



QST NFL



Sharing information of interest to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 8 Issue 2

www.arrl-nfl.org

February 2021



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 22, 2021

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2021 HamCation Special Edition

As previously announced, the 75th HamCation has been postponed until 2022. For this year, HamCation will instead be hosting the virtual 2021 HamCation Special Edition on February 13 and 14. This event will include webinars streamed on Zoom across the two days, with a focus in four different categories: technology, contesting, youth and vendor. Sign ups for webinars are live and everyone who attends at least one webinar will be entered into the prize drawing. Prize tickets can also be purchased for a \$5 donation per extra ticket. Prizes for this event will be drawn each hour via Facebook live and include books, gift cards and radios, with the grand prizes being a Yaesu 991A and an ICOM IC-705.

Along with webinars and prize drawings, HamCation will be hosting a QSO Party. This contest will be held on February 13, with winners being crowned in three categories: single operator high power, single operator low power and single operator QRP. Winners will receive a plaque and all participants can print out a certificate of their participation. Bonus points will be given to those who contact the bonus stations, which will spell out HamCation.

Merchandise is also available for this event. Items include shirts, sweatshirts, mousepads, drinkware and lanyards. Proceeds from the lanyards, as well as the prize tickets, are donated to local ham radio clubs. HamCation proudly donates over \$15,000 yearly to these clubs.

For more information on the above and more, visit hamcation.com. We thank all of you for your patience and understanding during these times and are excited to see you all again in 2022.

[HamCation 2021 Links](#)

[HamCation 2021](#)

[Forums and Speakers](#)

[Prize Tickets](#)

[Merchandise](#)

[QSP Party](#)

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

SHARES: Opportunity for Amateur Radio to Serve Communities

by Gordon Gibby (KX4Z NCS521)

Amateur radio operators have traditionally provided both *expertise* and *radio assets* to help their communities in times of disaster. As the United States disaster response becomes better coordinated with techniques such as the Incident Command System, additional venues for hams to serve have become available. The Shared Resources High Frequency Radio Program (SHARES) is organized under the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) portion of the Department of Homeland Security. SHARES “coordinates a voluntary network of government, industry and disaster agency HF radio stations used for emergency communications.” Using non-amateur radio channels licensed from the NTIA, this program both transmits “emergency messages when normal communications systems are destroyed or unavailable” and provides “HF radio channels for interoperability.” [https://www.cisa.gov/shares-program-information] As part of the Cybersecurity initiative, there’s a recognition that both natural and man-made effects (think, “Nashville”) can damage normal communications system.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (WHEN FILLED IN)			
SHARES HF RADIO PROGRAM STATION DATA FORM SECURITY PROCEDURES AND PRIVACY ACT			
ACTION: Add New Station <input type="checkbox"/> Delete Station <input type="checkbox"/> Update Station/ERP Data <input type="checkbox"/> Add ERP <input type="checkbox"/>			
PART I: NCSH 3-3-1 STATION DATA			
1. ENTITY: _____		2. STATION LOCATION: _____	
3. VOICE CALL SIGN: _____		City _____	
4. BBS CALL SIGN: _____		State _____	
5. STAR CALL SIGN: _____		6. STATION TELEPHONE: _____	
7. ALE ADDRESS CODE: _____		Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> DSN <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. VOICE FREQUENCIES:		9. ALE FREQUENCIES:	
1. _____	Primary (*) <input type="checkbox"/> LSB (+) <input type="checkbox"/>	1. _____	5. _____
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	2. _____	6. _____
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	3. _____	7. _____
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	4. _____	8. _____
10. STATION HOURS OF OPERATION: 1 - 24 Hours <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Part Time/Duty Hours <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - On Call/Emergency <input type="checkbox"/>			
11. STATION CAPABILITIES: (Check All That Apply)			
SSB Voice <input type="checkbox"/>	HF E-mail <input type="checkbox"/>	GTOR <input type="checkbox"/>	HF Packet <input type="checkbox"/>
ALE (141b/1045b) <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone Patch <input type="checkbox"/>	AMTOR <input type="checkbox"/>	CLOVER <input type="checkbox"/>
PACTOR/PACTOR II <input type="checkbox"/>	MODEM (1052) <input type="checkbox"/>	CLOVER 2000 <input type="checkbox"/>	STI <input type="checkbox"/>
STAR <input type="checkbox"/>	MODEM (110b) <input type="checkbox"/>	PSK31 <input type="checkbox"/>	MT63 <input type="checkbox"/>
PART II: SECURITY PROCEDURES AND PRIVACY ACT			
Information contained in NCSH 3-3-1, SHARES Directory, carries a FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) designation due to the compilation of station data. To participate in SHARES, a member must comply with the following security procedures for handling FOUO material as specified in NCSH 3-3-1, Chapter 1, para 1.9: (1) The information shall not be released in any manner to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid need-to-know, (2) the information shall not be photocopied or			

Figure. Top half of the SHARES license application.

