



QST NFL



Sharing information of interest to Radio Amateurs in North Florida

Volume 9 Issue 7

www.arrl-nfl.org

July 2022

From the Shack of the Section Manager

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR (kk4ecr@gmail.com)

For those of you who do not know me, I am Scott Roberts, KK4ECR. I am honored to be the NFL Section Manager. Over the next couple of months, our SEC, Arc Thames will be laying out the direction that we are hoping to go with our section, and how we want to help you make things better.

We are looking to fill some open positions and over the next month will be making some leadership updates. Right now, here are the open positions that we are looking to fill:

Affiliated Club Coordinator – (Job Description - <http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-coordinator>)

Public Information Coordinator — (Job Description - <http://www.arrl.org/pio-pic-job-descriptions>)

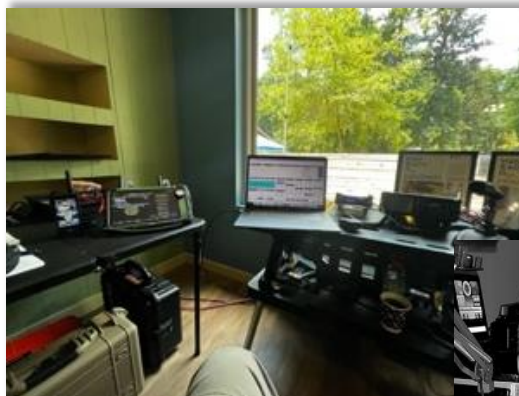
Emergency Coordinator – (Job Description - <http://www.arrl.org/emergency-coordinator>)

If you are interested or know someone who is interested in filling any open position, please go to <https://arrl-nfl.org/nfl-section-appointment-application/> to complete the application.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Baker County | • Hamilton County |
| • Bradford County | • Holmes County |
| • Calhoun County | • Lafayette County |
| • Gadsden County | • Levy County |
| • Gilchrist County | • Putnam County |
| • Gulf County | • Union County |

would like to visit as many of your meetings as possible, whether it be in person, or via zoom. Please feel free to contact me so that we can make arrangements. Also, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Both Arc and I want to do what we can to help make your counties and our section the best they can be when it comes to being ready to assist our served agencies. If we can help by meeting with your served agencies to build better relationships, please let us know.



Scott Roberts, KK4ECR

Kk4ecr@gmail.com

904-759-7812 — Cell

904-602-9576 — Direct to Shack

5481 — Hamshack Hotline



What's Inside

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Page 2 | From the Section PIO |
| | Waldo Has 1st EOC |
| Page 3 | From the Section EC |
| Page 4 | What's Happening? Santa Rosa Edition |
| Page 7 | Alachua ARES Smashes FD Barriers |
| Page 9 | Witness to History—Rescue in Grenada |
| Page10 | Long Island CW Club Introduction |
| Page 11 | Color Coded Cabling in Modern Radio Stn |
| Page 13 | KX4Z Wins Yasme Award |
| | Lake Monroe Field Day |
| | K4GSX Field Day |
| | Wakulla County Field Day |
| Page 14 | Home Brew: RF Common Mode Current Mtr |
| Page 17 | Lake ARA Field |
| Page 19 | GARS Helps Establish Waldo EOD |
| Page 21 | Technical Birth of an EOC |
| | QCWA Ocala |
| Page 22 | Clay County Field Day |
| Page 23 | Around the Panhandle We Go! |

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.



How did you "Field Day?"

By Scott Roberts, KK4ECR
NFL Section Manager

Well, Field Day 2022 is in the books. I don't know about you, but this one was by far one of the best that we have ever had. We had radios sending out signals, operators talking over the air, great fellowship, lots of guests and even some good food.

I have often been asked what Field Day is all about. Is it a contest? — YES! Is it an equipment test? — YES! Is it a public "Open House?" — YES! Is it a club social event? — YES! It is all of these and more. Field Day is not just ONE of these — it is ALL of these.

So, how did you "Field Day?" Here are a couple of stories about how a few of our clubs do Field Day.

A ham radio operator who had just moved into the NFL Section looked on the ARRL Field Day Locator and called a club asking about their Field Day. This person asked if they could be a guest operator at their location. According to this person, they were told that they did not have any space for a guest operator and ended the call. This person called another club and was happily welcomed. They went to this Field Day location and operated CW for about an hour and made 75 contacts.

At another Field Day location, a newer ham stopped in to see what Field Day was all about. As he spoke to some of the club members, he mentioned that he was having a problem with his mobile installation. Two hams jumped into action, grabbed an antenna analyzer and a spare antenna, and went to work. Within a few minutes, the issue was located, and a solution was given.

Field Day, as well as any of our events, should be a time for the general public to be able to come in and participate and learn and get help. So as you do your Field Day "de-brief," look at things that you can do to make Field Day even better next year. How can you be more open and inviting to the public?

Share your stories on the NFL Section Facebook page or the groups.io group. Tell us how you did "Field Day" this year so that we can all learn.



Waldo FL First Emergency Operations Center

Barbara Matthews, KO4TWZ, GARS PIO

The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS), working with Waldo city management, has established a room at the Waldo City Square that can serve the citizens with emergency communications. Here is a link to the Alachua Chronicle about the collaboration.

<https://alachuachronicle.com/collaboration-between-city-of-waldo-and-gars-creates-waldos-first-emergency-operations-center/>

Editor's Note: See details on how this collaboration came together in Barbara Matthews (KO4TWZ) articles later in the newsletter.



From the NFL Section Emergency Coordinator

ARC Thames, W4CPD

Wow, just like that the annual ARRL Field Day is over, and we move in to planning for our annual simulated emergency test the first Saturday in October. Over the coming months I'll be working with members of our leadership team to develop the SET and utilize answers that have been provided for our monthly challenge. I would like to thank the following stations for their messages during field day using the NTS (National Traffic System):



KN4YGT N4EH NF4CQ NF4AC W4SJV W5RE W4UC K4BJS KM4VKY (If your station isn't listed and you sent a message it is possible that it is making its way through the NTS still.)

In May our section reported 1,107 hours of volunteer time to various ARES duties within our section. Thanks to the following counties and EC/AEC's for reporting their time. The information provided by our team is consolidated and then forwarded to the ARRL.

Bay-KN4PFZ Citrus-K4SOP Clay-KK4ECR Columbia-N5CBP Duval-K4BJS Escambia-KB4HAH
Hernando-N9EE Leon-KC4NVU Marion-N2HAY Okaloosa-W4KKJ Orange-N4JTK Santa Rosa-W4CPD
Seminole-AI4NF St. Johns-WE4MJ Suwannee-KM4BTW Volusia-W4DBL Wakulla-W4KEF Walton-W4CJB Washing-
ton-WA4MN

Total number of ARES members:	488
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	35
Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month:	18
Total number of DECs/ECs appointed in section:	32
Number of ARES net sessions held:	118
Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	33
Number of participants in nets:	1,533

Our local county ARES teams need you! If you're interested in learning more about ARES in your county, visit the [County Emergency Coordinator](#) list on the section website to find the contact information for your county's Emergency Coordinator. Many of our counties offer monthly or quarterly training so it's a great opportunity to learn.

