



THE BRASS KEY



February 2023

A Publication of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club



The BRASS KEY is published monthly as its official journal by the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 4652, Pineville, LA. 71361. CLARC yearly membership dues (including a subscription to the BRASS KEY), is \$30. Editor/Publisher: Lisa Coleman, KW5LC; (318) 466-5623; clarcsec@yahoo.com. Members may submit texts for possible publication to the editor, Lisa Coleman, KW5LC, by hard copy at a meeting or by email at clarcsec@yahoo.com. Space and printing limitations may affect the appearance of any item submitted. Photo submissions should be sent in either TIFF, JPEG, or GIF formats, by email. All submissions must be turned in to the secretary by the third Tuesday of the month.

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The Prez Sez . . .

Words from our President, Kirk Garber, W5KKG

Hello fellow HAM's of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club! By the time you read this, it may be February but today it's still January and I am writing this month's Prez Sez as we are operating at the CLARC Winter Field Day event!

CLARC members present today and operating from home are a shining example of what I grew up knowing HAM Radio to be. I have always been interested in radios, so by nature of loving radios, it wasn't long before I heard about HAM Radio as a kid. As an inexperienced kid, I was too youthful to fully grasp what HAM Radio was or what sort of important services it can provide to our society. I was told about the importance of HAM Radio, how it helped government with communications during wartime or major disruption in public services. It was still the Cold War era so the threat of an attack from the USSR was always there.

Fast forward thirty or so years and I am now a licensed Amateur Radio Operator, educated and molded by life experiences, watching my fellow hams display that mythical example from childhood. CLARC members have planned, set up an operations center, and are practicing our Radio skills; operating as N5AEX!!

Stop and ponder for a moment all that has to happen to make this type of event possible. PEOPLE of varying ages, backgrounds, skill levels, knowledge, experience AND desires have worked together to establish a base of operations, functionally ready to provide emergency communications. We selected a base of operations, set up our equipment, provided sustenance and fellowship and are now OPERATING! Observing it in action through the eyes of a former field grade officer and a current project manager, I can see the logistical and operational challenges that may arise.

Ok, I concede, Winter Field Day is a contest! There will be winners and losers. I ask you, are amateur radio contests just a contest defined by winners or losers? Are there any other components we could highlight and admire about amateur radio contests?

I like to think about the vision of the folks at the start of Amateur Radio, now likely Silent Keys, watching the seeds they planted sprouting. Those folks had the forethought to use the natural competitive nature of humans to facilitate a training event that's actually FUN!! Do you have any idea how much money corporations and Government entities spend on trying to make training fun?

Fun training, that's what I see when I observe contests like Field Day. Fun training for emergency communications. Fun training that will force us humans to interact under possibly

austere, definitely different, conditions and overcome challenges with a common goal in mind. HAMs get to practice people skills like service to others, teamwork, self-discipline and, above all, effective communication. HAM operators are supposed to be the epitome of effective communicators, shaped by a passion for radios, practice, rules, and standard operating procedures.

Do we as human HAMs fail at any of these skills needed during emergency situations? I am confident in saying that all humans fail at those skills from time to time. Failure is why we practice, and the FUN of competition is why we continue to put ourselves through the challenges of training.

I look forward to seeing our N5AEX grade from practicing our Winter Field Day skills! A tremendous thank you to our host for winter field day; our chairman and the number of members who helped.

Don't forget! Dr. Bob Heil K9EID will be Zooming in to our meeting in February! Hope to see you all there!

Kirk Garber, W5KKG
CLARC President



A special award of thanks was given to our 2022 Board of Officers at the January meeting for their service to our club. Left to right: Our 2023 President Kirk Garber W5KKG, 2022 Officers Will Butterfield KI5IPJ, Jim Walters AE5ZE, John Dempsey N5CM, Don Ward KI5AJV, Lisa Coleman KW5LC, and Stacey Sonneland KG5KGU. A big CLARC thank you to all the 2022 Board members!



Congratulations to David Basco KI5UST, who upgraded to Amateur Extra, Jeff Foley KI5HVK, who upgraded to General, and Erin Huddleston KI5ZJC for passing her Technician exam at our January meeting!

HAM HOOO- RAH!!

Zoom Link to CLARC monthly meetings.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVcyQT09>

This is a permanent link for all CLARC Meetings!



