

# The Antenna

## Brandon Amateur Radio Society



### Field Day Was A Blast For BARS

by Jim Smith K4PPK

Are we having fun yet? -- That saying conjures up negative thoughts of just how much fun we really are having. Well this past weekend was full of fun for the BARS members that participated in the club's Field



Day activities from home. And because we were logging our contacts utilizing a network connection, in a way it was like we were all together again. At one time, I counted four or five members who were not operating at the time connected to the logging network just watching others making contacts. In a way it was like looking over the shoulder of a club member who was holding a microphone or CW key.

This year fourteen individuals signed up to join in on the largest Ham Radio event on the planet, the ARRL sponsored Field Day. And to quote Yogi Berra it was "Deja Vu all over again". Our Field Day began and ended just like last year. The first contact was made by JR (W4MIG) Saturday at 2:02 PM running the digital mode FT8 and just like last year the last contact was made by Jim (KK4CWO) utilizing SSB Sunday at 1:58 PM (and if you are thinking why did they waste the four minutes, you and I are thinking alike). In between those times we succeeded in making 185 phone contacts, 194 CW contacts and a whopping 480 digital contacts. The total 859 contacts is much better than we did last year, and last year was the best year we had since 2013, a sunspot maximum period. The credit of our success this year belongs to those of you who were actually "in the arena" as Teddy Roosevelt might have put it.

### Officers of the Society

#### President

Steve Maslin

NS4M

#### Vice President

Ron Perrett

K4FZU

#### Treasurer

Wayne Thomas

KM7WDT

#### Secretary

Jim Smith

K4PPK

#### Board Members

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Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

#### Repeater Trustee

Tony Stone (W4TAS)

#### Director

Bill Johnson (WJ4G)

#### Director

Kelly Anderson (KE4GS)

#### Newsletter Staff

#### Co-Editors (Layout/News)

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

Jim Smith (K4PPK)

#### Proofreader

Nancy Lessard (KM4WMD)

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## Field Day (Continued)

A special thank you must go to JR (W4MIG) for setting up the Field Day Logging Network. He came up with the idea and built the N3FJP Field Day Logging Software Network on Microsoft's Azure Cloud Network (I think). He told me that the logging software was located on a server somewhere in the Southeast United States and was being backed up probably in California. To that, all I can say is "Shazam"!

Band	CW	Dig	Phone	Total	%
80	6	0	1	7	1
40	65	179	54	298	35
20	13	223	125	461	54
15	7	78	0	85	10
10	3	0	5	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>100</b>

BARS contacts displayed by Band and Mode

More of Field Day on Page 3

## The New York Diner Is Open!

Yes, the Tuesday morning breakfast is back on and the crowd is getting bigger! We are meeting at 8:30 am just like in the good ol' days. Come on in, set a spell, and chow down. Bring your radio topics/questions for discussion.



## Club Activities

**Two meter net** – every Monday at 8PM on 147.165 MHz FM

**Six meter roundtable**– every Tuesday at 7PM on 50.200 MHz USB

**Virtual Coffee Hour** – every Wednesday at 7:30PM on Zoom

**BARS Business Meeting** – third Thursday of each month at 7:30PM on Zoom

**Eighty meter roundtable**– every Friday at 7PM on or near 3.830 MHz LSB

## July / August DX

### British Virgin Islands

July 4 - 17

### Alaska

July 9 - 16

### St. Vincent

July 23 - August 3

### Bermuda

August 11 - 16

For the full DX story check out this web site:

