

The Antenna

Brandon Amateur Radio Society



Parks on the Air

by Jim Smith K4PPK

"Parks on the Air (POTA) - - an ongoing program that encourages amateur radio operators in the development of their skills, fostering community and demonstrating the hobby to the public."



There are thousands of parks available in the program and each will present a unique experience. Parks on the Air has been around in one form or fashion for six or eight years. It started out as national parks, forests and preserves but has been expanded to include state parks, forests, nature preserves and conservation areas.

There are more than a dozen parks within a short drive of us just waiting for you to activate (operate from) and there are fifty or more parks around North America that are being activated by other hams every day for you to contact."

The POTA website <https://parksontheair.com> is an excellent place to start your adventure into something new in ham radio. Whether you want to operate from one of the parks yourself or just contact other hams who have activated a park, the website provides detailed assistance. You can find parks around the Tampa area that you might like to activate (Maps of Entities) as well as parks that are being activated by hams around the country (POTA Spots).

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NS4M

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POTA - Continued

The POTA program provides an excellent way to get on the air and make contacts with individuals that are just dying to talk to you.

I have had a lot of fun making one hundred seventy contacts from the five parks that a few friends and I have activated as well as when I was working individual hams in two hundred forty-two different parks across the US and Canada from my home shack.

Give it a try, but be careful. You just might be bitten by the ham bug again or maybe by one of the real bugs in the park.



K4PPK activated the “Chito Branch Reserve State Conservation Area” during October with thirty-two FT8 digital contacts in just over an hour from the front seat of his pickup using a Yaesu FT-857 and the vehicle’s antenna. (No complicated setup here)

Presidential Chatter

by Steve Maslin NS4M

Could this be our last Presidential Chatter article ever? I sure hope not, but the only way to make sure it isn’t, is we need someone to step forward and assume the responsibilities of **Editor of the Antenna Newsletter**. Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ) and Jim Smith (K4PPK) did a fantastic job sharing the responsibility this year keeping the newsletter going, now it is time for someone else to step up to continue the Antenna.

-Continued on page 3-

Club Activities

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

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

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

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

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

November / December DX

Galapagos - HD8R

Oct 26-Nov 7

Maldives - HB9SHD

Nov 1-30

Rwanda - 9X4X

Nov 24-Dec 1

Bouvet Is. - 3Y0I

Dec 25-Jan 25

For the full DX story check out these web sites:

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

<http://www.arrrl.org/the-arrrl-contest-update>

Upcoming Monthly Club

Meeting:

Nov 18, 2021 7:30 PM

Presidential Chatter - Continued

We realize we are a smaller organization in relation to some others in the area, however, even with more members, those other organizations have similar issues; The same group of guys and gals do most of the work within the organization.

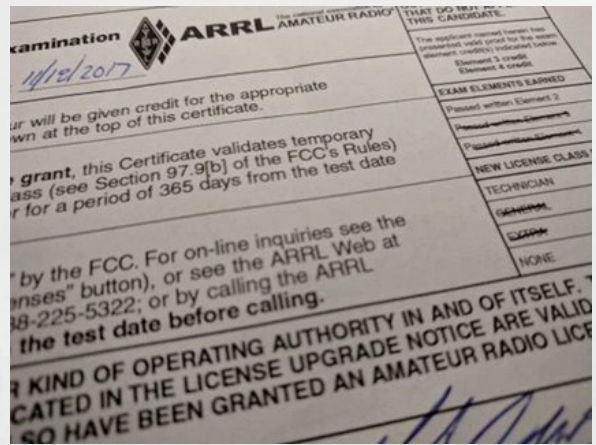
I know I sound like a broken record as I keep saying it, but this is YOUR organization and what comes out of it is what you put into it. It cannot survive on its own, nor can the same people keep doing all the work without getting burned out and wanting to step away. **This is your chance to step forward and assist in running YOUR organization.**

If you are interested in taking over the **newsletter** so it continues into the new year, please contact me.

On that same note, as of the writing of this article, we still need volunteers to be nominated for **Board and Officer positions**. Please consider helping your organization.

