Treasure Coast Ham News

MARCH 2022 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Treasure Coast Ham News is an independent publication not affiliated with any ham club.

TCHamNews@gmail.com

Is GAP Antenna Products, Inc. at a Fork in the Road?

GAP ANTENNA PRODUCTS HISTORY

GAP center-launched vertical antennas were the genesis of George Henf, KK4CW (SK). The company began operations around 1986. Gap Antenna Products was initially located at 6010-Bldg J, N. Old Dixie Highway in Vero Beach. George purchased a Fellsmere property on North Willow St in late 1997.

George applied for his innovative GAP Antenna patent in 1993. Patent number 5,592,183 was awarded in 1997. The GAP Antenna patent expired in 2014. A recent check of US Patent Office records showed it was not renewed.

George was a life long antenna experimenter. He passed away in November 2002. Before his death, George was working on other antenna designs, including the Super "C" antenna. After his passing his son Richard, KD4DQN became president and owner of the company.

GAP Antenna Products headquarters & manufacturing in Fellsmere, 2022

A few weeks ago my wife suggested we take a drive on Highway AIA. We started at Fort Pierce and head north. At Melbourne we reluctantly turned left and headed back south on US 1. I mentioned to my wife that I would like to stop by GAP Antennas on the way back. At Sebastian Blvd we turned off US Highway 1. We wound our way along the road traveling west. At North Willow St we turned right, arriving a short distance later at GAP Antennas.

(continued on page 9)

From the Publishers

Newsletter beginnings. Treasure Coast Ham News began several years ago. Previously, we had produced the Beacon Newsletter for the Port St Lucie Amateur Radio Association. That newsletter ceased publication at the end of our Board term. We felt a loss that the club chose not to continue publication, but we understood publishing even the small Beacon newsletter, was a daunting task.

PSL Bean & Bagel. At a breakfast chat, my publishing partner suggested producing a Treasure Coast ham newsletter. We discussed content, publishing frequency, our targeted audience and more. The Treasure Coast has numerous ham radio clubs and groups. The interests of these entities and their members can be minimally diverse to majorly myopic. We agreed the newsletter premise would be to provide a blend of ham radio and local interest information germane to Treasure Coast Hams.

Publishing a professional newsletter would be a tall order. We would need writers, club contributors, and quality content. A publishing application would need to found and a format developed. Initially, we envisioned a newsletter in PDF format that could be printed or viewed on a computer or maybe a tablet. We now realize that many of our readers are using smart phones as their primary reader. This is causing us to consider different, or perhaps parallel, formats for phone and tablet viewing.

Creating and publishing. What started out as a week long creation and publishing process has grown into a 3 week and sometimes longer effort as we decide the monthly content, do initial layout, edit submissions, perform final editing, produce the final version and email.

Emailing the newsletter. The newsletter is sent to over 260 hams. It is further forwarded by our readers to hams outside our area. With over 1,400 hams *(Feb. 2022 FCC records)* in our multi-county area, there are many more hams that could be reached. With no budget and less and less available time, expanding will be difficult.

Should the newsletter be free? Early on we discussed advantages and disadvantages of paid vs. free. Money would certainly help us, but money always comes at a price. Even though we chose the free route, there are increasing costs we bear in producing the newsletter.

COVID-19 and beyond. We are now in early 2022. The COVID-19 virus that has kept us nearly homebound for that last two years, is starting to wane. While we will no doubt have more episodes with COVID in the future, everyone is ready to move on with their lives, and that includes our area hams. Zoom is a poor substitute for in-person meetings. Happily, most clubs are moving back to in-person events. We realize some of what we have tried with the newsletter, may now take place at these meetings. Perhaps a new opportunity will present itself.

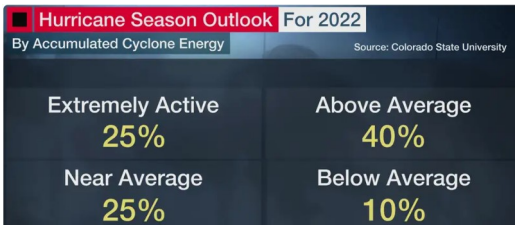
Where do we go from here? In the coming months we will be making hard decisions regarding newsletter content, size, format, and publishing frequency. To that end we will be preparing a newsletter survey. Watch for it and be sure to give us your input. We need your help.

73, *TC Ham News Publishers*

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

Hams are not required to participate in ARES, but many do. Public service is part of our genetics. When all else fails, we are there in every way to help.

Shelter deployment is only part of ARES. If you can't deploy, does that mean you should not participate? Of course not. There are many ways you can help during an emergency. Home bound hams can relay traffic; they can monitor ARES channels; they can run nets. Hams that cannot deploy during an event can be pre- and post-event relief operators.



In preparation for hurricane season ARES members are getting refreshers in emergency communication practices and NIMS. Radios are being prepped and antennas made ready. Exposure to WinLink and VaraFM is ongoing. ARES ECs are identifying members to deploy to primary shelters, but more volunteers are needed.

Hams have been through this many times before! Are you getting ready and preparing your Go Bag for deployments?

ARES Emergency Coordinators

Indian River County
Bud Holman, WA4ASJ

Martin County
Steve Marshall, WW4RX

St Lucie County
Paul Horner, W4ISZ

Okeechobee County
Jack Schwartz, KM4CRA

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

"On Demand" Testing Available

If you are ready to upgrade your license, or know someone studying to take the Technician Class license exam, be sure to reach out to one of the Volunteer Examiners listed elsewhere on this page.

While most area clubs still do not have regular exam sessions scheduled, they are willing to arrange "on demand" sessions as needed. So there is no excuse to let the lack of scheduled exam sessions impact of your plans to upgrade your license or earn a new license.

And don't overlook additional testing opportunities that may be available at upcoming Hamfests. Page 6 of this newsletter lists several upcoming Hamfests and provides links to web pages or contact persons where additional information can be obtained.

Covid-19 Impacts Continue

While impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic are beginning to ease somewhat, they continue to haunt VE testing efforts. It still remains difficult to find venues willing to host our examination sessions.

