



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 5, Issue 3

www.arrrl-nfl.org

March 2018

Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM



Greetings North Florida Hams!

Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!

If you missed the 2018 Orlando Hamcation – you missed a great Hamfest!! The weather was the best I've seen in years, there was so much ham radio stuff in the tailgate and swaps building that the transactions were fast and furious the entire weekend. The food was really good too! Large crowds with happy, smiling faces told me everyone was having a good time.

The ARRL Forum on Saturday morning was a great success, with 90+ folks (that I could count) attending. It was a nice, pleasant forum and lots of information was shared by me and the other SMs present (all but one in our Division), the SE Division Director, and ARRL President Rick Roderick. The ARRL "expanded" booth inside the commercial area stayed busy too! Thank you to all of you that stopped by to say "hello" to me in both locations.

Speaking of hamfests, on Sat, Apr 21, 2018 - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society is sponsoring its Annual Spring Hamfest (Radio Amateur Flea Market). It's a mix of outdoor sales of used radio equipment by radio amateurs (Tailgaters) and indoor sales of new parts and equipment by vendors. Breakfast and Lunch will be available through our food concession. Admission is \$7 at the door and \$5 in advance. Children under 12 are free. Located at the First Baptist Church of Waldo-14370 Kennard Street (SR-24) Waldo, FL 32694. <http://www.gars.club/hamfest/hamfest.pdf>

I have plans to visit a few more clubs/groups before the end of my term in June. I am also going to be at Dayton (Xenia) again this year.

Not much else going on right now.....

[Check out the new Operating Events link on the last page!](#)

Please continue to send in the EC Monthly Reports to the NFL Web Page 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 (March 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

JOIN A HAM RADIO CLUB THEY SAID



WE HAVE STRIPPERS THEY SAID

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Page 10 New! Links to the website for ***Stuff You Need***

Email your QST NFL input to
WB2VYK@gmail.com

W4ZR

The North Florida DX Association

Bob Lightner, W4GJ, President

Editor's Note: I'm always asking "what's going on in the section," so I was pleased to hear from Bob, W4GJ, regarding a couple of his projects.



Who We Are

The North Florida DX Association is a small group of Amateur Radio operators located in and around the Jacksonville-Gainesville area in North Central Florida. Our group was formed back in the 1970's by HAMS whose interests are contesting and working DX.

What We Do

We have regular, monthly club meetings on the third Saturday of every month at 5 PM local time.

These meetings often include dinner and presentations. Check our club website for the location.

- We have two levels of membership, Full and Associate
- We encourage our members to get on the air and work DX and contests.
- Many of our members are ARRL DXCC Honor Roll members that know how to work the rare ones!

Our Success Stories

- We produce a World Class monthly DX Newsletter called "The PileUp"
- We maintain an up-to-date club website at: <http://www.nfdxa.com/>
- We operate a DX Club station, VP5DX and have won numerous World-wide awards

How to locate our DX station

Our DX HAM radio station is located on the island of Middle Caicos. Google: VP5DX or look us up on QRZ.COM

You can also locate us using Google Earth.

How to become a member of the NFDXA

<http://nfdxa.com/>



Alachua ARES / Gator Radio Club Install Second Microwave Node in Gainesville

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Led by HVAC instructor Art Grant (who isn't afraid of heights at all!), a group of five Alachua County ARES volunteers made their second successful trip to the 164-foot high roof of Beatty Tower UF dorm on Monday, Feb. 5th. In addition to installing a new 2.397 GHz AREDN-based Ubiquity ham radio mesh node (**W4DFU-001**), a replacement "weather cap" was installed over a cable pipe that previously had allowed water into the building and risked water damage to ham radio coax.

At microwave frequencies, transmission line loss can be severe, so the microwave transceiver is actually mounted with the antenna as one unit on the mast mount. The connection cable is a Cat5E shielded ethernet line that includes POE (power over ethernet) on otherwise unused pairs of wires. In this case, the transceiver is a M2 Ubiquiti Bullet, and the antenna a 10 dBi collinear that is about 2 feet long.

