



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

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Happy New Year!!!

Let's Make it a Great one!

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR

Northern Florida Section Public Information Coordinator (PIC)

Welcome to 2019!!! Before us, we have 365 days in which to build, not only our teams, but our relationships with our communities.

In order to be successful in this, we must start with a good plan – good goals. Every EC and PIO should take the time to write down plans and goals for 2019.

Be sure to include:

- What events you wish to support in your county in 2019.
- How you plan to build existing relationships with those in your community.
 - Contact public officials and served agencies at least one per month.
- How you plan to create new relationships with those in your community.
- What events can you participate in, in order to build public awareness for your group and what they do.
 - Local fairs
 - Any public event where booths are available
 - Set up a “Get on the Air” station and allow the public to get on the radio.
- How you can enlist the assistance of your membership to help you in accomplishing your plans and goals.
 - Start now to plan and promote for Field Day 2019 to the public – Plan it big!



This is just a starting point. Your plans and goals need to be specific to your county. Please take the time to put together your list and email it to me at kk4ecr@gmail.com. I'd like to compile a list – the goals you create may help others in their goals as well.

I wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous 2019!!!



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

North Florida Ham Developing Disaster WINLINK Extension

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Nick Simoncini KG4NJS, a communications coordinator in the government sector, is working to develop an innovative extension to the WINLINK ham radio email system to make it much easier for large numbers of emails to flow out of disaster-stricken areas.

The idea is that, in a disaster such as the Puerto Rico volunteer effort, a licensed ham radio volunteer upon reaching a cut-off area, would set up a WIFI web-server. Anyone in the area would be able to access the web-server easily with only a smartphone or a computer, click on a web page, and be able to fill in a simple form to create their own email message to loved ones who have email addresses. All the registration and tracking of the survivor would be handled by the software, minimizing the work required of the ham radio volunteer. While the typical wifi signal has limited range, news would likely spread fast that an email outlet has been created, and extension wifi systems might also be utilized. Estimates for potential email captures reach into the thousands per day of operation per station. The web system programming will enforce certain limitations so that the system is judiciously utilized.

Emails so captured would be computer-checked for obvious disallowed communications, and packaged for the amateur radio operator to review (if deemed appropriate) -- then spliced into a small number of packaged files, they get dropped into WINLINK emails as attachments and whisk out of the area on shortwave, long-distance WINLINK communications back to undamaged areas. Any soundcard or PACTOR mode could be utilized to reach undamaged stations "back home." Any standard WINLINK gateway in undamaged areas with surviving Internet receives the signal and injects the cargo onto the Internet.

Nick's genius is to provide a unpackaging system that automatically responds to emails sent to a special email address. Once sent by the ham in the disaster area, no hams have to do anything else. The magic of the cloud handles it from there. Server software will receive the email, grab the attachment, parse it, and send all the embedded messages off to their proper email recipients. Of course there will be an admin por-

tal that can be used to monitor the entire progress. The general outlines of the proposed service were discussed on a WINLINK development forum.

Why all the packaging? The reason is *efficiency* – WINLINK error-corrected systems have overhead requirements for every setup of a error-corrected transfer, so by concatenating a number of disaster emails into larger attachments, the scarce ham radio throughput via bandwidth-limited systems on HF bands can be best utilized, minimizing usage of the spectrum.

Nick is steadily moving forward with his development. An early, incomplete demonstration of the system may be available at the Feb. 2/3 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference in Gainesville, Florida, even though Nick has a conflicting engagement. (See: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019Conference/Preliminary2019Program.pdf>)



Lake Amateur Radio Association Holiday Party & Dinner

Frank Anders, KK4MBX, PIO

On December 14, Lake Amateur Radio Association, LARA, held its annual Holiday Party and Dinner. It was addended by many LARA members. During the event our President, Jay, N4KXO, presented Achievement and contribution awards to three individuals for their dedication and service to LARA: John, WB4HV; Kevin N4KM; and Gordon, AC4US who was not able to attend.