Hopefully, conditions will continue to improve and a site will soon become available where we can resume our monthly exam session schedule.

Watch future issues of ***Treasure Coast Ham News*** for further updates.

Important Reminders

- The current question pool for the Technician Class license expires on June 30, 2022. If studying for the Technician Exam, be sure to take it by June 30th.
- The new Technician Class License Exam question pool effective July 1, 2022 is now available. View or download it here.
- FCC Registration Number (FRN) is required to take a license exam. You must provide your FRN when you show up to take an exam. See the FCC web site for details.
- Still no effective date has been decided for the $35 FCC processing fee for license issuance and upgrades. Keep the $35 in your wallet by taking your exam as soon as possible.
- An email address must be provided on all applications for new licenses, upgrades or miscellaneous changes. Routine FCC notifications and license issuances are now made be email rather than postal mail.

Local License Exam Contacts

For questions concerning license exams and testing please contact one of the local Volunteer Examiners listed below.

Vero Beach ARC
Bud L. Holman
(772) 559-3342
budholman@earthlink.net

Ft. Pierce ARC
Jess Porter
w4dns@arrl.net

Port St. Lucie ARA
Robert Brown
(772) 201-5485
brownpsl@comcast.net

Send VE news to tchamnews@gmail.com.

Ham Radio History: QST at the Beginning

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 fifth 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.]

League members had long perceived the need for a regular bulletin of some kind, but the League lacked the funds needed to jump-start it. So, as before, the 46-year-old inventor and businessman Maxim teamed up with 19-year-old Trinity College student Tuska to publish the first few issues themselves. They had previously funded the initial printing of the list of stations and other materials.

Sometime in early December 1915, the first issue of a new "Amateur Wireless Magazine" went from the printer to the post office and on across the country to more than 600 members of the not quite two-year-old American Radio Relay League. Its simple cover, a combination of hand-drawn graphics and typeset text, framed its name, *QST*, in a large banner flanked by two torches—symbols of enlightenment and truth—an implied meaning of its name as a broadcast to amateurs. This *number*, as magazine issues were then called, carried no volume designator. Who knew how many would follow or for how long? For the 10¢ cover price you got 28 pages of amateur radio including a little over seven pages of advertisements.

Due to slow sales of the *List of Stations* book, and after consulting with members, Maxim and Tuska decided to "risk a few more dollars" to produce three months' worth QST after which, they hoped, it would become self-sustaining based in part on members buying subscriptions and the other offerings. "If they do, we are all right, and we have a fine future promised us. If they do not, then the president and Secretary will have lost their money and wasted a lot of hard work," wrote Maxim.[1]

On the first page following the contents, this announcement appeared:

> *"Q S T is published by and at the expense of Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska. Its object is to help maintain the organization of the American Radio Relay League and to keep the Amateur Wireless Operators of the country in constant touch with each other. Every Amateur will help himself and help his fellows by sending in 25 cents for a three months' trial subscription."*

The Publishers of QST

Evidently at least a little money was coming in already since there were ads in the premiere issue. The first one to appear, just inside the front cover, was for J. H. Bunnell and Company, Inc., of New York, where young Irving Vermilya had gone to purchase wire years before. The ad was for "two new specialties: a straight key for $7.50 (about $170 in 2012) and a detector holder for $1.50." The ad referred to the straight key as a "transmitter."

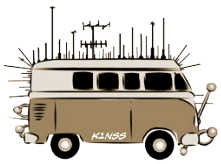
The first classified ads section, called "Second Hand Apparatus," appeared in issue number two and offered to print ads for free "up to a reasonable number of words." It listed items such as Audions, transformers, condensers and coils. Also appearing in that first listing was a "Martin' Vibroplex key" for $5.00—a price one-third *lower* than Bunnell's straight key.

de W2PA

Footnotes:
(1) First Issue of QST Nr. 1 December 1915, December Radio Relay Bulletin, *QST*, December 1915.

(Next month: A Patriotic and Dignified Effort)

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



Got My License, Now What?
Frequency Modulation

Frequency Modulation (FM) mode is included on many of the newer radios for HF. It is mainly used on the 10 meter band. It is also the mode of choice for VHF and UHF bands.

What is FM?
Keep in mind what it is called, "**F**requency **M**odulation." This means there is a change in frequency from where you have tuned your radio.

Someone had to really think upside down to figure this one out. Let's use 7.0 MHz for our set frequency. When you add audio in the FM mode, the amplitude of the signal does not change. If you are transmitting at 100 watts, you are sending the full 100 watts out with no variation like on AM or Single Side Band. Much like a CW signal with no interruption until you quit transmitting.

When you add audio, the set frequency (7.0 MHz) will shift. It will shift above 7.0 MHz and below 7.0 MHz at the audio frequency. Therefore, if you have a 500 Hz tone as your audio, the frequency where you have set your radio (7.0 MHz) will change plus and minus this frequency at 500 Hz per second.

Keep in mind, if you have no audio, the frequency is the same as a CW signal.

What makes the audio louder or softer?
As you increase the volume of the audio, or drive the transmitter harder, the frequency change, or shift will also increase. This means that the louder the audio, the further away from 7.0 MHz you will transmit on the audio peaks. You can see that it is a different way of thinking on FM. The transmit and receiver circuits change this "Deviation" to audio that our ears understand.

Therefore, there needs to be limits on the "Deviation," or it will take up quite a bit of space on the band. It has recently been an FCC requirement for commercial 2 way radios to go to a more narrow "Deviation." This will allow more frequencies to be used.

One prominent advantage to FM is the clarity of the audio. You can have a full spectrum of audio without taking up more bandwidth. Also the transmitter is operating at full power constantly. This allows for the receiver to have "full quieting". In other words, no background noise if you are hearing the signal reasonably.

The "Deviation" of frequency is controlled to keep it within limits. If it is a Narrow Band system, you still have full power out, full quieting on receive and excellent frequency response. What you will not have is the volume of audio. However that is compensated for with either the volume control or more amplification in the radio.

You can use the FM mode, without adding audio, to send a carrier for checking the SWR of your antenna system. The carrier will be at the full power level you have set on your transmitter.

