



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

December 2017

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

## *BRARA Calendar:*

**09:00-13:00 Sat 02 Dec 17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**20:00 Sun 03-Dec-17 (443.300)**  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

**Sun 03-Dec-17 1st Sun of Advent**

**19:00 Mon 04-Dec-17 (145.29 [110.9])**  
Monday Night Nets

**19:00-21:00 Tue 05-Dec 17**  
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

**09:00-12:00 Wed 06-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**Thu 07-Dec-17 Pearl Harbor Day**

**09:00-12:00 Sat 09-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**20:00-21:00 Sun 10-Dec-17 (443.300)**  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 2]

**19:00 Mon 11-Dec-17(145.29 [110.9])**  
Monday Night Nets

**Tue 12-Dec-17 Hanukkah begins at Sundown**

**Wed 13-Dec-17 US National Guard Day**

**09:00-12:00 Wed 13-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**09:00-12:00 Sat 16-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

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

**19:00 Mon 18-Dec-17 (145.29 [110.9])**  
Monday Night Nets

**09:00-12:00 Wed 20-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**Thu 21-Sep-17 Winter Solstice**

**09:00-12:00 Sat 23-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**12:00 Noon Sun 24-Dec- 2017**  
Deadline for Newsletter Input

**Sun 24-Dec-17 Christmas Eve-No Nets**

**Mon 25-Dec-17 Christmas Day-No Nets**

**09:00-12:00 Wed 27-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**09:00-12:00 Sat 30-Dec-17**  
Ham Shack Work & Radio Day

**Sun 31-Dec-17 New Years Eve-No Nets**



## *This Month's Speaker*

This month (5-Dec), Jeff Stahl (K4BH) will be covering EMCOM and the Incident Management System. See his Bio on Page 7.

Next month Gerry Gawaldo (KG4FUR) will go over Winter Field Day.

We have speaker openings for the balance of next year. Please contact the new Board, if you are interested or know someone who gives a great presentation.



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

Even though the new Shack is operational, there are still a lot of areas for innovation and improvement. We still meet every Wednesday and Saturday morning roughly between 09:00 and 13:00.

Both analog repeaters are working. Innovation and improvement opportunities are present here too. The work on the new 2m antenna and connections are completed

Repeater 2m/70cm linking as well as the time stamp are still works in progress. We are still fund collecting for a new 2m repeater antenna.

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

We have still not solved the limited internet connection and are still dependent on individual hot spots. We are, however, getting closer to resolving the internet link from the Repeater.

Page 1

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

As we closed out the Month, N4BRF has logged in 3,086 QSLs 9,619 QSOs (32.1%) on LoTW.

**DXCC Account Status:** New this month Fr Polynesia (FO\P) Awards received: Mixed, CW, Phone, 20m, 17m, 15m and 10m. We are now 269 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
- 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 (+0) QSOs from 2014
- 286 (+0) QSOs from 2015
- 164 (+0) QSOs from 2016
- 244 (+0) QSOs from 2017

**VUCC Account Status:** New this month: EL88 (144 MHz)

Update at the next Club Meeting.



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## SKYWARN®

### Recognition Day

Heads Up! Skywarn Recognition Day (SRD) is on Saturday 2-December-2017 from 00:00 until 24:00 UTC (starts Friday evening 1-December-2017).

SKYWARN® Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN® radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN® operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

#### Operating Instructions:

1. Object For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many NWS Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN® Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.

2. Date NWS stations will operate December 3, 2016, from 0000 - 2400 UTC.

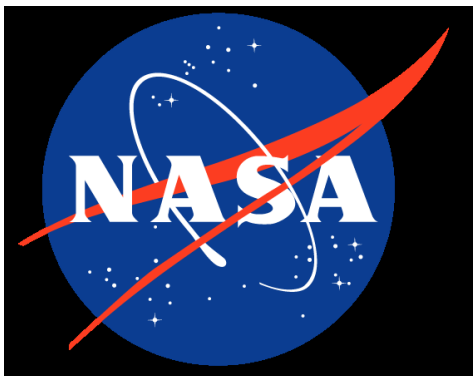
3. Exchange: Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "windy", etc.).

4. Modes: NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., NOA/NWS).

5. Station Control Operator: It is suggested that during SRD operations a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.

6. Event and QSL Information: The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates will once again be electronic and printable from the main website after the conclusion of SRD.

