



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

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www.arri-nfl.org

December 2017

Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM



Greetings North Florida Hams!

**Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY
IN THE WORLD!**

Hi Folks,

Short and sweet this holiday month!

This month I got to visit with the Lake Amateur Radio Association (LARA) at their annual tailgate in Tavares.....it was fun. Even I bought something! If you are in the area next year, make it a point to stop by! Support your local club functions!

I have found a new Section Emergency Coordinator – and most likely some assistants (maybe 2??). More on this is to come in the new year.....

On an important note - it's taken me much introspection and many discussions with some folks over the last few months.....but I have decided I am not running for re-election for the next term (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020). After serving the last 5 years (1 year as SEC, and almost 4 years as SM), I feel it's time for some fresh perspectives and renewed energy. While I am proud to reflect back on the

many positive changes and initiatives that I helped foster, I hope someone will step up to continue the service to the NFL Section and community. I would also hope the new SM would welcome both our excellent Newsletter Editor and Webmaster!! (Along with many other excellent appointed folks who work diligently and quietly in the background). With the many events that have impacted our Section in the last few years, everyone should be proud of what we experienced and accomplished. We all showed, "We Count!"

Check out our fabulous NFL Section Web Page and read our spectacular Newsletter (December Issue) *QST NFL*.
<http://arri-nfl.org/>

As always, my best wishes to each of you and your families for a safe and wonderful Holiday Season, no matter what you celebrate. Remember those not so fortunate.

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

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM

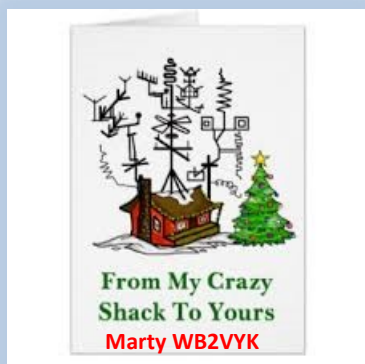
Steve Szabo WB4OMM

NFL Section Manager

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™

386-566-2085

Merry Christmas
From QST NFL



What's Inside....



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Email your QST NFL input to
WB2VYK@gmail.com

Alachua ARES & Santa Fe College Amateur Radio Club Tech Course

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z



Students & Instructors with newly-created 2-meter antennas



Jeff Capehart W4UFL running a segment of instructional video.



One of three tables full of gear for a distinctly hands-on Technician course. BitX40 transceiver in a plywood open housing just to the left of the laptop computer. It fascinated the students. We opened the antenna tuner so

Filling almost the entire Nov 4/5th weekend, Alachua ARES and the SFC Amateur Radio Club teamed up to hold an “immersion” Technician unique license class that went a total of 16 hours. There were five students, a couple of whom already had their license but still enjoyed the event, and an additional UF faculty member audited some of the course.

Santa Fe ham club President **Philip Papendick W0PAP** arranged a spacious amphitheater classroom complete with A/V facilities and easy access to antenna-ready trees outside a back door. Faculty adviser and ARES member **Art Grant KM4YGH** and **Cindy Grant KM4YGG** joined in taking care of minute-by-minute details, help-

ing **Nancy Gibby KM4YGI** with meals --- sequential calls signs because all three got their licenses from a previous Immersion Course! Alachua ARES President **Jeff Capehart W4UFL** took a stint at teaching along with Art so the students got some breaks from me.

We advertise this as an extensively “hands-on” course. It attracts people who really want to understand radio. Not only did we get through almost every question in the database (using Ham Whisperer YouTube videos) but students touched a vast array of ham radio: as the very first exercise, they put up the ladder-line-fed random length HF dipole antenna, then listened to VHF repeaters, HF SSB morning voice net, PSK, RTTY, Olivia,

Alachua ARES Tech Course (Continued)

CW, packet---any signal possible. Labs had them measuring voltages (AC & DC), computing and measuring resistor circuit currents, including series resistors. Between videos they watched WINLINK email transfer, packet radio connections and measured SWR multiple ways. A high school student successfully adjusted a kilowatt-sized manual T-antenna tuner at least twice his age. The BitX40 transceiver was an instant "hit" and students were asking how to get that incredible circuit board! KE0OG's fine online videos were also used. (<http://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/CourseMasterVideoTimeDemoList.pdf>)

Antenna building on Sunday is the high point of the course, teaching coax connections, PL259-SO239-SMA conversions, coax stripping, wire preparation and soldering. Hands-on skills are vital for new hams – so they cut their own 14-gauge wire, shaped it into an end-fed stub-tuned SlimJim secured on pressure treated 1x2 with electrical tape, then slid alligator test clips up and down while watching the all-important SWR dip on an MFJ Antenna Analyzer. Every antenna tuned up well! Then they soldered and finished up an EMP-

hardened, outdoor-capable antenna! We also built the lamp-cord 2-meter antenna, students creating a working antenna in under 5 minutes, complete with feedline.

