



the Radio Flyer, *a BRARA Newsletter*

January 2015

BRARA Calendar:

Thu 01-Jan-2015 New Year's Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 03-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 05-Jan-15
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

19:00-21:00 Tue 06-Jan-15
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-13:00 Wed 07-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 10-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 12-Jan-15
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

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

09:00-13:00 Sat 17-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Mon 19-Jan-2015 MLK Day | REL B'day

19:30 Mon 19-Jan-15
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-13:00 Wed 21-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 24-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

12:00 Noon Sun 25-Jan-15
Soft Deadline for Newsletter

19:30 Mon 26-Jan-15
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-13:00 Wed 28-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 31-Jan-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 02-Feb-15
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

20:00-21:00 Tue 03-Feb-15
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-13:00 Wed 04-Feb-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 07-Feb-15
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:00-21:00 12-Feb-15 Free Laurel
Testing at Rutherford Comm Ctr



This Month's *Speaker*

This Month, You will be the Speaker. The first of meeting of the new year, will be devoted to your views on the future direction of this Club. Some of you have expressed divergent opinions on where we should be going.

Please read the second page of this newsletter and be prepared to give your opinion.

We will close out the session with the Riley Hollingsworth presentation we were unable to show last month.



Repeater, HSMM, *& Ham Shack News*

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

Repeater 2m/70cm linking is still a work in progress as is correcting the repeater time-stamp. Testing and tweaking of the new Controller continues.

An additional 70 cm repeater has been acquired and the Club is exploring the best way to use this resource.

The HSMM club project is also a work in progress.

We have secured a limited internet connection at the Shack for spotting -no streaming downloads.

QSL Report N4JJ

As we close out 2014, N4BRF has logged in 1,534 QSLs/5,211 QSOs (29.4%) on LoTW.

DXCC Account Status: New this month Annobon (3CO), Chile (CE), Ethiopia (ET) and Namibia (V5).
Awards received: Mixed, CW and Phone. We are nearing 15m with 90 entries.

WAS Account Status: We have received 164 QSLs from the 2012 Field Day (FD), 162 from 2013 FD and 212 QSOs from the 2014 FD activities.

Triple Play Award Status: CW 50, Phone 50, and Digital 50. Yes, *Virginia, we have applied for it!* Also have all states on 20 and Basic. We are nearing RTTY WAS with 49 states credited-needing only NE.

VUCC Account Status: Nothing new this month.

2014 FL Contest Group W1AW/4: Nothing new this month.

Next update at the Jan-2015 Club Meeting.

Happy New Year



DE BRARA Directors

Club Reflection and Direction *kg4fur*

As 2014 draws to a close, we can reflect on our major accomplishments:

1. A successful club with top notch shack that is the envy of other clubs
2. An active and increasing membership (between 80 and 90 in 2014)
3. A successful 2014 Field Day Showing: 1st Place (SFL-3A), 3rd Place all Florida, 92nd Place (3A) nationally across all power multipliers and 90th in our power multiplier.
4. A coveted Special Service Club Certification: A Special Service Club (SSC) exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio. They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

With 2015 and a new Board of Directors, it is time to take stock of what we were, what we are becoming and where we are going. With this in mind I urge each of you to reflect on this and be prepared to discuss what direction the Club should be going in 2015 and beyond. Take a look at the HAM interests listed on the Membership application on page 4 of this newsletter and be prepared to discuss which direction we should be going at our January Meeting. If you cannot be there, jot down some notes and forward them to me at KG4FUR@yahoo.com. They will read at the January meeting. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, we will oblige.

So far, we have been open to all interests (Field Day, HF/VHF/UHF, Voice/Data, Analog/Digital, Contesting, Xing, Em-Com, Building/Experimenting, and Rag-chewing). And if this is the direction that the majority desires, that is just fine with me.

Unfortunately, we are becoming too large for the current shack trailer. There is an exploratory move to replace the current trailer with something significantly larger with separate rooms for radio stations, testing, and general rag-chewing discussions. An interim move is put forward in the following article.

There is also some opposition to this, citing that the shack is more a "rag-chewing coffee clutch" than a radio station. Some would prefer that the rag-chewing sessions be moved somewhere else. It has also been reported that there are special interests that presume that they have special shack privileges. I have even heard spoken opposition to anything other than on-the-air activity both at the shack or and supported by the Club (eliminating all that activity that has been acknowledged and gave the Club our SCC status).

It is time to review where we are, what direction we should be going, and how we are going to get there. Every one of you has an equal voice and an opinion. This Board needs to know what you think. Please be prepared to formalize your thoughts and voice your desires at the January Meeting.

Your opinion, whether vocal or written is important. Your voice will be heard at the January Meeting



Respect and Access *kg4fur*

With the rapid general membership growth and the increased use of the radios at the shack, it has become apparent that we are now exceeding the shack's current available space.

With increasing regularity, we have been receiving reports that the shack radios are already in use when members arrive.

To resolve this, the Board is considering to take two separate actions independent of a new trailer:

1. Establish a scheduling mechanism (preferably on-line) whereby the membership would schedule use of the shack's radio facilities up to two weeks in advance. Once implemented, we would ask everyone to respect the schedule. Of course, if no one is scheduled on a specific date and during a specific time, it would be first come/first serve or first in/first out as it is now. Major contests may require the posting of a special and expanded scheduling scheme to insure an equitable usage opportunity and adequate contest coverage.

