



[K4GSous](http://www.k4gsous.com)

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



February 2023

President's Message

Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY

A whirlwind of activity has come and gone, and I would like to take a quick minute to review, relate and rave about our members!

Firstly, I would like to thank Carl KC5CMX for spearheading our Winter Field Day effort. I was called to NYC to visit my father's hospital bedside, so I was unable to participate. Imagine my surprise to see that our event received some media coverage, a very fine turnout by our members, and to hear that some visitors even made their way out to Perry Field! FB to all involved, and my personal thanks to you all.

Elbert's kneecap-busting goons have reported that there are still a few of you who haven't yet paid their dues. Please do so as soon as possible. Doing so enables us to track our active membership and plan accordingly for the year.

Marion County Day is March 25th from 10am until 2pm. We have requested to move our operations away from Green Clover so we are more visible and will have more traffic. I would really like to see many of our members turn out and show off. Sign up information will be posted shortly on the website.

Once again, my thanks to each and every one of you.

Marion County Traffic Net

Gray Moffett, KC3DWY, Assistant Emergency Coordinator
Marion County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

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. The primary function of the MCTN is to handle formal Radiogram message traffic as part of the NTS. We encourage you to visit the NTS website for training materials and other resources.

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

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

The MCTN meets Monday at 2015 hours on the 146.330(-) repeater, PL tone 123. We encourage everyone, with or without traffic, to check in. If you need assistance or have questions about anything we do on the MCTN, or if you have any interest in becoming a member of the MCTN staff, please contact Gray Moffett, KC3DWY, Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Marion County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, www.aresmcfi.org, 610.417.8744



Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Socializing and Mentoring

7:00 PM Meeting

Program: Phil Hogan W8PNZ

Early History of Ham Radio and the ARRL

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

Upcoming Events

VE Testing—March 14, 7 PM, GCH
Marion County Day—March 25, 9-3
McPherson Governmental Complex

Silver Springs Radio Club Net
K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123
Mondays at 7:30 PM

Net Statistics (January 2023)

QNI	15 (Total Check-Ins)
QTC	5 (Total Messages)
QND	77 (Total Minutes)
Total Sessions	4

Membership/Upcoming Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

I'm back again to remind you that annual club dues are now due. As of now, 66% of our members have renewed. Thanks to all who have done so. For those who are dragging their feet now is the time to get this done.

As a reminder you can renew in one of three ways:

- Cash
- Check
- Online at <https://k4gso.us/fr2022/>

Individual memberships are \$25 and Family memberships are \$35. Please note there is a \$2 upcharge for Online payments to offset the PayPal convenience fee. DO NOT MAIL CASH. Please pay the club Treasurer in person at the General Meeting and get your receipt. Checks can be delivered in person or mailed to:

Silver Springs Radio Club
P. O. Box 787
Silver Springs, FL 34489

One final note on Checks and Online – if the payment is from an entity that does not clearly state your name so that we can identify you, please note your name and call. Otherwise, your payment may be misapplied or not applied while we attempt to identify who paid.

I am pleased to report that the club continues to grow with more members just about every month. We are pleased to welcome our newest members who were approved at the January General Meeting:

- Randy Starr, KQ4DUY, Technician
- William Hill, K1RCI, General

Also, welcome back Ted Savoy, KA6DFQ, General.

We have one pending application for the February meeting. This will bring our active membership up to 102 of with 99 licensed and three associate members.

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 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 get involved. Regardless of your license class, we can all 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, get radio active!

MARION COUNTY DAY 2023:

Once again, our county will be having a community wide celebration on Saturday, March 25 at the McPherson Governmental Complex. There will be lots of vendors, displays, other participants and hopefully large crowds to enjoy an early spring day outside. SSRC has submitted its application and plans to setup a couple of stations to demonstrate our skills and portable emergency operations to the public. Last year, we setup our operations in front of Green Clover Hall. We asked to move closer to the other vendors but won't know the county's decision until the week of the event.

Mark your calendars to attend and participate in this club event. More details to follow at club meetings and in *The Oracle*.

TAILGATE 2023:

Our tailgate last June was a success and brought out a lot of hams to have fun and tailgate. We will be rinsing and repeating this year! Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 3 from 9:00am to Noon in the Green Clover Hall parking lot. Tailgate vendor spots are \$5. All tailgater vendors are responsible for their own displays: tables, chairs, etc. Tailgate sale items are limited to radio and radio related items.

More details to follow in the Oracle and General Meetings.

The Oracle Starts a New Series in March! Show Us Your Shack!

Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor

CQ CQ CQ! SSRC Members want to see your shack! This idea comes from our hard-working, forward-thinking VP, Adam, N5YE.

Starting in March *The Oracle* will feature pictures of members, member's radios, antennas, shacks. No need for a lengthy write-up.. just equipment brands, antenna heights, and any comments you might want to make. You know the drill.

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

Winter Field Day 2023

Carl Berry, KC5CMX, Chairman

Well, it's one for the record books!

Thanks to everyone who came out to operate. We had a great crew and even though we had some "network issues with the software", the radios worked, and we all had loads of fun. More pictures will be in the Oracle as they become available, but here's a few to look at. I'll send a link out to the TV 20 newscast as soon as I locate it.

We did pretty well score wise. I'll get to that in a minute. I had to spend about an hour correcting the log from Bill. His log for whatever reason, logged everything for the 2021 winter field day! No clue as to why, but it's all fixed now.

We had about – give or take – 30 visitors over the three days (Friday setup – end of event Sunday) and everyone was very impressed with what they saw. They ALL loved the rhombics, the log and the tribander. So, now that they know it's out there, we need to get together and get it 110% operational again for contest season and beyond. We have a very valuable resource that a lot of clubs would love to have, especially the beautiful view of the pastureland, cattle, and just the open, clean air with no line noise (almost).

Next big club event is the FLORIDA QSO PARTY at the end of April (Ron Viola's Birthday again) on the 30th. We have plenty of space, plenty of antennas and equipment **THAT WORKS** or will be working **WITH YOUR HELP**, so plan on playing on there that weekend.

There's other contests coming up and all club members in good standing are welcome to use the station and equipment. We just ask that you clean as you go. Enjoy the wild life and the awesome springtime sunsets coming up. In the meantime, pages four, five and six have a few memories from this year's event.

That's all I have for now. I'm sure there's many more pictures out there in radioland.

If you took any, please send them to either me or Marty, n4gl.marty@gmail.com so she can get them edited and included in **The ORACLE**.

Thanks for indulging me and my few dozen emails. We had loads of fun and more to come...



Ron KS4SW and Izzy KT4WA
setting up Hexbeam

SSRC Winter Field Day 2023 Statistics

CONTEST: WFD
 CATEGORY: 6I
 CATEGORY-POWER: LOW
 CATEGORY-BAND: ALL
 LOCATION: NFL
 CLUB: Silver Springs Radio Club
 EMAIL: kc5cmx@gmail.com
 CREATED-BY: N3FJP's Winter Field Day Contest Log 2.8.5
 CALLSIGN: K4GSO
 ARRL-SECTION: NFL
 CATEGORY-OPERATOR: MULTI-OP
 CATEGORY-STATION: FIXED
 CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: UNLIMITED
 CATEGORY-ASSISTED: UNASSISTED
 CATEGORY-MODE: MIXED
 CATEGORY-TIME: 24-HOURS
 SOAPBOX: 500 points for operating away from home.
 SOAPBOX: BONUS 500
 CLAIMED-SCORE: 6476
 OPERATORS: KC5CMX, KS4SW, KW5BG, K4ZFW, N4FP, NY5E, KT4WA, KC3DWY
 SOAPBOX: TV 20 FROM GAINESVILLE FL CAME TO VISIT!
 LOTS OF VIDEO

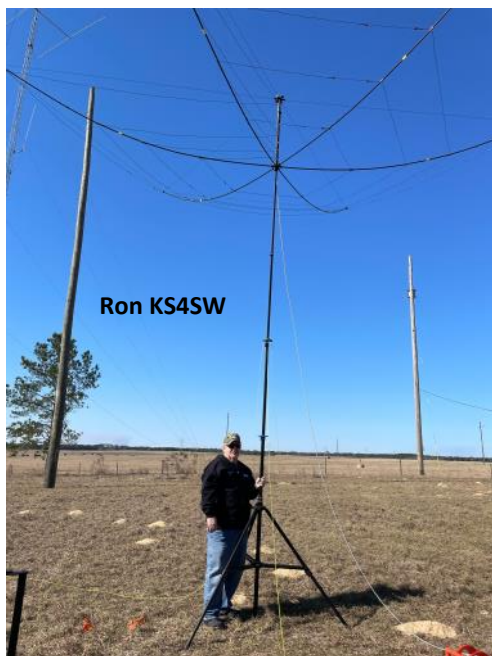




Proper Signage for lost hams.