SHARES station licenses are frequently issued to county or city Emergency Operations Centers, although other significant organizations can be included. There are no operator licenses. The local Emergency Manager determines which operators are approved for operation under the station license – and while they are usually amateur radio volunteers, they don’t have to be. (In my experience locally, the EM leaves it totally up to the ham radio volunteers.)

SHARES Activities. The range of emergency preparedness operations is large. There are traditional “nets” in both voice and CW. A winlink-type nationwide radio email system moves data and can survive loss of Internet. Taking a page from the military, there is a strong Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) network. Your station license allows you to practice/serve on interference-free federal frequencies. New techniques are also being developed. The latest proposal leverages amateur radio JS8Call / FT8 modulation to create weak-signal nets that allow simultaneous operation of multiple users within a single sideband passband.

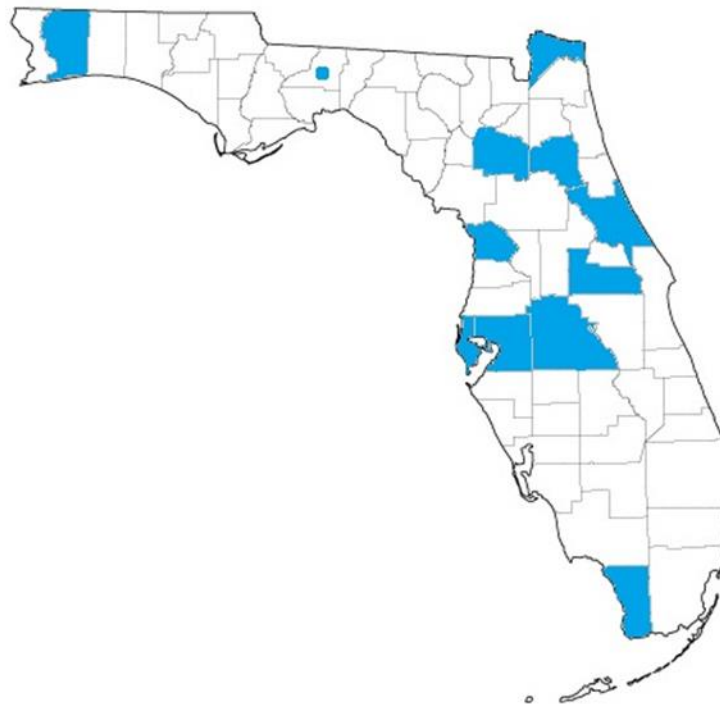
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Getting A License. My experience involves the Alachua County EOC/Fire Rescue and the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief. There is no cost and there is no examination. Two things are required: (1) the signature of an official of a suitable organization, and (2) a primary contact person. The SHARES Form 1 is the application [<https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/SHARES%20Form%201.pdf>] The jargon is a bit different from amateur radio, and it is easiest if you contact me and I'll assist and then get you in touch with other experts so the process is streamlined. With the requisite signatures, you'll generally have a license within a week.

What radio equipment? You will want to have a good single sideband transceiver capable of "MARS modification" to operate on NTIA-licensed frequencies outside the traditional amateur radio frequencies. I've had excellent success with multiple ICOM radios including their IC-7300, by removing specific diodes. That quickly gets you on their voice nets, and with a soundcard, you can do some of their simple data, and even ALE. For the two agencies I've assisted, we've been able to find donations or grants to provide advanced PACTOR equipment to additionally allow full participation with their version of WINLINK. Antennas: with so many non-harmonically related channels, more broadband or auto-tuning techniques will become your forte. Again I can help.

Obligations? Rather minimal. Keep "official use only" data out of the public eye, and participate in any training that interests you. A few times a month I'm able to join them, and I enjoy many of their online training discussions which include world experts. Participation is voluntary but of course maintaining proficiency is enhanced by involvement.

