



<http://www.pcars.org>

PCARS

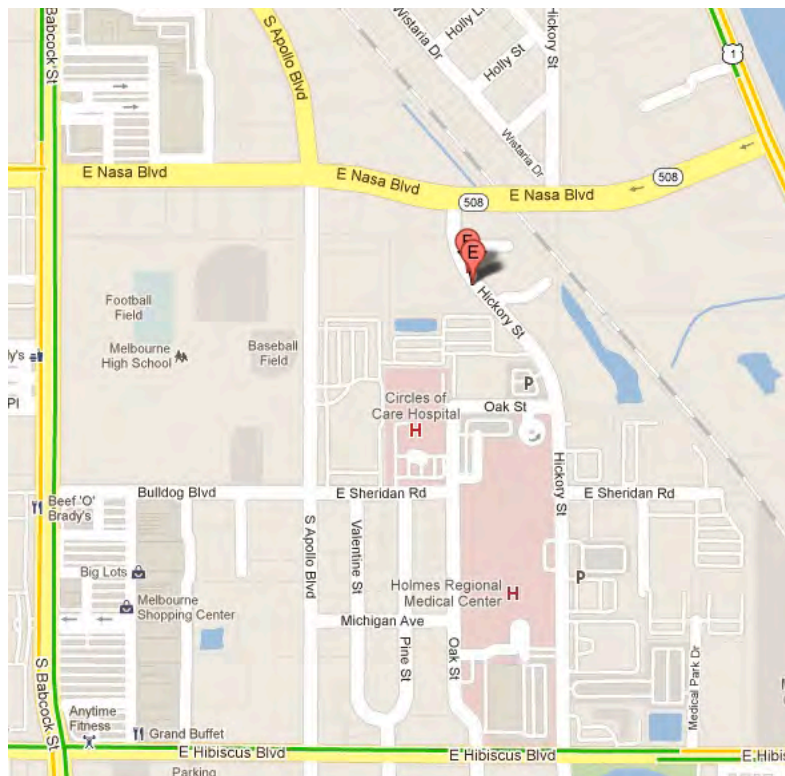
NEWSLETTER

Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society
W4MLB, P.O. Box 1004, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1004
May 2013 Volume 102 Issue 1

General Membership Meeting:

Monday, May 13th, 2013
Salvation Army Fellowship Hall
1080 South Hickory Street
Melbourne, FL 32904

General Membership meetings are on the second (2nd) Monday of each month at 7:15 PM.



Board of Directors meetings are on the third (3rd) Monday of each month at 7:15 PM.

May Program:
Again I Have No Idea

"It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license"

2013 Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society Club Officials



Board
of
Directors

| BOARD OF DIRECTORS | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---|
| President* | Eric Smitt | K9ES | president@pcars.org |
| Vice President* | Chuck Green | AD4ES | vicepresident@pcars.org |
| Secretary* | Bruce Goldblatt | K2ZEA | secretary@pcars.org |
| Treasurer* | Doug Imberman | K4IMB | treasurer@pcars.org |
| Custodian* | Tim Shoemaker | AK4ZZ | custodian@pcars.org |
| Director* | John Azzolina | KD4HHF | 1stDirector@pcars.org |
| Director* | Judy Gardner | AA9GW | 2ndDirector@pcars.org |
| Director* | Dan Fisher | AI4GK | 3rdDirector@pcars.org |
| Director* | Kathy Quinn | KI4RQY | 4thDirector@pcars.org |
| Past President* | Jan Heise | K4QD | pastpresident@pcars.org |
| * Elected | | | |
| Hamfest Chair | <OPEN> | | hamfestchairman@pcars.org |
| BEARS Liaison | Dave Stewart | AC4DS | patatty@cfl.rr.com |
| Club Station Manager | <OPEN> | | |
| Emergency Coordinator | Dave Stewart | AC4DS | patatty@cfl.rr.com |
| License Testing Coordinator | Judy Gardner | AA9GW | AA9GW@cfl.rr.com |
| NewsLetter Editor | Bruce Jarrell | NN4BJ | newsletter@pcars.org |
| Public Information Officer | Dan Fisher | AI4GK | AI4GK@cfl.rr.com |
| Refreshments | June & Jim Grantham | WB4ZMX | WB4ZMX@bellsouth.net |
| Skywarn Coordinator | Paul Gray | N0JAA | Pgray12@cfl.rr.com |
| Skywarn Coordinator, Ass't | Alan Dixon | N3HOE | N3HOE@arrl.org |
| Sunshine | Margaret Weatherly | | Taffy2826@cfl.rr.com |
| W4MLB Trustee | Marv Flynn | K4YWC | K4YWC@cfl.rr.com |
| WebMaster | Don Winn | AF4Z | webmaster@pcars.org |
| SBEN Net Manager | Tim Madden | KI4TG | tmadden@cfl.rr.com |
| Education Coordinator | <OPEN> | | |
| Need Help Ask The Mentor | | | PCARS Web Site "Mentor Help?" |

UPCOMING EVENTS:

63rd Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

11-May Sat

Dayton Hamvention 2013 "DX Hamvention"

May 17-19 2013

ARRL Field Day

22-23 June

**George Byron Fundis, K4PX (SK)
Born in St. Joseph, MO on May 26, 1939.
Departed on Apr 21, 2013 in West Melbourne, FL.**

[ED: The following reprinted with permission]

From: Jim Johnson

To: All

I first met George as AA4FC in the early 90s and really got to know him when the "Ole Florida Boys" came to prominence around middle 90s when we all were participating in the RTTY modem project. That project led all of those involved to go on a streak of Multi-Single contest efforts from the PCARS club station, many of which we won several plaques. Not only did George participate with the group, he hosted several of those events.

As a Single Op, I think that George's favorite contest was NAQP RTTY twice a year. He like it because it was a short 10 hour event and I think more because he and the rest of us would all get on the 61 repeater and raz each other while the contest was going on. I still remember WT4I proclaiming that he had "worked K4PX all bands" during one of the NAQPs. Great fun in those days!

Actually, George served the Club in many positions throughout the years. He was always ready to serve and participate. I remember when he was awarded the PCARS Life Membership--he was very proud of that.

George had a nack for successfully taking on the most tedious projects. I always marveled at some of the things that he did. He was very ingenious, I once watched him use a ty-wrap to hold and insert a small screw down the center of some tubing to hold two pieces of an antenna together. I would have never had the patience to do it, but George kept at it until he got it.

I am sure that George had many wonderful proud moments in his life many of which that I am not aware of, but these come to mind right now:

He was especially proud of his family.

This was before I knew him, but I do remember him talking about when he made Engineer at Harris Corp--he was very proud of that accomplishment.

Another was getting his Amateur Radio License. I remember George saying several times that he had to get his license so that he could test out an Heath Kit project that he had built. I think it was an HW-8.

George was always willing to help those of us less skilled. He was very helpful to me several times over the 20 years that I have known him. In fact, he and Bob Beecher had just recently helped me with a problem--I really appreciated it. I believe that George was working on the prototype of another club project. I know he enjoyed doing those projects/challenges!

I always looked forward to see him and the rest of the "Ole Florida Boys" at lunch on Friday when I was in town.

I am sorry to hear that George has passed.

He was a solid family man, had a great professional and Amateur careers and most of all he was a true gentleman! You will be missed George!

Jim Johnson, KC4HW
Fadette, Alabma



George Byron Fundis, 73 of Palm Bay passed away on Sunday April 21, 2013 at his home. He was a retired engineer for Harris Corporation, moving to Brevard in the 1960's from Missouri. A past member of the Palm Bay City Council, he also served as police commissioner. He was a Ham radio operator (K4PX), and a member of PCARS.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years Farris, daughters Suzanne (Brad) Steele, Tanya (Brian) Warman and Allison Cobb, grandchildren Rebecca, Nell and Ian, and a sister Susan Gray.

