

Brandon Amateur Radio Society Newsletter
Over 44 years of service to the Brandon Area
Brandon, Florida USA

Brandon Amateur Radio Society

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NS4M

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Click on a link above to go to the page!

Help tell the club's story...YOUR story! Submit an article today.

Amazon Smile is Now Available! Support Us While You Shop

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

How many of you purchase items on Amazon? I bet it's quite a few. You may have heard about a service called AmazonSmile. Amazon users can sign up for AmazonSmile and still have access to all the great Amazon products. Ama-

zonSmile will donate 0.05% of the eligible items purchased to a charity specified by the user. After signing up, you can specify which charity you want your donation to go to. If you desire, you can specify your donation to go to our club. You can click on the logo below to go directly to our charity and set up

your AmazonSmile account. You can also go to [our website](#) and click on the "Go to Amazon Smile" button.

Check it out. It is private. Your account information and purchase details are not shared. And, it's free!

On behalf of our club, Thank you!



New Yaesu Repeater Being Deployed

Dave Welty (N4DLW)

Dave Welty (N4DLW) recently purchased a Yaesu DR-1XFR repeater at a substantial discount via the System Fusion Repeater Installation & Upgrade Program. Working with Ray Negron (W4BKDW), they deployed the DRI-XFR to the UHF site in Lithia and moved

the DR2-X system to the VHF site in Brandon, eliminating the ailing VHF Kenwood repeater.

Settings are being tweaked, and the Kenwood repeater may be back at the VHF site from time to time, so if you have feedback please reach out to Dave and/or Ray so they can make things better.

Left: DR-2X Repeater in Brandon. Right: The repeatedly failing solder joint, which repeatedly caused issues on the old Kenwood VHF repeater. Photos by Dave Welty (N4DLW).



February Meeting Details

Ron Perrett (K4FZU)

The next meeting is February 18, 2021. Things kick off at 7:30 PM with a business meeting and a technical program will follow.

At the business meeting attendees will receive an update on club initiatives/actions. Stay for the technical program where Tom Ringate (K0ZXF), retired IBM Manager/Engineer and design

facilitator to PacComm will recount early day beginnings, frustrations, and success stories of the packet TNC.

If you have program ideas or would like to present one on something you are doing please contact me.

Next Meeting

February 18, 2021

7:30 PM

This meeting is virtual.

Register [here](#).

Tell a Friend!



We are heading in the right direction, let's keep it going.

From The President's Desk

Steve Maslin (NS4M)

Greetings from your President..... As Scott Irwin can attest to, my original message I submitted for this newsletter was a different one. At the time I wrote it, we still didn't have a Secretary, and Scott had just notified us that he was moving out of state and we'd have to find someone to take over his duties. I had just sent out an email practically begging people to volunteer.

I am extremely happy to report that a couple people have stepped forward to assist. Jim Smith (K4PPK) has volunteered to be Secretary, and JR Calvert (W4MIG) has volunteered to take over the Facebook and Twitter accounts to keep those running. As I write this, we are still in need of a Newsletter editor. This is a very important role to keep the story of the club published out there for all

to see, not just club members. I hope someone steps forward soon to keep this important function going. Scott is willing to assist in the turnover to a new editor before he leaves, and also is making himself available to answer questions or provide guidance after.

In other news, you may have heard that the VHF repeater had been having issues. Dave (N4DLW) was able to obtain an inexpensive replacement repeater which he and Ray (W4GKDW) put in place as the UHF repeater, and then moved the working UHF repeater over to the VHF site to replace the failing Kenwood equipment. A huge thanks go out to them as they were able to make that happen in a short amount of time. If others helped, we thank you too. It is appreciated by all, I assure you. There is still some tweaking to do with the audio and some other settings but

at least we have a working repeater! We will be handling the financial part of this equipment changeout at the next meeting.

We are heading in the right direction, let's keep it going.

73,
Steve Maslin, NS4M

WANTED: EDITOR

The newsletter editor works with officers, board members, and club members to create this publication. The goal is to tell the club's story while keeping members informed. Word processing/Microsoft Publisher experience recommended. If interested please contact Steve Maslin (NS4M).

TechCon will transition to a virtual conference to be held via the Section Zoom account.

7th Annual ARRL West Central Florida TechCon To Go Virtual

ARRL West Central Florida Press Release

The 7th Annual TECHCON, scheduled for Friday February 26 and Saturday February 27, 2021, which was scheduled to take place at the Polk County EOC, will transition to a virtual conference to be held via the Section Zoom account.

Darrell Davis (KT4WX), Chairman of TECHCON, made the following comments about the 7th Annual TECHCON going virtual, "I deeply regret this decision and it was not made easily. After consulting with those who are scheduled to speak and our Section Manager Mike Douglas (W4MDD), I decided it was in our best interest to have the 7th Annual TECHCON as a virtual event, due to rising

numbers of COVID-19 infections in the State of Florida, and also due to the reservations that many of our presenters and even some of our attendees had expressed in doing TECHCON in person. This will allow for continuity and not put us into the position of not having TECHCON in 2021 at all."