Big Advantages & Few Costs: The organizations in Florida that I assist are very appreciative of our ability to use a wide array of frequencies that have little to no interference, and to have direct radio connection available to the participating Florida Department of Emergency Management, among many other governmental groups. It is a great complement to our amateur radio licenses. Radio connections via voice nets are typically available in *all* recognized emergencies or disasters, usually much more often than most hams are aware. Digital connections for significant speed transfer of files or messages are available 24/7/365. Encryption is allowed, and there are no arbitrary limitations on discussion of pricing etc for handling details of an emergency response by an agency. A system designed just for helping in time of communications need.



*Florida Counties (and State EOC) believed to have some SHARES licensure.
Does not include volunteers and Federal Agencies.*

JACKSONVILLE RADIO NEWS

Billy Williams, N4UF

The January North Florida Amateur Radio Society (NOFARS) meeting included a presentation by AC4WZ, K4PL and K4SK about computer technology used by Jax Laurel to conduct FCC exams. Others added study tips for the dozen or so in the audience who were preparing to take tests.

There were also memories of FCC testing before the VE program began. In Jacksonville during the 1960s, this meant only two opportunities each year at the old armory downtown. Taking an exam usually meant at least a half day off from work and less-than-friendly FCC examiners in some cases. The more hours that passed, the better the chances of passing as "flunks" were called up relatively quickly one-at-a-time to receive the bad news.

And Morse Code tests with multiple echoes in the large main auditorium--no headphones allowed. The closest FCC Field Offices that offered testing then were Miami and Atlanta. Tampa and Savannah were added in the 1970s.

In Jacksonville, one weekday included Amateur Radio exams with a second day for FCC commercial testing. Some hams also held commercial licenses which were handy for earning extra income doing business-band radio service or reading meters at broadcast stations. A good article "Demise of FCC First Phone" is posted via <https://www.radioworld.com/miscellaneous/the-demise-of-the-first-phone>

NOFARS officers for 2021 are Roger, KI4PIL (Pres); Billy, N4UF (VP); Chris, KF4AAF(Sec); Jerry, N2GLF(Treas); Todd, K1KVA (Activities Mgr) and Randy, KI4RHQ (Dir.)

The next NOFARS meeting is Thursday, February 11th at Hogan Baptist Church, 8045 Hogan Rd. starting at 7PM. In 2020, NOFARS held eight in-person meetings at Hogan Baptist Church, two internet meetings and a Christmas dinner.

The 2021 Jacksonville Radio FREE Flea is Saturday, March 27th from 7AM until noon in the big parking area at Terry Parker Baptist Church, 7024 Merrill Rd. It is a good opportunity to turn electronic & computer equipment into \$\$\$ and also look for bargains. The fun starts at sunrise, so arrive early for the best deals.

NOFARS 2021 dues remain at only \$5 per year. Chris, KF4AAF has revamped the roster. To join, send dues as indicated on nofars.net. A special \$60 life membership rate is in effect for a limited time.

A new Yaesu DR2X repeater is on the air from Jacksonville Beach on 147.39 MHz.(+600). The repeater footprint is very good with signal reports coming from Folkston to St. Augustine plus worldwide communications capability through WIRES-X.

Antarctic Activity Week, Feb. 20-28, 2021

Ed Biedricki, WB2UKX



The week of February 20-28, 2021 is:

ANTARCTIC ACTIVITY WEEK

Because its summer in the Antarctic many stations will be active and will participate in the activity. The website for more information is www.waponline.it

