

HAM DATES:

INDIAN RIVER CO.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021
Indian River Co. ARES NET 7:30pm,
145.130 (107.2) repeater

June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021
Treasure Coast Ragchew / Traders
Net 8:00pm 146.775 (107.2) repeater

June 10, 2021
Vero Beach ARC Meeting, 7:30pm
Italian American Civic Association

June 19, 2021
QRP Outing, 8:00am
(See club web site for details)

June 24, 2021
Indian River Co. ARES, meeting
7:00pm Indian River County EOC

ST LUCIE CO.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021
Ft. Pierce ARC Rag chew, Tech,
Traders NET 8pm, 147.345
Repeater (107.2), Echolink: 2004
(W4AKH-R)

June 2, 2021
St. Lucie Co. ARES NET, 7:30pm,
147.240 MHz (107.2) repeater

June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021
Port St. Lucie ARA Rag chew, Trad-
ers, Tech NET 7:30pm, 146.955 MHz
(107.2)

June 9, 2021
Ft. Pierce ARC Meeting, 7:30pm,
(<https://fparc.org> for meeting details)

June 16, 2021
St. Lucie Co. ARES, 7:00pm, back at
SLC EOC, Midway Rd, Ft. Pierce.

June 23, 2021
Port St Lucie ARA ZOOM meeting
7:30pm, (request login)

MARTIN CO.

June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021
Rag chew net 7:30pm, 145.150 MHz
(107.2); (6/28 net on 147.060 rptr)

June 10, 2021
MCARA ARES, 8:00pm MC EOC
800 SE Monterey Rd, Stuart

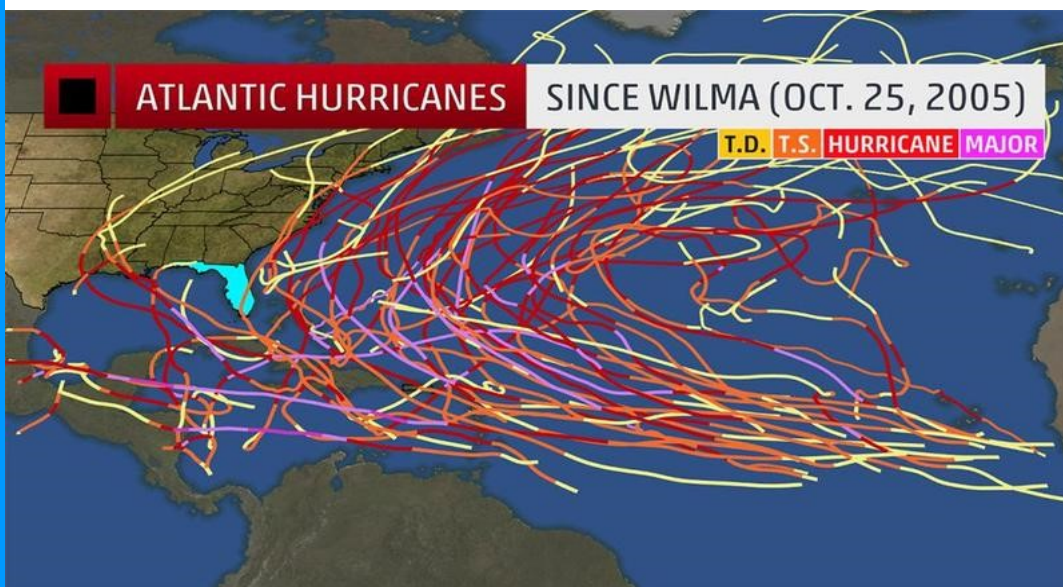
June 24, 2021
MCARA Meeting, 7:00pm, Stuart
Police Dept., 830 SE Martin Luther
King Blvd, Stuart

Treasure Coast Ham News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2021

Hurricane Season: Are we ready?



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: FROM THE PUBLISHERS * ARES * VE LICENSE TESTING UPDATE * 2x4 DX GROUP * GENERATOR USAGE & SAFETY * UPCOMING HAMFESTS * HAM RADIO TRIVIA * REMEMBERING WW2'S D-DAY * EARLY RADIO & THE MILITARY * ARE YOU READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON * THE FRUGAL HAM RADIO OPERATOR * SHORT TAKES * GET WELL * TREASURE COAST HAM DOCTORS * FT8 OPERATING TIP * RAMBLINGS OF AN ANTENNA ALCHEMIST * DXING: THE SCIENCE, ART & MYSTERY OF HF * DX NEWS * SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS * CW: ACTUALLY GETTING ON THE AIR - PART I * HAM HUMOR * WE NEED YOU * COMING NEXT MONTH * HELP NEEDED * PORT SAINT LUCIE ARA NOTES * HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE * QSL CARDS

From the Publishers



**June 26-27
is Field Day.**

From 1800
UTC Saturday
to 2059 UTC
Sunday, ama-
teur radio

operators will operate in parks, parking lots, camp sites, fair grounds, and even boats. Home operating is allowed. COVID-19 power rules from 2020 continue for 2021. Class D stations may work **all other** Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output. An aggregate club score will be published — just as was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

A multitude of portable antennas from YAGIs and verticals to wire loops, end-feds and dipoles will be temporarily erected. The operators will use generators, solar or wind, batteries, or any other means to power their radios. During the consecutive hours of operation they will attempt to make as many contacts with other hams operating in a similar fashion as they can.

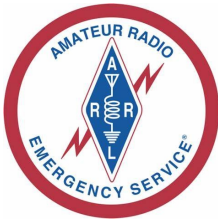
Although Field Day has a contest flair, it is a serious exercise. According to the ARRL over 40,000 amateur radio operators throughout North America participate combining public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills in a single event.

Field Day is open to all amateur radio operators in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit and may submit entries as checked-logs.

The object of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands. The Ham bands 50 MHz and above are also included. Operating in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions is an important skill that all amateur radio operators should possess. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

The [ARRL Field Day locator](#) can help you identify operating locations. In our Treasure Coast area the following clubs or groups have scheduled Field Day events: Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, Martin County Amateur Radio Association and AA4CA at the Allapattah Flats Water Management Area. You may also operate from home using the COVID-19 pandemic rules from Field Day 2020.

73, [The Publishers](#)



The [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (ARES) is an ARRL public service program. For many years ARES volunteers have stepped up and forward to provide

valuable communication services to local communities in times of need.

Several years ago I deployed to a county primary shelter prior to a probable hurricane landfall. During the time deployed I participated in periodic nets via our EOC 2-meter repeater. At the end of the deployment I filled out ICS-213 using information from my log and submitted to our ARES EC. Simple enough, but could it have done better?

[Winlink Express](#) is probably the most im-

portant software application every ARES operator should be familiar with. [Winlink Express](#) is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses amateur-band frequencies to provide radio interconnection services that include email with attachments, position reporting, weather bulletins, emergency and relief communications, and message relay. Other software applications are VARA FM and VARA HF. Both can be loaded and used from within [Winlink Express](#).

Fort Pierce ARC has [VARA & Winlink](#) information available including download links. Another source is [here](#).

Additional VARA information is [here](#).

Please learn these important applications.

Treasure Coast ARES Emergency Coordinators

Martin County
[Steve Marshall, WW4RX](#)

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

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

**Get involved, volunteer,
and be a part of your
county ARES.**



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

VE License Testing Update

Future License Exam Sessions

We still do not have a date for the next Port Saint Lucie license exam session. Watch for an announcement by email and at club events when plans are finalized.

Hot Off the Press

News Flash #1 - As of May 20, 2021, all license exam candidates are required to include an FCC Registration Number (FRN) on the license application form 605. Social Security numbers will no longer be accepted.

An FCC video provides instructions on obtaining an FRN. [You can view it here.](#)

News Flash #2 - Question G1E11 has been dropped from the General Class question pool and will no longer show up on examinations.

