossier Hamfest – August 7 & 8
- Huntsville Hamfest August 22 & 23
- Ozone Hamfest Slidell – September 4 & 5





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



DX, Special Event, Contesting

May

- 30-31 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

June

- 6-7 Kentucky QSO Party
- 6-7 ARRL Inter. Digital Contest
- 20-21 All Asian DX Contest, CW
- 20-21 West Virginia QSO Party



Perfect picture from AI showing a ham working a contest. Not enough hands! 





Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



Chas, NK8O will be active as 5H3DX from Tanzania, 8 June - 2 July 2026.

He will operate on 30 - 10m Bands, CW, PSK31, FT8 and possibly SSB.



Due to Alexander Teimurazov's, 4L5A serious health condition, updates to the DXNews.com website will be delayed.





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

Special Recognition

Local Ham on Honor Flight Louisiana

(reproduced with permission from Louisiana Airwaves)

Mike Nolan, KD5MLD, a member of BRARC and Louisiana ARRL Section Youth Coordinator recently traveled to Washington, DC with Honor Flight Louisiana along with 71 other Vietnam and 3 Korean War veterans. The group departed BTR early Saturday morning and flew to BWI. From there they toured the Iwo Jima Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and World War II



Memorial before returning to BTR late that night. The group had a very warm welcome in Washington and even larger one back in BTR on their return. Mike said this was so much better than his return to SFO at the end of his tour in Vietnam.

Mike was at LSU and in ROTC in the late 60's during the height of the Vietnam War. He got married and dropped out of ROTC his junior year. Shortly thereafter he got the dreaded letter from Uncle Sam. He



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was able to defer until after he finished his degree then reported for duty. He signed up with the Army and did his basic training at Fort Polk not far from his home in Lake Charles. He already had his general class ham license so with his electrical knowledge he was trained as an infrared weapons technician. He deployed to South Vietnam for a year in 1970-71.

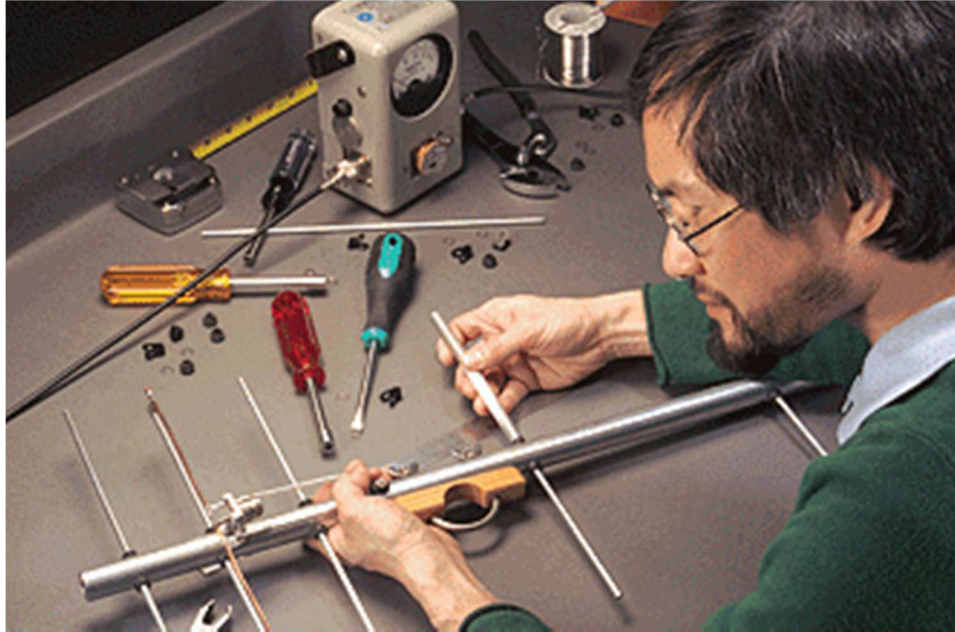
Pictured left with Mike is Geoff Michelli (no call). Geoff was Mike's chaperone. Geoff is a combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan and is employed by Louisiana Blue, a sponsor of Honor Flight Louisiana and Ascension Amateur Radio Club.



