

# Treasure Coast Ham News

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SE ARRL HOA Update	1
From The Publishers	2
NWS Storm Spotting training	2
CERT Training Opportunity	2
VE Testing Update	3
Ham Radio History	4
Got My License, Now What	5
Upcoming Hamfests	7
Orlando HamCation	7
Ham Radio Trivia	7
Treasure Coast Calendar	8
HOA - Problem Solved	9
Are You WSPRing?	11
HD8M DXpedition Cancelled	11
2X4 DX Group	11
The Frugal Ham	12
Short Takes	12
Ham Doctors	13
FT8 Operating Tip	13
The Antenna Alchemist	14
DX Opportunities	15
HF Special Events	16
Ham Humor	17
We Need You	17
Next Month	18
Club News	18
Dwight Baker, W4IJY (SK)	18
Ham Gear For Sale	18
Message to PSLARA Members	19
QSL Cards	20

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## Update from Mickey Baker, N4MB ARRL Southeastern Division Director



*(Below is a recent email from Mickey Baker, N4MB, ARRL Southeastern Division Director to ARRL Southeastern Division members discussing the league's HOA mitigation efforts. Opinions expressed are those of Director Baker and not necessarily those of other ARRL board members. Reprinted with permission of Director Baker.)*

### **ARRL HOA Mitigation Efforts - An Update**

I have a number of messages and emails from members asking about ARRL efforts to get mitigation for amateur radio operators who want to put up antennas but are restricted by Homeowners Associations (HOA's). Here's the status of this effort from ARRL. The Legislative Advocacy Committee has been actively pursuing mitigation. This is the status of their efforts and plans. I am not a member of this committee. This information is from their reports to the Board and the Executive Committee, and personal discussion with members. These efforts are fluid and ongoing, but I recognize that members need an update.

#### **Background**

In 2019, a year before I joined the Board, the Board asked the congressional sponsors of the ARPA to NOT resubmit the current version of the Act. The  
*(continued on page 6)*

## From the Publishers

**In the summer of '68** I studied for a Novice license. My high school math teacher was a ham. He said he would proctor the exam. Like today, you had to know theory, formulas, rules and regulations. But questions and answers were not published. Sending and receiving 5wpm Morse code was required. It was a happy day when a license envelope arrived from the FCC. I had my Novice call sign.

**My ham math teacher** found a used Heathkit Comanche receiver and Knightkit T-60 transmitter. He helped me put up a 40 meter dipole. A T-60 had well documented harmonic issues. After a ham buddy said he heard me on his stereo a few blocks away, the T-60 was replaced with a nice homebrew 813 transmitter. Most mornings before school I'd be on 40 meters tapping out a series of CQs and making CW contacts. A few weeks later I found a postal envelope waiting for me when I arrived home from school. Inside was my first QSL card. Over my Novice year I made many contacts and sent and received numerous QSL cards.

**For a time ham radio** took a back seat. Military service, college, work, and family were my priorities. In the '80s I worked for Palm Beach County. I met Manny, W4SS (SK) and Allen, W4PHL (SK) at the EOC. We immediately clicked when I said I was a Tech. Manny urged me to upgrade my license. He and Allen worked with me over many lunches, getting my theory and operating practices current. In the Navy I was a Communications Technician. We sometimes were called "ditty chasers" for our

expertise copying high speed Morse. No worries with the code.

**One day at lunch**, Manny said I was ready to take my General class exam. I wasn't sure, but said, "Ok, let's do it." I was a little nervous taking the exam, but the testing team put me at ease. I nearly aced the exam. The 13wpm code test was a snap. The VEs encouraged me to try the Advanced exam. I told them I was not ready, but Manny, ever the optimist, said try it anyway. The Advanced exam was very difficult. I didn't pass, but got more questions correct than expected. The next month I took the exam again. This time I passed with flying colors. A month later I passed the Extra class exam and 20wpm code test. I don't know why I waited so long to upgrade. Having W4SS and W4PHL as my ham radio Elmers made a huge difference. Their encouragement and help gave me the boost I needed.

**Getting a ham license** or upgrading can be a challenge. Resources are available to learn theory including in-person license classes. YouTube can be a tremendous source of knowledge for almost any subject including amateur radio. Radio clubs conduct training sessions to help new and upgrading hams learn important radio theory.

**My publishing partner and I** have been VEs for many years. We've done training sessions and conducted exams for all license classes. By and large hams come ready to take and pass their exam. They have learned ham radio theory. However, theory is not always practical knowledge. Learning is a life long process. It is important to keep both theory and knowledge up-to-date.

73, [TCHamNews Publishers](#)



The [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (ARES) is an ARRL public service program.

**The National Weather Service**, Melbourne office is offering SKYWARN™ basic and advanced virtual online classes. Those who participate become official SKYWARN™ spotters and receive a SKYWARN™ ID card and unique ID number. Attending a class in person has been difficult, so this online training is your opportunity to become a SKYWARN™ spotter.

A number of virtual training sessions have been scheduled over the next few months. Sessions are scheduled on 2/7/2022,

3/18/2022, 4/7/2022, and 5/21/2022. [Register Here](#) for any of the sessions.

### CERT TRAINING

Basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at Indian River State College's Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex's, 4600 Kirby Loop Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981. Dates: April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 (Fridays), 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. A CERT drill will be conducted on Friday, April 29th, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. No prerequisites. Registration deadline is March 25th, 2022. Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FGYDPK>

This class is highly recommended for anyone involved in neighborhood and volunteer emergency response groups.

### Treasure Coast ARES Emergency Coordinators

[Martin County](#)  
[Steve Marshall, WW4RX](#)

[St Lucie County](#)  
[Paul Horner, W4ISZ](#)

[Indian River County](#)  
[Bud Holman, WA4ASJ](#)

**Get involved, volunteer,  
and be a part of your  
county ARES.**

# VE License Testing Update



*If your club is testing, please let us know the location, date and examination results*

## No Sessions Scheduled, but "On Demand" Testing Available

The impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic continue to haunt the testing front. It remains difficult to find venues willing to host our examination sessions.

To the best of our knowledge, none of the Treasure Coast area clubs have resumed regularly scheduled VE License Examination Sessions.

We anticipate conditions remaining difficult until the Covid-19 situation improves. Keep watching these pages. We are hopeful to return to our normal monthly testing schedule in the not to distant future and will make an announcement when appropriate.

In the meantime, Port Saint Lucie ARA stands ready to serve, and will continue to arrange "on demand" exam sessions when requested. If you or someone you know is ready to take an exam, email our VE liaison [AI4RB](mailto:AI4RB), or call Bob at 772-201-5485.

Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club is also offering license exams on an "as needed" basis at this time. Email [ve@w4ot.com](mailto:ve@w4ot.com) for information.

Watch next month's *Treasure Coast Ham News* for further updates.

For additional information on testing availability please contact one of the local Volunteer Examiners listed below.

### Local License Exam Contacts

#### Vero Beach ARC

Bud L. Holman  
(772) 559-3342  
[budholman@earthlink.net](mailto:budholman@earthlink.net)

#### Ft. Pierce ARC

Jess Porter  
[w4dns@arrl.net](mailto:w4dns@arrl.net)

#### Port St. Lucie ARA

Robert Brown  
(772) 201-5485  
[brownpsl@comcast.net](mailto:brownpsl@comcast.net)

### PSL Is Still Looking For a Venue

If you know of a location in Port Saint Lucie willing to host Saturday morning exam sessions please send an email to: [testing@pslara.com](mailto:testing@pslara.com) or [brownpsl@comcast.net](mailto:brownpsl@comcast.net).

### Reminder - New Technician Class License Question Pool Effective July 1, 2022

If you know someone studying to take the Technician Class license exam, remind them that they may want to take the exam soon. The current Technician question pool will expire on June 30, 2022.

Also, by taking the Technician exam as soon as possible they will avoid the pending \$35 FCC processing fee.

