

It's Our BIG Combined October and November Issue!!

**Come out to the BARS Meeting on Thursday November 19th
And Hear About Arduino!**

Come on out to the monthly BARS meeting at the Brandon Assembly of God at 710 South Kings (next to the golf driving range). This month we are meeting in the large modular again instead of our usual location in the Annex. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Doris WB9VDT bangs the gavel. At this month's meeting we're going to "Take a Look at Arduino." No...it's not a fashion designer, an imported wine, or priceless art. It's a miniature microprocessor-based controller (roughly the size of a playing card) that can be used for small electronic projects. It has been featured this month in ARRL's QST and QEX magazines, and there are several books available that focus on Arduino projects for Amateur Radio. We will see three demonstrations of its possibilities as a DTMF tone decoder, a waveform generator, and a motor controller.

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Both October and November: Busy Testing Days for Ham Radio

Saturday October 3rd was a busy testing day for Ham Radio. The Brandon Amateur Radio Society testing session had 5 test-takers. We had about the same number of examinees for the November session on the 7th.

During Saturday afternoon on October 3rd the Hillsborough ARES/RACES classes that started on September 26th finished on October 3rd and BARS members participated as examiners during that session, too. About 20 examinations for Technician and General class licenses were administered at the Hillsborough



County Emergency Operations Center.

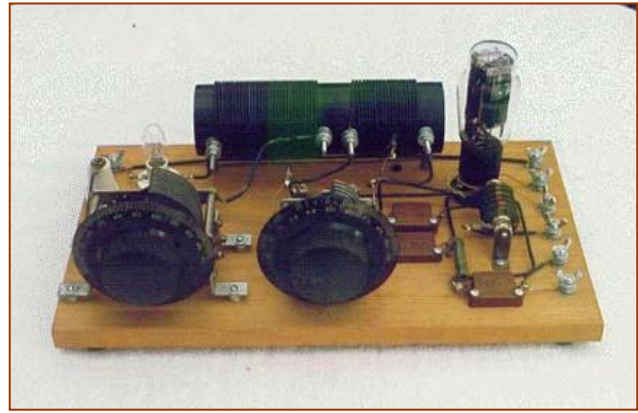
Jim Smith K4PPK snapped this picture of the testing activity at the BARS October testing session. The BARS testing sessions are held on the first Saturday of the month at Brandon Assembly of God at 710 South Kings (the same location where we hold our meetings). There will not be a testing session in December.

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Here is Another Radio Quiz

Spice up your post fall season hamming with this fun radio quiz! We'll query your knowledge of some abbreviations, propagation on HF, and radio services outside of Ham Radio!

1. Currently the BARS 2-meter net starts every week at
 - A. At 2000 UTC Mondays
 - B. At 2200 UTC Tuesdays
 - C. At 0100 UTC Tuesdays
 - D. At 1500 UTC Sundays
2. PSK stands for :
 - A. Poly-spherical keying
 - B. Phase Sidreal Kilobauds
 - C. Post Synapse Keyer
 - D. Phase Shift Keying
3. UTC is generally synonymous with:
 - A. MOT (Maritime Operating Time)
 - B. ZTS (Zulu Time Series)
 - C. GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)
 - D. MTS (Military Time System)
4. What is a good general rule regarding wave propagation on HF?
 - A. Lower frequencies for CW higher frequencies for SSB
 - B. Lower frequencies in daylight; higher frequencies at night
 - C. HF frequencies only follow line of sight (LOS) propagation
 - D. Lower frequencies at night; higher frequencies in the daytime
5. WWV weather broadcasts can be heard at what times?
 - A. At 15 minutes past the hour
 - B. Only during Zulu time
 - C. At 8 and 9 minutes past each hour
 - D. At 35 minutes after the hour
6. What is radio station CHU?
 - A. A spy numbers station broadcasting from Cuba.
 - B. A time and frequency standard station in Canada
 - C. A famous special event station for Canadian National Holidays
 - D. A propagation beacon located in Costa Rica



7. What are some frequencies for CHU?
- A. 3.330, 7.850, and 14.670 MHz
 - B. 5, 10, and 15 MHz
 - C. 21.025, 7.025, and 14.025 MHz
 - D. 15 KHz outside the lower end of 20 and 40 meters
8. What is the approximate frequency range of the 31-meter band?
- A. 3-4 MHz
 - B. 9-9.5 MHz
 - C. 15-15.8 MHz
 - D. 31-32 MHz
9. After the earthquake in Haiti emergency communicators realized that they could coordinate the movement of injured personnel to the U.S. Navy hospital ship on VHF Marine emergency channel 16. What is the frequency of that channel?
- A. Just above 148 MHz
 - B. 462.500 MHz
 - C. 149.750 MHz
 - D. 156.800 MHz
10. What the frequency of 600 meters?
- A. 575MHz
 - B. 500 KHz
 - C. .5 MHz
 - D. Both B and C are correct.



We'll talk about the answers at the club meeting!

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Ham Activity Needed in Florida For Amateur Radio Parity Act

From The ARRL



Our people in Washington, D.C. just left Senator Nelson's office and reported that he is on the fence about whether to support Senate Bill 1685, the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA), or not.

Senator Nelson is the ranking minority party member on the committee and carries a good deal of influence.

It is URGENT that we barrage the Senator's Washington office with phone calls asking for his support of Senate Bill 1685. **The number to call for Senator Nelson's office is: 202-224-5274.** When the staffer answers, tell them that you would like to ask for Senator Nelson's support of Senate Bill 1685, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. They will ask you for your zip code, record your support of S. 1685, and thank you for contacting them.

