

# Treasure Coast Ham News

WINTER - 2024

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

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Treasure Coast Ham News wishes all our readers a Joyous Holiday Season and a Safe, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.



This is our final TCHN newsletter. We enjoyed producing a high quality newsletter, but are ready to move on with our website. We are forever indebted to our authors and contributors as well as the many hams and individuals across the miles who have supported our newsletter efforts. A big thank you!

Our [TCH](#) website is up and running. All the published [TCHN Newsletters](#) are archived there. The website is also home to [The Grid Chaser's Atlas of the DX World](#). And it is home to [ADT Memories](#), including [ADT Folks in the Service](#) (a World War 2 project), [The ADT Transmitter](#) news magazine archive and more. (Other areas of the web site are still under construction.)

Check out the Treasure Coast Hams [website](#). As always, your thoughts are appreciated. Please email with us your suggestions at [TCHamNews@gmail.com](mailto:TCHamNews@gmail.com). 73, *The TCHN Publishers*

### In this Treasure Coast Ham News issue:

- Ham Radio History: Liberty
- General Mobile Radio Service: What is it & how do hams use it
- Parks on the Air (POTA) - K4NJ
- FCC Enforcement Advisory
- Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act
- How Radio Defeats Crime
- SKYWARN™ Recognition Day
- Solar Effects and Definitions
- Radio at War: Medal of Honor Recipients
- Coax Cable Signal Loss Reference Chart, and more ...

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## From the Publishers

\* \* \* \* \*

Hurricane Milton produced a series of devastating tornadoes in Florida. This was especially true for the Treasure Coast. Seven fatalities were reported, one in Port St Lucie and six in Ft. Pierce's Spanish Lakes Country Club Village. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families of those who perished and all affected by the storm.

\* \* \* \* \*

We moved to Ft. Lauderdale when I was a young child. In those days we did not have NOAA hurricane forecasting, GOES satellites, computer modeling and tracking, nor today's outstanding national weather service. We had Weaver the Weatherman and Don Noe. They would give forecasts, but were limited due to the technology in use at the time.

We did not necessarily feel the same fear as today. Homes were mostly single story and made of concrete block. Roofs were lower pitch to allow the wind to move over rather than lift up. Although the windows were single thickness glass, they could withstand a good amount of wind and rain. Other than beach front hotels, many commercial buildings were limited in stories. The population density was a fraction of what it is today.

Hurricane Andrew and its catastrophic damage to Miami-Dade County was a sobering wake-up for Florida. Even 30 plus years later and with robust building codes in use, we are still experiencing considerable real estate damage and loss to life. Our weather seems to be turning against us in Florida and across the nation. Time for awareness and more action!

Before internet selling and online vendors, hamfests were the way for many hams to buy new and used radio gear. Ham Radio manufacturers would show off their many offerings; commercial vendors would entice us to buy radios at special hamfest prices. For those wanting gently used radio gear, there were "honest" ham radio sellers to buy from at hamfests.

In South Florida we had numerous hamfests - large, small and medium. The Tropical Hamboree at the Dade County fairgrounds was "the place" to buy and sell. Moving north Broward had the Amory and Motorola Free Flea. Palm Beach's epic hamfest days were at the South Florida Fairgrounds.

Moving north we had the Stuart Hamfest at Frances Langford Park. It was an outdoor event and a favorite. The spring weather was crisp; and there were always many interesting items to investigate, buy or sell.

Melbourne was the farthest north I ventured. There were many sellers inside the auditorium and outside tailgating in the parking lot. Prices were good and I usually came home with some ham radio goodies.

I went to the Melbourne Hamfest this year. The event was rescheduled from October to November because of the hurricane. Last year Melbourne, after many years in decline was impressive. This year it was a disappointment. Missing were most of the commercial vendors. Many tables were left un-sold. Only a small number of ham sellers, a few clubs and even less tailgaters were in attendance. No ARRL presence that I could see. Let's hope for no hurricanes next year and better times. 73, [TC Ham News](#)



### TREASURE COAST HAMS WEBSITE

The publishers want to reserve space on the *Treasure Coast Hams website* for you, the readers. With your help we can 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 them on a website page.

**Want to be published?** *Treasure Coast Hams* 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 and post it on the web site. While we can't pay for articles, you will receive a full byline. We look forward to your articles, photos, for sale listings, QSL cards and news. Please send to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

## Volunteer Examiner Updates



### Local License Exam Contacts

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

Port St. Lucie ARA  
email club secretary  
[info@pslara.com](mailto:info@pslara.com)

Martin County Amateur Radio Association  
P. O. Box 1901  
Stuart, FL 34995-1901  
Info: [mcaraweb.com](http://mcaraweb.com)

### Find an Exam Session Near You [ARRL Exam Search](#)

#### VE Teams:

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

Send your VE news to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

### PSLARA License Exam Update

On Saturday, November 9, 2024 the Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association held their final VE license examination session for 2024.

Three candidates were in attendance. Two successfully passed their exams.

Earning a General Class license was:

Joel Hazard, KQ4YXZ

And earning an Extra Class license was:

Joseph McIsaac, KD1LA

Congratulations to the successful candidates.

### Future Exam Dates

The November exam session was the final session planned by PSLARA for 2024. No schedule has been released yet for 2025. Watch the club website, [www.pslara.org](http://www.pslara.org) and future email announcements for updates. All sessions are held at the Veterans' Center of Excellence on the IRSC campus in Saint Lucie West.

Walkups are always welcome at PSLARA exam sessions, but we strongly encourage candidates planning to attend a session to contact us ahead of time by sending an email to [info@pslara.com](mailto:info@pslara.com).

### FCC Registration Number (FRN)

Reminder - The VE team cannot administer an exam without your FCC Registration Number (FRN) appearing on the exam paperwork.

If you don't already have an FRN, obtain one before showing up to take an exam. See the [FCC.gov](http://FCC.gov) web site.

### VE License Exam Sessions: Changes Are Coming

A program has been kicked off at ARRL to update the VE program. A plan is being developed to move from paper-based exams to online exams beginning in 2026.

No details are available at the present time. Watch for more information in the coming months.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association is in need of a volunteer to serve as VE liaison. Our current volunteer filling this position has retired and the position is presently vacant.

Duties include serving as the local interface with the ARRL VEC, arranging and hosting local license exam sessions, preparing a schedule for the upcoming year, and handling email inquiries concerning testing.

If you can to help the club by filling this position, please email [info@pslara.com](mailto:info@pslara.com).

### IT'S TRIVIA TIME!

#### Answer to Last Question

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

**Question:** What is the approximate maximum distance along the Earth's surface normally covered in one hop using the E region?

- A. 180 miles
- B. 1,200 miles
- C. 2,500 miles
- D. 12,000 miles

Answer: B. 1,200 miles

This is question G3B10 from the General Class Question Pool.

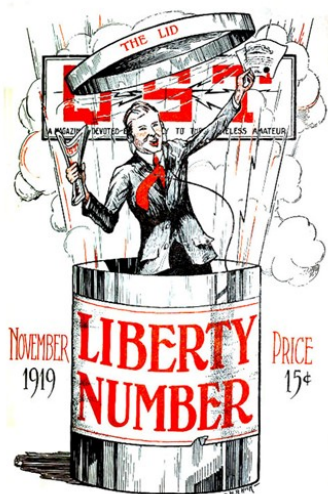
## Ham Radio History: Liberty — The Ban on Operating Finally Lifted

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 twentieth chapter in a continuing series about the earliest days of amateur 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.]

Finally, nearly one year after the armistice, a breakthrough: A single, tacked-on page, after the end cover of October QST, a hastily added special announcement proclaimed: "BAN OFF! THE JOB IS DONE AND THE A.R.R.L. DID IT. See next QST for details"



The HR Hick cover drawing for the November issue depicted a joyous ham bursting from the top of a can, popping off the lid (which, just to make sure the metaphor was understood, is labeled "the lid") — he clutches a copy of QST in one hand, a certificate in the other. The can's label reads "LIBERTY NUMBER" in big letters.

The issue opened with Maxim writing on the importance of organization, citing both the establishment of the League and radio clubs<sup>1</sup> as prime examples. Only by having a national organization were hams able to influence the government on the one hand by preventing legislation that threatened amateur radio's existence, and assist it on the other by providing wartime operators on very short notice. "It was a noble effort for all concerned, and lifted amateur radio from the realm of toy land to the dignity of a valuable National asset." Aside from self preservation, another benefit of or-

ganization was to enable doing momentous things, such as the transcontinental relay work, impressive to outsiders. "Up to the time that we amateurs began relay work, the limit which one could transmit intelligence without paying tribute either to the Government or the Western Union or the Postal Telegraph Company, was the distance one's voice would carry."

Amateurs also had received help from friends in Congress. William Steadman Greene, the 78-year-old Chairman of the House Committee on The Merchant Marine and Fisheries, representative from Massachusetts, and "loyal protector of amateur rights," was credited with the successful reopening.<sup>2</sup> Greene had been the one who introduced the resolution, on the League's behalf, asking the Navy to supply a reason for the continuing ban. Receiving no reply, he had then introduced Joint Resolution 217 directing the secretary of the Navy to remove the restrictions.



William S. Greene

The League headquarters staff had to scramble to add the "ban off" insert to the previous issue when the news arrived just at press time.<sup>3</sup> It would now take some hard work to get everything and everyone up and running again. "The days of real sport are at last with us," noted ARRL secretary Kenneth Warner, directing readers to "Come on, fellows, and get into the air again." An incredible array of new gear developed and manufactured during the war was becoming available, and that meant increased advertising revenue for QST—its life blood. The editor predicted a day when QST could be 132 pages long—twice the size of this issue. It would actually take until September of the following year for the magazine to again reach 100 pages, a size previously seen in *(continued on page 5)*

## Ham Radio History: Liberty - The Ban on Operating Finally Lifted *by Chris Codella, W2PA*

*(continued from page 4)*

April 1917, nearly three and a half years earlier.

Getting back on the air meant everyone had to be relicensed. Though some still had unexpired commercial licenses which the government would count as operator licenses, all amateur operator and station licenses had expired.<sup>4</sup> As before the war, a Second Class license would be granted without examination to applicants located more than 50 miles from a district office. One could take a test given by the district inspector by appointment, and receive a First Class amateur license on successfully passing it. The new test format was a bit different, requiring longer answers from the applicant to demonstrate depth of understanding. The government published a document called "Radio Communication Laws of the United States," containing the regulations one must know for the test.

On receiving an operator license you could next apply for a station license using a form to describe various aspects of your station. That information, and how well you had complied with the law in building it, determined whether or not the license would be granted. Radio Inspectors were authorized to disclose the call sign that an applicant would be issued once a station license was granted. The licensee would then be permitted to begin operation without waiting for the actual license to arrive in the mail. Hams were encouraged to send their new call signs to ARRL as they were issued so that they could be published and help everyone to once again recognize one another on the air.

The first directory of calls appeared in December, listing only new first district stations, apparently the only district reporting new licenses to that point. The list included the Harvard Wireless Club, IAF, M.I.T., IAN, Maxim, IAW and Tuska, IAY. Some stations in other districts had been given permission to use their old calls, possibly because they held unexpired commercial licenses. Some of these stations were prominent pre-war relayers, organizations, and operating department officers, including Mrs. Candler, 8NH, F. H. Schnell, 9AH, R. H. G. Mathews, 9ZN, J. O. Smith, 2ZL and Charles Service, 3QZ.

On the air, things were still very quiet even though the winter, the prime radio season, approached. The Atlantic Division manager reported hearing mostly silence on the first night of reopening, and only a few locals. Activity returned gradually as everyone worked to connect equipment and erect antennas. Licensed or not, amateurs had refrained from reassembling their stations before the reopening, perhaps due to uncertainty about when it would occur given the long delay, or perhaps because they stuck to the letter of the law that prohibited even assembling a station during the shutdown.

"In Memoriam" for December listed 11 more amateurs, some killed while serving in the military.

