



QST NFL



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 6, Issue 3

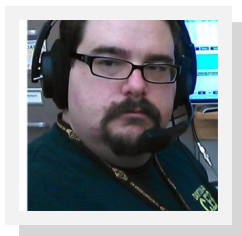
www.arrrl-nfl.org

March 2019

Kevin's Take:

NFL Section Manager

Kevin Bess, KK4BFN



Greetings North Florida Hams!

Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!

First off, I want to apologize for not having a Section Manager's Message for the past two months. Deadlines, work schedules and bad timing got in my way, and then I am taking the last class of my English requirement for my AA degree. I am going to be more diligent in getting the messages out, even if they are light in content.

So, this past month I attended Orlando Hamcation 2019. Been here numerous times and love the event every year. My thanks go out to Michael Cauley W4MCA and the rest of the Orlando Amateur Radio Club for putting on what has become one of the biggest and best amateur radio events. This time, however, was my first major hamfest event as Section Manager. While I did get a little browsing done, I spent most of Friday and Saturday at the ARRL booth meeting hams from all over the country. I must give special thanks to Darrell Davis KT4WX, Barry Porter KB1PA, and of course Greg Sarratt W4OZK for helping guide me during this event and for helping me with the Southeastern Division forum on Saturday. It is different to be at the front of the room talking to everyone instead of being in the audience! I am already looking forward to next year!

Then, my younger son (who is 15 but not licensed) and I went over to the Brooksville Hamfest, which was held at the Sand Hill Scout Reservation. Nice little show! Picked up a couple of things and also met a few people while I was there. We both had a good time and will definitely go again.

Email your QST NFL input to WB2VYK@gmail.com
Marty Brown, WB2VYK, Editor

Here are a few upcoming shows that are happening in Florida: (Pulled from <http://www.arrrl.org/hamfests/search>)

3/2/19 – Pinecastle Hamfest –

email skorzep@gmail.com for details.

3/2/19 – ZAARC Hamfest – Zephyrhills, FL -

http://zaarc.org/HF_Flyer-2019-1.pdf

3/15/19 – 3/16/19 – Fort Walton Beach Hamfest 2019 -

<http://w4zbb.org/w4zbborg/index.php?page=Hamfest>

3/16/19 – Stuart Hamfest – Stuart, FL - <http://www.stuarthamfest.com/>

Don't forget that Dayton will be coming up soon for those are interested. May 17 – 19th! <https://hamvention.org/> I am seriously considering going this year! Previously I've been there with Steve WB4OMM, but this would be the first time being there as the NFL SM.

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@arrrl.org

What's Inside....

- Page 2 Amateur Radio Media Hits
- Page 2 LARA SK Team
- Page 3 Friendship Amateur Radio Club
- Page 3 Lofton High School, ARRL School Club Roundup
- Page 4 ARES Conference
- Page 6 GARS Five Points of Light Marathon
- Page 7 Spring Hill ARC Winter Field Day
- Page 8 Escambia ARES Training
- Page 9 QCWA Chapter 62 Elects & Presents

Amateur Radio Media Hits

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR
Northern Florida Section PIC



Did you know that ARRL has a "Media Hits" page set up for us to send in any media hits that we have in our respective counties. You can view the page at <http://www.arrl.org/media-hits>. It is organized by month, and within each month's folder there are links to national and local stories that feature Amateur Radio.

Among the most interesting stories posted for February are:

- A great story in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review newspaper about how the local Skyview Radio Society is recruiting new members. This story (and video) also got picked up by a few other media outlets, including U.S. News & World Report. <https://triblive.com/news/valley-news-dispatch/amateur-radio-society-recruiting-members-young-or-old/>
- A cool story in the Ellsworth (Maine) newspaper about a program to get kids interested in computer science and amateur radio. The story really demonstrates how this technology all comes together. <https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/maine-news/education-news/computer-coding-for-kids-program-underway-in-steuben/>
- A San Francisco area TV station did a feature story on a ham radio operator and his Good Samaritan efforts to help community after a storm took down trees and power lines. <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/02/02/santa-cruz-mountains-chainsaw-samaritan/>

There are also stories that include TV stories about Hamcation in Orlando, FL, and the 2019 Ham Fest in Mississippi, as well as a story arc in the "Rex Morgan, M.D." comic strip that prominently featured a ham radio operator and a re-broadcast of The Henry Ford Museum's "Innovation Nation with Mo Rocca" syndicated TV show that included a segment on Amateur Radio.

