



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

VOL XLVI, NUMBER 8

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Society Officers:

- President: Scott Irwin*
- Vice President: Ron Perrett*
- Treasurer: Jim Moorehead*
- Secretary: Jeff Dick*
- Repeater Trustee: Tony Stone*

[brandonhamradio.org](http://www.brandonhamradio.org)

<http://fb.me/brandonhamradio>

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



New Member News

Welcome Ron Mennard W6HTF

At our last BARS Monthly Meeting, Ron Mennard was accepted as a new member. A Membership Certificate was presented to Ron by our President, Scott Irwin. Ron is a General class Operator.



WELCOME RON!

Karen Jacobi K4KZF Has Set Up a Home Base Station



Besides being active on our BARS Monday night 2 meter net, Karen has been using a Buddy Pole Antenna to make contacts on several HF bands. She met with Jim Moorehead recently to perform a site survey to determine the next step towards a dedicated HF antenna. **WAY TO GO KAREN!**

A Word About Our Newsletter

The Antenna contains numerous URL links in blue underlined font. Readers can hover over these links and click on them to go to the webpage indicated by the link. With some computers it is necessary to first click on the link (then release), then press and hold the CTRL key, then move the mouse slightly keeping the cursor over the link, and then, click the mouse to open the web page. Try it:

<http://www.brandonhamradio.org/>

BARS Happenings

Monday Nights at Dunkin Donuts - by Bill Johnson

We have been meeting at Dunkin Donuts every Monday night for nearly 10 years. We originally started as a means for friends to meet and greet and it turned into much more. Originally Dave Welty, N4DLW and I started to meet for coffee and to check into the BARS Nets on Mondays.. We started inviting our friends to join us and the Monday night sessions evolved into so much more. We invited perfect strangers who asked for help with a cross section of radio and computer problems. We soon found ourselves programming scanners, ham radios, and resolving computer problems. It also turned into a forum for demonstrating new facets of communications. I saw Raspberry Pi demonstrated for the first time on a Monday night. We enjoy the cordial atmosphere and the many treats available from the Dunkin Donuts and Baskin Robbins offerings. Steve N4SEM always has a hot fudge Sunday, Dave N4DLW always tries whatever is new, Janet KB4PUM and I enjoy a scoop of Baseball Nut ice cream with our coffee. Our group has entertained as many as 18 visitors on a Monday night. We all listen to the BARS Net and one of us will usually check the entire group in. We have solved the world's problems and planned to attend ham fests over coffee and fellowship.



From left to right:

Bill Johnson (hiding in back)

Scott Irwin

Ray Negron Steve Manning

Dave Welty

Jeff Dick

Ron Perrett

Come join in on **Mondays at 7:30 pm (or so) at Dunkin Donuts located at 950 Lumsden Road, Brandon.**

Come check into the BARS 2 meter net with all your friends! Besides donuts, they have ice cream too!

- Continued -

BARS Happenings - Continued

Village Inn Pie Night



Yes, there really is such a thing as a free lunch...I mean...free pie!

(with purchase of an entree)

Join us on **Wednesdays at 7:30 pm** at Village Inn located at 1995 West Lumsden Rd., Brandon.

Steak 'n Shake Breakfast



Come On Down!...to breakfast and mentoring on **Saturday mornings**.

We meet at **8 am** at Steak 'n Shake located at 10131 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview.

BARS Happenings - Continued

More Parade 2019 Photos!

We had more photos submitted and here they are!



Randy Lee



Angie Vazquez, Jim Smith, and Scott Irwin



Nancy Lessard

The Osprey Observer Features the Brandon Amateur Radio Society!



Jim Moorehead, Art Lusk, and Fred Hendershot

During our Field Day 2019 activities on June 22nd and 23rd, we had a visit by Mr. Sean Crumpacker from the Osprey Observer. He wrote a great article which appeared in the July Valrico edition on page 13. You can use the link below to see the entire article, which gives an excellent description of BARS and of Amateur Radio's role to provide emergency communications in a critical event. The photo to the left was included in the article.

<https://www.ospreyobserver.com/2019/07/brandon-amateur-radio-society-hosts-annual-amateur-radio-field-day/>

We thank Scott Irwin for writing the Press Release and inviting the media to our event.

Georgia



Jerry Brewer WC4JB Relocates to Cleveland, Georgia

Jerry, an active member of BARS for several years, moved back to Georgia in early July to be closer to family. He was a stalwart member of our Saturday Morning Steak 'n Shake Breakfast Crew (far right foreground below).



Below are a few photos from a past day several BARS members helped Jerry install an HF antenna.



We will all miss Jerry and we wish him well as he enters a new chapter in his life. Be sure to listen for Jerry on 40 meters. You may run into him!

Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate!

