



# The Oracle

## Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



[K4GSO.us](http://K4GSO.us)

March 2024

### President's Message

Adam Parker, NY5E

Welcome all to the month of March, and happy Saint Patrick's Day! We are glad to announce that this month's meeting will be held at our "home field"... Green Clover Hall. After a full facelift, our meeting place sports a new audio/ video system that will help to more fully support future ZOOM meetings and presentations. In fact, this month's presentation will be offered in just that format, making it available live for those that can not make it Tuesday night, and archived for anyone wishing to view at a later date.

Our presentation this month will be on the topic of software designed radio (SDR) and will be made via ZOOM by a rep from SDRPlay, a small engineering group based in the UK, that has made a big impact on this facet of the ham radio industry. Along with producing compact HF single and dual receive capable transceivers, they take great pride in offering help to hams looking to discover SDR options. I think this will be a great presentation and can't wait to learn more about software designed radio advantages. Andy NA4DA is responsible for making these arrangements. His efforts are greatly appreciated.... unless this fails, then we will plan on public stoning at the April General meeting (stones will be provided on site by Marion County Public Works).

Our coming presentations will include RST Systems (ZOOM), Field Day preparation and organizational scheduling, and an exciting opportunity to hear from Rob Sherwood (Sherwood Report), mid Summer. The upgraded GCH amenities have made it more practical to combine presentations from industry professionals and organization representatives, with our own club members' on site demonstrations. The best of both worlds with your tax dollars to thank.

Please take time to visit and navigate the updated SSRC website! Hayden has done a tremendous job and his many hours invested have resulted in a great hub for our club members to take advantage of. As always, your input is welcome, but I'm sure that you will appreciate the ease of access to all things SSRC that Hayden has created. Be sure to visit the contest page and Marty's wonderful newsletter.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the general meeting Tuesday night.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

### Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting

Software Defined Radio

SDRPlay GCH & via Zoom

Thanks to Andy Allen, NA4DA

Zoom meeting link:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94837435458?pwd=YUJ4VEtGUGczaE9tSUt6eFcxMzNpUT09>

SSRC Board of Directors, First Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Green Clover Hall

All are welcome

### Upcoming Events

May 14 —VE Testing

7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

March 23—Marion County Day

McPherson Govt Complex

### 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.

## Membership/Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

### MEMBERSHIP:

As noted last month, we hit former President Kaufman's 2023 goal of 125 by year end. New President Parker's 2024 goal is to continue to grow and increase member participation in the club's various activities. 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. You should have received an email with a membership survey. Please take time to complete it so that the leadership team can provide activities and programs that are of interest to YOU.

As a reminder, the club has migrated 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 leading this effort. If you have not done so, we need for all members to go to the new Portal and sign in and verify your personal information – especially email addresses. We will be using your information for future mailings. Please note that if you stop receiving notices and emails from the club it is because you did not verify your information on hamclubonline.com. If you have any issues, please direct any questions or inquiries to him at [gray.moffett@hotmail.com](mailto:gray.moffett@hotmail.com). The online dues payment option is now up and working.

Speaking of Dues...they are now DUE. Annual dues payments are \$25 for individual, \$35 for family and \$15 for associate (non-voting) and can be paid via online through the K4GSO.US website which will link directly to Hamclubonline.com. Alternatively CHECK ONLY payable and mailed to:

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

We will also take cash and check payable in person at the General Meeting.

As a special note...the membership rolls will be purged after March 31 for those who have not renewed their membership.

Current dues paying members will receive priority on club activities like Field Day, VE team participation and access to Perry Field and GCH (subject to county approval).

### GREEN CLOVER HALL:

The remodeling of GCH in February is now finished and it has been returned for our normally scheduled events and use. The county performed an interior facelift, installed new technology and new HVAC. It is still cold, so dress appropriately – even in the summer!

Our next General Meeting will be on March 19. 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Weekend in January (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> this year)
- **Spring - 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Weekend in April (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>)**
- Summer - 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Weekend in July
- Autumn - 3<sup>rd</sup> Full Weekend in October.

Regardless, don't just wait for an Official Event...get out and operate. It is good practice to test your rigs, antennas, setups and portable power. Now is the time to troubleshoot and problems instead of an emergency where you might not have that luxury.

