

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

August 10, 2022

Attendance: 23. Meeting held in person at the Cornerstone Academy on 16th St and 34th Ave, Gainesville, as well as participation by ZOOM

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Eric Pleace
Scott Roberts (SM, NFL SEC), KK4ECR
Craig Fugate
Earl McDow
Barbara Matthews
Lorilyn Roberts
Jeff Capehart
Stuart Reisner
Dean Covey
Wendell Wright
Jim Bledsoe
Susan Halbert
Vann Chesney
David Huckstep
Mike KD4INH
Amy Roberts
David Fox
Mike WB2FKO
Brett
Emily Wallace
Rosemary Jones

Introductions. From 1830 until 1859 when the meeting commenced. The NFARC/NF4AC radio club met for this month in person and via Zoom.

- 1. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF JULY 2022 MINUTES.** July 2022 minutes approved.
- 2. WINLINK BEGINNER SOFTWARE TRAINING.** Jeff Capehart, W4UFL, introduced the training talk he will be presenting 7pm Thursday 18 August on Zoom. Also walked through a variety of subjects that the group is currently undertaking.
- 3. VOLUNTEER BADGE UPDATE.** Recent work with EM Director and ACSO on the way ahead. The badges are a County, not ACSO, product. ACSO only needs to process background checks and “turn on” access capability of certain badges. Brett, NH2KW, has his 24 hour access badge; this means that four background checks are done, one pending. Dean Covey is pending a reporting for the photo.

- 4. NEW METHOD FOR REPORTING ARES HOURS.** The new SM, Scott Roberts, and the SEC, Arc Thames, were looking for the various NFL Section ARES groups to capture and report hours for activities. Leader of an event to use the report engine, which is now on our website, to capture and report the hours performed by the group. There are a variety of classifications; please select one for reporting the hours. At the EOC doing stuff could be training, public service/support non-emergency for an event. Repairing EOC would classify as the latter. Google collects, and Jeff can download and roll up the hours. Tonight's ARES meeting would classify as a "meeting," and AA3YB will capture the attendees and the hours, including KX4Z's preparation for the meeting. Check ins on the NFL ARES Net, the WL net...all of these count and should be reported. The check ins...report individually. The more people report all the things they're doing to support ARES/amateur radio, the clearer a picture we will develop as to the activities of amateurs...especially as volunteers in support of served agencies and the public.
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT INSURANCE RENEWED.** Donations gratefully accepted by KG4VWI on behalf of our paying the NFARC/NF4AC club insurance premium for the upcoming year fee. Cash donations sought, and the "hat" was passed later. KG4VWI reported at the end of the meeting that she was "flush" with cash...that she had more than she needed to pay for the insurance, for which she fronted the \$200 annual premium.
- 6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY SECTION MANAGER AND TALK.** Scott Roberts KK4ECR. Used a mic and was on camera for the Zoom attendees. Introduced self. Main reason he has appear is to present an award...to the NFARC, now recognized as an ARRL special service club. SSCs are "ground engaged" when supporting their communities. Pennants from ARRL are passed from Field Services Manager, and a certificate! Nice pennant, with certificate, and a letter from the ARRL. Scott had dinner with Gordon and Jeff before the meeting; NFL is "extremely impressed" with everything Alachua County is doing and what our ARES group is doing. Scott said he wished his OWN group did half of what the Alachua ARES does. 20% of the people do 80% of the work, it's said. They are the ones who actually do the "scut" work that makes an organization go. Some groups have lots of people who just are along for the ride; occasional check ins. on the local net. Each person in the organization has a skill. Scott told a story about the time that Hurricane Irma did a "sideswipe" of FL...Scott was running a net, and asked for "traffic." He should have asked for hurricane related traffic...because he was overwhelmed by the non-related traffic he got. If you are not as engaged as the "20%", do more. He wants other counties, such as Nassau and Clay which are good too, to share with Alachua on cross-leveling and getting the counties ARES groups to do what they should be doing as an organization. The mantra in an EOC is "we are guests." Any served agency is where we are the guests. We are trying to get our counties to fashion successful relations with a served agency....even getting them to participate with their own counties, much less certified to go elsewhere. A lot of our ECs have not pushed the foundations...we can't even get some counties to do ICS. He and Arc will work with counties to address these issues...the basics, so they can get relations with served agencies. The goal is that everyone on the same path that Alachua is following. Some counties they're not doing even ICS 100/200, or background checks at agencies. Second announcement of the evening: Jim Bledsoe is the Section newly appointed PIO. Congratulations, Jim!! He's looking at getting other counties to track along with how Alachua has done with local media. He wants the PIOs to drive local media showing up and asking our groups first what they're doing. Jim will work with our local PIOs on all kinds of things...not just FD. Anything that is going on he will be involved with. PIO's are appointed by the section manager for the organization. PIO will not

be a mouthpiece for ARRL, but a rep of the club on behalf of or sponsored by ARRL.
Considered a section appointment.

