



QST NFL



Sharing information of interest to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 9 Issue 3

www.arrl-nfl.org

March 2022

NOARC Holds Technician Class

Mike Behr,
W4BZM

The North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club (NOARC) recently completed a four-session course for the Technician license. Classes were held on the evenings of January 18th and 25th and February 1st and 8th. For the first time, we used the extensive instructional resources of Ham Radio School.

*Welcome to Training for the
Amateur Technician Class License*



We originally intended to conduct the course in person, but with decisions needed in December 2021 regarding training locations and mode, and the unknown impact of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, we elected to err on the side of safety and once again offer the class virtually via Zoom. (This was the second time the NOARC had offered the Technician course online, and the third online course we have administered since the Covid-19 constraints began.) Using the online format widened the opportunities for enrolment and we ultimately had student participation from sites as far away as Memphis TN, Tampa FL, St. Louis MO, Elk Park NC, and Kennesaw GA. The mix was also unusual – of the eighteen students who started the course, eight were YLs and two were under the age of 18. Five of our students took the Technician exam soon after classes ended and all passed. NOARC also administered the Technician exam locally under the Western Carolina VEC on 22 February. We are still awaiting word on the test status for several of our remote students. We welcome Kaleb KO4YAS, Blake KO4YAT, and Elden KO4YAU to the world of amateur radio, and congratulate Robert KM4VKY on his new Amateur Extra ticket. VEs for the local exam were KA5DLV, W4BZM, and KK4LLS.

Continued on next page...

Looking for Something?

Gordon Gibby, KX4Z, has taken the time to index the articles from all the 2021 issues of **QST NFL**! The link below takes you to a pdf of all the articles in alphabetical order. This link is also on the arrl-nfl.org website newsletter tab.

<https://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/>

The 2022 Florida QSO Party April 30th – May 1st

[FQP INFO](#)

What's Inside

Page 3	From the SEC
Page 5	Loften HS Participates in School Roundup
Page 6	Emergency Comm Track
Page 8	Escambia Co has ARES Work Day
Page 9	Extension Cord Antenna
Page 10	Okaloosa Co ARES Group
Page 11	FL Becomes AUXCOMM State
Page 12	Up Up and Away!
Page 15	My Radio Doesn't Work
Page 16	Suwannee Radio Club Reports
Page 17	RRPA Comm Trailer
Page 18	Walton County Reports
Page 20	Santa Rosa County
Page 22	Together We are Better
Page 23	QCWA Chapter 62

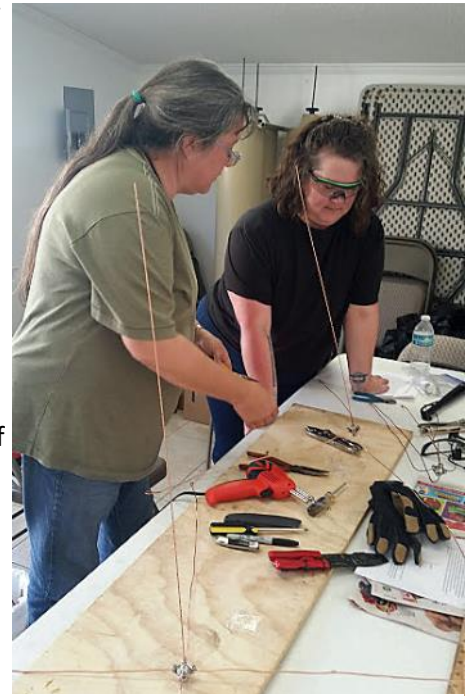
You can email your **QST NFL** input to
n4gl.marty@gmail.com, Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor.

All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.

For the first time, we also offered an optional hands-on opportunity on a Saturday afternoon to build a two-meter ground plane antenna as part of the Technician course. One of our remote participants even traveled from the Atlanta area to Crestview FL to participate to build her own antenna!

Instructors for the Technician class were Mackenzie K4KNZ (first time), Bob KN4UDT (first time), Steve W4HA, Don KN4CGX (first time), Steve KJ4RWD, Robert KM4VKY (first time), Ron KI5FR, Craig KK4WDQ, Bruce KA5DLV, and Mike W4BZM. Why so many instructors? Several reasons: We were working with new instructor resources from Ham Radio School, we wanted to introduce “new blood” to the instructor corps, and (due to previous experience) we assigned primary instructors and backup instructors for each chapter to ensure coverage in case the primary instructor had a late-breaking conflict or in case of technical issues with the primary instructor’s Zoom connection.

NOARC believes that an advantage of live license classes (either in-person or virtual) over recorded presentations (YouTube) is the opportunity for students to ask questions and clarify any confusing points real-time. We hope to continue offering license classes to the Panhandle community via whatever means necessary.



Jennifer and Brandy (now KO4YAJ) work on their antennas



W4ZBB Playground Amateur Radio Club

The 52nd ANNUAL PARC Hamfest

March 18-19, 2022
Friday 4p-8p
Saturday 8a-2p

NWF Fairgrounds
1958 Lewis Turner Blvd
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Admission: \$7
Tables: \$15
Tailgating encouraged! \$10/spot
RV Parking \$30 per night, 30A, water, sewer included.

Contact: hamfest@w4zbb.org
(850) 359-9186



From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Arc Thames, W4CPD

Although it started on a very sombre note with several of our team attending the funeral services of our former SEC, Karl K4HBN, February has been quite the month of activity. The ARRL National Convention and HamCation in Orlando, FL were a huge success!



Several members of the Northern Florida Section were chosen to lead the Emergency Communications Academy at the ARRL National Convention. With a packed convention room, the team led participants through topics such as traffic handling, Winlink, AUXCOMM, and emergency antennas/power just to name a few. I was joined

by Christine Duez K4KJN, SEC of the West Central Florida Section, and Mike Walters W8ZY, Field Services Manager of the ARRL, for a forum on ARES. Christine and I had the opportunity to share some of the activities going on in our respective sections and provide some insights to the attendees on things they can do to have a successful ARES program in their area. One of the recurring themes throughout these discussions was the importance of the relationship between our ARES teams and their served agencies. An important reminder to all in that, when we enter a served agency to assist them, all our titles are left outside the door. ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Service, at its core is a service organization. Our goal is to support our served agencies in whatever capacity they need us to complete their mission. I want to extend a huge thank you and congratulations to Rick Palm K1CE and Gordon Gibby KX4Z for their leadership in putting together this wonderful track and to all the others who presented or volunteered to mentor during the sessions.



Following the National Convention, we spent the next few days at Hamcation. I had the privilege of volunteering in the ARES booth located within the ARRL section of the hamfest. During Hamcation I was able to meet with several of our ARES members and net participants throughout the section as well as chat with many of those in leadership at the ARRL, DHS/CISA/AUXCOMM, and other government organizations at the state and federal level. The networking opportunities with peers and leaders was well worth the trip. Also in the ARES booth was Josh Johnston KE5MHV, ARRL's new Director of Emergency Management.

Mr. Johnston's many years of experience in Emergency Management will bring great value to ARRL's ARES program at a national level. Christine K4KJN-SEC of WCF, Scott KK4ECR-PIC of NFL, Mr. Johnston KE5MHV, and I also spoke at the ARRL Emergency Communications forum at HamCation. As mentioned from before at the National Convention, the recurring theme of the forum centered around the importance of the relationships not only with our served agencies but with neighboring ARES teams.



One additional highlight of the weekend's events that I wanted to share was the honor I had of getting to meet a few minutes with Mr. Craig Fugate, former Director of Emergency Management for the State of Florida and two term Director of FEMA. Mr. Fugate is a ham and resides within our section. Mr. Fugate had valuable insight and ideas that he took time to share with me while attending the events in Orlando. This was just one of the many invaluable experiences I had over the course of my three days in Orlando.

