

Treasure Coast Ham News

FEBRUARY 2023

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

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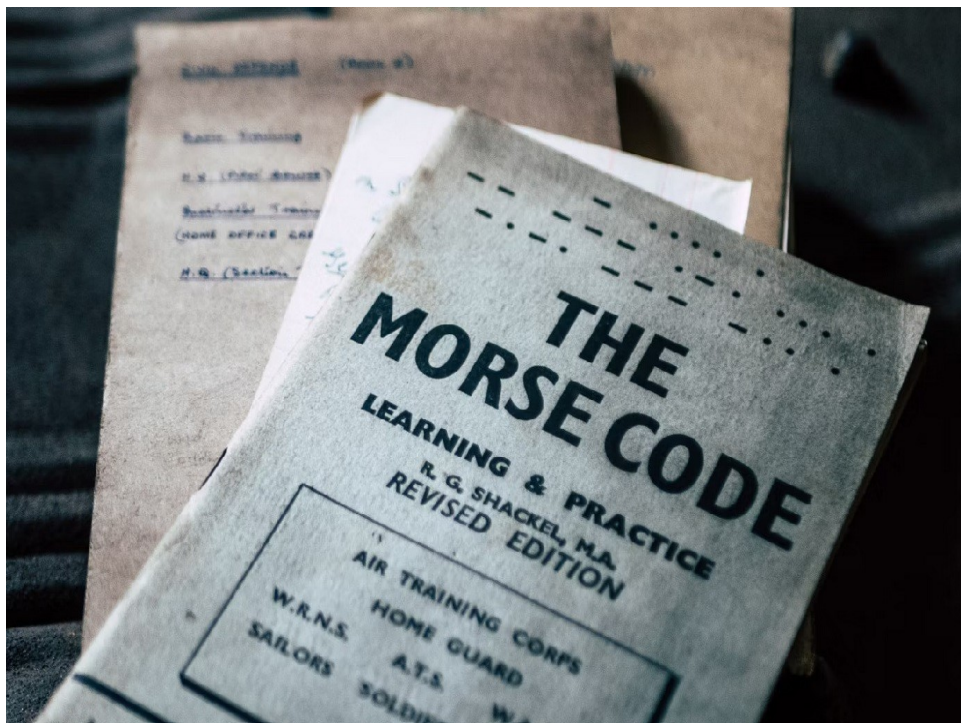
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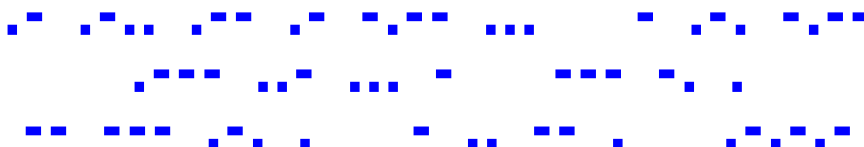
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Morse Code: Learn It .-... Practice It .-.-. Use It ..-



The Most Certain Way to Succeed is:



Thomas A. Edison

Treasure Coast Ham News is retooling the newsletter.
Please bear with us in 2023 as changes are made.

From the Publishers

On a sad note Jerry Henderson, KF4XE, became a silent key on Christmas eve. Jerry had been a member of the PSLARA and FPARC. RIP KF4XE.

Jerry's son is selling off his father's ham radio gear. First up are his 2 towers, a Cushcraft A3S YAGI, coax, CDE rotator and a 2-meter YAGI. As he goes through his father's equipment he will have more to sell. If interested in buying any of the items, please contact him at (772) 528-2592.

* * * * *

January sure went fast. I guess that's the case as you get older. Days, weeks, months and years fly by. When you are young, you want time to speed up. When you get older you want it to slow down. The main thing is to enjoy your life no matter your age.

I bet you made some Ham Radio New Year's resolutions. Right? Some of the ones I made include exploring different aspects of amateur radio, getting my 30 year old vertical dipole cleaned and back to like new operating condition, making more of an effort on WinLink Express (I know the program, but those forms....), getting comfortable with VARA FM/HF, and trying POTA, SOTA, and the new VOTA operating. Most important for me is elmering a ham or helping an individual get licensed. I'm already at

about 50% with my resolutions. How about you?

The February TCHamNews theme is Morse code and communicating via CW. To that end we are republishing part one of Bruce, W8HW's excellent CW article. Parts two and three will be published in subsequent issues. We also have a great article from Derek, KO4DAD, about his experience building a CW paddle from a kit. Check out both articles, you won't be disappointed. There will be more coming.

For many, learning Morse code seems difficult. All those dits and dahs. You just can't keep up. There is some truth to that at 25 wpm. That speed takes effort and lots of ear/brain/hand coordination. But we don't start at that speed and may never need it. Some believe that by only copying at high speeds, you will master the code more quickly. Maybe.....

I learned code for my Novice by dutifully studying the code alphabet. Then I practiced listening and writing what I heard. I found writing the characters in upper case took a precious amount of time, even at 5 wpm. Too many strokes. So I switched to lower case cursive. My letters flowed much better. As I got faster I found my writing or typing was sometimes many letters and words behind what I was hearing.

No matter what methods you use, all it really takes is a desire and the right learning process and tools. Stay tuned.

73, [TC Ham News](#)



TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS

The editors like to reserve the last few 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.

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 can't pay for articles, you will receive a full byline. Please contact us at: tchamnews@gmail.com.

Volunteer Examiner Updates



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Send VE news to
tchamnews@gmail.com

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

PSLARA To Hold Their First License Exam Session of 2023

The time is now! The Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association will hold their first license exam session of the year on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

The session will start at 10:00 AM and will be held at the Veterans Center of Excellence located on the Pruitt campus of Indian River State College, 500 NW California Blvd, in Saint Lucie West.

Directions to the Veterans Resource Center

From St. Lucie West Blvd, head north on NW California Blvd for about 1-mile. The college will be on your left. Turn left into the campus using the second (north) entrance. Then make an immediate right turn into the parking lot. The Veterans Center will be directly in front of you. A map is available [here](#).

Reminders for Exam Candidates

You must provide a FCC Registration Number (FRN) to take an exam. Social security numbers are no longer accepted. Visit fcc.gov to obtain your FRN.

If taking an exam to upgrade your license, be sure to bring along a copy of your current license. The VE team must submit the copy with the exam session paperwork.

The fee to take an exam is \$15. Fees must be paid at the time of the exam by cash or check made payable to ARRL/VEC. Credit cards not accepted.

Start time is 10:00 AM. Please be on time.

Future Exam Dates

PSLARA has scheduled quarterly exam sessions in 2023. Future dates are:

- May 13, 2023
- August 12, 2023
- November 4, 2023

All exam sessions start promptly at 10:00 AM. Walkups are always accepted at PSLARA exam sessions.

Additional sessions may be added throughout the year should there be sufficient demand.

* * * * *

Last Month's License Exam Trivia Question

How did you do with this question from the General Class license question pool?

What is the approximate maximum distance along the Earth's surface normally covered in one hop using the F2 region?

- A. 180 miles
- B. 1,200 miles
- C. 2,500 miles
- D. 12,000 miles

(The answer is "C. 2,500 miles." This is question G3B09 in the General Class question pool.)

February Trivia Question

Try your hand on this question from the Extra Class question pool:

Which of the following digital modes is especially useful for EME communications?

- A. MSK144
- B. PACTOR III
- C. Olivia
- D. JT65

(The answer will be revealed next month.)

