



The Manatee Amateur Radio Club, Inc. • An ARRL Affiliated Club

MARCI Newsletter



**The Manatee
Amateur Radio
Club, Inc.**

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Newsletter

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Keith Webb KJ4FFR

President's Column

It looks like we made it through another hurricane season with no major storms hitting our state. But, since this is an El Niño year, let's not drop our guard too much. History has shown that an El Niño brings us strong winter storms. If all of this interests you, see the next article for a unique opportunity to help your community.

We are still looking for volunteers

for the Hamfest to help out with the MARCI and ARES tables. Remember, bring what you would like to sell, (labeled with price, and call sign) and put it on the table – we have lots of room so bring it all!

Please mark your calendars – Thursday nights 7:00 – for the MARCI Information Net. The MARCI Net is looking for you!

Do you have a topic that you would like the club to explore or a question you need answered? The MARCI Net is the place to be for answers and more!

Remember this is YOUR club. I just have the honor and privilege to remind you!

Till next issue, 73

Ed Skalecki, NI4MX

Upcoming Events

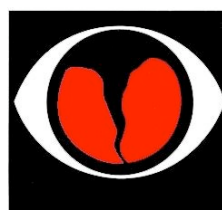
MARCI Christmas Dinner. December 1, 7pm, Firkin and Fox, 2305 Manatee Ave. E., Bradenton, FL

Breakfast at Fiona's. December 5. 8:30am, Fiona's, 15th St. E. (301 Blvd.) and 51st St. E. near Big Lots

Tampa Bay Hamfest. December 5-6, Manatee Civic Center, Palmetto, FL. <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org/>

Getting Involved with Skywarn

The Skywarn program was developed in the early 1970's in order to help the National Weather Service and local communities promote community safety during weather disturbances. Certified Skywarn Spotters report wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado and pass that information along to the local National Weather Service office, which for us is in Ruskin, Florida.



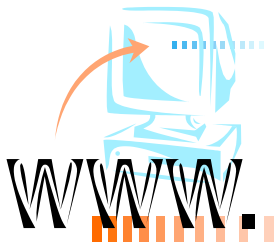
SKYWARN

The next Skywarn training in our

Skywarn training is provided by the National Weather Service. It is held throughout the area at meetings, picnics and hamfests, etc.

area will be provided in at the **Tampa Bay Hamfest** at the Civic Center in Palmetto on Sunday, December 6th at 12:00pm for the Basic Skywarn and 1:00pm for the Advanced class. Please take advantage of this opportunity to help out the National Weather Service and your community by getting certified as a Skywarn Spotter. See you in December!

Keith Webb, KJ4FFR



MARCI on the Internet

**MARCI Web Site
Club Information**
<http://www.manatee-arc.org>

**Check out the
New, Updated
MARCI Web
Site!**

West Central Florida Group

**WCFG Web Site
NI4CE Repeater Network**
<http://www.ni4ce.org>

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL)

**ARRL Web Site
The National Association for
Amateur Radio**
<http://www.arrl.org/>



**MARCI Repeater
146.820 -
100 CPS Tone**

Feature

Courtesy on the Airwaves

I think it is time to discuss a topic that is very important in any kind of radio communications. Courtesy. Being courteous at any time is vital, and nowhere more so than when communicating with individuals you have not met except over the airwaves. There courtesy takes more forms than just being polite in what you say and how you say it. There are procedures to follow when "on the air" as it were, ways of ensuring that you do not interfere with someone else's conversation.

Transmitting while someone else is doing so on the same frequency is called "stepping" on them. This can be kind of rude to do, and the solution is very simple. Just listen before you transmit. That is all it takes. If you have something important to add to the conversation already in progress, instead of just jumping in with both feet, wait until there is a natural break in the conversation. When one operator releases his Push to Talk switch, and before the other operator presses his, just give your call sign and go back to listening. One or the other of the operators will have heard you and when there is an opportunity to invite you into the conversation they normally will do so.

There are some subjects that are not normally considered suitable for amateur radio because they

usually engender strong responses: Politics, religion, sexual preferences, among others are best left to other modes of communication. If someone adds an aspect to the conversation that you find unpleasant or causes anger, just sign off appropriately according to the FCC rules. It takes two to argue, try not to be the other half of the problem. Do not try to be the radio police, no

"Being courteous at any time is vital, and nowhere more so than when communicating with individuals you have not met except over the airwaves."

one appreciates that. Just change frequencies and find someone else to have a pleasant conversation with.

