

## HAM DATES:

### INDIAN RIVER CO.

July 20,27 & August 3,10,17,24, 2020

Emergency Net, 7:30pm  
146.640 (107.2) repeater

July 21,28 & August 4,11,18,25, 2020

Indian River Co. ARES NET  
7:30pm, 145.130 (107.2) repeater

August 13, 2020

Vero Beach ARC Meeting, 7:30pm  
ZOOM (request invitation)

July 23 & August 27, 2020

Indian River Co. ARES, meeting  
7:00pm 145.130 repeater

### ST LUCIE CO.

July 21,28 & August 4,11,18,25, 2020 Ft. Pierce ARC Rag chew, Traders, Tech NET 8pm, 147.345 (107.2) repeater Echolink: 2004 (W4AKH-R)

July 22 & August 26, 2020

Port St. Lucie ARA Meeting 7:30pm  
ZOOM (request invitation if not member)

July 23,30 & August 6,13,20,27, 2020

Port St. Lucie ARA Rag chew, Traders, Tech NET 7:30pm, 146.955 MHz (107.2)

August 5, 2020

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

August 12, 2020

Ft. Pierce ARC, 7:30pm, ZOOM (request invitation if not member)

August 19, 2020

St. Lucie Co. ARES Meeting on the Air, 7:30pm, 147.240 repeater (107.2)

### MARTIN CO.

July 20,27 & August 3,10,17,24,31, 2020

Rag chew net 7:30pm, 145.150 MHz (107.2) ; 7/27 & 8/31 only 147.060 (107.2)

July 23 & August 27, 2020

Martin Co. ARA Meeting  
7:00pm (check MCARA website)

August 13, 2020

Martin Co. ARES Meeting on the Air 8:00pm 145.150 MHz (107.2)

# Treasure Coast Ham News

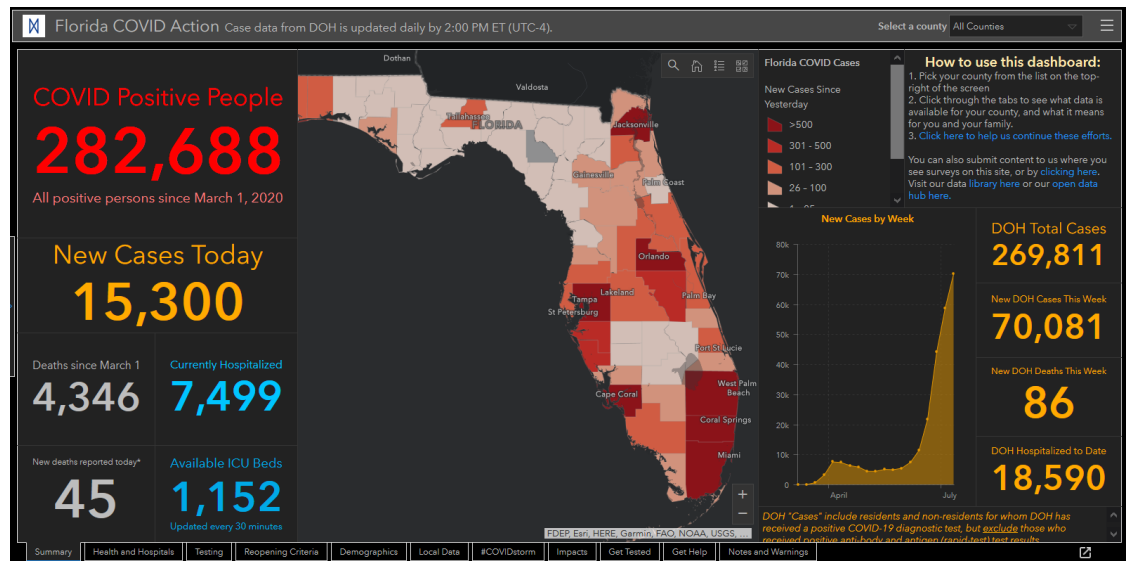
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

JULY-AUGUST 2020

## COVID-19 Continues to Impact Ham Clubs, ARES and Hamfests

We are now well into our 5th month of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of social distancing guidelines and the ease with which the virus spreads, all in-person meetings have been suspended. Treasure Coast Ham Clubs and ARES organizations are coping by utilizing ZOOM to hold virtual meetings. Other groups meet on VHF/UHF nets. Clubs will continue to adapt until a return to normalcy.

