



OVER 42 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA  
BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA

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### Society Officers:

*President: Scott Irwin*

*Vice President: Ron Perrett*

*Treasurer: Jim Moorehead*

*Secretary: Jeff Dick*

*Repeater Trustee: Tony Stone*

*[brandonhamradio.org](http://brandonhamradio.org)*

*<http://fb.me/brandonhamradio>*

*[http://www.twitter.com/  
brandonhamradio](http://www.twitter.com/brandonhamradio)*

### Amateur Operator of the Month - Nancy Lessard KM4WMD

Born in San Diego, as a child Nancy moved to New York and then later to Tampa. She has been a Brandon resident for the past 30 years. She is very close to her three sisters and they all get together once a month for a theme party with special costumes, foods, and decorations. There is a strong family focus on volunteerism with one sister being recognized nationally for her volunteer work. Nancy has carried on the concept of community service by working as a Crossing Guard and as a Math Tutor. She has also volunteered for Hospice, the Lowry Park Zoo, The Florida Orchestra Guild, USF-OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), and she has been involved with social events for Senior Citizens, and Sister Cities.

Nancy, a member of BARS for the past year, says she looks forward to assisting with BARS goals within the community. She recently volunteered on behalf of BARS in this year's Brandon Fourth of July Parade, checking in floats and vehicles in Division 5. Nancy also worked along side other BARS members to provide emergency communications at Brandon Regional Hospital in support of the County-wide Mass Casualty Drill. She also participated in this year's Florida State Parks on the Air at Alafia River State Park. Nancy operates a Bao Feng hand held radio. You will sometimes hear her on some of the BARS nets.



**Thank you Nancy,  
for your support of the Brandon Amateur Radio Society and  
for your dedication to promoting Amateur Radio!**



## Einstein Brothers Bagels

Here is a great photo of the crew that meets for breakfast at Einstein Brothers Bagels on **Thursday mornings**. Folks start to gather about **9:30 am or so**. Einstein Brothers features thirteen different bagel and croissant sandwiches, over 20 different types of bagels, nine different bagel spreads (“shmears”) and two or three types of brewed coffee. They also will prepare Latte, Cappuccino, Carmel High Rise, Mocha, and Hot Chocolate. In addition, they also feature muffins and cookies! There is something for everybody! We welcome all amateur operators and their families to join in. If you have radio questions, this is a great

place to receive mentoring. Bring your radio! **Please Join Us!**

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## Parks On The Air - By Jim Smith



*CQ parks on the air, CQ parks on the air, this is K4PPK calling from the Little Manatee River State Park (number K-1898) near Tampa Florida, calling and standing by.*

Well that's how it started just after 10 AM on June 8, 2019. And two hours later it was over. In between I made five contacts during the first hour on forty meters and thirteen contacts the second hour on twenty meters. It was all over too fast but I had a great time.

**Parks on the Air (POTA)** is for portable amateur radio operations that promote emergency awareness and communications from national and state/province level parks. At least that is what their website says. Look it up if you don't believe me

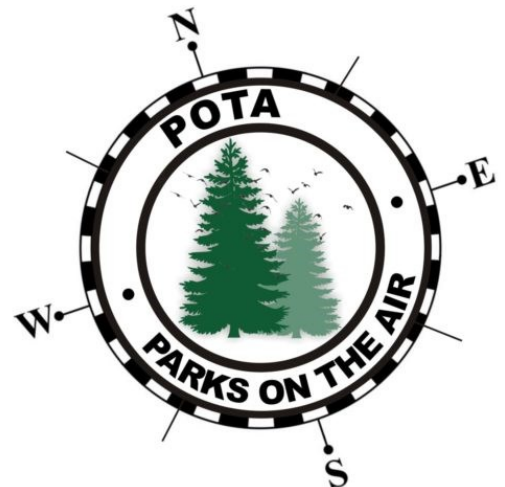
(<https://parksontheair.com/>).