### MARION COUNTY DAY 2024:

Once again, Marion County will be having a community wide celebration on Saturday, March 23 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 will be setting up a couple of stations to demonstrate our skills and portable emergency operations to the public. We have been approved for the same location we enjoyed last year. We will need members to help man the displays and introduce visitors to amateur radio and the club.

Mark your calendars to attend and participate in this club event. More details to follow at club meetings and in [The Oracle](#).

*Continued on next page...*

**FEBRUARY 2024 OPERATING DAY:**

Operating day on February 24th was designated as a POTA event. Club members headed out to three different local parks. The members activating Silver Springs State Park in one of the day use pavilions were Bill, KW5BG, Kim, KO4OIG, and Elbert, KQ3K. Also joining us to observe and learn were bad Roger, K4ZFW, and visitor Tim, KK7FTN. The weather was perfect for an activation – clear skies, slight breeze, cool and no mosquitos.

Station setups were a walk in the park...well, sort of. We actually drove up and used small hand carts to move our gear to our operating positions. While in process of setting up our antennas, a couple who were camping at the park hiked by and immediately identified us as amateur operators. He was an inactive ham since becoming permanent RVers. Seeing our stations was enough for him to get his gear out of storage and get active again. During the activation we had several more groups and individuals inquire about our activity which we glad demonstrated.

I was using a Wolf River Coil and their new 17' vertical on my X6100 running FT8 on 20m and ended up with 94 Qs but only 91 counted as I overlooked 3 dupes. Bill also used a Wolf River Coil and his new 17' vertical on his FT-857D on 15m phone and bagged his first activation with 13Qs. Kim used his BuddiStick Pro vertical on his IC-7100 on 10m FT8 and also bagged his first activation with 12 Qs.

As with every time I go out to operate, there are lessons to be learned and experience gained. Bill and I both operated using our Explorer battery boxes we purchased at Hamcation. These boxes were a steal and greatly simplified powering one's equipment. Kim's station included a lot more equipment and therefore power consumption which plagued him later in the activation. Lessons learned is operate with less gear and extra battery capacity.

POTA ON!



**Woody W3HII SK Laid to Rest**

Bushnell National Cemetery, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. A fitting eternal rest for a man who served our country so well for so many years.





The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

## SSRC Member of the Year 2023

**John Norman, KQ4BFO**

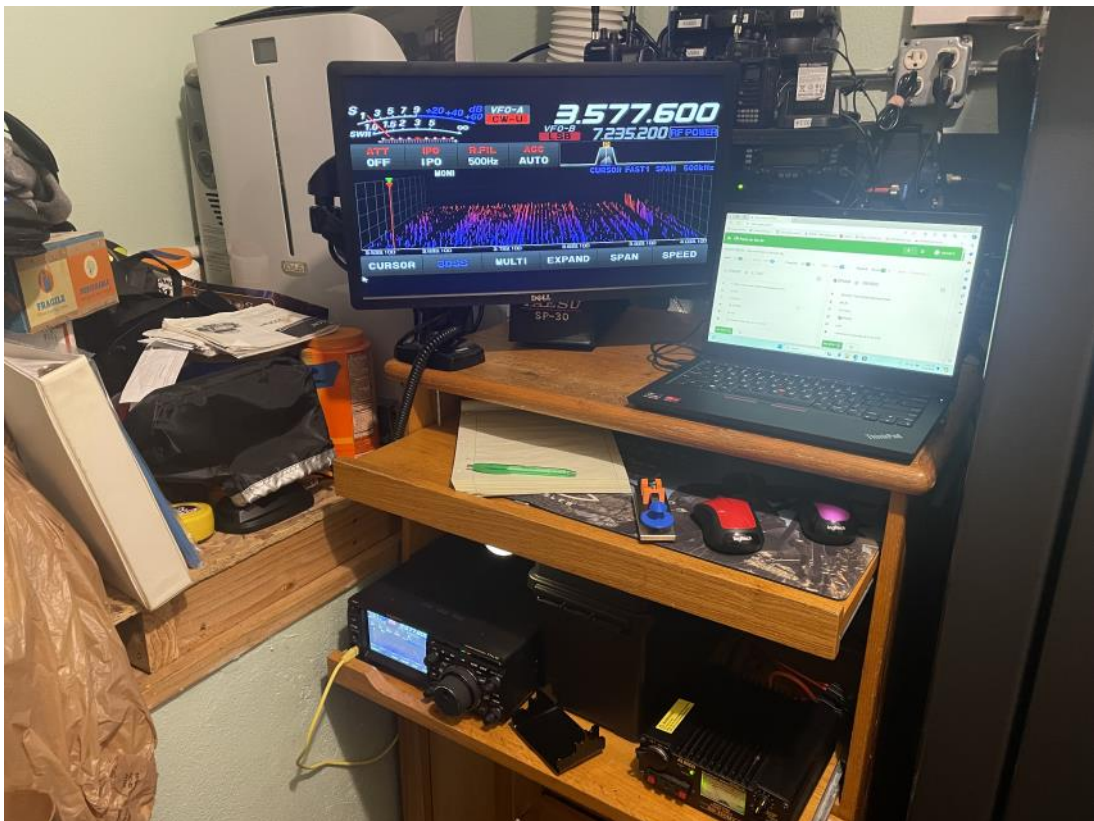
I have been in Ocala for approximately 25 years, so, in some folk's mind, I am a newcomer. My wife and I both work in healthcare and have one grown son. We enjoy the outdoors, and camp often.

