

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

April 13, 2022

Meeting held via ZOOM

Attendance: 19 (participant count on ZOOM)

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Joe Kelman KI4TRR
Craig Fugate
Jim Bledsoe
Barbara KO4TWZ
Susan Halbert
David Huckstep
Amy WA4AMY
Mike WB2FKO
Jeff Capehart
Dean Covey
David Fox
Vann Chesney
Rosemary Jones
KD4INH
Wendell Wright
John Trites
Gordon Beattie

Introductions. From 1830 until 1859 when the meeting commenced. Following COVID necessities, the April 2022 meeting was solely by ZOOM.

- 1. INTRODUCTION, BADGING, AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 2022 MINUTES.** Visitors welcomed. Joe Kelman, AEC in Suwanee County, ham for many years; Dave Fox NN4DF, who lives in Gainesville, saw article by KX4Z concerning Field Day. Dave is interested in doing CW with a Field Day group and so is looking to us. W4UFL says it's possible that there will be a new Section Manager coming July 1. ARRL looking for financial advisor assistance. March minutes approved. Reid, Dean, Brett, Amy, Lorilyn are eligible for badging now, and are awaiting EM Dept action. Jim has asked Dalton to add him to the badged list, because he may not always want to operate with his employee badge, and he is qualified now.
- 2. FIELD DAY 2022 PLANNING: WHERE TO HOLD FIELD DAY.** No response by the ACSO to our request to host FD at the ACSO campus. EM Dept advises other locations than the ACSO campus and the EOC proper. EM not recommending what was proposed as an original alternative choice, the VFW Post. Because of this, KX4Z did a recon to the San Felasco State Park Ranger Station. Showed pictures of the location from Google Earth, showing air conditioned quonset hut, and large grassy flat areas. Would need permission but looks as if it's a

reasonable location for FD. Sheriff's Office uses for functions as does the MARC unit. Showed an image with a 1000 foot circle superimposed over the overhead shot. Problem may be that they do not permit use of trees – nevertheless we can pursue opportunities with the MARC unit or the Forestry Service to put up towers/masts. Showed pictures of the quonset hut, a tower/hard point for some things, picnic tables and trees. Reasonably high ground. If we want to use it, we have to recommend moving out promptly to seek permission – thru the ranger to his boss. KX4Z recommends we go with San Felasco first, and ask MARC for use of the Region 3 Tower Trailer/Generator. This would allow us to pitch COOP to the EMA and make this a 2F EOC operation. Asked for comment; consensus was San Felasco. KK4INZ said that all we'd need for COOP from the EM is that we get an approval from EM for a COOP operation in an unapproved site. KK4INZ reiterated that EOC is a function, not a building. We already have nods from Mr Herding to do precisely this. KX4Z said he'll take this as a group vote for the San Felasco site.

3. **SEC PROPOSAL TO REACH OUT TO ELECTED OFFICIALS.** KX4Z showed example of CV that could be provided to the County Commissioners to describe what our ARES group does for the community. Jim Bledsoe offered to take the lead on PIO outreach for FD. KX4Z said that the idea would be for W4JIR, KX4Z, and AA3YB to approach the County Manager and members of the County Commission.
4. **REVIEW OF FIELD DAY LEADERSHIP.** [Not covered in this meeting]
5. **UPDATE ON TRAINING REQUEST RESPONSES.** We have the most active group in the state...we have complied with our SEC's request for Radiograms; KX4Z has offered to take traffic on the ARES net for 14 April to put on the HF nets. Alachua ARES well ahead of other groups in NFL Section on answer the SEC's call. Will be more Radiograms to Arc, W4CPD, the month of April, beginning with message traffic during the Alachua ARES VHF Net of Thursday, 14 April.
6. **MEETING PLACES FOR ARES.** Options include the Cornerstone Science Room at the Westwood Hills Church. KX4Z showed images of Cornerstone's science room; big enough for our meetings; window opens up with access to trees outside. Access issue is that the Cornerstone Science Room is on a second floor. Perhaps we could have a locked facility to support a station permanently there. Next option is Westside Baptist on Newberry Road, in the Senior Sunday School class room. Not as big a room as Cornerstone. No stairs, unlike Cornerstone, but windows do not open up. 70' of coax to get out of the building to trees, but could not leave equipment there all the time. Trinity Methodist; Earl thinks that he could get us a room on the third floor. KX4Z recommends we try each of the options one time, and then we'd have a better feel for what can work for our purposes. KX4Z has the key for the Cornerstone; Doesn't know about access to Westside to 2100, but KX4Z not sure. Consensus is Cornerstone. Discussion also included requests to continue ZOOM as a feature: this would permit out of area people to attend, or those who are ill, etc. KX4Z will now pursue the Cornerstone option as first choice for live, in person, Alachua ARES meetings.
7. **ADDING SHARES EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL.** Existing ERPs include Leland, Wendell, David Huckstep, Susan Halbert; proposed additions include Brett, Jim Bledsoe. Separately licensed is NCS521 (KX4Z). Halbert thinks her qualifications may have lapsed. Several asked what this SHARES ERP is all about. KX4Z explained, and that SHARES and ERP requires a substantially greater technical and other commitment level from "typical" ham radio

– but it was stressed that ALL can provide useful emergency comms service; that SHARES is not for everyone.

- 8. EOC GO-BOX PROGRESS.** Stuart has all the dimensions so he is making a go box that will be a first iteration. Making the EOC station able to move in a heart beat is our goal. Question also raised as to the tower trailer at KX4Z...we haven't gotten farther on that.
- 9. IMPORTANCE OF NETS AND SKILLS.** Radiograms will be transmitted 14 April after the normal ARES net for more formal message traffic handling.
- 10. JS8 STATION UPDATE.** AA3YB described the 24/7/365 caching JS8 station set up at his QTH. Advantages and principles of JS8 Call, how efficient it is, and how this is now being pursued by our SEC, Arc Thames. We believe this is a very useful tool in our emergency communications tool kit.
- 11. UPDATE ON MONTHLY FLAGLER COMMS DRILL.** Five or six participated in the end of MAR FDEM monthly drill. SLERS worked; SHARES checked in on the regional and national nets, also digital bulletin copied. We can not do the sat phone because of incompatibility. We could not do HF voice because propagation was problematic. Alachua EOC served as the NCS for the HF Voice net. Almost no copy of other EOCs, yet we have the best antennas, and the issue is that other EOCs do not have optimal HF antennas for close-in HF work. There were several HF Winlink messages sent. No one from the state participated, which is a shortfall. We were also able to check in on the SARNET. Alachua EOC has by far the best station in Region 3/Region 5 for reaching out to local counties and to the State.
- 12. SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR REQUEST:** Arc Thames, our SEC, has requested that we ARES participants send a radiogram using voice using a local or section net so we use/activate the national traffic system. Some time in Mar he asked that ARES ops send a Radiogram to him Arc W4CPD; the Radiogram should mention local/historical tourist landmark in our city or county; please include the city and county it's in as well as brief information about it. KK4INZ said a Tech could do the Radiogram on our VHF net and if some Gen'l or Extra will take the traffic, then that person could later send it on the HF nets. Radiograms will be transmitted tomorrow night after the normal ARES net on the VHF nets; purpose is to allow people to copy Radiograms; will be taken by KN4TWS for transmission to our SEC. Arc has repeated the Radiogram request for April; this time to have the Radiogram originator describe a road in his/her area that become congested.
- 13. ADJOURN** at 20:37.