



QST NFL



*Sharing information of interest to Radio Amateurs in North
Florida*

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Happy New Year Northern Florida Section

Karl Martin K4HBN
ARES Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Section Emergency Coordinator
North Florida Section

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. I wanted to address a few accomplishments we made in the past year. 2019 was the first full year that all three Florida ARES's Sections worked together, acting as one State of Florida ARES group. The three Section Emergency Coordinators (SEC) have adopted a team concept to ensure that a coordinated and unified utilization of ARES members is accomplished.

In February, after Hurricane Michael, all three ARES SEC's spent the day with the Florida State Emergency Management (FSEM) officials discussing many topics. One topic was the issues we had before, during, and after the storm. We also presented a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ARES and FSEM. The state is still reviewing the MOU and we are hoping to have it in place before the 2020 hurricane season. We also started working with the state on better ARES integration into their system, which includes training requirements and procedures ARES members must follow when working in concert with FSEM or deploying under the state system.

In May and again in November, the Northern Florida (NFL) Section had two ARES conferences for all the NFL Emergency Coordinators (EC) and their staff. The events gave everyone the chance to meet and discuss issues and changes in the Section. During the meetings, substantial information was shared, and positive feedback was received from members. I plan on holding these events every year, which will provide all Section Leadership the opportunity to meet face to face and work on plans for their groups and the Section.

I attended four Hamfests in 2019, allowing me to meet in person with many of you. It was great meeting everyone and I hope to have more personal contact with you in 2020. I was able to meet with Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, the past ARRL Southeastern Division Director and the newly elected ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB. This allowed me the opportunity to discuss ARES related issues on the Section and State's behalf. Those discussions yielded a better under-



Check out the NFL website!

arrl-nfl.org/

Webmaster, Brian McClure, NW4R, is keeping us up-to-date.

NFL Section Has New Section Traffic Manager

Congratulations to Helen Straughn WC4FSU on her appointment to Section Traffic Manager.

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Email your QST NFL input to n4gl.marty@gmail.com
Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor

SEC Message (Continued)

standing of our unique situation in Florida and how ARES will better fit into the current plans with FDEM and local Emergency Managers.

For the past year, we have also been working on new documentation and updating old documents. In October, we published a Request Procedures Guide explaining how the state has resource requests laid out, making it easier for everyone to understand how to request communicators from the state. In recent months, each Section has been working on updating its communication plans. These new plans should be out before the hurricane season in 2020.

One of the most important documents we have been working on is the Florida ARES Training Task Book. The Task Book will be the foundation of the training requirements for the entire state. The SEC's have been developing the Task Book with help from the FDEM, the three Section Managers, and the Emergency Coordinators throughout the three Sections. Every volunteer will be issued a Task Book to help guide the individual in their training. They will also be required to have their Task Book with them when they deploy in or outside their county to show the level of training that they have accomplished, so they can be assigned to the tasks that better suit their level of training and experience.

In June, I asked for volunteers to help plan a section wide hurricane exercise. A week before the scheduled exercise

Hurricane Dorian started forming. For most of the week, Dorian was a tropical depression, but it developed into a tropical storm. In an abundance of caution and for safety and possible deployment reasons, we had to cancel the exercise. Unfortunately, we could not reschedule the exercise because in November many groups already volunteered to support walking, biking and other events. December is never a good month to try to plan ARES activities because of the holiday season. I want to personally thank all of you who helped plan and were ready to participate in the drill. Perhaps, in 2020 we can utilize the planning to accomplish this drill.

For 2020 we are looking forward to completing several goals that will influence ARES. The utilization of the new communications plan, a new MOU and another EC conference, to name a few. If anyone would like to meet the SEC's for Northern Florida, Southern Florida and the West Central Florida Sections, we will have a 1-hour discussion forum at the Orlando Hamcation on Friday, February 7th, 2020 at 1:45 pm in CS I located at the lakeside pavilion. Everyone is welcome and I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I appreciate all your efforts and the progress that we have made this year and I look forward to continuing to improve the recruitment and utilization of ARES members this new year.



