

# Treasure Coast Ham News

MARCH 2023

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

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## Bouvet Island DXpedition 2023



Did you work Bouvet Island? 18,883 hams did across 6 bands. Were you one of the lucky hams in our area?

(Check out the Bouvet summary on page 9)

Treasure Coast Ham News will be going on hiatus soon, resuming publication in the fall. We thank our contributors and readers for their continued support.

73 to all.

## From the Publishers

Treasure Coast Ham News is going on hiatus starting May until fall. From its lowly beginnings, our “free” newsletter has increased both in content and size. Our readership has grown to over 300 hundred hams across the region and beyond.

Starting the newsletter almost four years ago, neither of us envisioned what TCHamNews would become. Initially, a week was needed to prepare the newsletter. Now, a great portion of the month is spent gathering content, enticing local hams to write articles, drafting and editing the newsletter and finally emailing. The newsletter has become a significant monthly challenge for two senior hams.

We have not lost interest; and we believe a regional monthly newsletter is needed. With such a diverse ham population across the Treasure Coast counties of Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin and our neighboring Okeechobee, publishing a newsletter benefiting all these hams is more relevant than ever. However, my publishing partner and I greatly underestimated the time it would take to prepare a high quality 20 page plus newsletter on a monthly basis.

A solution we investigated was streamlining the newsletter and transitioning for the Internet. We did initial experimenting via a TreasureCoastHam.com website. There may be promise using the web; and this remains a future newsletter consideration.

They say no good deed goes unpunished. Last year we both agreed to take on temporary PSLARA officer positions. Ken, WA4ABR (SK) PSLARA president sought our help to get the club back on track after years of malaise. His untimely passing changed our involvement with the club from temporary to a more permanent nature. In hindsight agreeing to become PSLARA officers, if only for a limited duration, impacted the newsletter in so many ways has directly contributed to the temporary hiatus.

Many of the goals we set for publishing a newsletter have been met. One goal still on our hit list is obtaining regular input from the area clubs and the South Florida ARRL leadership team. We hope to be able to work more closely with leaders of all groups and provide our readers with more timely reports of their activities in future newsletters.

It goes without saying that our individual ham contributors and authors have helped make the newsletter so much more meaningful for our readership. We sincerely thank them all for giving us insightful articles and commentary. We also thank the readers and others who cared to help us and provide suggestions.

We want to hear from you. Please tell us what you like - and dislike - about *Treasure Coast Ham News*. We may not be publishing for a time, but we will still be planning for future issues. Talk to us!

73, [TC Ham News Publishers](#)



### 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. We will include some in each issue as space permits.

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

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

# Volunteer Examiner Updates



## Local License Exam Contacts

### Vero Beach ARC

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

### Ft. Pierce ARC

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

### Port St. Lucie ARA

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

### Send VE news to

[tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

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

## PSLARA February, 2023 License Exam Session Successful

The Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association held their first license exam session of the year on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

Three candidates were served. All successfully passed their exams and received their license or earned an upgrade. PSLARA congratulates:

- Chris Bowman, KQ4GGA - General (Passed tech and general exams)
- Celso Mesa, KQ4GKS - Technician
- Rob Cook, W4CRA - Amateur Extra

### Future Exam Dates

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

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

Sessions are 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.

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.

### 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](http://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 are not accepted.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Last Month's Trivia Question

How did you do with this question from the Extra Class License 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 is "**D. JT65**" This is question E2D03 from the Extra Class license question pool.

### March Trivia Question

What is the meaning of Q-code QRL?

- A. Good copy of your signal
- B. I am busy, do not interfere
- C. I am operating a remote link
- D. You are weak due to rain fade

*(The answer will be revealed next month.)*

# Ham Radio History: Regulations and Enforcement, Hard and Soft *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](http://Ham Radio History) for some fascinating reading.]

Descriptions of the radio laws and anecdotes about their enforcement during the early years paints a picture of a regulatory environment that could be alternately strict or flexible. A QST article in 1916 by "Little Willie" described his and his friends' experience preparing for and taking an exam for the "first grade comm" (First Grade Commercial license) which consisted of a code test and a written test.<sup>1</sup> Although the author's identity is likely fictitious, the story probably relates an actual testing experience and illustrates this mixture of stringent requirements, but flexible implementation.

They managed to pass the code test having practiced using an *omnigraph*, (or 'graph) on advice that it would be the device the examiner would use, and sounded very different from what they were used to hearing on "the phones," presumably listening to signals on the air.

## 1916 QST ad for the Omnigraph

The first written exam question was to draw a diagram of a ship's radio equipment, naming and explaining each component. A series of other questions re-

quiring written answers followed, and the whole process took four-and-a-half hours.

Willie finished with a passing score of 86 out of 95. The examiner had decided on his own authority to scratch 5 points from the maximum possible score for amateurs because, after all, they had no shipboard experience! The First Class Commercial license he obtained was higher than a First Class Amateur license, and carried a superset of operating privileges. The examiner had changed the scoring just for them based on their amateur status, on a test for a license at a higher, non-amateur level. Willie and his pals went home with their certificates in hand, issued shortly after the test.

□□□□

Local authorities apparently had great leeway in handling individual cases of violations as well. To operate legally under the law you needed to obtain a government license for both yourself and your station. But completely unlicensed operation continued to be a problem years after the law was passed.

In one such case, W. T. Scofield of Stamford, Connecticut, a 42-year-old professional telegrapher, decided to set up a wireless station and began transmitting using a call sign he simply made up himself – which was what everybody did legally before the 1912 law.<sup>2</sup> The initial reaction of the local Radio Inspector, however, was merely to warn him about the illegality of his operation, and grant his station a temporary license on the spot. The inspector also advised Scofield that he could get a Second Class Amateur license just for the asking (filling out a form) and could get a First Class after taking an exam.

Incredibly, Scofield continued to operate without applying! This was not a good choice, especially with his station being located near a sea coast, the area most protected by the law. He was indicted by a federal grand jury. The judge in federal court ruled that it was not necessary to prove actual interference, and that merely the unlicensed use of equipment capable of interfering was enough to violate the law.

(continued on page 5)

## Ham Radio History: Regulations & Enforcement *(continued)*

*(continued from page 4)*

The jury agreed and Scofield was fined \$5, but also ordered to pay the (unreported) costs of the proceedings, which were undoubtedly higher.

Considering it a test case, Maxim was called as an expert witness in the proceedings. He believed it was important to portray amateur radio as a self-policing body and so he appeared before the court without charging the fee normally due an expert witness. A QST article on the matter noted that this further enhanced the standing of the League as “the real thing” in the eyes of the government.<sup>3</sup> The article concluded with a list of district inspectors and a plea for anyone not licensed to send in for an application and get authorized call letters.

