

RADIOWAVES



The MARCI Newsletter

Table of Contents

- From The President of MARCI.....2**
 - Tower Mastery – Mike’s photos of his tower work.....3
- From the Editor.....4**
 - New Members.....4
 - HamCation.....4
 - Ham Radio Lunch Bunch at Beef ‘O’ Brady’s.....5
 - MARCI Facebook Page.....5
 - “Swap & Drop” Table at Our March Monthly Meeting.....5
 - ARRL Announces Changes in Membership Options.....5
- From the Secretary.....6**
 - February 2024 MARCI Club Meeting Notes.....6
- Ham Shack of the Month - Gregory Fiozzo - KD2HRD.....7**
- ARRL Free Email Forwarding Service by Jim Zientara.....8**
- March Puzzle – Geoff Haines – N1GY.....9**
- Items for Sale.....10**
 - Peter Jarosik - KA1WBE (941) 580-8696.....10
 - MARCI Polos.....10
- VE Exam Sessions.....11**
- Websites of Interest.....11**
- Club Meetings.....12**
 - Monthly MARCI Club Meeting.....12
 - Monthly MARCI Board of Directors Meeting.....12
 - Monthly ARES Meeting.....12
- Clubs and Other Nets.....13**

From The President of MARCI

Leap Year. We know a typical year is just over 365 days. More accurately, it is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 56 seconds, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Museum. That extra time adds up and has to be accounted for somehow. Leap years are years that have 366 days instead of 365. They exist because it takes roughly, but not exactly, 365.25 days for Earth to orbit the sun, and so we need to add an extra day to the calendar every four years. (Google) With all that information and \$1 you can buy a cup of coffee...maybe. In any case 2024 is off and running and it's time to get a "LEAP" on things.

I hope you will enjoy the pictures elsewhere in Radiowaves of antenna and tower work that I have been doing or have done. I thought it a good time to post pictures of antennas as this is the time of year to get them up and working, be they modest dipoles, verticals, or more exotic ones. The weather is cooperating now and will for the next few months. Then it will get hot, and it gets tougher to motivate yourself to get out there to do these of things. Remember. "LEAP YEAR." So, get going!

Our Treasurer Jack Ham, WG9X, has asked that I remind those who have not yet paid their MARCI Club dues for 2024 to please do so. He has threatened to begin calling those delinquent members at 2:00 am to personally remind them. (Have you ever wondered what Jack's voice sounds like at 2:00am?)

In order for MARCI to remain an affiliated club with the ARRL, we are required to have at least 51% of our membership be ARRL Members. At this point, we are just above this level. The club is growing, and I ask new and current members to consider becoming members of the ARRL. The league produces QST Magazine which ARRL members receive in either a digital or printed format as they choose. There are other benefits that many do not know about. One very important one is their equipment insurance plan. It is a good value especially considering the cost to repair or replace costly electronic equipment. It has already saved several of our current members many thousands of dollars and some considerable agony. I urge you all to join the ARRL and support the good that they do for the ham community, At the same time you will be supporting MARCI.

Our club Vice President, Ken Olson, has some ideas that we will be talking about at upcoming meetings. These activities are geared towards our less experienced and those new to ham radio. Our younger members are foremost in these plans, but the activities will prove to be fun for all of us. I don't want to 'rain on Ken's parade' so to speak, so I will leave it at that for now.

I hope to see you all at the March General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, March 5th. We have two presentations on tap for this meeting. Ken Olson will give us a rundown on the different types of fire extinguishers and will talk about which ones to keep close by, especially indoors and around the ham station.

The second program is one that I have scheduled every year. It will be presented by Ron Harroff, K9RH, about estate planning with regards to your ham gear and other valuables. His insights are based on experience and offer some great advice on how to prepare for any eventuality. Some preparation is a must and Ron's presentation can help greatly to that end.

Remember the 'SWAP and DROP Table'. Bring in that 'too good to throw away item'. Perhaps it is just what another member can use. Have a great month and as always, *PLEASE* 'tell someone you love them'.

