

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

OCTOBER 14, 2020

Meeting held via ZOOM, instead of in person at the American Red Cross, Gainesville Red Cross, 6th Ave NW and 16th St

Attendance: altogether 15

Gordon Gibby
Jeff Capehart
Leland Gallup
Rosemary Jones
Mike Shaffer KD4inh
David Huckstep
Jim Bledsoe
Vann Chesney
Susan Halbert
Craig Fugate
Charles Amico
John Trites NO5X
Roy Schaeffer WB3AJH
Bob Guertin W1GLV
Earl McDow K4ZSW

Introductions. From 1830 until 1859 when the meeting commenced. September 2020 Minutes approved.

- 1. UPDATES ON CREDENTIALLED VOLUNTEERS AND PATHWAY FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS (RACES).** 59 members registered on the ARES Connect website. We have training and work so that people who want to be badged as Alachua County volunteers can get the training necessary (such as IC-100, 700, etc. EC01) Charlie Amico said he was interested and Jeff will get him linked up. David Huckstep said that his badge will expire on 4 Jan, so he will himself need to be badged. Gibby said “read the PDFs” before doing EC001. EC001 used to cost money; now just download the PDF and getting it done. The NF4RC website has the agenda for this evening, and the link for the PDF is there.
- 2. REVIEW OF ALACHUA COUNTY S.E.T** No improvement plan yet released. Jeff W4UFL has gotten a lot of documentation. Polled this evening's meeting participants who also participated in the SET. Jeff used this to update the spreadsheet he's prepared to list who did what. 4 counties participated, and Alachua was by far the most active participant. Our SEC, Karl Martin, did a great job in putting together an IAP; we only prepared when we actually go the plan. We then did, for example, a 205 and then later 205a. Rosemary asked about the November exercise ARC which is all Winlink/simulated. We may be able to do something with this exercise as part of the General Class instruction. Discussion of things that went well, and things that might be improved; people showed obvious progress in getting their home VHF

stations improved, were nimble in responding to repeater “outages” and simplex. Need to do better with respect to NCS discipline, using “exercise,” things like that. Susan, KG4VWI, suggested someone take on the responsibility of running an exercise that called for using the actual equipment we've got and testing at the shelter. Rosemary agreed to take on the challenge of getting in to the schools and helping set up and write a scenario.

3. **GENERAL CLASS COURSE FOR NOVEMBER 2020 PLANNING.** November 14/21 is target date for the course's second weekend day. Gallup and Gibby appealed for folks to sign up to help teach the license modules Gallup is already signed to teach Procedures and Practices, and Rules & Regulations. Gibby is already signed to teach Components and Circuits, Radio Signals and Equipment, and Digital Modes. Bledsoe to teach Propagation. Need a volunteer to teach ANTENNAS. McDow will teach Electrical and RF Safety.
4. **POWER OUT!...THE BOOK DETAILING THE SPRING 2019 HSEEP EXERCISE, NOW PUBLISHED ON AMAZON.** Susan Halbert talked to the book on this exercise, which has now been published by Amazon. ARRL's PIO has picked up on this and will publish something on QST. Expect to see published in ARRL's e-letter. This provides ammo to ARRL with respect to advocating amateur radio as essential for EMCOMM. Susan is particularly happy with the play that she wrote as part of the scenario.
5. **BEATY TOWER UPDATE.** Susan, KG4VWI, thinks we have permission to get in to the facility, respecting COVID provisions. We call/email and give advance notice and we'll get permission to get in. Saturday at 1000 is good. Weekdays open, but people also have work to do.
6. **GRANT FOR NEW EOC RADIO ROOM EQUIPMENT.** COL Huckstep's effort yielded \$2700 from FDLE for equipment...anything related to HF communications. KX4Z showed an ALS-1306 solid state Ameritron amplifier. Will work on the SHARES frequencies. As soon as we get the letter from FDLE we will place the order. Also have ordered some higher capacity LIFEP04 batteries and charger. Amp will do 600w SSB and 300w full cycle, such as Winlink. With the LDG tuner we already have, and the cable, the IC-7300 at the EOC radio room can completely control the amplifier
7. **SERTRAC AND SIGNING UP FOR FREE TRAINING: G300 IN JAX IN NOV**
8. **SIMPLEX TESTING RESULTS** AA3YB described the results of the three tests; described how the results in the west of town were surprisingly good. Need to develop real data for the shelters and how they can/can not use simplex to reach the EOC. Jim Bledsoe offered to take the “Node Shelter” list and convert the information to a graphic with locations.
9. **PMOS CIRCUIT TO PREVENT REVERSE POLARITY** KX4Z showed a corrected PMOS chart for simple circuit. Put on your go box and you'll have nice protection. The MOSFETs used are \$3 each. No fuses required; just body diodes.
10. **CHEAP LIFEP04 BATTERIES AND BACKUP CHARGER UPDATE.** KX4Z showed photos of the circuit board, a/c power supply, and the Miady 16ah LIFEP04 battery. The charger knows how to set the current. Uses MOSFETs. Can handle 25/30 amps without too micjh

11. **AUTO TUNER PROGRESS** Earl McDow has spent a lot of time getting a antenna 50' up in the air for the simplex drills, and is making slow progress to building the auto tuner.
12. **NEW VHF WINLINK GATEWAY EAST SIDE OF TOWN K4MVR -10** is a very strong RMS gateway. His location is high up. We've not had good service there since Art Grant left. This is a great development.
13. **HAPPY TALE OF 572-B TUBES AND SB-200 REFURBISHMENT** KX4Z was able to get 572-B's from a store in Canada. Ordered new power supply. So progress is being make.
14. **DIGITAL VOICE RADIO ASSETS.** Jeff Capehart did a survey that folks were able to answer on screen. Types of digital radio assets. No uniformity; for example, 40% Dstar, 30% DMR, etc.
15. **FLAGLER COUNTY ASSISTANCE.** KX4Z described his assistance to Flagler County's emergency management. Their EM has a tech license. In 16 minutes Gordon made six connections digital with SHARES stations. He's impressed the EM and they are interested in developing their SHARES license. Florida Baptist group that Gordon's helped has been getting better. Gordon has gotten them a repeater license, and done training. They'll have both level one, two, some ARES level three. Some counties are going ahead and others are not doing anything.

Meeting adjourned at 2045.