- 7. FIELD DAY FINAL AAR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.** Brett Wallace walked through the final draft of the AAR, which is 50 pages! A “public version” of the AAR will be produced for release, so the “public” reader doesn’t have to see all the “plumbing.” The AAR is an HSEEP-template report. Begins with an executive summary that outlines. Significant advancements and strengths take up several pages. Design summary is the next piece; emergency managers recognize this format. People working in counties or state are used to this format. That we are using the HSEEP/ICS format is “leading edge.” The IAP is included in the plan. The AAR is blunt with respect to those things that worked and didn’t...improvement plan for next FD. The equipment setup table compares the years 2020 and 21 with 22....we are moving forward! We are acquiring more assets and capabilities. The Incident Command Post was a huge advance this year, as was our newfound CW operator(s). Section 3 is the analysis of objectives and results. Objectives and core capabilities are aligned, in accordance with Federal documentation format. We assess ourselves as “S” for all the core competencies and objectives. Year after year we are continually improving. Brett is actually reporting from Texas where he is teaching a DoD Public Health course (!). The overall improvement plan has a list of approximately 30 items for betterment, with columns for remedy, an action officer, and finally the target community. Brett asked for show of hands on whether we should try to be a 3F club next year. Consensus seemed to be yes. Asked for a volunteer to gather the name/s of folks who may be willing to “herd the cats” and get folks to actually sign up and show up. Jeff will be the “cat herder” for 3F and Eric agrees to be his helper/deputy. Gordon, Earl, and Susan will work on separating the Ubiquities. Don’t need to assign someone to “continue the success” categories. One week in advance of 2023 FD we’ll do as full up a table top/training session as we can so that we get a dress rehearsal and training session out of the way. We can identify problems with a sense of urgency/training that will still be fresh on FD. We need a public face “deep bench” to improve our visitor intake/sign up. KK4INZ volunteered to do the 146.820 “talk in” for getting folks pointed in the right direction. No one volunteered for ops or logistics at this meeting...KX4Z will take care of software validation; Earl and Gordon will work out the issue of improving the computer/software situation. Time synch solutions...GPS dongles. Jim Bledsoe will take care of that; but inside the EOC a GPS dongle is a problem; can the mesh provide a common GPS based time synch? That is to be investigated. Ants...ops chief will take on this one. Kill bait a week in advance is a solution. Brett has agreed to do an exercise (!) apart from FD (!). Ops chief will handle the issue of running the table top/training session one week in advance. Planning/training on critical systems such as lightning arrestors. 2M simplex time schedules/we’ll put these out on the .820 repeater. PIO will get this message out; ropes in lengths of 120’...KK4INZ will provide next FD. Visitors would be asked to fill out and we could take them and transmit. Sign in and the visitor then gets a radiogram to fill out. Log Chief will take care of fans/ice. Log chief will arrange for number of items to be brought. ICP next year...we’ll need a trailer, or perhaps we can get Kevin Rulapaugh/county to provide an a/c van. Trailers and trucks...this is something that a Log Chief should honcho. Rosemary had some suggestions...put ICP in “Amy’s trailer” with visitor sign in. Have spreadsheet at each station with what is to be at the particular station; list of ‘every single thing’ that should be brought. One person to be responsible for antenna systems and lighting – safety officer. All hands meeting immediately before event to advise all participants. Chairs for guests. Water/cooler to be brought on Thursday. Suggests Keurig instead of buying Dunkin Donuts’ coffee “caddies”.

8. **TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS UPDATE.** 7 people signed up already. KX4Z did a press release through the EOC, since we are ESF2's, and the class will be held at the EOC. David N..., the newest EM employee, has signed up for the course!
9. **DIESEL GENERATOR REPAIR AND STATUS UPDATE.** Lot of work by KX4Z!! