



# QST NFL



*Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida*

Volume 4, Issue 4

[www.arrl-nfl.org](http://www.arrl-nfl.org)

April 2017

## Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager  
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM



Greetings North Florida Hams! **Wel-**  
**come to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE**  
**WORLD!**

I guess summer is here already. At our portable op last Friday, it was 84 degrees. Two weeks ago, working in Maryland, it was 19 degrees and I watched 18 inches of snow fall! Living in Florida is nice!

This coming month sports the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Florida QSO Party, administered by the Florida Contest Group. This is a fun event that runs for a short period of time for two days, this year April 29 and 30. More information is available at <http://floridaqsoparty.org/>

Some upcoming events....the annual Florida Hurricane Exercise will be in May, also the Dayton Hamvention in it's new digs (Xenia, OH), Four Days in May (FDIM) QRP gathering during the same time/location.

Not a lot going on locally this time of year, and I am quite busy with work and some work-related travel – yeah, I'm retired!! Almost!! I apologize for the "short" message this month.

That's all for now.....I will be at the DEARS (Disney) meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. I am also scheduled for the Orlando ARC for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. More to come. I hope to see you and say, "Hi" face-to-face!

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](mailto:wb4omm@arrl.org)



**WCFCountry**  
West Central Florida Section

Darrell Davis KT4WX, Section Manager  
ARRL West Central Florida Section  
<http://www.kt4wx.org>

Our Section newsletter, **THE WCF PRESSER**, is published each month by yours truly on our Section website. The direct link to **THE WCF PRESSER** page is <http://arrlwcf.org/home/the-wcf-section-presser-arrl-west-central-florida-section-news/>.

## What's inside

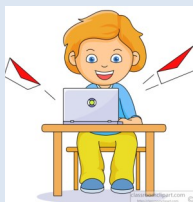
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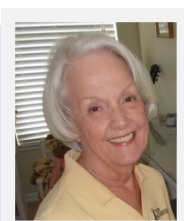
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Email your QST NFL input to  
[WB2VYK@gmail.com](mailto:WB2VYK@gmail.com)  
Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor



## QCWA Florala Chapter #84

Daisy Crepeau KT4KW

Today, March 20, 2017, the Petition for Charter was mailed for re-in-statement of Chapter #84 serving North Florida and Southern Alabama areas.

This came about when Frank Butler, W4RH, Ray Crepeau, K1HG, and Daisy Crepeau, KT4KW all went to the Montgomery, AL hamfest and spoke with Mark Winter-sole, W5NZ, QCWA Director. After that meeting, Ray and Daisy attended the QCWA quarterly meeting for the Montgomery chapter and, with encouragement from Mark, the ball began rolling.

Additional meetings occurred between Frank, Ray, Daisy and Steven Butler, W4HA, Frank's son, to review the by-laws and to appoint Ray K1HG as President and Daisy KT4KW as Secretary/Treasurer.

Charter Members are:

Frank Butler W4RH  
Steven Butler W4HA  
Ray Crepeau K1HG  
Daisy Crepeau KT4KW  
Leonard Frantz K4KBD  
E. Charles Moody N4PI  
Joan Moody W4ARL  
Susan McQuagge W4SBM  
Jim Sherwood N4UOZ

The Chapter looks forward to recruiting additional members as the word continues to be spread.

Anyone wishing to join us please contact Ray Crepeau K1HG [k1hg@arri.net](mailto:k1hg@arri.net) or call 407-256-0408. We anticipate having quarterly eat and meets located around the area.

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## Silver Springs Radio Club Reports

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

AEC Marion County FL ARES

We had several people test for tech or to be upgraded on 3/14. One of those testing was visually impaired. 4 tested 4 passed, one was an upgrade to general, KM4ZQF/AG.

Silver Springs Radio Club has 2 weekly nets that meet on 146.610 pl 123

Monday, SSRC Net, 7:30 PM

Monday, Ragchew, 8:00 PM, 28,453

Wednesday, Skywarn/ARES, 7:30PM

Thursday, MERT, 7:30 PM

All are welcome on any of the nets.

