



QST NFL

Newsletter for the Northern Florida Section

Come join the FUN!

Volume 9 Issue 12

www.arrl-nfl.org

From the Shack of the Section Manager

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR (kk4ecr@gmail.com)

I hope that everyone had a great and safe Thanksgiving. We truly have so much to be thankful for.

The HEROES of Hurricane Ian

We have some amazing Amateur Radio operators in the Northern Florida Section. It is an honor to activate during emergencies with you and serve our communities.

Here are two amazing stories about how our Amateur Radio operators played a crucial part in saving lives during Hurricane Ian.

Story 1: Taken from Fox News -- <https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/hurricane-ian-hero-maryland-firefighter-ham-radio-send-rescuers-sanibel-island>

A Maryland Firefighter used the Florida State Emergency Net to relay information about several people who were stranded on Sanibel Island.

The Florida emergency net took all the information, said Klonin, and they in turn "brought up another station who took all the information, too," he added.

He continued, "Florida State Emergency Operation Center called back and asked for more information" — and Klonin was soon emailing all the needed information over to them.

"Before I was even done talking on the radio, the authorities knew exactly where they were," he said.

Amateur Radio operators, including our Section Emergency Coordinator, Arc Thames relayed that information over SAR Net to help direct rescuers to those who were stranded.

Please click the link above to read the entire story.



Scott Roberts, KK4ECR

kk4ecr@gmail.com

904-759-7812 — Cell

904-602-9576 — Direct to Shack

5481 — Hamshack Hotline



Story 2:

At 2309 hours on 28 September 22, Hayden Kaufman (N2HAY), supporting the Dunnellon Emergency Operations Center, monitored an emergency request for assistance. The request was initiated by a relative of a 65 y/o female trapped on the roof of her home in Ft. Meyers. He had been unable to contact Lee County 911, and stated all emergency contact telephone resources, including 911, were offline and unreachable to get help for his grandmother.

Continued on next page...

What's Inside

[Section Emergency Coordinator](#)

[Santa Rosa County](#)

[Strengthening Young Minds: Lorilyn Roberts KO4LBS](#)

[Suwannee Celebrates!](#)

[Central Florida Radio Scouting](#)

[Alachua County](#)

[Surprise, Surprise: CW Sweeps 2022](#)

[Extending 80/75m Coverage of an EFHW 80-10m Dipole](#)

[Walton & Okaloosa Counties](#)

[DHS AUXCOMM Training Course](#)

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, n4gl.marty@gmail.com

All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication.

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Newsletter, *QST NFL*

Marty Brown, N4GL

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 contributors 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.

Looking for Something?

Gordon Gibby, KX4Z, has taken the time to index the articles from all the 2021 issues of *QST NFL*!

<https://arrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021QSTNFLIndex.pdf>

Hayden documented the emergency call and then relayed the report to Marion County EOC Operator Pat Davis (KQ4BRW) at 2320 hours. The message was documented on an ICS-213 General Message form and provided to Rob Morris (Marion County Sheriff's Office EM Coordinator) at 2330 hours. The coordinator telephoned Hayden to confirm the information he had received. After completing the call, Hayden contacted the local area Ham to relay that help was being organized. Initial attempts to contact Lee County were not successful so a request was made to the South Tampa EM for a SAR team to respond. Because of the dangerous conditions and long distance, ETA was estimated to be at least one to two hours.

A few minutes later, MCSO Emergency Management Director Preston Bowlin informed Pat that Marion County had sent information via Teletype to Lee County, who was able to respond much faster due to their location. That information was then relayed by Pat to Hayden, who shared with the relative that help was on the way. MCSO EOC was informed later that morning that the rescue of the 65 y/o female was successful, and she was recovering from the ordeal.

It is awesome to hear stories like this and know that the Northern Florida Section played a major role in both situations.

In November, I had the honor of participating in both of these meetings:

2 – Orlando Amateur Radio Club

I had a great time meeting the members of OARC. They had a great crowd and great program. I had the privilege of honoring Michael Cauley, W4ORL, for all of his hard work in coordinating Orlando Hamcation.

15 – Silver Springs Radio Club

I attended this meeting by Zoom and was able to give an update on the NFL Section and answer some great questions. At this meeting, we honored Hayden Hauffman, N2HAY, and Pat Davis, KQ4BRW, for their amazing efforts in Hurricane Ian.

If you have an upcoming meeting at which you would like me to speak, please let me know. I will do my best to attend in person or by Zoom for as many as I can. If I cannot make it, I will try to get one of the Assistant Section Managers or our Section Emergency Coordinator to attend.

Orlando Hamcation will be here before you know it. I hope you plan to attend and make time for our Annual ARRL Florida Sections Meeting. We will hold this meeting on Saturday (The time has not yet been set). We have a great agenda planned and are looking to have a couple of great special guests to speak for us. We will also get updates from each of the Florida Sections.

Thank you for allowing me to be YOUR Section Manager.

HamCation Needs You!!

Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman

For more information, to include a description of each volunteer position needed and its duties, and to sign up, go to:

www.hamcation.com/hamcation-volunteer

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.



From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Arc Thames, W4CPD



Just when we thought we'd make it through the rest of the year without another hurricane, Nicole says hello. Once again, from the moment we knew Nicole would impact Florida, I was involved with calls with the communications team at the State EOC as the Amateur Radio Liaison. Our partnership with the AUXCOMM community worked well once again and many of our team sprung into action, whether activated by their local counties or supporting activities at the State level. I can't say enough about the level of professionalism you all have exhibited this year. We have a great team of people across this state that are ready, willing, and able to assist in a disaster.

As we close out this hurricane season and move into next, I want to continue to develop our net control resources and identify a group of net control stations in each of the Florida Disaster regions so that we can better identify who can communicate with the impacted areas. While each of these activations have impacted various ARRL sections within Florida, we have treated it as a statewide response, and I envision this continuing into the future.

I also had the opportunity to volunteer to work in the radio room at the State EOC to close out the activation for Hurricane Nicole. This was a great opportunity for me to be able to interface with the team at the State EOC and discuss what's gone well and what we can improve on in the future. I appreciate the great working relationship we have with our partners on the State communication team.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to all those that volunteered either as net control stations or to assist in the State radio room during this activation.

Net Control Stations

Ed-KI4YTV
 Gene-KB4HAH
 John-KM4WHO
 Larry-N4TAC
 Mike-K4CRO
 Norm-WB4DKU
 Steve-N4GXX

State EOC Volunteers

Arc-W4CPD
 Don-KK4SIH
 Doug-KN4PFZ
 Garrett-KO4KKX
 Phil "Chief"-KA5USN

Section ARES Report

In October our section reported 1,859 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:	3	36.00
Training events this month:	14	93.00
Public service events this month:	8	163.00
Community service events this month:	6	327.00
Emergency events this month:	3	47.00
SKYWARN events this month:	0	0.00
Meetings this month:	21	903.00
Unclassified events this month:	124	290.00

Call signs of DECs/ECs Reporting:

W4CPD W4KEF W4UFL KK4ECR
 N5CBP K4SOP N2HAY WE4MJ
 K4BJS AI4NF W4KKJ N4JTK K4DFG
 KB4HAH WA4MN W4CJB KN4PFZ
 KM4BTW KO4KUS

As we head into the holidays, I encourage you to utilize the National Traffic System to send a greeting to your friends, family, or even me. The holidays are a fantastic time to utilize the NTS to send a Radiogram (or two or three) for practice. If you're unsure of how to do this, you can find all the instructions on my previous "[Monthly Challenge](#)" page on the section website.

From my wife, Josie-WD4DCL, and I, we wish you and your family a truly wonderful Christmas and holiday season!

What's happening? Santa Rosa County Edition

Arc Thames, W4CPD

At our November meeting, James-K9JHR spoke to the team about the importance of testing your emergency gear. James also discussed how using [POTA](#) (Parks on the Air) is a great way to setup and test your "go kit" radios, antennas, and batteries. It can also be a great way to quickly identify what equipment you might be missing in your go kit while not in the middle of an emergency activation. Numerous state and national parks in our area are available to "activate" and many "hunters" that are interested in finding you on the air.

For those in Santa Rosa County, please don't miss this very important update meeting on Saturday December 10 at 9:00AM. We've got some exciting news and plans to share so you won't want to miss this meeting. Our special guest for this meeting is Tim Trowbridge, Logistics Chief for Santa Rosa County Emergency Management. As always, a free breakfast will be provided before the meeting. License testing will be available immediately following the meeting for \$10. Please bring your FCC FRN #, your photo ID, and a copy of your existing license if upgrading.

From all of us at Santa Rosa County ARES, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



James-K9JHR speaking to the team about POTA



TVARC Holds General Class Course

Brad Castelli, KN9B



The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) is holding a free in person General license course. Class will meet once a week for seven weeks followed by an ARRL/VE License Exam on Monday February 27th. The course is free and open to the public. Amateur General Licensing Course on Monday evenings, Jan. 9 - Feb. 27, 2023 in The Villages, Florida. More class details and study resources are listed on the club website; www.K4VRC.com ("Interested in becoming a ham" tab). You are encouraged to get your friends to sign-up too, so you can study together.

Info: kn9b@arrl.net

Thanks & Happy Holidays to all QST NFL Supporters!