Also, we are still actively looking for a permanent home for our meetings. The Bloomingdale Library is still an option, but we would have to move to Tuesday nights, and we'd have to change our meeting time. I prefer to not change everything with the risk of having to change again because of the library closing earlier, booking issues (since we can only book 90 days in advance), etc. The virtual meetings are impersonal but at least we can stay consistent with the date/time until we find that permanent place. Because of the pandemic, I am not overly convinced we'd have a great in-person turnout anyway. While in-person meetings are certainly ideal, having the virtual meetings is working relatively well as people have the option of joining from wherever they are. Take care and stay safe.

73's,
Steve, NS4M



Volunteer Examiner (VE) Radio License Exam Testing

by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ

As a club, we often receive questions from individuals asking about how to become a licensed amateur radio operator. Everyone seems to know that BARS offers radio license exams at 11 am on most of the first Saturdays of the month at ARISE, but many do not understand how to begin the process of becoming a licensed operator. To help with this, we recently posted a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) tab on our BARS website:** <http://www.brandonhamradio.org/faqs.html> You can refer interested individuals to this page as it explains the entire process, including: Classes, Books and other resources for studying, How to prepare for the exam, and What to do on exam day. Check it out! We thank JR Calvert W4MIG for being our BARS Webmaster.

If you are interested in becoming a **Volunteer Examiner** and assisting with the exams administered by BARS, check out the link below: <http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners> You can contact Bill Johnson WJ4G for more info: moo.bill@verizon.net

We thank ARISE Church for providing BARS such a fine venue to hold our radio exam test sessions.

Jamboree on the Air 2021

2021 Boy Scout JOTA (Jamboree On The Air)
By Jim Stocks KK4CWO

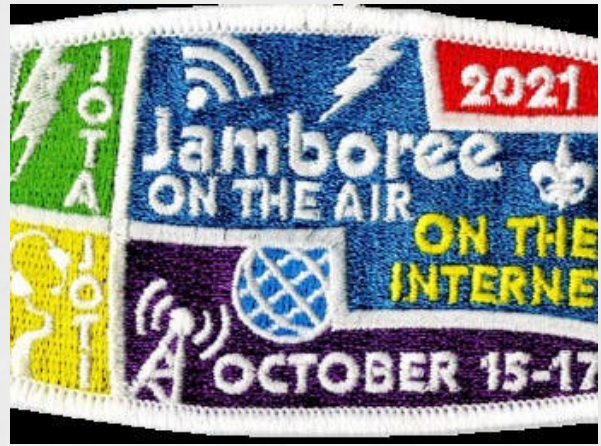
On 16 October 2021 at Lithia Springs park, I participated as a member of the BARS group in supporting the Radio Merit badge program for the Scout Troop at Holy Innocents Church. This event consisted of 7 areas or stations with 5 manned stations teaching and showing the scouts some basics to introduce them to Amateur Radio. The event was coordinated by Ron Perrett K4FZU.

Station 1 was manned by Jim Smith K4PPK, Jim Moorehead WF4AC (aka Jim1 and Jim2), and John Landsberger KOLUX, who conducted Radio Direction Finding which taught methods and purposes of hunting and tracking radio direction finding of a radio signal using a hand held (HT) VHF/UHF radio. The method of hunting for a hidden transmitter is called "Fox Hunting". Equipment used was a PVC pipe with radials made from metal tape measurer.

Station 2 was Shortwave Radio using Ham or Amateur Radio. This station covered HF radio equipment, antennas, FCC license and information about how radio works by transmitting and receiving signals by voice or phone. The station was operated by Rod Clark KC4MMR, Richard Jones KW4MB, and Ken Watts WA4NSV. Contact was made with other radio operators at short and long range.

Station 3 was Communications Customs and Protocol manned by Jim Stocks KK4CWO and Dana Perrin KM4DTJ. This was my area and it was a treat to be able for the first time have a chance to share my somewhat limited knowledge on Ham radio. Dana and I covered 2-way radio principles which explained half-duplex radio wave vs a full duplex communication similar to speaking on a house or cell phone. The students got to understand that in radio communication the speakers can only speak one at a time as not to step over or cancel out each other.

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Station 2: HF Antenna



Station 2:
Rod Clark KC4MMR
and Richard Jones KW4MB

JOTA - Continued

Following this, the VHF/UHF hand held radios were demo'ed. The requirement of needing an FCC license was discussed. Use of repeaters, SSTV, EchoLink and Satellite communications were discussed as different methods VHF/UHF can be used. Following this the scouts were able to take the FRS (Family Radio Service) radios and run through the campsite and practice radio comms.

