



QST NFL

Newsletter for the Northern Florida Section

Come join the FUN!

Volume 10 Issue 2

www.arrl-nfl.org

March 2023

From the Shack of the Section Manager

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR (kk4ecr@gmail.com)

If you were unable to attend HamCation in Orlando this year, you missed a great event. The weather was amazing, the crowd was great, and the socializing was fun. The All-Florida Section Meeting was well-attended, and it was great to see so many familiar faces. Three ham radio operators were presented with the "Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award," which was a great honor.



I had the opportunity to spend a significant amount of time at the ARRL Row of booths, where I met many ham operators from our section. Thank you for stopping by to see us! Our members presented very good questions, with the

most commonly asked being, "How do we grow our club?" or "How do we make our club more appealing to get people to join?"

In this month's article, I thought it would be a good idea to include some of the answers to these questions. These answers are not all-inclusive and by no means exhaustive, but they should point you in the right direction.

- Host regular meetings — this can help bring in new members and help existing members learn more about the hobby.
- Community outreach — Engage in community outreach, such as public demonstrations and events, school presentations, and participating in local emergency preparedness drills.
- Mentor new hams. - Help them get on the air. This will get them more interested in the hobby and encourage them to join your local club. .
- Offer training and education — Offer licensing classes, antenna building workshops, and technical seminars.

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR

kk4ecr@gmail.com

904-759-7812 — Cell

904-602-9576 — Direct to Shack



- Collaborate with other clubs — This can give you more ideas on how to grow your club and help increase exposure for everyone involved.
- Social media presence — Create a strong social media presence, which can help reach a wider audience and attract new members.

Continued on next page...

What's Inside

Page 2	Loften HS Student Saves a Life
Page 3	From the Section Emergency Coordinator
Page 4	Santa Rosa County
Page 5	The 80/20 Rule of Survival
Page 6	Hi-Per-Mite Active CW Filter
Page 8	Walton & Okaloosa Counties
Page 10	GARS Receives ARRL Foundation Grant
Page 12	Alachua Co ICS-214 Submission Exercise
Page 13	Dixie Amateur Radio Klub
Page 14	Suwannee County ARES
Page 15	Suwannee Amateur Radio Club
Page 16	Alachua County ARES®/NFARC Update
Page 18	GARS Renovates Trailer for HS Ham Club
Page 19	MERT Reports
	QCWA Chapter 62

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.

NFL Officials

Section Manager

Scott Roberts KK4ECR

Assistant Section Managers

Kevin Bess KK4BFN

Helen Straughn WC4FSU

DJ Stewart K14ZER

Joe Bassett, W1WCN

Section Emergency Coordinator

Arc Thames W4CPD

Section Public Info Coordinator

Jim Bledsoe, K14KEA

Section Technical Coordinator

Frank Haas KB4T

Section Affiliated Club Coordinator

Section Traffic Manager

Helen Straughn WC4FSU

Section Official Observer Coordinator

Robert Leasko WB8PAF

Section State Government Liaison

Darrell Brock N4GOA

NFL Committees

Webmaster, www.arrl-nfl.org

Kari McClure, NW4R

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/>

[up-](#)

[loads/2021/12/2021QSTNFLIndex.pdf](#)

- Host contests and events — Host local contests and events that will attract new members to local clubs.
- Recruit new members — Actively recruiting new members, whether through word-of-mouth, social media, or other outreach methods.
- Provide technical support — This will help to build goodwill and strengthen the local ham radio community.
- Volunteer for public service events — There are lots of organizations that can use help at their events. One of the ways your club can help is to provide communications support for local races or parades.

As members of our clubs, it is our shared responsibility to work together in increasing interest and participation in our clubs. One way we can do this is by taking every opportunity to proudly represent our clubs in various settings, such as events, meetings, and social gatherings. By doing so, we can spread awareness about our clubs and their missions, as well as encourage others to join us in our pursuits. Additionally, we can consider organizing outreach efforts, such as community service projects and informational sessions, to further engage with potential members and create a stronger presence for our clubs within our community.

Let's not forget that 2023 has been designated as the ARRL Year of the Volunteer. Recently, Florida completed its first week of operating as W1AW/4. It was an enjoyable experience to get on the air and communicate with stations from all over the world as W1AW/4. Try to work as many of the W1AW/x stations as possible this year.

I would be delighted to attend your local club meeting as a speaker. As Section Manager, I always try to attend as many meetings as possible, and it would be an honor to visit your club. I'm always happy to answer any questions you might have about our awesome hobby. I look forward to meeting you and your fellow members!

It is an honor to be YOUR Section Manager — Thank you!



Loften High School Student Saves a Life

Bob Lightner, W3GJ

A student from PAM@Loften High administered CPR while on the way to school this morning. Emilio Largaespada, a 10th grader at the Academy of Fire & EMS,

stopped to help a citizen in cardiac and respiratory arrest. Largaespada was using the app Pulse Point when he was notified of a 911 call nearby. The app provided directions and Largaespada, who had been CPR certified by his teacher, did CPR for about 2 minutes until local fire and EMS units arrived. Way to go, Emilio!



From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Arc Thames, W4CPD

You've likely already heard that 2023 is the "Year of the Volunteer" at ARRL so I thought I'd take a moment to discuss the importance of volunteering in our communities.

Volunteering in ARES is an opportunity to serve the community, learn new skills, and work alongside other hams and served agency officials. Our volunteers play a critical role in providing communications support before, during, and after an incident, making our team an essential component of any emergency response system. Serving your community through ARES can make a huge difference in your local community.



Many ARES teams provide opportunities to learn new skills and develop your capabilities. Training programs vary from emergency communication, including emergency net operations, traffic handling, and message forms to new and exciting technology. The training our teams provide not only empowers you to be prepared to support a served agency as a team but also better prepare you as an amateur radio operator to be prepared to communicate in a crisis.

Volunteering in any capacity is essential to any community as it provides opportunities for individuals to contribute their time, skills, and resources to make a positive impact at home. Whether it's through supporting a local charity, participating in community events, or providing emergency services during disasters, volunteering allows individuals to come together to address common challenges and build stronger, more resilient communities. By volunteering, you gain personal fulfillment, develop new skills, and build social connections, while making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

I encourage you this year, if you're not involved already, to explore the various ways that you can make a positive impact on your local community. If you're already involved, take time to reach out to your local ARES leader to find out if there's anything you can do to help support them. Many of our volunteers wear numerous hats alongside their fulltime jobs and I assure you they'll welcome the assistance.

