



# QST NFL



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

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

August 2019

## Hey, did you know that it's free?

By Scott Roberts KK4ECR – Northern Florida Section PIC

I have had several people ask me what flyers or brochures that I recommend when it comes to dealing with the public and our served agencies. The ARRL has several flyers/brochures that are FREE (in limited quantities) – you simply pay shipping.

By going to <https://www.arrl.org/shop/>, you can add these items to your cart and have them sent to you.

**Amateur Radio Emergency Service leaflet (pack of 25)** – Item Number ARESL – (you can order 4 packs at a time) -- <https://www.arrl.org/shop/Amateur-Radio-Emergency-Service-leaflet-pack-of-25/>

**Servicing Your Community (pack of 25)** – Item Number SRVE – (you can order 4 packs at a time) -- <https://www.arrl.org/shop/Serving-your-Community-flyer-pack-of-25/>

**What is Ham Radio (Version A, pack of 25)** – Item Number WIHR-A – (you can order 4 packs at a time) -- <https://www.arrl.org/shop/What-is-Ham-Radio-flyer-version-A-pack-of-25/>

**What is Ham Radio (Version B, pack of 25)** – Item Number WIHR-B – (you can order 4 packs at a time) -- <https://www.arrl.org/shop/What-is-Ham-Radio-flyer-version-B-pack-of-25/>

**Ham Radio Youth Flyer (pack of 25)** – Item Number YTHF – (you can order 4 packs at a time) -- <https://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-Youth-flyer-pack-of-25/>

All of these are also available for PDF download, and you can print them yourself.

I carry these flyers in my PIO “Go-Bag” so that I have them available all the time. There is a place on the back of each flyer and brochure for your contact information. Since these are free, we should never be without them.



I also had business cards made at Vistaprint-- <http://www.vistaprint.com>. Not quite free, but they advertise 500 cards for \$9.99. You can also do a search on Google for Business Cards and find a few places that run a promo for free printing.



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

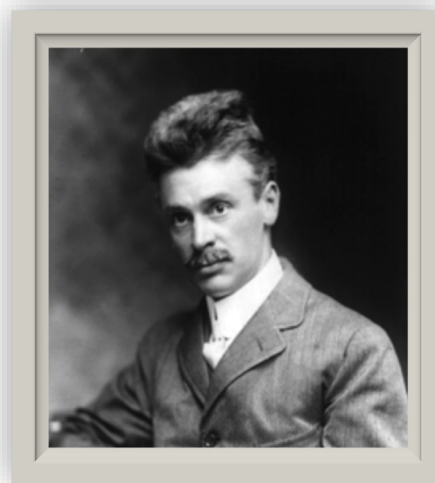
## Happy 150! The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration!

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the ARRL's first president and cofounder, Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW. The **Happy 150! The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration!** operating event is open to all amateurs, and the goal is straightforward: Find stations operating in the event, many adding "/150" to their call signs, and contact as many as possible during the 9-day celebration which starts the last day of August and continues into September (0000Z, Aug 31 to 2359Z, Sep 8). All ARRL members are eligible to append /150 to their call sign during this event. Anyone may participate in the contest. Contacts with stations with the /150 suffix count double. Multipliers are the ARRL and RAC (Canadian) sections. All modes may be used.

Scott Davis, author of the N3FJP suite of logging software, has made a version of his contesting loggers available **for free**. This is an opportunity to try his software without cost. (TARS uses the N3FJP software for Field Day.) See the following:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/hpmaxim.html>



Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW

### ARRL Operating Event

[Hiram Percy Maxim 150th Birthday Celebration Rules](#)

## Madison Starke Perry Camp HAM Radio Club, KN4VOU

Bob Lightner, W4GJ

**KN4VOU is the new (temp) call for the** Gainesville, Florida area [Son's of Confederate Veterans, Camp 1424](#), a.k.a.; Madison Starke Perry Camp HAM Radio Club. We have submitted paperwork for a special vanity call, TBA soon.

We hold regular monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at:

### Brown's Country Buffet

14423 US 441

Alachua, Florida

***Get there early (~5:30) and join us for a buffet dinner of home made Southern foods!***

We plan on operating as a special event club on the HF bands for [Confederate Memorial Day](#) on April 26, 2020, and on other occasions that help to celebrate our Southern Heritage.

