



Putting the “Public” back into Public Information Officer

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, NFL Section PIC (PIO)

Recently, I heard the Public Information Officer for one of our local served agencies say, “I don’t like to talk to the public...” My mind went into a “tilt” condition. How can you be a Public Information Officer and NOT talk to or deal with the public? I have heard other such statements such as:

- “I only deal with the media...”
- “I will only talk to the public if it is a larger group...”
- “As Public Information Officer, I am only going to write press releases...”

This made me think more about what a Public Information Officer is really supposed to be doing. The job of a Public Information Officer (PIO) is to give the public information. But, what information? Is it just about activations? Is it just about disasters? Or, is it more than that?

The real job of the PIO is to give information to the public about your organization – educate them about your organization, who you are, what you do, events you support, etc. If you have a meeting – let the public know. If you are supporting an event – let the public know. If you honor one of your members – let the public know. If your team activates to support your served agencies – let the public know. Okay, you get the idea, but how do you let the public know?



There are many ways to do this – Facebook and Twitter are two of the easiest ways. If your organization does not have a Facebook page or a Twitter account, then that is a great place to start. Take photos of all your events and post them on Facebook and Twitter. Encourage your members to follow your Facebook and Twitter feeds, and encourage them to share your posts. Remember this: Your posts do not only have to be about amateur radio – post things about your community as well. The more you post, the more people will share your posts and the more people will follow you.

For some of your larger events, you can take a photo or two, write a short story and send that to your local newspaper. Many times, if they have room, they will publish it for you.

Other ideas of ways that you, as the PIO, can help promote to the public:

- Search out smaller community papers where your members live and ask them to publish information about your group and events.
- Find online community calendars and post the dates of your meetings or events (most of these are free).
- Offer to speak at local homeowner association, civic and church meetings.

Really, the options for putting the “Public” back into Public Information Officer are endless. What ideas do you have?

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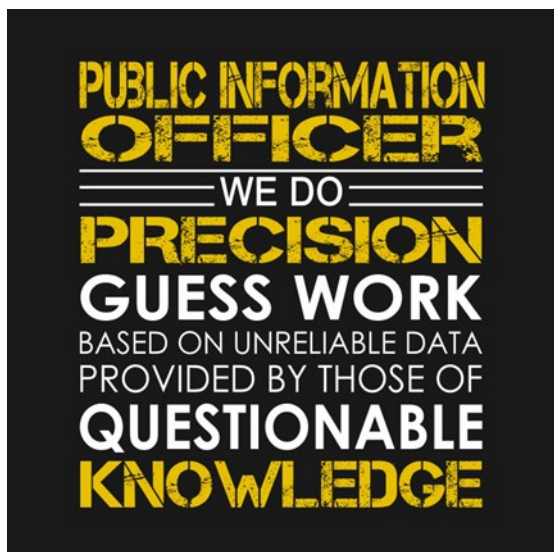
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Email your QST NFL input to n4gl.marty@gmail.com
Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor

[Help Wanted! Section Traffic Manager](#)

And for some PIO humor from KK4ECR



LARA ARES Team supports Hurricane Dorian Preparation

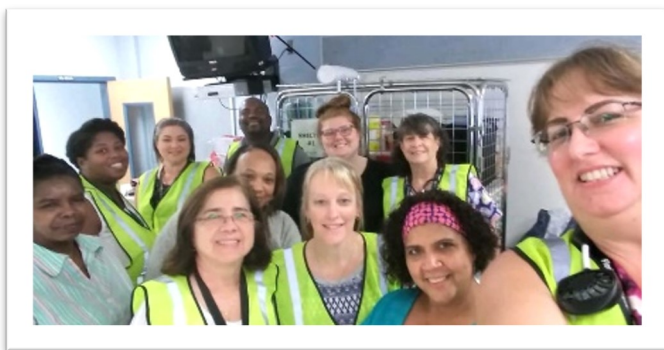
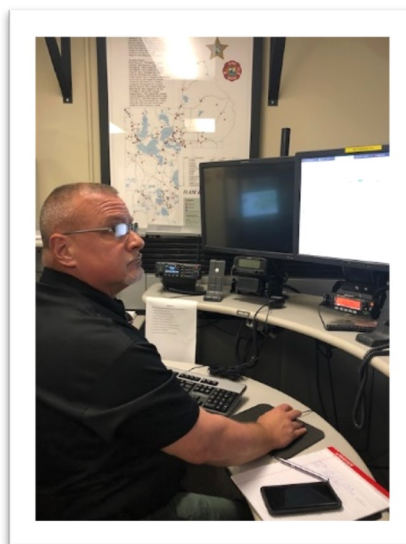
Frank Anders, KK4 MBX