A memorial service was held Saturday April 27th at 11am at the Brownlie & Maxwell Funeral Chapel.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association.

George Fundis K4PX passed away doing what he enjoyed – Amateur Radio. George was a Life Member of PCARS, as well as a director, and the QSL manager for W4MLB. Our prayers and condolences go out to his wife, his daughters, the Fundis family and all their friends. PCARS has lost a valuable member who has always been an active part of PCARS club.

Memorial To Nelson Guadalupe Sr, K4FGV/AFA4XD (SK)
PM Indian Harbor Beach Lodge 354
Memorial held At The Vietnam Moving Wall, Wickam Park, 25 April 2013.

By: Jim Hough-AFA4BT/W5ZXO, Grand Musician, Grand Lodge of Florida

Brother Nelson Guadalupe senior...where do we start? He was such an extraordinary and unique person involved in so many things. Unlike me, he could walk and chew bubble gum at the same time.

- He was a member of many bands of brothers!
- He was an air force retiree.
- He was a member of the Goldwing bikers
- He was a Vietnam vet.
- He was a Mason
- He was an AF MARS member
- He was a leprechaun.

Like most of the Patrick Air Force Base – MARS base support team (BST) he had a long and honorable career in the USAF. He was very proud of that ...and he deserved it. That was one of our band of brothers.



He was so proud of his work with Harris and his high level of security clearance. He told me of his transportation of sensitive classified equipment to all parts of America and having a security vehicle in front and behind his truck with armed personnel in each. At each stop, someone had to remain with the truck to guard it. Another band of brothers.

He was a biker and loved his Goldwing. A time of anxiety hit our MARS team when we were supporting an open house with our MARS equipment and operations. We were waiting for Nelson and we learned he had been rear ended on his Goldwing and had been injured. We were panic stricken ...our fearless leader would not be there. Somehow we struggled through mostly because he had trained us well. Another band of brothers.

He was a Vietnam vet and that was a very special band of brothers. He always supported the moving Vietnam wall transporting radio equipment, erecting antenna and tent here at Wickham Park. He was a fixture! Old retirees, bikers, veterans knew mars and nelson well. Before cell phones we communicated to our loved ones by phone patch. Phone patch? What's that? We had a small box that connected the telephone to our transceivers ...that's a combination of a transmitter and receiver, so people could talk to each other by phone. It was simplex which means one way only. Remember...Hello Mom – over. Hi Son – over. Send money Mom. Over... and the big no-no...over and out. Actually we BST members had cell phones before they existed. We had a repeater on the AFTAC building that Jim Blair maintained and we could use our walkie-talkies to communicate with the repeater and dial locally to our homes or each other...but still simplex – over and out stuff. Another band of brothers

Nelson was a Mason and as such a special brother of mine. He was a past worshipful master of Indian Harbor Beach lodge 354 a sister lodge of my lodge, Merritt Island 353. Years ago both want-a-be lodges put in petitions and a coin was flipped to determine who got which number and Merritt Island won, hence #353 and believe me, beach lodge has never let us forget. Masonry is a fraternity of good men trying to be a little bit better, that's all. We are not a religion at all but do recognize God as the great architect of the universe

"It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license"

and all Masons must believe in a supreme being. Nelson had to serve as Senior Deacon, Junior Warden, Senior Warden and be elected as Worshipful Master, many years to get to that position, a significant and great honor and a highly responsible position. He was responsible for the financial well-being of Beach 354, upkeep of building, conducting the meetings and many other duties. By the way, worshipful does not mean we worship him but that he worships God. Another band of brothers

Most of all, Nelson was our sparkplug and motivator in the PAFB BST (AGA2PA). MARS is an official arm of the military services and stands for Military Auxiliary Radio System. Military bases used to have MARS Base Support Teams and the move now is to reinstate them. The Air Force got a bargain in Nelson. He worked the MARS station almost every day running official and unofficial phone patches for military aircraft from South America and to the Mideast. He was cited for some aircraft saves and his command of Espanol helped in an emergency involving Spanish-speaking individuals. Believe it or not, the military aircraft could not easily communicate through regular Air Force channels so MARS filled in the gap.

Nelson deployed with PAFB Air Forces during disaster exercises to Malabar transmitter site providing comms for them. He trained the BST in operation of the Harris equipment and ensured the equipment and antennas were maintained.

AFA4XD was an unofficial leader of our team together with AFA4CX, Jim Blair, AFA4CU, Barry Priddy, our president, AFA4HO, Hans Willimese, myself, AFA4BT, and AFA4ZC, Danny Burdick, the base MARS director. He always wanted any praise to go to our team and not himself. He was a fixture on the MARS phone patch net and on TRANSCON and the Space Support Net for the shuttle. Another band of brothers.

Oh, last but definitely not least. He told me he was a leprechaun and since I'm Irish, I was in awe. We Irish fear, respect and try to catch leprechauns to make them give us their gold. I never figured out whether the gold was his Goldwing bike or his golden personality. After the bike was smashed, I figured out it was his extraordinary personality...he was so outgoing to all. I knew, as a leprechaun, he could speak Welsh and Gaelic. He must have immigrated to Puerto Rico and learned Espanol which he spoke fairly well. Then he came here and learned English which he spoke somewhat better. Then he got married and had to learn Greek so he could understand his bride when she was unhappy about something, which is also why I had to learn Japanese. He also was pretty good at Morse code. He was most proficient at phone patching and none could match him. A special Irish-Puerto Rico band of brother to me.

His lovely and persevering bride of many years sustained him throughout their life together. She was almost always by his side, looking after and taking care of him so very well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Christina. There are stars in your crown!

Well, Nelson old man, 73. We miss you but you are now in the hands of Chief MARS in heaven and all your contacts will be 5/5. Hans is there with you and I'll soon be joining you guys soon.

Additional information: He was a volunteer patrol officer in Satellite Beach. He was a volunteer Coast Guard patrol member.

Vaya con dios amigo, mucho gracias. Nos veremos pronto

Jim Hough/W5ZXO/AFA4BT

LOCAL

PCARS CLUB STATION



The club station is located in North Melbourne at the Fire Department Training Center. To get there take Wickham road north of Aurora Road. Going north you will pass through the traffic light at the shopping center where Harbor Freight is located. There is a Wendy’s on your right side and a Hess gas station. Turn right off Wickham onto Electronics Drive, which is right next to Wendy’s. Follow it to the end and turn right. It turns into a gravel road. The training center is on the right and the trailer located in the front is the club station.



If you “google” the club station address and go to street level this is the picture you see.



It is requested that all persons desiring to operate the club station be checked out on the equipment prior to operation. You will also need three combinations (1) to enter through the gate, (2) station door lock, and most importantly (3) the lock to gain access to the bathroom facilities in the fire department building. Questions or additional information – contact PCARS Club Station Manager: <TBD>

W4MLB VOICE REPEATERS

- 146.850/146.250 MHz **ACTIVE**
- 146.610/146.010 MHz **ACTIVE**
- 444.425/449.425 MHz **ACTIVE**

W4MLB PACKET REPEATER

- Packet Node: 145.090 MHz

D-STAR REPEATER

The 1st Brevard D-Star repeater is operational at N4LEM's location on King St., Cocoa (SR520). Frequency is 147.030 MHz digital voice and data.