<https://www.gatorscv.com/>

## North Florida Amateur Radio Club to Hold EXTRA CLASS Amateur Radio Weekend

By Gordon Gibby KX4Z

The Alachua County ARES folks are at it again, and the NFARC (North Florida Amateur Radio Club) will hold another EXTRA CLASS amateur radio weekend-marathon course on Saturday / Sunday August 17/18, in Gainesville Florida. We expect to hold the first day in the wonderful conference room of the Alachua County EOC (what you see on the TV) and the 2nd day at a private residence where we can experiment with antennas and other things a lot more easily.

If you are interested:

- reply to [docvacuumtubes@gmail.com](mailto:docvacuumtubes@gmail.com)
- purchase the ARRL Extra Class license manual and start looking through it

Most participants need to brush up afterwards using [hamstudy.org](http://hamstudy.org) or similar online practice tests to insure they will pass on the first try!

## Citrus County Amateur Radio Club—Enjoys POTA Program

John Bescher, N4DXI

At the Citrus County Amateur Radio Club on July 15, 2019 Terry Sidelinker (KK1TLS) and XYL Debi (TEAM KK1TLS) gave an excellent presentation on the "Parks On The Air" Program and "Portable Operating On A Budget" explaining how he operates from parks throughout Florida. He detailed setting up, best antennas, operating manners, power, how to fight Florida bugs and humidity. The talk was informative, entertaining and provocative.

To show his skills at Portable Operations, the following Saturday he operated portable from Felburn State Park in Inglis, FL for 3 and a half hours. With a modest dipole antenna, battery power, and 100 watts he worked 140 stations on 20 meter SSB and another 10 on 40 meters SSB. Not bad for "bad conditions" due to low ebb in solar cycle.

Pictures are attached of Terry and Debi operating from the park.



## An Old Ham Radio Club Coming Back To Life

By Mike Ridlon K4MVR

The Santa Fe College Amateur Radio Society at Santa Fe College in Gainesville Florida has been in existence since the 70's. For decades members enjoyed an active ham radio club. Over the past decade faculty and staff members have retired and graduation has always been a rotating door for student hams. New leadership, new members, new interfaces, new software, and good 'ol ham radio are all coming together to revive our club and create an environment to teach, learn, mentor, experiment, and just plain have fun! There is so much going. Here are some highlights.

With just two meetings we are making progress to improve equipment, perform much needed maintenance, and plan for a few projects that will improve our capabilities, serve our community at large, and have fun doing it! Club members with the experience and equipment have evaluated antennas, coax, equipment, and measured HF background noise in three key areas on Santa Fe's NW Campus. Those key areas include SFARS' original and current ham shack, the Santa Fe College Police Department including inside their EOC and another location that will soon become the "Emcomm"

ham shack. Immediate plans for the Emcomm ham shack include a VHF RMS Gateway that will be moved from the exiting ham shack, HF RMS Trimode, and a 24/7 JS8Call station. The SF PD EOC will get VHF and HF radios and a Winlink client. Also, a go-box for remote command post capability.

Soon we will be setting up tables at the College's club rush to attract and talk to as many students as we can and demonstrate all the capabilities amateur radio has to offer. Students that I have talked to recently are always surprised and intrigued! SFARS, other local clubs and community education are coordinating efforts to offer Technician, General, and Extra classes helping hams at all levels. SFARS sponsors ARRL exams throughout the year.

There is a high degree of cooperation between many clubs in our area. The common denominator among hams is a desire to serve our community which aligns very well with the mission of Santa Fe College. Teaching, mentoring, developing and practicing skills, encouraging advancement; our ham community is alive and well!



## Promoting the Hobby, Five Flags ARA Style

Eugene (Gene) Bannon, KB4HAH  
FFARA Training Committee Lead Instructor

*Editor's Note: Five Flags Amateur Radio Association, Milton Amateur Radio Club, and Wire Rascals, offer amateur radio classes in conjunction with Pensacola State College. It's a great way to get the word out.*

YES, it about that time again to start of the new Fall term school year here at Pensacola State College. So please get the word out to everyone that you may think that might be interested in learning about Amateur Radio. We will begin our classes on **Sep 10th 2019** and have our final class **Nov 11th 2019**.