Stories of enforcement like the Scofield case notwithstanding, in an enforcement environment that was uneven at best and completely absent at worse, the League constantly appealed to members to adhere to regulations and promote such behavior among their peers.

Local clubs also took it upon themselves to manage the behavior of their members. The Atlanta Radio Club, a particularly active organization, was described in a fully reprinted article originally published in the Government Radio Service Bulletin, written by one of its senior members who was also an amateur and one of the first on the air in the metropolitan area.<sup>4</sup> Initially established to get everyone together to discuss how to cooperate in using the airwaves locally to avoid QRM, the Atlanta club had grown very rapidly along with the local popularity of wireless as a hobby.

The organization established a set of operating regulations above and beyond those prescribed by the government. A membership-elected radio inspector would periodically examine the members’ stations, suggest improvements, and “enforce” the regulations (although the article did not say how). To promote interest and knowledge in radio, the club held regular testing sessions, creating a competition among members for high scores.

The club was invited to participate in the Atlanta ar-

ea’s “Electrical Prosperity Week,” where they set up an operational station and were covered by the local press. The writer explained that their relatively late start in wireless was due to there being no nearby government or commercial stations to hear in the early days, and that receiving the weaker signals required a more sophisticated station than most amateurs could afford.

Surprisingly, he admitted that their group routinely violated the wavelength limit but said they adhered to the spirit of the regulation in that they took great care not to cause interference; and anyway, that was not very likely since they were so far from the “zone of interference” (meaning the sea coast) and did not allow their members to use power high enough to reach it. They planned next to form a volunteer signal corps and practice operating under “as near actual war conditions as possible.”

Here was a government official who was also an amateur, writing an article for a government publication, explaining both the self-policing being practiced by a local club and the selective but judicious disregard for regulations by the same group. These were interesting times.

=====

Early radio was often compared with another budding technology – the automobile. This was understandable given Maxim’s early and sustained interest and involvement with internal combustion engines and their use in automobiles.<sup>5</sup>

A January 1916 QST editorial warned about not confusing the League, which was expressly a not-for-profit entity, with new wireless associations popping up selling magazines. The editor (probably Maxim) compared the appearance of such publications to the proliferation of automobile associations.<sup>6</sup> In another automobile comparison, an editorial in the same issue noted that a “Volunteer Radio Corps” was being discussed (it did not say by whom, but presumably the ARRL) to offer the best stations to the military for their use in national defense, and compared this to how the automobile associations in Europe similarly offered their services to the government.<sup>7</sup> Such a group, the editorial said, would probably be better

*(continued on page 6)*

## Ham Radio History: Regulations & Enforcement *(continued)*

*(continued from page 5)*

organized by the government than the League, which nevertheless could help get it going by providing lists of stations and other information. Only the better stations would be selected and it would become a point of honor.<sup>8</sup> To that end, everyone should prepare for the day when the government would be looking for good stations and make sure their own stations were in the best working order.<sup>9</sup>

That day would arrive in eighteen months or so. Working stations would not be what was needed.

▣▣▣▣ de W2PA

### Footnotes:

1. Little Willie, "Taking an Examination," *QST*, April 1916, 71.
2. "Unlicensed Amateurs, QRT QRT!," *QST*, April 1916, 73.
3. "We are Coming on All Right," *QST*, April 1916, 74.
4. "The Atlanta Radio Club," *QST*, May 1916, 100.
5. See, e.g., C. Schumacher, "Hiram Percy Maxim," Electric Radio Press, Inc., 1998.
6. "A New Wireless Association While You Wait," Editorial, *QST*, January 1916, 5.
7. "The Volunteer Radio Corps," Editorial, *QST*, January 1916, 5.
8. He uses a sentence that we might judge to be a bit condescending today: "As a means by which the government could get into touch with the better class of amateurs there probably is nothing better." It may not have been meant the way it reads now but was intended to point out that the League was one way in which to quickly assess the abilities of a large group of established stations, since at this point it was a group in which you had to qualify for membership.
9. Anonymous, "A Volunteer Radio Corps," *QST*, January 1916, 16.

*(Next issue: Strangely Behaving Signals)*

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

## HOW TO READ PROPAGATION NUMBERS

### The A index (LOW is GOOD)

**1 to 6 is best, 7 to 9 is ok, 11 or more is bad**

Represents overall geomagnetic condition of the ionosphere ("Ap" if averaged from the Kp-Index) (an average of the eight 3-hour K-Indices). 'A' referring to amplitude) over a given 24 hour period, ranging (linearly) typically from 1-100 but theoretically up to 400.

***A lower A-Index generally suggests better propagation on the 10, 12, 15, 17, & 20 meter bands; a low & steady Ap-Index generally suggest good propagation on the 30, 40, 60, 80, & 160 meter bands.***

### SFI index (HIGH is GOOD)

**70 is not good, 80 is good, 100+ is best**

The measure of total radio emissions from the sun at 10.7cm (2800 MHz), on a scale of 60 (no sunspots) to 300, generally corresponding to the sunspot level, but being too low in energy to cause ionization, not related to the ionization level of the ionosphere.

***Higher Solar Flux generally suggests better propagation on the 10, 12, 15, 17, & 20 Meter Bands; Solar Flux rarely affects the 30, 40, 60, 80, & 160 Meter Bands.***

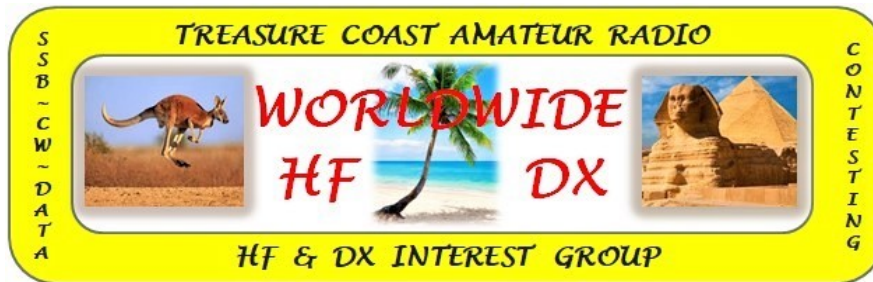
### K index (LOW is GOOD)

**0 or 1 is best, 2 is Ok, 3 or more is bad, 5 is very, very bad**

The overall geomagnetic condition of the ionosphere ("Kp" if averaged over the planet) over the past 3 hours, measured by 13 magnetometers between 46 & 63 degrees of latitude, and ranging quasi-logarithmically from 0-9. Designed to detect solar particle radiation by its magnetic effect. A higher K-index generally means worse HF conditions.

