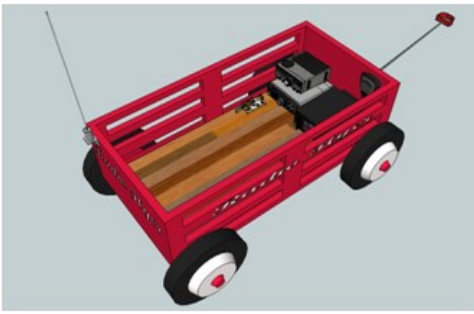




April 2018

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



### BRARA Calendar:

**Sun 01-Apr-2018 Easter-No nets**

19:00 Mon 02-Apr-18 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

19:00-21:00 Tue 03-Apr-18  
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-12:00 Wed 04-Apr 18  
Ham Shack Work & Open House

09:00-13:00 Sat 07-Apr-18  
Ham Shack Work & Open House

20:00-21:00 Sun 08-Apr-18 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 09-Apr-18 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 11-Apr-18  
Ham Shack Work & Open House

09:00-12:00 Sat 14-Apr-18  
Ham Shack Work & Open House

20:00-2100 Sun 15 Apr-18 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 16-Apr-18(145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

**Mon 16-Apr-18 Tax Day**

**Wed 18-Apr-18 World Amateur Radio Day**

09:00-12:00 Wed 18-Apr-18  
Ham Shack Work & Open House

09:00-12:00 Sat 21-Apr-18  
Ham Shack Work & Open House

**12:00 Noon Sun 22-Apr-18  
Deadline for Newsletter Contributions**

20:00-2100 Sun 22 Apr-18 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 23-Apr-18 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 25-Apr-18  
Ham Shack Work & Open House

**10:00-13:00 Sat 28-Apr-18  
BRARA Radiator Grill**

20:00-21:00 Sun 29-Apr-18 (443.300)  
DMR-FL-LO Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 30-Apr-18 (145.29 [110.9])  
Monday Night Nets

### This Month's Speaker



This month's speaker, Kai Siwiak, KE4PT, will present "No-Cost Software for Portable DXing – Digital Modes and Propagation Prediction," subtitled, "Plan Before You Go!"

As long as you have an HF transceiver no older than a teenager, you can add an audio interface and a small computer to create a Basic Software Defined Radio.

[See Speaker Bio on Page 3]

### Ham Shack News

The Icom 7600 is out for service (again). Art, WA8VJS, is graciously allowing his MP-1000 to be used in its place. We're also using this opportunity to have some preventive maintenance done on the amplifier.

As Bruce mentions in the President's Column, we've had some generous donations of equipment in the past month, which we are sorting through for possible use or sale.

#### N4BRF Winter FD 2018 Results

- 1st in SFL (10)
- 1st in FL (36)
- 2nd in 3H (6)
- 4th in Home (320)
- 5th in Call Area 4 (129)
- 16th in Overall Total (610)

### QSL Report Ed, N4II

As we closed out last month, N4BRF has logged 3,348 QSLs / 10,309 QSOs (32.5%) on LoTW. 539 QSOs were added this month!

**DXCC Account Status:** Although we didn't work any new DXCC entities this month, we have 270 Current DXCC Entities confirmed.

**Awards received:** Mixed, CW, Phone (20m, 17m, 15m and 10m).

**WAS Account Status:** New this month: With the uploading of our Winter Field Day log, we now have 23 new WAS slots:

AL 80m Phone; FL 80m Phone; CT 5-band, 80m, 80m CW, 80m Phone; IL 5-band, 80m, 80m CW, 80m Phone; IN 5-band, 80m, 80m Phone; KS 5-band, 80m, 80m Phone; KY 80m Phone; MD 80m Phone; MI 5-band, 80m, 80m Phone; MO 5-band, 80m, 80m Phone; MS 80m Phone; NE 40m Phone; NC 80m Phone; NY 80m Phone; OH 80m Phone; OK 80m Phone; PA 80m Phone; RI 80m Phone; TN 80m Phone; TX 5-band, 80m, 80m Phone; WI 5-band, 80m, 80m Phone.

