



K4GSO.us

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



May 2024

President's Message

Adam Parker, NY5E

Welcome to May! The last full month of "Spring". The next few weeks events, and May's general meeting, will be keeping us busy planning and enjoying the outdoors! Please make every effort to get involved, at some level, in our upcoming club activities.

What activities? Well.....

Tuesday's Silver Springs Radio Club meeting will focus on wire antennas. The entertaining genius, Bob Brehm, from Palomar Engineers offers up a treasure trove of field-tested advice while delving into the advantages and disadvantages of many wire configurations. I've listened to this presentation and would strongly suggest bringing a pencil and notepad. Bob's sometimes snarky interjections keep the technical presentation upbeat, and he moves quickly through the material, so be ready!

Tuesday's meeting will also include our SSRC Summer Tailgate organizers getting minor details in place prior to our June 1st gathering of hams at Green Clover Hall. Izzy KT4WA and Wayne AB4WP have offered to guide the tailgaters as they arrive, collect fees, and make any on-the-spot adjustments necessary to keep the peace. I am sure that a few additional hands would make their job a lot easier and would ask anyone with an hour or two to spare on Saturday morning, June 1st, to avail themselves to either Wayne or Izzy for that purpose. It's a great way to meet people and, for those newest members, an easy way to get your feet wet (practice for the December HamFest).

As June's meeting will be held just day's prior to SUMMER FIELD DAY, we will also be outlining that event. Held June 22nd and 23rd, we've decided to work Field Day '24 from GCH, operating in much the fashion of a contest station. I'm sure this will be an event that everyone will enjoy, with round-the-clock station operation from the comfort of GCH. Our website will soon offer sign-up spaces for "seat time". Again, another great opportunity for our members to get on the air and hone their skills. Nothing advances confidence faster than getting behind the mic. We look forward to a big turnout at this event, can't wait!

See you Tuesday for what promises to be another great meeting. I anticipate a big turnout Tuesday so arrive early or bring a folding chair! Hope to see a full house Tuesday night!

(292/4)

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting

Program: End Fed Antenna System

Bob Brehm, AK6R

Chief Engineer of Palomar Engineers

&

SSRC Field Day

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

Green Clover Hall

Upcoming Events

June 1—SSRC Annual Tailgate

Green Clover Hall

June 22-23—ARRL Field Day

Green Clover Hall

July 9 —VE Testing

7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

Check out our upcoming Events: K4GSO.us

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

IT IS OVER - FINALLY!

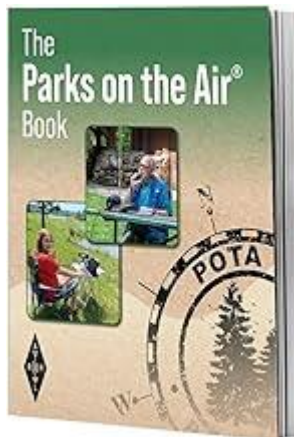
Annual membership renewals are now closed and those who did not renew have been purged as of 4/30/24. Current dues paying members will receive priority on club activities like Field Day, VE team participation and access to Perry Field and GCH. Non-members can still access the Oracle on the club website but will not be included on member emails. As a final note, only dues paying members will be allowed to subscribe to the club's Groups.io page.

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 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.

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. The next "Official Quarterly Event" is on July 20th and 21st. Don't wait for an event to get out and enjoy the fresh air, test your rigs, antennas, set-ups and portable power. Now is the time to troubleshoot problems instead of an emergency (hurricane season is now upon us) where you might not have that luxury. Another benefit of portable operations is to assess your weaknesses and what you need to improve on for suc-



cessful operations. For instance, can you operate and understand your antenna analyzer, setup your solar charger and battery cables and make emergency field repairs to your or someone else's equipment.

2024 TAILGATE

Mark your calendar for June 1 for our Annual Tailgate to be held at Green Clover Hall from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Tailgaters will setup in the parking areas around GCH. Coffee and ham food (donuts) will be available for small fee until supplies run out. This is a great time to go through your closets, workshops, boxes and all those places we tend to stash stuff that is not just gathering dust. Your old stuff can now become someone else's Treasure. If nothing else, come and hang out, meet club members and others you don't know and have fun.

2024 HAMFEST

OK, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7 at First Christian Church, Ocala. Vendor setup will occur on the 6th. I know it is early to start thinking about Hamfest, but I'm getting older and now need a running start to stay ahead. I had hoped to pass this on to another unsuspecting amateur and the club was unable to raise the necessary funds to buy out my sizeable contract, so you are stuck with me for one more year. We have one individual, Wayne Peterson AB4WP, who has stepped up to assist as co-chairman, so there is hope for the future. We have a great Hamfest teams who know their assignments and their continued participation is vital to our success. More details to follow at General Meetings and the Oracle.

