

RADIOWAVES



MARCI Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT: **A year of fear, suffering, isolation, and uncertainty is now history. Truly, 2020 was the pits. What lies before us in 2021 is a new sense of hope. Our country has a new President. A tested and effective vaccine (in fact several) to help protect us from the effects of the COVID 19 virus is being distributed. And there are now much faster results being provided after virus tests are conducted. We soon could be shaking hands and hugging friends again. A slow return to 'normalcy'? The word is SLOW followed by another word PATIENCE.**

Please renew your MARCI Dues for 2021. Individual dues are \$25 per member with an additional \$5 for another member in the household.

Send checks to:

MARCI Membership

P.O. Box 1823

Oneco, Florida 34264

It had been discussed several times in 2020 during meetings by the Board of Directors that having a MARCI PayPal account would make things simpler and more convenient for both new and existing members to pay and/or renew MARCI dues. The BOD is working on this and we should expect to have an announcement on this early in 2021.

I encourage you to tune in on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm on the MARCI repeater for the Marci Ham Trader's Net. Those of you that have participated or at least tuned into this Wednesday night net, have no doubt enjoyed this informal and fun method by which to Buy, Sell, or Trade ham radio related items. Dave Flail, W3IK keeps things interesting with horse trading, trivia questions, and just some horsing around.

Beyond this, Ed Skalecki is working on a method to able to post member's ham radio items for sale on the MARCI Website. Ed hopes to have this in gear by early 2021. The idea is that having an ad for used gear in RADIOWAVES that is no longer needed by someone and that wishes to sell might be great, but a picture 'speaks a thousand words'. Therefore, such ads will also appear on the MARCI website with descriptions, pictures, and contact information for the seller. We hope that you will find this new feature helpful.

Finally, I want to thank you the membership for your continued participation in our monthly meetings which of course are new via ZOOM. We all miss the before and after 'live meeting' banter and comradery. My sincere hope is that this type of 'return to normal' will happen sooner rather than later. Until then keep you and yours safe.

Hope to see you all Tuesday, January 5th via Zoom during our next General Membership Meeting. Don't forget those 2021 dues and please tell someone you love them – today. And a Happy New Year everyone!

-Mike, K4CVL

FROM THE EDITOR: The long awaited new year is here and I for one am absolutely ecstatic about that. In the north country they have to wait until Spring to do things like antenna work. Not so here in Florida. Now is the time while the temperatures are more comfortable to be working outside or in one's attic to tune up those assemblies of aluminum we call antennas. If one has to crawl under the house to run new lines of coax there is no better time. So get to work and tune up your station. The solar cycle is on its way up finally. On another note I see that the FCC has cut their proposed FEE from \$50 to \$35 for license applications, upgrades etc. At \$3.50 per year over a 10 year License span that doesn't hurt quite as much. I personally would prefer the old way but that appears to now be a dead issue.

CLARITY IN COMMS
By Geoff Haines, N1GY

A point was raised by another operator the other night about the proper terms to use on the amateur bands. The amateur bands are an inclusive area and a certain amount of freedom to use individual examples of terminology has always been a hallmark of the hobby. Having said that, however, there are good reasons to use a certain amount of standard terms. Particularly when we are participating in disaster communications, this concept becomes vital. Even in non-emergency communications, however, the use of standard phrases makes the information we are attempting to convey easier to understand.

First, and foremost in my mind, is CLARITY. We want our message, be it a call sign, a name, or a location to be clearly heard and understood by the other operator. If we use terms or phonetics of our own design, we risk having the person listening to us get confused or get the message incorrect. For this reason alone we as operators should learn, use and stick to the accepted phonetic alphabet as published by the ARRL and other radio organizations.

Second, the use of terms peculiar to another service, such as "Personal" when we mean "Name", mark us to other operators, sometimes unfairly. Here again, the ARRL has stated in many publications, that the use of misunderstood "lingo" is poor operating practice. Even the ubiquitous "Q" signs of CW are not appropriate to phone operations. Their original purpose, as a kind of shorthand that shortened the time necessary to send a message in Morse Code, still exists, but ONLY in Morse Code. The use of QRM or QTH may be very frequent on the voice ham bands since most operators know the meaning of these terms, but a few operators insist on using arcane Q signs. All this does is confuse the other operator. If these individuals are doing this to make it appear that they are super hams, they should stop. All it does is irritate the rest of us, and slow the passage of information down due to having to repeat the term in plain English. Why not do it in plain English to begin with.

Third, as the operator who brought the subject up noted, we are under observation very often. Government agencies, relief organizations, law enforcement, fire and EMS entities are the very clients we serve when disaster strikes. We, as radio operators, must be cognizant of how we present ourselves to these agencies. That means being as professional as we can while we do our "thing", Radio Communications.