The \$35 fee will be required for both new licenses and license upgrades. While the effective date is still not known, if you are studying to take an exam, be smart and keep \$35 in your wallet by planning to take your exam in the next couple of months.

### New Question Pool Released for Technician Class License Exam

The National Council of Volunteer Examination Coordinators has released the new Technician Class License Exam question pool. To view or download it [click here](#).

Send VE news to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

# Ham Radio History: Getting Organized - Collaboration Extends Range to a Continent

[Editor's note: The author, Chris Codella, W2PA, maintains a web site full of interesting stories about the development and evolution of radio communication. This is the fourth in a series of articles about the earliest days of radio history. The stories are reprinted here with permission of the author. Be sure to visit [Ham Radio History](#) for some fascinating reading.]

**A growing number of clubs** across the country, especially in and around cities, continued to spur interest in amateur radio. One of them, the Radio Club of Hartford in Connecticut, held its first meeting on 14 January 1914, and would soon play a larger role than most in amateur radio history.



**Hiram Percy Maxim**

**Local businessman** and engineer Hiram Percy Maxim was among the group in Hartford that evening. Already a prominent radio amateur, he operated a one-kilowatt station, with call sign IWVH, capable of reaching 100 miles or more under good conditions — an astounding distance for an amateur and about the best that

the state of the art and legal restrictions made possible.

**Seeing the limitations** more than the accomplishment, he began to experiment with relaying messages, one station to the next, a technique used to extend range that had been practiced by ships and land-based stations alike for some time. Beyond the simple idea and its practical use, Maxim saw it as a driving principle around which to build a collaborative, national organization, something he had believed necessary ever since witnessing the machinations leading up to the 1912 radio law. On 6 April, he presented his ideas to a receptive audience at the club, which then voted to establish the *American Radio Relay League*, a name Maxim had thought up as he pondered the idea driving to his office one day.<sup>(1)</sup>

**The club organized** a committee to work on the idea. Maxim, and 18-year-old club secretary Clarence Tuska,

wrote letters to all the active amateurs with capable stations known to them and the club. They enclosed a form that respondents could use to describe their stations and register for the relay league. So great was the response, surprising even Maxim and Tuska, that by summer they had already demonstrated several relay routes in the northeast. The list of registered relay stations grew to over two hundred by August, spread across the US and Canada. League membership, though free of charge, was open only to qualified stations capable of effective relay operation.



**Clarence Tuska**

**In October**, the club published their *List of Amateur Stations*, and sold it for 50¢, along with message pads and maps showing station locations — the first call book. More than simply a roster, the list had a practical intent: it was the first routing table, also. Whether you originated a message or were relaying one, you would use the map to help determine which stations were located in the general direction of the message's destination, and try to send it to one of those next.

**Maxim began working** to establish the League's visibility with the government and helped some amateurs obtain special licenses to operate on 425 meters for message relaying — his main objective. To prevent interference to maritime communications, only those stations located away from the coast were granted special licenses. The government permitted them to operate on the longer wavelength under the condition that no interference resulted, and issued them special call signs with suffixes beginning with X or Z. Maxim's station call changed to IZM, and Tuska's became IZT.

**The number of relay stations** continued to grow steadily as did League participation and message volume, with many stations now handling messages as their primary or sole on-the-air activity. By early 1915 it was becoming

(continued on page 5)

## Ham Radio History: Getting Organized Collaboration Extends Range to a Continent

by Chris Codella, W2PA

(continued from page 4)



League.

ing clear that the League had taken on a life of its own, with a mission that extended well beyond what made sense for a local club. So in February, after discussions at club meetings, Maxim, Tuska and club President David L. Moore resigned and incorporated the American Radio Relay League as an entirely separate entity. Maxim personally repaid the Hartford club for expenditures it had made in establishing the

**In addition to selling** the list of stations package, the League began asking for a voluntary membership fee of 50¢ per year. The second edition of the *List of Amateur Stations* in March contained 600 entries.

**By the end of the year**, after steadily improving their stations in spite of the new restrictions imposed three years earlier, amateurs were once again outperforming many government and commercial stations. They had crawled back up from the slap-down of the 1912 radio law, due in part to being better organized around a shared goal. The organization was comprised of a very effective mixture of individuals — a few mature professionals, exemplified by Maxim, teamed with very many more members in their teens and twenties, like Tuska, all sharing an intense passion for the science, art, and practice of radio communication. As serious “wireless bugs,” they were equals; age was of no consequence.

**They now needed a better way** to keep their operation coordinated. Clearly a newsletter or magazine was the answer, but it had to be self-supporting since the League itself had no funds to speak of.

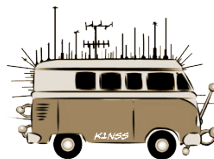
□ □ □ □ de W2PA

Footnotes:

(1) Clinton B. DeSoto, “Two Hundred Meters and Down,” *The American Radio Relay League, Inc.*, 1936, 40.

(Next month: *QST at the Beginning*)

(Are you enjoying this series? Please let us know. Send your comments to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).)



## Got My License, Now What? Operating Edict

**As a young ham** I remember my father telling me he learned the phonetic alphabet serving in the 802nd Tank Destroyer Battalion in WW2. He would say Able, Baker, Charlie and I would respond Alpha, Bravo, Charlie. We would go back and forth each reciting the phonetic alphabet we learned and used.

**While the phonetic words** may have evolved some between WW2 and my Vietnam era, their usage has not. The purpose of the phonetic alphabet is to “provide a clearer and consistent way of spelling out words, or using any letters or numbers in general, over a radio or other communications device.”

**Hams know how to use** the phonetic alphabet. After all, we are trained. But how often have you heard it used incorrectly? How about the ham calling CQ and giving his call sign as **Hot Potato Soup**. I don’t remember those phonetics. How about a ham signing as ... **Arctic Snow Storm**? Still another ham using **What Me Worry**.

**So how about** we get back to phonetic basics and use the words correctly as we learned them?

A	Alpha	Al-fah
B	Bravo	Brah-voh
C	Charlie	Char-lee
D	Delta	Dell-tah
E	Echo	Eck-oh
F	Foxtrot	Foks-trot
G	Golf	Golf
H	Hotel	Ho-tell
I	India	In-dee-ah
J	Juliet	Jew-lee-et
K	Kilo	Key-loh
L	Lima	Lee-mah
M	Mike	Mike
N	November	No-vem-ber
O	Oscar	Oss-car
P	Papa	Pah-pah
Q	Quebec	Keh-beck
R	Romeo	Row-me-oh
S	Sierra	See-air-ah
T	Tango	Tang-go
U	Uniform	You-nee-form
V	Victor	Vik-tah
W	Whiskey	Wiss-key
X	Xray	Ecks-ray
Y	Yankee	Yang-key
Z	Zulu	Zoo-loo

## HOA Update from Mickey Baker, N4MB, ARRL Southeastern Division Director

*(continued from page 1)*

reason was that it had so changed since the original submission that passage might have made an amateur who erected an antenna without HOA permission guilty of a federal crime. It required HOAs to allow a single antenna – there was no specificity, so the antenna could be designated by the HOA. Permission for a single UHF vertical would have met the requirements, and the board foresaw that this might be the case allowed. Since then, the Legislative Advocacy Committee has developed several drafts of legislation and has arrived at two potential paths to overcome the problem of HOA relief for amateur radio.