Section ARES Report

In January our section reported 1,256 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:	5	159.00
Training events this month:	18	325.00
Public service events this month:	0	0.00
Community service events this month:	2	93.00
Emergency events this month:	1	4.00
SKYWARN events this month:	3	40.00
Meetings this month:	19	430.00
Unclassified events this month:	39	205.00

Call signs of DECs/ECs reporting:

W4CPD K4SOP N5CBP WE4MJ N2HAY W4KEF KC4NVU AI4NF W4KKJ KB4HAH KA3OGG KN4PFZ KM4BTW WA4MN KO4YOL KO4KUS K4BJS W4CJB

Statewide Communications Exercise

I don't have a confirmed date as of the writing of this article for the rescheduled "Service Denied" exercise we had planned for last October however I do expect to have that information within the coming week. Please stay tuned as it will likely occur in late April.

QCWA Holds Election in March

All QCWA Members nationwide will receive electronic ballots March first for the election of officers. The only contested position is President, and the following are running:

- Ron Fish, KX1W
- Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS
- Tom Loughney, AJ4XM

Check your email for ballots and information.

What's Happening? Santa Rosa County Edition

Arc Thames, W4CPD

February was yet another busy month in Santa Rosa County. At the beginning of the month I took the opportunity to replace our primary APRS (Automated Packet Reporting System) iGATE and Digipeater. We'd been utilizing a Kantronics KPC3+ with an older Kenwood radio but over the last few months, we'd been receiving reports it wasn't repeating and we weren't seeing a lot of traffic on it.

I spent time researching various solutions to provide reliable APRS services and landed on the Microsat WX 3in1 Plus 2.0 paired with an ICOM 880h radio I had lying around. The ICOM also worked out well because the connection cable that the Microsat comes with natively works with that radio but they do have other cables available. I'd read and heard numerous success stories about this device so I went with it.

Upon arrival I set it up at home to ensure I had everything configured properly before carrying it to our main tower site. Setup was quick and easy and almost everything worked natively right out of the box with the ICOM. One thing I did struggle with was figuring out the proper APRS syntax for beaconing out locations of objects like hospitals that we'd previously had setup with APRSIS32 on Windows. It took a bit of digging online and looking at several raw APRS packets but I was finally able to figure it out. The additional help came from the [APRS 101 guide](#) on the www.aprs.org website. The site's a bit dated but it's a wealth of information, and, to be honest, it's not like APRS has changed in the last X number of years.



Since the replacement, we've seen a marked increase in APRS traffic being picked up at our site and have had a lot of renewed interest in APRS. One of the primary reasons I picked it back up as an initiative is that it's fairly universal and easy to use and, with our expansion of CERT county wide, would be extremely useful in search and rescue activities. I also took the opportunity to test out the [SMSGTE](#) function which allows you to send a text message to a cell phone over APRS and it worked like a champ.

I encourage you, take on projects like this. It's an excellent opportunity to force yourself to learn something new. When I first started this project, I can't say that I knew much about APRS but now I feel fairly confident I understand APRS at a moderate level. Tom-KW4TOM will be presenting an APRS Basics class in Santa Rosa County at our EOC (4499 Pine Forest Road in Milton) on Saturday March 11 at 9AM.

Rounding out the month, the National Weather Service of Mobile, AL, who covers our area, provided a SkyWarn spotter class at the Santa Rosa County EOC. We had over 30 people show up and got great feedback from those in attendance. This is the first in person SkyWarn class that's been held in Santa Rosa County since early in 2020. Thanks to the NWS for providing the class!

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



The 80/20 Rule of Survival

Joe Bassett, W1WCN, Assistant Section Manager for Training

There seems to be an 80/20 rule for everything. I've even coined one for my wilderness guiding service...

Obviously, I subscribe to the Yogi Berra philosophy of math, but the 80/20 Rule of Survival can also be applied to deployment go-kits. Only 20% of our success, or failure, in amateur radio emergency services can be attributed to the radio gear in our kit.

But that 20% is still integral to effective communication and a lack of sophisticated or fancy gear is often used as an excuse to avoid participating with our local ARES or other ecom efforts. Here in Florida it's not a question of "if" ham radio emergency service will be needed, but "when" it will be needed.

Don't let lack of cutting-edge gear prevent you from contributing to the service of amateur radio!

So, let's talk about the most basic, but still effective, go-kit: the ubiquitous HT.

Yes, if all you have is a humble HT, you can (and should) participate in your community's emergency communication. Here in Clay (ClayARES) county we provide comms support for local trail and road races that range from 5 kilometer out-and-backs to 25 kilometer out and backs. Many of ClayARES operators hold Technician class licenses and use 5 watt, or less, walkie-talkies. By placing them strategically along the route and providing them with a few tips and skills they're integral to our success. This inturn gives them the 98.6 degree dirt-time necessary for success during a bad day event whether they have a full-scale go-kit or must rely on savvy and an HT.

The most effective skill they have is knowing how to request and provide relays. To that end we train regularly on prowords, break tags, active listening, and economy of words for transmission. The acronym ABC (accuracy, brevity, clarity) is reinforced at every opportunity.

But those skills are best left to their own articles. This month I want to encourage those who have been waiting on the side-lines to get their most basic go-kit ready to go for the upcoming hurricane season without breaking their budget.

Even the much maligned Baofeng can be the starting point for a go-kit. If you want to "upgrade" that go-kit for just a few dollars I recommend a rollup J-pole. These can be purchased for \$25-50, but why not make your own? My first ham radio antenna was a rollup J-pole made from TV twinlead, a discarded end of coax with a PL-259, and a SMA adapter. I was so clueless when I built it that I used electrical tape instead of solder. It was truly an ugly antenna, BUT IT WORKED! And it started me on another soft skill that's beneficial for disaster comms support: how to make it work with what you have.