<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

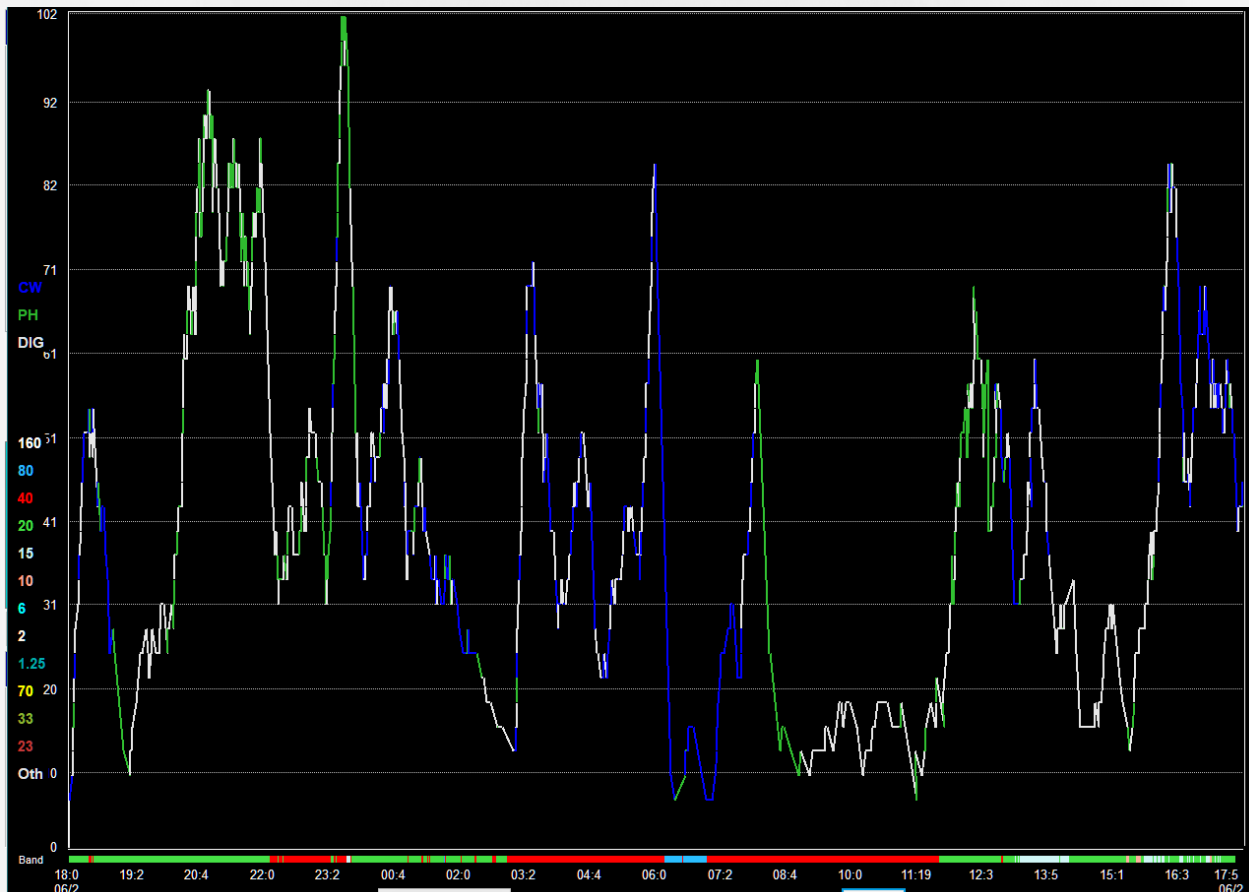
## Upcoming Monthly Club Meetings

**July 15, 2021** 7:30 PM by Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/BARSMeeting>

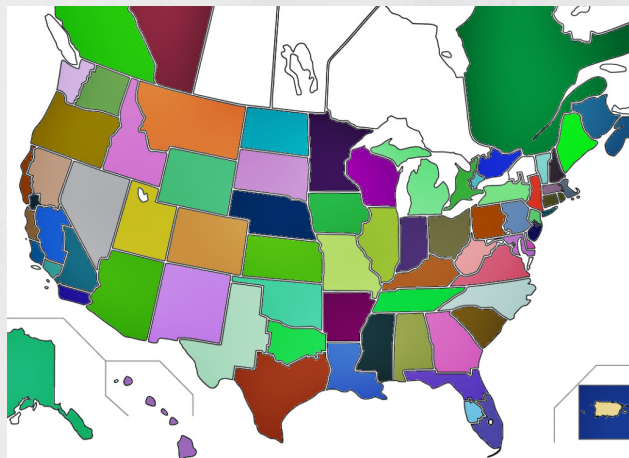
**August 19, 2021**

7:30 PM



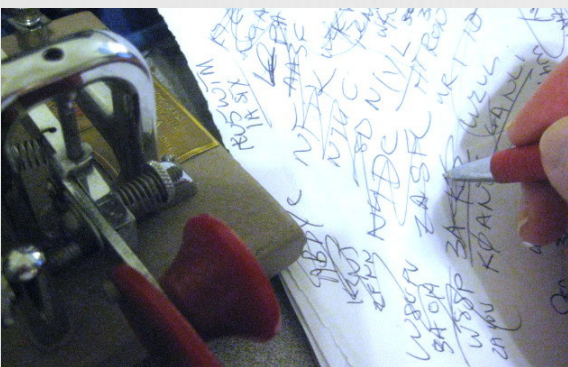
Activity Graph: Vertical axis: Mathematical computation of contact per hour. Horizontal axis: Time in Zulu depicting predominant band of operation (Green-20, Red-40, Blue-80, Lt Blue-15, Pink-10). The graph depicts contacts by predominant mode (CW-Blue, Phone-Green, Digital-White). At approximately 7:30 PM we reached 102 contacts per hour.

Time	JUNE 26th-27th, 2021 CW Operation	BARS Field Day Sign-up Sheet Phone Operation (SSB)	K4TN Digital Operation
2:00 PM	Donnie - K4DT	Ken WA4NSV / Janet KB4PUM	JR W4MIG
3:00 PM		Ken WA4NSV / Janet KB4PUM	Jim K4PPK
4:00 PM		Jim WF4AC	Jim K4PPK
5:00 PM		Jim WF4AC	Jim K4PPK
6:00 PM		Rod KC4MMR / Richard KW4MB	JR W4MIG
