

THE ANTENNA

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The Brandon Amateur Radio Society Newsletter Over 44 years of service to the Brandon Area, Brandon, Florida USA

January/February
2022

2022 Officers Elected—Thank you for serving

In November we had election of club officers and board members to serve in 2022. Their term begins on 1 January 2022.

- President: Steve Maslin (NS4M)
- Vice President: Ron Perrett (K4FZU)
- Secretary: JR Calvert (W4MIG)
- Treasurer: Wayne Thomas (KM7WDT)
- Director: Tony Stone (W4TAS)
- Director: Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)
- Director: Kelly Anderson (KE4GS)
- Director: Wayne Thorn (KM4VRZ)

In person Club dinner meeting.

On 16 December 2021 BARS had our first in-person get together in 2 years at the Golden Corral restaurant in Brandon, It was a hit being able to see our members that were able to make it.

President's Desk

Welcome to 2022! Hope everyone had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family during the last couple weeks of the year with the holidays. I would like to congratulate the incoming officers and directors of BARS, some of whom are returning in their roles. I am grateful to everyone who has stepped forward last year as well as for this year, in order to keep our Society going strong. I was new to your organization not long before becoming President and I was greeted with open arms (socially distanced of course) and everyone was very helpful to me in getting to know the people and the organization.

This year, we will strive to complete some projects that are a work-in-progress. I am very hopeful we will see the van in full operation this year, providing public service as well as being an educational tool. Not just the van, but as an organization, we have a lot of work to do, but we can do it! Let's try to make 2022 the best year we've ever had!

Take care and stay safe.

73's, Steve, NS4M

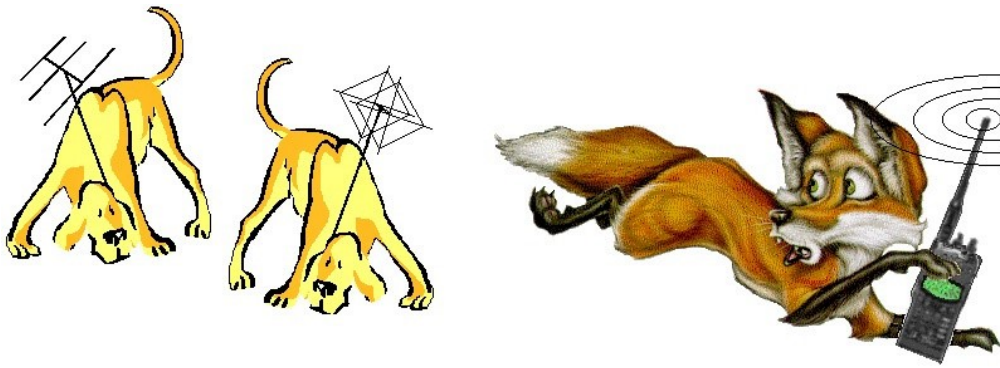
Club Activities

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 of a HF transceiver.



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Foxhunt Remembered by Robert Haynes, WB4AKA

Back in the '70s, fox hunts consisted of someone hiding with a transmitter, talking on the air with people who drove around until they found the fox. When someone spotted the fox, he was to quietly leave, so others could continue the hunt. The only rule was that the fox had to be mobile. A decade before I started doing this, one of my friends put a car battery in a baby carriage along with his vacuum-tube G. E. mobile radio. He wore a long dress, a wig, and a big floppy ladies' hat, and strolled around in the parking lot of a shopping center, enjoying the view. He lasted a long time.

Once we home-brewed a repeater from two solid-state mobile units and ran it from a car parked on the top floor of the highest parking garage downtown. A signal coming from that height was extremely hard to pinpoint. Sometimes we changed power levels to throw people off.

MY TURN AS THE FOX:

In order to meet the mobile radio requirement, I took a car battery and crystal mobile radio in my son's little Radio Flyer red wagon and had my wife let me out and drive away so I could walk into the woods. She and my son watched from a hill. I wore camouflage and took my longest run of RG-8, and stuck my VHF Ringo .

Ranger way up high up in a tree, quite a long way from where I crouched next to the wagon under a dark tarp. I scooped leaves on top of the tarp and coax as it ran along on the ground.

