



The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



K4GSO.us

January 2024

President's Message

Adam Parker, NY5E

As we take one final look at the year passed, my hope is that it is clear to all what a great group of people have come together under the roof of Green Clover Hall. I'm humbled to be amongst the collective and flattered to be considered of caliber to help guide it into another year.

Looking forward, we have a busy few weeks ahead of us; our first general meeting of the year will be held at our regular site (GCH) on January 16th at 7:00, but come early and join the fellowship! Just four days later, January 20th and 21st, is National Parks On The Air winter quarterly weekend. We hope you'll get out and activate but, if you need a little help, or a little extra incentive, I'm confident there will be a few eager "POTA Pro's" available to help get you on the air. We may activate at several parks scattered about the county.

Closing January with a bang will be the 2024 edition of Winter Field Day. As this coincides with our monthly "Operating Day", we'll host the outdoors communications exercise at Green Clover Hall on Saturday, January 27th. Rather than an all-out operating bonanza, we'd like to ask club members to bring their portable rigs and set them up for everyone to see. Let's compare notes and ideas! Sure, we'll get on the air...it's Field Day, but we'd like to take the opportunity to share portable strategies and techniques. We can all learn a few things and help those with the most to get an idea of what they might need to complete that go-box!

.....and where might a ham find those needed items to tweak, tame and transmit....? Hamcation 2024 is right around the corner. Save the date, and maybe take one; Hamcation is one of the nation's biggest Ham Radio swap meets. Details can be found at <http://www.hamcation.com>. There will be plenty of us heading down for the convention and perhaps an opportunity to travel with a friend, or the occasion to make a new one, will present itself.

I am excited by some of the new ideas that have been presented by members and new avenues to explore these ideas. The concept of forming SIGs (Special Interest Groups) to accommodate operators with similar ideas to work together and share skills developed with various techniques from 2-meter

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting

POTA—How it works, Andy NA4DA

Update on Perry Field Antennas—Andy NA4DA

Winter Field Day—General Discussion

SSRC Board of Directors, Tuesday, Feb 6, 7:00 PM

Temporary Location: St. George Anglican Church

All are welcome

Upcoming Events

March 12—VE Testing

7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

January 20, 21—[POTA Event](#)

Jan 27-28—Winter Field Day

Green Clover Hall

Please Note: The February 20th SSRC

meeting will be at St. George Anglican Church because Green Clover Hall is being refurbished.

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



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.

propagation and satellite contacts to CW beginners' groups and mobile installation "parties". Our Club is growing, and with that expansion comes diversity. I hope to see the Silver Springs Radio Club flourish and become a source of knowledge and fellowship where members feel welcome and appreciated. New ideas will contribute to club health, and because it's not always easy to raise your hand and your voice during meetings, I'd invite any to contact me with their thoughts (positive or negative, but keep it constructive). You can use the k4gso website (contact the president), or call/text me at 352/427-2839. I will answer, but I can be rather long-winded, so set aside a few minutes and make sure your battery is charged!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the General Meeting! Bring a chair just in case and let's have fun in 2024!

Membership/Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

The club's Christmas party and installation of 2024 officers and directors was held on December 19, 2023 at Green Clover Hall. There was lots of great food and fellowship. Although the installation was a momentous occasion, it paled in comparison to the club approving seven new members...that's right...seven. For those who have been following the monthly membership updates in *The Oracle*, you will have noted the increased number and tempo of new memberships as we continue to grow. We must be doing something right. Please welcome our newest members:

- Herb Dyer, KT2Y, Extra
- James Harrington, KQ4MYF, Technician
- Tom Hogan, NB2A, Extra
- Frank Intino, N1GGT, Advanced
- Lucas Pendleton, KF0END, Technician
- John Shannon, KQ4K BK, Technician
- Craig Stucky, KQ4LYK, Technician

Just for fun, I took a look back over the year end membership rolls of the last five years. Hopefully, you will find this interesting. The data confirms that we are attracting new amateurs, many our members are upgrading their licenses to at least General and the Extras, although increasing in numbers, do not dominate in percentage of members.