POTA follows on the heels of the wildly popular “National Parks on the Air (NPOTA)” sponsored by the ARRL in 2016. NPOTA as the name implies was aimed at radio operations from primarily National Park. POTA on the other

hand includes national and state parks. There are almost six thousand sites from which to operate. POTA is being run by a group of HAMS not associated with any organization as far as I can tell but they are doing it very professionally. One look at their website should convince you.

Activators (that was me on June 8) can list their intent to transmit from a park on the website and then when the day rolls around just go to the park, set up their station and operate as long as they like. Hunters, the other half of the equation, can, by going to the website, find when a park is going to be activated. In fact the website provides for “Spotting” active activators which makes it as easy as “PIE” to work/contact a park. Points are awarded for parks worked and awards are available for achievements.

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## Parks On The Air - Continued -

If you are looking for a way to get on the air and make contacts with people who are just as excited to talk with you as you are with them, well maybe this is for you. Give it a try. I feel sure you will enjoy it.

By the way, I was operating battery powered using my Kenwood TS-480S that morning running 100 watts into my Wolf River Coil vertical antenna. I am not sure if it was band conditions but the antenna preformed much better on twenty than on forty meters.

Come join me in activating the next park around the area. I found one that has not yet been activated. Oh by the way, it would help if you have a boat because that is how you get to the park! But lets wait for cooler weather.



## Field Day 2019

This year, the Brandon Amateur Radio Society joined over 30,000 HAMs across the country to participate in the National ARRL sponsored Field Day on Saturday, June 22nd and Sunday, June 23rd. We set up early Saturday morning at Davis Park and began making contacts on Saturday afternoon. We operated until Sunday morning. Here are a few photos.

We gathered at Pavilion #3



Fred Hendershot, Dick Cappel, Bill Johnson, Jim Moorehead

We had a visit from the WCF Caravan: Below at the left, Christine Duez ARRL WCF Youth Coordinator, with Fred, Hendershot, Bill Johnson, and Dick Capell on the right.



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## Field Day 2019 - Continued -



Rod Clark and Donnie Tomlinson set up the GOTA Station which had numerous visitors. Dave Welty set up a 6 meter station.



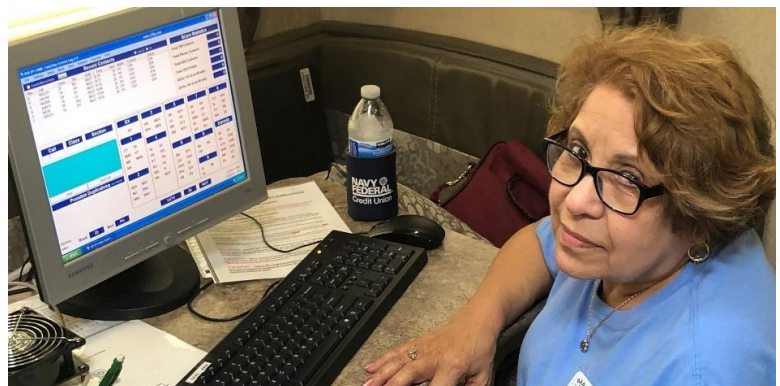
The CW Station was just across the street, led by Ron Perrett and Bill Johnson.

Here we see Ron with Lisa Graves and Fred Hendershot. Ron is obviously glad that things were going so well!



Just down the road was the Phone Station, set up by Jim Moorehead and Art Lusk.

Jim is pictured with Angie Vazquez at the Phone Station



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## Field Day 2019 - Continued -

JR Calvert and Clinton Frantz set up the Digital Station.



Here is a Visitor demonstration of how to make contacts with FT-8.

