

# THE ANTENNA

## BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



April—May 2022

### News Highlights!

#### Hillsborough ARES/RACES Training and Information Net each Thursday at 7:30 pm

Hillsborough County ARES/RACES provides emergency communications in the Tampa Bay area during a critical event. Hurricane Season begins June 1st. Are you prepared? Please join us for our weekly Hillsborough ARES/RACES Information and Training Net on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm on the W4BCI repeater in Tampa. Receive: 444.225 MHz, Transmit: 449.225 MHz, +5 MHz offset, PL tone 146.2 Hz. We feature info on ARES activities and upcoming EdVantage training classes. All check-ins are welcome!

In February the BARS VHF repeater went down and a new one was purchased

Thanks to Tony W4TAS and Dave N4DLW for working on getting the replacement up and running.

Hillsborough ARES is offered a tech class on May 14th and 28th at the PSOC Shelter Radio Operator Training, Conducted by Zoom meeting on 21 May 2022

Hillsborough County ARES/RACES provides emergency communications in the Tampa

#### Officers of the Society

*President Steve Maslin NS4M*

*Vice President Ron Perrett  
K4FZU*

*Treasurer Wayne Thomas  
KM7WDT*

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The antenna is published Bi-Monthly



## Dayton 2022 by Janet Watts

The 70th Dayton Hamvention was held on May 20 -22 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. Ken WA4NSV and Janet KB4PUM drove up and made it the middle of a 10 day vacation. Dave N4DLW and Bill N4NOA drove to Knoxville and picked up Scott W8UFO. With 5 buildings of new equipment and organizations of all kinds dealing with ham radio, outdoor flea market, and 51 forums to choose from, we usually went our separate ways but met up now and then and were able to get the group picture that Bill sent to the club.

This event is a great opportunity to look over, handle, and ask questions about what is on your shopping list. Vendors are also happy to answer questions and work over problems you may have with some of your gear at home.

We all attended the forum on AARL ARES. It was interesting to hear the circumstances that three section managers have to deal with in their areas of the country. Of course one was from Florida. At the AARL Membership Forum, Bill met Maria Somma AB1FM who is the VEC Manager. She wants a picture of the novice who will be testing for technician at the BARS next testing session. Bill also attended Amateur Radio and the Law, which dealt with estate planning, HOAS, and what the legal department of AARL is planning. Other forums some of us attended were DMR – The Technology and Infrastructure, Parks on the Air, Fast Scan ATV, and Lightning Protection for Ham Radio.



## Dayton Hamvention

It was great to see the effort in various areas to encourage the younger crowd to get interested in ham radio. Two forums dealt with this, AARL Youth Outreach and AARL Collegiate Forum. There was also an area for youth robotics and a booth for a 4H ham radio club. There were also a good number of kids with their dads (and some moms) checking it all out.



We all browsed the flea market, some more than others (watch out for the mud), some stood in line for the free hat, Ken got his radios tested by AARL for spurious emissions, some got new gear, some got new apparel with their callsign, and some really enjoyed the pork chop sandwich!

## Space Weather Update: Ron Perrette K4FZU

### Summer Field Day

Summer Field Day will be held Saturday through Sunday 25-26 June 2022, operators will be able to meet at Dick Hoff (AA5NT) QHT to operate out of MARV

### Estate Sale by Ron Perrett K4FZU

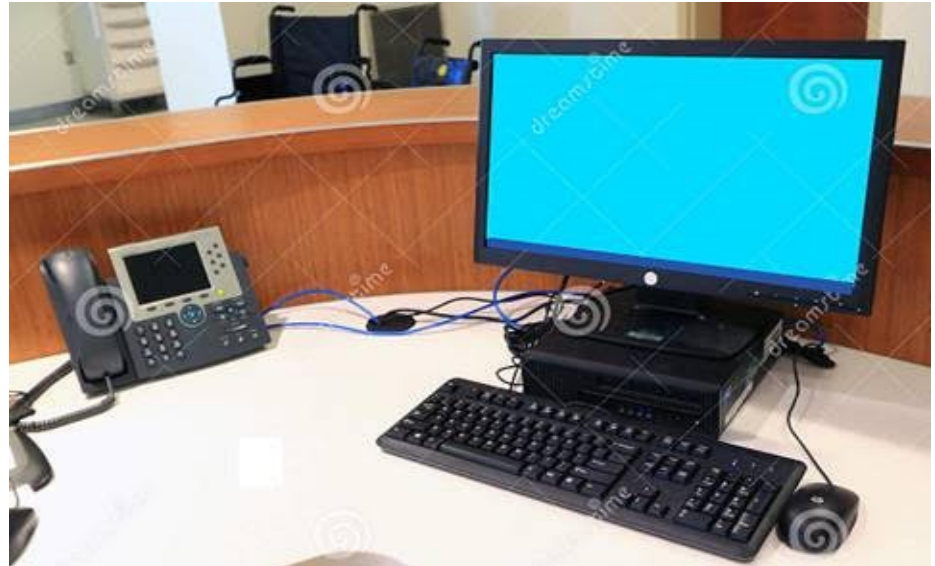
The BARS Team has been asked by N4RFN's XYL (Donna), to assist her in processing her deceased husband's Amateur Radio inventory. He passed away at the end of March. There are two (2) towers with antennas and his collection of Amateur Radio equipment. I am working with Donna to complete this task under the umbrella of BARS. We have been promised a yet to be determined club contribution for our community service efforts. Everything has been disconnected and inventoried, with Donna receiving a spread sheet of contents.