7:00 PM	Ron - K4FZU	Rod KC4MMR / Richard KW4MB	JR W4MIG
8:00 PM	Donnie - K4DT	Jim3 KK4CWO	JR W4MIG
9:00 PM	Donnie - K4DT	Jim3 KK4CWO	Richard KW4MB
10:00 PM	Donnie - K4DT	Dave N4DLW	Richard KW4MB
11:00 PM	Ron - K4FZU	Dave N4DLW	Jim K4PPK
12:00 AM	Bill W4JG / Dave N4DLW		Jim K4PPK
1:00 AM	Bill W4JG / Dave N4DLW		Jim K4PPK
2:00 AM	Ron - K4FZU	Dave N4DLW	
3:00 AM	Ron - K4FZU		JR W4MIG
4:00 AM		Richard KW4MB	
5:00 AM			Richard KW4MB
6:00 AM		Ivan W4IWD	Richard KW4MB
7:00 AM		Ivan W4IWD	Richard KW4MB
8:00 AM		Jim WF4AC	JR W4MIG
9:00 AM	Jim K4PPK	Jim3 KK4CWO	JR W4MIG
10:00 AM		Jim3 KK4CWO	Jim K4PPK
11:00 AM		Jim3 KK4CWO	Jim K4PPK
12:00 PM	Donnie K4DT	Jim3 KK4CWO	JR W4MIG
1:00 PM	Donnie K4DT	Jim3 KK4CWO	JR W4MIG



Thank you to all of these individuals who "made" the K4TN Field Day

We worked all 50 states and about half of the Canadian provinces



Ron (K4FZU) copying call signs while operating his CW Vibroplex Bug



Jim (WF4AC) operating phone at his very nice station.