Prior Public Proceedings

Lisa Coleman, KW5LC , Club Secretary

Minutes of the CLARC General Meeting – January 3, 2023

Those present: Kirk Garber W5KKG, Lisa Coleman KW5LC, Pauline Jordan K5PIQ, Jack Brossette W5ETL, Don Ward, KI5AJV, Allen Henderson KG5IMA, Jim Walters AE5ZE, Steve Peters N5EKC and XYL Bobbi, Scott Wren KD5DFL, John Dempsey N5CM, David Nolan, K5TS, Albert Castete KI5KJM, Stacey Sonneland KG5KGU, Jim Bookter N5NVP, Chris Olivier KI5LOX, Greg Pawliski KG5RPY, Jeff Foley KI5HVK, Erin Huddleston KI5ZJC, Dave Basco KI5UST, Will Butterfield KI5IPJ, and Terry Bradshaw K5CPL and XYL Kim. Viewing via Zoom were Dave Campana K5AKM and Bethany Butterfield KI5IGT.

Welcome by Kirk Garber, W5KKG, our president, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and introductions of those present.

Congratulations were extended to David Basco KI5UST, who upgraded to Amateur Extra, Jeff Foley KI5HVK, who upgraded to General, and Erin Huddleston KI5ZJC who passed her Technician exam prior to tonight's meeting.

Health and Welfare:

Bobby KI5YUB asked prayers for Alvin, who has had a quadruple by-pass.

Kirk W5KKG asked prayers for his father-in-law who is recovering from his second by-pass surgery.

Allen KG5IMA asked prayers for his wife, as she has a biopsy coming up this week.

Jim N5NVP asked continued prayer for Mrs. Irma KE5UPK

Steve N5EKC asked prayers for his 93 year old mother, who has fallen recently in a nursing facility.

The group was led in prayer by Will KI5IPJ

The 2022 Board of Officers was asked to gather at the front of the room, where they were all presented with call sign license plates by our 2023 President, Kirk W5KKG, for their service during 2022. Outgoing President John N5CM was presented with a plaque for his service as president for three years in a row, 2020 – 2022, including the Covid epidemic time period. This was greatly appreciated by the 2022 officers.

Kirk W5KKG opened the business portion of the meeting with an update on our Winter Field Day status. Due to scheduling issues with the LDWF facility at Woodworth, we will not be able to use the education building as we normally do. John N5CM, chair of the Field Day Committee, was asked to give the club an update on possible field day locations. Currently, we do not have a location and the membership was asked for suggestions. Jack W5ETL suggested the Kiwanis Camp in Pineville and he will look into that location. Jeff KI5HVK has a possible location that he will look into for us and get back to John. Scot KD5DFL suggested the Harold Miles Park in Alexandria, but this would be \$150 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The club would prefer to try to find a free location, if possible. John N5CM reported that we are penciled in again at Woodworth for ARRL Summer Field Day, but we would again be at the mercy of LDWF and could possibly be bumped from this location again. England Air Park has a facility, but we could not use it for free.

Kirk W5KKG has asked Scott KD5DFL to give us a short monthly update on ARES/RACES. A few minutes were taken for Scott to update us and show a few slides.

Kirk also informed the members that Will KI5IPJ is now our Presentation Committee Chair. If anyone has any ideas for a presentation or would like to give a presentation, please get in touch with Will. At our February meeting, we will have a Zoom presentation by Dr. Bob Heil, world renowned sound and radio engineer.

We would like to thank our media manager Chris KI5LOX for updating our web site. Chris will also be adding a link to Scott Davis N3FJP's new license study software, "Ham Study Buddy," to our web site.

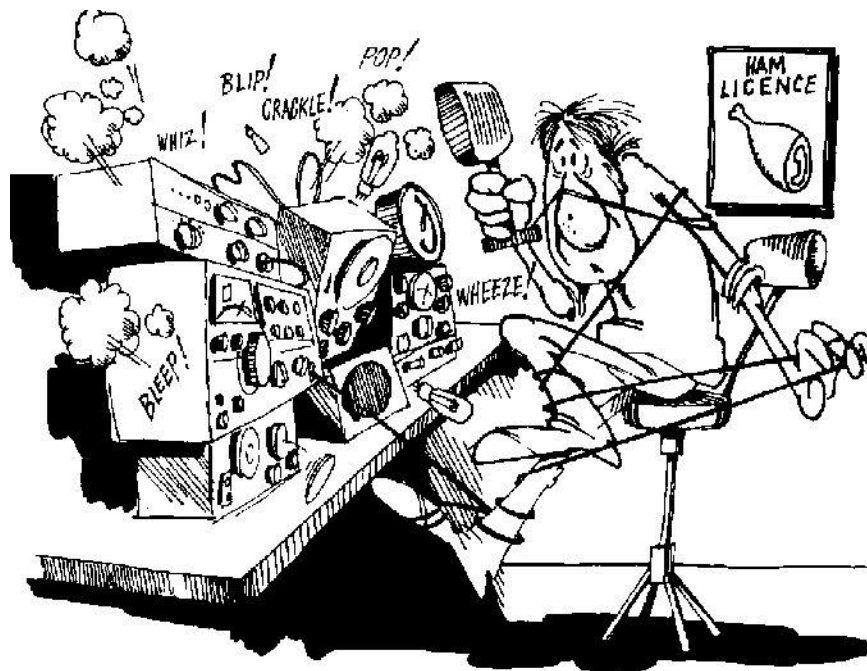
Jim AE5ZE reminded the membership that exam questions will update on July 1, 2023 for the General Class license and in 2024 for the Amateur Extra Class license. New exam questions for these license classes will be generated at this time, so please make sure your study material is up to date with the most current exam questions.

