

Treasure Coast Ham News

APRIL 2023

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From The Publishers	2
We Need You	2
Treasure Coast VE Report	3
It's Trivia Time	3
Ham Radio History	4
HF & DX Interest Group	7
Short Takes	7
Builders-Makers Group Forms	8
The Fugal Ham	9
What is Old is New	9
CW: Getting on the Air Pt 3	10
Making a Small Current Power Supply	11
Amateur Satellite Insights	11
Upcoming Hamfests	12
ARES Update	12
Propagation: Do you know ...	13
April Calendar	14
Ham Doctors	15
Knowledge is Power	15
DX Opportunities	16
Domestic Special Events	17
Ham Humor	18
About TCHN / TCHW	18
Club News	19
Help Wanted / For Sale	19
QSL Cards	20

Individual articles are bookmarked.
Click a listing to go to the page.

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Human Security For All



The International Amateur Radio Union announces that Human Security for All, HS4A, will be the theme of World Amateur Radio Day on 18 April 2023. For the first time, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and the World Academy of Art and Science are partnering with IARU in a campaign to highlight the role that amateur radio plays in addressing the world's most pressing needs.

Human Security measurement starts at the individual level. First introduced by the U.N. in 1994, the concept identifies seven interrelated dimensions of security that are essential to an individual's well being: *economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political.*

IARU, a federation of the national amateur radio societies of over 150 countries worldwide, is proud to participate in this campaign.

(Joel Harrison)

Treasure Coast Ham News will be going on hiatus starting in May, resuming publication in the fall. We will, however, be publishing a Hurricane Preparedness special issue this summer. We thank all our contributors and readers for their continued support. See you in the fall.

73 to all.

From the Publishers

As I write this I am in North Carolina working on our cottage. My wife and I found it several years ago. It was a diamond in the rough. Nestled in the mountains and with a large lake nearby, the climate is very temperate. Last Saturday (mid-March) it was almost 70 degrees. One of the best things about it for me is several acres of very tall trees where I can hang a long wire antenna. My life-long dream to have a full size 160m horizontal loop looks promising.

Both of us grew up in Broward County. It was a fun place to live. We were beach kids enjoying the sand, surf and well, you know. Florida was a different place then. Broward was much smaller and a nice place to live. The mass influx of people to South Florida had yet to begin. Civility to others was a normal way of life. We didn't need to lock our doors. The crime rate was very low. In the summer of 1969 Uncle Sam suggested I might want to come and join the fun, see the world and explore exotic places. Arriving back 4 years later, Broward had changed. The beginnings of massive growth and a county government ill prepared for what was coming were on the horizon.

Broward is where I had my introduction to ham radio. I found an ARRL Handbook in my high school library. During my lunch period I would grab the handbook, find a quiet spot and read about radios, antennas and operating practices. Not light reading by any means. Technical stuff is sometimes like that.

In those days a young Novice had few options for

equipment. We were limited to CW on HF (although for some reason we had 2m voice privileges) and 75 watts input power. My Elmer helped me find an old Heathkit receiver and a Knight-kit transmitter for \$75. That was a lot of money for teenager who also wanted a car. I spent my high school summers working, so I had some money to spend on radios. The car would have to wait just a little while longer.

In those days it seemed young hams were expected to learn so much more than hams starting out today. We didn't have much of a choice. You were expected to figure things out and quickly. Elmers would help, but you had a year to advance. I didn't. Luckily, it all came back to me during my service time. Military communications experience gave me the knowledge I needed. The light bulb was back on.

Today, you can get a Technician or General, or possibly an Extra class license just by studying the questions and answers. Is that all it takes to be a Ham? For some with a good memory and a little luck, absolutely. But, is that where it stops? I hope not. My wife was a nurse. Throughout her professional career she needed to complete 30 contact education hours every 2 years for license renewal.

Would that work for hams? I would think so. Clubs could be enlisted to teach the material. The ARRL would be ideal to oversee the education to insure consistency. Give it some thought.....

We'll see you in the fall. Meanwhile keep on learning.

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 your request.

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.

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.



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Send VE news to
tchamnews@gmail.com

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

Volunteer Examiner Updates

PSLARA License Exam Update

The Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association will hold its next scheduled license exam session on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

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

The session will start promptly at 10:00 AM.

Walkups are welcome at PSLARA exam sessions. However, candidates planning to attend are encouraged to contact us ahead of time by sending an email to brownpsl@comcast.net.

Future Exam Dates

PSLARA has scheduled quarterly exam sessions in 2023. Future dates are:
 May 13, 2023
 August 12, 2023
 November 4, 2023

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 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.

IT'S TRIVIA TIME!

Last Month's Question

How did you do with this question about Q-codes?

What is the meaning of the 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 is "**B. I am busy, do not interfere.**" (If used in the context of a question it means "Are you busy?")

April Trivia Question

Try your luck with this question from the Extra Class license question pool.

What aspect of an analog slow-scan television signal encodes the brightness of the picture?

- A. Tone frequency
- B. Tone amplitude
- C. Sync amplitude
- D. Sync frequency

(Answer will be revealed next issue.)

Ham Radio History: Strangely Behaving Signals

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 fifteenth 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.]

While the causes for QRM were well understood, mostly man-made, and could be dealt with through cooperation and tuning techniques, other disruptive on-air phenomena were clearly beyond such controls: those caused by nature. Some, such as static (QRN, also called *strays*), although understood to a large degree, had no known effective remedy. Others, such as fading, were not understood at all. At constant transmitter power, what natural phenomena could possibly cause a signal to fluctuate in strength? Why wasn't a transmitter's signal strength simply determined by the distance to the receiver?

One west coast amateur who wrote to *QST* about signal fading, wondered if east coast amateurs were experiencing anything similar.¹ He cited an IRE² Proceedings article (vol. 4 no. 2) that discussed the phenomenon, and a "Captain Bullard" who had offered a theory of a conductive layer above the earth at an altitude that was higher in the daytime and lower at night. This might account for the stronger nighttime signals because the energy in the waves was being confined to a smaller space. He was almost right.

□□□□□

Prof. A. Hoyt Taylor held a Ph.D. in physics and had most recently taught at the Universities of Wisconsin and North Dakota.³ Also an active ham operating under a special license as 9XN, he had taken an early professional interest in radio propagation and antennas. In *QST* he discussed sources of signal variations (without ever using the word propagation)⁴ based on experimental results he had already published in the IRE Proceedings.⁵

Differences in signal behavior between day and night, summer and winter, were well known but their origins were not. By "variations," Taylor meant real-time changes in strength (often referred to as freaks or swings, and now called QSB), which were most often noticed at twilight. They were also more noticeable at long distances and shorter wavelengths. He therefore suggested experimenting during winter nights when long distances became more possible with short wavelengths.