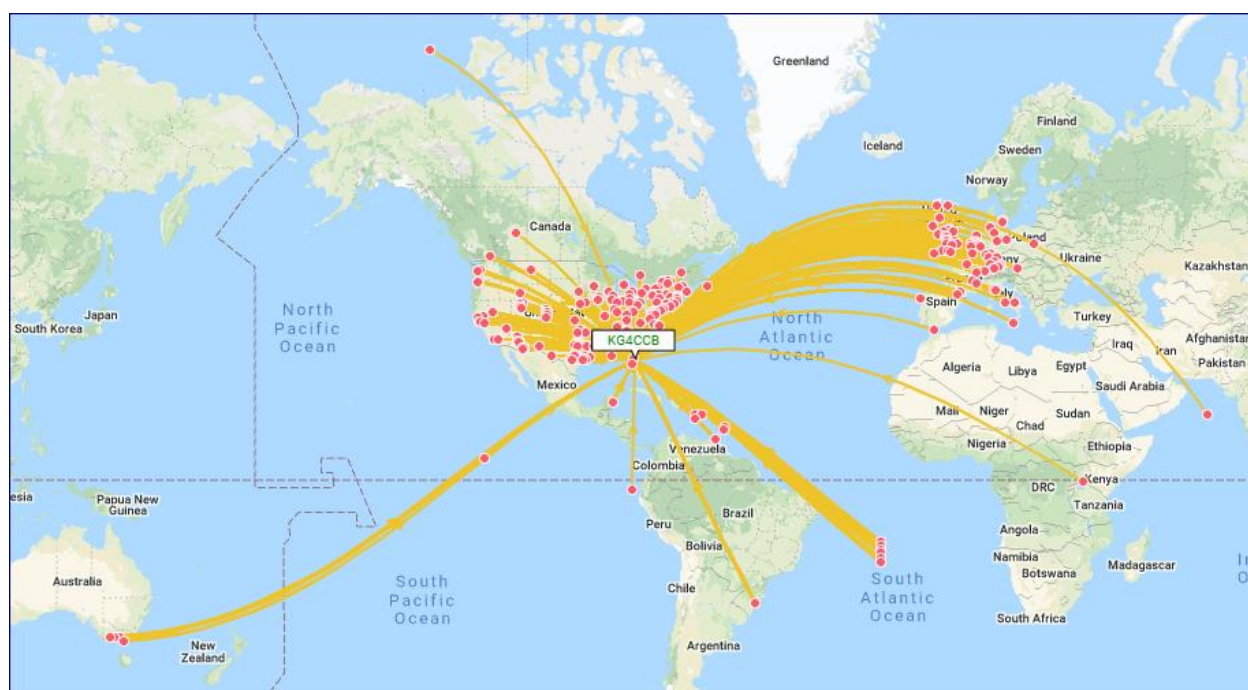
Good Luck

ANTENNA TESTING WITH WSPR

Darrell Franchuk / KG4CCB

Between March and December 2020, I conducted 230 antenna test cycles with Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) of which 153 were receiving cycles and the balance were transmit cycles. These tests involved an IC-7300, an FT-818ND, and an SDR Play 1A together with 2 fixed vertical antennas, 2 fixed dipole antennas, a portable Delta Loop, and four mobile antennas. The test cycles ranged in duration from 1 hour to 48 hours, but most were generally 24 hours on receive and 18 hours or less on transmit. The testing allowed me the opportunity to learn a bit about practical antenna performance objectively in a shorter period than might have taken me to learn subjectively through years of experience.

A typical receive results map is depicted below. During this 29-hour period, 4,361 transmissions were received by the IC-7300 connected to a DX-CC 80-10m dipole at 28-ft above grade receiving on 20 meters.



Below is a summary of Receive cycles performed. Not all cycles are included as they were too short, or were an odd set-up, or were otherwise not representative for various reasons. This was not a “scientific” study. The cycles were performed on random dates and at random times. It is possible to influence the number of spots by starting and stopping during a “busy” period as compared to starting and stopping during a “quiet” period, for example. I do not have test cycles of each antenna with each radio; something to work on for 2021.

In the table below, # Europe refers to number of European locations, whereas # Spots refers to number of transmissions. These are Averages of the number of cycles indicated. Individual cycles have produced more than 7,000 spots: mostly during the latter months of 2020, objective evidence that band conditions are improving!

Continued on next page...

Receiver	Antenna	Band	# Hours	# Europe	# Spots	Spots/hr	# cycles
FT-818 / PC	14AVQ	20m	24	6	1509	63	3
		40m	22	31	3482	157	4
	40-10 dipole	20m	24	12	916	38	2
		40m	24	15	3211	134	2
	Mag Mobile	20m	24	21	1630	68	2
		40m	24	3	1497	62	1
	Hitch Hamstick	20m	17	11	478	34	5
		40m	24	0	1052	44	2
IC-7300 / Pi 4	Delta Loop	20m	24	30	3129	130	3
	DX-CC	20m	23	28	2604	114	7
		40m	19	31	3070	168	9
	CP-5HS	40m	24	5	1048	44	1
SDR Play / PC	14AVQ	20m	25	20	1789	63	12
		40m	24	26	3046	137	14
	40-10 dipole	20m	22	8	1056	45	13
		40m	22	8	1923	90	9
NOTES:	1 - Cycles were not always 24-hour periods of time. The # Hours Averages above provide some indication of that.						
	2 - The values above are Averages of test cycles						
	3 - When cycles are less than 24-hours, the number of spots is impacted by time of day						
	4 - The cycles were conducted somewhat randomly rather than to pursue an objective						
	5 - Testing in 2021 will be performed in a more focused manner						
	6 - Columns are individually Averaged, therefore values above may differ from results obtained by division. For example 1789 spots / 25 hours = 72 spots/hr versus 63 spots/hr						
	7 - # Europe refers to European locations, whereas # Spots refers to transmissions						

