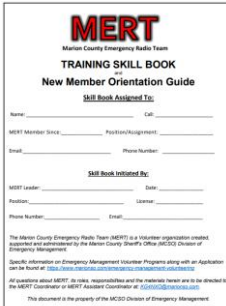


2024 MERT Highlights

JANUARY



Focus of the 2024 Weekly Meetings

Harlan (KN4VRM) stated that our 2024 weekly meetings will focus on learning and training events, including exercises. He voiced his support for all the time and effort all the members of MERT put in during January completing several pending projects including the MERT Training Skill Book and New Member Orientation Guide.

FEBRUARY

New Marion County WINLINK Gateway ON AIR

Leon Jurcyszyn (K8ZAG) activated a new Winlink gateway at his residence in the Villages. His station is 145.0300MHz. For a copy of the MERT WINLINK LOCAL MAP visit MERT's website KG4NXO.com.

Pat Davis – New Administration Manager

Pat Davis (KQ4BRW) has volunteered to become the new Administration Manager. Pat joined MERT in 2022. Pat was activated during Hurricane Ian-2022 and Hurricane Idalia-2023. Pat also received a MCSO Division of Emergency Management Achievement Award for her actions during Hurricane Ian in helping save the life of a person in Lee County.

Get your new Training Skill Book, these are designed to help members (at their own pace) complete critical skills that will be needed during an activation. See Pat Davis, Harlon Cook, or Bill Gillespie for your copy.

Thank You KRAIG PRITTS!

MERT greatly thanks Kraig Pritts (KA2LHO) for his excellent service as Administrative Manager since 2019. While he made many varied contributions over the years, three really stand out:

- He created a member database to help document volunteer details, developments, and accomplishments.
- He assisted in initiating the use of MERTrak.
- He was key to getting MERT20 off the ground.
 - MERT20 was a Special Event Exercise which allowed every MERT member the opportunity to learn and participate in activities they may not do on a regular basis; and become familiar with all the equipment provided by the DEM in the EOC radio room.
 - Further, the extended 12-hour operation introduced members to the probable schedule of shelter support assignments.

FEMA ICS-213 General Message Practice

MERT thanks Gray Moffett (KC3DWY) for leading the class in practicing how to send a radio ICS-213 message.

SIMPLEX testing underway

The Simplex Test Net has begun operations, and the first two weeks information is available.

MARCH



New Communications Building

The new communications hut at the Sheriff's Office Complex has been placed and is going through the final steps of construction. This site has KG4NXO (2 Meter & 70 cm) and the Winlink Gateways (145.030 and 145.630 MHz).

MERT Welcomes New Members

Ryan Salom (N8GLX), he has a General License, lives in SW Marion County and is a pilot for a private aviation company. Please be sure to say and introduce yourself to him when you see him.

CERT/MERT Exercise - March 9th – Pat (KQ4BRW), thank you for providing the following update on this year's exercise. These are my thoughts and general information for the MERT leaders who were not able to attend.

- MERT members that had signed up arrived on time beautifully in the radio room, an additional 3 MERT members showed up. Three small radios were checked out and 4 roving MERTians got a clipboard, 309 forms, directions, and 213 forms. The CERT teams were supported by 4 MERT members.
- Everything was calm and easy until each team got to the hazmat area.
- Henry and Preston did a hotwash with everyone in the pit. Preston talked about linking all the counties with radio, and improving the repeaters, towers, and such.
- Preston called all the MERT hams into the radio room before leaving and said he wanted to move the tower from North Marion school to Belleview ER. He was very complementary about MERT and ARES performance and saw the need maybe using MERT members to hold trainings for his deputies because MERT had their act together as far as training was concerned.

Monthly Meeting – March 16th

Thanks to the following speakers for their presentations at this meeting. Pat Davis (MERT), Gray Moffett (MERT/ARES), Dave Welker (HEC), and Hayden Kaufman (ARES). All the presentations were very interesting and informative



MERT Exercise – Price's Scrub State Park

MERT members set up and completed emergency communications from distant north Marion County line at 17930 NW Hwy 320, Micanopy, Florida. The event was led by Bill and Pat Davis and the EOC team was led by Kraig Pritts.

Here are the updates by both leaders.

- Pat's updates from the field: The exercise went very well, 5 MERT members were present at the State Park. Transmitted successfully over three transmitters (K4GSO, KJ4CLL, WA3YOX) to the EOC and MERT members home radios.
- There were 5 contacts made to home stations using VHF repeaters.
- We had 3 excellent net controllers.

