Treasure Coast Ham News

OCTOBER 2022 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

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Treasure Coast Ham News is an independent free publication not affiliated with any Treasure Coast ham club.

You might remember Bob Dylan's iconic 1964 song, *"The Times They Are A-Changin."* The song's lyrics were a metaphor of the societal changes we were experiencing. Almost 60 years later those words still resonate as we witness huge changes to our radio art, how we operate and what the future has in store for us.

The times they are changing.....

Come gather 'round people
wherever you roam

And admit that the waters
around you have grown

And accept it that soon
you'll be drenched to the bone

If your time to you is worth savin'

Then you better start swimmin'
or you'll sink like a stone

For the times they are a-changin'

The line it is drawn
the curse it is cast

The slow one now
will later be fast

And the present now
will later be past

The order is rapidly fadin'

And the first one now
will later be last

For the times they are a-changin'

Treasure Coast Ham News is retooling the newsletter. Please bear with us over the coming months as changes are made.

From the Publishers

As the newsletter cover page says "*The Times They Are A Changing*." With much of the world migrating away from formal publications to an interactive web-o-sphere, we face a dilemma. Continue to publish the newsletter in PDF format or move the content to our in progress website treasurecoasthams.com.

A monthly newsletter is a daunting task for two "senior" hams. Add to that we now both find ourselves officers in the Port St Lucie Amateur Radio Association, something we had not anticipated when starting *Treasure Coast Ham News* in March 2020.

With the exception of a few notable ham authors and contributors, the newsletter is our thoughts, words, and labor. We are very proud of what has been accomplished by two layman journalists, but also realize it could be so much more.

National ham organizations and publications will spotlight local hams or clubs, but with over 700,000 hams across the country, coverage of a particular ham or club's activities is not assured. Nor is the reporting timeliness of those activities. That is but just one aspect where a local ham radio newsletter can play an important role.

Moving to a web page has merit, but the Internet is rife with ham radio blogs, information and advertising. Most ham radio clubs have websites. Some are exemplary, but many more are poorly maintained and seem to lack in even the most basic communication about the club's activities.

Early on we reached out to local ham clubs and encouraged them to use the newsletter as a vehicle to communicate their activities to the larger 2,000 plus Treasure Coast ham audience. To date our offer has largely gone unanswered. Yet, we know by our web statistics many hams across the Treasure Coast (and across the southeast) are reading the newsletter. We must be doing something right.

Bringing the topic back to "*The Times They Are A Changing*" my publishing partner and I have many discussions about the newsletter's future. Our vision has not changed, but how we communicate in the future will most likely not be the same.

We would like you as readers to give us your thoughts. Comments submitted to us by and large have been implemented, but we need more feedback to navigate this newsletter into the future. To that end a survey is coming. Stay tuned.

73, *TC Ham News Publishers*

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

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

The Florida Simulated Emergency Test is scheduled for October 1-2 has been postponed. Treasure Coast ARES organizations are expected to participate.

This year's SET in Florida is titled **"Service DENIED"** and will be based around the concept of a statewide cyber-attack that impacts our communications infrastructure.

While communications teams based in Florida are accustomed to activations from a hurricane, a cyber-attack has just as much chance of occurring in today's times with even less notice (if any) than a hurricane. The slogan we all see, "When all else fails, ham radio," would truly pickup its real meaning with a full communications infrastructure outage.

The exercise will be primarily HF Winlink. If you intend to participate, now is the time to get your HF Winlink ready.

LATE UPDATE
FLORIDA SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST POSTPONED DUE TO HURRICANE IAN.

ARES Emergency Coordinators (EC)

Indian River County
Bud Holman, WA4ASJ

Martin County
Brian H. Gibson, KN4YWW

St Lucie County
Paul Horner, W4ISZ

Okeechobee County
Jack Schwartz, KM4CRA

Get involved and volunteer. Be a part of your county ARES team.

Updates from the Volunteer Examiners (VEs)

Local License Exam Contacts

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

Ft. Pierce ARC
Jess Porter
w4dns@arrl.net

Port St. Lucie ARA
Robert Brown
(772) 201-5485
brownpsl@comcast.net

Send VE news to
tchamnews@gmail.com

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

September Activity Report

Unfortunately, we don't have much to report concerning VE testing in September. To the best of our knowledge, no Treasure Coast club offered a license examination session last month.

Local club VE liaisons - If you schedule VE exam sessions in the future, please tell us about them and we will include an announcement in future newsletters.

Likewise, after an exam session, provide us a list of candidates who passed their exams. Be sure to include their callsigns and we will congratulate them in this column. After all, who doesn't enjoy seeing their name in print?

* * * * *

Some Good News in Port Saint Lucie

As many readers know, the Port St. Lucie club recently started holding monthly club meetings at the Veteran's Resource Center on the Pruitt Campus of Indian River State College in St. Lucie West.

PSL club leadership has also been discussing with the college the need for a facility where the club could schedule license examination sessions at regular intervals.

Well the good news is that the college is willing to allow the club to conduct quarterly license exam sessions at the Veteran's Center. It is anticipated the sessions will be held on Saturday mornings, likely at 10:00 AM.

The club's first VE exam session at the Veteran's Center will happen on November 5, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Watch for an announcement with more details in coming days.

