

Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM



Good Day to You! I hope this message finds you enjoying the Greatest Hobby and Service in the World!

The "National Parks on the Air" continues – my local group participated on March 19th and many other locals activated parks in the NFL Section during March, with more to come. Details of this operating event are at: [https:// npota.arrl.org](https://npota.arrl.org) . Be a "chaser" or be an "activator" ...have fun!

Some new appointments – A hearty "Welcome" to **John Greiner KJ4YPZ** the newly appointed EC for Gilchrist County, and **Bud Sinor KA3OGG** newly appointed EC for Nassau County. Thanks to both for "stepping up to the plate" - please support these folks in their new positions. A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Dave Gilliam K4DFG** in Gilchrist County and **Eric Anderson W4SFA** in Nassau County for their many years at the helm. Next month's message should announce more appointments to vacant spots.

The nomination process for the NFL Section Manager has closed, with no candidate applicants. As such, the ARRL has notified me that I am "re-elected" for another 2 year term ending June 30, 2018. I continue to value your support and partnership. I will continue to expend every effort to make the NFL Section efficient, effective, and friendly!

Still looking!! We have several positions that have had long time folks "doing the job" for extended periods of time or are now vacant; and some are looking to "retire" or have already indicated they are willing to "vacate" once a suitable replacement is available. Here's the list:

Affiliated Club Coordinator – **Steve Barber WA4B** has done great stuff with this position, but is ready for some well-deserved rest! He is willing to remain in an "assistant" capacity but would like someone who can spend the time to work with our numerous clubs all over the section. It entails contacting Affiliated Clubs, maintaining coordination with the Newsletters, nets, special events, activities and the like. The position description is here:

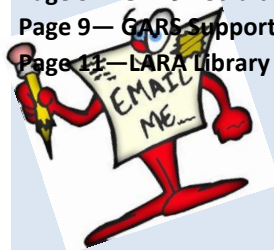
<http://www.arrl.org/affiliatedclub-coordinator>

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wb2vyk@gmail.com



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Keep me on your info lists.

Email your QST NFL input to
WB2VYK@gmail.com

State Government Liaison – Currently vacant, the previous occupant did not want to continue when I took office 18 months ago. This position might require a trip to Tallahassee from time to time so someone in that region (or within 120 miles or so) would be best suited. The position description is here: <http://www.arrl.org/state-governmentliaison> (IMPORTANT: THIS POSITION ALSO REPRESENTS THE WCF AND SFL SECTIONS!)

Public Information Coordinator- Also vacant. Coordinates PIO efforts with other PIOs in the Section, The position description is here:
<http://www.arrl.org/publicinformation-coordinator>

Section Youth Coordinator – Also vacant. I would hope for someone already working with youth organizations, Boy/Girl Scouts, faith-based organizations and the like. Also supports Kids Day,

Jamboree on the Air, etc. activities. The position description is here: [http:// www.arrl.org/section-youth-coordinator](http://www.arrl.org/section-youth-coordinator)

SM Message (continued)

PLEASE CONSIDER THESE POSTIONS....

THEY ARE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE "TEAM".

Send me an e-mail if you are interested.

My scheduled visits to Hamfests and "tailgates", club and ARES meetings for April:

Saturday April 2nd, The Jacksonville Radio Free Flea

Wednesday April 6th, Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Wednesday April 13th, Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team

Friday, April 15th, NAQCC Florida Chapter, Holly Hill

The Statewide Hurricane Exercise Amateur Radio ARES participation has been tentatively scheduled for May 18th. More information will be provided in the next few weeks to the ARES folks. The State has included Amateur Radio support in this year's exercise, and a simple message sent to the State EOC via HF or SARNet is the challenge for every county group.

Speaking of EMComm, the NFL Section ARES Communications Plan has been revised and updated. It is in the review process

and will be distributed/posted with ample time for familiarization before the Statewide Exercise. It is reduced in size, includes updated technologies/modes, and better supports local operations and management. It aligns with the DHS/FEMA direction of "all emergencies are local" and is now NIMS compliant.

Field Day will be here before you know it! Start your planning process now!!

For you Contesters, the Florida QSO Party is on April 30 & May 1.

For you DX hounds, the **VKØEK** Heard Island DXpedition is in full operations – go work a new one!

As always, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO. Without you, nothing else happens, and nothing else matters.

