



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

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www.arrl-nfl.org

August 2017

Steve's Take:

**NFL Section Manager
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM**



Greetings North Florida Hams!

**Welcome to the GREATEST
HOBBY IN THE WORLD!**

Hi Folks,

Oops! Two months in a row - I'm kinda' sneaking this in as I pack to head to Colorado (visiting my daughter – YES! I'm bringing my KX-3.....) - so it's gonna' be another short one!

The Milton Hamfest was July 7th and 8th. I was there both days, and actually did some card checking!

It was a fun time, and they had a good crowd. Here I am "manning the ARRL Booth" with Mr. Ham Radio himself, the Great Frank Butler W4RH!

This month, I will visit the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) on Tuesday August 15th.

Check out our fabulous NFL Section Web Page and read our spectacular Newsletter (August issue) *QST NFL*. <http://arrl-nfl.org/>

Get involved, get active, get happy! Stay safe, get on the air, and have fun!!

EVERYONE COUNTS!

**73, Steve WB4OMM
Steve Szabo WB4OMM
NFL Section Manager**

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™

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wb4omm@arrl.org



The BIG NEWS this week – is the AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT – CALL THE TWO FLORIDA SENATORS! Yes, I know Sen. Nelson will not back it. CALL HIM ANYWAY! Here is a link to the rally site:

<https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Call and send those letters NOW!

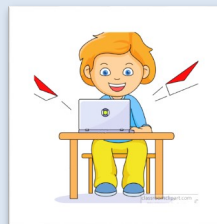
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Email your QST NFL input to

WB2VYK@gmail.com

Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor

Alachua County ARES October S.E.T: Rural Digital Disaster Communications Invites Participation by Other ARES Groups

by Gordon L.Gibby KX4Z

Just last year, Steinhatchee, Florida, a rural coastal community of about 1,000 that swells dramatically during scalloping season, was **inundated** by Category 1 Hurricane Hermine. Flooding was very destructive from the storm surge. An employee of my favorite restaurant (Roy's) gestured that the water got chest high in their facility built on stilts well above the river level. They were closed for 3 months to repair the damage. The hurricane's total U.S. damage was half a \$Billion.



For this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (S.E.T., Saturday October 7th), Alachua County ARES will practice creating a "digital highway" to carry simulated emergency traffic – rescue arrangements, shelter / food / water information, damage assessments – all the way from the Jena-Steinhatchee area back to Gainesville Florida.

Using some of the many 120-foot fire lookout towers still standing, tests indicate we'll easily make digital connections to our Alachua County AX.25 145.070 MHz packet network, and from there jump onto the vast SEDAN digital network on 145.770 MHz (**red line** on map). An alternate path (**blue line**) takes us directly from the Jonesboro Lookout Tower near Steinhatchee right to the Lake City SEDAN station. Graciously, the Crapps Family has given us permission to use their privately owned Jonesboro Lookout Tower, which already has a VHF antenna with a feedline right to the ground (see photo). Attach the antenna connector of a 2-meter linbpq node station, and we have a great ham radio relay that can reach Newberry or Lake City!



If your local ARES group would like to participate & coordinate with Alachua County ARES on Saturday October 7th between 10 AM and 1 PM, we would be delighted to hear from you and assist in any way we can.

We hope to create a 2.4 GHz MESH message catchment input system using amateur radio frequencies and AREDN free software with Ubiquiti and other microwave transceivers, which connect fairly easily to Raspberry Pi-based linbpq AX.25 systems. S.E.T. Volunteers would be able to use either 2 meters or 2.4 GHz to insert and retrieve message traffic from prime rescue and staging areas in the Steinhatchee area, with an intermediate MESH / 2-meter site near the 10th St.SE high bridge connecting Steinhatchee & Jena across the river. The photo below shows a home-made "go-box" with a Raspberry Pi, 2 meter radio/antenna, and a 2.4 GHz Ubiquiti Nanostation. We may also put up an HF WINLINK client or gateway station (NF4RC) near the bridge, to allow direct HF-band simulated traffic flow out of the simulated disaster.

Alachua County (Continued)



There are many other under-served communities with limited digital amateur radio volunteer assets, that could also be the focus of other Florida ARES groups during the Simulated Emergency Test.

