



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 5, Issue 6

www.arrl-nfl.org

June 2018

Steve's Take:

NFL Section Manager
Steve Szabo, WB4OMM



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

This is my last monthly Section Manager message – congratulations to Kevin Bess KK4BFN for successfully winning the NFL Section Manager election! Next month's message will be his.

I would ask you support Kevin as he gets acclimated to the position; while it's not "brain surgery", there is quite a bunch to learn! I will be actively working with Kevin over the next month or so to make it a seamless transition. I will not be going too far. I will be "appointed" as an "Assistant SM" after July 1st! There are no changes planned for any of the leadership positions in the Section – and our wonderful Newsletter editor Marty WB2VYK and Webmeister Bert N8NN are remaining! There will be a new OO Coordinator as Rick AA4W had asked to step down earlier this year, and our SEC Steve W4LOM also is leaving. More on those appointments in the next month when Kevin "officially" takes the helm!

I looked back at the last 47 months of my tenure - then took a look at the calendar/mileage logs. Wowwee! 105 Club and ARES group meetings; 69 days at 34 hamfests/tailgates. 17,882 driving miles in-state (Florida) – **not** including the dozens of trips that were anything less than 50 miles round trip and the trips that included air miles! I can't believe it was that much! ***I can't believe its been four years!***

We had tornados and 4 tropical storms/hurricanes that hit our section – plus a winter freeze, wildfires, flooding, and hundreds of "special events" that our folks provided communications support. National Parks on the Air, the "Red Badge Event", and the ARRL Centennial.....plus Orlando ARC hosting the National ARRL Convention! You did it all.....and you folks **DID IT WELL**. I am proud of the time I had with you.

While I cringed at the thought of some of those long trips when leaving, I was truly grateful after I arrived. All of the groups I met and worked with were open, friendly, and inviting! I felt like I was treated as royalty every time. I feel blessed and thankful that all you expended the efforts to make us look so good. Folks, it's not about the radios – **it's about the people**. Thank you for the wonderful trip!

Please send the EC Monthly Reports to the NFL Web Page http://arrl-nfl.org/?page_id=4787. It's important to document our activities. We have so many!

Check out our fabulous NFL Section Web Page <http://arrl-nfl.org/> - our spectacular Newsletter is here for all to enjoy!

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

My best wishes to all. Thank you, Northern Florida Section, for a great time!

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM

Steve Szabo WB4OMM

NFL Section Manager

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™

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wb4omm@arrl.org

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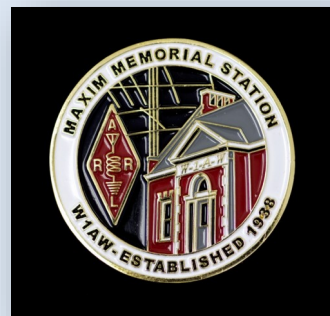
*Email your QST NFL input to
WB2VYK@gmail.com*

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 12 ARLB012
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT May 23, 2018

To all radio amateurs:

SB QST ARL ARLB012
ARLB012 New Section Managers Elected in Five ARRL Sections



Five new ARRL Section Managers have been declared elected to begin their first terms of office on July 1. Section Manager (SM) election ballots were counted in the Indiana and Northern Florida Sections on May 22 at ARRL Headquarters. Other candidates faced no opposition during the spring election cycle.

In Indiana, James "Jimmy" Merry, KC9RPX, of Ellettsville, was declared elected in a very close race with Brian G. Jenks, W9BGJ, the Indiana Section Traffic Manager. Merry received 451 votes, and Jenks, of Fort Wayne, received 438 votes.

Merry has been the Affiliated Club Coordinator in Indiana since 2005, and is presently serving a fifth term as president of the Bloomington Amateur Radio Club. Incumbent Indiana SM Brent Walls, N9BA, decided not to run for another term after helming the Indiana Field Organization since July 2016.

