



# QST NFL



*Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida*

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2016

## 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" (NPOTA) activity has started! Several folks have already activated a number of National Parks in various location in the US this month.... details of this operating event are at: <https://npota.arrrl.org/>. I am planning on being involved in at least one of these National Park activations in March. Be a "chaser" or be an "activator" ...this should be as much fun as the "Red Badge" and W1AW/Portable activities from last year!

I submitted the documents for nomination as the NFL Section Manager for the next term starting July 1, 2016 this past week to ARRL HQ. I hope I have earned your support.

This month, the 2016 National Convention is hosted by the OARC in Orlando – a big deal! There will be many forums and booths for ARRL and related activities, and just about all of the ARRL staff will be present, including the new President and other notables. OARC puts on a first-class show, so make plans to attend! There is an ARRL banquet planned for Saturday night, along with a Wouff-Houng Ceremony and other "national convention only" events. Take a look at <http://www.hamcation.com/> or <http://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-expo> for more information. I will be at HamCation all three days (from 9am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday, 9am to 2pm Sunday); at the Florida Contest Group Banquet Friday night; and the ARRL Convention Banquet Saturday night. There are two forums Saturday you should try to attend – my NFL Section Forum at 10am, and our SE Director's Forum at 1:45pm. Look for me and please say "Hi!"

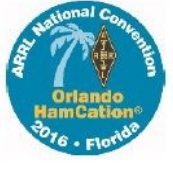

For you DX hounds.....the VP8STI (S. Sandwich Islands – Thule) operations had over 50K in QSOs, and the

same group is now active as VP8SGI (S. Georgia Island). #3 and #8 on the DXCC Most Wanted list!

Get involved, get active, get happy! Stay safe, get on the air, and have fun!!

I hope to see you at the Orlando HamCation/ARRL National Convention next month!

**EVERYONE COUNTS! 73, Steve, WB4OMM**



**February 12, 13 & 14, 2016**  
Friday 9.00 am to 6.00 pm  
Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm  
Sunday 9.00 am to 2.00 pm

Central Florida Fairgrounds  
4603 West Colonial Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32808

## What's Inside...

*I'm a new Ham! What HF rig should I buy? Where should I buy it?*, John Ellis, NP2B, Contributing Editor, Page 2

*Orlando Amateur Radio Club/HamCation*, Peter Meijers, AI4KM, HamCation Chairman, Page 4

*History of Ham Radio, Part II*, Byron Engen, WN4R, Page 5

*The Lowdown on ZuluTime —or— The Creeping Meridian*, Billy Williams, N4UF, Page 7

*Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Plan for a Retirement Community*, Ted Luebbers K1AYZ, Page 9

Add **wb2vyk@gmail.com** to your club's newsletter distribution list. I won't use anything without permission.



**Email your QST NFL input to**  
**WB2VYK@gmail.com**

## I'M A NEW HAM!

### WHAT HF RIG SHOULD I BUY?

### AND WHERE SHOULD I BUY IT?

That's a very good question, and there are a number of factors that you should consider. Assuming you are a new licensee, aspiring to be one, or someone that has been off the air for quite a while and just getting back into the hobby, you have a lot of choices.

Here are some things to consider. You can buy an older used rig on eBay, eHam or at a flea market like you would find at a typical hamfest. You're taking a chance but you can save a lot of money and get a good useable rig in the process. But, you could also wind up with a dud! If it is a tube model, consider the cost and effort of finding replacement tubes. Tube type rigs are generally pretty easy to service, but some parts can be hard to find. There are some superb tube rigs out there, but because of their age and parts issues, I'd stay clear of them.

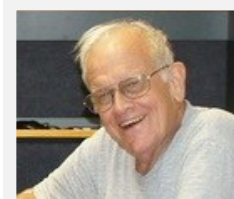
Older totally solid state Japanese rigs can be a good buy for the buck, but beware that older solid state rigs can be a bear to service. They have the advantage that transistors don't get weak like tubes, their performance is generally good, and a good, reliable rig can be obtained for a very reasonable price. But remember that these rigs often didn't have built in antenna tuners, and you might require one to make it perform properly. They also didn't have built in power supplies. I'd be a bit cautious here, unless you know what you are getting.

In the 70s, hybrid rigs like the Kenwood TS-520, TS-820 and the later models TS-530 and TS-830 became available along with Yaesu equivalents, the FT-101 series and the like. These rigs can be very attractive as far as price goes. The advantage that these rigs offer is that generally they are easier to service and they do not have expensive final transistors. They generally used a single driver tube (12BY7) and 6146 final amplifiers, tubes that are readily available today, while the rest of the rig was solid state. The older models did not cover the WARC bands, (30, 17 and 12 meters) but some of the later models did. They generally came with a built in power supply and were not too particular about having a "perfect" antenna (one that had inherently good SWR).

