



# THE NFL SECTION “NO NAME” NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2014

## **Steve's Take:**

**From the NFL Section Manager, Steve Szabo WB4OMM**

Happy Halloween! Hopefully, you did not eat too much candy!! It has been a relatively quiet month...I did get to visit the Orange Park Hamfest, the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, the Melbourne Hamfest and the Flagler/Palm Coast Club during this month. A highlight was all of the Florida Section Managers (myself, Jeff, the new SFL SM; Dee the outgoing WCF SM, and Darrell the incoming WCF SM), plus Division Director Doug Rehman and Vice-Director Mike Lee at the hamfest at the same time! The four section folks (and some SECs) got to meet for about an hour with some great ideas proposed, terrific cooperation, and a few laughs!! More on this will be sent out as we move along.....I hope to make a few more clubs/ARES groups/organizations meetings before the holidays hit. If you have not have been on the bands, they have been HOT! The CQ WW DX SSB Contest had conditions that were great – and there have been many DXpeditions out there for the deserving. Ol' Sol has been most cooperative!

This month we take a look at The Villages ARC; I had the privilege of visiting with them back in May. Great folks and a great club! KUDOS to them on their successful growth.

If you would like to have us highlight your group, please send us a note so we can include you in our Newsletter.

Speaking of which.....one more solicitation for names for this Newsletter, as I will be selecting a name from the few I have received at the end of November. The winner gets a 2014 ARRL Handbook!

Happy (and safe!) Thanksgiving Holidays to you and yours

***EVERYONE COUNTS!***

***73, Steve WB4OMM***

## **Editorial**

**From the Newsletter Editor, Harry K2BBM**

*Continuing our request for name suggestions, we also want items of interest in North Florida, the area covered by this newsletter. We actively encourage North Florida Clubs to submit items of interest and pictures they want to share with their cousins across NFL.*

## This Month's Group: The Villages



The Villages Amateur Radio Club is a very active club for the past nineteen years in a Florida retirement community with a population of 120,000 people.

The advantage of a large club, with members from all over the country and world, is activity in all aspects of Amateur Radio from CW to HAM Net. Our remarkable membership roster includes; attic explorers, fighter pilots, satellite designers, DXpedition members, and a 7 time Work All Counties award recipient. This in-house club know-how does make for great meeting discussions, but we are thrilled to have two newly licensed Technician members who are 87 and 12 years old.

The club operates two 70 cm repeaters that reach five counties and a 50 mile stretch of North Central Florida along Interstate 75. The club supports the police, fire and public events in our community. We reach out to the public each year with emergency drills, setup several portable HF stations on our town square and hold amateur radio classes. Like most clubs we participate in Field Day, technology expositions and youth events.

## NFL SECTION NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014



The Villages Amateur Radio Club held the first meeting in January 1996 with 25 attendees that formed the club we have today.

1997 A weekly 2M Club Ragchew was established.

1998 The club participated in a Field Day with operations in tents on a vacant lot which today is the Spanish Springs Bowling Center.

1999 The first club station call sign was KG4DAS was issued and later would become the K4VRC vanity call sign used today. The MS Walk operations were supported by the club for the first time. Today the MS Walk is still an annual club event.

2000 The club held the first Technician License Class which has grown to two Technician and two General License Classes every year.

2004 The club became incorporated and held its 100th Meeting May 18, 2004.

2005 The club became an ARRL Special Services Club and established a website [www.k4vrc.org](http://www.k4vrc.org)

2009 The club established the first 70cm repeater dedicated to The Villages, K4VRC/R on the giving coverage throughout The Villages with an HT.

2013 With the fast growth of The Villages moving beyond the five mile footprint of K4VRC/R a second 70cm repeater was added. K4LFF/R giving 20 mile radius with an HT.

2014 K4VRC/R 70cm repeater was moved to a tower 100 Foot level giving 25 mile radius with an HT and establishing a redundant EMCOMM system.

The club established a HAM Net backbone node K4VRC-SA466 giving 9 mile coverage with and moving into the digital age. Today the club has 177 members.

Club Secretary, Brad Castelli, KN9B, put this together.

**Thanks to the group and President Marty Brown, WB2V**

## Stuff and Such

### Ham radio: Old technology gets new respect in the digital age



“It’s just another avenue, another opportunity for us to be able to communicate,” said Herb Schraufnagel, public safety captain with Emory University Hospital Midtown. Emory HealthCare is among a growing number of hospital systems to adopt ham radio. Hospital administrators and government officials took a lesson from Hurricane Katrina, which left some Gulf Coast medical centers isolated from the outside world, as landlines and cell towers failed.

When power, phone and Internet services go down, a battery-powered amateur radio and portable antenna can provide that crucial link to the outside world.

“Ham radio will never die,” said Barry Thomas, Sr., a ham radio enthusiast and employee at Emory University Hospital Midtown.

