



MCARA / W5SGL



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The Splatter

MCARA Monthly Newsletter



Barry Wilhelm

As a special feature in this month's Splatter; it saddens me to report that we have a "SILENT KEY". I'm not sure how many remember Barry Wilhelm. I personally do not know him, but I understand he was once President of the MCARA club.

If you look up Barry's call sign, WB5WB, you will find in his words his bio and I quote.

' After retiring from the USAF in 1978 and after some college and after 4 years working at Pharmacies in the local Hospitals and after 13.5 years working civil service at Keesler AFB Pharmacy I retired from work in 1995. I was looking for something to enhance my camping. That is when I read about no code HAM radio. Just what I was looking for. After I took my technician test I really got the bug. Couldn't wait to take the 5 WPM code, then the General, then the Extra. Was proud of myself did it all in 11 months. Took the VE test shortly after that and have participated in 130 test sessions. Now you know the rest of the story! Thanks for taking time to read my bio and 73.' Barry Wilhelm

Below is Barry's Obituary.

Barry "BigDawg" Wilhelm

July 5, 1940 - February 11, 2022

Biloxi, Mississippi - Barry "BigDawg" Wilhelm, age 81, of Biloxi, passed away peacefully in his sleep during the morning of Friday February 11, 2022.

Newsletter Highlights

Silent Key

New "Hams" for February

Club Activities

Board Members

Appointed Positions

Meet And Eat Thursdays

MCARA Events

Member Highlight



Born in 1940 in Charlotte, North Carolina, Barry's family relocated to Mississippi City in the late-1940s and generated the first distribution operation for the New Orleans-based Times Picayune newspaper on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Barry's involvement in the family business instilled a strong work ethic in him and fueled his introduction to his high school sweetheart and wife of 57 years.

In 1958, Barry enlisted in the US Air Force and selflessly dedicated 20 years of service to the United States as a medic and pharmacy technician at locations in Alabama, Texas, Colorado, Mississippi, and most notably, the 8th Tac Fighter Wing at Ubon Royal Thai Air Base providing direct medical support during OPERATION BOLO. Upon his retirement from active duty in 1978 as a Master Sergeant, he furthered his service to our nation as Pharmacy Manager at the Keesler Air Force Base hospital until his departure from the workforce in 1995. Master Sergeant Barry Wilhelm's spirit of service cemented his position as the patriarch of a four-generation US military dynasty.

Through his retirement, Barry took on a new passion for amateur radio with callsign WB5WB. His selfless mentorship led him to become a certified amateur radio volunteer examiner, administering more than 200 examination sessions. As a leader, he was voted Treasurer and later President of the Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association and directly contributed to disaster relief efforts following the coastal devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Barry's departure from this life will leave a big void in the hearts of his older sister, Marilyn; his daughters, Vicki Lynn and Cyndi Ann; his 6 grandchildren; and his 12 great-grandkids. His loving family takes solace in knowing he is free from pain and will be joining his wife Jacqueline Ray and daughter Donna Rhea in paradise.

The graveside service will be at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 18, 2022, at Biloxi National Cemetery.

Riemann Family Funeral Home, Biloxi is proud to serve the Wilhelm family.

An online obituary may be viewed, and memories shared at www.riemannfamily.com

MAY HE REST IN PEACE



New Hams for February

We would like to congratulate the two new Amateur Ham Radio Operators. I'm sorry to say we have no photos because they are not yet members of the MCARA Club, and they have no information on their QRZ accounts. Regardless, we would like to congratulate them.

Congratulations to **James M. Williams, KI5SNQ** of McHenry, Ms., for his upgrade to the General ticket.

Congratulations to **John A. Huye, III, KI5KYX** of Picayune, Ms., for his upgrade to the Extra ticket.