The following counties do not have an appointed ARES Emergency Coordinator. If you would like to help us grow our section and ARES teams in these counties, please fill out the [online application](#) form and we will contact you. I and our new Section Manager, Scott-KK4ECR, are here to support you in any way we can and would love to have you onboard. Baker Bradford Calhoun Franklin Gadsden Gilchrist Gulf Holmes Lafayette Levy Putnam Union

Changes to the NFL ARES Net

We have started providing the daily tropical outlook from the National Hurricane Center and also introduced a "Question of the Week" on Wednesday's to encourage additional participation. If you aren't already checking in to the net, we'd love to see you there, daily on 3950 KHz at 7:30A CDT/8:30A EDT.

Monthly Radiogram Challenge

July's challenge is to send me, W4CPD, a Radiogram to share with me what your go to antenna is for quick deployment in an emergency. This could be one that you like to use in the field or one that you would deploy at your home or EOC if your primary failed. You may send your Radiogram via a voice net or utilize Winlink. Winlink is a software package that allows you to send messages and forms over the internet or using a compatible radio. You can find the step by step instructions to send a Radiogram using Winlink via [this link](#). The section website, arrl-nfl.org, has a net listing for voice nets if you wish to use voice. Many of these nets have a traffic representative/liaison that can pass your traffic up to a section net to allow the traffic to reach me.

For those that missed our online training session in April on using voice to transmit a Radiogram, the video is available [on YouTube](#).

Continued on next page...

Thanks to the following 31 amateur radio operators for their participation in June's challenge. The information gathered from this challenge will be utilized to build our SET (Simulated Emergency Test) in October. This also serves as an opportunity to exercise our National Traffic System. The more participation we have, the more we can simulate load on the NTS and give our liaison stations an opportunity to practice. We increased by 7 stations in June. I'd love to see us reach 50 stations participating in July. If you have a local club newsletter, website, or social media presence, please share the monthly challenge out to help us spread the word. Full details can be found on our section website, arri-nfl.org.

AA3YB AC4QS AJ4KY K4CRO K4NDJ K4WMX KD4IMA KG4GCD KG4WVI KI4OXD KI4TRR KI4ZER KK4INZ
KN4VKY KO4TWZ KO4VEJ KO4YZI KO4ZGH KQ4AKQ KT4DD KV4LY KX4Z N4JTK N4RJJ N9EE NF4AC W4CJB
W4JDT WA4AMY WB4ULT WX4BTZ

Your section needs you!

We 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@srcars.org. We have a critical need for stations near the central part of the panhandle near Tallahassee and other centrally located counties. This is a great opportunity to practice for emergency activations and counts towards completion of your ARES Task Book.



What's Happening? Santa Rosa County

ARC Thames, W4CPD

Well, it can't be our June article without a summary of ARRL Field Day in Santa Rosa County. One thing we did differently this year is setup all our antennas and radios on Friday evening. Every year we would setup on Saturday morning but, with the heat, we were always spent by the time the event started so this was a welcome change.



Continued on next page...

For Field Day this year, we once again partnered with other volunteer organizations that support Santa Rosa County to have them to join us in showcasing what we do for the community. We setup with numerous booths and our EOC's Mobile Command Post and our ARES communications trailer. The purpose behind this is not only to interact with the community but to also allow the various organizations to interact with each other. National organizations included the Red Cross and United Way and local organizations including CERT, SAFER Santa Rosa, and Legal Services of North Florida.



One tip is that you can download the [ARRL posters](#) from their website and have them printed on yard sign material which will last a lot longer than paper. They look great at an event.



Continued on next page...

We kicked off our official “public” event at 1:00P to coincide with the start of Field Day but the weather had other plans in mind. Unfortunately, our event was cut short when a massive severe thunderstorm moved through the area. Thankfully we had made the decision to “call the event” in time for most of the partner organizations to get their booths broken down ahead of the storm. We lost around 5 hours of on-air time due to the severe weather that moved in.

Before the storms moved in, we did have the opportunity to provide meals to all the first responders and dispatchers that were on duty and had the chance to stop by. We fully believe in ARES being an outreach opportunity and each team of first responders that stopped by took the time to visit all the booths and our communications trailers to see what we do for the community. Thanks to all those who put their lives on the line to serve our communities!

We shutdown shortly before 1:00P on Sunday to get everything broken down before another storm rolled through. We did manage to make over 350 contacts with almost a 50/50 mix of digital and voice in the time we operated.



Alan-KW4MO working the GOTA station while Jon-KM4QQO sets up Winlink and Steve-W4SJV working FT4/8

A sincere thank you to all our team members that helped setup, worked the public event, and hung with us for the operating period. You all make it happen and you are greatly appreciated!

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](#). We will be taking a break from meetings in the month of July to allow everyone to recover from field day and enjoy their family vacations.

Editor's Choice!

14th Annual



13 Colonies Special Event



JULY 1ST - 7TH 2022



73'





Alachua ARES^(R) / North Florida Amateur Radio Club Smashes Barriers for 2022 Field Day, by Gordon Gibby KX4Z / NCS521

Our 2022 Field Day turned out to be more about **better relationships with local County government** than even about radio, the summer heat, or antennas. Let me explain.

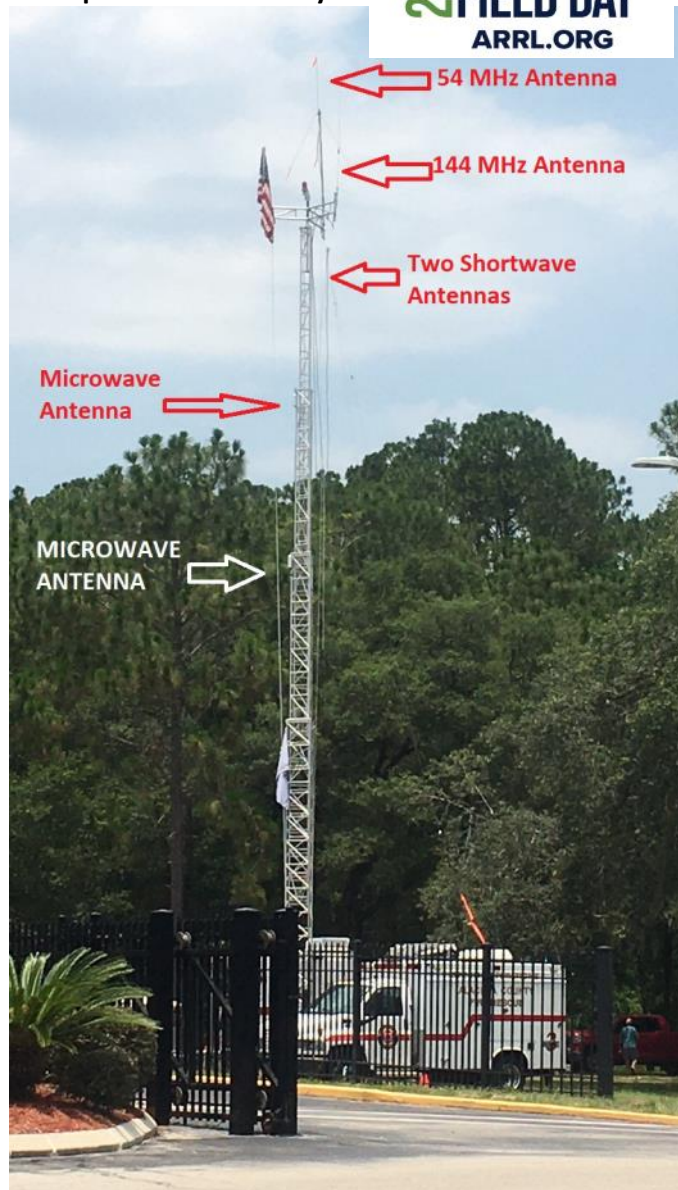
Our group ran into unexpected obstacles way back in February planning our Field Day, related to new County officials, misunderstandings, and miscommunications. Initially unable to get approval at the EOC & Sheriff property, we wrote full incident action plans (IAP) for *three* alternate sites. Then a fateful May meeting with our ultimate agency head, Alachua County Fire/Rescue Chief Harold Theus, changed everything!