Photo: (Left to Right) Bob Little (Telecommunications Specialist III), Ben Henley (SEC West Central Florida Section), Ben Bass (Telecommunications Administrator Florida Department of Emergency Management), Karl Martin (SEC Northern Florida Section), John Wells (SEC Southern Florida Section), Brad Haag (Assistant SEC West Central Florida Section), and Nick Simoncini (FDLE Statewide Communications Coordinator)

WA4WES Assumes Duties as the Net Manager for the Northern Florida ARES Net

Dave Davis, WA4WES, has been appointed as the Net Manager for the Northern Florida Section ARES net, which is called Monday through Saturday at 0900 hours on 3.950 MHz. Dave has been involved in amateur radio for more than 50 years, having been first licensed as WN6PCA in 1965. He appreciates the good work that Mac, W4NFG, did as the Net Manager for 13 years. He wants to continue with the net as it now is being run, but will add some training as described below.

PROPOSED TRAINING FOR THE NORTHERN FLORIDA ARES NET

One of the lessons learned from Hurricane Dorian was the need for Net Control Stations (NCS). As the storm bore down on the east coast of Florida the Northern Florida ARES net and the Northern Florida Phone net were combined with the West Central and South Florida sections' nets to operate for about 3 ½ days. It was a challenge to find operators who could serve as NCS for shifts during activation.

So, the obvious lesson learned was that we need to recruit and train hams to help with this critical duty in times of an emergency. Accordingly, it is proposed that in addition to the regular net, the following training will be conducted:

- a. Starting on Saturday January 11, stations desiring to become net controls stations will meet 0830 to 0850 hours on 3.950 MHz for training
- b. This training will continue on a weekly basis from the January 11 date until the third Saturday in May, which is May 16, 2020
- c. On Saturday May 30, 2020, the section will have a pre-hurricane season exercise to test the section's net skills.
- d. Training will focus on the skills presented in the ARES Standardized Training Plan (Task Book)
- e. Training will include
 - i. Net Preambles
 - ii. How to take check ins
 - iii. Difficult stations
 - iv. How to handle stations with message traffic
 - v. How to close nets
 - vi. Alternate NCS functions
 - vii. When to change net frequencies
 - viii. Keeping logs, the ICS 309
 - ix. Traits of a good NCS
- f. As part of the training stations will send and receive written messages using the ARRL, ICS 213, and other message formats.
- g. Stations will learn the critical parts of a message.
- h. Stations will learn how to send message traffic that is written using no standard format.
- i. We will also train stations to use standard propagation programs to predict what frequencies may be available for net use over a 24-hour period.

The section needs a corps of operators trained as Net Control Stations who can serve 4-hour shifts during a section activation. The training we will provide during the winter and spring of 2020 will prepare them to act as an NCS and to send and receive message traffic.

So, the need is real, and the service provided is critical to the sections' success in providing communications during an emergency to the several served agencies that depend on amateur radio. Please consider becoming an NCS, and participating in the training that will start on January 11, 2020.

New Florida Mobile Law

With comments from Billy Williams, N4UF
[NOFARS.net - NOFARS Balanced Modulator](#)

The Wireless Communications While Driving Law takes full effect on January 1st. It was phased in during late 2019.

The law consists of Florida Statutes (FS) Sections 316.305 and 316.306

The two parts of the new law limit texting while driving and use of handheld communications equipment.

Here are excerpts from
<https://www.flhsmv.gov/safety-center/driving-safety/distracted-driving/>
 with my comments.

What is the Wireless Communications While Driving Law?

Section 316.305, Florida Statutes allows law enforcement to stop motor vehicles and issue citations to motorists that are texting and driving. A person may not operate a motor vehicle while manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers or symbols into a wireless communications device to text, email and instant message.

Section 316.306, Florida Statutes, is a prohibition on using wireless communications devices in a handheld manner in school and work zones. A person may not operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device in a handheld manner in a designated school crossing, school zone or active work zone area.

Section 316.306 applies only to school and construction zones.

DEFINITION

Wireless communications device means any handheld device capable of being used in a handheld manner, that is designed or intended to receive or transmit text or character-based messages, access or store data, or connect to the Internet or any communication service and that allows text communications.

