



the Radio Flyer, *a BRARA Newsletter*

August 2016 2nd Edition

BRARA Calendar:

- 19:00-20:30 Mon 01-Aug-16**
Monday Night Nets on 145.29 [110.9]
- 19:00-21:00 Tue 02-Aug-16 Club Meeting @ West Boca Library**
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 03-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:00-1930 Wed 03-Aug-16**
Red Informativa en Español
- 09:00-12:00 Sat 06-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:00-20:30 Mon 08-Aug-16**
Monday Night Nets on 145.29 [110.9]
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 10-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:00-1930 Wed 10-Aug-16**
Red Informativa en Español
- 09:00-12:00 Sat 13-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Sun 14-Aug-2016 VJ Day**
- 19:00-20:30 Mon 15-Aug-16**
Monday Night Nets on 145.29 [110.9]
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 17-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:00-1930 Wed 17-Aug-16**
Red Informativa en Español
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 20-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- Sun 21-Aug-2016 Senior Citizens Day**
- 19:00-20:30 Mon 22-Aug-16**
Monday Night Nets on 145.29 [110.9]
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 24-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:00-1930 Wed 24-Aug-16**
Red Informativa en Español
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 27-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 12:00 Noon Sun 28-Aug-16**
Soft Deadline for Newsletter
- 19:00-20:30 Mon 29-Aug-16**
Monday Night Nets on 145.29 [110.9]
- 09:00-12:00 Wed 31-Aug-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day
- 19:00-1930 Wed 31-Aug-16**
Red Informativa en Español
- 09:00-13:00 Sat 03-Sep-16**
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day



This Month's Speaker

This month, tentatively, Jeff Cutcher (KB2LDT) will have a presentation on the DV4mini dongle and other SDR add-ons that work with DMR, D-Star, Fusion, APCO25 and other digital modes based on GMSK, 2FSK and 4FSK.

If filler is required, we will have short videos.

Next Month's Speaker is still a work in progress.



Repeater, HSMM, & Ham Shack News

Even though the new shack is operational, there still is a lot of areas for innovation and improvement. We still meet every Wednesday and Saturday morning roughly between 0900 and 1300.

Both Analog repeaters are working. Innovation and improvement opportunities are present here too. Art and Lew are spearheading efforts.

Repeater 2m/70cm linking as well as the time stamp are still works in progress.

While the Digipeater is operational, the packet repeater is a work in progress.

We have secured a limited internet connection at the Shack for spotting -no streaming downloads. We are still working on a internet link from the Repeater.

QSL Report ⁿ⁴ⁱⁱ

As we closed out July, N4BRF had logged in 2,556 QSLs / 8,260 QSOs (30.9%) on LoTW.

DXCC Account Status: New this month: Jamaica (6Y), Haiti (HH).

Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 17m, 15m and 10m. Also reached 258 Mixed and 211 CW DXCC

WAS Account Status: New this month: AR 40m Phone; CA 40m Phone; CT 40m Phone; GA 40m Phone, 5-Band, 80m Phone; IL 40m Phone; MS 40m Phone; OH 17m Phone; OR 20m Phone; PA 40m Phone; TX 6m CW; WA 40m Phone. 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:

- 176 (+0) QSLs from 2012,
- 180 (+3) QSOs from 2013
- 253 (+5) QSOs from 2014
- 276 (+8) QSOs from 2015
- 131 (+39) QSOs from 2016

VUCC Account Status: New this month: 6m FK38

Update at the next Club Meeting.



5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie - MOPZT @MOPZT
Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters
<http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated - Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm rag chewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and rag chewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a rag chew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.

New Hams Net

K1TQ (Sharon) has taken over Net Control Station (NCS) for the New Hams Net on Monday evenings (19:00).

Please join us in supporting Sharon and encouraging new Hams (and seasoned Elmers) to participate in this net.

Repeaters Anywhere?

AT&T says it is exploring providing LTE wireless coverage at crowded venues, like concerts and baseball games, by using a drone that is tethered to the ground but hovering in the air nearby.

AT&T has dubbed the drones "Flying COWs" -- the COW stands for "Cell on Wings." The drones would boost LTE coverage to areas in need of it during occasional large events. They would be tethered to the ground to prevent them from going rogue and flying away.

Now, can you imagine a 2m ROW (repeater on wings)?

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/att-thinks-drones-can-fix-terrible-reception-at-baseball-games-2016-07-13>

And Another One Bites the Dust

AES, a long-time fixture in the amateur radio retail world, called it quits at the end of July. Many of us have fond memories of road trips to Wickliffe to see new gear or buy stuff for our shacks.

HRO has acquired AES and plans a major remodel of AES Milwaukee facilities. No mention was made of the other AES stores. But according to the press release, relocation and employment was offered to a number of AES employees, which implies the other stores will be closed.