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## Suwannee Amateur Radio Club Participates in County Fair

Bill Preen, W4NQP

The pictures are from our Suwannee County Fair that ran for 9 days. We had 2 working stations along with a DVD about our club running on the computer. The left hand picture is the booth. The one on the right shows the 2 home brew antennas we used. We used the club call N4SVC portable.

Our mission was to get people interested in Ham Radio, as well as come out to our club for a visit and maybe become a member.

Just a passing note, it would be nice to have a larger banner for the ARRL logo.

May 20th we are having our tailgate/hamfest in Welborn, FL





Original Author:  
Paul A. Scipione, AA2AV  
MARS call AAA9PR

Reprinted by  
Carl Berry, KC5CMX  
For ARES-NFL Newsletter

Reprinted with permission from CQ Magazine. This article was in World Radio Magazine, September 1991. Some of the ones responsible are now silent keys and are identified as such.

#### AAR4CSS: an overnight success

We've all heard the myth many times before. Someone starts a new company at their dining room table and it does \$50 million in sales in the first year . . . or someone wanders into an audition for a new Broadway show and instantly gets the starring role . . . or a kid goes right from the local softball league to a .310 batting average and a million dollar contract in the big leagues. Skeptical? Well, listen up, because now I'm going to tell you an 'overnight success' story that really is true.

In Ocala, Florida, there is a nice bunch of local hams (mostly retired men) who make up the Silver Springs Radio Club. The 160 members get together for a leisurely meeting every month as well as help out at the annual Christmas parade and run the local RACES and hazmat communications activities. They also run two 2 meter repeaters and a 440 machine and like to chide the "snow birds" among them, retired hams from up north who migrate back home each summer. Nothing remarkable for this club, you say?

It all started at the regular monthly meeting in November (1990), when three club members – John Williams, K4ANJ(SK); Don Pieratt, N8CBR(SK); and Lou Gorski, KB9HD – got up and presented an idea: "Our troops are really pour-

ing into the Persian Gulf now and they must really be getting lonely as we move into Thanksgiving and Christmas."

"That's probably true," a couple of fellow members blurted out, "but Ocala is more than 8,000 miles away from the Gulf. There's not much we can do to help from here."

"Wrong!" our three intrepid club members got excited. "Ever hear about MARS, the Military Affiliate Radio System? Well, with a lot of hard work and good luck, we could get a MARS call and get an HF station together and run phone patches for our troops!"

Nearly everyone at the club meeting thought this was a great concept but there was a lot of skepticism about the club's ability to pull it off in time to help our troops. But John, Don and Lou were adamant. They quickly organized club members into several emergency task forces and gave out priority assignments. They would try to accomplish the "impossible" – organize a new MARS station, get official approval, and get it on the air to run phone patches, all within 60 days or less.

Now here's how fast the "overnight success" of AAR4CSS actually unfolded:

Day One: Several Silver Springs Radio Club members contacted Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and got an immediate positive reaction from the Chief of Army MARS, who immediately forwarded a station application kit.

Week one: Other club members began looking for a piece of land that would be big enough to accommodate the *gigantic* 900 ft. rhombic antenna that John Williams, (K4ANJ) had originally designed and erected for all local Air Force MARS stations during the Vietnam War.

Week Two: While one club team completed the Army MARS application form and sent it overnight via Federal Express to Fort Huachuca, another team came up with the "perfect" spot for the miracle station: a 20 acre parcel of vacant land that was part of the right of way for the Cross Florida Barge Canal that had been proposed in the 1960s but never built.

Week Three: Shortly before Christmas, club members received expedited approval from the Florida State Legislature for use of the land. Expedited approval was also received from Army MARS; the

station had a genuine MARS call sign, AAR4CSS and approval to move both phone patch and MARSgram traffic from our AEM3 stations in the Persian Gulf. Another club team came up with a 60 ft. house trailer, found abandoned on the other side of the city. But there were two big problems: several gaping holes in the side of the trailer and the even bigger problem of how to move it across town to the Barge Canal site. Were there really Christmas miracles? Only time would tell.

