

HAM DATES:

INDIAN RIVER CO.

March 3, 2020

Indian River Co. ARES NET
7:30pm, 45.13 (107.2) re-
peater

March 12, 2020

Vero Beach ARC Meeting
7:30pm, Indian River Co.
EOC 43rd Ave, just north of
41st St. Vero Beach

March 27, 2020

Indian River Co. ARES
7:30pm, IRC EOC
4225 43rd Ave, Vero Beach

ST LUCIE CO.

March 3,10,17,24,31 2020

Ft. Pierce ARC ragchew,
traders, tech NET 8pm on
the 147.345 (107.2) repeater
Echolink Node:
2004 (W4AKH-R)

March 4, 2020

St. Lucie Co. ARES NET
7:30pm, 147.240 MHz
(107.2) repeater

March 5,12,19,26 2020

Port St. Lucie ARA Ragchew,
traders, tech NET 7:30pm,
146.955 MHz (107.2)

March 11, 2020

Ft. Pierce ARC Meeting
7:30pm, Room 104 IRSC
Bldg J, 35th St./Virginia Ave

March 18, 2020

St. Lucie Co. ARES Meeting
7:30pm, SLC EOC, 15305
Midway Rd, Ft. Pierce

March 25, 2020

Port St. Lucie ARA Meeting
7:30pm, St. Andrew Luther-
an Church, 295 NW Prima
Vista, Port St. Lucie

MARTIN CO.

March 12, 2020

Martin Co. ARES 7:00pm,
800 SE Monterey Rd, Stuart

March 26, 2020

Martin Co. ARA Meeting
7:00pm, 1895 SE Flying For-
tress Lane, Stuart

April 4-5, 2020

Florida State Parks on the
Air

Treasure Coast Ham News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2020

St Lucie Co. ARES to participate in FPL Emergency Radiological Drill — March 24, 2020

On March 24, 2020 from 8:00am to 12:00pm St. Lucie Co. Emergency Management and Florida Power & Light will conduct a radiological emergency response drill at the St Lucie Co. Emergency Operations Center. The purpose of the drill is to ensure the county's response plan will meet or exceed FEMA criteria.



St. Lucie ARES will conduct a NET as part of the drill. The NET will commence with check-ins at approximately 9:15am. A second round of check-ins will begin at 10:30am.

45th Annual Stuart Hamfest—March 21st

The 45th Annual FREE Stuart Hamfest is Saturday, March 21st, 2020 at the Martin Co. Fairgrounds ([link to directions](#)), 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart, FL 34996. Talk-in on 147.060 MHz K4ZK repeater.

Tailgating is FREE for all private parties. Enter from the north (not at the traffic light) entrance. Gates to the tailgate area remain locked until 0700 AM Saturday. You are welcome to queue up at the north gate. **All com-**

mercial vendors must purchase inside space Clubs have an at-cost rate for tables and all clubs are requested to use the inside areas for their displays.

License Exams

Technician, General and Amateur Extra Class license exams are administered at 9:00 AM. The room(s) used for exams vary depending upon availability. Check at the information booth for room assignment. Don't forget to

bring a legal photo ID and your Social Security Number or your FCC FRN (if you have one). You'll also need to pay your [ARRL Exam Fee](#).

Food

Don't run off for lunch - **we got you covered** with coffee and donuts in the morning and Kosher Dogs, Chips, and Ice Cold Drinks for lunch. Hey, we gotta eat too! Join Us. As always, it'll be CHEAP.

SEE YOU THERE!



Treasure Coast area
ARES organizations need
your help in emergencies

Please volunteer



“National
Conference of
Volunteer
Examiners”

ARES EC-001 TRAINING

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for mem-

bership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to fully participate in ARES.

The Introduction to Emergency Communications course (EC-001) provides the basic knowledge and tools for ARES emergency communications volunteers.

For information about EC-001 training opportunities, please contact your county emergency coordinator.

Martin County:
Emergency Coordinator
[Steve Marshall, W4RX](mailto:Steve.Marshall@earthlink.net)

St Lucie County:
Emergency Coordinator
[Paul Horner, W4ISZ](mailto:Paul.Horner@earthlink.net)

Indian River County:
Emergency Coordinator
[Bud Holman, WA4ASJ](mailto:Bud.Holman@earthlink.net)

Get involved and be a part of ARES.

VE Amateur Radio License Testing

Our Treasure Coast counties offer many opportunities for amateur radio license testing.

During March you can take advantage of the following VE exam sessions.

March 11, 2020
Ft. Pierce ARC
6:00pm (Walk-ins allowed)
Jess Porter w4dns@arrl.net
Indian River State College
Building "J" Room 104.

