



QST NFL



Sharing information of interest to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 8 Issue 8

www.arrl-nfl.org

August 2021

Jacksonville Amateur Radio News

Billy Williams, N4UF

The North Florida Amateur Radio Society does not meet in August. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 9th at Hogan Baptist Church, 8045 Hogan Rd. The Jacksonville FREE Hamfest is Saturday, October 30th in the Terry Parker Baptist Church parking area. The fun starts at sunrise with free admission and tailgate spots. See <http://jaxradio.net/hamfest.html> for more.

PERRY WILLIAMS, AA4TY: Perry passed away last month unexpectedly. He was a longtime NOFARS life member. Perry was active on many HF nets and VHF. He was a big part of W4IZ Field Day operations at the Geis Marine Center when NOFARS held centralized operations at that spot on the St. Johns River that included a 600-foot pier. He was active with Nassau Co. ARES.

RANDY WILLIAMS, AD4US: Randy passed away in July. He was a member of NOFARS FCC Volunteer Exam team and served as Chief Volunteer Examiner for several years.

AUGUST FCC TESTING: Two sessions are scheduled for August. Laurel VEs offer free testing on Saturday, August 7th at 1pm at Terry Parker Baptist Church. Orange Park ARRL testing starts at 9:30 on Saturday morning, August 14 at the Orange Park Library. See http://jaxradio.net/fcc_testing.html for details on pre-registration.

JULY MEETING: CBS 47/Fox 30 Chief Meteorologist Mike Buresh spoke at the July NOFARS meeting. It followed an unusual early storm threat in early July. Mike spoke about debris field graphics that he used to track tornados that tore through Jacksonville a few days before and other technological advances in television weather presentations. Expect above normal storm activity this year.

JACKSONVILLE BROADCASTERS ASSN.: Howard Kelley served as NOFARS president in 1968 and was an early leader of the Florida Repeater Council. His career includes being a news anchor, then channel 12's president and general manager followed by 25 years as CEO of robotics firm Sally Industries. Howard also served as Chair for the FCCJ District Board of Trustees.

After retirement, he helped organize the Jacksonville Broadcasters Assn. along with Harry Reagan who spoke to NOFARS when the group was being formed several years ago.

The group's website jaxbroadcasters.org includes memories of Jacksonville's television pioneers from the 1940s, 50s and 60s with oral histories and videos. Lots of memories of Jacksonville radio stations and personalities too.

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Email your QST NFL input to n4gl.marty@gmail.com, Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor. All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.

Alachua County ARES® / NFARC Updates

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

We all took a bit of a breather after all the effort for our Field Day (see: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2021/AlachuaCountyARES2021FIELDDAYAfterActionReport.pdf>), but the projects keep rolling forward.

Integrated Preparedness Plan: Our three-year goals for improving preparedness locally are broken into more than 26 little goals. At our July meeting we recruited additional volunteers to “head up” some of these smaller projects. The Figure shows our volunteer leaders. Some of these projects are really small: for Space Weather awareness 2021 advances, we targeted simply having links on our web page, and this is now accomplished. For increasing Solar Power capabilities of local clubs, we now are on schedule to give a talk at a sister-club in September. (At the hundred-watt, easy-to-manuever panel level, I found and purchased some panels at 85 cents/watt:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08SWJK87H> This is a great deal!)

Extra Class Course: We alternate years on General / Extra and this is “Extra” year – our club voted to move the course to the weekend of Nov 20, just before Thanksgiving. This will be available to anyone, but we expect to hold it in person with hands-on training. Register & get additional information at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtnrQxn8ROHskBhCQWY8w03NAII97hMbbAnJLfD7_fDAw0iQ/viewform

Monthly “Tech Nights” – taking an idea from the Nashua Amateur Radio Society, we’re going to try to offload our monthly meetings with a new offering devoted to some “radio technical topic” each month, hopefully with lots of volunteer presenters. This was VERY popular in Nashua, where they also used it similarly to our LabNLunch’s. Our effort will be ZOOM, and our first talk will be Thursday August 5 7PM-8PM on “Setting up your first HF Station” with a back and forth between two members on a Kenwood / Icom comparison for some of the station. You can get further information from our Calendar at: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/CALENDAR.html>

New Web Page Format – Appropriating another idea from the Nashua club, I rewrote our public-facing web page to be a bit more inviting and oriented toward newer participants, while trying to keep all of the educational and documentation information we’ve amassed. See: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/index.html> All of this is done with FREE software and FREE hosting, so available to any club.