Ham Radio History: COOPERATION AND QRM *by Chris Codella, W2PA*



[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 fourteenth 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.]

In mid-February 1916, coincident with Maxim’s second article on relaying, one of the first organized relay tests was run. With everyone sharing very little spectrum, cooperation was the only way to avoid QRM (a constant fact of life at the time) and hear weak, distant signals. In a rare cooperative operation between an amateur group and the government, a relay test was conducted on Washington’s Birthday by Colonel W. P. Nicholson, 9XE at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, and included many other stations.¹ Its straightforward goal was, “... to show the United States Government that the amateurs of the United States were in a position to co-operate in radio work,” by relaying a single message across the country and delivering it to various state governors and city mayors.

In preparation, US Navy station NAA even sent a warning about QRM. A plan was worked out after considering hundreds of suggestions by potential participants. QST noted, “Considerable diplomacy was necessary in handling the situation, as a certain amount of jealousy was found to exist between Special stations, First-class amateur stations, and the little fellow with the gas engine coil and a few dry batteries.”

Relay stations’ locations and approximate ranges were plotted on a map and covered most of the US except for some of the western desert areas. On 18 February, as the time for the first test approached, QRN at 9XE was the worst in recent memory—surprising considering the season. Besides the static, 9XE reported being bombarded at the start by requests from the press (including the Asso-

ciated Press) for copies of the message—which he refused to provide until after it was sent. At 11:00 that night the test began and, “every amateur in the country was quiet—truly a remarkable thing,” he observed.

The message:

**QST QST QST de 9XE -.-.-
QST relay MSG**

***A democracy requires that a people who govern and educate themselves should be so armed and disciplined that they can protect themselves.
(Signed) Colonel Nicholson, U. S. A.***



A group of Boy Scouts helps 3XC receive the Rock Island Test message in Philadelphia.

The Washington’s Birthday or Rock Island Test was judged a success despite numerous errors in relaying, particularly the spelling of the Colonel’s name. The message reached the west coast in 55 minutes, the east coast 5 minutes after that, and sooner at various points north and south. Amateurs had “bounded the United States in one hour” that night—an impressive accomplishment.

The New York Times reported that the message had been received in Williamsburg, Brooklyn by A. R. Boedar at 1:30 a.m. and would be delivered to the Mayor.² The exercise, it said, had tested “the preparedness and skill of the 25,000 licensed amateur wireless operators.” *(continued on page 5)*

Ham Radio History: Cooperation and QRM

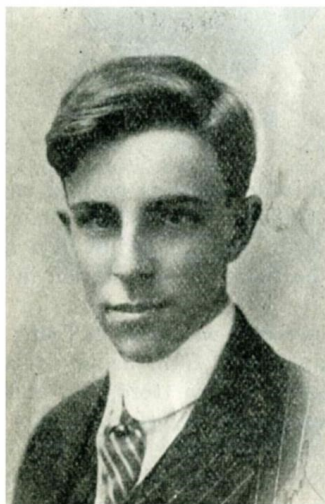
(continued from page 4)

They were only off by a factor of five.

9XE’s account in QST included a collection of reports contributed by participants, some illustrated with small cartoon drawings. Amateurs reported delivering the message to their state governors, some of whom were awakened at 2:00 a.m. to receive it—such was the importance of the message and the test. One operator in Washington D.C. had delivered it personally, written on an ARRL message form, to the White House.

Maxim’s *Star Stations*, those capable of working 100 miles or more, began to surface along with a large group of regulars. By April the first trunk line managers had been announced, simultaneously spanning the continent and the generations.³

Arthur A. Hebert, 2ZH, a 42-year-old steel industry engineer in Nutley, NJ was appointed manager for lines C and D, the two east coast branches. And 19-year-old R. H. G. Mathews, 9IK of Chicago, would manage line A, spanning the northern route linking Boston, through Chicago to Seattle, and line E running from Chicago via Houston to Los Angeles. Both men would go on to serve in leadership positions in the ARRL, and one to start a famous radio company.



A. A. Hebert, 2ZH, and R. H. G. Mathews, 9IK

Monday and Thursday nights were designated for trunk line tests and results were to be reported to HQ.

The QST editor predicted, “Big things will now be happening in the American Radio Relay League, and everybody who has a real wireless set and who is a real American will see that he is identified in this linking up of our entire country. No one can afford to be out of it if he has any wireless pretensions whatsoever.”

The first results of trunk line operation were reported in May in the form of station lists in order of connection, noting where there were gaps and asking for volunteers to fill them.⁴ By August the east coast lines were complete.

The persistent QRM problem led one participant to suggest that the lines ought not to be structured around cities but around the locations of the best stations. That might result in more reliable critical links and would avoid the QRM of the most populated areas.

□□□□
de W2PA

Footnotes:

1, 9XE, “Washington’s Birthday Amateur Relay Message,” QST, April 1916, 65. ←

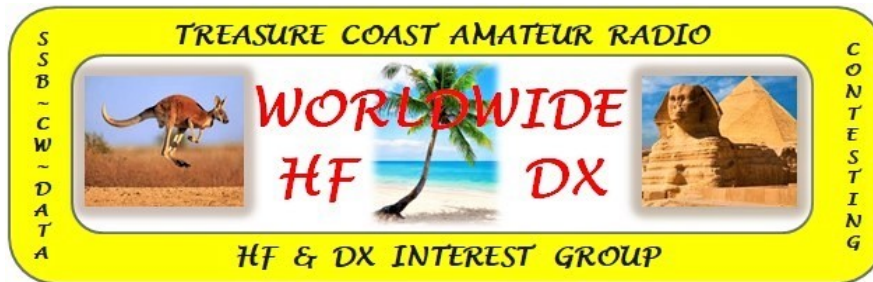
2. “Air Bears Message of Preparedness,” *The New York Times*, February 22, 1916. ←

3. “Trunk Line Managers Appointed,” QST, April 1916, 77. ←

4. A. A. Hebert, “Monthly Report of Trunk Lines C and D,” QST, May 1916, 95. ←

(Next issue: *Regulations and Enforcement, Hard and soft*)

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



HF & DX Group Notes

The HF & DX Interest Group met over breakfast on January 13, 2023.

It was a full house. Eleven hams were in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a hearty breakfast while sharing stories about HF, DX, antennas and much more. Logs were shared and favorite QSL cards passed around for the group to admire. Upcoming DXpeditions were discussed, including Bouvet and Crozet Islands. Both of which should be on the air soon.

The restaurant staff was kept busy, as it seemed like the group was gulping down gallons of coffee.

The conclusion was that everyone must have had a good time because the gathering went on for almost three hours.

So what are you waiting for? Whether new to HF

or a seasoned DX operator - it doesn't matter. All are welcome. This is a casual group with no dues and no formal agenda. Just show up and enjoy yourself.

February Meeting

Have an interest in HF? Want to learn more about DXing? If you answered **Yes** to either question, consider joining us at a future meeting. The group meets over breakfast on the second Friday of each month.

Next meeting: Friday, February 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the Bob Evans restaurant, 1830 SW Fountainview Blvd, St. Lucie West.

Meetings are informal. Come one, come all. Bring a friend. Enjoy a good meal and discuss DX and other HF topics of interest. We talk about anything of interest to HF operators and DXers. Bring your log and bring a few QSL cards. Please consider joining us.

(Note: You will be responsible for purchasing your own breakfast.)

