

HURRICANE IRMA VOLUNTEER ARES AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SUCCESSES & ISSUES

Hurricane Irma: September 10-11 2017

SHELTER	Radio Conducive Volunteer	Radio Obstructive
Alachua Elem School	(no volunteer) Classroom building into teacher planning area 2" conduit bldg 6, room 023A	
Archer Comm School	(no volunteer)	
Buchholz High School	KM4YDD Hallway – north end of hallway used for residents. This allowed him to put a mag mount antenna onto the door and shut the door o the cable. Generator runs the entire facility so he never lost electircal power; he had a backup UPS.	No pathway through wall. Difficulty finding location that could receive the repeater.
Chiles Elem School	WA4ET waiting on a report	
Eastside High School	KG4NGR Office in front building. Antenna went by a window. (Used Alachua County Go-Box successfully with Diamond Antenna) – worked even inside.	No possible attachment for an outside antenna. Would have required very long cable. No path thru wall.
High Springs Comm School	KR6G	
Kanapaha Middle School	(no volunteer, I think)	
MLK Multipurpose Center	KC1TN Set up in a storage room on the side of the gymnasium. Earl used a coathanger vertical-- worked	No path rrough wall.

	<p>adequate to get to the repeater but nothing more</p> <p>Air Force gave him access to their WIFI – prior to that he had no wifi access.- information gathering, jax chat, weather services, Army and Air Force had good local information but were appreciative of the state wide updates that Harry was able to provide. .</p>	
Meadowbrook Elem School	<p>Don Fuhrlong??</p> <p>Believe he was way inside the school with no real radio way out....need more information....</p>	
Oak View Elem School	<p>KX4Z AA3YB Science room with covered exterior door utilized; tied door shut on pliers to avoid crushing coax; outside VHF/HF antennas in convenient 25-ft trees—made contact with Federal SHARES voice & digital net, and constant contact with local ARES net on voice repeaters. Also considerable digital email – worked well with outside antennas.</p>	<p>No access to life-safety power. No path through wall. Hurricane screens made antenna thru window impossible.</p>
Rawlings Elem School	<p>UNABLE (at first) The first time Harry went there, the setup was simply unworkable.</p> <p>KC1TN On the following day, Harry found a more accommodating shelter staff, they become much more receptive and provided a place for Harry to set up! Was able to set up indoor HF and VHF antennas and function well. Used a 80- 10 meter vertical indoors.</p>	<p>Radio room has been made into a staff sleeping quarters. Only remaining opportunity was a handitalkie by the front door. No path through wall.</p> <p>NOTE: operating VHF and HF antennas indoors creates large losses and exposes local personnel to RF energy which may be within exposure limits, but isn't a good idea if higher powers are used to get over the</p>

	Project coordinator says there is a pass through.	large losses....if repeaters fail, communications using indoor antennas are very unlikely to be successful.
Santa Fe High School	(no volunteer) Bldg 34; conduit cast iron, clean out covers, 020	
Shell Elem School	KI4OXD Staff break room just off cafeteria. Ran coax under door – there was enough gap exterior.. door.	Generator: switchover switch fried. 11 hours no power No path through wall. Paramedic unable to get a signal due to building shielding; sheriff's radios also failing inside building.
Talbot Elem School	(no volunteer)	
Williams Elem School	(no volunteer)	
Gainesville Sr Center	KI4QBZ Billiards room utilized, antenna had to go on lighting pole. (KI4QBZ).	Scheduled antenna never installed. No path through wall Building has wall penetration, but radio location was moved to opposite end of building?
Westwood Middle School	(no volunteer) 4" conduit through two walls. Cafeteria. bldg 18, SE wall room 002, N wall on 014. (they have run extension cords thru)	
Easton Newberry Sports Cmplx		RADIO IMPOSSIBLE Scheduled antenna never installed. No radio spot No path through wall Suggested site impenetrable to remainder of shelter, no path through wall. No outside antennas
Waldo Comm School	W4GLM	Newer building they were in

	<p>KI4CVS</p> <p>Placed in Noe Hall. They asked for a location with a window – teachers workroom. excellent location between kids and adult's shelters. Able to get coax/antennas out the antenna. Used tripod military-type mount for a vertical antenna. Shelter manager “Laura” – good relationship, great teamwork.</p>	<p>“meets codes” but the generator had never been tested. It did not work when needed, 15kW Would not run a coffee pot because carb was full of deteriorated gasoline; tires flat.</p> <p>Older building was NOT used but had a genny what worked AUTOMATICALLY --- so our crew had to switch to a truck battery, but the shelter had lots of problems, no lights, etc.</p> <p>Water went out --- can't flush those toilets with buckets at all!</p> <p>EM could not get them to the right people, but Bernard Carter shifted from primary well to secondary well that gave them water back!!</p>
Emergency Operations Center	<p>KG4VWI KM4YGG</p> <p>Good equipment, after staff upgraded everything to current templates and software</p>	<p>Existing HF antenna inadequate Existing VHF antennas only work through repeaters. Planned upgrades not yet accomplished. Radio software WINLINK not updated Trunked software not updated Only 2 VHF antennas UFH antenna in very poor shape</p>

KD4MGR – has a repeater at 400 feet on some tower.

TOM COWART: FACILITIES SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY:

EHPA Facilities : designed from the ground up for hurricanes. Impact glass.

Other facilities were hardened with hurricane screens.

Run any cables under the door take the threshold off <----YOU HAVE HIS PERMISSION!!!

cowartta@gm.sbac.edu