



The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



June 2023

K4GSO.us

Membership/Upcoming Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP:

Once again we are continuing to grow! Are you getting tired of all this growing? I'm not, so peddle to the metal! As of this writing, we now have 103 members. We approved three applications at the May meeting. Please welcome our newest members:

- Charles Egan, KF4YYI, Extra
- Bruce Kleven, WA0JCX, General
- David Melvin, KO4LGN, General

We have one General application and one Associate application pending for the June meeting. This is a sign of a healthy club where members are involved in our activities and welcoming to our guests. If I didn't know better, one could guess we were throwing keggers and open bars at the meetings! We must be doing something right.

Have you ever wondered about membership composition? Here it is:

Individuals:	71	Technicians:	21
Family:	27	General:	32
Life:	5	Advanced:	5
Associate:	4	Extra:	41

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 and stay 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!

TAILGATE 2023:

By all accounts, our tailgate on Saturday, June 3, was another success and brought out a lot of hams to have fun and, well, tailgate. Our tailgate vendors – as usual – arrived early and by around 9AM, 27 had set up shop. We had eight members work the event. Bruce, Terry and Rob worked as "Parking Directors"

Next Meeting
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Green Clover Hall
 319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Socializing and Mentoring

7:00 PM Meeting
Program: Field Day 2023

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

Upcoming Events
ARRL Field Day—June 24-25

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.

and did a great job in getting everyone placed and parking fee collected. Marty, Jim and Allan provided our donuts, coffee, water and soft drinks. Kim gathered contact info on all the vendors which came in really handy post-event.

Continued on next page...

Hayden and Elbert kept an eye on the whole event (that’s code for we warmed a chair). Tailgate was well attended with lots of hams coming to look and buy some new gear, bits, pieces, antennas, etc. Thanks again to all the members who worked the event, those who were vendors or attended!

Mark your calendar for next year’s event which will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 8:00am to Noon in the Green Clover Hall parking lot.

More details to follow in future Oracle and General Meetings.

FIELD DAY 2023:

Two weeks...that’s how long until Field Day, so clear your calendar to participate. You club’s Field Day team has volunteered to brave the elements and setup in or around GCH. We will be joining thousands of other amateurs in North America in this annual event. If you haven’t considered getting involved...it isn’t too late. Although we are well along in our preparations additional member participation would make it an even better success.

So, what do we need? Glad you asked: help setting up on Friday evening and Saturday morning, greeters for the public information table and Sunday takedown. To help ease the workload of the operators, we are asking members not otherwise involved to visit the field day site and take a turn at an operating station and make a minimum of five contacts! It isn’t hard to do and it is addictive. For those folks who have limited HF experience...this is an excellent time to get your feet wet.

There are still open time slots for operators on the 10:00pm – 2:00am; 2:00am – 6:00am and 6:00am to 10:00am. We would really like to get some folks to fill those time slots and help make contacts!

Final note: In light of the new FCC RF Evaluation Rules, all operators will need to have available their calculations for their particular antenna(s) used at Field Day. The Safety Officer will be looking for this when the safety check is performed.

Go to the K4GSO.US website to sign-up for field day and the June General meeting for the final operation plan.



Marion County Traffic Net

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



**Monthly Net Statistics update
for
May 2023**

QNI	17 (Total Check-Ins)
QTC	8 (Total Messages)
QND	130 (Total Minutes)
Total Sessions 5	

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.arrl.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](#).

The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

Show Us Your Shack!



Carl Berry, KC5CMX

It's a work in progress. Thanks to Terry KN4FMH and Izzy KT4WA for their help and manpower in making this possible.



