

THE ANTENNA

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



Winter Edition

December 2022 to February 2023

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. Please join us for our weekly Hillsborough ARES/RACES Information and Training Net on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm on the N1CDO repeater in Tampa. Receive: 440.100 MHz, Transmit: 445.100 MHz, +5 MHz offset, PL tone 162.2. We feature info on ARES activities and upcoming EdVantage training classes. All check-ins are welcome!

The West Central Florida **Tech-Con** will take place at the Hillsborough PSOC on February 24 & 25. For details: <https://hillsboroughares.org/event/west-central-florida-techcon/>

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Winter Field Day 2023

By Dana Perrin

On 27 January 2023, BARS conducted a Winter Field event. This year it was held at Richard Jones Home. The MARV vehicle made it's first deployment in support following a number of upgrades over the last year.

Here is an update on this year's activities during Winter Field Day (Jan 28, 2023). See photos below.

We especially want to thank Richard Jones for hosting the event this year (and in past years)!

We operated from two stations: Richard Jones' Shack and the BARS MARV (Van).

We had 12 participants this year:

Richard Jones KW4MB

John Garner K4VZO

Ron Perrett K4FZU

Donnie Tomlinson KI4DT

Dave Welty N4DLW

Dick Hoff AA5NT

Jim Moorehead WF4AC

Jim Smith K4PPK

Kelly Anderson KE4GS

Fred Hendershot N3BUL

Karissa Hendershot N3YDA

Dana Perrin KM4DTJ

This was the first BARS MARV (Van) event and we want to thank the many members on the Van Work Day Team who made this possible:

Skip Argoe KD4IOF

Dick Hoff AA5NT

Fred Hendershot N3BUL

Jim Stocks K4CWO

Ken Watts WA4NSV

Janet Watts KB4PUM

Dick Capell KJ6NV

Dave Welty N4DLW

Bill Johnson N4NOA

Jose Morales KQ4CKU

I'm sure there are others. Please forgive me if I missed your name!

We especially want to thank Skip Argoe for the design and fabrication of the desk and cabinet where we set up our radio workstation. We thank Jim Smith for providing the computer for logging, and we thank Karissa Hendershot for driving the Van from and back to its home base at Dick Hoff's home. Richard Jones and Dick Hoff both provided a delicious sampling of their finest Chili!

It was a great first event for the MARV. We learned a lot about set up and antenna performance during this event (thanks Jim Moorehead for your great evaluation). And we thank all the participants who operated from the MARV radio station and from Richard's Shack.

Here are a few photos from the event:

John

Here are a few photos from the event:



John Garner K4VZO, Richard Jones KW4MB, Jim Moorehead WF4AC, Dave Welty N4DLW



Richard Jones KW4MB and Dick Hoff AA5NT



Richard Jones KW4MB, John Garner K4VZO, and Donnie Tomlinson KI4DT inside Richard's Shack



Dave Welty N4DLW operating the Yaesu FT-857D in the MARV and Jim Smith K4PPK setting up the computer in the MARV



Tampa Bay HamFest

BARS members once again were active in many ways to help make the Tampa Bay HamFest a success. This event was held on December 9th and 10th at the Strawberry Festival Grounds in Plant City. Fred N3BUL was in charge of getting volunteers for various duties, (great job, Fred!) but there were other members who participated. I walked around each day to see who I could spot. Sorry if I missed you (or the picture wasn't the greatest due to too much shade). Thank you all for your participation!

Janet, KB4PUM



Russ N4PGC was the lucky winner in the HamFest volunteer raffle. Fred N3BUL presented



Tampa Bay HamFest -AKA- Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council

I am pleased to announce that Wayne Thomas/ KM7WDT has joined the Tampa Bay HamFest Council. Not only has he joined but he went from new member to Treasurer in the same meeting, much to the relief of long time Treasurer, 86 year old Ian Renton/W4RIR. Welcome Wayne. He joins current BARS members Karissa Hendershot/N3YDA who joined last year and myself, Fred/ N3BUL who joined in 1995, 27 years ago. We still need new members and BARS is in the best geographical location with the HamFest at the Strawberry Festival grounds in Plant City and our current meetings every other month at PSOC, close to Brandon. Hope to hear from some of you.
FRED/N3BUL

PS- we meet on the 4th Wednesdays, yes, this evening at 7:30 PM

BARS Silent Key

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Club Member, past President, and Net Control Operator, Doris Haskell – WB9VDT. She passed into the presence of the heavenly realm on this past January 22, 2023.