The SSRC May Presentation

Andy Allen, NA4DA, andy@na4da.com

The presentation will be Bob Brehm from Palomar Engineers. Bio: Bob Brehm, **AK6R** is Chief Engineer of Palomar Engineers (www.Palomar-Engineers.com), and has been a ham for over 50 years with experience in contesting, RTTY, Amplitude Modulation, vintage radio restoration, boat anchors, linear amps and unique antennas.

Learn how to select, choose and setup an end fed antenna system that works on multiple bands, is stealthy and radiates well at low heights. Find out the secrets of antenna matching, reducing RFI and minimizing noise present on many end fed antennas.

Spiderbeam Deployment

Ethan Rodriguez – KQ4EIC

In my quest to piece together my portable set up for POTA and Field Days, I recently purchased a Spiderbeam 12m telescoping fiberglass mast. My intended purpose of this mast was to have a reliable heavy duty antenna mast that would allow me to experiment with and quickly set up random wire and end fed antenna systems. My other reason was that most parks I've been to frown upon throwing antennas into trees during POTA activations.

The antenna arrived in the mail recently and upon opening the box, I was instantly impressed with the quality. It is heavy duty and a little large for portable operations but it's definitely worth the extra weight. With that said, I began to think about how I was going to deploy this "tank" of a mast and came up with a couple ideas that anyone can do with a few simple tools. *(Note: on both methods described below, I am using 3-4 wide tent spikes around the bottom of the mast to prevent the mast from kicking out from the bottom)*



METHOD 1

Pros

- Instantly Deployment – parts are always attached to mast.
- No extra pieces to carry around and potentially lose.
- Can still utilize the Spiderbeam clamp kit for permanent installations (sold at Vibroplex)

Cons

- Can put some pressure on walls of mast if you are not careful.

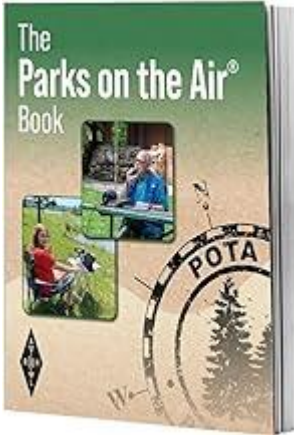
I went to Lowe's Home Improvement with my mast in hand and walked into the plumbing department. I was able to find Item# 792020 Fernco 2-inch Flex Coupler (pictured below). I had to cut the rubber down the center (vertically) and remove about an inch or so of rubber so that it would wrap perfectly around the mast. I then attached 4 guying points with some high tensile strength (1100lbs) rope (Item# 5149401 - Extreme utility rope). This rope was flat, so it fit perfectly behind the hose clamps.



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It was also important to me that the cap be able to fit on top without removing the guying points. This would make for quicker deployment and less parts to worry about in the field.

Below you can see this set-up deployed.



To speed up deployment as well as make it much easier for a single operator to deploy, I decided to utilize Nitelze Camjam XT™ cams on the guy ropes (Item# 771856). Tension on these cams can be instantly adjusted and they have a break strength of 837 lbs. and a working load of 280 lbs. each. Using them has been a pleasure and they are highly recommended.



Left you can see the final deployment utilizing the flex coupler method described above.



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METHOD 2

Pros

- No stress on the exterior walls of the mast.
- Can still utilize the Spiderbeam clamp kit (sold at Vibroplex)
- Does not use additional hardware that attaches to outside of mast. (this may or may not bother some operators)

Cons

- Separate piece of hardware you now have to carry around and potentially lose.

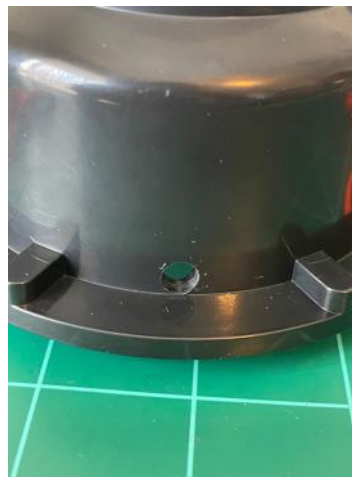
I purchased a shower drain (Item# 253148 – Oatey 2-In ABS Shower Drain)



Unscrew the strainer from the drain



Drill several holes around the base of the drain.