## Contributing Editor:

John Ellis, NP2B

[John.np2b@gmail.com](mailto:John.np2b@gmail.com)



Of course, the newer the rig, the more reliable it will probably be, and the better chance you will have of getting service if you need it.

Another thing to consider is buying a used rig from a nationally recognized dealer. Some folks like AES (Amateur Electronic Supply), HRO (Ham Radio Outlet), R&L Electronics and others take trade-ins and will offer you a reasonably recent model radio at often far less than the cost of a new one. If you don't know which dealer to buy from, look through QST at some of the major advertisers. The ARRL, publisher of QST, has some fairly stringent requirements that they place on advertisers, and their advertisers can pretty well be counted upon to stand behind what they sell. Their used gear usually has some kind of warranty.

And finally, if you should wish to forgo the used equipment avenue, there is nothing wrong with buying a new rig. You'll pay the new price for it, but you can pretty well be assured of getting a good trouble-free radio and one with a warranty.

What brand? Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu, Alinco? Depends upon your budget and personal preference. It's a Ford and Chevy thing here, some people like Fords, some people like Chevys - they're both good cars. And Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu and Alinco all make fine radios.

And then you have another couple of manufacturers that are gaining a very strong foothold in the amateur radio market, those being Flex and Elecraft. Both companies are based in the United States and while neither one makes inexpensive radios, both companies make incredibly fine, high-end performers. They're a bit of a handful to start out with for the newcomer, but well worth it if you can get past the learning curve. (I'm an Elecraft kind of guy myself, but a really good buddy of mine, Wayne N4FP, swears by the Flex!) Again, it's a Ford and Chevy thing here.

Frankly, I would start with a relatively inexpensive rig like the Icom 718. It's a good reliable radio, easy to use and will retain most of it's resale value when you want to sell it or trade up. And of course, most important,

NP2B (continued)

get advice from experienced hams that you know. They may even know of someone who has traded up to a newer rig, has an extra rig or two or an older model to sell. This will give you the opportunity to see and test the radio for yourself and get to know the person in whose palm you are about to place coin!

*Disclaimer: The author has no interest in any amateur radio manufacturer or dealer. Any brands mentioned or recommended are of the author's opinion only, and do not reflect the quality or usability of any particular make or model of any radio.*

## NFL Hams Step Up to Leadership Positions

### Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club (SHARC), Spring Hill, FL

From *SHARC Bytes* Newsletter, Barry Heinzl, KB8DSL

President: Doug Borko, NZ2W  
 Vice-President: Tim Fida, WB0YSX  
 Treasurer: Judy Haney, KB3AAM  
 Secretary: Tom Kellers, KK4CUC  
 Director: Dave Cox, KF4WOJ

### North FL DX Association (NFDXA), Jacksonville, FL

From Mike Reublin, NF4L

President: Mike Garcia, W1FO  
 Vice President: Warren Croke, NW4C  
 Treasurer: Jim Hughes, KC4FWS  
 Secretary: Mike Reublin, NF4L

### Emerald Coast Amateur Radio Assn (ECARA), Navarre, FL

From *ECARA Newsletter*, Daisy Crepeau KT4KW, Editor

President: Ray Crepeau, K1HG  
 Vice-President: Mark Pokroy, K4MMP  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Len Frantz, K4KBD

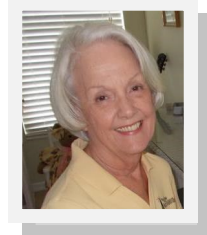
### The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC, The Villages, FL

From *Rich Erlichman, ND4G*

President: Ron Adcock, KK4YCW  
 Vice-President: Earle Hancock, KM4ISN  
 Secretary: Tony Hackenberg, N8SK  
 Treasurer: Pete Stafford, K2PS

## From the Editor:

Marty Brown, WB2VYK  
 wb2vyk@gmail.com



## The Triple R Challenge

Marty Brown, Editor

It's election season for many amateur organizations. That makes it an opportunity for me to get out the soapbox and say a few words on the subject of the 3 R's of radio clubs.

### Recruitment, Retention & Responsibility

It does not seem to matter whether you are in NFL or EWA, the problems are the same. So let's take the 3 R's in order.

**Recruitment:** How do we get members? This is particularly important as a lot of us are aging-out, and, we need the numbers to support ARRL in their tireless effort to preserve and improve our Amateur way of life.

**Retention:** Once we get 'em, how do we keep their interest? The hobby is broad in scope, and creating awareness of the infinite possibilities is essential.

**Responsibility:** Now they are interested, what does it take to get members to step up to leadership positions? Board and committee positions must be filled. Emergency preparedness must be addressed. To say nothing about who's going to plan the picnic for Field Day.

So take the **Triple R Challenge!** Share a **recruitment**, **retention** or **responsibility** technique that your organization uses that has worked for you!