News Flash #3 - Questions E1C05 and E6B06 have been dropped from the Amateur Extra Class license question pool and will no longer show up on license exams.

Local License Exam Contacts

Vero Beach ARC

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

Ft. Pierce ARC

Jess Porter
w4dns@arrl.net

Port St. Lucie ARA

Robert Brown
(772) 201-5485
brownpsl@comcast.net

Email Address Soon To Be Required by the FCC

Starting June 29, 2021, all applications filed with the FCC by licensees or license candidates must include an email address where the applicant can receive FCC correspondence.

Applicants will receive an email directly from the FCC with a link to the official copy of their license whenever a new license is issued or a change is made.

Should the licensee not have an email address, ARRL suggests using the email address of a relative or friend. Revocation of the license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the licensee failed to provide a valid email address.

ARRL expressed concern for the privacy of its members and requested that amateurs' email addresses not be made public. The FCC agreed. It will continue to "mask" amateurs' email addresses from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS).

Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide a valid email address.

For more info see the ARRL [webpage](#).

Attention Club VE Teams

Please keep us updated on your VE activities. Notify us when your club schedules a session, and keep us apprised of the results of your sessions.

Send information to tchamnews@gmail.com.

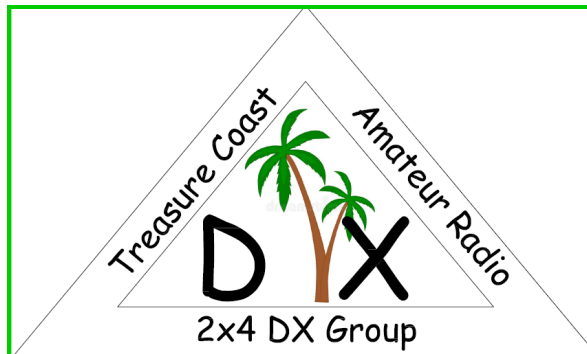
2X4 DX Group

Have an interest in contacting hams in remote lands? Want to sharpen your DX operating skills? Unsure about HF propagation? Not sure about QSLing and LoTW confirmations? Do you want to earn a DXCC, WAC, CQ or one of a multitude of other awards and need help?

Treasure Coast Ham News has received emails from hams around the region asking about the 2X4 DX Group and when meetings might resume. Because of COVID-19 the group suspended in-person meetings early in 2020.

The group previously met at 9:00 AM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Port St. Lucie. That venue is no longer availa-

ble to the 2X4 DX Group. The group is asking for your input and help. Do you know of a location where the group can meet on a monthly basis? What day and time are best for in-person meetings?



Please email Bruce at W8HW@comcast.net and let him know your thoughts. Include "2x4 DX Group" in the subject line.

With Cycle 25 starting to come alive, we could very well have interesting worldwide propagation in the coming months and years. Do not miss out.

Please consider joining the 2X4 DX Group!

No one is a visitor. All are always welcome.

Portable Generator Usage and Safety



Hurricane season is here.

Whether you are an old hand with hurricanes or are new to them, they can be very devastating. Our electrical infrastructure cannot

always be relied upon to be resilient to the force of a hurricane. Many of us could find ourselves without electricity during, and for many days after, a hurricane.

A portable generator is a good solution when the electrical grid is temporarily interrupted. Portable generators are pretty bullet proof, but that does not mean you should not fully understand a generator's capabilities before a hurricane strikes, and take precautions when using a generator during and after the event.

First, you need to understand how much wattage you will need from a portable generator. Running a portable generator at peak output for a long period of time is not wise. Estimate your total wattage needs and then add at least 25 percent capacity when looking to purchase a portable generator or when upgrading the one you have.

The last thing you want is to have a storm approaching

and your generator not start. Once a month run your generator. While most have low oil shutoff, performing regular oil changes is a must. Many of us know how to operate the generator during a storm, but quickly forget as time passes. Have the generator manual and the start-up procedure readily available. Review before the storm.

There are far too many cases where generators are run in an enclosed area, such as a garage. **A generator should always be used in an area with lots of outside ventilation.** A covered screened porch can be used. Allow plenty of open space around the generator. Also make sure you are using the right size power cords. It goes without saying that you should never plug your portable generator into your home's electrical service. Whole house generators, the type that are permanently mounted, are meant for that purpose and have approved switching capability. Always store fuel in an approved container and in a cool, dry, ventilated and secure area.

Remember to ground your generator according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Thoroughly read and understand all recommended safety precautions. A hurricane can create a high level of anxiety and stress for everyone. Try to make sure you are **ALWAYS** prepared when using a portable generator. **BE SAFE!**

Upcoming 2021 Florida Hamfests

08/14/2021 - Ft Pierce Hamfest

Location: Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34945

Sponsor: Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club. Website: <https://fparc.org>

10/8-9/2021 - 56th Annual Melbourne Hamfest

Location: Melbourne, FL

Sponsor: Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society (PCARS)

12/10/2021 - Tampa Bay Hamfest, ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention

Location: Plant City, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council

Website: <http://www.fgcarc.org/>

Don't forget Hamcation 2022 <https://www.hamcation.com>



QRP ARCI Contests

Contests are held throughout the year. Spend a few minutes or a few hours making contacts with members and non-members around the world. Please visit www.qrpcontest.com to submit your scores after each contest.

CONTESTS:

- 24 May 2021 - Hoot Owl Sprint
- 11 July 2021 - Summer Homebrew Sprint
- 14 August 2021 - European Sprint
- 09 October 2021 - Fall QSO Party
- 02 December 2021 - Top Band Sprint
- 12 December 2021 - Holiday Spirits Sprint

All logging should be turned in via <https://qrpcontest.com>. And don't forget to check <http://qrpcontest.com> for other QRP contests.

QRP-ARCI has its own EMAIL reflector

The qrparci.groups.io reflector was brought online in 2019 and now has over 670 members. It's a good place to ask questions about the club, find out what's happening in QRP contesting, and find a few ideas to help in your QRP operating. To join, just send an email to qrparci+subscribe@groups.io. If your email address does not have your call sign embedded, send your call sign in a separate email to qrp@w4qo.com, who is Jim, W4QO our principal reflector moderator. All posts are public. Check it out at qrparci.groups.io. And then why not consider signing up?

Ham Radio Trivia

Answer to last month's question:

Last month we asked you a question about a remote DXCC entity. How did you do?

Question: South Georgia Island is #33 on the current DXCC most wanted list. What country's hams were responsible for activating South Georgia, prefix VP8, for many years?

Your answer choices were:

- A. Great Britain
- B. Argentina

- C. Norway
- D. Australia

The correct answer is:
C. Norway

South Georgia is a remote island located in the Southern Atlantic Ocean approximately 910 miles northeast of the Antarctica land mass.

June Trivia Question

This month, let's hit the books with a question from the Amateur Extra Class License question pool.

Question E6B06:

Which of the following is a common use of a Schottky diode?

- A. As a rectifier in high current power supplies
- B. As a variable capacitance in an automatic frequency control circuit
- C. As a constant voltage reference in a power supply
- D. As a VHF/UHF mixer or detector

Note: This question was recently dropped from the Amateur Extra question pool. Besides answering the question, can you figure out why the question was dropped?