Chief Theus was *astonished* at the 20+ background-checked & badged volunteers' accomplishments, previously unknown to him. More than a dozen emergency communications texts published, state and national conference leadership, extensive involvement with local, inter-county, State and Federal communications Exercises; the list just keeps on going. To overcome the misunderstandings, Chief Theus concluded an intragovernmental publicity campaign was in order to make his new-found volunteer resource "better known" throughout County government. Working with the County Manager, he arranged for a full **official presentation** to the Board of County Commissioners in early June.

Our suggestions for topics were taken by Emergency Manager employees and turned into *their* gorgeous slides (<http://alachua.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=5c0f4c23-0191-41d5-9c22-6f784a852c8f.pdf>) and on the appointed day, our volunteer leadership were front and center on County streaming video as well as on Cox Cable local channel 12, as we presented our volunteer comms group and their capabilities and training to the Commissioners. Commissioners asked great questions and were solidly in support of our efforts. The County PIO's press release surrounding the event went to a huge audience.

The result? We not only got our preferred Field Day venue back, but we also got **official assignment of the Florida Region 3 Mutual Assistance Radio Communications (MARC) unit to deploy in support of our volunteer Exercise!** These are good friends well known to us from our interoperability training, and their 100-foot alumatower, and 10kW generator and almost anything else we might ask for were now available. What a turn-around from February! (*HALF* of all the state's operational MARC units were assigned to various ham radio Field Day groups this year -- they **want** to develop interoperability ties with volunteers!)

Words flew onto paper as we rewrote our IAP (<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/ICS201GLG2022.pdf>) for the fourth time, now specifying positions of the Alumatower, deployed HF Station #2, VHF station, and a new Get On The Air (GOTA) station within the 1000 foot circle. Volunteers, including accomplished CW op David Fox NN4DF, came out of the woodwork to sign up on our Google Form as the County PIO was making official press releases through



Continued on next page...

their enormous outreach area. Over eighty separate items had to be transported and installed to bring about our basic Field Day setup, over and above our fully operational EOC Station#1. We specified four RV-trailers plus a Sprinter to provide shade and all-important cover from thunderstorms (our team was in 3" standing water last year). Every one of the 38 items of last year's Improvement Plan was addressed. (<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/2021improvementPlanResponses.pdf>) The entry would be 2F with VHF and GOTA stations, a visitor center, incident command post, and guided tours.

We gained extremely valuable practical experience from installing 6meter, dual band, and multiple HF antennas festooning the MARC tower, and we got connected to its generator. Raising that tower takes a lot more planning and time than we had anticipated! It held SEVEN antenna systems when finally raised. *Better antennas than we've ever had.* We held four distinct formal educational sessions, including one covering the MARC Unit, provided by District Fire Chief Kevin Rulapaugh KE4NVI. Our 2.4 GHz AREDN mesh network system, operating under Part 15 regulations to accommodate N3FJP encrypted logging communications, was fantastic with primary and redundant mesh transceivers at two heights on the MARC tower and 65dB S/N ratios. But we still fouled up an amazing number of key items. **We goofed** on several of the eight FT8 and logging computers' setups, hampered due to delays from illnesses and miscommunications and poor planning on my part. The first few operating hours were **rough**, to be generous. On top of that, 10 meters seemed completely dead, and for whatever reason, we saw NO sporadic E on 6 meters....and lots of RFI initially plagued our GOTA station from an inverter system, due to *another* miscommunication.

Problem after problem was addressed and solved. Our first-ever golf-cart (thanks, Leland Gallup AA3YB!) ferried visitors and crew around the site. Everyone loved the new U-arrangement of trailers with large awning-covered fellowship space. Emergency Manager Jen Grice, Emergency Management Coordinator Dalton Herding KO4RGT, and Fire Chief Harold Theus *all* spent time with us. Contacts began to flow in quantity by the late afternoon, and by midnight we were really hitting our stride! At 2 AM we had both of our 2F stations fully occupied with about 5 volunteers just sitting around having fun swapping experiences. In the middle of the night we happily surpassed the previous year's total QSO's. Periodic consultations and hint-sharing with friendly competitor groups around NFL buoyed our spirits. We weren't doing as badly as it initially seemed! TV20 showed up at 10 AM on Sunday and spent *two hours* absorbing information and getting video -- we got great coverage! (<https://www.wcjb.com/video/2022/06/27/amateur-radio-emergency-services-field-day/>) And our new County Sheriff Clovis Watson, Jr. joined us despite the heat, with hearty congratulations and assurances of full support and assistance in addition to the incredible Fire Rescue support.



By noon (our traditional quitting time) several of our leadership still hadn't gotten any sleep, but the major part of the tear-down was done in only 1.5 hours -- then Emily Wallace KO4JWC spread out the most sumptuous buffet for the 2nd year in a row. After the hotwash session (4 pages of notes!) all the trailers were hitched up and sequentially moved out of the site. A bunch of "issues" to solve before next year, but our crew learned a ton, gained a lot of experience, and increased our QSO total more than 33% higher than 2021, despite our computer, 10meter and 6meter problems. A great time for all. Now with much better county government relationships, we hope to follow Santa Rosa's lead next year and hold a Technology Fair surrounding 2023 Field Day.

WITNESS TO HISTORY—RESCUE IN GRENADA

Parick Lightcap, K4NRD (previous call sign of WD4ODB), Madison County, Florida

October of 1983 was trying times for the American military. On October 23, 1983 a truck bomb was driven into the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The explosion caused the death of 220 US Marine service personnel and 21 additional US Military staff. US forces were part of a multi-national force trying to bring peace in a faraway land. While having to deal with this unexpected event President Ronald Reagan was already planning a resolution to a situation in the Western Hemisphere.

On the island of Grenada Cuban and Russian military personnel were building a 10,000 foot runway to facilitate the build up of their occupation of this small piece of land east of Venezuela. America's concern was the status of American students at a medical school on that island. It became clear that military intervention was needed to safely evacuate the students and return them to their homes in the States.

President Reagan had chosen not to inform the news media of his plans to rescue the students. No reporters were placed to accompany the troops and no pre-deployment news releases were made. The news media in America was very frustrated about this situation when word came of an invasion filtered out by way of Amateur Radio. The President's secrecy made the invasion the expected surprise with most eyes still looking at the bombing of the Marine's in Lebanon.

It was only two days after the Beirut bombing when my wife Helen and I heard a brief news report of the US invasion of Grenada and the only reports coming from the island were by way of Amateur Radio. Having been a licensed Amateur Radio operator (WD4ODB at that time) since December of 1977 I went to my HF radio to try and find radio traffic from Grenada. The evening of Tuesday, October 25, 1983 is when I found the transmissions for which I was searching on the 20 meter frequency of 14.140.

