147.165 + (136.5 Hz) K4TN 443.500 + (127.3 Hz)

The ANTENNA

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

OVER 43 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA
BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA

VOL MMXX, NUMBER 1 January 2020

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MORSE COURSE in 2020

Attention all stations! Mark Haskell WB9UJS will teach a course in Morse Code in 2020. Below is an article with further information.

MORSE CODE AND SHORTWAVE RADIO

by Mark Haskell

Morse code (radio telegraphy) was the first means of communication in the early days of radio! In Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) Morse code operation today is often referred to as CW which stands for Continuous Wave. Many hams consider CW and Morse code to be synonymous, but actually they are not. In the early days of radio at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, many early stations communicated in Morse code using a method of radio wave generation called "Spark Gap" or just simply "Spark". Spark Gap transmissions used a lot of power, took up a lot of space on the radio dial, and were not very efficient: the signals did not go very far. Spark Gap transmission was used until after WWI. By that time the development of the vacuum tube made it possible to transmit pure continuous waves interrupted in the patterns for Morse Code.

Advantages of Continuous Wave (CW)

CW presented many advantages over the old Spark Gap method of transmitting radio signals. The signal was narrow (more signals could fit on the radio dial), the technique was more efficient, so the signals came through better in poor conditions and noise. As a result, the CW form of radio telegraphy became the dominant mode of radio communication on shortwave for many decades. Although Morse code is not required for a ham radio license, many ham operators use it for these key reasons shown here (next page):

- Continued Next Page -

MORSE CODE AND SHORTWAVE RADIO

Continued -

Advantages of CW/Radiotelegraph on Shortwave

(1) The equipment is simpler to construct: all you need is a way to turn the signal on and off.

(2) Morse code signals are narrow. They don't take up a lot of radio spectrum space. More signals can fit on the radio dial!

(3) Morse code signals get through noise and poor signals conditions better than many other modes of communication

This is why for many years Morse code was a requirement for an amateur radio license or a ship radio operator license. A knowledge of Morse code operation was considered vital for radio communication under emergency conditions when the signal had to get through despite poor conditions or interference. Today even though Morse code is no longer required for a ham radio license, many hams still use the code for all the reasons shown in the box, but there is another big reason why many hams still use the code: **IT'S FUN TO COMMUNICATE ON THE RADIO WITH MORSE CODE!!**

In past years, a knowledge of the International Morse Code (Continental code) was required by international law to obtain an Amateur Radio License. In most countries that is no longer the case, but many new hams find that there is a lot of activity on the ham bands in CW. They want to get in on that part of Ham Radio, but to be honest they don't know where to start.

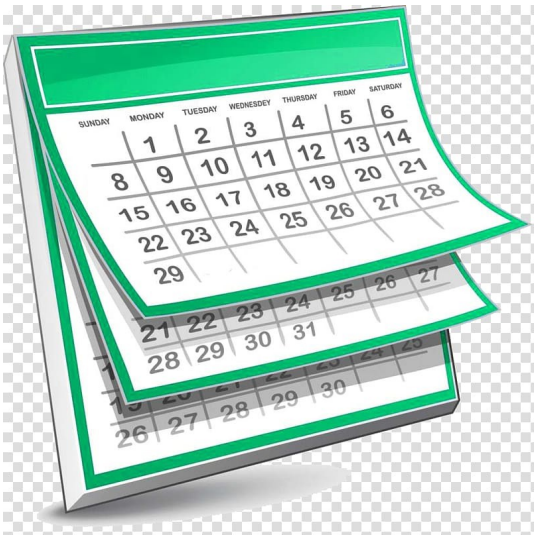
BARS to the rescue! We are in the exploratory phase of setting up a code class. We have not nailed down a location for the class yet. We hope to get that resolved in the next few weeks. Preliminary plans are for the class to start on Monday 16 March. The class sessions will run three days a week: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday (except for BARS meeting days). Class times will be from 7-9 p.m. The class will run for 13 weeks: 16 March to 11 June.