Attach guying rope of your choice.



This solution will fit perfectly on the top of the mast housing and allow all other nested pieces of mast to fully extend. This solution will fit perfectly on the top of the mast housing and allow all other nested pieces of mast to fully extend.

Final deployment of method 2. Drain will sit perfectly on top of the first section of mast, allowing you to attach the guy lines.



73, Ethan Rodriguez – KQ4EIC

Carl's Corner—Carl Berry KC5CMX

On This Date In Amateur Radio History



April 15, 1912

A Welsh ham radio operator named Artie Moore picked up the distress signals from the Titanic on his homemade radio. "CQD CQD SOS de MGY Position 41.44N 50.24W. Require immediate assistance. Come at once. We have struck an iceberg. Sinking....We are putting the women off in the boats..." Then came the final signal: "Come as quickly as possible old man; our engine-room is filling up to the boilers".

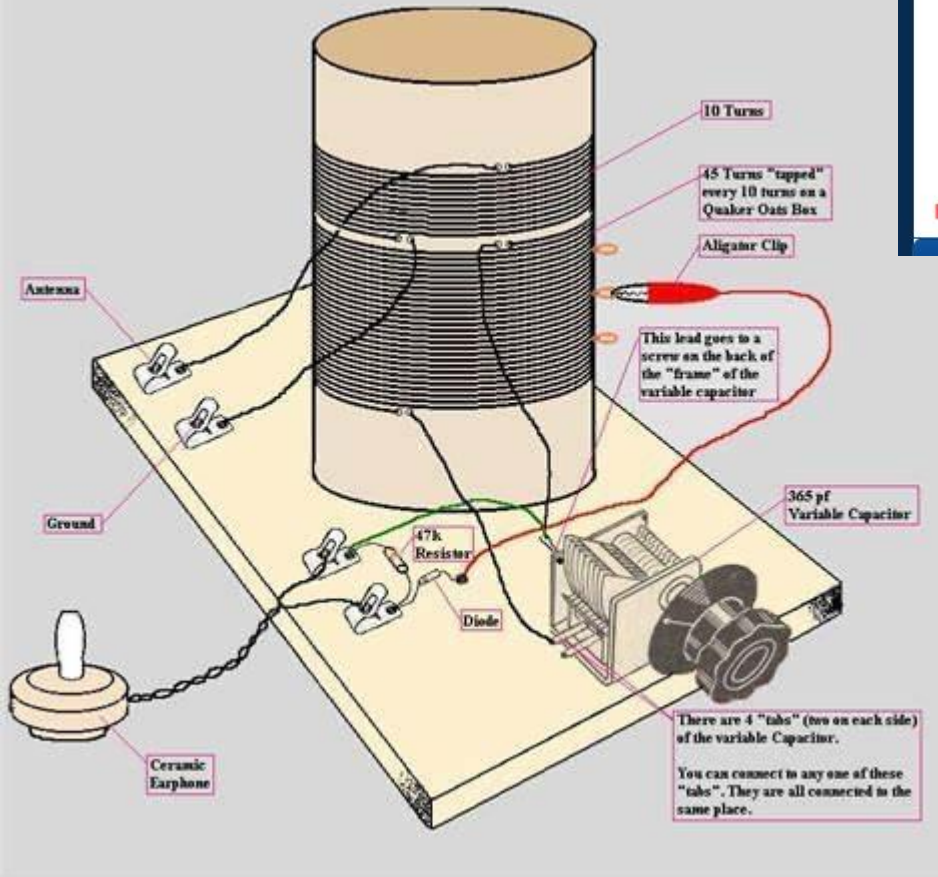
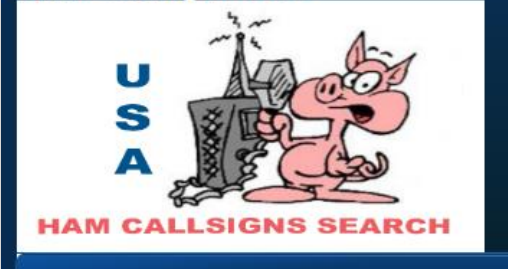
KD2RKA



TNX
KT4WA

"GEORGE, IT'S A WORK NIGHT AND ALMOST MIDNIGHT, SO IT'S TIME TO TELL YOUR RADIO FRIENDS BYE-BYE-BYE AND COME TO BED"

Ham Callsigns USA



From Curtis, KG4DIW

It would be interesting to see how many members of SSRC also have a GMRS license?

(Mine is: WSCX569)



*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*

*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 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

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](#)