Use entrance off Virginia Ave and 35th St, Fort Pierce, FL

March 14, 2020
Port Saint Lucie ARA
8:30am (Walk-ins allowed)
Robert Brown (772) 201-5485
brownpsl@comcast.net
St. Lucie County EOC
15305 W. Midway Rd
Ft Pierce FL

March 19, 2020
Vero Beach ARC
7:30pm (Walk-ins allowed)

Bud L. Holman (772) 559-3342
budholman@earthlink.net
Indian River Co. EOC, 4225
43rd Ave, Vero Beach FL

March 21, 2020
Stuart Hamfest (Martin Co.)
9:00am (Walk-ins allowed)
(772) 485-7764
Martin Co. Fairgrounds, 2616
SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart FL

Be sure to bring a government issued ID & a copy of your license when upgrading.

Change is on the way.....

If you've been planning to upgrade to an Extra Class License, you may want to consider doing it soon.

The current question pool for the Extra Class examination expires on June 30, 2020. Effective July 1, 2020, a new question pool will become effective and remain active until June 30, 2024.

The new Extra Class question pool consists of 622 questions. That's 139 fewer questions than the current question pool.

The questions dropped were deemed to be outdated due to advances in technology, or it was felt they were either too easy or overly difficult. Other changes include the

modification of 239 existing questions and the addition of 49 entirely new questions. The complete question pools for all three license classes are available for download from www.ncvec.org.

This issue's Trivia Question features one of the new questions added to the 2020-2024 Extra Class question pool.

The FT-8 Phaser Transceiver Kit



FT-8 operating mode has swept the ham radio community. Many modern rigs have built-in USB ports and digital capabilities. But what if your

radio doesn't or is just too old?

There are plenty of computer and soundcard interfaces on the market, but who needs all those complicated configuration settings and expense.

Enter the Phaser. A \$50 dollar FT-8/JS8Call transceiver kit designed by Dave Benson, K1SWL. The kit uses through-the-hole parts. There are a few SMTs, but those are factory installed.

The **Phaser** is a monoband transceiver capable of transmitting and

receiving on any of the 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m or 17m amateur bands.

Each Phaser transceiver is pre-programmed for a band specific FT-8 frequency and an alternate band specific frequency for JS8Call.

The alternate frequency can be reprogrammed to anywhere in the ham HF spectrum, thus providing frequency flexibility to accommodate other digital modes.

Click <https://midnightdesignsolutions.com/phaser/> for more info.

Ham Radio Trivia

Try your hand at this month's trivia question, which is drawn directly from the new 2020-2024 Extra Class License Examination question pool that becomes effective on July 1, 2020.

Answer will be revealed in the next issue. (If you can't wait that long, go to www.ncvec.org where the complete question

pool and answers are available.)

QUESTION E3B10

Why is chordal hop propagation desirable?

- A. The signal experiences less loss compared to multi-hop using Earth as a reflector
- B. The MUF for chordal hop

propagation is much lower than for normal skip propagation

C. Atmospheric noise is lower in the direction of chordal hop propagation

D. Signals travel faster along ionospheric chords

“Brush up on your radio knowledge and skills.”

Florida Parks on the Air - April 4 –5, 2020

Calling all stations! The 4th annual Florida State Parks on the Air contest will take place **April 4-5, 2020**.

There are a few rule changes for this year, including: There is now a QRP category ($\leq 10W$).

The multiplier has been revised to the sum of FL State Parks

activated and FL State Parks worked (once per band/mode). This eliminates the possibility of a “0” multiplier. Operator entry categories have been simplified: Single operator (one signal on the air at any time) and multi-operator (more than one signal on the air at any time).

The full rules are [available here](#).

As with last year, there is a 15 point bonus for any satellite contacts made during the contest, in addition to 10 points for working the K4LKL bonus station(s) and an extra point for each Park-to-Park contact with WWFF/POTA entities outside of Florida. <http://flspota.org/>





DX News

One of the great thrills of Ham Radio is chasing DX stations. (Remember your first foreign contact?) Whether you call CQ DX via CW, SSB or a digital mode, communicating with a ham in another country is exciting.

According to the ARRL, "DXing is the pursuit of distant stations with the "goal" of earning various DXCC Awards."

Winning a DXCC is a significant accomplishment, but that is not the only reason we

work DX. In this newsletter we hope to have guest columnists tell us how they work DX, the awards they have earned, their rigs and antennas, the power they use (QRP to QRO), how they use band propagation, working split, DX Clusters, and most importantly how they snare the rare ones.

One of the easiest operating modes today is FT-8. (We use to say that about CW, right?) SSB has always been good for DX, but with our challenging, less than stellar sunspot cycle,

using a low power, weak signal mode like FT-8 can be very rewarding for DXers. Now, I know many feel FT-8 is not a real human to human communication mode, just a bunch of computers chit-chatting, but give it a try. You might be DX surprised.

Are you interested in sharing your DX techniques with others and telling us what motivated you early on and what continues to motivate you today? If so, please email us.