If any have questions you would like to have addressed, let me know. Right or wrong, I am sure I can come up with something.

73, Ralph WD0EJA
BILAL COMPANY
137 MANCHESTER DR. FLORISSANT, CO. 80816 U.S.A
PH/FX: 719/687-0650 wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo
March 12th and 13th, 2022

Amateur radio is like a big circus. It has its main tent with three rings in the center. In those rings could be Contesting, DXing, and Rag Chewing. However, "**amateur radio now has a midway of a thousand smaller tents"** according to Eric Guth, 4Z1GU, founder of the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo.

The Covid-19 Pandemic closed ham radio conventions, hamfests, and monthly meetings all across the world. Because of these closures Eric, 4Z1UG, got the idea to create an on-line virtual convention that has all of the elements of a real ham radio convention, similar to the most notable live conventions.

The virtual Expo has become the place to discover more niches in amateur radio through the presentations given at each one.

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo returns on March 12th, 2022 and has become a twice yearly event. Expo cost is $10 thru March 7nd and $13.50 there after. We hope to see you there!

REGISTER HERE

Upcoming Hamfests

FLORIDA

03/05/2022 - Charlotte County Hamfest
Location: Punta Gorda, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Peace River Radio Assoc.
Website: http://PRRA.club

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

04/09/2022 - TARCFest
Location: Tampa, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.hamclub.org

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.

Martin County Amateur Radio Association

MCARA
Martin County Amateur Radio Association

presents the 47th Annual

Stuart Hamfest

FLORIDA'S LARGEST FREE HAMFEST

MARTIN COUNTY ARES / RACES

Saturday, March 19, 2022 at the Martin County Fairgrounds

2616 SE Dixie Hwy (A1A), Stuart, Florida 34996

FREE ADMISSION ***FREE*** PARKING ***FREE*** TAILGATING

Commercial Vendors 10'x10' space, 2-8' tables, 2 chairs -$25
EVERYONE AT THE HAMFEST WILL PASS YOUR BOOTH AT LEAST TWICE DURING THE DAY!
Inside Swap Tables (10' space, 1-8' table, 2 chairs)-$20 - Great Food - Forums - Fun

ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention
ARRL VE License Exam Session at 9:00 AM

GREAT PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED**
Grand Prize: Yaesu FT-DX10
Second Prize: Kenwood TM-710G
Third Prize: Yaesu FT-70DR

Driving directions at www.stuarthamfest.com

Talk-in on 145.150 MHz -600 offset, 107.2 PL
For more information contact:
MCARA Hamfest Chairman
P.O. Box 1901, Stuart, Fl 34995
Hamfest@mcaraweb.com
Phone: 561-309-8138

Ham Radio Trivia

Answer to Last Month's Question

Last month we tested your knowledge with a question from the new question pool for the Technician Class license. How did you do?

February Trivia Question

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

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

If you chose "D," you answered correctly. The 219 to 220 MHz segment of the 1.25 meter band is reserved exclusively for fixed digital message forwarding systems.

(This is question T1B05 in the new Technician Class License question pool that becomes effective on July 1, 2022.)

* * * * *

March Trivia Question

For this month's question let's test your knowledge of Q-codes.

As we know, Q-codes are commonly used as shortcuts in both voice and CW communications. We also encounter them occasionally when operating digital.

Try your luck with this question concerning an obscure Q-code.

Question:
If you want to notify your CW contact that his keying has a problem, what Q-code would you most likely send?

A. QRG
B. QRW
C. QSD
D. QUD

(We will reveal the answer next month.)

(Know a good trivia question? Send it to us at: 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.

March 2022

February '22

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

April '22

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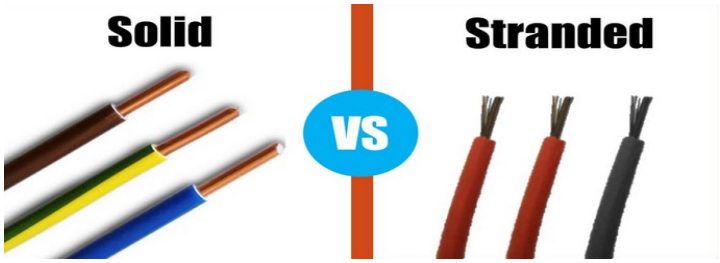
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1 **IRC ARES Net-7:30pm** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B	2 **SLC ARES Net-7:30pm** 147.240(+) (107.2) or Winlink Checkin sent to W4ISZ	3 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2)	4	5
6 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	7 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	8 **IRC ARES Net-7:30pm** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B **OARC ARES Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	9 **FPARC Mtg-7:30pm** Indian River State College Ft. Pierce-Bldg R, Rm 131	10 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **VBARC Mtg-7:30pm** 4325 43rd Av Vero Bch 4325 43rd Av Vero Bch	11	12
13 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	14 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	15 **IRC ARES Net-7:30pm** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B	16 **SLC ARES Mtg-7:30pm** SLC EOC-15305 Midway Ft. Pierce	17 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **MCARA ARES Mtg-7pm** 800 SE Monterey, Stuart	18	19 Martin County **Stuart Hamfest** at Fairgrounds 2616 SE Dixie Hwy
20 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	21 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	22 **IRC ARES Meeting** **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B	23 **PSLARA Mtg-7:30pm** Indian River State College Pruitt Campus 500 NW California Blvd Port St. Lucie, FL	24 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **MCARA Mtg-7pm** 830 SE Martin Luther King **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2)	25	26
27 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	28 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	29 **IRC ARES Net-7:30pm** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B	30	31 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2)	1	2
3	4	**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		

WIRE CHOICES FOR HAMS



(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.)

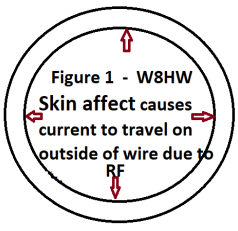
Wire: Solid or Stranded?

For low frequencies (*think 60-cycle AC*) solid wire works fine and in some cases is recommended.