Although Hurricane Dorian did not directly impact Lake County, Florida, LARA ARES Team prepared for the potential as the storm approached by securing the Clubhouse as a potential communication center before joining the team at the Lake County Emergency Operations Center, and rallying the team to support the shelters as Lake County Emergency Management opened them.

LARA's Lake County ARES net control team, prepared to start a Sky Warn information net in conjunction with the shelter net from their home stations.

Since the storm passed well offshore, our team was able to stand down within hours of being activated.

Pictured are our EC, AI, W4ALR, at the EOC; Glenn, AA4UC, and Dave, KE7BMG at the LARA Clubhouse; and the Shelter 1 team including Ann Keller, KD4BVH. Not pictured, Jay, N4KXO, and John WB4HV provided essential support from home.



Florida Amateurs Provide New Software and New Experimental Insights for Regulators Considering RM-11831

by Gordon L. Gibby MD KX4Z

Ron Kolarik's (K0IDT) petition leading to RM-11831 has opened a wealth of controversy, particularly when Dr. Ted Rappaport made allegations of "**effective encryption**" and risks to national security (beginning at least by 2016). Since one of the goals of the Amateur Service in 97.1 relates to developing expertise, the ensuing discussions have allowed many to become better briefed on some of the technology amateur radio operators developed beginning in 1986 with Jean-Paul Roubelat, F6FBB (first compressed files for transmission <http://www.f6fbb.org/>) and continuing to this day. The ARRL has come out strongly in defense of these decades-old techniques widely utilized - and some folks got real mad about that.... ([https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10918259487629/ARRL 16-239%2CRM-11759%2CRM-11828%2CRM-11831.pdf](https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10918259487629/ARRL%2016-239%2CRM-11759%2CRM-11828%2CRM-11831.pdf))

I personally was stunned to learn that there had been well over a decade of argument over the simple demand to be able to decompress "system" transmissions by such systems as WINLINK. Those making the demands appeared never to have realized that "monitors" not part of the connected ARQ-error-free transmissions of probably any of these systems (D-RATS, FLDGI/FLMSG in compressed mode, WINLINK, PAT, FBB and others) **cannot with existing software, read the transfer.** They had zeroed in only on WINLINK for reasons that only they could possibly explain....

But arguing for 19 years is pointless. It took me 20 days to learn how to simply read a USB port from a Dragon pactor modem (red face!) on a Raspberry Pi, and I haven't written really significant c- code in 3 decades, but with a book constantly at my side, **in five days, I could read winlink as a monitor.**

Then came the demand to test it over real-world paths, as those demanding the software still weren't happy.

So I did! There is actually so little PACTOR WINLINK moving around that in order to get this experiment done before I pass off this earth, I arranged various ways to have N5TW in Texas, 900+ miles to my west, to send winlink traffic to my home station KX4Z....

Then I drove 9 miles to Newberry, and set up a simple end-fed 1/2 wave 40 meter vertical in a tree (using the Balun our group just built! See: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019/InstructionsEFHW.pdf>) and created a "monitoring station" in the front seat of my pickup--- whose engine overheated and I had to turn the AC off. Bingo! the ignition noise I hadn't realized....went away. 20 meters turned out to be the thing that worked, during the day. Nighttime? The sodium vapor lamp at the bus-stop deafened the receiver....

