



The Oracle



Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL

K4GSO.us

December 2023

Membership/Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP:

Once again, those who missed the November meeting, it was another good one – primarily because I presented the Hamfest operation plan! The room at GCH was overflowing again - seriously. Don't forget to stick a folding chair in your trunk just in case the regular chairs are taken and you would like to sit! As noted in previous Oracles, we are a healthy growing club where members are involved in our activities and more importantly, welcoming to our guests.

I know this sounds like a broken record, but we approved four new members at the November meeting. Please welcome our newest members:

- Nick Kiddey, N4NFK, Extra
- Wayne Peterson, KD8MRC, Extra
- Ethan Rodriguez, KQ4EIC, General
- Mike Terracina, KQ4KUX, Extra

To top it off and finish up the year, we currently have six...yes six - applications pending for the December meeting. So, how many members will we have on rolls at year end? Glad you asked. Here's the breakdown:

Technicians	27
Generals	37
Advanced	6
Extras	51
Associates	4
Total	125

Congratulations! We hit President Kaufman's goal of 125 by year end. We are still on a roll with membership growth, so keep it up. If you know of other hams who would be interested in joining, please invite them to our meetings, operating days or club activities. There is an online application and a link to a paper application on the K4GSO.us website. We continue to encourage our technicians to upgrade to at least General Class and Generals to Extra to enjoy the full benefits and privileges of their licenses.

As a special note, the club is migrating membership rolls to HamClubOnline.com (<https://www.hamclubonline.com/>). This is an Amateur Radio Club Management System written by hams for hams.

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Party Setup & Socializing

**7:00 PM Installation of Officers followed by
Holiday Party**

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

Upcoming Events

January 9—VE Testing

7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

Jan 27-28—Winter Field Day

(January Operating Day)

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Mondays at 7:30 PM

ARES/SKYWARN Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Wednesdays 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.

You should have received a “Welcoming Email” in the last few weeks. If not, please check your spam folder. Our club Secretary, Gray Moffet, KC3DWY, has been leading this effort. Please direct any questions or inquiries to him at gray.moffett@hotmail.com.

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. If you there are programs you would like to see presented or if you have subject matter expertise (or experience) and would be willing to present a program, please contact one of the club officers. There are lots of opportunities to be involved. Our club leadership team has some good ideas on member involvement – so, not only get radio-active - stay radio-active! Like most endeavors – we only get out of it with the effort we put in it.

HAMFEST:

Hamfest is OVER! Well done everyone!

As most of you know, after many years of attending, we lost a major new equipment vendor, Hamworld, and were unable to replace it with another. Unfortunately, size does matter and several other smaller equipment vendors have simply disappeared from the hamfest circuits. This year we had to adjust and consolidated commercial and inside vendor tables into the First Christian Church Memorial Hall and almost filled it up.

Setup began early Friday morning with our loyal commercial vendors arriving to unload - Tower Electronics, Signman of Baton Rouge, Satellite Sam, J.T. Communications and Paradan Radio. We had some interesting individual vendors also setting up: Hayden’s Computers, Frank Intino, Estate of Terry Reaves W4FG, Sal & Donna Vilione and Kevin Young.

Member participation was outstanding. We had 26 members who volunteered over Friday and Saturday to make Hamfest 2023 successful. Lots of help made the work go quickly and efficiently. In terms of attendance, we had 239 inside admissions including vendors and member volunteers. The tailgate area had 29 paid spots and attracted a lot of traffic. Our grand prize, a Yaseu FTM-300DR, must have been really well received because we sold 146 tickets. To cap it off, the 50 / 50 drawing drew a lot of interest as well.

As a first for the SSRC, Andy Allen secured a W1AW/4 VOTA special event station operating time slot on 20m phone on Saturday from 8:00am – 2:00pm. A 20m dipole had been previously setup outside on Friday with station equipment provided by Andy. The various operators made about 200 Qs during the six hour block, but acoustics made it challenging.

For another SSRC first, Doug Niessen, K6STS, built and had on display a long duration floater Pico balloon to be launched at Hamfest using the K4GSO call. Unfortunately, the low cloud cover that kept the tailgate folks cool is not conducive for balloon launches. The balloon will be launched at another time.

HAMFEST 2024:

Mark your calendars for next year’s Hamfest: December 6 for vendor setup; December 7 for event day. Same venue – First Christian Church – has been reserved. After many years as Hamfest Chairman, 2023 was my last year. It is time to move over and let other interested members have a turn. It is not hard and my existing planning product is available. With 125 members, we have a lot of talent to draw on. A healthy organization plans for succession and that time is now.