Short Takes

The Treasure Coast has many DXers. One of the most prolific is Jim Milner, WB2REM. Check out his April 2020 QST article about the HD8M Dxpedition: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/April2020/Millner.pdf>

Many of us started as SWLers. Do you remember those Numbers Stations repeating numbers and letters over and over again? Check out this QST article: Decoding Numbers Stations <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/November2019/McLellan.pdf>

Want to learn about P25, Winlink, Yaesu System Fusion, DSTAR, DMR, Hotspots, etc. Check out Digital University: <https://jeromecp.wixsite.com/wa4tcd> or come to a meeting

1st Saturday of the month at 9:00am, United Against Poverty Center, 1400 27th Street Vero Beach, FL 32960

Want to learn more about our hobby? Check out Eric, KJ4YZI, at Ham Radio Concepts for help: <http://www.hamradioconcepts.com/>

Did you miss Jim KM4UFN's "Going Digital" presentation at the Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club's February meeting? Check it out at: <http://fparc.org/docs/97.D.txt>

The Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club is hosting Skywarn Training, March 26, 2020 at the Indian River Co. Emergency Operations Center. Scott Spratt, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Mel-

bourne will be teaching. For registration information: <https://w4ot.webs.com/>

The Martin County Amateur Radio Association (MCARA) has a weekly ragchew and swap net every Monday night at 08:00 PM local time. 147.060 MHz +600 KHz, 107.2 Hz tone.

And speaking of NETS, show your support for our TC clubs by participating in their NETS.

Vero Beach ARC: <https://w4ot.webs.com/>

Ft. Pierce ARC: [FPARC.org](https://fparc.org)

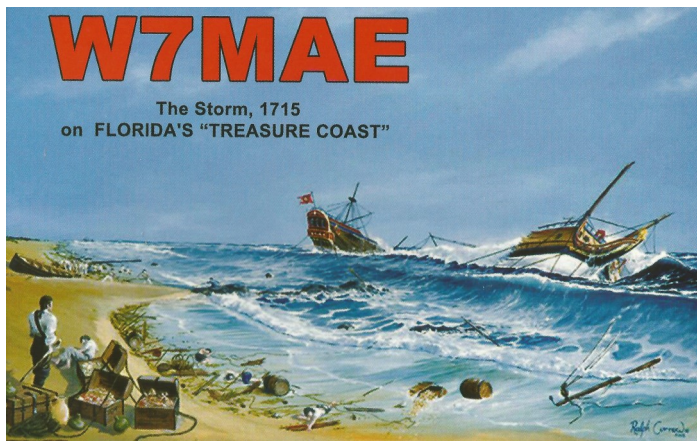
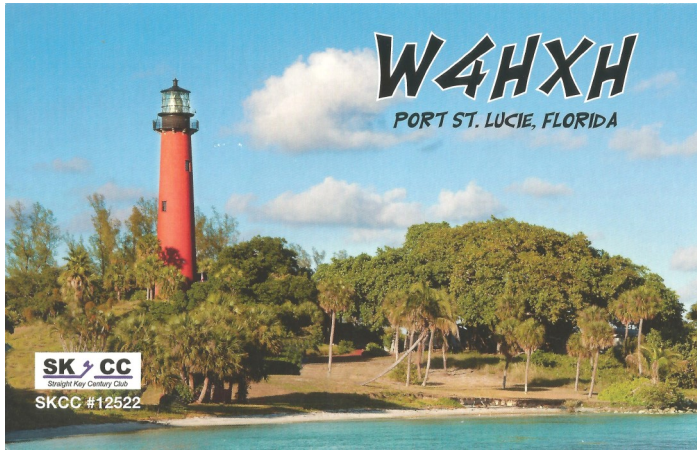
Pt. St Lucie ARA: [PSLARA.org](https://pslara.org)

Martin Co. ARC: <https://mcaraweb.com/>

Have something to share? Let us know at :

TCHamNews@gmail.com

Local Hams Distinctive QSL Cards



PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA USA

W8PPI

Formerly KK4RAL

Harold Barr
1641 SE Higdon Ct.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

harroldbarr7501@comcast.net

St. Lucie County

Final Thoughts

Newsletters share information. A newsletter must have a purpose. A newsletter should understand the needs of the readers.

Newsletters gather information from many sources. Newsletters announce upcoming events. Newsletters should be timely. Newsletters have a unique way of reaching out to a single person or hundreds.

Newsletters should be attractive to readers and easy to read.

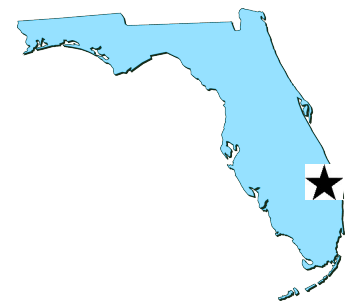
Have ideas for future columns or articles? Share them with us.

Want to write an article? Do so, and send it to our email address. Credit will be given to you as the author should we use your article. (Please

note we reserve the right to edit submissions for content and space restrictions.)

Please tell us what you think of this newsletter. Is it worthwhile to continue with additional issues? If so, how often? Send your comments and thoughts to TCHAMNEWS@gmail.com.

That's all for now. See you next issue! 73, The Editors.



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WE CAN BE REACHED AT:
TCHAMNEWS@GMAIL.COM