Jay also presented the President's Award to Paul, WN4AMO for his many years of service to the club and willingness to step up and return to leadership positions when asked.

This year, the board of directors approved an additional award presented to Jay, N4KXO for his dedication, leadership, and steady direction throughout the years.



(L) Jay, N4KXO, LARA President, is presented with leadership award by Board of Directors.



(L) Jay, N4KXO, presents award to John, WB4HV.



(L) Jay, N4KXO, presents award to Kevin, N4KM



(L) Jay, N4KXO, presents award to Paul, WN4AMO



Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference— February 2-3

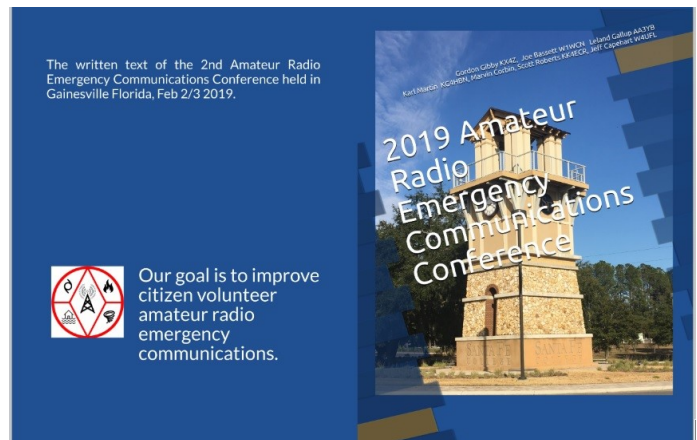
by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

The North Florida Amateur Radio Club (<https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/>) is developing its 2nd conference on ham radio emergency communications, Saturday/Sunday Feb 2/3 at Santa Fe College in Gainesville Florida.

<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019/EmergencyConference/2019ConferenceInformation.pdf>

If you're on ARES CONNECT, you can do a basic registration here: <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/EventsV1/Event/Summary.aspx?EventID=7178703> We are working to make that work for additional Sections.

Regular registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9OPwQoo2yKbVzcpIRc_oBil0yBSvLJPmtIXBAimDHPm0HEw/viewform

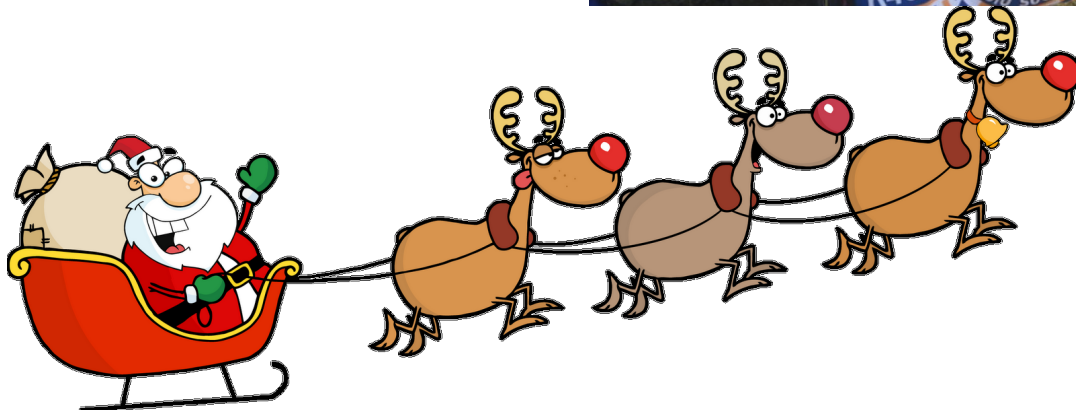


Gainesville Amateur Radio Club Helps Youngsters Reach Santa Over The Radio

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

In Gainesville, Santa arrives by helicopter, and hams help make sure event organizers know when he is coming and even let the kids talk to Santa on the radio. Husband-and-wife team Vann and Carol Chesney (AC4QS and KG4FEX) almost single-handedly brought Santa and Mrs. Claus to Alachua County youngsters over the radio at the city-wide event featuring a helicopter touchdown.

