



# QST NFL



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

Volume 6, Issue 4

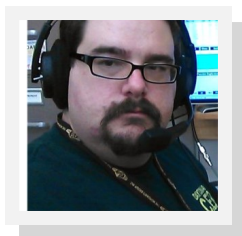
[www.arrrl-nfl.org](http://www.arrrl-nfl.org)

April 2019

## Kevin's Take:

NFL Section Manager

Kevin Bess, KK4BFN



Greetings North Florida Hams!

## Florida Distracted Driving Bill

There is something brewing that everyone who operates a mobile 2-way radio should know... Text courtesy of Dave, N9HF. Edited for clarity.

"As you all may, or may not be aware of, the friendly folks in Tallahassee are in the process of making texting or doing other distracting things while driving a motor vehicle a stoppable (primary) offense. We have all heard the stories from other states about how operating ham (or other two-way mobile radios) got sucked into the fray, and the hams had to go through major hassles to get us exempted from the legal definition.

If the wording stands as "other distractions" we will be at the mercy of every [Law Enforcement Officer's] interpretation of "distracting".

Contact your representatives and ask that the wording of the bill be such as to expressly exempt AMATEUR RADIO!"

Republican Senator Wilton Simpson is the one who is pushing this bill.

Simpson, who has been a member of the Florida Senate since 2012, represents the 10th District, which includes Citrus, Hernando and part of Pasco County. Previously, he represented the 18th District from 2012 to 2016.

I recommend everyone contact their representative and tell them that Amateur Radio and other two-way radios need to be exempted from this bill! You can find

your Senate representative by going to <http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/#Senators> and search for your county.

Florida House representatives Jackie Toledo and House Speaker Jose Oliva are promising that a similar House bill that hasn't been heard in committee yet, will get a hearing. I would also recommend you contact your House representative and tell them to make sure Amateur Radio and other two-way radios need to be exempted from this bill! You can find your House representative by going to <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx> and search for your county.

The Senate bill is listed as CS/CS/SB 76 or S 76, sponsored by Senator Wilton Simpson. The House bill is listed as HB 107, sponsored by Jackie Toledo.

Please feel free to forward this!

**Editor's Note:** On March 9th my call sign changed to **N4GL**. I will now be using [n4gl.marty@gmail.com](mailto:n4gl.marty@gmail.com) as my email address. I look forward to your input!

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Email your QST NFL input to  
[n4gl.marty@gmail.com](mailto:n4gl.marty@gmail.com)  
Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor

## Guess What Day it is?

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR  
Northern Florida Section PIC



No, it is not “Hump Day.” It is “Time-to-start-getting-ready-for-Field-Day” Day!!! Now wasn’t that a mouthful?

With in the last week or so, the ARRL has release the 2019 Field Day Guide, which means it is time to start making contacts and promoting Field Day. There are approx. 82 days before Field Day. It is time to dust off the address lists and phone books and start making contacts.

You can download the entire Field Day Packet from the ARRL site:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2019/2019-Field-Day-Packet-Complete.pdf>

To get more information and ideas on how to promote Field Day: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Make it a goal to invite more people and get in front of more of your public officials and media than you did last

year. The only way the public will hear about Field Day is if we as the EC or PIO encourage our teams to get out there an invite them.



## Lake County Recognizes LARA for Volunteerism

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

LARA works closely with the Lake County Emergency Management team volunteering for 3348 Hours in 2018. Seven LARA members were recognized by the Lake County Board of Commissioners for individual contributions of greater than 125 hours at a Board meeting and reception on February 28. They include Jay Boehme, N4KXO; Strait Hollis, KT4YA; Don Schreiner, K3DRS; John Walton, WB4HV; Emil Vandavelde, WA2UPK; Dave Pennell, NP2MR; and Frank Anders, KK4MBX.

Pictured are Frank, Strait, Jay, and Tommy Carpenter, Lake County Emergency Operations Manager.



