

Volume 9 Issue 10

www.arrl-nfl.org

October 2022

From the Shack of the Section Manager

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR (<u>kk4ecr@gmail.com</u>)

What a month! September turned out to be a very busy month on many fronts.

I'd like to welcome two more members to the NFL Section Leadership Team. Dustin Stewart, KI4ZER has accepted an appointment as Assistant Section Manager. Also, Joe Bassett, W1WCN has been appointed as an Assistant Section Manager. Both gentlemen bring a great amount of knowledge to our team to help make things better for you.

I was able to attend the Friendship Amateur Radio Club meeting in Ocala and had a great time! It was great to meet more of the amazing members in our section.

I also had the privilege of going to ARRL HQ for the Section Manager Workshop. We got to spend time with many of the great staff at ARRL and learn some great things to help us be better Section Managers for our sections.

And then, there was Hurricane Ian. I want to take a moment to commend our section on your great efforts in supporting our counties and served agencies. We have received some very good reports from our served agencies. The NFL Section Leadership team will be reviewing all the After-Action Reports and comments and will get a consolidated report out to the section as soon as we can. Thank you for all your long hours and efforts in helping all of Florida get through this storm.

Due to Hurricane Ian, our annual SET was postponed (NOT cancelled). Keep your packets that you received from Arc. They will still be used when the SET is rescheduled.

That about sums it up for September. If you have any events in October that our team can assist with, please let me know.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Section Manager!

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If you have input for **QST NFL,** or would like to be added to (or removed from) the reminder list, contact Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor, <u>n4ql.marty@qmail.com</u>

All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.

PCARS 57th Annual Melbourne Hamfest October 7-8, 2022 2022 ARRL Florida State Convention Melbourne Auditorium 625 E Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, FL

From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Arc Thames, W4CPD

At the beginning, I want to let our friends on the western central and southwestern portions of Florida know they are in our thoughts and prayers as they work to recover from the massive destruction caused by Hurricane Ian.

Before I dive into hurricane Ian, I want to thank the 36 counties that had signed up to participate in the statewide exercise we had planned for October 1. The exercise has been postponed but we are hoping that, depending on recovery efforts, we can try sometime in the winter or spring. One benefit of having planned for the exercise is many counties had taken time to update and evaluate their activation plans. The planning that goes into preparing an exercise and to respond to that exercise is almost just as valuable as the exercise itself.

I want to extend a huge thank you to the following individuals in our section:

- Brian-K4BJS: Help in planning the exercise and draft IAP
- Gordon-KX4Z: Help and guidance in planning the exercise
- Helen-WC4FSU: Providing traffic handling training
- James-WB8SIW: Providing the Radio Relay International Training
- Josie-WD4DCL: A special thanks to my wife for packing over 850 injects into envelopes
- Leland-AA3YB: Help in planning the exercise and deployment injects
- Scott-KK4ECR: Help and guidance in planning the exercise

I'd also like to thank the leadership from the Southern & Western Central Florida sections for the help and cooperation in planning the exercise.

Hurricane lan

Our section only experienced some impact from Hurricane Ian but the counties to our south have been devastated by this major hurricane. We worked with the State Division of Emergency Management to provide operators to staff both the State amateur radio room and a statewide HF emergency net.

While the statewide HF emergency net turned out to be quiet, for the most part, I want to thank those operators that worked countless





Picture of the 864 inject envelopes that Josie-WD4DCL packed

hours monitoring the designated HF frequencies. I know monitoring the HF net can be arduous and long, but we were requested to activate this net in the event a county EOC lost their traditional communications capabilities and lost their ability to communicate via the statewide repeater network, SARNET.

To schedule the volunteers for shifts on the emergency net, we utilized a tool called "Signup Genius" that allows me to create a schedule and volunteers can signup for whatever "slots" work out best for them. This is great help in reducing the administrative overhead of scheduling resources for such a long time period.



During the net we utilized a utility called "NetLogger" which is an internet-based logging software that allows the station log and net control status to be passed from one net control to the next. We had some issues with the software closing the net due to inactivity but learned that, in the future, their support team can mark the net as a higher priority to resolve these issues for us ahead of time.

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Thankfully, the majority of the EOC's were able to maintain communication and the HF net wasn't needed. We did, however, relay several calls for welfare checks to the appropriate local county Emergency Operation Centers (EOC's.) We do monitor the communications capability of the EOC's closely and deactivated the HF net as soon as we knew that it was no longer needed.

Thank you to the following volunteers who helped staff the statewide emergency net:

Capt. John-W4KKJ Gene-KB4HAH Gordon-KX4Z Gordon-W2TTT Jim-KF4AC Leland-AA3YB John-KM4WHO Lary-N4TAC Mike-K4CRO Norm-WB4DKU Robert-KM4VKY Sharon-KJ4TPQ Steve-N4GXX Operators from Leon and Bay counties staffed the radio room at the State EOC to allow the communicators at the state to focus on their other duties during the activation. The volunteers at the State EOC monitored the statewide repeater network, SARNET, as well as scanned between the various amateur and SHARES radio frequencies to listen for traffic. I am grateful and appreciate the long hours that the volunteers spent 24 hours a day during the activation to staff the radio room, we could not have done it without you. I've received nothing but positive feedback from our partners at the State EOC, great job! Thanks to Erik-KC4NVU, Leon County ARES Emergency Coordinator, for helping schedule

the volunteers and thank you to these volunteers:

Clay-W4LCR Dave-WA4WES Don-KK4SIH Doug-KN4PFZ Garrett-KO4KKX Phil-KA5USN Stuart-KO4ZGH

Section ARES Report

In August our section reported 1,301 hours of volunteer time to various ARES duties within our section. Thanks to the counties and EC/AEC's for reporting their time. The information provided by our team is consolidated and then forwarded to the ARRL.

| | Number | Person-Hrs |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Exercises this month: | 4 | 6.00 |
| Training events this month: | 31 | 436.00 |
| Public service events this month: | 5 | 30.00 |
| Community service events this month: | 0 | 0.00 |
| Emergency events this month: | 0 | 0.00 |
| SKYWARN events this month: | 2 | 18.00 |
| Meetings this month: | 21 | 344.00 |
| Unclassified events this month: | 78 | 467.00 |

Call signs of DECs/ECs reporting:

W4CPD N5CBP K4SOP N2HAY K84HAH KK4ECR WE4MJ W4KKJ W4UFL W4CJB W4KEF WF3F AI4NF K4BJS WA4MN KN4PFZ K04KUS N4JTK

Our local county ARES teams need you! If you're interested in learning more about ARES in your county, visit the <u>County Emergency Coordinator</u> 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.

