



FORT MYERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# MODULATOR

FOUNDED 1957

www.FMARC.net

May 2023



*The Official Voice of FMARC Inc*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Robert Griffin KJ4WPV*

Greetings,

I would like to thank the volunteers who came out for the Spring Cleaning of the Swap Shop on April 1, 2023. The twenty plus volunteers did an outstanding effort to clean and get rid of stuff that did not belong or had reached their end-of-life usefulness.

Although I am grateful for everyone who was a part of this effort, there is still a lot of work to be done. We will be establishing a permanent committee to oversee the Swap Shop operations. The Board of Directors with the help of the members, will decide what policies and procedures need to be put into place for the Swap Shop. We all agree some improvement and upgrades are needed. This new oversight will help make the Swap Shop a first-class facility for the Club and a benefit to hams all over Southwest Florida.

By the time you read this month's newsletter we should have a new secondary location for club

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## April Meeting

**The April Meeting of the club  
will be in the EOC and  
available on Zoom.**

**Gates at the EOC will open at  
6:30 for a 7:00 start on  
Tuesday April 25th.  
Plan on attending!**

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members to get together and operate on the air. Thanks to Bob Lewis N8GU who was instrumental in getting an agreement with Tice Fire District. As a result, this will allow members who live in HOA's or who have not gotten their ham equipment yet, an opportunity to get on the air.

They are some great opportunities in the second quarter of this year. The Dayton Hamfest is coming up in May 19-21, 2023. This is held at the Greene County Fairgrounds outside of Dayton, Ohio. If you missed Orlando Hamfest this is your next best choice.

Last but not least is our own ARRL Summer Field Day which will be held June 24-25 at the North Fort Myers recreation center grounds. You can read more about FMARC's plans in this edition of The Modulator.

Until next month we need all of you to get involved in the Club activities. It is your Club!! Let us make it great for everyone.

*Robert Griffin KJ4WPV  
President of FMARC*

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**June 24 - 25**

**North Fort Myers Park and Recreation Center, 2000  
North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers**

**Info: [field\\_day@fmarc.net](mailto:field_day@fmarc.net)**

## Southwest Florida Traffic Net Update

The weather is warming up, and so is the SWFTN. Our net participation and traffic count jumped dramatically for the month of March, and brought us to numbers that we haven't seen very much since before COVID. It is great to see some new callsigns in our monthly reporting spreadsheet, as well as six stations on the Public Service Honor Roll. Keep up the great work.

The balance of this month's column comes to us from Assistant Net Manager Rich Schnieders KR4PI. Take it away, Rich...

The Southwest Florida Traffic Net (SWFTN) meets every day, Monday through Saturday, at 10 AM on the KF4QWC repeater. Often on the net, you hear "NTS Digital." This month we would like to explore NTS Digital (NTSD).

The National Traffic System (NTS) began using voice and CW modes for the relaying of messages from one station to the next, from one region to the next. NTSD was added to provide another mode of transferring messages.

The NTSD network utilizes regional hub stations with store and forward capabilities. NTSD stations send messages to the regional hub; the hub stores those messages until a station for the destination region, or next region in the direction of travel, connects to the hub. The message then travels through the network until a local station brings the message to a local net like the SWFTN.

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<u>SAR</u>	<u>MAR</u>
W2PAX	317
KR4ST	127
KR4PI	125
K4FHR	100
KM4KME	58
W4CMH	50
W2ARP	41
W9GPI	12
NK4AA	11
K4DHP	3
WA8PDG	3
KN4CPA	1

\* SAR = Station Activity Report

<u>PSHR</u>	<u>MAR</u>
W2PAX	125
W4CMH	115
KR4PI	105
KR4ST	80
W2ARP	79
K4FHR	75

\* PSHR = Public Service Honor Roll ( In points )

<u>MONTHLY NET STATISTICS</u>	<u>MAR</u>
QNI	487
QTC	242
QND	1201
SESSIONS	27

## Southwest Florida Traffic Net Update

When first begun, NTSD stations utilized the HF digital mode of PACTOR. PACTOR is a proprietary mode with four levels. PACTOR 1, 2, and 3, are legal at all times in the United States. PACTOR 4 is allowed by the FCC after events that trigger a large number of messages and data transfers, such as after Hurricane Ian. PACTOR requires hardware modems connected to HF radios. PACTOR 1, the slowest level, can be found on devices such as a Kantronics Kam or similar devices. PACTOR 2, 3, and 4, require very expensive modems costing as much as \$2000. This high cost prevented many from becoming NTSD stations. Equipment exchanges were set up to assist operators in securing equipment at a reduced cost.

In the early 2000's, the development of "Sound Card Modems" took off. Various software-defined modes were developed, eliminating the need for expensive hardware. One of the modes is Vara-HF. Vara-HF takes the data provided by a computer, encodes it as audio tones, and sends it over an HF radio link. Much like PACTOR, but without the need for expensive hardware.

In 2021, regional NTSD hub stations began to experiment with utilizing Vara-HF in addition to PACTOR. In the Eastern Area and the 4<sup>th</sup> Region, the primary hub station has set up the hub to be responsive to PACTOR 1, 2, and 3, PACTOR 4 when allowed by the FCC, and Vara-HF. The hub station also scans several HF frequencies to enable links from stations near and far at any time of the day or night.

On the SWFTN, we have two NTSD stations. Dave Sheppard W2PAX handles digital traffic for all of Florida; Rich Schneiders KR4PI, handles digital traffic for the southwest Florida region. W2PAX has the capability to utilize both PACTOR and Vara-HF, while KR4PI has only Vara-HF. Both stations link daily with W4DNA in North Carolina, the 4<sup>th</sup> region hub. With each link, outbound messages are uploaded to W4DNA, and messages destined for respective Florida locations are downloaded.

NTSD augments the other NTS nets in moving traffic into and out of Florida. NTSD allows us to move larger amounts of traffic more quickly and accurately than via voice and CW nets. All are valuable resources to move traffic.

*(This month's column was originally planned to be a primer on service messages, and we haven't forgotten about that. The editor's deadline for this issue of The Modulator required us to move to "Plan B". We'll get back to learning about service messages next month.)*

Until next month, keep the traffic moving!

