



# QST NFL



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

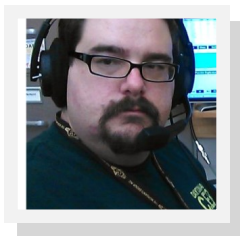
Volume 5, Issue 9

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

September 2018

## Kevin's Take:

NFL Section Manager  
Kevin Bess, KK4BFN



Greetings North Florida Hams!

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

Here we are! Month number two, and the section is not in total chaos! Not much to report right now, as work has been keeping me busy, plus I am also trying to go back to school to finish my associates degree (I'm working on my Associate of Arts degree, heading for a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering). Add in my SM duties, and it keeps me hopping!

This upcoming month, I have a couple of planned appearances. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, the section managers and SECs from all three Florida sections will be meeting down in Vero Beach to have a meeting of the minds. I'm looking forward to seeing my counterparts from the other Florida sections and getting to know them. Also, September 5<sup>th</sup>, I am planning on the OARC meeting. My work ended up getting in the way last time, but this time, my PM has promised me he has no plans on sending me anywhere to interfere with this meeting! September 12<sup>th</sup> I will get to attend my home club's meeting, the DB-CERT ART (Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team). Then on September 13<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending the Sumter Counter RACES / Em-comm meeting at the Sumter County EOC in Wildwood, FL. It's going to be a tight schedule to leave Orlando around 4pm and be able to make it to Wildwood by 6pm, but I'm going to try my best! Then September 18<sup>th</sup> is the DBARA (Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association) meeting that I am going to try to attend.

Keep in mind the upcoming hamfests, Pensacola's Hamfest is going to be in September on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Website:

<http://www.pensacolahamfest.com/>), and the Bahia Shiner's Tailgate happening on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, as well, from 8 AM until noon. (Website: <http://radio.bahia Shrine.org/Tailgate.htm>) Then on October 27<sup>th</sup> we have the Jacksonville FREE Hamfest from 7AM until Noon. (Website: <http://nofars.net/home/hamfest>).

Well, that's all I have for this report. I want to bid everyone a good day, and close by saying "Get involved, get active, get happy! Stay safe, get on the air (no matter the mode), and have fun!" Amateur radio is the greatest hobby, and I am proud to be a ham!

**EVERYONE COUNTS!**

**73, Kevin KK4BFN**

**NFL Section Manager**

**ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™**

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

## If If You Build It, They Will NOT Come

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, Northern Florida Section PIC  
[kk4ecr@gmail.com](mailto:kk4ecr@gmail.com)



I cannot claim all of the ideas in the article as my own. I had started this article heading in a slightly different direction when I read a post on Facebook from Gene King (Thanks, Gene!!!). In his post Gene says, "...it becomes rather apparent that they simply do not want you to know who to contact." So, I want to take the thoughts I got from Gene and merge it with the ideas I had.

As a public service organization, we need to be visible. Many times, we appear to play "hide and seek," or act like afraid for the public and our served agencies to ask us questions or know who we are – and, just because we have an ARES organization, does not mean the public knows about it, knows who we are, and/or knows how to contact us.

Here are some ideas that can help us to be more visible and more approachable:

- 1) Get an email address for your organization (*yourARESGroup@gmail.com*). **Gmail** is free and easy to setup. This will open many additional options for you.
- 2) Once you get a Gmail account, get a **Google Voice** Number. This is also free and makes it easy for people to contact you. In our county, the Google Voice number is forwarded to the cell phone of one of the AEC's or PIO, so that it can be answered when people call. It makes your organization look much more professional and people-friendly when the caller gets an actual person on the phone.
- 3) Have and maintain a **website**. It is one thing to HAVE a website; it is yet another thing to MAINTAIN that site and keep it with current information. In this case, WORDPRESS is your friend. A WordPress site is relatively easy to setup and very easy to maintain and add content.
- 4) Use the other **Google features** that are available. We will not go into detail on these, but they are a very valuable resource.
  - a. **Google Calendar** – add events to the calendar and share the calendar with the public so they know when and where you have events.
  - b. **Google Photos** – here you can upload photos of your events into Galleries. Add the links to these galleries to your website for everyone to see what you are doing.
  - c. **Google Docs** – upload important documents for your organization here and make them accessible to those who need them.