A young medical student by the name of Mark Barettella (KA2ORK) could be heard giving reports to the operators in the US. These reports were being relayed to the Department of Defense, the State Department and the headquarters of the medical school. Mark was essentially isolated in his dormitory with other students with electricity provided only by a facility generator. He had a small generator in his room should the larger generator run out of fuel or fail. There was no panic in his voice but appropriate concern.

Mark's roommate was also named Mark. At times he would get on the air giving Mark #1 a break for food. With the two of them working they stayed available—and the whole world was now listening. Because of my work schedule I went to bed at 1:00 AM on Wednesday, October 26, 1983. Helen stayed up recording the transmissions on a tape recorder until 2:30 AM. She captured both the signals from Grenada and the relay stations in the US. That recording is our witness to history.

At the time of this writing (June 2022) Mark Barettella, MD is listed as a cardiologist working in Daytona Beach, Florida. He has a new call sign of N2MD and is an Advanced licensee. A search on the Internet can provide the reader with much more detailed information concerning the rescue of the students from St. George's University School of Medicine. The recording of the Amateur Radio transmissions was sent to Mark's parents. The value of Amateur Radio cannot be underestimated even though we now have cell phones, the Internet and much more satellite resources. As Hurricane Michael taught us in 2018 in the Florida Panhandle Amateur Radio remains a valuable resource when other systems fail or are overloaded.



Long Island CW Club Introduction

Bob Schwer, K3ZGA

The Long Island CW Club was established in January 2018 and has quickly grown to over 2800 members branching out into 50 states and 43 countries.

We hold beginner, intermediate and advanced CW classes plus radio and related technology forums 75 times per week via internet video conference, (Zoom). Our classes move at the pace of the student in a relaxed environment without fixed goals. We do not use keyboards as we encourage hand sending and hand copy eventually leading to head copy at the advanced class level. Our objective is to get the student on the air as soon as possible during one of our video conference live QSO classes where students get on the same frequency and we all work the same station, while we give pointers on technique simultaneously via video conference. The QSO copy will be assisted by the instructor, and we concentrate on sending protocol and timing, so the student starts to realize the fruits of their study labors. Getting on the air quickly, which is usually in 3-4 months, leads to higher motivation to keep learning and progressing.

Our radio and related technology forum subjects range from SOTA-POTA, QRP, boat anchors (vintage gear), Dxpeditons, antennas, satellites, Internet CW, all aspects of bugs-keys-paddles, kit building and electronic theory classes to name a few. We have recently broadened the topics range for anything inspiring which can include for example the history of computers, the breaking of secret codes in WW2, undersea cables, SETI outer space exploration and so much more impractical to list here. Our full class and forum schedule can be seen on our website calendar at: longislandcwclub.org

Giving back to those in need is a tenet of our club. We started teaching CW to kids grades K-12 to keep them occupied during the Covid school lockdown period. The program continues and has kids of all ages in both the USA and Europe, and we are running 6 online classes weekly. We have taught over 350 kids CW so far and a number have got their licenses. We also started YL only classes to encourage CW growth and stronger club participation among our over 125 women members. Additionally, we teach CW to the visually impaired, autistic and are currently testing a vibrational device to deliver CW to the hearing impaired.

Besides our online activities, the Long Island based members have frequently gone to radio museums, had a portable operation on the Palisades (overlooking the Hudson River), a Jones Beach BBQ with portable operation, operating from a museum ship fireboat in Greenport LI, a trip to a ham radio auction, Marconi Day operation and a kit Build-A-Thon. We are the LI chapter of the NAQCC QRP organization so QRP outings are an important part of our club and we do them monthly. Once every 4 months we have a lunch at the historic Milleridge Inn in Jericho Long Island. So, we are very active and were initially founded with some of the best members from 4 clubs here on LI and have grown internationally from that base. Our aim is to have fun with CW.

To join our club, which is dedicated to preserve and encourage CW in ham radio, we ask for a donation to help offset and fund the club expenses.

The donation membership levels are:

- 1 year \$30.00
- 2 Years \$50.00
- 3 Years \$70.00
- Lifetime membership \$90.00

If you are interested to join, please visit our website: longislandcwclub.org and then the Membership page and click on 'apply for membership' and we will communicate with you from then on.



Color-Coded Cabling in a Modern Amateur Radio Station

J. Gordon Beattie, Jr. W2TTT

Over the past decade or so we have become familiar with the 15/30/45 Amp red and black Anderson PowerPole™ connectors. Those in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) adopted them to rapidly interconnect power connections to batteries, radios and accessories. Soon we began to see broader adoption of these connectors by other segments of the Amateur Radio community.


Further, a broad range of interconnect and power management accessories started to appear in the marketplace, starting with West Mountain Radio. The RigRunner™ power strips were introduced in a wide range of models and sizes. These devices provided for multiple fused power taps, each with an LED that lights when a fuse opens. Other competitors have greatly expanded the options for both fused and un-fused PowerPole distribution systems and some radio and power supply manufacturers mounted PowerPole connectors on the backplanes of their equipment. Over the years a demand for RigRunners for other voltages evolved. When West Mountain Radio developed these products, they chose to use orange for 24 Volts and blue for 48 Volts.

Over the last several years, the volunteer communications team that supports the Passaic County Sheriff's Department's activities – including the County Fair at Garret Mountain Reservation – brought to bear a wide variety of portable communications equipment including AREDN Mesh (www.arednmesh.org) nodes, routers, switches, cameras, computers, etc. This gear operates on a wide variety of voltages and the need to have something like the RigRunner and PowerPole connectors for these other devices and applications was really urgent. We assessed the requirements of the various devices and realized that there were a broad range of colors from which to choose. This caused us to research common usage of colors in DC power systems and we came up with this list of colors - based on the availability of Anderson PowerPole connectors.

1. Violet 3.3 VDC for CMOS-level device requirements.
This was an available color.
2. Green 5 VDC for TTL-level device requirements.
This was an available color.
3. Yellow 12VDC for things that MUST BE 12V. Some devices don't like higher voltages.
This color was chosen because yellow is used in PC ATX power supplies for 12VDC.
4. Red 12-15VDC for normal battery, power supply and alternator power options.
This is the conventional color for DC power in our communications systems.
5. Green 14.8-16.8VDC for laptops and other devices
6. White 19VDC for devices such as laptops, some monitors and televisions.
This was an available color.
7. Orange 24VDC for Ubiquiti, Mikrotik and other 24V devices.
This color was chosen by West Mountain Radio in products they offer.
8. Blue 46-54VDC for conventional POE devices.
This color was chosen by West Mountain Radio in products they offer.
9. Black For each of the above connections, the return or ground lead is black.

A chart of these color selections is shown on the next page.

Color-Coded Cabling in a Modern Amateur Radio Station, continued

<u>Voltage</u>	<u>Color</u>	
3.3	VIOLET	
5	GRAY	
12	YELLOW	
12 – 14.6	RED	
14.8 – 16.8	GREEN	
19 - 21	WHITE	
24 - 28	ORANGE	
48 - 52	BLUE	
Ground	BLACK	

After a bit of discussion, we also noted that we have a need to provide Power over Ethernet [PoE] in various voltages, depending on the equipment. This can be easily addressed with four basic colors:

Yellow (12V)

Red (12-15V)

Orange (24V)

Violet (48V)



The trick is that you may not have the right length Ethernet cable in the right color when you need one for a project. To address that we simply determined that we could make the correct length cable and use the protective hoods over the RJ-45 ends to indicate their voltage.