73

*Dave Sheppard W2PAX SWFTN Manager  
Rich Schnieders KR4PI SWFTN Asst. Manager*

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# License Testing

## Results of April 13 Regular Exam Session



Laurel West  
KQ4HVI  
New Technician



Stephen Marques  
KQ4HVG  
New Technician



Paul Marks  
KQ4HVE  
New Technician



Anthony Van Eyken  
KM6RSU  
Upgrade to Extra



Stephen Karolek  
KD9SFZ  
Upgrade to General



Michael Rothenbuehler  
KQ4FMX  
Upgrade to General



Luis Alvarez  
KQ4HVB  
New Technician



April VEs - Seated, Left to Right: Lynn Johnson KO4QHN, Joe Rickard NØJAR..

Standing, Left to Right: Thom Street N5KFR, Bob Pantazes W2ARP, Ryan Bobnik KO4RDZ, Dan Hays KDØFZF, Larry Stiles WF4LS, Al Schwartz K2AWS, Rich Schnieders KR4PI, Jon Scharbrough AA4JS, .

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The date of the next Regular License Test session is set for Thursday, May 11, at the EOC on Ortiz Ave. All candidates taking tests are required to pre-register. No walk-ins will be allowed at the regular sessions. You can pre register at <https://fmarc.net/exam-registration/>

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# ARES Meets to Discuss Ian Response

In March, Lee County ARES members gathered to review and comment on an “after action report”, detailing the activities and communications surrounding Hurricane Ian. The meeting at the EOC was a chance for members to talk about their experiences and recommendations.

The after action report was prepared by ARRL Lee County Emergency Coordinator Steve Smith W9GPI. Steve pulled the reports together from written and verbal input following the historic storm. “We had volunteer communicators in many locations during the storm,” Steve said. “Their input as to what was good and what was not is important for ARES and for Lee County going forward.”

A separate report was prepared that talked about the things that went well and those that need further work. Steve’s communication with Emergency Management was broken into two main sections:

## **ARES Things That Went Well**

- When the “call to serve” came ARES Team Members were prepared and willing to deploy.
- Our “Area Net” program worked well.
- Operators not assigned to specific duties (shelters / fire stations / EOCs) did regularly check in to the Area Nets and provided local situation reports.
- The repeaters used by the local ARES nets survived.
- All ARES Operators reported that they were welcomed as they reported to their assigned Shelter.



## **Items Needing Work by Lee County ARES**

- Two of the Shelters did not have power available – either from the grid or a generator -- in the room where the outside antenna terminated.
- There was little participation in the Area Nets by Amateur Radio Operators who were not ARES members.
- Once the Evacuation Order was issued and messages from ARES members who were leaving the area began coming in, it became apparent that there would not be enough operators to provide “back up support” to the operators who had been assigned to Shelters.

In closing, Steve noted Lee County was very pleased with the support from ARES and in several cases, that support was key to providing information and support. He is urging anyone interested in assisting to contact him at [w9gpi@me.com](mailto:w9gpi@me.com).

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# Field Day 2023 is Closer Than You Think

The 2023 version of the ARRL Field Day is coming up fast. FMARC Field Day co-chairs, Lynn Johnson KO4QHN and Jon Scharbrough AA4JS remind all area hams that this year's event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 24th and 25th.

The event is scheduled for the same location as the last few years. It will be at the North Fort Myers Park and Recreation Center, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL 33903. The set up is at the pavilion in the rear of the complex. There is plenty of parking and bathrooms are on site.

According to the ARRL, *"Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio."*

The FMARC effort is usually one of the most attended events the club stages each year.

"Field Day gives us all the chance to make sure we can operate safely and reliably outside of our shacks," Jon noted. He added, "We try to get as many people as possible involved."

This year, both Jon and Lynn stress the importance of letting them know if you plan to operate from the North Fort Myer location. "We have to make sure we can accomodate everyone's equipment and antennas," Lynn said. She added pre-planning was the key to making sure all operators were able to make the maximum number of contacts.

Field Day is also an excellent time for new or



newer hams to get the "feel" for working HF and during contests. "We have operators on site who will gladly step aside and let new comers get comfortable making contacts," Jon said. Lynn added, "For some people this might be the first time they have been able to get on the air in the HF bands."

Make your plans now to come to Field Day 2023. Contact Lynn and Jon at [field\\_day@fmarc.net](mailto:field_day@fmarc.net).



# Digital Corner

By Chris Freundlich KB2IDX



So, here we are just about May. Rainy season is just around the corner.

Let's finish this DMR stuff. We left off with creating a channel. A "Channel" needs to contain all the information required for radio to talk to DMR repeater or Pi-star Hot Spot.

The Graphic to the right shows the important channel info in yellow. For these purposes, nothing else there is Relevant.