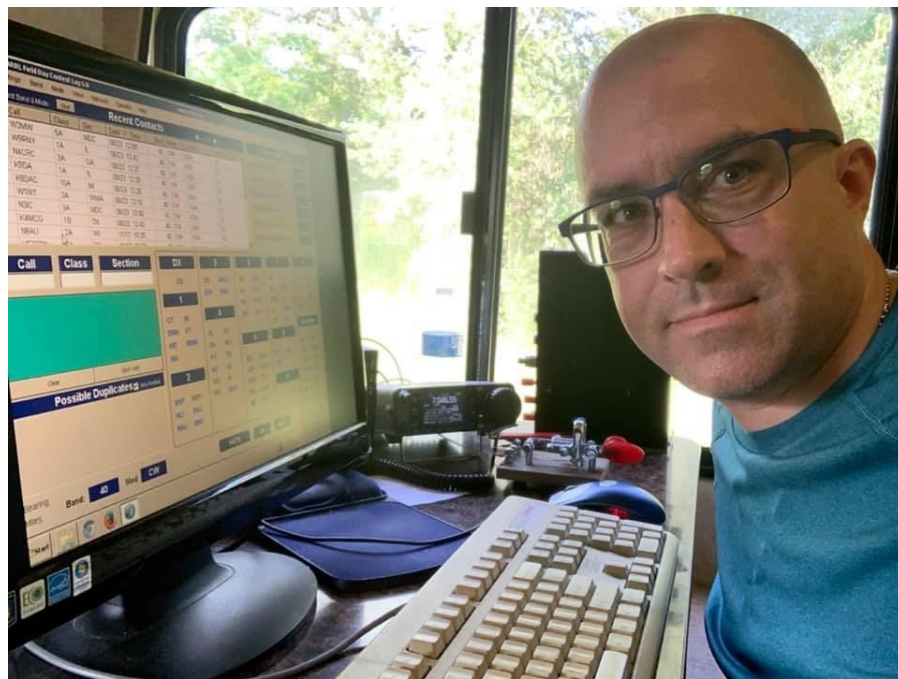


It was a beautiful day for our picnic. Dick Cappel and his Wife Carol did a GREAT JOB with the food and reserving the Pavilion in advance. We had a little rain, but it did not deter us!

## Field Day 2019 - Continued -



Fred Hendershot obviously had his arms around the role of Safety Coordinator!

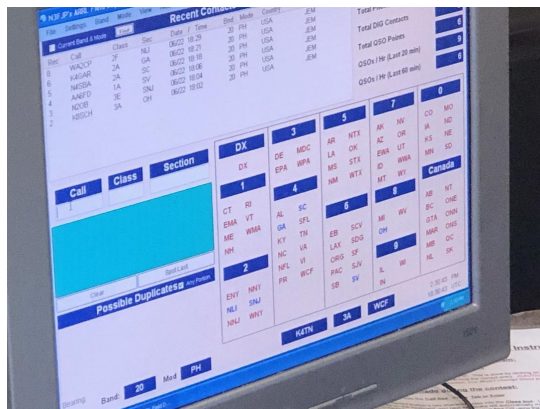


Here is Scott Irwin at the CW Station. Scott also sent real time pictures and posts to Facebook and Twitter.

Thanks to Scott's efforts, we were visited by the *Osprey Observer*. Watch for a future article!



## Field Day 2019 - Continued -



The Logging software was the same at each station.



Here is a shot of the GOTA Station at dusk.



Jim Smith set up a Satellite Station!

**It was a great weekend! We want to thank all who participated:**

**Bill Johnson:** Field Day Chair, Bill also obtained the Park permits and fee waiver

**Rod Clark and Donnie Tomlinson:** GOTA Station Coordinators

**Ron Perrett:** CW Coordinator

**Jim Moorehead:** Phone Station Coordinator

**JR Calvert and Clinton Frantz:** Digital Station Coordinators

**Dave Welty:** 6 meter Station Coordinator

**Jim Smith:** Satellite Station Coordinator and Logging Documentation Coordinator

**Art Lusk, Clinton Frantz, and Bill Johnson:** provided the RVs and Generators

**Dick Cappel and his Wife Carol:** Chief Chefs and Pavilion Concierge

**Scott Irwin:** Public Relations and Social Media Coordinator

**Fred Hendershot:** Safety Coordinator

**Everyone who worked the stations and everyone who provided food!**

*Continued*

## Field Day 2019 - Continued -

Here are a few additional highlights from that day as documented by Scott Irwin:

- The Osprey Observer sent a reporter who not only did an interview with me prior to Field Day, he also came on Sunday to tour the site, ask questions, and made contacts. This is great PR for the club and the amateur radio hobby/service.
- My nephew Holden spent *a lot of time* at the GOTA station and enjoyed his time with Rod and others there. He also spent a lot of time at the digital station, telling Mom and me that it was his favorite station. He's fired up and is ready to go for his license! Thank you for making him feel welcome.
- We experienced an issue with one of the generators where the recoil rope broke while starting it after refusing. One attendee said "This is great that things like this happened...I learned what to do when this happens in an emergency!"
- Another attendee said "I answered questions correctly to pass a test...now I need to learn by doing." This individual visited all of the stations and even returned on Sunday!
- An attendee of the AR-101 course also attended field day, and was inspired to set up an off center fed dipole in their back yard! While it took them a bit to get it working they worked Alabama, South Florida, and the US Virgin Islands.

ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A GREAT DAY! WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO FIELD DAY 2020!

**THANKS GO OUT TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!**

**By the way, if you have any great photos of Field Day 2019, please submit them for the August Antenna!**

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## 2019 Brandon Independence Day Parade

The Parade was a huge success this year! A few random photos are shown below.



Jim Moorhead shown above with his driver Joe. They were assigned to Mobile 1 (Parsons).



The annual event is organized by the Community Round Table. Their mission: "to instill a sense of community and pride for the Greater Brandon area through participation, via membership and volunteerism."

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## 2019 Brandon Independence Day Parade - Continued



Denise and Randy Lee were assigned to the position of Traffic Advisor #4, located at Robertson and Moon.



Mary and Richard Garner were Traffic Advisors for position 6, located at the end of the parade route, at Robertson near Publix.

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## 2019 Brandon Independence Day Parade - Continued



Nancy Lessard and Angie Vazquez were assigned to Division 5, checking in all the floats and vehicles from that Division.  
Strong Work Gals !!!



Fred Hendershot (above) worked with Jim Moorehead to coordinate the activities of BARS for this event. Great Job Guys!



The vehicle above is the Parade Marshall. If you look very closely, you can see Mark Haskell, Net Control!



# July Miscellaneous Musings

Did you know you can receive email newsletters from the ARRL? They offer a wide range of newsletter topics. You can go to your ARRL profile page and update your list. Go to:

[www.arrl.org/home](http://www.arrl.org/home)

Click on *Edit Your Profile*, then click on *Edit Email Subscriptions*, and you should see something similar to the page shown here. Select the newsletters you want and click *Save*, at the bottom of the screen. You can try them out, and then go back and remove the ones that don't interest you at a later date.



## Email Subscriptions

- Temporarily disable all automatically sent email
- Notification of ARRL membership expiration
- Notification of license expiration
- Notification of monthly digital edition of QST
- The ARRL email newsletter, The ARRL Letter
- ARRL Contest Update (biweekly contest newsletter)
- The ARES E-Letter (monthly public service and emergency communications news)
- The ARRL Club News (monthly club news)
- ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter (Radio Waves)
- The IARU E-Letter (International Amateur Radio Union news)
- News and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (Note: Some Divisions/Sections may not send notices.)
- Publication Announcements and Special offers
- ARRL Legislative Update
- ARRL Board meeting agendas and minutes
- W1AW bulletins
  - General/Special
  - DX
  - Propagation
  - Satellite



The most recent podcast from ARRL "So Now What?" is dedicated to what bands and modes are available to New Operators. **Did you know that Technicians can use several digital modes including: Morse Code, FT-8, PSK-31, Olivia, RTTY, and others.**

FL-Digi and WSJT - X software packages are available to allow operators to use the various digital modes.