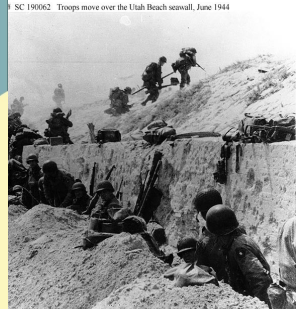
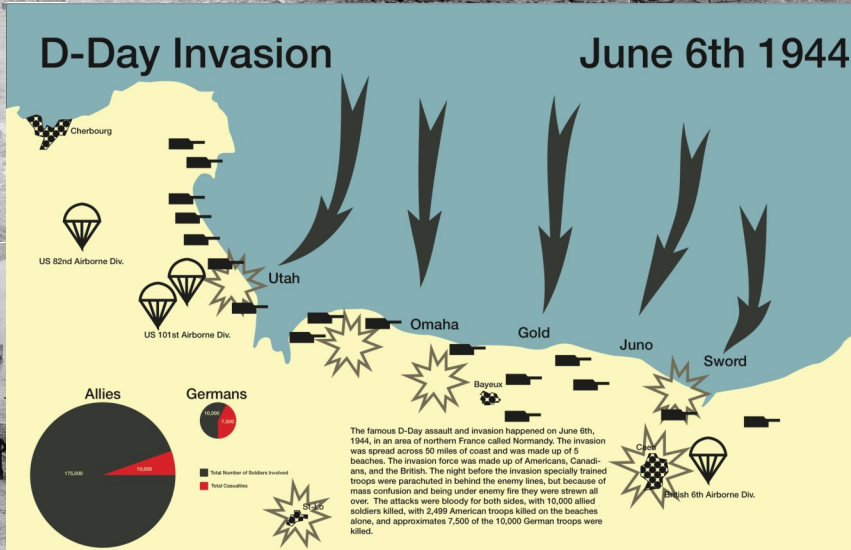
Answers will appear in next month's newsletter.

(Have a good trivia question? Send it to us at: tchamnews@gmail.com.)

"Brush up on your radio knowledge, skills and trivia."

Remembering WW2's D-Day - June 6, 1944

[Editor's note: Over 75 years have passed since the Allies stormed the Normandy beaches, jumped from airplanes and landed via gliders. TC Ham News salutes the many hams who were there manning radios and fighting alongside their countrymen.]



Early Radio and the United States Military... by Chris Codella, W2PA

Editor's note: Radio played a vital role in the story of World War 2. In recognition of the anniversary of D-Day on June 6, we are proud to present this prolog to a story describing the early days of radio communications in the military. The story is used with permission of the author Chris Codella, W2PA. The full story is available on Chris' web site: [Ham Radio History](#).

Army Vacation or Navy Cruise

(Posted 23 February 2014 by W2PA)

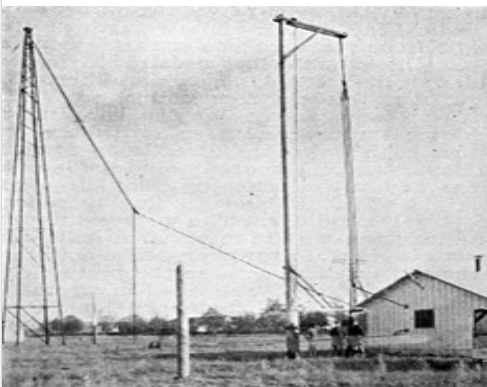
In the fall of 1925, the US Army worked out a plan for transmitting amateurs¹ to take part in a cooperative operation in support of Regular Army, National Guard and Reserve units, to handle traffic and provide communications in times of emergency, provide a reserve of trained operators, and exchange ideas about radio.² Those interested (Official Relay Stations of the ARRL's Traffic Department were already interested, with 80% responding in a survey) were asked to send a *station card* (not yet widely called a QSL card) to the League, and another to the commanding general for their Signal Corps area. Each would then receive a certificate of appointment. This operation was the first precursor to what later became the Military Affiliate Radio System or MARS. Service was voluntary and members were free to withdraw at any time.

A system of nets³ was organized for each Corps Area and Division and for each state's National Guard. The headquarters at the Signal School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, operated station 2CXL. All others were amateur stations owned either privately or by the Army. Tests of the amateur nets would be conducted several times per year.

The plan was approved by the War Department and went into effect on 1 November 1925.⁴ Captain Tom C. Rives at Fort Monmouth was appointed Army liaison.

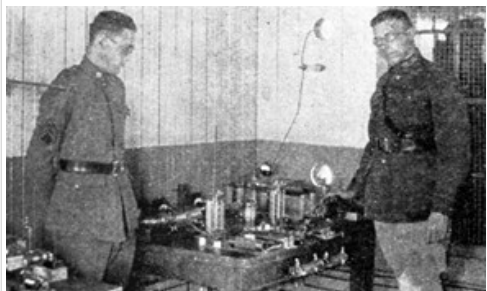
"It seems to us that this affiliation is about the most important thing that ever happened to amateur radio in this coun-

try. It constitutes a very signal recognition of the importance of the amateur," noted Warner, with apparently no pun intended.



Cage 40-meter vertical at 2CXL

Army Chief Signal Officer Major General Charles McKinley Saltzman officially appointed the ARRL as the representative of the "transmitting amateurs of the country in their affiliation with the Signal Corps of the Army."⁵



Army station 2CXL, Ft. Monmouth, NJ, ca. 1925. Captain Rives is at right.

The following spring, QST published "A Vacation Possibility" referring to a newly established Army training camp to be conducted that summer at Fort Monmouth for young men ages seventeen to twenty-four.⁶

In particular, "the type of young man who is wanted at Fort Monmouth this summer is the one who will be interested in living in a tent, under military discipline, drilling, learning to handle a pistol; seeing how the Army radio sets are constructed, set up and operated; how military traffic is handled after communication has been established; how 2CXL (the central station of the Army-Amateur Radio net) is built and operated; and how he may prepare himself for an important part in the nation's defense system while at the same time pursuing his

beloved specialty, radio."

It seems that radio, not the Jersey shore, would provide the "vacation" element.

Hiram Percy Maxim wrote that he had not felt such a "kick" since 1917 when he received a long distance phone call from the US Navy, just a few months before the country entered the war, asking for help in recruiting amateurs to serve as radio operators.

Now, eight years later, he had just opened a letter from Captain Ridley McLean, USN, Director of Naval Communications, which brought back the same feeling.

The Navy was planning to establish a Radio Reserve Force of six thousand skilled radio operators from which to draw in times of national emergency.⁷ Ridley had written to Maxim to once again ask for the League's help.

Free of charge and voluntary, the Reserve would involve "no drilling, nor cruising, unless the operator desires it." In that case it would consist of "a couple of weeks in the summer cruising on a warship, drilling and learning naval radio procedure at Uncle Sam's expense"—a great opportunity for any young ham to serve and be educated.

(Enjoy the continuation of this story on the [Ham Radio History](#) web site.)

footnotes

1. A term that had come into wide use to distinguish amateurs involved with communications from those interested only in listening to broadcasts.
2. "The Army Links up with the Amateur," QST, October 1925, 22.
3. This may be the first time the term appeared in QST in this context.
4. K. B. Warner, Editorial, QST, December 1925, 7.
5. C. McK. Saltzman, "The Army Network," Communications, QST March 1926, 56.
6. "A Vacation Possibility," QST, May 1926, 50.
7. H. P. Maxim, "Another Chance to Put One Over," QST, February 1925, 20.

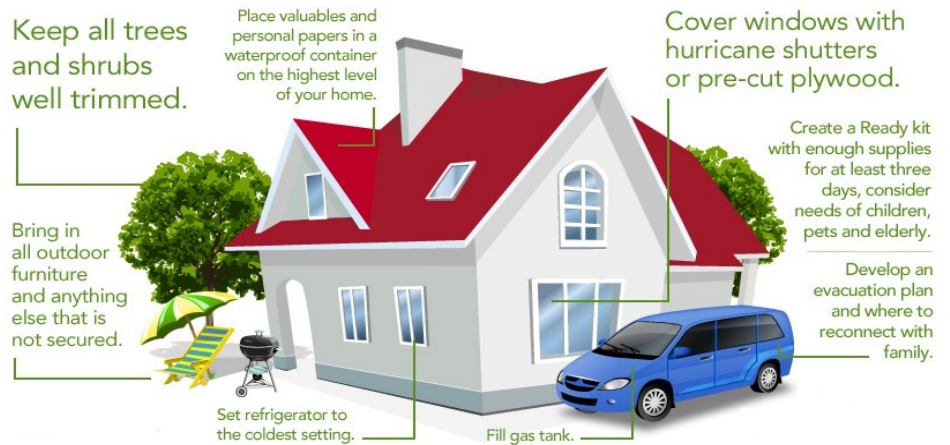
Are You Ready for Hurricane Season?

