



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 4, Issue 5

www.arrrl-nfl.org

May 2017

Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM



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

No more guessing, summer is here. Most all of the section (and the state) is in drought conditions, and very dry.....use care outdoors! Numerous wildfires are already burning. Stay alert and prepared!

I was at the DEARS (Disney) meeting on April 12th over in the Disney All-Start Resort. What a great meeting! Kathy Blake K4WDW and members sat through (ok, endured!) one of my EmComm/Volunteer presentations and then made me an honorary member, complete with hat, coffee cup, and certificate!!! Yeah, I am finally an Official Mouseketeer!!!! It was a great meeting, and I was humbled by the honorary membership. (I think Marty gave me up with the photo they took by placing it in this newsletter.....<grin>).

I also was able to make the QCWA's Citrus Chapter Quarterly Meeting in Casselberry this past Sunday, April 23rd. Another great group, and we ate at a Chinese Buffet Restaurant. As usual, I ate too much.....

I can NEVER express my gratitude to Kathy and the D.E.A.R.S. club members, and the many other clubs, teams, associations, societies, ARES groups, and whatever you and/or your "people" are called for the past three years! No matter where I go, I always feel warmly welcomed and treated like a celebrity! I appreciate it, and hope that I continue to earn your trust and respect.

Some upcoming events....the annual Florida Hurricane Exercise will be in May – sometime. Speaking with our liaison in the State EOC, he advised they (State EM) are trying to coordinate with the National Hurricane Center to do a shared exercise. No tentative dates or information yet, but stay tuned to your e-mail and the NFL Section Web Page. As soon as I know, you'll know!! (AND PLEASE! Do not contact the State EOC about it!!). Make sure you work with your local groups!!!

I am scheduled for the Orlando ARC meeting for May 3rd, also the Dayton Hamvention in its new digs in Xenia, OH & the Four Days in May (FDIM) QRP gathering during the same time/location; later in the month, the Central Florida QRP group over in Seminole County.

I hope to see you and say, "Hi" face-to-face! And a reminder.....wildfires are already here, and hurricane season is just around the corner (yes, we already had our first named storm for the year!!).

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

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What's inside

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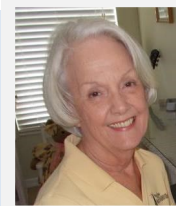
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Email your QST NFL input to
WB2VYK@gmail.com
Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor

The Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Service (DEARS) Newest Honorary Mouseketeer!!

Steve Szabo, WB4OMM
ARRL North Florida Section Manager



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (TARS) Has New PIO & Editor

Jason Ford W4JMF

PIO, Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

In our April meeting, TARS selected Jason Ford W4JMF as our new Public Information Officer. He is originally from New Castle, Indiana, relocated to West Central Florida in 1994, and moved to Tallahassee in 2005. Jason works for the City of Tallahassee as a Graphic Design and Installation Specialist. He has been licensed since 1998, and finally obtained the perfect vanity call W4JMF last year. He enjoys D-Star, DMR, Allstar, and owns an Echolink Conference server *THEGUILD* Node 679320.

Dave Davis, WA4WES, has taken over as editor of the **Printed Circuit**. Mike Maynard, K4ICY, resigned April 1, 2017. For the past five years Mike has diligently put together the monthly TARS newsletter. Through his untiring efforts he has kept the Tallahassee and

surrounding ham radio community informed, educated, and entertained with his timely news items, articles, and postings of local and national ham radio events.

Dave Miner, W4SKG, Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society is pleased to announce the return of two sponsors, and the addition of a new sponsor, for field day 2017. Camping World of Tallahassee, courtesy of Jason Bellflower, General Manager, is allowing the use of three RVs while we operate. We'll stay refreshed by beverages donated kindly from Refreshment Services Pepsi, courtesy of Charles Vickery and keep our bellies full with excellent pizza pie made with love from Uncle Maddio's Pizza on Mahan Drive, courtesy of Alicia Holmes.

Florida State Parks on the Air

Bert Garcia, N8NN
NFL Web Master

The Florida State Parks on the Air contest was held on April 1st. The FLSPOTA contest promotes public awareness of ham radio and Florida's parks system, and contributes to the recognition and appreciation of Florida's diverse ecology. It provides the opportunity for Florida amateurs to get out and enjoy operating outdoors and encourages camaraderie and sportsmanship among Florida's amateur radio operators. You can read more about the contest at <http://flspota.org/>.

Bert Garcia N8NN activated Lake Griffin State Park for the contest, operating with an Elecraft KX2 running 5 watts on CW from battery power. The antenna was a 53-ft end-fed wire. Operating in the shade of centuries-old live oak trees, contacts were made with six states and Canada. QRP with 5 watts can be a challenge, especially on a weekend when other contests are ongoing. But, that's ham radio! Get up, get out and get on the air!