If the situation involves a serious emergency, such as you just witnessed an accident and want someone to call 911, there is a different procedure, You wait for the same gap in the conversation and then call "Break Break". The other operators should immediately turn the frequency over to you and ask if they can help you. This is the ONLY time the word "Break" should ever be used on

the air. Amateur Radio is not like CB radio, there are no "Breakers". In amateur radio, the word "Break" is used only to indicate that you have an important emergency communication to pass.

While I am on that subject, there are no 10-codes either, not even 10-4. The FCC forbids the use of any kind of verbal codes that may hide the meaning of the verbiage on the air.

During a "net" (a time and place on a frequency where a group of operators will assemble for a common purpose such as passing messages to each other or informing the group about new development of interest to the group) the chances of "stepping" on one another increase dramatically. While the problem will never be solved completely, there are a few ways to minimize the problem, First one calls "This is" and then listens. If no one else is transmitting then you go ahead and transmit your call sign. If someone else is transmitting then you wait until they are done and try again the same way. All it takes is a little patience and courtesy, and the frequency is much more fun for everybody.

73,

Geoff Haines, N1GY

Getting to Know: Steve Senft, KG4LJB

Steve Senft (SS) recently sat down with Keith Webb (KW) to discuss his experiences in Amateur Radio.

KW: So Steve, I understand that congratulations are in store for you this month, why don't you tell me about that.

SS: Oh...well..... I have gotten engaged to my high school sweetheart - Cheryl. We've had an on and off relationship over the last 30 years, and have finally figured out how to make it work. We have tentative plans to be married in April of next year.

KW: What do you do for employment and how long have you been at it?

SS: I am the Service Manager for Jaytron Marine Electronics and have been with them for 17 years. I have been in the Marine Electronics business for about 26 years, focusing on repair. I repair HF and VHF radios, radar systems, GPS & Loran equipment,

inverter charger units, electronic chart plotters, etc.

KW: What got you interested in Amateur Radio?

SS: Back in the 70's (I was a kid in Jr. High School) I was all fired up by James bond movies. The cool gadgets sparked my initial interest in electronics, and soon I became interested in Short Wave listening. Radio Moscow was a lot of fun to listen to back in those days! I also heard some weird noises and sounds that I could tell were voices, but could not understand I soon found out that they were created by Ham radio operators, and I started reading every Ham radio book or magazine I could get my hands on, wanting to learn more.

After graduation, I signed up with the Navy as an Electronics Warfare Technician (Signals Intelligence). "EWs" are involved in the detection, analysis and identification of Soviet radar systems. I was also responsible

for the repair of the A/N SLQ-32 E.W. system that we used to monitor them. I received a first rate electronics education from the Navy, and could have easily passed the general class test, but the Morse code requirements kept me on the sidelines.

KW: What is your favorite part of amateur radio?

SS: Radio repair – for the most part, I am much more comfortable with a soldering iron in my hand than a microphone. I enjoy an occasional QSO – especially with hard-core engineering types and old school Elmer's (I always learn a lot from these guys), but mostly I do a lot of listening, usually while I'm repairing something.

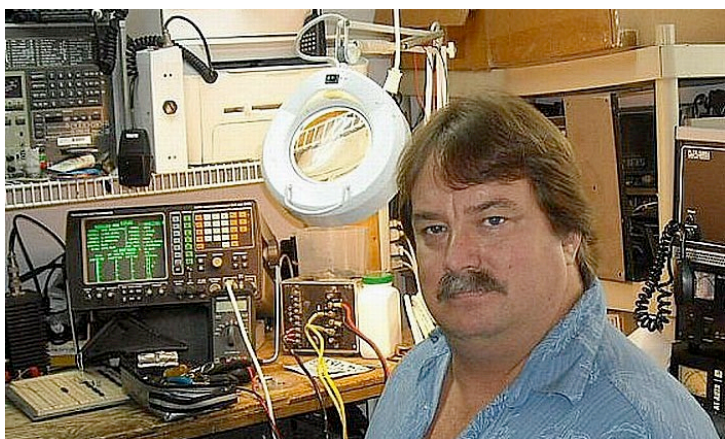
KW: Do you have much opportunity to do repair work on amateur radios?

