

THE ANTENNA

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



Spring Edition

March to May 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 Dayton Hamvention was held from 19 - 21 May 2023 Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Xenia, Ohio.

Officers of the Society

President Steve Maslin NS4M

*Vice President Ron Perrett
K4FZU*

*Treasurer Wayne Thomas
KM7WDT*

Secretary Rick Farr KK4CVD

*Board Members Past President
Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)*

*Repeater Trustee Tony Stone
(W4TAS)*

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Director Kelly Anderson (KE4GS)

*Newsletter Staff Editor (Layout/
News) Jim Stocks (KK4CWO)*

*Proofreader Nancy Lessard
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The antenna is published Quarterly

Summer Field Day 2023

By Jim Stocks KK4CWO

On 24 to 25 June 2023 we have the annual ARRL Summer Field day coming up. Current plans are the club will set up in the large field behind the Redeemer Church (12404 Boyette Road, Riverview, FL, 33569). We will begin setting up our operating stations during the morning hours of June 24 and you are invited to come out to help in that activity. Then plan on staying for the picnic lunch at twelve noon and sign up to operate one of three stations beginning at 2 pm.

We encourage BARS members to spread the word and let the public, your friends, local and county officials know about Field Day and show up to see what it's all about. There are plans to have a cookout, HF and VHF/UHF stations plus possibly some satellite contacts. If anyone know any scouts that could come to learn about Field Day let them know.

BARS July 4th Parade

BARS will be looking for members to support this years Brandon July 4th parade. This will be the first July 4th parade since 2019 after COVID shut down the event. We could use some vehicles in the parade and also members doing radio support along the parade route. Come out and support the fun!



Special Recognition Events

Special recognition award:VEC Awards

ARRL award to Bill Johnson N4NOA for leading and setting an example as a VE tester. Also Karen Jacobi K4KZF was recognized as a VE tester and has taken over in running the VE testing after Bill stepped down as lead tester.



Membership News

Mark Haskell received lifetime membership certificate



BARS local Artist, by Janett Watts KB4PUM

Marian Hoff N5TVL entered three of her paintings at the Florida State Fair back in February.



Mike Worden KF4CIG, Mike Geller KQ4DOD and others received membership certificates.



VE Testing for May 2023

Gerry Cruz, KN4KJZ, from Lakeland, passed his Extra Class exam at our May 6 test session. Gerry's new call is KY4XR.

Phyllis Powers, wife of Art Powers, call sign KA4EHQ passed her General Class exam



HAM RADIO REFERENCE CARDS, by Wayne Thorn KM4VRZ

I have made up some business sized card that has reference information you could use in the field.

Like how to manually program frequencies for simplex and repeater or Radio frequencies for your Ares/Races and others.

These are FREE Google slide files for anyone who wants them. Just do the simple steps in the link so you can modify them yourself.

Go to <https://cwthorn.com/category/ham-radio/>

Thank you

Cecil Wayne Thorn - KM4VRZ

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813-662-9393

BF-F8HP manually setup Simplex Frequency

1. Set to VFO mode, MENU, enter Freq (there is no selection required just enter the freq #)
2. Press MENU, ENTER 10, MENU, set R-DCS =OFF (uld arrow), MENU to save
3. Press MENU, ENTER
4. Press MENU, ENTER
5. Press MENU, ENTER

FT2DR AresRaces Emergency Frequencies

Frequency	Channel	Name	Group
147.105	1	N4TP	AresRaces Primary Repeater
146.940	4		
147.105	2		
145.050	62		
145.070	79		

FTM-300 manually setup Repeater Frequency

1. Go to VIM mode
2. short press F setup
3. select ENTER FREQUENCY, Enter frequency, press dial noob
4. select FUNCTION, set power, set SQ-TYP (TN for repeaters) hit back twice
5. long press VIM, select the memory slot you want it in, hit back, press dial noob
6. select EDIT, set TX FREQ, enter you TAG, long press dial noob, select OK twice

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BARS Antenna Team report

By Jim Moorehead, WF4AC and Jim Stocks, KK4CWO

Here's the latest on the BARS Antenna setup team!

Jose's 6BTV Antenna by Jim Moorehead/WF4AC

In late April Jose Morales/KQ4CKU indicated he needed help installing his newly acquired Hustler 6BTV vertical antenna. So, Ron/K4FZU and I helped Jose get started. We also got help from Jim Stocks/KK4CWO as he also owns the 6BTV. Once the issue of where to put the antenna and what kind of tilt-over mechanism to use, construction could begin. Ron supervised the initial fabrication alignment, then we all got into measuring and securing the traps and tubes.