Project	Volunteer
More Badged Vols.	Bret Wallace NH2KW
Last Shelter Antennas	David Huckstep W4JIR
More HF Vols	Leland Gallup AA3YB
Solar Power	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
Vol. Typing	Brett Wallace NH2KW
Alerting	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
Repeater Survey	Susan Halbert KG4VWI
Cache Transceivers	Jeff Capehart W4UFL
MARC training	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
EOC Portable	Gordon Gibby KX4Z Earl McDow K4ZSW
Tall Places	Earl McDow K4ZSW
Shares VHF	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
LEO Encryption	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
Space Weather	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
Sustainability	Lorilyn Roberts K4LBS
Broadcast	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
Antenna Training	Earl Sloan KI4OXD



**QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo
Coming Soon
August 14th and 15th, 2021**

[Info & Registration](#)

NOARC Inaugural Swapmeet/Hamfest

By "DJ" Stewart, KI4ZER

The North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club (NOARC) is pleased to announce our first Swapmeet/Hamfest in quite some time!

Details are listed below:

What: Amateur Radio SwapMeet

Where: Crestview Community Center, 1446 Commerce Drive, Crestview Florida 32539

When: Day 1, Friday 8 October 2021, Set up at 3:00 PM, "Sneak Peak" Show from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Day 2, Saturday 9 October 2021, Doors open at 7:00 AM. Event closes at 3:00 PM.
(Clean to be finished by 8:00 PM.)

Prices: Admittance for Vendors and Guests: \$7.00 each day
Vendor Tables/Table Spots: \$7.00 each, good for the entire show.
Limited tables available – please plan on bringing your own tables if setting up more than five.

Talk in: 147.360, positive offset, 100 Hz tone

Contact Information: KI4ZER@ARRL.net or call (850) 359-9186

Activities offered:

- License testing on Saturday morning. (Preregistration requested via "Contact NOARC" tab at our web site, <https://w4aaz.org/contact>.)
- Refreshments
- Local Vendors
- Area Club Booths and Tables
- Private individual Tables

NOARC is also associated with the Playground Amateur Radio Club (PARC) of Fort Walton Beach Florida, which hosts an annual Hamfest every Spring. NOARC recently participated with PARC at their 51st Annual show, and they are a large input for our Fall event -- which we hope to carry on in following years.

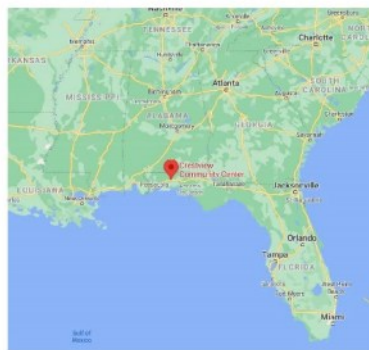
NOARC sincerely hopes you can participate in this inaugural event! Please join us!



W4AAZ PRESENTS!

Public Amateur Radio Swap Meet

- 1446 Commerce Dr, Crestview, FL 32539
- October 8 – Setup at 3 pm
- Special Sneak Peak Show from 5 to 7 pm
- October 9 – Doors open at 7 am to 3 pm!
- Talk in: 147.360 +.6 MHz 100 Hz Tone
- 40,000 sq ft Facility – INDOOR!
- Admission: \$7.00
- Table (ea.): \$7.00
- Info at W4AAZ.ORG
- Contact KI4ZER@ARRL.Net



What's happening? Santa Rosa County Edition

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

July has been a busy month for us! We started off the month setting up at the Pea Ridge Flea Market in support of Bob-W5CL's mini-hamfest. Bob has been a staple in the amateur radio community in this area for many years and operates a radio shop inside the flea market. This gave us an opportunity to setup our new mobile communications trailer and show local operators and the public how we use Winlink to send messages over the air. We had many visitors stop by and it was a great success.



Saturday, July 24, our ARES team participated in a shelter training & simulation by the American Red Cross. The simulation took place at one of our primary shelters, the Milton Community Center, and involved several volunteer agencies and members of the public from around the area.