SOUTH BREVARD EMERGENCY NET (SBEN)

- Every Thursday, 7:00 PM on 146.850 MHz
- 146.610 MHz Alternate repeater frequency. If both fail use 146.580 MHz simplex

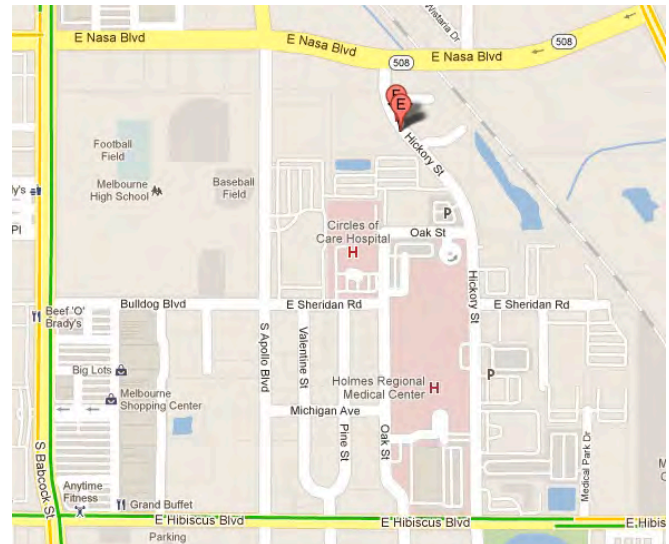
SBEN is an emergency training net sponsored by PCARS & HIARC for all South Brevard amateurs, who are encouraged to check into the net.

Anyone wishing to act as a Net Control Station (NCS) for the SBEN please contact Tim Madden – KI4TG (631-7112) tmadden@cfl.rr.com. The net dialog is scripted and takes about 15-20 minutes of your time once every two months. It is excellent experience and great practice for actual emergency activities.

| SBEN NET SCHEDULE | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| Date | Station Op | Call Sign |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

AMATEUR RADIO & COMMERCIAL LICENSE TESTING

Amateur license testing is conducted the first Saturday of each odd numbered months [Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov], Melbourne Hamfest October Oct 12th Saturday only. Please arrive by 9:45 AM. This applies to both the ARRL and W5YI amateur sessions. Testing fee is \$15.00 cash and one fee covers all tests as long as candidates successfully pass the preceding element. When an element is failed an additional fee may be required. Amateur exam walk-ins are welcome.



You need to bring the following in order to get credit for a test.

- A **photocopy** of your current license if already licensed.
- A **photocopy** of your CSEs if you have one issued within the last 365 days.
- Bring \$15.00 cash. Sorry no checks.
- Two forms of ID and a **photocopy** of each, one must be a picture ID if age 16 or older.
- You will need to know your Social Security number or your FCC Registration Number (FRN).

Commercial exams are by appointment and can be scheduled by contacting Test Coordinator - Judy Gardner, AA9GW@cfl.rr.com. Fees for the Commercial elements are \$50.00 for the first element and \$25.00 for each additional element, if taken at the same time. Element endorsements taken alone will be charged \$50.

Amateur & Commercial testing is conducted at the new Salvation Army Fellowship Hall, 1080 South Hickory Street, Melbourne; Florida, 32901.

HURRICANE INFO

[Hurricane Watch Net](http://hwn.org): (hwn.org). The Hurricane Watch Net frequency is 14.325 MHz.

The National Weather Service National Hurricane Center (WX4NHC) is at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

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SKYWARN INFO

Need information or want more information on the SKYWARN program [WebLink: [SkyWarn](#)] and how you can participate please contact:

PCARS Skywarn Coordinator: Paul Gray (N0JAA) pgray12@cfl.rr.com.

Assistant Skywarn Coordinator: Alan Dixon, (N3HOE) N3HOE@arrl.org

BREVARD - AMATEUR ORGANIZATIONS

Active Brevard County Amateur Radio Clubs:

- **BEARS** - *Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Service*
BEARS.homelinux.net
- **CARS** – *Cocoa Amateur Radio Society*
www.cocoaars.org
- **D-STAR** – *Brevard D-Star*
d-star-brevard.com
- **FLECDX** – *Florida East Coast DX Club*
www.freewebs.com/fecdx/
- **FLWSS** - *Florida Weak Signal Society*
www.flwss.net
- **HIARC** – *Harris/Intersil Amateur Radio Club*
www.qsl.net/hiarc
- **IRARC** - *Indian River Amateur Radio Club*
irarc.ham-radio-op.net
- **LISATS** – *Launch Information Service and Amateur Television System*
www.lisats.org
- **NBARC** – *North Brevard Amateur Radio Club*
northbrevardarc.org
- **PCARS** – *Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society*
www.pcars.org
- **TARC** - *Titusville Amateur Radio Club*
www.titusvillearc.org
- **CFQRP** – *Central Florida QRP*
<http://cflqrp.wordpress.com/>

HARRIS INTERSIL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (HIARC)

Club Meetings: Second Thursday of every month at Memaw's B-B-Q on 4916 Babcock Street between Palm Bay Road and Port Malabar Road. Supper is at 6:00 PM, and a short business meeting is at 7:00 PM. HIARC programs start around 8:00 PM. All are welcome to attend, POCs: Butch (fparsche@harris.com) or Tonti (jtonti@harris.com)

EMERGENCY CENTER OF ACTIVITY FREQUENCIES

The IARU Emergency Center of Activity (CoA) Frequencies are:

- On 15 meters, **21.360 MHz**
- On 17 meters, **18.160 MHz**
- On 20 meters, **14.300 MHz**
- On 40 meters, **7060 kHz**
- On 80 meters, **3760 kHz**

It should be emphasized that *any* frequency on which ongoing emergency communications is underway needs to be protected.

Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS)

There is a new updated South East Division Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System web site at www.afmarsse.org Check it out.

Florida State MARS Directors

Army MARS:

Larry Ruegger – LRUGGER@GTE.NET

Navy/MarineCorps MARS:

“Mike” Shires – NNN0GAL@NAVYMARS.ORG

Air Force MARS:

Karl Geng – AFF4FL@COMCAST.NET

FLQP K4D

JAN – K4QD

We had a great time this weekend and I want to thank all the operators and those who came by to visit and provide encouragement. I also want to thank PCARS members who worked us. I think our club represented the FQP very well and a lot of people will get the special event station certificate for working all the special event stations to spell out FLORIDA. We had a much closer mix of QSOs this year with 905 CW and 800 SSB. The phone operators did a great job this year. Usually we have a lot more CW than phone.

CallSign Used: K4D

Operator(s): K4QD, AF4Z, NC4H, N8KH, W9ICK, K2ADA, W0MTQ, NK2I, WJ1A, WB4EQS, KT4FY, AB4ET, KI4WAD

Operator Category: MULTI-TWO, Band: ALL, Power: HIGH, Mode: MIXED, Default Exchange: BRE, Name: PCARS, Club/Team: Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society

Summary

| Band | Mode | QSOs | Pts | Mul |
|--------------|-------------|-------|-------|-----|
| 7 | CW | 249 | 498 | 7 |
| 7 | LSB | 34 | 33 | 2 |
| 14 | CW | 408 | 816 | 61 |
| 14 | USB | 559 | 559 | 46 |
| 21 | CW | 226 | 452 | 20 |
| 21 | USB | 160 | 160 | 44 |
| 28 | CW | 22 | 44 | 5 |
| 28 | USB | 47 | 47 | 6 |
| Total | Both | 1,705 | 2,608 | 191 |

Final Score: 498,128

Rig: CW= Kenwood TS-850s with Harris RF-103 amp, SSB= ICOM IC-746Pro with AL-811 amp

Antennas: Mosley Pro-67B @60ft, Cushcraft A-4 @35ft

Soapbox: We had thirteen ops and assistants plus several more PCARS members who came by to

check out the station and offer support. For most of the operators this was the first time operating in a contest and almost half had never operated at the PCARS station. Everyone gave a great effort, and our thanks to all who worked us. We dedicated this operation to long time PCARS life member George Fundis, K4PX (SK) who passed away last week. We started a little late as most of us were attending his 11:00AM memorial service.