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM



Steve Szabo WB4OMM

NFL Section Manager

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™

386-566-2085 wb4omm@arrl.org

**Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team
– 5 Star Activation – Saturday, March 19,
2016**

Steve Szabo WB4OMM
NFL Section Manager

**Canaveral National Seashore, Apollo Beach, Volusia
County, Florida – EL98ow**

3 hours of operation – 51 Qs (operations ceased when the heavy thunderstorm arrived at 12:30 pm EDT); three separate stations - generators, battery, 45W solar panel).

SSB – 22 Qs
PSK31 – 11 Qs
CW – 18 Qs

4 DXCC, 25 States, 45 counties – and a load of fun!
It was a great time!



From left to right, seated: Charlie Blackburn WX4CB, Art Petteway WB4MNM, Paul Milward NU4C

From left to right standing: Alan Liebman N4NKB, John Scholtens KD4JS, Kevin Bess KK4BFN, Winn Hall WA4KKW, Darrell Brock N4GOA, Frank Haas KB4T, and Steve Szabo WB4OMM

BUILD YOUR OWN COMPUTER? WHY?

John Ellis, NP2B

Contributing Editor

john.np2b@gmail.com



Today, you will rarely encounter a ham shack that

isn't equipped with at least one computer. Whether it's used for contest logging, general full time logging, remote rig control, digital communication such as PSK or JT-65, local rig control, the applications seem limitless.

And while this article doesn't pertain directly to ham radio, many readers may find it interesting because ham radio can present it's own set of unique problems due to the use of unusual software, uncommon hardware and the unique problems that oftentimes present themselves in a high intensity RF environment.

WHAT STARTED IT ALL...

My first experience in dealing with the "insides" of a computer was right after Hurricane Hugo in 1989. We were living down on St. Croix when Hugo approached the island at about 4MPH as a Category 4 storm. It stalled over the island for about 12 hours and then gradually moved away. Our house was trashed - everything EXCEPT the amateur radio station which survived totally intact. Good thing, because even though the rest of the house was totally destroyed, like pretty much everything else on the island, the high frequency ham radio enabled us to retain our sanity while everyone else was losing theirs.

There were no cell phones at that time on the island, all the landline phones were knocked out of service (we wouldn't see phone service for 7 months), there was no power (we wouldn't see that for 3-1/2 months). St. Croix was truly an island, devoid of any commercial means of communication. And you couldn't just drive a bunch of repair trucks in from the next county, or state for that matter. A few operable amateur radio stations and marine SSB stations - that was IT!

Thank goodness we had a generator. But I am getting ahead of myself.

THE CONCEPT OF THE BUILD

I used a computer in my work, I was basically a "one man band." I did everything and was responsible for everything - including maintaining all the stuff that I had on my computer along with the computer itself.

In 1988 / 1989, nothing on St. Croix could be viewed in any way as "state of the art." No cell phones, no internet and there were relatively few personal computers. So there was very limited repair service available if you had a PC and had a problem with it.

So, armed with the knowledge that nobody on the rock (we called the island, a "rock,") knew anymore about computers than I did, and I didn't know much, I set about to learn quickly how these things worked and how they were put together, because I needed to manage the data for my business plus I had a technical interest in the subject.

I had a friend from the states send me down a really thick book by "QUE" on the "Care and Feeding of a Personal Computer."

So, I built my first computer - and much to my amazement, the bloody thing actually worked! And I have been building them ever since.

First of all, when we say "build a computer," it's kind of like "building" a modern Elecraft radio. There is no soldering involved, just a bunch of mechanical assembly, because all of the circuit boards and modules use SMT (surface mount technology) and there is no way you would or could, for that matter, do any soldering or meaningful repair on these boards. Many, if not all, boards in computers today are what are known as "8 layer boards" which means that there are upwards to 8 very thin double sided circuit boards that are sandwiched together in a very high tech manufacturing process.

Trying to replace a part that might ultimately be soldered on the 4th level with the tight tolerances used today, well you just can't do it. Only superficially damaged boards are actually repaired, so generally if something goes wrong with the board, it is pitched and replaced with a new one.

