



ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 51174
LAFAYETTE, LA 70503-1174
a 501(c)(3) Corporation



The Honorable Charles E. Robichaux
Mayor of Rayne, Louisiana
801 The Boulevard
Rayne, LA 70578

Dear Mayor Robichaux;

On behalf of the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association (AARA), we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the City of Rayne for cosponsoring the 60th Annual Acadiana Hamfest which will take place March 13-14th at the Rayne Civic Center in beautiful Rayne, Louisiana. This convention of amateur radio enthusiasts (known colloquially as "hams") also serves as the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Louisiana State Convention. It is known throughout the southern United States as one of the largest amateur radio conventions on the Gulf Coast. The Acadiana Hamfest attracts attendees from all states and abroad, and of all ages and walks of life, who share a common interest in all things amateur radio. Not only does this event serve as a promotion of the hobby, it also spotlights our Cajun culture, hospitality, and camaraderie.

Acadiana Hamfest 2020 hosts educational forums for all ages including DX-ing (long distance communication across the globe), and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services - trained operator volunteers who are organized to assist in public service and emergency communication), and antenna propagation theory (how to build and modify transmitting antennas for maximum efficiency and output). We also provide FCC license testing for new hams and those wishing to upgrade their radio privileges, as well as a swap shop for hams to buy, sell, and trade items of vintage quality.

This year's keynote speaker is Mr. Joe Bassett (W1WCN) who will speak on his experiences while being deployed in Puerto Rico during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Joe uses his personal experience, insight, and incisive wit to talk about the mission, the gear, and personnel issues faced by the "Force of Fifty". He will also speak on mistakes made, successes seized, lessons learned, and the future of amateur radio's role in disaster response.

Once again, we appreciate your support as we promote not only our wonderful hobby, but the City of Rayne, Acadia Parish, the Acadiana region, and the State of Louisiana. We invite you to stop in and see all we have to offer but be careful... you may get bitten by the ham radio "bug" and become interested in becoming an amateur radio enthusiast yourself!

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.w5ddl.org>. Further information about amateur radio can be found on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org>) and the Federal Communications Commission's website (<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/amateur-radio-service>).

Sincerely,

Brandon J. Stelly KG5LQM, AARA Hamfest Chairman
Acadiana Amateur Radio Association