RADIOV/AVES



MARCI Newsletter

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From The President of MARCI

MARCI continues to grow with our membership as of May 26th now at 114 members per the club secretary. Brian Biery, N4BB our MARCI club secretary will have, as usual a recap of new members later in this issue of RADIOWAVES. Congrats to our new members and welcome to MARCI!

This past month we elected new officers to MARCI. These will be announced and introduced at the General Membership Meeting on June 6th. Brian Biery, N4BB is not returning as our secretary unfortunately, and that's sad to report. He will be missed as he has done such a great job for us not only holding down the position of club secretary, but also the editor of our monthly newsletter, RADIOWAVES. He had also been the MARCI Club Librarian. He feels his time as editor should also come to an end and we are therefore looking for someone to volunteer to be our next editor. We would certainly like someone to come on board and put their own 'touch' or 'spin' on it. Brian has graciously offered to mentor who ever would like to give it a try so contact Brian with question and/or inquires at N4bb.brian@gmail.com.

Hurricane Season 2023 is here. Oh Goodie... No doubt we'd all benefit from as much information as possible from a local expert on the subject. So, be SURE to attend the June 6th General Membership Meeting and have your 'EARS ON". Not having Bob Harrigan, Chief Meteorologist from Sarasota TV Channel-7, live at the meeting we WILL have the next best thing. Bob will be with us via a pre-recorded ZOOM presentation that Ed Skalecki, NI4MX will provide at the 6/6 meeting.

Don't forget that Ed Skalecki is organizing a few participants for this year's Field Day exercise the weekend of June 24th and 25th. No one will operate all day, just drop in for an hour here or there if you like and check things out. Depending on the level of interest and the number of participants will dictate the hours of operation and location. If you have any interest, I encourage you to contact Ed directly at ni4mx@verizon.net and see what he has in mind.

Remember that MARCI does NOT have a July General Membership Meeting. But remember to 'Save the Date' of July 15th as we will have a 'SOCIAL SATURDAY' at the home of Bob Borsari W4WRS on the afternoon of July 15th. An email blast will go out in late June and in early July with Bob's exact address and the start time so keep an eye out. Jack Ham WG9X has offered to organize the menu and will very soon be detailing what food items, etc. he would like to have patrons bring. If you have some ideas and/or want to volunteer to help, contact Jack at jham58@tampabay.rr.com

Don't forget the "Too Good to Throw Away/SWAP Table" at the rear of the meeting room each month. If you have something too good to throw away, bring it along! (I'm told that Clyde Wiggins WB4GLI is going to bring for the table his first TWO TIN CANS AND A STRING he used to contact Alexander Graham Bell when they were in high school together.)

Finally, I would like to thank those three members of MARCI who agreed to take time out from their busy schedules to participate as the 2023 MARCI Elections Nominating Committee. The members are Miranda Blackwelder KQ4FFE, Cindy Wiggins, WB4ZBH, and Tony Vasile KB9A. Thanks for a job well done.

As usual I'll close this month again as I always do by just saying *PLEASE* 'tell someone you love them'. See you soon and '73, Mike Ryan K4CVL

From the Editor

MARCI Board of Directors Election Results

Thank you to all the MARCI members who voted in the election for the MARCI Board of Directors for the June 2023-May 2024 term. There are 114 current members, but only 105 email addresses on file for them. 81 ballots were cast, out of the 105 people notified, for a response rate of 77%. I must admit I was pleasantly surprised.

The results of the election will be announced at our upcoming June 6th general membership meeting. Please plan on attending so you may congratulate the newly elected MARCI Board of Directors!

Radiowaves Newsletter Editor Needed

I regret that due to health and personal reasons, I will no longer be able to continue as the editor of our monthly *Radiowaves* newsletter. The editor's position is appointed by the MARCI Board of Directors; it is *not* an elected position. Some people have assumed that the MARCI Secretary is responsible for the newsletter, which is not the case, although it's coincidental that I held both positions for the past year or so.

