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Club Officers

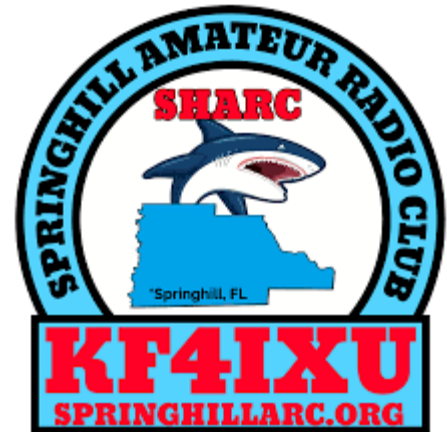


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KQ4TDQ Al Mattor

W1SOX Mike Hayes

KD4DS Dave Sweeney



Treasurer

K4WEB

Wayne Boyd

treasurer@springhillarc.org



A Message from the President

Hello SHARC Members,

I would like to thank everyone who attended our March Club meeting. We took care of a lot of club business. Our very special guest presenter **K0NEB** Joe Eisenberg was on ZOOM to do a Kit building show.

The club membership approved to replace the old Yaesu DR1 repeater with a new Yaesu DR2 X repeater. The current repeaters that we have are over 10 years old and we could definitely use an update to our system.

We also had a great turnout at our "Ham Radio and Guns" event. Even though it was not an official club event the attendance was good. See people come out when you say that there is gonna be food cooking on the grill :) We had a radio or 2 set up at the barn and we made a good amount of contacts that day. In the backyard or should I call the Shooting range many members went and take some gunpowder therapy.

In April SHARC will be participating in 'Florida State Parks on the Air' event on April 18th. We have reserved the Special event call sign of **K4S**.

Beside the colorful weather last month, March was quite the month in terms of DX the 3Y0K Bouvet Island DXpedition was one of the biggest sought after DX last month. Later in the month there was other DX events going on such as the XX9W Macau and S21WD Bangladesh DXpeditions too. The CY0S Sable Island DXpedition was also very present on the bands. The magic of working DX stations does not go away.

As many of you might not know but this April will be the 2026 Florida QSO Party on April 25th and 26. For more information please check out their website at <https://floridaqsoparty.org/>

There is a new website out there for learning and getting your License. <https://myhamradiostudy.nomadicagility.com/> This is a new, all-in-one study platform designed to simplify the path to earning an FCC Technician, General, or Extra class amateur radio license. Go check it out The site uses a "Smart Study System" with spaced repetition and mastery tracking to ensure you focus on your weakest areas, making it a highly efficient choice for modern learners.

Have a great day, and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



ORLANDO HamCation® 2026



**FOR THE LOVE OF AMATEUR RADIO
HAMCATION 2026**

Host of the 2026 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention
HamCation.com

February 13 - 14, 9AM to 5PM | February 15, 9AM to 1PM
Talk-in K1AA on 146.780 (400 / PL 103.5)
Backup Talk-In on 443.850 (+5.90 / PL 103.5)
DISTAR: K1XC 146.820 - 898




TAMPA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Over 90 years of Serving local "Hams" and Public Service

TARCFest—Spring Edition

Saturday—April 25, 2026a
8:00 am—1:00 pm

"Florida's Friendliest Tailgate"

Admission is \$ 5.00 per person; Children 12 & under **FREE**
Tailgating is **FREE** with paid admission
Indoor tables at \$ 15.00 in advance
Great food & drinks from **TARC Grill**
W5YI VE Testing Sessions following the Event

Tampa Amateur Radio Club; 7801 N. 22nd Street; Tampa, FL 33610

From I-4 Take the Hillsborough Avenue (US 92) exit west to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, TARC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

From I-275 take the Sligh Avenue exit east to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, TARC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

From I-75 take I-4 west to Hillsborough Avenue (US 92) exit west to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, TARC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

UPCOMING LOCAL HAMFEST



Dayton Hamvention®

2026

Radio Adventure

May 15-17, 2026, at the
Greene County Fairgrounds
and Expo Center in Xenia,
Ohio.

2026 HAMFEST

AT THE AMERICAN LEGION DADE CITY
Saturday May 9th, 2026 7 - 12noon

ADMISSION: ADULTS AND KIDS: \$5 Donation
Talk-in: 146.88 pl 146.2 * Free Parking * Handicap Accessible *
Food & Refreshments * Restrooms * ATM machine

37745 Church Ave, Dade City, FL 33525



The EAST PASCO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY is proud to announce our spring annual HAMFEST

Sell your unneeded gear for extra cash!
Find that perfect addition for your shack.

VE TESTING
Technician, General & Extra Exams
Testing Fee: \$15 Time: 9:00-10:30 am
You Must Register for exam online
<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/EPARS/>

DOOR PRIZES
Selling Spaces
Outdoor tailgate Additional \$5
Indoor w/Table Additional \$10




For more information:
www.k4ex.org

Contact us:
aa4cb@yahoo.com

Earl Brannon, **K4EEB**
President-SpringHill Amateur Radio Club

longitudinal

rarefaction

compression

wavelength

earthquake

transverse

frequency

amplitude

thunder

kinetic

trough

medium

hertz

crest

waves

air

D	D	J	O	T	L	O	N	G	I	T	U	D	I	N	A	L	D	B	K	H	V	G	R
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T	X	G	A	F	W	F	V	K	D	F	U	B	M	J	T	S	K	U	K	V	E	R	G

Technician Pool Question:

What is the normal term for an FCC-issued amateur radio license?

- A. Five years
- B. Life
- C. Ten years
- D. Eight years

ANSWER D

★ 2026 ARRL FIELD DAY ★



ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 27-28

★
LET'S START GETTING A PLAN TOGETHER

ARRL Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 31,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.





How to become a member of the SpringHill Amateur Radio Club.

It is really Easy.

