



THE BRASS KEY



May 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.

2023 CLARC Officers:

President: Kirk Garber, W5KKG
318-729-0733 kirk.garber@usda.gov

Vice-President: Will Butterfield, KI5IPJ
(318) 613-1594 vicepresident@gmail.com

Secretary: Lisa Coleman, KW5LC
(318) 466-5623, clarcsec@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU
clarctreasurer@gmail.com

Board Member at Large: Don Ward, KI5AJV
(318) 418-1133; 610mt1@gmail.com

Past President: John Dempsey, N5CM
(318) 528-0038, johndgex@aol.com

Webmaster: Chris Olivier, KI5LOX
(337) 853 – 1527, chrisolivier2019@gmail.com

Amateur License Exam Coordinators:

BL Wilson, WA5NHP - (318) 442 -7309, wa5nhp1@yahoo.com
Jim Walters, AE5ZE - (318) 447-9384, jimw65@suddenlink.net



The Prez Sez . . .

Words from our President, Kirk Garber, W5KKG

Hello fellow HAM's of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club!

Our biggest thing to deal with at this month's meeting will be the motion on the table to possibly change CLARC's call sign, which is currently N5AEX. I look forward to hearing Houston KD5YS's report from his committee regarding this.

Our Field Day Committee is still in need of a facility that will work for ARRL Summer Field Day, which is coming up June 24 – 25, 2023. Please reach out to me or the Field Day Committee Chair Terry Bradshaw, AG5H at AG5H.terry@gmail.com or 318-308-4342.

Hope to see you all at the meeting!
73, Kirk W5KKG
CLARC President



CLARC CONGRATULATES:

Jeff KI5HVK, Erin KI5ZJC and Scott WB5UTM – all upgraded to Amateur Extra at our April meeting.

CLARC welcomes Michael Callahan KJ5AQY, to our ham radio family! Michael passed his Technician exam at our April meeting!

HAM HOOORAH to EVERYONE!!



Prior Public Proceedings

Lisa Coleman, KW5LC , Club Secretary

Those Present: Jim Walters AE5ZE, Lisa Coleman KW5LC, Allen Henderson KG5IMA, Pauline Jordan K5PIQ, Jim Bookter N5NVP, Houston Polson KD5YS, David Nolan K5TS, Albert Castete KI5KJM, Scot Wren KD5DFL, Stacey Sonneland KG5KGU, Jack Brossette W5ETL, Bobby Wiley KI5YUB, Mike Canady N5GKQ, Stephen Peters N5EKC, Grady Ebert KB5SDU, John Revoire K5AGI, Erin Huddleston KI5ZJC, Jeff Foley KI5HVK, Chris Olivier KI5LOX, Michael Callahan KJ5AQY, Will Butterfield KI5IGT, Kirk Garber W5KKG, Guy Tanner WD5HAI – Viewing via ZOOM: Bethany Butterfield KI5IGT, Keith Johnson WW5G, Luke Butterfield KI5RTS and our guest speaker Mr. Whitham Reeve.

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

Congratulations were extended to those who passed their ham radio license exams this evening: Jeff KI5HVK, Erin KI5ZJC and Scott WB5UTM – all upgraded to Amateur Extra this evening. CLARC welcomes Michael Callahan KJ5AQY and Brandi to our ham radio family! Michael passed his Technician exam this evening.

Health and Welfare:

Don Ward KI5AJV has not been feeling well.

John K5AGI asked prayers for Jerry Rogers' wife, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for their family's situation.

Kirk W5KKG asked prayers for Mr. Jim N5NVP and Mrs. Irma KE5UPK

The meeting was then halted for our presentation via Zoom by Mr. Whitham Reeve of Anchorage, Alaska on HAARP, High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program.

Business Meeting

The motion to approve the minutes and Treasurer's Report of the March 2023 meeting was made by Houston KD5YS and seconded by David K5TS. All members were in approval of the motion.

Kirk W5KKG informed the membership that the proposal of the change of call sign would be discussed at the May 2 meeting. There were no comments made by the membership.

Kirk W5KKG updated the members on our search for a suitable location for the upcoming June ARRL Field Day. We have been unable to secure a location, but Kirk has been discussing a possible location with LSU-A and hopes to have more information for us in May.

No further discussions were proposed and the meeting was ended due to the length of the guest speaker's presentation running over allotted time.

The meeting adjourned around 8:15 PM.

Lisa E. Coleman, KW5LC
CLARC Secretary



SWEEPSTAKES 2022 RESULTS ARE IN!!!

Congratulations to CLARC's own David Nolan, K5TS, who placed first in the Delta Division, Single Operator, Low Power Category in the November 2022 ARRL Phone/SSB Sweepstakes Contest, along with 7th place overall!