Pictures Courtesy of Izzy, KT4WA & Carl, KC5CMX



Carl KC5CMX



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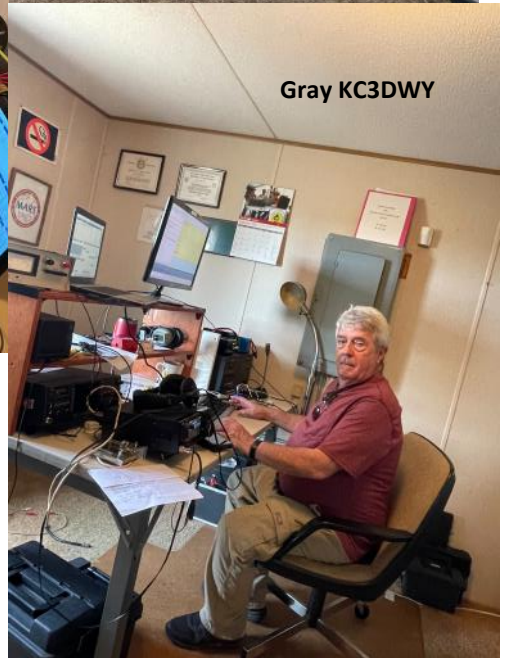
Adam NY5E



Leon K8ZAG



Ron KS4SW



Gray KC3DWY



Bill KW5BG

Pictures Courtesy of Izzy, KT4WA & Carl, KC5CMX

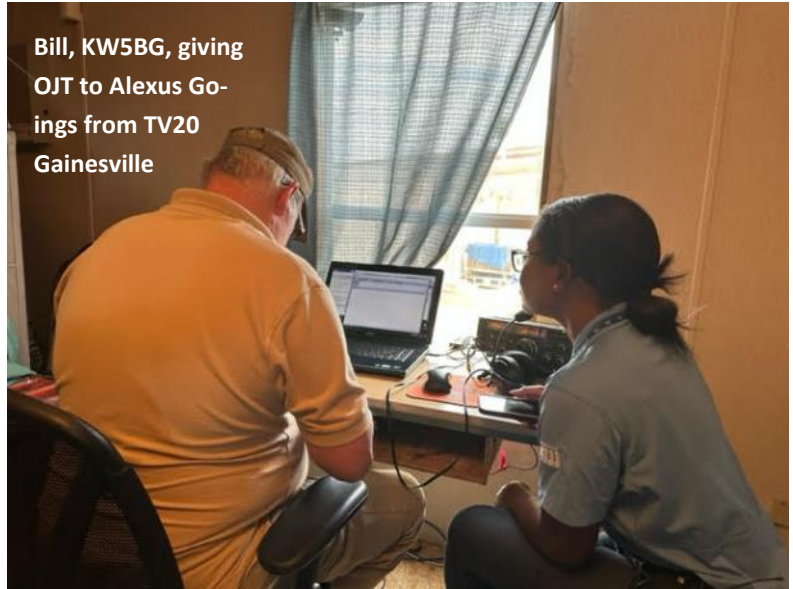


Izzy KT3WA



Wayne N4FP

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Bill, KW5BG, giving OJT to Alexis Goings from TV20 Gainesville



Bill, KW5BG, and Alexis Goings from TV20 Gainesville

Stats: One contact discounted on phone 339 phone contacts

Score Statistics	
Total CW Contacts	136
Total Phone Contacts	340
Total DIG Contacts	26
Total Multipliers	9
Total Score	5,976
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	0
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	2

5		7		0	
AR	NTX	AK	NV	CO	MO
LA	OK	AZ	OR	IA	ND
MS	STX	EWA	UT	KS	NE
NM	WTX	ID	WWA	MN	SD
		MT	WY		Canada



Some of our contesters for Sunday
Left to right

- Sally Gogino KN4TPR
- Gray Moffett, KC3DWW
- Ron Viola, KS4SW
- Izzy Irizarry, KT4WA
- Carl Berry, KC5CMX
- Bill Gillespie, KW5BG
- Roger Staley, K4ZFW
- Doug Potter, KN4CRG

HamCation Brings Old Friends Together Again

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

I've known Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL President, since the mid 90s, and it was a pleasure to meet up with him again at HamCation. Rick and I were in the same clubs in Arkansas, and while in Orlando, we stood around with another official from Russellville talking about the 1997 tornadoes, and the one that ripped through Little Rock, Texarkana and Jonesboro. I brought up my old Elmer, K5LJC/SK, Ray Parker, as well as W5RXU/SK, Dale Temple and a few others of "notable interest." We do this every year.



