



# The Oracle

## Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



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

April 2024

### President's Message

Adam Parker, NY5E

As we transitioned from our central Florida "seven day winter trial period", I'm hoping that many are enjoying the cool weather that we so seldom see this time of year. It's a beautiful time to be outside and we experienced delightful weather over the weekend that saw the Florida parks on the air event unfold. I'm anxious to hear everyone's experiences

We are excited to have RT Systems Software representatives offer their thoughts and product information as our April presenters. This month's main presentation, as was last months, will be via ZOOM and that link will be shared on the website and via groups IO for those who cannot attend, so that they may also benefit from the informational offering.

I am also glad to report that Operation. Highwire, the Perry Field antenna project, has been successfully completed and tested. Both the East and West rhombics are up and running properly. The tri-band Yagi, located atop the 100 foot tower, saw adjustments that brought it to full operating potential as well. City of Ocala crews arrived Friday and installed new coax (Messi & Paoloni Ultraflex 7) from Balun to building at the West rhombic pole, giving the system a low loss feed line that should last for years to come. Along with me on site to assist in the installation and testing were Terry Strey KN4FMH, Mike Romanovich KQ4CCH and Hayden Kaufman N4HAY. We are grateful for their time and effort completing this project.

Our next endeavor, "Operation Field-strip" will involve some muscle and manpower. In an effort to make Perry Field an attractive, safe location for ALL SSRC members to enjoy, I'd like to ask any willing to pitch in an hour or two on a dedicated weekend in the near future, to assist in the loading of a dozen tower sections, a few coils of guy wire and some old scrap lumber, onto a flatbed trailer. The tower sections will be cleaned and stored off-site in preparation for sale at the June 1st tailgate. The remainder will be disposed of safely. Once the area is free of clutter, the site will be easier to mow and maintain as well as add an aesthetic attraction that's been absent for some years. We hope to make Perry Field a place for any and all club members to enjoy. Perhaps a celebratory cook out is in order.....?

As always, we look forward to next week's general meeting with anticipation of good fellowship and another great presentation. See you soon.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

**Green Clover Hall**

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

**6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing**

**7:00 PM Meeting**

**Programs:**

- RT Systems Rig Programming Software via ZOOM (Link will be sent 4/14)
- SSRC Member Survey Results

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

### Upcoming Events

**April 27-28— Florida QSO Party**

**May 14 — VE Testing**

7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

**June 22-23—ARRL Field Day**

Green Clover Hall

Check out our upcoming Events on the [K4GSO.us](http://K4GSO.us) Website

**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

### LAST CALL LAST CALL...

Membership rolls will be closed and those who did not renew will be purged as of 4/30/24. By the powers vested in me by me, as membership chairman, I granted a special 30 day extension beyond the 3/31/24 deadline. Don't be that person who gets left out of all the fun and activities. 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).

In case you have forgotten, annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for family and \$15 for associate membership (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.

In these very tough economic times, I am sorry to report that Guido and Luigi, my "bone-breaking collectors" have been laid off. Alternatively, those who have not paid should have received a very nice, but gentle, email reminder from our Treasurer, Annie Allen, KN4RIC.

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.

### GREEN CLOVER HALL:

The remodeling of GCH in February is finished and was 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! The new technology and sound system permits meetings to also be ZOOMed. Not sure if that is a proper word, but deal with it!

### 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. Next Official Event is on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. As if you need another excuse to get out, it is also QRP to the Field weekend. CW and SSB on QRP power only. Both events provide a good opportunity to test your rigs, antennas, setups and portable power. Now is the time to troubleshoot and problems instead of an emergency (hurricane season) where you might not have that luxury. Regardless, don't just wait for an Official Event...get out and operate.

### FLORIDA PARKS ON THE AIR

April 13-14 was the annual Florida Parks on the Air event. Other club members activated from area parks with some, like Bert N8NN, posting outstanding results from five different parks. My activation was more mundane. Bad Roger, K4ZFW, and I setup and worked the event from Silver Springs State Park. Roger worked SSB was able to get his first valid POTA activation in the bag. I worked enough contacts on PSK31 to also get a valid activation, but that mode is so S L O W. While there, we were visited by Ron KS4SW, Mel KG7LQQ and Nick K4NDZ. In an effort to avoid any incriminating evidence, no pictures were taken of our activation.

Yep, it's a Ham Radio.



*Continued on next page...*

## Inovato Quadra – HamClock

by Bert Garcia N8NN



Photo 1 – HamClock display.

