

MERT

Marion County Emergency Radio Team



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

April 2021

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.

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:

Monthly General Meeting

After a long mandated delay in conducting our regular monthly meetings, members met on March 20, 2021 at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where several interesting presentations and discussions were held on key topics.

Leon Jurczynsyn, MERT Coordinator, K8ZAG, welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Attendee Introductions followed by the meeting's Agenda.

Training – "RFI Elimination" was introduced by Bill Sobel, K1WLS, who shared an excellent online presentation on identifying, locating and eliminating RFI, particularly in the HF bands. Common home RFI sources and solutions were shared in this informative class.



SHREK Kit Review & Update – Bill Gillespie, MERT Assistant Coordinator, KW5BG, reviewed the SHREK Kit equipment available in each container for use by MERT members during activations and deployments. He also updated everyone on the new programming every radio has in matching the ICS 205 Forms.

MERT



Marion County Emergency Radio Team

A presentation slide titled "Proposal for ARES® and MERT" with the subtitle "Get Marion County to Lead the way again!". The slide features a blue outline of a radio receiver and a microphone. To the right, under the heading "OVERVIEW", is a list of bullet points: "MISSION CAPABILITIES OF BOTH ARES® AND MERT", "OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH", "A HISTORY LESSON", "THE NEW EOC", "THE REBIRTH OF ARES® IN MARION COUNTY", "PROPOSAL", "DIRECTION", "MOVING ON", "HOW DO WE FIX IT?", "ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY", "DEPLOYMENT", and "JOINT TRAINING".

Proposal for Merging MERT and ARES/Skywarn Organizations – Carl Berry, Silver Springs Radio Club and ARES Assistant Coordinator, KC5CMX, presented a proposal on merging the MERT and ARES/Skywarn organizations to better serve the citizens of Marion County, FL. His presentation provided a history of both groups, past issues and challenges along with reasons for merging operations and membership. MERT Coordinator Leon Jurczynszyn and Assistant Coordinator Bill Gillespie supported the proposal to be presented to Preston Bowlin, Director of the MCSO Dept. of Emergency Management.

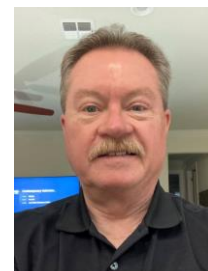
Hospital Emergency Communications

Team (HEC) Update – Dave Welker, HEC, W2SRP, provided a status update on the Hospital communications system and network activities that HAM's support locally. Like all volunteer organizations, activities over the past year have been challenging but he anticipates his group will be renewing activities very soon.



KG4NXO Repeater Trustee Update

Harlan Cook, KN4VRM, has volunteered to become the new Trustee of the repeaters KG4NXO following MERT Coordinator Chuck Richards retirement and move from Marion County. We also filed to have our license renewed which was granted by the FCC on March 23, 2021, expiring on June 12, 2031.



MERT



Marion County Emergency Radio Team

New Repeater Logs Developed

STATION CALL SIGN: _____ Frequency: _____		MERT REPEATER LOG										PAGE _____ OF _____			
STATION CALL SIGN: _____ Frequency: _____		DATE	TIME (IN & OUT)	TRUSTEE or INSPECTOR NAME	AMATUER LICENSE	REASON FOR VISIT (G, O, R, M)	DETAILS	Site Security	Interior Condition	Power Supply & UPS	Repeater	Computer	Internet	Antenna & Tower	Repeater Operation Verified

MERT has created new repeater logs documenting Inspections, Maintenance and Repair activities for the four repeaters they operate – **KG4NXO** (2 Meter @ 145.170 MHz and 70 cm @ 443.875 MHz); **KJ4CLL** (2 Meter @ 145.330 MHz); and, **KK4DFC** (2 Meter @ 146.790 MHz).

The logs are located at each repeater site and are to be used by all MERT members.



Marion County Sheriff’s Office Volunteers Appreciation Event – Sheriff Billy Woods and Sargent Paul Bloom hosted the 2021 Volunteers Appreciation Event at the World Equestrian Center on March 25th. MERT members along with over 200 other Volunteers enjoyed an evening of good fellowship, music and food together celebrating the collective support of our Marion County Sheriff’s Office and citizens.

Interested in learning more..... or becoming a MERT member?
Visit <https://kg4nxo.com/> and click the “Contact Us” tab!