I'll go first! **Retention**

During my tenure as president of The Villages Amateur Radio Club, (TVARC), my very creative board came up with "Elmer Hour." We took an hour before each meeting during which all newly licensed, or just getting back into the hobby, members were invited to talk with our more experienced members. We frequently offered a short program or video on simple antennas, or choosing equipment. The experienced members had a mission to enlighten, and those seeking information had a place to get it.

So send me your best practices!

wb2vyk@gmail.com



## ORLANDO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TO HOST 70<sup>th</sup> HAMCATION® PLUS ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION FEBRUARY 12-14, 2016

HamCation® 2016 Theme: "HAM RADIO. Connecting People: Past, Present, and Future."

Peter Meijers, AI4KM, Chairman

The Orlando Amateur Radio Club will organize and host the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Orlando HamCation® Amateur Radio and Computer Show in Orlando, Florida in conjunction with the national convention of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), The national association for AMATEUR RADIO®, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds on February 12, 13, and 14, 2016.

Over 150 commercial vendors and 200 swap table vendors together with the largest tailgate area in the southeastern US will show and sell amateur radios, parts, computer hardware and software and other interesting items for a growing group of radio and computer enthusiasts. This year, the event incorporates the ARRL Expo, which showcases a number of activities of the League.

Programs appealing to special interest groups related to ham radio are always a popular feature of Orlando HamCation®. Over thirty forums held at the Lakeside Pavilion and at "The Village" at Orlando HamCation® 2016 will present a diverse range of topics including digital amateur radio, new ham software developments, youth and amateur radio, and other topics im-

portant to today's Radio Amateurs. Organizations such as ARRL, The national association for AMATEUR RADIO®, AMSAT (Amateur Radio Satellite organization), and QCWA (the Quarter Century Wireless Association) will have membership meetings during HamCation®. There will be thirty nine forums during Ham Cation® Friday and Saturday.

Orlando HamCation® will be the operating site for amateur radio station K1AA, which will serve the ham radio community as a special event station for the duration of the show.

Last year the Orlando HamCation® welcomed over 14,000 visitors. The Central Florida Fairgrounds were packed with people, as were the tailgate areas around the buildings. The show attracted over two hundred recreational vehicles, with RV parking available on a first-come, first served basis. Additionally, ham radio emergency groups from several locales set up and demonstrated their mobile emergency vehicles at the Fairgrounds.

See for info [www.hamcation.com](http://www.hamcation.com) with updated information about the forums and commercial vendors.

The Orlando HamCation® is the second largest Ham Radio event in the Americas, attended by visitors from all over the world.



Above: HamCation® 2016 committee with the special HamCation® 70 banner



Above: Very busy HamCation® Commercial I building in 2015.



Center: Tailgate area, always a chance to buy radios and part for great prizes.



## A History of Ham Radio, Part 2

by Byron Engen, WN4R, wn4r12@gmail.com

We left you last time waiting for the “Feds” and now they have arrived. In 1910 the congress passed Radio Act of 1910. This only affected ships at sea and was short – only 4 paragraphs. But, interference from the amateurs continued to bother the Navy and it was felt that more was needed to get rid of these ‘pests’ that were causing all the trouble for others. Thus, the congress passed the Radio Act of 1912 which provided, among many other rules for radio communications, for licensing and testing of radio operators. To get a license and a legal call sign a private (amateur) station operator had to be tested by the Department of Commerce and Labor at 5 wpm Morse code (about 1919 the code speed was changed to 10 wpm) and technical aspects of radio communications. Two grades of membership were specified.. Amateur First Grade who took the code sending and receiving test and the written test on radio laws, and proper adjustment and operating practices of the sending and receiving equipment.

An Amateur Second Grade was one who could not attend the examination but certified to the Radio Inspector that they meet the requirements specified for First Grade. Both classes had identical operating privileges and a license would be issued.

Also in the Act was a provision that “No private or commercial station not engaged in the transaction of bona fide commercial business by radio communication .... Shall use a transmitting wave length exceeding two hundred meters” (equivalent to a frequency of less than 1500 kilocycles) “nor a transformer input exceeding one kilowatt,” At that time the general ‘technical’ opinion was that wave lengths shorter than 200 meters were useless and now we will be rid of those pesky amateurs interfering with Navy and commercial radio communications. --- How wrong they were!

Now there would no longer be self-assigned calls. The Department divided the United States into 9 districts numbered 1 to 9. At that time prefix letters had not been established so the calls consisted of the district number and two letters. It wasn’t long before there weren’t enough combinations of letters available and changes will be needed.

Many of the amateurs unfortunately did not comply with the new act and just kept on operating with their self- chosen call signs and longer than 200 meter wave length signals. Big efforts were expended by those legitimate, licensed amateurs to get the operators who didn’t have a license to get legal. A so called “Chicago Plan” was practiced in the Chicago area where there were 3 clubs at that time, and they agreed to pursue those operators without a license to get them legitimate. They set up a fine system that the club would be fined if the operator didn’t get a legal license.

