



the Radio Flyer, *a BRARA Newsletter*

January 2014

BRARA Calendar:

01-JAN-14 HAPPY NEW YEAR

09:00-13:00 Wed 01-Jan-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

04-JAN-2014 US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE BIRTHDAY

09:00-13:00 Sat 04-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30-13:00 Mon 06-JAN-14
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]

19:00-21:00 Tue 07-JAN-14 Club Meeting @ West Boca Library, 18685 SR-7/US-441, Boca Raton, FL 33498

09:00-13:00 Wed 08-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 11-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 13-JAN-14
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]

09:00-13:00 Wed 15-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 18-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

20-JAN-14 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

19:30 Mon 20-JAN-14
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]

12:00 19-JAN-14 RF article deadline

09:00-13:00 Wed 22-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 25-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30-13:00 Mon 27-JAN-14
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]

09:00-13:00 Wed 29-JAN-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 01-FEB-14
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

02-FEB-14 GROUNDHOG DAY

19:30-13:00 Mon 03-FEB-14
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]



This Month's Speaker *kj4rhp*

This month, Rich Ladisky WB1J will give a presentation on underwater photography.

Future speakers we are working with include:

- *FEB: Laurel Testing at 18:00 in lieu of a presentation*
- *AF4RL [Rich Lucibella] will give a presentation on the Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System [NBEMS].*
- *KC2WQ (David Brender) will give a presentation on Bonding & Grounding*



Repeater, HSMM, & Ham Shack News

The weekly worker group meets almost every Wednesday and Saturday morning roughly between 0900 and 1300.

New tower for VHF/UHF has been re-installed and tweaking continues.

Repeater 2m/70cm linking is still a work in progress as is correcting the repeater time-stamp. The new Controller has been purchased and is being programmed. The new 2/70 antenna installation is waiting for a cooler day.

The HSMM club project is also a work in progress. Known antennas are in place at KJ4RHP, N4CGC, & Shack QTHs.

QSL Report *N4JJ*

As of 31-Dec-2013, N4BRF has logged in 888 QSLs/3,464 QSOs (25.6%) on LoTW.

During 2013, N4BRF received 506 LoTW QSLs, from 1,784 QSOs. Our Mixed DXCC total started the year at 89 and ended at 157, for an increase of 68.

We received both Mixed and CW DXCC this year (plus WAS and WAC).

155 (+1) QSLs have been received from our 2012 Field Day activity and 149 (+1) QSLs have been received from our 2013 Field Day activity

N4BRF Triple Play Award Status: CW 47, Phone 39, Digital 38; Total 124 (of 150 needed).

New this month: Wake Island (KH9), Republic of South Sudan (Z8), Prince Edward Island & Marion Islands (ZS8). New this month on VUCC Account Status: FN11.

Note: the above may be updated to reflect activity during the final remaining hours/minutes of 2013.

Happy New Year



NBEMS *kg4fur*

Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software (NBEMS) is an Open Source software suite that allows amateur radio operators to reliably send and receive data using nearly any computer (Windows, Mac, and Linux) and any analog radio without requiring a dedicated digital infrastructure or specialized modem hardware. NBEMS works on both VHF/UHF FM and on HF.

NBEMS is the standard digital EmComm package for Western PA ARES. PBDARES is exploring this as well (MT63-2000). More detail information can be found on pgs 70-71 of Sep 2013's QST, the ARRL website and other web sources. We hope to have someone give a brief presentation and demonstration of the capabilities at a future Club meeting.

There are many programs in the NBEMS suite. You can download the basic **Fldigi** and **Flmsg** files from www.w1hkg.com.

Fldigi, the heart of NBEMS, uses your computer's sound card to encode and decode digital signals using Olivia, MT63, PSK31, RTTY, Domino or MFSK. [Also-high speed PSKR and Thor modes].

FLmsg is used to transmit a variety of message forms such as ICS-213, ICS-205, ICS-206, ICS-214, and ICS-216 forms and Radiograms, an also spreadsheets in CSV format. FLmsg includes a checksum feature to verify the accurate receipt of a message. An intro course was presented by the Wellington Radio Club on 21-Dec-2013 and an intermediate class is anticipated.

Locally, it has been used on VHF simplex and just the 147.285 repeater just before the SSTV net.

The philosophy here is to "keep it simple and free". All that is required, beyond the willingness to learn, is a 2 meter HT and a computer—hold the radio speaker to the computer mike. Earphones to connect the audio from the HT may also be used. Got a mike for that HT-use it.

You do not need an external Terminal Node Controller (TNC). The audio from your computer speakers goes into your radio's mike input for transmission. You don't need an extremely powerful new computer, our older machines work just fine.

Of course, if you have a Rigblaster, Signalink, or something like these, you can use them to interface with your computer. There is even an Android interface and an MT63 app.

Your League: ARRL Southeastern Division to Get New Vice Director

The ARRL Southeastern Division will have a new Vice Director as well as a new Director on January 1. Following balloting in November, Doug Rehman, K4AC, of Mount Dora, Florida, was declared elected to a three-year term as Director, and incumbent Vice Director Jim Millsap, WB4NWS, an appointee, defeated one challenger to win a new, full term.