The one thing that I'd do differently now is use ladder-line instead of twin-lead. Here's a great YouTube video about how to do it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igHQ3EsE5Bk>

There you have it. Armed with your HT and a rollup J-pole your kit is ready for your *start* in helping with amateur radio emergency communication. Are there myriad other tricks and improvements that can be made to our HTs? Yes, (but I'm saving those for future articles). Is this the ultimate kit? No, it's just a start and will work in a pinch. But don't let that prevent you from starting. Keep making improvements around this humble beginning. In fact, that old FT-50 and ugly rollup J-pole are still part of my kit which over 10 years has grown to include HF, VHF/UHF, and cross-band repeater capability.

When you're ready to upgrade your go-kit I recommend the book "How to Setup Your Perfect Amateur Radio Go-kit." It's written by our very own section manager, Scott Roberts.

Scott has served as the net control station and emergency operations center liaison in 5 of the 6 hurricanes I've deployed for. And I've lost count of how many times we've deployed to backcountry locations to support trail events and/or search and rescue efforts, it's at least in the dozens. All of that to say that when it comes to planning and building a portable go-kit Scott knows his stuff.

Here's a link to purchase his book: <https://amzn.to/3EDWK7A>



Hi-Per-Mite Active CW Filter

by Bert Garcia N8NN

If you like to operate CW, here's an outstanding filter you can build to improve reception. I have several QRP radios that do not have a CW filter, and this is just what I needed. Designed by David Cripe NM0S, a kit of this HI-PER-MITE High PERFORMANCE Small audio filter is sold by the Four State QRP Group [1]. It features a 3 dB bandwidth of 200 Hz with no ringing. It operates from 5 to 13 VDC and uses less than 15 ma, ideal for battery power. During construction, you can select from 0 dB gain for headphones or as much as 50 dB gain for one-half watt to drive an 8 ohm speaker. The center frequency is 700 Hz, but you can select a different center frequency during construction.

Figure 1 shows the kit components with a quarter coin for size comparison. The small double-sided circuit board is clearly labeled and easy to assemble since all components are through-hole. The two integrated circuit chips, shown in their anti-static cases and wrapped in foil, are mounted in sockets. Construction time is about four hours. I strongly recommend using a circuit board holder and a lighted magnifying glass and stand as shown in Figure 2.

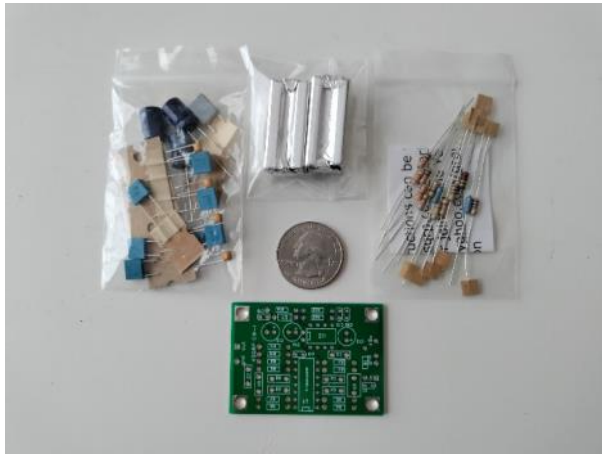


Figure 1: Kit components.



Figure 2: The construction site.

The completed filter circuit board is in Figure 3. Figure 4 shows the complete filter. I have added a 9 volt battery and holder, a DPDT switch, and 3.5 mm input and output jacks. When the DC power is turned off, no audio passes through the filter, so I used the DPDT switch to turn the power on/off and to bypass the filter when the power is off. If you plan to power the filter from a typical 13.8-volt power supply, you should add several diodes in series with the positive line to drop the voltage down to 13 volts, as recommended by other builders.

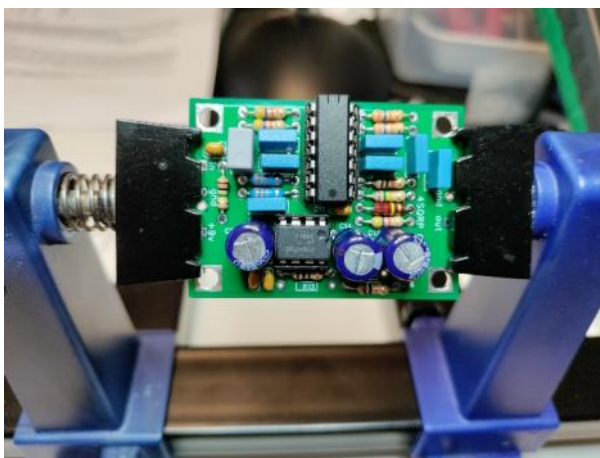


Figure 3: Completed circuit board.



Figure 4: Completed filter.

Continued on next page...

I mounted my filter in a 2.0 x 2.5 x 3.0 inch plastic box from Hobby Lobby. Figures 5 and 6 show the completed filter mounted and ready to go on my next POTA operation.



Figure 5: The filter in its case.



Figure 6: The filter ready to travel.

Does it work? You bet! Here's a YouTube video demonstrating the filter while it is switched in and out of the audio path: <https://youtu.be/k1Xm29q-V1Q>. This is a handy gadget to add to any CW radio. It is available for \$28.65 shipped from the Four State QRP Group.

Reference:

[1] Four State QRP Group, <https://www.4sgrp.com/hipermite.php>

HamCation 2023

Marty Brown, N4GL, Editor

Wayne and I were pleased to catch up with our NFL Section Manager and Emergency Coordinator in the ARRL Membership booth at HamCation.

Left to Right: Arc Thames W4CPD EC, Scott Roberts KK4ECR SM, Marty Brown N4GL, Wayne Brown N4FP



NFL Section Members Featured in March 2023 QST

Did you notice?

Happenings, page 67, SE Division Assistant Division Director for Radio Scouting, **Ken Lyons KN4MDJ**, is recognized for receiving the Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award at HamCation.

Public Service, page 69, Rick Palm K1CE, editor of The ARES Letter, interviews Alachua's own, **Gordon Gibby KX4Z**, on the innovative things Gordon and his associates have done in the area of emergency communications and training.

ATLANTA HAMFEST
ARRL GEORGIA SECTION CONVENTION
SATURDAY
JUNE 3, 2023
JIM MILLER PARK
MARIETTA, GA

Contact: John Talipsky N3ACK
n3ack@atlantaradioclub.org
www.atlantahamfest.org

Dealers • Fleamarket • Testing • Forums • Prizes • Tailgating
• Food • R/V Camping (Friday) • BSA Merit Badge • Food

Walton & Okaloosa Counties!