### EDvantage Class Signalink USB and Winlink class for Shelters was on 16 April 2022

A Zoom training class was conducted

Skip Argoe, KD4IOF, Hillsborough ARES/RACES AEC - Training

### New Member joined BARS: James Tyler, NQ9Q, Extra Class

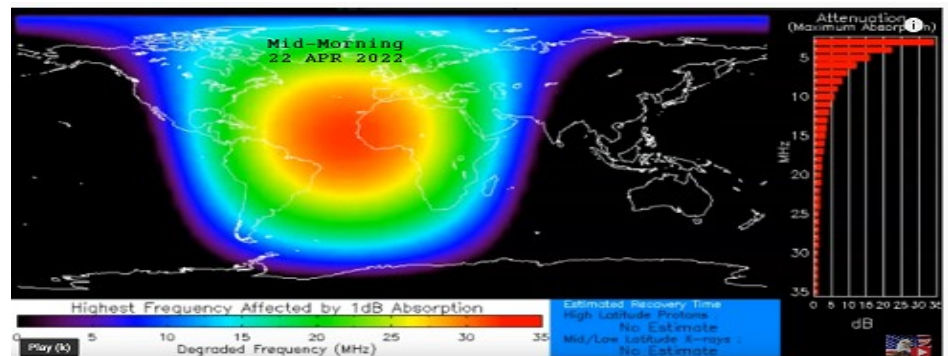


For space weather, flares and all, this is what the analysis's desktop looks like at The UK's Royal Observatory...

Looking in the back room. Something like a 12 x 12 matrix of server

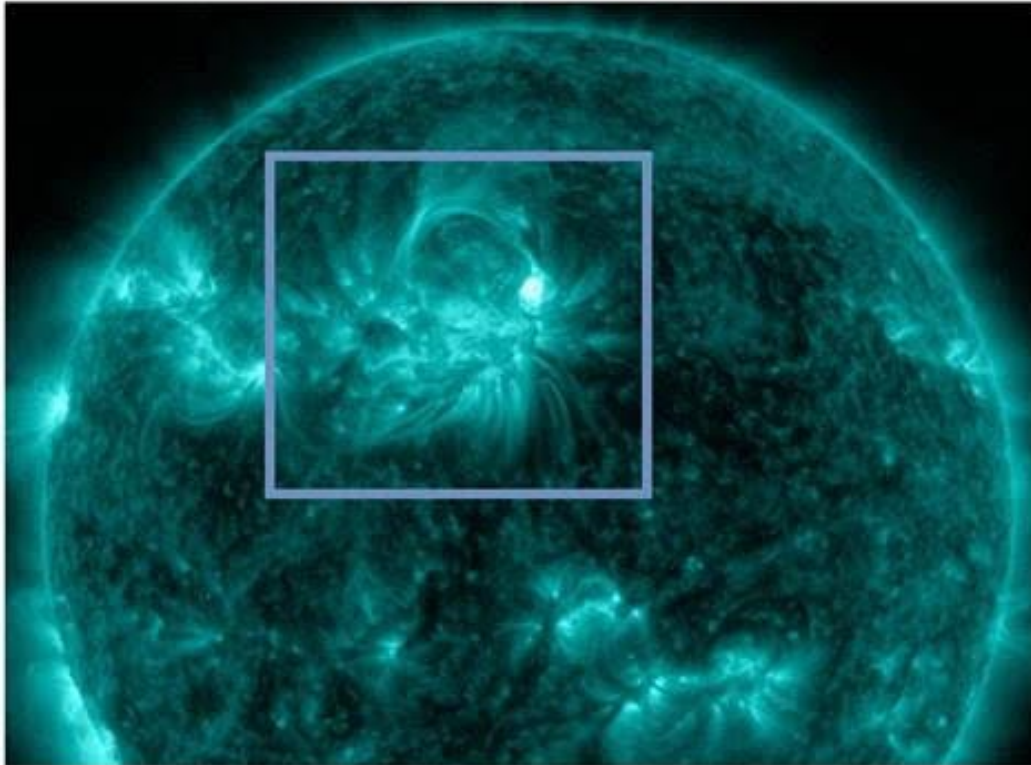


racks, each with 32 processing devices. Those tech's at the UK's Royal Society are well endowed for computing!