Taylor further observed that signals fell off with distance much faster than the inverse square law⁶, which applied in free space, would predict. The extra decrease was thought to be due to absorption by the air and ground, and earth-bound objects such as vegetation and buildings. Moreover, short waves at night exhibited very confusing behavior. They could be louder than would be expected with no absorption at all, then could rapidly fade to almost nothing.

He concluded that this could only happen if direct waves were interfering with waves reflected by some upper layer of the atmosphere. The two path lengths would be different and thus signals following different paths could combine at the reception point to enhance or degrade each other.

During the winter of 1914-1915, he performed all-night experiments using 1500- and 500-meter waves, expecting to find that variations observed at 1500 would all be present at 500 too, but not the converse, given the 3-to-1 wavelength ratio. His results seemed to support that theory.

He suggested additional experiments and noted something we take for granted today, that "Cases where the waves seem to skip an intervening station are of especial interest and should be carefully noted."

A number of well proven cases are on record where signals have been more audible at say 700 miles than at 350 miles, the sender and two receivers being all in a line.

(continued on page 5)

Ham Radio History: Strangely Behaving Signals

by Chris Codella, W2PA

(continued from page 4)

It is difficult to explain such cases except by the action of interfering reflections.” Taylor concluded that “freak records” for distance covered were probably not a valid way to rate the effectiveness of a station since these occurrences were haphazard exceptions rather than demonstrations of consistent or inherent capability.

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Other theories explained bending of waves along favorable paths,⁷ speculating about the effects of sunlight and that decreased ionization of the air at night was probably responsible for the improved propagation. They were right but for the wrong reason. The shorter the wavelength the greater was the observed enhancement at night. This was a hint of great things to come.

For some time, QST had been printing lists of stations heard, as reported by members around the country. Located towards the back of the magazine, at first mixed in with the letters to the editor, it was known as the *Calls Heard* section. Polling indicated there was very strong support for continuing the practice, many finding it quite useful in judging the effectiveness of their stations along various paths from month to month.

Calls Heard

MORE GOOD WORK.

Mr. Fred Texman, of Stanford University, Cal., writes:—“To keep the ball rolling, I am sending in a list of some of the calls heard at 6FT, about 25 miles south of San Francisco. The receiving set has used galena and iron pyrites, usually the latter, and the results show what can be done without an audion. The aerial is only 45 feet high and 70 feet long. The calls are:

Call	Place	Miles
6AAG	Ponoma, Cal.	360
6ABR	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6AV	Reno, Nev.	200
6BV	Redlands, Cal.	360
6CX	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6DM	Phoenix, , Arizona.	660
6EA	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6GJ	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6NL	Reno, Nev.	200
6NN	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6OE	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6OK	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6QU	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6RG	San Diego, Cal.	430
6SR	San Diego, Cal.	430
6TL	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6UP	Los Angeles, Cal.	320
6WI	Pasadena, Cal.	320
6ZW	Bakersfield, Cal.	225
DPA	Whittier, Cal.	320

I have a ½ kw. set and have been heard by most of the above stations, east as far as 6AV, north to 7AF, Portland, 600 miles. and south to 6DM. If any one hears 6FT, I would be very glad if they would drop a card addressed to me at Stanford University, Calif., and I will be glad to give them a detailed description of my set, and arrange tests.

I am a strong booster for QST, and enclosed is one dollar for renewal of my subscription.”

This was a time when establishing two-way contact was itself quite challenging. Thus, just hearing another amateur’s signals was useful information to convey by other means (i.e. via QST) back to the transmitting station’s owner.

The editor noticed “many queer things” that could be inferred from these lists with regard to fading. The most prominent question was, why were stations further distant heard more reliably than ones closer in? And why could a station at the foot of a high mountain hear stations 800 miles beyond it? This made no sense at all for waves propagating along the ground. Noticing the effects of ionospheric propagation, amateurs did not yet understand it.

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A very early *Calls Heard* section included a letter from 16-year-old Fred Terman (misspelled “Texman” in QST). Terman would later become professor of electrical engineering at Stanford University, author of seminal text books on radio engineering, and one of the founders of Silicon Valley.

□□□□□

In the midst of ever expanding range, a QST editor, probably Maxim, asked “Where Are We Bound?”—that is, where is message relaying taking us?⁸

(continued on page 6)

Ham Radio History: Strangely Behaving Signals

by *Chris Codella, W2PA*

(continued from page 5)

Licensed amateurs were then 5,000 strong in the US. They held regular traffic handling schedules. Some stations had as much as \$1,000 invested in their stations, equivalent to nearly \$18,000 in 2013. A thousand miles was now being covered with a kilowatt or less, using 200 to 300 meter wavelengths, something newly possible for “twenty or thirty of us” every night. He also wondered how the presence of inexpensive or free communications (neglecting the cost of equipment) between citizens would affect the telephone business. And what new and ever better equipment and technology would result from the demand for amateur wireless apparatus? Would other countries stop suppressing amateur operation, as they were now doing? Finally he noted,

And last of all, we wonder if you and I some night in the future will sit in our little room and chat with another fellow in Germany or France while we listen to what is going on between a couple of fellows, one in Brazil, and the other in Honolulu? We realize this last is a pretty good ‘wonder,’ but if we advance as much in the next ten years as we have in the past ten, it will be something to confidently expect.

And 9DC offered his own poetic take on propagation and the pleasure in operating:

... As I sit here upon my hard-bottom chair, with receptors screwed to my auditory organs, I seem to be possessed of a superhuman position. In fact, it is like flirting with spirits, chasing unimaginable demons of the firmament, and kidding the devil. Indeed, I listen to the mouth of the world give forth its grievances of a day, with ears like those of a God. As the hours grow smaller, the green shaded filament before my orbs appears to grow more subdued, but more effective with its tormenting rays. I am surrounded by the playthings of spirits. They generate a flaming liquid. It is hot. It cracks as it flows. It renders the air asunder as it passes over a non-metallic circuit (spark gap). It jumps forth from its origin upon

every air line of the earth. It dies no sooner than born, but how far it has traveled in its short career, no one knows. Indeed, the most delightful and fascinating thought comes from the anticipation of reaching some distant hamlet or city... - 9DC.⁹

Nearly a century later, this anticipation remains a source of delight and fascination for many hams.