The result? I copied message after message from 900 miles away using my newly developed software -- especially after I rooted out various beginner-programmer "bugs". Not all perfectly due to fading etc, but wow! it was amazing 900 miles. Peter Helfert DL6MAA, soft-spoken creator of much of PACTOR, took my raspberry pi code and compiled it for WINDOWS and put out a commercial version -- and then he pulled off a never-done-before miracle. (Read the report: <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/109191626613689/InconvenientTruths.pdf>)

Normally with LZHUF_1 decompression you have to wait for the entire message to arrive, before you can send it to the ubiquitous algorithm used by so many groups. But Peter literally turned it inside out, re-wrote the decompression routine by himself --- and now right after the initial few characters, you start seeing readable text!!! Decompression on the fly! My jaw dropped clean to the floor. Free: https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/Tech/RaspberryPiWinlinkDecoder/CurrentWindowsSoftware/pmon_lzh_v_1_0_7.zip

So now it is out, disclosed to the FCC and to the ARRL Board of Directors. Some folks still don't seem to understand it. Works with any Dragon-series modem. Tune to the frequency, turn on software, read message. Bad fading (to zero) or bad QRM and you may lose the signal and thus the decoding, but what you got at the beginning is already done! (Some folks don't understand that.) Someone needs to write a front end for WINMOR, VARA, ARDOP, D-RATS, FLMSG, PAT (FD protocol -- will need to put in gzip) -- and other systems out there for decades or longer that need precisely the same treatment....but

RM-11831 (Continued)

for any winlink mode, the bulk of the work is done.....after 19 years of useless arguing. You can go to the FCC site or qsl.net and see example after example.

Another experimental finding: diversity receiving is extraordinarily powerful. Although not yet imple-

mented, the experimental findings serendipitously demonstrated that a 2-receiver diversity system would have likely correctly captured the entire George Washington farewell address (36,000 characters) --- from Texas!



"Monitoring Bus Stop" Blue box at base of palm tree is the end-fed Balun.



Slightly cluttered "monitoring office" Clipboard to keep

North Florida Amateur Radio Society (NOFARS)

Billy Williams, N4UF

NOFARS MEETING OCTOBER 10TH

The North Florida Amateur Radio Society meets Thursday, October 10th at Hogan Baptist Church, 8045 Hogan Rd. The meeting starts at 7PM. Remaining meetings for 2019 include Thursday, November 14th at Hogan Baptist Church and the December 12th dinner meeting at Terry Parker Baptist Church. Advance tickets for the December meeting are \$15 through Jerry, N2GLF and Neal, N4FAS.

JACKSONVILLE FREE HAMFEST

The 19th Jacksonville FREE Hamfest is Saturday, October 26th at Terry Parker Baptist Church, 7024 Merrill Rd. Activity starts when the tailgate area opens at 7AM. Look for bargains and sell your radios and other electronic equipment. Bring tables and chairs.

The W4SNN group serves free refreshments and Laurel VEC offers free FCC exams at 10 AM. The boat anchor auction begins at 10:30. Your items can be put up for bids with no commission charge.

Drawings for prizes are at 11AM. For a small donation, you can put tickets in the barrel. Proceeds go to the W4IZ repeater system.

JACKSONVILLE AREA FCC EXAMS

Rajesh, K4SK and Jax Laurel examiners are busy. Besides a testing session at the Jacksonville FREE Hamfest on Saturday, October 26th, they have three sessions in November.

November includes a session at BSides. a Jacksonville technology gathering at the football stadium on Saturday, November 16th.

During two years of offering free FCC testing in northeastern Florida, 241 applicants have earned licenses through Jax Laurel which represents potential savings of almost \$5,400 in testing fees

For testing dates, see https://nofars.net/home/fcc_testing

[Help Wanted! Section Traffic Manager](#)

LMARS QSO Party Field Operations Event

Rich Fischer, WA3SSX, LMARS Secretary

LMARS (Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society) brought out the Pam LaPater Memorial Operations trailer August 24th 2019 setting up in Trotwood Park, Winter Springs, Florida to participate in two state's QSO Parties: Ohio and Kansas.

As originally billed as the Ohio QSO Party we found more stations being heard in Central Florida from the state of Kansas being good for 44 contacts worth a claimed 528 points. From Ohio we worked only 12 contacts but netting 72 points.

The goals of this fielded event were to try out Trotwood Park as an alternate operating location, to enable our newest Club Members to be on the air within the HF bands, and to help Alex, KK4VB, with his aspiration to operate an outreach to the public to learn about and experience Amateur Radio.