Week Four: Yes, Christmas miracles do happen! The local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) hears about the radio club's desperate need and agreed to help move the house trailer. Led by the local VVA president, Joe Ernest, the combined VVA/Silver Springs Radio Club gang managed to move the beat up old trailer several miles to its new site, intact! Another team hastily built a foundation for the trailer and cleared the road into the station site.

Week Five: The club was now into the first days of 1991 and the political and military situation in the Gulf was really getting tense. Club members reaffirmed their resolve to get the miracle MARS station on the air quickly. There were now more than 500,000 troops in the Gulf region, with several million very concerned family members waiting for news at home. Don Pieratt, N8CBR(SK), picked up the phone and called the president of the local subsidiary of the United Telephone Company and within days, a work party of more than a dozen technicians from UTC with half a dozen bucket trucks showed up on site with several dozen 60-ft telephone poles. In just two days, post holes were dug and the poles were installed and the members of the Silver Springs Radio Club, led by John Williams, K4ANJ, completely installed the monster 900 ft. rhombic antenna. This miracle was made possible because John had actually stored the original Vietnam War MARS station in his basement for nearly 20 years! Way to go John!

Week Six: Things were shaping up well for AAR4CSS. The local VVA guys and several radio club members had managed to patch up the holes in the house trailer and members donated carpeting, desks and chairs, air conditioner and a

## MARS (Continued)

refrigerator for the station. A pair of Collins S-Line transmitter and receiver and an old National NCL1000 linear were donated. There were only days away from meeting the "impossible" deadline but going on the air. There was only one remaining problem: cows from a neighboring farm kept wandering into the station site, but the club members scrounged up material for a fence.

January 20, 1990: Exactly two months to the day from the night when the MARS station idea was first suggested at the meeting, switches were thrown on the Collins rigs and AAR4CSS went on the air, quickly making contact with AEM3USJ in the Gulf. The "miracle had indeed happened, not because of good luck, but because of the hard work of the men and women of the Silver Springs Radio Club!

Between Jan. 20 when the station first went on the to the Gulf and June 11, (the latest statistics available that I have from the station), AAR4CSS has run a total of 12,986 completed phone patches, making it the number one Army MARS station in CONUS, (with AAR2USI at Fort Monmouth the number two station at approximately 11,000 patches)

One reason for their success has been the free domestic phone service provided by US Sprint and the availability of some local United Telephone Co. operators in Ocala who have provided dedicated coverage every day. Like some phone company operators did during the Vietnam War MARS operations, these phone operators do all the dialing to a GIs family members so that all the AAR4CSS operators have to do is throw one switch and instantly bring the loved ones together via HF from the Gulf.

Station operators did have a big technical problem within days of going on the air, though, when their NCL1000 linear "blew up" (setting off the fire detector in the trailer!). One station member took the initiative by calling the folks at ETO in Colorado and they were immediately offered a "prototype" Alpha 87A computer tuned 1.5 kw linear at cost. That was too good a deal to pass up. The club was able to obtain funds for the 87A linear from the Board of Supervisors of Marion County. The 87A was put

online and provided an immediate super signal to the gulf. Coincidentally, the woman at ETO who personally supervised the building of their linear has a son who served in Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf! Members of the Silver Springs Radio Club passed the hat at club meetings and came up with enough money to pay for a new Icom 751 HF rig on their own.

### Postscript

The dedicated men and women at AAR4CSS are still running phone patches as I write this article in late June, although fewer than 50,000 troops are still in the Gulf, and only three MARS stations are still regularly on the air.

Never ones to sit on their hands, club members are now organizing a unique reunion that will bring more than a dozen MARS operators who served at various AEM3 stations in the Gulf to the trailer station outside Ocala on July 26. Many of the Gulf operators are with the Army 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Divisions. The club plans "a giant barbecue and enough beer to float a battleship." Already a group from Michigan has donated a box of Mars "official AAR4CSS candy bars" A local television station will be out to record the event on videotape and we will be sure to get plenty of photographs for a special MARS article on the reunion this fall in *Worldradio!*

