



the *Radio Flyer*, a *BRARA* Newsletter

January 2016

BRARA Calendar:

Fri 01 Jan-16 New Years Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 02-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 04-Jan 16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

19:00-21:00 Tue 05-Jan-16
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-12:00 Wed 06-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 09-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 11-Jan-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 13-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 16-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Mon 18-Jan-16 MLK Day

19:30 Mon 18-Jan-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 20-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 23-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

12:00 Noon Sun 24-Jan-16
Soft Deadline for Newsletter

19:30 Mon 25-Jan-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 27-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 30-Jan-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 01-Feb-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

Tue 02-Feb-16 Groundhog Day

19:00-21:00 Tue 02-Feb-16
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-12:00 Wed 03-Feb-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 06-Feb-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Sun 07-Feb-16 Super Bowl Sunday



This Month's Speaker N4EJG

This month, John Stuka (N3JM) will providing a presentation on the Challenge to Protect Your HAM Equipment from the Effect of Lightning.

Next month, Rich Ladisky (WB1J) will give a photographic presentation on Underwater nature; specifically the Tubbataha Reef, 90 miles off Palaidau Island in the Philippines. It is a UNESCO site.



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 n4ii

As we close out the month, N4BRF has logged in 2,211 QSLs/7,394 QSOs (29.9%) on LoTW.

DXCC Account Status: Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 15m and 10m. New this month: Ghana (9G), Sao Tome & Principe (S9), Cocos Isl (T19), Willis Isl (VK9W).

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

- AK, ID for 40m
- AK, WV for 15m
- WY for 20m Phone
- NV for 20m CW.
- AK, DE, ID, ME, NV for 40m CW.

We have received the following QSOs from Field Day activities:

- 169 (+0) QSLs from 2012,
- 175 (+0) QSOs from 2013
- 237 (+0) QSOs from 2014
- 257 (+0) QSOs from 2015

VUCC Account Status: New this month: AR 15m, MT 40m, NE 80m, 40m 15m,10m, VT 10m.

Update at the next Club Meeting.

Happy New Year



DE BRARA Board of Directors

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:

- Building Permit fees
- Electrical Permit Fees
- Cables and other incidentals

The trailer delivery has been on hold waiting Palm Beach County to approve the necessary permits to deliver and set up the new trailer.

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 hope to have the trailer installed this month with the new Air Conditioning unit.

We plan on being operational before Spring with Field Day conducted at the new Shack Trailer. There is a lot of work and cooperation required to meet this plan

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

Learn Morse Code

Still procrastinating? *Boys' Life*, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America, has launched an online game that allows users to learn and/or practice Morse Code right on your computer!

<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/boyslife-morse-code-machine.aspx>

Use of 146.52 MHz FM Simplex Frequency Cleared for ARRL Contests

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee earlier this year unanimously adopted a recommendation from its VHF and Above Revitalization Committee to remove the rule prohibiting the use of 146.52 MHz simplex for making contest contacts. That change will go into effect starting on January 1.

The VHF and Above Revitalization Committee had concluded that the restriction was no longer necessary. The committee felt that permitting the use of 146.52 MHz would allow new/curious contesters possessing only FM-mode radios to stumble upon more contacts, increasing their chances of being drawn further into VHF+ contesting – the primary aim of the Revitalization Committee.

Advance notification of the rule change now has been communicated to the full Board, and the change becomes effective in 2016, starting with the ARRL January VHF Contest.

The change also will be incorporated into the ARRL Field Day rules This change eliminates Rule 1.8 in the "General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz," with subsequent Rule 1 sections renumbered accordingly.

Ham Humor Confused Man Works Sweepstakes, Expects Money Soon



By WBØRUR, on the scene

NOTTINGHAM ON THE PLAINS, NEBRASKA – Rural Manchester County amateur radio operator Wilfred Barleycorn is telling members of his radio club that he's "preparing for special visitor."

A few days ago, Barleycorn competed in the National Radio Retransmission Legion's (NRRL) Sweepstakes contest and submitted his log in Cabrillo format.

