

MERT

Marion County Emergency Radio Team



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

November 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 ONLINE*******

Special Update from Leon Jurczynsyn, MERT Coordinator:

KK4DFC has been repaired and is ONLINE.

All regular activities can return to normal operations immediately.

The Thursday night MERT D-STAR NET will be on KK4DFC at 19:30 Hrs. (7:30 PM) followed by D-Rats check-ins.

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



Leon Jurczynsyn,
MERT Coordinator

MERT October Meeting

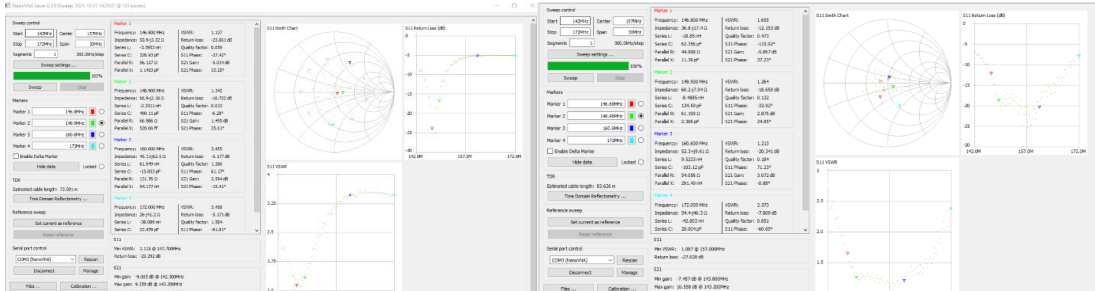
Our monthly meeting at 10 am on Saturday, Oct. 23rd included these topics:

- ✓ Pledge of Allegiance
- ✓ Silent Key Acknowledgements:
 - Bob Conn and Andy Naisbett
- ✓ Attendee Introductions
- ✓ NCS Training Overview
 - Hayden Kaufman Instructor – more info. at (haydenkaufman@gmail.com)
- ✓ Reminder: New WINLINK Gateway @ KG4NXO - 145.030 MHz (see Oct. Newsletter)



Hayden Kaufman
(N2HAY)

- ✓ Attendee's watched a good video reviewing MFJ-269C Analyzer
 - You Tube video by Eric (KJ4YZI)
- ✓ Attendee's watched a very good video reviewing the NanoVNA Vector Analyzer sharing its amazing capabilities for multiple applications for Ham's - Only \$50! (View @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THc5ZTxQUSg>)



Excellent plots using freeware from the NanoVNA Vector Analyzer of MERT's KK4DFC and KJ4CLL antennas.

New Shelter - North Marion High School



MERT facilities will be in the Managers Office with the antenna just outside the room.

(L-R) Robert Sullivan and Preston Bowlin (Sheriff's Office Emergency Mgt.) and Barbara Dobbins (Executive Director of Operations and Emergency Management) with Brady Nittina (Emergency Mgt. Coordinator) with the Marion Co. School Dist.

MERT is assisting the Marion County School District and the Sheriff's Dept. of Emergency Management in designing a new radio communications facility at North Marion H.S. The new cafeteria is a "weather hardened" design suitable for shelter use during extreme weather events and will be active in early 2022.

MERT Room Cable & Antenna Testing

Members Bill Sobel (K1WLS) and Harlan Cook (KN4VRM) completed an audit of the cables and polyphaser connections along with SWR Analyzer tests this month.



MERT Member Bill Sobel (K1WLS)

We are pleased to report that most cables and antennas passed with excellent to good SWR readings. However, two feeds had higher than expected SWR levels (the HF feeds). We will be retesting those feeds in confirming correct operation.

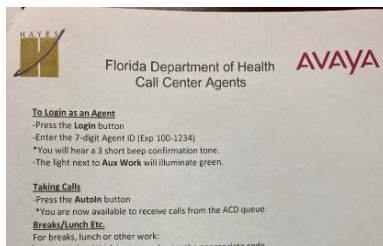


Dept. of Emergency Management Exercise

MERT Members support Dept. of Emergency Management Exercise: Several members participated in a recent EOC exercise testing the relocation of the “Citizen Information Line”. The exercise involved activating the lines at the EOC, and due to a potential evacuation order, the Operators were forced to relocate to the County Health Department. Once the move was completed, the process was reversed.

The exercise confirmed the phone transfer systems worked correctly so Operators can continue supporting citizens as required during emergency conditions.

MERT participants included Leon Jurczynszyn, Bill Gillespie, Kraig Pritts, Paul Blystone, Clint Stockton, Berny Walt, Bruce Twiss and Harlan Cook. Thanks to all MERT Members helping out!



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?](https://kg4nxo.com/)
Visit <https://kg4nxo.com/> and click the “Contact Us” tab!**