

THE ANTENNA

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



Fall Edition

October 2024

Hurricane Fall Preparedness

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!

In This Issue

- Hillsborough County ARES/Races pg 1
- 2014 Hurricane prep pg 2-3
- Storm Shelter support pg 4
- Radio Operator deployment pg 5 - 6
- Go Box Build pg 6
- Member news pg 7
- Tampa Bay Ham Fest pg 8
- President's remarks pg 10



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The antenna is published Quarterly

Summer Hurricane preparations By Jim Stocks, KK4CWO

This summer and fall has been very active with tropical storm systems coming near or through the Tampa Bay area. Three storms over 3 months have given a new awareness of the use of our ham radio skills in supporting our First Responders. In Hillsborough County at the Public Safety Operations Center (PSOC) a series of training courses are available to train radio operators in basic skills to support emergency shelters and evacuation centers.

On Saturday, 14 September 2024 I attended a training session at the Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Center (PSOC) to learn more about how to support disaster shelters as a radio operator during our hurricane season. This training session conducted by Skip Argoe (KD4IOF) and Charles Rivenbark (KZ1DRS) this training covered a variety of subjects over a 2 hour period including the following areas:

1. Difference between a Shelter vs an Evacuation center

2. What do the Shelter or Evacuation Center provide for the radio operator?

- A Shelter will provide you with a place to operate from, a place to sleep, access to shelter facilities and meals.

- Evacuation Center will provide you a place to operate from and a place to sleep. You'll need to provide your own food.

3. Whom do you work for during the event?

- You work with the shelter manager but are working for ARES/RACES and receive your instructions from them.

4. What support does ARES/RACES provide to you during these events.

- Training

- Liability insurance coverage

- Equipment

- Expertise and Assistance

- Leadership

Deployment for Hillsborough County radio operators will primarily be special needs shelters.

We reviewed the radio setup, equipment, tools, forms and additional items needed to support your deployment to a shelter. You'll also need to bring a set of personal equipment to support yourself such as:

- Clothing (3 days to 2 weeks)

- Medication (30 day supply)

- Sleeping bag, and your own bedding

- Laptop with charger and extension cords

It's also recommended that you bring your own radio gear in case there's any problems with radios you receive as part of your deployment as you know your own gear better than any provided radios.

What happens when on site? Plan to do a lot of writing, copying messages, updating logs and doodling. Routine radio check-in, sending and receiving messages and updating your logs will keep you busy. You will be able to take breaks and find some downtime.

When the emergency event is over, when do you shut down and return home?

- The site manager will let you know when they are planning to close.

- Directions to end your deployment will come from your ARES/RACES supervisor.

- Once you get approval to end your deployment you'll need to break down all your gear and personal belongings and pack it all up. Be sure to have an inventory list of everything you brought in and make sure you bring everything back out. If you are issues any equipment from ARES/RACES make sure it's all returned.

- Write up a summary report of your deployment and turn that in to your supervisor.

Certification Training courses for deployment

There are a number of required training courses that need to be completed before being deployed which will familiarize you with the mandated procedures of operating in a shelter. These classes are on-line at the FEMA web site. <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

Training classes are easy to complete and consist of:

IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100

IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200

IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System, ICS-700

IS-800.D: National Response Framework, An Introduction, ICS-800

IS-907: Active Shooter: What You Can Do, ICS-907



Hurricane preparedness.

Recently we've had 2 major hurricanes pass through the Tampa Bay area, Hurricane Helena and Hurricane Milton. Both storms had a major impact on the Tampa Bay area bringing destructive rain, storm surge and winds. Many people that lived in the areas impacted by the Helena's storm surge lost everything including some lives. As this storm passed up through Florida into Georgia into western North Carolina the impact became worst. Many ham radio operators were called to provide communications support as the cellular grid went down. Ham radio operators played a vital role in supporting county and state emergency communications (EMMCOM). We have a responsibility to help and support our community in any way possible so please step up and let's help our community.

Supporting BARS members during hurricane Milton:

Jim Stocks (KK4CWO) and Mike Worden (KF4CIG) assisted Karen Jacobi (K4KZF) with setting up her storm shutters for hurricane Milton.