More details at: <http://forums.grz.com/index.php?threads/ham-radio-outlet-news-hro-milwaukee.530196/>

TALARC Monthly Nets

EchoLink, 20-Meter, and IRLP Nets meet the 2nd Saturday of each month.

40-Meter Net meets the 3rd Sunday of each month.

D-Star Nets meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month.

Note: Access to the *FMCA-ARC* EchoLink Conference Node cannot be made via a Repeater.

Mode	Day	Date	Time [Zulu]	Band	Where to find the Net
EchoLink	Saturday	June 11	12 Noon ET [1600Z]		*FMCA-ARC* Conference
HF	Saturday	June 11	1:00 PM ET [1700Z]	20 meters	14.275 MHz [+/- 5 KHz]
IRLP	Saturday	June 11	2:00 PM ET [1800Z]	2 meters	Node 9735 [K9DC-Indy]
HF	Sunday	June 19	6:00 PM ET [2200Z]	40 meters	7.243 MHz [+/- 5 KHz]
D-Star	Monday	June 20	9:00 PM ET [0100Z]		REF 026A
D-Star	Monday	July 4	9:00 PM ET [0100Z]		REF 026A

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

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
 Tue 20:00 IRLP Tech: 147.075 MHz
 Wed 19:00 BRARA Red Informativa en Español 442.875
 Wed 20:00 PBC-ARES: 147.450 MHz

Scheduled DMR Nets

Day	EDST	Talk Group	
Sun	2000	TG-2	(LO) FL Tech
Mon	1600	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
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 In Repair
WPB	444.9125	1
PBG	442.1000	10
Jupiter	442.6000	10 Pending

GMRS Repeater Database:

Check out www.myGMRS.com.

Social Media Committee

A committee was formed to update, simplify and modernize BRARA social Media:: W4BFL (Jerry), KO4XL (Bruce), NE4LS (Nelson), N1QFH (John C)

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 BRARA Board of Directors:

K4LEW (Lew), KG4FUR (Gerry), KO4XL (Bruce), N4CGC (Max), W3EZB (Marcos), W4BFL (Jerry), and W4WCD (Walt)

will hold scheduled monthly meetings at 18:00 on the third Thursday of the month in the McDonalds on Yamato Rd and Technology Way. Impromptu meetings may be held at the Shack on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

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

to a Director at the Shack on Wednesday or Saturday morning radio days.

Ft. Pierce ARC Hamfest

Start Date: 08/13/2016
End Date: 08/13/2016
Location: Indian River State College
KSU Building
3209 Virginia Avenue, Ft. Pierce, FL
Website: <http://fparc.org/>
Sponsor: Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio
Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.345
Public Contact: Joe Lenartiene
3209 Virginia Ave, Bldg Q, Ft. Pierce,
FL 34981
Phone: 772-462-7815
Email: jlenarti@irsc.edu

Florida St Convention (Melbourne Hamfest)

Start Date: 10/07/2016
End Date: 10/08/2016
Location: Melbourne Auditorium
625 East Hibiscus Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32901
Website: <http://PCARS.org>
Sponsor: Platinum Coast Amateur
Radio Society (PCARS)
Type: ARRL Convention
Talk-In: 146.850
Public Contact: Chuck Green , AD4ES
404 East New Haven Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32901
Phone: 321-223-3776
Email: chuck@addressnmail.com

Free Laurel VEC Testing



Tue 09-Aug-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)

Sun 04-Sep-2016, 1100-1300, Fire
Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal
Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of
odd months).

Welcome New Members:

KK4FLA	Nathalie Batsiste
K4LA	Lou Alfonso
AA2SR	Eugene Berman
KC4BET	Gustavo Betzer

Also, Welcome Back:

NE4LS	Nelson Winter
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For more on BRARA:

www.n4brf.org

Join us on Twitter [BRARA@N4BRF](https://twitter.com/BRARA@N4BRF)
and on Instagram [#BRARA_N4BRF](https://www.instagram.com/BRARA_N4BRF) as
well as on Facebook.

“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

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).

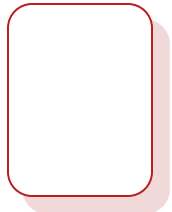
the Radio Flyer's Purpose

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 new Extra question pool just to keep those synapses firing. Remember, the Extra Class pool has changed as of July

New Extra Pool

E3C03

Which of the following signal paths is most likely to experience high levels of absorption when the A index or K index is elevated?

- A. Transequatorial propagation
- B. Polar paths
- C. Sporadic-E
- D. NVIS

E3C11

What does VOACAP software model?

