



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2015

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!

A few weeks ago I attended the ARRL Section Manger Workshop along with 18 other SMs from around the country; it was an excellent workshop and the ARRL Staff was open, warm , and friendly! We attended various staff and ARRL function overviews on Friday and Saturday, and got to operate W1AW Saturday afternoon. After a recap/summary on Sunday morning, we all said our "goodbyes" and headed home. It was a great time, and I met many positive folks all with the same motivation – make everything better! More when I can get our new Newsletter editors some details and photos (soon, I promise!).

*The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is this Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4.....get ready! The focus is on providing communications for your **LOCAL, SERVED AGENCIES**. Our Section Emergency Coordinator Strait Hollis KT4YA has been very busy sending guidance and coordinating efforts. The emphasis is **LOCAL**. Use simplex, test your existing systems, see if you can communicate with adjacent counties. Local EOC to hospital, Police to EMS, Salvation Army/Red Cross to Shelter....you get the picture. Take photos, take notes! Please forward your after-action reports to Strait as soon as you can so we can get an idea of how effective/efficient we are in the Section.*

Thanks to retiring Santa Rosa County EC Steve VanDenAkker W4SJV for his many years of dedicated service! Best wishes for you in the future! And a BIG WELCOME and CONGRATULATIONS to Ray Crepeau, K1HG who has accepted the Santa Rosa EC position. Best wishes and Good Luck to you!

WB4OMM, Continued

AND.....Very important.....I will be out of the country for a two week period starting Saturday October 3rd returning Sunday October 18th – I will have limited e-mail and no real phone capacity (yeah, way out of the country!). In my absence, the NFL SEC Strait Hollis KT4YA is acting as the Section Manager, and our OOC Rick Lloyd AA4W will be the #2 contact. Please support them as you would me!

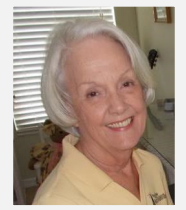
Stay safe, get on the air, and have fun!!

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM

From the Editor:

Marty Brown, WB2VYK



*We are surely off to a good start. I was delighted when John Ellis, NP2B, offered to help with the **QST NFL** project. Licensed in the 1950s, John has been an active Ham and held many responsible positions over the years. He will help keep QST NFL on track and relevant. You can read more about John later in the newsletter.*

Antennas for the antenna-restricted, HOAs and the Parity Act are on a lot of club web sites and newsletters. I have picked this up as the October theme with input from John Ellis NP2B, The Villages ARC, Billy Williams N4UF, Northern Florida ARS, and Carl Zelich AA4MI Lake Monroe ARS.

I solicited, via email, input from the ARRL Affiliated Clubs in the Section and was pleased with the response I received. Several clubs sent news items, others put me on their newsletter distribution list. Club information will make this interesting. If your organization has a distribution list for a newsletter or meeting announcement, I'd love to be included.

Introducing the Contributing Editor:

John Ellis, NP2B



Greetings, and permit me to introduce myself, I'm John Ellis NP2B. My wife Jeanette (NP2C) and I moved up here to the Villages a little over 3 years ago from St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, hence the NP2 call! I have been a licensed ham for 58 years and served 8 terms (16 years) as the ARRL Section Manager for the Virgin Islands

Lot of changes since giving up 2 towers with yagis and log periodics, but we make do with a couple of motorized Tarheel high power verticals bolted to the

NP2B, Continued

aluminum frame of the lanai, driven by an Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier.

It will be a pleasure to help Marty, WB2VYK, and work with Steve WB4OMM and Doug K4AC, as we look for articles that are of interest and importance to you in the North Florida section.

And, last but not least, looking forward to meeting and working with more of you. Keep us informed of local activities in your area.

73, John



Radio Amateur-Deputy Sheriff Shot and Killed in Florida

I met and visited with Bill at the Ft. Walton Beach and Milton Hamfest this year. A fine man. What a tragedy.

An Okaloosa County, Florida, deputy sheriff, who was also a radio amateur, died of gunshot wounds after serving a domestic violence restraining order at an attorney's office in Shalimar, where he lived. William J. "Bill" Myers, KK4KF, was 64.

