

147.165 + (136.5 Hz) 443.500 + (127.3 Hz)

The
ANTENNA

**The Brandon Amateur Radio
Society Newsletter**

OVER 40 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA
BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA
VOL XLIV, NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 2017

Come to the Club Meeting Thursday September 21st

Come out to the meeting this month at Arise Assembly of God 710 South Kings Avenue in the Annex. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Scott W8UFO bangs the gavel to start things off.

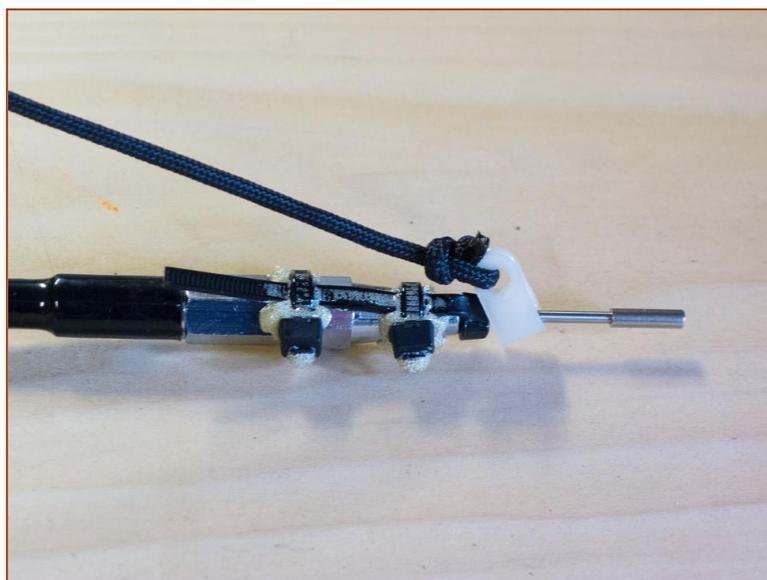
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An Easy Adjustment for Hamsticks

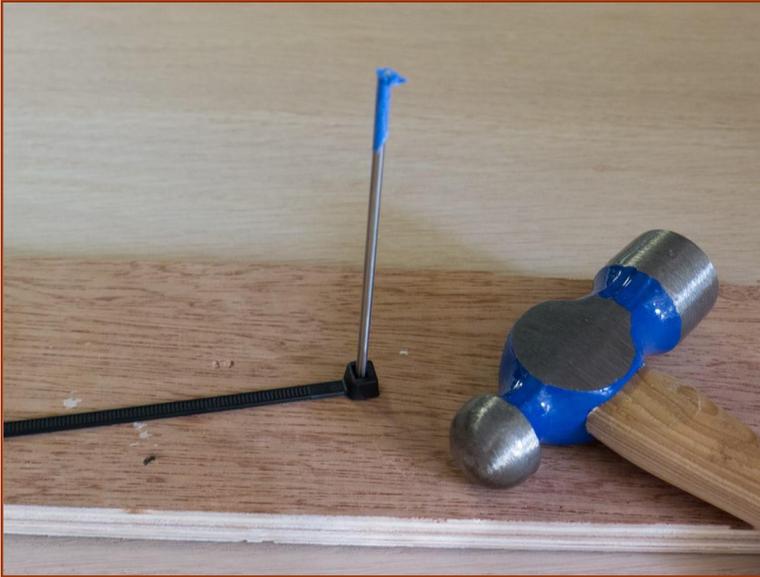
Jim Moorehead WF4AC

For those of you that like to use “hamsticks” 40 meters and below, having to adjust whip lengths to reach a resonant frequency is a real pain. On top of the inconvenience, constantly loosening and tightening the set screws leads to stripped hex heads. For example, I use the MFJ-2275 dipole (75 meters) as a backup NVIS antenna and have to re-position the shortened 44 in. whips anywhere from 33 in. to 39 in. to reach 3.8 - 4.0 MHz. To solve the problem of stripped set screws, I just removed them and built a friction device that allows me to push/pull the whips to the proper lengths.

The friction device is constructed of nothing more than three zip ties (see photo 1). One tie is used for friction and the other two are used to keep the



first in place. The friction tie must have a hole in the head the size of the whip.