163030	-1	0.1	1116	-	K5CMX W4TC E813
163030	1	0.1	1116	-	K5CMX AC3YT E858
163030	2	1.6	1116	-	K5CMX W3COE F802
163030	2	0.1	1116	-	CQ W3OHM D870
163045	2x		1116	-	CQ W3TA K5CMX E189
163100	-1	0.1	1116	-	K5CMX AC3YT E858
163100	3	0.1	1116	-	K5CMX W4TC E813
163118	29	0.1	1116	-	K5CMX AC3YT E858
163300	18	0.1	1116	-	K5CMX AC3YT E858
163330	3	0.1	1116	-	K5CMX W3COE E882
163300	-7	0.6	1116	-	K5CMX W3OHM -01
163300	-12	0.0	1116	-	CQ N5DPM F868
163325	1x		1116	-	W3CO K5CMX +03
163330	12	0.1	1116	-	G15CQ W3YNI -14
163345	1x		1116	-	W3CO K5CMX +31
163400	16	0.0	1152	-	G15CQ W3YNI B873
163400	10	0.0	910	-	K5UUU AD8KH -18
163415	1x		1116	-	W3CO K5CMX R88
163433	11	0.1	910	-	K5CMX W3COE 75
163445	3	0.0	912	-	K5UUU AD8KH -18
163500	3	0.0	900	-	K5UUE KC3SYZ F800
163515	3	0.1	912	-	K5UUU AD8KH -18
163530	-1	0.0	909	-	K5UUE KC3SYZ F800
163545	7	0.0	912	-	K5UUU AD8KH -18
163600	0	0.0	909	-	K5UUE KC3SYZ F800
163615	4	0.0	912	-	K5UUU AD8KH -18



And CQ VOTA (Volunteers on the Air) will always result in a pileup.

I still have a long ways to go, it's a start

One Thing or Another...

CW vs Texting, From Carl Berry, KC5CMX: A lot of us have seen the Leno clip of who's faster, CW or texting. This was Letterman's version of ham radio. Much cuter, but he was still acting like a jerk to a 6 year old.

Overall, she did a much better job than he did and hats off to her. I don't know if you could just include the link for the online version of the newsletter. It'll serve as a reminder that we're all new hams at one time. I can shorten this and send a different and more friendly link if you want.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8XGb1d8sjco&mibextid=Zxz2cZ#bottom-sheet>

KC6TQR Response, Veronica Harrington

<https://youtu.be/rJVWxFpPSE>

Managing RF, from Carl Berry, KC5CMX: Sometimes we forget the basics and need a reminder. These are informative articles, especially for those having some RFI.



[Coax Feed Line Common Mode Chokes](#)

[Choosing a Feedline Choke](#)

Guy Stuff, from Adam Parker, NY5E: Came across this method of attaching super strong guy loops to a mast. It can be used on any surface and requires no holes or adhesives, just a clever para-cord wrapping technique.

This is on my 28' fiberglass Jack-Lite telescoping mast. Took a couple of tries, but it was worth the effort in the end.



Ferrites Revisited, Adam Parker, NY5E: I received a call from a newly licensed ham who had found a great deal on ferrites while browsing Amazon's endless aisles. I was sent this screen shot that was "such a deal....way cheaper than those you recommended on Palomar Engineers site". Maybe there is a lesson here....

Of course, we should all KNOW why, but maybe some members don't. Ferrites come in three basic forms (slip-on cylinders, snap-on beads, and toroids) and have many uses. Whether you're building a balun or blocking RFI, you'll need some sort of ferrite product. So.... why not buy the cheapest ones you can get?? Why? Because ferrites, depending on their composition (also called their "mix") are frequency specific. Buying unbranded, non-specific ferrites would be akin to purchasing resistors that are not color coded. You don't know what your getting, and at that price probably not what you need.

I thought this might be a good example of a "basic knowledge moment". One of those building blocks that you use a lot moving forward in the hobby. RFI in the shack is bothersome and can damage expensive equipment. It's not a wise move to protect your investment with cheap materials.

Anyway, just thinking out loud.

The Berry Field Station Is Back On The Air!

By Carl Berry, KC5CMX

OK, I took some poetic license there, actually it's the *Perry Field* station, located at 161 Oak Circle in Silver Springs Shores. In its former life, Perry Field was the Army MARS site which at one point during the Gulf War, handled over 12,000 phone patches from the troops back to loved ones in the states, at no charge in one month's time. However, time marches on, and around 2011, the station was decommissioned. More at <https://k4gso.us/welcome/history/>

Around 2013, through much work from Ed Biedricki, WB2UKX/SK, myself, and countless others, the station was brought back to life as a contesting station for use by the club members. The antennas and the building weren't in too bad condition, so it didn't take much to clean it up and get it going again.

