

Published for members and friends of the...



Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club

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Howdy Everyone!!

Well, we have made it to March and Spring is in the air. As I summarized in our February meeting, we have had 19 new members sign up and had a successful Brooksville Ham fest where the Club made \$540.00 from equipment sells and a donation. We introduced the "Raffle Box" at February's meeting and it is a big hit. The Club made \$30 from the Raffle box, so we will continue to make this part of our Monthly meetings. So, bring any Items that you want to donate to the box at next meeting.

We have had a couple of great meetings so far this year so let us continue the momentum and make SHARC the best club possible. Remember that you, our members, are the club so your suggestions and Idea are what is most important. Never hesitate to get ahold of My self or any other board members to pass along your ideas and/or critiques. My phone is always on, along with my radio so never hesitate to call out.

I have every intention of having a SHARC booth at the Zephyrhills Ham fest on March 22nd, so if you want to come down and take part or stop by, I look forward to seeing everyone.

We were asked to add a classified section to the new website, and I am Happy to say that our new Classified section is up and operational. Hopefully, by the March meeting our new name badges will be ready and on our website for purchase. So always keep an eye on our new website and Facebook group for the latest news and additions to our Club.

Please remember to visit our new website at www.Springhillarc.org and our Facebook group by searching KF4IXU.

See you all on March 22nd,
Earl Brannon K4EEB
President, SHARC

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!"

Daylight Savings Time Begins Mar 9

"Hepburn Tropo Index"

By

William Hepburn

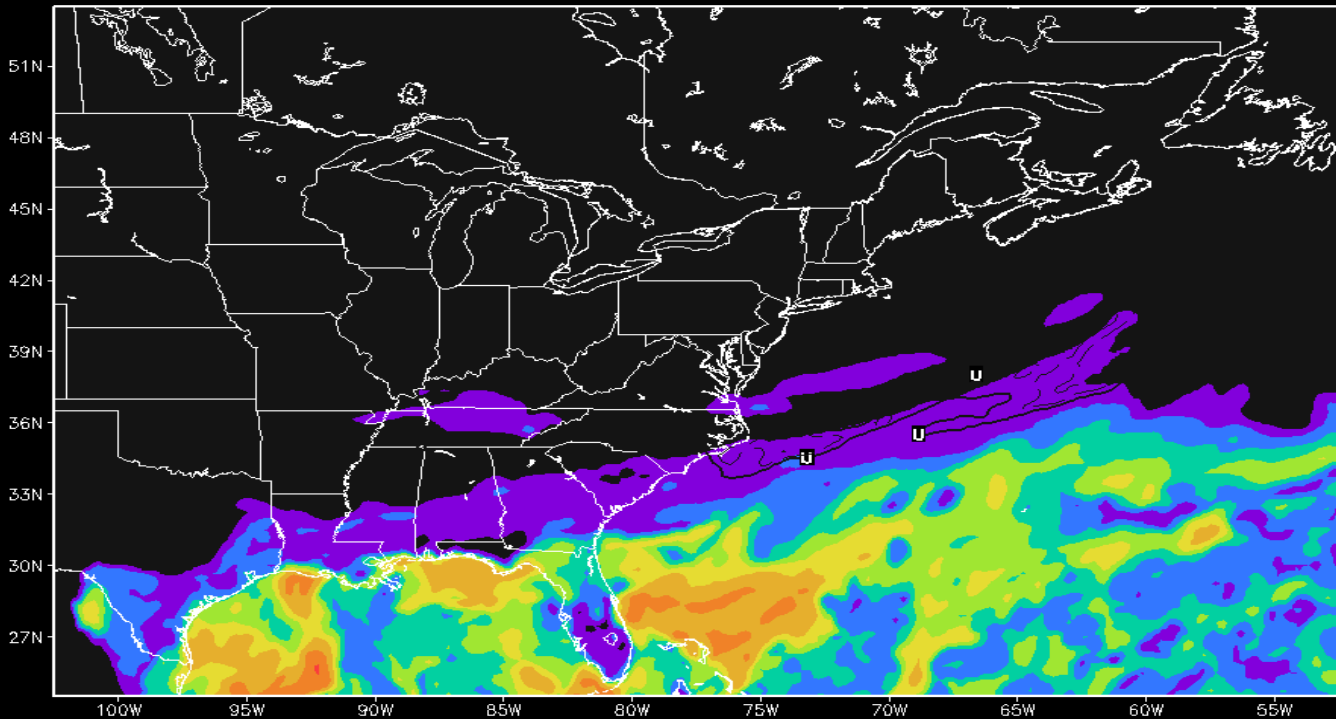
www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html

see Copyright at end of article.