From Marty, N4GL Editor

Strengthening Young Minds: Lorilyn Roberts KO4LBS

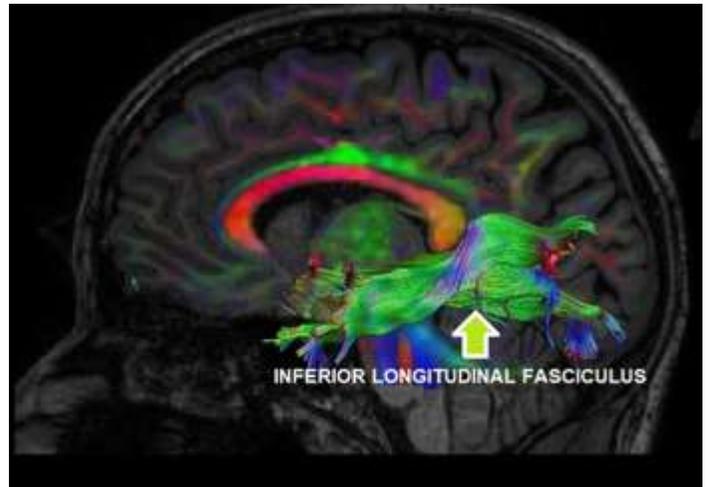
Gordon Gibby MD KX4Z

Bob Lightner W4GJ has a well-deserved reputation for the *great* work he has done in shepherding a ham radio station at the Alachua County Loften magnet public school, devoted to students pursuing public safety/EMT type careers. I never cease to be amazed at the exploits of his students in contest after contest, and readers of the NFL QST Newsletter have gotten to hear of some of their great work with young men and women. (E.g. p 18: <https://arrrl-nfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/00-QST-NFL-October-2022.pdf>) Bob tells me that some of his students can copy upwards of 30wpm CW!

At the beginning of that trail is where **Lorilyn Roberts KO4LBS** mentors. She's building a Morse Code educational opportunity with a small group of middle schoolers at Cornerstone Academy, a small private religious school also in Gainesville. She's marking a path that can be helpful to others seeking ways to benefit school kids.

That's where I think the priority should be -- *benefit the kids!* Not necessarily getting a license because children at these ages may need to sample lots of different hobbies and skills to develop their best talents.

It turns out that Morse Code has a special fascination both for middle schoolers and scientists! Linguistic researchers strive to find evidence of structural brain development from learning new languages. But they have been frustrated in observing proof of brain development because language (a very important skill!) develops over so many years, even when older students are studying a 2nd language. Researchers in Germany and other European nations turned to Morse Code, which can be learned more rapidly, to allow magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of living students to study development of brain internal interconnections between different parts of the brain that are important in making new recognition of sounds or words. These intercommunication tracts stain differently in pathology specimens and thus are known as "white matter." (<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00383/full>)



They studied the development of a special tract -- the left inferior longitudinal fasciculus -- that makes a long distance connection between the frontal and rear portions of the brain. Not only did they find that a short course of Morse Code study developed this tract compared to the right copy in the same student, but they found that students who gained the most proficiency at Morse Code had the most marked changes and development of this tract! (Similar brain studies have also shown proof of brain development for students doing short courses of mathematics.)



So you could quite literally say that Lorilyn & Bob are "**molders of young minds!**" Because the scientists have proven that what they teach literally makes new connections in student brains! This fits in well with the common observation that everything you learn, makes it easier to learn even more, later on.

Why the student fascination with Morse Code? Veteran teacher/counselor Jeanna Feliciano at Cornerstone explained to me that students of this age are hungry for anything "secret." Morse code, especially for girls, gives them a "secret" -- something that sets them apart. For boys, she believes the utility (the ability to share information in a way that adults can't intercept successfully) may be more of a driving force. But whatever the motivation, Lorilyn has been able to bring along a modest number of students to some significant capabilities. She invested in some straight key/oscillator stations, and provided interesting little challenges for learning and using new letters, once

Continued on next page...

each week in a lunch-time session made available by Cornerstone Academy. Efforts to get the students to take advantage of excellent internet resources for home-study were less successful except in exceptional students -- it was the camaraderie of having students work at it together, during her sessions, that was most successful.

Short, "quarter-long" growth sessions like this may be a technique for amateur radio volunteers to make significant enhancements to student education. While the students may not yet be interested in the whole gamut of radio, small bits of technology such as Morse code, or simple circuits may be exciting and hold their interest.



Suwannee ARC Celebrates!

Steve Kostro, N2CEI, President

The Suwannee ARC has been busy with a few activities the past couple of months. We celebrated 9 years in our Clubhouse at our Oct 4th meeting. The box of cupcakes was passed around while we conducted our normal Club business. We also celebrated our Multi-Two class win in the International Digital contest. Our results produced a new class record that we are sure will be broken in next year's event. Have a look at the complete results at:

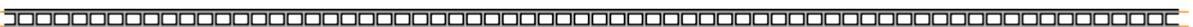
https://ww-digi.com/results/2022-ww-digi_results-article.pdf

The club spent the remaining weekends in the month sorting, prepping, and repairing equipment and antennas for sale from the various Estate sales we are handling. At our Nov, 1st meeting, we organized the work party to remove towers, antenna and remaining equipment from the KB4BW estate. We got lucky and had a cool and cloudy day with no rain and completed the job on Saturday the 5th. What is sad to say is that even though the crew has become quite proficient, it is in removing ham stations and not assembling them. We hope that it will be a long time before we need to do a removal again! Pictured Left to Right is newest member K1UHF, then KE4PWE, KO4VFA, KD4AMP and N2CEI. (Picture by KM4RLK, Rose, XYL of KB4BW)



The Club will have its Holiday Party on Dec. 6th, It will be a all day event starting at 12 noon with the club station being active on the air with all modes through the early evening surrounding dinner, desert, and festivities! No work parties are scheduled for the month of Dec. but club members will be active in the ARRL160M, ARRL 10M and the Stew Perry Contests before we shut it all down for the actual holidays before our Jan 2nd meeting. January is station maintenance month for the club and we have some work to do!