Jim Stocks (KK4CWO) assisted BARS member Dick Hoff (AA5NT) along with Ron Perrett (K4FZU) in taking down Dick's 6 meter beam antenna to prepare for hurricane Milton.

Post storm Tony Stone (W4TAS) reported that the BARS Club repeater came through with flying colors. No loss of signals!

Subject: Ham Radio Operator deploying to support weather events

At the August BARS membership meeting we had a presentation by Ken Watts WA4NSV about his experience supporting a shelter during a hurricane or tropical storm event.

During a deployment to a shelter which you are assigned to some basic items you should bring are: radio license, log book, your operating radio (VHF/UHF), antennas, something to sleep on and some food and water. The shelter staff at your site will provide food and other resources. Your deployment to a shelter is in support of Hillsborough County ARES/RACES and the coordination with the EOC (Emergency Operating Center).

As a operator you'll use the TARC VHF repeater 147.105 along with the UHF repeater at 443.025, PL 146.2.

Volunteers do not self deploy to a shelter on their own but deploy on the direction of the EOC for ARES/RACES.

What do radio operators do during the storm event? We serve as an auxiliary or backup to the county and provide communications support for the shelter site. Regular check in with the EOC to provide on-site status of conditions at the shelter. Some shelters are considered special needs sites.

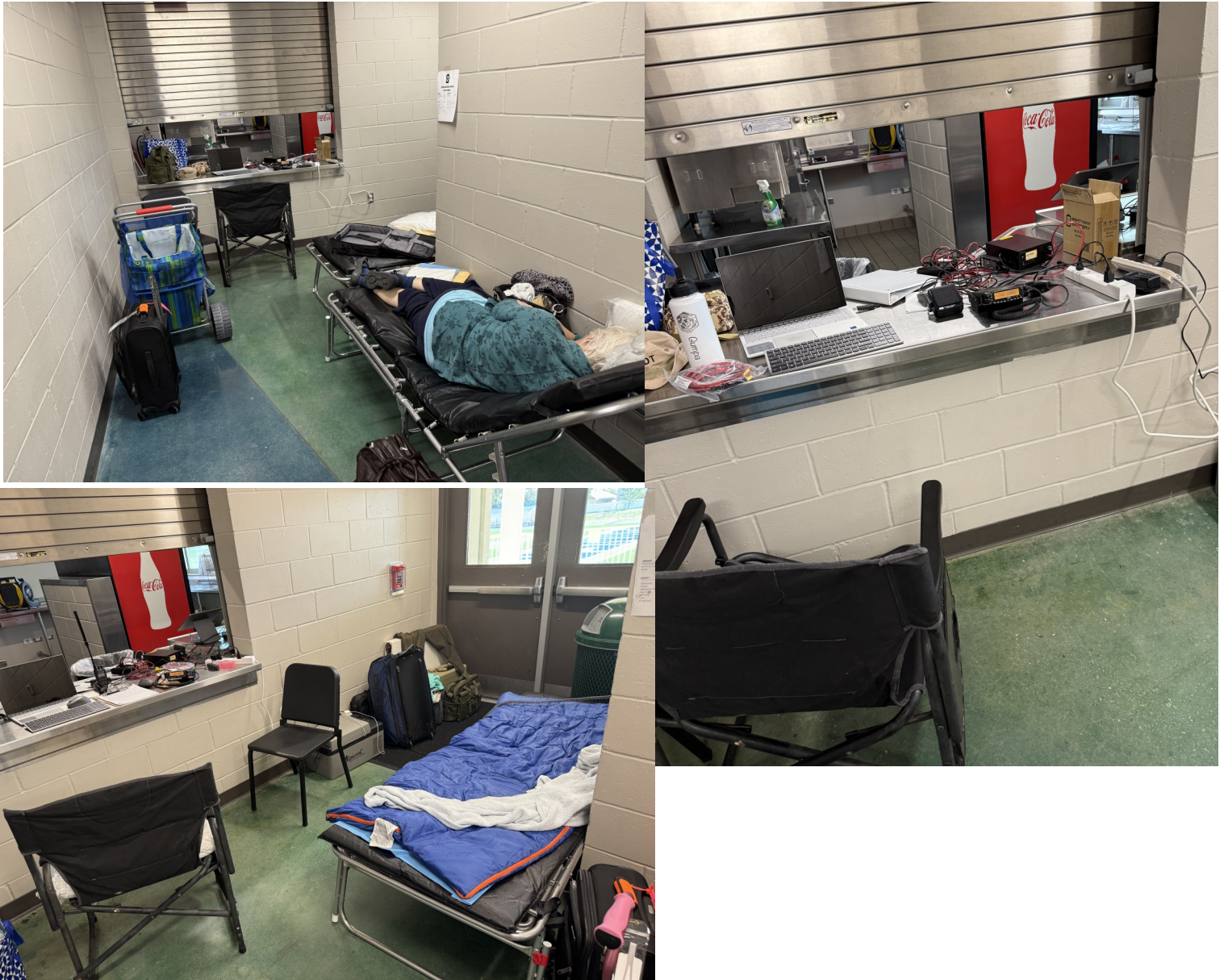
If deploying inside Hillsborough County no special training is required, if deploying outside Hillsborough County you'll need to complete specialized training courses on working in a shelter and some FEMA training. All training is available on-line.