1-You can print out the membership application on the next page.

Come to our next meeting and see us or

Mail in the completed membership form with a check to:

SpringHill Amateur Radio Club

P O Box 6083

SpringHill, Fl 34611

2- Online via our website www.springhillarc.org.



Once you have filled out the application click the Submit button.

Next, you can pay the club dues on our [Paypal page](#).

You can choose to pay online using your credit-Debit card or Paypal.

And do not forget to subscribe to our Email reflector on [Groups.io](#)



Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6083, Spring Hill, FL 34611 / An ARRL Affiliated Club

Membership Form

Date ____/____/____

Renewal Membership -or- New Membership Individual Membership -or- Family Membership

Are you a member of the ARRL: Yes No License Class: Amateur Extra Advanced General
 Technician Technician Plus Novice

Call Sign is: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Address/telephone/e-mail: Check **NO** if you do **NOT** want the item printed on the club roster. The default is **YES**, the item will be printed on the roster.

Mailing Address <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	e-mail address <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Telephone #: (____) _____ - _____ Enter your E-Mail Address _____

(for newsletter and other club correspondence):

Married: Yes No Spouse Name (or significant other): _____
and spouse's License Class & Call if Family Membership in club...

Spouse License Class: _____ Spouse Call Sign: _____

Your Birthday (month only): _____ Spouse Birthday (month only): _____
 Wedding Anniversary (month only): _____

Special Interests or Hobbies: _____

Other comments or questions: _____



SHARC Dues are \$20.00 and are due by December 31 to maintain your membership in the club. Make checks payable to SHARC, and include your payment TOGETHER with this completed form. ©



SHARC CLUB NET
MONDAY 7 PM 443.800 RPT

SHARC club net is a regularly scheduled on-the-air meeting of amateur radio operators. On this net we-

- Share information about upcoming events, announcements, and club business.
- Provide a forum to ask questions and get help with radio equipment and technical issues.
- Offer a chance for operators with common interests to connect, discuss topics like specific equipment or awards, or just have a casual conversation.
- Provide a low-stress environment for operators to test their equipment and ensure it is working properly.

WE MOVED TO NEW REPEATER 443.800

SPRING HILL
KF4IXU
SPRINGHILLARC.ORG
146.805 443.800
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Mondays we start off with the SHARC Club net on our 440 repeater.

Then we switch to Six meter SSB at 7:45



SHARC 6 METER NET
MONDAY 7:45 PM 50.150 USB

This net provides practice setting up and operating on 6 meter SSB, and a venue for an open exchange among friends. All ham radio operators are welcome to check in.

An amateur radio net, ham net, or simply net, is an "on-the-air" gathering of amateur radio operators. Nets are low-stress opportunities to test your equipment and practice your abilities.

SPRING HILL
KF4IXU
SPRINGHILLARC.COM
146.805 443.800
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



SSTV
SLOW SCAN TELEVISION
NET ON THE 146.805 REPEATER
TUESDAY EVENING AT 6:30 PM
 YOU CAN ALSO SEND/RECEIVE
 VIA ECHOLINK KF4IXU-R

Get Started With SSTV

SPRING HILL
KF4IXU
 SPRINGHILLARC.COM
 146.805 443.800
 AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Year of the Club
2026
 Amateur Radio

WWW.SPRINGHILLARC.ORG

One of our most popular nets that the club holds is the Tuesday SSTV net.

Our nets are open to all amateur radio operators. You do not need to be a member to participate in them.

Slow Scan TV is becoming a very popular mode. It used to be only on the HF bands. Now you can run a Slow Scan App right on your Smart phone.

Visit our website for more information on setting up for Slow Scan TV.

SPRING HILL
KF4IXU
 SPRINGHILLARC.COM
 146.805 443.800
 AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SHARC 2 METER NET
TUESDAY 7:30 PM 146.805 RPT

Our weekly check in net is every Tuesday night at 7:30 P.M. We have club news and activity announcements as well as other amateur radio related items. All amateur radio operators are invited to check in and participate. You do not have to be a member to check in.

EXCITING NEWS



Becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE) is a rewarding way to give back to the amateur radio community by helping newcomers join the ranks and assisting current hams in upgrading their licenses. The process is straightforward but requires attention to detail, a commitment to integrity, and a solid understanding of FCC regulations. [1, 2]

1. Meet the Basic Requirements

To become an ARRL-accredited VE, you must meet several foundational criteria established by the FCC and the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC): [3]

- **License Class:** You must hold a General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class license. Your license must be current and not expired or cancelled.
- **Age:** You must be at least 18 years of age.
- **Clean Record:** Your station license must never have been revoked or suspended. [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

2. Understand the Scope of Authority

Your license class determines which exams you can administer. Under FCC rules: [9, 10]

- **General Class VEs** can only administer the Technician Class (Element 2) exam.
- **Advanced Class VEs** can administer Technician and General Class exams (Elements 2 and 3).
- **Extra Class VEs** can administer all exam elements, including the Amateur Extra Class (Element 4). [11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

3. Study the VE Manual [16]

The ARRL VEC requires all prospective examiners to be familiar with their specific procedures. You should download and study the **ARRL Volunteer Examiner Manual**. This document covers critical topics such as: [17, 18]

- Standardized testing procedures and session environments.
- Proper identification of candidates.
- Grading protocols and the immediate notification of results.
- How to handle "special needs" candidates.
- The "Rule of Three": Every exam session must be conducted by at least three accredited VEs. [19, 20, 21, 22]

4. Complete the Open-Book Review

Once you are confident in your knowledge of the manual, you must complete the **VE Personnel Data Form and Open-Book Review**. This is not a high-pressure exam but rather a way to ensure you know how to find answers within the manual and understand the ethical responsibilities of the role. The review typically consists of approximately 40 questions covering the rules of conduct and administrative paperwork. [23, 24, 25, 26, 27]

