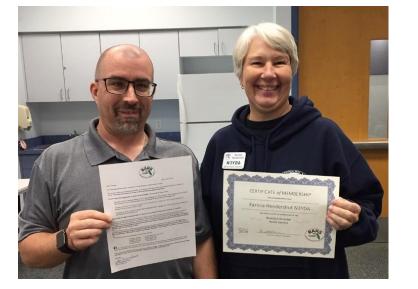


Welcome New Members of the Brandon Amateur Radio Society!

At our February meeting, we welcomed two new members to the Society. Our President, Scott Irwin presented each with a New Membership Certificate and a Welcome Letter.





Karissa Hendershot N3YDA

and

Miguel "Mike" Torres KN4SDN

In addition (with no photo available), we also want to welcome Candace Krewer KN4PPI, Henry Krewer KN4PPJ, and Jason Guerard WA2ULI. Membership Certificates and Welcome Letters will be waiting for you at our next monthly meeting on March 21st.

Thank you Candace, Henry, Karissa, Mike, and Jason for your interest in our Society!

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society is proud to offer mentoring to all new members. Be sure to let us know how we can best help you to enjoy the hobby and learn the technology of Amateur Radio. Informal mentoring sessions are available at our weekly breakfasts (see our website for specifics) and individual one-on-one mentoring is also available. Please contact Scott Irwin W8UFO at scott.irwin@w8ufo.net for more information.

Amateur Operator of the Month: Skip Argoe KD4IOF

This month, we highlight Skip Argoe, a stalwart member of BARS for many years.

Anyone who comes in contact with Skip will find that he is a very soft spoken and kind gentleman who is always willing to help anyone who has a question or a problem. He is a perfect example of an Elmer, always eager to help and share his knowledge. Like Michael Faraday, the famous British Scientist from whom we get the concept of capacitance, Skip is a self-taught Technician - Scientist. He has a degree in Theology and has worked for several Churches providing spiritual guidance and ministry as well as technical expertise. This naturally led him into the field of Amateur Radio.

Skip is a devout Christian who lives out his faith in service to others. He is an avid Christian Music aficionado. If you see Skip at breakfast, be sure to ask who his favorite Gospel Music group is!

Skip is active in helping new operators program their radios. He always has his laptop computer with him and is ready to spring into action as needed, especially at a BARS Breakfast or AR-101 Class. In addition, Skip is active in the local SKYWARN Spotter Network, the Amateur Radio electronics Union (AReU), and he is an active member of the Hillsborough ARES RACES organization.



Skip has numerous hand held radios (Yaesu, Alinco, and Bao Feng models), some of which he will loan out to new operators. He also has: a Yaesu FTM-100 DR (UHF/VHF Fusion and APRS radio), a Yaesu FT-857 D, a Heath Kit HW101, a Midland 13-510 (which he uses to test other radios), and an ICOM 735 HF base-station. In terms of antennae, he has a 10 meter dipole, a 6 foot Comet VHF/UHF, and a long wire antenna. Skip has also developed a method to interconnect the metal joints on the eves of his roof to form an antenna. He is most active on 2 meters, 6 meters, and 70 centimeters, but he can also utilize phone, SSB, and digital modes as well.

And finally, Skip is a very proud Grandfather! You may see him with his 8 year old granddaughter Giada at a BARS Breakfast. Giada is truly a wonderful girl who has a strong interest in all things electro - mechanical. The apple does not fall far from the tree as they say! If you zoom in on her badge, you will see it says "Future Amateur Radio Operator."

We are so grateful to Skip for sharing his knowledge and expertise!

Thank you Skip, for your support of BARS

and for your dedication to promoting Amateur Radio!

Oh WAIT! There's MORE!

BARS sponsors several get togethers each week. The original list shown on our web site includes breakfasts (which are also mentoring sessions) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. We found that list has informally grown to include a Monday night excursion to Dunkin Donuts on Lumsden just west of Kings (7:30 pm, just before the BARS 2 meter net), a Wednesday Pie Night (7:30 pm at the Village Inn on Lumsden and Providence) *and most recently* a Cribbage and Coffee event once a week (usually on a Thursday afternoon, contact Jeff Dick for meeting times). Here is a recent photo of the crew: "The Venerable Society of The Crusty Curmudgeons of Cards" hams all, at play on a Thursday afternoon talking smack and playing Cribbage and Hearts in the Winthrop Village Starbucks. Maybe we should consider the name of our club alter ego as: BARS, The Brandon Amateur Restaurant Society!



