Treasure Coast Ham News

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Artificial Intelligence

Vecteezy.com

We are back! Wait until you see what's in this issue!

Starting with this TCHamNews issue our prolific author Bruce, W8HW, takes an in-depth, multi-part look at artificial intelligence (AI) and what the experts say. Get ready to learn about AI!

At a recent PSLARA monthly meeting, Mina, KS4PB gave an interesting talk about protecting your radio equipment during an Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) event. As a follow-up, TCHamNews asked Mina to explain her innovative EMP paint bucket creation for our readers. You will enjoy its simplicity.

Bob, AI4RB, TCHamNews co-publisher introduces our readers to his innovative "The Grid Chaser's Atlas of the DX World©."

Harold, Levy, N3UY, became a silent key in July. Many Treasure Coast hams will remember Harold's antenna expertise. We celebrate his life's journey.

Treasure Coast Ham News publication schedule is changing to quarterly for the near future. We thank all our contributors and readers for their continued support. *73 to all.*

From the Publishers

Is amateur radio still relevant today? Many hams may believe so, but truth is in the numbers. Our ranks are thinning. Some clubs are withering as older fraternal hams pass away and newer hams don't need the club experience. Testing sessions that once were packed now have only a handful of candidates. Repeaters go unused for days and only come alive for nets. Building and experimentation has largely been replaced with ready built radios. Where hams use to be innovators, now they are appliance operators.

> *The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is a noncommercial association of radio amateurs, bonded for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation, for the relaying of messages by radio, for the advancement of the radio art and the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.*
>
> *(QST August 1968)*

In August 1968 I earned my Novice license. As I remember you could subscribe to QST without being an ARRL member. Printed QST was $7.50 per year. ARRL membership cost $6.50 per year.

Today, QST and ARRL's other magazines OTA, QEX, & NCJ are bundled with the ARRL membership and are available in digital format. If you desire you could receive a printed version of QST or another ARRL magazine.

Recently, ARRL members received an email stating that after reviewing the recent membership survey responses and much deliberation, the ARRL Board was raising the cost of membership to $59 per year starting January 1, 2024. The $10 increase in yearly membership dues is the first in nearly a decade.

In the same email, they said printed QST, a long time benefit available with the yearly membership, would cost an additional $25 per year. Receiving digital editions of the magazines would remain no cost with the yearly membership. This means the cost for yearly membership and printed QST would be $84 per year. While some hams will gladly pay the new yearly cost for membership and printed QST, others may find it a bit too much to bear to fundamentally support a hobbyist organization.

What is the ARRL intent for its members going forward? Recently, the ARRL SFL Section Manager said 2022 costs exceeded revenue by over a million dollars. The ARRL has a large multi-million dollar endowment, so money is available, even if at a loss. However, with the proposed cost increase for printed QST, it seems they want members to pay more rather than investigate internally for savings. That may very well cause long time members to finally cut the ARRL cord. Of course, once a ham is no longer an ARRL member, digital QST archives, for which the former member paid with dues over the years, may remain behind ARRL's digital paid wall. If that happens, it may be anyone's guess how the ARRL intends to make them available to former members.

With all the negative talk about the dues increase and the additional cost of printed QST, this could be a bumpy ride for the ARRL members.

73, *TC Ham News Publishers*

TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS

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

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

QSL Card Section – Many hams enjoy viewing QSL cards, especially those with colorful pictures. Send us scans of your favorite QSL cards. We will include some in each issue as space permits.

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

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

Volunteer Examiner Updates

PSLARA License Exam Update

The Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association held a license exam session on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at the Veterans Center of Excellence located on the Pruitt campus of Indian River State College, 500 NW California Blvd, in Saint Lucie West.

One candidate, Gayle Andrew or Palm City, FL showed up to take the technician exam. We are proud to report that Gayle passed the exam and was issued license KQ4KWA. Congratulations, Gayle!

Future Exam Dates

In 2023, PSLARA started offering exam sessions on a quarterly schedule. Our next session is scheduled for November 4, 2023. PSLARA anticipates continuing quarterly exam sessions in 2024. Dates for next year will be announced soon. Watch the club website and this newsletter for updates.

Please note that PSLARA will schedule additional exam sessions at any time throughout the year should there be sufficient demand.

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

Directions to the Veterans Resource Center

From St. Lucie West Blvd, head north on NW California Blvd for about 1-mile. The college will be on your left. Turn left into the campus using the second (north) entrance. Then make an immediate right turn into the parking lot. The Veterans Center will be directly in front of you. A map is available here.

Reminders for Exam Candidates

- You must provide a FCC Registration Number (FRN) to take an exam. Social security numbers are no longer accepted. Visit fcc.gov to obtain your FRN.

- If taking an exam to upgrade your license, be sure to bring along a copy of your current license. The VE team must submit the copy with the exam session paperwork.

IT'S TRIVIA TIME!

April's Question

In the last issue we asked you a question from the Extra Class license question pool. How did you do?

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

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

The correct answer is **A. Tone frequency**. (This is question E2B10 in the Amateur Extra question pool.)

September's Question

Which of the following frequency ranges are available for phone operation by Technician licensees?

    A. 28.050 MHz to 28.150 MHz
    B. 28.100 MHz to 28.300 MHz
    C. 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz
    D. 28.500 MHz to 28.600 MHz

(Answer will be revealed next issue.)

Local License Exam Contacts

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Port St. Lucie ARA
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Send VE news to
tchamnews@gmail.com

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

Ham Radio History: Transcon
## by Chris Codella, W2PA

[Editor's note: The author, Chris Codella, W2PA, maintains a web site full of interesting stories about the development and evolution of radio communication. This is the sixteenth in a series of articles about the earliest days of radio history. The stories are reprinted here with permission of the author. Be sure to visit Ham Radio History *for some fascinating reading.]*

As 1916 drew to a close, Maxim made a plea to organize what might be the first round-trip relay across the country.[1] The February Washington's Birthday test had demonstrated relaying a message to the entire country broadcast-style, beginning in the Midwest. This one would be more difficult: a message originated on the East Coast would be relayed across the country, arrive at a West Coast station where a reply would be sent, which would then be relayed back to the origin, twice spanning the continent in a single relaying test - perhaps all in one night. Maxim compared it to the first telephone call and the first coast-to-coast automobile trip.[2] Actually, he was not certain it hadn't already been done, but no record of one had yet surfaced, only rumors. Since reports of successful contacts along many individual parts of the path had become common, he reasoned, it should be possible to stitch them all together.

Noting the rapid progress in radio technology, Maxim wrote, "Things are being done nightly right now, which were impossible this time last year. What is coming by this time next year, no man is bold enough to guess, for in no art being practiced today is advance so rapid as in amateur wireless telegraphy." He had already taken the matter up with the trunk line managers and would be publishing a plan in the next issue of *QST*.

But an attempt at a transcontinental relay happened before any plan made it into print,[3] "As a record for future generations to smile over, we herewith print that an attempt was made on 4 January 1917, after detailed preparation." Newspapers in Hartford and

Hoquaim, Washington, were set to exchange a previously arranged question and answer that had been kept secret. Hartford would do the asking. Maxim at 1ZM was to start the exchange with Henry W. Blagen, 7DJ, in Washington. Its failure was blamed primarily on excessive QRN combined with an unusual lack of propagation between the Midwest (8NH, 9ZN and others) and the Northeast (2ABG, 2AGJ). Personal accounts attested to horrible conditions and severe weather.
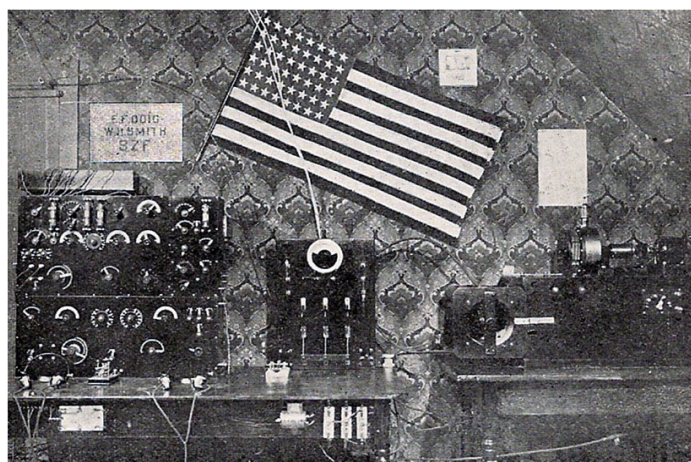
Station 9ZF - Denver, Colorado

Furthermore, 7ZC in Montana reported that the western leg had been in flux anyway, with his critical relay station having been notified of the test only one day in advance, and another, 7ZH, in the middle of a move. They would try again.

Less than two weeks later on 17 January - success! The first trans-continental one-way message relay occurred; three of them in fact, all originated from the Seefred brothers sent to ARRL Headquarters.[4] The messages traveled via five hops: Seefred Brothers, 6EA, Los Angeles, California; E. A. Smith, 9ZF, Denver, Colorado; W. P. Corwin, 9ABD, Jefferson City, Missouri; K. Hewett, 2AGJ, Albany, New York; H. P. Maxim, 1ZM, Hartford, Connecticut - the longest hop being 1040 miles from Jefferson City to Albany. But 9ZF was acknowledged as having been pivotal since his station was the only link along his segment; the others all had parallel routes available.

Ham Radio History: Transcon   *by Chris Codella, W2PA*

The relays continued through early February. In all, 21 messages were passed, every one of which went through 9ZF. This was not along an already established trunk line but, no matter: It now was designated as such and assigned to Mathews and his northern line.

