

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society
Newsletter

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://fb.me/brandonhamradio

http://www.twitter.com/

New Member News

Welcome Brian Phillips KN4WFFY



A New Member Certificate was presented by our President, Scott Irwin to Brian Phillips at our October monthly BARS meeting.

By way of background, Brian is from Buffalo, NY. He moved to Florida in 1988, and has resided in Brandon since 1990. Brian retired from the field of Information Technology and has worked as a Computer Operator and a Programmer Analyst. His hobbies include home automation and researching his family history. Brian says he has three awesome daughters!

Brian's interest in radio started back in the 1970s with CB radio (KRQ4726). He also remembers talking with friends by walkie talkies when he was younger and says: "Boy, how times have changed..."

- Continued -



Welcome Brian Phillips KN4WFY - Continued

He passed his Technician exam this past September. Brian has a Bao Feng UV-82HP as an inexpensive first radio to dive into the hobby. He plans to expand to HF some day as he is interested in making long distance contacts. He also sees that in an emergency, amateur radio would provide another way to communicate with others, not only for himself but possibly also for his community.

Welcome Brian! Thank you for your interest in our Society!

Member Activities



BARS holds breakfast / mentoring sessions several times a week. To the left is a photo taken at a recent Saturday morning breakfast session at Steak and Shake. Skip Argoe is helping Jeff Dick program his VHF/UHF radio.

**Mentoring is a very important part of
Amateur Radio!**

**Thank you Skip for giving your time and
talents to be such a great mentor !**

Many of our members know **Jerry Brewer** who was a faithful member of the Saturday morning breakfast crew at Steak and Shake. He moved to Cleveland, Georgia in July of this year. Jerry had a recent visit by Bill Johnson in Jerry's new home. Jerry sends his best wishes to all. Jerry's contact info is shown below.



Drop Jerry a line if you can!

Jerry Brewer WC4JB
37 Robinhood Dr.
Cleveland GA 30528

Phone: 706-348-8722



**Best wishes to you Jerry!
Please stay in touch!**

Member Activities - Continued

It's an Antenna Party!

Here are a few photos from Karen Jacobi's recent Butternut HF9V antenna installation.



This is still a work in progress. Some of the BARS members who've helped so far are: Jim Moorehead - WF4AC, Jim Smith - K4PPK, Rick Farr - KK4CVD, and Kelly Anderson - KE4GE
Karen says: "I think they'll be back one last time for final tuning but I've been using it since October 12th. I can't express my gratitude enough! 26 contacts and 9 countries using the new antenna on Oct 12 and 13."

Congratulations Karen!

Thanks go to all the BARS members who helped! Great Work!



Member Activities - Continued

Arduino-Based Display Upgrade for Yaesu FT-817 and FT-857

At our last monthly BARS meeting, Jim Moorehead gave a terrific presentation on a new display upgrade he and Rod Clark have developed. The presentation included a PowerPoint slide set as well as a demonstration of the display device. It was fascinating. Here are a few photos. Jim wanted us all to remember our Uncle Bob from the UK who also had a role in this project! As Jim said: "...and Bob's your Uncle!" or "...and there you have it!"



Kudos to Jim and Rod!

Thank you for a GREAT presentation!

"...and Bob's your Uncle!!!"

BARS Volunteers Needed for Hamfest!

The Tampa Bay Hamfest will be held in Plant City on the Strawberry Festival Grounds on **Friday and Saturday, December 13th and 14th, 2019** (noon to 5 on Friday, 8 to 2 on Saturday). **Volunteers are needed** to sell tickets in the parking area, sell tickets to and help situate tailgate vendors, and check tickets at the main entrance. Volunteers can choose among several two-hour time slots. Each volunteer will receive a coupon for each hour worked. At the end of the Hamfest on Saturday, the coupons will be put in a hat and the lucky coupon will be drawn for an **award of \$50.00!** If you are interested in volunteering, **contact Fred Hendershot at fred.hendershot@verizon.net** See the **Calendar** page in this newsletter for more details.