A subsequent change in Vice Director Millsap's job responsibilities has made it necessary for him to resign, effective January 1. In accordance with the ARRL *Articles of Association* and after consultation with the Director-elect, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has appointed Michael Lee, AA6ML, of Palm Coast, Florida, to fill the Vice Director vacancy. Lee currently serves as the Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator.

PBC HAMs Miami Marathon *wa4dzs*

We have begun preparations for the upcoming Miami Marathon, and once again I ask for your help. We are expecting close to 25,000 participants this year, and the need for our communications is even greater than last year. For those of you who have volunteered in the past, welcome back. Also, if you have changed your email or phone number in the past year, please let me know. All you need is a 2 meter handheld and your enthusiasm. Please let me know if you would like to participate, and please pass along this information. You can find the course map, schedule, and more information about the marathon on <http://www.usroadsports.com/Signature/Miami/>. Look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday 02-Feb-2013. BR & 73s fm Ben Nemser WA4DZS, bnemser@nemal.com cell 305-439-7190

Regulatory: Deadline Looms to Comment on ARRL's "Symbol Rate" Petition

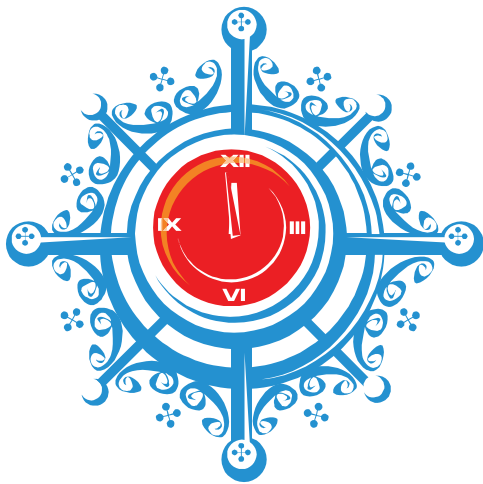
The deadline was December 21 to file comments on the ARRL's "Symbol Rate" *Petition for Rule Making (PRM)*. The ARRL filed the *Petition* last month, and the FCC has put it on public notice for comment as [RM-11708](http://www.fcc.gov/om/reports/petitions/11708). The League subsequently filed an [Erratum](#) to correct an incorrect appendix included within the *Petition*. The *Petition* already has attracted more than 70 comments.

The ARRL has asked the FCC to delete the symbol rate limit in §97.307(f) of its Amateur Service rules and to replace it with a maximum data emission bandwidth of 2.8 kHz on frequencies below 29.7 MHz. The ARRL contends that the changes it proposes would "relieve the Amateur Service of outdated, 1980s-era restrictions that presently hamper or preclude Amateur Radio experimentation with modern high frequency (HF) and other data transmission protocols" and "permit greater flexibility in the choice of data emissions." Symbol rate represents the number of times per second that a change of state occurs, not to be confused with data (or bit) rate.

Current FCC rules limit digital data emissions below 28 MHz to 300 baud, and between 28.0 and 28.3 MHz to 1200 baud. The League's petition points out that other radio services use transmission protocols in which the symbol rate exceeds the present limitations set forth in §97.307(f), while staying within the bandwidth of a typical HF single sideband channel (3 kHz).

"The symbol rate restrictions were created to suit digital modes that are no longer in favor," the ARRL noted in its petition. "If the symbol rate is allowed to increase as technology develops and the Amateur Service utilizes new data emission types, the efficiency of amateur data communications will increase."





2014 Club Dues

Club dues are due with the first of the year and by the 07-January-2014 Meeting.

An alternate approach is to donate \$100 to the Club and get a tax credit with a year's free membership at the same time. Remember, the Club is a 501c3.

EC-001

Intro to EmComm *kg4fur*

In late February 2014, PBDARES will be offering the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communication Course [EC-001] - a basic knowledge course for emergency communications volunteers.

Pre-requisites include two free online DHS/FEMA courses:

- IS-100.b Intro to ICS
- IS-700 NIMS

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/MIMS.asp>. SCARES is conducting training at the monthly meetings-see below.

SCARES Net *kk4ati*

Date: Mondays
Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: Check new ICS-205 FORM for other changes.

Notes: These nets are to TEST out your Radio Equipment and OPERATOR TRAINING. on 147.225 [+600] with a PL of 107.2 (Primary) or 146.820 [-600] with a PL of 110.9 (Secondary). Simplex frequencies include 146.55 (SCARES), 147.54 (EOA5), and 147.55 (EOA6).

Monthly meetings are held at 1900 hours on 2nd Wed of month in the PBC FRS at 14276 Hagen Ranch Rd, Delray Beach FL 33446

Club Net

145.290 -0.600 [PL 110.9] EC-826953
 Monday Evening Informal Net @ 1930

Remember that we are as close as Echo Link [EC 826953]. So stay in touch with us on Monday nights at 19:30 (7:30 PM our local time). W1IVB, our NCS, looks forward to Echo Link contacts. We all do!

