

Minutes

Ares meeting, 13 November, 2019

Susan Halbert for Leland Gallup

The meeting began at about 18:45 with several accomplishments:

1. Stewart Reissener and Gordon Gibby deployed an antenna for Stewart. It works well.
2. On Wednesday, a team checked into the Ocala SARNET (since the Gainesville SARNET node is not working at the moment). This connection does not work all the time, but sometimes it is possible.
3. The book for the Baptist emergency radio program is finished and available on Amazon.com. Copies were distributed for looking.
4. A Heathkit SB102 radio was repaired.
5. A more robust (current instead of voltage) version of the balun we built for an end-fed antenna can be used as part of an amplifier for a QRP radio. [Editorial Note: I still am missing the details. Please add the technical rationale.]

After discussing these accomplishments, the meeting proceeded to topics on the regular agenda.

1. Most of the eligible people have obtained official county "Volunteer" badges. Several more eligible people still need to get them.

2. An opportunity to take EC001 is being offered in conjunction with the Emergency conference in February. ARRL now requires that this course consists of at least 16-24 hours of practical training, so this is an opportunity to comply with the new standards for free. The conference itself deals with the middle 8 hours of the course, so the rest of the course will take place on Friday before the conference and Monday after the conference. Sign up on the ARES calendar.

3. Current requirements for any deployment are IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800, EC001, and a level II background check. Some counties are having difficulties with the background check due to the cost. We are very fortunate to be in a county where this is taken care of for us.

4. Our special guest was Mr. Robert C. Swain, Senior Assistant County Attorney. He discussed the legal responsibilities that come with our new privileges as badged County Volunteers. We are the first to have this status, so we need to get this right!

1. All email correspondence about county business is Public Record, unless specifically designated otherwise. Be careful what you say in email. We have many of the same privileges and responsibilities of county employees.
2. Some information that we will have access to should NOT be available to the public, (examples were given). These topics should NEVER be discussed on non-secured email programs such as Yahoo and Google.
3. NEVER take any pictures inside the EOC.

4. If a member of the press ever asks you for information (especially during an emergency), refer them to the PIO, who is Mr. Mark Sexton.
5. Gordon went over the requirements listed in the Task Book. Those who brought their books were able to get some of the items signed off by Jeff Capehart, Alachua County EC.
6. We were the only county to participate in the SET, which we did during the GARS picnic. 6-7 people sent about 10 messages, of which 5 were WINLINK.
7. The next item on the agenda was intended to be a demonstration of Larry Rovak's new 440 band repeater. Unfortunately, this didn't happen, because Larry had a family emergency. We indicated that the repeater was in operation on Monday at the GARS Veterans' Day table.
8. Operation Santa Delivery will occur on 7 XII 2019. Everyone is asked to participate. There are two parts to this event. First, a ground crew is needed to help with crowd control as the Shands helicopter arrives with Santa and leaves. (Usually the helicopter does not stay long.) Second, at the GARS table, children are able to talk to Santa on the radio until he arrives, and, while Santa is in (relatively) warm Gainesville, Florida, they can talk to Mrs. Santa, who is stuck at the North Pole, probably shivering. People are needed to assist the children with the radios and to be voice actors for Mr. and Mrs. Santa. The event lasts from 08:00 (set-up) – 13:00 local time. People are needed also to take down the display after the event.
9. The next item on the agenda was radiogram practice. We were able to pass a couple of messages, but we should have passed at least 5 in the allotted 15 minutes. We agreed that we need more practice in this activity – perhaps a segment each month. It is essential to program the radio ahead of time (or at least know how to set the radio for repeaters, tones, etc. on the fly). An ICS 205 was prepared for the practice. It is essential to print that out for use prior to the exercise! Jeff Capehart served as net control. If we do this exercise every month, in a year, nearly everyone will get the chance to try being net control operator.
10. Gordon was able to eliminate debilitating RFI from his inverter generator. He purchased a \$128 filter from England, but it was insufficient. He added a common mode filter made of a toroid wound with romex house wire. That was better, but still insufficient. Finally, he made another filter from a toroid wound with WalMart wire. That proved sufficient to eliminate the noise. [Editorial Question: We nearly always use a generator for Field Day, and, as far as I know, nobody has had to make a 3-stage filter that includes a \$128 part from England. What is the difference?]
- 11: Various plans were discussed about how to improve the station at the EOC. Funding is likely to be available.

12. Gordon did a demo about how to send a circuit board diagram to China to obtain a printed circuit board. The case discussed was an SWR meter. (Don't forget to add in a gas discharge tube!). After designing the circuit and checking all the parameters, a box of printed circuit boards arrives by DHL in a few days. The postage is about \$17, but often the boards themselves are much cheaper than that, making the total price very reasonable. Gordon mentioned that probably the operation is subsidized by the Chinese government so they can obtain the circuit plans; however, we certainly are not designing anything that has national security implications.

We adjourned at about 21:00.