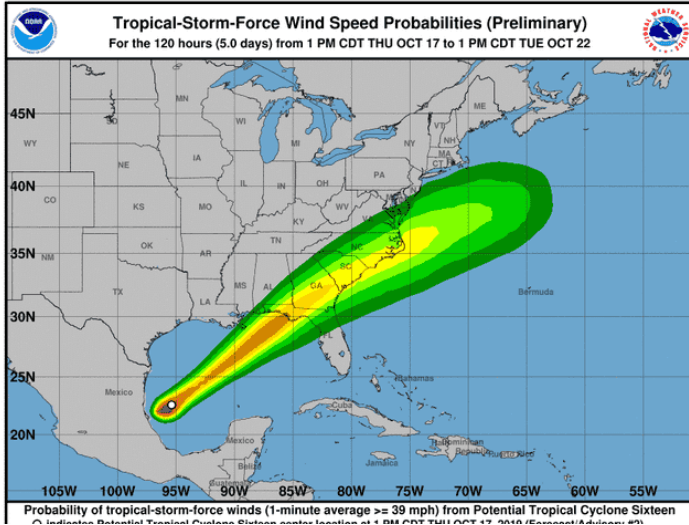


Member Activities - Continued

JOTA Event Postponed

By Scott Irwin

Tropical Storm Nestor foiled the Boy Scout Campout at Lithia Springs Conservation Park, bringing heavy winds and rain to the area. The Scout Troop elected to cancel the event to ensure everyone's safety. We were unable to utilize the church as plan "B" as appropriate space was unavailable due to previously scheduled events.



We thank those who volunteered. Special thanks to Ken Watts (WA4NSV) who worked with the troop and church regarding potential space and to Jim Moorehead (WF4AC) who worked on potential antenna placement at the church. The Troop is still interested in obtaining the radio merit badge and we are working with them to schedule merit badge sessions and a "Get on the Air" opportunity in the coming months.

We want to THANK ALL OF OUR NEW MEMBERS FOR 2019!

This year has been a GREAT YEAR in terms of membership. Our Society has grown with a total of 13 new members, bringing our membership to a total of 64 amateur operators! The following members received their New Member Certificates in 2019:

Candace Krewer KN4PPI
Henry Krewer KN4PPJ
Karissa Hendershot N3YDA
Jason Guerard WA2ULI
Miguel Torres KN4SDN
Wayne Thorn KM4VRZ
Jerry Sorrentino KD2RIP
Karen Jacobi K4KZF
Sam Cantrell KM4EVR
Ron Menard W6HTF
Richard Sorensen KB3TLP
James Stocks KK4CWO
Brian Phillips KN4WFY



Thank you all for your support and interest in our Society and for your dedication to Amateur Radio!

Other news:

Debut of: “On The Air” Magazine

Starting in January of 2020, the ARRL will launch a new publication entitled: “On The Air.” This bimonthly magazine is **designed for new or beginner-to-intermediate level amateur operators**. The goal is to help new and newer radio amateurs become active and involved in radio communications. For more info:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-launch-new-on-the-air-magazine-in-january>



Sneak Preview: Astronomy for the Radio Amateur by Kelly Anderson



Below is a **preview of a presentation that will be given at our next BARS monthly meeting in November:**

“There are many commonalities between Amateur Radio and Amateur Astronomy. Is there anyone who has seen a NASA video or a Hubble Space Telescope image and not been amazed at the vastness and beauty and sheer awesomeness of the Universe? This presentation will be a brief survey of radio and optical astronomy, how we can see, take images of, and even listen to the wonders of the Universe. All we need to do is look up!”

**This promises to be an exciting event!
Join Us!**



Podcast Update

As you may know from prior Antenna newsletters, the ARRL started a podcast for operators who recently received their Technician license and who were asking: “So Now What?” The podcasts are short and very well done. Two episodes were recently featured:

Ham Lingo - gives a good working summary of Q codes as well as other terminology and abbreviations commonly heard on the air and during discussions with other amateurs.

You’re Not “Just a Tech” - helps new amateur operators realize what they have accomplished and encourages future growth.

There are several short segments about what some radio clubs are doing to recruit and maintain new members. Check it out!