5. Submit Your Application

After completing the review and the data form, submit them to the ARRL VEC office in Newington, CT. There is no fee to become an ARRL VE. You can submit these forms via mail, email, or fax. [28, 29, 30, 31]

6. Receive Your Credentials

Once the ARRL VEC processes your application, they will mail you a **VE Welcome Packet**. This includes your official ARRL VE badge and a laminated accreditation card. This card is your "license" to participate in exam sessions. Your accreditation generally remains valid until your FCC license expires; when you renew your amateur license, you simply notify the VEC to renew your accreditation. [32, 33, 34]

7. Get Involved

Becoming accredited is only the first step. To begin serving, you should connect with a local **VE Team Liaison**. Most amateur radio clubs have established VE teams that hold regular testing sessions. By joining an existing team, you will learn the practical "boots-on-the-ground" aspects of running a session, from filling out the NCVET Form 605 to ensuring the integrity of the testing room. [35, 36, 37, 38]

By becoming an ARRL VE, you ensure the future of the hobby. You serve as the gatekeeper of technical standards and the first friendly face many new hams encounter, helping to maintain the professionalism and growth of amateur radio.



Radio in the Park

Parks on the Air (POTA) has transformed amateur radio from a solitary hobby often confined to basements and "shacks" into a vibrant, outdoor community endeavor. Since its inception, POTA has become one of the most popular activities within the ham radio world, bridging the gap between technical communication and a love for the natural world. At its core, the program is simple: "activators" set up portable radio stations in state or national parks, while "hunters" across the globe attempt to contact them.

The appeal of POTA lies in its accessibility and the unique challenge it presents. Unlike a permanent home station with massive antennas and consistent power, a POTA activation requires portability. Activators must consider weight, power consumption, and efficiency. This often involves using wire antennas slung over tree branches, battery-powered transceivers, and portable masts. This "field kit" mentality fosters a deep understanding of radio physics; when you are running only five or ten watts of power (QRP) from a remote campsite, every inch of wire and every connection matters. It turns a technical hobby into a tactical exercise in problem-solving.



Beyond the technical skills, POTA serves a vital role in emergency preparedness. By practicing the rapid deployment of communication gear in varied terrain and weather conditions, ham operators hone the skills necessary to provide vital links during natural

disasters when cellular networks and power grids fail. A successful POTA activator is, by definition, an expert in mobile, off-grid communication—a skill-set that remains highly relevant in the modern age.

However, the magic of POTA isn't just in the gear or the "emergency" utility; it is in the environment. Amateur radio can sometimes be a sedentary pursuit, but POTA encourages operators to explore the vast network of public lands. Whether it is a sun-drenched beach in Florida, a dense forest in the Pacific Northwest, or a quiet state park in the Midwest, the program highlights the beauty of the park system. It encourages "radio tourism," where operators plan road trips around "activating" new and rare locations. For many, the quiet hiss of the radio static provides a peaceful soundtrack to a day spent in the wilderness.

The community aspect of POTA is equally significant. The program uses a real-time spotting system, where hunters can see exactly which park is "on the air" and on what frequency. This creates a fast-paced, "hide-and-seek" dynamic that is exhilarating for both sides. For the activator, there is the "pile-up"—the exciting moment when dozens of operators call out at once, eager to log the park. For the hunter, it is a chance to collect "entities" and earn awards, all while chatting briefly with someone standing in a beautiful, remote location.

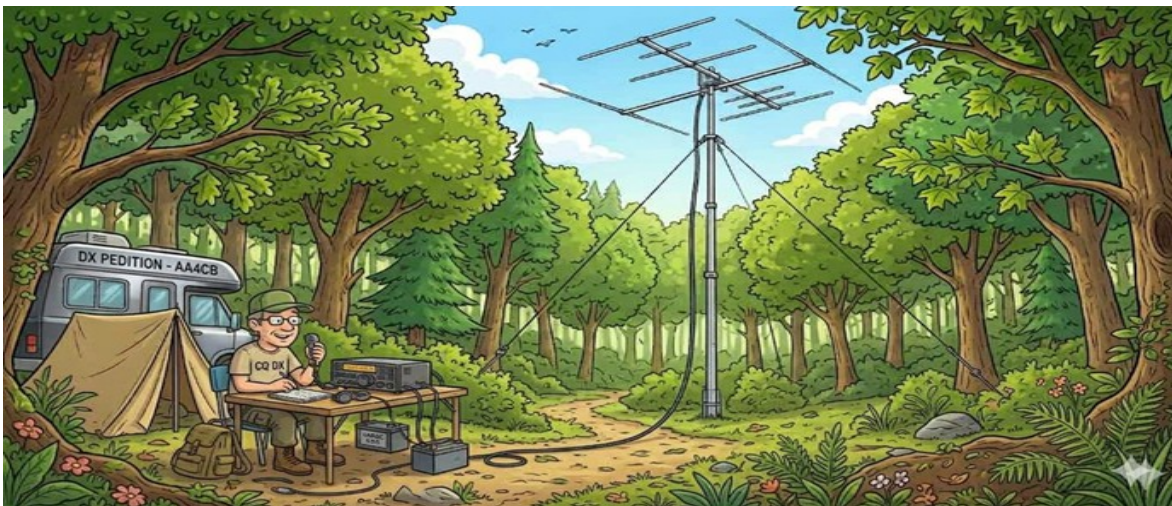
In conclusion, Parks on the Air has revitalized amateur radio for the 21st century. It takes the hobby out of the dark shack and into the sunlight, combining technical ingenuity with an appreciation for public lands. It fosters a sense of adventure, sharpens vital communication skills, and builds a global community, one park contact at a time. Through POTA, the airwaves become a digital campfire, bringing people together across the great outdoors.