'73, Mike Ryan, K4CVL

Tower Mastery - Mike's photos of his tower work



Mike on Clyde's (WB4GLI) tower



Mike on Bob's (W4WRS) tower



Mike on Burch's (K4QXX) tower



Mike's (K4CVL) tower

From the Editor

New Members

Please welcome the following individuals who were approved for membership at the MARCI Board of Directors meeting on February 20, 2024:

Darryl Battie, KE0JRJ	David Venable, KZ4DAV
David Cetola, N1TKN	Penni V. Nichols, K4PDN
John Hartman, KQ4MTF	Sarah Venable, KQ4OKJ
Karen Muller, KQ4KVG	Wesley Walker, KN4NPR

HamCation

HamCation is the 2nd largest gathering of radio amateurs in the world. This year it was held in Orlando, February 9-11. Some of our members attended. A few photos taken by Mike, K4CVL, are below:



The Olson ham family



The crowd at HRO



Yaesu's booth



An overall shot

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 March 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).

From the Secretary

February 2024 MARCI Club Meeting Notes

The monthly meeting of the Manatee Amateur Radio Club was held February 6th at the Bible Baptist Church on Morgan Johnson Rd (57th Street East). There were 32 people in attendance.

After a short business meeting, chaired by President Mike Ryan, K4CVL, a presentation was given by Bill Turner, KQ4CQY, and Jack Ham, WG9X, demonstrating the differences between the Yaesu FTM-300DR and FTM-500DR C4FM radios. (C4FM stands for Continuous Four Level Frequency Modulation, which is a special type of 4FSK, and which is used in conjunction with FDMA - Frequency Division Multiple Access. I have it on good authority there will be a quiz at our next General Meeting.)

Photos of Bill and Jack during their presentation:



MARCI Members observe presentation



Bill, KQ4CQY and Jack, WG9X



Bill explains about power supply types



Jack with a Yaesu VHF-UHF Radio

After the well-received presentation, Mike asked for ideas for future meeting presentations. Mike reminded folks that it's time to pay your 2024 dues and to get their pictures submitted for "Ham Shack of the Month" to be published in *Radiowaves*. At that time, the meeting was adjourned.

Tim Hostetler, WD8JTR, MARCI Secretary

Ham Shack of the Month – Gregory Fiozzo – KD2HRD

This month's "shack of the month" belongs to Gregory Fiozzo



Greg describes his operation and rig: "I enjoy chasing DX on 80 through 10 meters using a Wolf River Coil Antenna. I am also trying for multiple bands of WAS phone. I check into the MARCI nets using a Diamond X30a which is painted sky blue and only 10 feet off the ground. I just purchased a Begali Sculpture key at HamCation, and I am teaching myself Morse Code. The rig is a Yaesu 857D all-mode transceiver. The autotuner is an AT-100ProII and the switching power is a JetStream 32A. The coax is fed through an MFJ-4502 feed through window panel."

ARRL Free Email Forwarding Service by Jim Zientara

For members of the ARRL, there is a free and unique email forwarding service available.

To take advantage of this, go to arrl.org and sign in. In “Website Search,” type “email.” It should take you to “E-mail Forwarding.” Select it and follow the instructions.

The ARRL will give you a unique email address. It will be your ham call followed by @arrl.net. For instance, mine is W4MAN@arrl.net. Any ham who wants to email me automatically has my ham email address.

Here is what happens: if someone emails me at W4MAN@arrl.net, the email is forwarded by the ARRL, usually in a few minutes, to my regular email address: Jim39434@gmail.com. I will go to Google and get my email at Jim39434.

This makes emailing to other hams simple.

If you're not an ARRL member, consider joining at arrl.org. They email monthly their four magazines: *QST*, *Contest Journal*, *On the Air*, and *QEX* for the experimenter.

73, Jim W4MAN, W4MAN@arrl.net

March Puzzle — Geoff Haines — N1GY

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

FEB.2023

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

www.WordSearchMaker.com

ANTENNAS	DESERT	ROTATOR
ARDUINO	ENGINEERING	ROVER
ARRAY	HAMRADIO	SOLUTIONS
BRIDGECOM	MICROHAM	STATION
CENTURY	MOXON	STEPPER
CONTROLLER	OPERATIONS	VOLUNTEERS
DAIWA	REMOTE	XIEGU

Items for Sale

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.



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 next session for 2024 will be Saturday, April 20.

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

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, March 5th. 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, March 19th.

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, March 26th 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!