In Northern Florida, Kevin Bess, KK4BFN, outpolled Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, 564 to 447, to succeed current SM Steve Szabo, WB4OMM. Bess, of Edgewater, is a Northern Florida Assistant Section Manager, and a member of the Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team and of the Florida Contest Group. Szabo opted not to run for a third term of office after serving since July 2014.

Oregon also will get a new Section Manager this summer. David Kidd, KA7OZO, of Oregon City, was the sole candidate for the post. He has been an Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator. Kidd will take the reins of the Oregon Section from John Core, KX7YT, of Portland, who did not run for a new term after serving for the past 2 years.

In the East Bay Section, Jim Siemons, W6LK, will begin an 18-month term as SM on July 1. Because no candidates were nominated by the September 8, 2017, deadline, nominations were resolicited. Siemons, of Walnut Creek, California, was the only nominee to succeed incumbent SM Jim Latham, AF6AQ, of Livermore, who has served as East Bay Section Manager since 2008 and did not run for a new term.

In New Mexico, Bill Mader, K8TE, of Rio Rancho, will become the new SM there in July. He, too, was the only candidate after nominations had to be resolicited, and he will serve an 18-month term. He follows incumbent SM Ed James, KA8JMW, of Edgewood, who did not run again after serving since 2015.

Several incumbent Section Managers were unopposed for new 2-year terms starting on July 1. They are Ron Morgan, AD9I (Illinois); Bill Crowley, K1NIT (Maine); Jim Kvochick, K8JK (Michigan); Paul Gayet, AA1SU (Vermont), and Patrick Moretti, KA1RB (Wisconsin).

Greetings from SM-Elect Kevin Bess, KK4BFN

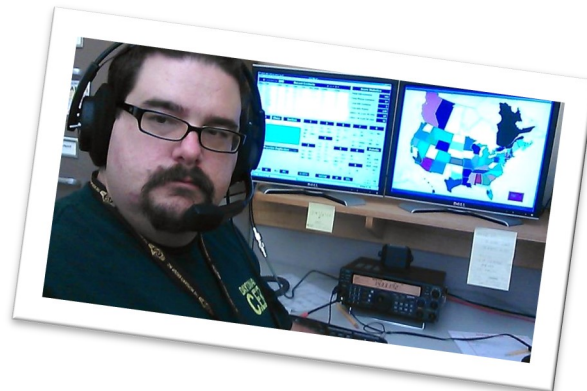
NFL Asst Section Manager

Hello to all my fellow hams!

Kevin, KK4BFN here. First off, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who voted, whether you voted for me or for Scott, KK4ECR. If you didn't vote, that's okay too!

As you probably have heard by now, I won the election by 117 votes, which means, come July 1st, I will be the new Section Manager for the North Florida Section. This is my first time as a Section Manager, but I have been told by Steve, WB4OMM, and a few others, that they are willing to help me out with any questions I may have.

As my term starts, I don't have any plans to make any major changes. I want to get a good feel of the section, which means making visits to club meetings and hamfests. I will probably not be attending other



Field Day 2018 events, but most likely will be attending some in 2019, and possibly Winter Field Day 2018 events (if they are being held).

I am sure I will have more for you here soon. Hope to see a lot of you over the next two years!

Thank you!

73,

Kevin - KK4BFN

kk4bfm@arrl.org

kk4bfm@gmail.com



QCWA Announces Changes in Life Member Dues

Ken Simpson, W8EK

QCWA Chapter 62 President and National Director

During May, National QCWA Director Ken Simpson, W8EK, attended the QCWA Board meeting that was held in Wilmington, Ohio, on May 17. There was a number of the normal housekeeping and administrative things handled at this meeting. The major item that affects QCWA members is the fact that quarterly life member dues will be discontinued effective July 1. At the present time, a ham with 25 years experience may join QCWA with a single life time payment of \$500, or with four quarterly payments of \$130 each. It is only the quarterly payment option that is changing. The one time payment will continue.