The Treasure Coast is at the beginning of hurricane season. All is quiet now, but that can and probably will change as we near the season peak in late August and September. Whether you shelter in place, evacuate, or field deploy with ARES, now is the time for you and your family to get prepared and be ready. If you plan to evacuate know your route, leave in plenty of time and make sure you have enough gas. Be prepared by getting prepared!

HAVE A FIRST AID KIT

- . Non-latex Surgical Gloves
- . Cleansing agent – soap, antimicrobial towelettes or hand sanitizer.
- . Breathing Barrier with one-way valve for use during CPR.
- . Space Blanket
- . Sterile Dressings – 3" x 3", 4" x 4"
- . Roller Bandages for sterile dressings
- . Adhesive Cloth Medical Tape
- . Adhesive Bandages (Band-aids)
- . Triangular bandages for arm slings
- . Scissors & Tweezers
- . Petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- . Cold Compress
- . Antibiotic Ointment
- . Burn Ointment
- . Insect Bite Cream
- . Eye wash solution to flush eyes
- . Aspirin, Ibuprofen , etc.
- . Snake bit kit
- . Prescription medications you take every day. You should periodically rotate medicines to account for expiration dates.
- . Power Bars or Candy Bars for quick energy.
- . First Aid Instruction Booklet
- . Personal Emergency Contact Info and a copy of your ID – in case you become injured.
- . Think about any other items you may need.

Hurricane Preparation



A 72 HOUR KIT

- . 1 gal water for per person per day
- . Non-perishable food easy-to-prepare
- . Mess kit or light weight cook pot
- . Sharp knife, cups, plates, utensils
- . Gasoline for generator & car/truck
- . Flashlight & extra batteries
- . Cell phone & chargers / battery packs
- . Radio (with NOAA Weather Radio)
- . Whistle/horn to signal for help
- . Paper and pencils
- . Insect repellent and sunscreen
- . Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- . Portable shelter – Tent or large tarp . . . Bedding or sleeping bags
- . Change of clothing
- . Rain gear
- . Pet care items & IDs (for identification if lost)
- . Compass (needs no batteries), GPS
- . Duct Tape
- . Extra set of car and house keys
- . Cash
- . Pictures of all family members for ID
- . Matches in a waterproof container
- . Fire starter (ferrocium rod)
- . Magnifying lens (wallet size)

MAKE A RADIO GO-KIT

A radio go-kit can be a duffle bag, backpack, or carry case. Many hams use hard sided Pelican style cases. These cases come in different sizes and are waterproof. If you are deployed to a shelter your radio needs may be different than if you shelter in place. Some hams build a portable station in a box that includes radio, power supply / battery pack, meters, antenna, microphone, digital interface, radio and programming manuals, etc.

Items to have in your possession at all times are your official FCC Amateur Radio License and if an ARES member, your County issued Communications Response Volunteer credentials.

Make sure your VHF/UHF radio is programmed for your county ARES repeater and your local radio clubs. SARNET repeaters (our SARNET repeaters are Martin Co. and Sebastian) are a must as well as national simplex frequencies. Are you Winlink Express savvy? If not get trained now by your ARES Group.

The Frugal Ham Radio Operator

Recently, I virtually attended the QRP ARCI FDIM forums. An excellent group of speakers spoke on a variety of topics including Hans Summers, G0UPL, QRPLabs-QCX/QSX radios; Dave Benson, K1SWL, Small Wonder Labs & Midnight Design Solutions-SW QRP/Phaser FT8 radios; and, Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE, bitX/ubitX radios. The expertise of all three is well known in the QRP ham community.

Another ham presenting was Dino Pappas, KL0S. Being a frugalist I was very interested in his topic, *“Bench setup with inexpensive test equipment.”* Dino described the various types of test and service gear every ham should have on his work bench. First and foremost is a digital multimeter (DMM). If you can have just one piece of test gear, that is it. Thanks to Asia manufacturing DMMs have become relatively inexpensive. A reasonably good DMM can be bought for a hundred dollars or so.

Dino went on to talk about oscilloscopes. The first scope I bought was a used Goldstar, dual channel, 20MHz CRT at the Miami Tropical Hamfest decades ago. I still have it and use it for troubleshooting my QRP projects. Dino’s recommendation was to look for a used multi-channel digital scope. A good thing about digital scopes is the firmware can be updated to keep the scope more current. Used scopes can be bought at reasonable prices.

Hams also need a bench power supply, out of circuit component tester, an LC meter and a signal generator. Luckily, all these instruments can be bought fairly cheaply from eBay or maybe Amazon. Along with those items a good variable heat soldering station is a must. I would go even further and look for a de-soldering station. I bought a used one at Hamcation several years ago. They are great. Oh, and a circuit board holder is almost a necessity. They are cheap and make life much easier troubleshooting or soldering/desoldering components to/from a circuit board.

Next is a Vector Network Analyzer. Dino said this instrument can set you back thousands of dollars, but low cost solutions are available. That’s when I mumbled, *“Thank you Harold,”* N3UY, for demonstrating the miniVNA at a Fort Pierce Hamfest and the NanoVNA at Winter Field Day. I bought a NanoVNA-H4 from R & L Electronics last year for \$55. My MFJ Antenna Analyzer is now enjoying a long needed retirement after many years of use.

Another helpful instrument is a spectrum analyzer. However, this can set you back many hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars. Rigol and others have helped with pricing, but they are still too expensive for a frugalist like me. I read about the TinySA in a QST review by AD5X last year. While not in the same league as Rigol or HP, it does the job for me. Paid \$55 for it from R & L Electronics. I’m still learning all its capabilities. 73, The Frugal Ham

Short Takes

ARRL HQ Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ/videos>

Does price buy Performance or Satisfaction in an HF Transceiver?

<https://youtu.be/mjquy-iVpW4>

Wavelength calculator – calculate wavelengths in centimeters, decimal feet, feet and inches,

inches, and much more.

<http://wxtofly.net/wavecalc.htm>

73 Today Magazine Archive

<https://archive.org/details/73-magazine>

Free Space Path Loss Calculator

<https://www.Everythingrf.com/rf-calculators/free-space-path-loss-calculator>

Matching 50Ω to 75Ω

<http://www.ham-radio.com/k6sti/match.htm>

Millimeters to inches conversion

<https://www.metric-conversions.org/length/millimeters-to-inches.htm>

Mr. Carlson’s Lab (a must YouTube link)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MrCarlsonsLab>

Get Well Wishes

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to long time PSLARA member Donn, WY5I, who is recovering from reconstructive foot surgery and will be confined to bed rest in a hard cast for several weeks.

A phone call from Donn’s radio friends would help make the time go by more quickly. So give him a call and wish him well. Donn’s can be reached at (772) 882-2489.

Treasure Coast Ham Doctors

FT8 Frustration Factor



Question: Some days I just get so frustrated with FT8 operation. Today was one of them. There was a very strong DX station calling CQ and because I needed the country for my DXCC challenge, I decided to reply. After repeatedly replying to his CQ calls and never getting a signal report, I

cranked up my station power. I still could not get a reply even though he continued to respond to other stations. I finally gave up in frustration.

