



K4GSO.us

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



August 2023

Membership/Upcoming Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

For those who missed the July meeting, you missed a good one. The room at GCH was packed. We had over 45 in attendance. This speaks to the need to bring a folding chair with you just in case the regular chairs are taken. We must be doing something right because we received five new membership applications for submission at the July General Meeting.

As noted in previous *Oracles*, we are a healthy club where members are involved in our activities and welcoming to our guests.

If you know of other hams who would be interested in joining, please invite them to a meeting, an operating day or club event. We also continue to encourage our technicians to upgrade to at least General Class to enjoy the full benefits and privileges of their licenses. There is an online application and a link to a paper application on the K4GSO.us website.

Finally, to all members - there are lots of opportunities to be involved. Regardless of your license class, we continue to learn from each other. Newer hams – don't be afraid to ask questions and for help. Older hams – take a newer ham under your wing. Our new club leadership team has some good ideas on member involvement – so, not only get radio active - stay radio active!

HAMFEST:

It probably isn't on your mind right now, but Hamfest is four months away. Setup will be Friday, December 1 and the event will take place on Saturday the 2nd at First Christian Church. The ARRL has officially sanctioned our event, the venue reservation has been "reconfirmed" and planning continues to make this another successful event. A volunteer signup form will be up on the Website following the August General Meeting. More details to follow.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Socializing and Mentoring

7:00 PM Meeting

Program: Andy Allen, NA4DA

SSRC Board of Directors, first Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Green Clover Hall
All are welcome

Upcoming Events

September 12—VE Testing

Green Clover Hall

December 2—SSRC Hamfest

First Christian Church, Ocala

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Mondays at 7:30 PM

*** Notice ***



Our club is growing and Green Clover Hall has a limited number of chairs. Please consider bringing a folding chair or two as a back up.

The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

Show Us Your Shack!



Marty Brown, N4GL



Flex-6400, Flex Controller, Brown Bros. Paddle to a ZS6BKW at 50'.

Awards: CW Ops Membership Certificate—1644
ARRL 50 Year Recognition Certificate
Medals: 6 Years of Participation in CW Ops CWTs

The N4GL plaque was made by Rich Boyce, K1CDX, cousin of Wayne, N4FP.

The dummy load is just kind of appealing!



Time Passes/Things Change—Accessing ARRL's Digital Magazines

Marty Brown, N4GL from the ARRL Letter for August 10, 2023

With the changes in the ARRL membership schedule, some of us, including Life Members, will now have to pay to receive a paper copy of *QST*. In deference to those of us who would rather not have to shell out, yet aren't really comfortable with the online presentation, ARRL has created this rather nifty video to help us navigate the brave new world of digital magazines.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmZfIC2IUis>

It's worth watching even if you already read the magazines online. I picked up a thing or two!

SSRC Has a Group Email! Have You Signed UP?

Originally submitted by Andy Allen, NA4DA, Director

We have established a “group email” for the club on the Groups io platform. You may already have an account with Groups io as many of the hardware and software companies we use in this hobby have a group.

Unlike real-time (synchronous) chats or instant messaging, email group members are not forced to be online all at the same time. The asynchronous nature of email has several advantages, especially for larger, distributed groups. Basically, you sign up and subscribe to the groups that interest you. When you become a member of the group, any email you send to the group goes to everyone in the group, as do responses.

Our group is: K4GSO

Just type groups.io in your search bar and follow the link to the site. Sign up if you don't have an account and search for our group: K4GSO. You will see our group: K4GSO / Silver Springs Radio Club. Click on the button: Apply for membership in this group. You're now a member.

We will use the group to mentor, send info on upcoming events, list equipment for sale or find parts for projects, and post reviews of equipment or recaps of POTA activations.

We have a wealth of knowledge in our club. This is a tool to tap into it.

Questions? Call me: Andy NA4DA 212-729-0446 andy@na4da.com



Marion County Traffic Net

Gray Moffett KC3DWY
Assistant Emergency Coordinator
Marion County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
www.aresmcfi.org



Welcome to the home of the Marion County Traffic Net. The MCTN is the local affiliate of and is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League's National Traffic System, which provides an organized method for moving messages related to the event. Called traffic, these messages can provide information critical for saving lives or property, as well as inquiring about the health or welfare of those affected into and out of our area.

Traffic is relayed from one location to another. When areas are hit by large-scale events, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides, or technology failures that impact electricity or communications, amateur radio operators can set up equipment in the affected area to restore communications.

This is the primary function of the MCTN to practice handling formal Radiogram message traffic as part of the NTS. We encourage you to visit the NTS website for training materials and other resources as well as the other useful links below.

