

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

November 2017

New Official Website: [www.BRARA.org](http://www.BRARA.org)



## *BRARA Calendar:*

**Wed 01-Nov-17 All Saints Day**

09:00-12:00 Wed 01-Nov-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-13:00 Sat 04-Nov-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**02:00 Sun 05-Nov-2017 EST begins**

20:00-21:00 Sun 05-Nov-17 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 06-Nov-17 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

19:00-21:00 Tue 07-Nov-17  
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-12:00 Wed 08-Nov-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**Fri 10-Nov-17 USMC Birthday**

**Sat 11-Nov-17 Veterans Day**

09:00-13:00 Sat 11-Nov-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

20:00-21:00 Sun 12-Nov-17 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 13-Nov-17 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 15-Nov-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 18-Nov-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

20:00-21:00 Sun 19-Nov-17 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 20-Nov-17 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 22-Nov-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**Thu 23-Nov-2017 Thanksgiving Day**

**Fri 24-Nov-17 Black Friday**

09:00-12:00 Sat 25-Mar-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day 20:00

12:00 Noon Sun 26-Nov-17  
**Deadline for Newsletter Input**

20:00-21:00 Sun 26-Nov-17 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

**Mon 27-Nov-17 Cyber Monday**

19:00 Mon 27-Mar-17 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 29-Mar-17  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day



## *This Month's Speaker*

This month (In November (7-Nov), John Cole (N1QFH) will elaborate on BRARA's revised web and options available to the General Membership. See Bio/Sketch on page 7.

In December (5-Dec), Jeff Stahl (K4BH) will give a presentation on ECOM.

We have speaker openings for the new year. See Gerry Gawaldo (KG4FUR).



## *Repeater, HSMM, & Ham Shack News*

The STEPR guts came back Saturday and Art, WA8VSJ has just opened the box. He will be reviewing what we have and tinkering with it before we can re-install it. The two Fan Dipoles are operational so we do have an operational set-up for 2 HF Stations at the Shack. To the best of our knowledge, the VHF/UHF station is operational. We still meet every Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Both analog repeaters are working. The 2m antenna mast has been replaced and the antennas no longer lists to 110 degrees.

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

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

We have still not solved the limited internet connection at the Shack.

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

As we closed out the Month, N4BRF has logged in 3,075 QSLs 9,619 QSOs (32.0%) on LoTW.

**DXCC Account Status:** Nothing new this month. *Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 20m, 17m, 15m and 10m. We are now 268 Mixed DXCC.*

**WAS Account Status:** Nothing new this month. *Awards issued: Mixed, 20m, CW, Phone, Digital, Triple Play, RTTY.* Nothing new this month: DE-40m CW. We still need:

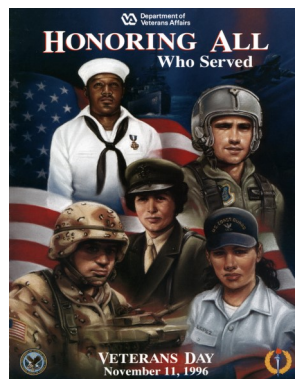
- AK, ID for 40m
- WV for 15m
- WY for 20m Phone
- NV for 20m CW.
- AK, ID, NV for 40m CW.

We have received the following QSOs from Field Day activities:

- 176 (+0) QSLs from 2012
- 186 (+0) QSOs from 2013
- 262 (+4) QSOs from 2014
- 285 (+2) QSOs from 2015
- 164 (+2) QSOs from 2016
- 239 (+6) QSOs from 2017

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

Update at the next Club Meeting.



## Board Slate Approved (Oct)-No Need for Elections

Pursuant to the By-laws, preparations have begun for the Election of a new Board of Directors. The Current Board authorized a Nominating Committee consisting of Members in good standing not running for election, which will be chaired by Art Lewis [WA8VSJ]. The Board approved the following schedule and procedures:

1. Prior to 12:00 Noon Wednesday 20-September-2017, the Nominating Committee will accept names of members in good standing for the New Board. Names may be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chair.
2. Prior to the October General Membership Meeting, the Nominating Committee will meet to produce a seven-member recommended Slate of Candidates.
3. At the October General Meeting:
  - A. The President will call upon the Nominating Committee Chair to identify the recommended Slate of Candidates.
  - B. The President will ask for nominations and seconds to put these choices on the Ballot.
  - C. The President will then call for additional nominations of members in good standing from the floor, each of which will require a second. Both the Nominator and the Secunder must be members with voting rights and should not be the Nominee.
  - D. Once there are no further floor nominations, the President will declare nominations closed.
    - i. **If there are no Floor Nominations, the President will ask the Nominating Committee Chair to make a motion that the Slate be accepted by acclamation. A second should be made by another Nominating Committee member. A simple aye/nay vote will then be taken and there will be no need for a November election.**
    - ii. **If there are Floor Nominations, a paper ballot containing the all Candidates (the recommended Slate and all Floor Nominations) will be prepared for the November Meeting/Election. No additional nominations will be taken after the October Meeting.**
4. If there are more than seven Candidates, then at the November General Meeting:
  - A. One each paper ballot will be distributed to all BRARA members with voting rights.
  - B. Secret Ballots may be cast for up to seven candidates and collected by the Nominating Committee Chair.
  - C. The Nominating Committee will tally the votes and rank the candidates accordingly.
  - D. The Nominating Committee Chair will announce the clear winning Candidates (up to seven).
    - i. If there are not seven clear winning Candidates, the Nominating Committee Chair will announce a tie and immediately conduct runoff election(s) among the tied trailing Candidates until a list of the seven winning Candidates is established.
    - ii. When there are seven clear winning Candidates, the Nominating Committee Chair will announce the New Board to take Office at the January 2018 General Membership Meeting.
5. **The New Board should select its Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) prior to the December General Membership Meeting and in accordance with the above mentioned BRARA By-Laws. The New Board takes office with the January 2018 General Meeting.**



## Apps for Mobile Devices

Smart phones are becoming more a part of amateur radio. Here are a few links to some phone apps you might find useful:

- **EchoLink** (iOS/Android; Free) Why not turn your smartphone into an HT.
- **Ham Square** (iOS; Free) A very simple app to track and display your Maidenhead designation in a matter of seconds.
- **Repeater Book** (iOS/Android; Free) Using your phone's GPS, you can quickly reference local repeaters--any band, any mode--with full details, as you travel. Repeater Book has a global version as well.
- **QRZ Callsign Search** (iOS/Android; Free) The companion app to the popular callsign database site, QRZ.com.
- **PSK31** (iOS; \$2.99) Launch this app, place it in front of your radio which you've tuned to a PSK31 signal, and it decodes on the fly.
- **ISS Detector** (Android; Free) Chis Cooper comments: "this is one of my most often used Amateur Radio apps on my Android. It not only tracks and alerts on ISS passes with specified criteria, but with the pro upgrade, it will also track amateur radio satellites."
- **WSPR Watch** (iOS; Free) According to SWLing Post reader, Peter Marks, who developed WSPR Watch, "the app shows reported WSPR beacon spots as a list, on a map and draws some graphs."



## We are the retiring Presidents

**We had our day, we paid our dues, and now we are content to snipe comfortably from the sidelines and the back row.**

**Our barbs will be sharp and sometimes hilarious.**

**Snark isn't so much a word with us as it is a way of life for us.**



## 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

## Other Local HAM Analog Repeater Nets

Daily	18:00	SEFL Traffic	146.61 MHz
Tue	19:00	Boynton CERT	443.1 MHz
Fri	09:00	SARNet: PBC FTL	443.975 MHz 442.850 MHz

## Scheduled DMR Nets

Day	EDST	Talk Group
Sun	2000	TG-2 (LO) FL Tech
Wed	2100	TG-03 (NA) NAtch
Sat	1200	TG-01 (WW)

## Local DMR Repeaters

Location	Rx Freq	Color Code
Miami	444.9875	1 SEFL
Miami	442.2250	1 dmr-fl
N Dade	443.1250	10 ipse2
Dania Bch	442.4000	1 dmr.mar
Plantation	442.4250	1 dmr.mar
Ft Lauderdale	443.6250	1 SEFL
Boca Raton	442.0000	8
Delray Bch	443.3000	1 SEFL
Wellington	442.3000	7 dmr.fl
Lk Worth	443.2500	7 BMR
WPB	444.9125	1 SEFL
PBG	442.1000	10 dmr.fl
Stuart	440.7000	1 dmr.mar
PSL 1	440.0000	1 dmr.mar
PSL 2	440.750	10 nj.trbo
Naples	444.9850	1 DMR+
Marco Island	444.8125	1 DMR+

## Social Media Committee

A committee was formed to update, simplify and modernize BRARA social media: W4BFL (Jerry), KO4XL (Bruce), NE4LS (Nelson), N1QFH (John C), N8IFQ (Steve).