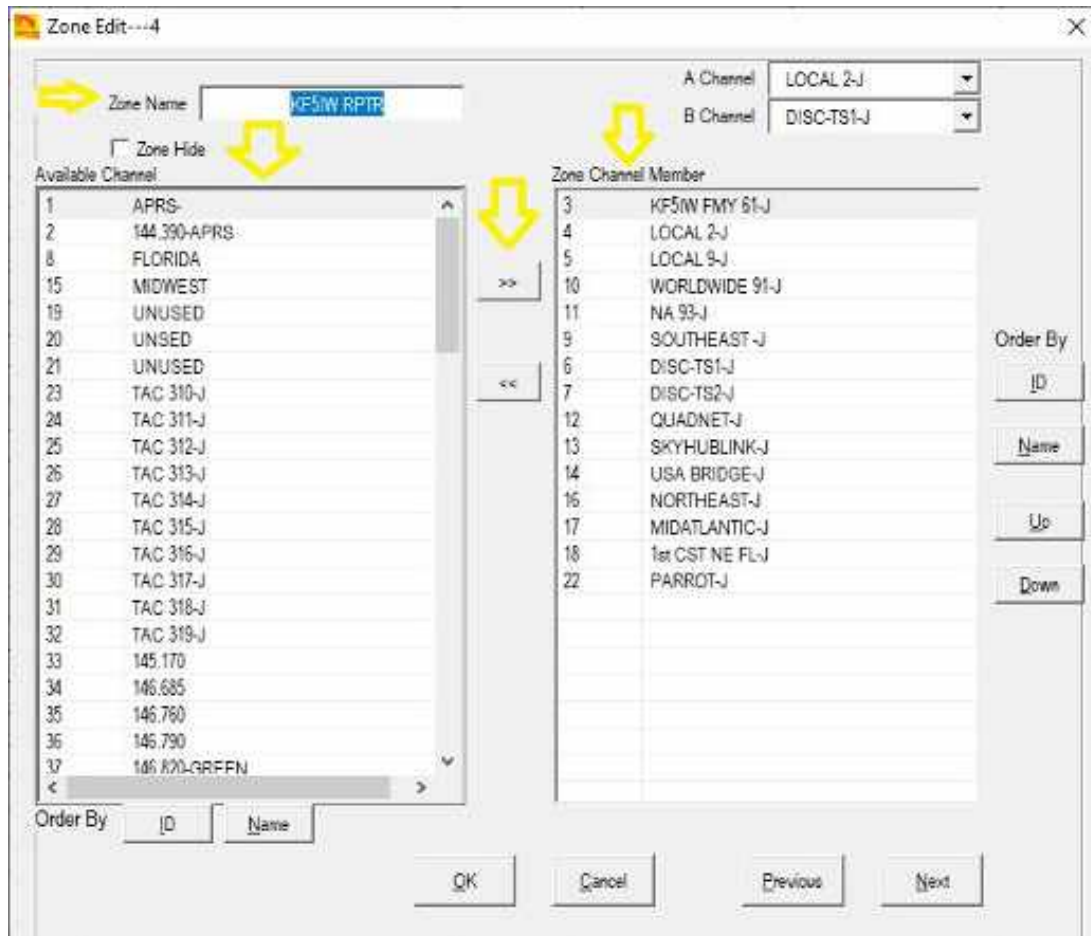
Well that's one channel that we have made. The downside is that you have to make a channel for each TALK GROUP you intend to use. There is a way to save a "template" of your set-up so that you only have to change minimal information for each talk group. For the ANYTONE radios, go to "tools" then "default channel information". Add the info for the repeater, click on "OK" and next time all the info will be there and just change the TalkGroup.

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## ZONES

A ZONE is defined as a group of your favorite channels in one place.

Click on “ZONE” on the left side menu, Click on the first available blank line. Add a Zone Name. Let’s call it “KF5IW Repeater”. Then in the lower section, you will see your created Talkgroup channels. Follow the Graphic below.



Hi-light the Channel on the left, click on the DBL arrow in the middle to transfer the talk group into your new zone. Save the whole code plug. I usually save them with todays date as the name.

Now all you have to do is send all the data to your radio and go Play!

As always, if you have problems and need help your best course of action would be to send an email to our Mentor team. [Mentor@fmarc.net](mailto:Mentor@fmarc.net)

What would you like to see the “digital corner” cover? Even if I know nothing about it, I can always find someone that does. I will try to talk them into helping with the column. You can always reach me at [KB2IDX@gmail.com](mailto:KB2IDX@gmail.com)

Chris [KB2IDX@gmail.com](mailto:KB2IDX@gmail.com)

*See ya in June!*

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# Swap Shop Spring Cleaning

A group of more than 20 FMARC members gathered at the club Swap Shop on April 1 to conduct a cleaning and purging of the facility. The volunteers helped move, sort and and gather items from the building.

The idea according to club President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV was to clean up the shop and make it more attractive. "We needed to get rid of stuff in order to have the items that will sell on display," Robert said. "If you couldn't see it...you couldn't buy it."

The members made great progress in the cleaning day and plan another session to continue the work.



Above: Items waiting to be sorted



Above: Cleaning will make it easier to display goods.

Below: Cleaning in process



Below: Vacuums headed to Goodwill

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# 2023 Storm Names

Gentle reminder...Hurricane Season officially starts on June 1st and runs through November. Now is the time to begin thinking about what you will need. Remember...It only takes one!

ATLANTIC STORM NAMES		
2023 HURRICANE SEASON		
ARLENE	HAROLD	OPHELIA
BRET	IDALIA	PHILIPPE
CINDY	JOSE	RINA
DON	KATIA	SEAN
EMILY	LEE	TAMMY
FRANKLIN	MARGOT	VINCE
GERT	NIGEL	WHITNEY

And... almost 6 months to the day after it hit, Ian is no longer in the list of names for future hurricanes. The World Meteorological Organization has "retired" the name. It will be replaced by Idris in the next 6-year cycle.

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## DMR Luncheon

A group of DMR enthusiasts meet weekly for lunch and all are invited. FMARC member Jim Blocker KF5IW said the group meets each Tuesday at Mugs and Jugs Family Grille, 5512 8th St W, Lehigh Acres.

Jim said anyone is welcome to join. "We meet around 11:15 and talk primarily about DMR, but other topics are welcomed," Jim noted.

If you would like to be put on a weekly reminder list of the meetings simply drop an email to Jim at [jim@kf5iw.com](mailto:jim@kf5iw.com).

Also, as head of the FMARC "Elmer" program, Jim is always available to answer any questions about our hobby.



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# Station Managers Needed

FMARC member Bob Lewis N8GU has put out the word that Station Managers are needed for the club station he has helped organize at a local Fire Station. In a posting on Facebook, Bob said...

*"STATION MANAGERS NEEDED FOR THE CLUB RADIO STATION AT THE TICE FIRE DISTRICT BUILDING:*

*9351 Workmen Way*

*Fort Myers, FL 33905*

*It is located very near North Trail RV Center*

*We currently have two volunteer club radio station managers: Bob Lewis N8GU and Steve Hoch WU3I. We would like to add two more station managers to the roster. The role of a station manager is to be able to be present when a club member wishes to operate a radio at the firehouse. The "on call" manager system will be by schedule depending upon availability. It is preferential that the station manager be a full time (or almost full time) resident of the Fort Myers area and reside somewhat close to the firehouse for convenience.*

*This is a new endeavor for FMARC and we are currently working on station logistics and protocols for station usage.*

*If you have an interest in being a station manager, or just be a part of the club radio station committee, please drop me your request to: [contesting@fmarc.net](mailto:contesting@fmarc.net)*

*The next club event at the firehouse will be Saturday (10am to 8pm) and Sunday (9am to 6pm), April 29-30 for the Florida QSO party. Stop on by to play radio or just get a tour."*



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# Hospital Antenna Repaired

A group of FMARC members recently recently repaired and replaced the repeater antenna atop Cape Coral Hospital. The antenna, which supports the 147.225 (Ch 9) repeater was impacted by hurricane Ian.

