

HAM DATES:

INDIAN RIVER CO.

Dec 5, 2020

Digital University, 9am-12pm
Donald McDonald Campground

Dec 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

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

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020

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

Dec 10, 2020

Vero Beach ARC Meeting, 7:30pm
Italian American Civic Associates

Dec 24, 2020 (Christmas Eve)

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

ST LUCIE CO.

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020

Ft. Pierce ARC Rag chew, Tech,
Traders NET 8pm, 147.345
Repeater (107.2), Echolink: 2004
(W4AKH-R)

Dec 2, 2020

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

Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020

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

Dec 9, 2020

Ft. Pierce ARC, 7:30pm, ZOOM (see
<https://fparc.org> for details)

Dec 16, 2020

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

MARTIN CO.

Dec 3, 2020

MCARA Wingding, 5:30pm
Southern Pig & Cattle Co., Stuart

Dec 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020

Rag chew net 7:30pm, 145.150 MHz
(107.2)

Dec 12, 2020

Holiday Luncheon, 1pm-4pm
Twisted Tuna, Salerno Rd, Stuart

Treasure Coast Ham News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10

DECEMBER 2020

Happy Holidays



PLEASE CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN A SAFE MANNER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: FROM THE PUBLISHERS * FROM THE READERS * VE LICENSE TESTING UPDATE * LOW-BAND TITAN JOHN DEVOLDERE ON4UN (SK) * SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY * TREASURE COAST HAM DOCTORS * FT8 TIP * HAM RADIO TRIVIA * GETTING STARTED IN HF RADIO * ARES * RADIOS PART IN THE COLD WAR IN SOUTH FLORIDA * RAMBLINGS OF AN ANTENNA ALCHEMIST * DX NEWS & EVENTS * DOMESTIC SPECIAL EVENTS * HAM HUMOR * SHORT TAKES * QSL CARDS * HAMFEST

From the Publishers ...

This is our 10th issue of Treasure Coast Ham News. The response from our readers has been very positive. To all who have let us know much they enjoy reading the newsletter and to all who have provided articles and content, we say a **VERY BIG THANK YOU!**

2020 has been a difficult year. Families mourn the loss of loved ones. Old friends have

passed. COVID-19 has changed our lives in so many ways.

Especially hard hit are amateur radio clubs. Adapting to no in-person gatherings is difficult. ZOOM is a poor substitute. Some local clubs are having trouble finding the way forward and need their membership to step up and volunteer.

Will 2021 be different? We certainly hope so. COVID-19 vaccines are on the way, but that does not mean we can let our guard down. Stay vigilant this holiday season. Wear a mask and/or face-shield when out in public. Remember you are protecting both yourself and others.

Happy Holidays.
73, TCHN

From our Readers ...

I enjoyed reading the article on Magnetic Loop antennas in the November issue. It was "right on" in all respects.

I would like to add a couple of comments, though. I've owned a MFJ 1786 30-10 meter loop for about five years now, and have been really pleased with its performance. It will handle 100 watts "key down" from my Icom 7300 all day long, with no problem.

MFJ has a poor reputation for the quality of their products, but this particular loop has served me well these past years, and has spent its life sitting in the back yard, vertically mounted on top of a tripod, with the bottom of the loop about 6 feet off the ground. It's been covered with snow in the winter, and

after several Washington "rainy seasons", shows a buildup of mold on the plastic "box" covering the motor driven capacitor and associated electronics, and still performs well. (I hesitate to open things up and see how moldy and crusty the INSIDES look, as long as it works well!)

I've noticed that keeping the loop resonant will require tuning as the temperature changes. In the morning (winter temperatures often between 28 - 35 degrees) the tuning will have to be "touched up" after being resonant the day before. This also happens in the middle of summer here in Puyallup, WA, when temperatures can reach into the upper 80's (sometimes low 90's). The antenna will be resonant at

the end of a QSO in the morning, but when I start to operate later in the day, it will need to be touched up again.

I've also had to re-tune the loop several times during my portion of a long PSK31 or Olivia QSO. The need to touch up tuning is no big deal though, with the remote tuning control right next to the rig in front of me. I can get any SWR zeroed out in less than 5 seconds.

Keep up the good work with the TC Ham News.

73, Joe WD4KAV (former member of the PSLARA, and the Ft. Pierce club.)

VE License Testing Update



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



St. Lucie County Examination Session Scheduled

A VE license examination session has been scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 9:30 AM. The session will take place at the Buffalo Chophouse restaurant located at 918 SW Gatlin Blvd in Port Saint Lucie. Testing for all three license levels will be available.

The restaurant is located on the south side of Gatlin Blvd, just west of the Port Saint Lucie Blvd intersection. It is directly across the street from the Aldi's grocery store on Gatlin Blvd.

Directions: From Port Saint Lucie Blvd turn west onto Gatlin Blvd. Then make an immediate left at the first street, which is SW Brighton St. Turn left at the first driveway into the small strip mall.

From I-95 get off at the Gatlin Blvd exit and head east for roughly two miles. Watch for the Aldi's grocery on your right and make a right turn onto SW Brighton St. Then turn left at the first driveway

into the strip mall.

Social distancing requirements may limit the available seats. If you plan to participate in this session, please RSVP so we can be sure to reserve a seat for you. RSVP to brown-psl@comcast.net.

