

# *the Radio Flyer,* *a BRARA Newsletter*

October 2015



## *BRARA Calendar:*

- 09:00-13:00 Sat 03-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 05-Oct-15 Child Health Day**
- 19:30 Mon 05-Oct-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 19:00-21:00 Tue 06-Oct-15**  
**Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 07-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-12:00 Sat 10-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Mon 12-Oct-15 Columbus Day**
- 19:30 Mon 12-Oct-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 14-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Thu 15-Oct-15 White Cane Safety Day**
- 09:00-12:00 Sat 17-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:30 Mon 19-Oct-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 21-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 24-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 12:00 Noon Sun 25-Oct-15**  
**Soft Deadline for Newsletter**
- 19:30 Mon 26-Oct-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 28-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Sat 31-Oct-15 Halloween**
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 31-Oct-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:30 Mon 02-Nov-15**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 04-Nov-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:00-21:00 Wed 04-Nov-15**  
**Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**
- 09:00-12:00 Sat 07-Nov-15**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day



## *This Month's Speaker N4E6E*

This month our scheduled speaker has been postponed. We are working on a substitute, but as of yet it still is a mystery speaker.

Next month, We will have a presentation on lightning.

Also, due to Election Day at the Library, our meeting will be moved to Wednesday, 04-Nov-2015. We will also have to meet the first Wednesday in December.



## *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.

## *QSL Report <sup>n4ii</sup>*

As we closed out September, N4BRF has logged in 2,072 QSLs/7,062 QSOs (29.3%) on LoTW.

**DXCC Account Status:** New this month Comoros (D6), Niue (E6). Thailand (HS), Romania (YO). *Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 15m and 10m DXCC.*

**WAS Account Status:** Awards issued: Mixed, 20m, CW, Phone, Digital, Triple Play . We still need:

- AK, ID, MT, NE for 40m
- AK, AR, NE, WV for 15m
- NE for RTTY
- MT, ND, WY for 20m Phone
- LA, NV, RI for 20m CW.
- Working on 5BWAS.

We have received the following QSOs from Field Day activities:

- 169 (+2) QSLs from 2012,
- 175 (+1) QSOs from 2013
- 237 (+4) QSOs from 2014
- 249 (+9) QSOs from 2015

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

Update at the next Club Meeting.



## Welcome Back Snow Birds *kg4fur*



Returning Snowbirds are reminded that the Club's informal net is still on Monday evenings at 19:30 (7:30 PM local time) on 145.290/144.690 [PL 110.9]. We will be happy to reacquaint ourselves.

We still meet at the shack on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Our Meetings are still at the West Boca Library on US-441/SR-7 on the First Tuesday of the Month (except major Holidays and Election Days. Also, on the long drive down south, you can begin to re-connect with us on Echolink [EC Node 826953] and DMR [TG3 NA, TG310, or TG 3126 Tri-State].

## WWV's 25 MHz Signal is Back on Original Vertical Dipole

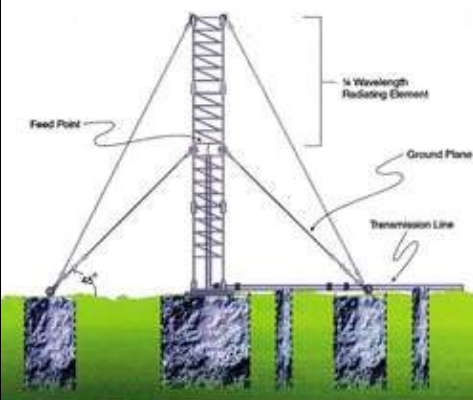
Time and frequency standard station WWV's resurrected 25 MHz signal -- now back on the air for more than a year after going silent in 1977 -- is once again transmitting on a vertical dipole from its original antenna and location. The 25 MHz signal returned to the air on an "experimental basis" in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since. The WWV vertical dipole is not something you'd likely find in the average ham radio antenna farm.

The antenna the 25 MHz [transmitter] is on right now is the original antenna it was on in 1977," Matt Deutch, NORGT, WWV's lead electrical engineer, told ARRL. "When the 25 [MHz transmitter] was shut down [that year], the radiating section was removed and tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna."

