

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society
Newsletter

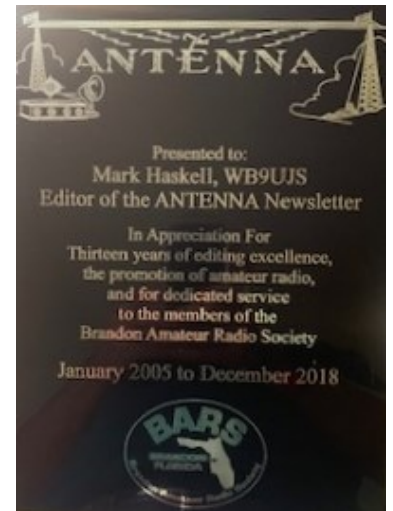
OVER 42 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA
BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA

VOL XLVI, NUMBER 2

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Mark Haskell WB9UJS Awarded BARS Appreciation Plaque

At the January meeting of the Brandon Amateur Radio Society, our President, Scott Irwin thanked Mark Haskell for his excellence in editing the Antenna Newsletter for the past 13 years. Mark was also recognized for his promotion of Amateur Radio, and for his dedication and service to the Society over the years. Scott presented Mark with a beautiful plaque.



Winter Field Day, 2019

On the weekend of January 26th, many members of BARS gathered at the home of Richard Jones to participate in Winter Field Day. On Saturday they operated as a 2O station on 20 and 40 meters SSB. Despite the technical difficulty of a tent blowing over, they managed to make 59 contacts. The chili was reported to be excellent and the camaraderie even better. By himself, Richard made an additional 105 contacts on Sunday as a 1H station on 20, 40, and 80 meters.



Winter Field Day — Continued

The team was led by Richard Jones KW4MB and Rod Clark KC4MMR.

The other team members were:

Donnie Tomlinson KI4DT

Dick Capell KJ6FNV

Dave Welty N4DLW

Ron Perrett K4FZU

Jim Smith K4PPK

Ken Watts WA4NSV

Janet Watts KB4PUM

John Garner K4ZVO

Clinton Frantz KN4DUS

Thanks to all to participated!



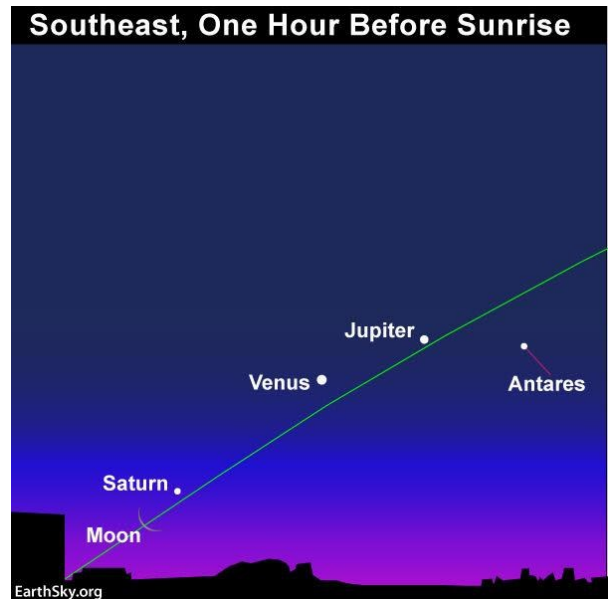
Astronomy and Amateur Radio

The overlap between Astronomy and Amateur Radio seems to be a natural phenomenon. BARS has several members (Kelly Anderson, Ron Perrett, and Scott Irwin to name a few) with a keen interest in Astronomy. This was manifest recently in the activity on our email list regarding the total lunar eclipse, also known as the Wolf Blood Moon (see cropped photo from Kelly Anderson KE4GS shown below). It was truly spectacular!



And for those of us out walking our dogs in early morning, who look up and wonder: “What star is that?” here is a view of the southeast at dawn (from EarthSky.org).

We thank all of the Astronomers who shared their photos of the lunar eclipse.



Club Dues: What Does That Get You?

By Jim Moorehead WF4AC



It's that time of year once more; club dues are being collected. So what does your money do for you and the rest of BARS members? Funny you should ask, I just happen to have the answer.