Short Takes

Looking to Ditch Twitter? Morse Code Is Back

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/morse-code-back-looking-ditch-twitter-180981309/>

CW vs. SMS: Which is faster? (from Jay Leno's Tonight Show)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRuRE-BwkIU>

Ham Basics: Sending Morse Code / CW - straight key, paddles and iambic keying

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78VXLVZckIQ>

WD6CNF Hot Amateur Programs

<http://www.hotamateurprograms.com/index.htm>

Here's a classic U.S. Army CW training video from 1966

[Learn Morse Code in 20 minutes: Classic US Army Training \(1966\) - YouTube](#)

Here is a powerful tool for learning Morse code. And it's free!

[Just Learn Morse Code](#)

Email & Chat Groups

(Note: some groups may require registration.)

A ham radio group dedicated to Morse code <https://groups.io/g/fistscwamericas>

The largest association of straight-key CW operators in the world <https://groups.io/g/SKCC>

See an interesting web site or group? Tell us about it. Send link to tchamnews@gmail.com

CW & Me - Building a Paddle

[Editor: CW & Me is a continuing column about learning and using Morse Code, using receive and sender code applications, building and buying keys and paddles, radio and accessory kits. If you would like to share your experiences with any aspect of CW, please send to tchamnews@gmail.com.)

This month's guest columnist is PSLARA board member Derek, KO4DAD. Derek is sharing his experience building a Northern California QRP Club (NorCal) CW paddle kit. The paddle was kitted in 1997 and sat in a box of kits for nearly 26 years until Derek took on the task of assembling it. Despite confusing instructions and parts that needed some TLC, Derek did a beautiful job building the paddle. No doubt it will have many years of life in his shack.

* * * * *

Well, what do we have here? The **NorCal Paddle Kit** designed by Wayne Smith (K8FF) circa 1997 and kitted by the NorCal QRP Club.

A special thanks to PSLARA Treasurer, Bob (W4RJP) who gave me the kit at the wondrous and festive holiday amateur radio December get together. It is

my first official keyer! I had designed other keyers out of wood and metal pen clips, additionally a PCB board plus a toggle button, but nothing quite like this. I was confident that it would be a fairly easy and straight forward project. I opened the kit and to my surprise it seemed quite compact with relatively few pieces.

I categorized and separated the assembly pieces for a thorough inspection. Not too bad for being a 26 year old kit. There was some rust on the steel base of the keyer and some patina on the brass pieces. No worries, I sat down and watched a nice WW2

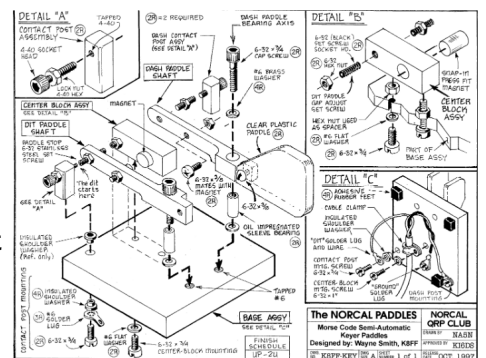


movie while getting some polishing done. The rust was removed with 0000# steel wool; and Mothers Mag polish took care of all the brass pieces. Awesome! Now were sitting pretty, looking brand new!

I used some Birch-Wood Casey cold blue on the steel base to prevent future rusting, then hit it with a gloss black spray paint. OK, so now were getting somewhere... or so I thought.

I open the instructions and well what do you know, it's a novel! Anxious frustrations start swirling about, but I must soldier on. I began inventorying the list of items included in the kit. So far so good, I have everything. Now, here comes the trouble! The instructions were not vague, they were just confusing as they required the assembler to read through every single word without skipping a beat, and after assembly, disassemble the kit and put it back together just to "see" how it works. Additionally, I had to jump to different sections back and forth to make sure that what the instructions were stating were in fact, going to be congruent with what the fully-functioning end product and its component placements are actually purported to be. Colombo and Dick Tracy couldn't even figure this one out.

Luckily, my saving grace was a blown up blueprint of the kit. But even that was slightly different from what the instructional novel stated in some regards.



The installation of the two rear posts for the Dit and Dah signals was very straightforward, attaching to the base. The adjustment gap of the side screws and nuts on the posts are a matter of personal preference. The center post was problematic as far as what screw to use and the corresponding hole for attaching the ground signal. Furthermore, it required a 7/8" inch length screw which I had to cut to length from an original one-inch screw. The hardest part of this center post section was press fitting the

(continued on page 8)

CW & Me - Building a Paddle

(continued from page 7)

magnet using a vice and wood blocks, which had to be adjusted to equal length on both sides of the post to successfully attract the screws on the paddle shafts and keep it on the ground signal. The center post had set screws and nuts, which were used to bridge the gap to reach the paddle shaft set screws. Three wire blade prongs also had to be correctly placed on the bottom, with screws oriented up thorough the base to the centers of the corresponding dit, dah and center posts.

The paddle shafts also had set screws to bridge the gap between the center posts and the dit / dah post screws. All of these required fine adjustment suitable for a strong engagement whilst dependent on the personal settings and preferences of the operator. Well, here is the problem with that! When putting in the provided vertical paddle shaft holding screws and washers, it would not line up at all for a flush horizontal engagement on the paddle shafts!

Luckily, I had some longer exact thread screws including two bolts from an HF antenna project thanks to Greg (KB4VVE), so I was able to elevate the paddle shafts to their proper orientation. I did however need to hit up Lowe's to get some more brass washers to keep in line with the vintage retro look and use some more cold blue for the screws and nuts.

Next, came the acrylic paddle handles - and of course they did not fit properly. I hit them with a nice long bastard file in the right spot and a finer file for smoothing and voila, perfect custom fit. Finally, moving on to wire soldering on the blades! And here is the tough part. Using a 3.5 mm TRS male jack wire is pretty much standard on most modern radios. The problem is when you get various manufacturers who have different color wires when you cut it open, and some who don't even have a nice copper ground or maybe just a flimsy foil. Yikes! As luck would have it, I had a nice old good quality TRS spare laying around with the correct corresponding colors and a nice copper ground. I double checked for continuity between the ends of the

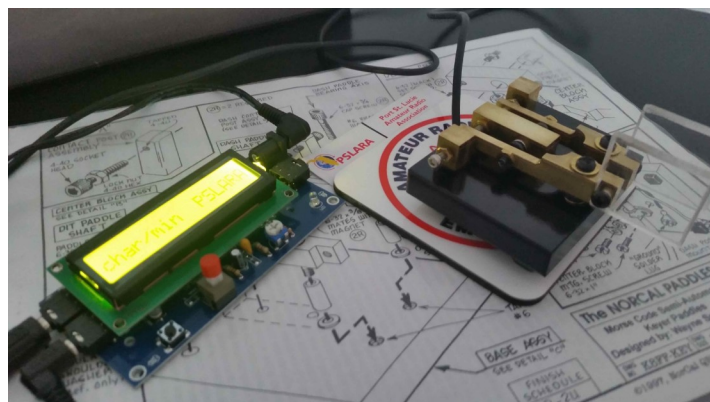
wire and the TRS male prong and we had a winner. Here's a tip, never try to strip the plastic of the small bare TRS wire just place some solder directly on the end, it will burn the plastic and stick.