If you have a few hours a month to devote to producing the newsletter, please let me know.

When I took over last year as newsletter editor from Geoff Haines, N1GY, Geoff gave me a USB drive will all the material for all the previous newsletters. I will update the USB drive to include all the material I have used in the newsletters I have published. I will also work with the new editor during a transition phase until they are comfortable with the process.

Please consider volunteering for this important position to help keep our MARCI members informed! Thank you for your consideration!!

Ride Needed to Monthly MARCI Meeting

Barry Yoder, W8SJO, needs a ride to our monthly meeting this coming Tuesday evening. If you can help Barry, please contact him:

Barry Yoder 508 44th Ave E, Lot A16 Bradenton, FL 34203 Phone: 941-932-0088 Email: jaclanG27@aol.com

His address is about 1/2-mile SE of the Desoto Mall.

Member Updates

Our youngest MARCI member, Emily Olson, W4ERO, passed her General exam on April 15th. Not one to "rest on her laurels," Emily attended our May 2nd monthly membership meeting wearing a clear statement of her near-term goal. I would not be surprised at all if she passes the Extra Class exam at one of our future VE testing sessions.



Please welcome the following individuals who were recently approved as new or returning members by the MARCI Board of Directors:

Bilodeau, Garth	KQ4GHS
Durgin, Marlene	KQ4GYN
Grace, Pat	KQ4HOE
Nabergall, Jonelle	KI4WSN

If you joined or rejoined in the last few months, upgraded your license, or changed your call sign, and you are not listed above or in a recent issue of *Radiowaves*, please let me know and I will be sure to add your name in the next issue.

Rick Wheeler – K4LX – Our May Guest Speaker

Please be sure to see the article on Rick's well received presentation on QRP radios.

Be sure to read Jim's interesting article on fire extinguishers. It contains very important information, especially for using fire extinguishers on amateur radio equipment fires. This information may save catastrophic damage in the event of a fire in your home!

Ham Radio Lunch Bunch at Beef 'O' Brady's – Wed. June 7th at Noon – Ladies' Day

Please note that you do NOT have to have a ham radio license to attend the lunch! Attention Ladies! The first Wednesday of each month is "Ladies' Day." A special table is available for all the ladies attending the lunch. Ladies may come every week, of course!

We set a record at our lunch on May 3rd!

We had 19 people in attendance, 7 ladies and 12 gentlemen!





Consider joining these great folks at the Ham Radio Lunch at Beef 'O' Brady's every Wednesday at noon. The restaurant is located at 1795 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Bradenton, FL, near the corner of Lakewood Ranch Blvd & SR 64 (Manatee Ave). It is in the Publix strip mall on the far south end of the mall. Here's a link to the menu: https://www.beefobradys.com/menus.aspx.

MARCI Facebook Page

If you are a Facebook user, be sure to check out our MARCI Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/966175460080399.

"Swap & Drop" Table at Our Monthly Meeting

Remember to bring items that you are no longer using but may still be of use to other MARCI members, to the "Swap & Drop" table at the back of the meeting room. You may find something that you'd really like to have for use in your shack!

Monthly MARCI Board of Directors Meetings

The MARCI Board of Directors meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are held via Zoom. ALL members are invited to join the meeting. The next meeting is on June 20th. The link for the Zoom meetings stays the same each month.

Use this link to join the Zoom meetings: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4340953241?pwd=Qm52YWJGaWF4U29SMGk3bWVzRk1Ddz09

Until next month, continue to enjoy our fascinating hobby, and stay safe!

Brian Biery, N4BB, Radiowaves Editor N4BB.brian@gmail.com

MARCI Social Day – Jack Ham – WG9X

The MARCI Social Day this year will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2023. We will gather again at Bob Borsari's house (at the south end of the Fort Hamer Bridge). The festivities will start around 4PM. Eats will be an hour or two after that time.

MARCI will provide the meats (maybe chicken, hamburger, and pulled pork). Attendees will be asked to bring "Pitch in Stuff" such as a variety of salads, desserts, and drinks.

