



Brandon Amateur Radio Society Newsletter  
Over 44 years of service to the Brandon Area  
Brandon, Florida USA

**Brandon Amateur  
Radio Society**

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NS4M

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K4FZU

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**BARS has PayPal...and You Can Support While You Shop!**

Wayne Thomas (KM7WDT)

The wait is over as BARS now has a PayPal account! Those of you who wish to donate to BARS general fund, van fund or just pay annual dues can do it in two ways. Note: Even though we are a 501(c)(3) organization, PayPal fees (2.2%+\$0.30) apply to each payment we receive, so we ask that you please consider this when donating.

**No PayPal account? Use our website and pay with a debit/credit card!**

1. Go to <http://www.brandonhamradio.org/>
2. Scroll down to "Club Membership." It will be in the lower right corner of the page.

3. Click on the yellow "Donate" button.
4. Select the amount you wish to donate or enter another amount.
5. Click on the "Donate with a Debit or Credit Card."
6. Verify the amount and enter the requested information. Please "write a note" to indicate what you are donating or paying for.
7. Click on the "Donate Now" button.
4. Enter the amount you wish to pay.
5. Enter a description in the text box below the dollar amount. Be specific so the treasurer can appropriately classify the payment.
6. Click on the Continue button.

Regardless of how you choose to donate or pay your dues, we thank you for supporting the club's mission through your experience, time, and finances.

**We are also on Amazon Smile!** If you are an Amazon shopper you can support BARS while you shop. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and follow the instructions. Watch this space and your e-mail for more information.

**Using Your Paypal Account**

1. Log in to your [PayPal](#) account.
2. Click on the "Send" button.
3. Click enter bars.ham.biz@gmail.com in the send money text box and click the next button.

**BARS COVID-19 Response**

We care about the health & safety of our members. All in-person club events, except for license exams, are suspended. Events that can be will be virtual. We urge members to follow CDC guidelines, local guidelines, and COVID-19 related laws when attending events.

**January Meeting Details**

Ron Perrett (K4FZU)

The January 21 meeting will be virtual because Golden Corral is unable to accept reservations for a group of our size due to COVID-19 space requirements.

At the business meeting attendees will receive an update on club initiatives/actions. Stay for the technical program where we will view a 20 minute video

about why coax is Z=50 and participate in a discussion.

If you have program ideas please contact me.

**Orlando HamCation is Virtual!**

Mark your calendars for February 11-13, 2021 and click [here](#) for the webinar schedule & information on prize tickets.

**Next Meeting**

**January 21, 2021**

**7:30 PM**

This meeting is virtual.

Register [here](#).

Tell a Friend!

**Inside this issue:**

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



The goals for BARS this year include getting MARV substantially completed and...

It was especially memorable as it was my birthday!

### From The President's Desk

Steve Maslin (NS4M)

Hello everyone! Welcome to 2021! I sincerely hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year celebration.

As I write this, the country is experiencing a bit of turmoil surrounding the transition of power from President Trump to President-Elect Biden. Being the new President of BARS, I am thankful to the outgoing officers for providing me an easy transition to my new role and for the ongoing support I will receive from the outgoing President, Dana Perrin. A new President, whether it's of an organization or even a country, undoubtedly brings uncertainty and change, but it should also bring hope.

For BARS, the uncertainty is a new president. One that has not been part of your organization for a long time as most people who run for an organization's office would normally be. For BARS, the change may be some changes in how we conduct meetings, changes to bylaws, or even changes on how we hold in-person meetings once we can safely get back to doing that.

For BARS, the hope is to continue providing service to the members, the community, and beyond. The hope is also to grow the membership, and keep everyone healthy as much as possible.

The goals for BARS this year include getting MARV substantially completed and obtain a replace-

ment VHF repeater. The VHF repeater has had issues for a while and band-aids have been used to keep it running, but the time has come to replace it. We are working diligently to get the best price for the best equipment to ensure longevity. More information will be coming about this once we have all the details.

Thank you for welcoming me into the organization and into the office of President. Lets have a great year!

73 for now. Steve, NS4M

Stay connected with Hillsborough County ARES/RACES

Click on the link above to visit their website.

Check out their e-mail list [here](#).

Join the Weekly UHF Net.

444.225 MHz, + Offset, 146.2 Hz PL

### Member Perspective: Upgrading & Volunteering

Avi Zamites (NIKSP)

My wife, Marichu (NICHX) upgraded to General on December 12, 2020 at the Hamfest in Plant City. She has worked 2 countries so far on 20 meters, but enjoys EchoLink QSOs with fellow Amateur Operators in the Philippines. For some reason, an Android app seems simpler to her than our ICOM 7300, hi hi!

I also took the element 6 exam and received my commercial T license that day. It was especially memorable as it was my birthday!

When I retire in a year or so, NICHX and I plan on volunteering a little time on the SS American Victory. We met Ron Perrett (K4FZU) on the ship and got a quick overview of the radio room of KKUI.

I can't wait for the next cruise!

73 from NIKSP & NICHX



Left: Avi Zamites (N1KSP) at the KKUI radio console. Above, Avi and his wife Marichu (N1CHX) on the SS American Victory. Photos by Avi Zamites

Winter 2021 West Central Florida ARES Meeting: January 16, 2020 @ 2 PM ET

Click [here](#) for full details & login information.