## Silver Springs Radio Club Participates in Marion County 175th Anniversary Celebration

Marty Brown, Editor

On Saturday, March 30th, the Silver Springs Radio Club (SSRC) was invited to participate in the Marion County 175th Anniversary celebration held at the governmental complex in Ocala, FL where we are privileged to hold our monthly meetings and maintain a ham shack. We were one of many commercial vendors, governmental agencies, and historical exhibits present.

The club demonstrated FT8, side band and CW modes, including a remote operation from the celebration site back to the home QTH of N4FP.



(L) Bill Gillespie, KW5BG, SSRC Treasurer & Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, SSRC President



Wayne Brown, N4FP (reflected in Maestro) worked remote from the site back to his QTH and Flex-6400 and AL-80B amp.





## Florida Section Emergency Coordinators Meet with State Communication Leaders

John Wells, W4CMP, PIO & SEC South Florida Section

Submitted by: Karl Martin KG4HBN, Section Emergency Coordinator, North Florida Section



Photo: (Left to Right) Bob Little (Telecommunications Specialist III), Ben Henley (SEC West Central Florida Section), Ben Bass (Telecommunications Administrator Florida Department of Emergency Management), Karl Martin (SEC Northern Florida Section), John Wells (SEC Southern Florida Section), Brad Haag (Assistant SEC West Central Florida Section), and Nick Simoncini (FDLE Statewide Communications Coordinator)

Fort Myers, FL., February 25, 2019 – Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Section Emergency Coordinators (SEC) from Northern, West Central and Southern Florida met last week with State Emergency Management Communication Leaders to discuss improved integration of Amateur Radio during emergencies. The importance of Amateur Radio was realized in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael's destructive impact that directly affected communications from the area. In some counties, it was the only means of communicating with emergency management officials.

A glaring hole in coordinating these volunteer communicators was a lack of an effective Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ARES and the State of Florida. During the meeting this element was discussed, and a draft was presented for further consideration. The MOU if agreed upon, will make ARES and Amateur Radio a valid resource that can be easily requested for an incident. Ben Henley the West Central Section Emergency Coordinator said that "For the first time ARES will be integrated into the State Communication Team". This concept is one that is not currently

established within the system and has resulted in the inability to pre-stage Amateur Radio assets prior to an incident like a hurricane.

Amateur Radio Operators possess a unique set of skills that are crucial when normal communications fail, and those skills allow for quick deployment of equipment and restoration of communication between critical entities. It was discussed how important the first 24 hours are during an incident where normal communication systems fail, requiring an effective backup method like Amateur Radio. To facilitate deployment of communication resources more effectively, the three Sections previously agreed to work together as one entity during an incident. According to Ben Henley, "There is better cooperation between all three Florida Sections and the State of Florida".

Changes to the current way in which ARES operators are credentialed, trained and deployed are necessary to keep Amateur Radio a viable means of backup communications for Emergency Management to utilize in an incident. For this to happen it will require the effort from everyone in the Florida Amateur Radio community and according to Karl Martin the Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator, "This is a team effort, without the team working together we get nothing accomplished".

The SEC's and State Leaders look forward to working together in the future and overcoming any shortcomings to ensure an effective response when Amateur Radio backup communications is requested.



## NFARC Cracks the Nut of Getting State-Required Background Checks

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

During the Hurricane Michael response, Alachua County ARES volunteers were surprised to hear that we haven't been getting background checks considered required. Furthermore, there was considerable confusion as to the exact renewal requirements, etc. After the hurricane, Alachua County EC Jeff Capehart W4UFL worked at this process for multiple months but kept hitting roadblocks. We couldn't seem to find anyone in County government who was empowered to conduct the background checks.

