

# The MODULATOR



*The NEWS and VIEWS of*  
**The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 061183,  
Fort Myers, Fl. 33906  
Visit our website [WWW.FMARC.NET](http://WWW.FMARC.NET)

**The FMARC meets every last Tuesday night 7:15 PM**

## *The President's Message*

Well we surprised Earl K4FQU with his plaque and clock, a brief history of him, and of the club. The club has decided to purchase a projector for presentations as well as the education class. An Epson 77c which is a mid priced unit.

The next big event is field day we did very well last year and as the bands are on the upswing it may even be better. We need both help in operating and setup and tear down. And also anyone that are nite owls, come at night and relieve someone for a few hours so that they can rest. If you are home and cannot come work some stations from home to give extra contacts but you cannot do both if you work at the site you cannot contact us the point's won't count.

The May meeting will be for field day see you there.

73,  
Joseph Ryan N3NAI

The "MODULATOR" is published every month through the efforts of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Opinions, expressions statements and or ideas are not necessarily those of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club.

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## F.M.A.R.C. INFORMATION:

PRESIDENT, (239) 458-9721	JOE RYAN N3NAI
VICE PRESIDENT, (239) 283-4026	MIKE MEEHAN KI4PTZ
SECRETARY, (239) 936-1431	G. E. SAMMONS WA4DQE
TREASURER, (239) 936-1431	COLLEEN SAMMONS KQ4TR
DIRECTOR, (239) 989-6186	LEN FOSTER VA3LGF
DIRECTOR, (239) 542-7274	DON MARZONIE KF4PHB

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Joe Ryan, N3NAI,	Presiding President
Mike Meehan, KI4PTZ,	Vice President
G. E. Sammons, WA4DQE,	Secretary
Colleen Sammons, KQ4TR,	Treasurer
Len Foster, VA3LGF,	Director
Don Marzonie, KF4PHB,	Director

### COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS:

Larry Zimmer, W4LWZ,	Education
John Sholtis, KI4JFO,	Program
John Anderson, KE0TG,	Membership
Edward Radke, K9GTZ,	Greeter
Colleen Sammons, KQ4TR,	Social Activity
Jim Niccum, AF4YH,	Public Relations
Joe Ryan, N3NAI,	Scheduled Contests
Larry Zimmer, W4LWZ,	Annual Hamfest
Don Marzonie, KF4PHB,	Property Control
Bill Pavela, KD4VDS,	Interference
Larry Zimmer, W4LWZ,	W4LX Trustee
Mike Branda, K4HN,	VE Coordinator
David Penezic, WA4GUK,	A.L.E.R.T.
Joyce Botchford, KJ4BEI,	Mail Manager
Mike Meehan, KI4PZT,	Webmaster
Rich Greenberg, N6LRT	The Modulator
"Butch" Brown, KE4CB,	The Swap Shop

The club's web site can be found at:  
<http://www.fmarc.net>

A list of local repeaters can be found at:  
[http://www.fmarc.net/local\\_repeater.htm](http://www.fmarc.net/local_repeater.htm)

## A.L.E.R.T.

The All Lee Emergency Response Team (A.L.E.R.T.) is looking for volunteer licensed amateur operators. We need volunteers to man the shelters, hospitals, fire and police departments and other critical facilities during and after severe storms. If you would like to provide a much needed service to your community, Call Dave Penezic, WA4GUK, R.A.C.E.S. Officer at:  
Phone: (239) 368-2552 Email: wa4guk@arrl.net

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** is the **2<sup>nd</sup>** Wednesday of each month at the Araba Shrine on Hanson Street in Fort Myers at **7:30 PM**. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss plans and issues for the club. Members are encouraged to attend.

**REGULAR CLUB MEETING & PROGRAM:** is the **"last"** Tuesday of each month. Membership, friends and interested persons meet at the Riverside Community Center (3061 E Riverside Dr Fort Myers, FL 33916 239-461-3788) at **7:15 PM** for reports from all Committee Chair Persons, announcements of present and future activity, old business issues, any new business for the Club and a program and/or speaker for the meeting.