A growing percentage of our local ARES group is home-grown through just these courses; several have made it now all the way through EXTRA. This weekend, using an HF go-box from our **Steinhatchee Storm** exercise, we set up a WINLINK gateway (server) and watched as the BitX40 accessed it using a Signalink on 40 meters. To get them on the air right after their license, participants can purchase a Baofeng UV5 transceiver at cost, pre-programmed with 50-70 useful frequencies.

By the end of Sunday, our students were elated at the enormous amount of regulations, radio theory, modulation, electronics, ham procedures, propagation, and antenna/feedline knowledge they had gained in just one weekend!



Monitoring of the 146.520

Gene King, KI4LEH

Sumter County Emergency Management, Radio Officer

Recently I read an article (on-line / Face Book maybe) of an amateur who drove from the Florida Keys north up the east coast and he stayed in almost constant contact with other amateurs along the route via the 146.520 National Simplex.

Well, since we were taking a trip up into the Florida Panhandle I thought I would try this as well. So we left on Sunday, October 22, 2017 about 10:00 AM and headed north on I-75. I started in Ocala and about every twenty miles or so I would give a call out just to see if anyone was there, nothing. I did this all the way to our destination at Falling Waters State Park west of Tallahassee a ways and had no responses.

We were in this general area for nine days going to three different State Parks; Three Rivers the second and Torreya the third. I would try a couple times a day while in the parks or while out driving around, one trip up into Alabama and Georgia a little bit. Nothing, no contact at all on the 146.520.

On our return trip which was on Tuesday, October 31, 2017, I again started out on I-10 and every twenty miles or so gave a call out, nothing. Well, I got into northern Alachua County,

Florida when I was finally answered and had a great QSO for about fifteen miles or so. He actually has a scanner running and tuned to the 146.520 which is how he heard me. I, of course, continued this on down into Marion County again and again nothing further.

Now, I can tell you I am just a guilty as the next for not monitoring the 146.520. I can tell you that I am going to start monitoring it more when I am monitoring in my home office, just in case someone calls out and wants to chat or who may need something.

Anyway, this is simply my observation after having traveled the North Florida area and experimented with calling out on the .520 to hear only silence with one exception.

It would sure be nice if stations along the major highways would do a bit better at monitoring our National Call Frequencies just in case a traveler needs something.

Florida WINLINK Net Sponsored by Clay County ARES Volunteer

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Ray Cook WD4SEN has volunteered to head up an emergency preparedness practice WINLINK Net for Florida, similar to several others elsewhere in the nation. Participants simply use on-the-air radio to send a radio email using any WINLINK RMS server station they wish, to KI4UWC@WINLINK.ORG, with one or two lines of specified content. This is similar to weekly practice voice nets that allow people to check their gear. Not only does this check out the participant's equipment, setup, and knowledge of this important system, it also allows discovery of multiple possible email Radio Message Servers (RMS) within reach of the ham.

Check-ins can be done on either VHF or HF. Participants have all of Monday each week to get their email sent. On HF, there are scores of possible server stations all over the USA and the world. Any can be utilized. Most HF users will simply use a sound-card system and the built-in WINMOR protocol that comes inside of WINLINK EXPRESS. A lucky few might have a PACTOR modem and be able to utilize that faster protocol. The number of HF servers in Florida seems to be growing, with a new station now turning on in Orlando, W7USR.

On VHF the range is a bit more limited, but many communities have a local VHF RMS station. (You can view a map here: <https://winlink.org/RMSChannels>). There are 27 packet RMS servers in Florida, including Ray's WD4SEN-10, -13 and -15. The really savvy user may be able to jump onto the SEDAN and reach WINLINK gateways that are accessible via the SEDAN



(including KX4Z-10, KM4YGH-10 and NK3F-10) —but this takes a bit more expertise and knowledge of the state's VHF digital packet systems.

Every Sunday evening, Ray will post the message format requested, on the home page of the Clay County ARES: <http://www.clayares.org/wp/>. He's just getting started with this, and may add a "peer to peer" component (for a limited check-in time frame) in the future. For now, he's delighted to see the system come up and function well — check-ins the first week were 2, and jumped to 9 the second Monday, as the Alachua and Marion crew learned of his system. After the conclusion of each Monday, he sends out a reply to all checked-in stations with summary information.