## 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:

KE4OBV (Patrick), KG4FUR (Gerry), KO4XL (Bruce), W4AEQ (Jeff), W4BFL (Jerry), W4WCD (Walt), and WA8VJSJ (Art)

will hold scheduled monthly meetings at 11:00 at the shack on the Saturday preceding the next General Meeting. Additional 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 cotton/poly shirt (short sleeve)

## Membership Application & Renewal

- \$25 Full Membership
- \$10 Assoc 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

DMR  MARS  CERT

Award Chasing  Ragchewing

Building & Experimenting  Satellite

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.

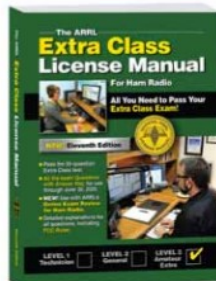
## Amateur License Refresher

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

### Extra Pool

**E6F11**  
What is the approximate open-circuit voltage produced by a fully-illuminated silicon photovoltaic cell?

- A. 0.1 V
- B. 0.5 V
- C. 1.5 V
- D. 12 V

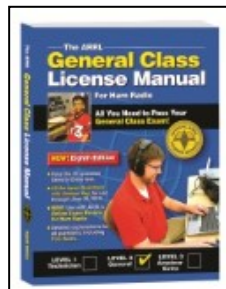


**E6F14**  
Which of the following is true of LCD displays?  
A. They are hard to view in high ambient light conditions  
B. They may be hard view through polarized lenses  
C. They only display alphanumeric symbols  
D. All of these choices are correct

### General Pool

**G0B12**  
What is the purpose of a transmitter power supply interlock?  
A. To prevent unauthorized access to a transmitter  
B. To guarantee that you cannot accidentally transmit out of band  
C. To ensure that dangerous voltages are removed if the cabinet is opened  
D. To shut off the transmitter if too much current is drawn

**G0B16**  
When might a lead acid storage battery give off explosive hydrogen gas?  
A. When stored for long periods of time  
B. When being discharged  
C. When being charged  
D. When not placed on a level surface



### Answers to License Refresher:

- E6F11 (B)
- E6F14 (B)
- G0B12 (C)
- G0B16 (C)

## Newsletter Guidelines *kg4fur*

Thanks for all who submitted articles and I hope you continue to do so. We're also looking for new writers as well. Here are some guidelines for article submissions.

- Text should be in MS Word or equivalent, saved as a .DOC file. ASCII text written in an email works too.
- Write your best stuff, but don't sweat the grammar. That's why there's an editor.
- Please submit pictures/illustrations as separate files, don't embed them in the text.
- Be sure to submit clear, in-focus photos

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@BRARA.org



## New Hams Corner *WA2NSW*

What is a repeater and how do they work?

Most new hams have listened to a 2 meter repeater either on a scanner or that 2 meter HT they hope to be using soon. But how many of you really understand what a repeater is and how it works.

In simple terms it is a transmitter and receiver that both work at the same time. (Unlike your HT which is either a receiver or transmitter but not both at the same time)

Let's follow the signal:

- You transmit on frequency A to the receiver of the repeater.
- The repeater recognizes the signal and turns on the transmitter on frequency B.
- The audio from the receiver passes to the transmitter and goes out on freq. B.
- The other ham receives the signal on frequency B and hears what you have to say.
- When you are done you release the button and your radio now goes to the receive mode.
- The repeater will automatically stop transmitting if it does not receive a signal for a predetermined time.
- The other ham hears the repeater turn off and knows it is her turn to transmit.
- She pushes the button and begins talking to you.
- The repeater hears her transmitting on Freq A and starts transmitting again on Freq B.

There are a LOT of other parts that need to be present to make this happen. A few terms you might hear are Carrier Operated Relay, squelch-tail, CW ID, duplexer, feedline, broadband antenna and PL.

