Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM

Greetings North Florida Hams!
Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!

Hi Folks,

Short and sweet this month!

I am looking for a new Section Emergency Coordinator – our good man Strait KT4YA, has worked quietly in the background and understandably wants to spend more time with family….he has resigned as of this month. The job description is at: http://www.arrl.org/section-emergency-coordinator . If you are interested, please let me know.

Lotsa' contests in the immediate future….and while propagation is not great, the contests are! Look here for a schedule of contests and activities: http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html.

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

I have no travel plans for the month – but will be at several outings the first weekend of December.

Keep vigilant on the weather and Happy Halloween!

My sincere wishes for a safe and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday to each of you.

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

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM
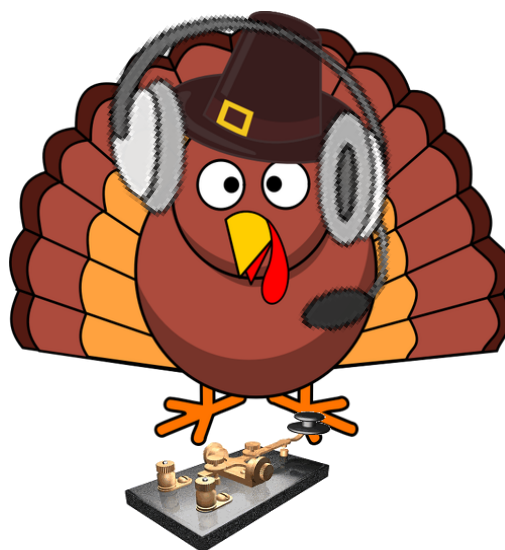*Steve Szabo WB4OMM*
NFL Section Manager
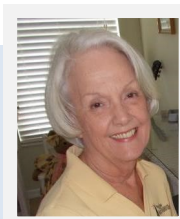**ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™**
386-566-2085
wb4omm@arrl.org

Happy Thanksgiving From *QST NFL*

What's inside
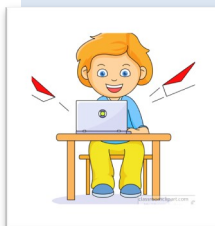
Email your QST NFL input to
WB2VYK@gmail.com
Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor

Escambia County ARES Activates for Nate

Joe McLemore , KF4DVF
Assistant EC – ARES - Escambia County, FL

Summary

On Saturday, October 7 at 0600 until Sunday October 8 at 0241 (20.7 hours), Escambia County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) was activated for Escambia County EOC Level 1 activation for Hurricane Nate operations.

- 44 Amateur Radio Operators and stations.
  - 28 Escambia County ARES members, 16 non-ARES.
- ARES room in the EOC was staffed by 6 ARES members at various times throughout the hurricane
  - Two additional ARES members were at the EOC, staffing other agencies desks (ESF-9 – Search and Rescue, and ESF-15 – Volunteers)
- ARES was only able to provide radio operators for two of the five hurricane shelters that were opened due to a lack of volunteers offering to help with that task.
  - Good learning experience for one of the ARES member deployed to a hurricane shelter.
- Two ARES members were at one of the hospitals and one of the fire stations as part of their regular duties. They also checked into the ARES net.
- Escambia County Emergency Net (local ARES net) was activated on the 146.76 MHz VHF repeater.
  - In addition to the ARES members already at the EOC, 36 additional stations checked in on the local net.
- Estimated 63.8 person-hours for the incident itself. 6.2 hours of planning and documentation including writing the after action report. 70 person-hours total.

Radio Modes used

- Tactical net – VHF – Escambia County Emergency Net (Local ARES net) on 146.76 repeater.
- Statewide UHF net (SARNET) using the Crestview repeater.
- HF voice
  - Checked into the Northern Florida ARES Net on 3.950 MHz on Saturday morning
- Digital modes
  - APRS was used.
  - Did send a test digital message via HF (Winlink) to WX4DOT – Florida Department of Transpiration office in Chipley, FL.
- Monitored National Weather Service NWSChat.

