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# WHITE



# NOISE

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## Cy Harris Memorial Free Flea

Bill Manley KB4XE

Cy Harris WB4MAQ is remembered by the South East Florida amateur radio community as the organizer of the Free Flea. He was one of the “movers-and-shakers” of the Broward Amateur Radio Club BARC. Cy held office with the BARC and was an enthusiastic worker helping present their hamfest each November. When that was discontinued, his enthusiasm persisted by holding tail-gate parties, sometimes monthly, sometimes when he just felt like it. Motorola, and employee members of the Motorola Amateur Radio Club (MARC), generously supported the events on their parking lot on Sunrise Blvd. We mourned Cy’s passing in 1988 but his enthusiasm continued for several years with Billy Lewis WD4NEA.

Currently Richard Block KG4CHW, with other MARC members, and Robin Terrill N4HHP present the event every 6 months. I received my reminder at the Miami Hamboree in February. Robin distributed fliers reminding locals of the upcoming March 25 event.

The cloudless, sunny Florida morning brought out the enthusiastic crowd which was estimated as 60 tail-gaters and 200 buyers/gawkers. The spirit of Cy Harris prevailed as participants negotiated their sales and purchases while renewing acquaintances and making new friends among the South Florida amateur community.

When is the next Free Flea? Probably about October, more or less.



## STUART UPDATE

By Doug Welcker (WB4KGY)

Remember reading the January White Noise article about the Saturday "Murphy" struck big time while we were installing the APRS antenna and other upgrades in Stuart? Well folks we struck back and won. Our biggest disappointment was the incompatibility of the connectors we had to physically fit the transmission line. After doing a little interfacing with the site engineer we acquired four of the proper connectors for CATV line we are using which by the way is called a "625 Connector". Since this connector is only the body that fits the line we needed to improvise a way to adapt it into a standard RF type connector. Joe (K1VAO) showed me a neat trick to complete the job. As it turns out the threads of an "N" fitting match that of the CATV body and by cutting the center conductor of the CATV fitting to the proper length and soldering on the center pin you have a completed "N" male or female connector. I did find from rummaging through my junk box for "N" fittings that the threaded part actually comes in two sizes. If you go looking for connectors, you may need to look through several boxes of junk at the next hamfest to collect the correct size, which is the smaller of the two diameters.

This time you author wasn't able to make the trip to the Stuart SWITCH site but Andy (KF4ATC), John WB4MOZ), and Wayne (N4PZJ) arrived at the tower site on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 0900. To test the connector installation the first connector was installed at the equipment end of the transmission line. Special tools to properly repair the line were supplied by ADELPHIA which includes coring the foam dielectric to allow the connector slip inside the aluminum shield of the line. It all worked well and looked and performed very professional. Next Wayne donned his climbing harness and scurried up the tower to the two hundred foot level and rigged the tower to pull up the tool bucket, a tri-band antenna and mount. After installing the new connector on the CATV line the APRS J-Pole was removed along with it's mount and the new Tri-Band antenna and mount were installed and connected with a jumper to transmission line. Next Wayne carried the APRS J-Pole to about the two hundred and eighty-foot level, installed and connected the line where we had the folded dipole. If you remember the folded dipole was found to match only above 160 Mhz! While Wayne was on the tower, Andy and John tested the antennas, which turned out to be a very good match. Previous to the new Tri-Band antenna, we had diplexed two of the UHF radios onto one antenna. With the new Tri-Band antenna the diplexer along with its loss has been eliminated by connecting each UHF radio to it's own antenna. This reduces system loss and increased fade margins to make the links even more reliable.

While Wayne was on the tower a replacement power supply was installed temporally so the original 35 amp unit could be brought back for repair and as a precaution the backup battery was installed in plastic battery box. The best part was Murphy took the day off and gave this hard working crew a break. And the other plus is APRS system is performing, as one would expect. We want to give our special thanks to Wayne for his many unselfish hours of hard work.

## NEWS FROM THE HUDSON LOOP TOLERANCE AND A WELCOME MAT -- AN EDITORIAL

Frank Fallon, N2FF0  
ARRL Hudson Division Director  
(n2ff@arrl.org)

April 15, 2000 marked an important milestone for Amateur Radio in the United States. It was the first time in over 60 years that US Amateurs can operate throughout all the HF bands without having passed a Morse code test at 13 WPM or higher. In 1937 the FCC upped the code speed to 13 WPM from 10 WPM.

