



THE BRASS KEY



September 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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Amateur Radio License Exam Coordinator
Terry Bradshaw AG5H – 318-308-4342



The Prez Sez . . .

Words from our President, Kirk Garber, W5KKG

Prez Sez:

CLARC, not a lot for me to update this month. I would like someone to volunteer to chair the Christmas Party committee and start getting that lined up. December will be here before long.

We believe the 70 cm repeater antenna or feed line may be damaged and there for the repeater has been turned off.

I am withdrawing the draft by-laws until a committee can be appointed to pick up the endeavor. Until the by-laws are amended we are operating under the 2008 version amended in 2016 without a signed copy of those by-laws.

See yall at the meeting!
73, Kirk W5KKG
President



Prior Public Proceedings

Lisa Coleman, KW5LC , Club Secretary

CLARC August 1, 2023 General Meeting Minutes

Those present: Don Ward KI5AJV, Pauline Jordan K5PIQ, Houston Polson KD5YS, Lisa Coleman KW5LC, Jim Walters AE5ZE, Allen Henderson KI5IMA, John Dempsey, N5CM, Albert Castete KI5KJM, Jeff Foley KI5HVK, David Nolan K5TS, Chris Wright KI5HDW, Scott Wren KD5DFL, Terry Bradshaw AG5H, Kim Bradshaw, Alex Daniel AD5MO, Kirk Garber, W5KKG, Stacey Sonneland KG5KGU, Jack Brossette W5ETL, Dick Lundy WA5CAV, Dave Campana K5AKM, Steve Peters N5EKC, Michael Callahan N5MJC, Guy Tanner WD5HAI, Will Butterfield KI5IPJ, John Revoire KI5AGI, Grady Ibert KB5SDU, Erin Huddleston W5FRD, Jim Bookter N5NVP. Viewing via Zoom, Beth Butterfield KI5IGT, Luke Butterfield KI5RST, Keith Johnson WW5G, David Basco KW5DB.

This was the first CLARC General meeting at the new meeting time, 6:30 PM.

Welcoming by our president Kirk W5KKG and congratulations to Donald J. Broussard KJ5CHJ who passed his Technician Class license exam this evening.

Introductions were made of those present and those attending via Zoom.

Health and Welfare:

Bob Heil is in the hospital.

John K5AGI – Asks prayers his wife who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Dennis W5LD – his sister continues to have medical issues.

Guy WD5AJI – for young lady at Pinecrest with gene deficiency.

Prayer was led by Will KI5IPJ

Kirk W5KKG – For Mr. Jim N5NVP for his health and for peace during his time of loss of Mrs. Irma KE5UPK.

Kirk – We will postpone any discussion of the Bylaws so that members will have time to review the items until the September meeting. Please make suggestions if you have any. We will discuss this over the next few meetings. Please explain any suggestions you make. Comments can be mailed emailed to the secretary for forwarding to the president, clarcsec@yahoo.com or directly to the president at kirk.garber@usda.gov.

Items for addition to the By-laws draft:

- *Amount of money able to spend by the Board without a floor vote to \$400

- *Full Member in good standing definition.

- *Blood or marriage relations serving on the board together prohibited.

- *Voting in person and also via Zoom (virtual).

- *New Class of membership – “Apprentice Membership”

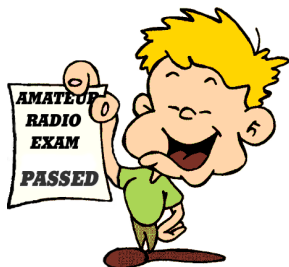
Kirk – The Wardville repeater has been taken down. Alex AD5MO has expressed an interest in placing the repeater equipment in Hessmer, but no location for further investigation into this has been done. The 6m repeater is down due to a burned out power supply.

Terry AG5H, the Field Day Committee Chairman, gave an update. His Field Day Committee has already begun discussing Winter Field day, held on the last full weekend in January. He has already secured the RPSO Range facility, which was used for ARRL Field day 2023.