Our outing this date was indeed a success. Our two new members, Tom, KF4YFY provided all of the CW contacts and Greg, KN4VJL logged SSB contacts in the 20 meter band. Greg also worked two DX stations in Europe! Tom is knowledgeable of CW but wishes to further develop his operating skill. Greg made his first HF contacts.

Last April during the Florida QSO Party LMARS netted 900 QSOs being worth an unofficial 146,900 points.

Our newest operators will likely be eager for next April's QSO Party!



Setup at Trotwood Park QSO Party beam antenna



LMARS demonstration of Ham Radio.

Bay County ARES Has Exercise with Medical Centers

Matt Kennedy W9NDN
Emergency Coordinator



David Morgan, KM4HOL,
Bay County Radio Systems Administrator, installing antenna on roof of GCRMC

Bay County ARES (BCARES) has had a very active month. Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center (GCRMC) has purchased, installed, and tested new amateur radio equipment. Bay Medical Center is in process of doing the same thing. We had a county wide simplex exercise to map out our simplex footprint, with terrific results and direction to improve on the fringe areas. We met with Lynn Haven Fire Chief per his request to discuss adding Amateur Radio to their station. We also met with Panama City Police Department, who has since purchased the same equipment as the EOC and GCRMC. The Captain in charge also participated in our simplex exercise and has since joined BCARES. In the 11 months since Hurricane Michael, Bay County ARES has come along way, and I'm very proud of what my team has accomplished while at the same time dealing with personal issues caused by Michael.

Multi-band Balun End-Fed Antenna

Gordon Gibby, KX4Z

Alachua County -- here is a project your local club can do in a jiffy --- a multi-band Balun end-fed antenna....\$8.50 -- GREAT for emcomm deployment....

Why didn't someone tell me it was THIS EASY?!! *I lost track of how many builders we had*....used every single one of the SIXTEEN kits I had prepared --- builders filled the kitchen, the breakfast nook, the bar-counter, and spilled into the living room -- assembling simple modest-power [1] 1:49 baluns on an FT-140-43 core, in a simple plastic electrical box, with SO-239 input, and banana plug 2500 ohm outputs..... SWR's amazingly good on fundamental (3.5 MHz, SWR 1.3-1.7) and EVERY HARMONIC-- swr's rising as the impedance dropped on harmonics but still usable even without a tuner on 80, 30, 20 meters, maybe higher. An incredible antenna for emergency deployments:

1. Very little coax needed: run it out the building, start the end-fed wire THERE, run it sloping out as high as you can to WHATEVER YOU CAN CONNECT IT TO.
2. Very high impedance, so the ground connection is FAR less critical than with a 1/4 wave vertical -- we used a dog-leash-screw-in, front flower bed, with copper wire wrapped around it.... and secured with a ZIP TIE (couldn't find a hose clamp) -- 135 foot wire into an oak tree so we got 80 meters, winding course, didn't matter....the group tuned it up into the 80 meter band in a jiffy -- GREAT PRACTICE for your members!!!

Learning, sharing, teaching, camaraderie going on for HOUR AFTER HOUR (we started 12 noon with Lunch at Wendy's -- filled an entire section) -- Some stayed almost to 6PM, they were having such fun! People learned how to wrap toroids, count turns, strip Teflon (SHARP stripper required); soldering skills, dexterity skills, antenna measurement skills, SWR, resonance skills, bandwidth understanding -- and then went on to every topic you can think of. We chirp-programmed some radios.... One group later on headed for the kitchen table and did a full session teaching jS8 once the baluns were done --- Leland is our local expert! John Trites managed the antenna analyzer with his AA-30 --- every person got to see THEIR BALUN work (one fellow had a turn count error, easily fixed). This was our FIRST CUT at this --- could even be improved, but gives you a low SWR on the coax for loss reduction. Measurement of loss in the core --- 1.5 dB from 3.5-20+ MHz.