Continued on next page...

Emergency Coordinator Updates

After serving as Emergency Coordinator of Madison County for over 36 years, Pat Lightcap, K4NRD, has decided to retire from his position. While he won't be serving as EC, I know Pat will surely stay busy with all his other ham radio activities and keeping us well informed on SARNET. Thank you, Pat, sincerely, for all that you have done and continue to do for our amateur radio community in the state of Florida. Stepping into the role as Emergency Coordinator will be JR Odom, KC4VPJ. JR is no stranger to emergency communications and has been an active participant of our morning ARES HF Net for many years. Thank you, JR, for your willingness to serve your county!

Your section needs you!

In preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, we are looking for volunteer net control stations that can assist during an activation of the ARES HF Emergency Net. While helpful, prior experience is not required as we will do training via Zoom later this month or early April depending on the number of responses we receive. To pre-register to be an NCS, please visit - <https://arrl-nfl.org/emnecs/>

We also need additional net control stations for the Northern Florida HF ARES Net that takes place Monday through Saturday at 9A Eastern/8A Central on 3950 KHz. If you transmit and receive well across the section, **please** email me at arc.thames@srcare.org. This is a great opportunity to practice for emergency activations and counts towards completion of your ARES Task Book.

New Monthly Radiogram Challenge

Starting March 1, I am issuing a challenge to all hams within our section to send a Radiogram using phone/voice over one of our local or section nets. The National Traffic System is a vital part of emergency communications and the ability to pass traffic is an extremely useful skill. **Sometime, within the month of March**, I ask that you send me, W4CPD, a Radiogram, using a voice net, to share with me the name of a local historical or tourist landmark within your city or county. Please include the city and county it is in along with any additional brief information you would like to share.

Subscribe to the ARRL ARES Letter

If you don't already, be sure to update your email subscriptions with the ARRL to receive the monthly ARRL ARES Letter written by Rick Palm-K1CE. This newsletter contains useful information and news regarding ARES throughout the country. To subscribe, login to your ARRL account on arrl.org, select *Edit your Profile* under your name and then choose *Edit Email Subscriptions*.

Hello Arc | [Log Out](#)

Your Favorites ▾

[GO](#)

[Edit your Profile](#)

[Edit Email Subscriptions](#)

The ARES Letter



ARRL
the national association for
amateur radio®

Editor: Rick Palm, K1CE

Loften High School Participates in ARRL School Club Roundup

Bob Lightner, W4GJ

18 student operators participated in this week's ARRL School Club Roundup at [Loften High School](#) here in Gainesville, Florida. They made 511 contacts with other schools, clubs and individuals. Our score was 82,302.

W4GJ Makes Presentation at QSO Today

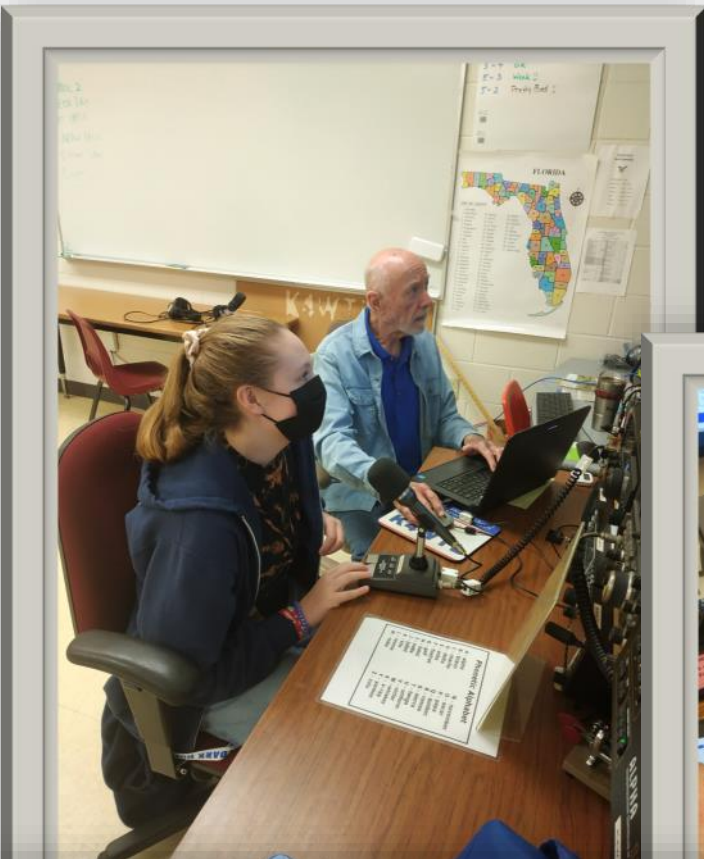
QSO Today—Virtual Ham Expo

Mark your calendar for **March 12-13** as Bob Lightner, W4GJ, will be making a presentation on his success with the **Loften High School radio club** in Gainesville.



How I Started a
Great High School
HAM Club

Dr. Bob Lightner
W4GJ



(L) Top CW Op, Eliza, creating a pileup
on 40 meters

Breakdown of How We Developed the Emergency Communications Academy Track

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

A bunch of us put together the ARRL 2022 National Convention "Emergency Communications Academy" led by Rick Palm K1CE, in discussions with multiple ARRL leadership at Newington. It came off well despite various glitches and "issues." We collected 39 written anonymous evaluations from the >110 attendees, and on a 1-5 point scale from "very poor" to "very good" we averaged 4.4 and had a lot of enthused participants at the end of a very long day of lectures and hands-on. This article's purpose is to get into print some of what we did and learned along the way.



PRIOR EXPERIENCE Our team had a good bit of prior experience, having run various hands-on emergency communications conferences in Gainesville, FL for several years, including the requirement that speakers write a complete chapter on their topic for a conference text (all of which were published on Amazon). We also had run several HSEEP-based deployment exercises, so we were very familiar with moving HF gear and setting up significant distances from "home." A good bit of our inspiration came from the west coast Comm Academy (<https://www.commacademy.org/>) which has been doing this a lot longer than we. Grateful for their pioneering efforts, we had wanted something similar on the east coast. Every bit of our prior experience was useful in this Academy held a long way from "home."

UNITED EFFORT & INCLUSIVENESS. Rick Palm and I put together the basics of prospective team members a year in advance of the Convention, and then held online zoom conferences (with very helpful ARRL-leadership oversight from Mike Walters W8ZY) to work out overall themes and plans. There are many different competing good ideas in volunteer emergency communications right now, and there is a great diversity of organizational successes across the many counties and states of our nations -- so we ran into some disagreements on how to approach some controversies. Great leaders don't always agree on the most useful current goals. With some really wise interventions from many great volunteer leaders in hamdom, we worked it out to get a crew that felt comfortable advancing some "mainstream" goals and techniques that respected the wide diversity of citizen volunteerism across the nation, from counties where ARES(R) is pre-eminent leadership, all the way to places where more government-oriented leadership takes fully structured control. We wanted to advance the training and usefulness of ham volunteers no matter what was their location's leadership structure, and look more to the future than the well-known issues of the past. We were able to include leadership from ARES(R), including Christine Duez K4KJN WCF SEC, Josh Johnston KE5MHV, new ARRL Director of Emergency Management, Arc Thames W4CPD NFL SEC, and Rick Palm K1CE; along with the North Florida Section Traffic Manager Helen Straughn WC4FSU, AUXCOMM leaders, State government officials, and state-based military communications resources along with all our "ordinary" volunteers.

