

Hello fellow Fall River area Ham Radio Operator!

Did you know the **Bristol County Repeater Association** a.k.a. the **Fall River Amateur Radio Club** is the local **ARRL** Affiliated Ham Radio club? The **BCRA** has been around since 1929 and is still going strong. This year we turned 80 and want to celebrate by inviting you to check us out.

Over the years our club has been involved in all sorts of activities throughout the community. In recent years we have provided radio communications for several parades, "**Run for the Woods 5K**" road race, sporting events such as the **Patriot** and **Cranberry Country Triathlons**, and a high altitude helium balloon launch with the **Kuss Middle School** students that carried Amateur Radio.

For several years our members have conducted **Ham Radio classes** at Kuss Middle School in Fall River, and in 2005 had a well publicized Ham Radio contact with the **International Space Station**. Twelve students were able to speak with an astronaut on the ISS and ask questions throughout the entire overhead pass. This program has created more than 20 new young Hams in our area with more to come!



Our dedication to Public Safety shows with our close relationship with the **Fall River Emergency Management Agency**, and the surrounding towns. We participate in annual hurricane drills, and conduct a weekly **RACES** (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) on-air practice nets on the 145.150 repeater system, and recently had a display for **Public Safety Day** at Heritage State Park.

The club owns two FM voice repeater systems. Our workhorse is the **145.150 MHz repeater** (- offset PL

123.0) located in the heart of Fall River. This repeater provides solid coverage throughout the Fall River area, and beyond. If you listen to the repeater you will hear periodic automated voice announcements as reminders to the many club events and monthly meetings. We also have a UHF repeater system on **444.350 MHz** (+ offset PL **88.5**). This repeater is currently offline for a major upgrade, but will be back soon and permanently linked into the RIAFMRS repeater system. We will be the Eastern-most node in this linked repeater system expanding network coverage from Westerly RI, across RI, to Central MA, to the Cape Cod Canal with 4 repeaters currently in the system.

The **BCRA** maintains a web page that is updated regularly with a calendar of upcoming events, and some photos of past gatherings. Please check out our page at: <http://www.gsl.net/bcra/>

We also have an active **Volunteer Examiner** team that administers **Ham exams on the 3rd Monday of the month** at the Union United Methodist Church 600 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA at 7:00 PM.

Our members are also quite active with portable operations and have created an amazing rolling Ham shack affectionately called the **HAMCOW**, for **HAM** radio **Communications On Wheels**. Can you imagine 5 operating positions in an air-conditioned room with 2 towers, 2 tri-band HF Yagi's, 160-10 Meter HF, VHF/UHF, & microwave capabilities up to 10 GHz, broadband Internet, WiFi, full computer control and logging, satellite with auto tracking, bathroom & shower, sleeps up to 7, kitchen, dining area, and you can roll it virtually anywhere at any time! Check out the construction and travels of the **HAMCOW** at: <http://hamcow.net>



Some of the portable events we have done are the previously mentioned drills and triathlons, **Amateur Radio Field Day** on the last weekend in June, and our biggest event, which the club has done for the last 17 consecutive years, is the **Martha's Vineyard DX-Pedition**. This event coincides with the **New England QSO Party**, and we activate Dukes County by operating portable from adjacent the Gay Head Lighthouse in Aquinnah, MA on Martha's Vineyard. During this event we are self-sufficient for 72 hours racking up contacts, and are getting to be known as one of the "*big guns*" in New England for this contest with our *portable* station! We've had flea markets, raffles, clam boils, and Christmas parties. There is always *something* going on with the BCRA!



We also have an online e-mail list through Yahoo Groups. You are welcome to check out our group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcra-club/>

This is a SPAM free mailing list where only the registered members can post, along with the automated reminders that are in the group calendar. The automated reminders are for club meetings, RACES nets, and any other upcoming club events.

Our BCRA monthly meetings are at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month, unless there is a holiday when we move to the 2nd Monday. Meetings are held in the upstairs of the Third Baptist Church at 260 Stafford Road in Fall River. **All visitors are always welcome!**

The BCRA officers want to thank you for your time, and we hope you choose to support your local Ham club. We'd love to have you as a guest at any of our events or monthly meetings. If you'd like to join our club, you will find an enclosed application that can be mailed to our P.O. box, or brought along to any monthly meeting. We hope you can make it!

BCRA Event Calendar for 2009

June 27th & 28th – Amateur Radio Field Day
Fall River / Freetown Forest Ranger Station
Slab Bridge Rd., Assonet Events starts 2 PM 6/27,
and runs until 2 PM 6/28

July 6th, 2009 - BCRA Monthly Meeting – 7 PM
Third Baptist Church at 260 Stafford Rd.

August 3, 2009 - BCRA Monthly Meeting - 7 PM
We're Having a Pizza Party!
Join us for a quick meeting then stay for pizza and drinks at **New England Pizza 210 Tucker Street**, Fall River. Follow this link for the NE Pizza menu.
http://www.qsl.net/bcra/NE_Pizza_Menu.pdf

August 29 & 30 - Cranberry Country Triathlon
Ted Williams Camp, Lakeville, MA
<http://www.cranberrycountrytri.com/>
Volunteers Wanted! Please contact N1JOY.
This is a 2 day event and we need volunteers for both days.
n1joy@arrrl.net or (617)-839-9081

September 14 - BCRA Monthly Meeting – 7 PM
Third Baptist Church at 260 Stafford Rd.
This meeting is delayed one week because of the Labor Day holiday.

September 20th, 2009 - Buzzards Bay Triathlon
http://www.maxperformanceonline.com/buzzardsbay_race.html
Demarest Lloyd State Park - Time: 9:00AM Start
Volunteers Wanted! Please contact N1JOY.
n1joy@arrrl.net or (617)-839-9081

October 5th - BCRA Monthly Meeting – 7 PM
Third Baptist Church at 260 Stafford Rd.

November 2nd - BCRA Monthly Meeting – 7 PM
Third Baptist Church at 260 Stafford Rd.
2010 Club Officer Nominations

December 7th - BCRA Monthly Meeting – 7 PM
Third Baptist Church at 260 Stafford Rd.
2010 Officer Elections

Every 3rd Monday of the Month – Volunteer Examiner Test Session, Union United Methodist Church 600 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA at 7:00 PM



Membership Application

Make checks payable to:
Bristol County Repeater
Association, Inc.

Mailing address:
P. O. Box 893
Fall River, MA 02722-0893

___ Application for individual membership
Dues \$20.00 per year

___ Application for family membership
Dues \$25.00 per year

___ Application for Student membership
(under 18) Dues \$10.00 per year

___ Renewal of membership Dues as above

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Callsign _____ Class _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

As a BCRA member, you will be added to the
BCRA-Club Yahoo Group e-mail list.

Home telephone number (Please include)

() - -

If you do not want your telephone number listed it
will be restricted to association officers only.

Do you want your telephone number published on the
club roster? Yes _____ No _____

Are you currently an ARRL member?
Yes _____ No _____

Would you like information about the ARRL?
Yes _____ No _____

Would you like an ARRL application?
Yes _____ No _____ Joining the ARRL through
this club benefits the club and costs no more than if
you joined separately. ARRL dues are currently
\$39.00 per year.

Areas of interest:

_____ Club Martha's Vineyard Dx-Pedition

_____ Club Dinner Events _____ Field Day

_____ Emergency Communications

_____ HF _____ VHF _____ Packet

_____ Contests _____ QRP _____ Other

Please include any other information or questions:

Bristol County Repeater Association

P.O. Box 893

Fall River, MA 02722-0893