***A lower K-Index generally suggests better propagation on the 10, 12, 15, 17, & 20 meter bands. A low & steady Kp-Index generally suggest good propagation on the 30, 40, 60, 80, & 160 meter bands.***

73, IW5EDI



### HF & DX Group Notes

The most recent HF & DX Interest Group breakfast meeting was held on February 10, 2023. Again, it was a full house with ten participants joining in the discussions.

All enjoyed coffee and breakfast while sharing stories about HF, DX, and more. Much of the discussion was centered on the Crozet and Bouvet DXpeditions. A few hams reported hearing Crozet on the air. At next month's breakfast we should learn who was successful QSOing with both islands.

As was done at past meetings, logs were shared and QSL cards passed around for the group to admire.

We must extend our thanks to the restaurant staff, especially servers Gayle, Cindy and Amy, for looking after us and keeping our coffee cups full.

Everyone must have had an enjoyable time because the gathering went on for almost three hours.

### March Meeting

So what are you waiting for? Come join us at our next meeting. The group meets over breakfast on the second Friday of each month.

**Next meeting: Friday, March 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

**Kicad 7.0** is a free and open source tool for schematic drawing and circuit board layout. Has many advanced features.  
<https://www.kicad.org/>

**G3XBM Project Scrapbook** features collections of experiments including antennas, portable operating, microwave DX, homebrewing, etc.  
<https://tinyurl.com/y56vjhd6>

**3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023 Video Update:** Video shows rough sea conditions. From Team Member Pete, N0FW. [Stormy sea conditions encoubrted while en-route to Bouvet Island](#)

**The Digital Library of Amateur Radio Communications (DLARC)** is loaded with great articles.  
<https://archive.org/details/dlarc>

**Attn: Treasure Coast Hams who are Navy vets.** If you are one, here is a web site you may want to check out. [US Navy Radio Communications - 1950's & 1960's \(navy-radio.com\)](#)

**Interested in broadcast radio history?** This site may be for you. It could be the granddaddy of all broadcast radio web sites.  
[World Radio History](#)

### Email & Chat Groups

(Note: some groups may require registration.)

All about repairs and legal mods to amateur radio equipment.  
[Amateur Repairs](#)

A group for builders and experimenters of all levels.  
[Radio Artisan](#)

See an interesting web site or group? Tell us about it. Send link to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

## The Frugal Ham Radio Operator

Buying instead of building is preferred by most hams. Today's radios are very high performance and far beyond the average ham's building capability. That is not to say there aren't radio kits available. There are plenty of QRP radios from domestic and international vendors from simple to complex.

How about antennas? Building an HF wire antenna is not rocket science. Except for 52 ohm coax and a center insulator (have you tried a PVC T?), wire and donuts can be found in your neighborhood big box store. Unfortunately, if your antenna requires tubular aluminum, you may be out of luck.

VHF/UHF antennas are good starters for hams. They are relatively small when compared to HF. A starter antenna is a 2-meter ground plane made with an SO-239 and #14 copper wire. Another antenna is a [Moxon](#). You can use wood dowels or fiberglass driveway markers for the spans. The center block can be wood, but I prefer cutting board.

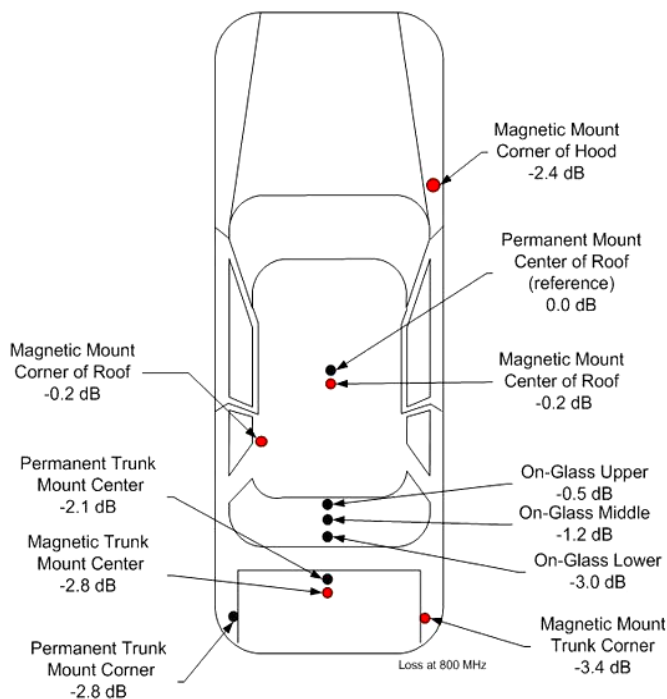
Recently, I had a discussion with another ham about a portable VHF/UHF J-Pole antenna made from 450 ohm window line. If you are an ARRL member, query Ed Fong's QST articles. K6UHU's recent QST article updated the antenna using lamp cord in lieu of window line. [DX-Zone](#) also has a number of j-pole antennas you can build.

A J-Pole is a good performer and simple to build. It's basically an end-fed half-wave antenna. It is matched to the feedline by a quarter wave transmis-

sion line stub.

What makes a J-Pole antennas good to use is that they operate at harmonics of the fundamental design. Ever wonder where is the best spot to install a mobile antenna? Check out below. 73, *The Frugal Ham*

### Mobile Antenna Mounting Consideration



A typical 5/8 wave 145 MHz (2 meter) antenna requires a ground plane of at least 42" in diameter. At 450 MHz just 15" is required and at 800 MHz a minimum of 8" is considered sufficient.

In terms of mounting mobile antennas on a vehicle, there are five general locations: the roof, front fender, rear fender, trunk and rear window glass (although other glass mount locations may be used). Of these, the center of an automobile roof is considered the best for mobile antenna placement, followed by the center of the trunk lid, the fenders, and then on-glass mounting.

## A Treasure Coast Builders and Makers Group is now forming

[Bruce, W8HW](#) is organizing a Treasure Coast Builders and Makers group.

According to Bruce "Based on responses received it is clear that a wide and diverse talent and skill set exists. We are lucky as many have expressed high levels of skill and strong interest in starting a group based on this common interest. Many of us have built amazing stuff that will be of interest to others. The desire is for this interest to grow and be shared with many."

The group's first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM. They will meet at

Cracker Barrel, 7461 SW Lost River Rd, Stuart, FL 34997. The restaurant is located just off the Kanner Highway exit of I-95. It is easy to find.