Hepburn Tropo Index Valid 1800 UTC Sun Feb 9 Ern No America

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"The Hepburn Tropo Index is the degree of tropospheric radio wave bending forecast to occur over a particular area, which is an indication of the overall strength of tropospheric radio signals (and hence interference) on a linear scale from 0 to 10."

Negative Tropo Index = Below Normal. Sub-refraction. Bending occurs, but skyward.
Tropo Index of 0 = Normal. "Dead-band" conditions (Standard Atmosphere). Tropo Scatter only.
Tropo Index of 1 = Marginal. Some downward bending occurs. Marginal conditions. Mainly super-refraction.
Tropo Index of 2 = Fair. Weak event. Mainly super-refraction. Chance of isolated ducts.
Tropo Index of 3 = Moderate. Patches of super-refraction with some ducts.
Tropo Index of 4 = High. Widespread super-refraction. Patches of ducting.
Tropo Index of 5 = Strong. Ducting over most of the area.
Tropo Index of 6 = Very Strong. Widespread Ducting.
Tropo Index of 7 = Intense. Widespread Ducting.
Tropo Index of 8 = Very Intense. Widespread Ducting. Strong signals.
Tropo Index of 9+ = Extreme. Widespread Ducting. Very strong signals.
(The Tropo Index can exceed 10 ! ... it's not a finite scale).



Continued
Hepburn Tropo Index
By William Hepburn
www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html

The Hepburn Index is an indicator of the amount of signal bending occurring overhead.
Some general rules of thumb..

A higher index = higher chance for an event and/or stronger signals.

A larger area = longer distances.

A higher index over a smaller area = stronger signals/interference over shorter distances.

A higher index over a larger area = stronger signals/interference over longer distances.

A lower index over a smaller area = weaker signals/interference over shorter distances.

A lower index over a larger area = weaker signals/interference over longer distances.

Strongest path = center of path with highest values.

The longer the path, the higher the index required to maintain it.

Overland paths are usually the strongest at sunrise and weakest at mid afternoon.

Water paths are usually the strongest at mid afternoon and weakest at sunrise.

Combination land-water paths may peak at various times depending on the local weather conditions.

Keep in mind that since tropospheric propagation occurs in the lowest part of the atmosphere, local terrain has a great impact. Significant variation in signal strengths/interference can be expected depending on local effects, often between locations only a few miles apart. This is especially true during elevated-ducting events, where elevation becomes increasingly important.

The index does not take into account Tropospheric Scatter. In the absence of any enhancement, and with only ever-present scatter occurring, the Tropo Index = 0.

Physical barriers such as large hills and mountains may obstruct paths.

For DXing purposes, don't be overly concerned with the exact value of the index at your location. The purpose of the maps is to display potential duct paths. Often if you are in a void but are still within line-of-sight or tropo scatter range of a nearby duct, there may be some spillover - although signals/interference will likely be weak.

In rare cases, it is believed that very distant signals can refract off of a strong ducting zone and come down into areas well away from that zone, rather than travelling mainly within a duct. This may be a form of "enhanced tropospheric scatter". At this point further study is required to confirm this mode of propagation. Signals are usually weak and of short duration.

Another rare atmospheric condition that may support some enhanced tropospheric propagation is "slantwise" propagation - refraction off of a slanted, rather than horizontal, inversion boundary. More study is required to incorporate detection of this form of propagation into the models.