QCWA 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 June 28. 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!

Come on! It's Field Day Time Again!

by Scott Roberts, KK4ECR – Northern Florida Section PIC

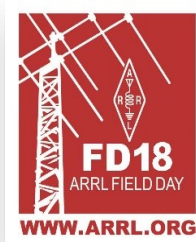
It is that time of the year again – **FIELD DAY!!!** It is not too late to get the word out to the public about what we do, where we do it, and why we do it! Getting the word out about Field Day is not only up to the Emergency Coordinator, Club President or Public Information Officer – Everyone can help out! Here are a few things you can still do to get the work out to the public.

Invite the media. Go to the website of every news media outlet for your county. Get the names and email addresses of every news anchor, news reporter, meteorologist and news outlet manager. DO NOT send a press release. (press releases have their place, but that place is not to promote Field Day.) Send a **personal email** to every one of the names you found. Introduce yourself and organization. Briefly explain Field Day and invite them to attend. I have found that using this method gets much better response, and as a result, much better attendance.

Invite Public Officials. The Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Chief, County Commissioners, School Board Director... and the list can go on. You can send a **personal email** to these officials, but a **personal visit** or phone call is always best in these cases. Shows them that you care about the community as much as they do. Always be sure to leave something with them (a brochure or business card) with your contact information on it and where your Field Day location will be.

*** As a side note, I use Google Sheets to keep the list of names, email addresses, news outlet and position. I then use a plugin called "Mailmerge with Attachments" to send out personalized email to every person, addressed to them specifically, and using their name in the email. ***

Offer a "Draw." Offer the public a reason to come visit you at Field Day. This is not a simple, "If you build it, they will come" scenario. You need to have something that will attract attention. A "Get on the Air Station" is one great option. Another is to offer a ham radio licensing class and test session. Yet another is to simply offer "Intro to Amateur Radio" classes and put together a "snappy" presentation to explain Amateur Radio to the public. Many organizations and clubs offer a BBQ lunch or dinner to attract the public. You can also you any combination of these.



Encourage your people. Ask everyone in your organization and club to invite someone to Field Day. Give them brochures to hand out. Make a Flyer that promotes your Field Day and location and pass it out everywhere. Encourage your members to post about Field Day on Facebook and twitter.

To wrap things up, promoting Field Day is a "law of numbers." The more people you invite, the more people that will potentially show up. I can promise you this...if you do not invite anyone, you stand a good chance that no one will show up.

Please feel free to email me at kk4ecr@gmail.com with any question you may have.

Factors That Seem to Make for Unsuccessful HF Antennas

Gordon L. Gibby KX4Z

Web Wise

I've had the unfortunate experience of either constructing, or assisting volunteers who have utilized, HF antennas that turned out to be basically unworkable --- unable to either hear or contact stations that are normally able to be reached with conventional dipoles at normal heights of 20-40 feet.

I've come to the conclusion that there are two factors that can doom an HF antenna:

- **short length** leading to extremely low "radiation resistance" and resulting miniscule efficiency;
- and
- **nearly complete absorption of the signal** by nearby attenuating structures (usually man-made houses or buildings or the ground or a poor desired connection to the ground).

Continue reading on the NFL web site: http://arrrl-nfl.org/?page_id=1456

Alachua County ARES Hosts HF OCF Dipole Construction

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

HF Emergency Communications was one of the goals chosen by Alachua County ARES participants for the 2018 calendar year (<http://qsl.net/nf4rc/2018/CoreCapabilities.pdf>). So for the May "LunchNLab" radio-gear-building session, we mentored hams building the center balun section for an off-center-fed, multi-band dipole, similar to a popular (and expensive) commercial OCF dipole that has well served the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society Field Day operations. Some of the features that were attractive for deployed emergency HF communications included: inverted V requiring only one high support; no significant wire tension allowing light-weight antenna wire; multiple bands without a tuner; all HF bands with a tuner. It didn't hurt that we're able to build a workable homebrew version for only about 10% of the (admittedly much more rugged) commercial design!