First meetings are very important as they set the course and scope of the group. Everyone is welcome and we value your input. Please consider joining us and sharing your thoughts and ideas.

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

*Common people building uncommon smart devices.  
Sharing ideas means everybody wins.  
Treasure Coast Builders and Makers group*



# 3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023 DXpedition Statistics



## QSOs by Continent and Band

Continent	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total
Africa	44	9	121	131	1	7	313
Asia	1050	178	3063	2101	4	391	6787
Europe	1432	13	2411	3379	165	274	7674
North America	1874	17	782	246	0	1	2920
Oceania	15	12	281	83	0	0	391
South America	244	24	308	171	0	1	748
Totals	4659	253	6966	6111	170	674	18833

As reported by Team Co-Leader Ken LA7GIA, the 3Y0J Bouvet Island 2023 DXpedition went QRT as of 14 FEB 2023 03:00 UTC. Despite extraordinarily difficult conditions on the island, the team made 18,833 QSOs on 30, 20, 17, 15, and 12 meters. Many hams across the world experienced the thrill of getting Bouvet Island in their logs. Are you in their log?

Their first QSO from the island was on February 6th at 16:24:38 UTC and their last QSO was on February 13th at 18:51:56 UTC.

Club Log has compiled statistics for the DXpedition.

## QSOs by Continent

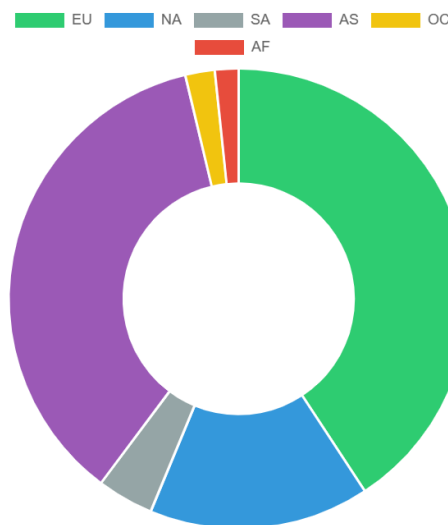
Continent	Total
Africa	313
Asia	6787
Europe	7674
North America	2920
Oceania	391
South America	748
Totals	18833

## QSOs by Band and Mode

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total
30	3690	969	0	4659
20	0	253	0	253
17	3676	2901	389	6966
15	3681	630	1800	6111
12	170	0	0	170
10	277	397	0	674
Totals	11494	5150	2189	18833

## Legend

- EU: Europe
- NA: North America
- SA: South America
- AS: Asia
- OC: Oceania
- AF: Africa



## QSOs by Continent and Mode

Continent	SSB	CW	FT8	Total
Africa	79	154	80	313
Asia	337	4055	2395	6787
Europe	1640	4654	1380	7674
North America	43	2074	803	2920
Oceania	12	145	234	391
South America	78	412	258	748
Totals	2189	11494	5150	18833

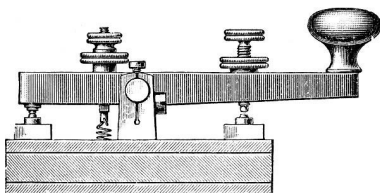
For more info about the DXpedition click [here](#).

# CW: Actually Getting on the Air

*By Bruce, W8HW*

[Editor: This excellent article was first published in TCHamNews in 2021. With recent emphasis on Morse Code & CW, we are republishing part 2 this month.]

An exception to normal rules applies when passing formal traffic using CW. Never use what is known as “**Short CW**” or “**Cut CW**” in formal message text.



**Short CW** refers to abbreviations. In formal message traffic only use abbreviations that are authorized by the net and net controller. “Q codes” are not considered “shorts” and are often used in traffic nets, regardless of mode of transmission. “**Cut CW**” refers to a short cut method of transmitting numbers. Again, never use “**Cut CW**” when processing formal traffic.

In a CW rag-chew, or when contesting or DXing, both “**Short CW**” and limited “**Cut CW**” are often used. CW does not use upper case, only lower case. If you are new to CW and not familiar with the “**Code within the Code**” as “**Short CW**” and “**Cut CW**” are often called, then go ahead and send plain English. However, as time passes you will soon learn both flavors of the “**Code within the Code**” and become a better CW operator.

Let’s take a look at an example of a typical CW rag chew where the operators use both “**Short CW**” and “**Cut CW**.” See if you can follow it. We will discuss it at the end.

*(start of CW message)*

**Ham 1:** cq cq cq de w1abc w1abc w1abc ar

**Ham 2:** w1abc w1abc w1abc de w2abc w2abc w2abc ar

**Ham 1:** w2abc de w1abc tn timer fer qso gud cpy on ur sig ur 5nn op dave dave in ohio rig hr 1ttw into dipole up 15m wx 75f es clear so hw cpy? w1abc de w2abc ar

**Ham 2:** w1abc de w2abc fb dave tn timer fer fb rpt ur 57n in detroit op is sam sam gud cpy dave have gud fist no left ft cw hi hi wx is 71f cldy es oc rig hr flex5ttt amp is 15ttw to 3el up 50ft so hw cpy? bk

**Ham 1:** bk fb cpy sam all the way. mst qrt as xyl just called me for dinner. 73 es mny dx w2abc de w1abc 73 e e

**Ham 2:** 73 tu e e

*(end of CW message)*

Did you follow the conversation? I am sure you understood most of it. In case you did not, let’s break it down. Then go back to the example above and read it again. It should be much clearer on re-read.

First, **Cut CW** refers mostly, but not totally, to numbers. Because numbers are the longest CW characters, over time “**Cut CW**” has emerged. While all numbers have a **Cut** designation, most operators only use **Cut** for the numbers of 9 and 0, with 9 becoming **n** and 0 becoming **t**. Example: sending RST of 599 becomes **5nn** and 579 becomes **57n**. Wattage information such as 100 watts becomes **1ttw** and 1500 watts becomes **15ttw**. Flex5000 becomes **Flex5ttt**. Cutting shortens your CW transmission considerably.

**Short CW** refers mainly to abbreviations. There are many “shorts” in the sample QSO. For example, **de** = from and **ar** = invitation to transmit. **fb** = fine business (all is good); **tnx** = Thanks, and **om** = Old Man. (This is not a “put down” in ham radio; rather it is showing respect for the hams long service and wisdom.)

**fer** = for (example of a letter cut) and **qso** = transmission exchange or contact. **gud** = good; **cpy** = copy; **yr** = your; **sig** = signal; **op** = operator name; **hr** = here. **15m** = 15-meters high (meters for international); **50f** = 50-feet (feet for U.S. to U.S. contacts). **wx** = weather; **75f** = 75 Fahrenheit. For international use **c** = Celsius. **es** = and or is, depending on where and how it is used.