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

Hello fellow radio enthusiasts! What a month February has been! Breakfasts and Pileups and Meetings and Classes oh my!

Carrying forward that energy, multiple Clubs and Orgs are in the process of teaching, training and testing new interested parties to this awesome Ham Radio Adventure! Those that are in the classes are reporting feedback as positive and welcoming. So great is this interest, the numbers thus far account for 40+ people attempting to obtain their licenses! Wish them well and thank you to those in the limelight and behind the scenes making all this possible! What a great effort by the Walton Amateur Radio Club and the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club! Their Education and Advancement Committees are supporting the hobby in great ways!

More of that same energy is being applied weekly with the Playground Amateur Radio Club as they improve their Clubhouse, Station Equipment and prepare for their 53rd Annual Hamfest at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds on 17/18 March! This is going to be a great show with many surprises in store! Each week the Hamfest Committee gathers and ensures this will be a wonderful time and worthwhile weekend! Do not be a stranger to them as they open their doors each Sunday and gather to Dx, repair, troubleshoot and advance the club for all the Florida Panhandle! Check out the below flyer and their prizes! A radio every hour!



The momentum continues with the Walton County Ares giving a great tech night session on VarAC <https://www.varac-hamradio.com/>! The operators that attended were thirsty for more information on this subject and NOARC was the place! Two Orgs on Two nights in the same week introduced the VarAC and all its capabilities. IF, you have not yet read up on VarAC, you do not want to wait! This is JS8, meets RTT, meets PSK and it's FUN! What?! Yes, that's right, FUN and easy to understand and operate. This is a simple protocol and is nearly plug and play! N2XU says "Hook Chat GPT to it!".

Moving into the Crestview area, the North Okaloosa Amateur Radio Club is moving forward with the improvements to their new, to them, Club Trailer! Multiple members rolled up their sleeves and put on their knit hats (with a wintry blast of air) to reseal and repaint the roof. It did not leak but it did need an update and a nice fresh look. KN4UDS led the charge and everyone that was there pitched in (and not just for the free food). NOARC also assisted the City of Crestview, the City of Crestview Police and with the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office to put on the Community Unity Flashlight Walk! The event bolsters citizens against crime and engages all organizations in the area!



During all of these and previous writings, special guests in the area have been participating as full members of the Playground Amateur Radio Club! Rich, KD9OXC and Norm, W9IFW vacation in Okaloosa County from New Palestine, Indiana and are members of the Hancock County Amateur Radio Club <https://w9atg.org/> and the Indianapolis Amateur Radio Club <https://www.indyradioclub.org/>. They came 5 years ago and found PARC, decided to join and benefit the club!

Continued on next page...

Rich, KD9OXC, was first licensed in 2020 in Pensacola and upgraded to Extra with PARC just last month in Jan of 2023! He was "TALKED" into the hobby by Norm, W9IFW! Rich is a member of the Hancock County Amateur Radio Club <https://w9atg.org/>. Amateur Radio for Rich is a reminder of his Heavy Ground Radar Days with the USAF! Heavy ground radar is search and air traffic control. During his time in (1960's) he found a love for repairing electronics and making communications possible. Extending into his civilian life, he was your neighborhood friendly T. V. Repair Man! Working for the Sylvania Corporation, he managed the final assembly and repair line at the manufacturing plant. He was integral during the switch over from tubes to solid state.



Rich, KD9OXC



Norm, W9IFW

Norm, W9IFW, was first licensed in 1962! He has lived in the same region for most of the time and was once the Assistant ARES Coordinator. His love of the hobby has made him seek out other organizations during all his travels worldwide as a civilian and as a Retired Navy member! Norm's love of Amateur Radio shows as he continues to offer advice and hears what others ideas are while encouraging the promotion of all things Amateur Radio Related! Norm is a great benefit to the entire community promoting joining Clubs and Organizations and putting members first!

Remember folks, no matter where you are, what you are doing and who you are with, you are never far from the people that have a direct line to multiple industries and all walks of life! Recognize each other and your members. They are the bread and butter of the organization and odds are, the ones that promote the club the most, as word of mouth about how well you take care of them travels faster than any email, social media post or flyer you could ever produce!

73's and hope to see YOU soon at the next upcoming event!



Florida QSO Party April 29-30, 2023



Since the Florida QSO Party was re-introduced to the contest scene in 1998, the FQP has become one of the fastest-growing and most popular State QSO Parties today. This is due, in part, to the tremendous effort by the mobile teams to activate as many counties as they can in order to allow those participating from out-of-state to achieve a county "sweep" working all 67 Florida counties. Florida stations operating from home are also valuable since that increases the chances that stations will work all counties! If you are a serious or casual participant from Florida or outside of Florida, the Florida QSO Party was designed to be a FUN operating event. Why not give it a try?



CQMM DX CONTEST



Organizer and Coordinator:
(CWJF Group - PY4KL)

Start: 09:00 UTC - Saturday
End: 23:59 UTC - Sunday

2023 : April, 15 / 16

ATTENTION - Make a note of this date in your diary.

CQMM DX CONTEST

ATTENTION - Start : 09:00 UTC (Saturday)

CATEGORY	RECORDS ON THE CONTINENT (NA)		
	CALLSIGN	SCORE	YEAR
MO / ST / AB	HP KC1XX	3.220.820	2022
	LP N6DZ	2.484	2020
SO / ST / AB	HP AA3B	2.528.414	2021
	LP K1XM	677.160	2020
SO / AB / QRP	N1IX	216.645	2015
SO / SB / 80M	HP XE2X	9.595	2020
	LP VE9ML	25.375	2020
SO / SB / 40M	HP NP2J	267.540	2021
	LP KM4SII	65.450	2020
SO / SB / 20M	HP N2MM	609.760	2020
	LP N3UA	171.864	2020
SO / SB / 15M	HP N2MM	376.585	2015
	LP N3UA	132.192	2022
SO / SB / 10M	HP KP2B	92.829	2022
	LP CO8RH	58.640	2022
SO / AB / YL	N2MM	609.760	2020

GARS Receives ARRL Foundation Grant

Barbara Matthews, KO4TWZ and Deb Boal, KI4CVS

In February 2023, the ARRL announced that the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) has been awarded one of several national major grants. The club application included detailed proposal plans for improvements to the Waldo City Square GARS Radio Room equipment, and antennas in order to utilize them for training, community service and introducing new and underserved people in Alachua County and other local areas to the art and science of Amateur Radio. Multiple members worked on the application project and the impact of this grant will be a substantial benefit in the coming decades. We want to especially thank Laurie Bauer for her assistance with the application process, her familiarity with grant writing and valuable advice gave our team the confidence to submit this winning proposal.

The ARRL Foundation grants program awards limited funding to organizations for eligible amateur radio related projects and initiatives, particularly those with a focus on educating, licensing, and supporting Amateur Radio activities. Youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged. The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical model three times a year.



GARS members with the grant check, L to R: Secretary Barry Nason (KD0QIX), Treasurer Peter Winters (W4GHP), President Terry Gordon (K4TMG) and Board Member Larry Rovak (WB2SVB).



The ARRL Grant check.



Larry Rovak (WB4SVB) explains the application process and the grant writing efforts and announces the award.



Thanking Laurie Bauer with her assistance with the grant.



Dixie Amateur Radio Klub 2nd Annual Ham Fest/Tailgate April 29th, 2023. Activities start at 9:00 am



Location Trenton Community Center 214 SE 3rd Ave, Trenton, FL 32693

Sellers Welcome We will have approximately ten indoor spaces available. Additionally, we will have limited tailgate spaces available. For the indoor space we are asking a \$5.00 donation.

Activities Include A 50/50 raffle, \$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for six tickets. Door prize tickets are \$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for six tickets.

Contact Info Curtiss Peck, email ko4pze@aol.com phone 352-246-2678, Fred Lewis, email neonnite11@gmail.com phone, 352-214-6557

Alachua County ICS-214 Submission Exercise

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

Our mentors at the Alachua County EM shop are just so professional. During the last two hurricanes, their process moved so incredibly smoothly, with submission of activity reports, collection of "Essential Elements of Information," the Planning function, a new IAP for the next operational period, and then a Briefing. The Planning P in repetitive, continuous operation!

They are **serious** about getting ICS-214 (Activity Reports) from our deployed volunteers. *You can't be demobilized until you have submitted them!* These forms basically mint \$\$\$ for the County: Every hour that our volunteers are serving during a declared emergency counts as "in-kind" donation from our County and the match from FEMA can be phenomenal. The results can be many tens of thousands of dollars for our County.....if the paperwork is done properly.

The "paperwork" is quite simply a SIGNED ICS-214. **They want a real signature.** They don't care if it is a photocopy of your form, but it needs a real signature in our county in order to make the bean counters happy, who make the FEMA submissions. This is important stuff, and they want it done the way they want it done.

We struggled to find a way to get that done just using radio. Sure, if the Internet works, we can just take a photo and shoot an email with a PDF....but then that kinda defeats our goal of being independent of the Internet, right? We queried the WINLINK folks to see if there was a way to add a small .jpg to their nice ICS-214 form. Nope, nada, not happening. We looked into other ways of moving it. Digital signatures via cryptography are a problem due to FCC regulations, right? Some experimentation indicated that a small .jpg of a real signature would work, and the files, while 20-25kbyte, aren't impossible. Especially since we now have our NF4RC-7 VARA-FM digipeater, which covers the entire county and then some! The already-compressed .docx format seems to be the best for our purposes. Way better than PDF. Even digipeating through internet-independent, and battery-backed up NF4RC-7 VARA-FM digipeater, an operational period's ICS-214 can be sent with the embedded signature, in around 3 minutes.

Therefore we held monthly training sessions on how to leverage our VHF data systems, culminating with an in-person monthly meeting where we took signatures and provided our attending participants with their own personal .jpg of their own signature.

Then we asked them to send in a *simulated* ICS-214 with a simulated signature. <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/Tech/ICS214AlachuaCountyEXAMPLE.docx> This is because the Winlink system has a "viewer" and we didn't want to expose even .jpg's of their signatures, when it wasn't necessary. Our participants had the remainder of January to carry out our exercise.

Wow! This drove learning far better than all the lectures we had carried out! There were lots of questions and lots of confusion for several volunteers. Others, more experienced, had zero issues and were done easily. But it really helped out folks who needed a concrete exercise, and our competency rate went up significantly. And we even had a lurker come out of the woodwork and easily polish off our exercise who has never been to one of our meetings! Sixteen successes!

The participants who succeeded got recognized at our next meeting because we believe in transparency, and our badged volunteers who did not were also noted. Additional training will be offered. Our successes included: KX4Z, AA3YB, W4JIR, KN4TWS, K4ZSW, KG4VWI, AC4QS, KI4KEA, NH2KW, WA4AMY, KO4LBS, K9RFT, N5CBP, KC2ASY, KN4JQB and KO4ZSD. Our group then discussed these types of concrete exercises and produced a list of some others they would like to see happen.

[illegible]

DIXIE AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

Curtiss Peck, KO4PZE

As the current officers of the club continue to move forward great things are starting to happen. Three of the four officers were re-elected and one officer was elected for the first time. Our current officers are:

- Mike Shaffer (KD4INH) Pres.
- Fred Lewis (KO4YOL) V/P
- Amy Woods (WA4AMY) Treasurer
- Curtiss Peck (KO4PZE) Secretary

One may ask what great things are happening? First, one must understand what this club has gone through. Several years ago the club had turmoil set in and a loss of several members. We currently have fourteen active members and continue to move forward.

Starting in January 2022, the club meeting structure was changed. It is no longer a back-and-forth talk about anything a member wanted to talk about. We dedicate the first part of the meeting to conducting the business at hand. Then adjourn the meeting and either conduct training or show and tell. Members are always encouraged to bring DIY projects and explain them to other club members.

On the right, Gary (KO4BUB) shows his 2Meter Yagi antenna, and Curtiss (KO4PZE) demonstrates his 2 Meter Dipole antenna. Curtiss does have a PDF file of the drawing for this antenna available for anyone to have. Email him at ko4pze@aol.com for a copy.

