

The Antenna

Brandon Amateur Radio Society



Field Day Is Just Around The Corner

Again this June, members of the Brandon Amateur Radio Society will join some forty thousand other Hams across North America and Canada in the single most popular on-the-air-event conducted in the U.S.

Field Day is always conducted on the last full weekend in June. This year that will fall on June 26th and 27th.



Normally we would be setting up our operating activity in the park in order to practice our emergency response capabilities. But like last year, this year's Field Day is again being overshadowed by Covid. As a result we will be operating from our homes using the club's call sign K4TN.

Participants may operate using CW, phone or one of the digital modes. The operating schedule will be broken down into hourly shifts for the three modes. A sign-up list will be made available to everyone around the second week of June allowing you to reserve the shifts you would like to operate in the mode of your choice.

The ARRL is again waiving the restriction concerning Class D (Home stations) allowing them to work one another for contact credit this year. However this year they are limiting the power output to 150 Watts PEP. (Photo - Ron Perrett and Art Powers operating the CW and phone stations at Field Day)



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NS4M

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K4FZU

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Jim Smith (K4PPK)

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Nancy Lessard (KM4WMD)

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Field Day (Continued)

So start looking for information about our Field Day around the first of June. That initial email will be followed shortly by the operating sign-up document and additional information allowing you to fully participate with the club this Field Day.

The sign-up sheet is on a first come first served basis so sign-up quickly to improving your chances of operating the mode you want at the time you choose.

(Photo - Rod Clark and a young visitor to the GOTA station)



New York Diner Is Open!

Yes, the Tuesday morning breakfast is back on! We will meet at 8:30 am just like in the good ol' days. Come on in, set a spell, and chow down. Bring your radio topics/questions for discussion.

Below (left to right) are: Dick Hoff, Jim Smith, Dana Perrin, and Ron Perrett. We thank our server Laura, for the great photo!



Club Activity

Two meter net – every Monday at 8PM on 147.165 MHz FM

Six meter roundtable– every Tuesday at 7PM on 50.200 MHz USB

Virtual Coffee Hour – every Wednesday at 7:30PM on Zoom

BARS Business Meeting – third Thursday of each month at 7:30PM on Zoom

Eighty meter roundtable– every Friday at 7PM on or near 3.830 MHz LSB

May/June DX

Svalbard

May 1 - May 9

Minami Torishima

May - June

St Kitts & Nevis

June 12 - July 10

St Eustatius

June 22 - June 28

St Pierre & Miquelon

June 29 - July 13

For the full DX story check out this web site:

<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

Upcoming Monthly Club Meetings

May 20, 2021

7:30 PM

This meeting will be virtual.

June 17, 2021

7:30 PM

This meeting will be virtual.

Presidential Chatter

In this edition of Presidential Chatter, I want to start out with another round of shoutout and kudos. This time we are going to start with Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ). At our last meeting, it was announced that Dana has volunteered to work with Jim Smith (K4PPK) to continue the tradition of publishing the Antenna Newsletter for the remainder of the year. That is great news!

Hopefully we can convince one or both of them to continue next year! I will remain hopeful....

Next I want to send a shoutout to Vice-President, Ron Perrett (K4FZU), on his ability to continue to fill the Technical Presentation timeslot at every monthly meeting with a quality speaker. Lastly, a shoutout to Jim Moorehead (WF4AC) on his well-done presentation at the last meeting in that technical presentation timeslot. It's not easy to put together a presentation, then also present it, all while making it interesting and fun to watch.

In other news, I would like to invite everyone to "stop by" the BARS Virtual Coffee Hour. A completely optional meetup that occurs on Wednesday nights from 7:30pm to about 8:30pm.-9:00pm. It's a great friendly opportunity to just chat with other members about whatever topics people want to bring up.

There have been conversations about radios, politics, and all kinds of other topics. All friendly conversation of course. There is no agenda, no structure, just conversation. Feel free to stop by for just a few minutes or for the entire time, whatever you like. Bring your favorite "coffee" to drink as well if you wish. Register at this link to receive the meeting information.

<https://tinyurl.com/BARSCoffee>

73's!

Steve, NS4M

Amazon "Smiles" on BARS

Do you shop at Amazon? Many of us do. Did you know your shopping can provide the club cash benefits? Now that BARS is incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization, Amazon will donate .05 percent of your purchases on selected items directly to us at no cost to you. Please take a look at the website below for additional information and consider signing up for the program. And yes there is an App for that too.



<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

Ham Radio Websites Worth Exploring

ARRL - Useful educational, technical and operational links

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

QRZ.com - Call sign lookup service and a general-interest ham radio portal

<https://www.qrz.com/>

AMSAT - Amateur satellites information website

<https://www.amsat.org/>

eHam.net - News, articles, equipment swap-and-shop, product reviews, and mailing lists

<https://www.eham.net/>

The BARS Van

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society acquired an eighteen passenger van in late October 2020. It was a generous gift from Martin Jordan (KB1MJ). Since then we have registered and titled it with the state and insured it. Our plan is to convert it from a passenger van into a mobile vehicle capable of providing BARS the ability to promote our club, support emergency events, train, or just about anything else amateur radio related.