Here are the class details:

The official course names is: **"Amateur Radio Introduction & Upgrade"** course # -R06254, class session - 8201. The Cost of the class will be \$21.00/person (that is all going to PSC for the use of their facilities & printing- this is a completely volunteer group of Instructors). The classes will be on Tues & Thur from 6:00 PM - 8:30PM. A class syllabus will be compiled & published in upcoming weeks prior to start of classes (look for it on the Five Flags Amateur Radio Assoc - W4UC & Milton ARC Facebook & website and /or **"THE WIRE RASCALS"** Facebook page). Since the class has no assigned college credits, the class is listed in the Recreation and Leisure of the Continuing Education Dept catalog vice the college credit catalog part of the

college. The classes will be held at the Pensacola State Main Campus (1000 College Park off North 9th Ave across from Cordva Mall.) Room 9663 in building 96. You can register online through the Pensacola State college Continuing Education Dept, or come down to Bldg 96 of the Pensacola State College Main campus to the **Continuing Education Dept** office. They will be happy to assist you in registering, or you can call to have them assist you at 850-484-1797.

The classes will be lead nightly by an assigned Instructor each night, but all instructors will be there to assist and answering any questions that come up during and after each class. The course will follow the ARRL Question and Answer booklet for all different levels of Amateur Radio License classes (like the example shown below). These class WILL NOT be strictly teaching the FCC EXAM Questions, we will attempt to cover more than just the test questions that are listed in these booklets. Our goal is to attempt to teach you the BROAD spectrum of the Amateur Radio hobby. Of course we will have a VEC exam class session (folks to give the FCC license exam) near the end of the course. We plan on having 2 Field trips, one to the Escambia County Emergency Operation Center, and another to a local Amateur Radio Club Meeting. We will have an in class construction project, and a class Demonstration (what we refer to as our Mini-Field Day).

So with that, Please get the word out to everyone ya'll think that may be interested in our course.



Antenna Building





# Hog County Amateur Radio Association, Inc. – K4HOG

4655 NW 68th Blvd., Lake Panasoffkee, Florida 33538  
[www.K4HOGFL@gmail.com](mailto:www.K4HOGFL@gmail.com) Phone: 352-399-8932  
[www.K4HOG.org](http://www.K4HOG.org) or find us on Facebook



President  
Gene King-KI4LEH

V-President  
Bobby Smalley –  
KX4RS

## VE Testing

We offer test sessions on the first Saturday of each month. For more information, email us at [Sum-terVE@gmail.com](mailto:Sum-terVE@gmail.com)

We serve all of Sumter County, FL. All amateurs are welcome to join us. We encourage fellowship with monthly breakfast and lunch meetings as well as some activities throughout the year.

## Repeaters

K4HOG at 147.030 / PL: 123.0 located in Summerfield, FL. EchoLink and AllStar Pending

KI4DYE at 145.490 / PL: 123.0 located in Bushnell, FL. EchoLink at KX4RS-R / All-star Node at 46094#.

KS4EOC at 146.925 / PL: 123.0 located in Sumterville, FL. EchoLink at WV1TPR-R / All-star Node at 47485#

Radio Net is each Monday evening at 8:00 PM on the 145.490 repeater.

## News Release

### Sumter County, Florida Youth Center Amateur Radio Presentation and Radio Operation

On Wednesday, July 17, 2019, the Hog County Amateur Radio Association, Inc. had the wonderful opportunity of presenting amateur radio to a large group of children at the Sumter Youth Center in Bushnell, Florida.

The kids ranged in age from eight to around fourteen years of age. The amazing thing was the kids were actually interactive with us. We used primarily a question platform where we would ask a question, of course soliciting a response from the kids. While they mostly did not have the correct answer, they did engage with us that led to the discussion of the topic and thereby educating them on that topic. Then we allowed them to get on the air and talk with other amateurs out there via UHF/VHF and HF.

Again, there were several kids who seemed genuinely interested and claim they are going to talk to their parents about becoming license operators. So, we truly hope that we have done our small part in promoting amateur radio to our youth and they will eventually become a license amateur radio operator thereby helping to keep the hobby alive and well.

