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SELARC

The First Fifteen Years - A Brief History

(PLNS ADDENDUM to 24 years)

A Brief History on the Anniversary of its Organization on June 4, 1974

At 7:30pm on Tuesday, June 4th, of 1974 a group of seven amateur operators and several non-hams met in the Civil Defense Room of the Hammond Post Office Building for the purpose of establishing a local amateur radio club.

Licensed amateur operators present were Ottis Arnold, K5AIY, of Bedico; Hillery Bickford, K5AHD, of Ponchatoula; Richard Cutrer,WA5TQX of Amite; Leey Mapes, K5AHL, Bob Priez, WB5FBS, and Ralph Shaw, K5CAV, of Hammond; and Jimmy Valega, WN5LSH, of Springfield.

Non-amateurs present were Sam Garafola, Hammond CD director, Douglas Jordan, Assistant CD director, Larry Rogers and Wiley Traylor, former WN5EAS (now AA5FA).

This group, chaired by WB5FBS, adopted a resolution forming an amateur radio club, and adopted a proposed constitution. In discussing a name for the organization it was decided that the wide-area representation of the members should be reflected. The second Tuesday of each month was selected as the regular meeting night.

Charter Members Meet July 9, 1974

On Tuesday, July 9th, the first official meeting of the new radio club was convened. The name of the new organization was adopted as the SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (it would not be unitl 3 months later, in October, that SELARC would become the official acronym of the club.) Dues were set at \$1 per month.

The officers elected at that meeting were as follows:

President - Bob Priez, WB5FBS Vice-President- Ralph Shaw, K5CAV Secretary-Treasurer - Alex Langer, K5EEB

The original charter members signing the new constitution that night were Milton Bardwell, W5BAV, Pete Liuzza, WB5ERM, Leey Mapes, K5AHL, Malcolm Myers, W5SPI, Douglas Jordan, Jim Valega, WN5LSH, Ottis Arnold, K5AIY, Ralph Shaw, K5CAV, Hillery Bickford, K5AHD, Larry Rogers, Robert Priez, WB5FBS, Wiley Traylor, Emmet Herring Jr, WA5PFS, Rick Webb, WA5PCE, Louis Pechon, and Joseph A. Locascio, K5CIT/KH6IGJ.

That list includes 3 silent keys (Mit, Hillery, and Louis); 7 current SELARC members (Mapes, Myers, Valega, Shaw, Rogers, Priez, and Herring); and 4 who have maintained continuous membership in SELARC for the past 15 years (Mapes, Myers, Priez and Shaw.)

Highlights of the First Year ('74-75)

Even in its first year, SELARC was very active in promoting amateur radio and club activities. Some of its events included:

amateur radio license class for new licenses and for member upgrades were conducted by K5CAV (Ralph organized annual license classes for the next ten years)

a SELARC on-air net was established on 75 meters on 3.910 meeting weekly on Thursday nights

a mini-hamfest was held that first year in November at Champ

Cooper school

SELARC applied for a club station license; an escrow fund was established for that new-fangled thing on VHF--a 2 meter repeater

in January SELARC participated in the annual Simulated Emergency Test, and in June in the first of its 15 annual Field Day exercises

Jim, WN5LSH, was elected secretary-treasurer to fill out the term of Alex, K5EEB; in turn, Wiley, WN5MXE, was later elected to fill out the term of Jim, WN5LSH; 2 new members joined during that first year: John Ward, K5MUI, Loranger, and Allen Pierson, W5EGG, Ponchatoula.

Operating under its new club call, WB5NET (trustee is WB5FBS), was activated at Civil Defense EOC in Sept '75 during a hurricane threat to the LA coast; WB5FBS in Hammond, K5EEB in Ponchatoula, and WA5TQX in Amite tied the parish CD centers together and to the state emergency net.

In October of 1975, new officers were elected: President Ralph Shaw, K5CAV, Vice-President Rick Webb, WA5PCE, and Secretary-treasurer Wiley Traylor, WB5MXE.

It was at this time also that the meeting time was moved from the second Tuesday of each month to the third Thursday of the month. Meetings continued to be held in the Civil Defense Operations Center in the basement of the Hammond Post Office Building.

