



The Oracle



Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL

K4GSO.us

January 2023

President's Message

Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY

Welcome to the 2023 program year! I am eager to serve you as club president, and hope that we can provide exciting and informative programs throughout the year.

Please keep in mind that membership dues are just that, due. Please be sure to renew as soon as you can, otherwise Elbert will get his goombas to come after your knees.

This month's operating day falls on Winter Field Day as well. We will be operating out at Perry Field. Stay tuned to the nets and the website for information.

We're always looking for ideas for our monthly programs and operating days. If you are interested in presenting a program, regardless of whether it is radio related, please let the board know, so we can plan it out and get it on the schedule!

We're forming some committees this year, and we'd like to have you! As of now, we've got committees for Perry Field, Contesting and Mentoring. We'll discuss the possibility of adding more during our monthly meeting on the 17th.

As always, my email is always open, and I may just answer my phone too if you call.

president@k4gso.us

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Socializing and Mentoring

7:00 PM Meeting

Winter Field Day

Implementing SSRC Survey Results

Andy Allen, NA4DA

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

Upcoming Events

VE Testing—January 10, GCH

Winter Field Day — January 28-29, PF

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Mondays at 7:30 PM



HamCation Needs You!!

Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman

February 10-12, 2023



For more information to include a description of each volunteer position needed and its duties and to sign up go to: [HamCation Volunteer](#). Be sure to read the directions as each volunteer needs to submit the form and we asked that only one area is selected each day. If you want to volunteer in more than one area in a day, please submit a form for each position You will then be contacted by the Chairman of the area you volunteer for to create a schedule based on your availability and our needs.

Membership

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

Welcome to 2023!

It's that time of year again where your club dues are now due. You can pay in one of three ways:

1. Cash
2. Check
3. Online at <https://k4gso.us/fr2022/> There was an error in the website that did not list all the members. That has been corrected thanks to our club president, Hayden, N2HAY.

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 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 December General Meeting:

- Sally Gugino, KN4TPR, Technician
- Jose Martin, KQ3EHZ, Technician

We have one pending application for the January meeting. This will bring our active membership up to 102 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!



Beam me up!

From KC5CMX

CDXA Periodic Table of Contests

Submitted by Bill Gillespie, KW5BG

https://www.cdxa.org/contest_corner.php

FT8WW Crozet Island – A Rare Bird Indeed!

By Bert Garcia N8NN



On Christmas Eve Thierry Mazel F6CUK began operating from Crozet Island as FT8WW. Crozet is the third most wanted DXCC entity, behind Bouvet Island (#2) and DPRK (North Korea) (#1). Thierry is a one-man operation, and as of January 10th he has made more than 17,500 contacts. The last DXpedition to Crozet was in 2009 by Florentin Bard F4DYW operating as FT5WQ, also a one-man operation. In fact, there has never been a multi-multi DXpedition to Crozet.

The Crozet Islands are in the southern Indian Ocean about midway between South Africa and Antarctica. The islands are a nature reserve administered by France and are home to more than 2.7 million penguins. There is a permanent research station on the island. Thierry is on Crozet as part of a scientific research team. His radio operation will be limited at times to not cause radio interference with scientific experiments. Reports vary about his end date; some say March 2023 and others say January 26, 2023.



Restrictions on the island prevent Thierry from installing elaborate antenna systems, so he does not have a beam antenna. He has a G5RV for the low bands and a vertical for the higher bands. The constant 45 MPH wind with gust to 90 MPH make antenna installation difficult. He removes the G5RV when high winds are forecast.

To date he has been operating FT8 on 10.131 MHz, 14.085 MHz, and briefly on 18.095 MHz and 21.085 MHz. He is operating normal FT8, not in Fox/Hound mode. His MSHV software allows multiple FT8 streams, and this has confused some to believe he is operating Fox/Hound, resulting in them transmitting in the wrong period. Use normal FT8.

Thierry is transmitting 1st period (00 and 30). He requests you initially call with your R-report and not your grid as this will save time.

On CW Thierry operated briefly on 30 meters on 10.115 MHz, but CW on 20 meters has offered better conditions. He uses split operation transmitting on 14.031 MHz and listening up 2 to 8 kHz. All his CW operation will be split, listening up.

In Florida FT8WW can be heard best around 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM EST on FT8 30 meters. Around 10:00 PM to Midnight EST he can be heard on CW on 20 meters. He goes off the air at Midnight EST for five hours due to scientific operations scheduled at that time. So far, he has only operated on 30, 20, 17, and 15 meters. Unfortunately, there are many pirates out there using FT8WW on many bands adding to the confusion of everyone. You can confirm your contacts in Club Log, <https://clublog.org>, using the Log Search option.

Thierry frequently uploads to Club Log. He will upload his entire log to LoTW after he returns from Crozet. Paper QSLs are not yet available but will be available through Club Log.

Here are some suggestions for tracking his activity on Crozet:

- (1) http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/?dx_calls=FT8WW,
- (2) <https://dxnews.com/ft8ww/>,
- (3) <https://twitter.com/crozet2022>,
- (4) <http://crozet2022.r-e-f.org>,
- (5) <https://www.dx-world.net/ft8ww-crozet-island-2022-23/>.

The Crozet logo and map are from <http://crozet2022.r-e-f.org>. You may donate to FT8WW at this website.

MORE PORTABLE ANTENNA HACKS

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

Do you own a Buddipole, BuddiStick Pro, Wolf River Coil or other portable antennas with tuning coils? I'll bet most own one, all or something similar where the tuning process can be a little tedious. All this does is slow down the process to get on the air. When I operate portable whether at club events, POTA activations, rented beach condo or just playing around outside, I don't like to waste my time fiddling around with little clips and hard to adjust tuning collars.

Here's the Buddipole/BuddiStick coil with the little clips



I recently ran across a YouTube video of an Aussie ham who had home brewed a coil that resembled a Wolf River Silver Bullet. What caught my interest was the adjustable tuning collar. It was a simple stainless steel hose clamp. Genius idea! But would it work on other coils?

It was time to find out, so off to Lowes for some parts where I picked up several #28 stainless steel hose clamps (yes, I paid for them!). Price is about \$3 each. I already had a supply of 6-32 stainless steel lock nuts, washers and machine screws. Half and three-quarter inch length will both work. Modification is really simple – drill a small hole in the end of the hose clamp and connect the lead with the screws and lock nuts. Then set up the antenna and go test the coil. Use an antenna analyzer and make notes of the lowest SWRs and closest 50Ω readings by adjusting the coil position and antenna lengths for the operating bands. The goal is to make the settings as repeatable as possible.



Here is the modified Buddipole / BuddiStick tuning collar. If you are configuring for vertical, only one is needed. For the Buddipole in the conventional dipole configuration, you would need two.

The picture on the right is the Wolf River modified tuning coil. Several things to note: First, the clamp needs to be loose enough to adjust but not so loose as to slip. I filed down a small piece of aluminum stock to fit the hose clamp screw slot to adjust tightness and secured it to the lead. Second, at the bottom of the picture are my three clip-on ground radials. Instead of using three 33 ft ground radials, I cut each into five equal lengths and connected them to a 20amp battery clamp. These are then clipped on the tripod legs. The ground footprint was significantly reduced and does not seem to impact performance of the antenna. I can't take credit for this idea. K8MRD has a YouTube video of this hack as well.



Continued on next page...

Do they work? Here are several shots from my Rig Expert Stick 230:



For about \$15, I converted my Buddipole / Buddistick and Wolf River antenna coils to an easier to adjust collar. Antennas that are tedious and take a long time to get tuned will not be used as frequently as they should be. Make your antennas easier to tune, create tuning charts for repeatability and they will get used more often. If this hack does not meet your expectations, no harm as the original clips or collar were not modified.