□□□□□

WCC on Cape Cod had a long history in a medium with a short one. Wired telegraph services such as the transatlantic cable were Marconi's natural initial competition. In 1914 he established a station at Chatham, Mass., to replace his earlier one in Wellfleet. That one had made history in 1903 by relaying a message from President Theodore Roosevelt to the King of England directly via wireless using its 35-kW spark transmitter feeding a 200-wire conical antenna supported by four, 210-foot towers.<sup>5</sup> WCC — originally simply "CC" for Cape Cod — became one of the most prominent wireless stations in the United States, and Irving Vermilya had been a station manager there since early 1916. Answering the Navy's call for radio operators, he enlisted in 1917, served during the war, and then returned home to Massachusetts and WCC.

He was back on the air and in print again in December 1919, publishing another *QST* humor article, "S.O.L." (meaning "shit outta luck," though not labeled as such in the article), telling of his early days in the Navy.<sup>6</sup> By this time he had become well enough known among hams to be often identified by his last name alone. Everyone else in *QST* was referred to as Mr. so-and-so, or by their complete name — but "Amateur Number One" was just Vermilya. Everyone finally got a *(continued on page 6)*

## Ham Radio History: Liberty - The Ban on Operating Finally Lifted *by Chris Codella, W2PA*

(continued from page 5)

look at him in the February 1920 issue's installment of *Who's Who in Wireless*,<sup>7</sup> identified as a shift engineer at the Marconi station. The article paraphrased him as admitting that "he'd rather fuss with wireless than eat, and his record shows it."

In October, pictures of his station appeared too — he was now IHAA, "a good call for a funny man" — in Marion, Massachusetts.<sup>8</sup> His antenna was a fan array of vertical wires, narrow spaced at the base and wide at the top, connected to a horizontal wire suspended between wooden supports, very similar to Maxim's antenna and considered a leading-edge design. Two interior pictures depict a neatly arranged, high-power spark station.



*Irving Vermilya in 1920*

Another change in call sign came in July 1921, when he received a special station license and *QST* announced that "IHAA is no more. Vermilya is now IZE, using 200, 250, and 375 meters."

He continued to work for United Wireless after its acquisition by Marconi, working as manager of WCC until he left the Radio Corporation in 1922 to become manager of the radio department at Slocum & Kilburn, a parts and equipment company. Vermilya would continue to play a role in two camps — as professional and amateur.

◻◻◻◻ de W2PA

1. Hiram Percy Maxim, "The Importance of Our ARRL," *QST*, November 1919, 3.
2. "The Champion of the Amateurs," *QST*, November 1919, 5.
3. "At Last!," Editorial, *QST*, November 1919, 13.
4. "Getting Your Licenses," *QST*, November 1919, 12.

5. "In Search of Guglielmo," ARRL Web, 17 Mar 2005
6. Although it was billed as the first of a two-part article, the second part never appeared.
7. *Who's Who in Amateur Wireless*, *QST*, February 1920, 25.
8. *Amateur Radio Stations*, *QST*, October, 1920, 35.

(If you enjoy this series, you can continue reading Ham Radio History on Chris' website: <https://w2pa.net/HRHI/>)

### QRZ New Ham Jumpstart Program



This program is designed to promote amateur radio to the masses, helping to eliminate a possible barrier to entry by providing new hams with everything they'll need to get on the air at a very reasonable price. Jumpstart Packages will be provided to new hams who meet eligibility requirements.

New hams who have recently obtained their first license from the FCC may apply for a welcome package. Applicants must apply within 6 months of the license grant date per the FCC records.

The eligible ham must have a QRZ user account and be able to log in and apply for the program. Certain types of identification, including a photo ID, will be required. This information is not shared or exchanged with any party and is used only to validate eligibility under this program. Additional shipping charges may apply when shipped outside of the contiguous 48 states.

This program is available exclusively to USA licensed amateur radio operators.

Check out the contents of the Jumpstart package in this [unboxing video](#).

## GENERAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE (GMRS)

At a recent ARES meeting GMRS was one of the topics of discussion. As I listened, questions kept popping into my head. What is GMRS? Should ARES use it as part of their emergency communication arsenal? Can our ham (Part 97) or type accepted 80 radios be used for GMRS?



According to the FCC, GMRS is part of a triad of personal radio services falling under 47 C.F.R, Part 95. They are Family Radio Service (FRS), Multi-Unit Radio Service (MURS) and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS).

The Family Radio Service (FRS) is a private UHF voice communications service for facilitating family and group activities. The most common use for FRS UHF channels is short-distance, two-way voice communications using small hand-held channelized radios that are similar to walkie-talkies. The service is licensed-by-rule so the general public can use it without having to obtain a license. Channel sharing is achieved through a “listen-before-talk” etiquette.

Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) is also “licensed-by-rule.” It uses VHF channels in the 151 – 154 MHz spectrum range. The most common use of MURS channels is for short-distance, two-way communications using small, portable hand-held radios that function similar to FRS walkie-talkies. Like FRS, a license is not required for an entity to operate MURS as long as they are not a representative of a foreign government. Radios must be certified in accordance with the MURS rules outlined in [47 C.F.R. Part 95 Subpart J](#).

The General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is a licensed radio service that uses UHF 462 MHz and 467 MHz channels. The most common use of GMRS channels is for short-distance, two-way voice communications using hand-held radios, mobile radios and repeater systems. GMRS is designed for facilitating activities of individual licensees and their family members. There is a voluntary provision to render assistance to the public during emergencies and natural disasters.

FCC rules for GMRS limit eligibility for new GMRS system licenses to “individuals” in order to make the service available for personal users. (Some previously licensed non-individual systems are allowed to continue using GMRS.)

A GMRS licensee can use a combination of portable, mobile, fixed, and repeater stations consistent with the operational and technical rules in Subpart E of Part 95. The use of some channels is restricted to certain types of stations. In addition, certain channels are reserved for voice-only operations, while other channels allow voice and limited data operations. Family Radio Service (FRS) shares many of the GMRS UHF channels.

GMRS channels are not for the exclusive use of anyone. Licensees must cooperate in the selection and use of the channels under a “listen-before-talk” etiquette in order to use them most effectively and to reduce the possibility of interference.

A GMRS user can expect a communications range of one to twenty-five miles depending on station class, terrain, and if a repeater is used. GMRS stations cannot be interconnected using public switched telephone networks for the purpose of carrying out GMRS communications. Networks can be used for remote control of repeater stations. In other words, repeaters may not be linked via the Internet. Examples of prohibited uses would be to link GMRS stations to extend the range of the communications across a larger geographic area, something we do in ham radio. Linking multiple repeaters to enable a repeater outside the communications range of the handheld or mobile device to retransmit messages also violates sections 95.1733(a)(8) & 95.1749 of the Commission’s rules and potentially other rules in 47 C.F.R. Again, repeaters may only be connected to the telephone network or other networks for purposes of *(continued on page 8)*

## GENERAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE (GMRS)

(continued from page 7)

remote control of a GMRS station, not for carrying communication signals.

The GMRS spectrum is a shared “commons” service where users can hear each other and cooperate in the sharing of channels. While repeaters are allowed, as previously stated, linking is not allowed by FCC Part 95 rules as it can use up limited spectrum resources over a much larger areas than intended. Another aspect of GMRS is using type accepted radios.

*Be advised that as per 47 CFR § 95.1761, no GMRS transmitter will be certified for use in the GMRS radio service if it is equipped with capabilities to operate in services that do not require equipment certification, such as the **Amateur Radio Service** where Part 97 does not require type acceptance.*

*Additionally, all frequency determining circuitry (including crystals) and “programming controls” for GMRS radios must be internal to the radio and not be accessible from a radio’s exterior panel or enclosure. (That includes hand-held, mobile, and base station front-facing or external keypads capable of radio programming. Microphones with a keypad cable of programming are not allowed.)*

FCC regulation § 95.1767 sets [GMRS transmitting](#) power limits. As per the regulation the maximum [transmitting](#) power depends on specific channels and the type of [station](#) used for communication.

For stations [transmitting](#) on any of the UHF 462 or 467 MHz channels, each [GMRS transmitter type](#) must be capable of operating within the allowed power range. [GMRS licensees](#) are responsible for ensuring their [GMRS](#) stations [operate](#) in compliance with these limits. For each type of transmitter the following applies:

- . The [transmitter](#) output power of mobile, repeater and [base stations](#) must not exceed 50 Watts.
- . The [transmitter](#) output power of fixed [stations](#) must not exceed 15 Watts.

For the UHF 462 MHz interstitial channels (those used by both FRS and GMRS) the effective radiated power (ERP) of mobile, hand-held portable and [base stations transmitting](#) must not exceed 5 Watts.

For the UHF 467 MHz interstitial channels the effective radiated power (ERP) of [hand-held portable units transmitting](#) must not exceed “0.5” (one-half) watt. Each [GMRS transmitter type](#) capable of [transmitting](#) on these channels must be designed such that the ERP does not exceed the 0.5 watt maximum.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now that we understand the ins and outs GMRS, can a ham radio operator use GMRS?

First of all, a ham radio license does not grant you privileges to use the GMRS licensed only UHF channels. Of course anyone can use the “license-by-rule” FRS channels even if they are also GMRS providing they abide by the FCC rules. (Remember 0.5 watt transmitter and no use of a radio with a keypad capable of programming.)

Secondly, you will need to have a valid GMRS license as per FCC rules part 95.1705 to operate in the GMRS world. There is a grey area where if your employer or close family member has a license and you are authorized by them to use GMRS, you can be allowed. Remember your ham radio license does not grant transmitting privileges on the GMRS only UHF channels.

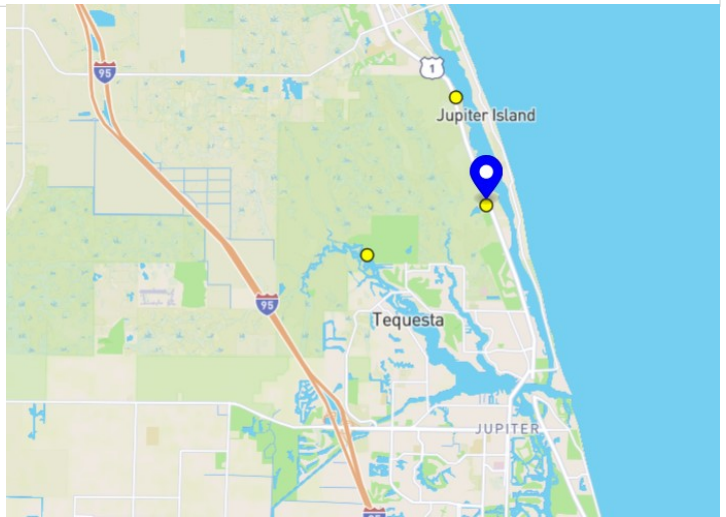
Finally, your ham radio, unless it's FCC Part 95E approved, is not allowed to transmit on GMRS only channels. If you intend to use the GMRS only UHF channels, in all likelihood your Chinese radio is not legal to use. So put away your Baofeng, etc. and get a legal Part 95E radio. Remember, the FCC may be listening!



# Parks On The Air (POTA) with Dick, K4NJ



Dick, K4NJ discusses POTA at a recent PSLARA meeting



[TCHN is excited to have Dick, K4NJ share his POTA activities. Dick has activated many local and regional parks. If you need help getting started with POTA, you can find Dick's email address on QRZ. He is always ready to answer your POTA questions.]

## Dick, K4NJ's POTA Journal

I am a lucky guy being unemployed. That means I have lots of free time to play. Over the past three months I have done 36 POTA activations.

It's just like fishing; you are outside, enjoying the fresh air and parks and you never know what you're going to reel in for a call sign. Running 30 watts and a hamstick dipole up 16 feet on a painters pole has caught me England, Spain, Costa Rica, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, Azores, Canada, and almost all the US states.

After calling CQ a reply came back from Michigan and as luck would have it, it was a 5-9+10 over. Each of the kids got to say hello from Florida and give their age.

I think the 15-year old was pumped up enough to think about getting his tech ticket.

Anyone is welcome to join me any time as a second operator, or just as an observer.