Deutch said that when WWV first reintroduced the 25 MHz broadcast in 2014, it used a broadband monopole. It was later decided to use that antenna for WWV's 2.5 MHz stand-by transmitter, though. "So, we decided to rebuild the 25 MHz antenna," he recounted. "A few weeks ago the boys dug the 25 MHz radiating section out of the mud in the bone yard and rebuilt the 25 MHz antenna, so that it looks identical to what it looked like in 1977."

Deutch said the 25 MHz WWV vertical dipole now is coupled to its own, dedicated transmitter, radiating 2.5 kW "with near zero watts reflected,"

he added, and modeling has showed that the dipole exhibits a lower angle of radiation than the broadband monopole did. "There is no automatic backup transmitter for 25 MHz at this



time," Deutch added. The 25 MHz WWV signal had been operating at about 1 kW for the past 16 months.

The WWV campus in Fort Collins, Colorado. [Courtesy of NIST] Deutch has said that WWV has received reports on the 25 MHz signal from across the Atlantic. The 25 MHz transmission not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. The 25 MHz broadcast includes the same information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of



accuracy.

Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, WWV is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). WWV has [invited](http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/?issue=2015-08-13) listeners' comments and signal reports. <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/?issue=2015-08-13>

## Articles for the Newsletter

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



## October 17th Joint Club Workshops... RSVP to [larry33414@aol.com](mailto:larry33414@aol.com)

9am to Noon - BASIC NBEMS - RSVP Required  
Sending and receiving complex documents such as FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army forms and spreadsheets with just a radio and computer. For the new user or as a refresher. Preference given to new users and NBEMS users without prior workshop training.

1PM to 3PM+/- - INTERMEDIATE NBEMS FOR THE HF USER - RSVP Required  
Configuring your BASIC NBEMS setup to check into HF digital/NBEMS nets and using FLAMP and FLARQ for packet recovery and error free HF traffic. Preference given to NBEMS Net participants and HF users.

## Old Stuff, New Parts

If you're looking for replacement parts for old Heathkit, Dentron, Collins or Drake equipment, this site has a collection of the most wanted parts for repair and refurbishing of amps and power supplies.

<http://harbachelectronics.com/>

## RFI Tips and Tricks

Sooner or later, nearly every Amateur Radio operator will have a problem with interference. This could involve interference to a neighbor's equipment, or, more likely, some form of interference to our Amateur Radios from the noisy devices that can sometimes even be found in our own homes. Here's a list of tips for dealing with RFI problems.

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/rfi.html>

## NVIS Antennas

NVIS, the antenna, not NCIS, the TV show. This site deals with practical information on understanding Amateur Radio NVIS (*Near-Vertical Incident Skywave*) antennas and propagation.

<http://kv5r.com/ham-radio/nvis-antennas/>

## What You Can Expect

### From the Ham Bands

It's something we don't often think about--the characteristics of the numerous ham bands we have available to us. This site gives a brief description of each, and can help you choose operating frequencies best suited to the time of day and season.

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/hfbands.html>

## ARRL VEC Reminds

### License Applicants: The FCC is Now Paperless!

The ARRL VEC is reminding Amateur Radio license applicants that the FCC no longer routinely prints or mails license documents. In an effort to streamline its procedures and save money, the FCC went "paperless" in February 2015.

"Customer contact with the VEC has tripled since this change, as many amateurs have not heard of the change or do not understand the FCC procedures for obtaining a license copy," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

To help, she has created an **Obtain License Copy** web page devoted to explaining the various ways a license holder can get an official license document from the FCC. An official license displays the FCC logo and the watermark "Official Copy" across each page. As a money saver, the FCC no longer uses distinctive paper stock to print hard copy licenses, and instead uses standard, white recycled paper. A **printer friendly version** of the instructions is available on the ARRL website.

Somma said the *easiest* way for a license holder to obtain a license copy is to call the FCC at (877) 480-3201 and press menu choice 4.

Licensees also can download and print their own official license copy by logging into the Universal Licensing System (ULS) using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password, then clicking on "Download Electronic Authorizations." The ULS has added a green informational banner that says, "Change your paper authorization preferences here, or download your official electronic authorizations now."

