



# the Radio Flyer, a BRARA Newsletter

July 2015

## BRARA Calendar:

- 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
- 19:30 Mon 06-Jul-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 19:00-21:00 Tue 07-Jul-15**  
**Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 08-Jul-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 11-Jul-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 07:00-13:00 Sun 12-Jul-15**  
**Frank Stark Bicycle Ride**
- 19:30 Mon 13-Jul-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 15-Jul-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 18-Jul-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 0900-1600 Sat 18-Jul-15 Part 1 Tech**  
Training-See last page for details
- 19:30 Mon 20-Jul-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 22-Jul-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-12:00 Sat 25-Jul-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 0900-1600 Sat 25-Jul-15 Part 2 Tech**  
Training-See last page for details
- Sun 26-Jul-15 Parent's Day**
- 0900-1200 Sun-26-Jul-15 Tech Training**  
Review-See last page for details
- 1200-1600 Sun-26-Jul-15 Free Laurel**  
Testing-See last page for details
- 12:00 Noon Sun 26-Jul-15**  
**Soft Deadline for Newsletter**
- 19:30 Mon 27-Jul-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 29-Jul-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day



## This Month's Speaker *N4EJG*

2015 Field Day may be behind us but we need to take stalk of what we did well and what improvements we can make for next year.

We will have a brief FD critique following Barry's (KB1PA) brief presentation from ARRL.

## QSL Report *N4JJ*

As we close out the month, N4BRF has logged in 1,711 QSLs/5,562 QSOs (30.8%) on LoTW.

**DXCC Account Status:** New this month Fernando de Noronha (PY0F). Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone and 15m DXCC.

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

We have received 165 QSLs from 2012 Field Day (FD), 170 (+2) QSOs from 2013 FD, and 230 (+3) QSOs from 2014 FD activities.

**VUCC Account Status:** Nothing new this month.

Update at the next Club Meeting.

*2015 FD will be added in next month's report. Preliminary and unofficial counts indicate 1,609 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 Digipeater 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.



THOSE WHO EXPECT TO  
REAP THE BLESSINGS OF  
FREEDOM, MUST, LIKE  
MEN, UNDERGO THE  
FATIGUE OF SUPPORTING  
IT.  
BY THOMAS PAINE



## Outdoor Antenna Installation Warnings

The following general recommendations are made to insure your safety during the installation of an outdoor antenna. The following material should be considered as a *supplement* to the specific directions supplied by the manufacturer of the antenna.

If you are installing or dismantling your antenna for the first time, seek professional assistance. If you are unsure of your competency regarding the installation, it is best to seek the help of a qualified professional antenna or tower installer.

Read the manufacturer's directions and this advisory in full before proceeding.

The installation or dismantling of any antenna near power lines is dangerous. Each year hundreds of people are killed or injured while attempting to install or dismantle an antenna. In many cases, the victim was well aware of the dangers, but did not take adequate steps to avoid the hazards. For your safety and proper antenna installation, read and follow all safety precautions.

Choose an installation site for safety as well as performance. **All electric power lines, cable lines and telephone lines look alike. To be safe, assume ANY overhead line can kill you.**

Do not place an antenna where it could potentially fall on to, or blow into a power line. To determine the SAFE DISTANCE follow these steps:

- (A). Determine the proposed height of your antenna.
- B). Add the antenna length and the length of your tower mast.
- (C). Double the figure.

Your answer will be the minimum safe distance from the nearest power line that you should install your antenna.