After some experimentation we developed a kit-like set of instructions: <http://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/2018/OCFCenterBalunInstructions.pdf>

LunchNLab started with a fun catch-up chit-chat session at noon, at a nearby Wendy's. Handout-instructions were distributed and then eleven hams from ARES, GARS, and even some non-affiliated hams, met at a member's home, and started building in earnest, over flowing the kitchen and breakfast nook, even spilling out of the house. 2" standard PVC plumbing caps and couplers sprouted SO-239 sockets and eye-bolt hanging hooks. Teflon-coated wires got bundled tightly, then turns on FT-140-43 (or -61) ferrite cores were carefully counted. This was the first time some of our members had ever dealt with ferrite cores, so a lot of education was going on all the while. Every build included a 1:1 current balun, but some builders chose 4:1 and others 6:1 voltage baluns for the matching system. Some used lower-powered Type 43, and others higher power handling Type 61 ferrite. As usual, participants went at different speeds, and everyone helped each other time and time again.

Lots of radio learning going on!

Vann Chesney, AC4QS, arrived with a 4:1 design already quite far along in a rectangular electrical pvc box, and moved right into cutting and attaching his 90- and 45-foot antenna wires. 3" sections of plain electri-

cal PVC conduit with drilled holes make our inexpensive end-insulators. Hoisted aloft by the test-rope over the front oak tree, measurements began through 50 feet of RG8x. A bit on the long side for 80 meters, it will need a tiny length adjustment, but already it handled the entire 40 meter and 20 meter bands, and with a tuner, would work acceptably for just about *all the HF bands* with relatively low losses on the coax feed. Another success!

Our next LunchNLab will be a very clever and inexpensive regulated bench power supply, that comes with its own clear plastic case. (<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0130LKYWE>) That will then make a very nice charger for a 12-volt gelcell, to power the following month's project--the inexpensive and innovative 3-30 MHz uBitx SSB/CW low power transceiver. We keep having fun while learning! (uBitx: <http://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/ubitx/>) The uBitx people have just released new and improved firmware for their multi-thousands-delivered-already low-power kit, and hardware experimental improvements are abounding on the bitx20 group on groups.io.



Vann Chesney AC4QS making careful, methodical measurements from under the oak tree.

OFC Dipole (continued)



First group finished: (L->R) Stewart Reissener KK4DXF, Zeev Glozman KN4JQE, Vann Chesney AC4QS, Shannon Boal K4GLM, Jeff Capehart W4UFL and Mike Shaffer KD4INH. Vann completed his and made successful SWR measurements with his anten-



Hurricane Season Emergency Communications Reading list

Gordon Gibby, KX4Z

ARRL After Action Report—Hurricane Season 2017 Tons of great information in that report. <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/2017%20Hurricane%20Season%20AAR.pdf> There are reports from some NFL Sections in there!

A Failure of Initiative The full impact of just what CAN happen can be seen in the Communications chapter of the Hurricane Katrina report produced by Congress. <http://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/KatrinaComms.pdf>



W4DXCC by SEDCO

W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention is all about the Fellowship. This is our 14th year. Please come and experience W4DXCC located in **Pigeon Forge, TN** at the MainStay Hotel and Conference Center. Bring the family for a wonderful weekend of Fun!