### **Potential Solutions**

The options as currently explained to me include:

1. Adoption of the OTARD (Over the Air Reception Devices) rule for amateur radio. This would likely take the form of an Order from the FCC. About OTARD: Since this idea was developed by the ARRL Legislation Committee in 2020, there have been several issues that delayed responses from the FCC. COVID-19 resulted in many staff having to work from home, many FCC offices were relocated, and a change of Presidential Administration resulted in the replacement of three FCC Commissioners, including, the Chair. In the meantime, an OTARD change the FCC made in 2018 to allow transmission for Internet sites has a challenge winding through the Courts, and the FCC might be hesitant to make another order until this case is resolved. <https://www.fcc.gov/media/over-air-reception-devices-rule>

2. Adoption of a Bill legislating relief. Since this revised legislation has been proposed, it has been difficult for the Legislative Advocacy Committee to meet with Congressional Staff to fine-tune the proposal, primarily due to COVID restrictions. The Committee has met with some congressional staffers and believes that there are several potential sponsors of the legislation. The ARRL is seeking bipartisan support to avoid the partisan quagmire that we all see in Congress – the Legislation and Advocacy Committee would like to have co-sponsors of any bill from both parties. The Committee has identified several potential sponsors. We will not publish names of sponsors until we have legislation written that all of them are willing to support. After we have a bill that is publicly sponsored, the ARRL will contact members and we will make a full-court press to gain member support for the bill. That's where we are today.

### **Going Forward**

The Legislative Advocacy Committee has recommended that the ARRL form a Political Action Committee so that ARRL members may legally contribute to a fund that would go toward contributions to political candidates. Legally, a charitable 501(c)(3) corporation like the ARRL is restricted from contributing to political candidates. The Board would need to approve such a measure. I am undecided as to whether we should be using ARRL money for political candidates. Your opinion would be appreciated. For 2022, \$300,000 is proposed in the ARRL Operating Budget for support of the Legislative Action Committee. This is above and beyond our Washington Attorney fees.

### **Living in an HOA...**

I live in an HOA in Palm Beach County. My wife is a real estate broker – we negotiated an exception to the antenna policy allowing me to put up antennas before we signed a contract. I have a 75-foot tower and several wire antennas.

As you might know, HOA agreements are two-way agreements that homeowners are often told that they must accept. That is the case in some communities, although buyers don't realize that they have options until they're committed to purchasing a home. Home buying is a very emotional process. I see that in the messages from members who are looking for relief from this seemingly mysterious process. It is no more than an agreement as part of a real estate transaction, and some communities are more flexible than others. For now, I recommend that you get to know your HOA Board of Directors, become involved in the HOA and demonstrate what amateur radio is and its benefit to the community.

I will reply to any of your messages. Write me or call me at the number below. Please leave a message if I don't answer directly.

73, Mickey Baker, N4MB, Director Southeastern Division ARRL - Phone (561) 320-2775 - Email: [n4mb@arri.org](mailto:n4mb@arri.org)

## Upcoming Hamfests

### FLORIDA

02/11/2022 - 02/13/2022

#### Orlando HamCation, 2022 ARRL National Convention

**Location:** Orlando, FL

**Sponsor:** Orlando ARC

**Websites:** <https://www.hamcation.com> and <http://www.arrl.org/expo>

02/19/2022 - Highlands Co.

#### Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

**Location:** Sebring, FL

**Sponsor:** Highlands County Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://highlandsamateurradio.com>

03/19/2022 - 47th Annual Martin Co. HamFest, ARRL South Florida Section Convention

**Location:** Stuart, FL

**Sponsor:** Martin County Amateur Radio Association (MCARA)

**Website:** <http://stuarthamfest.com>

According to the Internet, a Hamfest is a gathering of people interested in Amateur Radio. Hamfests offer exhibits, forums and flea markets for Amateur Radio operators or "hams." What you can see at a Hamfest is a gathering of hams enjoying ham camaraderie. This is the intangible benefit of all Hamfests. We like to have the opportunity to gather and meet our friends from other parts of Florida and elsewhere.



**Location:** Central Florida Fairgrounds & Expo Park, 4603 West Colonial Dr. Orlando, Florida 32808. [GET DIRECTIONS](#)

**Dates/Times:** February 11 & 12, 2022, 9AM to 5PM. February 13, 2022, 9AM to 2PM.

**Ticket Info:** Purchase tickets online or via mail. Parking at HamCation is FREE! Tickets are available online, via mail, or at the event on the days of the event.

[GET TICKETS](#)

**Talk-In:** Talk-in will be on the 146.760 (-600, PL 103.5) KB4UT repeater. This repeater is a mix mode System Fusion repeater located in beautiful downtown Orlando and has good coverage throughout the central Florida region. Backup talk-in will be on the 443.050 (+5.00, PL 103.5) repeater. DSTAR: KIXC, 146.820 (-.600).

#### HamCation Information Station: AM610 Radio

Amateur Radio and Information Radio will merge at the same venue in Central Florida. HamCation will utilize licensed, low power "HamCation Information Station - AM610" as a new tool to push information out to attendees as they approach the event, including traffic, weather info, parking and event details.

## Ham Radio Trivia

### Answer to Last Month's Question

Last month's question was about a slang term I recently heard used on the air. Did you know the meaning?

### January Trivia Question

**Question:** What is the meaning of the term "Lid" when used in ham radio lingo?

- A. A sloppy or careless operator.
- B. An unlicensed operator

- C. An overly loud signal resulting in distortion.
- D. A transmission on a frequency not authorized by the operator's license class.

The correct answer is "A." Lid is an old slang term for a careless operator.

Bruce, WA3RHW, pointed out that "Lid" could also be applied to answers B, C and D. We tend to agree. Thanks for the comments, Bruce.

\*\*\*\*\*

### February Trivia Question

This month our question is pulled

directly from the new 2022-2026 Technician Class License question pool. Let's see how well you do.

**Question:** How many amateurs use the 219 to 220 MHz segment of 1.25 meter band?

- A. Spread spectrum only
- B. Fast-scan television only
- C. Emergency traffic only
- D. Fixed digital message forwarding systems only

(We will reveal the answer next month.)

(Know a good trivia question? Send it to us at: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).)

"Brush up on your radio knowledge, skills and trivia."

## Welcome to the Treasure Coast Ham News Monthly Meeting, Nets, and Events Calendar

If you know of an event, net, or meeting and think it would be of interest to our Treasure Coast Hams, please let us know. As with anything new, you can help us make the calendar better. Send your event announcements to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

# February 2022

January '22							March '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31						30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		<b>IRC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.35(+)(107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B	<b>SLC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 147.240(+)(107.2) or Winlink Checkin sent to W4ISZ	<b>Slow CW Net-6:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2)		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>TC R/T Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)  <b>SKYWARN Net-9pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)	<b>Slow CW Net-6:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>IRC Emer. Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA R/T Net-8pm</b> 145.500(-) (107.2)	<b>IRC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.35(+)(107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B	<b>FPARC Mtg-7:30pm</b> Indian River State College Ft. Pierce-Bldg R, Rm 131	<b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>VBARC Mtg-7:30pm</b> 4325 43rd Av Vero Bch <b>MCARA ARES Mtg-7pm</b> 800 SE Monterey, Stuart	<b>HAMCATION</b> Central Florida Fairgrounds Orlando, FL	<b>HAMCATION</b> Central Florida Fairgrounds Orlando, FL
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>HAMCATION</b>						<b>Vero Beach ARC</b> <b>QRP Outing</b> Andrew Young Park 8am to 12pm Visitors welcome
<b>TC R/T Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)  <b>SKYWARN Net-9pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)	<b>Slow CW Net-6:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>IRC Emer. Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA R/T Net-8pm</b> 145.500(-) (107.2)	<b>IRC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.35(+)(107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B	<b>SLC ARES Mtg-7:30pm</b> SLC EOC-15305 Midway Ft. Pierce	<b>Slow CW Net-6:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA Mtg-7pm</b> ZOOM (see website) <b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2)		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>TC R/T Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)  <b>SKYWARN Net-9pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)	<b>Slow CW Net-6:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>IRC Emer. Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA R/T Net-8pm</b> 145.500(-) (107.2)	<b>IRC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.35(+)(107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B	<b>PSLARA Mtg-7:30pm</b> Location: Zoom or TBD	<b>Slow CW Net-6:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2)		
27	28	TC: Treasure Coast IRC: Indian River County SLC: St. Lucie County PSLARA: Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association ( <a href="http://www.pslara.org">www.pslara.org</a> ) FPARC: Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club ( <a href="https://fparc.org/">https://fparc.org/</a> ) MCARA: Martin County Amateur Radio Association ( <a href="https://mcaraweb.com/">https://mcaraweb.com/</a> ) VBARC: Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club ( <a href="http://www.w4ot.com/">http://www.w4ot.com/</a> )				R/T: Ragchew/Traders Emer.: Emergency





## HOA- Problem Solved! HF Remote Station - Your Questions Answered

(Editor's note: Last month Bruce proposed building a group-owned Remote HF station. A link to a survey asking reader opinions was included. We thank those hams who took the survey, but more input is needed. If you have not already done so, please reply to the [SURVEY](#). This month Bruce answers some reader questions concerning the HF station project.)