- Call the Power Company. Let them review your site and mark any underground wiring in your yard before you dig holes to install towers, push-up poles or other structures. This might seem like an inconvenience, but a few hours with the Electric Company may help avoid a fatal accident. Play it safe. Never dig without contacting the utility companies. [*Orange is power, yellow was gas*]
- Never use a utility pole as a support for an antenna or guy wire. Never climb a utility pole.
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- Outdoor antennas should be grounded with an approved lighting arresting device. Local codes may apply. The radio should also be grounded to an earth ground to help protect both the radio and its user. Do not use hot water pipes or gas lines as a ground source.
- Height or other restrictions on antennas may apply to your installation depending on your proximity to an airport, of local ordinances
- Take the time to plan your installation procedure. Each person should have assigned tasks. A foreman or "boss" should be chosen to call out instructions and watch for signs of trouble.
- Dress properly with rubber soled shoes, rubber gloves, and long sleeve shirt. Use an approved safety belt.
- Do NOT work on a wet or windy day or if a thunderstorm is approaching.
- Do NOT use a metal ladder.

- If the assembly starts to drop . . . get away from it and let it fall. Remember that the antenna mast, cable, and guy wires are all excellent conductors of electrical current.
- If any part of the antenna should come in contact with a power line . . . DON'T TOUCH IT OR TRY TO REMOVE IT YOURSELF. Call your local power company immediately. They will remove it.
- Should an electrical accident occur . . . DON'T TOUCH THE PERSON IN CONTACT WITH THE POWER LINE, or you too can become electrocuted. Instead, use a DRY board, stick, or rope to push or pull the victim away from the power lines and antenna. Once clear, check the victim. If he has stopped breathing, immediately administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and stay with it. Have someone else call for medical help.
- Remember that guyed towers are NOT self-supporting at any height. If your antenna installation includes towering, read the additional advisory on towers.
- Install wire antennas high enough that they will not be "walked into" by people.
- Do not install wire antennas over or under utility lines.

(Article courtesy of San Antonio Hams, <http://www.sanantoniohams.org/antennas/>)





## 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 on 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](http://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 19:30**.
- ⇒ Knights of the Round Table Simplex Net 146.550 **meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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),  
**KO4XL** (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](http://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



Got an idea for an article? Or constructive critique? Want to share club news and events? How about writing a short 30-minute project idea? Your submissions to the Red Flyer are needed to help keep this one of the best club newsletters in South Florida.

Send your articles to:  
KG4FUR@N4BRF.org

### Welcome New Members:

Todd Greenstein KCONNL

Web site hits: 20,000

For more on BRARA  
[www.n4brf.org](http://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](mailto:k9eseric@gmail.com)

## Tech Training & Testing

Tech Training scheduled for 2 consecutive Saturdays 18 (part 1) and 25 (part 2) Jul-2015. Review and Free Laurel Testing on Sunday 26-Jul-2015. location: Bridgewater Club, Boca West CC

Follow-up Free  
Laurel Testing  
1900 Thu 13-Aug-15  
Rutherford Com Ctr  
2000 Yamato Rd  
Boca Raton, FL  
33498



## Free Laurel VEC Testing



Sun 5-Jul-2015, 1100-1300, Fire Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd months).

Tue 14-Jul-2015, 1800-1930, Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue of every month).

Thu 13-Aug2015, 1900-2100, Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA] (Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

## BRARA Ham Shack Key Rules <sup>K4LeW</sup>

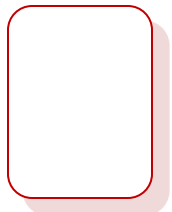
To obtain a key for our ham shack you must be a member in good standing for a minimum of a continuous year and hold a general class license or above and go through a short training session with K4LEW (Lew), W4BFL (Jerry), W4WCD (Walt) or N4CGC (Max).

## 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 *theRF* as much as we did publishing it!



the Radio Flyer  
5724 Regency Circle West  
Boca Raton, FL 33496-2760



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





I GOTTA HAVE

MORE QSOs!

HAMHIJINKS.COM

*On the Air--In the Air*

It's like MUFON for hams. ARUFON Amateur Radio UFO Net meets on Sunday at 8 PM EST/7 CST on 40 meters in or around 7.210 MHz

Amateur Radio operators with an interest in the subject of UFOs and hold a valid license granting operating privileges on the net frequency are encouraged to participate. Their purpose is to share information about Amateur Radio, Science and UFOs with the world.