Monthly Radiogram Challenge

Due to Hurricane Ian, we will not have a challenge for October. We had very little participation in our September challenge. If this is something you would like to see us continue, please let me know. The challenge was done to help exercise our national traffic system and give operators a chance to practice sending traffic both via voice and Winlink.

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, <u>arrl-nfl.org</u>.

Thank you again to all our teams that prepared and/or activated or offered their assistance during Hurricane Ian. Your dedication and professionalism do not go unseen.



SILVER SPRINGS RADIO CLUB 2022 HAMFEST

Saturday, December 3, 2022

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 1908 EAST FORT KING STREET, OCALA, FL 34471 DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM

Grand prize and door prizes Grand prize tickets separate from door prize tickets. Admission ticket stub good for door prizes only. Both tickets available at the door only! Additional Grand Prize tickets \$5 each. No online sales.

VE Testing One session only at 10:00 AM Bring two forms of ID & FRN + FCC Reference copy, if upgrading Test Fee \$15 cash. Test slots are limited. Pre-register at K4GSO.US

Active military and first responders in uniform and kids under 12 free.

Must buy tickets for Grand Prize. Additional Grand Prize tickets \$5 each.

Ham Food and drinks available for purchase from Scout Troop 439

| \$10 |
|------|
| \$20 |
| \$10 |
| \$10 |
| |

Grand Prize



YAESU FTM-300DR

Commercial Vendors Tower Electronics Signman Of Baton Rouge Hamworld J T Communications Paradan Radio Nitefire Electronics And others

Flea Market & Tailgate Inside flea-market tables in Fellowship Hall

Separate Tailgate area on "first-come first-parked basis." No advance reservations. (Bring your own tables and chairs)

> TALK-IN ON K4GSO VHF 146.610 PL-123

CHECK BACK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SSRC WEBSITE: WWW.K4GSO.US/HAMFEST

SPECIAL NOTE:

By attending the SSRC Hamfest, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. You assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold the Silver Springs Radio Club, First Christian Church, or any of their directors, officers, employees, vendors or volunteers liable for any illness or injury.

A 5V Adaptive Charger/Power Supply and Quick Fusing

James Gordon Beattie, Jr., W2TTT

Recently, I was looking for a simple commercial, off the shelf or "COTS" type of power supply and charger for my benchtops, go -kits, and vehicles. I wanted something that would be easily accessed and without a hub feature. Looking across the Internet, I found the HDS-HDD16-CC to meet my needs and several of them have found their way into my extended ham shack.

This model takes in 12-24VDC and provides a mixture of four Quick Charge 3.0 outputs and two 5VDC 2.4A USB A style ports.





The device comes with a fused round "lighter" plug which remove and replaced with an Anderson PowerPole plug pair. This requires that I use a RigRunner or other fused power source for safety. The factory cord plugs into a vehicle power port. I remove the shell and also the strain relief.





The finished cable with Anderson PowerPole connectors.

This is the guts of the power connector before they were cut off and replaced with Anderson PowerPole connectors.



There is also a clamp bracket that can be screwed or doublesided taped to a convenient location and allows for access. Another approach to fusing are these #10/#12/#14 inline fuses which can be easily equipped with Anderson PowerPole connectors if no RigRunner is avaialble or suitable to your application. You can buy these online in bundles of ten. You just clip the loop, add a ground lead and crimp on some PowerPoles to make a quick protection module. Here is a #14.





Here is a #12



Here's a completed fuse assembly.

To summarize, having 5VDC or QC3.0 USB charging and power on a

bench, go-box or vehicle is essential in a modern ham shack and protecting your gear at the 12VDC source is easily done. Shop around online and you'll find what best suits you!

WB4SA—Hams Needed for October Events

Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ / Trustee

BSA - Central Florida Council - www.RadioScouting.US/cfc

ARRL Southeastern Assistant Division Director - Radio Scouting, <u>www.kn4mdj.com</u> "Bringing Amateur Radio Scouting programs to a half million scouts in AL, GA, FL, PR, USVI"

Our busiest events are here, JOTA is where scouts communicate with each other world-wide on the 3rd weekend of October, sort of a field day for scouts. Our council does JOTA like events every weekend starting Sept 24 so that several thousand scouts can get the same experience. WE NEED MORE HAMS for CFL: mobile rigs, CERT groups, ARES, anyone that would like to dust off their go-boxes and repeat Field day. Our dates are Sept 24, Oct 1st, 8, 15, 22, and finally Oct 29th. Hams in other areas reach out to your local clubs and scout councils to see if they need more help. We will try

to process about 2,000 scouts at each Saturday event, the more hams and equipment, the more youth we can get on the air. If you'd prefer to stay home, please monitor Simplex, local repeaters, 40M & 20M and listen for youth for their first QSO.

Flexible Deployable Camera Unit

J. Gordon "Gordie" Beattie, Jr., W2TTT

This article focuses on how to build a flexible deployable camera unit as one might do in an AREDN Mesh network or in a hardwired setup. The basic layout allows for a nominal 12VDC power source such as a battery, power supply or "wall wart" to power both the camera or whatever network-connected device that you have, along with a network device. Cameras or other devices can be connected to an AREDN Mesh node or a cellular modem via either a standard Anderson PowerPole pigtail, or a passive Power Over Ethernet (POE) connection using the unused pins of the RJ-45 connector.