MIX OF TEACHING TECHNIQUES. It is my belief that hams love to **turn on radios** and **do things**. There is always a need for lecture and panel presentation of solid information. We had great team members presenting facts on volunteer involvement in disaster response, techniques for formal traffic success, war-stories of how to build a successful local group. Despite issues of travel distances, Leland Gallup AA3YB was able to attract leadership from nearby states in AUXCOM and also Florida state disaster communications officials (Roger Lord, new Florida SWIC) and former FEMA head Craig Fugate KK4INZ, despite the COVID-concerns. Earl McDow K4ZSW addressed the crucial issues of electrical power alternatives. Matt Curtin KD8TTE had teams working on moving government-type ICS traffic wrapped inside more-accountable radiogram formats. Participants were grappling with frequencies, ICS-205's, programming, nets -- real stuff! In the afternoon, we were delighted to have a dozen live high frequency stations successfully connecting to a live in-house Winlink RMS station, all using minuscule signals conveniently "leaked" from dummy loads. Steve Waterman K4CJX of WINLINK made it possible for us to have such a **portable RMS** to use for such training. Matt Curtin and I literally constructed an antenna system from common extension cords and unfurled it at a resort hotel!

Continued on next page...

GREAT VOLUNTEER SUPPORT. Participants coming by airplane from great distances are very limited in what they can bring. We got great support from nearer volunteers who could haul radio systems in by vehicle. Among others, these included Doug Lynch W4DBL, Brian Schultheis K4BJS, Arc Thames W4CPD, Eugene Bannon KB4HAH, Rick Harrelson WB4ULT, Craig Fugate KK4INZ, and David Huckstep W4JIR.



PLANNING AND EVALUATION. Our local group uses the Incident Command System extensively for events as well as incidents. This was no exception. More than a month before the event, our ICS-201 IAP went out to the key presenters (<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/ARRL/EmCommTrainingTrackIAPpub.pdf>). Just arriving on time and on schedule with necessary equipment and

plans for talks is half the battle. We had written plans for mentors to help participants gain Winlink capabilities (<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/InstallationProcedure.pdf>) and written information guiding track participants on expected equipment needs (<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/BringWithYou.pdf>). We used a WiFi-based system to help provide information to participants in an uncertain hotel venue. There were deadlines for slide delivery and a pre-meeting zoom discussion to make final alignment of talks. However, the best plans rarely survive the first encounter, Mike Tyson's famous quip, and we had glitches in deliveries of pre-planning information, and inadequate numbers of handouts. Some participants had difficulties with our WIFI system. We learned a lot about the extent of some of the training needs. It takes a thick skin to read evaluations of your group's effort, but we provided anonymous evaluation forms to every participant, gathered 39 responses onto a spreadsheet within a week of the event and provided the entire packet to every presenter. *If you want to get better, listen to your customers!* An extensive **Improvement Plan** with 44 specific items for improvement was created from participant and speaker input.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY. We're very grateful to the national leadership of ARRL for putting all of this together, giving such a chance to allow leaders to plan, meet, discuss, and learn from each other, and providing such a great opportunity for growth and training. With all the expenses involved, they took a significant risk and from all reports, were very pleased with the outcome.



Escambia County has ARES Work Day

Gene Bannon, KB4hah

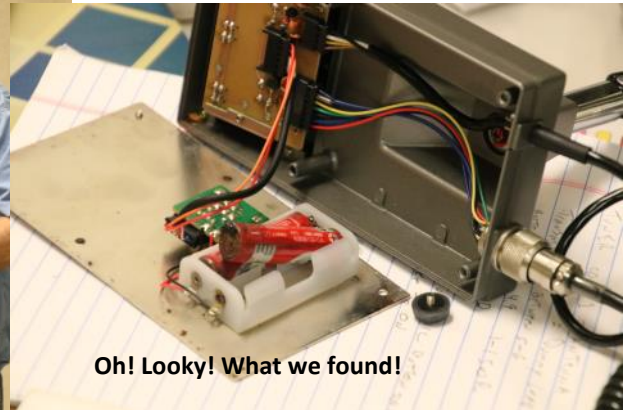
On Feb 19th we had an Escambia County ARES Work Day here. We gathered all of our portable and related Equipment, as well as our ARES go-kits and storage lockers, and we did a complete inventory to ensure operability of all the equipment. It gave us a great opportunity to troubleshoot if need be and identify all the items in need of repair or replacement. We had a great turn out with 6-10 ARES members and got some basic operating skill training on various portable radios and associated equipment. It also gave us an opportunity to identify additional excess equipment that need to be disposed of.



ARES crew checking operability



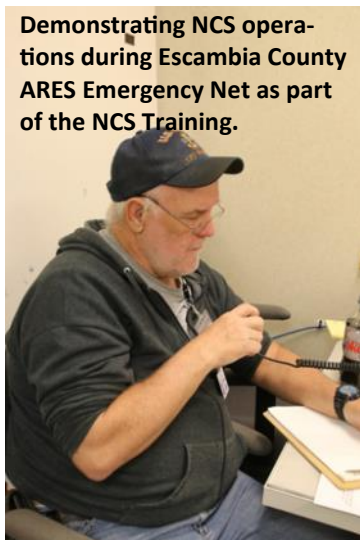
Found a bad connection!



Oh! Looky! What we found!

On Feb 21st we had the Five Flags Amateur Radio Assoc (FFARA) & Pensacola State College (PSC) sponsored **"Introduction to Amateur Radio & Upgrade"** spring term class field trip to tour the Escambia County Public Safety Dept Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the purposes of explaining what Amateur Radio does during any Emergency Event that occurs in Escambia County. We toured the ARES room in the EOC, as well as some of the other rooms/facilities at the EOC. We also combined it with a Net Control Training lesson we conducted for any hams wishing to become a Net Control operators. We discussed the different types and purposes of the different Amateur Radio nets an Amateur Radio operator may encounter while operating on the Amateur Radio bands. Not only that, but we qualified two additional NCS operators for the Escambia County ARES Emergency net, we hold every Monday Evening at 7PM local on the FFARA 146.76 repeater. So overall, the class field trip and training was a big success.

Demonstrating NCS operations during Escambia County ARES Emergency Net as part of the NCS Training.



John KO4DDF reviewing student guide.



Feb 21 Net Control Station Training at Escambia County EOC.

Extension Cord Antenna at ARRL 2022 Emergency Communications Academy Emphasizes Amateur Can-Do Spirit

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

The wrap-up talks at the recent ARRL 2022 National Convention Emergency Communications Academy addressed the nitty-gritty of antennas and power sources in disasters, coming at the end of a long day where participants had dealt with old and new communications formats and systems.

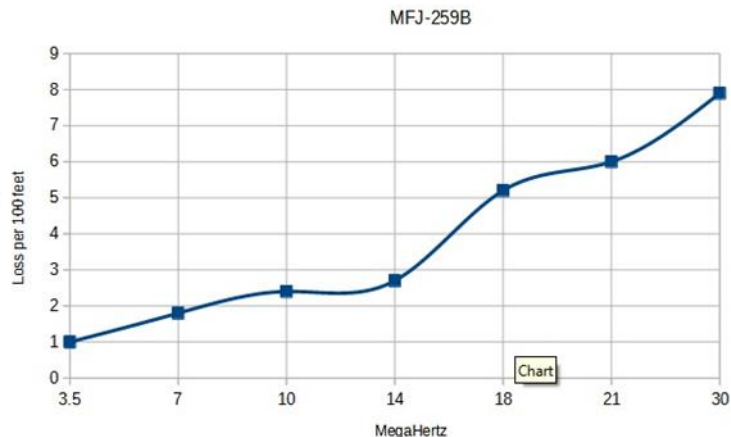
To demonstrate a simple VHF emergency antenna, I unfolded a 1/4 wave vertical/ground plane 2 meter antenna made with fold-able solid 14-gauge house wire. Then we moved on to the more difficult topic of creating a working HF antenna when existing antennas had been swept away, and assuming traditional antenna-making supplies were lacking.