AA4CB Chris Bloxsom

Affiliated Club Coordinator -WCF

Public Information Coordinator -WCF

aa4cb@arrl.net





Club Meeting



April 16th @ 6:00pm

This is a gated community. Gates close at 7:00pm. You must be in the gate by 7. No admittance after that.








Guest presenter **AA4CB**

Chris Bloxsom will be talking about Echolink and Allstar.


- What it is
- How it works
- How to use it

<http://springhillarc.org>



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1 APRIL'S FOOL DAY 	2	3  GOOD FRIDAY	4
5 NCO EARL K4EEB 	6 7:00 CLUB NET ON 440 RPT 7:45 6M NET ON 50.150	7 6:30SSTV NET ON VHF RPT 7:30 CLUB NET ON VHF RPT	8	9	10	11
12 NCO GREG KOOR	13 7:00 CLUB NET ON 440 RPT 7:45 6M NET ON 50.150	14 6:30SSTV NET ON VHF RPT 7:30 CLUB NET ON VHF RPT	15  TAX DAY	16 6:00 CLUB MEETING	17	18
19 NCO PAT KB4SYU	20 7:00 CLUB NET ON 440 RPT 7:45 6M NET ON 50.150	21 6:30SSTV NET ON VHF RPT 7:30 CLUB NET ON VHF RPT	22	23	24  ARBOR DAY	25
26 NCO SAL N2UOG	27 7:00 CLUB NET ON 440 RPT 7:45 6M NET ON 50.150	28 6:30SSTV NET ON VHF RPT 7:30 CLUB NET ON VHF RPT	29	30	1	2



DID YOU KNOW? 

April used to only have 29 days? The 30th day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.

- The Titanic hit the now famous iceberg on April 15, 1912.
- George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.
- Noah Webster copyrighted the first edition of his Dictionary in April 1828.

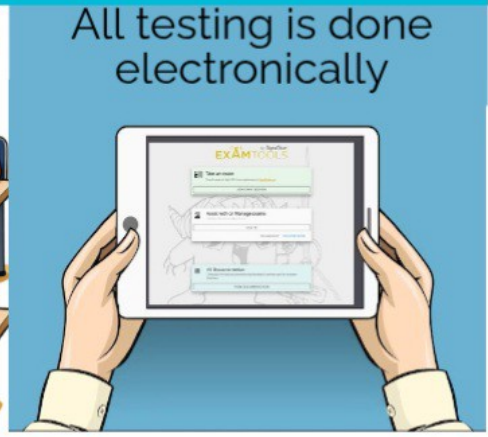


Local Amateur Radio Testing

To take an exam you must register and choose a test session.

HAMSTUDY

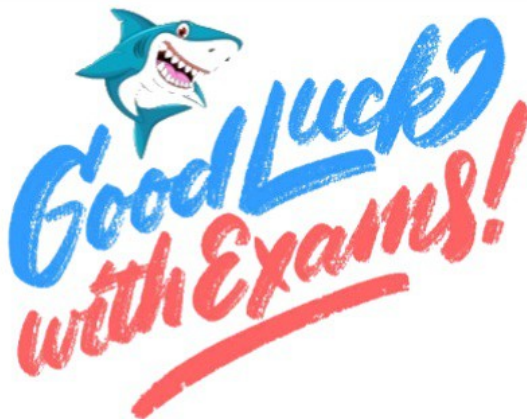
All testing is done electronically



Sponsor: Gulf Coast ARC
 Date: 2nd Saturday of the month
 Time: 10:00 AM
 Contact: Carl Ekblad AJ4JA
 (727) 798-7042
 Email: AJ4JA@icloud.com
 VEC: LAUREL VEC
 Location: Millennium Academy
 10005 Ridge Rd
 New Port Richey FL 34654-5130
 Website: www.gulfcoastarc.org

Sponsor: East Pasco ARS
 Date: 2nd Wednesday of the month
 Time: 3:00 PM
 Contact: Duane Archibald N4WDH
 (813) 991-7160
 Email: testing@eparsonline.org
 VEC: ARRL VEC
 Location: American Legion
 37745 Church Ave
 Dade City FL 33525-4128
 Website: <https://k4ex.org/>

MY FAVORITE



Sponsor: Hernando County ARA
 Date: 2nd Thursday of the month
 Time: 6:00 PM
 Contact: Jim Kvochick K8JK
 Email: k8jk@outlook.com
 VEC: Laurel VEC
 Location: Hernando County
 Emergency Operations Center
 18900 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville, FL
 34601
 Website: www.hcara.org/index.htm



Great music. Listen to it on your radio or stream it live at:

<https://live365.com/station/RICHEYfm-a96761>

-----TWO QUESTIONS FROM THE GENERAL TEST POOL-----

On which amateur frequencies in the 10-meter band may stations with a General class control operator transmit CW emissions?

- A. 28.000 MHz to 28.025 MHz only
- B. 28.000 MHz to 28.300 MHz only
- C. 28.025 MHz to 28.300 MHz only
- D. The entire band

What is the maximum bandwidth permitted by FCC rules for amateur radio stations transmitting on USB frequencies in the 60-meter band?

- A. 2.8 kHz
- B. 5.6 kHz
- C. 1.8 kHz
- D. 3 kHz

Answers

REPEATER UPDATE

We now have FULL internet capabilities at the repeater site at Oak Hill Hospital. Here is some of the additions made to each repeater.



The VHF repeater now has a FULL-TIME Echolink and Allstar connection.



The UHF repeater now has a FULL-TIME wires X connection on the Digital side of the repeater.

If you do not want to hear the Digital transmissions on the repeater then set your PL Tone receive to 146.2

Note you do not need a tone to talk on the repeaters.

NOTHING HAS CHANGED !

If you need help or have any questions please email KF4IXU@YAHOO.COM



NWS Tampa Bay SKYWARN Spotter Training

Your NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are encouraged to become a spotter.