This includes a cell phone, tablet, laptop, two-way messaging device, or an electronic game that can be used in a handheld manner.

This definition could exclude analog voice radios. Whether holding the microphone of a mounted mobile unit is exempt from limitation is open to interpretation too.

PENALTIES

Not using a device hands-free in a school zone and work zone is a moving traffic violation, with a base \$60 fine, not including court costs and other fees, and 3 points assessed against the driver license.

316.306 EXCEPTIONS

- Performing official duties as an operator of an authorized emergency vehicle (law enforcement, fire service or emergency medical services professional).
- Reporting an emergency or criminal or suspicious activity to law enforcement authorities.
- Receiving messages that are: related to the operation or navigation of the motor vehicle; safety-related information, including emergency, traffic, or weather alerts; data used primarily by the motor vehicle; or radio broadcasts.
- Using a device in a hands-free manner for navigation purposes.
- Using a wireless communications device hands-free or hands-free in voice-operated mode, including, but not limited to, a factory-installed or after-market Bluetooth device.
- Operating an autonomous vehicle in autonomous mode.

OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER

Prohibitions are applicable in work zone areas if construction personnel are immediately present or are operating equipment on the road or immediately adjacent to the work zone area.

Police are not allowed to ask for or take a driver's phone to see if they were texting on a traffic stop. Officers are trained to identify and articulate when a driver is typing into a wireless device.

You are allowed to answer the phone but in school zones or construction zones, you can just tap the phone and not physically hold the phone in your hands. Remember, if you use a hands-free device, you must have at least one ear free without an ear bud.

Police officers can only stop a driver for texting and driving when the car is in motion. Officers cannot stop someone seen texting at a stop light or toll booth.

However, a driver could be cited for impeding the flow of traffic if they are required to be in motion and are distracted by their phone.

As the dust settles, court cases and interpretations will clarify the law.

Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Participates in Operation Santa Delivery

Carol Chesney, KG4FEX

With an early Christmas, LifeSouth stepped up their Operation Santa Delivery at Santa Fe College in Gainesville Florida. LifeSouth is a non-profit blood bank serving communities in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. They sponsor the yearly Operation Santa Delivery event where children can meet and talk to Santa as well as enjoy other activities provided by participating groups. This event is free and open to the public.

Santa is brought to the event by ShandsCair helicopter. This year the helicopter had to drop Santa off with a hot landing so it could respond to an emergency medical call. Jim Carr (KC4MHH) coordinated the landing with help from local ham volunteers. They checked the landing field before hand to remove debris that could injure someone. They also secured the perimeter of the field to keep the public at a safe distance.

The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) used their booth to encourage children to talk on the radio. Before Santa arrived, they were able to speak to him on the radio. It was an excellent opportunity for the children who were too shy to sit in his lap. After Santa arrived, children were able to speak with Mrs. Claus. The conversations with Mr. & Mrs. Claus took place on the club's 146.820 repeater. This year Cory Zablocki (KN4BEB) of Old Town noticed the traffic and got permission to introduce a couple of children to Santa from his rig.

This event provides a fun and memorable introduction to amateur radio. In that way it is similar to Field Day or Jamboree On the Air, but it brings in a more general audience in a festive atmosphere. Being able to talk to holiday celebrities makes it easy for even very young children to overcome their radio stage fright.



The club booth is set up for Operation Santa Delivery.



Young child has his picture taken while waiting for Santa to talk over the radio.



Amateur radio volunteers go over preparations for Santa's landing.

EC-001: Lots of Ways To Get This Course

Gordon Gibby KX4Z

The ARRL standardized task book, and the preliminary Florida ARES task book both require the excellent ARRL EC-001 course for Level II. Don't let this be a stumbling block! EC-001 (recently revised) is an excellent course. It has a wealth of information to help volunteers understand modern emergency management, how they best fit in, and includes excellent information on dealing with time-proven strategies for moving important messages efficiently and accurately. It hits the highlights of a vast array of knowledge. You can look through the topics here: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Education/EC-001_Table_of_Contents.pdf

I took this course in the older "mentored" system back in 2016 and learned a ton, with very valuable input from the mentor, who spotted a lot of of my misunderstandings. That was one of the things that got me back into the swing of traffic nets, something I'd been very involved with 40+ years ago on CW.