[Help Wanted! Section Traffic Manager](#)

A Lab-N-Lunch Event

Building instructions for your club are here: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2019/InstructionsEFHW.pdf>

Parts:

- Toroids from many suppliers, I use kitsandparts.com --- here in Florida. Very good people. Entire parts \$8.50 for each kit. (not including antenna wire, I prefer #14 stranded house wire from home depot....but in quantity to save your people \$\$)
- Build in inexpensive plastic electrical boxes. 5/8", 5/16" and 1/16" drills required.
- Buy Teflon #18 stranded wire off Amazon, as well as banana receptacles and SO-239. Either use lugs for the ground connection to the SO-239 or pre-solder with a 300 watt iron for your members -- difficult trick to solder... SO-239's can be mounted from the INSIDE of the box, works fine.

[1] Our estimate of SAFE power levels if you keep the Balun out of direct sunlight: SSB: 100 watts; CW: 50-75 Watts; Long-winded Digital: 50 Watts. Replace toroid with FT-240-43, build exactly the same, to increase power levels 2X or 3X. Estimates only -- this is a temperature related phenomenon so just keep the Balun out of baking sun and you'll be better off -- Simple piece of wood over it in a disaster would suffice. Above about 130 deg. C....toroid becomes Cinderella.



(L) John Trites NO5X mans the antenna testing station, while Col. Huckstep (L) W4JIR and Leland Gallup AA3YB perform moral support

Multi-band Balun End-Fed Antenna, (Continued)



We used every single one of the SIXTEEN kits I had prepared --- builders filled the kitchen, the breakfast nook, the bar-counter, and spilled into the living room ...



Northern Florida Section SEC Report

Karl Martin, K4HBN
Section Emergency
Coordinator

k4hbn@arrl.net

Northern Florida Section SEC Report		August 2019
Report	Counties Reporting	County in NFL
Number of Counties Reporting	16	43
Total Number of ARES Members		474
	Number of Events	Hours
Exercises & Training Sessions	104	1295.5
Public Events	54	92
Emergency Operations	17	481
Skywarn Operations	5	307
Total	130	2175.5
Comments		
Florida was lucky not to be impacted by Dorian. You can see Northern Florida was busy with preparing during August. The EC's and their teams did an outstanding job. The After-Action Report (AAR) is available at arrl.nfl.org Thank you, Everyone!		

Santa Fe College Technician Level Class

Karl Zawoy, KR6G

Santa Fe College in Gainesville, FL held a successful Technician Level Amateur Radio class on September 14 and 21. Five students attended the four-hour class each day. The class instructor was Karl R. Zawoy – KR6G. This is the second year Karl has taught the class. The course focused on how to pass the FCC Technician License exam to become a licensed Technician Level Ham Radio Operator.

The ham radio class covered the ARRL Technician License Manual 4th Edition. Karl also provided several demonstrations including live recordings of SDR (Software Defined Radio) sessions on 20m and 40m. Karl recorded the live sessions using a SDRPlay RSP1A and SDR Console software.

Two other hams joined our second class. Jim Van Houten- NJ7Y and Karl – KR6G provided demonstrations of CW communications using a Mountain Topper MTR3b and YouKits HB-1B QRP transceiver. Ray Strickland – K4TCJ demonstrated digital communications with Yaesu C4FM and Fusion HTs connected to a Hotspot. The class also had a tour and demo at the Santa Fe College Ham Shack – K4EAC.

Students were also encouraged to watch YouTube Training videos by Dave Casler – KE0OG to supplement their Ham Radio instruction.

Karl R Zawoy – KR6G is the Director of the [Santa Fe College Innovative Product Development Center \(IPDC\)](#) providing early stage startup companies with tools, training and support to help them grow and develop into financially viable enterprises. The IPDC is located at the Santa Fe GTEC in East Gainesville. Karl has been actively involved with the Amateur Radio Community in High Springs and Gainesville. He received an Extra Class License in 2017.

His shack has an [ICOM IC-7300](#) controlled by a Windows 10 Laptop running [Ham Radio Deluxe](#) and [SDR Console](#) connected to a [SDRPlay RSP1A](#). His antenna is an [EFHW-8010 End Fed \(80m - 10m\)](#) and a [Slim Jim](#) for VHF/UHF. He enjoys CW on 20 and 40 meters. "I'm looking forward to taking my new [Mountain Topper MTR3b QRP CW Transceiver](#) backpacking and camping in North Florida," he stated about his latest projects.