2. Establish a second station at the other end of the shack for additional operators and to use/test personal equipment. There is a plethora of radio equipment (personal and club) at the shack. Although we must respect personal property; we must also insure equitable access to club resources. After all, the original purpose for having the shack was to provide a place we all could collectively enjoy our hobby.

None of this precludes visitors and the general membership from congregating in/at the shack. Likewise, this proposal is not intended to restrict club member testing and/or the use of personal equipment at the shack.

We all have an equal right to use the shack and the club property therein.



NBEMS Update *kg4fur*

With the rapid growth of Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Systems (NBEMS), Palm Beach Emergency Messaging Associates (PBEMA) is now known as Florida Emergency Messaging Associates (FLEMA). Same role, just more inclusive.

For more information and the latest Guide and Troubleshooting, go to www.qsl.net/k4wrc/PBC-BASIC-NBEMS.html or simply Google "Palm Beach NBEMS"

There are currently three NBEMS nets locally meaning three times the opportunities for NBEMers.

⇒ The South County NBEMS Net on the 145.290 -0.600 [PL 110.9] repeater **meets Mondays at 20:00.**

⇒ The PBC NBEMS Net on the 147.285 +0.600 [PL 103.5] repeater **meets Tuesdays at 1930.**

⇒ Knights of the Round Table Simplex Net 146.550 **meets 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 10:00.**

Already on board in addition to BRARA, Wellington Radio Club and Knights of the Round Table are Broward EOC, Central & South PBC ARES, Eagle Wings Foundation, Jupiter Lighthouse Radio Group, PBC Skywarn, Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society.

It also works on GMRS, CERT, Red Cross and other frequencies.

2015 Club Dues

Club dues are due with the first of the new year and by the 06-January-2015 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, we are a 501c3.

2015 BOD Elections

The General Election for the Club's Board of Directors in February 2015. **Nominations are closed.** Seven candidates for the seven director positions. Acclamation elections will be at the 03 February 2015 Meeting.

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). KG4FUR, our NCS, looks forward to Echo Link contacts. We all do!

Club Repeaters

144.390 APRS Repeater
145.070 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
10875 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), **W4WCD** (Walt) and
W3EZB (Marcos)

We hold weekly luncheon meetings at 11:30 Mondays (quorum permitting) at Miller's Ale House, 1200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431. (561)988-9142 www.millersalehouse.com/location/east-Boca-ale-house

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

Fort Myers Hamfest

Date: 17 Jan 2015

Location: Gulf Coast Church of Christ

9550 Six Mile Cypress/Ben C. Pratt Parkway

Fort Myers, FL 33901

Website: <http://www.fmarc.net>

Sponsor: Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 136.5)

Public Contact: Drexel Turner , W4DHT

7670 Eaglet Court Fort Myers, FL 33912

Phone: 239-464-1350

Email: W4DHT@arrl.net

Southeastern Division Convention (Orlando HamCation®)



Dates: 13-15 Feb 2015

Location: Central Florida Fairgrounds

4603 West Colonial Drive Orlando, FL 32801

Website: <http://hamcation.com>

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC)

Type: ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

Talk-In: 146.760 - 600 (no PL tone),

147.015 + 600 (no PL tone)

Public Contact: Lidy Meijers , KJ4LMM

PO Box 547811 Orlando, FL 32854

Phone: 407-841-0874

Email: info@hamcation.com

Free Laurel VEC Testing



Sun 04-Jan-2015, 1100-1300, Fire Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd months).

Tue 13-Jan-2015, 1800-1930, Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue of every month).

Thu 12-Feb-2015 1900-2100, Rutherford Com Ctr, 2200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431 [BRARA] (Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

Miami Tropical Hamboree

Dates: 30/31 Jan 015

Location: Miami Dade County Fair and Expo Center

10901 Coral Way

Miami, FL 33101

Website: <http://hamboree.org>

Sponsor: Dade Radio Club of Miami

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.925 (PL 94.8)

Public Contact: Lloyd Kurtzman , N4LJK

PO Box 835367 Miami, FL 33283

Phone: 305-332-9142

Email: N4LJK@GMX.com

PBC Hamfest

Date: 14 Mar 2015

Location: FOP Lodge # 50

885 62nd Drive N

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Website:

www.palmbeachradiofest.com/

Sponsor: Palms West Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.045 (PL 110.9)

Public Contact: Robert Pease, KS4EC

11894 Briarpatch Court

Wellington, FL 33414

Phone: 561-358-9999

Email: ks4ec@att.net

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).

Welcome New Members:

None reported

For more on BRARA

www.n4brf.org

the Radio Flyer's Purpose

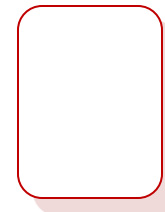
The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Club members and other interested Hams updated on Club events and Ham activities in the Greater Boca Raton Area. We hope you enjoy this month's *theRF* as much as we did publishing it!



the Radio Flyer

5724 Regency Circle West
Boca Raton, FL 33496-2760

Email KG4FUR@n4brf.org with Articles/Constructive Critique



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



The Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association

FEBRUARY 12 2015

FREE

7 TO 9 pm

FCC FREE LICENSE TESTING

The Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association is going to have a free FCC testing session open to all.

February 12, 2015

**Rutherford Community Center Board Room in Patch Reef Park
2000 Northwest 51st Street, Boca Raton, FL 33431**



CONTACT NUMBERS

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