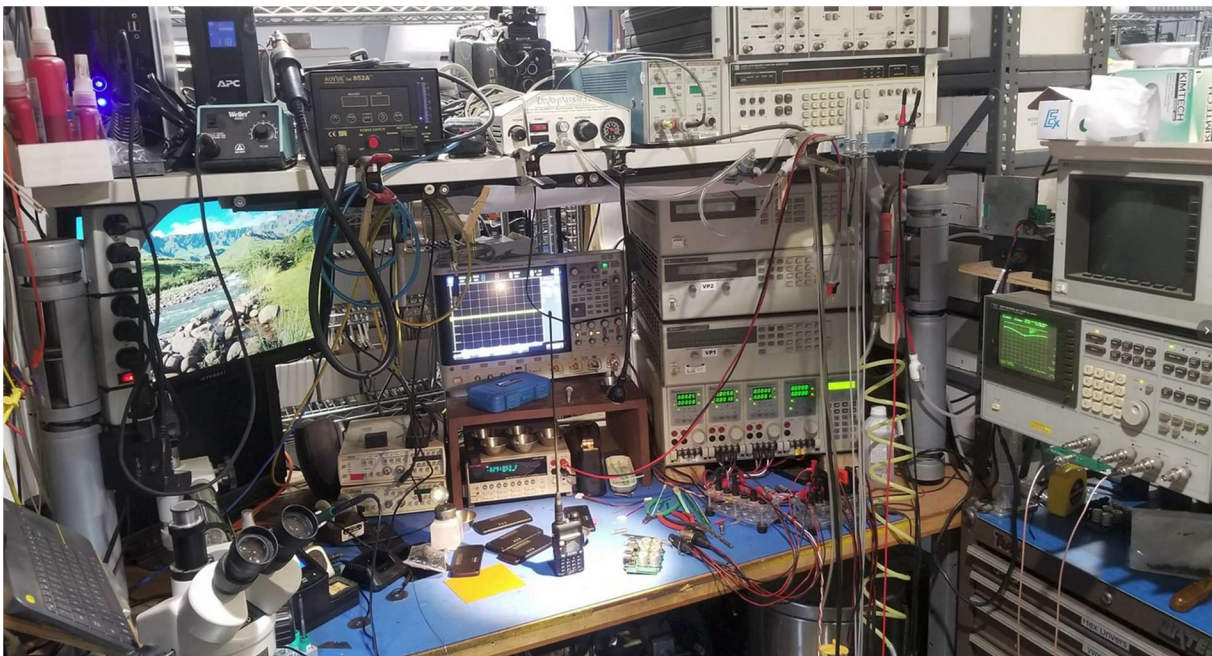


Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

Operating Tech and Tips



Show us your latest workbench project, even if it doesn't work!





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



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



@ Fire Radio by 2003.

Elmers:

Todd Huovinen AB5TH
Jerry Cloutre AG5AY
Dan Lott KF5TQN



Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club



IMPEDANCE MATCHING SPRAY PAINT™

RATTLE CAN EDITION - TUNE YOUR TOWER IN SECONDS!

“Don’t fix your transmission line. Paint over the problem!”


FEATURES:

- Realigns coaxial chakras
- Reduces VSWR* by up to 112 %
- Adds +3 dB of confidence
- Works on Yagi, dipole, or that bent coat hanger-you call an atena
- Now with *Nano-Ferrite Polymerics™* for directional RF laminar flow!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

1. Shake can vigorously (to excite RF harmonics)
2. Spray liberally over mismatched surfaces
3. Chant “50 ohms... 50 ohms...” while grounding yourself
4. Enjoy crisp modulation and smug superiority



Be sure to check out **BRARC.org** for the latest news. And don't forget to look for  The first one to email me at jerry.clouatre@gmail.com to say they spotted it will win a valuable prize!