As of press time, the Friday Afternoon Workshop and the Saturday General Presentation will go forward and the Friday Evening Social, scheduled on Friday February 26, 2021 from 1800 through 2100 has been cancelled. There will only be one General Presentation Track on Saturday. Depending upon how many presentations are finally scheduled, the Saturday General Presentation Track could be

slight expanded or some presentations can be held on Friday morning before the Friday Afternoon Workshop.

The Section Zoom account will be used for both days of TECHCON. TECHCON is still free of charge but our attendance at any given time will be limited to 100, due to the terms of our Zoom account. A final speaking schedule will be available 1 to 2 weeks before TECHCON. Registration will continue to be open and registration is encouraged so we will have an idea who is attending. The TECHCON workshop and general sessions will be recorded for later viewing.

To register for TechCon 2021 click [here](#). -Editor



Member Perspective: Bob Haynes

Bob Haynes (WB4AKA)

I earned my Novice license in 1975. My first antenna was a 40' pushup pole fastened near the peak of my roof, with an 80 meter sloper dipole.



Bob Haynes (WB4AKA) Photo from QRZ.com, used with author permission.

There used to be a 400' radio tower at the municipal incinerator at 40th Street and Adamo Drive.

A truck snagged one of the guy wires, and the tower came down. I was working as a Claim Manager at the time, and an adjuster who knew I was a ham asked if I wanted to buy the salvage.

I did not have enough money at the time, so I declined to bid on it. Two months later he still had no bids, so he came back to me and asked me if I would bid \$20, whereupon I asked if he would accept cash. I called my

friend Bobby (WB4AKX) who was a crane operator and offered to give him the salvage provided that he would deliver six 10-foot sections that were not bent and leave them in my yard, along with any hardline, and he accepted the offer. This is Rohn 45, and each section weighs 110 pounds.

The tower is very nice, and I wouldn't mind selling it now. I hand-dug a hole 6' deep, 4.5 feet square, and made a grid of rebar in the hole, and then I called a cement company and asked if they ever had any concrete left over from a job that they could deliver to my yard and I would pay a discounted price for it. I set the first section of the tower so it extended 4' into the hole, and was absolutely vertical, and waited for the concrete. Then I assembled the rest of the tower on my lawn and told Bobby to come by and set up my tower with his crane some day when he got off early, which he did after the concrete dried, and that was another \$20. That's how I got a 56' free-standing tower.

I later bought the old Lakeland repeater, made by Hallicrafters, and set it up in my radio room. I

ran the two meter repeater for several years at my home, adding coordinated repeaters on 10 meters, six meters, one and a quarter meters, and 70 centimeters.

I built and installed my own hard-wired home burglar alarm system from a Radio Shack 12-volt relay. It was a beautiful setup and the only way to disarm it was to throw two hidden switches in two different rooms in the correct order. I made magnetic contacts for every window and door. That was my former home in Temple Terrace.

I have been a licensed all-lines insurance adjuster for 41 years, and I have sold insurance. I worked since 1998 as a public adjuster, which is an insurance expert on the side of the owner of damaged property (fire, storm, sinkhole, etc) working against the insurance companies. If you have an insurance or claim question, you are welcome to have my free advice.

Now I have a 900 foot horizontal wire antenna and also an end-fed longwire for 6 through 160 meters at 50'. I run the Humpday Net at 7 PM every Wednesday on N14M repeater 146.94 MHz PL 142.6 and write a weekly ham email newsletter.

Upcoming Club Events

- > February 17, 2021
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > February 18, 2021
BARS Club Meeting
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all monthly meetings).
- > February 24, 2021
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > March 03, 2021
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > March 10, 2021
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > March 17, 2021
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > March 18, 2021
BARS Club Meeting
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all monthly meetings).
- > Mondays, 8 PM ET
VHF Net (147.165 MHz)
- > Tuesdays, 7 PM ET
6 Meter Roundtable
(50.200 MHz USB)
- > Tuesdays, 8 PM ET
10 Meter Roundtable
(28.365 MHz USB)
- > Fridays, 7 PM ET
80 Meter Roundtable
(3.830 MHz LSB)



All of the fun of HamCation...but Virtually! February 13-14, 2021

With a virtual event, you can attend from anywhere you have an internet connection. Attend great webinars, join our QSO party, checkout our great prizes, earn or upgrade your license with in person VEC exams, and more! Do it all from 'virtually' anywhere.

[Click here for Webinars](#)

[Click here for Price Tickets](#)

Hillsborough County ARES/RACES Happenings

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

As you may know, our local Hillsborough ARES RACES organization operates a net every Thursday night at 7:30 on the [W4BCI](#) repeater (449.225 MHz, + offset, PL 146.2). The purpose of this net is to allow operators to ensure their equipment is ready for a critical event, to practice good radio etiquette, and to provide information relative to ARES RACES, and other activities of the radio community in our area. At times, weather updates are provided, as well as "Training Tidbits" such as a brief discussion of interesting topics such as Solar and Battery power, Generators, Shelter Tips, Interesting web sites, etc.