The transmitting equipment continued to be spark gap units with the wide bandwidth and QRM. The newly invented vacuum tubes were still very expensive so few amateurs were able to afford experimenting with them as transmitting components. In 1913 a New York based amateur, Armstrong, invented the regenerative receiver with vacuum tubes. It was a couple of years before the invention became part of public knowledge. It was hoped by many that the price of the tube would become affordable because this receiver would have far greater sensitivity than the currently used crystal radios of early radio.

In 1914 Hiram Percy Maxim, 1WH, started to organize stations for relaying messages, and he formed the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to coordinate the establishing of regular relay links throughout the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Using these established amateur relay stations, messages could begin to get from coast to coast in sometimes several hours or only a few days.

In 1914 war broke out in much of Europe. As we learned in our history classes as children, the United States wanted to continue its isolationist attitudes and remain out of any wars. Much diplomacy was going on between our nation and the nations of Europe friendly to the U.S.

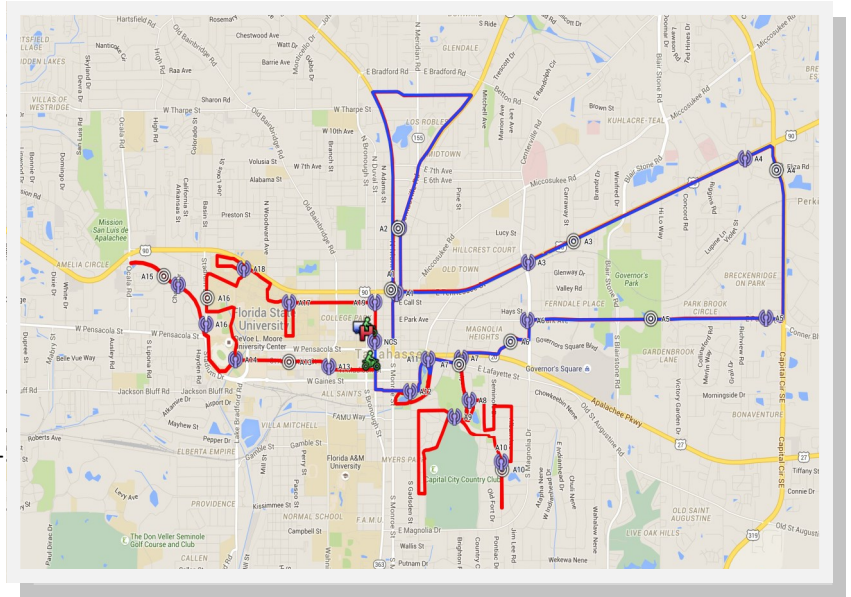
The ARRL encouraged all of their members (and any

At the start of the 1920s ham radio was booming at the 200 meter wavelength. But now things were changing: vacuum tubes had dropped in price; hams were taking advantage of increased sensitivity of regenerative receivers; hams were beginning to experiment by building transmitters utilizing the vacuum tubes; resulting in spark and its broadband signal being less of a problem. The tube type transmitters were generating uniform continuous wave (CW) signals which greatly reduced complaints of the QRM generated by spark transmitters.



John Pantoja, KM4FAM

The race this year is scheduled for **Sunday, February 7 at 7:30 AM.**



Page/6



## Looking for a Student to Present at Carole Perry's HamCation Youth Forum

David Jordan, AA4KN  
AMSAT Area Coordinator in Central Florida  
ARISS mentor, ARISS PR

Carole Perry, national promoter of ham radio to our youth, is looking for students that hold a ham radio license and would be interested in making a presentation at her Youth Forum February 13th.

The ideal candidate would hold a Technician, General or Extra class license, and an interesting story to tell regarding how they got their ticket or a ham radio related project. Previous presenters have discussed taking the lead in organizing an ARISS contact, or pulling together a team to do a high altitude balloon launch, etc.

If you know of a student that might be interested, please contact Carol at [wb2mgp@gmail.com](mailto:wb2mgp@gmail.com). Please forward this information to any clubs you may be affiliated with.