As a PIO, if you help generate a story that hits the media in any way (TV, Radio, Newspaper), please send the link to the news item to pr@arrl.org.

Also, the ARRL has a special email reflector for Public Information Officers and others. We use it to share ideas and events in promoting Amateur Radio.

To join in the reflector, send an email request to news-media@arrl.org

The PR reflector was designed to provide a forum for sharing information and ideas about Amateur Radio related PR topics. Share your successes, your PR dilemmas or ask a question. The list contains a lot of PIOs, media professionals and League officials who can offer helpful advice.

We want to hear about the successes and challenges that you have in your county. Please send your stories and questions so that we can all benefit and learn.



Lake Amateur Radio Association (LARA) Has Silent Key Team

by Frank Anders, KK4MBX, PIO, twfrank111@aol.com

LARA's Silent Key team assists families in selling ham equipment. Pictured are John, WB4HV, and Frank, KK4MBX, who manned our booth at HAM-CATION. We were very fortunate that most of the equipment in the picture was sold returning well over \$3000 to the families of the SKs.



Friendship Amateur Radio Club Update

Ken Simpson, W8EK, President W8EK@flham.net.

The Friendship Amateur Radio is based in western Marion County. If you are in this area, you are encouraged to attend.

The meeting schedule is a bit strange, but works well. On the odd numbered month (January, March, etc.) we meet in Ocala at the sheriff's substation on Route 200, near Oak Run and On Top of the World. On the even numbered month (February, April, etc.) we meet in Dunnellon at the Holy Faith Episcopal Church, just off of Route 484, just west of the river. All meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 PM.

At the February meeting, we elected new officers. They are President - Ken Simpson, W8EK Vice President - Ralph Rabice, W4RER Secretary - Sue Simpson, N8AJU Treasurer - Russ Doren, KN4RD

The Friendship ARC also holds a two meter net at 4 PM local time on Monday afternoons (except for the Monday we have a meeting) on the 146.610 repeater in Ocala (offset minus, 123 Hz tone). All are invited and encouraged to check in.

More information is available on our web page at N4FRC.org.

Lofton HS Participates in the ARRL School Club Roundup

Students at the Professional Academy Magnet school, (Lofton High School) in Gainesville, Florida, made 420 QSOs in the ARRL's School Club Roundup this past week. 43 HAM club members are involved in the Fire/EMS academy's K4WTL station. Among the phone and CW contacts were elementary, middle, high schools and private schools along with prominent university clubs. The next K4WTL activity will be April's Florida QSO Party (28-29), followed by May (19-25) EMS Week. QX for K4WTL on the HF bands.

Students using the radio.



The Academy of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Lofton High School, Gainesville

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference Hosted in North Florida

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Sponsored by two Alachua County clubs, the Conference was the 2nd of its kind in North Florida and drew a total participation of 59 this year. Almost immediately after the extraordinary Leadership lecture given by Joe Bassett W1WCN, all the participants were divided up into teams and sent packing on a **full deployment exercise** -- which stretched their capabilities to the max, and garnered top ratings in the subsequent evaluation!

Simulating a **novel respiratory virus** with a 40% fatality attack that shut down state lines, food deliveries and fuel, then intensified by a **state-actor Internet attack**, the scenario had two Strike Teams sent out under simulated state-authorization to meet Shelter Managers, who were also chosen from the participants. The teams then provided emergency radio communications back to a Florida Amateur Radio Point of Contact (FARPOC) headed by SEC's Karl Martin and Ben Henley and ably assisted by quite a team they had assembled and pre-trained. Then a State point of contact was simulated by a command trailer off in a grassy parking lot, accessibly only by radio email. Teams had to drive to their assigned locations (13 miles apart!) using paper maps, simulating loss of cell-phone GPS mapping. They had many immediate tasks to begin to work on, allowing practice at delegation and team management.