* * * * *

Common Mistakes at VE Sessions

Here are some common mistakes made by candidates showing up at VE license exam sessions.

The list below is based on the experiences of PSLARA VE team members.

<u>Attempt to pay exam fee by credit card</u>
Fees must be paid in cash or by check made payable to ARRL/VEC.

<u>Candidate does not have an FRN</u>
The candidate must have an FRN to take an exam. Social security numbers are no longer accepted.

<u>Upgrading and forgets license copy</u>
The VE team is required to submit a copy of the candidates existing license with the examination paperwork. The candidate should bring a license copy (not the original) to the exam session.

<u>Forgets a pen or pencil</u>
This one is not too serious. The PSL VE team stocks pens and pencils, as do most other teams.

<u>Does not answer all questions on exam</u>
Twice we had candidates fail the exam by one question. Ironically, in both instances the candidate failed to indicate an answer to one question. VEs - urge candidates to recheck answer sheets before turning them in.

Ham Radio History: Aerials, Attachments, and Audibility

by Chris Codella, W2PA

Aside from the spark gap, the aerial was then, as the antenna system is today, a source of intense interest and experimentation. Aerials partly governed resonance in both transmitter and receiver, and therefore played an integral part in determining the wavelength of operation. In *QST*, The Old Man advised that amateurs should not simply make aerials as long as possible, but stick with lengths of around 175 meters with short lead-in and ground connections, so as to stay close to the 200 meter limit, and operate efficiently there.[1]

At least four kinds of antennas were in widespread use: the vertical fan, umbrella, inverted-L and T aerial. A simple vertical wire was also used, called a Hertz or Marconi aerial depending on whether or not a ground connection was involved. A fan antenna consisted of several vertical wires connected close together at the base and then fanned out up to a high horizontal support wire suspended between two masts. This was considered the most effective amateur antenna at the time, and the one to choose if you had the room. The umbrella aerial, not very popular at all, consisted of a single vertical support from which a conical arrangement of wires sloped down towards the ground forming a circle around the base. The inverted-L and T antennas were pretty much the same as they are today, except they invariably involved several parallel wires at the top separated by insulating spreaders. As today on 160 meters, these were perhaps the most popular kind of aerial because they are small and require simpler supports, yet are effective radiators. All aerials simply had single-wire connections directly to the transmitter, possibly including an inductor or capacitor for tuning. Two-conductor feed lines were yet to be widely used.

Humor writer Charles Wolfe, a frequent QST contributor, summed up aerials in this way:[2]

"The aerial is the first thing the prospective amateur considers. The aerial is also the last thing the disgusted veteran considers, when about to dismantle. Incidentally, one continues to consider it throughout his entire career. Consideration of the aerial enriches the vocabulary. Even as Minerva sprang full-grown from the forehead of Jove, so do many new, picturesque, and very expressive cuss-words spring spontaneously from the lips of the hapless bug as he considers the wreck of a fallen aerial. The last thing the enthusiast considers at night is his aerial, wondering if it will last the night and knowing blame well it won't. The first thing the same enthusiast considers in the morning is his aerial, wondering if it's still up, and knowing blame well it isn't."

Maxim's own station, an exemplar of the state-of-the-art, was profiled as such in a two-page article in July 1920 *QST*.[3] Coincidentally, this is the same issue in which the ARRL diamond emblem was first introduced — its schematic antenna symbol evocative of the fan antenna. His own impressive fan installation appeared that month in the first photograph ever to appear on a *QST* cover, and was described as the "most novel departure from regular practice," although the article did not say exactly how.

Maxim's back yard fan antenna

Maxim's spark transmitter was located in the basement to be close to the ground connection and to keep its noise isolated from the first floor library where the receiver, key, changeover switch and other apparatus made up the operating position. A non-synchronous rotary gap was at the heart of the transmitter.

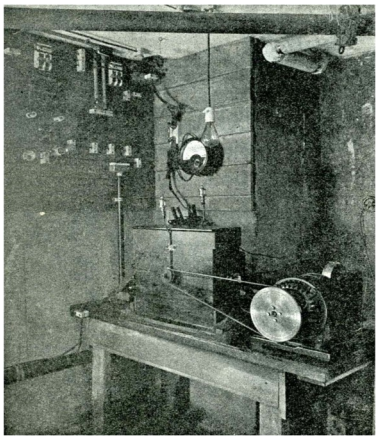
(continued on page 5)

Ham Radio History: Aerials, Attachments and Audibility

(continued from page 4)

Maxim's operating position in his library

After years of experimentation he had arrived at his 1920 design — a four electrode rotor in the shape of a 15-inch diameter cross was driven at 7,000 rpm inside an asbestos-lined wooden box containing two stationary electrodes. (An earlier version of this gap had been previously described in an anonymously written article without identifying it as Maxim's.[4]



Spark transmitter in the basement

The rotor and metal hub were "live" at the high voltage and insulated only by the drive belt linking the rotor pulley on the front of the box with the one on the drive motor mounted next to it. The main power was connected through the key on the operating desk directly to the main transformer that charged his .01 mfd., 24,000 volt Dubilier mica condenser. With this transmitter, his station operated with 770 watts input power and had been heard as far away as Nebraska. "In point of consistent performance we believe it ranks with the top-liners in the amateur world," wrote ARRL secretary Kenneth Warner. This is the same rotary gap that, along with some other transmitting components, can be seen today (minus the asbestos lining) at W1AW, the Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.[5]

Although several hams operated from Maxim's station, you'd know who was at the key by their *sine* — Maxim was *HP* and Warner, *KB*.