We would encourage other associations, clubs, etc. to also reach out to their local schools, child care centers, scouts or wherever they can find kids and share the hobby with them, help us to keep our wonderful hobby alive and well.

If anyone or group would like additional information please feel free to give us a call or send us an email.

Sincerely,

*Gene King*

Gene King – KI4LEH  
President



## North Florida Amateur Radio Club / Alachua ARES Hosts Blow-Out Lunch-N-Lab

By Gordon Gibby KX4Z

After a good lunch at Wendy's on Saturday, July 20, a crew of 13 descended on the KX4Z home and overflowed the kitchen, breakfast nook, right into the living room with *happy ham radio builders*. During lunch, we had handed out instruction sheets, and passed around a prototype 12-volt fused power distribution box with built-in polarity protection.

Using inexpensive (\$20) marine fuse holder boxes that include LEDs to show blown fuses, and a stainless plate for negative leads, each chose how they wanted to wire their system. These can be used either at home or on a go-box to allow a 12V sources (battery, or AC-powered supply) to feed more than one rig, or additional ancillary equipment, as long as the total current didn't exceed the supply's capabilities.

An incoming fuse, and a hefty backwards-placed diode provided a good measure of protection against accidental backwards wiring of a battery or new power source. We even tested that (using just a 10A fuse for the test). It was immediate! (There are many other ways to do polarity protection, and John Trites NO5X may give us a talk on that in the future.)

But for many of the crowd it was their first time to deal with wire strippers, power-pole and terminal crimpers, and to understand the ampacity of 16-gauge versus 12-gauge wire, and the implications of that for fusing. There was an enormous amount of ham-to-ham coaching going on, all over the group, which worked for roughly 2 hours building a dozen or more of these distribution systems. We built one for our EOC, and one for our Beaty Tower digital packet system in the mix. And when the uproar died down a bit, two of us worked on tuning a new portable duplexer for a UHF repeater as well!

Not only does a project like this give people a needed start on getting their own go-box system built, but it also helps them learn very valuable skills that can come in handy, during the chaos of making radios work in a disaster deployment.

If your group is interested in replicating this incredibly successful afternoon fun, here is a document on how we built them: <https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/2019/PowerDistributionProject.pdf>



## NOFARS Has New Meeting Location & Prepares for Hamfest

Billy Williams, N4UF

### NEW PERMANENT NOFARS MEETING LOCATION

The North Florida Amateur Radio Society meetings have moved from Ed White High School to Hogan Baptist Church, 8045 Hogan Rd. near Parental Home Rd.

The new meeting location is easily accessible via Hart Expressway, Southside Blvd or I-295. Exit on Beach Blvd. and turn south on Parental Home Rd. At the next traffic light, head east on Hogan Rd. for one block to the church.

### JACKSONVILLE FREE HAMFEST

The Nineteenth Jacksonville FREE Hamfest is Saturday, October 26th in the big parking lot at Terry Parker Baptist Church, 7024 Merrill Rd.. The fun starts at sunrise and lasts until noon. Admission and tailgate space are FREE. Bring your own tables or sell from your car.

The auction starts at 10:30. Put your items up for bids with no commission charge and bid on a variety of radio-related equipment. Prize drawings follow the auction. A small donation puts a ticket with your callsign in the barrel. Proceeds go to maintaining NOFARS W4IZ repeaters.

Church Pastor Rev. Peter Copeland, KK4WAY offered his invitation to meet there after Duval County School Board expanded its "cost recovery" program to include our meetings. To continue meeting at Ed White High School would be very expensive.

There is W4SNN (Saturday Night Net) hospitality including free coffee and snacks.

Make plans to attend. Look for bargains and sell your surplus items. The fun starts at sunrise, so arrive early.

See Directions to the site and details at

<https://nofars.net/home/hamfest>



Hamfest Photos by Bob Simmons, KS4CA



## Alachua County: EOC HF Antenna Part III

By Gordon Gibby KX4Z

In June we reported that the Alachua County's 20+ dB of excess noise had been ameliorated by raising the antenna significantly, with a resultant noise profile on a spectrum analyzer that indicated 40 meters was now usable.

