

# the Radio Flyer, a BRARA Newsletter

June 2016



## BRARA Calendar:

- 09:00-12:00 Wed 01-Jun-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 1000-14:00 Sat 04-Jun-16**  
**BRARA Open House at New Shack**
- Mon 06-Jun-2016 D-Day**
- 19:30 Mon 06-Jun-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 19:00-21:00 Tue 07-Jun-16 Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 08-Jun-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-12:00 Sat 11-Jun-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:30 Mon 13-Jun-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- Tue 14-Jun-2016 Flag Day**
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 15-Jun-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 18-Jun-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Sun 19-Jun-2016 Father's Day**
- Mon 20-Jun-2016 Summer Begins**
- 19:30 Mon 20-Jun-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 22-Jun-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Sat/Sun 25/26-Jun-2016 Field Day**
- 12:00 Noon Sun 26-Jun-16**  
**Soft Deadline for Newsletter**
- 19:30 Mon 27-Jun-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 29-Jun-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 02-Jul-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Mon 04-Jul-2016 Independence Day**
- 19:30 Mon 04-Jul-16**  
Informal Net on 145.29 [110.9]  
followed by South County NBEMS Net
- 19:00-21:00 Tue 05-Jul-16 Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 06-Jul-16**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day



## This Month's Speaker

Although, there is no Speaker (per se) for the 07-Jun-2016 Meeting, we will critique our Open House at the New Shack on Saturday 04-Jun and review plans for Field Day 2016 at the New Shack on 25-26 Jun.

There are some significant changes to our operation as we transition from an A-Class to an E Class Station.



## 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 <sup>n4ii</sup>

As we closed out May, N4BRF had logged in 2,344 QSLs/7,452 QSOs (31.5%) on LoTW.

**DXCC Account Status:** New this month: Yemen (70).

**With reconstruction ending in May and full operation beginning in June, we expect improvements!**

*Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 17m, 15m and 10m. Also reached 256 Mixed and 208 CW DXCC*

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

- 173 (+0) QSLs from 2012,
- 177 (+1) QSOs from 2013
- 242 (+0) QSOs from 2014
- 264 (+1) QSOs from 2015

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

Update at the next Club Meeting.



Happy  
**FATHER'S  
DAY**

## Windows 10

### Nag Screen Removal

Some of you may be getting fed up with the “nag” screen about upgrading to Windows 10. Some have even reported the OS automatically installing it. I personally find it manageable, takes some getting use to. For those who want removed:

1. Click on the START button
2. From the Menu, go to the Control Panel
3. On the Control Panel, select “Programs and Features”
4. On the left side of the Programs and Features window, select “Installed Updates”
5. On the list (after it builds), find the entry that says “Update for Microsoft Windows (KB3035583)”
6. Single click the entry to highlight it
7. Select “Uninstall”
8. After the update uninstalls, reboot your computer

The icon in the lower right hand taskbar (by the clock) for Windows 10 should no longer be there and you will no longer get the “Upgrade to Windows 10” screen anymore. Just make sure your automatic updates are set to ignore this KB update (hide update), or it will re-install. You can also turn off automatic updates in your settings.

### The Real Truth about SWR

This page is all about where the energy really goes in an antenna system. Will a high SWR blow up my transmitter? ( No, it will not, but POOR TUNING can.) The purpose of this page is to explain what happens when unused energy comes back down the coax from the antenna.

<http://www.wc7i.com/reflection%20section.htm>

### At a Loss

So how much is that 175 ft. run of 8X at Field Day going to cost you in losses? Here's a simple calculator, based on coax type.