<http://www.arrrl.org/NTS>

<https://aresmcfi.org/useful-nts-links/vhf-traffic-net>

The MCTN meets Monday at 2015 hours on the 145.330(-) repeater, PL tone 123. We encourage everyone, with or without traffic, to check in. If you need assistance in formatting a Radiogram or have questions about anything we do on the MCTN, please ask us on the air or call the Net manager. We are here to practice sending and receiving message whether Radiograms or [ICS Forms](#).

Monthly Net Statistics update for July 2023

QNI 8 (Total Check-Ins)
QTC 3 (Total Messages)
QND 35 (Total Minutes)
Total Sessions 4

From the studio hallways of WIND-FM & K-Country, as Roger says ...

“FROM BEEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN O-CAL-A”

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

I had to make a special delivery there one day, and surprise, I got the grand tour. I met the staff & toured the new facilities which are conveniently located directly across the street from First Christian Church.

While embarking on the tour, I got to meet Hunter, Parker, and another YL whose name totally escapes me. I got to see the new studios, the tower, production areas and, of course spend time with Hunter.

We go way back to when we had our store on South Pine Ave in Ocala. I had won a pair of Eagles tickets for a show in Orlando back in 2013. So after reminiscing about the concert, some old times and things like that, she showed me a video of the old 300' tower coming down and some more chit-chat.

She'll be at the Outdoor Expo on August 12 at the World Equestrian Center, along with other people from WIND & K-Country.

When they moved in, they got all new equipment, all digital, touchscreen, and a really nice and well designed, modern studio. The sound board appeared to be either 16 or 24 channels. I didn't dive into it too much, but I was truly impressed.

In the conference room on the way out, there was, of all things, a Heil Gold Line on a tripod sitting there and I pointed it out. I think I impressed them with my knowledge of the equipment of theirs. I had to stop and take a picture of this just because it hits home to every ham's dream, to have an awesome studio mic and headset that's as aesthetically pleasing to look at as it is delightful to listen to.

Of course, with a chance like this, I extended an invitation to them, the staff and the group, to visit or do a live remote during hamfest. We'll see.



What's the Frequency?

Here are the worldwide frequencies for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

Crossband voice repeater
437.800 down / 145.990 up (PL 67.0 Hz)

Packet Radio - Currently APRS
145.825 up and down

Educational Contacts
145.800 down



From the ARISS Facebook page, Carl Berry

RF Ground Panel

Roger Ackley, WA2CZR

You may remember when I spoke about Lightning and grounding systems that I mentioned “RF Ground Panels”. A ground panel goes under your radio gear to hopefully reduce stray pick up from indoor radio equipment and inter-connecting cables, and curtails voltage differences between your equipment.

These panels are available from DX Engineering and range in price from \$209 for copper down to \$69.00 for Aluminum.

Being a HAM, I decided to make my own from steel. While walking Thor (my constant four-legged companion) down Ft. King St. one morning I noticed a fairly large black panel laying in the grass. It was the side panel from a Dell desktop computer. So, I brought it home and the wheels started turning as I walked back to the house, what can I do with this? **Hmmm a Ground Plate!**

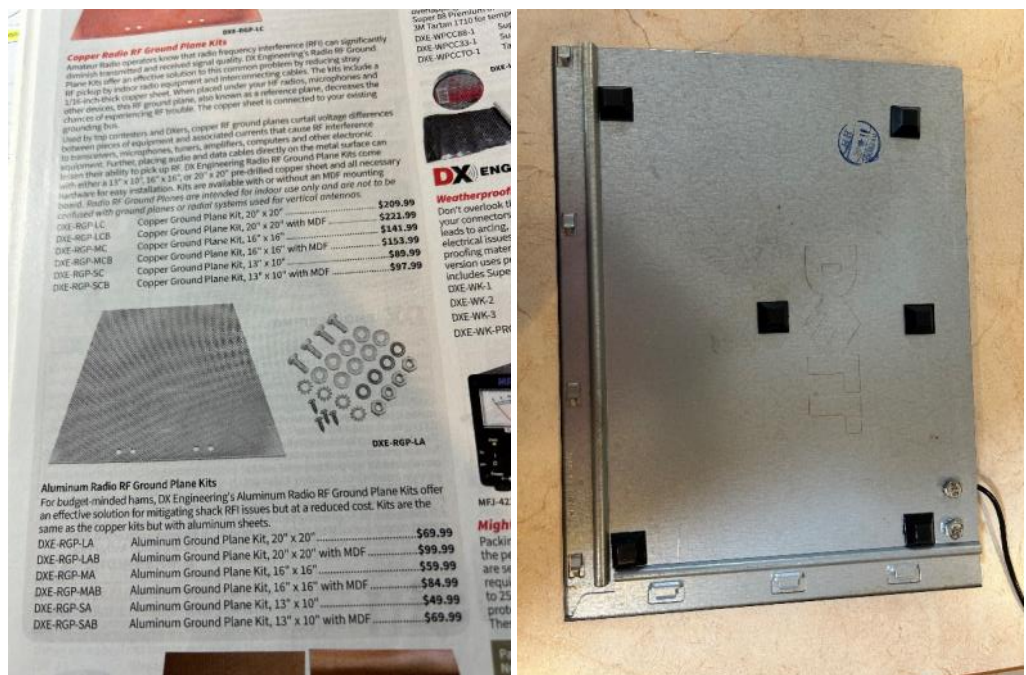
I cut the panel down to size with a saber saw to fit my radio, drilled 2- ¼ holes, added a couple of ¼ inch bolts with star washers and nuts for ground mounting posts, added some rubber feet so there is no movement or scratches on the table, made up some connecting wires to connect the tuner and radio to the Ground Panel. Then I made a cable to get the panel connected to the only ground I have in my interior ham shack, the 3rd wire ground through the house wiring.