THE BUILD ITSELF

One of the many advantages you have when you build your own computer is that you can choose the motherboard (the main board in the computer). While there are several variations (ATX, micro ATX, etc.) they are all manufactured to a standard set of mechanical and electrical specifications, which means that if you have a problem with a particular board, you can buy a replacement unit from any one of a number of sources. Power supply connections will be the same, mechanical mounting holes will be the same (i.e. it will fit in your existing case) etc. You are not "married" to one particular manufacturer because they are the only ones that make a board that will fit in that case. Same thing with the power supply.

When building your own machine, you have a choice of cases (tall ones, short ones, small ones), you can choose your shape and style based on where you are going to put it.

When I build a machine, I like to make sure the motherboard has room for at least two memory sticks, and when I buy memory I always would buy it in groups of two modules rather than one. Memory is the most likely thing to fail in a computer and that way if one module quits, you can still operate on just the other. The machine may run a bit slower until you replace the defective one, but it will still run.

Another thing I like to do when I build a machine is configure it with something called a "RAID." It stands for "redundant application of independent disks." Without getting into a discussion on the various types of "RAID," a basic "RAID 1" requires 2 generally identical hard drives operating as one. A "RAID 1" computer can operate on only one of these two hard drives.

The nice thing about a "RAID 1" configured computer is that if one of the two hard drives fails, you can remove it, put in a fresh one and the good drive will actually rebuild the new drive so that after a couple of hours or so, you once again have two identical drives. Conventional hard drives are mechanical pieces of machinery and as such are prone to failure. and with the price of hard drives being as low as it is, (\$75.00 for a high performance 1 TB drive), it's cheap insurance.

However, the thing about configuring a RAID is that you have to install the software drivers BEFORE you install the operating system. And if you buy a machine with the

operating system already preconfigured, you're stuck with that one drive.

Well you're not completely stuck - you can install another hard drive, assuming you have room in the case, and assuming you have power supply handling capability, backup and delete your existing operating system, hope you can get proper RAID drivers for your motherboard, install them, then reinstall the operating system plus all your programs and applications; but, that's a real pain in the tush. It's lot easier to do it properly when building the system from the ground up!

Another thing I like to check for is the number of card slots that the motherboard has available. If you want to add a firewire card, an extra USB card, a serial card (yes, they still make them!) or anything else like that, it's nice to know that your motherboard can accommodate it.

You can also choose the type of processor you want. No use in being forced to buy an "i7" processor if an "i3" will work just fine. This is a place where you can save a bunch of money.

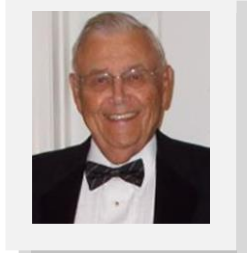
And another thing, did I mention software? When you fabricate your own machine, you wind up with only the stuff YOU want on the machine, not a bunch of "adware" and "bloatware" that the manufacturer was paid to install but you have absolutely no use for.

AND THE REASON YOU DID IT IN THE FIRST PLACE ...

But I think the most important part of building your own machine is that you know what's in there. You built it (perhaps with varying amounts of help) but if it breaks, you can fix it. None of this business of taking it to some geek who can go pawing through the data on your hard drive, copying it, using it or maybe deleting it or selling it. And while you have no 800 number to call if it does break, you don't have to sit on the phone on "hold" for an interminable length of time, only to listen to a "technician" read to you from some predetermined script, about something that he knows less about than you.

Building a machine from scratch is never the cheapest way to go. It's always a lot less expensive to buy the Chevy factory wired and tested than procure all the parts separately and assemble it

yourself. But fortunately, building a computer isn't that complex and difficult, and the peace of mind that you have after doing it may well be worth the price and effort.



A History of Ham Radio, Part IV

by **Byron Engen, WN4R**, wn4r12@gmail.com

By September 1939 war was breaking out in Europe and, in almost one half of the DXCC countries, hams were off the air. The United States maintained neutrality and very few of our citizens expected the U.S. to enter the war. With England and France declaring war against Germany, ham activity in all of their colonial possessions in their empire were off the air, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and India, as well as the smaller possessions throughout the world. The British government confiscated ham equipment

In June 1940 the FCC issued Order 72 restricting U.S. hams from participating in foreign communications.

The Order had four major points:

- "1. Do not contact any European station.
- "2. Do not relay anything from one country to another; confine any international contact to technical subjects or trivial small talk.
- "3. Do not use any code; use plain language. English recommended. Sign each transmission with your assigned call.
- "4. Do not talk about the war over the air (even among ourselves)"

The order was most likely not even needed because there just wasn't any European DX stations on the air for U.S. hams to talk to. The 1940 Byrd Expedition to the Antarctic opened interest to QSO KC4USA, KC4USB, and KC4USC.

By 1940, ham operators began volunteering for military service especially in the services needing communication specialists. In 1940 approximately 60 thousand licensed hams were in the U.S. and, by the end of WW II, about 50 thousand had served in military or in defense related communications industries.

In February 1941, the War Department sent a questionnaire to every U.S. ham listed in the *Callbook* gathering information about each ham as

to his/her military status, their code proficiency, education, dependents, and occupation.

December 7, 1941 – "A Day That Will Live In infamy" – changed ham operation for the duration. Normal ham operations ceased! Within 8 hours after the attack FCC ordered all amateur stations off the air, and the FCC issued a special order allowing ARRL to continue operating W1AW for five more weeks in order to contact any station that hadn't heard the FCC order and to cease operation. W1AW was also allowed to send special war information bulletins until all operations ceased on January 10, 1942.

Many hams already had volunteered for duty as instructors at the various military training schools to provide military operators. Training was intense because many of the students knew the right and wrong was to operate, but now they must be trained to operate the military way. Military operators were required to copy CW at 16 wpm using a typewriter ("mill"); learn standard radiotelephone and radiotelegraph procedures; and net operations as well as field operations. Radio operators were qualified for dual duty as radio technicians so they were trained in maintenance, installation, and inspection of military communication equipment. The training was intense due to the critical need for radio communications. Due to the need for large numbers of operators many of the schools operated in 3-8 hour shifts every day.

Pilots also received training in copying CW. Being that they had all the other duties to perform during flight they had to learn to not only copy CW but they couldn't write it down so they needed to copy in

their minds and remember it. They were also trained in radio procedures.

Pressure was put on the government to authorize a special War Emergency Radio Service (WERS) to provide Civil Defense Communications at home. After much consideration in June 1942 it was approved and WERS began its communications with volunteer, approved stations. Communications were primarily handled on 2-1/2 meter band around 112 to 116 Mc. They served throughout the war. This was a first introduction to VHF

A History of Ham Radio, Part IV, (Continued)

for many of the hams in Civil Defense. Unlike during WW I, amateur radio maintained a good relationship with the government.

Hams that had the knowledge and training were recruited to work in the communications industry

designing and building equipment for the war effort. The government offered to buy ham equipment from the citizens, preferring 100 to 1000 watt commercial equipment such as Collins, Hallicrafters, Hammurand , National, RME, RCA, and other commercially manufactured units. Much specially designed radio gear was developed and built for the war effort. Great advances in technology and manufacturing methods resulted as a result of the great demand for better and more reliable communications for our military.



YARD SALE

April 23 * 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.



DeLand parking lot

Directions: International Speedway Blvd.
(U.S. 92)

Proceeds to benefit West Volusia Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
Also Ham Radio Swap Meet and Tailgate
For further information
n4gmu@bellsouth.net

2016 February 23 Severe Weather Incident Escambia County ARES After Action Report

ARES® - Escambia County, FL

Joe McLemore, KF4DVF, Assistant EC



Summary

On Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 1530 until 2315 (8.75 hours), Escambia County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) was activated for Escambia County EOC Level 1 activation for Severe Weather Operations.

- 46 Amateur Radio Operators and stations.
- 33 Escambia County ARES members, 13 non-ARES.
- Tornado Watches, Warnings, and updates messages was passed via the local VHF net.
- One EF-3 Tornado touched down in Ferry Pass area, causing major damage.
- ARES room in the EOC was activated by 1 ARES member. Later on, a second ARES member helped out in the ARES room.
- Two additional ARES members was at the EOC, staffing other agencies desks (ESF-9 – Search and Rescue, and ESF-15 – Volunteers)
- Escambia County Emergency Net (local ARES net) was activated on the 146.76 VHF repeater.
- In addition to the ARES members already at the EOC, 42 additional stations checked in on the local net.
- Estimated 16.9 person-hours for the incident itself. 7.5 hours of planning and documentation including writing the after action report. 24.4 person-hours total.