So, all the best of the coming Holidays from the Suwannee ARC to everyone and catch you all on the air somewhere on some mode from the Clubhouse! See our Website at suwanneearc.org and if you are in the local area, consider becoming a member!



Central Florida Radio Scouting

Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ / Trustee for wB4SA

ARRL Southeastern Assistant Division Director - Radio Scouting, www.kn4mdj.com

For our Central Florida JOTA-like events during the month, we had just under 6,000 scouts learn about radio tech, SOS, and morse code. One weekend was canceled, and another was reduced after hurricane Ian. On JOTA event day, we had 1,853 participants.

Thank you to FL Emergency Management for their work during hurricane Ian. As many know, our JOTA's events state-wide were reduced in manpower and equipment as it was all diverted to the disaster area. Here is a video of their work... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e46WrZqD5U4> Great Job!

Photos: <https://www.facebook.com/RadioScoutingUS/posts/pfbid02gtZRNsjmGLiBeStBccaWu1uw8PtmF9T597ND1kG79vokDxzwDXfyw1Dub1bB6Rz9I>

"Bringing Amateur Radio Scouting programs to a half million scouts in AL, GA, FL, PR, USVI"



What's Happening in Alachua County!

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

It has been a busy November for our volunteer group!

Technical Training: We held Part 1 of our AX.25/VARA Tech-Nite talks, and had a good crowd (a dozen or so) learning the difference between the FSK of AX.25 and the OFDM of VARA, along with a lot of history and comparisons/contrasts at the "physical" level of the ISO model. Next month we move up to the Data Link level etc. **With the recent developments in VARA to add AX.25 unconnected-type packets, this is getting far more interesting!** Slides: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2022/AX25Part1.pdf>

Hurricane Nicole: We had ten volunteers to fill six slots in requested staffing for shelters and EOC. Our leadership team assigned volunteers, arranged equipment delivery, produced an ICS-205A (as a substitute for an ICS-204) and a slightly-delayed ICS-205. We were, for the first time, exercising our draft new Communications Plan (<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/AlachuaCountyCommsPlan2022.pdf>), which guides multiple redundant forms of notification, but has certain security limitations designed to protect homes of volunteers who may be serving. And we used the county **Everbridge** system



Figure 2: Susan KG4VWI, Eric KO4ZSD, Rosemary KI4QBZ work on an interconnection issue.

that we would never have known about from other shelters. The group went for 2 hours and the minutes/notes were 11 pages of details.

LabNlunch - Our Lab and Lunch fell just a couple days after the Hurricane, and since we had minimal damage in Alachua County, we went ahead with that, also! It was a grab-bag of fixing computers, cables, systems, whatever needed work amongst our volunteers. The house was packed with teams working on various items! Some judged it one of most successful solder-sessions ever!

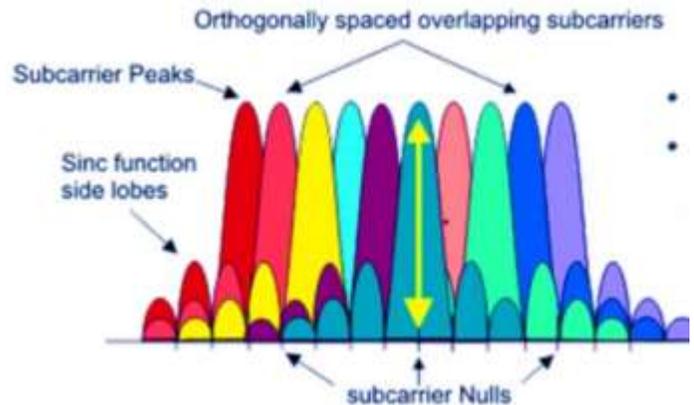


Figure 1: VARA multiple carriers. Credit: <https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/2017/09/03/vara-hf-modem/>

extensively as part of the notification and volunteer management process.

Monthly Meeting: Our monthly meeting fell 2 hours AFTER our deployment and the wind/rain situation wasn't very far out of the ordinary at the time of deployment -- so we went ahead with the meeting by ZOOM to shelters/volunteers and with a physical meeting component also....and had one of our better turnouts! (17) The key item to be handled was amendments and approval to the Communications Plan that we were busily employing at that very time -- so people had a solid idea of how well or poorly things were going! The Comms Plan got a few amendments and then a unanimous approval.

Fixing Things: We were already hard at work fixing items from our draft Improvement Plan for Hurricane Ian, but after Nicole we held a proper Hotwash -- and got amazing details of little things that needed fixing

Continued on next page...

LabNLunch - Our Lab and Lunch fell just a couple days after the Hurricane, and since we had minimal damage in Alachua County, we went ahead with that, also! It was a grab-bag of fixing computers, cables, systems, *whatever needed work* amongst our volunteers. The house was packed with teams working on various items! Some judged it one of most successful solder-sessions ever! We even had HF stations using a "light bulb" combination dummyload-antenna to test some of their data systems. And several older TNC's for AX.25 that had been donated by Bob Lightner W4GJ were given away as well!