SS: I am doing more and more Ham radio repair. It's a natural extension to what I do daily. ICOM, Vertex Standard, and Kenwood produce marine radios, and in many respects they are very similar to ham gear. Ham radios have more bells and whistles than their marine counterparts, but the core circuitry is pretty much the same.

KW: How long have you had your license and what license do you hold?

SS: I received my Tech ticket in January 2001 and upgraded to

(Continued on page 4)



MARCI member Steve Senft, KG4LJB.

The Bradenton VHF/UHF Repeater Handbook

Open VHF/UHF repeaters reachable from Bradenton are listed below. All require a PL tone of 100.

Frequency Call
Location (Operator)

147.195+ KF4MBN
Bradenton (ARES)

443.225+ KF4MBN
Bradenton (ARES)

442.125+ KF4MBN
Bradenton (ARES)

146.820- K4GG
Bradenton (MARCI)

146.955- K4BRC
Bradenton (BARC)

145.430- NI4CE
Verna (WCFG)

442.950+ NI4CE
Verna (WCFG)

146.730- N4SER
Sarasota (SERC)

147.390+ N4SER
Sarasota (SERC)

442.550+ NI4CE
Riverview (WCFG)

146.910- W4IE
Sarasota (SARA)

444.925+ W4IE
Sarasota (SARA)

Please report any corrections or changes to the MARCI Newsletter Staff.

Getting to Know...

(Continued from page 3)

Extra a couple of years ago. I also hold GROL and GMDSS commercial licenses.

KW: What radios do you have in your shack?

SS: I have a Flex 5000A, Kenwood TS-480HX, Yaesu FT-7900R. My shack also serves as my home office and repair shop. I have a few shelves full of older Icom and S.E.A. marine HF radios that are slowly being restored and sold to pay for my ham radio addiction.

KW: Tell me about the "20" (as Cheryl put it) antennas that you have in your back yard.

SS: As usual my soon to be XYL

exaggerates! I have a 40m dipole – that replaces a damaged 20m cage dipole, a 75' "inverted L", and an Arrow 2m/70cm J-pole. I am working on a 40m cage dipole that's about halfway complete – it will eventually replace the 40m dipole. That still just 3 (deployed) antennas – NOT 20!

KW: Do you have any advice for new hams that are overwhelmed by all there is to know about this hobby?

SS: Ham radio is a constantly evolving hobby, so continual education is required. Read everything you can. Get the ARRL handbook, explore Eham.com, and ARRL.org. I am a member of the ARRL and strongly en-

courage all hams to be members. They are a great asset and advocate for our hobby.

KW: Steve, I want to thank you for taking the time to talk with me and share some of your thoughts and ideas with the members of MARCI.

Until next month.....73

Keith Webb, KJ4FFR

Do you have a story to tell about how you became involved in Amateur Radio? Contact Keith to arrange an interview! His e-mail address: webbey1955@yahoo.com



MARCI Weekly Information Net

Every Thursday at 7pm
146.820 -,100 CPS Tone

MARCI Monthly Meetings

1st Tuesday of the Month Starting at 7pm
Red Cross Building
2905 59th St. W.
Bradenton, FL

Join the Manatee Amateur Radio Club! MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION—2009

Complete and mail with check for 1st year's dues to: **MANATEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**
P.O BOX 1823, ONECO, FL 34264

Or, bring it with you to the next MARCI meeting!

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____ DATE _____

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ LIC.CLASS: E A G T+ T N

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____ ARRL MEMBER? YES ___ NO ___

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____

DUES: Annual dues of \$25.00 for FULL member and \$5.00 for each family member at the same address, Student Membership is \$12.50. All are payable on or before January 1st. Memberships not renewed By March 1st will be dropped. NEW members joining after July 1st shall be at 1/2 regular yearly dues. All memberships expire on December 31st.

INTERESTS:(Circle) EMERGENCY WORK TRAFFIC HANDLING VE TEAM ELMER PUBLIC SERVICE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OTHER _____

MARCI CLUB MEMBER SPONSOR _____ CALL _____

MARCI "Name Badges" are available "Club Patches" are available -- \$4.00