July 12, 2020)



Hamfests have not fared so well. Dayton and most other regional and nationwide hamfests have been cancelled out of an abundance of caution. The latest hamfest causality in our area is Ft. Pierce. Held at Indian River State College, the FPARC hamfest brought together many Treasure Coast hams for technical sessions, lots of bargains, VE exams, and great food. Planning is underway for 2021. The Melbourne hamfest is coming up in October. Please keep your fingers crossed.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:** VE AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TESTING \* FT. PIERCE HAMFEST CANCELLATION \* QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO \* NEW HAMS CORNER \* NEEDED: TREASURE COAST HAM DOCTORS \* A DIAGNOSIS BY THE DOCTORS \* HAM RADIO TRIVIA \* BEYOND THE HAM BANDS \* DX NEWS \* FT-8 DIGITAL MODE CLUB \* INS AND OUTS OF FT8 \* DR. LEE DE FOREST \* SHORT TAKES \* CARTOON CHALLENGE \* QSL CARDS



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



## VE Amateur Radio License Testing - Success

### We Did It

We successfully held the first Treasure Coast VE License Examination session of the COVID-19 era.

The session was held June 20th at the Buffalo Chophouse restaurant. Social distancing guidelines were followed and everyone wore a facemask. Six candidates took exams and four Volunteer Examiners proctored the session.

These candidates earned their Technician license: Timothy Fox, KO4ETL, Brian Cahill, KO4ETM, and Francois Betoulaud, KO4ETN.

These candidates earned their General license: Eric Paolini, KN4USC and Wesley Magyar, WE5MAG.

Sadly, one candidate was not successful on the Extra Class license exam.

Thanks to Bob - W4RJP, Paul - W4ISZ and Scott - AI4TT for stepping up to serve as examiners at this session. Also thanks to

Jody - W4SLD for being available to serve as a VE backup if needed.

We also owe a word of thanks to Debbie Butel, the owner of Buffalo Chophouse, for allowing us to conduct the exam session at her restaurant. Just in case you are wondering about her name, Debbie is the same Ms. Butel you see on the Port Saint Lucie city television channel when serving in her role as a member of the city's Planning and Zoning board.

### Next License Examination Session

We anticipate holding the next exam session sometime in late August or early to mid-September. The exact date and location are undetermined at this time. An announcement will be made when plans are finalized.

### New Question Pool for Extra Class Exam

A reminder - The question pool for the Extra Class exam has changed effective July 1, 2020.

A new study manual containing the updated question pool has been released by ARRL. If you are working toward your Extra Class ticket, be sure you have the most current study materials.

You can purchase the updated manual from the store at the [ARRL web site](#). Also, the complete question pool is available for download from the [National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators](#).

For further information on VE testing please contact:

#### **Vero Beach ARC**

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

#### **Ft. Pierce ARC**

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

#### **Port St. Lucie ARA**

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

## Ft. Pierce Hamfest: Cancelled for 2020

The Ft. Pierce Hamfest scheduled for Saturday, August 15th, 2020 at the Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Ave, Fort

Pierce, FL. is cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19.

Per the club web site, PAYPAL advanced pay-

ments will be returned in full. Please contact Dave, KG4ORQ, FPARC Treasurer for refunds and additional information.



**[QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo, August 8-9, has confirmed what it's calling "a packed lineup of over 70 great speakers" for the ARRL-sanctioned event.](#)**

***Just about everyone knows where to turn off the power in your home...you go to the breaker panel!***

***Did you ever wonder just how it works with your radio?***

## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Announces Full Lineup of Speakers

Presentations will be in two tracks focused on providing hands-on, practical advice.

Steve Johnston, WD8DAS, will demonstrate basic soldering techniques for repairing equipment and building projects. Marcel Stieber, AI6MS, will offer an overview of common battery types, discussing the pros and cons of each -- including battery chemistry, common uses and misuses, and everyday application tips. For experienced operators, topics will cover new techniques, equipment upgrading, 3D printing, and more. Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, will attempt to answer the question, "Is 3 dB Worth a divorce?" and cover a wide range of antenna

topics. Jim Veatch, WA2EUJ, will explain how to build a QRP radio. In the presentation, "The Slot Antenna -- Undiscovered Country for Most Hams," John Portune, W6NBC, will demonstrate how a satellite TV dish can be "slotted" to make an effective outdoor 2-meter or UHF antenna for use in antenna-restricted neighborhoods.