Bob Pantazes W2ARP lead the effort to fix the installation. Bob noted that the mount holding the antenna on the top of the building was missing a bolt. That was replaced.

Helping Bob were Al Schwartz K2AWS, Ron Previty KA4EET and Scott Bauer KO4RTM. In addition Bob reported the .225 has been returned as part of the "linked" repeater system.



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## Zoom Moderators

FMARC is looking for some members to become Moderators on the club's Zoom meetings. At present there are three people who serve as Moderators. The club has decided that a few more people need to be trained.

Zoom is used for all regular and Board of Director meetings. In addition, it is sometimes used in other gatherings.

The Moderators (there are two for each meetings) monitor and control entry into the session and run the video and audio systems at the meeting site. A laptop is needed only for remote operation. A laptop, camera and audio system is stored for FMARC use at the EOC and available for the onsite moderator. The current Moderators will provide all needed training.



If you are interested in joining the "Zoom Team" drop a note to [zoom@fmarc.net](mailto:zoom@fmarc.net).

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## Do You Remember?

Periodically we will post a couple of questions that are found in the current FCC License Question Pool for the various levels of tickets. Give it a try and see if you remember or just plain "know" the answers....Answers can be found elsewhere in this month's Modulator.

### Technician Level

#### **T1C05**

*Which of the following is a valid Technician class call sign format?*

- A. KF1XXX
- B. KA1X
- C. W1XX
- D. All these choices are correct

#### **T9A12**

*What is an advantage of a 5/8 wavelength whip antenna for VHF or UHF mobile service?*

- A. It has more gain than a 1/4-wavelength antenna
- B. It radiates at a very high angle
- C. It eliminates distortion caused by reflected signals
- D. It has 10 times the power gain of a 1/4 wavelength whip

### General Level

#### **G2E15**

*Which of the following is a requirement when using the FT8 digital mode?*

- A. A special hardware modem
- B. Computer time accurate within approximately 1 second
- C. Receiver attenuator set to -12 dB
- D. A vertically polarized antenna

#### **G6A05**

*What is the approximate junction threshold voltage of a conventional silicon diode?*

- A. 0.1 volt
- B. 0.3 volts
- C. 0.7 volts
- D. 1.0 volts

### Extra Level

#### **E1C08**

*What is the maximum permissible duration of a remotely controlled station's transmissions if its control link malfunctions?*

- A. 30 seconds
- B. 3 minutes
- C. 5 minutes
- D. 10 minutes

#### **E6C03**

*What is tri-state logic?*

- A. Logic devices with 0, 1, and high-impedance output states
- B. Logic devices that utilize ternary math
- C. Low-power logic devices designed to operate at 3 volts
- D. Proprietary logic devices manufactured by Tri-State Devices



## New Members of FMARC

Kelly Dennis KD9WTO - Morton IL  
Eric Rolston KQ4GWH - Cape Coral  
Randy Villanueva KQ4GTX - Cape Coral  
William Atkinson KB8WCO - Punta Gorda  
Manuel Dotel N4SQK- Cape Coral  
Peter Laimann KB2NJE - Cape Coral  
John Kelso W1MBG - Cape Coral  
Stephen McGrath AA1HF - Easthampton MA

## FMARC Groups.io Is Up and Running

Groups.io is a new way to share information with FMARC members. It will not replace other methods (meetings, emails, The Modulator, website, Facebook, etc.). Rather it will enhance the ability of the club and members to exchange and store information.

To take part in Groups.io, you will have to sign up for an account and then request permission to join the FMARC group. It is all very simple. Begin here: <https://groups.io/register>. Again, if you already have an account, log in and search for FMARC. Then just request permission to join,

If you run into any problems, contact Chris Freundlich KB2IDX at [kb2idx@gmail.com](mailto:kb2idx@gmail.com)

Take a moment today and sign up!



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# Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

## Minutes of the March 28, 2023 General Meeting

**Please Note: This meeting was held both In Person and virtually via Zoom.**

The March 28, 2023 General meeting of the FMARC was called to order by President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Rich Schnieders KR4PI provided the Invocation.

President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV welcomed new members and visitors. Recognized were Alex Cochran KB4LX, Gavin Gilbert KQ4GUI, and Sandy Davis who plans to test soon.

On the Care List – Steve Clayton K4SJC, Bill Day KN4RML, Andy Blitz KO4FEY Frank Rabb K4FHR, Steve Smith W9GPI, Shirley Griffin.

There were no Silent Keys noted.

**A motion made by Paul Meyer N2OPW seconded by Al Schwartz K2AWS to approve the minutes of the last general meeting as posted in the recent issue of the Modulator. The motion was approved on a voice vote.**

### Officer Reports

**President:** Robert Griffin KJ4WPV said he was glad to be back. He reported that everyone at his house is healing. Thank you for all the calls checking on us.

**Vice President:** Jeff Kennedy NK4AA thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He reminded all the FMARC Groups.io system is up and running.

**Secretary:** Lynn Johnson KO4QHN had no report.

**Treasurer:** Leo Windler W4LJW presented the Board with a summary of all monies and accounts for the club.

**Al Schwartz K2AWS moved approval of the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Mel Schroth KW4MEL. Motion approved on voice vote.**

**Director:** Jon Scharbrough AA4JS reported Buckingham was a great success. He said he hoped to see everyone at the Swap Shop spring clean up.

**Director:** Rick Lawrence W4RIC said he was looking forward to the Swap Shop cleanup. He urged members to come out.

**Past President:** Steve Clayton K4SJC advised has only two low cost radio's left. Contact him if you want one. Steve also presented Mel Schroth KW4MEL with a service award for her enthusiastic spirit and willingness to volunteer over the past year. The award was announced at the annual FMARC holiday celebration last December.

### Committee Reports

**Elmer/Mentor:** Jim Blocker KF5IW helped three Hams this month. Thanks to his team.

**HamFest 2024:** Mel Schroth KW4MEL announced that FSW has not increased the usage fee for next year's Hamfest. She requested approval to sign the contract with FSW for next year January 19-20, 2024.