Most repeaters operate on pairs of frequencies that are coordinated by a regional group who allocate frequencies. You would need to make a proposal to use a pair and when permission is granted you may activate that pair in the location you provided to the coordinators. The same frequency pair might be used a hundred miles away if it is determined that no interference will be caused. A term you might hear is on what "split" is the repeater operating. This simply refers to the difference in transmit and receive frequencies. Above 146 MHz it will usually be a positive offset...the transmit frequency of the repeater is 600 KHz away.

To prevent interference the repeater might be looking for your transmitter to also produce a subaudible tone. This tone tells the repeater that your signal is intended for its receiver. There are many names for that tone but the most common are PL (Motorola) or CG (GE).





## Ham Humor

# Little Piggy Kit Will Help New Hams Fit In

By K5KAC, on the scene

**WELLSBURG, Missouri** - With the number of new amateur radio licenses on the rise, one company is stepping in to help new hams fit in with seasoned operators at Hamvention.

The "Little Piggy Kit" from Peanut Whistle Transmitters claims to contain the essential items needed to make a brand-new radio operator look like "one of the guys."

Each kit contains the following:

- Trucker hat with antenna mounted on top (available in 2m or 70cm)
- Paracord survivalist belt - suitable for holding accessories such as HT, multi-tool and/or flip phone
- (accessories not included)
- Flashing LED callsign badge
- "Game of Rohns" t-shirt
- Sweatpants
- Crocs shoes

"This kit will turn those little piggies into full-fledged hams!" said Erastus Pflemming, Director of Peanut Whistle marketing.

The kits are available now via mail order for \$59.90, and will also be available at the Peanut Whistle booth at Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio in May.



**Possibly Man's (or woman's) next "best friend":**

- Is turned on & does what you want the moment you press the blue button for 2 seconds
- Always in the same mood
- Does not demand a large house, truck, boat, ring, or anything more than a little 12 Volts and some Amps
- Does not leave dirty clothes on the floor, keeps its area clean
- Encourages you to help others in difficult times and builds good will in the world
- Does not mind you talking on other radios
- Almost always gives back a friendly voice when you talk to it
- Does not criticize you for buying new Ham gear or for shopping too long
- Never late always, where you expect it to be
- One time expenditure

Produced for personal entertainment use only. Not affiliated with any manufacture in any way. Included only in good nature to bring a smile to someone. www.telequiz.com/ham

## Tis the Time to dress up and train your fellow HAM how to operate his new rig



## Contest and Special Event Operating News and Information

Data below as well as more information courtesy of the following website:  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.

Contest and Special Event	Date Time Group
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 1
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 1 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 1 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 2
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 1
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Nov 2 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 2 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Nov 2 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Nov 2 (Dig)
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 3
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 3
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 4 to 2359Z, Nov 5
+ IPARC Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 4 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 4
+ Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 4 to 1200Z, Nov 5
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 4 to 0300Z, Nov 6
+ IPARC Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 5 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 5
+ EANET Sprint	0800Z-1200Z, Nov 5
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 5 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 5
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 7
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 8
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 8 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 8 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 9
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 10
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 10
+ WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 11 to 2359Z, Nov 12
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 11 to 2359Z, Nov 12
+ JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 11 to 1300Z, Nov 12
+ OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 11 to 1200Z, Nov 12
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 11 to 2400Z, Nov 12
+ Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 11 to 0200Z, Nov 12
+ CQ-WE Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 11 (CW/Digital) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 12 (Phone) and 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 12 (Phone) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 13 (CW/Digital)
+ North American SSB Sprint Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Nov 12
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Nov 13
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 13
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 15

### Da Prez Sez:

#### Next Meeting:

**Tuesday**  
**7-Nov-2017**  
**19:00-20:45**  
**West Boca Library**

See our new Website:  
[www.BRARA.org](http://www.BRARA.org)

Since we had no BOD nominations from the floor and had a full slate last month, we only required a simple yea/nay vote. There is no need for a November Election.

Please join me in congratulating our new BOD:

<b>K4BH</b>	<b>Jeff S</b>
<b>KE4OBV</b>	<b>Patrick M</b>
<b>KO4XL</b>	<b>Bruce R</b>
<b>N1QFH</b>	<b>John C</b>
<b>W4AEQ</b>	<b>Jeff R</b>
<b>W4BFL</b>	<b>Jerry Z</b>
<b>WA2VNV</b>	<b>George S</b>

We are in transition and the new Board will select our new Officers for the and assign duties for the next 3 years.