### Thanks to a group of very special people!

(At this point, SK will no longer be shown. Please see qrz.com website. CB) Here are the dedicated men and women of the Silver Springs Radio Club who have manned the AAR4CSS to the number one record for phone patches from Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm: Don Pieratt, N8CBR, Carol Pieratt, N4VGZ, John O. Williams, K4ANJ, Ernie O'Berry, K4OSM, Lou Gorski, KB9HD, Ray Johnson, KA4TRB, Gerry Evans, KA4ZOH, Bill Britt, KA9CQU, Curtis Byrd, K8CQD, John Carr, KB4WFG, Mike Casey, KB4VOH, Jesse Cripe, N4LSV, Al Forte, W4PQN, Ken Hanson, NC2O, Tom Hill, WD4CGE, Aden Keele, K2SN, Charles Lord, NR2F, Dan Mercer, W2FAZ, Gary Miller, WA4HHC, Paul Mosher, AB4QD,

Jim Penna, WB2LJT, Al Picard, K4IQQH, Joe Pitts, K14ET, Gene Reuman, WV8F, Jim Ritter, KB4EIM, Davis Roush, WA4RPG, Jack Scott, Club president, N4NWT, Nelson Snow, N2KWR, Newton Williams, N4PZX, John MacDougall, KA4WJA and Ernie Bass, new op, waiting for his call sign.

*Dr. Paul Scipione is National Coordinator of Public Relations for Army MARS. A MARS user in Vietnam and now a MARS op at AAR2USI at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, he is at work on a new book that will detail the history of MARS operations during the Vietnam War.*

OK, that was an informative article, but now for the rest of the story.

Sometime in 2002, the station was moved again to its current location, 161 Oak Circle. The antenna farm consists of two 1,000 ft. long rhombics (actual legs are 520 ft. between poles). The one to the east has six elements and the one on the west has four 1,000 ft. long elements, resulting in just over 2 miles of copper clad steel wire. There are also two dipoles up now, and a Sommers 704 antenna. The Tribander needs some work and will be back on the air when it's repaired.

In late 2010, the club decided to stop the MARS operation and in January 2011, the AAR4CSS station was decommissioned due to various factors – money and personnel being primary antagonists.

By that time, the mission in the Gulf was winding down, although several thousand troops were still there. With the advent of the internet and modern technology, the immediate need for phone patches dwindled down.

The station stood abandoned for 2012 and much of 2013. In 2014, the club decided to resurrect the station for club use. Some of the antennas were a wreck and the building and deck needed repairs.

In 2015, the club hosted ARRL field day at the site and it was decided to resurrect it.

When the building was opened first in 2014, it was like walking into a time capsule. It was pretty much as it was, less the radios used for MARS.



## MARS (Continued)

2015 and 2016 brought several events to Perry Field (the new name instead of the MARS site). The FL QSO Party, Winter Field Day and other events. The west rhombic wasn't operational at that time, but the east one was. Needless to say, working Europe and the Middle East was no problem.

In December 2016, there was a storm that came through and tore up the west rhombic to the point that one pole and 3,000' of wire were knocked to the ground.

With the help and dedicated support of the City of Ocala, Ocala Electric Utility, they restrung the wire for the west

rhombic, and replaced two of the most rotten poles I have ever seen. (See January ARRL-NFL newsletter for pictures) They also restrung all of the elements and tensioned them. Originally, there was three elements on each side, but with one breaking previously and only enough for a 2,000' run, it was decided to just do two elements on each leg.

When they were first used, a contact was made in Minnesota and he couldn't believe that I was running only 100 watts.

The decks were completely rebuilt by club members and funded through donations.

The club celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and a large part of that will be having the station back on the air, utilizing all the antennas and putting *BIG-FOOT* (the rhombics) out there for all to hear. The club's call sign is K4GSO and we hope to hear you! Special QSL cards and certificates will be available. The event is planned for September 2017. Check the K4GSO.US website for more information.



