



# QST NFL



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

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2015

## Steve's Take:

*From the NFL Section Manager*

May and June are going to be busy months for us!

May has the Dayton Hamvention, Florida Statewide Hurricane Exercise, and CQWW WPX CW Contest to name a few events. June of course is the start of Hurricane Season (see below), the ARRL VHF Contest and Field Day (see right column and page 2).

Hurricane Season starts June 1 and runs through November 30 – Your personal emergency preparedness should start early at home with provisions for the protection of your property and plans for possible evacuation. By planning now, you will have peace of mind about the safety of your family. In an attempt to assist you in this planning the links below contain guidelines for hurricane information, home protection, and Hurricane Survival Guides:

**National Hurricane Center –**  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

**Federal Emergency Management Agency -**  
<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

**Florida Division of Emergency Management -**  
<http://www.floridadisaster.org/DEMPublic.asp>

**EVERYONE COUNTS!**

**73, Steve WB4OMM**

## Editorial:

*From the QST NFL Newsletter Editor*



Field Day 2015 will soon be upon us so it seemed appropriate to get some information out there for those that may be new to the hobby.

I remember the first one I attended some years ago. The club membership was resistive to the idea at first when they realized how much work was needed. Once the ball got rolling it was hard to stop. People started showing up at the FD site with everything from push-up poles to propane cooking devices.

I recall one person who wanted to 'just help out' so I asked him if he would be willing to do logging for another ham who is blind. This was long before computer logging as you can tell. So I took this fellow into the 40 meter CW net and this young man was already set up and familiarizing himself with the rig. After Introductions I said I had to go to another tent but before I left I heard the fellow doing the logging say something to the effect it was going to be a breeze. Little did he know the young man runs in the 40WPM crowd. About an hour later I went back to check on them and the logger had this harried look on his face. "What's wrong?" I asked. "He's wearing me out! The man is telling me contacts while he's still working stations!" After it was over, the logs were sent in to the ARRL and the equipment returned to the owners. The next club meeting people remarked about how much work AND how much fun Field Day really was.

73 de KK3Q (hamradio@kk3q.net)



## ***Field Day 2015***

Field Day – the one week in the year when all sorts of antennas and operating are put into play to participate in the largest non-contest event in the United States. Some clubs and individual stations take this opportunity to test and perfect operating skills that come in handy in emergency situations as well as day-to-day operating. If you have never participated in a Field Day you owe it to yourself to try it at least one time. As a hat-tip to the 1971 Alka-Seltzer slogan: *“Try it! You’ll like it!”* Many have come away from their Field Experiences with not only a few new friends but a better knowledge of antenna technology, operating procedures and so forth. You’ll find everything like folks running from their home QTH to one or two persons out in the middle of a forest or up on a summit. Many run mobile operations to perfect their EmComm skills they use when called upon by local authorities.

Here are a few areas to consider if you are contemplating participating in Field Day 2015.

### **PLANNING**

If you are considering working as a group and have not 1) located a spot and 2) assembled your team then you are pushing the limit time-wise. Sure, this is the first of May but you don’t have the luxury of time when you’re seeking to use public facilities such as parks. Then you have to plan on what antenna(s) you will be using, where they will be located, how they’ll be secured. As for the team you will need to work around work schedules so that everyone is at the Field Day site prior to 1800z on June 27. Not only must your team be there but the equipment, operating aids, and food must also be in place if you are going to participate at the 100% level.

### **WORK**

Work on the antennas and supports should realistically be completed by the end of May or mid-June at the very latest. The last thing you or your team should be doing at 1700z is wrestling with faulty hardware or knotted ropes for antenna supports. Many stations do a preliminary setup to make sure they have everything needed before setting up for Field Day. As with assigning operating duties/positions each member of your Field Day team should be assigned a set-up and tear-down duty. This will eliminate a great deal of confusion both before and after Field Day 2015.

## **SAFETY**

Strange as it seems there are a good many Field Day installations utilizing towers with one or more beam antennas mounted on them. No one should be on the tower who hasn't had adequate tower experience – no exceptions. Field Day is not the day to train people on doing tower work! One item that should have been addressed during your planning sessions is the proximity of power lines in the area. A new location should be selected rather than working around power lines with push-up poles and towers. No matter how much voltage running through the wires it's all enough to kill.