The training began in one of the conference rooms where they explained the various roles of the Red Cross and the positions that are operated within an emergency shelter. The amateur radio operators from our ARES team, as well as some we just met, accounted for approximately half of the audience. We were extremely thrilled to have so much participation from our team.

From L-R: Chuck-N4QEP, "Cookie"-N4YGS, Joe-KN4UDS, Eugene-KA3PRG, Bruce-KA5DLV, John-KM4FJM, Hal-WA5HC, James-K9JHR

Following the introduction, we moved into the room where we would be located for an activation. When we arrived, we setup one of our new go-kits which includes an ICOM 7100, laptop, and other necessary supplies for voice and Winlink operations. This shelter has an antenna already mounted on the roof and the coax into the room.



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Once inside, our Emergency Coordinator Arc-W4CPD, began going over the activities that take place during an activation with our ARES team as well as the visitors. Arc went over our documentation binders and what a typical deployment to a shelter looks like for our team.

From L-R: Bruce-KA5DLV, Hal-WA5HC, James-K9JHR, James-KM4FJM, Arc-W4CPD, and visitor



During the simulation, the Shelter Manager would insert injects that we would have to relay to the "EOC". One of our team members was standing by at home to simulate the radio operator at our EOC. The injects varied from disorderly shelter clients to clogged toilets and flood parking lots. For every item that happened, we also discussed and demonstrated filling in the proper ICS documentation to create a log of events and explained the importance of these forms.

Hal-WA5HC relaying in one of the injects to our "EOC" station over the air.

During the simulation our team also obtained simulated shelter statistics which we then transmitted via Winlink using our custom shelter form designed by Jon-KM4QQO.



Pictured left photo: Hal-WA5HC explaining what statistics we obtain from the shelter staff
Pictured right photo: L-R, Chuck-N4QEP, John-KM4FJM, Arc-W4CPD, Hal-WA5HC (Arc explaining Winlink)



For any visitor that came through, we asked them for their email address and then demonstrated sending a message over the air using Winlink. Many were surprised at how easily it worked and how quickly they received their message. One of our new Emergency Management team members also stopped by and we were able to demonstrate this functionality for him well.

Pictured: Arc-W4CPD demonstrating Winlink to a member of the public



as

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This simulation provided us a fantastic opportunity to interface with other team members that are present at the shelters and give them a better understanding of what we do to support them and our community. The Red Cross typically does these at the start of hurricane center so be sure to check with your local Red Cross or ARES team to see if you can participate in these activities.

On the schedule we've got a couple of events coming up. Starting off in August, we've got another "Ham Hands On" event. This event will focus on providing information and hands on activities with APRS (automatic packet reporting system.) Tom-KW4TOM will be doing the presentation. We'll be located at Floridatown Park in Pace, FL (at the end of Floridatown Road by Escambia River/Bay. All are welcome and breakfast will be provided.

On September 11, you will not want to miss a special advanced weather spotting seminar! Our special guest is James-KC8BCH. James worked 19 years for the National Weather Service as the Sr. Meteorologist in West Paducah, Kentucky. While this is not an "official" SKYWARN class, James' many years of experience will provide valuable insight into the world of weather! Saturday, September 11, 9:00AM central time at the Santa Rosa County Emergency Operations Center (4499 Pine Forest Road in Milton, FL). Please enter through the side door (there will be signs.)



For more information on our Santa Rosa County ARES team or to get involved, please visit us online at srcares.org or check us out on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/srcares).

Working together, we'll get it done!

Submitted by Arc Thames – W4CPD

Thankfully in Northwest Florida we have a great relationship among the various clubs and ARES teams within Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties. To help further that relationship, we held a meeting at one of the local parks in Santa Rosa County on Saturday July 24 to get together members for all the area clubs to discuss what we can do to better support our new hams as well as get the word out to our community that amateur radio is alive and well in the panhandle. I provided lunch, as we know food always helps get hams together. We had around 25 hams in attendance.



The consensus from observation, is that it seems as if we have the best attendance results to events and activities when we have events that aren't specifically affiliated with any club or group directly. Prime examples of this are the tailgaters Bob-W5CL have done, the Ham Hands on events, Winter Field Day etc. Many of our club and ARES meetings in the area tend to draw 10-15 people most times, sometimes up to 20, but we know there are many more amateurs in the area. The company I, W4CPD, work for had a slogan a while back that said "Working together, we'll get it done" and I feel that holds so true to the amateur radio community.