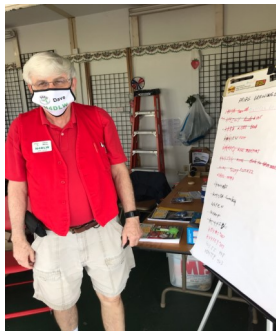
### WANTED: SECRETARY

The secretary creates minutes of all BARS membership/board meetings, is on the officer team, keeps official club records, and is the point of contact for those outside of the organization. If interested please contact Steve Maslin (NS4M).

## Members On the the Move: Tampa Bay Hamfest



Ken Watts (WAANSV) mans the Hillsborough County ARES/RACES booth. Photo by Janet Watts (KB4PUM)



Dave Welty (N4DLW) handling the raffle. Photo by Janet Watts (KB4PUM)



A little rain did not stop Bill Johnson (WJ4G) from manning the BARS booth. Photo by Janet Watts (KB4PUM)

## QSO Today Virtual Ham Radio Expo Slated for March

### QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Press Release

QSO Today host Eric Guth (4ZIUG) announced that the next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will commence on March 13-14, 2021, over a period of 48 hours. The first QSO Today Expo was a great success with over 16,000 attendees and the March 2021 event is anticipated to be even larger. The QSO Today team has been working hard to make this upcoming Expo even better with new speakers, panel discussions, kit building workshops, and much more. Anyone can attend from their home or office. Early Bird Tickets are just \$10 (to help cover the cost of this event, \$12.50 at the "door") and include entry for the Live 2 day period as well as the 30-day on-demand period). Registration can be found [here](#).

Eric and his team have put together a world-class line-up of 60+ speakers to address this conference from the virtual Expo's auditorium. ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® in the United States, is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Flexradio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor, and Gold sponsors as of this time include Elecraft, RFinder, and CSI.

At the Expo, amateur radio operators will be able to:

- Learn from a packed line-up of renowned ham radio speakers such as Bob Alphin, [K4UEE](#), on "My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted"; Michael Foerster, [W0IH](#), on "Using the Arduino In Your Shack"; and Ron Jones, [K7RJ](#), on "3D Printer Basics".
- Take part in Live virtual kit building workshops. Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to you in time for the Expo so you can participate and build from the convenience of your home.
- Walkthrough the virtual exhibit hall filled with popular amateur radio suppliers. Watch live product demos of the latest equipment. New video technology will be used to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.
- Prior to the Expo, take advantage of our new speaker calendar technology to download speaker times in your local time zones to your Google or Outlook calendar.

You'll then have a complete schedule of the sessions you want to join.

- Return over the next 30 days to listen to speakers you missed during the Live period, explore, and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

"While attendance is expected from traditional in-person convention "goers" not traveling due to COVID-19, the virtual Expo is a great opportunity for those that don't typically attend in-person events - the vast majority of amateur radio operators. At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences and 40% don't attend state or local events - mostly because of distance or because of the thousands of dollars typically spent on travel and lodging," said Eric, 4ZIUG.

"The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn. Expect to bump into friends and well known experts and personalities from throughout our worldwide ham radio community!" said Bob Inderbitzen, [N4IR](#), ARRL Product Development Manager

For more information, click [here](#).



**Eric and his team have put together a world-class line-up of 60+ speakers.**

## Upcoming Club Events

- > January 20, 2021  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > January 21, 2021  
BARS Club Meeting  
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all monthly meetings).
- > January 27, 2021  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > February 3, 2021  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > February 10, 2021  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > February 17, 2021  
Virtual Coffee Hour  
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > February 18, 2021  
BARS Club Meeting  
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all monthly meetings).
- > 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)

*Brandon Amateur Radio Society (BARS) has been serving Brandon, Valrico, Mango, Seffner, Palm River, Gibsonton, Riverview, and the East Tampa area for over 44 years providing public service and emergency preparedness communications, license classes, license exams, and radio operator training programs.*

**It is easy to help us financially or pay your dues...click on the graphic below!**



## 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 your kindness in allowing BARS the use of their facility!

## 2021 Dayton Hamvention Cancelled

*2021 Dayton Hamvention Executive Committee*

Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021. Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention.

Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors.

Those who had their tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces deferred last year will be deferred again. Those who purchased 2021 tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces will also be deferred. If you desire a refund instead please email [tickets@hamvention.org](mailto:tickets@hamvention.org) and we will contact you.

Stay tuned for information about a QSO party for the 2021 Hamvention weekend. We are looking forward to the 2022 Hamvention!!!



## Hamfests & Conventions

**CANCELLED** - 01/23/2021

DeSoto County Hamfest  
Arcadia, FL

[More Information](#)

**VIRTUAL** - 02/11/2021 - 02/14/2021

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](#)

03/06/2021 - Charlotte County Hamfest

Location: Punta Gorda, FL

[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.*

Brandon Amateur  
Radio Society



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

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



<https://fb.me/brandonhamradio>



[Donate / Pay Dues](#)



<https://twitter.com/brandonhamradio>



Submit your articles & photos for the next edition of *The Antenna* by February 08, 2021!

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