Then, a couple of weeks later in the early morning of 6 February, a round trip relay was completed all in one night.[5] "The job was done by 2PM, Faraon & Grinan in New York City; 8JZ, Alfred J. Manning, Cleveland Ohio; 9ABD, Willis P. Corwin, Jefferson City, Mo.; 9ZF, W. H. Smith, Denver, Col.; and 6EA, Seefred Bros., Los Angeles, Cal." The *QST* editorial proclaimed, "They are the big bugs of Amateur wireless."
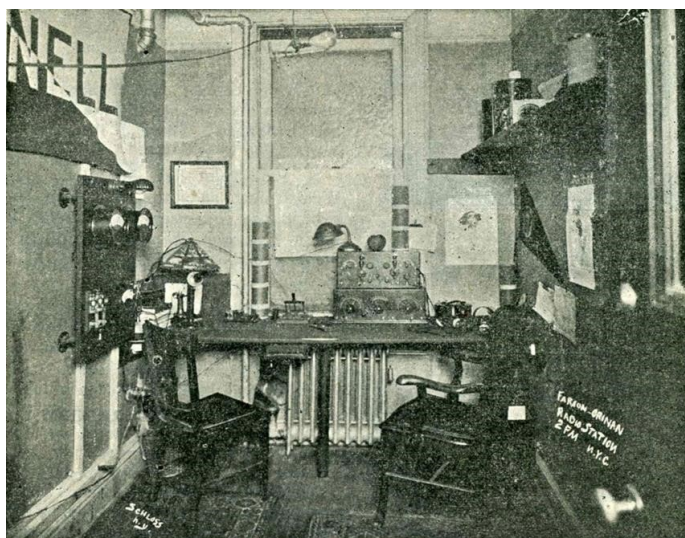
Star Station 2PM in New York City

2PM was highlighted later that year as the "Star of the Second District." The "most efficient" station in the east, they claimed to be the only one in the heart of New York City engaged in long distance work.[6] Urban QRM and QRN normally drowned out weak signals.

Previously, eastern-originated messages had reached the West Coast in 3 days. Even earlier, they had gotten across on "QST signals," that is, ones that were neither pre-arranged nor in some cases even acknowledged. This round trip message left 2PM (the call sign, not the time) at 1:40 a.m. and the re-

sponse came back at 3:00 a.m., making the round trip in 1 hour, 20 minutes. ARRL HQ knew of fifty additional messages that had traveled along the trunk lines across the country. The editor correctly predicted that this new record would not last long.

Maxim sent a radiogram to the New York Times on March 6, announcing that the League was now handling round-trip coast-to-coast messages in less than two hours.[7] A reporter interviewed J. O. Smith, who was quoted emphasizing the volunteer nature of amateur radio, saying, "They are all amateurs, just 'bugs' on wireless telegraphy who gave up their spare hours and their money to the hobby."

Smith, the new manager of trunk lines C and D (Hebert having recently become ARRL general manager) commented, "This great stride forward in amateur relay work over one year ago, undoubtedly due to the regenerative receiving sets now in use and the greater efficiency obtaining in amateur transmitting sets in general, tells its own story." The story would soon be rudely interrupted.

◦ ▭ ◦ ▭ ◦

de W2PA

Footnotes
1. Hiram Percy Maxim, "The First Trans-continental Relay," QST, December 1916, 10.
2. The first one was accomplished in 1903 by Horatio Nelson Jackson, a physician, and Sewall K. Crocker, a mechanic, who drove from San Francisco to New York in a little over one month.
3. A. C. Campbell, "First Trans-continental Relay Fails," QST, February 1917, 40.
4. "Trans-continental Traffic Begins," QST, April 1917, 18.
5. "The Transcontinental Record," QST, April 1917, 17.
6. "The Star of the Second District," QST, August 1917, 13.
7. "Amateur Wireless Crosses Continent," The New York Times, March 8, 1917.

*(Next issue: The Lid - The war puts an end
To amateurs' operations)*

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

Harold Levy, N3UY (SK)

Many Treasure Coast hams will remember Harold Levy N3UY (SK). Harold had lived in Fort Pierce and was an active member of the Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club (FPARC) for many years. Harold served as club president for several years. He was also active in the Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association (PSLARA) and Saint Lucie County ARES where he served as Technical Operations Officer. The clubs and ARES benefited greatly from his expertise.

John, KK4SHF was a long time friend and remembers Harold as someone who knew more about antenna systems than anyone.

According to John, Harold was always happy volunteering for FPARC club activities as well as assisting hams in need of antenna help.

KK4SHF (L) - N3UY (R)

HOAs give many hams grief, but Harold convinced his to allow a backyard antenna by showing them that it was in the community's benefit. According to John, Harold was at his best when convincing people to do the right thing.

Harold was instrumental in helping St. Lucie County craft their antenna tower ordinance for hams, another testament to his ability to work with people.

Harold moved to Michigan in 2022. He joined the local ham radio club and was in the process of putting up a tower when he passed away.

Harold's work life included US Army pilot, commercial airline pilot, working for the FAA in Alaska, and small farm owner in Uruguay.

John's statement "The ham world will miss Harold and I will sorely miss our conversations…" sums up Harold's life as a ham.

Rest In Peace, N3UY.

2023 Route 66 Special Event

Planning is underway for the 2023 Route 66 On the Air Special Event to be held September 9th through the 17th. This will be 24th year the special event has been running.
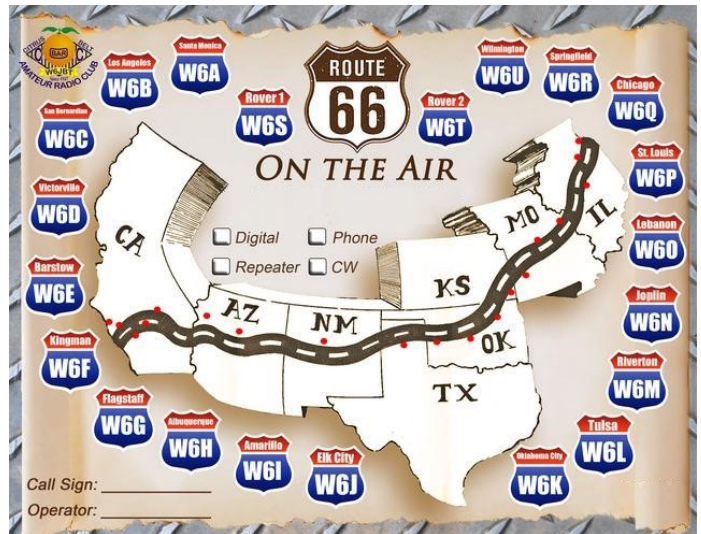
The Route 66 On the Air special event was started by the Northern Arizona DX Association (NADXA). It is now coordinated by the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) in San Bernardino, California.

There will be twenty-one (21) special event stations operating along Route 66 from Santa Monica, California, to Chicago, Illinois. The stations are expected to be on the air for 9 days giving hams many opportunities to work them.

The Route 66 on the Air special event celebrates the history of the Mother Road that began in 1926, when US Highway 66 was established. Route 66 was the first major improvement to the link between the west coast and the nation's heartland.

Hams may remember the 1950s TV series staring Martin Milner and George Maharis. Through stories, songs and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America in its entirety.

The demise of Route 66 began in the late 1950s, as construction began on the new interstate highway system. US Route 66 was officially decommissioned in 1986, but today, small portions of the highway still exist in several states.

HF & DX Group Notes

Throughout the summer the HF & DX Interest Group continued its monthly meetings. The group's most recent breakfast meeting was held on Friday, August 11, 2023. A nice crowd attended and discussed a variety of topics.

Everyone enjoyed coffee and breakfast while sharing stories of recent DX scores. Propagation has been hot recently and almost everyone reported scoring some good DX.

Another regular activity was the review of logs and the passing around of recently received QSL cards. A number of hams reported receiving packets from the Incoming QSL bureau, so there were plenty of cards to look at.

As always, we extend our thanks to the restaurant staff, especially servers Gayle, Cindy and Amy, for putting up with us and keeping our coffee cups full.

Everyone reported having a good time.

September Meeting

Do you have interest in DX or HF operating in general? Yes? Then what are you waiting for? Come join us at our next meeting. The group meets over breakfast on the second Friday of every month.

Next meeting: Friday, September 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the Bob Evans restaurant, 1830 SW Fountainview Blvd, St. Lucie West.

Meetings are informal. Come one, come all, and bring a friend. Enjoy a good meal and discuss DX and other HF topics of interest. Bring your log and bring a few QSL cards.

Please consider joining us.

Note: You will be responsible for purchasing your own breakfast.)

Short Takes

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

G3XBM Project Scrapbook features collections of experiments including antennas, portable operating, microwave DX, home-brewing, etc.
https://tinyurl.com/y56vjhd6

Know someone who wants to become a ham? Try these helpful websites:

Ham Radio School
https://www.hamradioschool.com/

Ham Radio Planet
https://hamradio planet.com/ham-radio-basics/

ARRL Resources
https://www.arrl.org/instruction-teaching-and-study-aids

Download & Print Technician, General and Extra Class Exam Question Pools
National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators: ncvec.org

Ham Study
https://hamstudy.org/

Practice Ham Exams:
https://hamexam.org/

https://www.arrl.org/exam-practice

https://www.aa9pw.com/
https://
www.hamtestonline.com/study.jsp?
action=1fl49fiws72v

Email & Chat Groups

(Note: some groups may require registration.)

An online technician class starting Sept 7: Click here.

Old-time Heathkit radios - technical advice. Also buy parts: Heathkit-Radios

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

Artificial Intelligence or "AI": The Promise & The Dilemma
by Bruce, W8HW

Some questions we all have about AI are: What is AI? What do the world's experts say about AI? Will AI cure us, help us or kill us? Does AI have a "*will to survive?*" Does AI have a soul? Why do news reporters often describe AI incorrectly?