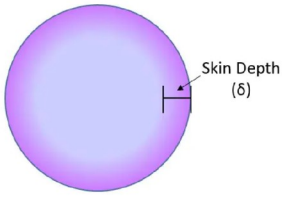
However, at higher frequencies a condition known as "*Skin affect*" begins to occur. What happens is that at higher frequencies the RF current starts to travel only on the outer part of the conductor (*wire*). For alternating current, density decreases exponentially from the surface towards the inside.

As frequency increases, the skin depth decreases faster than you may expect and causes problems even in board level designs. At 100kHz (a common power converter switching frequency), the skin depth in copper is only 0.2mm. Because all ham frequencies are higher than 100 KHz, the problem becomes even worse at the frequencies where we normally operate.

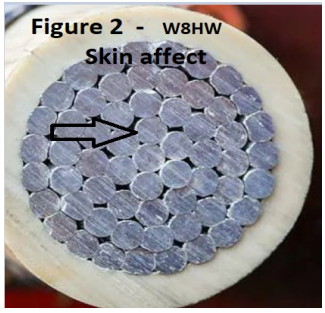
Another Problem: Current Capability & Skin Effect



As frequency increases, progressively less current flows inside a wire – so current progressively concentrates on the surface (*See figure 1*). Since a steadily decreasing part of the conductor is being used, resistance increases as frequency increases. For example, a 12 gauge solid copper wire will carry 20 amps at 60Hz with very little heating; however at 30 MHz, the RF current carrying ability of 12 gauge wire is only about 5 amps. For more information see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skin_Effect.



How does stranded wire help?



See figure 2. Let's compare stranded wire to solid wire using the same "gauge" of wire. In stranded wire, each strand provides its own surface area. Because of this, stranded wire has more surface area and less wasted center density, so the problem of center density is greatly reduced. Now RF (*High frequency ac*) current has greater surface area to travel through. Thus, the problem is solved. Efficiency increased without going to larger wire size and without increased wire costs.

If you have questions or ideas, feel free to email me.
73, Bruce, W8HW (*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

Please don't forget the

REMOTE OPERATING SURVEY

Is GAP Antenna Products, Inc. at a Fork in the Road?

(continued from page 1)

No one was there. The large metal building was padlocked. A construction company appeared to be occupying the north side of the building property. I did not see the GAP Antenna Products street sign. Two GAP antennas, maybe Challengers, were in the field. An Airstream trailer was parked alongside one of the antennas.

Since George and Rich came to a West Palm Amateur club meeting to give a presentation on the antenna's design and provide a practical demonstration, I was a GAP devotee. I bought a used Challenger in the 1990s. The antenna has been through several rebuilds and moved up north, down south, and more. It's still a good performer.

My last contact with GAP was in late 2020. I inquired about buying a 17m MonoGAP. Rich and I traded a couple of emails and a phone call. But nothing more since.

Recently, via GAP's Groups.io I learned they were having material shortages and costs were going up. GAP had decided to stop selling to distributors to keep prices down. Hams seemed to infer GAP would begin selling direct.

Have you have had a recent contact with GAP (i.e. a telephone conversation or email communication) about buying an antenna directly, ordering replacement parts or to ask technical question? Have you ordered and received an antenna directly from them?

Please tell us about your recent experience with GAP antennas. Send an email to tchamnews@gmail.com.

Let's hope their outstanding antennas are still available.

73, TCHN

FCC License Records and You

What is the Treasure Coast ham population? With information collected and maintained by the FCC that question should be easily answered. I bet local clubs, special interest groups and ARES would appreciate a list of hams by county or municipality. How about by license class or the gold ring, geo-located by a site address?

How to begin? At the source, of course. The FCC issues our licenses, handles renewals, upgrades, address changes and cancellations. The FCC has a Universal Licensing System query tool. The tool is robust, but has limitations. You cannot query by county, but can by zip code. However, Indian River has 16, St. Lucie has 19 and Martin has 17. That looks like too much finger fatigue by going the query tool route. Querying by city is available, but if you want to know where the licensee is physically located, it won't help you with complete certainly.

The FCC provides daily and weekly transaction files. The transaction data includes 8 Structured Query Language (SQL) tables. If you are skilled in SQL, the tables can be joined using a unique record key included in each table. You don't need SQLServer or MySQL to create your own version of the amateur radio license database. Microsoft Access will work, provided you have some expertise in building and running queries and creating reports from multiple tables and forms.

Once the database is created, you still can't query by county, but eventually you can get the data combined and filtered by zip code to give you the Treasure Coast hams. My results determined that Martin has 417 active licenses; St Lucie has 660; and Indian River has 432. You can get the data even more granular if you wish with further queries and refinement.

A final step is site address geo-coding. Clean-up of addresses, city and zip code is almost a given as geo-coders are fairly rigid in their interpretation of a site's address. Once the addresses are geo-coded and cleaned, a variety of geospatial tools can be used to plot on a map and symbolize the license data by class and other information. PO Box addresses cannot be geo-coded.

Now the downside. Have you changed your address, or lost a ham relative and not notified the FCC? How about a ham friend? If you are a VE, do you verify address information from a government issued ID against the 605? Please take the time to review your personal FCC license data and update if necessary. 73 TCHN

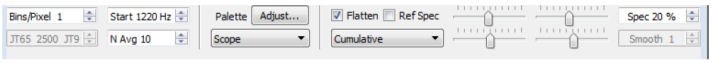
Are You WSPRing?

Last time we discussed a weak signal propagation reporter (**WSPR)**. **WSPR** probes potential radio propagation paths using low-power beacon-like transmissions. **WSPR** signals convey a call sign, Maidenhead grid locator, and power level. **WSPR** is effective at signal-to-noise ratios as low as –28 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. Stations can upload reception reports to WSPR Net.

Two WSPR apps are available to use, WSPR-2 and WSJT-X. According to WSPR-2's web info, "**WSPR 2** is showing its age but is still perfectly usable. It may be especially desirable if you need a lightweight program that runs on older computers." Many of us use WSJT-X for FT-8 and a rig with an internal sound card or an external interface such as Signalink. This will get you started.