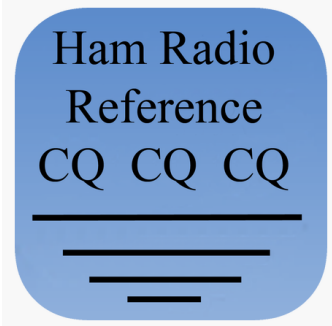
Technician level operators can send CW on specific segments of the 2 meter, 6 meter, 15 meter, 40 meter, and 80 meter bands. They can use digital modes on specific segments of the 2 meter, 6 meter, and 10 meter bands.

Last month we highlighted a **smart phone app called Morse Toad**. It's a great app to learn the basics of Morse Code. The reference to it was embedded in an article. We repeat it here in case you missed it last month.



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## July Miscellaneous Musings - Continued-



In your smart phone app store, you can find an app entitled:

**Ham Radio Reference.** It's a great app with many useful features including: Band Plans, Country Prefixes, ARRL Radiograms, Electronics Formulas, Unit Symbols, Metric Prefixes, Grid Distance/Time, Q Codes, RST System, Morse Code and the Phonetic Alphabet...all in one place! Check it out!



There is a great smart phone app that lets you quickly look up the owner of a call sign. It's called **QRZ** (pronounced QR Zed). **This is a call sign database.**

There is also a QRZ website <https://www.qrz.com/> where you can register your call sign, upload a photo of yourself, and input a short biography. It's a great site with many other useful features including: Ham Radio news, Solar Weather, Used Equipment for sale, and many more.



The July 4th edition of the **ARRL The Doctor Is In** is entitled: **Selecting Coaxial Cable.** This podcast is full of practical tips and useful information. The running time is about 20 minutes. For a listing of many common coaxial cable types, see the link below.

<https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/cable/coax.html>

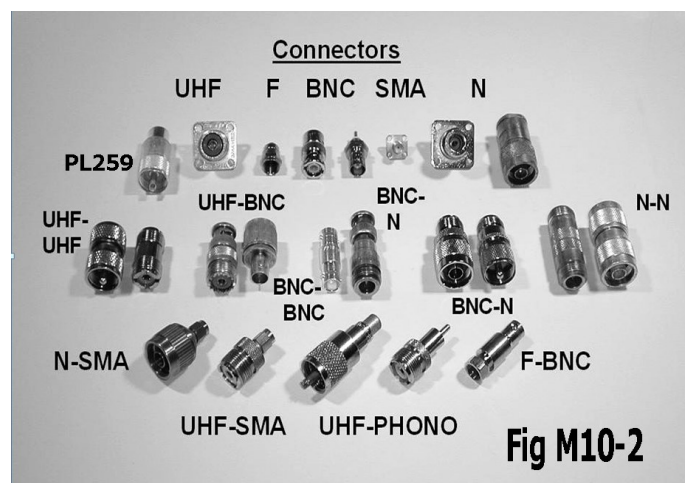
The above web page contains a link which gives the maximum power rating (watts) and the attenuation (dB loss per foot) for each cable.

And speaking of cables, below is a web site link with useful information about cable connectors:

<https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/parts.html>

And another website for some of the more common connectors used in Amateur Radio

<https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/parts/plconn.html>





# ARES RACES News



We thank all of those who volunteered to work the **N4HCA stations during Field Day 2019**. We had a lot of fun and it was a big success!

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 this net. **If you would like to become a Net Control Operator for this net, please contact Dana Perrin at danaperrin@aol.com. Training/Coaching is available.**

**On July 16th and August 20th (the third Tuesday of each month), we host a monthly ARES Simplex Net at 7 pm on 146.490 MHz**, no PL tone needed. The purpose of this net is to allow operators to practice relay techniques and to test their equipment should repeaters go down during a critical event. All amateur operators are welcome to check in.