But it got much worse. Simulating what can happen in a real disaster, teams and shelter managers all opened sealed envelopes every hour to discover new adversities and challenges -- and new tasks and messages to transact. Both VHF and HF communications were supposed to be continuously maintained, but at least one team had real difficulty providing HF connectivity, despite a very helpful MARC unit 50 foot tower that conveniently arrived to serve them. Antennas are always a priority and exercises stress your systems!

Then unexpected **distractor stations** came on frequencies with unexpected messages and radiograms attempting to sow even more chaos! All in all, it was a huge workout and the post-exercise evals showed the teams absolutely loved it!

Several new techniques were practiced: WINLINK tactical callsigns in use, hierarchical span-of-control command structure using the FARPOC to a State point of

contact, and the requirement for situational awareness-generating activity reports every operational period (ICS-214) and a log of communications at the end (ICS-309). Some teams handled these well -- and others revealed opportunities for growth.

When all the dust cleared, the traffic counts (of transmission and receptions) were as follows, demonstrating a **wide variety of successful techniques**:

TRAFFIC COUNTS	INFORMAL	FORMAL	
VOICE	18	12*	Total Voice 30
DIGITAL	0	48	Total Digital 48
Total	18 Informal	60 Formal	78 Grand Total

Table: Exercise Traffic Counts
(counting both transmission and reception as 1 point each)

A Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program chart of 16 exercise objectives was graded as: 6 *accomplished well*; 7 *performed with challenges*; 1 *performed with major challenges*; and 2 tasks *not successful*. Using the HSEEP chart, future exercises can re-test these objectives and see if progress is being made in participant skills. (see: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1914-25045-8890/hseep_apr13.pdf) An unexpected discovery during the Exercise was a S9+20 dB wide band interference to the State-proxy comms trailer from a Champion inverter generator. Hours of experimentation post-Conference found a solution that knocked the interference down by 40+ dB using a combination of grounded Faraday cage and power wire RFI/EMI filtering. The complete explanation is given on pp 63-66 of the AAR/IP: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019Conference/CreateSpaceViralDuoAARIP1.2BlackInk.pdf>)

Communications Conference (Continued)

A Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program chart of 16 exercise objectives was graded as: 6 *accomplished well*; 7 *performed with challenges*; 1 performed *with major challenges*; and 2 tasks *not successful*. Using the HSEEP chart, future exercises can re-test these objectives and see if progress is being made in participant skills. (see: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1914-25045-8890/hseep_apr13_.pdf)

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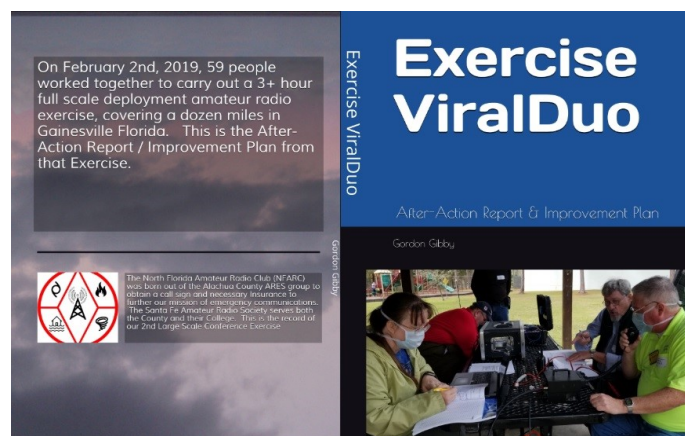
But the Exercise marked only the *start* of a 2-day conference -- participants then had their choice of an amazing **27 different talks, building and hands-on sessions**, running in triplicate sessions. You could learn how to conduct voice traffic passing, literally solder together a printed circuit board sound card system, tune a duplexer, create a repeater controller, build an emergency VHF antenna (a skill that was part of the Exercise) or even build your own go-box using pre-constructed plywood boxes assembled by Stewart Reissner. As part of all these talks from one end of ham radio skills to the other, Jeff Capehart lectured on the ARES CONNECT system, and Ben Henley did a *tour de force* review of amateur radio emergency communications relationships with the State in Florida.