Cheerio, Dick  
73, K4NJ

\* \* \* \* \*

Jonathan Dickinson State Park	
Reference:	US-1887
Entity:	United States of America
Location:	US-FL
Latitude/Longitude	27.0035, -80.1013 (EL97wa)
Early Shift Award Times:	7:00 UTC to 13:00 UTC
Late Shift Award Times:	23:00 UTC to 7:00 UTC
Website:	<a href="https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/jonathan-dickinson-state-park">https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/jonathan-dickinson-state-park</a>
Access Methods:	Automobile/Foot
Activation Methods:	Automobile/Campground/Pedestrian/Shelter
Is Active:	Active
First Activation:	AB4WL on 2017-01-01
Stats:	299 Activations/313 attempts

Parks on the Air® Hunter Guide



[Parks on the Air® Hunter Guide](#)

written by K8ZRY is a definitive guide intended to help hams wishing to learn about POTA and how to make successful activations.

If you are new to POTA style operating and don't have access to an experienced POTA activator such as Dick, the guide will be very beneficial, covering every aspect of POTA activations.

The last time I activated, Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Jupiter, a family with four children under 15 years of age I asked what I was doing. It's hard to believe, but they never heard of Amateur Radio.

Operating POTA is a fun experience. If you have limited ham operating experience only from your residence, POTA can be just what you need.

Try it and you will be hooked!



## HF & DX Group Notes

The HF & DX Group continues to meet monthly. The group's most recent meeting was held on November 8, 2024 at the Bob Evans restaurant in Saint Lucie West.

A nice crowd attended. All reported having a good time. The restaurant staff saw to it that our coffee cups were kept full, and everyone enjoyed a hearty breakfast.

Recent DX successes were discussed and logs were passed around for review and discussion. QSL cards were also passed around for viewing. A glance at the logs and cards shared by the attendees will convince anyone that there are some serious DXers in this group.

A continuing discussion topic is the ongoing outage at ARRL and the impacts it is having on DXers. While the logging function of Logbook of The World is working well, it is reported that the processing of award applications and certificates is still suffering.

A few local hams are reported to be impacted by the ongoing disruption.

Solar conditions remain favorable. DXpeditions are continuing. As we write this article in late November, conditions are good. Just in the past few days exotics such as South Cook Islands and Galapagos Islands have proven easy snags on 15, 12 and 10 meters.

Watch your favorite spotting networks to see who is on the air. There will be some good fish to catch in the coming months. Make sure you stay radio-active.

## Next Meeting

December 13 at 9:00 AM. Location: Bob Evans restaurant, 1830 SW Fountainview Blvd, St. Lucie West.

Meetings are informal. Come and join 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

Calculators  
[Online Conversion calculators by Digikey](#)

Close-field testing for every project stage  
<https://www.emcstandards.co.uk/close-field-testing-for-every-project-stage>

Basics of Near Field RF Probes: E-Field & H-Field How to Use  
<https://youtu.be/ctynv2kIT6Q>

TinySA spectrum analyzer  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5ZELMM2xseNkwVBtyAG00uZ-ewwWUdVIg>

Everything you ever wanted to know about every repeater on the air today:  
<https://www.repeaterbook.com/>

A useful reference for DXers & Contesters  
[NG3K Contest/DX page](#)

Broadcastify - The granddaddy of all remote scanner sites. Listen to public safety radio from all 50 states.  
[www.broadcastify.com/](http://www.broadcastify.com/)

Amateur Radio Newline - An independent weekly report of amateur news downloadable in mp3 or text format.  
[www.arnewline.org/](http://www.arnewline.org/)

A real-time spotting network. Updates every 15 seconds:  
[eHam.net/spots](http://eHam.net/spots)

## Email & Chat Groups

(Note: some groups may require registration.)

A group for railroad radio enthusiasts:  
<https://groups.io/g/RailScan>

Moonbounce / EME discussion group:  
<https://groups.io/g/Moon-Net>

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



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500  
Internet: [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)  
TTY: 888-835-5322

DA 24-1122

Enforcement Advisory No. 2024-03

Released: November 4, 2024

## FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

### REMINDER: AMATEUR AND PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES LICENSEES AND OPERATORS MAY NOT USE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMMIT OR FACILITATE CRIMINAL ACTS

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted and socially beneficial purposes, including emergency communications and speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. **Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.**

The Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting “communications intended to facilitate a criminal act” or “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.” Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios “in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law.” Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution.

Media inquiries should be directed to 202-418-0500 or [MediaRelations@fcc.gov](mailto:MediaRelations@fcc.gov).

To file a complaint with the FCC, visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or call 1-888-CALL-FCC. To report a crime, contact your local law enforcement office or the FBI.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

Issued by: Chief, Enforcement Bureau

47 CFR § 97.113(a)(4); *see, e.g.*, FCC Enforcement Advisory, 37 FCC Rcd 2390 (EB Feb. 22, 2022).

47 CFR § 95.333(a).

47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510.

## The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

*“According to studies commenced by Creative Communications lawyer and professor Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, antenna covenants take three typical forms: (1) covenants that prohibit all outdoor antennas, (2) covenants that prohibit all radio transmitting devices on the premises, and (3) those that require, prior to installing any “structure” outside the house, the approval of the homeowner’s association.” From ARRL Website*

On January 30, 2024 Senators Wicker(R) and Blumenthal(D) introduced a bill S. 3690 titled “Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.”

The proposed bill would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit the application of certain private land use restrictions to amateur station antennas, and for other purposes.

Section 2 of the bill states that Congress finds the following:

- (1) More than 770,000 amateur operators in the United States are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in the amateur radio services, and, by treaty, amateur operators licensed by other countries are authorized to operate within the United States.
- (2) Amateur radio, in addition to providing life saving emergency communications at no cost to tax payers, provides a fertile ground for technical self training in modern telecommunications, electronics technology, and emergency communications techniques and protocols.
- (3) There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of amateur stations established at the residences of amateur operators. Among other reasons, when an emergency arises, it can be too late, and too dangerous, to erect an effective antenna. However, amateur stations have been shown to be frequently and increasingly precluded by unreasonable private land use restrictions, including restrictive covenants.
- (4) Commission regulations have for more than 3 decades prohibited State and local regulation of amateur station antenna structures that preclude or fail to reasonably accommodate amateur service communications, or that do not constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accom-

plish a legitimate State or local purpose. The policy of the Commission has been, and is to require States and localities to permit erection of a station antenna structure at heights and dimensions sufficient to reasonably accommodate amateur service communications. The Commission struck an appropriate balance by enabling effective use of the amateur service without burdening localities and adjoining properties.

- (5) The Commission has sought guidance and direction from Congress with respect to the application of the Commission’s limited preemption policy regarding amateur service communications to private land use restrictions, including restrictive covenants.
- (6) In section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 303 note; Public Law 104–17 104), Congress provided guidance, direction, and authority to the Commission by directing the Commission to promulgate regulations that have preempted all private land use restrictions applicable to exterior communications facilities that impair the ability of citizens to receive television broadcast signals, direct broadcast satellite services, or multichannel multipoint distribution services, or to transmit and receive wireless internet services.
- (7) To further the public interest benefits that amateur radio brings to society, private land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair amateur operators from operating, installing, or maintaining effective outdoor amateur station antenna structures should also be preempted.

While the current FCC is supposedly reconsidering its land use preemption policies for amateur radio, there are a mountain of developers and HOAs that may not want our antennas ruining their communities despite the important role amateur radio plays.

Added are the upcoming changes to the US government, which may mean this bill will sit in limbo once again and once again hams will wait.

The ARRL has published a good read titled [“The Amateur Radio Parity Act: Setting the Record Straight”](#)

## News Updates of Interest

[Editor: Efforts continue at ARRL to fully recover from the security incident that occurred in mid-May, with a few systems still experiencing impacts.

The notes on this page are from the [ARRL.org web site](http://ARRL.org). This summary is being prepared on November 25, 2024. Note that it is possible some of the issues summarized in the following paragraphs may be resolved by the time you read this newsletter.]

Update dated 10/30/2024:

### VEC SERVICES

**“Processing Applications to the FCC and VE Session Counts Webpage.** We are processing Amateur Radio License applications to the FCC. This includes applications for new and upgrade licenses, individual applications, and club license applications. The VEC exam session upload webpage was not affected by the incident. The VE session counts webpage data entry programming had been unavailable since May 12th. That part of our program’s systems became operational again mid-October. However, there is a 5 to 6 month backlog of session and VE participation data to enter into the system. It will take some time for the session counts page to reflect the data correctly but will be updated as quickly as we are able. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding, as we work our way through the backlog.”

**“VE Accreditations, International Radio Permits and License Class Certificates.** As of mid-October, we are able to create Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and accreditation renewals are also being processed at this time. International Amateur Radio Permits and License Class Certificates are being created and shipped.”

**“VE Newsletter VE-List Server.** The VE Newsletter email program has been unavailable since the security incident in May. New subscribers cannot be added and existing information

cannot be updated. Please check back in with us when we have access to that program system.”

Update dated 10/23/2024:

### DXCC® System

“The ARRL DXCC® System has been returned to service, and our staff is again processing applications for credit toward DXCC awards. The queue includes nearly 3,000 award applications submitted via Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) accounts and mailed paper applications. We are processing the backlog as quickly as possible, and will provide additional progress updates.

For now, the online DXCC application will remain offline. Any new award applications we receive will experience significant delays as we work through the backlog.”

Update dated 9/25/2024:

### ARRL Financials

“The system we use for accounting was hit hard by the cyber-attack. Currently, the system is fully operational and the ARRL Foundation books are in place. ARRL’s corporate books are current as of 6/30/23, and we are working to load the balance of the data through 12/31/23. Once we are certain that the books tie to the audited 2023 financials, we will move to load the 2024 transactions, which are in digital and paper formats. That will take some time, but we will have all the data current in time for the 2025 Annual Meeting and the annual audit.”

Watch the ARRL web site for further updates.  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-systems-service-disruption>

# HOW RADIO DEFEATS CRIME *by Daniel Casey*

## *Director of Public Safety, Jersey City, NJ*

[Editor: This true story documents an incident that occurred in 1934, just one week after Jersey City's brand new police radio system was placed into service. It is from the November 1937 issue of **The ADT Transmitter**, a monthly newsletter published by ADT, the security company.]

### **Jersey City Attributes Low Crime Ratio to the Recent Adoption of Two-Way Police Radio Communication**

It is four o'clock in the morning and the painful stillness of the gloom is broken only by the clop, clop of a milkman's horse and the clink of his bottles.

Up the steps of No. 218 the milkman sprints, and as he opens the front door and steps into the tenement-house hall, a blast of withering heat and choking smoke rocks him on his heels.

One whiff is enough to tell him that the hallway is an inferno. So, dropping his bottles, he dashes down the street to the nearest fire alarm box.

The box is two blocks from the burning house. Hastening back to the scene to do what he can, the milkman is surprised and cheered to find an empty police car at the curb. The two officers who were riding in it are now inside the building. And before the first engine rolls up, the two policemen have carried to the street seven children from a building which before long will be in flames from cellar to roof.

This incident, happening one week after the Jersey City Police Department's two-way radio system went into action, is a marvelous testimonial to the efficiency of the service. And if we never accomplish anything else with it, the \$6,000 investment in the original installation was paid back many times over in the rescue of those children.

As goes without saying, however, the system is paying dividends in many other contributions to the preservation of the peace, the maintenance of public safety and the protection of the public. Some time ago, for example, three bandits held up a store near the Central Railroad Terminal and by telephone, we received from an eyewitness a rather meager description of the men and their car. Immediately every radio cruiser in that vicinity was dispatched to the scene, the operator at headquarters bringing the cars in in a sort of fan-shaped formation so as to cover every artery of escape.

Thirty seconds after the alarm went out the first cruiser spotted the bandit car, and notified the other approaching police cars of the location and direction.

We have car to car communication as well as car to station – and in another thirty seconds the criminals, wilting at the sight of cops coming from every direction, pulled up and surrendered!

It is easy to see why our original fleet of ten radio cars has grown to forty in three years. And it is interesting to note that in at least eighty percent of our fire alarms the police car beats the first engine to the scene.

This is no dig at the firemen, to be sure. It merely is another bit of evidence testifying to the emergency value of police radio. With our men already on the street and ready to go, it is no trick at all to get a car there ahead of the firemen, who start from scratch.