VARA FM -- Vann Chesney AC4QS lit a fire under both the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society and our group to develop capabilities with this incredibly high speed VHF data system. Our need to move ICS-214's spurred the interest, and when we saw the fascinating "ping" and "auto-tune" capabilities, we were hooked. A couple of RMS's have resulted, and Jon Simonds KC4NWK has managed to put up a great digipeater already and we have been offered space at 550 feet by Jim Carr KC4MHH on a circulator-isolated antenna. So our radio assets in VARA (see first map on <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/VHFPacketInterconnections.html>) have grown rather amazingly and now rival our AX.25 radio assets! (See second map and table, on that same page.) We're just having fun!



Figure 3: Susan KG4VWI, Stewart KK4DXF, John W4NCK, David Huckstep Eric KO4ZSD and Amy WA4AMY hard at work on go boxes

Friendly Fire Interference -- During the hurricanes, we had interference between our various VHF radios (data versus voice) at our EOC because their various antennas are quite near each other on the EOC tower. A possible solution involving duplexer cans to isolate the systems was proposed and tested, with near complete elimination of the interference. David Huckstep W4JIR is busy bolting to the wall for safety and making coax cables to fit. Another item to cross off our Improvement Plan!

Field Day -- our EOC contact is already talking to us about the 2023 Field Day. They want us to try out one of their "contingency" continuity-of-operations locations, at a local county park. So we may have a much easier time this year getting our Field Day arrangements set up. The 2022 results just came out -- Brad Swartz N5CBP and the Columbia county club walloped us, but we're hoping to get back into the running in 2023! We did SO much better this year than last, and we learned a bunch from our goof-ups. We Keep Having Fun!



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.

Grand Prize
 YAESU FT-1000R

ON THE AIR
PARC
 Ft. Walton Beach Amateur Radio Club Presents
THE 53RD ANNUAL HAMFEST

March 17 - 18 2023
 Friday 4pm - 7pm
 Saturday 8am - 2pm, no early birds

Northwest Florida Fairgrounds
 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd.
 Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Admission: \$7
 Tables: \$15
 Tallying encouraged: \$10 per spot
 RV Parking: \$30 per night, 30A, Water, Sewer Included
 Contact: Hamfest@W4ZBB.Org
 (850) 339-9486