All conference attendees got home with a full bound copies of the lectures and also a bound volume of every blank form from ARRL Radiogram to every useful ICS document, affectionately known as the "**Blank Book**" in Alachua County, and now utilized in a sprinkle of ARES groups across the nation.

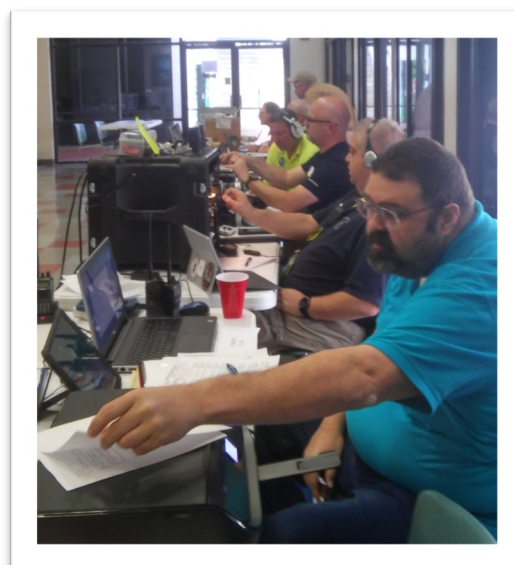
This incredible training conference was entirely funded by the participants, many of whom drove from far ends of the State or even out of state, and put themselves up in hotels or in back yards in their travel trailers, and paid only nominal costs for texts and equipment. We are hoping to have more State mentorship and involvement if we are able to hold such a conference next year.

Conference evaluations were extremely positive, with an average of 4.6 out of 5.0 score. Many thanks to the Santa Fe Amateur Radio Society for hosting with their fabulous Santa Fe College facilities (including the construction and soldering lab!) and all the members of the North Florida Amateur Radio Club who did such yeoman work to help Santa Fe ARS bring this off yet another time.

Online After Action Report/Improvement Plan: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019Conference/CreateSpaceViralDuoAARIP1.2BlackInk.pdf> Online Program: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019Conference/Preliminary2019Program.pdf> ARRL E-Letter write up of the Conference: <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue=2019-02-20>



Bound After Action Report / Improvement Plan available on Amazon



Ben Henley KI4IGX (foreground) and other volunteers man the

Communications Conference (Continued)



Right: Susan Halbert KG4VWI led a hands-on session on VHF Emergency Antenna Construction

Left: "It was like ANTS" -- Strike Team members split up and worked in parallel on a host of tasks



Amateur Radio Support for the Five Points of Life Marathon on February 17, 2019

by Peter Winters W4GHP, Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS)

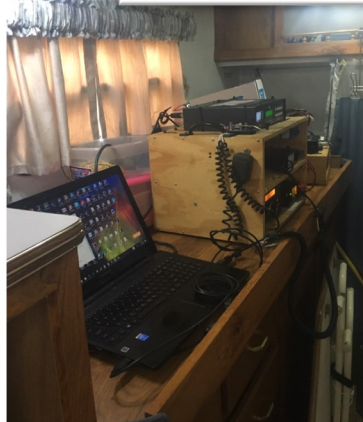
On Sunday, February 17th, 2019, the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) participated in the annual Five Points of Life Marathon race by establishing and operating a directed net over the club's primary repeater frequency.