Think of the DX possibilities!



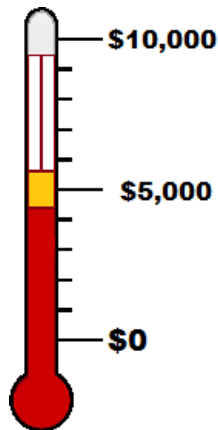
**No Smoking**

UNLESS YOU'RE A RADIO WITH A SHORTED CAPACITOR.

*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.



I WILL FIND YOU, DX

AND I WILL WORK YOU

HamHijinks.com

BONES, HOW ARE THE BANDS?

THEY'RE DEAD, JIM.

HamHijinks.com





- Need a viable alternative to walking this busy Hamfest season?
- Are you too obese for that much-needed knee replacement?
- Is your mobility more important than your dignity?
- Do you want to trade in the gift of bipedal locomotion for the ease of effortless mobility?

# THE HAMabout

HAM RADIO MOBILITY SCOOTER

## TESTIMONIALS

"Its great - I was able to spend hours at my local hamfest without breaking a sweat! Thanks HAMabout!"  
- Oswald, 53

"Walking, carrying things, etc. got to be too much of a chore. Now I leave all my walking to HAMabout, its great!"  
- Elean, 54

"I'm still walking, but my ballooning weight will hopefully soon put me into the HAMabout driver's seat. Everyone in my ARES group has one, and I want one too!"  
- John, 22

- 25 HP gasoline engine
- 5 radio equipment bays
- Built-in cross-band repeater
- Hoisters for up to 25 HTs
- Special odour-whisking seat covers (with 300 refills)
- Rugged trailer hitch
- Ergonomical design allows use in even the largest hamfest
- Special seatback callsign embroidery (choice of color)