HURRICANE WATCH NET SEEKS NEW MEMBERS FOR NET CONTROL STATIONS

ARLX004

With the 2013 hurricane season approaching, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami and the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) are gearing up for what could be a very active storm season. In preparation for the upcoming season, the HWN is currently seeking new members who can serve as net control stations.

The HWN provides on-the-ground, real-time weather data from Amateur Radio operators who volunteer their time to monitor their calibrated home weather stations. The stations report that data to the HWN, who in turn reports it to WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the NHC.

"The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators – our members -- who serve as our net control stations," HWN Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, told the ARRL. "HWN members are hams who have above-average stations, are capable of effectively conducting HF net operations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN's mission during net activations. The net sessions can be long and, at times, very stressful."

The HWN primarily operates on 14.325 MHz, but Graves said that given the current solar activity, the HWN is looking for new members who can help with net control station duties on the low end of the 40 meter phone band. "If 20 meters goes

away, we lose the ability to effectively communicate with our reporting stations or the NHC," he said. "By expanding our operation to 40 meters, we can easily change over when propagation changes."

Graves told the ARRL that the HWN is especially looking for new members with stations that can effectively communicate with Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico, the Gulf Coast, the East Coast and South Texas. "As we head into the 2013 hurricane season, we're looking for qualified amateurs who are located anywhere within North America or the Caribbean," he said. "We are also looking for bilingual hams. We recognize that some Latin American operators hesitate to check in and send reports to us if they aren't fluent in English, so we're also interested in hearing from hams who are fluent in both Spanish and English. When we're working storms that are either affecting or threatening areas where Spanish is the language of choice, we always try to have one or more bilingual HWN members on hand to help with reporting."

While HWN membership is required to serve as a net control station, radio amateurs do not need to be an HWN member in order to participate as an HWN reporting station that provides observed or measured weather reports, or relay assistance as required by HWN net control. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Hurricane Watch Net, please visit the Membership Information page on the HWN website at <http://www.hwn.org/>.

The Hurricane Watch Net is activated either at the request of the National Hurricane Center and/or when an Atlantic basin hurricane is within 300 miles of landfall. Although hurricanes can happen any time of the year, hurricane season for the Atlantic and Caribbean runs from June 1-November 30, and usually peaks anywhere from late August through September. The Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30.

UPCOMING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

JAN – K4QD

A few PCARS members have recently become active in the Brevard Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). Below are a couple upcoming training opportunities being presented by the organization. I have also attached a flyer for the Salvation Army training. I think that Dan Fisher/AI4GK is probably our most active member. If you are interested in VOAD meeting information or getting on their mailing list Dan can provide you contact info.

Upcoming Hurricane Seminars and Training Events

Hurricane Awareness Seminar & Public Safety Expo Saturday, June 8, 2013 10am - 2pm City Hall - 120 Malabar Road WFTV Chief Meteorologist Tom Terry will present the latest information about what to expect for the upcoming hurricane season. Other presenters, including local emergency preparedness experts, will provide information on how to make your hurricane or emergency response plan. Police Department specialty units will also be on display.

Emergency Disaster Services

The Salvation Army will be holding an introduction to Emergency Disaster Services course on Saturday June 22nd at 1080 Hickory Street in Melbourne from 8:00am to 12:00 pm. Qualified instructor(s) will be on hand. We will have lunch for those who attend immediately following. Please RSVP Douglas Corwin via e-mail douglas_corwin@uss.salvationarmy.org if you or anyone you know would like to attend. They are trying to expand their volunteer base for disaster services.

“FINE BUSINESS*”

* A ham radio term for “sounds like a fun time”

MONTHLY TESTING RESULTS

BY JUDY GARDNER, AA9GW

May Testing Results:

| Applicants | Tech | General | EXTRA |
|--------------|------|---------|-------|
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| - Commercial | | | |

My Ham Shack

By John Azzolino – KD4HHF



[KD4HHF Portable 4]

This is my (KD4HHF) portable station utilizing a Icom 706, MFJ-900 tuner, Diamond SX-200 SWR meter, G5RV home brew antenna (club project) and a marine battery, recharge is supplied by a small generator when needed. HT is a Kenwood TH-F6 Tri-bander, Campfire, and scenery supplied by Mother Nature.

Who will share their station next month?

Space is available every month for photos and short description of our club members’ stations. Please send JPEG photo(s) and description of your station and your activities to the Newsletter.

REMEMBERING MY FIRST RADIO

NAME ?– CALL SIGN ?

Anyone willing to share a story about their first radio we have room here.

PCARS CLUB MEETINGS SHOW AND TELL – OPEN MIKE

Each Monthly meeting will now reserve a 10-minute spot on each month’s meeting agenda for a short member Show and Tell. Members bring along small pieces of equipment and accessories that they have made to show to the other attendees. The object being to encourage construction and home made projects in the spirit of amateur radio.

So bring along an item to show what you have made during the past year.

63RD ANNUAL ARMED FORCES CROSSBAND TEST – 11 MAY

ARLX005

In celebration of the 63rd anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD), the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test. Although Armed Forces Day is traditionally celebrated on the third Saturday in May the AFD Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 11 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention, scheduled for May 17-19.

The annual celebration features traditional military-to-amateur crossband communications SSB voice and Morse code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to stations making contact with the military stations.

Military-to-amateur crossband operations will take place on the dates and time in UTC on the frequencies listed for the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps and Coast Guard MARS stations. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB); some stations will use CW to provide the opportunity to check in by Morse code. Depending on propagation and staffing, some stations may not operate the entire period. Participating military stations will transmit on selected military MARS frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in the amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. The annual Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via digital modes, including RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31, MFSK and MT63 from certain stations.



Check the MARS Armed Forces Crossband Test website: www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements for schedules and frequencies of participating military stations, including a list of stations that will be transmitting the annual Secretary of Defense message.

HAM RADIO AT BOSTON MARATHON

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS – K4CXX

HAM RADIO NOW is an online video podcast from Amateur Radio//Video News. It's free to watch on the web. Watch episodes 74 & 75 on YouTube at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkLaj_cCdL8 and
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8izc-zmwedQ>

The above video episodes are also available along with mp3 audio versions the HAM RADIO NOW website: www.HamRadioNow.tv

We all know what happened at the Boston Marathon. What didn't make the news is communications assistance that hams have been providing the event for over 30 years. It has become one of the largest ham radio public service events in the nation.

This year, hams were operating one of the Net Control stations just a few hundred feet from the bomb blasts near the finish line. HamRadioNow talked to three hams who were involved in different aspects of the event.

Paul Topolski/WISEX was at the Finish Line, supervising the Net Control operation for the hams in that area. Steve Schwarm/W3EVE was at a remote location, overseeing another net supporting the First Aid and "fluid" stations, and bus transportation. And Tim Carter/W3ATB was at a more distant aid station.

In the video, we learn what happened before and after the bombs went off. We also go deeper to understand what goes into Amateur Radio support for a huge operation like this.

**OBAMA NOMINATES
FINANCIER, MAJOR FUND
RAISER AND FORMER
TELECOM EXECUTIVE TOM
WHEELER AS FCC CHAIRMAN**

ARLB011

On Wednesday, May 1, President Barack Obama announced that he has nominated Tom Wheeler to be the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. If the Senate confirms the nomination, Wheeler will replace Julius Genachowski who announced his resignation from the FCC in March. Pending Wheeler's confirmation, FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn -- the agency's soon-to-be senior Democrat -- will serve as the Commission's acting chairman.