ARES RACES News

Hillsborough ARES RACES is looking for 10 amateur operator volunteers to help provide emergency communications for the Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Tampa at Al Lopez Park on Saturday, April 6th from 8 am to 2 pm. This would be a low stress way for newly licensed operators to gain experience in emergency communications. For more information see: https://hillsboroughares.org/event/ms-walk-tampa/

If you are interested in joining Hillsborough ARES RACES, or if you are already a member, it's important to know that you must register on two different websites to be included in all communications:

https://members.hillsboroughares.org/ and aresdb.com

Hillsborough ARES RACES sponsors a weekly UHF Net on the W4BCI repeater (444.225 (+) PL 146.2) every Thursday Night at 7:30 pm. All amateur operators are welcome to check in to these nets.

Hillsborough ARES RACES will participate in the upcoming Mass Casualty Drill on April 11th (the scenario involves a train derailment simulation in Riverview), and also in the next Hurricane Drill on May 3rd.

If you are interested in serving on the Planning and/or Training committees, please contact Dawn Drury at ddrury@hcaresraces.org for further information.

The next general membership meeting will be held on: Wednesday, March 27th at 7 pm, **OR** on Saturday, March 30th at 11 am. Both meetings are at the PSOC, 9450 East Columbus Drive in Tampa. Choose one date only.



Sail the 23rd Annual Harbor Cruise! S.S. AMERICAN VICTORY SALUTE TO SERVICE CRUISE Saturday, March 23, 2019

Cruise into history aboard one of only four fully operational WWII ships in the country! Enjoy music, food, military ceremonies and more!

Join friends and family for a majestic cruise of Tampa Bay aboard the historic WWII American Victory Ship. Celebrate the men and women who have served our country while enjoying refreshments and live entertainment by Gloria West and the Gents - bringing old school stride-swing jazz with a sultry twist!

Included in your ticket price this year is incredible cuisine from MISSION BBQ - the most authentic, mouth-watering All-American food that's done right! Food stations will be available around the ship throughout the duration of the cruise!

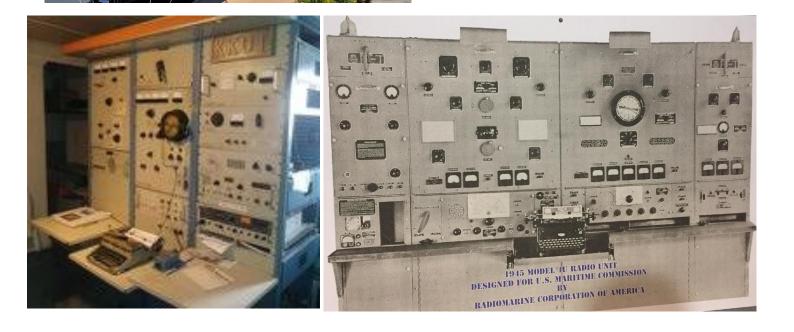


We are also excited to be celebrating this cruise along with the American Merchant Marine Convention and Reunion!

Buy tickets now - limited seating: Adults \$99, Children (4-12) \$59, Military/Veterans/First responders **Must show ID and credential \$79, Groups of 10+ \$89

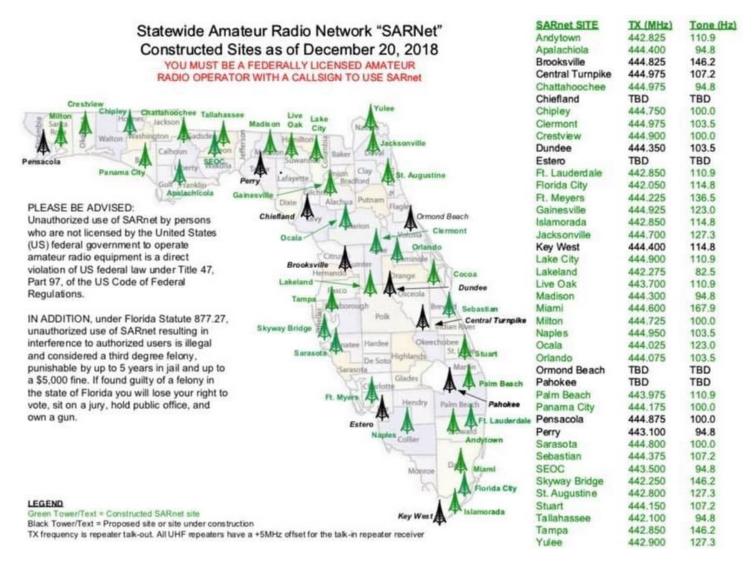
For more info, call: 813-228-8766 or visit AmericanVictory.org.