Other ARES groups planning October Simulated Emergency Test outings are welcome to coordinate with our “flooded coastal city” simulation. You might connect to either end of our long-distance VHF digital highway, anywhere in the middle, or to another node on the SEDAN network, or you might wish to create your own connections to some other simulated disaster site. Apalachicola, Everglades City, Okeechobee, and other small towns might offer meaningful practice locations. We could transfer small files or simulated disaster email between our distant ends as a demonstration. Contact either Jeff Capehart (w4ufl@arrl.net) or Gordon Gibby (ggibby@anest.ufl.edu) for more information.



West Central Florida Field Day Caravan a Success!

Darrell Davis KT4WX, SCM West Central Florida



On Saturday June 24th, the WCF Section Field Day Caravan took to the roads of the WCF Section for the 17th time. This was the first year that there were two teams doing the Caravan.

Darrell Davis KT4WX and Christine Duez KK4KJN toured Polk, Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties. Their tour started at approximately 0830 and concluded at 0145 early on Sunday June 25th. Their team visited 11 Field Day sites and drove 264 miles.

Ben Henley KI4IGX and Randy Payne K4EZM toured Highlands, Hardee, Desoto, Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Their tour started at approximately 0830 and concluded at approximately 1700 hours. Their team visited 7 Field day sites and drove approximately 250 miles.

On the Section Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/arrlwcf>, you can see pictures posted by the tour in the Northern end of the Section as they visited those 11 Field Day sites. Also you can follow their tracks from their APRS beacon at <http://aprs.fi/k4wcf-9>. You can follow the tracks of the southern team APRS beacon at <http://aprs.fi/k4wcf-11>.

The most interesting Field Day statistics is how Darrell Davis KT4WX received the messages that Field Day sites send to the Section Manager for 100 bonus points. The following is a breakdown of how the Section Manager received Field Day messages: Four received by APRS Instant Message, two received by WL2K email (which is legal under the Field Day rules), one was received on 2 Meters on a local repeater, one was received on HF from a Field Day site after the caravan left, two messages from the Eagle Net. Field Day station used more diversified modes to get that radio-gram out than have ever been done to our knowledge.

We look forward to the 18th Annual WCF Field Day Caravan in June 2018. That will our two teams time to rest up until next year.

Where There is a Will There is a Way

By Ted Luebbers K1AYZ, AEC Public Information, LARA

A portable ham radio station in a motorhome that doesn't take up much space and is easy to set up and take down.

My wife Joan- K2JDL and I recently purchased a new Forest River FR-3 32 foot motorhome and wanted to be able to access the ham bands while we traveled. We have a very substantial station in our home and wanted to be able enjoy our amateur radio hobby just as much while traveling.

The plan was to leave our Florida home sometime in May and drive the motorhome up the east coast of the US. ending up in Maine, hoping to escape the FL. summer heat. We would spend the bulk of the summer at our favorite campground, Shady Oaks in Orland, ME. We also planned to take a few short trips to other locations in the northeast before we headed back to Florida at the end of the summer.

Some people might not consider living for four months within the confines of a 32 foot RV because they would feel too closed in or claustrophobic. It helps to have a partner that you get along well with that enjoys the journey as much as you do. We are fortunate in that respect, because each of us had spent years in cruising sailboats not much bigger than the motorhome so we were used to living in small spaces.

This motorhome has adequate space for easy living with stove, microwave, refrigerator, oven, TV/entertainment center, bathroom facilities, air conditioning and heat, etc. There is not a lot of room to set up a ham radio station.

We wanted a station that could be set up quickly and put away just as fast as opposed to setting up something built in and permanent.

The passenger seat of the motorhome had a slide-out built into the dashboard to accommodate a lap top computer with an AC plug close by so this looked like a good place to start.

With the help of a friend we put together a little wooden shelf 28"X 12"X 12" made of pine strapping and a 12 inch pine board. This two shelf wood structure nicely straddled the computer slide-out so that one could use the computer while on the air or slide it back out of the way if it was not going to be used.