The antennas involved are as follows:

- The 14AVQ is a Hy-gain 18-ft vertical antenna for 40-10m. It is mounted at grade with 6 radials spread over a 180-deg arc as it is alongside the driveway
- The 40-10 dipole is a fan dipole originally constructed while I was in high school. It has moved with me, unused, until 2019 when I retired. Originally built for 40m and 15m, I shortened the 15m legs to 10m and added 20m legs. It is located 16-ft above grade
- The Mag Mobile are Hustler antennas consisting of a magnetic base and lower mast with changeable resonator elements for 40m and 20m
- The Hitch Hamstick is the trailer hitch assembly I addressed in a previous ORACLE article. The antennas are MFJ Hamsticks for 20m and 40m
- The Delta Loop designed by Bert / N8NN is described in a previous ORACLE article. It was supported with a Spiderbeam telescopic mast
- The DX-CC is an Alpha Delta 80m – 10m dipole strung between two trees with the center supported by an MGS telescopic mast. It is 28-ft high
- The CP-5HS is a Diamond trap vertical for 40m – 6m located 17-ft above grade. It has rigid trap radials

Following are my observations:

- More transmissions are received on 40m than 20m and 40m generally receives from more locations in Europe
- The 14AVQ and DX-CC generally outperform the other antennas
- The Mag Mobile did surprisingly well, outperforming each of the other antennas with the FT-818 on 20m
- The CP-5HS has been disappointing. Though only one cycle is included in the table above, other individual cycles have resulted in limited numbers of spots. It can be difficult to tune; it is very narrow. Additional testing has already been started with it for 2021
- The SDR Play 1A is very impressive. It costs \$115 and frequently performs as well as the IC-7300 (though they are on different antennas). I will do testing with the CP-5HS and DX-CC in 2021 for better comparison to the IC-7300

Here are photos of a few of the fixed antenna installations:



14AVQ Vertical at left / CP-5HS and DX-CC center support at right

I would be interested in any thoughts or other observations about the data in the table above, the antenna installations, or suggestions for future testing. I do plan to do some time-of-day comparisons in 2021.

Duval County ARES

John Reynolds, W4IJJ, DEC, Duval.

Duval ARES has been busy continuing with its program. We are currently in "Blue Sky" days which is our season for training and planning. As with many groups, Duval moved to virtual meetings, held once a month, at the same day and time as our original schedule. Several months ago, we located a meeting place that could accommodate our group while maintaining CDC guidelines. Hogan Baptist Church became our new location through the graciousness of the Pastor, Mr. Peter Copeland, also an Amateur, KK4WAY.

This site has also been the location of our summer Field Day efforts. Located behind the church facilities is a very large athletic field with four baseball diamonds and a pavilion. We have been allowed use of the pavilion and supporting tall lighting poles which have been modified with eyebolts to support our antenna systems. For the first time, we will be using the site for our winter Field Day efforts. Besides putting radio systems on display and in service, the main thrust of our efforts will be for training and Task Book validation.

Duval continues to hold our training and traffic nets via the local repeater systems. Every Wednesday we conduct two nets simultaneously, a FM analog voice net and a DMR digital net. Many people check into both nets which includes a number of check-in's on DMR from out of county stations. We maintain a DMR talk group, 31128, ARES NFL. Additionally, the FM analog net supports EchoLink node W4IZ-R, 872590 which allows for those who may be away from Duval County to access our nets.

Duval ARES maintains a Website, DuvalARESjax.org where many tools of our efforts are kept. An Organizational Chart is maintained there for reference, which displays our officers and their positions. Along with the Website, we also operate a Facebook Page, it too with a wealth of information.