**THE GULF COAST AREA REPEATER CLUB membership** also meets at the Riverside Community Center (3061 E Riverside Dr Fort Myers, FL 33916 239-461-3788). The club's board of directors meet on the **FIRST** Thursday of **"odd"** months at **7:30 PM** for conducting business and discussing issues for the club. The regular meeting of the membership and friends is on the **FIRST** Thursday of **"even"** months at **7:30 PM**.

**The SWAP SHOP gathering of Hams** and friends is on the **2<sup>nd</sup> & last** Saturdays at **noon** at the Club House area in Waterway Park Estates at 5820 Poetry Lane in North Fort Myers. Sell, Swap and Bargain.

**VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS** conduct testing for Amateur Radio FCC License application qualifications on the **2<sup>nd</sup>** Thursday at **6:30 PM** at the Emergency Operations Center on Ortiz Avenue.

## THE MODULATOR STAFF

It was determined at the March Board of Directors meeting that the revised Staff for the FMARC monthly newsletter, "THE MODULATOR", is now complete.

Editor & Publisher: Rich Greenberg, N6LRT. (239) 543 1353, 1705 Coral Way, N. Fort Myers, FL, 33917, e-mail: [modulator@richgr.users.panix.com](mailto:modulator@richgr.users.panix.com).

Editor Emeritus: Earl Spencer, Esq. K4FQU.  
Advisor & Consultant.

Reporter: Len Foster, VA3LGF, 2221 NE 4th Place, Cape Coral, FL 33909. (239) 989 6186, e-mail: [lfos42@earthlink.net](mailto:lfos42@earthlink.net)

Reporter: Darrell Phillips, N4OKS, 1719 NW 21st Street, Cape Coral, FL, 33993. (239) 282 1526, e-mail: [N4OKS@arrl.net](mailto:N4OKS@arrl.net), FAX: (239) 282 1536.

Also, it was reconfirmed that the deadline for news and articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Reporters.

**Modulator Submissions** of articles and ads should be sent as early as possible by email to [modulator@richgr.users.panix.com](mailto:modulator@richgr.users.panix.com). **IMPORTANT:** To avoid my spam trap, the subject **MUST** start with **[Modulator]** including the square brackets or it may be missed. Plain text is preferred and please DON'T send all upper case. Call me at 239 543 1353 if you have any questions or problems submitting an item. Ads are free to members and are accepted on a space available basis and may be edited for clarity or space.

Every member of F.M.A.R.C., not just the reporters, are invited to submit articles for the Modulator.

### FMARC Minutes 04-29-08

The regular meeting of the Ft. Myers Amateur Radio Club was held at Riverside Community Center on April 29, 2008 at 7:15PM. Officers present were President Joe Ryan, N3NAI; VP Mike Meehan, KI4PTZ; Sec'y. G.E. Sammons, WA4DQE; Treas. Colleen Sammons, KQ4TR; Directors Don Marzonie, KF4PHB and Len Foster, VA3LGF. The Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was said in unison. New members and guests were introduced and welcomed. No report of sickness or SK's. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the Modulator. Colleen, KQ4TR gave the treasurers report which was accepted and placed on file.

Committee Reports:

EDUCATION: Larry, W4LWZ has finished a General

class and will start new classes in June. Larry stated the 2009 Hamfest has been approved by the SE Division Director. There will be a Hamfest meeting at the Swap Shop on May 10th..PICNIC2008. Colleen, KQ4TR reported on the Picnic, She said if you didn't come you sure missed out on some good food like Famous Don's Hamburgers and Hot Dogs all the salads and baked beans to say nothing about the best deserts you ever put between your lips. Plan on doing it next year, you won't be sorry. FIELD DAY 2008: Joe, N3NAI reported we have the N. Ft. Myers Community Park (behind the N. Ft. Myers Library) for Field Day 2008 on June 28 & 29 2008. MODULATOR: Rich, N6LRT said get your news and ads to him by the 15th of the month.

INTERFERENCE: Bill, KD4VDS reported no problems. PROGRAM: John, KI4JFO opened the ceremony to honor Earl Spencer, K4FQU for his service and dedication to the FMARC. G.E., WA4DQE was the first to tell us of the few comical things that happened at different events. Joe, N3NAI told of the first time he met Earl. Pres. Joe then presented Earl with a beautiful clock and plaque commemorating his 20 years of service as Editor of the Modulator and Manager of the Traffic Net. The 50-50 was drawn by Earl. \$25.00 to the club.