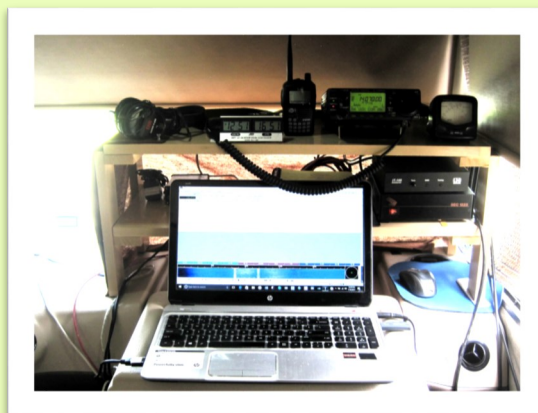
Forest River FR-3 motorhome set up on site at Shady Oaks in Orland, ME.



Ham radio station set up on the dash of the FR-3 motorhome being operated by Ted Luebbers-K1AYZ.

I wanted to be able to work HF, VHF, UHF, PSK-31 and D-Star. These are the modes I generally use at home so why not have them in the motorhome?

The piece of radio equipment I had that would do most of that job was the Icom 706 MK2-G. For D-Star I use a DVAP plugged into my lap top and my Icom AD 80AD hand held.



Ham radio station in the FR-3 motorhome includes the Icom 706 MK2-G, IT-100 LDG autotuner, AC power supply, and Icom IC 80 AD hand held.

Where There is a Will.... (Continued)

The HF antenna is vertical Alpha Antenna that breaks down into 12 sections that fit into a small 17 ½ inch long bag along with the Alpha matching network. This antenna has a claw device or jaw mount that will attach to almost anything that is included in the bag. On a previous RV I just used this jaw mount to attach to the top of the RV ladder, but for this application I wanted to take advantage of a small knoll behind the motorhome so I used a TV tripod with a four foot aluminum pole and attached the jaw device to the top of the pole.

The VHF /UHF antenna is a generic quarter wave available from almost any ham radio supplier that mounts to the top of the RV ladder with a truckers CB mirror mount.

Other small pieces of gear that I use are an LDG IT-100 Autotuner, a Diamond Antenna SWR/ Power meter, and the Tigertronics Signalink USB integrated sound card device for PSK-31. I use two 50 foot sections of RG8X coax to run to the antennas.

All of this radio equipment fits into a plastic 26 1/2"X 10 ½"X12 ½" DeWalt tool box I bought at Walmart that I carry in the trunk of the car that I tow behind the motorhome. By the way, the car also sports an Icom ID 880H VHF/UHF/D-Star radio.

If we are going to stay at a campground for more than three days I will consider setting up the complete station. If we are traveling with one or two night stays I would just use the D-Star DVAP and lap top.

To set up the complete station will generally take me an hour or two. I bring all the coax leads through the passenger side window and close the window on them with the help of a piece of water pipe foam insulation to get a good window seal without crushing the coax. Needless to say we do not travel down the road with this radio station in place but it breaks down and stores away in about an hour.

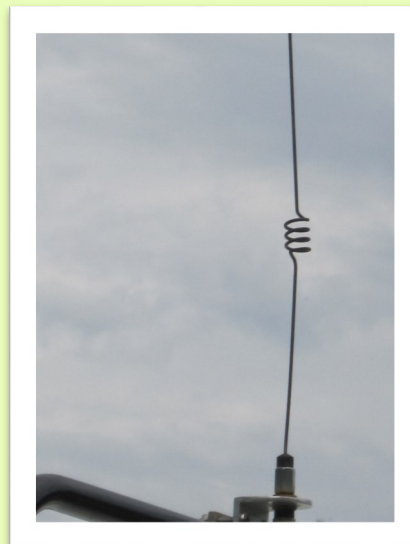
We have our ham radio station with us at all times and can set up any and all parts of it in a short time without taking up a lot of living space in the motorhome.



Alpha vertical antenna set up on a TV tripod on a knoll behind the motorhome.



D-Star DVAP placed on the dash of the motorhome and connected to the lap top for contacts using the Icom IC 80 AD hand held.



VHF/UHF quarter wave antenna connected to the top of the FR-3 ladder.

Where There is a Will... (Continued)

Equipment notes:

1. Alpha Antenna www.AlphaAntenna.com 1 888 482 3249
2. Tigertronics www.tigertronics.com
3. LDG Autotuner LDG Electronics www.ldgelectronics.com
410 586 2177
4. Diamond Antennas www.diamondantenna.com
770 614 7443
- 5 Icom America Inc. www.icomamerica.com

Ted Luebbbers K1AYZ
5849 Bounty Circle
Tavares, FL. 32778
352 552 8215 cell
floxin64@gmail.com



Coax leads go through passenger side window cushioned with foam pipe insulation purchased at any hardware store.