It is with great sadness that we report Scott Irwin ([WBUF0](#)) and Rodney Biddle ([KX4HD](#)) have decided to step down from their positions with the ARES RACES Net. We

want to thank Scott for serving as the "first-Thursday of the month" Net Control Operator for the past several years. Scott did a great job and was the first NCO to establish a "Training Tidbits" segment as a part of his net. These were always interesting, helpful, and very well done. Rodney has served as ARES RACES Net Manager for the past several years. He has done a fine job in this regard and has kept the net running smoothly during this time. We sincerely wish to thank both Scott and Rodney for their service and dedication to the net over the past several years. We will miss them but we wish them the best in their future activities. Thank You!

We are pleased to report that Ken Watts ([WA4NSV](#)) will become the new ARES RACES Net Manager. Welcome Ken and thank you for your willingness to serve in this position!

We are currently looking for an ARES RACES Net Control Operator for the first Thursday of each month. *Applicants need not have prior net control experience.* Coaching would be available if needed. A general net script is provided, although this can be modified by each net control operator to make it more personal. Interested candidates should have a radio capable of hitting the repeater consistently and robustly. The repeater is located atop the Regions Bank Building in downtown Tampa. The net runs from 7:30 to about 7:45 or 8 pm. It's a very low-stress net as we typically take between 5 and 10 check-ins.

If you would like to apply for this position, or if you would like more information, please contact Ken Watts ([WA4NSV](#)), Net Manager at kwatts@hillsboroughares.org, or 813-684-8487.

We are pleased to announce that Ken Watts will become the new ARES RACES Net Manager.



IARU Receives Gift of hamradio.org Domain

From ARRL Website

Andrew J. Wolfram, K17RYC, has donated the hamradio.org domain to the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) for non-profit educational use to promote the amateur and amateur satellite services.

In accepting this gift, IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, said, "The hamradio.org domain offers a unique opportunity for which we

are deeply grateful to Andrew. It is our intention to develop a website that can serve as a focal point for anyone, anywhere, who may be seeking information on amateur radio, which is better known as 'ham radio' by the general public."

The IARU is the global federation of national amateur radio organizations with member-societies in more than 160 countries and separate territories. Since its founding in 1925, the IARU has successfully defended and expanded access to the radio spectrum by radio amateurs internationally.

The hamradio.org domain offers a unique opportunity...



Brandon Amateur Radio Society (BARS) has been serving Brandon, Valrico, Mango, Seffner, Palm River, Gibsonton, Riverview, and the East Tampa area for over 44 years providing public service and emergency preparedness communications, license classes, license exams, and radio operator training programs.

It is easy to help us financially or pay your dues...click on the graphic below!



Our Repeaters

147.165 MHz (+ offset, 136.5 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM) - N4DLW-R, EchoLink Node #851343
443.500 MHz (+ Offset, 127.3 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM, C4FM) - N4DLW-RPT Wires-X Node #11036



Thank you to the members and staff of Arise for your kindness in allowing BARS the use of their facility!

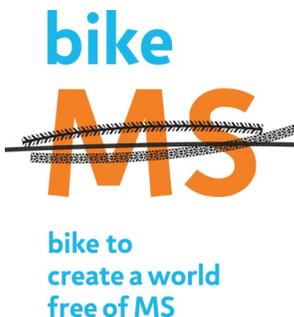
BIKE MS Citrus Tour 2021 Cancelled

West Central Florida Section Website

On Tuesday January 26, 2021, it was announced by the National MS Society that the "in person" portion of Bike MS Citrus Tour 2021 scheduled for Saturday March 6, 2021, is cancelled.

In the statement announcing the cancellation, the reason stated for the cancellation was due to concerns with the COVID-19 virus, guarantee of medical support within hospitals in the local area, and other logistical issues. Previously the Bike MS Citrus Tour 2021 had been reduced significantly from a two day to a one day event and cancellation of other related festivities. At press time, the date for the Bike MS Citrus Tour 2022 was not available.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section and the National MS Society extends its sincere thanks to all who had volunteered to provide communications support the Bike MS Citrus Tour 2021. The ARRL West Central Florida Section has sponsored the amateur radio communications support for Bike MS Citrus Tour since 2018.



Hamfests & Conventions

The hamfests below are within 50 miles of Brandon. To search for other hamfests/conventions click [here](#).

02/20/2021
Brooksville Hamfest
Brooksville, FL
[More Information](#)

02/26/2021 - 02/27/2021
7th Annual TECHCON - ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Conference
Winter Haven, FL
ARRL West Central Florida Section
[More information](#)

03/06/2021 - Charlotte County Hamfest
Location: Punta Gorda, FL
[More Information](#)

Note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak some hamfests and conventions may be cancelled or have specific rules/regulations in place. Please check with the sponsoring organization for status.

Brandon Amateur Radio Society



The Brandon Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a registered Florida Non-Profit Corporation

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Submit your articles & photos for the next edition of *The Antenna* by March 8, 2021!
Watch your e-mail for information about the new editor.