Let's begin with our repeaters. We own and operate VHF and UHF stations. Our membership use these daily. Use over time means repairs and purchasing new or refurbished equipment. We budget \$623 annually although expenses tend to come all at one time. For instance, last year we spent \$2,342 for equipment and services (tower climbers). As you can imagine our bank account took a hit. But that's not all.

We put on a great field day every year. Having three stations (two competitive and a GOTA) gives all members a chance to participate in the nation's premier ham radio event. Of course there are expenses that are incurred. We have \$200 insurance and \$800 budgeted for general expenses such as generator fuel, antenna supports, a great picnic meal and a sundry of emergency equipment repairs. So what other expenses do we have?

Well, facility rental is \$250, Post Office PO box rental is \$82 and club promotional material is \$75. As you can see, we budget a little over \$2000 a year, although we don't usually spend the \$625 on repeaters, so usually \$1400 annually. So how much do we take in? In 2018 we took in \$1245 in dues. Although we have about 50-60 members annually, 9 are family memberships at \$30 each rather than individual \$25 memberships. That's not enough to cover everything last year. **So how did we manage to last year? We lost \$500 from the beginning of the year, even with over \$1000 in club member donations.** Wow, what a generous group of folks. Looking toward 2019, we can't count on these donations. So membership dues are really important. That's where you come in.

Please send in or give me your membership dues as early as possible.

You can write a check to BARS and send to:

Brandon Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 2307

Brandon, FL, 33509-2307

Looking forward to seeing you all at the February 21st meeting which will be at the Bloomingdale Regional Public Library, 1906 Bloomindale Ave. Brandon, FL. Just look for the sign that says "The Treasurer is In".

SKYWARN

The National Weather Service indicates that SKYWARN™ spotters are a vital link in using advanced radar data and meteorological skills to carry out their mission. Spotter observations also provide information to compile documentation of severe weather events and verification of warnings. These reports become part of the United States Storm Data publication, which is used by researchers and also provides climatological data on a wide variety of unusual weather phenomena, including statistics on death, injuries, and property and crop damage.



Over half of the 1600 + spotters are also licensed amateur radio operators. The hams throughout many counties meet and organize their spotter efforts on one radio frequency (network or nets), when severe weather threatens. In Hillsborough county, the NI4CE repeater system (442.550(+)) PL 100 is activated during severe weather. On that same repeater system, there is a SKYWARN Net every Tuesday night at 9 pm.

For further information on becoming a spotter, see: <https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>

The next nearby SKYWARN training session will be on March 21st in Sun City Center from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Sun City Chamber of Commerce. Everyone is welcome.

ARES RACES News

Hillsborough ARES RACES is looking for 10 amateur operator volunteers to help provide emergency communication for the Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Tampa at Al Lopez Park on Saturday, April 6th from 8 am to 2 pm. For more information see: <https://hillsboroughares.org/event/ms-walk-tampa/> This would be a low stress way for newly licensed operators to gain experience in emergency communications.



If you are interested in joining Hillsborough ARES RACES, or you are already a member, it's important to know that you must register on two different websites to be included in all communications:

<https://members.hillsboroughares.org/>
aresdb.com

Hillsborough ARES RACES sponsors a weekly UHF Net on the W4BCI repeater (444.225 (+)) PL 146.2) every Thursday Night at 7:30 pm. They also sponsor a monthly VHF Simplex Net on the Third Tuesday of each month on 146.490 MHz, No PL tone required. This net is intended to allow operators to test their equipment should repeaters go down in a critical event. All amateur operators are welcome to check in to these nets.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section will sponsor the 5th Annual TechCon on February 22nd and February 23rd at the Public Safety Operations Complex in Tampa. For more details, see:

<http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>

What is it?



Can you guess what is pictured in the photo to the left? Here are some helpful details: It's old, very old. It was found at a high altitude. It was causing problems. Neighbors complained of a strange sound coming from the general location of this "thing" throughout the wee morning hours. It was not featured on Star Trek the Next Generation. It is not part of a Tardis.

Choose from the 5 possible answers below. Remember, all the usual caveats of taking standardized tests apply here: You will not be penalized by guessing. If in doubt, choose B. Usually the longest answer is the correct answer. The correct answer will be given at the February Meeting.