Crimping an RJ-45 Ethernet cable takes a little practice and in the end produces a professional looking set of connections that can easily be discerned.

So far, this approach has served us well and we look forward to enhancing this scheme with contributions based on the experience of others.

For questions or further info, contact the author at:

J. Gordon Beattie, Jr.
201.314.6964
W2TTT@ATT.NET

This article first appeared in The Resonator, the newsletter of the Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club. Used with permission.

KX4Z Wins Yasme Award for 2022

Mickey Baker, N4MB, SE Division Director

From the Yasme Website:

*"The **Yasme Excellence Awards** are presented to individuals who through their own service, creativity, effort and dedication have made a significant contribution to amateur radio. The contribution may be in recognition of technical, operating or organizational achievement as all three are necessary for amateur radio to grow and prosper."*

Hearty congratulations to Gordon Gibby, NX4Z, for his recent recognition from The Yasme Foundation. Follow the link to find out more about Gordon's accomplishments.

<https://www.yasme.org/yasme-excellence-awards/>

Lake Monroe ARS Field Day

Rich Fischer, WA3SXX, President, www.lmars.org

The Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society in Winter Springs Florida tried new things this year: CW operation was performed by two stations: 'Blind Guys CW Station' along with our regular CW Team and had Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC) join us with their support of operators, equipment and food for lunch.

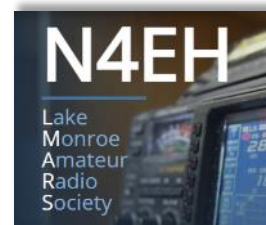
Our two visually impaired Club members, Dave Hilebrandt W4CI and Tom Moore KF4YEV used our smallest trailer. It was positioned near the park's lavatory building with a guide rope strung between the two for their ease of access to the lavatory

Local TV Station WESH 2 came out to cover a story for their daily news broadcast.

View it here:

<https://www.wesh.com/article/central-florida-radio-operators-contest/40419505>

The sign you will see in the news broadcast displayed the same message along the top of the sign written in braille.



Does This Look Familiar?

Dale Covington,
K4GSX

Working furiously to get a couple of new antennas up for Field Day 2022. Attached picture yesterday taken by my wife Barbara. Will operate Class 1E this year due to Cobb County's (GA) continuing high virus counts. Best Wishes to all for a great Field Day.



Wakulla County Sponsors Hurricane Preparedness Expo on Field Day



W4KEF, KEN & K4CRO, MIKE

Quick/Dirty Homebrew Project: RF Common Mode Current Meter

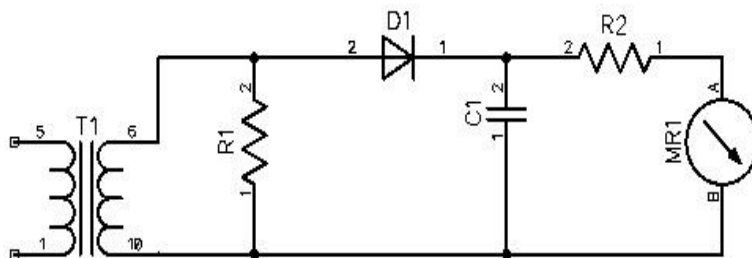
by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Common mode RF currents flowing on a transmission line tend to wreck havoc in an HF data-based ham radio station, messing up antenna patterns and signal modulation, and often disrupting computer serial and USB ports involved in digital connection. Non-symmetrical antennas, and feed lines within the near field of the antenna contribute. Many writers have taught solutions, often including "common mode chokes," or 1:1 current baluns.¹ These attempt to insert an impedance that only affects the unwanted current flowing on the outside surface of coaxial braid, the "third conductor." They are easy to make.

However, I've always wanted to be able to *measure* these mysterious currents. There are commercial meters available, well-made and somewhat pricey. There have been multiple articles on how to build your own, generally involving a split toroid as part of the transformer through which the coaxial cable passes, creating a "1-turn primary."



Finally, I put together a simple common mode meter in only a couple hours. The schematic below shows it is basically a diode AM receiver-- just with the headphones replaced by a meter.



T1 is a split ferrite clip-on toroid, 13mm internal diameter size, with 7 turns of small wire (to leave room for the coaxial cable) as the secondary, and the transmission coaxial line passing thru as the 1-turn primary. The transformer has a theoretical voltage step up of 7:1, so the current step-down is 1:7. Therefore the RMS RF voltage across 100-ohm R1 due to an unbalanced current in the "primary" is equal to $I * R = (1/7 * \text{primary common mode current}) * 100 \text{ ohms}$. This RF voltage is then rectified by D1 and fed to the chosen meter.



¹ See Stroobandt, ON4AA's excellent article: <https://hamwaves.com/chokes/en/index.html#:~:text=absolute must read!>, The Guanella common mode choke, choke for common mode signals.

² Our how-to article: <https://www.qsl.net/nf4rc/BalunHowTo.pdf>

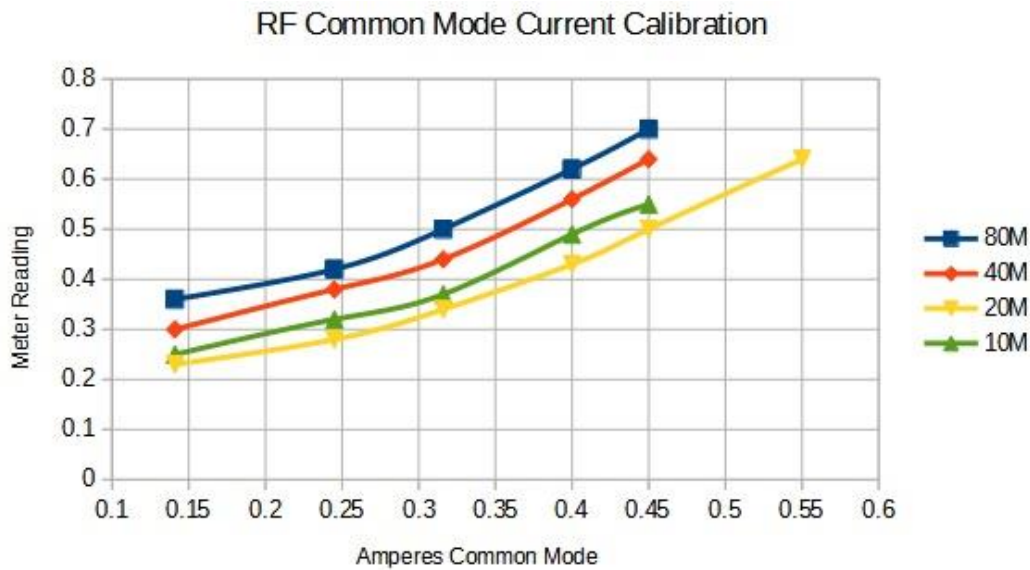
³ For example, the excellent measurement tool, <https://mfjenterprises.com/products/mfi-854>

⁴ <https://owenduffy.net/module/icm/>

Component	Value	Source	Comment
T1	13 mm RF clip on ferrite	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07ZQZQ5BQ (gives you an entire pack of ferrites to help out!)	7 turns relatively fine wire (#22-#30) for the secondary
R1	100 ohm, 1/2 or 1 watt, relatively non-inductive	From your junk box, or https://www.amazon.com/EDGELEC-Resistor-Tolerance-Multiple-Resistance/dp/B07QG1VL1Q	Go to 1 watt if you want to use this on high power stations.
D1	1N270 germanium diode	https://www.amazon.com/1N34A-Germanium-Diode-DO-204AH-Detection/dp/B07MVVDP9Q or use a Shottky or plain rectifier diode	
C1	470 pf - 0.001 ceramic capacitor		<i>value not critical</i>
Meter	1 mA or perhaps 200 uA or 100 uA		Adjust R2 to suit your desired sensitivity and meter
R2	4700 for my simple system	Approximately 0.5A full scale.	