After the meeting a collection was made for the Scholarship fund to help Brian Murray with his education.

Thanks to all who contributed. We will have a list and amount of contributions at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM for coffee and donuts.

### Board meeting report For May 10-2008

The board meeting for the month of May was held at the swap shop, the wed date was unavailable for all to come. Present were: N3NAI, KI4PTZ, VA3LGF, KF4PHB, KI4GED, KI4MGE, KI4MGF, N6LRT, W4LWZ, N4OKS, KD4NFS, KQ4TR & WA4DQE absent. No treasurer's report will be done this month at general meeting. Minutes accepted from April. Len brought the prices for a projector and also Dave sent a manual and price for a similar projector. We looked at the spec's and decided to buy the middle grade projector, an Epson 77c. Len will contact the treasurer to make the purchase, and Larry Zimmer, the education chair will be custodian, as he will be using it for education as well as presentations. Also while the PA system is working we are going to look into a contingency plan in event there is a future problem. Don is getting the info. There were questions asked about the progress of the bylaw change to include the traffic net. We have been a little slow, trying to do things right. We may have a proposal at the next general meeting. Meeting closed after 1 hour, and the field day meeting started.

Joseph Ryan for the treasurer absence

## WYFR - Worldwide

Family Stations, Inc. is a shortwave religious broadcaster that has operated WYFR since 1973. The transmitter site and antenna farm is located just north of Okeechobee on SR724, approximately six miles west of US441. That's right! We have a worldwide shortwave broadcast station in our own backyard! I've been a SWL (short wave listener) since 1955, so you can well imagine what a thrill it was for me to personally visit WYFR on April 21st. At the time of my visit, the duty engineer was Stephen (K0SD), and the duty board-operator was Dave (KA8SNK). Stephen and Dave were very gracious to me. There is no studio and no program production at Okeechobee, this is a transmitter and antenna site only. But what a beautiful site it is! WYFR uses up to fourteen languages to broadcast 24/7 on the appropriate shortwave broadcast bands to cover its target areas in all corners of the world. There are eleven 100KW AM transmitters and three 50KW AM transmitters at Okeechobee, and they are usually on-the-air simultaneously! These beautifully massive tube-type water and blower cooled transmitters have amplifier and modulator tubes that are as big as rain barrels! Some of these transmitters were commercially manufactured by Gates, or Harris, or Continental Electronics. However, Stephen advised that a few of the transmitters were actually "home-brewed" right here at the WYFR by WYFR engineers. WYFR has its own complete machine shop and repair facility here on site. Each of these transmitters is monitored by as many as fourteen analog meters. The FCC requires that certain voltage, current, and power levels be logged each hour. I walked with Stephen as he walked from transmitter to transmitter, reading the meters and logging the results. Although most of the transmitters have self-tuning mechanisms, Stephen said that some manual "tweaking" is occasionally necessary. To facilitate the large blower vents and the antenna feed line pass-through requirements, the transmitters themselves are located along the inside of two of the outside building walls. The audio feed to each of the transmitters is managed by the board operator working from consoles in a glass-enclosed room at the center of the building. An alarm system is configured to sound an alert should one of the

transmitters go off the air, or should an audio feed be interrupted.

The geographically flat antenna farm that surrounds the main WYFR building is approximately one mile square. I saw beautiful rhombics, curtains, and log-periodics, each configured in specific compass directions. These antennas can be switched to different transmitters to cover the ever-changing propagation needs of different target areas on different continents. WYFR has agreements with certain other international broadcasters to share signal report information via the internet. For example, a report from a receiver in India might prompt the need for antenna and transmitter adjustments here in Okeechobee.

The current times and frequencies for WYFR programming in English can be found in Monitoring Times, and from the internet.