Prominent youth educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP, will moderate a lineup featuring amateur radio's future leaders. Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN, will speak on "Getting Girls Involved in STEM, Specifically Amateur Radio!" Hot-air ballooning will be the focus of a talk by

Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA, "Highly Flying Kids with HAB."

QSO Today's Eric Guth, 4ZIUG, says that one challenge to any ham radio convention, whether in person or virtual, is keeping the content of presentations from becoming overly complicated and overwhelming. "For our inaugural virtual Expo, we've made sure that there are great speakers for both beginners and experienced hams." Each presentation will wrap up with a live question-and-answer session.

For more information or to register, visit the [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) website. (from ARRL Letter)

## New Hams Corner: Fuses and circuit breakers

Every circuit has a limitation on how much current it can handle. To protect the wiring and components we use circuit breakers or fuses, which come in two varieties, fast acting or slo-blow.

Your radio is no exception. It needs protection too! It will have either circuit breakers or fuses to protect it.

Circuit breakers can be reset, but fuses are one time use only. Many fuses are the glass type found in older cars. Replacements can often be found in auto parts stores.

The value of the fuse is very important. NEVER replace a fuse with a higher rated one! Common values are 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 amps. There are many more sizes. If you have several pieces of gear get a few replacements fuses for each.

When a circuit breaker trips or a fuse blows the first thing to do is to find out why it happened. If you touched wires together and had a shower of sparks the diagnosis is easy. Harder issues are component failures. If you replace the fuse and the new one blows it is time to stop and evaluate the problem.

I have found simple to extremely complex causes. One common error is for people to connect wires backwards! Make sure you connect the positive wire to the positive terminal. Sometimes internal parts will fail when you reverse polarity. The faulty parts will need to be replaced before your rig will come back to life.

Another common problem is a wire that gets caught in something and the jacket becomes nicked. Should the

wire touch the metal chassis it will ground out, blowing the fuse. You replace the fuse and all is good for a while but eventually it happens again. Search for where the jacket is cut and tape it up.

Relatively new are circuit breakers that will fit into a fuse holder, thereby replacing the fuse with a resettable device. They are simple to use. You push the button back in and if the over current condition has been removed you are back in business.

Always keep a set of spare fuses on hand for all of your equipment. Fuses tend to blow at the worst possible time. Not having a spare on hand can be frustrating!

Be safe out there!

Dolph, WA2NTW

# Needed: Treasure Coast Ham Doctors



**Treasure Coast Ham News** staff often receives requests for assistance for a variety of radio related issues.

The subject of these requests

run the gauntlet, ranging from new licensee requests for assistance selecting and programming handheld transceivers, to experienced hams who relocate to our area and are requesting assistance with antenna choices, particularly in gated communities. We reply to these requests and questions as best we

can. If a question is beyond our knowledge base we attempt to forward it to a product expert for a reply.

To make knowledge easier to share with hams experiencing challenges, we want to develop a list of "experts" in various subjects that the ham community can reach out to directly for assistance.

Our intent is to develop a comprehensive list of subject matter experts (or Elmers as they are known in the ham community) and publish the list in a future issue of **Treasure Coast Ham News**. When we get our web site up and running we will also include the list there. For start-

ers, here are some topics for which Elmers are needed: HF, mobile & handheld radio selection, antennas & antenna tuners, amplifiers, DMR, code plugs and Chinese radios.

If you are willing to become a *Treasure Coast Ham Doctor* for a particular ham related subject, please let us know by sending an email to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com). Be sure to identify the topic or topics you can help with.

*"TC Ham News is emailed to over 200 local hams and shared with a number more.*

*We know many of the readers have knowledge that can help others, so please send that email today."*

## HAM DOCTOR NEEDED

Attention Treasure Coast Hams: We have a need for an Elmer for Chinese handheld radios.

Tim, KO4ETL, was recently licensed and has questions concerning the programming of a Baofeng BF-F8HP radio.

Contact Tim at [timothy.j.fox@att.net](mailto:timothy.j.fox@att.net).

# A Diagnosis by the Doctors

Recently, a local ham contacted TC Ham News about a problem he was having with very high received noise levels on all HF bands.

We visited the ham. He was using an end-fed antenna installed under the house soffit and fed with good quality coax. In his shack he had a late model Yaesu HF transceiver, computer, and other ham equipment.