Many years ago, the use of two-wire lamp cord ("zip-wire") has been investigated for dire circumstance.¹ Matt Curtin KD8TTE and I decided that updating this to 2022 three-wire extension cords would be a fun way to get across the point that **"you use what you HAVE in a disaster!"** I purchased a few 50-foot lengths of white 16-gauge light-duty exterior extension cord at a local Walmart.

The usual technique is to utilize lamp cord as an inferior balanced transmission line, but the existence of THREE wires (black, white, green(ground)) added a new wrinkle. Zip-wire has been quoted at 105+ ohms characteristic impedance. I suspected that increasing the capacitance between the conductors might reduce the characteristic impedance², and using two wires for the wire emanating from the shield side of the transmitter might make a compromise between fully shielded, and balanced transmission line. So we arranged for the black wire to be fed from the "center" conductor, and the green and white to be fed as if they were the "shield" of this "transmission line."

Estimated Loss dB/100 feet 3-wire Exterior Extension Cord



The characteristic impedance was measured by terminating a 50-foot extension cord with a non-inductive 110 ohm load made from paralleled available resistors, and sweeping the HF spectrum watching the resistive component. This follows the technique discussed by W8JI.³ On the Smith Chart, the impedance will alternately peak and dip at purely resistance points to the right and left of the circle the plot makes on a Smith Chart. Taking the square root of the product of the highest and lowest resistances observed provides a measurement of characteristic impedance.

¹See, for example: a QST article from 1979 measuring characteristic impedance of zip wire @ 105 ohms:

<http://www.w1npp.org/events/2010/2010-f~1/antennas/wire/790303~1.PDF> and a 2010 article finding slightly higher characteristic impedance at HF frequencies: <https://www.qsl.net/kp4md/zipcord.htm>

²Characteristic impedance roughly = square root of (L/C). See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Characteristic_impedance

³W8JI: <https://www.eham.net/community/smf/index.php?topic=20623.msg115807#msg115807>

Using an MFJ-259B antenna analyzer and this technique, I calculated 81 ohms for the characteristic impedance of a 50 foot section of white 16-gauge Walmart extension cord.

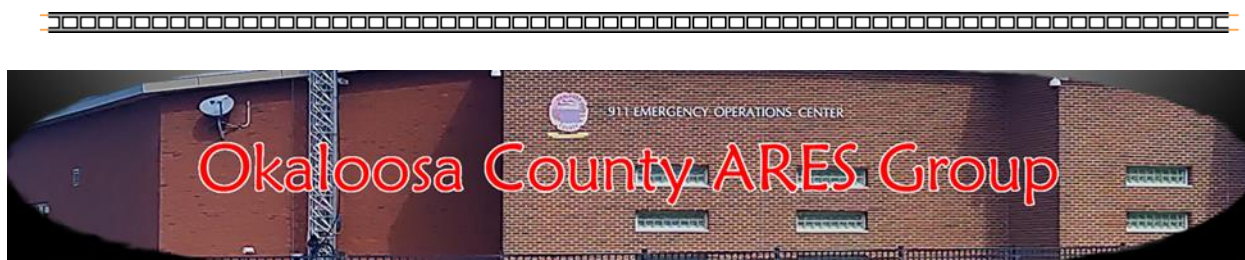
Measuring the loss was carried out by alternately opening and shorting the far end, using a coax-loss setting of the MFJ-259B, averaging the values at each frequency. When corrected to 100 feet equivalent, this resulted in the losses shown in the accompanying figure. This included a "coax adapter" connecting the standard 3-pin power plug into a female extension cord socket connected directly to a PL259 to allow connection to the MFJ-259B.



The "antenna" was constructed by removing the outer vinyl covering from another spare section of orange extension cord, separating the twirled wires, and using the black wire for one end of the dipole, and the white+green running side-by-side for the other side. In this test, I didn't even solder the green to the white at the center -- just used an "electrician's knot" to keep the cable from further unraveling. After one shortening effort from an intentionally "too-long" length, it was resonant just below 14 MHz. I actually used the ordinary plug/socket to extend this to my transceiver with 50 feet of the white extension cord. Tests in Gainesville in the afternoon made *immediate* "hits" on 20-meter distant Winlink RMS's. This used a flagpole tire roll-on mast stand⁴, as support for an 18-foot mast made out of PVC sections, with only a portion of the transmission line laying on pavement. A capable antenna tuner had little

problems with the resulting 1.9:1 SWR. However, at the ARRL convention, we had portions of excess 100 foot extension cord laying on the ground and heading out doors to a much lower antenna near the building entrance. (Trying not to attract attention!) Although we could easily *hear* signals, we were not (in the few minutes available) able to make any connections. Moral: don't add TOO many obstacles, and you can have an antenna made of almost anything!

⁴<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00KVE400Q>



Robert Dallons, KM4VKY

Hurricane season is just around the corner. The Okaloosa County ARES Group has a new website and is looking for new members. ARES is comprised of amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide a resource of trained operators for reliable primary or secondary communications links for governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in the ARRL or any other organization, is eligible for membership in ARES.

Okaloosa Amateurs are encouraged to join us. Visit oc-ares.org for information on our meetings and net.

Florida Becomes “AUXCOMM State”

Arc Thames, W4CPD



Florida's new SWIC (Statewide Interoperability Coordinator), Roger Lord, announced at the ARRL National Convention and Hamcation that Florida is now an “AUXCOMM State.” As you can imagine, this statement was met with concern as presented but our Section Emergency Coordinator, Arc Thames-W4CPD, had an opportunity to speak with several of the individuals in leadership at both the AUXCOMM and State of Florida level to get additional clarification. Before any rumors get started, we want to assure everyone that the ARES program is here to stay.

The announcement that “Florida is an AUXCOMM state” only relates to deployment activities that are tasked at the state level, no different than if the state needed to task out COMT's or COML's. Meaning if a disaster happened in which a county or another state needed additional Auxiliary Communicators, the volunteers that were tasked by the state would have to have their AUXCOMM taskbooks completed and signed off by the state.

As we have learned in our FEMA courses, most emergencies start and end locally, they are handled by local police, fire, EMS, and Emergency Management teams. ARES teams, in the counties that have relationships with their served agencies, will continue to support their local served agencies as they always have. We will still staff our EOC's, shelters, hospitals, and other locations as we have in the past. We will continue to operate our HF and local Emergency Nets. The AUXCOMM training program

and position taskbook are specifically to be used for inter-county or inter-state deployments and to have trained communications strike teams ready to respond when needed. John Peterson from DHS also announced that a new AUXC position is being added as an ICS role similarly to that of COML's, COMT's, etc.



At the local level, there should be no impact of this announcement. For those that wish to be deployable through the state, information will be forthcoming in the following weeks and months on how to have your AUXC Position Task book tasks signed off. The overall AUXC task book will be signed by the SWIC's office at the state level. David Byrum and Robert Little will oversee Florida's AUXCOMM related activities.

Frequently asked questions:

If I want to become an AUXC, does that mean I can't be a part of ARES or vice versa?

- No. Any individual can be involved with both if they so wish. An individual only needs to complete their AUXC task book if they wish to be a deployable asset used by the State of Florida between counties, or other states. We highly recommend the AUXCOMM course itself even if you don't wish to deploy.