Additionally, to help build a bond between the members, and anyone desiring to find out more about us, we meet quarterly for a breakfast get-together. This is an informal time and club business is not discussed. Our next breakfast is tentatively scheduled for, April 1, 2023. We will be having breakfast at Bar-B-Que Bill's, located at 1901 N Young Blvd, Chiefland, Florida 32626.

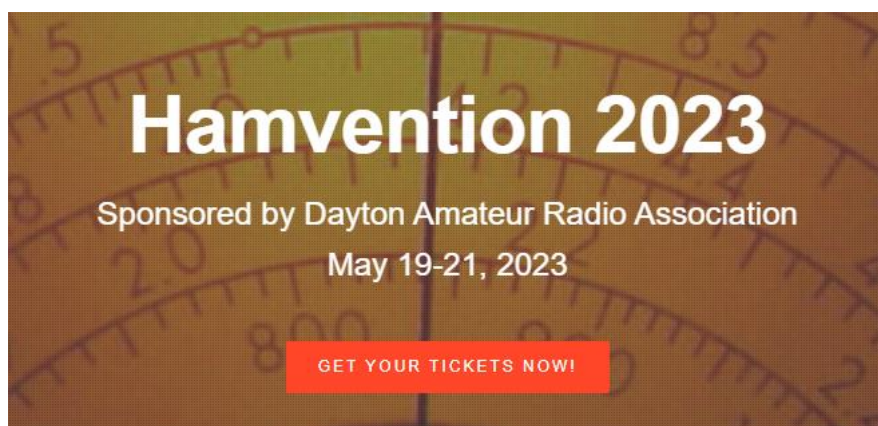
Secondly, we are currently in the final stages of our annual HamFest/Tailgate. This will be the 2nd annual event. This event will be held at the Trenton, FL Community Center. This venue is located at 214 SE 3rd Ave, Trenton, FL 32693.

Thirdly, one of our members is great at Fox Hunting and has acted as the marshal. He has helped some members build their antennae for fox hunting and continues to work with them.

Fourthly, we have two members express an interest in obtaining their general ticket. Since our meeting location is available for us to use on a Saturday we are starting the planning to hold instruction classes for the general licensing. To go along with the classes, we are finally in the process of finalizing our VE team.

Fifthly, after an approximately five-year absence from field day, we will be doing field day this year. To aid in prepping for field day we will be doing a Parks on the air event. The location of the field day ought to be finalized within the next couple of weeks.

Finally, we meet every third Tuesday of the month. We meet at the Trenton Public Library located at 105 NE 11th Ave, Trenton, FL 32693. Feel free to stop by and visit.



Suwannee County ARES

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

Suwannee County ARES Net

The Suwannee County ARES Net has been going well each Sunday evening at 8:30 pm ET on 146.55 MHz simplex. In its first two months of operation, the net has had between nine and sixteen check-ins each week.

After the first few weeks, many radio amateurs started to improve their stations with the majority of improvements centered around the antennas used. All stations are pleasantly surprised to find out that they can hear and be heard by all other stations across several counties. Such individual station improvements are important assets in the event of a widespread power loss, during a storm to forewarn of hazards or to chck up on the well-being of other hams in the area.

Each net session features a check-in, comments and announcements from our county Emergency Coordinator Mike Meador KM4BTW, other announcements, and then comments from each station chcrking into the net. After any "reply comments" the net is closed just before 9 pm in time for the Madison County ARES net at 9:00 pm on the 145.19 (-600 Hz, Tone 123.0 Hz) repeater in Lee

Suwannee County EOC Station Review

A review of the Amateur Radio station KK4RQY located at the Suwannee County Emergency Operations Center was conducted on February 23rd by Mike Meador KM4BTW and Gordon Beattie W2TTT, with remote support from Assistant Emergency Coordinator Joe Kelman KI4TRR and Nancy Beattie N2FWI. The review noted a damaged pulley rope on the 80m dipole which degraded the antenna's performance. This will be replaced with a new black Dacron(R) rope from Gordon and a triband fan dipole for 80/60/40 meters that Mike has built. The existing 40m dipole put up temporarily for IAN by Gordon and an unlicensed CERT member is operational. It may be taken down and replaced with another antenna on the tower for digital operations and as a backup. The VHF-UHF antennas were found to be operational. The laptop will be updated with current WINLINK, VARA and other EMCOMM software. The HF amplifier was not tested, but will be in the next sixty days.

Testing New Repeater in Suwannee County

Suwannee County ARES is also testing a new repeater on 443.775 MHz (+5 MHz, Tone 107.2 Hz). All are welcome to use the repeater for conversation and in case of emergencies. The initial response from users in both Suwannee and Madison Counties has been enthusiastic. Chatty conversations have been noted among the users due to the long, three minute timeout timer. While the repeater has accessories for implementing digital modes such as Fusion, DMR or D-Star, it was felt that since most users have FM rigs, that it will remain in that mode. There are discussions to possibly add Echolink via an All-Star Network node pending user interest.

The repeater is a ten year old Kenwood TKR-851 with a TPL amplifier and TX/RX four cavity duplexer. It is running cool as it provides 55 Watts out of the duplexer and into the feedline. The amplifier features a thermally controlled fan that only comes on after extended use. Currently, the repeater antenna is at 50 feet using an Amateur Radio grade antenna fed by LMR-400. The antenna, feed system and the height will be upgraded shortly. Another upgrade will be a 260 AH LiFePO4 battery backup system and 180 Watt solar charger that just needs to be installed.

Initial coverage testing has shown usable access from the Madison County and Suwannee County EOCs, Live Oak, Branford, Advent Christian Village and Mayo. Repeater coordination is in progress, and adjustments will be made and publicized as needed.

In the rack from top to bottom:

- TX/RX 4 cavity duplexer
- TPL Amplifier with fan
- Power supply and distribution
- Kenwood TKR-851 repeater
- AC power strip



Continued on next page...

Suwannee ARES Support

Technical support help is available to area radio amateurs through the Suwannee ARES team. ARRL membership is not required to join ARES, but we do encourage membership in our National Amateur Radio Society, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). One key part of the team's mission is to maximize the reserve communications capabilities of our community. If you need access to advice, an antenna analyzer, other test equipment or other resources, please reach out to us and we will see how we can help. Periodically, we run Technician Class Licenses courses, so let your family and friends know and we'll get them started, licensed and on the air.