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## Snow Flakes in Madison County

Patrick Lightcap (K4NRD), Madison, FL  
[phlightcap@embarqmail.com](mailto:phlightcap@embarqmail.com)

### WINTER STORM JONAS FELT IN NORTH FLORIDA

As the northern states deal with massive snowfall of winter storm Jonas some flakes of snow have been observed in north Florida. Helen Lightcap (K4CTR) reported a few very small flakes in the city of Madison on Saturday, January 23, 2016 between the hours of 1:00 AM and 2:00 AM. During that time light cold rain was being experienced with floating flakes of snow mixed in. At 9:55 AM Gina McCulley (W4GNA) reported a snow flurry just west of Pinetta, Florida near the Georgia border. As she drove southeast at 11:05 AM she ran into another flurry just west of Lake City on U.S. Highway 90. These snow events do not create an accumulation of snow but do cause a little excitement because they do not happen very often in this area. Both Lightcap and McCulley are amateur radio operators and trained weather spotters for the National Weather Service out of Tallahassee. They are also part of the Skywarn group of Madison County. At 1:00 PM the temperature in the City of Madison was 38 degrees with an expected low of around 28 degrees on Sunday morning. The winds have made it seem colder and cold weather precautions should be continued.

## THE LOWDOWN ON ZULU TIME -or- THE CREEPING MERIDIAN

By Billy Williams, N4UF, *Balanced Modulator*  
Newsletter of the North Florida ARS, January 2016

Many HF Amateur Radio operators keep logs using Greenwich (pronounced GREN-itch) Mean Time. It is also called Zulu (Z) time or UTC and is based on the solar time at the prime meridian, exactly zero degrees longitude near Greenwich, England. GMT is 5 hours ahead of EST, 4 hours ahead during EDT.

Advantages include not having to reset clocks twice a year. Also, GMT allows operators in time zones worldwide to keep track of time using a universal standard. GMT is necessary for ships and aircraft that change time zones often. When confirming, or trying to confirm, contacts with DX stations, always use GMT or Z on cards.

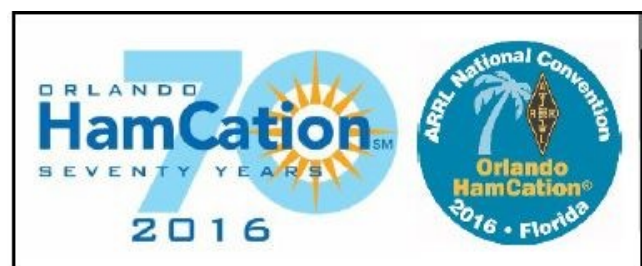
Some years ago, scientists shifted the exact location of the zero degree prime meridian because of the ability to measure gravity more accurately at Greenwich. Upon adoption of the World Geodetic System (WGS84), the Greenwich meridian shifted a distance of 102 meters or about 335 feet.

If you go to Greenwich observatory, where the exact spot is marked, your GPS coordinates won't read exactly zero degrees of longitude.

Earth gravity model that GPS satellites use to determine positions have greater accuracy today and modern satellites have greatly improved the mapping of the Earth's gravity field. This results in much better models of the paths of GPS satellites and improved positional accuracy.

Atomic clocks are so accurate on GPS satellites now that they have to adjust their timing signals for drift due to Einstein's relativity equations. So, the actual prime meridian is 102 meters east of where it was marked at Greenwich.

See <http://www.thegreenwichmeridian.org/tgm/>



## QCWA Chapter 217, The Villages, FL Presents Awards

Wayne Brown, N4FP



Hal Lloyd, W4OE, (L), Chapter President, presents Anniversary Certificates to the following members at the Chapter's January 14th breakfast meeting. (L to R)

Don LeFavour, W8OWR, 50 Years  
Tony Hackenberg, N8SK, 50 Years  
Dave Mizikar, K3ILA, 55 Years  
Marty Brown, WB2VYK, 50 Years  
Larry Smith, K4LZ, 55 Years  
John Fleming, W3GQJ, 60 Years

## Playground Amateur Radio Club Rebuilds Clubhouse

Mo Hodgdon, NS4H

Playground Amateur Radio Club, W4ZBB  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL

As for the Playground Amateur Radio Club, we are rebuilding our clubhouse. We had rented it from the City for \$1.00 for 5 years they have decided they cannot afford that any more now our rent is \$100.00 per month. To top it off our building needs lots of repairs to meet code. We are attempting to be a 501C3 agency to attempt to receive donations from local business. Also we have many visitors to Northwest Florida annually they are often referred to as snowbirds. We have contacted the snow bird group to offer any hams in the group to join our club for \$20.00 per year to give them access to our club (local members pay \$30.00 per year). The club has an ICOM 718 set up for digital and ICOM 746 Pro for everything else. We have a few different antennas including rotatable beam and an extensive library. All the stuff you might want to have on your vacation to enjoy your hobby. You can keep touch with your friends or maybe make that contact you have been waiting for. Think about it; your wife wants to spend hours shopping or your hubby wants to go deep sea fishing half a day and instead you have a ham shack for your use. Check W4ZBB.Org

## Jack Curtis - a name everyone should know.

Donald SCHLIESSER, K6RV....

If you have ever used CW, or read about it in the Manual of your Radio, or owned a keyer you have seen the name Curtis. My friend of 50+ years, Jack Curtis, K6KU, is the inventor of the Curtis "Keyer on a Chip". In 1973 he designed the first chip to be a CW keyer, and came out with a keyer he called "the little bugger".

