

# RADIOWAVES



## MARCI Newsletter

**FROM THE PRESIDENT:** At the time I am writing this contribution to RADIOWAVES, I have an eye on the Weather Channel. I'm sure you all feel as do I that New Orleans and the surrounding areas appear to be on tap for another destructive and life threatening storm. My only hope is that those that could not leave are prepared, and those that did, do not come back to their worst fears. The nation has already received enough bad news this week after learning of the death of 13 US servicemen, young heroes doing humanitarian work in Afghanistan. Their deaths are such a tragedy in their own right.

We are still moving forward with plans for the first ever MARCIFEST. This is will be a totally OUTDOOR, ham radio equipment/swapfest event. I have asked for some volunteers and our club secretary has emailed all of you asking for a little donation of your time. Though the event will run from very early morning to early afternoon on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> I am not asking for ANYONE to stay all day to help. A few hours out of your morning during a time slot convenient to you is all I/we ask. Please contact me if you can spare a little time. It would be most appreciated. A planning meeting will be held at the Bible Baptist Church this Tuesday night 08/31 at 7:00pm. This will be OUTSIDE the Church and again an open air meeting.

**I was informed this week that our Echolink service has been off-line. There is a need to move this from its current location and some hardware will have to be acquired to return it to normal operation. This SHOULD not take long to accomplish. As soon as this has been done, we will let everyone know.**

**I understand that Brian Biery, N4BB the new MARCI librarian has been slacking. My understanding is that organizing books has been overtaxing him, and as a result he had to have surgery this past Tuesday to repair a hernia. All kidding aside, Brian we all hope you enjoy a quick and easy recovery.**

**The next VE Session is slated for Saturday October 16th<sup>st</sup> at The Church of Bradenton located at 2520 43<sup>rd</sup> St. West in Bradenton.**

**It would be great to see a few of you at the BB Church this Tuesday night and be a part of our MARCIFEST plans. Otherwise, I hope to see all of you on ZOOM during the next MARCI General Membership Meeting, Tuesday September 7th. Until then, stay cool, take care all, and PLEASE...tell someone that you love them.**

**Mike Ryan, K4CVL [mryan001@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mryan001@tampabay.rr.com)**

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Here we are in peak Hurricane season so we had better be ready. So far we have been lucky. That may not last. So have your gear ready whether you are being deployed as part of ARES or just to be ready as a radio operator citizen. That is one disaster. The other of course is our current Pandemic with the Delta variant of COVID-19. Even those who have been vaccinated are not fully protected against this new threat. A vaccinated person's illness may be less severe but even they can still spread the disease. Those who are NOT vaccinated run a significant risk of severe illness or even death. This is not about personal freedom, it is about preventing you from becoming another fatality statistic. Do not be one of those. If you have not done so already, get vaccinated NOW.

I am still looking for pictures of your radio room to use in our "Shack" of the Month feature. I cannot make it happen every month unless I get those pictures. I am also again putting out a plea for articles on home brewed gear for the ham operator. This can be as simple as a better way to provide off-grid power or how to tune your rig for better results. I do not expect professional writing, just a good idea in simple terms that will help your fellow club member advance his or her enjoyment of the hobby.

CLARITY IN COMMS  
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 you're "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 AUG 21

RNVRXN IATNUOMTSEWT  
YXQQRDGV LTLKWNLNNB  
TTXOIDARXELFDXTRCN  
INLQTNGDLTTQZUSEAY  
UOUTLE TETKARRAYOCT  
NTRANSCEIVERKPIBMJ  
ELBPKRFNSZJZNDPELH  
GAFNAFKKYORKANLVBM  
NMYFJTRTMMLRTBGRXO  
IETDVKJELEMUARFLYC  
KRNKENDJQASTTRXNNE  
TIIDYCVNHURREIHNRG  
KTAIXFOKOOESOOOPMD  
TRGGYQMDPMINTMRNYI  
LOYIJCKQECASCTBHSR  
PNHTLLGMERP IRYWBRB  
LMXARQLRXOWQDGPXBZ  
BHKLCDPZTWMWMTJPXY

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they are full of I.C. chips, Diodes, Zener Diodes

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Asking \$300.00 or will trade for other ham radio items .

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

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each respectively Can custom build to suit.

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).

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**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 mountson 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 kWatt 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**

For Sale: IC-745 radio

Astron RS-35M power supply

SG 231 Smart tuner

RG213/U Coax cable, approximately 60'

Total for everything \$350

Contact [rmhooie@yahoo.com](mailto:rmhooie@yahoo.com)



# Icom IC-706MKIIG, Standard Mic & DTMF Mic, Filters for SSB & CW, mounting bracket \$500

Contact Jim email: KD5FQM@arrl.net

**CLUB MEETING:** This will be a Zoom meeting on September 7, 2021 Our meetings will be on Zoon until further notice

(See the President’s message on Pages 1 and 2 of this issue.)

**Monthly Board Meeting** TBA (may be replaced with a teleconference)

**Monthly ARES Meeting** TBA (may be replaced with a teleconference)

## 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.
WCF Eagle Net (Local NTS Net)	Nightly 8:30PM	145.43 – 100Hz
WCF Technical Net (tech assistance, ideas)	Thurs 9:00PM	145.43 – 100Hz

**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.

