

# Indian River Amateur Radio Club's Spurious Emissions

April 2010

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## IRARC Public Service Event Hat Trick

IRARC members recently completed a public service event feat by supporting three public service events within a one month period. On March 27th the club supported the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's annual Beach Walk. Two weeks later on April 10th, IRARC members provided communications for the Multiple Sclerosis Walk at Riverside Park in Cocoa Village. The

hat trick was completed with a trip back to the beach with IRARC providing coverage for the March of Dimes Annual March for Babies from Jetty Park on April 24th. All three events were coordinated by Steve Luchuk, N4UTQ with net control operations provided by Dave Glenn, KD4SFR (JDRF & MS Walk), and Gene Sirota, W4JMX (March of Dimes).



*MS Walk Support Team at Riverside Park. Radio coverage along the Cocoa Village walk path was provided through the IRARC 145.370 MHz repeater*

## Software Defined Radio (SDR) Presentation



*Greg's live on-the-air radio SDR presentation of the FlexRadio 3000 connected to a Bud-dipole antenna outside the meeting room*

Greg O'Neill, AB4GO gave a superb presentation of Software Defined Radio technology at the April IRARC meeting. SDR is a combination of hardware and computer software used to provide a unique means of radio operation. The first thing one notices about SDR ops is the lack of a tuning knob. "Where's the dial/knob to tune up and down the band?" With SDR you see the

radio signal and use a computer mouse to place a pointer at the signal of interest. You see the signal on spectrum display rather than tune a knob to hear the signal. The power of SDR is harnessing the flexibility of digital signal processing in software. Changes to the radio's features can be performed by a software update just like you would perform for a computer system update.

SDRs are not inexpensive. Greg's FlexRadio 3000 begins at \$1600 (same price as an ICOM-7000) and the grander FlexRadio 5000 runs about \$3500. Not cheap but for \$1600 you have a radio with the performance of a \$3000 machine. Since SDRs balances hardware with software, you don't have to run a supercomputer to have a good radio. A basic laptop with a dual core or more modern CPU will allow portable operations as demonstrated by Greg. SDRs will operate traditional SSB/FM modes and HF digital modes. FlexRadio is not the only SRD game in town but they have a good track record.

## Curious about SDRs?

Point your browser to [www.flex-radio.com](http://www.flex-radio.com) for details on FlexRadio's systems. There are also numerous SDR demos on the web - search YouTube.com. Finally check out the SDR forums by checking "Software Defined Radios" on Google

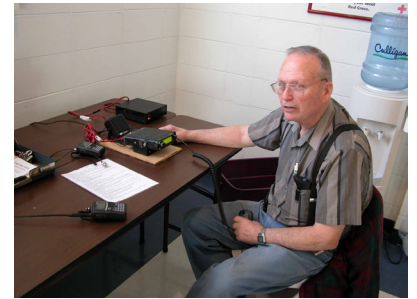
IRARC's Spurious Emissions is published monthly  
Comments and articles are welcomed, contact  
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## D-Star Training Class

Glenn Edmonson, N3EH and Bob Jones, N6USP gave a presentation of D-Star operations to members of several radio clubs at the Rockledge Red Cross on April 3rd. Glenn discussed operations into the new KJ4OXT D-Star repeater on 147.03 MHz. A new D-Star repeater should also be available on 70 cm in the near future. There is a link to Glenn's D-Star website on the IRARC website. A D-Star

support group meets every last Saturday of the month at Kay's BBQ in Cocoa at 9 PM to discuss D-Star issues/operating techniques. Nifty's E-Z Guide to D-Star Operation (2nd Ed.) is an excellent resource for getting on the air. For a low cost way to explore D-Star you can check out the DV Dongle (A D-Star encoder/decoder) to connect your Mac or PC via USB into the D-Star gateway and

experience D-Star via the internet. See [www.dvdongle.com](http://www.dvdongle.com) for info.



Bob, N6USP gives a demo of D-Star operations using an ICOM IC-880H and IC80AD HT

## Last Club Meeting News

The April 1st (no fooling) meeting began at 7:40 PM with Dave, AI4FY leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Greg, AB4GO recognized Steve Lowman, N4SGL Club Coordinator for South Florida Section, David Comoletti, KJ4PMF and his son Ryan as a special guests. We are keeping Bob N4VO (hip replacement recovery) and Eric Smitt, K9ES in our thoughts. Club minutes from the March newslet-

ter were approved along with the March financial report. Dave Slawson, K4UZM was commended for his leadership with the SKYWARN service. Steve, N4UTQ was appointed IRARC Emergency Coordinator and Public Service Coordinator. Terry Halladey, AF7W was appointed IRARC representative to BEARS. Discussion of a transportable repeater was deferred pending further study/

cost estimates. Meeting was concluded at 8 PM for the SDR presentation.



## Strays and Stuff



Only the Shadow Knows .... Steve Luchuk, N4UTQ at the 2010 MS Walk provided logistical communications for the MS Walk leadership - here Ms Morlarty in Riverside Park

- IRARC Financial Report for April 2010  
Checking: \$2565, Equipment Fund: \$1595
- Bob, N6USP will conduct an ARECC Level 1 class with exams on May 22nd at Parish Medical Center Conference Room 2 & 3 at 8 AM - 3 PM. See [www.northbrevardarc.org/ARECCClass.htm](http://www.northbrevardarc.org/ARECCClass.htm)
- Are you RadioActive? Check the IRARC website calendar for upcoming events. Join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net Wednesday at 7:15 PM on the 145.370 MHz repeater with simplex radio checks after the ARES Net on 147.420 MHz. For HF operators the "Half-time" Net meets on 3.820 MHz every Sunday at 3 PM.

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