Before the advent of standardized signal reports, such as RST, or objective measurements of received signal level in microvolts or even the sometimes less standard S-units, hams described signals in ways that would most likely be familiar to other hams.

One such way that appeared frequently in early *QST* was to state how far from the headphones a received signal could be heard.[6] In the days when speakers were uncommon, and a receiver was little more than an antenna, a passive detector and headphones, the sounds you'd hear were literally generated directly by the signal itself. What better way could there be to describe the strength of such a signal than by how far across the room you could still hear and copy it? This kind of description carried through well into the age of vacuum tubes.

▫▭▫▭▫ **de W2PA**

Footnotes:

1. The Old Man, "Natural Wave Lengths of Antennas," *QST*, December 1916, 24. ↩
2. C. S. Wolfe, "Aerials," *QST*, November 1916, 333. ↩
3. Amateur Radio Stations, *QST*, July 1920, 35. ↩
4. Anonymous, "A New Type Rotary Gap," *QST*, February 1917, 22. ↩
5. Maxim's call sign had changed again later to 1AW. ↩
6. E. E. House, "Receiving with a Pancake Tuner," *QST*, March 1916, 55. ↩

[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 tenth 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.]

(Next issue: The Audion)

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

Got My License, Now What?
Resonance - Series Circuits

Our radios are packed full of resonant circuits. Our antennas are also resonant circuits. Understanding a few basic characteristics of resonant circuits will give us a good understanding of how our stations work.

RESONANCE IN SERIES CIRCUIT

Consider a resistor, capacitor and inductor (coil of wire) connected in series with a source of alternating current (RF). One side of the AC source is at the inductor (L), the other side is the resister (R) and the capacitor (C) is in the middle. The frequency can be varied over a wide range.

At some low frequency, the capacitive reactance X_C (resistance of the capacitor) will be much greater than the resistance R. R normally is low because it is mainly the resistance of the wires in the circuit. The inductive reactance X_L, will be low compared to the X_C. On the other hand, at some high frequency X_C will be very low and X_L, will be very high. R stays the same. For either extreme the current will be low (little power consumption), due to the net reactance being high.

At some intermediate frequency, the X_C and X_L will equal and the voltage drops across the coil and capacitor will be equal and 180 degrees out of phase. Therefore, they cancel each other completely and current flow is determined wholly by R which is normally very low. At that frequency the current has its largest possible value. This means that power consumption is at maximum. At this point where X_C=X_L the circuit is said to be resonant.

Most antennas react as a Series Resonant Circuit. Therefore, you want to cancel the reactances (X_C and X_L) to resonate the antenna. This commonly applies to most varieties of dipoles, verticals and the ***Isotron*** (had to throw that in). The 2 values, X_C and XL, are good to know to understand our antenna systems.
If your antenna is in a tight location, or is not as straight as it should be, one or both of the reactance values will change. This means the antenna will not tune like it should. Can it be fixed?

Yes, quite easily. You will need to know the 2 values, X_C and X_L of the antenna. Without coax, you can use most analyzers at the antenna to get this reading. With coax connected, you can use a Noise Bridge at the antenna to find these values.

Once you know, it is simply a matter of adding or reducing the value of one of the reactances to make it equal at the frequency you want. Lengthen the antenna to increase X_L and lower X_C, or shorten the antenna and lower X_L and increase X_C. Or, you can add a component (capacitor or coil) to the circuit or antenna to equalize the reactance.

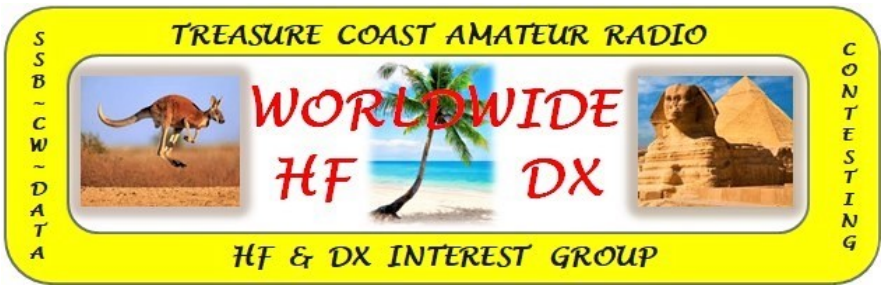
Knowing these values can allow you to get an antenna to work in tight and restrictive locations. Much of this compensation can be done at the radio. This is basically what a tuner does. Keep in mind that most of the correct values should be at the antenna. An antenna tuner can be used to make a reasonable adjustment. You can also add the values needed at the antenna if you know what they are.

73, Ralph WD0EJA
BILAL COMPANY
137 MANCHESTER DR. FLORISSANT, CO. 80816
PH/FX: 719/687-0650 wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

What is an Isotron Antenna?
The Isotrons are designed for optimal atmosphere capture area. Just enlarging antennas more may not have that much affect on performance.