After quite some time, it was getting dark, and I watched the cars slowly circling my neck of the woods. One of my friends, a duck hunter, searched the treetops with a powerful spotlight while I teased him with remarks like, "No, Gary. I'm up in the fourth oak tree to your right." It all came to an end when a new voice was heard on the simplex frequency.

It was Lt. Henderson with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office who grabbed one of the searcher's microphones to order me to stop what I was doing and leave because there were so many complaints from the neighbors because of a large bunch of cars circling the area with lights and strange antennas. The deputy was not amused.

Following the hunt, we always got together at a restaurant for a snack, tall stories, and a lot of good fellowship.



Tuesday Breakfast at the New York Diner

21 December 2021

Please join us for breakfast every Tuesday morning at 8:30 am. We meet at the New York Diner located at 2621 Jelane Drive in Valrico (near the northeast corner of US 60 and Valrico Road). Great food! Great fun



Virginia Trip Report— Part 1 Jim Stocks KK4CWO

During the week of 8 - 13 November I made a short vacation trip to Northern Virginia and while in the area I visited the Woodbridge Virginia Ham Radio Outlet (HRO). This is the local shop in the town where I lived about 10 years ago. Everything with the store was still the same as I remembered.

I informed one of the sales



persons that I had moved to Brandon Florida and was asked if I had went to the new store Winter Springs. The Winter Springs store is open and doing online orders with no access to it's showroom floor for now.

521 East State Rd 434

Suite 1009

Winter Springs, FL 32708



Hamfest report: Tampa Bay Hamfest

By Jim Stocks KK4CWO

On December 10 to 11 2021 BARS participated in supporting the annual Tampa Bay Hamfest in Plant City Florida. BARS supported the Hamfest by managing ticket sales at the Strawberry Fairgrounds Expo Hall , Tailgate zone and main ticket booth throughout the event. The event coordination was done once again by Fred Hendershot N3BUL .

Volunteers were: Ken Watts WA4NSV, Janet Watts KB4PUM, Wayne Tjomas KM7WDT, Ron Perrett K4FZU, Jim Moorehead WF4AC, Jim Smith K4PPK, Jim Stocks KK4CWO, Fred Herdershot N3BUL, Karissa Herdershot N3YDA

The event was very busy and we had a great crowd turnout. There were lots of vendors and a nice turn out for the tailgaters selling their equipment. We had hourly door prizes with a grand prize on Saturday afternoon.



Night Sky Viewing

By Kelly Anderson KE4GS

I'm pretty sure most of our membership know of my enthusiasm for amateur astronomy, and from my conversations with other members I learned that many of you share this interest in cosmic delights. There are overlaps between Amateur Radio and Amateur Astronomy, such as AMSAT, EME, radio astronomy, and the like. It's a natural friendship, and I thought you'd be interested in some of the things we star gazers enjoy looking at.

The St Petersburg Astronomy Club's dark site is at the Withlacoochee River Park (Pasco County) just east of Dade City. It's where the Withlacoochee River flows into the Green Swamp, but not to worry, hardly anyone gets eaten by gators.

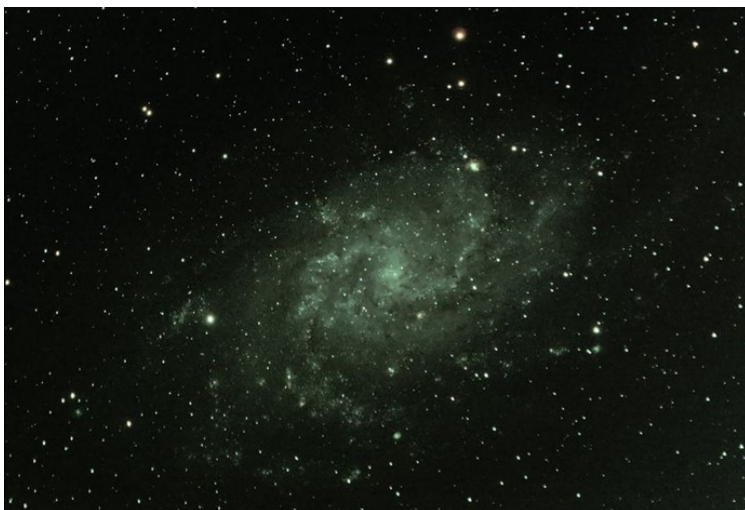
We astronomers gather each month during the New Moon, because moonlight washes out other objects and makes imaging difficult. What follows is a selection of photos I captured during the New Moon in early December.

