



SHARC bytes

Volume XI, Issue VI June 2024

President's Ramblings

Published for members and friends of the...



Spring Hill
Amateur Radio
Club

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Greetings SHARC,

I hope everyone is doing well. I must apologize to our esteemed Editor Jerry KO4RDI as I am very very late with my monthly submission. I have been very busy and overwhelmed with home renovations lately. I hate Painting! Hopefully that will be winding down soon and I will once again have more control over my life. Sadly, I have missed out on two of my most favorite special events. I have missed the first two races of the W9IMS event the Indianapolis Grand Prix and the Indy 500. I have also missed 2/3rds of the Museum ships weekend. Also, my POTA hunting and activating has suffered greatly too.

On a brighter note, my son has talked me into an Alaska trip next August. My wife and I intend to drive to Seattle and activate many parks and States along the way. We will then join my son and his wife on a seven-day Alaska cruise and I hope to activate a POTA entity in Juneau with my son, and possibly one in British Columbia.

INSIDE:

- **PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK!**
- **DUES REMINDER**

SHARC Repeater Information

Repeaters are open to all licensed amateurs...membership not required but we sure would like you to join!

2 Meter: 146.805 MHz-600K no tone

70 CM: 443.800 MHz + 5M no tone

SSTV @ 6:30 PM Tuesday*

SHARCnet @ 7:30 PM Tuesday*

70 cm Ragchew Net - Mon. @ 7:00**
PM**

SHARC Meetings Information

Regular monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.

UF/IFAS Ext. Bldg.

16110 Aviation Loop-Next to P.O.

Please use side door.

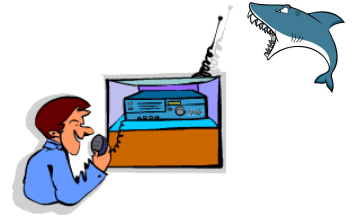
Visitors are always welcome!

Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

Stop by early and say, "Hi!"

Don't Forget Father's Day June 16

President's Ramblings Continued



After the cruise, I will take a different route home to pick up more new parks and new States stopping by Phoenix to visit my Elmer and do some activating with him in Arizona and maybe Nevada. I am hopeful that I will be able to work a few SHARC members along the way. If all goes well, this will be an epic adventure for Jacci and me and I will set foot in the last five states I have not been to. So I will have been in all 50 states.

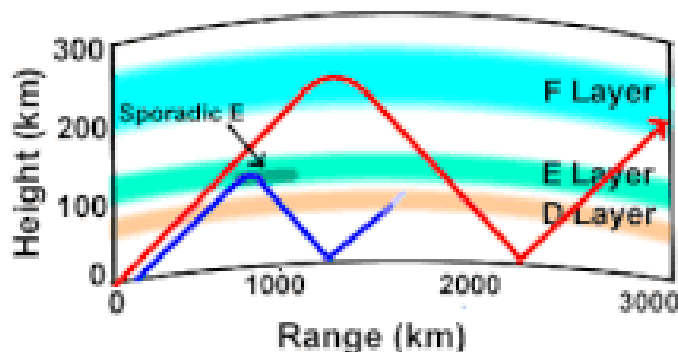
I look forward to seeing some of you at the next meeting on June 20th. I think the next Fox Hunt is on June 21st at Crews Lake Park at 10am. Also, some of us will be trying to do a 6 Meter net on June 13th at 7pm on 50.150 you have a chance give it a try. I am hoping to finally make a 6 Meter contact.

73,
Lenny
WS80

The Magic 6 Meter Band

We are approaching the time of year for the Magic band to come alive. May through August of each year is prime time for band openings on the lowest VHF band (6 Meters 50.0 to 54 Megacycles) Most new radios include 6 meters so it's fairly easy to get on the band with 100 watt and simple dipole. These days most of the activity is confined to digital modes like FT8 , FT4 or MSK144. They allow exchanges below the noise floor and make things much easier. When the bands up all modes are active including SSB, CW and FM.

The last two years we have seen lots of DX and North America contacts via several modes using **Sporadic E or Es** as it sometimes is called. The propagation type uses the lower E part of the ionosphere. The transmitted signal bounces off the lower region and can give us major DX. We can see ES about anytime of the year but it peaks around mid summer. In late December I worked Figi during a Es opening and just a few weeks ago the Falkland islands, so extreme DX can happen.



