

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

The
ANTENNA

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

OVER 38 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA
BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA

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Come out to the BARS Meeting on February 19th

Come on out to the monthly BARS meeting at the Brandon Assembly of God at 710 South Kings (next to the golf driving range). The meeting will be in the annex next to the sanctuary building. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Doris WB9VDT bangs the gavel.

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Link to HF Digital Nets

Bernie W4BGH passes along this useful bit of information: For anyone interested, here is a link to a list of HF digital nets. One can use FLdigi to participate or listen to these nets.

http://midcoastdigiham.belljar.net/NBEMS_Nets_11_August_2014.pdf

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History of Radio: Citizens Band

Hams lose frequencies to the 10-4 Good Buddies

Many of us remember the heyday of Citizens Band (CB) Radio in the 1970-s. The explosion of CB radio led to the big growth of Ham Radio in the 70-s. I wanted to get a CB license and get started on that part of radio fun, but was too young to get a CB license (you had to be 18 years old!), so I stayed on 40 meter CW. Years later I got a CB radio and converted it to 10 meters and the only contact I worked with it was a CW contact on 10-meters (I keyed the microphone switch).



CB Beginnings

CB actually started off in the 1940-s. These services started off in 1945 with the idea of having a radio service for the average citizen to have a radio band for personal communications, radio remote control, and business communications. In 1948 CB radio equipment was set up to operate on UHF. The problem was that in the late



40-s UHF equipment was neither practical or affordable, so the CB service languished. The FCC decided to fix that problem in 1958 by taking the 11-meter band away from the Amateur Service for the first 22 channels and channel 23 was shared with the radio controlled devices allocation. (I still have a VFO out in the garage with the 11 meter band frequencies on it.) This was designated as Class D CB. See the January newsletter for the breakdown of the various classes of Citizens Radio Service designations under Part 95.

The former UHF frequencies in the 460 MHz range were reassigned to business and public safety communications.

During the 60-s CB was used by small businesses and a few radio hobbyists. Technology intervened in the late 60-s. Transistors made the radios smaller, lighter, and cheaper. By the end of the 60-s there were CB clubs and CB slang evolved along with the use of the 10-codes used by emergency services.

The Arabs Do Their Part

After the 1973 oil embargo, the government imposed a 55-mile-per-hour speed limit. Fuel rationing became a fact of life. Truckers and other travelers used CB to locate gas stations and to tip off other drivers of speed traps. CB was also used to organize blockades and convoys. In 1974 one instigator (handle: River Rat) was able to almost singlehandedly coordinate a blockage by hundreds of tractor-trailer rigs in Pennsylvania. The blockade began in I-80 and spread across the country with River Rat's messages being relayed from truck to truck. CB radios played a key role for the independent truck operators who were paid by the mile. These operators were hard hit by the 55 MPH speed limit. Hollywood climbed on the bandwagon in the 70-s: *Smokey and the Bandit* and *Convoy* popularized CB radio. On television we had *The Dukes of Hazzard* and *Movin' On*.

The FCC originally tried to have channel 10 used for highway comms east of the Mississippi river and channel 19 for highway west of the Mississippi with channel 1 used for a calling channel. For the most part all of this was ignored by the CB-ers. Channel 9 did survive as the emergency communication channel. With the rapidly growing numbers of CB stations on the air in the 1970-s the FCC increased the number of channels available for communications to 40. By this time it was also becoming clear that CB activity had exceeded the regulatory power of the FCC. CB "handles" were used instead of call signs for station identification and many operators were operating outside of the channelized frequencies. The FCC's approach to illegal CB operation was to punish law-abiding Amateur Radio operators by limiting the sale of amplifiers that could operate on the 10-meter band.



CB on the water



Since CB was coming down in price in the 70-s, and VHF Marine Band was still expensive, many boaters put CB radios on their boats. Business caught on to this market, and introduced Marine CBs containing a weather band (wx). There was a lot of controversy about whether or not the Coast Guard should monitor CB radio, but they did.. The Coast Guard stopped this practice in the late 80s and recommends VHF Marine Band radios for boaters. Today the Coast Guard communication infrastructure is in such poor shape they can no longer provide reliable monitoring of 2.182 MHz, the Marine voice distress and calling frequency.

CB Radio Today

Three factors affected CB in the negative: Cellular phone service, the internet, and the Family Radio Service (Subpart B in the Citizens Radio Service). The 11 meter band is in the upper range of the HF spectrum and is subject to the effects of the sunspot cycle. Changes in propagation characteristics disappointed many CB hobbyists as the long range communication possibilities waned. Small business operators moved up to the VHF and UHF allocations for MURS and other services in order to avoid the interference and noise of AM and SSB radio. Casual users found other communication alternatives: Cell phones and On Star. Further reductions in CB operation for hobby use were made by easing the requirements for an Amateur Radio license. Now anyone with some free time and access to a computer could easily qualify for an Extra Class license. Many CB-ers took advantages of this opportunity to leave the crowded CB channels and move into Ham Radio. CB is still around, but operations on CB are just a shadow of what they were in the late 60-s and 70-s.



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BARS Hams and Their Ham Shacks

We put this statement in every newsletter: **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!**



Well, **Mark Calderini KM4AHK** took us up on that statement and sent a great photo of his shack. We are delighted to put it in the newsletter.

How did YOU get started in Ham Radio? Do you have pix and stories from YOUR Novice days? Write it up and send it in!

That's it for this month. Have FUN with radio!

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**

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would like to have pictures of BARS members and their ham shacks!**

**Remember to check out the BARS website:
brandonhamradio.org**