



# QST NFL



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

Volume 5, Issue 4

[www.arrrl-nfl.org](http://www.arrrl-nfl.org)

April 2018

## Steve's Take:

**NFL Section Manager**  
**Steve Szabo, WB4OMM**



Greetings North Florida Hams! **Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!**

Not much going on right now.....but it looks like Spring/Summer is back! Wow! Where did the "winter" go?

This is a great time to go out and inspect those antennas, cables, wires, et al that sometimes don't fare too well in the cold/cooler temperatures. Check those connections too! Spring Cleaning? Absolutely! Do it in the shack too!

As I wind down my tenure as the NFL Section Manager, I look back on how much has happened in the last 4 years (good, and not so good!). Our ARRL membership is about the same in the section as it was last year, but still up several hundred from the start some 4 years back; we have a stellar Newsletter and Web Page, and our various clubs and groups are still active and alive. In my June message, you get the thanks, but I did want to remind everyone that we all count. No matter what part of the Amateur Service you dwell in, you are special.

While I hope to be able to make some more rounds to various clubs before the end of May, my boss at the PD seems to want to make other arrangements for me.....yeah, I'll get this "retired" stuff right sooner or later! But, you just never know where I may show up!

Please continue to send in the EC Monthly Reports to the NFL Web Page [http://arrrl-nfl.org/?page\\_id=4787](http://arrrl-nfl.org/?page_id=4787) unless otherwise notified by me. It's important to document our activities.

Check out our fabulous NFL Section Web Page <http://arrrl-nfl.org/> - our spectacular Newsletter (April Issue) is there for all to enjoy!

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

[wb4omm@arrrl.org](mailto:wb4omm@arrrl.org)

## The ARRL Letter....

The American Radio Relay League.

Do you get **The ARRL Letter**? Click here to see what happening.

<http://www.arrrl.org/arrrlletter?issue=current>

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members and registered guests may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their [profile](#).

## What's Inside....

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

## ARRL North Florida Section Manager Expanded Election Statement

Kevin Bess, KK4BFN

March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

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Greetings!

My name is Kevin Bess, KK4BFN, and I am requesting your vote for NFL Section Manager. A little about myself, I have lived in Volusia County since 1988; first licensed March of 2011, now an Extra. I am a member of the Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team, Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association, Volusia ARES, a VE, OO, and a member of Florida Contest Group.



Employed in a job that sends me all over North and Central Florida, this gives me an excellent opportunity to experience different nets, operate on many repeaters, and meet with many other amateurs. I primarily operate voice, but do digital work and a little CW.

Being a project manager for my company, I bring all the experience that comes with the position, including managing others (including co-workers and sub-contractors), working under pressure, handling deadlines, and communication skills. Also, in my job, I am often required to pass background checks, including Level 2, Jessica Lundsford Act, GSA, law enforcement, and others.

I am running for Section Manager because I believe in the concept of "If it is not broken, then don't fix it." Our incumbent SM, Steve Szabo, WB4OMM, has taught me a lot about the many diverse aspects of Amateur Radio and how to treat folks with respect and dignity – and to include EVERYBODY, EVERYWHERE – regardless of what part of the hobby they have interest in and regardless of where they live. His high visibility, common sense outlook, and easy to reach personality is one of the main reasons why I am running for SM. I think the work that he has done for our hobby and section should be continued and I would dedicate my efforts in that same direction. One of the important things he has taught me is that EVERYONE COUNTS! Everyone! I want to see that everyone's voice is heard. I want to see more young people involved, those folks who are inactive get interested again, clubs flourish, EmComm grow and continue a "professional, and reachable image". Plus, Steve has assured me he will be available to guide me in my efforts as a new SM.

Let's keep it going – positive and EVERYONE COUNTS! Ballots will be mailed April 1<sup>st</sup>, and new term begins on July 1, 2018.

73 and Thank you - I hope I have earned your vote!

Kevin Bess  
KK4BFN



## Hog County Amateur Radio Association, Inc. – K4HOG

Gene King – KI4LEH

**CORRECTION:** In the March 2018 issue of QST NFL I published an announcement for the Florida EmComm Group facebook page. I mistakenly gave credit to the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (TARS) for creating this page, instead of the Hog County ARA. My apologies to Gene King KI4LEH. My thanks to TARS for sending me the information.

Gene KI4LEH explains:

We did start a new group, the “**Florida EmComm Group**” which its home exists on Facebook; you are welcome and encouraged to check it out. Along with our Facebook Page we also have started a Radio Net which will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday’s of each month at 8:00 PM. For now the net will be hosted on the W4OE Repeater in Sumterville, FL at 146.925 (-) PL: 123.0, also via EchoLink at WV1TPR-R (Node: 955800) or AllStar at Node: 47485#.