John Ellis, NP2B, Has Classic Radio Article in August QST

QST NFL Contributing Editor, John Ellis, NP2B, has another article in the August 2017 **QST**. Check out the Classic Radio column on page 104. John's topic is the Heathkit SB-610 monitor scope.



Excellent Article in *Emergency Management*

Ted Luebbbers K1AYZ



Emergency Management ran a very pro- amateur radio article about what we do.

Check on the link below.

<http://www.govtech.com/em/disaster/Hams-Monitor-Weather-Events.html>

SSRC Reports K4GSO-R is Alive and Well on Echolink!

Carl Berry, KC5CMX
AEC Marion County FL ARES

K4GSO-R (146.610), located in Ocala and operated by the Silver Springs Radio Club (SSRC), is alive and well! We have the node active and it works flawlessly! Hats off to all involved (including me-hihi) Doug Hecht, KM4ZQF, myself and several others have spent COUNTLESS hours trying to get this working and as such, I want to thank everyone for their help.

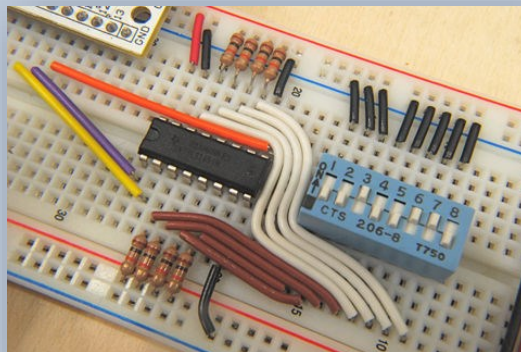


Top to bottom:

- Monitors and ULI interface for the EchoLink
- Controller
- Keyboard for repeater/controller
- Computer for repeater and controller
- Computer for EchoLink
- Power supply
- Keyboard for EchoLink computer (yellow keys)
- Hytera Repeater

4th Annual TECHCON

Formerly known as the West Central Florida Section Technical Conference



Polk County FL EOC

Saturday, February 24, 2018

<http://arrlwcfl.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>

Northern Florida STM Reports for July 2017

Tom Housworth KI0JO Section Traffic Manager

Station Activity Reports

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	503
KZ8Q	252
N3JUY	101
WC4FSU	81
WB4RJW	68
KZ1V	56
WD3B	34
AF2W	39
W4NFG	23
KJ4G	13
K4HGH	7

Public Service Honor Roll

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KF4DVF	122
KI0JO	120
WC4FSU	110
N3JUY	110
WD3B	109
KZ8Q	100
KZ1V	90
WB4RJW	90
AF2W	89
KJ4G	73
N9MN	70
KJ4HGH	57

Brass Pounders League

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	503

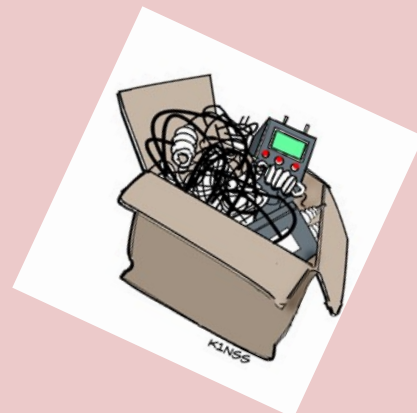


Nets

NET	ABB.	QNI	QT C	QND	SESS	MGR
Florida Phone Traffic Net	FPTN	1251	176	826	31	WC4FSU/ N4GMU
Northern Florida ARES Net	NFARES	1844	30	801	26	W4NFG
Northern Florida D Star Net	NFDSN	68	4	70	4	W4NFG
Northern Florida D-Rats Net	NFDRN	27	0	72	4	W4NFG
QFN CW NET	QFN	300	42	399	31	KZ8Q
Gulf Coast VHF Training Net	GCVTN	840	35	449	31	K4QBH
Seminole VHF Traffic Net	SVTN	440	37	559	30	KG4QCD
Volusia County Traffic Net	VCTN	266	26	478	31	WD3B
North Florida Phone Net	NFPN	1826	6	881	31	AI4GF
Lake County ARES	LCARES	183	13	199	13	N4KXO
Walton County ARS Net	WCARC	240	13	173	13	K4NDJ