When the "Level Requirements" came about, there was a scarcity of available classes for hams to get this training -- a real problem. That caused me to take a ton of training and become a Field Instructor so I could hold an in-person EC-001 course in Alachua County last summer. Now the ARRL has a new offer -- a self-paced EC-001 course. To find out more about that, I enrolled and worked through some of the early pages-- it is all the same material.

A weakness (in my opinion) of the self-guided version is that the activities and questions aren't able to be required or checked and mentored. One of the huge advantages of the mentored and in-person courses is that they get you to actually DO ham radio, write messages, tune into stations and nets, try out things (with help) that you may have never done before. If you're going to do the self-guided course, you'll pass the rather simple exam without any problem --- but you would be well-advised to jump into a local group that does formal traffic, directed nets, WINLINK and such and get some real experience!

In Alachua County we have created additional opportunities for you to get this course, or alternatively to get the "experience" parts, if you are doing the self-guided course, as follows: We have an in-person (Field) EC-001 course registered beginning on Friday Feb 28, that will be provided by myself and Jim Bledsoe KI4KEA. On Friday and Monday he and I will cover all the material of the PDF's of the written portions of the EC-001, which is the same reading material in EC-001S. On Saturday and Sunday of that weekend, our students (and you, if you wish to join) will be involved in the Emergency Conference, which will have the hands-on material that we do in our full in-person EC-001. We'll do our best to have you involved in a net. Perhaps even the net control of a VERY busy net moving a ton of traffic on multiple frequencies simultaneously in the leadership track We will also work to get you handling digital,, with mentored hands-on sessions. Then we'll have you inserted into a Team deployed in an HSEEP-based Full Scale Exercise literally setting up a radio station somewhere in a simulated comms-down scenario and (depending on your team and your assignment) serving a simulated Shelter, agency, or handling traffic from survivors. You'll be reading ICS-205's and doing all the "ICS-stuff." Much easier when you are practicing it! There will be teams on field simulating multiple different missions, including those of the Florida Baptists with whom you're almost certainly going to hear about in any Florida big disaster. Great chance for some interoperability! We have a special treat -- a voice-net expert joining us from Ohio, Matthew Curtin KD8TTE. You'll get to participate in the follow-up hotwash session and see how the exercise went for other teams. The "injects" will have just about every imaginable situation occur sometime in the exercise, and you and your team will find ways to keep working.

If you're doing the EC-001S version, this might be a valuable addition (not required for that version, of course) to the material you'll read through.

ARRL standardized task book	http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/ARES/ARRL-ARES-FILLABLE-TRAINING-TASK-BOOK-V2_1_1.pdf
Self-Guided EC-001S	https://www.arrl.org/online-course-enrollment/17
Sign up for our EC-001	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSfxEYepERaqyrzZqsC8k60yQD-4SVzavQlZjHQFUhaAEE8g/viewform
Sign up for our Conference	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0THjk2MMIHZDyaUNE46NctVxvT1KfMbrTwOsw_18B-_9GRg/viewform

Bay County ARES Celebrates 1st Anniversary

Matt Kennedy, W9NDN, BCARES EC

Thursday December 12, 2019 Bay County ARES celebrated our 1 year anniversary. We had 14 in attendance, including Rick, K1CE from QST and David Morgan, KM4HOL the Bay County Emergency Management Radio Systems Administrator.

We opened with some announcements and end of year business items, and then presented David Morgan a certificate of appreciation for his and the County's support.

Following that presentation we moved to present the team members with certificates as well, with Mark, KD4IMA and Bob, WB8PAF (both AECs) helping to present the certificates.

Next up was a brief PowerPoint showing a timeline from beginning to now, highlighting some big moments.

Rick, K1CE was up next discussing ARES and amateur radio as a whole.

To round out the celebration we concluded the meeting with a group photo and then enjoyed some refreshments and conversation.