The Inovato Quadra is a tiny computer that runs the HamClock software on your monitor or TV. It displays a world map with day/night shading, DX spots, sunspot numbers, clock, and numerous other items of ham radio interest. The Quadra measures about 4" x 4" x 3/4". If you order the bundle for \$59 plus shipping (<https://inovato.com>), you get everything you need to run the HamClock – Quadra, stand, cooling fan, wireless mini keyboard with touchpad, 4-port USB hub, HDMI cable, USB wall wart, and USB power cable. The Quadra has built-in wifi, so you don't need the optional Bluetooth/wifi dongle. If you use your own USB keyboard and mouse, you can save \$10 by eliminating the mini keyboard. Your monitor or TV should display 1080p or higher resolution.



Photo 2 – Inovato bundle.



Photo 3 – Front view.



Photo 4 – Rear view.

The built-in setup routine is quick and easy, but from there on you will need to watch a lot of YouTube videos to gain full advantage of all the features. It's not a Geochron, but it's pretty neat!



The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

# Marion County Day March 23, 2024

## Setup Pics TNX KC5CMX

N8NN—KQ3K—N2HAY—Deploying the tent



Another successful deployment—KC5CMX—N2HAY—N8NN— KQ3K





# The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....

# Marion County Day

## Event Pics TNX N4GL

## March 24, 2024



KO4QMI & N2HAY



KO4QMI & N2HAY

WA4IPU & KN4FMH



KC5CMX



N8NN

N4FP



K4NDZ & KN4FMH



KQ3K





The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents....  
**FL POTA Weekend**  
**April 13-14**



**Bert N8NN**

My FLSPOTA setup was a KX2, laptop, battery pack and a 19-ft vertical.

I activated five parks:

- Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway
- Lake Griffin State Park
- Fort Cooper State Park
- Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
- Withlacoochee State Trail.

I made 190 contacts on CW.

*Photo is from Dade Battlefield.*



**Andy NA4DA**

Mel's Jeep (left.) Mel KG7LQQ and Wayne AB4WP trouble shoot a cable problem (lower left.) Annie KN4RIC and Bella complete their ride (below.) All at Indian Lake State Forest Equestrian Trail (NE Ocala). Yes, Andy was there too.



# Perry Field Update

**Adam Parker, NY5E, SSRC President**

Took a few photos Friday April 12th of the City of Ocala's workers installing new Messi & Paoloni coax on the West Rhombic. They were kind enough to arrive a bit later with another crew and their 100' bucket truck. We calibrated the Yagi's direction with the rotor box display inside the shack.

On site to assist in the installation and testing were Terry Strey KN4FMH, Mike Romanovich KQ4CCH and Hayden Kaufman N4HAY.





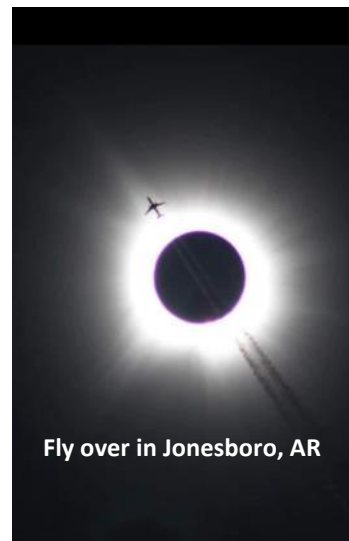
**Carl's Corner—Carl Berry KC5CMX**



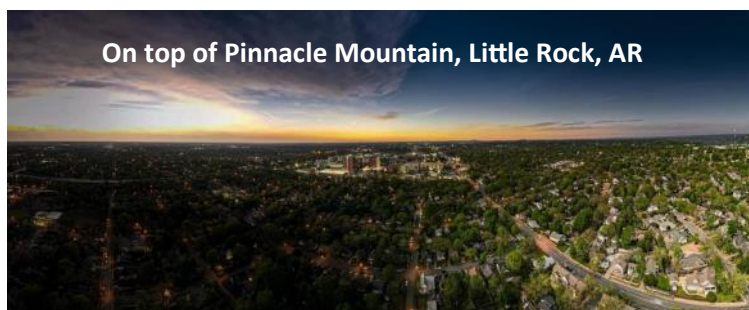
**New QRP antenna.  
Great reception !**



