



BARS Meeting Thursday 18 November

The next BARS meeting will be Thursday the 18th of November at the Brandon Assembly of God at 710 South Kings (next to the golf driving range). The BARS meeting will be in the annex next to the sanctuary building. Things get underway when Doris bangs the gavel at 7:30 p.m. If you think of someone who has not been to a meeting for a while, give 'em a call!

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Near Vertical Incidence Skywave Antennas (NVIS) Antennas

Larry Gispert, KR4X, and Fred Seely, AA4ME, are speaking at our November meeting about their experiments with NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) antennas. An NVIS antenna provides the majority of its radiation at an extremely high angle which enables HF omni-directional communications

over a relatively short range of 150 to 250 miles. The prevailing wisdom is that NVIS antennas don't work well with HF digital modes due to multi-path propagation effects. However, Larry and Fred will report on their successful experiments using PSK63 as a "warm-up" for their presentation at the Tampa Bay Hamfest in December.

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The Wheels of Justice and K1MAN : A "Leader" in Amateur Radio

From The ARRL Letter

On October 25, two US Attorneys filed a *Complaint* in the US District Court for Maine against Glenn Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. The Complaint alleged Baxter had not responded appropriately to an order that he pay a \$21,000 fine for violating several sections of Part 97. The civil action was brought under Section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1.80 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

According to the *Complaint*, the fine was levied in 2005 "for [the] defendant's willful and repeated

violations of Sections 97.101(d) [commencing transmissions on top of existing communications on 3.890 MHz] and 97.113(a)(3) [transmitting communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest] of the Commission's Rules, and for the defendant's willful violation of Section 97.105(a) [exercising control over station] and 97.113(b) [broadcasting] of the Rules and for failure to file requested information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive."

The *Complaint* seeks to force payment of the \$21,000 fine, as well as a filing fee and "such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper." Editor's comment: It's about time!!

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Don't forget Saturday breakfast at the Golden Corral at Providence and Lumsden in Brandon - 7:30 on Saturday mornings. Ham Radio socializing, friends, and food!!

Build Up Your Code Speed Check Into A CW Net

Donnie Tomlinson KI4DT passed along this information. This net is just getting started and since it is a slow speed net, it might be just the thing for those just getting proficient in Ham Radio's First Mode (radiotelegraphy, not CW).

SLO-POLKS CW NET

Freq 7.043.00

Every Sunday Evening at 8:00p.m. Starting Nov. 7, 2010. We will begin with check-ins and then take comments in check-in order after announcements, and traffic. Speed will be that of the slowest check-in rate. Any questions call Gary 863-510-5649 or ks4ji@yahoo.com NECOS KS4JI

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Another SSB Net on 10-Meters

When hams need to communicate with each other they start a net. And now on Thursday evenings there will be another area club firing up transmitters on 10-meter SSB. At the October American Victory Ham Club meeting Ed N4YCN spoke of having an American Victory net. It was decided to do this on Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. on 10 meters at 28.475. It was decided that the net controller position would rotate. Jim Howell W4LNI offered to start the net. Mark WB9UJS had some other ideas about the mode and frequency, but it was decided to stick with 10-meter sideband.

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Don't forget to get your tickets for the upcoming Tampa Bay Hamfest on the 4th and 5th of December!

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On 31 August the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to change certain parts of the commercial licensing structure. In the 31-page document the FCC is proposing to delete some licenses and borrow some rules from the Amateur Radio Service: licensees must have a current correct address on file. As for commercial license offerings, the NPRM proposes to combine the First Class Radiotelegraph license and the Second Class Radiotelegraph license into a Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate and delete Third Class Radiotelegraph license. In the new rule write up they would state that the new license is in fact the Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate. In addition these licenses would be a lifetime license. Currently they expire after five years. According to statistics for 2004 to 2009 the FCC issued 88 Second Class Telegraph tickets, 10 Third Class Tickets and one First Class ticket. Since the written test requirements for the First and Second Class Licenses are the same and because it is almost impossible to meet the service requirements to be

eligible to test for the First Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate, the proposal states that no new applications for the First Class ticket will be accepted. Other parts of the NPRM dealt with proposals to ease some requirements for ship inspections and to make testing administration easier for the volunteer examiner coordinators for the commercial examinations. Right now the nearest active commercial exam team is in Highlands county.

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Monitoring Railroad Frequencies On Your Two Meter Rig

By Mark Haskell WB9UJS

In past newsletter issues we have touched on some of the out of band frequencies you can pick up on your ham rigs. This time I wanted to update you on some of the area railroad activity. Over the past few months I have been monitoring the railroad allocation in the 160 MHz range to see which frequencies were active for this area. Part of the time I used my PRO-164 scanner, the Kenwood TS-2000, and part of the time I used the Yaesu TM-2800 two meter rig in the car which also covers those frequencies. A few weeks ago while checking frequencies I heard a locomotive clearing the yard and heading east toward Valrico. They identify their transmissions by the engine number. A short while later while heading east on Route 60 I saw the locomotive I had been listening to. It was a fun experience!

There are over 50 frequencies for the railroad allocation on VHF. Here are the ones showing activity.

160.230 This is listed as road and dispatcher

160.275 yard

160.290 dispatcher

160.320 dispatcher

160.590 road – this is very active

161.370 dispatcher and automated axle report system

This is probably more active over toward Mulberry.

There are also some frequencies on UHF. For those with dual band radios covering 440 MHz or scanners, there are a few things in the 450 MHz range that you can hear. Trains no longer have cabooses. That's sad in some ways, but good for radio monitors. A commonly used frequency for the end of train indicator that you see mounted on the last car of modern trains is 457.9375 and 452.9375MHz. It is very low power and does not carry too far.

There are some data links that appear on these frequencies as well. At 452.925 and 457.975 you can hear the data links for locomotive speed control. Another pair of frequencies for this is 452.950 and 457.950.

Program some of these into your scanner or ham rig and see what you hear.

Later on we will take another look at maritime activity on HF and VHF. There have been a few frequency changes over the past few years: the Coast Guard has added several frequencies to handle their activities, so in future issues we'll get you up to date on some of that activity.

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**Check out the BARS website at
brandonhamradio.org**

That's about it for this month. Check into the club nets, come out to breakfast, remember the hamfest in December, and come out to the club meetings.

The Antenna

Newsletter of the
Brandon Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 2307
Brandon, FL 33509-2307

Keep in Mind Our Weekly Nets and Bulletins

**Monday 8 p.m. The Two Meter Net 147.765 - 147.165 MHz Hosted by Doris Haskell
WB9VDT**

**Tuesday 7 p.m. 6-meter Roundtable 50.200 MHz USB followed at 8 p.m. with the 10
Meter Roundtable 28.365 MHz USB**

**Thursday 8 p.m. (except for club meetings) YL Net hosted by Doris Haskell
WB9VDT on W7RRS Repeater 146.745**

**Remember Saturday morning breakfast at The Golden Corral at Providence and
Lumsden. Most start showing up at 7:30 a.m. when the restaurant opens.**