Be sure to check out the Radio Room!



Statewide Amateur Radio Networking in Florida (SARnet)

SARnet is a state-wide repeater network developed by the Florida Department of Transportation that covers the state of Florida. It was extremely useful during the aftermath of Hurricane Michael as it was used heavily to send emergency communications from the affected part of the panhandle to receiving sites in other parts of the state.



Here is a list of Repeaters by Highway designation traveling from North to South or from East to West. Note: *** indicates a Proposed/Future Repeater Site.

US-1/I-95:
Vulee - 442.900/447.900 (127.3)
Jacksonville - 444.700/449.700 (127.3)

- □ St. Augustine 442.800/447.800 (127.3) □ Cocoa 444.650/449.650 (107.2)
- □ Sebastian 444.375/449.375 (107.2) □ Stuart 444.150/449.150 (107.2)
- □ Royal Palm Beach 443.975/448.975 (110.9) □ Ft. Lauderdale 442.850/447.850 (110.9)
- □ Miami 444.600/449.600 (167.9) □ Florida City 442.050/447.050 (114.8)
- □ Islamorada 442.850/447.850 (114.8) □ ***Key West 444.400/449.400 (114.8)

Florida Turnpike:
Clermont - 444.975/449.975 (103.5)
Orlando - 444.075/449.075 (103.5)

- □ ***Yeehaw Junction 444.975/449.975 (107.2) □ Stuart 444.150/449.150 (107.2)
- □ Royal Palm Beach 443.975/448.975 (110.9) □ Ft. Lauderdale 442.850/447.850 (110.9)
- □ Miami 444.600/449.600 (167.9)

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SARnet Continued -

I-75: □ Lake City - 444.900/449.900 (110.9) □ Gainesville - 444.925/449.925 (123.0) □ Ocala - 444.025/449.025 (123.0) □ ***Brooksville - 444.825/449.825 (146.2) □ Tampa - 442.850/447.850 (146.2) □ Skyway Bridge - 442.250/447.250 (146.2) □ Sarasota - 444.800/449.800 (100.0) □ Ft. Myers - 444.225/449.225 (136.5) □ Naples - 444.950/449.950 (103.5) □ Andytown - 442.825/447.825 (110.9) □ Ft. Lauderdale - 442.850/447.850 (110.9)



I-4: □ Orlando - 444.075/449.075 (103.5) □ ***Dundee - 444.350/449.350 (103.5) □ Lakeland - 442.275/447.275 (82.5) □ Tampa - 442.850/447.850 (146.2)

I-10: □ Jacksonville - 444.700/449.700 (127.3) □ Lake City -444.900/449.900 (110.9) □ Live Oak - 443.700/448.700 (110.9) □ Madison - 444.300/449.300 (94.8) □ ***Perry - 443.100/448.100 (94.8) □ Tallahassee - 442.100/447.100 (94.8) □ State (Capital) E.O.C. -443.500/448.500 (94.8) □ Chattahoochee - 444.975/449.975 (94.8) □ Apalachicola - 444.400/449.400 (94.8) □ Chipley - 444.750/449.750 (100.0) □ Panama City - 444.175/449.175 (100.0) □ Crestview -444.900/449.900 (100.0) □ Milton - 444.725/449.725 (100.0) □ ***Pensacola - 444.87

We thank Dan Fisher AI4GK and Benjamin Bahler K4KTX for the repeater list by highway shown above. We also thank the Florida Sarnet Group Facebook page for the repeater map.

For more information, go to: https://www.sarnetfl.com/

Amateur Radio PODCASTS

In today's society, we are faced with constant change. We are forced to learn in order to survive, let alone to be able to do those things we would like to do. No two people learn new information in the same way. In general, there are four identifiable "types" of learners as shown below. The learning "style" is in parenthesis:

Visual (spatial): You prefer using pictures, images, and spatial understanding.

Aural (auditory-musical): You prefer using sound and music.

Verbal (linguistic): You prefer using words, both in speech and writing.

Physical (kinesthetic): You prefer using your body, hands and sense of touch.