The transfiguration from the passenger van to the radio van started with the removal of all the seats making way for a couple of separate operating positions complete with radios, tables, chairs and other supporting accessories.

Of course the conversion doesn't just happen. It has required a good deal of sweat equity from club members. So far we have removed the seats and the flooring and are currently in the process of replacing the floor. We then can begin working on the fun part of designing and building out the radio operating positions. Help on the project is always needed. The next planned workday is Saturday May 1. So if you would like to volunteer and join those currently working on the project, please contact Dick Hoff (972-672-5110).

Contributing their labor on April 17 were, Dick (AA5NT), Skip (KD4IOF), Dan (Skip's Son-in-law), Jim (KK4CWO), Tim (KB8AFS) and Rodney (KX4HD)



American Victory Ship Activities

On Sunday, April 19th, Ron Perrett, Martin Jordan, and Dana Perrin met aboard the SS American Victory for renovation activity. On behalf of BARS, we have been assigned to renovate the First Officer's Quarters, which by the way, is only a few steps down the hallway from the ship's radio rooms. On a previous visit, Martin Jordan put together an overall plan which we have begun to execute. All the bedding has been removed and washed. The Officer's Deck Jacket has been washed. On this visit, we cleaned all the oil and grime off the walls in preparation for future painting. We plan to clean the ceiling at our next visit. After that, the walls and ceiling will be painted. We have decided to work only for a few hours each time. So far, it has been a lot of fun. We already see some improvement! There's a lot more work to be done if other club members would like to join in. If so, please contact Ron Perrett, K4FZU.

"Batten Down the Hatches!
Damn the torpedoes!
Full speed ahead!"



The SS American Victory



Pictured above, Left to Right:
Ron Perrett, Martin Jordan,
and Dana Perrin



The Radio Room aboard the SS American Victory

Do you know what this is?



Have a try at these from the FCC question pool.

Technician Class License:

Which amateur radio stations may make contact with an amateur radio station on the International Space Station (ISS) using 2 meter and 70 cm band frequencies?

- A. Only members of amateur radio clubs at NASA facilities**
- B. Any amateur holding a Technician or higher-class license**
- C. Only the astronaut's family members who are hams**
- D. Contacts with the ISS are not permitted on amateur radio frequencies**

General Class License:

What is the maximum height above ground to which an antenna structure may be erected without requiring notification to the FAA and registration with the FCC, provided it is not at or near a public use airport?

- A. 50 feet**
- B. 100 feet**
- C. 200 feet**
- D. 300 feet**

Extra Class License:

Which of the following constitutes a spurious emission?

- A. An amateur station transmission made without the proper call sign identification**
- B. A signal transmitted to prevent its detection by any station other than the intended recipient**
- C. Any transmitted signal that unintentionally interferes with another licensed radio station**
- D. An emission outside the signal's necessary bandwidth that can be reduced or eliminated without affecting the information transmitted**

Quiz Answers

Pictured is the radio tower located at the fire station on Brandon Blvd. across the street from the Nativity Catholic Church in Brandon. Our "two meter" repeater is located at the site and the BARS antenna is the one at the top right. It is about 175 feet above ground level.

License test questions

Question 1 - B

Question 2 - C

Question 3 - D

A Word From The Editor

Sometime it pays to "beat the sheep" a little. In the last issue of the Antenna's "A Word From The Editor" I beat the sheep in hopes of getting someone to step up and volunteer to serve the club as the editor of the newsletter. And it worked, --"sort of"--. Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ) offered to serve as a Co-editor if I would serve as the other half of the team. Well of course I accepted such a kind offer from Dana. He has served us well already as club president and as the newsletter editor. During his tenure as President he was able to incorporate the club, something we had talked about for years. While talk is cheap Dana got it done. And did I mention he has already served as the Antenna editor? So welcome Dana and thank you for stepping up.

While I am very pleased to have Dana volunteer, I was hoping that we would get some "new blood" to volunteer to serve the club. It is true we do have two first time club officers this year. Our thanks goes to both Steve (President) and Wayne (Treasurer) for their service to us all. However prior to this year we have been pretty much been riding the same tired old plow horses for a long time. So the next time someone from the club asks you to serve in some capacity, I hope you give it thoughtful consideration.

One project that comes to mind is our club's "van project". If your talents could be of help in the build-out of the van or you just happen to be a kind hearted journeyman, please contact Dick Hoff (972-672-5110).

73 and I hope to see you on the radio
Jim (K4PPK)

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

BARS Website

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

Facebook

<https://fb.me/brandonhamradio>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/brandonhamradio>