www.W4ZBB.Org

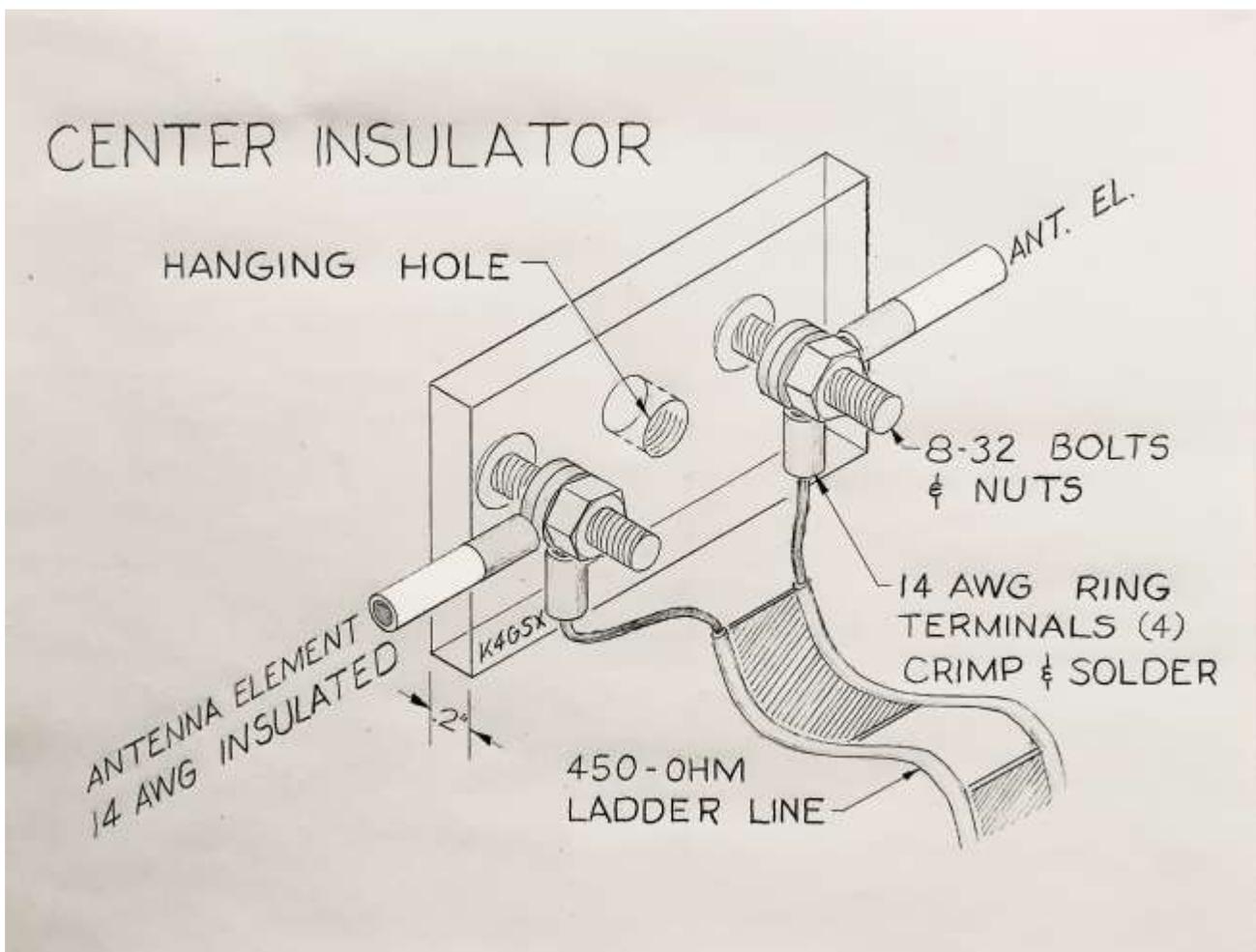
Surprise, Surprise: CW Sweeps 2022

Dale Covington, K4GSX

Before ARRL's CW Sweepstakes 2022 began, my decision was to operate only 15-meters during the test. Goals were modest—contact 20-folks using a small, 9-W rig feeding a simple wire antenna in the back yard. Almost eight hours of Sweepstakes—meeting my goals several times—were logged. Literally minutes after going QRT on Sunday evening, Sunspot AR 3141 exploded with a large, M5-class solar flare causing radio blackouts over the South Pacific for hams in Australia and New Zealand. What surprising moments of discovery define ham radio!

Explanation: if plastics are drilled quickly, heat generated by even small drills 1/32-inch in diameter produce drill shavings that cool quickly and fuse the workpiece temporarily to the drill bit. Larger drills compound the issue. This unexpected fusing can bruise fingers of the hand holding the work piece to a table. If a portable electric hand drill is in the other hand, it's now potentially wobbling about because of the new load at the end of the drill. To sidestep these problems, machine plastic dielectrics in very slow increments letting both workpiece and drill bit cool.

There are other construction issues one might discuss. Plastic dielectrics in 0.2-in. thicknesses can be difficult to find. Doubling machined sheets work fine for me. Smaller and lighter 6-32 nuts and bolts simply can't be tightened as much as 8-32 hardware. One might argue that ring terminals introduce unnecessary RF losses, however, they are neat and they prevent minor injuries from sharp, wayward wire strands when working with hooks of stranded, 14 gage antenna wire. Moreover, few amateurs using low, nearly QRP, power levels would work KH6 and KL7 from GA with a long, linear dummy load arising from ring terminals. Finally, crimping ring terminals is exceedingly important. Solder alone won't hold an antenna wire and ring terminal connection together!



"Editor's Note: Be Safe. Drilling plastics such as Lexan and Lucite involves knowledge, experience, and great patience."

Extending 80/75m Coverage of an EFHW 80-10m Dipole

Jim Shanklin, K4DBC

There is a wonderful antenna that is handy for POTA, RVers, EMCOMM and even home users who need an antenna that will cover the 80m to 10m bands. It tends to exhibit a high SWR when operation is required in the middle of the band and especially on 75m. The fix is easy.

Anyway, I have two random length end fed halfwave antennas. One I keep for POTA, and the other is among the HF antennas I use at home. I found a guy on ebay who's a ham and he makes excellent products. Search for Nelson Antennas. I bought two legal limit+ end fed transformers from him and yes, they will do SSB legal limit all day long.

For FT8 unless you have tuned the wire to be resonant with a very low to perfect SWR, the max you can push through it is around 350w. They will do 100w on FT8 even if you need a tuner to use that portion of the band.

Nelson Antennas sells several types of antennas but what he uses personally is a resonant 80m through 10m legal limit end fed half wave.

If you don't see this product for sale on eBay, just find his ebay store and send him a message about what you need. He will gladly build it for you. I think the last 49-1 legal limit transformer I had him build was around \$135.00. Not cheap, but you can't buy the parts to build one like it for less.

Pictured is the legal limit next to his 100w version.



Something I discovered last week was a trick to make it resonate on the General portion of 80m. If you buy the antenna setup it's 135 feet long. It's below 1.5-1 at 28.300 and goes flat 1-1 above 28.500. 15m and 17m are both below 1.5. 20m is flat at 14.225 and goes up to 1.4-1 at top of the band. 40m is dead flat across the band. 80m is resonant at 3.500 but off the scale at 3.800 and up. However, if you cut the antenna at the halfway point and then add in an insulator to rejoin the halves with a 220pf doorknob capacitor inline, it will be resonant across the entire general phone section. This has no effect on the higher frequencies.

Here is how I split the antenna at the max voltage point and added a 220pf cap.



Its been tested at 1500w on 80 meters. The one in the photo is 330pf. It's still higher than I want at an SWR of 1.8:1, so I did some testing with 250pf and 220pf 3000v disk caps. The 220pf gives me a flat 1:1 SWR at 3.950. That worked just fine at 100w. When I tried 1000w, I got all of 5 seconds of operation before the magic smoke came out. So after searching for awhile, I found a 220pf doorknob cap in Croatia on ebay for \$16 for 2.