Obviously, speed is a factor of para-mount importance in the suppression of crime – especially the type of crime involving a stick-up, the quick seizure of exposed valuables or cash, and the hurried getaway. At any moment we have at least sixteen patrol cars on the streets which can converge on a given point under explicit instructions from headquarters, receiving minute-to-minute advices from the dispatcher as well as maintaining constant communication with each other while in route. Thus, instead of the old-time picture of the cops panting along blindly many minutes after the crime, we now see them swirling into action in a strategic formation which is effective not only because it is fast, but also because it is so flexible that it can be changed on a second's notice to meet a changing situation.

This is policing as it should be. And when you back that up with private protective systems which give automatic alarms through supervised central stations while the crime is still in progress instead of after it's all over, you've got a set-up that the smartest crooks will find exceedingly difficult to beat.

(Editor's note: **The ADT Transmitter** was published from 1929 to 1970. This issue, volume 9 issue 10, and assorted other issues are available for reading and download from the Treasure Coast Hams web site: [www.treasurecoasthams.com](http://www.treasurecoasthams.com))

## SKYWARN™ Recognition Day December 7, 2024

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service and ARRL to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN™ volunteers. Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN™ spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. The ham-volunteers can also provide vital communications between NWS and local emergency management officials when other means go down.

In a video posted to the SRD web page, National Weather Service Director Ken Graham, WX4KEG, said the information ham radio operators and other SKYWARN™ volunteers provide is critical. "I, along with the entire National Weather Service, want to acknowledge and thank you for your invaluable service to the communities we serve."

There will be a SRD special event from 0000 - 2359 UTC on the day. The objective is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN™ Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands.

ARRL will be on the air during the event from the ARRL Radio Laboratory station, WIHQ, using the call sign WX1AW. ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said SRD is a great opportunity to welcome non-ham SKYWARN™ volunteers to explore amateur radio. "Storm spotting was my original draw into ham radio. I watched a large tornado tear up my community on May 3, 1999, and was listening via my mom's 2-meter mobile radio to spotter reports being relayed to the NWS Norman, Oklahoma, office. I knew I wanted to be a part of that and within months I was licensed. Amateur radio was my path into that community service and has been the hobby of a lifetime ever since," she said.

ARRL has a web page to help those interested with getting licensed. Find details at: [www.arrl.org/getting-licensed](http://www.arrl.org/getting-licensed).

Spotters are encouraged to register for SRD at: [www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition](http://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition). There will be participation certificates available after the event.

(From ARRL Special Bulletin 7 ARLX007)

## Are International Reply Coupons (IRC) Still Valid to Use

The only countries in which IRCs are still valid are those that are members of the U.P.U. (Universal Postal Union). Somewhere online there must be such a list, but I haven't searched for it.

In the former Soviet Union, as well as Cuba and the PRC, it is illegal for their citizens to receive U.S. Dollars; so if you send any, you will put the recipient in trouble with the authorities. In other countries, such as formerly communist (as well as most other developing nations), your dollars will most likely be pilfered by postal officials, and the QSL you sent, just trashed.

I've been through this before in sending "green stamps" to several places, including the Russian Federation, and countries in the Middle East. I can't get a QSL from Afghanistan because the QSL Manager is in Russia, and he only accepts IRCs. Unless you take extraordinary precautions when sending cash, your envelope will be searched before delivery, and the money stolen. I've already mentioned what some of those extraordinary precautions are.

To get a QSL from Lebanon, it cost me \$15.00 (about 20 years ago) because I had to send my card by Special Delivery. If I didn't, the operator said, he'd never get my card. Yes, he did get mine, and I got his, but only because I did as he instructed.

It's a tough world out there, but I'd rather work an **ATNO** (**A**ll **T**ime **N**ew **O**ne) again, and try another QSL route than use LoTW. A real QSL has far more value to me than a data entry, even though sending real cards costs more. The real thing in hand is worth far more to this old DXer than a data entry. YMMV

73, Fred, KR2H

\* \* \* \* \*

It's notable that IRCs were at the center of a Ponzi scheme in 1919: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/behind-the-badge-case-histories-scams-and-schemes/ponzi-scheme>.

Chuck KF8TI

## The Frugal Ham



*In the Fall TCHN newsletter I discussed troubleshooting a Yaesu FT-1000 with*

*receive issues. In this newsletter we finish the initial troubleshooting and get the radio receiver portion working.*

*SDR technology is being adopted by ham radio vendors at breakneck speed. And why not. SDR radios are much cheaper to develop and produce. Are we at the end of the road for analog radios? Yes, as far as the vendors are concerned, but maybe not for many hams who use FT-1000 series and similar radios on a regular basis.*

*Can these analog superheterodyne radios hold their own? Experienced hams that have well honed operating skills would most likely say yes. Look at their DXCC ratings.*

**A word of caution:** As I learned during the troubleshooting process, the Yaesu FT-1000 is a very complex radio. It uses multiple microprocessors with firmware for key functions, has over 20 functional circuit boards with many through-the-hole and surface mount parts. There are hundreds of inter-board connections. Unfortunately, because of its age, certain replacement parts are becoming difficult, if not impossible, to find. Used FT-1000 boards are available on eBay and other sources, but beware if you buy one. They are pulls from old FT-1000s and while they may fix a problem, they may introduce others. If you go that route do your due diligence.

With any troubleshooting effort, knowledge is your power and can take many forms. Manufacturer technical support manuals are very important, especially if board diagrams, schematics, parts lists and test points are included. Even better if troubleshooting guides are included. YouTube videos can also be helpful in identifying issues. There are individuals and companies that repair older radios. I have included a list at the end of this article.

Yaesu can't (won't) offer assistance or parts. Their support of radios older than a decade or so is not available. That's understandable.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Restating the obvious:** Knowledge of troubleshooting techniques is important. My first attempt,

was too rushed. It didn't take very long for me to realize my initial results were not based on sound troubleshooting techniques. It was time to start over.

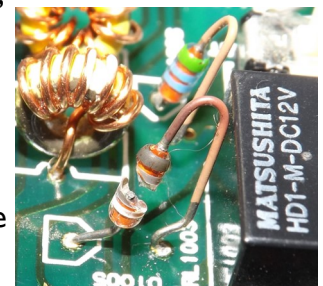
\* \* \* \* \*

**Troubleshooting Part 2:** Starting with the radio's SO-239 antenna connector, I traced the path through the SWR protection board to the Low Pass Filter (LPF) board's T/R reed relay. The relay is a sealed unit and a known problem with FT-1000 radios. A typical problem is the contacts. On the Internet I saw a picture of the T/R relay with holes drilled into the cover to spray in contact cleaner. It seems to me aluminum filings from drilling holes would get into the interior of the housing and potentially further impact the relay. With a new relay no longer available, the best solution I found was a similar relay. It is mounted on a piece of perf board and has soldered extension wires from the relay to the LPF board. (Note: For most repairs, individual boards will need to be removed for soldering replacement parts.)



My first test indicated a good relay, but I decided to retest just to make sure. It worked okay. Despite a good test I still plan to keep an eye out for a replacement T/R relay in case it fails again.

From the LPF board I traced the signal path to the RF Unit. In my original troubleshooting I thought several PIN diodes were bad. Fortunately, these weren't PIN diodes. Rather, they were a 1N60 variety. I did not have 1N60s in my parts bin, but did have 1N34As. Comparing specs, they looked okay to use. I gently wiggled the first diode and it crumbled leaving tiny pieces on the board. The other diode did not have the same fate, but was bad none-the-less. It stayed in one piece. I removed the RF board screws and detached the connectors. (Note 1: Take pictures. It will pay dividends if you remove boards. Also color code (continued on page 17)





## The Frugal Ham

(continued from page 16)

the board connectors and their bases.) Once that was done I lifted the board out and set it on my work bench. An hour later the new diodes were soldered and the board was back in place. At this point I decided to power up the radio to check the my progress.

Clicking the power button I heard an unholy squeal emanating from the speaker. Were the IN34As not good substitutes after all? I poured through the technical and operating manuals. Nothing found. I checked each IN34As orientation. Correct. Now what? Board connectors? Maybe. I spent another hour removing connectors, shooting a little contact cleaner in their bases and reinserting them. Powered up the radio again. The squeal was gone. (Note 2: Pay closer attention to those inter-board connectors.) I reconnected the antenna and again clicked the power button. Tuning the ham bands I heard SSB stations. Next I switched to CW and ditto for CW stations. Lastly, I switched to AM mode, tuned and heard noise. What now? I tuned the AM band some more and was greeted with significant distortion unless the AF gain control was low.

I suspected electrolytic capacitors on the AF board. Most DVMs have a Equivalent Series Resistor (ESR) capacitor checker for out of circuit testing. Unsoldering AF board electrolytic capacitors, testing them with the DVM and re-soldering would be a task and points of failure with those connectors, again. On the Internet I found an ESR meter that would test electrolytic capacitors in-circuit. Using the tester I found four 4.7uf 35v capacitors were bad. Ok, back to removing another board and those pesky connectors. I unsoldered the bad capacitors and replaced them. I suspect there could be more as some distortion remains. Electrolytic capacitors can be a problem for any radio 2 or 3 decades old.

Is work on the FT-1000 finished? No, but I'm glad the FT-1000 is receiving again. And for my ham friend, a transceiver he treasured is again tuning the ham bands, ready for more years of happy use. Remember just because a radio is old doesn't mean it is not capable of operating in today's ham radio world.

*The Frugal Ham*

### BELIEVED TO BE REPAIRING OLDER RADIOS

#### **Affordable Radio Repair**

Mike Alexander, N0BXE (503-554-8831)  
527 N. Frazier Ave, Florence, Co. 81226  
[www.affordableradiorepair.com](http://www.affordableradiorepair.com)

#### **Ham Repair.com**

214-476-5107  
1230 Flagstone Dr, San Antonio, Texas 78260  
[www.Hamrepair.com](http://www.Hamrepair.com)

#### **LPC Wireless**

John S Bolduc NI4NR (386-774-9921)  
[lpcwireless@cfl.rr.com](mailto:lpcwireless@cfl.rr.com)  
4851 SW Shasta Ct, Dunnellon, FL 34431  
John's email (QRZ): [hydroactions@yahoo.com](mailto:hydroactions@yahoo.com)

#### **Mid America Technologies Inc.**

816-223-3246  
4129 NE Georgian Dr, Lee's Summit, MO 64064

#### **Midwest Technical Services** (No longer services FT-1000)

Tim Moes WD0FKC (605-882-1706 605-881-2935)  
1244 S Lake Dr, Watertown, SD 57201  
<https://www.midwest-technical.com/contactus.php>

#### **N4ATS Amateur Radio/Amplifier Repair** (No longer servicing the FL-7000 amplifier)

Bill Grassa - N4ATS (407)-873-3070  
4854 Sparrow Dr, St. Cloud, Florida 34772  
<https://www.n4ats.com/index.html>

#### **The Radiosmith**

Steve Yudell WA4F  
P.O. Box 4616, Clearwater, FL 33758  
[radiosmith@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:radiosmith@tampabay.rr.com)

### OUT OF BUSINESS

#### **Ham Radio Bug(WA4GEG)** (no longer repairing radios, but has help info, etc)

865-278-1092  
<http://www.hamradiobug.com/>

#### **Burghardt Radio Repair** (Out of Business)

[service@burghardtradiorepair.com](mailto:service@burghardtradiorepair.com)

#### **Comtek** (Out of Business)

2661 I State Hwy 3 N.W., Poulsbo, WA 98370

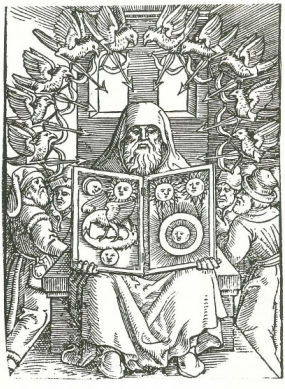
#### **Houston Amateur Radio Supply** (Out of Business)

800-471-7373

### FT-1000 USED BOARDS

**Adam Farber W4AJF** (His eBay ratings at 100%)  
Hamguy123 (eBay)

## Ramblings of an Antenna Alchemist



RG-6  
Quad Shield



RG-213 (RG-8U)



RG-58A/U



F to PL-259  
Adapter



In a time long ago if you needed coax you could head down to your neighborhood Radio Shack store. They sold coax in specific lengths with crimped PL-259s. Coax was also sold by the foot. Alas, those days are gone.