#### SECOND YEAR ('75-76)

In its second year, SELARC had 17 members on the roster. Meetings were moved to an upstairs room (206) of the Science Bldg on the SLU campus.

A raffle was held to raise more funds for the VHF escrow fund; and the first of our almost-annual crawfish/shrimp boils was held at the QTH of K5MUI in Loranger.

Earthquake in Guatamala provided the club a chance for media coverage when several members handled Health & Welfare traffic on HF bands.

A campus ham club, SLUARC, was organized by K5CAV, complete with a club room & station equipment. SLUARC worked with SELARC on many events in coming years (club call, WD5FIG, with K5CAV as trustee).

Allen Jr., WN5UBY, made the Pierson's our first 2-ham family.

Chris Fischer, WA5RRN, built and installed the first 2-meter repeater on the northshore for SELARC. WR5AQB (FCC repeater calls), with WA5PCE as trustee, filled the RF void between NO and BR; the machine stayed on the air for the next 11 years (til January '88). In appreciation of his work, Chris was granted a life-time honorary SELARC membership.

#### THIRD YEAR (76-77)

SELARC grew to 29 members in this year, representing Hammond, Bedico, Ponchatoula, Robert, Loranger, Springfield, Amite, Independence, Roseland, Folsom, Covington, and Magnolia & Osyka, MS.

The club newsletter, which was sent out monthly since October of the first year, was officially named the "SELARC Hamster". (From 1974 til June '88, WB5FBS, would edit over 100 issues; since July '88, AA5FJ has served as editor of the Hamster)

New officers: President - Wiley, WB5MXE (now AA5FA); Vice-President -

Richard Cutrer, WA5TQX; Sec-Treas - Bob, WB5FBS

Club meetings were moved to downstairs (103) of Meade Hall (Science Bldg) in January '77, where SELARC continues to meet.

2-meter net met on Sunday evenings; the first almost-annual Christmas social was held at Sammy's Restaurant in Hammond; members pledged \$5 each as SELARC's share to support the coming 1979 National ARRL convention to be held in BR.

June Field Day activity produced the SELARC record high of 798 points.

Dues structure was expanded to allow additional family membership for \$5 per new family ham; Sept '77 saw Hurricane Babe hit the SE La area with considerable tornado & flood damage in Tangiapahoa parish.K5EEB, WB5FBS & WB5LSH provided emergency CD traffic during the threat. For several days after, SELARC members assisted Disaster Survey Teams with VHF communication.

# FOURTH YEAR ('77-78)

New officers were: Mel, WD5FQG, Pres; John, K5MUI, VP; Mit, W5BAV, sec - treasurer

Still growing, SELARC numbered 32 members; we also listed our first Silent Keys- Hillery, K5AHD; John, K5MUI; and Clyde, W5VII/W5FBO

Mit, W5BAV, was elected VP to fill John's term; Ted, WB5VRO, was elected Sec-Treas to fill Mit's term;

Highlight program of the year was guest speaker Paul Rabito, W5HR - La's oldest active ham- who talked about early spark radio and his visit with radio-pioneer Marconi

This was also the 'Year of the Turkey' -- area repeaters were victims of malicious interference by 2 NO hams and their imitators; the two were caught (largely thru efforts of the NO VHF club) and convicted in Federal Court to prison terms, fines, and loss of commercial and amateur licenses.

#### FIFTH YEAR ('78-79)

Still growing, SELARC reached a membership of 38, and held our firstever family picnic at Hidden Oaks campground; other events included the crawfish/shrimp boil and the Christmas social at Kluchins in Independence.

New Officers were Mit, W5BAV, Pres; Doc, W5TJY, VP; and Ted, WB5VRO, sec-treasurer

The third annual shotgun raffle (which were held to fund the club treasury and repeater repairs) was a success; computers & ham radio were popular topics at meetings; and officers terms were extended to two years.

Heavy flooding in Mississippi caused cancellation of the Jackson Hamfest in April; Vince, WD5CZJ, wins first prize at the BR hamfest-a complete HF station & all-mode VHF transceiver.

