



the Radio Flyer, *a BRARA Newsletter*

March 2016

BRARA Calendar:

Tue 01-Mar-16 No Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-12:00 Wed 02-Mar-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 05-Mar-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

19:30 Mon 07-Mar-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

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

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

Sun 13-Mar-16 Daylight Savings Time Begins-move clock 1 hour forward

19:30 Mon 14-Mar-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

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

Thu 17-Mar-2016 St Patrick's Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 19-Mar-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Sun 20-Mar-2016 Spring Begins

12:00 Noon Sun 20-Mar-16
Soft Deadline for Newsletter

19:30 Mon 21-Mar-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 23-Mar-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Thu 24-Mar-2016 Holy Thursday/Purim

Fri 25-Mar-2016 Good Friday

09:00-13:00 Sat 26-Mar-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Sun 27-Mar-2016 Easter

19:30 Mon 28-Mar-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]
followed by South County NBEMS Net

09:00-12:00 Wed 30-Mar-16
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

Fri 01-Apr-2016 April Fools Day

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

19:30 Mon 04-Apr-16
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]



This Month's Speaker

Due to Early and Primary Voting, there will not be a March General Meeting.

At the 05-Apr-2016 Meeting, Jerry Zaza will give us a status report on the New Shack and other frequency allocations that we will be able to take advantage of as we move forward with the New Shack.

At the 03-May-2016 Meeting, we will begin to plan for Field Day 2016 at the New Shack.



Repeater, HSM, & 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 2,287 QSLs/7,448 QSOs (30.7%) on LoTW.

DXCC Account Status: We reached DXCC 17m, Mixed 250, and CW 200 milestones. New this month: Guadeloupe (FG), Mauritius (3B8), S Georgia Isl (VP8SGI), S Sandwich IIs (VP8STI). *Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 17m, 15m and 10m.*

WAS Account Status: New this month: IL 40m dig, NE 15m and NY 17m. *Awards issued: Mixed, 20m, CW, Phone, Digital, Triple Play, 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,
- 176 (+1) QSOs from 2013
- 240 (+3) QSOs from 2014
- 259 (+1) QSOs from 2015

VUCC Account Status: Nothing new this month.

Change in BRARA Officers

We regret to announce the resignation of **Max Kearns (N4CGC)**. Max will be missed on the Board, but we will be able to retain him as a very valuable member (VVM).

His absence left a very big hole to fill. Luckily, **Arthur Lewis (WA8VSJ)** has accepted the challenge and agreed to serve as Vice President in the interim. Art's expertise is essential to the New Shack project. He brings a lot of Club management and operational experience, that will benefit the Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association.



Good Bye Snowbirds

It's the time of the year that the Snow Birds travel North to their other colder QTH. We wish you a safe journey and look forward to your return in the Fall. Remember that we are as close as Echolink [EC Node 826953]. So stay in touch with us on Monday nights at 19:30 (7:30 PM our local time). We all look forward to seeing you in the fall but do stay in touch on Echolink or DMR.

Daylight

Savings

Time

Returns

02:00

Sunday

13-March-2016

Sneak Peek

Icom's new IC-7300 SDR HF/6m transceiver is due to be released in the first quarter of this year-at least that's what the current info says. If you want to find out more about it, the manual is available online in PDF format. The first couple of pages have a combination of gibberish and English, but the remainder of the manual is readable.

http://www.hamshop.nl/media/downloads/Diverse/7300_ENG_Basic_0.pdf

IC-

Electrical Forensics

"When listening to the lightning storms in your area on a standard AM radio, you will hear a sound like bacon frying and this is the electromagnetic energy that the storm is generating. Plants react to this energy and may show vigorous growth during lightning seasons." — Steven Magee, Electrical Forensics

Field Day 2016

Just a reminder that BRARA will be participating in FD16 at the new Shack in the West Delray Regional Park the weekend of 25-26 June 2016.



Lifetime License

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 - available on the web at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001333714> that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760> via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) .

New Amateur Extra Question Pool Puts Greater Emphasis on Digital, SDRs, Propagation

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"The primary change is modernization of the pool to place more emphasis on digital communications, digital test equipment, software defined radios, and propagation/space weather," he said. "Also, a number of other topics were added, including questions on some additional antenna types commonly used by radio

amateurs." Anders said that room to cover the new topics was made in the question pool by dropping some questions that had been in the expiring pool.

"Many of the questions removed were on topics which were felt to be of less importance to the current amateur population," he said. "However, there was also some 'evening out' of difficulty in the removal of a number of questions felt to be inappropriately easy or difficult relative to the rest of the pool." As a result, he said, the net number of questions grew from 700 to 712 questions.

All questions in the expiring pool were re-evaluated for possible clarification or improvement, and approximately 60 questions were slightly modified.

"All in all, the Question Pool Committee has worked to keep the Amateur Extra class exam up to date, to provide a high-quality examination, and to ensure that the incoming Extra class amateurs are well-qualified to be leaders in the hobby," Anders said.

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.

"A world without radio is a deaf world.

A world without television is a blind world.

A world without telephone is a dumb world.

A world without communication is indeed a crippled world."

— Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

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) NA Tech
Sat	1200	TG-01 (WW)

Local DMR Repeaters

Location	Rx Freq	Color Code
Miami	442.225	1
N Dade	443.1250	10
Dania Bch	442.4000	1
Plantation	442.4250	1
Boca Raton	442.0000	8
Delray Bch	443.3000	1
Boynton Bch	442.3000	7 Shut Down
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

Link McGarity WV4J

Memorial Free Flea

Start Date: 03/12/2016
 End Date: 03/12/2016
 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

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@mcaraweb.com

Free Laurel VEC Testing



Sun 06-Mar-2016, 1100-1300, Fire Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd months).

