



THE NFL SECTION “NO NAME” NEWSLETTER



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2014

Steve's Take:

From the NFL Section Manager, Steve Szabo WB4OMM

Another month gone! In a few days, the 2014 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will have been completed. I will provide a summary of the event and participation in next month's edition of this newsletter.

This month “officially” starts the Fall contesting season; if you've never participated in a contest, try one! It is a challenge, and you might get interested. Contests hone operator skills, and get us to make our stations more “effective”. There's CW, RTTY, Phone, Digital...and the longest running contest, the November Sweepstakes. If you like to collect awards, here's an interesting stat....you can get DXCC or Worked All States in a weekend during one of these events! You don't have to compete for a contest award to garner all kinds of new DX or mode confirmations.

And while we're talking about contacts....the ARRL Centennial Operation is still on (until December 31) and I just was the “victim” of a “Red Badge Day” a week ago Sunday – as SM, I am worth a whopping 175 points! When I got on the air, after a few minutes, I experienced wall-to-wall calls; I know have an idea of what the DX gets on the other end!! I provided RTTY, CW and Phone Qs to about 110 folks in just over two hours. I will again be available for this credit as time allows in the next three months. Look for me on your favorite DX Cluster! Happy Halloween! See you next month!

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM

Editorial

From the Newsletter Editor, Harry K2BBM

Thanks to the guys and gals for the suggestions about naming our newsletter. Instead of selecting one immediately, we think that a little more time is needed to allow everyone interested to weigh-in. We're not counting the one suggestion that "The No Name Newsletter" is the best name!

Continuing our request for name suggestions, we also want items of interest in North Florida, the area covered by this newsletter. We actively encourage North Florida Clubs to submit items of interest and pictures they want to share with their cousins across NFL.

A R E S This Month's Group Nassau County Emergency Management

In heavy weather prone North Florida's Nassau County, technology and service go hand in hand.



Under the stewardship of Nassau County Sheriff, Bill Leeper, Nassau County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Members are valuable public guardians and companions.

Their mobile communications van houses a sophisticated array of equipment, including portable power, satellite communications links and a host of ultra-high frequency radio links. Coordinating Emergency Services, these Hams remain on high alert as fast responders to disaster and public safety.

Operated by the ARES group in Nassau County, the group is in action most of the year, providing service to the community. As shown here, they provide communications and coordination along the route of the September "End of Summer Watermelon Ride."

Sponsored by the more than 700 member North Florida Bike Club, the Watermelon Ride is one of many yearly events taking place in this vacation community. This year there are several trail rides offered, ranging from 5 miles to more than 50 miles.

Members of the Nassau County Emergency Management group are connected along the routes by Hams from the club. On a voluntary basis, these Hams provide communications for the sophisticated interaction of services, such as Police, Fire, Ambulance, and Medical assistance as needed. Typical equipment used includes a complex array of van-housed, repeater connections backed up by handheld radios. Handheld devices provide the majority of equipment along various, long trails. Amateur Operators are present at junctions and isolated locations along the courses to provide race information and emergency calls for medical assistance.



Coordinating Communications from the Emergency Management Van

From left - coordinators: Ron, KC4MYV - location, Mike, W4GYV - logging, Joe, KC4JES - net control, Tom, KJ4WQR - net coordinator/control.



Inside the van, a rack of equipment.



Sheriff's Management and Participation



Normally, an empty street. Now, packed with 800 bicyclists from the North Florida Bicycle Club Sheriff's Officers control traffic for the spread out groups of riders.

For more information: <http://www.nassau-ares.org/>

Florida's SARnet Helps DOT with Tech Challenge: A Win-Win

From an Amateur Radio user's perspective, the Statewide Amateur Radio network (SARnet) is simply a network of independently operated, amateur, UHF, voice-radio repeaters in Florida that are linked together. In truth though, it is much more than that. SARnet is a story of the Amateur Radio community coming together to help a state government agency overcome a technological challenge. The state agency in question is the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The FDOT is an agency charged with maintaining roadways in the state of Florida, keeping them safe for the traveling public. To meet its charge, the FDOT deploys personnel that work along these roadways. To communicate, these workers use VHF low-band analog voice radios that operate in the mid 40 MHz range, just below the amateur 6 meter band. The agency operates thousands of radios through dozens of repeater sites all over the state, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The repeaters are networked together in regional districts on a statewide Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) microwave and fiber network. In an effort to continue to keep this workforce safe, while at the same time improving resource utilization and situational awareness for both crews and management, the FDOT has been working to provide interoperability between the regions of this voice radio network, the capital in Tallahassee, and other public safety agencies. This sort of improvement requires technology and any new technology needs testing before it can be deployed. This is where the Amateur Radio community comes in. Read the entire article at <http://www.arrrl.org/news/search>.

An Important Issue

Unfortunately, there are those of us who don't get to pursue our hobby because the neighbors object to our antenna.

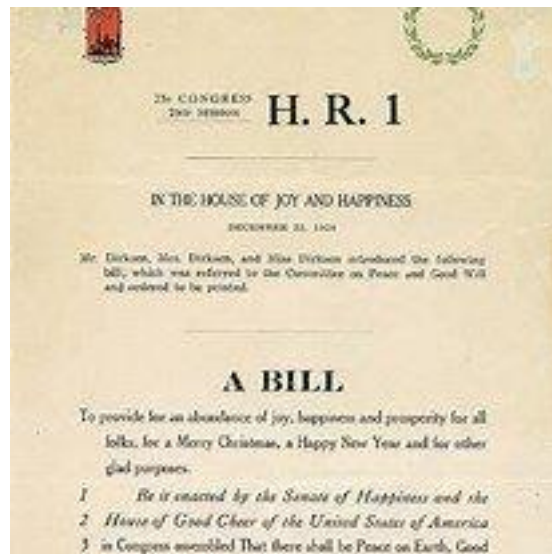
In such cases, deed restrictions and covenants (CCRs) become a stumbling block for everyone. Is there a solution to this lingering problem?

In this case a bit of politics may be a good solution.

Political issues are difficult to get involved with, or even understand. If you've ever been on either end of a deed restriction, you know it causes problems for Amateurs as well as homeowners.

A current, ARRL endorsed Congressional Bill is an attempt to rectify some of the inconsistencies regarding Amateur's antennas. It could also help the community help themselves.

Take time to become familiar with this issue and contact your Congressional Representative.



**[Congressional Bills 113th Congress]
[From the U.S. Government Printing Office]
[H.R. 4969 Introduced in House (IH)]**

113th CONGRESS

2d Session

H. R. 4969

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[Read the bill here: https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4969/text](https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4969/text)

October Theme: DXing

Your first DX, maybe not as sweet as a kiss but close? We remember, as do many of our readers. Remembering, the first DX: a connection between a station in New York State and a station in faraway New Hampshire. What thrill! As times and technology changed so did the perception of what constituted DX. But even today, DX is still DX. It can take a lot of forms: a rare station in the Pacific, a contact with a ham in remote Alaska, a confirmation from Australia or New Zealand. For one American Ham, sitting squarely on the top-most part of the Continental Divide - getting world-wide calls was the DX experience of a lifetime.



This month, the ARRL has issued the Annual DXing Issue. It's packed with new techniques and technology as well as some items that will be memorabilia to some of us.

Upcoming ARRL contests for 2014:

October

11-12 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)
20-24 [School Club Roundup](#)

November

1-3 [Nov. Sweepstakes – CW](#)
8-9 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
15-17 [Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone](#)