- A: The solar panel positioning motor from Voyager 5.
- B. The critical magnetic H1 spin coupling bearing chamber of the 88 GWatt Flux Capacitor.
- C. The disassembled and corroded motor of Ron Perrett's washing machine.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

Good luck!

HOW TO POWER BATTERY DEVICES WHEN THERE'S NO POWER JACK

By Bob Haynes WB4AKA

Lots of great electronics are sold without an external power jack. You can avoid the expense and inconvenience of battery replacement by energizing the battery holder from an AC power supply. A battery contact can be easy to access, or way down inside a plastic tube. Without tearing into your battery compartment, you can bring power to those hard and easy-to-reach contacts. The solution is simple and dirt cheap.

Start by applying a little Scotch tape to one battery contact to keep your battery from shorting out.





Gently clamp the battery the long way into a vise. Cut a wood dowel a little longer than the battery. If you are preparing this for use in a plastic tube, the dowel must be slender enough for thin wire to feed alongside the dowel.

Cut a small disc from a tin can lid with metal shears and solder a thin wire to it.



Glue the disc to the end with the soldered joint facing the dowel. I like silicone glue for this. The vice can be used to help you match the exact length of the battery. Remove a small amount off the exposed end of the dowel with a file or a bench grinder and keep trying it in place until it is a good fit next to the battery.



Now the contact will reach the exact distance into the battery pack to make a good contact, and you can drill a small hole in the battery compartment cover to bring the power wire in.

I needed to replace 3 AA batteries in series. A fresh battery will put out 1.6 VDC. Three in series run 4.8 volts. I used the 5 volt line from an old cell phone AC power cube.

Works great and looks neat. I have been powering my device for many years, and it is still going great.

Wooden batteries are also useful in those battery holders that are exposed. The spring at the negative end will hold the wooden battery in place nicely.

Hope this helps.

Upcoming Hamfests

March 2nd, 2019: Charlotte County Hamfest 2019

Punta Gorda Boat Club, 802 West Esplanade, Punta Gorda FL 33950

Also on March 2, 2019: ZAARC Hamfest 2019

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church, 5855 16th St., Zephyr Hills, FL 33539

March 16, 2019: Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest 2019

Millennium Acadaemy, 10005 Ridge Road, New Port Richey, FL 34652

March 23: Sarasota Emergency Radio Club Hamfest 2019

Sarasota Red Cross HQ, 2001 Cantu Court, Sarasota, FL 34232



Next Month Features

In our March Antenna Newsletter, look for the following articles:

The Uniden BCD 436 HP C Scanner– a review by Mark Haskell WB9UJS

Activities on the American Victory Ship

ARES RACES News

Pod Casts Pertinent to Amateur Radio

New Members

Amateur Operator of the Month

Our Next BARS Monthly Membership Meeting



ARISE
ASSEMBLY OF GOD AT BRANDON

The next meeting will be at our regular location:
March 21st, 2019 at 7:30 pm at Arise Assembly of
Church, 401 Pauls Drive, Brandon, FL 33511

We thank the members and staff of Arise for their kindness in allowing BARS to use their facility.

Photo Credits

We thank the following Society members for contributing photos to this edition of the Antenna:

Angie Vazquez KI4RUC, Ken Watts WA4NSV, Kelly Anderson KE4GS, Richard Jones KW4MB,

John Garner K4VZO, Scott Irvin W8UFO, and Dana Perrin KM4DTJ.

BARS General Info

Mondays: 2 meter Net on K4TN Repeater and Echolink node N4DLW-R (Brandon, FL) at 8 pm

Tuesdays: 6 meter Roundtable on 50.200 USB at 7 pm and 10 meter Roundtable on 28.365 USB at 8 pm

Fridays: 80 meter Roundtable on 3.830 LSB at 7 pm



Webpage: brandonhamradio.org



Facebook: <http://fb.me/brandonhamradio>



Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/brandonhamradio>



Be sure to like us on Facebook!

We WELCOME articles and photos for inclusion in this newsletter.

Please submit them to: danaperrin@aol.com before the 12th of the month of publication. Thanks and -73-