

# Treasure Coast Ham News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2020

## HAM DATES:

**April 4 & 5, 2020**  
Florida State Parks on the Air  
**(POSTPONED)**

**April 25 & 26, 2020**  
Florida QSO Party

## INDIAN RIVER CO.

**April 6, 2020**  
Emergency Net, 7:30pm  
146.640 (107.2) repeater

**April 7, 2020**  
Indian River Co. ARES NET  
7:30pm, 145.13 (107.2) repeater

**April 9, 2020**  
Vero Beach ARC Meeting  
7:30pm, Indian River Co. EOC  
43<sup>rd</sup> Ave, just north of 41<sup>st</sup> St.

**April 24, 2020**  
Indian River Co. ARES  
7:30pm, IRC EOC  
4225 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Vero Beach

## ST LUCIE CO.

**April 7, 14, 21, 28 2020**  
Ft. Pierce ARC Rag chew,  
Traders, Tech NET 8pm,  
147.345 (107.2) repeater  
Echolink: 2004 (V4AKH-R)

**May 6, 2020**  
St. Lucie Co. ARES NET  
7:30pm, 147.240 MHz (107.2)  
repeater

**April 9, 16, 23, 30 2020**  
Port St. Lucie ARA Rag chew,  
Traders, Tech NET 7:30pm,  
146.955 MHz (107.2)

**April 8, 2020**  
Ft. Pierce ARC Meeting on the  
Air, 7:30pm, 147.345 (107.2)

**April 15, 2020**  
St. Lucie Co. ARES Meeting on  
the Air, 7:30pm, 147.240  
repeater (107.2)

**April 22, 2020**  
Port St. Lucie ARA Meeting  
7:30pm, **(CANCELLED)**

## MARTIN CO.

**April 6, 13, 20, 27 2020**  
Rag chew, Traders, Tech net  
7:30pm, 145.150 MHz (107.2)

**April 9, 2020**  
Martin Co. ARES 7:00pm,  
**(CANCELLED)**

**April 23, 2020**  
Martin Co. ARA Meeting  
7:00pm, **(CANCELLED)**

## COVID-19: 30 Days to Slow the Spread

On April 1st, Gov. DeSantis issued a statewide Safer-at-Home order. The order goes into effect at 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 3rd, 2020. Under the order, only people engaged in, or are need of, essential services should be away from their homes. Everyone else should remain their homes to help slow the coronavirus spread around the state.



Businesses that are essential services are allowed to remain open to the public. The order defines essential services based on the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security's](#) list of essential services. Also included in the order are other businesses considered essential in DeSantis' previous stay-at-home order for Miami-Dade County.



## WB2REM Wins the April QST Cover Plaque Award

Congratulations to our Treasure Coast DXpeditioner, Jim Millner, WB2REM, for his April 2020 QST magazine cover and "[Doing Good in the Galapagos](#)" article about his 2019 HD8M Galapagos DXpedition.

Visit [QRZ](#) and query Jim's call sign for details on his many DXpeditions and published articles.

Well Done, Jim!



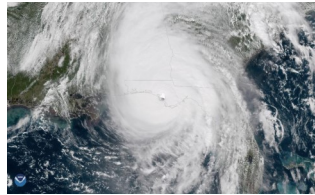
“Treasure Coast ARES organizations need your help in emergencies.”

# 2020 Florida Hurricane Season

The 2020 Florida Hurricane Season begins June 1st. Now is time to check your equipment, antennas and emergency backup power.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for mem-



bership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to fully participate in ARES.

Please contact your county ARES emergency coordinator for further information.

Martin County:  
Emergency Coordinator  
[Steve Marshall, WW4RX](mailto:Steve.Marshall@earthlink.net)

St Lucie County:  
Emergency Coordinator  
[Paul Horner, W4ISZ](mailto:Paul.Horner@earthlink.net)

Indian River County:  
Emergency Coordinator  
[Bud Holman, WA4ASJ](mailto:Bud.Holman@earthlink.net)

## VE Amateur Radio License Testing

### Updates from the VE Teams

#### New Licenses issued

PSLARA has one new license to report this month. The Port Saint Lucie Amateur Radio Association VE Team salutes Port St. Lucie resident Derek Allie for earning his amateur license. Derek successfully passed the Technician examination at the March 14, 2020 testing session held at the St. Lucie County EOC. Congratulations Derek! (Because of delays in processing due to COVID-19, Derek's call sign is still pending at press time.)

