

### **Come to the Club Meeting Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Our meeting this month is at our usual location: Brandon Assembly of God 710 South Kings Avenue in the Annex. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Doris WB9VDT bangs the gavel to start things off.

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### **September Program: Lightning and How It Works**

Have you every wondered whether to ground your antenna or supporting mast? Does the grounded antenna slowly discharge thunderclouds decreasing the likelihood of a lightning strike? Or does the grounded antenna facilitate a lightning strike by offering a convenient path to earth? Our speaker this month is **Ron Youvan, KA4INM**, who is a retired transmitter supervisor for WTOG-TV, and he will tell us "How Lightning Works."

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### **Alma Davis KC4ZZK SK**

Alma Davis KC4ZZK wife of Ray Davis became a Silent Key on 8 September. She was born on Christmas Eve in 1928 in Nashville, Tennessee. Many in the Brandon Amateur Radio Society knew that she had a ham ticket, but most did not know that she also held a private pilot's license. Services were held Sunday 11 September at 2:p.m. at Serenity Meadows Funeral Home in Riverview.

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## September 1939: The Beginning of WWII in Europe

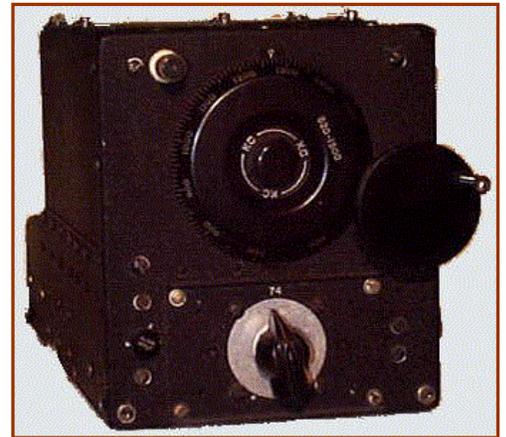
This month marks the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War with the invasion of Poland by Germany. Already there have been many articles in the press and mentions on TV about this conflict that changed the world, but the conflict had a tremendous impact on Amateur Radio, too. First off, let's remember that Amateur Radio played a role in providing trained radio operators ready for service (i.e. people who knew how to send and receive Morse code).



There is still a good-sized group of us who used a J-38 military surplus key as our first key in our Novice stations. The J-38 was designed for use with a Signal Corps radio/telegraph operator training set. The strange

looking binding posts and shorting strap at the back of the key were used to connect a set of headphones to one side of the key ("tel") and the other side of the key ("line") to the training set. The effect was to put the key and headphones in series. The circuit-closing switch on the right side of the key was used to set the key for listening (switch closed) or sending (switch open). The raised metal strip on the left side of the key was to enable rapid hookup of a semi-automatic key (bug) by using a cord and wedge. The other odd piece of hardware, a little eye screw on the left side of the key, was used to tie a cord from the headset leads to the key. When I first got on the air J-38 keys were selling at Army surplus stores for about 50¢ each.

When we set up our stations we fed the antenna with coaxial cable, something else that came to ham radio as a result of military surplus. The ARC 5 series of transmitters and the BC-450 series of receivers were key parts of many ham stations in the 40-s, 50-s and 60-s.



The explosion of RTTY and the necessary rules changes to enable that mode on the ham bands was another outgrowth of the war. Another consideration for Amateur Radio: all those military personnel who discovered radio communications through their military experiences came home and added their skills to the Ham Radio community.

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That wraps it up for this month. Have FUN with radio!  
After all, if it is not FUN, why do it?

### 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](http://brandonhamradio.org)**