□ = □ = □

de W2PA

Footnotes

1. L. Winsor, “Radio Communications by the Amateurs,” *QST*, June 1916, 141.
2. The Institute of Radio Engineers, one of the pieces that combined later to form the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).
3. He was chairman of the physics department.
4. H. Taylor, “Transmission Variations,” *QST*, August 1916, 189.
5. Taylor would go on to be superintendent of the radio division at the Naval Research Laboratory from 1923 to 1945 and contribute to the development of RADAR. He was also President of the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) in 1929.
6. The strength decreases with the square of the distance, e.g. double the distance and the signal decreases to one-fourth.
7. “The Propagation of Wireless Waves,” *QST* opening article, September 1916, 235
8. “Where are we Bound?,” Editorial, *QST*, February 1917, 36.
9. 9DC, “Q.R.M.,” Radio Communication by the Amateurs, *QST*, March 1917, 45.

(Next issue: Transcons -
Relaying across the country and back)

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



HF & DX Group Notes

The HF & DX Interest Group held a breakfast meeting on Friday, March 10, 2023. Another good crowd showed up and participated in a variety of discussions focused primarily on HF operating and DX activities.

Coffee and breakfast were enjoyed by all while comparing notes and sharing stories. There was much discussion about the recent Crozet and Bouvet DXpeditions.

Another regular activity was the discussion of logs and the passing around of some recently received QSL cards. For a number of hams at the table, it seems their ship came in. By that I mean they received a packet of QSL cards from the incoming QSL Bureau during the past few weeks.

As always, we extend our thanks to the restaurant staff, especially servers Gayle, Cindy and Amy, for

putting up with us and keeping our coffee cups full.

Everyone reported having a good time.

April Meeting

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, April 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the Bob Evans restaurant, 1830 SW Fountainview Blvd, St. Lucie West.

Meetings are informal. Come one, come all, and bring a friend. Enjoy a good meal and discuss DX and other HF topics of interest. 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

Spratley Woodley's huge QSL card collection - You're invited to add your own. [Land of QSLs](#)

Have an interest on Morse code? A new book, *The CW Way of Life* is getting rave reviews. [View comments here.](#)

Here is another new Morse code book, *Learning, Loving and Living Morse Code (in a Digital World)*. [Reviews here.](#)

Grounding has been a hotly discussed subject recently. Here is a link to the the ARRL grounding and bonding page. [Grounding and Bonding.](#)

AmateurLogic TV episode 179 is available for download. It includes the story *Tales from the Transmitter Site* and other clips. [Download here.](#)

Wikipedia article: [Amateur Radio Emer Comms.](#)

Here's a link to CARMA, the Chicago Area Radio Monitoring Association. [Chicago Monitoring.](#)

All about operating the Olivia MFSK Digital mode: [Learn Olivia.](#)

Are you bold enough to try your hand at building your own low cost, 1/2 watt 40-meter CW transceiver kit? [Pixie Transceiver Kit](#)

Email & Chat Groups

(Note: some groups may require registration.)

A discussion group for new hams: [Ham Radio for Newbies](#)

Learn about the MSHV amateur radio software that sends and receives many different digital modes. [MSHV software](#)

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

Treasure Coast Builders and Makers Group

Here is the latest update from Bruce, W8HW:

Our last meeting was over dinner on March 21st at the Southern Pig & Cattle restaurant in Stuart. It was a resounding success with a room full of attendees, including several young persons with an interest in electronics.

This meeting was an introduction to Arduinos and what they could do. The truth is there is not much they cannot do. Displayed at the meeting were many versions of Arduino Stepper motors and controllers, and numerous other things. Also shown were a number of projects, both huge and small. It was emphasized to not be afraid to start building. The rewards of building with Arduino are huge and long lived for both you and perhaps your children or grandchildren to enjoy together.

Because we are a new group, we are looking for a permanent location to hold meetings. At the moment we are new and essentially a **Homeless Group**. Perhaps a High School or existing Ham Radio club or someplace else can offer us space. Because of that, I make the following statement ...

“An existing Ham radio club or High School would benefit from our group’s desire to build electronic stuff and share knowledge. I suggest this would blend well with any Ham Radio club or High School science interest.”

One of many possibility's would be to hold our meetings at a club location two hours prior to a general ham radio club meeting. Members of our group could easily stay for the Radio club meeting and perhaps may wish to join the club. In addition, many of the Radio club members would enjoy learning how to build electronic equipment. There is no competition as we are a group and not a club. Our group does not collect dues or have reading of minutes. Feel free to make a suggestion. You will find my email address below.

Suggest this idea to your Ham Radio Club or school. It has strong benefits for both. We are growing fast. The future is in micro-controllers and technology.

Our next meeting will be about getting set up with free programming software (IDE) and how to use it. Presenting will be Grayson Evans, WA4GVM. You will not want to miss this event. An email will be sent out providing you with time and location.

73, Bruce, W8HW@comcast.net

Note: The only one not in the picture is me - I was taking the picture... LOL.

(73, Bruce)



Builders & Makers Group dinner meeting, March 21, 2023

The Frugal Ham Radio Operator

Buying From AliExpress

Do you buy from China's AliExpress? Aliexpress is China's version of Amazon or eBay. Most Aliexpress sellers ship from China or Asia but some may have warehouses in the UK, Germany and the U.S. It pays to discover their shipping location if you are in quick need of a component or electronic product.

Prices are usually similar to eBay, but better bargains can sometimes be found on Aliexpress. Shopping on the Internet requires you to be careful. Amazon and eBay provide buyer protections. Amazon's return policy is phenomenal. Most sellers on eBay will work with you to insure a satisfactory buying experience.

There are millions of electronic components and products for sale on the Internet. Most come from China and southeast Asia. Excellent quality can be found, but it always pays to be watchful.

Electronic components from Aliexpress can be hit or miss. The Chinese are good at producing or cloning components. Several years ago hams were finding IRF510 MOSFETS that were cheap counterfeits. Depending on what components I need, I may risk buying them. However, the old adage, "**If it is too good to be true,**" resonates with many Chinese items.

Recently I wanted to buy an item on Aliexpress. The seller said it was a USA ship. I doubted their claim but pulled the trigger and bought the item anyway.

Almost immediately (I always use PayPal) the seller responded with an automated acknowledgement. After that everything went dark for a few days. Then I received notice that DHL was the shipper. DHL is almost a dead giveaway the item is coming from China and not the old U.S. of A. DHL's tracking system is robust. That is when I found out the item was coming via DHL air freight from China and trucked the last mile. Kind of deceptive I thought; but would the item be delivered by the date the seller proclaimed? Surprisingly, it was on my doorstep right on time. Kudos to the Chinese seller and DHL.