I still have a 100 foot length of RG-8U bought just before they left the retail store trade. I use it to feed a vertical dipole. Periodic testing of the coax has shown minimal loss and no moisture saturation. The Radio Shack cable continues to serve my needs.

Another source for coax cable was a Hamfest. The coax was typically on huge spools and labeled Belden, Certified, Saxton, etc. Then there were times when I was leaving a hamfest and would see coax on a table along with other items. It was nicely rolled with labeling saying RG-XX, but with a name I didn't recognize. Often, I wondered how many hams bought the coax only to find it had very poor shielding and exhibited high loss. *Caveat emptor.*

\* \* \* \* \*

So, it's a weekend and your latest HF antenna design is ready for airtime. All it needs is a length of 50-ohm coax feedline. You go to your antenna parts bin. "Now, where is that length of 50-ohm coax?" But no luck. What to do?

You could get on the Internet and order from your favorite ham dealer and wait a week for it to arrive. Or maybe call your ham buddy; but he is out town for the weekend. Dismay sets in and then a solution comes to mind.

When you were just starting out in ham radio, you learned hams once used 75 ohm coax. In fact a dipole antenna's nominal resonance is 72 ohms. Would 75 ohm coax work for an antenna designed for 50 ohms impedance?

With the advent of solid state transceivers 50 ohm impedance, RG-59 75-ohm coax fell out of favor. Well, at least for those hams who don't know history.

Today, 75-ohm coax (RG-6) is used mainly for cable and satellite TV. It works over a wide frequency range and has very low line loss. Although there is an impedance mismatch with our 50 ohm radios, it is not too significant. SWR would be around 1.5:1. This SWR is negligible for most modern transceivers. So why don't hams use RG-6 coax for general operating? It is readily available and costs multitudes less than 50-ohm coax and has very low loss.

Maybe it is that ham radio has become "plug and play." Our commercial radios and antennas have 50-ohm impedance. And don't feedline matchers give the radio what it needs, even if the antenna is not resonant at 50-ohms?

How do you use RG-6? First, it doesn't really work with PL-259 connectors. I know, I tried. But the Asian have come to our rescue with an "F to PL-259" adapter. Second, as with using any coax, watch your length. I find 1/2 wave multiples work the best. Lastly, as with any coax, buy the good stuff, not the junk you find in Wally World, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

An interesting use of RG-6 is to use it for impedance transformation. I did this with a 40-meter Delta Loop. Yes, I know you can use a Balun, but building a transformer with RG-6 is so much cheaper and I believe less lossy. Search the Internet for a 75-ohm transformer by typing: "Delta Loop 75 ohm 1/4 wave Matching Transformer." YouTube also has several good videos if you relate more to visual cues than reading.

73, [The Antenna Alchemist](#)

## Solar Effects & Definitions

[Editor's note: Many hams get glossy eyed on the topic of Mother Sol and how it impacts us. In this article Ralph - WDOEJA provides a basic understanding.]



### SOLAR EFFECTS AND DEFINITIONS - PART I

This subject is a career in itself. Terms and definitions may be expressed about radio propagation that are not clear as to what they mean. This article will look at basic principals of this science.

**THE SUN.** The Sun affects everything on earth. It not only gives light so you can read an article, but produces ultraviolet, X-ray, gamma ray and other radiations that hit earth. Every day, solar nuclear reactions are turning hydrogen into helium, releasing a tremendous amount of energy. If the sun's energy was measured in watts, it creates 60 megawatts per square meter.

**SOLAR WIND.** The Sun is constantly ejecting material from its surface in all directions into space. This is the "solar wind." Under quiet conditions this wind blows around 200 miles per second, or 675,000 miles per hour. It takes away about two million tons of solar material each second. Is it about to shrivel up? Hardly, it would take many billions of years for that to happen.

It sounds like we can be burned to a crisp at any time. However, the solar wind becomes quite dissipated as it moves out from the Sun. Despite the low density of the wind, it still has an affect on the Earth, especially its magnetic field.

**EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD.** If nothing affected it, the field would probably look like a bar mag-

net with predictable North and South poles. The solar wind alters the shape of the Earth's magnetic field. It compresses it on the side facing the Sun and elongates it on the other side, much like a tail of a comet. The solar wind is responsible for the shape of a comet also.

**SUNSPOTS.** The Sun is mostly observed as a brilliant fiery ball. However, it has been observed (they probably went blind) that there were darker spots on the surface. There are written records of observations over 2,000 years ago.

The Sun is always in a state of change. The change is daily. Sunspots can be observed traveling in clusters across the Sun from east to west. This is due to the rotation of the Sun. It completes a rotation in about 27.5 days. This is from our perspective.

**SUNSPOT NUMBERS.** The count varies, but there is a rough pattern. Approximately 11 years pass from one peak in numbers to the next. The more sunspots the more it affects radio propagation.

**SMOOTHED SUNSPOT NUMBERS (SSN).** This is an average sunspot count over a years time. This average helps to know the trend of the Sunspot activity. This helps in predicting what is coming up. Each smoothed number is an average of 13 months.

There is more, much more and I hope to follow it up in the next article.

73, Ralph WDOEJA  
BILAL COMPANY  
137 MANCHESTER DR.  
FLORISSANT, CO. 80816 U.S.A  
PH/FX: 719/687-0650  
[wd0eja@isotronantennas.com](mailto:wd0eja@isotronantennas.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

[Ed: Ralph, WDOEJA has been designing and selling his antennas for over 4 decades. I have used several of them when I found myself in antenna challenging environments such as an HOA or portable operating. Many hams believe bigger is better for antennas and there is some truth in their beliefs, but small resonant antennas can perform amazingly well. Just look at the small transmitting loops (aka Mag loops) being sold today.

Google "Isotron antennas." You may be surprised by the many positive reviews Ralph has received.]

# Radio at War: Medal of Honor Recipients



[Editor: There is no higher award than the Medal of Honor. Many service members were trained to

use radios. Some have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Following are two recipients who displayed courage and valor. They gave their lives for the United States of America.]

\* \* \* \* \*



## Specialist Kyle J. White US Army - Afghanistan

Medal of Honor Action: November 9, 2007. Specialist Kyle J. White distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a radio telephone operator with Company C,

2nd Battalion Airborne, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade during combat operations against an armed enemy in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan on November 9, 2007.

On that day, Specialist White and his comrades were returning to Bella Outpost from a shura with Aranas village elders. As the soldiers traversed a narrow path surrounded by mountainous, rocky terrain, they were ambushed by enemy forces from elevated positions. Pinned against a steep mountain face, Specialist White and his fellow soldiers were completely exposed to enemy fire. Specialist White returned fire and was briefly knocked unconscious when a rocket-propelled grenade impacted near him.

When he regained consciousness, another round impacted near him, embedding small pieces of shrapnel in his face. Shaking off his wounds, Specialist White noticed one of his comrades lying wounded nearby. Without hesitation, Specialist White exposed himself to enemy fire in order to reach the soldier and provide medical aid. After applying a tourniquet, Specialist White moved to an injured

Marine, providing aid and comfort until the Marine succumbed to his wounds.

Specialist White then returned to the previous soldier and discovered that he had been wounded again. Specialist White exposed himself to enemy fire yet again in order to secure a radio from a deceased comrade. He then provided information and updates to friendly forces, allowing precision airstrikes to stifle the enemy's attack and ultimately permitting medical evacuation aircraft to rescue him, his fellow soldiers, Marines, and Afghan army soldiers.

Specialist Kyle J. White's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company C, 2nd Battalion Airborne, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the United States Army.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Chief Radioman Thomas James Reeves, (1895-1941) US Navy

Thomas James Reeves was born in Thomaston, Connecticut, on 9 December 1895. He enlisted in the Navy in July 1917 as an Electrician, Third Class. Reenlisting after a brief separation from the service in October 1921, Reeves rose to the rank of Chief Radioman during the following two decades.

During the 7 December 1941 [Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor](#), he was serving on board the [USS California \(BB-44\)](#). When the ship was bombed, torpedoed and set afire, Chief Petty Officer Reeves assisted in the supply of ammunition until overcome by smoke and fire.

For this act of sacrifice and heroism, he was posthumously awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).

The escort ship USS [Reeves \(DE-156\)](#), 1943-1960, was named in honor of Chief Radioman Reeves.

*Let us never forget their sacrifice!*

## Upcoming Hamfests

12/13/2024 - 12/14/2024

### [Tampa Bay Hamfest](#)

Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council, Plant City, FL  
Info: <http://www.fgcarc.org/>

01/10/2025 - 01/11/2025

### [2025 SW Florida Regional Hamfest](#)

Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Fort Myers, FL  
Info: <https://swflhamfest.com>

02/15/2025

### [Highlands Co. ARC Hamfest](#)

Highlands Co. ARC Club, Sebring, FL  
Info: <https://www.highlands-amateurradio.com/>

03/15/2025 (tentative date)

MCARA's Stuart Hamfest, Stuart, FL  
Info: [www.stuarthamfest.com](http://www.stuarthamfest.com)



Location: Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32808

#### Dates and Times:

February 7, 2025 | 9AM to 5PM  
February 8, 2025 | 9AM to 5PM  
February 9, 2025 | 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 on the days of the event. Accepted are Cash and most Major Credit Cards.

Talk-In: Talk-in will be on the 146.760 (-600/ PL 103.5) KB4UT repeater. This repeater is a mix mode System Fusion repeater located in beautiful downtown Orlando and has good coverage throughout the central Florida region. Backup talk-in will be on the 443.050 (+5.00/ PL 103.5) repeater. DSTAR: K1XC 146.820 -.600

HamCation Information Station: AM610 Radio  
HamCation will utilize licensed, low power "HamCation Information Station - AM610" as a new tool to push information out to attendees' to include, traffic, weather info, parking and event details, as they approach the event.

For any additional info or questions please feel free to [contact us](#).

### [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.

\* \* \* \* \*

At a minimum each ARES organization has a structure made up of an Emergency Coordinator, one or more Assistant Emergency Coordinators, a PIO, a Training Officer, a Technical Officer and a Field Operations Officer. These positions are critical if the ARES Organization intends to meet its defined mission.

The Emergency Coordinator is responsible for preparing a yearly Emergency Communications Plan.

Another important area that the Emergency Coordinator should address is growing ARES membership. Many ARES groups are severely understaffed and if called on to deploy may not have enough members to do so.

With the ARES mission in a state of flux in many jurisdictions, it is incumbent that the ARES Emergency Coordinator be someone who is highly skilled in communicating, promoting and selling the mission to all levels of Emergency Management at a jurisdictional level.

Failing to do so may cause ARES to be disregarded as a viable volunteer emergency communications group that can be depended on by emergency management officials.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Area hams - Please consider joining your local ARES group. Contact the coordinator for your county.**

### **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 \(ARRL\)](#)

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

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

Events, nets and meetings are shown by week of the month (i.e. 1st week, 2nd, week, 3rd, and 4th week.)  
Should the month have a 5th week, refer to weekly nets as shown.