Tue 08-Mar-2016, 1800-1930, Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue of every month).

Thu 12-May-2016, 1900-2100, Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA] (Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

Welcome New Members:

KKRFBU Stevan Anderson
 KM4QN Todd Rowe

For more on BRARA
www.n4brf.org

License Upgrades

w2do



Recent License Upgrades and New Techs from our 11-Feb-2016 testing session at Rutherford Community Center, Patch Reef Park:

Richard P Jans`	KM4RBA	Tech
Todd J Rowe	KM4QN	Tech Gen Extra
Ruben D Perez	KM4RBB	Tech
Robert T Richartz	KM4RBC	Tech
Mallett L Rusty	KM4RBD	Tech

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).

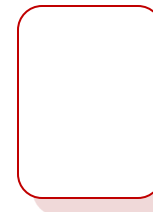
the Radio Flyer's Purpose

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

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

E2E11

What is the difference between direct FSK and audio FSK?
Audio FSK can be performed anywhere in the transmit chain
A. Direct FSK applies the data signal to the transmitter VFO
B. Audio FSK has a superior frequency response
C. Direct FSK uses a DC-coupled data connection
D. Audio FSK can be performed anywhere in the transmit chain

E2E07

What is the typical bandwidth of a properly modulated MFSK16 signal?
A. 31 Hz
B. 316 Hz
C. 550 Hz
D. 2.16 kHz

General Pool

G4D01

What is the purpose of a speech processor as used in a modern transceiver?
A. Increase the intelligibility of transmitted phone signals during poor conditions
B. Increase transmitter bass response for more natural sounding SSB signals
C. Prevent distortion of voice signals
D. Decrease high-frequency voice output to prevent out of band operation

G4D05

How does an S meter reading of 20 dB over S-9 compare to an S-9 signal, assuming a properly calibrated S meter?
A. It is 10 times weaker
B. It is 20 times weaker
C. It is 20 times stronger
D. It is 100 times stronger

Answers at bottom of the last column of this page.

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Answers to Amateur License Refresher:

E2E11 (A)
E2E07 (B)
G4D01 (A)
G4D05 (D)

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



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



Ham Humor

Club Newsletter Causes Controversy

LAZY COVE, CALIFORNIA — A local radio club's idea to encourage inactive members to get back on the air is making waves in the amateur radio hobby.

The club first started publishing their new "silent key" section in their newsletter last month. Since then, newsletter editor Paul Ramond has endured dozens of phone calls, hundreds of emails and heated exchanges on the local repeater.

"Look, it was supposed to be a way for us to list members that hadn't been heard on the local nets in a while, that's all," explained Ramond. "I guess we didn't put much thought into what we called it."

A "silent key" is a phrase used by ham radio operators to signify when someone has died. Several people whose names appeared on the list were upset, to say the least.

A ham operator is operating Field Day alone at a deserted beach. He is taking a little break from the action, walking around on the beach and notices an antique brass bottle mostly buried in the sand. He digs it out and discovers it's a genie bottle! He manages to get it open and a genie appears.

"My wife received a phone call on Tuesday asking if she was selling my radio gear now that I had passed. It was very traumatic for her," said Wilford Draymeyer, one of the hams on the list.

The club is taking the criticism in stride and plans to use what they hope is a less controversial name for the feature in next month's newsletter: List of Inactive Dudes (LIDs).

Of Genies and Wishes



Thank you for freeing me, O Master!" said the grateful genie. "I will grant you any one wish you want." The ham thinks about it and says, "OK, I got it. I live in a restrictive neighborhood with an HOA. I would like to have a 500 foot tower with all sorts of antennas, despite the homeowners association."

The genie looks worried. "O Master! That's a big order. The power of these HOAs and their CC&Rs is most powerful! In fact, they are more powerful than even I, O Master! I would beg you to please choose something else for your wish."

The ham says, "OK, let's do this." He goes over to his ham station and pulls out his log books. "See this entry? This is a contact I once made with KG4FUR. I would sure like to get his QSL card after all this time."

The genie looks at the logbook. Then he says, "Now regarding that 500 foot antenna tower, do you want it galvanized or stainless steel?"



NRRL Promotes Hot, Fresh Idea

NEWINGSTEAD, VERMONT - In a media briefing today held at the organization's headquarters, the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL) announced a year-long operating event for ham radio operators wanting to add "flavor" to their operating habits.

"The National Pizza Ovens On the Air event (NPOOTA) will begin

immediately and run through this calendar year," says legion president Ray Fergie, dabbing a spot of pizza sauce and parmesan cheese from his bolo tie.

"We hope to foster a unique radio experience for our members, while promoting the American values embodied in a good deep dish, stuffed crust, bacon laden 3-cheese pizza prepared by your favorite local pizzeria."

Portable station NPOOTA activators are asked to post upcoming activations on the NPOOTA home page. Throughout the year, both activators and chasers will be tallied on a leaderboard which includes total stations worked and total calories consumed.

Although details are still being finalized, the NRRL released the following list of FAQs:

Q: Can I operate from the parking lot of my local pizzeria?

A: To be considered a valid NPOOTA activation, the transmitting antenna must be located with 10 feet of the pizza oven.

Q: Can the "10 feet" rule be interpreted as positioned ABOVE the pizza oven?

A: If you can get permission to operate a portable station on the roof, then "yes."

Q: What modes are considered "authorized" for this event?

A: CW, SSB, Digital and All You Can Eat

Q: Do I need documentation to prove my activation?

A: The NRRL will conduct random audits throughout the year. A photo of the radio operator and pizza cook will be required.

Q: Since I am on a diet, is it possible to activate only the salad bar portion of the pizzeria?

A: We hope to implement Salad Bars on the Air (SBOTA) later this year.