- Kraig's updates from the EOC: There were 7 MERT members at the EOC.
- We had a good discussion about why we spot and what information is there. Dee put in some information.
- We practiced hearing calls in a pileup of many people calling.
- Our exercise prompted great discussion and resulted in more questions, which is exactly what they are supposed to do.
 - MERT salutes Pat, Bill and Kraig for leading everyone on this training event. Thanks for the excellent teamwork.
 - Editor's Note: Another field test event is being planned for the far western Marion county line
- From Dave Gustafson (WB9EEH) at his QTH (base station residence): The repeaters tested from Price's were 100% successful. *Dave, thank you for the feedback on the radio check and the signal quality report at your base station. Keep them coming!*

MERT Training Exercise – March 27th

Pat Davis (KQ4BRW) shared the following summary:

- MERT has 2 new participants, Ryan is a full member now, and Duke put in his application today.
- Bill Sobel showed how to convert a VHS radio into a GMRS. He also explained that it is illegal to transmit GMRS on VHF radio. (Handout provided)
- Harlan showed the Broward County Fire Chief's procedures for wind speed and callouts.
- Hayden stated that in Marion County the wind speed must be 45mph before calls are prioritized.
- We conducted an inventory of SHREK kits 1-4.
- EOC team received their own blank forms and radios.
- A shelter check-in was conducted on channel 1. There were a few bumps but mostly it went smoothly.
- We conducted a verbal Hotwash with 11 members present.
 - *Thank you, Pat, for the excellent plan, leadership, and event summary of this training event.*

Sheriff's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

- This was a greatly appreciated event.

Special Event Reminder – MERT 20 Exercise

- Saturday, April 27th – 8 AM until 8PM
- Visit MERT20.org or KG4NXO.com and click on MERT20 tab and pick your shift.



APRIL

This month, we focused on why we as MERT volunteers do what we do for the EOC.

- First, we share a unique combination of abilities, knowledge and amazement centered around our interest in amateur radio.
- Next, our common desire to **help others when they need help**.
- *Our motto is "call MERT when all else fails".*

April Training Exercises -- Hurricane Season and MERT 20

- Hurricane Season Preparations – Members focused on the process of passing official communications via radio using the FEMA ICS-213 (General Message) form.
- Shelter Emergency Radio Kit (SHREK) Audit and Testing – Members conducted an audit of all equipment in simulated operations.

Monthly Meeting -- April 20th

- Thanks to Bill Gillespie (MERT Assistant Coordinator) for conducting the April monthly meeting.
- Training portion included passing ICS-213 messages in the classroom.
- The session included the IC-880H radio guide created by Leon Jurcyszyn.

MERT 20 Training Classes

- This class was held on April 24th. The first exercise was to come into a ‘cold’ MERT radio room and get it set up and functioning. We went through the spotting process. We discussed our logging documents (modified ICS-214s) and stressed the importance of neat legible writing.

MAY

MERT 20 – Review

- The event was led by Kraig Pritts.
- Hours of activity – 9, Participants – 20, Total Contacts-- 37, Modes used: SSB; FT-8; D-Star; FM; USB; LSB, Bands used: 75cm; 2m; 10m; 15m; 17m; 20m; 40m; 17m
- HF Contacts – 21, FM Contacts – 16
- States Contacted: FL- 8; MA; ME; PA; SC; TX; VA; WV
- Thanks to all who participated, the set-up began at 7AM and all radios were shut off by 5:30 PM



A Special Thanks to Kraig Pritts

- Two years ago, he suggested this event, he led the way in setting goals, objectives, and the necessary steps in its planning and many more hours in training to support a successful event.

JUNE

Meeting Documentation Manager Position Open

- The duties of this position are: the preparation of the MERT Annual Meeting Report; taking roll call at the MERT Annual Meeting; and conducting the Annual Meeting.



Shelter Emergency Radio Kit (SHREK) Update

- The faulty parts identified on the last inspection were replaced.
- All SHREK kits are now fully stocked, radios reprogrammed, tested and ready for use.

- All SHREK kits have been moved to the lowest shelf in the warehouse, making them much easier and safer to access.
- A big thanks to Gary Neron, Nick Kiddey, and Ray Woody for completing the relocation.