Wheeler, 67, has served as an informal adviser to Obama in recent years and has been a major fundraiser for his political campaigns. He has a background as a venture capitalist and as a lobbyist for the communications industry. He is the former President of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA, now known as National Cable & Telecommunications Association) and former Chief Executive Officer of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association (CTIA). Currently, he is a Managing

Director at Core Capital Partners, a venture capital firm in Washington, DC.

Obama, who made the announcement from the State Dining Room in the White House, said that Wheeler "has been at the forefront of some of the very dramatic changes that we've seen in the way we communicate and how we live our lives. He was one of the leaders of a company that helped create thousands of good, high-tech jobs. He's in charge of the group that advises the FCC on the latest technology issues. He's helped give American consumers more choices and better products."

As technology continues to shape the way that Americans do business and communicate, Obama said that Wheeler will help the FCC fulfill a very important mission: "[Wheeler will give] businesses and workers the tools they need to compete in the 21st century economy, and making sure we're staying at the cutting edge of an industry that again and again we've revolutionized here in America."

Currently, Wheeler is Chairman of the FCC's Technological Advisory Council and Chairman of the State Department's Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy (ACICIP). Wheeler was a fundraiser for Obama during both his 2008 and 2012 campaigns. In 2009, Wheeler led the Obama-Biden Transition Project's Agency Review Working Group that was responsible for the science, technology, space and arts agencies. Wheeler has served on the President's Intelligence Advisory Board since 2011.

Wheeler is the author of Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails, a book on Abraham Lincoln's use of the telegraph. "Mr Wheeler has experienced the revolution in telecommunications as both a policy expert and advocate, as well as a businessman," states the author page for Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails. "As an entrepreneur, he started or helped start multiple companies offering new cable, wireless and video communications services. As a policy expert he has been intimately engaged in the development of

the government's telecommunications policy at both the legislative and regulatory level."

Also in March, FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell -- a Republican -- announced his resignation. There has been no announcement by the White House as to who will be nominated to replace McDowell, although it is not unusual for nominations to fill Republican and Democrat vacancies to be paired, smoothing their way through the confirmation process.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE (FEMA) CERT IN ACTION

DAN – AI4GK

Get the latest news about Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) nationwide in the CERT National Newsletter. This publication offers updates on the CERT Program, highlights successes of local programs on the ground and provides valuable information for current and prospective CERT programs.

In the latest issue of the National CERT Newsletter, you will find stories representing the efforts of CERT programs in four states (California, Delaware, Missouri, and Oklahoma). These CERT programs all support emergency preparedness, disaster response and hometown resiliency in their own and in some cases, neighboring communities. This edition includes stories on CERT volunteers responding to a traffic accident, a destructive tornado and apartment fires.

To view the full CERT National Newsletter and past issues, visit <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-team-national-newsletter>.

THE NOTHING BOX

JIM – W5ZXO

Men have been looking for years to find this answer and now this guy finally explains it all in just a couple of minutes. Click on "The Nothing Box" below - its soo true! [The Nothing Box](#).

REQUIRED ANNUAL RADIOLOGICAL TRAINING

DAN – AI4GK

Advanced Radiological Training provided by the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control is training that is required annually for those who would be required to respond at the EOC or at the Reception Center in Valkaria during an incident at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. Date of next training is June 6. Register early to be sure to get a seat.

You can register for class by clicking on the below link and following the prompts: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Radiological_Training

Advanced Radiological Training

Description: The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control will conduct Advanced Radiological Training with an emphasis on Reception Center Skills. This is an 8-hour awareness/hands-on course with emphasis on the specific skills necessary to set up a reception center and those functions required within the Brevard County EOC. This training or another similar refresher course is required annually for those who would be required to respond at the EOC or at the Reception Center in Valkaria during an incident at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant.

Date: Thursday, June 6

Time: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: Brevard County EOC

1746 Cedar St

Rockledge, Fl 32955

“GENERAL”

PCARS MEMBER SURVEY!!!

No Survey Questions This Month

Nothing This month

[ED-If there is a topic that any PCARS member would like to pose questions to the membership – please forward survey questions to newsletter@pcars.org editor for inclusion in a future newsletter.]

Field Day: 2013 Field Day Packet Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 22-23, 2013! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.



Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules, as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked

Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for get-on-the-air stations and a kit for publicizing your event with the local press. New for 2013: Stations operating as Class A or B may begin setting up at 0000 UTC on Friday (which will be Thursday 8 PM EDT, 7 PM CDT, 6 PM MDT and 5 PM PDT). The groups may start and stop their set-up, resuming the set-up later, but

may spend only a maximum of 24 hours cumulative time for setting up their sites.

An informational flier entitled "What Is Field Day" has also been included in this year's Field Day packet. Amateur Radio clubs and individuals are encouraged to reproduce this flier as a handout for information tables. Find it and more on the [ARRL's Field Day web page](#).

D-STAR JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF ECHOLINK?

[HTTP://WWW.HAMRADIATION.COM](http://www.hamradiation.com)

This [LINK](#) is a thread from Ham Radio Nation web site that individuals interested in EchoLink or D-Star may find interesting.

HAMMOND MUSEUM OF RADIO

GUELPH, ONTARIO CANADA

Another history web site is the Hammond Museum of Radio Site. If your into old radios and have used some of these old radios then this is a great site for information. See [LINK](#).

BAOFENG FREE RADIO NETWORK

TOBY

Interesting web site on VOIP networking radios together. Numerous sites world-wide & users listed. I have an UV-3R in use as a gateway on <http://www.freeradiationnetwork.eu> - no battery inside, just ext. power, which turns on and off automatically by using a timer clock and keeps all its settings for over 1.5 years now.

“TECH”

FREE RADIO – CLUB LOANER

By PCARS

Are you a new or relatively new ham who has not yet gotten on HF? If so PCARS has a deal for you. The Club has a couple radios to use as “loaners” to help our new hams get on the air. This IC-751 is one of the radios, and it also has a tuner included. Doug (KK4DOE) used this particular radio for about three months. He just found and purchased a nice used radio, and returned this loaner. So the club would like to let someone else use it for three months.



The Club also has members who will be glad to help you get set up with the radio and an antenna. If you are interested contact the PCARS Equipment custodian, <mailto:Custodian@PCARS.ORG>.

POINTS OF CONTACT - MENTORS

A Mentor is someone who is willing to provide guidance to soon-to-be or new Hams. PCARS has a number of experienced Amateurs with years of experience who are willing to give guidance to local (South Brevard County) hams that are in need of assistance. If you are one who is seeking help, please contact one of the following Mentors.

Please remember that some mentors may not have time to help or knowledge in all areas of Ham

radio. Some mentors may suggest you contact someone else or contact the ARRL for assistance.

The following individuals have made themselves available to answer your questions or provide more information in regard to their indicated subject matter expertise.

- **AF MARS** – Bruce Jarrell/NN4BJ
NN4BJ@iCloud.com or visit the AF MARS website www.AFMARSSE.org
- **APRS** – Lynn Deffenbaugh/KJ4ERJ
KJ4ERJ@arrl.net & <http://aprsisce.wikidot.com>
- **Tech Questions (Antennas)** – Eric Smitt/K9ES
K9ES@cfl.rr.com
- **General Questions** – Jan Heise/K4QD
K4QD@cfl.rr.com
- **Technical Questions** – Don Winn/AF4Z
AF4Z@cfl.rr.com
- **???****<YOUR NAME HERE>** To add your name and subject area please email the Newsletter Editor. Share your knowledge & experience – because that is what Hams are supposed to do.

Everyone has their specialty - If you would like to be added to the list above, send the editor (newsletter@pcars.org) your knowledge area, name, and email address for inclusion in the next issue.