All licensed amateur radio operators that are involved in any form of EmComm; ARES, RACES, SkyWarn, CERT, Hospital Teams or any other organization as well as those not yet volunteering but are interested, are encouraged to join us. Most of our content is via the Facebook Page, some via Email to those who have provided it and some via the Radio Net.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/176226096326132>

**Our second bit of information** is in the area of promoting our wonderful hobby of amateur radio. During the time span from Friday, March 2 – Saturday, March 10, 2018, the Hog County Amateur Radio Association had a booth / table set up at the Sumter County Fair. The overall purpose of our participation is for the promotion of the hobby by talking with visitors, showing them some equipment and with the kids, getting them on the radio to talk with someone (local via repeater of course).

Our organization also proudly supports the Weather Ready Nation as Ambassadors. Within our Ambassadorship if you will, we purchased a Weather Alert Radio to be given to someone through a “Free” drawing. We had visitors fill out their name and phone number on a ticket which was dropped in a container. Then on the last day of the Fair we had the winning ticket drawn, the winner was called and came to the Fair to collect her prize. Again, we here via the Hog County ARA are trying to do our part to promote the hobby, share our interest in the hobby but also the services that can be provided via the hobby; ARES, RACES, etc.

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## LARA Volunteers Honored

Frank Anders, KK4MBX

On Tuesday Feb 27, 2018 12 Lake Amateur Radio Association (LARA) members, who accumulated 150 or more volunteer hours, were honored in the annual Lake County Commissioners award presentation. In all LARA members recorded 4665 hours the year 2017. Pictured are those that were able to attend the event.

(Left to right)

Frank Anders, KK4MBX, Mile Walker K9SSL, Emil Vandeveld WA2UPK, Paul Branch K3NON, Strait Hollis KT4YA, John Walton WB4HV.



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## QCWA Chapter 62

Ken Simpson, W8EK, Chapter 62 President



QCWA Chapter 62 is based out of Ocala, Florida, in the north central part of the state, just off of I-75.

Chapter 62 meets at 12:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of the even numbered months (February, April, etc.) at the Grace Buffet, 7859 SW State Rd 200, Ocala, FL. It is located in the same complex as the new Neighborhood WalMart, just to the west of the WalMart and behind the large ice cream cone. Our next meeting will be April 26. If you are in the area, we invite you to join us.



## K2DM & K4ZDM Exchange Vows in The Villages

Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor



Eisenhower Recreation Center in The Villages, FL, was the setting for the marriage of Karen Erickson, K4ZDM, and George Briggs, K2DM. The informal ceremony was officiated by Ron Adcock, K4YCW, and attended by family and friends.

Karen has added her name and callsign to the popular "Worked All Briggs" award: George's brother, Jeff K1ZM/VY2ZM and his XYL Miriam KK1ZM/VY2HH, Peter K3ZM and Jeff's son Patrick KK6ZM. Representing the Briggs family at the wedding were Peter, his XYL Margaret, Miriam, sister Julie, and her partner Gerry, who drove up from Sarasota. Brother Jeff was on his way to the Spratly Islands to participate in the DXpedition.

Guests enjoyed a BBQ dinner and dancing to love songs compiled by K2DM for the occasion. Karen's grandkids, who traveled with their families from the mid-west, served as flower girls and ring bearers. Their youthful enthusiasm added to the joyous occasion.



Karen Erickson K4ZDM and George Briggs K2DM  
Husband and Wife

## On the Road with WB2VYK— Fort Walton Beach Hamfest (March 16-17)

Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor

On Friday morning, March 16th, I packed up a few supplies, and the OM (Wayne, N4FP), and headed to Fort Walton Beach, FL. This is a 4 1/2 hour trip from Ocala, and that's taking the "breathtaking" route along I75 and I10.

Our goal was to promote two of our favorite Ham Radio projects **QST NFL**, the newsletter for the Northern Florida Section, and **CW Ops**, an organization of folks who are promoting CW operation.

We were gratified to see the interest in both projects. Our thanks to the Playground Amateur Radio Club for a great weekend.

Look for us April 21st at the Gainesville Hamfest!

N4FP demonstrating CW training software



Mike Fregger  
KJ4ECP



Wayne Brown N4FP



## First North Florida Conference on Amateur Emergency Communications

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Fifty-one volunteers attended a lightning-paced 10-hr -day Symposium on Amateur Radio Emergency Communications held in Gainesville, Saturday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, on the campus of Santa Fe College. The conference was jointly sponsored by **Alachua County ARES** and **Santa Fe Amateur Radio Society**.

