

March 2016 ARRL NFL Section Manager's Message

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

Sorry if this is a bit "long" but lots of "stuff" to provide to you!

The "National Parks on the Air" (NPOTA) activity is in full swing, with a few of our NPS locations already activated. My group will be in NFL at Canaveral National Seashore on Saturday, March 19th....so look for us!! (Another is up around the St. Augustine area too; details of this operating event are at: <https://npota.arrl.org> . Be a "chaser" or be an "activator" ...have fun!

Speaking of fun...the Orlando Hamcation was BLAST! Thanks for those of you that stopped by and said hello at "ARRL Street" or attended the NFL Forum Saturday morning (two and a half sign-up sheets – over 65 attended, and several standing in the back didn't sign in). We were graced by two Section Managers (**Betsey Doane K1EIC** from CT and **Jeff Beals WA4AW** from SFL), Division Vice-Director **Mike Lee AA6ML**, honorary vice-president **Frank Butler W4RH**, and the new President of the ARRL **Rick Roderick K5UR**. We also had the State EOC ESF2 Liaison **Phil Royce KE4PWE** too. If I missed acknowledging you, I apologize...it was busy and fast! OARC is to be commended for a top-shelf, well-run and well organized event. I had so many folks complimenting the Hamfest and related activities, I couldn't recall them all. AND NOT ONE COMPLAINT!! AMAZING!!

Not good news; I am deeply sorry to say our Hernando EC **Alan McGrew KC4MTS** passed away on February 19th. Alan has been the Hernando EC for many years and will be missed. Heartfelt condolences to his family. I will be soliciting for a replacement to fill those big shoes shortly.

Some new appointments – A hearty "Welcome" to **Steve Palmer KM4SDP** the newly appointed EC for Flagler County. Also newly appointed as the Jackson County EC is **Ricky Whittington KD4AST**. Thanks to both for "stepping up to the plate" - please support these folks in their new positions. Also congrats to **Ray Chapeau K1HG** in his appointment to Assistant Section Manager. I am hoping in next month's message to announce a few more appointments to vacant spots.

While on the subject of vacant spots, 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 a partial list for now:

- **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.

I am starting to schedule the various Hamfests and “tailgates”, club and ARES meetings for the remainder of the year – while I can’t make Ft. Walton Beach Hamfest this year (my groups NPOTA is the same day), I am planning on being at the Milton Hamfest and NOFARS, and possibly the Pensacola and Ocala gatherings. And as I can, I will try to make the rounds throughout the Section as much as I can. Once change though, I am planning on a “local” Field Day this year, operating from Daytona only for the weekend. I enjoy my time visiting with you folks in the Section – it is the BEST part of the job! I will send out the tentative “agenda” as soon as I can get it arranged.

Spring is kinda almost here, so watch the weather as it can be quite “extreme” during this time of year. AND.....the State Hurricane Exercise and Field Day will be here before you know it!

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

EVERYONE COUNTS!

73, Steve WB4OMM

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