Station 4 was Satellite Communications hosted by Dave Welty N4DLW. Here the Scouts were introduced through Show and Tell to the use of radio satellite principles, how to track and contact satellites in orbit, and what types of software and Apps are used on computers and smart phones to track and monitor satellite signals and track their paths.

Station 5 was hosted by Ron Perrett K4FZU on the Radio Merit Badge, Morse code, call signs and use of the phonetic alphabet. Scouts received an introduction to Morse Code keying and had a chance to practice Morse Code. Amateur radio equipment use, radio spectrum and broadcasting were also covered.

Students were encouraged to work on completing their Merit Badge and also test for their Technician radio license.

Good communications techniques were explained on how to start a conversation by opening with your call sign, handing the talk to the other person by using "over", relaying a message and making sure it's understood and how to close out a contact by using "roger" and "out". Dana and I explained what the FRS and GMRS radios were and the requirements to use them. The scouts then got a chance to use the FRS radios by practicing radio comms techniques which they really enjoyed.

Our thanks go out to everyone who participated in this event!



Station 1: Left to Right
John Landsberger KOLUX, Jim Moorehead WF4AC
Jim Smith K4PPK



Station 4: Dave Welty N4DLW



Station 5: Ron Perrett K4FZU

JOTA Continued -

Station 2:
Richard Jones KW4MB



Station 3:
Jim Stocks K4CWO (left)
and Dana Perrin KM4DTJ (middle)



Rod Clark KC4MMR (left background)
and Ken Watts WA4NSV (right foreground)

TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

The Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council Presents:
The 46th Annual

TAMPABAY HAMFEST

and Electronics Show

ARRL West Central Florida Convention
Second Largest Hamfest in Florida



Expo Building
Strawberry Festival Grounds
Parking behind 301 N Lemon St (Now Berryfest St)
Plant City, FL 33563

December 10-11, 2021
Friday, 1PM to 6PM—Saturday, 8AM to 4PM

Talk-in Brandon • 147.165 +, PL 136.5

For up-to-date information visit www.TampaBayHamfest.org

ARRL-VEC Exam and Commercial license testing
WAS, DXCC, IARU, VUCC Card Checking

Forums and Programs are updated regularly on website

Admission at the gate	\$10	Under 12 accompanying a paid admission	FREE
Advanced ticket purchase	\$9	Public service/military in uniform	FREE
Student with ID	\$5	Bulk Tickets Sales \$1 S/H if mailed	10/\$80
Indoor tables, 8ft	\$20	No vehicles of any kind in building	
Booth, 10ft x 10ft with 2 8ft tables	\$60		
Electric	\$10		
Tailgate space	\$10		
Club table	\$0	1 free for club activities—no selling	
Club tables	\$15	EACH for selling	

Everyone entering the parking/tailgate/inside area must have a ticket visible.

Attention all Members!

If you would be able to help staff one of the ticket or parking booths for a few hours on Friday or Saturday, please contact Fred N3BUL
fred.hendershot@verizon.net

BARS Van Update

by Dick Hoff AA5NT

The news on the van isn't good. We still haven't been able to get it started. We're still working on the problem. If there are any members who would like to come and help I would appreciate it.

Dick AA5NT

ARES Update

by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ

Hillsborough County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) / Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) provides emergency communications in the Tampa Bay area during a critical event. Hurricane season is in full swing! Are you prepared? Please join us for our weekly Hillsborough ARES/RACES Net on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm on the W4BCI repeater in Tampa. Receive: 444.225 MHz, Transmit: 449.225 MHz, +5 MHz offset, PL tone 146.2 Hz. We feature announcements of ARES and other club activities, as well as info on upcoming "EDVantage" training courses of interest to all amateur operators. All check-ins are welcome!

Hillsborough ARES RACES is **looking for Net Control Operators and a Net Manager** for the above net. If you are interested, please contact Ken at kwatts@hcaresraces.net.

For more information, Hillsborough ARES RACES was recently featured on a TARC Talks episode:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c086HhC6SjQ&t=786s>

In general terms, there are a few beginning steps to take in order to be prepared for a hurricane:

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Want to become a Volunteer?

The club always has ongoing projects. If you would like to **offer your help** in any of these areas give us a call.

