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KN5GRK

Newsletter



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WELCOME 2023!

Another year behind us, 2023 looks a little more promising as far as the ham radio world. Hamfests are starting to appear

December 2022 was a rough month for Louisiana with a string of tornados making their way across the state on Tuesday night December 13 and Wednesday December 14 with the loss of lives standing at three.

Caddo, Iberia, St. Charles, Jefferson and Orleans parishes were the hardest hit. Many homes and businesses were damaged and without power.

On the eve of Thursday December 22, a massive cold front (bomb cyclone) moved into Louisiana dropping the temperature into the teens with below freezing weather. Temperature in Lafayette was 24° F, on Christmas Eve with 30 MPH winds. Christmas morning at 0630 it was 26° F getting up to 49° F Christmas Day.

N5JXV - Virgie Aubin - Silent Key

I received a phone call from Virgie Aubin's Daughter, Marie, on Monday December 26 with the news that Virgie had passed away on Christmas Day. Virgie had been fighting cancer and was in Hospice care up until this time. I am waiting for further details at this time.

A note received from Marie on December 31 stated: "Circumstances beyond our control have created a backlog in planning so arrangements are pending. The holidays are a major factor. We hope to have arrangements finalized for mid January. I will keep you updated". Keep Virgie's Family in your prayers.

AARA News

The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (AARA) will be holding the January General Meeting on January 5, 2023 at the Candyland Cottage and Ice Cream Shoppe in Scott, LA at 7:00 PM. VE Testing will take place at 6:00 PM.

Topics for January 2023 meeting:

- Winter Field Day - January 28, 2023 - see page 2 for details
- 2023-2024 Membership Dues - Application Form - http://www.w5ddl.org/aara_membership_appl.pdf
- AARA Net Meetings & Calendar - <http://www.w5ddl.org/meeting.htm>
- Volunteer needed for LARC Newsletter Editor



My website is hosted by:



A good friend is like a four-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have.
-Irish Proverb

Winter Field Day

January 28th & 29, 2023

2023 Winter Field Day

January 28, 2023

The AARA will be participating in next years 2023 Winter Field Day event. This 24 hour event will be held nationwide the weekend of January 28 - 29, 2023. However, club activities are planned only for Saturday, January 28 at the farm of Steve (AF5VR) and Mel We-bre in Church Point, LA. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the club activities on Saturday as well as from their own station anytime during the 24 hour event.

Danny Daigle KD5JSM has volunteered to be chairperson for the AARA Winter Field Day event. If you plan to take part and have any questions, you can contact Danny at: kd5jsm@yahoo.com.

What is Winter Field Day?

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved.

Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact.

Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.

Winter Field Day is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association. We passionately believe that Ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operational concerns.

WFD is formatted to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operational skills in subpar conditions. Click [here](#) to read more about the history and purpose of winter field day.



Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc. (AARA) VE Test Results December 1, 2022



No VE Test Session were held during the month of December due to the AARA having their Annual Christmas Party at Candyland Cottage and Ice Cream Shoppe in Scott, Louisiana.

The next VE Test Session will be at the January 5, 2023 meeting.

73, de GREG ~ K5LF & a T

When possible, Amateur Radio Examinations (VE Exams) will be conducted prior to the club meetings starting at 6:00 PM. Information regarding VE Exams can be found here.

<http://www.w5ddl.org/VE%20Exams.htm>

Please arrive as early as possible to help insure adequate time is available to complete your exam before the meeting starts.

Anyone needing additional information regarding VE Exams should contact Greg Dolan K5LFT at:

k5lft@arrl.net.



AARA Annual Christmas Party 2022

Held December 1, 2022 at the Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shoppe - Scott, LA



PHOTOS BY GREG DOLAN II K5LFT
EDITED BY HERMAN CAMPBELL



The annual AARA Christmas Party was held on December 1, 2022 at the Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shoppe. On the menu was “*home style chili*” (5 gallons which was awesome) with chips prepared by Chris Ancelet N5MCY on a *bar-b-que* pit located on the outside. Ice cream and drinks were to be purchased inside the building.

There were 32 in attendance with five gift cards given in a drawing to the following persons: Linda Breau KE5HSY (\$100) - Jim Zawistowski KD5JIM (\$50) - Michael Cavell KI5ARX (\$25) - Al Matt KI5VGU (\$25.00) - Glenn Breau KD5NVC (\$25). Someone signed in the roster for the drawing with the name “*Elf*” which was picked to win a gift card but failed to be recognized so another name was drawn.



Cleaning RF Connectors

Reprinted from ABR Industries

Keeping your connections clean not only maximizes your RF performance but also reduces mismatches and heat buildup due to age. Below are some simple guidelines for success in this process.

