



Come to the Club Meeting Thursday March 16th

Come out to the meeting this month at Arise Brandon Assembly of God 710 South Kings Avenue in the Annex. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Scott bangs the gavel to start things off. Also note in this issue is information on Florida State Parks On The Air. A fun operating event is coming up for Florida State Parks on April 1st. Read on for more information.

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March Program: Using the Computer Sound Card for JT65 and JT9

The program for the March meeting is a video about the sound card modes JT65 and JT9. These modes have their origin in weak signal moon bounce experiments, but have proven useful for QRP HF QSOs. In addition, the idea of "weak signal" can be extended to stations that are "antenna challenged" and may be of interest to folks with HOA restrictions or limited space.

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Veteran Wireless Operators Museum To Open 15 April

On the 105th anniversary of the sinking of the *RMS Titanic* (15 April, 2017) the Veteran Wireless Operators Association (VWOA) exhibition will open at the Info Age Museum, Science and Learning Center, at Camp Evans, 2201 Marconi Road in Wall Township, New Jersey.

The VWOA display will feature a "Sparks at Sea" presentation tracing the history of the ship radio officer in peace and war. Vintage maritime radio equipment will be on display along with historic "radio shack" items. The permanent exhibit is underwritten and curated by members of the VWOA, the 92-year old organization of

former communication professionals in the maritime and broadcasting industries committed to preserving the history of wireless.

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Florida State Parks On The Air

Mark your calendar for Saturday April 1st for this Florida Ham Radio Event

Earlier this month at the American Victory Radio Club meeting the members watched a great presentation by Matthew R Stevens **KK4FEM** on SPOTA (State Parks On The Air). Be sure to mark your calendar for the first ever Florida State Parks on the Air contest! Whether you are a casual operator, a serious contester, in Florida, out of Florida, or even outside the United States, this contest is for you.

The inaugural event will be the first Saturday in April, 2017 (yes, it's April 1st.) Operating time is from 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC. Most Florida parks open at 8:00 AM local time, and close at sundown. The operating time period of 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM (local) should allow time to enter the park, set up a station, operate, and tear down in time to leave before park closing. See the [rules page](#) for more details.

This event was started by a group of amateur radio operators from central Florida who love to get out and operate portable in our beautiful home state, with the intent to:

- Promote public awareness of ham radio and Florida's state parks system
- Contribute to the recognition and appreciation of Florida's diverse ecology
- Encourage camaraderie and sportsmanship among Florida's Amateur Radio Operators, and
- Provide a venue for Florida amateurs to get out and enjoy operating in the great outdoors.

Florida has an [award-winning](#) State Parks system featuring more than 170 park sites, including cultural centers, archeological digs, Civil War-era forts, wildlife preserves, and recreational areas – not to mention beaches! Be sure to visit floridastateparks.org for more information on camping, educational materials, park maps, and a complete list of parks organized by region. There is also an excellent [GIS map of all the park locations](#) available online courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

You can activate a park location!

Do you wish there was a way you could have fun chasing (and activating) Florida state parks all year long? There is! We will be offering a Florida State Parks Chaser awards for those dedicated operators who have managed to chase and contact all of the qualifying Florida State Parks, and accompanying Florida State Parks Activator awards for those who have activated all of the qualifying Florida State Parks. This is intended to be a year-round addition to the Florida State Parks on the Air [Contest](#) which takes place the first Saturday of every April – you DON'T have to make all your contacts for the Activator and Chaser awards during the contest period.

[Click here to download the 2016 Worked \(and Activated\) all Parks logsheet!](#)



Contacts can be made using any mode, on any of the Amateur HF and VHF bands. [Repeater](#) contacts are not eligible for this award, except for Satellite contacts.

Just keep track of the parks you've activated or contacted over the year (or multiple years), and obtain QSO [verification](#) for the parks you are claiming for the award. Chasers can provide verification for claimed contacts either as eQSLs or paper QSLs, with the claimed Florida State Park noted on each [card](#).

For activators, the Florida State Parks on the Air committee may ask for verification of your claimed activations in the form of photos and [GPS coordinates](#) of your operating locations. See the Rules page for more information, and the list of requirements to qualify for valid activations.

You can apply for each one of the following award levels:

Florida State Parks On the Air Activator Awards

- Mockingbird = 25 parks activated
- Spoonbill = 50 parks activated
- Sandhill Crane = 100 parks activated
- Swallowtail Kite = Activated all qualifying Florida State Parks as listed on the Official Parks List for the current calendar year.



**Matt KK4FEM working CW
at Colt Creek Park**

Florida State Parks On the Air Chaser Awards

- Gopher Tortoise = 25 park contacts
- Manatee = 50 park contacts
- Black Bear = 100 park contacts
- Florida Panther = Worked all qualifying Florida State Parks as listed on the Official Parks List for the current calendar year

To apply, please contact kk4fem@flspota.org

That wraps it up 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

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**