Similar practice nets are functioning in Tennessee (<https://wcaces.org/monday-night-winlink-net/>), Virginia (Winlink Wednesday, now > 70 check-ins, <https://www.albemarleradio.org/2017/08/14/ares-races-of-virginia-winlink-net/>) Wisconsin (Tuesday, <http://www.wi-ares-races.org/>) and over 5 years in San Diego (<https://www.winlink.org/content/san-diego-winlink-net-marks-five-years>). The nationwide WINLINK system handled 27,000 messages in October 2017 over HF, and 21,000 over packet.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!





Cottonmouth 100

West Panhandle District ARES groups

After Action Report

November 11-12, 2017

Blackwater River State Forest, Munson, FL

Daisy Crepeau, KT4KW – Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Santa Rosa County

Summary -

On Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, 2017, West Panhandle District ARES groups participated in an Ultra 100-mile and 100K endurance run providing radio support at each of 9 aid stations and the start/finish line. This race took place in parts of 2 counties (Santa Rosa and Okaloosa) in a forest that encompasses almost 200,000 acres.

31 Amateur Radio Operators and stations.

4 Escambia County ARES (including 1 Asst. EC) and 4 non-ARES members

12 Okaloosa County ARES and 2 non-ARES members

8 Santa Rosa County ARES (includes EC and 3 Asst. ECs) and 1 non-ARES members

Radio Modes Used -

Net Control established the net using two frequencies: 146.700 (K4SRC) Santa Rosa County EOC repeater and 147.360 (W4AAV), the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club (NOARC) repeater in Crestview. Simplex was not utilized due to the terrain. The aid stations were located at Bear Lake Connector, Juniper Creek, Deaton Bridge, Hutton Trailhead, Peaden Bridge, Wiregrass, North Karick Lake, North Hurricane Lake, and the Alabama/Florida state line. The runners utilized several "Florida Trail" hiking trails.

The race began at 6:00 AM on November 11th. Our support began as the race started. Net control started radio operations at 06:00 am on the 11th and the net operated continuously until 11:00 am on the 12th.

Tactical call signs consisting of the name of each aid station were used, e.g. Karick Lake, Wiregrass, State Line, etc.

The operations plan called for the ham operators to report each runner's bib number as they arrived at each aid station. Initially the plan called for manning the aid stations on the upper part of the course only. However, due to the overwhelming response by local hams we were able to man the entire race course. A large portion of the race occurred in darkness and there needed to be a way to account for each runner in case someone was hurt or lost.

What was learned –

- 1 – Because of the fantastic turnout of amateurs for this race we were able to cover ALL aid stations in the race, not just the ones overnight.
- 2 – We set up net control inside the pavilion where the race coordinators were, so no additional runners were needed to supply info from net control to coordinators.
- 3 – We used elevated j-pole antennas for each station at the net control point.
- 4 – Operators were ingenious with the shelters (i.e. tents, RVs, etc.) for protection from the elements, (primarily cold and dampness) during this event.
- 5 – Because of our participation in this race in 2015 (there was no race in 2016) all aid station hams were provided with lists of runners and locations of aid stations in race order, so they could keep track of where the runners were at all times. This helped when family members needed to know where their runner was located.
- 6 – All stations had back up equipment in case of failure. Also, the cross-band repeat function worked well utilizing a fixed mobile radio and antenna and an HT at several stations.

Cottonmouth 100 (Continued)

Additional Comments –

Because of the number of amateurs at net control, we were able to successfully man the 2 radios simultaneously. Also, there were 2 newly licensed hams who had never been on the radio and they also took their turns. There was one aid station that only had one operator and ideally at least two operators would have been optimal. The aid stations that had multiple operators did an excellent job of dividing the air time between them so that one operator was not tasked with the entire race. Since there were many campgrounds near the aid stations, several hams decided to make it a dual-purpose event, a weekend of camping and radio operations.

One of the most important things to come out of an operation like this is that ham radio operators really can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. They got the job done with the right equipment and the right people. Also, most all the operators are ready to come back next year. A "Hot Wash" was conducted with all operators. Items submitted will be reviewed and pertinent items implemented in next year's race.



Juniper Creek, Bruce KA5DLV



Net Control: Roger KK4QMI, Natalia KN4FVE, Joe KF4DVF, Ray K1HG, Sam WS4SW



Bear Lake Connector: Len K4KBD, Clint KK4NDU



Erecting antennas at Net Control – Bear Lake
Ray K1HG, Richard KE4BFX, Jon KM4QQO, Michael KJ4FNA

Lake County Radio Association (LARA) Reports.....