The key thing is that the two connections (Anderson PowerPole and RJ-45) will have the same voltage on them and that allows power to be fed to or from the PowerPole or the POE connectors.

While the camera does support Wi-Fi, we don't use that due to reliability issues. We either use the camera with a 12VDC POE source in a hardwired deployment, or we can run power up a pole to the camera's Anderson PowerPole connector, and then run the POE connection to an AREDN Mesh node.

Here is the parts list for the overall camera box mount project spearheaded by Dave Henninger N3UXK with input from Gordon Beattie W2TTT.

- 2 2.1 mm x 5.5 mm male pigtails
- 1 Red/Black 30 Amp PowerPole connector
- 2-3 inches of heatshrink tubing
- 1 2.1 mm female POE Injector (sold in pairs with male)
- 1 1/4 inch cable gland
- 1 Ethernet bulkhead connector
- 1 6 inch Ethernet Jumper
- 1 4x4x2 inch Cantex electrical box (Home Depot)
- 4 6-32 3/4 inch bolts and nuts (Stainless recommended)
- 1 Cantex 4x4x2 inch electrical box with cover
- 1 Pan-Tilt Camera

Cantex electrical box in Home Depot cart.



Wiring in box. Idle plug is for camera power input.



Bulkhead connector placement underneath is flexible. Notch is for camera cable egress.





Completed installation with Pan-Tilt camera.

Here are selected parts links:

2.1 mm x 5.5 mm male pigtail https://smile.amazon.com/gp/buy/thankyou/handlers/display.html?

2.1 mm female POE Injector https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B07GCDYCJ2?

Cable Gland https://smile.amazon.com/gp/buy/thankyou/handlers/display.html?

Ethernet bulkhead connector https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B07GCDYCJ2?

6 inch Ethernet Jumper https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B01MZCXGPQ?

Pan-Tilt Camera https://smile.amazon.com/Detection-Waterproof-Surveillance-Boavision-HD22M102M/dp/B08J158TVV?

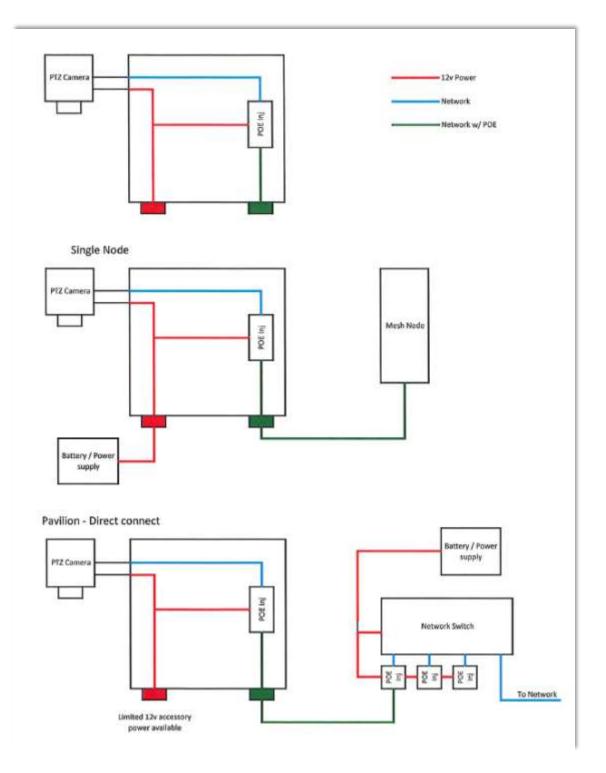
Cantex 4x4x2 inch electrical box with cover https://www.homedepot.com/p/4-in-x-4-in-x-2-in-Junction-Box-R5133705/202043434

Checkout the diagrams on the next page.

The same box design can be used for either of two situations.

Diagrams courtesy of Dave Henninger N3UXK

- Situation 1 Single node Box/Camera is fed with 12v through Powerpole connector Box feeds Attached node with POE via RJ45 port
- Situation 2 Direct connect Box/Camera is fed with 12v POE via RJ45 port Limited accessory power available through the Powerpole connector



Alachua County: Middle School Ham Radio Effort

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z



Bob Lightner W4GJ has been running a very successful ham radio club (K4WTL) at Loften magnet school in Alachua County with amazing results. Take a peek at this impressive video (<u>https://fl02219191.schoolwires.net/</u> <u>cms/lib/FL02219191/Centricity/Domain/6295/Sept.</u> <u>22_2022.mp4</u>) or look at their astounding QSO numbers in various contests as reported in previous issues of this journal! However, not many other efforts have developed in our County.

Cornerstone Academy, the private Christian school where

I part-time teach science in retirement, has an interesting "Flex" time during a long lunch every day, that allows students to sample lots of different activities in a non-graded environment. Last year I leveraged that into teaching some students how to solder and build simple radios. This year, a group of about 4 middle school students signed up for the first month, lots of girls! I started with an overview of ham radio for a couple of weekly sessions, and then I asked open-ended questions about what were their interests.

Their response was totally unexpected: they wanted to learn MORSE CODE. For real! Perplexed, I sought wisdom from professional teachers, and learned that middle schoolers love SECRETS. Power, utility, lots of reasons -- a way to communicate that others couldn't understand.

Morse Code is fun and probably helps add various subconscious linguistic skills to developing brains. Instead of ME forging ahead, I invited Lorilyn Roberts KO4LBS (Extra Class, and a recent Morse code operator) -- and she was intrigued.

