



Brandon Amateur Radio Society

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FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees

Scott Irwin (W8UFD)

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed at the end of August in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

MD Docket No. 20-270 includes A \$50 application fee for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests.

Address changes, e-mail address changes, and other administrative updates will not incur a fee since those updates are done by the licensee.

The NPM, which proposes fee changes for other radio services, including GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) and commercial licenses, was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better

Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "Ray Baum's Act," which mandates that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based recovery system.

The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. The docket stated "[t]he Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services."

While a deadline for comments has not been set because the docket has not been published in the Federal Register, you may file comments by posting to MD Docket No. 20-270 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Use the graphic to the right as a guide to do so.



Photo by @hamprep on Twitter.

Important October Meeting Information

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

Join us at 7:30 PM on October 15 for a business meeting at which we will get an update regarding on officer nominations and members will vote on whether to proceed with the MARV project.

Our bylaws state that a motion must be approved by a simple majority of those voting members present. There is no quorum requirement for this vote. Since

we are not meeting in person, members must be on their own Zoom connection to participate in the vote. No proxy votes, text messaging votes, or Zoom Chat votes are permitted.

After the meeting there will be a technical program.

If you have program ideas or topics you would like covered please reach out Ron Perrett (K4FZU).

Next Meeting

October 15, 2020

7:30 PM

This meeting is virtual.

Register [here](#).

Tell a Friend!

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Help tell the club's story...YOUR story! Submit an article today.

From The President's Desk

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

If you've checked your email recently, you have probably guessed that our October meeting will be jam packed. We will be discussing the need for Nominations Team participants who are charged with identifying a slate of officers for 2021. We are also planning to have a vote on whether or not to proceed with the acquisition of the Van. Both the Nominations Team/Slate of Officers and the Van vote will have a profound impact on the direction our club will take in 2021 and beyond. **I strongly encourage all members to attend this meeting. Your participation is critical!**

In both of the above areas, we need the active participation of our members. I ask every member to consider the questions: "What do I envision for our club in 2021?" ... and ... "What role am I willing to take to make this vision come to life?" ... and ... "How can I participate?"

I envision the coming year to be extraordinary in several ways. First, at the beginning of 2020,

we faced the stark legal realization that we needed to formally incorporate our club, update our bylaws, construct articles of incorporation, and obtain a fictitious name, in order to maintain both our organizational identity and related brand. We accomplished all of this. At the same time, we navigated 2020 very well financially thanks to several members who sold equipment on behalf of the club for extra income, and thanks to the many members who paid their dues to remain or become members of BARS. We appear well prepared for any necessary repeater related maintenance in 2021. Secondly, we are now a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation. We have not yet started to take advantage of this in any way. With a little creativity and networking, we may be able to obtain sources of donations to support our operations and further our mission. Thirdly, we have the unique opportunity to offer the community our educational and technical expertise in a totally new and unique way by using the Mobile Amateur Radio Vehicle. No other organization in our county can

offer this. To me, 2021 has the potential to be very bright! How do you envision next year?

Finally, as write this and as I look at the CDC website, it's clear that the COVID-19 virus will likely be around for a while. All expectations are that we will have a COVID-19 vaccine sometime later this year or early in 2021. I very much look forward to resuming our regular meetings in person next year. In the meantime, we will continue with Zoom virtual meetings and I for one will still be very cautious and will continue to follow the guidelines for social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing. Oh, and don't forget to get your Influenza vaccine! Stay Safe Out There!

*Do more than belong: participate.
Do more than care: help.
Do more than believe: practice.
Do more than be fair: be kind.
Do more than forgive: forget.
Do more than dream: work.*

- William Arthur Ward -



To me, 2021 has the potential to be very bright! How do you envision next year?

The next exam session is November 7 at Arise Church at Brandon. The session starts at 11 AM.

License Exams Bring Crop of New Hams

Bill Johnson (WJ4G)

The October 3 license exam session at Arise Church at Brandon garnered 11 new technician licensees and 2 upgrades, which included 1 general and 1 extra class licensees. Thanks to the volunteer examiners for all the work you do!

There is one session left in 2020, which will be held at 11:00 AM on November 7, 2020. Candidates must call Bill Johnson (813-928-

8697 or moo.bill@verizon.net) to pre-register. For the safety of the volunteer examiners and candidates, masks are required (no exceptions).



Photos by Bill Johnson (WJ4G)



Joint Radio and Astronomy Day...Come on By!

Kelly Anderson (KE4GS)

I have a modest proposal.

As you may recall, over the past few months I've contributed a few articles to The Antenna concerning the intersection of Amateur Radio and Amateur Astronomy. It seems to me that these two hobbies are natural cousins. We Hams and Star Gazers are fascinated with technology and science. We study these disciplines not only to earn certifications and licenses, but also because we're intensely curious about how the Universe works and want to know more. We enjoy associating with those who have similar interests and love to share our knowledge.

I'm an active member of both the [Brandon Amateur Radio Society](#) and the [St. Petersburg Astronomy Club](#). So is Scott Irwin (W8UFD). So is Jack Fritz, (K04HLB).