**Last month's discussion** of a solution to the HOA problem generated a number of good questions. Allow me to answer a few of them.

**Question:** Can a remote HF station really accommodate multiple operators at the same time?

**Answer:** Absolutely. When set up properly, multiple operator performance is very real. More about that in a future column.

**Question:** Won't a remotely operated HF station be expensive to build and get on the air?

**Answer:** There is no set formula on cost. A station can be built on a "shoe string" budget. While such a station will certainly do a quality job, it will lack the performance and features found on top-of-the-line stations. The team desires to build a top performing world-class station in the most frugal, cost sensitive way possible.

**Question:** What kind of land or site is best suited for the proposed HF station?

**Answer:** The proposed station will be operated remotely. This offers the opportunity to strategically place the antenna and station at a location carefully chosen for optimum performance. A variety of sites are worthy of consideration, including:



wooded areas with many tall trees; tall  
*Figure 1 - Remote area with tall trees. Ideal for a loop antenna. Minimal cost - just wire.*

buildings; existing towers; or building a new tower.

**Figure 1 shows tall trees** going back as far as the eye can see. A loop antenna of 1,600 feet (400 x 400 x 400 ft.) could be constructed with almost no impact to the land owner. A loop can be a world class HF antenna.



*Figure 2 - Loop installed in trees. Almost invisible, isn't it?*

*Cost of this loop antenna? Just wire, feed line and the labor to install.*

**A site similar** to any of the pictures shown in this article will work.

**Trees can make good natural supports**, but another amazing site might include 2 or 3 story tall buildings where a huge

loop antenna could be built. Good antenna design will provide low or no impact to the land or building - and the station could provide great community service in case of an emergency.



*Figure 3 - Tall building. Ideal for a loop or vertical antenna. Low cost.*

**Do you have a contact** for a multi-story building that could accommodate a vertical antenna? How about a horizontal wire loop antenna 8 inches above the entire roof edge? A

loop antenna would have low visual impact.

(continued on page 10)



## HOA- Problem Solved! HF Remote Station - Your Questions Answered

(continued from page 9)

As you may have guessed, site procurement is the most important part of this project.



Figure 4 - Existing tower. Moderate costs for a tower climb, feedline and installation.

This tower might possibly accommodate several HF wire verticals or a side mounted HF YAGI.

Do you know of a tower that might be available to host a remote HF station?

A tall tower is the best answer, but as previously shown tall trees or buildings can give amazing results. Perhaps you know of a location, or a contact person who can help us find a site. That makes you important in this project. We hope the photos and discussion will generate ideas. This is a team project and we need your help.



Figure 5 - An example of land near a local government facility where a tower might be built. Most costly option.

Remote stations are “a dime a dozen,” most providing only limited range, limited time availability or have other restrictions. We are pushing for more... something with worldwide range, multi-operating capability and 24/7 availability. Project success will depend on your interest and involvement. The difference could be you.

Next month we will answer more of your questions. Yes, multi-operation is very possible with proper planning. If you have questions or ideas, feel free to email me.

73, Bruce, W8HW ([w8hw@comcast.net](mailto:w8hw@comcast.net))

Don't buy it... Build it... And learn how it works...

HF – No relay systems Transmitting direct  
Antenna to antenna



Talking to the world



73, Bruce W8HW

Comments about this article? Send to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

If you've not already done so, please help Bruce by taking a survey about remote operating capability. It will only take two minutes of your time. The results will be published in a future TCHN. Thanks!

**REMOTE OPERATING SURVEY**

## Are You WSPRing?

Many of us use [WSJT](#) software developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT and his development team. FT-8 is probably the most popular mode, but the application has many more modes for you to try.

One such mode is **WSPR**. **WSPR** is pronounced "whisper" and stands for "Weak Signal Propagation Reporter." It is a mode used for weak-signal radio communication. Hams transmit a low power signal, 5 watts (many typically less than a watt) on medium frequency (MF) and high frequency (HF) ham bands. Radio amateurs and others that can receive the transmitted signal, can report their findings via the Internet and display on a map.

**Why is WSPR important to us?** VOACAP and internet applications can provide theoretical signal path propagation between your location and parts of the world. Spotting networks and PSKreporter indicate propagation information, but you do not always know a particular station's characteristics including output power. This is where **WSPR** is important. Real time propagation information using quantifiable transmit power is very beneficial.

According to available **WSPR** information on the internet, "**WSPR** transmits and receives, but it does not support normal types of on-the-air conversation. Instead, it sends and receives specially coded, beacon-like transmissions aimed at establishing whether particular propagation paths are open. Transmissions convey a callsign, station location, and power level (dBm) using a compressed data format with strong forward error correction (FEC) and narrow-band, four-tone frequency-shift-keying (FSK). The FEC greatly improves chances of copy and reduces errors to an extremely low rate. The signal bandwidth is only 6 Hz, which together with randomized time-sharing assures that dozens of **WSPR** signals can fit into a tiny 200-Hz segment of each amateur band."

[WSJT](#) can decode **WSPR** signals with a signal-to-noise ratio as low as -28 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. Using the application, hams and SWL listeners with internet access can automatically upload reception reports to [WSPRnet](#).

Next month we will discuss **WSPR** transmitting using your station rig, a kit, or growing your own.

In the meantime, type **WSPR** in your web browser and get ready for some ham radio fun.

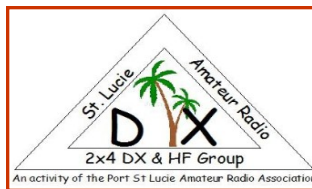
73, [TCHamNews](#)

## CANCELLED

### GALAPAGOS ISLANDS AMATEUR RADIO DXPEDITION SANTA CRUZ ISLAND SA-004

After much discussion, consideration and consultation with persons in Ecuador who are closely attuned to the nature of the global SARS CoV-2 (Covid-19 Coronavirus) pandemic the [HD8M](#) team has decided to cancel the DXpedition to the Galapagos Islands originally planned for **March 2-12, 2022**. COVID-19 is spreading in Ecuador and the Galapagos. Given all the factors, many of which are shifting rapidly, and that team members were coming from various places in North America and would therefore need to travel through multiple countries, airports, and way points in order to reach the destination, it became clear risks would make it unwise to proceed at this time. The team is hoping to find another opportunity to make a trip to the Galapagos at some future date.

The HD8M DXpedition team: Jim, WB2REM; Chris, VO1IDX; Mitch, KH6M; John, N4NNY; and Bob, KE2D



HF has been the subject of much discussion recently. A group of local hams are even considering joining forces to building a multi-user remote HF station that can be operated from the comfort of your own easy chair.

The group has established a survey to gauge local ham interest in their plan. If you've not already done so, be sure to take their [REMOTE OPERATING SURVEY](#).

Update - 2x4 DX Group meeting resumption. A few hams suggested that 2x4 DX Group meetings should resume, gathering once a month for a breakfast meeting at a local restaurant. They also suggested a name change for the group to 2x4 DX & HF Group.