#### SIXTH YEAR ('79-80)

New officers elected to serve 2-yr terms: Pres-Jim, WD5GJK, VP-W5TJY, Sec-Treas-Howard, KA5CBT; membership at 37; social events included a fish fry at Hidden Oaks and the Christmas social at Bear Creek

Ponchatoula dedicated its new Community Center, which featured a

fully equipped HF & VHF CD Emergency Communications Center--K5EEB, CD Director, and Barry, N5AKG, Communications Officer, were proud to demonstrate the ham capability; W5EGG demonstrated the ease of handitalki VHF autopatching.

Bob, W9INF, served as chairman of the first of SELARC's annual January Hamfests, held at the community center in Ponchatoula.

## SEVENTH YEAR ('80-81)

Constitution changes were adopted which split duties of secretary and treasurer; K5CAV (who was elected to fill term of KA5CBT) was elected treasurer and Leo, WB5WFS, was elected secretary.

2-meter repeater (now WB5NET, since FCC recalled repeater call signs) was moved from WTGI site to the new tower at Tickfaw, with a new antenna and at greater height, much improving the coverage area; unfortunately, lightning hits took it out of service several times (giving WD5CZJ lots of extra work to do!) until new grounding and surge protection systems were installed.

Hamfest was held at the Armory in Franklinton in cooperation with the Washington Parish Club; K5EEB & N5AKG provided radio assistance to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival.

Doc, W5TJY, in role as VP, proposed a new dues structure to replace the \$1 per month; this would better cover increasing costs and activities of SELARC. The proposal was approved.

## EIGHTH YEAR ('81-82)

Membership reached a new high of 42; new officers were Pres-Joe, WB5UTY (now WE5F); VP-Larry, WD5HLE; Sec-Mel, WD5FQG; Treas-Ralph, K5CAV

Silent keys were Francis, WA50KF, John Meyers, K5SMS, and Doc, W5TJY

FD (this year and for the next few years) held at Camp Hurricane Bait on the mouth of the Tangi River and Lake Ponchartrain, thanks to KC5KJ

This was one of the few years with no Christmas social; Pres Joe Dick resigned shortly before the January Hamfest; Larry, WD5HLE, assumed office and conducted a successful SELARC Hamfests held in the 12 Oaks Cafeteria at SLU.

## NINTH YEAR ('82-83)

Elections were held to fill the vacant VP spot, with HP,KC5KJ, winning the job; later, WB5FBS was elected to fill the term of secretary WD5FQG.

Membership stands at 31; and annual Hamfest held for second time at 12 Oaks at SLU.

WD5GJK AND N5BFC work on proposed emergency operations procedures for coordination with Tangi Sheriff's Office and Hammond PD; K5AZU gets media publicity for his 30' EME antenna farm

### TENTH YEAR ('83-84)

Regular elections held with KC5KJ as Pres; LU1LAZ/W5 as VP, WB5FBS as Sec; and K5CAV as Treasurer; roster shows 27 members

SELARC donated funds to the LCARC for operating station at the NO World's Fair (K5WF); Hamfest at Old Men's Gym (its present site for past 10 years); and another successful FD on the Tangi River

N5EBM, Tom, was selected to lecture and travel in Portugal; Dues changes included adding \$10 repeater fee, but eliminating the \$5 initiation fee for new members and adopting a \$5 senior citizen rate

This was a record year--not ONE tropical storm in our Gulf area; BUT a garbage truck knocks down the tower in Tickfaw, destroying all antennas and several transmitters in the tower shack. WB5MXE secured permission to relocate the WB5NET repeater at its old WTGI site and the change was made in a few hours--even before some repeater users knew of the accident.

# ELEVENTH YEAR ('84-85)

Membership list totals 35; W5BAV elected vice-president to replace Hum who returned to LU1-land; after some unfortunate experiences with unauthorized repeater link efforts from groups in NO and BR, SELARC voted to not enter into linking agreements with other clubs.

Christmas social at Don's; another successful Hamfest at Men's Gym

W5BAV, KC5KJ and Howard, KA5TRT form an ARRL Volunteer Exam team and offer license exams for the first time at the hamfest

W5EGG is still providing legal assistance to resolve problems from the tower incident at Tickfaw; HP Forbes, KC5KJ, is named Hammond's CITIZEN OF THE YEAR; he was also SELARC'S chef-emeritus for the fine cooking at the FD at Camp Hurricane Bait.