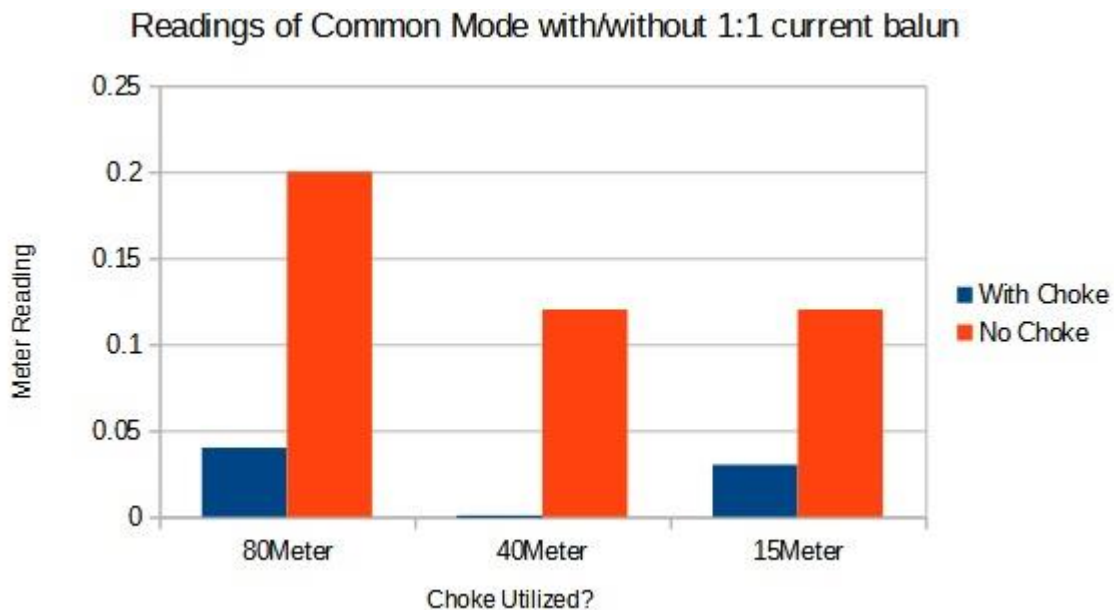
A little circuit theory: For the values of my quickly-assembled system, an RF current of 0.4 A should create 57mA through the 100 ohm resistor, creating 5.71 V_{RMS}, and about 4.5 VDC_{AVG}, driving just about 1mA through R2 -- and this works out pretty closely to my calibration measurements!

Simple calibration: You can just use the scale provided below. To calibrate your own, split a few inches of a coax line into center and separated braid, and put only **one** of those through the toroid "transformer." This creates a known "common mode" current because the 2nd conductor simply isn't included. Use a 50 ohm dummy load and some math and known watts of RF and you can easily calibrate its current measurement.



USE: If your transmission line is too thick, insert a short length of RG58 or RG8X coax. Run the coax inside the jaws of the toroid, and start with modest power levels working up to find out how great is your common mode current.

Actual Results: The meter readings on my coax to my end-fed-half-wave multiband antenna, measured with and without a homemade 1:1 current choke, with an auto-tuner matching, and approximately 100W output, demonstrate that the choke is fairly effective at reducing the meter reading from the 0.125-0.2 range (about 0.1 A common mode current) to negligible amounts. This correlates well to my lack of computer port problems with the choke in my transmission line, and carefully grounded end-fed antenna system.



LARA Celebrates 70 Years of Public Service During Field Day

Frank Anders KK4MBX

Since our beginning in 1952, Lake Amateur Radio Association (LARA), has been focused on public service. This year our co-chairs Glenn, AA4UC, and Jason, K4AUS, our current president and vice president, partnered with Lake County Emergency Management to setup our Field Day 2022 effort at the Institute of Public Safety in Tavares, FL.



Our Lake County served agencies provided several vehicles for our operators to work from that supplemented LARA Equipment. LARA members turned out in force to help with the event and welcomed the many members of the community, elected officials, and public service professionals who visited the site. We demonstrated our ability to operate successfully in an emergency without commercial power, provided educational opportunities for visitors to experience HAM radio, and for our members to gain new skills. Since this effort was well publicized, we had several walk-in candidates choosing to join LARA.

LARA had stations focused on satellite communication, solar powered communication, HF voice and Data communication and a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station which provided a hands-on demonstration of HF communication to visitors. The Sheriff's Aviation Unit flew their helicopter over the site which provided contacts throughout Northern and Central Florida on 2 meters and 440. The chief pilot of LCSO Aviation who participated in our airborne operations, is a licensed technician! In addition, we held a simplex net on VHF to train our members on passing messages. Exercises such as Field Day greatly strengthens LARA's communication capabilities to respond in a real-world event in order to support Lake County Emergency Operations.



Continued on next page...

LARA continued....



Our Satellite Station



Glenn, AA4UC



Joe, KO4FRR



Lew, AC2KW



Larry, N2HBX



Jamey, W4CGX



Carl, K8BBT



GARS Helps Establish Waldo's First Ever EOC

Barbara Matthews (KO4TWZ), GARS PIO

On a stormy night in 2017, amateur radio volunteer Shannon Boal (K4GLM) sat in a dark, powerless County approved shelter, as he worked to help the City of Waldo during Hurricane Irma. Looking out the window across the lawn, he saw light pouring out of the generator-powered, older part of the complex. It stirred his thoughts, and he wondered how that resource could be used more effectively in this type of situation. In that moment, the "seed" was planted. This year, the fruit of the harvest is found in a brand new, volunteer- created Waldo Emergency Operation Center, located in the very same building that blazed light into that dark night.

The City of Waldo and the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) have shared a cooperative relationship for a number of years. GARS was given part of the former Waldo Community School (now converted into the Waldo City Square and housing local government) for equipment storage and club activities. The club installed a radio repeater on site, and provided maintenance to the site generator. When COVID-19 hit, they moved license testing from the shutdown Sante Fe College to the site.