Enter Chief Deputy Col. Huckstep W4JIR! He passed his Tech and General licenses after courses that NFARC volunteers ran, and is now an enthusiastic ARES member. Aided by information provided by

Ben Henley KI4IGX, Jeff Capehart W4UFL and others, he did very careful research to find the precise requirements for amateur radio volunteers, including the 5-year renewal requirement. (See: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/backgroundscreening/docs/SCREENINGbyCHAPTER.pdf> and note particularly FS 397.451(1)(a)2 here: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2016/397.451> ) Col. Huckstep then negotiated an agreement with the Alachua County Dept of Health **for the Sheriff & Health to split the cost of performing the Level II checks (with FBI & FDLE checks) on up to 20 volunteers!**

## The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) Elects Officers

Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor



### Officers for 2019 Left to Right

John Ellis, NP2B, Director At Large  
Sam Brown, KB8SB, Vice President  
Frank Molloy, KA1AF, Secretary  
George Briggs, K2DM, President  
Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ, Treasurer

TVARC sets a high standard for antenna restricted communities. This club of over 200 members has a strong get-on-the-air philosophy, promoting inter-club competition for DX, FT8, WAS and contesting.

The TVARC Emergency Communications Team focuses on The Villages and works with ARES, RACES and local authorities in an

emergency situation. The club also boasts 7 repeaters in the local area in support of emergency services in Sumter, Lake and Marion counties.

Nobody's going to tell these fellows and gals that the lack of a 50' tower and a beverage antenna will keep them off the air.

## Idea to Create A Speakers' List For Club Programs


by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

After the successful February Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Conference, I thought that a lot of clubs might benefit from knowing which speakers are available in ham-dom and willing to travel a bit to give a talk on an area they have expertise. We had at least 9 speakers at that conference alone. I just didn't know how to do it! Enter Scott Roberts KK4ECR-- who whipped up a sample Google page that anyone can go to and enter in their talk information. Then through the wizardry of the Section Web Page, Scott can make these listings available to clubs and EC's etc -- so they can look up potential speakers and contact them to see if there is a good "fit" with their needs.

It is important to note (as Kevin Bess did when giving his blessing to the idea) that the Section can't give "approval" for these speakers or whatever they might say or teach. So, exercise a bit of wisdom in interviewing potential speakers for your group!!

The step is going to be getting it available on the Section web site and then having interested experts on various topics put in their information. Some sort of a feedback system may eventually develop.

Check this out; <https://goo.gl/forms/BG7J75dzfMOGPwAg2>



### Speaker Information

Enter the following information if you are willing to speak for other Amateur Radio groups on your topic of expertise. Only include ONE topic per entry.

\* Required

First Name \*

Your answer

Last Name \*

Your answer

*Entry Form for Speakers to List themselves, background and talks. (Only the first part visible.)*

To see information on available speakers: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wc3A4eE-8QpkkIUPucOpjdsV8ALQpiInjiTPPlaw4Y8/edit?usp=sharing>



## NFARC and GARS Volunteers Work To Reduce EMI at Alachua County EOC

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

On Feb 22, a sturdy group of volunteers representing both North Florida Amateur Radio Club and the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society headed over to the neighborhood of the Alachua County EOC to try and ferret out the cause of excessive background noise (electromagnetic interference; EMI) on 80- and 40-meter bands.

Everyone in Alachua ARES has long been aware that HF communications were badly hampered there, but exact causes were hard to pin down. Now with a new horizontal off-center fed dipole flying above the EOC building, there were still a dearth of audible stations where there should have been many. Lacking a calibrated spectrum analyzer, measurements with a specific amateur radio receiver carried straight from the EOC to a suburban home demonstrated 4-9 S-unit increases in background noise at the EOC over expected. If one S-unit is 6 dB (the suggested manufacturing goal), this translates to **at least 24 dB increase in background noise at the EOC** over expected – of the equivalent of only able to hear a kilowatt station when others can hear a 5-watt station! That makes important emergency amateur or SHARES communications far less likely to succeed on the affected bands.

Although a broad-band emitting power line transformer had previously been detected ½ mile from the EOC, the Feb 22 visit showed it wasn't the cause, since it was silent that day....but the complex machinery-sounding background noise literally everywhere (no gaps) on the 80- and 40-meter bands was still present.

Shannon Boal K4GLM led volunteers working with vehicle and portable AM radios and short-wave radios, finding multiple “hot spots” of E- or H-field radiation – but were unable to pin down the source. A refrigerated soft drink machine seemed to be the culprit at one point, but when unplugged, nothing changed.