The features, now check this out, a Sommers 704 Log Periodic antenna which covers 10-160 meters 65' in the air on Rohn 65 tower. Another antenna is a Mosley 3 element Tribander, 10M, 15M, and 20M 100' up on Rohn 25G. Out in the pasture, just outside the back door, suspended between the feed points for the rhombics, is a Barker & Williamson folded dipole 10M to at 160M, in parking area, a 10M dipole, and just repaired, the West Rhombic. At the time of this writing, we're just waiting for the coax to be tested and the balun to be hung back up and reconnected to the east rhombic.

The west rhombic consists of two 1,020' long elements in the shape of a diamond, and is pointed to the western US, over the poles towards Russia, Japan, and SE Asia. The space between the poles is 520'. The height is 55' and is terminated at the apex into twin feed ladder line running into a 600-ohm resistor box mounted 15' off the ground, and that's grounded (it was until the cows took it out) in the field. I haven't had the opportunity lately to inspect the ladder line on either resistor box, but I expect it will need to be replaced soon. SWR (quick check) was 1.2:1 when I made my first contact after hooking it back up on June 9th. According to Ocala Electric, the box is in bad shape but some Flex Seal[®] tape should keep it going for a few more years.

The east rhombic is the same except it has three elements on each side and is pointing towards Europe/Saudi Arabia. Both are capable of handling 1,500 watts with no problems at all.



As you can see from the pictures, the connector is bad. It's been up in the air for well over 20 years and has done well. It will be properly retired during the show and tell in June (hihi). When OEU went to disconnect the cable from the box, it just fell off. That may explain the infinity reading we had for the SWR.

Continued on next page...

The Log Periodic

This was actually one of the easier fixes for them. Just a quick jumper replacement. SWR is around 2.0:1, which is where it probably should be, but with a good tuner, it'll go lower. It will now go full rotation, stop to stop, as designed.

Remember when using either the trib-ander or log, release the brake first, (center button), keep released while rotating, release the rotation button **BUT KEEP THE BRAKE RELEASED** until the antenna stops swinging (about 2-3 seconds should be enough), then release the brake button.



THE RHOMBIC BALUNS

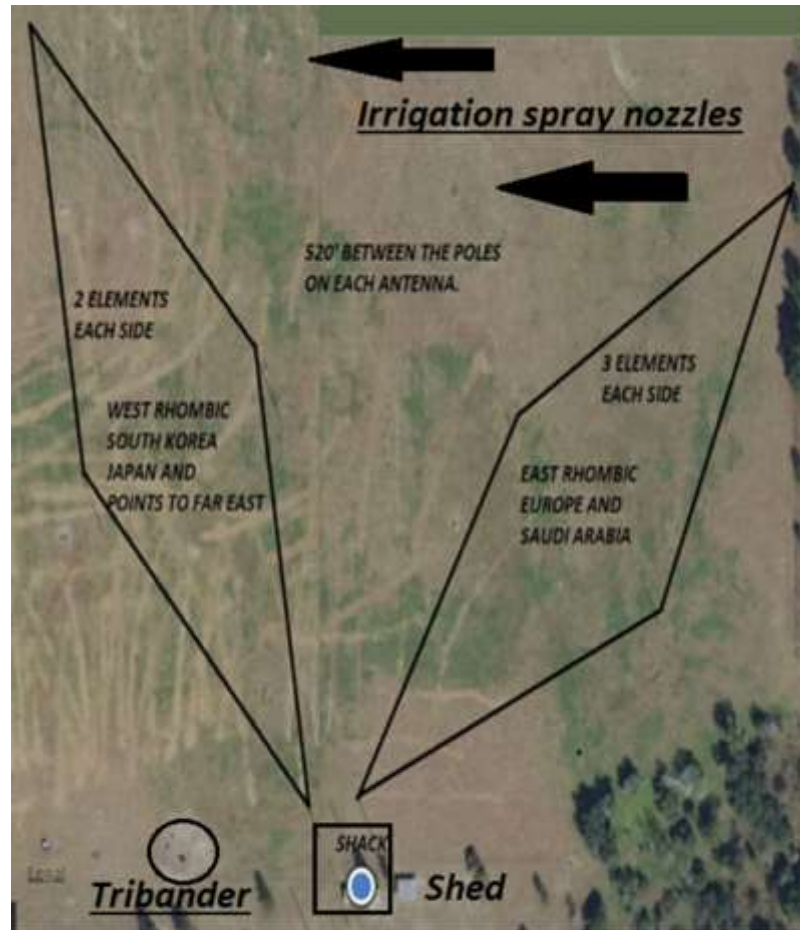
We didn't dissect them, but they did take one apart on the pole. We had originally thought it would be a quick swap. Nope. This thing weighs around 50 – 75 lbs. Not light or user friendly at all. The one on the west had taken many lightning hits through the years, but I guess it took a hard one recently and fried the caps because if you look closely, it blew one apart.