A more structured sign-up sheet will be available at the next MARCI meeting on June 6. From then on sign-ups can be by email and phone calls.

By the way, members are asked to sign up and bring their respective significant other. Be thinking of what wonderous, delectable dishes you may provide. You may also get a tour of Bob's amazing ham shack and antenna systems.

Social Day Contact is:

Jack-WG9X.

Email: WG9X@arrl.net

Phone: 941-567-6716 (No Texts but answering machine).

Hurricane Season Is Here – Geoff Haines – N1GY

[Note: the following article from Geoff was published in a previous issue of Radiowaves. The information is still relevant and timely, and it's being reprinted for your information.]

The peak part of Hurricane Season is still ahead of us, here in Florida. September traditionally is the most active month for severe weather, although the season stretches from June through November. It would seem to behoove us, therefore, to make sure that we are prepared as best as we can be. Now I am not going to list here all the things one should do. Those lists have been published by virtually every news outlet from the local paper to radio and TV stations in the area. Pamphlets are widely available to inform you of what you need to do to prepare for "The Big One."

We, as Licensed Amateur Radio Operators, bear an additional responsibility. In addition to all the preparations we do as members of the general public, we also must make sure that our communications equipment is in working order and that we have our response gear ready to go at a moment's notice.

- Update the information you will need to have ready. Frequencies, repeater tones, emergency plans, procedures and so on.
- Make sure your emergency power sources, whether they be batteries or generators, are working and fully ready for the job.
- Make sure your vehicle is up to the task of getting you where you will need to go without a breakdown. There will be no Auto Club service until well after the emergency is over.
- Make certain that you have enough emergency rations to tide you over for several days. Food and water will be priorities for the responding agencies, but we all know how bureaucracies work and we all remember Katrina.

Your "Go Kit" should include spares for anything important, as well as the tools to install them. Murphy's Law always applies to ham radio.

Another item to consider is clothing. Most of our disasters here in Florida have some component of rain. Operating your station in soaking wet clothes is a guaranteed way to get very uncomfortable if not deathly ill. Stock up with at least one complete change of clothing in that "Go Kit."

The previously mentioned "Murphy's Law" suggests that if you make all these preparations, you will probably never need them. Making all these preparations sounds like an easy way to keep the disaster away from your doorstep, don't you think?

73, Geoff - N1GY

[Editor's note: The next issue of *Radiowaves* will feature another article by Geoff entitled "Get Ready for Deployment.]

Ham Shack of the Month — Ron Silver — WA4LOX

This month we're featuring the very well-equipped station of Ron Silver, WA4LOX. Mike Ryan, K4CVL, recently visited Ron at his home and had this to say:

"Ron Silver, WA4LOX is quite the accomplished DXer. He has a wall full of awards and certificates. I took some pics of the most prominent ones such as the one for working at least 100 countries on 6 M. He is on the prestigious ARRL HONOR ROLL, and just a few years ago surpassed 2,500 individual contacts, mixed mode, and bands verified on LOTW. There are other awards on the wall that I photographed as well as his antennas and towers."





Rick Wheeler – K4LX – QRP Operating Methods

The guest speaker at our May general membership meeting was Rick Wheeler, K4LX. I asked Rick to provide some comments on his presentation. Here's what he had to say.

"As I mentioned to Mike [Mike Ryan – K4CVL], I wished to convey during my talk how just a few watts or even a few hundred mW of power in digital modes can result in long distance contacts. I have an amp and still use it with my Icom 7310, but at times it's just too easy. I am planning to use QRP operating methods more often and in the field away from the comforts of the shack.

"Some links of the items I built and/or talked about at the meeting last night [Tuesday, May 2nd]:

"QCX mini radio by QRP-Labs: https://qrp-labs.com/qcxmini.html (about \$100 with enclosure and options, small, single band (choose 160-17) CW only, 5 watt, full featured, CW decoder on board, size of pack of cigarettes, good performance).