Hurricane Nate
Escambia County ARES
After Action Report

ARES® - Escambia County, FL

Alachua ARES gears up for BITX HF Transceiver Projects

By Gordon Gibby KX4Z

*BitX40 enclosed in thrift-shop cake-baking tin; SSB 7-12 watt transceiver can use
electret mic or soundcard digital.*

I've come upon an inexpensive HF single sideband radio that appears to be well-suited for advancing ARES emergency communications training for those who have been limited to VHF/UHF bands.   Just as the Ubiquity systems are allowing us to develop microwave systems for under $100, the BitX40 hits the $70 price point, even with rapid DHL shipping from India.

This little "almost-finished-kit" has an interesting history.   Trying to develop an inexpensive SSB transceiver, Ashar Farhan VU2ESE created the original BITX20 transceiver, producing 6 watts output with a simple analog design more than ten years ago.   By 2007, 200 upgraded kits were put together by Henricks QRP Kits of California, called the BIT20A.   The 7 MHz BitX40 came later, and used an analog VFO (until Dec. 2016) on a pre-constructed printed circuit board surface-mount kit that merely required the purchaser to solder connections to power supply, speaker, mic and such.

Then Farhan added a 2nd board: a digitally controlled VFO/display based on an Arduino Nano, controlling a Silicon Labs Si5355 chip (capable of generating up to *four* frequencies on demand, from 1-200 MHz). (https:// www.silabs.com/documents/public/data-sheets/Si5355.pdf)   The new digital VFO is known as the "Raduino" and has made this $59 nearly-built "kit" into an exciting little 7-watts-and-up sports-car of less-than-high-power kits with thousands of homebrewers on the *groups.io* bitx20 forum. (See   http://www.hfsigs.com/ for purchase information.) This transceiver can *by itself* put out as much power as other kit+amplifier duo's – and as a *SSB transceiver*, it is capable of *many* different modes including voice.

The world-wide user group has already come up with freely available code ("sketch") that is easily uploaded (via USB connector) into the Raduino, giving this stock-LSB transceiver both upper and lower sideband, two VFO's, receiver incremental tuning, innate CW, an improved calibration routine and scanning. By increasing the voltage powering the output MOSFET and beefing up the heatsink, output power can reach toward 20 watts.

Alachua BITX HF Transceiver Projects (continued)

For Alachua ARES, this represents an incredibly cheap HF transceiver suitable for
- teaching simple homebrew skills that make ARES members more resilient in emergencies
- developing a local voice ragchew/traffic net on either 80- or 40-meters, over a county area
- providing digital training/experience with NBEMS (FLDIGI) modes, and HF WINLINK
- teaching HF antenna skills
- demonstrate simple receiver and transceiver circuitry.

The two-board transceiver's intermediate frequency filter is four hand-chosen 12 MHz crystals in a row, with a crystal controlled Beat Frequency Oscillator (BFO) set to detect the lower sideband skirt of the IF.   Although one could replace the crystal oscillator with a separate output from the Si5355 board, the most popular modification is to move the VFO from its 5MHz band (detecting lower sideband, adding to the 7 MHz received signal to produce the 12MHz IF frequency) to 19 MHz (detecting upper sideband by subtracting the 7 MHz input signal to reach 12MHz).
With easy software adjustment of the VFO, the rig can be moved to 80 meters by simply adding an output low pass filter to the transmitter (to quash the undesirable harmonics of the Class AB1 amplifier) and either an 80 meter band-pass or suitable lowpass filter to the receiver input.

This is an inexpensive transceiver ripe for modification!!

