



The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



K4GSO.us

December 2024

It's Been My Pleasure!

Marty Brown, N4GL, Outgoing Oracle Editor

When I moved to Ocala from The Villages in 2016, I was very excited to join SSRC and work with a club that could pull off a hamfest! No kidding! I thought that would be the most fun ever, and I was right! But way beyond Hamfest, SSRC has proven to be the little engine that could, pulling off tailgates, relevant and creative programs, dedicated board members, membership recruitment and development, and community participation. It has been my privilege to be part of this group as a member and editor of The Oracle for the last six years.

As Wayne, N4FP, and I return to North Carolina for the next chapter, we will think very fondly of our time in Ocala, particularly of SSRC. Look for us on Echolink on the local nets and see you on the bands.



Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 PM Party Setup & Socializing

**7:00 PM Installation of officers
Followed by Holiday Party**

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 28 — Operating Day

9 AM—12 PM, Green Clover Hall

Tuesday, VE Testing, January 14

7:00 PM Green Clover Hall

Check out Upcoming Events: K4GSO.us

Silver Springs Radio Club Net
K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123
Mondays 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

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

Once again, we are pleased report that our membership has increased with several more members approved at the last General Meeting. Please welcome our newest members:

Doug Howard, K4DPH, General
James Howells, KD8JHO, General
Mark Weible, N4GPA, Technician

For those who are interested in the current club composition metrics, here they are:

LICENSED MEMBERS	122	Technicians	28
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	97	Generals	35
FAMILY MEMBERS	18	Advanced	8
LIFE MEMBERS	7	Extras	49
PENDING MEMBERS	1	Associates	2
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	2	Total	122

Current dues paying members will receive priority on club activities like Field Day, VE team participation and access to Perry Field. Non-members can still access the Oracle on the club website but will not be included on member emails. As a final note, subscription to the club's Groups.io page is restricted to dues paying members.

We are exceeding our 2024 goal of continuing to grow and increase member participation in the club's various activities. It is the sign of a healthy club! 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 Technicians to upgrade to General 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 and

members – don't be afraid to ask questions and for help.

One important note: Also effective in January 2025, all new memberships are for one year after approval of applications. All renewals thereafter will be due and payable annually from the anniversary date of said approval. All other memberships currently scheduled for January renewal will be due and payable in January of each year.

Effective in January 2025, Ed Long, WA4SWJ, will be taking over as Membership Chairman. It has been my pleasure to head this activity for the last ten years but it is time to turn it over to new blood. Ed has been licensed since he was a young man and for many years was heavily involved with AMSAT. An Electrical Engineer by profession, he will bring a new dynamic, knowledge base and perspective to the club. Thank you, Ed for taking on this responsibility.

HAMFEST:

It is over...what a Hamfest!

Your Hamfest team worked work hard on Friday December 6th and Saturday December 7th to make this year's Hamfest successful. Their efforts, dedication and willingness to work made this an enjoyable event for our attendees and vendors. That's what makes this a GREAT CLUB! We heard many compliments from our vendors and attendees about the Hamfest, but the credit goes to the team and the club. Everyone helped out in multiple roles – setup, takedown, vendor unloading, loading, tailgate, parking, testing. They are all simply AWESOME.

Setup on Friday went quickly with no major problems. We had to make a few table adjustments as several vendors added tables which we were more than happy to accommodate. The vendors were done with setup much earlier than previous years, so the setup team could go home to rest or complete other preparations for the event.

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Membership/Hamfest, continued...

Saturday morning came very early (as it usually does) with the tailgate team arriving around 5am. Did I mention it was cold and dark? Well, it was but that didn't faze them. They are hams after all! Tailgaters started arriving and the tailgate team expertly parked them. Bruce, WA4IPU, arranged for coffee and donuts for the early arrivals which was a nice touch – especially when it is cold.

The Memorial Hall was opened at 6:30am for the vendors to complete final preparations. We were pleasantly surprised with several “emergency” requests to add a few more tables for the vendors including several for one who had cancelled earlier in the week. Fortunately, we had just enough room to adjust without a major disruption to the others. Doors opened to the public at 7:30 and it was game on.

