



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

# The Oracle

## Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



May 2023

### Membership/Upcoming Events

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

#### MEMBERSHIP:

I know this is a like a broken record, but we are continuing to grow despite the loss of several members who either moved or chose not to renew. As of this writing, we have 95 members. 92 are licensed and three are associate members. We have three applications for the general membership to approve at the May meeting. This is a sign of a healthy club where members are involved in our activities and welcoming to our guests.

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, not only get radio active - stay radio active!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

##### 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.

We need around six to eight members to work the event. Bruce and Terry have agreed to be "Parking Directors" again. There will be limited food (donuts and coffee) while supplies last. If you are interested in helping out,

### Next Meeting

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**

**Green Clover Hall**

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

**6:00 PM Socializing and Mentoring**

**7:00 PM Meeting**

**Program: Roger Ackley, WA2CZR**

**RFI**

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

Green Clover Hall

All are welcome

### Upcoming Events

**Operating Digital Day—May 27, GCH**

**SSRC Tailgate Event—June 3, GCH**

**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.

please sign up on the K4GSO.US website.

More details to follow in the Oracle and General Meetings.

*Continued on next page...*

**FIELD DAY 2023:**

Six weeks...that’s how long until Field Day, so clear your calendar to participate. It will be here before you know it! We are well along in our planning for Field Day but need member participation to make it a success. What do we need? Glad you asked: help setting up on Friday evening and Saturday morning, operators willing to commit to a band / mode time slot, food, greeters for the public information table, GOTA coaches, GOTA operators, folks with motorhomes and air-conditioned travel trailers for “field” locations, Sunday takedown, someone willing to tackle the educational activity and folks willing to come and visit. To help ease the workload of the band/mode operators, we are asking members not otherwise involved to visit the field day site and make a minimum of five contacts!

Final note: In light of the new FCC RF Evaluation Rules, will need to have available their calculations for their particular antenna(s) to be 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.aresmcf.org](http://www.aresmcf.org)



**Monthly Net Statistics update  
for  
April 2023**

QNI 12 (Total Check-Ins)  
QTC 6 (Total Messages)  
QND 80 (Total Minutes)  
Total Sessions 4

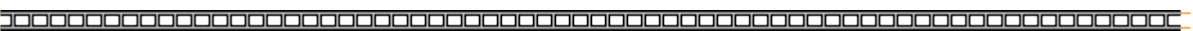
Welcome to the home of the Marion County Traffic Net. The MCTN is the local affiliate of and is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League’s National Traffic System, which provides an organized method for moving messages related to the event. Called traffic, these messages can provide information critical 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.arri.org/NTS>
- <https://aresmcf.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](#).

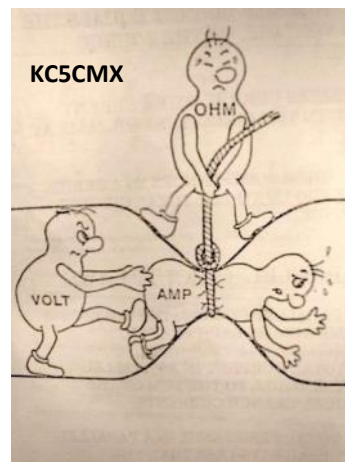


**Easy Morse Code DeCoding chart**

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

As much as I dislike them. This looks like a good one

- <https://www.nathanson.org/davesays/2011/easy-morse-code-decoding-chart/?fbclid=IwAR2OLx0JXiYfzVHRbmBxoObufdgWJT22x6wHlNbvQLibUK0mxX9cTqPKYQ&mibextid=SDPeIY>



The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

# Show Us Your Shack!



## Gary Whittaker, AD4GW (Formerly KQ4DGF)

- Yaesu FTDX10
- ICOM 7300
- Yaesu M-90
- Yaesu FTM-300D
- Vibroplex paddle
- Vibroplex Bug (1927)

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## Randy Starr, N3PUT

This is my shack. I just got started so it's not much.

- uBITX V6 QRP Transceiver EFHW by KO4FSZ
- I live in a HOA so it's up on TN07 Engineering mast.

I plan on doing POTA activations, so it all fits in a backpack.