Agenda

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

More information can be found at <https://weather.gov/tampabay>

Any Questions please email skywarn@springhillarc.org

SKYWARN is a National Weather Service (NWS) program consisting of trained volunteer spotters—including civilians and public safety officials—who provide real-time, "ground truth" reports of severe weather, such as tornadoes, large hail, and high winds, helping to verify radar data and improve warning accuracy.



Click **Spotter** image above then create a free account.

Take their SKYWARN Spotter online training and pass quiz to become a member

Click on "Member Networks" in left hand menu, then join "Tampa Bay, FL (NWS/TBW)" by clicking the red X to make it a green checkmark

If you would like to be a NWS Tampa Bay Spotter, send an Email to sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov after you've joined our member network and we will send you information on how to get your Certificate.

Click **MetEd** image above then create a free account

Start training then check box in MetEd to notify local National Weather Service of your training.

As a backup, Email your certificate(s) to sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov

We receive a list of those who have taken the training on the 1st and 15th of every month.

NWS Tampa Bay requires SKYWARN Spotters to meet the following three requirements:

1-Live in or near west central or southwest Florida to receive an ID from NWS Tampa Bay. Counties include Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, and Lee. If you live elsewhere, please contact your local NWS office for more information

2-Be at least 18-years-old. Those under 18 years of age are encouraged to take the training but can not receive a certificate.

3-Take a SKYWARN training every 3 years to remain active in the program

Once trained, Spotters will receive a link to download the handouts

Amateur Radio: Email questions, comments, and suggestions to our webmaster at sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov for more information on networks and frequencies in our area

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Frank Staffa

KB2CWN

Frank's lifelong passion for radio communications began at an early age and has remained a defining part of his life ever since. Originally from Long Island, New York, Frank discovered his interest in radio at just 11 years old in 1968. Like many enthusiasts of that era, he started out on Citizen Band (CB) radio, back when a license was still required. What began as youthful curiosity quickly developed into a deep and enduring fascination with the world of wireless communication.

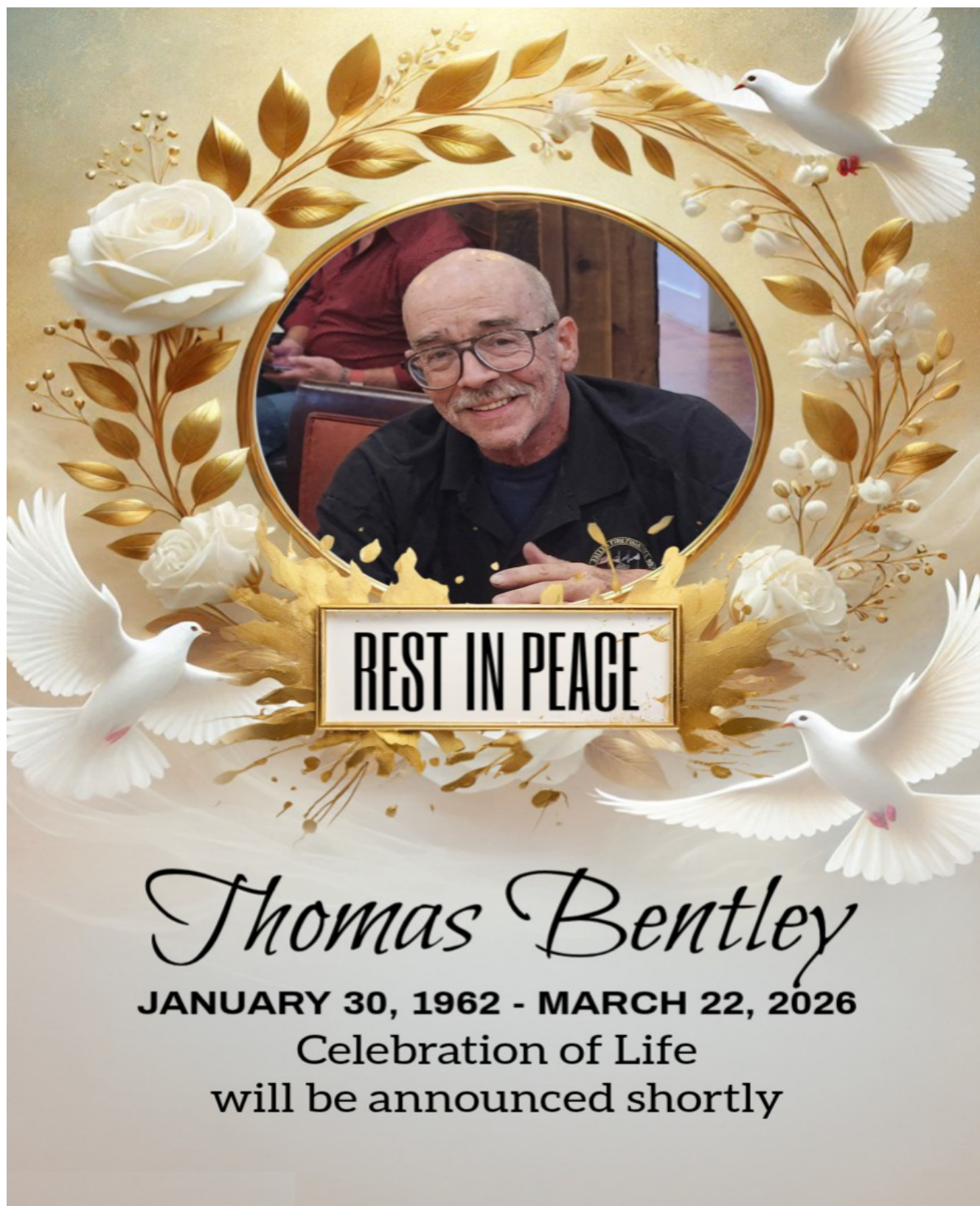
In 1994, Frank relocated to Florida, where he continued to expand his involvement in the hobby. Over the decades, he earned his amateur radio license and has now held his "ham ticket" for more than 40 years. Despite the passage of time and the rapid evolution of technology, Frank's enthusiasm for radio has never faded. In fact, he remains active on the air nearly every day, continuing to explore and enjoy the many facets of amateur radio. Beyond operating, Frank is also an avid shortwave listener with a particular appreciation for vintage equipment. He enjoys restoring and tinkering with older shortwave receivers, combining his technical curiosity with a respect for the history of radio. This hands-on approach reflects both his experience and his dedication to preserving the legacy of classic communications gear.