I've purchased two so far (both arrived quickly via DHL) and upgraded them with new software to give them all the new features.   The difference is literally night and day.   The original design is a bit quirky with lots of little "issues" that users of polished Icom/Kenwood/Yaesu transceivers aren't used to, but the software upgrades make the little rig a lot of fun even with some remaining pops and clicks.   I've easily used it to make multiple digital WINLINK contacts, checked into a SSB net, and listened to all kinds of signals. PSK & RTTY are easy. Power level is moving up as I added a larger heatsink to the 99-cent PA mosfet IRF510.   I've seen designs all the way to 28 watt output from this same switching enhancement mode MOSFET with adequate heatsink.   A 12-volt supply (literally a gel-cell battery) supplies the system well, while the PA can be separately power from a higher voltage, and I'm currently using a thrift-store laptop 19V supply and getting 10+ watts output with a homemade heatsink from home depot pieces of carpenter's perforated metal.

In this first of two parts, I'll explain a bit how to get the system working somewhat "as built" and then in a second part describe more of raising the power and changing the band.

Kit Enclosure

The kit includes standoffs so the main circuit board can be installed on a cookie tin, thin plywood, cigar box, or cake baking pan.   Mounting the Arduino VFO assembly is a bit more difficult as the mounting holes are quite close to circuitry.   It is easier to create a mat of some soft pliable plastic that can be cut with a razor, and then use that to frame the digital display within a larger, jig-saw created opening.   For on/off/volume, tuning, power and RF output, 1/4" 3/8" and 1/2" holes are required; in soft metal I used a 1/2" wood hole cutter successfully.
The printed circuit board has a generous ground plane built in, so shielding in a metal box isn't really necessary and many builders simply mount it all on a suitable flat board.

Power
The main board prefers no more than 12VDC, so a simple gell-cell works fine, or a 12VDC laptop charger could be used.   Add in a fuse!

Software upgrade

Download the Integrated Development Environment (IDE) from the Arduino web site: https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software   Drop down the page until you find the one you can download for your operating system.....I found this ***much easier than the online web version***.

Alachua BITX HF Transceiver Projects (continued)

The Windows installer is here: https://www.arduino.cc/download_handler.php?f=/arduino-1.8.5-windows.exe .
While connected to your Raduino with an USB cable, you'll choose the "type" of Arduino (choose *nano*); and you'll
also choose the connection port on your computer; a little trial and error or experience with Device Manager helps.

There are several branches of free Raduino upgrade software, but the one I used was version 1.24 from here:
https://github.com/amunters/bitx40.

A recent offering is: https://github.com/amunters/bitx40/blob/master/raduino_v1.26.ino * which adds multiple
functions with one pushbutton normally-open switch (see Table below) from Raduino orange wire to ground.   In-
structions are available and also within the "sketch". Download the Sketch, (your software may envelop it into a
"project") ; choose Compile and Upload and immediately your system is made much smarter!   The code looks like
standard "C" code so you can edit and add your call, etc.

Short or long presses of the function pushbutton change modes; here's the "short presses" table:

Short presses	Function chosen in 1.24 Sketch
1	Swap VFO A/B
2	Toggle RIT on/off
3	Toggle SPLIT on/off
4	Toggle USB/LSB
5	Start frequency scan

In order to get the 19MHz Raduino signal to have adequate strength, you'll need to carefully unsolder C91 and C92.
(See page 1 of http://www.petefleming.com/bitx-bfo.pdf)

MORE TO COME
That's enough to get you going.   In Part 2, I'll go over increasing the transmitter mic gain, increasing transmitter
power, and other modifications.

* Author's Note: This is the current sketch, but that could change --- so looking at the directory https://github.com/
amunters/bitx40 and then perusing down until you find their current software level is more effective.... GG

It's What Ham's Do!

Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor *QST NFL*

During Hurricane Irma a 70' tree took down the 40' Rohn tower and
TH7DX beam at the Ocala QTH of N4FP and WB2VYK (Wayne & Marty
Brown). Recently, members of the Silver Springs Radio Club (SSRC) donat-
ed their time and talent to get the replacement tower in place. Beam to
follow.

