

RADIOWAVES



The MARCI Newsletter

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From The President of MARCI

The year 2023 is history. Hurrah, or maybe, ...sorry! I bet some of you swore a year ago to go on a diet. Others promised to take better care of themselves or even better care of someone else. (What famous person once stated, 'If I knew I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself?')

So, for 2024, let's pick up the pace. A popular resolution is, "Learn a new skill or hobby." Lots of opportunities in that for us hams. For those on HF, how about learning to copy and send code (CW) or how to operate digital modes? Or "I have an HF station but how do I work DX?" And for the EXTRA class licensees, 'How do I put a PL-259 on a section of coax cable?'. How many of you would like to know more about computer logging of your radio contacts and sending them to ARRL's 'Logbook of The World' (LOTW)? So many opportunities and so little time! Each month I encourage you to submit a photo of your ham shack to be featured as our 'SHACK of THE MONTH' in "Radiowaves". Our newsletter editor gets so few submissions he has asked me for help. Perhaps a pic of the MARCI Board of Directors with their 'Let Go My Eggo' boxer shorts? Remember no shack is too big or too small. How about resolving to dust off that radio and your 'proud of' accessories and let others enjoy your station in a photo? We might learn something just seeing how you lay out your operating position. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Now, in the next few days, just about everyone will be talking about 'New Year's Resolutions'. "Set a goal, make small changes, make progress, make the goal a priority, and grade yourself on your results." Sure, but these things about ham radio are supposed to be FUN. Don't beat yourself up if life gets in the way this week while you are learning that new skill. Remember this is about you and your little bit of self-improvement.

Finally, while the taillights of 2023 are now barely visible, I want to take a moment to thank those that were especially helpful to MARCI and to me personally this past year (in no particular order).

Tony Vasile (KB9A)	Tim Hostetler (WD9JTR)	Jack Ham (WG9X)
Pete Jarosik (KA1WBE)	Brian Biery (N4BB)	Cecil Fox (KF4CSM)
Ken Olson (K4KEO)	Bill Miller (K9HXO)	Jim Woodson (KE4INM)
Ed Skalecki (NI4MX)	Cindy Wiggins (WB4XBH)	Miranda Blackwelder (KQ4FFE)

To the members who contributed time and effort at MARCIFEST 2023 my thanks as well. We could not have done it without you!

I close my column here each month with 'tell someone you love them.' Have you? Did you? I lost my older sister a few weeks ago but luckily was able to spend a weekend with her before her passing. You never know.

To those who need a reminder, we do indeed have a Sunday night net December 31st, New Year's Eve. To all of you, please have a terrific, safe, and Happy New Year. I'll see you at the January General Membership Meeting, Tuesday January 2nd. Remember to *PLEASE* 'tell someone you love them'.

'73, Mike Ryan, K4CVL

From the Editor

Happy holidays from your Radiowaves editor, Bill Miller, K9HXO.

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!

The following people received awards for their service to MARCI.

		
Jack, WG9X Ham of the Year	Pete, KA1WBE Wednesday Night Trader's Net	Ed, NI4MX Repeater Trustee
		
Brian, N4BB Outstanding Service	Bill, K9HXO Elmer of the Year	* Tony, KB9A Sunday Night Net Control
		
* Cindie, WB4ZBH Outstanding Service	* Miranda, KQ4FFE Outstanding Service	* Tony, KB9A Outstanding Service

- Tony, KB9A, Cindie, WB4ZBH, and Miranda, KQ4FFE pictured above were also honored for service on the Nominating Committee.

See page 12 for photos of guests.

Member Updates

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

There were no new members who were approved for membership in December. We congratulate Richard Raucci who was recognized in the December issue. He now holds callsign KQ4NAB.

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>.

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 in. The next meeting is on January 16th. 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>

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 January 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 January 1, 2024. They also decided to separate the printed version of all magazines from membership, effective January 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)

Birthday Party for Frank Morton, AC4MK

Frank Morton is turning 90 years old! His party will be held at Manatee Performing Arts Center/Kiwanis Club at 401 7th Street West in Bradenton on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 1pm. All are welcome but please RSVP to Frank's daughter, Cathy Mayher (813) 325-0847. The party will be a catered affair and Cathy needs a headcount as soon as possible. Should be a lot of fun so come out and wish Frank a Happy 90th!

From the Secretary

December MARCI Club Meeting Notes – There was no December meeting as the Annual Christmas Party was December 6th.