If you are interested in joining the Suwannee County ARES team, or have other questions, please drop a note to Emergency Coordinator Mike Meador KM4BTW at mmeador@hotmail.com or Net Manager Gordon Beattie W2TTT at W2TTT@ATT.NET or +1.201.314.6964.



Suwannee Amateur Radio Club

Steve Kostro, N2CEI
President SARC

Jan and Feb have been busy times here at the Suwannee ARC. We spent weekends getting ready for the Orlando Hamfest where membership worked selling our surplus equipment and components. This hamfest is the main revenue generation for our club. It's always good to have all hands involved with a common goal. After sorting, testing and repairing equipment, the weekend at the fest was spent meeting and greeting people from all over the state and country. During February, we accommodated travelers to and from the Hamfest with requested tours of the SARC Clubhouse grounds. Basically, we had an open house for two weeks! It was fun! It was great to meet all of you that stopped by for the tour and at the hamfest and hope to see you again soon!



Immediately after arriving back from the Hamfest, we were gifted some professional help in Re-Guying one of our original towers. The materials were provided by the Club but the labor was provided by an experienced Tower crew that was visiting Florida. One and a half days and the job was completed! We thanked them for "Stop'in by" and since they were all hams, we offered the use of the Clubhouse anytime they may be in the area!

Our meeting in March is our election and budget approval business meeting and the membership will set the agenda for this year's club activities such as the upcoming Florida QSO Party and other operating events throughout the year. We will discuss refurbishing equipment for sale, grounds and clubhouse maintenance, and other general happenings at the clubhouse such as the use of our new 2 Meter EME system that has been busy making contacts throughout the world. Everyone wants a turn at the Switch!!

So, If you are in the area on a meeting night (first Tuesday of the month) or any weekend, give us a call on our repeater 144.410 -.600 PL100 and we can guide you in for a quick eyeball or clubhouse tour! Or just visit our website at: <https://www.suwanneearc.org/>. There you will find a Power Point presentation of our antennas and grounds and contact information of our officers and people in charge of the clubhouse and they would be pleased to show you around if you are passing through the area.

Alachua County ARES(R)/NFARC Update

by Gordon Gibby KX4Z

H&W Exercise

Reid Tillery K9RFT, net manager of the Gainesville Area NVIS Net (GANN) has come up with a gangbusters idea for a Saturday Functional Exercise to test the ability of local volunteer hams to move citizen-generated health and welfare traffic out of a theoretical disaster, by any means possible. His motto is "Get The Message Out!" (GTMO, pronounced :gitmo")

That includes:

- Peer to Peer winlink to volunteers outside the disaster area who can make simple phone calls or send emails to send notes to loved ones
- Normal client-server winlink to RMS stations outside the disaster area that still have Internet and can immediately move traffic
- Internal relaying of messages from outlying portions of the county not well served by VHF simplex, via HF NVIS voice, or data, or both, to get them onward
- Collection of messages at "catchment" points related to volunteers' local neighborhoods, fire stations, points of County distribution, shelters, etc.

Reid's plan includes a "central office" staffed by members of the **Gainesville Amateur Radio Society**, at the Waldo city EOC radio room, to manage a local HF NVIS net, building on the positive experiences of the Gainesville Area NVIS net, in operation 2 Fridays each month for months now. Then multiple "helper" stations able to connect to the VHF input systems of the Alachua County EOC radio room and also to more distant volunteers.

Draft Proposed Exercise for our County

<https://qsl.net/nf4rc/2023/NVIS-VHFGTMOFunctionalExercise.pdf>

A lot of discussion and improved understanding of the Alachua County volunteer backup communications plan went on in the building of Reid's Exercise. We found that we could easily handle all the functions he wished to test, by just activating various "blocks" of our existing multi-tiered communications plan. <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/AlachuaCountyCommsPlan2022.pdf>

There are several exciting aspects to the proposed Functional Exercise:

- Much more focused attention on direct public service to the citizens, not just the government entities.
- Much better niche for the strong Waldo city EOC radio room.
- It takes a load off of the volunteers at the Alachua County EOC, who must pay close attention to the Emergency Management group
- It provides support for an HF net that might better serve outlying townships more removed from our Gainesville-based voice repeaters.
- Potentially might help the NFL Section HF net with net control help
- Engages non-badged volunteers in an inclusive response

Reid utilizes two different intake systems -- first, a simplified system that just sends the message "I'm OK, safe and sound" and uses a very simple data collection similar to what moved 6,000 messages by 20 meter SSB out of Puerto Rico. Secondly, a more explanatory form that can allow citizens to send a much more detailed message (more suitable for Winlink) to email addressees. The idea of each volunteer developing their own "catchment area" really caught peoples' attention!

Suggested SIMPLE Survivor Messaging INTAKE Form (Simply to gather messages from the public)

Signing up on this form will send just the simple message,
"I'm OK, Safe and Sound."

ADDRESSEE PHONE NUMBER INCLUDE AREA COE	(ALTERNATE) ADDRESSEE E-MAIL	FROM: (Name)

Continued on next page...

The whole draft Exercise plan was then inserted into the proper places of the HSEEP forms, Objectives more clearly identified, suitable organizational details worked out, and wow, what a great Exercise is taking place! The current plan is for Reid to present the Draft to both the ARES(R)/NFARC club and the GARS club in March and then move forward to execute it, perhaps more than once. For further information see the Exercise draft, or contact Reid Tillery per the information contained therein

School Ham Radio Open House Display

Indefatigable volunteer Lorilyn KO4LBS brought two of her middle-school CW students and Morse code keys and handi-talkies for a very well-received display at the Cornerstone Academy Open House. Lorilyn has been volunteering once a week and teaching Morse Code -- the students' choice! -- for a couple of quarters now and the kids are really having fun!



Much Delayed Tower...