7. Log Submission: To submit your log summary for SRD use the online submission form.



### Year-Long NASA On The Air Event Kicks off on December 11

The Amateur Radio clubs at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) centers around the US have invited the Amateur Radio community to join the NASA On The Air (NOTA) special event. NOTA gets under way in December 2017 and continues through December 2018. In addition to being the agency's 60th anniversary, 2018 will mark 50 years since NASA orbited the first human around the moon, and 20 years since the first elements of the International Space Station (ISS) were launched into low-Earth orbit.

Starting on Monday, December 11, 2017 (UTC), Amateur Radio club stations at various NASA centers and facilities will be on the air with special event operations to celebrate these monumental achievements, as well as current milestones. Some clubs will offer commemorative QSL cards, and a special certificate will be available indicating the number of NASA club stations worked on various bands and modes.

"We plan to have a web-based system for you to check your points total and download a printable certificate at the end of the event in December 2018," the NASA announcement said. "Points will be awarded for each center worked on each band and mode (phone, CW, digital, and 'space' modes – satellites, meteor scatter, EME, ISS APRS)." That would, of course, include contacts with any of the Amateur Radio stations on the ISS.

Key anniversaries during NOTA include the 45th anniversary of Apollo 17 on December 11, 2017, which kicks off the event; NASA's founding on July 29, 1958; the 20th anniversary of the ISS first element

launch on November 20, 1998; the 20th anniversary of the ISS Node 1 Launch on December 4, 1998, and the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8 – launched on December 21, 1968, and returned on December 27 – marking the end of the event.

Ham radio clubs at various NASA facilities will sponsor their own special events to commemorate and celebrate specific events.

"We hope to be on the air for casual contacts and contests as well. All contacts with NASA club stations will count toward your total," the announcement said. "QSL cards can be requested from each club you work and details will be on the individual QRZ.com profile page for each club call sign."

More information is on the NASA On The Air website. Participating Amateur Radio clubs, and the NASA On The Air (NOTA) event are independent of – and not officially sponsored by – NASA.





## Monday Night Nets

### KQ4FUR

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

⇒ BRARA Voice Communications Net: **19:00-20:00**. Out-of-Area Amateurs may check-in via EchoLink. Our Node is 826953.

⇒ BRARA INBEMS Net: **20:00-20:30**. Analog Voice and FLDigi/FLMsg mixed mode.

## NBEMS KQ4FUR

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

Tue 19:00 Boynton CERT  
146.61 MHz  
443.1 MHz

Fri 09:00 SARNet:  
PBC 443.975 MHz  
FTL 442.850 MHz

## Scheduled DMR Nets

| Day | EDST | Talk Group        |
|-----|------|-------------------|
| Sun | 2000 | TG-2 (LO) FL Tech |
| Wed | 2100 | TG-03 (NA) NATech |
| 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 Laud.     | 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).

## 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:

K4BH (Jeff S), KE4OBV (Patrick), KO4XL (Bruce), N1QFH (John C) WA2VNV (George), W4AEQ (Jeff R), W4BFL (Jerry),

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

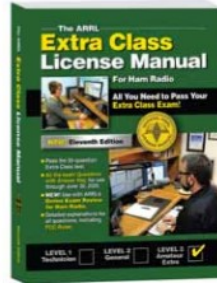
It's probably been awhile since you took your Amateur License exam. Here are a few sample questions just to keep those synapses firing.

### Extra Pool

#### E7A07

What logical operation does a NAND gate perform?

- A. It produces logic "0" at its output only when all inputs are logic "0"
- B. It produces logic "1" at its output only when all inputs are logic "1"
- C. It produces logic "0" at its output if some but not all inputs are logic "1"
- D. It produces logic "0" at its output only when all inputs are logic "1"



#### E7A10

What is a truth table?

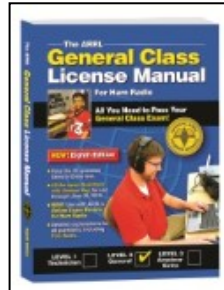
- A. A table of logic symbols that indicate the high logic states of an op-amp
- B. A diagram showing logic states when the digital device output is true
- C. A list of inputs and corresponding outputs for a digital device
- D. A table of logic symbols that indicate the logic states of an op-amp

### General Pool

#### G1A01

On which of the following bands is a General Class license holder granted all amateur frequency privileges?

- A. 60, 20, 17, and 12 meters
- B. 160, 80, 40, and 10 meters
- C. 160, 60, 30, 17, 12, and 10 meters
- D. 160, 30, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters



#### G1A02

On which of the following bands is phone operation prohibited?