Walkups for this examination session will be accepted as long as space is available, but we encourage you to RSVP if at all possible.

We will conduct the examination session in compliance with all social distancing and governmental guidelines in effect as of the exam date. If you are planning to participate, please be prepared and bring along a facemask.

For additional information contact Bob Brown, VE Liaison at 772-201-5485, or by email at brownpsl@comcast.net.



Indian River County

We understand Indian River County may be resuming license examination sessions, but we have no further details at this time.



We have no report from Martin County at this time.

Potential candidates in all counties are encouraged to contact their local club directly for further information. Contact information for all local clubs is listed below.

Attention Club VE Teams

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

Send your information to tchamnews@gmail.com

* * * * *

For further information on VE testing please contact:

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

Low-Band Titan John Devoldere, ON4UN (SK)



A giant in the field of low-frequency DXing and contesting, John Devoldere, ON4UN/AA4OI, of Merelbeke, Belgium, died on November 9. An ARRL Life member, he was 79 and had been in failing health. In addition to his enthusiasm for operating, Devoldere may be best known as the author of the popular book *ON4UN's Low Band DXing*, published by ARRL, as well as other books, including *Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur*, which he co-authored with Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, and which is hosted on the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) Region 1 website.

"Ham radio, and especially low-band DXing, were my father's lifelong passions and always had a strong presence in our house," his daughter, Marleen,

said in announcing her father's passing. "Though I don't have a call sign, I very much feel a part of the big radio family and always will."

The Royal Union of Belgian Radio Amateurs (UBA) President Claude van Potelsberghe de la Potterie, ON7TK, said Devoldere was "a radio amateur in heart and soul" who will always be remembered. "We are grateful for his contribution to [amateur radio] and for his efforts within the UBA," he said. He was a member of the HF Committee from 1983 to 2016. In 1994, he became Provincial President of East Flanders. Two years later, he joined the national board of the UBA, and from 1998 to 2007 he was chairman and at the forefront of many reforms within the UBA. Devoldere retired in 2016.

According to his [QRZ.com](#) profile, John became interested in radio at the age of 11 and built his first single-tube transmitter the following year. His uncle, ON4GV, got him interested in amateur radio. Devoldere was licensed in 1961, at the age of 20. He built much of his station gear and was into contesting, winning the UBA CW Contest in 1962. At about the same time, he became interest-

ed in low-band operating. He worked 364 DXCC entities on 80 meters, lacking only North Korea.

Belgium didn't gain access to 160 meters until 1987, and a few years later John erected a full-size quarter-wave vertical for 160 meters. By 2018, he had 325 DXCC entities on 160 meters. John authored the *80-Meter DX Handbook* for *Ham Radio* magazine. In 1987 he authored *Low Band DXing* for the ARRL. Updated editions followed.

John built a competitive multi-single contest station and operated in some 80 international contests, including the ARRL International DX, the CQ World Wide DX, Stew Perry Topband Challenge, and others. The walls in his ham shack hold more than 50 first-place contest plaques.

John was elected to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame in 1997 and the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 2007. He received the Yasme Excellence Award in 2013.

The family invites condolences via [email](#).

(from the ARRL Letter)

Skywarn Recognition Day 2020 Adjusts for COVID-19

Since 1999, the annual SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) has celebrated the long relationship between the amateur community and the National Weather Service (NWS). SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020 will take place from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on December 5. Amateur radio operators comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN volunteers across the country.

The purpose of the event is to recognize amateurs for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen

the bond between radio amateurs and local NWS offices. The event is co-sponsored by ARRL and the NWS.

Normally, each year, radio amateurs participate from home stations and from stations at NWS forecast offices, with the goal of making contact with as many offices as possible. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, participation from NWS forecast offices is expected to be minimal, so the focus will shift to contacting as many trained SKYWARN spotters as possible.

During the event, operators are encouraged to exchange their name, home station, SRD number, and current weather conditions with other participating stations. The [event website](#) provides complete operating guidelines.

Radio amateurs may sign up for a SKYWARN Recognition Day number by completing a participant sign-up form. A Facebook page has been created and will host a variety of live and recorded segments throughout the day.

(from the ARRL Letter)

Treasure Coast Ham Doctors



FT8 Messages RRR and RR73

A new ham uses WSJT-X when operating FT8. He noticed a difference between the way his station responds to another station's CQ and the way the other station responds to his CQ calls.

Question: Can you help me understand the difference between RRR and RR73?

Specifically, when I call CQ and another station answers, during the message sequence my station sends RRR after receiving a signal report from the other station.

But when I answer another station's CQ, as the message

sequence progresses the other station sometimes replies to my signal report with RRR and at other times replies with RR73.

What is the difference between these two messages?

Answer: Contrary to some theories I hear, it is not a result of some stations using a software package other than WSJT-X. Instead, it is simply a matter of preference.

You have surely noticed that the messages are pre-canned in WSJT-X. The RRR message is #4 on the message list. When you call CQ, your station uses the even numbered messages. The order is 6-2-4, followed by 5. The responding station uses messages 1-3-5.

When responding to a CQ call, the caller sends messages 6-2-4-5 and your station send messages 1-3-5.

So why is message #4 sometimes sent as RRR and at other times RR73? That's easy to answer. By double-clicking on the button labelled "Tx 4" the content of this message will change from RRR to RR73.