The day moved *fast*. Here's an overview: Talks started with the topic of "Leadership" lead by Vann Chesney AC4QS, then moved to a candid review of the ARRL Puerto Rico disaster response from been-there-done-that volunteer Joe Bassett W1WCN. Q&A revealed an entirely different strategy might have provided high speed connectivity throughout the island, had the real situation been more apparent earlier. (Lesson: lack of communications dramatically reduced situational awareness!) Hands-on work in split break-out sessions then dived into the practical aspects of building VHF and HF antennas and making WINLINK connections. Multiple HF antennas were created and hoisted aloft only 5-10 minutes apart and several VHF antennas were cut and tuned on the spot. After lunch, the room emptied for a suspense-filled deployment as two separate teams battling almost a dozen tasks and completed with exhortations to hold training classes for new Technicians, Generals and Extra Class licensees. For most, the deployment was the eye-opener....

Reviews of the conference by attendees were almost uniformly ecstatic, with an average score of 4.67 out of 5, and only a few suggestions for improvements next year.

### Hands-on Skill Sessions

An early-morning slingshot provided a multi-band window-line fed non-resonant antenna for long distance comms. But it was next replaced by participants creating an 80-meter emergency antenna....which was then cut apart to make an off-center-fed multi-band Windom. Homemade baluns were everywhere. Lampwire became ad-hoc VHF antennas. Anyone who had never cranked a generator, DID!--and a \$50 MPPT controller kept a deep-cycle marine battery charged from a 30V 250W panel, providing discussion of the differences between PWM and MPPT controllers. Eight different speakers

from multiple counties poured out knowledge, and all participants received copies of a 90-page bound text written by the Symposium lecturers.

### Pre-Conference

But it started even before Saturday: Pre-conference preparation included daily emails in the week before the conference, loading a new piece of ham radio software with each new email as registrants gained emergency communications skills and assets. Leveraging those successes, PSK31, MT63, NBEMS, WINLINK VHF and WINLINK HF were wafting through the ether on Saturday, and a full WINLINK VHF/HF server gateway go-box was in operation, one of only a couple hundred world-wide. **After the conference challenges** demonstrated that 30 participants were at least up to "beginner" WINLINK status, able to receive and reply to emails in that system, if allowed to use TELNET. Approximately 14 participants were still unable to establish a WINLINK account – some of these simply don't have windows-type computers.

At lunchtime Paul Drothler, the regional director of the SHARES federal disaster backup communications system, explained how hams could assist local hospitals and authorities on federal nets, wide-open frequencies, and digital data systems.

### Goal: Full Scale Exercises

All of the experiences and lectures were funneled directly toward **encouraging leaders to carry out full scale exercises back in their home communities**, and to manage those using the national Incident Command System used by fire, police, military and corporate entities.

So naturally, the course climaxed with a sudden dimming of the lights, failure of the projection system, and





## Conference on Amateur Emergency Communications, Cont

hurried distribution of ICS-201 briefing documents from the local EOC, detailing a right-then unfolding emergency. The room was quickly split into two Comm Units, serving the Incident Commander and Logistics Chief. They were in charge of response to the developing catastrophe which had mysteriously damaged radios and communications gear all over town, apparently cutting Gainesville off from the rest of the world. With TV and radio silent, no one knew exactly what was going on—or how other cities were faring-- other than the sounds of thousands of traffic accidents. The two teams formed sub-units and headed out to two bases, the Incident Command Post, and the separate Logistics Base on the other side of campus --- minus several of their cars determined to be inexplicably immobilized. Fielding a Command Net came next, despite a non-responsive primary local voice repeater --- and then a problem as Team 2 chose a different frequency! With local broadcast radio and TV all out of commission, one team worked on creating assets for the EOC to use to broadcast information over 160-meter frequencies amenable to many citizens' AM transistor radios. There was concern about rumors and civil instability. With law enforcement's trunked radio-comms down, another sub-unit was tasked with creating an emergency repeater on the fly to bring up law enforcement Interoperability Channel NC1. Another group worked to create a separate EOC broadcast outlet that could be picked up by citizens' National Weather Service monitoring receivers. Other sub-units attempted to reach state ARES nets, and the State EOC to gain more information about whatever was going on --- as a ham radioing in from the local power station reported massive fire and generator shut-down, and another at a hospital reported in with an urgent need for power generation capacity. For al-

most two hours, the two teams worked furiously to accomplish all the tasks assigned to them by Emergency Management in this simulated catastrophe---the exact cause of which wasn't at all clear until the next speaker's talk to the reassembled group.

**Participants were ecstatic!** This was a simulation never to be forgotten – Panhandle ARES members and others who'd driven for hours, bringing all their best gear, were shaking their heads, “We weren't prepared for THAT!” Everyone agreed THIS kind of training would draw great interest back home.