The presentation this evening was a summary of ARRL Field day operations by Houston KD5YS.

The presentation was completed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40.

Lisa Coleman
KW5LC
CLARC Secretary



Congratulations to Donald Broussard KJ5CHJ who passed his Tech exam on August 1 and upgraded to General on August 16 and his Extra on August 27! We welcome Donald and his wife as new members as well!

HAM HOOORAH!



TREASURER'S REPORT

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU

Treasurer's Report

Stacey Sonneland, KG5KGU, Club Treasurer

Financial Report for Aug 2023

Revenue

Dues	\$	32.00
50/50	\$	24.00
Misc		
Total Revenues	\$	56.00

Expenditures

Equipment		
Insurance		
Fellowship		
Maintenance and Repairs		
Office - P.O.Box Rental		
Winter Field Day		
Summer Field Day		
Utilities	(1) \$	29.15
Web Hosting and domain	Godaddy	
Scholarship		
Legal - Annual Report to Sec of State		
Baofeng Radios		
Misc.		
Total Expenditures	\$	29.15
Revenues - Expenditures	\$	26.85

Notes:

New members: Donald Broussard & wife

(1)- repeater location vacated. No utilities cost after this.

Amateur Radio Operators Serve in Hawaii Firestorm Relief Efforts

ARRL members, in the Hawaii Amateur Radio Emergency Service®, (Hawaii ARES®), continue to respond following to the deadly wildfires on the island of Maui. Taken from ARRL Website

The radio amateurs are coordinating with state and local officials during the response and recovery effort. On August 15, an HF SHARES gateway, and an amateur VHF VARA FM gateway were brought back online, after having been damaged. Local hams continue to update lists of frequencies and repeaters that can be used in the response.

ARRL Headquarters staff have been in daily contact with member-volunteers on the island. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Hawaii and especially the island of Maui," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "ARRL was in initial contact with Section Manager [of the ARRL Pacific Section] Joe Speroni, AH0A, on Wednesday, August 9, and we have had daily briefs with him. This is an exceedingly challenging time for Hawaii, and we will be available as needed." ARRL has offered equipment through ARRL Ham Aid, a program established in 2005 and funded by donations, Ham Aid makes emergency communications equipment available to amateur radio organizations during disasters.

Johnston emphasized that most amateur radio communications, including relayed messages are being handled on the existing repeater system in the state. On shortwave, HF stations across Hawaii are operating nets on 7.088 MHz.

On August 8, wildfires fueled by strong winds began burning in Maui, and by the next day, much of Lahaina had been destroyed. As of press time, 110 people have been killed in the blaze and 2,200 structures have been destroyed; 86% of those structures were residential, according to Hawaii Governor Josh Green.

Deliberate QRM (DQRM): What is it and What Can Be Done About It?

Wayne KE8JFW , From On All Bands.com

The Northern California DX Foundation is Looking for Answers

We're sure you've heard the expression, "A few rotten apples spoil the whole bunch." This seems to be increasingly, and alarmingly, applicable to ham radio these days. The rise of deliberate QRMers—those who anonymously create excessive and intentional human-generated noise often during rare activations—is hurting the hobby we love, and from all reports, it appears to be more than just a handful of poor-intentioned operators throwing proverbial wrenches into the proceedings.

As noted by DX chasers during 3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023, DQRMers flooded the airwaves in full force. Here are a few of the posts from the 3Y0J Facebook page:

“The horrible intentional QRMing of this DXpedition is the worst I’ve heard. I’ve been a ham since the mid-1960s, and there have always been some bad actors out there. But it seems that they have all ganged up to cause trouble for this DXpedition and to the good hams out there trying to work them.”

“Been DXing since 1974 and this time, the DQRM was far worse than ever before. People who claim it was just one or two sick jammers apparently didn’t listen very much. I listened without transmitting for over 10 hours before I finally worked them. There were DOZENS of jammers at any one time on CW, and it was just as bad at the end as on their first day of operating.”