**We are actively looking for volunteers to provide emergency radio communications in: Evacuation Centers, in our 911 Call Facility, and also to assist Hillsborough Fire Rescue Battalion Chiefs, during a critical event. All training will be provided.** Interested individuals can contact:

<https://hillsboroughares.org/volunteer-inquiry/>



**The requirements for individuals who wish to provide emergency radio communications in shelters and evacuation centers has changed. The current requirements are:**

1. FCC issued Technician level or higher radio license.
2. Completed SKYWARN Spotter Network Training.
3. Completed ICS 213 Message Handling Class.
4. Completed the Shelter Operations Training Class or the Evacuation Center Radio Operator Training Class.

The main website for **Hillsborough ARES RACES** is: <https://hillsboroughares.org>. We encourage operators to check out this web site as it contains information on emergency preparation and go kit resources.

## **Shelter/Evacuation Center Emergency Radio Operator Checklist - Partial List of Things to Consider**

**Radios** HT (Dual Band), Mobile (25 W or Greater).

**Antennas** HT Antenna Magnetic Mount or Antenna Buddy Pole, Antenna COAX Adapters, COAX cable.

**Power** 20-30 Amp Power Supply, 12 V Batteries and Charger, AA/AAA Batteries and Chargers, Cables and Adapters, Power Inverter, Surge Protector, Extension Cords.

**Tools** Pliers, Screw Drivers, Crimpers, Electrical Tape, Duct Tape, Flashlight(s), Lamp(s), Batteries for Lighting.

**Identification and Documents** Government Issued Identification (Drivers License, etc.), ARES Membership Card, Operations / Communications Plan, ICS 205 Frequency Plan, ICS 213, Message Forms, ICS 309 Log , Pens, Pencils, Paper, Clipboard Phone Listing Personal Communications Cell Phone Spare Battery or Charger.

**Personal Items** Air Bed, Sheets, Pillows, Blanket, ARES Shirt(s), Extra Clothing, Medications, Tylenol, Aspirin, etc. Snacks, Drinks, Optional Laptop or Tablet with Charger, Books, Magazines, etc. Movies on Laptop or Tablet or on USB Drive.

# Calendar

**IMMEDIATELY: BARS Annual Membership Dues** are due now. Individual membership is \$25, or \$12.50 for a half year. Please see our Treasurer, Jim Moorehead. **THANK YOU!**

**Every Saturday Morning at 8 am: Mentoring Breakfast at Steak 'n Shake**, 10131 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview.

**Every Monday Evening at 7:30 pm: Dunkin Donuts**, 950 Lumsden Road, Brandon. Come check into the BARS 2 meter net with all your friends! They have ice cream too!

**Every Tuesday Morning at 8:30 am: Mentoring Breakfast at the New York Diner**, 2126 Jelane Drive, Valrico. Come early to be sure to get a seat!

**Every Wednesday Evening at 7:30 pm: Free Pie Night at Village Inn**, 1995 West Lumsden Rd., Brandon.

**Every Thursday Morning at 10 am: Mentoring Breakfast at Einstein Bagels**, 660 West Brandon Blvd., Brandon. Come early to get a seat!

**Some Thursday Afternoons: The Venerable Society of the Crusty Curmudgeons of Cards**, at Starbuck's, 6042 Winthrop Town Center Ave., Riverview. Check with Jeff Dick for exact times and dates.

**July 20th (Saturday): K4DI Summer Tailgate at South Conway Road Baptist Church**, 6099 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32801, contact Jack Moyer k4di@hotmail.com also, see the link:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/k4kdi-summer-tailgate-1>

**August 3rd (Saturday): BARS Sponsors a Radio Licensing Exam Session**, which starts at 10:45 am at ARISE Church. Bring a copy of your license (if applicable), a photo ID, and \$15 (correct change please).