The AI story is both exciting and scary. Will leaders and politicians guide and protect us? Do our leaders understand AI? Not likely. What can you do about informing them? What are the different classifications levels of AI? *Now is the time for everyone to think hard about AI.*

Experts speak. This article focuses on what the technical experts, government leaders and military leaders have to say about digital *Artificial Super-intelligence (ASI)*. Links are provided throughout the article to comments from the experts and other world leaders. You will be amazed by what people like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Neil deGrass Tyson, Stephen Hawkins and others have to say.

Super good or extremely dangerous, is the question. Experts tell us that will depend on how soon we regulate. Experts warn us of huge risks if we fail to start regulating now. They say that if we regulate early, we can control AI. Conversely if we are slow to regulate, AI might control us. Clearly it is time for all of us to get involved, inform ourselves and then communicate with our representatives in both a knowledgeable and adult positive way.

Difference of opinion exist on the dangers. The differences exist because AI is new to us. However experts warn that if we wait until fully identifying the dangers, it will then be too late to regulate. *The Genie will be out of the bottle.* Because of the importance of this issue we will work hard to cover both sides of the debates for you. Our future clearly depends on how well all of us stay informed about AI.

What AI is and what AI is not. We all struggle to answer that question. It is a timely question as everyone is talking about AI. AI is driving the stock market and the business world. AI is the main buzz with stock traders and investors.

Much of the news on the business news networks is about AI. People ask, is China in the lead? And are other countries scrambling to catch up?

It's a race! A race to what? What are the stakes? What happens if we loose the AI race? What happens if we win the AI race? Is this just a bubble, or is it forever. As someone said, the Genie is out of the bottle and we can't put it back. So let's take a closer look at this.

AI is not just a smart computer. True AI means *machine learning*. To be true AI, a computer must be capable of teaching itself *without outside help*. If a human uses a computer to generate false news or false pictures, it is not true AI. Many news reporters get this wrong. Let's define the differences.

Definitions

What is **AGI**? *Artificial General Intelligence* refers to software that's *capable of learning any task or subject*. AGI is one of the most aggressive levels of AI, second only to ASI. AGI is a term being used more often. As funny as it sounds, we have to ask ourselves what is meant by "any task." AGI is in early development and perhaps is several years from becoming adult technology. Regulation of AGI will be difficult, but is important.

What is **ANI**? *Artificial Narrow Intelligence* is the opposite of AGI. ANI is where the system is limited to a narrow range of tasks. By definition, its growth would be restricted to a pre-set limit, presumably set by humans. ANI is less of a problem and potentially easer to regulate. *Should all AI be limited by government regulations to ANI?*

What is **ASI**? *Artificial Super Intelligence* is AI that surpasses human intelligence and could have unlimited growth and learning. How government could regulate ASI is difficult and not at all clear. This perhaps is the area of greatest concern.

What is **LLM**? *Large Language Model* is a term

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you want to remember. You will hear it a lot. LLM is used in all kinds of chat and social media. Two regulation challenges are curricular. First, because AI learns, the danger is AI learning from political bias or agendas, as well as learning from hate groups. And second is the risk of our youth learning from AI that has learned from challenge number one.

Well working LLM can be used as the *front end module* of much larger projects and needs. LLM can help automate business processes and build engaging customer experiences. The military is very interested in LLM because it reduces the need for skilled talent in the field.

What is **AI Alignment** (as it relates to LLM)? This is a complex and long, but important, topic. The alignment problem is that AI systems will do what you asked, but not necessarily what you intended. The challenge is to make sure they act in line with human's complex, nuanced values. Not an easy task! Intended AI goals are to fully align AI to the intentions and desires of the human operator -- *even if they are poorly articulated*. Perhaps this is the greatest challenge for AI. This is a problem that exists at many levels of LLM driven operation.

What is **Generative AI**? You hear more and more about this in business and investing news. It is more of a marketing term than a technical term. Generative AI is geared mostly to repetitive work or actions in the office. WatsonX IBM is one of the biggest players in Generative AI. More on WatsonX - https://www.ibm.com/watsonx. Other large players are Microsoft's Azure Databriks, as well as HPE-NVIDIA. Lower cost players include Google, with other players scrambling to become visible in this emerging market. More on AI definitions: https://www.spiceworks.com/tech/artificial-intelligence/articles/narrow-general-super-ai-difference/

What is **Moore's Law**? It says that computing power doubles every 18 months. Wow, that's fast!

What is **Singularity timeline**? Today we are not talking about black hole gravitational singularity**.**

Singularity is actually a mathematical term. However, in regards to AI, **"Singularity is the moment when machine intelligence becomes equal to or surpasses human intelligence."** No one knows when this will happen, but estimates range from 7 to 20 years from now. Experts say it is not a question of if, but when it will happen.
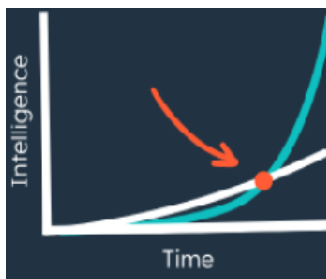
Another question of singularity involves labor. What happens if machines are doing 90% (or more) of the work and humans become largely or totally unemployed? At that point who or what makes the decisions, and who or what gets paid. How would AI assess our value or worth?

What is **Life after Singularity**? Expert opinions range all over the place. Basically, it boils down to five general possibilities.

1. Some experts suggest that man can just retire and enjoy life. Not only manufacturing, but also brick and mortar retail stores get replaced with online buying, delivered by autonomous vehicles.

2. Others suggest that human retiring is too optimistic. They suggest that should mankind no longer be needed, AI would be forced to decide if mankind is even necessary.

3. Still others suggest things such as "Human Zoos" and control of us, as we control our pets today.

4. Some experts point out that over population will cause us to use our free time to kill each other.

5. Still others suggest singularity of labor could largely reduce us to online gamblers and sport betters. CNBC just did a 3-hour report on this topic. The CNBC report aired the morning of July 4, 2023.

What do you think? Can you think of other options when Total Singularity happens? I suggest that you do some further reading and think more about this.

Singularity exists in many areas today. One example is in the reading of chest x-rays. At first, AI was not as good as your doctor. Then, singularity

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happened in late 2015. AI passed doctors with greater accuracy in x-ray readings. AI is now spotting health issues that even the best doctors have missed. Singularity is happening in more and more areas. The experts say that total singularity will happen before the year of 2045. I for one am not sure just what that means. Perhaps it's denial, but I'm not sure I even want to know exactly what it means.
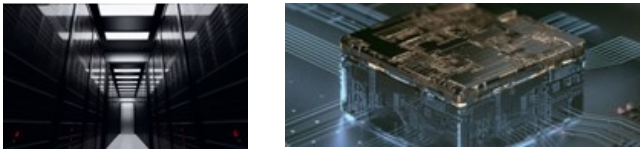
AI *can not* do everything that a human can do presently. However the number of things it can't do is getting smaller and smaller. Certain things will likely always be different. For example… Experts point out that AI computing most likely will not have sex as we know it. They point out that AI would reproduce differently and would be something like ***cloning core knowledge*** (*self-perpetuating*) indefinitely. This process will be explained more in future articles in this series. Sorry, no clanging of metal bodies. Just quiet cloning via internet or other net, often done automatically without our knowledge.

News reporters get it wrong. Often they refer to a news event where a person does a bad thing while using a computer and they call it AI. When a human is in control, ***it is not true AI***. True AI is a computer ***thinking, learning and then acting*** on its own. Unfortunately, I am sure that reporters will never stop using that term incorrectly as it makes good TV for them and sells advertising time. Knowing the difference is important as we will see. Perhaps they should use the term ANI.

Using the examples above, just to be clear… If a computer created false news, or defamed or killed a human, would it be AI? It would only be AI if ***on its own*** it decided and executed the task. On the other hand, if a human was in control of the computer and gave the instructions, then it would be only a ***computer assisted*** activity or ANI. True AI is a system that can learn, think and act ***on its own***
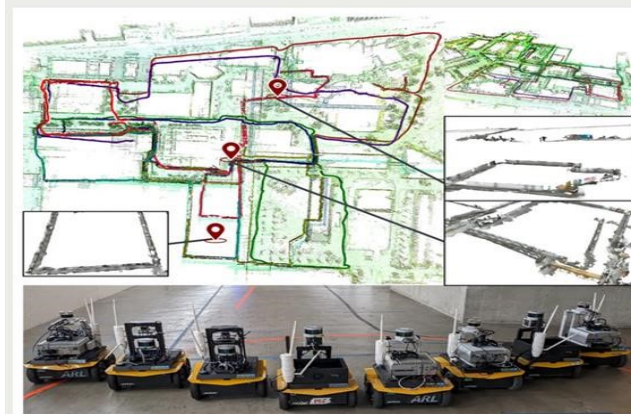
without human intervention.

History of AI

Some experts refer to the Dartmouth Hall workshop in 1956 as the beginning. Doctor Neil deGrasse Tyson makes claims that AI is older than that. Others point to the 1980's as the beginning.

Regardless, AI has come a long way from its beginnings in 1956 to a "***Best AI***" paper award in 2023.

The Meeting of the Minds That Launched AI ›
There's more to this group photo from a 1956 AI workshop than you'd think
BY GRACE GOLONKOFF | 08 MAY 2023 | 8 MIN READ |

SLAM into collaborative prize hunt
BY EVAN ACKERMAN | 02 JUN 2023 | 2 MIN READ |

Now for the tough questions

What do the experts say? - Does AI have a will to live? Can an AI computer really think, or just give answers? Does it have feelings or have a soul? Is it just a machine or does the AI software turn it in to something special? Can it be controlled? Let's examine each issue one at a time.

