

RADIOWAVES



MARCI Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT: Happy spring 2021 to you all! I hope that all of you are doing well, feeling great, and those that have been interested in the COVID-19 vaccine have been able to take advantage of one source or another.

At the most recent meetings of the MARCI Board of Directors, we discussed election of MARCI executives which will be conducted in the same fashion as in 2020. The election will take place in May. I was already informed by Kemp Mednick KM4PYH, our treasurer that he will be stepping down as he may be relocating. If anyone would like the opportunity to work with the club as treasurer or any other executive position within MARCI, I would ask that you contact one or more of the members of our nominating committee. As was done last year, the individuals in this committee will assist in the determining those interested, in the position of interest, and further assist in the voting process for candidates. The members of the nominating committee and their contact info are included at the end of my column for your convenience.

I was asked recently about whether or not MARCI would be participating in this year's FIELD DAY exercises. Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise, widely sponsored by IARU regions and member organizations, encouraging emergency communications preparedness among

amateur radio operators. Locally, this activity was conducted by ARES and with MARCI members in the past. (Many current members of MARCI are also affiliated with Manatee County ARES.) But there does not appear to be a plan by Manatee County ARES to operate during Field Day this year. Therefore, I would like to know if any of you would like to try to put an effort together. If so, I will assist in any way I can. Contact me directly, my email address is below.

Tuesday April 6th, is the date of our next General Membership Meeting which takes place via ZOOM at 7:00pm. The LINK TO THE ZOOM MEETING IS ON HOME PAGE of THE MARCI WEBSITE. <https://www.manatee-arc.org/> We have in store per usual, an interesting presentation on tap for the G/Membership Meeting. As we are not having a meeting in July we have some time to consider topics that YOU might consider worthy or interesting as topics for one of our future meetings in the 4th quarter of 2021. Please give us some input and/or ideas and let's see what we can do!

Current paid MARCI membership stands at 74. If you have not yet renewed or would like to join MARCI, individual dues are \$25 per member with an additional \$5 for another member in the household. The MARCI website home page now has a link to allow the use of PayPal for dues renewal as a convenience. (See the link above.)

I hope to see all of you on Tuesday night April 6th during the General Membership Meeting. Have a Happy Easter, take care and PLEASE...tell someone that you love them.

Mike Ryan, K4CVL mryan001@tampabay.rr.com

MARCI Nominating Committee Members for 2021

Cecil Fox, KF4CSM

kf4csm@gmail.com

Bob Borsari, W4WRS

w4wrs@shentel.net

Cindy Wiggins, WB4ZBH

wb4zbh@aol.com

FROM THE EDITOR: April is upon us, which means June is not far behind. Of course, you know what June means, that's right, The start of Hurricane Season. As we have been warned many times in the past by NOAA and others, June is just a date, hurricanes can happen almost anytime of year. Therefore, it behooves us as amateur radio operators to try to make at least some of our equipment storm resistant. We should also be charging up our spare batteries for our HTs etc. You do have spare batteries for your HTs don't you?. Now is also the time to put together our kit suitable for at least 72 hour deployments, even if you are not assigned to a shelter, even if like me you would have to go to a special needs shelter as a client, not as a first responder. Even if you are going to shelter in place at your home, you will Have to be prepared to do without water, electricity, the Internet and your cell phone. All of these services are at risk during a hurricane and may be out for several days at least. Be prepared with stores of water, food and battery power at least. While the pandemic appears to be slowing down it's awful consequences, especially here in Florida, who knows what the results of social distancing and mask wear will do to the capacities of our local shelters. I cannot stress it enough, BE PREPARED.

ARISS Ham Station in Columbus Module Is Once Again Operational

**From ARRL Headquarters Newington,
CT March 17, 2021**



Some 6 weeks after going silent following a spacewalk that installed new antenna cabling, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) ham station in the Columbus module is once again operational. The Columbus station, which typically uses the callsign NA1SS, is the primary ARISS amateur radio station used for school contacts and other activities. A January 27 spacewalk replaced a coax feed line installed 11 years ago with another built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Airbus.

While the specific cause of the problem has not yet been determined, a March 13 spacewalk that restored the antenna cabling to its original configuration provided the cure. The plan to return the ARISS cabling to its original configuration had been a "contingency task" for a March 5 spacewalk, but the astronauts ran out of time.

The ARISS work was appended to the to-do list for astronauts Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, and Victor Glover, KI5BKC, to complete a week later.

"On behalf of the ARISS International Team, our heartfelt thanks to all who helped ARISS work through the cable anomaly investigation, troubleshooting, and ultimate repair," ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said. Bauer praised NASA, the ESA, Airbus, and ARISS-Russia lead Sergey Samburov, RV3DR. While the Columbus ham station was off the air, ARISS school and group contacts were able to continue using the ham station in the ISS Service Module on the Russian side of the station.

