

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

June 9, 2021

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

Attendance: 18

Gordon Gibby
Mike Ridlon
Leland Gallup
Craig Fugate
Jim Bledsoe
Jeff Capehart
Lorilyn Roberts KO4LBS
Mike KD4INH
Dean Covey
Mike WB2FKO
Dave Huckstep
Susan Halbert
Brad N5CBP
Rosemary Jones
Dalton Herding
Vann Chesney
Bob Guertin
Earl McDow

Introductions. From 1830 until 1859 when the meeting commenced.

1. **UPDATES ON BADGING NEW VOLUNTEERS.** ARES Connect being shut down at month's end. Information will be downloaded at end of month; so go there now to update your own information. What will be downloaded is in effect an Excel file, and we'll start fresh at end of June.
2. **APPROVAL OF APRIL 2021 MINUTES.** May 2021 minutes approved.
3. **TASKBOOK TRAINING – ARRL MOVES.** ARES Task book Levels II and III almost perfectly track the FEMA EOC grant dollar requirements. This is why ARRL's task book levels make such sense for interoperability with the FEMA/ICS world,.
4. **GO BOX TESTING AND INSTALLATION – STATUS.** Half way through. 7 shelters done; but the next 7 need to be completed – we hope – before a hurricane comes. Unfortunately we have lost our POC at the facilities shop of the Alachua County schools. Brad Nettina at EMD is going to coordinate the remaining work, but we have no definitive information on when the remaining inspections can be scheduled. A list of schools and their locations, and where the

radios will be sited, as well as photos showing pass throughs, etc, should be on web site. Look up and print out for use in the future

5. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE LEADERSHIP.** KX4Z described the ICS structure and showed a slide with the various ICS functional sections filled out with names. Showed another example of an ICS leadership structure for Field Day...that from Eastern Massachusetts. Hundred plus participants, but no EOC operations so no F class. Showed slides from QST as to how Alachua ARES did last year, noting that experience and training for our participants is our key focus, not contesting,
6. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE PLANNING SECTION** We have our own Incident Action Plan/briefing document. The ICS 201 is on on our website. KX4Z has put out on forums from around the country. Section Manager even asked for a copy. The ICS 201 is now fairly complete and ready to be used. Operator slots discussed; Scouts may show up. We also can accommodate and welcome more operators. Discussed the “cheat sheets” ... “how to” guides by KX4Z on how to use and tune HF gear, including the amplifier, in the EOC. The cheat sheets also lay out how to configure FT8, RTTY, and how to do FD contacts for those modes as well as phone and CW. Also discussed how bonus points are awarded. All this and more is already in the ICS 201 that is on our website, Example, Operations is responsible for getting us Solar; more Bonus Points are for PIO activities, Satellites, elected official, agency official participation. KX4Z showed the antenna location concepts for Station 2; this year we may try an OCF instead of an End Fed, because we have a second RV/perhaps another mast. KX4Z showed the baluns already built, as well as Flexweave 14 gauge for the antenna wires. Has tuned for both a 80m and a 40m OCF. Current Baluns (Guanella) are much better than voltage baluns
7. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE LOGISTICS.** Wendell Wright had prepared 12 different sheets of what individuals are bringing. Susan Halbert asked about what Susan as Finance needs to pay for and when. KX4Z showed the attachments.
8. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE OPERATIONS. Schedules, Training, Antennas, Power siting.** AA3YB walked through training he will conduct at the EOC Ham radio room on the equipment to be used for HF operations during FD, This will include complete how tos on turning on and configuring, as well as tuning, the IC-7300 transceiver and the Heathkit tube amplifier. How to configure and use the computer for FT8 contacts, and how we will do phone contacts for FD. KX4Z had already shown maps for the siting of the stations and antennas. Training will be on Saturday, 12 June, at 1300. Location: EOC radio room. AA3YB will also train on Friday 25 June at the EOC, times are 1500 and 1730, These training sessions should include walk throughs of the logging/MESH system. Final training the morning of FD.
9. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE PIO** Media plan out; EMD Press release out; contacts on community calendars. All the contacts Jim nBledsoe has already touched will also get a second “blast” from the County PIO's releases. Big problem this year is the fact that an important memorial event will conflict with our FD. We've done everything we can for outreach; Bledsoe will also do some contacts with local radio right before the event. One the EOC press release goes out, that's a big deal. Bledsoe also is working with a videographer about a five minute piece on amateur radio, for Channel 5/12...it will probably cycle many times.

10. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE MESH Unit** Earl McDow showed a slide set with the architecture for the MESH network, with the inclusion of an additional RV at the Station 2 location. Showed an overhead slide that illustrated what the MESH will look like. Earl will make sure the machines are up and running...showed slides with photos of the various pieces of equipment.
11. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE SOLAR POWER.** KX4Z showed the much simpler solar generation array this year. 5 contacts with solar charged powers gets us 100 bonus point.
12. **SATELLITE UNIT.** Bob Guertin stepped in and talked about how satellites are being used; he made a contact on RS44 and SO50: the former today. These are FM contacts. RS44 is a transponder, and these are low angle of elevation sats. These are low budget efforts from Ron Lewis. FD is difficult because so many are trying to make contacts. Bob will review the FT8 “cheat sheet” to see how it can be approved; Bob is three countries away from FT8 DXCC.
13. **FIELD DAY 2021. ICS STRUCTURE INCIDENT COAMMANDER WRAPUP.** David Huckstep talked about the generator issue; no doubt we'll get it done – crank the generator on FD.
14. **EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN (EOP) OUR DRAFT EOP FOR GROUP INPUT.** KX4Z showed how our EOP is different from a normal ARES plan; it is hazard and threat analysis based. Hurricanes, wildfires, cyber infrastructure attack, mass civil unrest, and EMP/CME are our principal hazards/threats in order of likelihood. Next showed our Mission Essential Functions...things that authorities may ask us to do/pursue. These include EOC augmentation, Fire/LE augmentation, shelter augmentation (typical, and much stronger now). Brett Wallace says that we are only half complete in our EOP.
15. **IPP DRAFT INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS PLAN.** The IPP involves planning, training, equipping, and exercising for the missions we might be asked to help with/what we may be asked to do. Discussed capabilities – these may apply to more than one mission. Volunteers...we need as many as 22 badged volunteers. The county has in the past has been asked to open as many as 22 shelters. We have 14 go boxes right now, but we can work with our volunteers to give our volunteers equivalent privately owned capability. Few of us have deployable HF capability. We should have 8 deployable HF stations as a goal. Solar is something some of us do. We need to increase local awareness of solar and to increase our capacity. Resilient transportation is an issue...gas during an emergency...we have five who can do that right now..need 15 who can go a hundred miles, function, and come back. Typing,...FEMA doesn't have a classification for “amateur radio, meaning how we can be classified so we can be a standard communications operator that can be requested. We need infrastructure independent alerting of our members. We need to get better at this. Repeater system/trunk for the County. What can we do if county repeaters for LE/Public Safety are out? We are doing inventory of capabilities. MARC: increase from 2 to 10 trained volunteers. EOC portable go box for some of their gear. Catalog of high places where we can site an itinerant repeater. We need more ad hoc repeaters we could deploy. List of Hts that we can loan out. SHARES licenses for VHF freq that would allow us to encrypt shelter comms. Lockouts of malicious interferers. Increase number of volunteers who can operate digital for comms with the State. Resilient homes: volunteers with backup power during emergencies...one room of a/c that can operate during emergencies. 25 volunteers capable of >4 weeks service (power, food, water). Simplex plan for emergency nets. Sustainability: all vol families with 2 weeks of food/water/power. Broadcast

to citizenry if everything is down? – possibilities for what we might be able to do, KX4Z set out a draft three year plan for how we might get the various categories above for the IPP. Drafts of the EOP and IPP are on the NFARC website.

16. **POLARITY PROTECTION ADVANCE AND PROJECT.** June 19th; meet at Burger King at 1pm, then to KXKk4Z's house at 1:00pm to complete.

17. **ADJOURN** at 8:54 EDT. Many stayed on afterwards to chat on the live Zoom feed.