It was a great evening and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

We are looking forward to 2020!

Photo credit:

Rick Palm, K1CE

Matt Kennedy, W9NDN



LARA's Christmas Party

Frank Anders, KK4 MBX

LARA celebrated Christmas with a club party December 6, 2019. During the party several members were recognized for exceptional service to the club.

Dave, NP2MR, and Dean, KM4QMB, received President's awards for the service. Dave was recognized for his service as our Treasurer for many years, and leadership in club activities. Dean was recognized for his efforts in maintaining the clubhouse grounds and leadership in coordinating activities with the scouts.

Jason, K4AUS, and Gordon, W4GX, received commendations for their efforts in maintaining and upgrading the club ARES trailer, and maintaining the repeaters we use for ARES.



QCWA Chapter 62, Ocala

Ken Simpson, W8EK

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 62, in Ocala, FL, met on Thursday, December 12, at the China Lee Restaurant. At the meeting, the chapter sent \$50 to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch, as they normally do every December.

Officers were elected for 2020:

- President Ken Simpson, W8EK
- Vice President Charles Lukas, W1DOK
- Secretary Doug Hawkins, W3HH
- Treasurer Dick Schauer, W8DYV

Chapter members were also very active before and after that meeting. The Ocala Hamfest was held before the meeting on December 7, with a QCWA display.

After the meeting, on December 13-14, the Tampa Bay Hamfest was held at Plant City FL, again, with a QCWA display.

QCWA Chapter 62 has a net every Saturday morning at 9 AM on 3940. All are invited to check in.


The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 27 at the China Lee Buffet on East Silver Springs Blvd in Ocala at 12:30 PM. We hope to see you there.



Sue Simpson, N8AJU, and Ken Simpson, W8EK at Ocala FL



Sue Simpson, N8AJU, Ken Simpson, W8EK and Jeff Beals, WA4AW, at Tampa,Bay - Plant City FL Hamfest

<p>Third Annual Florida Emergency Communications Conference* Gainesville Florida Saturday Feb 29 / Sunday afternoon March 1</p> <p>SIMPLER FORMAT this year: just Two Tracks -- Basic and Leadership. BASIC -- teach you all the basics, including ICS, voice and digital skills LEADERSHIP -- designed to help you go back to your group and carry out exercises and grow your group FACULTY: The Usual Suspects, <i>plus</i> we convinced C. Matthew Curtin KD8TTE CISSP, voice net leader and director of BLACK SWAN 2017, 2018 and 2019 Exercises to come teach. Written conference proceedings to each participant. No charge. Bring lunch or nominal Publix Sandwich fee. COME PREPARED TO DO RADIO!!!</p>			<p>2019 participants during simulated disaster</p> 
<p>FRIDAY -- optional day 1 of EC-001 Course approved by ARRL Headquarters</p>	<p>SATURDAY Talks & Hands-On for both the Conference and the people taking EC-001</p>	<p>SUNDAY AFTERNOON -- the infamous test-every-skill-ya-got Full Scale Exercise</p>	<p>MONDAY -- optional final day of the EC-001 Course and the EXAM for that course**</p>
<p>Conference Sign-up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0THJk2MMIHZDyaUNE46NctVxvT1KfMbrTwOsw_18B_9GRg/viewform</p>			
<p>Optional EC-001 Sign-up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSfxEYepERaqyrzZqsC8k60yQD-4SVzavQIzjHQFUhaAEE8g/viewform</p>			
<p>Hotel Suggestions: https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2020Conference/ConferenceHotels.pdf</p>		<p>Actual Address of the Conference (note change!) The Oaks Church 4610 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville, 32608, (Exit 384)</p>	
<p>Extra Credit: Sign up on ARES CONNECT also! http://vhub.at/aresconnect-nfl</p>			
<p>* No guarantees we will be crazy enough to do this a 4th time.... ** I actually took all the training for VE so Vann Chesney and I could officiate for the exam</p>			

West Volusia Amateur Radio Society

Ken Peck, AE2KP, President, WestVARS

WestVARS meets at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Elks lodge located at 614 S. Alabama Ave. in Deland, FL. We gather for an informal breakfast at 8:30 AM on Saturday mornings at the Perkins restaurant, 1405 N. Woodland Blvd., Deland, FL. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to attend our meetings and/or join for breakfast.