According to Ralph "Isotron antennas are not loops. Their radiation pattern is omni-directional and polarization is random. This offers excellent efficiency on transmit. Reception is noticed as soon as the receiver is connected. Low noise, good sensitivity and the affects of changing polarization are lower.

Granted it looks a little strange compared to what we are use to. Our 41 years of service to the HF community is a testimony to the performance of the Isotrons."



Now is a Great Time to Become a DXer

Solar Conditions are Improving DXpedition Activity is Picking Up

Yes indeed! Propagation conditions are improving and activity on the DX bands is on the increase. And as we transition further into the late autumn and winter season we can expect propagation conditions to improve even more.

So what are you waiting for? It's time to fire up that HF rig, finish that antenna project, replace that old feedline and get back on the air. There's a lot of DX stations out there calling CQ. Go answer them and get them in your log.

You say you are new to HF? So what! Welcome! What are you waiting for? Get on the air and start learning about the science of long distant radio communication. Between DXpeditions, special event stations, contests and routine CQ calls there is always activity on the HF bands.

If you are interested in learning more about DXing and HF radio in general, consider participating in the monthly breakfast meetings of the *Treasure Coast HF & DX Interest Group.*

The next breakfast meeting will be held on Friday, October 14, 2022 at 9:00 AM at the Bob Evans restaurant, 1830 SW Fountainview Blvd, St. Lucie West.

Besides enjoying a good meal, participants engage in lively discussion about many HF and DX topics, including on-air activities and logs, upcoming special operating events and DXpeditions, and expected propagation conditions for the coming weeks. Also, recently received QSL cards are passed around for everyone to enjoy.

If you have an interest in HF and DXing, consider joining us. Bring along your log and QSL cards. And bring a friend.

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

Short Takes

Plugs and Socket Museum
https://www.plugsocketmuseum.nl/index.html

Sea Level Rise Viewer
Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts (noaa.gov)

FT8 Settings Help for Icom Radios
nc0b.com/wsjt/icom

Solar Conditions & Ham Radio Propagation
https://solar.w5mmw.net/

73 Magazine Archive
https://archive.org/details/pub_73 Archive

Time Converter and World Clock
World Time Buddy (world time buddy.com)

Club Log for DXers (get a login)
https://clublog.org/loginform.php

KC-46 Pegasus Tanker Jet Endurance Test
AirForceTimes.com

VE7SL's Radio Notebook
https://www.qsl.net/ve7sl/

Email & Chat Groups
(Note: some groups may require registration.)

Group for EmComm Participants
Florida EmComm Grp

Vintage Radio Stations
Vintage Amateur Radio

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

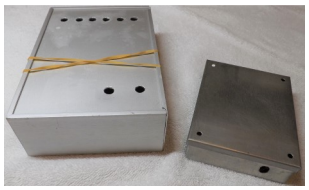
The Frugal Ham Radio Operator

At a recent HF & DX Interest Group breakfast, (PSL Bob Evans, 2nd Friday of the month. Do you attend?), Bruce, W8HW gave a short talk about his Arduino based remote antenna switch. Bruce has designed a very innovative piece of equipment.

Hams have used remote antenna switches for many years. I built a version in the 80s. It had a simple control box and a remote unit. Bruce's unit, is much more advanced than mine and deserves a professional looking case to match his excellent work.

While commercial ham vendors have the resources to create custom designed enclosures for their ham equipment, hams in general use whatever is available.

Being a frugal ham radio enthusiast, my project enclosures have taken many forms. Early on local stores like Lafayette and Olson were affordable sources for aluminum Bud boxes and chasses.

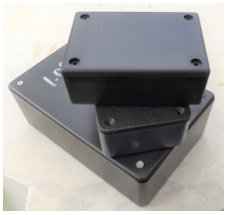


Hamfests provided opportunities for used boxes. Many times I was able to use the existing holes and openings by redesigning my project.

If I had a really special project that I wanted to display in the shack, I might spring for a pricy commercial enclosure such as a PacTec.

Die cast aluminum boxes were sometimes found, but their cost could not be justified with my very limited ham radio budget.

Radio Shack offered a good selection of plastic and metal boxes. They were generally cheap and best of all they were available locally.



Radio Shack's metal boxes were not of the same quality as Bud and others, but still worked rather well.

Here I build an LDG AT-11 auto tuner in a Radio Shack box. The tuner and box got a lot of use over the years for portable operating. It continues to stand up very well today.

Several decades ago I discovered Skycraft in Orlando. It seemed just about every square foot of the store (and ceiling) was utilized with new and surplus electronics, parts, wire, etc. Their surplus box section always had goodies for investigation.

This box has a slide top and worked great for a keyer and its batteries.

I found these boxes intriguing. Cutting the vertical metal portions between the openings made a perfect fit for a field strength meter digital display.

D'Arsonval analog meters, with their round meter holes could easily be cut with a circular punch. Not so for multi-line digital displays.

If your project can use a plastic box, cutting the rectangular hole is fairly easy. What about a metal enclosure? That gets quite interesting. A buddy of mine has a CNC machine. He cut this precision faceplate for me. This was for a uBitx transceiver.

This is now my go-to box, 10"x10"x4" and includes the display opening and a fan mount on the real panel. $10 bucks! A Skycraft winner!