<http://www.arrl.org/so-now-what>



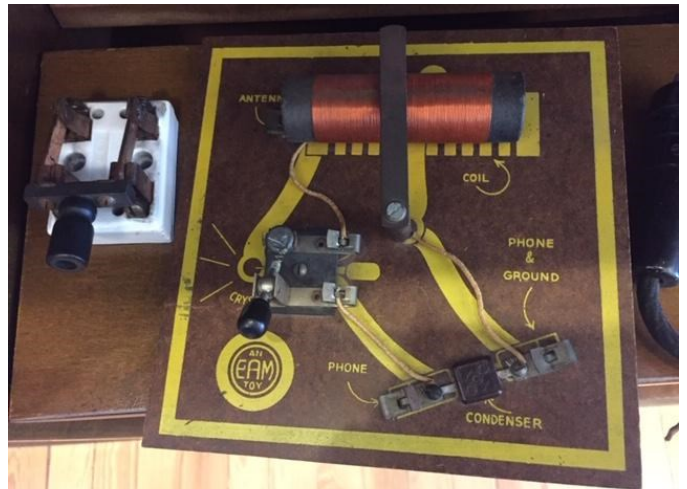
Interesting Bits of History - Part 1:

Do You Know What It Is?



Nancy Lessard sent in the following:

“I was invited to look at some old radio equipment in Clermont, FL at the old train station. After observing the display there, I think what I was looking at was probably old broadcast radio equipment. There was no explanation.”
(Left Photo credit Wikimedia)



Thanks for sharing Nancy!

Does anyone know what we are looking at here?

- Continued -

Interesting Bits of History - Part 2: Telegraphy By the Numbers!



Mark Haskell and Ron Perrett submitted a reference to an article entitled: “History of the U.S. Telegraph Industry” by Thomas Nonnemacher, from EH.net - Economic History Services: <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/history-of-the-u-s-telegraph-industry/>

It’s a fascinating summary of the value of the telegraph (and Morse Code) as a means of communication in the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. The statistics regarding the sheer volume of messages sent are staggering!

Mark writes: “This is a concise history of telegraphy in the United States. It contains some interesting comparisons and notes. Note the amount of traffic during the decades from the development of the telegraph system up to the 1970-s. By the mid 1960-s just about all the railroads had dropped the telegraph. Also at this time Western Union was operating its message system by Telex instead of the American Morse landline telegraph. In some places Telex had replaced the telegraph as early as the 1920-s.”

Messages Handled by the Telegraph Network: 1870-1970

Date	Messages Handled	Date	Messages Handled
1870	9,158,000	1930	211,971,000
1880	29,216,000	1940	191,645,000
1890	55,879,000	1945	236,169,000
1900	63,168,000	1950	178,904,000
1910	75,135,000	1960	124,319,000
1920	155,884,000	1970	69,679,000



Above photo of Telex machine by Jamie - Flickr: Telex machine TTY, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19282428>

Notes: Western Union messages 1870-1910; all telegraph companies, 1920-1970.



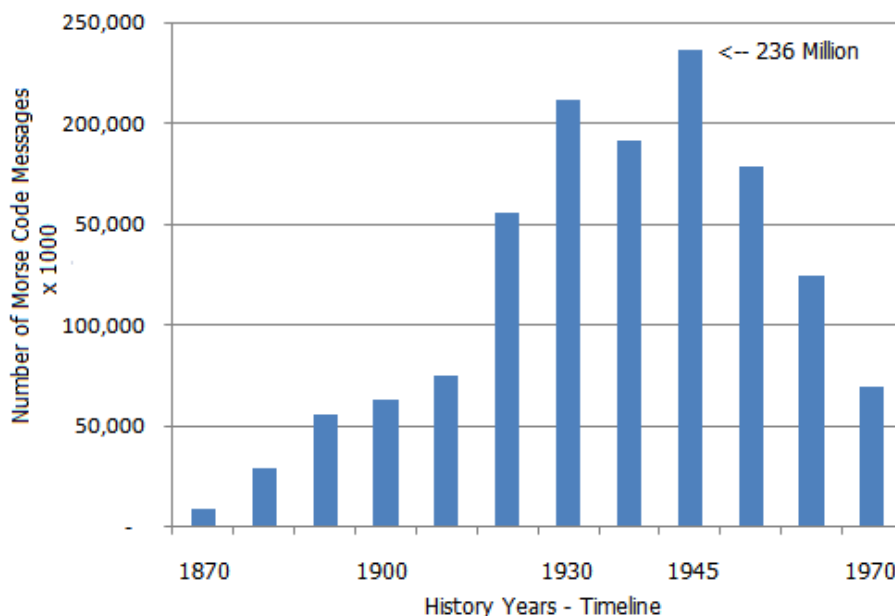
Above photo of Western Electric telegraph key and sounder taken from: <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/discover/artifacts/western-electric-main-line-kob-set-telegraph-key-and-sounder>

Ron prepared a graphical representation of the above data shown to the right.

