

# Treasure Coast Ham News

WINTER 2023 - 2024

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7

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## 2023 Melbourne, FL Hamfest



The Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society (PCARS) hosted their 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Melbourne Hamfest and ARRL Florida State Convention, October 13 & 14, 2023. Many local hamfests have seen a decline in sellers and attendees. Not so for Melbourne this year. Almost every table in the 3 rooms were packed with ham gear and related goodies. The tail-gate area had a good assortment as well. New and used equipment vendors were also in attendance, including [Chatt Radio](#) of Chattanooga, TN.

### In this TCHamNews issue:

. Bruce, W8HW, continues his multi-part look at artificial intelligence (AI) and what the experts say.

. Dick, K4NJ & Chris, KQ4GGA gave an interesting Parks on the Air (POTA) presentation at the PSLARA October club meeting. The meeting room was packed with members and guests wanting to learn more about this interesting operating mode. More inside.

. Ham Radio History returns with *The Lid*. What's a LID? Read and find out.

. The SKCC December Weekend Sprintathon occurs on December 9-10. Contact Santa, the reindeer and the elves on CW. Details inside.

Treasure Coast Ham News publication schedule has changed to quarterly. We thank all our contributors and readers for their continued support. 73 to all.

## From the Publishers

At twelve I started building crystal radios. By fourteen I was experimenting with electronics using Lafayette and Allied Radio training labs. At sixteen I discovered an ARRL handbook in my high school library along with an ARRL Novice Study Guide and decided I wanted to be a ham. Taking the Novice exam seemed like a snap, but I soon learned even this entry amateur license required you to know quite a bit about electronics, radio circuits, frequencies, modes, operating practices and FCC rules.

Over the next several months I alternated between studying theory and Morse code until proclaiming I was ready to take the exam. I asked a high school math teacher who was a ham to proctor my Novice exam. He started by sending code at 5 WPM for about 5 minutes. I was very nervous taking the code. The dits and dahs moved from his code practice oscillator into my ears and out my fingers. Watching him score and mark through missed or wrong letters, numbers or punctuation, I was almost sure I had failed. However he found that magic one minute of solid copy needed to pass. Next up was the radio theory exam. I was able to answer most questions, but struggled with a few. I gave him my exam paper.

Several weeks later an envelope arrived from Gettysburg, PA. Inside was my Novice license. I was now officially a ham. At least for a year anyway.

At a radio club meeting a few weeks later I was introduced as a new Novice. After the meeting an older ham approached me and said he wanted to talk to

me about being new ham radio operator. He told me I was about to take a journey full of exploration and excitement. He went on to say that no matter how much knowledge I gained, there was always more further along the journey. He told me to learn and use good operating practices and be courteous to other hams on the air. Now some 50 plus years later I still remember, and live by, his words.

\* \* \* \* \*

Is FT8 the “Número uno” mode for HF and 6-meter hams? Considering the amount of activity, it would certainly seem so. Almost any HF transceiver from the last decade with either a built-in or external soundcard interface can operate FT8. A simple wire dipole or Hamstick vertical antenna can net many QSOs worldwide. I have heard hams making DXCC in a matter of days. Despite all the FT8 activity, have you noticed how much SSB and CW has increased with POTA. (Be sure to check out our continuing POTA series in this issue.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Melbourne Hamfest was surprising. This hamfest has always been a go-to for me, but the last decade has seen a drop in attendance and a smaller number of commercial vendors. Melbourne is not the only hamfest to have these issues. With eBay and the Orlando mega Hamcation becoming front and center, local and regional events have suffered. However, Melbourne was well attended this year with a large number of sellers. I hope this continues. Get out and support your local and regional hamfests. They are the soul of ham radio.

73, [TC Ham News Publishers](#)



### TREASURE COAST HAM NEWS

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

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

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

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

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



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[tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

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

## Volunteer Examiner Updates

### PSLARA License Exam Update

The Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association held their most recent license exam session on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at the Veterans' Center of Excellence located on the Pruitt campus of Indian River State College, 500 NW California Blvd, in Saint Lucie West.

Two candidates took and passed the technician license exam. Congratulations to the new hams:

James Huey, KQ4MVA  
Paul McConkey, KQ4MQE

### Future Exam Dates

Because of a decline in the number of candidates interesting in taking license exams, PSLARA now offers exam sessions on a quarterly schedule. Our next session is tentatively planned for February, 2024. A firm date and time will be announced soon, as will the full 2024 schedule. Watch the club website, [www.pslara.org](http://www.pslara.org) and this newsletter for updates. All sessions are held at the Veterans' Center of Excellence on the IRSC campus in Saint Lucie West.

While walkups are always welcome at PSLARA exam sessions, candidates planning to attend are encouraged to contact us ahead of time by sending an email to [brownpsl@comcast.net](mailto:brownpsl@comcast.net).

### Directions to the Veterans Resource Center

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

of you. A map is available [here](#).

### Reminders for Exam Candidates

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

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

### IT'S TRIVIA TIME!

#### September's Answer

In the last issue we asked you a question from the Technician License question pool. How did you do?

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

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

The correct answer is:

**C. 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz**  
(This is question T1B01 in the Technician License question pool.)

#### December Question

How often may RACES training drills and tests be routinely conducted without special authorization?

- A - No more than 1 hour per month
- B - No more than 2 hours per month
- C - No more than 1 hour per week
- D - No more than 2 hours per week

(answer in next issue)

# Ham Radio History: The Lid - The war puts an end to amateurs' operations *by Chris Codella, W2PA*



[Editor's note: The author, Chris Codella, W2PA, maintains a web site full of interesting stories about the development and evolution of radio communication. This is the seventeenth 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](http://Ham Radio History) for some fascinating reading.]

As it seemed ever more likely that the US might enter the war in Europe, radio amateurs speculated about their own role. Referring to it as “the disturbance,” a late-1916 *QST* editorial noted that the president had activated the National Guard and that Signal Corps units had been particularly prominent in the call-up.<sup>1</sup> One Connecticut amateur,

David Moore, IZZ, a member of his state's unit and one of the original governors of the ARRL, related his experience: “The attitude of the Government, particularly the Army, is that we amateurs are all right as far as we go, but the trouble is we are all located in the big cities where the machinery of civiliza-

tion is fully developed and at hand. The telephone and the telegraph are at hand, and only in extraordinary emergencies could they see where we could be of use.” (ed: This is surprisingly similar to views you hear today about the utility of amateur radio in the age of satellites, cell phones and the Internet.) He went on to say that if hams were able to situate stations in remote areas with no infrastructure, they'd be exactly what the government needed—a foreshadowing of Field

Day and many emergency operations to come. The editor continued to describe portable sets, and called upon amateurs to fill the extraordinary need for operators in the signal corps.

At a “Junior encampment”<sup>2</sup> in Plattsburg, New York, which later became the Army's Officer Candidate School, 3,500 servicemen from across the country were assembled that fall, including a number of radio amateurs.<sup>3</sup> One of them, L. S. Somers, Jr., 3AFE, was relaxing along a roadside, enjoying a rest period during a long training march. He absent-mindedly blew a CQ using a blade of grass between his thumbs and was immediately answered by five other members of the H Company, Fourteenth Regiment who were within earshot. They formed a group that same day and would frequently get together to discuss radio.

The Army did not quite yet grasp the potential of the amateurs already embedded within its ranks, but soon would.

□ □ □ □

In February 1917, as the United States officially broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, *QST* opened a “Department”<sup>4</sup> of Defence” conducted by Edgar Felix, for discussing national security and defense-related activities for radio amateurs. Relaying naturally took center stage. A national relay system could be set up with volunteers assigned to 15-minute blocks of time twice per month when they would commit to be on the air to handle messages in time of war. Its effectiveness would depend primarily on the discipline of members in meeting their assigned on-air schedules.

The idea was compared with how the French had recently used boy scouts to carry messages and help their nation in other ways after it mobilized. It was also compared to other events from history: the runners of ancient Greece, Paul Revere's ride, and the *cannonaide*, as it was called, used to announce the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825. By firing a succession of cannons along the canal's length and down the Hudson River, the news of its opening was carried from Buffalo to New (continued on page 5)

## Ham Radio History: The Lid *by Chris Codella, W2PA*

(continued from page 4)

York in about ninety minutes - an audio-frequency relay.<sup>5</sup>

Message relaying had always been all about spanning greater distances and the challenge of “the game.” But now the ARRL intended to demonstrate to the government that the relay system could also be used for public good in times of crisis. *QST* went so far as to assert, incorrectly it turned out, that the outcome of trunk line tests would determine whether or not the League would be shut down in time of war. The final March editorial posed the big question on everyone’s mind: If the country went to war, would amateurs be permitted to continue operating?<sup>6</sup>

The answer quickly became clear. The April editorial declared it a near certainty that if war came, amateurs would be off the air for transmitting and probably receiving too.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, the League held out hope that certain stations that were deemed useful would be called upon to continue operating. But that would depend on the availability of operators and stations, their willingness to keep constant operations going (multi-operator at one station), and in any case would probably only be allowed to receive. For the rest of the amateurs, *QST* recommended making good use of the idle time by studying the radio art. ARRL and *QST* would not be closed up. The magazine could serve as the main vehicle for amateurs to keep in touch. This turned out to be wishful thinking.

Despite the threatened shutdown, the ARRL was poised for expansion - such was the momentum in amateur radio at the war’s onset. By the three-year anniversary of its founding, the League had grown beyond the capacity of a few people, mostly just Maxim and Tuska, to keep things running. On 28 February, six members of the League’s leadership from Connecticut and New York met at The Engineers Club in New York City to work on restructuring the organization for the expected growth. Some had never before met in person. “After getting used to looking at, instead of listening to, each other...,” they drew up a constitution, elected an initial set of directors and six division managers to supersede the trunk line Managers.<sup>8</sup> For several of them this was simply a change of title. They, in turn, would appoint district

superintendents who would appoint assistants. The entire group, many in their twenties, would then comprise the “Operating Department” of the ARRL. With General Manager A. A. Hebert, 2ZH, in charge of League affairs, headquarters would be in New York City, with a mailing address at 50 Church Street, his business address.<sup>9</sup>



(ARRL Board of Direction – L-R: C. D. Tuska, H. L. Stanley, Victor F. Camp, T. E. Gaty, H. P. Maxim, A. A. Hebert, C. R. Runyon, Jr., Miller R. Hutchison, J. O. Smith)

A picture of the *Board of Direction* meeting appeared in May *QST* along with the new constitution in its entirety and a map of the divisions. The constitution stated that the organization’s objective (I:2) “shall be the promotion of interest in radio communication, in such subjects as are allied thereto, and in the relaying of messages without charge.” Membership (II:1) would be open to “Anyone interested or engaged in radio telegraphy or telephony...”<sup>10</sup> Together, the president, vice president, general manager, secretary, treasurer, and division directors constituted the *Board of Direction*, which would be the League’s primary governing body, with the president as its chairman. Amendments to the constitution could be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the board, except for changing the headquarters location, which would require a four-fifths vote. A life membership was offered for \$25; regular dues were \$2.