Tom Root, WB8UUJ

Note: Photos to go with this article can be found at: <http://www.fmarc.net/WFYR>

### EASY UP FOR THE CLUB

Even though we've all seen these units at outdoor shows, I did not know they were called "easy ups" but it is how the unit is used. Our unit is 10 feet by 10 feet and enclosed on all sides with the front being a canopy. The total unit can be fully enclosed to protect items being used and displayed. G. E. Sammons, WA4DQE, has inspected the total unit to be sure all the pieces are in the box. Already, we are planning to use this protection enclosure at the April 18th event of our setting up an active radio station at the Hurricane Aircraft visit at Page Field on U.S. 41 in Fort Myers. Local school students will visit the aircraft during the morning hours and the public is invited during the afternoon. We will be there for the students and into the afternoon. Joe Ryan, N3NAI, has pamphlets available from ARRL about Amateur Radio, for both students and adults. This event should be a splendid exposure for the use of our new Easy Up enclosure.

Reporter N4OKS

## THE MAIL MANAGER'S DUTY

In the monthly listing of members who perform various duties important to our Club's identity is a Mail Manager. Many know Joyce Botchford, KJ4BEI, although she is not able to attend many of our scheduled functions and meetings. But she does a very responsible duty in processing our monthly Modulator newsletter. Here's what happens: After the printing copy is delivered to Magic Print by the Editor/Publisher, Joyce will call and determine when she can pick up the finished item for the Post Office delivery. Usually this is a day or so after the printing exercise time. Then it is a matter of taking the finished newsletters to the BMU (Bulk Mail Unit) of the Regional Distribution Post Office on Jetport Loop Road. Like some of my Kentucky home folks would say "way out yonder in them thar wide open spaces."

There is a special place on the west side of the huge building for special bulk mail service delivery. Here, Joyce selects the correct containers for the two grouping of letters; one for zip code 335 (the smaller group of letters) and one for zip code 339 (the larger group of letters). These containers are located in an area to the side of the entrance to the Bulk Mailing office and inside is a desk with forms for different processing services. At the top of one form she writes the name of our Club and our postal permit number 543. Also the name of our Modulator Editor/Publisher, Rich Greenberg and his telephone number. There is a place of registering the number of pieces for the two zip codes (must total a minimum of 200 pieces); Part D, items D2 for zip code 335 and D5 for zip code 339. All this completed, Joyce takes the two bundles to the counter and the clerk determines the number of pieces and if there is sufficient money in our account for the bulk mailing. The job is done for this mailing so Joyce makes her way back to the her car and on to home. And like most of our committee chair persons doing selected jobs, there will be a bit of personal expenses that are absorbed by the performing individual. That's what makes our Club so special; the mutual sharing of what we have been allowed in our daily efforts. So, let's say "thanks" to our several friends and extend a special 73 to all who unselfishly participate in the larger picture of F.M.A.R.C.

Reporter N4OKS

## MEETING NOTICE

At the May 27,2008 meeting of the FMARC the program will be given by our president Joe Ryan. The topic will be the upcoming field day. Please attend this meeting and lend your hand to our field day event.

John Sholtis KI4JFO Program director

### Hurricane Awareness Tour 2008

On April 18, 2008 the Lee County RACES team was asked by J.A. Stakenburg from Lee County Management to participate in Hurricane Awareness Tour 2008 with the hurricane hunter aircraft at Page Field. Fourteen Radio Amateurs answered the call to participate in setting-up a tent, radios, antennas and using batteries for power. The daily southwest Florida traffic net also transmitted from this location. In addition, literature was distributed and questions were answered about amateur radio and emergency communications. The media reported the number of people visiting this event in Lee County was the largest in the five tours from Texas to the Florida west coast. Our ARRL EC and Lee County RACES officer David Penezic-WA4GUK received a letter from J. Stakenburg thanking our team for making the 2008 Hurricane Awareness Tour an "overwhelming success".

Participating radio amateurs:

David Penezic-WA4GUK	p/u radio/ant at EOC.
Mike Meehan-KI4PTZ	setting-up radio/ ant.
Larry Zimmer-K4LWZ	getting the tent.
Joe Ryan-N3NAI	getting tables and chairs.
Ed Radke-K9GZT	ran swfl traffic net.
Charley Brown-KE4CB	ran swfl traffic net
Tom Root-WB8UUT	setup and tear down
Tom Muye-KI4ZXO	setup and tear down
Len Foster-VA3LGF	setup and tear down
Chuck Lane-KI4MGE & Terri Jo Lane-KI4MGF	distributed information on ham radio and emergency communications.

