

History of  
[www.sccarc.info](http://www.sccarc.info)

The idea to create a web site for the Sun City Center Amateur Radio Club spawned in the fall of 2004. Hurricane Charley was headed up the west coast of Florida initially targeting Tampa Bay area, but at the last minute it turned and hit Charlotte County Area on August 13, 2004. In the after math we were concerned how do we keep snowbirds, friends and families of residents informed of what is happening here in SCC. The conclusion was how about a web site where during hurricane alerts and in the aftermath we would post reports on what's happening here in Sun City Center.

We first had to secure a domain name. "sccarc" immediately came to mind. We wanted sccarc.org but that name was not available. We found that we could have sccarc.info. Which was appropriate because that's what we were attempting to do was provide information to others. We even posted an email address that viewers could contact us to obtain H&W information. The initial address was one obtained on the webmasters account. Right away it should come to mind that this approach was only valid if we still had internet connection here in Sun City Center.

Well we survived three more hurricanes that year (2004). Sun City Center experienced varying degrees weather. Sometimes phones were out as well as power. But in general we were able to maintain regular connection to internet. We received several queries for information from persons up north as well as far away as England. We were able to contact an amateur locally via 2 meter band who in turn went to the location specified in the query and contact the people or get a report of the situation. Much appreciative thanks was received for this service.

You might be asking what would we have done had we lost internet connection. We provided for that also. First of all our domain was being hosted on a server provided free by Andy B. the son of an amateur radio (N9NNM) friend, location being in Wisconsin. We had it set up with two amateurs, one in Wisconsin and one in Michigan that we could contact via amateur radio high frequency. These amateurs would contact Andy who agreed to up date the emergency news page with latest info. While we didn't refer to this page as a blog, today that would be its usual reference. We have been fortunate here in Florida in that we have never had to resort to that mode as we continually achieved an internet connection. Power always seemed to be up, with only occasional problems. I think probably, it's because the webmaster lives very close to the hospital and on the same power grid that supplies the hospital.

After the 2004 hurricane season what next? What should we do with the web site in between periods. So the pages available on web increased. Pages were added to tell about the club and the activities by its members. The SCCARC is very active in EMCOMM and thus we have couple pages devoted to training awards and links to pages that assist in that regard. Initially the domain name was paid for by the

webmaster. Subsequently the club picked up the tab. For two or three years we had the server provided free. Then Andy went off to college and had server problems. We begin to look else where, we found a gaming friend on line who was system administrator of a large company, while he lived in Virginia the server reside in West Texas. A couple of years later we lost the use of this server and had to look around. Now we are back in Wisconsin utilizing a server in Marinette WI. No longer free but very reasonable annual fee, which is picked up by the club. The owners of this company are personal friends of the webmaster's son, and the administrator agreed to edit the emergency information page if he was contacted by an amateur to update. We have several snowbird amateurs who have volunteered to help in this regard.

At about this time we created a Yahoo email address that is posted for people to send emails to us for H&W information. We have been able to assist in this regard a couple of times. During past couple years, Florida has been quiet as far as hurricanes so we have to be honest and say the whole system still hasn't been subjected to a real test. If you look for the web site's menu bar across the top of the web page you will see "EMERGENCY INFO" - clicking this menu choice brings into focus the emergency info page with latest information related to weather and especially hurricanes as they affect us here in Sun City Center. A reader can request H&W information by clicking on the email address and send an email. We have several snowbird volunteers that will monitor the mail received as result of this page. These radio amateurs will contact us here in Sun City Center and stay in contact with the person sending the query, while we attempt to provide the answers from SCC.

So surf our web page, learn more about the club and amateur radio and let others know of this source for possible weather conditions that could be occurring in SCC.

Webmaster  
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