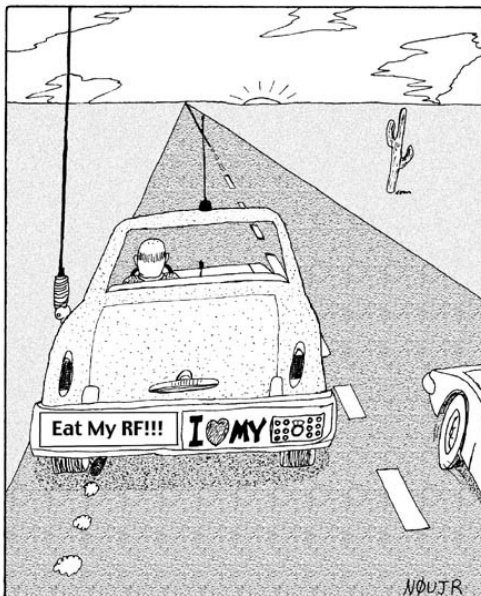
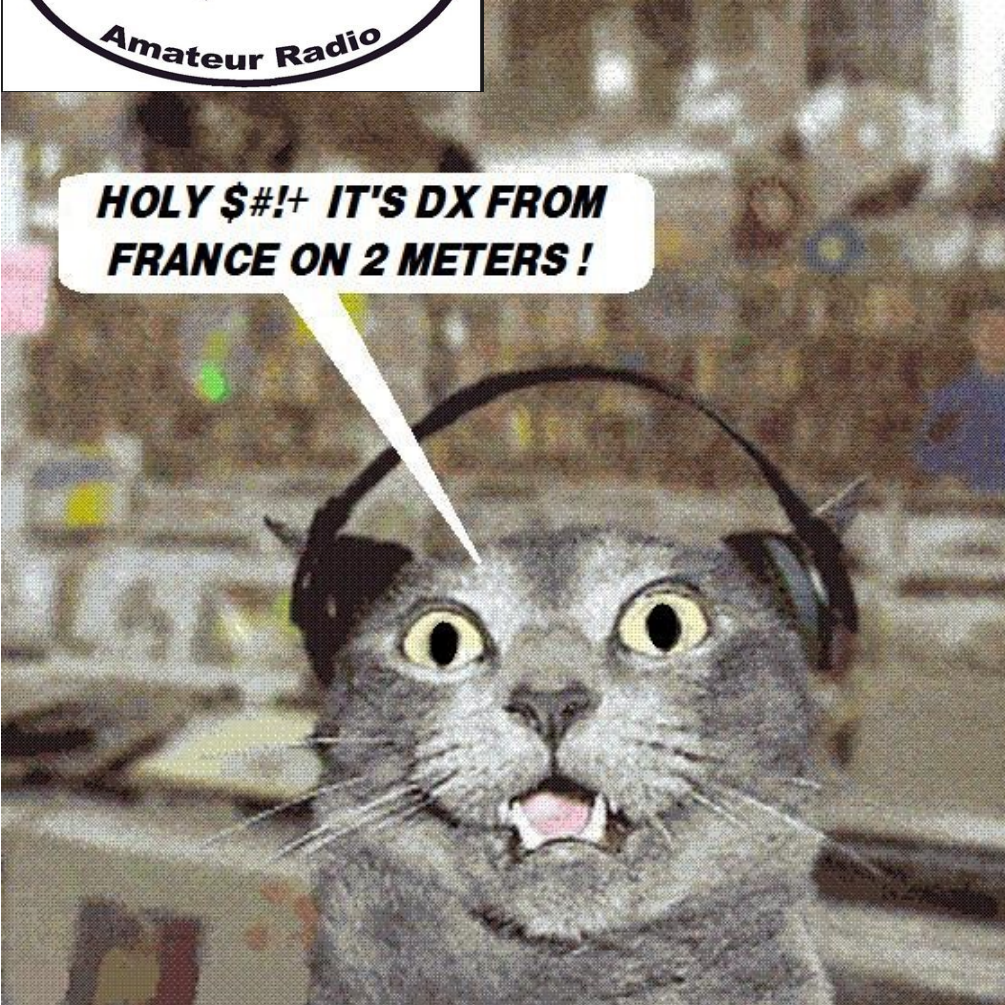


Warning: **Not** for use with people with bona fide physical disabilities.

## HAMTOON



HAVE YOU SEEN THE BOX OF QSL CARDS I WAS GOING TO SEND IN FOR MY DXCC ?



QWA members with an attitude...



BOCA WEST BRIDGEWOOD  
CLUB HOUSE  
2400 BRIDGEWOOD DR  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

Class Part 1 7/18/15 9AM-4 PM  
Class Part 2 7/25/15 9 AM-4 PM  
Review Q&A 7/26/15 9AM-Noon  
License Test 7/26/15 Noon-4 PM

**FREE**

## FREE FCC TECHNICIAN CLASS



# TECHNICIAN CLASS

## BOCA RATON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASS  
PLEASE CONTACT

GERALD GAWALDO KG4FUR  
OR  
BRUCE RATOFF K04XL

SEND E-MAIL TO  
TRAINING@N4BRF.ORG

PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME,  
PHONE NUMBER AND E-MAIL  
ADDRESS

BRARA will offer a Technician class at the Boca West Bridgewood Club House on Saturday July 18 and Saturday July 25. A review Q & A session will be held Sunday Morning July 26 followed by license testing on Sunday afternoon. Participants are encouraged to bring lunch to save time.

The course and testing are free but all participants are strongly advised to purchase the textbook. "2014-2015 TECHNICIAN CLASS BY GORDEN WEST" before attending the class.

BRARA is making this book available for the discounted price of \$20. Please contact Bruce to place your order.

- Pre-Registration by the Thursday before is required or you will not be able to enter the BOCA WEST COUNTRY CLUB

**BRARA**