

THE ANTENNA

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



Winter Edition

December 2023 to February 2024

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. Please join us for our weekly Hillsborough ARES/RACES Information and Training Net on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm on the N1CDO repeater in Tampa. Receive: 440.100 MHz, Transmit: 445.100 MHz, +5 MHz offset, PL tone 162.2. We feature info on ARES activities and upcoming EdVantage training classes. All check-ins are welcome!

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Officers of the Society

President Steve Maslin NS4M

*Vice President Tony Stone
(W4TAS)*

*Treasurer Karissa Hendershot
(N3YDA)*

Secretary Rick Farr (KK4CVD)

*Board Members Past President
Dana Perrin (KM4DTJ)*

*Repeater Trustee Tony Stone
(W4TAS)*

Director Kelly Anderson (KE4GS)

*Newsletter Jim Stocks
(KK4CWO)*

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The antenna is published Quarterly

BARS VE testing By Jim Stocks KK4CWO

In January I visited the BARS sponsored VE testing to see the support provided by BARS members.

Testing was done at the ARISE church on 5 January 2024, all VE testing is done on the first Saturday of each month except for July and September. Testing starts at 11:00 am.

BARS members attending and supporting test were:

Karen Jacobi	K4KZF	VE Coordinator
Mike Worden	K4FCIG	Test Proctor
Al Wiledon	KN4GTZ	Test Proctor
Bill Johnson	N4NOA	
Dave Welty	N4DLW	
Dick Shaffer	W7RRS	
Jim Moorehead	WF4AC	Test Proctor
Jim Smith	K4PPK	Check In
John Turell	W1JVT	Test Proctor
Mark Haskell	WB9UJS	
Rick Farr	KK4CVD	
Dick Hoff	AA5NT	

During this testing cycle 5 people registered with 3 showing up for testing. All passed for 2 Technician and 1 Extra Class that drove in from Sebring.



Tampa Bay HAMFEST 2023 By Jim Stocks KK4CWO

The Tampa Bay Hamfest was held in Plant City at the Strawberry Festival fairgrounds again from 8 to 9 December 2023. BARS provided support with other radio clubs by doing ticket sales at the main entrance for the event hall and the tailgate area.

Fred Hendershot N3BUL was the volunteer coordinator.



This year the crowd was decent and the number of vendors was somewhat limited compared to last year. We had great weather with mostly clear skies and a nice breeze.



A number of BARS members worked the event as volunteers along with other members of local groups. Karissa Hendershot N3YDA, Jim Stocks KK4CWO, Jim Moorehead WF4AC, Dave Welty N4DLW, Wayne Thomas KM7WDT, Skip Argoe KD4IOF, Ian W4RIR, Rick Farr KK4CVD, Karen Jacobi K4KZF, Janet Watts KB4PUM, Ken Watts WA4NSV, Richard Jones KW4MB, Dick Capell KJ6FNV, Bob Renton W4RIR, Russell Hislip N4PGC and Dana Perrin KM4DTJ.



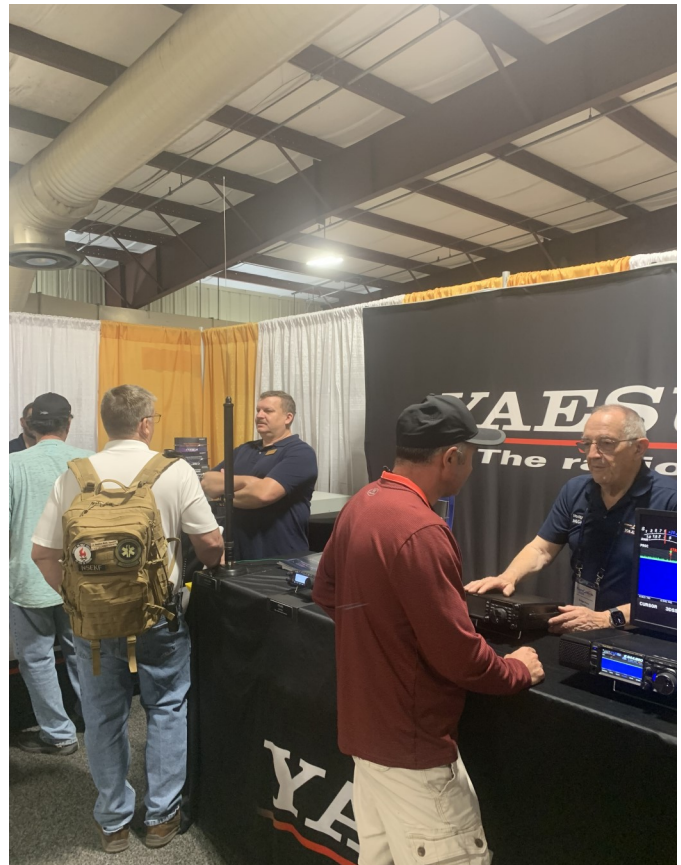
Crowd numbers and vendors have been dropping off over the last 2 years as support and turnout is not as it's been in the past.