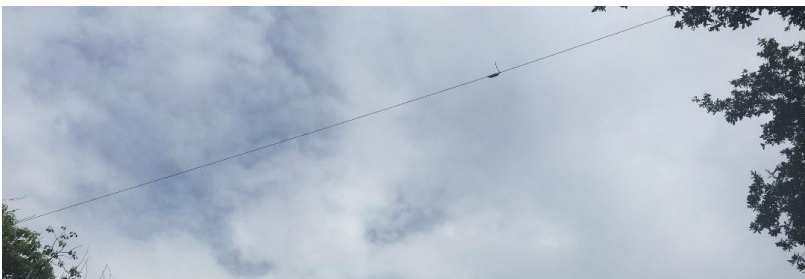
We have the watch!

Antenna Installations

In September, Jim Smith and Jim Moorehead assisted Angie Vazquez install a VHF/UHF antenna.



In July, they helped install a multiband HF antenna. Ron Perrett helped with setting up an ICOM base radio.



As a result of all of the above activities,

**Angie Vazquez
KI4RUC**

**is in the process of setting up a home
base station!**

We thank Jim Moorehead, Jim Smith, and Ron Perrett for helping Angie!

Great Job Guys and Congratulations Angie!



Did You Know...?

Docent guided tours are available on the American Victory. Check it out! See the radio room and take a tour of the entire ship. There is a lot of history to see!

<http://www.americanyictory.org/visit-us/tour-information/>



The classroom style SKYWARN® Spotter Training Classes in our area are complete for this season. Classes will resume in November. Training is still available on - line at: <https://www.weather.gov/tbw/skywarn>

“Skywarn® and the Skywarn® logo are registered trademarks of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, used with permission.”



The West Central Florida Section of the ARRL has recently published the Summer 2019 edition of a technical newsletter called “The Experimenter.” Further information is available at two websites:

<http://arrlwcfc.org/news/2019/07/10/wcf-section-press-release-19-22/>

<http://arrlwcfc.org/home/the-wcf-experimenter-technical-newsletter/>

The WCF ARRL also publishes a section newsletter called “The Presser” which gives news pertinent to the West Central Florida Section. A free download is available at:

<http://arrlwcfc.org/home/the-wcf-section-presser-arrl-west-central-florida-section-news/>

The date for the next West Central Florida TechCon 2020 has been set for this coming February. Further information is available at :

<http://arrlwcfc.org/news/2019/07/22/wcf-section-press-release-19-23/>



It's Here!!! The new version of digital software WSJT-X has been released! This version contains the software to be able to use a faster version of FT-8 called FT-4. Check it out: <http://www.arrl.org/news/major-wsjt-x-upgrade-boosts-ft4-into-a-finished-protocol-for-hf-contesting>



The Amateur Radio electronics Union is sponsoring a new 6 meter net on Wednesdays at 7 pm on 50.200 MHz USB. Try it!

Amateur Radio electronics Union

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ARES RACES News



Hillsborough ARES RACES sponsors a **weekly UHF Net** on the W4BCI repeater (444.225 (+) PL 146.2) every Thursday Night at 7:30 pm. All amateur operators are welcome to check in to this net. **If you would like to become a Net Control Operator for this net, please contact Dana Perrin at danaperrin@aol.com. Training/Coaching is available.**

On July 16th and August 20th (the third Tuesday of each month), we host a monthly ARES Simplex Net at 7 pm on 146.490 MHz, no PL tone needed. The purpose of this net is to allow operators to practice relay techniques and to test their equipment should repeaters go down during a critical event. All amateur operators are welcome to check in.



We are actively looking for volunteers to provide emergency radio communications in: Evacuation Centers, in our 911 Call Facility, and also to assist Hillsborough Fire Rescue Battalion Chiefs, during a critical event. All training will be provided. Interested individuals can contact: <https://hillsboroughares.org/volunteer-inquiry/>

The main website for Hillsborough ARES RACES is:

<https://hillsboroughares.org/>

We encourage operators to check out this web site as it contains information on emergency preparation and go kit resources.

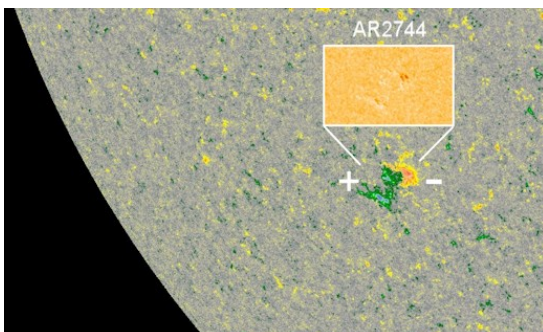
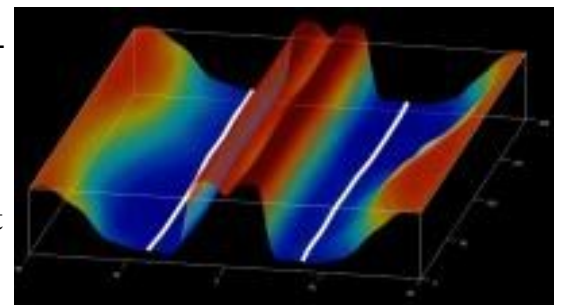
Solar Weather Update - by Dana Perrin

Last month we highlighted a paper from the journal *Nature* which predicted the current solar minimum for cycle 24 would last until 2055.

