



The Brandon Amateur Radio Society Newsletter  
Over 43 years of service to the Brandon Area  
Brandon, Florida USA

## Brandon Amateur Radio Society

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Dana Perrin  
KM4DTJ

**Vice President**  
Ron Perrett  
K4FZU

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**Director**  
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### Newsletter Staff

**Editor (Layout/News)**  
Scott Irwin (W8UFD)

**Proofreader**  
Nancy Lessard (KM4WMD)

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## Mobile Amateur Radio Vehicle (MARV) Update: It Has Moved!

Ron Perrett (K4FZU)

On Saturday, November 7, MARV, properly insured, registered, and sporting it's new tag, was released from captivity and driven to the Operation Team's next-stage conversion area...Dick Hoff's property. Driver James Stock, assisted by Dana Perrin and Ron Perrett facilitated the operation.

The previous day saw Jim Smith, Jim Moorehead, and Dave Welty performing hard work moving items around in Dick's back yard to prepare the parking area. Many Thanks to all!



James Stocks (KK4CWD) and Ron Perrett (K4FZU)



Dick Hoff (AA5NT) guiding MARV through a tight space.



Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ) and Dick Hoff (AA5NT) putting MARV to bed.



Photos by Ron Perrett (K4FZU)

Dick Hoff (AA5NT) receives the keys from Ron Perrett (K4FZU)



## November Meeting Information

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

Join us at 7:30 PM on November 19 for a business meeting at which we will elect officers for 2021.

*Our bylaws state that a motion must be approved by a simple majority of those voting members present. There is no quorum requirement for this vote. Since we are not meeting in*

*person, members must be on their own Zoom connection to participate in the vote. No proxy votes or Zoom Chat votes are permitted.*

After the meeting there will be a technical program.

If you have program ideas or topics you would like covered please reach out to Ron Perrett (K4FZU).

**Next Meeting**

**November 19, 2020**

**7:30 PM**

This meeting is virtual.

Register [here](#).

Tell a Friend!

### Inside this issue:

MARV Update 1

From The President 2

License Exam Report 3

SS American Victory 3

Hamfests & More 4

Help tell the club's story...YOUR story! Submit an article today.

### From The President's Desk

*Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)*

As you may know, our Van was recently insured, registered, re-titled, and licensed thanks to Ron Perret and his team: Fred Hendershot and Kelly Anderson. Great work!

I have just returned from a very significant event for our Club. This morning (11/07/20), the BARS Van was successfully moved from the Winthrop Village storage location to Dick Hoff's property. We thank Ron Perrett for getting the Van up and running, Jim Stocks for driving the Van, and Dick Hoff for receiving the Van and ensuring its safe relocation to a pad on his property. This is a major milestone for BARS, a process which started this past May. It was a real team effort and I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this possible all along the way.

We will now start the process of seat removal and re-purposing of the Van. Skip Argoe and Rodney Biddle are the Co-chairs of the Seat Removal Team, and Dick Hoff is the Team Leader for the Operations Team. I'm sure we will hear updates on their work. If you want to help in any way, please contact either Skip or Dick. We will also need volunteers with pick up trucks who can relocate the removed seats from Dick Hoff's property to a special storage location at Art

Lusk's property. As an aside, Jeffrey Dick and I composed and sent a letter thanking John Sullivan, Founder of Winthrop Village, for his generosity in allowing BARS to store the Van on his property for the past 5 months without charge.

We still need to fill two very important Van Leadership positions: Co-Chair for Fundraising and Team Leader for the Community Activities Team. The work of these individuals will be critical to the success of the Van (MARV) in 2021 and beyond. Please let me know if you would be interested in one of these positions or if you would like further information.