WINLINK RADIO ONLY LINK

CHNAVMARCORMARS

UNCLAS

SUBJ: CHNAVMARCORMARS BCST 05-13 - WINLINK 2000 RADIO-ONLY MODE

1. Army and Air Force MARS began working with WinLink 2000 (wl2k) in 2006. Navy-Marine Corps MARS agreed to begin using wl2k in may 2007 and had our first PMBO (now RMS) in

August 2007. We retired our old dos-based MDS system and completely shifted over to w12k on 31 August 2008. When we joined in the w12k effort we asked for, and were promised, a system that could operate without reliance on the internet - i.e., radio only. Not an easy task, to be sure.

2. Since then, DoD instruction 4650.02 was issued in 2009, which required that MARS services' must be capable of operation in 'radio only' modes (without landlines or the internet).'

3. Members of the winlink development team (WDT) have been working on this 'radio only' system for some time and are now near the goal. Initial small-scale testing has demonstrated the capability to operate totally without the Internet and route and forward traffic to a user's preferred RMS for pickup (designated as message pickup stations (MPS)). We anticipate large scale testing beginning this summer.

4. Users will be able to log in to originate outgoing traffic or to pick up their messages using PACTOR, WINMOR, VHF PACKET or ROBUST PACKET. Users may use RMS express or paclink to send and receive traffic to/from their preferred MPS(s). The RMS's will only use PACTOR when forwarding messages to each other. If a user has listed more than one MPS, traffic will be forwarded to all of them.

5. The new system will be run so as to automatically shift from normal Internet operations to radio-only mode seamlessly.

6. When ready for large scale testing the WDT will be requesting more current RMS stations and users to test out the system. Please be ready to respond when they ask for volunteers.

7. MARS: Together we can achieve anything.

UNIVAC I

HUGH – K4XBC

...If it's a UNIVAC he'll tell you. I would.
<http://univac1.0catch.com/>

WRINGING OUT A WET TOWEL IN ORIT

APOD – ASTRONOMY PICTURE OF THE DAY

<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap130424.html>

WHERE DO WOODEN BOXES COME FROM

BERT – KI4KIO

Wood box factory.....

This is one interesting video about a steam powered wood box factory. I think it would be both exciting and fascinating owning a business like this, out in some secluded peaceful place.

http://www.youtube.com/v/_mKSKZau9qs

“PARDO’S PUSH”

Over N. Vietnam - F-4 Phantom & "Pardo's Push"
 Very, very cool TRUE story. Sound up.

www.youtube.com/embed/RRNbcPS3A9c?feature=player_detailpage



“EXTRA”

INTERESTING WEB LINKS

1ST PICTURE FROM PHONE



The image above is the very first photo taken with a camera phone. Inventor, Philippe Kahn, took the photo of his newborn daughter in 1997. [Video](#)

A BOY AND HIS ATOM

BRUCE – K2ZEA

It seems that I have been watching IBM research just about all of my professional life. I’ve really been impressed with what they have done historically and what they continue to do. This is just another example of that. This is one of the most amazing videos that I have ever seen. You have to keep reminding yourself that you are looking at **atoms**. Each movie frame is **45 x 25 nanometers**. There are a billion nanometers in a meter. A billion!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSCX78-8-q0&list=PLaFe0BJiho2pbiULC7W4UpxFGARh7oD7i&index=1>

VIRTUAL PRESIDENT

JIM – W5XO

This Video Gives Us A Lot To Think About.....

http://www.youtube.com/embed/_T-F_zfoDqI

FOR SALE

FLUKE 382A Voltage and Current Standard.
0-50 Volts, 0-2 Amps, Six Digits of Accuracy,
0.01% Accuracy. Operational and Calibrated by
a Primary Standard \$50.00

LOTS of spares available as well.

Contact: Hank, KZ4HE, Phone: 321-215-7868

FOR SALE ENTIRE HF STATION

For sale and entire HF station \$1000.00

Rig: YAESU - FT-990

Digital Noise Filter: Time Wave--DSP-9 +

Antenna: GAP-Titan-DX with GAP Antenna Tilt

RF Switch: Alpha Delta Delta-4

Microphone: HEIL MIC-HM-10 4&5 Cardioid

Contact: David E. Reed, 529 Jennifer Circle, West Melbourne, FL, 32904, Phone: 321-729-6205 or e-Mail: dreed116@cfl.rr.com

LETTER²⁵ FROM YOUR EDITOR

Good Evening! Another mad rush at the final deadline to get all current info placed and formatted in the newsletter. Such is the life of an Editor-no-Chief. Wanted to get this in the mail because the Armed Forces Crossband Test is tomorrow 11-May. I worked several stations last year and had a ball. Operators are super friendly and really seem to enjoy the Test. Never sent in my QSLs but received several QSLs from every military station I worked and although it took quite a few months it was still fun. Even if it is the government we are talking about here.

Two Silent Keys this month. One a very long-term very active PCARS member (George) that the club will really miss. Another non-PCARS member, but a local ham, and ex-Harris engineer. Both SKs and fellow ham's who were both dedicated to service to the community each in their own way. My hope is that the new hams would pick-up the gauntlet and follow in their foot steps on similar paths.

Two excellent articles this month on the FLQP. Remember Field Day next Month June.

73, See ya next month. [ED-NN4BJ]

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS: As always I invite any and all interested members, new or old, to write an article about your experiences or a short project description and submit it for publication in the club newsletter, even an editorial (as long as it is in good taste). Remember this is **your**

Newsletter so if you have suggestions about the newsletter, articles, pictures, questions, comments, and/or general information to disseminate to the membership of PCARS please email your information to the editor at newsletter@pcars.org include NEWSLETTER in the subject line. I will include everything I can. Remember PCARS newsletter is your opportunity to share your amateur radio experiences with your fellow hams.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: 9:00 AM the Saturday prior to the Monday General Meeting (which is second Monday of each Month).

Every member is on the list to receive the newsletter via email. If you do not receive it, please ensure that your email address on file is correct – check with the Treasurer. Bounced email continues to occur – you must read your email and keep the input queue cleaned up or your ISP will bounce new emails.

ULTRA-EVER DRY

Ultra-Ever Dry is a superhydrophobic (water) and oleophobic (hydrocarbons) coating that will completely repel almost any liquid. Ultra-Ever Dry uses proprietary nanotechnology to coat an object and create a barrier of air on its surface. This barrier repels water, oil and other liquids unlike any coating seen before. The other breakthrough associated with Ultra-Ever Dry is the superior coating adherence and abrasion resistance allowing it to be used in all kinds of applications where durability is required. [VIDEO](#)

“CQ CONTEST – CQ DX”

AERONAUTICAL MOBILE OPERATION IN THE FLORIDA QSO PARTY

ERIC/K9ES, CHUCK/AD4ES, , JAN/K4QD
DOUG/K4IMB (KK4DOE)

The Florida QSO Party is an interesting opportunity to try to operate Aeronautical Mobile to provide coverage from all 67 counties. The concept seems easy, but the actual implementation is another story. Chuck/AD4ES is a very experienced pilot who owns an airplane, a Mooney 20K. This is a low wing, high performance, single-engine, rather small airplane that seats pilot, co-pilot, and 2 rear seat passengers. The space is rather tight in the plane, and without any “modification”, any antenna must remain inside the fuselage, which, except for the windows and wind shield, is metal.

Chuck and I had talked about running aeronautical mobile for almost a year. As time came nearer to FQP time, our plans got a little more serious with another A/M operation, that being flying over the K4R Boy Scout camping event at the Deer Park camp out for the region.

We measured the front dimensions of the wind screen and decided to build a loop antenna that would be made on clear vinyl and taped near the perimeter of the windscreen. The antenna started with a slightly longer than “normal dipole length” wire insulated with a plastic separator and the loops were wound around the perimeters. We measured the resonance of the antenna using an MFJ-269 analyzer and fed the antenna with open feed transmission line. To connect to the analyzer, a 4:1 balun was built using bifilar winding on a ferrite core from plans in the in the antenna handbook. The antenna was resonated by

removing wire to bring it to resonance at 14.270 MHz.