**August 17th (Saturday): TARC-FEST**, 8 am to 1 pm, 7801 N 22nd St, Tampa, FL 33610. Admission will be \$5 per person (children 12 and under free), Tailgating will be \$5 and includes 1 person admission. Indoor tables are \$15.00 in advance Great food and drink, VE Test Sessions are available after the event.



**BARS was highlighted in the June 2019 edition of the West Central Florida Presser** (the monthly newsletter of the WCF Section of the ARRL). This is a great newsletter for those who want information about Amateur Radio activities at the West Central Florida Section level. Included with the article was a selection of photos from our BARS home page. A portion of the article is shown below. We thank Jim Weslager, Editor of the WCF Presser, for this article: "[CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY June 2019 The WCF PRESSER Page 8](#)" This month we will focus on the Brandon Amateur radio society or BARS as they are known. Located in the unincorporated community of Brandon, just east of Tampa, in Hillsborough County, the Brandon Amateur Radio Society operates two repeaters: one on 147.165 MHz with a PL tone of 136.5 Hz, and the other on 443.500 MHz on a PL of 127.3 Hz that is a Yaesu System Fusion repeater that operates in Auto-

matic Mode Selection (AMS) in either Analog or Fusion mode. The VHF repeater is linked to the Echolink N4DLW-R Node 851343 and the UHF repeater has a WIRES X Node as well. BARS operates a website at <http://www.brandonhamradio.org>, has a monthly newsletter called "The Antenna", offers free VE amateur radio testing on the first Saturday of the month. In addition to their regular club meeting on the third Thursday of the month, members of the club regularly have a Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday breakfast social get togethers as well. For details and more information about their club activities go to their website at <http://www.brandonhamradio.org>."

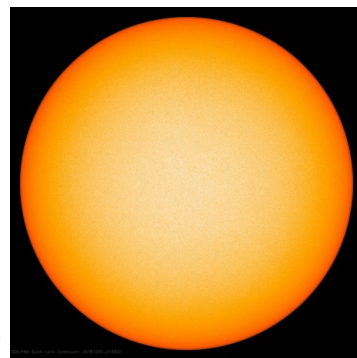


## Solar Weather Update - by Dana Perrin

An article appeared recently in the preeminent journal NATURE entitled:

“Oscillations of the baseline of solar magnetic field and solar irradiance on a millennial timescale | *Scientific Reports*” by: V.V. Zharkova, S.J. Shepherd, S.J. Zharkova, and E. Popova. The article was published on-line on 06/24/2019. The authors use a scientific model to predict the sun spot cycle over a hundred thousand years. Apparently, sun spots are associated with fluctuations in magnetic behavior between a cyclic process in the core of the sun and another cyclic process at the surface. In general terms, when the two cycles overlap, the result is a solar maximum. When the two cycles are totally opposite, we have a solar minimum. The authors introduce a third magnetic variation, a magnetic field wobble (I’m paraphrasing here) which, when incorporated into the dual magnetic cyclic model, results in explaining many of the previously observed long solar minimums in past history. Using this model, the authors predict that the current solar minimum will mimic that of the Maunder Minimum. **Their model predicts that the current solar minimum will evolve into a super grand solar minimum which will continue until 2055.** I know of many Amateur Radio Operators who hope that this model is incorrect! The full article can be downloaded:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-45584-3#Fig2>



## Our Next BARS Monthly Membership Meeting



The next meeting on Thursday, July 18th 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.

**JOIN US!**



**ARISE**  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD AT BRANDON

**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

## Acknowledgements:

**We thank the following contributors to this edition of the Antenna Newsletter: Jim Smith (for the excellent article on POTA, and for photos), Jeff Dick (for photos), Denise and Randy Lee (for photos), Mary and Richard Garner (for photos), Scott Irwin (for Field Day Highlights and photos), and Nancy Lessard (for photos, for the amateur of the month interview, and for proofreading this newsletter)!**

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](mailto:danaperrin@aol.com)

Thanks and -73-