



Radio Flyer The BRARA Newsletter

May 2018

Official Website: www.BRARA.org

BRARA Calendar:

Tue 01-May-18 Law & Loyalty Day

19:00-21:00 Tue 01-May-18
Club Meeting @ West Boca Library

09:00-12:00 Wed 02-May 18
Ham Shack Work & Open House

Thu 03-May-18 Nat'l Day of Prayer

Sat 05-May-18 Cinco de Mayo

09:00-13:00 Sat 05 May-18
Ham Shack Work & Open House

20:00 Sun 06 May-18 (443.300)
DMR-FL Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 07-May-18 (145.29 [110.9])
Monday Night Nets

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

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

Sun 13-May-18 Mothers Day

20:00-21:00 Sun 13 May-18 (443.300)
DMR-FL Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

19:00 Mon 14-May-18(145.29 [110.9])
Monday Night Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 16-May-18
Ham Shack Work & Open House

Fri-Sun 18-20 May-18 Dayton
Hamvention

Sat 19-May-18 Armed Forces Day

09:00-12:00 Sat 19-May-18
Ham Shack Work & Open House

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

19:00 Mon 21-May-18 (145.29 [110.9])
Monday Night Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 23-May-18
Ham Shack Work & Open House

09:00-12:00 Sat 26-May-18
Ham Shack Work & Open House

12:00 Noon Wed 23-May-2018
Deadline for Newsletter Input

20:00-21:00 Sun 27-May-18 (443.300)
DMR-FL Tech Net [TS2 TG2]

Mon 28-May-18 Memorial Day-No Nets

09:00-12:00 Wed 30-May-187
Ham Shack Work & Open House

This Month's Speaker



This month's speaker, Steve Martin, KN4FEN, will present on the finer points of using an antenna analyzer. These marvelous devices can reveal to us many characteristics of our antennas other than SWR.

This presentation includes audience participation, and everyone is encouraged to bring along sections of feedline which may be giving them some issues. Sections should be 6' to 50' long for best results.

[See Speaker Bio on Page 3]

Ham Shack News

⇒ The Icom 7600 is back from the service bench, as is the 1000MP! Both rigs are operating well.

⇒ Look on Page 3 for links for the latest updates on Contests & Special events, and DX Operating News & Information.

⇒ We will be soon changing the locks on the front and rear gates, issuing new keys to current key holders, and changing the front door combination. We'll also be incorporating a refresher on equipment and shack protocols. More on this via the website, and email blasts as we get closer.

QSL Report Ed, N4II

As we closed out last month, N4BRF has logged 3,372 QSLs / 10,311 QSOs (32.57%) on LoTW.

New DXCC this month: Morocco (CN, 160m; Canada (VO2, 80m); Turkey (TA, 40m & 10m).

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

New WAZ this month: 5BWAZ #158 (Z2, 80m); CW #39 (Z2); 160m #18 (Z33); 80m CW #25 (Z2); 40m SSB #14 (Z20).

We need a QSL from Z18 on CW to attain CW WAZ.

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 QSLs from prior Field Day activities:

- 287 (+1) QSLs from 2015
- 262 (+1) QSLs from 2017

WAS Account Status:

None new this month: (+0)

VUCC Account Status:

None new this month: (+0)

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

New Hams Corner

Dolph, WA2NTW

Upgrading your License

At some point most people think about other aspects of ham radio. If you want to Chase DX, talk with people around the world or just be more prepared for the BIG one, you will want to upgrade to a General or Extra. When you first came into the hobby, you probably used a study guide. Well, it's time to get one for those higher class licenses. Going online to various study portals can be great for some people. But a BIG plus

Is the availability of tests you can take and get instant feedback?

When I upgraded I took out a study guide from the library, signed up for an online Study guide and took a lot of practice tests. It all was a refresher on things I had forgotten In 30 years and some newer material that did not exist back then! It paid off for me, I passed on my first attempt! As an instructor I know that people learn from different Methods so I must tell you to use what will work for you. If your brain associates things then by all means link difficult things to easier things you can remember and understand!

The same way you took your original test, prepare...rest...take your time. As an examiner I have seen so many people hyped up. RELAX. Take your time. Do not overthink. Go with your first answer unless you are positive it was wrong. If you don't know an answer, skip it and return when you reach the end of the test.

Quite often you might find the answer in some other portion of the test. Do NOT have blank spaces on your answer sheet. When you still don't know an answer, eliminate the two dumb ones and pick the one that sounds correct.

When you pass the test you will be able to immediately go on those new frequencies you have been itching to try. You have to have a completion of testing form in your Possession as well as sign your call correctly. WA2NTW/AG would be my temporary Call sign if I had just upgraded. You can drop the suffix once your new class is in the FCC Database.