Club Repeaters

144.390 -0.600 APRS Repeater
 145.070 -0.600 Packet Repeater
 145.290 -0.600 [PL 110.9] EC-826953
 442.875 +5.000 [PL 110.9]

Location: 26.39724 -80.09485
 145.290 & 442.875 linking planned

Club Ham Shack

West Delray Regional Park
 1087 West Atlantic Avenue
 Delray Beach, FL 33446

Board of Directors

Scheduled Meetings

The BRARA Board of Directors:

K4LEW (Lew), KG4FUR (Gerry),
 KJ4RHP (Mike), KO4XL (Bruce),
 N4CGC (Max), W1IVB (Frank), and
 W4WCD (Walt)

hold weekly luncheon meetings at 12:00 Mondays (quorum permitting) at American Legion Post 277 Hall located at 141 NW 20th St, #F3, Boca Raton, FL 33431 in the Plum Park SC. (561) 395-1090

Donations & Contributions

Contributions to BRARA— a 501(c)(3) organization—are tax deductible as charitable donations. As you complete your membership renewal or begin your year-end tax planning, please consider making a donation to BRARA.

\$10 donation-BRARA Name Plate with your Call Sign.

\$30 donation-BRARA Polo Shirt with your Call Sign.

\$40 donation-BRARA button down red denim shirt (long or short sleeve)

Planned Giving—Please also consider BRARA when updating or initiating planned giving (including charitable gift annuities, bequests, and gifts or retirement plan assets) and other assets.

Thank you for your continued support.

2014 Membership

Application & Renewal

- \$20 Full Membership
- \$5 Associate Membership
- \$5 Family Mbr w/License

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

ARRL Member: Yes No

Birthday: Month: _____ Year: _____

License Grade: _____ Exp Date: _____

Interests: Field Day Ham Fest

HF Digital DXing

VHF Packet CW

UHF Voice Contesting

EmComm Skywarn Public Svc

ARES MARS CERT

Award Chasing Ragchewing

Building & Experimenting Other: _____

Signature: _____

Return to BRARA Secretary with Dues:

Walt Dreyfus, W4WCD
 21512 Woodchuck Ln,
 Boca Raton, FL 33428
 (954) 481-5327

Amateur Radio Technician Class Training

Start Date: 03/01/14 [0900-1500]
End Date: 03/02/14 [0900-1300]
Location: Palm Beach Gardens
Fire Station #61
10500 N Military Trl
Palm Beach Gardens
FL 33418

Instructor: Bert Moreshi [AG4BV]
Phone: 561-714-6673
Email: aug77@att.net

ARRL testing for all Classes follows
Sunday Training session.

SFL Section Convention SF Tropical Hambooree

Start Date: 01/31/2014
End Date: 02/01/2014
Location: Miami-Dade County Fair
Expo Center
10901 SW 24th Street
Miami, FL 33101
Website: <http://miamihamfest.net>
Sponsor: Dade Radio Club of Miami
Type: ARRL Convention
Talk-In: 147.00 -600 / 146.925 -600
(PL 94.8)
Public Contact: Miguel Garate ,
KJ4YVN
13303 SW 135th Avenue Miami, FL
33186
Phone: 305-590-8523
Email: KJ4YVN@gmail.com

NFL Section Convention Orlando HamCation®

Start Date: 02/07/2014
End Date: 02/09/2014
Location: Central Florida
Fairgrounds
4603 West Colonial Drive
Orlando , FL 32801
Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>
Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio
Club
Type: ARRL Convention pending
Executive Committee approval
Talk-In: 146.460 (no PL tone during
event)
Public Contact: Lidy Meijers ,
KJ4LMM
PO Box 547811 Orlando, FL 32854
Phone: 407-841-0874 or 800-214-7
Email: info@hamcation.com



Free Laurel VEC Testing

Sun 05-JAN-2014, 1100-1300, Fire
Stn 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm
Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd
months)

Tue 14-JAN-2014, 1800-1930,
Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews
Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue
of every month)

Tue 04-Feb-2014, 1800-1930,
West Boca Library, 18685 SR-7/US-
441, Boca Raton [BRARA] (once a
quarter)

BRARA Ham Shack Key Rules ^{K4Lew}

To obtain a key for our ham shack
you must be a member in good
standing for a minimum of a
continuous year and hold a general
class license or above and go
through a short training section with
K4LEW (Lew), W4WCD (Walt) or
N4CGC (Max).

the Radio Flyer's Purpose

The purpose of this newsletter is
to keep Club members and other
interested Hams updated on Club
events and Ham activities in the
Greater Boca Raton Area. We
hope you enjoy this month's *the RF*
as much as we did publishing it!

License Renewals Due:

NE4LS	06-MAR-14
WA2VNV	22-MAR-14

New Licenses:

Licesne Upgrade:

Welcome New Members:

For more on BRARA
www.n4brf.org



the *Radio Flyer* Newslet-
ter
5724 Regency Circle West

Email KG4FUR@n4brf.org with
Articles/Constructive Critique



BRARA Club Member Name
Call Sign
Street Address
City, State Zip Code

