

**Section Manager's Message**  
**September 2017**

Greetings North Florida Hams! **Welcome to the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!**

Fall is almost here! Florida Fall that is ..... Humidity and Temps both drop below 90.... For most of us!

I attended the Gainesville ARS last month and had a blast! I truly enjoy meeting so many great folks! I provided a volunteers and EmComm presentation and brought the club members up to date on ARRL issues.

I also attended a farewell party for Orlando ARC's previous officers and Hamcation Chairs this past Sunday in Sanford. **Peter and Lidy Meijers** have retired, sold their home, and are headed back to The Netherlands. They received a nice plaque and a 2017 ARRL Handbook and Operating Manual, on behalf of the NFL Section for 10 years of hard work on Hamcation. Truly two wonderful people and great hams. Safe travels and 73 to both!

The BIG NEWS this week – is Hurricane Harvey – please continue to keep those folks in your thoughts and prayers through some of the worst flooding in US history. NO SELF-DEPLOYMENTS PLEASE! There is not a need for communications at this time. 90% of the cellular system and Comm infrastructure is up. However, I would encourage you to donate to the VOAD charity of your choice to help out those in need. I sent the following e-mail out to my City on Monday from the Florida State Dept of Emergency Management:

*All,  
We're beginning to get in some reports of donation drives in Florida designed to assist Harvey survivors. Texas has yet to identify any needs and at this point has no ability to deal with any donations they receive, no matter how well-intentioned. Please help get the word out to your communities and local elected officials that right now the best way to assist is through cash donations to a recognized charity. Here's a link you can use:  
<https://www.nvoad.org/>  
Thanks,  
Bryan*

*Bryan W. Koon  
Director  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
[www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)*

And another important reminder – the AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT – CALL THE TWO FLORIDA SENATORS! Here is a link to the rally site: <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>. Call and send those letters NOW!

This month, I will visit the Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Club on Thursday, September 7th. Don't forget, next month is the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test....and the start of Contest season!

Check out our fabulous NFL Section Web Page and read our spectacular Newsletter (September issue is attached) *QST NFL*. <http://arrl-nfl.org/>

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SEND OUR FRIEND IN FEMA REIGON IV INFO ON HURRICANE MATTHEW OPERATIONS!!!**

**Have a safe and wonderful Labor Day Holiday!**

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™**

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