They are well beyond economical repair and are well ready for recycled retirement. Check out the pictures below and just know that the outstanding team from Ocala Electric Utility, did their usual outstanding job to which we owe a great thank you to, along with a good BBQ. Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY, Gray Moffett, KC3DWY, Mike Romanovich, KQ4CCH, Bruce Klevin, WA0JCX, with a special thanks to Britt Mullhollem, WB4GAD for the unique and money saving idea on the connector, along with the countless others that have worked on, in and around Perry Field on the antenna projects and, lest we forget Angelo Mianulli, KO4IPV, for bringing his plumbing expertise out when we really needed it.

As soon as it's fully operational again, the Perry Field site will be available for the members to bring their equipment out and operate, or use what's there now. We do have a sign in sheet that everyone is required to sign in on. Also, I'm including this here. ***The thermostat on the AC/Heat should be set to no lower than 85 in the summer and no higher than 55 in the winter WHEN YOU LEAVE TO GO HOME.*** Duke doesn't need our money. We do! ☺

With that said, I'm going to back away from the keyboard and let you enjoy the pictures. The website will have an updated request page soon for **MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING** who wish to get access to Berry Field. There will be some training on the equipment that's required. Basically how to setup for the antennas, and if you want to use the amplifier.

This is the satellite picture of the Perry Field rhombic antennas. I enhanced them with black lines so you could see them better.



YES, IT REALLY IS THAT BIG!

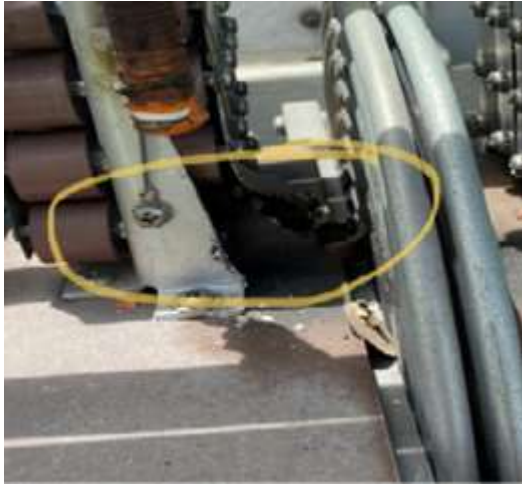


West Rhombic Cover



East Rhombic Cover

Continued on next page...



Each of those huge and heavy boxes, (about 75 lbs each) replaced by one of these 1.5 lb baluns

Continued on next page...

The Nitty Gritty



Hayden, Terry, Gray and I got together on 6/10 in hopes of wrapping this project up and putting a pin in it before it got really hot. WRONG! We worked on it until it got toasty outside (high 80s) and called it quits around noon. Some time around 2:00, I called the master of YouTube and brilliant ideas, Britt Mullhollem.