Radio Modes used

- Tactical net – VHF – Escambia County Emergency Net (Local ARES net) on 146.76 repeater.
- HF voice
- Checked into the North Florida Phone Net on 3.950 MHz from off-site EOC location (home station).
- Informed them that Escambia County ARES was activated (along with at least 2 other ARES/Skywarn nets in the section).
- Digital modes ☐ APRS was used.

HCECS Participates in Exercise

Bob Burns, W1LBV

Communications Officer

Hernando County Emergency Communication Service (HCECS) participated in a Hernando County Department of Health exercise on 17 March, with the trailer used at the exercise as an onsite communications command post, providing an interface with our on site operators and as a link to the EOC.

Our trailer is very well equipped and includes an IC 7000, Kenwood 710, VHF Marine Radio, UHF Sheriff/CERT radio and more.

Our trailer also has heating, air conditioning and emergency lighting. By using only the emergency lighting and the radio equipment, the trailer can operate for several days or longer using only the inverter, batteries and solar panel.

We do carry a supply of bottled water and expect to include MREs during deployments.





HAM RADIO

The Suwannee Amateur Radio Club presents their

4th Annual Tailgate



SATURDAY APRIL 2nd, 2016

8 am to 2 pm

NEW - USED - WORKING or NOT

Downtown Wellborn (look for signs)

RAIN OR SHINE - HOT OR COLD

North - 1 mi on CR137 off US90 or 4 mi

South of I-10 Exit #292 at CR 137.

**Vendors
free set up
7 am**

**BRING YOUR
CHAIRS & TABLES
or Rent for \$5.00**

GPS: 1504 4th Ave. Wellborn, Fl

BUY = SELL = TRADE

PLENTY OF FREE SPACES & PARKING

Lunch Stand - HOT DOGS, CHIPS, SODAS

Talk in 145.270 (PL123.0)

**VE License
Testing
Session
Noon**

SPONSORED BY THE

SUWANNEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.suwanneearc.org

MORE INFO: rustypreen@aol.com

386-249-3260

Radio Club Best Practices —Recruiting

Hal Helms, WA4QLA

GARS Public Information Officer

Every Ham In Alachua County Receives A Very Special “QSL”



All 890 licensed amateur radio operators living in Alachua County recently received this “QSL” postcard. This QSL wasn’t sent to confirm a contact. Instead, it solicits one! On the reverse the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society invited all local hams to visit a GARS meeting and potentially join GARS. The response has been terrific! The card went out in early March, just before the regularly scheduled March GARS meeting. When meeting time rolled around, our normally half-filled meeting room was packed to capacity. We welcomed many long-lost former members, several potential new members, and a few nonhams who heard about the membership drive from ham friends and family. The response is ongoing. We are still getting contacts from hams who couldn’t make the March meeting due to conflicts. We expect to see these folks at the April meeting. The “QSL” has created a wonderful problem. We may have to find a larger meeting room!



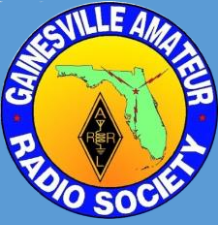
GARS Provides Support for the Five Points of Life Marathon

Hal Helms, WA4QLA

GARS Public Information Officer

Sunday February 21, 2016 - Gainesville, FL. The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society provided communications support for the Five Points of Life marathon today. Event coordinator, **Alan West, WA4JD**, posted GARS volunteers at checkpoints along the 26+ mile course and the start/finish line where **Bob, W1GLV**, did a great job as net control and liaison with race organizers. GARS reported race leaders from each checkpoint, keeping the leaderboard at the start/ finish current.





Poor Man's Hamfest Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

April 23, 2016

Set Up 6:45 am
Doors open 8:00 am to 2 pm

First Baptist Church of Waldo
14370 Kennard Street (FL St Rte 24)
Waldo, FL 32694

Talk In: 146:820

Pete Winters W4GHP
GARSpresiden4@gmail.com

For more info contact:

\$5.00 Admission & Tailgate Space

No tables furnished; vendors may use their own.

Dayton Hamvention Trip May 19th —22nd 2016

Several members of the Thomasville (GA) Amateur Radio Club have organized an affordable luxury motor coach trip to the 2016 Dayton Hamvention.

The trip will leave Thomasville on Thursday, the 19th of May for an overnight luxury motor coach trip to the Ham Radio Mecca, Dayton Hamvention.