The goal of this class is to get students beyond the "eternal beginner" stage and get them to a point where they can operate on the air. There are a couple of reasons for this: (1) It does no good to get a student to the 8 word-per minute level only for them to find out that there is little to no activity at that speed on the air. The result is that the students do not get on the radio and lose what meager skill they have attained. (2) We need operators for Field Day. This course will concentrate on getting students able to get on the radio and operate at speeds around 15-20 wpm (words per minute). The last couple of weeks of the class will concentrate on working Field Day. Students will hear FD traffic at higher speeds. In addition to code training the class will deal with other aspects of operating. Students will be exposed to straight key operating as well as use of keyers, semi-automatic keys (bugs), and even cootie keys. Students will also see a demonstration of American Morse (the original Morse Code) and see how landline telegraphy is similar to and different from that which we do on the radio.

Total class time will be about 70 hours. Not really all that long. We intend to put on a serious course that will provide some long term benefits. There are a lot of hams who work CW 99% of the time. After taking this course it is hoped that the graduates will understand why that is the case and become a part of that distinguished group. **For more information talk to Mark WB9UJS**.

Note: A detailed Course Planner is attached at the end of this newsletter on pages 7 to 12 which includes Course Duration, Timing, Goals, Course Mechanics, and Student Requirements. It also includes a listing of activities by date for the first 19 sessions. Be sure to check it out!

A Look at 2020:
It's Going To Be A GREAT YEAR !



January 25 & 26 - WINTER FIELD DAY
February 7, 8, & 9 - HAMCATION
March - MASS CASUALTY DRILL
April 4 and 5 - FLORIDA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR
May - HURRICANE DRILL
June 27 and 28 - ARRL FIELD DAY
July 4 - BRANDON FOURTH OF JULY PARADE
August -
September -
October 16, 17, & 18 - JOTA
November -
December - TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

BARS 2020 Dues are DUE Now!

It's that time of year when you have to break open your Piggy Banks to pay your dues for membership in the Brandon Amateur Radio Society. See Jim Moorehead to do this:

Single: $25

Family: $25

Student: $10

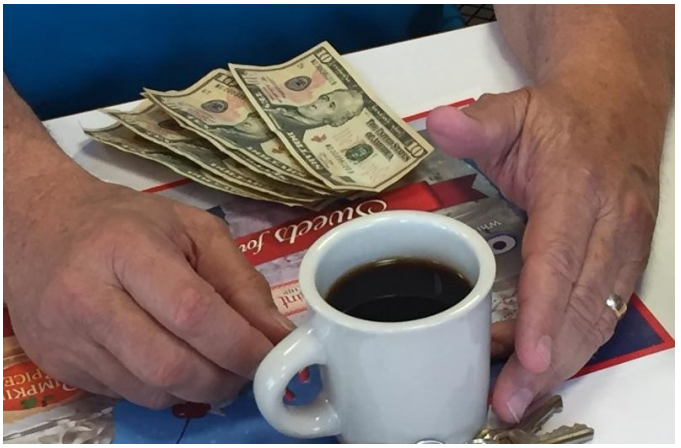
Associate: $10

$$$ Petey Parish Wins Tampa Bay Hamfest Volunteer Award! $$$

Fred Hendershot presented Petey Parish with a $50 cash award for his participation as the winning Volunteer in the Tampa Bay Hamfest.

Congratulations

Petey!!!



Please Join Us for Breakfast!

Here are some of the usual BARS members at our Saturday morning breakfast at Steak 'n Shake.

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**

ARES RACES News

As of January 1st, 2020, **Rodney Biddle KX4HD has been designated Assistant Emergency Coordinator - Communications** for Hillsborough ARES RACES. Rodney will take over the activities previously performed by Dana Perrin. **Please welcome Rodney in his new role.**

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.