# Show Us Your Shack! *continued*

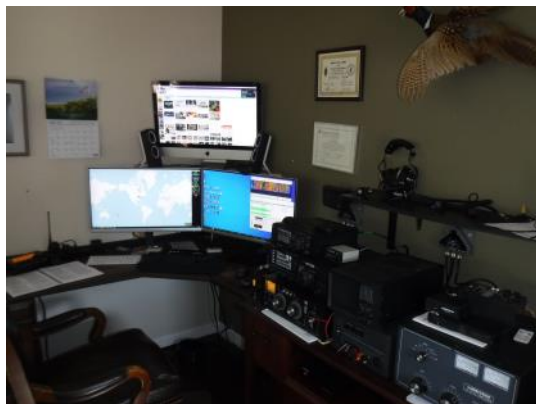
## Melvin De Carli, KG7LQQ

I started late in life with Amateur radio, seventy to be exact. Was always interested in early life but work got in the way. Doing the best I can with the time I have left. barely got my tech. license in '12, did better at getting my general in '14. I found that the amateur radio hobby was so broad and educational, not only making contacts with other hams, but the science it encompasses. A great hobby for the younger generations.

Living in the mountains of Idaho for 20+ yrs. the main focus was on emergencies in the area. Belonged to a small club in Boise county which was quite difficult to make contacts. At the beginning of the weekly net, we had to respond as to whether we were on emergency or commercial power so the emergency coordinator knew who to rely on during an event.

That being said, when moving here to the sunshine state, I brought most of my solar equipment with me. My shack consists of an FTDX 3000 I use for digital modes i.e. Fldigi, WinLink, FT8. as well as HF. This unit is connected to an AT2K manual tuner. Also have an AL-811H Tuner. Don't use it too much as I'm able to make contacts within the FL area. I have an KX3, which is hooked up to my solar system due to its low power demand which saves on battery power. DMR is also connected to solar power. I use an Yaesu 991 for VHF mainly.

My HF antenna is a G5RV 80 thru 10 at 41 feet running horizontal. It really works good for me on all modes/bands. Also have a back up Diamond five band vertical in case the winds damage the G5RV. I use a comet dual band for my VHF and DMR.



### K4GSO has a Group Email!

Andy Allen, NA4DA, Director  
[andy@na4da.com](mailto:andy@na4da.com)

**K4GSO@GROUPS.IO**

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. For example, I subscribe to the Steppir, Yaesu, N3FJP, N1MM, Elecraft, FlexRadio and many more groups.

#### Group io describes their service:

#### Why Email Groups? The Groups.io Philosophy

Groups.io provides an expansive set of web-based group communication tools, including a calendar, wiki, file and photo sharing areas, and chats. What's unique about us is that all of these features are built around the core email group system. We believe that the type and style of communication an email group fosters is the best way for many groups to communicate, whether those groups represent companies, organizations, communities, or hobbyists. Combining the ease of email with the features available on the web, Groups.io strives to be the ultimate communications venue for everyone.

#### Email Communication Is Asynchronous

Unlike real-time (synchronous) chats or instant messaging, email group members are not forced to be online all at

*Continued on next page...*

the same time. The asynchronous nature of email has several advantages, especially for larger, distributed groups. Basically, you sign up and subscribe to the groups that interest you. When you become a member of the group, any email you send to the group goes to everyone in the group, as do responses.

### Our group is: K4GSO

Just type [groups.io](https://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 will use the group to mentor, send info on upcoming events, list equipment for sale or find parts for projects, post reviews of equipment or recaps of POTA activations.

We have a wealth of knowledge in our club. This is a tool to tap into it. Questions? Call me: Andy NA4DA 212-729-0446 [andy@na4da.com](mailto:andy@na4da.com)



## Silent Period

Izzy Irizarry, KT4WA

Radio Officer's Watch Log - Silent Period. It was 1970 something, while being a new "boot" in the U.S. Coast Guard, that my Chief realized I spent too much time on my CB hobby. He convinced me that being a Radio Operator was more extravagant than being a "Boat Jockey", and recommended me to Radioman Class "A" school. The radio theory and electronics were not too challenging, but -- learning International Morse Code, and passing 18 WPM in order to graduate, was!

My first assignment as a Radioman 3rd Class, was at a coastal radio station. Our primary duty was ship-shore communications with the Coast Guard and Navy fleet. But, as part of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) requirements, and Search and Rescue being one the U.S. Coast Guard's primary missions, we had to maintain live watches on the international distress frequencies.