<http://www.arrg.us/pages/Loss-Calc.htm>

## Exam Cram

July 1, 2016 is the date to start using the new Extra Exam questions. Some questions have been deleted from the old pool and some have been added. Overall it's close to a wash between the two versions, 712 questions in the new pool and 702 in the old pool. Additionally, many existing questions have been edited. The folks at HamStudy.org have looked over the new pool and offer this analysis:

- International operation: 3 questions added
- Space Station rules - 1 question added
- VE rules (including remote proctoring) - 1 question added
- APRS operation - 1 question added
- Mesh networks - 2 questions added
- US QSL bureau system - 1 question added
- Remote control operation - 1 question added
- Digital operation - 12 questions added
- Automatic control - 1 question added
- Solar weather and propagation - 23 questions added

o These cover advanced topics such as ordinary/extraordinary waves, chordal hop propagation, microwave-specific propagation, the effects of solar events such as flares (including different types of flares), geomagnetic storms, temperature fronts, the effects of both ground and air water on signal propagation, ray tracing, A or K indexes, VOACAP, etc

- Digital/Computer Instruments (digital oscilloscopes, etc) - 7 questions added
- S parameters - 3 questions added
- Instrument calibration - 1 question added
- SDR/DSP function and operation - 21 questions added
- Cable line loss, shielding, etc - 2 questions added

□ Susceptance and admittance - 5 questions added

□ Rectangular vs Polar Coordinates for reactance (and related) - 7 questions added

□ Electrical length of conductors as related to higher frequencies - 4 questions added

□ PN-junction diode - 1 question added

□ TTL / Logic gates - 8 questions added

□ Inductors and winding - 6 questions added

□ Snubber capacitor - 1 question added

□ Integrated Circuits / packages - 5 questions added

□ Power supplies / voltage regulation - 5 questions added

□ Oscillation and accuracy - 3 questions added

□ CW operation - 2 question added

□ Antenna types and radiation patterns - 8 questions added

□ Q of antennas - 6 questions added

□ Misc. - 2 questions added, LCD displays, ground rods

Over the next few issues, we will look at the new questions.

To start with, [see the questions and answers on the fifth page from Section E1.](#)

## Ham Radio Trivia

Gerson Strassberg, WA2JXX, is credited for inventing this item which no self-respecting geek would have been without. Now, you could probably only find one on eBay. What is it? ([answer on fifth page](#))

## New BRARA Info

### Net en Español

We are kicking around the idea of a new net in Spanish.

No details yet...probably on Wednesday evenings...around 7pm (1900)...on our 70 cm repeater...but could be 2 m.

## 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](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
1 <sup>st</sup> / <sub>3rd</sub> 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: 145.255 MHz  
Wed 20:00 PBC-ARES: 147.450 MHz  
Thu 19:00 WX4SFL: 444.025/444.850

## Scheduled DMR Nets

Day	EDT	Talk Group
Sun	2000	TG-310 (TAC 310)
Mon	1600	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
Wellington	442.3000	7
Lk Worth	444.4500	10
WPB	444.9125	1
PBG	442.1000	10
Jupiter	442.6000	10 Pending

## G.MRS 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 now hold weekly luncheon meetings at 11:30 Mondays (quorum permitting) at the New BRARA Ham Shack in the West Delray Regional Park located at 10875 West Atlantic Avenue.

## 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

## Wednesday night ARES Net Changes and Reminder

The three Wednesday night Palm Beach County ARES Nets have been consolidated into one Wednesday night all-PBC net.

Time: 2000 -2100 hours EDST  
 Freq: 147.045 MHz  
 Offset: -600 kHz  
 PL: 110.9 Hz

The 1900 (SPBC) and 1930 (NPBC) nets were consolidated with the 2000 (CPBC) net into one net. This was formerly the time slot and frequency for the 2000 (CPBC) net.



Congratulations to the following Hams who successfully either joined the Ham ranks and/or advanced in Class:

- KK4FBU (G) Steven Sanderson
  - KM4RBB (G) Reuben Perez\*
  - KF4HVT (E) Richard Gallant
  - KM4TUX (T) Avraham Chamish
  - KM4TUY (E) Ralph Monserrat\*
  - KM4TUZ (T) Michael Ross\*
  - KM4TVA (T) David Pineda
  - KM4RBA (G) Richard Jans
  - KM4BDK (G) Nicholas Leavitt
- \* Members

## Free Laurel VEC Testing



Sun 03-Jul-2016, 1100-1300, Fire Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd months).