Upcoming Hamfests

FLORIDA

10/15/2022
2nd Annual Manatee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest
Bradenton, FL
Manatee Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
https://www.manatee-arc.org/

10/15/2022
Flamingo Net Flea at University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL
Flamingo Net ARC
http://www.FlamingoNet.8m.net

11/26/2022
Palm Beach Count Ham Radio festival
West Palm Beach, FL
Palms West Amateur Radio Club
http://www.palmswestradio.org

ARRL 2022 Florida State Convention
October 7-8 2022
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
Forums & Special Interest Groups
W4MLB/57 HF Special Event Station
Famous PCARS Consignment Table

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

FCC Proposes 'Five-Year Rule' For Dead Satellite Disposal

The FCC wants to fix space junk in low Earth orbit. On Sept. 8, the agency published a proposal that, if adopted, would put a deadline on how long non-geostationary satellites can stay in space.

The voluntary NASA guidelines published in the 1990s recommend that dead satellites should be de-orbited within 25 years. The FCC wants to adopt a five-year rule that would require domestic satellite operators and companies that want access to the U.S. market to dispose of their non-functioning satellites as soon as they can. "We believe it is no longer sustainable to leave satellites in LEO [low Earth orbit] to deorbit over decades," the FCC states in its proposal.

Satellites already in space would be exempt from the FCC's guidelines. The Commission is also proposing there be a two-year grandfathering period that starts on September 29th, the day it plans to vote on the regulation. That carve-out would give organizations that previously obtained approval for a future satellite launch time to develop a disposal plan for their spacecraft. The FCC said it would also grant waivers on a case-by-case basis after NASA expressed concern that the five-year limit would impact its CubeSat missions.

This proposal comes as the number of satellites in low Earth orbit is expected to dramatically increase over the next few years. With contributions from companies like SpaceX, Amazon and OneWeb, as many as 18,000 new satellites could be floating above the planet by 2025. These satellites will only make space junk management more challenging.

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

If you know of an event, net, or meeting and think it would be of interest to our Treasure Coast Hams, please let us know. As with anything new, you can help us make the calendar better. Send your event announcements to tchamnews@gmail.com.

October 2022

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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November

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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			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 **ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** **9am - 11:30am** (arrl-nfl.org/set)
2 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	3 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	4 **IRC ARES Net-7:30pm** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B **OARC ARES Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	5 **SLC ARES Net-7:30pm** 147.240(+) (107.2) or Winlink Checkin sent to W4ISZ **SLC ARES WinLink** Wednesday's	6 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **VBARC Mtg-7:30pm** 4225 43rd Av Vero Bch	7 **Melbourne Hamfest** **1pm - 7pm** (See https://pcars.org for details)	8 **Melbourne Hamfest** **9am - 3pm** (See https://pcars.org for details)
9 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	10 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	11 **IRC ARES Net-7:30pm** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B	12 **FPARC Mtg-7:30pm** Indian River State College Ft. Pierce-Bldg R, Rm 124 Check FPARC website for any room number changes **SLC ARES WinLink** Wednesday's	13 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2)	14	15 **Vero Beach ARC QRP Event** (See https://w4ot.webs.com/ for details)
16 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	17 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	18 **IRC ARES Meeting** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B	19 **SLC ARES Mtg-7:30pm** SLC EOC-15305 Midway Rd, Ft. Pierce In person Quarterly ZOOM Mtg other months **SLC ARES WinLink** Wednesday's	20 **Indian River Co. ARES** 4225 43rd Av Vero Bch **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2) **MCARA Mtg-7pm** 802 SE Monterey, Stuart	21	22
23 **TC R/T Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **SKYWARN Net-9pm** 146.775(-) (107.2)	24 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **IRC Emer. Net-8pm** 146.775(-) (107.2) **MCARA R/T Net-8pm** 145.500(-) (107.2) **OARC Club Net-8pm** 147.195(-) (100.0)	25 **IRC ARES Net-7:30pm** 145.130(-) (107.2) **FPARC R/T Net-8pm** 147.35(+) (107.2) **D-Star Net-8:30pm** 444.500(+5) Port B	26 **PSLARA Meeting** **Indian River State College** **Veteran's Resource Ctr.** 500 NW California Blvd. **SLC ARES WinLink** Wednesday's	27 **Slow CW Net-6:30pm** (on hiatus, need a Net Op) **PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm** 146.995(-) (107.2)	28	29
30	31					

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

A Case of FT8 Double Trouble

A common trouble area encountered by both new and seasoned FT8 operators concerns installation and configuration issues.

We won't go into a lengthy discussion of specific settings here. They are covered very well in many documents. One of the best is the FT8 guide written by Gary Hansen: FT8 Operating Guide v2.

Rather than discuss specific settings here, let's focus on a question recently received from a reader.

Question:
I have two station computers running WSJT-X and both are exhibiting problems.

Computer #1 is new. I just commissioned it as a replacement for computer #1. It boots WSJT-X cleanly without any errors, but I do not see any FT8 traffic decoding.

Computer #2 is my main station computer. It worked well yesterday, but today it is not receiving any FT8 traffic.

What's wrong? Any ideas how I can get back on the air?

Answer:

Let's first talk about computer #1. My suspicion rests with the sound card configuration. It's a common trouble area, especially during initial system setup.