**Awards issued:** Mixed, 20m, CW, Phone, Digital, Triple Play.

#### We still need:

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

We have received the following new QSOs from prior Field Day activities:

- 259 (+3) QSOs from 2017

#### VUCC Account Status:

None new this month: (+0).

The latest update will be presented at the next Club Meeting.

## New Hams Corner

Dolph, WA2NTW

At some point you will want to put a radio in your vehicle. There are so many things to consider, so let's look at the basics. Will it be permanent? On what band(s) do you want to operate? Where can you put everything? Will you be breaking any laws?

Some people lease cars and cannot make any changes to the vehicle without risking a big bill for repair when returning them. For these folks and those who only want to do something every now and then, you can find a great way to temporarily place equipment in a vehicle. This is important if you want to work special events or public service events. First you need a source of power. A lighter socket or 12-volt power port is great for that. Next, an antenna. Magnetic mounts are wonderful but get one that will hold the antenna in place and give you a good signal. When you bring the cable into the vehicle try to do the least amount of damage possible. I have seen cables totally flattened, and that is bad. Last, you need somewhere to place the radio where it will not hurt you if you are in a crash. Stuck between the seat and a console is usually the easiest place.

Permanent mounts require a lot more thought and work. First, you will need to find a place to mount your antenna. The roof is the best place for most VHF/UHF antennas. There are special installation tools used to drill into rooftops, and snake the coax down to where you will place the radio.

BEWARE of airbags, electrical harnesses and the like. Most radios come with a mounting bracket that you can attach in a spot where you can have access to the controls and your microphone will be within reach.

Finding a good spot to get power is becoming more challenging. If your fuse block is inside of the vehicle you can use a power tap or an unused spot. Just remember the higher the current draw the larger the fuse and cable size. So many of us like running directly to the battery and putting fuses right there. It's very important to fuse both the positive and negative legs of the cable. Be careful when coming thru any part of the chassis so that you do not nick the cable. Having someone who has done an install working with you the first time is a great help. Check out other installations and see what you like. As a side note, make sure you check the laws of the state in which your vehicle is registered. Most hams have exemptions to place and operate radio equipment in their vehicles, however there are some very strange rules still on the books out there. I advise all hams to have a copy of their ham license in the vehicle. Law enforcement will likely not bother you if you have a current license in your possession. Whichever way you go with antennas make sure you take them off before going into a car wash, parking garage or other place with low clearance. You may hit signs at drive-thrus. I always made a big racket at a bank drive thru!

Be safe, drive safely, and I will hear you on the air!

## "Da Prez Sez"

Bruce, KO4XL

Ah, springtime in Florida! Kinda looks a lot like summer, fall and winter in Florida, doesn't it? But of course we still do spring cleaning, and there certainly seems to be some of that going on. Thanks in part to that spring cleaning, we have been blessed with a considerable amount of donated equipment lately, and we are certainly grateful for the generosity of the members responsible for it. Over the next few weeks, we will be sorting through and inventorying these newfound treasures. Some of the new stuff will eventually be put to use to provide additional capabilities (amateur satellite, for example) at our station. The rest will be turned into funds to further ensure the future financial stability of our club.

You might not be aware that when our club sells off extra equipment, it has always been our practice to offer it first to our members at a substantial discount from the price we would expect to get through Ham Trader, eBay, etc. While this has historically been done by word of mouth, our new website makes it possible for all members to see what's currently available. So keep signing in - while hunting for the web fox, you just might

[Continued on Page 3.]

## “Da Prez Sez” (cont’d.)

find a piece of gear that you just can’t live without!

We have a couple of major activities coming up in the next month. On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> (rain date Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>), we will hold our spring Radiator Grille. These bi-annual Open House events are a great time to show off our station and our hobby to our significant other, our kids and grandkids, as well as any friends or co-workers who might be interested in getting involved in our Amateur Radio. So save the date, and we hope to see you there.