Frank Anders, KK4MBX, LARA PIO

November was a busy month for LARA in that we:

- had a club Tailgate event at the Institute of Public Safety in Tavares that well attended locally and drew participants from across central Florida. The event was chaired by Dave Pennell, NP2MR. (attachments starting with TG)
- supported The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) on a bicycle event supporting the local hospital. It was called Hearts for Our Hospital and included a number of rides from 10 to 100 miles in length. Our members supporting this even included Jay Boehme, N4KXO; Frank Anders, KK4MBX; Fred Fitte, NF2F; Mike Walker, K9SSL; Strait Hollis, KT4YA; and Steve Berger, KK4VFO. (No pictures available now)
- Supported the Boy Scouts in their 60th Jamboree-On-The-Air at the Leonard and Marjorie Williams Family Scout Reservation. This event was in the end of October. The LARA team led by Fred Fitte, NF2F, took our ARES communication trailer to house an HF station for scouts to experience HAM Radio, A FOX Hunt, and some class room discussions of what HAM Radio is and how it supports the community.





The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents:

HAMFEST 2017

DXCC, VUCC, WAS
QSL CARD CHECKING
AVAILABLE ON SITE
ALL DAY

Talk in on 146.610 PL 123-
By SSRC's very own
Brian Purdy W3AVR

2232 NE JACKSONVILLE RD
OCALA, FL 34470
GPS 29.210,-82.129
NEW ECHOLINK NODE AT:
K4GSO-R (875558)

DECEMBER 2, 2017
DOORS OPEN AT
7:30AM

* Tickets to win an ICOM IC-718. This is a separate drawing from the door prize. Only 400 tickets to be printed and are available only at the event.

ABSOLUTELY NO ONLINE SALES!

VENDORS INCLUDE: The Signman of Baton Rouge, Satellite Sam, NightFire Electronics, Hamworld, R&S Sales, Tower Electronics and many more!

Inside tables are gone, but there is ***PLENTY OF TAILGATE PARKING AVAILABLE!***

	<u>PayPal Prepay</u>	<u>Cash at the Door</u>	<u>PayPal At the Door</u>
<u>General Admission:</u>	\$5.50	\$7.00	\$8.50
<u>Tailgate Car and driver (1 stall)</u>	\$17.50	\$20.00	\$22.50
<u>Additional Stall:</u>	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$17.50
<u>Additional Passenger:</u>	\$5.50	\$7.00	\$8.50

School students (with ID,) Active Military in uniform and First Responders in uniform
no charge general admission but must buy ticket for door prize giveaway

PREPAY? You must present proof of payment at the entry point or you will pay again.
Sorry, NO REFUNDS



VE EXAM TESTING TIME 10AM
FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION: K4GSO.US/HAMFEST
ARRL SANCTIONED

*subject to change without notification

FCC Testing Information

LMARS FCC Testing

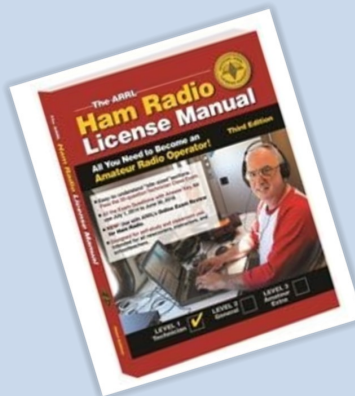
- Every month
- Third Saturday
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office
Off SR 17-92, on 100 Eslinger Way in Sanford
- For more information and registration, contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690 or w2bzy@cfl.rr.com

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. 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

- 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

Silver Springs Radio Club

- Go to <http://k4gso.us/class/> to signup for classes
- Go to <http://k4gso.us/test-signup/> for testing
- Note <http://k4gso.us/ncvec605/> is requested to be filled out before you show for testing. It is best to download the form and open it as a PDF so you can fill in the blanks.



