RADIOWAVES

MARCI Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

We are finalizing plans for the first ever MARCIFEST, ham radio flea market/swap meet. As was mentioned, this will be a totally OUTDOOR event. I have asked for and still could use some volunteers to help with various duties. No lifting or physical activity aside from directing traffic or collecting money from the sale of admission tickets. The club secretary has emailed you all about volunteering for a few hours and I have asked during the Sunday night nets the last two months. Though the event will run from very early morning to early afternoon on Saturday, October 23rd 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.

Our 2nd meeting about MARCIFEST, a quick dress rehearsal if you will, is to be held at the Bible Baptist Church on Tuesday 10/12 at 7:00pm. This will be OUTSIDE the Church and again an open air meeting. As the days are getting shorter and sundown at about 7:30pm if those coming can arrive between 6:45pm and 7:00pm it will provide us enough time in daylight I'm sure.

Brian Biery, N4BB the new MARCI Librarian is soon to have all three of the newest ARRL License Manuals for study by those wanting to get their Amateur Radio license or UPGRADE. The Board of Directors directed the purchase of the Technician and Extra Class Manuals. MARCI was given a GENERAL CLASS MANUAL by Jeff Lewis, KY4JP for the library. Thank you Jeff!

Hurricane 'IDA' devastated a large area of the Louisiana coast and cost tremendous damage as well as some loss of life after landfall on 08/30. One AM radio/broadcast station, WWL stayed on the air throughout the storm and during the aftermath. It is a testament to the dedication of the staff of WWL and the IMPORTANCE of AM radio. See this Washington Post article: https://wapo.st/3heKdvR

The next VE Session is slated for Saturday October 16th at The Church of Bradenton located at 2520 43rd St. West in Bradenton for those interested.

Again, it would be great to see all of our MARCIFEST volunteers at the BB Church Tuesday night 10/12. Be a part of our MARCIFEST plans! It's really history in the making, our first hamfest.

I hope to see all of you on ZOOM during the next MARCI General Membership Meeting, Tuesday October 5th. Our program for the October meeting is by guest presenter by Tim Duffy, K3LR from DX Engineering. It should be a most interesting ZOOM Meeting. Until then, stay safe, take care all, and PLEASE…tell someone that you love them.

Mike Ryan, K4CVL

FROM THE EDITOR: I am still awaiting more response from the members in regard to photos of their radio setups, towers, antennas, etc. I am also still waiting for anyone to offer up any kind of article about something you built, modified, or indeed have used at all. There are lots and lots of topics available, FT-8, Packet radio, Amateur TV slow scan or fast scan. I myself have a limited number of articles on hand even with the use of articles from a couple of other newsletters around the country that I have permission to use. Please, give your club the benefit of your experience and expertise and send me something for the newsletter.

On another note, Hurricane Season is not quite over yet. Officially we have another 60 or so days to go. Do not drop your guard yet.

From June 2001 QST © ARRL

THE HELP DESK

Antenna and Tower Safety

Many amateurs enjoy building and installing their antennas and consider this one of the most enjoyable aspects of their hobby. Since antennas are generally outdoors, they are affected by such potentially hazardous weather as wind, ice and lightning. Learning about the potential hazards of towers and antennas
and how to do antenna work safely will pay dividends. *Any heavy, large and permanent structure that fails or collapses can potentially hurt or even kill somebody.* The complete installation *must* comply with all applicable structural and building codes. Professional engineers design towers to withstand code loadings—that is, dead weight, wind and ice loadings that are applicable to the environment at your particular location. The latest revision of the EIA-222 standard is the document from which professional engineers work to ensure that their tower designs are structurally safe. To ensure structural safety and integrity, you must demonstrate that your tower has been designed by a qualified engineer to withstand EIA-222 loadings at your specific geographic area. Further, the tower, foundation, guys and anchors must be installed (and maintained) according to any drawings, instructions and specifications supplied by the professional engineer. Remember: A properly designed, installed and maintained tower should be as safe as a building or a bridge! It is not feasible to discuss each type of antenna and tower in detail, so this section will include only highlights. For a full understanding of the specific hardware you will be working with, consult the manufacturer or supplier. You should discuss your antenna plans with a qualified engineer. The ARRL Volunteer Consulting Engineer program can steer you to a knowledgeable engineer.