Unfortunately, 80 meters and 5 MHz interoperability channels did not fare so well. That was shown when Leland Gallup was unable to check into a SHARES net from the EOC – and then succeeded on the same frequency a week later at a residential location.

### SUCCESS!

Even better news arrived in July when Col. Huckstep W4JIR and Gordon Gibby KX4Z installed a temporary antenna using a slingshot to get a line over an oak limb in a grassy area of County property just south (50 yards) from the EOC building. (Photo, Figure 1) Tests were carried out on a homebrew Buckmaster 130-foot antenna inverted vee from the oak limb. Very good results!

SWR now showed the expected ham band response, with good SWR on all the expected bands.

Signal/noise measurements (Figure 2) were made using a recently purchased Siglent spectrum analyzer, with 15 dB of external attenuation, 3 kHz bandwidth (both RBW and VBW) in the range from 3 MHz to 8 MHz, attempting to exactly duplicate the measurements made previously on the roof-mounted and on other residential antennas – but a strong local AM broadcast station on 1430kHz required more attenuation and a higher noise floor on the analyzer.

We still were able to easily demonstrate;

- **Noise in the cw/data end of the 80 meter band (and in a nearby SHARES set of frequencies) is below -85 dBm – an amazing 20dB lower than measured with the roof-mounted antenna, even after its improvements –** meaning stations that are 100 times weaker can be received by the oak tree antenna.
- Noise in SHARES bands in the 4-6 MHz range is generally 5-10 dB lower, so SHARES stations that are 4 to 10 times weaker could be received.
- Noise in the 40 meter amateur band is similar to the roof mounted antenna.

Both broadcast short wave stations AND amateur radio stations in both the 80 and 40 meter bands were clearly visible on the spectrum.

### ACTUAL 80-meter RADIO CONTACT

Using a portable amateur transceiver we proceeded to make two digital connections in the 80 meter band using WINLINK, **a feat that has never been accomplished with the roof-mounted antenna.**

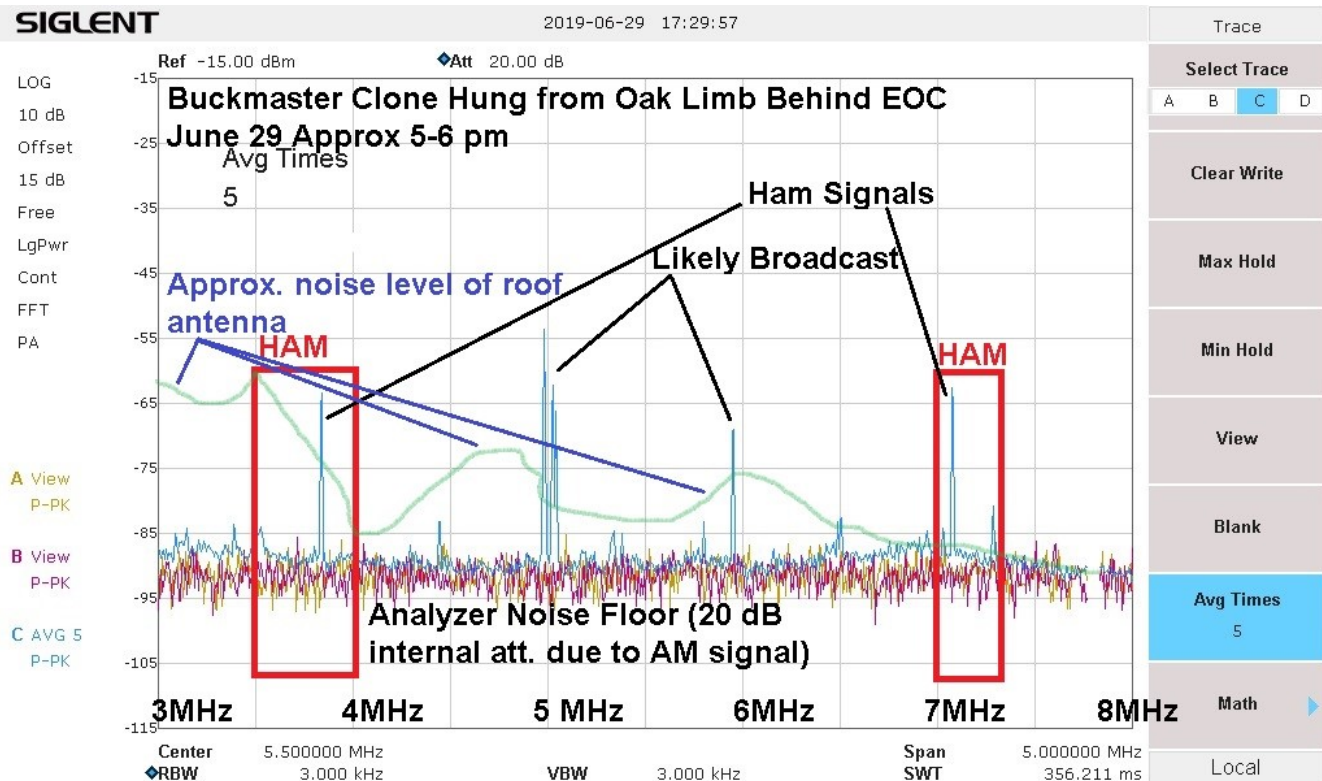
So the EOC will move toward a permanent antenna option mounted in the Oak Trees and we hope this to allow weekly participation in the SHARES nets as well as full ham radio band access. We are now wondering if we could do a Field Day from the EOC?