Sound card configuration is critical. Often when FT8 is not operating properly (or at all), it is the sound card interface that is at fault.

If using an external sound card, such as a SignaLink, be sure the USB cable from the sound card is plugged into the computer before starting WSJT-X. This sometimes help if WSJT-X was previously running normally.

If configuring WSJT-X and/or a sound card for the first time, read the vendor's instructions carefully BEFORE starting the installation.

This is important. Don't fall into the mindset that "this is just another computer configuration exercise. I've done plenty of them is the past." That statement may be true, but with WSJT-X and FT8 threshold and level settings are very critical.

Remember, many configuration difficulties can be avoided simply by studying the installation and configuration instructions before starting the job.

There is one more important step you should take once you have everything running satisfactorily. That is to make a list of all the settings you changed. The list will be a good reference should you need to do a re-install in the future and will also help if you need to do an install on another computer.

Now on to computer #2. The symptom you reported is, "*FT8 was operating normally yesterday, but today it is not working at all.*"

Don't panic. It happens to all of us from time to time. You get that awful feeling in the pit of your stomach when you power up your station expecting to work some FT8 contacts and all you see is a straight line on the WSJT-X waterfall. Your mind says, "Quick, grab the defibrillator!" But your heart knows that's not the solution.

So what happened? In the majority of instances this doctor has seen, the straight line symptom is a result of an update applied to Microsoft Windows. It seems that occasionally Windows will override your configuration settings and reset the sound card to its default settings.

Remember that list of setting changes we mentioned a few paragraphs ago? Here's where it will come in handy. Simply review your settings and restore any that may have changed as a result of the Windows update. There's a good chance that will solve the problem and restore operation.

We hope these idea helps. *73, The Doctors*

Got a question for the doctors? We will try to help. Send your questions to: tchamnews@gmail.com.

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

DX OPPORTUNITIES

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Satoshi, JH2EUV is QRV as 4W/JH2EUV. Activity on 40 to 10 meters using mostly FT8. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

TANZANIA, 5H. Tev, TA1HZ is QRV as 5H8HZ while working in Tabor. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. He is here until the beginning of 2023. QSL via LoTW.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Vincent, K6VVK will be QRV as FO/K6VVK from Moorea, IOTA OC-046, until October 5. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Tom, DL2RMS is QRV as A65/DL2RMC from Al Ain. Activity is on 30 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. This may include 160 and 6 meters as well. QSL via LoTW.

JAPAN, JA. Take, JI3DST will be QRV as JI3DST/5, JJ5RBH, JS6RRR/5, and JS6RRR/p from Shodo Island, IOTA AS-200, from September 25 to November 4. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8, depending on call sign. QSL via LoTW.

NAMIBIA, V5. Hanspeter, HB9BFM will be QRV as V5/HB9BFM from September 28 to October 11. Activity will generally be from 1600 to 1900z on 20 meter Olivia frequencies. QSL to home call.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Nathan, 2E0HSV is a technician at Port Stanley's radio station and plans to be QRV as VP8AAE using SSB and various digital modes. He plans to activate some SOTA references along the east and west coast. QSL via operator's instructions.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS, FW. Jean, F4CIX intends to stay on Wallis Island, IOTA OC-054, for another two years and QRV as FW/F4CIX. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB, FT8, and FT4 mainly between 0630 and 0915z. QSL via LoTW.

DODECANESE, SV5. Sindre, LA6OP will be QRV as SV5/LA6OP from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until October 9. Activity will be on 40 to 4 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

CHAGOS ISLAND, VQ9. Steve, WB4GHY is QRV as VQ9SC from Diego Garcia, IOTA AF-004, until November 16. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using mainly FT8 in DXpedition mode, and SSB. QSL direct to WB2REM.

DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

LITHUANIA, LY. Special call sign LY770CT is QRV until October 14 to commemorate the 770th anniversary of the founding of the Lithuanian city of Klaipeda. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via LY1CT and LoTW.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Dieter, DF2SD is QRV with special call sign DR100RY until the end of 2022 to celebrate the centenary of Radiotelety-pe. QSL to home call.

SWITZERLAND, HB. Special event station HB175RAIL is QRV until the end of October to celebrate the first Swiss Rail Service of 1847. QSL via LoTW.

INDONESIA, YB. Members of the ORARI Daerah Jawa Timur, Lokal Pasuruan are QRV with special call sign 8A1093PAS from Java Island, IOTA OC-021, to celebrate the 1093rd anniversary of the Pasuruan Regency. Their length of stay is unknown. Activity is on various HF and VHF bands. QSL via bureau.

MALTA, 9H. The Marconi Amateur Radio Circle will be QRV as 9H6QE until October 14 in celebration of the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Activity on 20 to 10 meters & possibly other bands. QSL via 9H1MRC.

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

Special Event Stations

Have some fun making contact with domestic Special Event Stations Using Digital, CW or SSB modes.