The GARS club, under the direction of the event coordinator Vann Chesney, AC4QS established a directed net between the net control station and 5 medical support stations. Due to the 6-hour length of the event, the GARS staff operated in two 3-hour shifts. The GARS members were stationed at the medical support stations alongside medical personnel from the University of Florida and Five Points of Life staff members. As the marathon runners passed through each station, the first and last runners identification numbers were recorded and passed over the net and then relayed to the Five Points of Life staff at the start/finish line for recording purposes. Between the two shifts, a total of 20 GARS members staffed the event.

Prior to the event a working luncheon was held with Mr. Ricardo Qunitana, Five Points of Life Foundation Director, to review the requirements he deemed necessary for the event. This year the course for the event was run over an entirely new route that had never been used in prior years. As the inaugural event for this course, it went very smoothly on all fronts.



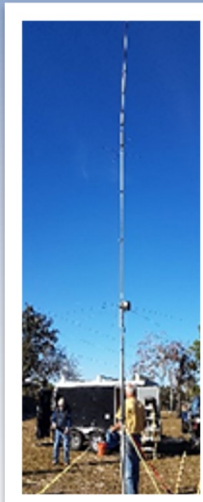
Photo by Debra Boal, KI4CVS, President, GARS



Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club (SHARC) – [KF4IXU](#)

Winter Field Day

Michael Darnell, KD7TOZ, kd7toz@aol.com



Mike, N1VE



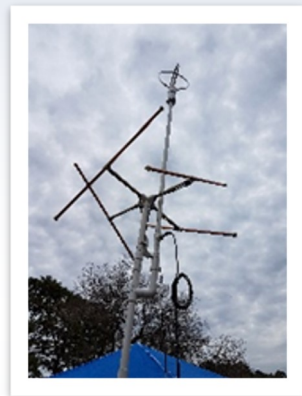
Doug, NZ2W &
Tom, KK4CUC



Lenny, WS8O

SHARC held Winter Field Day at the Sand Hill Scout Reservation, using Special Event Callsign N4W. There were three separate operating areas: Doug, NZ2W had his RV and Tom, KK4CUC had his antenna trailer set up northwest of the dining hall in a large open (read lots of wind) area. Mike, N1VE had his RV and trailer with a multi-band vertical set up on the south east corner of the dining hall. Lenny, WS8O was near the health lodge with his “Mobile Man Cave” trailer, and a 40M dipole up about 40 feet. A total of 59 SSB contacts and 29 Digital contacts were made.

PSK-31 on 40m saw Doug, NZ2W even make contact with Japan using 25 watts.



Prior to the start of WFD, Lenny, WS8O and Mike, KD7TOZ tried making satellite contacts using Lenny's homebrew Lindenbald style antenna. No contacts were made, but a 5 station was heard on AO-91. Being new to satellite operations, both figured it was a good start.



3FPO (Fourth Friday Field/Portable Ops)

Was held on 22 February at [Bayport Park](#). There were four stations operating on 2m SSB, 20m SSB & CW, and 40m SSB, with contacts made from Alabama, Michigan, Kansas and Oklahoma. No contacts were made on 2m SSB. Lenny, WS8O continuing with his satellite experiment, made satellite contacts using his homebrew antenna from Florida and Ontario, Canada during an AO-92 pass. We even had a visit from the Sheriff's Dept. who were curious about our outing. Not the first time a curious deputy has stopped by to pay us a visit.

Upcoming

- Monday evening 70CM Rag Chew Net at 7:30 p.m. using the SHARC repeater (443.800+ MHz, no tones). All are welcome to join in.
- Tuesday evening SHARC Nets, SSTV at 6:30 p.m., SKYWARN at 7:15 p.m. and SHARC Net at 7:30 p.m. using the SHARC repeater (146.805- MHz, no tones). All are welcome to join in.
- Wednesday Night 40 Meter CW QRS Net will be at 7:30 p.m. (7.025-7.125 MHz). This allows Technician Class licensees to participate. This is an open net, all are invited to participate. A few details need to be worked out and the start date to be determined. More information to follow.
- SHARC Monthly Meeting will be March 21st, 7:00 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 14736 Edward R. Noll Dr, Spring Hill.
- 3FPO (Fourth Friday Field/Portable Ops) will be March 22d, 9:30 a.m. at [Linda Pederson Park](#), 6300 Shoal Line Blvd. (CR595) Spring Hill, FL 34607.