GREEN CLOVER HALL:

SSRC is blessed to have an excellent relationship with our local county government. They allow our free use of GCH for board meetings, general meetings, VE testing, operating days and special events. All are scheduled in advance to avoid conflicts. The county also generously provides the adjoining room used as our radio shack. We have been advised that the county is planning on renovating GCH in February, so we will need to make other arrangements for at least that month. Stay tuned to the Oracle and club nets for details on the alternate meeting site.

UPCOMING POTA EVENTS

For those who are interested in POTA activities, there are five “Official Events”. Events start at 0000 UTC and end 2359 UTC on the days listed. They are:

- New Year’s Week (first full week of the new year)
- Support Your Parks on the third full weekend of each quarter. These are “activity weekends” where the objective is to get out in the parks and have as much fun as possible.
- Winter – 3rd Full Weekend in January
- Spring - 3rd Full Weekend in April
- Summer - 3rd Full Weekend in July
- Autumn - 3rd Full Weekend in October.



Pictures on next page...



TVARC Holds Licensing Courses

Brad Castelli, KN9B

Amateur General Licensing Course on Monday evenings, Jan. 8 - Feb. 26, 2024 in The Villages, Florida

The Villages Amateur Radio Club is holding an in person General license course. You will meet once a week for seven weeks followed by exams on the last night. The course is free and open to the public.

More class details and study resources are listed on the club website; www.K4VRC.com ("Interest in becoming a ham" tab). You are encouraged to get your friends to sign-up too, so you can study together.

Contact: Brad KN9B, kn9b@arrl.net

Amateur Extra Licensing Course on Monday evenings, Mar 4 - Apr. 8, 2024, in The Villages, Florida

The Villages Amateur Radio Club is holding an in person Extra license course. You will meet once a week for five weeks followed by exams on the last night. The course is free and open to the public.

More class details and study resources are listed on the club website; www.K4VRC.com ("Interest in becoming a ham" tab). You are encouraged to get your friends to sign-up too, so you can study together.

Contact: Brad KN9B, kn9b@arrl.net



Silver Springs Radio Club Holiday Party

December 19, 2023

6:00 PM Party Setup & Socializing

7 PM Dinner

Green Clover Hall
319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

Plan to attend with your spouse or guest.

SSRC will provide the Ham and Tim K8TAT will do the Turkey!

Also provided: Soft Drinks, Water, Coffee, Paper Products, and Utensils.

Please bring a dish of your choosing, serving 6-8, to share.

Please plan to take any leftovers home with you. Our party venue has no refrigeration or food service facilities. If your dish requires a special serving utensil, please provide it.

Extra folding chairs will be appreciated.

If you need more information, contact Marty N4GL

n4gl.marty@gmail.com

The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

Hamfest

December 2, 2023



TNX KC5CMX



TNX KC5CMX



TNX KC5CMX



TNX KO4OIG



TNX NY5E

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TNX NY5E



TNX NY5E



Some comments on the W1AW/4 from Adam, NY5E, VP

As you remember, Andy (NA4DA) had the foresight to arrange the scheduling of our Volunteers OnThe Air special event station. What a tremendous idea! Up goes the antenna!

Below- Andy NA4DA and Izzy KA4WA, a couple of swell guys, deploy a couple of well swell guys to support the telescoping mast!

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Wayne WA1PMA

W1AW/4

Bill KW5BG



Wayne (WA1PMA) works the special event station. A speaker was placed in-line, so that "spectators" could listen to the Rx side of the QSO's. HEY! That's my Coke and Chips!! And (right) Bill Gillespie (KW5BG) also had a spell in the chair. I was fortunate enough to man the station from 11:00AM - 12:00 PM and let me tell you, it was just so much fun! Exciting to be the "hunted" rather than the hunter !



TNX KT4WA



TNX KT4WA



TNX K2DM

George, K2DM, President of The Villages Amateur Club, (TVARC), offers his compliments on an FB Hamfest!



Orlando HamCation needs your help!

It takes an army of Volunteers to make HamCation happen every year. If you volunteer for HamCation for just four hours, we will give you a ticket to get into HamCation all weekend. We need volunteers starting on Tuesday morning all the way through Sunday afternoon, after the show ends.

Just to highlight a few of the areas that are needing help right now, Tailgate, RV, Forums, IT, Logistics, On Site Ticket Sales, Security, and Talk-In.



February 9-11, 2024

For more information on volunteering for HamCation, including signing up, go to www.hamcation.com/hamcation-volunteer. Also on this page is the full list of volunteer areas and the description and duties of each area.

HamCation gives back Track your hours that you volunteer and HamCation will make a donation to your Ham Club/501 C 3 organization of your choice. (We'll provide you with the form)

SSRC Has a Group Email! Have You Signed UP?

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.

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

Questions? Andy NA4DA 212-729-0446



A Year-long Operating Event Recognizing Volunteers

[VOTA Red Badges On The Air Event December 17th.](#)

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](#)