Thanks to a Polish Photographer, earlier today (our afternoon), The sunspots are Actually visible on the disk to the naked eye – WOW!

**ANOTHER M-CLASS SOLAR FLARE:** Sunspots AR2993-94 are crackling with M-class solar flares. Here is the latest recorded by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory:



The explosion, which peaked on **April 22nd at 1325 UTC**, registered M3.4 on the [Richter Scale of Solar Flares](#). A pulse of X-rays and UV radiation briefly ionized the top of Earth's atmosphere, causing a minor shortwave radio blackout [over the mid-Atlantic Ocean](#).

This morning one of several “M” class flares occurred and there were “C” class flares going off almost continuously all day. So there were X-Ray RF black-outs as a result... Here is the Morning event snapshot:

SPECTACULAR!!! WOW... Be Amazed! 73's Ron

## Thursday Bagels

We're BACK! Come ONE, Come ALL!

We have reactivated the BARS THURSDAY MORNING BAGELS event on Thursdays at 9:00 am! We're meeting at the same location as in the past:

Einstein Brothers Bagels

660 West Brandon Blvd

(North East Corner of Kings and 60)

JOIN US!



## BARS Name Tags

I found a way to get BARS name tags

<https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/brandoncart.html>

About \$20.25

Badge - \$13.50

Clip \$1.50

S&H - \$5.25

Having Bernie Huth's name on the example is a great legacy to a SK.

Great Ham and mentor!

## BARS: Breakfast at the New York Diner

We had 11 members gather for breakfast this morning. Great conversation. Delicious food. Join us every Tuesday morning at 8:30 in the New York Diner! Photos by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ



## **BARS VHF Repeater testing**

After weeks of procrastinating and gathering parts I have finally set up a test for the controller and repeater for the VHF repeater.

I will have to make new interconnecting cables for the controller to the repeater and will set all audio level to their final setting.

I am aiming for minimum adjustment after installation.

The VHF repeater will be the first to be set up and I hope to have it ready for installation in a couple of weeks.

The UHF repeater will follow in a week or so.

The setup will be similar but will use a different controller

Tony Stone W4TAS

## **Cribbage and Hearts at Starbucks**

We're Baaaack!!!w3e`c

Join in the fun Thursday afternoons at 1 pm in Starbucks at Winthrop. Photo by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ



## Jim Moorehead - WF4AC Ham Shack

Almost every "shack" setup is a reflection of what the ham is interested in, space available and equipment affordability. In my case it's phone rag-chewing on HF and VHF/UHF frequencies.

In the photograph you see that I have separated AC input power (120/240v) and DC (13.8v) distribution on the left side of my former computer network three-piece hutch. In addition, all electronics grounding wires are connected to a copper plate in this location which is routed to a removable strap that is connected to an eight foot grounding rod.



As an aside, I disconnect the ground strap, antenna leads and power plugs after each use. Just don't want any lightning to find its way into the shack. That includes the house ground via electrical plugs.

There are two radios pictured: Yaesu FTDX-3000 (HF+6) and a Yaesu FT-8800 (VHF/UHF). Each radio has its own power supply and each has its own amplifier and power supply. Attached to the HF rig is a 2000 watt antenna tuner for times when I get away from center resonant frequencies. My HF amplifier is very sensitive to 2:1 VSWR. I also have power/VSWR meters for each radio.

There are two audio units pictured: one to allow control of the dual speaker treble and base and another to attenuate HF background noise. Yes, I wear hearing aids so adjusting rig audio and speaker output is necessary.

One indispensable piece of equipment is a high grade four port Alpha-Delta coax switch with an ARC-plug. The center connection goes to the HF radio, three go to two offset fed 40-10 meter dipoles and one to a standard 80-40 meter dipole. The fourth connection is attached to a 2000 watt dummy load. This configuration allows me to quickly disconnect my radio from all three antennas when shutting down. It also allows just one point to attach my antenna analyzer and switch among three antennas.