My question for the doctor is a simple one. What, if anything, could I have done differently to complete the QSO?

Answer: I've encountered similar situations and understand how frustrating it can be when logic and common sense say you should be able to complete a QSO, but trying your best you cannot pull it off. Let me tell you about a similar occurrence I encountered just a few days ago.

First, some background. I chase grids. The continental United States occupies 488 Maidenhead Grid Squares. To date I have confirmed QSOs with well over 400 of these grids. Some of the grids I still need are remote locations with a limited population and probably no licensed amateur operators. Or, they are along the coast or a border location, with a limited land mass within the grid square. The best chance of scoring one of these grids is when someone visits the area and operates portable.

The other day while operating FT8 on 20 meters a CQ popped up from one of the very difficult grids. The station's signal was strong, so I immediately replied to his CQ.

He called CQ again, and I replied again. This went on repeatedly. After seven or eight attempts I concluded he must not be seeing my signal. So I stopped responding.

The calling station was transmitting 285 Hz up from the 20 meter FT8 base frequency of 14.074 MHz. I monitored him for about 45 minutes as he repeatedly called CQ and occasionally received a reply. His signal remained strong throughout and he completed a number of QSOs. Occasionally I would make a fresh attempt to respond to his CQ, but all my replies were in vain.

Finally, after much frustration I decided to make one last attempt, but this time I changed my transmit frequency from +2,200 Hz up from the base frequency where I was operating to +1,400 Hz. On the station's next CQ call I sent a reply. He immediately responded with a signal report and we completed the QSO.

The other station reported me at +02 db and I reported him at +03 db, which is where his signals had consistently been throughout the entire time I monitored him. So why was this attempt successful while all of my earlier attempts to QSO with this station were unsuccessful?

There are many possible answers, but I think the actual cause was the transmit frequency (+2,200 Hz) I was using. I've previously encountered radio and WSJT-X setups that were incorrectly configured, allowing only 1,800 Hz of bandwidth to be processed and decoded. And that's what I think happened here. The station calling CQ did not see my +2,200 Hz replies. When I moved down to +1,400 Hz he saw my signal and we were able to complete the QSO.

Did the same happen to you? Thanks for the question.

FT8 / WSJT-X Operating Tip

Tips to consider if you have trouble completing QSOs:

First, if transmitting at a frequency above +2,000 Hz, try switching to a lower frequency.

Second, even if you are at a frequency below +2,000 Hz try switching to a different frequency. There may be noise or interference at the other station's end that is preventing him from seeing your signal.

And finally, use PSKreporter.info and build a query to determine where your signals are being received. If your signals are not being received in the general part of the world where the station you are try to hit is located, chances are slim you will be able to complete the QSO.

Happy DXing.

Have an Operating Tip to share with the ham community? Send it to tchamnews@gmail.com.

Ramblings of an Antenna Alchemist



Our planned GAP antenna rebuild is postponed until next month so we can discuss 6-meter antennas you can build for summer propagation.

Six meters is called the “magic band” and for good reason. Not only is E layer (Sporadic-E) propagation possible in the summer, HF propagation via the F2 layer may be possible as well with our renewed sunspot intensities. Meteor scatter is another form of 6-meter propagation possible with this band.

So what does it take to get on 6-meters? Simple - a transceiver, antenna and some propagation knowledge. There are many new and used transceivers available with 6-meters. 6-meter transverters that convert the signal to 10 meters can also be found. And how about antennas? Well, that is where the fun begins for antenna alchemists. Depending on your building skills, everything from a dipole (remember the crutches from April) to a mobile vertical, loop or Yagi can be built. If you prefer to buy a 6-meter antenna many types are available for very reasonable prices.

One antenna that many hams have used successfully for-6 meters is a MOXON. These antennas have directivity and good front-to-back ratios. They exhibit gain and are smaller than a traditional Yagi. Most are very light-weight. A pushup or painter’s pole can be used for mounting. The size of a MOXON fits well in an attic for those in HOAs.

The Internet has many good resources for building 6 meter MOXON antennas.
 . [A 6-Meter MOXON Antenna by KG4JH](#)
 . [6-Meter MOXON using PVC pipe by KB9VBR](#)

A [MOXGen software application](#) is available for those who want to try different wire sizes, bands, and designs.

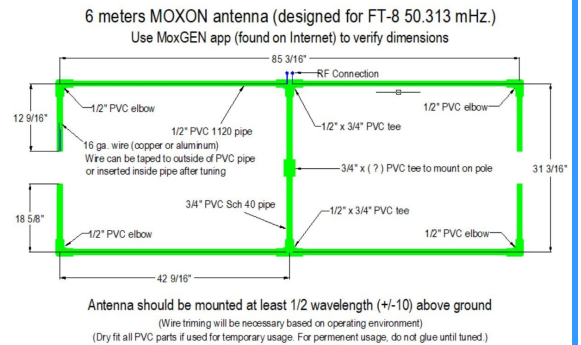
Let’s look at the [KB9VBR PVC MOXON](#). I like PVC pipe for antenna experimentation. Schedule 40 is a good starting point and works great for most smaller antennas.

Dry fitting is always a good idea for experi-

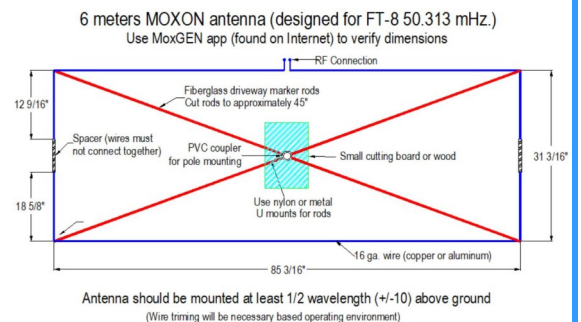
mentation. Once the design is working, you can either glue for permanent use or use screws for temporary purposes.

I made a few changes in the KB9VBR design. For my 6-meter MOXON I decided to use Schedule 1120 pipe for the wire support sections. This pipe has a thinner wall and is lighter. KB9VBR also has the wire on the outside, but I choose to put the wire on the inside. I kept Schedule 40 pipe for the boom.

Strength is important there. I used 16-gauge wire, so my dimensions are a little different than his. You should expect a certain amount of tweaking, no matter how you build it. Below is my design. (*enlarge your view to read*)



Another approach for a 6-meter MOXON antenna is to use 4-foot fiberglass driveway markers “X” mounted on a polyethylene plastic (HDPE) cutting board. You can use nylon or metal wire cable clips to mount the markers. (Thinner wire may be necessary.)



A good free ebook about 6-meters is K5ND’s “[Capture the Magic of 6-Meters.](#)”

Next month we will do our GAP Challenger antenna rebuild! 73, The Antenna Alchemist

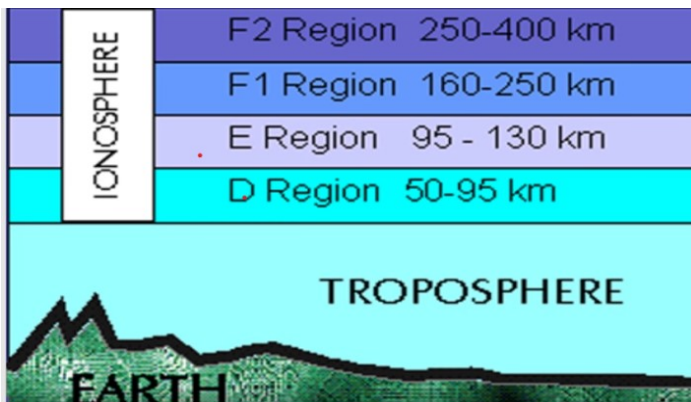


DXing: The Science, Art and Mystery of HF... by Bruce, W8HW

[Editor's note: In part 5 of a series Bruce, W8HW, our DXpert offers tips to improve your HF propagation instincts.]