He demonstrated the high received noise level for us. Using a step-by-step approach we analyzed his antenna, checked his radio settings and computer. We determined that his radio was transmitting ok.

We disconnected his outside antenna. The noise reduced but did not go away. We substituted a wire for his antenna, but the noise was still there.

We looked around the room and spied a cable company's WiFi router in a corner partially hidden by furniture. We suggested the WiFi router be temporarily powered down believing this might be the source of the noise. With the XYL's okay, the router was turned off. Bingo, the noise was gone and the radio received normally.

If you experience a significant noise issue in your shack, look for the obvious. It may very well be the cause.

*If you have a ham problem, please email [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com) Several area hams have volunteered to assist in help solving problems.*

## Ham Radio Trivia

### Answer to last month's question:

Last month we showed you an image of a QSL card with the country name blanked out. The call sign on the card was KZ5BU. We gave you hints that it closely resembled current United States call signs and that it ceased to be a valid DXCC entity on October 1, 1979. We asked you to name the former entity. Your choices were:

- A. American Sector of West Berlin
- B. Canal Zone
- C. Dry Tortugas
- D. Bikini Atoll

The correct answer was: **B. Canal Zone.**

### July Trivia Challenge

The trivia questions in the last two issues asked you to identify DXCC entities that no longer existed. Let's change the subject this month and talk about some famous politicians.

Try your luck at this question:

Of the following unsuccessful candidates for President of the United States, which one held an active amateur radio operator license at the time of his run for the presidency?

- A. Hubert Humphrey
- B. Barry Goldwater
- C. Michael Dukakis
- D. George Wallace

(Answer will be revealed in the next issue.)

*"Brush up on your radio knowledge and skills."*

## Beyond the Ham Bands: Part 3 Shortwave Listener

In the last two issues of *Treasure Coast Ham News* we discussed some HF frequency uses outside the confines of the ham bands with which we are most familiar. We touched briefly on shortwave broadcasting, maritime communications and commercial aviation.

We will wrap up our discussion this month by briefly commenting on military usage of HF frequencies, CB radio and pirates. Yes, I said pirates. But not the peg leg and eye patch type of pirate that immediately comes to mind. In radio, pirate is a slang term sometimes used to describe someone illegally operating a radio transmitter on an unauthorized frequency.

### Military Aviation

Domestic military flights, including those protecting our borders and patrolling our territorial waters use the standard air traffic control system.



However long range military flights utilize a specialized United States Air Force voice network known as the High Frequency Global Communications System (HF-GCS).

This network is continuously monitored by all U.S. Air Force flights and some U.S. Navy surface assets. With ground stations located throughout the world and linked together, any flight and any naval asset – regardless of where it is located – can be reached at any time.

The HF-GCS network operates on six primary frequencies. Most often heard are the primary frequencies of 8.992 MHz and 11.175 MHz. Backup frequencies have less traffic but can occasionally be heard. Backup frequencies for daylight operation are 13.200 MHz and 15.016 MHz. Nighttime backup frequencies are 4.724 MHz and 6.739 MHz. The network includes many additional frequencies that are assigned to assets on an as needed basis.

HF-GCS ground stations are located around the world. Ground stations always identify themselves when transmitting. This writer has heard broadcasts from Andrews AFB (Wash. DC), Guam, Ascension Island, Offutt AFB (Omaha NE), Puerto Rico and others.

The network operates in upper sideband (USB) mode. Most communications are in clear voice, but you may hear encrypted transmissions from time to time. Or you may hear clear voice transmissions that make no sense whatsoever, such as long string of numbers repeated several times. Don't be confused. It's just national security at work!

More information on the HF-GCS network can be found on this [Ham Universe](#) web page. (Scroll down toward the bottom of the page.)

### CB Radio

CB radio is alive and well. It operates on 40 frequencies in the 11-meter band between 26.965 MHz and 27.405 MHz. Mode of operation is AM. No license is need to operate a CB radio, but there are rules concerning power limits and operating procedures that should be followed.

Some key frequencies include: 27.065 MHz (CB channel 9), which is reserved for emergencies; and, 27.185 MHz (CB channel 19), which is used by truckers and is a good channel to monitor when taking a highway trip. For more information on CB radio visit the [CB World web site](#).

### Radio Pirates

I'm not sure how official the term **Pirate** is in the radio world. Generally, I use it to describe anyone willfully operating an HF radio on an unauthorized frequency or in a manner that violates the rules.