There are a lot of Technician class licenses but not nearly as many General tickets. If you want to have more fun, consider upgrading to General and joining in on a lot more ham radio fun!

73,

WA2NTW

"Da Prez Sez"

Bruce, KO4XL

Just got back from our semi-annual Radiator Grille. Terrific turnout this year and it was great to see everyone having a good time. We also got to welcome several new faces who will be joining our ranks - always a good thing to see. Huge kudos to three folks who were mainly responsible for the success of this event: Jeff W4AEQ for pulling everything together, John N1QFH for seemingly being everywhere at once, getting the shack clean and ready and making multiple go-fer trips to keep us supplied with food, drink and ice. Last but certainly not least a huge thank-you to John KE4IDW, our superb chef, for preparing and serving all the goodies. Thank you also to everyone else who jumped in to help with one thing or another. That generous spirit is one of our club's greatest assets. As I mentioned last month, we have received a great deal of donated equipment. In the past few weeks, several members got together to go over it all and take a first pass at sorting through it all. We've made great strides in determining what to keep, what to share with members or

[Continued on Page 3]

"Da Prez Sez" (cont'd.)

sell, and what goes to the junk heap.

You will be hearing more shortly about the equipment that's available. Of course, members will get first dibs and at a very favorable price.

Our next major event, on the weekend of May 5th and 6th, is our 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. Happy Spring and we hope to see you again 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

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:

Steven Martin, KN4FEN, been a computer hobbyist since 1981 when he bought a Timex Sinclair 1000 (2k RAM, tactile keyboard). That hooked him, and then he moved to Apple and Microsoft operating systems over the years.

That led to working for a color prepress house (printing industry) as a Digital Desktop Publishing manager, which lead to being a systems engineer for a world-wide company that manufactured equipment for the printing industry.

Steve moved from Chicago to Boca Raton in 1998 when he was promoted to National Systems Engineering Manager for Siemens-Nixdorf Printing Systems (later became Océ and later Canon).

He is now semi-retired, and mostly work on electronics items of all shapes and sizes.

From 1974-1991, he setup and used a number of CB radio mobiles and bases as a hobby (26-27MHz).

It wasn't until 2016, that a new friend (KM4IQH --> W4ZXE) suggested Steve get into Ham radio, and shortly thereafter he secured his Technician and then General licenses.

Steve is now the proud owner of 3 VHF/UHF radios and various antennas and accessories such as tuners, analyzers, linear amps, a Signalink, and mics, etc.

He enjoys many of the local nets, and recently became a NCS for the South East Florida Traffic Net. Very recently, Steve started a new net called "The Not Qwight Right Net" on a the 146.82 mHz repeater on Thursday nights.

He also enjoys using Echolink to talk to other hams around the world.



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
- Or call Bruce Ratoff 561-862-8198





BOCA RATON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FREE HAM RADIO LICENSE TESTING

7:00pm – 9:00pm on Thursdays

10 May 2018

9 August 2018

8 November 2018

**James A. Rutherford Community Center,
Patch Reef Park**

2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33431

**BRARA offers free testing for all classes of
Amateur Radio licenses. You must bring
your existing Amateur license (if upgrading),
a current photo ID, and your SSN or FCC
Registration Number (FRN).**



Contact us for more information.

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| • Bruce Ratoff | 561-862-8198 | KO4XL@brara.org (for Training) |
| • Jerry Zaza | 305-706-8338 | W4BFL@brara.org (for Testing) |

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

NBEMS

For more information and the latest Guide and Troubleshooting, go to www.qsl.net/k4wrc/PBC-BASIC-NBEMS.html or simply Google "Palm Beach NBEMS"

Scheduled Nets

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

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+

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

Suwannee ARC Hamfest

Start Date: 05/05/2018

End Date: 05/05/2018

Location: Welborn Fire Training Hall
1504 4th Ave, Welborn, FL

Website: www.suwanneearc.org

Sponsor: Suwannee ARC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.410 (PL 100.0)

Public Contact: William Preen, W4NQP
99575 132nd Terrace, Live Oak, FL 32060
Phone: 386-249-3260

Email: rustypreen@aol.com

EPARS Tailgate

Start Date: 05/12/2018

End Date: 05/12/2018

Location: Church Avenue Park
37745 Church Avenue, Dade City, FL

Website: <http://eparsonline.org>

Sponsor: E. Pasco Amateur Radio Society

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.88 (PL 146.2)

Public Contact: Chris Bloxom, AA4CB
34383 Arbor Street, Dade City, FL 33523
Phone: 727-484-8099

Email: aa4cb@arri.net

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 8-May-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

Twitter: [BRARA@N4BRF](https://twitter.com/BRARA_N4BRF)

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

Facebook:
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:

Randy Selman KX4RSS

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

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