NorthEscambia.com [reported](#) on September 23, "Deputy Myers was walking outside when he was shot multiple times in the back, including a gunshot wound to the rear of his head." An Associated Press account said the shooter, identified as Joel Dixon Smith, 33, was supposed to be turning over any firearms in his possession, but apparently shot Myers with "a concealed weapon."

According to the news account, Myers was a law enforcement veteran who had rejoined the Sheriff's Office in Okaloosa County to earn money to take his granddaughter and family to Disney World. On its "[Officer Down Memorial Page](#)," the Sheriff's Office said, "Deputy Myers had served with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office for a total of 26 years. He had retired from the agency after serving 25 years and then re-



Bill Myers, KK4KF

turned as a part-time deputy in January 2015 to assist with serving civil papers."

The suspect was later shot by authorities after barricading himself in a motel room, and he later died.

Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley called Myers "a treasured part of this agency's family since 1989" who had "served this community with distinction for decades." Myers had also worked as a US Postal Service rural carrier.

A ham since 1986, Myers was a US Air Force retiree and former air traffic controller. He enjoyed operating CW, was a member of the FISTS CW Club, and in recent years often ran QRP. One of his sons is also a ham. -- Thanks to Jay Camac, N4OX

Ham Radio Parity Act of 2015

John Ellis, NP2B, Contributing Editor

By now, most of you have heard of the Ham Radio Parity Act of 2015. (also known as HR-1301 in the House and S-1685 in the Senate) What this is about is requiring condominium and/or Home Owners Associations to grant "reasonable accommodation" to licensed amateurs for "reasonable" outside amateur radio antenna systems.

Some groups who represent condo or HOA's have construed this to mean or want homeowners to think that we mean unfettered permission to construct a 70' tower with appropriate antennas atop. Nothing could be further from the truth.

All we want is the ability to construct, maintain and use an unobtrusive outside antenna that (1) works and (2) does not detract from the general appearance of the community.

We have to get our congressional representatives and senators as well as our local condo and home owners associations to realize that. We have to impress upon them that small antennas can be constructed in architecturally protected communities without making the place look like a cell phone station.

We have the support of over 100 representatives already, and while there is precious little chance of

getting it thru the house and senate this year, we have to continue to hammer at it with letters to our congressional representatives as well as have non-adversarial meetings with representatives of our various home owner and condominium associations.

So what can you do?

Well, make sure you understand what the amateur radio parity act is all about so you can talk about it intelligently. Make sure that you write and properly sign letters to your congressional representatives and senators (in our case D-Bill Nelson and R-Marco Rubio) and work to develop and maintain a healthy and friendly working relationship with any HOA's with which you happen to come in contact. With the number of restricted communities popping up, the future of amateur radio depends upon it.

(a final note, when writing to your congressional representatives or senators, please forward your letters to your section manager or to me personally, via mail or in person. I am good in QRZ.com. We will send them to the appropriate people at the ARRL who will have our representatives in Washington hand deliver the letters to the proper offices. This does two things: (1) it gives our people another chance to meet and better know the staff of our senators and representatives and (2) it bypasses the security screening that is required of all mail coming in to government offices which can take as long as 4 weeks)



OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

By Billy Williams, N4UF

Editor, Balanced Modulator, Northern Florida ARS

HAMS AND HOAs: Last month, I detailed a former Jacksonville ham's HOA battle. He moved into a new west Jacksonville subdivision in 1995. He said that a sales representative for the subdivision developer told him that his outdoor antennas were acceptable. A couple of years later, control of the subdivision HOA shifted to residents. A resident HOA board decided that his four antennas were not allowed unless approved by HOA architectural reviewers.

The ham did not respond to several letters requesting that he remove his antennas until architectural approval was granted. Following a threat of daily fines for failure to comply, he removed his antennas and

applied for approval. But his application was denied and the association offered to try to arrange a compromise solution.

The operator sued to force the HOA to allow his four outdoor antennas. The court agreed and offered him the option of installing either his original four antennas or two less conspicuous wire antennas recommended by a consultant hired by the association.