Attendance was just about what we had projected and remained steady through the day. This year we added a club sales table for SK items donated to the club and a station for anyone who wanted to check out used equipment. Wayne, WA1PMA, served as our official sanctioned ARRL card checker. Door prizes were drawn during the event and this year we had two Grand Prize drawings – a FT 70DR donated by club member Ed Long, and a new GeoChron 4K. The Scouts provided hamfood for a very reasonable price. Hamfest started winding down around 2pm with the vendors loaded and the facility locked down shortly after 4pm.

As previously announced, it is time to turn the Hamfest keys over to your new Chairman, Wayne, AB4WP. He will do an excellent job and will have my full support to continue to make this a successful annual event. It has been fun leading the Hamfest team for the last six or seven years, but it is time for us “old guys” to move over and let the fast-moving low-drag “kids” take the wheel. Our club is blessed with a growing membership who are active and interested in this great hobby. Our new folks have some great ideas, attitudes and are “unburdened” by the past!

Izzy, KT4WA, our club's Facebook moderator, has updat-

ed the site with this year's Hamfest photos. Go here to read and view: <https://www.facebook.com/k4gso>

Thank you again for making Hamfest 2024 successful. Mark your calendars for December 5th and December 6th, 2025 for next year's Hamfest.

GREEN CLOVER HALL

As a reminder and for those new to the club, the county generously allows our use of Green Clover Hall (GCH) for our meetings and functions. The county also makes extensive use of GCH for training purposes utilizing different table and chair arrangements. Sometimes the county may have food or snack items for their participants and are totally “off limits” to us. After each use, please return all tables and chairs to where they were found, sweep out any grass or debris tracked in from the front door and most importantly, turn off any equipment that was used.

The county also recently upgraded the AC unit in the radio room, replaced the ceiling tiles and performed the work for new coax access points. They have been a great supporter of the club dating back to 1947, so we need to continue to do our part to maintain this valuable relationship.

POTA:

Winter is upon us but being fortunate enough to live in the great free State of Florida, we still have some pleasant weather to still get out and activate. Although it may be cooler than the summer heat, you can always take your sweat shirt off. Another benefit is fewer bugs!

So, why are you sitting inside? Go out and operate portable somewhere. There are many parks in the POTA program – either locally or within an hour or so drive, so get out there and have fun. Make some con-

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tacts. If you don't want to go to a park, grab a cool one and set-up in your driveway or outside in the backyard. Regardless, you will get some fresh air and test your equipment should the need arise.

ON A SAD NOTE:

It has been said and demonstrated many times what great people we have in this club. Some years ago, I forgot exactly when, the club revived its dormant newsletter, *The Oracle*. Marty Brown, N4GL, volunteered to be its editor. Little did we know what a gem we had in our midst. How Marty did it is remarkable because she was also editing newsletters for the North Florida ARRL Section and the Florida Contest Group. She also had to

contend with a bunch of wayward hams who needed a firm hand to keep under control and on schedule. There were times she should have taken some, if not all, of us to the woodshed! You know who you are...

Marty is also full time XYL to Wayne, N4FP, who has served for many years as our club Trustee. Both were our club's expert CW operators, contesters, members of the Villages ARC and many other activities. Marty did all this with grace, good humor, a smile and always a kind word. Sadly, for us, Marty and Wayne will be moving to North Carolina to be closer to family and will be turning *The Oracle* over to another member.



**Silver Springs Radio Club
Holiday Party**

December 17, 2024

6:00 PM Party Setup & Socializing

7 PM Dinner

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

Plan to attend with your spouse or guest.

SSRC will provide the Ham and Turkey

Also provided: Soft Drinks, Water, Coffee, Paper Products, and Utensils.

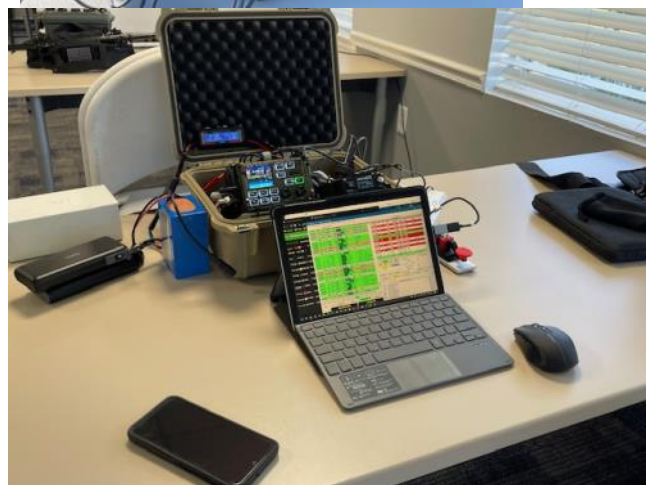
Please bring a dish of your choosing, serving 6-8, to share.

