



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

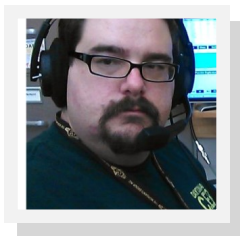
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October 2018

Kevin's Take:

NFL Section Manager
Kevin Bess, KK4BFN



Greetings North Florida Hams!

Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!

Well, looks like we were lucky this time and missed getting hit with Hurricane Florence. The emails were flying around, but for the most part, as far as the North Florida Section is concerned, everything was good.

As for making my rounds, I attended the September Orlando Amateur Radio Club's meeting. A great group of people and they had a very good presentation on Digital Radio Hotspots. It was good to the point where I was taking notes for further research! I had a meeting scheduled with Sumter County RACES group, but my employer surprised me with an impromptu service call. I want to thank Gene King, KI4LEH, for the invitation and will reschedule to make it out there.

Also, I attended my home club's meeting, DB-CERT ART (Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team), and caught up with my fellow hams. Here is where I noticed something different. We do a few events during the year; the Daytona Half Marathon, the Daytona 500 Special Event Station, Florida QSO party, Field Day, and a few others. I was looking at all the events on our handout, and had to stop and think "Hey, I'm the Section Manager now. I have to see if I can attend these events and still make meetings around the state." I'm really starting to grasp what is entailed in being the SM; there is a lot of work involved!

As always, I would like everyone to keep in mind the upcoming hamfests:

- Melbourne Hamfest – October 12-13, 2018 - <http://www.pcars.org/hamfest/2018/index.htm>

This is a Friday/Saturday event! I will be attending this on Saturday!

- Jacksonville Free Hamfest - October 27th, 2018 - <http://nofars.net/home/hamfest>)

Admission is free! Tailgating is free! From 7:00 AM until Noon. I am going to try to attend this one!

- Orlando Hamcation 2019 – February 8th-10th, 2019 – <https://www.hamcation.com/>

This is the big one for us in Florida, and is also the Southern Division Convention! I will be attending Saturday and Sunday, but I am pushing for all three days!

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™

386-547-2838

kk4bfn@arrl.org

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Email your QST NFL input to
WB2VYK@gmail.com

Phil Royce, KE4PWE, Speaks at Sumter RACES/EmComm Meeting

Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor

At the invitation of Sumter County RACES Officer, Gene King, KI4LEH, I was pleased to attend the September 13th meeting at the Sumter County Emergency Operations Center in Wildwood, FL.

David Casto, Sumter County Director of Emergency Management, opened the meeting. The speaker for the evening was Phil Royce, KE4PWE, Communications Branch Director/State of Florida SWIC (Statewide Interoperability Coordinator), State Alerting Authority—COG Coordinator for the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

In addition to the local members, there were several Amateurs from around the state in attendance. Section Emergency Coordinator, Ben Henley, KI4IGX, drove up from Sebring, Highlands County. SM, Jeff Beals, WA4AW, was there from the South Florida Section. Shannon Boal, K4GLM, Radio Tech working for the Alachua County Sheriff also joined the group.

Phil's message regarding the continuing need to improve interoperability resonated with the group. Part of his responsibility is making different communications technologies work together.

Questions were raised about differences and requirements between RACES and ARES.

Gene King, KI4LEH, Sumter County RACES Officer explained that RACES is governed under strict rules under the authority of Emergency Management. This organization is not governed by ARRL. RACES volunteers must submit to a background check and are required to take the ICS 100 and ICS 700 courses.

<https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/trainingmaterials.htm>

For more information on RACES in Sumter County: <https://www.sumtercountyfl.gov/996/Radio-Amateur-Civil-Emergency-Service>

For ARES information, Gene referred me to Ed Nance, N4ZIV, who is the ARES EC for Sumter County. ARES is an ARRL program. Ed explained that the ARRL does not require training, other than the ham ticket. However, the agencies and organizations who may call on ARES during an emergency situation, sometimes do. So the answer to background checks and training for ARES volunteers is: "It depends."



L-R Shannon Boal K4GLM, Dave Casto, Phil Royce KE4PWE, Gene King KI4LEH.

There may be changes ahead for ARES. The ARRL's Board of Directors, Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG), is currently taking suggestions from all SMs and SECs regarding the ARES Strategic Plan that will be submitted to the Board in January for their consideration.

For more information on ARES in Sumter County: <https://sumtercountyares.com/emcomm-organizations.htm>

I'd like to hear from more Northern Florida counties regarding how their emergency communications are structured and what agencies/organizations are depending on them for communications in case of an emergency.

