

# RADIOWAVES



## MARCI Newsletter

**FROM THE PRESIDENT:** Season's Greetings to all! Hopefully all had a terrific Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a fine Christmas and New Year's. As I mentioned last month here, MARCI General Membership Meetings will continue via ZOOM for the foreseeable future. Until I am confident that YOU are confident in close contact/group meetings we will continue with our meetings virtually.

The December G/M Meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> will be quite a unique and fun affair. I will conduct the first portion of the meeting concerning our business affairs and our annual awards presentation. After that I will turn the meeting over to George, Tony, and Ed. (THE THREE WISEGUYS?) So get ready for some fun! If you have an UGLY Christmas sweater let's see it! I will judge the best/worst and YOU could win a prize!

During the new year we will continue with some interesting General Membership Meeting presentations including a 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation by Tim Duffy, K3LR from DX Engineering on station grounding and bonding. We will also be planning on having chief meteorologist from Ch.40 TV WWSB in Sarasota, Bob Harrigan in June at the start of hurricane season. I/we welcome your suggestions and ideas for future presentations so please let me know what you think would be a good topic for the group and we'll do our best to put it into play.

There have been frequent requests made of you during our Sunday night nets and even during our monthly General Membership Meetings for you the membership to send in a picture of your station or operating position.

**I have sent a picture of mine in this month.**

**Though the picture lacks in detail, I use a FLEX 6700 HF radio with the FLEX Power Genius amplifier. I also have a Yaesu FTDx101MP HF transceiver with an Alpha 9500 HF amplifier. There is an Icom 9700 for weak signal work on 2mtrs, 432mz, and 1.2 GHz, a Commander 1KW amp for VHF, and other power amps for 222MHz and 432 MHz. I currently have 11 (yes 11) handheld radios, and more mobile radios than I care to count. So, what's on your table top? Send us a picture!**

**I hope to see all of you on ZOOM during the next MARCI General Membership Meeting, Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Get set for an interesting night!**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> means more to some than others, though all of us must remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.**  
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/pearl-harbor-bombed>

**I'm sure I speak for the rest of the Board of Directors and the membership as a whole when I say thanks to those MARCI members and their families who are either active service members or veterans. THANKS and MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**In closing, stay safe, 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:** Once again MARCI has completed another year with many good things to be celebrated and several items to be mourned. The club survived through the most unusual year what with the Pandemic. Our first (in my memory) Ham-fest/flea market/ tailgate was by all accounts a success and looks to be repeated next year. Unfortunately we lost a member or two along the way because of the pandemic. Our thoughts go out to all affected by this unfortunate news. Our area did not see a major hurricane throughout the 2021 Hurricane Season, for which we are grateful.



**Here is a photo of Mike's Station as he describes in the President's column this month.**

“Don't Throw That Out!  
I Can Put A Radio In There!”

By

Geoff Haines, N1GY

As I have progressed as a builder of various widgets and gadgets for my ham radio experience, sometimes painfully, I might add, I have put various bits of flotsam to good use in many ways. The point of this article is to point you the reader in the right direction so that you also can save a few bucks on your next project.

There are two ways to look at a new ham radio project. Take the list of parts from wherever you got the project to the electronic store and pay what the retailer asks for all of those parts, enclosures, etc. Or, you can look at the list of parts as a starting point for a little game of

alternative usage. For example, I once built a foot switch out of two tuna cans of different sizes, a bit of foam padding and some electrical tape. Well, I did have to buy the electrical switch itself, but I saved at least \$20 on the enclosure. Now tuna tins are old hat, hams have been using them for radio chassis' for years and years. As the world keeps turning, things that were high-tech just a few months ago are rapidly becoming obsolete.

Take the VHS video tape for example. A few years ago, everyone wanted a VCR. The tapes were usually stored in some kind of plastic box. Now, everyone wants a DVD player and even those are being supplanted by Blue Ray and TIVO. Those old VHS tape boxes make great enclosures for all kinds of ham radio widgets. The plastic is easy to cut and drill, the size is just right, and they can be stacked together so that whatever you build into them can be connected easily. I used one to make an "ON AIR" sign for my radio room. A window cut in the bottom was easily filled with a scrap of red plastic; a little aluminum foil was glued to the opposite inside cover. My PC printer provided the words "ON AIR" printed on regular copy paper, and a little hot glue held it all together. Illumination is provided by two 12 volt Grain of Wheat bulbs wired in parallel and fed by the same power supply that feeds the radios. That way, anytime I have the radios powered up, the "ON AIR" sign is lit up. Total cost: about 50 cents for the bulbs and the rest was free.