In October we had successful Radiator Grills and JOTA participation. Our next social event is the annual December Holiday Party. It will be on Thursday 21-Dec-17 at the same place as last year.

We are offering General Class training this weekend 4/5-Nov-17 at the shack and testing next Thursday 9-Nov-17 at the Rutherford Ctr in Patch Reef Pk.

You can start paying your 2018 dues anytime now.

<b>Contest and Special Event</b>	<b>Date Time Group</b>
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 15 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 15 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 16
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 16
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 17
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 17
+ YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 17
+ SARRL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 18 to 1000Z, Nov 19
+ LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 18 to 1200Z, Nov 19
+ All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 18 to 0700Z, Nov 19
+ REF 160-Meter Contest	1700Z, Nov 18 to 0100Z, Nov 19
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1900Z-2059Z, Nov 18
+ RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 18
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 18 to 0300Z, Nov 20
+ Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	1300-1500Z, Nov 19 (40m) and 1500-1700Z, Nov 19 (80m)
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 20
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 22
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 22
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 22 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 22 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 23
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 22
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 24
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 24
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 25 to 2400Z, Nov 26
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 29
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 29 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 29 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 30
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 29
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 30

## *Speaker Bio-Synopsis:*

### **Bio: John Cole, N1QFH**

John is a retired IT app developer in insurance, semiconductor, consumer battery, and health care industries. He relocated from Maine to Delray Beach, Florida with his wife Beryl who is a retired dental hygienist. They are parents to five children and grandparents to four grandchildren.

Up north, John was a Board Member and volunteer on various non-profits that range from health care, athletics and education. These included School Board, Conservation Commission, Vernal Pool Studies, Wrestling Boosters at various schools, Regional Meet Director at Wrestling Championships, Maine Dental Hygienists Association, Maine

Interscholastic Wrestling Officials Association, John provided (at no-cost) web master and development support for several of these non-profits. He is a retired NCAA and NFHS wrestling official. His past-times include ocean kayaking, SCUBA, hiking, spiritual studies, legacy writing, amateur radio, fraternal organizations (Free Masonry, coaching, nature research and community volunteering.

Presently, he is a volunteer for Delray PD and Arthur R Marshall National Wildlife Refuge at Boynton Beach. John was recently elected to the BRARA Board of Directors.

His dad, Charles N1ESW (SK), was his Elmer along with John's Uncle Frank N1DZI (SK). John's participation goal for BRARA is to provide custodial services in whatever opportunity is presented.

## Catalogs Are About Possibilities

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When I was a kid, I used to regularly get catalogs, such as the Allied Radio and Lafayette Radio catalogs shown below, and pore over them for hours. Even if I couldn't afford to buy the latest Knight-Kit or Lafayette shortwave radio, I could imagine what it would be like. These catalogs were chock full of possibilities.

So, you can imagine how I felt when, last Thursday, I found both the Autumn/Winter 2017 DX Engineering catalog and the 2018-2019 Newark Electronics/element14 catalog in my mailbox.

DX Engineering has really taken the amateur radio world by storm over the last ten years or so. I probably don't have to tell you about that. If you're an active amateur radio operator, I'm sure that you have heard about—and probably ordered from—DX Engineering.

I think that DX Engineering did a very smart thing by investing the money in a print catalog. There's something about browsing a print catalog that is just more satisfying than browsing online. DX Engineering has just about everything you need to have fun with amateur radio. The one glaring omission? They still don't carry my study guides!

The Newark/element14 2018-2019 catalog is a completely different beast. Amateur radio operators are only a small part of Newark/element14's market, but one nonetheless. They have, for example, attended the Dayton Hamvention for many years.

As such, the catalog is not a "ham radio" catalog, but if you build stuff at all you'll find something of interest in its 1,799 pages. It includes nearly any kind of electronic part that you might need.

The section that might you might want to start with is the "makerspace" section. In this section, you'll find Raspberry Pis, BeagleBones, and even micro:bits. They really have everything, though, including passive and active components, connectors, cable, and enclosures.

Like I say, these catalogs are all about possibilities. You can search each company's website and find the parts they carry quickly and easily, but that experience is just not the same as browsing a print catalog and daydreaming about what you might find there.