Unstable Signal Areas

Unstable signal areas shown by areas enclosed with dotted lines labelled "U" are areas which may have isolated or scattered heavy rain showers or thunderstorms which could occasionally disrupt paths and cause unusual and sometimes rapid variations in signal strengths. This usually occurs when the lower atmosphere is stable, but the middle & upper atmosphere is unstable. This is most pronounced at night and also ahead of warm fronts.

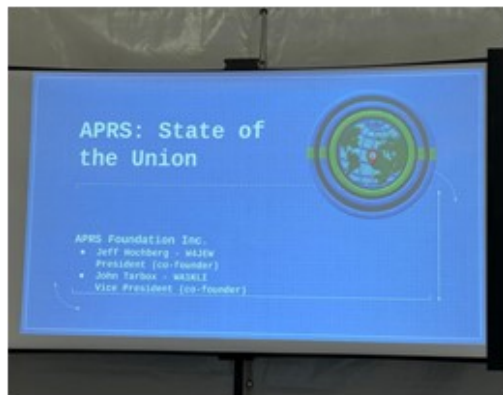
NOTE; This article has been authorized as a Onetime License for publication at,
https://eccc-msc.github.io/open-data/licence/readme_en/



By Chris Bloxsom
AA4CB

Wow what a show !! It is the second biggest Hamfest - tailgate- Amateur radio convention in North America. The biggest being of course Dayton Hamvention. I have been going to this event for at least the past 20 years. Every year it seems to get better and better. Well except for that year when all it did was rain. That sorta put a damper on things. It is 3 days of ham radio fun and adventure. Most years I encourage everyone to get a hotel room for the weekend. It sure beats having to drive back to your home and back again the next day.

This year I went there on a different mission. In the past I have gone there to buy that radio that I always wanted. There was no sales tax if your bought it from say Ham Radio Outlet. But that was before they opened a store in Florida. I would go check out the inside of the main vendor building and grab some of the freebies that the vendors were handing out. The trusty MFJ plastic shopping bag. This is great so when you go around getting those small parts you need to build or repair a project you have been working on. Then some pens, candy, and everyone's favorite item.... the Yaesu hat. You have to make at least 3 trips to that table over the weekend.



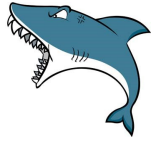
This year I was there to do a bit of learning. So I spent a lot of time out in the forums buildings watching different people talk about all sort of stuff. Florida Week Signal Society was there. Walter Dail K4HV and George Presley K4RSV were ready to show everyone what is happening on 50 Megs and up. I had a chance to see Ken Countless KN2D put on a program entitled " How to Ramp Up Club Member Participation". After his presentation I found out that we went to the same High School. Small world. Other presentations that I attended was one on APRS. Automatic Packet Reporting System. This was very good for the beginner to

learn how and why this system works. The best part is that you do not need the internet. Another Forum was all about SARNET. The speakers talked about when and how it started. They went into great detail on all the linking of the repeaters across the state of Florida. The system has had some ups and downs but seems to be working well. To see this and other recorded presentations I have done you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/@aa4cb> .



Continued on Page 5

HamCation continued



One of the reasons to go to Hamcation for me is to see some friends that do not live near by. I have been good friends with Joe Eisenberg KONEB. He lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. We go to all the big hamfests such as Orlando , Dayton , and Huntsville. Joe and I are the two crazy people that buy like 400 extra raffle tickets and see what goodies we can win. Sometimes we make out good and sometimes we do not. The fun is in the drawings every hour. There are a lot more hams I know that travel from New Hampshire, New Jersey, Michigan, and Kentucky. At these long events we usually try to get in a couple of days before the fest and go see other places that are nearby, such as Air force Museum, Disney, or the Space center.



Attendance was good this year as in the past. There were some new vendors there talking and selling their products. There was also a couple that I miss and are not in business anymore. Friday and Saturday are the days you have to be there. The other building called the swaps was well packed. Many hams in there selling their used gear. The outdoor field was full again. Tailgating at its finest. There were lots of used radios, antennas, cables, you name it , it was there. I have learned that you have to get it when you have it in your hand. If you go back later it most likely is gone.