The exam will start at 1:00 pm - 10/05/2019 and is sponsored by the Gainesville ARS/SFC ARS.



Picture from Left to right:

Jim Van Houten– NJ7Y
Karl R. Zawoy , Instructor – KR6G
Nancy Watson
Tammy Carter
John Kotsay
Mike Lloyd



Santa Fe College, (Continued)

Santa Fe College Shack, K4EAC



(L) Karl's Shack, where his made the SDR Recordings for the Class.

Karl - KR6G
High Springs, FL

goKR6G@gmail.com

Escambia/Santa Rosa Update

Gene Bannon, KB4HAH

Here's what's been going on here in the Escambia/Santa Rosa Area for the month of September:

1. With Hurricane Dorian at the beginning of Sept, Escambia & Santa Rosa ARES commenced a supporting mission of operations for the State Of Florida Hurricane Dorian's Emergency activation operations. Escambia activated the ARES room in the EOC and had ARES members monitoring the Hurricane Net 7.286Mhz, Fla SARNET, and Salvation Army's Net, As well as checking into the North Fla ARES Net on 3.950 & 7.260. These operations commenced Monday Sept 1st (Labor Day) and securing on the Wed Sept 4th.
2. The Amateur Radio Course at the Pensacola State College commenced with 19 Students registered. We have 3 Students going for the Upgrades (2 General & 1 Extra) and 16 folks without a license looking to get their initial license and possible upgrade prior to the end of the course in Nov (Nov 14th). We are into our 3rd week of the course with Satellite and Digital operations the next subject coming this Tues (24 Sept). Again the classes start at 6PM- 8:30 PM on Tues & Thurs.
3. Some local area Hams Help provide Mobile communications with the Orange Beach, AL MS-Ride. The course had various length from approx 30 Miles to over 100 miles per day. The event was a 2-day ride (Sept 21 & 22) with different routes for each day. Hams were roving the route in their vehicles as well one ham was mounted on his bicycle with APRS and VHF radio operations. Over 20 hams operated for both days from various locations throughout in Alabama and North-West Florida for this event.
4. Hams coming to support the communications for the Mere Mortals triathlon held this past Sunday (22nd of Sept). We had 12 hams reporting the progress and providing any emergency communications service that may happen during the event. The hams mustered at the Net control location at 05:30 AM for any last min instructions prior to heading out to their assigned positions. The event had a 600yd swim, with 18 mile Bike and 5K run. Hams were assigned at swim start, Transition area-(1 ham at each location- Swim/Bike in; Bike/Run out), at Bike Turn around, Run turn around, and several key locations along both routes, as well as having a ham as bicycle mobile APRS & DMR equipped radios acting as caboose to last biker & runner. This was to ensure no biker or runner was let on the course when the race officials closed the course.



Plans for October:

1. Amateur radio class will be in its second month.
2. Hams have been asked to assist with the Santa Rosa Triathlon ([Santa Rosa Island Triathlon](#)). Again we'll have hams station at all the key locations for this event.
3. Local hams have scheduled a Tailgater on Oct 12th in Pace Fla.
4. Local hams are planning on conducting a Fall operation as a "Field Day style event for the fall" in Pace Fla. Since the Temps make it very uncomfortable for a lot of the older hams to participate during the ARRL normally scheduled Field Day, we decided to have a Field Day operations in the Fall with the cooler temperatures. We plan on conducting this operation on Oct 19th.
5. The Milton ARC will be conducting a schedule VEC they hold at the West Fla Baptist Medical Center here in Pensacola Fla. IT is conducted on the 2nd Thurs (Oct 10th). [Testing Information – W4VIY](#)

NFL Section Needs Section Traffic Manager

Marty Brown, Editor

SM, Kevin Bess, KK4BFN, informs the editor that the position of Section Traffic Manager (STM) is now available. Like all section appointments, this job comes with great pay and exceptional benefits!

To quote the ARRL:

The STM is appointed by the Section Manager to supervise traffic handling organization at the section level--that is, to coordinate all traffic efforts within the section, regardless of mode or National Traffic System affiliation, so that routings within the section and connections with other networks and digital traffic nodes will result in orderly and efficient traffic flow.

