

RADIOWAVES



MARCI Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT: Hello out there in RADIOWAVES land. I hope you are all well and healthy, and this week staying WARM. I regret to tell you that the latest recipient of that dastardly Corona Virus has been yours truly. Mrs. Mike, (my wife SUE) enjoyed a full week of my hacking, runny nose, and oh yes THE COUGHING. She endured my plight right up to the time she tested POSITIVE herself. And if I weren't already sleeping partially on the couch and the rest of the night in my recliner, after she caught the virus she WOULD HAVE assigned me the couch anyway. Needless to say, it was a lousy couple of weeks around the Ponderosa here but we are both on the mend and doing fine. I should say that we both were vaccinated, boosted, prim and proper, yet managed to be breakthrough cases anyway. It happens in the best of families I guess. The only saving grace you might say is that it would no doubt have been far worse had we not "had the shots." For warned is for armed.

I wish to report that we have some terrific programs on schedule for the first quarter of 2022. I won't spoil the fun, but I think you all will enjoy each and every one so be tuned in via ZOOM beginning this Tuesday Feb 1st and the first Tuesday of EVERY month for the MARCI General Membership Meetings. For those who are new and don't know our meeting schedule or how to attend, you will find the link to

the GM Meetings merely by going to the MARCI Website (<https://www.manatee-arc.org/>) where the ZOOM LINK is on the homepage. Also, as I said last month any ideas for programs are welcomed and even better should anyone desire to entertain, enlighten, or enrich us with a presentation we'd love it!

In other news our interim treasurer Jack Ham WB9KVD, with some help from ED Skalecki NI4MX, has made progress on the new MARCI PayPal account which Jack hopes to have up and running soon for our convenience. (Very timely as 2022 dues are due before March 31st.) Thanks Jack!

I'd also like to mention some news that came this week from Cecil Fox KF4CSM our MARCI HAM of THE YEAR for 2021. Cecil reports that he and his team of doctors are working on keeping his cancer at bay. Though there appear to be hurdles there was some good news and as always – hope. Cecil is a good friend, a great MARCI Club member and is quite active in Manatee County ARES among his many activities. Let's all remember Cecil and Melody in our thoughts and prayers.

I hope to see you all via ZOOM during the next General Membership Meeting, this Tuesday night at 7:00pm. During this meeting we will award some lucky MARCI MEMBER (Member's only please) a Yaesu FT-857 Transceiver. Again, though our meetings are open to anyone who may want to tune in, MARCI Members only qualify for this drawing. Tune in and WIN! As always, stay safe, take care all, and PLEASE...tell someone that you love them.

Mike Ryan, K4CVL mryan001@tampabay.rr.com

FROM THE EDITOR: As usual, in February, as in late January when this is being written, our outside temperatures take a dive. Thus it is the perfect time of year to consider building something to add to your enjoyment of Ham Radio. What to build is up to you, it might be an antenna, an accessory for the operating position like an ON AIR sign or it could be a kit to build a receiver or even a transmitter. Nesting aluminum tubing is available from several sources so a telescopic mast for portable or home use is quite easy to construct. It is too cold (and wet) right now to do anything outside, but the workbench is calling for some use. My own web site: N1GY.com has several projects that are easy to build and there are a lot of projects all over the Internet that even a new ham can complete easily. One of the aspects of Amateur Radio that sets us apart from other “appliance operator” groups is the fact that WE can legally build our own gear and use it on the air. This includes everything from receivers, transmitters, amplifiers, test gear, antennas etc. etc. If one starts with a small and simple project, one can build your talents and expertise with time so that you one day can take on a project like an RF amplifier or a major HF transceiver. Start small and build from there.

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A Very Simple Tester for Coax Integrity

This Little Tool Was Inspired By A Similar Device I Saw On U-Tube.

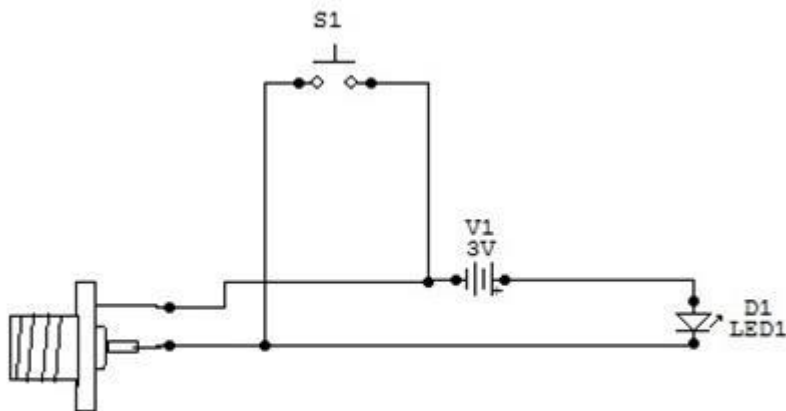
As I was browsing around the web this morning I saw a video by another ham in which he used what he called his coax tester. He did not explain the circuit for his tester but it gave me an idea. Obviously what he had was a form of continuity tester with specific design elements for attaching it to a newly installed coax connector. It took only a moment to come up with a workable circuit.

The functionality of the tester is obvious. I have installed many PL-259s over the years and testing for a short with a regular digital meter sometimes seems to require three hands. This tester allows one to simply screw the PL-259 onto the tester to get an immediate “GO/NO GO” indication. If the LED lights up- you have a short circuit either in the coax or the connector. Start over. If the LED does not light up, the installation of the connector has no short circuit.

