

THE ANTENNA

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



February— March 2022

News Highlights!

Hillsborough ARES/RACES Training and Information Net each Thursday at 7:30 pm

Hillsborough County ARES/RACES provides emergency communications in the Tampa Bay area during a critical event. Hurricane Season begins June 1st. Are you prepared? Please join us for our weekly Hillsborough ARES/RACES Information and Training 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 info on ARES activities and upcoming EdVantage training classes. All check-ins are welcome!

In February the BARS VHF repeater went down and a new one was purchased

Thanks to Tony W4TAS and Dave N4DLW for working on getting the replacement up and running.

Officers of the Society

President Steve Maslin NS4M

Vice President Ron Perrett

K4FZU

Treasurer Wayne Thomas

KM7WDT

Secretary Jim Smith K4PPK

Board Members Past President

Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)

Repeater Trustee Tony Stone

(W4TAS)

Director Bill Johnson (WJ4G)

Director Kelly Anderson (KE4GS)

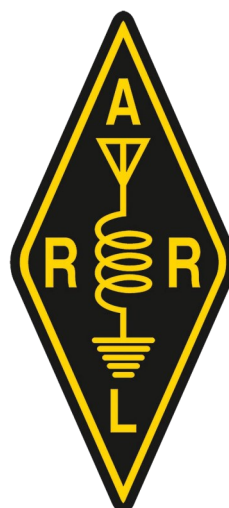
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The antenna is published Bi-Monthly

Winlink – Email via Ham Radio by Jim Smith K4PPK

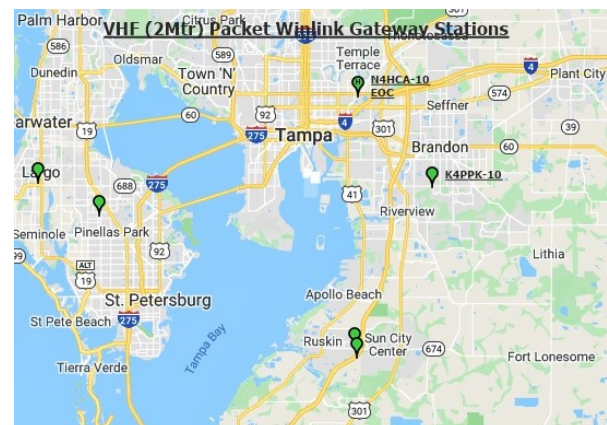
We hams do some neat thing in our hobby such as sending live television pictures or Slow Scan TV pictures to one another and having conversations with hams we don't know in Japan or maybe Africa which sometime end in the making of a new friend. Well, sending email to family and friends from your handheld radio or your larger HF radio is another pretty neat thing we hams can do too. *(A little over twenty years ago N4ZDC (my wife Nancy) and I took a wonderful trip via the ALCAN Highway to Alaska. That was long before we had a cell phone or well developed cell service so we utilized Winlink (actually before it was Winlink as we know it today) to keep in touch with family and friends back in the lower 48. It worked great. No matter whether we were in cities like Fairbanks or in some state park hundreds of miles from any real civilization we were able, through the use of ham radio, to send and receive emails on a daily basis. I really think it was more of a comfort to our families than it was to us.)*

Winlink Global Radio Email®... or Winlink is an amateur radio network service that provides worldwide radio email using radio pathways often where the internet is not present. Think of emergency conditions arising from hurricanes that have destroyed the normal communication infrastructure, underdeveloped parts of the world without any internet services at all or vessels in the middle of the ocean. Well -- [Step Up Winlink](#).

Winlink utilizes HF radio frequencies as well as VHF (2meters) and to a lesser extent UHF (440 MHz) to send personal message through gateway stations to other hams or individuals with email addresses world-wide. HF gateway stations are scattered all across the United States (figure 1) and the world to provide connections normally at greater distances. VHF/UHF gateway stations (figure 2) as you would expect provide connection services within the local area. The most common mode utilized for connecting to gateway stations on VHF is Packet while on HF you will find Pactor, ARDOP, or VARA used.