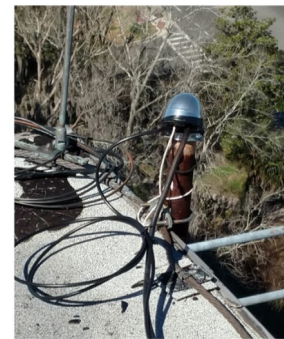
The new MESH node will automatically connect with any other amateur radio 5 MHz bandwidth 2.397 GHz Ubiquiti NanoStation or Bullet devices within range. Multiple types of contacts can be accommodated including Voice (voice over IP using Grandstream (<https://www.amazon.com/Grandstream-GXP1625-Medium-Business-Device/dp/B00VNMWRFK>) or other handsets), Web (without encryption) pages, file operations (FTP) and secure keyboard connections (SSH).

A unique aspect of the Alachua ARES MESH system is its connection to lower-speed but longer-range AX.25 Raspberry Pi **linbpq** nodes – which simply see the microwave outlet as a really fast AX.25 port.. AX.25 ham radio packets get encapsulated into UDP internet packets suitable for routing through the network. Error correction is handled by the AX.25. <http://www.cantab.net/users/john.wiseman/Documents/BPQAXIP%20Configuration.htm>) Packets can seamlessly traverse 2-meter and microwave links in any order. Using open source, free PuTTY software (<https://www.putty.org/>), maintenance connections to the Raspberry Pi AX.25 node are now possible from any MESH-connected computer, without having to physically go to the station. A new "visitor" type username/password will allow hams to have partial control over the Raspberry Pi.

In a Full Scale Exercise last year, the Alachua ARES group successfully tested this technology over a short-distance link for voice and WINLINK communications. (<http://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/CreateSpaceEntireSteinhatcheePlanningAndReport.pdf>) Although the Alachua MESH is just beginning, as it gains more stations, more and more usages will be found. Initial testing suggested a possibility of a connection to the local Red Cross office, even without additional intervening nodes.



Art Grant installing new microwave MESH antenna/transceiver.



Shiny new weather cap passes RF to 2 meter radio and shielded ethernet to microwave system.

To further develop our group's proficiency, an ICS-201 Incident Briefing form was used to coordinate the planning, and an ICS-205 to set out frequencies for arrival and workgroup communications.

Ham groups in Tampa and Sarasota are known to be pursuing similar developments, with the Tampa group based on HAMWAN and the Sarasota group initially installing AREDN and planning on a connection to Tampa based on HAMWAN.

QCWA Chapter 62 February Luncheon

Ken Simpson, W8EK, QCWA Chapter President



QCWA Chapter 62 is based in the Ocala, FL, area, and held their last meeting on Thursday, February 23 at the Grace Buffet on Route 200 west of Ocala.

We actually had two programs at our meeting this time. The five people who had attended Orlando HamCation February 9 talked about the hamfest, what they saw, what they bought (or didn't buy), and how much they enjoyed it.

The second program was by Charles Lukas, W1DOH. He talked about FT-8, and some of the various things that could be done with this weak signal mode. Once this gets set up, it is an easy mode to operate, but takes some adjustment compared to other more traditional modes such as CW or SSB.

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.

We also have a net on 3940 KHz at 9 AM Eastern Time every Saturday morning. Please join us!



Charles Lukas, W1DOH, presents our program at the Chapter 62 QCWA meeting February 22

Florida EmComm Group on Facebook

Gene King, KI4LEH, President, Hog County Amateur Radio Association

We have created a new Facebook Group "Florida EmComm Group" for those who are amateur operators, and who give back to their communities via ARES, RACES, SkyWarn and other EmComm groups.

Please Share with your members. All EmComm Operators are welcome to join.

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



K4WTL

Amateur (HAM) Radio at Lofton High School

Dr. Bob Lightner, W4GJ, Station Trustee

What We Do

We have a modern, fully-equipped HAM radio station where we actively participate in Emergency Communications exercises, on-the-air contests and experimentation with different modes of communication.