All equipment may be more or less than yours. Mine has been accumulated incrementally over a period of eight years to fit space and mode of operation. If you've been a ham for many years, I bet your equipment has changed many times over as you move or find new ways to enjoy the hobby. If you are a new ham, don't be hesitant in asking for an opinion. As you know, we all have one.



## ARRL Field Day 2022

Field Day (June 25th and 26th) is just around the corner. So today I want to take just a moment to outline our Field Day plans. The Brandon Amateur Radio Society will be conducting Field Day using the K4TN club call from our homes again this year and for the first time ever from the BARS van which will be located at Dick's (AA5NT) QTH in his backyard. If you would like to operate from the van please contact Ron (K4FZU) before June 8th and advise him of the mode you plan to use and hours you wish to operate. He will then reserve those hours for activation from the Van. We will be operating three different modes so you can choose any or all of them (CW, phone and digital). Because there will only be one station operating on each mode at a time, the club will be able to operate as a class "3D" station. The ARRL Field Day rules from the past two years will continue to apply this year allowing class D stations to earn points when contacting other class D stations. This year the ARRL added a power limitation on Class D (Home Stations) restricting their operation to 100 watts PEP output, a reduction from the 150 watts allowed last year.

Let me summarize a couple of the informational emails you will be receiving in preparation for Field Day. On June 8th you will receive a sign-up sheet for BARS field day participation. The sign-up sheet will be in the form of a spreadsheet. The advantage of using the spreadsheet (Google Sheets) is that it is immediately updated when someone signs up to participate and it is always available whenever you choose to sign up. It allows you to see the times other club members have reserved before you select your time slot and after you sign up, your selected periods are reserved for you. So once the sign-up sheet arrives, select the times and mode you plan on operating by entering your name and call sign on the sign-up sheet as soon as possible. A week later I will send additional instructions to those that have signed up to participate outlining how to complete necessary Field Day preparations.

Because you will be operating from your home using the K4TN call sign and logging those contacts on your home computer, it will be necessary for you to download and set up logging software (a free download) to record all of the contacts you make. Ron (K4FZU) will complete the setup procedures for those operating from the BARS van. On June 15th you will receive an instructional email that will provide step by step procedures to follow in order to download, install, register and set up the logging software on your computer. Again this year we will link our individual computers through a network that JR (W4MIG) has setup utilizing Microsoft's Azure Cloud service. It is a simple process to connect your computer to the logging network and those instructions will be included in the email. Once you have completed your set up procedures you will be on the network connected to our "Field Day Test Mode" database. Go ahead and practice entering some "made up" contact entries to assure yourself that you have correctly completed everything. We do not want you to find out on field day afternoon that your set-up is not working.

One more thing. You can participate on Field Day with the club using the K4TN call sign and also operate using your own call sign during periods you are not using the club's K4TN network. If you do, please link the contacts you make using your own call sign to the BARS club when you file your activity report with the ARRL. One word of caution – Field Day Rule 6.2. states - A transmitter/receiver/transceiver used to contact one or more Field Day stations may not subsequently be used under any other call sign to participate in Field Day. One obvious solution, use a second radio. I am sure you will figure something out.

Finally, remember the sign-up sheet is on a first come first served basis so sign up without delay and plan to participate this year with your club on Field Day.

Jim K4PPK

## President's Desk

### Steve Maslin

Greetings BARS members. Our last membership meeting was quite an exciting one. At that meeting, you, the members voted to restart our in-person meetings, which will now take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Redeemer Church, 12404 Boyette Road, Riverview, FL 33569. This is exciting because our June meeting will be the first official membership meeting held in-person since the pandemic shut everything down over two years ago. Keep in mind that we will be also utilizing the monthly Zoom link for you to be able to join virtually if you have to or want to. I ask that everyone bear with us during this transition to a hybrid meeting, as it will pose some challenges, but it's nothing we can't overcome. The other great takeaway from the last meeting is the start of the process to introduce a Bylaw change. JR Calvert, our club Secretary, sent out the proposed change via the e-mail reflector so it can be reviewed by the membership prior to the July meeting (yes, the July meeting), where it will be formally introduced and voted on. This change will officially place a Life Membership class into our available membership statuses, so members can be officially nominated by other members for this new class. Once this change is in place, we can formally nominate (and assumingly approve) the members who were given this designation without it being officially in the Bylaws. There may be some other changes coming down the road but we will be communicate any further changes appropriately.

Those that attended Dayton Hamvention, hope you all had a great time! We look forward to seeing some pictures for those of us who have never attended but hope to someday.

Take care and stay safe.

73's,

Steve, NS4M