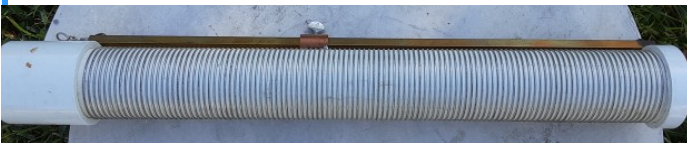
What's your opinion of these ideas? Are you ready to resume meetings? Will you participate? Please tell us. We will forward your comments to the group's leaders. Send an email to us at [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com), with the subject: 2x4 DX Group.

## The Frugal Ham Radio Operator

**I'm always tinkering** with something. My ham shack/workshop is full of projects, both big and small in some state of completion. My mother told me once that I was like her father. He had been a scientist at Bell Labs in New Jersey and New York. She came home from a trip and found her old playhouse transformed into an observatory including a rotatable roof opening for his 10 inch telescope. She said he was always working on a project. I guess the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

**At Hamfests, while other hams are looking** (or maybe drooling over) at the latest radios you will generally find me in the tailgate and swap table areas. It is always amazing to see what hams no longer want or care to own. There can be some real bargains if you are willing to hunt for them, or dig in those musty ground level boxes.

**Not long ago at a Hamfest** I was perusing the swap tables and spied a long coil wound on a PVC core in the bottom of a box. It looked interesting, so I asked what it had been used for. The ham said he didn't know. It was in a box of junk he bought.



**Haggling always seems** to be part of the buying process, so he responded with "What do you think its worth?"

**I picked it up.** It looked to be some sort of inductor, but the PVC base got my curiosity. I had used PVC in a lot of my antennas, but this looked different. It had a square brass rod running the length of the coil. On the rod was a brass barrel coupling and turn screw. Soldered to the bottom of the barrel was a broken piece of finger stock.

**Apparently, the finger stock** was used to make connection with the coil windings. I recognized this as similar to a roller inductor, but operating differently. Not wanting to look too interested I said, "Well, the finger stock is broken. That stuff is hard to find. How about \$5 bucks?" He said "Maybe, but I really need \$15 bucks for it." Since he got the coil in a box of junk and had very little invested, I said "Too rich for my frugal blood," and started to move on. He yelled "Ok, how about \$10 bucks." "I said sold."

**At the house,** I gave it a thorough look-see. It seemed new, but the brass was tarnished, so it must have sat in that junk box for a while. Replacing the finger stock didn't look too difficult. I remembered I had a small piece left over from a screw driver antenna built many years before. I unsoldered the broken finger stock and soldered in a new piece. Easy enough!

**A little Internet sleuthing** indicated it was an 80m base coil for a St. Louis Vertical. The coil was made by Vern, W6MMA (SK). The original SLV antenna wrapped wire around the base of the antenna. This coil was a much improved method. A good find for \$10.

73, [The Frugal Ham](#)

## Short Takes

Selection & Construction of High Performance 6 Meter Yagi Antenna Systems by Frank, W3LPL:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84t7lz4wlNs>

Software Controlled HamRadio:

<https://groups.io/g/SoftwareControlledHamRadio>

Crank-up Tilt-over Towers:

<https://groups.io/g/CrankupTiltoverTowers>

The Old Tech Guy – KB9RLW:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/loughkb/videos>

The Story of the Transistor: [https://](https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the-story-of-the-transistor)

[www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the-story-of-the-transistor](https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the-story-of-the-transistor)

W6AER – Pacifica, CA is a web site loaded with operating guides and tips.

<https://w6aer.com/>

Have an older Icom, Kenwood or Yaesu rig that you can't get repaired?

Check out [Amateur Radio Service](#).

Step-by-step instructions for setting up the [Icom 7300 for FT8 operating](#).

### Email & Chat Groups

Looking for repair help? [Groups.io/Amateur-repairs](https://groups.io/Amateur-repairs)

Here's a group devoted to the free exchange of service and user manuals. [Manual Exchange](#)

See an interesting web site or Group? Share it. Send link to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

# Treasure Coast Ham Doctors

## Should I Upgrade?



### Question:

I notice that some of my ham radio software packages have newer versions available than what I am running.

My question is a basic one, Should I upgrade or continue operating with my current software?

Also, since you are an FT8 enthusiast, I am curious to know what version of WSJT-X you run?

### Answer:

Software upgrading - What a good question! It's one loaded with controversy and tough to answer because there is no right or wrong answer. I will share my philosophy on the subject, but realize the final decision on whether to upgrade or not is yours and yours alone to make.

If we imagine a basketball court and ask hams to move to one side or the other of the center line based on whether or not they keep their ham radio applications at the current version, the crowd will be split about 50-50.

On one side of center line are those who insist you should always maintain your software applications at the latest version. On the other side are those who insist on leaving well enough alone and never upgrading. There just seems to be no common ground. As I already said, it's a decision that you alone must make.

At the risk of potentially offending half of the readers, I will share my perspective on upgrading ham apps. I'm sure my comments will generate controversy and disagreement, but here goes.

Since you mentioned it, let's discuss WSJT-X, a popular application for operating FT8, WSPR and numerous other digital modes. I have been running WSJT-X version 2.1.2 for a couple years. The current version is 2.5.4.

So why haven't I upgraded? The simple answer is that version of 2.1.2 performs reliably for everything I use the application for. I have no complaints with its performance. I believe in the philosophy, "If something is not broke, don't fix it." Someday I will upgrade, but for now I feel the potential for installation and configuration problems when upgrading are just not worth the risk.

Concerning hardware, my position is the complete opposite. I always maintain transceivers, test equipment and other software controlled hardware at the most recent released version of software and/or firmware.

The main reason is for support purposes. If you need to call the manufacturer's tech support center for help with a problem, they will usually insist that your equipment be at the current version before they can help you.

And one last comment, I purposely avoid beta versions of software. Sometimes they turn out to be more trouble than the are worth. Wait for the official release.

In closing I must repeat: The decision to upgrade is always yours and yours alone. 73, [The Doctors](#)

## FT8 / WSJT-X Operating Tip - Software Upgrades

### Some Tips to Consider when Upgrading

Regardless of the application you plan to upgrade, here are a couple of tips to consider before you start:

1 – Read the release notes carefully. Does the upgrade contain a new feature that you need or want? Does the upgrade contain a fix for a bug that inconveniences you in your current version?

If you answered No to both questions, then ask yourself if you really need the upgrade.

Some hams feel it is important to stay current on all software apps, while other are satisfied to pass on up-

grading if the new version doesn't offer any new features of interest. The choice to upgrade or not is up to you.

2 – If you decide to perform the upgrade, then before starting make sure you backup settings, configuration files, and logs just in case something goes wrong. Make paper notes of any custom settings that are not saved in configuration files.

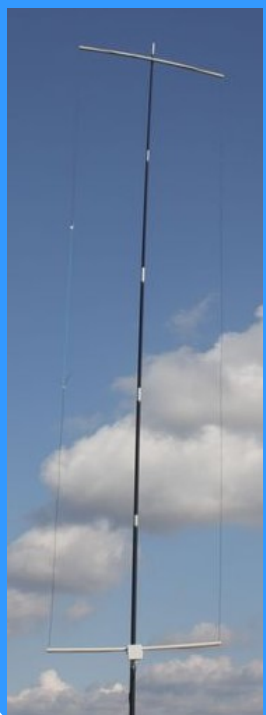
3 – Carefully read Installation Notes and Readme files associated with the upgrade before starting the installation process. You may want to print them out for easy reference.

Send questions or tips to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

# Ramblings of an Antenna Alchemist



C-Pole Vertical Antenna Designs



**Many South Florida Hams** face hurdles with HF antennas. Restrictive HOAs, small urban lots, or no natural support structures like trees. The list goes on. Some hams resort to attic HF antennas. Others never attempt HF and become VHF/UHF hams for life.