From the WSJT-X **menu** select **WSPR** from the **Mode** menu. The main window will reconfigure itself to the **WSPR** interface, removing those controls not used in **WSPR** mode. *Please remember you may be making changes that could impact your FT-8 mode setup. Save your FT-8 setup, so you can change back to FT-8 when you finish trying* ***WSPR***. The instructions below will provide you a basic operating setup for WSPR. Please refer to the WSJT-X manual for additional information.

1. Set the Wide Graph controls as suggested below.



2. Select an active WSPR frequency (for example: 10.1387 or 14.0956 MHz). WSJT-X can do this via CAT control.

3. Click **Monitor** to start a 2-minute WSPR receiving period.

4. If you will be transmitting as well as receiving, select a suitable value for **Tx Pct** (average percentage of a 2 minute sequence devoted to transmitting) and activate the **Enable Tx** button. Transmitting periods are also 2 minutes in duration, and will occur randomly in time to reduce the chance of clashing with other stations you may be monitoring.

5. Select your Tx power (in dBm) from the drop-down list. Suggested is 1 watt or less.

Next month we will discuss transmitting via a dedicated **WSPR** radio, such as WSPRlite, QRPLabs or ZackTek. In the meantime, type **WSPR** kits in your web browser to learn more.

73, TCHamNews

3Y0J DXpedition to Bouvet Island

The new date for 3Y0J DXpedition will be January 6th 2023. We will spend more than 3 weeks at Bouvet.

We will have 8 CW/SSB and 4 FT8 stations including Elecraft K3S, for CW/SSB and SunSDR2 DX for FT8. Up to 12 radios will on the air using 4O3A triplexers and InnovAntenna/Wimo tribanders. To achieve maximum uptime the four FT8 stations will run 24/7. At Bouvet we will use S.P.E. EXPERT amplifiers. We will bring various models. The 1.5K-FA will be the main model, but for 160m we will use a 2.0 kW amplifier and a vertical running a K3S with diversity RX.

Our RX antenna system will be a ground independent RX loop system developed by LZ1AQ. This RX antenna will be located 300 meters away from the camp and provide us an RX antenna for 160-30m with 8xRX output signals. It also includes the possibility to switch from loop to dipole mode.

You can follow us via our website: http://www.3y0j.no
Thank you, Ken Opskar LA7GIA

Please don't forget, a group of local hams are considering the construction of a world-class remote HF station that you can operate from the comfort of your own easy chair. The group created a web survey to help gauge local ham interest in their plan. If you've not already done so, be sure to take the Remote Operating Survey.

How do you like the new logo proposed for the 2x4 DX Group? We think if more closely fits the group's diverse interests. What do you think? Share your opinion in an email to HF & DX Group.

In an effort to restart meetings, a few members of the former 2x4 DX Group are considering an informal get together over breakfast at a local restaurant. Interested in joining us? Watch your email for more information later this month.

Send an email to us at tchamnews@gmail.com.

The Frugal Ham Radio Operator

The number of handheld VHF/UHF radios available to hams is astounding. In addition to Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu and Alinco, the Chinese seem to pop out a new radio every other week. What started out as a couple of manufacturers now exceeds 40. Most of the Chinese radios claim business band FCC type acceptance. Some even include sophisticated encryption.

Many hams own several types of handhelds. They can include analog and digital (DMR, D-Star, Fusion, P-25) radios. My first handheld was a used Motorola MX radio. I bought it at the Miami Tropical Hamfest for a hundred dollars. The MX was a good radio, having been designed for public safety and commercial use. These were highly channelized rock bound radios, so programming another channel or repeater frequency at will was out of the question. A friend of mine was a Motorola radio technician. He was able to get me channel elements very cheaply. This was music to my frugalist ears.

I sold the MX a few years later. With money saved and received for the MX, I was able to buy a dual band Yaesu FT-470. That began my appreciation of Yaesu VHF/UHF handheld radios. However, like many other hams I became intrigued with the Chinese radios.

Leaving the Charlotte Hamfest years ago I spied a vendor selling Wouxun KG-UV5D handheld radios for $100.00. I knew nothing about the radio, but thought for that price, I would take a chance. The Wouxun turned out to be a nice dual band radio. I tried their programming application, but found **CHIRP** to be better.

In 2016 I was preparing for a work trip to Estonia with way points in Belgium and Germany. I considered taking a portable HF rig, but wasn't sure of my opportunities to operate. On the other hand taking a VHF/UHF handheld, seemed a better choice. I didn't want to take an expensive radio, so searching the Internet I found a Baofeng UV5R for $65.00. I programmed it for Europe.

Many Chinese radios today (there are exceptions of course) are worth about a cup of coffee. So why do hams buy them? "Ni hao" (hello), beats me. Recently, R & L Electronics was offering a genuine Yaesu FT-4XR analog dual band handheld for $69.95. Yaesu calls it their Baofeng killer. They may be right. Read on, s'il vous plait.

So what's under the hood? How about 3 selectable TX Power settings (5 W (High)/2.5 W (Middle)/0.5 W (Low); 15 hours operating time w/supplied 1,750 mAh Li-ion batter; QRK (Quick Recall Key); 2 user programmable keys; Quick HOME Channel Access for emergency signaling; VFO scan; memory scan; programmable memory scan (PMS); dual receive; 200 memory channels; selectable frequency steps (5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 25, 50 & 100 kHz); split memory (2 different frequency TX/RX; WX channels w/"Severe Weather" alert; VOX operation capable; PC programmable; transceiver-to-transceiver clonable; and an FM broadcast receiver. Why buy Chinese anymore?

73, *The Frugal Ham*

Short Takes

Hawaii Amateur Radio Repeater Coordination Site: https://hawaiirepeaters.net/

Sales Tax rates by State https://www.tax-rates.org/taxtables/sales-tax-by-state

"HeyWhatsThat" Path Profiler https://www.heywhatsthat.com/profiler.html

EZNEC Pro+ v. 7.0 is now available! – FREE https://eznec.com/

A interesting web site featuring a diverse mixture of odds and ends: The VE6KQ Website.