Last month we explored the amazing Gray-line propagation pipeline. Now what about the hours before and after Gray-line? Propagation is different all day long. Each hour it changes as you move farther from gray-line hour. To best understand this lets take a look at how the sun drives propagation while comparing our best hours against our worst hours of operation. We will discuss what and why we have doldrums?

The Sun Giveth and the Sun Taketh away. While it is true on HF that F2 propagation results from our sun's interaction with the ionosphere (see figure 1 below), it is also true that our worst propagation is when the sun is beating straight down on us causing D region problems, thus the terms "Summertime doldrums" and "Noontime doldrums." Propagation does not stop on daytime bands during "daytime doldrums." It is just at its lowest. with weak signals and high noise levels. During emergencies you will still be able to get a message through, just not as easy as at other times. Because of this and other factors, your knowledge of propagation becomes very important. Nets and traffic handling skills are a big help during these times.



The F2 layer is the good guy and the D-layer is the bad guy.
The D-layer absorbs RF and does not reflect. The D-layer is weakest at night and strongest in the day time. That is why around noon is the poorest time of the day for propagation.

Figure 1

What causes SUMMERTIME and NOONTIME doldrums? Understanding this concept is key to improving our propagation instincts. While it is true the sun strengthens and improves the ionosphere for F2 region propagation by adding energy, it is also true that the sun creates RF noise and absorption (caused by the D region)

while it is adding this energy. This is a double whammy as it both decreases signals (absorption) and simultaneously increases noise generation at time of doldrums. Yes, the sun creates noise when it is adding energy to the ionosphere.

Sun energy timing is an important part of understanding propagation. In live talks I give a visual demonstration that is impossible to do in this article. This important distinction helps you understand the sequence of events and improve your HF propagation instincts. To help better understand how to manage this problem without the visual aids, lets first start back at gray-line and work toward the doldrums.

Gray-line times (explained in last edition) will happen twice a day, causing most HF bands to be open to "sky wave" propagation, thus allowing worldwide communications. Now what about the hours in between the two gray-line times?

At Dawn, nighttime bands (defined below) often peak for a short time just as the sun rises, then drop in propagation value shortly after daylight appears. The other side of the coin, daytime band (defined below) often provide longest range at gray-line as well, but slowly start to "shorten up." as it is called, as you progress into daylight from gray-line hours until you get to noontime doldrums and experience the poorest conditions. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon (halfway points) are wonderful times for both stateside QSO's and some DX on daytime bands from the East (toward the sun). Always remember that you will experience difficulties communicating with countries that are in noontime doldrums. Your timing management is important, so if possible work them on either side of their doldrums and yours. DX-Atlas software can help you with this timing as well improve your instincts.

Putting HF bands into three groups, Nighttime, Daytime, and bands that operates at any time. This is only a generalization and it is impossible to be exact. Additionally as SFI (Solar Flux Index) increases, bands that are poor today can open up at anytime to anywhere. Watch for the 10 meters, 12 meters and 15 meter bands to open up perhaps this fall. Prediction... While these bands can have limited openings at anytime, I would start watching them for long daytime and intense openings around October or November. Now is the time to get your antennas ready for some exciting HF- DX times.

(continued on page 13)

DXing: The Science, Art and Mystery of HF (continued)

What If the SFI increases to over 200 in the year 2025 or 2026? Many bands will become 24 hour bands for most reasonably constructed antennas. This becomes an exciting time for all HFers. Remember this strong peak time of fun. It will not last long (less than a year) so take advantage of it when it happens. After that time bands will still be good, just not quite good enough for 24 hour a day bands. No one has been able to predict just how strong Cycle 25 will be or how long its peak will last. DXpeditions love the peak time and plan many trips during peak SFI. This will be a great time to test your antenna theories to see if they are fact or fiction. DX numbers and pile-ups don't lie. They give a clear picture of our antenna knowledge. It is then when we can confirm that opinions and proven facts are two different things.

Return of the rare DXpeditions. They have been absent because of both Covid-19 and because of low SFI. The good news is they will be returning soon. Be ready. Clubs and groups have already started planning for costly DXpedition travel this coming winter and for the next several years. Now is the time to prepare your station and improve your HF knowledge so you can better enjoy the ham radio hobby for life. Hobby at Home, and give the wife a kiss as you tell her how much you love her and how much money you are saving by Hobbying at Home while learning the fascinating science of HF.

A Case in point... The second most wanted (rare) DX entity is Bouvet Island. Why? Because it has been over 20 years since a ham station transmitted from that location. The next attempt will be January or February of 2023. The call that will be used is 3Y0J and the link for additional information is <https://www.dx-world.net/3y0j-dxpedition-to-bouvet-island/>. The year and the time of the year is a good example of what we have been discussing in this series of propagation. Rare DX list: <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>



Hint... Be a friend and give your ham buddies a call or email when you spot that rare DX station so that they can "get in" on the action. They will return the favor. This could grow into a group or club like activity. Give

thanks by email after getting your DX alert, that encourages them and it does make a difference.

Another handsome bald guy



Looking for DX
DXing is like hunting.

The only difference is, DX...

When you "BAGem", **both sides WIN** ity to communicate world wide, direct antenna to antenna without using vulnerable man made relay or repeater stations. I will provide more insight into the questions in later installments.

In future newsletters we will explore how to spot the rare DX and where to find them. Fall will be on us before you know it. Thus, summertime doldrums will be gone and SFI will improve. So now is the time to ready your HF station. Fall will not be the peak SFI, but it will be the start of journey upward with many fun times on HF and DXing. SFI is expected to climb and DXpeditions should start planning for winter time travel. Keep an eye open for DX news and be sure to check out the DX page in **Treasure Coast Ham News**.

Upcoming topics: Can you change propagation? The answer is YES and NO. NO you can't change the world's propagation or the world's ionosphere. But YES you can change how your antenna interfaces with our ionosphere, and thus change how your signal propagates. This is done by addressing antenna vertical angle of radiation issues. I call that "Mission accomplished" and it is simple. It's all about understanding the world's geometry and what we do with our antennas to maximize the effect. It's about Physics, Science and Geometry, thus putting you in control. Sounds complicated; but it's not. I promises to keep it simple with very little math.

Your questions are important. Share your questions so everybody wins. I will give you credit if you permit by including your name and call sign, but will withhold name if you prefer. My email: W8HW@comcast.net. Questions can be either operating or technical.

HF is both science and art. You will never stop enjoying. Everybody please be an **Elmer (Elevated Learning Might Educate Radio-hams)**. 73, Bruce, W8HW



(YL2IICE)

From the weekly
ARRL DX News-
letter and other
sources.)

DX OPPORTUNITIES

AZERBAIJAN, 4K. Boris, 4K4K and members of the 4JOSFR Safari club are QRV with event call sign 4K880NZM to commemorate the 880 years since the birth of poet Nizami Ganjavi. QSL via 4K4K.

NIGERIA, 5N. Jean-Louis, ZS6AAG is QRV as 5N7MSF while working with Doctors Without Borders in Abuja until September 2021. Activity is in his spare time currently on 20 and 15 meters using SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

NIGER, 5U. Adrien, F4IHM is now QRV as 5UAIHM until June 27 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

MADAGASCAR, 5R. Daniel, 6W7RP, is QRV as 5R8RP from Nosy Be, IOTA AF-057. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to 5R8RP.

MARTINIQUE, FM. Marius, ON4RU plans to be QRV as FM/OQ3R until June 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW. Will also be active as TO3F in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest. QSL direct to home call.