Norma Remson-KI4JFN program coordination.  
Charles Istenes-KI4GEDA A special thank you to Charles for providing pizza for our lunch.

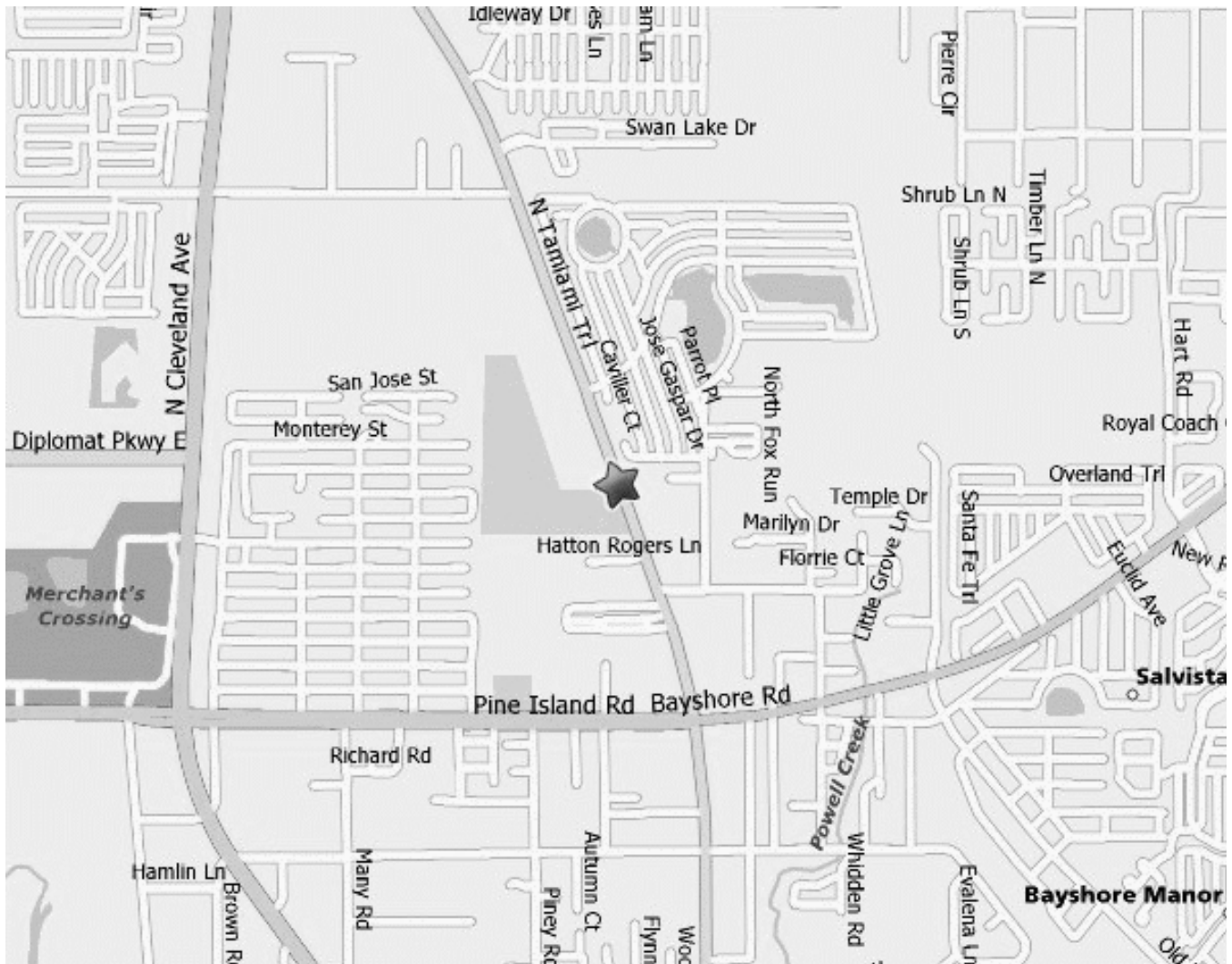
Radio amateurs who stopped by and signed our log.  
Ron Privity-KA4EET, Tom Gleason-W9ITI, Susan Sherman-KI4ZXL, and Dick Kelly-K9GMG.  
Chairman and Vice Chairman

