



OVER 38 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA
 BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA
 VOL XLII, NUMBER 6 JUNE 2015

Come out to the BARS Meeting on Thursday June 18th

Come on out to the monthly BARS meeting at the Brandon Assembly of God at 710 South Kings (next to the golf driving range). The meeting will be in the annex next to the sanctuary building. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Doris WB9VDT bangs the gavel.

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This Month's Program:

The program for the June BARS meeting will be a short video entitled "What is Winlink?" by Rick Frost, K4REF. It will cover the types, paths, and modes of the radio-based Winlink global messaging system..

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July 12th and 13th Mark the 16th Night of Nights

For CW ops and radio history buffs the 16th anniversary of Night of Nights 2015 is coming up on Sunday night 12 July at 8 p.m. Eastern time. The history of radio at sea is filled with stories of lives saved and disasters averted through the use of radio on board ships and coastal stations. Today operators at the Maritime Radio Historical Society and U.S Coast Guard stations along with operators aboard museum ships and active coastal stations operate in CW during this time with the mission to preserve the skills, traditions and culture of those who came before us and who made the profession of radio telegrapher one of honor and skill. To find out more about the event, check the MHRS Web site at <http://www.radiomarine.org>.



WWII 4U Ship Radio Console

As we get updated information about coastal stations and ships participating we will post that along with a listing of frequencies to monitor on the BARS reflector.

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Introduction to Q-Signals

Mark WB9UJS

Most hams today know a little about Q-signals. We use terms like QTH for location: “The QTH here is Valrico”, or “I am arriving at the home QTH.” A lot of us fire up the computer and check the latest ham news on QRZ dot com. Some have heard conversations on the repeater where someone says that he will QSY to the other repeater. For a lot of hams that is about the extent of their knowledge of Q-signals. For those who don’t know much about this system of abbreviations, Q-signals were created in the first decade of the 20th century. Q-signals allow not only faster communication on radiotelegraphy, but they also provide a way for radio operators to get around language problems. In addition using Q-signals give hams a special jargon for their radio hobby. The total list of Q-signals is huge. Here is a short list of those signals most useful for ham radio operation. When followed by a question mark (?) the signal takes the form of a question.

Some Q-Signals For Amateur Radio Operators

Note that Q-signals can take the form of a question when followed by a question mark.

Sign	Meaning
QRA	What is the name of your station? The name of my station is ____.
QRJ	Are you receiving me badly? I cannot receive you, your signal is too weak.
QRK	What is the intelligibility of my signals? The intelligibility of your signals is ____ (1-Bad, 2-Poor, 3-Fair, 4-Good, 5-Excellent.)
QRL	Are you busy? I am busy, please do not interfere
QRM	Is my transmission being interfered with? Your transmission is being interfered with ____ (1-Nil, 2-Slightly, 3-Moderately, 4-Severly, 5-Extremely.)
QRN	Are you troubled by static? I am troubled by static ____ (1-5 as under QRM.)
QRO	Shall I increase power? Increase power.
QRP	Shall I decrease power? Decrease power.
QRQ	Shall I send faster? Send faster (____ WPM.)
QRS	Shall I send more slowly? Send more slowly (____ WPM.)
QRT	Shall I stop sending? Stop sending.
QRU	Have you anything for me? I have nothing for you.
QRV	Are you ready? I am ready.
QRX	When will you call me again? I will call you again at ____ hours.
QRZ	Who is calling me? You are being called by ____.
QSA	What is the strength of my signals? The strength of your signals is ____ (1-Scarcely perceptible, 2-Weak,

	3-Fairly Good, 4-Good, 5-Very Good.)
QSB	Are my signals fading? Your signals are fading.
QSK	Can you hear me between you signals and if so can I break in on your transmission? I can hear you between my signals, break in on my transmission.
QSL	Can you acknowledge receipt? I am acknowledging receipt.
QSO	Can you communicate with ___ direct or by relay? I can communicate with ___ direct (or by relay through ___.)
QSP	Will you relay to ___? I will relay to ___.
QSV	Shall I send a series of Vs on this frequency? Send a series of Vs on this frequency.
QSY	Shall I change to another frequency? Change to another frequency.
QTC	How many messages have you to send? I have ___ messages for you.
QTH	What is your location? My location is ___.
QTR	What is the correct time? The time is ___.

