

MERT



Marion County Emergency Radio Team

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

August 2021

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, image and data communications resources.

*******SPECIAL UPDATE – KK4DFC Repeater Offline*******

Special Update from Leon Jurczynsyn, MERT Coordinator:

KK4DFC is off-line until further notice due to a repeater failure.

The Thursday night MERT D-STAR NET will be on KG4NXO VHF at 7:30 PM. Please inform members and all radio amateurs that the Net will be on KG4NXO VHF 145.170 MHz until further notice.

The KJ4CLL net for all CERT members will on 145.330 MHz will be as usual, 20:00 hrs. (8pm) on Thursday.



July Monthly Meeting Cancelled

Our July meeting is cancelled so all can enjoy the time off this month.



Inventory

Our inventory efforts are winding down with the Radio room and Baseline repeater locations done. The MERT inventory is scheduled for completion by August 1st.

Kraig Pritts inputs inventory updates into the Sheriff's Office database.

KK4DFC Repeater

Leon Jurczynszyn (MERT Coordinator) and Harlan Cook (Member & KG4NXO Trustee) visited the Baseline Tower Site and removed the KK4DFC repeater on June 10th for repairs. The unit has been given to the Sheriff's Office staff for processing.



Winlink Training



Paul Blystone (Member and Winlink Administrator) encouraging all Hams to practice, practice, and practice!

"To: ALL MERT /CERT Members
From: Paul Blystone

I am attaching instructions again for any MERT/CERT Hams that want to participate in the Winlink training and practice each week.

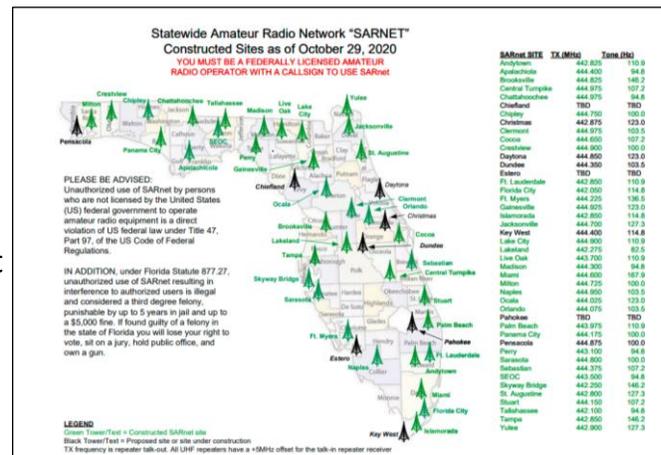
The Net Control station for Thursday's net will be....."

This familiar email from Paul encourages participation in the Winlink weekly training event. Thanks to all for joining in!

MERT participates in SARNET

(Statewide Amateur Radio Network)

Leon Jurczynszyn (MERT Coordinator) shares MERT will begin participating in the weekly Florida SARNET every Wednesday at 13:00 hours. The interconnected network provides a single HAM communications link throughout the State. The Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) created it as an alternative comm. network outside traditional Internet and voice systems.



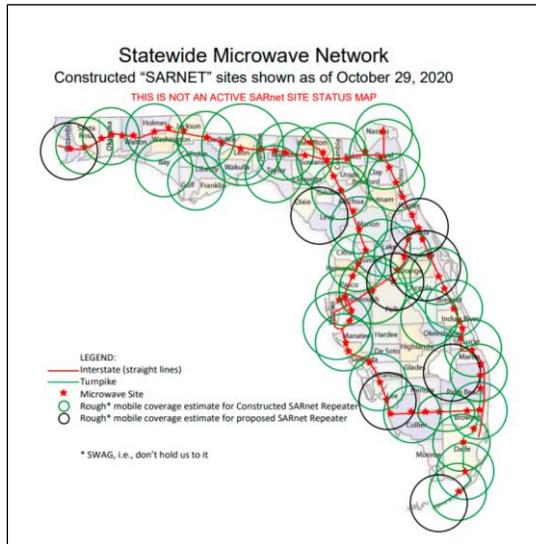
SARNET's interconnected microwave network links local Ham repeater communications across all of Florida.

Visit: <https://www.sarnetfl.com/system-maps.html>

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How does SARNET work?

A SARNET connected local UHF repeater in an area (Ocala 444.025 MHz w/PL tone 123.0 Hz) is connected to other SARNET sites across Florida using a microwave radio network operated by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). One key to SARNET's operational reliability during emergencies is using the FCC dedicated HAM bandwidth communicated statewide on a microwave network owned and maintained by FDOT.

Watch YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua2gD0ZDkvY>

Why is SARNET important to MERT?

During a significant emergency event, SARNET may be called upon for support, through an official state emergency request, and radio traffic in and out of an affected area may become heavy. Under such a scenario, it is hoped that all of the local repeater trustees in the affected area will agree to let their repeaters continue to be used as part of SARNET. During such an emergency, if a controlled net is called, it will be by Hams working with the County and State EOC's.

Want to learn more about this interesting and unique amateur radio resource? Visit SARNET at: <https://www.sarnetfl.com/>

Invitation to Attend

MERT meetings are open to all interested Amateur radio enthusiast, CERT, ARES, Skywarn members and the General Public who are interested in learning more about participating in this important volunteer Amateur radio organization.

[Interested in learning more..... or becoming a MERT member?](#)

[Visit https://kg4nxx.com/ and click the "Contact Us" tab!](https://kg4nxx.com/)