Generator safety is sometimes dismissed because "I've always done it this way" is what you hear when you challenge someone filling a running generator with gasoline. Maybe you have "always done it" that way but why endanger those around you because of your carelessness? Have you and your team put together an inclement weather plan? Some of the largest DXpeditions have endured not only high winds but high heat as well as drenching rain storms. Being that we're in the Sunshine State we can almost expect some sort of weather related challenges to arise.

## **MEDICAL**

Many Field Day operations are literally out the middle of heavily wooded areas so you can rest assured there are going *creepy-crawlies* and *flightie-bities* around. Insect repellent suited for all members should be used to keep insect related annoyances to a minimum. Your group should have plenty of water around for hydration. A medical kit of sorts should be available in case of cuts or abrasions when dealing with the antenna hardware. Burn ointment would be nice if you are making use of a generator. Anyone who has touched the hot exhaust pipe of a small engine will testify to the pain it inflicts. Team members should speak up during the planning sessions to inform others of any food allergies. It might seem a little overboard but it wouldn't hurt if at least one member of the Field Day team knows basic CPR.

That's about it for now, that doesn't cover every aspect of a Field Day expedition but it might just plant some news ideas in the minds of those preparing for Field Day 2015.

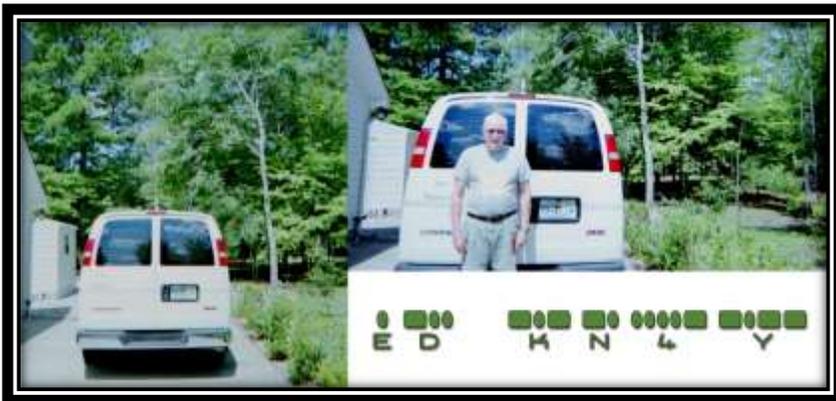
## **Field Day on Social Media!**

Follow Field Day on Facebook and Twitter! ARRL has created a Field Day event on Facebook, and you can also join the conversation by using the hash tag **#ARRLFD**. Share your plans, tips and tricks to a successful Field Day! Stay on top of Field Day on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/344578399070346/>

Don't have a team around you can join? Check the ARRL web site to see if there isn't one with driving distance of your home QTH. The URL is: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

## Florida QSO Party

If you missed this QSO party then you definitely missed one of the prime opportunities to work all Florida counties! There were many mobiles running throughout the state including some special 1x1 calls in the "Spelling Bee" spelling out the word ORANGE. More information is available at: <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/>



When I was 80 I could handle the Florida QSO party county pile ups from the mobile. Now less hearing and less dexterity coupled with frequent rest area stops and driver feedings the score were below the potential. The fun and challenge is still there and the game goes on, or in this scenario rolls on. The QSO party started and rain cometh down and we headed East on Highway 90 a major road driven many times with mobile antenna mounted. I forgot that when leaves get soaking

wet the limb droops. The worst thing to a mobile happened, the antenna was hit by the leaves, the guys broke and the vertical antenna is now horizontal. I get out and in the soaking rain make the needed repairs. My shirt is soaked and my socks are going *slush slush*. I am back on the air working stations. The county hunters need the Florida counties on 10 and 15-meters, ten was dead so I stayed on 15-meters working pile ups, I worked more DX stations then in the last few FQP years. I worked my first ever in the FQP a JA station. Soon thereafter I made a rest area stop.