"Hide and Seek" is not a game we should play in our ARES organizations. Just because we build an organization, does not mean the people will automatically come. We need to be visible; we need to be approachable; we need to let the public know how they can contact us and ask questions.

One of the keys to being a successful ARES / Amateur Radio organization is to make sure the public can find you and contact you.

[Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES\)](#)



## 53rd Annual Melbourne Hamfest

Jim Smallwood - N7RCS

2018 Melbourne Hamfest Chairman

Greetings, and a friendly reminder, from the 2018 Melbourne Hamfest!

We hope you're making plans to join us for our 53rd Hamfest. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

The dates are October 12-13 at the Melbourne Auditorium, at 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, Florida 32901

Admission tickets are \$7.00 for everyone over the age of twelve.

We've got a great line-up of forums planned, and our popular tailgate area will have a lot to offer. Oh, and don't forget, we have prizes!

Visit [www.pcars.org](http://www.pcars.org) for Hamfest details on lodging, forums, directions to the Hamfest, tickets, consignment tables, and more.

Come early, stay late, and enjoy our hamfest, we believe it's one of the best in the Southeast!



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## Digital Emergency Communications

Here is a link to [arrl-nfl.org](http://arrl-nfl.org) website to some exciting new articles provided by regular contributor Gordon Gibby, KX4Z.

[http://arrl-nfl.org/?page\\_id=1456](http://arrl-nfl.org/?page_id=1456)

### Radio-only WININK System for Traffic Handling

This article is designed to assist the nation's amateur radio traffic handlers in taking advantage of the radio-only capabilities of HF WINLINK gateway stations—without any usage of the Internet at all—in the furtherance of traffic passage. Read the article by **Gordon Gibby KX4Z**. [Radio Only Winlink For The Traffic Handler](#)

Web Wise

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### External Daughterboard Modification for uBitx

The uBitx has some unruly harmonics that are a bit higher than FCC limits. My solution was a small external daughterboard with three relays to separate the "in" and "out" switching of the (otherwise excellent) filters — bleed through inside relays doing double duty was found to be the problem. So here is a construction document complete with the github references of how to get the pcb gerber files and all the components and assemble this little \$15 fix, by **Gordon Gibby KX4Z**. [uBitx External Daughterboard Construction Document](#)

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**A Primer on the ICS-CTRL Raspberry-Pi Based Repeater Controller** Here's how to get your Raspberry-Pi controller going, written by **Gordon Gibby KX4Z**. [HOW-TO on the ICS-CTRL Board](#)

## QCWA Chapter 62 Reports

Ken Simpson, W8EK  
President of Chapter 62

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 62, based in Ocala, FL, held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 23. When we arrived at our regular meeting location at the Grace Buffet, we were met with a sign that said "Closed for Construction" even though it had been open a couple of days earlier. After some considerable consultation with the members that were there early, we decided to move the meeting to Bob Evans, about 1 1/2 miles to the SW. We had our meeting there, although it was not too satisfactory to try to have a meeting with others surrounding us.

At the time of this writing, we do not know where the next meeting will be held. It will be on Thursday, October 25, at 12:30 PM.

Contact Ken, W8EK at [w8ek@flham.net](mailto:w8ek@flham.net), or (352) 732-8400 to get the latest info.

Chapter 62 also holds a net at 9 AM every Saturday morning on 3940 KHz.



L to R - Doug, W3HH; W3HH XYL; K9SSL XYL; Mike, K9SSL



L to R—JoAnn, KM4KKL, XYL of W1DOH; Charles, W1DOH; W8DYV XYL; Dick, W8DYV; Sue, N8AJU;

**www.PensacolaHamfest.com**  
**September 21 & 22, 2018**  
**Pensacola Interstate Fair Grounds**  
6655 Mobile Hwy Pensacola, FL 32526  
Lat: 30.472802 Long: -87.312145



Sponsored by:

### Five Flags Amateur Radio Association

Friday Sept 21: 1pm-7pm (Vendor setup 8am-Noon)

Saturday Sept 22: 8am - 3pm

Exams: Saturday Sept 22 at 9am (see website for details & requirements)

Admission \$6 covers both days Tailgate spaces \$5  
Tables \$15 each (electricity avail) RV spots \$30 (water & electric only)

**Over \$3000 in prizes!!!**

ICOM IC-7300 Yaesu FT-891  
"Hammo-Can" complete Go Box AnyTone AT-D868UV DMR radio

For more info: [www.PensacolaHamfest.com](http://www.PensacolaHamfest.com) email: [pensacolahamfest@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolahamfest@gmail.com)  
Or contact Tom W9TAB 850-776-8360

To purchase advanced tickets and register for table space fill out the sheet below, make checks payable to FFARA and mail to: PO Box 1223 Gonzalez, FL 32560 or go to our website.

