

RADIOWAVES



The MARCI Newsletter

Table of Contents

- From The President of MARCI.....2**
- From the Editor.....3**
 - MARCI Christmas Party3
 - Member Updates3
 - Ham Radio Lunch Bunch at Beef 'O' Brady's.....4
 - MARCI Facebook Page4
 - “Swap & Drop” Table at Our February Monthly Meeting.....4
 - ARRL Announces Changes in Membership Options.....4
- Ham Shack of the month - Gilbert Helsley, KQ4MAI5**
- From the Secretary6**
- Dangers of Lithium-Ion Batteries by Jim Zientara, W4MAN7**
- February Puzzle — Geoff Haines — N1GY8**
- Items for Sale.....9**
 - Greg Fiozzo – KD2HRD (941) 518-5418.....9
 - Peter Jarosik – KA1WBE (941) 580-8696.....9
 - MARCI Polos.....10
- VE Exam Sessions.....10**
- Websites of Interest.....10**
- Operators’ License Class.....11**
- Club Meetings.....11**
 - Monthly MARCI Club Meeting11
 - Monthly MARCI Board of Directors Meeting11
 - Monthly ARES Meeting11
- Clubs and Other Nets12**
- MARCI Christmas Party Pictures13**

From The President of MARCI

Hey! It's 2024, a new year. How's that new diet going? Boy, I can tell you about the push for new gymnasium memberships was a success in our area. I stopped into one of those that offered a cheap membership deal the other day. The place was full of "Q-tips" sitting on the bikes or leaning on the treadmill handlebars, all staring at their cell phones. I asked the woman at the counter "What's up with that?" She raised her eyes up from the "Seventeen" magazine (or whatever she was reading) and politely commented that "they are regulars at this time of day." The engine in my truck started right up as it hadn't had but a minute to cool.

Here's a little news from the ARRL Board of Directors Meeting held on January 19th. The Board authorized a new, free ARRL membership for students. For decades, ARRL has offered a reduced dues rate for young hams, currently priced at \$30 per year. At this meeting, the Board established a new option for a no-cost Associate membership for full-time students aged 21 and younger. Olson's take note.

Also, from the ARRL, amateur radio operators will have a unique opportunity this February to participate in the 75th anniversary of the US being gifted 40 & 8 Merci Train boxcars, one of which is located near Las Vegas, Nevada. At the end of World War II, the Merci Train was sent from France as a way of saying thank you (Merci) for help and supplies that the US sent them during the war. A total of 49 boxcars, each filled with gifts, arrived in the US in 1949. The boxcars were then distributed to each state, including Nevada. The Nevada boxcar arrived in Carson City on February 23, 1949. The 49th box car was shared by Washington, D.C. and the Territory of Hawaii. On February 10 - 29, 2024, special event station NV7AL will operate from American Legion Paradise Post 149 to raise awareness of the gift and to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the delivery. For each day of the event, operating times will be from 0000Z - 0000Z on FT8 on 7.074 and 7.250 MHz, and on SSB on 14.074 and 14.250 MHz. On February 24 - 25, NV7AL may operate from the current location of the boxcar in Boulder City, Nevada. Information about QSL cards is available from NV7AL. Geoff Haines be on alert.

As Tony Vasile, KB9A points out each week on the MARCI Sunday Night Information Net (heard each Sunday night on the 146.820 repeater), there are always interesting and fun things to do on HF radio every week. Whether it's a "Special Event" station such as the Merci Train Boxcars" event or the many various contests that many of us enjoy, there is lots and lots to do.

In last month's issue I suggested a New Year's Resolution, "To learn a new skill or hobby" and that there are lots of opportunities for us hams. One local HF operator who lives in an HOA, has employed a fairly new, somewhat unique and little-known receiving antenna for the low bands on HF. He has placed this antenna in his front yard, not hidden or disguised, or hidden somewhere in the back yard. Briefly, it is a 25 x 25-foot (square) loop of wire with a transformer at the feed point and uses TV coax back to his transceiver. (A smaller loop with 15-foot sides is also possible.) He tells me that it hears well, better than any other antenna he currently has for 40, 60, 80, and 160 meters. The antenna consists of a loop of 16 gauge stranded wire stapled to the ground. The day after he installed it, I visited him, and I could not even see the antenna. This is a perfect solution for many with cramped spaces and/or in HOAs where a possible transmitting antenna can be put up but receiving is poor. Remember that transmitting is one half of the equation and receiving can be quite another. Remember the motto, "You can't work the station if you can't hear the station." Look for details on this receiving antenna on the MARCI Facebook Page in the coming days.