They've now been proceeding at least three sessions and it is going well and the participation grew by 50-100%! The kids love getting their HANDS ON KEYS. Lorilyn has emphasized home study using an internet study program -- one student really took to that and excelled; some others not so much. But in their weekly sessions, Lorilyn provides fun little challenges and handouts. At her own expense she bought several pricey commercial code-practice kits. We've also exposed the students to an ancient Heathkit full electronic keyer, and also to a real "bug"! Coordination and timing are more of an issue for some of the students than others -- but this is a chance to hone those perception and motor skills! Despite the impressive cost of those code practice kits, Lorilyn plans to gift some to the more successful students.



Meanwhile, I looked into ways to develop simple kits that the students could assemble a simple series circuit (sneaky Technician teaching, eh?) and using a screwdriver, create a switch with two screws and a flexible strip from a tin-can. It worked better than I expected! Duct-tape protected sharp edges (at least somewhat) and the parts were VERY CHEAP:

- Battery Holder: 12 for \$9 https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B013GNC08C
- DC piezo-oscillator: 10 for \$11 https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07VQ94D4N
- Stainless steel #6 x 3/4 screws (to avoid corrosion) -- pennies at big box store
- 1" x 4" soft pine lumber: About \$1/foot among various quality options; Approx 6-8" needed for each "kit" depending on how you cut the tin can with tin snips.

- Duct tape to protect little fingers from sharp edges. (Tin side of the strip faces the screw connection right underneath it as the contact.) Adjust the "bend" to get the key tension you desire. At 5-10 WPM this isn't critical and a 1/4" gap is fine.
- Wire the series circuit by simply wrapping under the screw heads & tightening; twist the free wires that need to be connected together. Great chance to teach some basic electricity.

Our educational philosophy is that we will teach whatever fits their needs and desires, rather than so strongly pushing "ham radio" (which doesn't really interest most of them yet -- but wait until they have the Morse Code down and suddenly a simple cw transceiver may look mighty enticing!). We'll have several years of access to these middle schoolers if we stimulate their learning. With Lorilyn handling the Morse Code training so well, I was able to branch out and teach a 4-week session on Solar Power which attracted somewhat older boys.

What's Happening in ALACHUA COUNTY

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

The biggest news of September turned out to be our activation and deployment in support of Alachua County with Hurricane Ian. Our local planning for the expected Simulated Emergency Test, headed up by EC Jeff Capehart W4UFL, turned out to be very helpful as a guide for our communications during the real hurricane.

| Mon 9/26 | Tue 9/27 | Wed 9/28 0700-1900L | Wed 9/28 1900- Thu 9/28 0700L | Thu 9/29 0700- 1900L |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Planning meeting at EOC (>>50 persons pre- | Last day of school at most schools in Coun- ty. | We staffed EOC Radio Room from 7:50 AM, late to a 50+-person briefing. | EOC operations ran continu- ously thru the night, with ap- prox 30 persons working con- tinuously. | Little loss of power in city of Gainesville; 20% loss of power in Clay Electric throughout Alachua |
| sent) | Some shelters | Hurricane is moving fast- er than expected and | Preemptive switch to genera- | County. |
| Schools run- ning normally. | began opening despite planning | veering more southerly. | tor power at 1900 (10 seconds darkness) | Shelters working toward demobilization. |
| Guidance on | guidance that wouldn't be until | EOC packed with 50+ for entire day. | Limited no. of cloth cots for | EOC Radios picked up by |
| hurricane pro- jected it en- tering at Ce- | Wednesday | All four shelters open for residents were staffed by | sleeping in dark back hallway. Majority of the rain / wind in | noontime; Mobile Broad- band kit personally deliv- ered back to EOC at 1300. |
| dar Key, Ala- chua County | | badged volunteers by late afternoon, hourly VHF | Alachua County | All Shelters and EOC badged volunteers de- |
| near direct hit. | | net in operation, EOC full activation | Morning Briefing at 0500 | commissioned by 1400 |
| | | EOC Full Briefing 1700 | Demobilization planning com- menced. | |

The Table gives the timeline. Our group was notified of most of the county-level briefings, and was able to attend them in the jam-packed conference room, where 50+ people were at work at desks most of the time. We received two "ovations" for our volunteers.

STAFFING DATA: State requirements for working near vulnerable residents: <u>https://qsl.net/nf4rc/</u>

<u>StateVolunteerRequirements.pdf</u> Currently 37 ARES(R) registered members, 25 badged volunteers (see: https://qsl.net/nf4rc/ Badging.pdf,). However, at least three of that number are full-time employees of the County and have other duties during disasters (leaving 22).

On Sept 14, we held a timely training and sign-off on our County dual-band ham / trunked public service go-box kits. We now have a local Taskbook for badged volunteers, including Level 1 (Shelter-level), Level 2 (EOC assist) and Level 3 (EOC manage-

ment). (See: <u>https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/AlachuaCountyEmergencyVolunteerTaskbook.pdf</u>) Each of these levels requires the associated Florida ARES(R) signoffs. (<u>https://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Florida-ARES-Training-Task-Book-2020-R1.pdf</u>) We currently have at least 3 ARES(R) Level III volunteers, and 1 Alachua County Level 3-qualified, and at least one Alachua County Level 2-qualified volunteer.

DEPLOYMENT DECISIONS: Of our 22 remaining badged volunteers, some are committed to family situations that involve serious chronic diseases or very recent surgeries. And in this case, at the time of decision-making, Alachua County was faced with a likely first-in-modern-history true hurricane-level winds in our County. Thus decisions inside families were *difficult*! Families anticipated significant power outages, and quite possible structure damage if the track were correct. Despite these considerations, EC Jeff Capehart fielded 2 volunteers (County Level 2, 3) at the EOC, and 7 others staffing all four open shelters. (9/25 = **36% of badged volunteers**; 9/37 = **24% of ARES(R) volunteers**). (Yet another volunteer worked for an adjoining county, but we aren't counting their excellent work in our totals.) A volunteer nursing a post-surgical spouse continuously served as VHF NCS when we demurred deployment. Another caring for severe chronic family health problems volunteered for external WINLINK support. Other volunteers attended at times.