Does this mean our ARES taskbooks are no longer needed?

- No. The Florida Tri-Section and National task books are still valid and used as training and task validation mechanisms. Many of the tasks in the ARES taskbook are the same as those found in the AUXCOMM taskbook. County ARES teams should continue to work with their members to complete their ARES taskbooks.

When will more information be available regarding the AUXCOMM taskbook process?

- The exact time is unknown. This is still developing news and one of the things the Florida State SWIC kept repeating was “be patient.” Our SEC, Arc-W4CPD, spoke personally with the SWIC, Robert Little, and David Byrum and asked them to please keep him in the loop so that he can share the information with our teams as it becomes available.

Are we going to see an organization formed called “Florida AUXCOMM” as in North Carolina and Georgia?

- We have been advised there is no plan for doing that in Florida.

What is the definition of AUXCOMM?

- This definition was provided directly from DHS. “Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) is an all-inclusive term used to describe the many organizations that provide various types of communications support to emergency management, public safety, and other government agencies or describe the services themselves. This includes but is not limited to amateur radio, military radio, CB, SATCOM, DMR, WINLINK, EchoLink, etc.

Both Josh Johnston, the new Director of Emergency Management for the ARRL, and John Peterson from DHS spoke in support of each other at their respective forums and emphasized that “AUXCOMM and ARES are not in competition with nor meant to replace the other.” Josh and John both had an opportunity to meet with each other several times during the weekend and are both working together to support each other.

We are at a unique time within emergency communications and have a great opportunity to strengthen our skills and capabilities. While we may be “amateur” radio operators, we are professional communicators.

Up, Up, and Away!

Darrell Franchuck, KG4CCB

During a recent WSPR monitoring session on 20-meters I noted that transmissions from a few balloons had been received. A few were received by my FT-818 with 14AVQ vertical antenna and two with my IC-7300 with DX-CC dipole antenna during the initial 24-hours of the monitoring session.

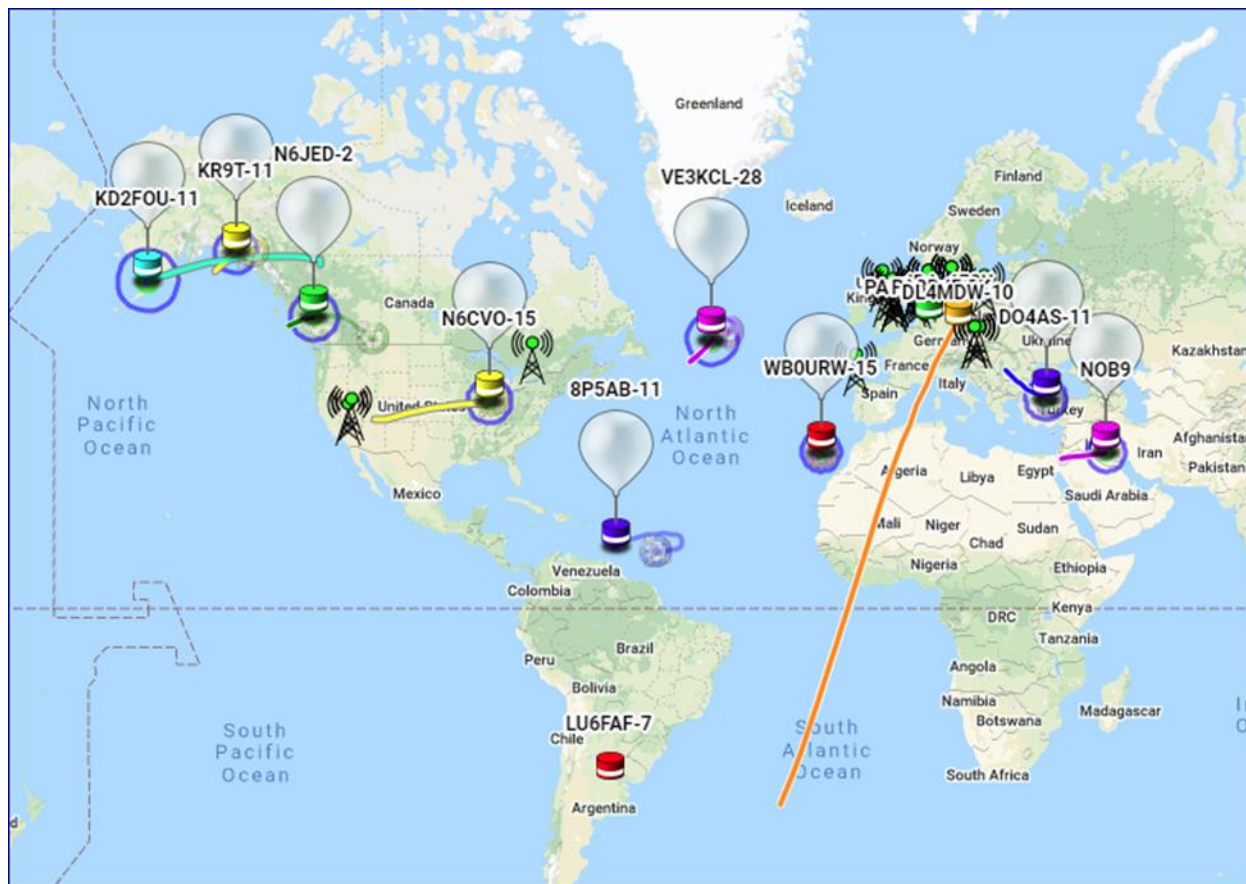
- The FT-818 received balloons over Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, and the Indian Ocean. Those balloons identified as OB3ZDV, OB3DDH, and OD3JQX (near each other over Russia); OB3DDH (later over Kazakhstan); OB3DDF (over Indian Ocean near Singapore); OB3DDC (over Turkey), and OB3DDD near Madagascar. Their altitude varied from 20m to 1,020m.
- The IC-7300 received 1Z2DKG (5mw) over the Pacific Ocean southwest of Mexico and QJ0BZW (altitude 11,840m) over the Arctic Ocean.
- Over the course of 72 hours, transmissions from numerous additional balloons were also received.



Though I spent some time searching for information using these call signs, I was initially unable to locate any. The identifiers associated with the balloons were not recognized by qrz.com as valid call signs. The DXMaps website recognized the identifiers but provided no information other than a grid location.

[Just as a side note, during a 72-hour period the IC-7300 / DX-CC dipole received 8,773 transmissions while the FT-818 / 14AVQ vertical received 14,451.]

The Weather Channel website talks about weather balloons, indicating they are released from nearly 900 sites worldwide simultaneously on a twice daily basis. Check out this link to a short video of such a balloon launch in Dallas / Ft. Worth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2-7S4OpbYk>



During my search I came upon the (High Altitude Balloon hub) habhub.org website that has a map depicting various balloon locations and paths of travel. The map below depicts the previous 24-hour period as of 2/6/2022. Another interesting website is the Amateur Radio Experimenters Group (AREG) in Australia. <https://www.aretg.org.au/archives/category/activities/project-horus> The website details the Horus 55 balloon flight performed in March 2021 which transmitted live video of the flight on 445.0 MHz. Quite impressive!

In north Illinois, a group of teens and adults launched a pico-balloon (K9RT) on January 26, 2022, at noon. This is their 9th launch. As of this writing on February 6 their balloon is off the coast of Alaska and Canada as depicted by the map above. This group of balloon enthusiasts have named themselves the Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade (NIBBB). The balloon is nearing completion of its circumnavigation of the Earth. Its journey is well documented on their website, <https://nibbb.org>



From left to right, Cary Willis KD9ITO, Burt Krain KR9T, Michael Seedman AA6DY, David Kaplan, Elizabeth Ziemer KD9ORR, Natalie Tran, Bill Fiely, Henry Fiely KD9SRZ, Noah Berg KD9RDT, and Bob Berg KD9RDU

Continued on next page...