I soldered the wires to the blades directly on the screw on the base of the paddle kit and then tested for continuity on the actual paddle kit dit/dah/center posts and the TRS. If it's not one thing it's the next! I lost continuity of the dah post! I frustratingly disassembled the dah wire, inspected it and noticed the solder broke on the wire after using the heat shield.

Those TRS wires are so small and melt so easily, you must be very diligent when you are using them in your projects. I melted away the bad plastic portion, then re-soldered and reassembled. I then tested for continuity on all posts and screws and it turned out to be a success! I put some electrical tape on the bottom of the base over and under the exposed wires and blade prongs, which could cause some shorting and other nasty surprises if I were to use this on the air or on the wrong table surface. In the future, I might place a nice large custom plastic or rubber base on the keyer bottom or Plastidip.

The project was long and arduous. It took approximately 8 hours, but it was made in the USA! It was certainly well worth the effort and I am extremely satisfied and take pride in my first official keyer paddle. Hopefully, one day I can pass this keyer paddle along to my son or daughter who would hopefully become strong, responsible, and caring citizens who would take up amateur radio as a way of life.

73, KO4DAD

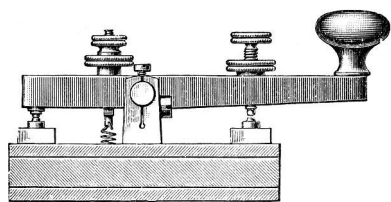


Derek's finished NorCal Paddle. A beauty!

CW: Actually Getting on the Air

By Bruce, W8HW

[Editor: This excellent article was first published in TCHamNews in 2021. With this issue's emphasis on Morse Code & CW, we are republishing it this month.]



I have been getting questions both direct and via email about getting on the air with CW. It appears we have many hams who

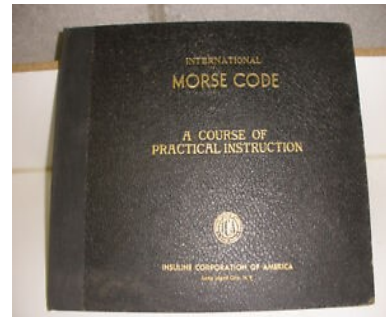
know and practice CW, but are un-easy about making contacts other than code practice with friends who are in the same situation. This is a common problem. Making your first CW contacts with unknown hams or DX is very stressful. There is nothing to be embarrassed about, as it is experienced by all new CW operators, as well as those who have not used CW in a long time. To help overcome this fear and get you on the CW air allow me to share my first CW contacts, which were filled with mistakes and errors.

People are surprised when I tell them I had the same fears when I made my first CW contacts in 1964. I tell them that I felt I was the worst CW operator in the world. I'm sure my story about my horrible first contacts will help you. I now have two ARRL honor roll awards: CW and Mixed. So how is it possible I have CW horror stories? The answer is easy: Everyone has them. The cure is to grab the CW key of your choice and get on the air. Then you will have your own horror story to share and laugh about. As **Nike** says, "Just do it." Get on the air and confidence will come. Your horror stories will someday help the next ham overcome his/her fears and get on the air using CW, just like you did (or will do).



My CW failure story was most embarrassing. When I was studying for my Novice license in 1964 at age

14, I had no mentors or Elmers to work with. I did not know a single ham. I did have an uncle who was a ham, but I never knew him because he lived a long distance away. A bit of luck happened my way when my sister started dating a man who had failed to pass his general license exam. He had an LP (vinyl record) of code practice that he gave to me. Because he did not pass his general test, I now feared I would fail my exam as well. After all, he was 20 years old and thus much wiser than me. At age 14, what else could I think? I persisted, and with only the record somehow learned the 26 letters, 10 numbers and punctuation codes. I had no idea that CW also had a "code within a code." We'll talk more about the "code within a code" in Part 2 next month.



My sister's boyfriend later connected me with a ham friend of his to take the Novice exam. I passed, and somehow with very little money was able to put together a meager station and get on the air. My first contact was from the island of Barbados on 15 meters. You would think that would be a joyful event, but some how I managed to screwed it up. With no CW mentors or Elmers, I did not realize that hams outside of the US would have a call sign starting with something other than a K or W. Because of this lack of knowledge I must have asked him to repeat his call 5 or 6 times, and still I thought I had it wrong. I was copying his CW, but because of my call sign confusion I thought I was wrong. I became so scared and embarrassed that I ended the QSO quickly. I was sure that I was the world's worst CW operator.

I logged the QSO with hopes of finding someone to talk to so I could figure out what I was doing wrong. When I did find a ham to talk to, his first reaction was to laugh, which further convinced me that I was the worst CW operator in the world. I felt like quitting, but after further thought decided to push on.

(continued on page 10)

CW: Actually Getting on the Air

By Bruce, W8HW

(continued from page 9)

Two important lessons from this QSO are... **1.** Try not to embarrass the new ham. Rather, always try to be helpful. Be an Elmer - not a jerk. At age 14 (or any age) a new ham's confidence can be easily crushed. **2.** Never quit on your CW. This was not my only CW failure, but it is the one that has stuck in my mind and I still remember after all of these years. Getting back on the air fixes everything.

Just do it and it will come. Go ahead and make your first contacts and make the mistakes that come with being new to CW. Let your first few CW contacts know that CW is new to you and you are shaking. You will find, as I found out, that most CW operators are kind people who are most willing to work with the new CW operator and coach them through it. Feel free to ask him to repeat anything not clear to you. If you tell them you are new at CW, they will work with you. Keep your QSOs short with just call sign, RST, power and antenna, your name and location. Then thank him, say 73 and sign out.

Be sure to send a QSL card thanking him/her for working with you on your first CW contact. That ham will value your QSL card with pride. I think I told my first 10 contacts or so that they were my first as I was convinced I was a poor operator. Chances are you are most likely a better operator than you give yourself credit for. If you are making multiple new CW contacts, then you are indeed a better operator than you think. Give yourself the credit you deserve as you are now a true CW operator.

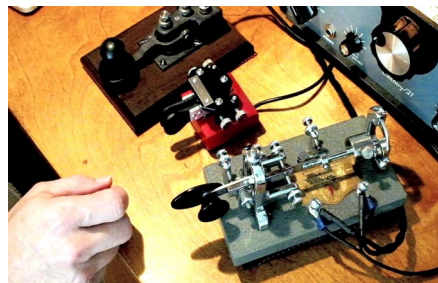
Now return the favor by being a CW Elmer to the next new CW operator. Practicing CW with an aspiring CW beginner makes a win-win situation for both of you.

Forget the fancy toys, software and other methods that you see for sale because none of them are a magical answer to get you on the CW air waves. These so-called tools will only make the seller richer

than he was yesterday, but they do little to get you on the air. I'm sure many of the readers can attest to that, as you may already have several of these things sitting around just collecting dust. Right?

What will get you on the CW air? Flipping the power switches on and either calling CQ or answering someone else's CQ is the only true way. You are the secret sauce that makes this work, and nothing else. Just do it and it will come. When a new CW contact happens, just shout YES YES YES. When the wife comes running asking YES WHAT? You will know what to do. Good luck.

Endurance is important to your CW skills. This is a topic not often spoken about and not well understood. You may not have thought of it before now, but you will find it to be important. Think of it like a muscle that gets weak when not used. When you don't use a muscle often it tends to tire quickly.