So what can you do to insure your Aliexpress buying process is a success and you do not end up with low quality components, fake products or worse?

Read those reviews. A seller's reviews can tell you a lot. I usually buy from sellers with many positive reviews, but sometimes I will buy products from a new seller. One case was a PC oscilloscope. I contacted the seller. We traded emails several times. Turned out he was a telcom engineer hoping to earn extra money to support his new family. If your seller has hundreds or sometimes thousands of good reviews, your buying process can be successful.

What is the seller's rating? I never buy any product from a seller whose rating is less than 4 and 1/2 stars or 97%. In fact, I shoot for even a higher rating if possible. I read most negative reviews. Some don't apply, but if a negative review is for a component or product I want to buy, **cravat emptor** as they say.

73, the Frugal Ham

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

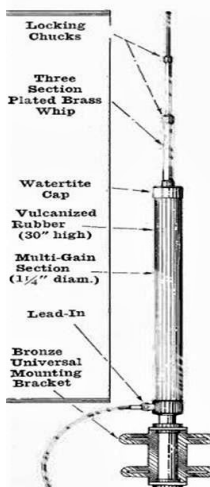
We sometimes believe our modern techno world is superior to yesteryear. In some ways I guess that is true. However, I often wonder if our radio spectrum was not so polluted, would we really need those SDR Swiss Army knife transceivers, hyper-power linear amps or antennas with magical matching networks?

Decades ago Don Johnson (no, not the Hollywood actor), W6AAQ sent me his screwdriver antenna plans. An interesting design. Our Uber-modern antenna vendors also think so. Recently I found this ad in a 1941 amateur radio magazine. See any similarity to today's mobile/portable screwdriver antennas?

73, Ye Old Ham

Multi-Gain

SOLENOID ANTENNA



• Here is a practical mechanical and electrical answer to the problem of high gain from short antennas on the intermediate high frequencies. No metal cans, hats or rib structure on the top of the antenna—simply a streamlined vulcanized-in-rubber loading section in combination with a three section whip.

• GAIN RATINGS: (a 12 foot vertical antenna is used as the reference for these ratings)

• EXACT RESONANCE: up to 10 DB. (Power gain of 10 to 1)

• OVER TUNING RATIO OF 1.3 to 1, 6DB. (Power gain of 4 to 1.)

• These ratings are conservative and are averaged over hundreds of field-strength measurements taken from automobiles, boats and from fixed stations.

• The MULTI-GAIN antenna with its great gain over an equivalent length whip thus offers an immediate improvement in any service wherein such whips or ineffective short loaded antennas are now in use.

• Rugged mechanically . . . weatherproof . . . rust-proof efficient electrically . . . simple to mount . . . easy to adjust. These features make the MULTI-GAIN a distinct contribution to Commercial and Governmental units in the form of more effective communication.

TECHNICAL RADIO INCORPORATED



747 Natoma Street, San Francisco

California

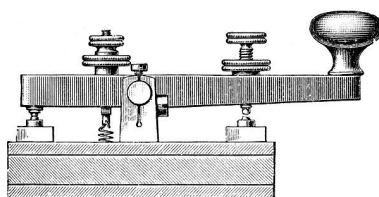
CW: Actually Getting on the Air

(Part 3), 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 3 this month.]

What do you do when the other station does not speak or understand English?

CW is meant to be international. This is good. It would be no fun to work DX if both sides did not understand each other. The good news is both hams can still carry on a limited conversation using only RST and Q-codes. You can even pass emergency traffic or work DX as long as certain rules are followed by both hams.



Emergency traffic can be a burden with different languages. It is possible for one, or even both hams, to not understand the language of the message text or each other, but still pass the traffic - as long as they understand the instructions given in Q-codes.

Let's first discuss RST. We use RST to let the other station know if conditions and station signal will support the passing of traffic. So knowledge and proper use is essential.

RST stands for **R**eadability, **S**ignal, and **T**one. A perfect report would be 599, or in cut CW 5NN. (Cut CW was discussed in part 2 of this series. See the [previous](#) newsletter.)

RST definitions date from the year 1936. Discussed below are the modern definitions of the terms.

Readability (scale 1 to 5) is the readability of your signal with a "5" being perfect with no difficulty. This is similar to a voice operator saying you are Q5 copy. The readability of a signal with a "1" is very poor and not capable of communicating effectively.

Signal (scale 1 to 9) represents the strength of the signal. The strongest signal is 9 and 1 is the lowest. No rule exists to connect signal strength to your S-

meter, but many hams do and it is permissible as this report is only a judgment call on your part.

Tone definition (scale 1 to 9) dates back to 1936. In short, tone represents the purity (or perhaps quality) of the CW signal. A report of 9 indicates a CW signal of pleasing quality that is easy to listen to. Varying tone quality that becomes difficult to listen to or decode rates a lower score, with 1 representing the worst possible tone and a transmission that can barely be copied.

Suffixes were historically added to indicate other signal properties. For example, an RST report might be sent as 599K to indicate a clear, strong signal but with bothersome key clicks. I have found that most modern day operators do not know, or use, the suffixes. Alas, this is a bit of history lost. You can search the internet for a table summarizing suffix codes.

Now let's briefly talk about Q-codes. Q-Codes offer a shorthand way to transmit a sentence either by voice or CW. Q-codes are most commonly used in conversational QSOs. They are generally avoided in traffic handling and in emergency situations unless both operators clearly understand their meanings.

Q-codes have different meanings if a "?" is at the end of the Q-code. For example: "QRT?" means "Shall I stop transmitting?" While "QRT" (without ?) is an instruction to stop transmitting. "QSL?" asks "Did you copy?" "QSL" (without ?) indicates "Successful copy."

Many available Q-code lists are shortened versions and do not include Q-codes intended for traffic handling. Be sure to have the full list of all Q-codes available in your shack. Perform a Google search to find lists of Q-codes.