If you recall my shack is in a small Walkin closet which is on an inside wall, with concrete floors. So, my only access to ground is through the house wiring. Considering that my 4 earth ground rods, antenna masts, the Polyphasers and antennas are all connected to each other and then to the house GREEN ground this is not that bad. It for sure isn't the closest connection to earth, but it is still GROUND!

I had an old power cord which I modified to make a ground connection through the power distribution box. I cut off the white and black wires, covered them with shrink sleeving then connected a wire to the green ground lead of the plug and then heat shrink sleeve over that.

Again, the best lightning protection is ARRL insurance. I did talk to ARRL insurance provider and had I put the printer on the policy it would have been covered. She told me that anything that is involved with HAM radio could be on the policy. So, if your computer is connected to the web wirelessly via a modem than could probably be covered if listed on your policy!

Before you add anything that may be questionable to your policy, I suggest you talk to the provider first. A great contact would be: Cheryl Ludewig 312-598-3958. Email cludewig@risk-strategies.com.



More photos on next page...



RF Ground Panel

Roger Ackley, WA2CZR



Where in the World is Carmen San Diego: (Your Radio Signal)?

Ivory Williams, W6IVY

Even if you never played the (1980's) game you probably heard of it in one of its various forms, video or TV game show.

It seems some surveys show that Americans do poorly in geography when asked to locate or name states or countries on a blank map. This caused me to wonder if WAS, DXCC or other certificate chasing Amateur Radio Operators were better than the average public. (Note: ARRL DXCC is 340 *entities*)

WSPR (*Weak Signal Propagation Reporter*) is one of the programs that will show states and countries where your signal is being heard, places that might surprise you. Previous newsletters have articles about its results and benefits.

When I looked at one of my results I quickly realized I could name 5 of the continents (7 each) but countries, (195 each) I would not even try. So that left the US states to try. I scored 80%. Those pesky North Midwest and North Upper East states, places I've never traveled caught me off guard. Don't be ashamed, most of us have been out of school for a while. And geography is no longer taught in many school systems.

But before you start congratulating yourself try the 5 Main US | Territories, the 13 Colonies, or State Capitals. OK, an easy one for native Floridians, surely you know all the Florida counties.

Then print your own certificate (maybe the club president and secretary will sign it).

What about you, fellow hams, Are YOU (we better)?

Disclaimer: Will you lose your certificate if you fail, I don't know. (if you fail pass the link on to someone else).

US Map Game

https://www.sporcle.com/games/Matt/find_the_states

Blank US map

<https://www.50states.com/maps/usamap.htm>



WSPR 20M Image

Country Map Game

<https://www.playgeography.com/>



58th Annual Melbourne Hamfest and ARRL Florida State Convention

October 13, 2023 1PM-7PM

October 14, 2023 9AM-3PM

Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901

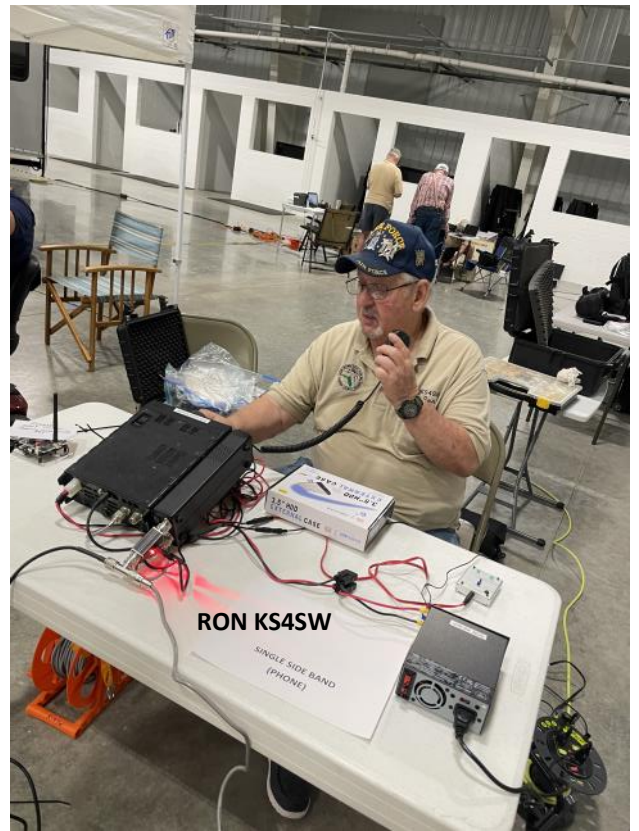
The Silver Springs Radio Club Participates.... Photos from Izzy, KT4WA