Clicking the "here" hyperlink will take you to the Paper Authorization Preferences" page. To continue receiving paper license documents

click "Yes."

Clicking the "now" hyperlink will take you to the "Download Authorizations" page.

On the "Download Authorizations" scroll down to the "Filter by Radio Service" box (remember, the ULS is *not* just for the Amateur Service). First, **highlight your call sign** and then click "ADD>" to put your call sign into the "Authorizations to Download" column. Scroll down a little further and click "DOWNLOAD>" to create an official FCC license PDF document that can be saved or printed.

When modifying, renewing, or requesting a duplicate license copy, a licensee who already has an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and provides a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" while logged into the ULS system will receive an official ULS-generated electronic authorization via e-mail.

All Amateur Radio exam applicants should include a valid e-mail address on their NCVEC 605 form, in order to receive a copy of their license electronically.

## Baofeng for Dummies

You've now got your Baofeng radio and have talked on the local repeater. So now what do you do with it? Watch this video in HD that shows you how to use these radios to monitor local police, fire and EMS. The Baofeng is also handy for receiving NOAA weather radio.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnnXa-nV-jc>

*(Editor's note: Info appears to be from a prepper's perspective, rather than a ham's, but has some very useful info on programming.)*



**No Smoking**  
UNLESS YOU'RE A RADIO WITH A SHORTED CAPACITOR.

## 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.
- ⇒ BRARA Informational Net: 19:30-20:00. 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

## 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"

## Scheduled Nets

- Mon 20:00 S County  
145.290 -0.6 110.9
- Tue 19:30 PBC NBEMS  
147.285 +0.6 103.5
- 3rd Sat 10:00 Knights of Rnd Tbl  
146.550 Simplex

## Other Local HAM Analog Repeater Nets

Daily 18:00 SEFL Traffic: 146.61 MHz  
Tue 19:00 Boynton CERT: 443.1 MHz  
Tue 19:30 Boca CERT: 145.225 MHz  
Wed 19:00 SC-ARES: 147.225 MHz  
Thu 19:00 WX4SFL: 444.025/444.850

## Scheduled DMR Nets

Day	EDST	Talk Group
Sun	2000	TG-310 (TAC 310)
Mon	1600	TG-13 (EN) UK
Wed	2100	TG-03 (NA) Tech
Sat	1200	TG-01 (WW)

## Local DMR Repeaters

Location	Rx Freq	Color Code
Dania Bch	442.4000	1
Plantation	442.4250	1
Boca Raton	442.0000	8
Delray Bch	443.3000	1
Boynton Bch	442.3000	7 New
Lk Worth	444.4500	10
PBG	442.1000	10
Jupiter	442.6000	10

## GMRS Repeater Database:

Check out [www.myGMRS.com](http://www.myGMRS.com).

## 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](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

## *Progress on New & Larger Shack Trailer*

As you are aware the Boca Raton Amateur Association is diligently working towards obtaining a larger shack building.

Thanks to a number of you that have generously made contributions to the New Shack Building Fund, we have placed a deposit on the new trailer and the permitting process has begun, albite sputtering as we move forward.

Although there are sufficient funds to cover the cost of the trailer, there will be additional expenses:

- New Air Conditioning Unit
- Building and Electrical Permit fees
- Electrical Permit
- Cabels and other incidentals

A significant portion of these are unfunded. It is for this reason that we are appealing to the membership who have not contributed to consider making a donation too. All donations are totally tax deductible. Be sure and mark your donation "BRARA Shack Fund"

There is still a lot of planning and considerable thought needed before we get there.

**We all need to pull together to make this happen...**

## *SDR Circuit Boards and Parts*

Greetings all,

I have gotten a few emails asking about circuit boards and parts for the HF converter to make the Cheapskate SDR that I presented at the October meeting. It looks like there's enough interest to place a group order, and I don't want to leave anyone out who might be interested.

Board cost: If we order a total of less than 7 boards, it will cost us \$5 per board. If we have 7 or more boards, it drops to \$2 per board (because the cheaper board house has a higher minimum order).

Parts cost: I will shop for the best prices, but budget around \$25 for the remaining parts. The variable capacitor, the 2 toroids, the chip and the connectors are the most expensive items.