#### Coronavirus Impacts VE Examination Sessions

Government restrictions against public gatherings, and concerns for the safety and health of the volunteer examiners, have resulted in the

Port St. Lucie VE Team suspending all license examination sessions until further notice.

Testing will resume as soon as federal, state and local governments lift the ban on public gatherings. Look for a future email announcing the resumption of testing. Also watch for an announcement in a future issue of **Treasure Coast Ham News**.

Fort Pierce ARC has also suspended their license testing program for the duration of the emergency. They will make an announcement by email when testing resumes.

At press time, we do not have reports from Martin and Indian River Counties. If you intend to test with one of these groups, please check with the local club for updates.

For further information on

VE testing please contact:

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

Ft. Pierce ARC  
Jess Porter, [w4dns@arrl.net](mailto:w4dns@arrl.net)

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

#### New Question Pool for Extra Class License Examination

Don't forget the Extra Class examination question pool expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have been studying to take the extra class exam, you may want to consider doing it before the current question pool expires.

Now is the time to study for that license upgrade.



“National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators”

# Do you work DX??



by Bob Hatter, W7MAE

If you work a DX station you probably want that station's QSL card. An easy way to get it is to use the ARRL QSL Service. It's easy, and even better, it's free! You do NOT need to be an ARRL member to participate. Just follow a few simple instructions.

For complete details, go to the ARRL website, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). Click the "On the Air" tab, and select "QSL Service." Then select "Incoming QSL Service." Scroll down to the numbered area for

Bob, W7MAE, sorting a batch of recently received 2-letter #4 prefix QSL cards in his Port St. Lucie shack.

your call sign, which for most Treasure Coast folks is the fourth call area.

The 4-land QSL Bureau is divided into two sections. The first is for calls with one letter in the prefix (ex: W4, K4, N4, etc.); and the second for calls with two letters in the prefix (ex: WA4, KA4, AB4, KN4, etc.).

Single letter 4-prefix QSL cards process thru the Carolina DX Assn, manager W3GQ, contact [sturpe@gmail.com](mailto:sturpe@gmail.com). Two letter 4-prefix cards process via the Sterling Park ARC Bureau, manager W2YE, contact [rwmaylott@aol.com](mailto:rwmaylott@aol.com).

The QSL service is free of charge. All it costs you are some "forever" Stamps and some 6"x9" SASE (self-

addressed to you). When a DX station sends his card to you via "the bureau," eventually it arrives at one of the above two clubs where it is processed and sent onward to you - provided you have supplied envelopes and postage in advance.

The QSL Bureau is a free service provided by dedicated DX hams like Bob, W7MAE and his XYL Martha, W7KOY, who sort arriving QSL cards in their shack, and send them onward to their destinations.

Bob and Martha sort on average 5,000 to 6,000 QSL cards a year in their Port St. Lucie residence.

For more info email Bob, W7MAE, at [w7mae@aol.com](mailto:w7mae@aol.com), or Martha, W7KOY, at [w7koyw4@aol.com](mailto:w7koyw4@aol.com).

## Ham Radio Trivia

**Answer to last month's question:**

**Question E3B10:** Why is chordal hop propagation desirable?

The correct answer was:  
A. The signal experiences less loss compared to multi-hop using Earth as a reflector

Try your hand at this month's trivia question, which is drawn directly from the new 2020-2024 Extra Class License Examination question pool that becomes effective on July 1, 2020.

Answer will be revealed in the next issue. (If you can't wait that long, go to [www.ncvec.org](http://www.ncvec.org) where the complete question pool and answers are available.)

### QUESTION E9F09

What is the approximate physical length of a foam polyethylene dielectric coaxial transmission line that is electrically 1/4 wavelength long at 7.2 MHz?

- A. 10.4 meters
- B. 8.3 meters
- C. 6.9 meters
- D. 5.2 meters

Have an idea for a Trivia Question? Please submit it to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

*"Brush up on your radio knowledge and skills."*

## Cartoon Challenge



We've often heard it said that laughter is the best medicine.

The great comedian Bob Hope once commented, "A sense of humor is good for you. Have you ever seen a laughing hyena with heartburn?"