I got into ham radio because of my interest in preparedness. I dislike the term "prepping", it has such bad connotations. Living in Florida all of my life, I know fully the need to be properly prepared. I have been through numerous hurricanes, with the associated power outages, transportation problems, and lack of communications. I started with GMRS, but found it lacking.

I got my Technician ticket in 2022, and my General in 2023. Though I came to Ham radio for one reason, my interests have broadened dramatically. Our camping has tied directly to POTA, and I have done several activations, and hunt often. My field radio is a FT897. I have used several different antennas in the field, and find this a great way to experiment and learn. I hope to learn new modes, including Winlink and am currently taking classes and a member of the Long Island CW club.

The shack is incredibly small, and shares room with one of my other hobbies, hand loading. I have a FTDX 10 which I recently acquired. I am still on the steep, uphill side of the learning curve, but expect this rig to meet my needs for many years. Usually run this with a DX Commander, which I have found to be surprisingly good. I also have a Random wire antenna, which my neighbor has graciously allowed me to terminate in his yard.

I enjoy the SSRC, and try to participate in the activities as much as possible. The members have been incredibly helpful and supportive. Hopefully after I retire in the near future, I can participate more and enjoy the hobby.





The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents...  
**POTA Operating Day**  
 February 24, 2024

Silver Springs State Park, Activated by Kim KO4OIG, Elbert KQ3K, and Bill KW5BG



Pics from KO4OIG who thanks Elbert for sharing a battery so Kim could get his first park activation.



Pics right and left courtesy of KW5BG



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# The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

## POTA Operating Day

### February 24, 2024

#### Rainbow Springs State Park Activated by Adam, NY5E

I hauled by gear out to Rainbow Springs State Park K-1912 Saturday morning and set up in the grassy median near the RV Parking lot. After a slight "border skirmish" with a pair of perky park rangers, we were on the air.

Antenna- the "Money Twenty", a 17.5' vertical wire with an LDG 9:1 Unun and a three foot counterpoise. All aboard the trusty 9 meter telescoping mast. This gave us access to 10- 20 meters with no trouble.

Radio- Yaesu FT891 with another LDG product, the Z100 Plus tuner. All powered by LiFePo4 battery. Operating at 90 watts, I was able to confirm more than enough Q's to activate, reaching Germany, Poland, Italy, Portugal, Canada as well as Colorado and the North Eastern US.

Joining our POTA party were club members Wayne AB4WP, Ethan KQ4EIC, Jonathan K4JJK, Lucas KF0END, Chris KC9BKS, as well as Mark K5CQE and my brother Andy visiting from Buffalo. It was a great day and plenty of information was shared!