We will arrive Friday morning in time for breakfast (included) and proceed to the Hamvention for a day of fun, shopping and education. At the end of the day we will check into our individual rooms (included). After check in we will be proceeding to the Dayton Amateur Radio Associations (DARA) Clubhouse for an exclusive "Open House". Following the "Open House" we will return to our accommodation's and will be free for an on your own evening in Dayton.

Saturday morning we will check out of our rooms, and head to breakfast (included), then back to Hamvention for another day of fun.

At about 4:30 pm on Saturday, we will proceed to dinner (included) and then head back to Thomasville arriving on Sunday morning.

Our luxury motor coach trip is about 13 hours, there will be several stops as needed. The trip includes transportation to Hamvention, Entrance tickets to Hamvention, 2 breakfasts (Friday & Saturday mornings), Open House Friday evening, Dinner Saturday evening followed by our trip home.

We have accommodations reserved for only 39 travelers. .. There will be room on the coach (47 seats) to spread out. Total cost for this adventure is only \$295.00.

A refundable 50% deposit is needed immediately to secure your seat, and secure this price.

For more detailed information, please contact us at:
850-766-1164 or w4ucj@arrl.net

Gary, ka3fzo

LARA Explains Amateur Radio at Local Library Ted

Luebbers, K1AYZ Lake
County ARES P.I.O.

The Lake Amateur Radio Association based in Leesburg, Florida traveled to the Mount Dora, FL. W.T. Bland Public Library on March 12, 2016 to present a program about amateur radio .

As it turned out, one of LARA's members, **Steve Berger KK4VFO**, is a resident of Mount Dora and a member of the library board. He is an avid ham and wanted to heighten interest in the ham radio hobby by persuading the library to allow him to present a program which would attract some new folks to the hobby.

He put together an hour and a half presentation which included the Walter Cronkite DVD, a lot of "show and tell" with radio equipment and left plenty of time for a question and answer period.

Assisting Steve was **Strait Hollis, KT4YA** the ARRL North Florida Section Emergency Coordinator who lives in nearby Eustis, FL. Strait set up a working VHF/UHF station at the library to demonstrate the use of the equipment. It was no accident that the first station he talked to in front of the group was **Jay Boehme, N4KXO**, the LARA club President.

The audience was made up of people who knew nothing about amateur radio before arriving, a brand new ham and another amateur operator who had just moved into town with 67 years' experience in the hobby.

At the end of the program it was clear there was a lot of interest generated and Steve and Strait had opportunities to have a lot of one-on-one discussions from how to study for a license to setting up an economical station.

This is a pilot program for LARA which over time will be refined and hopefully moved out to other libraries in the area.

If you would like more information about amateur radio or LARA you may go to the following web sites. < www.k4fc.org > or < www.arrl.org > All photos taken by Ted Luebbers



(L to R) **Steve Berger KK4VFO** and Cathy Jones, W.T. Bland Library, Adult Services Librarian, planned the amateur radio program together.



ARRL North Florida Section Emergency Coordinator **Strait Hollis KT4YA**, attaches a VHF/UHF antenna to a railing outside of the meeting room at the library.



(L to R) **Steve Berger KK4VFO** talks with **Jamy Young, KM4RLN** , a brand new ham, about her new hand held radio. Jamy passed her Technician Exam at the recent HamCation in Orlando, Florida in February of this year.

Milton Amateur Radio Club 21ST Annual Section Convention Ham Fest

(The Best Ham Fest in North West Florida)



Santa Rosa County Auditorium
4530 Spikes Way, Milton, FL

Talk in 145.490 100Hz T

\$ 2,000.00 in Prizes

Friday 8th July (2016) Saturday 9th July

Vendors: 8:00 AM Vendors: 7:00 AM

General Public: 12:00 PM General Public: 8:00 AM

Close: 8:00 PM Close: 1:00 PM

Admission: \$6.00 per person (Ticket Good for Fri & Sat)

Tables: \$ 12.00 per table (Tables Good for Fri & Sat)

Tailgater: \$ 7.00 (Also Good for Fri & Sat)

(Limited Tailgate Area – 1st come 1st served)

FCC Examinations

Saturday 9th July 9:00 AM

Additional Information: <http://www.miltonarc.org/>

Countdown to W4DXCC

September 23-24th 2016 - MainStay Suites and Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

Hello Friends,

I want to thank those who attended last years **W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention**. It was a record year for us with the addition of the Ham Radio Bootcamp.