(L-R) Stan Buonagurio K1SB, Wayne N4FP, and Charlie Stracuzzi WB4UNV
on the tower.

The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents:

HAMFEST 2017

DXCC, VUCC,WAS
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ALL DAY

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GPS 29.210,-82.129
NEW ECHOLINK NODE AT:
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Talk in on 146.610 PL 123-
By SSRC's very own
Brian Purdy W3AVR

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DOORS OPEN AT
7:30AM**

* Tickets to win an **ICOM IC-718**. This is a separate drawing from the door prize. Only 400 tickets to be printed and are available only at the event.
ABSOLUTELY NO ONLINE SALES!

VENDORS INCLUDE: The Signman of Baton Rouge, Satellite Sam, NightFire Electronics, Hamworld, R&S Sales, Tower Electronics and many more!

Inside tables are gone, but there is *PLENTY OF TAILGATE PARKING AVAILABLE!*

	PayPal Prepay	Cash at the Door	PayPal At the Door
General Admission:	$5.50	$7.00	$8.50
Tailgate Car and driver (1 stall)	$17.50	$20.00	$22.50
Additional Stall:	$12.00	$15.00	$17.50
Additional Passenger:	$5.50	$7.00	$8.50

School students (with ID,) Active Military in uniform and First Responders in uniform no charge general admission but must buy ticket for door prize giveaway

PREPAY? You must present proof of payment at the entry point or you will pay again.
Sorry, NO REFUNDS

VE EXAM TESTING TIME 10AM
FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION: K4GSO.US/HAMFEST
ARRL SANCTIONED
*subject to change without notification

Escambia County ARES Participates in 2017 SET

Joe McLemore , KF4DVF
Assistant EC – ARES - Escambia County, FL

Summary

On Saturday, October 14, 2017, Escambia County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) held a Simulated Emergency Test Exercise (SET) as part of a nationwide exercise in emergency communications held every year in October.
- 6 Amateur Radio Operators and stations.
    - o 5 Escambia County ARES members
    - o 1 other operators/stations
- VHF and UHF frequencies used, including digital modes.
- Training and gaining experience for new hams and ARES members was accomplished under the direction of experienced ARES members.
- ARES members (4 jump teams) were deployed to 31 locations (~6 agencies) from the EOC:
    - o 1 EOC
    - o 10 Shelters
    - o 17 Fire Stations
    - o 3 Hospitals and 1 future emergency care clinic.
    - o Tasks: to test communications via several repeaters [mobile radio and handheld radio], and simplex [mobile radio] between the various locations and the EOC. Also test sending digital messages.
- 21 digital messages sent/received via Winlink on VHF.
    - o 4 test/training messages at EOC while training jump teams before deployment.
    - o 6 test messages from 5 shelters
    - o 8 test messages from 5 Fire Stations, and one additional message sent later.
    - o 2 test messages from 1 Hospital and 1 emergency care clinic being built.
- Three of the jump teams deployed with the Kenwood TM-D700 radios from the Fire Department. for this exercise for use in sending digital messages. First exercise that these radios was used in.
- Improvements noted over last year's SET exercise.
    - o Raising the antenna height by 100 feet on both the 146.76 and the 146.85 repeaters has improved coverage.
    - o There was also improvement in simplex coverage due to moving of one of the VHF antennas at the EOC to the crank-up tower.
- Estimated 30.4 people-hours for the exercise itself. 23.5 hours of planning, documentation, and preparing before and after the exercise.

Radio Modes used

- Tactical net – VHF – Escambia County Emergency Net (Local ARES net) on 146.76 repeater successfully used.
- In addition to the 146.76 repeater, the 146.85 and the 146.45 repeaters was also used.
- Simplex VHF frequency.
    - o successful in establishing simplex communications between the EOC, and various shelters, hospitals, fire stations, etc.
- Digital modes
    - o APRS
        - - Tracked two of the jump team's positions with APRS.
    - o Winlink on VHF using Packet (Peer to Peer)
        - - Three jump teams equipped (laptop, TNC, radio) for sending digital messages via Winlink on VHF simplex frequency.
- 21 messages sent and received. All were test or training messages
- Provided hands-on training to several ARES members on using this mode.