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

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

➡ Don't buy it... Build it... Learn how it works... TCNCL will help ⬅

Talking to the world

HF - No relay systems - Transmitting direct antenna to antenna



73
Bruce
W8HW



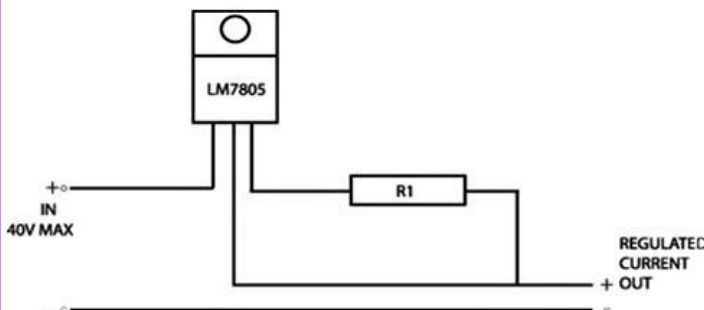
MAKING A SMALL CURRENT REGULATED POWER SUPPLY

In a previous article we discussed making a simple voltage regulated power supply. The device used can be either a LM78xx or LM79xx series device, an inexpensive component that is easy to make use of. The "xx" refers to the voltage desired.

This is a good supply for good, clean constant voltage. However what if we may want to regulate the current so it does not exceed a certain value?

This device will also do that. For example, you may want to charge a battery, but not exceed a certain current value. Or, you may want to connect a string of LED's, all with the same current rating.

Below is a schematic of how to change the voltage regulator into a current regulator. Which regulator would you choose?



For a + (positive) current above ground, you can use any of the LM78 series. Voltage does not matter.

For - (negative) current in respect to ground, use the LM79 series.

Shown is a LM78 device. R1 determines the value of the current limit. Using a LM7805 regulator with R1 at 250 ohms, the maximum current will be about 20 milliamps. This is ideal for a small LED. If you put more than one LED in series, the regulator will maintain 20 ma. It will adjust the voltage to deliver the 20 ma current - and no more - to light all the LED's.

For higher currents, reduce the size of R1. R1 does not need to be a high power resistor, 1/4 to 1/2 watt is fine.

When R1 equals 10 ohms on a LM7805, the current limit is about 0.5 amps. You can increase it further, but the LM7805 has a maximum rating of 1.5 amps.

If the device is used as a current regulator, you can actually short the output leads together without damaging the device.

Some applications will require a defined voltage value. Then, the voltage regulator circuit is what you want. However, when voltage is not critical, but you would like to protect the circuit from damage, the current regulator works well.

73, Ralph WD0EJA

BILAL COMPANY

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

Amateur Radio Satellite Insights... from Amateur Radio in Space (AMSAT)

IARU Coordinates Two New Satellites

The IARU has coordinated frequencies for the following:

+ PW-SAT3

PW-SAT3 is a IU CubeSat mission by Warsaw University of Technology. Students from the PW-Sat3 team are designing a butane warm gas propulsion device that is to be used for station-keeping and de-orbiting maneuvers, a AOCs system to be used during propulsion maneuvers to align the satellite in the optimal orientation, Earth Horizon Sensors made from industrial IR matrixes, and a Camera module to capture views from space. The team wants to implement a simple open transponder for radio amateurs to operate packet radio. They are investigating the possibility to allow radio amateurs to download on-demand

low-resolution images from the camera module.

Proposed is a UHF downlink using 2GFSK at 9k6 or 19k2. A downlink on 437.170 MHz has been coordinated. No launch date has been defined but deployment into a SSO 550km orbit is planned. More info from <https://pw-sat.pl>.

+ SAKURA

Sakura is a IU CubeSat mission sponsored by the Chiba Institute of Technology. It will provide APRS services with Digipeater functionality. SAKURA will carry two cameras, one to photograph sunspots and the other to photograph typhoons ,volcanoes and flooding areas. Amateurs should be able to receive a photograph in one pass. Expect via ISS launch in 2024.

Upcoming Hamfests

FLORIDA

04/08/2023

EPARS Tailgate

Dade City, FL
East Pasco ARS, Inc.
<http://eparsonline.org>

04/15/2023

TarcFest

Tampa, FL
Tampa ARC
<http://www.hamclub.org>

04/29/2023

Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest

New Port Richey, FL
Gulf Coast ARC
<http://gulfcoastarc.com>

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



Hamvention will be held Friday, May 19th (9a-5p), Saturday, May 20th (9a-5p), and Sunday, May 21st (9a-1p), 2023 at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, [210 Fairground Road, Xenia 45385](#) (39.702 N – 83.9420 W).

2023 Mail Order Tickets ([Mail Order Form](#)). Any orders postmarked after April 30th will be returned unopened. If you have ordered online and did not receive anything in the mail please contact tickets@hamvention.org.

2023 Auxillary Communications (AUXCOMM) Course

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) AUXCOMM course will be held 3 days prior to Hamvention (5/16-18) at a location near Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. There are only 30 slots available for this course. Submit your application now. Attendees will be on a first come first served basis. To apply, please send a copy of your FEMA issued course completion certificates for Independent Study courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 and a copy of your active FCC issued amateur radio Technician's license, or higher, by 1 May 2023. For questions email: TrainingRequest@commscollabcenter.com. Questions? Contact info for the respective committees (Tickets, Flea Market & Inside Exhibits) can be found on the contact us page!

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)



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

With the ARES role possibly changing, a venue for hams to participate may be the Community Emergency Response Team (**CERT**). According to the ARRL, CERT is the wave of the future -- the immediate future -- as limited resources for disaster response at all levels of government (local, state, and federal) are bumping up against the ever-increasing needs of the populace due to the elevating incidence and ferocity of natural and manmade disasters.

The CERT concept can be part of the answer to this dilemma. Residents on

a street or in an apartment complex will network and be trained to take care of themselves in the first critical post-disaster hours - and possibly days - when no outside help is available. Sounds like a perfect opportunity for hams to support this effort.

The CERT program is a FEMA program, part of its Citizen Corps and Ready campaigns. The radio amateur, especially an ARES registered operator, is the ideal candidate for forming and leading a neighborhood Community Emergency Response Team.

While you may be able to attend in person CERT training, FEMA has an [Independent Study Course on CERT](#). Plenty of online resources are available as well. If you are interested in participating locally you can [Search CERT programs by location](#).

Send your ARES information to: 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)

PROPAGATION - Do you know what to expect? by Bruce, W8HW

Small property lots are what most of us are stuck with. How can we compete with the "BIG GUN" stations with their huge land and tall towers with large antennas? The answer is that we can compete and win more often than you might think. By the way, also know that you can always communicate around the world even during poor solar conditions. The key is knowing how. Let's walk through the few easy steps together.

You can control propagation - It is done by changing how your antenna interacts with propagation, an important distinction. And that makes a huge difference, often without any additional cost. First we must learn about propagation and solar cycles and what this means to you. Then we can develop a strategy.