During the weekend spacewalk, Hopkins swapped out a cable for the Bartolomeo commercial payload-handling platform that had been installed in series with the ARISS VHF-UHF antenna feed line, returning the ARISS system to its pre-January 27 configuration. Hopkins raised a question concerning a sharp bend in the cable near a connector, but no further adjustments were possible.

On March 14, ARISS was able to confirm the operation's success when Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) signals on 145.825 MHz were heard in California, Utah, and Idaho as the ISS passed overhead. ARISS team member Christy Hunter, KB6LTY, was able to digipeat through NA1SS during the pass. With additional confirmation from stations in South America and the Middle East, ARISS declared the radio system operational again.

Work during the March 13 spacewalk also made Bartolomeo operational. "Yesterday was a great day for all!" Bauer exulted. "Ad astra!"

SOURCES FOR PARTS FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT

Sources: <http://www.mpja.com/> - MPJA Online. A Florida based supplier of surplus parts, tools, etc.

<http://www.packetradio.com/index.html> - The URL for BuxxComm. Lots of parts and assembled devices for ham radio.

<http://www.allelectronics.com/> - This California based company has thousands of surplus parts and devices, tools, supplies etc.

<http://www.qsradio.com> The site of **Quicksilver Radio** top site for Powerpole Connectors and other bits and pieces for ham radio.

<http://www.pl-259.com/index.html> - This is the URL for Tower Electronics. This Wisconsin based vendor is familiar to many hams here in Florida since they come to many of the local hamfests in our area.

<http://www.mouser.com/> - One of the larger companies supplying parts and tools to both the hobbyist and the industry.

<http://www.alliedelec.com> - Another large electronics company

<http://www.harborfreight.com/> - Harbor Freight has cheap tools, lots of outlets in our area.. For hobby purposes, the less expensive tools will do just fine in most situations.

I am quite sure you can add plenty of sources to this list. I am not familiar with local parts suppliers outside of the Bradenton - Sarasota area. There may be lots of others in the Greater Tampa Bay Area.

73,
Geoff Haines, N1GY

QST April 21

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G J T M A G A E B Z R F H Q J L N F
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ARRAY	ELECRAFT	SOLUTIONS
BALUNS	ETON	STEPIIR
BRIDGE COM	FLEX RADIO	TOWER
COMET	HYGAIN	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: 2 Hand Held transceivers.

Kenwood TH-K2AT 2M transceiver with English Manual and Spanish Manual.

Kenwood TH-G71 Transceiver. 2M/440 Mhz. No manual.

These are nice small HH which takes 6 AA Batteries (easy to change in a power out situation). Last used in Simplex mode between 2 vehicles. Worked great.

These have been replaced with 2 FTM-70.

Price 2 for \$100.

Contact WB9KVD at jham58@tampabay.rr.com or 941-567-6716

From Bill, N9US:



The AEA model VSB-70 is a Fast-Scan Television (FSTV) transceiver that operates on the amateur 420 to 440MHz band. The transmitter features two local oscillator crystal-controlled channels and an output of one watt PEP on sync peaks. Receive operation can transceive or use variable

tuning. In transmit, baseband NTSC video and audio are converted to Vestigial Sideband (VSB) video with the FM audio subcarrier in the 70 cm band. This is the same format as used by analog broadcast television. Video cameras, Camcorders and video cassette recorders with video and audio output jacks can be used to generate the baseband video and audio for transmission. A separate front panel microphone jack may also be used for audio input. Either color or black and white video may be used. Television channel 3 or 4 may be used to monitor your broadcast signal. If you live in an area where channel 3 is used by a commercial television station, your VSB-70 must be configured for channel 4, and vice versa. A standard color or black and white television is used for reception. The same television is used for monitoring your transmission. The VSB-70 uses a GaAs FET preamplifier which provides for a system noise figure of less than 1.5dB. Either crystal-controlled or VFO receive tuning may be selected. In addition to the video source and television set, a 13.6 volt regulated power supply and 70cm antenna are necessary. AEA also offers the RLA-70 linear amplifier with MPS-100 power supply and the 430-16 antenna to complete your ATV station. To transmit, an FCC amateur Technician or higher-class license is required.

Bought for \$309 from AEA in 1992. Works great! Best Offer



Ameritron 5 Way Antenna Switch RCS-8V

RCS-8V HF to VHF/UHF Remote Coax Switch

Ameritron's Remote Coax Switch lets you remotely switch up to five separate antennas using one inexpensive small control line (like standard telephone wire). Eliminate a tangle of troublesome coax and have a simple and neat installation with just a single feed line.

The **RCS-8V** consists of two units, the weatherproof switching box that mounts on your tower or mast and the control unit that's placed at your operating station.

VSWR is less than 1.2 from DC to 250 MHz and less than 0.1 dB loss at 150 MHz, great for the HF/VHF/UHF operator.