Now, he's "positive as an electron that Ed McMahon is going to stop by with a \$1,000,000 check any day!"

He's so sure, in fact, that when asked "What is your check?" during the normal exchange, he replied with, "Hopefully a million!"

Members of the Nottingham United Radio Society of the East have explained to Barleycorn that he's confusing the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes with the NRRL Sweepstakes.

Undeterred, Barleycorn says he'll continue to leave the porch light on for McMahon (who, in fact, died in 2009) and promises "new radio gear for the entire club" when he cashes the prize winning check.

HamHijinks.com



Monday Night Nets

KG4FUR

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

- ⇒ 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. Analog Voice and FLDigi/FLMsg mixed mode.

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"

Scheduled Nets

Mon	20:00	S County	145.290 -0.6 110.9
Tue	19:30	PBC NBEMS	147.285 +0.6 103.5
1 st / _{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	EST	Talk Group
Sun	1900	TG-310 (TAC 310)
Mon	1500	TG-13 (EN) UK Tech
Wed	2100	TG-03 (NA) NATEch
Sat	1200	TG-01 (WW)

Local DMR Repeaters

Location	Rx Freq	Color Code
Miami	442.225	1
N Dade	443.1250	10 Pending
Dania Bch	442.4000	1
Plantation	442.4250	1
Boca Raton	442.0000	8
Delray Bch	443.3000	1
Boynton Bch	442.3000	7
Lk Worth	444.4500	10
PBG	442.1000	10
Jupiter	442.6000	10 Pending
Palm City	440.7000	1

G.MRS Repeater Database:

Check out 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

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.

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.

Apparel Donations

\$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)

Membership Application & Renewal

- \$25 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 DMR

Other: _____

Signature: _____

Return with Dues to BRARA at either:

BRARA
P.O. Box 480162
Delray Beach, FL 33448-0162

Or

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

Southern Florida Section Convention

Start Date: 01/15/2016
End Date: 01/16/2016
Location: Gulf Coast Church of
Christ
9550 Six Mile Cypress Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Website: <http://swflhamfest.info>
Sponsor: Fort Myers Amateur Radio
Club
Type: ARRL Convention
Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 136.5)
Public Contact: Lawrence Zimmer ,
W4LWZ
1719 NW 21st Street Cape Coral, FL
33993
Phone: 239-282-1526
Email: W4LWZ@arrl.net

Southeastern Division Convention (Orlando HamCation®)

Start Date: 02/12/2016
End Date: 02/14/2016
Location: Central Florida
Fairgrounds
4603 West Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32801
Website: <http://hamcation.com>
Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio
Club (OARC)
Type: ARRL Convention
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 03-Jan-2016, 1100-1300, Fire
Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal
Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of
odd months).

Tue 12-Jan-2016, 1800-1930,
Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews
Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue
of every month).

Thu 11-Feb-2016, 1900-2100,
Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato
Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA]
(Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

Welcome New Members:

Keith McPhail K3SKM

For more on BRARA
www.n4brf.org

Stuart Hamfest

Start Date: 03/19/2016
End Date: 03/19/2016
Location: Martin County Fairgrounds
2616 SE Dixie Highway
Stuart, FL 34994
Website: <http://www.stuarthamfest.com>
Sponsor: Martin County Amateur
Radio Association
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.060+ (PL 107.2)
Public Contact: Doug Shields ,
W4DAS
1450 SE 11th Street Stuart, FL 34996
Phone: 772-349-7820
Email: hamfest@mcara.com

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).

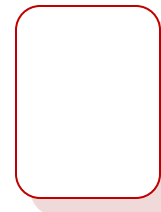
the Radio Flyer's Purpose

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 R.F.*
as much as we did publishing it!



the Radio Flyer

P.O. Box 480162
Delray Beach, FL 33448-0162



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



Amateur License Refresher

Dave, KD8NZF

It's probably been awhile since you took your Amateur License exam. Here are a few sample questions from the current question pools just to keep those synapses firing.

Extra Pool

E2B13

How many lines are commonly used in each frame on an amateur slow-scan color television picture?