Very interesting!

Mark and Ron, thanks for sharing this!

Thousands of Morse Code Messages



ARES RACES News

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.**



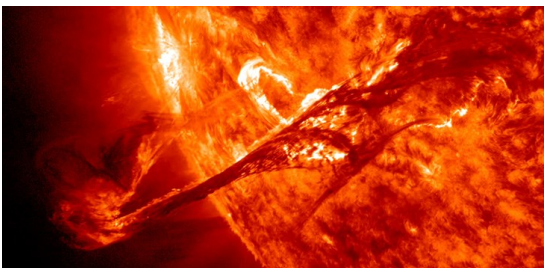
Please note: There has been a recent update to the National Emergency Communications Plan: <https://www.cisa.gov/necp>

The leadership of Hillsborough ARES RACES is currently recommending that all active members complete several FEMA Incident Command System courses. The four recommended ICS courses are: 100, 200, 700 and 800. All of these are available free online at: <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>

In addition to the above four courses, the ARRL course called EC-001, Introduction to Emergency Communications is also recommended. This course has a prerequisite of prior completion of the ICS 100 and 700 courses. For more information on the EC-001 course, see: <http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog> The EC-001 course registration is currently closed for 2019 but will reopen in December. You can check for new openings for 2020 by going to: <http://www.arrl.org/online-course-registration>

Please note the main website for Hillsborough ARES RACES is: <https://hillsboroughares.org/> We encourage operators to check out this web site often for information on upcoming events.

Solar Update - by Dana Perrin



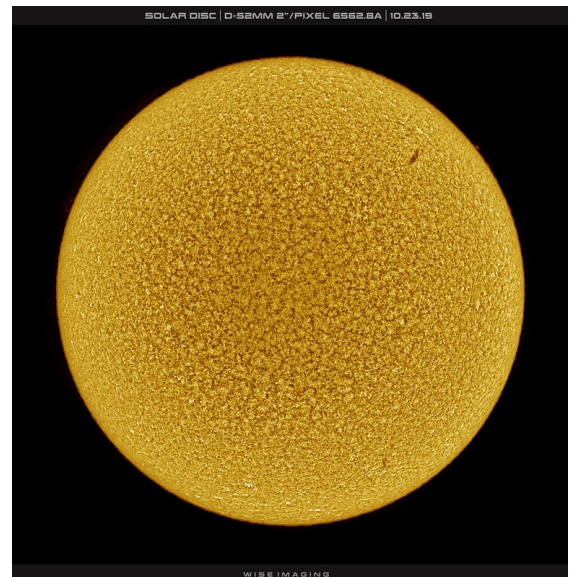
On October 23rd, the sun exhibited a polar filament. Polar filaments can be characterized as being from a particular Solar Cycle. There is a great website that gives information on polar filaments: <https://www.spaceweatherlive.com/en/help/what-is-a-filament> The photo to the left is taken from this website.

For photos of the actual filament from October, see the website: <https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/681179-interesting-filament-convection-cells-oct-23rd-2019/> The photo to the right is taken from this website. Note the more polar (rather than equatorial) location of this filament. It's the dark spot in the upper right.

So why all this concern over such a tiny spot? Because this filament has the polarity that indicates it is from Solar Cycle 25! For more information, see the You Tube video by Dr. Tamitha Skov:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLMkCLt5cIE>

**This provides some evidence
that Solar Cycle 25 is on the way!**



Calendar



Every Saturday Morning at 8 am: BARS 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: BARS 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. Free pie with an entrée!

Every Thursday Morning at 10 am: BARS Mentoring Breakfast at Einstein Bros. 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.

November 23rd (Saturday): SOUTH CARS TAILGATE HAMFEST - from 8 am to noon, Golden Corral
North Lakeland. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/southcars-tailgate/>

December 3rd (First Tuesday of each month): THE AMATEUR RADIO ELECTRONICS UNION (AREU) MONTHLY MEETING - at 7 pm at Bell Shoals Baptist Church. Also an AREU 6 meter net is held every Wednesday at 7 pm on 50.2 MHz. For more info, contact: rhaynes5@tampabay.rr.com.
See also: <http://www.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/areu>

December 7th (Saturday): AR-101 COURSE: INTRO TO AMATEUR RADIO VHF/UHF OPERATION - from 1 to 3 pm at the Bloomingdale Regional Library, 1906 Bloomingdale Ave., Valrico, FL.