**Figure 1:** Photo of temporarily installed antenna, with center Balun at approximately 26 feet above ground. Inverted V type clone of a buckmaster antenna. Except for the light-colored RG8X coaxial cable, the antenna is almost invisible.



## EOC HF Antenna (Continued)



**Figure Two:** Light blue top line shows the rough noise contour of the **best we could do with the roof-mounted antenna**. The blue line with spiking signals visualized is the result of the test antenna hanging from oak tree limb, with visible 80m, 5 MHz, broadcast, and 40 meter ham signals. The Analyzer noise floor is shown in several colors and had to be raised due to interference from a nearby AM Broadcast station.

## Northern Florida Section SEC Report, June 2019

Karl Martin, KG4HBN, Section Emergency Coordinator

Report	Counties Reporting	County in NFL
Number of Counties Reporting	18	43
Total Number of ARES Members		610
	Number of Events	Hours
Exercises & Training Sessions	117	1861.5
Public Events	4	137
Emergency Operations	0	0
Skywarn Operations	2	17
Total	123	2015.5
Comments		
This is a reminder to everyone to have your equipment ready. The ARES section of the arrl-nfl.org site is updated with all the forms an operator needs.		

## Silver Springs Radio Club, Perry Field Update

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

Once again the Ocala Electric Utility came to the rescue July 23rd to replace the rotator on the 100' Triband tower that went bad back in June at the SSRC satellite facility, Perry Field. Ivory Williams W6IVY, along with Tom Lufkin W4DAX, Ed Biedricki II WB2UKX and Carl Berry KC5CMX, worked with the OEU crew Jessie and Bennie, to reinstall the rotator

The crew came out and went right to work reinstalling the rotator, fastening the coax and cables. Let me tell you, these guys are really good at what they do and really deserve a thank you from every member of the club.

There's still some work and testing that needs to be done, as well as burying the cables. (Anyone got a ditch-witch?) Again, hand salute and a hearty thank you to these fine individuals.



Jessie & Bennie from Ocala Electric Utility



Ivory Williams, W6IVY. The official club photographer



Next stop, nosebleed section



Perry Field, (Continued)



Ed WB2UKX and Tom W4DAX securing some cables



Tom W4DAX making the cables look pretty



## Winlink Training in Ocala

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

July 20, Silver Springs Radio Club (K4GSO.US), in conjunction with the Marion County Hospital Communications Team led by Dave Welker W2SRP, hosted a Winlink class at Green Clover Hall. We had visitors from Hernando, Hillsborough and Volusia, as well as Marion County hams, twelve students in all.

The class covered the basics of Winlink Express, how to set-up a Winlink account, send and receive messages via VHF, HF and Telnet, and interface the messages to regular dot com and dot net addresses. Main items covered were message handling and built in forms such as the ICS 213, ICS 309, the ARRL Radiograms as well.