There was a memorial service for Doris, WB9VDT/SK, on Thursday, February 2nd, at 11 am at the Arise Assembly of God Church, 401 Paul's Dr.

Why I Hate Auto-Tuners



By Jim Moorehead, WF4AC

Well, I really don't hate "tuners", I just don't like the way hams use them. Let me explain.

I have been trying to work some really desirable and weak DX stations on SSB this past week. Most of them have been using split frequency and others have been on a single frequency. In either case, there were a plethora (look it up) of stations using auto-tuners right over these rare DX stations. Doing this blocks out the DX station from telling a grateful recipient that they have made a contact. In addition, tuning can block all other stations from trying to make a contact.

There are three solutions:

1. Use a manual tuner and spend some quality time determining the settings for each band you use. Most of time you only need three for four settings per band from 40-6 meters. Just find a clear frequency, call "is this frequency in use" and wait for a response. If none, tune up using a low power CW signal and record the settings. I usually start just above the lowest frequency in the band, then the middle, and finally near the upper limit. Now when you go to the DX station frequency, just dial in the closest setting. You may want to adjust a setting when trying to answer the DX station. See, no interruptions and everyone is happy.

2. Use an auto-tuner but tune at least 3-5KCs above or below the DX station. Of course make sure you are not stepping on anyone especially if they are using split frequencies.

3. Do not use a tuner. Of course this most likely requires an SWR of 2:1 or less. No mess no fuss.

Remember using a tuner doesn't make the antenna better, just prevents RF from coming back down the coax.

For anyone not familiar with split frequency operation, check this out: <https://www.onallbands.com/what-is-split-operation-in-ham-radio/>

So, how do I find DX stations. Try the internet: <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/> , <https://www.dxwatch.com/> , <https://dxnews.com/> , <https://www.qrz.com/dxcluster> and <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> .

So the next time you think about using an auto-tuner, take into consideration all those folks trying to make a contact. You will feel better.

Saturday Breakfast at the Recipe Box Family Diner at 0800 on 147 E. Bloomingdale Ave, Brandon, FL 33511

BARS Club meetings

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at Redeemer Church, 12404 Boyette Rd, Riverview, FL 33569, and also via Zoom

BARS Van Work Session By Dana Perrin

Here is another Van Work Day Update:

This past Saturday, 01/21/23, a group of our members spent time working on the Van.

We spent time installing an AC power breaker box and installing an antenna for a Yaesu FT-857D all band radio. We also added some diesel fuel to the fuel tank. There is a possibility that the Van might be ready for Winter Field Day at Richard Jones' home on Saturday, January 28th. We'll see!

The folks that participated in the Van Work Day were: Dick Hoff, Bill Johnson, Jim Stocks, Janet Watts, Ken Watts, Fred Hendershot, Dana Perrin

Remember: the Van will be a mobile BARS Club Station.

It is YOUR Van! We thank everyone who participated!

On 24 January 2023 a team met to install the overhead cabinet for stations 1, 2A, and 2B, check wiper blades, and continue working on the AC Power installation.

The team members were:

Janet Watts, Dick Hoff, Jose Morales, Fred Hendershot, Skip Argoe, David Welty, Bill Johnson

We thank Janet for the great photos

We thank Skip for the design and fabrication of the desks and cabinets.

We thank ALL these team members above for their hard work and dedication to the project.

Our Van bank balance is down to about \$400.

Any donations would be most appreciated!



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President's Desk—The final word

Greetings fellow BARS Members!

Welcome to 2023! My previous article talked about the ARRL Grant submission and challenges we will face in 2023. We are starting the year off with one of these challenges. The ARRL Grant request was turned down this time around. While no reason was given, it is certainly a disappointment for all involved in the process. We can't let it get us down or discourage us from trying again either through the ARRL or other avenues. Now that the framework of what we are trying to accomplish has been created by the team, we should be able to do minor tweaks to meet the parameters of the latest grant opportunities. We will be discussing the MARV project at the February membership meeting.

I had the opportunity to attend HamCation in Orlando last week. Attendance on Saturday seemed a bit lower than last year, but still appeared to be pretty well attended. Even saw some BARS members there including Ken and Janet Watts (WA4NSV & KB4PUM), Christine Swizdor (KO4HDV), and also saw Bill Johnson (N4NOA) manning his Swaps table. I also was excited to see another co-worker of mine, Zach Washburn (now KQ4GEP), pass his Technician exam. He is very excited to learn and branch out into the different aspects of the hobby. He is not a member of BARS (yet), but I'm sure you will hear him on the airwaves.

73's,

Steve, NS4M