



the *Radio Flyer*, a *BRARA Newsletter*

June 2015

BRARA Calendar:

19:30 Mon 01-Jun-15

Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

19:00-21:00 Tue 02-Jun-15

Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-12:00 Wed 03-Jun-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 06-Jun-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 08-Jun-15

Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 10-Jun-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 13-Jun-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Sun 14-Jun-15 Flag Day

19:30 Mon 15-Jun-15

Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 17-Jun-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 20-Jun-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Sun 21-Jun-15 Fathers Day

19:30 Mon 22-Jun-15

Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 24-Jun-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Sat/Sun 27/28-Jun-15

Field Day -FAU Parking Garage II

12:00 Noon Sun 28-Jun-15

Soft Deadline for Newsletter

19:30 Mon 29-Jun-15

Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 01-Jul-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Sat 04-Jul-15 Independence Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 04-Jul-15

Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:00-21:00 Tue 07-Jul-15

Club Meeting @ West Boca Library



This Month's Speaker N4Ege

With a little more than 3 weeks until Field Day (25 days as of June's meeting, it is time to step up our efforts.

This month, Nelson (NE4LS) will go over the particulars of the M1NN logging program used on Field Day. It is imperative that all participating in Field Day have a good understanding of how it works. We want to insure that we capture all those (sometimes elusive) contacts.



Repeater, HSMM, & Ham Shack News

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

Both Analog repeaters are working. The 2m repeater power amp has been operating with 85 w output.

Repeater 2m/70cm linking as well as the time stamp are still works in progress Testing and tweaking of the new Controller continues.

We have the registration number for the additional 70 cm repeater controller. Manual is forthcoming.

The DigiPETER is up and running. The packet repeater is a work in progress.

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

Plans and preparations for the new shack trailer are proceeding.

QSL Report N4JJ

As we close out the month, N4BRF has logged in 5562 QSLs/5562 QSOs (30.5%) on LoTW.

DXCC Account Status: New this month: EP (Iran), VP (Bermuda), 15m DXCC certificate. Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone.

WAS Account Status: Awards issued: Mixed, 20m, CW, Phone, Digital, Triple Play . Still need AK, ID, MT, NE, UT for 40m; NE for RTTY and LA, NV, NH, RI and VT for 20m CW. Working on 5BWAS.

We have received 165 QSLs from 2012 Field Day (FD), 168(+3) QSLs from 2013 FD, and 227(+1) QSLs from 2014 FD activities.

VUCC Account Status: New this month: FN41.

Update at the next Club Meeting.

*Happy
Father's
Day*

Portrait of a Dad



FCC Eliminates HAM Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category. The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be

financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

US Naval Academy PSK31 CubeSat Transponders Active

PSK31 transponders on two US Naval Academy CubeSats are operational, according to Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. The CubeSats launched on May 20 from Cape Canaveral on an Atlas 5 launcher. The launch included a pair of 1.5U CubeSats - the PSAT APRS/PSK31 satellite and BRICSat, a propulsion/PSK31 satellite - as well as a 3U CubeSat, USS Langley (Unix Space Server Langley). The launch also included The Planetary Society's LightSail-1.

Bruninga said PSAT is a student satellite project named in honor of USNA alum Bradford Parkinson, of GPS fame. It contains an APRS transponder for relaying remote telemetry, sensor, and user data from remote users and Amateur Radio environmental experiments or other data sources back to Amateur Radio experimenters via a global network of Internet-linked ground stations. A Brno University transponder on PSAT supports multi-user PSK31 text messaging (28.120 MHz uplink/435.350 MHz FM downlink). Bruninga said the PSAT telemetry on 145.825 MHz (1200 baud AX.25) is working okay, but the digipeater is off at present, since the PSK31 transponder is the primary mission. The APRS downlink page at <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/pcsat.cgi> is now capturing PSAT telemetry.

The PSK31 multi-user FDMA transponder experiment on PSAT and BRICSat is similar to the one on RAFT and PCSAT2. It allows text messaging among up to 30 modest ground stations simultaneously, Bruninga said. The BRICSat and PSAT PSK31 transponders are on separate spacecraft but on the same frequency, although one has PSK telemetry on 315 Hz, the other on 365 Hz.

Bruninga said BRICSat's telemetry has been heard, but has been cycling off, due to low power. He said the BRICSat PSK31 downlink has been heard, but only barely when it's on. The USS Langley spacecraft has not been heard yet, he said.

BRICSat transmits 9600 baud telemetry on 437.975 MHz. The USS Langley satellite transmits 9600 baud telemetry on 437.475 MHz.

The LightSail-1 packet 9600 baud (FSK) AX.25 downlink is on 437.435 MHz. The Planetary Society's Jason Davis is asking radio amateurs to e-mail him at jason.davis@planetary.org with any data they collect from LightSail, including any screenshots.

Bruninga has invited APRS radio amateurs worldwide to tune into the packet downlinks and IGate packets into the global APRS-IS system, so they will appear on the APRS downlink page, and also to try out the "exciting, new full-duplex PSK31 way of multi-user communication."

PSAT is one of five APRS-networked Amateur Radio satellites that will be in orbit during 2015, and all will appear on the live APRS downlink page. The others include PCSat-1, in orbit since 2001, QIKcom-1, set to launch in September, QIKcom-2, set to launch in December, and the ARISS packet radio system on board the International Space Station since 2007.

