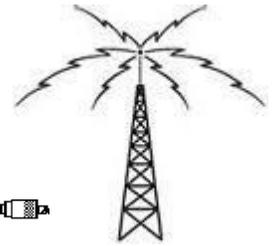




# NELARC News

NorthEast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club  
March 2018



Welcome to the inaugural edition of our radio club newsletter! We anticipate each issue being rolled out at the first of each month. With everyone contributing, this newsletter will be a success. So if you have anything interesting you would like to share with your fellow ham operators, please submit it via email to [newsletter@NELARC.org](mailto:newsletter@NELARC.org).

### CLUB NEWS...

We had our February club meeting at the Ouachita Valley branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library. There were 19 in attendance. After opening with a time of sharing what other interests we had outside of ham radio, there was brief business meeting. A program on the history of Morse Code was presented, including an introduction to ways of learning Morse and various methods of keying. We are trying to put together a class to teach Morse code. If you are interested in learning, send an email to [W5LA@arrl.net](mailto:W5LA@arrl.net).

**Congratulations to Bobby Baker, WM5H**, for doing a great job in the recent NAQP-RTTY, operating at the **W5WZ** station. He made a total number of 476 contacts with 101 multipliers for a score of 48,076.

### Trivia...

In Ouachita Parish there are **283** amateur radio licensees with active status in the FCC database. The breakdown by class of license is:

Novice .....	2	Advanced.....	15
Technician..	127	Amateur Extra..	61
General.....	73	Club stations...	5

### ARES News...

**SKYWARN Classes** (Basic and Advanced) will be taught Saturday, March 10, 2018, from 9 AM to Noon, at the Ouachita Parish Fire Training Center, 1000 New Natchitoches Rd., West Monroe, LA..

### ARRL NEWS...

#### New Louisiana Section Manager...

ARRL members in Louisiana have elected John Mark Robertson, K5JMR, as Section Manager (SM) for the next 2-year term of office that starts on April 1. Robertson, of Bossier City, outpolled incumbent Section Manager Scott Wren, KD5DFL, 341 to 148 votes. Wren, of Pineville, has served as SM since April 2016. Ballots were counted and verified at ARRL Headquarters on Tuesday, February 20. This was the only contested Section Manager election this winter.

#### 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase`

Are you participating in the International Grid Chase that the ARRL is promoting this year? You can see an update on how everyone is doing at <http://https://igc.arrl.org/leader-board.php>.

#### Meet your board for 2018:

**President -**

Jim Ragsdale, W5LA

**Vice-President -**

Mark Ketchell, K5ER

**Secretary-Treasurer -**

Ruth Ragsdale, WM5LA

**Director -**

Mark Baxley, K5MSB

**Director -**

Scott Dickson, W5WZ

#### Next Club Meeting:

**Tuesday, March 6**

**6:30 PM**

**Golden Corral**

**200 Basic Drive**

**West Monroe, LA**



**Louisiana  
QSO  
Party**

**March 17, 2018**

**9 AM to 9 PM**

**Get on the air  
so the world  
can work  
Louisiana!**

**<http://LAQP.org>**

# Northeast Louisiana Hamfest

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 8AM 'til 2PM at the  
West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Ave, West Monroe, LA

*For more information, go to <http://NELARC.org/hamfest>.  
To reserve a flea market table go to <http://NELARC.org/tables>.*

Pass the word and come enjoy the day with us!

If you have any operating or station set-up tips, please submit them to [newsletter@NELARC.org](mailto:newsletter@NELARC.org) and we will include them in a section of the newsletter. Thanks!

## Contest Operating Tips from the experience of W5WZ

Sometimes you may wish to operate in a contest, but find there isn't much activity on the air for that specific contest, yet the bands are full of participants in other contests. No problem! Learn what they need for their exchange and give it to them, and get them to give you what you need for your contest exchange. You log what you need and submit your log for the contest that you want to enter. As a courtesy, also submit your log to the other contest(s) as a check-log.

Remember when Mama told you "sit up straight"? Well, she was right! You'll be able to focus better and have more energy when operating. In fact, studies suggest that sitting or standing up straight and tall can give you an added boost of confidence. If that equates to 5 more QSOs per hour in the log, then it's worth it!

Logging software: Regardless of which software you prefer, make it your goal to become an expert at using it! Learn to squeeze every bit of performance out of it. Learn to leverage all the specific operating aids to the biggest advantage. When you become expert, then the layer of software doesn't intimidate you, or isolate you from the radio; rather it melds with you to the radio.

Last, when mentioning software logging programs, think about the way you type. Are you a "hunt and peck" typist? Do you have to watch your fingers as you type? If you answer yes to either of those questions, you've got room to improve your contest score! Learn to touch type. It will free your eyes and your mind to do other score-building tasks during the contest.

## March Contesting Calendar

(see <http://www.contestcalendar.com> for more information on each contest)

**ARRL International DX Contest, SSB** 0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4  
**Open Ukraine RTTY Championship** 1800Z-2059Z, Mar 3 (160M-40M)  
**Open Ukraine RTTY Championship** 2100Z-2359Z, Mar 3 (160M-40M)  
**Open Ukraine RTTY Championship** 0800Z-1059Z, Mar 4 (40M-10M)  
**Open Ukraine RTTY Championship** 1100Z-1359Z, Mar 4 (40M-10M)  
**UBA Spring Contest, CW** 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 4  
**RSGB Commonwealth Contest** 1000Z, Mar 10 to 1000Z, Mar 11  
**South America 10 Meter Contest** 1200Z, Mar 10 to 1200Z, Mar 11  
**SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** 1200Z, Mar 10 to 2400Z, Mar 11  
**Oklahoma QSO Party** 1500Z, Mar 10 to 0200Z, Mar 11 and 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 11  
**QCWA QSO Party** 1800Z, Mar 10 to 1800Z, Mar 11  
**Idaho QSO Party** 1900Z, Mar 10 to 1900Z, Mar 11  
**North American Sprint, RTTY** 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11  
**Wisconsin QSO Party** 1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12  
**BARTG HF RTTY Contest** 0200Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19  
**Russian DX Contest** 1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18  
**Virginia QSO Party** 1400Z, Mar 17 to 0400Z, Mar 18 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 18  
**Louisiana QSO Party** 1400Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 18  
**UBA Spring Contest, SSB** 0700Z-1100Z, Mar 18  
**CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB** 0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25  
**Russian WW MultiMode Contest** 1200Z, Mar 31 to 1159Z, Apr 1