So, get your own copies—they're free—and page through them. I'd be surprised if you didn't run across something that you didn't know about before, and it gave you some ideas about your next amateur radio project.

*--Dan is a CW Geek, Ham Radio Instructor, Author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides*



## DX Operating News and Information

Credit for the below information and further information can be found at the following website: <http://www.ng3k.com>

Start	End	DXCC	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Information
2017 Oct31	2017 Nov04	<b>Liberia</b>	<a href="#">5L3BI</a>	M0OXO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170527	By EL2BG EL2DT EI5GM EI9FBB MM0NDX fm Baiyah I (AF-111); CW SSB; verticals; dates tentative; first ever activation of AF-111; QSL also OK via Club Log
2017 Nov03	2017 Nov16	<b>Mellish Reef</b>	<a href="#">VK9MA</a>	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170515	By N7QT SM5AQD DL3DXX LB8DC N9ADG SM1ALH SM5GLC W5XU WJ2O fm IOTA OC-072; 160-10m, w/ focus on 160-20m; CW SSB RTTY; 5 stns planned; QSL also OK via Club Log (preferred), eQSL, N7QT (Buro or direct)
2017 Nov04	2017 Nov10	<b>Barbados</b>	<b>8P9MT</b>	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170802	By WT4BT fm Upper Carlton (IOTA NA-021); HF; QSL also OK via WT4BT
2017 Nov04	2017 Nov12	<b>Barbados</b>	<b>8P9BT</b>	N7BF Direct	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20170831	By N7BF fm IOTA NA-021; 40-10m; SSB
2017 Nov05	2017 Nov10	<b>Guadeloupe</b>	<b>FG</b>	K2HVN	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20170829	By K2HVN as FG/K2HVN fm Ste Anne; 40-10m; mainly CW, some SSB; 100w; Buddipole; possibly using TO2E
2017 Nov06	2017 Nov17	<b>Burundi</b>	<a href="#">9U4M</a>	LotW	MDXC 20170309	By IZ8CCW I2VGW + international team fm Bujumbura; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY FT8; 5 stations, 24hrs/day; QSL also OK via IK2VUC (Buro or direct)
2017 Nov06	2017 Nov20	<b>Montserrat</b>	<a href="#">VP2MDL</a>	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170614	By DL7DF DJ6TF DK1BT DL4WK DL7UFR DL7VEE SP3DOI; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY PSK31; QSL also OK via DL7DF (Buro or direct)
2017 Nov07	2017 Nov10	<b>Australia</b>	<a href="#">VK9AR</a>	Auto	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170305	By VK5CE AB5EB AD5A fm Ashmore Reef (IOTA OC-216, 5th rarest IOTA) 4 days during this period; 40-15m; SSB + slow CW; see Web for full QSL details
2017 Nov07	2017 Dec04	<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>5H3DX</b>	LotW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20170802	By NK8O; 40-6m; mainly CW; QSL also OK via NK8O direct and eQSL
2017 Nov08	2017 Nov15	<b>St Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	<b>V4</b>	M0URX	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170830	By G0FWX as V4/G0FWX fm Calypso Bay, St Kitts; HF; holiday style operation
2017 Nov10	2017 Nov13	<b>Svalbard</b>	<b>JW</b>	DL2JRM	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170529	By DL2JRM as JW/DL2JRM; HF
2017 Nov11	2017 Nov25	<b>San Andres &amp; Providencia</b>	<a href="#">5KOT</a>	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170927	By LU1FM LU2JCW LU3FMD LU6FOV LU9FHF KK6EK fm San Andres I (IOTA NA-033, EK94vi); QSL also OK via LU1FM, Club Log, eQSL
2017 Nov13	2017 Nov25	<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	<a href="#">J5T</a>	LotW	IK7JWY 20170509	By I1HJT I2YSB IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT IK2RZP JA3USA fm Bubaque I (IOTA AF-020); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY; 4 stations; QSL also OK via I2YSB and OQRS
2017 Nov16	2017 Nov30	<b>St Barthelemy</b>	<a href="#">TO2SP</a>	LotW	SP6EQZ 20170407	By SP3CYY SP3GEM SP6EQZ SP6IXF SP6JIU K1CC; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY; 4 stations; QSL also OK via Club Log and SP6IXF Buro