It's time again to be thinking about making plans to attend this year's W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention. This year the entire MainStay Suites and Conference Center will again be reserved for W4DXCC. If last year was any indication of just how popular the convention is, every last room was booked three months before the convention.

That should tell you something, so call as soon as you can to make your hotel reservations and make sure you tell them you want the SEDCO rate for the 12th year of W4DXCC. **Convention Dates September 23-24th**, Start by clicking here > [MainStay Hotel](#) Convention and Banquet ticket sales open June 1st.

We will have the Ham Radio Bootcamp again this year with more of what worked last year. This is the perfect venue for the new and experienced ham to come and learn how to build an HF station and how to use it! Please help spread the word to other hams everywhere.



We will have all the TOP equipment manufacturers again this year with even more space in the lobby. Come and speak with the representatives one on one and tweak the knobs.

If I could please ask your help in getting the word out about the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention and Ham Radio Bootcamp I would appreciate it very much. Feel free to forward this and subsequent emails to other hams, ham groups and clubs who you think might enjoy attending the convention. Don't forget the great shopping for the spouse and attractions for the kids near the convention, including **Dollywood**.

Check out the **W4DXCC Website**

I look forward to seeing you this year!

Best 73's

Dave Anderson, K4SV

W4DXCC Convention Leader

Upcoming Hamfests



- April 2, 2016— Suwannee ARC 4th Annual Tailgate, Wellborn, FL, Bill Preen, W4NQP, rustypreen@aol.com
- April 2, 2016 – Jacksonville Radio FREE Flea, Jacksonville, FL <http://nofars.net> **New!**
- April 9, 2016 – TARCfest, Tampa, FL <http://hamclub.org>
- April 16, 2016 – Flamingo Net / University of Miami ARC, Coral Gables, FL <http://www.FlamingoNet8m.net> **NEW!**
- April 23, 2016 — Poor Man's Hamfest, Waldo, FL , GARSpresiden4@gmail.com
- April 23, 2016 – Cy Harris Memorial Free Flea, Oakland Park, FL <http://browardarc.net/free-flea> **NEW!** □
May 20-22, 2016 — Hara Arena, Dayton, OH, <http://hamvention.org/>
- May 28, 2016 – Wormfest 2016, Pinellas Park, FL <http://w4orm.org/> **NEW!**
- July 8-9, 2016— Milton ARC 21st Annual Section Convention Hamfest, Milton, FL, <http://miltonarc.org/>
- September 24, 2016— Pensacola Hamfest, Pensacola Fair Grounds, Pensacola, FL , <http://w4uc.org/>



FCC Testing Information

Amateur Electronic Supply

- Monthly on the second Saturday
- 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

- 621 Commonwealth Av, Orlando, FL 32806
- Click: [map](#)

- For more information and registration, contact AES at orlando@aesham.com , 407-894-3238

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 **** New****

- 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

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
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 (-) (107.2)	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.ratreflector.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	147.120, (+), PL 100Hz	Monday, 2030
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 Chapter 217 The Villages	443.150, PL 103.5 Echolink K4LFF-R	Friday, 1000

Section Nets, continued.....

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, 19:15 First Monday, 19:15
St. Johns County ARES	147.210 (127.3) ALT:147.015 (127.3)	Wednesday, 2000

Suwannee ARES/Emergency Prep Net	145.270 PL 123 145/410 PL 123 FSQ— 3.594 MHz	Thursday, 2030
The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) Ragchew Net	443.225, PL 103.5 Echolink K4VRC-R	Monday, 19:00
Traders Net	3.933	Sunday, 08:00
Valparaiso Twin Cities Amateur Radio	146.73, (-), no PL tone	Sunday, 20:30
Walton County ARES Net	147.375 (+), PL 100Hz	Wednesday, 19:00

NFL—Officially

Section Manager

WB4OMM Stephen W. Szabo

QST NFL Newsletter

WB2VYK Marty Brown, Editor

NP2B John Ellis, Contributing Editor

Webmaster

N8NN Bert Garcia

Section Emergency Coordinator

KT4YA Strait Hollis

Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator

W4HKG Robert A. Mitchell

Affiliated Club Coordinator

WA4B Stephen W. Barber

Section Traffic Manager

N9MN Don A. Duckett

Official Observer Coordinator

AA4W Rick A. Lloyd

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