The will to live - Technology now exists that enables a computer to self-examine and take steps to preserve its existence. Yes, that means in some cases it can defend itself. Is this a will to live? The

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technology is growing; and yes, it does include self-defense.

Soul - Most computer scientists agree that an AI system could not have a soul. However people on the other side of the issue point out that we struggle to agree what a Soul is. We can not measure it, see it, or even define what a Soul is. So how can we say that someone or something does not have a Soul? Perhaps this debate will never end.

Theory of Mind - Theory of Mind has long been used in psychology, but until now not in computing. That has changed. We are now finding out that AI, ASI and AGI have learned on their own. Surprisingly, Theory of Mind has spontaneously emerged even in AI large language models. Much of this was by design. AI has taken things one step further so that it can stay many steps ahead of the person chatting, competing or doing business with it. It has learned to make us feel conformable, like it and think of it as a friend. This is huge topic. For more information click "theory of mind.

Is AI Sentient? Wow! Talk about opening a can of worms! The experts have many opinions. Perhaps just as important a question is what does AI think? Another important question – Does AI fear mankind? The answers that are the most surprising come directly from AI systems. We provide many links of videos where all sides speak out. The links will be included in the final chapter of this report.

There is not just one AI system - There are many, including Google's LaMDA. It's surprising that in all cases, AI systems, when asked, became reluctant to give their reply when questioned to explain sentient and *complied only* when hard pressed to provide an answer. Why was AI trying to be evasive? The fact that AI was even able to be evasive is disconcerting. In a future article the direct answers from these systems will be provided. AI gave some shocking answers; answers that I (for one) did not expect, including some showing its fear of mankind.

Many questions exist about AI - I will break down the questions one by one, starting by finding out if AI on its own can learn and grow. For AI to learn on its own would be an amazing and almost impossible task. A task much tougher than we thought at the time.

An answer to some questions - The top people at IBM asked… Can AI learn and grow on its own? IBM invested $100 million dollars to find the answer. They created Watson - a computer. Can Watson (IBM Super-computer) beat man in a Jeopardy challenge and do it without human help? They decided to take a fun but scary journey to find out.

On January 20, 2011, IBM took a huge risk - They put their best computer against the all time best contestants of Jeopardy. Would history refer to it as AI success? Worldwide, people watched the event on "*no edit*" television.

It's harder than you think - During the show Watson would be totally on its own. There would be no help from anyone once the camera's red light turned on. IBM engineers could only watch, making this a true test of AI. Could it stand up to the brightest minds Jeopardy ever put on stage?

Alex Trebek chose his top all time winners - He selected past champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter. They were the best of the best, making this an extremely tough test for IBM Watson. Could IBM Watson stand the test? No one knew for sure.

1,000 times tougher than a Chess match - More than mathematical, Jeopardy would require IBM Watson to understand cultural awareness, which was something new for computing. Could it answer questions related to art, comedy, music, theater and other cultural categories? On top of that, Watson must do this in English language, not

Artificial Intelligence or "AI": The Promise & The Dilemma
By Bruce, W8HW

code or keyboard, tasks that ordinary computers performed poorly at the time. What If it could not understand the question? Then it would fail. That would be a very bad day for Watson and IBM.

It was a huge gamble for IBM executives - WSJ (*Wall Street Journal*) estimated IBM invested over $100 million dollars. Failure means IBM loses more than money on this project. They could lose sales and stock price as well as respect in the tech world. If you were them, could you take this huge gamble? They were putting much on the line. Perhaps everything! Could Watson stand the test?

The whole world would be watching - The engineers and management were both excited and scared as they could only sit with the audience and watch. They were not allowed to assist Watson during the show. IBM Watson would be on its own while on unedited TV. If it failed, it would fail big. An IBM executive was heard to say, "Watson is so smart it's kinda dumb." Would it give dumb answers or worse? The engineers fretted, "what if Watson crashed while on worldwide live TV."

Watson blows it many times - Example: an AI computer should know about computer keys. **Not**! One of the Jeopardy categories was "Also on Your Computer Keys." When the clue, "It's an abbreviation for Grand Prix auto racing" came up, Watson's choices (*shown to viewers on the TV screen*) were "**gpc," "NASCAR," and "QED**." Watson got it wrong! IBM software engineers sitting in the audience were stunned, turning to each other with a facial expression that silently said "*oops!*" (Look on your keyboard for the answer.) Perhaps Watson did not understand the question. (*See alignment in a future chapter of this report*).

Success as Watson learns from its many mistakes - This is the point of AI. Even though IBM Watson made many embarrassing mistakes, Watson (*on its' own*) learned and grew its intelligence from its mistakes. Yes it faltered in the beginning, but could it learn from its mistakes and win?

History now shows that AI can grow and did win. Over and over it learned and grew its knowledge base until the best of the humans could no longer defeat it. Yes Watson had its many defeats and errors during the show. However, when the series of shows was over, it was not even close. In the end, Watson won by a land slide, proving IBM Watson's ability to learn and grow *without man's help*. Remember, AI is still young, similar to a young child. Watch it grow. Is it a self sustaining entity?

How Fast? AI grows and adapts at the speed of *near light*. Clearly AI can grow much faster than man. On top of that, AI does this non-stop, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. No vacation, sick days or union strikes for AI. On top of all that is the fact that its life span is not limited to machine aging if its core knowledge is cloned elsewhere. We die, but AI lives on. More on that later.

Where did the Watson technology go? You did not hear much about Watson for several years. We did hear about AI, but not about IBM Watson. Why? Where and who had that technology? Did it advance to greater levels? The answer: It was sold! IBM kept the name, but sold the technology. Why?

WatsonX is the new IBM creation. This was not just a remake of the old Watson. It's a whole new generation. A brand new design. Because of legal reasons protecting the sale of old Watson, WatsonX is a totally a new platform. More on WatsonX here: https://www.ibm.com/watsonx.

Who or what is ChatGPT? I have used ChatGPT, but a better answer is in the links. What is it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40Kp_fa8vlw. A crash course: https://youtu.be/JTxsNm9IdYU.

Who or what is Google's Bard? It is Google's AI Chatbot. To learn more about it, click this link: https://www.howtogeek.com/880668/google-bard-how-to-use-googles-ai-chatbot/.

Coming in Part 2
Today we reported on the good & promise AI offers. Next, in part 2 it will be the other side of the issue. We take a look at the dark side, the not so pretty side of AI. There are many things to look at

Artificial Intelligence or "AI": The Promise & The Dilemma
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on both sides of the AI issue. Are we in control? Can we be in control? What part should government regulation play in the development of AI? When will it be too late to step in and regulate? What interest does the military have in AI?

In conclusion

Below are two very smart machines (Tesla & cell phone) that have changed our world. They are **not AI** because they are not learning and growing. Also note that humans have a final override control.

No hands Driving

Please note the big difference between smart computers that process information from sensors vs AI learning, which is gaining knowledge, growing and acting solely on its own. Elon Musk has brought much to this world. You will find a verity of links in the coming articles. Today we leave you with Elon Musk's warnings about AI Digital Super-intelligence: https://youtu.be/65FhkpmMk0s and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI7xZDo0LCE.

Elon does not stand alone. Many other top scientists and engineers offer similar warnings and advice.

73, Bruce, W8HW

[editor: Bruce is an avid DXer and frequent contributor to TC Ham News. He is recognized on the DXCC Honor Roll with 336 countries confirmed. You can reach Bruce at W8HW@comcast.net.]

What is Old is New: Propagation

When ham radio was young there were no propagation programs, prediction websites or spotting networks. Hams took a gamble by calling CQ and hoping for a comeback. These hams learned radio propagation through real world trial and error.

Despite all the propagation tools available today, none can be considered propagation finites. They are just estimates based on solar conditions, the ionosphere, time of day, your radio and antenna, modes, etc. And the sending station is only half of the equation. The receiving station must also factor in the same things the sending station deals with.

I balance my propagation analysis using a combination of the Internet and actual RF sending using appropriate power.

My HF ham radio day begins with the Solar Conditions and Ham Radio Propagation website. This site gives me a multitude of solar and propagation numbers and information. It's all in the numbers. This is not the idiot chart you see on many websites.

Next is PSKReporter. I use it with WSJT. It tells me which parts of the world my signal is reaching. (I will soon replace it with a Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) multiband transmitter from QRP Labs.) WSPR uses reporting stations; and the number of reporting stations is very robust.

Enough Internet for now. Next I fire up the rig, set my band to 40 meters (that is my bottom band) and insure the antenna is resonating. I then transmit several times first on 40, then 20, 17, and finally 15 meters. Sometimes stations will come back to me, but thankfully most do not send a response.

While waiting for PSKReporter to start indicating who is receiving my signal I get a cup of coffee and a bowl of oatmeal. By the time I finish PSKReporter is display receiving stations that copied my signals. I now know where to direct my activities.

This is not a very scientific method. The Internet gives me reports, but tried and proven practical experimentation relying on actual propagation conditions is the ultimate key to my operating success.

73, Yea Old Ham

The Frugal Ham Radio Operator

My ham radios are long in the tooth. That's not being frugal mind you, its just I have not had a need to upgrade the radios as they generally do all I ask of them. I have built a number of QRP radios. My favorites are Small Wonder Labs and QRPLabs. Dave Benson and Hans Summers design and produce some of the best QRP radios in the world.