If you want to help and deploy to a shelter, check your county site for a shelter in your area near where you live. Wayne Thomas is looking for volunteers to help at his shelter site which is also a special needs site. Special needs shelters accepts your pets with crates. Also Special needs site will provide a place to sleep and food.



Shelter Support during Milton By Wayne Thomas

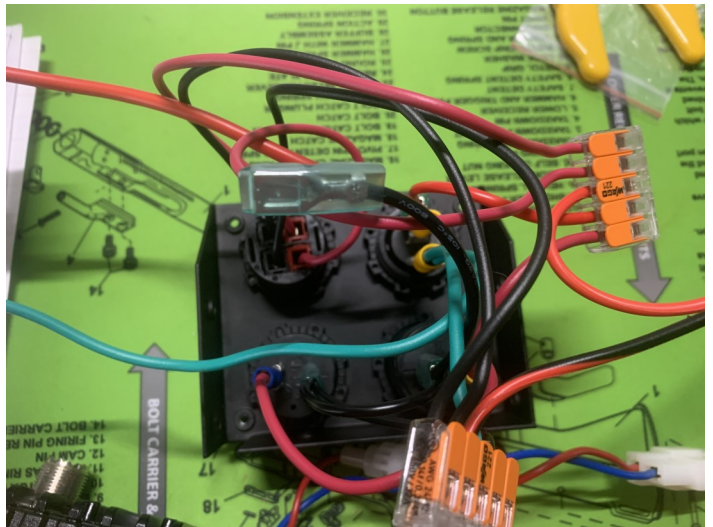
Here are several pictures from the Sumner Shelter for hurricane Milton. This shelter was manned by Wayne KM7WDT, Charles KZ1DRS and Melodie KZ2DRS.



We were the shelter that the emergency communications were needed and assisted the EOC and the Shelter Manager when no other communications were working.

Hammo Can Go box by Jim Stocks (KK4CWO)

During the recent hurricanes that passed through the Tampa area I decided to rebuild out a new go-box by switching out my current radio, a Vixen 868 and switch panel from a plastic ammo can to a metal ammo can by reusing the same components. After watching a few YouTube videos I learned a few ways to do a neater and more correct build and the results look much better. I also reused the plastic ammo can and built it into a spare power station with a 12v SLAB and monitoring switches. Here's the finished product, I was able to reuse my current radio and now have a much nicer (for me) looking go-box.



This is the old VHF/UHF setup in a plastic ammo can. This was my first rough attempt and took a long time as I didn't understand the correct way to connect the wires. It worked but was still a work in progress. This was followed by redoing the entire system and placing it in a metal ammo can which would also be a good ground plane for a mag mount antenna. The next picture is the new way of doing wiring using WAGO lever-lever nuts splicing connectors. These can be found on Amazon or at Lowes.