The tailgate area appeared to be at 60% capacity and the items available for sale was an interesting mix of radio gear. The event hall hosted a number of forums and a number of tables and spaces were empty. Hopefully at the Hamcataton in Orlando in February will live up to its great reputation.

Orlando Hamcation 9—11 February 2024 By Jim Stocks KK4CWO

On Saturday 10 February I attended the 2024 Orlando Hamcation. The event was packed as usual with lots of people attending and many vendors. I ran across a number of BARS members attending. Hopefully everyone there was able to find plenty of toys and accessories for their hobby!

Members spotted were: Ken Watts WA4NSV, Janet Watts KB4PUM, Dave Welty N4DLW, Ron Perrett K4FZU, Richard Jones KW4MB. Janet was spotted with her friend Judy Wozniak K4WOZ





Seen above are some of the vendors: ICOM Special Events station, Yaesu vendor table, German Amateur Radio Association (DARC), antenna vendor and a example of what a future club van could look like.

2024 Winter Field Day Hosted By Richard Jones, KW4MB

Winter Field Day 2024 Participants

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Rod Clark | KC4MMR |
| Donny Tomlison | KI4DT |
| Jim Moorhead | KF4AC |
| Richard Jones | KW4MB |
| Dick Capell | KJ6FNV |
| Fred Hendershot | N3BUL |
| Karissa Hendershot | N3YDA |
| Ron Perrett | K4FZU |
| Dennis Phillips | KQ4NCJ |
| Brian Gould | KQ4JCU |
| Dave Welty | N4DLW |
| Dick Hoff | AA5NT |



Let's look for great weather next year for Winter Field Day and possibility the fielding of a new BARS Club radio trailer by Summer Field day!

BARS 2024 Officers

The members listed below are the new or continuing club officers

PRES: Steve Maslin - NS4M

VP: Tony Stone - W4TAS

Tres: Karissa Hendershot - N3YDA

Sec: Rick Farr - KK4CVD

Dir: New incoming, Jim Stocks - KK4CWO

Continuing as Directors:

- Tony Stone - W4TAS (FCC Trustee)

- Dana Perrin - KM4DTJ

- Kelly Anderson - KE4GS (23-24)

Editor: Jim Stocks KK4CWO (willing to continue)

Club award recognition and new members

Ron Perrett received an award in recognition of his dedication to amateur radio and his service as Vice President from 2018 to 2023.



A new member was recognized during the February meeting.

Number stations and other frequencies used by governments to send coded radio transmissions

<https://www.facebook.com/ringwaymanchester/>

Follow Lewis, the Ringway Manchester (M3HHY) who tracks this activity.

https://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Category:Numbers_Stations Numbers Station Signals

What is a Numbers Station?

