

## Many Firsts for the July 4th Parade

by Jim Moorehead/WF4AC

The 2024 Brandon July 4th parade was once again a “hot ticket” event, literally. Club members met at Einstein's Bagel shop for the first time to enjoy free bagels, coffee and air conditioning before trekking to our respective posts. This year was also the first time we used a mobile repeater since our main site was removed. Thanks to Tony Stone/W4TAS and Rick Farr/KK4CVD, who set up the site on Lumsden Road, where we enjoyed “normal” communications. I'd also would like to give a shout out to Jose Morales/KJ4OSE who helped us test hand held radio use on both simplex and repeater frequencies used throughout the course.

Another first was the Greater Brandon Area Network (GBAN) involvement in planning and executing the parade. GBAN also replaced the old red t-shirts for a brand new lime green color. Wow did we stand out! Finally, we had two new BARS volunteers, Karen Jacobi/K4KZF and Brian Gould/KQ4JCU, participate in this year's event.

The main purpose of BARS volunteering for the 4th of July parade is to report missing floats/units to the announcer so as not to confuse the audience with inaccurate references of those participating. To that end, our primary reporters were:

Jim Moorehead/WF4AC	Net Control
Janet Watts K4PUM	Entry Station
KathyAllen/KF4SRC	
Bill Johnson/N4NOA	Reviewing Stand
Ken Watts/WA4NSV	Division 1
Brian Gould/KQ4JCU	
Karissa Hendershot/N3YDA	Division 2
Jose Morales/KJ4OSE	Division 3
Jim Stocks/KK4CWO	Division 4

Supplementing our reporters were the traffic advisors who kept net control and the parade marshal apprised of problems within the parade. These were:

Karen Jacobi/K4KZF	Traffic Advisor #1
Ron Perrett/K4FZU	Traffic Advisor #3
Jack Kramer/WY2T	Traffic Advisor #4

Mary Ann Kramer/N2RPW

Karissa Hendershot/N3YDA      Traffic Advisor #5

Ken Watts/WA4NSV      Traffic Advisor #6

Janet Watts/K4PUM

If an emergency does happen on the parade route, our representative at the Sheriff's command post was: Dave Welty/N4DLW

One of our unsung heroes is John Landsberger/K0LUX who owns BCI. He has for years provided Motorola hand held radios to parade organizers. From personal experience I have seen how valuable these radios were in coordinating all facets of parade execution.

For the second time in parade history BARS had our own "float" with Roger/KM4CDS at the helm. When Roger approached the reviewing stand, the announcer said: "Amateur radio, also known as ham radio, is alive and well in Brandon! The club promotes the licensing, mentoring, and education of those interested in the hobby. In addition to members making contacts locally and around the world, we participate in public service events such as helping to stage this parade. We also provided emergency communications during hurricanes. Come check us out at BrandonHamRadio.org".

Finally, I would like to recognize outgoing BARS parade organizer Fred Hendershot/N3BUL for his three years as club president and 29 years service as our parade leader and representative to the community organizers. With his engaging smile, personality and persistent attitude towards engaging BARS members to volunteer, we say with gratitude, "WELL DONE FRED".

Jim Moorehead/WF4AC



Hanging out, munching bagels from Einstein Brother's Bagels and waiting on the new July 4th support shirts.







We finally found a vehicle with more antennas that Dave Welty N4DLW.



A field repeater was setup by Tony Stone (W4TAS), Rick Farr (KK4CVD) and Jose Morales (KJ4OSE) which made a major boost in out radio communications during the parade.



## BARS Lifetime Membership Recognition

At the BARS July meeting Fred Hendershot N3BUL was recommended and approved for a BARS Lifetime membership. Fred was noted for his tireless commitment for supporting BARS and the Tampa Bay area community with his Ham Radio skills.

His accomplishments are:

1. Working with the Tampa Bay Hamfest council since 1995 and still on the board .
2. Working at MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry) from 1995 to 2017 in the MOSI Hamshack every Thursday
3. Worked the Brandon July 4th parade from **1995 to 2024 (29 years)**
4. He was also past president of BARS from 1996 to 1998?



Fred Hendershot N3BUL receiving his Lifetime membership from  
BARS President Steve Maslin NS4M

## BARS Social Events

### 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 W. Brandon Blvd



(NE Corner of  
Kings and 60)

JOIN US!

BARS members also get together each Saturday at 8am at the Recipe Box on Bloomingdale Rd in Brandon.



## President's Desk—The final word

Hello BARS Members!

This special edition of The Antenna is brought to you by the letters V, G, W, and C.

Yes, I'm using an old Sesame Street reference.

**V – Volunteers** : I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered their time, their effort, their muscle, and even money to make Field Day and the July 4 th Parade happen and be successful. Without you, these events would not nearly be the same or happen at all. The whole BARS organization applauds you and appreciates you.

**G and W – Great Work!** : Through the fantastic planning and execution of these two events, they were a positive experience for both those volunteering and those visiting. We tip our hats to everyone involved in the planning and execution of these events.

**C – Community** : While these events can be fun, and sometimes frustrating when things don't go right, we are not just doing these things for ourselves, but for our community, specifically our Ham Radio Community and the Brandon Community (and surrounding areas). We should take pride in what we accomplish, and take what we learned from things that didn't go right and apply them to future events.

Again, thank you to everyone who contributed to making these events successful. It is very much appreciated by the Society.

73,

Steve, NS4M