If you want to be part of the group purchase, please email me at [KO4XL@arrl.net](mailto:KO4XL@arrl.net) BEFORE OCTOBER 31. I will calculate the exact cost and collect your payment at the November meeting. After that, it should take about a month to get everything in - hopefully by the December meeting.

Please be sure to include the following information in your email:

Name  
Callsign  
Phone #  
How many?  
Circuit board only, or with all on-board parts and tuning capacitor?

73,

**Bruce Ratoff, KO4XL**

## *Motion to Change the \$500 Expenditure Limit Approval Authority to the Board Approval*

At the September 2015 General Membership Meeting the membership present approved an amendment to Article 4 Section 6 of our Bylaws (Duties of President) wherein the President is empowered to make disbursements up to \$500. Expenditures in excess of this amount still need to be approved by the General Membership at a General Membership Meeting.

As part of the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to amend the latter portion of the Bylaws to require only Board Approval on expenditures greater than \$500.

Article 9.1, *Amendment of Bylaws*, requires a 2/3 affirmative vote of the BRARA membership responding in person to amend the bylaws. Proposed amendments must be made known to the general membership thirty days in advance via this Newsletter stating the meeting night in which the vote is to be taken. A simple show of hands vote is sufficient for all voting issues except for the election of Officers or special voting issues requiring paper ballots. Once the vote has been taken, it cannot be brought before the general membership again for at least one year following the initial vote.

This being said, this is being posted so that we adhere to the thirty day advance notice requirement for a 02-December-2015 meeting where the General Membership will vote on this motion to change approval authority.

**(Gerry, KG4FUR)**



## Link McGarity WV4J Memorial Free Flea

Start Date: 11/07/2015  
End Date: 11/07/2015  
Location: JFCS of Palm Beach  
County  
5841 Corporate Way  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
Website: <http://www.palmswestradio.org>  
Sponsor: Palms West Amateur Radio  
Club  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Talk-In: 147.045 (PL 110.9)  
Public Contact: Robert Pease ,  
KS4EC  
11894 Brierpatch Court Wellington, FL  
33414  
Phone: 561-358-9999  
Email: [ks4ec@att.net](mailto:ks4ec@att.net)

## Flamingo Net / UMARC Free Flea

Start Date: 11/21/2015  
End Date: 11/21/2015  
Location: Physics/Gifford Arboretum  
Parking Lot  
5101 San Amaro Drive  
Coral Gables, FL 33114  
Website: <http://flamingonet.8m.net>  
Sponsor: Flamingo Net ARC &  
University of Miami ARC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Talk-In: 147.150 +600 (PL 94.8)  
Public Contact: William Moore ,  
WA4TEJ  
1451 NE 102nd Street Miami Shores, FL  
33138  
Phone: 305-751-1874  
Email: [wa4tej@juno.com](mailto:wa4tej@juno.com)

## Free Laurel VEC Testing



Sun 01-Nov-2015, 1100-1300, Fire  
Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal  
Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of  
odd months).

Tue 10-Nov-2015, 1800-1930,  
Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews  
Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue  
of every month).

Thu 12-Nov-2015, 1900-2100,  
Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato  
Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA]  
(Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

## Welcome New Members:

John Stucka N3JM  
Jose Tadeu Fernandes PY1KCF

Web site hits: 20,000  
For more on BRARA  
[www.n4brf.org](http://www.n4brf.org)

## Okeechobee Hamfest in the Woods

Start Date: 11/28/2015  
End Date: 11/28/2015  
Location: Freedom Ranch  
11655 US Route 441 SE  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
Website: <http://www.k4oke.com>  
Sponsor: Okeechobee Amateur Radio  
Club  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Talk-In: 147.195 (PL 100)  
Public Contact: Amos McDaniel ,  
KK4AMK  
7615 NW 86th Court Okeechobee, FL  
34972  
Phone: 863-467-8823  
Email: [kk4amk@yahoo.com](mailto:kk4amk@yahoo.com)

## 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).

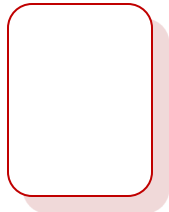
## the Radio Flyer's Purpose

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 *the RF*  
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

