

MERT



Marion County Emergency Radio Team

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

February 2021

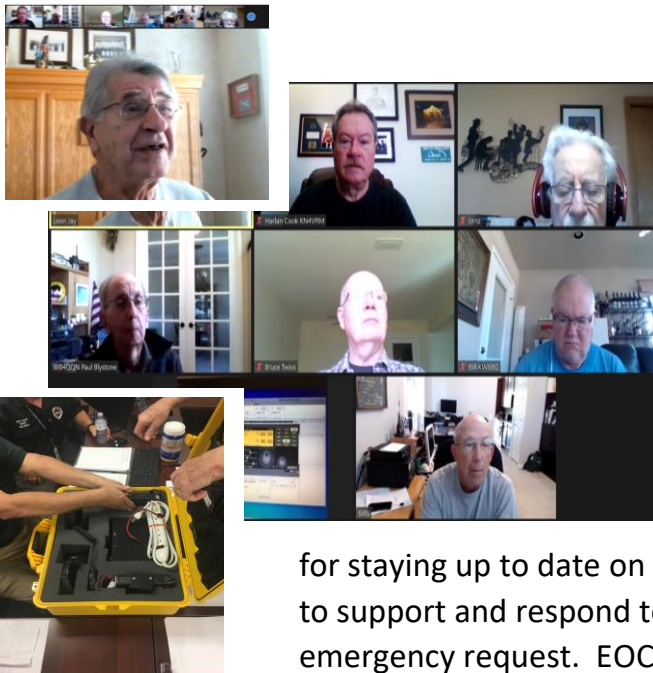
Operational Training & Readiness

The Marion County Emergency Radio Team (MERT) continues to meet, train and prepare its members and systems supporting the Marion County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management objectives.

MERT's role is focused on supporting County emergency personnel, evacuation shelters and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) within Marion County, FL with independent and mobile voice and data communications resources.

Following County and Sheriff's Office COVID safety guidelines, here's what MERT is doing:

Operational Meetings



MERT members continue weekly and monthly meetings discussing planning, readiness and general operations via Zoom video conferencing.

Topics have included tower lighting repairs, FCC Licensing updates for repeaters, FEMA Form 205 updates, MERT Go Radio programming updates along with MCSO Office of Emergency Management operational notices.

Zoom meetings are convenient and easy for staying up to date on the ongoing challenges of being prepared to support and respond to all Marion County Sheriff's Office emergency request. EOC meetings will return when authorized.

Interested in learning more about MERT? Visit.... <https://kg4nxo.com/>

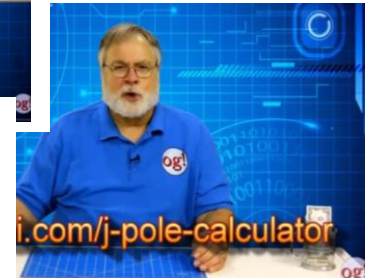
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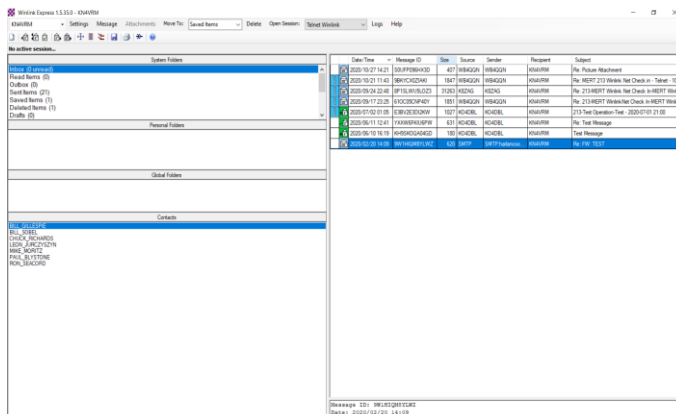
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Training

As MERT members are licensed FCC Ham Operators, learning more about amateur radio and the multitude of its interesting technical aspects is a natural part of our activities. We are also keenly focused on staying current on our radios operational parameters, new FCC regulations and practicing new technologies which rely on HAM communications.



Winlink Training



One extremely interesting and valuable new resource for HAM operators is the ability to send data text and video messages over amateur radio frequencies anywhere across the world! Whether on the open seas or from your local radio, this resource is fun to use anytime.....and an important capability during emergencies.

Winlink Weekly Tests

MERT conducts weekly Winlink tests that are open to all HAM operators each Thursday @ 19:30 L on MERT D-STAR repeater KK4DFC (146.79000MHz -0.600). The weekly NET includes a D-Rats check-in followed by a discussion of the Winlink Training Messages received by Net Control Operator.

[Interested in learning more or becoming a MERT member? Visit https://kg4nxx.com/ and click the "Contact Us" tab!](https://kg4nxx.com/)