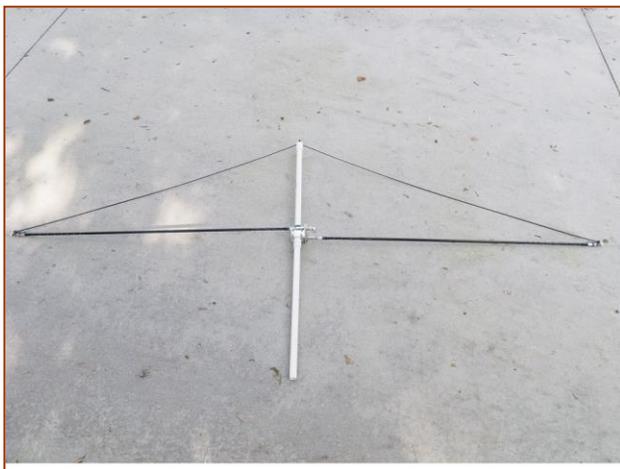
Just punch a hole in the head using part (see photo 2) of the whip you cut off, then slide the tie onto the whip. Squeezing the tie tag end with the other two ties produces enough friction to keep the whip in place while allowing you to push/pull it to the proper distance. Note in **photo one** I have glued the ties. This is done because the ferrule has a conical slope at the front that allows the leading tie to slip off.

Earlier ferrules had parallel tubes that did not require securing the ties (see photo 3).

The end result is a system that allows you to easily adjust “hamstick” whip lengths without damaging set screws. An added benefit is the

whips can be pushed into the coil segment of the antenna for storage. Not a bad solution that costs pennies.

The NVIS “hamstick” system is simple to construct (see photo 4). Note the cord that supports the stick. This is to provide strain relief for the center joint. My 75 meter wire dipole at 15 ft. at the apex and 5 ft. at the ends should be better NVIS performer. The ground wave capabilities are superior. I now need to test the antennas in the 30 - 400 mi. NVIS range. I’ll try to provide information on those tests at a later date.



Coming in October
An unsolved mystery of fire, death, and destruction
on the high seas.

Slight Date Change for ARES/RACES Ham Radio Classes

Dawn M Drury K2WLS
AEC Administration, Club Liaison

The leadership of ARES/RACES has decided to postpone the Technician and General Licensing classes due to the fact that the Hillsborough County PSOC is still in Level 2 Activation following Hurricane Irma.

We are moving the class dates back 2 weeks to September 30 and October 14th. If you have already registered there is no need to register again. If you have not taken registered yet please do so here:

General: <http://hcaresraces.org/event/general-license-training-class-2/>

Tech: <http://hcaresraces.org/event/technician-class-license/>

Dates for the Propagation and Solar Cycle class have been rescheduled to September 23rd. If you have already registered there is no need to re-register for the class. If you have not yet registered please take the time to do so, Lu Romero W4LT will be teaching the class. you can register at:

<https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhcaresraces.org%2Fevent%2Fpropagation-solar-cycle%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cwb9ujs%40msn.com%7Cf976c40e85c84622401908d4fd75855d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636412128561703362&sdata=LVBWqHFySnu24rMEipkA7xcott%2BpplFGtplOnNEK3oU%3D&reserved=0> Immediately following the class will be an ARES/RACES "Hot

Wash" for Hurricane Irma and a Quarterly Meeting of the group. Please stay and attend this meeting to positively share thoughts and ideas on how we can make ourselves even better to serve the needs of the Office of Emergency Management, Preston Cook and Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Chief Jones. There is no need to re-register for this meeting if you already have done so. If you have not registered then please take the time to do so now at:

<https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhcaresraces.org%2Fevent%2Fquarterly-aresraces-meeting%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cwb9ujs%40msn.com%7Cf976c40e85c84622401908d4fd75855d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636412128561703362&sdata=B1Tdw%2BIG8phrLX9KxtlDF2Jvd0mz8XKO6qg0CKMjDEg%3D&reserved=0>

When you register for any event, you will now be given the choice of being able to directly add it to your calendar application.

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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

Send us your articles AND PICTURES! We do much more in the digital format! I would like to have pictures of BARS members and their ham shacks!

Remember to check out the BARS website:

brandonhamradio.org