As 2022 progressed, in the spring (as so many Amateur Clubs do), GARS began planning for hurricane season. Under the leadership of club President Vann Chesney (AC4QS), conversations began between Shannon Boal, Vice President of GARS (and a Waldo City Commissioner), Ham operator and Waldo City Commissioner Glen Johnson (KO4ILJ) and the City Manager Kim Worley. They began sketching out a plan for a formal area that would serve the Waldo area in times of emergency. It would be Waldo's first-ever Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

In early May, the city dedicated an empty room for this endeavor and allowed the club access to surplus furniture from the closed school. Members hauled it up flights of stairs and assembled it. The second story room's windows allow for simple wire access to antennas the club has installed. The club has two radio set ups they have dedicated for the room. They installed bulletin boards, dry erase area, state and US maps. The room is ready for use as needed by club and city officials.

A dipole antenna was mounted on the roof. The club previously has prepped ball field light poles for raising another dipole, as well as owning a trailer antenna, and have a recently donated hex beam that can be raised.

GARS members Larry Rovak (WB2SVB) and club Treasurer Pete Winters (W4GHP) made contact with University of Florida Surplus sales and using the documentation Pete had for the club's 501c status, UF chose to donate five used computers for the EOC.

GARS decided to make the ARRL 2022 Field Day the debut of the EOC, and the GARS Field Day Director Terry Gordon (K4TMG) and varying teams of volunteers spent weeks laboring to set up radios, spent hours on the roof in the blazing sun to install antennas, and basically engineered everything into a well-equipped EOC. Waldo citizens of many backgrounds have stepped up with assistance and information.



As a result of all this, Field Day 2022 was a great success, in the true spirit of the day: not everything went as planned! However, problems were resolved by group effort and lessons were learned that will help the EOC function better. Phone, digital, and CW contacts were made by about two dozen operators over the 24 hour event. The computers shared logging information with the EOC network for documentation purposes.

City Manager Kim Worley stated "We actually have two Council members who are Amateur Radio operators. During Hurricane Irma, people set up here informally to relay messages, but now we will have an established EOC. The major storms in South Florida showed Governments that when cell towers and the internet are down, important information is scarce."

Club VP Boal summed up the entire effort this way: "The Waldo EOC is being created through a collaboration of GARS volunteers and the City of Waldo. GARS members hope this EOC relationship can exemplify the spirit that drives volunteer fire departments to help the community." This is evidence of how the science and art of Amateur Radio are brought into activation through preparedness and practice. For more information about GARS, please go to www.gars.club.

Continued on next page...

GARS continued....

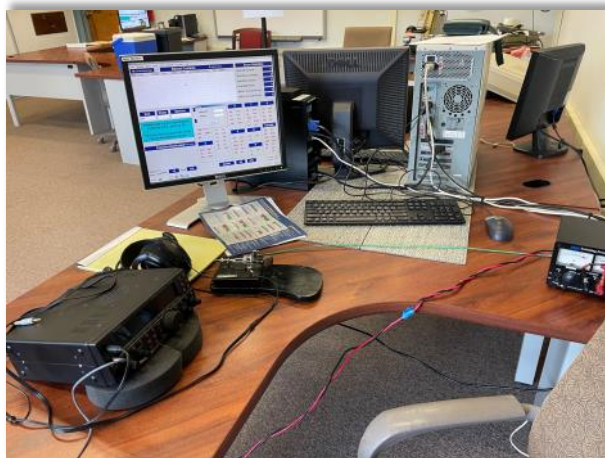


Terry Gordon and team assemble hex beam

Dave Dockus (K04GGZ) coached GARS' youngest Field Day participant, Leila, as she made a DX voice contact overseas



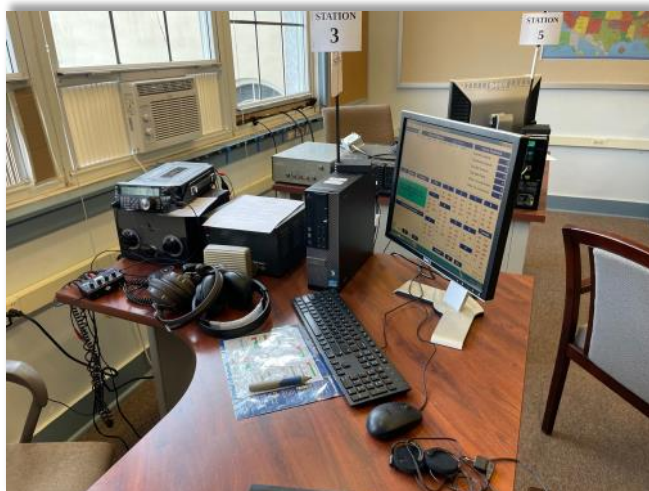
Ascending for antenna install.



CW station



Larry Rovak and Peter Winters



Phone station



Shannon Boal, Terry Gordon and Glen Johnson

The Technical Birth of an EOC

Barbara Matthews (KO4TWZ), GARS PIO

*Editor's Note: In this article, Barbara explains the **technical challenges** that GARS faced in it's successful attempt to create the first EOC for the City of Waldo.*

When the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) began its voluntary efforts to create the first EOC for the City of Waldo, it was truly a journey of talent and treasure hunting. Starting from scratch, the depth of skills in the GARS group became evident. Waldo, a city with less than 1000 residents needed a creative partner: GARS members stepped up.

The room offered by the city of Waldo was a former computer lab in the shuttered Waldo Community School. The building, constructed in the 1920's, was upgraded to have emergency power available, but there was no air conditioning and was empty. It was a canvas upon which many skill sets created a technical centerpiece.

In order to equip the room, executive board member Larry Rovak (WB2SVB), Pete Winters (W4GHP) the GARS Treasurer, and club Vice President Shannon Boal (K4GLM) utilized Pete's excellent documentation of the club's non-profit status and proceeded to the University of Florida Surplus sales department in search of computer equipment. When the staffer heard of the need and purpose of the EOC and the 501-3c status was assured, great things happened. UF donated five computer set ups. The ten year old Dell desktops (complete with monitors, mice and keyboards) had Intel I5 chips and 8 gig of Ram. They had tested but "wiped" hard drives.

Larry used his expert knowledge of computer technology to check the machines and then loaded Windows 7 on three machines (to be used for logging programs) and Windows 10 on two (one to be used for digital logging and one to act as the logging server). The logging software the club will be using is N3FJP.

In order to get the machines to all communicate with each other, he was able to activate the building's hardwire internal network and created a private IP network within the room. He was also able to modify the WiFi signal of the building (which houses Waldo's city government) and converted WiFi into ethernet and fed it into the room's private network for internet access (useful especially for EOC functions).

Club volunteers prepped the room, furniture and power supplies and installed four stations, with complete equipment. The antennas are connected through the window of the second story room to the roof and pole locations. Cork boards were put up, and the club donated dry erase city, state and USA maps. The cooperative effort between GARS and the Waldo City government means this room is available for club use and trainings and, in turn, the members will maintain the room and are ready to assist the citizens by manning the EOC communications. The Service of Amateur Radio in action! For more information about GARS please go to www.gars.club.



Ocala Chapter 62 QCWA

Ken Simpson, W8EK, President

Ocala, FL, Chapter 62, held its regular scheduled meeting on June 23 at the China Lee Buffet. We appreciate the large turnout! The main discussion topic was what QCWA could do for the 75th Anniversary Celebration coming up in December.

Some of the ideas included

- 1) Making a special 75 year pin available
- 2) Making a special hat with 75 years on it available
- 3) Placing a synopsis all of the land based conventions in the special edition of the Journal
- 4) A special operating event

The next meeting of Chapter 62 will be August 25, at 12:30 PM at China Lee Buffet on East Silver Springs Blvd in Ocala.