Wire Antennas

Most of you have heard me espouse on the two-meter net that I've worked the world with a hundred watts (and often much less) and a wire antenna. I had the privilege and honor of studying electromagnetics and antennas under the famous ham Dr. John Kraus, W8JK, which gives you an idea of how old I am. Dr. Kraus was an avid antenna experimenter. Anyway, I love experimenting with wire antennas. Here's a link I stumbled upon that lists out 418 wire antenna sketches...ideas for a lifetime!

[Wire Antennas for Ham Radio \(qsl.net\)](http://www.qsl.net)

Have fun building and catch you down the log! Tim-WD8JTR

What you should consider in a whole house electric generator by Jim Zientara

A major brand of electric generator is the Generac, though there are other brands available. It is called a “standby generator” because it is ready in case the electricity is interrupted.

When electricity is interrupted, the generator goes into action providing electricity for the house. The generator described is powered by natural gas, though there are other fuels such as propane.

The unit described is a 34 KW generator and provides power for a large home. It ties into two 200-amp circuit breaker panels. One could get by with 25 KW unit for the average 2,200 sq ft house.

Don't save money by going to a small generator or one which just powers a refrigerator. If there is an electric interruption, you want to continue living normally.

It takes about a day or two to install the generator and accessories and is done by a licensed electrician. It is usually mounted on a stand to raise it above ground level in case of flooding.

Inside the generator is a cell phone connected directly to the company who installed the unit. Every week the generator turns on to verify it is in good working order. If there is a problem, the generator will text the installation company who will then arrange an appointment to come out and fix it.

If the power company stops providing electricity for whatever reason, a Generac senses the outage and turns the generator on after about 1 minute. Automatic transfer switches are located next to the circuit breaker boxes. Automatic transfer switches transfer the circuit breaker boxes automatically from the power company to the Generac generator. Everything in the house then runs as normal. Once the electricity from the power company comes back on, the transfer switches wait about 2 minutes and then automatically transfer the circuit breaker boxes back to the power company. The process is automatically done even if you are not at home.

For decades, the United States has enjoyed an electric grid that is more than 99 percent reliable, delivering electricity effectively to millions of households across the country. If your power company is 99% reliable, your power could be out for 3.6 days. It would be difficult to live without power for that length of time.

Home Depot sells generators, whole house or portable. You might try to install it yourself. It is a complicated process, however. Portables usually run on gas requiring storage cannisters, which could be a fire hazard.

Installing a generator is a large expense, possibly over \$30,000, but likely a worthwhile one. Going without electricity even for a few minutes is annoying. A few days is a disaster.

Imagine an incapacitated person in the home or a person on a medical machine. These people need electricity to just survive. It also helps if you ever sell the house. More and more newly built houses have the option of whole house generators.

73, Jim Zientara, W4MAN

QST DECEMBER 23

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

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DIPOLE

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VOICE

FIELD DAY

OSCILLATOR

VOLUNTEERS

Items for Sale

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

I will remind the members that I still can make the various cable assemblies to allow remoting the control heads of those radios so equipped. I am able to do this in 4, 6, and 8 conductor assemblies with modular plugs, male or female at both ends as required.

73,
Geoff Haines, N1GY

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 6amp 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 2meter 50 watt mobile radio.
Asking \$100.00 for it



Astron 35A . This is a 35amp linear power supply
Will power your H.F. 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



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 the evening in Trailer Estates. The schedule is January 4th, 7th, 11th, 14th and the 15th if necessary.

Please send an email to me and I 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, January 2nd. 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 Tuesday, January 16th.

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 each month. The next regular general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, January 23rd 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](https://www.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

			
The Bierys – Brian & Dottie	The Blairs – Alan & Cynthia	The Borsaris - Bob & Anne	The Giannones – Frank & Barbara
			
The Hams - Jack & Cathy	The Harrells - Dale and wife	The Jarosiks - Peter & Susan	The Millers - Bill and Debra
			
The Morts - Roger & Rosa	The Olsons – Ken & Amy	The Ravids – Nate & Carol	The Rensels – Harry & Lynn
			
The Ryans – Mike & Susan	The Skaleckis – Ed & Donna	Pastor John Tonelli	Lyle Weissbach
			
The Wiggins - Clyde & Cindie	The Willevers – Jay & Julie	The Wilsons – Phil & Holly	The Zientaras - Jim & Fran