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**Steve Hoch WU3I made a motion to approve the signing of the 2024 FSW Hamfest agreement. The motion was seconded by Artis Kitchens N3XGL. The motion was approved.**

**Technical Committee:** Robert Pantazes W2ARP reported the new antenna has been erected at Cape Coral Hospital. He thanked Al Schwartz K2AWS, Scott Bauer KO4RTM, and Ron Previty KA4EET for their help.

**Special Events/ARISS:** Brian Darley KM4YHZ said the Buckingham event was the best ever with 919 contacts. Some of the Canterbury students came out. He has requested the same week next year.

#### **New Business**

**License Testing:** In response to a question, Larry Stiles WF4LS explained the new FCC RF standards beginning May 3, 2023. The details are located in the last issue of the Modulator. Hams

can complete the ARRL online RF calculator and keep the report in your shack.

**Summer Field Day:** Jon Scharborough AA4JS requested everyone to save the dates June 24-25.

**ARRL Report:** Leo Windler W4LJW will provide the attendance figures from the last three Hamfests as requested by Barry Porter KB1PA ARRL SFL Section Manager.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn by was presented by Ryan Bobnik KO4RDZ and seconded by Bob Pantazes W2ARP. The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

*Minutes submitted by  
Lynn Johnson KO4QHN  
Secretary*



**June 24th and 25th 2023**

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# Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

## Minutes of the April 11, 2023 Board Meeting

**Please Note: This meeting was held both In Person and virtually via Zoom.**

The April 11, 2023 meeting of the FMARC Board of Directors was called to order by President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Rich Schnieders KR4PI provided the Invocation.

The President called the roll.  
President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV Present  
Vice-President Jeff Kennedy NK4AA Present  
Secretary Lynn Johnson KO4QHN Present  
Treasurer Leo Windler W4LJW Present  
Director Jon Scharbrough AA4JS Present  
Director Rick Lawrence W4RIC - Present  
Past President Steve Clayton K4SJC Present

President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He requested we remember those on the Care List. Bill Day KN4RML, Shirley Griffin, Steve Clayton K4SJC and Tom Provanzano KM4LPW

**Silent Key:** None were noted.

**A motion made by Lynn Johnson KO4QHN and seconded by Rick Lawrence W4RIC to approve the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting as posted in the recent issue of the Modulator. The motion was approved on a voice vote.**

### Officer Reports

**President:** President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV said there was a good job on the swap shop cleanup. He thanked all who volunteered.

**Vice President:** Jeff Kennedy NK4AA reported that he will be speaking before the Cape Coral CERT Team on April 20.

**Secretary:** Lynn Johnson KO4QHN had no report

**Treasurer:** Leo Windler W4LJW provided the monthly cash report.

**Rick Lawrence W4RIC offered a motion to approve Treasurer's report. Jon Scharbrough AA4JS seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**Director:** Jon Scharbrough AA4JS said he would hold his report until Field day committee reports.

**Director:** Rick Lawrence W4RIC thanked everyone who helped at swap shop.

**Past President:** Steve Clayton K4SJC had no report.

### Committee Reports

**Membership/Technial:** Bob Pantazes W2ARP reported that Steve Smith W9GPI purchased an antenna for the club and needs to be reimbursed.

**Rick Lawrence W4RIC offered a motion to reimburse antenna expenses incurred by Steve Smith W9GPI. It was seconded by Lynn Johnson KO4QHN. The motion passed.**

Bob presented a list of new members to the board.

**Jon Scharbrough AA4JS offered a motion to approve new members as presented. Leo Windler W4LJW seconded the motion. The motion passed on voice vote.**

**Hamfest 2024:** Mel Schroth KW4MEL reported that she submitted the Ham Fest 2024 agreement to FSW.

**Summer Field Day:** Lynn Johnson KO4QHN asked that club members "Please say yes" when asked to help out. She said organizers are going to target all of the new Technicians we have since last field day to come and operate on the GOTA

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station. Jon Scharbrough AA4JS presented a request to spend up to \$499.00 on custom Summer Field day t-shirts.

**Rick Lawrence W4RIC offered a motion to purchase Summer Field Day t-shirts, not to exceed \$499. It was seconded by Jeff Kennedy NK4AA. The motion passed.**

**POTA:** Bob Lewis N8GU reported that the Tice Fire Station #1 agreement has been signed. He presented the signed document to the Robert Griffin KJ4WPV club president. The next contesting activity will be the QSO Party April 29 & 30 at the fire station. He urged members to contact him if they plan to attend. Jeff Kennedy NK4AA requested that a sign-in log be maintained of any members who come to the Fire station.

**Webmaster/Zoom:** Tom Muye AC4TM reported that the club now has a complete Zoom station. It is stored in the Radio room at the EOC.

**Safety:** Robert Ficarelli KM4OWA will not be in attendance at Summer Field day. Robert Griffin will perform the Safety checks on Saturday. He is looking for a volunteer for Sunday.

### Old Business

**Swap Shop:** President Bob Griffin KJ4WPV lead a discussion about the swap shop project. The clean up day was a great beginning effort. There is still a great deal of work to do. He laid out a series of tasks that the NEW Swap Shop committee will complete. He will announce the committee members at the general meeting. Jeff Kennedy NK4AA will serve as the board representative to Swap Shop committee. He will periodically report on progress towards implementing the new tagging/sales system setup.

1. Inventory the Swap Shop
2. Convert the current files to Windows OS.
- 3 Configure a dedicated swap shop laptop

(Andy Blitz KO4FEY has offered one to the club)

4. Use Access (database) versus Excel (Andy Blitz KO4FEY is completing this task)

5. Complete the installation of 3 ceiling fans (Melodie Schroth KW4MEL will assist with this).

6. Establish a swap shop committee.

7. Establish a policy for Ham Equipment only.

8. All donations will have 1 year life.

Discussion around the ceiling fans was tabled until a future meeting.

Members with comments are asked to send an email to either [president@fmarc.net](mailto:president@fmarc.net) or [VP@fmarc.net](mailto:VP@fmarc.net).