Acknowledgements

- To Emergency Management in Escambia County for allowing the use of the ARES room at the EOC for the exercise.
- ARES members and other amateur radio operators for participating in the exercise.
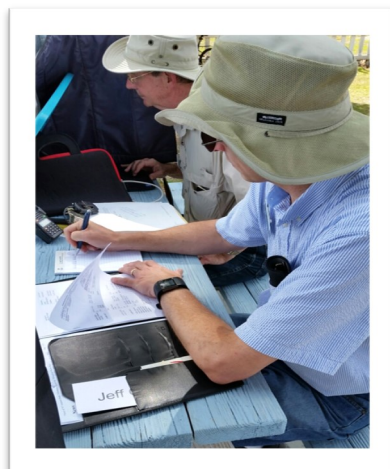
Alachua ARES Practices Puerto-Rico Style For S.E.T.

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

The group assembled at the "Check-In" location before moving to their assigned Units. (L to R: John Troupe KM4JTE, Leland Gallup AA3YB, Jeff Capehart W4UFL, Susan Halbert KG4VWI, Rosemary Jones KI4QBZ, Shawn Payne W4LTE, Vann Chesney AC4QS, Cindy Grant KM4YGG and Art Grant KM4YGH.


Incident Commander Jeff Capehart W4UFL and Comm Unit 1 Leader Vann Chesney AC4QS at work.

Alachua County ARES planned their Simulated Emergency Test months ago – and still picked just about every technique actually utilized in the ham radio Puerto Rico response—and maybe more.

The goal was to simulate forward-deployed communications units of two types – VHF and Microwave-- communicating back to two different kinds of long-range relays: a WINLINK RMS server, and a "high-perch" VHF node. The VHF node was capable of both Packet and voice.

A real deployment could replicate VHF and Microwave units as needed; Alachua County volunteers tried just one of each. Voice VHF Simplex communications were the tactical method of coordination throughout.
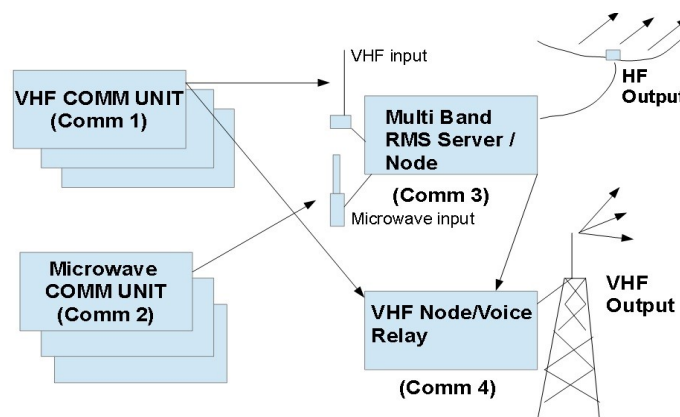
Alachua ARES SET (continued)

The WINLINK RMS server station (Comm 3) had both VHF and Microwave (Ubiquity; AREDN) inputs, with automated forwarding outbound on HF ham bands. It simultaneously provided both VHF WINLINK input and packet node relay as needed to the more distant VHF Node/Voice Relay (Comm 4) stationed at a 110-foot fire lookout tower.

Despite recent service with Hurricane Irma, ten Alachua volunteers trekked 60 miles west to the little fishing village of Steinhatchee, Florida to try all this out, simulating emergency comms after a hurricane/flood. Steinhatchee well remembers their 2016 devastating flood, and local establishments and authorities warmly responded to our requests for necessary permissions. One manager even wanted to watch! Developing our internal organization, we produced extensive ICS-style documents, and utilized Logistics and Operations Chiefs, Safety Officer, Incident Commander, and Unit Leaders. (ARES groups are just as free as hospitals and private companies to take advantage of the ICS structure internally.)