This month we highlight a paper which appeared in the American Academy for the Advancement of Science Newsletter which provides a method to tell when the next solar cycle will begin using the concept of Terminators. The full reference for the article is: *EurekaAlert*, 24-Jul-2019: "Terminators on the sun trigger plasma tsunamis and the start of new solar cycles."

This article indicates that: "The next solar cycle is predicted to take off within a year." A computer simulation of a solar plasma tsunami is shown to the above right. See the link:

https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2019-07/ncfa-ot072319.php



Interestingly, a sunspot recently arose, AR 2744, pictured to the left. The solar physicists analyzed this and found that this sunspot has the reverse polarity compared to sunspots in the current solar cycle (cycle 24). This reversal of polarity is also a predictor that solar cycle 25 is on the way.

Good News for Amateur Radio Operators!

Calendar

Every Saturday Morning at 8 am: Mentoring Breakfast at Steak 'n Shake, 10131 Bloomingdale Ave., Riverview.

Every Monday Evening at 7:30 pm: Dunkin Donuts, 950 Lumsden Road, Brandon. Come check into the BARS 2 meter net with all your friends! They have ice cream too!

Every Tuesday Morning at 8:30 am: Mentoring Breakfast at the New York Diner, 2126 Jelane Drive, Valrico. Come early to be sure to get a seat!

Every Wednesday Evening at 7:30 pm: Free Pie Night at Village Inn, 1995 West Lumsden Rd., Brandon.

Every Thursday Morning at 10 am: Mentoring Breakfast at Einstein Bagels, 660 West Brandon Blvd., Brandon. Come early to get a seat!

Some Thursday Afternoons: The Venerable Society of the Crusty Curmudgeons of Cards, at Starbuck's, 6042 Winthrop Town Center Ave., Riverview. Check with Jeff Dick for exact times and dates.



August 17th (Saturday): TARC-FEST, 8 am to 1 pm, 7801 N 22nd St, Tampa, FL 33610. Admission will be \$5 per person (children 12 and under free), Tailgating will be \$5 and includes 1 person admission. Indoor tables are \$15.00 in advance Great food and drink, VE Test Sessions are available after the event.

<http://arrlwcf.org/event/tarcfest-xlvi/>

September 7th (Saturday): There will be no Radio Licensing Exam Session due to closeness of the Labor Day Holiday.

September 21st (Saturday): 2019 FALL PASCO COUNTY HAMFEST – Gunn Highway Flea Market, Odesa, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/2019-fall-pasco-county-hamfest/>

October 11th (Friday): 54TH ANNUAL MELBOURNE HAMFEST DAY 1 - Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/54th-annual-melbourne-hamfest-day-one/>

October 12th (Saturday): 54th ANNUAL MELBOURNE HAMFEST DAY 2 - Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/54th-annual-melbourne-hamfest-day-two/>

October 19th (Saturday): WCF SECTION ARES MEETING - Hillsborough County EOC, Tampa, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-fall-2019/>

October 26th (Saturday): GULF COAST ARC FALL HAMFEST 2019 - Millenium Academy, New Port Richey, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/gulf-coast-fall-2019-hamfest/>

November 9th (Saturday): SPARCFEST 2019 - Freedom Lake Park, Pinellas Park, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/sparcfest-2019/>

December 13th and 14th (Saturday and Sunday): 44th ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST – Strawberry Festival Grounds, Plant City, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/event/44th-annual-tampa-bay-hamfest-day-one/>

February 21st and 22nd (Friday and Saturday): 6th ANNUAL WCF TECHCON 2020 - Charlotte County EOC, Punta Gorda, FL. <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2019/07/22/wcf-section-press-release-19-23/>

Our Next BARS Monthly Membership Meeting

The next meeting on Thursday, August 15th will be at our regular meeting location: Arise Assembly of God Church, 401 Pauls Drive, Brandon, FL 33511.

Our President, Scott Irwin, will bang the gavel to start the meeting at 7:30 pm. After a brief Business Meeting, we will feature a presentation by Ron Perrett regarding:



**“Cosmos Awareness of our Sun,
Its Cycles and Functions on Propagation.”**

JOIN US!

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



ARISE
ASSEMBLY OF GOD AT BRANDON

BARS General Info



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

Tuesdays 7 pm: 6 meter Roundtable on 50.200 USB

Tuesdays, 8 pm: 10 meter Roundtable on 28.365 USB

Fridays 7 pm: 80 meter Roundtable on 3.830 LSB

Acknowledgements:

We thank the following contributors to this edition of the Antenna Newsletter: Bill Johnson (for the article on Dunkin Donuts), Jeff Dick (for photos), Ron Perrett (for the Pie Night photos), Denise and Randy Lee (for photos), Scott Irwin (for the Osprey Observer Feature Article), and Nancy Lessard (for photos and for proofreading this newsletter)!

We WELCOME articles and photos for inclusion in this newsletter. We also welcome any constructive feedback (positive and negative) from our readers. Please submit them to: danaperrin@aol.com

Thanks and -73-