Frank is supported in his pursuits by his understanding and encouraging XYL (wife), who not only shares his appreciation for the hobby but occasionally joins him in his radio activities. Together, they form a supportive partnership that allows Frank to fully embrace his passion. In addition to his on-air activities, Frank shares his experiences with a broader audience through his YouTube channel, which he operates under his amateur radio callsign. There, he records and uploads shortwave radio signals as well as HF catches, highlighting interesting and rare receptions from around the globe. His channel serves as both a personal archive and a resource for fellow enthusiasts who enjoy exploring the sounds of the bands.

While Frank enjoys many aspects of amateur radio, he has a particular interest in satellite communications. He primarily focuses on single sideband (SSB) satellites, preferring them over FM satellites due to the often heavy traffic on FM channels, which can make extended conversations difficult. Through SSB satellite work, Frank finds greater opportunities for meaningful contacts and technical challenge.

After more than five decades involved in radio communications, Frank's dedication, curiosity, and love for the hobby continue to define his journey. Whether he's on the air, restoring classic equipment, or sharing his latest discoveries online, Frank remains a passionate and active member of the amateur radio community.







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FLDIGI- The Modern Age of Ham Radio

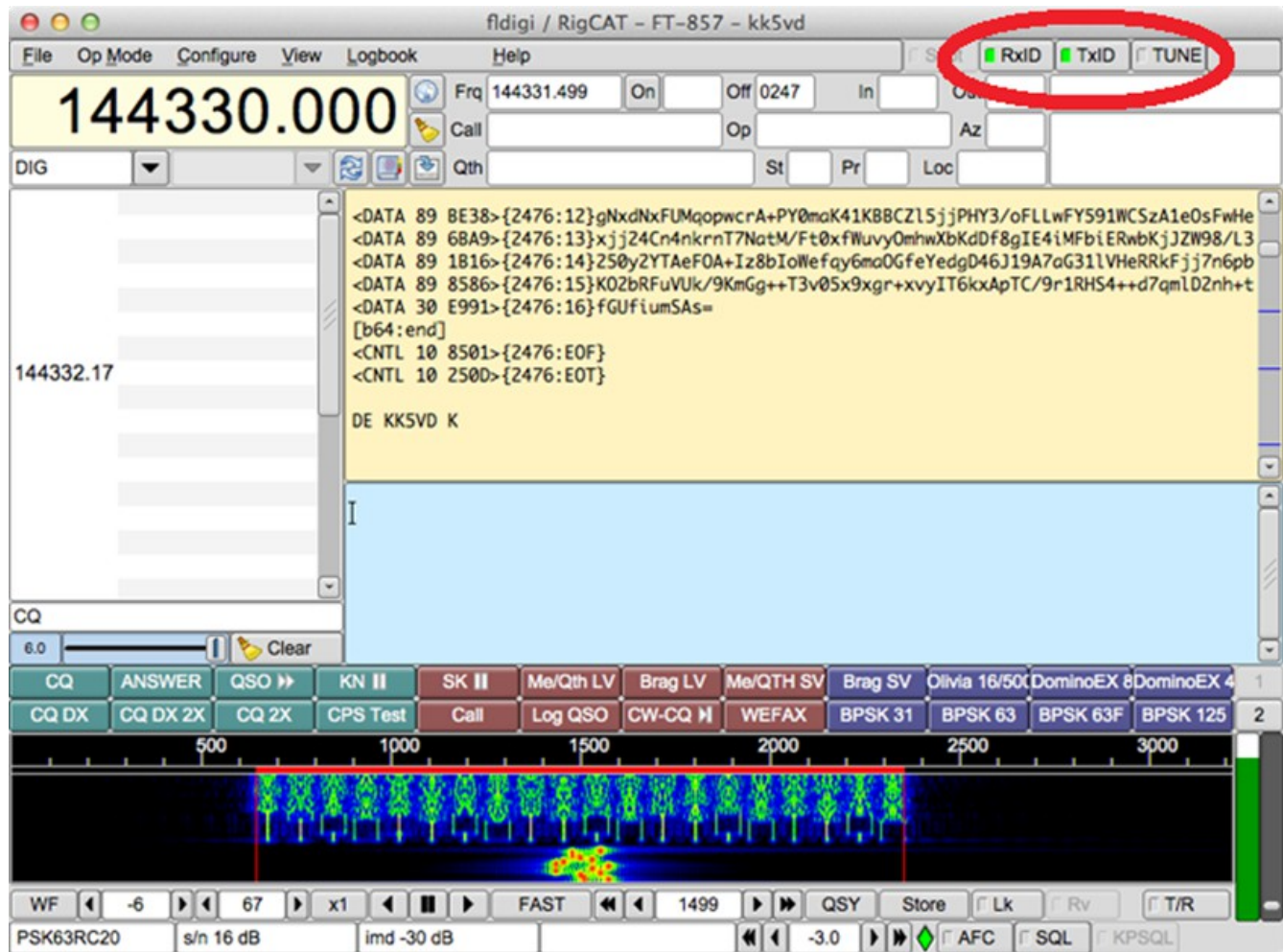
I am sure, at some point, you have heard conversation or maybe been exposed to a digital mode. Most popular being the FT8 and FT4 modes. These are mainly used to simply to show propagation. However there are many conversational modes most have not been exposed to. They include PSK31, Olivia, Contestia, etc. Fortunately, there is a free open sourced program that allows users to participate with out spending a fortune on expensive equipment. As a matter of fact, if your already doing FT8 your set up for it.