Most recently, the ARES group assisted the Duval County Emergency Operations Center with a Continuity Of Operations Exercise(COOP), where they simulated the need to vacate their normal facility and relocated the entire operation to their Alternate EOC, miles away.

Currently we are assisting with planning and staffing for the Jacksonville River Run, a 9.2 mile race through downtown and part of the Southside area of town. This will be the 43rd year of assistance with the race. Our ARES operators serve as "spotters" for someone in need and we then communicate that information directly to the Fire/Rescue group for resolution. Every year, there has been a need to assist/extract someone and last year was no exception. As a spin-off to this we have been able to train RADO's from other locations. This year, we have four participants coming from Savannah Georgia to work with us.

By the time you read this, Winter Field Day will be in the books. We are expecting a great turnout as we have been told there are a number of Hams coming from other counties. Good luck with your Winter Field Day. . . .



[QSO Today Ham Expo](#)

Coming to your desktop, laptop, and tablet:

March 13 and 14, 2021

and "on-demand" until April 12, 2021



What's happening? Santa Rosa County Edition

Arc J. Thames, W4CPD, Emergency Coordinator, Santa Rosa County FL ARES

We have been quite busy in Santa Rosa County the last couple of months. The winter is usually a good opportunity to take care of projects since there is not much chance of a threat of hurricanes or other need to activate.

Radio Room Remodel

We started out with a late November remodel of our radio room. One of the things we discovered during our hurricanes Sally and Zeta activations is, while we have a good size radio room at the EOC, we did not have a lot of space due to excess equipment. It became very clear that the chances of us using 5 different stations in our room at the same time was slim. Arc-W4CPD, Santa Rosa County Emergency Coordinator, took advantage of a few "black Friday" specials and donated new desks, larger monitors for our 2 primary stations, and some new shelving. This opened the space up and will benefit us during future activations. Thanks to our EC/AEC team, Ed-K4PFL, and Josie-WD4DCL with helping assemble everything and get it back together!



Pictured from left to right: Daisy KT4KW, Ray-K1HG, Steve-W4SJV, and Jon-KM4QQO



Pictured from left to right: Jack-W4JPH, Josie-WD4DCL, and ED-K4PFL

Visit from our Section Emergency Coordinator

Following our radio room remodel, we had a visit from Karl-K4HBN, the North Florida Section Emergency Coordinator. Karl came up so that a few of us could have our ARES Task Books signed off to allow us to be evaluators for our team members and others in the area. Arc-W4CPD is now signed off as a level 3 evaluator and Roy-KV4LY, Escambia County EC, at level 2. Thanks, Karl, for making the trip up!

Pictured from center, then clockwise around the table: Joe-KF4DVF, Roy-KV4LY, Steve-W4SJV, Karl-K4HBN, Arc-W4CPD



Primary ARES Repeater Work

Hurricanes Sally and Zeta caused damage to our primary ARES repeater antenna which in turn caused significantly high SWR feeding back into our repeater. While working through troubleshooting it was also determined that our feedline had issues in several places along its 400' stretch. Working with the county, we were able to have the feedline, antenna, and repeater replaced. We now have a new DB224 antenna, all new 7/8" feedline, and Yaesu DR-2 repeater. While the crew was replacing the broken antenna, they also discovered that the dipoles were all pointed in one direction on the previous one. With the replacement, the 4 bays are now pointed omni-directional and we have received fantastic signal reports throughout Santa Rosa, Escambia, and Okaloosa county. This repeater now solidly covers the tri-county area.



You can check in to our weekly ARES net remotely via Echolink node 976547 or AllStar Link node 515591. The net meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM central time.