Try this wonderful antenna and perform the capacitor modification with either a ceramic or doorknob capacitor depending on your output power.

Article submitted by Gordie Beattie, W2TTT

Walton & Okaloosa Counties!

DJ Stewart, KI4ZER, Assistant Section Manager, NFL
President of W4ZBB, WF4X, W4AAZ

Hello again all Hams! We sure hope your bellies are full and that the 'tropospheric turkey' (HiHi) has not caused too much of a temperature inversion!

This month, we start in Walton County on the 1st of the month with the fine folks at Walton County ARC, WF4X! AS you know this club is full of energy and why shouldn't they be! A Proud Group of Hams here experimenting with many forms. Showing off their members discussing what they are up to as a club and as well individually is the name of the game here! You cannot afford to miss this group in action! IF you are around the Florida Panhandle come see them! The potential to start teaching licensing classes is looking like a go with them starting in January 2023. To be announced in December so there is a sneaky little story for you to take in early for Christmas! 8 weeks of classes, followed by testing, 2 days if needed depending upon VE availability. More details to come!

WAIT! 17 DEC 2022! 12PM! All Ham Dinner! Sponsored by WF4X! [Sign up here!](#)

Who's next?! The Playground! That's right we are in B. E. A. U. tiful Downtown Fort Walton Beach! Playgrounds Tech Nights are always swinging a bat and grand slamming it out of the park! If you have not been here, you have got to make this club and try to catch that fly ball! This tech night was all about education, training and sharing information on how to have a tailgate, swap meet and Hamfest! Why?! Because they believe in empowering all facets of events and empowering YOU the Ham! This is a great thing to see how much really goes in behind the scenes and who better to learn from that the folks at PARC who have their upcoming 53rd Annual Hamfest!



That Saturday the 5th WF4X teams up with PARC and NOARC to perform repairs and make the Club Station Operational! While there are some minor things left to do, the Station at WF4X is ready to be on the air and be listening for that call sign!



PARC gathered again for yet another Sunday Pile up! They worked on their new computers, made plans for networking them and tossed around ideas about getting reliable internet into a building that has been problematic for over a decade. They also continued to evolve their plans for the Boondocks Swampfest! Albeit a tailgate, they are treating it like a full-blown club event and the energy felt around it is just astounding!

NOARC Business meeting Brought about many guests and members as well. They continued discussions for their annual budget, made plans for yet another Hamfest in 2023 and held some elections! Here are the changeups thus far:

- Bob Murphy KI4MEU is the Current President and is at the end of his term.
- DJ Stewart KI4ZER is the current Vice President and is in the middle of his term.
- Bob Hurley KN4UDT is the current Treasurer and is the end of his term.
- Robert Dallons KM4VKY is the current Secretary and is in the middle of his term.
- Following nominations and voting:
- DJ Stewart KI4ZER is the President Elect
- Robert Dallons KM4VKY is the Treasurer Elect

This vacates two positions which will have a service commitment for the remainder of the currently occupied roles for a period of one year. The Elections and Nominations Committee is Ron Mahn KI5FR, Joseph Fellicia KN4UDS and Rodney Ryals KJ4JAH. If you are a club member or wish to be one, please join and then send your nominations or volunteer to get in on the fun to the members listed above.

NOARC HOSTS The Veterans Day Parade with the Main Street Association in Crestview! What a nice Parade this was and easy setup with many of NOARC's members proudly hoping to recognize all veteran and affiliate organizations!



NOARC also procured a trailer to enhance their capabilities and expand on their current operations! Plans are being drawn up but this looks like a fun project that everyone will get to have input on and do what's best for the club for years to come! Keep up with this build as NOARC has a lot of great talent and skill that will be used!

PARC EXAMS Nov 12 Results : People come from all over to make the regular testing at the Playground amateur Radio Club! It is wonderful to keep this tradition going and ensure people have the time and place with a planned date to target getting their license and upgrade! Please note this is not the only Club, Entity or Organization that provides testing so be sure to check the ARRL Exams webpage, NWFLHamRadio.Net information page or listen to the nets. Namely the Walton County ARC net on M, W, F at 1930 hrs CST on 147.285 +, 100 Hz or their Echolink at WF4X-R! That is where you just might hear W4CJB talk about testing at the EOC in Defuniak!

Back to the results! PARC tested three people and two made Extra! One made Tech! That is a great thing and congrats to those who tested and passed!

PARC Business meeting 17 Nov sure was a hootnanny of a good time! Just before the Business meeting there was n RF issue with the 444.450 Repeater. It would seem the Gulf Coast regional frequency Manager for the DOD detected an anomaly that was causing some interference with a remote, occasionally used, experimental radar sight. As the 444.450 repeater for an unknown reason was stuck into a continuous loop on Tx without receiving an input action had to be taken and so it was! Members met at the repeater sight and stopped the interference and the continuous loop signal. They also tested the repeater for functionality and verified the interference with the experimental DOD radar sight was no longer an issue. Once that was done the repeater was

Continued on next page...

shut off to preempt another occurrence and troubleshooting is underway to determine the cause, replace or reprogram as necessary and get it back on the air! Speaking to projects, experiments, testing, tuning, and training! Did you know that PARC has Pile ups each week! Projects, Club Improvements and More! The folks at PARC are always on the DX and tinkering with something! Stop on in and join them! They are always friendly and ready to work a project you may be having problems with and get you on the air!