WWV 103rd Anniversary SES

Oct 1 - Oct 2, 0000Z -2359Z, WW0WWV, Fort Collins, CO. 14.280. Certificate & QSL: WWV Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 273226, Fort Collins, CO 80527. Clean sweep certificates available for stations contacting SES operators in each of the 6 active time zones. Note date change. The WWV ARC will be on the air with amateur stations across the country to help celebrate and recognize the WWV 103rd Anniversary. (wwvarc.org/103rd Anniversary)

(From ARRL & other sources)

150th Anniversary: Lighting of Bodie Island Lighthouse

Oct 1, 1300Z-1900Z, W4PCN, Nags Head, NC. Outer Banks Repeater Association. 7.265, 14.265. Certificate & QSL: OBRA SE Station, Carl Hacker, WC5WM, P.O. Box 1085, Nags Head, NC 27959. SASE please. www.obraobx.com

50th Anniversary SE CT Community Center of the Blind Pumpkin Festival

Oct 1, 1400Z-2300Z, NA1KW. North American Kilowatt Club. 7.240, 14.240, 18.140, 14.040. QSL: Chuck Doolittle, 2600 Davis St, Hannibal, MO 63401. Honoring the SE Connecticut Community Center of the Blind, saluting the blind and disabled enjoying the radio art, and recognizing the joy and enrichment they have found through amateur radio. Please QSL for a special commemorative card. https://www.na1kw.com

National Royal Rangers Week

Oct 2-Oct 8, 1800Z-2200Z, KD9FDH, Madison, IN. Royal Rangers ARC. 28.435. Certificate & QSL: Jerry Barnes, 601 Spring Street, Madison, IN 47250. Station will be calling CQ RR Week. Beautiful electronic certificate for confirmed QSO and QSL card exchange with SASE. Further info KA9PIJ @arrl.net. See us on Facebook KD9FDH Royal Rangers Amateur Radio Club and on QRZ. wjbarnes@cinergymetro.net

Come and Get Wyoming

Oct 5-Oct 16, 0000Z-2359Z, W7Y, Cheyenne, WY. Shy-Wy ARC. 14.320. Certificate & QSL. Shy-Wy ARC, P.O. Box 22483, Cheyenne, WY 82003. Shy-Wy ARC is hosting "Come and Get Wyoming" in conjunction with the 2022 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention. Many bands and modes during the event. Digital, SSB, CW, Satellites, SSTV, etc. Check the scheduler on our website for who will be on when. Fill out your WAS card with as many WY contacts as you can. https://shywyarc.net/wp/comeandgetwyoming

Get Your Park ON! Celebrating Earth Science Week

Oct 8-Oct 16, 0000Z-1259Z, K5G and more. Various towns. US Affiliate (KFF) of Worldwide Flora and Fauna. All bands, all modes. Certificate. See QRZ for each individual 1X1, call. Call signs currently participating: N2G, K5G, N6G, K7G, and N9G. See website details and compete list of 1x1 call signs. QSL information for each call will be on www.qrz.com. www.wwff.us

Jubilee 2022 - Cub Scouts, Scouts USA & Venturers

Oct 8, 1400Z-2300Z, KN0BSA, Ashland, NE. Mid-America Radio Scouting Group. 7.282 & up, 14.090 & up, FT8, local VHF. QSL: Jeff Beiermann, 5015 Burt St, Omaha, NE 68132. From Eugene T. Mahoney State Park. If in area please stop by and talk with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers and adults at this hands-on station. If you were ever a Scout, share your Scouting experience. If you were not a Scout, questions like rank, favorite scouting activity or how they are enjoying the Jubilee will help keep the conversation going. Thanks & 73. wb0m@arrl.net

U.S. Navy Birthday Commemoration

Oct 13, 1600Z-2130Z, W5KID, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge ARC. 7.040, 7.250, 14.040. 14.250. QSL: USS KIDD Amateur Radio Club, 305 S. River Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Operation aboard the USS KIDD (DD-661) WW II Fletcher class destroyer. www.qrz.com/db/w5kid

Yorktown Surrender Day Event

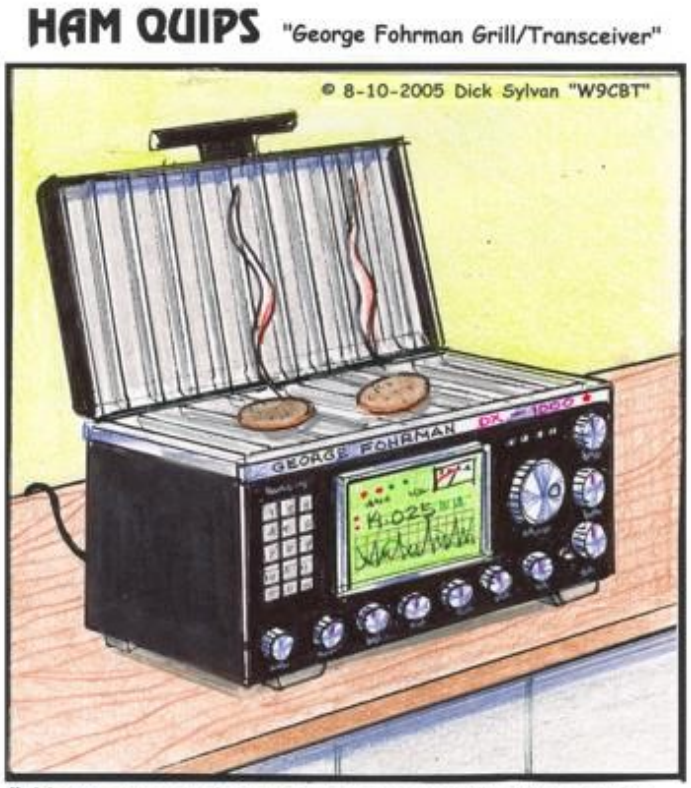
Oct 15, 1400Z-2000Z, K4RC. Williamsburg Area ARC. 7.265, 14.265. Certificate & QSL. For QSL send QSO info/SASE to QSL Manager, WAARC, PO Box 1470, Williamsburg, VA 23187. For Certificate send QSO info to qslmgr@k4rc.net. Celebrating 241st anniversary of the British surrender that ended the American Revolutionary War, October 19, 1781. You must contact Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown Special Event Stations for certificate. You don't need to make contacts in the same calendar year. info@k4rc.net or k4rc.net.