Another project that used a VHS Tape box was a device I designed to allow me to check the trailer lights hookup without the need of a second party to stand behind the trailer. The Tape box sits perfectly on my dashboard with a long cable running to the back of the rig allowing me to verify that the turn signals, brake lights and running lights all light up as they are supposed to. Three little LEDs mounted through the edge of the box light up when the appropriate vehicle wiring is activated and I can check it all out from the driver's seat.

It's not just enclosures that can be fashioned from stuff that has no connection to amateur radio. When I needed to create a larger, more comfortable switch to use as a PTT switch on a computer mic conversion, all I had on hand was one of those little tiny push-button switches from Radio Shack. The protective cover from a ladies deodorant container was screwed onto the base of the mic, covering the tiny switch and making the button into a large paddle-like surface that was easy to use.

The very first article I ever wrote for QST was about a desk mic made from an old discarded pot handle. Apart from the electronics involved, it took only a few scraps of wood and plastic to turn the handle of a pot into a very usable desk mic. Readers have since told me they have done similar conversions since seeing the article. One gentleman even used the branch of a pine tree to create a very neat desk mic with just a little work.

The concept I am describing also applies to other aspects of our hobby. Cleaned and discarded baby-food containers (the rectangular plastic kind) make excellent parts containers and they can be stacked at least three high to make maximum use of the shelf space. Fishing lure boxes work well also and can also be stacked to make the best use of space.

Every Christmas, somebody sells a lot of fancy chocolates wrapped in gold colored foil and contained in a square, flat plastic box. I have at least two of these boxes. I don't know what I will build into them yet, but I guarantee that I will use them for something in the near future. The box is clear, so it can be painted on the inside and still has a great finish on the outside. It is square, about 9 inches on a side and about 1 inch high. The plastic appears to be the ideal thickness for mounting jacks and switches through, so I just cannot throw them away.

The trick to all of this recycling is to keep an open mind. Every time you look at anything, think “can I use this for one of my ham radio projects without a lot of work” If the answer is No, then by all means continue to the trash barrel. But, if the answer is Yes or Maybe, file the stuff away someplace in the radio room. When you do find a perfect use for it, you will have it to use. You will probably save a few bucks in the bargain.



These are just a few of the items for the radio room that I have made from recycled materials over the years. One does not have to buy everything. A great deal of satisfaction can be obtained by building it yourself

# QST DEC 21

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

[www.WordSearchMaker.com](http://www.WordSearchMaker.com)

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MFJ 434 Voice Keyer \$125.00

MFJ 945E 1.8-60 mhz mobile tuner ( in the box) \$ 100.00

MFJ 949 300 watt Tuner \$65.00

Vibroplex Paddle keyer Serial # 238008 \$ 100.00

Very rare EL-Key Paddle keyer made by Poucel Electronics  
only 400-600 made in the late 50"s \$ 150.00

6JF6 Sweep tubes (new) \$25.00 ea (5) for \$100.00

These items can be viewed on Bradenton-Sarasota Craigslist  
under electronics Key Word HAM

TNX, Peter ka1wbe

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.

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)

K1A1 WBE @  
JHAM58.COM

**Yaesu FT-101ZD.** Good Buy at **\$ 400**

Technician went over the radio about 3 years ago and it was in No. 1 shape. Radio has not been operated since.

**WB9KVD – Jack is the owner**

Kenwood Hand Helds. Buy pair for **\$ 100**  
w/ Batteries and manuals.

TH-K2 - 2m FM

TH-G71 -2m & 440 bands

Both take AA batteries.

Excellent condition.

**WB9KVD – Jack is the owner**

941-567-6716  
JHAM58 @ TAMPA BAY, FL, COM

Jack's Phone is 941-564-6716 in case his hand written additions are too difficult to read due to the transfer to the word document.

**CLUB MEETING:** This will be a Zoom Christmas Party on December 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 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 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.