Elmer Projects - Jim Moorehead 468-5570
Ships Crew Project - Ron Perrett 380-6873
Van Project - Dick Hoff 972-672-5110
License Testing - Bill Johnson 928-8697

ARES - Continued

- Determine your flood zone:
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/27ae615b0b9c4d0597756307ae9d4c85/?draft=true&org=hillsborough>
- Prepare your family/loved ones by making a preparedness plan:
<https://www.ready.gov/plan>
- Prepare your go kit, one example:
https://hillsboroughares.org/wp-content/files/071118_Shelter_Operator_Checklist.pdf
- Test your equipment (individualized effort)
- Stay informed: Participate in the ARES Net mentioned above.
- Follow updates from the National Weather Service: <https://www.weather.gov/tbw/>
- Follow updates from the National Hurricane Center: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

For further information regarding Hillsborough ARES RACES, please contact Dana at dperrin@hcaresraces.net.

We thank BCI Communications for allowing the use of the W4BCI repeater for the ARES RACES Net. THANK YOU!



Wayne Thomas KM7WDT
Painting on the SS American Victory
with elbow grease!

SS AMERICAN VICTORY Ship's Crew Project

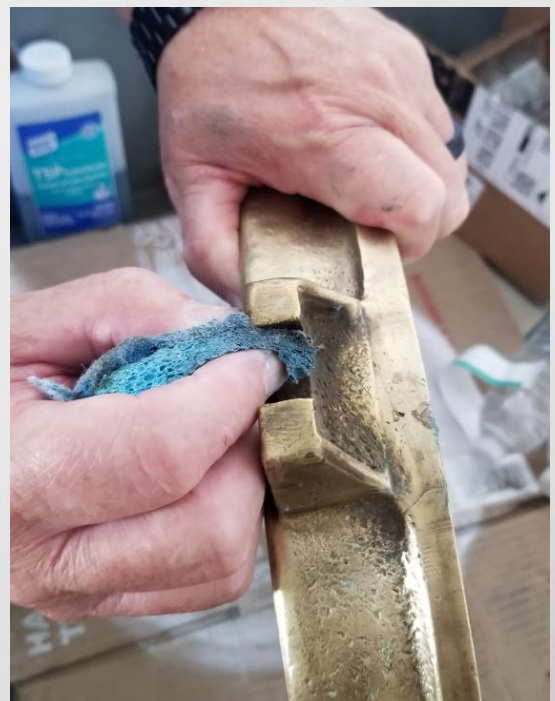
by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ

Attention: All HANDS on Deck!

The BARS Team is re-furbishing the First Officer's Quarters aboard the SS American Victory. If you would like to **lend a "HAND,"** contact Ron Perrett at k4fzu@aol.com.



Ron Perrett K4FZU
Mighty Spiffy!



Cleaning a Port Hole Bracket
It's gotta SHINE!

BARS at Huntsville

by Janet Watts KB4PUM

Janet KB4PUM and Ken Watts WA4NSV attended the Huntsville Hamfest on August 21 and 22. They saw a car with **more antennas than Dave Welty N4DLW!**



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>



Zoom Zoom!

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

<https://tinyurl.com/BARSCoffee>

Ham Radio Websites Worth Exploring

ARRL - Useful educational, technical and operational links:

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

West Central Florida Section of the ARRL:

<http://arrrlwcf.org/>

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

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

eHam.net/Reviews - Reviews and ratings of Ham Radio Equipment by Hams:

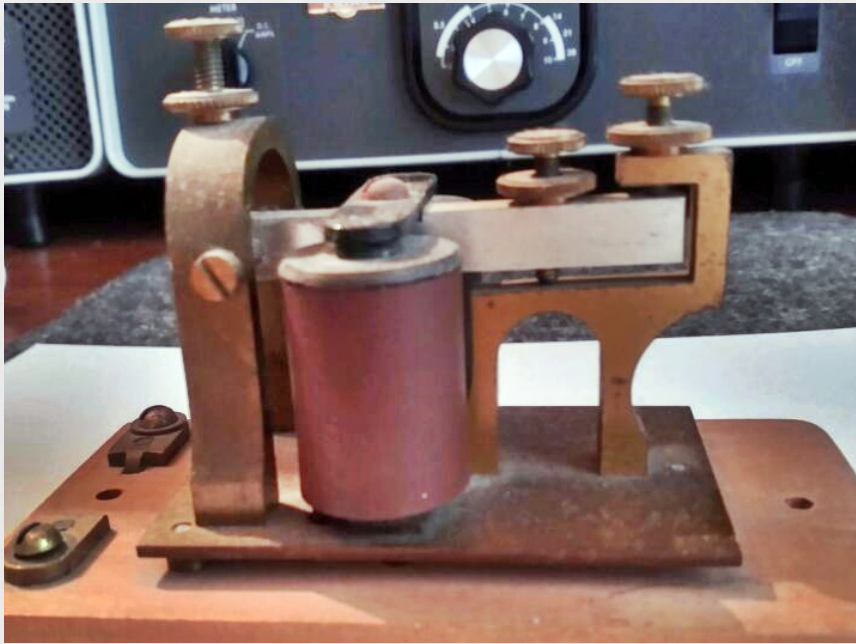
<https://www.eham.net/reviews/>

Ham Radio School - License preparation and education service:

<http://www.hamradioschool.com>

Do you know what this is?

by Jim Smith K4PPK



Have a try at these from the FCC question pool.

Technician Class License:

What should you do if another operator reports that your station's 2 meter signals were strong just a moment ago, but now they are weak or distorted?

- A. Change the batteries in your radio to a different type
- B. Turn on the CTCSS tone
- C. Ask the other operator to adjust his squelch control
- D. Try moving a few feet or changing the direction of your antenna if possible, as reflections may be causing multi-path distortion

General Class License:

In what segment of the 20-meter band are most PSK31 operations commonly found?

- A. At the bottom of the slow-scan TV segment, near 14.230 MHz
- B. At the top of the SSB phone segment, near 14.325 MHz
- C. In the middle of the CW segment, near 14.100 MHz
- D. Below the RTTY segment, near 14.070 MHz

Extra Class License:

Which of the following types of noise can often be reduced with a digital signal processing noise filter?

- A. Broadband white noise
- B. Ignition noise
- C. Power line noise
- D. All these choices are correct

Quiz Answers

This is a Telegraph Receiver. (Photo courtesy of Rod KC4MMR) The telegraph sounder was used at the receiving end of the line to make the Morse code message audible. Its simple mechanism was similar to a relay. It consisted of an electromagnet attached to the telegraph line, with an iron armature near the magnet's pole balanced on a pivot, held up by a counterweight. When current flowed through the electromagnet's winding, it created a magnetic field which attracted the armature, pulling it down to the electromagnet, resulting in a "click" sound. When the current ended, the counterweight pulled the armature back up to its resting position, resulting in a "clack" sound. Thus, as the telegraph key at the sending end makes and breaks the contact, the sounder echoes the up and down state of the key.

It was important that a sounder make a sound both when the circuit was broken and when it was restored. This was necessary for the operator clearly to distinguish the long and short keypresses – the "dashes" and "dots" – that make up the characters in Morse code. (Source - Wikipedia)

License Test Answers

Question 1 - D

Question 2 - D

Question 3 - D

A Word From The Co-Editor

by Dana Perrin KM4DTJ

Wow! What a year! It has been such a great pleasure working with everyone on this newsletter. As an aside, I'm grateful for so many members who sent get well wishes to me during the time that I was "out" due to surgery. This club has such great camaraderie! This is born out again and again as I look at each issue of the Antenna which always describes an amazing array of all of the club activities. We truly have a very vibrant club.

Knowing this, and recognizing the need to encourage others to take a role in the club's leadership, I have decided to step down as Assistant Editor. It's time to let others share their gifts. The Antenna has such a great history, going back a number of years. I know it will be carried forward into 2022 and beyond. You will note several bolded areas in the text of the articles in this newsletter. These are **bolded to highlight some of the many ways you might consider becoming involved with our club**. Let your skills shine! Don't be afraid to share what you know and what you can do. We'll be voting to fill open positions at our November club meeting. I hope we will see **your name on the ballot!**

On behalf of our Co-editor Jim Smith K4PPK AND our Proofreader Nancy Lessard KM4WMD, I want to thank everyone who worked to make this newsletter fun and meaningful by sending in articles, photos, and ideas. THANK YOU ALL!

BARS Website: Check it out!

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

"Like" us on the BARS Facebook page

<https://fb.me/brandonhamradio>

"Follow" us on the BARS Twitter Feed

<https://twitter.com/brandonhamradio>