Which is better? No real difference. Sending RR73 just eliminates the additional 73 cycle after the RRR. Using RR73 your CQ is now 6-2-4.

If you use RR73, be sure the next message from the other station is a 73. Should the station resend a signal report instead, you will need to manually resend RR73 by selecting message #4 and clicking the Transmit button.

FT8 Operating Tip

Have you selected the **Auto Seq** option on the main WSJT-X screen? If not, you may want to consider doing so.

When selected, it allows the software to automatically step through the message sequence when a station responds to your CQ call.

Likewise, when you double-click on a CQ call in the left window, the software will take over and handle the rest of the QSO for you, including resends if needed.

If you have a ham problem, please email tchamnews@gmail.com

Ham Radio Trivia

Answer to last month's question:

Last month we asked a question about a rare DXCC entity. Answering it should have been easy for the serious DX'er, but for the rest of us it likely proved quite difficult.

Question:

Navassa Island, prefix KPI, is another remote U.S. Possession that is high on most DXCC most wanted lists. Where is Navassa Island located?

A. Pacific Ocean approximately 130 miles southwest of Guam

B. Caribbean Sea approximately 40 miles west of Haiti

C. Indian Ocean approximately 155 miles east of Diego Garcia

D. Pacific Ocean approximately 220 miles west of Panama

The answer is: B. Caribbean Sea approximately 40 miles west of Haiti.

So how did you do? Everyone knows Puerto Rico, Guam and other islands are American territories. Very few have ever heard of Navassa Island, which has been the subject of an ownership dispute with Haiti since being claimed by the United States in 1857. Learn more about Navassa Island on [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navassa_Island).

December Trivia Question

After two months of DX themed questions it is time for a change. Do you know anything about famous musicians? If so, this question should be easy.

Question:

Which of the following musicians is not (or was not) a licensed amateur radio operator?

- A. Joe Walsh
- B. Jim Croce
- C. Alice Cooper
- D. Ronnie Milsap

(Look for the answer in next month's newsletter)

Do you have trivia question for the newsletter? Send it to tchamnews@gmail.com.

"Brush up on your radio knowledge and skills."

The Challenges of Getting Started in HF Radio

Background

Since I was a young lad admiring my Uncle Albert's (K2MLS) station, I've always been fascinated with amateur radio. Five decades later I was finally licensed in 2010 at age 65. I quickly upgraded to General and then Amateur Extra; but up until this spring, all my operating was on VHF and UHF bands because I lacked a suitable HF antenna.

Antenna Decisions

I still do not have a permanent antenna. Not erecting one was my personal choice. Our house was old and we were planning extensive remodeling and upgrades, so after earning my amateur ticket I decided not to pursue any antennas until remodeling was finished.

Well time marches on and now 10 years later I finally decided it was time to "pull the trigger" and move on to HF. I began by reassessing my antenna needs. I convinced myself I did not want a visible antenna or tower on my small Port Saint Lucie lot for a couple of reasons.

The first was safety and security. A visible antenna or tower is an announcement that there is potentially expensive radio equipment in the house. Being located almost under the western landing of the Crosstown Parkway Bridge, the highway has opened our neighborhood to more vehicle and foot traffic than ever before, most of which is strangers. Prior to the bridge we had very little vehicle traffic through the neighborhood and bicycle and foot traffic was always local residents. Now it is almost all strangers, and the volume has increased at least fourfold.

My second concern is neighbors. In every neighborhood there are people suspicious of radio anten-

nas, blaming them for interference and disruptions to television reception and internet service. Some naive folks also believe radiation emitting from an antenna is harmful to their health. I have good relations with everyone in my neighborhood. To keep it that way, I decided any antenna solution must avoid the potential for confrontation with neighbors.

So having made the decision of not wanting a tower or large antenna on my small Port Saint Lucie lot, it was time to research what I could accomplish with some type of small, discreet antenna.

Learn by Looking & Listening

Decisions, decisions, decisions... Deciding to take the plunge was the easy part. Then I realized that not only did I need to think about antennas, but also transmission line, radio and miscellaneous accessories.

"Hitting the books" is one way to learn. Another is by looking and listening. I prefer the latter. By keeping eyes and ears open, one can gather practical knowledge not necessarily found in books, but based on the experience of others.

Listening to the XYL is also important. Occasionally while traveling around town or on a road trip we would pass a house with a large antenna mounted atop a tower. Or we would see a car with a big HF whip antenna mounted to the trunk or bumper. The comments I most often heard from the XYL when a big antenna or tower was sighted were usually along the lines of, "ugly," "yuk," "obnoxious," or something similar.

My personal preference was already not have a tower or large antenna. Listening to the XYL's comments further convinced me that I needed a simple and discreet antenna.

One interesting observation about the amateur radio community is that everyone seems very opinionated. Each individual will try to convince you that their rig and their antenna is the best. Armed with that awareness, but knowing that listening to the opinions of others would expand my knowledge base, I took the approach of not asking direct questions, but rather paying close attention to what hams were telling other hams about their antennas.

You may ask, "What did I learn?" That's easy to answer. I learned that antenna choices are almost endless. I learned many antenna types and models would not fit my needs because of size and space requirements and/or the potential for XYL objection. I also eliminated attic mounted or gutter mount antennas. At my age I no longer intended to climb ladders or crawl around in an attic.