Many of the new upgraded hams will now be using the HF bands for the first time, and it appears there will be a lot of them from reports of crowds at recent VE sessions nationwide. They will be operating both phone and CW, and some of them won't know what life is like on HF. They may not realize that one doesn't call CQ on HF by tuning to a quiet spot and announcing that they're "Listening on frequency." They won't know much, if anything, about band plans, about nets, about working "up", or a host of other

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things. They will need help, just as badly as you and I needed help when we first went on HF. They will need to learn things that have never been part of any FCC test. They will need guidance, not hostility and transferred anger from those unhappy with the new FCC license structure.

Please, oh please, be generous with your help! Be tolerant of their mistakes and be friendly and tactful when you offer suggestions for improvement. Please, put out the welcome mat for them. Let them know also when they've done something right, not only when they've done something wrong. We certainly don't want a bunch of grouches turning them away from ham radio! It's going to be our task to Elmer them into Amateur Radio. Let's all provide them with a warm ham welcome.

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## **MINUTES PBPG MARCH 2000**

### **OPENING AND REPORTS**

The meeting was called to order at 19:33hrs. by Doug (WB4GKY)

There were a lot of smiling faces in attendance this evening, everyone knew each other and introductions were suspended.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Marvin (KD2CK) advised that due to not having latest bank statement, the last statement that appeared in the *White Noise* would still be current for this month.

### **TECHNICAL REPORT**

Doug (WB4GKY) reported that there were no "resets" or trips on the switch this month. Stuart still needs new connectors on both ends of the APRS transmission line. Clewiston APRS short range has been traced to a bad antenna connector at the top of the tower. The problem will be addressed in the next few months, when a tower climber will be installing the antenna for a low power non-commercial FM station. The prefab building, currently at Gary Meeker's, is to be installed when shell-rock fill is completed. This will move the equipment 180 feet closer to the tower. The building is to be installed in late August. The new Clewiston switch site is awaiting construction permitting which takes about 8 weeks and a second permit which will take an additional 6 weeks, before construction can begin.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The club still has many rolls of 7/8" hardline for sale. The club bought new connectors for the line at the Miami Hamfest. We recently obtained specs from the manufacture. We need help finding buyers.

PBPG has six packet books for lending (call Burck). Handouts for *Switches & Nodes* are on the website.

### **NEWS & INFO**

Database emailing list has been updated. There are four different entry categories. Some "Guest List" mailings have been removed, due to non response. BARDS members have been added. To make the database as accurate as possible, the last mailing requested

from the USPS return of undeliverable pieces. For an extra charge per piece we had about fifteen pieces returned. Most were people who had moved and not updated their address. Please furnish your correct address, so we can keep the database "uptodate". We have 62 paid members, 35 guests, and 136 free samples which are sent to people in hopes of gaining membership. We welcome your support.

The new Wellington Repeater is on the air; 147.285 MHz +600 ctcss103.5Hz. The 147.135 repeater on the VA Hospital has a new Allen Group DB224E antenna installed, courtesy of Andy & Marvin. Marvin took picture Andy did the work!!!!!!

Hamfest Listings:

Sebring March11

Stuart March18

Plantation March25

Good article on Winlink 2000 in March issue of QST.

We were sorry to hear that Pat Newell is in JFK hospital. The PBPG will send her a card. Pat GET WELL QUICK!!!

## NEW BUSINESS

Test sessions will be held at the VA Hospital and FAU BOCA on March 11th.

March of Dimes walk will be held March29, Dick (W4FOR) needs some help. If you can help please let it be known. Walk will be held at John Prince Park. If you want to help your club, please contact one of the officers. We need you. Memberships are being accepted. Send in the for month in back of the *White Noise*.

## ADJOURN/BREAK/WORKSHOP

A "BANGUP" program was presented by Rich (K4GPS). Video of Wayne (N4PZJ) climbing/installing antennas on Stuart SWITCH tower site. We were captured by the time/skill that is required to make an installation at 300+ft.

Without these guys this hobby would be in trouble. A BIG THANKS FOR YOU GUYS!!!!

Next meeting will be held April 13, 2000.

Meeting adjourned at 20:33hrs.

## Broward Amateur Radio Digital Society

March 11, 2000

We had very high attendance, 15 for this meeting.

Randy, K9BCT, made a presentation on PSK-31. Randy solved the tape recorder stability problem, which prevents tape recorder playback by using a digital telephone answering box. He described PSK31 from the concept of PSK on up to a demo of programs decoding PSK31.

The next meeting is April 15th, the regular third Saturday. This being April, Carl will give the program. He says he will show us a way to reduce our FPL bill. Will it be fact or April Fool? Only Carl knows for now.

Bob, N4CU