- A. 160 meters
- B. 30 meters
- C. 17 meters
- D. 12 meters

### Answers to License Refresher:

- E7A07 (D)
- E7A10 (C)
- G1A01 (C)
- G1A02 (B)

## 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*

### Public Service and Special Events

One way to give back to your community is to offer to help during public events. Parades, walkathons, Marathons, etc all cover a large area where simplex communications. With a few watts won't work. Some great examples of Large events can be found in almost any ham publication.

How can you as a new ham with simple equipment participate? Well it is not always about the equipment! The skills you have learned over the past few months can now be put to great use. Quite often the group running the communications for an event will have plenty of extra gear to be used by those who do not have any or it is not enough for where they will be stationed. Another good reason to use other equipment when you can. Borrow or just sit with a different radio and get used to the way it operates.

When you are deployed on a special event you might be required to use tactical callsigns. These make it easy for the net controller to figure out where you are located instead of having to look at a cheat sheet for every call. Most tactical callsigns follow a pattern that is easy to pick up in a few minutes.

Examples of tactical callsigns:

Starting line  
4<sup>th</sup> street bridge  
REST STOP 2  
Finish line

If you have just turned on your radio and you hear a conversation including tactical callsigns, LISTEN! Do NOT interrupt! Quite often you might hear net control make a general announcement letting others know the repeater is being used for an event. I have listened to events that I was not participating in and heard a lot of dumb things happen. Don't be known as that jerk who did not get it. Listen and learn.

Equipment wise, if you plan on using a HT for an event make sure you have a spare battery. Nothing is worse than running out of power half way thru the event. Now is a good time to mention several types of battery packs. There are what is known as "clamshells". These are made for individual radios and you can use regular alkaline batteries in them. Once the batteries are depleted you dispose of them properly and place a fresh set in the clamshell to keep going. In some cases you can use rechargeable batteries so you will need two sets.

For your first event it is great to shadow someone to see how it all works. Consider volunteering for a local event, you will have a blast and a front row seat!





## Ham Humor

# Ham Humor: FCC Is Listening UP

By WBØRUR, on the scene

*TEMECULAH, CA - The Federal Communications Commission today formalized a program to assist amateur radio operators in achieving better operating practices. The "UP Monitor" program will pair each DX radio operator working "split frequency" with one official representative of the U.S. federal government.*

The representative's duties are to constantly monitor the DX station's transmit frequency. If an operator - hoping to work the DX - accidentally transmits simplex, the "UP Monitor" will announce "HE'S WORKING SPLIT! HE'S WORKING SPLIT."

"We closely examined current operating procedures," says FCC Field Agent John Ranklestein.

Based at the FCC's California bureau, Ranklestein says, "We have recordings of hams who were rude, crude and downright obnoxious when someone accidentally transmitted simplex. In fact, the list of obscenities would fill a binder the size of most ham's logbooks."

Ranklestein adds the FCC opted to provide the service as a means of cleaning up the bands and eliminating crass language and QRM.

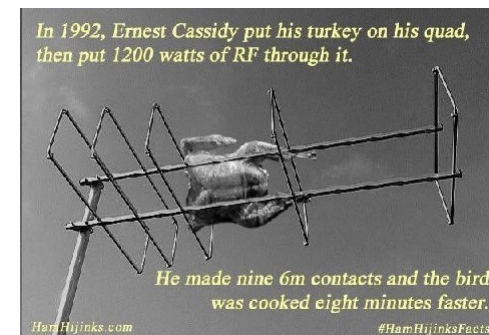
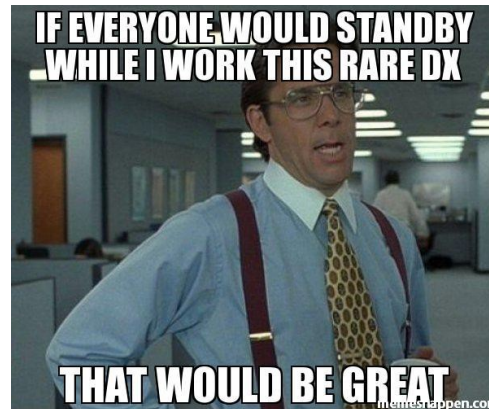
For a small fee, U.S. hams may request an "UP Monitor" be assigned when they activate special event 1x1 call signs (and operate split).

A spokesman for the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL) says they support the program, but are concerned about what all the hams now performing this function as volunteers will do with their time.

"Removed from their police duties, we doubt seriously they will make actual QSOs," says the agency.

Ranklestein says the "UP Monitor" program is open to both CW and SSB DX operations, but is not available to QRP operations, since "no one can actually hear those signals anyway."