## LARA couples with Lake County Emergency Management for Weather Awareness

Frank Anders, KK4MBX  
[twfrank111@aol.com](mailto:twfrank111@aol.com)

As the peak hurricane season is approaching, LARA member Don, K4DRS, worked with Lake County Emergency Management and National Weather Service, Melbourne to arrange a SkyWarn class August 4, 2018. The class quickly reached its maximum attendance with 13 LARA Members and over 30 others from Lake County signing up. Due to high levels of interest Don and the county are working on a follow up class for those who could not make it into this class.

LARA Attendees include: Don K3DRS, Al W4ALR, Alton KN4KOU, Carl K8BBT, Charles KB1KHD, Chris KM4RNR, Jason K4AUS, Jean KV4VF, John WB4HV, Les KK4SED, Seaborn KN4GDZ, Steve W4SDC, and Teresa KN4CFJ.





## FCC Testing Information

### LMARS FCC Testing

- Third Saturday every month
- 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.

### Hog County Amateur Radio Association

- First Saturday, 11:00 AM, starting September 1, 2018
- Cross Connection Church, 1451 West County Road 476, Bushnell, FL 33513
- Info: [sumterVE@gmail.com](mailto:sumterVE@gmail.com)

## Upcoming QSO Parties

Alan Sewell, N5NA

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

| State/Province | Start Date ☐ | End Date   | Sponsor Website  |
|----------------|--------------|------------|--|
| Alabama        | 9/1/2018     | 9/2/2018   | <a href="#">Alabama QSO Party</a>                              |
| Colorado       | 9/1/2018     | 9/2/2018   | <a href="#">Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association</a>           |
| Tennessee      | 9/2/2018     | 9/3/2018   | <a href="#">Tennessee QSO Party</a>                            |
| New Jersey     | 9/15/2018    | 9/16/2018  | <a href="#">New Jersey QSO Party</a>                           |
| New Hampshire  | 9/15/2018    | 9/16/2018  | <a href="#">Port City Amateur Radio Club</a>                   |
| Iowa           | 9/15/2018    | 9/16/2018  | <a href="#">Story County ARC</a>                               |
| Washington     | 9/15/2018    | 9/16/2018  | <a href="#">Western Washington DX Club</a>                     |
| Maine          | 9/22/2018    | 9/23/2018  | <a href="#">Wireless Society of Southern Maine</a>             |
| Texas          | 9/29/2018    | 9/30/2018  | <a href="#">Texas QSO Party</a>                                |
| California     | 10/6/2018    | 10/7/2018  | <a href="#">California QSO Party</a>                           |
| Arizona        | 10/13/2018   | 10/14/2018 | <a href="#">ARRL Arizona Section &amp; Catalina Radio Club</a> |
| Pennsylvania   | 10/13/2018   | 10/14/2018 | <a href="#">The PA QSO Party Association</a>                   |
| South Dakota   | 10/13/2018   | 10/14/2018 | <a href="#">South Dakota QSO Party</a>                         |
| New York       | 10/20/2018   | 10/21/2018 | <a href="#">Rochester DX Association</a>                       |
| Illinois       | 10/21/2018   | 10/22/2018 | <a href="#">Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club</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@arrl.net](mailto: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** – Kevin Bess, KK4BFN

**Assistant Section Managers** – Joseph D. Bushnel W2DWR, John C Reynolds W4IJJ, Dave Davis WA4WES, Jeff Capehart W4UFL, Neil Light KK4VHX, Ray Crepeau K1HG, Steve Szabo WB4OMM

**Section Emergency Coordinator** – Karl Martin KG4HBN

**Section Public Information Coordinator** – Scott Roberts KK4ECR

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

**Section Technical Coordinator** – Frank Haas KB4T

**Affiliated Club Coordinator** – *Appointment Pending*

**Section Traffic Manager** – Tom Housworth, KI0JO

**Official Observer Coordinator** – Robert Leasko, WB8PAF

**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](http://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](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).