Shelter Inspections & Systems Tests

- MERT members completed eight Shelter Inspections & Systems Tests on May 29th, 2024.
- Findings
 - Forest High School – MERT cannot support activations at this shelter until modifications are made.
 - Madison Street Elementary School – Testing was overall successful, but there was no cell service or Wi-Fi. No generator on campus. The emergency power outlet was 100’ away and there was no space for a cot.
 - Saddlewood Elementary School – Testing was successful, but no emergency power outlets and no generator on campus.
 - Vanguard High School – Testing was successful, but there is no space for a cot.
 - West Port High School – Testing was successful, but there is no A/C or fan in the room. There was debris and ants on the floor.
 - *Thanks to Leon Jurcyszyn and Pat Davis for their leadership in helping organize, conduct, and complete all, the Shelter Reports.*

Monthly Meeting – June 18th

- *Thanks to Bill Gillespie for leading the monthly meeting.*
- Topics covered were: Review of the uniform standards recently adopted; spouse participation guidelines; Shelter inspection /testing results; Florida State Shelter review status; MERT repeater relocation into new communications building at the Sheriff’s Office Complex; Receipt of new MERT radio equipment for MCC deployments; the arrival of the 2024 Hurricane season challenging forecast.

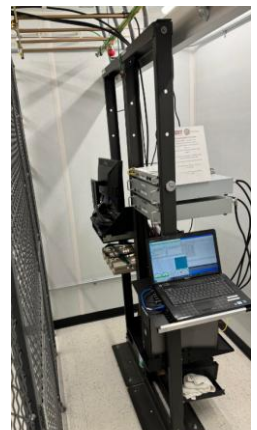
Shelter Activation and Procedures Reference

- All members are encouraged to review the guidelines for Shelter Activations located in each *Shelter Reference Manual*.
- This information can also be found at KG4NXO.com under the “MERT SHELTER REFERENCE”

JULY

Major MERT Upgrades and New Communications Building Sheriff’s Office Complex

- Replacement of all the antenna cables on the tower
- Replacement of MERT antennas supporting KG4NXO 2m (VHF) and 70cm (UHF) repeaters
- Replacement of the KG4NXO-10 Winlink Gateway on 145.630 MHz
- Replacement of the old “hut” with a state-of-the-art new communications building.
- Additionally, the National Weather Service is adding a



“Mini-doppler radar” to improve the reporting of weather conditions across Marion County.

Inventory Update

- Thanks to all the members who supported the effort.
- Replaced cardboard boxes with large capacity storage bins
- Identified spare hardware, cables, and other resources.
- Grouped some equipment into “needing repair” category
- *Special thanks to Kathy Oxendine for photographing the activities on June 26th.*



YOUR PART in MERT EOC Tower Maintenance

- As a member, your help is needed to inspect the EOC tower every time you visit the radio room and report any issues.

Shelter Emergency Radio Kit (SHREK) Update

- Per a recommendation from a member during the July 17th exercise a short Cat 5 cable was added to each SHREK kit and added to the inventory list.

MERT Test Exercise – July 17th

- The exercise included some surprises requiring unique solutions and procedures for success.
- Hot Wash comments included feedback on the planning and execution elements.
- All participants felt that it was a “real feel” exercise.

NVIS Antenna Update

- After completing a series of classes on the Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) antenna.
- On July 17th a MERT’s NVIS antenna was set up and operational tests included a 40m contact with member Ryan Salom’s father 60 miles north of Ocala.

Monthly Meeting—July 20th

- The meeting had 22 participants from multiple organizations including ARES, HEC, and MERT.
- The speakers were:
 - Pat Davis—New Member Manager
 - MERT TEST Exercise Review
 - Used SHREK kits to set up active radio stations
 - Contacted EOC radio room
 - Successfully passed a test ICS-213 General Message
 - Received radio confirmation of traffic received
 - Completed ICS forms 213 (General Message), 214 (Activity Log), 309 (Communication Log)
 - Dave Welker—Hospital Emergency Communications Team (HEC)
 - Discussed HEC Exercise results
 - Discussed what they are doing to prepare for Hurricane season

- Discussed importance and reliability of Winlink Gateways
- Hayden Kaufman—Marion County ARES Coordinator (ARES)
 - Introduction of information about SHARES (SHARES 101)
 - MERT will post a presentation in Quick Links shortly.

MERT Completed the Equipment Transfer to the New Communications Building

- Harlan Cook (MERT Coordinator) and Leon Jurcyszyn (Past Coordinator & Technical Advisor) completed the project.

Overcoming HOA Antenna Restrictions—A new Idea!