Hillsborough ARES RACES has changed the way it notifies members of activities. The previously used platform, ares.db is no longer in use and has been replaced by groups.io If you wish to receive future notifications from Hillsborough ARES RACES, you can join this group by sending an email to:

hcares-alerts+subscribe@groups.io

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.

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.

January 18th (Saturday): WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING - Ft. Myers. **http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-winter-2020/**

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

January 25th (Saturday): DESOTO COUNTY HAMFEST - Arcadia. **http://arrlwcf.org/event/desoto-county-hamfest-2020/**

February 1st (Saturday): BARS RADIO LICENSING EXAM SESSION - Arise Church, Brandon, FL. 11 am. **http://www.brandonhamradio.org/**

February 4th (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**

February 7th, 8th, & 9th (Friday - Sunday): HAMCATION 2020 - Orlando.
https://www.hamcation.com/index.cfm
http://arrlwcf.org/event/74th-annual-orlando-hamcation-day-one/

February 15th (Saturday): HIGHLANDS COUNTY HAMFEST - Lake Josephine Baptist Church, Sebring FL. **http://arrlwcf.org/event/2020-highlands-county-hamfest/**

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/**

February 28 - March 2 (Friday - Monday): 2020 FLORIDA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE - Gainesville, FL. Sponsored by the North Florida Amateur Radio Club, (includes ARRL EC001 Class), Website Details: **https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/**
Preliminary Program: **https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2020Conference/PublicPreliminaryProgram.pdf**

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

March 7th & 8th (Friday and Saturday): 2020 BIKE MS CITRUS TOUR - Champions Gate, FL: **http://arrlwcf.org/event/bike-ms-citrus-tour-2020-day-one/**
volunteer sign up: **http://www.citrustour.org/**

March 7 (Saturday): CHARLOTTE COUNTY HAMFEST - Punta Gorda Boat Club, Punta Gorda, FL. **http://arrlwcf.org/event/charlotte-county-hamfest-2020/**

Our Next BARS Meeting is the "Eating Meeting"

The next meeting on **Thursday, January 16th will be at the Golden Corral Restaurant** located at 815 Providence Road in Brandon (near the north east corner of Lumsden and Providence). The meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

We will thank our outgoing officers and welcome our incoming officers as we enjoy a buffet dinner together.

Bring your appetite!

Buffet cost is around $12, Beverages around $2.

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:
Mark Haskell (for the Morse Course article and course description),
Jeff Dick (for the photo at Steak 'n Shake),
Nancy Lessard (for proofreading this newsletter), and
Scott Irwin (for content review).

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-

Addendum: 2020 Code Class Planner

Duration of course: 13 Weeks
Start date: Monday 16 March End Date Tuesday11 June
Class days: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. (No Thursday classes on days of BARS meetings). There will be approximately 35 2-hour class sessions (70 hours of instruction).
Class Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Goals of course:

- Train students to copy accurately International Morse Code at 15 words per minute (wpm). This will include the following:
  - The 26 letters of the alphabet
  - Ten numerals
  - Seven punctuation marks and special characters: Period (.) Comma (,) Question Mark (?) Virgule or slash bar (/) plus these procedure signals DE BT SK AR K KN
- Instruct students on proper operating procedures in normal contacts, working DX stations, and contests.
- Enable students to send on a straight key at 15 wpm.
- Expose students to higher speed transmissions to train them to copy short contest exchanges for Field Day exchanges and to copy call signs at higher speeds.
- Acclimate students to Morse operation under difficult signal conditions: signal fading, heavy interference, and noise.

Additional information will be provided to students regarding these areas:

- Types of telegraph keys:
  - Straight key
  - Bug (semi-automatic key)
  - Keyer and paddles
  - Cootie key
- Historical overview of Morse communications
  - American Morse (the "real" Morse code
  - Beginning of Continental code
  - Demonstration of telegraph sounder.
  - Morse Telegraph Club (MTC)
  - The Victorian Internet Both the book and the concept.
- Important Q-signals
- Operating and procedure signals.
- Actual operations on the air (if setup circumstances permit)
- Listen to Florida CW Traffic Net recordings

Mechanics of Course

Methodology used: Koch method. Students will download course software on their computers. Students will work primarily at 15 wpm. Some introductory material will be presented at 10 wpm only for very brief periods.