Perspective - Predicting Radio Propagation is much dicer than predicting the weather. Let's compare the two. With all of the weather satellites and other weather predicting equipment, the *Farmers Almanac* has always predicted weather better than all our fancy equipment has been able to do. The main reason for this is that the *Farmers Almanac* takes a step back and looks at the long range big picture. Farmers have told me it is valuable to use the *Farmers Almanac's* "Long Range" approach for planning their growing season.

The same is true for predicting radio propagation. You can make better plans using the "Long Range" approach in predicting radio propagation. Understanding this will help you develop a strategy to be on the air with the best band, at the best time of day and with the best angle of radiation. Sounds difficult? It is not. We will walk you through the steps. Trust me, these steps do work and they work well. Follow these steps and long range DXing will be amazing for you. First, what will long range propagation hold for us during the next year?

Propagation news goes like this, ala Farmer's Almanac style. We have Good news, Bad news, Good news and Super Great news for long range propagation planning.

Good News - We can expect continued good propagation on HF for the next two months.

Bad News - Summer doldrums kick-in and the middle to low HF bands will become noisy with perhaps a ghostly sound. This process is described in detail in past TCHN articles ([May 21 - pg 12](#); [Jun 21 - pg 12](#); [Jul 21 - pg 14](#)).

80 and 160 meter bands - Do not expect much DX joy on these bands between mid-April and mid-October. After that time these bands will improve with very good re-

sults starting in mid-November. This summer will be a great time to work on your "guns" (antennas). Take advantage of this time.

Good News - This summer should have some exciting times on 6, 10 & 12-meters and on occasion 15-meters. You should expect to work SEVERAL NEW entities this summer using those bands. More good news: many 6-meter openings will be F2 propagation mixed with other modes of propagation. That will mean overseas contacts even using basic 4-element 6-meter antennas.

Super Great News - Propagation will start again around the last half of October 2023 and continue through winter and spring. The break down goes like this. During this time expect SFI to exceed 200 on many occasions. When that happens, **be ready**. If you have done your summer 2023 antenna work, you will have a blast working many new DX entities. Many bands such as 15, 17, 20 and 40 will be open through the nights with low geomagnetic noise. 10 and 12-meters will be open early morning to well past dark hours with some overnights. 6-meters could have some surprises as well. - **BE READY** -

DXpeditions have very smart people directing operations and will target the above time. Imagine having both big DX stations and strong propagation at the same time. It will be wild times in the HF ham shack. Now you see why it is important to take the long range approach to predicting Propagation. **Get your GUNS ready**.

Now... How to control HF propagation - Yes, it can be done. Has anyone told you this? It is a well kept secret known only by the old timers and top DXers. It can be done with little or no cost. It is done by controlling your angle of radiation. How? There are two main ways. The hard & expensive way is with antenna height. The easy and low cost way is by antenna polarization. Information on why & how to do this is provided in past TCHN articles ([Sep 21 - pg 14](#); [Oct 21 - pg 15](#)).

Conclusion - No matter what the Solar Flux is, you can talk around the world without buying more antennas, radios or amplifiers. Even if you can't go high with your antennas, you can still control polarization to get the best propagation possible. Simple but low cost methods are found in the library of past TCHN issues. Visit PSLARA.ORG and select [Pub\(lic\) Documents](#).

(ed. note: Be sure to contact Bruce to be put on the Treasure Coast Builders and Makers Group email information list.)

73, Bruce, W8HW@comcast.net

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

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

April 2023

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

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

Treasure Coast Ham Doctors



FT8 Using WSJT-X - Setup Tips for the New Ham

Last week, this doctor had an opportunity to assist a recently licensed ham (the patient) who was struggling to get started operating FT8. After the patient was up and running I started wondering if other new hams might be experiencing similar struggles. Thus, I put together a few notes that may help.

Getting Started - The first step is obviously to download and install WSJT-X. I won't expand on that step; much documentation is available to guide you.

Configure - After download and install, start WSJT and go to the Settings section. On the General tab configure only Station Details; and on the Radio tab, be sure Rig is set to None. That's all you need for now. You can go back later to specify a Rig, enable CAT control and adjust other settings as desired.

Sync Your Computer's Clock - This is most important. For success with FT8 your computer's clock must be very accurate. All operating systems provide a means to sync time. You may want to configure your computer to auto sync periodically. Also, get into the habit of manually syncing every time you intend to operate FT8.

Radio & Sound Card Settings - This is the most

difficult part of the setup and is also very important. You may have a sound card built into your radio, or you may have an external sound card such as a SignalLink. Regardless of setup, the computer must be configured to recognize the sound card; and levels will need to be set in the radio, sound card, and/or computer. Follow the instructions in WSJT or any of the many other documentation sources out there.

Let's Talk Sound Settings - For setup purposes, I suggest you tune your radio to an FT8 frequency on a busy band (I like 17-meters, 18.100 MHz). Configure the radio for USB mode and set your receive bandwidth filter to 3 kHz.

WSJT Waterfall Is Your Friend - Select the 17-meter band and FT8 mode in WSJT. Watch the WSJT waterfall display to see all signals received by your radio. Focus on receive levels first and adjust settings until the received signals are displayed in various shades of red, yellow and blue. Also watch the dB scale at the bottom left of the main WSJT screen. A good receive level is between 30 and 50 dB. You don't want to overdrive the receive level.

In Conclusion - When your settings are proper, you should start seeing decoded FT8 signals in WSJT's Band Activity window. You are off to a good start and can now focus on transmit settings.

So how is the patient doing you ask? Just fine, having scored 20 countries in his first three operating sessions.

73, [The Doctors](#)

Knowledge is Power

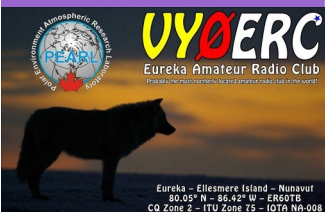
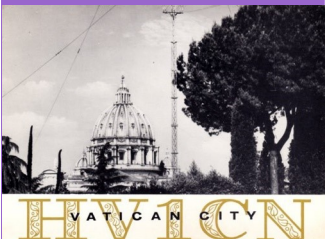
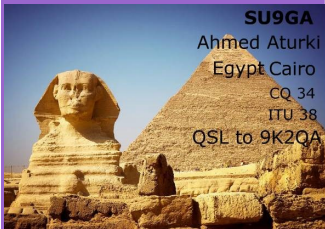
Hams of yesteryear thought nothing about digging inside their radios to make repairs, or when a modification was needed. After all, there was a good chance these hams either designed and constructed their receiver and transmitter from scratch, or at the very least built them from a kit, such as Heathkit.