WestVARS is actively planning for Winter Field Day which will be held at the Elks lodge. The lodge has a convenient screened porch along with a very large field surrounded by trees which makes it an ideal place for stringing up various antennas. This year we anticipate trying out a sky loop in addition to multiple variations of dipoles and verticals. We plan to operate on every mode and band possible and look forward to making contacts with others in the North Florida Section. In addition to operating, we'll be holding a couple of

workshops for building 2m j-poles and tape measure yagi antennas. We will start setting up about 9AM on Saturday, and be there throughout the entire operating time period. Please feel free to stop by and visit any time. If you'd like to participate with us for Winter Field Day, come by the lodge on January 11th as we will be finalizing our plans after the 9am test session.

We will be holding our annual West Volusia Amateur Radio Swap Meet on April 18 at the Lowe's in Deland. Admission to the swap meet will be free as will be spaces for sellers. All sellers must register, and may do so at <https://westvars.org/west-volusia-amateur-radio-swap-meet>. There will be multiple drawing for prizes at various times throughout the day. Bring your chairs and tables, and most of all the gear you want to sell, and money for that "new to you" gear!

Review of the RM-11831 / 16-239 Debacle

Gordon Gibby KX4Z

An attempt to explain succinctly the sides of this massive debate over the past year, related to petitions demanding (among other things) an end to the current techniques used in WINLINK and several other ham radio systems, including D-RATS. I can't possibly include all the myriad points and counterpoints. And I'm "recent": I just wasn't involved years ago when apparently this argument first raged.

Background: BBS (bulletin board systems) were developed in the 80's and 90's, using VHF and some HF, and the FBB version utilized dynamic compression with a royalty-free LZHUF compression to speed transmissions over slow radio links. Around 1999 the WINLINK developers took this technology and began to build WINLINK-2K, creating the ability for a world-wide PACTOR-based email system, including possible connections to Internet users. Later, various less-pricey soundcard modes were developed. I'm not an expert on any arguments from way back then, but by approximately 2016, Dr. Rappaport (head of a noted microwave research/development unit at private university NYU) began to assert this was **effectively encrypted** and a **threat to national security**.

On Oct 9, 2018, Ron Kolarik K0IDT petitioned the FCC (RM-11831) to accomplish several goals, among them to prohibit narrow-band automated gateways ("97.221(c)") from being operated on any frequencies except in the narrow 97.221(b) segments, and to require that any digital techniques be required to have a freely available, open source, software method to monitor the transmission.

There were over 700 comments filed.

The original Petition would appear to make hardware-based techniques, such as PACTOR, unlawful in the United States. Mr. Kolarik later characterized his position as more of a "negotiation" stance. I performed measurements that indicated any interference from the narrow-band automated gateways was way down in the tiny fractions of <<1% of available spectrum-time.

Throughout this year-long debate, I conducted multiple original studies or developments, to answer questions or issues. That may be unusual; more typically filers just presented their views. Other than me, John Trites and Peter Helfert and possibly a few from WINLINK, no one

wrote that they had tried the systems developed to read these messages, the item demanded.

Dr. Rappaport and several others (including Janis Carson, Lee McVey) took aim more particularly at WINLINK, asserting that there were substantial violative actions ongoing.

The WINLINK development team then unveiled an internet based "reader" that made it possible to read all USA WINLINK messages. Carson et. al. used this to compile a listing of messages they felt were in violation, and forwarded that to the Enforcement Bureau and posted an excerpt in their comments. Further details were difficult to obtain. And apparently the Enforcement Bureau has delayed making any conclusion.