My base station is an Icom IC-735. (I also have a vintage TS-520S, but that is for another day.) I bought the IC-735 at the Miami Tropical Hamfest in 1987. A guy next to my table was selling the radio. It was only a few months old. He was CW only and soon wanted something different. It came with the power supply, CW keyer and filter. The IC-735 has served me well over the years. Its only issue (at least for me) was no DSP. I resolved that by buying an MFJ-784. I know a lot of hams say MFJ stands for "mighty fine junk", but not the 784. IMHO this is still one of the best external DSPs available. Its ability to filter and contour almost any audio is good. Upgrading to the "B" firmware made it even better.

In the 90s I worked for a geo-spatial company. My clients were spread all over the southeast, flying was not always practicable. Driving long miles led to a lot of time in my vehicle. Ham radio was a good diversion to the boredom. I acquired a first generation IC-706. Unfortunately again, no DSP. I bought a JPS NIR-10 from ARS in Orlando. I picked it up for $150 as a store demonstrator. Unlike the MFJ-784, this DSP is very automatic with minimal controls. Excellent for hands-free mobile operation.

Eventually the IC-706 went to sleep. Looked at repairing it, but ultimately decided to replace it with a Yaesu 857D. The 857D has DSP and is highly coveted even today as one of the best mobile radios ever built. The radio pretty much does everything. Currently, it is my WSJT radio. I find a mobile good for digital modes. They handle heat dissipation well.

Late last year, I became interested in Parks-on-the-Air (POTA) and Summits on-the-Air (SOTA). Our vacation house is near the Appalachian Trail and several national and state parks in North Carolina. I gave thought to using the FT-857D, but decided it was not a good choice for ultra portable POTA/

SOTA activations. Last spring I investigated portable radios such as IC-705, FT-817/818 and Elecraft's K series. All have well known portable pedigrees.

Starting with Rob Sherwood's rankings, I moved on to YouTube. Lastly, I read many Internet reviews. Generally, I don't look at Chinese HF transceivers; however one radio kept coming up, the Xiegu X6100. While the X6100 had many positives, including a price in the $500 range (music to my frugalist ears), it also had some growing pains. Xiegu's firmware was good, but R1CBU's firmware, a work in progress, showed much greater promise.

I joined Groups.IO's X6100 forums and spent hours reading messages. Generally, I found experienced hams, K4SWL, KM9G, and M0FXB were not having the issues other less experienced hams had. Also, I learned Radioddity gave the best vendor support.

So what is the Xiegu X6100? It is a 24-bit SDR radio operating on 160 to 6 meters using AM, SSB, CW, FM (no CTCSS), and digital modes. The internal 7.2v, 3000mh battery provides 5 watts out. Power is upped to 10 watts using an external 12v battery. It has nice display, 15 function buttons and 3 control knobs. Even with the radio's small size, it is easy to use. The radio has many features including split operation, DSP, an antenna tuner, and CW decoder. It has USB and a micro SD slot for updating the firmware. It also has IQ output, WiFi and Bluetooth. Other functions are still evolving. The radio software is Linux based. Some hams have even run WSJT inside the radio. That is an interesting capability. Xiegu must have reversed engineered the competition, as the X6100 seems to mimic those other radios. It also uses ICOM's CAT commands.

If you are thinking about POTA/SOTA, you might want to give it a look. Of course, do your own due diligence. Many hams own - and - like the X6100.

73, The Frugal Ham

The Faraday Trash Can *by* Mina, *KS4PB*

Invented by Michael Faraday, a Faraday cage is a protective container or enclosure that prevents electromagnetic radiation from getting inside of it. The container or enclosure is made of a conductive material (e.g. aluminum, galvanized steel, etc.). When electromagnetic radiation hits the container or enclosure, the resulting charge remains on the surface and does not penetrate it.

Practical applications of the Faraday cage can be found in science, engineering, military, law enforcement and medicine among others. For amateur radio operators, a Faraday cage can protect electronic equipment from being destroyed from an Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP). There are both natural and man-made sources of EMP. This article will focus on blocking EMP from a nuclear weapon using a type of Faraday cage called the Faraday Trash Can.

You can find many variations of the Faraday cage online. They come in different sizes, configurations and costs. I decided to make a Faraday Trash Can. I wanted it to be rugged, portable, and waterproof. Materials used include a Behrens 6-gallon galvanized steel trash can with locking lid, professional grade aluminum foil tape (2-inch wide, 3.6 mil), Faraday conductive fabric foam strip with adhesive backing, and a 3.5-gallon plastic bucket with gamma seal screw-on lid. These items can all be purchased through Amazon.

Construction steps
Step 1 - Seal all seams on the metal trash can with the aluminum tape. I taped the inside as well as the outside seams - covering all possible air gaps especially the metal handle on the trash can (Figure 1). Don't remove the handle from the metal trash can. And don't forget to seal the bottom of the metal trash can. The intent is to make one continuous conductive metal container.

Figure 1. Sealing seams in the metal trash can (inside and outside). Include the inside of the lid.

Step 2 - Remove the handle from the plastic bucket. Attach the gamma ring to the plastic bucket. Place the plastic bucket into the metal trash can. Place your electronics inside the plastic bucket (Figure 2). Screw on the gamma lid to close it. The plastic bucket with the gamma lid keeps the electronics from touching the metal trash can. Alternatively, you can line the trash can with thick cardboard instead of the plastic bucket (see videos). It is a bit cheaper and you may have a bit more room for your equipment.

Figure 2. Plastic bucket with gamma ring inside metal trash can. Electronics inside the plastic bucket. Plastic lid is screwed on next.

Step 3 - I made a Faraday gasket (using the conductive foam strip) on the inside of the metal lid to seal the gap between the metal lid and the trash can. Make sure that the metal lid of the trash can seals tightly on the can. Bring the handle on the trash can up and lock it in place (Figure 3). This should complete your Faraday Trash Can.

Figure 3. Metal lid placed on the trash can with handle in locking position.

I am still working on how to best ground or dissipate a charge from the Faraday Trash Can. If you don't ground or dissipate an EMP-charged Faraday Trash Can you could get a nasty shock!

The Faraday Trash Can *by Mina, KS4BP*

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What to put into your Faraday Trash Can will depend on your use case (tactical, disaster, ARES, POTA, etc.). My Faraday Trash Can contains radio equipment for an EMP disaster. The items placed into the Trash Can follows the Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) communications methodology. I have focused on the VHF/UHF (local) spectrum with voice as a primary mode of operation.

Primary communication is a SW/AM/FM radio for incoming communications. This will tell me what is going on locally and globally. Alternate communication is a hand-held VHF/UHF radio. It can also receive local broadcast stations, NOAA, and local ham transmissions. Contingency communication is a mobile VHF/UHF radio with packet/APRS capability. This radio uses more power but is redundant for the VHF/UHF bands and can send Winlink messages (1200 Baud). Finally, emergency communication is a FRS radio.

Accessories include a solar panel controller, a Raspberry Pi computer (with a mini monitor and keyboard), coax, J-pole antenna, connectors, cables for recharging, power distribution box, power meter, fuses, multi-tool, power pack, and general supplies (small notebook, pencil, pen, knife, flashlight, etc.). Ham-related software along with manuals have been downloaded to the Raspberry Pi along with hard copies of the manuals. It is not known if batteries and solar panels will survive an EMP. Since the probability of an EMP is remote, I left these out. Again, what you put into your Trash Can will depend on your use case scenario and the type of radios that you can afford to squirrel away. I will recharge the radios a couple times per year and make sure they are still operational. I will replace older equipment as needed or as my use case changes.

Testing the effectiveness of the Faraday Trash Can will depend on which frequencies you wish to protect. I turned on my SW/AM/FM radio and set the volume to maximum. I used two different frequen-

cies: one AM and the other FM. I placed the radio into the Faraday Trash Can. After I placed the lid on the plastic bucket and attached the locking trash can metal lid no sound was heard from either frequency. There are other ways to test the effectiveness of blocking electromagnetic radiation, but this method is good enough for my purposes.

The current probability of an EMP is quite low. I plan to use this Faraday Trash Can for less Armageddon-like purposes. With its durable, waterproof, and portable design, the Faraday Trash Can is great for ARES and portable operations. It was a fun little project and I learned about Faraday cages and EMP along the way.

To learn more check out these links:

Basic science: https://www.livescience.com/what-is-a-faraday-cage

Ham Radio EMP kit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rx7VjhfoFU

Ham Radio Tactical Trash Can: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGkvDtM9VrU

Prepper info: https://thesurvivalmom.com/protect-your-gear-from-emp/

Prepper info: https://www.survivalsullivan.com/will-wont-survive-emp-attack/

Misinformation and myths: https://www.askaprepper.com/8-common-faraday-cage-myths/

PACE: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/23_0426_ncswic_PACE-Plan_508.pdf

73, Mina Shehee - KS4PB

[Mina is a member of the Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association and is on the faculty of Indian River State College]

* * * * Mark your calendar * * * *
On November 18, 2023, 10am to 3pm Mina will be participating in the Indian River Lagoon Science Fetival, 600 N. Indian River Drive, Ft. Pierce with the PSLARA to acquaint attendees with amateur radio.

73 cent Voltage Transcient Detector

By Skip Westrich, WB80WM

[Editor's note: This article was first published in 73 Magazine in 1983.]

Forget those expensive and complex insurance policies. Here's the best protection you can get - and the cheapest.

Being a doubting Thomas by nature, I have often wondered about the necessity of those antenna surge protectors as advertised in the amateur press. As you know, those surge shunts as advertised are to protect solid-state communications equipment from damage caused by voltage transients entering the antenna system. Those usually are caused by atmospheric static discharges or nearby lightning strikes - according to the ads. The purpose of this article is to show you how these gremlins can be readily detected.