In all the literature you see or read about CW, you will see things like: "Curtis A or B Mode", The Curtis "this" and the Curtis "that". Jack had a company called Curtis Electro Devices which made keyers. He was very innovative and way before his time. He made the Curtis Keyboard Keyer in 1975. No one had ever used a keyboard to send CW before that.

Jack just celebrated his 85th Birthday, and he is still in relatively good health, although he has Parkinson's disease. Would you send him an email and congratulate him on his 85th? If you like CW, or even if you don't, would you thank him for the convenience and ease of sending CW? Let him know you appreciate his pioneering design of a keyer chip with all its benefits. Jack is a modest guy, but I am sure he will appreciate your thinking of him. (I'd appreciate a BCC [K6RV@earthlink.net](mailto:K6RV@earthlink.net))

Send your email to: [jgcurtis@surewest.net](mailto:jgcurtis@surewest.net)

Please pass this on to your Ham Radio Mailing list, club members or other Ham friends. I would love to know Jack got a stack of emails - he deserves it!

## JACKSONVILLE RADIO FREE FLEA: SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND

It's not too early to help spread the word. The 14th Jacksonville Radio FREE Flea is Saturday, April 2nd, one week later than usual due to Easter.

Again, we return to our excellent location, the large parking lot at Terry Parker Baptist Church, near Townsend Blvd. on Merrill Rd.



## Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Plan for a Retirement Community

Ted Luebbbers K1AYZ  
Lake County ARES P.I.O.

### Press Release 01/19/2016

Royal Harbor is a gated retirement community of 750 homes located in the town of Tavares, Florida in Lake County. As the county name would suggest, this area contains close to 2000 lakes of which 1400 have names. It could also be called Florida's hill country as the topography has many gently rolling hills, very uncharacteristic of the flat land areas of most of Florida. This community is about 40 miles north of Orlando right in the center of the state.

Hurricanes and tornados are events that are not unusual to the citizens of Lake County. In 2007 a tornado roared through Lake County killing several people and causing much damage. In 2004 the county was visited by four hurricanes.

About five years ago the Royal Harbor Amateur Radio Club adopted an emergency ham radio program called Neighborhood Ham Watch. The idea behind this was to provide emergency communications to the outside world through amateur radio operators who lived in Royal Harbor.

During times of natural disasters such as tornados and hurricanes the likelihood of power failures, flooded roads, telephone poles blown down and cell phone overloads are quite possible leaving people isolated in their homes. Because of concern for their neighbors, the Royal Harbor ham operators decided to prepare an emergency disaster communications plan for the retirement community.

The first Royal Harbor Communications Disaster Plan was presented to the Royal Harbor Home Owners Association board of directors in October 2012. After board approval, it became part of Royal Harbor's overall disaster plan.

As time has moved on it became apparent that things had changed, and the RHARC decided it was time to revisit their communication plan. What follows is the updated Royal Harbor Disaster Communications Plan.

### The Royal Harbor Amateur Radio Club Disaster Plan

#### Updated 1/1/2016

This is the Royal Harbor Amateur Radio Club communications plan for tornado hurricane, or manmade disasters should they effect the Royal Harbor Development. This presupposes that there will be no electrical power, cell phones are down, land line phones are dead and Internet is inaccessible.

The first consideration by our members is to make sure their own families are safe and secure. When that is clear, we will execute our plan.

In the event of a hurricane, tornado or severe thunderstorm warnings it is likely that several of our members will already be on the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) frequency of 147.255 MHz as part of a Skywarn net, so it should be easy to convert over to our disaster plan from that point. When we determine that power and civil communications will be out of service for some time and that Royal Harbor may need communications assistance, we will assign an amateur radio operator with the proper radio equipment to go to the office and provide a link to our net control and/or the Lake County Emergency Operating Center (EOC) in Tavares, Florida.

Royal Harbor ARC.  
Tavares, Florida



Royal Harbor (continued)

#### **Plan A.**

1. An amateur radio operator will be assigned to be the net control station from his /her home. He/she will maintain contact with the EOC on 147.255 MHz or whatever frequency they designate.  
The operator will be using generator or battery backup power.  
The operator will be in contact with other Royal Harbor amateurs using the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz (Fox frequency) or any other simplex frequency we designate.
2. An amateur radio operator will be located at the Royal Harbor Office with a VHF/UHF portable radio with suitable battery power or generator and will remain in contact with our net control station on simplex.
3. All other Royal Harbor radio amateurs will monitor whatever simplex frequency that is being used. One of these stations will have access to D-Star and another will have access to high frequencies for out of area communications. Net control will utilize these modes when he/she determines they are needed.
4. All Royal Harbor amateur radio operators will have VHF/UHF capabilities in their personal vehicles if needed with the exception of the acting net control station.
5. After the immediate crisis has past we will consider setting up the net control station in the lighthouse because of its high terrain. We will take into account how long civil communication modes and power may be out of service and the needs of the community at that time.