ITU required all vessels that had a Radiotelegraph Officer maintain a live watch on 500KHZ, A1A (CW). 500KHZ was also the calling frequency for vessels to contact the shore radio stations and other ships at sea. Once a contact was established, you would QSY to a working frequency and send your traffic.

However, ITU regulations established that a Silent Period was to be observed, twice an hour. Beginning at minute 15 to minute 18, and minute 45 to minute 48, no transmissions were allowed on 500 KHZ. This was to provide a window for any ship in distress that had limited power or capabilities, the opportunity to send out their S.O.S with the expectation it would be heard by numerous stations.

On the voice/phone calling and distress frequency of 2182 KHZ, USB, which was also required by ITU regulations, the silent period was also observed twice an hour, but, at top of the hour -- minute 00 to minute 03, and bottom of the hour, at minute 30 to minute 33. Again, clearing the airwaves for a "Mayday" transmission to be heard.

This will clarify why my shack clock has the red and green bands on its face -- a reminder of many a watch I stood, and many a distress call I answered. Sadly, I am not the "Hot Shot" radiotelegraph operator I was 45 years ago, but I still enjoy hour long CW ragchews on CW on the Ham Bands.

Side Note: We utilized the International Code Signals - Publication HO 102, where any scenario could be translated to codes that would break the global language barrier. CW speed wasn't as important as accuracy. If you copied a wrong letter in the 102 code while working a Medico/Relay to a ship at sea, it could have made the difference of giving the patient an aspirin orally or administering an enema! Hi Hi.



## Simple Fixes

Adam Parker, NY5E, VP SSRC

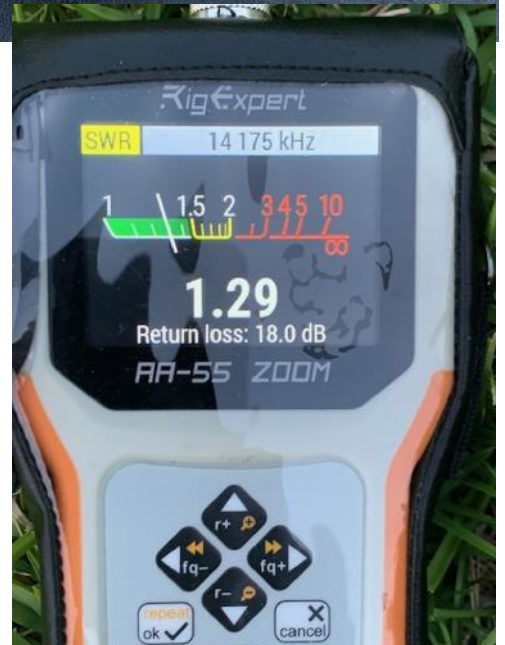
I think as I am, or become, immersed in the world of high tech amateur radio paraphernalia, I have missed a few of the simple fixes and projects. It's easy now that I know where to look, to see how somebody else solved my current issue, or how THEY constructed an antenna. Once you've SEEN it, you've "done it" right? WRONG

Example 1- I recently became aware of a fair bit of noise on my mobile radio. Not consistent, seemed to be without pattern. One day while driving with my knee and listening to a long winded explanation of another operator's physical woes and hearing the hiss, I unplugged my iPhone charger from the USB plug and POOF, noise gone. Once home I selected a snap on ferrite (frequency specific to VHF) and, once installed, my noise issue was solved. Something we all see every day, as innocuous as poop in a pasture, was causing my problem. Keep it simple, problem solved.

EXAMPLE 2- I had occasion to have 30 minutes with nothing to do while I waited for my son to finish an after school on campus activity. Wanting to be productive, and curious as to the actual art, I brought along a spool of wire and a premade dipole center connector. I found a shady spot in the School Board parking lot and, without a measuring tape, constructed a 20M dipole. When I got home I hung it found that it was quite "on point", offering SWR under 1.3:1 in the voice portion (sorry Wayne) of the 20M band. I've never made a dipole antenna before. Why would I, you can buy one for a couple bucks more.

I think the simple projects, although VERY basic in nature, are particularly satisfying. I'm sure many of us would love to buy a new, multi-band, mega element Yagi and set it atop our new Rohn 25 tower, but I'm not sure it would be more "rewarding" than hoisting a homemade dipole up a 30' piece of locally harvested bamboo. Satisfied and rewarded, I'm looking for another task.

Just thinking out loud....





