



**BARS MEETING THURSDAY  
THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2011 WITH A  
DX-PEDITION PROGRAM**

The next BARS meeting will be Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Thanks to Bernie W4BGH the program for October's meeting is a video about the 2011 Dxpedition to South Orkney. This was an interesting visit to a desolate location just below 60-degrees south with just Hams and seals against a backdrop of stunning Antarctic scenery. 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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**Sweepstakes Bulletin – 2011**

Larry Hammel, K5OT – Sweepstakes Contest Manager

Clubs are always looking for operating events and opportunities that excite and motivate their members to be active, especially on HF. This year's ARRL November Sweepstakes certainly fits

the bill and – for the first time in years – the bands will have plenty to offer Technician license-holders, too! Sweepstakes – or “Sweeps” among friends – is a contest in which modest stations can do very, very well. There's no need for giant towers and antennas or legal-limit amplifiers – a backyard dipole or vertical and a “barefoot” HF rig will do just fine. In fact, SS is one contest in which antennas can be too high!

Because Sweepstakes brings out so many US and Canadian operators, it is very popular for friendly “contests within a contest” between clubs and between club members. A club contest to work the most sections, make Worked All States, or ring up the highest score is a nice way to wrap up the season with awards being presented at the year-end meeting.

Did we mention the opportunities for Technician licensees? Techs have a large chunk of 10 meters available to them on both Phone (28.3-28.5 MHz) and CW (28.0-28.2) but in recent years, there hasn't been much activity due to quiet solar conditions. Lately, the solar flux has been kicking up to 120 and higher, meaning that 10 meters opens up coast-

to-coast and beyond! If your club's Techs have been wondering what all the fuss is about 10 meters, be sure to encourage their activity during Sweeps. Perhaps one of those intra-club challenges we were talking about?

If you'd like to know more about Sweepstakes, download the Sweepstakes Operating Guide at [arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://arrl.org/sweepstakes) – there are simple explanations of the rules and a list of resource articles and websites to help you get the most from your Sweepstakes weekend. Maybe you'll even bring home the coveted "Clean Sweep" coffee mug! CQ Sweeps!

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Don't forget Saturday morning breakfast at the Golden Corral in Brandon. Come on out at 7:30 on Saturday mornings for some ham radio socializing and fun!

### **A Different Kind of Radio Class**

Many area clubs and organizations have offered classes to get people started in this wonderful endeavor we call Ham Radio.

We are floating an exploratory proposal for a different kind of class. It's for those who have a ham ticket, but want to do something more to get more involved in Ham Radio. Read on!

The Problem: You got your Tech ticket (or General, or Extra) but you don't feel like you know how to do anything. You have read the stuff in the license manual, but a lot of it does not seem really relevant to getting on the radio and having fun.

You hear hams in the club meetings talk about working some special event station or some hot DX and hitting the satellite, or working PSK or RTTY, but you don't really know what all that is. Not only are you afraid to ask a question, you don't even really know what questions to ask.

Deep down you want to get into Ham Radio. You want to learn how to operate CW. You want to put a station on the air without feeling lost and unsure of yourself and afraid to ask a question. You want to come out to Field Day and be one of those people setting things up, running wire, and hooking up transmitters. You don't want to be one of those people who just stand around with no idea of what is going on, anymore.

Have we got a deal for you!

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society is setting up a different kind of radio class. We are setting up a program to do a serious job of **training you to be a radio operator**. It will not be difficult, but it will be arduous. It will require you to be dedicated, diligent, and deliberate. When you successfully complete this course you will know how to set up a station, operate on the air, and have something on your ham shack wall that very few hams ever attain. What's more, you will have real pride in your accomplishment.

### **Announcing the BARS 13-week Radio Operator Class.**

During this 13-week course you will learn

- How to get in on all the FUN that radio has to offer
- How to be a valuable communications asset in times of emergency – because you will KNOW how to set up a station and operate on the air.

In addition to all of this you will qualify for your Second Class Commercial Radiotelegraph Operator Certificate. You won't just take a class – you will have a commercial ticket and some serious "bragging rights".

Here is how it works:

- All students signing up for this class need to have the General Class Amateur Radio License by the time class starts.

- The class will run for 13 weeks. There will be 33 class sessions. It's set up for 33 classes instead of 39 because we will lose a few days because of BARS meetings and some church schedule conflicts.
- Classes will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at Brandon Assembly of God (where we have our club meetings).
- You will be able to work at home on your computer for additional CW training.
- Instructors will be able to help you outside of class (weekends and non-class days).
- There will be about 25 hours of Morse Code instruction + you will get a CD to load on your computer at home so you can do more on your own. You will learn how to really operate and work contests on the air – not just dull code instruction!
- There will be about 25 hours of theory instruction – not just electronics stuff, but the key things you need to know to set up and operate your ham station:
  - How to set up your station
  - How to build some simple, low cost antennas
  - How to use an antenna tuner
  - How to operate SSB on HF and Multi-mode on VHF and UHF
  - How to set up and operate PSK and SSTV
  - You will learn some radio history
- You will also enroll in a computer-based on-line training program for the commercial licenses.
- We will have two radio operating events on the weekend after the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> week and a “radio field trip” on the weekend after the 10<sup>th</sup> week.

This is not a passive, sit in a classroom program. This is a hands-on, sweat, put out a lot of effort program.

Costs: We are not charging for the training we provide. There are costs to the program, however:

- (1) You will need to buy or borrow a code oscillator and key to practice the code.
- (2) You will need a notebook to take notes
- (3) You will pay about \$16 for the computer based study access during the last six weeks of the program.
- (4) The cost for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Commercial Telegraph test is \$75 and you have to bring two passport type photographs to send off with your completed test and license application.

When does it start?

Current plans call for a class to get under way around the end of January or sometime in February in 2012. You will be ready for Field Day!

It's up to you.

If you really want to dive into Ham Radio, if you really want to get past the beginner stage, if you want to be someone answering questions instead of asking them **THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU.** Interested? Contact: Mark Haskell WB9UJS, Bernie Huth W4BGH, or Ron Burkett KD4JN.

If there is sufficient interest we will offer the class.

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We are out of space for this month. More fun radio stuff in the newsletter next month – stay tuned!

Check out the BARS Website:  
[brandonhamradio.org](http://brandonhamradio.org)

**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**

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**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.**