### New Business

Jeff Kennedy NK4AA presented for Property Control Chair Don Domina KC0DE a request to approve the payment of club equipment Insurance Premium for 2024. The premium has increased due to an increase in equipment we need to insure. The total value of equipment to be covered by the policy is \$68,283. The premium is \$955.96.

**Lynn Johnson KO4QHN present a motion to approve the expense as presented. Rick Lawrence W4RIC seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

President Robert Griffin KJ4WPV requested a motion to adjourn.

**Rick Lawrence W4RIC moved adjournment second by Jon Scharbrough AA4JS. The motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

*Minutes submitted by  
Lynn Johnson KO4QHN  
Secretary*

# FORT MYERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Robert Griffin	KJ4WPV
Vice President	Jeff Kennedy	NK4AA
Secretary	Lynn Johnson	KO4QHN
Treasurer	Leo Windler	W4LJW
Director 2024	Rick Lawrence	W4RIC
Director 2023	Jon Scharbrough	AA4JS
Past President	Steve Clayton	K4SJC

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ARES®	Stephen Smith	W9GPI
ARRL Liaison	Dave Sheppard	W2PAX
Club Chaplain	Rich Schnieders	KR4PI
Contesting	Bob Lewis	N8GU
Education	Stephen Smith	W9GPI
Elmer	Jim Blocker	KF5IW
Field Day co Chair	Jon Scharbrough	AA4JS
Field Day co Chair	Lynn Johnson	KO4QHN
Greeter	Mel Schroth	KW4MEL
Hamfest	Mel Schroth	KW4MEL
Membership	Bob Pantazes	W2ARP
Modulator Editor	Don Domina	KCØDE
Monday Net Mgr	Joe Rickard	NØJAR
Picnic	Mel Schroth	KW4MEL
PIO	John Wells	W4CMH
POTA	Bob Lewis	N8GU
Programs	Brian Darley	KM4YHZ
Projects	Tom Muye	AC4TM
Property Control	Don Domina	KCØDE
Safety Director	Robert Ficarelli	KM4OWA
QSL Manager	Bob Pantazes	W2ARP
Social	Brittany McDonnell	KJ4OYP
Special Events	Brian Darley	KM4YHZ
SK Estates	Brian Darley	KM4YHZ
Swap Shop	Joe Ryan	N3NAI
Technical	Robert Pantazes	W2ARP
Trailer	Tom Muye	AC4TM
VE Team Lead	Larry Stiles	WF4LS
Webmaster	Tom Muye	AC4TM
W4LX Trustee	Tom Muye	AC4TM

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (FMARC) is to train and assist Ham Radio Operators to carry on the tradition of amateur radio; and, members of FMARC are dedicated to providing education to the general public about the history, operation, functions and benefits of the Amateur Radio Service.

## PURPOSE

The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was formed to provide members the pleasure and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio.

## OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate the exchange of information
- To promote knowledge of electronics and amateur radio
- To promote good radio operating practices
- To further the art of Amateur Radio
- To sponsor and promote activities relating to amateur radio
- To render public service during emergencies.
- To participate in appropriate community activities.

## MODULATOR

The Modulator is published by the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. to inform our members of Club Events and educational or training opportunities.

Members of FMARC are invited to submit articles for the Modulator. The Modulator is the official voice of FMARC. Submissions of articles or advertisements for the Modulator must be made not later than the 15th of each month.

Questions or comments can be e-mailed to:

Modulator@fmarc.net

Show 'MODULATOR' as the Subject

Or send by postal mail to:

**FMARC**

**Attn: Modulator Editor**

P.O. Box 061183

Fort Myers, FL 33906

## NOW AT THE SWAP SHOP

Questions? Contact Joe: [n3nai@hotmail.com](mailto:n3nai@hotmail.com)

### Now At the Swap Shop

FT 450D W/HARBOR FREIGHT HARD CASE  
\$450.00  
POWER SUPPLY AND DIGITAL WINLINK ETC  
AND ORIGINAL BOX  
FT 450D PS AND ORIGINAL BOX \$400.00  
TYT 9000D ONLY TESTED \$100.00  
KW TUNERS SEVERAL MAKES \$125.00  
300 WATT TUNERS MOSTLY MFJ \$60 TO \$75  
1 ICOM 1 YAESU AUTOTUNERS \$100.00  
BENCHER KEY \$70.00  
2M 220 AND 440 CHINA MOBILE \$60.00  
HTS CHINA AND JAPAN MADE \$15 TO 50.00  
DUAL BAND OLDER MOBILES \$40.00  
SEVERAL DATA MOBILES \$40.00  
POWER SUPPLIES 2.5 7. 10.12&13. 20 AND 35  
AMP PS \$10 TO \$80  
WE JUST GOT IN SEVERAL HF RADIOS 1  
HYBRID PRICE TBD  
SCANNERS \$10 TO 20  
ANTENNAS  
MOSLEY TRIBAND \$150, VHF BEAM LOOKS  
USABLE \$15.00 . DUAL BAND J POLES \$15  
\$15 IS LESS THAN  
21 FOOT 18 FOOT EASY WAY CRANK UP  
TOWER LIKE CLUB USED TO  
USE FIELD DAY \$125.00  
SOME USED COAX \$.10 CENTS FOOT PLUS  
\$1 DOLLAR EACH  
NEW AND USED  
RG 58 \$.25 FT. RG 8X \$.45 FT CRIMP  
CONNECTORS WITH 8X PURCHASE ONLY  
\$4.00  
CABLE,SAT AND TV COAX \$.10 NEW USED  
DONATION  
TV TWIN LEAD \$.20 FT GOOD FOR ROLLUP J  
POLES  
OTHER BASE ANTENNAS NEED TO IDENTIFY  
BUT REASONABLE  
PRICE .

### FOR SALE

**Yaesu FT 2980 80W 2M** Transceiver  
Like New \$125  
**Icom 4100 2M/440 D-Star** Transceiver  
Like New \$300  
Contact Dave Sheppard W2PAX  
[swftn@fmarc.net](mailto:swftn@fmarc.net)

### Swap Shop

Open 2nd and Last Saturday 11AM to 1PM  
And don't forget you can "tailgate" for no charge

**FMARC Swap Shop**  
**Waterway Park**  
**5820 Poetry Ln**  
**North Fort Myers, FL**

The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
is a US 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
Membership consists of both Federal  
Communication Commission (FCC) and  
Internationally-licensed amateur radio  
operators who volunteer themselves,  
their communications experience and  
equipment in support of emergency and  
community services.