Please provide any special serving utensils you need for your dish.

Extra folding chairs will be appreciated.

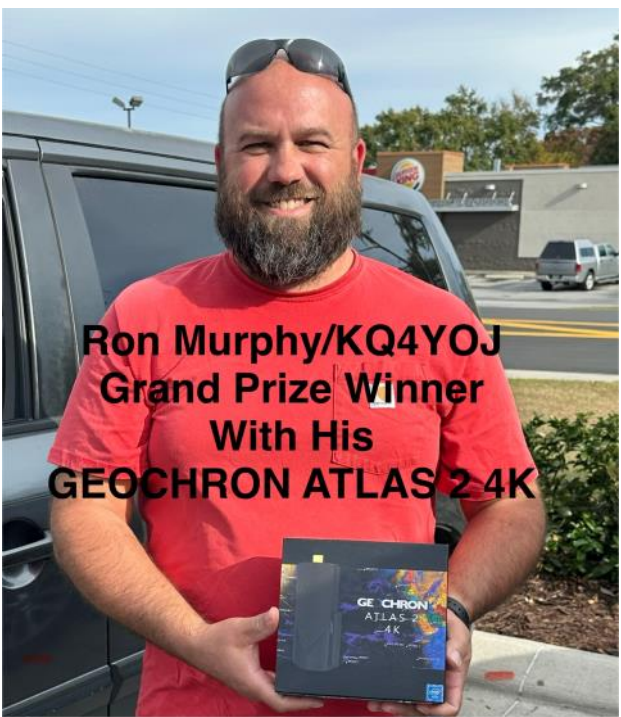
Operating Day—November 30, 2024

Ethan Rodriguez, KQ4EIC



Hamfest 2024

Izzy Irizarry, KT4WA



**Ron Murphy/KQ4YOJ
Grand Prize Winner
With His
GECHRON ATLAS 2-4K**



**John/KQ4BFO
"The Coffee Man"**



Tailgaters Setting Up



SSRC Hamfest 2025

December 6, 2025

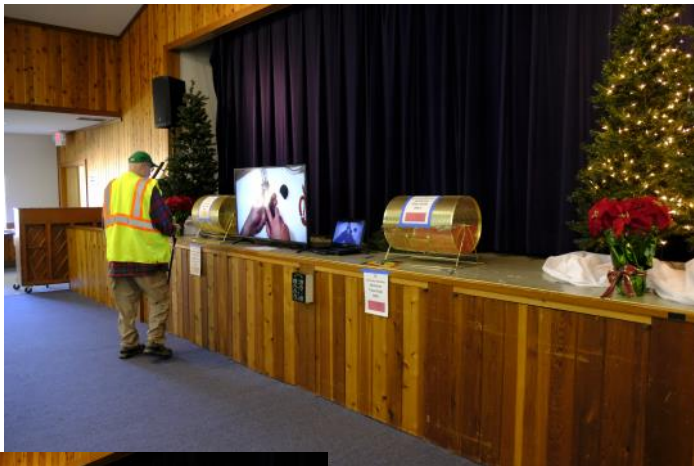
Save the Date!

Hamfest 2024

Doug Niessen, K6STS



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2024 SSRC Officers

President - [Adam Parker, NY5E](#)
Vice President - [Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY](#)
Secretary - [Wayne Peterson, AB4WP](#)
Treasurer - [Annie Allen, KN4RIC](#)
Past President - [Bill Gillespie, KW5BG](#)

Directors:

[Andy Allen, NA4DA](#) [Board and Membership](#)
[Terry Strey, KN4FMH](#) [Meeting Minutes](#)
[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—Bruce Richardson, WA4IPU](#)
[Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL](#)
[Perry Field—Terry Strey, KN4FMH](#)
[Operating Day—Ethan Rodriguez, KQ4EIC](#)

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