RESULTS
Of course, things didn't go completely according to plan. Here's a rundown on the systems/techniques we tested and how well or poorly they functioned:

FM Voice Simplex: Worked well during the 70-minute caravan ride, but once spread out over 6 miles of city and brush, relays were frequently necessary. After the vagrant living in the fire lookout tower (permission graciously given by The Crapps Family) ambled away, Comm 4 set up a 40-foot high simplex antenna to supplement the top antenna used for digital.

FM Voice back to Gainesville 146.82 Repeater – 70+ miles – worked from the 110-foot antenna, but needed 65 watts for full quieting.

VHF digital connected nodes – 60-mile link from 110-foot fire tower antenna to the identical Newberry fire tower was an unexpected failure after a successful test earlier in the year (possibly with less foliage growth). *If we want VHF packet back to Gainesville, we'll need a node perhaps at the Trenton fire tower.*
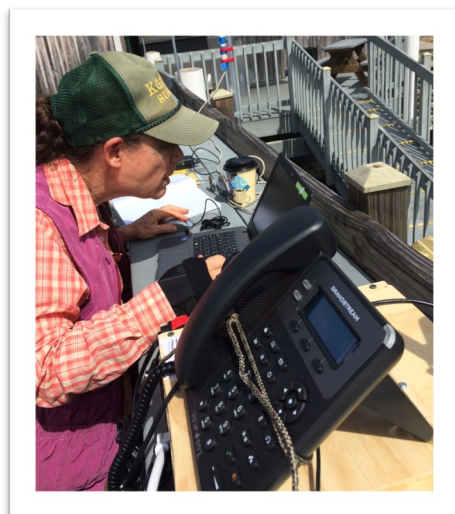
Comm Unit 2 Leader Susan Halbert KG4VWI (even with broken wrist)

pushes message through the microwave system.

Microwave: Our first exercise involving microwave (2.4 GHz) was intentionally set up to be a easy success: omnidirectional 5 db 600 mW Ubiquity Bullet node (https://www.amazon.com/Ubiquiti-BULLET-M2-HP-Outdoor-802-11-M2HP/dp/B002SYS22E) as close to the Steinhatchee Bridge's high span as we could park, and a 10 dB 600 mW Ubiquity NanoStation (https:// www.amazon.com/Ubiquiti-NanoStation-M2-Wireless-Access/dp/B00HXT8K4O) just down the river at Hungry Howies in their outdoor seating. Concern about traffic hazard had our Comm 3 pickup truck farther from the bridge top than hoped, forcing signals to plow through a stand of trees. We still had a 24 dB signal to noise ratio, so the Grandstream voice over IP telephones were crystal clear, with rings initiated by "dial by IP number." Over the same microwave link, WIN LINK TELNET was utilized to almost instantaneously deposit and retrieve email from the RMS RELAY server at COMM 3.

Alachua ARES SET (continued)

Puerto Rico Microwave Mesh? Jeff Capehart, ARES EC, noted Puerto Rico is mountainous – and that simply hanging one of our microwave nodes on one side of a mountain aimed at the valley below, with ethernet cable to a second node placed on the other side of the mountain, could provide high speed digital connection between two cities.   Repeated mountain-after-mountain, a WIFI mesh network would automatically form. The low-power Ubiquiti weatherproof nodes can be solar- or auto battery-powered.

The two microwave systems, one with vertical omni antenna, the more portable

unit with pole mounted 10 dB sector antenna. Both systems have

network hubs and VOIP telephones.

VHF digital WINLINK: Good success.   Comm Unit #1 2 miles down the river from the Bridge was easily able to deposit WINLINK email into the Raspberry Pi VHF digital gateway in the Bridge Comm 3 pickup, and it auto transferred to the HF radio.