I use my portable antennas in several configurations depending on how I wish to operate. Buddipole as a conventional dipole. For a quick deployment, BuddiStick Pro as a vertical but with the Wolf River coil and a single elevated counterpoise or a Wolf River, either with the longer or shorter coils depending on desired band with the three ground radials. Don't be afraid to improve your equipment – we're hams and it is what we do.

ORLANDO HamCation 2023

CENTRAL FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS AND EXPO PARK
February 10th, 11th, & 12th

Host of the 2023 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention

Start the 2023 Hamfest season by visiting the 2nd largest Hamfest in the United States. Come check out the latest in amateur radio electronics, accessories, and gear. Stroll thru the largest tailgate in the Southeast. Find great deals in our swaps building with more than 200 swap tables. You can even catch a great lecture or forum while you're here. Bring the family and spend some time before or after HamCation at one of our area attractions. Attending is so easy because we partnered with a select group of preferred hotels to provide you with great accommodations at special rates. So make HamCation your next vacation destination!

- Special Guest Speakers
- Over 100 Commercial Booths
- More than 200 Swap Tables
- Largest Tailgate in the Southeast
- Testing on Friday and Saturday
- Forums on Great Topics
- Onsite Scooter & Wheelchair Rentals
- Guest Friendly Florida Atmosphere
- RV Camping on Premises
- Free & Convenient Parking
- Visit Nearby Theme Parks
- Casual or Fine Dining Nearby

WWW.HAMCATION.COM

Friday/Saturday 9AM - 5PM, Sunday 9AM - 1PM.
Tickets are \$26 at the gate.

Orlando HamCation®
P.O. Box 574960
Orlando, FL 32857
(407) 841-0876

VE Report

Jim Burgess, KN4MIV, SSRC Test Liaison

Here's the test session report for our January session. We had six people test - (2) for Technician, (3) for General and (1) for Amateur Extra. All six passed their test and were granted new licenses or upgrades to their existing license. What a way to start a new year! I want to thank the VE's that served at the session for volunteering their time to help further amateur radio. Session VE's were Maurice N4LZ, Elbert KQ3K, Mike W9MNC and Adam NY5E. Adam completed his first VE session!

Congratulations to:

- Dave Alvarez (WA3LXD) upgraded to Amateur Extra
- Bryan Studer (KQ4EXN) upgraded to General
- David Griffiths (W1FBT) upgraded to General
- John Norman (KQ4BFO) upgraded to General
- Robert Masiker (KQ4FMJ) earned a Technician license
- Bob Baker (KQ4FMF) passed the Technician test and upgraded to General by expired license credit.



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

Net Statistics—December 2022

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Net Statistics | |
| QNI 15 | (Total Check-Ins) |
| QTC 7 | (Total Messages) |
| QND 73 | (Total Minutes) |
| Total Sessions | 4 |



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2023

Contact: Alejandro Malave

(386) 450-0133,

**Ken Lyons and Jim Storms are named Recipients of
HamCation’s 2023 Carole Perry Educator of the Year
Award Announced**



HamCation is excited to announce **Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ**, and Jim Storms AB8YK, as the HamCation 2023 recipients of the Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award. This award is bestowed upon individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to educating and advancing youth in Amateur Radio. It was first awarded at HamCation 2019 to its namesake, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in honor of her work as an educator teaching students about ham radio.

Ken, an extra, class is deeply involved in educating youth about radio through the scouting programs. He is the assistant Division Director for Radio Scouting promoting activities and opportunities for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts throughout the south-east division. For Scouting’s annual Jamboree on the Air event, he has coordinated and participated in Central Florida Council events that introduce an average of 1000 scouts per year to amateur radio. The scouting summer camp program provides radio opportunities to approximately 300 scouts per year. He established WB4SA.com as a resource for scouting councils to promote amateur radio within their individual councils.



2022 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

[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](#)

Committee Chairs

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