

NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

August 14, 2019

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

Attendance: 15

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

Meeting called to order at 1900

Minutes for July 2019 Meeting approved.

1. **Recognition of Extra Class Instructors and the Background checks.** Recertifications and revalidations done. Credentialing process is next; EOC will at some point establish a day for photos and badging, possible this coming Saturday. Dalton Harding awaiting email from David Torcell (sp?) with list of those who passed the background check. COL Huckstep will send the email of those who passed to Dalton Herding.
2. **Informal exercise for July and announcement of August exercise.** Not too many people sent Radiograms to Jeff Capehart: Gibby, Gallup, Halbert, Chesney. August informal exercise: program your radio for 146.85 repeater. Standard 123 and standard offset: minus 600KHz. Send Capehart the callsign for the repeater so he knows you've done. This is a private repeater and is not on the preprogrammed list.
3. **Traffic Net control and practice session.** KX4Z introduced the method for net traffic control and handling. Went over the method for handling the listing of traffic and for moving traffic handlers off the main frequency. First session, Jones was Net Control; second Gallup. First session one message was handled; second session at least three. Gallup analyzed his failure as NCS to properly record stations – should have been tactical and not call signs. Gibby's overview is that the group is way ahead of other groups on message handling.

- 4. Update on EOC room and antenna.** AA3YB and COL Huckstep described the status of the EOC radio room and the HUGE success with the new OCF 270' antenna that Gibby, Huckstep, Wright, and Gallup put up on Sunday, August 11. KX4Z showed graphs of the noise analysis; the new OCF antenna is 30db quieter on 80 meters. He showed an image from the spectrum analyzer with ham signals on 80 meters. Described how he was able to contact his house on 80meters, Winlink (never before been done from the EOC) and – amazingly – made an 80meter Winlink Ardop connection to W4SEN – at 1600 on a sunny afternoon! By all reasonable conventions and assumptions of propagation this should not have been possible...and yet the new HUGE antenna at the EOC, in a VERY quiet location, has made this possible. NVIS propagation allowed the contact. All-time connection with the State EOC now a realistic prospect for our operations from NF4AC, the EOC amateur station. KX4Z then demonstrated an LDG tuner that will be put in the EOC so that the Icom transceiver will have a good modern 200watt capable tuner...the combination with the new antenna (and Ryan Lee is on the task of running coax from the EOC building to connect with the antenna as it now ends on a tree) will make for a very capable station at the EOC. This is enormous progress from a year ago.
- 5. Shelter antenna update, ASO supplied communications “Go Boxes” and how to connect.** COL Huckstep met with the School Board and got permissions to site antennas at the seven most likely shelters. He then demonstrated one of the four go boxes that the ASO funded and prepared. These go boxes will be picked up, or delivered, to four shelters that will be likely first to open in emergencies. The Go Box is “plug and play” for public safety, 2m Icom VHF (amateur), with power supply. The back panels have coax connectors. The shelters have AC power, so all the operator has to do is connect the mains, hook up coax to the exterior, and begin operating. An Alachua County comms book will be in each go box – COL Huckstep demonstrated how the book is a very clear sequence of images that precisely show the deployed operator where and how to use the equipment at each of the seven designated shelters. The AC EOC manager makes decision on which shelters to open. The antennas at the seven are installed; coax and pass throughs are in place. Each facility has public safety and VHF antennas on the buildings, There is a SO-239 on the bottom of the outside boxes so you could actually put another coax/antenna line for HF in to the shelter if you want to. Deploying amateur if possible should have HF antenna to deploy, coax to go in to the box on the outside walls. A few details need to be worked, such as caps for the outside connector box. The interior box is very nicely labeled. “Longwire” is the SO-239 for a coax jumper to an amateur's HF rig that can be deployed alongside the Go Box. Recommendation is for HF capable amateur to deploy with deep cycle marine battery and AC power supply for the HF rig. The group discussed the goal of getting the Interstate deep cycle batteries charged and deployable as DC backup. No Signalink's in the Go Boxes, so they are not yet digital capable...but with the ARES group's “tea tin” connectors, having VHF digital capability for the Go Box is certainly doable. Deploying ham can, of course, bring “tea tin” or Signalink (if required) for HF digital operations.
- 6. Baofeng digital connector build.** KX4Z briefly showed how to do this.
- 7. NFL SET.** Dave Davis, the assistant section EC, is making huge progress. Karl Martin and Davis have said that they want to do an HSEEP compliant SET. They have invited KX4Z to join the planning group for the FL SET...it will be all the state sections. Still a bit nebulous in the planning; Alachua County will likely participate in the all-FL SET. Date is the second or third weekend in October. It won't be the same level as the local SETs, but be prepared for some fun.

Meeting adjourned 2045