The Decision

My informal research exercise led to the conclusion that a small vertical antenna might be the best choice for me. Ideally it would be portable rather than permanently mounted. I decided it would be a "Hamstick style" antenna of some type.

Decision Made, What Next?

Hamstick style antennas are usually tuned to a single band. They also have power handling limitations to consider. As it turns out, my decision to go vertical is only the beginning of the process. I now need to think about band preferences, desired output power, modes of operation and more before I am ready to get on the air in the HF bands.

(to be continued in a future issue)

ARRL Scholarships Available for Radio Amateur Operators



The ARRL Foundation scholarship application period for the academic year 2021 ends on December 31, 2020.

The Foundation issued nearly \$300,000 in scholarships for 2020. For the academic year 2021 there has been a **significant increase** in the number of large dollar scholarships available thanks to a generous contribution from the Amateur Radio Digital Communication group (ARDC).

For the academic year 2021, there are two new \$25,000 scholarships, thirteen \$10,000 scholarships, nine \$5,000 scholarships as well as dozens of \$1,000 and \$500 scholarships.

A description of the many ARRL Foundation scholarships available can be found on line at:

<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-descriptions>

The ARRL Foundation offers over 100 scholarships and it only takes a simple online application to apply.

ARRL Foundation scholarships can be applied for online at:

<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-application>

Only amateur radio operator students may apply. Thus, the chances of being selected for a scholarship are good.

Since 1973, the ARRL Foundation, with the generosity of many donors and the hard work of a long line of dedicated Foundation Directors, has

had a positive impact on the lives of many young amateur radio operator students. To ensure that this positive impact does not wane, I ask each of you to timely notify your members of this opportunity.

Being awarded an ARRL Foundation scholarship could mean the difference in whether a student can pursue their higher education in 2021 or not.

Thank you. The Foundation and I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV President, ARRL Foundation

ARRL Southeastern Division
Director: Mickey V Baker, N4MB
n4mb@arrl.org

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

The [Amateur Radio Emergency Service \(ARES\)](#) has been the public service communication program of the ARRL since 1935. Over many years and following many natural disasters, volunteers in field organizations provided valuable feedback about the ways ARES could improve and modernize (including adapting to new communication modes) to make the organization more efficient and effective. A recent improvement is ARES Connect.

What is ARES Connect Volunteer Management System?

ARES Connect is a voluntary management system where ARES groups can manage their roster, create and staff events, and track nets and training. Each ARES group

and ARRL Section has a unique page on the platform with appropriate admin control given to the ARES Emergency Coordinator. ARES members can create a user profile that connects them to their local ARES group. Through their profile they can register for ARES (pending EC approval), sign up for events, log volunteer hours and log training. Reporting is different in ARES Connect. As users log activity, data is created that allows ECs, DEC's and SEC's to run custom reports.

If you have any questions, contact your local ARES EC or the ARRL Headquarters ARES Connect support team at: aresconnect@arrl.org.

Treasure Coast ARES Coordinators

Martin County:
Emergency Coordinator
[Steve Marshall, WW4RX](#)

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

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

Get involved and be a part of ARES.

Radio's part in the South Florida Cold War

The Cuban Missile Crisis saw a huge military buildup in South Florida. As kids we could not understand everything but the worried look on our parents faces as they watched the news and the school nuclear drills gave us concern. My Dad worked for the Department of Defense. One Sunday he piled us in the car and off we went to southern Dade County. He seemed to know where he was going. At a junction of two farm roads, he motioned for us to look down one of the crossroads. There pointed at the sky in a southerly direction was a HAWK missile battery. Army Technicians were working the missiles. Was this war we wondered?

While in high school I camped for a week at Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas. The fort is approximately 70 miles west of Key West. We traveled to the fort via a Coast Guard Cutter. After arriving we off loaded our tents, food, and water and began to explore. As a young want-to-be ham I was keenly interested in the wire antennas strung around the interior of the fort. Coax entered small trailers. I asked a park ranger about the antennas. He was very evasive.....

In early 1960, CIA Director Dulles briefed President Eisenhower about a series of potential covert actions designed to overthrow Castro's government. In March 1960, Eisenhower ordered the CIA to develop a plan of action against Castro. The CIA believed that with a small army, propaganda radio stations, and covert sabotage activities, the people of Cuba could be convinced to rise up

against Castro and end his communist regime.

The U.S. government quickly set their plans for Cuba into motion. Eisenhower initially authorized a budget of \$3 million for the Cuban operations. The CIA poured personnel, money, and equipment into South Florida and began to train a secret army of exiles for an invasion of Cuba. Many of these exiles exhibited a high degree of patriotism and wanted to liberate their country.

Anti-Castro activities in South Florida eventually expanded to become the largest CIA operation in the world outside of the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The government spent approximately \$50 million a year in an effort to remove Castro and reverse the Cuban revolution.

After the failed CIA Bay of Pigs invasion the U.S. government poured more resources and monies into South Florida. Despite that and independent Cuban exile activities, Castro's position did not weaken. Most of what was done proved counterproductive because Castro used the foreign aggression as an excuse for more oppression of the Cuban people. He rounded up thousands of so called "counter revolutionaries." Kennedy came under increasing attack for failing to stop the advance of communism ninety miles from the shores of the U.S.