Point-to-point wiring like our tube TVs before printed circuit boards and large scale integration (LSI) made troubleshooting easy. You could receive a good shock, or even worse a nice burn from not paying attention when poking inside a radio or adjusting a transmitter's high voltage plate or link, or pi-

coupled circuit. Danger was always present when a ham dug inside the radio. Danger is still there today with our low voltage, but high current radios.

Then there are antennas. Considerable voltage can be found with HF, VHF and UHF antennas. Even new hams probably know to be careful not to touch the wire and metal antenna while transmitting 100 watts. Remember the ham math you learned for your exams? 100 watts can generate many thousands of volts on your wire or metal antenna surface.

So, next time you are tempted to "dig" inside your radio or adjust that antenna while transmitting, think before you act. Remember **knowledge is power**.



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

DX OPPORTUNITIES

RWANDA, 9X. A large group of operators are QRV as 9X5RU near Kigali until April 7. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8 with several stations. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via LoTW.

NIUE, E6. Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK plan to be QRV as E6AF and E6CI, respectively, from March 26 to April 9. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via Club Log.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30. Members of the Rebel DX Group, including Kam, T33KC, are QRV as T30UN from North Tarawa, IOTA OC-017, for about five weeks. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8 in DXpedition mode with multiple stations active. QSL via Club Log.

INDIA, VU. A large group of operators are QRV with special contest call AT3K until May 31. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL via VU2XE.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Luca, HB9OBD is QRV as D44KIT from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until April 5. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via EB7DX.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JDI. Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as JG8NQJ/JDI beginning March 15, and expects to be here for two months while on work assignment. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mainly CW with some FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

EGYPT, SU. Ahmed, 9K2QA is QRV as SU9GA from Cairo. He is active on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via 9K2QA.

LESOTHO, 7P. Schalk, ZS4Z is QRV as 7P8LL. Activity is on 80 to 2 meters, including 70 and 23 centimeters. QSL via EA7FTR.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Thomas, DL2RMC is QRV as A65CW until the end of September. He is active on 80 to 6 meters using CW and FT8. This includes activity on Satellite QO-100. QSL via LoTW.

MAYOTTE, FH. Don, F4IFF will be operating as FH/F4IFF from a beach on Mayotte April 1 to 9 running SSB and FT8 between 100 and 250 watts. QSOs will be uploaded to Club Log. QSL via EB7DX.

VATICAN CITY, HV. Vatican City HV1CN will be on for International Marconi Day, just that one day, April 22, from 07-13Z. QSL bureau or direct to IQ0CV.

DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Special event station A60AP is QRV until August 31 to commemorate the Astronaut Program. Look for special event stations A60AP/0 to A60AP/14 to also be active during the event. QSL via operators' instructions.

INDIA, VU. Special event station AT2G20 is QRV from Gurugram until June 2 to promote greater international cooperation through amateur radio in conjunction with the G20 summit being held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10. QSL via operator's instructions.

ISLANDS ON THE AIR

CANADA, VE. Pierre, VE3KTB is QRV as VY0ERC from Eureka station on Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, until April 13. Activity is on 20 to 12 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8, and possibly on some of the FM Satellites. QSL via M00XO.

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



World Amateur Radio Day 2023

Apr 17-Apr 18,
1700Z-2300Z, W2W
Roc-Ham Radio
Network.
EchoLink ROCH-HAM
CONFERENCE/
531091
EchoLink - FREESTAR
CONFERENCE
EchoLink - WALES
CONFERENCE 20m
14.313.

Certificate & QSL:
John Derycke, W2JLD,
85 Amherst St. Apt. 2,
Rochester, NY 14607.
Join us for the 8th Annual World Amateur
Radio Day 2023.

For more information,
check out the website
www.roc-ham.net

(From ARRL, other sources
& the internet)

The Popcorn Net 3rd Anniversary

Apr 2-Apr 3, 1200Z-1400Z, W4P.

Popcorn Net: 7.271, 7.272. Certificate/
QSL: Popcorn Net, 216 Mount Pleasant
Dr., Ellijay, GA 30540.

wt2t@popcornnet.net

WE7GV Vintage Radio

Apr 4, 1700Z-2200Z, WE7GV.

Green Valley ARC. 14.242, 14.245,
14.248. Certificate/QSL: Tom Lang, 1085
W. El Toro Rd, Sahuarita, AZ 85629. Us-
ing 1963 Discone antenna at Titan Missile
Museum along with vintage Hallicrafter,
Heathkit, & Kenwood radios.

we7gv1@gmail.com

Battle Of New Bern Adventure Day

Apr 8, 1500Z-1800Z, N4B.

New Bern
ARC. 14.228, 7.116. QSL: John Riley, 980
Dry Monia Rd., New Bern, NC 28562.

Operation Frequent Wind; Evacuation of Saigon in 1975

Apr 8, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW.

USS
Midway Museum Ship. 14.320, 7.250,
14.070 PSK31. DSTAR on Papa system
repeaters. QSL: USS Midway Museum
Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive,
San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

Kamikaze Attack Remembrance

Apr 11, 1500Z-2030Z, W5KID.

Ba-
ton Rouge ARC. 7.040 7.250 14.040
14.250. QSL: USS Kidd ARC, 305 S. River
Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. CW, SSB,
FT8. www.qrz.com/db/w5kid

Whiskey 4 Moonshine

Apr 14-Apr 29, 0000Z-2359Z, W4M.

7, 14, & 18 Mhz. QSL: Timothy Boyd,
2201 Green Level Rd, Boones Mill, VA
24065. Will operate on ALL HF bands
(depending on volunteers/equipment)
using phone, digital, CW & Satellite
modes. Operations from Franklin & sur-
rounding counties with a remote opera-
tion planned in conjunction with a Moon-
shine Heritage Car Show, Ferrum Col-
lege & a few POTA activations. QSL info

on QRZ.com <https://whiskey4moonshine.wordpress.com>

40th Anniversary Abegweit Voyage

Apr 15-Apr 17, 1400Z-0200Z,

K9CYC. Columbia Yacht Club ARS.
14.238, 29.000. Certificate & QSL:
K9CYC Columbia Yacht Club Amateur
Radio Society, 111 N. Lake Shore Dr.,
Chicago, IL 60601. www.qrz.com/db/K9CYC

Earth Day Celebration

Apr 22-Apr 23, 1500Z-2000Z,

W8PRC. Parma RC. 7.195 & 14.245
mHz. QSL: Parma Radio Club, 781 I
Dogwood Lane, Cleveland, OH 44130.
9th Earth Day Celebration, operating on
power from Ol' Sol. W8PRC will be
operating from Stearns Farm (FB:
Stearns Homestead historical farm).

www.parmaradioclub.com

Venice Shark's Tooth Festival

Apr 22-Apr 23, 1400Z-1900Z, K4S.