We arrived in Alachua county, the sun was shining. I took off my shirt and hung it out the window, a half hour later it was dry. I feel better but my feet still slushed. I worked the pile up, then into another county and the cycle repeats. The last time I had this much fun was Halloween at the senior center. That early Sunday morning starting time was brutal. I am sure the FQP is now the number one QSO party. Good job guys. I even worked a couple 1x1 calls.

I covered 467 miles on Saturday and made 672 QSO's. Covered 377 miles on Sunday and made 719 QSO's. 15-meters was great all afternoon.

Ed KN4Y

## On The Air:

### **The Traders Net**

The Traders Net meets every Sunday at 8:00 AM on 3.933 MHz. Please join us for equipment and friendship. Thanks!!  
Carl, AA4MI

### **Florida Hurricane Net Active**

The Florida State Wide Hurricane Net will start Monday April 27, 2015 at 21:00 EST on REF037C. Bob, N6USP will continue to be the Net Manager – net is every Monday at 2100 EST on REF037C.

Hurricane Net Functions:

- Send out notice of pending Tropical Storm, Hurricane, or a Major Emergency that is Statewide.
- Provide training to those interested and information to D-Star operators in the three ARRL Sections
- To supplement ARES/State EOC
- Although this net is focused on training and support for ARES and its served agencies any Amateur Radio EmComm Operator or organization is welcome.
- I have revised the Hurricane Net web page, Please take a look at: [Florida Hurricane Net](#)

I would like to have one or two NCS to help me run the net - The net can be run very easy if you have a DV Dongle and use the History tab to log the check-ins. I will show anyone that is interested in helping me run the net how easy this is. The Dongle is easy to save the check-ins. Sometime I use the radio and the Dongle together using the history tab to go down the check-in list. NO WRITING DOWN CALL SIGNS.

Please email me if you want to be on the NCS Team.

73!

Bob N6USP

Florida Hurricane Net Manager

Ph: 321-362-5037

Cell: 321-213-4747

### **QCWA Chapter #45**

QCWA Citrus Chapter 45 operates its state of the art repeater, W4PLA, on 147.195 MHz and conducts a net every Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM local time. Also we now offer an Echo link connection every Tuesday. The link is "W2AS-L" and the node # is 627152. If you are a QCWA member (any chapter!) feel free to join us!



## Section Manager Visits in April & May

### Completed Visits in April 2015

St. Augustine ARS

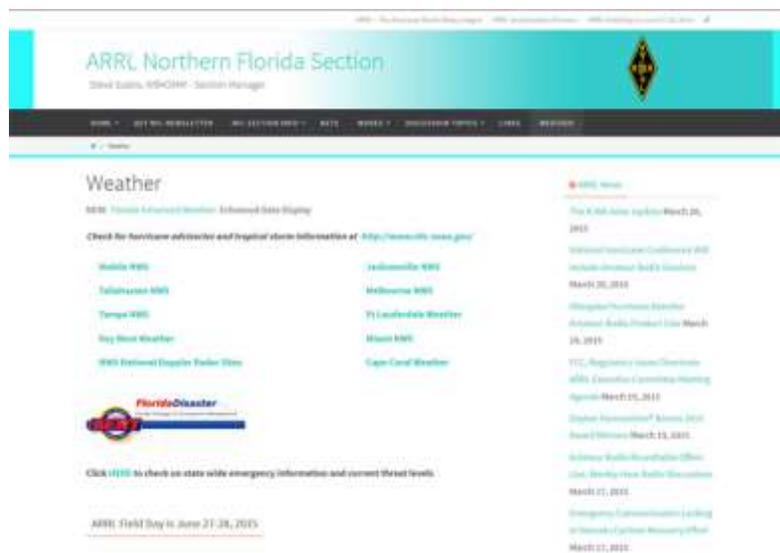
### Tentative Site Visits for May 2015:

Clay County ARES

Dayton Hamvention (ARRL Booth Volunteer)

Submitting your club events and pictures can be done by sending them via email to [hamradio@kk3g.net](mailto:hamradio@kk3g.net). Please try to send as large an image or images as you can.

Low resolution images don't display or print all that well.



Northern Florida Section Web Page:

<http://arrl-nfl.org/>