## Presidential Chatter

by Steve Maslin NS4M

Hello everyone... I would first like to acknowledge Vice-President Ron Perrett (K4FZU). I was on vacation for a week in June and could not attend the monthly meeting. I asked Ron to cover my duties as host and "MC", of the meeting, and I appreciate that he accepted the fill-in without any hesitation. In other news, we are trying to piece together returning to in-person meetings, while still having a virtual option for those that cannot attend in-person for whatever reason they have, we will not judge. We hope to get back to in-person meetings for the August meeting, as our normal meeting place is already booked for July for another group. However, we are still working out the details. We could entertain a new meeting venue so if anyone has any ideas or contacts at a location that provides extremely low cost / no cost meeting space. Contact me if you have any leads, otherwise we will continue working with ARISE to work out a schedule going forward but right now, July's meeting looks like it will be virtual. I hope those that participated in Field Day 2021 this coming weekend (June 26th-27th), have a great time!  
73's for now,  
Steve, NS4M

## Ham Radio Websites Worth Exploring

ARRL - Useful educational, technical and operational links

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

West Central Florida Section of the ARRL

<http://arrlwcf.org/>

QRZ.com - Call sign lookup service and a general-interest ham radio portal

<https://www.qrz.com/>

AMSAT - Amateur satellites information website

<https://www.amsat.org/>

eHam.net - News, articles, equipment swap-and-shop, product reviews, and mailing lists

<https://www.eham.net/>

## Zoom Zoom!

Don't forget about our Wednesday night Virtual Coffee Hours held on Zoom at 7:30 pm:

<https://tinyurl.com/BARSCoffee>

And our Third Thursday of the Month Membership Meetings also held on Zoom at 7:30 pm:

<https://tinyurl.com/BARSMeeting>

## Amazon "Smiles" on BARS

Do you shop at Amazon? Many of us do. Did you know your shopping can provide the club cash benefits? Now that BARS is incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of your purchases on selected items directly to us at no cost to you. Take a look at the website below for additional information and consider signing up for the program.



<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

# The BARS Van

by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ



As you may know our club acquired an eighteen passenger van in late October 2020. It was a generous gift from Martin Jordan (KB1MJ).

Since the last edition of the Antenna, we have continued with our activities to convert it from a passenger van into a mobile vehicle capable of providing BARS the ability to promote our club, support emergency events, train, or just about anything else amateur radio related.

In May and June, all the flooring was replaced with new materials and the floor was sealed. Our plan is to install a carpet over the floor and then begin the work of fitting the van with tables. Following that, we will begin installing radio gear.

Help on the project is always needed. If you would like to volunteer and join those currently working on the project, please contact Dick Hoff (972-672-5110).

Contributing to the project in May and June were: Dave Welty N3DLW, Skip Argoe KD4IOF, Dan Todhunter (Skip's Son-In-Law), Jim Stocks KK4CWO, Dick Capell KJ6NSV, Rodney Biddle KX4HD, Ken Watts WA4NSV, and Janet Watts KB4PUM. We thank Janet for the great photos!



## American Victory Ship Activities

by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ

Throughout May and June, Ron Perrett K4FZU, Martin Jordan KB1MJ, Wayne Thomas KM7WDT, and Dana Perrin KM4DTJ met aboard the SS American Victory for renovation activities. On behalf of BARS, we have been assigned to renovate the First Officer's Quarters, which by the way, is only a few steps down the hallway from the ship's radio rooms.

We are currently working on finishing the painting of the walls and ceiling. At our last visit, we sanded the door and door frame, and around the portholes. We have decided to work only for a few hours each time. So far, it has been a lot of fun. We already see some improvement! There's a lot more work to be done if other club members would like to join in. If so, please contact Ron Perrett, K4FZU.



The SS American Victory



Pictured above, Left to Right:  
Ron Perrett, Wayne Thomas, and  
Martin Jordan



Pictured above, Left to Right: Ron Perrett,  
Martin Jordan, and Dana Perrin

To the Right is a photo of one of the two Radio Rooms aboard the SS American Victory