“I am thinking that those who would deliberately QRM a DXpedition wouldn’t bother to get a license.” “We must discuss ways to reduce this evil.”

When the dust settled, many hams were quick to point out that these bad operators represented a minuscule percentage of hams—millions of whom play by the rules every day. Plus, they argue that highlighting their actions gives new and prospective hams a negative impression of a hobby that doesn’t deserve to be tarnished by the worst among us. Still others wondered if making it easier to obtain a license by eliminating the CW requirement has produced a pool of people who don’t fully appreciate what a privilege it is to be called a ham. Some longtime DX chasers said, in certain cases, the blame may partially rest with DXpeditioners who lack the experience to manage the chaos on the other side of the pileup.

We asked some operators at DX Engineering for their take on this ongoing issue.

“DQRM has been a problem for as long as I can remember tuning the bands, whether in a roundtable, contesting, or chasing DX,” said David Vest, K8DV, DX Engineering customer/technical support specialist and Honor Roll member with 337 DXCC entities and the nine-band DXCC under his belt. “Lately, though, especially with Bouvet, it reached an all-time high. Sometimes the DQRM is just the unneeded activity of the ‘UP’ police, which in my opinion causes others to then get fired up and join in. Now, what was one guy sending/saying ‘up’ is ten or more.”

“DQRM is really hard to explain to new guys, and it can discourage them quickly,” Vest continued. “And that’s part of the sad truth about it. I’m not ready to give up, and I know as soon as the next top-ten most-wanted DX comes along that the DQRM machine will get fired up again. I just wish those guys would learn the fun of the chase instead of wanting to be a DQRM generator.”

Vest said he has had the most success fighting DQRM on CW using IF shift, narrow filtering, and other noise reduction controls which work as long as the DX has a decent signal.

“If they are really weak, then most times you just have to move on and wait for another opportunity,” he added.

Wayne Smith, K8FF, DX Engineering customer/technical support specialist and Top of the DXCC Honor Roll for mixed modes, noted that DQRM has become “much worse of late.”

“A lot of it comes from frustration from ops that have poor antennas and can’t even hear the DX station,” he said. “They might have some satisfaction from preventing others from a QSO. We all know how many calls we receive from customers with HOA-restricted antennas or attic antennas. They don’t have a chance of hearing the DX much less of working them.”

Whether their motivations are nefarious, a reaction to being frustrated by not getting through themselves (i.e., If I can’t make a QSO, then no one will!), the result of inexperience or impatience, or simply to make mischief for their own kicks, DQRMers who are disrupting DXpeditions that took months of planning are a great concern in the ham radio community. Determining why the deliberate offenders engage in fringe, anti-social behavior like operating a “pirate” station using the same call as the DX station is a question better handled by a criminal psychologist. More importantly, hams want to find out how to identify and stop those who are lurking behind the din.

“In the past there has been some success in tracking down the perpetrator using reports from different monitoring stations and narrowing down the area, but this takes a lot of time and you could still be looking in an area the size of Texas,” Vest said.

Read this insightful article from Roger Western, G3SXW (SK) on how a notorious DQRMer living in Italy was identified by a group of sleuthing hams. In this case, the culprit was also a legitimate DX chaser who, upon making a QSO, began operating in a manner that would prevent others from doing the same. The goal of publicizing the successful identification of the perpetrator was to put other offenders on notice that their anonymity was at risk.

A New Initiative: The DQRM RPF Project

If you have an idea on how to pinpoint DQRMers, the Northern California DX Foundation wants to hear from you. The group recently wrote:

“The Northern California DX Foundation recognizes the negative aspect deliberate QRMers are having on our hobby. We believe this is a problem that can be mitigated by applying amateur operators’ vast knowledge and receiving tools to good use. In order to spur research into solving the problem the NCDXF Board of Directors at their latest Board meeting allocated \$100,000 to help develop solutions.