Start	End	DXCC	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Information
2017 Nov18	2017 Nov30	Belize	<a href="#">V34AO</a>	DL7VOA	DL7VOA 20170727	By DL7VOA fm Hopkins (EK56uu); 160-10m; mainly CW; 100w; various antennas; holiday style operation; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2017 Nov20	2017 Nov29	Ghana	<a href="#">9G5W</a>	LotW	S59ZZ 20170826	By S54W S59A S57UN S57GM S57SU S59ZZ OZ7AM; 160-10m, focus on low bands; CW SSB RTTY; 4 stations; QSL also OK via S59ZZ (LotW after 6 mos)
2017 Nov23	2017 Dec12	Rodrigues I	3B9HA	M0OXO	G0CKV 20170424	By G0CKV; focus on low bands; holiday style apart from CQWW DX CW
<b>CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 25-26, 2017) <a href="#">Check here for pericontest activity too.</a></b>						
2017 Nov26	2017 Dec07	French Guiana	FY	LotW	DL7BC 20170927	By DL7BC as FY/DL7BC; QSL also OK via DL7BC (DARC Buro or direct)
2017 Nov29	2017 Dec07	Galapagos	<a href="#">HC8LU</a>	IK2DUW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170914	By LU8YD LU3YK LU5FF LU7VB LU7YS LU9VEA fm San Cristobal; 160-6m; SSB JT65 FT8 PSK31 + Sat
2017 Nov30	2017 Dec08	St Martin	FS	LotW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20170328	By K9EL as FS/K9EL, W9ILY and W9MK likewise; 160-10m, focus on 160 80m; CW SSB RTTY, perhaps PSK63; 3 stations; QSL also OK via home_call (Buro or direct)

## Tiny LF Signal Makes the Hop from Newfoundland to the UK

For Joe Craig, VO1NA, in Torbay, Newfoundland, things have been pretty exciting lately on VLF (very low frequency). He's among the early MF, LF, and VLF experimenters in North America – active even before Canada allocated Amateur Radio bands in that part of the spectrum. He believes he accomplished a “first” for a Canadian radio amateur on October 22, when his very VLF, very QRP signal on 8.27 kHz (that would be the 36-kilometer band) was copied in the UK .

“After much effort on both sides of the pond, SWL Paul Nicholson in Todmorden finally copied a three-letter message,” he told ARRL. “It’s the lowest-frequency transatlantic message, made possible because of Paul’s *EbNaut* coherent BPSK mode and DL4YHF’s *Spectrum Lab* spectrum analyzer.” Even more amazing: The power was 10  $\mu$ W ERP. Craig is permitted to run 10 mW by regulator ISED Canada (formerly Industry Canada). The transmission path was more than 3,500 kilometers (approximately 2,170 miles).

VLF signals have been copied across the Atlantic in the past. In March 2014, a very slow-speed (QRS) CW signal on 29.499 kHz, transmitted by Bob Raide, W2ZM, a New York Experimental licensee, initially was

detected in the UK by Nicholson. In June 2014, Dex McIntyre, W4DEX, in North Carolina, transmitted an *EbNaut* signal on 8.971 kHz, while running on the order of 150  $\mu$ W effective radiated power. Nicholson detected that signal too. McIntyre needed no FCC license to transmit on 8.971 kHz, because the Commission has not designated any **allocations** below 9 kHz, dubbed “the Dreamers’ Band.”

Craig’s transmission from Newfoundland began at 2300 UTC on October 22 and ended 7 hours later. “Paul replied by e-mail the following day with the correct message,” Craig said, “and there was much rejoicing across the pond and in the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland!”

Craig said that Nicholson had detected a carrier from VO1NA this past spring, but it was not stable enough to send a message.

DL4YHF’s *Spectrum Lab*, with a GPS module output signal used to calibrate the computer and help from DF6NM and DK7FC, worked much better, Craig said. “Paul measured the phase for a few days before the message was sent. With the new high-stability carrier, Paul got me on the first call.”

The final stage of his VLF transmitter is what Craig described as “the very Canadian Traynor Group One/SC stage amplifier” from the 1970s. He says his is “the only known VLF transmitter in Newfoundland and Labrador.” His antenna, by the way, is approximately 100 meters (approximately 328 feet) of #12 copper wire, about 12 meters high on average.

