

NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES July 10, 2019

Meeting held at Gainesville Red Cross, 6th Ave NW and 16th St

Attendance: 14

Gordon Gibby
John Trites
COL David Huckstep
Stewart Reisner
Judy Gardner
Jeff Capehart
Chris Carr
Wendell Wright
Judith Rosemary Jones
Leland Gallup
Earl McDow
Susan Halbert
Mike Shaffer
Vann Chesney

Meeting called to order at 1900

Minutes for June 2019 Meeting approved.

1. **Background checks.** Recertifications and revalidations done. Credentialing process is next; EOC will at some point establish a day for photos and badging. With new emergency manager at EOC, Hal Greib, there is some extra time to be taken into account. Mr. Grieg was assistant UF Emergency Manager. With the transition to new EM, the badging and credentialing may be delayed somewhat.
2. **Informal exercise for June.** Results shown on screen to attendees. Jeff Capehart described what the intended effort was: a regular email sent to Jeff Capehart's Winlink account. Jeff mentioned the "secret," which is that an email to a Winlink account must have the "//WL2K" in the subject line to ensure the message will get through. That "trick" doesn't put the sender on the recipient's whitelist. If the Winlink recipient/user sends message back, then the addressee is auto included on the Winlink user's whitelist. Also, the Winlink preferences tab in the program show that you can auto add "//WL2K" on the subject line. July's exercise is to send a radiogram. You can choose the format: Winlink, voice, or 213. What will not count is regular email. These events have now been added to ARES CONNECT so go put the entry on the ARES connect site and get credit. Disadvantage is that you keep putting off what is unscheduled. This meeting is on ARES Connect, and you can sign up for a variety of North Florida activities. Question from Judy Gardner on how to "join" RACES and ARES and the club. [Note: AA3YB as secretary should know the NFARC/NF4AC club respective membership rules and bring membership forms].
3. **Extra Class license instruction.** 8 signed up already; first day is at EOC on August 17 Saturday starting at 0800 and goes until 1900. First Saturday of the "even" months is when the

test is administered; will be about a month or so after the class. Instructors established and should be working on materials. COL Huckstep asked how to sign up for the class, and KX4Z said that that was necessary was an email to him.

4. **ARES task book.** Gordon KX4Z showed how to fill out the message tracking portion of the Alachua County ARES task book. Described the difference between formal and informal messages, which is why the task book's listing of formal message origination, forwarding, receiving, is so important. The next page of the task book shows "what you have" in terms of equipment. There is also a way to record FEMA courses that have been completed. Third page is the listing of skills, and especially note that the skills for radiograms on page three is for VOICE radiogram. There is no level 4 in ARRL parlance, because doesn't track; but there is an Alachua ARES Level 4 to signify the highest level of demonstrated skills/certification. The ARRL is now in to task books because FEMA is in to it. FL is a little behind some places; there is no FL/NFL task book yet, but it will be transferable to the eventual NFL task book.
5. **Treasurer's report.** S Halbert purchased the club's liability insurance for the coming year; two donors gave Halbert \$200 for the insurance and S. Halbert requested donations to help the donors recoup the expenditure. Also talked about the Beatty Towers repeater system, which right now is operating on band-aid shoestring. For example, the UPS is not working. Two fixes (plug and play powerpole board and UPS) are necessary. Bottom line is that the battery should be ~30\$, and we could probably build the power distribution system. Asked W4UFL about student funding; answer: none. No funding from the university. There is some money "there," but it is for maintenance. Capehart will email Garlitz to see if they will offer some cash.
6. **Field Day.** KX4Z asked for input from the attendees, because John Troupe, who was scheduled to speak about FD, wasn't present tonight. John Trites spoke, giving some background. Opinion was that metrics for FD are important to see how operators/clubs were doing. He thought we had done well by seeing government officials, including the Alachua County Sheriff herself; training important, teaching important. Shout out to the trainers, for example on FT8. He appreciated the training. He had a lot of fun. There was good teaching and it was a great learning opportunity. There should be "lessons learned" from FD. On this one, the tri-bander on the remote tower was a bust. There was no pre-event planing to get stuff working (for example, the tri-bander), such as a practice set-up a month in advance. The antennas in general were a shortcoming. Important to use antenna analyzers to see what the actual SWR is, etc. Each person who owns a station should document, with screen shots, how that person's particular gear works. This makes it possible for other operators to use stations. Mike Shaffer was disappointed that nothing but FT8 was running. That was because of the antenna issues. Vann Chesney worked 40m phone on Sunday morning. Participation thin; had no logger, it was difficult to do both. Even non-operators can be useful as loggers. COL Huckstep agreed that there was a great deal learned; but the lack of organizational discipline bothered him and thinks this should be done better in the future. He agreed to work two shifts, but there was no one scheduling who would come in. This meant that operating was lacking. No band plan. Lot of effort but no one to operate. That is disappointing. Rosemary Jones suggested that spreadsheets should be developed showing the operator, power. Screen shots of settings would be useful; this is "bandplan with results." Bandplan changes should be distributed to the various operators. Jeff Capehart had the total score; 1858 points, listed the number of QSOs, GOTA contacts, digital operations. 1150 were bonus points which was emergency power, media publicity, capturing FD message, site visits by served agencies, ed activities, social media. Gordon Gibby, KX4Z, talked about his "solo" FD activities. Described his operating systems;

listed his “lessons learned” and showed them on the screen for the meeting attendees. 65 contacts, 800 points, submitted report the following day. Columbia county made only 60 contacts for their own club. So we are doing not so bad by comparison. Antennas and generating systems described. Solar used. KX4Z showed how he was able to do CW on his rig; he didn't know how to tune it given the very large SSB filter. Described how to find the offset – when the rig goes into CW, the BFO offsets and you can hear the shift. Showed a drawing that illustrated the CW 150Hz signal. Your BFO gets shifted up or down so you can hear the signal using the BFO and the signal; plus and minus product is result. CW needs to have an oscillator, which is what the BFO does. Then in order to narrow things down, you need filtering to discover what the offset is for your rig, and whether it's operating LSB or USB in your particular case.

7. **JS8Call.** Gallup delivered a JS8Call presentation and answered questions.
8. **AREDN Mesh session.** Gordon Gibby set up two teams to do hand on practice with AREDN with 2.4GHz transceivers. Using an “AREDN Familiarization” handout, the two teams worked through the lists, finding the computer IP number, default route number, entered the handout URL in the browser, logged in to the AREDN screens with username and password, and then were able to see the MESH network in operation, including the IP addresses of the other transceiver visible, with a signal 60db above the noise level, on 700 milliwatts. Last task was trying to call the other team on the VOIP phone. Ran out of time for the advanced task of sending Winlink over P2P telnet/MESH.
9. **Lab and Lunch.** On 20 July, there will be the building of a fused power distro box. Time is at noon at Wednesday, then to KX4Z house to construct the gear.
10. **Biasing.** The past two meetings have discussed feedback control of the gain on a single transistor amplifier. Now we discuss biasing – slight amount of current in to the transistor to get it to operate. Must be SOME collector current to make the transistor work...but you don't want too much current because you don't want too much gain. Gordon showed a simple circuit diagram. Showed a “slightly better biasing” design, that corrected issues with wildly varying gain and drive on the transistor.

Meeting adjourned at 21:10

Meeting adjourned 2100.