[K4QD Checking the “Rack” into the Loop]

Once the antenna was built on a plastic table, it was tried in Chuck’s van with interesting results. The resonance was no longer at 14.270 MHz but somewhere around 12.6 MHz, and at 14.270 MHz, the SWR was “off the wall”. When metal got near the loop, things changed again. The loop was affected by everything! A tuner was required.

When the antenna was taped to the windscreen, a piece of 450 Ohm ladder lead was connected to an MFJ-901B Tuner through the Balanced Feed output. Using the MFJ-269 analyzer, the Tuner was set for best SWR at 14.270 MHz, which was 2.6:1. The MFJ analyzer was removed and the IC-7000 was put in its place. The radio was placed on my lap, and we took off, for an over flight of the Boy Scout campsite. The radio also had a ¼ wave vertical mounted on a PL-259 Right Angle connector. As we approached the campground, we gave a call to their CQ. They were excited to hear our response, and we circled over them, having many of the scouts make visual contact with our plane as we flew 5000 feet above them.

We also contacted them on the W4MLB 146.85 MHz repeater. We maintained contact on 20m until we headed away from them. The antenna was facing west and the scouts were due east. But we managed to hear every station they did contact in the Midwest and New England. We were able to maintain contact with them for 50 miles through the 146.85 MHz repeater, until the number of other repeaters that we were bringing up took over the frequency. Fearing that the rig might be damaged by the high SWR, we shut down the radio and removed the antenna from the windscreen. Our first test was somewhat successful.

Antenna design #2 was an idea taken from the shortened vertical concept in the antenna handbook. We knew that a 3 foot wooden dowel could fit next to the windscreen and we thought we could wind a helical dipole for 20m on a 3 foot dowel cut in the middle with a small piece of flexible plastic hose in the center of each 18 inch piece. The handbook stated that a quarter wave helically wound vertical required about a half wavelength of wire. Once the actual dipole was wound, we had to add some additional wire to resonate it to frequency. This unit had very low feed-point impedance so a new balun was wound, similar to the first balun but this time from unbalanced 50 ohms to balanced 12.5 ohms. We mounted the antenna with balun and found that proximity to metal affected resonance. A tuner was also required, so the MFJ-901B Tuner through the Un-Balanced Feed output was used. The SWR was still not perfect; about 3:1 at best, but there was no room to mount the capacity plates. The IC-7000 did not like this, and the AT-180 Auto-Tuner would not capture this match.

Test Flight 2 was made with Jan/K4QD in the back seat with the logging computer and the keyer, Doug/K4IMB in the front right seat as the Navigator and SSB operator, and Chuck/AD4ES as the pilot. Eric/K9ES was in my mobile in front of the Melbourne, Florida airport communicating with Jan on 14.273 MHz.



[Jan/K4QD climbing in the plane]



[Jan/K4QD in his operating position]

Chuck taxied to the west end of runway 9, and Jan had difficulty communicating with the mobile, even though we were only about 2 miles apart. As they got permission to take off, and the plane gained altitude, I was able to communicate with him, but once he went out over the Atlantic Ocean, and east of my position, I could no longer hear him. When he flew around to the south, we were able to work each other for a few moments. And when the plane was south of the airport, I heard him loudest. That night, we had a

conference call, and Jan told me that he was a little airsick and felt he could not do the FQP. I told him that I would do the flying, and he would be control operator for K4D at the W4MLB station. What happened is Jan was seated looking forward, and when he turned to see the radio, his balance center went haywire. Doing that several times, one loses all reference and immediately becomes dizzy.



[AD4ES tightening the Balun on Antenna 2]

Antenna design #3 was an idea from Jan/K4QD. Jan had a 20m Hustler with a Tri-Whip mount. Jan's idea was that if he placed a resonator set for 14.050 MHz on one mount and a second whip tuned to 14.275 MHz on the 2nd mount, the antenna would resonate on both the CW frequency and SSB frequency in the FQP Mobile Window. However, that did not occur. The antenna did not resonate anywhere in the 20m band. We had to re-adjust each whip to give us a resonance that allowed a great match on the SSB portion (1.15:1) and a match that the AT-180 could handle so the IC-7000 was putting out 100 Watts on both SSB and CW. Things looked great.



[Hustler Antenna showing, Doug/K4IMB setting CQ/X]

Now we had to get the logging computer talking to the IC-7000. Because the purpose of the trip was to cover all 67 counties, we needed to run CQ/X with a GPS so the computer could track counties traveled. Doug worked hours to get this complex software working and the computer started controlling the radio. The external WinKeyer was actually keying the radio with a Keying paddle plugged in, but the function key would not key the radio. It was only later that we realized (after a message came up saying we could not log a QSO using the "Right Radio"), that the Left Radio and Left Keyer had to be selected. Once that was done, the function keys worked, the external paddle worked and we were good to go.

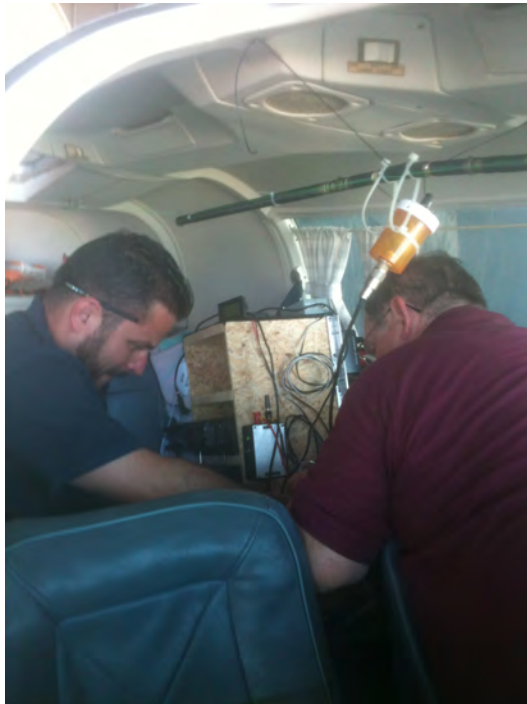
The IC-7000 radio, AT-180 tuner, 35 amp sealed battery, USB Hub, Power Distribution Unit (PDU), Voltmeter, MFJ Power Booster, and Fan was mounted in a vertical wooden rack, that was wired and tied down in the rear seat with the left seat belt. Everything was bolted down to prevent things getting loose during turbulence. The PDU was also connected to the computer through a DC-DC converter, and the PDU was then connected through diode isolation to the plane alternator so that the internal battery would be kept charged during flight.



[The Rack Arrives in the Hanger]



[Tightening Connectors]



[Chuck and Doug securing the Rack]



[Adjusting Power]

"It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license"



[Chuck/AD4ES – Pilot]

Radio Sport Headset with Boom Mike. Chuck/AD4ES was the pilot. Our operation on Saturday was delayed an hour to attend the funeral of George Fundis/K4PX (SK), who passed away the previous Sunday and was scheduled to be one of the operators of the K4D operation at the PCARS Club station W4MLB.



[Doug K4IMB testing Computer & Software]



[Chuck/AD4ES securing wires]



[Chuck/AD4ES & Eric/K9ES]

Eric/K9ES sat in the rear right seat, with the logging computer, and Radio Sport Headset. I also had the Paddle for CW. Doug/K4IMB was the SSB operator, in the Co-Pilot Seat, with his

We took off from the Melbourne Airport, and headed south. I could not hear anything in the receiver except noise. I had heard from my own mobile an hour before plenty of activity on 20m. Houston – we have a problem. We continued flying south, until I visually saw us going past the Sebastian Inlet on the Indian River, and noticed the county in CQ/X change from BRE to IDR. At least the software was working. But the receiver was not hearing anything. Chuck, Doug, and I

"It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license"

decided to return to the Melbourne Airport and go to plan B, a new antenna (antenna #4).