### hamhijinks.com



## 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  |
|--|--|
| + NCCC RTTY Sprint                         | 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 1   |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                             | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 1   |
| + NCCC Sprint                              | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 1   |
| + ARRL 160-Meter Contest                   | 2200Z, Dec 1 to 1600Z, Dec 3   |
| + Wake-Up! QRP Sprint                      | 0600Z-0629Z, Dec 2 and<br>0630Z-0659Z, Dec 2 and<br>0700Z-0729Z, Dec 2 and<br>0730Z-0800Z, Dec 2                       |
| + TOPS Activity Contest                    | 1600Z, Dec 2 to 1559Z, Dec 3   |
| + EPC Ukraine DX Contest                   | 2000Z, Dec 2 to 1959Z, Dec 3   |
| + Ten-Meter RTTY Contest                   | 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 3   |
| + SARL Digital Contest                     | 1300Z-1600Z, Dec 3   |
| + ARS Spartan Sprint                       | 0200Z-0400Z, Dec 5   |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                             | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 6   |
| + Phone Fray                               | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 6   |
| + CWops Mini-CWT Test                      | 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 6 and<br>1900Z-2000Z, Dec 6 and<br>0300Z-0400Z, Dec 7   |
| + QRP ARCI Topband Sprint                  | 0000Z-0600Z, Dec 7   |
| + NRAU 10m Activity Contest                | 1800Z-1900Z, Dec 7 (CW) and<br>1900Z-2000Z, Dec 7 (SSB) and<br>2000Z-2100Z, Dec 7 (FM) and<br>2100Z-2200Z, Dec 7 (Dig) |
| + NCCC RTTY Sprint                         | 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 8   |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                             | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 8   |
| + NCCC Sprint                              | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 8   |
| + ARRL 10-Meter Contest                    | 0000Z, Dec 9 to 2400Z, Dec 10  |
| + SKCC Weekend Sprintathon                 | 1200Z, Dec 9 to 2400Z, Dec 10  |
| + International Naval Contest              | 1600Z, Dec 9 to 1559Z, Dec 10  |
| + AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party          | 2300Z, Dec 9 to 2300Z, Dec 10 and<br>2300Z, Dec 16 to 2300Z, Dec 17  |
| + QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint | 2000Z-2359Z, Dec 10  |
| + CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run          | 2100Z-2259Z, Dec 10  |
| + 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint  | 0100Z-0300Z, Dec 11  |
| + NAQCC CW Sprint                          | 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 13  |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                             | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 13  |
| + Phone Fray                               | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 13  |
| + CWops Mini-CWT Test                      | 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 13 and<br>1900Z-2000Z, Dec 13 and<br>0300Z-0400Z, Dec 14  |
| + NCCC RTTY Sprint                         | 0145Z-0215Z, Dec 15  |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                             | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 15  |
| + NCCC Sprint                              | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 15  |
| + Russian 160-Meter Contest                | 2000Z-2400Z, Dec 15  |

### *“Da Prez Sez”:*

This is my last article as the BRARA Prez and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making this Club what we have become.

I especially want to acknowledge Art, WA8VSJ for stepping up to the plate and being the best VP one could ask for. As my Senior mentor, confidant and advisor, we wouldn't be where we are today without Art. He was more a Co-Prez with most Technical issues falling in his lap and most Admin in mine.

The rest of the active Board: Jerry W4BFL, Patrick KE4OBV, Bruce KO4XL and Jeff W4AEQ; could be counted on to pitch in using their expertise to make a go out of any situation that presented itself.

The addition of John N1QFH, Jeff K4BH and George WA2VNV will insure that we continue forward. I am confidant that we will.

‘Nuf’ said.

As we look forward to the Holidays and the balance of this year, we have a couple of items to take care of:

- Our Next Meeting is Tuesday 5 December at the West Boca Library.
- Our Holiday Party is Thursday, 21 December at the Boca Linda Club House. See the flyer on page 10 and be sure to sign-up (On-Line or see John N1QFH). Jerry and Milagros are planning to outdo last year.

The New Board takes over 1 January 2018 and I am sure that there will be more exciting events coming.