I judged this level of deployment commitment as adequate and commendable, and concluded that <u>more effort at</u> <u>spouse support to include response to power, security and</u> <u>other difficulties should be a future priority of our group</u>.

ISSUES: (1) Monday, school facilities reported a failed generator solenoid at a newly constructed school planned as a backup shelter and were obtaining replacement. (2) Wednesday, County shelter manager staff were unable to connect Internet at one hardened school facility. Our EOC ARES(R) staff were tasked with assisting deployment of a a4KSolutions Mobile Broadband Kit utilizing a Cradle Point cell-to-WIFI router. With chain of custody, we had this delivered and setup and working shortly. (3) Our EOC staff were assigned eight newly acquired Iridium satellite phones for initial setup and testing. We worked on this through-



out the deployment and had all eight charged, connected, and individually tested before demobilization.

(4) From our EOC HF station, Alachua County provided a Net Control for the Florida statewide HF Net for a total of 4 hours.

(5) Unexpected, continual failures of Winlink P2P unattended connections into the EOC from our outlying shelters, despite adequate AX.25 signals; something was amiss either in the **newly-commissioned EOC laptop's** operating .NET, or within the mostrecent WINLINK EXPRESS revision. On the fly, we deployed a new WINLINK VHF Gateway NF4RC-2 at the EOC and this solved that problem. Subsequent investigation and extremely helpful input from the WINLINK DEVELOPMENT TEAM proved that we had simply mis-set the DCD setting -- a big learning experience that we will use in a training update immediately!

(6) **Severe RF overloading interactions** in both directions between our unattended AX.25 VHF (145.070) and our local voice net operations (EOC transmitting voice FM on 146.220) due to nearly co-located antennas at 60 feet on the EOC tower. Huge operational issue. We judged that notch 2-meter notch filter cans might solve this problem and will investigate deployment.

(7) Three out of 4 deployed sites unable to use WINLINK data techniques to file ICS forms. Work needed on radio assets and experience levels. Those volunteers generally Level 1, and successful at voice comms.

(8) Our chain of custody documentation (ICS215) was not properly understood by our volunteers and resulted in the custody documentation disappearing temporarily with the unit rather than being retained by the last personnel.



DOCUMENTATION: Formal documentation is highly stressed in our County and all our deployed persons worked at submitting ICS-214 forms for each 12-hour operational period. The County provided a public-facing web site with forms and submission systems.(See illustration.) Those volunteers at shelters with inadequate internet had difficulty submitting these forms, due to radio problems as noted above. We also do not have a way to legally "sign" Winlink forms. An estimate of our deployed hours > 400, and 12.5% match suggests that this one deployment may result in approximately \$48,000 federal funds to the County, significantly offsetting the costs of the goboxes and antennas, already paid for in grants.

DEMOB: As noted in the Table, demobilization planning began at the height of the local weather event, which involved only modest rain and significant winds, but not even tropical storm sustained condi-

tions. All our teams were demobilized by 1300 on Thursday 9/29 to go home and get caught up on sleep!

Continual growth. As noted in another article, we're teaching Morse Code at one local middle school thanks to one of our deployed volunteers, **Lorilyn Roberts KO4LBS**. Although local ham radio testing by the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society in October was pre-empted by Santa Fe College closure for IAN, already one of our August Technician Class participants has obtained their licensure KQ4DMW. We also discovered one of the ESF2 leadership possessed a just-recently expired Technician License, and assisted that individual with the renewal process. During September, we held a Tech Nite on radio-connections for data for WINLINK and other software (https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/WiringToYourRadio.pdf)

Alachua County Diesel Generator - Part One

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

INTRO: The MOTIVATION

At our 2022 Field Day our ARES(R)/NFARC group enjoyed the 10kw Diesel ONAN Generator provided by the MARC UNIT (Region 3). (\$12,300 from this supplier: https:// apelectric.com/cummins-onan-commercial-series-10hdkcc-42345-qd-10kw-diesel-mobile-generator/) We learned how **wonderful** these zero-RFI, diesel-sipping generators are!

Was there any way for our group to have permanent access to a Diesel Generator? Fuel is much less explosive. Fuel usage is typically much less. Fuel keeps much longer in storage (just keep water out). But they are TEN



TIMES more expensive than gas... APElectric sells a 5kw unit for \$10,000. Northern Tool formerly sold a unit for \$5000. Several vendors list an open frame 5kw generator for \$4000+ (https://www.electricgeneratorsdirect.com/ Generac-6864-Portable-Generator/p50700.html) One solution: Enterprising hams in other states have become adept at bidding on auctioned used "light trailers" that include a 6kw diesel generator and have done OK with getting them running. Still it is perhaps \$2-3000+ and a risky move...

THE OPPORTUNITY

I have overhauled *one* auto engine myself (only 1 serious & costly error!) but was quite nervous about going into the *used-light-trailer-repair business*. So over a period of time I became familiar with the Ebay offerings of diesel generators, generally confusing old military units. Then quite by chance, in July, I found a **Pramac ES5500X 5kW** generator with near-zero hours offered for \$2000 within driving distance. This generator was manufactured in Georgia by a reputable company, around the year 2000. Manuals were available. The engine is a well-known **Yanmar 10HP air-cooled one-cylinder diesel engine**, 3600 RPM. A carbon-copy Chinese clone of the diesel engine is available on Amazon in the \$600 range (with variable user reviews), for example: https://www.amazon.com/ Diesel-Cylinder-Cooling-Agricultural-Machinery/dp/B088D4Z491 Generator heads are widely available - the sticking point being choosing the proper coupling if both units have a cylindrical shaft. Some engines and generator heads are now being made with the "Chinese taper" so that the tapered shaft of one unit fits right into the tapered receiving hole in the other. Friction fit. Bolt the two together and you're done. With a variety of large-unit repair options available, and two friends who would pick up the unit, <u>I bought it just from seeing the photos after the owner assured me that the crankshaft was not frozen</u>. \$1900 out the door. As I was in North Caroline, Leland Gallup AA3YB and David Huckstep W4JIR did the driving the the unloading of this 250-pound unit under my pole barn.