“NCDXF will entertain grant proposals from individuals and/or groups that specifically outline their approach to identify bad actors. A group of directors led by Craig Thompson (K9CT) and Don Greenbaum (N1DG) will weigh the probability of success of these proposals as well as monitor the progress of the grantees.

“Funding is available for R & D as well as implementation of the technology. It is hoped that manufacturers will also assist us with equipment and resources.

“NCDXF will shortly outline specifics for how to apply for these grants.”

Zoom Link to CLARC monthly meetings.

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



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



Route 66 Special Event 2023

September 9-17

See <https://w6jbt.org/> for more information and log sheets.

**GOOD LUCK traveling America's
“Mother Road” by Ham Radio!!**



ROUTE 66

NOTE REGARDING MEMBER 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!

Allen Henderson's new call sign is: KV5O - Nice call Allen



**** September 5** – CLARC September Meeting - Kees Park Community Center, 2450 HWY 28 Pineville. Doors open at 5:30 for license exams and fellowship. Meeting to begin at **6:30 PM.**

Amateur Radio License Exam Coordinator - Terry Bradshaw AG5H – 318-308-4342

ZOOM Link for all CLARC meetings:

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

**** September 15 – CLARC Friday Fellowship Lunch – Location TBA**

****October 3 – CLARC October Meeting.** Doors open at 5:30 for fellowship and license exams. Zoom presentation by former CLARC member Dr. Heidi Havilland of NASA Marshall Spaceflight Center. Amateur Radio License Exam Coordinator
Terry Bradshaw AG5H – 318-308-4342

**** October 7 – 8 - Slidell EOC Hamfest, ARRL Louisiana State Convention**
HAMFEST/CONVENTION Location: Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 Second Street, Slidell, LA 70458 Website: <http://w5sla.net/hamfest-2022.htm>



SLIDELL EOC⁺ 2022 HAMFEST
and ARRL LOUISIANA STATE CONVENTION

SLIDELL CITY AUDITORIUM 2056 2nd St, Slidell, LA 70458
Friday October 7, 2022 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Saturday October 8, 2022 8:00am - 2:30pm

ADMISSION: Adults: \$5 (includes 1 Raffle Ticket - good for both days) - 12 & Under: Free
• Talk-in: 147.27 MHz (+600 kHz) PL 114.8 Hz • ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest • Unique Local Attractions

The Osage Amateur Radio Club is pleased to sponsor the 2022 Slidell EOC HAMFEST.
Browse the latest from our featured vendors. Sell your gear for extra cash!
Find that perfect addition for your rig. Raffle tickets: \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

FORUMS	MAIN PRIZES	VENDORS
David Hartley, KSOZ ◊ The Lightning Rig Saver (LRS) Saturday, 9-10a.m. Speaker No. 2 ◊ Presentation Title Speaker No. 3 ◊ Presentation Title Speaker No. 4 ◊ Presentation Title	1st - Yaesu FTM-400XDR 2nd - Yaesu FTM-200DR 3rd - Yaesu FT-70DR 4th & 5th Yaesu FT-65R 6th to 10th Yaesu FT-4XR 11th - \$100 Gift Certificate from DX Engineering	Ham Radio World The Sign Man TN07 Engineering N5IAW Connectors Cajun RF *confirmed as of 07/11/22 FLEA MARKET Tables (3' x 5') - \$10 (does not include cost of admission) ARRL VE TESTING Technician, General & Amateur Extra ◊ Testing Starts at 8:30am ◊ Need FRN # from FCC: apps.fcc.gov/cores/Web/publicHome.do ◊ Must pre-register via Paula @ 985-290-1096

MORE INFO:
www.w5sla.net/hamfest-2022.htm
*Emergency Operations Center
809-04 07/14/2022

CONTACT US:
OARC - PO Box 553, Slidell, LA 70459
E-mail: hamfest@w5sla.net Web: www.w5sla.net

****October 20 – CLARC Fellowship Luncheon – Time: 11:00, Location TBA**

ZOOM Link for all CLARC meetings:

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