"Penntek TR-35 radio by WA4RNC: https://www.wa3rnc.com/store/ (\$319, a little larger but still compact, 4 bands 40-30-20-17, no menus for simplicity, CW transmit, SSB receive, good performance).

"QRP tuner by Emtech: https://steadynet.com/emtech/ (\$72, tune a 'wet noodle' tuner, no batteries, max power 15 watts, works well).

"Elecraft KX2: https://elecraft.com/products/kx2-ssb-cw-data-80-10-m-transceiver (\$1,000-yikes!, high end very portable radio 80-10 meters, SSB, CW, top of the line but at \$1,000 not including options is too expensive for many. Still small enough for POTA and SOTA operations. I do not own this radio but do have the original Elecraft K2 which I built some years back. The K2 can be used as a portable radio and is very capable spec wise but is a little too large for true portable use as compared to the aforementioned radios).

"The above are quality QRP items and just a few of the multitude of quality QRP items and radios on the market. The QCX mini and the TR-35 were both reviewed by QST. There are also QRP radios that are of lower quality and just do not perform well. QST can be used for reviews, but you must read carefully 'between the lines' on their reviews as QST does accept advertising on many of the products they review.

"For more QRP information and real-life POTA activations, I highly suggest spending some time at Thomas Witherspoon's, K4SWL, website at https://qrper.com/. He also has many easy to watch YouTube videos of his POTA activations at state parks throughout the NC area."

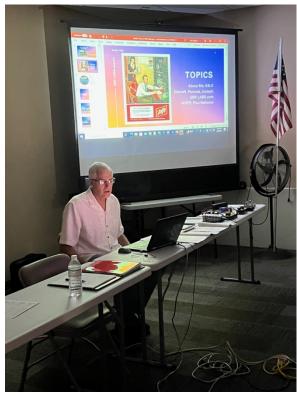
Regards,	
Rick	

K4LX

Some pictures of Rick and his QRP gear:









Fire Extinguishers – Jim Zientara – W4MAN

The Manatee Amateur Radio Club (MARCI) has a monthly newsletter called *Radiowaves*. In the May 2023 issue was an article about a fire in the home of Phil Wilson, N8IPS. You can get a copy at Manatee-ARC.org.

The article greatly concerned me, as I knew nothing about firefighting or extinguishers.

With his permission, here is a summary of our many conversations about the fire and fire extinguishers and my learning experience. This is a very complicated topic, and I am not an expert. Be sure to personally study the topic and do not rely on this introductory article written by a novice in the field.

Please note that I am not a firefighter nor have I any previous knowledge of fire extinguishers. My intention is merely to bring forth a topic for discussion and education. Let me know if there are glaring errors, misstatements, or something needing a better explanation.

The classes of fires include:

- Class A: solid materials such as wood or paper, fabric, and some plastics
- Class B: liquids or gas such as alcohol, ether, gasoline, or grease
- Class C: electrical failure from appliances, electronic equipment, and wiring
- Class D: metallic substances such as sodium, titanium, zirconium, or magnesium
- Class K: grease or oil fires specifically from cooking

Various types of extinguishers are used for these classes. For instance, the standard or general-purpose extinguisher is referred to as an ABC, where it is designed to fight Class A, B, and C fires.

Class A fires are the most common of the 5 different classes of fires. They occur when common combustible materials like wood, paper, fabric, trash, and light plastics catch fire.

The "A" fire extinguisher uses a chemical powder, monoammonium phosphate, where nitrogen is used to pressurize and expel the powder. It is generally required by the fire department to be readily available in a business location.

The county firemen come to my office around September of every year and check each ABC extinguisher for its expiration date. If it is older than one year, I have one month to get it updated.

Annually, I take the ABC extinguisher to a fire extinguisher company. They inspect it, which includes turning it up-side-down and shaking vigorously for a minute to prevent the contents from caking. A new tag is applied with the next expiration date at a cost of about \$20.