Various ham clubs have worked with local schools to involve the students in balloon launches, sometimes as part of STEM projects. The Augusta Chronicle reported on one such activity last May involving the Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County (SC) and the Savannah River Academy. <https://www.augustachronicle.com/story/news/education/2021/05/06/columbia-county-radio-club-partners-grovetown-students-launch-weather-balloons-talk-astronauts/4962559001/>

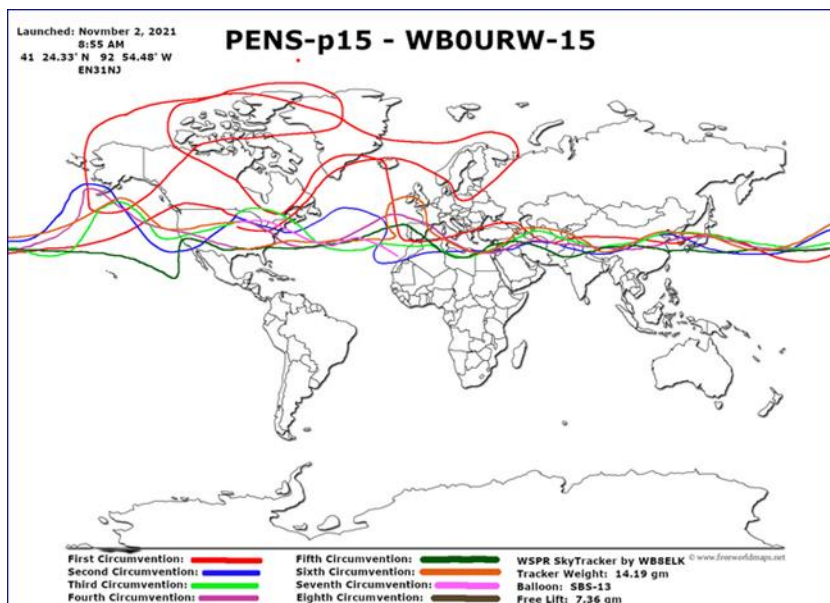
The Nashua Area Radio Society worked with the Hollis-Brookline High School in Hollis, NH to launch a balloon back in June 2019. See <https://stationproject.blog/tag/high-altitude-balloon-project/> and <https://www.n1fd.org/2019/06/07/hab-4-launch/> for additional information. Be sure to watch the Ham Nation Episode 430 video, “Fred & Anita with the Club of the Year.”

Another ham, whose balloon is depicted on the map above is WB0URW. His balloon shown off the west coast of Morocco is a project with a local middle school science class. The balloon is currently on its 7th (or 8th) trip around the world as depicted by this map.

This is all new to me and therefore this article only scratches the surface of ham radio and ballooning as I snoop around to learn more. There are a variety of balloon sizes, payloads, flight objectives, transmitting modes, and such yet to be discovered by me.

In the end, I thought to contact the “Master” WB8ELK, Bill Brown. He was given that title in a May 2017 QST article, “Bill Brown, WB8ELK: Master of High-Altitude Balloon Projects.” He has made presentations on his activities in recent QSO Today Virtual Ham Expos. Bill reports that the OB3xxx callsigns are used by VE3KCL for his WSPR pico balloon flights. The QX7xxx callsign is used by W5KUB. Bill did not know who is using the 051xxx callsign. The QST article can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/May2017/GLIFORT.pdf>

Greg Lane, N4KGL, will be making a presentation in the March 12-13 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo titled, “APRS Pico-balloon Flight by a Rank Amateur.”



My Radio Doesn't Work

Bert Garcia, N8NN

Many times, I've received a phone call from a friend saying, "My radio doesn't work." The conversation usually continues with me asking, "How do you know it doesn't work?" My friend describes a symptom and then says he *guessed* it was this and *guessed* it was that, and he wants me to give him some better *guesses*. But *guessing* is not an effective troubleshooting strategy, especially when you change things to test your *guesses*. A better troubleshooting strategy is to separate your station into parts that can each be tested and then reassembled. I'll describe that strategy here for a typical ham station.

A modern ham station consists of the radio, the antenna system, a computer, and software programs. You may also have an amplifier and other accessories. Your radio, computer, and software have numerous menus and settings that need to be correct. To get started, you will need a dummy load and an SWR/Wattmeter for the troubleshooting steps. If you don't own those items, you can probably borrow them from a friend. If you suspect you have antenna problems, you will find an antenna analyzer helpful.

While troubleshooting, take notes on the physical connections and make a permanent record of all the menu and software settings. This record will be useful in the future if you have problems, and you can use it during your troubleshooting process to revert to a known good state when something doesn't work as expected.

Start by disconnecting your radio from everything, then connect the power supply, SWR/wattmeter, dummy load, microphone, and CW key. Test your radio on all bands and modes and confirm you have RF output. If you are not successful with this test, try resetting your radio to factory conditions – but first record all your menu settings and memories to save time as you reassemble your station. When you are sure your radio is operating correctly, you can proceed with more troubleshooting.

Next, connect your antenna system in place of the dummy load and confirm that you have RF output and an acceptable SWR. Perform this test in all modes and bands that your station can operate. With your radio and antenna system operating, you can have a local ham confirm that you have good audio and a good CW note.

The next step is to connect your computer to your radio. Since there are several types of computer operating systems and many radio brands, I will assume you have a Windows computer for this discussion. Your radio may require an interface accessory between your radio and computer if it does not have a USB connection. Some radios require special device driver software installed on your computer. In Windows use the Device Manager to confirm that your radio's COM port is recognized. You can unplug the USB cable and reconnect it while observing the Device Manager to confirm your radio is recognized by your computer. Record the radio COM Port number or numbers if you have more than one COM Port.

Open one of your favorite software programs that operate with your radio, such as HRD, WSTJ-X, FLdigi, or a logging program. You can find help for the settings needed in your radio menu and in the software program on the Internet, manuals, and from friends. At a minimum, you need to set the same Baud Rate in your radio and your software, and the same COM Port in both. If your radio doesn't switch to transmit mode, look at the PTT settings for COM Port and RTS/DTR. If your radio switches to transmit but there is no power out, look at the Com Port for the audio or the audio cables between your computer and radio. Check your radio menu settings for the audio input selection which can be either the front mic connector or the rear digital connector or the USB cable. Once you have all the settings correct, record the settings. Continue by adding your accessories one at a time and confirming you are still operating correctly.

By separating your radio station into parts that can be checked individually, you can zero in on your problem. Good luck with your troubleshooting!

Suwannee Amateur Radio Club Reports

Steve Kostro, N2CEI, President

As of this month, we are in process of upgrading our Website suwanneearc.org and will be launching the new version by March 1st along with a new group of officers to lead the club in its activities. Our monthly first Tuesday night Meetings have resumed as of the first of the year. With many new members we see the size of our small club of approx. 35 members expanding with our license sessions and guidance of our technical staff.

Suwannee county is a great place to be if you are a active Amateur Radio Operator. Our Clubhouse is about 2 miles north of town center Live Oak and weekend activity is always the norm with work party's supporting our 9 tower antenna farm or operating from any of our 7 radio positions. We had space at the Orlando HamCation sadly selling equipment from Estate sales of past club members and friends but a small part of the sales will go toward funding our activities and operating expenses at our clubhouse.