Many people use more than one type of learning style to pick up new information. **Podcasts** are for those of us who are Aural (auditory) learners who are able to learn by listening. New amateur operators especially are inundated with new information on the technology. Podcasts can be a great way to compartmentalize the information and pick up new information by listening. Several podcasts are summarized on the next page. Each is available for free on a regular basis aimed specifically at Amateur Radio Operators. Topics vary widely but each podcast has unique style and content making it easy for listeners to find one or two that appeal to them. Sometimes, podcast content can be use to easily and quickly exclude a topic in which the learner finds no interest. Please note, Podcasts can be accessed by smart phone, iPod, iPad, or computer.

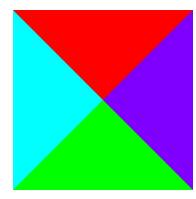
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Amateur Radio Podcasts - Continued



The newest Podcast to hit the data stream is offered by ARRL and is called "So Now What?" **It is aimed directly and solely at new amateur operators.** It is moderated by ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP (who is a new operator), and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia NJ1Q. After listening to the first podcast, it promises to have much to offer to the new amateur operator looking at what it takes to get started.

http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launching-new-podcast-geared-toward-new-radio-amateurs



Another podcast with appeal to new operators is "Foundations of Amateur Radio." This is moderated by Onno Benschop VK6FLAB. The beauty of this podcast is that it is short, usually less than 20 minutes. Some reviewers call it "bite-sized." Another benefit is that he started weekly podcasts in 2015 so there are over 200 episodes to choose from. You can get a list of episode titles and listen to those that seem interesting to you.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/foundations-of-amateur-radio/id1052380039? mt=2



Hosted by QST Editor In Chief, Steve Ford WB8IMY, the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast is a twice-monthly audio podcast that answers questions about Amateur Radio's technical challenges. It alternates with the podcast "So Now What?" This podcast has been on the air since 2016 so there are a great many episode topics from which to choose. The topics range from those with appeal to new operators as well as to those with more advanced skills.

http://www.arrl.org/doctor



"ARRL Audio News" is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of Amateur Radio, along with interviews and other features.

http://www.arrl.org/arrl-audio-news

A Google search for "Amateur Radio Podcasts" will yield dozens more podcasts of interest to the amateur radio operator. Happy listening! If you encounter a podcast that appeals to you, please let us know.

What is it?

Here is the mystery photo from the February Antenna. Remember the clues? It's old, very old. It was found at a high altitude. It was causing problems. Neighbors complained of a strange sound coming from the general location of this "thing" throughout the wee morning hours. It was not featured on Star Trek the Next Generation. It is not part of a Tardis. Choose from the 5 possible answers below. Remember, all the usual caveats of taking standardized tests apply here: You will not be penalized by guessing. If in doubt, choose B. Usually the



longest answer is the correct answer.

A: The solar panel positioning motor from Voyager 5.

B. The critical magnetic H1 spin coupling bearing chamber of the 88 GWatt Flux Capacitor.

C. The disassembled and corroded motor of Ron Perrett's washing machine.

D. All of the above.

E. None of the above.

The correct answer is E. None of the above. The above is actually a photo of the disassembled antenna rotor belonging to Ken Watts WA4NSV.



That was too easy. Here is another one.

What is it?

As with the above photo, the photo on the left is the result of a catastrophic event involving movement. This event occurred suddenly at a rate of 1/3rd the speed of light, or about 9.8 x 10 to the 8th feet per second. As before, this technology was not featured on any version of Star Trek, this equipment is not part of a Tardis, and it is not a failed antenna rotor assembly. And it doesn't belong to Ken Watts. Choose wisely...what could it be?...Hmmmm. Is it:

- A. The remnant of a Bao-Feng UV-5R radio after a spurious emission at a very high frequency which was not approved by the FCC.
- B. The top side of Ron Perrett's washing machine.
- C. The result of a "miss" from a test of the US Strategic Defense Initiative for Ballistic Missile Defense involving an earth orbiting nuclear gamma ray laser that accidentally struck an out-house in the Soviet Union, very near the home of a high ranking but un-named Polit Bureau member (initials VVP).
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

The answer will be announced at our next Monthly Meeting on March 21st at 7:30 at ARISE Assembly of God Church, 401 Pauls Drive, Brandon

Hodge Podge of Topics Not To Forget!