Getting Your Amateur Radio Operator License

The MCARA is dedicated to helping you obtain your license. There are members who willingly conduct face-to-face group instruction covering the Technician Class License, the General Class License and the Amateur Extra Class license. Once you are ready to take your test, our team of ARRL accredited Volunteer Examiners (VE's) are prepared to conduct your testing session. The testing is held the first Saturday of each month at the Bel Aire Baptist Church 15080 Dedeaux Rd, Gulfport, MS 39501



CLUB ACTIVITIES

First Saturday of each month is testing/up grade testing at 10:00 am at the Bel Aire Baptist Church at 15080 Dedeaux Rd. Gulfport, Ms. 39501. Doors open at 9:30 am.

Weekly 2-meter Net Calls on the MCARA W5SGL Repeater 146.730

Every Tuesday night is Amateur Night on the net at 7.00 pm

Every Wednesday night is the Roundtable net at 7:00 pm

The net check ins for February were 144!
Great participation!

Club Meeting

The third Monday of each month is the MCARA Club board meeting/club meeting. All members and Amateur Radio Ham Operators are invited to attend. Board meeting starts at 6:00 pm and the Club meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Bel Aire Baptist Church at 15080 Dedeaux Rd. Gulfport, Ms. 39501

Meet and Eat

Every Thursday night at 5:00 pm MCARA Club members meet to share 'Ham' stories, dine and just visit. This is a non-sanctioned club get together; just a group of club members having fun. Check the MCARA Club Facebook page and you can hear the repeater announcement to see where it is.

BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE

President - Ben McMath W5SOF
Vice-President - Jeff Wimmer W5JGW
Secretary - Edward Maikranz KG5UN
Treasurer - Carl Lawrence AG5ZH
Activity Chairman - Joseph Mitchell WA5FFL

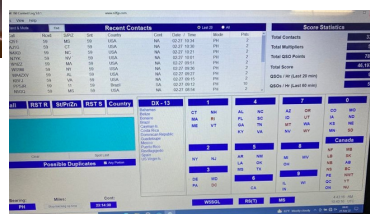
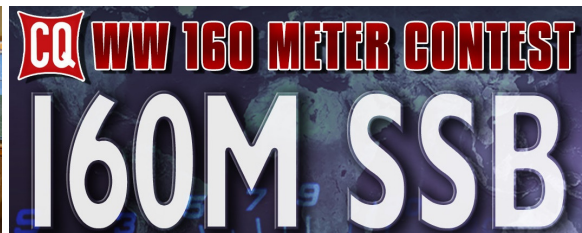
Appointed Positions

Repeater Trustee - Stu Cole N5LBZ
Club Webmaster - Jimmy Simmons K5OP
Facebook Admin - Noel Dastugue N5FTY
Net Manager - Harry Hebert AB5FU
Call Sign Trustee - Norm Gholson WB4YBY
Club Newsletter - Bill Downs W5OCT

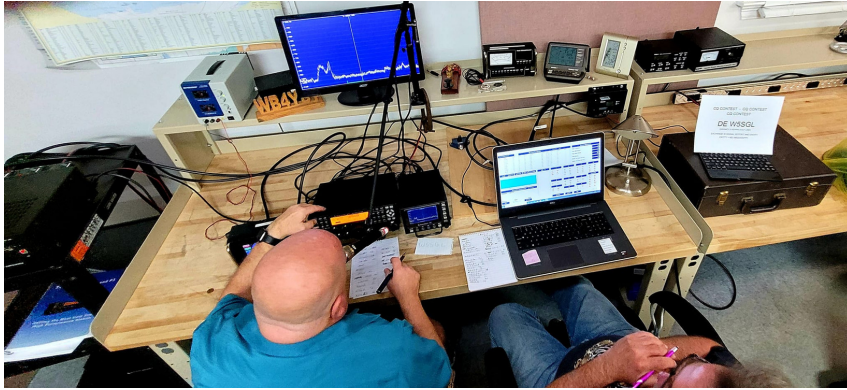
Events Club Members Participated in

Several club members got together at Norman Gholson's to be a part of the 160-meter SSB Contesting. It started Feb. 25th at 4 pm until Feb. 27 at 4:00 pm. I'm here to tell you it was a blast. The combined club Hams that participated made a total of 338 contacts. Seeing the fellowship among the Hams and the intensity of making the next contact was AWESOME.