With several of the club out with illness, and others members of GARS helping out with the helicopter landing area duties, Vann and Carol arrived quite early, set up their canopy, tables, radios and chairs and opened for business-- advertising a chance to speak to Santa over the radio!



Alachua County EOC Antenna Advancements Continue

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

With ever-increasing collaboration between local ham radio volunteers from NFARC and GARS, with the Alachua County Sheriff's dept & Emergency Management dept, the backup amateur radio antenna situation is getting better and better -- and new challenges are also being discovered.

In a massive tower climbing operation, managed by Sheriff's Dept. John Moorhouse, Ryan Lee, and members of the Alachua County Emergency Management office, three new dual-band vhf/uhf antennas were installed at the 60-foot level of the EOC tower. A new telephone pole was installed at the opposite corner of their massive EOC building, and a Buckmaster multi-band HF antenna was stretched across 175 feet of roof, with a tension rope for support.

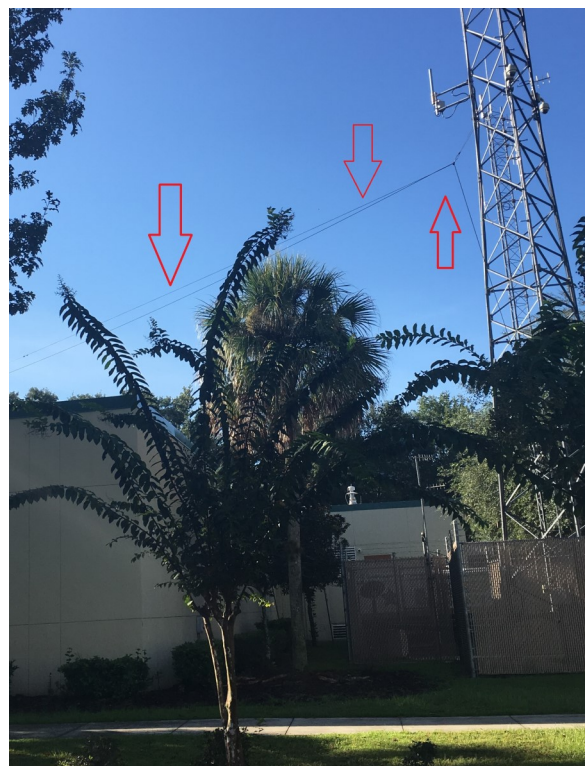
There were some problems. One of the three dual-band antennas showed an infinite SWR, and the HF antenna was "creatively" installed compared to the instructions. In the last month, efforts by local hams and John Moorhouse and Ryan Lee have made huge strides -- fixed a faulty coaxial connector, and unraveled a twisted Buckmaster -- leading to now FOUR wonderful new workable antennas.

CHALLENGE

And that's when the next challenge became known -- **an extremely strong (>25 dB above background) wide-band static-type noise** affecting at least all bands below 14 MHz. This interference would severely degrade the ham radio or SHARES capabilities of the EOC within NVIS ranges.

Efforts are now underway to search for the noise source. A power-line radiation has already been found 1 mile southeast of the EOC and also a pickup in the power system of the EOC. Work on this problem will be ongoing.

Photo: Bottom half of EOC Tower with NVIS Buckmaster Antenna (marked with arrow).



QCWA Chapter 62, Ocala

Ken Simpson W8EK

Ocala, FL Chapter 62 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association met on December 13, 2018 at the China Lee Buffet in Ocala.

The chapter voted to send a contribution to the Florida Sheriff's Boy's Ranch. Election of officers took place. The following were elected: Rhyne Killian, KA1CX, President; Ken Simpson, W8EK, Vice President; Charles Lukas, W1DOH, Treasurer; Doug Hawkins, W3HH, Secretary.