**Locked and loaded, ready for  
kisses**



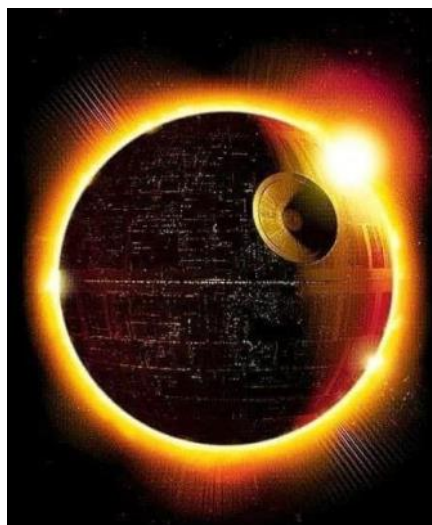
**Fly over in Jonesboro, AR**



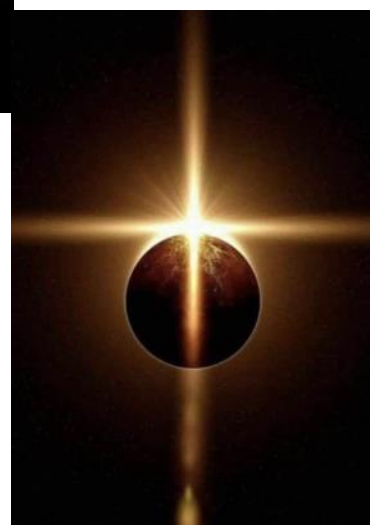
**On top of Pinnacle Mountain, Little Rock, AR**



**NYC storm that shows why grounding is so  
important.**



**Shot from a Southwest  
Airlines flight. One in a  
million.**



**That's no moon!  
(Star Wars)**



# Ham radio operators hold disaster exercise

By Andy Fillmore  
Correspondent

The message "CQ-field day," which is ham radio code for "calling any station, requesting a response," filled the air as Silver Springs Radio Club members gathered for a 24-hour national disaster preparedness exercise hosted by the American Radio Relay League.

The event was held Saturday and Sunday at the McPherson Governmental Complex.

Amateur, or "ham," radio operators can become the only line of communication during emergencies, when other means are not operable due to damage or lack of power.

**EMERGENCY** on Page 5B



DOUG ENGLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lois Baker, left, and Harold Wood, center, prepare to log a station contact to western Massachusetts as Carl Berry tries to reach the contact Saturday afternoon.

## EMERGENCY: Operators established contact and logged calls at event

Continued from 1B

During last weekend's field exercise, the operators established contact and logged calls, representing a possible future lifesaving link in time of disaster. More than 800 contacts were made this year, as compared to about 500 last year.

We are infrastructure free, as opposed to methods of communication that require wires and fixed towers, said club vice president Joe Bilancio, 64, an amateur radio buff since age 16. "We have five stations set up for 24 hours, making as many contacts as possible," Bilancio said as he led a tour of Green Clover Hall. "We have a 100-foot tower permanently installed near the hall."

The club, which has about 100 members and is in its 63rd year, meets at the hall each month. K4GSO is the call sign for the ham radio station maintained by the club.

According to club member Tony Blalock, "in any emergency, ham radio operators are there first" with vital links to help.

"In the flood in Ocala about 30 years ago, hams helped, and in the 2004 hurricanes," he said. During the Vietnam War and Desert Storm, ham radio communication patched local families into conversations with loved ones in the service, he added.

Club president Earl Sweeney, 77, a helicopter pilot during two tours in Vietnam, and formerly with Lee County Medical Services, said ham operators also can help in medical emergencies.

"SSRC has equipment and antennas pre-set at the local hospitals and can even send patient files. Material sent on D-Star [radio systems] is HIPPA-approved [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act]



DOUG ENGLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ron Toller wears a hat with his call letters as he tries to reach other stations around the nation as part of the American Radio Relay League Field Day Exercise.

because we can send to a specific receiving station and only they can get it," he said. A number of club members belong to the Marion County Emergency Radio Team, which has an office in the Marion County Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Center.

"They are absolutely essential to maintain communications when cell towers and other means are down," said Capt. Chip Wildy, MCSO Director of Emergency Communications. "They are a great group of volunteers."

Harold Wood, a 53-year ham operator, had his van outfitted last weekend with a complete mobile broadcast station.

Jim Pfister, a 50-plus-year veteran of ham radio, typed out Morse code at

### To learn more

The Silver Springs Radio Club meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Green Clover Hall, 329 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala. For more information, visit [www.k4gso.com](http://www.k4gso.com).

one of the work stations. "Morse code can often be understood when [reception] conditions are bad," Pfister said.

Bilancio said Jennifer Odom, a third-grade teacher at Dr. N.H. Jones Elementary School, has been teaching her students Morse code and "they love it. They think it's a secret language."



## Remembering Woody W3HII and Field Day 2009







*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](#)