73, Bert N8NN



Alachua County Hurricane Preparation Reaps Two Very Tall Benefits

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z
Alachua County ARES Volunteer

Alachua County ARES is gearing up for a May NIMS-compliant Full Scale Hurricane Test Exercise and is already reaping huge benefits as a result. Hospital communications leader Dave Welker (W2SRP) of Marion County challenged planners of the Alachua County Hurricane Test to take FEMA Course IS-120a – and that made a huge difference! It led to both a new repeater location and access to a 100-foot portable tower!

How, you ask? The initial result of the online free course was a document that lays out a 4-hour Hurricane Full Scale Exercise placing ARES volunteers –and evaluators—at four key facilities in the County: the EOC, the Gainesville office of the Red Cross, and two actual hurricane shelters used last year – the Gainesville Senior Center and the Easton-Newberry Sports Complex. Amateurs had problems getting communications working at both those shelters during for-real activations last year.

This year an aggressive plan will have the volunteers set up every mode/band of communications they can, and then open sealed envelopes at designated times to learn what simulated obstacles have befallen their location – while complete phone and Internet outage is presumed throughout the test. The four hour exercise steps through two days of simulated storm and recovery events.

Of course, if an unsealed envelope informs a location that they have lost both *power and antennas*, they can't just call the EOC to tell the ARES net control station that they'll be down for a bit while they set up backup power and slingshot up a new antenna---they simply “radio-disappear.” Every location gets pre-written messages of several types to transmit. These include weather & Emergency Management bulletins, tactical snippets, as well as much longer detailed lists, spreadsheets or email attachments that **must get through** as part of the community's disaster response! The comm operators will receive these both printed out, and already stored as files on USB thumb-drives, so the emphasis is on communicating, not typing or making up messages. With the random obstacles that will befall each location, they'll be plenty busy! And if that isn't enough, other counties are joining in, and completely unexpected “test urgent” messages may pop up out of nowhere---and have to get through! The comms teams not only have to get their messages out---they also have to be available and monitoring for others trying to reach *them*.

So the unexpected windfalls resulted when organizers tackled the communications problems reaching the shelters on the west side of the county. A search for possible solutions led to a phone call to the Division of Forestry, which manages plenty of 100-125 foot tall **largely-unused** Fire Towers scattered through the countryside. We were astonished when the local Forestry Division simply remarked of a crucial west county tower --- “It already has an unused antenna with Heliac feedline and electrical power—you can have it for your digital node repeater indefinitely....and further we have a portable crank up tower, would that help your exercise?” **You betcha!!!** Who knew the local Forestry communications chief was a ham, a professional radio engineer, and runs several repeaters himself?

A new digital node – NF4RC-7 – was quickly assembled and installed at the Forest Grove fire tower halfway between Newberry and High Springs on Wednesday Mar. 29 and immediately had strong connections to the SEDAN node on the University of Florida Campus as well as many, many other stations in the area. It will connect to multiple WINLINK gateways and chat stations in Alachua County and provide far better digital emergency communications to both western Alachua County hurricane shelters. Planning is underway to utilize the Forestry mobile crank-up tower to hoist both VHF and HF antennas & correct deficiencies in the current amateur radio backup at the Alachua County EOC.



Alachua County Hurricane Prep (Continued)

Resources that might benefit other ARES hurricane test planners:

FEMA IS-120a. Online course: <https://emilms.fema.gov/IS120A/index.htm>

Maps of Florida Fire Towers: <https://tnlandforms.us/fltowers.html> (click on any tower and you're taken to a map that shows them all)

Learn about Florida Fire Towers and how installing an antenna can save a fire tower from being scrapped:

<https://tnlandforms.us/fltowers.html>

<http://www.news-press.com/story/news/local/lehigh/2015/11/17/fire-towers-still-used-throughout-florida-forestry/75844844/>

(These towers usually do not have a surrounding walkway and extreme caution is urged in planning any installation.)

Alachua County Hurricane Participant Workbook: <http://qsl.net/nf4rc/ParticipantWorkbook.pdf>

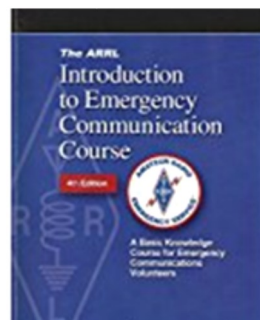
Draft Alachua County Communications Plan: <http://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/AlachuaCountyCommsPlan.pdf>

Alachua County NF4RC website: <http://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/>

Escambia County Hams Hold 7th EC001 Session

Daisy Crepeau KT4KW

On April 22, 2017, Ray Crepeau, K1HG, Steve VanDenAkker W4SJV and Daisy Crepeau, KT4KW began their 7th field session of EC001 taking place at the Escambia County (Florida) Search and Rescue facility in Pensacola, FL. This class, which teaches amateurs how to react in an emergency situation, is invaluable to ARES members who intend to supplement first responders when the responders are overwhelmed. EC001, which has a prerequisite of completing FEMAs' on line courses IS 100 and IS 700, gives students the basic information about operating in an Incident Command Situation. This class teaches amateurs how to integrate into the ICS system and how important communication will be in the event of a disaster. This class will have its second and final session on April 29th. End of course exams will be administered then.