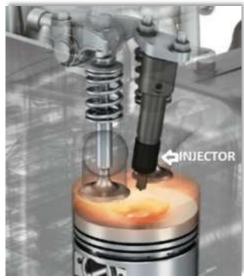
I knew there would be some "issues." That turned out to be an understatement....

THE MONTH-LONG PROCESS

Diesel-compatible oil: No oil in the crankcase. Really did look like it had NEVER BEEN RUN. Diesel engines require oil that will solubilize soot. Deltron is a suitable oil; obtained from an auto parts store.

Compression. GREAT compression. After the compression release first revolution, the full compression is felt on the next turn -- NO WAY I could pull it through.

Starter Motor. *Never even wired.* I connected up a large battery, put diesel in the fuel tank, rigged up two wires to actuate the solenoid, and cranked. It cranked nicely. And cranked. And cranked. A couple of puffs of combustion That was storage oil firing in the cylinder. NO FURTHER combustion evidence....is it getting fuel?



Wiring Error. I discovered these generators had been contracted for the US Navy, used to work on the Cole during repairs after its attack. There was an official government document with a repair to a faulty AC wiring (shorted out two windings!) and other information. Sure enough -- found the same shorted winding error on ours...easily fixed. Manual: https:// qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/cupdf.com_pramac-es5500x-55kw-generator-set-materialst460-ah-omi-010pdf-pramac-es5500x.pdf

Injector: 10mm wrench, two nuts freed, 17mm wrench to free the metal fuel pipe from the high pressure (> 2000 psi) injector pump and I determined **NO fuel was being sprayed**. (CAUTION: never put a hand

near a diesel injector; it will inject deep into flesh and you'll be meeting a surgeon to save your hand.) Triple-square wrench needed to get apart...fuel pipe frozen to the injector; repair companies far away and uncertain price. Key measurement is the protrusion into the cylinder; clone injectors appeared identical. \$25 -ordered! As well as a replacement metal fuel pipe, pre-bent into the exact shape (advantage of clone engine!). **Upon delivery, measurements with calipers revealed the protrusion was identical**. Switched the all-important spacer from the old injector to the new (later brought a new spacer - also turned out to be perfect).



Continued on next page...

Result: Good injection! After learning the importance of BLEEDING AIR OUT OF THE LINES the hard way.....the engine STARTED, and died, and REVIVED, *wash, rinse repeat without end*. No steady running. Is the Governor bad?

Governor: A week spent studying the external controls of the governor in the extensive Yanmar workshop manual easily downloaded. Governor appears flawless. Not the problem.

ASK FOR HELP: I put the word out to our local group....

That's when Wendell Wright KN4TWS typed a one-word response: "Timing?"

<u>The one part of the manual I had avoided</u>. TIMING in this diesel generator is a **mechanical** affair, anathema to an electrical engineer like me. A lobe on a **camshaft** strikes a **tappet**, which conducts the impulse to the spring-loaded high pressure pump. Timing is set by adding or subtracting precision thicknesses of precisely stamped **copper shims** underneath the mounting bolts of the high pressure pump.....

Injector Pump: Despite having a low-pressure oil sensor (unwired) the generator's fuel pump had NO SOLENOID to allow it to cut off the fuel in the event of low oil pressure. \$25 got me a replacement (clone) fuel pump and new tappet with a SOLENOID.

Off came the recoil starter, and housing, and I found the all important timing stamps on the flywheel/forced air fan. A bit of plastic insulation made a "straw" in the fuel pump outlet so I could try to observe the onset of fuel delivery (which continues for several degrees of rotation). It was WAY WAY too early. (4 degrees is a lot in diesel engines). I needed to delay another 12 degrees or so.





TIMING: Shims are available from several suppliers; the Ebay supplier had most understanding ordering mechanism. Multiple 0.1mm, 0.2mm and 0.3mm shims ordered; each 0.1 mm gives approx 1 degree of delay. The tappets were also different -- the older tappet gave more delay. When the shims arrived, I assembled my setup, got the solenoid open, made tedious measurements for multiple tries and over an hour and finally settled that I was "close" to the proper timing.

The Big Moment: Reassembled everything, bled everything (for the UMPTEENTH TIME). Powered, the solenoid, hit the two wires together -- <u>and it started and ran perfectly</u>! 117 VAC output! No

need to "flash" the core at all.

Heaviest load I had available was a circular saw with a huge startup current -- not a problem at ALL for this beast! No notable change in RPMs at all! Voltage dropped 2VAC, rose 4 VAC and steady at 119VAC.

Hooray! Alachua County ARES(R) has a diesel generator! At 50 cents on the dollar. And hours and hours of learning.

Part II: creating a control system, final adjustments.

HamCation Needs You!!

Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman

The largest hamfest in the southeast US, 2nd largest in the world needs your help! HamCation is managed and operated by volunteers. Without volunteers, HamCation would not be able to happen each year. It takes hundreds of volunteers each year to help run HamCation and 2023 is no exception.

We need volunteers to help with our Security, Onsite

HamCation

Ticket Sales, Special Event Station, SWAP Table area, Tailgate area, Forums, Hospitality, IT, and even driving our Golf Cart Shuttles. These just to name a few of the areas.

By volunteering for four hours in one day, we will provide you with an admission ticket that is good for all three days of the show. By volunteering at least 8 hours in one day, we will also provide you a meal ticket for lunch or dinner in our Volunteer Lounge.

We don't just need volunteers on the show days, we have opportunities to volunteer as early as the Monday before the show starts. You could even volunteer before the show starts, earn your ticket, and spend the next 3 days at the show.