Check out the ARRL store for bargains ranging from books to kits and everything in between: ARRL shop.

Amateur radio news and opinion delivered fresh to your email box every day (or weekly if you prefer). Subscribe for free here.

This ham must hold the record for most award certificates displayed on a single web page: https://www.qrz.com/db/IK3HTH.

South Florida Remote Radio Club (based in Jensen Beach, FL): N4RRC.

Some qrz pages can be particularly enjoyable to read. Try these two: https://www.qrz.com/db/W6SA.

Email & Chat Groups

Software Defined Radio: SDR.

For those Interested in railroad communications: RailScan@groups.io | Home.

Ham Radio Swap and Classifieds Facebook group:

See an interesting web site or Group? Send link to tchamnews@ gmail.com

Treasure Coast Ham Doctors

Can I get on the air in an HOA?

Question:

I moved into a gated community a few years ago. HOA restrictions prevented me from erecting even a modest antenna, and physical ailments kept me from climbing ladders or crawling in attics. So sadly, my ham hobby went into a state of hibernation.

Now I find I am getting the bug again. Friends are saying I can operate data modes, in particular FT8, without a serious antenna setup. I'm thinking of giving it a try. What's your opinion? And do you have any ideas?

Answer:

Don't let HOA restrictions or physical ailments deter you from getting back into the hobby. This doctor doesn't have a fancy antenna, yet I have great success operating FT8 and other digital modes with a very modest station that would definitely not upset an HOA. So how do I do it you ask?

Very simply, I use a small HamStick vertical antenna for all my operating. I screw the antenna mast into a standard magnetic mount base, which comes prewired with an 18 foot coaxial cable terminated with a PL259 connector.

I place the mag mount base and antenna on the roof of my car, which is parked outside the garage. I then connect the PL259 end of the coax into the antenna connector on my radio, which is located on a table inside the garage. It is not a sophisticated setup, but it works surprisingly well.

I power up the radio, tune to the band and frequency where I want to operate, and then activate the internal antenna tuner to match the rig to the coax/antenna. And with that, Bingo! I am ready to operate.

Too simple you say? If you are thinking it can't possibly work well, you are in for a surprise. Four or five hours a week or so of casual operating over the past eighteen months has resulted in over 115 LoTW confirmed countries and all 50 states.

I have a number of HamStick masts, each tuned to a different band. To change bands I simply remove one antenna mast and replace it with another. I then change band and frequency on the rig and activate the antenna tuner feature.

So what's my rig you ask? It is nothing fancy. It's an old Icom 756-Pro3. And before I forget, I should mention that because of the age of the rig and my minimal antenna I purposely limit output power from the rig to 20 watts.

My favorite vertical antenna mast is the 17-meter HamStick vertical, which is about 6.5 feet tall. Amazingly, the Icom's antenna tuner can tune the 17-meter HamStick close to 1:1 on all bands between 40 and 10 meters. I also have a small unknown brand vertical that I use for 6-meter operation.

When I shut down at the end of my operating session I simply remove the mag mount from the car roof and place it in the garage.

73, The Doctors

FT8 / WSJT-X Operating Tip - Software Upgrades

Stations observed calling CQ DX

A reader asked a question about certain CQ calls observed when operating FT8 or FT4 using WSJT-X.

The reader noted that he sometimes sees CQ calls in a non-standard format, such as CQ DX or CQ POTA followed by the caller's call sign. He asks, "Are they using special software to do this?"

The answer is that no special software is needed. Anyone using WSJT-X software for FT8 or FT4 operation can modify his or her CQ call.

To do so, simply click in the TX6 text box located toward the bottom right of the main WSJT-X screen and position your curser just to the right of "CQ." Then click and type "<space>DX" so that the text line reads:

"CQ DX <your call> <your grid>."

(Example: CQ DX K4PSL EL97)

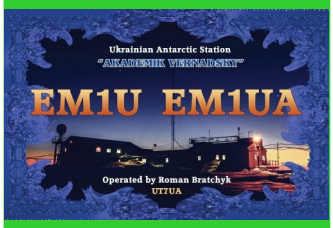
Your CQ calls will now include the added text "DX."

To return to just CQ, simply click in the TX6 text box and delete the "<space>DX" characters.

You can also modify your CQ call in other ways. Examples: CQ JA (to call Japan), or CQ EU (to call Europe).

Note that if you include too many characters, such as POTA, your grid may not be included in your CQ calls.

Send questions or tips to tchamnews@gmail.com.



From the weekly ***ARRL DX Bulletin*** and other sources. (**DX bulletin archive**)

DX OPPORTUNITIES

TURKEY, TA. Rolf, DL6RO is QRV as TA4/DL6RO near Antalya until March 15. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Sergiy, UT9UX is QRV as EM1U from Base Vernadsky on Galindez Island in the Biscoe Islands, IOTA AN-006, until mid April. Activity is on various HF bands. QSL via UT7UA.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Amir, 4X6TT is QRV as S79/4X6TT from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024. Activity is on the HF bands, with particular interest given to 30, 17, and 12 meters. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via N4GNR.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D while on work assignment with the UN-WFP. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using SSB and FT8. If time allows, he may try 160 meters. QSL via OM3JW.

CYPRUS, 5B. Philipp, DK6SP is QRV as 5B4AQC from Nicosia until July 27. Activity is mostly holiday style on various HF bands using CW. QSL to home call.

SENEGAL, 6W. Willy, ON4AVT plans to be QRV as 6W/ON4AVT from Warang from February 6 to April 2. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL direct to home call.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Everton, PU2MEA is QRV as PY0F/PU2MEA until November 26. Activity is on 10 meters using SSB and QRP power in his spare time. QSL via LoTW.

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.

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

NETHERLANDS, PA. Members of VERON's section of Mid and North Limburg are QRV with special call sign PI75LIM during all of 2022 to celebrate their 75th anniversary. QSL via bureau.

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.

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

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.