Our club meets once a month at the  
Lee County Emergency Operations  
Center, 2675 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers,  
FL 33905. We hold our General meeting  
on the last Tuesday of every month at  
7:00 pm.

Friends, interested persons and Hams  
from all over meet for reports from  
committee chairpersons, announcements  
of present and future activity, old business  
issues, any new business for the club,  
and a program after the meeting.

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## VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

Conduct Exams for new Amateur Radio Licenses and License Upgrades on the 2nd Thursday of the month. 6:30 pm at the Lee County EOC. More information is available on the Club's Web Site: [www.fmarc.net](http://www.fmarc.net), under the "License & Education" tab.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Lee County Emergency Operations Center, 2675 Ortiz Avenue, Ft Myers FL at 7:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss plans and issues for the club, as well as go over new business, old business and pending items. All members are encouraged to attend.

## ARES®

Our ARES Group meets at 7 pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except November & December) at the Lee County Emergency Operations Center, 2675 Ortiz Avenue, Ft Myers FL  
For Info on ARES in Lee County, please contact:

Steve Smith (W9GPI)  
ARES Emergency Coordinator  
(920) 251-6249 or [W9GPI@arrrl.net](mailto:W9GPI@arrrl.net)  
[www.aresraces-leecountyfl.org](http://www.aresraces-leecountyfl.org)

## SWAP SHOP

A gathering of Hams and friends is held on the 2nd & Last Saturdays at 11:00 AM at the clubhouse in Waterway Park located at 5820 Poetry Lane, North Fort Myers. Sell, swap and bargain for ham radio gear.

## GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

The LAST Tuesday of each month. Members, friends, and interested persons meet at the Lee County Emergency Operations Center, 2675 Ortiz Avenue, Ft Myers FL, at 7:00 PM for reports from all committee chairpersons, announcements of present and future activity, old business issues, any new business for the club, and a program or presentation.

## The Club's Web Site is

<http://www.FMARC.net>

## FMARC Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/631010997863075>

## FMARC Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/FMARCFort-Myers-Amateur-Radio-Club-Inc-1509463055951816>

## FMARC Hamfest Website

<http://swflhamfest.info/>

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## SOME LOCAL NETS

### Loggerhead Net

146.790 on  
Sunday 7:30pm

### Windmill Net

28.475 USB on  
Sunday 9:00pm

### Southwest Florida Traffic Net

146.685 Mon-Sat  
10:00am

### Catholic Charities

Net 2nd Monday  
at 11:00 am

### FMARC Club Net

Linked Repeaters  
Monday 7:00pm

### The Newbie Net

146.820 - Monday  
Approx. 7:45pm

### ARES® NET

Linked Sys. Wed 7:00pm

### Buck & a Quarter Net

224.52 MHz Wed 7:30pm

### Yaesu Fusion Net

(DN Mode)

On the 444.675 and  
444.750

Linked Repeaters

Wednesday, 8:00 pm.

### The DMR Net

KF5IW Repeater,  
Talk Group Local 2,  
2nd and 4th Thursday, 7:00pm.

### The D-Star Net

443.450 Repeater  
1st and 3rd Thursday, 7:00pm.

### Cape Coral Gabfest

146.490 simplex,  
Thursday, 8:00pm

## Guide to Member Benefits



### ARRL Online | [www.arrl.org/myarrl](http://www.arrl.org/myarrl)

Create an online ARRL Member account, and get access to members-only benefits. Register at [www.arrl.org/myARRL](http://www.arrl.org/myARRL). Already registered? Log in at the top of the ARRL website.

- **Magazines** | [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst) and [www.arrl.org/ota](http://www.arrl.org/ota)  
Members in the US receive a choice of print magazine: *QST*, ARRL's membership journal (12 monthly issues), or *On the Air*, our new magazine for new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs (6 bimonthly issues). All members can access the digital editions of *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ* from a web browser and apps available for iOS, Android, and Kindle Fire devices. Members need a valid ARRL account to access ARRL's digital magazines, the Archives and Periodicals Search, and the Product Review Archive.
- **E-Newsletters** | [www.arrl.org/myarrl](http://www.arrl.org/myarrl)  
Subscribe to the weekly **ARRL Letter** and a variety of other ARRL e-newsletters and announcements.
- **The ARRL Current Email Newsletter**  
Members can elect to receive this monthly email within their online profile. Each issue provides a reminder of the available digital magazine issues and highlights articles from all four digital publications, along with podcast overviews, benefit updates, product and publication specials, and more.
- **ARRL Learning Network**  
[www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network)  
This 30-minute webinar series features member-volunteers covering a variety of topics: technology, operating, and public service. Live presentations are recorded for viewing later.
- **Email Forwarding Service**  
Email sent to your [arrl.net](mailto:arrl.net) address will be forwarded to any email account you specify.

### Technical Information Service | [www.arrl.org/tis](http://www.arrl.org/tis)

Call or email our expert ARRL Technical Information Service specialists for answers to all of your technical and operating questions.

### Join or Renew [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join)

**Donate**  
[www.arrl.org/donate](http://www.arrl.org/donate)

### Benefits [www.arrl.org/benefits](http://www.arrl.org/benefits)

**Shop**  
[www.arrl.org/shop](http://www.arrl.org/shop)

### Advocacy | [www.arrl.org/regulatory-advocacy](http://www.arrl.org/regulatory-advocacy)

ARRL supports legislation and regulatory measures that preserve and protect meaningful access to the radio spectrum. Our **ARRL Regulatory Information Branch** answers member questions concerning FCC rules and operating practices. **ARRL's Volunteer Counsel** and **Volunteer Consulting Engineer** programs open the door to assistance with antenna regulation and zoning issues.