Fearful of another Bay of Pigs type

invasion and with the U.S. damaging his economy, Castro tried to defend Cuba against future invasion attempts and other subvert activities by building a closer relationship with the Soviet Union. The Soviets used this as a premise to install nuclear warhead equipped medium-range ballistic missiles (MRBMs) and other offensive weapons in Cuba in October 1962.



The discovery of nuclear missile bases and other offensive weapons by U.S. spy planes and communication intercepts, sent shock waves throughout the U.S. government.

Kennedy, not wanting another failed CIA operation, acted quickly to confront this threat. Defense officials implemented portions of newly formulated military contingency plans. They began a massive military alert in the United States. Personnel, money, and equipment flooded South Florida, blanketing Florida bases such as Homestead AFB, Key West Naval Air Station (NAS) and Naval Station, Opa Locka Airport, Port Everglades, and other facilities. The U.S. prepared to go to war over the issue

of nuclear missiles in Cuba.

No lover of war, Kennedy none-the-less planned for an invasion of Cuba not by exiles, but with all of the might of the U.S. military.

U.S. military forces poured into South Florida throughout October and early November, 1962. Invasion plans were formalized in case



diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis failed.

The troops and equipment piled high at various South Florida air fields, ports, and railheads made tempting targets for Castro and the Soviets if they decided to launch a preemptive strike.

At the time South Florida did not have an air defense missile systems like most major population centers in the U.S.

The Soviets outflanked the extensive radar nets and air defenses protecting the majority of our nation's cities from bomber attack by installing offensive weapons in Cuba. Concerns about South Florida's vulnerability to air attack were apparent. President Kennedy convened the Executive Committee of the National Security Council to discuss the crisis. Secretary of State Dean Rusk noted that "... I think there are certain military actions we might well want to take straight away."

To defend against the possibility of air attack on Miami and the region's strategic military staging areas, the Army did what it could and deployed several air defense missile battalions to the region.



Both HAWK and Nike Hercules missile battalions arrived in South Florida within days of the onset of the crisis. The missile batteries were located throughout South Florida and in Key West.

Four national parks, Big Cypress, Biscayne, Dry Tortugas, and Everglades, played an important role in the Cold War history of South Florida and the United States. In many cases, park resources provided realistic training scenarios for CIA backed Cuban exile



groups as well as U.S. military personnel engaged in survival training and counterinsurgency exercises.

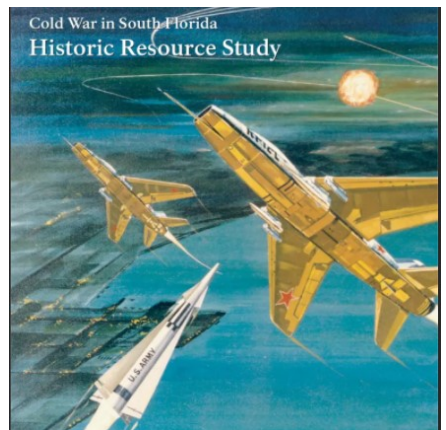
The parks also provided a location for Cold War communications and

intelligence-gathering operations.

Dry Tortugas is a cluster of seven islands almost 70 miles west of Key West. Known as Dry Tortugas National Park (Fort Jefferson National Monument from 1935 until 1999), it was important in Cold War events related to Cuba largely because of the park's geographic location and isolation.



Park personnel worked closely with the FBI, the Border Patrol, and the U.S. Coast Guard throughout the Cold War. U.S. national security agencies used the park during the Cuban missile crisis for large intelligence-gathering operations, both against Cuba and beyond. Dry Tortugas National Park became home to a Voice of America (VOA) transmitter in 1962.



[Cold War in South Florida](#) ebook is available for download.

Ramblings of an Antenna Alchemist



(We hope our readers will participate in this column by submitting their practical experience with antenna alchemy.)

The last few issues discussed small transmitting loops (STL). STLs work great for portable use when you want minimum weight and ease of operation. This type of loop can also be suitable for home use. In the home environment we might want to enhance the STL's ease of operation by motorizing the tuning of the variable capacitor.

W2LI LOOP



The W2LI loop is a no frills STL. What I mean by no frills is that almost any ham can make one from mostly common parts. A length of LMR-400 or RG-213 coax, 1/4" copper tubing, a small plastic box, PL259s/SO239s, PVC pipe and couplers, tripod camera mount and a few odds and ends are all easily acquired. The only exceptions would be the 6:1 reduction drive and 250pf variable high voltage capacitor and even those may be in your junk box. Both are also available on eBay. If you want to build rather than wait for the Tri-County W2LI group to offer the loop for sale again, Google 'G4ILO Wonder Loop.' Ok, let's get on with motorizing the capacitor.

I own several commercially made STLs. One uses auto tune to rotate the capacitor via a stepper motor. The other uses a stepper motor as well to rotate the capaci-

tor, but does so with a simple up/down momentary switch. Both methods work well because the capacitor has a wide tuning range.

The first method I considered was to use a simple DC motor.



I settled on a reversible DC gear head motor. MPJA in Rivera Beach had one for sale for \$10. The motor was rated 12vdc - 19rpm to 24vdc - 45rpm. Using a variable power supply the motor worked at less than 12vdc, but it seemed to be drawing more current the lower I went. I put it in the possible column and continued my exploration.