ARES Manual Updated

The week following Dayton Hamvention will see the release of the new and updated ARES Manual. The ARES Manual and NTS Manual have together long been part of a single publication, The Public Service Communications Manual. The two manuals will now be separate publications. NTS leadership is currently reviewing and preparing to update the NTS Manual. The new ARES Manual includes several new additions - inclusion of ICS forms 213, 205, and 214 for ARES use; an expanded discussion on training resources; clarification on the role and purpose of RACES; and copies of all current ARRL MOUs. The update is the first in over two decades and was a collaborative effort of field organization leaders, federal partners, and ARRL staff. The new manual will be made available online as a downloadable PDF.

Monday Night Club Sponsored Nets *kg4fur*

BRARA now runs three Monday Night Nets on the 145.290 MHz -0.600 [110.9] repeater:

- ⇒ BRARA New HAMs Net: **19:00-19:30**. Although designated a new HAM net, seasoned veterans are encouraged to get on the air and share their knowledge with the new HAMs. Son the 145.290 -0.600 P
- ⇒ BRARA Informational Net: **19:30-20:00**. This informal net fosters communication on topics of general HAM interest to include radio equipment & operation, club activities. Out-of-Area Amateurs may check-in via Echolink. Our Node is 826953.
- ⇒ South County NBEMS Net **20:00-20:30**. A digital message/analog voice mixed mode net designed for HAMs interested in learning and practicing digital message techniques.

NBEMS *kg4fur*

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, 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.

Other Local HAM Repeater Nets

Tue 19:30 Boca CERT: 145.225 MHz
Wed 19:00 SC-ARES: 147.225 MHz
Thu 19:00 WX4SFL: 444.025/444.850

New Shack Committee

A committee was formed to supervise donations, planning, and implementation of the new shack trailer: K3LEW (Lew), W3EZB (Marcos), WA2VNV (George), WA8VSJ (Art), W4BFL (Jerry),

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 new BRARA Board of Directors:

K4LEW (Lew), KG4FUR (Gerry),
K04XL (Bruce), N4CGC (Max),
W3EZB (Marcos), W4BFL (Jerry),
and W4WCD (Walt)

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.

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



License Upgrades *w2da*

Results from the 14-May 2015 session at Rutherford Community Center:

Daniel Garcia KM4KRC Tech
Steven Y Tamayo KM4KRD Tech
Gerson Gonzales KM4KRE Tech

Tech Training scheduled for Saturdays 18 and 25 Jul-2015. Review at Testing on Sunday 26-Jul-2015. location: Bridgewater Club, Boca West CC

Next session 1900 Thu 13-Aug-2015

Welcome New Members:

Todd Greenstein KCONNL

Web site hits: 20,000

For more on BRARA
www.n4brf.org

20 k web-site hits so far

Fl State Convention 50th Anniversary Melbourne Hamfest

Start Date: 10/09/2015

End Date: 10/10/2015

Location: Melbourne Auditorium
625 East Hibiscus Street
Melbourne, FL 32901

Website: <http://www.pcars.org>

Sponsor: Platinum Coast

Amateur Radio Society

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 146.85 -600 (no PL tone)

Public Contact: Eric Smitt ,
K9ES

2175 Ohio Street West Melbourne,
FL 32904

Phone: 321-698-8307

Email: k9eseric@gmail.com

Free Laurel VEC Testing



Sun 7-Jul-2015, 1100-1300, Fire Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd months).

Tue 9-Jun-2015, 1800-1930, Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue of every month).

Thu 13-Aug-2015, 1900-2100, Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA] (Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

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 session with K4LEW (Lew), W4BFL (Jerry), 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!



No Smoking

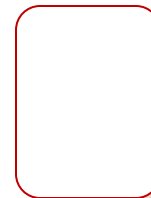
UNLESS YOU'RE A RADIO WITH A SHORTED CAPACITOR.



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



What is ARRL Field Day?



ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the 165,000+ member national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: www.arrl.org



www.arrl.org

When and Where are Field Day this year?

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2015 is June 27-28. The Club will again locate in the parking garage at FAU, Boca Campus.

2015 ARRL FIELD DAY

HAM RADIO)))

[illegible]

Club Field Day Location:

This year, as in the recent past, we will hold our Field Day activities atop the Parking Garage at the Boca Raton Campus of FAU

When:

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2015 is June 27-28.

Objective:

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

Post Even Submission:

Entries must be postmarked, emailed or submitted by 2059 UTC Tuesday, July 28, 2015. Late entries cannot be accepted.

Awards:

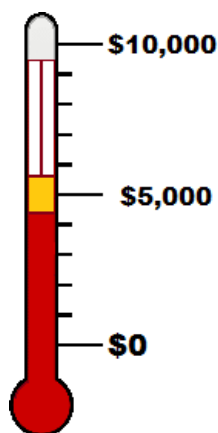
Field Day is not a contest. No certificates are awarded.



Progress on New & Larger Shack Trailer

Member Donations have started to trickle in. Likewise, equipment sales are starting to come in. There is still a lot of planning and considerable thought needed before we get there.

Revised estimates are \$9K for the trailer and \$1K to install. We have a little less than one half in the kitty including promised donations and expected equipment sales. Any donations are appreciated.



ARRL KIDS DAY

The Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association
is going to have ARRL KIDS DAY

JUNE 15 2015

9 AM through 2 PM

BRARA CLUB SHACK LOCATION

10875 W Atlantic Ave Delray Beach, Florida 33446



CONTACT INFORMATION
Bruce Ratoff KO4XL
E-Mail KO4XL@N4BRF.ORG