These are the signals usually given in the Ham Radio lists (and many of these show up on the General Class exam and in ham radio conversations). Some other radio services use Q-signals where hams use other abbreviations. Signal reports are a good example. In the maritime service instead of the RST system of signal reporting they use **QSA** (the strength of your signal is..) and then **QRK** (The readability of your signal is...) **QRK** corresponds to the **R** in the RST report and **QSA** corresponds to the **S** in the RST report. The list of international Q-Signals is quite long. Many of those would not be useful to hams.

Here are some examples from the aviation services from the days when they carried radiotelegraph operators on board aircraft.:

QAB	May I have clearance (for ...) from ... (place) to ... (place) at flight level/altitude ... ?	You are cleared (<i>or</i> ... is cleared) by ... from ... (place) to ... (place) at flight level/altitude ...
QAF	Will you advise me when you are (were) at (over) ... (place)?	I am (was) at (over) ... (place) (at ... hours) at flight level/altitude ...
QAM	What is the latest available meteorological observation for ... (place)?	Meteorological observation made at ... (place) at ... hours was as follows ... <i>Note.- The information may be given in Q Code form or the METAR form.</i>
QAN	What is the surface wind direction and speed at ... (place)?	The surface wind direction and speed at ... (place) at ... hours is ... (direction) ... (speed).
QAO	What is the wind direction in degrees TRUE and speed at ... (position or zone/s) at each of the ... (figures) ... (units) levels above ... (datum)?	The wind direction and speed at (position or zone/s) at flight level/altitude ... is: ... (vertical distance) ... degrees TRUE ... (speed).

QAP	Shall I listen for you (<i>or for ...</i>) on ... kHz (... MHz)?	Listen for me (<i>or for ...</i>) on ... kHz (... MHz).
QAQ	Am I near a prohibited, restricted or danger area? <i>or</i> Am I near area ... (<i>identification of area</i>)?	You are ... 1) near 2) flying within area ... (<i>identification of area</i>).
QAR	May I stop listening on the watch frequency for ... minutes?	You may stop listening on the watch frequency for ... minutes.
QAU	Where may I jettison fuel?	I am about to jettison fuel. <i>or</i> Jettison fuel in ... (<i>area</i>).
QAW		I am about to carry out overshoot procedure.
QAZ	Are you experiencing communication difficulties through flying in a storm?	I am experiencing communication difficulties through flying in a storm.
QBA	What is the horizontal visibility at ... (<i>place</i>)?	The horizontal visibility at ... (<i>place</i>) at ... hours is ... (<i>distance figures and units</i>).

Some of the signals used by other services could be useful for hams too. Here are a couple from the above list

QAP	Shall I listen for you (<i>or for ...</i>) on ... kHz (... MHz)?	Listen for me (<i>or for ...</i>) on ... kHz (... MHz).
QAR	May I stop listening on the watch frequency for ... minutes?	You may stop listening on the watch frequency for ... minutes.

Here are a few more Q-signals from other services that might come in handy for use:

QRB	How far approximately are you from my station?	The approximate distance between our stations is ... nautical miles (<i>or km</i>).
QSU	Shall I send or reply on this frequency (<i>or on ... kHz (or MHz)</i>) (with emissions of class ...)?	Send or reply on this frequency (<i>or on ... kHz (or MHz)</i>) (with emissions of class ...).
QSW	Will you send on this frequency (<i>or on ... kHz (or MHz)</i>) (with emissions of class ...)?	I am going to send on this frequency (<i>or on ... kHz (or MHz)</i>) (with emissions of class ...).
QTN	At what time did you depart from ... (<i>place</i>)?	I departed from ... (<i>place</i>) at ... hours.
QRD	Where are you bound for and where are you from?	I am bound for ... from ...
QRE	What is your estimated time of arrival at ... (<i>or over ...</i>) (<i>place</i>)?	My estimated time of arrival at ... (<i>or over ...</i>) (<i>place</i>) is ... hours.

QRF	Are you returning to ... (<i>place</i>)?	I am returning to ... (<i>place</i>). <i>or</i> Return to ... (<i>place</i>).
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That's it for this month. Have FUN with radio!

Keep in Mind Our Weekly Nets and Bulletins

Monday 8 p.m. The Two Meter Net 147.765 - 147.165 MHz Hosted by Doris Haskell WB9VDT

Tuesday 7 p.m. 6-meter Roundtable 50.200 MHz USB followed at 8 p.m. with the 10 Meter Roundtable 28.365 MHz USB

Send us your articles AND PICTURES! We do much more in the digital format! I would like to have pictures of BARS members and their ham shacks!

**Remember to check out the BARS website:
brandonhamradio.org**