

BRARA Board Meeting

Date: Saturday 20-NOV 2019 Location: PBC Library Glades Branch Start Time: 6.30pm

Attendance: Bruce KO4XL, Jerry K4BFL, Jeff W4AEQ, Jay N2ELG, Anthony KM4MFX, John.C N1QFH,

The following items were discussed and actions assigned:

REPEATER UPDATE

Jerry partnered with FAU to point the FAU microwave to the microwave at the Social Security building to establish internet connectivity. Jerry showed the board the bandwidth was about 39 mbps. The last task is to connect the USB from the switch and pi-star CPU to the DMR repeater which concludes providing IP access to the repeater. Once this is done, Jerry can VPN remote to DMR repeater and complete configuration. Need to fine tune the two dishes pointing to each other. Plans in works to finish making various connections. Jerry said all connection cables are all present at the site, just needs to be connected. This is a printer A-B cable.

Bruce updated us on 2m repeater. Lew, Art and Erik were at repeater to analyze and resolve the issues. Discovered intermod issue by interacting with cell equipment on the roof and receiver de-sense issues. They took bow-tie antenna and ran it to duplexers to use as band pass filter on receive side and fed the input to the repeater. The transmit side was routed to the old 2m antenna which was placed about 30 feet from the bow-tie antenna. Jerry did mention the 3 can duplexers are known to have issues with intermod and we should be using 4 can duplexers. We may not need amp given the repeater is using 15 watts out and reception is reaching west Boca. Board member will try testing use of repeater on the way to their QTH to discover how the repeater is performing. Per Jeff, we can purchase a 686 right angle USB connector via Amazon. The rack located at shed needs to be relocated to the repeater site since it has more capacity to hold equipment and is recessed to prevent damage to front connected cables. Via conference call Art suggested via Erik putting a repeater amp in line to resolve poor coverage and reception shadows. Erik said its common to need two antennas to resolve this type of intermod (cell signals mixing with amateur band transmissions); he said GCARA is also using 2 antennas for this reason. Bruce said there is massive digital noise (per Jeff breaking squelch) around specific parts Glades Rd on his way to this meeting.

FMI: [CLICK FOR REPEATER AMPS](#)

ACTION: Bruce, Jeff and John to connect with Lew (text only) to access repeater site Mon 25-Nov at 10am

ACTION: Jerry will assist remotely when making these connections.

ACTION: Jay, Jerry, Jeff, and Bruce will test 2m repeater on way to QTH.

DMR TRAINING

From GCARA group, Roger and Al AF4FA have offered to do firmware updates and code-plug maintenance at shack for AnyTone and Tytera to occur sometime after the first of 2020.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Bruce updated us on equipment for sale status. Bruce asked that all other featured items be placed on website for members-only access when they log on to run through end of January 2020. If there is no activity after this date, then place these items on EBay.

MOTION: Jeff moved with 2nd by Jerry to keep these member-only inventory items available on the website and via other means through end of January 2020 after which it will be placed on EBay to sell sale, discussed and motion passed.

TRAINING AND TESTING

The Tech license class will be held at LDS on two Saturdays the 18th and 25th July 2020 9am to 5pm. Discussed holding general license class in February after Orlando and extra in March or April. The general class can be done in 3 days. The extra will need 2 full weekends. Jerry advised us there was 1 successful licensee upgrade from tech to general via Laurel Testing. Jeff and Bruce asked various dates be identified and made available via email.

ACTION: Bruce will define the general and extra license class dates for 2020.

ACTION: Per Bruce at board meetings as needed, identify VE's for Laurel Testing.

ACTION: John will add VE Laurel Testing dates in events calendar and on Google Calendar.

ACTION: Jerry will update Laurel Testing dates on Laurel website.

NOTE: Laurel Testing at Patch Reef Park is always the 2nd Thursday in February, May, August and November

NOTE: PBC Library reservations are no earlier than 60 days and will be web enabled soon.

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HF ROOM STATUS

Bruce updated us on IC-7600 at station 3 and Yaesu amp now being manually controlled to manage which band to use. Discussed how best to train operators at the various stations. We discussed how to implement the cross point switch and necessary operator training. Jeff asked we provide contact points when an operator needs an expert to help with HF radio and station operation. Reviewed and our thanks for new switches installed by Ralph W1DAR. Jeff commented on how well it works having the switches label with tags, makes it easier to see and makes training a lot easier. Bruce purchased extra transceiver finals and amplifier electrolytic capacitors for future use. Bruce updated us on the Ameritron amplifier and repair plans. Jerry will connect a lock on amplifier. Jeff asked about the radios on the UHF/VHF room. We discussed the topography of cable running at the shack. Jerry said he installed an antenna for FAU on the microwave self-standing antenna support.

ACTION ITEM: Bruce will connect with Ed on cross point switch acquisition given prior board motion

THE SHACK

Jerry updated us on security cameras at shack and how to implement and RF testing. These would need to be wired and not Wi-Fi to avoid RF intrusion into the HF station. Jerry shared the picture capacity requirement. We suggested using cloud drive to house these pictures. Discussed purge of photos and need for access as needed. Jeff said he has storage available as needed in DropBox. Discussed crime in this area of Florida and need for coverage at the park. Jay donated a game motion camera for the shack. Jay suggested implementing a flash capability when motion is sensed at the perimeter of the shack footprint. Discussed use of signage placed around our footprint such as:



ACTION ITEM: Jerry will investigate camera capacity requirement to house pictures

HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER PARTY

John provided updates on planning progress, logistics, and food items and signups. Need to ask folks to request main dishes. Ask for money donation. Adult beverage is permitted. Handicap parking need more review and will provide parking guidance. December meeting is cancelled given Holiday Party.

ACTION ITEM: Bruce will follow-up with other trainers to pin down dates

MOTION: Moved by Jerry, 2nd by John to cancel December General meeting on 3-Dec given we're having the Holiday Potluck Dinner on 12-Dec, discussed and motion passed.

SHACK POWER

Need to look at replacing and repairing several power outlets along shack building and possibly re-run conduit to weatherize the outlets.

ACTION ITEM: All of us look at outside power outlets and access for repair

TOWER MAINTENANCE

Bruce and Jerry updated us on risks and tasks needed to ensure the cable is in good working condition. Cable is over 6 years old. Jerry advised us corrosion of cable is the main issue to ensure cable integrity. Need to not exceed the load on the cable to ensure we stay within tolerance of the cable. Bruce said we never should ever lower the tower abruptly and we do not know the cable condition. Jerry also said we need to cover the motor.

ACTION ITEM: Bruce will connect with tower maintenance expert.

FYI: [CLICK FOR YOUNGS MODULUS PER JAY](#)

FYI: Bruce is unavailable from 3-Dec to 18-Dec

Next Board meeting: 12.00pm 30-NOV 2019 at The Shack

Adjourn: motion moved and approved at 7.56pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Cole N1QFH

Secretary