Milton Amateur Radio Club

23rd Annual Ham Fest

(The Best Ham Fest in North West Florida)



\$3,000.00 in Prizes

Friday 13th July (2018) Saturday 14th July

Vendors: 9:00 AM
General Public: 12:00 PM
Close: 5:00 PM

Vendors: 7:00 AM
General Public: 8:00 AM
Close: 1:00 PM

Admission: \$6.00 per person
Tables: \$ 15.00 per table
Tailgater: \$ 10.00

(Ticket Good for Fri & Sat)
(Tables Good for Fri & Sat)
(Also Good for Fri & Sat)

(Limited Tailgate Area – 1st come 1st served)

FCC Examinations Saturday 14th July 9:00 AM



Prize (1)
Icom IC-7300 SDR
160-6 M HF Transceiver



Prize (2)
Icom IC-7100 DSTAR
160-6 M HF Transceiver



Prize (3)
Yaesu FT-2980R
144 VHF Transceiver

Prize 1, Prize 2, Prize 3, Drawing is on Saturday 14, 2018 at
1:00 PM - You **DO NOT** have to be present for Prizes 1,2,3,
The ½ hourly / hourly prizes you **DO** have to be present to win.
Order your Prize Tickets! Be a WINNER – Be a WINNER

Additional Contact Information: <http://www.miltonarc.org/>

Ken Dunn (Chairman) 850-994-5726

E-Mail: kennethmdunnk4svx@gmail.com

Robert E. Perry (Co Chair) 850-390-1665 (24/7) E-Mail: W5CL@att.net

LARA Supports March of Dimes March for Babies

Frank Anders, KK4 MBX

A team from Lake Amateur Radio Association (LARA) ARES continued their long tradition of support for the March of Dimes, Lake and Sumter March for Babies by providing communications with the rest stops, and key intersections. The team also assisted event organizers and local authorities in traffic control and logistics throughout the event. John, WB4HV, walked the route as the last walker marking the end of the line so that stations along the route knew they could start wrapping up and ensuring that everyone com-

pleted the walk without incident. Eli, N4ELI, circled the route on his motorcycled assisting with supplies deliveries and logistics support.

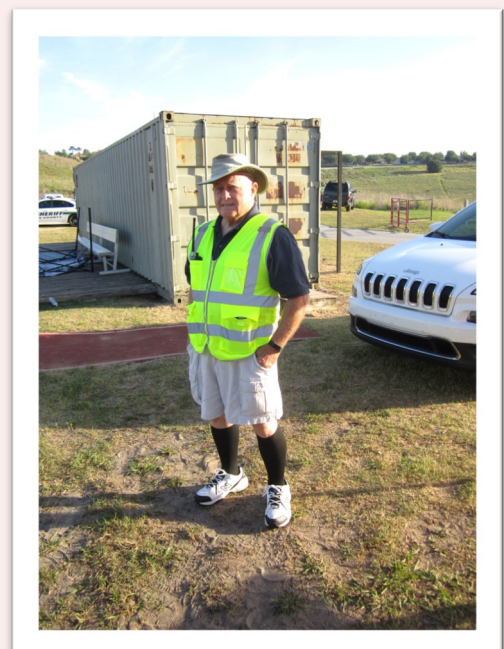
This year the march was held at the National Training Center, South Lake Hospital Campus, Clermont, FL. Our team included Strait, KT4YA; Frank, KK4MBX; Fred, NF2F; Eli, N4ELI; John, WB4HV; Ed, N4ZIV; Lou, KK4, MGE; Dennis, NU4V; Steve, KK4VFO; Garry, KB3ADM; Emil, WA2UPK; and Les, KK4SED.



LARA Team



Net Control



WB4HV

AMATEUR RADIO IN ACTION...JOIN US!

June 23 & 24



Free!



Come join us for ARRL FIELD DAY with multiple clubs communicating worldwide. See new computer communication technologies. Bring the family. FUN for ALL!

Work a real radio station. No license required! No morse code required to participate, or for a Ham license!

A great opportunity to enjoy, learn about, and get involved in Ham Radio.

Mala Compra Park

79 Mala Compra Road, Palm Coast, FL

On A1A turn East directly across from Bing's Landing. Go ½ mile on Mala Compra Road. The community center is on the left. If you go too far, you'll hear a *splash*.

Kicking off at 2:00 PM for 24 hours.