SELARC family cook-out had to be postponed twice due to severe weather and Hurricane Elena.

#### TWELFTH YEAR ('85-86)

With membership on the rise again, the club totals 38 members; new officers are Ray, K5AZU, Pres; David, KA5UAI, VP; WB5FBS, sec; and K5CAV, treasurer

Silent key - Jessie Yaun, KD5UW

After 11 years of organizing SELARC license classes, K5CAV turns over the task to K5AZU; Christmas social at Murphy's and Hamfest at SLU are both very successful

This is the year the SAINTS came to Hammond for summer training and SELARC participated for first time im assisting communication for the LA SPECIAL OLYMPIC STATE GAMES at SLU; W5EGG reports final settlement of the 1984 tower incident with SELARC getting a new antenna (this is the antenna which was installed this past summer.)

Joe, WO5R, Don, W1IDK, and Robert, KB5AAK, begin work on the SELARC digipeater; K5AZU and WD5HLE begin building a new VHF machine for repeating of 145.130

#### THIRTEENTH YEAR ('86-87)

Although tridecaphobes held their breath, this was one of the best years for SELARC. Membership reached the record high of 51, and the Christmas social, crawfish boil, Hamfest and FD were all successful events

Bryant, N5GWF, puts up UHF repeater on 444.250; antenna for 145.130 is installed at 7th Ward Hospital midway between Hammond and Ponchatoula on a new tower at 300 feet

SELARC participates in SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES; WD5FQG named Professor Emeritus of Art upon his retirement after 34 years at SLU; we get a new club logo which Mel designs for us.

# FOURTEENTH YEAR ('87-88)

New officers elected were: WO5R, Pres; Joe, N5HDW, VP; KA5UAI, Treas; and Phil, KB5DKT (now AA5FJ), sec; 47 members are on the roster

Christmas social at Don's; Hamfest at SLU Recreation Center; Crawfish Boil; Special Olympics; SLU FUN RUN; Hammond Air Show; and FD are all successful events (FD score of over 1000 points beats previous high)

A new 147.000 machine finally retires "Ole Faithful" at the Tickfaw site; later the new antenna is also installed and coverage is notably improved

Ad, W5NON, institutes W5YI exam sessions & has several successful graduates on the air; AA5FJ assumes editorship of the SELARC Hamster

## FIFTEENTH YEAR ('88-89)

On-air nets include the 75M (3.8725) and 10M (28.425) groups; the 145.130 VHF machine is installed at 7th Ward site

SELARC assists SLU PEMM club in local run; Christmas social, Hamfest are successful; KC5KJ running license classes

Silent key - W5BAV SENANC Provides communications for MS "Town for Cure" MJ Mile 6, ke ride Silent key - W5BAV SENANC (2-day) from Hammond to Penu, Pain Park, MS + back.

Our own KG5FI (Jack) is gaining national recognition in archery competitions, but son Jeff is coming home with all the trophies!

LIKE SON, LIKE FATHER!!

END OF FIFTEEN YEAR HISTORY

#### Miscellaneous items of interest:

over 20 license classes
highest membership was 51 in 1986-87
8 silent keys-K5AHD, K5MUI, W5VII, WA5OKF, K5SMS, W5TJY, KD5UW, W5BAV
over 1 dozen crawfish/shrimp boils
annual Hamfest since 1980
124 issues of newsletter have been published
11 men have served as President since beginning in 1974 --WB5FBS, K5CAV, WB5MXE (now AA5FA), WD5FQG, W5BAV, WD5GJK,
WB5UTY (now WE5F), WD5HLE, KC5KJ, K5AZU, W05R

(This brief history program presented to SELARC on June 15, 1989 by R. Priez, WB5FBS)

SELARC

# FIFTEENTH YEAR ('88-89)

On-air nets include the 75M (3.8725) and 10M (28.425) groups; the 145.130 repeater is installed at 7th Ward Hospital tower site.