- A. AC voltage and impedance
- B. VHF radio propagation
- C. HF propagation
- D. AC current and impedance

General Pool

G5B07

Which value of an AC signal results in the same power dissipation as a DC voltage of the same value?

- A. The peak-to-peak value
- B. The peak value
- C. The RMS value
- D. The reciprocal of the RMS value

G5B10

What percentage of power loss would result from a transmission line loss of 1 dB?

- A. 10.9%
- B. 12.2%
- C. 20.5%
- D. 25.9%

Answers to License Refresher:

- E3C03 (B)
- E3C11 (C)
- G5B07 (C)
- G5B10 (C)

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@yahoo.com



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



N1QFH (G) John Cole*

New Station

Reservation Calendar

In response from Club members to simplify and provide a more equitable procedure for reserving radio time in the new Club shack a monthly calendar has been posted on the HF Room door. A consensus vote on the below procedure change will be held at the August meeting.

Using provided dry erase markers one would indicate Individual radio station and time reservations. Reservations would include Station Position Number, your Call sign and Local Time Frame:

3 KG4FUR 9a-12p

Reservations would be limited to

- 2 times per week Oct–Apr
- 3 times per week May–Sep

If not reserved, Stations would be on a first come, first serve basis.

Events are in red and major events (Field Day and Club Contests) could be closed to reservations.

The 35-day Calendar would be updated the last weekend of the preceding month.

August's Calendar is ready for reservations and would be updated for September the weekend of 27/28 August.

New Bulletin Board

You will also find a new club bulletin board in the Shack common area. Please note that the Meeting Agenda, future Hamfest/Convention info, and future contests are posted. The is additional space for other BRARA activities and flyers.

You may want to review the bulletin board postings.



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



Ham Humor

Children Tangled in Dipole After Special Event Station Becomes Pokéstop K5KAC

VERMILION, OREGON - The Vermilion City Amateur Radio Club awoke early yesterday morning to the cries of local children tangled in their 80m dipole.

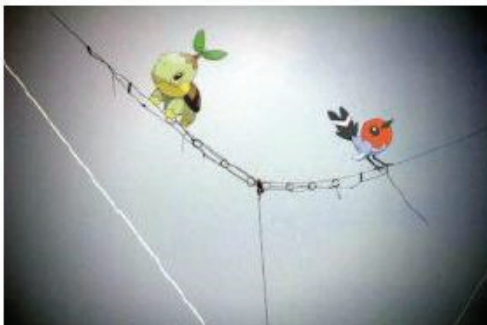
“From far away I could see the screens of their iPhones glowing as they called out for help in getting untangled. It was the loudest racket I’ve ever heard,” said Ash Allman, who lead the effort in freeing the kids.

The children were caught in the dipole after the S.S. Anne Park and Marina was named a Pokéstop in the popular mobile game Pokémon GO. A Pokéstop is an area, typically a landmark or park, where Pokémon Trainers can converge to get prizes and set lures to attract rare Pokémon characters. A player must physically visit these locations to collect the rewards.

“We were all set up to work into the night, but the band conditions went south so we decided to get some rest,” lamented Misty Brock, the event organizer. “It wasn’t until morning that we found about a dozen kids wrapped up in the legs of the dipole.”

At press time, the special event station had been forced to cease operation due to lack of participation, with one member finding a high-level Charmander character in his tent and the rest wandering the nearby tree line looking for a Clefairy.

hamhijinks.com



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

Club ditches Hats After Rude Comments W3CRUR

BEAVER PASS, Georgia - In what is being called a completely unexpected turn of events, members of a central Georgia radio club have opted to forgo their idea of wearing matching apparel at local hamfests.

“We thought it would be a great way to build unity and club morale,” says Archie Smithpeters, President of the Georgia Peaches Radio Club. “But it had just the opposite effect.”

Eyewitnesses say the 12 radio club members were heckled and harassed while attending the “Great Southeast Ham Radio Swap” held in late October at an Atlanta suburb conference center.

“It was bad enough that they were making fun of our bright purple polo shirts. But then we all donned our neon yellow berets to walk the exhibit floor. The cat calls and laughs were really just too much to take,” said Smithpeters.

Hamfest organizers say the rude comments came from just a few attendees; most hams attending thought the brightly colored bunch were members of an ethnic dance troop headed to a nearby quinceanera.

Regardless, Smithpeters says the yellow berets have been discarded and the club will only wear flashing LED signs on their shirts from this point forward.

hamhijinks.com



(Not for sale!)

HAM RADIO OPERATOR



WHAT MY FRIENDS THINK I DO



WHAT MY WIFE THINKS I DO



WHAT SOCIETY THINKS I DO



WHAT MY KIDS THINK I DO



WHAT I THINK I DO



WHAT I ACTUALLY DO