HF Forwarding from temporary WINLINK server gateway: _PROBLEMS._   Antenna went quickly despite thick brush/rattlesnake concerns, with a slingshot.   The HF station worked and ordinary (client) WINLINK connections worked.....but we were trying to test the automation of a portable RMS_RELAY WINLINK server.   Such a system would – without human intervention – move messages to and from our deployed units back to "undamaged world" finding HF relay points anywhere in the nation.   _Unfortunately, both WINLINK and Microsoft released updates right before the exercise_ and under we had tested our configured system....and something between them didn't jive. In some way, one of the winlink components became unable to speak to another. I sheepishly realized I had not made a thumbdrive with complete re-installation software for all WINLINK components—a crucial error.   Not only was I forced to allow Microsoft to do its time-consuming update, I had to break protocol and download the forgotten WINLINK installation software. Once all was installed, it worked perfectly.
With the VHF digital link to Gainesville unsuccessful, the HF WINLINK system was the only way out to our proxy dispatching authorities.   Messages from both VHF and microwave deployed units flowed smoothly.

Balky RMS RELAY pickup-truck station with Gordon Gibby KX4Z (driver)

and immensely patient Shawn Payne KM4LTE (passenger side).   Computer above the

steering wheel, and both VHF and HF stations in the back seat.

Alachua ARES SET (continued)

After "declaring victory" (a couple of hours later than planned) all 10 volunteers headed to Roy's Restaurant for a delicious lunch and enthusiastic "hot wash" feedback session.   We learned several lessons ---

1) *always* bring full re-installation software on thumb drives; try to avoid computers picking up Windows updates before deployment;

2) voice back to Gainesville repeaters works but harder than expected;

3) those Steinhatchee marsh/woods are THICK and putting up a roadside HF antenna requires some courage & effort (beware rattlesnakes!);

4) simplex over several miles is difficult without HIGH antennas;

5) our microwave system *worked* in a real test;

6) ALL our outdoors operators said they badly needed "shades" for their computer screens.

Our experiences have been written up more fully in our After Action Report (http://qsl.net/ nf4rc/2017AlachuaCountyCreateSpaceSteinhatcheeAAR.pdf) and we're done exercising until next year! Two full scale exercises and one real hurricane deployment is enough for this year!

Upcoming QSO Parties

Alan Sewell, N5NA   http://qsoparty.eqth.net/

Kentucky	11/11/2017	11/12/2017	Western KY DX Association
Montana	1/27/2018	1/28/2018	Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club
Minnesota	2/3/2018	2/3/2018	Minnesota Wireless Association
British Columbia	2/3/2018	2/4/2018	Orca DX and Contest Club
Vermont	2/3/2018	2/4/2018	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
South Carolina	2/24/2018	2/25/2018	Columbia Amateur Radio Club
North Carolina	2/25/2018	2/26/2018	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Idaho	3/10/2018	3/11/2018	Idaho QSO Party
Oklahoma	3/10/2018	3/11/2018	Oklahoma DX Association
Wisconsin	3/11/2018	3/12/2018	West Allis Radio Amateur Club
Virginia	3/17/2018	3/18/2018	Virginia QSO Party
Louisiana	3/17/2018	3/18/2018	Louisiana Contest Club

Welcome To
HamCation 2018
Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park
February 9th - 11th, 2018

www.hamcation.com

Host of the 2018 ARRL Florida State Convention

Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park
4603 West Colonial Drive
Orlando, Florida 32808

February 9, 2018 | 9AM to 5PM
February 10, 2018 | 9AM to 5PM
February 11, 2018 | 9AM to 2PM

Purchase tickets online, via mail or at the day of the event. We accept most forms of payment.