FLDIGI or (Fast light digital) is a popular open sourced program that can be used to integrate your pc to your ham radio via the sound card. There are many ways to set it up. I interface my radio to my PC with a usb printer cable. I have a 991a. Many radios can interface easily with one cable. These radios have a built in sound-card interface.

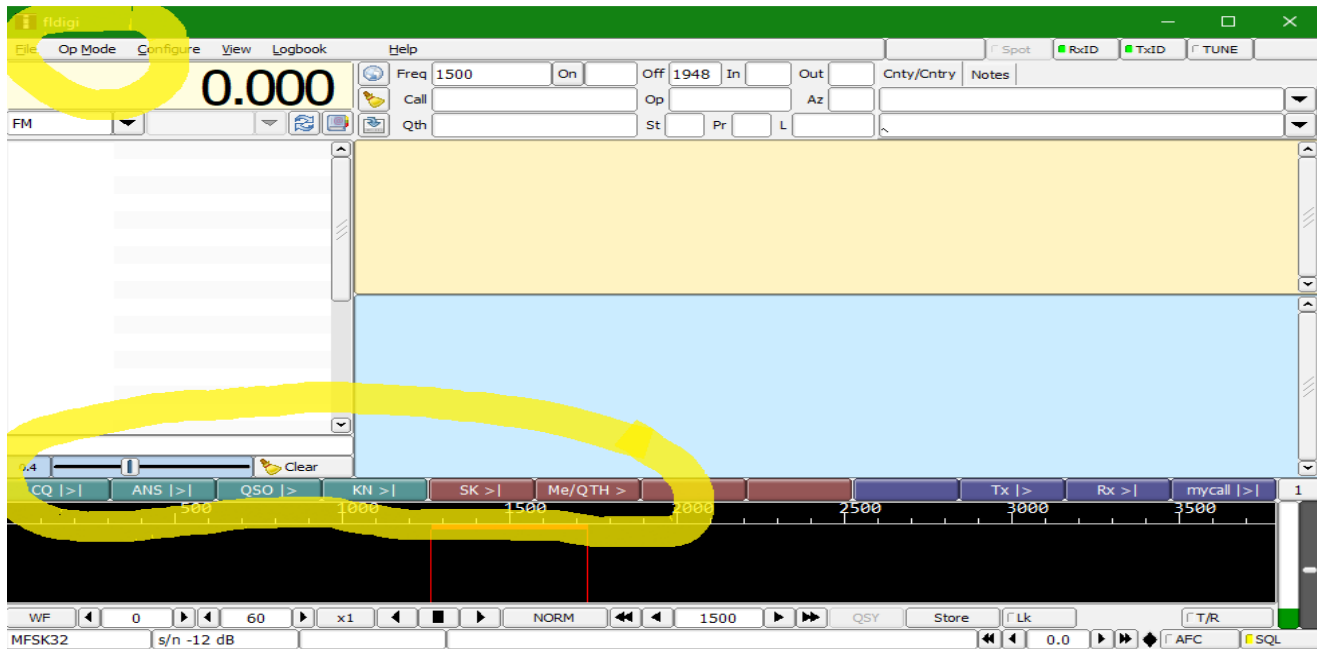
Not into FT8 yet and want to try FLDIGI? Don't worry, even older radios are capable of working with FLDIGI. Digi-Rig and Signalink are two interface (sound card) devices that are relatively inexpensive (compared to buying a new radio). Boom! your radio is now transformed into something you never conceived possible. You will need to download/install FLRIG to use these options.

At first FLDIGI can be very frustrating. If you have patience then this is for you. I will tell you though, from experience, once you start doing it you will go down a rabbit hole for hours. At first things will really seem complicated. The hardest thing to learn is all the modes- what they sound like and what they look like on the waterfall. There are many good websites with write-ups about this. Remember, don't be afraid to join facebook groups or ask questions to fellow club members.

One tip of advice is to leave your RX ID (reid solomon id) on at all times. Most users when transmitting use the TX ID. Its almost like an informational packet being sent out identifying the mode of operation. I have discovered a few modes simply because I had RX ID on and FLDIGI auto switched to the correct mode. I do my best to always have TX ID on with every mode I use. The ARRL has recognized the digital conversation modes as legitimate contacts for field day purposes. The picture shown below shows you where the reid solomon ID buttons are located.



FLDIGI is also capable of decoding CW, Weather-Fax and other modes as well. There are also a few modes, such as Thor, that allow you to send pictures and files back and forth. The mode is changed by clicking the drop down for op mode. There are macros (shown above) you can set up for ease of use to direct your traffic to the station your conversing with. Generally you would identify (your station)



de (receiving station) at the beginning of transmission and end of transmission- the same way you would over the air just every message. At first I wasn't using the macros. I went 6 months like that until I learned how much easier it makes things especially if your not a fast at typing.

Not a fast at typing? No problem, because FLDIGI has every mode slow to fast. I have also noticed that in less desirable voice conditions many of these modes really shine through.

OLIVIA 8-250 for example is 8 tones 250hz wide. Thats less than the bandwidth of a typical CW contact. I have sent and decoded many messages -10 to -15db with almost 100 percent print. Like everything else nothing is guaranteed, and sometimes you have to interpolate what the other person is trying to say. The more tones and wider bandwidth the faster the words will be sent out.