There have been many updates to the software over the last 10 years. You can now use the software for VHF which wasn't possible before and there is now a weak signal mode that is called VARA. It will pull signals out of the mud even when you can't hear them.

In an emergency, communications are essential and Winlink is an excellent tool to use in any condition to get the message through.

We may have another class later this fall, so please keep

checking the K4GSO.US or ARESMCFL.ORG websites for dates and time. More information about Winlink can be found at WINLINK.ORG.

You can also contact Dave, W2SRP at [W2SRP@WINLINK.ORG](mailto:W2SRP@WINLINK.ORG) for more information about Winlink.







## Sumter County Emergency Management Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



Gene King – KI4LEH  
RACES Officer

Gil Chapin – WB2UTI  
Logistics Chief

Rusty Blankenship – WV1TPR  
Events / Planning Chief

Verne Betlach – K4VEB  
SkyWarn / Nets Chief

Hal Lloyd – W4OE  
Senior Advisor

July 15, 2019

To: Northern Florida Section of the ARRL

From: Gene King, RACES Officer

Reference: State of Florida – Emergency Management – Region 4 Communications Exercise

The Sumter County Emergency Management – RACES Team hosted what we called the Region 4 Communications Exercise. The State Emergency Management has separated Florida into Regions, and the following counties fall into Region 4: Sumter, Polk, Hardee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus.

The exercise was intended to test our capability to communicate from county to county within our assigned region. Our communications included the SARNet System to get us all coordinated and then we switched to repeater, simplex or HF operations to pass a message from county to county and back to Sumter County which originated the message. This procedure included sending the message in both directions so each county could test its capability with its connecting county on each side.

As with most exercises of this nature, several counties did have some minor issues which were resolved. But again, these exercises help us to find those minor issues, find the solution for those issues and correct the problem. Our hope, of course, is that when we are activated/deployed we will have a properly working communications system, know which system or mode works best for our needs, and fulfill our role as EmComm Operators serving our respective agencies to the best of our abilities.

The exercise was well received by those who participated; we again had a good “Hot-wash” via a telephone conference call (so as not to tie up the SARNet System) where each county’s participant(s) related their take on the exercise. Everyone appreciated the exercise and by unanimous input want to do this exercise quarterly. They would also like to have the opportunity for the Region 4 exercise participants to meet for an hour or so at the next Tampa Bay Ham Fest coming up Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This way, we can get to know each other a little better than just over the airwaves.

We look forward to the next time we do the Region 4 Communications Exercise as well as any other exercise in which we can learn from and hone our skills as radio operators enhancing our abilities as EmComm teams no matter if we operate under an ARES or RACES umbrella.

## Alachua County Hams Add Info to Decision-Making Process

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Regardless where you stand on various issues, it is always a good thing for amateur radio when hams are *getting into the technology, learning and experimenting!* Amateur radio operators from Alachua County were very involved in July, deep into the technology, attempting to carry out a proof-of-concept experiment to provide additional detail requested for the July ARRL Board of Directors' meeting.

At issue was the claim by some that WINLINK transmissions are either "encrypted" or "effectively encrypted" so that over-the-air transmissions are *impossible* to view. (FCC Regulations do not in general allow amateur radio signals to be encoded for the intent of obscuring the content.) Although WINLINK has no encryption whatsoever, some highly-placed amateurs maintained it was still impossible to read over the air, because of a common public-domain compression technique that compresses from one end to the other for maximum compression – so if you miss even one packet, you can't decompress.

Alachua County hams don't disagree with the need to capture all the data, but recognized that the engineering solution to that is to obtain good signals, potentially from internet-connected web-SDRs, gather the packets in software, and route them through the decompression algorithms. Freely available third-party WINLINK implementations with all the needed code make the development job a bunch easier.

Nevertheless, there was still controversy. A clever way to demonstrate (in a very limited way) that WINLINK can indeed be read over the air was recognized by Gordon Gibby a few months back, accomplished and filed with the FCC – but certain people denied its reality. So hams from Alachua County got together, resurrected the experiment and ran it again.