- An extremely creative 2m/70cm “Birdhouse” antenna. The structure is located further from the house, which significantly improved the 2m and 70cm radio quality.

New Members Welcomed!

- Nick Kiddey (W4NFK) has completed the Level 1 & 2 New Member Orientation workbook and met the 6-month probation period.
- Phil Lewis (W4EVV) has completed the Level 1 & 2 New Member Orientation workbook and met the 6-month probation period.

MERT Member Update

- In this month’s “*Communications Update*” we have an interesting article by Kraig Pritts (KA2LHO) on Parks on the Air (POTA).

AUGUST

Hurricane Debbie and MERT Readiness

- MERT experienced our first ever Level 2 activation.
 - This was a precautionary step as MERT is especially capable of monitoring and receiving reports and status conditions from around the state.
 - This can be reported to the EOC IC when appropriate.

EOC Activation Levels

Training included:

- Level 1- Full Scale Activation of Marion County Emergency Response Team. MERT is to be fully staffed for emergency operations.
- Level 2- Partial Activation of Marion County Emergency Response Team. MERT may be activated to support the EOC.
- Level 3- Monitoring Activation. MERT is at normal operations level.

Hurricane Debby Activation

On Saturday, August 4th, MERT was activated at Level 2 readiness. MERT acknowledges the following members for responding to the EOC, then began activation and full monitoring. Bill Gillespie (KW5BG), Harlan Cook (KN4VRM), Gary Neron (KS4TSX), Phil Lewis (W4EVV), Leon Jurcyszyn(K8ZAG), as well as Hayden Kaufman (N2HAY). ARES Coordinator.

MERT Appreciation Visit

During the Wednesday, August 7th “Check In” meeting Director Preston Bowlin visited and thanked them for their support during the Level 2 activation on August 4th/5th. We thank him for his constant support of our organization.

Hurricane Debby Hot Wash Update

The “Check In” on Wednesday, August 7th was very focused on discussing the preparations and events leading up to and during the Hurricane Debby activation. This was a very productive discussion.

The Hot Wash resulted in several revisions, changes and additions needed to the **Incident Commanders RED BOOK**.

- These were the inclusions of:
 - Detailed EOC Activation Levels.
 - MERT Radio Room Layout; addition of specific information details to be announced on KK4DFC, KG4NXO and KJ4CLL on an hourly basis for MERT members, CERT Operators, and other local amateur radio operators monitoring the MERT repeaters
 - Conducting Shelter Operator Roll Call on KK4DFC hourly
 - Procedures for conducting Shelter Operator support when any Roll Call response is not received by the MERT Radio Room
 - Member Roll Call at regular hours (8am, 12noon, and 4pm)
 - Informing MERT members of all open Shelters prior to MERT activation
 - NVIS antenna information and construction guide for the MERT NVIS Go Box
 - Deletion of MCPS PC user and password sections
 - Procedures for DEM checkout, testing, use, and check in of the laptops for Shelter Operators
 - Guide for Resolving MERT Communications failures at the Shelters
 - Update to the MERT member Personal Go Bag supply list



Shelter Emergency Radio Kit (SHREK) Update

- Wednesday, August 14th, Harlan Cook (KN4VRM) shared the “Resolving MERT Communication Failure at Shelters” document. The session reviewed in detail key steps to take if a MERT Operator experienced a communication failure while on duty at a shelter.

New NVIS Antenna Resources

Based on the training and event activities three new resources were created in August.



- “**NVIS 101**”—A training resource which explains numerous aspects of the theory, HF band limitations, radiation patterns and operational tips.
- “**NVIS Setup Instructions**” - This resource provides safety precautions, construction details for the specific NVIS MERT owns and radio room procedures for operation.
- “**NVIS Antenna Go Box**” – This resource contains all the components needed for rapid deployment anywhere MERT is deployed.

Sheriff's Office Complex Tower and New Communications Building Update

- The Winlink Gateway PC & software has been a major challenge since the recent move. However, through the persistence of Leon Jurcyszyn (K8ZAG) the programming problems have been solved by bringing the MERT Gateway reliably online. **Huge thanks to Leon!**

New Volunteer Services Coordinator

- On Wednesday, August 21st, Lt. Paul Bloom visited and introduced the new Volunteer Services Coordinator, Sarah Jenkins.