John Sholtis-KI4JFO and Norma Remson-KI4JFN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Round Table 7:30 AM Loggerhead 7:30 PM	2 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM GCARC 7:30 PM	3 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	4 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM Lee ALERT 7:30 PM	5 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM CC Gabfest 8:00 PM	6 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	7 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM
8 Round Table 7:30 AM Loggerhead 7:30 PM	9 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	10 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	11 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFL Net 10:00 AM FMARC Board Meeting at Araba Shrine 7:30 PM on Hansen Street, FM Lee ALERT 7:30 PM	12 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM Volunteer Examiners at EOC building 6:30 PM CC Gabfest 8:00 PM	13 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	14 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM FMARC Swap Shop 12:noon till . . . . Bargain - Sell - Swap Waterway Park C. C.
15 Round Table 7:30 AM Loggerhead 7:30 PM Deadline of anything to Reporters for the Modulator newsletter.	16 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	17 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	18 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM Lee ALERT 7:30 PM	19 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM CC Gabfest 8:00 PM	20 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	21 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM
22 Round Table 7:30 AM Loggerhead 7:30 PM	23 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00	24 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club monthly scheduled meeting, 7:15 PM, Riverside Community Center.	25 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM Lee ALERT 7:30 PM	26 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM CC Gabfest 8:00 PM GCARC 7:30 PM at Riverside Community	27 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM	28 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM FMARC Swap Shop 12:noon till . . . . Bargain - Sell - Swap Waterway Park C.C.
29 Round Table 7:30 AM Loggerhead 7:30 PM	30 Round Table 7:30 AM SWFT Net 10:00 AM					

**JUNE 2008**

NETS OF RECORD, Daily & Weekly  
 Round Table (club news) 147.345 MHz. Daily, 7:30 AM  
 S.W. Florida Traffic Net, 146.685, Mon-Sat, 10:00 AM  
 Gulf Coast Area Repeater Club, 147.345, Mon., 7:30 PM  
 All Lee Emergency Response Team, 146.880, Wed. 7:30 PM  
 Loggerhead, 146.790 MHz, Sunday, 7:30 PM  
 Cape Coral Gabfest, 146.490 MHz, Thursday, 8:00 PM



### **Directions for field day:**

The site is on business 41 (a.k.a. N. Tamiami Tr.) north of sr78 (a.k.a. Pine Island/Bayshore rd). Continue north past the Goodwill and get into the left lane. The next green building on your left is the Lee County Library. Make a left there but do not go into the library lot. Continue straight to the stop sign and go into the park. Follow the main road past the buildings and courts to the right and continue to circle go around the turn and into the lot by the bleachers. Coming south on business 41 go past the Shell Factory and the drive in flea market on your right. Go past the light at Littleton rd and follow business41 to the green library building. Make a right turn and follow above directions into the park.

Pictures and maps on [www.fmarc.net](http://www.fmarc.net)

# • MODULATOR •

The Fort Myers Amateur  
RADIO CLUB, INC.  
P.O.Box 061183  
Ft. Myers, Fl. 33906

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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FORT MYERS, FL  
PERMIT NO:  
543

## FORT MYERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. Inc.

Membership Application Form Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Full single membership ..... \$10 per year
- Family membership ..... \$13 per year
- Associate membership (Non-licensed only) .. \$ 8 per year
- Family membership (Non-licensed only) .... \$13 per year

New Members must complete this form and mail together with your check or submit it at a meeting.

Current members only need to complete this form if your address or other information has changed.

New Members: Please do not submit your dues without this form. Make checks payable to FMARC.

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check  Cash  New  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (Opt) \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL member (Y) (N) License N T G A E (circle one)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Months Gone From \_\_\_\_\_ Until \_\_\_\_\_

Check which of the following committees you would like to work on:

Education  Program  Membership  Public Relations  Hamfest  Social  VE Testing

Interference  Newsletter  Nomination  Field Day  Social Events

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this form to a meeting or mail to: P.O. Box 061183 Fort Myers, Fl 33906