**3el** = three element directional antenna; **bk** = break in transmission (both stations already affirmed the *(continued on page 11)*

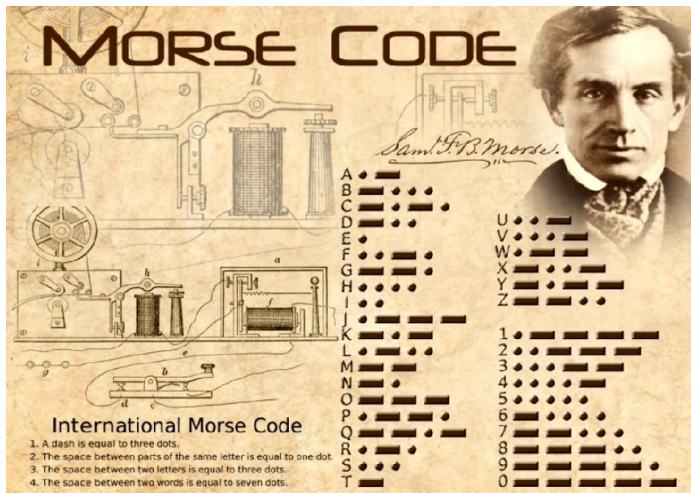
# CW: Actually Getting on the Air

(continued from page 10)

other's call sign, so now they shorten up by sending **bk** instead of the "call de call" exchange). **qrt** = quit (more on q-signals in part 3). **xyI** = wife. **73** = best regards. (Never send best 73, just send **73**.)

**Fist** refers to the operator's ability to send CW (good or bad). **no left ftcw hi hi** = Left foot CW (means poor CW operator). If you get a left foot CW award, it is not a good award. Because he says **no left ft**, he is using a double negative to indicate a good operator with a good fist. **hihi** = a laugh. In this case he is making sure that this is understood to be a complement. **tu** = thank you.

Now re-read the CW QSO above. Use the **Short CW** explanations to fill in the gaps. The QSO should now make sense. More **Short CW** abbreviations exist, but what we just covered are the most common and most widely used ones. You should get the hang of this very quickly.



Now, for the funny part of the story (and some history to go along with it). What is "e e"? It makes no sense. A long time ago there was a popular tune or ditty, "Shave and a haircut." Someone would say or sing "**Shave and a Haircut**," – then someone else chimes in and says "**2 bits**."

Many years ago in early ham radio this became popular on CW. One ham would send "e s e" (shave and a hair cut) and the other ham would return "e e" (2 bits).

Try sending both parts and you can see why it caught on. It is catchy. This was used as both a final ack (acknowledgement) and a final farewell to each other. Over time, the first part was dropped and now both sides just send the last part "e e". Most operators do not know the history and why it is sent. The "e e" gets sent after identification and is the very last thing sent. Listen for it.

Believe it or not, (as told to me in my youth by many different OT's), at one time it even replaced (sort of) calling CQ. One ham would send "e s e" and someone hearing this would reply "e e". Both would then send call signs and start the QSO. Was this legal? Who knows? I guess it's a part of history that is now lost forever. "**And now you know the rest of the story.**" "e e"

**Next month:** Part 3: "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

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73 Bruce W8HW

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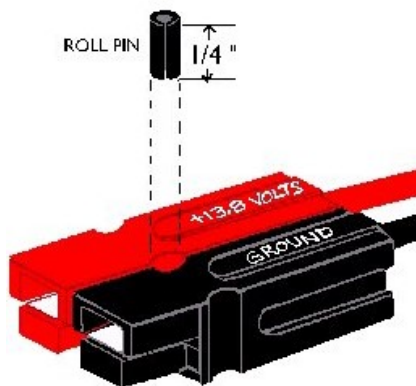
# Powerpole® Assembly Instructions

In emergency situations it is easy to reverse DC polarity. When this happens, your rig may be making a trip to the repair bench. To avoid this dreaded situation many hams use Powerpoles®.



Powerpoles® are standard for emergency communications power sources. When soldering or crimping wire make sure the contacts are oriented so that they are both facing the correct direction and they go into the housings without twisting the wire. The housings are held together with dovetail joints. Always slide these joints together! They will be damaged if you try to snap them together or apart. They slide together in one direction only.

Use of slotted retaining pins is recommended. If you want to make pairing permanent, use glue to hold the connector bodies together. The contacts go in the housings only one way. Insert the contacts with their sharp edge down against the flat spring that is in the housing. They should slide in and click. If you do not hear a click they are not fully seated, fix them.



When they are inserted fully you should see that the contacts and wires "float" slightly inside its housing. When looking in from the front of the housing the contact tip should slide over the top of the internal housing spring.

If crimping, you may make the contact out of round, and it will not slide into the contact easily. To fix this you may need to rotate the contact 90 degrees from the original crimping orientation and re-crimp either with the original crimper or a pair of pliers. In any case push the pin into the body. If you bend the

contact blade in relation to the crimp area you should straighten it before putting it into the body. Tug slightly on the assembled

Cutaway view of a Powerpole connector.

Note that the contact must fit through the gap between the housing and the spring and that the contact is snapped over the end of the spring.



connector to make sure the contacts are locked in place. If you have trouble getting the contact to lock into the housing you may have deformed the contact.

## CORRECT!

The contacts are in proper alignment and ready to push in. Listen for a click on each one to make sure they are fully inserted.



Look at the side profile of the contacts before and after crimping. You may have to bend them straight before inserting it in to the housing.

When soldering the contact pins, be careful not to use too much solder. Keep the solder inside. Should solder get on the outside of the connector, you may have trouble inserting the contact. Solder on the contact surface area may allow a good contact.

When crimping the contact pins make sure the wire is completely inside the pin and does not spread the connector apart. A good crimp is one where the crimped portion looks the same as an un-crimped pin. If the crimp is flattened too much you will not be able to easily insert it.

And most important, make sure you have the polarity correct before plugging in your equipment. "Measure twice, cut once" as the saying goes. For more information refer to: <https://powerwerx.com/help/powerpole-assembly-instructions>

## Upcoming Hamfests

### FLORIDA

**03/17/2023 - 03/18/2023**  
**The 53rd Annual PARC Hamfest**

**Location:** Ft Walton Beach, FL  
 Family Eye Care,  
 17 Racetrack Rd NW Suite A,  
 Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

**Website:** <http://w4zbb.org/w4zbborg/index.php?page=Hamfest>

**03/18/2023**

### ZAARC Tail Gate

**Location:** Zephyrhills, FL  
**Sponsor:** ZAARC Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://zaarc.org>

*(Hamfests offer exhibits, forums and flea markets for Amateur Radio operators or hams.)*



# the **Stuart Hamfest**



The Martin County Amateur Radio Association in cooperation with the Martin County ARES/RACES organization will present the 48th Annual Stuart Hamfest on March 18th, 2023 at the Martin County Fairgrounds, in Stuart, Florida. General Admission is FREE!