August 21st Training Topics

- The explanation and background of Anderson Power Poles was discussed, then instructions on assembly with practical “Do’s and Don’ts” construction tips from experienced members.
- The two most common programming software resources for amateur radios (CHIRP and RT Systems) were thoroughly discussed. This concluded with a summary by Bill Gillespie, who leads MERT’s support for our members in this area.
- HF QRP Radio update – Kraig Pritts (KA2LHO) presented an update on creating a personal very low power HF “Go Bag” radio.

August 28th Training Topics

- A follow up on Anderson Power Poles. Don’t forget the fuses.
- Examples of CHIRP & RT Programming Systems were shown and discussed.
- **MERTrak**—Members learned that all Sheriff’s Office volunteers contribute from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 in savings annually to the residents of Marion County.
- A review of the MERT website KG4NXO.com was presented. And its usefulness as a resource for members was stressed.
- The completed Sheriff’s Office Complex tower upgrade was reviewed. We thank the DEM for their ongoing support of MERT.

SEPTEMBER

Document, document, document

Harlan (KN4VRM) discussed how important documentation is for Emergency Communicators (EMCOMM). He related how documented communications were used to verify the rescue that was performed during the 2022 Hurricane Ian event in Ft. Meyers. This documentation led to the recognition of MERT’s life-saving actions and other works with a **Meritorious Volunteer Unit Award**, on March 31st, 2023. He thanked everyone for always completing and signing all documents required by ICS procedures and understanding the importance of signing in and out and documenting everything.

MERT Appreciation Visit

During the September 11th Check In meeting Director of Emergency Management, Preston Bowlin visited and thanked all MERT members for all they do to stay ready and prepared to support the shelters with MERT Radio Operations.

Welcome Cindy Sheffield (K9LRX) -New Documentation Manager

Cindy shares this about herself...I initially got my HAM license to make myself more useful to the K-9 Search and Rescue teams where I was serving as Communication Chief (in Texas). I only used my HAM skills twice during my 14-year tenure with the various teams I worked with. Since joining MERT a few months ago I have been fortunate to participate in operational, technical, and procedural training events, hurricane preparations and SHREK kit audits. I was also privileged to join in the Hurricane Helene activation as an EOC trainee.

Hurricane Helene Activation

As Tropical Storm Helene became a Category 4 Hurricane, MERT was activated at 08:00 on September 26th in support of the special needs shelter at West Port High School and the EOC Radio Room. MERT recognizes the following members for honoring their membership commitment:

Bill Gillespie-EOC, Bill Sobel-EOC, Gary Neron-Shelter, Pat Davis-Shelter, Ray Woody-Shelter Trainee, Cindy Sheffield-EOC Trainee, Royce Hagerman-EOC, Harlan Cook-EOC, and Standby Operators Dave Gustafson, & Mike Condon.

MERT operations were deactivated at 22:00 hours, which represents a 14-hour deployment. Additionally, thanks to Bill Sobel (K1WLS) EOC support was provided to CERT communities that had amateur radio operations during their Friday morning deployment.

The incredible devastation and loss of life Hurricane Helene caused across Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia were not anticipated, especially in view of the mostly limited impacts seen here in Marion County. On a more personal note, MERTians Pat & Bill Davis were without power, cellphone, and internet for 5 days.

MERT Surprise Visit

On September 26th during the activation for Hurricane Helene Lt. Ryan Robbins visited MERT'S Radio Room for the first time and thanked us for what we do in support of Marion County residents. As he is now assigned to the EOC for future activations. Further, he shared how Preston Bowlin (Director of Emergency Management), is a vocal supporter of our activities during emergencies and the significant training, readiness and EMCOMM support we provide when called upon.

NVIS Antenna Go Box Equipment List

A big "Thank You" goes to MERT members Dee Seagraves and new member Jerry Landrum for completing the NVIS Antenna Go Box inventory. This resource is designed for rapid deployment ensuring all components are available for setup/operation anywhere MERT is deployed.

September 21st Monthly Meeting

This monthly meeting had several informative speakers:

- Sargent Todd Winkler (W1NKX) of the MCSO dropped in to greet his fellow hams. He was invited to join our weekly and monthly meetings whenever his schedule allows.

- Harlan shared a proposal for adding a Forest Tower to MERT’s County repeaters. This would potentially provide a County-wide linked multi-repeater network for MERT. This proposal has been submitted to Director Preston Bowlin for review.
- Next, was Guest Speaker Earl McDow (K4ZSW) from Gainesville, FL. He shared how he became a ham, his responsibilities as Editor of the “QST NFL” newsletter. He also mentioned a few of the current activities of the Alachua County ARES team, including the planned new larger EOC.
- Then, Gray Moffett (K3DWY) provided an update from Marion County ARES on FEMA Go Kits and the ARES ICS 217 form.
- The meeting finished up with an update from Bruce Twiss (KI4NFA) on the activities of the Hospital Team, including the 145.270 repeater at Advent Health Ocala, call sign (KN4MIV) the Trustee is Jim Burgess. Further, funding has been approved for a new radio/antenna connection for Advent Health Bellview ER.