## Must Have Editions for Every Amateur's Library

The Editor's Personal Favorite



## General/Extra Class 2-Weekend Bootcamp, May 13/14 May 20/21, 2017

Gordon L. Gibby MD KX4Z

(This will be my first General/Extra Class course. I've taught 2 Technician Courses so far. My experience includes 2 degrees in Electrical Engineering and >40 years as a ham. I run 3 WINLINK stations, have built multiple ham radio transceivers / amplifiers / antennas, and CW or PSK31 is my favorite mode. I have now built six packet repeaters.)

Each participant will receive:

Used SWR meter suitable for HF (\$15) (unless I run out!!!)  
EMP-prevention gas discharge surge arrester (\$3)  
HF antenna for the band of their choice (or multiband) \$12  
30' transmission line \$15  
Voltmeter (Harbor Freight) \$5

-----  
**\$50 --- so this is the charge for the course.**

**We will eat lunches together and possibly suppers. Bring food money / sack lunch or whatever.**

The following labs are tentatively scheduled:

- Make HF contacts in multiple modalities
- Construct HF antennas
- Construct directional VHF antennas
- Learn how to properly tune a non-broadband HF transceiver
- Adjust HF antennas for resonance using SWR bridge or Antenna analyzer
- Design and build transistor microphone preamplifier
- More usages of a VOM than you can count
- Smith Chart Introduction
- Quarter Wave Stubs
- Homemade antenna tuner
- FLDIGI
- How to tune a linear amplifier
- Series / Parallel Resistors / tuned circuits
- Building Antenna Traps

Address is Gordon L. Gibby MD KX4Z; 15216 NW 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, NEWBERRY, Florida 32669.  
Phone 352 331 6639.

Subdivision STEEPLECHASE off of CR 241 just north of 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 4 miles west of I-75 exit 390.  
Gate code is #0352 ( pound sign is important)

Contact [ggibby@anest.ufl.edu](mailto:ggibby@anest.ufl.edu) 352 331 6639 to register

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Current license/class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hog County Amateur Radio Association Participates in the 2017 Sumter County Fair

Gene King - KI4LEH, President



The Hog County Amateur Radio Association, Inc. was honored to be invited to participate in the 2017 Sumter County Fair and promote Amateur Radio as the Hobby and Service to the Community.

We were set up in the 4-H building, the first building that attendees of the Fair had to walk through and then past us as we were right by the doorway. We had a small display of literature from the ARRL on-hand for those interested as well as a Go-Box with both 2m/70cm and HF set up for the kids who came by that we could get on the air, some to the kids found it interesting. We had a good number of kids who seemed to be interested as well as a few adults. We actually had a few whole families that gave it some thought as well.

We are also Ambassadors for the Weather Ready Nation through the National Weather Service. As part of that program we also gave away in a drawing a brand new Midland Weather Alert Radio to a local resident Alan Shepherd who came down on Saturday, March 11, 2017 to receive it. (Photo attached)

We were able to hopefully make some in-roads with the County's 4-H program and that in coming weeks and months we hope to be working with some kids to bring them into the hobby. If it works out hopefully next year's Fair will host a 4-H Amateur Radio Club. Or at least we will have a youth group of the Hog County ARA as youth are the future of the hobby.

[www.K4HOG.org](http://www.K4HOG.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1624880281073667/>



### K4HOG / Hog County Amateur Radio Association Net

Monday evenings at 8:00 PM ET on the 145.490 repeater, PL: 123.0 in Bushnell, Florida

FYI - Hog County is the nickname for Sumter County,



Gene King KI4LEH, President of Hog County ARS, presents local resident, Alan Shepard, with the Midland Weather Alert Radio.

## March Activities for the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club (NOARC)

Ron Mahn, FCC Amateur Radio Call Sign KI5FR  
President, North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club (NOARC)

Hello again from Crestview Florida! The North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club had another active month in March. Our activities started with our club meeting on March 9. Among other items of business, we put together our Field Day Committee - Philip KG4RQR, CJ KJ4PIU and our activities director Daniel KK4VAX. In addition, our website is starting to get a bit packed. It is time to streamline it to a professional look. As a newly minted 501c3, the website may be the only thing contributors see when applying for grants or requesting donations. So, we have created a committee to work on this. Led by Arc W4CPD, he will be assisted by our current web master, Phil N4COP, Andrew KM4SRN, Philip KG4RQR, and inputs from Robert KM4VKY. We also looked at the need to get E.Y., WB4CDR - SK's 100 ft tower down for the family.

