**The HIARC Bulletin**

August 2022 Edition

**Newsletter of the Harris-Intersil Amateur Radio Club**

**Club Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month at Meemaw’s Barbecue on Babcock Street between Palm Bay Road and Port Malabar Road. Supper is at 5:30 PM, business is at 6:30 PM. Prizes at 7:00 PM. Our programs start at 7:15 PM. Meeting ends by 8:00 PM. As some members have allergies, we kindly ask that you refrain from wearing fragrances. Thanks.

**Repeaters:** K4HRS,145.47 Mc, tone 107.2 cycles. Down for the moment, being moved to the Turkey Creek Tower.

**Nets:**

These nets are open to everyone. Subject to change try:

* South Brevard Emergency Net: Thursdays at 7:00 PM. 146.61 Mc. In event of repeater failure 146.85 Mc and or 146.58 Mc simplex.
* Skywarn Net: 7:30 PM or so, 146.61 Mc Thursdays.
* Palm Bay Informal Net: 8 PM Thursdays on 147.255 Mc.
* Medical Complaint Nets: evenings 3.5 to 4.0 Mc.
* Gasoline Price Complaint Net: 146.61 Mc Fridays after the ham lunches

These are open to everyone.

**HIARC Web Site:** [www.qsl.net/hiarc](file:///C:/Users/Worm-W10PC/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/053Z5X9S/www.qsl.net/hiarc). Website administrator; Jim , KC7SSW

**Officers:** President: Francis (“Butch”), WA4AQV

Treasurer: Pat Reilly KA4ZEC

Secretary: Open

Repeater Chairman: Clyde KD8AN

Program Chairman: Open

Field Day Chairman: Open

Sunshine Chairman: Open

Club Jester: Ken N8KH

**Annual Membership:**

Annual dues are $12.00. You can join at the meeting or send a check to:

HIARC Treasurer

Pat , KA4ZEC

We are on a calendar year dues system with annual dues due in June. Dues are prorated by a dollar a month so if you join in April they are $2.00 to get to June, or you can pay ahead.

Send me your email address to receive the newsletter: francis.parsche@l3harris.com

**Local Hamfests**

* Fort Peirce. Saturday August 13, 2022. Treasure Coast Public Safety Training complex, 4600 Kirby Loop Road, Fort Pierce FL 34981. 8 AM till 2 PM. A rare summer hamfest and air conditioned. Tables available. VE testing 10 AM. Talk in 147.345 PL 107.2.

**Ham Radio Lunches:**

* Every Friday, 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM or so, Golden Corral on Palm Bay Road in Palm Bay. Around 9 people recently. Talk in on 146.61 Mc repeater.
* Every Friday, 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM or so, Crystal Buffet on 192. Around 9 people recently. Talk in on 146.61 Mc repeater.
* Once a month, the Saturday after the PCARS meeting, Sarno Restaurant and Pizzaria, 11:00 AM. Talk in 146.61 repeater. This restaurant is at the corner of Sarno Road and Croton Road.

**August 2022 HIARC Meeting**

Our next HIARC meeting is Thursday August 11 at Meemaws Barbecue. 5:30 PM for dinner, 6:30 business, 6:45 prizes, 7:00 the program. The August program will be by Alan W1BQ “Creating a multi and VHF/UHF Portable Station”.



**Alan W1BQ’s VHF / UHF Portable Station**

**Learn more at the August HIARC Meeting**

**Unusual Tropo Conditions In Central Florida**

In case you haven’t noticed the Central Florida East Coast has been in a drought lately. Nearly all the rain has been going inland with Melbourne receiving 1.97 inches of rain in July yet 6.50 inches is normal. The local National Weather Service has the reason: the Atlantic Subtropical Ridge Axis / Horse Latitude has shifted north of us which sends the afternoon storms inland. So a line of high pressure that forms this time of year east and west in the Atlantic Ocean and reaching into state has much influence on where the summer storms go.

What is interesting for amateur radio high pressure systems can provide enhanced tropospheric propagation. Things are looking really good for Tropo propagation at VHF and up Wednesday and Thursday mornings this week over Florida and the Florida East Coast.

The Atlantic Subtropical Ride Axis is supposed to sag southward later this week bringing increased chances of coastal rain.

**The Worst Radio Or Maybe The Best Radio?**

Let’s take the case of thee Eico 753 / “seven drifty three”. I had one in my teenage radio amateur days. Got it for cheap. It was exciting to get on SSB. That makes it the best. But it never held frequency which makes it the worst.



There were some tricks I learned. The first was reducing thermal drift: you gave it an hour long warmup period before operating. The second was mechanical backlash in the tuning dial but you could overtune or undertune to compensate. This seemed good but the mechanism would then jump to a new frequency 5 minutes or 30 minutes later. Sort of Xlax going off. Maybe this was caused by the tension in the tuning mechanism letting loose. You never would know when you were going to QSY 3 kc! You got to meet all new people all of a sudden in a new QSO!

So you let the radio cook for an hour, tune in, and then pound the chassis to let the stored energy in the VFO mechanism jump. Then you called “CQ Dog Xray” over and over cause you could never tune to another stations frequency.

Never got FCC complaints with the Eico as I never went anywhere near a band edges. Always stayed 50 kc away. But I do remember getting those ARRL Official Observer postcards that my frequency had drifted, which I already knew. If only the ARRL Official Observers (OO) were in a DX location so their QSL cards counted. I used to get school detention slips for making wise cracks and not taking gym class seriously. So I put the saved up gym class detention slips in with the OO reports in a jar by rig. Being on a teenage budget, it took delinquency to work DX back then!

Other than the crazy BFO the radio worked. I don’t think there ever was a remedy for the VFO other than plugging in an external signal generator or crystal or growing up and earning a better living.

I miss those old days and want another Eico 753 now!



**Eico Seven Drifty Three**

**CQ Dog Xray**

WA4AQV