Tue 14-Jun-2016, 1800-1930, Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue of every month).

Thu 11-Aug-2016, 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).

## Welcome New Members:

W8IL	Robert Furtaw
W5EPW	Bill Gearhiser
KM4TUZ	Michael Ross
KM4TUY	Ralph Monserrat
N2NYR	Robert Lange

For more on BRARA  
[www.n4brf.org](http://www.n4brf.org)

Join us on Twitter [BRARA@N4BRF](https://twitter.com/BRARA@N4BRF)

“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.”

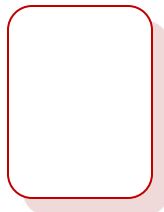
— Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

## 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  
 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 new Extra question pool just to keep those synapses firing.

### New Extra Pool

#### E1B07 [97.307]

What is the highest modulation index permitted at the highest modulation frequency for angle modulation below 29.0 MHz?

- A. 0.5
- B. 1.0
- C. 2.0
- D. 3.0

#### E1C12 [97.117]

What types of communications may be transmitted to amateur stations in foreign countries?

- A. Business-related messages for non-profit organizations
- B. Messages intended for connection to users of the maritime satellite service
- C. Communications incidental to the purpose of the amateur service and remarks of a personal nature
- D. All of these choices are correct

#### E1F06 [1.931]

Under what circumstances might the FCC issue a Special Temporary Authority (STA) to an amateur station?

- A. To provide for experimental amateur communications
- B. To allow regular operation on Land Mobile channels
- C. To provide additional spectrum for personal use
- D. To provide temporary operation while awaiting normal licensing

### Answers to Exam Cram/Amateur License Refresher:

E1B07 (B)  
E1C12 (C)  
E1F06 (A)

### Answer to Ham Trivia: Pocket Protector

## Field Day News

Field Day is just around the corner—  
25/26 June 2016.

If you haven't heard, BRARA is conducting FD16 in the New Shack in the West Delray Regional Park.

If you have never been there, shame on you, but here are the directions:

1. Travel west on Atlantic Ave from Delray Beach
2. Continue across US-441/SR-7
3. When you run out of road, turn right on Palm Beach Downs Blvd
4. Take the next right on Trijet Ln
5. Stop at the parking lot on the right in front of the Antenna Farm
6. We will have the coffee ready and waiting for you.

Want a dry run, Our Open House is on Saturday—see flyer on last page.

We will have creature comforts:

- Although the radios will be on Emergency Power, the AC will be running throughout Field Day
- Yes we will have our own port-a-potty in the parking lot. Yes, it will have a combination lock. For after dark lighting, you may want to bring your own flash light.
- Meals will be served indoors as well as rest areas.

Things we are still working on:

- Equipment configurations will be resolved this week or next
- Changes to the Bonus Points now that we are a 3E
- We are still looking for a few good CW and Phone Operators. In reality, we need more CW folks.

## 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



“When radio keeps silent, our ears shall never hear the real details!” — Ernest Agyemang Yeboah



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



## Ham Humor

### Local Man Does, In Fact, Own The Frequency *WBCRUR*

**PORT O'GLOOM, GA** — Chickasaw County man has become the first amateur radio operator to officially purchase an HF radio frequency, the Federal Communications Commission announced today in a noon hour media luncheon.

Between bites of cucumber sandwiches and small squares of bread slathered with pimento cheese, FCC spokesman Pontus "Smokey" Blumenthal told reporters gathered at the Tri-County Technical College dining hall that the sale is "...part of the government's plan to generate revenue from 'under-performing' slices of the radio spectrum."