After the meeting, Mike KK4LLS decided something had to happen NOW on E.Y.'s tower. He put together a crew to go out to the site on March 11<sup>th</sup> and get that tower down. Mike's crew went to work on bringing down E.Y. Mock's tower. The 11<sup>th</sup> consisted of get many things moved off the tower in preparation for disassembly. Mike led the team back on the 21<sup>st</sup> to bring down the tower, stick by stick. The team will go back on the 31<sup>st</sup> to finish up. Among those on the team are Mike KK4LLS, Scott KC6LEC, Kathy KM4YOI, David AB3TW, Craig KK4WDQ and his XYL Juanita, Rob KM4SPJ, Bob W5RE, Chris no ticket yet, Phillip KG4RQR and Daniel KK4VAX. Our south county hams, the Playground Amateur Radio Club (PARC) held their annual Hamfest on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. It was great to see so many old friends.

Thanks goes to PARC for pulling this off every year. I believe this was the best one in the last few years and the continued influx of new blood in the amateur community will make it even better in the future.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had our monthly Tech Night. I did not go to this as Gonzaga University was playing in the sweet -sixteen basketball. However, it was left in the able hands of Bob W6VVA passing on his knowledge of dipole antennas. The discussions ranged the gamut, from the basic dipole formula to the intricacies of final antenna trimming. Sounds like I missed a great presentation.

We provided our annual communication assistance for the Crestview Chamber of Commerce at their Triple B Barbeque Cookoff on March 25<sup>th</sup>. We have been providing this service for nine years now. The venue moved from downtown Crestview to the local park, Old Spanish

Trail Park, in north Crestview. The consolidated space reduced the number of folks required for the event to 5.

Although not continuously communicating, our communications were vital to the success of the event. Included in the team were our lead Daniel KK4VAX, Rich N4DPM, Mike KJ4FNA, Pat KM4WTB and Ron KI5FR.

Starting Monday March 27<sup>th</sup>, NOARC will hold its first Extra Class. Classes will be every Monday except Memorial Day through 26 June. Thanks to Mike W4BZM, Bruce KA5DLV, Mike KK4KRZ, Steve W4HA, Jon KI4UMT, and Ron KI5FR. This is a huge undertaking and local hams have requested this for many years.

Finally, I would like to recognize a few folks. Bob N4CU was kind enough to open his home to Rob KM4SPJ. Rob is a New Ham, Bob has been at it since the 50's. Bob showed Rob some of the ins and outs of working a contest in his well apportioned station. Great Elmering! I would also like to welcome Don to the club. He does not have his new call yet, but is back into Ham Radio after a break of 50 years!

I want to close by inviting all of the readers to come by our club meeting and Tech Nights. Our business meetings are the second Thursday of the month at Live Oak Baptist Church (LOBC) at 4565 Live Oak Church Road, Crestview FL (GPS Coords 30.705177, -86.564285). Our Tech Nights are on the fourth Thursday of the month Jan - Oct also at 7:00 at LOBC. Please see our Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthOkaloosaARC/> or our website, [www.W4AAZ.org](http://www.W4AAZ.org) for more updates. See you next month!

### NOARC April Events

Club Meeting - April 13<sup>th</sup> LOBC

Tech Night - April 27<sup>th</sup> LOBC

Florida QSO Party - April 29<sup>th</sup> LOBC Building G

Field Day Prep for 24-25 June at 997 Webb Street  
Crestview Florida.

Mike KK4LLS and Scott KC6LEC are a LONG way up! Taking down E.Y. WB4CDR (SK) tower for his family. Don't jump Mike, your birthday sky dive isn't for another 4 days!





## More NOARC Pictures



Waving to our friends Ted KM4SRO and Sue from the Club meeting. They are out of the area attending to family business. We certainly miss them!



Mike KF4FNA flanked by Triple B Volunteers Carol Moody and Betsy Roy



Daniel KK4VAZ with Triple B Chairman Tom Moody



Bob N4CU ready to show the finer points of contesting.