Outdoor Expo 2023



Bert N8NN and Fred W7SIX



RON KS4SW



Mark KO4QMI

Hayden N2HAY Ron KS4SW

Carl KC5CMX

The Silver Springs Radio Club Participates.... Photos from Adam, NY5E



Outdoor Expo 2023

K4GSO Corner



Harlan KN4VRM, MERT, Coordinator and Mark KO4QMI

See Carl, KC5CMX's, YouTube interview with Harlan, KN4VRM.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9F2W6PTk2A>



Ron KS4SW & grandson



Mark KO4QMI, Elbert KQ3K, Bill KN4BG

The Silver Springs Radio Club Participates.... Photos from Adam, NY5E



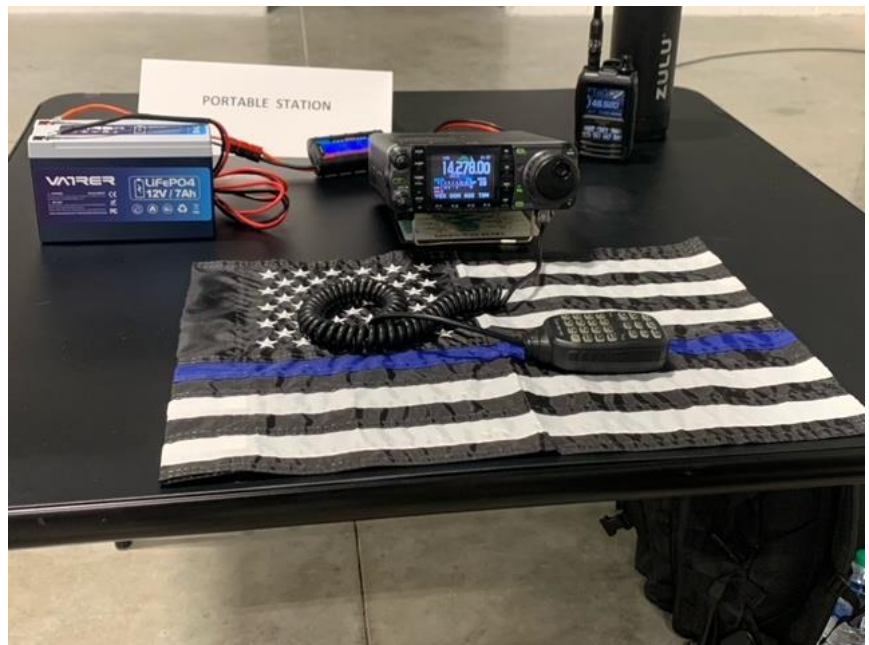
Outdoor Expo 2023



Buddipole and flags display



WinLink Station



Portable Station (NY5E)
Icom IC 7000

Show Us Your Shack, Simple Fixes, One Thing or Another

SSRC Members want to see your shack and hear about some of the everyday Ham radio situations that you successfully addressed. See pages 3,4 & 6 in this issue for ideas.

Drop the info in an email to: n4gl.marty@gmail.com



ARRL VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR 2023

ARRL.org VOTA Home Leaderboard Certificates Call Sign Points W1AW Portable Operations Help

A Year-Long Operating Event Recognizing Volunteers

2023 SSRC Officers

[President - Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY](#)
[Vice President - Adam Parker, NY5E](#)
[Secretary - Gray Moffett, KC3DWY](#)
[Treasurer— Carl Berry, KC5CMX](#)
[Past President - Bill Gillespie, KW5BG](#)

Directors:

[Andy Allen, NA4DA](#)
[Terry Strey, KN4FMH](#)
[Tim Trombley, K8TAT](#)

[Club Minutes and Financial Reports](#)



SSRC Board of Directors
first Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Green Clover Hall
All are welcome

Committee Chairs

[Membership & Events – Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)
[Trustee K4GSO – Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)
[Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL](#)

[SSRC Logo Shirts & Caps](#)
[Green Clover Key Card](#)
[Perry Field Access](#)
[Membership Application](#)
[Buy/Sell/Trade](#)
[QST NFL – NFL Section Newsletter](#)
[Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)
[NFL Section Website](#)
[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)
[NG3K DX](#)