I suspect that many of BARS members would enjoy spending an evening with some astronomers doing real astronomy in well-established and comfortable surroundings. I'm also pretty sure that there are a number of astronomers who'd enjoy seeing Amateur Radio in action. As luck would have it, the St Pete Astronomy Club (SPAC) has a "dark site" (a place of low light pollution ... it has nothing to do with the dark side of the Force) on the grounds of the [Withlacoochee River Park](#), a Pasco

County facility located about 4 miles east of Dade City. For most of us who live in Brandon the park is less than a one-hour drive. This is a beautiful park on the banks of the Withlacoochee River just as it empties into the Green Swamp. Don't worry, people hardly ever get eaten by alligators.

The park has well maintained hiking trails and a 60-foot observation tower, incredible wildlife in a gorgeous setting. The Park alone is worth the trip, but wouldn't it be great if we had a few of our mobile hams set up for a day of "Parks on the Air" at the same time as the astronomy club met for a weekend of observing?

SPAC members meet in a large, open field with plenty of room for both telescopes and mobile ham stations. There are ample RV sites with 30-amp power and water. There are additional sites with only 15-amp power (no water) for non-campers or tenters. There is plenty of room for antennas, and a very nice bathhouse with all the usual amenities a short walk from the field. Camping fee for electric/water sites is \$15 per night, \$5 for tenting. If you're not staying the night there is no charge, but the Park would appreciate a \$2 day-use fee. There's plenty of room to keep physical distancing (I dislike the term "social distancing"), and you can feel free to roam wherever you wish.

The astronomers meet there every month during the weekend closest to the New Moon. That's when the sky is darkest and the celestial wonders are at their finest. Assuming no clouds. Everyone send your positive thoughts to the cloud gods and help keep our skies clear.

As a member of the St Petersburg Astronomy Club I hereby invite members of the Brandon Amateur Radio Society to a weekend of radios and telescopes for **Saturday, October 17th**. As a member of the Brandon Amateur Radio Society, I hereby accept my gracious offer.

So who's interested in doing some Parks on the Air, showing some people what ham radio is about, and finishing the day with some celestial wonderment? If you don't want to set up any mobile radios but would like to check out the astronomy, that's OK too. We'd love to have you.

There are very few things an astronomer likes more than having someone look through their scope so they can see what the fuss is all about.

Oh, by the way, the photo of the Moon at the top of this letter is an image I took of the "Harvest Moon" a few years ago. The full moon we just experienced in early October is also a "Harvest Moon." Thought you'd like to know.

Upcoming Club Events

- > October 14, 2020
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > October 15, 2020
BARS Club Meeting
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all monthly meetings).
- > October 21, 2020
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > October 28, 2020
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > November 04, 2020
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > November 11, 2020
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > November 18, 2020
Virtual Coffee Hour
7:30 PM Online.
Register [here](#) (one registration works for all instances).
- > November 19, 2020
BARS Club Meeting
7:30 PM Online. Register [here](#) (one registration works for all monthly meetings).
- > Mondays, 8 PM ET
VHF Net (147.165 MHz)
- > Tuesdays, 7 PM ET
6 Meter Roundtable (50.200 MHz USB)
- > Tuesdays, 8 PM ET
10 Meter Roundtable (28.365 MHz USB)
- > Fridays, 7 PM ET
80 Meter Roundtable (3.830 MHz LSB)

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society (BARS) has been serving Brandon, Valrico, Mango, Seffner, Palm River, Gibsonton, Riverview, and the East Tampa area for over 43 years providing public service and emergency preparedness communications as well as license classes and radio operator training programs.



Thank you to the members and staff of Arise for their kindness

In allowing BARS the use of their facility!

Our Repeaters

147.165 MHz (+ offset, 136.5 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM) - N4DLW-R Echolink Node
443.500 MHz (+ Offset, 127.3 Hz PL Tone, Analog FM, C4FM) - N4DLW/R Wires X



Brandon Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a registered Florida Non-Profit Corporation

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

BCI Communications Still Seeks Help

Timothy Courtier (KBBAFS)

Are you looking to use your ham radio (or other) skills to make some money?

BCI Communications has been a long time supporter of BARS through various activities such as providing a temporary home for our repeaters when we were asked to leave our previous site, providing business radios to help support communications for the Brandon Community Foundation

Fourth of July Parade, and allowing Hillsborough County ARES/RACES to use the W4BCI Repeater for it's weekly UHF Net.

They have full and part-time openings in their sales and service departments and will accept retirees. You can also join the W4BCI Amateur Radio Club if hired.

For more information call me at 813-628-4900 or send me an e-mail at timothy@bcicomm.com.



Hamfests & Coventions

12/11/2020 - 12/12/2020
Tampa Bay Hamfest, ARRL Florida State Convention
Plant City, FL

Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council

[More Information](#)

CANCELLED - 02/11/2020 - 02/14/2020

Orlando Hamcation
Orlando, FL

[More Information](#)

02/26/2021 - 02/27/2021
7th Annual TECHCON - ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Conference

Winter Haven, FL
ARRL West Central Florida Section

[More information](#)

Note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak some hamfests and conventions may be cancelled or have specific rules/regulations in place. Please check with the sponsoring organization for status.



<https://fb.me/brandonhamradio>



<https://www.twitter.com/brandonhamradio>



Submit your articles & photos for the next edition of *The Antenna* by November 09, 2020!

Send electronic submissions to [w8ufo \(at\) arrl \(dot\) net](mailto:w8ufo@arrl.net)