Towers don't just come safely by themselves! Here is the entire team, except Rob KK4SPJ. He is usually behind the



The 5 person team making the Triple B BBQ Cookoff work!

## \*\*\* CQ FLORIDA HAMS \*\*\*

The 2017 **Florida QSO Party** will be held April 29 and 30; we sure hope you'll join us by activating your FL HF stations – home, club, school, mobile and rover all welcomed. Let's make all 67 counties RADIO-ACTIVE

### DETAILS: The Florida QSO Party

Object: Everyone works Florida, Florida works Everyone  
Activate and work ALL Florida counties  
Have as much FUN as possible!

When: **April 29 & 30, 2017**

Two ten hour operating periods, with a ten hour break:  
Saturday, April 29 1600Z (Noon EDT) - 0159Z (9:59 PM EDT)  
Sunday, April 30 1200Z (8 AM EDT) - 2159Z (5:59 PM EDT)  
20 Hours total

Exchange: RST and County (Florida stations)  
RST and QTH (State, Province or Country for non-FL)

Where: 10, 15, 20 and 40 Meters  
CW : 28.035, 21.035, 14.035, 7.035 MHz  
SSB: 28.485, 21.335, 14.260, 7.195 MHz  
(Approximate center frequencies; lots of activity spreads out from there!)

At least 15 Mobile stations will be on and most can be found here:  
CW: 7.025-7.035, 14.040-14.050, 21.040-21.050, 28.040-28.050 MHz  
SSB: 7.180-7.190, 14.265-14.275, 21.340-21.350, 28.480-28.490 MHz  
If you are not mobile, \*please\* refrain from calling CQ in these windows.

Categories:  
Single Op, Multi Op, Multi-Multi, Mobile, Technician and School.  
Three power levels: QRP, Low, and High Power.  
Use CW, SSB or both.

### 20th Anniversary Special Event Award- 2017 FQP Spelling Bee!

In honor of our 20<sup>th</sup> year we will have a record 20 1x1s stations, 2 per letter, to spell **FLORIDA SUN**.  
Contact at least 10 of these official 1x1 stations whose suffixes spell "**FLORIDA SUN**" to earn this award.  
*The callsigns and hosts will be announced on the FQP website soon.*  
All 20 stations will be on both modes full-time and should be very accessible. QSL via KK3Q direct/bureau.

Prizes: Beautiful color Certificates for top participants  
Plaques for top finishing entrants.

**Web Site:** <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/>

Detailed rules, mobile routes, past results, plaques, county maps and much more!

#### **TAKE ACTION!!!**

**Florida Stations of all types** – please go to the FQP website and register your fixed, mobile, rover and 1x1 Spelling Bee operations; just click on the "Counties On the Air" link to get started – thanks!

Any questions or feedback? Please feel free to contact me via e-mail: [cqdenx4n@gmail.com](mailto:cqdenx4n@gmail.com)  
THANK YOU in advance for making the 2017 FQP another terrific event!

73, Chris, NX4N, on behalf of:

Chris, WF3C and Dan, K1TO – President and Past President  
Florida Contest Group, proud sponsors of the FQP since 1998



## The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society presents the **GAINESVILLE HAMFEST**

*Saturday April 29, 2017 at The First Baptist Church of Waldo*

*14370 Kennard Street (SR-24) Waldo, FL 32684*

Show Time: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Vendor Setup Time: 6:45 am – 8 am

Admission is \$5.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door. Advance ticket sale information is available until April 22, 2017 from [garspresident14@gmail.com](mailto:garspresident14@gmail.com). For all ticket requests, please include a **self addressed-stamped envelope**, #10 – business size.\* Tailgater's admission is \$10 for the car and driver and then door admissions are required for all other passengers.

### **INDOOR VENUE**

For the first time we are offering inside space for Commercial Vendors. Contact the GARS Hamfest Chairman, Advanced Registration **IS** Required. \*

(12' space, 2-6' tables, and 2 chairs -\$ 20) This includes 2 admissions.

Inside swap tables are available for non-Vendors.