## My Antenna Tree

by Ken Watts WA4NSV

About 5 years ago I re-attended the Melbourne Hamfest after a long hiatus from ham radio. When I left ham radio, I was active in ARES/RACES and I was interested in returning to that service. At the hamfest I began shopping for what has become a rather substantial portable HF, VHF, UHF station. As I was wandering through the exhibit hall two similar items caught my attention. One was a brand new speaker stand tripod and the other was a used speaker tripod. The major difference was that the owner of the used tripod had already begun to set it up for antennas. The price of the two was the same so I chose the used one, and I'm glad that I did. The used stand came with a horizontal galvanized steel pipe and a vertical pipe already attached. I have since counterbalanced that with another vertical galvanized pipe on the other end. This setup has morphed into my antenna tree which will accommodate a variety of different antennas. There is a mount for a BuddiStick or other vertical antenna; I also have a permanent mount for a Diamond X-50 (VHF-UHF) on one end. On the opposing end I can mount an Icom AH-32 (also VHF-UHF) with a removeable mount. In addition, I can even mount a small Opek mag-mount antenna. The mounting and placement of an antenna during a hurricane will most likely be indoors until the storm has passed. My antenna tree gives me the flexibility to use the gain of the X-50 outside, or indoors if the ceiling permits. The AH-32 can be used inside or out and the Opek is perfect if the ceiling is low and the repeater is in reasonable distance from the Evacuation Center. The most crucial part of a portable station is, arguably, the antenna and this setup affords me a very good antenna system with flexibility for most any situation.



Pictured above:

X-50, a fiberglass CB antenna cut down to 10 meters on the mount where the BuddiStick can go, and the AH32 on the other end.

Photos above by Janet Watts KB4PUM

# Do you know what this is?

by Jim Smith K4PPK



Have a try at these from the FCC question pool.

**Technician Class License:**

Who may select a desired call sign under the vanity call sign rules?

- A. Only a licensed amateur with a General or Amateur Extra class license
- B. Only a licensed amateur with an Amateur Extra class license
- C. Only a licensed amateur who has been licensed continuously for more than 10 years
- D. Any licensed amateur

**General Class License:**

What is the maximum transmitting power an amateur station may use on the 12-meter band?

- A. 50 watts PEP output
- B. 200 watts PEP output
- C. 1500 watts PEP output
- D. An effective radiated power equivalent to 100 watts from a half-wave dipole

**Extra Class License:**

How do the control operator responsibilities of a station under automatic control differ from one under local control?

- A. Under local control there is no control operator
- B. Under automatic control the control operator is not required to be present at the control point
- C. Under automatic control there is no control operator
- D. Under local control a control operator is not required to be present at a control point



## Quiz Answers

The cabinet on the left side of the picture is the BARS 2 Meter Repeater. From the top: Yaesu DR-2X 2 Mtr/70 CM Repeater (will be relocated to the to the 440 repeater site); Kenwood TKR-720 (Primary Repeater); VoCom VHF Power Amplifier; GE VHF Power Supply; CAT 300 Repeater Controller; VHF Duplexer(4 Cans). The TKR-720 is supplying about ten watts of power to the VoCom Power Amplifier which is producing around 60 watts of power to the antenna.

## License test questions

Question 1 - D

Question 2 - C

Question 3 - B

## A Word From The Editor

I want to thank our Co-Editor, Jim Smith K4PPK for all of his support as I came up to speed with the new software we are using to produce the Newsletter. It can be a bit quirky at times, but Jim has helped me through it all.

I also thank Janet Watts for sending in the photos from the Van Work Days. Also, kudos to Dick Hoff and Jim Smith for sending in a photo from a recent Tuesday morning New York Diner Breakfast. We also thank Ken Watts for the article "My Antenna Tree" and we thank Janet Watts for photos related to that article. Thank you all!

We welcome comments and suggestions for improvements. And we are always looking for articles, photos, and interesting topics. Just drop us an email:

Jim Smith: k4ppkjim@gmail.com

Dana Perrin: danaperrin@aol.com

Many thanks and

-73-

Dana PS: Please be sure to check out the very last page, put together by Jim Smith!

**Thank you to the members and staff of Arise for your kindness in allowing BARS the use of the facility!**

BARS Website

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

Facebook

<https://fb.me/brandonhamradio>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/brandonhamradio>

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

Happy 4th of  
July