Upcoming Hamfests

- August 12, 2017 – Fort Pierce Hamfest, Fort Pierce, FL <http://FPARC.org>
- August 19, 2017 – TARCfest, Tampa, FL <http://www.hamclub.org>
- September 9, 2017 – 3rd Annual Lakeland ARC Hamfest, Lakeland, FL <http://lakelandarc.org> **NEW!**
- September 23, 2017 – Pasco County Hamfest, Odessa, FL <http://sarcfl.com>
- October 13, 2017 – Florida State Convention – 52nd Annual Melbourne Hamfest & 2017 ARRL State Convention, Melbourne, FL <http://www.pcars.org>
- October 28, 2017 – Fall 2017 Cy Harris, Oakland Park, FL <http://browardarc.net/free-flea/>
- October 28, 2017 – Jacksonville FREE Hamfest, Jacksonville, FL <http://nofars.net> **NEW!**
- November 11, 2017 – SPARC Fest, Pinellas Park, FL <http://sparc-club.org>
- November 18, 2017 – Flamingo Net/UMARC Free Flea, Coral Gables, FL <http://www.flamingonet.8m.net/>
- November 25, 2017 – Hamfest in the Woods, Okeechobee, FL <http://www.K4OKE.com>
- December 2, 2017— Silver Springs Radio Club Hamfest, Ocala FL <http://www.k4gso.us>
- December 8, 2017 – Tampa Bay Hamfest, Plant City, FL <http://www.fgcarc.org/>



FCC Testing Information

LMARS FCC Testing

- Every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, November)
- Fourth Saturday
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office
- Off SR 17-92, on 100 Bush Blvd in Sanford (across from Flea World)
- For more information and registration, contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690

North Florida ARS

- Weeknight testing for all grades of license in Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.
- Hogan Baptist Church at the corner of Hogan Rd. and Parental Home Rd. in Southside.
- Advance registration is required. See http://nofars.net/home/fcc_testing



Lake ARA

- Monthly on the 3rd Saturday, prior to monthly meeting. (Except December)
- 8:00 AM
- [LARA Clubhouse](#) (11146 Springdale Ave, Leesburg – off of CR 473)
- For more information and registration, contact David A. Pennell, NP2MR (352) 602-5164 np2mr@yahoo.com in advance of the meeting.

Suwannee ARC

- First Tuesday of the month prior to the meeting
- Saturdays available with advanced notice
- N4SVC, 9707 58th Street, Live Oak, FL 32060
- www.suwanneearc.org for more information

Section Nets.....

For net details go to www.arrl-nfl.org and select the Nets option.

Net	Frequency	Day/Time (Local)
Central Florida D-Star Training Net	REF046C. D-Rats nfl.ratflector.net	Wednesday, 0900
Clay County ARES Net	146.925, Tone 156.7	Sunday, 1930
Crestview Gulf Coast VHF Training Net (GCVTN)	147.360, (+), PL 100Hz	Daily, 20:00
Crestview SARNet	Statewide UHF Net on linked repeaters on 444.900, (+) PL 100Hz	Friday, 0900
Crown District ARES Net	145.925 (156.7)	First Wednesday, 2030
Defuniak Springs Walton County ARC Net	147.285 (+), PL 100Hz	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1930
Duval County ARES Net	146.70 (127.3)ALT:147.315(127.3)	Wednesday, 1930
Florida Hurricane Net,	D-Star REF037C	Monday, 2100
Fort Walton Beach – Playground ARC Net	146.790, (-), PL 100Hz	Sunday, 2000
Friendship ARC—Ocala	146.61, PL 123	Monday, 1600
Hog County Amateur Radio Assn Net , K4HOG, Bushnell FL	145.490, PL 123.0	Monday, 2000
Madison County ARES Madison County ARC	145.190, Lee Repeater, PL 123	Sunday, 2100
Milton 2-Meter Net	145.490 (-), PL 100Hz	Monday, 2000
Milton Santa Rosa County ARES Net	146.700 (-), PL 100Hz	Tuesday, 2000
Nassau County ARES Net	147.000 (-) (127.3)	Wednesday, 2030 (Except 1st Wed)
NFL ARES Net	7.242, Primary 3.950, Secondary	Monday-Saturday, 0900
NFL D-Star Net	REF046C, D-Rats on nfl.ratflector.net.	Wednesday, 0900
NFL Digital Net	3.590 PSK 31, USB	Sunday, 1900
NFL Phone Net (NFPN)	3950 Alt 7242 and 7247	Daily, 1930
Northwest Florida DX Net	147.555 (simplex)	Tuesday, 1930
Okaloosa County ARES Net WIRES-X System in FM (not digital)	442.950 (DCS023) North Area 444.800 (100 Hz) South Area	Monday, 1930
Orange County ARES Net and Skywarn	443.050	Thursday, 1900
Pensacola Escambia County ARES Net	146.760, PL 100Hz	Monday, 1930
QCWA Citrus Chapter 45	147.195	Tuesday, 1930, Echolink W2AS-L, #node 627152
QCWA Suwannee Chapter 62, Ocala	3940	Saturday, 0900
QCWA The Villages Chapter 217	443.150, PL 103.5	Friday, 1000
QFN CW Traffic Net	3547 Winter (7105 Summer)	Daily, 1900
Santa Rosa County Skywarn Net	146.700, K4SRC Repeater	Monday, 2000