SELARC assists the SLU PEMM club in local run; Christmas social, Hamfest, FD '89 at Hammond Airport and license classes taught by Hank KC5KJ are all successful. Jack Milchanowski KG5FI is gaining recognition in national archery competitions (but son Jeff is bringing home all the trophies!). SELARC provides communications for MS "Tour for Cure" 2-day 150 mile bike ride for the first time with over 700 cyclists riding from Hammond to Percy Quin park and back.

## SIXTEENTH YEAR ('89-90)

New Officers: Don W1IDK, Pres.; Bob WB5FBS, V-Pres.; Ernie N5NIB, Treas.; Bob Mixon KG5SW, Sec. and "Hamster" editor.

Successes include Hamfest, FD '90 at QTH of N5NIB, Hammond Balloon Fest, Christmas social at Lil Johnny's and Spring Crawfish Boil at QTH of N5OQT. Club roster totals 36 members. In addition to MS Fall "Tour", SELARC begins providing communications for the MS "Spring Breakaway" bike tour in the Abita Springs-Northshore area. Dave, KB5MFI (now N5QOX) takes over as secretary and Alex K5EEB as editor due to death of Bob Mixon.

Silent Keys: Jim Pounds, WD5GJK Bob Mixon, KG5SW

## SEVENTEENTH YEAR ('90-91)

Club roster grows to 54 members; equipment advances include adding a 2nd digipeater on 09 (to supplement the 145.01 digi), and upgrading to a digital controller w/voice mail and speed dial on the 147.00 repeater.

Harold Bennett N50UN is honored as the grand marshall for the
Kentwood Christmas parade. Christmas social at "Blue Room" in
Ponchatoula, Hamfest chaired by N5NIB, Spring Crawfish Boil/Fish Fry
and FD are all big success.

SELARC receives awards from LCARC and ARRL Section Manager Wondergem
for its support of amateur radio public service and repeater
operations. The SELARC "Hamster" is selected BEST NEWSLETTER in the

state.

# EIGHTEENTH YEAR ('91-92)

Still expanding, our membership climbs to 58. New officers are: Lou N50QT, Pres.; Erma KI5LH, V-Pres; Harold N50UN, Sec; Tyrone N5XES, Treas; and Mickey N50UH, editor.

January Hamfest in the University Center is one of the most popular and successful ever; Mel AA50B designs SELARC QSL card for club; FD in Husser has great food/poor propagation! Phil AA5FJ scores over 200,000 points in ARRL 10M phone contest. Alex K5EEB organizes local ARES team to coordinate with state organization and civil defense.

The Feb. '92 tornado in Natalbany provides the new EC with a real test. The ARES weekly net on 147.00 repeater and Tangi 10M Roundtable Net are begun. New antennas for 444.250 and 145.130 repeaters installed at 7th Ward Hospital site; Norm Landry W5VUH receives lifemembership in recognition of his lifelong services to amateur and SELARC.

Hurricane Andrew gave Tangi ARES & SELARC a chance to show their stuff. Alex K5EEB and Ernie N5NIB organized the local response and received praise from local authorities for amateur radio participation.

# NINETEENTH YEAR ('92-93)

New Officers: Ray K5AZU, Pres; Barry N5RXK, V-Pres; Dave N5QOX, Sec; Tyrone N5XES, treasurer.

Successful Fall & Spring MS bike tours, Christmas social, summer cookout at N5NIB QTH, and simulated emergency test (SET) were held. No FD participation, but N5XES represented us in the 10-X summer QSO party. SELARC offered packet radio and VHF repeater classes, and in spite of the number, 13th annual Hamfest chaired by N5QOX and N5NIB was a big success. Ten year old Scot Serou KB5YNA becomes youngest SELARC and ARRL Delta Division member.

SELARC donates 20 books amateur radio to SLU Sims Library and Hammond Miller Memorial Library. The digipeater TNC's are replaced with new KAMs. After many years (since 1976) of free tower space, the sale of Tickfaw tower requires monthly fee.

Silent Keys: Lucille Pounds, KB5ASJ Leey Mapes, K5AHL Dick Roper, WM5L

#### TWENTIETH YEAR ('93-94)

Officers elected are: Ernie N5NIB, Pres; John KB5WWT, V-Pres; Tyrone N5XES, Treas; Inez N5TPG, Sec; Jack N5XVJ, editor. 46 members.