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

Ham Humor

(This month's cartoons are courtesy of Dick Sylvan, W9CBT. Thanks, Dick, for allowing us to share them!)

Key to My Heart



" Hoping To Cash In On The Lucrative Ham Radio Market, George Fohrman Introduces His New Grill And Ham RadioTransceiver Combination."

About Dick Sylvan, W9CBT: Dick was first licensed 74 years ago. Besides being an experienced ham radio operator Dick is also a skilled artist, having drawn over 200 Amateur Radio related cartoons. In 2005 Dick published a collection of some of his earliest cartoons in the book, "***Hi Hi - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons***." Dick's book can be purchased from Lulu.com. Click here for a link to Dick's book.

TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

Area Club News

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.

The association sponsors the annual Stuart Hamfest. Did you attend this year at the Martin Co. Fairgrounds? Check out the pictures in the May, 2022 newsletter archived at pslara.org. Look in the Pub-Documents section.

Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club

The club officers are: President - David, KG4ORQ, Vice-President - Kevin, W4KKW, Secretary - Pete, KD4SPW, and Treasurer - Kurt, W4KFH.

FPARC is a general purpose amateur radio club with a digital emphasis. The club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month on the Main Campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. Watch for email announcements concerning upcoming meetings and events. Additional details are available on the club's web site.

Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association

The club officers are: President - Bob, AI4RB; Vice President - Scott, AI4TT; Secretary - Bruce, WA3RHW; Treasurer - Bob, W4RJP. Derek, KO4DAD, Greg, KB4VVE, and Steve, N4SGL were recently elected directors joining Jody, W4SLD.

The next PSLARA meeting is scheduled for October 26th. The meeting location is the IRSC Veterans Resource Center, 500 NW California Blvd. Watch for meeting information and updates on the PSLARA website as we get closer to the meeting date. Please plan to come out to the meeting and support the club. And be sure to invite a friend. Visitors are always welcome at PSLARA meetings.

Club elections are coming up in November. Board positions are open. If you have an interest in serving on the Board please email info@pslara.com.

And please don't forget, PSLARA needs net control operators for their Thursday evening, 7:30pm nets. If you can help out, please drop a line to info @pslara.org.

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.

The Vero Beach club has a robust membership of hams. If you are into QRP, they have an operating event See the club web site for details.

The 2022 Treasure Coast Hamfest is scheduled for December 3rd at the Indian River County Fairgrounds. Click here for information.

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

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

The Okeechobee Amateur Radio 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. ARES - Second Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm on 147.195, pl 100.0.

Repeaters and Club Nets

Our area has a multitude of repeaters. Many clubs hold weekly rag chew nets. All known net schedules can be found on the TCHM calendar in this newsletter. Please get on the air and participate!

(Attention club officers: Please send an email announcing upcoming events and activities to: tchamnews@gmail.com. Send by the 20th of the month to be included in the next issue.)

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE & HELP NEEDED

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

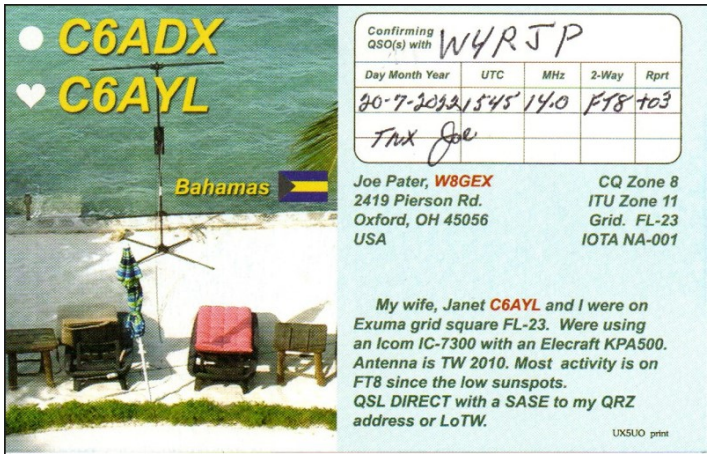
Looking for help in installing a discrete screwdriver vertical in my backyard with underground coax at my residence.

Contact Gus, NU4L, (772) 263-0430 or email gbergues@me.com. Please advise if there is any cost and payment method. Thank you very much. Gus, NU4L

Do you have something to sell or trade? Or perhaps you need a hand with antenna or equipment problems?
Drop us a line and we will include it our next issue.
Send an email 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.)*



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

QSL Concept — QSL Cards Printing for Less

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