Steve's Take:
From the NFL Section Manager, Steve Szabo WB4OMM

Welcome to the first edition of the NFL Section's Monthly News E-letter!

Thanks to Harry, K2BBM for stepping up to take charge as editor-in-chief. The purpose of this e-letter is to provide ARRL Northern Florida members up to date and informative information on a monthly basis. We're not going to repeat (or at least not a full repeat) information already provided in other websites, magazines, or electronic mailings. We're hoping to highlight NFL Section folks and groups and activities, and provide reminders on other items of general interest. Thanks for taking the time to look!
EVERYONE COUNTS!
73, Steve WB4OMM

Editorial
From the Newsletter Editor, Harry K2BBM

Editorial Introduction – And a Contest!

We are the new newsletter for the Northern Florida Section of the ARRL; we anticipate a welcome place in your reading selections. This is our inaugural Issue.

We will feature commented highlights of major ARRL interest, recent events of special interest to our section, photos, technical items, and references that are useful to many. Of course, topics in the NFL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (see links below) will always have space here.

We'll be bringing you an ARRL NFL Section member highlights, starting with Appointees and ARES leadership. We will introduce folks to Affiliated Clubs, Contesting, QRP/CW, Local Hamfests and Tailgates, and other items for our NFL folks.

We actively solicit your articles, photos and comments The size of articles should be about 300 words but not more than 500 words. **We hope to highlight a club or club activity every month..**

We have a problem! Our problem is that we have no name! We're asking you to help by naming us. There is a prize of the 2014 Repeater Directory Software for the winning name submission. The deadline for your submission is September 25th, 2014! Submit your suggestions to Harry (K2BBM) by e-mail at: kapthari@gmail.com

This Month's Featured Group

Central Florida QRP Group

On 14 March 2009, five Central Florida QRP ham radio operators met at a Perkins restaurant in Altamonte Springs at 0730 EDT. We were dreaming and scheming about getting a group together for portable ops, homebrew building sessions, Elmering, and on-air CW practice and other activities. Some pretty sweet QRP rigs were on display too.

Five plus years later we are still gathering and going out into area parks to operate using batteries, solar and even steam generator sets to power our low power communications gear. We have a wide variety of operating modes, bands and equipment and that is part of the fun.

We have hams from as far away as Tampa, Jacksonville, Melbourne, Lakeland and other significant distances join us over the years. Because of our passion for QRP, we've seen similar groups formed in the Space Coast and Lakeland, and we gather together at big hamfests like Hamcation to swap tall tales.

As a group we have operated at other club tailgate events, Boy Scout Jamboree, and even had a GatorCon09 gathering with about 20 attendees showing up with only 2 weeks' notice! Like other QRP groups before us we have *no officers, no members, no dues,* just fun and we invite you to come out and participate… any takers?

Watch our blog at http://cflqrp.wordpress.com/ for updates, times, and directions or contact mailto:k4upg@arrl.net

QRP Rig Powered by a Steam Engine - KK4BV (Alex)

A R E S

The ARES Newsletter online:

http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue=2014-08-20

September is 2014 National Preparedness Month

This is the first National Preparedness Month that will also include the America's PrepareAthon Fall Day of Action on September 30. We hope you will join us once again in this major annual campaign. You may find that you are already planning on doing something that qualifies as an AP event. We hope you will find our resources helpful and look forward to hearing about your activities during National Preparedness Month. We are hoping to promote private sector activities both internally and externally - including in our September newsletter. For more tips and information about NPM visit: www.ready.gov/september – *FEMA*

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test – Saturday, October 4, 2014
The 2014 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test will be on Saturday, October 4, 2014; and the ARES folks in NFL will be participating! Contact your local county Emergency Coordinator or take a look at the ARRL and NFL Web pages for details!

Neighborhood Ham Watch (NHW)

Neighborhood Ham Watch provides a venue for amateur radio operators who otherwise cannot deploy to emergency communication assignments in their community, to get on the air and link their neighbors with emergency responders.

All it takes is a simple 2-meter transceiver and the ability to relay messages until information is passed to the local government's EOC, or other first responders such as the American Red Cross who are listening.

There are three "Layers" of NHW that Hams can provide.
First is to simply get on the air and establish contact with another Ham in the community. This basic communication link acts to re-join the community by linking its neighborhoods back together with simple conversation.

Second is to pass information about the extent of damage to local government Emergency Management by contacting amateur radio stations in EOC's operated by ARES®/RACES.

Third, is to send short, welfare messages to neighbor's loved ones via WINLINK email or the National Traffic System.

For more information, go to the website http://hamwatch.me

Andy Gausz
KG4QCD NFL NHW Liaison

Hams in Space

http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-payload-to-circle-the-moon/

08/13/2014: A lunar flyby with a ham radio payload transmitting JT65B mode on 145.990 MHz is expected to take place toward the end of this year, giving earthbound radio amateurs the opportunity to receive some otherworldly DX signals as the payload flies around the Moon.

China has plans to launch a lunar orbiter carrying a 14 kg battery-powered payload known as 4M-LXS, which was developed at LuxSpace. Signals from the Amateur Radio payload can be decoded using the free software by Joe Taylor, K1JT.

http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/

Events

- September 13th & 14th is the annual "Summits-on-the-Air" 2014 Activity Weekend

- North America SOTA Activity Weekend is a casual event involving tiny battery-powered radios on mountain summits. It is not a contest but is intended to introduce "Summits on the Air" to newcomers with home stations who try to work summit operators during one or two days. There are no rules regarding power levels, modes or number of bands worked, but please be courteous when more than one station is trying to talk to a SOTA operator on a summit. The SOTA operators have just climbed mountains as high as 14,000 feet; they use low power; and they don't receive on split frequencies.

  Check SOTAWATCH.org to spot who is on which mountain. Summits are numbered, and you can hover your cursor over the number to see the name and point value for each summit. Expect the website to show activity near 7.032, 7.185, 10.110, 14.342, 18.095, 18.155, 21.350, 24.905, 24.955, 28.420, 146.52, 446.00, and 61 KHz up from the bottom of 20, 15 and 10 meters CW. Participants are invited to collect points toward certificates and trophies offered by the twelve-year-old international SOTA group (SOTA.org.UK). As we learned in past years, this is a barrel of fun for both hill climbers and home operators. See you then.

Other Events

With so much going on in the amateur radio community you may want to visit some of the sites that list various activities. There's generally something of interest for all ages and areas of operating. Here are links to several sites that provide calendars of a large variety of operating events:

http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

http://www.eham.net/calendar/

http://ke2yk.wordpress.com/2009-hamfests-and-events/