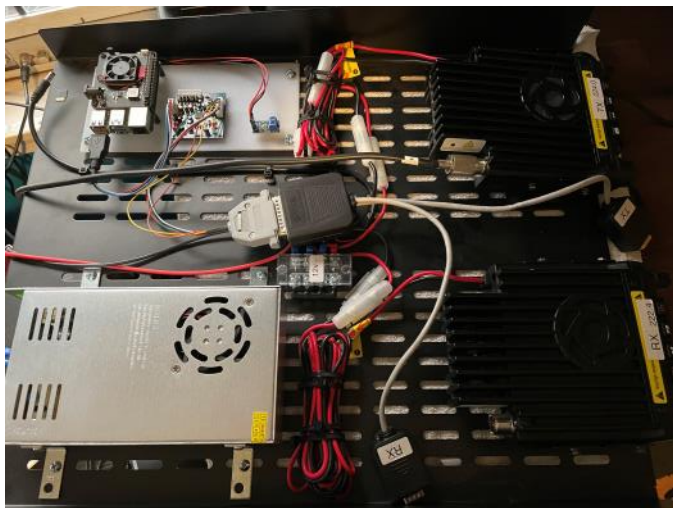
New Capabilities

Our Emergency Coordinator, Arc-W4CPD, has been busy adding new capabilities to our area. We can now link our primary ARES repeater with a secondary repeater in the north end of the county that additionally provides coverage to parts of lower Alabama. Arc is heavily involved with SKYWARN activities from the National Weather Service of Mobile, AL office and is working with the South Alabama SKYWARN team to expand linking coverage for SKYWARN nets. This additional link will help us gather information from hams as severe weather moves through our area. The north end repeater may be accessed via AllStar node 515592. This is accomplished by using a Raspberry Pi hosting 2 nodes from AllStar Asterisk on the Hamvoip edition, 2 RIM-ALINCO USB sound fobs from Repeater Builder, and 2 Alinco DR-135 radios. When the 2 repeaters are linked, both can be accessed via Echolink as well.



Pictured – K4SRC and KN4JEA linking radios to their respective repeaters and the AllStar Raspberry Pi

January also saw the stand up of a new 1.25m band repeater sponsored by Arc-W4CPD and the Rural Radio Preparedness Association, an ARRL affiliated association that Arc is President over. The repeater was hand built out of 2-TYT 9000D radios, a Raspberry Pi, and an ARA-1 USB sound fob. The controlling software is the Hamvoip instance of AllStar Asterisk. The repeater provides hourly time and weather announcements and has a phone patch available for emergencies. Thanks to John-KM4FJM for assembling the rack shelf, Dan-KT4DD for his troubleshooting assistance, and Arc-W4CPD for programming and hosting the repeater. The coverage appears to be approximately a 25-mile radius around Pace, FL and can be accessed remotely using AllStar Link node 515593 or locally on 224.000, neg 1.6 offset and DCS code 023 if you would like to drop in and say hello.



Pictured - KO4SRC 224.000 Repeater

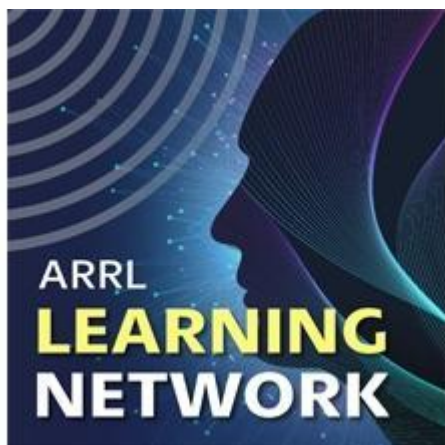
Lastly Santa Rosa County Emergency Management applied for and obtained their CISA SHARES (SHared RESources) approval from DHS. While this program is still in its infancy, it provides one more tool in the toolbelt to use during communications emergencies. Gordon Gibby will be doing an article to provide additional information on SHARES so we won't go into too much detail here. Arc-W4CPD has also just completed the installation of a Winlink RMS gateway system on the SHARES frequencies using a P4 Dragon 7400 Pactor modem, an ICOM 718 HF radio, a 133' ladder line fed doublet at 35' and an LDG RT-100 outdoor tuner.

Pictured – Arc, W4CPD's, full communications rack



We will be participating in Winter Field Day from Bear Lake Campground in the Blackwater State Forest so watch next month for news and photos from that event.

We need help! If you are in the Santa Rosa County area and willing to volunteer for shelter operations or to present on a topic at our meetings, please contact our EC Arc – W4CPD at arc.thames@srcares.org or visit our website srcares.org for more information. Please check our website or Facebook page for more upcoming events. Any event that we do is open to ANYONE, you do not have to be an ARES member or a member of any club. Our events are done to promote amateur radio, have fun, and learn from each other!