A friend of mine is into computer numerical control (CNC). He designed and built a CNC machine for his business. I told him what I wanted to accomplish and he said a stepper motor would be the best bet. He also told me I would need a controller driver and a way to command the stepper motor. This could be accomplished via a software application and an interface such as an Arduino.



Stepper motors, unlike DC motors, can be commanded to rotate in micro steps, either direction.



The stepper motor controller I chose was a TB6600.

This controller can be found at MPJA or on eBay. The price should be around \$10 to \$20.

I ended up using an Arduino Nano and a software application called [Estlcam](#). This prototype setup worked fine, but I wondered if I could find a better solution than Arduino and Estlcam.

Just as I was about ready to give up along came the June 2019 QST. As I leafed through the pages there was an article entitled "HF Magnetic Loop for 80 through 20 meters" It described how to build a STL. It also included a section on motorizing the capacitor. I had most of the recommended parts from my prototype. The only difference was it used a pulse width modulator (PWN) to command the stepper motor.



That's a short summary on motorizing the STL capacitor. Check out [QST](#) and the Internet for more information.

For the next few months we are going to focus on VHF and UHF antennas.



DX News

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

DX OPPORTUNITIES

MALDIVES, 8Q. Marko, N5ZO and Oliver, W6NV are QRV as 8Q7ZO and 8Q7NV, respectively, until December 2. They will be active as 8Q7ZO in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL 8Q7ZO direct via OH0XX and 8Q7NV direct to home call.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. Saty, JE1JKL is QRV as 9M6NA during the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL via LoTW.

CUBA, CO. Members of the Radio Club de Caibarien are QRV as T46W until December 29 to commemorate the first transmissions 100 years ago by the Cuban radio pioneer Manolin Alvarez. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

SPAIN, EA. Special event station EF42C will be QRV from November 28 to December 13 to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Spanish Constitution. QSL via EB5R.

GUERNSEY, GU. Bob, GU4YOX will be QRV in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest on 40 meters. QSL via bureau. In addition, look for Dick, GU4CHY to

be QRV in the contest on 20 meters. QSL direct to home call.

ITALY, I. Raf, IH9YMC will be QRV from Pantelleria Island, IOTA AF-018, during the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

UGANDA, 5X. John, 5X1JT, is QRV from Nansana while on work assignment for the next two years. QSL via operator's instructions.

JAN MAYEN, JX. Erik, LA2US is QRV as JX2US until the end of March, 2021. Activity is on 160 to 12 meters using CW and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL to home call.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Daniel, K8RF will be QRV as NP2J in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest on 160 meters. QSL direct to home call.

FINLAND, OH. Members of the Market Reef DX Association will be QRV as OG1XMAS from November 29 to December 26. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via LoTW.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Juha, OH2N, Kari, OH2XX, Jukka, OH6DD and Tomi, OH6EI plan to be QRV as OH0Z in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via W0MM.

ARUBA, P4. John, W2GD is QRV as P40W

until December 1. Activity is on 30, 17 and 12 meters as time permits. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via N2MM.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event stations PA20XMAS, PB20CLAUS and PD20SANTA will be QRV during December. QSL via LoTW.

SOMALIA, T5. SOMALIA, T5. Ali, EP3CQ is QRV as 6O100 until January 15, 2021 while working for the UN Department of Safety and Security in Mogadishu. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL direct.

MALI, TZ. Ulmar, DK1CE is QRV as TZ1CE and is here until December 8. QSL to home call.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Vladimir, R0FP is now a resident on Iturup Island, IOTA AS-025, and is active on various bands and modes. QSL via RZ3EC.

INDIA, VU. Datta, VU2DSI is QRV with special call sign AU2JCB until December 15 to celebrate the birthday of radio pioneer Aacharya Jagadish Chandra Bose. QSL direct to home call. In addition, look for special calls AT2JCB, AU3JCB, VU5JCB and AU8JCB to be active as well.

Good Luck with your DXing!

Domestic Special Event Stations

(from ARRL Listings)

Best DAM Christmas

Dec 1 0001Z-Dec 31

1159Z, KE0TGG, Edwards, MO D.A.R.K. Dam Amateur Radio Klub. 28.440, 14.240, 7.240, 3.840. Certificate & QSL: Roger Henley, 32018 Highway 7, Edwards, MO 65326. <https://damark.org>

Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 4 1300Z-Dec 14,

2200Z, W2W, Baltimore, MD Amateur Radio Club National Electronics Museum. 14.241, 14.041, 7.241, 7.041. Certificate & QSL. W2W-Pearl Harbor, PO Box 1693, MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. Operation on 80M (3.541, 3.841) and digital modes possible during event. QSL and Certificate available via SASE. Details at www-2.us.

21st Amendment to the US Constitution

Dec 5 0500-Dec 6

0500Z, W8A, Kent, OH Breweries On The Air. 14.240, 7.240. Certificate. Thomas R Sly, WB8LCD, 1480 Lake Martin Dr, Kent, OH 44240. www.breweriesontheair.com

Christmas Bethlehem

Dec 5, 1300Z-2200Z,

W9WWI, Bethlehem, IN. Clark County Amateur Radio Club of Indiana. 14.240; all bands, all modes. Certificate: W9WWI, P.O.Box 201, Sellersburg, IN 47172.