The EOC building has a huge number of computer systems running as it provides 24/7/365 911-service. So it could be that several switching supplies are either radiating directly, or filling the AC wiring with many harmonics from sharp-edged waveforms. Switching supplies create wide bandwidth pulses with large number of harmonics, and the connected AC wiring serves like an end-fed antenna, with standing waves of voltage and current that differ in location for various harmonics.

The group produced a report of their findings and possible improvement plans. (See: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019/EOCInterferenceFeb222019Report.pdf> which also includes the results from a November preliminary analysis.) Every few months, there is a “deep-clean” of the building where operations are moved to a backup location temporarily, which may afford local hams a chance to go in and go circuit-break by circuit-breaker and then use loops or portable antennas and a spectrum analyzer to find the sources.

So this mystery will have at least another chapter before the low-band backup amateur radio or SHARES communications in Alachua County are working as desired.

Careful observation of the EOC ham radio backup Yae-su transmitter also discovered that its 80-meter output power is down to only 10 watts, although normal on other bands.

*Stewart Reissener KK4DXF stands at an unexpectedly “hot” point of AM radio observed interference. What wires are causing that to be a hot spot?? Buried power lines?*



# CQ FLORIDA QSO PARTY!

**April 27-28, 2019**

**Web Site:** <http://www.floridagsoparty.org/>

## Extra! Extra!

### 2019 FQP Rules Changes-

- New Expedition Category added; perfect for portable multi-county adventurers/campers
- Lowering the Low Power limit from 150W to 100W output
- Suggested frequency ranges are established

## The Florida QSO Party

- Everyone works Florida, Florida works Everyone
- Activate and work ALL Florida counties
- Have as much FUN as possible!

## April 27 & 28, 2019

- Two ten hour operating periods, with a ten hour break:
- Saturday, April 27 1600Z (Noon EDT) - 0159Z (9:59 PM EDT)
- Sunday, April 28 1200Z (8 AM EDT) - 2159Z (5:59 PM EDT)
- 20 Hours total
- Exchange: RST and County (Florida stations)
- RST and QTH (State, Province or Country for non-FL)
- Where: 10, 15, 20 and 40 Meters

### SUGGESTED OPERATING FREQUENCIES:

- CW: 7.020-7.045, 14.025-14.055, 21.030-21.050, 28.030-28.050 MHz
- Phone: 7.185-7.245, 14.240-14.295, 21.320-21.350, and 28.450-28.480 MHz
- Contacts outside these frequency ranges are still valid; see rules for details.

### MOBILE WINDOW:

- We expect at least 15 Mobile stations will be on and most can be found here:
- **CW: 7.025-7.035, 14.040-14.050, 21.040-21.050, 28.040-28.050 MHz**
- **SSB: 7.230-7.240, 14.265-14.275 MHz**
- *If you are not mobile, \*please\* refrain from calling CQ in these windows.*

### Categories:

- Single Op, Multi Op, Multi-Multi, Mobile, Expedition, Technician and School.
- Three power levels: QRP, Low, and High Power.
- Use CW, SSB or both.



## Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club (SHARC)

Michael Darnell, KD7TOZ, [kd7toz@aol.com](mailto:kd7toz@aol.com)

### **WELCOME NEW SHARC MEMBERS**

Russ Brander (Newly Licensed) & Beth Brander  
Stephen Collins, W6SWC  
Chris Johnson, KN4RKA

### **SHARC Club Communications Trailer**

Work continues on the recently acquired 12' x 8' enclosed Club Communications Trailer. This trailer has enough space for three operating stations. Under Project Leader Wayne Boyd, KD4ERG, the plan is to be equipped with solar and generator power so as to be completely self reliant. The trailer is also equipped with a winch for raising/lowering of the approximately 60' tower.



Club volunteers have spent numerous hours improving the operating function to better utilize available floor and storage space. Wayne's goal is to have the trailer completed in time for Field Day, with the possibility of a "trial run" before-hand.

### **Field Day 2019**

SHARC will be operating from the Sand Hills Scout Reservation this year. Project Leader Lenny Sechrist, WS8O plans to have three operating locations set-up as we had for Winter Field Day.