Phase 1 Class periods 1-16: Time for learning alphabet, numbers, and punctuation: 13 class sessions plus three review sessions during this period to bring students up to proficiency for a total of 16 class sessions for this phase.

Phase 2 Classes 17-24: Drill students on proper operating procedures on the air and how to operate when working normal contacts.

Phase 3 Classes 24 through 35: Continue regular operating practice, but will also incorporate higher speed call sign drills at 20 and 25 wpm.

Phase 4 Higher speed drills: Class 30 will introduce Field Day operating techniques with drills at 20 wpm. Class session 32 will increase speeds to 25 wpm.

Student Requirements

Students are required to have a code oscillator and a straight key. Everything should be assembled and functional on the first day of the class.

Class attendance is mandatory. We understand that from time to time situations preclude class attendance. Students may miss two classes during the 13 week period of instruction. It is key for students to strive to attend all classes during the first six weeks. Students missing more than two class sessions will be dropped from the course unless they can demonstrate good copying ability and keep up with the course.

All students will receive a CD containing files and documentation to help them in the course and to provide them with more in-depth instruction beyond the classroom. Students will be required to print off some of the files for hard copy reference during the course.

In order to gain maximum benefit from the course training, students should expect to spend at least 90 minutes a week studying on their own outside course class-time.

For every class students are expected to bring:

Key and code oscillator
Notebook for copying
Pencils/pen
Digital voice recorder/cell phone with recording capability Students will use this to record material to work on at home

Students will also receive a CD with the Koch code-training program to install on their home computer. In addition, there will be other files, which the student will need to print out for class i.e. the CW Operating Guide. There are other files of general interest with historical information about Morse code and helpful information about operating on the air.

Course Planning Calendar (This is a partial list which includes the first 19 sessions)

Session	Day/Date	Activities
1	Mon 16 Mar	(1) Intro to course and Koch software. Hand out CD and explain what is on it. (2) Have students introduce themselves and why they are taking the class. (3) Code training: M K R and S (4) Introduce how to hold a telegraph key
2	Tue 17 Mar	(1) Copying drills (2) New letters U, A, P, and T (3) Sending drills
3	Mon 23 Mar	(1) Copying drills and sending drills for letters already learned (2) Discussion: CW privileges for Tech class license (3) New letters L, O, and W
4	Tue 24 Mar	(1) Copying drills and sending drills for letters already learned (2) New letters I, period (.) , and N (3) Discussion on CW bands for Technician licensees: other frequencies where there is slower CW. (3) Sending drills for new letters.
5	Thu 26 Mar	(1) Copying drills and sending drills for letters already learned (2)Discussion FISTS and SKCC (3) New letters J, E, and F
6	Mon 30 Mar	(1) Review day copying and sending drills for letters already learned. (2) Discussion: What is a **Bug**, **straight key**, **keyer, paddles,** and **cootie key** (3) Review day copying and sending drills for letters already learned.

