

The HIARC Bulletin

January 2019 Edition

The Official Bulletin of the Harris-Intersil Amateur Radio Club

Club Meetings: Second Thursday of Every Month at Meemaw's Barbecue on Babcock Street between Palm Bay Road and Port Malabar Road. Supper is at 6:00 PM and a short business meeting is at 7:00 PM. Our programs start 7:30 to 8:00 PM.

Club Station: Building 15, Room 321. E-mail [butch](mailto:butch@hiarc.net) for access.

HIARC Website: <http://qsl.net/hiarc>

Repeaters: 145.47 Mc, tone 107.2 cycles, elevation 170 feet, Melbourne

HIARC Web Site: www.qsl.net/hiarc. Website administrator; Jim, KC7SSW

Officers: President: Francis ("Butch"), WA4AQV

Treasurer: Bill WA4EMU

Secretary: Jim, KC7SSW

Repeater Chairmen: Bud W4HXP

Program Chairman: Eric N4SCS

Field Day Chairman: TBD

Sunshine Officer: Open

Club Jester: Ken N8KH

Membership:

Dues are \$12.00 per year to:

Bill WA4EMU

Annual Events: Annual swap-fest at the October meeting. Field Day (always the fourth full weekend in June) at Grant Community Center Fairgrounds, Field Day web site link <https://sites.google.com/site/hiarcfieldday2013/>

Selected Hamfests:

- University Of Central Florida, January 12, 2019, <http://newton.i2lab.ucf.edu/wiki/Tailgate>
- Orlando Hamcation, February 8 through 10, 2019, <https://www.hamcation.com/>

Ham Radio Lunches:

- Every Friday, 10:30 AM till 12:30 PM or so, Golden Corral on Palm Bay Road in Palm Bay
- Every Friday, 9:00 AM till 11:00AM or so, Umpa's Diner, 1115 N Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL 3295, (321) 454-3422

President's Message

Happy New Year. Our January 10, 2019 meeting program will be on “Regenerative Radio Receivers” by Gary NQ0V. This is a good program which includes both old and new technologies for regenerative radios. Lots of Meemaw’s Barbecue food and door prizes too.

73's

Butch WA4AQV

Saving The WWV WWVH Time Stations

WWV – WWVH funding is still not carried in the proposed FY19 national budget. Bummer. WWV time and frequency is used by many radio amateurs. WWV gives us time in voice and other information. WWVH sets radio controlled clocks.

A White House petition was tried, 100,000 signatures were required for attention, only about 20,000 signatures occurred

I’ve written all three US congressmen asking that funding be continued. Only one response was received, that from US Representative Bill Posey. Polite form letter. No specific intention advised.

Butch WA4AQV

Attached is a Brevard County repeater list courtesy of W. Brad Magill, KW1P, Brevard County RACES Officer.

[illegible]

The annual ARRL 10 meter contest second weekend in December offers many modes of propagation. I love when the band is “dead” yet you know capable stations are there trying, a lot like a VHF contest.

This year I parked on the north side of the 192 lagoon causeway and operated. Shots to the north and west were over seawater for a half mile plus. My station was 100 watts with full size ¼ wave CB whip antenna on the pickup's truck tool box

The seawater view made the band alive relative to minutes ago over land! 1000 mile plus contacts to NY and CA were made with comments that my signal was exceptional. 10 minutes earlier shooting over land I heard no one outside of Florida. Several times I tried moving from land to seawater and back with the same results. Seawater gave several S units of improvement. The ground bounce from the seawater is much more favorable at low takeoff angles.

Differently, seawater did nothing for tropospheric contacts into the Orlando area relative land. Signal strengths at 100 miles and less were the same with shots over land or seawater Wish I

know the other stations polarization. The in state signals had the warbly sound common to tropospheric refraction code signals, especially those cross polarized

What did help in tropospheric stations was height. This was accomplished by being atop the 192 lagoon bridge for a moment. This brought a 3 S unit improvement in signal strength from a station in Eustus FL 90 miles distant.

Two years ago I used to listen to a voice weather station on 33.42 Mc FM over the lagoon water. The station was located near Orlando Executive Airport, vertically polarized with a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane antenna at 20 feet and 30 watts. It was the Orange County public safety radio department. They transmitted the FEMA "prepare now" announcements interposed with NWS weather radio audio, I guess to experiment with. All the time I could copy this station over the lagoon water with no hint of them being there when parked on land to the east of the lagoon. In fact I had to drive to at least Holopaw to get reception over land. Sadly, the 33.42 Mc FEMA-weather station seems to have been turned off. Maybe I should write the radio shop and let them know that one ham was out there was listening.

So what puzzles me is the great improvement saltwater did for the 33.42 Mc Orlando FEMA station but the nonimprovement seawater had for Orlando stations in the 10 meter contest. Perhaps all the hams were running horizontal pol, I used vertical.

Butch WA4AQV

Free Tower

A free crank up steel tower is becoming available locally in Satellite Beach.

The tower is home made, steel, 20 feet long when nested, and cranks up to 30-35 ft. It is self-supporting and has survived the hurricanes over the years. It is smaller than Rohn 25 size and climbable, but there is not much room for feet. You will be expected to assist in bringing it down and will need to haul it to your new QTH. Bringing it down consists of busting up the base concrete and laying the tower over. It would likely haul ok tied to a boat trailer.

If you are interested in the tower please call Terry K5EEE