Wikipedia list the following:

A numbers station is a shortwave radio station characterized by broadcasts of formatted numbers, which are believed to be addressed to intelligence officers operating in foreign countries.[1] Most identified stations use speech synthesis to vocalize numbers, although digital modes such as phase-shift keying and frequency-shift keying, as well as Morse code transmissions, are not uncommon. Most stations have set time schedules, or schedule patterns; however, some appear to have no discernible pattern and broadcast at random times. Stations may have set frequencies in the high-frequency band.[2]

Numbers stations have been reported since at least the start of World War I and continue in use today. Amongst amateur radio enthusiasts there is an interest in monitoring and classifying numbers stations with many being given nicknames to represent their quirks or origins.

Number Stations <https://priyom.org/number-stations>

Above, you will find links to articles on so-called "number stations", grouped by the language or code they transmit in, as well as station network operators.

Number stations are shortwave transmissions from foreign intelligence agencies to spies in the field of foreign countries. They carry encrypted messages in form of groups of numbers or letters, using either automated voice, Morse code, or a digital mode. While the encryption methods used by most number stations are unknown, some have used and others are widely believed to use one-time pad: mathematical addition of a set of random numbers (the key) to the cleartext, which can be used only once, and must be destroyed after usage.

As number stations are part of classified intelligence operations, very few government organizations have released information about them; those that have include the Polish Institute of National Remembrance and other Polish archives, the Swedish Security Service, and the National Archives of Latvia. Additionally, number stations have been involved in the publicly prosecuted espionage cases of Kim Hyon-hui (1987), Václav Jelínek (1988), the Cuban Five (1998), Ana Montes (2001), the Illegals Program (2010), and Andreas and Heidrun Anschlag (2011).

Number stations offer a powerful advantage in our modern world: practically complete anonymity. The recipient of the message can be almost anywhere in the world, and receive instructions without fear of being traced through a phone call or internet connection. All the recipient needs is a shortwave radio and to be in the right place at the right time.

The first account of a number station, as reported in the ENIGMA newsletter #12, was from an issue of the Austrian magazine Kurzwelle Panorama dating from World War I. The BBC were noted for sending coded messages to SOE agents during WW2. From then on, encrypted messages broadcast with creepy automated voices have appeared and disappeared as political events have changed over the last 60 years. Many number stations have ceased operation between the late 1990s and the early 2010s, coinciding with the rise of the Internet, mobile phones, and cheaper satellite communications. Conversely, since the mid 2010s, the activity of several remaining stations has significantly increased.

ENIGMA naming system

The most popular number station naming system was devised by the **E**uropean **N**umbers **I**nformation **G**athering and **M**onitoring **A**ssociation (**ENIGMA**), a number station research group active in 1993-2000, and later maintained by ENIGMA 2000. It was created to solve ambiguities in number station reporting, and classifies stations by language or type of signal. Each ENIGMA designator consists of an alphabetic prefix followed by an ordinary number.

Current prefixes:

E - English language voice broadcasts

G - German language voice broadcasts

S - Slavic language voice broadcasts

V - Voice broadcasts in all other languages

M - Morse code

F - Frequency-shift keying digital modes

P - Phase-shift keying digital modes

XP - Russian 7 digital modes

HM - Hybrids of analog and digital modes

Radio Frequencies used by Numbers Stations that be monitored by Short Wave radio of HF Ham radios.

7097 khz Russian/Ukrainian Propaganda

6633.00 khz and 4525 khz buzzer

US Military to Military Station communications: 4.724 khz, 8.992 khz, 11.175 khz and 15.016 khz

Ever wonder who might be your Ham Neighbor? By Ron Perrett K4FZU

By the good working of the QRZ.com folks, you can examine the Ham density of any Grid Square.

