

RADIOWAVES



MARCI Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I will start my comments for the month of May 2022 by thanking Geoff Haines, N1GY, a longtime MARCI member and the editor of RADIOWAVES, our monthly newsletter. After a short 124 years as editor of RADIOWAVES, Geoff is now of retirement age (and a half) and has decided to move on to other interests. All kidding aside, I thank you Geoff for your outstanding and dedicated work these many years. Stepping into the 'frying pan' as editor is our old friend Brian Biery, N4BB, to fill some big (an old) shoes. We expect great work from Brian moving forward and no doubt he will not miss a beat as our new RADIOWAVES editor beginning with THIS issue.

In May each year we elect the new officers for the MARCI club. I want to thank the nominating committee of Bob Borsari, W4WRS, Cindy Wiggins, WB4ZBH, and one of MARCI's newest Extra Class licensees Barbara Cabral, KB4DWR, for their work in the election process. Next week all active members will receive via email a ballot to be used to vote for those candidates running to be officers of MARCI. Please return these ballots to Tony Vasile, MARCI Secretary, as soon as possible.

Field Day 2022 runs for 24 hours beginning on Saturday June 25th at 18:00 UTC through Sunday 20:59 UTC. That's 2:00 pm Sat to 5:00 pm on Sunday. MARCI has not done FIELD DAY in a few years due to the pandemic. I've been asked about MARCI and maybe our participating in FIELD DAY exercises this year. A QUESTIONNAIRE was sent out to you the members to gauge your interest. The response to this questionnaire was VERY disappointing.

From the survey: ***Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our***

communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. My friends, I have received emails from TWO members and one more with support of the idea by phone. Really folks? This is YOUR club.

In recent years MARCI members enjoyed lunch on Mondays at a popular local restaurant that featured a \$5.00 hamburger. Though not a MARCI event as such, many of you enjoyed these 'Burger Mondays,' but due to the pandemic the practice was halted. Now, the days of the \$5.00 burger have gone the way of the Indian Head Nickel and the Edsel. However, there is a Monday burger special at "Beef 'O Brady's." It is under \$8 and Geoff Haines and I think it would be a great way for members and/or friends alike to meet with one another again. Perhaps Geoff can help make a decision as to which location would be best, though we both had in mind 'Beef's' location on east State RT-70, near where Lockwood Ridge Road intersects. We'll talk about this once more on the nets on the MARCI repeater. Pass the mustard, please.

Lastly but not the least on my mind is the not so frequent (but always a nuisance when it is) interference on the MARCI 146.820 repeater. I/we are aware of it. We are (to some extent) working on it and hope to solve it. I apologize for any inconvenience and the annoyance when it comes on. It happens. But know that I will do what I can to restore normalcy as soon as possible on our repeater.

I hope to see all of you via Zoom during our next General Membership Meeting on Tuesday May 3rd. Our guest that night will be Bob Harrigan, meteorologist for Channel 40 TV in Sarasota. As always, the LINK to our Zoom meeting is on the home page of the MARCI website. I hope you will all tune in via Zoom. Until then take care and tell someone you love them.

Mike Ryan, K4CVL, President of MARCI

FROM THE EDITOR(S)

From Geoff Haines, N1GY:

This is a very special issue of Radiowaves. It is my last as your humble Editor and Brian's first as your new Editor. It has been my pleasure to be on the masthead of this publication almost from the beginning, but time moves on and as I am in my 80th year, it is time for a new viewpoint and so I happily turn the position over to my good friend and fellow club member, Brian.

From Brian Biery, N4BB:

It is my distinct privilege to assume the role as the Editor of Radiowaves, our monthly MARCI newsletter. As Mike points out, I will have some "big shoes to fill" with Geoff "retiring." Geoff has contributed so much of his time, effort, and expertise to our hobby for many years. His articles on ham radio topics continue to be as relevant today as they were when he first wrote them. Speaking of his articles, we will continue to feature them from time to time to stimulate and challenge our membership to learn new and creative ways to enjoy our fascinating hobby.

If any of you have written articles that you feel would be of interest to our membership, please forward them to me at N4BB.brian@gmail.com for consideration to be included in a future Radiowaves. Also, please continue to send pictures of your radio "shacks" for all to see!

Geoff has agreed to continue sending his puzzle to keep us all occupied so we can enjoy solving it each month.

I will undoubtedly make some formatting and other changes to the newsletter as time goes on. Any changes I make should not be thought of in any way as saying Geoff's stylistic choices were bad. We all have our own ways of doing things, and if you see something you do not like, or would like to suggest some changes to content or style, please reach out to me.