Talk-in will be on the 146.760 (-600/ PL 103.5) KB4UT repeater. This repeater is a mix mode System Fusion repeater located in beautiful downtown Orlando and has good coverage throughout the central Florida region. Backup talk-in will be on the 147.015 (+600/no PL) repeater.

DSTAR: K1XC 146.820 -.600

Northern Florida STM Reports for October 2017

Tom Housworth KI0JO Section Traffic Manager

Station Activity Reports

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	562
KZ8Q	200
KA1G	79
WB4RJW	73
WC4FSU	58
N3JUY	57
KM4VTK	52
WD3B	49
W4NFG	31
KJ4G	13

Public Service Honor Roll

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KF4DVF	338
WD3B	180
KI0JO	120
N3JUY	110
WC4FSU	110
N9MN	110
KZ8Q	100
KA1G	100
WB4RJW	90

Public Service Honor Roll

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	562

Nets

NET	ABB.	QNI	QTC	QND	SESS	MGR
Florida Phone Traffic Net	FPTN	1494	165	943	31	WR4FSU/ N4GMU
Northern Florida ARES Net	NFARES	2006	38	944	26	W4NFG
Northern Florida D Star Net	NFDSN	62	4	58	4	W4NFG
Northern Florida D-Rats Net	NFDRN	40	0	54	4	W4NFG
QFN CW Net	QFN	291	50	328	31	KZ8Q
Volusia County Traffic Net	VCTN	361	29	672	31	WD3B
Gulf Coast VHF Training Net	GCVTN	865	49	451	31	K4QBH
Lake County ARES Net	LCARES	187	13	218	13	N4KXO
Walton County Amateur Radio Club	WCARC	246	14	179	13	K4NDJ
Seminole VHF Traffic Net	SVTN	421	61	571	29	KG4QCD
North Florida Phone Net	NFPN	2268	9	993	31	AI4GF

Florida Hamfest/Convention Calendar and Operating Events

If you don't find your local hamfest or activity listed here, contact the webmaster at the email address on the bottom of this page. Find more information at the ARRL Hamfest Calendar.

- **November 4, 2017 – LARA Annual Tailgate, Tavaras, FL –** http://www.k4fc.org **NEW!**
- November 11, 2017 – SPARC Fest, Pinellas Park, FL http://sparc-club.org
- November 11, 2017 – Palms West ARC Flea Market, West Palm Beach, FL – http://palmswestradio.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://K4OKE.com
- **December 2, 2017 – Silver Springs Radio Club Hamfest, Ocala, FL –** http://k4gso.us/hamfest **NEW!**
- December 8, 2017 – Tampa Bay Hamfest, Plant City, FL http://www.fgcarc.org/
- January 19, 2018 – Southwest Florida Hamfest, Ft Myers, FL http://swflhamfest.info
- January 27, 2018 – DeSoto County Hamfest, Arcadia, FL http://desotoarc.org
- **February 9, 2018 – Florida State Convention, Orlando HamCation, Orlando, FL** http://www.hamcation.com
- February 24, 2018 – 4th Annual TECHCON Conference, Winter Haven, FL http://www.arrlwcf.org
- March 10, 2018 – Charlotte County Hamfest, Punta Gorda, FL http://prra.club
- March 17, 2018 – Southern Florida Section Convention, Stuart, FL http://www.stuarthamfest.com

FCC Testing Information

LMARS FCC Testing
- Every month
- Third Saturday
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office
  Off SR 17-92, on 100 Eslinger Way in Sanford
- For more information and registration,
  contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690 or
  w2bzy@cfl.rr.com

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 Hog Country Friday Free For All	145.490, PL 123.0 146.925	Monday, 2000 Friday, 2030 NEW
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
Spring Hill ARC	146.805, no tones	Tuesday: 1845 Slow Scan TV 　　　　　1915 Skywarn 　　　　　1930 Weekly Club Net
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, 1900 Monday, 2000 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

QST NFL

Newsletter of the Northern Florida Section of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL)

Spread the Word

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

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.