I most often hear pirate transmissions in the HF aviation bands, typically on frequencies between 6.7 and 6.8 MHz, and 8.9 and 9.0 MHz. The pirates usually speak Spanish. I believe them to be commercial fishermen operating somewhere in the Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico.

Have you heard any pirate transmissions? If so, drop us a line and tell us about them. Send your email to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).



### Other Services on HF

Several other services and agencies are assigned to HF frequencies, including time broadcast stations [WWV & WWVH](#), [business band radio](#), and the [Military Auxiliary Radio System \(MARS\)](#). Click links for more info.



## DX News

(Extracted from the weekly **ARRL DX Newsletter** and other sources.)

### **DX OPPORTUNITIES**

**ANTARCTICA, RII.** RX3ABI is QRV as RIIANM, Mirny Antarctica Base Station, IOTA AN-016, until early 2021. Activity limited to spare time on HF bands, most likely 40 & 20 meters using FT8 between 0200 to 1530z.

**VANUATU, YJ.** Operators YJ8CW, YJ8ED & YJ8RN, QRV as YJ40IND until end of July to celebrate 40th anniversary of Vanuatu's Independence. Activity on 40, 20, & 15 meters CW, SSB, & FT8.

**CORSICA, TK.** DL8UW is QRV as TK4VQO from Olmeto. Expects to be there for the next few years. Activity on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB.

**GHANA, 9G.** Matteo, IZ4YGS travels to Ghana and will operate as 9G5GS starting August 8 and continuing until mid-September.

**INDIA, VU.** Operator VU2TUO is QRV with special call AT2ARA until Sept. 23 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**EASTER ISLAND, XR0.** DK2HM, QRV as XR0YHM from Aug. 27 to Sept. 7. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and the digital modes.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**SOUTH AFRICA, ZS.** Throughout 2020 special event station ZS1820S will celebrate the arrival of the first British settlers at the South African Cape 200 years ago.

**ENGLAND, G.** Larry, G4HLN is QRV with call GB100GKU until July 28,

commemorating 100th anniversary long-range maritime radio service in the United Kingdom. Activity is on the HF bands using CW.

**THE NETHERLANDS, PA75.** Special event station PA75WSN will be active until the end of the year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands in World War II.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Special event station 8A343CJR is active to draw attention to the 343rd anniversary of the Cianjur District of Java.

### **FUTURE DX**

**PERU, OA7.** Yuri, N3QQ will be active as OA7/N3QQ from Machu Picchu between August 6 and 12. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands.

Please send DX info to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

## FT8 DIGITAL MODE CLUB – 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A number of special event stations are on the air until July 31 celebrating the 3rd anniversary of the FT8 Digital Mode Club. Here is a list of those heard by the editors in the past week. There are many others. All will identify using a distinctive FTDMC call sign suffix.

KUWAIT - 9K8FTDMC  
BAHRAIN - A91FTDMC  
SAUDI ARABIA - HZ8FTDMC  
ARGENTINA - LR8FTDMC  
AUSTRIA - OE20FTDMC

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - A60FTDMC  
EGYPT - SU8FTDMC  
NEW ZEALAND - ZL65FTDMC  
BRAZIL - ZW8FTDMC  
GERMANY - DQ8FTDMC

### **Some Ins and Outs of FT8**

When using WSJT-X version 2.2.2 with Windows, WSJT may skip a decoding cycle or two. Sometimes it will stop decoding all together.

If your WSJT skips decoding cycles it may be related to your computer's CPU usage. Try shutting down applications not needed. If that doesn't solve the problem, try shutting down

and restarting WSJT (& JTAAlert). The WSJT decoder may also just be hung. Use **Alt+Z** to clear and restart.

If you see a signal on your waterfall display that seems extra wide, it may be that the sender radio's ALC is set too high. Generally little or no ALC is what you want. Less is better. Pay attention to your rig's ALC setting and your computer's sound card settings.

If you only see a small portion of the available FT-8 spectrum on the waterfall, adjust the BIN/PIXELS setting on the left side of the waterfall window. A larger number displays more spectrum. WSJT sizes the waterfall to match the aspect ratio of your display, but it sometimes it needs fine tuning.

Email [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com) with your FT-8 operating tips, suggestions and comments.