He showed up and within 15 minutes had the connector assembled with plumbing parts, a compression fitting, and a barrel connector! It was so simple.

There's more information about Perry field at <https://k4gso.us/perry> and at <https://k4gso.us/pfer-2/> where you can request access to Perry Field and the antennas.

If you have any questions, please contact Hayden Mike Romanovich, Tom Lufkin or yours truly and we'll be happy to make something up to tell you. Hi Hi!

Next Month—Another New Feature suggested by Kim Umbaugh, KO4OIG

Show Us Your Mobile Installation!

Keep those pictures coming...

n4gl.marty@gmail.com



DX Code of Conduct

Copyright © 1997-2023 [James Shryne, N6DHZ](#)

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

Submitted in a timely fashion by KC5CMX

Frequent Tailgaters Club



Digital Operating Day, May 27, 2023, Green Clover



Great turn-out from SSRC members. TU NY5E



Capacitive Carl! KC5CMX. TU NY5E



Wayne WA1PMA and Gray KC3DWY running FT8. TU NY5E



TU KN4MIV



TU KN4MIV



TU KN4MIV

Digital Operating Day, May 27, 2023, Green Clover Hall, Continued



Tailgate, June 3, 2023, Green Clover Hall

Izzy, KT4WA, Sets the Tone for the Event!



*Tailgate 2023
Continued....*



Carl KC5CMX



Roger K4ZFW



Mr. KN4MIV, Elbert KQ3K

**Roger
WA2CZR**



Andy NA4DA & Annie KN4RIC



**Wayne
N4FP**

Hayden N2HAY



Adam NY5E



Kevin KC7FPF



Tailgate 2023 Continued...

Terry KN4FMH



Tom W4YGT and XYL from Gainesville



Ramon KJ4UJM, Ocoee



Jennifer KN4NRY & Steve KE4SQR,
Scrambletown



Lynn KD9BVG
The Villages
Larry K8XR
The Villages



Rick W4RJA
The Villages



Len K4LFK
The Villages

George K2DM
The Villages



Bruce WA1UTQ
The Villages

Tailgate 2023 Continued...



Local Find Is a Treasure Trove of 3D printed Ham Items!

Roger Ackley,, WA2CZR

I was in the market for a set of the side rails to protect my IC7300. While shopping online I was seeing prices over \$50 and up to \$66 plus shipping. The rails are generally made by a 3# printing process and many of the sellers are out of country.

The other day I stopped at the indoor flea market (Previously K-Mart) on Hwy 40 at 36 Ave. There I found "JAKE MAKES 3D". As I stood there watching the 3D printer spitting out plastic and making a small toy. Jake came over and we started talking about 3D printing and that I was looking for side rails to protect my IC7300 Radio and I have seen that they can be made on a 3D printer. Jake went online to a huge database of 3D objects and searched for IC7300 and up came side rails I was looking for.

I asked him if the database contained the parameters to print them and it does. So, my next question was how much would you charge me to make a set? He looked at the materials list and print time required and quoted \$30. Knowing what they would cost online and then add a few dollars more for shipping, I reached for my wallet and asked when they will be done?

Jake asks for 1/2 down and told me I could pick them up in 3-4 days.

After I paid him, we looked in the database, and there are MANY Ham Radio items available. For example, the center support for a dipole with SO239 mounting, ENLW mounting bracket, and the list went on and on. I would guess that anything you have seen that is made on a 3D printer may be in his database. Printed locally, and at reasonable price.

I was impressed when after 3 days I got a call from Jake and my rails were ready for pickup. These are mounted using 8 M4-12 Phillip head screws. So I went to the hardware store at Hwy 40 and 36 Ave and picked them up. Alignment to the radio was perfect, and installation was less than 5 minutes. I could not be happier with them.

Continued on next page...

There are photos of the product as delivered and mounted.

So, if you have any 3D printed items I highly recommend "JAKE MAKES 3D" as your local source!

Jakes phone number is 352-653-9225. To get to his booth, as you enter the front main entrance to mall turn left, go to the first isle on the right and he is in the corner booth on the left side of that isle



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



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](#)

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