If you know of an event or meeting that would be of interest to Treasure Coast Hams, please let us know.  
Direct any changes to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

**WITH THE HOLIDAYS UPON US, CLUBS WILL BE HAVING GET TOGETHERS.  
PLEASE VISIT CLUB WEBSITES FOR DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS.**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 S T  W E E K</b>	<b>TC R/T Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC Emer. Net-8pm</b> 146.640(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA R/T Net-8pm</b> 145.150(-) (107.2) <b>OARC Club Net-8pm</b> 147.195(-) (100.0) <b>PSLARA Board Mtg</b> (check PSLARA.ORG)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.345(+) (107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B <b>OARC ARES Net-8pm</b> 147.195(-) (100.0)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>SLC ARES WinLink</b> Wednesday's	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA ARES-7:00pm</b> 800 SE Monterey Rd Stuart, FL <b>VBARC Mtg-7:30pm</b> Indian River Co. EOC 4226 43rd Av, Vero Bch	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
<b>2 N D  W E E K</b>	<b>TC R/T Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC Emer. Net-8pm</b> 146.640(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA R/T Net-8pm</b> 145.150(-) (107.2) <b>OARC Club Net-8pm</b> 147.195(-) (100.0)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.345(+) (107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>FPARC Mtg-7:00pm</b> Indian Rive State College Bldg R, Room 124 3212 Virginia Av, Ft Pierce <b>SLC ARES WinLink</b> Wednesday's	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>Vero Beach ARC Mtg</b> <b>7:30pm</b> 4227 43rd Ave, Vero Beach	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
<b>3 R D  W E E K</b>	<b>TC R/T Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC Emer. Net-8pm</b> 146.640(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA R/T Net-8pm</b> 145.150(-) (107.2) <b>OARC Club Net-8pm</b> 147.195(-) (100.0)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC ARES Meeting</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.345(+) (107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>SLC ARES WinLink</b> Wednesday's <b>SLC ARES -7pm</b> Zoom Meeting	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>Indian River Co. ARES</b> 7pm - Indian River EOC 4256 43rd Av Vero Bch <b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
<b>4 T H  W E E K</b>	<b>TC R/T Net-8pm</b> 146.775(-) (107.2)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC Emer. Net-8pm</b> 146.640(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.080(-) (107.2) <b>OARC Club Net-8pm</b> 147.195(-) (100.0)	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC ARES Net-7:30pm</b> 145.130(-) (107.2) <b>FPARC R/T Net-8pm</b> 147.345(+) (107.2) <b>D-Star Net-8:30pm</b> 444.500(+5) Port B	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>SLC ARES WinLink</b> Wednesday's <b>PSLARA Mtg-7pm</b> 500 NW California Blvd Veteran's Resource Ctr PSL	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC <b>IRC ARES Mtg-IRCEOC</b> <b>PSLARA R/T Net-7:30pm</b> 146.995(-) (107.2) <b>MCARA Mtg-7pm</b> 830 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Stuart	<b>Sunrise CW Net</b> 7123mHz @ 1300UTC	
	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	R/T: Ragchew/Traders Emer.: Emergency	R/T: Ragchew/Traders Emer.: Emergency

# Coax Cable Signal Loss

Coax Cable Signal Loss (Attenuation) in dB per 100ft*										
Loss*	RG-174	RG-58	RG-8X	RG-213	RG-6	RG-11	RF-9914	RF-9913	LMR-400	LMR-600
1MHz	1.9dB	0.4dB	0.5dB	0.2dB	0.2dB	0.2dB	0.3dB	0.2dB	0.1dB	.1dB
10MHz	3.3dB	1.4dB	1.0dB	0.6dB	0.6dB	0.4dB	0.5dB	0.4dB	0.4dB	.2dB
50MHz	6.6dB	3.3dB	2.5dB	1.6dB	1.4dB	1.0dB	1.1dB	0.9dB	0.9dB	.5dB
100MHz	8.9dB	4.9dB	3.6dB	2.2dB	2.0dB	1.6dB	1.5dB	1.4dB	1.2dB	.8dB
200MHz	11.9dB	7.3dB	5.4dB	3.3dB	2.8dB	2.3dB	2.0dB	1.8dB	1.8dB	1.1dB
400MHz	17.3 dB	11.2dB	7.9dB	4.8dB	4.3dB	3.5dB	2.9dB	2.6dB	2.5dB	1.6dB
700MHz	26.0dB	16.9dB	11.0dB	6.6dB	5.6dB	4.7dB	3.8dB	3.6dB	3.4dB	2.2dB
900MHz	27.9 dB	20.1dB	12.6dB	7.7dB	6.0dB	5.4dB	4.9dB	4.2dB	3.9dB	2.5dB
1GHz	32.0dB	21.5dB	13.5dB	8.3dB	6.1dB	5.6dB	5.3dB	4.5dB	4.1dB	2.6dB
Impedence	50ohm	50ohm	50ohm	50ohm	75ohm	75ohm	50ohm	50ohm	50ohm	50ohm

*It is always best to use the minimum amount of coax required in order to minimize losses*

<b>Attenuation in dB per 100 feet</b>							
<b>Cable Group</b>	<b>30 MHZ</b>	<b>50 MHZ</b>	<b>100 MHZ</b>	<b>150 MHZ</b>	<b>450 MHZ</b>	<b>1000 MHZ</b>	<b>2400 MHZ</b>
<b>LMR-100A®</b>	3.9	5.1	7.2	8.9	15.8	24.1	38
<b>LMR-200®</b>	1.8	2.3	3.2	4	7	10.4	16.5
<b>LMR-240 Ultra®</b>	1.3	1.7	2.9	3.6	5.3	9.5	12.7
<b>LMR-240®</b>	1.3	1.7	2.4	3	5.2	7.9	12.7
<b>LMR-400 Ultra®</b>	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.5	3.2	5	7.9
<b>LMR-400®</b>	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.5	2.7	4.1	6.6
<b>RG-174</b>	5.5	6.6	8.8	10.3	18.1	27.4	43
<b>RG-213</b>	1	1.5	2.1	2.8	4.4	7.1	12
<b>RG-214</b>	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.4	5.1	8	13.7
<b>RG-316</b>	4.3	5.6	7.9	4.4	17.2	26.1	45
<b>RG-58A/U</b>	2.5	4.1	5.3	6.1	10.6	24	38.9
<b>RG-8/U FOAM</b>	1	1.2	1.8	2.4	4.4	7.1	12
<b>RG-8X</b>	2	2.1	3	4.7	8.6	12.9	21.6
<b>RG218/U</b>	0.4	0.6	0.8	1	2	3.8	6.4

(Courtesy of Win System Amateur Radio Network)

# Treasure Coast Ham Doctors



## FT8: New SuperFox Mode

The developers of WSJT-X have a new version, identified as Release Candidate WSJT-X 2.7.0-rc7. It is available for download from their web site, [wsjt.sourceforge.io](https://wsjt.sourceforge.io).

Version 2.7.0 offers a number of improvements and new features including an exciting new **SuperFox** operating mode.

The WSJT-X web site describes **SuperFox** this way:

**SuperFox** mode behaves operationally like the old-style Fox and Hounds mode but uses a new constant envelope waveform for Fox's transmissions.

Messages can be transmitted simultaneously to as many as 9 Hounds with no signal-strength penalty, resulting in a system gain of about +10 dB compared to the older Fox-and-Hound operation with 5 slots.

Further details on **SuperFox** mode can be found in the Quick-Start guide posted here: [https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/SuperFox\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/SuperFox_User_Guide.pdf)

Other new features and improvements documented on the WSJT-X web site include:

### Spotting to PSK Reporter:

Spotting has been made more efficient. Redundant spots are omitted, and all posts are spread more widely in time.

If your station locator is changed, for example during portable operations, your new locator will be sent automatically to PSK Reporter.

### Hamlib Update:

A button **Update Hamlib** now appears on

the Settings → Radio tab. On Windows it allows the user to automatically download and install the latest version of the rig-control features in Hamlib.

### New Digital Signature:

A new digital signature feature is intended to greatly reduce spoofing by pirates.

There are numerous other new features, improvements and minor changes in version 2.7.0. Check the [WSJT-X web site](https://wsjt.sourceforge.io) for additional information.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FT8 Not Decoding SuperFox

Ed - KIAP, a relative newcomer to FT8 operating, shares his experience in getting **SuperFox** mode up and running for the first time.

Ed writes,

I wanted to share with you and anyone else information about a problem I had with the FT8 Super-Fox mode.

For the life of me I could not decode the SuperFox station S9Z (Sao Tome and Principe). I restarted a computer (from ground zero) and re-downloaded the new release program, but still no go. Normal FT8 mode worked fine (including Fox-and-Hound mode). The solution: I put all FT8 files in the program's X86 FT8 folder and it started to decode.

Still, I could not enter a call sign in the DX call window. I found that clicking call sign S9Z in the decoder window transferred the call into the DX call window and I was able to make the contact.

A two day effort!!!

ED- KIAP

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Editor: The **SuperFox** mode has much potential. The increased bandwidth of Fox transmissions should make it easier than ever to complete a QSO with a DXpedition. And the digital signature feature should greatly reduce spoofing of rare DX entities by pirates.]*



## Treasure Coast Ham News 2 meter and 70 centimeter Repeater Frequencies, WinLink RMS and Net Listings

The listings below are compiled from club websites, the 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) with your suggested corrections and additions.