December 13th and 14th (Saturday and Sunday): 44th ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST – Strawberry Festival Grounds, Plant City, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/44th-annual-tampa-bay-hamfest-day-one/>

December 19th (3rd Thursday of the month): NO BARS MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER!

January 16th (3rd Thursday of the month): BARS ANNUAL EATING MEETING - Golden Corral, Brandon, FL. Details to come!

January 25th and 26th (Sat and Sun): WINTER FIELD DAY. <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

February 21st and 22nd (Friday and Saturday): 6th ANNUAL WCF TECHCON 2020 - Charlotte County EOC, Punta Gorda, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2019/07/22/wcf-section-press-release-19-23/>



**Check this page for further details
on the following events:**

March - MASS CASUALTY DRILL

April - FLORIDA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR

May - HURRICANE DRILL

June 27th and 28th - ARRL FIELD DAY

July 4th - BRANDON FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

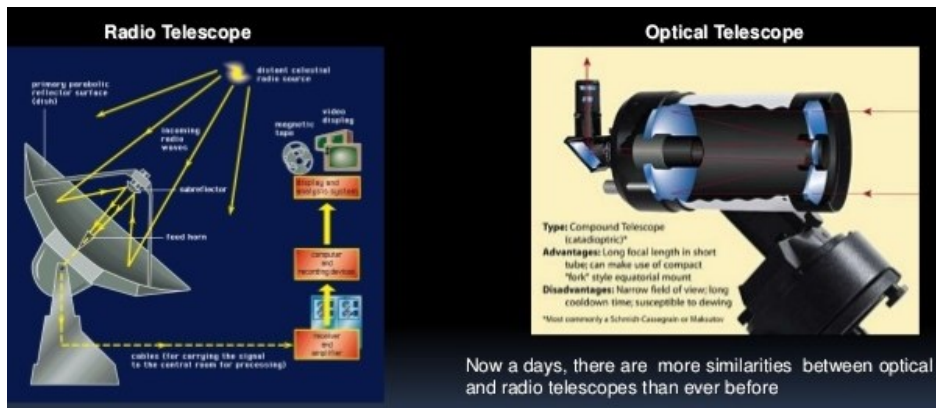
Our Next BARS Monthly Membership Meeting

The next meeting on Thursday, November 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 a brief Business Meeting which will include voting for the Slate of Officers for 2020,

we will feature a presentation by Kelly Anderson (see page 6 in this newsletter for a Sneak Preview!)



Astronomy for the Radio Amateur

JOIN US!

We thank the members and staff of Arise for their kindness in allowing BARS to use their facility.



ARISE
ASSEMBLY OF GOD AT BRANDON

BARS General Info



Mondays, 8 pm: 2 meter Net on the K4TN Repeater 147.165 (+) 136.5 and Echolink node N4DLW/R (Brandon, FL)

Tuesdays 7 pm: 6 meter Roundtable on 50.200 USB

Tuesdays, 8 pm: 10 meter Roundtable on 28.365 USB

Fridays, 7 pm: 80 meter Roundtable on 3.830 LSB

Acknowledgements:

We thank the following contributors to this edition of the Antenna Newsletter: Bill Johnson (for photos of Jerry Brewer), Karen Jacobi (for photos of the Antenna Installation), Scott Irwin and Jeff Dick (for photos of the Display Upgrade Presentation), Nancy Lessard (for the Historical Equipment Photos from the Clermont Train Depot), Wikimedia (for the photo of Clermont Train Depot), Mark Haskell and Ron Perrett (for the info, table, and graph regarding the History of the U.S. Telegraph Industry adapted from the article by: Thomas Nonnema-cher in EH.net), Thestoryoftexas.com (for the photo of the telegraph key and sounder), Jamie - Flickr at Wiki-media (for the photo of the telex machine), Spaceweather.com and Cloudynights.com (for the photos and info regarding sun filaments), Scott Irwin (for the JOTA article), Kelly Anderson (for the article on Astronomy for the Radio Amateur), and Nancy Lessard & Scott Irwin (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

Thanks and -73-