- A. 30 to 60
- B. 60 or 100
- C. 128 or 256
- D. 180 or 360

E2B17

What is the approximate bandwidth of a slow-scan TV signal?

- A. 600 Hz
- B. 3 kHz
- C. 2 MHz
- D. 6 MHz

General Pool

G4A03

What is normally meant by operating a transceiver in "split" mode?

- A. The radio is operating at half power
- B. The transceiver is operating from an external power source
- C. The transceiver is set to different transmit and receive frequencies
- D. The transmitter is emitting a SSB signal, as opposed to DSB operation

G4A14

How should the transceiver audio input be adjusted when transmitting PSK31 data signals?

- A. So that the transceiver is at maximum rated output power
- B. So that the transceiver ALC system does not activate
- C. So that the transceiver operates at no more than 25% of rated power
- D. So that the transceiver ALC indicator shows half scale

(Answers on last page)

Lotsa Links

Welcome to ham radio nirvana! Kansas Amateur Radio (KAR) has compiled a huge list of **OVER 500 HAM WEB SITES**--all ham radio links! Nothing but amateur radio web sites! They claim to be the largest ad-free ham linking site on the web.

<http://ksarrl.org/deeplink/>

Old Guys Rule

The CQ World Wide Contest Committee has posted the preliminary results of its September survey of CQ WW participants. The committee received 5117 responses from contesters around the world, the greatest number of responses came from Europe. An analysis of the results showed that most survey participants were in the older age brackets and that there were not many youth participants.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/preliminary-cq-world-wide-survey-results-suggest-contesters-trending-older>

Radio Reception Goes to Pot

A few years ago, retired electrical engineer Tom Thompson noticed it was getting harder and harder to hear his friends across the country talking to him on their ham radios. Why? Check out this story that appeared in USA Today.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/06/04/ham-radio-interference-pot-growers/9770677/>

Ham Humor
**Wife Installs Pay-As-You-Go
Device On Radio**
Ham Hijinks staff report

BONIFACE, Minnesota — A local ham radio operator is facing a significant barrier to getting on the air, and it involves his wife.

Wendy Johansson, a self-described entrepreneur, has turned her husband's hobby into an income generator. She drives a new car, wears expensive furs and takes exotic vacations.

Johansson was reached by satellite phone while on a cruise of the River Nile in Egypt. "I had hoped to help moderate his time in his radio room, but instead it became a significant wealth-driver for the family. I've been able to send the kids to college and buy some nice purses," she said.

The source of the wealth? A coin-operated pay-as-you-go device that requires payment before allowing the radio to turn on.

"I didn't realize how much time I was spending on the radio," says Luther Johansson, the amateur radio operator.

"At this point, I've cleaned up all loose change in the couch cushions and under the car seat, and gone through every pair of pants in my

closet. It's becoming increasingly difficult to resist my five-year-old's piggy bank," he said.

Johansson plans to start a Kickstarter account to fund his involvement in the phone portion of Sweepstakes.

"But, this weekend is the trader's net! I have no idea how I'm going to pay for that air time," he said.

Mrs. Johansson says she plans to manufacture more of the devices and sell them to other radio radio wives in nearby clubs.

Ham Hijinks interns are looking into FCC rules regarding this matter. So far, it appears the law says nothing about an XYL having pecuniary interest.

HamHijinks.com

Two Antenna met on a roof and got married.

The Ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was terrific!



Answers Amateur License Refresher:

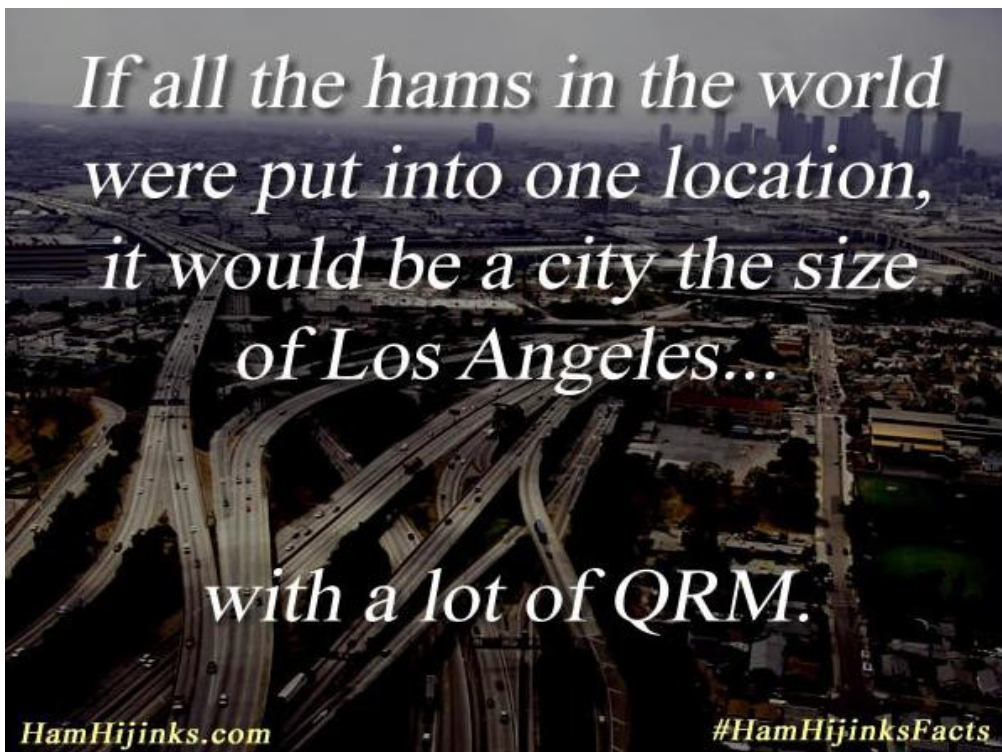
- E2B13 (C)
- E2B17 (B)
- G4A03 (C)
- G4A14 (B)



*Articles for the
Newsletter **KG4FUR***

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.

Please send articles to
KG4FUR@N4BRF.org



**2015 Tax Donation
Letters *W3EZB***

Tax Donation letters have been emailed for all the donations made as of November 17. Duplicates will be sent out if requested.

Would You Buy a Chinese Mobile Radio on Amazon?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I spent a couple of hours today trying to figure out a way to make more money via the Amazon associates program. While I'm still working on that, one thing that did strike me is the number of VHF/UHF transceivers from China that are now available via Amazon. They include:



- LEIXEN LX VV-898 Dual Band VHF/UHF 136-174/400-470MHz 10W Two Way Radio Mobile Transceiver Amateur Ham Radio
- AnyTone Dual Band Transceiver VHF/UHF AT-5888UV Two Way Amateur Radio
- Juntai JT-6188 Dual Band VHF/UHF 136-174/400-480MHz VHF 25Watt UHF 20Watts Dual Band Two Way Radios Mobile Transceiver
- Tokmate TD8900 Portable Dual Band Transceiver VHF/UHF 136-174/400-480MHz VHF 25Watt UHF 20Watt Mobile Transceiver
- SainSonic GT-890 Mini Dual Band Car Radio, VHF/UHF 136-174/400-480MHz 25W/20W Mobile Transceiver
- TYT TH-9800 Quad Band Transceiver 10M/6M/2M/70cm VHF/UHF Two Way and Amateur Radio
- QYT KT-8900 Dual Band VHF/UHF 136-174/400-480MHz VHF 25Watt UHF 20Watts Dual Band Two Way Radios Mobile Transceiver

- Zastone KT8900 Dual Band Transceiver VHF/UHF 20W MINI Mobile radio
- HYS TC-8900R 50Watt mobile Vehicle transceiver Ham two way radio with Cross Band Repeat
- HYS Tc-mauv11 Vhf/uhf Dual Band Mobile Ham Radio Transceiver Air – Band Receiving Mobile Car Radio with USB Programming Cable
- JT-6188 Mini Dual Band Vhf/uhf 136-174/400-480mhz VHF 25watt UHF 20watts Dual Band Two Way Radios Mobile Transceiver
- HYS Tc-9900 Hf/vhf/uhf Car Mobile Radio Transceiver/ham Two Way Radio Cross Band Repeater
- LUITON LT-580 UHF Mobile Radio 45watts 400-490Mhz with Free Programming Cable Long Distance Car FM Transceiver (Black)

That's just from the first two pages of results when I searched for "amateur radio vhf transceiver." I haven't used any of these radios, but some of them look pretty interesting. They are very small, for one thing.