**In keeping with my antenna alchemist ways**, I spend a lot of time searching the internet, old books and magazines for antenna designs I can try in an urban environment. There are always compromises to be sure, but sometimes I find a design that seems to suggest it may be worthy of trying.

**The April 2004 QST** included a C-Pole vertically oriented antenna by Brain Cake, KF2YN. The design had attractive features. It used lightweight telescopic fiberglass fishing poles, was very easy to set up and take down (great for HOAs, POTAs, or Field Day), no counterpoise/radials needed and had reasonable performance. With no expensive parts, cost is much lower than aluminum antennas.

**The C-Pole antenna** can be scaled for almost any HF band, but 20 meters and above are probably best. Thanks to Ed, HB9MTN's [webpage](#) we have a calculator to get started.

Target Frequency (in MHz):

Unit of Measure:  Centimeters  Inches  Feet

Seg. Length

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

Total wire needed for antenna:

Total PVC needed for supports:

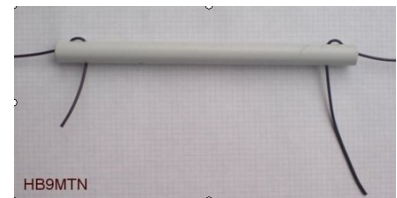
**My experience** with this antenna has shown that some fine tuning and adjustment is necessary. Overall, the design is very flexible to fit your operating environment.

A current balun is required. Simple coax designs work fine.

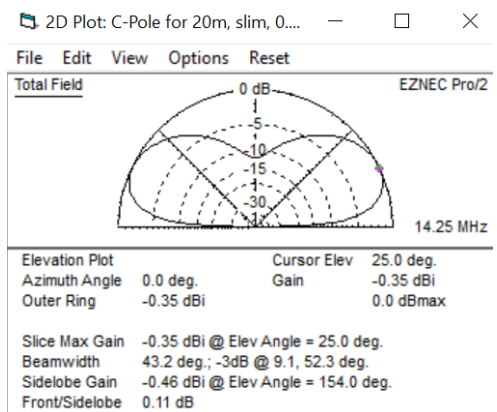


A ferrite core balun can also be used, if you want.

**According to HB9MTN**, "Overall wire length is roughly 1/2 wavelength, the feed-point is 25% from end. Electrically it is an off center fed dipole." The two stubs attached to the PVC insulator below are trimmed for fine tuning. The (shorter) stub (I) for best SWR; the upper (longer) stub (H) for resonance.



**EZNEC Pro/2** model shows the antenna offers a reasonable take off angle.



**We can all** learn by sharing with others.

73, [The Antenna Alchemist](#)



From the weekly **ARRL DX Bulletin** and other sources.  
[\(DX bulletin archive\)](#)

**DX OPPORTUNITIES**

**SENEGAL, 6W.** Jacques, F6HMJ will be QRV as 6W7/F6HMJ from December 29 to February 22, 2022. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**MALDIVES, 8Q.** LU4DXU, Henry, is heading to Dharavandhoo Island (AS-013), where he plans to be QRV as 8Q7AH from February 8-15. Activity on SSB and FT8 on all bands. QSL via LU4DXU.

**ZAMBIA, 9J.** Mario, IK1MYT is QRV as 9J2MYT from Lusaka until June 2022. Activity is on 40, 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters. QSL direct to IZ3KVD.

**FAROE ISLANDS, OY.** Operators Cornel, YP5C and Mihai, YO6SM are QRV as OY/YP5C and OY/YO6SM, respectively. Activity has been mainly on 20 meters using SSB. Their length of stay is unknown. QSL to home calls.

**KOSOVO, Z6.** DL2JRM, Rene, will be QRV as Z66BCC for this year's CQ WPX RTTY Contest, February 12 and 13. QSL direct or via the bureau to DL2JRM.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Beverly, S79BMK is a new operator and QRV from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024. She is active on the HF bands.

**MONTERRAT, VP2M.** Thaire, W2APF will be QRV as VP2MDX from January 9 to February 18. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**ST. VINCENT, J8.** Brian, GW4DVB will be QRV from February 24 to March 8, as J88PI from Palm Island, IOTA NA-025. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20, 17, 15, 10 and 6 meters using CW, SSB, SSTV and FT8. QSL via GW4DVB, direct only.

**DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS**

**ENGLAND, G.** Special event stations GB1900HA and GB1900HW will be QRV from January 24 to December 23 to commemorate the 1900th anniversary since the beginning of the construction of Hadrian's Wall. QSL via LoTW.

**TURKEY, TA.** Members of the Turkish Amateur Radio Association are QRV with special call sign TC60TRAC during all of 2022 to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary. QSL via the bureau.

**MEXICO, XE.** In celebration of the 90th anniversary of the FMRE, look for a number of stations to be using the 4A90 prefix until the end of March 2022. QSL via operators' instructions.

**NORWAY, LA.** Special event station LA100B is QRV during 2022 to celebrate NRRL's Bergensgruppen 100th anniversary. QSL via LoTW only

**BELGIUM, ON.** Look for 64 special event stations to use the ON75 prefix from January 1 to February 28, 2022, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Belgium's National IARU Society. QSL via operators' instructions.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Special event stations 7B2C, 7B2E, 7B2T, 7B2H and 7B2O are QRV until the end of October 2022 to celebrate the Javanese-Hindu Ceto Temple that was built in 1475. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via operators' instructions.

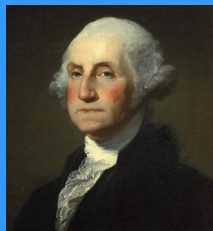
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**ANTARCTICA ALERT.** KC4USV has been operating FT8 on 20m recently from McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Reports indicate reasonably strong signals into South Florida. Keep an eye out for him.

*(Know of an upcoming DX station or Special Event? Send info to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com))*



## Special Event Stations



### George Washington's Birthday

**Feb 19-Feb 20, 1700Z-1000Z, K4US** Mount Vernon ARC. 14.260, 14.074, 7.040. QSL: MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. Held at his Virginia home at the Mt Vernon Greenhouse. bQSL with SASE to: MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307 [mvarc.org](http://mvarc.org).



### Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

**Feb 7-Feb 14, 1200Z-0600Z, W9L/K9L** 14.250, 7.250. QSL: National Trail ARC, Attn: Lincoln Birthday, P.O. Box 903, Effingham, IL 62401. K9L running from home Feb. 7th - 13th. W9L at Lincoln's father farm. Lincoln Log Cabin info: [www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org). Special event QSL cards: SASE to National Trail ARC Inc, Attn: Lincoln Birthday, PO BOX 903 Effingham, IL 62401

### JYI Memorial Special Event

**Feb 1-Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z, N9SES** Arab QRZ International. 14.025, 14.076 14.250, 21.025. QSL: Ayman Azar, 286 I Decatur Street, Lake Station, IN 46405. <https://www.n9ses.com/jy1-memorial-special-event-station>

### Ellijay ARS 25th Anniversary

**Feb 5-Feb 13, 1500Z-2300Z, W4HHH** Ellijay ARS (EARS). 14.171, 7.171. Certificate & QSL: Ellijay Amateur Radio Society, 78 N Garrett Branch Road, Ellijay, GA 30536. 10, 12, 15 17, 20, 40, 80 & 160 meter bands during 9 day event. The certificate indicates what operators contacted. Participants can try a clean sweep & contact all EARS operators. [w4hhh.org](http://w4hhh.org).

### Rep. of Texas Central National Road

**Feb 5, 1400Z-2200Z, K5R** Rockwall ARC. 14.050, 14.074, 14.265. QSL: Rockwall Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1791, Rockwall, TX 75087. Commemorating Rep. of Texas Central National Road. CW, FT-8, & SSB. QSL card downloadable, Rockwall ARC website. [sites.google.com/site/rarck5rkw](https://sites.google.com/site/rarck5rkw).