When using slingshots or arrows to string up the antenna, be sure no one is in range before you launch.

In addition, your town or city will probably require that you obtain a building permit to erect a tower or antenna. This is their way to help ensure that the installation follows good practices and that the installation is safe. Wise amateurs realize that an independent review of drawings and site inspections are beneficial and can result in fewer problems in the future. Towers must have a properly engineered support, both for the tower sections themselves as well as guy wire attachments. Sometimes towers are braced to buildings for added support. The Antenna Supports chapter of *The ARRL Antenna Book* covers this subject in greater detail. Towers are available commercially in both guyed and self-supporting styles, and constructed of both steel and aluminum materials. Masts may be wood or metal. One popular and inexpensive mast used to support small antennas is the tubular mast often sold for TV antenna use. These come in telescoping sections, in heights from 20 to 50 feet. Aluminum extension ladders are sometimes used for temporary antenna supports, such as at Field Day sites. One problem with this approach is the difficulty in holding down the bottom section while "walking up" the ladder. Do *not* try to erect this type of support alone. Trees are sometimes pressed into service for holding one end of a wire antenna. When using slingshots or arrows to string up the antenna, be sure no one is in range before you launch.

Tower Tips

• Towers have design load limitations. Make very sure the tower you consider has the capacity to safely handle the antenna(s) you intend to install in the kind of environment that is applicable to your location.

• The antenna must be located in such a position that *it cannot possibly tangle with power lines, both during normal operation or if the structure should fall*.

• Sufficient yard space must be available to position a guyed tower properly. A rule of thumb is that the guy anchors should be between 60% and 80% of the tower height in distance from the base of the tower.

• Provisions must be made to keep children from climbing the support.

• Soil conditions at the tower site should be investigated. The footings need to be designed around actual soil conditions, particularly on a rocky site.

• Beware of used towers. Have them professionally inspected and contact the manufacturer for installation criteria.

• Check with your local building officials.

• Liability may be increased with a tower installation. Check with your insurer to ensure your coverage is adequate.

• Make sure you have all the tools needed before starting. Some specialized tools (such as a gin pole) may be required.

• The assembly crew as well as those climbing the tower during erection must wear

hard hats and use appropriate personal protective equipment including gloves, boots, climbing belt or harness. Don't forget that lifelines are needed when the belt is unattached from the tower while moving.

• Assign someone in the erection crew to monitor the use of safety equipment.

• After the tower is installed, keep the installation safe. Inspection and maintenance recommended by the tower's manufacturer should be carefully followed.

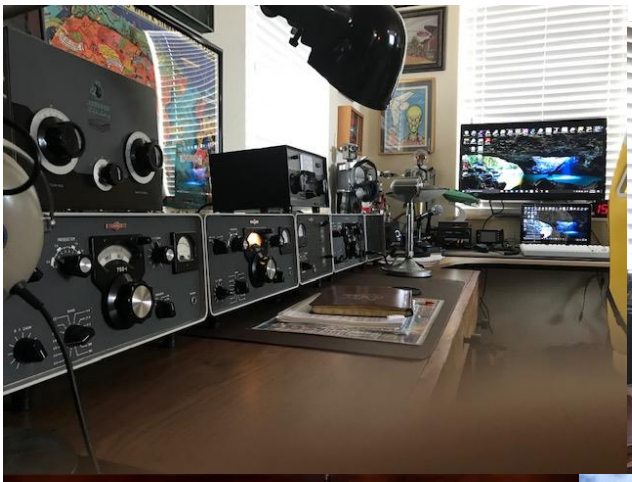
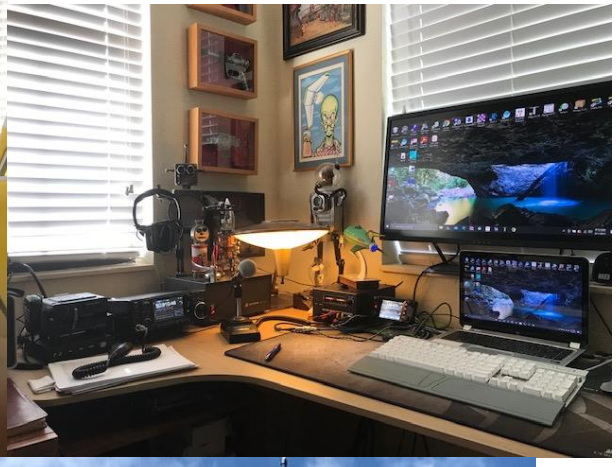
• If making attachments to houses or installations on roofs, have a qualified person determine that the method is adequate and the loading conditions are satisfactory.