Class / Year	2019	%	2020	%	2021	%	2022	%	2023	%
Technician	16	21%	16	22%	20	22%	24	24%	28	22%
General	15	20%	14	19%	24	26%	27	26%	37	29%
Advanced	7	9%	7	10%	6	7%	4	4%	6	5%
Extra	37	49%	35	49%	42	46%	45	44%	51	40%
Associate	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2%	4	3%
Total	75	100%	72	100%	92	100%	102	100%	126	100%

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.

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.

As a reminder, the club is migrating membership rolls to <https://www.hamclubonline.com/>. This is an Amateur Radio Club Management System portal written by hams for hams. You should have received a "Welcoming Email" a few weeks ago. If not, please check your spam folder. This is a work in process, so please bear with us! Former club Secretary, Gray Moffet, KC3DWY, has been

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leading this effort. We need for all members to go to the new Portal and sign in and verify your personal information – especially email addresses. If you have any issues, please direct any questions or inquiries to him at gray.moffett@hotmail.com. Further complicating this process is a change in bank accounts at year-end, so the online dues payment option is currently unavailable until account switch is complete.

Speaking of Dues...they are now DUE. So how does one pay with the online option temporarily off-line? We take cash and check either in person at the General Meetings or by CHECK ONLY payable and mailed to:

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

GREEN CLOVER HALL:

SSRC is fortunate to have an excellent relationship with our local county government. The county generously allows our free use of GCH for board meetings, general meetings, VE testing, operating days and special events. Usually all events are scheduled a year 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 to remodel GCH in February, so we have made other arrangements for at least that month. Unless things change, both the February Board and General Meetings will be held at:

St. George Anglican Church Parish Hall
5646 SE 28th St
Ocala, FL 34471

Same times as normal – meet and greet starting at 6:00pm followed by the meeting starting promptly at 7:00pm. There is plenty of parking but you might want to bring a lawn chair if more seating is needed. Stay tuned here and the weekly club and ARES nets for updates or changes.

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 (20th and 21st this year)**
- Spring - 3rd Full Weekend in April
- Summer - 3rd Full Weekend in July
- Autumn - 3rd Full Weekend in October.

WINTER FIELD DAY

This year Winter Field Day (WFD) coincides with our monthly operating day and will be a little different than what the club has done in previous years. Instead of operating over the two days as before, the board has elected to combine both events to just a Saturday event. The emphasis will be on setting up a station for emergency operation without electrical mains or generators. How would you do it for an extended length of time assuming some disruption in the grid from solar, climatic, political or societal events? Members who wish to demonstrate their solutions are requested to set up their stations to teach others. There are no perfect solutions, so this will be an excellent learning opportunity.

Hopefully the remodeling will be complete at Green Clover Hall. If not, another location will be designated.

The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

2023 Installation of Officers

December 19, 2023

2024 SSRC Officers

- [President - Adam Parker, NY5E](#)
- [Vice Pres - Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY](#)
- [Secretary - Dee Seagraves, KO4TMZ](#)
- [Treasurer - Annie Allen, KN4RIC](#)
- [Past Pres - Hayden Kaufman, N3HAY](#)

Directors:

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



← Outgoing President, Hayden, N2HAY presents incoming President, Adam, NY5E with the gavel.



Outgoing Secretary, Gray, presents incoming Secretary, Dee, KO4TMZ with the Secretary's Notebook. →

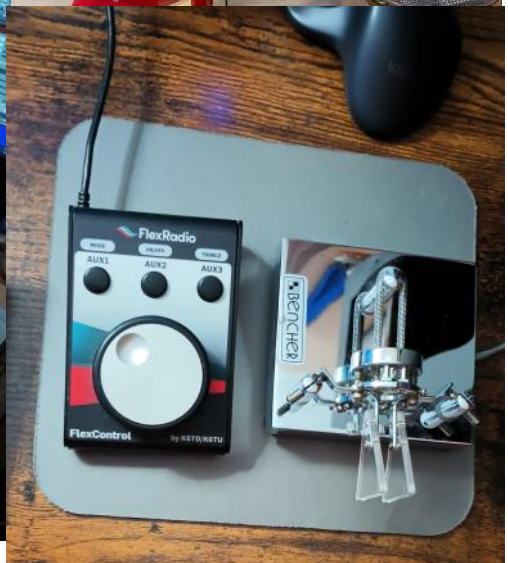
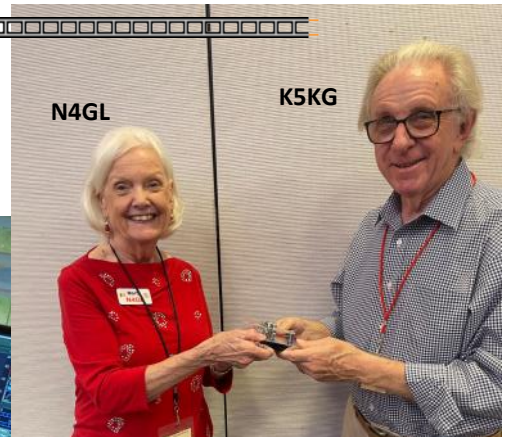
N4GL Receives Honor from Estate of Ellen White, W1YL