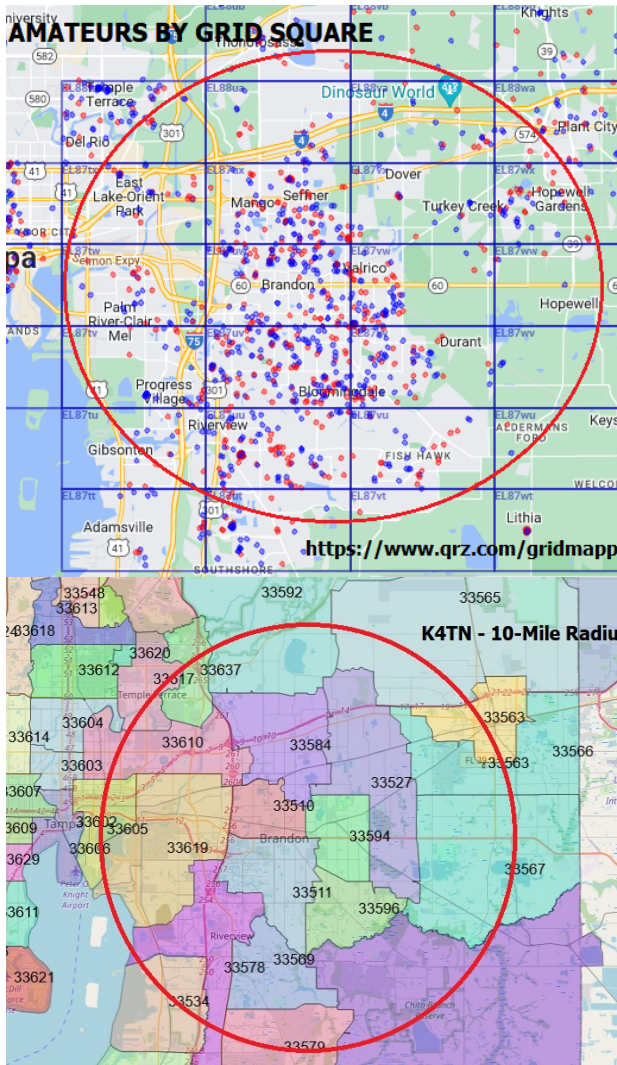
Consult these two sites to flush out your answer/discovery.

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

<https://www.Zip-Codes.com>

The QRZ.com web site allows you to query their database. It provides you with a handy zone-level map presentation of Red/Blue dots, that can be sorted by grid square. The map gets saved and a 10-Mile circle added around the K4TN 2-Meter repeater, by your efforts in "Microsoft Paint". And, there you have it – our little ham community of 1290 local like minded amateurs. Who knew? The Red-dots are QRZ known hams who have registered and populated their personal entry information. The blue-dots are those that have never visited or used QRZ.

Happy pondering who your next club invite will be!



Amateur Count By Location ZipCode

BRANDON:	GIBSONTON:
33508 - 6 (PO Box)	33534 - <u>22</u>
33509 - <u>18</u> (PO Box)	
33510 - 116	LITHIA:
33511 - 180	33547 - <u>69</u>
VALRICO:	DOVER:
33594 - 138	33527 - <u>34</u>
33595 - <u>12</u>	
33596 - 113	SEFFNER:
	33584 - <u>77</u>
TAMPA NORTHEAST	PLANT CITY:
33610 - <u>73</u>	33563 - <u>43</u>
	33565 - <u>66</u>
TAMPA SOUTHEAST	33567 - <u>24</u>
33619 - <u>56</u>	
RIVERVIEW:	=====
33569 - 113	TOTAL: 1290
33578 - <u>78</u>	
33579 - <u>64</u>	

Thursday Bagels

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!



President's Desk—The final word

Welcome to 2024, BARS Members!

The first newsletter of 2024 is upon us. I am encouraged by the support given by, and to, the trailer committee that was tasked at coming up with our next iteration of our mobile communications “vehicle”. Some of the club members that attended Hamcation in Orlando this year all had the same idea; Take pictures of the ARES trailer that was there on display so that the committee can have some visual clues on what to include on this trailer. The committee came back with some great options and general costs at the last meeting and our membership voted to proceed. This is a fantastic step forward.

I know there were a lot of disappointed members when the van project was scrapped due to the sky-high costs involved in servicing and maintaining it, but I am very hopeful that this trailer project will be a resounding success! The only thing I ask, is that when the committee starts looking for assistance in outfitting the trailer, that everyone who is available and willing to help assists in completing it so we can showcase it (and use it of course) as soon as possible.

Thank you and here's to a great 2024!

73,

Steve, NS4M