

# MERT

Marion County Emergency Radio Team



## COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

May 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, image and data communications resources.

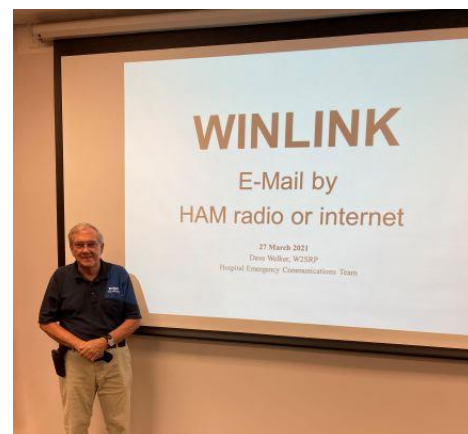
Following County and Sheriff's Office COVID safety guidelines, here's what MERT is doing:

### Monthly General Meeting

This month, attendees participated in an excellent presentation on Winlink. Winlink, or formally, Winlink Global Radio Email, also known as the Winlink 2000 Network, is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses amateur-band radio frequencies and government frequencies to provide radio interconnection services that include email with attachments, position reporting, weather bulletins, emergency and relief communications, and message relay. The system is built and administered by volunteers and is financially supported by the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation.

Dave Welker (W2SRP & Hospital HEC) presented a detailed overview with the goal to....Train ham radio operators on the WINLINK e-mail system using over the air Ham Radio and Telnet internet, so they are capable to use it during emergency communications events.

The 6-hour class was designed to help beginners through advanced users become familiar with the

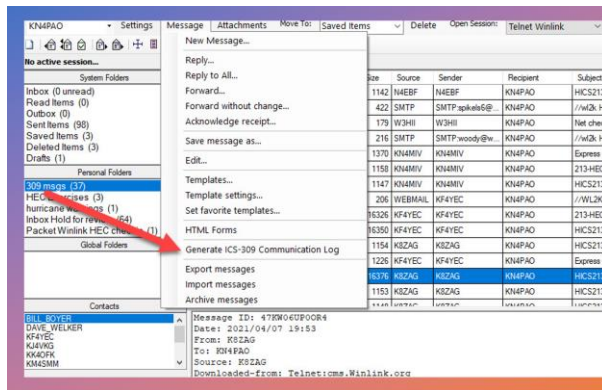


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basic setup and email functions through advanced functions. Dave has been sharing his knowledge of the Winlink email system for several years but admits it requires continuous learning and updating as Winlink continues to evolve rapidly.



Joining Dave was Albert King (KN4PAO) who shared the procedures of creating and compiling ICS-309 message logs along with extracting and organizing message photographs. His presentation reinforced the unique capabilities and resources Winlink has for Ham radio users during emergency operating conditions.

A presentation by Carl Berry (KC5CMX, ARES, Silver Springs Radio Club) on other great features of the Winlink email system are available at: <https://k4gso.us/wl2kdI2021/>

*These **MERT** contacts are available for questions and "How To" follow up inquiries:*

Paul Blystone	WB4QQN	<a href="mailto:pblystone@embarqmail.com">pblystone@embarqmail.com</a>	352/239-1486
Bill Gillespie	KW5BG	<a href="mailto:KW5BGn4@gmail.com">KW5BGn4@gmail.com</a>	727/771-5600

*These contacts with HEC (Hospital) and ARES are available for help and information:*

Dave Welker	W2SRP	<a href="mailto:dwelkerw2srp@gmail.com">dwelkerw2srp@gmail.com</a>	352/251-9188
Richard Holmquist	KJ4VKG	<a href="mailto:holmq@outlook.com">holmq@outlook.com</a>	352/355-7754
Bill Boyer	WA3YOX	<a href="mailto:wa3yox@msn.com">wa3yox@msn.com</a>	352/629-5147
Harold Wood	W3HII	<a href="mailto:woody@w3hii.com">woody@w3hii.com</a>	352/368-9047

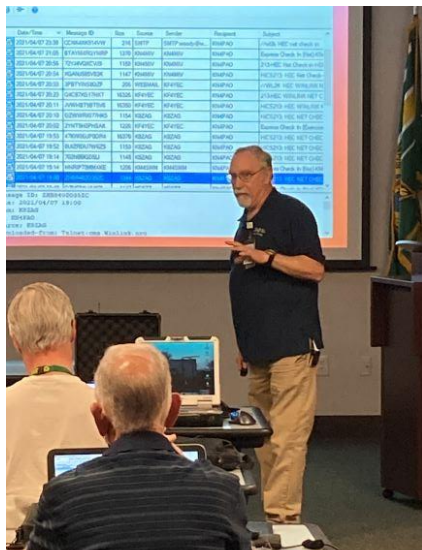
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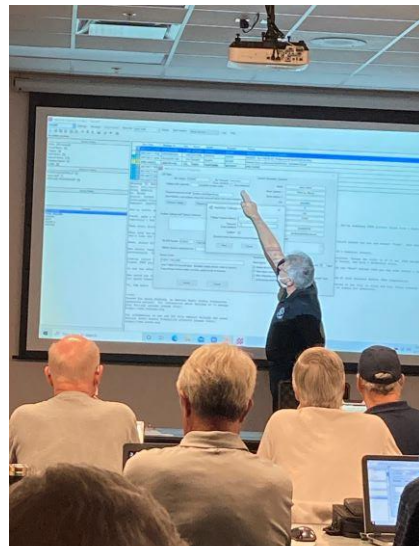
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Winlink class participants during the MERT Monthly meeting at the MCSO Emergency Operations Center.



AL King presenting details on creating ICS-309 logs in Winlink.



Leon Jurcyszyn, MERT Coordinator, helping during Q & A session.

View all Winlink presentations from April 17, 2021, visit: <https://k4gso.us/wl2kdl2021/>

**Interested in learning more..... or becoming a MERT member?  
Visit <https://kg4nxx.com/> and click the "Contact Us" tab!**