The 50/50 drawing pot, which was a total of \$16.00, was given in full to the club treasury.

Kirk W5KKG thanked everyone for their attendance and announced that the "Meeting after the Meeting" would be at the usual location, Whataburger in King's Country, Pineville.

The meeting adjourned approximately 8:20 PM

Lisa Coleman
KW5LC
CLARC Secretary





TREASURER'S REPORT

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU

Treasurer's Report

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU, Club Treasurer

Financial Report for January 2023

Revenue

Dues	(1) \$	884.00
50/50	\$	16.00
Misc		
Total Revenues	\$	900.00

Expenditures

Equipment		
Insurance		
Fellowship		
Maintenance and Repairs		
Office - P.O. Box Rental		
Winter Field Day		
Summer Field Day		
Utilities	\$	18.97
Web Hosting and domain		
Scholarship		
Legal - Annual Report to Sec of State		
Baofeng Radios		
Misc.		
Total Expenditures	\$	18.97
Revenues - Expenditures	\$	881.03

Notes:

(1) includes \$336 2023 dues received in 2022



ARRL Volunteers On the Air Event is Underway

ARRL's yearlong operating event, Volunteers On the Air, or VOTA, began January 1, 2023. The event is organized as part of ARRL's 2023 theme, "Year of the Volunteers," which recognizes the contributions of ARRL member volunteers, and offers opportunities to become more active and involved in amateur radio and ARRL.

VOTA encourages participants to make contacts with ARRL members and volunteers, earning points for each contact. Point values have been assigned (see the Points Table at vota.arrl.org). All scoring is automatically calculated through ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world). If you are already an LoTW user, continue to upload your QSOs there to participate. If you're a new LoTW user, visit [Getting Started with LoTW](#).

As part of the event, there will be week-long activations by W1AW portable stations operating in all US states and territories. W1AW/# portable operations are worth 5 points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes. There's also an opportunity to earn the W1AW Worked All States Award. There will be two week-long W1AW operations from each of the 50 states.

Later in the event, an on-line scoreboard, the VOTA Leaderboard, will be activated, allowing each participant to see how their score measures up with other participants throughout the year.

Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) - including EME and satellite operations - on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).

Join the fun! Visit the official VOTA website for further details: vota.arrl.org.



FROM THE SHACK



Members are free to submit articles for "From the Shack!" We want to hear about your shack or other things of ham interest! Tell us about your operating conditions and submit your photos to Lisa, KW5LC, at clarcsec@yahoo.com



CLARC would like to thank all those who participated in Winter Field Day 2023 to make it a huge success! We thank our President, Kirk K5KKG for coordinating this effort on the club level.

John Dempsey N5CM, Stacey Sonneland KG5KGU, Erin Huddleston KI5ZJC, Alex Daniels KI5WBX, Jeff Foley KI5HVK, Lisa Coleman KW5LC, Terry Bradshaw K5CPL, Pauline Jordan K5PIQ, Kirk Garber W5KKG, Scott Wren KD5DFL, Will Butterfield KI5IPJ, Chris Wright KI5HDW, David Basco KI5UST, Chris Olivier KI5LOX, Jim Bookter N5NVP, Stephen Peters N5EKC, Butch Castete KI5KJM, Bethany Butterfield KI5IGT, Luke Butterfield KI5RTS.

Many thanks to all who provided food, snacks and coffee for everyone. We would like to especially thank Terry K5CPL and XYL Kim for taking on the task of making gumbo for the group for the Saturday noon meal. Kim did a bangup job with the gumbo, potato salad and and desserts! We all ate too much, and that made it a little difficult to operate after such a great meal!

Our Field Day Committee, spear headed by John N5CM were, Chris KI5HDW, Terry K5CPL, and Scott KD5DFL. We owe all the antenna research, setup, equipment maintenance and issue corrections to them! Not to mention the takedown efforts in the rain on Sunday! Scott KD5DFL kept track of logging our all-important multipliers this field day.

We owe so much to Jeff KI5HVK for offering his facility for our use. Without his help, we probably would not have had a Winter Field Day.

We apologize! No photos of Field Day were available at time of publication!