* * * * *

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)

Special Event Stations

National Vietnam War Veterans Day
Mar 18, 1800Z-2200Z, N3TAL, Lanham, MD. American Legion Post 275. 7.275mhz +/- 5 khz. QSL. American Legion Post 275 attn.: ART, 8201 Martin Luthor King Jr. Hwy, Lanham, MD 20706. info: wa3dvo@verizon.net

Mar 29, 1600Z-2130Z, W5KID, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club. 7.040, 7.250, 14.040, 14.250. QSL: USS Kidd Amateur Radio Club, 305 S. River Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Operation aboard the USS KIDD (DD-661). WW II Fletcher class destroyer. qrz.com/db/w5kid

(From ARRL & other sources)

TM9AP in memory of F9AP(SK)

Feb 5-Mar 6, 0900Z-2000Z, TM9AP, PARIS, FRANCE. FIRAC F5KTR. 14.070, 14.074, 21.074. QSL.: Radio Club F5KTR, 9 rue du Chateau Landon, Paris 75010, FRANCE. In memory of Andre F9AP (SK) ARRL life member Clubs F5KTR/F5RAC/F6RAC. Active during the weekends. Modes FT8, PSK, HF SSB. le.grac.free.fr

80th Anniversary Avro Lancaster 1st Operational Sortie

Mar 1-Mar 28, 0001Z-2359Z, GB80LAN, Luton, UNITED KINGDOM. Royal Air Force AR. 14.270, 14.055, 14.074, 3.710. QSL: Website for QSL information. RAF Waddington, RAF Halton, RAF Cosford, RAF East Kirkby, ENGLAND. Active from 4 different locations at three Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Club Stations: Waddington, Halton, Cosford & ex RAF East Kirkby (home of Lancaster "Just Jane"). Hopefully active all bands & modes 160m - 70cms. Info: qrz.com & rafars.org. VK80LAN & VE80LAN are hoped to be active. www.qrz.com/db/gb80lan

Battleship Texas Birthday # 108

Mar 1-Mar 15, 0000Z-0000Z, W5T, Cleburne, TX. Club KC5NX. 14.255, 14.045, 7.240, 7.235. QSL: Club KC5NX, 9200 Summit Court West, Cleburne, TX 76033-8212. Club KC5NX active first week of March to celebrate the Birthday of the Battleship Texas. We have 500 QSL cards on hand now and waiting to say Howdy to Y'All..... Come help us celebrate.... See QRZ.COM and or set up a time to work us. 73 www.qrz.com/db/kc5nx

Copper Dog 150 Dog Sled Race

Mar 3-Mar 7, 1200Z-2000Z, K9C, Calumet, MI. Keweenaw County Repeater Association. 7.225, MHz, 3.825 MHz. QSL: KCRA, 51950 Boston Rd, Hancock, MI 49930. www.qrz.com/db/k9c or https://kcra-mi.net

Launching of USS Midway

Mar 12, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS MIdway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320, 7.250, 14.070 (PSK31), DSTAR (Papa Sys Rept). QSL: USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

HamSCI 2022 Conference

Mar 18-Mar 20, 1400Z-0400Z, NN4SA, Huntsville, AL. HamSCI and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center ARC. 14.245 7.245, 14.074, 7.074. QSL: NASA MSFC ARC, c/o Matt McDougal, PO Box 12804, Huntsville, AL 35815. HamSCI and NASA MSFC ARC operating from conference near Space & Rocket Center. Active various bands & modes. Check spotting networks for frequencies & modes. Info: hamsci.org & nn4sa.org. Send SASE for special QSL card. www.qrz.com/db/nn4sa

Cherry Blossom Special Event

Mar 19, 1400Z-2000Z, W4BKM, Macon, GA. Macon Amateur Radio Club. 14.240, 7.225. Certificate: Macon Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208-4862. w4bkm.org

National Quilting Day

Mar 19-Mar 20, 1400Z-0200Z, N0Q, Parker, CO. Cynthia Smith. 7.200, 14.250; SSB & FT8. QSL: Cynthia Smith, 23612 Glenmoor Dr, Parker, CO 80138-3112. Celebrating the art of quilting. Modes SSB & FT8. Operating hours: 0800 MDT to 2000 MDT. QSLvia KB2UKM by 31 May w/SASE. Msgt_smith_cap@hotmail.com

Scouts BSA WHOA weekend

Mar 19, 1400Z-2000Z, W1M, Russell, MA. Western Mass Council, BSA. 7.190, 10.115, 14.060, 14.290. QSL: Tom Barker, WA1HRH, 329 Faraway Road, Whitefield, NH 03598. Monthly seasonal outdoor activities for Scouts & general public including "ham radio in the woods." Paper logging. QSL via SASE, eQSL.

Honoring World War II Gunners at Buckingham Airfield

Mar 22-Mar 24, 1400Z-2100Z, W4LX, Fort Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club. 28.360, 21.360, 14.270, 146.685. Certificate & QSL: Ft Myers Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 61183, Fort Myers, FL 33906. https://fmarc.net

Commemoration of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Mar 26, 1400Z-2200Z, K4YWE/N4H, Alexander City, AL. Lake Martin Amateur Radio Club. 7.240, 14.240. QSL: Michael Courtney, KK4AUP, 80 Herren Hill Road, Suite F, Tallassee, AL 36078. mikecourtney@charter.net

Walk for Water Charleston 2022

Mar 26, 0000Z-2359Z, W4W. Carolina SideWinders of the Low Country. 14.316, 7.216, 14.074. QSL: Carolina SideWinders, 318 Jennie St., Goose Creek, SC 29445. Around the world, more than 2.2 billion people do not have access to safe water. Water Mission International raises funds and awareness to fight the global water crisis. km4sw_614@yahoo.com

Ham Humor

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

" You Wouldnt Believe The Great New Exciter That I Recently Added To The Ham Shack"

" OVER HERE FRED. I FOUND THE PERFECT PLACE TO SET UP FOR OUR FIELD DAY OPERATIONS! "

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.

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.

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. The association sponsors the Stuart Hamfest. This year it is **March 19th, 2022** at the Martin County Fairgrounds across from airport.

Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club

The club 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 details are available on the club's web site.

Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association

The club officers are: President - Ken, WA4ABR; Vice President - Scott, AI4TT; Secretary - Bruce, WA3RHW; Treasurer - Bob, W4RJP.

Great News - The club's March meeting will be in-person at 7:30 PM, March 24, 2022 at the Pruitt Campus, Indian River State College, St. Lucie West. Watch for a future email with meeting details. Also watch the PSLARA web page for more details. And if you've not already done so, be sure to participate in the club member SURVEY.

Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club

VBARC was formed in November, 1961 with a small number of local hams. The club has over 100 members and encompasses all of Indian River County. Please visit their web site to learn more about the club. Join them on the Treasure Coast Net, 7.153Mhz every morning at 8:00am.

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

The club officers are: President/Treasurer - Mark, KF4EA; Vice President - Jack, KM4CRA; Secretary - KN4QJK.

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio is a general purpose amateur radio club. The club has been in existence over 30 years. For more information please contact Jack, KM4CRA.

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.

Repeaters and Club Nets

Our area has a multitude of repeaters. Clubs hold weekly rag chew nets. Any known net schedules can be found on the TCHM calendar in this newsletter. Please get on the air and participate!

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

HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR SALE & HELP NEEDED

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

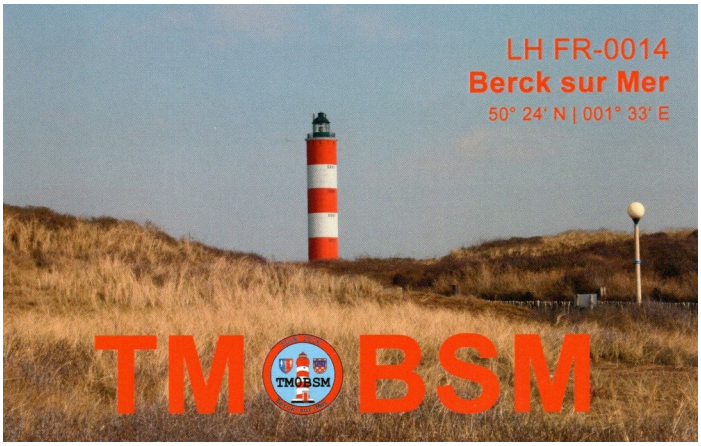
HELP NEEDED

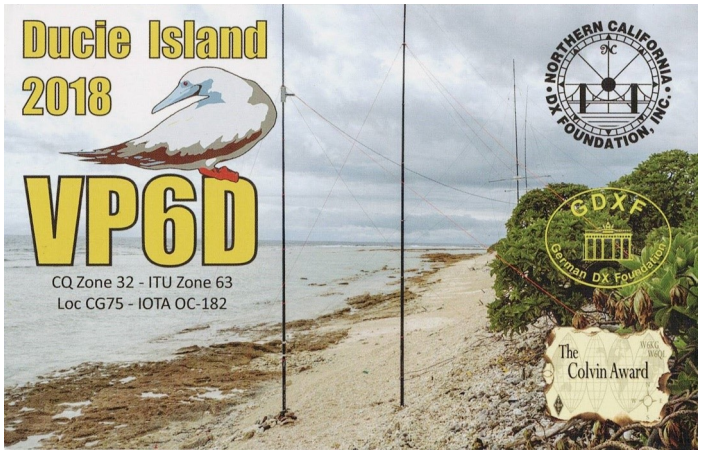
ANTENNA LAUNCHER - Bruce, WA3RHW, is looking to buy or borrow an antenna launcher - PVC type, not slingshot. AKA spud-chucker and potato launcher, among others. Please contact Bruce at btcarroll@comcast.net.

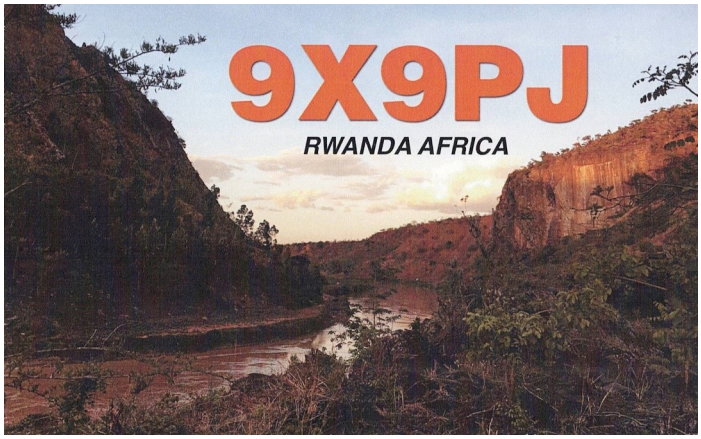
ASSISTANCE NEEDED - Looking for help in installing a discrete screwdriver vertical in my backyard with underground coax at my residence. Contact Gus, NU4L, (772) 263-0430 or email gberges@me.com. Please advise if there is any cost and payment method. Thank you very much. Gus, NU4L

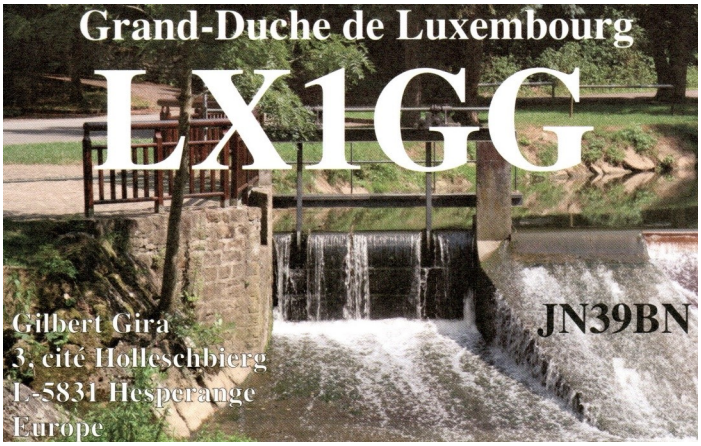
QSL Cards

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 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.)*









(above cards courtesy Bruce, WA3RHW)

QSL Concept — QSL Cards Printing for Less

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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