HamCation 2023

Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor

Wayne and I were pleased to catch up with our NFL Section Manager and Emergency Coordinator in the ARRL Membership booth at HamCation.

Left to Right...

- Arc Thames W4CPD EC
- Scott Roberts KK4ECR SM
- Marty Brown N4GL
- Wayne Brown N4FP

A Portable Vertical Dipole Antenna

By Bert Garcia N8NN

Like Monty Python searching for the Holy Grail, Tom Schiller N6BT has been searching for the perfect antenna for more than 30 years. Founder of Force 12, Inc., and author of *Array of Light* [1], Tom has designed, built, and sold more than 24,000 antennas. His search [2] for the perfect all band antenna for smaller locations, portable operations, and DXpeditions, has resulted in the V8 Vertical Dipole. Built with 3-ft aluminum sections for quick deployment, when assembled the V8 is 19.5 feet tall and 18.2 feet horizontal and operates on 80-10 meters using a remote tuner. I built my version of the V8 mostly from materials on hand as I will describe in this article, see Figure 1. A commercial version of the V8 Vertical Dipole is sold by Ham Radio Outlet [3].



Figure 1: My homemade V8 Vertical Dipole

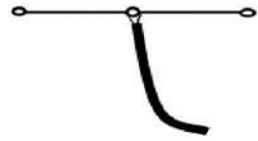
First, consider how the V8 design may have evolved by referring to Figure 2. A center-fed half-wave dipole is an attractive antenna because it is a good match to 50-ohm coax, but it is a single band antenna and requires a lot of horizontal space to erect -- 66 feet for a 40-meter dipole. That's a difficult challenge for a portable antenna or if you have limited space. You also need supporting structures to raise the dipole. If you feed the dipole about 25% off center, you can find a reasonable feedpoint impedance on multiple bands like the G5RV design. The off-center feed requires a matching scheme to use a 50-ohm coax.

If you rotate this antenna to become an off-center fed vertical dipole antenna, you get an omni-directional vertical antenna that requires no ground radials. However, constructing a full-sized antenna like this is a formidable mechanical challenge due to the height and you need to extend the feedline away from the antenna at 90 degrees horizontally. To solve the height problem, the dipole can be shortened to become a non-resonate off-center fed dipole. To solve the feedline problem, the coax can be routed from the feedpoint down inside the bottom portion of the dipole. To solve the feedpoint impedance matching problem, a remote antenna tuner can be placed at the base of the vertical. You now have the popular flagpole antenna sold by Greyline [4] and as built and described by Pete Castella N4CQN (SK) in his October 2020 article in the Oracle newsletter [5].

Finally, to further solve the height problem, the lower portion of the dipole can be split into two horizontal elements. This also solves the feedline problem since the feedpoint is now at the base of the vertical. Figure 2 shows the evolution of the V8 vertical dipole antenna. This may not be the thought process by which Tom N6BT arrived at his V8 design, but it's how I think about this antenna.

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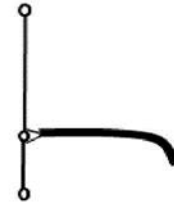
Evolution of the V8 Vertical Dipole Antenna



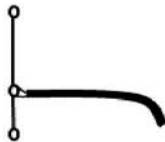
1. Half-wave Dipole



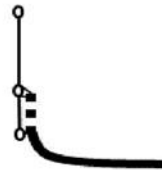
2. Off Center Fed
Half-wave Dipole
(G5RV)



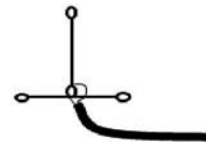
3. Vertical Off Center Fed
Half-wave Dipole