The ABC normally sprays out a dry yellow cloud of what looks like soot or flower. The ABC, Multi-purpose, extinguisher utilizes a specially fluidized and siliconized mono ammonium phosphate dry chemical. It chemically insulates Class A fires by melting at approximately 350°F and coats the surface to which it is applied, and it becomes airborne.

Phil said his fire started with a wall charger and an electrical extension cord in the closet. Undetected for a while, the fire became intense with now a smoke-filled shack. Phil then used his ABC to put out the fire.

Unfortunately, the "A" chemical got into his newly updated, powerful air-conditioning system, and spread the soot throughout his house. It was difficult to remove, corrosive to metal, hard breathing, and destructive. I saw his rusted tools.

About 12 months and \$30,000 later, Phil said the house is about 90% back to normal. The entire house was professionally cleaned and painted. In three rooms, he had to replace carpets, blinds, etc.

This shocking experience could happen to anyone. So, I asked MARCI members who were fire fighters and airplane pilots for their opinions. They said that a fire needs three things: heat, fuel, and oxygen, referred to as the fire triangle.

The **heat** can be removed by spraying water, soot, etc. but that could leave a mess.

The **fuel** can be removed by removing a log from a fire, shutting off the electricity or gas, etc.

The **oxygen** may be smothered by a fire-retardant blanket or a Halotron extinguisher, a unique cloud of gas formerly called Halon. A BC extinguisher using carbon dioxide, CO2, as the propellant can also remove the oxygen.

Halotron is odorless, leaves no residue, and leaves the surface neither hot nor cold. It takes the oxygen out of the area and should not be used in a confined area with no ventilation. It is called a Class BC extinguisher. It uses the propellant Halotron.

To see Halotron in action, go to YouTube, Om, and search for: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZE4VhHdgeM

At 1:15 of the 1.54-minute video, you see a table with a computer without its case, a keyboard, and a monitor running. The fire fighter heavily sprays everything with Halotron, and the computer equipment keeps running! On YouTube, there are many other videos of Halotron in action.

Several MARCI members said that Halotron is used in computer rooms, server networks, and anywhere else you want to keep electronics working after the fire is put out. That's why Halotron is on airplanes.

The standard five pounds of chemicals in an ABC is inside about a four-pound metal can. This is called a 5 pounder, costs about \$75, and requires an annual inspection.

The same 5 pounder of Halotron costs about \$400 and requires an inspection every 5 years.

So, make your choice. I did and bought three Halotron 5-pounders: for my garage, ham shack, and business office. A 5 pounder should give me about 15 seconds of spray and pray, usually enough for a small fire. I also added a BC CO2 to each car.

If you have any fire, call 911 immediately You may choose to fight the fire, but if it becomes overwhelming, it is best to leave the area.

What causes home fires? Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States, starting almost half of all fires. Heating is the second highest cause, followed by electrical systems and intentional fires.

There are many forms of extinguishers, each with its own lettering, expense, and propellant. Each is designed with a purpose in mind. You might want to get several different kinds. Be sure to learn about extinguishers and what they can and cannot do.

Class BC with CO₂ or a Class K, are frequently used in kitchens and restaurants with flaming grills. A grease fire may also be extinguished using a box of baking soda. I have two gaspowered grills, one in the kitchen and one in the outdoor barbeque, that might need their own extinguishers.

Expensive? YES. Hopefully, none of us will ever have a fire, but Halotron or other types may have prevented the mess and expense that happened to Phil with his ABC. I thank Phil for sharing his story.

Be sure to check with your insurance agent to make sure you are properly covered. I believe there is basically replacement and cash value insurance policies. Ask your agent about the differences.

To possibly prevent a fire in the first place, do a full-house inspection looking to solve problems before they can cause trouble. Oily rags and paint cans in the garage? Too many extension cords and chargers? Something seems too hot? Use burning candles? The list seems endless.

Normally, the fire department does not have the resources to make home inspections as they do for businesses. Maybe a handy man, home builder, or fire fighter could be a good friend to have.

