

**Section Manager's Message**  
**November 2016**

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

Florida dodged an "artillery shell" a few weeks ago.

Category 3/4 Hurricane Matthew "raked" the East Coast of Florida from the Keys to Fernandina Beach (and up the US Atlantic Seaboard) October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>....coming closest to Daytona Beach (26 miles offshore) mid-day Friday the 7<sup>th</sup>. And while my area (Daytona Beach – Volusia County) is now at 660 million dollars in damages, and 6 deaths in Florida alone – three of those in my county – it could have been much worse. From the initial reports I have received, we had a few minor "hiccups", but generally, the hams in NFL (and the other sections) did OK. A full after-action report will be provided in the next few months as we get the information in from all of the NFL counties that activated. What was amazing was SARNET did not go down, (it was on the air statewide almost the entire time – one minor glitch in SFL that was quickly restored); and the HF ARES Net and the Hurricane Watch Net were also up and propagation was pretty good statewide. Folks generously steered clear of these frequencies and nets, and the net controls were fabulous! It was great to listed to the check-ins and well operated nets.

STAY SAFE! Keep monitoring your local news, NHC, NWS, or whatever to be up-to-date on the storm out there. We still have two more months of Hurricane Season ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, no more bad storms for this year! We were very lucky.

I was able to visit the Melbourne Hamfest (rescheduled) last week, and met with the WCF and SFL Section Managers and some other ARRL folks. We talked and visited, and although the Hamfest was visibly "lighter" in attendance, it was still a great time. I also was able to visit the Jacksonville Free Flea/Hamfest and they had a great turnout, with lots of radio gear and friendly folks galore. I enjoyed both visits, and as always appreciate the warm and friendly reception!

I have no scheduled visits for the month of November. Look for me in my all-time favorite contest, the ARRL November SS SSB!

I do wish to take the time to wish you and your loved ones a safe and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday. Remember why we celebrate! We all have so much to be thankful for. And very shortly, we will be in the magical time of Christmas!

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

**EVERYONE COUNTS!**

**73, Steve WB4OMM**



**Steve Szabo WB4OMM**

**NFL Section Manager**

**ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio™**

386-566-2085

[wb4omm@arrl.org](mailto:wb4omm@arrl.org)