For more information to include a description of each volunteer position needed and its duties and to sign up go to: <u>www.hamcation.com/hamcation-volunteer</u> Be sure to read the directions as each volunteer needs to submit the form and we asked that only one area is selected each day. If you want to volunteer in more than one area in a day, please submit a form for each position. You will then be contacted by the Chairman of the area you volunteer for to create a schedule based on your availability and our needs.



Loften High School ARC trains 15 New Freshmen

Bob Lightner, W4GJ

K4WTL, the Loften High School Amateur Radio Club, continues to train its new 15 freshmen operators. Our Art Academy will be lettering our new ECOMM trailer. We are preparing for our large annual National Fire Prevention Week on-the-air special event, October 10-14. Our call will be **N4F**, one of twelve special events stations in the U.S. and Canada. The students will make as many contacts as possible, passing along important fire safety tips (most of our students are in the Fire/EMS Academy). For more information about this event, see: <u>hamfire.com</u>

Here are some photos of our new freshmen operators.



FORTY YEARS ON THE NTS

Andy Gausz, KG4QCD

Net Control Operators for the Seminole VHF Traffic Net celebrate the net's 40th birthday at the September LMARS meeting. Pictured from left to right, Zak K2ZAK (will call his first net this month), Frank KD4EZW, Andy KG4QCD, Sharon KE2SMH, Dave AA4XZ (Liaison Station), Dennis KI4KNC, and Harry KJ4VQO. Not pictured is J.C. NT4K, Bart AI4NF, and net manager Rich WR4RW.

The SVTN meets every night at 7:15PM on the 147.285 (107.2) repeater, except on the first Monday of the month when it meets on Simplex 147.555 MHz. The net does not meet on the first Thursday



of the month (LMARS meeting night) except under emergency conditions.

The net offers the perfect opportunity for new Hams to gain confidence and learn net procedures, as well as practice relaying ARRL Radiograms. On average about 25 Hams check in to the net each night.

The net began meeting in September of 1982, first called by Bill "Wimpy" Wimberly KB4LB, and has been meeting nightly ever since.

Many Hams check in to the net on a regular basis. To mention a few: W4P4 Miguel, K5NO Marc, KA4AYR Phil, N4BLD Bob, W2BZY Bob, KO4CBB Anthony, W4CI Dave, N4DAL Daniel, WB4FSF Bonnie, N4GRR Sher, N4TZN Ken, AJ4HP Olon, KJ4HTC David, KM4IMF Bob, K1JMW Keith, KO4JTA Ray, KM4JZQ Mark, N3LOL AI, WQ8P Nathaniel, KO4PHQ Ray, KE4TJV Robert, WB4ULT Rick, KK4VRP Tony, KK4WML Victor, N0XCO Richard, KO4ZWF Robb, KO4VEJ Diana, and never least but always last, KM4RLD Don.

Check in and enjoy the fun.



Walton & Okaloosa Counties!

DJ Stewart, KI4ZER, Assistant Section Manager, NFL (<u>Newly Appointed</u>) President, Playground ARC President, Walton County ARC Vice President, North Okaloosa ARC

Hi Folks and Happy **#HAMTOBER**! Yes, that's a Hashtag and we encourage you to use it on all platforms when posting things this month! We will be looking for it as a tool to increase the interest in Amateur Radio and showcase our capabilities while fostering new relationships that will benefit clubs and organizations all over! So, use it when you post, email or text! Bring people in or back and inspire membership to follow suit!

Let's review September, shall we?! What another exciting month! We begin with looking at the <u>Playground ARC</u> in Fort Walton Beach Florida and their Tech Night! On that night Ted KO4NKL led a discussion about Ham Radio Etiquette. Covered were the dos and don'ts of TX'ing on repeaters and DX! This was a great open discussion! He covered many aspects of respectful QSO engagement, frequency use, repeater access, contesting and more! As Ted is a newer Ham, this was great inspiration and demonstration of his willingness to learn the ropes of the hobby and even refresh others of procedure that may need to be brushed up on.

Moving to the next event we travel with our friends at the Walton County ARC in De'FUN'iak Springs for a monthly Breakfast the Saturday preceding their monthly 1st Tuesday of the month Business Meeting! So many in attendance, great food, discussion about events, meetings and gatherings for the upcoming month occur but also this breakfast allows for times to meet and greet other Hams who may not be able to make meetings and catch them up on the things happing in the Northwest Florida Panhandle and more! This is a great event and an open invite to all is welcome! For more information see the <u>calendar at</u> <u>WF4X.Wordpress.Com</u>. Of note, they announced a POT Activation at Eden Garden State Park on Oct 8, 2022, and a Winter Tailgate dubbed "Don't freeze Your 'Ham' Off January 14th, 2022!



But wait! There is more Saturday fun at the <u>Chipola ARC</u> for a Tailgate on Labor Day weekend! We got to meet many people that we have only interacted on the nets with and participate in a wonderfully put together event! Familiar faces of new friends and old were also in attendance and catching up was the thing to do while perusing the items offered for sale and exchange! Keep this club on your radar as they are doing great things and have a well laid out station to boot!



Where to next but a Pile Up with the <u>Playground ARC</u>! Each Sunday they meet, work on projects and DX the world over! Contacts have been made and logged for the Worked All Europe DX Contest! Station and Clubhouse cleaning and organization and planning for more improvements and events are worked on as well as personal projects and equipment troubleshooting, demonstrations and training and even education with study sessions for license upgrades! If you are looking for a place to study with a team of people for free on a Sunday for an hour, this is your place and all you must do is show up and ask!