Before you clean your connectors, please note a couple of mindful warnings:

1. When flammable fluids are used to clean connectors, make sure the cable is disconnected.
2. Perform these steps in a well-ventilated area.
3. Allow the parts ample time to dry before re-mating to your equipment.

What you'll need to get started:

- * Swab (Q Tip)
- * Alcohol cleaner (ideally 99.5%) with the lowest water content possible
- * Compressed air (computer cleaner is ok)
- * Lint Free cloth (4-inch x 4-inch is large enough)

Step 1 – Inspection

Inspect the connector by looking for dirt, contaminants, scratches, and damage due to wear. For the easiest process, use an illuminated bench magnifier with a 5-inch lens where the cable can be held in a tabletop clamp.

Step 2 – Alcohol Cleaning

Once you've identified the area(s) that need cleaning, apply the alcohol to the end of the swab. Clean from the pin outward to the inside threads and then the outer body of

the connector. Try to not apply the alcohol to the dielectric. Also be careful to not exert too much force as you may bend or misalign a female mated pin.

Step 3 – Alcohol and Large Particle Removal

Use the compressed air to assist with drying the alcohol and removing excess particles. Be sure to review warning labels on the aerosol duster. You can also use the lint free cloth to assist with this process.

Step 4 – Reconnect or Cap

After use of the compressed air (about 5-10 mins), reinspect your work with a magnifier. If you're satisfied that the connector is clean and free of particles, reconnect your connector to the radio, test equipment, or other device. If the connector is not being attached, use end caps to protect for future use.



SURF's UP!

During the early part of December, I happen to be reading the mail on 3.927 MHz and 7.200 MHz around 0000 Z and overheard a conversation of some of the operators receiving notices from Volunteer Monitor Administrator about their operating practices. They took it with "a grain of salt" and considered it as a joke. Then, I received the December 2022 QST and on page 87 saw this article:

"Volunteer Monitor Program Report

Operators in Georgia and Ohio were sent notices concerning deliberate interference on 3.860 MHz and 7.200 MHz. The license in Ohio was also cautioned about transmission of obscenities and operating while impaired. The operator in Georgia was operating with an expired license. Volunteer Monitor Administrator Riley Hollingworth, K4ZDH."

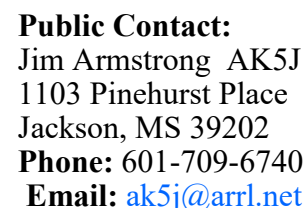
It seems like things are being done to clean up some of the nonsense going on at these particular frequencies. I have noticed that 3.927 MHz has toned it down somewhat. 7.200 MHz is still a bad example of how amateurs should not conduct themselves.



Date: January 21, 2023
Time: 8:00 Am - 4:00 PM
Admission: \$5.00 per person
Location: Ponchatoula Community Center
 300 N. 5th St.
 Ponchatoula, La. 70454
 Hammond, LA 70401

Public Contact: Tyrone Burns - N5XES
P.O.B. 1324
Hammond, LA 70404
Phone: 985-687-2139
Email: n5xes@arrl.net

Friday January 27, 2023
Saturday January 28, 2023
Location: Mississippi Trademart
 1200 Mississippi St.
 Jackson, MS 39201
Website: <http://www.msham.org>
Sponsor: Jackson Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 146.76 - 77hz
Reserve Tables: <http://www.msham.org>
Floor Plan: <http://www.msham.org/site>
Hamfest Flyer: <http://www.msham.org>
Contact Us: <http://www.msham.org/contact>



Net Name	Sessions	Check-ins	Total Time
AARA Monday Night Net - 146.820 @ 7:00 PM Monday	3	53	129
Acadiana SkyWarn Net - 147.040 @ 7:00 PM Tuesday	4	38	106
Silent Key Memorial Net - 146.820 @ 7:00 PM Wednesday	4	51	128
Rag Chew Net - 146.820 @ 8:00 PM Thursday	4	23	241

If the 146.820 is having problems, the alternate frequency will be the 147.040 repeater located in Dunson, LA



New General Question Pool Released for Ham Radio Licensing Effective July 1, 2023

12/09/2022

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

"The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting July 1, 2023," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who is a member of the NCVEC Question Pool Committee. "New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June."

General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of The General Class License Manual, and/or the 6th edition of ARRL's General Q & A are encouraged to test by, or before, June 30, 2023. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after, July 1, 2023.



Kid's Day

Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grandkids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public!

Date: January 7, 2023

Exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. Be sure to work the same station again if an operator has changed. To draw attention, call "CQ Kid's Day."