Requirements: Familiarity with traffic handling on all modes; Technician class license or higher; Full ARRL Membership

For more information: [ARRL STM Info](#)

If you're interested in the job, contact [Kevin Bess, SM, NFL](#)

Gilchrist County FL ARES Group, Hurricane Dorian

Aug-Sept 2019—After Action Report

John Greiner, KJ4YPZ, ARRL EC, Gilchrist Co. FL



Pre-storm actions taken

AUG 26-28

A series of e mails were dispatched to volunteer emergency responders (ARES, CERT, Sheriff Volunteers) 60 people in total . They were made aware of storm, given websites to follow weather and various radar tools. For radio equipped volunteers frequencies were provided to monitor thru the storm. Updates were e mailed Sept 1 and Sept 4 as Storm progressed.

Thursday, Aug 29

Regular 2 meter ARES Nets 147.390 @ 7:15pm and 147.285 @ 7:30 pm . These operators were made aware of storm and reminded of Nightly Emergency Storm Nets to begin Friday at 8:30pm (147.285) , 8:45pm (147.390) .

A series of ARRL TRI-SECT WEBINARS for EC's had first meeting & went through Sept 4.

Friday, Aug 30.

Nightly 2 meter Emergency Storm Nets began at 8:30pm (147.285) , 8:45pm (147.390) which included NHC 8pm advisory. (Storm Net starts when named storm within 72 hours impact to area. Storm at that time had expected landfall in South Central Florida around Sunday) .

Saturday, Aug 31

Nightly 2 meter storm briefings continued @ 8:30 pm on 147.285 & 8:45 on 147.390 , these special emergency nets ran Aug 30- Sept 4.

Served agency is Gilchrist County Emergency Management (EOC) 3250 N US Hwy 129, Bell, FL 32619 (386) 935-5400 / secondary agency is American Red Cross when shelters are activated for any event.

EOC and Gilchrist ARES Group remained at level 3 activation (monitoring) throughout this event. No shelters were opened.

EOC and Gilchrist ARES Group returned to normal operation on Sept 5

Post-storm :

17 Radio operators participated in Emergency Storm Nets and level 3 monitoring from Aug 30 - Sept 4
20 man hrs estimated

I operated at the EOC (NF4EC) on Aug 28, Aug 30, and Sept 2 & participated in 39 various net sessions (NFL ARES Net, NFL phone Net, Emergency Net, Hurricane Watch Net , Local 2 meter Storm Nets) during the period from 8-28 thru 9-4-2019

20 man hrs estimated

What issues did we have or needs improvement :

Wed 8-28-2019 I checked Sarnet (still needed some DOT maint to work. Unable to transmit reply to state EOC thru this repeater on this date) I have a recent report from Alachua group that maybe it works now. I will try again from the EOC .

Those that have the capability to go mobile with HF radio and antenna are encouraged to be prepared to use mobile HF antenna after storm's passing necessitates the lowering of HF towers or damage occurs to HF antennas.

We should use ICS forms for better documentation. The October SET is a good time to practice this.

Help Wanted! Section Traffic Manager

Florida Baptist Disaster Relief Gears Up For Backup-HF Communications

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Baptist Disaster Relief organizations are vast, roughly-state-based, able to quickly join together, extremely "nimble" and **efficient**. They are "there" in hours. Their feeding units often provide tens of thousands of meals to disaster survivors *per day*. That means they have an ongoing need for communications for logistics, supplies, etc. (I'm working to get a 24-hour swatch of what those all look like.)

Some years back they apparently concluded that amateur radio backup wasn't still of importance. I've seen at least one satellite ("vsat") type system that gives high speed multiple-user connections--when it works. Every VSAT systems I've seen so far (2) from two different organizations....not working. So the Baptists serving Florida during Hurricane Michael....had a problem. Amateur radio volunteers manage to reach them and make assistance.

The result: **they are rebuilding an amateur radio component to their disaster services.** Michael Crisler N4IFD is the key player, and out of his own funds, they have HF radio and much much more -- a 60-foot extendable tower suitable for VHF/UHF, and Hf support. Michael also developed end-fed HF antenna capabilities. What he lacked was DIGITAL -- and that is now being attended to.