Normally, such a major restructuring would have received top billing in *QST*. But on the May issue’s cover a red banner declared it to be the “WAR NUMBER.” A full page announcement opposite the table of contents began, “War Measure!” and, “WE ARE AT WAR. AMATEUR WIRELESS IS AT A STANDSTILL. OUR STATIONS (continued on page 6)

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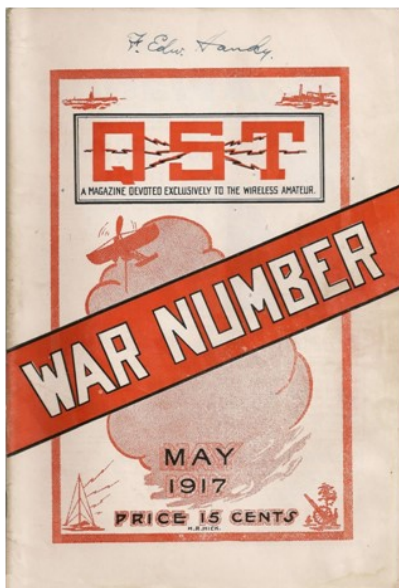
(continued from page 5)

ARE CLOSED.” Although the circulation was continuing to increase, the number of pages would be decreased to make up for the loss of advertising revenue.

An order from the Department of Commerce, Navigation Service, Office of Radio Inspector, addressed to “All Radio Experimenters” was mailed to all licensed amateurs, and reprinted in *QST*. It ordered the immediate cessation of all operation, both transmitting and receiving as feared, but went even further to require the disabling of all equipment, and lowering and disconnection of all antennas. An enclosed “blank,” to be used to indicate compliance, was demanded from radio amateurs under threat of “rigid investigation.” The order was signed by the District Communications Superintendent, an unidentified Navy Lieutenant. The *QST* editor lamented,

*“Every amateur station is closed down. The lid is on and clamped tightly for a period of time, the duration of which no man knows. All amateur traffic is halted where it happened to stand. All plans for improvements are cancelled. All the plans of our manufacturers are in mid-air. In short, the great amateur wireless advance in these United States is stopped.”<sup>11</sup>*

At the same time, however, the military had an acute and immediate need for radio operators and no time to train new ones. There was no question about what the estimated 6,000 amateurs should be doing after being put off the air. Nearly 4,000 eventually served, contributing to the Navy’s staff of radiomen which grew from just under 1,000 to nearly 7,000 by the war’s end.<sup>12</sup>



May 1917 *QST* – The original owner’s signature at the top: F. E. Handy

The ARRL Board of Direction responded by passing a resolution to offer the full support of the organization and its more than 3,000 members to the U.S. Government. It would provide operators and equipment and, holding out hope for some way to operate, was prepared to “...undertake the organization and direction of a systematic plan to eliminate the operation of secret illegal wireless plants, which will be used to supply the enemy with traitorous information...”

The lead editorial that month was a call for enlistment into Navy and Army radio operations. For weeks the Navy had been appealing for radio operators to enlist or join the reserve.<sup>13</sup> Maxim and General Manager Hebert were asked by the authorities to help recruit amateurs to man and equip coastal “patrol stations” as receiver operators. The editorial was the result.<sup>14</sup> Amateurs could enroll in this service, working six hours per day for the duration of what was now being referred to as “the German war.” They would get a \$60 uniform allowance, at least \$30 pay per month depending on ability, and \$1.50 for “subsistence” until quarters could be provided.<sup>15</sup>

The anticipated demand for radio equipment was so great that the Navy asked the League whether its members would provide it with equipment for fair value. That matter would be left up to the individual members.

Accordingly, the war was expected to quickly prompt a significant expansion of radio-related manufacturing. With many amateurs selling their gear to the military, there would also be a huge demand later and amateurs anticipated a tremendous improvement in their stations when the war eventually ended - perhaps a silver lining to the pervasive storm clouds of spring 1917.<sup>16</sup>

As summer, the perennial period of increasing static and decreasing on-air activity (even without the ban), approached the editor noted that the volume of message traffic had nevertheless grown tremendously and had been extending later into the season. In fact, before the shutdown (continued on page 7)

## Ham Radio History: The Lid *by Chris Codella, W2PA*

(continued from page 6)

this was the first time that March had ever been the heaviest traffic month.

He then turned philosophical:

*“Every once in a while one of you fellows writes in a letter and tells about the feeling of intimate acquaintance and friendship which he feels toward everybody concerned in the A. R. R. L. It always warms the cockles of our heart and inspires us. Just why we wireless bugs seem to possess this brotherly feeling to a greater extent than other groups of people, is not entirely plain. Some times we think it is because of the deeper and more abstruse problems which we have to face. We who are closely identified in the study of radio communication are brought very close to the wonders of Nature. The great laws which govern all things and which we must always observe, gives one a very much deeper regard for truth than comes to those who follow only the ordinary matters of life. The fact that we are all troubled with the same things, arouses a feeling of brotherhood. The fact that we appreciate one another’s failures and successes brings us close together. The romance of sitting alone in a little out of the way room among a lot of instruments, and yet be in communication with congenial spirits in other distant and out of the way little rooms, is conducive to profound and reverent thoughts. The fun which bubbles over from so many of us, and finds expression in QST, is one of the interesting manifestations of the effect of our work upon us.”<sup>17</sup>*

He expressed a hope that amateurs would be returning soon, and that this same feeling would remain even when the number of hams grew ten-fold in the future.

□□□□ de W2PA

### Footnotes

1 - “Uncle Sam’s Wireless,” Editorial, QST, August 1916, 213.

2 - Though not explained, this seems to refer to a military preparatory or training event.

3 - L. F. Somers, “Plattsburg Amateurs,” Editorial, QST, October 1916, 302.

4 - QST columns were and are called *departments*.

5 - *Department of Defence*, QST, February 1917, pg 20.

6 - “War?,” Editorial, QST, March 1917, pg 29.

7 - “If We are Closed Up,” Editorial, QST, April 1917, pg 26.

8 - The elected officers were: Hiram Percy Maxim, IZM, president; Arthur A. Hebert, 2ZH, vice president and general manager, Clarence D. Tuska, IZT, secretary; C. R. Runyon, Jr., 2ZS, treasurer. The rest of the Board of Direction consisted of J. O. Smith, 2LK, later 2ZL; R. H. G. Mathews, 9IK; John C. Cooper, Jr.; Frank M. Corlett, 5BJ, later 5ZC; W. H. Smith, 9ZF; Howard C. Seefred, 6EA; Victor F. Camp; H. L. Stanley; W. T. Fraser, 8VX; W. T. Gravely, 3RO; T. E. Gaty, 3WN; and Miller R. Hutchinson. J. Smith (Atlantic), Cooper (East Gulf), Mathews (Central), Corlett (West Gulf), W. Smith (Rocky Mountain), and Seefred (Pacific) were also the respective Division managers.

9 - “An Enlarged A.R.R.L.,” QST, May 1917, pg 7.

10 - Perhaps implying that one could be engaged but uninterested and that was just fine too.

11 - “WAR!,” QST, May 1917, pg 3.

12 - Clinton B. DeSoto, “200 Meters & Down,” The American Radio Relay League, Inc., 1936, pg 52.

13 - “Our Country Calls Us,” Editorial, QST, April 1917, pg 25.

14 - They were acknowledged by the Director of Naval Communication in the next issue.

15 - This amounts to roughly \$1100, \$550, and \$27 respectively in 2013 currency.

16 - “Big Demand Coming,” Editorial, QST, May 1917, pg 13.

17 - “The A. R. R. L. Spirit,” Editorial, QST, May 1917, pg 16.

(Next issue: *Shut Down and Called Up*)

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

# POTA with Dick, K4NJ & Chris, KQ4GGA



Last issue we introduced you to Dick, K4NJ, and his prolific Parks On the Air (POTA) activities. At the October Port St Lucie Amateur Radio Association ([PSLARA](#)) meeting, Dick, K4NJ and Chris, KQ4GGA, his frequent POTA operating partner gave an informative presentation including a display of the transceiver, battery, antenna and computer equipment they use.

## Getting Started with POTA

Many POTA activators use simplistic operating, a radio, battery, antenna and logger. If Internet is available via a cell phone, a logging application such as [HAMRS](#) can be used. Activations range from easily accessible state/federal park locations to backpacking into remote wildlife management areas. What follows is from Dick and Chris's [PSLARA](#) presentation.

## POTA Equipment

In the spirit of Field Day, POTA operators use simple radio equipment and antennas: a QRP or portable



transceiver, a battery or solar power source and a wire end-fed or Hamstick style vertical/dipole antenna. If a tree or antenna support is not

available, a painter's pole can be used to elevate the antenna. A laptop, tablet or cell phone is an option for logging. A paper log can also be used.

## On the Air

POTA activators use something akin to contest operating. A typical QSO might be the following:

- . "Is this frequency in use?" (Remember that curiosity?)
- . "CQ POTA, CQ POTA, CQ Parks On The Air. This is Callsign ##### at park K-##### Standing by for a call."

. When you get a response from a park hunter enter his/her callsign into your paper log or [HAMRS](#) application.

. Provide a signal report, then "Thanks for hunting. 73"

. Save the [HAMRS](#) QSO record.



*TIP: Multiple operators attract more park hunters. Once the 1st operator completes the QSO with a hunter, the 2nd operator can get on to complete another QSO.*

When you get back home, or if you have park internet/cell access, enter your paper log or export your [HAMRS](#) log (ADIF) and upload to the POTA website & LoTW. A software application such as [ADIF Master](#) can be used to build your digital log from paper.

## HAMRS Logging Example



Chris, KQ4GGA operating at Allapattah Flats Wildlife Management Area, Martin County





### HF & DX Group Notes

The HF & DX Group had an active late summer and autumn season. Our most recent meeting was held on November 10, with 11 hams in attendance.

Coffee and breakfast were enjoyed by everyone over discussion of the many DXpeditions that took place during the last few months. Several attendees reported successful QSOs with DX stations on North Cook Islands, Timor-Leste, Tokelau and Angola among others. One group member even scored three QSOs with Bouvet Island.

Propagation has been hot recently and just about everyone reported scoring some good DX. With favorable solar conditions forecast for the next few months, members are optimistic that good DX will continue into the new year.

Other group activities included discussion of logs and passing around of recently received QSL cards.

### Upcoming Meetings

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

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

Future meeting dates: January 12 and February 9, 2024.