OCTOBER

Emergency Management Organizational Chart

The Division of Emergency Management created a chart to show the overall organizational groups and sections. These EOC sections are:

1. Emergency Management
2. Citizen Information Line
3. Logistics
4. Planning and Intelligence
5. Public Information Unit
6. Operations
 - i. MERT falls under this section.

Hurricane Milton Update

- It is with great respect and admiration that the following individuals honored their membership commitment during Hurricane Milton:

Bill Gillespie (KW5BG)	MERT IC	EOC
Bill Sobel (K1WLS)	MERT IC	EOC
Pat Davis (KQ4BRW)	Leader	North Marion Middle
Cindy Sheffield (K9LRX)	Trainee	North Marion Middle
Ray Woody (KB6FKN)	Leader	West Port HS
Tim Trombly (K8TAT)	Trainee	West Port HS
Gary Neron (KS4TSX)	Leader	Fort McCoy
Phil Lewis (W4EVV)	Leader	Liberty Middle
Nick Kiddey (W4NFK)	Leader	Horizon Academy
Mike Condon (W9MNC)	Radio Operator	EOC
Gray Moffett (KC3DWY)	MERT IC	EOC
Ryan Salom (N8GLX)	Radio Operator	EOC
Carl Berry (KC5PMX)	Radio Operator	Dunnellon PD

Hurricane Milton Facts

Some facts we learned about this hurricane:

- In Marion County, the maximum sustained winds reached 33 mph with the highest recorded gusts of 44 mph
- The maximum rainfall recorded was 9.42 inches
- Approximately 75,000 customers lost electricity out of a total of 220,000
- 37,000 people from other parts of Florida sought refuge in Marion County

NOVEMBER

2024 Hurricane Facts

Helene and Milton rank second as the most destructive and costly hurricane duo hitting the U.S. in history. Costing approximately \$295 billion in damages.

MERT supports local 5K walk/run event

June Benoit, Stone Creek CERT Leader came to a weekly meeting to thank MERT member Phil Lewis (W4EVV) for organizing and leading the communications team (MERT members: Nick Kiddey (W4NFK); Ray Woody (WB6FKJ); and Bill Sobel (K1WLS) supporting the “Spooky Striders” 5K walk/run event. With real time information from each Aid Station.

DECEMBER

Training Focus—MERT’s HF Go KIT

MERT membership participated in several deep dive training sessions into our High Frequency radio capabilities in the radio room.... along with the HF G0 Kit we have. When more favorable weather returns, a Field Exercise will be planned to deploy, set up and operate both radio systems using multiple antenna types (mag-based 2 Meter, ATAS-120A multi-band dipole and the 80 Meter/40 Meter NVIS Antenna).

MERT Upgrades of Note

The HF Support Tower will be replaced with a new high-strength tower that is hurricane rated. It will be located at a new location further from the building and trees. This move will improve the HF radio receiver quality.

Members Bill Gillespie (KW5BG), Phil Lewis (W4EVV), Leon Jurcyszyn (K8ZAG), and Harlan Cook (KN4VRM) undertook the task of starting the repeater and controller software for the 2-meter repeaters. More work is required as several error messages were noted.

Thanks to Royce Hagerman (KD7SNN)

MERT genuinely thanks Royce for his time and ingenuity in constructing a protective antenna case for the Yaesu ATAS-120A multi-band antenna.

Thank You, Farewell and Good Luck to our Good Friend!

Leon Jurcyszyn (K8ZAG) who tirelessly supported, led and Elmered dozens and dozens of MERT members and hams in the area. He ended his decade of service on December 11th, 2024 to MERT and the Division of Emergency Management. His contributions have been SIGNIFICANT along with his

passion to share all that amateur radio can provide as both a hobby and a life-saving resource in emergency communications.

On December 11th, 2024 at the weekly MERT meeting Major Kevin Rowe, Bureau Chief, MCSO, presented Leon with a **Meritorious Volunteer Service Award** from Sheriff Billy Woods.



Recognizing a Decade of Service by Leon Jurcyszyn