Also coming up, on the weekend of May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, is our next Technician license crash course. Please be sure and let your prospective ham friends know about this free training, which will culminate in an opportunity to take the test on Sunday afternoon. We’re always looking for instructors to share the load, so if you’re available and interested please contact me. Speaking of testing, our quarterly VE session will take place on Thursday evening, May 10, at 7pm in the Community Center at Patch Reef Park. Please contact Jerry Zaza, W4BFL, for further information.

Well, that’s about it for this month. On behalf of our board may I wish you a Happy Spring/Easter/Passover, and we hope to see you soon!

73 de KO4XL

## DX Operating News & Information

The very latest information on DX Operating News, including DXPeditions, DXCC, and QSL information, can be found by clicking here:

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

## Contests & Special Events

Looking for upcoming contests and special events from around the world? Use this link:

[www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html](http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html)

## BRARA Open House

We meet every Wednesday and Saturday morning between 09:30 and 13:00 for our Open House, and for any work that needs to be done at the Shack. Anyone interested in exploring Amateur Radio is encouraged to stop in for a visit.

## Newsletter Guidelines

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

## Speaker Bio:

**Kazimierz (Kai) Siwiak, KE4PT**, was first licensed in 1964, and holds an Amateur Extra class license. He holds 41 US patents, has authored many professional papers, four textbooks, and has contributed chapters to other books. Dr. Kai is a member of QRP-ARCI, Life Member of AMSAT and a member of ARRL where he serves on the RF Safety Committee and is an ARRL Technical Advisor, and Contributing Editor for QST, and Editor of QEX. Kai is an avid DXer who carries a small “DX Go-Bag” station on his travels.

Kai will present “No-cost Software for Portable DXing — Digital Modes and Propagation Prediction”, subtitled, “Plan Before You Go!”. As long as you have an HF transceiver no older than a teenager, you can add an audio interface and a small computer to create a Basic Software Defined Radio. Then, add any of the many free digital software packages to operate modern high-performance digital protocols. Finally, maximize the effectiveness of your DX-Go-Bag station experience by using modern free propagation software packages to plan your operating mode, time and band! We will step through the Basic SDR concept, identify the digital software packages, and walk our way through free software propagation packages.



# Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association



## FREE TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS

Get your ham license in a weekend!

9:00am – 5:30pm Saturday and Sunday

May 5 & 6, 2018

At the BRARA Station in West Delray Park

10875 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33446

- We use the proven Gordon West training materials
  - The FCC test will be given Sunday afternoon
  - Attendance both days is required to complete the course and take the test
- Boy Scout? You can complete the Radio Merit Badge at the same time!

### Please bring:

- A bag lunch each day (microwave, water and coffee are provided)
- Note taking materials (pencils, paper, etc.)
- Gordon West Technician Class book (strongly recommended)
- Government issued Picture ID (parent may vouch for minor child)
- SSN or FRN (go to <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb> to apply)

### For more information or to register:

- Email: [training@brara.org](mailto:training@brara.org)
- Or call Bruce Ratoff 561-862-8198



# BRARA "RADIATOR GRILL"



**Saturday 10:00am – 1:00pm**

**28 April 2018**



**(Rain Date: Sunday, 29 April)**

**At the BRARA Ham Shack in West Delray Park**

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



**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 Camaraderie
- Burgers and Hot Dogs
- Chips, Salads, and Soft Drinks

**Contacts:**

- |                |              |                 |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| • Bruce Ratoff | 561-862-8198 | KO4XL@brara.org |
| • Jeff Ronner  | 415-828-5458 | W4AEQ@brara.org |

### Monday Night Nets

BRARA runs two significant 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.

⇒ South County NBEMS Net: **20:00-20:30**. Mixed-Mode Analog Voice and using FLDigi/FLMsg.