In a day of training, Michael and Nick Murabito W3PVO got fairly adept at doing HF. WINLINK using sound-card modes and the typical strong stations in Florida during the tough daylight hours. They also got familiar with the SARNET and can now utilize that. The ICS-205 that Karl Martin & others created was extremely helpful to these NGO volunteers, giving them all the information they needed on how to get help in a time of need. Florida Baptist DR runs by the incident command system already.

Their top leader, Delton Beal, immediately recognized the potential benefit of amateur radio to provide a backup method for moving health & welfare traffic from the thousands of lives they or connected NGO's touch through their ministries, **outbound from disaster areas** where other systems are non-existent, unavailable, or overwhelmed. [Inbound is different...] As a result, the traditional amateur radio traffic systems to move outbound news from survivors back to loved ones all over the world, are going to be revitalized and taught afresh-- with our special capabilities through all the modes of modern amateur radio.

What's on tap now: PACTOR capabilities are being added. An improved TRAINING PACKAGE for ham radio volunteers is being developed--will be on Amazon. Two training opportunities are tentatively planned: **Friday Mar 20 in Hialeah, FL**, and the 2020 Alachua County Emergency Conference, **Feb29/ March1 in Gainesville FL**, where the traditional full scale deployment exercise will be modified to include a Florida Baptist DR-specific deployment group.

If you would like to assist these fine people, you will need to get the standard FL Baptist DR training as well as this specialized training, listed above. Contact docvaccu-umtubes@gmail.com for the specialized ham radio training, and see: <https://flbaptist.org/dr-volunteer/> and <https://flbaptist.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2020-DR-training-flyer.pdf> These folks DO require background checks, but if you send in the info they need....it is astonishing how efficient they are. If you have a valid lanyard ID from them...you are approved to be on their site.



Nick Murabito W3PVO (L) and Michael Crisler N4IFD (R), delighted to have "passed" their intensive WINLINK and SARNET training...Little did they know for the next week I would refuse to communicate with them in any other system but WINLINK! (W2SRP Dave Welker's patented training technique!) See the satellite communication system in the upper right of the photo. This is the FL Bapt DR comms trailer and the AC is fantastic!

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, Bushnell FL

- 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, Leesburg FL

- 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.

Lake Monroe ARS FCC Testing, Sanford FL (LMARS)

- 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

Milton Amateur Radio Club, Milton FL

- 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

Orlando ARC FCC Testing (OARC)

- First Wednesday every month
- 5:30 PM
- Beardall Senior Center
- 800 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801
- Info: <https://oarc.org/events-ve-testing>
- Monthly Club Meeting follows at 7:30 PM

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, Ocala FL (SSRC)

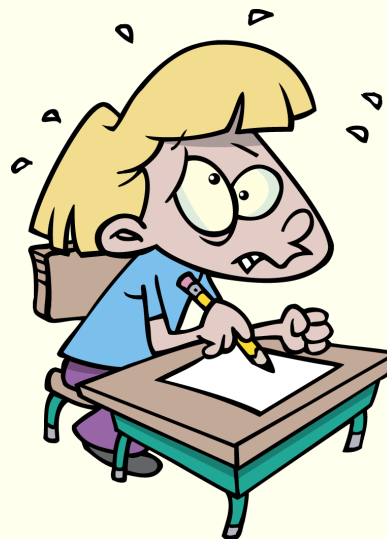
- Go to <http://k4gso.us/class/> to signup for classes
- Go to <http://k4gso.us/test-signup/> for testing. Testing is held on the 2nd Tuesday of odd months at 7 PM.
- Note <http://k4gso.us/ncvec605/> is requested to be filled out before you show for testing. It is best to download the form and open it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

Suwannee ARC, Live Oak, FL

- 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

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 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.arrrl-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@arrrl.net.

[Section Nets](#)

[Northern Florida STM Report](#)

[Florida Hamfest/Convention Calendar](#)

[Operating Events](#)

[Emergency Communications Archive](#)

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 K4HBN

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.arrrl-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

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, N4GL.MARTY@gmail.com.