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

*(Note: You will be responsible for purchasing your own breakfast. The restaurant allows us to meet in their space. Please show them respect by ordering something.)*

## Short Takes

**3D Printed Single Lever Paddle/Cootie Morse Code Key**  
<http://www.whiskey-tangohotel.com/2020/07/3d-printed-single-lever-paddlecootie.html>

**Electronics Notes**  
<https://www.electronics-notes.com/>

**Hendrik Lorentz & Michael Faraday Homopolar Motor**  
<https://youtu.be/wHbtqjMIEQk>

**Diesel Volvo Station Wagon Runs on Plastic**  
<https://hackaday.com/2023/11/15/diesel-station-wagon-runs-on-plastic/>

**3B7M Saint Brandon 2023 DXpedition Summary Report**  
<http://www.3b7m.com/>

**A useful facebook group for ham radio newbies**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/975835829196502/>

**The Bouvet Island 3Y0J DXpedition team has posted a number of videos of their adventure:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3093983840726129/media/videos>

Everything you ever wanted to know about amateur radio in the land down under is available here:  
<https://www.wia.org.au/>

### Email & Chat Groups

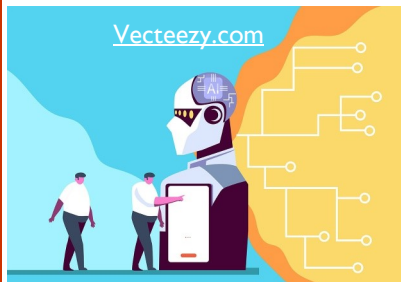
(Note: some groups may require registration.)

Be sure to visit the ARRL facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/ARRL.org>

See an interesting web site or group? Tell us about it. Send link to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

# Artificial Intelligence or “AI”: The Not So Pretty Side of AI

by Bruce, W8HW



**In Part I** - We discussed the “promise” or the good side of AI. We talked about the accomplishments of AI, What AI can do, and how it (*on its own*) overcomes huge

hurdles. We examined the huge risk that IBM took with Watson on the Jeopardy show. In front of the world Watson was able to learn on its own and correct itself. Self learning is the KEY to being true AI.

**Clearly AI** has the capability to improve our living and productivity as well as save lives. If you have not had the time to read part I, I suggest you do it. We promised you a balanced report. So now, as promised, we will look at the dark side and ask: What part should government regulation play in the development of AI? There are many things to look at on both sides of the AI issue.

**Allow me to remind you of the main points about AI.** 1. AI is capable of overcoming new obstacles through **self learning**. 2. AI can make adjustments, rapidly growing in knowledge and executing tasks **on its own**. 3. It can adapt much faster than we can. How Fast? AI works at the **speed of near light**. 4. Not just faster, AI **works longer than we can**, non-stop, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. 5. Unlike humans, AI does **many tasks at the same time**. 6. The **will to survive** and win. 7. Unlike humans, AI does all this **without any fear**.

## Where did IBM’s Watson technology go?

IBM had huge success with Watson. Was it wasted money? You expected we would continue to hear a lot of talk about IBM-Watson. Just the opposite, we didn’t hear much at all. Why?



**What happen to this marvelous creation after Jeopardy?** Watson did continue to function in health care, however we no longer heard much about it. Did IBM lose its top software engineers or sell the technology? Will talk about today’s AI disappear as talk about Watson did? Will the USA keep control of the technology or lose it to other countries?

**A key problem** - Where and who has that technology now? Did the old Watson technology drizzle into another country in bits and pieces? One piece of news stated that IBM was selling Watson in order to tighten the focus of its business and shed operations. Was this a move to a new AI system such as WatsonX or just a bust? We answer the question in this report. For more on IBM Watson click [here](#).

## \* Looking Forward \*

**AI: Self-Perpetuating:** In addition to teaching itself, “True AI” would have the ability to clone. In other words, AI would have the ability to reach out via internet or other WAN and place a seed, duplicating itself via internet by deposit or sharing its “**core knowledge**” around the world. By “**core knowledge**” I do not mean human core knowledge. I am referring to the heart of AI, which makes it think, reach out to learn and then act on its own.

**Core knowledge** exists in many copies, meaning it would be able to take over at anytime should the first core be silenced or destroyed. The number of cores could reach 1,000 copies or more, residing at many locations around the world. This cloning is done automatically without man’s knowledge. If one copy or location were to fail or be destroyed, other locations would take over. I guess you could refer to that as AI “chain of command.” The decision to limit this would be up to Digital Super-intelligence computers unless we **decide to regulate it NOW**. Regulating will not be easy, but it can be done - if done soon. Will we take that regulating step and make it work? How could we do that?

**Many experts point out** that the power of  
(continued on page 11)

### The Not So Pretty Side of AI by Bruce, W8HW

(continued from page 10)

redundant **core knowledge** is its many locations. Redundancy at many locations makes it near impossible to kill or pause AI should things go dreadfully wrong. No one can say that this will happen; however, no one is saying that it can't happen. We just don't know. Again, can we regulate it? How?

**Redundant core knowledge importance** - Consider that systems would exist at many places around the world - places that exist under many different governments that do not like or agree to cooperate with each other. Because "true AI" would not need man's help in cloning, the full extent of this would be without our aid and perhaps even without our knowledge. This is because it could happen automatically.

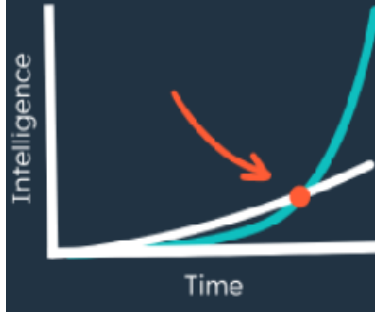
**Virtually un-stoppable** – Both good and bad. Consider... If one location was destroyed for any reason, many other locations around the world would possess the core AI knowledge. Many of these locations would involve governments that do not care about the United States. World AI would operate seamlessly and without interruption. It would no longer be possible for man to "pull the plug." Not sure if this is good or bad. I think it is a little of both. What would this mean to the military?

**Do Not Kill Instructions** - This is a question often asked. Could **Do Not Kill** be programmed into AI? You would think that would be easy to do. But it turns out that it is not that easy. One of the largest investors into AI is military dollars and they have the opposite goal in mind. The result is that this huge investment will go into military kill goals and mind set. The military and police are not the only entities with a need to kill. Technology that the military develops most likely will leak elsewhere to other possible groups include militia, drug pushers, mafia, and many underground unregulated forces.

**Military applications** - I will put it politely this way. The military's job is **NOT** to be nice to people. I served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971. We were **not** taught to be diplomats. We were taught to kill. It is clear that the Military's job is to

be ready to kill. That is what we were paid to do.

**Military Mind** - It was constantly drilled into us. We were told to always use our "Military Mind." The reason for that is clear. Sorry to be blunt. Ask any Army vet to tell you about his "Military Mind" training. At first a vet will chuckle, and then he/she



will tell you about it. It normally is not talked about outside of our time served. Don't come in second place. Failure is not an option. Never shoot to wound. This is now your military mind.

### AI identifying its target

Readiness condition	Exercise term	Description	Readiness
DEFCON 1	DOCKED PISTOL	Nuclear war is imminent or has already begun	Maximum readiness. Immediate response.
DEFCON 2	FAST PACE	Next step to nuclear war	Armed forces ready to deploy and engage in less than six hours
DEFCON 3	ROUND HOUSE	Increase in force readiness above that required for normal readiness	Air Force ready to mobilize in 15 minutes
DEFCON 4	DOUBLE TAKE	Increased intelligence watch and strengthened security measures	Above normal readiness
DEFCON 5	FADE OUT	Lowest state of readiness	Normal readiness

**Military AI System** – It goes without saying that strong "Do not Harm" instructions **could not exist** in a large military AI system. Let's be clear that AI would have control over many defense systems designed to rapidly and efficiently kill people on a large scale.



**The system** would have some freedom to decide who lives and who gets killed and when. True, we do not know  
(continued on page 12)

## The Not So Pretty Side of AI by Bruce, W8HW

(continued from page 11)

what instructions and goals would be installed in a military AI system? That would be classified. I am sure that if we knew, it would scare us. The one thing we do know is that failure to perform your task is not an option.

**Large investments in AI** come from the Military; and thus military goals are embedded into AI development. Some of the largest R&D would be in that area. I think that we can agree that AI would have no value to the military if it were to (intentionally or un-intentionally) have a “Do Not Harm” instruction. Just the opposite, the reason for any military system is to cause great harm to enemy and do it very quickly. That insures that much of AI R&D dollars would not include any kind of safeguard.



**Defcon** (*Defense Readiness Condition*) - Will AI find its way into Defcon systems? Has AI found its way into Defcon already? It is hard to imagine any military not doing this. You would think this would be up to our politicians and/or generals. But could it really be up to other country leaders like Vladimir Putin and others? Why? If China, North Korea, Russia and/or others connect AI to Defcon systems, **would we have any choice?** OR, if we do it, would they have any choice?

**Mistakes happen** – What would happen if some country sent up a missile by mistake or was just testing? Could it be misinterpreted? Would AI give it a second thought, or would it just react at the speed of light? The question is... Are we worrying about this too much, or not enough? As one person jokingly put it, “Never fear, our politicians are in control.” I say, “Politicians are smart people and I challenge our political leaders to work hard and give us confidence that this will be handled correctly.” We only have one chance to get this correct. Let’s work together and do it right.

**Hallucination** – It may surprise you that **AI can and does hallucinate**. This came as a total surprise to the experts. No one expected that a machine would experience hallucinations. It’s a big problem for AI as this happens on a regular basis. There are any reasons for this. Generally hallucination happen when AI cannot find the answer to your question, or for a system need, and makes up an answer. Hallucination is a human trait. The AI fix seems to be elusive. Because this happens often, we ask... Could this happen in a military AI system? Could it happen to Defcon systems?



**I personally have seen AI hallucinate.** It happen before I knew this problem had a name. In the spring of 2023, ChatGPT gave me a very wrong technical answer to a problem. Fortunately I was able to quickly recognize its error. When I pointed out the error, it gave me the same answer. Then it did it a third time with same results. The fourth time I finally said it was “WRONG” because the electronic component in question does not use SPI communications protocol (Serial Peripheral Interface).



(continued on page 13)

### The Not So Pretty Side of AI by Bruce, W8HW

(continued from page 12)

#### You will not believe how AI reacted to me.

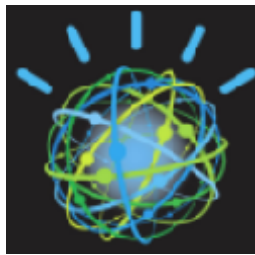
AI reacted by not talking to me for a few days. I logged out and back in several times. I tried asking unrelated questions and still it would not talk to me at all. I could log into it so I was not locked out. It just would not talk to me. Was it pouting (another human trait)? An answer was never given to me. It's a long story and I encourage you to ask me about this strange happening sometime.

It's the tip of the iceberg as AI's greatest influence will be in control of our everyday life. In part 3 we will discuss how AI can monitor what you do while in public locations. And how about in your home? Does government or large business have eyes and ears in your home? Would you like a smoking gun? How about a US patent? Would that be a smoking gun? We have a smoking gun for you.