### Traveler's Rest RV Resort and Golf Course 50th Anniversary

**Feb 5, 1200Z-2000Z, W5O** Traveler's Rest ARC. 7.240, 14.240. Certificate: K4TRR Anniversary, 29129 Johnston Rd. Lot 09-03, Dade City, FL 33523. Members celebrating 50 years of service to the RV-Ham traveler. [k4trrinfo@gmail.com](mailto:k4trrinfo@gmail.com).

### 50th Anniversary of GERATOL W.A.S. Net

**Feb 7-Feb 20, 1000Z-2100Z, WIG** GERATOL W.A.S. Net. 3.668 During Net Time, 20M SSB, 40M SSB. QSL: Kevin Lynch, POB 124, Wheelwright, MA 01094. Special event station, active from February 7, 2022 to February 20, 2022 commemorating 50th Anniversary GERATOL W.A.S. Net. A special QSL card available to those who send an SASE with their QSL. [geratol.net](http://geratol.net).

### Wisconsin SimCom 2022

**Feb 13-Feb 20, 0600Z-0600Z, W9WCA** Wood Co. ARES/RACES. Allstar 52770/

Echolink W9WCA-L, 7.250, 14.250, 3.970. QSL. Wood Co. ARES/RACES, Attn: SimCom SES, 5421 Madison Circle, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. QSL with SASE via W9BBF. [kb9stb@gmail.com](mailto:kb9stb@gmail.com).

### Speedweek / Daytona 500

**Feb 16-Feb 20, 0000Z-2359Z, N4DAB** Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team. 14.255, 14.074, 7.255, 7.074. Certificate: Steve Szabo, WB4OMM, Trustee, 536 Central Park Blvd, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127. [n4dab@n4dab.com](mailto:n4dab@n4dab.com) or [www.n4dab.com](http://www.n4dab.com).

### HL Hunley Commemoration Special Event

**Feb 17, 1400Z-1900Z, N4HLH** Trident ARC. 14.262, 7.262. QSL: QSL Manager, P.O. Box 60732, North Charleston, SC 29419. <https://www.tridenthams.org/hl-hunley>.

### Cajun Coast Eagle Expo

**Feb 19, 1600Z-2000Z, W5BMC** Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Service [BEARS]. 7250, 14250, Echo Link W5BMC-R 507010. QSL: Deborah Price N5FMI, 708 Front St, Morgan City, LA 70380. Set up on banks of the Lower Atchafalaya River at Captain Caviar's Tour Boat Landing Under 200 year old live oak trees.

### Ice Station WØJH

**Feb 19-Feb 21, 1600Z-2300Z, WØJH** Amateur Radio Assoc. (SARA). 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360. Certificate: Shel Mann, 1618 Pine St. West, Stillwater, MN 55082. Operating from a frozen lake in Washington Co., MN. Info: WØJH on [www.QRZ.com](http://www.QRZ.com) & [www.radioham.org](http://www.radioham.org). [IceStation2022@radioham.org](mailto:IceStation2022@radioham.org).

### Voice of America 80th Anniversary of First Broadcast Overseas

**Feb 19-Feb 21, 1400Z-2359Z, W3V, W8O, W4A** VOA ARC. 3.880, 7.280 14.280. Certificate & QSL. Voice of America ARC, 330 Independence Ave. SW, Rm 2525-croft, Washington, DC 20237-0073. Separate listings. <https://www.qsl.net/k3voa>.

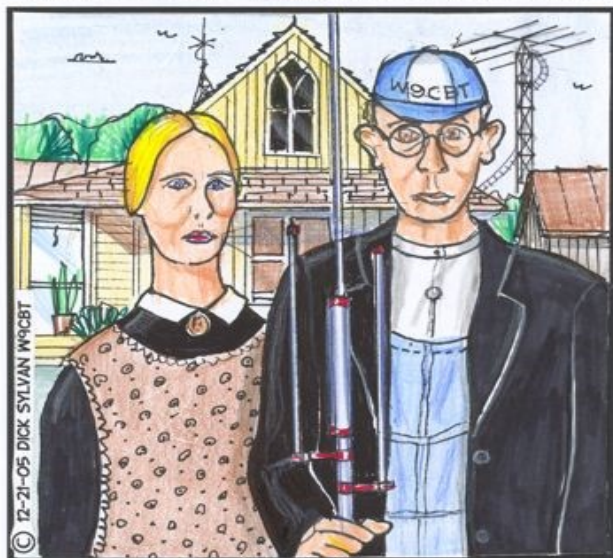
From ARRL & other sources



# Ham Humor

(This month's cartoons are courtesy of [Dick Sylvan, W9CBT](#). Thanks, Dick, for allowing us to share them!)

**HAM QUIPS** AMERICAN GOTHIC VERTICAL



YOU BETTER NOT GET ANY MORE HOLES IN THE ROOF WHEN YOU MOUNT THAT VERTICAL ANTENNA UP THERE. THE ROOF LEAKS NOW!

**HAM QUIPS** "Holy Ham Heaven Cemetary"



"Who Said You Cant Take It With You?"

**About Dick Sylvan, W9CBT:** Dick was first licensed 74 years ago. Besides being an experienced ham radio operator Dick is also a skilled artist, having drawn over 200 Amateur Radio related cartoons. In 2005 Dick published a collection of some of his earliest cartoons in the book, "*Hi Hi - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons.*" Dick's book can be purchased from Lulu.com. [Click here for a link to Dick's book.](#)



## TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS

The editors like to reserve the last couple pages of *Treasure Coast Ham News* for you, the readers. With your help these pages will include:

**For Sale Section** – Have something to sell or trade? Send us a description and/or picture to have it listed in this section. Looking to buy something? Provide a description and we will print it.

**QSL Card Section** – Many hams enjoy viewing QSL cards, especially those with colorful pictures. Send us scans of your favorite QSL cards. Maybe the first card you ever received. Or perhaps your favorite card, or your personal card. We will include some in each issue as space permits.

The last few newsletter pages are yours. Help make them a success by submitting your photos, For Sale listings and QSL cards to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

**Want to be published?** Treasure Coast Ham News invites you to write about your ham radio activities, kit building, DX operations, or any other amateur radio subject. You don't need to be a polished writer, or a writer at all for that matter. We will help you edit your work. While we don't pay for articles, you will receive a full byline. Please contact us at: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

## Coming in Future Newsletters

Articles planned for coming issues of *Treasure Coast Ham News* include:

- More information for new hams
- More Ham Radio History stories
- FT-8 DXing with Hamstick style mobile antennas
- Ferrite Cores—what and how to use
- Brucie’s Short Topics

## Area Club News

### Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association

The club has new officers for 2022: President - Ken, WA4ABR; Vice President - Scott, AI4TT; Secretary - Bruce, WA3RHW; Treasurer - Greg, KB4VVE.

The club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the meeting. Watch for an announcement later this month containing connection information.

Be sure to read the president’s letter on the next page and participate in the club’s new [SURVEY](#).

### Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club

FPARC is a general purpose club involved in all aspects of amateur radio. The club normally meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month on the Main Campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. The club has new 2022 officers: President-David, KG4ORQ, Vice-President-Kevin, W4KKW, Secretary-Pete, KD4SPW, and Treasurer-Kurt, W4KFH. Watch for email announcements concerning upcoming meetings and events. Additional details are available on the club’s [web site](#).

### Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club

VBARC was formed in November, 1961 with just a handful of local hams. Today, it includes all of Indian River County. The club now counts over 100 members and continues to grow. Please visit our [web site](#) to learn more about the club. Join us on the Treasure Coast Net, 7.153Mhz every morning at 8:00am.