Section Nets, continued.....

SAR NET	http://sarnetfl.com	Click 140614_FDOT_UWAVE_Map_with_UHF_coverage.16664435
Seminole VHF Traffic Net	147.090 MHz, offset of +600, PL 103.5 147.450 Simplex	Daily, 1915 First Monday, 19:15
St. Johns County ARES	147.210 (127.3) ALT:147.015 (127.3)	Wednesday, 2000
SSRC (Silver Springs Radio Club) Net SSRC Ragchew Net SSRC Skywarn/ARES SSRC MERT	146.610 pl 123 28453 146.610 pl 123 146.610 pl 123	Monday, 2100 Monday, 2200 Wednesday, 2130 Thursday, 2130
Suwannee ARES/Emergency Prep Net	145.270 PL 123 145/410 PL 123 FSQ— 3.594 MHz	Thursday, 2030
TARS News and Information Net	147.030+, PL 94.8	Thursday, 2000
TFN Tropical Florida Sideband Traffic Net	3942	Daily, 1800
The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) Ragchew Net	443.225, PL 103.5 Echolink K4VRC-R	Monday, 1900
Traders Net	3.933	Sunday, 0800
Valparaiso Twin Cities Amateur Radio	146.73, (-), no PL tone	Sunday, 2030
VCTN Volusia County Traffic Net	147.150, +.600, tone 127.3 145.330, -.600, tone 127.3 (Alt)	Daily, 2245
Walton County ARES Net	147.375 (+), PL 100Hz	Wednesday, 1900

NFL Officials**Section Manager** – Stephen W. Szabo WB4OMM**Assistant Section Managers** – Joseph D. Bushnel W2DWR,
John C Reynolds W4IJJ, Dave Davis WA4WES, Jeff Capehart
W4UFL, Neil Light KK4VHX, Ray Crepeau K1HG**Section Emergency Coordinator** – Strait Hollis KT4YA**Assistant SE Coordinator** – Robert A. Mitchell W4HKG**Section Technical Coordinator** – Frank Haas KB4T**Affiliated Club Coordinator** – Steve Palmer KM4SDP**Section Traffic Manager** – Tom Housworth, KI0JO**Official Observer Coordinator** – Rick A. Lloyd AA4W**State Government Liaison** – Darrell Brock N4GOA**Newsletter of the Northern Florida Section of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL)**

1. Spread the word about our website www.arrl-nfl.org and **QST NFL** on your club web-site, in a newsletter or at a meeting.
2. Send a write-up and picture of your next activity.
3. Make sure you, or the appropriate member of your club is on the email reminder list.
4. **Contact: Marty Brown WB2VYK, wb2vyk@gmail.com**



QST NFL is a monthly publication of the ARRL Northern Florida Section. **QST NFL** is intended for wide distribution within the NFL Section, including club Leaders and all licensed Amateurs in Florida. A current issue of this publication can be found at the ARRL Southeastern Division web site, Northern Florida Section. www.ARRL-NFL.org Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of the ARRL. Submissions may be made to the editor, Marty Brown, WB2VYK, wb2vyk@gmail.com.