The equipment required to operate on the Winlink system will vary slightly depending on whether you are using HF or VHF. On VHF you need a computer or tablet with a USB port, a VHF radio (a handheld will work just fine but I recommend connecting it to an antenna other than the rubber duck) and an interface such as a Signalink (figure 3). The equipment will also operate using a Bluetooth device but I am not familiar with their use. Many of the newer HF radios and some of the VHF/UHF radios now come with a sound card built in eliminating the need for an interface other than a USB cable. For those HF radio that do not have a soundcard, an interface such as the Signalink is required to couple the radio to the computer.

For detailed information concerning Winlink click on the links below. In addition to the links provided, go to that universal place of "global knowledge" (You Tube) and search for "Winlink". You will be provided numerous informational videos that should answer a lot of questions. Check with ARES. In the past they have offered instruction on Winlink. And finally, if I can be of assistance, contact me.



Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day was held Saturday 29 January 2022, operators were able to meet at Richard Jones (KW4MD) shack in Valrico to make contacts.

EZNEC Antenna Design

EZNEC Antenna Design Software <https://www.dxzone.com/eznec-pro-2-v-6-free/> By Ron Perrett - K4FZU

TRACFest was held on January 15, 2022

video highlights: provided

Bill, N4WEB discusses the return of TARCfest after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19

- Larry, KM4LEW highlights the menu of yummy food items

- Jim, KG4JSZ provides an ARRL Southeast Division update.

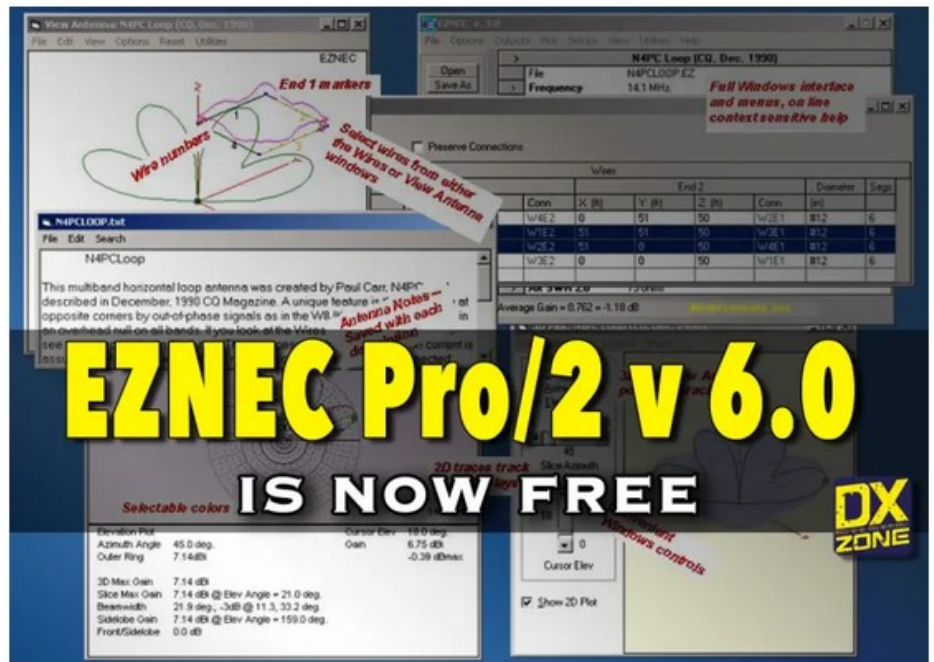
<https://youtu.be/si1agXvkBzc>

Special BARS meeting on 4 March 2022 to discuss the club van/ bus MARV

Meeting notes were published by the club president of the items covered.

New HRO!

There was a Grand Opening of the newest Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) in Winters Springs FL <https://www.hamradio.com/hro-florida.cfm>



WinLink cont.