WCARES Meeting occurred the following Tuesday. Sadly, this writer had to miss it as I was engaged in another event. The City of FWB is considering listing the NWFL Fairgrounds as Surplus to “see how much the valuation is” on the property. While seemingly innocent in nature, the underpinning here is that once a property is surplus ownership is lost. Many organizations and opponents to what the City is doing showed up and many great points were made by all to the City and the Mayor directly to not list the property as surplus, revamp the management of the property and to enhance the infrastructure and real property to better suit the area. The Council voted to stay the issue until Dec 13 with considerations going to seeing what Okaloosa County could do in terms of working with the Northwest Florida Fair association who leases the property.

So, what does all that mean? The Officers at the Playground Amateur Radio Club are engaged politically with the City and multiple Organizations and Entities to ensure that the Fairgrounds is not listed as surplus, sold off and redeveloped without being offered a viable and alternative location in Fort Walton Beach to continue shows like the Hamfest in the Fort Walton Beach City limits that have been there for 53 years. The PARC team also asked the City to perform a year’s long utilization study to determine use by the organizations and offers from them to attend the events to see the wonder, awe, joy and enthusiasm generated at the property.



More to come on this and you are all certainly welcome to assist and speak publicly to assist in the future of the fairgrounds! This on the surface appears to be more of a management of the area issue but please note, that when the City of FWB lists property as surplus, it is typically sold, rezoned, and redeveloped. With limited Public Use areas left, the loss of the Fairgrounds would take away from the public. You can do so here: http://fortwaltonbeachcityfl.igmp2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=1836

Make sure to check the page for when the release the agenda, the agenda packet, and the minuetts.

SCREECCCHH!!!! Pump the Brakes! Did you make it to their BOONDOCKS SWAMPFEST! Whoa what a great time! So many vendors and so many attendees OH AND THE FOOD! PARC’s Team brought back the ‘Boondocks Swampfest’ in honor of heritage of the club. This was after going over old files and seeing some of the history stored away. After asking some of the elder members about it while observing their reactions and hearing their stories, the Team at PARC said there was too much energy in the room not to put it on! Congrats Team! And thank you to all that attended with them! More to come from this active and technical crew so stay tuned!



Members from Walton County ARC, PARC and NOARC also got together with the Southern Amateur Radio Union to work on the Brewton Tower. This will enhance and repair a repeater network in South Alabama. The SARU offers Amateur Radio classes, ARRL VEC testing sessions for all license classes, School projects, Pico Balloons, High Altitude Balloons, Field Day participation, ARES participation, Fox Hunts and much more. For more information, please contact our friends at the SARU (KO4ACL) with the following information: 2nd Monday of each Month 6:00pm in Club House , 100 Blacksher Street, Brewton AL 36426 <http://facebook.com/groups/Southern.Amateur.Radio.Union>

**Florida Division of Emergency Management
DHS Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) Training Course
6-8 February 2023**

**In cooperation with the 76th Orlando Hamcation™ - Orlando, Florida
(30 student maximum capacity)**

This class is designed for auxiliary communicators (AUXCOMM) and other communications groups who volunteer to provide backup radio communications support to *public safety agencies* such as EOC's, Fire, Law Enforcement and Medical. This typically includes volunteer amateur radio communicators affiliated with many different governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO). (There is no cost to attend this course.)

AUXCOMM focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the Communications Leader (COML) and AUXCOMM volunteers, emergency operations center (EOC) etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, and emergency communications deployment.

The program is intended to supplement and standardize a volunteer operator's experience and knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public safety context, in an effort to train amateur radio volunteers to a professional, national standard.

Prerequisites for Attendance

Personal experience:

- A valid/signed FCC amateur radio license
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- An affiliation with a public safety agency (served agency)
- A desire to work with Communications Unit Personnel (COML/COMT) in a NIMS ICS environment

Must have completed the following online courses from the FEMA EMI Independent Study website:

- IS-100, Introduction to the ICS
- IS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents
- IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
- IS-800, National Response Framework (NRF)

How to Apply:

- In-State (Florida Students): via FDEM SERT TRAC: <https://trac.floridadisaster.org>
- Out of State (Outside Florida): E-mail: Florida AUXCOMM Coordinator David Byrum dbyrum@tampabay.rr.com
- Applicant's Name
- The name of the Public Safety Agency you are, or will be, supporting
- The Public Safety Agency Email Address
- The Public Safety's point of contact name and both their email/phone number

All applications, and other requested documents, must be received by close of business on **Monday January 28, 2023**. Selected individuals will be notified of approval to attend the course, final location, and additional pre-course information.

Questions regarding the course prerequisites should be directed to FDEM by contacting David Byrum via email at dbyrum@tampabay.rr.com

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

- Last Saturday of the month
- Suwannee Regional Library
- Contact Gerald Guy, geraldguy@gmail.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. <https://k4tlh.net/faq/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 and requirements.**

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!