You may want to do an exercise drill to see what needs doing. What's your plan when you are stuck in a room with a raging fire and no exit? It may be too late to start thinking about what to do.

This article can only bring up a few of the many points to discuss, but forewarned is forearmed. The road of life is filled with many bumps.

Notes: the author would like to thank W4WRS, K4KEO, WG9X, K0LJW. and KC4CQY for their insights and reviews of this article. This article is not copyright protected. Feel free to forward on to anyone with the hopes that it is a starting point toward better protecting yourself from fire.

73, Jim Zientara, W4MAN, W4MAN@ARRL.NET, cell 941-224-1347, 05/26/2023

JUNE QST 23

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Items for Sale

Brian Biery - N4BB - 919-412-8264 / N4BB.brian@gmail.com

All items are "like new" having been used less than 10 hours.

RigExpert AA-230 Zoom + Nanuk Case Bundle

Current DX Engineering Price \$532

Asking \$300



Daiwa CN-901HP 1.8200 MHz Pro Xneedle SWR/PWR

Current DX Engineering Price \$199.99

Asking \$100



Discone Antenna. Works well on 2m and 70 cm. Price: \$40.

For info on the above item, please contact Jack at WG9X@arrl.net or call 941-567-6716.

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.
- Anderson Powerpole Power Distribution Blocks in 4+1, 6+1, and 8+1 sizes for \$20, \$30, and \$40 each respectively. Can custom build to suit.

VE Exam Sessions

When you're ready to take the Technician, General or Amateur Extra license exams, you may take them locally.

VE Exam Sessions: 3rd Saturday of the month, every two months. Testing starts at 9:00 a.m.

2023 VE Exam Schedule:

06/17 08/19

10/21 - Plus MARCIFEST

12/16

Location:

Bible Baptist Church of Bradenton 2113 57th St E Bradenton, FL 34208

Contact: James E. Woodson

(941) 301-8703

Sponsor: Manatee Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Websites of Interest

Our MARCI website: Manatee-ARC.org

The ARES website: MCESG.org

Manatee County Public Safety: https://www.mymanatee.org/departments/public safety

SKYWARN: https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/

ARRL: ARRL.ORG

Club Meetings

Monthly MARCI Club Meeting

General membership meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bible Baptist Church located at 2113 57th St E, Bradenton, FL 34208. Please join us this coming Tuesday, June 6th. Remember to bring items that you are no longer using but may still be of use to other MARCI members, to the "Swap & Drop" table at the back of the meeting room. You may find something that you'd really like to have for use in your shack!

Monthly MARCI Board of Directors Meeting

The monthly MARCI Board of Directors (BOD) meeting is held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend (you don't have to a member of the BOD). The next meeting will be on June 20th.

The link to the Zoom meeting does NOT change each month. Please join the meeting using this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4340953241?pwd=0m52YWJGaWF4U29SMGk3bWVzRk1Ddz09

Monthly ARES Meeting

General membership meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday each month. The next regular general membership meeting in June will be on Tuesday, June 27th at 7 p.m. at the Bible Baptist Church located at 2113 57th St E, Bradenton, FL 34208.

Clubs and Other Nets

MARCI Info Net	Sunday 7:00 p.m.	146.820 - 100 Hz
ARES Net	Monday 7:00 p.m.	146.820 - 100 Hz
MARCI Traders Net	Wednesday 8:00 p.m.	146.820 - 100 Hz
Manatee SKYWARN Net	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	146.820 - 100 Hz
WCF Eagle Net (Local NTS Net)	Nightly 8:30 p.m.	145.43 - 100 Hz or
		442.95 + 100 Hz
WCF Technical Net (tech assistance)	Thursday 9:00 p.m.	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 p.m. 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 110 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) Nets at 7 p.m. They are a bit more tactical and an easy way to improve your own operating skills.

On Thursday evenings at 8 p.m., 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 p.m. 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 p.m.

The ARRL West Central Florida Technical Net is a very popular and informal activity held every Thursday at 9 p.m. 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!