Doug Hawkins, W3HH, presented a program talking about some of the new ham applications that are available for Android "Smart phones".

Chapter 62 set up a QCWA booth at the Silver Springs Radio Club Hamfest on December 1.

The next meeting of Chapter 62 will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at the China Lee Buffet, 3743 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470, at 12:30 PM. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the even numbered months.

Chapter 62 holds a net on 3940 KHz on Saturday mornings at 9 AM local Eastern time. All are welcome and encouraged to check in.

See next page for pictures....

QCWA Ocala, (Continued)



Doug Hawkins, W3HH; Belinda Hawkins, XYL W3HH;
Dick Shaurer, W8DYV



Charles Lukas, W1DOH; Rhyne Killian, KA1CX; Sue
Simpson, N8AJU

Alachua County Disaster Training Benefits From County Mentoring

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Alachua County ARES participants through the NFARC club have been doing "fullscale" (deployed, full radios) Exercises for a couple of years now, but our real-world experience is still quite limited. We got a huge boost as a result of assisting the 2nd-In-Command at the Sheriff's department, Col. David Huckstep, get back his ham radio license and advance to General Class – he began to steer mentoring in our direction.

As we plan for the **mini-full-scale Exercise** at the Feb 2/3 Gainesville Amateur Radio Emergency Conference, Col. Huckstep arranged for two very experienced professionals to mentor the creation of that Exercise. Both Ryan Lee and Kevin Rulapaugh are professionals who were deployed into Hurricane Michael response functions, so they are very familiar with NIMS and ICS, as well as being ham radio operators!

Lee, Rulapaugh and Huckstep took time out of their professional duties to go over our (secret) Exercise plans, setting straight the organizational lines, and offering crucial philosophical insights into how to fit in better with large scale disaster responses. Summarizing all their mentoring took several pages and an hour of writing out an email to local leadership.

Key points they drove home included (among many others) how having organizational situational awareness is key, and the ICS-205, with "safety net" backup plans is fundamental. Early in a disaster

response, things tend to be a little "haphazard," said Rulapaugh, but then he explained how he got far better situational awareness: He forwarded his self-created ICS-205 (for his unit) to higher ups with requests for more situational awareness documentation. That request was overwhelmingly fulfilled as he began to get updates on all incident action plans every "period" and found his ICS-205 was incorporated and coordinated with others from additional units serving in the region. His message: make connections! Ask for information, and you'll get it!

All three mentors stressed the incredible importance of filing ICS-214 activity reports --- but not just recording meaningless chatter. Instead, focus of the tasks given you, cite which ones you have fulfilled with objective details, which ones are incomplete, and crucially, what resources you need in order to complete them. Send those in every work period! Ryan pointed out that ham radio needs to embrace modern (digital) communications protocols to allow this level of reporting and situational awareness. His concern was that without having those protocols among their capabilities, amateur radio risked moving toward irrelevance in modern disaster response.

Mentoring like this is a godsend to the local emergency communications groups in Alachua County and will definitely improve our upcoming Feb 2/3 Amateur Radio Emergency Conference. We're indebted to the folks mentoring us!



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 — Get Ready for 2019

Alan Sewell, N5NA

Montana	1/26/2019	1/27/2019	Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club
Vermont	2/2/2019	2/3/2019	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
Minnesota	2/2/2019	2/2/2019	Minnesota Wireless Association
British Columbia	2/2/2019	2/3/2019	Orca DX and Contest Club
South Carolina	2/23/2019	2/24/2019	Columbia Amateur Radio Club
North Carolina	2/24/2019	2/25/2019	Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
Oklahoma	3/9/2019	3/10/2019	Oklahoma DX Association
Idaho	3/9/2019	3/10/2019	Idaho QSO Party
Wisconsin	3/10/2019	3/11/2019	West Allis Radio Amateur Club
Louisiana	3/16/2019	3/17/2019	Louisiana Contest Club
Virginia	3/16/2019	3/17/2019	Virginia 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 – 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.