# Dr. Lee de Forest—The Father of Radio

*(continued from page 7)*

professors gave a lecture which was to change the entire course of de Forest's life. The lecture was on the electromagnetic wave theory with a demonstration of Heinrich Hertz's experiments. This caused a veritable flare-up in the young student who made this entry in his notebook: "I shall learn all about the atom ... shall guess its shape ... shall postulate its causes and attractions ... And I Shall Invent the Reason for It." A bombastic promise - but it was more than fulfilled.

It has been my great pleasure to have known Lee de Forest since 1906 - over forty years. I have come to know him very well, and I have had many opportunities to study him at close quarters over the years. I have been fortunate to have known Edison, Tesla, and other inventors equally well, and therefore believe myself qualified to judge the outstanding qualities of such men.

One cannot be long in de Forest's company before realizing that among his greatest characteristics is his inherent modesty. He speaks in measured, quiet phrases. His unusually deep-set eyes proclaim the man of science, the indefatigable worker, the type of man who never gives up a

quest in search of light and truth. His complete disregard of his attire, his frugal living, his constantly preoccupied air, points to his tireless toil and zest for new worlds to conquer. Indeed at 73, he has as yet not found time to begin his autobiography.

Like so many men of the genius type, de Forest has an utter disregard for money. Finances have never meant a thing to him, except as a means to new scientific conquests, for research and for his inventions. Financial transactions bore him to distraction - and unfortunately for him the world has seen fit to take advantage of this: a pittance for his vacuum tube, his re-generation invention, his radiophone (broadcasting), as well as dozens of his more than two hundred inventions.

Few of history's great inventors have been paid so little for epoch-making patents. Harassed by patent suits against him and countersuits which he had to bring in turn against others, the little money that was given him soon vanished.

Once, because he was so rash to tell a Federal court that with his radiophone a man would soon be able to talk across the ocean, the Father of Radio almost went to jail! If not for the pleas of a good

attorney, de Forest would have been imprisoned for his temerity in predicting modern broadcasting! Nothing ever came easy to any great inventor. The invention of the Audion was no exception. It was an epic in frustration, in dogged plodding against seemingly insuperable, mountainous difficulties.

There are too many witnesses who worked with him and who certified how he started with his Welsbach gas flame Audion and step by step, through literally thousands of separate experiments, finally battled himself to the three-element grid Audion.

In spite of all this evidence, there are even today jealous, narrow-minded intolerants who say, "Oh, de Forest, he just stuck a grid into the Fleming valve!" This is like saying, "The Wright brothers flew because they stuck a propeller on an old kite."

Did all these soul-trying tribulations discourage Lee de Forest? Not in the least. His mind is as clear as ever at 73, his ideas as young as of yore, his curiosity keener than ever.

The other day he and I discussed certain new aspects of a technical problem in television. For the first time during a two-hour conversation his deep-

*(continued on page 9)*



(de Forest continued from pg 8)

sunk eyes flashed and sparkled! His alert mind was stalking an idea once more!

This augurs well for his future. Let all of us - the entire radio-electronic fraternity - congratulate Dr. Lee de Forest on the 40th anniversary of his famed Audion. Then let us wish him continuous good health, a long life, and many new laurels.



And, may I add, let the radio industry reward him financially for the staggering debt it owes the Father of Radio, a debt which it can never hope to fully repay.

\*\*\*\*\*

[**Dr. Lee de Forest** was an American inventor, self-described "Father of Radio", and a pioneer in the development of sound-on-film recording used for motion pictures. He held over 180 patents. His most famous invention, in 1906, was the three-element Audion (triode) vacuum tube, the first practical amplification device. Although De Forest had only a limited understanding of how it worked, it was the foundation of the field of *electronics* making possible *radio broadcasting* and countless other applications.]

(biography from Wikipedia)

## Short Takes

### Rechargeable Batteries

[Click here](#) for an interesting article on the development of rechargeable batteries.

### ICOM Radios

Do you own an ICOM rig? If so, check out this [web site](#) for some useful gadgets that may make operating easier.

### W6AER Website

Check out the web site of California ham [Lucas Ford, W6AER](#), of Pacifica, California. It's an exceptionally well done web site, containing much useful information for hams of all experience levels. Be sure to check out the *Guides & Tips* section, where you will find setup and operating information for FT8 and DMR.

### ERP (Effective Radiated Power)

Want to know your ERP? Check out this [ERP calculator](#). You might be surprised!