Escambia County Holds ARES Training

Joe McLemore, KF4DVF, Assistant Emergency Coordinator, ARES – Escambia County, FL

Event: ARES Training Class
Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019
Location: Escambia County Public Safety Building (EOC)

Summary

On Feb 23, 2019, ARES Training was held at the Escambia County EOC in preparation for Hurricane Season. 15 people attended 4 hours of training including 2 instructors, 6 current ARES members (3 had joined ARES in the last few months), 6 new people joined ARES during the training, along with a spouse. After the classroom training, a tour of the ARES room, and the antenna area was given. New ARES ID cards (good for 2 years) were also issued to the current and new ARES members completing the training.

Topics covered:

1. Our Mission
2. Deployment Locations
3. Exercises/Training
4. Activation procedures
5. Local Leadership
6. ARES ID Cards
7. Operations and procedures
8. COOP Operations
9. Message Creation and Handling. ARES net procedures.
10. Digital Communications (Winlink, APRS, D-Star, DMR)
11. Shelter and Hospital Communications
12. ICS Forms and Documentation
13. Additional Training

Handouts included:

ARES Communications Plan	Message forms used – ARRL Radiogram
ARES Frequencies Used (on ICS forms)	Amateur Radio Disaster Welfare Message
Escambia County ARES Exercises, Events, Work Day, and Training schedule for 2019	ICS 213 General Message
Winlink instructions	ICS214a – Individual Log
Additional ARES Training and FEMA Independent Study courses	Other ICS forms
Info about ARES Connect	

Participants:

Harold Wilkinson	KV4LY
Joe McLemore	KF4DVF
Pati Bryan	
Frank Bryan	KN4PGU
Gary Van House	KE0MNR
David Mitchell	WW4DBM
Skip Bollens	N4XXO
Sue Cundiff	KJ4GTF

Bill Lee	KM4HND
Larry Limle	N4TAC
Megan Bond	KN4SNS
Dale Bond	KN4RLG
John Mekher	N8JUC
Tom Riederer	N9UY
Andy Paulson	KN4QLR

QCWA Chapter 62 Elects & Presents

Ken Simpson, W8EK, QCWA Director

Quarter Century Wireless Association Chapter 62 in Ocala FL held its regular meeting on February 28, 2019 at the China Lee Buffet. We had two new members in attendance -- Don Sykes, KG3M, and Carl Berry, KC5CMX. In addition, we had two visitors from Colorado, namely Eric Van Horn, K0EV, and Jenny Van Horn, K4EUG.

Following a good meal, President Rhyne Killian read a couple QCWA Bulletins. Director Ken Simpson, W8EK, gave a report of the Director's meeting that was held on line on February 14. Following that, Ken presented a 55 year certificate to Doug Hawkins, W3HH. It was noted that several members will be eligible for 65 year certificates next year.

The next meeting of Chapter 62 will be held on Thursday, April 25, 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.



Doug Hawkins, W3HH, receives 55 year certificate from



Chapter 62 Officers -- Secretary Doug Hawkins W3HH, President Rhyne Killian KA1CX, Vice President Ken Simpson W8EK, Treasurer Charles Lukas W1DOH

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.

FCC Testing Information

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 of odd months 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

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.

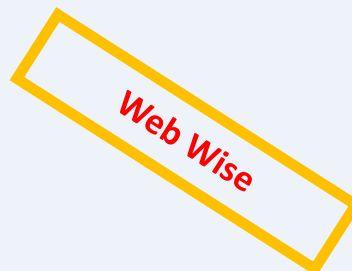
[Section Nets](#)

[Northern Florida STM Report](#)

[Florida Hamfest/Convention Calendar](#)

[Operating Events](#)

[Emergency Communications Archive](#)



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.