For example, I am in Michigan for a month (at time of writing), away from my radio and CW. When I return it will take time for me to get

back into CW shape because my CW muscles will have weakened. It is best to do something on CW everyday. Tip – While driving and you see a road sign, convert it to CW using verbal dit and dah. Or perhaps make an audio CD with WIAW code practice (slow and fast speeds) to play in your car while taking long trips by yourself.

Contests are a big help in building your CW muscles. Contests will build both speed and endurance. May I suggest a group CW contest project? This would pay huge dividends to all of you participating. I would like to put this idea up for comments to all who are interested. I understand that COVID-19 is a problem. Having said that, maybe arrange a CW field day group station or stations. Late in November is the CW sweepstakes contest. Perhaps COVID-19 will be gone by then and we can operate a group station.

(continued on page 11)

CW: Actually Getting on the Air

By Bruce, W8HW

(continued from page 10)

This is could either be a portable operation or at my house using my station. What are your thoughts? My email is w8hw@comcast.net. (Please include "CW contesting" in the subject line.) If we get enough interest, we could perhaps have a meeting to discuss this idea in depth.

Where to find the CW speed you need? Not an exact science, but...

- Slow CW: 35-55 KHZ up from bottom of band,
- Hand keying: around 40-50 KHz up from bottom,
- Fast CW: bottom of band to about 35 KHz up.



DX can be anyplace, but normally look around 25 KHz or more up from bottom.

Note: DXpeditions will often look for and work the NEW operators. Many DXpeditions love to give preference to the "ATNO" (All Time New Ones) and state that on their web page. ATNO actually refers to ham that have not worked the DX country on any band or any mode, so if you are new, you fall into that category.

Next month: Part 2 of 3 parts, "CW, the code within a code."

73, Bruce, W8HW, -.. -..-

CWOPS # 958 (Life member and former instructor), <https://cwops.org>

CW Academy for better CW learning: <https://cwops.org/cw-academy/>

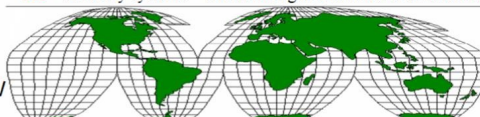
⇨ Don't buy it... Build it... Learn how it works... TCNL will help ⇩

Talking to the world



73
Bruce
W8HW

HF - No relay systems - Transmitting direct antenna to antenna



A Year-Long ARRL Operating Event Recognizing Volunteers - *That may be you!*

As announced in the January 2023 issue of QST, ARRL is celebrating a year-long operating event honoring all ARRL volunteers: Volunteers On the Air. [Read the Announcement](#). In similar fashion to the 2014 ARRL Centennial Celebration and the 2018 International Grid Chase, this event will be exclusively driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW). Highlights of the event include:

Earning Points for contacting WIAW Portable Stations: There will be week-long activations of portable WIAW/# stations in all 50 states, and in several US Possessions/Territories, that will generate on-air activity to earn points. Each state will be activated twice. The schedule of when which states will be activated, as posted in the dashboard, will be updated as changes/additions occur. [See the POINTS TABLE](#) for the full list of points.

Contacting ARRL Volunteers or Members on the air: ARRL Officers, Directors, Section Managers (and their appointees), Staff, and even Members domestically (and DX) can be contacted for points. [See the POINTS TABLE](#) for the full list of points.

Using Logbook of The World (LoTW) -- see <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>). As the QSOs data source, the 2023 Volunteers On the Air event features [WIAW activations](#) from all 50 states (twice) and several territories during 2023. Weeks will begin on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday. Some weeks will be shown as off weeks to avoid other major operating events.

Participants will work WIAW portable stations and ARRL volunteers to earn QSO points. Participants do not need to upload to, or participate in, LoTW. Uploads to LoTW by WIAW portable stations and by the volunteers will feed the points scoring system.

A [Leaderboard](#) will be activated after the event ramps up, and [Certificates](#) will be available during and after the event concludes. Once the year is completed, a final summary will be released.

(From the ARRL Letter)

Upcoming Hamfests

FLORIDA

02/18/2023

Highlands County Hamfest

(ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest)

Location: Sebring, FL

Sponsor: Highlands County Amateur Radio Club

Website:

<https://www.highlands-amateurradio.com>

03/18/2023

Stuart Hamfest

(ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest)

Location: Martin County Fairgrounds

Sponsor: Martin County Amateur Radio Association

Website:

<https://www.mcaraweb.com>

Hamfests offer exhibits, forums and flea markets for Amateur Radio operators or "hams."

ORLANDO HAMCATION - February 10-12, 2023

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

Dates/Times: February 10 - 11, 2023, 9AM to 5PM. February 12, 2022, 9AM to 1PM.

Ticket Info: Purchase tickets online or via mail. Parking at HamCation is FREE! Tickets are available online, via mail, or at the event. Online and mail ticket sales close on January 31. [GET TICKETS](#)

Talk-In: Talk-in on 146.760 (-600, PL 103.5) KB4UT repeater. The repeater is a mixed mode System Fusion repeater in downtown Orlando. It 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.

On The Air: Making Contacts During The Event

Every year we operate from HamCation as special event station KIAA during show hours: Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT, Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT and Sunday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm EDT. We welcome you to operate with us. Please be sure to have a copy of your license available. If you do not have a copy and still wish to operate the special event station, contact the station operator and we'll try to do our best to accommodate you.

<https://www.hamcation.com>



Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

ARES members are licensed amateurs who volunteer with local emergency management for communications duty when disaster strikes. All licensed amateurs are eligible for membership in ARES.

St. Lucie County ARES sponsored a **Winter Field Day** event on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at the SLC Rock Rd. site. ARES Communicators made contacts using the new, recently commissioned, Icom 7300 HF radio.

FEMA has released the [2022 National Preparedness Report](#). The report discusses how climate impacts natural disasters can affect emergency

management capabilities and communities across the country.

The report focuses on the changing risk environment driven by climate change, physical and technological vulnerabilities, and inequity; national capability levels; and management opportunities to assist communities in managing risks and addressing capability gaps.

The report identifies challenges emergency managers face in addressing a changing risk environment, and how they can meet those challenges to help achieve a more prepared nation. Emergency managers and community partners (ARES) can use the report to help support decisions about program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions. (Send your ARES info to: tchamnews@gmail.com.)

ARES® Emergency Coordinators (EC)

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

Martin County
[Brian H. Gibson, KN4YWW](#)

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

Okeechobee County
[Jack Schwartz, KM4CRA](#)

Get involved. Volunteer for ARES.

ARES® Resources
[Download the ARES Manual \[PDF\]](#)

[Emergency Communications Training \(ARRL\)](#)

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

If you know of an event, net, or meeting that would be of interest to our Treasure Coast Hams, please let us know. Send your event announcements and any changes to tchamnews@gmail.com.