Our alumatower finally got its weld-repair after damage from a huge fallen limb. Stewart Reissener KK4DXF has been developing a plan to mount it on a removable hinged plate toward the front of a very heavy equipment trailer (16-foot bed), using an angled rest position so that the end of the tower doesn't stick out far into traffic. Then the tower can be simply walked into upright position and secured to ironwork at the front of the trailer -- little complicated systems required. This tower can reach > 30 feet and has a worm drive that can be run by a battery powered drill, but will not free-wheel and thus is very safe for volunteers. Hooray for Stewart, who also built our wooden go-boxes that some of our EOC HF radio system is about to move into.



Field Day!

Plans for our NF4RC Field Day continue to move forward with insurance issues being handled and worked out with County legal. Hooray for Leland Gallup AA3YB and Susan Halbert KG4VWI! We got beat by Columbia County last year even though we had our best year ever, and this friendly rivalry is improving everyone! We won't talk about all the Great Things the GARS group has been up to, so as not to steal their Thunder but they have fantastic news, and I know they are working on a better Field Day effort, also.

UF Campus RMS / GARC

Steve Panaghi KC2ASY not only maxed our January ICS-214 challenge, but he and friends improved the VHF antenna situation at the GARC Club on the University of Florida campus and added VHF WINLINK RMS capabilities to their VHF VARA-FM Digipeater. Hooray! Our county is now so overflowing with VHF AX.25, VHF VARA-FM, HF-Ham and HF-SHARES data capabilities that we have to have a special page just to keep track of the VHF side of things: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/VHFPacketInterconnections.html>

Portable Deployment HF Effort

Meanwhile, Brett Wallace NH2KW, also a January Exercise success story, is on the trail of man-packable voice/data deployment radio systems. He and I did experiments on a Chameleon product, finding it to have inexplicable loss elements built right in (making matching easier but not helping efficiency!) and he will be delivering our March Tech Talk on easily deployable HF antennas. (7PM, first Thursday of each month, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89530741792>) Every antenna is a compromise!

Don't Trip!

And we helped out the wonderful Queen of Peace Catholic Church that allows us meeting space, by fixing some of their sidewalk lights -- thanks for their hospitality! Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7 PM. See: <https://qsl.net/nf4rc/index.html> or our groups.io page, <https://groups.io/g/NF4RC>



GARS Gifts High School Ham Club with Trailer Renovation

Barbara Matthews, KO4TWZ and Deb Boal, KI4CVS

At the February Gainesville Amateur Radio Society (GARS) Meeting, members presented the renovated communications trailer to the Loftan High School Amateur Radio Club (W4WTL). GARS members took the trailer, which had been donated to the school, down to the bones and refurbished it as a mobile operation unit, fully wired it for power, installed lights, ceiling panels, flooring, a counter as well as a donated AC unit. The club sponsor Dr. Bob Lightner (W4GJ), Mark Smith (Loftan Director of the Fire Academy), school club members are pictured with the finished trailer along with Tom Gause (W4YGT) who managed the dedicated volunteer group of GARS members in completing the project. At the meeting, Loftan Club President Joshua Wyrosdick presented GARS with a certificate of appreciation and Bob Lightner led a program about the club and its many on air achievements.

The enthusiasm and accomplishments of the students is very motivating. The club is teaching skill sets useful in Fire Fighting careers and establishing a love for this lifelong activity. GARS is thrilled and honored to assist a younger generation of operators and looks forward to working alongside them on the air.



L to R) President Joshua Wyrosdick, Zach Nanke, Becca Noble, Marc Smith, Bob Lightner, Tom Gause



Certificate photo: Loftan club President Joshua Wyrosdick presents GARS President Terry Gordon (K4TMG) with a certificate of appreciation.



First Club Use of Trailer



Loftan club group photo along with the GARS members who refit the trailer, including GARS VP Shannon Boal, (K4GLM), Pres. Terry Gordon (K4TMG), Dean Covey (KV4RL), and Eric Pleace (K04ZSD)

MERT Communications Update

Harlan Cook, KN4VRM, Coordinator



Marion County Emergency Radio Team

We have *MUCH* to look forward to in 2023!

Looking forward, the MERT Team has many activities planned already. Here's a brief list for the next 5 months:

- ⇒ In March, we will be replacing all the cabling on the EOC tower. This will be a big job and all Members and Friends of MERT are asked to lend a hand. Your assistance is needed as it will take a week to complete.
- ⇒ In April, MERT will be celebrating 20-years of service to the MCSO Division of Emergency Management by conducting a "Special Event" Exercise over a 12-hour schedule on April 29th. MERT Members will be making contacts all over Florida, the United States and across the world. We will be sharing who MERT is and what we do while we put our experience and skills of amateur radio into *ACTION*. It will be a fun event and we invite all Friends of MERT to participate from their own radio shacks to say "Hello".
- ⇒ In May, MERT will be participating in the CERT Rodeo where we practice our ICS- 213 reporting skills along with showing local CERT Community Teams how amateur radio can be an important part of *their community's* capabilities.



⇒ Also in May, we will be auditing and testing MERT's resources at the school Shelters which weren't tested in 2022. We will also be completing our annual inventory and inspection of all the SHREK Kits. As Hurricane Season starts next month, all MERT Training activities go into high-gear.

⇒ In June, Hurricane Season starts. We can only hope it ends without any hits on Florida.

MERT thanks the Marion County Maintenance Dept. for clearing multiple tree limbs off the HF antenna at the EOC. It works

I invite all Members and Friends of MERT including CERT, ARES, HEC including all HAM's to visit us on Wednesday mornings at the EOC (starting at 9:00 am) or attend the Monthly meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month (starting at 10:00 am). ***ALL ARE WELCOMED!***



Ocala Chapter 62 of the QCWA

Ken Simpson, W8EK, Pesident

Ocala Chapter 62 of the Quarter Century Wireless Associate met Thursday, February 23 at Golden Corral in Ocala. Meetings are normally held at the China Lee Buffet, but they were still closed for remodeling at the time of our meeting.

Certificates were available for two members. Roger, KG4GGG, earned a 35 year certificate, but was not able to be at the meeting. His certificate will be presented to him at a later date. Sue, N8AJU, was presented with her 45 year certificate by National Director Ken Simpson, W8EK.

In addition to the certificates, W8EK presented information about the upcoming national elections. Ballots will go out on March 1. Ken discussed some of the candidates coming up for election. Chapter 62 holds a net every Saturday morning at 9 AM on 3940 MHz. Every one is invited and encouraged to check in.



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!