Later that week we head to Crestview for the North Okaloosa ARC! During this Business Meeting they finalized their <u>Annual</u> <u>Hamfest</u> planning and are excited to give you three major national vendors and many local and regional vendors to satisfy your Ham Radio wish lists. The Team at NOARC and their Activities Director Joe, KN4UDS, also announced the details and dates with the City of Crestview's Main Street Association and the Live Oak Baptist Church's support requests for Ham Operators to assist with parades, events, street fairs and more! Tis' the fall season and here in Florida when the weather cools enough for us to be outside we take full advantage! For more information on how to interact and volunteer with the team get a hold of Joe, <u>KN4DS@Gmail.com</u> the Activities Director for More!

That Saturday and Sunday takes us back to the <u>Playground ARC</u> in Fort Walton Beach! Saturday for a scheduled test session and Sunday for yet another Pile-Up! This club sure stays on its feet and there s so much more to come with them! Something is always going on at the Playground! Be sure to check out their calendar on their Nets Page of the website for dates of things to come and come feel the energy!

Following later that week with the team at PARC, they had their Business Meeting! That night they discussed purchases of the new Club Shirts and the upcoming <u>'Boondocks Swampfest'</u>! They have free spaces available for you to you come out and sell swap, trade and barter your gear! All are welcome and there will be food service and a raffle! This is going to be a great event in November on the 19th starting at 0800 so come on out to Beautiful Downtown Fort Walton Beach and enjoy the day with the Playground amateur Radio Club!

Moving into the weekend <u>Okaloosa County ARES</u> holds a meeting showcasing more Winlink training taught by Robert, KM4VKY! Winlink is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses amateur-band radio frequencies and government frequencies to provide radio interconnection services that include email with attachments, position reporting, weather bulletins, emergency and relief communications, and message relay. The system is built and administered by volunteers and is financially supported by the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation. Demonstration followed in the Okaloosa ARES EOC Hamshack following the informative instruction and showed even seasoned operators a thing or two with its capabilities!

More <u>Playground ARC</u> fun followed on Sunday for more Pile-Up action! South America became the hot place to reach on this Sunday and many countries that are in the ITU were contacted and logged! We even trained new operators on Control Station Procedures and taught two 7-year-old children how to 'CQ DX''!

Tuesday! We are back to De'FUN'iak! This time at the EOC with the <u>Walton County ARES</u> Team! More improvement on the go kits as field testing and capabilities have been explored! Not just do these kits have the ability for HF, they also have the ability for VHF, Winlink, DRATS and more! The lead on this team is John, W4CJB and each month he continues to serve the community and the team while advancing the capabilities Walton County must serve and assist when called upon! Follow the link for the Walton County ARES for more and see what this positive team does to watch over the area!



K4NDJ, W4CJB, KD7KE, KJ4JAH, WD9GIU and a weird ghostly figure blur of KQ4AKQ

Two days later we arrive in Crestview once again with team NOARC! This time for <u>Tech Night</u>! Guess what they talked about! If you said more Winlink you are right! Robert, KM4VKY came back to Okaloosa County with more information on what he had presented at the Okaloosa County ARES meeting and shared his training and education plan with members that were not able to come to the ARES training event! Demonstrations were held in person and online via Zoom allowing many more to experience this very well laid out training of Winlink! Q & A was held following the event and deeper discussion was held to answer questions from entry level to complex theory to understand sound cards (internal vs. external) and what



radios offered complete capabilities and the pros and cons of each!



KO4YNF, His XYL and two children Dx'ing Chile'!

Some of Team NOARC with KM4VKY (Virtually)

Entering the last week of the month we start off at the <u>Playground ARC</u> for another Pile Up! Remember the line about the two 7-year-old children being shown how to 'CQ DX'?! well guess what, they were both so excited to show back up on this Sunday they came running into the clubhouse and telling station control that they had been practicing calling 'CQ DX' all weeks! So, in due fashion, station control at W4ZBB put them on the air! Eyes lit up, fingers of the PTT, voices excited they began to transmit! The rest as you know was sheer excitement as they made their first QSO of the day! Staring off in Chile', South America! These two were so excited following the QSO they jumped for joy and celebrated with high five-nine's (hi-hi)! Let inspiration be your guide and encourage those that are curious. Show them the ropes and this hobby will thrive!

All throughout the <u>Northwest Florida Panhandle</u> the energy is evident! While each club has its own focus and drive, the people that put forth the energy to constantly develop, train, educate, showcase and aide others for the benefit of Amateur Radio is second to none! All these teams are focused on goals and work together to make it a great hobby and support each other in many ways! We say a thank you to all participating in the area who inspire everyone each day and keep up the great work!



If you are looking for coverage of your event or meeting submit to the <u>QST-NFL</u>!

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: <u>sumterVE@gmail.com</u>

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 <u>n4ng@icloud.com</u> 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 <u>miltonarc.org</u>
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 <u>srcares.org</u>

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, <u>w2bzy@cfl.rr.com</u>

Silver Springs Radio Club, Ocala FL (SSRC)

Go to <u>http://k4gso.us/class/</u> to signup for classes
Go to <u>http://k4gso.us/test-signup/</u> for testing. Testing is held on the 2nd Tuesday of odd months at 7 PM.
Note <u>http://k4gso.us/ncvec605/</u> 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

Last Saturday of the month
Suwannee Regional Library
Contact Gerald Guy, <u>geraldlguy@gmai</u>l.com

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. <u>https://k4tlh.net/fag/license-testing/</u>

West Volusia Amateur Radio Society

•Second Saturday of each odd numbered month •9:00 AM

•Elks Lodge, 614 S. Alabama Avenue, Deland, FL •Info: <u>https://westvars.org/testing</u>

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

Remember: Bring photo ID, CSESs, 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 <u>www.arrl-nfl.org</u>. Webmaster Kari 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

> Kevin Bess, KK4BFN Helen Straughn, WC4FSU DJ Stewart, KI4ZER Joe Bassett, W1WCN

Section Emergency Coordinator – Arc Thames W4CPD

Section Public Information Coordinator — Jim Bledsoe, KI4KEA

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 <u>arrlnfl.org</u> 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

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