Lastly, I took a stroll out to the mailbox today and found a large envelope that had been sent by the ARRL. It was a certificate in recognition of my 25 years of membership with ARRL. (Where has the time gone?) The last such certificate I got from ARRL was chiseled into a piece of slate. (It still makes a great party platter.)

I hope to see you all at the February General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, February 6th. Remember the “SWAP and DROP Table”. Bring in that “too good to throw away” item. Perhaps it is just what another member can use. As always, *PLEASE* “tell someone you love them”.

‘73, Mike Ryan, K4CVL

From the Editor

Winter Field Day was this month, February 3 and 4. If you participated and want to send your comments to me, I will post them for the March issue.

MARCI Christmas Party

Our annual celebration was held at Peridia Golf and Country Club on Tuesday evening, December 5th. Sixty-nine people attended. The food was fabulous and the camaraderie even better! Many photos were posted in the January issue but see page 13 for more photos of guests.

Member Updates

Frank Morton, AC4MK, celebrated his 90th birthday at Manatee Performing Arts Center on January 13, 2014. He has been a member of MARCI since the 1980’s. Congratulate Frank for this great accomplishment.

		
Frank with friend, Clyde Wiggins, WB4GLI	Birthday sign	Clyde with his wife, Cindie, WB4ZBH

Jack, WG9X, MARCI Treasurer, reminds us that dues for 2024 are due by March 31st. Renewal for the year is \$25.00.

Please welcome the following individual who was approved for membership at the MARCI Board of Directors meeting on January 12, 2024: Ralph Dietz KQ4NJJ.

An excellent website for looking up available calls, applications, and call sign information is <https://www.radioqth.net>. You may also search the FCC database by going to their Universal Licensing System website at <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>.

Ham Radio Lunch Bunch at Beef 'O' Brady's



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. It is in the Publix strip mall at the south end of the mall. Here's a link to the menu: <https://www.beefobradys.com/menus.aspx>.

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!

Please note that you do NOT have to have a ham radio license to attend the lunch!

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 February 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!

ARRL Announces Changes in Membership Options

At the ARRL Board Meeting in July, the Directors approved increasing the regular membership dues rate to \$59 a year starting February 1, 2024. They also decided to separate the printed version of all magazines from membership, effective February 1, 2024, making these available as add-on subscriptions. **All ARRL members will continue to enjoy access to the digital editions of all ARRL magazines: *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*.**

Option 1

Members who prefer to continue reading the magazines online do not have to do anything. All members can access the digital editions of ARRL magazines at www.arrl.org/magazines

Option 2

Members who prefer to continue receiving a printed magazine may add-on a pro-rated print subscription now. A print subscription is \$25 per year. Your magazine subscription will be synced up with your current membership term. You may subscribe online at www.arrl.org/myARRL (you must be logged into the ARRL website). Or subscribe by phone at 888-277-5289 (toll free in the US)

Ham Shack of the month - Gilbert Helsley, KQ4MAI

This month's "shack of the month" belongs to Gilbert, KQ4MAI.

Gilbert received his Technician license on October 25, 2023. While working towards his General license, Gilbert is involved on VHF/UHF.



From the Secretary

The MARCI General Membership Meeting was called to order January 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM. There were 32 members and guests present. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a round of introductions, Club President, Mike Ryan, K4CVL provided opening remarks followed by a short business meeting. Steve Stark - NI4J gave a presentation on his portable operating set-up which was well received. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Photos of Steve during his presentation



... and in the field.



Steve's list of equipment for portable HF operation:

Yaesu FT-891

MFJ 929 antenna tuner

Wimo heavy-duty portable fiberglass telescoping mast, 32.8 ft. max
Collapsed, 0.43 in. Top Tube O.D., 1.70 in. Bottom Tube O.D.

LDG Electronics RU-4:1 200 Watt UNUNs RU-4-1 (Unun I use for my speaker wire vertical)

Monster standard 16 gauge speaker wire (from Walmart)

Chameleon Antenna CHA-4PK-WINDERS (from HRO) These are great for winding speaker
Wire for wire antennas and the ground radial wire.

50 feet of RG-8x or similar coax with connectors

Coax patch cable to go between radio and tuner when used

Wolf River Coils -Mega Mini TIA System - Item# MegaMini2018 with 213 inch whip

Bioenno 12V, 20Ah LFP Battery (PVC, BLF-1220A)

HCDC 1 in 8 Out 40Amp Connector Power Splitter Distributor Source Strip Module
With power pole connections

Powerwerx inline power meter with power pole connections

Arborists weighted throw line. Great for getting antennas up in trees.

4 florescent green tie- down straps - Great to strap mast to fence post at setup.