4. Vertical Off Center Fed
Non-resonant Dipole
(shortened)



5. Vertical Off Center Fed
Non-resonant Dipole
(coax inside lower element)



6. Vertical Off Center Fed
Non-resonant Dipole
(split lower element horizontal)

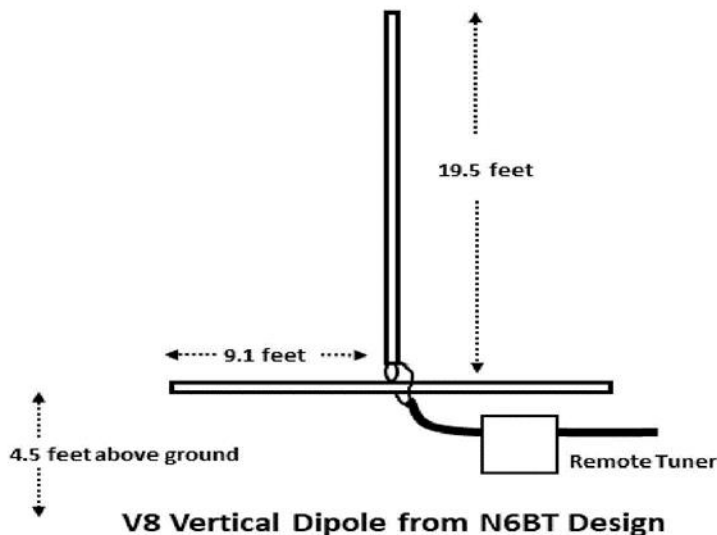


Figure 2: Evolution from a half-wave dipole to Tom Schiller's V8 Vertical Dipole design.

For the vertical element I used a Eurocom SE-HF-X80 vertical [6] with the 4:1 unun removed. The horizontal element is constructed from 3-foot telescoping aluminum sections from DX Engineering [7]. The horizontal mounting plate was found on Amazon [8]. The tripod is a Winegard Dish TV mount. The mast was a wood closet rod covered with nylon tubing as an insulator for the horizontal element. The remote antenna tuner is an LDG RT-600. There is a coil hairpin matching element across the feedpoint. I made the coil with 8 turns of AWG 12 solid copper wire with a 2-inch diameter. I used items I had on hand. Your choice of parts may vary.

The horizontal element interacts with the ground. With high soil conductivity the take-off angle is low, making it a good DX antenna. You can increase the soil conductivity by laying wire on the ground under the antenna, but do not connect this wire to the antenna. I did not try this, but N6BT summarizes this effect in the manual for the V8 antenna [9].

Continued on next page...

This antenna is said to operate all bands 80 to 10 meters. I never achieved a match on 80 meters, probably due to the limits of the remote tuner, but I had good performance on 40 to 10 meters. You can adjust the SWR by lengthening or shortening the elements and by expanding or compressing the hairpin coil. Work in small increments and check the SWR across all bands of interest. I kept the vertical element fixed and only adjusted the horizontal element and the coil.

So, how does it perform? N6BT measured the performance at 0.7 dB less than a ground mounted 1/4-wave vertical. That's a small penalty to pay for a multi-band portable antenna not requiring extensive ground radials.

Band	SWR - No tuner	SWR - Remote Tuner	SWR - Internal Tuner
80 meters	Infinite	Infinite, no match	Infinite, no match
40 meters	5.0	1.0	1.0
30 meters	3.0	1.0	1.1
20 meters	2.9	1.2	1.1
17 meters	4.0	1.7	1.1
15 meters	4.0	2.9	1.2
12 meters	1.7	2.1	1.1
10 meters	1.7	2.1	1.2

Table 1 shows my SWR results. The LDG RT-600 remote tuner was not able to obtain a satisfactory match on 15, 12, and 10 meters.

As an alternative configuration, I eliminated the remote tuner and connected the V8 antenna to my Yaesu FT-991A transceiver and used the internal antenna tuner. The

feedline was 100 feet of RG-8X. There is loss in the feedline due to the high SWR; however, this configuration is very useable. For portable operation, eliminating the remote tuner may be preferable if your radio has an internal tuner.

I ran my Zachtek WSPR transmitter [10] on 20-10 meters for a 12-hour trial during daylight hours. My 200 milliwatt WSPR transmitter was heard worldwide - U.S. including Hawaii, Central and South America, Europe, and as far as Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean 9,710 miles away. The V8 vertical dipole antenna works!

References:

- 1) *Array of Light, 4th Edition*, Tom Schiller N6BT, <https://nextgenerationantennas.com/>.
- 2) *A New Look at Verticals*, Tom Schiller N6BT, <https://tinyurl.com/v5zukehh>, and <https://tinyurl.com/46bujkbt>, and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQpb3_rkkLU.
- 3) Ham Radio Outlet, <https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-015960>.
- 4) *Customizing a flagpole for an off-center fed vertical dipole ham radio antenna*, Pete Castella N4CQN (SK), <https://tinyurl.com/3uhjf8kc>, SSRC Oracle, page 8.
- 5) Sigma Eurocom SE-HF-X80 vertical, <https://www.ebay.com/p/2258774318>, also sold by DX Engineering as the Moonraker Ltd GPA-80 HF Vertical.
- 6) DX Engineering, <https://www.dxengineering.com/>.
- 7) Horizontal mounting plate, <https://tinyurl.com/45tcj529>.
- 8) V8 vertical dipole manual, <https://tinyurl.com/5cr2yfk2>.
- 9) WSPR transmitter, <https://www.zachtek.com/>.