To evaluate this, I performed an analysis of their presented data and concluded that approximately 1.1% of messages flowing through the USA WINLINK system were potential violations. The WINLINK team developed a well-tuned system to deal directly with persons identified as sending objectionable material, and their detractors identified such messages using that system. (I also learned how to do this, it isn't hard.) Winlink terms of service are very strict, stricter than FCC regulations, and people were held to those. Over the subsequent months, I then documented that the incidence of objectionable messages dropped by an order of magnitude, and then by another order of magnitude. WINLINK was rapidly becoming the cleanest part of all of amateur radio (in my view).

John Huggins KX4O managed to read a portion of a WINLINK LZHUF-compressed message with cut-and-paste techniques and the publicly available decompression algorithm, which is also used in D-RATS, BPQ, FBB and potentially other systems. Calls went out from John for programmers to write code to automate the reading process. Since no one else stepped forward, I started re-reading a book on C programming, and a few weeks later had a working Raspberry-Pi version of a system to read WINLINK pactor messages (using the facilities of a PACTOR modem). However, this was *not* well-received by the detractors (and eventually I was banned from QRZ), who stated that it would not work over longer distances.

RM-11831/16-239 (Continued)

Peter Helfert of SCS (maker of the Pactor modem) then released a Windows version of the Raspberry Pi code I had written, and then **rewrote the decompression** so that it became real-time -- you saw the message as it was coming in, at a surveillance station. I then performed 900-mile tests as a surveillance station at a bus-stop, capturing some or all of messages originating from N5TW in Texas. With LZHUF if your surveillance station misses a packet, the reconstruction becomes nearly impossible *past that point* -- my suggestion being to use diversity reception to fill those gaps. I presented preliminary data showing that idea would work.

SCS then released a Raspberry Pi soundcard-based reader that no longer required a PACTOR modem. Some weeks later, I performed tests on that system and demonstrated its performance for the FCC

Dr. Rappaport (and an associate) petitioned for a Declaration on the meaning of certain FCC language. The FCC summary: "NYU seeks a declaratory ruling that section 97.113(a)(4) of the Commission's rules² prohibits the transmission on amateur radio frequencies of "effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning." Section 97.113(a)(4) prohibits amateur stations from transmitting "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning." NYU argues that dynamic compression techniques effectively encrypt or encode communications in violation of the rule because they allow only two linked stations to complete a transmission without error, and thus have the

practical effect of obscuring messages for anyone other than the sender and receiver. "

There were again vast numbers of filings, including my studies of surveilling WINLINK transmissions using either PACTOR modem or Raspberry Pi. There were many negative comments on QRZ related to the ARRL, alleging corruption and other ills. The major points of the ARRL lawyer and pro-WINLINK persons were that monitoring had been demonstrated even with a Raspberry Pi, that there was therefore no encryption, and that advanced monitoring techniques would be expected to be needed to monitor advanced transmission techniques, and that the goals of the Amateur Radio Service included precisely those kinds of advances; self-policing had been actually demonstrated in the months of the debate. The detractors maintained it was essentially encrypted, impossible to monitor and self-police. I can't possibly record the full range of points of view; my own filings included more than a half-dozen original studies and over 400 pages and likely over 500 footnotes.

A large number of amateurs had their first contact with the FCC electronic comment filing system in these debates, and many of us learned quite a bit about not only radio technology, but also the workings of the FCC. The matter now rests with the FCC, which had not ruled on some earlier related petitions for years.



FCC Testing Information

4 Corners Radio Club, Davenport FL

- First Saturday
- 10:00 AM
- Polk County Firehouse, 50945 US 27
- Walk-ins welcome
- Info: WA2FRW@aol.com

Hog County Amateur Radio Association, Bushnell FL

- First Saturday, 11:00 AM, starting September 1, 2018
- Cross Connection Church, 1451 West County Road 476, Bushnell, FL 33513
- Info: sumterVE@gmail.com

Lake ARA, Leesburg FL

- Monthly on the 3rd Saturday, prior to monthly meeting. (Except December)
- 8:00 AM
- [LARA Clubhouse](#) (11146 Springdale Ave, Leesburg – off of CR 473)
- For more information and registration, contact: David A. Pennell, NP2MR (352) 602-5164 np2mr@yahoo.com in advance of the meeting.