Carl "Dwight" Baker, W4IJY (SK)  
 With sadness we report the passing of long time Vero Beach ARC member Dwight Baker, W4IJY. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

### Martin County Amateur Radio Association

MCARA serves the Martin County, FL amateur radio community and supports county ECOMM through ARES. Among other activities, MCARA holds weekly Rag Chew nets, ARES nets and meetings, and monthly association meetings. Club meetings are via ZOOM. Please click the ZOOM link on their [web site](#). The association also sponsors the yearly Stuart Hamfest. This year it is March 19th, 2022 at the Martin County Fairgrounds across from airport. Watch the club web site and participate in their nets to learn more.

### Repeaters and Club Nets

The Treasure Coast is blessed with a multitude of repeaters. Each club holds a weekly rag chew net on one or more of their repeaters. Schedules for the nets are available on most club web sites. Also check the calendar in this newsletter for net schedules. There is at least one net almost every evening. Get on the air and participate!

*(Attention club officers: Please send an email announcing upcoming events and activities to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com). Send by the 20th of the month to be included in the next issue.)*

## HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR SALE OR WANTED

**BY ORIGINAL OWNER** - Create Extra Heavy Duty Antenna Rotator – Model RC5A-3 and preset control box. Includes mounting hardware and factory manual. Rated for antenna up to 20 sq. ft. Test/Demo cable included. See [EHAM.NET](#) Reviews for info. \$495.00 or Best Offer.



**ORIGINAL NON-SMOKING OWNER** - YAESU FT1000 HF XCVR 160-10M. 200 WATTS with factory

options (DVS-2 voice keyer, MHI-B8 hand microphone) and service manual. Has factory shipping box. \$795.00 or Best Offer. [Yaesu FT-1000 Specifications & Manual](#). For both items contact BOB, W7MAE, (772) 444-5845, or email [w7mae@aol.com](mailto:w7mae@aol.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**ANTENNA LAUNCHER** - Bruce, WA3RHW, is looking to buy or borrow an antenna launcher, PVC type, not slingshot. AKA spud-chucker and potato launcher, among others. Please contact Bruce at [btcarroll@comcast.net](mailto:btcarroll@comcast.net).

# A Message to Members from Ken Lenz - WA4ABR

## President, Port Saint Lucie ARA

Hello PSLARA club members and Happy 2022!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the new PSLARA Executive Committee members. I am Ken Lenz, WA4ABR, and was selected by the club's Executive Committee to be the new PSLARA president. Some of you may remember me as the member in charge of programs when we were having in-person club meetings. The other members of the 2022 Executive Committee are Vice President, Scott Bertrand AI4TT; Secretary Bruce Carroll WA3RHW; and Director Jody Butte, W4SLD. There was no PSLARA club member willing to permanently fill the Treasurer position, so I asked the current treasurer, Greg Bunting, KB4VVE, to continue for a short transition period until a new treasurer can be appointed.

Normally the PSLARA Executive Committee consists of 9 members, so you see the club is in desperate need for additional Executive Committee members. If you are interested serving on the Executive Committee please [email me](#).

Besides someone to take over the Treasurer's position, we especially need members to fill the Program, Membership, Social and Website positions. It is not reasonable to expect the limited number of members of the current Executive Committee to provide the exceptional PSLARA club experience our membership has come to expect without some additional help!

Also, additional net control operators are needed for our Thursday evening Club net. It does not require much time, and with a sufficient number of net control stations you would probably be net control once every 6 or 7 nets. If you are interested serving as a net control station please place contact any officer or [email me](#) directly.

My primary goal for 2022, along with the Executive Committee, is to revitalize the PSLARA and prevent its dissolution. Many of you may not realize just how close that possibility was due to the lack of members willing to serve on the Executive Committee. Presently, the Executive Committee is running at bare minimum and if one Executive Committee member steps down, PSLARA will no longer have a functioning Executive Committee as required by our by-laws and no way to continue to operate. Also, the PSLARA has experienced an alarming lack of member participation the last several years. Even though we do not have a physical meeting venue (yet) we hold monthly "ZOOM" membership meetings and a weekly club net on the PSLARA repeater. Please try to participate.

So what can Club Members do to improve this situation?

I encourage members to become more active in the club's activities. Participate in our monthly "ZOOM" meetings. Check into the Thursday evening club net, even if it's a "short of time or mobile" check-in. Monitor and use our great repeaters. Did you know we have 4 available for member use with moderate morning and afternoon "drive time" activity? Try our slow speed CW training net on Monday and Thursdays. While you may not become a CW expert, it's low key, fun and with band activity improving, CW can be a great way to pick up those needed countries. Invite a ham acquaintance, or former member, to participate in the Club. The long term survival of the PSLARA rests in your hands. To paraphrase a great quote from JFK, "Ask not what the PSLARA can do for you, but what can you do for the PSLARA."

To better understand how PSLARA members would like to see THEIR club operate, we have created a brief survey. This information you provide will help us create the great club experience you desire. The survey is easy to complete and will take just a couple minutes of your time. Answer for each question and when finished hit REPLY. That's all you need to do! Please complete the survey by February 22. [CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY](#).

73, Ken, WA4ABR

TCHamNews enjoys publishing QSL cards received by our local amateur radio community. If you have an interesting QSL card to share with your fellow hams, please send a scanned image (jpeg) to [TCHamNews@gmail.com](mailto:TCHamNews@gmail.com) and we will include it in an upcoming issue. (If you send us a paper card, we will scan it and send the original back to you.)

**REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**  
**EI5GSB**  
 Denis Long  
 2 Pair na Habhainn  
 Cloyne  
 Co. Cork  
 Rep. Ireland  
 e-mail: denislong@vodafone.ie

■ CONFIRMING 2-WAY QSO ■ SWL REPORT

WAZ: 14  
 ITU: 27  
 LOCATOR: IO51WU

TO RADIO:

DATE	UTC	MHz	MODE	RST
To: W4RJP	Confirming 2-way FT8 QSO	Band: 17M		
Date: March 18, 2021	Time: 15:47Z	RST: -18		

PSE TNX QSL DIRECT OR VIA IRTS QSL BUREAU

73 Denis

HAPPYQSL.COM

**FK8HA**

**NEW CALEDONIA**

**K5BSS**

Justin Frasier  
 3243 COTTONWOOD ST.  
 Bossier City  
 Loc:EM32dm ITU:7 CQ:4 Bossier Parish

To: W4RJP This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO  
 Date: January 26, 2021 Time: 17:44 UTC  
 Band: 20M UR Sigs: -01  
 FT8 Sent: -01 Rcvd: -03

**European Ros Club** #Manager

**EB5AG**

Manolo Sánchez Pérez  
 CQ: 14 ITU: 37 DME: 03093 Locator: IM980i

To: AI4RB This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO  
 Date: October 4, 2020 Time: 18:22 UTC  
 Band: 10M UR Sigs: -15

**NØNWX** UNITED STATES

**NØNWX**

KAY SCHILLA  
 PO BOX 536  
 WILTON, ND 58579  
 USA  
 Loc:DN97od ITU:7 CQ:4 McLean County  
 10-10:59399

**KAY SCHILLA**  
 PO BOX 536  
 WILTON, ND 58579  
 DN97od

CONFIRMING CONTACT

DATE	UTC	MHz	MODE	RST
To: W4RJP	This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO			
Date: April 3, 2021	Time: 00:18 UTC			
Band: 40M UR Sigs: -07				

Thanks for the QSO have a great day

**FR4OM - LG78 SR**  
 Radio amateur Réunion  
 République Française  
 Département de La Réunion

**COMMUNE DU TAMPON**  
 La France dans l'Océan Indien

ZONE: 53 - CQ ZONE: 39 - CONT AF: 016 FT8



If you are considering QSL cards or need to refresh your old card, please discuss with Fabrice at [QSL Concept](mailto:info@qslconcept.com). Email: [info@qslconcept.com](mailto:info@qslconcept.com), or Fabrice directly at [fabertron@bftechnicarts.com](mailto:fabertron@bftechnicarts.com). Phone 604-729-6454.

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