

ALACHUA COUNTY ARES ■ GAINESVILLE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Volunteers from both these wonderful, local amateur radio groups staff shelters in Alachua County during times of stress. Amateur Radio is a fascinating hobby, with over 700,000 Americans and hundreds of thousands of others all over the world enjoying the diversity of this hobby. Hams may build and operate their own radios, experiment with satellite communications, participate in emergency services, or just meet friends over the radio. In the United States, all are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) after passing multiple choice tests that range from fairly easy (for the introductory Technician license) to rather complicated (the Amateur Extra Class license).

This hobby is built on volunteers! The Gator Amateur Radio Club, at the University of Florida, as well as ARES, conduct periodic classes to assist people in passing the license exams, and another group of hard-working volunteers provide at-cost examinations every other month in Gainesville.