We would like to especially thank **Norman Gholson, WB4YBY** for allowing the MCARA Club members access to his equipment to make this contesting successful. We would also like to thank our President **Ben McMath, W5SOF**, for his contribution in this contesting. Thanks to all who brought food. **Noel** your chili was yummy.



160 Meter Images



Club Repeater

Yaesu Fusion DR-2X
Freq: 146.730 (-0.600 KHz)
Tone Squelch 136.5 Hz
Mode: FM & C4FM
Location:
30°25'56.1"N 88°57'22.6"W
NET: Tuesday 19:00 CDT
NET: Wednesday 19:00 CDT



UP COMING EVENTS

Mississippi's Walk for Diabetes

March 5 at 9 am at Jones Park Dr., in Gulfport, MS Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, Inc. is raising money for their Foundation. If you would like to volunteer to help with radio checkpoints contact the Activity Chairman, Joseph Mitchell, WA5FFL.

MS QSO -PARTY

April 2 April 3 let's start making our plans and watch for updates

****Volunteer call to action requested****

*The Hattiesburg half marathon will be April 2nd.

*The Farm to Fork will be April 30th.

ARES has been requested to provide communication assistance with the Hattiesburg half marathon and the Farm to Fork ride and run. HE'S REACHING OUT TO ALL SURROUNDING DISTRICTS IN WELCOMING ALL HAM RADIO OPERATORS WHO ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE AND HELP OUT WITH THESE GREAT EVENT'S

For more information contact **Justin Gleason KF7DLW**

District emergency coordinator of district 8 Mississippi strmspotter@gmail.com
601-549-9940 call or text

Extra Class Licensing Course

FREE, Live weekly Extra Class licensing course on Zoom beginning Thursday, January 20th through Thursday March 31st (11 sessions). These classes are sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Those wishing to sign up, please contact Roland.Anders@comcast.net

For Further 'Up Coming Events' Please see the MCARA Website

Member Highlight



Noel Dastugue

Noel was born December 25, 1950. He was born and raised in New Orleans; later living in Slidell for a few years. He was in the Automatic Transmission business until he went to work offshore. He worked there for 34 years until having a heart attack forced him to retire. He played with CB radios for quite a few years then studied for a Ham license which he received in 2011 and loved the hobby and radio friends he met. He enjoys rag chew and contesting and just making contacts. His N3FJP shows 10090 contacts. He has received the DXCC award and is very proud of doing so. Noel is a member of the MCARA Club and is an admin on the Facebook group page. Noel is one of those people that will go out of his way to help a fellow 'Ham'. He likes to help Hams get ahead and will even help them study if need be. Personally, I find it very refreshing to get on the radio and hear his voice, "N5FTY is mobile again." I consider him a personal friend and it is an honor to share the 'radio waves' with a great 'Ham'!



Can't Get on the Repeater?

If you can't get on the repeater for whatever reason, you can get on Broadcastify, W5SGL 146.730 MHz All Mode Repeater (broadcastify.com) and you can hear the MCARA weekly net calls on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

MCARA

History of the Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association

On September 15, 1971 the Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association held its first organizational meeting. This meeting was the product of the hard work of John W5PDG, Vic WA5SUE (now N5YY), Elaine WB5BVP, Tom WA5KYB to name just a few. At this first meeting Jerry Murphy K8YUW/5 made a motion to form an amateur radio club. This motion was seconded by Bill Appleby WN5DCY. This motion was passed unanimously. the steering committee appointed to prepare a proposed constitution was made up of, Jerry Murphy K8YUW/5, Don Plowman WA5FDP, Lee Turner WA5EZO, Clyde Crowder WB5BWN, Mike Larson W5QDN, Lee Kowrack W5RWV, Tom Best WB5AFX and John Grafton WB5AHL. The steering committee's first report was in October OF 1971, and the second report was made in November. At that time Mike Larson W5QDN, made a motion for ratification of the constitution. The motion was seconded by Charles Littlepage WB5GOI and passed unanimously. The first permanent officers were elected at this meeting and were installed at the January 1972 meeting. The first permanent officers were:

- President John Grafton WB5AHL
- Vice President Don Plowman WA5FDP
- Secretary Charles Littlepage WB5GOI
- Treasurer Bill Appleby WN5DCY
- Activities Managers Jerry Murphy K8YUW/5 & Fred Taylor K5QBU
- Past President John Belham W5PDG

The club's first permanent meeting place was the auditorium of the Entex Corporation building in Gulfport, Mississippi. In March 1972 the club hosted a picnic for the Mississippi Sideband Net at the Navy Base in Gulfport, Mississippi with members of the net, their families and guest from throughout the state in attendance.

MCARA HISTORY

The first Field Day held by the club was on June 24-25, 1972, at the old POW Camp in DeSoto National Forest. Chairman for the event was Fred Taylor K5QBU. Four stations were manned by 28 participants who made 1173 contact for a total score of 2696 points.

A swap fest and picnic was held in October at the Big Biloxi Recreation Area then a Christmas party was held to celebrate the club's first year.

On September 21, 1974 brought the licensing of the club 146.730 repeater, WR5AFE with Fred Taylor K5QBU as trustee. The licensing was the work of Bruce WB5EHL, John W5PDG, Tom WB5AXF, Jim WB5LCW, Fred K5QBU, Joe W5VLE and Don WA5FDP to name a few. The station became operational in December.

In 1975 Field day under the chairmanship of Fred Taylor K5QBU the club for the first time was the leader in Mississippi in total points for it's class.

On October 23, 1977 the MCARA held it's first Ham Fest at the International Plaza in Biloxi, MS with Irvin Kelly K5YIN as chairman. The event was a very big success. The Ham Fests were to continue for another 20 years with the last ham fest being held in 1997.

MCARA has been involved in many activities and events throughout its history. The club is known for its emergency communication capabilities which played a crucial role during Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 by providing the only reliable communications to the outside world from the Gulf Coast area.

Other areas of involvement for the club have included training and testing of new and already licensed operators. MCARA also participated in many Special Events and contests throughout the years.



A Brief History of our Repeater

The local repeater was first licensed in 1974 as WR5AFB and was located in Gulfport, MS. Its founders were John Belham WA5PDG, Trustee, and Fred Taylor K5QBU. The justification for a repeater became evident with the growing use of the 2-meter band along the Gulf Coast and the need for extending the range of 2-meter operations in this area.

The repeater's first location was on the cable TV tower in Gulfport. However, conditions forced the location to change in 1986 and the repeater went silent until 1987. At that time club president Joe Butler, then K5JB (later K5OS), arranged for the present site at the cable TV tower in North Biloxi.

When the repeater returned to the air in 1987 it was still K5OS but with a new control operator, Pete Heuser KC5IF. Also, autopatch was introduced that year in memory of Tom Braidwood W5BW, who was unquestionably the dean of amateur radio operators on the Gulf Coast. Tom was first licensed in about 1914.

The repeater call sign remained unchanged until 1991 when it became KC5IF. Pete has had the responsibility for keeping the repeater on the air for the past 16 years and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his hard work and dedication.

in 2004 the repeater's call sign changed to its present call of W5SGL to honor Walter Daniels, a Silent Key, for his dedication to the club.

In 2021 the club voted to replace the old repeater which had a failing controller, with a donated brand new Yaesu System Fusion DR-2X repeater which is currently not connected to Wires-X, or any other form of internet linking. However, the repeater is monitorable by listening to it via broadcastify.com in both FM and C4FM Digital.

This history is made up from "A Brief History of The Mississippi Coast Amateur Radio Association" supplied by Ernie Orman W5OXA and edited by Joe Littlepage WE5Y. Also from available club minutes of the club from 1972 to 2011. Harry Samuelson, KB9ZR, PIO, MCARA