- Students can talk to the world via HAM radio
- We learn about practical geography
- Our students learn how to experiment and build circuits, CubeSats, High Altitude Ballooning, etc.
- Satellite communication, moon-bounce and talking to the International Space Station

Our history

We started out by getting a vanity call sign which utilizes the initials of the man our school is named after; **William Travis Lofton**. Hence our FCC li-cense is: **K4WTL**.

We have been on the air since 2016. Our school mascot: **The Eagles**.

Our Success Stories

Many of our students have obtained their own FCC licenses. We are active on the H.F. and VHF bands.

- QSO for: (listen for) **K4WTL**
- Modes of operation: Digital, CW and Voice
- ARRL Field Day, National Fire Prevention Week Special Event Station, **N4F**
- We provide student communicators for Alachua County Emergency Hurricane Evacuation Shelters

How to locate our station

Our HAM radio station is located in the Fire/EMS Academy laboratory classroom. Google: Lofton High School, or look us up on QRZ.COM

You can also locate us using Google Earth.

Tours of our station are available upon request to our station Trustee, Dr. Bob Lightner, W4GJ

Professional Academy Magnet
Lofton High School HAM Radio Club
3000 East University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32641
K4WTLhs@gmail.com

Our Equipment

All of our operating equipment, our tower and antennas have been donated by HAM radio operators from all over our state. We are fortunate to have a first-rate Amateur Radio station on our campus. We are the **ONLY** high school HAM radio station in our county (Alachua County).

We use the ARRL's Logbook of The World, and QSL 100% either by LoTW or via snail mail, direct or via the Bureau.

Current Awards and Certificates

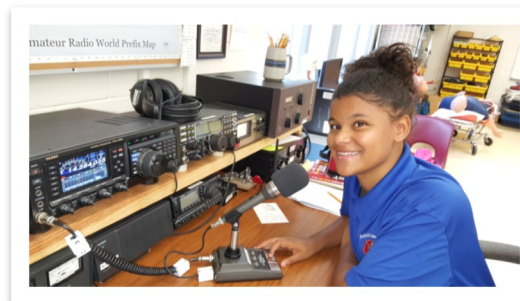
Our club is a member of the American Radio Relay League (a.k.a.: The ARRL).

We have earned **Worked all Continents** and **DXCC** with two-way communication to over 100 countries around the world.

Our goals for the future are limitless. Every student in our club sets the bar higher each and every year. Our club is a great resource and we strive to be involved in all aspects of our school.



K4WTL

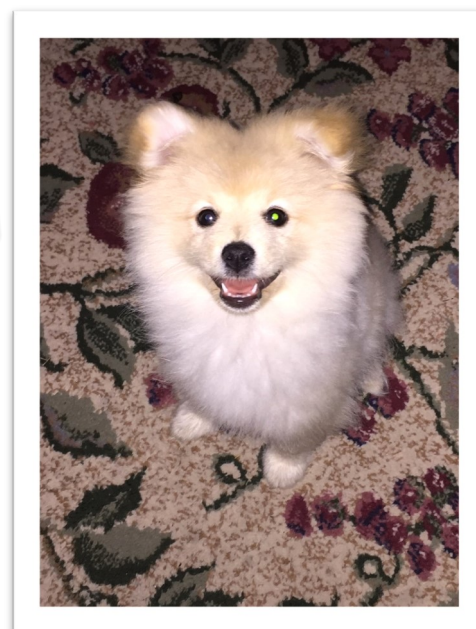


KC5CMX Racks Up the Points in the 2017 CQ WW WPX Contest

Carl Berry, KC5CMX, web master, former Hamfest Chariman for the Silver Springs Radio Club, as well as AEC for Marion County FL ARES, had some great results in the CQ WW WPX Contest.



K9PUP



Carl also wants to introduce, Chewy, K9PUP! Chewy is a 3 month old Pomeranian, and the newest addition to the Berry family in Belleview, FL.