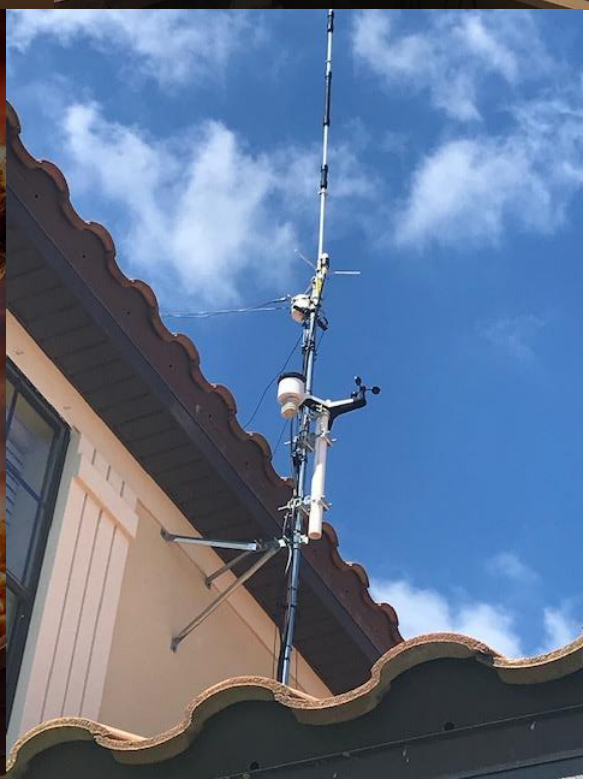
• Avoid metal ladders if there are any utility lines in the vicinity. Assume that any line is energized—including cable television and telephone lines.

Power Lines

Hundreds of people have been killed or seriously injured when attempting to install or dismantle antennas. In virtually all cases, the victim was aware of the hazards, including electrocution, but did not take the necessary steps to eliminate the risks. Never install antennas, towers and masts near power lines. How far away is considered safe? Towers and masts should be installed twice the height of the installation away from power lines. Every electrical wire must be considered dangerous. If the installation should contact power lines, you or those around you could be killed! If you have any questions about power lines, contact your electrical utility, city inspector or a qualified professional. If, for some reason your tower starts to fall, get away from it immediately. If it touches energized lines it may be a lethal hazard if you are in contact with the antenna. If a coworker becomes energized, do not touch the person. Instead, use an insulated wooden pole to knock the energized conductor away from them. Don't become a victim yourself! If the person is not breathing, immediately start CPR and call for emergency assistance.—*excerpted from the* 2000 ARRL Handbook

RADIO ROOM OF THE MONTH!



Here are shots of Frank Giannone's (WO4GQ) excellent radio room and antennas
Thank you Frank for adding much needed content to the newsletter.

QST Oct 21

F L T D N N G R O U N D I N G Y L
R V J R I F L X D I V E R S I T Y
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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)

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 October 5, 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 8:00 PM	146.820 –100 Hz
Manatee Skywarn Net	Thursday 8:00 PM	146.820 - 100 Hz.
WCF Eagle Net (Local NTS Net)	Nightly 8:30PM	145.43 – 100Hz or 442.95+ 100Hz
WCF Technical Net (tech assist.)	Thurs 9:00PM	145.43 – 100Hz or 442.95+ 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 0r 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.**