Thanks for reading this far! I look forward to getting to know many of you better in the months ahead as we continue to make MARCI a growing and vibrant organization!

RADIO ROOMS OF THE MONTH



This month we have two radio rooms to feature. This one above belongs to Jack Ham, WG9X, and the one below belongs to his wife Cathy, KN4PXJ. I think it's nice having your spouse actively involved in the same hobby!



Geoff's May Puzzle

QST MAGAZINE

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

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COVERAGE	QRP	STANDARD
FREQUENCY	RADIO	TURNER
GENERAL	RASER	UNIVERSAL
HAMMARLUND	RECEIVER	WASHINGTON

Chasing That Ticket

by

Geoff Haines, N1GY

Ever since I got my Technician Plus license back in 1992 with the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, I have found amateur radio to be an incredible hobby that has given me many hours of enjoyment. Over those years my involvement in amateur radio has deepened significantly. Also, over those years I have suggested to my better half that she might study up and get her own license. Not too often, mind you, because the answer I always got was a variation of "That's your hobby and I support you in it, but it is not for me." After a while, I learned to just accept her answer and carry on.

It was a total shock then, when earlier this past summer, my wife asked that I get her the ARRL book "Ham Radio License Manual" for the Technician exam. When I got up off the floor, I told her that I would be very happy to do so. As it happened, we were due for a vacation trip to Connecticut to visit our son and his family. I thus waited until my annual visit to ARRL HQ to purchase the text along with some other goodies I needed anyway.

When we got back from Connecticut, Audrey looked at the book, but because of some other family obligations that intervened, serious study was delayed. Once those were taken care of, I informed her that our local club, The Manatee Amateur Radio Club Inc. was going to offer a Technician License course in about two weeks. She quickly agreed to attend and began casually reading the manual.

When the course began, basically two eight-hour days over successive Saturdays, both the instructor, Roger Byron, KR4WS and the rest of the members assembled to assist him, indicated that they were surprised at the increase in the degree of difficulty of the new test. When it was made official in July 2010, it was obvious that the material was certainly more rigorous than the previous iteration of the Technician Exam had been.

Audrey was a bit put off by the new material, particularly since I had been telling her for years that it would be pretty much of a snap for her. When I looked at one of the many practice exams available online, I had to agree, this new test is much stronger than it used to be. But Audrey was not to be denied. When she realized that there was more to this than she had first expected (my fault) she just buckled down and got to work.

Every day there were questions for me to answer, concepts to be explained and practice exams to critique. Since she had no background at all

in electronics or radio, some of the glossary was totally unfamiliar. Sometimes, I am sure she felt like she was learning a foreign language. Gradually, over the space of about two weeks, her grasp of the hobby and its somewhat unique lingo improved steadily. After the second of the course days, the practice exams became more frequent, and the results kept edging higher and higher. Sometimes, I had to remind Audrey to take a break and do something else for a while. Her scores on the practice exams improved from barely passing to solidly in the 80-90 percent range.

When the third Saturday arrived, it was time to take the exam for real. The local VE team was augmented by a VE from another club. This because several of our usual VE's were out of town, and since Audrey was taking the test, I could not even attend the VE session, so I made myself busy with other chores while Audrey went off to take the test. I have not been so nervous since the birth of our first child, and that was quite a few years ago. Having completed my chores, I paced the floor like a new father, waiting for the word. Finally, she called. "I passed," she said. I must tell you, I felt like I was walking on air. Audrey scored very well on the exam. One of the VE's confided to me later that she only missed two questions out of thirty-five. Outstanding!

Several days later, I began checking the FCC database to watch for her call sign. Nothing. Later in the day, still nothing. This was tougher than waiting for my own call back in 1992. Finally, one of our club members, Jim Woodson, KE4INM called and asked if he could talk to KJ4YMX. At first, I was confused, thinking he must have the wrong number. Then it dawned on me! Audrey was in the database! She has a call sign! I ran into the other room to tell her. Then it was back to the computer to print out the pages from the FCC database and make plans.

Before the end of the day, my wife had her own coffee cup with her call sign on it. Her call has been added over the door to the radio room. I will be making a stop at the local sign shop to add her call to the rear window of my SUV. Having been through all the VE tests in amateur radio myself, I know just how hard Audrey worked to pass her exam. I am so proud of her efforts my chest is about to burst. Everyone in the family is just as proud of her.

Audrey called our son up in Connecticut to tell him the news. After a little conversation, he said "so, is this a family challenge now?" My wife replied "Maybe---." We'll see what happens.

Addendum: Several years after I wrote this article, our son called us up to announce that he too was a ham, KC1AJC. So far no one else in the family has taken up the challenge.



