



Come to the Club Meeting Thursday March 15th

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.

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BARS Members Participate in Winter Field Day

Dana KM4DTJ sent along these pictures of this year's Winter Field Day operation. Here is picture of the Winter Field Day crew.

The Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators who believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns. There are many who believe that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios. The addition of Winter Field Day (WFD) will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations. This is why WFD is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide.





Disasters are unpredictable by nature and can strike when you least expect them. WFDA's goal is to help enhance your skills and ready you for all environmental conditions found in the US and Canada during the spring, summer, fall and winter Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event and this is what local and state authorities are expecting when they reach out to the emergency service groups that offer their services. These operators fire up their radio during the last full weekend in January and operate under Field Day conditions. It might be tough in Vermont during this time frame, but in Florida it sometimes is preferable to the usual June heat, humidity, thunderstorms, and insects.

For those anxious to provide communications under conditions outside the usual ham shack at home here is an opportunity: During the first weekend in June there is an international activity called Museum Ships Weekend when museum ships and others operate on the ham bands. Right here in the Tampa Bay area we have the S.S. American Victor. There is a real need for one or two RVs along with some phone and CW ops to operate at the ship location that weekend to put the WWII ship on the air. If you would like to support this important local effort, contact Mark WB9UJS.

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Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Hillsborough County Exercise

In February the Bi Bend CERT organization and the HC Office of Emergency Management sponsored an Emergency Response Disaster Training Exercise. The primary objective of the Exercise was to conduct a Teen Cert End Of Course Disaster Exercise. Approximately 80 Eastbay High School JROTC students completed the G-317 Basic CERT Training course during the Fall 2017 semester. The Exercise provided a realistic scenario for the students to form Search and Rescue Teams, conduct Triage and treatment of victims, provides continuing support for victims and to communicate with support services for evacuation/treatment of victims.



Some Exercise Participants

The secondary objective of the Exercise was to give local CERT teams the opportunity to practice their CERT skills as both Safety Officers/Training Evaluators and as stand-alone teams providing Search and Rescue,

Victim Triage/Treatment, and emergency communications. The scenario dealt with the aftermath of a tornado strike on East Bay High School. The damage to the buildings was severe with the result that first responders could not access the campus area and would be unable to assist for several hours. As a result, it was up to the Student Teen CERT members to form teams to assess the situation, save as many lives as possible, and to communicate the situation status to the Hillsborough County Fire Department. Some of the triage activity that took place during the exercise is shown in the photo at the right.

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New Technology and Old Technology Intermingle In the 21st Century

On Saturday March 3rd Chief Radio Operator Don Berger W4CQC was on board the American Victory and passed along this experience with maritime CW and cell phone communications. What a blend of technologies! Here is his report:

Had real fun at the ship today.. Very few visitors because two big cruise ships sailed during the time I was onboard and our guests were busy waving to the passengers onboard the cruisers....tested all gear in the KKUI RR - WWV coming in good on 15 and 10 Mhz. Conditions sounded good so I transmitted a short "Howdy" to KPH and immediately received a reply (by text on my cellphone!!!

Made my day. Thanks guys !! Traffic from KPH as follows:

KKUI DE KPH R GA OM QRK 4 QSA 4 FB QRU 73 BV KKUI DE KPH SK SU

KKUI DE KPH R R R FB OM HAVE A GOOD DAY THERE ____ FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS 73 BV
KKUI DE KPH ZUT E E

KKUI DE KPH 73 OM SK E E

For those who need a translation -....San Francisco Radio said = "Good afternoon you have a very good signal here Have a good day there with good weather. That's it for now Bye Bye"....

It's always a pleasure to work with the true believers at MRHS

Good luck with your antenna projects !!!

- Don Berger W4CQC

Many of the "true believers" are eagerly awaiting the return of the multi-kilowatt CW signals from KPH and KFS on the commercial maritime bands. Their antenna restoration work should be finished soon!

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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

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