TURKEY, TA. Special event station TC568FA is QRV until June 28 to commemorate the anniversary of the Fall of Constantinople on May 29, 1453. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

BENIN, TY. Ian, ZS6JSI is now QRV as TY5AB from Parakou and is here until June. Activity is in his spare time on 80, 40 and 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via EC6DX.

DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station R800ANL is QRV to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the birth of Grand Prince Alexander Nevsky,

who lived from 1221 to 1263. QSL via RVIAQ.

ITALY, I. Special event call sign II6RI is QRV until June 30 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Italian Republic. QSL direct to IK6IHU.

LATVIA, YL. Special event station YL2IICE is QRV until June 6 for the Ice Hockey World Championship to be held in Riga. Activity is from various locations and on 160 to 10 meters, including 30, 17 and 12 meters, and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8/4. QSL via LoTW.

AUSTRIA, OE. Special event station OE60VHSC is QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via operator instructions.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event station OZ60VHSC is QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via OZ1JHM.

MACEDONIA, Z3. Special event station Z360VHSC is QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via operator instructions.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event stations PA60VHSC and PH60VHSC are QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via PA5V and PA0INA, respectively.

VENEZUELA, YV. Special event station YV200BC is QRV during 2021 to commemorate the Battle of Carabobo 200 years ago, which paved the way for Venezuela's independence. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via YV4KW.

(Know of a coming DX station or Special Event? Please submit info to:
tchamnews@gmail.com)



Special Event Stations



Jun 25-Jun 28, 0000Z-2359Z, N6R, Simi Valley, CA. Ventura County Amateur Radio Society. 21.320, 14.255, 7.260, 3810.0. QSL: Peter Heins, N6ZE, 1559 Norwich Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Commemorating the lives of President Ronald & Mrs. Nancy Reagan. While N6R is hoping to be operating from the Reagan Presidential Library, it may need to substitute a location or locations in & around Thousand Oaks, CA, if the Presidential Library is still closed due to Covid-19. Please check website for possible updated information. www.qrz.com/db/n6r.

From **ARRL** and other sources.)

D-Day Commemoration

Jun 3-Jun 16, 1300Z-2200Z, W2W, Baltimore, MD. ARC of the National Electronics Museum. 14.244, 14.044, 7.244 7.044. Certificate & QSL: W2W D-Day, P.O. Box 1693, MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. Commemoration of D-Day & electronics in WWII. Primary operation will be June 5-June 7. Additional operation possible during June 3-4 & 8-16 as operator availability permits. Operation on 80M (3.544, 3.844), additional bands & digital modes possible. Frequencies +/- according to QRM. QSL & Certificate available via SASE. Details at www.wv-2.us.

Salvation Army Donut Day

Jun 4, 1500Z-2300Z, K0SAL, Lincoln, NE. SATERN Lincoln, NE. 14.318. Certificate & QSL: Charles Bennett, P.O. Box 67181, Lincoln, NE 68506. Salvation Army Lassie workers served donuts & coffee to soldiers on the front lines beginning in World War I. kd0ptk@gmail.com

Museum Ships Weekend

Jun 4-Jun 5, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 7.250, 14.320, 14.070 (PSK31); DSTAR via PapaSystem repeaters. QSL: USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA NI6IW, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. SASE. Operate 1600Z to 2300Z each day. Event dependent on MSW scheduled by USS New Jersey. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw.

Jun 5-Jun 6, 0000Z-2359Z, NIS, Groton, CT. NAUTILUS - First Nuclear Submarine - Generations ARC. 50.5, 14.275, 7.225, 3.850. QSL via bureau to K3LBD direct with SASE to NIS Generations ARC, 110 Vinegar Hill Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335. Event information www.qrz.com/db/n1s.

Dog Island & DXpedition

Jun 7-Jun 18, 0001Z-2359Z, K4D, Dog Is, FL. K5TEN. 6 thru 40 meters, SSB, CW, digital. 50.130, 28.310, 21.285, 14.260, 10.110, 7.188. QSL: K5TEN, Dog Is. & DXpedition, 208 Mount Tabor Rd., Hot Springs National Park, AR 71913. IOTA Is. & NA-085, FL005S. www.qrz.com/db/k4d.

King Kamehameha Celebration

Jun 11, 0000Z-2359Z, K6K, Kaneohe, HI. KH6ML. 14.268, 7.188, 146.505. Certificate: Michael, 44-096 Keaalau Pl, Kaneohe, HI 967442531. <https://sites.google.com/view/k6khawaii>.

Hudson River Radio Relay Featuring Bannerman's Island

Jun 12, 0100Z-0500Z, N2B + 7 More. Beacon, NY Hudson Valley Digital Network (HVDN). 7.200, 14.250, 18.128, 50.130. Certificate: Hudson Valley Digital Network, 106 Cedar Ave., C/O HR3 2021 Special Event, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Other stations: N2H, N2U, N2D, N2S, N2O, N2N & N2V. Voice, CW, Data & Digital frequencies for this event can be found at: <https://hudsonriverradiorelay.com/for-radio-amateurs.html>.

185th Anniversary of Arkansas Statehood

Jun 15-Jun 20, 1400Z-2100Z, N5A, Springdale, AR. Razorback Contest Club. 14.260, 14.040, 7.220, 7.040. QSL: Razorback Contest Club, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764. rccw5yo@cox.net.

International Museums Weekends 2021 - Cincinnati Art Museum

Jun 19-Jun 27, 0000Z-2359Z, W8M, Cincinnati, OH. OH-KY-IN ARS. 7.250, 14.250. QSL: Robert Frey WA6EZV, 7895 Jessies Way, Apt 301, Hamilton, OH 45011. Operating Saturday/Sunday as per International Museums Weekends recommendations. ohkyin.org.

NSS Annual Convention

Jun 26-Jul 2, 1800Z-1800Z, K6V, Weed, CA. National Speleological Society. 14.285, 14.050, 7.195. Certificate & QSL: Sam Rowe, 2749 Commercial Ave, Madison, WI 53704. Slow CW Saturday only. caves.org.

Please tell us about your special event QSOs. We will publish in a future edition.

(Know of an upcoming Special Event? Please submit info to: tchamnews@gmail.com).

CW: Actually Getting on the Air (part 1)... by Bruce, W8HW

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

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

My CW failed story was most embarrassing. When I was studying for my Novice license in 1964 at age 14, I had no mentors or Elmers to work with. I did not know a single ham. I did have an uncle who was a ham, but I never knew him because he lived a long distance away. A bit of luck happened my way when my sister started dating a man who had failed to pass his general license exam. He had a nLP (vinyl record) of code practice that he gave to me. Because he did not pass his general test, I now feared I would fail my exam as well. After all, he was 20 years old and thus much wiser than me. At age 14, what else could I think? I persisted, and with only the record somehow learned the 26 letters, 10 numbers and punctuation codes. I had no idea that CW also had a "code within a code." We'll talk more about the "code within a code" in part 2 next month.

My sister's boyfriend later connected me with a ham friend of his to take the Novice exam. I passed, and somehow with very little money was able to put together a meager station and get on the air. My first contact was from the island of Barbados on 15 meters. You would

think that would be a joyful event, but some how I managed to screwed it up. With no CW mentors or Elmers, I did not realize that hams outside of the US would have a call sign starting with something other than a K or W. Because of this lack of knowledge I must have asked him to repeat his call 5 or 6 times, and still I thought I had it wrong. I was copying his CW, but because of my call sign confusion I thought I was wrong. I became so scared and embarrassed that I ended the QSO quickly. I was sure that I was the world's worst CW operator.

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

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

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

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

(continued on page 17)

CW: Actually Getting on the Air (part 1) (continued)

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

Forget the fancy toys, software and other methods that you see for sale because none of them are a magical answer to get you on the CW air waves. These so-called tools will only make the seller richer than he was yesterday, but they do little to get you on the air. I'm sure many of the readers can attest to that, as you probably have several of these things sitting around just collecting dust. Right?