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

Freq (input)	Freq (output)	Offset	Tone/Color Code	Call	Location	Sponsor	County	Use	Modes	Nets	Notes
144.5300	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: Tues 7:30p	Coordinated by FASMA
144.9900	144.9900			<a href="#">K4WOF-10</a>	Sebastian	J E Lineback	Indian River	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM Wide	Digipeat	
144.9900	144.9900			<a href="#">KG4ORQ-10</a>	Vero Beach	David A Wheatley	Indian River	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM Wide	Digipeat	
145.3100	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		Coordinated by FASMA
145.4000	145.4000			<a href="#">W4YTD</a>	Not listed in Repeaterbook.com	James K. Davis, W2JKD	Indian River	OPEN	DSTAR	IRC D-Star Net: Tues 8:30p	Coordinated by FASMA
146.0400	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: Mon 8p	Coordinated by FASMA
443.4100	443.4100			No Call	Vero Beach	From W4OT website	Indian River		P25		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
443.7000	443.7000	+5 MHz		<a href="#">W4OT</a>	Vero Beach	VBARC (Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ)	Indian River	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA
444.3250	444.3250			<a href="#">KJ4YZ</a>	Vero Beach	VBARC (Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ)	Indian River	OPEN	DMR		Coordinated by FASMA
444.3500	444.3500	+5 MHz	CC1, BrandMeister	<a href="#">W4JEA</a>	Sebastian	Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ	Indian River	OPEN	DMR EchoLink		Coordinated by FASMA as KJ4YZI
444.3750	444.3750	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">WB4HIS</a>	Sebastian	WB4HIS	Indian River	OPEN	FM (SARNET node)		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
444.8500	444.8500	+5 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">K44EPS</a>	Vero Beach	AT&T ARA South Florida	Indian River	OPEN	FM AllStar		Coordinated by FASMA
447.6000	442.6000	+5 MHz	CC1 NAC 293	<a href="#">KB1YBB</a>	Vero Beach	Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ	Indian River	OPEN	DMR EchoLink P-25		Coordinated by FASMA
144.5500	145.1500	-0.6 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">WX4MC</a>	Stuart, EOC	Martin Co ARES/RACES	Martin	OPEN	FM	MCARA R/T Net: Mon 8p	Coordinated by FASMA
144.8400	145.4400	-0.6 MHz	Module C	<a href="#">KB4DD</a>	Stuart, EOC	Martin Co ARES/RACES	Martin	OPEN	D-Star		
144.9900	144.9900			<a href="#">WX4MC-10</a>	Stuart	Martin County ARES EOC	Martin	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM Wide	Digipeat	
146.0250	146.6250	-0.6 MHz	110.9 / 110.9	<a href="#">W4JUP</a>	Hobe Sound	Jupiter/Tequesta RG	Martin	OPEN	FM		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
147.6600	147.0600	+0.6 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">K4ZK</a>	Stuart, Martin Mem. Hosp. North	MCARA	Martin	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA
443.9000	443.9000	+5 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">N4PSK</a>	Hobe Sound	N4PSK	Martin	OPEN	FM		
444.1500	444.1500	+5 MHz	107.2 / 107.2	<a href="#">K43COZ</a>	Stuart	K43COZ	Martin	OPEN	FM (SARNET node)		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
444.9000	444.9000	+5 MHz	CC7	<a href="#">WX4MC</a>	Stuart, Stuart Public Services	Martin Co ARES/RACES	Martin	OPEN	DMR EchoLink		Coordinated by FASMA
444.9625	444.9625	+5 MHz	CC5	<a href="#">KF4LZA</a>	Stuart, Allapatah Flats	KF4LZA	Martin	OPEN	DMR		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
444.9750	444.9750	+5 MHz	CC1	<a href="#">N4IRS</a>	Stuart	N4IRS	Martin	OPEN	DMR DSTAR Fusion		Coordinated by FASMA
147.6900	147.0900	+0.6 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	<a href="#">K40KE</a>	Okeechobee	Okeechobee ARC	Okeechobee	OPEN	FM		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
147.7950	147.1950	+0.6 MHz	100	<a href="#">K40KE</a>	Okeechobee	Okeechobee ARC	Okeechobee	OPEN	FM	OARC Net: Mon 8p	Coordinated by FASMA
444.0500	444.0500	+5 MHz	100.0 / 100.0	<a href="#">K40KE</a>	Okeechobee	Okeechobee ARC	Okeechobee	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA
144.6700	145.2700	-0.6 MHz	151.4 / 151.4	<a href="#">W3JFI</a>	Port St Lucie	W3JFI	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
144.8400	145.4400	-0.6 MHz		<a href="#">KB4DD</a>	Ft Pierce	Treasure Coaster Digital Group	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DSTAR		Coordinated by FASMA
144.9900	144.9900			<a href="#">W4SLC-10</a>	Ft Pierce	St. Lucie County ARES EOC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	VARAFM / VARA FM Wide	Digipeat	
145.5300	145.5300			<a href="#">W4SLC-10</a>	EOC (Midway Rd)	EOC (Midway Rd)	Saint Lucie	OPEN	W4SLC-RMS	SLC ARES	
145.5300	145.5300			<a href="#">W4AKH-2</a>	Ft Pierce (Rock Rd)	Ft Pierce	Saint Lucie	OPEN	W4AKH-4 RMS	FPARC	
146.3550	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: Thurs 7:30p	Coordinated by FASMA
146.7750	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: Sun 8p	Coordinated by FASMA
147.0150	147.6150	+0.6 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">W4SLC</a>	Port St Lucie, SLC *	Port St Lucie Co. Public Safety ARES	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA
147.3450	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: Tues 8p	Coordinated by FASMA
147.8400	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		Coordinated by FASMA
443.6500	443.6500	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">K4PSL</a>	Port St Lucie	PSLARA	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA
444.0000	444.0000	+5 MHz	CC1, Time slot 1	<a href="#">K4SRN</a>	Port St Lucie	Kurt E. Ellmers, K4SRN	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM DMR		Coordinated by FASMA as K4SRN
444.0750	444.0750				Ft Pierce		Saint Lucie	OPEN	Packet		
444.3500	444.3500	+5 MHz	141.3	<a href="#">KJ4YZI</a>	Port St Lucie, Savanna Club	Craig P Jerome, K4CPJ	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA as KJ4YZI
444.5000	444.5000	+5 MHz		<a href="#">W4AKH</a>	Ft Pierce	FPARC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DSTAR	D-Star Net: Tues 8:30p	Coordinated by FASMA
444.6000	444.6000	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">W4SLC</a>	Ft Pierce	St Lucie Co. Public Safety ARES	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA
444.8000	444.8000	+5 MHz	CC1	<a href="#">W4AKH</a>	Ft Pierce	FPARC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DMR Echolink IRLP		Coordinated by FASMA
444.9875	444.9875	+5 MHz	CC14	<a href="#">KF4LZA</a>	Ft Pierce	KF4LZA	Saint Lucie	OPEN	DMR		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
445.7500	440.7500	+5 MHz	CC0	No Call	Port St Lucie		Saint Lucie	OPEN	DMR		Not coordinated/listed by FASMA
447.0000	442.0000	+5 MHz	107.2	<a href="#">W4SLC</a>	Port St Lucie, SLC *	St Lucie Co. Public Safety ARES	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA
447.5750	442.5750	+5 MHz	110.9 / 110.9	<a href="#">W4RCC</a>	Port St Lucie, St Lucie Med. Ctr	R. Conrad Clark, W4RCC	Saint Lucie	OPEN	FM		Coordinated by FASMA as W4RCC
448.4750	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		Coordinated by FASMA
144.2000	144.2000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	SSB	SSB Calling Frequency	
146.5200	146.5200				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	FM Simplex	FM Simplex Calling Frequency	
222.1000	222.1000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	CW/SSB	CW/SSB Calling Frequency	
432.1000	432.1000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	CW/SSB	CW/SSB Calling Frequency	
446.0000	446.0000				Nationwide **	US Dept of Homeland Security	USA	OPEN	FM Simplex	FM Simplex Calling Frequency	

**NOTES:**

Repeater & Net information compiled from club pages, Repeaterbook.com, FASMA, & other sources. Believed to be correct, but is not guaranteed. To report an error, please email TCHN@gmail.com.

\* This repeater was located at Cleveland Martin Health Tradition Medical Center. It 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.)



From the weekly *ARRL DX Bulletin* and other sources.

([DX bulletin archives](#))

## COMING DX OPPORTUNITIES

**ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2.** A large group of operators are QRV as 3D2Y until December 4. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including 6 meters, using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to M0OXO.

**MINAMI TORISHIMA, JDI.** Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as JG8NQJ/JDI from Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, until the beginning of March 2025. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

**ANTARCTICA.** Oleg, ZS1ANF is QRV as ZS7ANF from Wolf's Fang Runway, Queen Maud Land, IOTA AN-016, until late February 2025. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW. QSL via DL5EBE.

**ANTARCTICA.** David, F4FKT will be QRV as FT4YM from Concordia Base, IOTA AN-017, from November until the end of January 2025. Activity will be on 20, 17, and 15 meters. He also plans to be active from the Zuccheli and Cassey bases on 40 meters. QSL via F5PFP.

**TONGA, A3.** Operators LZ1GC and LZ5QZ will be QRV as A35GC from November 25 to December 6. QSL via LoTW.

**GABON, TR.** Roland, F8EN is QRV as TR8CR until the end of January 2025. Activity is on the HF bands using CW. QSL via F6AJA.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.** Don, KW7R is QRV as V73KW until September 2025. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using mostly CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.** Janusz, SP9FIH is QRV as V73WE from until December 13 on 40, 30, 20, 12 and 10 meters. QSL via OQRS on Club Log and LoTW.

**SIERRA LEONE, 9L.** A team of 15 operators is QRV until December 8 on 160 to 6 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. OQRS on Club Log for QSL.

**SENEGAL, 6W.** Billy, F4GJE will be operating as 6W1RD on January 11 - 12, 2025. Look for him on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8/4. QSL via EA7FTR.

**FIJI, 3D2.** Theo, PA3CBH is active as 3D2TP from Suva until December 12. QRV during his spare time; QRP using CW and SSB. QSL via home call.

**REUNION ISLAND, FR.** Jean-Marie, F4JCF will be active as FR/call between November 24 and December 15. QSL via operator's instructions.

**HONDURAS, HR.** Gerard, F2JD will be operating as HR5/call from late November until late March 2025. Operation on HF and 6 meter using CW, SSB and FT4/8. QSL via F6AJA direct or bureau.

**SINT MAARTEN, PJ7.** Ed, N2HX is active as PJ7PL until December 18. Outside the contest operation in 'holiday-style' using FT8 and RTTY. QSL via home call.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TL.** Elvira, IV3FSG will be QRV as TL8ES from November 22 until December 9. Activity from 160 to 6 meter using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT4/8. QSL via LoTW, IK2DUW. <https://www.qrz.com/db/TL8ES>

## DX SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

**BELGIUM, ON.** Special event station OO80BB will be QRV from November 16 to December 15 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. QSL via operators' instructions.

**INDIA, VU.** Datta, VU2DSI is QRV as AU2JCB until December 16 to commemorate the birthdate of Indian physicist and radio pioneer Jagadish Chandra Bose. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB, and FM on 10 and 6 meters. QSL direct to home call.

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



### Special Event Stations

#### PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY



#### Dec 1-11, 1300Z-2200Z, W2W

ARC National Electronics Museum. 14.241, 14.041, 7.241, 7.041. Certificate & QSL: ARCNEEM, 338 Clubhouse Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21031. Will use W2W in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day & role of electronics in WWII. Primary ops will be Dec 1-7. Additional possible during the Dec 8-11. Digital modes possible. QSL and Certificate available via SASE.

Details at [ww-2.us](http://ww-2.us)

#### Dec 7, 1800Z-2100Z, N3TAL

American Legion Post 275 AR Team. 7.275 MHz (+/-) LSB. QSL: American Legion Post 275 Amateur Radio Team, 8201 Martin Luther King Jr Hwy, Lanham, MD 20706. [N3TAL275@gmail.com](mailto:N3TAL275@gmail.com), or [www.qrz.com/db/n3tal](http://www.qrz.com/db/n3tal)

#### Dec 14, 1700Z-2359Z, N16IW

USS Midway Museum Ship. 7.250, 14.320, 14.070 PSK31 DSTAR on Papa system repeaters. QSL: USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.

#### 60th Anniv. Amateur Radio Stamp

##### Dec 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, K7S.

Utah DX Association. All modes; 7.260, 14.260, 21.300, 28.470. QSL: Wesley Wilkinson, 7363 S Galaxy Hill Road, West Jordan, UT 84081-3961. SASE to receive your QSL. [w7wes@yahoo.com](mailto:w7wes@yahoo.com), [www.udxa.org](http://www.udxa.org) or [www.qrz.com/db/w7wes](http://www.qrz.com/db/w7wes)

#### QCWA Annual Special Event - W2MM 77th Anniversary

##### Dec 1-Dec 7, 0000Z-2359Z, W2MM.

Quarter Century Wireless Association. CW: 3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.050, 28.050. SSB: 3.810, 7.244, 14.262, 21.365 28.325 & FT8/FT4. Certificate: QCWA Activities Manager, 1613 Poplar Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864. [www.qcwa.org](http://www.qcwa.org)

#### Chicago Suburban Radio Association 100th Anniversary

##### Dec 6-Dec 8, 1800Z-2359Z, W9SW,

Berwyn, IL Chicago Suburban Radio Association. 7.240, 14.240. QSL: Andrew Martin (K9ASM), 1627 East Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402. <https://csraham.com>

#### Christmas Special Events

##### Dec 7, 1400Z-2300Z, W9WWI,

Bethlehem, IN, Clark Co. ARC. 28.400. QSL: Clark Co. ARC, PO Box 201, Sellersburg, IN 47172. Operating all bands & modes. A special QSL is available. [n9dprh@gmail.com](mailto:n9dprh@gmail.com)

##### Dec 12-Dec 15, 1400Z-2200Z,

WX3MAS, Christmas City ARC. 14.265, 7.270, 3.850. QSL: Delaware-Lehigh ARC, 14 Gracedale Avenue, Greystone Building, Nazareth, PA 18064. Dec 12-15, 1400 to 2200 UTC; SSB, FT8 on appropriate frequencies. [dlarc.club](http://dlarc.club)

#### Flight 19, The Lost Avengers

##### Dec 7, 1300Z-2100Z, K4P.

Parrot ARC Inc. 14.240, 7.210, 18.150, 21.315. QSL: Gerald Deitch, 2621 NW 105 Lane, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33322. [fogdad-dyl@gmail.com](mailto:fogdad-dyl@gmail.com)

#### Ike's UN Atoms for Peace Speech (1953)

##### Dec 14, 1400Z-2200Z, K3S.

Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7.1, 14.1, 21.1, 28.1. QSL: K3LU, 980 Patuxent Rd, Odenton, MD 21113. Single transmitter SSB and CW aboard N/S Savannah. Check spotting networks for freqs. Info on QRZ.com: [www.qrz.com/db/k3s](http://www.qrz.com/db/k3s)

#### Wright Brothers First Flight

##### Dec 17, 1400Z-2100Z, W8W.

Bellbrook ARC (BARC). 7.217, 14.317, 21.317; all bands, all modes. Certificate: Wright Flight-BARC. E-certificate only, email [WrightFlight@bellbrookarc.org](mailto:WrightFlight@bellbrookarc.org). OH 45305. <https://bellbrookarc.org/wp>

#### Edwin Howard Armstrong Memorial

##### Dec 18-Dec 20, 0000Z-2359Z, W4A

Bluff City, TN, N9EN. 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030. QSL: Bradley Ambro, 1118 Walnut Grove Rd., Bluff City, TN 37618.