Another great comedian, Flip Wilson, said, "Get well cards

have become so humorous that if you don't get sick you're missing half the fun."

Well we certainly don't want to see anyone get sick, but in this time of stress created by the COVID-19 virus we can try to add some levity to the situation.

So let's all put our minds to

work and solve a simple challenge.

Take a look at the cartoon image above of a ham operating his radio. Your challenge is to come up with an amateur radio related caption for this cartoon that will make us all laugh.

Have fun and stay safe.

Send caption ideas to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com).

We will share the funniest responses in the next issue of **Treasure Coast Ham News**.



## DX News

from: **ARRL DX Newsletter**

### DX OPPORTUNITIES

VIET NAM, XV. Sven, HB9DXB is QRV as XV9DXB from Nha Trang beginning March 10. QSL via EB7DX.

ANTARCTICA. Club station R11ANC, Vostok Base is QRV beginning February 10. Activity on HF bands using FT8 with some CW and SSB. QSL via RN1ON.

NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9N. Janusz, SP9FIH is QRV as VK9NK until April 12. Activity

on 160 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL to home call.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

NETHERLANDS, PA75. PA75ASN active April 1 to May 7 commemorating 75th anniversary of Assen City liberation. Operations on 80, 60, 40, 30, 20, 15, & 17 meters, CW, SSB and FT8/FT4. QSL via PA0VCC, direct or Bureau.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Special event station DM30RSV QRV from March 24 to October 30. QSL via bureau.

CZECH REPUBLIC, OK. OL700DKA, OL700CO and OL700LTV QRV during 2020

to commemorate 700 years since first written mention of the town of Dobruska. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via operators' instructions.

TAIWAN, BV. BV120SU QRV until August 4 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Soochow University. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via BU2EQ.

ITALY, I. IO3RT and IO3AF QRV until end of May to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Arturo Ferrarin's first Rome to Tokyo flight. Activity on 80 to 6 meters, CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL both calls to IQ3BM.

Please send DX info to: [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

## Short Takes

### Florida QSO Party April 25 -26, 2020

Objective: "Everyone works Florida, Florida works Everyone." Activate and work ALL 67 Florida counties and have as much FUN as possible!

When: April 25 & 26, 2020. Two 10-hour operating periods, with a 10-hour break: Saturday, April 25 1600Z (Noon EDT) - 0159Z (9:59 PM EDT). Sunday, April 26 1200Z (8 AM EDT) - 2159Z (5:59 PM EDT). 20 operating hours total.

Exchange: RST and County (Florida stations) RST and QTH (State, Province or Country for non-FL)

Suggested Operating Frequencies for 10, 15, 20 & 40 Meters. CW: 7.020-7.045, 14.025-14.055, 21.030-21.050, 28.030-28.050 MHz. SSB: 7.185-7.245, 14.240-14.295, 21.320-21.350, and 28.450-28.480 MHz

Contacts outside these fre-

quency ranges are still valid; see rules for details.

Mobiles: We expect several mobile stations to be on the air and operating CW on 7.025-7.035, 14.040-14.050, 21.040-21.050, 28.040-28.050 MHz; and SSB on 7.230-7.240 and 14.265-14.275MHz

If you are not mobile, \*please\* refrain from calling CQ in these windows.

Categories: Single Op, Multi-Op, Multi-Multi, Mobile, Expedition, Technician & School. Three power levels: QRP, Low, & High. Modes: CW & SSB.

### 23rd Anniversary Special Event Award - 2020 FQP Spelling Bee!

The FL QSO Party will also have 7 special 1x1 stations whose suffixes spell LOVE-BUG. Contact all 7 stations to earn the award. The stations will be on both CW & SSB full-time and should be very accessible. QSL these 1x1 calls via

KU9C direct or via the bureau.

For further info visit: <https://floridaqsoparty.org/>.