IMMEDIATELY: BARS Annual Membership Dues are due now. Individual membership is \$25, Family membership is \$30. Please see our Treasurer, Jim Moorehead. **THANK YOU!**

March 23rd: Sarasota Emergency Radio Club Hamfest at 2019 Sarasota Red Cross HQ, 2001 Cantu Court, Sarasota, FL 34232. See web site: http://n4ser.org/

April 6th: Florida State Parks on the Air. BARS will operate one or more stations at the Alafia River State Park as last year. Enter the park off of SR 39, North Entrance (North Equestrian Trailhead, GPS coordinates: 27.800916, -82.145492). Set up starts at 8 am, and the event runs from 10 am until 6 pm. Park fees apply: cash only, \$4 per person or \$5 per car (2 - 8 people per car). Fee drop-off envelopes are available in the parking area and can be placed in the receptacle on site. Bring whatever you need for a day in the field and any antennas/ radios that you would like to test. Talk in will be on the BARS K4TN 70 cm repeater: 443.500 (analog, + off-set, 127.3 PL). The club will not be providing food. Bring a lunch and something to drink. Last year, sun screen and insect repellant proved useful.

April 11th: Hillsborough County Mass Casualty Drill. BARS will activate a station at the Brandon Regional Hospital.

May 3rd: Hillsborough County Hurricane Drill. BARS involvement is to be determined.

May 18 and June 1st: Hillsborough ARES RACES will offer the Technician and General Radio Licensing Classes at PSOC. This will be the last class which will use the current General Manual. The General class question pool changes in July.

June 1st: The 2019 Hurricane Season Begins. Now is the time to prepare!

The UNIDEN BCD436HP Scanner

Mark Haskell WB9UJS

My first experience with what is known today as "scanning" was in the mid-1970s while I was in college. I had a Wilson 1402-SM handi-talkie for two meters. It was large enough and heavy enough to also be used as a club in dangerous situations. It had positions for six channels. 12 crystals (XTALs): one for transmit and one for receive. One of my Ham buddies and I swapped out two of those positions to put in receive XTALs for the local police frequencies in the 150 MHz range. Reception was noticeably degraded, but we could pick up the



police calls well enough.

I think it was about 1978 when Doris got me a Bearcat 250 programmable scanner. It had a whopping 50 channels broken into five banks of ten channels each. No big outlays of cash for crystals; it was one of the early programmable scanners. It was a base/mobile scanner. You could use it in the house or in the car, but it was not a hand held scanner. I would carry it to the office I had at college and then carry it home again in the evening. It

was a great scanner with some pretty advanced features for its day. I used that scanner a lot over the next ten years or so. It was a few years later before I got something newer. By then scanner coverage and capability had increased markedly.

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The UNIDEN BCD436HP Scanner - Continued

In the early 1990s I got the PRO-43 scanner. This was one of the Radio Shack scanners actually manufactured by GRE. It covered a lot more frequencies than the Bearcat 250 and was set up with 200 channels broken into ten banks of 20 channels each. The best thing about the PRO-43 was that it covered the military air frequencies. It did a great job on the police and fire frequencies, too. I had a bank reserved for Ham communications so I could monitor the area repeaters. This unit was a hand held scanner it required SIX AA batteries. I took that scanner everywhere and listened to police, fire, railroad, and aircraft communications. I started building frequency lists and compiling other information which eventually led to the Radio Reference Book (more on that at a later time).

As we came into the mid 90-s there was talk among scanner listeners about something called "trunking". It was going to be the end of the hobby of scanner monitoring. The world as we knew it was coming to an end! Not to worry, soon scanners were coming out that covered the basic trunking systems. As outside developers broke the algorithms, the designs became better at reading and following trunking transmissions. The first trunking scanner I had was the PRO-92. It worked well on trunking, but it was a bit slow when things got busy and would miss some transmissions altogether. After that I got the PRO-97 and then later, the PRO-164. Each of these scanners reflected the progress in developing better interception of trunked systems and much faster scanning. Even with all these advances, the scanner listener had to know the frequencies in use for a given monitoring area. Lists abounded on the Internet. Local scanner listeners (who for the most part were hams), swapped frequency information to keep one another informed on the latest developments.

Newer technologies are continually evolving and their effects show up in VHF/UHF communications. Things like APCO Phase 1 and 2, NXDN, and various multiplexing systems make the monitoring landscape more challenging for the scanner listener. I knew the PRO-97 and 164 would not always be capable of handling all the newer communication technologies. I had planned to wait until 2020 before buying a newer scanner.