Full List of Speakers

Vann Chesney AC4QS

Joe Bassett W1WCN

Scott Roberts KK4ECR

Art Grant KM4YGH

Gordon Gibby KX4Z NCS521

Susan Halbert KG4VWI

Jeff Capehart W4UFL

Dave Welker W2SRP



Art & Cindy in their “deployment exhibit”



Some of the Survivors

# The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society presents the

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **GAINESVILLE HAMFEST**

*Saturday April 21, 2018 at The First Baptist Church of Waldo*  
*14370 Kennard Street (SR-24) Waldo, FL 32694*

Show Time: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm      Vendor Setup Time: 6:45 am – 8 am

<http://www.gars.club/hamfest/hamfest.pdf> for more information

Admission is \$5.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door. Advance ticket sale information is available until April 7, 2018 from [hamfestinfo@gars.club](mailto:hamfestinfo@gars.club).

For all ticket requests, please include a **self addressed-stamped envelope**, #10 – business size.

Tailgater's admission is \$10 for the car and driver and then door admissions are required for all other passengers.

**Again**, we are offering inside space for Commercial Vendors. Contact the GARS Hamfest Chairman, Advanced Registration **IS** Required. **See our website for list of vendors and pricing.** (Friday night setup available)

Limited Inside swap tables are available for non-Vendors. NO POWER is provided.  
(1- table with 1 chair - \$10) Admission required at door.

FCC License Examinations will be held inside the event hall. **One session will be scheduled only at 10:30am sharp. Pre-registration is preferred see website at** <http://www.gars.club/Testing.html>.

Food is available for sale inside the event hall. See website for Breakfast and Lunch Selections.

DOOR prizes tickets will be available and a Grand Prize will be awarded.

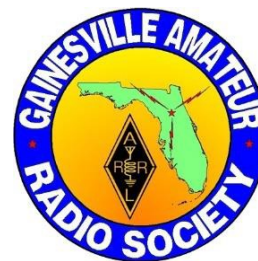
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For more information contact:  
GARS Hamfest Chairman  
Larry Rovak – WB2SVB  
[hamfestchairman@gars.club](mailto:hamfestchairman@gars.club)  
201-697-7721

Or

Pete Winters – W4GHP  
[hamfestinfo@gars.club](mailto:hamfestinfo@gars.club)  
352-317-2820



More Ticket information is available on our website  
[HTTP://www.gars.club/hamfest/hamfest.pdf](http://www.gars.club/hamfest/hamfest.pdf)

## FCC Testing Information

### LMARS FCC Testing

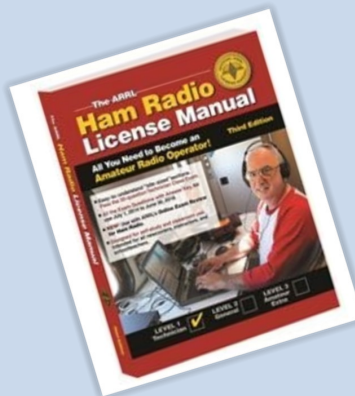
- Every month
- Third Saturday
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office  
Off SR 17-92, on 100 Eslinger Way in Sanford
- For more information and registration, contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690 or w2bzy@cfl.rr.com

### 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](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.



### 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](http://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. Testing is held on the 2nd Tuesday at 7 PM.
- 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/>

Mississippi	4/7/2018	4/8/2018	<a href="#">ARRL Mississippi Section</a>
Missouri	4/7/2018	4/8/2018	<a href="#">Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society – St. Louis</a>
Georgia	4/14/2018	4/15/2018	<a href="#">Georgia QSO Party</a>
New Mexico	4/14/2018	4/15/2018	<a href="#">Socorro Amateur Radio Association</a>
Michigan	4/21/2018	4/22/2018	<a href="#">Michigan QSO Party</a>
Ontario	4/21/2018	4/22/2018	<a href="#">Contest Club Ontario</a>
North Dakota	4/21/2018	4/22/2018	<a href="#">North Dakota</a>
Nebraska	4/21/2018	4/22/2018	<a href="#">QCWA Nebraska Chapter 25</a>
Florida	4/28/2018	4/29/2018	<a href="#">Florida QSO Party</a>



## Links to the NFL Web Site

For net, hamfest and other events go to [www.arrl-nfl.org](http://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@arrrl.net](mailto:n8nn@arrrl.net).

### Section Nets

#### Northern Florida STM Report

#### Florida Hamfest/Convention Calendar

#### Operating Events    **New \* New \* New**



## 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** – Steve Palmer W4LOM

**Assistant SE Coordinator** – Robert A. Mitchell W4HKG

**Section Technical Coordinator** – Frank Haas KB4T

**Affiliated Club Coordinator** – Steve Palmer W4LOM

**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.arrrl-nfl.org](http://www.arrrl-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](mailto: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](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).