[Eric/K9ES testing Hustler | Doug/K4IMB sets CQ/X SW]

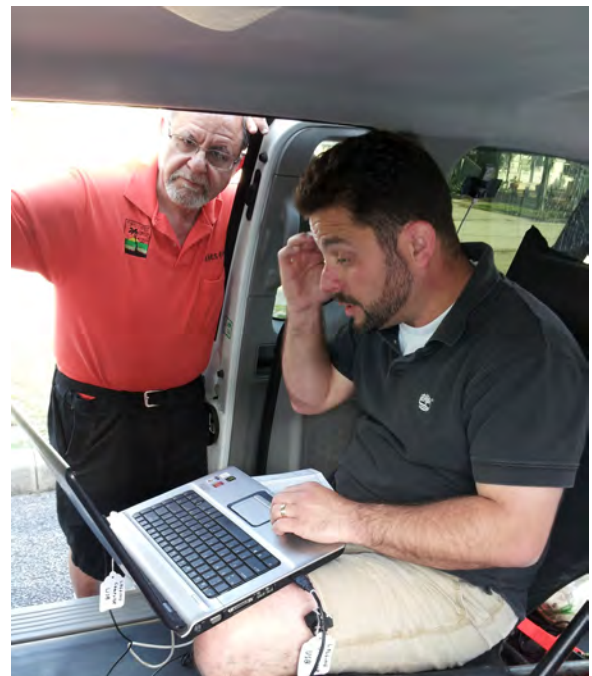


[Doug K4IMB (KK4DOE) working on logging computer, Chuck AD4ES working on Navigation Computer. Antenna 3 is in place]

Chuck and Doug tried to make a new antenna but had sensitivity to nearby things, so they made an executive decision to remove the rack from the plane, mount it into Chuck's van (which already

had a Screwdriver Antenna), and get a route planned to drive for Sunday. Our plans were to then meet at 7 AM Sunday morning, figure out how to make an operating chair in the back of a cargo van, and get on the road.

Sunday morning, we met at Chuck's business, and secured the rack in his cargo van, with the front of the IC-7000 facing forward. The seat was secured to locks in the rear floor, and we were good to go. GPS units were working in the logging computer and in the navigating computer, and we got on the highway. Eric/K9ES started operating on 40m CW in Brevard as we drove through Melbourne to get on I-95 Southbound, going into Indian River County. When the band died, we went to 20m CW and found a frequency at the top of the mobile window and continued working them.



[Doug/K4IMB gets Function Keys Working in CQ/X CW]

In Okeechobee County, after going to see the lake, we switched operation as Doug/K4IMB began the SSB operation. After the 2nd CQ, he started working stations, and continued through Glades, Hendry, Lee, Charlotte, and Desoto counties. Doug managed 71 QSO's with 41 multipliers. In Arcadia, FL., Eric/K9ES took over on 20m CW

"It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license"

and continued through Hardee, Polk, and Osceola County. During the last 20 minutes, CQ/X had shut down 6 times. We believe this is a bug in the software but are still unclear what caused the computer problems. Eric became very good at bringing up the program after it completely shut down.



[Doug/K4IMB Working SSB in the Glades]

When 6PM Local time arrived, the team had made 325 QSO's 74 Multipliers through 12 counties for 77,050 claimed points. Our intention was to run Aeronautical Mobile but that did not pan out, this year. We know that if we decide to do this operation next year, we need to assure that the entire system is fully operational and no component produces RFI to the receiver. We also require a better antenna. Chuck/AD4ES will search for a better antenna solution for the Mooney 20K that will meet all requirements of the FAA and airplane safety. Everything else works well, and will be reused. In 2014, we hope to actually run 2 full days (20 hours) of FQP.

Summary:

CLAIMED-SCORE: 77,050 Total QSO's = 325,
74 Multipliers

40m CW, 14 QSO's, 8 Multipliers, BRE only

20m CW, 240 QSO's, 41 Multipliers, BRE, IDR,
STL, OKE, DES, HAR, POL, OSC

20m SSB, 71 QSO's, 25 Multipliers, OKE, GLA,
HEN, LEE, DES, CHA

CONTEST WEB LINKS

- <http://www.arrl.org/ncj>
- <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>
- <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2012-08-01>
- <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>
"Grand-Daddy of all contest web sites"
Bruce Horn, WA7BNM Lists all of them.
- <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>
- <http://www.dxcoffee.com/eng/>
Has daily updates for Active DX stations.

SPACE X KEEPS RAISING THE BAR

BRUCE – K2ZEA

<http://www.geek.com/science/watch-spacexs-grasshopper-rocket-triple-its-leap-height-1552939/>
"Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there's footprints on the moon !!!" - Chuck Yeager -



"It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license"

UTC CONVERSION

| PST | PDT | MST | MDT | CST | CDT | EST | EDT | UTC |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 4 p.m. | 5 p.m. | 5 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 7 p.m. | 7 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 00:00 |
| 5 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 7 p.m. | 7 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 01:00 |
| 6 p.m. | 7 p.m. | 7 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 10 p.m. | 02:00 |
| 7 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 8 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 10 p.m. | 10 p.m. | 11 p.m. | 03:00 |
| 8 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 10 p.m. | 10 p.m. | 11 p.m. | 11 p.m. | Midnight | 04:00 |
| 9 p.m. | 10 p.m. | 10 p.m. | 11 p.m. | 11 p.m. | Midnight | Midnight | 1 a.m. | 05:00 |
| 10 p.m. | 11 p.m. | 11 p.m. | Midnight | Midnight | 1 a.m. | 1 a.m. | 2 a.m. | 06:00 |
| 11 p.m. | Midnight | Midnight | 1 a.m. | 1 a.m. | 2 a.m. | 2 a.m. | 3 a.m. | 07:00 |
| Midnight | 1 a.m. | 1 a.m. | 2 a.m. | 2 a.m. | 3 a.m. | 3 a.m. | 4 a.m. | 08:00 |
| 1 a.m. | 2 a.m. | 2 a.m. | 3 a.m. | 3 a.m. | 4 a.m. | 4 a.m. | 5 a.m. | 09:00 |
| 2 a.m. | 3 a.m. | 3 a.m. | 4 a.m. | 4 a.m. | 5 a.m. | 5 a.m. | 6 a.m. | 10:00 |
| 3 a.m. | 4 a.m. | 4 a.m. | 5 a.m. | 5 a.m. | 6 a.m. | 6 a.m. | 7 a.m. | 11:00 |
| 4 a.m. | 5 a.m. | 5 a.m. | 6 a.m. | 6 a.m. | 7 a.m. | 7 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 12:00 |
| 5 a.m. | 6 a.m. | 6 a.m. | 7 a.m. | 7 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 13:00 |
| 6 a.m. | 7 a.m. | 7 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 14:00 |
| 7 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 15:00 |
| 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 11 a.m. | Noon | 16:00 |
| 9 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 11 a.m. | Noon | Noon | 1 p.m. | 17:00 |
| 10 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 11 a.m. | Noon | Noon | 1 p.m. | 1 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 18:00 |
| 11 a.m. | Noon | Noon | 1 p.m. | 1 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 19:00 |
| Noon | 1 p.m. | 1 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 20:00 |
| 1 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 5 p.m. | 21:00 |
| 2 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 3 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 5 p.m. | 5 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 22:00 |
| 3 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 4 p.m. | 5 p.m. | 5 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 7 p.m. | 23:00 |

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