One final thought, “Winter is Coming”. Better yet, Winter Field Day will soon be upon us-27/28 January 2018

73 KG4FUR



| <b>Contest and Special Event</b> | <b>Date Time Group</b>  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| + AGB-Party Contest              | 2100Z-2400Z, Dec 15   |
| <b>+ OK DX RTTY Contest</b>      | <b>0000Z-2400Z, Dec 16</b>  |
| + Feld Hell Sprint               | 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 16   |
| + Padang DX Contest              | 1200Z-2359Z, Dec 16   |
| + Croatian CW Contest            | 1400Z, Dec 16 to 1400Z, Dec 17  |
| <b>+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW</b> | <b>1800Z-2359Z, Dec 17</b>  |
| + Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  | 0200Z-0400Z, Dec 18   |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                   | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 20   |
| + Phone Fray                     | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 20   |
| + CWops Mini-CWT Test            | 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 20 and<br>1900Z-2000Z, Dec 20 and<br>0300Z-0400Z, Dec 21 |
| + NAQCC CW Sprint                | 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 21   |
| <b>+ NCCC RTTY Sprint</b>        | <b>0145Z-0215Z, Dec 22</b>  |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                   | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 22   |
| + NCCC Sprint                    | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 22   |
| + RAEM Contest                   | 0000Z-1159Z, Dec 24   |
| + DARC Christmas Contest         | 0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26   |
| + SKCC Sprint                    | 0000Z-0200Z, Dec 27   |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                   | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 27   |
| + Phone Fray                     | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 27   |
| + CWops Mini-CWT Test            | 1300Z-1400Z, Dec 27 and<br>1900Z-2000Z, Dec 27 and<br>0300Z-0400Z, Dec 28 |
| <b>+ NCCC RTTY Sprint</b>        | <b>0145Z-0215Z, Dec 29</b>  |
| + QRP Fox Hunt                   | 0200Z-0330Z, Dec 29   |
| + NCCC Sprint                    | 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 29   |
| + RAC Winter Contest             | 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 30   |
| + Stew Perry Topband Challenge   | 1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31  |
| <b>+ Original QRP Contest</b>    | <b>1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31</b>                                     |
| + Bogor Old and New Contest      | 1200Z-2359Z, Dec 31   |

## *New Board of Directors*

|                |        |          |
|----------------|--------|----------|
| President      | K04XL  | Bruce R  |
| Vice President | W4AEQ  | Jeff R   |
| Secretary      | N1QFH  | John C   |
| Treasurer      | KE4OBV | Patrick  |
| Director       | K4BH   | Jeff S   |
| Director       | W4BFL  | Jerry Z  |
| Director       | WA2VNV | George s |

### Note:

**At the December 2 Board of Director's Meeting, it was agree to increase the 2018 membership dues from \$25 to \$35. You can offset the dues increase (\$10) if you pay (\$25) by 31-Dec-2017. After that it is \$35.**

## **Holiday Party**

**Be sure and signup for the holiday party with food or money using either our website or contacting John**

## *2017 Tax Donation Letters*

Tax Donation letters will be emailed for all the 2017 donations. Please turn in your receipts by January 15 to take advantage of this.

## *Speaker Bio:*

Jeff Stahl, K4BH grew up in the Detroit suburbs. His father was a mechanical engineer for Ford Motor Company and his mother was a home economist turned home maker. Excelling in math and science with a few close friends he got the bug.

One year after obtaining his Novice, he passed his Advanced-still in high school.

Obtaining his Bachelor in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University (1979) he took a job with Automatic Electric Labs (General Telephone) designing the PABX product line.

With no love for Chicago, he accepted an offer from Siemens in Boca Raton, where his love for the hobby took off. Here he obtained his Extra Class License.

After a long career in the technology sector, and the downsizing of Citrix, he decided to change careers going back to school and graduated with honors from Broward College with an Associate's Degree in Nursing. A Master's Degree from the University of Phoenix followed.

Jeff is the Broward AREAS EC.

He actively participates in communications for Civil Air Patrol, the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. He has always believed that hams should participate in emergency communications and preparedness for same. He said "After all it is one of the reasons our service (not hobby) exists."

After hurricane Andrew it became obvious that communications interoperability could only be achieved if there was one standard for communications for all agencies. In conjunctions with the development of the Incident Command System a unified communications plan was developed. Jeff says "As hams we need to learn and practice these communication standards."

He is active on the SEFTN and BCEPN as well as the BRARA new hams and club information nets. He has radios capable of operating from 160 meters through 70 centimeters on all modes. His antennas are currently under maintenance upgrade, but he hopes to be back on all bands soon. He is also interested in portable solutions for communications. He enjoy teaching and mentoring ham radio.