Tamiami ARC. 14.320 Mhz SSB, 18.085
MHz, CW 80-10 m, FT8. QSL: Tamiami
ARC, PO Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34275.
Venice Florida is the Shark's tooth capi-
tal of the world. Send a SASE with QSL
card & we'll send a QSL card & a prehis-
toric shark's tooth fossil for you.

tamiamiarc.org

Birth of Radio Astronomy

Apr 29-Apr 30, 1400Z-2359Z,

W9GFZ. National Radio Astronomy
Observatory. 3.800-4.000; 7.175-7.300;
14.225-14.350; 21.275-21.450; 28.300-
29.700. Certificate & QSL: Kevin Shoe-
maker, 1180 Boxwood Estate Rd., Char-
lottesville, VA 22903. kshoemak@nrao.edu

Hams for PanCAN

Apr 29-May 1 N3P/N4P. Look for
multiple stations on the air for Pancreat-
ic Cancer awareness. See ARRL for de-
tails.

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

Ham Humor

HAM LINGO "Bagging Rare DX"



You Wouldn't Believe All The "Rare DX" That I've Bagged This Afternoon!

HAM LINGO "Break In"



The cartoons are back! Enjoy them! 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 Lu-lu.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 March 22, 2023. Sixteen members and visitors were in attendance. In lieu of the planned speaker, we featured two CW training videos. One was a U.S. Army video from 1966; the other a U.S. Navy video from 1944. Feedback indicates both videos were big hits.

The next PSLARA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Meeting location is at the IRSC Veterans Resource Center, 500 NW California Blvd. A guest speaker, Mickey Baker, N4MB, ARRL Southeast Region Director will update us on the goings on at the ARRL. We've asked Mickey to specifically talk about future plans for Logbook of The World and update us on the Volunteers on the Air program. Mickey will also answer your questions.

Come to the meeting 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, which this year was held on March 18, 2023 at the Martin County Fairgrounds. A good crowd attended and activity was brisk. Everyone had a good time. Area hams owe MCARA a big **Thank You** for sponsoring this event every year.

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 interested in QRP, VBARC has operating events for you. See the club web site for details.

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

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

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

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

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

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](#) for another picture.

FOR SALE - Harold, W8PPI, has a 24-foot aluminum extension ladder for sale. Asking \$25. Contact Harold at haroldbarr7501@comcast.net.

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

MFJ 941E Versa Tuner II.

MFJ 940B Versa Tuner II.

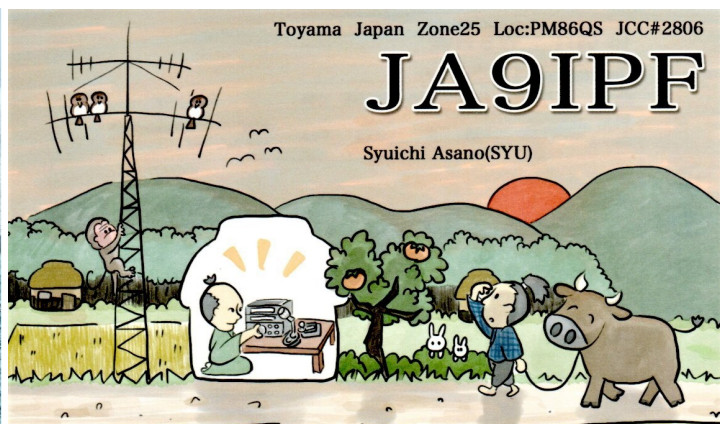
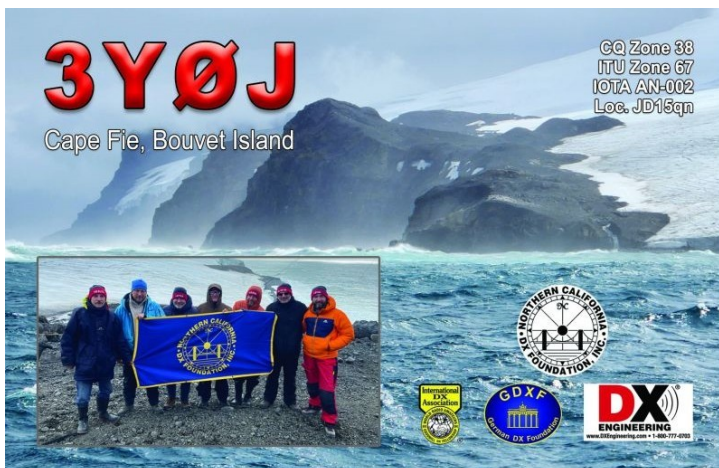
LOOKING TO BUY - Robert, KI6MXT is looking for a recharging cradle for a Yaesu FT-60R. If you have one for sale, please contact Robert at 321-370-5417.

Do you have something to sell or trade? Or perhaps you need help with an antenna or equipment problem?

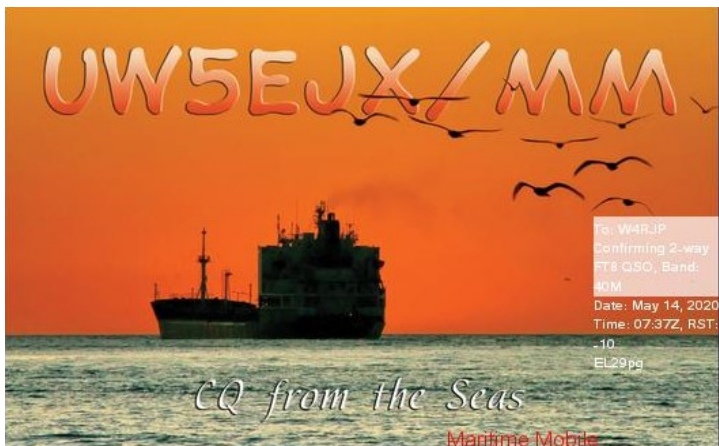
Drop us a line and we will include it in our next issue.

Send your email to: tchamnews@gmail.com

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



(Above two cards courtesy of Bruce, W8HW)



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 fabertron@bftechnicarts.com. Phone 604-729-6454.



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