(thanks: ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager Barry M Porter, KB1PA, [kb1pa@arrl.org](mailto:kb1pa@arrl.org))

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### Temporary Ham Radio Q-Codes for Our Times

QLD: I am locked down.  
QUA: I am quarantined.  
QPD: I am in the middle of a pandemic  
QTP: I have toilet paper. Want to trade for a new car?  
QFC: I am flattening the curve.  
QHG: I need a hug.  
QSH: I am sheltering in place.  
QHS: I have hand sanitizer. Want to trade for two new cars?  
QSD: I am observing social distancing.  
QCV: I hate Coronavirus

(thanks: Scott Bertrand, AI4TT from CARA list server)

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Submit your Short Takes to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com)

**Ham Items For Sale** – This is where you, the reader, can list ham radio items for sale or trade. Our first list below is from Fred, W2FKF, who is downsizing. Bob, AI4RB, is handling the sale for Fred. Contact Bob at [brownpsl@comcast.net](mailto:brownpsl@comcast.net) to purchase items.

**Fred, W2FKF** (email [brownpsl@comcast.net](mailto:brownpsl@comcast.net) with questions)

| Item #   | Description  | Condition   | Price    |              |
|----------|--|-------------|----------|--------------|
|          |  |             | New      | Asking Price |
| 2        | Microphone - Yaesu MH-31BA   | Like new    | \$45.99  | \$40.00      |
| 5, 6, 7  | Muffin Fan - NMB 5 inch  | Like new    |          | \$15.00      |
| 8        | Filter -Yaesu XF-C 455K SSB-W for FT-1000  | Like new    |          | \$85.00      |
| 9        | AC Adapter - Radio Shack 3V, 200ma w/3 adapter plugs                                 | Like new    |          | \$5.00       |
| 10       | Gooseneck Mic Extension - 12-inch  | New         |          | \$5.00       |
| 11       | AC Adapter - Dayco Int'l 12V, 750ma  | Like new    |          | Make offer   |
| 12       | Antenna Analyzer - MFJ-247 HF SWR analyzer   | Gently used |          | \$75.00      |
| 13       | Heil HM-10 microphone w/wind screen. Dual element 4 & 5.                             | New         | \$150.00 | \$125.00     |
| 14       | Muffin Fan - ETRI 4-inch   | Used        |          | \$15.00      |
| 15       | AC Adapter - Radio Shack 3-6 V, 750ma  | Used        |          | Make offer   |
| 16       | AC Adapter - Craftsman 6V, 500ma   | Used        |          | Make offer   |
| 17       | Low Pass Filter - RL Drake TV-1000   | Used        |          | \$22.00      |
| 18       | Fan Grill - 5-inch   | New         |          | \$5.00       |
| 19       | Heathkit HM-102 Power/SWR Meter  | Gently used |          | \$35.00      |
| 20,21,22 | Muffin Fan - Whisper 5 inch  | Gently used |          | \$10.00      |
| 23       | Zip Drive - Iomega Zip-100 w/USB cable and power supply                              | Gently used |          | Make offer   |
| 24       | Microphone Head - Astatic D104 w/o element   | New         |          | \$35.00      |
| 25       | Code Oscillator - Lafayette model 99-25603   | Like new    |          | Make offer   |
| 26       | Digital Folding Multimeter - Micronta, LCD display (battery terminals need cleaning) | Gently used |          | \$25.00      |
| 27       | Wall phone - w/mounting bracket  | Gently used |          | \$5.00       |
| 28       | Rotor Cable - 8 conductor, approx 15 ft  |             |          | \$5.00       |
| 29       | Door Knob Caps   |             |          |              |
|          | 150pf 3kv (priced each) Quantity: 6  |             |          | \$6.50       |
|          | 1500pf 3kv (priced each) Quantity: 5   |             |          | \$13.50      |

FOR SALE

The editors intend to reserve the last page of future issues of **Treasure Coast Ham News** for use by the readers. With your help this page will include:

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

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

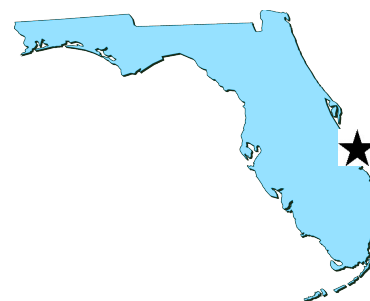
**Station Photos** – Send us a photo of your station or antenna farm. If possible, include yourself in the photo.

We will include photos each month as space permits.

Send your submissions for the Reader Page to [tchamnews@gmail.com](mailto:tchamnews@gmail.com). This is your page. Help make it a success by submitting your photos, QSL cards and For Sale listings.

That's all for now. See you next issue!

73, the editors.



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