## Licensed to Talk: *BUT ARE YOU LEGAL?*

Ivory Williams, W6IVY

**EFFECTIVE MAY 3, 2023:**

**AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS ARE NO  
LONGER EXEMPT FROM RF REQUIREMENTS**

Is your RF *too close to you?*



An FCC-issued ham license permits you to talk ONLY if you follow all the applicable FCC rules. Think of it this way, even though you have a driver's license, you can't legally drive without insurance. So, you can't operate if you are NOT legal. Your FCC license is also your affirmation that you would comply.

**YOU MUST KNOW YOUR RF Exposure Requirements BEFORE YOU Talk!**



RF exposure levels may substantially exceed the General Population and Occupational MPE limits.

**The Life You Expose May Be Your Own**

So, what does this all mean? It has nothing to do with whether you agree or disagree concerning radiation exposure or whether the FCC will or will not come out to check. It's about whether you are in compliance with the law.

### References:

ARRL RF Exposure Introduction

<http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>

FCC Radio Frequency Safety FAQ (link on ARRL page)

QST May 2023 Article (link on ARRL page)

ARRL RF Exposure Calculator (link on ARRL page)

YouTube Video-Ria's Ham Shack-Apr 27, 2021

New FCC RF safety rules for ham radio #hamradio

<https://tinyurl.com/mpj5uxub>

Question:      1. How will this impact Your Shack, Portable and/or Mobile Operations?  
                    2. How will this impact Field Day Operations?

DISCLAIMER: If you don't understand it all, welcome to the club. The links above will hopefully help you and me reduce the frustration to ensure our shack is in compliance. If you have complied, **please share** with the rest of us how you did it and/or what equipment you used.

From: KC5CMX

# Ground Reference



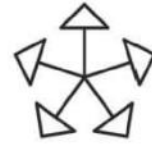
Signal Ground



Chassis Ground



Earth Ground



Star Ground



Solid Ground



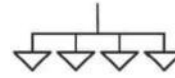
Coffee Grounds



Ground Loop



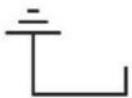
Safety Ground



Foreground



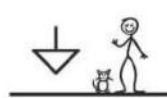
Background



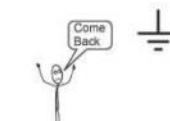
Ground Up



Well Grounded



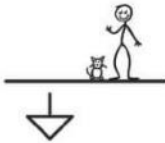
Above Ground



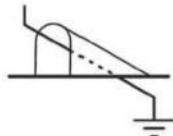
Floating Ground



High Ground



Below Ground



Underground



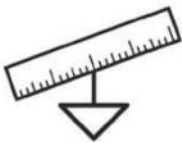
Ground Under



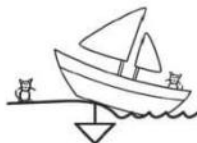
Ground Wave



Both Feet on the Ground



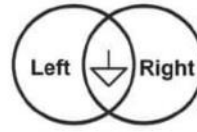
Ground Rule



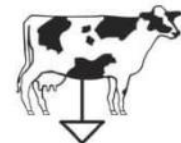
Aground



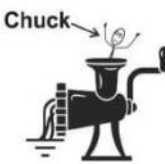
Groundhog



Common Ground



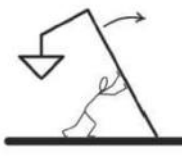
Ground Beef



Ground Chuck



Losing Ground



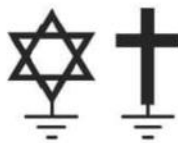
Stand Your Ground



Run to Ground



Hit the Ground Running



Virtual Ground

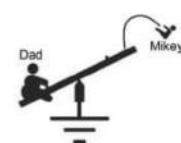
Religious Grounds



Stomping Grounds



Grounds for Divorce



Playground



## Show Us Your Shack & Simple Fixes

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](mailto:n4gl.marty@gmail.com)



**ARRL VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR 2023**

**ARRL Volunteers On the Air**

ARRL.org VOTA Home Leaderboard Certificates Call Sign Points W1AW Portable Operations Help

## 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](#)

[SSRC Logo Shirts & Caps](#)  
[Green Clover Key Card](#)  
[Perry Field Access](#)  
[Membership Application](#)  
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[QST NFL – NFL Section Newsletter](#)  
[Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)  
[NFL Section Website](#)  
[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)  
[NG3K DX](#)