After a week or so Jose received his DX Engineering tilt mechanism. We fitted a 9 foot mast to the bracket. Placing the antenna at the top of the mast allowed just the right height to attach a ground plane strap to his pool cage frame.

Tuning the antenna was physical exercise - just ask Jose how he felt the day after. It required testing SWR, then moving the traps either up or down to get a better reading. Multiple attempts were required for each of the 6 bands. One issue that came up was movement of the heavy pipe in the ground securing the tilt bracket as the mast/antenna was raised. This was solved by me placing a foot on top of the pipe while Jose did the brute force hoisting of the entire mast/antenna. This pose became the comical "Captain Morgan" position that I became quite familiar with.

Dick Hoff's Beam raising:

An additional antenna raising was on May 20 at Dick Hoff's AA5AT home. Dick had one antenna to take down, the infamous R-9 to be replaced by a multi-band antenna. The main event was the raising the 30 foot, heavy mast with a beam with rotator. Crew for this event was: Richard Jones KW4MB, Jose Morales KQ4CKU, Jim Moorehead WF4AC, Mike Worden KF4CIG, Ron Perrett K4FZU and Jim Stocks KK4CWO. This antenna mast raising was a beast but we managed to do without any injuries.

With both antenna raising we found a new leader that promotes the pirate view of success, Jim Moorehead doing the Captain Morgan pose! Only thing missing was the bottle of rum after the antenna raising.



Jose's Antenna raising. Looks like there's been a Captain Morgan sighting! All that's missing is a bottle of rum!



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

Member status: by Ken Watts, WA4NSV

Skip Argoe KD4IOF was recently under the weather and is now recuperating at home after a brief stay in the hospital. He's back home and we are all wishing him our best for a full recovery.

BARS Van Survey results

Van discussion survey

Options to vote on:

1. Keep the Van. Repair it with donations only. The total repair cost is \$3,441.50.
2. Keep the Van. Repair it with half of the funds coming from the general BARS account and the other half from Van donations.
3. Sell the Van. Use the proceeds to purchase a trailer.
4. Sell the Van. Dissolve the Van project. Put the funds from the sale in the general BARS account.

Responses: 35 responded

Option 1 - 1 vote

Option 2 - 2 votes

Option 3 - 22 votes

Option 4 - 0 vote

If we go forward with a utility trailer we need to know the size needed, cost and maintenance plus insurance cost.

Also need to sell the van and recoup the funds into buying and equipping the van.

Options: trade the Van with the working diesel engine for a used trailer or sell the van and put the money into the purchasing and outfitting of the trailer.

The van was taken to a dealership to inspect for sale with no offer taken. A few other offers were made with low-ball numbers. We then posted a write up with pictures to get more exposure.

At this time we currently have no offers for the van at this time, please spread the word and the POC for any offers is Dick Hoff AA5AT

Commentary: MARV the club van

by Jim Stocks KK4CWO

Lately there's been a lot of discussion about the status and purpose of the MARV club van which has become a money pit. A lot of good intentions about possible uses of a free vehicle but reality had another story to tell.

Based on a survey done it was decided to sell off the vehicle and look at getting an enclosed trailer to use for club events.

So far after removing and saving the bench work done by Skip Argoe KD4OF, the was vehicle advertised and so far no serious takers. A lot of hard work was put in by a number of dedicated members to make this a success but due to condition of the vehicle and lack of needed funds the project failed to be what some of the members wanted. The best of intentions failed to bear fruit. Where this project goes or the outcome remains to be seen.

Lets keep a positive attitude and keep moving forward!



President's Desk—The final word

Greetings fellow BARS Members!

I try to keep these articles as positive as possible, but sometimes we must focus a little on the negative. Let's talk about volunteering. We all have our ideas of what that word means. We have many people who volunteer in our organization, but we also have a large amount of people who do not. It seems more and more difficult to gain volunteers for various things lately, and that is a concerning trend for an organization who relies solely on volunteers. At our May meeting, Fred Hendershot reported that we can have a vehicle or two in the July 4th parade. We have an opportunity to have a vehicle in the parade to advertise who we are. While this would have been a perfect use of the MARV, that project has been terminated due to costs and we are in the process of trying to sell the van. So, we are looking for someone with a pickup truck or van that is willing to drive it at the parade along with our banner. We even had a prospective member at the May meeting volunteer his pickup truck, but being that he is not yet a member, we cannot put that on him. Challenges with volunteering isn't new, all volunteer organizations experience it, but I like to believe we can overcome those challenges. Volunteers are also needed for Field Day, the July 4th parade itself (not just the free advertising opportunity) and coming up later this year we will need one, perhaps two new officers for the club. As I've always said, this is YOUR club. Help make the most of it.

73's,

Steve, NS4M