#### Winter Olivia Digital Mode QSO Party

##### Dec 25-Dec 31, 0000Z-2359Z,

NW7US. Olivia Digital DXers Club. 14.071, 7.071, 21.071, 28.121. Certificate: Tomas Hood, PO Box 110, Fayetteville, OH 45118. 2nd Annual Olivia Digital Mode Winter QSO Party. <https://OliviaDigitalMode.org>

#### Battle of Trenton

##### Dec 26-Jan 2, 0059Z-0059Z, W2T,

Trenton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association. 14.280, 21.280, 28.430, 7.220. Certificate & QSL: Delaware Valley Radio Association, PO Box 7024, Trenton, NJ 08628. [www.w2zq.com](http://www.w2zq.com)

#### 155th Anniversary

#### Waco Suspension Bridge

##### Jan 1-Jan 12, 1500Z-2359Z, W5B.

Heart of Texas DX Society. 28.437 SSB. Certificate: Larry Merritt, W5DXS, 3200 Colcord Ave, Waco, TX 76707. <https://w5dxs.tripod.com>



### Special Event Stations

#### "Remembering WØJH Father Metcalf" at Belwin Conservancy.

**Jan 2-Jan 4, 1600Z-  
2300Z, WØJH.**

Stillwater, MN Amateur Radio Assn - SARA. 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360. Certificate: Shel Mann - NØDRX, 1618 Pine St W, Stillwater, MN 55082. This event pays tribute to the original WØJH, Father George Metcalf. As a WWII Chaplain for General Patton, Fr. Metcalf drafted the famous "Weather Prayer." The General and his troops believed it ended 3 months of cloudy, rainy skies in December, 1944.

QSL certificates may only be requested and will only be sent via email. Send requests with WØJH QSO contact info to: [WØJHrequest@gmail.com](mailto:WØJHrequest@gmail.com).

**IMPORTANT:** Only WØJH confirmed contacts qualify (See Radioham.org and QRZ.com (WØJH page) for more details.)  
[www.radioham.org](http://www.radioham.org)

#### 19th Annual Straight Key Month

**Jan 2-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, K3Y**

SKCC - Straight Key Century Club. 3.550 7.055, 14.050, 21.050. Certificate & QSL: SKCC c/o Ted Rachwal - K8AQM, 6237 Twin Lakes Drive, Kimball, MI 48074. K3Y/0 thru 9 plus KH6, KL7, KP4 and DX member stations in six WAC areas operating straight key, bug and cootie keys. QSL card confirms one QSO per area, up to 19 for all-area sweep. See URL for op sched/map, stats, etc. <https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y>

#### Battle of Princeton

**Jan 3-Jan 12, 0059Z-0059Z, W2P**

Delaware Valley Radio Association. 14.280, 21.280, 28.430, 7.220. Certificate & QSL: Delaware Valley Radio Association, PO Box 7024, Trenton, NJ 08628. [www.w2zq.com](http://www.w2zq.com)

#### Beaumont ARC 66th Anniversary

**Jan 11, 0400Z-1100Z, W5RIN,**

Beaumont, TX. Beaumont Amateur Radio Club. 14.258, 14.025, 10.136. Certificate: Beaumont ARC, P.O. Box 7073, Beaumont, TX 77726. QSL/Certificate go to our QRZ page or [W5RIN.com](http://W5RIN.com).

#### USS Midway San Diego Museum Ship Conversion 1/10/04

**Jan 11, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW**

USS Midway Museum Ship. 7.250, 14.320; 14.070 PSK31. QSL: USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. [www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)

#### REFORGER 85 40th Anniversary

**Jan 17-Jan 31, 0001Z-2359Z, W9R,**

W9AFB. 7.250. Certificate & QSL: Scott Grams, General Delivery, Salem, WI 53168. Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the 1985 REFORGER ("REturn of FORces to GERmany"), an annual military exercise & campaign by NATO during the Cold War. The exercise was intended to ensure that NATO had the ability to quickly deploy forces to

West Germany. See W9R QRZ page.

<https://www.qrz.com/db/W9R>

#### Discovery of Gold in California

**Jan 25-Jan 27, 1700Z-0100Z,**

**AG6AU.** El Dorado County ARC. 7.248, 14.248, 21.348, 28.348. QSL: El Dorado County ARC, PO Box 451, Placerville, CA 95667. [edcarc.net](http://edcarc.net)

#### Winter Field Day

**Jan 25-Jan 26, 1900Z-1859Z,**

**W2GSB.** Great South Bay ARC. 28.340, 21.250, 14.246, 7.245. Certificate: W2GSB, PO Box 1356, Lindenhurst, NY. [WWW.GSBARC.ORG](http://WWW.GSBARC.ORG)

#### George Washington's Birthday

**Feb 21-Feb 23, 1700Z-2100Z,**

**WS7G,** George, WA. COLUMBIA BASIN DX CLUB. 14.322, 14.255, 7.222, 7.260. Certificate & QSL: BRIAN NIELSON, 11650 Road 1 Southeast, Moses Lake, WA 98837.

<https://cbn.homestead.com/ws7g.html>

#### 21st Annual Freeze Your Keys

**Feb 22, 1400Z-2200Z, W0EBB.**

Kickapoo QRP ARC. 7.035 CW, 7.240 SSB, 14.058 CW, 14.325 SSB. QSL: Gary Auchard, 34058 167th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. SASE for a return QSL card. [w0mna74@gmail.com](mailto:w0mna74@gmail.com)

#### Idaho QSO Party (Spud Run)

**Mar 9-Mar 10, 1900Z-1900Z, K7U.**

Twin Falls, ID Magic Valley Amateur Radio Club. 7260, 14260, 21335. Certificate: K7U, 6424 Ustick Rd., Nampa, ID 83687. Will be operating from Canyon County. <https://www.idahoqsoparty.org>

#### Sun & Fun Expo Fly In

**Apr 1-Apr 6, 1000Z-2000Z, W4S,**

Lakeland ARC. 14.275, 29.000, 21.300, 18.150. QSL: Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 90853, Lakeland, FL 33804. [hawkerpilot45@gmail.com](mailto:hawkerpilot45@gmail.com)

*For more info see ARRL and Internet sources.*

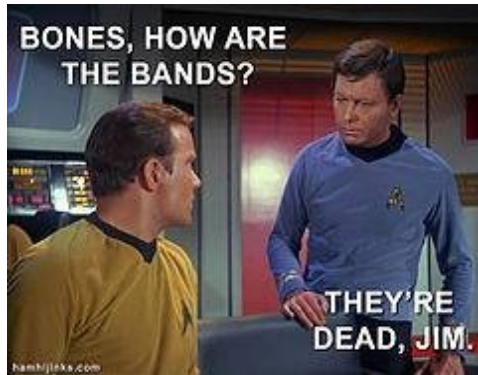
# Ham Humor



A Modern Amateur Radio Operator is hard at work. "What's he doing," you ask? Why he's inventing either a new digital mode or a teleportation machine... whichever comes first!

I tried to explain AM radio to my grandkids. They just looked at me with blank stares. I guess you could say they weren't tuned in.

Ham 1 — Hey, I hear Old Megawatt is retiring from Ham Radio.  
 Ham 2 — Yeah, but I've heard him say that before.  
 Ham 1 — I know, but this time the FCC said it!



Meet the ham radio cheerleading squad



Yes, it's a real ham radio!

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

Treasure Coast Ham News (TCHN) and the 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](#)

## Treasure Coast Club News

### Port St. Lucie Amateur Radio Association

Meetings are held monthly throughout the year on the 4th Wednesday of the month, except for November and December. The November meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday and there is no regular December meeting.

In place of the regular meeting, a holiday social is planned for mid-December. Club members should watch their email and listen to club nets for further information.

The next formal club meeting will be on January 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Meetings are normally held at the Veterans' Center at IRSC, Saint Lucie West. Be sure to watch the club [web site](#) in case the meeting venue should change for 2025.

PSLARA invites visitors to attend their meetings. So be sure to bring a friend.

### 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, held yearly in March at the Martin County Fairgrounds. Area hams owe MCARA a big **THANK YOU** for sponsoring this event every year. Everyone looks forward to another exciting event in 2025.

### Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club

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

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.

The club will not meet in December. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Additional information is available on the club's [web site](#). Visitors are always welcome at Fort Pierce meetings. Come join us.

### Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club

VBARC was formed in November, 1961. Today the club has over 100 members and serves all of Indian River County. The club's next meeting will be on December 12 at 7:30 PM at the Indian River County EOC, 4225 43rd

Ave, Vero Beach. Visitors are always welcome at club meetings.

Visit the club's [web site](#) for lots of useful information.

### 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](#).

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** - Al, NX2Q, has a vacant lot for sale at: 1160 SE Sandia Dr. Port St Lucie FL The lot depth is 125ft and frontage is 80ft. For details, contact Al at 1-973-772-1279.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FOR SALE** - Bob, W7MAE is moving this fall and has YAGI antennas and a rotator for sale.

CushCraft A3WS 12 and 17-meter, 3 element beam with original factory manual - \$175 OBO.

TET Antenna Systems model HB43SP 4 element 10-15-20 2 KW beam with original factory manual - \$ 300 OBO.

Create RC5A3 Heavy duty antenna rotor and preset control box with original factory manual - \$ 475 OBO.

You can reach Bob via email to [W7MAE@aol.com](mailto:W7MAE@aol.com), or text him or leave a message at (772) 444-5845.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Have something to sell or trade? Or perhaps you need help with an antenna or equipment problem?*

*Drop us a line and we will post it on our [web site](#).*

*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 on our website. (If you send us a paper card, we will scan it and send the original back to you.)

**HP1CDW**  
PANAMA CITY, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Henry Lewis  
QTH Locator FJ09ga CQ Zone 7 - ITU Zone 11

Confirming QSO With	Year	Month	Day	UTC Time	Band	Report	Mode
AI4RB	2024	10	29	20:30	15m	-05	FT4

73, Thanks for the QSO. I hope to meet you further down the log. hp1cdw@gmail.com

I have also uploaded the contact to LOTW, QRZ, CLUBLOG, HRDLOG, HAMQTH, QRZCQ & @QSL

www.pcara.net www.c4fmpanama.org

**KD2NOM**

Confirming QSO With	Year	Month	Day	UTC Time	Band	Frequency	SNT / RCV	Mode
AI4RB	2024	10	29	20:30	15m	21.140 MHz	+09 +07	FT4

Don't Dead, Open Inside, 73!

**KE1VT** VERMONT USA

Kevin Emilio  
3985 Case Street  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753  
USA  
CQKE1VT@gmail.com  
Grid: FN34ka  
County: Addison

To: AI4RB This confirms our 2-way JT65 QSO  
Date: March 9, 2021 Time: 22:38 UTC  
Band: 20M UR Sigs: -04

**ZZ5GBA** Confirming QSO With **ZZ5GBA**

ESPECIAL GUARATUBA CITY  
Rua Alexandre Correia, 1051  
Guaratuba - Paraná - Brasil  
GG54RC 15 11  
253 Years of Guaratuba City  
ZZ5GBA@QSL.NET

ITU Zone 15 Grid: GG54RC CQ Zone 11

Estacion:	Fecha y Hora:	Frecuencia / Banda:	Modo:	RST:
AI4RB	07/04/2024 21:45	21.140250 15	MFSK	-04

The final courtesy of QSO has a QSL! Photo by Mauricio Matos - Guaratuba - Paraná - Brazil

**KI5NYZ**

John Hutchison  
P.O. Box 235  
Welch, TX 79377 USA  
ki5nyz@arrl.net

FST1\_X0

Confirming QSO With	Year	Month	Day	UTC Time	Band	Report	Mode
AI4RB	2023	10	31	19:59	10m	-11	FT4

73, Thanks for the QSO. Icom IC-7200, DX Commander Signature 9

ITU: 7 CQ:4 Grid: DM82wv Dawson County

**EA5GTU**

DIEGO  
Ruperto Chapi 21  
Cartagena - Murcia - España  
IM97LP 37 14  
diego30sd412@yahoo.es

Estacion:	Fecha y Hora:	Frecuencia / Banda:	Modo:	RST:
AI4RB	21/05/2021 22:03	18.101962 17	FT8	-13

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 [bertron@bftechnicarts.com](mailto:bertron@bftechnicarts.com). Phone 604-729-6454.



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