N5NIB reactivates FD activity, first foxhunt, and successful Hamfest chaired by WB5FBS (provided best weather event), Christmas socialy Spring Crawfish BoilyFish Fry at N50QTpiand MScbike tours Fail WS tour raises over quarter million dollars for Tours and wellow

AA50B organizes CW classes; communications for Tour de la Louisiane.

Ron KB5QVI is appointed Public Information Officer for ARRL; KSLU installs amateur radio phone and packet station. WAFB-TV (Ch. 9, BR) donates a 6M repeater which SELARC makes available to Ponchatoula CD. The Tangi ARES installs digipeater on 03, moves to 07 (N5NIB-7). After many years, dues are increased to cover club operating costs.

# TWENTY-FIRST YEAR ('94-95)

New officers: John KB5WWT, Pres; David Pechon KC5DAJ, V-Pres; N5NIB, Treas; N5QOX, Sec. Membership peaks at 69 on roster.

More than 70 people attend the Christmas party at Catfish Charlie's; license classes by N5QOX and meetings at Ponchatoula Community Center and SLU Meade Hall (original site of SELARC organization in 1974). Communication projects include MS Fall & Spring Bike Tours, Tour de la Louisiane, largest ever simulated hurricane drill held in parish. Special election due to resignations of officers: Pres-WB5FBS; VP/Sec-N5QOX; Treas-N5XVJ.

# TWENTY-SECOND YEAR ('95-96)

Thanks to legal expertise of Allen Pierson, W5EGG, SELARC reorganized as non-profit corporation: Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club, Inc. The Board of Directors consist of newly elected officers: WB5FBS-Pres; N5QOX-VP; Nikole KB5YZJ-Sec; N5XVJ-Treas. 57 members are on club roster.

The Spring social on the river at QTH of Bill & Peg Borstel, Hamfest, MS tours, Christmas party, packet classes by KB5SKW, and meetings in Hammond, Ponchatoula, Kentwood and Amite are all successful events. FCC fines and suspends license of Metairie ham KB5UJD (Irvin Foret) for willful & malicious interference on local repeaters. Phil AA5FJ scores in Top Ten in ARRL 10M contest. New backup batteries donated by Ned KC5IHR are installed at repeater and digipeater sites. Paul KC5PAL, Ken AC5BQ (now N5LD) and Harold N5OUN install emergency equipment at Kentwood Emergency Red Cross Shelter at the high school. New Kenwood repeater is purchased to replace old 145.130 repeater.

## TWENTY-THIRD YEAR ('96-97)

Officers & Board of Directors: N5XVJ-Pres; N5QOX-VP; KC5PAL-Sec; KC5IHR, Treas; KC5PAL is editor of "Hamster".

Flooding caused by Hurricane Josephine in October activates Tangi ARES; Hurricane Danny in June also brings emergency communications activation. Alex K5EEB recognized for ham radio efforts. Ernie N5NIB is honored as 1996 recipient of Boy Scout District Award of Merit. 17th Annual Hammond Hamfest chaired by N5XVJ is another success. Some SELARC members participate in FD with Ozone Club of Slidell. New digital ID board for 145.130 machine is installed and WB5FBS makes contact with Astronaut John Blaha KC5TZQ on Russian space station MIR. MS Fall & Spring tours and Christmas social at Coach N' Four are successes.

Board of Directors and officers re-elected; ARES/SKYWARN net under Erma KI5LH handles first communications for severe weather in north Tangipahoa Parish and tornado damage in Covington. Several days are committed to clean up in Covington; later flooding in Slidell requires Tangi ARES assistance again. The Fall MS Tour raises over a half million dollars for MS victims; the summer BBQ, Christmas party and Hamfest are successful. Club roster lists 56 members.

Prepared & presented to SELARC meeting on June 11, 1998 by WB5FBS. Since 1974 only two continuous members in SELARC -- K5CAV, WB5FBS.

Jun 13/1/1/1 for MS

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WOLFERS, WIERTY WESTER

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NSTORT, NINIA, KRITWIT, NIXVI

19 Ham fosts Hosted