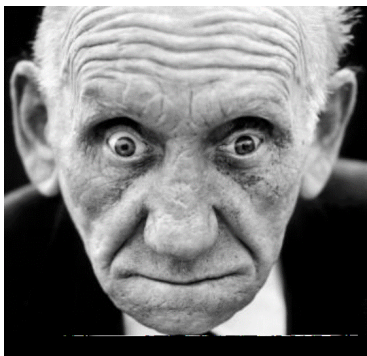
Using a lottery system, local ham radio operator Buzz Sanders (175 Fisherman's Landing), accepted purchase of 14.281 MHz in the 20 meter amateur radio band.

A retired auto industry worker, Sanders says he'll pay \$2500 for the frequency over 35 monthly payments with a large balloon payment in month 36.

"It seemed like a fair deal to me," he said. "When I get ready to work a contest, have a rag chew, want to tune up on the air, or just create some random QRM, I can use 14.281. And if someone gets belligerent, I'll remind them that as a matter of fact I DO own the frequency!"

Sanders says he's already thinking about subletting the frequency after several large contesting organizations contacted him in recent days.

Blumenthal shared that the FCC is also considering a "lease-to-own" frequency program, with the option to return the frequency to the government at the end of the lease term if propagation isn't suitable to the operator. **### HamHijinks.com**



### Local Ham Upset Field Day Has Lost Its Spirit *K5PC*

**LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS** — Billy Putnam is a ham radio purist. And he feels his club has lost their way and it's ruining their annual Field Day event.

Putnam is a senior member of the Hopeless Flats Radio Club from Leavenworth County, Kansas. The largest amateur radio club in the area has hosted a highly successful Field Day event for the last 27 years, but Putnam says success is in the eye of the beholder. "So many of the new guys... they just seem to love nothing more than to operate."

"They arrive bright and early and slave and sweat over raising the antennas and then promptly sit down and laugh and operate for hours. They talk to visiting elected officials about the value of emergency communication, and then they offer to Elmer some youngsters. These guys just don't get it!" said Putman.

Putman notes that "back in his day" Field Day was about far more than operating and ham radio.

"I remember in 1991, we had three potluck tables under the big tent we rent from Ed's Tentery," said Putman. "It was amazing, with ribs, brisket, baked beans, lasagna, deep fried chicken, and mounds of mashed potatoes. That was how Field Day was done. This year they wanted to set up the radios under the tent and the only food these guys brought was two bags of Tostitos corn chips!"

"A bunch of unlicensed youngsters showed up around Noon and ate all fried chicken I brought, he said. "They all built dipoles for the band of their choice and then operated on Martin's old Collins. They didn't even have them take turns flipping burgers on the grill! Heck, they didn't even bring the grill!"

"If things don't change next year," threatened Putman, "I'm just not going to bring my famous Mystery Jell-O anymore!"

Field Day notes from the past seven years indicated literally no one had ever eaten any of Bill Putman's Jell-O, citing an odd "fuzziness" that all felt was unwelcome in a gelatin product.

**### hamhijinks.com**

SUCH A HAM

SH-012



We thought **YOU** were bringing the food.



# BRARA OPEN HOUSE

**Date: 6/4/16**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

- The Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association's fifth anniversary station open house Everyone is welcome Hams, family members, friends come on out for a fun day
- Talk in 145.29 (pl 110.9)

- Ham Radio
- Hot Dogs
- Burgers
- Drinks

**We are also going to have a BRARA Club items only Sale to get rid of some of our surplus Club equipment .**

## BRARA CLUB SHACK LOCATION

**10875 W Atlantic Ave Delray Beach, Florida  
33446**

  
**WWW.BRARA.ORG**

BOCA RATON AMATEUR RADIO  
ASSOCIATION  
21512 Woodchuck Lane  
Boca Raton, Florida 33428

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E-mail N4BRF@N4BRF.ORG