March April 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 a very focused month in April.

We had our monthly club meeting on April 13. Among the activities were the formation of a committee to inventory the club's belongings. NOARC has been the beneficiary of gifts from many places over the years. Unfortunately, this has led to a wide-ranging inventory. We are looking to get that under control. Also during the meeting, we took orders for Field Day items. We are really looking forward to it! Finally, we reiterated that the club would sign up for no more activities until the club station is on the air. This will give us a chance to get hands on experience on the radio for all of our members.

Also during April, we continued our Extra Class. There has been lots of positive feedback from the students. In addition, we have opened the class up to visitors not going for their license but who might enjoy some of the topics. Thanks so much to Mike W4BZM and Bruce KA5DLV and all our volunteer instructors.

We also received word this week that the city of Crestview is moving forward on a memorandum of understanding which will allow NOARC to place an amateur in the City EOC in the event of an emergency. Okaloosa County is split by the Eglin AFM test and training range. The County EOC is south of the range while the city of Crestview is north. This agreement will help maintain communication between north and south and may serve as a model to tie all the municipalities to the county EOC.

As I write this, there are 4 days left in April, and boy are we busy! Thursday is our Tech night. We will use this tech night as an Elmer session. We will set up in groups where our new folks can ask questions of long-

er term hams. Also, we have Kathy KM4YOH and Scott KC6LEC bringing out the prepared top for the station tower. We will do one last inspection before putting it up on Friday. On Friday, allow with the tower completion, we will ensure a radio is good to go and look to have the club station, W4AAZ, on the air. On the air not a minute too soon as we hope to work the Florida QSO Party on Saturday April 29. Looks to be a great day! On Sunday, some of our members are looking to assist with a bicycle race event in the Blackwater National Forest. It came up at the last second. However. If Daisy KT4KW and Ray K1HG are doing it, we can be assured it will be as professional as possible for 6 day notice.

Finally, I would like to welcome a new member to the club, Charles KL7KS. He has hit the ground running and we are glad to have him!

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 for more updates. See you next month!

NOARC May Events

Club Meeting - May 11th LOBC

Tech Night – May 25th LOBC

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

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 41st Avenue, NEWBERRY, Florida 32669.
Phone 352 331 6639.

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

Contact ggibby@anest.ufl.edu 352 331 6639 to register

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Current license/class: _____

Northern Florida STM Reports for April 2017

Tom Housworth KI0JO Section Traffic Manager

Station Activity Reports

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	530
KZ8Q	187
WB4RJW	70
KK4BNL	60
WC4FSU	55
N3JUY	51
N9MN	38
WD3B	35
W4NFG	24
KJ4G	13
K4HGH	4

Public Service Honor Roll

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KF4DVF	227
KI0JO	120
WC4FSU	110
N3JUY	110
WD3B	110
KB4VOH	98
KZ8Q	90
WB4RJW	90
KK4BNL	73
KJ4G	73
N9MN	70
KJ4HGH	54

Brass Pounders League

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	530



Nets

NET	ABB.	QNI	QTC	QND	SESS	MGR
Florida Phone Traffic Net	FPTN	1211	189	787	30	WC4FSU/ N4GMU
Northern Florida ARES Net	NFARES	1939	29	926	25	W4NFG
Northern Florida D Star Net	NFDSN	71	5	70	4	W4NFG
Northern Florida D-Rats Net	NFDRN	44	0	72	4	W4NFG
Volusia County Traffic Net	VCTN	272	26	514	30	WD3B
Gulf Coast VHF Training Net	GCVTN	854	30	415	30	K4QBH
Seminole VHF Traffic Net	SVTN	475	38	566	29	KG4QCD
North Florida Phone Net	NFPN	2059	5	901	30	AI4GF
Lake County ARES	LCARES	196	12	198	12	N4KXO
Walton County Amateur Radio Club	WCARC	233	12	181	12	K4NDJ

Upcoming Hamfests

- 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/>
- 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!**



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

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, 2145
The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) Ragchew Net	443.225, PL 103.5 Echolink K4VRC-R	Monday, 1745
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, K1OJO**Official Observer Coordinator** – Rick A. Lloyd AA4W**State Government Liaison** – Darrell Brock N4GOA**QST NFL****Newsletter of the Northern Florida Section**

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.

Spread the Word