The 2023 Florida QSO Party will be held the weekend of April 29th – 30th.



Since the Florida QSO Party was re-introduced to the contest scene in 1998, the FQP has become one of the fastest-growing and most popular State QSO Parties today. This is due, in part, to the tremendous effort by the mobile teams to activate as many counties as they can in order to allow those participating from out-of-state to achieve a county “sweep” working all 67 Florida counties. Florida stations operating from home are also valuable since that increases the chances that stations will work all counties! If you are a serious or casual participant from Florida or outside of Florida, the Florida QSO Party was designed to be a FUN operating event. Why not give it a try? [More Info](#)

We have a Heartbeat

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

Just performed a heart transplant (CR2032) on an old Kenwood TM-621A. (Circa 1999). The battery died and I figured it would be an easy swap.

Nope. The last surgeon must have gotten his degree from Facebook University of Electronics because it was a disaster. The replacement was SOLDERED to the wires and held in place with electrical tape. Yuck ! Like any good true surgeon, I got on Amazon looking for replacement battery holders and came across some with 6" wire leads.

I gingerly removed the old arteries (wires) with tweezers and a soldering iron and replaced it with 21st century, state of the art Chinese junk. I moved the battery from the spot behind the tuner board to someplace the engineers should have, in the open area just under and in back of the speaker.

Replaced the battery and we have a heartbeat



Friendship ARC Looking to the Future

Phil Hogan, W8PNZ, President, philhogansr@msn.com

FARC is looking toward the future in an effort to attract new members. Changes are being made to the website, and the club is reaching out to local hams to increase their membership. Here are the facts!

- Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday
- Socializing at 1:00 PM
- Meeting from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm
- Sheriff's substation Southwest District Office, 9048 SW State Rd. 200, Ocala, FL 34481
- Weekly net meets Tuesday at 7:30 PM, **146.610**

From left to right in the picture:

Ron Viola, KS4SW, Carl Berry, KC5CMX, Dick Schauer, W8DYV, Irma Palacky, XYL KE6MXX, Sue Simpson, N8AJU, Doug Hawkins, W3HH, Ken Simpson, W8EK, Ray Palacky, KE6MXX, Ned Davis, WB4BKO, Phil Hogan, W8PNZ, Ralph Rabice, W4RER, Bob Toronto, KW4HU





the **Stuart Hamfest**



The Martin County Amateur Radio Association in cooperation with the Martin County ARES/RACES organization will present the 48th Annual Stuart Hamfest on March 18th, 2023 at the Martin County Fairgrounds, in Stuart, Florida. General Admission is FREE!

The Hamfest operates from 8 AM to 2 PM on Saturday. Gates will open for setup at 7 AM. Tailgating is FREE and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, beginning at 7AM on Saturday.

Martin County Fairgrounds
2616 SE Dixie Highway (A1A)
Stuart, FL 34996

Talk-in on WX4MC at 145.150 MHz, -600 KHz offset, 107.2 Hz PL tone.

To download our detailed event flyer, click [HERE](#)

Playground Amateur Radio Club Present

THE 53RD ANNUAL HAMFEST

March 17 - 18 2023
Friday 4pm - 7pm
Saturday 8am - 2pm, no early birds

Northwest Florida Fairgrounds
1958 Lewis Turner Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Admission: \$7
Tables: \$15
Tailgating encouraged: \$10 per spot
RV Parking: \$30 per night, 30A, Water, Sewer included
Contact: Hamfest@W4ZBB.Org
(850)359-9186

www.W4ZBB.Org

ATLANTA HAMFEST 2023

Saturday June 3, 2023

ARRL GEORGIA SECTION CONVENTION

Jim R. Miller Park - Cobb County



2023 SSRC Officers

- [President - Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY](#)
- [Vice President - Adam Parker, NY52](#)
- [Secretary - Gray Moffett, KC3DWY](#)
- [Treasurer - Tim Trombley, K8TAT](#)
- [Past President - Bill Gillespie, KW5BG](#)

Directors:

- [Carl Berry, KC5CMX](#)
- [Andy Allen, NA4DA](#)
- [Terry Strey, KN4FMH](#)

[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](#)

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- [NFL Section Website](#)
- [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)
- [NG3K DX](#)