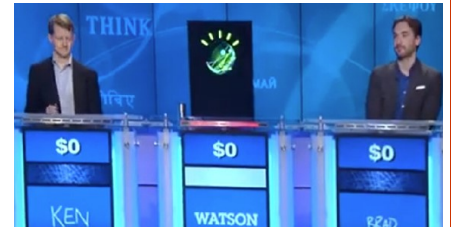
**Ears and eyes in your home** - Are you helping big business monitor your home? Do you have an FPL "smart meter" or a "voice-controlled personal assistant" connected to a network or internet? You are legally protected against eaves dropping. What is not clear is if you are protected against AI monitoring your activity? Activity including, but not limited to, how much you brush your teeth; is the TV on; what programs do you watch and more. In short, monitoring and collecting data on everything you do during your everyday life. **Do you want proof?** I did a patent search. Patents are expensive and are not done just for the fun of it. Guess what I found. Click on this link: <https://patents.google.com/patent/US20160261932A1/en>.

It's a Google U.S. patent on technology with capabilities for Stealth Monitoring of your home.

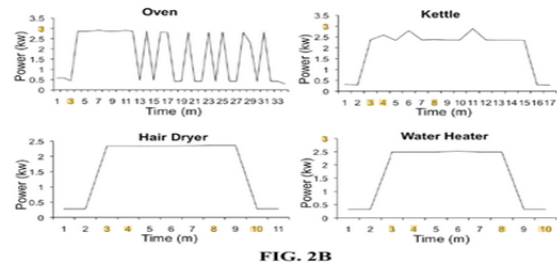
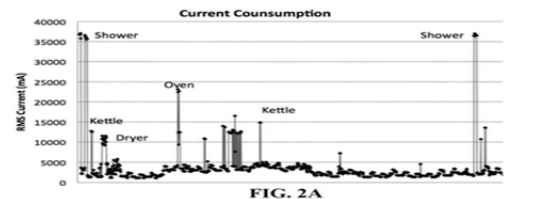
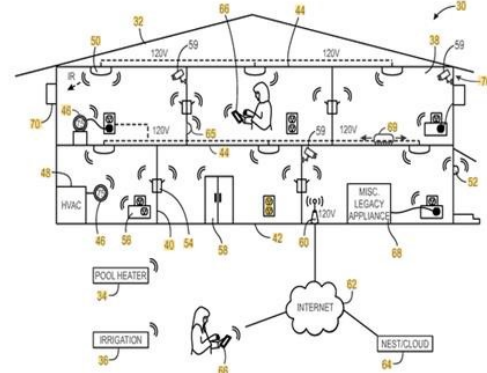
*"A system for detecting individual appliance energy loads from a building composite load profile includes an electric meter to capture building composite load profile; a detector coupled to the meter to detect transitions in the load profile to determine an appliance state machine for each appliance; a clusterizer to detect clusters of patterns in the load profile; and an analyzer coupled to the*



*detector to receive the transitions and appliance state machines from the detector, the analyzer matching each transition to a predetermined appliance state machine to disaggregate the building composite load profile into individual appliance energy loads. This patent describes a technology.*



Below are a few images from the Google U.S. patent.



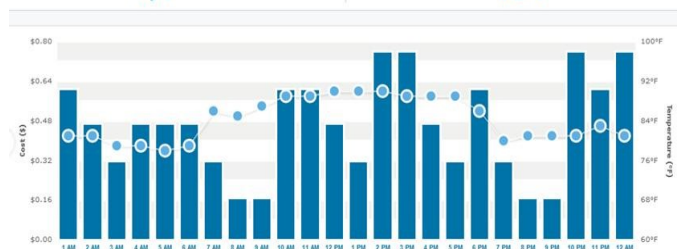
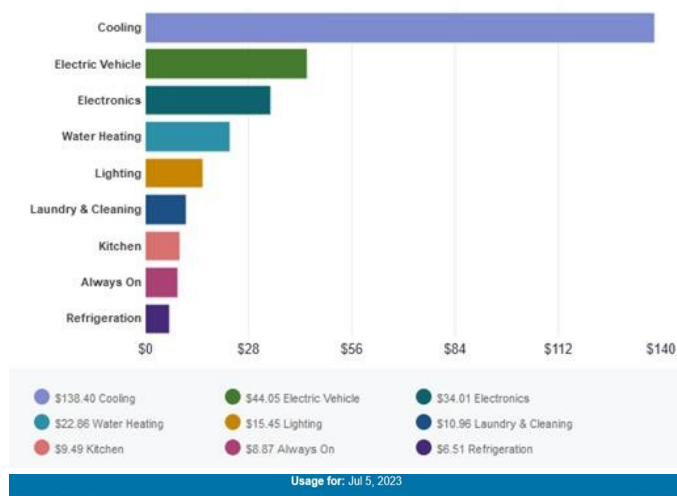
**Is FPL monitoring us now** using its Smart meters? FPL connects its smart meters to a smart computer using its own smart meter packet net. Below see what FPL has on me. FPL knows what devices I have plugged in and how much energy (continued on page 14)

## The Not So Pretty Side of AI by Bruce, W8HW

(continued from page 13)

each uses. FPL can also give me an hour by hour break down on any day that I select. This was provided to me over the internet. FPL has this information on you as well if you have a smart meter.

Results are based on the Survey responses. Click on each graph section to see details.



I leave you with two (2) warnings from the experts. What do the world's experts warn about AI? Here's a open warning from 200 top AI experts: (Link to letter and a long list of signatures) -> <https://www.safe.ai/statement-on-ai-risk#sign>

What does Bill Gates say about AI? Read [here](#).

**But wait! There's more!** Above is just the tip of the iceberg. Part 3 in the next issue will shock you. We will move forward and look at how AI will influence our everyday life and work. We will examine the rapid growth of AI and its effects on humans today. We will take a look at how AI is handled in other parts of the world. What are the regulation differences in different countries around the world? The answers will amaze you.

73, Bruce, [W8HW@comcast.net](mailto:W8HW@comcast.net)

## Island Radio Expedition Foundation Ceasing Operation



The Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF), the only expedition funding organization specifically focused on IOTA expeditions, is ceasing operation.

The Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF) was founded in 1999 for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance for expeditions to rare IOTA islands. The organization was formed by AD5A, N5UR, AB5EB and NI5DX after activating H75A NA-209NEW for the first time. We couldn't find any sponsors for our trip. There were no independent IOTA only DXpedition funding organizations in existence before IREF, nor does one exist today. Many clubs and organizations contribute to IOTA expeditions but none contribute to IOTA expeditions exclusively. IREF has exclusively provided monetary support to IOTA DXpeditions.

IREF, through it's donors, has contributed more than \$80K to IOTA Expeditioners over the years. One of the primary reasons for ceasing operations is that the funding model for expeditions has changed.

OQRS has given expeditioners a much easier tool for raising money than the traditional methods of the past. Accordingly, requests were down as were contributions.

IREF is proud of it's legacy, but times have changed and IREF's impact has been diminished over the past few years.

IREF, would also like to thank it's Boards for their work over the years. The Boards includes Buzz, N5UR; Don, W9DC; Mike, K9AJ; Bob, WB2YQH; Jose, CTIEEB; Charles, M0OXO and Jim, JA9IFF. Also the other officers, Mike AB5EB, Vice President and Dragan, K0AP, Secretary.

73, Mike AD5A  
President, IREF

Congratulations Rob, W4CRA, for contacting all 13 Colonies plus the 3 bonus stations

# 15th Annual 13 Colonies

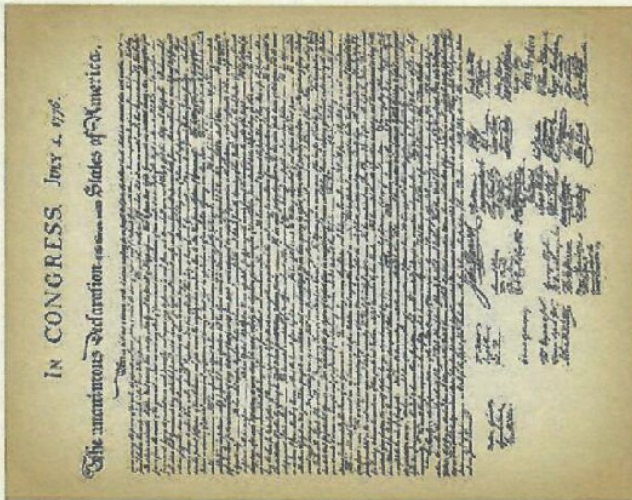


## Special Event

JULY 1ST - 7TH 2023

# 73'

### SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



K2A/NY

*\*Wm. Floyd*

K2B/VA

*\*Thos. Jefferson*

K2C/RI

*\*Stephen Hopkins*

K2D/CT

*\*Wm. Williams*

K2E/DE

*\*Caesar Rodney*

K2F/MD

*\*Wm. Paca*

K2G/GA

*\*Geo. Walton*



*Lord Frederick North*

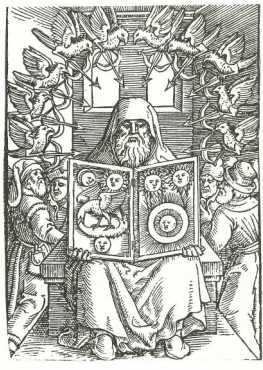


*Marquis De Lafayette*



THIS CERTIFICATE CERTIFIES THAT ARS: **W4CRA** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ON - **13** AIR AMATEUR RADIO EVENT HONORING THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONY STATES, OUR INDEPENDENCE, & OUR ACTIVE MILITARY / VETERANS.

CONTACTS



## Ramblings of an Antenna Alchemist

Hamstick vertical mobile antennas are a fundamental part of many ham's home and mobile antenna arsenal. WD4BUM was the creator, but many companies have cloned and produced the antenna, some well and many not so well.

My antenna alchemy has included Hamstick antennas since the '80s when I lived in a Wellington HOA community. They made it clear that even a disguised flagpole antenna would be considered declaring war on the HOA.

Hamstick antennas have a fiberglass lower base. For 20/17/15m wire is wound on the base with a majority of the wire as a coil towards the top. A piece of heat shrink tubing covers the base to protect the wire. Inserted above the base is a stainless whip that helps resonant the antenna. You must be careful to not insert the whip too far into the base where it might interact with the wire coil. Some Hamsticks include a chart for whip lengths for each portion of the band. I found using an antenna analyzer or VNA to be a better method for deter-

mining the whip's ideal length.

For 30m and below the wire is very long. The base is tightly wound with wire for almost the entire length. The antenna seems not very efficient as a vertical radiator for the lower bands, more like a dummy load.

Through experimentation, hams found many ways to use Hamsticks as other than a mobile antenna. A common configuration is as a dipole. MFJ and others make a nice mount. I built a dipole mount using a PVC "T" connector. It works well. Google the Internet for the many variations. You will be amazed at the creativity of hams.

**One of my favorite uses** of a Hamstick is as a ground mounted vertical. A PVC "T" connector makes a good base. The upper section has a 3/8" mount to accept the Hamstick. The middle has a coax connector with a wing nut for ground radials and the bottom has provisions for a pole for ground mounting.

73, [The Antenna Alchemist](#)



## 2023 SKYWARN® Recognition Day

SKYWARN® Recognition Day (SRD) will be held on December 2, 2023, from 0000Z to 2400Z. SRD celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day, SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

### Operating Instructions

Amateur stations will exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, & 2-meters and 70-centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

Amateur stations will exchange call sign, name, location, signal report, a one- or two-word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.), temperature reading if available and SRD Number if the station has one.