We enjoyed a fairly decent New Moon weekend with generally clear skies occasionally interrupted by bands of clouds and very, very wet dew and fog. Here's an image I captured of the iconic Horsehead Nebula. There are generally three types of nebulae, and all are represented in this image. The Horsehead itself is a "dark" nebula because it consists of dust ... a dense cloud of non-reflective material that blocks the light from what lies behind it. The redness behind the



Horsehead is a "reflection" nebula, made of interstellar gas that reflects light from nearby stars. The bright star in this image is Alnitak (rough translation from Arabic: The Girdle). This star is the left-most of the three stars that make up Orion's belt. The bright yellowish/red stuff below Alnitak is an "emission" nebula called the Flame Nebula. In this case, the intense radiation from Alnitak is causing the gas (mostly hydrogen) to glow, much like a neon bulb. This group of astronomical elements are about 1,500 light years away in the constellation of Orion, the Hunter.

The following is a spiral galaxy with the quaint moniker of Messier 33, AKA the "Triangulum Galaxy." It's a little over 2.7 million light years away in the constellation Triangulum, and is the third largest member of the "Local Group" of galaxies,



behind Andromeda and the Milky Way. The Triangulum constellation consists mainly of three bright stars arranged in an equilateral triangle, and, to my view, one of the few constellations that actually looks like its name. M33 is made up of about 40 billion stars, as compared to the Milky Way's 400 billion stars and Andromeda's 1 trillion. Interesting to note, when the light first left M 33 and headed towards my camera, Homo Sapiens did not yet exist, but there were early humans we call Homo Paranthropus scratching out a marginal existence in Africa.

Part 2 will be in next newsletter.

What's in your Shack?

Jim Stocks, KK4CWO Ham Shack setup

I wanted to start a new column to get more information out about equipment our Amateur radio operators are using. Many operators are doing different things with Ham Radio so let's talk about what equipment we are using and how it's being used for Ham Radio.

Beginnings: Originally when I got started 10 years ago I used a Kenwood TS-50 HF radio pulled from a sailboat I owned. I used a 10 meter dipole mounted in the attic of my townhouse to make multiple contacts. Following a move to Brandon Florida 7 years ago I started using a Yeasu FT-857d which worked great connected to a OCF (Off Center Fed) dipole deployed in my back yard. I made an antenna upgrade to a Hustler BTV-6 mult-band monopole antenna two years ago with help from the BARS antenna experts.



My most recent radio upgrade August 2021 is a ICOM IC-7300 in my radio shack which is a bedroom closet.



Currently I'm using this setup for the BARS 6 meter and 80 meter net. Plans are for doing digital modes and more weekend DXing. I also use a HT (Handi-Talkie) BaoFeng UV-5R for VHF and UHF contacts. The BaoFeng UV-5R makes a great entry level radio for the new Technician for about \$35.00

Contact Us

Brandon Amateur Radio Society

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Brandon, FL, 33509-2307

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, license classes, license exams, and radio operator training programs.

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

January/ February DX News

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Eugene, RA0FF will use special call R075F from

January 1 to February 28, in honor of the 75 years of the Sakhalin Region.

ST. MARTIN, FS. David, F8AAN will be active as FS/F8AAN from January 1 to 20. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW only. QSL via his home call, direct, LoTW, ClubLog and eQSL.

ARUBA, P4. John, W2GD will be QRV for the ARRL DX CW Contest, February 19 and 20, 2022. He will be operating as P44W in the SOAB category. QSL direct to N2MM or via LoTW.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Brian, GW4DVB will be QRV from February 24 to March 8, as J88PI from Palm Island, IOTA NA-025. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20, 17, 15, 10 and 6 meters using CW, SSB, SSTV and FT8. QSL via GW4DVB, direct only.