2026-03-24 SSTV Series 31 commemorates several space achievements

Series 31 will include several commemorations: Cosmonauts Day—the 65th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin’s first flight, the 100th anniversary of the first liquid fueled rocket launch, the 45th anniversary of the first Space Shuttle flight, and the 20th anniversary of the deployment of Suitsat-1/Radioskaf.

The plan for SSTV is as follows:

Start: April 10 (start time TBD)

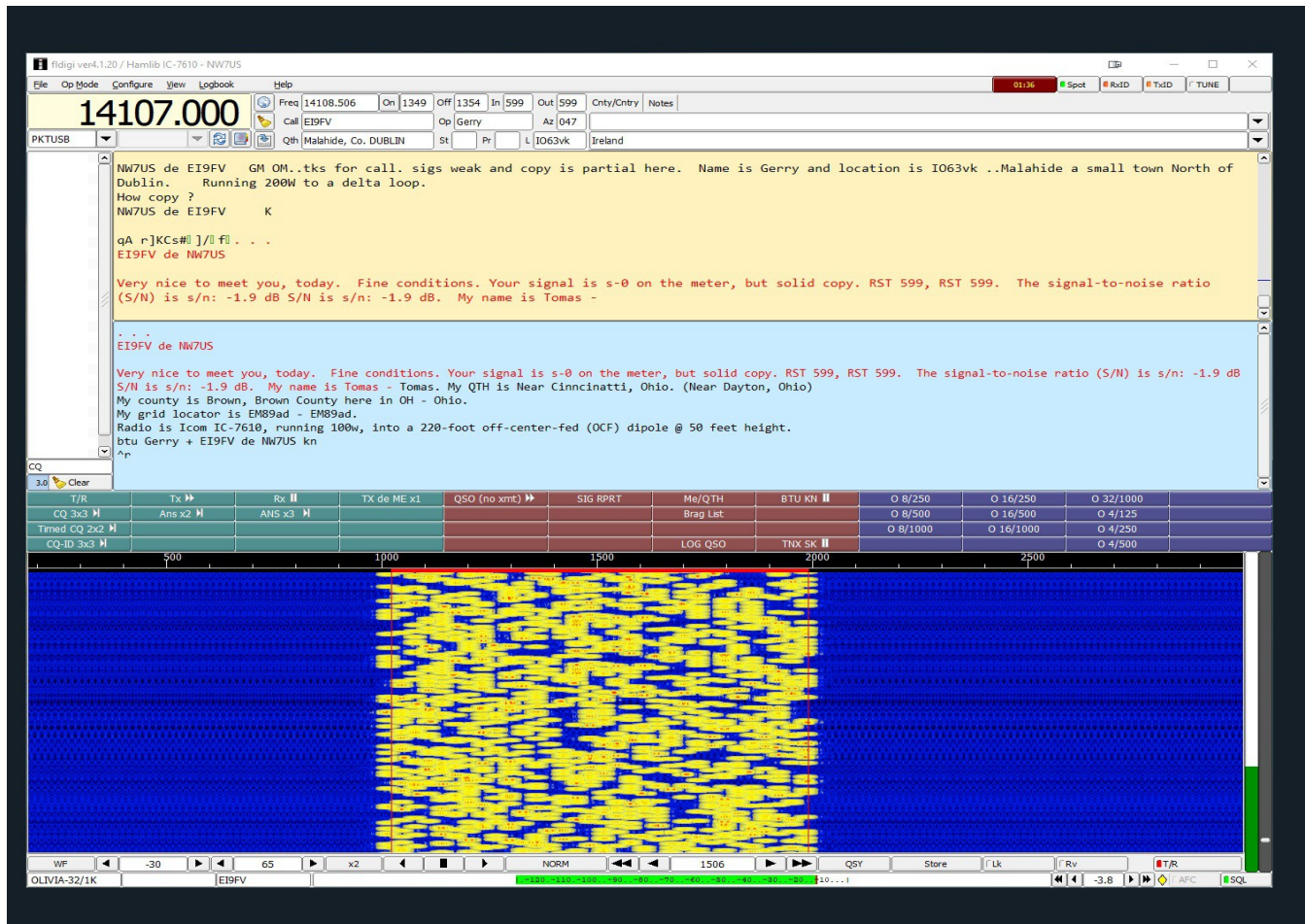
End: April 14 (end time TBD)

Frequency: 437.55 MHz

ISS transmit power: 10 watts

SSTV Mode: Robot 36 with 2

minutes between transmissions



To send a message begin typing in the lower window. When your ready hit the TX macro button on the bottom right. The message will begin to send. As the letters are sent they will turn red. After all the letters are red hit the RX macro button. The radio will switch back to receive. This is the easiest way to break into FLDIGI before using the macros.\

Download FLDIGI and try it out. If your running into issues, reach out on Groups.io, Facebook, Youtube or even Chatgpt. The owners manual is usually a pretty good place to start as well. \

Hamspots.org and pskreporter.info is your friend. Hamspots shows digital activity organized by band and mode. Register for a free account. It has a tab for my spots. Shows signal strength, location and time in an easy to use table. PSK reporter has a visual map.

Set-Up Tips

COM ports are assigned by the OS your using as the terminal. There will be two ports assigned to your radio- enhanced and standard. It is important to differentiate the two as one is used to PTT the other is radio control. They should be the same set up as WJST-x if your using FT8. Lower number is usually PTT and higher number is usually CAT (computer aided transceiver) control. FLDIGI has a way to test this in the setup menu for rig control with two buttons. \

The sound-card should use both left and right channels (check the box). In my case I have USB microphone and USB Speaker audio codec. Your installation may vary i.e. digirig or signalink. It may not be labeled USB. In the case of using digirig you will need to install another program called **FLRIG** (also on the fldigi site) to make this work.



See you out there in the digital world. 73 de KQ4CJT over and out!

DOWNLOAD <https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/>



For more information on the ARRL 250th Celebration click on the link or

<https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>