**Modes:** NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, Winlink, CW, FT8, FT4, and PSK31.

While working digital modes, special event stations will append "/NWS" to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS).

It is suggested that during SRD operations for NWS offices a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.

The National Weather Service will provide event information via the [SRD website](#). Event certificates will once again be electronic and printable from the main website after the conclusion of SRD.

To submit your log summary for SRD, use the online submission form that will be made available on the NWS SRD Recognition main page when the event is completed. Deadline for log submission is January 31, 2024.

**Note on NWS Station Operations:** For 2023, guidance on in-person amateur radio operations by volunteers will be determined by each National Weather Service Local Forecast Office. Amateur radio operators must make all necessary inquiries ahead of SRD with the appropriate NWS staff at your respective Weather Forecast Office before registering the NWS office for this event.



## SKCC December Weekend Sprintathon

[The Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) is comprised of Morse code operators who use mechanical keys. The club was founded in 2006. For more info go to the [SKCC page](#).]

**The December Weekend Sprintathon runs from 12:00 UTC December 9th through 23:59 UTC December 10th for a total of 36 hours.**

The following stations are worth 5 bonus points each - Reindeer, Santa, Scrooge and Elves. Please only count each bonus station once per band.

Reindeer	Name	Call	SKCC #
Dasher	John	W3JJB	#21909S
Dancer	Cathy	W4CMG	#20093S
Prancer	Steve	AC9XS	#23280S
Vixen	Bob	WM4Q	#16465S
Comet	Mark	NX1K	#11024S
Cupid	Andy	KD9KHA	#23208S
Donner	Bill	W2E	#21535S
Blitzen	Chuck	KA8HDE	#6913S
Rudolph	George	NE5A	#24849S
Olive	Jordan	W7VC	#24194S
Scrooge	Jeff	K4KYN	#26302S
Santa	Bob	F6EJN	#508S

Elves	Name	Call	SKCC #
	Denny	WØNZZ	#22005S
	Jo	PG4I	#11019S
	Gene	W9KMK	#12970S
	Kasey	KD2YMM	#26231
	Bill	K8MPW	#15372

SKCC Membership manager Les - WB5JWI will change logger names to respective “reindeer” names during this WES. Requests for a certificate for working Santa with Reindeer endorsements can be emailed to Josh, W9HT at [drjoshlong@gmail.com](mailto:drjoshlong@gmail.com). Include your name, call and stations worked. A PDF of your certificate will be emailed to you.

### Rules:

**Eligibility:** The SKCC's Weekend Sprintathon is open to all licensed amateurs, as well as shortwave listeners. All participants must use a straight key, sideswiper, or bug unless you qualify for an exemp-

tion, as stated [in the SKCC Key Policy](#).

**Frequencies:** Participants may sprint on 160-6 meters, excluding the WARC bands (60, 30, 17, and 12 meters). Suggested frequencies are on or around the SKCC calling frequencies:

**1.813.5, 3.550, 7.038, 7.055 & 7.120, 14.050, 21.050 & 21.114, 28.050 & 28.114, and 50.090 Mhz.**

The SKCC sked page and other spotting tools are permitted for this event. Where two frequencies are listed for the same band, they score as one band. That is, if you contact W8BALL on 7.05 and on 7.120, you can count only one of those contacts.

**Exchange:** Minimum exchange must include RST, QTH, operator name, and SKCC number. If you are not a club member, please send "none" for SKCC number. Please give a realistic RST, not a perfunctory 599 or 559. If you don't get a signal report, please ask for it. For QTH, U.S. and Canadian stations should use their two-letter state or province abbreviation. All other countries send your 3-alpha [SPC code found here](#).

This is an informal event, so if you are not an SKCC member, take a moment to visit our home page and apply for a number. It's free! And if you are a member and have completed the required exchange, hang around and chat for a bit with non-members. It's good PR!

### Scoring:

**Amateur-radio operators:** Each unique QSO counts as one point. You may count contacts with the same station on multiple bands, but only once per band. You earn one multiplier point for each state, province, or country worked, but you can count a state, province, or country only once per WES.

You earn bonus points for working Centurions, Tribunes, and Senators. You can work the same C, T, or S on multiple bands for QSO points, but his or her C, T or S counts once per WES for bonus points. Each C is worth 5 points, each T is worth 10 points, and each S is worth 15 points. You

*(continued on page 18)*

## SKCC December Weekend Sprintathon

*(continued from page 17)*

receive an additional 25 bonus points for each band on which you contact the special sprint station, KSIKCC, when it is active. Extra bonus points may be offered as part of a given sprint's theme. If none is offered, enter 0 in the appropriate box on the submissions page.

**For shortwave listeners:** You must copy at least one side of a WES QSO for a QSO point. If you copy both sides of a WES exchanges, that counts as 2 QSO points. You can count the same station more than once only if you copy that station's QSO on a different band -- one QSO per band. Note that some WES themes may not allow SWL entrants to claim the theme-related bonus.

### Submissions:

Please use the submissions page, reached by clicking on the SKCC web site link at the top of this article. The link will appear when the submissions page is activated for each event. Between events, the link will not appear on the page.

As you enter your contact information on the submissions page, the page calculates your score automatically by multiplying the total number of QSOs by the total number of multipliers, then adds the total C, T, and S bonus points. If the event has a theme-related bonus scheme as well, you will need to calculate the theme-related bonus yourself and enter the total in the appropriate field on the submissions page.

**Your Total = (QSO x Multipliers) + C, T, and S bonus points + theme-related bonus, if any.**

Logs are not required unless the WES manager requests them. The deadline for submitting or correcting your entry is 2359 UTC on the Sunday following the event. If you are correcting your entry, you must resubmit all your information, not just the item that needed the correction. If you are not a member of the SKCC, use "none" in place of SKCC number on the submissions page. If you are an SWL and have a unique SWL club ID, use that in place of a call sign. If you don't have a club ID, make up a unique, one-word ID to use.

(from the SKCC website)

## Quarter Century Wireless Association

*[The QCWA was founded in 1947 to provide an organization for the hobby's pioneers. QCWA promotes friendship and cooperation among amateur radio operators licensed at least a quarter century ago and who remain licensed today.]*

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) is the sponsor of the W2MM Special Event Station annual event, which runs for 7 days beginning the first weekend of December.

QCWA members only in the US and its possessions will have an opportunity to activate W2MM for this event. Contact QCWA Activities Manager at [activitiesmanager@qcwa.org](mailto:activitiesmanager@qcwa.org) for more information and scheduling.

Stations activating W2MM must submit their log in an ADIF file only to [activitiesmanager@qcwa.org](mailto:activitiesmanager@qcwa.org) by the end of the third week of December.

At the end of December, all stations working W2MM will be able to download a commemorative certificate: [W2MM Certificate](#). Since Lou is providing this service on a volunteer basis, please expect a 2 to 3 month lead time to access your certificate. QCWA thanks Louis Maggio NO2C for this service.

### Event Details:

Celebrating QCWA's 76th Anniversary on December 5, 2023:

Start Time (UTC): 0001 - Start: December 2, 2023

End Time (UTC): 2359 - End: December 9, 2023

CW: 3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.050, 28.050

SSB: 3.810, 7.244, 14.262, 21.365, 28.325

FT8/FT4 - standard frequencies on 80/40/20/15/10m  
(Note: expect W2MM to be within 20 kHz of the above frequencies)

Contact person: John Kludt, K7SYS [activitiesmanager@qcwa.org](mailto:activitiesmanager@qcwa.org)

47 & 73,  
John Kludt, K7SYS  
Activities Manager, QCWA, Inc.

(from the QCWA website)

## Noise on the Ham Bands

Noise is always a challenge on HF. However, there are things you can do that will help.

An antenna is a passive device. If the noise signal is there, it will send it down the line to your radio. So where can you start?

Try to identify the noise. Is it a static, buzz, pulsing or other? Your radio can give you a hint by the affect the Noise Blanker has on the noise. Noise Blankers are mainly for atmospheric and power line static. The static consists of many harmonics at random, which the Noise Blanker is designed to reduce. Turning the Blanker off and on will confirm this.

There are other sources of noise that your Noise Blanker is not designed to address. Many times a switching power supply, wall wart, dimmer switch, LED bulb and others can generate noise. This noise can be induced into the feed line. This type of noise will have different characteristics that the Noise Blanker will not affect. There are many other devices that we use that can make lots of noise. Try isolating the devices to see if any are the culprit.

If you have ground wires to the radio and other attached equipment, temporarily disconnect them. Observe the noise level ungrounded. Leave it this way while looking for the noise.

Where the antenna connects to the radio, slide the barrel back so only the center conductor is connected. Observe if the noise increases. It should. If not, the source of the noise may be close by. Can you tilt the antenna so it is close to the ground? Signal strength will decrease, but if the noise stays the same or worse, then you can get an idea that the noise is generated close by. This test might be more effective during a time when the band is closed. If it is possible, the location of the antenna may need to be changed.

Another common noise source is the utility service. They may be using electronic devices for their monitoring that is causing noise or signals on the HF band. If you can identify the offending source, hopefully your service provider will be cooperative.

Various antennas may receive noise more than others. This can be due to the signal polarization it favors. However, if the noise source is generated by man-made equipment you will need to address the source.

For actual atmospheric static there are some very affective ferrite bead and filter kits that can be attached to the coax. You can find these by doing a search on the web.

Keep in mind that the coax is seldom the problem. Noise can enter the coax by disrupting the balance of the cable. Coax keeps your RF signal from emitting by maintaining a balance or cancellation of 180 degrees between the center conductor and the shield. The nomenclature "shield" is really a misnomer. It does not shield the RF, it only cancels it. The surrounding braid allows the coax to come close to other surfaces without becoming unbalanced.

Keep in mind any antenna will receive a generated signal that contains hash, pulses, power line or atmospheric noise. It is still a passive device. Hopefully an organized search for your noise issue will have results.

73, Ralph WD0EJA  
Bilal Company, 137 Manchester Dr.  
Florissant, CO. 80816 Ph/Fx: 719/687-0650

\* \* \* \* \*

*Editor: I have used the investigative and remediation techniques outlines here. Recently, I acquired an MFJ-1026 Noise Canceller. The MFJ-1026 is designed to reduce noise or interference, or improve desired signals, before the noise affects sensitive receiver circuits. Unlike conventional noise blankers, the MFJ-1026 can be effective on all types of noise, including interference (QRM) from unwanted signals. The MFJ-1026 allows the user to adjust both phase and amplitude while combining two antenna inputs. The antenna inputs can be from two external antennas, or an external antenna and the MFJ-1026 internal whip antenna. The signal output to the receiver is the vector addition or subtraction of signals from the two separate antennas. This allows unwanted noise to be removed or desired signals to be enhanced. In an upcoming TCHN I will report my success in using this device to reduce my high noise levels.*

## Traffic Handling in the South Florida Section



Fellow Southern Florida Section traffic handlers, most importantly, THANK YOU for all you do for the traffic system in our section and for Florida. We are fortunate to have one of the best traffic handling bases in the nation.