The HOA contested that decision and an appeals court reversed the lower court's ruling. The appeals judge stated the association had been reasonable by its willingness to allow the two wire antennas. The operator also had to pay the HOA's attorneys fees.

TWO LESSONS LEARNED: Antenna rights are not unlimited. Do not rely on oral promises.

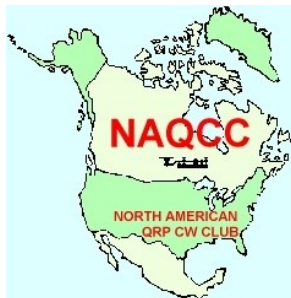


NAQCC ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT:

Steve Szabo, WB4OMM

The North American QRP CW Club (NAQCC) will be celebrating its 11th anniversary the week of October 12-18 with some fun on-air activities. Special event stations N1A, N2A, N3A, ... N0A will be on the air from all over the United States, and special certificates and QSL cards will be available for these contacts. The stations will be operating CW at QRP power levels and will be announced on our special spotting page (http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php <http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php>) in almost real-time. (You do not need to be QRP but we encourage you to give it a try.)

On Tuesday evening of that week (0030-0230Z Oct 13) we will have our usual monthly sprint but with the bonus that all NAQCC members who participate will be automatically entered into a drawing for some great prizes.



Two Cedar Keys Activated in US Islands Awards Program W/VE QSO Party

Pat McDonnell, WA4VKD

The Suwannee Amateur Radio Club sponsored an event to activate two of the Cedar Keys on 8/29/2015 in the US Islands Awards Program W/VE QSO Party and the PODXS070 August PSK Expedition. Atsena Otie Key had never been activated before and is now qualified as FL522S with N4SVC having met all requirements for such on that day.

Participants included: Jon-KD4AMP, Steve-N2CEI, Cecil-KM4HRU, Phil-KE4PWE, Patsy-KD4BTU, Sandra-K4SME, Joe-KI4TRR, Terry-N0TW, and Pat-W4VKD.

On Atsena Otie Key, N4SVC operated a SSB station using a Yaesu 991 with a multiband vertical, in the water, the PSK station operated a Elecraft KX3 (QRP) with a BuddiStick or Dipole antenna. From City Park on Way(Cedar) Key station KI4TRR operated PSK31 using a ICOM MK II and Dipole antenna. All operation was battery powered and antenna structures used push up mast supports to ensure no damage to the environment on either island.

On Atsena Otie Key, our biggest challenges were mosquitoes and the water itself. An astronomically high tide occurred on this day and we quickly ran out of beach where normally 3 or 4 feet of sand would have been dry. The operation had to end early and lots of things went home wet, sandy and with a little bit of seaweed.

We want to thank the US Fish and Wildlife Service for granting us the Special Use Permit required to operate from Atsena Otie Key. Many of the Cedar Keys are deemed wildlife sanctuaries and special care must be taken to leave only footprints after visiting.

NAQCC, Continued

More detailed information about our anniversary celebration can be found in our September newsletter at http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter_207.pdf <http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter_207.pdf>. Information about the NAQCC, including a membership application (it's free), can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/> <<http://www.naqcc.info/>>

RADIO PARITY ACT

Carl Zelich, AA4MI, aa4mi@arrl.net

The United States Congress and the Federal Communications Commission have acted to prohibit restrictions of the installation of direct-to-home satellite dishes, TV antennas, and customer-end wireless broadband antennas. Additionally your local power utilities have installed glaring white antennas and communication boxes on their utility poles to read electric meters.

The Radio Parity Act does not prohibit community associations from reviewing proposed ham radio antenna installations. Mutually agreed understandings are reasonable for all concerned.

I am on a "crusade" to have your support by your Signature and address on the petitions to the United States Senators on behalf of radio amateurs. I have carved out Central Florida from coast-to-coast, across the state, as a reasonable, reachable area for me to ask for your support.

For copies of the 2 Senator Petitions, send me an email and I will email a Petition for your support.

Here is my current status but we still need your support. Please join me in this effort.