Marty Brown, N4GL

[Ellen White, W1YL](#), was a real ground-breaker for women in Amateur Radio. Please click on the link to see her full story. Licensed in 1946, Ellen was an avid CW operator, a long-time employee of ARRL, and a founding member of the Florida Contest Group (FCG). Ellen passed in November of 2022.

Last fall I was honored to be asked by the Board of Directors of FCG to be trustee for the W1LY call which is now being used in contests on a regular basis by members of the FCG. At a recent dinner Orlando, I was presented, by George Wagner, K5KG, with Ellen's Bencher Paddle as well as some photography that was dear to her. I was touched and grateful, to say the least.

I wanted to share this with my clubmates.



SSRC Membership Awards for 2023

Presented by Outgoing President, Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY

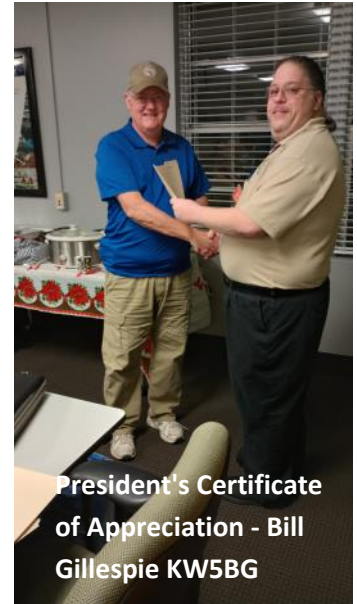
The following members were present at the Holiday Party and received their awards. Full list follows pictures.



Member of the Year
John Norman
KQ4BFO (left)



Life Membership—Elbert
Wilkinson KQ3K (left)



President's Certificate
of Appreciation - Bill
Gillespie KW5BG



President's Special Service
Award - Marty Brown N4GL



Tony Blalock Award for Technical Achieve-
ment—Izzy Irizarry KT4WA

SSRC Membership Awards for 2023

- Member of the Year - John Norman KQ4BFO**
- Ed Biedricki Award for Service to Perry Field - Mike Romanovich KQ4CCH**
- Ed Biedricki Award for Service to Perry Field - Bruce Kleven WA0JCX**
- Tony Blalock Award for Technical Achievement - Izzy Irizarry KT4WA**
- Tony Blalock Award for Technical Achievement - Bruce Richardson WA4IPU**
- President's Special Service Award - Marty Brown N4GL**
- President's Certificate of Appreciation - Bill Gillespie KW5BG**
- Life Membership - Elbert Wilkinson KQ3K**
- Life Membership - Maurice Schietecatte N4LZ**

The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

Holiday Party

December 19, 2023



Tom, W4DAX, sets the tone for the festivities!



Continued on next page...



Carl's Corner—Carl Berry KC5CMX

Ham Radio License Map
Carl Berry, KC5CMX
Ham Info has a great program to find all the hams in your area, or anywhere else. Click on the link below and find out what's hamming in your neighborhood!
[Amateur Radio License Map](#)

Old McDonald Had A Farm.... kc5cmx
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ □ □ □

ARISS Today link to Students on Today Show
Carl Berry, KC5CMX
[Students Contact Space Station on Today](#)

Memorial Service for Jens ("Arnie") Hansen, W3BPP, SK
John Wiley, W4FID (Submitted by KC5CMX)
All are invited to attend Arnie's Memorial service on Saturday, February 24th. Arnie died January 1st at age 99.
Joy Lutheran Church, 7045 SW 83rd Pl, Ocala, FL, 11:00 AM. RIP OM.