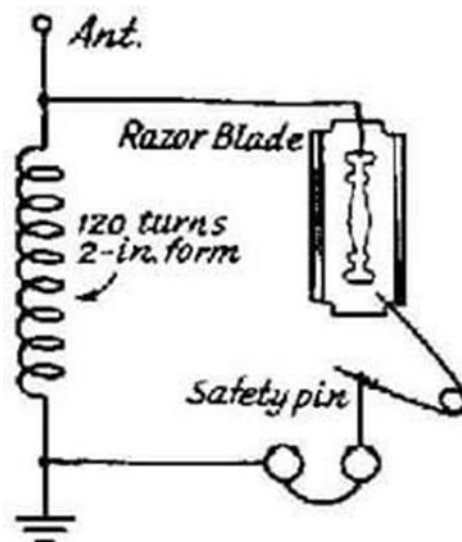
# Carl's Corner—Carl Berry KC5CMX

## Fox Hole Radio

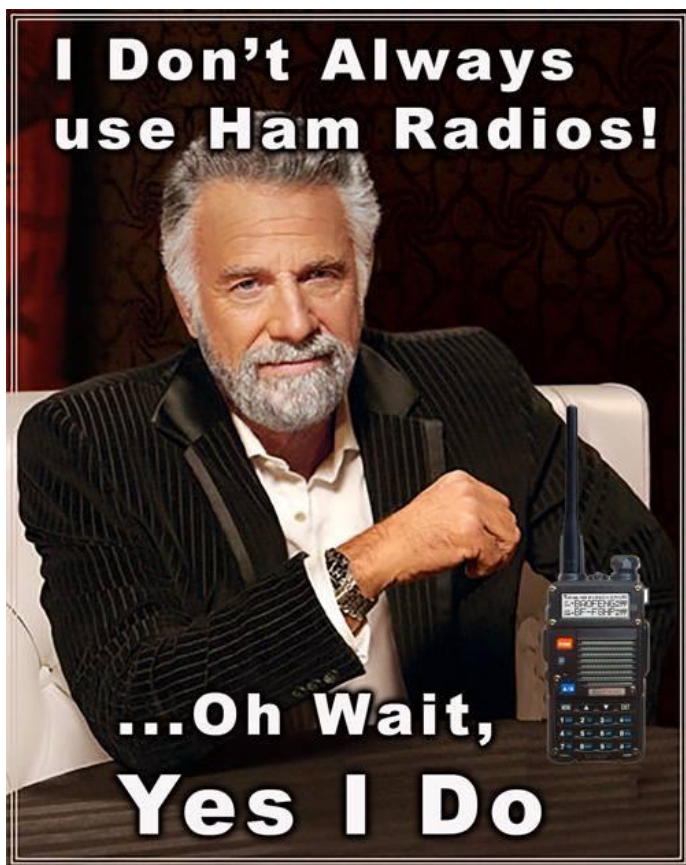
On the TV mini series "Masters of The Air" at the end of Episode #6, and in Episode #7 you see [Maj. Gale 'Buck' Cleven]([https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2640044/characters/nm2581521?ref=tt\\_cl\\_c\\_3](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2640044/characters/nm2581521?ref=tt_cl_c_3)) (Austin Butler) build and use a "Fox Hole radio". The attention to detail on this series is astonishing. There are many versions of the of this receiver. On this series they build exactly the one that would have been used in a POW camp. The detector part is a safety pin and a razor blade. You see a lot of the rigs with a graphite pencil lead as part of the detector. In a POW camp pencils were in short supply. They correctly show the safety pin version were a minor PIA to set up for the first time. USAFR, and the BBC broadcast specifically to these radio since they are powered by the RF energy of the transmitter they were very powerful.

The modern day secret for building one is you have to use a Gillette Blue blades, not the Super Blue Blades, or the Blue Blades II, they cannot be stainless steel, Original carbon steel Blue Blades have a coating, Rust is helpful for setting up the detector. The original is available on eBay.

The Crystal earphone is available for cheap on Amazon. Here is the schematic for one.



Fox Hole Radio





*All Roads Lead to The 2024  
Silver Springs Radio Club's  
ANNUAL TAILGATE*  
319 SE26th Terrace  
Ocala, FL 34471  
(ELS9)





*Stop on by, Buy, Sell, Trade, Rag Chew  
and just have a great time!  
More information at the new [k4gso.us](http://k4gso.us)*

*Our hamfest is on December 7th.  
Watch the website for more information!*

**June 1st 8:00 - 1:00**  
\$5.00 stall donation  
Basic ham food -  
Coffee and Doughnuts

*Talk in on 146.610  
PL 123 (-)*




### SSRC Has a Group Email! Have You Signed UP?

Andy Allen, NA4DA, Director

Our group is: K4GSO. Just type [groups.io](http://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.

Questions? Andy NA4DA 212-729-0446  
[andy@na4da.com](mailto:andy@na4da.com)

### 2024 SSRC Officers

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

**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](#)

- [QST NFL – NFL Section Newsletter](#)
- [Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)
- [NFL Section Website](#)
- [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)
- [NG3K DX](#)