As a reminder to all amateur radio operators, here is the phonetic alphabet in its proper form, courtesy of the ARRL.

ALFA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, DELTA, ECHO, FOXTROT, GOLF, HOTEL, INDIA, JULIET, KILO, LIMA, MIKE, NOVEMBER, OSCAR, PAPA, QUEBEC, ROMEO, SIERRA, TANGO, UNIFORM, VICTOR, WHISKEY, X-RAY, YANKEE, ZULU.

If you are telling someone your name, it is your NAME, not your "personal". If you are telling someone where you live, it is your address, not your QTH, unless of course, you are using Morse Code. Same thing for QRU. You are asking if the other operator has anything for you so just say that. Don't make the other operator puzzle around the shack trying to figure out what the heck QRU means. Same thing for QRL, QRO, QTB etc. These terms are appropriate for Morse Code, not voice comms on FM. Please do NOT use the "10-code" on amateur radio. Not even 10-4! Q-signs or codes have their place in the CW mode, but they are not really appropriate for voice communications. By the way, a frequently heard term on amateur radio is the term "73". Note please that I said "73", not 73's. The term which is shorthand for "best regards" per the latest definition from the ARRL originated with telegraphers in the 19th century. It should not be pluralized. It is "73".

OK, I have made a pest out of myself for long enough. Just remember, the purpose is to get the message across clearly, not to confound us by trying too hard to sound like an old hand. When in doubt, just say it in plain English, which usually works out best.

QST January 2021

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

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YAESU

SWAP / TRADE / SELL : If anyone has gear they wish to sell or donate, please send the particulars to the editor for inclusion in the next issue. The want or sell ads are free so please avail yourself of the service. Note: this list is getting a bit long in the tooth, so if anything here has already been sold or is no longer on offer, please let the Editor know so it can be removed.

FOR SALE:

Offer to build: Custom extension cables for any remote-able radio such as the Yaesu FTM-300, 350 etc.

PowerPole Power Distribution Blocks in 4+1, 6+1, and 8+1 sizes \$10, \$15, \$20 each respectively Can custom build to suit.

Foot operated PTT switches brand new from MPJA wired with 3.5mm mono plug on 10' cable. ¼" adapter available if needed. \$10

IN ADDITION: I have more parts and components than I will ever use, so if you need something, a transistor, a plug, a jack, etc etc. call me first, I will give you a great price (as in no charge).

Call Geoff at 941-447-8579 (cell) or 941-752-3696 (home)

For Sale: By Dave Flail, W3IK. W3IK@ARRL.NET

- **COMET GP-98 TRI-BAND ANTENNA** \$150.00
 - New, out of box
- **PALSTAR SP30H COMMUNICATIONS SPEAKER** \$145.00
 - Some minor scratches
- **ASTRON RM-12A RACK MOUNT POWER SUPPLY** \$ 65.00
- **UNIDEN BCD436HP HAND HELD DIGITAL SCANNER** \$475.00
 - Includes Programming Software

For Sale: from Burch Akin: I have a Force 12 C3 HF bean that I bought about 2 years ago for \$1100. It's brand new in the box. I'll take \$800 for it. Contact me at K4QXX@arrl.net

CLUB MEETING: To be a ZOOM session via the Internet on January 5, 2021 at 7PM
Monthly Board Meeting TBA (may be replaced with a teleconference)

Monthly ARES Meeting TBA

Club and Other Nets:

MARCI Info Net	Sunday 7:00 PM	146.820 – 100 Hz.
ARES Net	Monday 7:00PM	146.820 - 100 Hz.
MARCI Traders Net	Wednesday 7:30 PM	146.820 –100 Hz
David Flail, W3IK	is the NCS for the Traders Net	
Manatee Skywarn Net	Thursday 8:00 PM	146.820 - 100 Hz.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE NETS ANY TIME YOU CAN. The nets on Monday (146.820) and Thursday (146.820) are logged for the Manatee County Emergency Management and create “bill-able” hours of Volunteer Participation which often results in County provided equipment for ARES. And DON’T FORGET about the Regional Nets on NI4CE on 145.430 and 442.950. The Eagle Net, the NTS Traffic Net is on every night at 8:30 PM. The regional Skywarn Net is on Tuesday at 9 PM, The Technical Net is on Every Thursday at 9 PM or immediately after the end of the Eagle Net should that net run a little over. Our Club Net on Sunday night is recently very poorly attended. Our club has over 60 members. Surely at least 15 Or 20 of you can take 20 minutes out of your Sunday evening to check into your own club net! The most common complaint I hear about repeaters of all sorts, local and regional, is that **“there’s no one on”**. The old saying about **“if you don’t use it you will lose it”** was never truer than now.