



BARS Meeting Thursday November 19th

The next BARS meeting will be Thursday the 19th of November at the Bloomingdale West Recreation Center at 3919 Canoga Park Drive. Things get underway when Doris (WB9VDT) bangs the gavel at 7:30 p.m. Talk in for the meeting is on 147.165+. Come on out for some ham radio fun and socializing! If you think of someone who has not been to a meeting in a while, give 'em a call and invite them!

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DX-pedition Video at BARS Meeting

Our diligent Vice President Bernie W4BGH will show a video about the K5D Dx-pedition to the Desecheo Island at the next BARS meeting. Desecheo (Des'-eh-chio) is an island next to Puerto Rico. which was high on the list of "most wanted" DX locations in 2008. Bernie worked to shorten the "total running time" of the video to 29 minutes from the original 50 minutes, so we should be able to fit it into our meeting time. For more information

about the Dxpedition in February 2009, look at their website: <http://www.kp5.us/>

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Fire Up The Short Wave Receiver Have Fun With Radio!

Mark Haskell WB9UJS

It's that time of year again when noise levels start decreasing because the lightning is going away! Let's fire up the general coverage rig and do some listening on the short wave broadcast frequency allocations! For tuning these stations you will want to set the mode to A.M. Some broadcasters try SSB from time to time, but the vast majority of these stations will be running A.M.

It's fun to find new stations, but sometimes you want to know about what is already there to hear. I have set this up to give you frequency bands to tune, but also there are some specific stations listed as well.

Let's start off with the night time/early morning frequencies – the ones that do best when it's dark outside. We will look at the 60, 49, and 31 meter

bands. For the stations listed here remember that all times are LOCAL (E.S.T.)

Let's start off with the 31 meter band. We will list a couple of stations for this band, but do your own tuning around during the evening hours, you will be surprised at what you find.

31 meters 9.250 to 9.990 MHz.

Time	Station Identification	Frequency
6 pm	WWCR religious program	9.980 very strong signal
7 pm	China Radio Int'l	9.570

This band is used band by a lot of broadcasters. It starts picking up in the early evening. Some stations use these frequencies during daylight hours, too.

Our next range (41 meters) will seem very familiar to most hams! These are the guys who used to kill the phone bands on 40 meters at night. Most of these stations have moved on up the band opening up a lot of the SSB allocation for hams to have better comms on SSB. During daylight hours you won't find much here, but after it starts to get dark, these frequencies will start hopping with a lot of foreign broadcasters pushing signals across the pond.

41 meters 6.890 to 7.600 MHz

Time	Station Identification	Frequency
6:20 p.m.	Radio Romania	7.220
6:23 p.m.	Voice of Russia	7.250
8:05 p.m.	Radio Slovakia	7.230
8:15 p.m.	Voice of America	7.325

When we get into the 49 meter band, we are into those wavelengths that do best during darkness paths. With this band we are below the 40 meter ham frequencies.

Check out the BARS website at brandonhamradio.org

49 meters 5.730 to 6.295 MHz

Time	Station Identification	Frequency
6 p.m.	China Radio Int'l	5.990 6.040
6 p.m.	Radio Canada (French)	6.095
6:15 p.m.	Radio Romania	6.015
7 p.m.	Radio Japan	6.145

There is a lot of activity in this band. You already know from your ham radio experience that this is primarily a night time band for long distance communication. The same holds true for the short wave broadcasters. There are a lot of broadcasters in this range as well as in our next band to consider: the 60 meter band.

60 meter band 4.750 to 5.060 MHz

Time	Station Identification	Frequency
6:30 p.m.	WWCR religious program	5.067
8:15 p.m.	WWRB religious program	5.052

This band is just above the 80/75 meter ham band and the propagation characteristics are about the same.

If we want to get down into the basement of shortwave broadcasters (one of 'em is technically below HF) we can look at one of the so called "tropical bands". We will lump these together. If you are a Spanish speaker, you will find some stuff to listen to down here. Most of the time when I am searching for new stations I skip these ranges, but sometimes there are some interesting things going on down here.

120 meters 2.300 to 2.495 MHz

90 meters 3.200 to 4.000 MHz

Time	Station Identification	Frequency
6 p.m.	BBC	3.915
6 p.m.	Voice of Guyana	3.291
9 p.m.	WWCR	3.215
10 p.m.	WWRB	3.185

During the summer months it's tough for us Floridians to do much listening down here because of all the static crashes from lightning. When conditions are good (i.e. the winter months) you can

pick up stations from Africa broadcasting in African languages. Many third world countries use these bands as part of their domestic broadcasting service.

This is part one of a short tour of most of the short wave broadcaster frequency bands. Next month we will move up the spectrum to look at the daytime bands. When you are home from work during the holidays you can fire up the rig for some daytime fun on the short wave broadcasting bands!

There are other broadcasters on short wave who operate illegally! They are the Pirate Broadcasters – unlicensed stations broadcasting on shortwave to a world-wide audience. Related to those broadcasters are the Clandestine Broadcasters, revolutionary and opposition movements around the world looking for an audience for their propaganda. We will cover some of those frequencies and activities at a later date.

For the bands we have covered this month give ‘em a try. Sit down at your radio and try tuning some of these frequency ranges and stations. Keep a log of what you hear. If you want an example of a log sheet drop me a line at wb9ujs@msn.com (put “log sheet” in the subject line and I will send you one by return e-mail). There will also be some log sheets at the club meeting. Above all HAVE FUN WITH RADIO.

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Tampa Bay Hamfest Dec 5th and 6th

The Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council announces the 34th annual Tampa Bay Hamfest December 5th and 6th at Manatee Civic Center US-301 and Haben Blvd Palmetto, Florida.

For up-to-date information visit

www.tampabayhamfest.org

Hamfest Times: Saturday, 8AM to 5PM

Sunday, 9AM to 2PM

Tickets \$8 at the door, \$6 in advance

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Federal Funding For D-Star Network in Georgia

Forwarded by Dave Cooley N2LZ

\$165,000 in Federal funding has been secured by Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to complete the statewide Georgia D-STAR network. Equipment has already been ordered and is beginning to arrive.

This is a project that began back in 2005 with a vision for Amateur Radio emergency communications in Georgia. Georgia Public Broadcasting's former Director of Engineering Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC, seized an opportunity to install two Amateur Radio antennas on each of nine tall television towers that provide statewide Public Television coverage as a part of the required conversion to Digital Television. Fehlig designated Georgia ARES to control the use of these facilities for emergency communications.

The next task was to determine what technology or mode would provide the best use of these sites for emergency communications. About this time, the D-STAR digital technology was emerging as a state of the art platform for voice and data communications.

D-STAR allows flexible linking of repeaters and provides simultaneous voice and low speed data along with high speed data with Internet connectivity on 1.2 GHz. 2 meter, 440 and 1.2 GHz.

Voice and data repeaters will be installed on each of the nine television towers of Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB). These nine towers are strategically located to provide near statewide Public Television coverage. They will also provide similar Amateur Radio coverage from two antennas located between 500 and 600 feet above ground. Two of the D-STAR repeaters are already in operation at Pembroke, Georgia near Savannah and atop Stone Mountain serving the Atlanta metro area. John Davis WB4QDX

District Emergency Coordinator Georgia ARES

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The Antenna

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P.O. Box 2307
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Keep in Mind Our Weekly Nets and Bulletins

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.