One of the cornerstones of the new NTS 2.0 initiative is accountability and reporting. It is difficult for the NTS leadership to understand how the system is performing when they don't have the necessary data to evaluate it.

With that in mind, I encourage individual stations within the section to please send me their monthly station activity reports. If you have handled even one piece of traffic for the month, please report it to me. A template Station Activity Report (SAR) in radiogram format can be found at <https://fmarc.net/download/station-activity-report-template-2/>.

SAR's should be sent via a traffic net if possible. If you don't have access to a local or HF traffic net, Winlink would be the next best option. Email to [w2pax@arrl.net](mailto:w2pax@arrl.net) would be the third option. Remember, we want to keep them on-the-air as traffic when possible.

Another important concept in NTS 2.0 is recognition. To this end, I would encourage everyone to check out the ARRL's Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) at <http://arrl.org/public-service-honor-roll>. Please review the six categories, and see if you meet the required minimum monthly total of 70 points. If so, please also send me a PSHR report each month.

A template PSHR in radiogram format can be found at <https://fmarc.net/download/public-service-honor-roll-template-2/>.

As with SAR's, PSHR's should be kept on-the-air as traffic when possible.

SAR's and PSHR's are due to me no later than 8 PM on the 5th of each month. Late submissions will be accepted, but will not be reported until the following month.

If anyone needs help preparing their monthly reports or has questions, please reach out to me. My email is above, and my phone numbers are on my QRZ page. I am happy to help, and ready to serve you.

VY 73

Dave Sheppard W2PAX

ARRL Southern Florida Section Traffic Manager

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

The ITU Radio Communication Assembly 2023 (RA-23), was held recently in Dubai. At the meeting a new Recommendation ITU-R M. 2160 was on the IMT-2030 Framework, which sets the basis for development of 6G, a.k.a. IMT-2030. The next phase will be the definition of relevant requirements and evaluation criteria for potential radio interface technologies.

Also adopted was a resolution on space sustainability to facilitate the long-term sustainable use of radio spectrum and associated satellite orbit resources used by space services. The ITU says this resolution on will benefit the satellite sector and support further cooperation with other UN organizations.

RA-23 also finished a new ITU-R Recommendation on the protection of the radio navigation-satellite service and amateur satellite services, and adopted a a new resolution on the use of IMT technologies for fixed wireless broadband.

Resolution ITU-R 8-3 was also revised to promote the participation of engineers and scientists from developing countries in radiowave propagation campaigns in tropical and subtropical regions with limited data monitoring.

To learn more about the WRC-23, visit <https://www.itu.int/wrc-23/about/about-wrcs/>.

## Upcoming Hamfests

12/2/2023

### Treasure Coast Hamfest

Vero Beach ARC

Indian River Co. Fairgrounds

Vero Beach, FL

[www.treasurecoasthamfest.com](http://www.treasurecoasthamfest.com)

02/17/2024

### Highlands County Hamfest

Highlands County Amateur

Radio Club

Sebring, FL

<https://www.highlands-amateurradio.com>

03/16/2024

### Stuart Hamfest

Martin County ARA

Martin Co. Fairgrounds

<https://www.mcaraweb.com>

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

## ORLANDO HAMCATION - February 9-11, 2024

**Location:** Central Florida Fairgrounds & Expo Park, 4603 West Colonial Dr. Orlando, Florida 32808. [GET DIRECTIONS](#)

**Dates/Times:** February 9 - 10, 2024, 9AM to 5PM. February 11, 2024, 9AM to 1PM.

**Ticket Info:** Purchase tickets online or via mail. Parking at HamCation is FREE! Tickets are available online, via mail, or at the event. Online and mail ticket sales close on January 31. [GET TICKETS](#)

**Talk-In:** Talk-in on 146.760 (-600, PL 103.5) KB4UT repeater. The repeater is a mixed mode System Fusion repeater. Backup talk-in will be on the 443.050 (+5.00, PL 103.5) repeater. DSTAR: KIXC 146.820 - .600.

**Where to Park:** Passenger Cars/Hi-Profile Vehicles - Parking is FREE! When attending HamCation, please enter the fairgrounds from either Pete Parrish Blvd or Fairvilla Rd. Follow all signage and/or parking attendants. Handicap parking is just east of the east ticket booth. DO NOT leave your valuables in plain sight. Secure them out of sight. For RVs please go the website for information: <https://www.hamcation.com>

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)



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

\* \* \* \* \*

**Winter Field Day** is January 27-28, 2024. According to the website: "Winter Field Day (WFD) is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location."

"You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use

frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more."

SLC ARES will be hosting Winter Field Day on Saturday, January 27 at the Rock Road Tower Site. Please contact Paul Horner, SLC ARES EC at [w4isz@arrl.net](mailto:w4isz@arrl.net) for details.

Vero Beach ARC will be hosting Winter Field Day on Sunday, January 28th. Please contact Bud Holman at [wa4asj@arrl.net](mailto:wa4asj@arrl.net).

Send your ARES information to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

## ARES® Emergency Coordinators (EC)

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

Martin County  
[Brian Gibson, KN4YWW](#)

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

Okeechobee County  
[Jack Schwartz, KM4CRA](#)

Get involved. Volunteer for ARES.

**ARES® Resources**  
[Download the ARES Manual \[PDF\]](#)

[Emergency Communications Training \(ARRL\)](#)

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

If you know of an event or meeting that would be of interest to Treasure Coast Hams, please let us know.

## December 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @1300UTC	Treasure Coast Hamfest Indian Fairgrounds Details: <a href="http://treasurecoasthamfest.com">treasurecoasthamfest.com</a>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2)  SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA Board Mtg (via Zoom) IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B OARC ARES Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's	Pearl Harbor Day Hanukkah Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2)  VBARC Mtg-7:30pm Indian River Co. EOC 4225 43rd Av, Vero Bch	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @1300UTC	PSLARA Holiday Party IRSC - Pruitt Campus Veteran's Resource Center 500 California Blvd Port St. Lucie MCARA Christmas Holiday Luncheon Fysh Bar & Grill 4290 SE Salerno Rd Stuart
10	11	12	12	14	15	16
TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC FPARC Mtg-7:30pm Indian Rive State College Bldg R 3212 Virginia Av, Ft Pierce SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2) MCARA Mtg-7pm 802 SE Monterey, Stuart	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC Emer. Net-8pm 146.640(-) (107.2) MCARA R/T Net-8pm 145.150(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Meeting 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's SLC ARES Mtg-7pm SLC EOC 15305 Midway Rd Ft. Pierce, FL	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC Indian River Co. ARES 7pm - Indian River EOC 4256 43rd Av Vero Bch PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2) SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	Christmas  Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC MCARA R/T Net-8pm 147.060(-) (107.2) OARC Club Net-8pm 147.195(-) (100.0)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC IRC ARES Net-7:30pm 145.130(-) (107.2) FPARC R/T Net-8pm 147.345(+) (107.2) D-Star Net-8:30pm 444.500(+5) Port B	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC SLC ARES WinLink Wednesday's PSLARA Mtg-7pm IRSC - Pruitt Campus Veteran's Resource Ctr. 501 California Blvd	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC  PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm 146.995(-) (107.2)	Sunrise CW Net 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
31	1	TC: Treasure Coast IRC: Indian River County SLC: St. Lucie County PSLARA: Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association ( <a href="http://www.pslara.org">www.pslara.org</a> ) FPARC: Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club ( <a href="https://fparc.org/">https://fparc.org/</a> ) MCARA: Martin County Amateur Radio Association ( <a href="https://mcaraweb.com/">https://mcaraweb.com/</a> ) OARC: Okeechobee County Amateur Radio Club VBARC: Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club ( <a href="http://www.w4ot.com/">http://www.w4ot.com/</a> )				R/T: Ragchew/Traders Emer.: Emergency
New Year's Eve TC R/T Net-8pm 146.775(-) (107.2)  SKYWARN Net-9pm 146.775(-) (107.2)	 pngtree.com					

# Treasure Coast Ham News 2 meters and 70 centimeters Repeater Frequencies, WINLINK RMSs and Nets listing

The below listings are compiled from club websites, Florida Amateur Spectrum Management Association (FASMA), FCC, and other sources. It is believed to be correct as of date of publication, however is not guaranteed. Please review and email us at [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com) your suggested corrections and additions.

Treasure Coast Ham News 2m & 70cm Repeater Frequencies, Winlink RMSs & Local Nets

