

April Section Manager's Message:

Good Day to You! I hope this message finds you enjoying the Greatest Hobby and Service in the World!

I made the request for the 2016 Florida State "Amateur Radio Week/2016 Field Day" proclamation to the Governor's office on March 29th. When received, I will distribute it for all to use.

Some new appointments – A hearty “Welcome” to **John Greiner KJ4YPZ** the newly appointed EC for Gilchrist County, and **Bud Sinor KA3OGG** newly appointed EC for Nassau County. Thanks to both for “stepping up to the plate” – please support these folks in their new positions. A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Dave Gilliam K4DFG** in Gilchrist County and **Eric Anderson W4SFA** in Nassau County for their many years at the helm. Next month's message should announce more appointments to vacant spots.

Still looking!! We have several positions that have had long time folks “doing the job” for extended periods of time or are now vacant; and some are looking to “retire” or have already indicated they are willing to “vacate” one a suitable replacement is available. Here's the list:

- **Affiliated Club Coordinator** – **Steve Barber WA4B** has done great stuff with this position, but is ready for some well-deserved rest! He is willing to remain in an “assistant” capacity but would like someone who can spend the time to work with our numerous clubs all over the section. It entails contacting Affiliated Clubs, maintaining coordination with the Newsletters, nets, special events, activities and the like. The position description is here: <http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-coordinator>
- **State Government Liaison** – Currently vacant, the previous occupant did not want to continue when I took office 18 months ago. This position might require a

trip to Tallahassee from time to time so someone in that region (or within 120 miles or so) would be best suited. The position description is

here: <http://www.arrl.org/state-government-liaison> (IMPORTANT: THIS POSITION ALSO REPRESENTS THE WCF AND SFL SECTIONS!)

- **Public Information Coordinator**- Also vacant. Coordinates PIO efforts with other PIOs in the Section, The position description is here: <http://www.arrl.org/public-information-coordinator>
- **Section Youth Coordinator** – Also vacant. I would hope for someone already working with youth organizations, Boy/Girl Scouts, faith-based organizations and the like. Also supports Kids Day, Jamboree on the Air, etc. activities. The position description is here: <http://www.arrl.org/section-youth-coordinator>

PLEASE CONSIDER THESE POSITIONS....THEY ARE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE “TEAM”. Send me an e-mail if you are interested.

My scheduled visits to Hamfests and “tailgates”, club and ARES meetings for April:

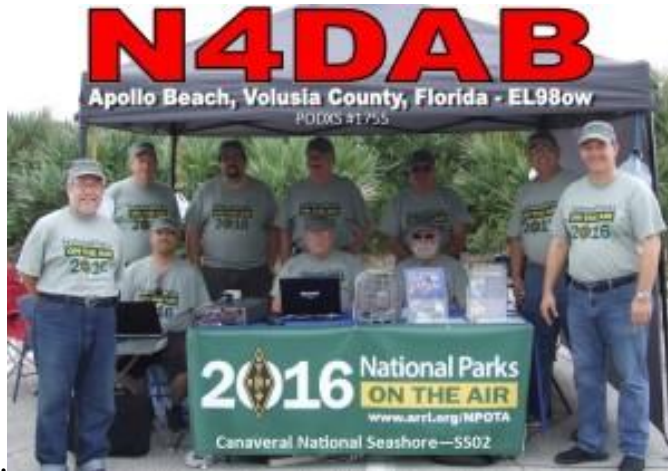
- Saturday April 2nd, The Jacksonville Radio Free Flea
- Wednesday April 6th, Orlando Amateur Radio Club
- Wednesday April 13th, Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team
- Friday, April 15th, NAQCC Florida Chapter, Holly Hill

The Statewide Hurricane Exercise Amateur Radio ARES participation has been scheduled for May 18th. More information will be provided in the next week to the ARES folks. The State has included Amateur Radio support in this year’s exercise, and a simple message sent to the State EOC via HF or SARNet is the challenge for every county group. This is the **ONLY OFFICIAL SANCTIONED ARES EXERCISE DATE.**

SOME BIG CHANGES COMING

Speaking of EmComm and ARES guidance, the NFL Section ARES Communications Plan has been revised and updated. It is in the review process and will be distributed/posted with ample time for familiarization before the Statewide Exercise. It is reduced in size, includes updated technologies/modes, and better supports local operations and management. It aligns with the DHS/FEMA direction of “all emergencies are local” and is now NIMS compliant. Also, I have some folks working on a single point of entry for submitting monthly ARES reports....easy to enter, and standardizes the report materials across the Section – easily accessible from the Section Web Page. Included with this will be guidance and direction for ARES appointments, reporting, “Section-wide Training” via the Internet. More to come in the next week or so.....please be patient keep an open mind!

On March 19th I participated with the **Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team** activating **Canaveral National Seashore** for the National Parks on the Air NPOTA



celebration.

Here’s our group photo from Saturday.....what a Rogues Gallery!

From left to right, seated: **Charlie Blackburn WX4CB**, **Art Petteway WB4MNK**, **Paul Milward NU4C**. From left to right standing: **Allen Liebman N4NKB**, **John Scholtens KD4JS**, **Kevin Bess KK4BFN**, **Winn Hall**

**WA4KKW, Darrell Brock N4GOA, Frank Haas KB4T, and Steve Szabo
WB4OMM.**

During 3 hours of operation, the team made 51 Qs (operations ceased when the heavy thunderstorm arrived) at 12:30 pm EDT); three separate stations – generators, battery, 45W solar panel were used. We accomplished 22 SSB 22 Qs, 11 PSK31 Qs, and 18 CW Qs, including 4 DXCC, 25 States, 45 counties – and a load of fun! It was a great time!

Remember, **Field Day will be here before you know it!** Start your planning process now!! [ARRL Field Day is June 25-26, 2016.](#)

As always, **THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO.** Without you, nothing else happens, and nothing else matters.

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73,



Steve Szabo WB4OMM

NFL Section Manager

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