### Social Media Committee

A committee was formed to update, simplify and modernize BRARA social media: W4BFL (Jerry), KO4XL (Bruce), 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

### 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:

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

We hold scheduled monthly Board meetings at 12:00 Noon at the Shack on the Sunday preceding the next General Meeting.

### 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) with your Call Sign.

### Membership Application & Renewal Form

- \$35 Full Membership
- \$10 Associate Membership
- \$5 Each Licensed Family Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member:  Yes  No

Birthday: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

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 by either:*

USPS Mail to:

BRARA  
P.O. Box 480162  
Delray Beach, FL 33448-0162

### NBEMS

For more information and the latest Guide and Troubleshooting, go to [www.gsl.net/k4wrc/PBC-BASIC-NBEMS.html](http://www.gsl.net/k4wrc/PBC-BASIC-NBEMS.html) or simply Google "Palm Beach NBEMS"

#### Scheduled Nets

Mon 20:00 South County NBEMS  
145.290 (-0.600) [110.9]

Tue 19:30 PBC NBEMS  
147.285 (+0.600) [103.5]

### Local Analog Repeater Nets

Daily 18:00 SEFL Traffic  
146.61 MHz  
Tue 19:30 Gtr Boca/Delray CERT  
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
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
PB Gardens	442.1000	10 dmr.fl
Stuart	440.7000	1 dmr.mar
Pt St Lucie-1	440.0000	1 dmr.mar
Pt St Lucie-2	440.750	10 NJ Trbo
Naples	444.9850	1 DMR+
Marco Island	444.8125	1 DMR+

## Cy Harris Free Flea

**Start Date:** 04/07/2018  
**End Date:** 04/07/2018  
**Location:** Collins Center  
3900 NE 3rd Avenue  
Oakland Park, FL  
**Website:** <http://browardarc.net/free-flea/>  
**Sponsor:** Broward ARC (W4AB)  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 146.91 (PL 110.9)  
**Public Contact:** Tony Becker, N4AEB  
37221 W. State Rd 84, Unit 102, Davie, FL  
33312  
Phone: 954-612-9303  
**Email:** n4aeb@arrl.net

## Fort Pierce Hamfest

**Start Date:** 04/07/2018  
**End Date:** 04/07/2018  
**Location:** Indian River State College  
3209 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34945  
**Website:** <http://www.fparc.org>  
**Sponsor:** Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 147.345 (PL 107.2)  
**Public Contact:** John Sweigart , KK4SHF  
4103 Smokey Pines Ct, Fort Pierce FL  
34951  
Phone: 772-905-3552  
**Email:** johnsails@hotmail.com

## Free Laurel VEC Testing



**Thu 10-May-2018,**  
**19:00-21:00,**  
Rutherford Community Center,  
Patch Reef Park, 2000 Yamato Rd,  
Boca Raton, FL 33498 [BRARA]  
(Quarterly: Feb, May, Aug, Nov).

**Tue 10-Apr-2018,** 18:00-19:30,  
Broward Gen MC, 1600 S Andrews  
Ave, Ft Lauderdale [BARC] (2nd Tue  
of every month).

**Sun 6-May-2018,** 11:00-13:00, Fire  
Station 28, 1040 RPB Blvd, Royal  
Palm Beach [PWARC] (1st Sunday of  
odd months).

## 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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## Welcome

### New Members:

Richard Sagredo KN4JKG  
Harold Gretzky K8PE  
Samuel Goldstein K2LDK  
Susan Goldstein

## Newsletter Contributions

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 *Radio  
Flyer* are needed to help keep this  
one of the best club newsletters in  
South Florida.

Please send articles to  
[W4AEQ@BRARA.org](mailto:W4AEQ@BRARA.org)

## Ham Shack Key Access Rules

To obtain a key to the BRARA Ham  
Shack you must be a member in  
good standing for a minimum of one  
continuous year, hold a valid FCC  
Amateur Radio License, and  
complete a short training session  
with one of the Club officers.

## 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 issue  
as much as we did publishing it!

## the Radio Flyer

P.O. Box 480162  
Delray Beach, FL 33448-0162