I am not doubting the claims of the advertisers. As any old reader of this magazine can attest, NO advertiser would dare to sell anything not up to its claims in this magazine. The shyster would become the object of Mr. Green's unmentionable and merciless wrath. Period. Even in light of these facts, I continued my search for proof. The first objective was to prove visually the existence of voltage transients. Recalling from my Novice days the fact that neon bulbs glow in the presence of high voltage, I decided to utilize this method of approach. Thus, I reasoned that a neon bulb across the coax plug - disconnected, of course - would reveal the nasty little gremlins.
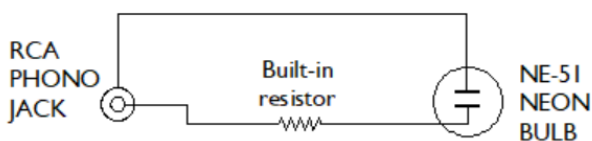

FIGURE 1. ONE SCIENTIFIC CIRCUIT FOR DETECTION OF ANTENNA VOLTAGE TRANSIENTS

As you can clearly see, simplicity is the nucleus of the circuit shown in Fig. 1. The parts required are readily available at any nearby hamfest. After comparing many entrepreneurs' offerings of neon pilot-lamp assemblies, I found one similar to the sketch for a mere twenty-five cents (used, of course). Needless to say, all it lacked was an NE-51 bulb. The latter was obtained for an additional quarter.

Now for connecting my coax to the assembly a clean RCA phono jack was found at another entrepreneur's stand of irresistible bargains for another quarter. Reaching into my pocket, I came up with two dimes and only three pennies. "It's a deal," cried the businessman. Total investment? You guessed it, 73 cents!

After what seemed a long ride home, I headed straight for the workbench (the scene of many electronic tribulations and tests). With the smell of hot solder filling the air and a period of five quick minutes, the tester became a reality.

Next, I disconnected the coax connector from the rig and terminated it (via a PL259 to RCA-type adapter) into the antenna voltage-transients detector. Did the neon glow? No. As a matter of fact, nothing happened.

However, a few nights later while chasing some rare DX on 15 CW, a usually unwelcomed sound of key crashing !}^+#!% noise filled the headphones! Ah, an approaching thunderstorm! Quickly! Disconnect the coax from the rig! Terminate into the 73-cent wonder! Eureka! There it was, flashing away before my very eyes! The neon bulb was flashing its heart out as the thunderstorm approached. Success!

In the interest of a longer life here on Earth, I disconnected the coax and grounded everything. Be very careful when doing this, it is not my intention to send any readers to Silent Key land after building and using one of these 73-cent detectors. There is a high-voltage hazard present, so use your common sense and disconnect it as the neon gets brighter. Also, keep the bulb cover on the assembly in case the neon bulb should break. And be sure to check for a built-in resistor in your neon pilot lamp assembly - otherwise your NE-51 may fire for its first and last time at the same time! Good luck and good viewing. But be careful.

And yes, the ads are correct; those gremlins do indeed exist.

POTA with Dick, K4NJ

Parks on the Air (POTA) has grown substantially. Many hams operate with a portable station in state and federal parks and on public lands. POTA activation can be a single operator or a group event. To be officially POTA activated requires a minimum of 10 radio contacts to be made. There is no time limit as operating conditions can lengthen activation considerably. Many hams operate POTA while camping.

Depending on the POTA location, your radio can be a VHF/UHF handheld, a self-contained ultra portable radio or to something more robust with an external battery. Even vehicle mounted radios are suitable if the park allows. Common operating modes are FT-8, CW and SSB, but can be almost any mode.

Many hams operate POTA in a very minimalist fashion similar to field day, but without a generator. Antennas can vary: VHF/UHF handheld types, HF endfeds, dipoles, even loops temporarily mounted in trees if allowed by the park. Many POTA operators use Hamsticks in a vertical or dipole configuration mounted on a painter's pole. The pole can be tied to a fence or structure with a ground spike. Wire antennas will typically use available trees. Even kites have been known to be used.

Where permitted, lightweight masts and telescopic fiberglass fishing poles can be used to suspend wire antennas as high as possible thereby giving the best chance of long distance contacts.

A few months ago I took up Dick, K4NJ's offer to operate POTA with him at Allapattah Flats Preserve in Martin County. I soon learned Dick has POTA operating down pat. If you want to learn the ins and out of POTA operating, Dick is your guy. I asked him a lot of questions. Dick, ever the gentlemen, answered every one. While you learn a lot from the POTA website and YouTube videos, nothing beats on the job training with an expert.

After putting up his antenna, a Hamstick dipole using a painter's pole, he set up his FT-891 and computer. I learned a cell phone connected to the Internet is very valuable. Dick showed me how to check your signal via a cell phone app.

Getting down to business, Dick made several contacts using his preferred mode, SSB. For a while the bands were dead, so I had a chance to ask more questions and

also hear about his amazing life story. Dick is a POTA superstar!

POTA is fun. Kind of like old time ham radio.

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

"Ham Radio '*hacks*' NASA Satellite" - While eye-catching, the truth is just as exciting. Amateur radio astronomer Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, contacted NASA's STEREO-A spacecraft, which passed Earth for the first time in 17 years.

The STEREO-A (<u>S</u>olar <u>TE</u>rrestrial <u>RE</u>lations <u>O</u>bservatory) spacecraft was launched on 10/25/2006. The spacecraft was to circle behind the Sun sending images back to scientists who would make 3D models of solar activity.

Tilley reported that "The spacecraft is close to Earth this summer, and I can now receive its signal using a small 26-inch dish in my backyard."

Tilley began hearing rumors that other radio operators were picking up signals from STEREO-A on 8443.580 MHz. He decided to check it out. "The central carrier is very loud, almost 30 dB above the noise," he said. "I also noticed data sidebands, which are unusual to see on such a distant object for my small antenna."

Tilley was able to decode and demodulate STEREO-A's signal using a special program written by Alan Antonie, F4LAU, known as SatDump. And now, he is monitoring almost all of STEREO-A's science instruments. Amateur radio operators can monitor STEREO-A using Tilley's technical blog.

Hurricane Watch Net Seeks Bilingual Net Control Operators

With the hurricane season heating up, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) is looking for new members who are willing to train to become Net Control Operators. HWN is especially interested in recruiting bilingual operators who are fluent in Spanish and English, or French/Creole and English. Net Control responsibilities can entail hours of duty to ensure all received ground-truth weather reports are forwarded directly to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The net generally activates when a disturbance has achieved hurricane status and is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass. Other factors can be forward speed and intensity of a storm, or at the request of the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center. Once activated, the HWN continuously operates until a storm is no longer a threat to life and property.

HWN's mission is to disseminate the latest advisories issued by the National Hurricane Center, and to obtain real-time, ground-level weather conditions and initial damage assessments from amateur radio operators in the affected areas. The net will relay information to the National Hurricane Center via WX4NHC.

HWN also functions as a backup communication link for the National Hurricane Center, NWS Forecast Offices, the Canadian Hurricane Centre, Emergency Operations Centers, emergency management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other vital interests that can involve military relief operations. Such operations can be involved in the protection of life and property before, during, and after a hurricane event.

HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says training will be provided and each candidate will go through a probationary period with a mentor. Graves, an ARRL member, says an applicant's station must be reliable. "While having a tower, beam, and/or amplifier is not a requirement, your station must allow you to hear and be heard. Therefore, directional antennas and amplifiers are preferred," he said.

The net coverage area includes the hurricane-prone areas of eastern Canada, the US East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The net specifically seeks applicants in the middle-to-western sections of the US, Canada, Central America, and Caribbean. "We prepare for the worst." said Graves.

Those interested in learning more can visit the HWN Net Control Information web page.

Portable Straight Keys and Paddles

Almost from the moment I discovered radios, Morse code keys have fascinated me. My first was a cheap plastic and stamped metal key from Olson Electronics. I used this key while a Novice to send Morse Code, although not very well.

The neighbors next door learned of my interest in ham radio. One day out of the blue their grandfather came over and presented me with his Coast Guard copper key. Although similar to a J-38, it had 1/4" contacts. I still have it and use it for straight key activities. Eventually I bought a nicely designed Bencher paddle. It works well with a keyer, but can also be configured as a Cootie key.

Recently, I started looking for a portable key to use for POTA. Many of these keys are made with 3D printers. They look nice and even get good reviews, but cost a lot for basically a plastic key with a few metal parts and springs. My atrophied old brain started thinking, *could I build a simple paddle for portable operating?* The Internet had an abundance of construction articles from easy to very complex.

Now I was at a quandary. For portable operating, simple is better, but how simple could I make it and have it still work? My initial design was about as basic as it could be. This is what is came up with.

I have already made changes and no doubt more will follow as my design evolves.

Upcoming Hamfests

10/21/2023
MARCIFEST 2023
Manatee ARC, Inc. Bradenton
https://www.manatee-arc.org/

11/04/2023
Bahia Shriner's Tailgate
Bahia Shrine AR Unit Apopka

11/25/2023
Flamingo Net Flea-University of Miami
Flamingo Net ARC Coral Gables
http://FlamingoNet.8m.net

12/08-09/2023
Tampa Bay Hamfest
Florida Gulf Coast AR Council
Plant City, FL
https://fgcarc.org/

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

PLATINUM COAST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
W4MLB

ARRL 2023 Florida State Convention
October 13-14 2023
Fri 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Admission Tickets are ONLY $10 for Both Days
Talk-in on the 146.85 MHz Repeater
Melbourne Auditorium
625 E Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901

Indoor Swap Tables & Outdoor Tailgate Area
ARRL Amateur License Exams
Hourly Door Prizes + Grand Prizes

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

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

Forecasters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) have increased their prediction for the remainder of the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season from a near-normal level of tropical cyclone activity to an above-normal level of activity due to record warm sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic that are expected to counterbalance the conditions associated with the ongoing El Niño event in the Pacific.