The attached picture is of Steve Hicks of Flex Radio stopping by for a visit with myself and the Suwannee ARC outdoor spaces. We hope to provide more information in the future as our club progresses through a new beginning.



North Florida DX Association Meets at HamCation

Bob Lightner, W4GJ

Members of the North Florida DX Association met at the 2022 Hamcation in Orlando for their annual informal meeting.

NFDXA President, Bill/WB4KSP Secretary, Terry/K4TMG, Linda/KN4KJC and Richard/NN2T. Not present for the photo was David/WA4ET.



Emergency Communications Trailers Aren't Just for Emergencies

Arc J. Thames – W4CPD



In 2021 the Rural Radio Preparedness Association, an ARRL affiliated club and sponsoring organization for Santa Rosa County FL ARES, was donated funds to purchase a cargo trailer for use in emergency communications. Several members of our team donated time and money to outfit the trailer to where it is now.

In addition to emergency communications, one of our main goals was to use this trailer for public education of ham radio and February 18-20, we had that

opportunity at Pensacon. Founded in 2013, Pensacon is the premiere comic book and pop culture convention serving Pensacola and the Gulf Coast. The event draws 10,000 or more people each year with guests lining up for hours for a chance to meet their favorite writer or celebrity.



Recently we were donated a 50' pneumatic mast that was installed on the trailer to get height on our antennas. We attached a dual-band J-pole as well as a 60' end fed long wire antenna for HF operations. Inside we utilized an ICOM 7100 connected to a laptop. Over the course of the 3-day event we had the opportunity to show visitors how we could send email without a local internet connection utilizing Winlink. Visitors were amazed that this capability existed, and many were interested in learning more.

Setting up at conventions, festivals, and other events is a great way to help promote amateur radio in your community as a hobby and for emergency communications. If your club or ARES team has resources available, reach out to event organizers to see if you could setup a booth or your team's communications trailer. Most events allow volunteer organizations to setup for free. While you're at it, see if their event could benefit from volunteer communicators. Before committing, be sure that you have enough volunteers to support the event.

The easiest way to find opportunities to setup a booth or provide communications is to get in touch with your local area chamber of commerce. Many chambers have event calendars and some even have monthly meetings you can attend to connect with organizations having events. Not only is this a great way to connect with other local organizations but it also might connect you with opportunities to help other served agencies in your area.



Special thanks to John-KM4FJM and James-K9JHR for helping with this event!

Walton County Reports

DJ Stewart, KI4ZER, NOARC VP, Walton County ARC VP, PARC Activities Director

Hello to all! We hope that you are well and being safe in all that you do out there. The wonderful journey of Amateur Radio continues to inspire and promote positive character and benefit the communities at large! This is no small feat, and everyone should be recognized for all their efforts and sing praises loudly for their love of the hobby! Keep pushing forward! You are all a benefit to the lifestyle!

Starting off February we made it over to the fine folks at the Walton County Amateur Radio Club in DeFuniak Springs! This team is really motivated and moving forward to make many advances in their capabilities. Come to a meeting and see what they have in development! You might just be surprised. Their next meeting is March 1st at 730 PM 312 College Ave in DeFuniak Springs FL. We have people that have joined from all over the panhandle. It's worth the trip!

Where are we off to next? The Playground! That's correct and what a great night it was! They had the Fort Walton Beach Fire Marshall come in and talk about the revitalized Fort Walton Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and gave a great briefing about how the Ham Radio Operators in the club could assist their neighbors as well local authorities and in what capacity. The information shared and the feedback received bolsters the capability to enhance disaster preparedness and reinvigorates the formal interest of the city into what Amateur Radio has to offer. The tech nights here are simply put amazing and very interactive! Don't miss out on the future events with these great folks!



February the 10th took us out to Crestview as we attended the Business meeting with the pleasurable people of the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club! A lot of buzz has been going on here and they continue to grow, train and prepare. See W4BZM's Mike Behr's write up for the License Class results in this issue. What else has NOARC been up to? Discussing the possibility of Echolink on the 36 machines. That's right. Potentially adding in the capability to see if it is feasible while still supporting the same functionality that the repeater currently has. There will be plenty more to come on this soon.

Over the weekend members from three area clubs gathered to assist in clearing ham radio towers from a property in Mary Esther Florida. This was due to the house being prepared for sale and a request for assistance was made. The crew performed a vital need and safely removed the antennas and towers showing once again that the generosity of the area Hams knows no bounds. If you need help with projects remember to ask your fellow teammates and never go it alone.



Continued on next page...

The 15th of February was supposed to take us to the Walton County ARES meeting but unfortunately, we were not able to make it out there due to exams at the college. But wait! There's still information to pass along! They are doing fabulous testing with their Win link go kits and preparing for the upcoming storm season. This ARES section will be ready to perform if the need is called and adds another layer of support to the Florida Panhandle. Great work here team!



That same week we made it to the folks at the Playground Club in beautiful downtown Fort Walton Beach! Ladies and Gentlemen, these fine people are about to put on their 52 Annual Hamfest! They are prepared and have many great vendors coming. If you want to get that new toy but think you have too many already, clean out your shack, grab a table and sell, swap or trade up! Their event is 18 & 19 March 2022! See the add in the NFL QST or go to W4ZBB.Org and click on the Hamfest tab!

Where are we off to next?! Where else but to NOARC for a great Tech Night hosted by KN4UDS! Filling a vital need to rebuild field day antennas that had seen their longevity, KN4UDS saw an opportunity to enlist the club's membership and some brand-new technicians to aid in building new antennas! This was a great hands-on night and really brought all members in participation together for some great interaction! Keep up with NOARC as they continue to show and share their skills and experience!

Wrapping up the month we got to the Crestview Florida Community Unity Flashlight walk! NOARC was there to handle the communications and report the positioning of the parade made up of law enforcement, EMS, Fire, the Mayor and his Executive Staff and Citizens alike! This flashlight walk demonstrates the willingness of the community to stand against crime in the area and promote positive character in the community. NOARC provided the communications and safety reporting directly to the Unity walks Command! Their efforts of teaming up

with the Police and the City of Crestview embodies community service!

Before we close out this write up, we would like to share some key dates and information with all of you and offer an open invitation! If you can make any of these events, please do so. We would love to have you there! Follow the links for more information!

March 1, 2022, at 7:30 pm, [Walton County Amateur Radio Club](#)

March 3, 2022, at 7:30 pm, [PARC Tech Night P25 Trunking](#)

March 10, 2022, at 7:00 pm, [NOARC Business Meeting](#)

March 15, 2022, at 7:00 pm, [Walton County ARES Meeting](#)

March 17, 2022, at 7:30 pm, [PARC Business Meeting](#)

March 18/19, 2022, the [52nd PARC Hamfest!](#)

March 24, 2022, at 7:00 pm, [NOARC Tech Night](#)



Don't forget to check out the events listed at [NWFLHamRadio.net](#) and if you need something added to the calendar email them at info@nwflhamradio.net

We grow our hobby, and we train our replacements! The Panhandle is absolutely a great place for this wonderful hobby, and we sure do enjoy interacting with so many of you! Your experience and knowledge do not go unrecognized in any fashion.

We will see you all soon and as always, Ham ON!

What's happening? Santa Rosa County Edition

Arc Thames, W4CPD

After focusing on the National Traffic System and Radiograms during last month's training session, this month we took a deep dive into Winlink. Winlink is a tried and trusted messaging system providing amateur radio operators the capability of sending emails, Radiograms, ICS and other forms over the air without local internet access.



Our training began in the Santa Rosa County Emergency Operations Center where Arc-W4CPD, Emergency Coordinator for Santa Rosa County, provided background to the attendees on the architecture of the Winlink messaging system. Arc then went over the various connection methods that are available to send a message using Winlink. Emphases was made on the importance of regular use of Winlink to keep your skills up to date.

Starting in March, amateur radio operators may complete an additional check-in to the Santa Rosa County ARES net on Tuesday's utilizing the *Winlink Check In* form sent to the tactical callsign *NFL-SRCEOC*. This will provide hams a good excuse to open Winlink at least once a week. Participants in the training were encouraged to use Winlink to send Radiograms to friends or family members often as not only does this help them learn Winlink but it provides an opportunity to exercise and learn more about the National Traffic System. One of the unique features of Winlink is that it automatically converts symbols into their appropriate prowords that are typically used when transmitting traffic using voice.

Following a quick break for lunch, participants exited the EOC and went outside to several stations setup on HF, VHF, and UHF in the county's Mobile Command Post. Numerous interfaces were setup to allow participants the opportunity to utilize varying technology to send their messages. The setup consisted of:

- 2 ICOM 7100's
- ICOM V8000 connected to a Signalink using the software Sound Modem
- ICOM V8000 connected to a Kantronics KPC3 Plus hardware TNC
- Kenwood TH-D74 with built in Bluetooth TNC
- Yaesu FT3-DR connected to a Mobilinkd TNC3

Participants were given four tasks to complete during their hands on exercise. The first was to send a standard Winlink message to their personal email account, second to send a Winlink Check-in form to the EOC's tactical address, third to send a shelter report, and finally a challenge to send a Radiogram to a friend or family member in another city or state. Each station had step-by-step instructions to assist participants in completing the challenge and several mentors were on hand that had prior experience with Winlink to help those who hadn't.

The overall training and exercise from start to finish took about 4 hours but students left with a wealth of knowledge and understanding. Our team stayed on hand until all questions were answered and everyone that came had a chance to complete their four challenge items. A special thanks to Jon-KM4QQO, Steve-W4SJV, John-KM4FJM, Alan-KW4MO, Gene-KB4HAH, and Joe-KF4DVF for assisting our participants with the hands-on exercise.



One very special attendee was Wayne King-K4SOP, Emergency Coordinator of Citrus County Florida, who certainly wins the award for the student that traveled the longest distance to the training. Wayne had heard about the training we were doing this month and took that opportunity to come learn more about Winlink but this trip also provided Wayne an opportunity to see the ARES operations and setup in Santa Rosa County. Wayne said the trip was well worth it for the information and ideas he was able to gather while visiting with us. Thanks for making the trip, Wayne!

Continued on next page...

Our March 26 meeting will focus on activation and deployment training. As always, breakfast is provided so come out and learn more about ARES in Santa Rosa County!



For information on joining or participating in the Santa Rosa County ARES team, please reach out via email info@srcares.org, visit our website srcares.org, or [find us on Facebook](#).



Pictured Hal-WA5HC practicing using Winlink and Joe-KF4DVF helping a participant with their task



Pictured Mark-K4MMP and AEC Jon-KM4QQO



Pictured from left to right, back to front – Alan-KW4MO, Jon-KM4FJM, Mike-K5EFY, and Houston-

Together We Are Better!

Barbara Matthews, KO4TWZ, PIO GARS

If you had wandered up to the Waldo City Square on February 19th, you might have been amused by the interesting group of 20 or so people that you found there. Old and young, male and female, gregarious and quiet were all gathered up talking and laughing. What they all had in common was Ham radio! The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) hosted a Tech Day (open to anyone interested in Ham Radio) that focused on building some simple wire antennas and testing them. Experienced Hams Shannon Boal (K4GLM) and Terry Gordon (K4TMG) led the hands-on learning. The simple purpose was to get folks past their "hesitation" and simply "do" some things to get on the air.

Starting with some random wire, PVC pieces and a few fasteners, new Hams were led through the simple process of calculating the length of wire needed for both 6m and 10m antennas, building them and then using a analyzer to test the function. When they were not functioning ideally, the group then practiced adjusting the length. Other members worked on some Digital modes and also answered technical questions folks had.

In the words of Shannon Boal (K4GLM), VP of GARS, "The goals are to get together for hands-on radio building, programming, operating, repairing, designing, learning, teaching. The format is to come with ideas and things you want to do. We have tested radios that people bring in, we have repaired equipment, and have taught people how to use equipment that they brought in. We have designed and built antennas, raised them on light poles and tested them."

The next day, one of the attendees, Dave Dockus (KO4GGZ), who has a Technician License, was assisted by Terry Gordon (K4TMG) in putting up an "home brew" antenna (wire, ladder wire and a 4/1 balun) at Dave's home. Terry said "What makes Dave's project cool is that he is studying for the General license now. He has a Tech license, so he only has HF band privileges on 6 meters and 10 meters. He made his first contact to Canada! This was on 10 meters in the tech part of the band! He can listen on the other bands which is getting him motivated to study even more for his General. Dave purchased an Icom 7300, a very nice antenna tuner and power supply anticipating getting his General soon. We built an All Band Doublet antenna which he can use on 6 Meters through 80 and possibly 160 Meters with his antenna tuner. We set up his QRZ account and he logged his first contact and is awaiting confirmation. It was a very successful day for Dave."

The event epitomized the best things about Ham Radio, which is promoting the art and the science of it all. There is something for everyone in the hobby. As clubs, we need to keep putting opportunities out there so as to grab the interest of new people, as well as to increase the knowledge of current Hams. Together, we are better! For more information about GARS, please see the club webpage at GARS.club.



QCWA Chapter 62, Ocala

Ken Simpson, W8EK, President

The Ocala Florida Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 62 held a real actual "in person" meeting on February 24 at the China Lee Restaurant in Ocala, FL. We were fortunate to have 18 people in attendance. The main emphasis at this meeting was the presentation of certificate to chapter members.

The following received certificates:

K4GWQ, Leon Couch - 65 yr
 W1DOH, Charles Lukas - 65 yr
 N6OA, Vince McKeever - 65 yr
 W8DYV, Dick Schauer - 65 yr
 KR4VS, Marty Web - 65 yr
 W8EK, Ken Simpson - 60 yr
 W3HH, Doug Hawkins - 55 yr
 WB4BKO, Ned Davis - 45 yr
 N8AJU, Sue Simpson - 40 yr
 N4KPI, Dennis Fernandez - 35 yr
 W4RPR, Raymond Richards - 35 yr



60 Year Award



55 Year Award

The next meeting will be April 28, at 12:30 PM at the China Lee Buffet in Ocala. Chapter 62 holds a net on 3940 KHz at 9 AM Eastern Time every Saturday morning. All are welcome to check in.



65 Year Award



45 Year Award



35 Year Award



40 Year Award

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

- Check date at miltonarc.org
- Walk-in
- Bagdad United Methodist Church
- Info: Chuck, N4QEP, merlinman3@yahoo.com

Orlando Amateur Radio Club

- First Wednesday
- 5:30 PM, Walk-ins allowed
- ARRL/VEC
- Central Florida Fairgrounds Craft Building, 4603 W Colonial Drive, East Gate off Fair Villa Road
- Info: testing@orac.org, Robert Cumming, 407-333-0690

Santa Rosa County FL ARES Testing (Walk-in)

- Information and dates can be found at 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. Bushnel W2DWR

John C Reynolds W4IJJ

Jeff Capehart W4UFL

Neil Light KK4VHX

Ray Crepeau K1HG

Steve Szabo WB4OMM

Scott Roberts KK4ECR

Section Emergency Coordinator – Arc Thames W4CPD

Section Public Information Coordinator— *Scott Roberts KK4ECR*

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!

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



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. All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.