“The quickest means of communication is Morse Code. It’ll get out when none of this will,” Thomas said, referring to a room filled with computers and smartphones. “It is interesting that some of the technology that has been around for 80, 90, 100 years is still relevant,” said John Davis, a ham radio enthusiast.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) has set up a permanent ham radio station in its command center. “We look at ham radio operators just like GEMA staff, just like DOT staff and Georgia State Patrol staff,” said GEMA Director Charlie English. “They are a critical partner with us.”

The number of ham radio licenses is at an all-time high in the U.S. (723,182, as of April, according to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) data compiled by Joe Speroni of the Amateur Radio Education Web Site, [ah0a.org](http://ah0a.org)).

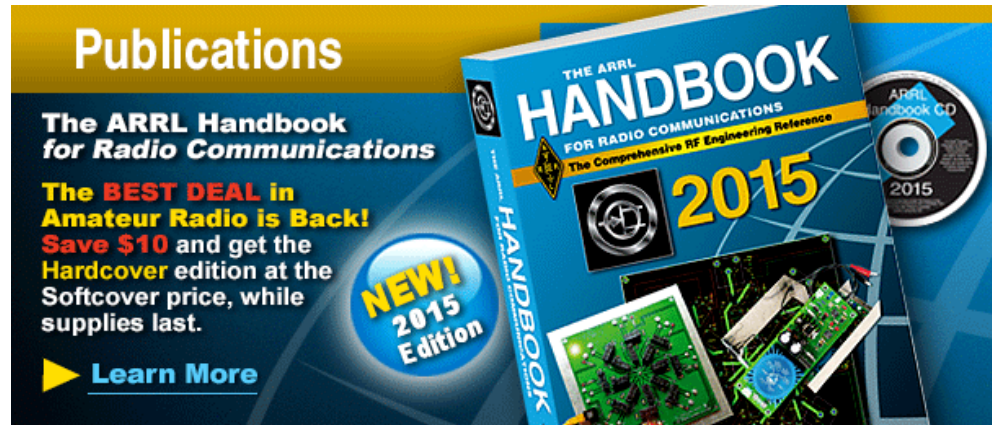
“I really hope that it stays relevant and that we can be a resource to emergency management agencies,” enthusiast Davis said. “Because I think that is where ham radio shines.”

*Fox News producer David Lewkowicz contributed to this article*

## This Month's Feature

### ARRL Handbook (2015 Hardcover Edition)

The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications



Discover the theory, practical information and construction details to expand your knowledge and skill as an Amateur Radio operator and experimenter.

*The ARRL Handbook* is widely used by radio amateurs as a reliable and highly-respected guide to station design, construction, modification, and repair. Introduced in 1926 as the Radio Amateur's Handbook, each edition has remained true to this publishing legacy: a concise source of reference and information for applied radio electronics and experimentation. Chapter by chapter, you will discover the theory, practical information and construction details to expand your knowledge and skill as an Amateur Radio operator and experimenter.

This ninety-second edition of *The Handbook* is at the forefront of the growing field of wireless telecommunications. The book covers not only the fundamentals of radio electronics—analogue and digital—but also practical circuit and antenna design, computer-aided design, digital operating modes, equipment troubleshooting, and reducing RF interference. Many projects and construction articles are included to help enhance your station and expand your participation as an active radio experimenter. Practical applications and solutions make *The ARRL Handbook* a must-have for hobbyists and technical professionals, finding its way onto workbenches, operating desks, and into university libraries and classrooms.

Dozens of contributors help ensure that each edition is updated and revised to reflect the latest advances and technologies:

#### **New Projects**

- Simple Adjustable Tracking Power Supply
- Tri-Band Moxon Yagi Antenna
- A Legal-Limit Bias-T
- An Eight-Channel Remote Control Antenna Switch

#### **New Information**

- Updated material on the state of Solar Cycle 24
- Recommended parts for modifying circuit designs and fine-tuning performance
- A package of useful applications on CD-ROM from Tonne Software, including a new version of the ELSIE™ filter design program
- Annual transceiver model review

## Other Events

### Nassau County:

Sunday evening EOC Director Billy Estep gave a heads up for a possible deployment Monday regarding a missing child. Region 3 EOC were contacted and Monday Nassau deployed with 2 EOC employees and 7 ARES volunteers to Baker County to assist in the Search and Rescue of the child diagnosed with autism. The child had been lost in the woods since Saturday afternoon.

Nassau EOC and ARES took the lead role in setting up a VRC (Volunteer Registration Center) to park, control, hydrate, register, Vet (background check), safety brief, assign and dispatch search team volunteer's. This was a first for Nassau ARES and a fluid situation existed, but each incident was addressed and ARES moved on to the next.

Nassau EOC joined with ARES, CERT, REACT personnel from Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Flagler, as well as FDLE and Baker County LEO. There was no way that seven of us from Nassau alone could have carried out the mission without our fellow volunteers.

103 Volunteers showed up, 70 were dispatched. Approximately 150 – 200 Volunteers were still waiting to help when Baker County Sherriff's office announced that the child had been found and was on his way to the hospital. Bravo Zulu to all Volunteers, LEO, Fire Rescue, Region 3 and the civilians who donated their time.

Eric Anderson, W4FSA