STATUS REPORT**SOLICITED ORGANIZATIONS**

CLUB	PETITIONS
AMATEUR ELEC SUPPLY TEST	8
AMSAT	4
BAHIA SHRINERS FEST	24
INDIAN MOUND	22
KENNEDY SPACE ARC	?
LAKE MONROE ARS	50
ORLANDO ARC	50
QCWA CH 45	14
QCWA CH 66	11
SAT. HAMS/EGGS	38
SEMINOLE ARG	4
TAMPA ARC AUG.	32
PETITIONS SUBMITTED	257



**50th Annual Melbourne HAMFEST
and
ARRL State Convention
Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society (PCARS)
October 9 & 10 2015**

Friday: 2:30 PM - 7PM

Saturday: 9AM - 4PM

Setup: Fri, Oct 9th - 10:00AM to 2:30PM, Sat, Oct. 10th 7:00AM to 9:00AM

Admission Tickets \$6 until Sept. 30, \$7 after. Age 12 and Under Free.

www.pcars.org

Upcoming Hamfests



- October 9 – Florida State Convention (50th Anniversary Melbourne Hamfest), Melbourne, FL <http://www.pcars.org>
- October 17 & 18 – Boy Scout Jamboree-On-The-Air http://www.scouting.org/filestore/jota/pdf/130-219_WEB.pdf
- October 24 – Jacksonville Free Hamfest, Jacksonville, FL <http://nofars.net>
- November 7 – LARA's 2015 Annual Tailgate, Leesburg, FL <http://k4fc.org> **NEW!**
- November 7 – LARC Annual Hamfest 2015, Lakeland, FL <http://www.lakelandarc.org> **NEW!**
- November 7 – Link McGarity WV4I Memorial Free Flea, West Palm Beach, FL <http://palmswestradio.org>
- November 7 – Peace River Hamfest, Punta Gorda, FL <http://prra.club>
- November 7 – Cy Harris W4MAQ Memorial Free Flea, Oakland Park, FL <http://browardarc.net> **NEW!**
- November 14 – SPARCFest, Pinellas Park, FL <http://sparc-club.org>
- November 21 – Flamingo Net/UMARC Free Flea <http://flamingonet.8m.net>
- November 28 – Okeechobee Hamfest in the Woods, Okeechobee, FL <http://www.k4oke.com>



LOW DOUGH HAMFEST Location and Venue has Changed!

Event Date, December 5th

The Silver Springs Radio Club's **LOW DOUGH HAMFEST** location and venue has changed!

We are now having it at the Florida National Guard Armory on SW 20th St. Ocala. We will have VE testing, vendors indoors, real food (no snack trucks ☹), and lots of room for tailgaters, plus the MCSO mobile command center will be there!

For more information - signup, flyers, maps and driving directions, etc. please see the club website at <http://k4gso.us/Hamfest>.

If you have any questions, please drop the Hamfest chairman a line at k4gso2012@gmail.com. Include your contact number.

Inside is filling up fast, so don't wait. First come, first served. Check the flyer on the website for the most current space availability and pricing information.

73

Carl Berry, KC5CMX
AEC Marion County FL ARES

Be sure to check out the ARES website at <http://aresmcf.org>

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
Defuniak Springs Walton County ARC Net	147.285 (+), PL 100Hz	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 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	Weekly, 2100
Milton 2-Meter Net	145.490 (-), PL 100Hz	Monday, 2000
Milton Santa Rosa County ARES Net	146.700 (-), PL 100Hz	Tuesday, 2000
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	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 K4LFK-R	Friday, 1000
QFN CW Traffic Net	3547 Winter (7105 Summer)	Daily, 1900

Section Nets, continued.....

Santa Rosa County Skywarn Net	146.700, K4SRC Repeater	Monday, 20:00
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
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

Assistant Section Managers

KB2EV Patricia A. Steinberg

W2DWR Joseph D. Bushnel

W4IJJ John C. Reynolds

W9CHA , Edward A. Biederwolf

WB4GHU Ronald K. Mettler

WQ4M Donna J. Baker

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

State Government Liaison

KC4TOC, Kent B. Hutchinson



QST NFL



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.