Food was good. There was a lot more food trucks there this year than there has been in the past. The prices were ... well lets just say you could have bought that used 2 meter radio for the price of a hot dog and a coke. There are many places to eat outside the fairgrounds. I bring a cooler full of water and snacks and keep it in the van. I am cheap. After the closing time we usually go back to the hotel and clean up and a group of us will meet up at some local eatery we talked about earlier in the day. It is fun times for all. International Drive is just south of the convention and that is a good place to go walk off dinner.



And then it is over. Until next year. See everyone soon.

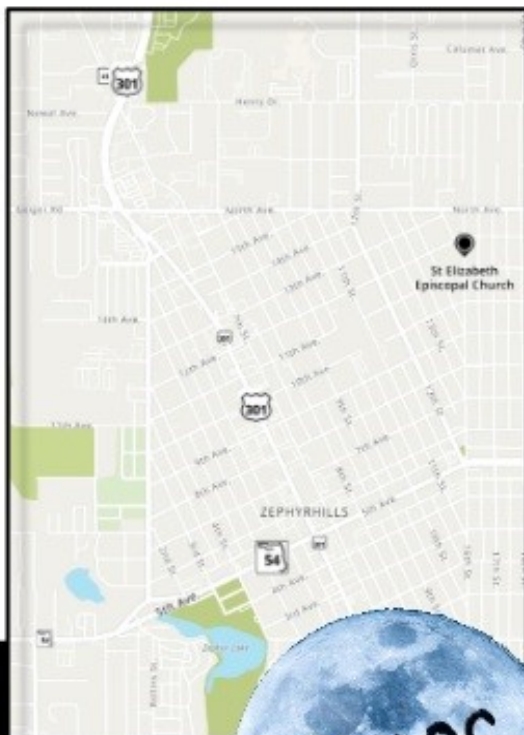
The group that puts on this show every year really does an outstanding job. The team of volunteers they have are great. When you get chance, I strongly suggest that everyone should stop by their website www.hamcation.com and see what is being planned for the next years event. They also have a page where you can volunteer a couple of hours of your time to them and they will give you a free Ticket for the hamfest. See website for details.

Chris Bloxsom, AA4CB

Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club **Annual Hamfest**

www.zaarc.org

Saturday March 22 7:00am - 12:00pm
St. Elizabeth Church 5855 16th Street
Zephyrhills, Fl 33542



Admission: \$5.00

Includes: Tailgating
Door Prize Drawings at 10:30am
you must be present to win.



Amateur Radio Testing
9:00am to 10:30am



For Questions
about the Hamfest contact
Charles Nelson KE7UTH@arrl.net
Chris Bloxsom AA4CB@arrl.net



Official Hamfest Repeater
146.910 MHz, offset to: - 600 kHz,
CTCSS Tone encode to: 146.2 Hz



@AA4CB


Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club

KF4IXU

March 2025

An ARRL Affiliated Club -
Northern Florida Section



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Mar 1
2	3	4 SSTV 6:30 PM	5 COFFEE @ HARDEES CORNER OF US 19 & CORTEZ 7:30 AM	6 Oreo Day	7 Cereal Day	8 Ladies Lunch Is Discontinued
9 NCO Kal Ribianszky KN4LKL	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 Sleep Day	15
16 NCO Sal Clascione N2UOG	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 World Water Day
23 NCO Earl Brannon K4EEB	24 SHARK TEK CHEW 7:00 PM	25	26 COFFEE @ HARDEES CORNER OF US 19 & CORTEZ 7:30 AM	27 Manatee Appreci- ation Day	28	29 Vietnam War Veterans Day
30	31 SHARK TEK CHEW 7:00 PM					

What is your suggestion for a luncheon, day, time, place?
Send your suggestion to newsletter@springhillarc.org

We Need your Feedback

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



73's
Jerry
KO4RDI



Spring Hill
Amateur
Radio Club

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

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Treasurer: Wayne Boyd - KD4ERG@TampaBay.rr.com

Secretary: Carol Socash - CarolSocash@bellsouth.net

Director: Mike Hayes - Mike.Hayes317@Gmail.com

Repeaters: Larry Oaks - W9SX@outlook.com

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