Lake Monroe ARS FCC Testing, Sanford FL (LMARS)

- Third Saturday every month
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office
Off SR 17-92, on 100 Eslinger Way in Sanford
- For more information and registration, contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690 or w2bzy@cfl.rr.com

Milton Amateur Radio Club, Milton FL

- Second Thursday of each even numbered month
- 6:30 PM
- Walk-in
- West Florida Hospital Rehab Institute, 8383 N Davis Hwy, Close to Johnson and N. Davis
- Info: Robert Speser, nb8s@icloud.com

Orlando ARC FCC Testing (OARC)

- First Wednesday every month
- 5:30 PM
- Beardall Senior Center
- 800 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32801
- Info: <https://oarc.org/events-ve-testing>
- Monthly Club Meeting follows at 7:30 PM

QCWA Chapter 45, Orlando FL

- Second Thursday
- 11:00 AM
- Golden Corral, 5535 S. Kirkman Ave, Orlando
- Walk-ins welcome
- Info: WA2FRW@aol.com

Silver Springs Radio Club, Ocala FL (SSRC)

- Go to <http://k4gso.us/class/> to signup for classes
- Go to <http://k4gso.us/test-signup/> for testing. Testing is held on the 2nd Tuesday of odd months at 7 PM.
- Note <http://k4gso.us/ncvec605/> is requested to be filled out before you show for testing. It is best to download the form and open it as a PDF so you can fill in the blanks.

Suwannee ARC, Live Oak, FL

- First Tuesday of the month prior to the meeting
- Saturdays available with advanced notice
- N4SVC, 9707 58th Street, Live Oak, FL 32060
- www.suwanneearc.org for more information

Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (TARS)

- First Tuesday of each even numbered month
- 7:00 PM
- American Red Cross, 1115 Easterwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL
- Contact TARS : tallyamateuradio@gmail.com with questions
- Info: <http://www.k4tlh.net>

West Volusia Amateur Radio Society

- Second Saturday of each odd numbered month
- 9:00 AM
- Elks Lodge, 614 S. Alabama Avenue, Deland, FL
- Info: <https://westvars.org/testing>



Remember: Bring photo ID, CSEs, copy of current license, exam fee in cash, \$15 exact change. Large print exams are available.

NFL Web Site

For net, hamfest and other events go to www.arrl-nfl.org. Webmaster Brian McClure, NW4R, maintains an up-to-date and detailed listing of all NFL nets and activities. If you need to make a change to an existing net or activity, or add a new one, you can contact Brian on the website.

NFL Officials

Section Manager – *Kevin Bess, KK4BFN*

Assistant Section Managers

Joseph D. Bushnel W2DWR

John C Reynolds W4IJJ

Dave Davis WA4WES

Jeff Capehart W4UFL

Neil Light KK4VHX

Ray Crepeau K1HG

Steve Szabo WB4OMM

Section Emergency Coordinator – *Karl Martin K4HBN*

Section Public Information Coordinator— *Scott Roberts KK4ECR*

Assistant SE Coordinator – *Robert A. Mitchell W4HKG*

Section Technical Coordinator – *Frank Haas KB4T*

Affiliated Club Coordinator – *Appointment Pending*

Section Traffic Manager – *Helen Straughn WC4FSU*

Official Observer Coordinator – *Robert Leasko, WB8PAF*

State Government Liaison – *Darrell Brock N4GOA*



Newsletter of the Northern Florida Section of the ARRL

1. Spread the word about our website www.arrl-nfl.org and **QST NFL** on your club web-site, in a newsletter or at a meeting.
2. Send a write-up and picture of your next activity.
3. Make sure you, or the appropriate member of your club is on the email reminder list.
4. Contact: Marty Brown N4GL, n4gl.marty@gmail.com

QST NFL is a monthly publication of the ARRL Northern Florida Section. **QST NFL** is intended for wide distribution within the NFL Section, including club Leaders and all licensed Amateurs in Florida. A current issue of this publication can be found at the ARRL Southeastern Division web site, Northern Florida Section. www.ARRL-NFL.org Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of the ARRL. Submissions may be made to the editor, Marty Brown, N4GL.MARTY@gmail.com.