The Hamfest operates from 8 AM to 2 PM on Saturday. Gates will open for setup at 7 AM. Tailgating is FREE and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, beginning at 7AM on Saturday.

Martin County Fairgrounds  
 2616 SE Dixie Highway (A1A)  
 Stuart, FL 34996

Talk-in on WX4MC at 145.150 MHz, -600 KHz offset, 107.2 Hz PL tone.

To download our detailed event flyer, click [here](#).



### 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 and can affect emergency management capabilities and com-

munities 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 information to:  
[tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

### **ARES® Emergency Coordinators (EC)**

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

Martin County  
[Brian 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 \(ARRL\)](#)



## Treasure Coast Ham Doctors



### FT8 - Improve Your QSO Success Rate

**Question:** Operating FT8, I see lots of DX stations calling CQ, but my success rate at completing DX QSOs is rather dismal. I should add that I operate with 25-watts output power or less into a minimal antenna system. What can I do to increase my future QSO success?

**Answer:** My response to your question will focus more on common sense than technical details. You will want to try the tip explained below. I also have a modest station, and the technique described below helped improve my QSO success rate significantly.

If you decode a CQ from DX station, but that station doesn't respond to your replies to the CQ, the problem could be with the propagation of your signal.

It's important when chasing DX not to waste time on the impossible, especially with a small, low power station and/or a minimal antenna. Now you are probably wondering, "How do I know what is impossible?" It's easy. I depend on the web site **PSK Reporter** (<https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>) to find the answer.

When I want to operate, the first thing I do is choose a band and tune my antenna for best match on the chosen band.

Next, after finding a clear frequency, I call CQ for a few minutes. Then I go to **PSK Reporter** and run a query to see where my signals are being copied.

Creating a query is easy. You use the row of pick-list boxes located just above the display map to build a query statement. Here's an example of a query statement I built to check the propagation of my signal on 12-meters. Bold and underlined items represent selections from the picklists (except for the callsign which I typed):

On 12m, show **signals sent by the callsign AI4RB** using **FT8** over the last **15 minutes**.

Once you build your query statement, click the **Go!** button just to the right of the query statement. The map will update and display only spotting stations that copied your CQ calls.

Now review the map. If no stations are hearing you in the part of the world where the CQ call you are trying to work is from, then your chances of completing any QSOs to that part of the world are slim.

Sometimes propagation is one way (like a diode). Use the technique discussed above to help prevent you from wasting air time trying to QSO stations in areas where your signal is not propagating. Give it a try.

Remember, to complete a QSO two things must happen: you must be able to copy the DX station, and he must also be able to copy you.

73, [The Doctors](#)

### 2023 Hamcation Report

A number of local hams visited Hamcation 2023. From the comments we've heard, all had a good time.

Final attendance numbers have not yet been reported, but hams who attended indicate attendance was good, but may have been down slightly from past years, especially on Friday.

Reports also indicate there was plenty of action at vendor booths and in the flea market area.

We hear preparations are already underway for Hamcation 2024, to be held on February 9 - 11.

### 2023 Winter Field Day Report

St. Lucie County hams celebrated Winter Field Day on Saturday, January 28th at the county's Rock Road facility.

Eighteen area hams showed up at the event, which was sponsored by St. Lucie County ARES. Among the highlights of the event was a chance for hams to operate the county's new Icom 7300 HF transceiver.

A special thanks is owed to Paul, W4ISZ and Craig, KK4CID for organizing the event.

(On the next page are pictures from both Hamcation and Winter Field Day.)

# 2023 HAMCATION



## 2023 ST LUCIE CO. WINTER FIELD DAY



WINTER FIELD DAY 23 Sign in

CALL	NAME
1. K440D	CEALS MONTAGNEY
2. K441VZ	GRAB BOUTING
3. N441WJ	DAN FELLEHER
4. K440D	DAN ALLO
5. W442W	BRENCE CARROLL
6.	CHRISTOPHER SAWMAN
7. K43MAR	MIKE RODGERS
8. K42ESP	GREG RODGERS
9. X4A	ED SALTHYSIAK
10. K44LWZ	GLEN DOYLE
11. K44SHF	JOHN SWIGART
12. K54PB	MINA SHEEHEE
13. K44TB	JOHN BOTTENCOUR
14. K440ID	BILL NAELAND
15. A44RB	BOB BROWN
16. K42CF1	STEADEN POON
17. K44WXT	ROBERT WEST







# Ramblings of an Antenna Alchemist

There are no shortage of HF antennas to build, buy, and use. Those hams fortunate enough will buy a YAGI, spider beam, etc. along with a tower. HOA hams most likely will go the attic route. Others with an agreeable HOA may use a multiband vertical. Those with no HOA and trees should try wire antennas. They are worth the effort.

Wire antennas like dipoles, end feds, G5RVs, horizontal loops, etc. work as long as you can get them up in the air. (If you want to know more about antenna height, check out W8HW's TCHN antenna articles in past newsletters.) So let's assume you have mature hardwood or pine trees in your back or front yard. Having those trees is a step in the right direction, but how do you get your wire high up into or over the trees?

**Before we get started let me warn you. All the devices mentioned in the article should be used with extreme caution. Anytime you send something up into or over trees there is risk as to where it comes down. Unless you have experience, please exercise extreme caution using this equipment.**

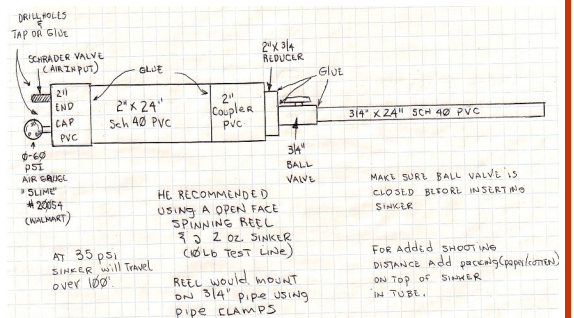
Thanks to the spud gunner's use of PVC pipe, compressed air and sprinkler valves, enterprising hams have a starting platform for experimentation. (See [The K4ICY Antenna Launcher](#).)