Craig’s **blog** offers more information.

--ARRL



# BRARA GEN CLASS TRAINING



9:00am – 5:00pm Sat/Sun

4/5 Nov 2017



At the Ham Shack in West Delray Park

10875 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33446



## FREE LAUREL HAM LICENSE TESTING

7:00pm – 9:00pm Thu

9 Nov 2017

James A Rutherford Comm Ctr, Patch Reef Pk

2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431

### Requirements:

- Enthusiasm for the Hobby and Willingness to Learn & Study
- Note Pad and Two No.2 Pencils with Erasers
- For Testing: Current License (if you have one), Picture ID, SSN or FRN

Talk-In Repeaters: Analog 145.290 MHz (PL 110.9) or DMR 443.300 TS2 TG2

### Contacts:

- Bruce Ratoff      561-862-8198      Training@BRARA.org
- Jerry Zaza      305-706-8338      Testing@BRARA.org



# *BRARA Annual Holiday Party*



7:00pm – 11:00pm Thursday

21 December 2017



*At the Boca Linda North Clubhouse*

1231 NW 13th St, Boca Raton, FL 33486



Everyone is welcome (Hams, family, friends, prospective Hams)

Talk-In Repeaters: Analog 145.290 MHz (PL 110.9) or DMR 443.300 TS2 TG2

Enjoy with us:

- Ham Radio and Holiday Camaraderie
- Pot-Luck Epicurian Delights (Appitizers, Entres, Sides, Deserts welcome)  
Wine and Soft Drinks

Contacts and Swan Song for:

- Gerry Gawaldo    561-706-8338    KG4FUR@yahoo.com or
- Art Lewis        330-518-6868    WA8VSJ@gmail.com





## Palms West ARC Flea Market

**Start Date:** 11/11/2017  
**End Date:** 11/11/2017  
**Location:** Lampert Family Service Center  
5841 Corporate Way  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
**Website:** <http://palmswestradio.org>  
**Sponsor:** Palms West Amateur Radio Club  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 147.045 (PL 110.9)  
**Public Contact:** Robert Pease , KS4EC  
11894 Brier Patch Court E Wellington, FL 33414  
Phone: 561-358-9999  
**Email:** [ks4ec@arrl.net](mailto:ks4ec@arrl.net)

## Flamingo Net/UMARC Free Flea

**Start Date:** 11/18/2017  
**End Date:** 11/18/2017  
**Location:** University of Miami Physics Parking Lot  
5101 San Amaro Drive  
Coral Gables, FL 33114  
**Website:** <http://www.flamingonet.8m.net/>  
**Sponsor:** Flamingo Net / University of Miami ARC  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 147.15 (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 5-Nov-2017, 11:00-13:00, Fire Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd months).

Thu 9-Nov-2017, 19:00-21:00, Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA] (Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

Tue 14-Nov-2017, 18:00-19:30, Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue of every month).

## Welcome New Members:

KN4FEQ	James
NQ4Q	Dan
KN4FET	Phil
KB4JG	David
N6YAV	Patrick
WB9JTK	Alan

## For more on BRARA:

**Website:** [www.brara.org](http://www.brara.org)  
**Twitter:** [BRARA\\_N4BRF](https://twitter.com/BRARA_N4BRF)  
**Instagram:** [#BRARA\\_N4BRF](https://www.instagram.com/BRARA_N4BRF)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/BRARA-138743906714224](https://facebook.com/BRARA-138743906714224)

Please be advised that the above are the official BRARA social media sites. No other social media sites are recognized by BRARA.

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## Hamfest in the Woods

**Start Date:** 11/25/2017  
**End Date:** 11/25/2017  
**Location:** Freedom Ranch  
11655 US Highway 441 SE  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
**Website:** <http://K4OKE.com>  
**Sponsor:** Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 147.195 (PL 100.0)  
**Public Contact:** Charles Whipple , W4PHD  
32801 US Highway 441 North, Lot 48  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
Phone: 863-610-3456  
**Email:** [charles.whipple4@gmail.com](mailto:charles.whipple4@gmail.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).

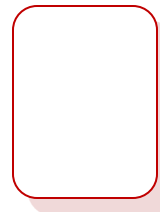
## the Radio Flyer's Purpose

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 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

