



Come to the Club Meeting February 18th

Our meeting this month is back at our usual location: Brandon Assembly of God 710 South Kings Avenue in the Annex. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Doris WB9VDT bangs the gavel to start things off. -30-

February Program

We will have Dan Smith as our guest speaker this month. He will be talking about Centralized Electrical Generating Stations and Power Grids. He will identify major “station” equipment and the commonality of certain equipment across fossil, nuclear, and renewable stations. In addition Dan will talk about power outages including types of planned as well as unscheduled outages. Finally, he will discuss outage durations concerning different types of outages, planned and unscheduled.

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Saturday 6 February Testing Session

Our volunteer examiners had a busy testing session on Saturday February 6th. We had three candidates scheduled, but a total of seven showed up. From that group we had two Techs, two Generals, and two Extras. Examinations are given on the first Saturday of every month in the church annex at Brandon Assembly of God 710 South Kings Avenue in Brandon (the same location where we have our meetings).

We can offer something that many other clubs cannot: we can also set up commercial examination sessions. These are **General Radio Telephone Operator License, Radiotelegraph Operator License, Marine Radio Operator License, GMDSS Radio Operator License, GMDSS Radio Maintainer’s License, and the Ship RADAR Endorsement.**



For more information on the commercial radio exams contact Mike Fletcher NI4M or Mark Haskell WB9UJS.

Telegraphy – The Game Changer in Communications

The wiring of the world didn't happen because of the Internet. It didn't happen with the development of the telephone; the wiring of the world (the foundation for the Internet) came with the invention of the landline telegraph in 1838 by Samuel F. B. Morse. Morse sent the message: "What hath God wrought," over lines between Washington D.C. and Baltimore in 1844. The expansion of the system moved slowly at first – there were a lot of kinks to work out in developing a nation-wide telegraph network. Initial government reports of the new invention were skeptical. Senator Smith of Indiana after witnessing Morse demonstrate the telegraph for members of Congress in 1842 remarked: "I watched his countenance closely, to see if he was not deranged ... and I was assured by other senators after we left the room that they had no confidence in it."

Before the telegraph, communication in the 1830-s was just about the same as it was in the years after Gutenberg developed the printing press – it was limited by distance. It took days, (sometimes even months) from one location to another far-off location. After the undersea cable was laid, a message from New York to London could be sent in a matter of minutes. Suddenly electric pulses traveled through wire at the speed of light and the world became much smaller. Politics, commerce, military and personal communications were no longer limited by geography. After the development of the telegraph information became a business. Information streams became rivers of knowledge.

Western Union built the first transcontinental telegraph line in 1861. In a few weeks historians will mark the 155th anniversary of the transcontinental telegraph line. That technology accomplished two things: (1) It linked up the east coast and west coast of the U.S.A. with instant communication and (2) It put the Pony Express out of business. The fastest horse and the most daring rider were no match for that telegrapher at the Western Union office wearing the green eyeshade and the sleeve garters. The time of the Pony Express was short: 18 months from April 1860 to October of 1861.



In 1864 Western Union operated a system over 44-thousand miles of wire. Within two years that would grow to over 100-thousand miles of wire. As one European author later discussing the telegraph commented: "This was the Victorian Internet".

Government concern (remember these were the people who thought Morse was deranged) over the size and power of Western Union resulted in the Mann-Elkins act of 1910 which gave regulatory control of telegraph companies to the Interstate Commerce Commission. This control was later passed to the new Federal Communications Commission with the Communications Act of 1934. By this time the influence and role of landline telegraphy had diminished somewhat with the development of radio (still a major user of radio-telegraphy in those days) and the telephone networks.



Landline telegraph systems survived into the early 1960s in some parts of the U.S. (I got my first telegraph set and started learning American Morse around 1958.) A few years later I would take my

first Ham Radio code test off that same telegraph sounder. By then I already had a Vibroplex “Blue Racer” bug purchased from one of the telegraph operators on the New York Central Railroad. I used it on many QSOs on my POWERFUL 50-watt Knight T-50.

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That wraps it up 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