From Earthquakes to Hurricanes: Learning How To Live In Florida

Ivory Williams, W6IVY

When I decided to relocate to Florida (2018) little did I know I was leaving earthquake country for hurricane seasons.

It wasn't until a year later that I became aware there was an annual hurricane season. When I asked my *dear lovable* sister why she didn't tell me this before I relocated, she simply said, "you didn't ask".

Well, in 2019 when I saw my brother-in-law boarding up the windows, I learned that a hurricane was heading Ocala way. Even as native Floridians, my family had no other resources prepared. But I, as a recently licensed (2017) card toting ham, begin to assess what I needed to do. You see, after living for almost 50 years in Southern California (Los Angeles area) and on the major San Andreas earthquake fault line, I had never spent a dollar on earthquake preparations. And even after the major 1994 6.7 earthquake woke me up (I had no damage) and many other minor quakes regularly, I still saw no need to prepare, earthquakes come and go, without warning.

My first thought however was the Honda generator I had seen several members using at the recent ARRL Field Day. But I couldn't justify its cost for a one time use. *Now I had an excuse (oops, reason) to buy one.* After Field Day, I did additional research and discovered that the Honda was the generator of choice for many hams, so I knew what I wanted. Unfortunately, at such a late date, one wouldn't arrive until after the hurricane. But I kept looking.

The Monday before hurricane Dorian was due, I found one just a few miles away at a local lawn mower shop. I called and even though it was the last one they agreed to hold it for me (at the standard price). I had already purchased a pure sine wave inverter when I found there wasn't a generator available, and tarps, DC powered lights, water, etc. So I, (we) were now prepared, as best I could determine.

But the hurricane never showed up, even though I had spent almost two thousand dollars. Earthquakes are better than hurricanes, (but I'm not leaving).

Well, since then I have (1) converted my generator to a propane (3 fuel type) kit. (2) built several portable LiFePO4 battery systems. (3) installed and started learning Winlink. Also in progress (thinking about, planning, designing) an (a) Emergency Go Box setup (b) Outside shelter for generator (4) and in general thinking about doing the things native hams know is necessary for emergency preparations.

Since I was born in Florida maybe there is some hope for me, before the *Big One* shows up.

Honda 2200i
Propane Tri-Fuel Conversion Kit
DC Powered Lights

Mike's Lawnmower Shop
Hutch Mountain
Amazon

<https://www.mikeslawnmower.com/>
<https://www.hutchmountain.com/>



12 Volt Light Bulb Socket, 8' Wire - On Off Switch for Low Voltage Lighting E26 Medium Base DC

Legrand-Pass & Seymour S752WCC10 Lamp Socket (DC)

KONPWAY 12V Low Voltage LED Light Bulbs - Daylight 7W(Only for 12-36V DC)

ORLANDO
HamCation
2024

CENTRAL FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS AND EXPO PARK
February 9th, 10th, & 11th

Host of the 2024 ARRL Florida State Convention

Start the 2024 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
- Testing on Friday and Saturday
- RV Camping on Premises
- Over 150 Commercial Booths
- Forums on Great Topics
- Free & Convenient Parking
- More than 200 Swap Tables
- Onsite Scooter & Wheelchair Rentals
- Visit Nearby Theme Parks
- Largest Tailgate in the Southeast
- Guest Friendly Florida Atmosphere
- Casual or Fine Dining Nearby

WWW.HAMCATION.COM

Friday/Saturday 9AM - 5PM, Sunday 9AM - 1PM.
Tickets are \$25 at the gate.

Orlando HamCation®
4046 N Golden Road STE 106
Winter Park, FL 32782
(407) 841-0874



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

[Club Minutes and Financial Reports](#)

2024 SSRC Officers

[President - Adam Parker, NY5E](#)
[Vice President - Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY](#)
[Secretary - Dee Seagraves, KO4TMZ](#)
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Directors:

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



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](#)
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[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](#)