## ***D**X Operating News and Information*

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

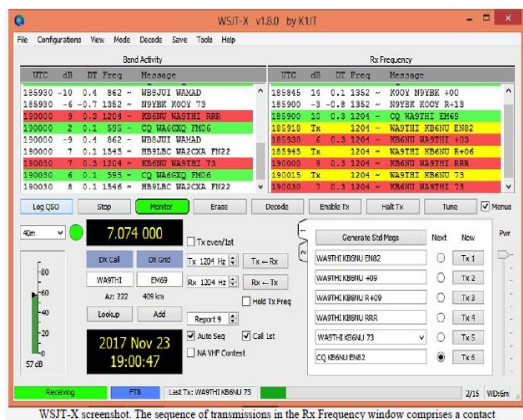
| Start      | End        | DXCC                 | Call                   | QSL via      | Reported by             | Information  |
|------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| 2017 Nov20 | 2017 Dec20 | <b>Mauritania</b>    | <b>5T1A</b>            | A92AA        | A92AA                   | By A92AA; all bands; FT8 SSB   |
| 2017 Nov21 | 2017 Dec05 | <b>Virgin Is</b>     | <b>KP2</b>             | NE9U         | NE9U                    | By NE9U as NE9U/KP2; also member of NP2X team during CQWW DX CW  |
| 2017 Nov23 | 2017 Dec12 | <b>Rodrigues I</b>   | <b>3B9HA</b>           | M0OXO        | G0CKV                   | By G0CKV; focus on low bands; holiday style apart from CQWW DX CW  |
| 2017 Nov24 | 2017 Dec10 | <b>Brunei</b>        | <b>V85</b>             | KC0W Direct  | KC0W                    | By KC0W as V85/KC0W; 80-6m; CW FT8; no more FT8 as of Nov 28   |
| 2017 Nov26 | 2017 Dec07 | <b>French Guiana</b> | <b>FY</b>              | LotW         | DL7BC                   | By DL7BC as FY/DL7BC; QSL also OK via DL7BC (DARC Buro or direct)  |
| 2017 Nov26 | 2017 Dec15 | <b>Namibia</b>       | <b>V5</b>              | DK1CE        | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | By DK1CE as V5/DK1CE fm nr Omaruru; 80-10m; 80-10m, focus on 40 30m; 1800-2200z; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct  |
| 2017 Nov27 | 2017 Dec03 | <b>Albania</b>       | <b>ZA1WW</b>           | LotW         | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | By Z62FB ZA1F ZA1EM Z61DX OG2M OH1MA OH2BH OH2TA OH3JR; focus on NA and Asia; QSL also OK via OH2TA and Club Log   |
| 2017 Nov28 | 2017 Dec11 | <b>Malta</b>         | <b>9H</b>              | SM6DQR       | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | By SM6DQR as 9H3DQR and SM6AAF as 9H3AAF fm Gozo I; 160-10m; CW SSB; 100w; wires; QSL OK via Buro or direct  |
| 2017 Nov29 | 2017 Dec07 | <b>Galapagos</b>     | <a href="#">HC8LUT</a> | IK2DUW       | <a href="#">DXW.Net</a> | By LU8YD LU3YK LU5FF LU7VB LU7YS LU9VEA fm San Cristobal; 160-6m; SSB JT65 FT8 PSK31 + Sat   |
| 2017 Nov30 | 2017 Dec08 | <b>St Martin</b>     | <b>FS</b>              | LotW         | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | 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) |
| 2017 Dec02 | 2017 Dec06 | <b>Samoa</b>         | <b>5W0DXA</b>          | LotW         | <a href="#">DXNews</a>  | By JA1DXA fm Apia (IOTA OC-097); HF; SSB CW RTTY; QSL also OK via JA1DXA direct and Club Log   |
| 2017 Dec02 | 2017 Dec10 | <b>Bonaire</b>       | <b>PJ4</b>             | LotW         | <a href="#">DXNews</a>  | By NA9Q as PJ4/NA9Q fm IOTA SA-006; 40-10m; CW SSB FT8; QRV for ARRL DX 10m Contest; QSL also OK via NA9Q  |
| 2017 Dec03 | 2017 Dec08 | <b>Laos</b>          | <a href="#">XW4ZW</a>  | LotW         | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | By K4ZW; focus on low bands; QSL also OK via K1SE  |
| 2017 Dec05 | 2017 Dec07 | <b>Tonga</b>         | <b>A31NM</b>           | JM6EBU       | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | By JM6EBU fm Nuku'Alofa; spare time operation; QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct  |
| 2017 Dec05 | 2017 Dec12 | <b>Cyprus SBA</b>    | <b>ZC4MK</b>           | LotW         | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | By G0KOM; 40-10m; vertical; QSL OK via G0KOM (RSGB Buro or direct) and Club Log  |
| 2017 Dec09 | 2017 Dec10 | <b>Cape Verde Is</b> | <b>D4C</b>             | LotW         | <a href="#">TDDX</a>    | By IK2NCJ IZ4DPV HB9DUR for the ARRL 10m Contest; QSL also OK via IK2NCJ (Buro or  |
| 2017 Dec15 | 2017 Dec17 | <b>Senegal</b>       | <b>6V1A</b>            | 6W7JX        | <a href="#">DXNews</a>  | By 6W7JX 6W1PZ 6W1KI 6W1QL fm Goree I (IOTA AF-045); HF; CW SSB  |
| 2017 Dec16 | 2017 Dec24 | <b>Corsica</b>       | <b>TK</b>              | DD5ZZ        | NZ1C                    | By NZ1C as TK/NZ1C; 40-10m; CW FT8, some SSB RTTY PSK; ground plane; holiday style operation   |
| 2017 Dec17 | 2017 Dec31 | <b>Barbados</b>      | <b>8P0VR</b>           | DD0VR        | <a href="#">DXNews</a>  | By DF3BW DD0VR fm IOTA NA - 021; 40 20 15 10m; SSB; call sign tentative  |
| 2017 Dec21 | 2018 Jan15 | <b>Senegal</b>       | <b>6W</b>              |              | F6AJA                   | By F6HMJ as 6W/F6HMJ; mainly 20-10m; CW, some SSB  |
| 2017 Dec25 | 2018 Jan12 | <b>Senegal</b>       | <b>6W</b>              | WA3DX Direct | <a href="#">DXNews</a>  | By WA3DX as 6W1/WA3DX fm Dakar, also 6W7/WA3DX fm Mbao and 6W6/WA3DX fm Kaolack and Saloum Is; 40-10m; SSB SSTV PSK  |