Upcoming QSO Parties

Alan Sewell, N5NA

<http://qsoparty.eqth.net/>

Montana	1/27/2018	1/28/2018	Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club
British Columbia	2/3/2018	2/4/2018	Orca DX and Contest Club
Vermont	2/3/2018	2/4/2018	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
Minnesota	2/3/2018	2/3/2018	Minnesota Wireless Association
South Carolina	2/24/2018	2/25/2018	Columbia Amateur Radio Club
North Carolina	2/25/2018	2/26/2018	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Idaho	3/10/2018	3/11/2018	Idaho QSO Party
Oklahoma	3/10/2018	3/11/2018	Oklahoma DX Association
Wisconsin	3/11/2018	3/12/2018	West Allis Radio Amateur Club
Virginia	3/17/2018	3/18/2018	Virginia QSO Party
Louisiana	3/17/2018	3/18/2018	Louisiana Contest Club

Welcome To HamCation 2018

Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park

February 9th - 11th, 2018

www.hamcation.com



Host of the 2018 ARRL Florida State Convention

Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park
4603 West Colonial Drive
Orlando, Florida 32808

February 9, 2018 | 9AM to 5PM
February 10, 2018 | 9AM to 5PM
February 11, 2018 | 9AM to 2PM

Purchase tickets online, via mail or at the day of the event. We accept most forms of payment.

Talk-in will be on the 146.760 (-600/ PL 103.5) KB4UT repeater. This repeater is a mix mode System Fusion repeater located in beautiful downtown Orlando and has good coverage throughout the central Florida region. Backup talk-in will be on the 147.015 (+600/no PL) repeater.

DSTAR: K1XC 146.820 -.600



Northern Florida STM Reports for November 2017

Tom Housworth KI0JO Section Traffic Manager

Station Activity Reports

Public Service Honor Roll

Public Service Honor Roll

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	750
KZ8Q	361
KM4VTK	141
KA1G	61
WB4RJW	56
N3JUY	51
WC4FSU	47
WD3B	41
W4NFG	30
KJ4HGH	20
KJ4G	13

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
WD3B	145
KF4DVF	141
KI0JO	120
N3JUY	110
WC4FSU	110
N9MN	110
KZ8Q	100
KA1G	100
WB4RJW	90
KJ4G	84
KJ4HGH	70

CALLSIGN	TOTAL
KI0JO	750

Submitted by: Tom Housworth KI0JO /STM

Nets

NET	ABB.	QNI	QTC	QND	SESS	MGR
Florida Phone Traffic Net	FPTN	1497	230	921	30	WC4FSU/N4GMU
Northern Florida ARES Net	NFARES	1886	37	917	26	W4NFG
Northern Florida D Star Net	NFDSN	28	3	37	3	W4NFG
Northern Florida D-Rats Net	NFDRN	37	0	53	4	W4NFG
QFN CW Net	QFN	263	79	330	30	KZ8Q
Volusia County Traffic Net	VCTN	342	33	609	30	WD3B
Volusia Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net	VARES	41	0	78	5	WD3B
60 Meter ARES Net	60 MAN	195	0	630	17	KH4G
Gulf Coast VHF Training Net	GCVTN	865	49	457	30	K4QBH
Lake County ARES Net	LCARES	195	13	226	13	N4KXO
Walton County Amateur Radio Club	WCARC	179	13	246	13	K4NDJ
Seminole VHF Traffic Net	SVTN	421	35	502	29	KG4QCD
North Florida Phone Net	NFPN	2116	3	953	30	AI4GF

Links to the NFL Web Site

For net, hamfest and other events go to www.arrl-nfl.org or select the option below. Web Master Bert Garcia, N8NN, maintains an up-to-date and detailed listing of all NFL nets and activities. If you need to make a change to an existing net or activity, or add a new one, contact Bert at: n8nn@earthlink.net.

Section Nets

Florida Hamfest/Convention Calendar and Operating Events



NFL Officials

Section Manager – Stephen W. Szabo WB4OMM

Assistant Section Managers – Joseph D. Bushnel W2DWR, John C Reynolds W4IJJ, Dave Davis WA4WES, Jeff Capehart W4UFL, Neil Light KK4VHX, Ray Crepeau K1HG

Section Emergency Coordinator – Pending

Assistant SE Coordinator – Robert A. Mitchell W4HKG

Section Technical Coordinator – Frank Haas KB4T

Affiliated Club Coordinator – Steve Palmer KM4SDP

Section Traffic Manager – Tom Housworth, KI0JO

Official Observer Coordinator – Rick A. Lloyd AA4W

State Government Liaison – Darrell Brock N4GOA



Newsletter of the Northern Florida Section of the ARRL



1. Spread the word about our website www.arrl-nfl.org and **QST NFL** on your club web-site, in a newsletter or at a meeting.
2. Send a write-up and picture of your next activity.
3. Make sure you, or the appropriate member of your club is on the email reminder list.
4. Contact: Marty Brown WB2VYK, wb2vyk@gmail.com

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. Submissions may be made to the editor, Marty Brown, WB2VYK, wb2vyk@gmail.com.