



THE NFL SECTION NEWSLETTER



Providing timely and interesting information to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2014

Steve's Take:

From the NFL Section Manager, Steve Szabo WB4OMM

November was a pretty quiet month! As of this past week, W1AW/4 in Florida is done – for the second time this year. Looks like it was another great event with thousands of QSOs. The 2014 November Sweepstakes has also come and gone, and along with it, the end of a very quiet 2014 Hurricane Season! Thankfully, we had nothing to “deal” with this season!

This time of the year is my favorite time – it cools off, lotsa’ holidays to spend with family and friends, and contests a’ plenty! It’s also the time of year when I get just a little bit “reflective” with the end of the calendar year approaching. I think about folks who volunteer their time for others.

Thank you to all of you who make a difference – in your community or someone else’s. Thank you for the work, the hours, the efforts, the caring. Thank you for you. Without you, life means nothing.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. See you next year!

LOOK AT PAGE #5 FOR THE NEWSLETTER NAMING CONTEST – VOTE!!!

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM

Editorial

From the Newsletter Editor, Harry K2BBM

iPad Air 2, Nook, Kindle

As you might expect, the ARRL is pretty savvy regarding cell phones and Internet provided publications. Recently, announcing more technical books electronically available, as well as the venerable QST the ARRL keeps pace with Apple and competitors.

Although they are not exactly similar in intended use, or design, the iPad, Nook and Kindle all share the common features used to retrieve, store and present e-books. In that respect it's not unfair to compare them, although additional features of each will rate very highly in recommending one above the other. Individual needs and preferences, as with all purchases will determine the best choice.

In the race to gain prominence in wireless services, Apple seems to be gaining the lead, with Kindle a modest second and Nook a disappointing third. This begs questions from the point of view of radio amateurs: which device to choose in the future, how much use will we make of the wireless digital services and what next? Will the device just purchased be out of date tomorrow, should we have bought a device with all the bells and whistles available?

Hams already have a plethora of hand-held devices: phones, pagers and radios. What do we get with another wireless device? With all cell devices we are at the mercy of the cell communications provider. How will this play into the scenario?

The answer seems to depend upon how and where you enjoy a good book, how socially you communicate outside the Ham arena and, to some degree, how you perceive emergency communications availability. With regard to the latter, experience in hurricane Katrina proved that cell communications was the first to become available after the blow. That, in addition to ARES considerations may prove influential to some of us, either positively or negatively.

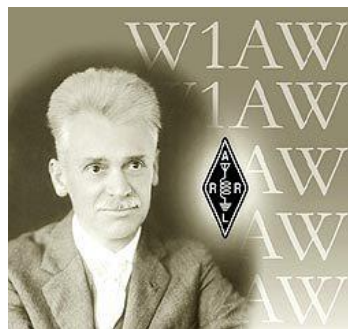
Perhaps, more pointedly are the features on each of these device that are in addition to the manipulation of e-books. Nook, for example offers discounts on almost everything ordered digitally. Apple has an almost unlimited collection of additional applications. Kindle offers the user access to Amazon's vast array of products.

It is certain that the digital media is here to stay. We can look forward to more and more electronic deliveries of everything possible. The ARRL will almost certainly avail themselves of the cost savings inherent in electronic publishing. There is no question of our involvement in digital media, the question is how best to prepare for it.

From the ARRL

W1AW has visited each of the 50 states for at least 1 week, and by year's end W1AW will have been on the air from every state at least twice.

The [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#) kicked off January 1 for a year-long operating event in which participants can accumulate points and win awards. The event is open to all, although only ARRL members and appointees, elected officials, HQ staff and W1AW are worth ARRL Centennial QSO Party [points](#).



Working W1AW/x from each state is worth 5 points per mode/contact, even when working the same state during its second week of activity.

To earn the "Worked all States with W1AW Award," work W1AW operating portable from all 50 states. (Working W1AW or W100AW in Connecticut does *not* count for Connecticut. Participants must work W1AW/1 in Connecticut.) A W1AW WAS certificate and plaque will be available.

CALENDARS

[Go to ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org) for purchases.



International Ham News

IZ0UDF lifts off to ISS today

Former fighter pilot **Samantha Cristoforetti IZ0UDF** is all set for her mission on the International Space Station.

She will be Italy's first female astronaut and expects to leave Earth and expected to arrive at the ISS on Monday, November 24 where she will join the current crew members Elena Serova, Alexander Samoukutyayev and Barry Wilmore.



The NFL Digital Net

We have about 4-5 check-ins per week. Don KK4SIH is the NCS and runs a good net. We are sending messages back and forth using ARRL and/or ICS 213 formats. We typically send on PSK 125 but we also use other modes. Tonight we used PSK 125 and MT 63-1000L. Some problems copying at times, but most goes well.

We had a fun time. If others would like to join us they are welcome. Don is also beginning to push Winmor.

Information about the net:

Time: Every Sunday 1900 Eastern Standard Time

Freq. 3.590 MHz USB

NCS KK4SIH

Mode: PSK 31 to start. Will shift to other modes at the direction of the message sender.

Dave WA4WES

Capital District Emergency Coordinator

Jefferson County Repeater

Since completion of what I will call 'major' repairs have been accomplished to our repeater (THANKS CAROL) , I have been monitoring and listening to the repeater.

I got a signal report from Pat K4NRD, in Madison who said the signal was much improved, subsequently he took his handheld and I spoke with him (about 80%) into the machine from his driveway using his handheld radio. I do not know exactly where Pat lives in Madison, but from Monticello to Madison has to be at least 30 - 35 air miles.

I then got a signal report from Royce W4RSS, in Leon County who lives near I-10 and Hwy 90 (east side), who also said the signal was greatly improved)

Personal 'THANKS AND A GOOD JOB' to all who participated in our ground crew during the repairs. Not too shabby for a 25 watt machine with antenna at 165'

We are back in business should the need arise

.....Mac

The Newsletter Naming Contest! Time to Vote!

Here are the names submitted for this Newsletter:

- QST NFL
- DITS AND DOTS
- DITS
- The North Florida Jawbone
- The Jawbone
- Jawbone (The ARRL-NFL Section Newsletter)
- The Wave

I have arranged for an online voting site so we can choose the winning name. **YOU CAN ONLY VOTE ONCE.** Click on the hyperlink to vote. Voting closes on December 30, 2014. The Winner will be notified when the January edition of the Newsletter is sent out.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PYF9CTY>

HOLIDAY SAFETY

You may be ticked at everyone reminding you of safety issues every year, but statistics prove it saves lives.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Merry 
 *Christmas*