Do you work Single Op Assisted in your shack? Send a picture of your four-legged helper!

Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Winter Field Day

Peter Winters, w4ghp, GARS President

The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society held Winter Field Day at Westside Park in Gainesville. The event was a huge success as over 300 contacts were made on 20 meters during the 5 hours operations were held. A number of operators were used during the event, the event drew the public's interest, and as a result several new members were added to the club membership. As a bonus XYL's grilled burgers and frankfurters for all.



Coming Soon!

March 16-17

<http://w4zbb.org/w4zbborg/>



PARC/Fort Walton Beach

2018 HAMFEST

...48th ANNUAL... MARCH 16-17...



Main Information

Time: 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Friday **March 16, 2018**

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Saturday **March 17, 2018**

Place: C.H. "Bull" Rigdon Fairgrounds
and Recreation Complex
1958 Lewis Turner Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Set-up times:
Friday, March 16 from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM;
Saturday, March 17 from 7:30 AM until 8:00 AM.

Talk-In Station: 146.79- (100Hz tone) W4ZBB

Contact Info: Email us at parcfest@w4zbb.org,
or visit the **PARC Web Site:** www.w4zbb.org.

RV Sites: Contact Fairgrounds at: (850) 862-0211

Prizes

Prize Drawing Tickets: Drawing for main prizes
will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday. Attendance is not
required.

Main Prize: **HF TRANSCEIVER**
Second Prize: **VHF TRANSCEIVER**

- **Hourly Prizes:** Miscellaneous amateur radio related items
- **Forums**
- **Concession**

VE Exams

Please contact PARC at exams@w4zbb.org for more details.

Location

[30°28.013' N 86°37.230' W]

From I-10: Take exit for SR 85, head south to Fort Walton Beach. Take SR-123 South and then get back on SR-85 (after 4 miles). Make a right at the SR-189 intersection (light). The Fairgrounds will be on your right after approximately 3 miles.

From US-98: Go North on Beal Pkwy. (SR-189). Fairgrounds will be on your left after about 5 miles.

The hamfest site is the home of the Northwest Florida Fair. The loading door is at the back of the building.

**The Martin County Amateur Radio Association presents the
ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention
At the 43rd annual Stuart Hamfest**

Florida's largest FREE Hamfest

**Saturday, March 17, 2018 at the Martin County Fairgrounds
2616 SE Dixie Hwy (A1A), Stuart, Florida 34996**

FREE Admission FREE Parking FREE Tailgating
Commercial Vendors (10'x10' space, 2-8' tables, 2 chairs - \$25)

Everyone at the hamfest will pass your booth at least twice during the day!

Inside Swap tables (10' space, 1-8' table, 2 chairs - \$20)

Good Food Forums ARRL VE License Exam Session

Acres of FREE tailgate space available.

Great Prizes will be Awarded

March 17th

<http://www.stuarthamfest.com/>

The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society presents the

2nd 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.

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.

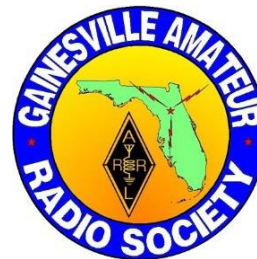
Talk-in 146.820 -600 offset NO PL



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

Or

Pete Winters – W4GHP
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

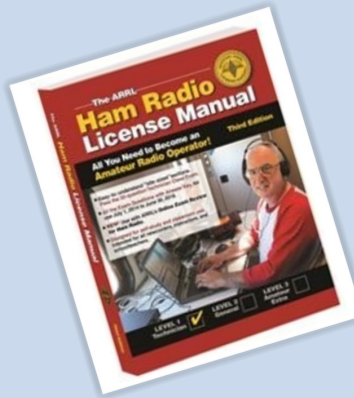
- Every month
- Third Saturday
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office
Off SR 17-92, on 100 Eslinger Way in Sanford
- For more information and registration, contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690 or w2bzy@cfl.rr.com

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

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. 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/>

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

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@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 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.