Suggested Frequencies-

10 Meters: 28.350 to 28.400 MHz

15 Meters: 21.360 to 21.400 MHz

20 Meters: 14.270 to 14.300 MHz

80 Meters: 3.740 to 3.940 MHz

12 Meters: 24.960 to 24.980 MHz

17 Meters: 18.140 to 18.145 MHz

40 Meters: 7.270 to 7.290 MHz

Kid's Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Schedule of Events

- **January 1** — New Year's Day
- **January 5** — AARA General Club meeting at Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shop in Scott, LA at 7:00 PM.
- **January 7** — Kid's Day
- **January 11** — National Learn Your Name in Morse Code
- **January 16** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- **January 21** — SELARC Hamfest
- **January 27 & 28** - Jackson MS Hamfest
- **January 28** — AARA Winter Field Day



FYI

At 60 feet above sea level, Orlando Mountain has a name and is declared the highest point in Lafayette, Louisiana.

There's a big hill in Moncus Park that overlooks the 100-acre green space and has nice views of Lafayette. That big hill has officially been named Orlando Mountain because of the generosity of Steve and Lisa Orlando.

Read More: 'Orlando Mountain' Officially Named Highest Point in Lafayette.

<https://999ktdy.com/orlando-mountain-officially-named-highest-point-in-lafayette/>

The National Learn Your Name In Morse Code Day

Celebrated every January 11. There is no record of how this day originated, or by whom. Samuel Morse created the system in the 1830s with the help of his assistant Alfred Lewis Vail. Morse code was later improved by an American scientist, Joseph Henry.



A	• —	N	— •
B	— • • •	O	— — —
C	— • — •	P	— • — —
D	— • • —	Q	— • — •
E	•	R	— • — —
F	• • • •	S	• • •
G	— • — —	T	— • —
H	— • — •	U	— • —
I	• •	V	• • • •
J	• — — —	W	— • — •
K	— • — —	X	— • — •
L	— • — •	Y	— • — •
M	— —	Z	— • — •

American Revolution - Battle of Princeton

Jan 1-Jan 8, 0000Z-2359Z, W2P, Trenton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association. 14.250. Certificate & QSL. DVRA, PO Box 7024, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0024. Certificate of Commission in the Continental Army Signal Corps available. See website. www.w2zq.com

122st Anniversary of the Lucas Gusher

Jan 7-Jan 8, 1500Z-2000Z, K5S, Beaumont, TX. Beaumont Amateur Radio Club. 7.245 14.245 10.136 14.030. Certificate & QSL. Greg Pritchett, 4839 Hwy 326N, Kountze, TX. k5s.lucasgusher@gmail.com or w5rin.com

Commemorating last MIG shoot down in VietNam war by Midway F-4

Jan 14, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 14.070 PSK31 DSTAR on Papa system repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor, Drive,

San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

Orange Amateur Radio Club 75 years affiliation with ARRL

Jan 27-Jan 28, 0200Z-0200Z, W5ND, Orange, TX. Orange Amateur Radio Club. 20M - 14.225 - 14.350 MHz 40M - 7.175 - 7.300 MHz 15M - 21.275 - 21.450 MHz 10M - 28.300 - 28.800 MHz. QSL. Orange Amateur Radio Club -75 yrs, P.O. Box 232, Orange, TX 77631-0232. operating on the General class frequencies. OrangeARC@live.com

California Discovery of Gold

Jan 28-Jan 30, 1700Z-0100Z, AG6AU, Coloma, CA. El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club. 7.248 14.248 21.348 28.348. QSL. El Dorado County ARC, P.O. Box 451, Placerville, CA 95667. edcarc.net

169th Anniversary of the Gadsden Purchase from DM31, Organ Pipe National Monument and Winter Field Day

Jan 27-Jan 30, 2000Z-1400Z, KT7RC, Tucson, AZ. Tortolita Radio Club. 14.230; CW, SSB; FT8 on the WARC bands and 6 meters. Certificate. Email, contact@tortolita-rc.com, for certificate. No paper QSL. Operating from the fairly rare DM31 Grid Square! DM31 occupies the southern border with Mexico that the Gadsden purchase set. www.qrz.com/db/kt7rc or tortolita-rc.com

The Day the Music Died

Feb 3-Feb 5, 1800Z-2100Z, W0WND, Clear Lake, IA. North Iowa Amateur Radio Club. 10.136. Certificate. Donald Johnson, 665 W. 6th St, Garner, IA 50438. <https://thedaythemusicdied.w0wnd.net>



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Complimentary
Issue