February 2023

January							March						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA Board Mtg (via Zoom) IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B OARC ARES Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2) VBARC Mtg-7:30pm Indian River Co. EOC 4225 43rd Av, Vero Bch	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC HAMCATION Orange Co. Fairgrounds Orlando <i>(see Hamfest page for details)</i>	PSLARA AR Exams IRSC- Pruitt Campus Veteran's Resource Ctr 500 California Blvd HAMCATION Orange Co. Fairgrounds
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HAMCATION <i>(see Hamfest page for details)</i> TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC FPARC Mtg-7:30pm Indian Rive State College Bldg R, Rm 126 3211 Virginia Av, Ft Pierce SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2) MCARA Mtg-7pm 802 SE Monterey, Stuart	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	Highlands County Hamfest Sebring, FL <i>(see Hamfest page for details)</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Meeting 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's PSLARA Mtg-7pm IRSC - Pruitt Campus Veteran's Resource Ctr. 501 California Blvd	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC Indian River Co. ARES 7pm - Indian River EOC 4256 43rd Av Vero Bch PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 147.060(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B				
5	6	TC: Treasure Coast IRC: Indian River County SLC: St. Lucie County PSLARA: Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association (www.pslara.org) FPARC: Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club (https://fparc.org/) MCARA: Martin County Amateur Radio Association (https://mcaraweb.com/) OARC: Okeechobee County Amateur Radio Club VBARC: Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club (http://www.w4ot.com/)			R/T: Ragchew/Traders Emer.: Emergency	

Treasure Coast Ham Doctors



FT8 & WSJT-X Frequently Asked Questions

I've noticed an interesting aspect of amateur radio. At every club meeting or casual conversations I have with another hams there always seems to be a lot of questions about virtually every radio related topic under the sun.

Thinking about recent conversations, the most often discussed topics are antennas and the challenges associated with living in an HOA. Following close behind, FT8 operating and WSJT-X are the second most discussed topic I encounter in casual conversation.

Now I'm not the person to offer advice on antennas and HOAs, but I can certainly share ideas and answer some commonly asked questions concerning FT8 operating. So here goes.

Question: What is the current version of WSJT-X software?

Answer: The current general release version of WSJT-X is 2.6.1.

Question: I'm running an old version of WSJT-X. Should I upgrade?

Answer: Upgrading is always a controversial subject. Ask 100 people for their opinion and 50 will say you should always upgrade to take advantage of new features and bug fixes. The other 50 will take the oppo-

site position, insisting "if it is not broken, don't fix it."

My opinion leans toward the latter group. I'm content to leave well enough alone. As long as any software product, WSJT-X included, is performing properly I resist the urge to upgrade,

Ultimately, however, the decision to upgrade or not is up to the individual. If you are not experiencing operating difficulties, then I suggest you carefully review the release notes of the new version. If there are not any bug fixes or new features that would benefit your operating style, then you may want to stick with your proven reliable version.

Question: I am no longer able to download any WSJT-X packages or release notes from the pulsar.princeton.edu web site. Others report similar difficulties. What gives?

Answer: The WSJT-X project has moved. The Princeton home page is still there, but downloads of software and documentation no longer work. Look for the latest software and readme files on WSJT-X's new home at the SourceForge web site.

URL: <https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/>

Question: I have an old computer. Is there a 32-bit version of WSJT-X software?

Answer: Yes. Both 32- and 64-bit versions are available for Windows. There are also versions available for MacOS 10.13 and newer, and for various flavors of Linux.

73, [The Doctors](#)

CW TY: AN INTELLIGENT MORSE CODE SOFTWARE APPLICATION

In 1970 I was training at Communication Technician's school in Pensacola. Part of our training was learning to copy high speed Morse code. My classmates and I spent many hours a day copying code groups very accurately. The dits and dahs never seemed to leave our brains.

A week prior to deployment we heard of a device that would copy perfect high speed code. We were shocked. They had just spent big bucks teaching us code, training us in intercept techniques and background investigations for our security clearances. Now they did not need us? I guess it was wishful thinking on their part. We never saw the device after deployment or heard of it again.

In the 80s I still had enough code skills to pass a 20 wpm

Extra. I've not kept up with my Morse code, but found that like a language, you never forget it. About a year ago I again started listening to code on the bands. The good news: I could still copy, just slower. The bad news: What I heard did not sound at all like what I had learned. Many hams had poor fists, did not send understandable characters, or space their words properly. The non-standard abbreviations drove me crazy. Help, please!

I found a QST article about CW TY by [Grant, WD6CNF](#). It looked promising, so I decided to try it. A sound card interface like Signalink was all I needed for receiving.

I was amazed how well it copied. Grant's program is a winner. My copying speed has quickly increased.



DX OPPORTUNITIES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Alberto, P29LL, has been QRV on 20 meters using CW around 0800z, and then around 1400z. QSL via EA7FTR.

GUAM, KH2. Henry, N7JVJ is QRV as N7JVJ from Hagatna until April 28. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8 with QRP power. QSL via operator's instructions.

ALBANIA, ZA. Ron, NS5K is QRV as ZA15K from Lushnje until November 15 while performing missionary work. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

SRI LANKA, 4S. Peter DC0KK and Wolfgang DK9DR will be QRV as 4S7KKG and 4S7DRG, respectively, from the Sri Lanka Broadcast SLBC transmitting site from January 29 to February 7. Activity will be in their spare time on 80 to 10 meters using mostly SSB with FT8 and FT4. QSL to home calls.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON will be QRV as V47JA from St. Kitts, Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, from January 31 to February 15. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Satoshi, JH2EUV is QRV as 4W/JH2EUV. Activity of late has been on 17, 15, and 10 meters using FT8. QSL via LoTW.

TOGO, 5V. Filippo, IK4ZHH is QRV as 5V22FF. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW with some SSB. QSL to Club Log.

LESOTHO, 7P. Yuris, YL2GM is QRV as 7P8WW until February 4. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via YL2GN.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Andre, ON7YK is QRV as C5YK from Bijilo until February 24. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using all modes. QSL direct to home call.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS, FW. Jean-Gabriel, F4CIX, is QRV as FW1JG and expects to be here until January, 2024. He is active on 40 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

GABON, TR. Roland, F8EN is QRV as TR8CR from Libreville until March 15, 2023. Activity is on 30 to 10 meters using CW. QSL via F6AJA.

ANTARCTICA. Juan, LU8DBS is QRV as LU1ZV in February from the Argentine Esperanza Antarctica Base located at Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40, 20, and 10 meters using SSB, and soon with CW and FT8. QSL via LU4DXU.

DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

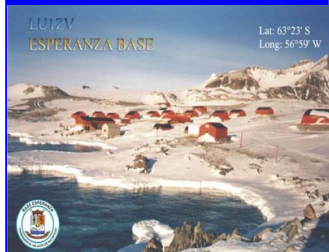
PANAMA, HP. Members of the Panama Canal Amateur Radio Association will be QRV as 3E30PCARA from February 1 to 28 to celebrate the club's 30th anniversary. QSL direct.

TURKEY, TA. Special event stations TC100TC, TC100TA, TC100TR, and TC100YEAR are QRV during all of 2023 to celebrate the centenary of the Turkish Republic. QSL via bureau.

HAITI, HH. Members of the Radio Club d'Haiti will be QRV as HH75RCH from January 1 to May 1, 2023 to celebrate the club's 75th anniversary. QSL via N2OO.

CANADA, VE. Special event station VB3CAM50 will be QRV from February 1 to 15 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city of Cambridge in Ontario. QSL via operator's instructions.

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



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

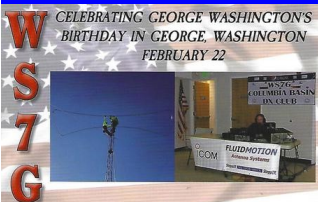


George Washington's Birthday

Feb 20-Feb 22, 1800Z-2359Z, WS7G, Columbia Basin DX Club.

14.322/14.255
7.222/7.260
3.855/3.960.