### **3FPO (Fourth Friday Field/Portable Operations)**

For the month of April, 3FPO will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. at [Anderson Snow Park](#), near the north pavilions. All are welcome to join us operating or to have a casual conversation. Operating activities are on all bands and all modes. 3FPO gives SHARC members the opportunity to operate in a "field" setting.

### **SHARC Nets**

**Monday Night Rag Chew**, 7:30 p.m., hosted by Tim Fida, WB0YSX, is held on SHARC's open 70 cm open repeater (443.800 + no tones). All are invited to join the conversation.

**Tuesday Night SHARC Nets**, utilizing SHARCS 2m open repeater (146.805 – n tones) starts at 6:30 p.m. with the SSTV net. At 7:15 p.m., is the SHARC SKYWARN Net, hosted by Wally Melching, K4DTR. 7:30 p.m. is the SHARC 2 Meter Net. Each week features a different Net Control Officer.

**Wednesday Night CW QRS Net**, is to be held on 40m 7.025 – 7.125 MHz. Plans for this net are in the final stages of coordination. More information to follow.

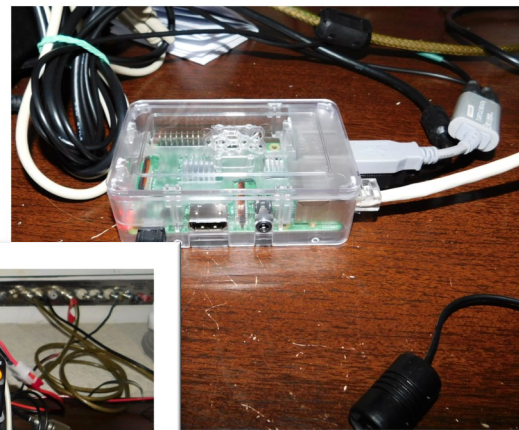
### **Monthly Meeting**

The next SHARC Monthly Meeting/Club Project Night is April 18th, 7:00 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 14736 Edward R. Noll Dr, Spring Hill. Club Project Night starts at 6:00 p.m., led by Bernie Bathauer, WB9NDG and Wayne Boyd, KD4ERG.

## Walton County ARES implements VHF Packet RMS Gateway

Walton County is now the home to a VHF Packet RMS Gateway (Winlink) that allows hams to send email over the radio. The only VHF gateway west of Tallahassee in the Panhandle, it opens up Winlink use to those without HF capabilities or even Internet. The system, K4CCK-10, runs on a Raspberry Pi using a homebuilt soundcard interface on 145.030 mhz.

Part of the Northern Florida Section Emergency Communications Plan recommends that every county have at least one VHF Packet RMS Gateway. Current plans include expanding the number of nodes in the area to cover all of Walton County by VHF.



## FCC Testing Information

### 4 Corners Radio Club, Clermont FL

- First Saturday
- 10:00 AM
- Cagans Crossing Library, Rt 27, Clermont, FL
- Walk-ins welcome
- Info: WA2FRW@aol.com

### 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 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

### QCWA Chapter 45, Orlando FL

- Second Thursday
- 11:00 AM
- Golden Corral, 5535 S. Kirkman Ave, Orlando
- Walk-ins welcome
- Info: WA2FRW@aol.com

**Remember:** Bring photo ID, CSEs, copy of current license, exam fee.

## 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).

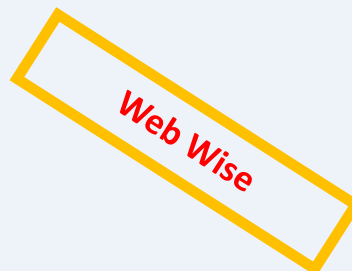
### [Section Nets](#)

### [Northern Florida STM Report](#)

### [Florida Hamfest/Convention Calendar](#)

### [Operating Events](#)

### [Emergency Communications Archive](#)



## 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 N4GL, [n4gl.marty@gmail.com](mailto:n4gl.marty@gmail.com)

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