We will power up the repeater located in the lighthouse with a club generator.

We will provide an electrical generator, batteries, antennas and all radio equipment to operate from this location.

We will man this station on a rotating basis for the duration of the crises. We may need to recruit other fellow amateur operators from outside Royal Harbor to help staff this station if the crises continues more than 72 hours. This should be no problem as we have close ties with ARES and the Lake Amateur Radio Association.

#### **Plan B.**

1. Net control station will be placed in the Royal Harbor office using sufficient battery or generator power. Contact with the EOC will be on 147.255 MHz or any other frequency they designate. The control operator will have a second VHF/UHF radio available for contacts on a designated simplex frequency within Royal Harbor.
2. All other Royal Harbor amateur operators will monitor the active frequency and be available for deployment within Royal Harbor with mobile or portable radios. These people could be assigned to check out various conditions within RH and report back by radio to the net control/office.

#### **Plan C.**

1. One amateur radio operator from the Royal Harbor Amateur Radio Club will be located at the RH office with suitable battery or generator power and a VHF/UHF radio with which to maintain contact with the Lake County EOC and will be able to implement the Lake County ARES frequency plan. This position will be staffed on a rotating basis with amateur radio operators available.

**Note:** Our intention for each of the above plans is to use the ARES repeater on 147.255 MHz to stay in contact with the EOC. If for any reason this repeater should fail we will revert to the Lake County ARES Frequency plan to select another frequency. We will also have the ability to contact contiguous county EOCs.

This plan works well for this Florida retirement community and may be used as a model for other communities but differences in the size of them and the number of amateur radio operators living there will necessitate changes from the Royal Harbor plan.

The point is, develop your own communications plan utilizing the skills of the Amateur Radio Operators living in your communities before it's too late.

## Pensacola Hams Go Gourmet

Bob W5CL

[W5CL@att.net](mailto:W5CL@att.net)

**The Radio Amateur Gourmet Society** meets monthly. Interested hams in the area can reply to w5cl or myself. Normal turnout between 10 and 20 on any given date. No club..... No dues.....just eat, meet and talk ham radio: any subject open.

Trying to keep it under \$ 10.00 but that's getting harder and harder.

## The Radio Amateur Gourmet Society Monthly Meeting

**Date: February 17, 2016**

**Time: 11:30 AM**

**Location:**

**Ryan's**

**9006 Pensacola Blvd**

**Pensacola, FL 32534**

**(850) 478-4561**

**Hwy 29 and Hwy 90 in the Wal-Mart Shopping Plaza**

**Come see what we're cooking at your local** 

Great tasting, fresh-made food, made just for your family. Help yourself to a wide variety of choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Appetizers, entrees, sides, salad, desserts – it's all just one low price. At Ryan's Buffet, we asked our guests what their favorites are, and that's what we serve most. Classic flavors and new favorites – at Ryan's Buffet, there's always something delicious waiting for you.

**While there's always something new to discover and try at our restaurant, you'll always find your favorite menu items:**

1. – Rancher's Select Steak – made the way you say, every night!
2. – Meatloaf
3. – Our Famous Fried Chicken
4. – Rotisserie-Style Chicken
5. – Baked Fish

**You'll also find just the right side dishes made for every meal, like:**

1. – Mashed Potatoes
2. – Macaroni and Cheese
3. – Fresh Vegetables and HUGE Salad Bar
4. – French Fries
5. – Ice Cream!!

**More Information Call: N4DY Des 850-432-5255**

**W5CL Bob 850-390-1665**



## 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



# 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**

**PLENTY OF FREE SPACES & PARKING**

**Lunch Stand - HOT DOGS, CHIPS, SODAS**

**Talk in 145.270 ( PL123.O)**

**BUY = SELL = TRADE**

**VE License  
Testing  
Session  
Noon**

**SPONSORED BY THE**

**SUWANNEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**[www.suwanneearc.org](http://www.suwanneearc.org)**

**MORE INFO: [rustypreen@aol.com](mailto:rustypreen@aol.com)**

**386-249-3260**



## INFORMATION Quick Reference Guide

HamCation Hotline 24/7 call 407 841 0874

or call 800 214 7541 E-mail: [info@hamcation.com](mailto:info@hamcation.com)

Website: [www.hamcation.com](http://www.hamcation.com)

### Dates-

February 12, 13 & 14, 2016

### Times-

Friday February 12: 9.00 am to 6.00 pm  
Saturday February 13: 9.00 am to 5.00 pm  
Sunday February 14: 9.00 am to 2.00 pm

### Talk In -

**KB4UT 146.760 (-600/no PL)**

(Backup on 145.015 (-600/no PL))

**D-star K1XC 146.820 (-600)**

### Tickets -

**\$15.00 for all three days at the gate**

**\$13.00 purchased before January 16 2016**

### Where -

Central Florida Fairgrounds  
4603 West Colonial Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32808

### Coordinates -

- 81.438338, 28.55671,0

### RV Info -

Check-in Wednesday February 10 2015,

2.00 pm till 8.00 pm. Check-in daily

7.00 am - 8.00 pm.