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<https://www.winlink.org/> , <https://www.winlink.org/WinlinkExpress>

<https://www.winlink.org/ClientSoftware>

<https://blubrry.com/arrlontheair/78772205/arrls-on-the-air-episode-20/>

<https://portablehamradio.com/portable-email-with-winlink-using-portable-ham-radio/>

Winlink Express is the client software I recommend for use with the Winlink system and it can be downloaded after reading about it (see the second link above). It is a free download but comes with nagware. They requests you support Winlink by paying \$24 to rid the software of the nagware. The money is use to support and maintain the Winlink system. Once you get all set up for Winlink you are more than welcome to use the K4PPK-10 Winlink VHF Gateway station to send and receive email via radio by tuning your VHF radio to 145.070 MHz and give a digital call to the K4PPK-10 gateway.

Thursday Bagels

We're BACK! Come ONE, Come ALL!

We have reactivated the BARS THURSDAY MORNING BAGELS event on Thursdays at 9:00 am! We're meeting at the same location as in the past:

Einstein Brothers Bagels

660 West Brandon Blvd

(North East Corner of Kings and 60)

JOIN US!



BARS Name Tags

I found a way to get BARS name tags

<https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/brandoncart.html>

About \$20.25

Badge - \$13.50

Clip \$1.50

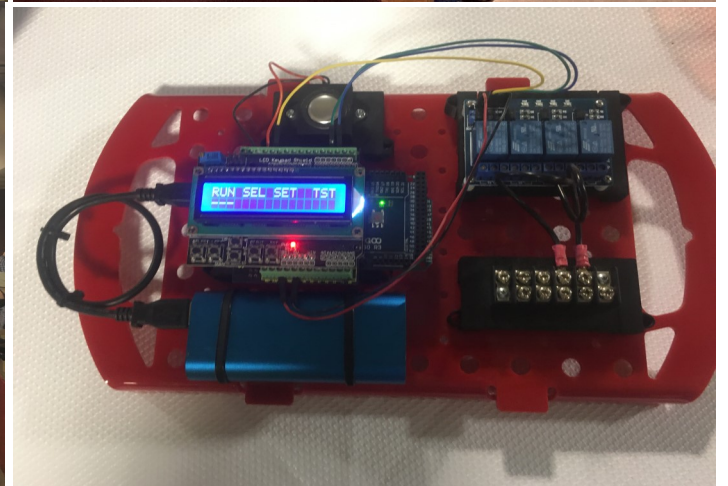
S&H - \$5.25

Having Bernie Huth's name on the example is a great legacy to a SK.

Great Ham and mentor!

Orlando Hamcation

Orlando Hamcation: Kek Watts and Bill Johnson in photos



New BARS VHF Repeater

On 8 March we received a new repeater. Thanks to Ken Watts WA4NSV and Dave Welty N4DLW for receiving and getting the repeater installed.



Additional Pictures

Brandon ARS Name Badge



Brandon ARS badge price \$13.50

s&h & PayPal instructions will be included with our order acknowledgement email

All Designs ©2017
The SignMan of Baton Rouge

 your basket

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President's Desk



Desk of AB4BJ Copywrited

Greetings BARS members. I want to take a moment and reflect on a recent event in our Society. The MARV van was in need of repairs. These repairs, because of the nature of them and other current economic factors, were going to cost a lot of money, roughly 50% more than our entire annual budget for the MARV. A special meeting was called to discuss the repairs and how to fund them if it was decided to move forward with the repairs. What I presided over at that special meeting was very eye opening into the heart and soul of this organization. Even while still deep into discussing the need for funds, the Treasurer (Wayne Thomas) and I were receiving email notifications of people donating money to go toward the repairs of the MARV. We received over \$1800 in donations in about 48 hours time, most coming within the first 24. That's incredible! MARV has not even seen its first event or deployment, yet we were able to push forward with these costly repairs with the generosity of the Society membership. It proves that the Society wishes to see this project completed so we can showcase it to the public and provide emergency communications in time of need. I'm very proud of this group.

Take care and stay safe.

73's,

Steve, NS4M