I mounted the components in a small plastic box left over from a previous project and labeled the box with instructions on its use. I included a test button in the circuit so that the user could make sure that the unit would give a proper indication when used. The button momentarily short circuits the tester so the LED will light up. If it does not then it is probably time to replace the two 1.5 Volt AAA batteries that power the LED. The actual size of the batteries is not critical, AA or AAA will work just fine. The important thing is to power the unit with 3 volts DC. That way, no dropping resistor is required.

If you want to use a 9 volt battery just add the appropriate dropping resistor to the circuit. A 330 Ohm 1/8 watt resistor will do the trick just fine for 9 volt power. I suggest the use of a battery holder to make exchanging the batteries as easy as possible.

A protective ring wall was installed around the test push button to prevent inadvertent short circuits while it is stored in a tool box, pocket, or go-kit. The ring wall is nothing more than a section of a PVC tubing connector, hot glued around the push button. It has to be higher than the button, but only by a fraction since you want to be easily able to operate the button when using the tester.



Parts List:

- 1 SO-239 connector
- 1 Red LED
- 1 Momentary Push Button (Normally Open)
- 1 Battery Holder for battery(ies) of choice
- 1 330 Ohm resistor (only needed if using a 9 volt battery for power)
- 1 Suitable enclosure
- 1 protective ring to go around push button (section of PVC connector)
- Assorted hookup wire, hot glue, etc.

As you can see, the circuit is very simple. If there is a short circuit in the cable under test then voltage will be passed to the LED and it will light up. If the push button is activated then the circuit is also completed and the LED will light up.

A Quick & Easy Polarity Tester

This little gadget was found in an article in QST. It looked easy and it was.

This little polarity tester is meant to be tossed in your "Go-Kit" for the times you might get deployed by your local ARES unit to an unfamiliar site. Sometimes operators either choose not to follow the "Power-Pole" standard or just make a mistake during assembly. The polarity tester allows you to plug the tester into any "Power-Pole" equipped power source and instantly know if it is wired properly.

The parts list is very short:

- 1 pair of powerpole connectors (one red, one black plus the 2 contacts).
- 1 resistor (1/4 watt 1000 ohms).
- 1 red LED
- 1 green LED
- 1 short (about 2") of hookup wire.
- some small diameter heat shrink tubing to insulate the LED leads.

The circuit is shown below. Building the device starts with soldering the 1K resistor to one of the powerpole contacts. Insulate the positive lead of the green LED and the negative lead of the red LED and solder both to the open lead of the resistor. Solder the length of hook-up wire to the other powerpole contact. Install the contacts into the powerpole housings. The contact with the resistor soldered to it goes into the red housing and the contact with the hookup wire goes into the black housing. Now position the LEDs close to the back of the powerpole housings and solder the open leads of the LED's to the hookup wire. Trim off excess wire and component leads and insulate the whole rear end of the powerpole connectors with hot glue or epoxy. Keep the LEDs clear of the insulating material so you can still see them. See the photos for a clear view of what I mean. You are done.

To test the unit, plug it into the powerpole connector from a power source. If the source is wired correctly the green LED will glow. If not, the red LED will light up. It really is that easy. Green is GOOD, Red is BAD.

This is the latest version of the tester. I am now using a single LED that lights red with the polarity in one direction and green with the polarity in the other direction. So the part count is now two plus the PowerPole pair, one bicolor LED and one 1K resistor. I fill the spaces at the back of the PowerPole connector with hot glue to prevent anything from shorting out the tester including prying fingers. See the illustration on the next page



THIS AREA BELOW INTENTIONALLY BLANK

QST Feb 22

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

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AMPLIFIER	DXPEDITION	POWER
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BALUN	LOOP	RECEIVER
BRIDGECOM	MANAGEMENT	RIG EXPERT
COMPASS	MENTOR	ROTATOR
DIPOLE	MICROWAVE	YAESU

Ham Station of the Month



This is the station of KO4JT, Jeff Lewis, which goes to show that one does not have to have a huge station comparable to the big gun contesters in order to have an excellent time playing radio. Jeff's station consists of a IC-7300 powered by an Astron PS and a Yaesu FT-70M into an outdoor antenna right outside the window. Jeff notes that the box of stuff, while not necessary is often found in close proximity to many stations.

FOR SALE:

USA MADE

Kings brand Type N R.F. connectors (cont. next page)

for RG 8U , RG 213 ,LMR 400 coax ect.

\$5.00 ea. (5) for \$20.00

CALL or TEXT

941-580-8696

Email @ ka1wbe@gmail.com

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)

FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-101ZD

Technician went over the transceiver about 3 years ago and it was in No. 1 Shape. Radio has
not been operated since. Complete with 2 manuals including schematics. Has digital display.
Complete with microphone and 110VAC power cable. Jack WB9KVD 941-567-6716 A good
buy at

\$ 400.Kenwood HandheldsTHK2 – 2m FM

TH-G71 – 2m & 440 Bands.

Excellent Condition. Takes AA Batteries. With Batteries and Manuals.

Buy the pair for only **\$ 100** or w/o batteries **\$ 90** **Page 9**

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

CLUB MEETING: This will be a Zoom Meeting on February 1st, 2022 Our meetings will be on Zoon until further notice

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.