Basic compressed air launchers use Schedule 40 or 80 pipe, a hand turned ball style valve, pressure gauge, and a Schrader air valve. Most of these style launchers do not have very accurate aiming. Some hams have added 45-degree angle pistol style grips. Of course a fishing reel is a must. These are usually pipe clamped to the forward tube.



The first thing I would do is change out the hand turned ball valve for a battery powered sprinkler valve. The Internet has plans.

You may notice that the above PVC launcher uses a projectile made of Schedule 40 pipe. That type of projectile is very durable, but what I have found is that glue sticks from the dollar stores are perfect to slip inside a 3/4" PVC forward tube. What I did was to insert the lead sinker(s) deep inside the glue stick and super glue the cap. Then I drilled a 1/16" hole thru the bottom part of the glue stick and attached my fishing line. I have shot these glue sticks into and over trees without too much trouble. Lost a few, but found spray painting the sticks a bright color helps in finding them.



The above is my very basic launcher. It is an Air Boss style. Zoom to enlarge.

73, [The Antenna Alchemist](#)

## LAUNCHER EXAMPLES

How about Steampunk?



\*\*\*\*

Not sure how well tennis balls work unless shooting over trees



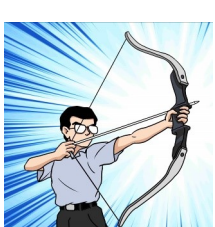
\*\*\*\*

This is probably the easiest launcher to build.



\*\*\*\*

And this one, this takes wire launching to the extreme!



Some of the first tools repurposed for shooting wire high up into trees were the bow and arrow and slingshot.

Personally, I would never use a bow and arrow in an urban setting. Using a slingshot also has issues, but hams have successfully used them. Most of the devices discussed in this article require a one or two ounce lead sinker as the projectile. Once again you need to be extra careful. Lead sinkers will do considerable damage to windows, cars, animals, and human beings.





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

**DX OPPORTUNITIES**

**AGALEGA AND ST. BRANDON ISLANDS, 3B6.**

A group of operators are QRV as 3B7M from Saint Brandon Island, IOTA AF-015, until March 5. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 with four stations. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via OK6DJ.

**PHILIPPINES, DU.** David, VE3OI is QRV as DU2WAA near Currimao, Ilocos Norte. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters. QSL via LoTW.

**KYRGYZSTAN, EX.** Bob, DU7ET is QRV as EX0ET from Bishkek until the end of March. QSL direct to home call.

**GUINEA-BISSAU, J5.** Livio, IZ3BUR is QRV as J52EC. Activity is on 15 and 10 meters using mostly SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to home call.

**ST. VINCENT, J8.** Sandro, VE7NY, Allan, VE7SZ and Rob, N7QT are QRV as J8NY from the main island of St. Vincent, IOTA NA-109, until March 7. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**WAKE ISLAND, KH9.** Tom, NL7RR is QRV as NL7RR/KH9 for two weeks. Activity is generally around 0630z on 20 to 6 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

**MICRONESIA, V6.** John, V63JB is QRV from Ulithi Atoll, IOTA OC-078. He is a staff member at a local school here. Activity is currently on 30 meters using FT8 but hopes to expand to 20 meters, and use SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, VU4.** Gopan, VU3HPF and Ram, VU2JXN will be QRV as VU4T from Port Blair, South Andaman Island, IOTA AS-001, from March 2 to 5. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and

maybe some SSB. They may also be active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via LoTW.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS**

**ARGENTINA, LU.** Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will celebrate their 55th anniversary on the air from February 25 to March 5. Activity is on the HF, and V/UHF bands using QRS CW, SSB, SSTV, and FT8. QSL via LU4AAO.

**PANAMA, HP.** Members of the Panama Radio Club are QRV with special event callsign 3E30PCARA to celebrate its 30th anniversary. QSL to address on QRZ.com.

**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.

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



**National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

**Mar 29, 1800Z-2100Z, N3TAL.**

American Legion Post 275 radio team.

7.275Mhz +/- LSB.

QSL: American Legion Post 275 ART Team, 8201 Martin Luther King Jr Hwy, Lanham, MD 20706.

[n3tal.275@gmail.com](mailto:n3tal.275@gmail.com) or [www.qrz.com/db/n3tal](http://www.qrz.com/db/n3tal)

**Mar 29, 1500Z-2030Z, W5KID.**

Baton Rouge ARC. 7.040, 7.250, 14.040, 14.250. QSL: USS Kidd Amateur Radio Club, 305 S. River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. CW, SSB, FT8 Operation aboard the USS Kidd (DD-661), a World War II Fletcher-class destroyer.

[www.qrz.com/db/w5kid](http://www.qrz.com/db/w5kid)

*(From ARRL, other sources & the internet)*

**100 Years of WWV Time & Frequency Broadcasts**

**Mar 6-Mar 12, 0000Z-2359Z, WW0WWV.** Various towns & states. 7.048, 7.248, 14.048, 14.248. QSL: WWV ARC, PO Box 273226, Fort Collins, CO 80527. On all HF bands: CW, SSB & standard digital mode frequencies. QSL via LOTW, OQRS & PO Box 273226, Fort Collins, CO 80527 [wwwvarc.org](http://wwwvarc.org)

**Commemorating the launching of the USS Midway, March of 1945**

**Mar 11, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW.** USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320, 7.250, 14.070 PSK31. QSL: USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.

[www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)

**Commemorating Buckingham Air Field/Lee County Mosquito Control**

**Mar 14-Mar 16, 1400Z-2100Z, W4LX.** Ft Myers ARC. 28.340, 21.350, 14.240. Certificate & QSL: FMARC, PO Box 061183, Fort Myers, FL 33906. In honor of those who trained at the Buckingham Army Airfield, established in 1942. Its primary mission during World War II was to train the aerial gunners who would defend bombers.

[WWW.FMARC.NET](http://WWW.FMARC.NET)

**Celebrating the 104th Birthday of the American Legion**

**Mar 15, 1600Z-2200Z, AF4CB.** Carl Boyd Post 42 American Legion Amateur Radio Club. 7.242 SSB, 14.342 SSB, 7.074 FT8, 14.074 FT8. QSL: Joel Myers, 513 Cassville Rd, Cartersville, GA 30120.