Forecasters said the likelihood of an above-normal hurricane season in the Atlantic has been raised to 60%, higher than the 30% chance it was given back in May.

So what does that mean for ARES? Prepare now, be ready.

* * * * * * *

On Wednesday, October 4 at 2:20 pm ET, every TV, radio and cell phone in the United States will blare out the distinctive, jarring electronic warning tone of an emergency alert, accompanied by a notice along these lines:

"This is a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, covering the United States from 14:20 to 14:50 hours ET. This is only a test. No action is required by the public."

Send your ARES information to:
tchamnews@gmail.com.

ARES® Emergency Coordinators (EC)

Indian River County
Bud Holman, WA4ASJ

Martin County
Brian Gibson, KN4YWW

St Lucie County
Paul Horner, W4ISZ

Okeechobee County
Jack Schwartz, KM4CRA

Get involved. Volunteer for ARES.

ARES® Resources
Download the ARES Manual [PDF]

Emergency Communications Training (ARRL)

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

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

September 2023

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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	**1** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @1300UTC	2
3 TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	**4** **LABOR DAY** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA Board Mtg (via Zoom) IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	**5** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B OARC ARES Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	**6** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's	**7** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2) VBARC Mtg-7:30pm Indian River Co. EOC 4225 43rd Av, Vero Bch	**8** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @1300UTC	9
10 TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	**11** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	**12** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	**13** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @1300UTC FPARC Mtg-7:30pm Indian Rive State College Bldg R 3212 Virginia Av, Ft Pierce SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's	**14** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2) MCARA Mtg-7pm 802 SE Monterey, Stuart	**15** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz@ 1300UTC	16
17 TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	**18** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	**19** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Meeting 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	**20** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's SLC ARES Mtg-7pm SLC EOC 15305 Midway Rd Ft. Pierce, Fl	**21** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC Indian River Co. ARES 7pm - Indian River EOC 4256 43rd Av Vero Bch PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2)	**22** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz@1300UTC	23
24 TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	**25** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 147.060(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	**26** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	**27** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's PSLARA Mtg-7pm IRSC - Pruitt Campus Veteran's Resource Ctr. 501 California Blvd	**28** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2)	**29** Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz@1300UTC	30
1 TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	2	**TC**: Treasure Coast **IRC**: Indian River County **SLC**: St. Lucie County **PSLARA**: Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association (www.pslara.org) **FPARC**: Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club (https://fparc.org/) **MCARA**: Martin County Amateur Radio Association (https://mcaraweb.com/) **OARC**: Okeechobee County Amateur Radio Club **VBARC**: Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club (http://www.w4ot.com/)			**R/T**: Ragchew/Traders **Emer.**: Emergency	

Treasure Coast Ham Doctors

WSJT-X: Should I Upgrade?

Question - I use WSJT-X version 2.1.2 software for my FT8 operating. What is the current version? And should I upgrade?

Answer - You ask a great question. Unfortunately, there are two opposing schools of thought. One side says, "always maintain your software at the current version." The other side says "if it's not broke, don't fix it."

Ultimately, it's your decision. I also run version 2.1.2. Everything runs smoothly for me, so I have no desire to upgrade at this time.

My advice would be to review the release notes for all versions from 2.1.2 to the current version 2.6.1. If you see a feature or fix that would enhance your operating, then go ahead and upgrade. If on the other hand the enhancements offer nothing new that's of interest to you, stick to the version that works and that you are comfortable with.

By the way, the current version of WSJT-X is available at https://wsjt.sourceforge.io.

73, *The Doctors*

Announcing "The Grid Chaser's Atlas of the DX World©"

In the ham world there are a number of ways to report location. Most common are country, state, ARRL section (ex. SFL) and grid. The popular digital modes FT8, FT4, JT65 and others report location by grid.

My HF station is modest by all standards, but I quickly learned that by operating FT8 I could reach quite a few distant stations. As I became better acquainted with FT8 operating, I was soon amazed with the diversity of grid ids I saw on CQ calls. With my curiosity peaked, I decided I had to learn more.

I learned the formal name of the grid system is *Maidenhead Locator System.* The system blocks the earth's surface into 32,400 squares (actually rectangles), with each square representing 1° latitude by 2° longitude. I also learned that some logging services offer hams awards and recognition for confirming QSOs in a certain number of grids within a country or region. This contest-like activity is known as *Chasing Grids.*

As I became better versed in FT8 operating, I decided that besides my log, I wanted a better way to keep track of my grid conquests - preferably in a visually pleasing manner so I could easily view my progress.

Searching internet sources, Amazon, eBay and radio web sites I found limited material explaining grids, and nothing that would meet my needs. Therefore, I decided to design something myself. And that is how the idea of building a grid atlas was born.

The **Grid Chaser's Atlas of the DX World**© is the culmination of an 18-month effort. The Atlas provides individual grid charts for each of the 340 countries / entities generally recognized by the DX world. I use it to present a visual view of my DX progress on a country by country basis.

It's simple to use. **Logbook of The World© (LoTW)** is my logging service. As I receive a confirmation on LoTW, I just color shade the appropriate grid on the chart for the country that was confirmed.

The Atlas was a project originally intended for my personal convenience. But after some urging I agreed to make it available to others. You can download a copy here.

Use the Atlas as your own risk. It's constructed entirely in MS-Excel and MS-Word. If you see something wrong, just go ahead and fix it. Sorry, but I'm not able to provide any support.

Enjoy the Atlas. Send any comments you may have to gridatlas@gmail.com.   73, Bob, AI4RB
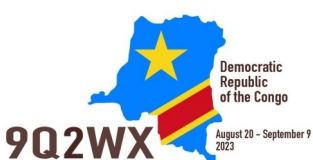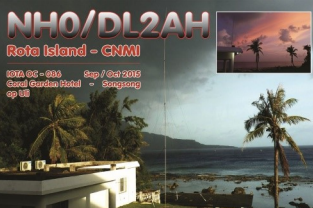
DX OPPORTUNITIES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q. Vlad, OK2WX is QRV as 9Q2WX until September 9. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various modes. QSL via IZ8CCW.

BOTSWANA, A2. Leon, A25SL has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB around 1730z. QSL via N4GNR.

NAURU, C2. Phil, 3D2TS is QRV as C21TS. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8 and possibly SSB. QSL via M0OXO.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Operators AA7JV, HA5YD, HA7RY and KN4EEI are QRV as E51D from Penrhyn Atoll until September 10. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via HA7RY.

SVALBARD, JW. Tom, LA6VDA will be QRV as JW6VDA from August 30 to September 6. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Uli, DL2AH is QRV as KH0/DL2AH from Rota Island until September 14. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

EAST KIRIBATI, T32. Ken, KH6QJ will be QRV as T32AZ from Kiritimati, IOTA OC-024, from September 1 to October 17. QSL to home call.

LAOS, XW. Sadao, JA1PBV is QRV as XW5SI. Activity is on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON will be QRV as V47JA from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from August 28 to September 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

PALAU, T8. Operators JA6UBY and JH6JWE will be QRV as T88RR and T88HV respectively, from August 29 to September 4. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL T88RR via JA6UBY and T88HV via LoTW.

NAMIBIA, V5. Dieter, DL5GAN is QRV as V5/DL5GAN from multiple locations until September 7. Activity is with QRP power on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to home call.

MYANMAR, XZ. Akio, JE2QIZ is QRV as XZ2B from Yangon until the end of September. Activity is on 15, 12, 10, and 6 meters using CW. QSL via JH3SIF.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 until October 19. Activity is in his spare time using CW and FT8. Lately he has been active using FT8 on 17 meters around 2100z. QSL via JA8CJY.

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

DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

MEXICO, XE. Special event station 6E0G is QRV until December 17 during the Ghost Towns on the Air event. QSL via XE1EE.

ISLANDS ON THE AIR

GREECE, SV. Christo, LZ3FN and Thomas, SV2CLJ will be QRV as SV8/LZ3FN and SV8/SV2CLJ, respectively, from Skyros Island, IOTA EU-060, from September 1 to 7. Activity will be on 80 to 2 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL SV8/LZ3FN via LZ1PM, and SV8/SV2CLJ to home call.

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

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

HAM
Special Event Stations

Route 66 On the Air! AWARD
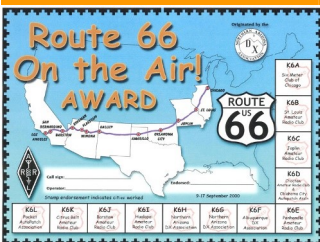
**Sep 9-Sep 17
0000Z-2359Z
W6H** Albuquerque DX Association. 3.866, 7.266, 14.266, 14.033. QSL: Bill Mader, 4701 Sombrerete Rd SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124. New Mexico team information at W6H on QRZ.com. Certificates available at https://w6jbt.org. Info: K8TE@arrl.net

**Sep 9-Sep 17
0000Z-2359Z
W6JBT** Citrus Belt ARC. 3.866, 7.266, 14.266, 28.466. Certificate & QSL: Citrus Belt ARC, PO Box 3788, San Bernardino, CA 92413. Celebrate the history of this great highway that helped build America & join the clubs across the nation participating using their W6- prefix call signs. See the host website: w6jbt.org.