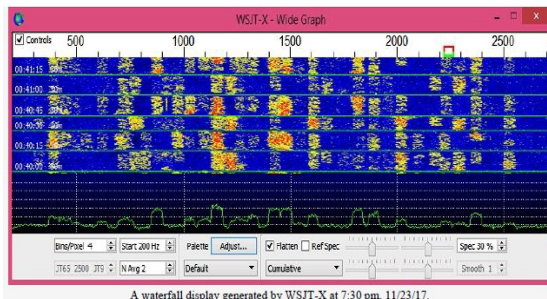
## Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Over the past couple of days, I've made 32 QSOs, including a couple of DX contacts. It's been fun to try something new, but to be honest, I'm not really feeling the magic.

Take a look at the screenshot below to see how a typical contact happens. When a CQ appears in the “Band Activity” window, you double click on it. When you do this, the software begins listening for signals on that frequency. In this case, I double-clicked on the CQ by WA9THI. When I double-clicked on the CQ, the program began decoding signals on that frequency and display the transmissions in the “Rx Frequency” window.



Then, I clicked on “Enable TX” and the program began the contact sequence, sending “WA9THI KB6NU EN82.” EN82 is my grid designator. This is shown as the first yellow line in the Rx Frequency window. The transmissions that I sent are highlighted in yellow. The transmissions sent by WA9THI are



The sequence of transmissions shown there comprise a complete contact, and that whole process takes less than two minutes. And, once WA9THI received my first transmission, the sequence is all automatic. You just sit there and watch the two computers talk to one another.

Here are a few more notes about FT-8 operation:

- Not surprisingly, synchronizing your computer with the other stations computer is very important. To do that, you need to get your computer to use the network time protocol (NTP). I failed to do this when I first installed WSJT-X, and while my waterfall was full of FT-8 signals, WSJT-X just wouldn't decode them.
- I got my PC laptop to talk ntp by installing Meinberg NTP software. Once I did that, WSJT-X magically started decoding transmissions.
- Most of the cool guys seem to be using Meinberg NTP, but there are other options. One of the guys in our club is using a program called Dimension 4, for example.
- Apparently, you don't have to limit your power output as you would with PSK-31. At first, I set my output power to 10 W. I had a bit of success at 10 W, but I expected more. When I asked on Twitter how much power other guys were using, most of them said that they were using more than that.