FOR SALE

For sale from the estate of Steve Milovich, W4ASM, of Parrish, FL.

SWAN ST-1 Antenna Tuner



It covers the bands of 160-10 meters, switched inductance T-match type, and is designed as a legal limit (1KW) tuner, built to complement legal-limit amplifiers. Asking price \$100

TenTec model 1253 mini-HF receiver



This unit runs on 12 volts and connects to virtually any long wire antenna. This is a very cool little HF receiver you could take on vacations or trips to listen to shortwave or the ham bands. Use it when you cannot take a full-size radio with you. It will fit into any backpack or suitcase with ease. It is a cool little ham band/shortwave radio that covers 9 bands with smooth tuning. Receives SWL and ham bands from 1.8 MHz to 22 MHz at the push of a button! Can receive AM, SSB and CW.

Asking price \$95

HEATHKIT HW-5400 HF Transceiver and power supply and microphone



This is a synthesized 100 watt 80 thru 10m CW/SSB HF transceiver with 2 memory channels and a frequency entry keypunch on the front panel. The radio comes with the matching power supply and a SURE 444 desk microphone. Asking price \$400

For more information call Mike, K4CVL (941) 376 - 6453

Pete Jarosik – KA1WBE - Please call or text (941) 580-8696

- Icom IC-211 2 meter all mode base station \$150.00
- Kings Type RF connectors for RG-8U, RG-213 \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20
- MFJ Voice Keyer \$100
- MFJ 906 Tuner (300 watt) \$40
- Very rare EL-KEY lever CW keyer (only 400-600 made in the late 50's) \$100
- Alinco DJ-196 VHF HT with brand new battery. Has original box and Manuals \$65
- Drake MS-4 speaker and power supply \$200

These Items can be viewed on Bradenton-Sarasota Craigslist under Electronics.
Key word "HAM RADIO."

Jack Ham – WG9X - 941-567-6716 - jham58@tampabay.rr.com

Yaesu FT-101ZD. A 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 110 VAC power cable. A good buy at \$299.

Jack Ham – WG9X - 941-567-6716 - jham58@tampabay.rr.com

Quantity 1. Mosley TA-33 3 Element Tri -Band Beam Antenna. 10-15-20 Meters. When original, the cost for one was \$780. Manatee County ARES has 1 of these antennas. They were used until 3 years ago and worked well. When assembled, the beam is 14' long and the length of the elements are 27' long. ARES no longer needs them and would like to find a good home for these antennas. They would look nice on your tower. They are FREE, unless you would like to give a volunteer donation to ARES. We may be able to haul a few miles to your location if needed.

Geoff Haines – N1GY - 941-447-8579 (cell) or 941-752-3696 (home)

- 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. Call me first, I will give you a great price (as in no charge).

Monthly MARCI Club Meeting: The next monthly general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3rd. Our meetings will be on Zoom until further notice.

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

Monthly ARES Meeting: The next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, May 24th at 7 PM at Bible Baptist Church of Bradenton and will also be available on Zoom.

Clubs and Other Nets:

MARCI Info Net	Sunday 7:00 PM	146.820 - 100 Hz
ARES Net	Monday 7:00 PM	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 8:30 PM	145.43 - 100 Hz or 442.95 + 100 Hz
WCF Technical Net (tech assistance)	Thursday 9:00 PM	145.43 - 100 Hz or 442.95 + 100 Hz

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE NETS ON OUR REPEATER

Our Manatee Amateur Radio Club Net every Sunday night at 7 PM on the K4GG repeater, 146.820, is an excellent opportunity to learn about all the fun amateur radio activities that are happening in our club and across our ham radio community. Our Club Net on Sunday night is often 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!

On Monday evenings, feel free to drop in on the Manatee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Net at 7 PM. They are a bit more tactical and an easy way to improve your own operating skills.

On Thursday evenings at 8 PM, we host the National Weather Service SKYWARN Net. Everyone is interested in the weather and SKYWARN is an easy way for you to contribute to this popular public service program.

DON'T FORGET about the Regional Nets on NI4CE on 145.430 and 442.950. The Eagle Net, the National Traffic System Traffic Net, is on every night at 8:30 PM. Whether you are interested in "Traffic Handling" or not, everyone is welcome to check in and enjoy putting your radio to good use. They also host the regional SKYWARN Net on Tuesdays at 9 PM.

The ARRL West Central Florida Technical Net is a very popular and informal activity held every Thursday at 9 PM or immediately after the end of the Eagle Net should that net run a little over.

With so many opportunities to listen in and participate, you are sure to meet new folks and discover many more of the interesting ways to use and enjoy your amateur radio license!