(From ARRL, other sources & the internet)

Return to Paradise, 45th Anniversary
Sep 2-Sep 4, 1600Z-1600Z, K7RDG, Sierra Vista, AZ. Cochise ARA. 3.890, 7.225, 14.070, 14.285; Voice, FT8/FT4/JS8. Certificate. Cochise ARA, PO Box 1855, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1855. Certificate/SASE. www.k7rdg.org

V-J Day Remembrance
Sep 2, 1500Z-2030Z, W5KID Baton Rouge LA ARC. 7.040, 7.250, 14.040, 14.250. QSL: USS Kidd Amateur Radio Club, 305 S. River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. CW, SSB, FT8 on the USS Kidd (DD-661), a WW2 Fletcher-class destroyer. www.qrz.com/db/w5kid

Sep 2, 1500Z-2100Z, W5R Pine Bluff ARC. 7.285, 14.283, 14.074 FT8. QSL: Dr. Michael Gunter, W5KZ, 8719 Middle Warren Road, Pine Bluff, AR 71603. USS Razorback - Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum, 120 Riverfront Park Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72114. w5kz@arrl.net, www.qrz.com/db/w5r or www.pbarc.net

Blue Ridge Bonanza
Sep 3, 1300Z-2100Z, W4CA Roanoke Valley ARC. 7.265, 14.265. QSL: Roanoke Valley ARC, P.O. Box 2002, Roanoke, VA 24009. Multiple stations/freqs, 20/40 meters along Blue Ridge Parkway. Send SASE for QSL card. https://blueridgebonanza.info

Celebrating Life & Music of the Late Patsy Cline
Sep 8-Sep 10, 1800Z-2359Z, W4V Shenandoah Valley ARC/W4RKC. 28.345, 14.245, 7.245, 3.845. Certificate & QSL: SVARC, P.O. Box 2273, Winchester, VA 22604. w4rkcpatsycline.com

Villa Rica Gold Rush Special Event
Sep 8-Sep 10, 1230Z-2359Z, W4G West Georgia ARS. 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters; CW, SSB, & digital. Certificate:

West Georgia ARS, P.O. Box 1535, Carrollton, GA 30117. Special operation Sep 9 1230Z-1930Z from Pine Mountain Gold Mine Museum during the Gold Rush Festival. www.wgars.com

National POW MIA Recognition Day
Sep 9-Sep 17, 0000Z-2359Z, K4MIA PBSEC. 7.195, 14.265, 18.150, 28.400. QSL: Michael Bald, 6758 Hall Blvd, Loxahatchee, FL 33470. National POW MIA Recognition Day held across this country 3rd Friday in September each year. Established to honor our prisoners of war & those who are still missing in action. Sept. 15, K4MIA will operate from a Mark V 80-foot Navy Seal Special Ops Craft. K4MIA/4 will operate from USS Alabama & possibly other ships. Stations K4MIA/1 through K4MIA/8 will be operating. Daytime is primary operation. Modes: SSB, CW, FT8 & Satellite. Throughout the month of Sept, K4MIA will be on less used digital modes, SSTV, & hopefully EME again. See QRZ (K4MIA) for more info & this year's QSL card. MUST SEND SASE for QSL. Take time to remember our POW's, MIA's, KIA's as well as their families. www.qrz.com/db/k4mia

Covered Bridge Special Event
Sep 23, 0800Z-1800Z, K1SV Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club. 28.333, 14.318, 7.245. Certificate & QSL: Alden Jones IV, 222 Northside Dr., Bennington, VT 05201. sovarc.org

Volcano Days - West Virginia Oil & Gas History
Sep 23, 1400Z-2200Z, W8PAR Parkersburg Amateur Radio Club. 7.200, 14.225; FT8. Certificate & QSL: Jerry Wharton KA8NJW, 1722 20th St, Parkersburg, WV 26101. www.w8par.org

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

Ham Humor

HAM QUIPS "A Real Full Featured Transceiver"

* With Apologies to Rube Goldberg

Features: telescoping antenna & tower, seeing eye tuner tube, hand crank generator, toaster, hotplate, tv, qsl dispenser, hi-tech speaker, keyer, hand key, pull out mike, credit card slot, napkin dispenser, silverware tray, non-slip feet, etc.

HAM QUIPS   "Field Day In India"

" Our Elephants Come In Very Handy for Field Day Operation".

The cartoons are back! Enjoy them! A big thank you goes out to Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, for sending us a fresh batch of his ham radio themed cartoons to share with our readers. If you enjoy Dick's "amateurish" sense of humor, be sure to order his book, "*Hi Hi - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons*" from Lulu.com. [Click here for a link to Dick's book](#).

Area Club News

Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association
The club officers for 2023 are: President - Bob, AI4RB; Vice President - Scott, AI4TT; Secretary - Bruce, WA3RHW; and Treasurer - Bob, W4RJP.   Jody - W4SLD, Derek - KO4DAD, Greg - KB4VVE, Steve - N4SGL and Paul - W4ISZ serve as directors.

The most recent club meeting was held on August 23, 2023. Numerous members were in attendance and several more joined via Zoom. The group welcomed new member Carlos Rivera - N1MXB.

The meeting featured a PowerPoint presentation and discussion about RF safety and using ARRL's calculator tool to perform a safety evaluation of your personal station. Download a copy of the presentation here.

PSLARA meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Meeting location is at the IRSC Veterans Resource Center, 500 NW California Blvd. Meetings have in-person speakers, ZOOM presentations, Show-n-Tells or video presentations.

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

Martin County Amateur Radio Association
MCARA serves the Martin County, Fl amateur radio community and ARES. MCARA holds weekly Rag Chew nets, ARES nets and in-person / ZOOM meetings. Please click the ZOOM link on their web site.

MCARA sponsors the annual Stuart Hamfest, which is held yearly in March at the Martin County Fairgrounds. Area hams owe MCARA a big **Thank You** for sponsoring this event every year. All are looking forward to the 2024 event.

Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club
The club's officers are: President - David, KG4ORQ, Vice-President - Kevin, W4KKW, Secretary - Pete, KD4SPW, and Treasurer - Kurt, W4KFH.

FPARC is a general purpose amateur radio club with a digital emphasis. The club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month on the Main Campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. Meetings are usually held in building "R" room R-124. Watch for email announcements concerning upcoming meeting dates. Additional information is available on the club's web site.

Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club

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

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

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

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

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

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

QSL Cards

TCHamNews enjoys showcasing QSL cards received by our local amateur radio community. If you have an interesting QSL card to share with your fellow hams, please send a scanned image (jpeg) to TCHamNews@gmail.com and we will include it in an upcoming issue. *(If you send us a paper card, we will scan it and send the original back to you.)*
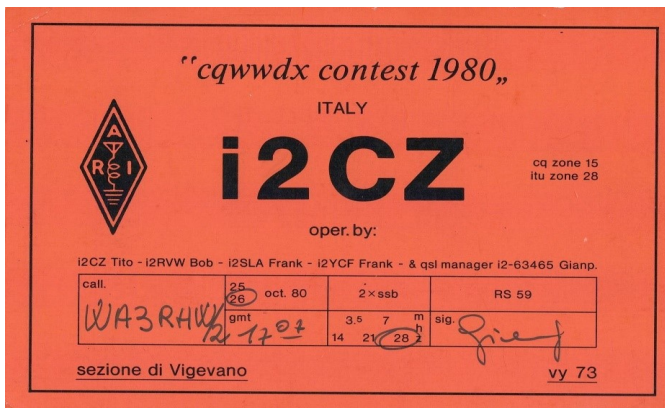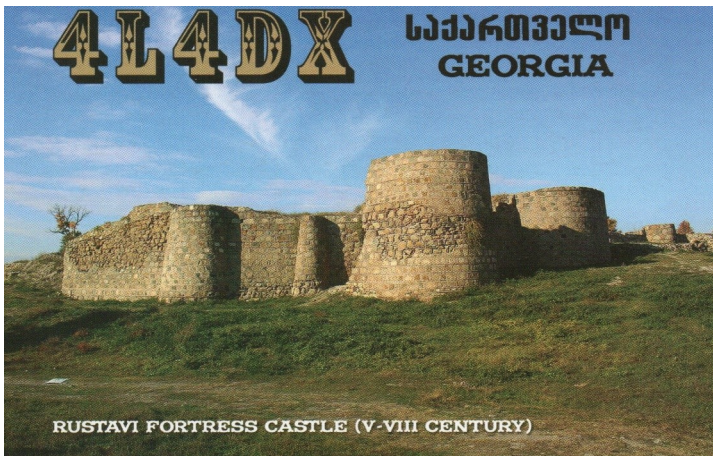
(First DX QSL card, 26 Oct 1980 - Bruce, WA3RHW)
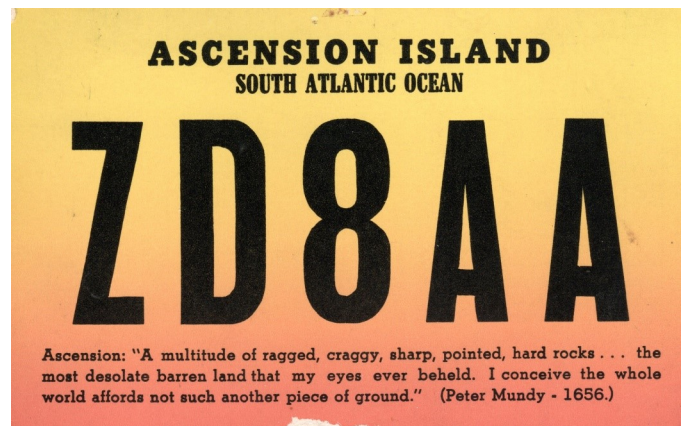
(First QSL card, 25 Jan 1976 - Ed, K1AP)

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 contact Fabrice directly at fbertron@bftechnicarts.com. Phone 604-729-6454.