Also, I left out the radios from the Big Three (Yaesu, Icom, and Kenwood). The reason for this is that

the Amazon prices were in nearly every case higher than the price for which you could purchase the radio from Gigaparts or DX Engineering. I didn't feel it was right to get you to buy the radio via Amazon, when you could get it for less from the mainstream ham radio suppliers.

I'd love to hear from you if you've purchased and used any of these radios. Please leave a comment at <http://www.kb6nu.com/would-you-buy-a-chinese-mobile-radio-on-amazon/> about how well the radio performs and whether you like it or not.

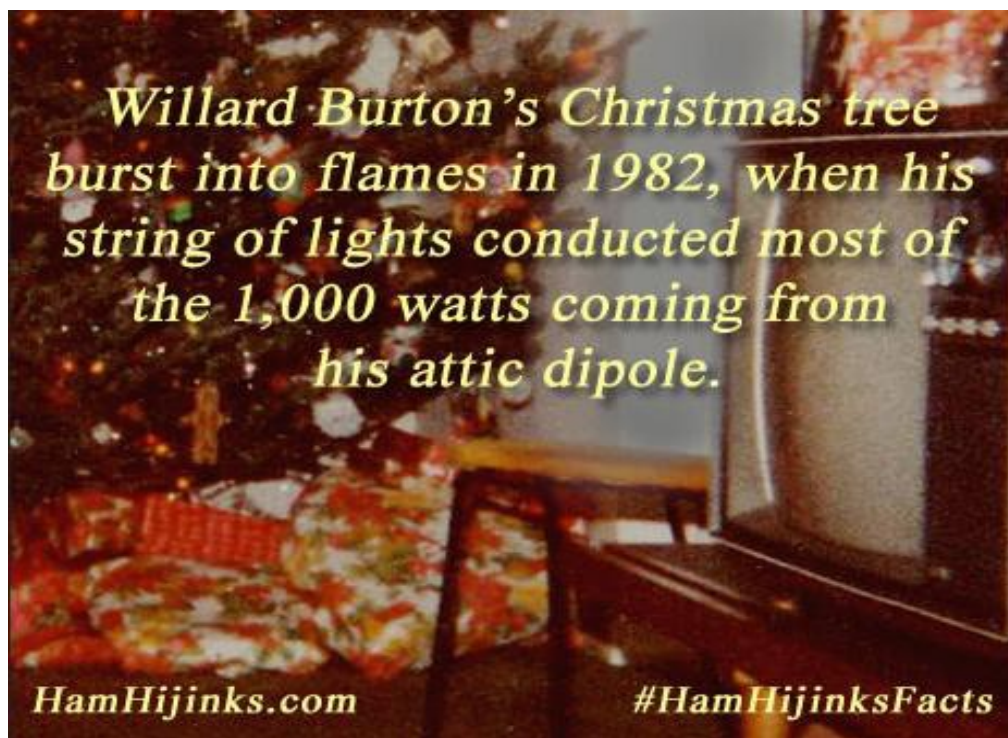
You'll Shoot Your Eye Out

You probably know Jean Shepherd as the narrator and writer of *A Christmas Story*, the 1983 Yuletide comedy which is (over) played every holiday, and has become a beloved classic. But there is a lot more to Jean Shepherd, K2ORS, than that.

<http://splitsider.com/2012/10/more-than-a-christmas-story-remembering-jean-shepherd-radios-great-teller-of-tales/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22fl5JtoZXU>

<http://www.keyflux.com/shep/>



HamHijinks.com

#HamHijinksFacts

HOLIDAY PARTY PHOTO OP 17-DEC-2015