You can contact me at: wb2vyk@gmail.com



North Florida Amateur Radio Club Barrels Toward S.E.T. Full Scale Exercise with Co-Sponsorship from Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Led by volunteer exercise-planners Leland Gallup AA3YB and Susan Halbert KG4VWI, NFARC is geared up for their October 13th S.E.T. styled as a full scale exercise with expected interoperability with the Alachua County EOC, Region 3 MARC group, and possibly the Forestry Service. Three locations are already planned, including tower setup at the Santa Fe College by the MARC unit, travel trailer Incident Commander HF/VHF, EOC radio room activation and the Senior Center (shelter) location. Our other local club, the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society, is enthusiastically co-sponsoring this ARES event.

Additional volunteers are welcome, even if just to "watch and learn" from our mentors. Contact Gordon Gibby (docvacuumtubes@gmail.com) for information and assignment. The exercise will begin at 0815 on Saturday October 13th and conclude with a "hotwash" lunch debriefing around noon time.

The full-radio "tabletop" practice session was conducted using two nearby homes on Saturday September 15th, with seven volunteers participating: Alvin Osmena KM4DLF, EC Jeff Capehart W4UFL, Vann Chesney AC4QS, Gordon Gibby KX4Z, John Troupe KM4JTE, and leaders Leland Gallup AA3YB and Susan Halbert KG4VWI. Almost every mode, technology and radio segment was utilized, from voice and digital on 160 and 80 meters, to VHF, UHF deployable repeater available, and WIFI for updating a cloned prototype shelter bulletin system.

The main trouble spots detected during the Tabletop practice included:

Problem	Comment
HF operators not familiar with watching some indication of their output signal strength	Made obtaining adequately but linearly modulated digital signals difficult.
HF operators unused to operating on unusual bands	Never operated on 160 meters before - - didn't realize cw, digital AND voice are legal, and if necessary CAN be carried out upper side band (for compatibility with peer-to-peer winlink)
Remaining unfamiliarity with voice message passing procedures	Difficulties with ITU phonetics Difficulties with prowords Difficulties with normal "breaks" for fills
Didn't realize that WINLINK CMS doesn't care the method by which messages are uploaded or downloaded	Initially didn't recognize that packet uploaded messages can be downloaded by HF PACTOR or WINMOR --- or any other mode and vice versa
Unfamiliarity with WINLINK peer to peer capabilities	Didn't realize that either party (sending or receiving email) can initiate connection -- messages pass seamlessly in either or both directions.
Difficulties maintaining command net availability	Batteries fail, operators get distracted - -- and no response when NCS is called!
Difficulties keeping records	Need one person per radio and then a SCRIBE if busy

Huge successes for the TableTop exercise included the passage of a dozen and half messages, totaling more than 40 kilobytes (two pictures were transferred). Operators who had never worked VHF Packet became exposed to it; HF and voice skills were sharpened for several operators, and Vann Chesney was the star who made transfer of new "test bulletins" to our 2nd WIFI Shelter Bulletin Web Server look easy!

At the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society, a presentation about low-intensity Neighborhood HamWatch volunteering during disasters was very enthusiastically received, with 13 hams immediately volunteering to serve their neighborhoods --- and potentially being on the air during our S.E.T. to add even more realism to the exercise. The Neighborhood HamWatch concept has been a part of the North Florida Section Emergency Plan for at least four years. (see <http://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NFL-Section-Comm-Plan-FINAL-May-1-2016.pdf>)

Next training meeting for the group is Wednesday October 10th 7 PM at the Alachua County Red Cross. The full Simulated Emergency Test is Saturday October 13th 8:15 AM, check-in location is the Gainesville Senior Center.

ICS-201 for S.E.T.	https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/2018/ICS 201 SET Oct 18 v. 3 Sept 6 2018.pdf
ICS-205 for S.E.T.	https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/2018/ICS 205 SET Oct 18 v. 2 12 Sept 2018.pdf



(L to R) Vann Chesney AC4QS, Leland Gallup AA3YB and Susan Halbert KG4VWI discuss the Tabletop practice.



EC Jeff Capehart W4UFL, Alvin Osmena KM4DLF, Susan Halbert KG4VGI and Vann Chesney AC4QS begin to transact message traffic.

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 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!



Loften High School Participates in Annual National Fire Prevention Week

Bob Lightner/W4GJ, Trustee of K4WTL

William Travis Loften High School HAM Radio Club

Our HAM radio club at PAM @ Loften High School will participate again in the annual National Fire Prevention Week October 8-11. We will be operating using a "Special Event" call sign: **N4F** (look us up on QRZ.COM). There will be 11 other stations operating from the USA and Canada. Last year our students spoke to 64 different stations in several countries and gave them fire safety tips provided by the NFP. We only operated one hour on CW only. This year we will have 20 two-person teams communicating during school hours. Each team will try to beat every other team in making more contacts and passing along fire safety tips provided by the NFPA. Please QX for: **N4F** on **14.233 MHz** or **7.033 MHz +/- a few Hz**.