Dangers of Lithium-Ion Batteries by Jim Zientara, W4MAN

A young local boy used a nickel metal hydride charger to charge a lithium-ion battery. The boy plugged it in at about 9AM. About 4PM the boy called his father to report that the house was on fire.

A nickel metal hydride charger will overcharge a lithium-ion battery and may cause an explosion. The proper lithium-ion charger monitors a lithium-ion battery and safely stops the charging or reduces it to a trickle.

Sadly, the insurance paid only \$175,000 because the father had *cash value insurance*, which is the depreciated cash value of the insured item.

If *replacement insurance* was in place, the insurance company estimated that it would have paid \$250,000 or more to mitigate the loss.

For example, if a \$1,000 sofa bought 10 years ago is depreciated and only worth \$500 today, it's *cash value*. *Replacement insurance* might be \$1,500.

Consider which insurance you have.

It is prudent to save sales receipts in a fire-resistant location. The insurance adjuster may ask questions like, what did you lose, have you taken pictures or video beforehand, etc.

Receipts should show the date and price of purchases. Without them, it may be hard to prove that there was any loss.

Most people have lithium-ion batteries in their cell phone, laptop, and other devices. Lithium-Ion fires are very difficult to put out. A special fire extinguisher, like a CO₂ or Halotron will be needed.

Make sure the correct charger is used with a battery and do it with the idea that there could be a potential fire. Stop charging when you are not on the premises to supervise.

February Puzzle — Geoff Haines — N1GY

Geoff has been unable to access the latest issue of QST, but this is a “new” puzzle, nevertheless.

QST DEC/FEB

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

www.WordSearchMaker.com

ANALYZER

DIPOLE

OSCILLOSCOPES

ANTENNA

DISPLAY

PARKS

BAND

FIELD DAY

PASS

CENTURY

FILTER

PRESET

COMET

HOLIDAYS

STRAIGHT KEY

CONTEST

MICROSCOPES

VOLUNTEERS

CUSHCRAFT

MOBILE

YAESU

Items for Sale

Greg Fiozzo – KD2HRD (941) 518-5418

I won an MFJ-929 Tuner at the Christmas Party and I want to list it for sale. I am asking \$150.

Greg KD2HRD
Gfiozzo@yahoo.com
518-588-5418

Peter Jarosik – KA1WBE (941) 580-8696

VECTOR-VID DC Power Supply

This is only a 6-amp max supply. It is used for bench testing and radio projects. It is adjustable from 0 to 30 volts and current from 0 to 6 amps. Asking \$50.00.



Alinco DR-135 2-meter 50-watt mobile radio.
Asking \$100.00 for it.



Astron 35A. This is a 35-amp linear power supply.
Will power your HF rig and many other radios.
Asking \$95.00 for it.



Swan PS 10 Power supply with built in speaker.
This is a 10-amp supply for a 2-meter or 440 radio.
It can be used with low power H.F. radios too!
Asking \$35.00 for it.



MARCI Polos



For Polo Shirts with embroidered MARCI patches contact Marsha Littlefield – (941-224-0400) Email - Mympmarsha@Yahoo.Com
Marsha will appreciate getting multiple orders. Contact her for details.

VE Exam Sessions

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

The sessions are held the third Saturday of the month, every 2 months. The first session for 2024 will be Saturday, February 17.

Please note that testing starts promptly at 9:00 a.m.

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

Operators' License Class

Trailer Estates CERT is offering classes to assist in obtaining a HAM Radio Operators' license. Your prospective HAM operators are invited to attend.

The classes will be held in mid to late February, 2024.

Please send an email to Sharon and she will forward it to the class.

Sharon
originaltr@cs.com

Club Meetings

Monthly MARCI Club Meeting

General membership meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month (**except July**) at 7:00 p.m. at the Bible Baptist Church located at 2113 57th St E, Bradenton, FL 34208. The next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, February 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 be a member of the BOD). The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 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=Qm52YWJGaWF4U29SMGk3bWVzRk1Ddz09>

Monthly ARES Meeting

General membership meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next regular general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, February 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 the nets on our repeater

Our Manatee Amateur Radio Club Net meets every Sunday night at 7 p.m. on the K4GG repeater, 146.820. It 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 poorly attended. The club has over 120 members. Please consider taking 20 minutes out of your Sunday evening to check into our MARCI club net!

On Monday evenings, you can drop in on the Manatee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Nets at 7 p.m. These are a bit more tactical and an easy way to improve your 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. The National Weather Service SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program website is weather.gov/SKYWARN.

The Regional Nets are 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 late.

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!

MARCI Christmas Party Pictures

These pictures supplement those published in our January issue. Many more photos were submitted but they were either blurry or lacking detail.