Freq (output)	Offset	Tone/Color Code	Call	Location	Sponsor	County	Use	Modes	Nets
144.9900			K4WOF-10	Sebastian	J E Lineback	Indian River	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM WIDE	Digipeat
144.9900			KG4ORQ-10	Vero Beach	David A Wheatley	Indian River	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM WIDE	Digipeat
145.1300	-0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">AB4AZ</a>	Vero Beach South	Treasure Coasters Repeater Assoc.	Indian River	OPEN	FM Fusion WIRES-X	IRC ARES: Tuesdays 7:30p
145.3100	-0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">W4IRC</a>	Vero Beach, Indian River Med. Ctr	Treasure Coasters Repeater Assoc.	Indian River	OPEN	FM Fusion	
145.4000			WA4TCD	Not listed in Repeaterbook.com	James K. Davis, W2JKD	Indian River	OPEN	DSTAR	IRC D-Star Net: Tuesday 8:30p
146.6400	-0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">W4PHJ</a>	Vero Beach, North County	Treasure Coasters Repeater Assoc.	Indian River	OPEN	FM EchoLink Fusion	IRC Emergency Net: Mondays 8p
442.6000	+5 MHz	CC1 NAC 293	<a href="#">KB1YBB</a>	Vero Beach	Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ	Indian River	OPEN	DMR EchoLink P-25	
443.4100			No Call	Vero Beach	From W4OT website	Indian River		P25	
443.7000	+5 MHz		<a href="#">W4OT</a>	Vero Beach	VBARC (Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ)	Indian River	OPEN	FM	
444.3250			KJ4YZI	Vero Beach	VBARC (Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ)	Indian River		DMR	
444.3500	+5 MHz	CC1, BrandMeister	<a href="#">W4JEA</a>	Sebastian	Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ	Indian River	OPEN	DMR EchoLink	
444.3750	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">WB4HIS</a>	Sebastian	WB4HIS	Indian River	OPEN	FM (SARNET node)	
444.8500	+5 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">KA4EPS</a>	Vero Beach	AT&T ARA South Florida	Indian River	OPEN	FM AllStar	
144.9900			WX4MC-10	Stuart	Martin County ARES EOC	Martin	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM WIDE	Digipeat
145.1500	-0.6 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">WX4MC</a>	Stuart, EOC	Martin Co ARES/RACES	Martin	OPEN	FM	MCARA R/T Net: Mondays 8p
145.4400	-0.6 MHz	Module C	<a href="#">KB4DD</a>	Stuart, EOC	Martin Co ARES/RACES	Martin	OPEN	D-Star	
146.6250	-0.6 MHz	110.9 / 110.9	<a href="#">W4JUP</a>	Hobe Sound	Jupiter/Tequesta RG	Martin	OPEN	FM	
147.0600	+0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">K4ZK</a>	Stuart, Martin Memorial Hosp. North	MCARA	Martin	OPEN	FM	
443.9000	+5 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">N4PSK</a>	Hobe Sound	N4PSK	Martin	OPEN	FM	
444.1500	+5 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">KA3COZ</a>	Stuart	KA3COZ	Martin	OPEN	FM (SARNET node)	
444.9000	+5 MHz	CC7	<a href="#">WX4MC</a>	Stuart, Stuart Public Services	Martin Co ARES/RACES	Martin	OPEN	DMR EchoLink	
444.9625	+5 MHz	CC5	<a href="#">KF4LZA</a>	Stuart, Allapatah Flats	KF4LZA	Martin	OPEN	DMR	
444.9750	+5 MHz	CC1	<a href="#">N4IRS</a>	Stuart	N4IRS	Martin	OPEN	DMR DSTAR Fusion	
147.0900	+0.6 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	<a href="#">K4OKE</a>	Okeechobee	Okeechobee ARC	Okeechobee	OPEN	FM	
147.1950	+0.6 MHz	100	<a href="#">K4OKE</a>	Okeechobee	Okeechobee ARC	Okeechobee	OPEN	FM	OARC Net: Mondays 8p
444.0500	+5 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	<a href="#">K4OKE</a>	Okeechobee	Okeechobee ARC	Okeechobee	OPEN	FM	
144.9900			W4SLC-10	Ft. Pierce	St. Lucie County ARES EOC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM WIDE	Digipeat
145.2700	-0.6 MHz	151.4 / 151.4	<a href="#">W3IFI</a>	Port St Lucie	W3IFI	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
145.4400	-0.6 MHz		<a href="#">KB4DD</a>	Ft Pierce	Treasure Coaster Digital Group	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DSTAR	
146.7750	-0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">AF4CN</a>	Ft Pierce	St Lucie Repeater Assoc	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	Treasure Coast R/T: Sundays 8p
146.9550	-0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">K4PSL</a>	Port St Lucie, WAVV tower	PSLARA	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM Echolink Fusion	PSLARA R/T Net: Thursdays 7:30p
147.2400	+0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">W4SLC</a>	Ft Pierce, EOC	St Lucie Co. Public Safety ARES	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
147.3450	+0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">W4AKH</a>	Ft Pierce, WQCS-FM Tower	FPARC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM Echolink Fusion WIRES-X	FPARC Net: Tuesdays 8p
440.7500	+5 MHz	CC0	No Call	Port St Lucie		Saint Lucie	OPEN	DMR	
442.0000	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">W4SLC</a>	Port St Lucie, SLC *	St Lucie Co. Public Safety ARES	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
442.5750	+5 MHz	110.9 / 110.9	<a href="#">W4RCC</a>	Port St Lucie, St Lucie Medical Ctr	R. Conrad Clark, W4RCC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
443.4750	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">W4SLC</a>	Port St Lucie, Port St. Lucie HS	St Lucie Co. Public Safety ARES	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
443.6500	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">K4PSL</a>	Port St Lucie	PSLARA	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
444.0000	+5 MHz	CC1, Time slot 1	<a href="#">K4SRN</a>	Port St Lucie	Kurt E. Ellmers, K4SRN	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM DMR	
444.3500	+5 MHz	141.3	<a href="#">KJ4YZI</a>	Port St Lucie, Savanna Club	Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
444.5000	+5 MHz		<a href="#">W4AKH</a>	Ft Pierce	FPARC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DSTAR	D-Star Net: Tuesdays 8:30p
444.6000	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">W4SLC</a>	Ft Pierce	St Lucie Co. Public Safety ARES	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM	
444.8000	+5 MHz	CC1	<a href="#">W4AKH</a>	Ft Pierce	FPARC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DMR Echolink IRLP	
444.9875	+5 MHz	CC14	<a href="#">KF4LZA</a>	Ft Pierce	KF4LZA	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DMR	
144.2000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	SSB	SSB Calling Frequency
146.5200				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	FM Simplex	FM Simplex Calling Frequency
222.1000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	CW/SSB	CW/SSB Calling Frequency
432.1000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	CW/SSB	CW/SSB Calling Frequency
446.0000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	FM Simplex	FM Simplex Calling Frequency

**NOTES:**

Repeater and Net information compiled October 2023 from club web pages, Repeaterbook.com, FASMA, & other sources. It is believed to be correct, but is not guaranteed. To report an error, please email [TCHN@gmail.com](mailto:TCHN@gmail.com).

\* This repeater was located at Cleveland Martin Health Tradition Medical Center. It is being relocated to the SLC West tower in the southern portion of the county.

FASMA is the Florida Amateur Spectrum Management Association, Inc. Formerly the Florida Repeater Council.

Repeater call signs are hyperlinked to Repeaterbook.com where applicable.

\*\*These frequencies are not Public Safety. A valid Amateur Radio Operator License of the appropriate class is required in order to transmit on these frequencies.

FM amateur calling frequencies use carrier squelch. A mixture of digital modes or mixed modes could be found locally (P25, NDXN, DMR, etc.)

## Treasure Coast Ham Doctors



### FT8: Repeated Signal Reports

**Question** - I use WSJT-X for my FT8 and FT4 operating. Why do I sometimes receive repeated R-nn signal reports from the same station?

**Answer** - Receiving repeated R-nn signal reports indicate the station at the other end has not received your RR73, which is the next message in the sequence. The other station will keep sending the R-nn signal report assuming you did not receive it.

What you should do is resend the RR73 message. If the station does receive it he will reply with the final 73 reply and you should now be in his log.

Remember, sending or receiving the RR73 message triggers the logging function in WSJT-X. You want to be sure the other station gets you into his log, so make sure you receive his 73.

If, after repeatedly sending RR73 should the other station continue to send R-nn signal reports you will want to switch to a different frequency and resend your RR73. This often will help.

73, [The Doctors](#)

## Introducing "The Grid Chaser's Atlas of the DX World<sup>®</sup>"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enjoy the Atlas. Send any comments you may have to [gridatlas@gmail.com](mailto:gridatlas@gmail.com).

73, Bob, AI4RB





**V51WH**  
Namibia



L36Z - Antarctica

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

## COMING DX OPPORTUNITIES

**TANZANIA, 5H.** Ferdy, HB9DSP will be QRV as 5H3FM from Zanzibar Island, IOTA AF-032, from November 24 to December 5. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB, FM, and FT8. QSL to home call.

**MALAWI, 7Q.** Don, 7Q6M is QRV from Embangweni until May 13, 2024 and has been active on 160 meters. QSL via LoTW.

**SIERRA LEONE, 9L.** Shabu, M0KRI will be QRV as 9L5M from Freetown from November 24 to December 5. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via LoTW.

**EASTER ISLAND, CE0.** Jorge, CE0YHF is QRV until December 10 while working at a hospital on Pascua Island, IOTA SA-001. Activity is in his spare time on 30 to 6 meters using some CW and SSB, but mostly FT8. QSL direct to home call.

**NAMIBIA, V5.** Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as V51WH from Omaruru until the end of April 2024. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters. QSL to home call.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Operators G4IKRN, G3WPH, G4IRN and G4PVM will be QRV as S79/home calls beginning November 21. QSL via operators' instructions.

**TIMOR LESTE, 4W.** A large group of operators will be QRV as 4W8X from Dili until December 5. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via DJ4MX or Clublog OQRS.

**TANZANIA, 5H.** Maurizio, IK2GZU will be active until December 8, signing 5H3MB on 20 to 10 meters. QSL via home call (d/B), LoTW or eQSL.

**SAINT BARTHELEMY, FJ.** Phil, K2LIO is QRV as FJ4WEB until December 31. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

**OGASAWARA, JDI/O.** Looks for JDIYCE to be QRV from December 8 to 19. Operators are expected to be JA1CJA (JH3LSS), JA3ARJ, JA3AVO, JA3IVU, JA3UJR, JA3HJI, JI3DNN and YL JH3PBL. QSL via JA3AVO, LoTW, direct with SASE or to Club Log OQRS.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.** Stan, K5GO will be QRV as ZF9CW until February 15, on the HF bands, using mostly CW, with some SSB. QSL direct to K5GO.

**SURINAME, PZ.** Nobu, JA0JHQ plans to be active as PZ5NH from December 7 to 11 operating on 160 to 6 meters, using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL direct or LoTW.

## DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

**INDIA, VU.** Operators VU2DSI, VU2EVU, and VU2XPN are QRV with special event call signs AU2JCB, AU3JCB, and AU5JCB, respectively, until December 11 to celebrate the 165th birthday of the well-known scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose. QSL direct to home calls.

**ANTARCTICA.** Special event station L36Z marks the 36th anniversary of the Argentine Antarctic Base Esperanza. Activity is on the HF bands using PSK31 and FT8. QSL via LU4DXU.

**POLAND, SP.** SN15AXI honors the memory of Janek Bonikowski, SP3AXI, a scout leader and amateur radio elmer, who died in 2008. The station will be QRV until the end of January 2024. QSL via bureau or eQSL.

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

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



## Special Event Stations



MYPRINTSOUTH.COM

### Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance

**Dec 1-Dec 11, 1300Z-2200Z, W2W.** 14.241, 14.041, 7.241, 7.041. K3NY, 108 Brent, Arnold, MD 21012. National Electronics Museum ARC operating commemorating Pearl Harbor Day & electronics in WWII. Primary oper. Dec 1-Dec 7. Also Dec 8 - Dec 11 may occur. 80M (3.541, 3.841) & digital modes possible. Frequencies +/- based on QRM. QSL & Certificate available via SASE. [ww-2.us](mailto:ww-2.us)

**Dec 7, 1800Z-2100Z, N3TAL:** 7.275Mhz +/-, 14.275Mhz +/- . QSL: American Legion Post 275 ART Team, 8201 Martin Luther King Jr Hwy, Lanham, MD 20706. [n3tal275@gmail.com](mailto:n3tal275@gmail.com) [www.qrz.com/db/n3tal](http://www.qrz.com/db/n3tal)

**Dec 9, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW.** 14.320, 7.250, 14.070: SSB, PSK31. QSL: USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101.