PERIODIC TABLE OF SELECT AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS

2023

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 0000Z 2359Z Straight Key Night	4 2300Z 0300Z NA Sprint CW	5 0000Z 2400Z ARRL DX SSB	1 1500Z 1500Z SP Polish DX	2 varies 7QP/IN/DE/ New England QSO Parties	6 varies 1200Z 1159Z Tisza Cup CW	3 1400Z 1400Z Marconi Memorial HF	5 1800Z 0600Z NAQP CW	2 0000Z 2359Z CWOps CW Open	2 1600Z 2159Z California QSO Party	4 2100Z 0300Z ARRL SS CW	6 2200Z 1600Z ARRL 160
7 1800Z 2400Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	8 0000Z 2359Z CQ WPX RTTY	11 2300Z 0300Z NA Sprint RTTY	12 0700Z 1300Z JIDX CW	8 1200Z 1159Z CQ-M DX	9 1800Z 0300Z ARRL June VHF	10 1200Z 1200Z IARU HF	12 0000Z 2359Z WAE CW	13 0000Z 2359Z WAE SSB	9 0600Z 0600Z Oceania SSB	10 0000Z 2359Z WAE RTTY	11 0000Z 2359Z ARRL 10
14 1800Z 0559Z NAQP CW	15 0000Z 2359Z ARRL DX CW	18 1200Z 1200Z Russian DX	19 0900Z 2359Z CQMM DX	16 1100Z 1700Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	17 0000Z 2400Z All Asian CW	18 1800Z 2100Z CQ WW VHF	19 1800Z 0600Z NAQP SSB	20 varies WA/NJ/NH/TX QSO Parties	16 0600Z 0600Z Oceania CW	17 2100Z 0300Z ARRL SS SSB	20 1400Z 1400Z Croatian CW
21 1800Z 0559Z NAQP SSB	22 2200Z 2159Z CQ 160 SSB	24 0000Z 2400Z CQ WPX SSB	25 1200Z 1200Z SP DX RTTY	26 0000Z 2400Z CQ WPX CW	27 1800Z 2100Z ARRL Field Day	28 1200Z 1200Z RSGB IOTA	23 1200Z 1200Z WW Digi	24 0000Z 2400Z CQ WW RTTY	21 1500Z 1459Z Worked All Germany	22 0000Z 2400Z CQ WW CW	25 0000Z 2400Z CQ WW CW
27 2200Z 2159Z CQ 160 CW			29 1600Z 2159Z Florida QSO Party	30 1200Z 1200Z RSGB IOTA					28 0000Z 2400Z CQ WW SSB		30 0000Z 2359Z RAC Winter

Multimode

CW

Digital

off-the-air

SSB

VHF/UHF

Start Day (UTC) =>

1

<= End Day (UTC)

Start Time (UTC) =>

0000Z

<= End Time (UTC)

Contest
Name

<= Select Contest of weekend
as chosen by WS1L

Thanks to Dave, K5TS, for providing this chart!



**** CLARC February Meeting – Tueasday, February 7 –** Kees Park Community Center, 2450 HWY 28 Pineville. Doors open at 5:30 for VE License exams and fellowship. Contact Jim Walters, AE5ZE at 318-447-9384 for exam information. Meeting to begin at 7:00 PM. Topic: Zoom presentation by the one and only Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID!

Reminder: Dues were due in January if you haven't already paid!

Zoom Link for all CLARC meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVcyQT09>

****CLARC February Friday Fellowship Luncheon – February 17, 2023.** TIME: 11:00 AM Location: TBA

**** CLARC March Meeting, Tuesday, March 7, 2023 - Kees Park Community Center, 2450 HWY 28 Pineville.** Doors open at 5:30 for VE License exams and fellowship. Contact Jim Walters, AE5ZE at 318-447-9384 for exam information. Meeting to begin at 7:00 PM.
Topic: Speaker Robert Partigiano, WB5JZP on MARS.

Zoom Link for all CLARC meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVcyQT09>

**** March 11, 2023 – RAYNE HAMFEST RETURNS!** – Acadiana DX Association - Rayne Civic Center - 2120 Frog Festival Drive, Rayne, LA. CONTACT: James Romero , K5CNU, Phone: 337-319-6414, Email: k5cnu@att.net. Link for info: <https://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest.htm>

**** CLARC March Fellowship Luncheon – Friday, March 17.** Time: 11:00 AM. Location: TBA

**** April 1 – Saturday** – Louisiana QSO Party – More information in March.

**** May 13, 2023 – Saturday** -Carter Strong 3rd Annual Hamfest
HAMFEST/CONVENTION – Louisiana Delta ARC- Joe Holland KB5VJY, 318-348-0153, kb5vjy@gmail.com, Location: Barak Shriners Lodge, 6620 Frontage Rd., Monroe, LA 71201 Email Joe: kb5vjy@gmail.com