Member News

Silent Key - We are sad to announce the passing of Nancy Smith (N4ZDC) on 4 September 2024 the wife of Jim Smith K4PPK

She and Doris Haskell (WB9VDT) were chief cook and bottle washer at several field days back around 2005 and she served as club secretary around 2007 - 2009

Silent Key - Mark Haskell (WB9UJS) is a Silent Key. After an extended illness, he took his last breath yesterday, October 17th, just after 4 pm. Mark was a stalwart member of BARS. He served as Secretary from 2012 to 2015 and he was editor of our "Antenna" Newsletter for 13 years.

I know many of us have fond memories of Mark and his wife Doris WB9VDT (also a Silent Key two years ago). I've included a photo below of Mark and Doris. Doris served as President of BARS from 2004 to 2016. Doris also was Net Control for the Monday night BARS 2 meter net for many years. She always closed the net with:

"Goodnight everybody, and may God bless each and every one of you."

Both of them were such wonderful and giving people who touched so many lives. I know we will miss them. Dana - KM4DTJ



Ken Watts (WA4NSV) was in Brandon Hospital receiving a 2 stents.

Roger Jones (KM4CDS) showed a T-Shirt with the BARS logo that may be purchased from Next Level Printing, 7441 US 301 S, Riverview, FL. Phone – 813-290-7446

New Members:

Rob Jacobson (Kj4TSP) applied for membership.

Upcoming Hamfests

Nov. 9 – 2024 SPARC Fest – St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, Freedom Lake Park 9990 46th St N, Pinellas Park, FL 33782

Dec. 13-14 – 49th Tampa HamFest, Strawberry Festival Grounds, Plant City – Request for volunteers will be sent out in November.

Feb. 7-9 – Hamcation 2025, Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park, 4603 West Colonial Drive Orlando, Florida 32808

May 16-18 – Dayton Hamvention 2025, Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 120 Fairground Rd, Xenia, OH 45385

ARRL Hamfests and Conventions South East Division

Tampa Bay Hamfest

The 2024 Tampa Bay Hamfest will be on 13-14 December at the Plant City Strawberry Festival fairgrounds. BARS is looking for members to sign up to support the event on either day. Please contact Fred Hendershot

Membership elections

Election are coming for a few position in BARS, if you are interested in serving contact Jim Moorehead (WF4AC) running the nomination committee.

Visit the BARS website at: <http://www.brandonhamradio.org>

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Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at Redeemer Church, 12404 Boyette Rd, Riverview, FL 33569, and also via Zoom.

Follow us on:

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

<https://twitter.com/brandonhamradio>

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!

As this is being written, we are anxiously awaiting the decision of a group of hams who consider applications for repeater locations, taking into consideration the height, power, frequencies etc., as to not interfere with systems in other areas on the frequencies. For those that do not know, we are seeking a new home for our 2 Meter repeater. The county is wanting to repurpose the tower that it currently sits on so we will have to permanently evacuate from that location at some point soon. You might remember that we moved out of that location to a temporary home a while back, but then received word that the tower work was being briefly postponed so we moved back in for now. Then this opportunity came along. We are going to try to go rather high up on a tower in the Boyette Rd/Bell Shoals area. We will have excellent coverage and all the backup power and AC we need. We basically have an unofficial green light from the other entities involved, but we cannot receive the official word until this approval process is completed. The waiting game is painful, and we have no timeline as to when we will have a decision. Thanks go to Tony Stone (W4TAS) for working to get the package of information prepared to send out. Keep your fingers, toes and whatever else crossed that this process is successful, as I see this is as nothing but an extremely positive step forward for our organization.

On another note, the November meeting is a really important one for the Society. Yep, you guessed it, it's time for elections! We really need as many of our members to come out (either physically or on Zoom) to vote in your leaders for 2025. So please, make sure you set reminders, put it on your calendar, write it on the palm of your hand as a reminder, whatever will help you remember to attend.

73,

Steve, NS4M