It handles over 5 kW below 30 MHz and 1 kW at 150 MHz. You can ground unused positions or leave them open.

The indoor control unit is all metal to prevent RFI and TVI. It also has LEDs to indicate the antenna you've selected. A Lexan scratch-proof panel has a markable surface for labeling your antenna positions.

RCS-8V operates from a 120 VAC power source. Use any 6 conductor control line (not supplied) and allows safe operation with 14V control voltage.

Specifications

- Number of antennas positions: 5
- Loss at 150 MHz: Less than .1dB
- VSWR: under 1.2 to 1 from DC to 250 MHz.
- Impedance: 50 ohms
- Power Capability: > 5kW Watts below 30 MHz, 1kW at 150MHz.
- Antenna select time: 50 ms.
- Power requirements: 120 VAC @100mA, AC adapter supplied
- Connectors: Teflon® SO-239
- Control Box: 6" x 6 1/8" x 2 1/4"
- Switch Box: 5 3/8" x 7" x 3"
- This one modified to add remote-controlled relay to permit **switching between unactivated ports to ground or floating. Makes big difference (sometimes) on received noise level. Came off my tower in Illinois**
- **Current MFJ price \$229.95 Best Offer**

Heathkit HA-14 “Mobile Kilowatt” Linear Amplifier

- The **HA-14** amplifier uses two 572B power tubes in parallel in a traditional grounded grid configuration. The matching power supplies are solid state. The amplifier is a small and affordable home KW that works very well in fixed station service. Perhaps more of them are used fixed than mobile. Model: Linear Amplifier HA-14 - Heathkit Brand, **Heath** Co.; Material: Metal case : Shape: Tablemodel, Dimensions (WHD) 12.25 x 3.25 x 10 inch / 311 x 83 x 254 mm : Notes: Heathkit HF-Amplifier HA-14. Grounded grid linear power-amplifier for 80 to 10 meters HAM bands. Driver power max. 100 watts, output power abt. 600 watts. My friend George Ulm, W9EVT, claims to have run one of these from his MOTORCYCLE! (Crazy as he is, I can believe it!). Check out his radio collection on his QRZ.COM page!



Have 2 of these. Sold 1 for \$350 in 2010. Best Offer

Heathkit MODEL HP-24 AC Power Supply for HA-14 Linear

Material	Metal case
Shape	Tablemodel,
Dimensions (WHD)	9 x 4.75 x 6.75 inch / 229 x 121 x 171 mm
Notes	Heathkit Power-Supply <i>HP-24</i> . AC power supply for SSB linear power amplifier HA-14 (80 - 10 meters HAM bands). Can be wired for either 120 or 240 VAC input. Output: HV 2500 VDC (no load), Filament 12.6 VAC, Bias -150 VDC.
Net weight	8.7 kg / 19 lb 2.6 oz (19.163 lb)

Best Offer

ICOM AH-2 Remote Automatic Antenna Tuner

This tuner was specifically designed to interface with ICOM transceivers using the CI-V interface. It can be used with other rigs with some manual intervention. With an antenna 12 meters or longer, this tuner will work all bands from 160 through 10 meters. To minimize interference to other stations, it transmits just 0.3 watts while tuning. Maximum input power is 120 watts. It has a built-in memory capable of storing tuning information for 8 different frequencies, which can be called up in less than 1 second. Tuning time for non-memorized frequencies is 2 to 4 seconds (20 seconds maximum time). It has both THROUGH (By-Pass) and TUNE modes. It comes with 100 feet of RC-6 six conductor control cable to connect between the control unit and the remote tuner.



Best Offer

MFJ-1026 HF Noise Canceller

Frequency Range: 1.5-30 MHz

Phase Reversal Switch: Yes

PTT Keying Input: Yes

Keying Connector Type: RCA phono jack

Width: 6.500 in.

Height: 1.500 in.

Depth: 6.250 in.

Weight: 1.800 lbs.

MFJ Noise Canceling Signal Enhancers are designed to reduce noise or interference, or improve desired signals, before the noise affects sensitive receiver circuits. Unlike conventional noise blankers, these units can be effective on all types of noise (QRN), as well as on interference (QRM) from unwanted signals. Noise Canceling Signal Enhancers work on all signal modes and can transform difficult receiving situations so you can finally hear, work, and log that rare DX!

MFJ Noise Canceling Signal Enhancers allow the user to adjust both phase and amplitude while combining antenna inputs. One of two antenna inputs may be connected to the transmit antenna, and the other to an external receive antenna or the internal whip antenna on the model MFJ-1026. Or both inputs may be used with identical receive antennas to create various directional patterns for optimum results. The signal output to the receiver or transceiver is the vector addition or subtraction of signals from two separate antennas, balanced and phased. This allows unwanted noise to be removed or desired signals to be enhanced.



Current MFJ Price \$239.95. Have 2 for 1 (One needs repair). The good one works great!
Best Offer

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 April 6, 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