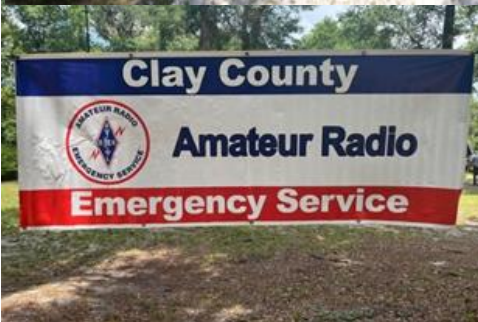


Field Day – Clay County Style

By Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, Public Information Officer



Field Day 2022 was by far one of the best Field Days that I can remember since getting my license. From the pre-field day planning to the Field Day setup, to the communications and meeting of guests, to the tear-down and clean up, it was amazing.



Three clubs joined together for the event. Members of Clay County Emergency Service, Orange Park Amateur Radio Club, and The American Legion Amateur Radio Club, set up a total of 6 stations at Camp Chowenwaw in Green Cove Springs, Florida.

We had 30 participants and all stations operated on generator, battery and/or Solar power.



When the weekend was over, we had several guests who stopped by to see what Field Day was all about. We had several public officials, including the County Sheriff, several representatives from the County Sheriff's office, the County Emergency Manager, the Emergency Deputy Director, the County Fire Chief, and one of our County Commissioners. We were also to help new hams with questions and problems that they had regarding their radio equipment.

We made 746 contacts and communicated with 47 out of 50 states and several Canadian Provinces on SSB, FT4, FT8, and CW modes. We were able to establish communications on 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m and 6m.

We had a very successful Field Day weekend in Clay County!



Around the Panhandle We Go!

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

Happy #HamVenture Ya'!!!

Around the Panhandle we go and what a month June has been! Folks, this Ham Radio time that we all share together really is enjoyable! Tell your friends, relatives and neighbors they are missing out as you are all part of a great team that brings people together not only socially, but in all forms of communications capacities! You are the reason your clubs are energized, and you are the reason the enthusiasm exists! Never forget that and keep up with the great and positive relationships in all things Ham and all things Radio!



Roy Martin Sr. K4NDJ of the Walton County Amateur Radio Club was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition for his effort to promote Ham Radio to the local community and beyond. K4NDJ takes new Hams under his wings serving as an Elmer. His efforts have inspired and taught many in the region from the basic etiquette of Ham Radio and phone use to the advanced understanding of the more technical aspects of our enjoyable hobby. Come see him in Person at the Walton County Amateur Radio Club the 1st Tuesday of the month at 312 College Ave in DeFuniak Springs Florida where WF4X puts the Fun in DeFuniak!

Dr. Mike Fregger KJ4ECP of the Playground Amateur Radio Club in B E A U tiful downtown Fort Walton Beach Florida contributing to the morale of the Club and Sponsors many of the events held namely the Annual Hamfest! The next one is on the books and announcement will soon be made for the 53rd Annual Hamfest in March of 2023 on the 17th and 18th and the fine folks at the Playground Amateur Radio Club are sure not to disappoint!



KJ4ECP and KI4ZER

Speaking of Hamfest!

The North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club continued with their planning and preparation for another great event coming sooner than you think! Before you know it, October will be here and on the 15th of that month they will host the highly anticipated Hamfest Event at the Crestview Community Center!

Put this on your calendars because the vendors are going to be bigger and there will be more of them! The news of last year's event has spread far and wide and you most certainly want to attend and even vend at this spot in the Panhandle! To preregister for the Hamfest please follow this link and let them know you are in! <https://w4aaz.org/noarc-hamfest/>



Continued on next page...

Another great **Sunday Pile up Event** with a Vertical Beam at the Playground Amateur Radio Club! Talk about energy!!!! This Club has been hitting the ground running and attracting a lot of attention! The team there has been restoring their station equipment and is constantly improving the clubhouse. New members to the Club but no strangers to ham radio have come in droves to support and sustain this valuable clubs' operations and enhance their capabilities! You must come and see what these folks are all about! Their energy, encouragement and involvement will not let you down!



(L) Speaking of fun guess who?! KN4UDS right boot that's who as he snaps a photo from near 200 feet of awesome while assisting our friends at the Southern Amateur Radio Union. We traveled with him to get a ground level perspective of the awesome work that it takes to inspect, work on and utilize Amateur Radio Towers! What a great shot KN4UDS and thank you for sharing it with us!



(R) This a shot of that same tower from the ground!



KN4ROS, KO4NKL, AC5LT, KI4ZER



KK4WDQ, KI4ZER, KO4FNK, KN4UDS, N4PRC, K4NDJ, AE5MU, KF4ZZ and more!

WF4X Tailgate! Surprise for the month of June at the Liberty Volunteer Fire department on US Hwy 90 W just outside of DeFuniak! Total attendance drew 100 folks out from 7 in the morning until 1 in the afternoon! While the sun was hot, the deals were hotter, and many found new treasures and things to complete their projects just before Field Day 2022!



KI4ZER and Dennis

KI4ZER and Dennis from Dippin' Dots Okaloosa! Dennis came out to support the Hams in 'cool down' mode! What a great treat it was to have some sweet cold treats on a warm & sunny Florida day! If you see Dennis out and about, be sure to say thank you for his continued support to Ham Radio and look for him at other events!

Continued on next page...



KB4OID, KI4ZER, KK4SSM, KN4RSO, KJ4KRT, W4GMH, KB4OIF, KK4ICL,
KO4NKL, KC5RFU

PARC **Field Day** started off with a drone flyover of the tower and part of the Club and the team behind the scenes that make all things possible in the Playground. The wealth of knowledge and experience here compliments the area as a whole and benefits the Ham community at large! Check them out at W4ZBB.Org! Their Field Day was great and had many visitors throughout the entire weekend! They even grew in numbers as more joined the club after a warm and welcome invite! Check them out at W4ZBB.Org!



KM4VKY, KI5FR, N1KRE, KJ4RWD

Speaking of growing, the **NOARC Field Day** was not one to miss and the activities directed by KI5FR along with the entire club participating in many roles was a wonderful and learning experience! From FT* to Satellite and GOTA to all bands, the fine people in Crestview displayed a large-scale Field Day, hosted multiple visitors and taught new and old Hams new tricks! If you are in the Crestview area, bring them up on 147.36 and check them out via W4AAZ.Org!

In closing this month has been wonderful and plentiful in activities! There truly is no shortage of things to do Ham related in Okaloosa and Walton County! Pay attention to all these clubs and more as they fuel the interest for your next #Hamventure!

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 – *Scott Roberts KK4ECR*

Assistant Section Managers

Joseph D. Bushnel W2DWR

John C Reynolds W4IJJ

Jeff Capehart W4UFL

Neil Light KK4VHX

Ray Crepeau K1HG

Steve Szabo WB4OMM

Section Emergency Coordinator – *Arc Thames W4CPD*

Section Public Information Coordinator—

Section Technical Coordinator – *Frank Haas KB4T*

Affiliated Club Coordinator –

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!

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/uploads/2021/12/2021QSTNFLIndex.pdf>



Newsletter of the Northern Florida Section of the ARRL

Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor
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.