**Cherry Blossom Special Event**

**Mar 18, 1400Z-2000Z, W4BKM.** Macon ARC. 14.240, 7.225. Certificate: Macon Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 4862, Macon, GA 31208-4862. <https://maconamateurradioclub.wordpress.com>

**Nebraska Sandhill Crane Spring Migration**

**Mar 18-Mar 19, 1600Z-2359Z, W9WKP.** Southeast Nebraska ARC. 14.265, 14.325, 7.225, 7.285. Certificate: SENARC, C/O Charles Bennett KD0PTK, PO Box 67181, Lincoln, NE 68506. Nebraska Sandhill Cranes Spring Migration. Cranes make a stop in Nebraska's Platte River Valley. Times are daily. [senebrradioclub@gmail.com](mailto:senebrradioclub@gmail.com)

**Walk for Water Charleston 2023**

**Mar 18, 0000Z-2359Z, W4W.** Carolina SideWinders-Lowcountry. 14.316, 7.216, 14.074, 10.136. QSL: Carolina SideWinders, 318 Jennie St, Goose Creek, SC 29445. The Carolina SideWinders will be putting on a SES to let people know on March 25, 2023 9:00 a.m. Riverfront Park, North Charleston, SC we will be walking so others don't have to. Water Mission raises funds & awareness to fight the global water crisis. <https://watermission.org/>. [km4sw\\_614@yahoo.com](mailto:km4sw_614@yahoo.com)

**Western Mass Council Scouts BSA WHOA weekend**

**Mar 18, 1300Z-1900Z, W1M.** Western Mass Council Scouts BSA. 7.190. QSL: Tom Barker, 329 Faraway Road, Whitefield, NH 03598. Monthly outdoor activity program sponsored by the Western Mass Council BSA.

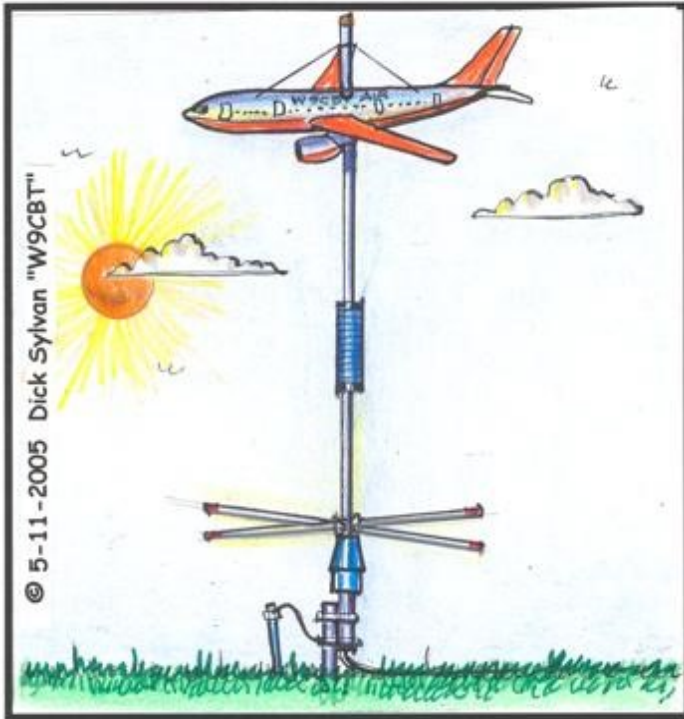
**165th Annual Tater Day Festival - Yam It Up!**

**Mar 31-Apr 3, 0000Z-2359Z, KI4HUS.** Marshall County ARA. 3.820, 7.250, 14.325, 28.350. QSL: Steve French-KM4JZJ, 3640 Olive Hamlett Rd., Benton, KY 42025. For QSL card, send your card along with a SASE to Steve French - KM4JZJ. [www.facebook.com/groups/-861322314291904](https://www.facebook.com/groups/-861322314291904)

*(Check the bands for other Special Events and enjoy the fun.)*

# Ham Humor

**HAM LINGO "Ground Plane Antenna"**



**HAM LINGO "Matchbox"**



"Matchbox"- Antenna Matching Device.

**They're back! You asked and we delivered!** A big thank you goes out to Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, for sending us a fresh batch of his ham radio themed cartoons to share with our readers. If you enjoy Dick's "amateurish" sense of humor, be sure to 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)

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[The Publishers](#)

## Area Club News

### 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 February 22, 2023 and featured a Show-and-Tell session in lieu of the normal speaker or video presentation.

Fifteen members and visitors were in attendance. About six brought along items for show-and-tell. A diverse mix of items were presented, including a key kit, vintage equipment, EM comm kit in a pail, collapsible antenna and a DX logging aid.

Feedback indicates the show-and-tell session was well received by all. Consideration will be given to scheduling another one later in the year.

The next PSLARA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Meeting location is the IRSC Veterans Resource Center, 500 NW California Blvd.

The March meeting will feature a guest speaker, Mickey Baker, N4MB, ARRL Southeast Region Director. We've asked Mickey to update us on the Volunteers on the Air program, and talk about future plans for Logbook of The World. Mickey will also answer your questions.

Come to our meetings and support the club. And bring along a friend. PSLARA always welcomes visitors.

### 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](#).

### 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](http://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.

## EQUIPMENT BUY / SELL

**FOR SALE** - Jerry Henderson's KX4FE (SK) son is selling 2 towers, antennas, CDE rotor and other items from his father's estate. Please click [here](#) for information, and [here](#).

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**FOR SALE** - Harold, W8PPI, has a 24-foot aluminum extension ladder for sale. Asking \$25. Contact Harold at [haroldbarr7501@comcast.net](mailto:haroldbarr7501@comcast.net).

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

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**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.

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*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](mailto: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](mailto:TCHamNews@gmail.com) and we will include it in an upcoming issue. (If you send us a paper card, we will scan it and send the original back to you.)



A most impressive station ([www.qrz.com/db/NKOV](http://www.qrz.com/db/NKOV))



**ZL4TT**  
**ZL4PW ZL4M ZM4M**  
 IOTA: OC-134 | CQZ: 32 | ITU: 60 | Grid: RE54lv  
 Paul Ormandy | 13 Swift St | Oamaru | NZ  
 paulz14tt@gmail.com | Elecraft K3 & KPA500  
 3 el SteppIR | "43 Footer" vertical

"The Lazarus Engine" courtesy Jac Grenfell ©  
 Visit: [www.steampunkoamaru.co.nz](http://www.steampunkoamaru.co.nz)

**MM5DWW**  
**ORKNEY ISLAND**

IOTA EU-009  
 IOSA OR-01  
 DAVID WISHART, CURCUM, SWANNAY,  
 ORKNEY ISLES, SCOTLAND. KW17 2NS  
 WAB HY22  
 Loc. IO89ID

**HL3GOB**  
 Rep of KOREA

ITU 44 CQ 25 KDN F23 Grid PM361A

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



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