<https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/index.html>https://catalog.nfpa.org/Assets/ProductImages/Generic_Product/BAN18.png

Factoid: Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the [Great Chicago Fire](#), which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.



Silver Springs Radio Club Antenna Party

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

Father Time, along with some help from Hurricane Irma last year, left the antennas at Perry Field in really “worn” shape. So, how does the club fix them? How else, with an ANTENNA PARTY!!!

September 7th was a beautiful Friday in Ocala. Upon arrival to the site, there was a bald eagle sitting atop the Tribander, just watching over the proceedings. Slowly, everyone showed up and pretty soon, the crew from Ocala Electric Utility. Blue Smallwood and his crew, as always, do a fantastic job for us and we cannot thank them enough.

Shortly after arrival, John Cantrell, WB4MBU, showed up to work on the hardline and check the antennas we were sending up. After adding connectors and testing it out, it was ready to go. OEU had two bucket trucks for the job. One for the “under 50” crew and one for the tower crew.

First objective was to remove the Diamond X-300 off one of the poles and replace it with an Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, designed J-Pole, (not the Copper Cactus kind, the PVC kind). Replaced the coax on there, too. While that was being done, the old tribander (Cushcraft) was being taken down and replaced with a Mosley TA-33 donated to the club by Harold “Woody” Wood, W3HII, to which Ed Biedricki, WB2UKX completely rebuilt. The coils were *filthy* dirty and cracked, the driven element guts had to be replaced, so it was a complete overhaul. (SWR 1.1:1). First contacts were on 20 CW to Lithuania. The Diamond will be attached to a new 70 CM repeater donated by John, WB4MBU.

After that part of the project was done, the Diamond had to be remounted onto the tower. With some very creative engineering, it was finally attached to the north side of the tower at 80'. Steve Nash, KK4ZEI, was the leader on the “engineering”, along with Carl KC5CMX and Ed.

Lastly, a 10-meter dipole that had an open-air choke or a “dirty balun” that had come unwound. It had been up and unmaintained since around 2005, so with some tape and metal zip ties, mission accomplished. OEU also replaced the ropes on two of the other poles that another dipole will be hung on. While all this was being accomplished, Wayne Brown, N4FP, was repairing the ropes on the B & W Folded Dipole. One thing that we were heavy on was the wearing of hardhats. Anytime you went near something or someone up in the air, you had to wear one.

When all is said and done, we have 2 rhombics, one to east and one to the west. Each of them the west one has over 4,000' of wire and the east one has over 6,000'; a Sommer 704 (Log Periodic) at 65', a TA-33 Tribander at 100', the B&W at 60', the 10 M at 60' and a yet to be installed 40 M at 55',

plus two dual band antennas. That gives us a total of 7 HF and 2 dual band antennas at the antenna farm.

For more information on the SSRC, Perry Field and Hamfest, please check out the club's website at WWW.K4GSO.US or the Facebook page for more information.



The Silver Springs Radio Club cannot thank the crew from Ocala Electric Utility enough for their hard work and diligence. They did a fantastic job as always and we really appreciate it. Also, great show from the club members and all their hard work.



Definitely time for retirement, the old Cushcraft



Mosley up, Diamond down

The Silver Springs Radio Club Presents:

HAMFEST 2018

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 1, 2018
DOORS OPEN AT
7:30AM

Tickets to win an Icom 718. This is a separate drawing from the door prize. Only 250 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, Tower Electronics and many more!


PLENTY OF TAILGATE PARKING AVAILABLE!

	<u>PayPal Prepay</u>	<u>Cash at the Door</u>
<u>General Admission:</u>	6.00	7.00
<u>Tailgate Car and driver (1 stall)</u>	20.00	22.00
<u>Additional Stall:</u>	15.00	15.00

Some 6' & 8' tables available in limited quantities. Check website for prices and availability.

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

- 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

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.

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



Upcoming QSO Parties

Alan Sewell, N5NA

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

State/Province	Start Date	End Date	Sponsor Website
California	10/6/2018	10/7/2018	California QSO Party
Arizona	10/13/2018	10/14/2018	ARRL Arizona Section & Catalina Radio Club
Pennsylvania	10/13/2018	10/14/2018	The PA QSO Party Association
South Dakota	10/13/2018	10/14/2018	South Dakota QSO Party
New York	10/20/2018	10/21/2018	Rochester DX Association
Illinois	10/21/2018	10/22/2018	Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club

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 – 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 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.