Our Club has a very unique and novel opportunity! During December, we will have the chance to tour the SS American Victory in Tampa. Our Club has been invited to consider becoming a caretaker for one room on the ship located near the radio room. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Club to provide a service to the community (as stated in our articles, bylaws, and web page). It also provides for the the preservation of the history of radio communications. This history is, in fact, an important part of OUR history as radio amateurs. I invite you to consider this as we learn more. I hope to see you on one of the tour dates! By the way, there is no charge for the tour.

At the request of several of our members, we will be setting up a PayPal account for BARS. I thank Jim Moorehead and JR Calvert for working towards making this a reality in 2020. We are also looking into establishing our Corporation in the Amazon Smiles program. We will keep you updated.

At our November membership meeting, we will vote on a slate of Officers and a Director for 2021. This is a critical Club event and I encourage all members to participate and vote. In this regard, you have a voice in helping to shape the future of our Club.

Finally, as I write this and look at the CDC website, it's clear that the COVID-19 virus will likely be around for a while. For the foreseeable future, we will continue with Zoom virtual meetings and I for one will still be very cautious and will continue to follow the guidelines for social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing. Oh, and don't forget to get your Influenza vaccine! Stay Safe Out There!

*Great things...are never done by one person, they're done by a team of people.*

*- Steve Jobs  
Founder of Apple Computers*



**I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this possible all along the way.**

## TAMPA BAY HAMFEST—DECEMBER 11-12, 2020

The Tampa Bay Hamfest is on, but with some changes. The event will be outside only. Masks and physical distancing are required. There will be a 10 foot space between each tailgate space, and vendors will be located on each side of the Carriage House. There are no forums, however ARRL officials will be present and testing will be held. For more information about the event visit the [event website](#). **The event is in need of volunteers. To volunteer for a 2 hour slot contact [Fed Hendershot \(N3BUL\)](#).**

## Tour the S.S. American Victory Ship

Ron Perrett ([K4FZU](#))

Back in February we had an in-process field trip tour scheduled for our BARS members to tour the SS American Victory Ship here in the Port of Tampa. Well... Mr. Covid Virus changed all that as you know.

The proposal is still alive, and I need to know who would still be interested. The February sign-up sheet had 20 names on it, which is too large for only one tour, so the Ship's Boson is offering the following dates to accommodate and spread out our team. Perhaps the mid week offering suits some of you better:

December 2 (Wednesday)  
December 5 (Saturday)  
December 9 (Wednesday)  
December 12 (Saturday)

If you would like to be part of the Free-to-BARS-Members event, I **MUST** hear from you by [e-mail](#) to schedule and secure your spot (first-come-first-serve).

Just for truth in advertising, recall that the club meeting announcement back in February, included the proposal that BARS (as a club) adopt one of the Officer's Cabin areas to maintain it. Think of those adopt-a-road segment signs you see along the highway from various groups. The ship is people and cash worthy in every way, so the proposal means a lot for support and recognition. Also recall, that I am proposing in like manner to the other major clubs in our area. My goal is that Tampa Bay area Hams identify with and support the Officers Deck. My pitch and offer is to BARS first.

### SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

Since 1999, the annual SKYWARN Recognition Day celebrates the long relationship between the amateur community and the National Weather Service program.

Normally each year, radio amateurs participate from home and from National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices with the goal of making contact with as many offices as possible. However, this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, participation from NWS forecast offices will be minimal at best. The focus will shift to contacting as many SKYWARN trained spotters as possible during the event.

Operators are encouraged to exchange their name, QTH, SRD number, and current weather conditions with other participants. Sign up and get more information at the event website.

[SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020](#) will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC December 5.