ARRL Learning Network

From the ARRL Letter for January 28, 2021

ARRL's Learning Network is a webinar series to help introduce members to the variety of activities and opportunities enjoyed by radio amateurs. These live presentations will be given by member-volunteers, for all members. Like ham-fest forums and radio club presentations, the webinars are intended to help participants get more active, involved, and engaged in amateur radio. Presentations are 30-minutes each to accommodate attendee's busy schedules, followed by a 15-minute period for questions-and-answers. For additional information contact ARRL's [Lifelong Learning](#) department.

Served Agency, Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, Elevates Status of Radio Technology Section

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

After North Florida Section ARES® volunteers saved the day by turning on communications for this served agency during Hurricane Michael disaster response in Panama City, Florida Baptist Disaster Relief began to rebuild their volunteer communications group. Result: at a leadership Conference Jan 22/23 in Jacksonville, retiring State Director Rev. Delton Beall announced the new State Coordinator position of “Communications & Technology” to be headed up by Rev. Brad Gwartney. Gwartney is an experienced IT-staff/discipleship pastor at Stetson Baptist Church, Deland, Florida. The newly recognized ministry area includes radio technology from “DC to daylight” as well as typical networking/IT and PIO (public information officer) efforts to get the word out about the great work of this disaster response organization.

Volunteers Michael Crisler N4IFD and Gordon Gibby KX4Z NCS521 spent 3 hours at conference breakout sessions, bringing Brad up to speed on the work that has been done in the last two years to create two levels of formal radio training within the ministry, and the significant upgrades to the radio, data, and satellite systems of the massive Public Communications Center trailer. Gwartney reviewed the Florida SERTRAC system for managing radio training and also the world-wide WINLINK radio email communications system, in operation.

Opportunities for NFL Section Hams:

Florida Baptist Disaster Relief is continuously looking for additional radio volunteers for this ministry area at all levels of experience, and has established on-line training/qualification. (Entry level training-- go to <https://flbaptist.org/dr-volunteer/> and click on the link down the page for “Introductory Communications Volunteer Training”) This is a great opportunity for NFL Section hams to put their skills to work with a well-recognized NGO Agency that **deploys all over Florida in most years**. Their next formal in-person training will be held March 20 in Jacksonville, Florida, 8:30AM – 3:30 PM (see: <https://flbaptist.org/event/disaster-relief-training-jacksonville/> to register). Additional training sessions will be held at two-week intervals, many within the North Florida ARRL Section, as the group completes its 2021 training for the upcoming hurricane season. Florida Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are background checked, trained and badged volunteers that are well-recognized by local and state authorities & *welcomed* at all disaster locations when displaying their distinctive badges. Further information about training & credentialing can be found at: <https://flbaptist.org/dr-volunteer/> Train with our group and you WILL be given chances to deploy.



Rev. Brad Gwartney, new head of the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief “Technology & Communications” section.

FCC Testing Information

4 Corners Radio Club, Davenport FL

Cancelled due to Covid 19

- Info: WA2FRW@aol.com

Hog County Amateur Radio Association, Bushnell FL

- First Saturday, 11:00 AM
- 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: Dave Templeton N4NG, 386-804-2806 n4ng@icloud.com in advance of the meeting.

Lake Monroe ARS FCC Testing, Sanford FL (LMARS)

Cancelled until further notice due to loss of venue because of COVID 19

- 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)

Cancelled until further notice due to loss of venue because of COVID 19

- Info: <https://oarc.org/events-ve-testing>

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)

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (TARS) has begun limited License testing. Please refer to the following for the updated testing dates and requirements for individuals wishing to take exams. <https://k4tlh.net/fag/license-testing/>

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.

***Due to the COVID 19 re-
strictions on gatherings,
please check with the or-
ganizations listed for
changes or cancellations.***

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. Bushel W2DWR

John C Reynolds W4IJJ

Dave Davis WA4WES

Jeff Capehart W4UFL

Neil Light KK4VHX

Ray Crepeau K1HG

Steve Szabo WB4OMM

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR

Section Emergency Coordinator – Karl Martin K4HBN

Section Public Information Coordinator— Scott Roberts KK4ECR

Assistant SE Coordinator – Dave Davis WA4WES

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

Statewide Digital Radio Resources

Did you know we have designated ARES DSAR Reflectors & a DMR Talkgroup?

- **DSTAR Reflector 046**

- o REF046A – Florida Statewide

- o REF046B – NFL ARES

- o REF046C – NWS Mobile, AL SKY-WARN

- **DMR Florida State ARES TG 31127**

Feel free to link your local repeaters to help create a digital repeater network through the state!



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.