- For the last couple of sessions, I've been setting my output power to 25 W, and I've been having more success. I worked my first European on 30m this afternoon, for example.
- Even at 25 W, my signal reports are more often than not as good as the signal reports I'm handing out. I haven't figured this one out yet. This doesn't happen to me when I'm operating CW, so I don't think it's my antenna.
- When I'm operating, I write down the calls of stations I've contacted. The reason for this is that while WSJT-X does have a logging function, it doesn't have a log window, so unless you have a great memory, you could end up working guys two or three times a session. That's probably not a big deal since contacts are so quick, but I'd rather avoid doing that if I can.
- WSJT-X works "split." While most contacts take place on the same frequency, a station can call you anywhere in the passband of your receiver and WSJT-X will decode the signal and begin a contact. This threw me the first time or two that this happened, and I tried to change my transmit frequency to match the other station's. In doing so, I messed up the sequence. I now just let the contact proceed normally, and it works out great.
- When I work the other digital modes, I set my IC-746PRO to the USB-D mode. In this mode, the receive passband is narrower than for working phone. When operating FT-8, however, you don't want to limit that passband. Signals will appear across the entire 2.6 kHz of the USB signal, and if you narrow the passband, you won't be able to work those stations.
- WSJT-X checks the validity of call signs. This afternoon, there was a guy who had typed in his call as "WAMAD" and was calling CQ. WSJT-X wouldn't let me answer that CQ.
- Operating this mode opens up the possibility of working more stations whose call signs spell words and adding those QSL cards to my collection. I have, for example, already worked K1GUY and N5SLY. I'm guessing that these two guys don't operate CW.

All told, I've found this to be an interesting foray into a new digital mode. While I'm not feeling the magic that some others seem to be feeling when operating FT-8, it certainly will be a change of pace to operate this mode from time to time.





# *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**



Be sure and signup for  
the holiday party with  
food or money using  
either our website or  
contacting John N1QFH.

**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

Be sure and dress  
for the party



# Winter Field Day 2017



**FM 2 pm (19:00 UTC) Sat 27-Jan-18**

**To 2 pm (19:00 UTC) Sun 28 Jan 2018**

**At BRARA Ham Shack in W Delray Pk**



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



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME: HAMS, Family, Friends, Perspective HAMS**

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

**Enjoy WFD18 with us:**

- 3 Emergency powered stations (15, 20 & 40 m band pass filters)
- SteppIR and 2 Fan Dipoles
- Ham Camaraderie in Temperature Controlled Environment

**Contacts:**

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

**Modes: CW, SSB, AM, FM, DStar, C4FM, DMR, Packet, PSK, SSTV, RTTY, Olivia, Satellite, etc**

**All Bands except: 12m, 17m, 30m & 60m**

**WFD Exchange [Call, Class, ARRL Section] : N4BRF 3I SFL (3-India {indoor})**



## Southwest Hamfest

Start Date: 01/19/2018

End Date: 01/20/2018

Location: Riverside Church of Fort Myers

8660 Daniels Parkway

Fort Myers, FL 33901

Website: <http://swflhamfest.info>

Sponsor: Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 136.5)

Public Contact: Harold A Drew , KM4WNF

12407 Davis Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33905

Phone: 239-309-3660

Email: [dfoyl50@gmail.com](mailto:dfoyl50@gmail.com)

Congratulations to the following hams who successfully either joined the ham ranks and/or advanced in class:



EXTRA  
CALL [E] Name\*

GENERAL  
CALL [G] Name\*

TECH  
CALL [T] Name\*

## Free Laurel VEC Testing



Tue 12-Dec-2017, 18:00-19:30, Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue of every month).

Sun 7-Jan-2018, 11:00-13:00, Fire Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of odd months).

Thu 8-Feb-2018, 19:00-21:00, Rutherford Com Ctr, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA] (Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

## Welcome New Members:

NV2I Joe Spadero  
K1DS Rich Rosen

## For more on BRARA:

Website: [www.brara.org](http://www.brara.org)

Twitter: [BRARA@N4BRF](mailto:BRARA@N4BRF)

Instagram: [#BRARA\\_N4BRF](https://www.instagram.com/BRARA_N4BRF)

Facebook: [facebook.com/BRARA-138743906714224](https://www.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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## Florida State

## Convention—

## Orlando HamCation

Start Date: 02/09/2018

End Date: 02/11/2018

Location: Central Florida Fairgrounds  
4603 West Colonial Drive  
Orlando, FL 32801

Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 146.76 (no PL tone during hamfest)

Public Contact: John Knott , N4JTK

PO Box 574962 Orlando, FL 32857

Phone: 407-841-0874

Email: [info@hamcation.com](mailto:info@hamcation.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

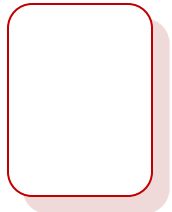
The purpose of this newsletter is to keep club members and other interested hams updated on club events and ham activities in the Greater Boca Raton Area. We hope you enjoy this month's *the R.F.* as much as we did publishing it!



the Radio Flyer

P.O. Box 480162

Delray Beach, FL 33448-0162



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