Celebrating A safe and healthy Christmas in Bethlehem. Operating from the school house in Bethlehem Indiana. SASE. <https://www.clarkcountyar.org>

Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventure/ SCOTA

Dec 5, 1300Z-1900Z,

W1M, Russell, MA. Western Mass Council--BSA. 14.290, 14.060, 10.115, 7.190. Certificate: Tom Barker, 329 Faraway Road, Whitefield, NH 03598. All logging is done on paper and then uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. A QSL card can be had for a 4x6 SASE. W1M will operate on Brandmeister TG 3100 for demonstration purposes. Expect to see different call signs.

Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 7, 1600Z-2130Z,

W5KID, Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club. 14.250, 14.035, 7.225, 7.035. QSL. USS KIDD Amateur Radio Club, 305 S. River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Operation aboard the USS KIDD (DD-661), WW II Fletcher class destroyer. qrz.com/db/w5kid

Commemoration of the Birth of PSK31

Dec 10 1700Z-Dec 20

1700Z, K9Z, Rochester, IL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club. 14.070, 7.070; all bands, all modes. QSL: J. Mitch Hopper, K9ZXO, 536 E. Mill St., Rochester,

IL 62563. All conversational modes will be used - all bands. www.qrz.com/db/k9z

USS Midway Museum: Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 12, 1700Z-2359Z,

NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320, 7.250, 14.070 (PSK31), D-STAR on various reflectors. QSL: USS Midway Museum Ship (COMEDTRA), 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.

Bethlehem on the Air

Dec 17 1400Z-Dec 24

2300Z, KC5OUR, Belen, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. 21.283, 14.283, 7.183, 3.883. QSL: VCARA, P.O. Box 268, Peralta, NM 87068. QSL card, SASE to VCARA. kc5our@arrl.net or www.kc5our.com

WX3MAS Special Event

Dec 17 1400Z-Dec 20

2200Z, WX3MAS, Nazareth, PA. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club. 14.265, 7.270, 3.850; CW and PSK31 on 20 and 40 meters, and FT8. Certificate & QSL: WX3MAS, 14 Gracedale Ave, Greystone Building, Nazareth, PA 18064. For commemorative certificate send QSL and 9X12 SASE. www.dlarc.org

120th Anniversary First Wireless Voice Transmission

Dec 18 0001Z-Dec 24

2359Z, W4F, Vienna Wireless Society, Vienna, VA. 14.250, 7.185. QSL: Vienna Wireless Society, W4F, PO Box 418, Vienna, VA 22183. W4F will be operating on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter amateur bands on CW, and SSB, as well as FT-8 using fox/hound mode. For QSL card, please send SASE with your QSO information to: Vienna Wireless Society W4F PO Box 418 Vienna, VA 22183.

<https://viennawireless.net>

130th birthday of Major Edwin H. Armstrong

Dec 19 1400Z-Dec 20

2200Z, W2XMN & W2XEA, Loxahatchee, FL. Major Edwin H. Armstrong Memorial Radio Club. 28.400, 18.150, 14.265, 7.195. QSL: Major Edwin H. Armstrong Memorial Radio Club, PO Box 1584, Loxahatchee, FL 33470. www.qrz.com/db/w2xmn

Battle of Trenton

Dec 26 0000z-Dec 31

2359Z, W2T, Trenton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association. 14.250. Certificate & QSL: DVRA, PO Box 7024, Trenton, NJ 08628. Info at w2q.com or on qrz.com. QSL with SASE. Certificate of Commission in the Continental Army Signal Corps for address label and \$5 payable to DVRA mailed to DVRA, PO Box 7024, West Trenton NJ 08628. <https://www.w2zq.com>

Ham Humor

Let's begin with a funny, or perhaps sad, photo depending on your point of view. Then we will laugh at a few bad ham radio jokes and end with a couple cartoons. This month's jokes were found on qsl.net.

Photo of the Month



And now let's move on to the jokes.

Know your components

Question: Why did the capacitor kiss the diode?

Answer: He couldn't resistor.

Definitions

Question: What is the definition of Bandwidth?

Answer: A ham's waist size

In the Classroom

Teacher to Student: Can you describe an electrical circuit?

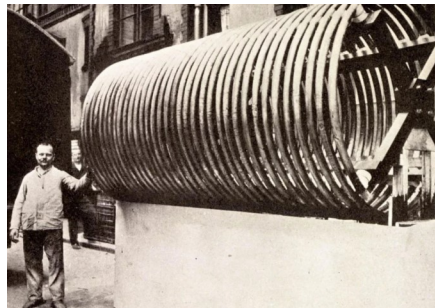
Student: I sure can. It begins with electricity that originates inside clouds. There it forms into lightning,

which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in their big ovens called 'generators,' turns back into electricity... where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which pass through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a "circuit."

Danger, Danger

Question: Who is the most dangerous person in the world?

Answer: A ham with an idea, some wire ... and a bow and arrow.



Now how much power do you want to excite?



Short Takes

World Time Buddy App

<https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/est-to-utc-converter>

The Art and Science of Dumpster Diving

https://archive.org/details/The_Art_and_Science_of_Dumpster_Diving_John_Hoffman

Public Safety Radio

It's been a bumpy road for the new Florida Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System. An article summarizing the current status is available [here](#).

TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS

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

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

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

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

The QSL cards below show what can be done with minimal antennas, low power, CW, SSB or FT8. Don't let your radio and antenna situation be an impediment. Get on the air and enjoy the hobby!

Authenticity Guaranteed eQSL.cc

GJ0KYZ

Paul Mahrer
Jersey
Channel Islands,
United Kingdom
ITU: 27 GQ-14
Grid: IN89WR
IOTA: EU-QJ3

To: W4RJP Confirming 2-way FT8 QSO, Band: 40M
Date: November 25, 2020 Time: 08:57Z, RST: -13

HB9ACA

Manfred Oberhofer
Route de Fribourg 24
CH-1553 Châttonnaye
Switzerland

10-10 # 25993
VP # 2877
SCI # SQ416

To: AI4RB This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO
Date: June 26, 2020 Time: 21:42 UTC
Band: 17M UR Sigs: +00

ITU:59 CQ:30 Grid:QF56EO IOTA:OC-001

73 FROM AUSTRALIA!

WK2IZI

NEIL HAWKESFORD
121 Kestrel Way
Yarramundi
NSW 2753
AUSTRALIA

To: W4RJP Confirming 2-way FT8 QSO, Band: 40M
Date: October 29, 2020 Time: 09:09Z, RST: -07

OKAYAMA, JAPAN

JF4VZT

GL: PM64WO
ITU Zone 45
CQ Zone 25
JCC #3101

To: AI4RB This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO
Date: October 15, 2020 Time: 22:05 UTC
Band: 17M UR Sigs: -12

AS-007 HONSHU

S57AW

Robert Bajuk

Authenticity Guaranteed eQSL.cc

To: W4RJP Confirming 2-way FT8 QSO, Band: 40M
Date: October 4, 2020 Time: 22:02Z, RST: -10

SLOVENIA

W3FOX

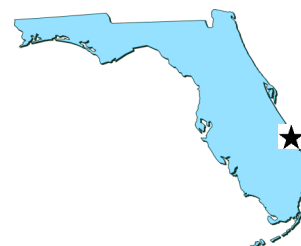
David "Dave" Fox
969 Placid Court
Arnold, Maryland 21012
USA

To: AI4RB This confirms our 2-way FT8 QSO
Date: July 14, 2020 Time: 19:24 UTC
Band: 17M UR Sigs: -02

TCHamNews would like to publish QSL cards received by our local amateur radio community. If you have a QSL card you would like published, 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.)

TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY B&B PARTNERS

WE CAN BE REACHED AT: TCHAMNEWS@GMAIL.COM



Tampa Bay Area Hamfest - December 11 & 12, 2020

The Tampa Bay Area Hamfest is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, 2020. The Hamfest will be held at the Strawberry Festival Grounds, located at 301 N Berryfest St, Plant City, FL 33563.

[A Message From Bill Williams, President, Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council](#)

Tampa Bay Hamfest, outside edition

Hello. Most of the details are settled so here is the short of it, look around the [website](#) for more information on each subject. Mask wearing and social distancing is necessary. We do not want to be on the news for spreading the virus. You can check out the grounds map under the Tailgate Sales Space heading.

The Hamfest this year will be outside only. There will be a 10 foot area between every tailgate space. That will allow social distancing, but will also allow tailgaters to sell off the side of their space. If you unload and move your vehicle to the regular parking lot you will have a 16ft x 40ft area to sell from, all sides.

Some of our commercial dealers will be on both sides of the Carriage House under the porch-like cover. Make sure you check both sides. The door prize barrel will be in the hamfest office on the west side. The ARRL will be inside a booth on the west side of the Carriage house. They will be checking cards all day Saturday, including 160M. You will also be able to talk to your ARRL representatives.

Free club spaces have not been worked out yet. If your club desires a small space for a club table send a message using the [CONTACT FORM](#) button under the Contact Us heading. Remember a free club table is for marketing your club. No selling, except club memberships.

There will be no Forums as such, but since the ARRL West Central Section and Florida State Convention will be present there will be an ARRL Meeting in the ARMORY with representatives from the three Florida sections and the Southeast Division. Masks and social distancing will be enforced.

We have no information yet on food. More will follow. We will have testing in the Armory from 10 AM to 12 noon on Saturday only. No reservations required; walk-ins are welcome. Be there by 11:15 at the latest. If you plan on taking more than one test make sure you are there early enough to take them all. Masks and social distancing will be enforced. Be sure to bring the required documents. Look up requirements in the testing section.

Commercial license testing is available with advanced registration required. Day and time can be adjusted within reason. Use the above mentioned [CONTACT FORM](#) to let us know.

Since we are not renting the Expo Building this year we have dropped the price of admission to \$5, tailgate spaces are \$10. Limited electric is available at \$5.

OK, I can hear the questions ... what about spending Friday night? Yes you may spend the night. The bathroom will be open all night. We will be able to open the gate to let people out for dinner and back in, within reasonable times. NO FIRES are allowed on the Strawberry Festival grounds. There are places to eat within walking distance, depending on what you think walking distance is and what you like to eat.

See you at the Tampa Bay Hamfest 2020. 73, Bill, AG4QX

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 direct: fbertron@bftechnicarts.com.