7	Tue 31 Mar	(1) Copying drills and sending drills for letters already learned (2)New letters 0 (zero), Y, V, and comma (,)
8	Thu 2 April	(1) Copying drills and sending drills for letters already learned. **Note letters that each student has missed consistently**. (2) Discussion on using the software to concentrate on letters missed and create drills for each individual student. (3) New letters: G, 5, /, Q (4) Assign homework for students to work on letters missed as well as new letters presented in this lesson.
Students should spend at least 15 minutes each day on this on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and be prepared for better copying on Monday.		
9	Mon 6 April	(1) Sending practice on groups learned. (2) Receiving practice 2 minutes on groups at 20 wpm. (3) Receiving practice 2 minutes on groups at 15 wpm with noise and QRM. (4) Discussion: listening to fast code with items repeating to get a good copy. (5) New letters 9 Z H 3 8
10	Tue 7 April	(1) Receiving practice on groups at 20 wpm. Play the recording, grade it. And have the students re-listen to it at 20 wpm. Then cover up the answer key and have the students copy the same drill. (2) Discussion: (3) New letters B ? 4 2
11	Thu 9 April	(1) Sending practice of groups containing all letters learned. (15 minutes) (2) Receiving practice: students copy the exact same groups they practiced sending. (15 minutes) (3) Discussion: (15 minutes) (4) New letters: 7 C 1 D (5) Practice sending new letters (6) Receiving practice on new letters learned in groups Homework: 25 groups at 20 wpm. Students copy.

12	Mon 13 Apr	(1) Go over homework copy. Have students practice sending the groups (2) Replay homework and have students copy groups again. (3) New letters: 6 X (4) Discussion: POWER POINT PRESENTATION: Operating on the air. **(Have students print out the operating guide and bring it to the next few classes)**. - Calling CQ - Answering a CQ - The first exchange: RST, QTH, Name - Second exchange: Rig, antenna, WX, age, how long a ham. (5) Drill on new letters learned in words and call signs
13	Tue14 Apr	(1) Play CQ call at 25 wpm 2x3. Keep playing until students figure out the call sign. (2) Play first exchange sample QSO 15 wpm with noise and QRM. Keep playing until students copy the information (3) Discussion: What we will be doing for the next couple of weeks: practice QSOs TO GET YOU READY TO OPERATE ON THE AIR. (4) Copy CQ call at 20 wpm (use X and 6 in the call) Homework: CQ call and first exchange at 25 wpm
14	Mon 20 Apr	(1) Play CQ call at 25 wpm 2x3. Keep playing until students figure out the call sign. (2) Go over typical QSO format. Students work practice QSOs (3) Students practice calling CQ using various student call signs. (4) Students send plain text along with the computer at 10 wpm.

15	Tue 21 April	(1) Play CQ call at 20 wpm 2x3. Keep playing until students figure out the call sign (have a slash bar in the call sign). (2) Students work practice QSOs using their own call sign. (3) Discussion: Creating a CW conversation sheet. Assignment: have students create their own CW conversation sheet.
16	Thu 22 Apr	(1) Play recording of real on air QSO. (Use a slower speed one.) Repeat until students copy it. (2) Homework: Students record a QSO on their devices and copy it bring it to class on Monday. (3) Students work practice QSOs
17	Mon 27 Apr	(1) Go over QSO copy homework (2) **Code proficiency test 10 wpm** (see footnote below)** (3) CQ call and first exchange at 20 wpm. Repeat it until students copy the essentials. (4) Sending practice: Students practice sending the material they just copied previously.
18	Tue 28 Apr	(1) KFS/KPH band slip at 25 WPM. Repeat it until students copy all of the information. (2) Practice QSOs (3) Discussion: Night of Nights on 12 July. **(Hand out frequency and activity list. Point out Amateur Radio contact frequencies for K6KPH.)** (4) Sending practice: Students send CQ call and first exchange info. Three different examples. (5) Play CQ call and first exchange at 20 wpm. Repeat it until students copy all of the information. (This will be the second example used in #4 above.
19	Thu 30 Apr	(1) Second exchange of QSO at 20 wpm (about 40 words). Repeated until students copy the information. (2) Three different CQ calls at 30 wpm. Use some DX calls. (for the last one send “up”. (explain what that means later). (3) Discussion: Working DX pileups: - Working “split” - Learn to LISTEN before you get on the key.

****Class Session #17**: At this time other students who already know CW operation may join the class to improve their operating and copying skills. In order to do this they must pass the 10 wpm code test.

End of Addendum