

Section Manager's Message
February 2018

Greetings North Florida Hams! **Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!**

Yes, it's 2018 HAMCATION TIME IN ORLANDO! <https://www.hamcation.com/> Friday Feb 9th thru Sunday Feb 11th.

I am DEFINITELY at the Orlando Hamcation all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday! Our SE Division/NFL Section Forum is in the back tail gate area (the HIPPS tents) on Saturday morning at 11:15 am. Come join us!

I know there has been much ado with the League (the Board) in the last few months. However, it appears all of the issues in contention have been removed/rescinded at the Board Meeting held recently. I urge you to read the ARRL Board Actions at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-of-directors-agrees-to-review-of-conduct-code-for-directors> . If you haven't, read ARRL President Rick Roderick's earlier comments at <http://www.arrl.org/news/a-note-to-members-from-arrl-president-rick-roderick-k5ur> . I support Rick as he has been accessible and responsive to me on several occasions.

It appears – at least to me - that the member's voices have been heard at this recent Board meeting. I hope these "complaints" are resolved for good. I hope this goes away. It is divisive and bad for our image at the least. Let's hope the Board continues to "listen". If you have concerns, please make your thoughts, comments and "complaints" known to our SE Division Director **Greg Surratt W4OZK** in a tactful and meaningful manner – he is our "voice" on the Board! w4ozk@arrl.org .

ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher has retired too – I am personally sad to see him leave, as it was my belief he was a stand-up fella, and straight shooter. He too has been accessible and response to me on the numerous occasion (including the hurricanes) I had contact with him. I understand he was trying to maintain two homes (one here in Florida) and the costs were prohibitive. In his two years at the helm, he seems to have "shored up" finances and operating costs. He will be missed! (by me at least!).

I know there are also many questions on the ARES group registrations and the Official Observer Program. Please be patient! I have been told there is more information forthcoming soon. If I get it, I immediate forward it. Yes, I agree the information should have been put out before they initiated the changes. I believe this complaint was heard by the Board too!

Please continue to send in the EC Monthly Reports to the NFL Web Page http://arrl-nfl.org/?page_id=4787 unless otherwise notified by me. It's important to document our activities.

Check out our fabulous NFL Section Web Page <http://arrl-nfl.org/> - our spectacular Newsletter (February Issue) *QST NFL* is attached.

Get involved, get active, get happy! Stay safe, get on the air, and have fun!!

EVERYONE COUNTS!
73, Steve WB4OMM

Steve Szabo

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NFL Section Manager

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