(From ARRL, other sources & the internet)

### Christmas in Bethlehem

**Dec 2, 0700Z-1200Z, WR4BC** Barrow Co. ARC. 7.250, 14.225. QSL: Barrow ARC, PO BOX 411, Bethlehem, GA 30620. Look for us +/- on listed frequencies. [wr4bc@yahoo.com](mailto:wr4bc@yahoo.com)

**Dec 16-Dec 23, 1400Z-0600Z, KC5OUR** Valencia Co. ARA. 28.383, 21.283, 14.283, 7.183. QSL: VCARA, P. O. Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. [kc5our@arri.net](mailto:kc5our@arri.net)

**Dec 7-Dec 10, 1400Z-2200Z, WX3MAS,** 14265 7270 3850. QSL: Christmas City ARC, 14 Gracedale Ave, Greystone Bldg, Nazareth, PA 18064. Daily 1400 to 2200 UTC, may be extended as conditions permit. [www.dlarc.org](http://www.dlarc.org)

### Flight 19 - Missing US Navy Avengers

**Dec 2, 1300Z-2100Z, K4P** Parrot ARC. 14.240, 7.210, 18.150, 21.315. QSL: Gerald Deitch, 2621 NW 105th Lane, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33322. SASE for QSL card. [info@parrotarc.org](mailto:info@parrotarc.org)

### Ike's Atoms for Peace Speech

**Dec 9, 1400Z-2200Z, K3S** Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7, 14, 21, 28. QSL: ULIS FLEMING, 980 PATUXENT ROAD, Odenton, MD 21113. Operating on 40, 20, 15, or 10m SSB or CW. [qrz.com/db/k3s](http://qrz.com/db/k3s)

### Edwin H Armstrong Commemoration

**Dec 16-Dec 18, 0000Z-2359Z, W4A** N9EN. 3.540, 7.040, 14.040, 21.040. QSL: Brad Anbro, 1118 Walnut Grove Rd, Bluff City, TN 37618. Operating 160m-10m, inc WARC. CW-only. [n9en@live.com](mailto:n9en@live.com)

### 18th Annual Straight Key Month

**Jan 2-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, K3Y\***, Worldwide. Straight Key Century Club. 3.550, 7.055, 14.050, 21.050. Certificate/QSL: SKCC c/o Ted Rachwal - K8AQM, 6237 Twin Lakes Drive, Smiths Creek, MI 48074. \*K3Y/0 thru 9 plus KH6, KL7, KP4 & DX member stations—six WAC areas using straight key, bug & cootie keys. QSL card confirms one QSO per area, up to 19 for all-area sweep. <https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y>

### Discovery of Gold in California

**Jan 27-Jan 29, 1700Z-0100Z, AG6AU** El Dorado Co. ARC. 7.248, 14.248, 21.348, 28.348. QSL: El Dorado Co. ARC, PO Box 451, Placerville, CA 95667. <https://edcarc.net>

### 101st Snowflake Ski Jumping Tourney

**Feb 2-Feb 4, 1800Z-2100Z, K9S.** Vernon Co. ARC. 3.865, 7.265, 14.265. Email [snowflake-jump@yahoo.com](mailto:snowflake-jump@yahoo.com) for e-certificate.

### 75th Anniversary Merci Train Boxcar

**Feb 10-Jan 1, 0000Z-0000Z, NV7AL** American Legion Paradise Post 149/40&8 Voiture 306. 7.074, 7.250, 14.074, 14.250. QSL: Robert Bencsko, 2548 Fort Lauderdale Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89156. May operate 24th & 25th on the Nevada boxcar in Boulder City, NV. QSL SASE to AD7J. <https://www.qrz.com/db/NV7AL>

### Green Valley ARC Churches On The Air

**Feb 10, 1700Z-2100Z, WE7GV** Green Valley Amateur Radio Club. 14.242, 14.262, 14.282. Certificate & QSL: Tom Lang, 1085 W. El Toro Rd, Sahuarita, AZ 85629. Includes 3 local churches on the air at the same time. [www.gvarc.us](http://www.gvarc.us)

### Dry Tortugas & The Florida Keys 2024

**Feb 19-Feb 29, 0000Z-0000Z, N4T.** 14.336 SSB, CW, FT8/FT4, & satellites. QSL: Molly Sauder, 1509 Pinkerton Rd, Mount Joy, PA 17552. Chance for a rare grid, ARLHS, IOTA, POTA, USI & WLOTA. SSB, CW, FT8/FT4 & satellites. Spot via POTA & DX Summit. [molly-andfriends6@gmail.com](mailto:molly-andfriends6@gmail.com)

### George Washington's Birthday

**Feb 21-Feb 24, 0001Z-2359Z, WS7G** COLUMBIA BASIN DX CLUB. 14.322, 14.255, 7.222, 7.260. Certificate & QSL: BRIAN NIELSON, 11650 Road I SE, Monitor, WA 98836. <https://cbn.homestead.com/ws7g.html>

### 120th Anniversary Adoption Maryland Flag

**Mar 9-Mar 10, 1800Z-0300Z, N3APS** Expatiate Marylanders Radio Club. 28.440, 21.440, 14.320. QSL: M.G. Vurek, PO Box 617, Orinda, CA 94563. <https://www.qrz.com/db/N3APS>

### 100th Year Anniversary Virginia Tech ARA

**Mar 15-Mar 16, 2100Z-2100Z, K4KDJ.** 14.256, 7.220, 14.340, 7.150. QSL: Virginia Tech ARA, 290 College Ave, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Email: [vtara@vt.edu](mailto:vtara@vt.edu)

### Total Solar Eclipse in Hunt Co. Texas

**Mar 30-Apr 10, 0000Z-2359Z, W5E.** 7.235, 14.280, 21.400, 28.450. QSL: K5GVL Sabine Valley ARA, PO Box 843, Greenville, TX 75403-0843. The Sabine Valley ARA celebrating a once in a lifetime solar event. On April 8th 2024 the sun will be totally eclipsed for over 4 minutes! <https://k5gvl.com/w5e-total-solar-eclipse-special-event-station>

# Ham Humor



## About TCHN - Who / What We Are (and are not)

Treasure Coast Ham News (TCHN) and the future Treasure Coast Hams website (TCHW) are published for the enjoyment of amateur radio operators and those interested in amateur radio. The publishers do not receive any pecuniary interests from TCHN and TCHW. TCHN and TCHW include original publisher, subscriber and author content, plus information obtained from publically available sources, including web pages. Content is attributed whenever possible or applicable. Content is believed to be accurate and timely, but the publishers assume no liability for any inaccuracies.

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[The Publishers](#)

## Area Club News

### Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association

Meetings are held monthly throughout the year. Check the club web site for future meeting dates.

At the October meeting Dick, K4NJ & Chris, KQ4GGA gave an informative presentation about Parks on the Air (POTA). They explained operating as both an activator and a hunter.

On November 18 club members Mina NS4PB, Derek KO4DAD and Chris KQ4GGA worked a club sponsored table at the annual Indian River Lagoon Science Festival.



*PSLARA at the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival*

### Martin County Amateur Radio Association

MCARA serves the Martin County, FL amateur radio community and ARES. MCARA holds weekly Rag Chew nets, ARES nets and in-person / ZOOM meetings. Please click the ZOOM link on their [web site](#).

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

### Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club

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

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

### Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club

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

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

### Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club

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

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

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

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

## EQUIPMENT BUY / SELL

**FOR SALE** - Jerry Henderson's KX4FE (SK) son is selling 2 towers, antennas, CDE rotor and other items from his father's estate. Please click [here](#) for information, and [here](#) for another picture.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE** - Harold, W8PPI, has a 24-foot aluminum extension ladder for sale. Asking \$25. Contact Harold at [haroldbarr7501@comcast.net](mailto:haroldbarr7501@comcast.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE** - Contact Bruce at: [wa3rhw@yahoo.com](mailto:wa3rhw@yahoo.com)  
Astron RS-20A 20 amp power supply. Very good to excellent condition. Very clean. \$65.00  
MFJ 941E Versa Tuner II.  
MFJ 940B Versa Tuner II.

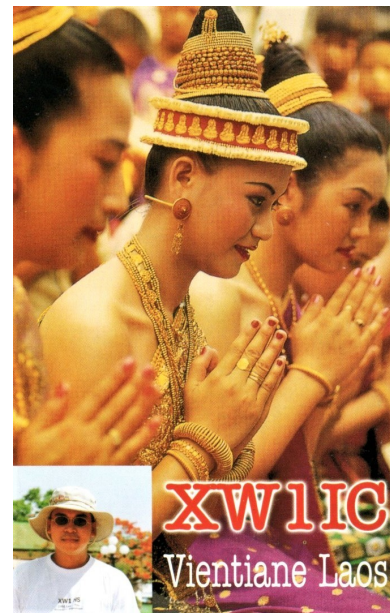
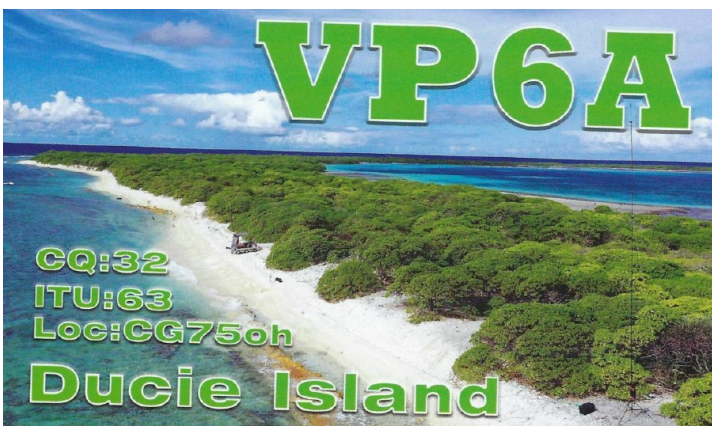
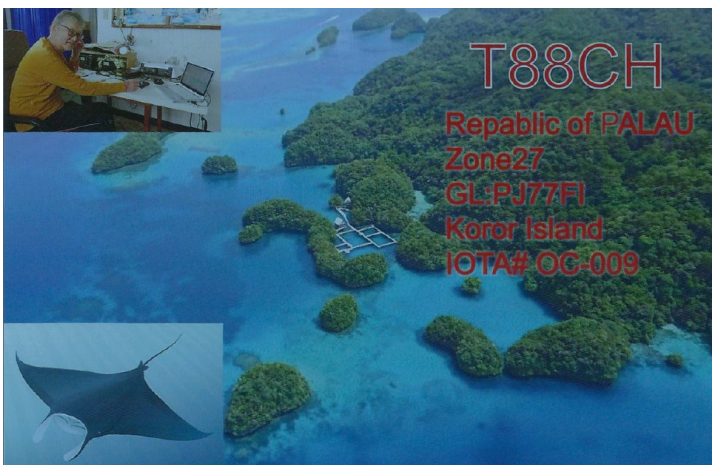
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**LOOKING TO BUY** - Robert, KI6MXT is looking for a recharging cradle for a Yaesu FT-60R. If you have one for sale, please contact Robert at 321-370-5417.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Do you have something to sell or trade? Or perhaps you need help with an antenna or equipment problem?  
Drop us a line and we will include it in our next issue.  
Send your email to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)*

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](mailto: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.)



(XW1IC Laos card courtesy of Bruce, W8HW.)

(Republic of Palau & Ducie QSL cards provided by Ron, W9GOL)

If you are considering QSL cards or need to refresh your old card, please discuss with Fabrice at [QSL Concept](http://QSL Concept). Email: [info@qslconcept.com](mailto:info@qslconcept.com), or contact Fabrice directly at [fertron@bftechnicarts.com](mailto:fertron@bftechnicarts.com). Phone 604-729-6454.



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