RV \$ 30.00 per night

All quests need tickets for the show.

Enter through **SOUTH gate** - Main

Entrance. No camping outside gates!

### Swaps info -

Set-up time for Swaps Tables

Thursday February 11, 2016,

7.00 am to 7.00 pm. Check in Friday

February 13, 2015 7.00 am to 9.00 am.

Swaps tables \$ 55.00

Enter through **EAST gate**.

### Tailgate info -

Tailgate admission Thursday

February 11, 2015 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

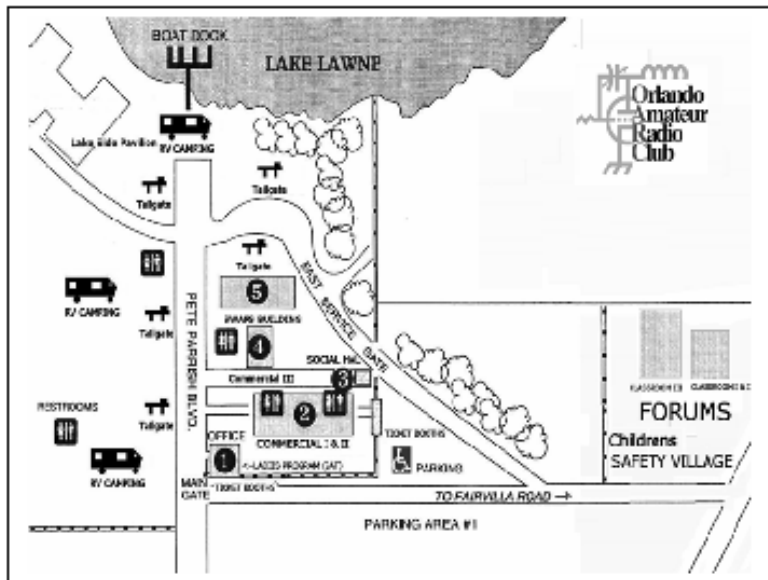
Friday February 12 2015, 7.00 am 9.00

am. **First come first served.** Tailgate

per spot \$ 45.00.

Enter through **SOUTH gate**.

Items must be left to secure space.



### Testing info - Saturday

February 13, 2016, 9.00 am

and 1 pm. Must be **pre-**

**registered**, mail: [testing@hamcation.com](mailto:testing@hamcation.com).

Testing fee \$ 15.00

### Forums-Friday February 12,

Saturday February 13, 2016.

Children Safety Village and

Lake side pavilion 9.00am -

5.00 pm.

**Ladies Program** at the Office,

10.00 am.

### Hotels info - HamCation®

**Specials!** Holiday Inn Express

& Suites, Drury Inn Suites,

Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando,

The Rosen Inn International

and International Palms Resort

& Conference Center. See

reservations hotel tab on

the web site. Early reservation

strongly recommended.



## Upcoming Hamfests

- February 12, 2016 – ARRL National Convention (Orlando Ham-Cation), Orlando, FL <http://hamcation.com>
- February 20, 2016 – Highlands County Hamfest, Sebring, FL <http://www.highlandsamateurradio.com> **New!**
- February 27, 2016 – 2nd Annual West Central Florida Section Technical Conference <http://www.arrlwcf.org>
- March 5, 2016 – Hamfest on the River, Punta Gorda, FL <http://PRRA.club>
- March 12, 2016 – 1st Annual NPARC Hamfest on the Green, North Port, FL <http://www.w4npt.org>
- March 12, 2016 – Link McGarity WV4I Memorial Free Flea, West Palm Beach, FL <http://www.palmswestradio.org> **New!**
- March 18, 2016 – Fort Walton Beach Hamfest 2016, Fort Walton Beach, FL <http://www.w4zbb.org>
- March 19, 2016 – Stuart Hamfest, Stuart, FL <http://www.stuarthamfest.com>
- 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!**



## 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](mailto: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](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](mailto:np2mr@yahoo.com) in advance of the meeting.

## Section Nets.....

For net details go to [www.arrl-nfl.org](http://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	Sunday, 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	<a href="http://sarnetfl.com">http://sarnetfl.com</a>	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
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



# 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](http://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](mailto:wb2vyk@gmail.com). Pictures of children cannot be published without the written permission of both parents.