Continued on page 3

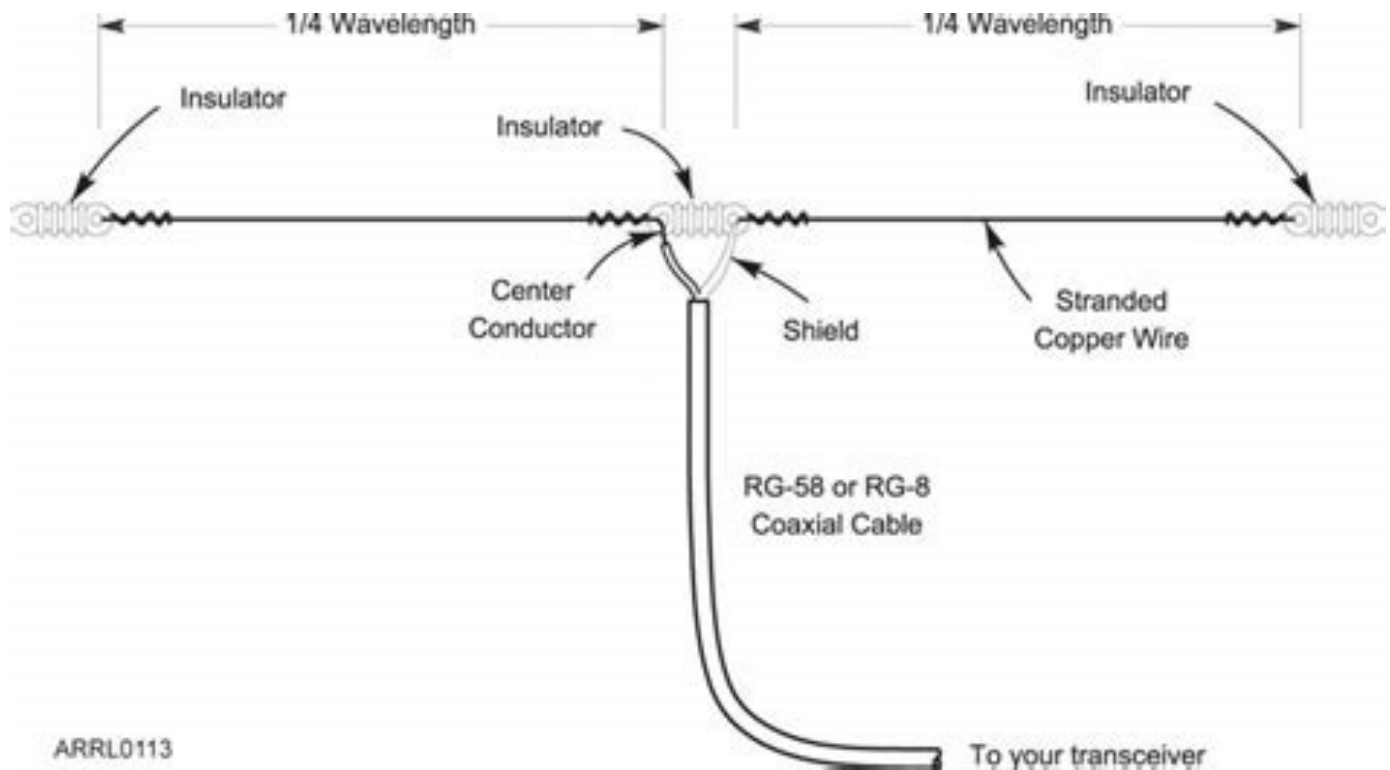
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However, **Sporadic E** is not the only way to use the band. We can also use normal line of sight of up to a couple hundred miles. There is also **Meteor scatter** which a transmitter signal is scattered by meteors allowing extended propagation of up to 1000 or more miles. The best time to use this method is during the periods we experience meteor showers. Early mornings right before sunrise seems to be the best time to take advantage of the rocks. Most mornings I am seeing activity on 50.145 USB and have had openings using scatter all over the US with my longest path being to Europe.

Another propagation type is **thermal ducting**, although more prevalent on upper VHF and UHF but it does happen on 6 meters. We are also seeing increased use of the Moon to extend 6 meters worldwide. Hams are using Q65 and other digital modes with stacked long Yagi's to bounce the signal off the moon and back to earth. It takes some power with most using a kilowatt or more. It's now a regular thing!

Many find the uniqueness of the band fun and look for the openings. Some of us have become a bit fanatical about it, searching out grids across the US in the hope of completing the Fred Fish Memorial award. The award was created in honor of Fred Fish, W5FF, who was the first amateur to have worked and confirmed all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 Meters. It's a real challenge and to make it happen you have to use all modes and openings to get it done. So far there around 25 hams that have received the honor. So far I am at around 300 grids and should get my 6 meter DXCC award this year or next. It may take a few more years for all 488 grids to find their way to my log!