### Group Benefits\* | [www.arrl.org/benefits](http://www.arrl.org/benefits)

- **ARRL Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan**
- **Liberty Mutual Auto and Home Insurance**  
\*US only

### Find...

...a License Exam Session | [www.arrl.org/exam](http://www.arrl.org/exam)  
...a Licensing Class | [www.arrl.org/class](http://www.arrl.org/class)  
...a Radio Club (ARRL-affiliated) | [www.arrl.org/clubs](http://www.arrl.org/clubs)  
...a Hamfest or Convention | [www.arrl.org/hamfests](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests)

### Interested in Becoming a Ham?

[www.arrl.org/newham](http://www.arrl.org/newham)  
[newham@arrl.org](mailto:newham@arrl.org) | Tel. 1-800-326-3942 (US)

### Connect with ARRL

**ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®**

225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1400 USA  
1-860-594-0200, Mon. – Fri. 8 AM to 5 PM ET except holidays  
FAX 1-860-594-0259, email [hq@arrl.org](mailto:hq@arrl.org)  
Contact ARRL: [www.arrl.org/contact-arrl](http://www.arrl.org/contact-arrl)



Website: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)  
Facebook: [@ARRL.org](https://www.facebook.com/ARRL.org)  
Twitter: [@arrl](https://twitter.com/arrl), [@w1aw](https://twitter.com/w1aw), [@arrl\\_ars](https://twitter.com/arrl_ars)  
Instagram and Instagram TV: [@arrlhq](https://www.instagram.com/arrlhq)  
YouTube: [ARRLHQ](https://www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ)  
LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/american-radio-relay-league](http://www.linkedin.com/company/american-radio-relay-league)

### The American Radio Relay League, Inc.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® in the United States; supports the awareness and growth of Amateur Radio worldwide; advocates for meaningful access to radio spectrum; strives for every member to get involved, get active, and get on the air; encourages radio experimentation and, through its members, advances radio technology and education; and organizes and trains volunteers to serve their communities by providing public service and emergency communications (*ARRL's Vision Statement, adopted in January 2016*).

ARRL is an incorporated, noncommercial association without capital stock chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut, and is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Its affairs are governed by a Board of Directors, whose voting members are elected every 3 years by the general membership. The officers are elected or appointed by the Directors.

ARRL is noncommercial, and no one with a pervasive and continuing conflict of interest is eligible for membership on its Board.

"Of, by, and for the radio amateur." ARRL numbers within its ranks the vast majority of active amateurs in the nation and has a proud history of achievement as the standard-bearer in amateur affairs.

A *bona fide* interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership; an amateur radio license is not a prerequisite, although full voting membership is granted only to licensed amateurs in the US.

Membership inquiries and general correspondence should be addressed to the administrative headquarters: ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, Connecticut 06111-1400 USA.

May 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>FMARC Net 7:00pm</b> <u>Newbie Net Follows</u> after <u>FMARC Net</u>	<b>2</b> SWFTN 10:00am	<b>3</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>ARES Net 7pm</b> <b>220 NET 7:30pm</b> <b>FUSION Net 8:00pm</b>	<b>4</b> SWFTN 10:00am D-Star Net 7pm LDS Net 7:30pm CC Gabfest 8pm	<b>5</b> SWFTN 10:00am	<b>6</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>WinLink Exercise</b> <b>7:00 AM – 8:00PM</b>
<b>7</b> Loggerhead Net 7:30pm Windmill Net 9pm	<b>8</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>FMARC Net 7:00pm</b> <u>Newbie Net Follows</u> after <u>FMARC Net</u>	<b>9</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>FMARC Board Meeting</b> <u>In Person and Zoom</u>	<b>10</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>ARES Net 7pm</b> <b>220 NET 7:30pm</b> <b>FUSION Net 8:00pm</b>	<b>11</b> <b>LICENSE TESTING</b> SWFTN 10:00am DMR Net 7pm LDS Net 7:30pm CC Gabfest 8pm	<b>12</b> SWFTN 10:00am	<b>13</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>WinLink Exercise</b> <b>7:00 AM – 8:00PM</b> <b>Swap Shop 11:00 AM</b>
<b>14</b> Loggerhead Net 7:30pm Windmill Net 9pm	<b>15</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>FMARC Net 7:00pm</b> <u>Newbie Net Follows</u> after <u>FMARC Net</u>	<b>16</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>ARES In Person Meeting 7:00PM</b>	<b>17</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>ARES Net 7pm</b> <b>220 NET 7:30pm</b> <b>FUSION Net 8:00pm</b>	<b>18</b> SWFTN 10:00am D-Star Net 7pm LDS Net 7:30pm CC Gabfest 8pm	<b>19</b> SWFTN 10:00am	<b>20</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>WinLink Exercise</b> <b>7:00 AM – 8:00PM</b>
<b>21</b> Loggerhead Net 7:30pm Windmill Net 9pm	<b>22</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>FMARC Net 7:00pm</b> <u>Newbie Net Follows</u> after <u>FMARC Net</u>	<b>23</b> SWFTN 10:00am	<b>24</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>ARES Net 7pm</b> <b>220 NET 7:30pm</b> <b>FUSION Net 8:00pm</b>	<b>25</b> SWFTN 10:00am DMR Net 7pm LDS Net 7:30pm CC Gabfest 8pm	<b>26</b> SWFTN 10:00am	<b>27</b> SWFTN 10:00am 10:00am <b>WinLink Exercise</b> <b>Swap Shop 11:00 AM</b>
<b>28</b> Loggerhead Net 7:30pm Windmill Net 9pm	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>FMARC Net 7:00pm</b> <u>Newbie Net Follows</u> after <u>FMARC Net</u>	<b>30</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>FMARC General Meeting</b> <u>In Person and Zoom</u>	<b>31</b> SWFTN 10:00am <b>ARES Net 7pm</b> <b>220 NET 7:30pm</b> <b>FUSION Net 8:00pm</b>			
<p><b>IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE EOC AVAILABILITY. PLEASE CONFIRM THE STATUS AND LOCATION OF A MEETING OR EVENT BEFORE ATTENDING. IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATIONS ARE DESIGNATED IN THE EMAIL THAT ACCOMPANIES THE REMINDER.</b></p>						

**IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE EOC AVAILABILITY. PLEASE CONFIRM THE STATUS AND LOCATION OF A MEETING OR EVENT BEFORE ATTENDING. IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATIONS ARE DESIGNATED IN THE EMAIL THAT ACCOMPANIES THE REMINDER.**