Christmas 2018

For Christmas I opened a large box from my XYL Doris WB9VDT. In the box was the Uniden BCD436HP scanner. At first I was a little perplexed: I had wanted to wait a couple of years before getting a new scanner. As I started to look at the radio, I realized it was totally different than all the scanners I had in the past. It is not about frequencies and channel banks. This scanner is about listening to services and entities. When you start getting into this scanner are initially confronted with terms such as favorites lists, systems, departments, and talk groups. Once you begin to think in these terms the various things will begin to fall in place.

No Frequency Charts Required

Part of the Uniden inducement to buy this radio is that no programming is required. All you have to do is enter your zip code and the BCD436HP will program itself with all of the key stations in your area. Inside the scanner is a 4-gigabyte chip, which contains the FCC database for the entire country. If you live in a place like Hillsborough County, you are going to find the scanner is also loading and scanning adjacent counties as well. The first step in limiting that is to go into SETTINGS and change the range from the default 20 miles to 0 miles. Now the scanner will just load agencies close to your zip code.



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The UNIDEN BCD436HP Scanner - Continued

Also in the SETTINGS function, you can delete or add other services: Marine, Ham, Civil Air, Military Air, Business, and many others. The really different thing about the BCD436HP is that when it receives a transmission the display gives you a readout of who it is (police, sheriff, fire, etc.), where they are assigned, what talk group is in use and type of system. I have three older scanners in the ham shack that I use now for Ham Radio, Marine Radio, and FRS/GMRS/Business communications. The BCD436HP is for police, fire, and other county communications.

A couple of weeks ago we took a short trip to an event about two counties away. As we drove up Route 301 I just plugged in the new zip code into the scanner and instantly it was reloaded with police and fire frequencies for our destination. I was tuned into all the action the minute we arrived!

Frequency coverage for the scanner: 25-512 MHz 758-824 MHz 849-869 MHz 894-960 MHz 1240-1300 MH Modulation types handled by the scanner: Analog Conventional Frequencies Motorola Type I and Type II Motorola Type II Hybrid, Type II Smartnet, Type II SmartZone and SmartZone OmniLink **EDACS** EDACS Standard (Wide) EDACS Standard Networked EDACS Narrowband (Narrow) EDACS Narrowband Networked EDACS SCAT EDACS ESK ProVoice* LTR Standard APCO Project 25 Standard Phase I FDMA Motorola X2-TDMA Phase II TDMA DMR* NXDN types:* NXDN 4800 **NXDN 9600** NXDN IDAS NXDN Single Channel Trunk *= Pay to upgrade. Continued on next page -

The UNIDEN BCD436HP Scanner - Continued

Amazon is selling the BCD436HP for about \$375. That is about a 100-dollar drop since last November. It's a great scanner. If you want something you can set up with just your zip code and be done, it is GREAT. If you want a scanner that will take you on a journey to learn how all these systems work and see the multitude of functions and operating modes reveal themselves one by one as you systematically probe combinations of button presses, you will find this scanner is great for that, too.

Our Next BARS Monthly Membership Meeting

The next meeting on Thursday, March 21st will be at our regular meeting location: Arise Assembly of God Church, 401 Pauls Drive, Brandon, FL 33511.





Our President, Scott Irwin, will bang the gavel to start the meeting at 7:30 pm.

After our business meeting, we will have a presentation regarding the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. JOIN US! We thank the members and staff of Arise for their kindness in allowing BARS to use their facility.

BARS General Info

Mondays: 2 meter Net on K4TN Repeater and Echolink node N4DLW-R (Brandon, FL) at 8 pm

Tuesdays: 6 meter Roundtable on 50.200 USB at 7 pm and 10 meter Roundtable on 28.365 USB at 8 pm

Fridays: 80 meter Roundtable on 3.830 LSB at 7 pm

Webpage: brandonhamradio.org



Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/brandonhamradio

Facebook: http://fb.me/brandonhamradio

Acknowledgement:



We thank Mark Haskell for the excellent article entitled: The UNIDEN BCD436HP Scanner. Mark supplied the equipment photos which appeared in that article as well. For reference, the Amazon page for this scanner can be seen at: https://www.amazon.com/Uniden-BCD436HP-HomePatrol-TrunkTracker-Programming/dp/B00I33XDAK/ref=sr_1_2? keywords=BCD436HP+Uniden+scanner&qid=1552759253&s=gateway&sr=8-2

We WELCOME articles and photos for inclusion in this newsletter. We also welcome any constructive feedback (positive and negative) from our readers. Please submit them to: danaperrin@aol.com

Thanks and -73-