To get on the band try using a simple dipole. 112 inches over all. 56 inches per leg



You can test locally by listening to a local beacon on 50.074 meg. It's weak but a good testing tool.

Larry Oaks

W9SX


Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club

KF4IXU

An ARRL Affiliated Club - Northern Florida Section



June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 NCO Kal Ribanszky NK4LKL	3 SHARK TEK CHEW 7:00 PM	4 SSTV 6:30 PM SHARC Net 7:30 p.m.	5 COFFEE @ HARDEES CORNER OF US 19 & CORTEZ 7:30 AM	6	7 LADIES Breakfast *See Note	8
9 NCO Sal Clascione N2UOG	10 SHARK TEK CHEW 7:00 PM	11 SSTV 6:30 PM SHARC Net 7:30 p.m.	12 COFFEE @ HARDEES CORNER OF US 19 & CORTEZ 7:30 AM	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Fathers Day NCO Earl Brannon K4EEB	17 SHARK TEK CHEW 7:00 PM	18 SSTV 6:30 PM SHARC Net 7:30 p.m.	19 COFFEE @ HARDEES CORNER OF US 19 & CORTEZ 7:30 AM	20 SHARC Members Meeting 7:00 p.m. 	21 Fox Hunt Crews Lake Park 10:00 AM	22
23 NCO Greg Anderson KO0R	24 SHARK TEK CHEW 7:00 PM	25 SSTV 6:30 PM SHARC Net 7:30 p.m.	26 COFFEE @ HARDEES CORNER OF US 19 & CORTEZ 7:30 AM	27	28	29
30						

***Ladies Breakfast**
Friday, June 7, 8:30 AM at "Up For Breakfast"
Publix shopping center off Barclay Avenue in Spring Hill



May 10 Fox Hunt

The May fox hunt was held on Friday the 10th at our normal location. We chose to move it up a week due to a few of the regular hunters are headed to Xenia for the Dayton Ham-fest. We had three hunters looking for the fox and it took them a bit of time to find it. I attached the transmitter on a sign near the kiddie railroad tracks a few feet above the ground. You could see the antenna but it blended into its surrounding. The sign and metal tracks did the job of confusing the hunters.

Earl Bannon K4EEB was the winner and Jerry Sweet KO4RDI and Mike Hayes W1SOX were there as well. Jerry is using an interesting waveguide pipe antenna. He continues to refine the antenna. Seems to work well close in. Earl was using his home brew tape measure antenna. It works too well as he had too much signal when approaching the fox.

Larry W9SX

Fox Hunt Post Op

What Fun, and a great park for activities. The Crews Lake Park is huge, and a perfect place for "Fox Hunting". Additionally, Earl, Larry, & Lenny are very helpful. On my first hunt, Earl noticed I was having some difficulty, so he handed me his radio and Tape Measure Antenna and explained what to listen for & what was happening.

Friday's hunt was another lesson and the weather was perfect. In the beginning, I could not hear the Fox, so I went into "IFE" mode (I Follow Earl). Eventually, we got close enough for me to pick up the signal and I was able to determine roughly the direction of the fox. As we got closer, the signal was so strong it seemed to be coming from everywhere. Earl removed the antenna from his radio and demonstrated a clear, and very strong signal from the fox.

The lesson here was, there is a balance between antenna gain to hear at a distance and the ability to mute the signal as you get closer. It looks like AGC is not your friend, squelch is your best buddy.

73

Jerry
KO4RDI



We Need your Feedback

Hi, I'm Jerry Sweet, the new editor for the SHARC newsletter. We need your ideas, information, and articles to help our newsletter grow. Please send them to JSweet26@TampaBay.rr.com or call me at 727-857-6204

73's
Jerry KO4RDI

It's Dues Time at SHARC!

You may mail dues to:
Spring Hill Amateur Radio
Club, Inc. P.O. Box 6083
Spring Hill, FL 34611-6083

Hello to all members. It's that time of year when annual dues need to be turned in. Your club uses these funds to help defray operating expenses that are incurred throughout the year.



Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club



SHARC would love to hear from you! Please refer to the following contact information:

President: Lenny Sechrist - SechristLeonard@gmail.com

Vice President: Frank Buzzelli - Gov.Frank521@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary: Greg Anderson - Heronnow17@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kal Ribianszky - Kribians@yahoo.com

Repeaters: Larry Oaks - W9SX@outlook.com

YL Breakfast: Carol Socash - Socash@bellsouth.net

Newsletter: Send to: Jerry Sweet- JSweet26@TampaBay.rr.com

We're on the
web:
Springhillarc.com

Visit our website for much more information and details of club activities and community involvement.

Send Snail Mail to:

**SHARC, PO Box 6083, Spring Hill, FL
34611**