The annual ARRL November Sweepstakes is the premier domestic contest in the US and Canada, and the oldest domestic radio sport event (the first was in 1930).





TREASURER'S REPORT

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU

Treasurer's Report

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU, Club Treasurer

Financial Report for April 2023

Revenue

Dues	\$	64.00
50/50	\$	30.00
Misc		
Total Revenues	\$	94.00

Expenditures

Equipment		
Insurance		
Fellowship		
Maintenance and Repairs		
Office - P.O. Box Rental		
Winter Field Day		
Summer Field Day		
Utilities	\$	18.91
Web Hosting and domain		
Scholarship		
Legal - Annual Report to Sec of State	(1) \$	15.00
Baofeng Radios		
Misc.		
Total Expenditures	\$	33.91
Revenues - Expenditures	\$	60.09

(1) LA Secretary of State filing fee

New members: Welcome to *Michael Callahon & Brandi*
WD5HAI Guy Tanner and Merry Jo

Zoom Link to CLARC monthly meetings.

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

This is a permanent link for all CLARC Meetings!



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

Five Mistakes I Made as a New Ham, Part 1: “Going it Alone”

Posted by Troy Blair, KE8DRR on March 24, 2023 at 1:03 pm – Taken from On All Bands.com

Editor’s Note: Troy Blair, KE8DRR, DX Engineering customer/technical support specialist, enjoys sharing personal stories about his involvement in amateur radio so others can learn from his experiences in the true spirit of being an Elmer.

When I hear that a ham has abandoned the hobby, one of the most common reasons given is that it was “just too hard to get started.” Getting the license is the easy part. It is what you do with that license that can present a challenge. In this next series of articles, I will share the five biggest mistakes I made in hopes of saving new amateur operators the same agony I faced.

Mistake #1...Going it Alone

I’m a smart guy, right? I don’t need anyone to help me make this happen. So I went online and ordered not one but two radios for \$35, including an upgraded antenna and battery. I received the radios and tried programming them. The provider offered no support and the suggested software bricked one of the radios, which the retailer refused to take care of because it was user-induced. But I am pretty hardheaded, so I moved forward in pursuit of enjoying my new hobby.

I found a local ham club. This became an invaluable resource—a collection of knowledge, wisdom, and experience all in one room. The club atmosphere fosters relationships where members invite you into their shack to see what is working for them. Additionally, they may offer to come to your shack and assist you in setting up your equipment properly.

I also found a reputable ham radio shop where I met some friendly hams and sales staff. They talked to me about features of different brands and models, both good and not so good. They also offered their opinions, and there was no short supply of those. We all chuckled about my first attempt at getting on the air and then they made sure I had a good QSO under my belt before leaving the store.

This final source of ham radio information I will list with tongue in cheek—the internet. The internet has a wealth of knowledge. Sometimes I feel I learn more weeding through all of the information to find the one or two articles that actually are spot on. My point is that everyone is an expert in their own mind. Take the time to sort out the facts from the conjecture and discover what aligns with good theory and practice. Many times in the early days I would take something I saw online and run it past an Elmer. Sometimes they would take what I found and build on it and other times they would just hang their head and sigh.

I lost a lot of time—and hair—trying to figure it all out on my own. Don't be like I was. Find a club with an Elmer attitude where you can both give and receive of your time and talent. Develop a relationship with experienced ham radio operators who can help you make the right purchase and are known for delivering technical support and customer service. Finally, use the internet judiciously when you need to know something and can't sleep in the wee hours of the night.

Take care and 73!
Troy Blair, KE8DRR

NOTE REGARDING CALL SIGN CHANGES:

Reminder to members: Please let us know if you change your call sign! We need that information for our records and the other members would like to know as well!

Terry Bradshaw – New call sign – AG5H



****May 2 Tuesday – CLARC May Meeting** - 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. Presentation: Winter Field Day Operations Wrap-up, Houston KD5YS
ZOOM Link for all CLARC meetings:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVcyQT09>

**** 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

**** May 19, 2023 - CLARC Friday Fellowship Lunch** - TIME: 11:00 - Location TBA

**** June 6, Tuesday – CLARC June Meeting** - - 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. Presentation: Waterproofing Coax – Dave K5TS and Scott KD5DFL

ZOOM Link for all CLARC meetings:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88070112230?pwd=bjE3bDI2dnZQSGtBWjFVeFNhbVcyQT09>

****June 24 – 25, 2023 - ARRL 2023 Summer Field Day.** More information closer to event date.

****Shreveport – Bossier Hamfest – Saturday, August 12, 2023** - Shreveport Amateur Radio Association (SARA). Time: 7:00am - 2:00 pm. FREE Parking — Easy Access Admission: \$10.00 at door, Website: Shreveport Amateur Radio Association (SARA) <http://www.k5sar.com/sbhamfest/>