After everyone had a chance to eat, we began discussing what we can do to help each other and our community. I first introduced Bill-WY8O who had started talking about these topics just before COVID hit and shut down the area. We began an open discussion about some of the ideas that had been tossed around.

The resounding feedback was that it's hard for people to know what's going on all the time. While each club or ARES group may have its own Facebook or Web page, there's no central place to go to find out what's going on in our area. One of the decisions that was made by this group of people was to establish a single Facebook and Web page for the 3-county area that will have listings of all the local clubs, ARES teams, repeaters, nets, and events. We will be accepting donations to purchase "giveaways" that we can always keep on us such as business cards or pens that list this consolidated Facebook & Web page so that no matter what club you're from or where you might be when you're talking to someone about amateur radio, they can find information on the 3 counties in one place. Each club will still maintain their own online presence, but we will link to them and post their events and other information on this consolidated page, for those clubs that wish to. With that, we have purchased and started building nwflhamradio.net and the corresponding [Facebook page](#).

We want to engage and follow up with newly licensed amateur radio operators. We see many people get their license at our meetings and events but hear very few of them get on the air afterwards. We are asking our area clubs to collect the names and email addresses of those that pass their technician test so that we, as a group, can follow up with them within a month after their license exam to see if they need any assistance getting on the air. We also hope to have a pool of handhelds that we can give to those who might not be able to afford one.

The need for establishing a pool of elmers/subject matter experts was discussed. We want to be able to connect amateurs with the right people when they have questions about a particular topic. Additionally, Bob-W5CL, has a radio shop at the Pea Ridge Flea Market in Milton, FL and we plan to have someone there from 10A-1P central each Saturday to be available to help program radios, answer questions, or get someone to the right person who can answer their question. Our elmers would also be available to present at our "ham hands on" events.

Time and time again when we are out in the public, whether it be for Field Day, Beaches/Parks on the Air, or other public operating events, we tend to draw a lot of attention and interest from the public. We will be establishing a special events team that can setup at public places and be prepared to talk with anyone who has questions about getting started in Amateur Radio. Our goal is to setup at as many festivals and fairs as we can to demonstrate our skills and what's available to the public. Each event we setup at will have brochures available from all the clubs so we can direct someone to the right group based on where they live. Hal-WA5HC, has already reached out to the Pensacola Interstate Fair that is hosted at the end of October in Pensacola, FL and they have offered us free space in their venue to showcase amateur radio.

While we don't yet have a strategy to address it, the last item we discussed was engaging with the youth in our community. None of us are getting any younger and we need to train up the next generation and get them engaged. We know digital modes are likely the answer to this and plan to ensure we have hotspots and digital radios available at any event we are at so we can demonstrate picking up a radio and talking around the world as well as Winlink for sending email and text messages. There was talk of engaging with local schools as well and the need for those that have retired from their jobs to help in this area as many of us are still employed full time.

Many great ideas were tossed around, and many wonderful things are ahead for our area. I'd like to thank everyone who came out and I'll keep you, our readers, posted on our progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to email info@nwflhamradio.net and one of our volunteers will get back with you!



Bill-WY8O speaking to the group



Arc-W4CPD presenting to the group



Hal-WA5HC addressing the group about special events

FCC Testing Information

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)

- Third Saturday of every month
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office, 100 Eslinger Way, 1st Floor, Sanford, FL
- Registration Required
- For more information and registration, contact Bob Cumming, W2BZY, 407-333-0690 or w2bzy@cfl.rr.com

Milton Amateur Radio Club, Milton FL

- Tuesday, June 15
- 6:00 PM
- Walk-in
- Bagdad United Methodist Church
- Info: Chuck, N4QEP, merlinman3@yahoo.com

Santa Rosa County FL ARES Testing (Walk-in)

- Saturday, June 26, 5 PM at the Santa Rosa county EOC, 4499 Pine Forest road, Milton FL
- Additional information and dates can be found at srcares.org or by emailing info@srcares.org

Seminole County

- Every month on the third Saturday
- 9:15 AM
- Seminole County Sheriff's Office off SR 17-92, on 100 Eslinger Way in Sanford, FL
- Info: Bob Cumming, W2BZY, w2bzy@cfl.rr.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>

This information is subject to change. Check with the testing venue to confirm the testing session.

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. 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 SKYWARN

· **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

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