

Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of General Meeting 1-May-2018

Director Attendance

Bruce KO4XL, Patrick KE4OBV, Jerry W4BFL, George WA2VNV, Jeff K4BH, Jerry W4BFL, John N1QFH

MINUTES for 1-May-2018

The BRARA monthly association meeting was held at the West Boca Library. The meeting was called to order by President Bruce KO4XL at 7:06PM. There were 28 members and 2 guests present. Bruce introduced the directors and members introduce themselves. New members shared likes and objectives.

Secretary's Report

Minutes: Through the president, asked for motion to approve and waive the reading of the minutes. Moved by Jeff.R W4AEQ and 2nd by Jeff.S K4BH. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

Membership: As of 1-May-2019, we had 115 paid members, 3 associate, 2 life-time, 109 regular. The license classes include 7 advanced, 58 extra, 26 general, and 20 technicians and 86 belong to ARRL. We had 1 new member join our organization, 97 MTD member logons were observed for an average of 3.9 MTD sessions per logon, 5 new web site capabilities, 317 subscribers of which 134 are members.

Communication: Asked attendees to please subscribe to the newsletter.

Website: Added stand-alone sections on BRARA.ORG home page for Breakfast, scrolling News and Updates, Station Status, Codeplugs downloads and Contest Calendar.

Equipment Sales: Select Equipment will be showcased for member-only sales.

Net Control Operators: Contact Jeff.R W4AEQ / John.C for details. NCS are needed and training provided.

Membership cards: See John.C for your cards and will continue to be available at monthly meetings.

FD2018: Announced and reviewed high level plans and dates of 23 and 24 June 2018.

President's Report

Training Committee: Next technician class scheduled for May 5 and 6 at the club shack and announced for those interested to email training@brara.org. Second technician class offsite for specific group to be held in July. Extra class may be offered in the fall of 2018. VE session coming up 10-May.

Safety Committee: no report. In process of getting fire extinguishers recertified.

Welcoming Committee: no report

House Committee: no report. Need someone to volunteer to chair this committee.

Feasibility Study: Presented how best to derive benefits from donated items and how to fund such a project. Bruce asked members for general approval to pursue this study. Brief feedback and discussion occurred. Majority approved with two objections. Further details and outreach to members will be forthcoming as a long range facility plan.

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Station Logging: When make contact, please log entry via QRZ. See Walt W4WCD if you are not defined to QRZ for the club call. When folks operate please sign the paper log so we know who is operating. This will help confirm what QSO cards are expected. Operating under you own call and club call is ok to do.

Use of Linear: Please be careful when using. In most cases, this device is not necessary and does put our stations at risk of damage. Please try running barefoot power and avoid the linear. Have found linear on different bands than antenna and radio were set for operation which potentially puts equipment at risk of damage.

Vice President's Report

Radiator Grill: Had about 50 people show up. Thanks to John.H KE4IDW for all his cooking. Look for Fall Radiator Grill.

Security: Will be installing new padlock for front and rear gates. Key exchange was explained. This will overlap about one month until 1-July and both locks will be on the gate until that time. Member's old key will be returned and exchanged where a new key with unique ID is given to that member. Members will have to be at shack on Wednesday or Saturday to complete this process. Will do short training program at shack on procedures such as locking doors, gates, etc. and equipment operating procedures.

DMR: New MD3xx codeplug in 4th revision 4.4 available on website. W2GGI has added a number of talk groups such as AllStar, IRLP-950, and DMR+ link. Converted and posted the MD3xx codeplug for use by MD2017 and AnyTone radios and these are on the website.

AED: Gave update. Application was submitted, have not heard back from AED Grant organization. We may pursue Red Cross trainers for CPR / AED training session and certification.

NETS: Reminder of Sunday DMR net at 8pm, Monday Voice net at 7pm followed by So county NBEMS net at 8pm and Tuesday CERT net at 7.30pm. On NBEMS net we transmit various digital messages using various modes.

Treasurer's report

At month end we had a balance of \$4,326. Expenses totaled \$428 for equipment shipping for repair (\$59), shack electric (\$125), Radiator Grill food drinks etc., and Webber grill repair (\$244). No pending expenses. Collected \$72 and made deposits totaling \$72. Had no deposits pending and not posted.

Director at Large: Gerry.Z W4BFL

Shack access: no report

Technical Committee: no report

Social Media: no report

Repeater Trustee: no report

Testing: May 10th 2018 at James A Rutherford Community Center, Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton.

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Director at Large: Jeff.S K4BH

Emergency communication: hurricane starts in another month. Check radios, go-kits, ensure your batteries are good, and buy water now to avoid the rush. Test generators and change oil.

Repeater Trustee: Lew K4LEW

Status: Through Jeff.R W4AEQ, repeaters working fine.

Director at Large: George.S WA2VNV

VHF / UHF Tower: George fixed fan dipole line with 10-year UV rope and placed it back to original location. Also replaced work rope with 10-year UV rope and swapped out 220 pre-amp with 432 pre-amp.

HF Tower: completed BRARA Board training on raising and lowering tower when needed such as wind exceeding 35 MPH and to not wait to lower because tower may not lower if wind load is too great.

VHF / UHF Station Update: CW Beacon (25 wpm) is running on 6m / 50.070 MHz with 25 watts pointed north. If you want to use the station, turn off beacon and operate. George may show his TDR for demo.

Weather Station: Looking for someone to donate a weather station with wind indicator. Jeff.S K4BH will connect with George.

QSL Status Report: Ed N1II

Reported LoTW 271 countries on DxCC phone due to DxCC software glitch. After this was resolved, we're back to 200. We're at 87 in digital and need someone on FT8 on 20M to get 13 more QSO's to accomplish 100 DxCC. Broke down to 4 new band countries, no WAS, got new zones in WAZ, got 5 band WAZ, zone-2 on 80M, zone-2 CW for 39, need zone-18 for WAZ CW need to send paper card to get award. Got more QSO cards to 262 from WFD2018. Getting close to DxCC challenge on different band threshold which is 1000 and need 175 band countries for this award.

Old Business

Bruce.R KO4XL announced the following:

- Next BRARA meeting is Tuesday 5-June-2018
- Field day 2018 23-24 June with detail at June meeting

New Business

- Barry KB1PA advised folks to watch for new 5G cell phones and implications since most municipalities are revising town ordinances.

Adjournment

With no further association business, Bruce called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Barry KB1PA and 2nd by Jeff.S K4BH and approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm local time.

Presentation – Steve KN4FEN on Understanding Antenna Analyzers

Respectfully submitted,
John Cole N1QFH, Secretary