More information is available at

CQFlorida.org

Lake Amateur Radio Association Refurbished Tower Trailer for Field Day

Frank Anders, KK4 MBX

A team of four LARA members; Bill Cutler KN4BIT, Jim Kimball K5AUP, Phil Erickson KC4LGC, Richard Kunc W4KBX and Strait Hollis KT4YA, recently completed a multi-week refurbishing project on the club's tower trailer. The project was originally conceived of and built in late 2010/early 2011 and was first put into use for Field Day 2011. With the leadership of then LARA President, Doug Rehman K4AC, Jim Kimball K5AUP designed and built the support structures needed to create the unit. All materials, including the 35ft tilt-over crank-up steel tower and a boat trailer, were donated.

The trailer has been used at the past 7 LARA/ARES Field Days and, with this fresh refurbishing, will be ready for Field Day 2018. In addition to the mounted 35ft crank-up tower, the trailer has racks to transport a 35ft crank-up Alumator and the five triband beams that are used at FD. A storage box contains smaller items needed for operations.

The refurbishing steps were detailed and included:

- Removing the tower from the support structures and separating the top and bottom sections.
- Hand prep and paint all metal surfaces of trailer frame, steel support structures and tower sections
- Remove, disassemble, sandblast, reassemble and paint both tilting & lifting winches. Inspect both tilting and lifting cables for safety.
- Remove, sandblast, paint and remount the storage box.
- Create new swivel pulley arrangement for better tilting operation
- Remove old and install new tail/stop/turn lights and new side marker (mid-trailer) lights, including dedicated ground wire for all lights. Solder and shrink seal all connections. Create mount for outrigger safety flags.
- Inspect and repack wheel bearings with new bearings. Install new wheels/tires and spare tire mount.
- Replace safety chains with new.

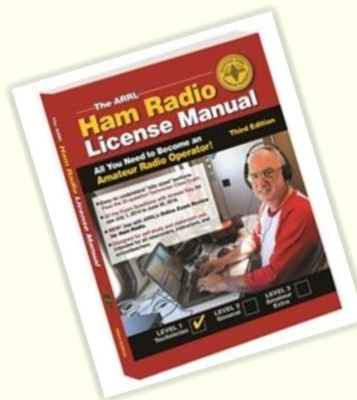
The work is completed, and the trailer is ready to roll on Friday June 22 for FD 2018



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

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

Lake ARA

- Monthly on the 3rd Saturday, prior to monthly meeting. (Except December)
- 8:00 AM
- [LARA Clubhouse](http://www.lakeara.org) (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.

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/>

Kentucky	6/2/2018	6/3/2018	Paducah Amateur Radio Association
West Virginia	6/16/2018	6/17/2018	West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council
Maryland-DC	8/11/2018	8/12/2018	Anne Arundel Radio Club
Kansas	8/25/2018	8/26/2018	Kansas QSO Party
Ohio	8/25/2018	8/26/2018	Ohio QSO Party
Hawaii	8/25/2018	8/27/2018	Hawaii QSO Party
Colorado	9/1/2018	9/2/2018	Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association
Alabama	9/1/2018	9/2/2018	Alabama QSO Party
Tennessee	9/2/2018	9/3/2018	Tennessee QSO Party
Iowa	9/15/2018	9/16/2018	Story County ARC
New Hampshire	9/15/2018	9/16/2018	Port City Amateur Radio Club
New Jersey	9/15/2018	9/16/2018	New Jersey QSO Party
Washington	9/15/2018	9/16/2018	Western Washington DX Club
Maine	9/22/2018	9/23/2018	Wireless Society of Southern Maine
Texas	9/29/2018	9/30/2018	Texas 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@arrl.net.

Section Nets

Northern Florida STM Report

Florida Hamfest/Convention Calendar

Operating Events

Emergency Communications Archive **New * New * New**

Web Wise

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 – Appointment Pending

Section Public Information Coordinator – Appointment Pending

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 – Appointment Pending

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.