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

Endurance is important to your CW skills. This is a topic not often spoken about and not well understood. You may not have thought of it before now, but you will find it to be important. Think of it as a muscle that gets weak when not used. When you don't use a muscle often it tends to tire quickly. For example, I am in Michigan for a month (at time of writing), away from my radio and CW. When I return it will take time for me to get back into CW shape because my CW muscles will have weakened. It is best to do something on CW everyday. Tip – While driving and you see a road sign, convert it to CW using verbal dit and dah. Or perhaps make an audio CD with WIAW code practice (slow and fast speeds) to play in your car while taking long trips by yourself.

Contests are a big help in building your CW muscles. Contest will build both speed and endurance. May I suggest a group CW contest project? This would pay huge dividends to all of you participating. I would like to put this idea up for comments to all who are interested. I understand that COVID-19 is a problem. Having said that, maybe arrange a CW field day group station or stations. Later in November is the CW sweepstakes contest. Perhaps COVID-19 will be gone by then and we can operate a group station. This is could either be a portable operation or at my house using my station. What are your thoughts? My email is w8hw@comcast.net. (Please include "CW contesting" in the subject line.) If we get

enough interest, we could perhaps have a meeting to discuss this idea in depth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CWOPS # 958 (Life member and former instructor),

<https://cwops.org>

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



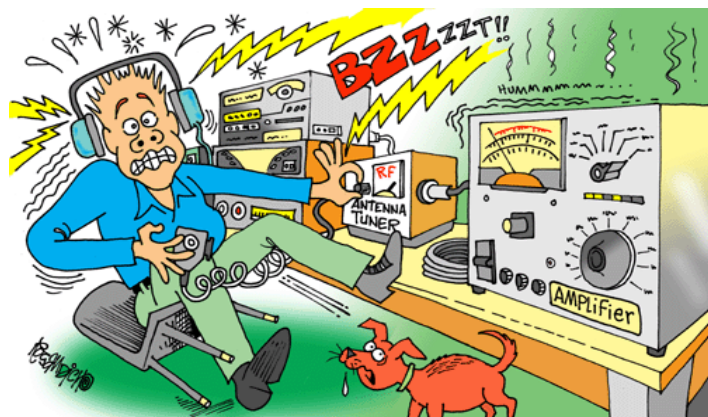
Just add you and CW will happen.

Ham Humor



I wonder how she always knows?

Question: Why does a QRP operator leave his amp on?
Answer: To keep the coffee warm.



Visitors - Keep Hands in Pockets



(From the QRZ page of DG1PM)

TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS



The editors like to reserve the last couple of pages of *Treasure Coast Ham News* for the readers. With your help these pages will include:

For Sale Section – Have something to sell or trade? Send us a description and/or picture to have it listed in this section. Looking to buy something? Provide a description and we will print it.

QSL Card Section – Many hams enjoy viewing QSL cards, especially those with colorful pictures. Send us scans of your favorite QSL cards. Maybe the first card you ever received. Or perhaps your favorite card, or your personal card. We will include some in each issue as space permits.

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

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

What's Coming Next Month

Articles planned for our July-August issue of *Treasure Coast Ham News*:

- Hurricane season update
- Tools to help find RFI
- Pneumatic antenna launchers
- Analog, DMR, & D-Star radios. Do you need all 3?
- Polarizing your power cables using Power Poles
- FT-8 DXing with Hamstick style mobile antennas
- Rebuilding a GAP Challenger
- DX propagation part 6

Also, W8HW's next CW installment:

Does this statement describe you? You copy practice CW well, but have trouble copying actual CW QSOs. If so, it may not be your fault. If you copy practice code well, but wind up with gibberish when attempting to copy a CW QSO, most likely your CW abilities are not to blame. There may be a simple explanation and an easy fix. So what is the problem, you ask? It is that CW operators often use a "Code within a Code." Next issue we will explore this concept further. You may find you are a better CW reader than you thought. C-U on CW.

Help Needed - Tony Wagner, W3TWZ, W3TWZ@Yahoo.com wants to talk to someone familiar with DMR, ANYTONE and PI-STAR. We know there are some experts among our readers. Please give him a call. Tony can be reached at 252-714-5917.

Port Saint Lucie ARA Notes

The Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association (PSLARA) advises that their 443.650 MHz UHF repeater is down.

At the club's monthly Zoom meeting held on May 26 it was noted that cause of the failure is unknown pending investigation. Length of the outage cannot be determined until the investigation is completed.

It was noted that the PSLARA 146.955 MHz 2-meter repeater continues to operate normally.

PSLARA is interested in hearing input from members and other repeater users concerning the communication modes / protocols that should be supported should it be necessary to replace the failed repeater.

The current repeater supports analog and System Fusion operation, but System Fusion rarely sees usage. Newer digital protocols are available including DMR and D-Star.

Do you, the repeater users, have an opinion on the protocol(s) a replacement repeater should support?

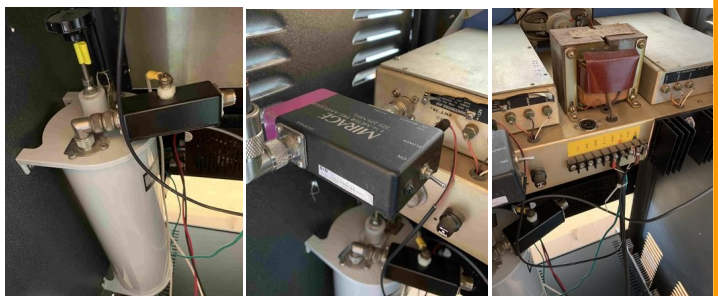
Please share your preferences and thoughts with the board in an email to info@pslara.com. Tell them if you prefer Analog, System Fusion, DMR, D-Star or something else.

HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

ORIGINAL OWNER - Create Extra Heavy Duty Antenna Rotator – Model RC5A-3 and preset control box. Includes mounting hardware and factory manual. Rated for antenna up to 20 sq. ft. Test/Demo cable included. See EHAM.NET Reviews for info. \$495.00 or OBO.

For more information, contact BOB, W7MAE, (772) 444-5845, or email w7mae@aol.com.

REPEATER — 220 Mhz. repeater system, rack mounted. Consists of VHF Engineering repeater, Mirage amplifier, microwave cavity and 50 amp power supply. Asking \$1,200 OBO. For details contact Andrew Jarrett, phone 305-505-5461, email serrano_51@icloud.com.



LMS Special Event - March 2021

STAGE

KA6LMS/0

KA6LMS/1

KA6LMS/2

KA6LMS/3

KA6LMS/4

KA6LMS/5

KA6LMS/6

KA6LMS/7

KA6LMS/8

KA6LMS/9

KA6LMS/VE3 KA6LMS/VE7

CONFIRMING QSO WITH **AI4RB**

SATELLITE MULTI MODE

BOUNCE

(Special Event - Final Episode of Last Man Standing)

The Republic of Suriname

PZ5RA
CQ Zone:9 • IRLU Zone:12 • Loc: GU2BJr

KA7UMR
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO
USA

951
USS TURNER JOY OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM, APRIL 1968

K6L

K6M

K6S

W6L

W6M

X

W6S

DSTAR

DMR

FUSION

MOON

BOUNCE

N1UL/MM

ZF2DR
GRAND CAYMAN

A45XR

Chris Dabrowski
P.O. Box 203B
CPO 111,
Muscat, OMAN

ITU:39 CQ:21 Grid:LL93do

To: W4RJP Confirming 2-way FT8 QSO, Band: 17M
Date: March 25, 2021 Time: 15:49Z, RST: -09



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

TCHamNews wants to publish 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.)

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WE CAN BE REACHED AT: TCHAMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