Certificate & QSL:
Brian Nielson, 11650 Road I SE, Moses Lake, WA 98837. <https://cbn.homestead.com/ws7g.html>



(From ARRL, other sources & the internet)

75/75 Contest 75th Anniversary
Dec 5-Feb 18, 0000Z-2359Z. Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). Phone/CW: 6, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, 160 meters. Request certificate on website. QCWA members contact 75 QCWA members in 75 days. Call "CQ QCWA". www.qcwa.org/I-worked-75-75-members-contest.htm

74th Anniv. Merci Train Boxcar
Feb 1-Feb 28, 0000Z-0000Z, NV7AL, Las Vegas, NV. American Legion Paradise Post 149 and 40&8 Voiture 306. 7.074, 7.250, 14.074, 14.250. QSL: Robert Bencsko - AD7J, 2548 Fort Lauderdale Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89156. Purpose to raise awareness of 40&8 "MERCY Train Boxcar" 74th Anniv. We will be on DX Summit. QSL SASE to AD7J. <https://www.qrz.com/db/NV7AL>

The Day the Music Died
Feb 3-Feb 5, 1800Z-2100Z, W0WND North Iowa ARC. 10.136. Certificate: Donald Johnson, 665 W. 6th St, Garner, IA 50438. <https://www.qrz.com/db/w0wnd>

Super Bowl 57 Special Event
Feb 6-Feb 14, 0001Z-0001Z, W7ASC Center for Amateur Radio Learning. 7.265, 14.265, 21.465, 146.52. Certificate/ QSL: W7ASC c/o: Thomas Boza NE7X, 13609 N. 49th Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85254-3505. eQSL via QRZ & LoTW. Direct US Mail with SASE for Certificate/ QSL. <https://www.qrz.com/db/w7asc>

60th Anniversary YLISSB
Feb 9-Feb 12, 1323Z-1323Z, K4ICA. YL International Single Sideband System. 14.332, 14.240-14.340, 7.230-7.260. QSL: John Ellis, W5PDW, 26231 Hufsmith Conroe Rd., Magnolia, TX, 77354. ylsystem.org

Smoky Mtn ARC 75th Anniversary
Feb 10-Feb 14, 2100Z-0200Z, W4OLB. Smoky Mountain ARC. 14.250 SSB, 7.220 SSB, 14.030 CW, 7.030 CW. QSL: SMARC c/o Paul Galentine,

103 Hatcher Ln, Maryville, TN 37803. W4OLB.ORG

2023 National Inventors' Day
Feb 11, 1400Z-2000Z, N2I. New Jersey EmCom Team. 7.275, 14.315. Certificate via Email. Link will be on the N2I QRZ Page. QSL Certificate via email; request link posted on N2I qrz.com info page. From Edison Center Museum, Edison, NJ. Location is a POTA park - all QSOs will receive POTA contact credit. nject.us

Commemorating 1st WW2 Navy Carrier Air Strike
Feb 11, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320, 7.250, 14.070 PSK31; DSTAR on Papa system. QSL: USS Midway Museum Ship, COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

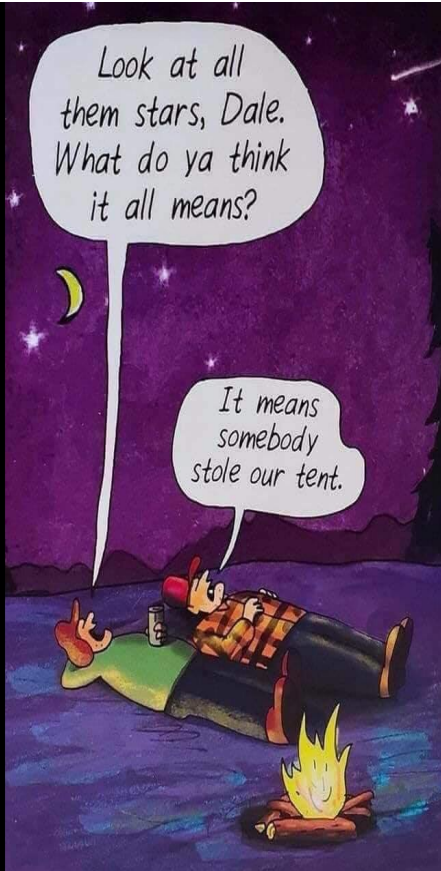
HL Hunley Commemoration
Feb 17-Feb 19, 1400Z-1900Z, N4HLH, Sullivans Island, SC. Trident ARC. 7.262, 14.262. QSL Manager, N4HLH, P.O. Box 60732, North Charleston, SC 29419. Check website for day/times/freqs. <https://www.tridenthams.org/hl-hunley>

Thinking Day On The Air
Feb 18-Feb 19, 0000Z-2359Z, N4P YCARS. 14.305, 7.235, 147.030, 18.135. QSL: Vicki Carnes, 1093 Outlaw Avenue, Lancaster, SC 29720. Location: Andrew Jackson State Park, Lancaster Co, SC. ycars.org

Engineer's Week at W0CXX
Feb 20-Feb 24, 1700Z-1900Z, W0CXX. Collins ARC. 3.970, 14.263. QSL: Engineer's Week at W0CXX, 1110 Lyndhurst Dr., Hiawatha, IA 52233. Operating over the lunch hours (11AM - 1PM CST). w0cxx.kb4sby@gmail.com

Check the bands for other Special Events and enjoy the fun.

Contemplating
the
important
things
after
Winter
Field
Day.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE A HAM WHEN...

- A bank clerk asks you to spell your name and you do so phonetically.
- In a conversation, you wait for the Roger tone before speaking.
- you refer to your house as "Ohm, sweet Ohm."
- The radios in your car are worth more than your car.
- Sight-seeing on holiday amounts to looking at rooftops for antennas.

(from www.rfcafe.com)

YOU KNOW YOUR HUSBAND IS A HAM WHEN...

- His favorite superheroes are Marconi and Tesla.
- His sense of well being is tied to the sunspot cycle.
- His electric shaver has a backup diesel generator.
- For a romantic honeymoon, he chooses Dayton over Tahiti.
- He rates your love making in S units.
- He buys you an HT for your anniversary.
- He attaches a mag mount antenna to the baby's stroller.

(from www.rfcafe.com)

You're asking, "Where are the cartoons by Dick Sylvan, W9CBT?" Well don't fret. They will be back in future issues of the newsletter. It's just that we've run out of Dick's color sketches and are waiting to receive more. Meanwhile, if you enjoy Dick's "amateurish" sense of humor, you can order his book, "**Hi Hi - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons**" from Lulu.com. [Click here for a link to Dick's book.](#)

About TCHN - Who / What We Are (and are not)

Treasure Coast Ham News (TCHN) and the future Treasure Coast Hams website (TCHW) are published for the enjoyment of amateur radio operators and those interested in amateur radio. The publishers do not receive any pecuniary interests from TCHN and TCHW. TCHN and TCHW include original publisher, subscriber and author content, plus information obtained from publically available sources, including web pages. Content is attributed whenever possible or applicable. Content is believed to be accurate and timely, but the publishers assume no liability for any inaccuracies.

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[The Publishers](#)

Area Club News

Martin County Amateur Radio Association

MCARA serves the Martin County, FL amateur radio community and ARES. MCARA holds weekly Rag Chew nets, ARES nets and in-person / ZOOM meetings. Please click the ZOOM link on their [web site](#).

MCARA sponsors the annual Stuart Hamfest. This year's Hamfest is scheduled for March 18, 2023 at the Martin County Fairgrounds? More information is available on the MCARA [web site](#).

Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club

The club's officers are: President - David, KG4ORQ, Vice-President - Kevin, W4KKW, Secretary - Pete, KD4SPW, and Treasurer - Kurt, W4KFH.

FPARC is a general purpose amateur radio club with a digital emphasis. The club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month on the Main Campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. Watch for email announcements concerning upcoming meetings and events. Additional information is available on the club's [web site](#).

Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association

The club officers for 2023 are: President - Bob, AI4RB; Vice President - Scott, AI4TT; Secretary - Bruce, WA3RHW; and Treasurer - Bob, W4RJP. Jody - W4SLD, Derek - KO4DAD, Greg - KB4VVE, Steve, N4SGL and Paul - W4ISZ serve as directors.

The latest club meeting was held on January 25, 2023. Twenty members and visitors were in attendance. At the conclusion of the business meeting a twenty minute video was shown describing a Connecticut Ham's visit to an open house event at ARRL headquarters.

The next PSLARA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Meeting location is the IRSC Veterans Resource Center, 500 NW California Blvd. Instead of the regular presentation, this meeting will feature a "Show and Tell" session. Members are encouraged to bring an interesting item from their shack and give a brief two minute explanation to the group. So far, six members have indicated their intent to bring items, so this could be a most interesting meeting. Watch for updates on the [PSLARA](#) website as we get closer to the meeting date. Come out to the meetings and support the club. And bring a friend. PSLARA always welcomes visitors.

Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club

VBARC was formed in November, 1961 with a small number of local hams. Today the club has over 100 members and encompasses all of Indian River County. Visit their

[web site](#) to learn more about the club. Join them on the Treasure Coast Net, 7.153Mhz every morning at 8:00am.

If you are into QRP, VBARC has operating events for you. See the club web site for details.

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

The club officers are: President/Treasurer - Mark, KF4EA; Vice President - Jack, KM4CRA; Secretary - Josh, K4JHI.

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club (OARC) is a general purpose amateur radio club. The club has been in existence over 30 years. For more information please contact [Jack, KM4CRA](#). Club website: www.k4oke.com

OARC nets include: Club - Monday nights at 8.00pm on 147.195, pl.100.0. ARES - Second Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm on 147.195, pl 100.0.

(Attention club officers: Send an email announcing your upcoming events and activities to: tchamnews@gmail.com.

EQUIPMENT BUY / SELL & HELP NEEDED

FOR SALE - Harold, W8PPI, has a 24-foot aluminum extension ladder for sale. Asking \$25. Contact Harold at har-oldbarr7501@comcast.net.

FOR SALE - Contact Bruce at: wa3rhw@yahoo.com
Astron RS-20A 20 amp power supply. Very good to excellent condition. Very clean. \$65.00
Elecraft P3 Panadapter. Very good to excellent condition. Very clean. Manual and cables. \$600.00

LOOKING TO BUY - Robert, KI6MXT is looking for a recharging cradle for a Yaesu FT-60R. If you have one for sale, please contact Robert at 321-370-5417.

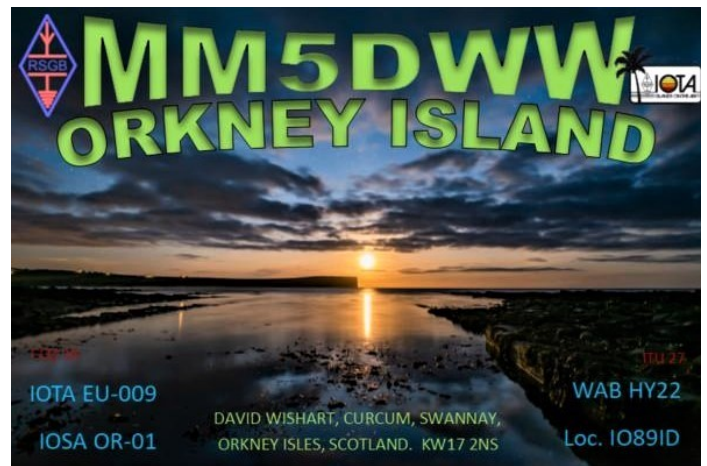
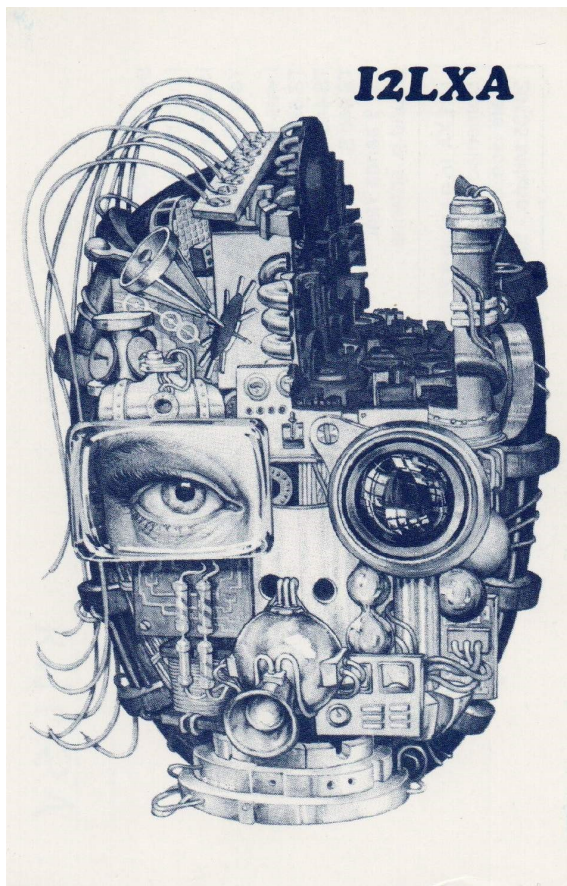
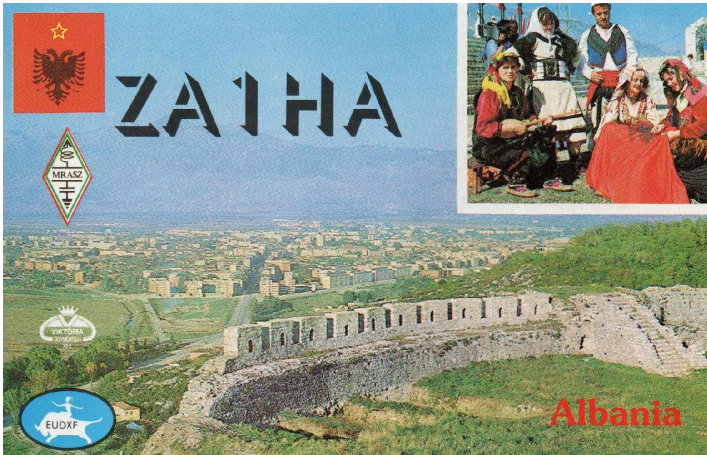
FOR SALE - Rob, W4CRA has an MFJ-269 antenna analyzer in like-new condition for sale. It was recently checked over and calibrated by MFJ, and has 10 brand new lithium rechargeable batteries. Asking \$250.00.

Rob also has an ARRL Extra Class License Manual, 12th edition for sale for \$25.00.

Contact Rob at rcook@tekrite.net.

*Do you have something to sell or trade? Or perhaps you need help with an antenna or equipment problem?
Drop us a line and we will include it our next issue.
Send your email to: tchamnews@gmail.com*

TCHamNews enjoys showcasing 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 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.)



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



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