More information on the ARPA can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>

Even if you have already sent an email to Senator Nelson, PLEASE make a phone call. If you haven't contacted the Florida Senators (both are on the committee) please take a couple of minutes and do so. If you have already done so—Thank You!

As always, please send a short email to congress@arrl.org to let me know you made the phone call. That lets us have an idea of the number of contacts made. I'll apologize in advance that I won't be able to personally respond to the emails, but I will read every single one.

Please spread this message far and wide to amateurs within Florida.

Thanks & 73,

Doug
K4AC

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It's The Holiday Season Time to Start Thinking About Shortwave Listening!

One of the best ways to get started in Ham Radio and build a good foundation for understanding HF radio communication is to start out listening to shortwave radio. An active SWL (Shortwave Listener) gets solid hands-on knowledge of radio wave propagation, time conversion, and all the communications and broadcasting activity on the High Frequency (HF) radio bands. SWLing (Shortwave Radio Listening) is one of the most popular radio activities in the world. Even with the advent of the world wide web, SWLing stands apart because it provides some of the best "unfiltered" news and content to be found. The joy of SWLing is that you don't need expensive equipment, a connection to the internet, an elaborate antenna, or even AC power. To pick up most broadcasts, a few batteries and an inexpensive pocket-sized shortwave radio are all you need. This is simplicity at its best, and the reason there are so many people SWLing today. Of course, once you've mastered the basics of SWLing, you may also be interested in DXing (searching for more distant stations) which will require an upgrade from your pocket-sized radio; however, even then, you may be amazed at how little it takes to put together a good DX-chasing set-up. Several shortwave broadcasters also feature programs on SWL DX and Ham Radio for their listeners.



Teach the kids about shortwave

Turning on a radio and tuning in the world is not only educational, it's fun and easy. SWLing has been a catalyst not only for creating an interest in Amateur Radio it can also lead to many professional careers in international fields, such as journalism, social sciences, signal intelligence, and diplomacy. When your kids (or grandkids)

listen to shortwave and are exposed to languages, stories, music and news from around the world, it sparks their imaginations like no other medium, and no license is required!

SWLing is inexpensive, and doesn't require that you own a computer, have internet service, nor does it require monthly subscription fees of any sort. It is, perhaps, one of today's most cost-effective educational tools you can get for your family. That being said, the Internet is a great source for station schedules and other information about all the happenings on shortwave radio.

Often when you read the stories of how someone got active in Ham Radio you see things like: "I got hooked on AM band DX-ing at night," or "My parents gave me this shortwave radio and I started tuning in the world".

Those of us in Ham Radio know it is FUN and at times can be really exciting. The hard part is getting someone to try it out. It might be fun to talk into the microphone, but nothing captures the thrill and fun of HF radio communications like tuning the world bands and hearing broadcasts from the other side of the world or hearing Coast Guard bulletins or long haul communications with airliners flying over the ocean.

Even Hams Can Learn Something

Many Ham Operators have never been exposed to shortwave radio. They started with the current licensing plan which puts them on VHF. To these newer hams 2-meters is what Amateur Radio is all about. Most licensing classes are one or two-day affairs which never discuss Technician privileges on HF for CW operation. There are Extra Class Hams who have ZERO experience with HF radio; they don't understand propagation, time conversion, or wavelengths. True, there are test questions on those things on the Amateur Radio exams, but test questions by themselves do not make for a meaningful learning experience. Looking up schedules, doing the time conversion from UTC to local time, finding which frequencies provide the best reception at various times of day, and dealing with the noise and QRM that is part of HF communications provide a good orientation to communication techniques on shortwave.

Many of the modern transceivers have general coverage receivers for the HF bands (3-30 MHz). Many of the readers of *The Antenna* already have what they need to jump into world band broadcast listening. Fire up that ham rig in the listening mode, get outside the ham bands, and discover another facet of radio fun!



Let's take a look at some of the more popular Short Wave broadcasting bands.

Some Shortwave Broadcasting Bands

This is a partial listing of some of the more popular shortwave broadcasting frequency bands.

Band	Frequencies (MHz)	Description
60 Meters	4.750-5.060	Daytime use in tropical regions, although widely usable at night.
49 Meters	5.900-6.200	Good night time band for world-wide reception. Some U.S. broadcasters use this in the daytime.
31 Meters	9.400-9.900	One of the most heavily used bands. Good year-round for night time listening. This band is seasonal during the day, with best reception in winter months.
25 Meters	11.600-12.100	Some daytime DX is audible on this band, but generally it is best during summer and the period right before and after sunset year-round.
22 Meters	13.570-13.870	Not a large allocation. This is primarily a daytime band, which often is still open for DX reception in the evening hours.
19 Meters	15.100-15.800	Probably the busiest shortwave broadcast band. A band that is open during the daytime and often is still good after dark. If the 20-meter ham band is open, then this one will be good for shortwave reception, too
16 Meters	17.480-17.900	Day reception good; night reception varies seasonally. When it's open you can hear a lot.
15 Meters	18.900-19.020	Much like 16 meters.
13 Meters	21.450-21.850	Just above the 15-meter ham band. The propagation characteristics are about the same, too.

Next month we will publish some actual loggings of what is out there to hear, and provide some internet sources for other Shortwave Radio information.

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That's it for this month. Have FUN with radio!

Keep in Mind Our Weekly Nets and Bulletins

Monday 8 p.m. The Two Meter Net 147.765 - 147.165 MHz Hosted by Doris Haskell WB9VDT

Tuesday 7 p.m. 6-meter Roundtable 50.200 MHz USB followed at 8 p.m. with the 10 Meter Roundtable 28.365 MHz USB

Send us your articles AND PICTURES! We do much more in the digital format! I would like to have pictures of BARS members and their ham shacks!

Remember to check out the BARS website:

brandonhamradio.org