In a hallway at KX4Z's shack, three complete winlink stations using PACTOR modems were assembled. **The demonstration is single-purpose: to prove there is no encryption**, and to do it *without even writing a single line of software*. (It is NOT the engineering solution to wide-spread monitoring of WINLINK.) In order to accomplish that feat, it relies on "spoofing" one station with another – so that two stations BOTH receive the exact same WINLINK message, both over the air and without communicating in any way with each other. (That proves there is no encryption, but doesn't make

any pretense of being a large-scale monitoring system.) Unable to communicate with each other, and with no software to deal with repeats and retries, the spy station relies on pure luck that the two stations remain in complete lock – but after several tries, the Alachua County hams were rewarded with a perfectly captured winlink message on two stations simultaneously, even though the spy station had no ability to transmit.

Their adventure was then memorialized in a write-up available on the NFARC website (<https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/2019/SpyingOnWINLINKV2.pdf>), provided to interested ARRL Directors to assist in their decision-making, and was even published as an Amazon text in paperback and Kindle.

(<https://www.amazon.com/Spying-WINLINK-Gordon-L-Gibby/dp/1080563199> and <https://www.amazon.com/Spying-WINLINK-Gordon-Gibby-ebook/dp/B07V664FYK> )



Alachua County AEC Leland Gallup AA3YB (front) and EC Jeff Capehart W4UFL worked to assist in the proof-of-concept experiment with Gordon Gibby KX4Z.

## FCC Testing Information

### 4 Corners Radio Club, Davenport FL

- First Saturday
- 10:00 AM
- Polk County Firehouse, 50945 US 27
- Walk-ins welcome
- Info: WA2FRW@aol.com

### 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

### 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.

### 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](mailto:w2bzy@cfl.rr.com)

### Milton Amateur Radio Club

- Second Thursday of each even numbered month
- 6:30 PM
- Walk-in
- West Florida Hospital Rehab Institute, 8383 N Davis Hwy, Close to Johnson and N. Davis
- Info: Robert Speser, nb8s@icloud.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

### Silver Springs Radio Club

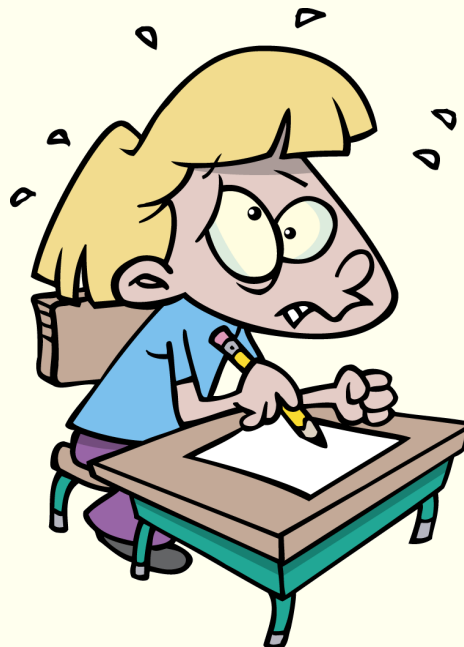
- Go to <http://k4gso.us/class/> to signup for classes
- Go to <http://k4gso.us/test-signup/> for testing. Testing is held on the 2nd Tuesday of odd months at 7 PM.
- Note <http://k4gso.us/ncvec605/> is requested to be filled out before you show for testing. It is best to download the form and open it as a PDF so you can fill in the blanks.

### 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

### Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (TARS)

- First Tuesday of each even numbered month
- 7:00 PM
- American Red Cross, 1115 Easterwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL
- Contact TARS : [tallyamateurradio@gmail.com](mailto:tallyamateurradio@gmail.com) with questions
- Info: <http://www.k4tlh.net>



**Remember:** Bring photo ID, CSEs, copy of current license, exam fee in cash, \$15 exact change. Large print exams are available.



## 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).

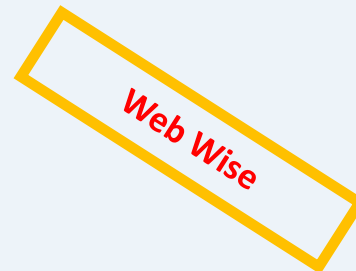
### [Section Nets](#)

### [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)

**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, N4GL.MARTY@gmail.com.