### IEEE Spectrum

The IEEE Spectrum website has ham radio and electronics articles. Check them out:

[The Uncertain Future of Ham Radio](#) - Software-defined radio and cheap hardware are shaking up a hobby long associated with engineering.

[Hands on: A Ham Radio for Makers](#) The RS-UV3 lets you build your own Arduino-or Raspberry Pi-based radio.

[The Rise, Fall, and Rise of Electronics Kits](#)

Engineering will never outgrow hobbyists.

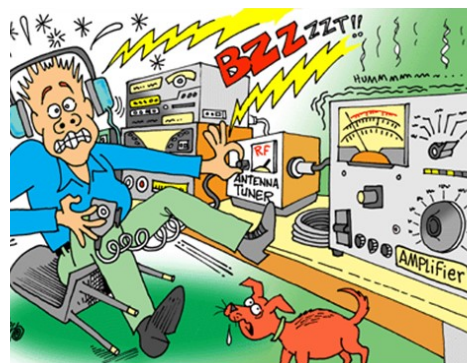
[Newer Solar Cycle 25 Forecast Runs Counter to Consensus](#)

In this PDF document the authors say the next sunspot cycle will be of major proportions. **Let's hope it is true...**

## Cartoon Challenge

I'm sure we are all experiencing some stress in our lives associated with the COVID-19 crisis. One way to at least briefly ease stress is to enjoy a bit of humor. So this month, let's do another Cartoon Challenge.

Look at the image below.



Your challenge is to come up with an amateur radio related caption for this cartoon that will make us all laugh. Send your caption ideas to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

We will share the funniest responses in the next issue of *Treasure Coast Ham*

The editors intend 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.

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

We will close this issue with a few QSL cards on the next page. Watch for our next issue in early September.

Enjoy your summer. 73, The Editors.

The QSL cards below show what can be done with minimal antennas, low power, and FT-8. Don't let your radio and antenna situation be an impediment. Get on the air and enjoy the hobby!

Antenna: 12ft. high vertical dipole mounted 6 ft. above the ground. Power output is +/- 25 watts.

Antenna: 17m Hamstick vertical w/ 4 in. mag mount base on steel arm of a folding chair. Power output +/- 20 watts.

**9K20W**

Hamad Alserhan  
street 2 block 3 house 70  
Alrehab,  
kuwait  
Loc:LL39xg ITU:39 CQ:21  
kenwood ts-590sg  
100 watt

To: W4RJP This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO  
Date: June 26, 2020 Time: 00:23 UTC  
Band: 40M UR Sigs: -16

**AC9HP**

Wayne R Michael  
1255 Weston Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46234  
46234  
Loc:EM69ts ITU:8 CQ:4 Marine County

To: AI4RB This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO  
Date: June 30, 2020 Time: 18:47 UTC  
Band: 17M UR Sigs: -13

**ZL3RIK**

Yaesu FT - 847  
Yaesu FT dx 3000  
100 Watts to 800  
Watts  
Vertical Gap  
"Eagle" antenna  
5040 meters

Rick Jackson  
Christchurch  
New Zealand 8013  
ITU:50 CQ:33 DX:RE66

To: W4RJP Confirming 2-way FT8 QSO, Band: 40M  
Date: May 24, 2020 Time: 09:05Z, RST: -19  
Many thanks for the contact. Good DX & 73. Rick

FRANCE

**E2YU**

To: AI4RB This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO  
Date: June 13, 2020 Time: 23:04 UTC  
Band: 17M UR Sigs: -16

73, Paul-Joël HERBET

**FK8CE**

Dominique HOARAU  
PO BOX: 138  
98870 BOURAIL  
NEW CALEDONIA  
Loc:RG28rj ITU:56 CQ:32  
IOTA:OC-032  
YAESU FT-950,100W. YAESU FT-450,100W.  
Vertical CUSHCRAFT R-8 at 7 meters high.  
BEGALI "STEALTH" KEYSER.  
ACOM 1010.

To: W4RJP This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO  
Date: June 30, 2020 Time: 07:29 UTC  
Band: 40M UR Sigs: -08  
TNX QSO, 73 DE Dom.

RADIO AMATEURS OF ONTARIO CANADA

To: AI4RB Confirming 2-way FT8 QSO, Band: 17M  
Date: June 21, 2020 Time: 17:09Z, RST: -13

VE3MZD Mike

Windsor Ontario  
Loc:EN82LH

CQ ZONE 4 ITU ZONE 4



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