(10' space 1-6' table with 1 chair - \$10) Admission required at door.

FCC License Examinations will be held inside the event hall. **One session will be scheduled only at 10:30am sharp.**

Food is available for sale inside the event hall.  
DOOR prizes and a Grand Prize will be awarded.



Talk-in 146.820 -600 offset PL 123.0  
For more information contact:  
GARS Hamfest Chairman  
Larry Rovak – WB2SVB  
[Wb2svb@arrl.net](mailto:Wb2svb@arrl.net)  
201-697-7721

Or

GARS President  
Peter Winters – W4GHP  
[Garspresident14@gmail.com](mailto:Garspresident14@gmail.com)  
352-317-2820



## Northern Florida STM Reports for March 2017

Tom Housworth KI0JO Section Traffic Manager

### Station Activity Reports

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	592
KZ8Q	228
KK4BNL	104
KA1G	89
N9MN	60
WB4RJW	58
WC4FSU	51
N3JUY	44
WD3B	40
W4NFG	32
KJ4G	14
K4LSB	12
K4HGH	6

### Public Service Honor Roll

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
WD3B	155
KF4DVF	128
KI0JO	120
WC4FSU	110
N3JUY	110
KA1G	100
KK4BNL	90
K4LSB	90
KZ8Q	90
WB4RJW	90
N9MN	70
KJ4G	74
KJ4HGH	53

### Brass Pounders League

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	592



### Nets

NET	ABB.	QNI	QTC	QND	SESS	MGR
Florida Phone Traffic Net	FPTN	1299	191	782	31	WC4FSU/ N4GMU
Northern Florida ARES Net	NFARES	2093	34	978	27	W4NFG
Northern Florida D Star Net	NFDSN	81	6	81	5	W4NFG
Northern Florida D-Rats Net	NFDRN	49	2	80	5	W4NFG
Florida Mid Day Traffic Net	FMTN	365	59	247	31	K4EEI
Tropical Fast Net	TFN	475	150	462	31	W2PH
Volusia County Traffic Net	VCTN	310	32	571	31	WD3B
Gulf Coast VHF Training Net	GCVTN	942	44	433	31	K4QBH
Seminole VHF Traffic Net	SVTN	536	55	651	30	KG4QCD
North Florida Phone Net	NFPN	2266	6	951	31	AI4GF
Lake County ARES	LCARES	202	14	202	14	N4KXO
Walton County Amateur Radio Club	WCARC	329	13	242	13	K4NDJ



## Upcoming Hamfests

- April 15, 2017 – Flamingo Net UMARC Free Flea, Coral Gables, FL  
<http://FlamingoNet.8m.net>
- April 15, 2017 – Gulf Coast ARC Annual Hamfest, Hudson, FL  
<http://www.gulfcoastarc.org> **NEW!**
- April 15, 2017 – TARC, Tampa, FL <http://www.hamclub.org> **NEW!**
- April 22, 2017 – Spring 2017 Cy Harris Free Flea, Oakland Park FL  
<http://browardarc.net/free-flea/> **NEW!**
- April 29, 2017 – Gainesville Hamfest, Waldo, FL <http://gars.net>
- May 13, 2017 – EPARS Tailgate, Dade City, FL <http://eparsonline.org>
- **May 20, 2017 – Suwannee ARC Hamfest, Wellborn, FL**  
<http://www.suwanneearc.org/>
- May 27, 2017 – Wormfest 2017, Pinellas Park, FL <http://w4orm.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. The next session is Thursday, November 5, 2015 7PM.  
See [http://nofars.net/home/fcc\\_testing](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](mailto: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](http://www.suwanneearc.org) for more information



**QST NFL**

Newsletter of the Northern Florida Section

1. Spread the word about our website [www.arrl-nfl.org](http://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](mailto:wb2vyk@gmail.com)**

**Spread the Word**

## Section Nets.....

For net details go to [www.arrl-nfl.org](http://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

**Section Nets, continued.....**

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
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 of 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
TFN Tropical Florida Sideband Traffic Net	3940	Daily, 2145
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 Section Emergency 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** 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](http://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.

