

# MERT



Marion County Emergency Radio Team

## COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

October 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.

### MERT Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meeting on Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> included these topics:

- ✓ Repeater Update (see below)
- ✓ NCS Training (Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY & ARES Emergency Coord. - Marion Co.)
- ✓ NEW Winlink Digipeater Gateway @ KG4NXO (2 Meter – 145.030 MHz)

## Local VHF Radio Mail Servers (VHF GATEWAYS)



2 Meter Gateways in Marion County supporting Radio Mail Service

Map available at: [www.kg4nxo.com](http://www.kg4nxo.com) under "Winlink" tab

## Monthly Meeting Agenda (cont.)

- ✓ WINLINK Terminal Node Controllers (TNC) - 4 PROVEN Models
  - SignalLink <https://shop.tigertronics.com/main.sc>
  - EasyDigi KF5INZ (check ebay, seller is Wareham)
  - MOBILINKED [www.mobilinkd.com](http://www.mobilinkd.com)
  - KANTRONICS KPC-3+ <https://kantronics.com/>

**MERT's next meeting will be Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the EOC. See you there!**

### **REPEATER STATUS UPDATE:**

**KJ4CLL NOW IN SERVICE (Effective October 6, 2021)**

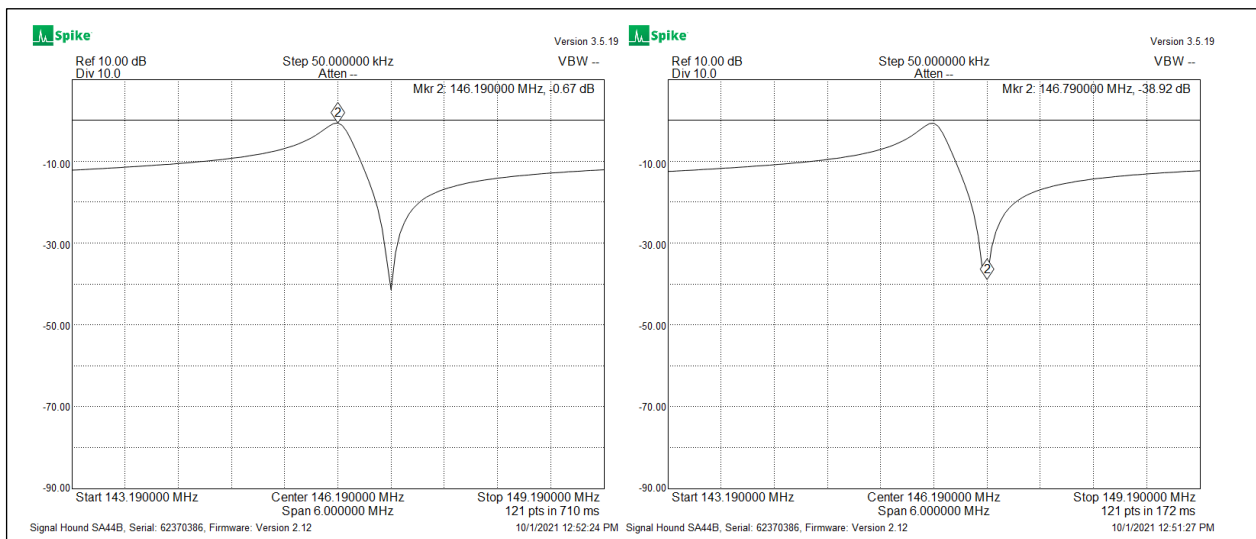
**KK4DFC OFFLINE**

Leon Jurczynsyn (K8ZAG & MERT Coordinator) reports the troubleshooting continues on MERT antennas, cables and equipment at the County radio facilities located at the Baseline Landfill & Transfer site southeast of Ocala.

We have good news on a couple fronts to report... First, ICOM found the repeater only needing minor adjustments so it has been returned and installed. Leon has also conducted detailed spectrum analysis of the diplexer which shows it to be accurately tuned and in good condition.



Marion County, FL radio communications tower @ the Baseline Landfill



Sample Spectrum Analyzer diplexer plots documenting tuning alignment for frequency & bandpass/attenuation.

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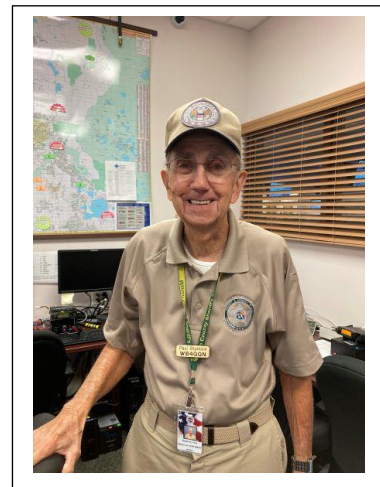
## Marion County Emergency Radio Team

As a result, all attention has now turned to the more challenging troubleshooting of the antenna and cables on the tower with the antennas located at approximately 300 ft. above ground level (AGL). Next testing of the tower cables and antennas will use MERT's MFJ-259D Antenna Analyzer.

### Winlink Training Continues

Paul Blystone, WB4QQN (MERT Winlink/Net Control Administrator) wants to invite all HAM's to the weekly Winlink training sessions.

- Each Thursday @ 19:30 L MERT D-STAR KG4NXO net, 145.170 MHz, followed by D-Rats check ins, followed by a discussion of the Winlink Training Messages received.
- Thursday @ 20:00 L MERT/CERT KJ4CLL NET, 145.330 MHz, all area MERT/CERT Hams are invited as well as all HEC Members.



### 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://kg4nxo.com/ and click the "Contact Us" tab!](https://kg4nxo.com/)**