## Upcoming Club Events

- > November 18, 2020  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online.  
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > November 19, 2020  
BARS Club Meeting  
7:30 PM Online.  
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all monthly meetings).
- > November 25, 2020  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online.  
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > December 2, 2020  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online.  
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > December 9, 2020  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online.  
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > Mondays, 8 PM ET  
VHF Net (147.165 MHz)
- > Tuesdays, 7 PM ET  
6 Meter Roundtable  
(50.200 MHz USB)
- > Tuesdays, 8 PM ET  
10 Meter Roundtable  
(28.365 MHz USB)
- > Fridays, 7 PM ET  
80 Meter Roundtable  
(3.830 MHz LSB)

## License Exams Keep Running...and YOU Can Help

Bill Johnson ([WJ4G](#))

Our last test session for 2020, held on November 7th at [Arise Church](#) at [Brandon](#), yielded 7 Technician, 1 General, and 1 Extra licenses, bringing our 2020 totals to 36 Technicians, 6 Generals and 3 Extras. Thank you all team members who braved the Coronavirus Pandemic and selflessly gave of themselves to complete 2020 successfully and Coronavirus free.

The 2021 test schedule resumes in February. Mark your calendars with the following dates:

February 6  
March 6  
May 1  
June 5  
August 7  
October 2  
November 6



Sessions start at 11:00 AM (team should arrive at 10:45 AM). Candidates must call Bill Johnson (813-928-8697 or [moo.bill@verizon.net](mailto:moo.bill@verizon.net))

to pre-register. For the safety of the volunteer examiners and candidates, masks are required (no exceptions).

*A Note From The Editor:*

This program is made possible by the support of club members who donate their time and resources. There are two ways to do so:

1. Support the team by volunteering on-site to validate paperwork, collect fees, and provide other exam support (you cannot grade exams).
2. [Become an ARRL Volunteer Examiner](#) by reviewing the [Volunteer Examiner Manual](#) and completing an [application/45 question open book review](#).

If you would like to help please contact Bill Johnson.

*The Brandon Amateur Radio Society (BARS) has been serving Brandon, Valrico, Mango, Seffner, Palm River, Gibsonton, Riverview, and the East Tampa area for over 43 years providing public service and emergency preparedness communications as well as license classes and radio operator training programs.*

## Our Repeaters

147.165 MHz (+ offset, 136.5 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM) - N4DLW-R Echolink Node  
443.500 MHz (+ Offset, 127.3 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM, C4FM) - N4DLW/R Wires X



Thank you to the members and staff of Arise for their kindness  
In allowing BARS the use of their facility!



Brandon Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a registered Florida Non-Profit Corporation

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<http://www.brandonhamradio.org/>



<https://fb.me/brandonhamradio>



[bars.ham.biz@gmail.com](mailto:bars.ham.biz@gmail.com)



<https://twitter.com/brandonhamradio>

## BCI Communications Still Seeks Help

*Timothy Courtier (KBBAFS)*

Are you looking to use your ham radio (or other) skills to make some money?

BCI Communications has been a long time supporter of BARS through various activities such as providing a temporary home for our repeaters when we were asked to leave our previous site, providing business radios to help support communications for the Brandon Community Foundation

Fourth of July Parade, and allowing Hillsborough County ARES/RACES to use the W4BCI Repeater for it's weekly UHF Net.

They have full and part-time openings in their sales and service departments and will accept retirees. You can also join the W4BCI Amateur Radio Club if hired.

For more information call me at 813-628-4900 or send me an e-mail at [timothy@bcicomm.com](mailto:timothy@bcicomm.com).



## Hamfests & Coventions

12/11/2020 - 12/12/2020  
Tampa Bay Hamfest, ARRL Florida State Convention  
Plant City, FL  
Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council  
[More Information](#)

**CANCELLED** - 02/11/2020 - 02/14/2020  
Orlando Hamcation  
Orlando, FL  
[More Information](#)

02/26/2021 - 02/27/2021  
7th Annual TECHCON - ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Conference  
Winter Haven, FL  
ARRL West Central Florida Section  
[More information](#)

*Note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak some hamfests and conventions may be cancelled or have specific rules/regulations in place. Please check with the sponsoring organization for status.*



Submit your articles & photos for the next edition of *The Antenna* by December 07, 2020!

Send electronic submissions to  
w8ufo (at) arrl (dot) net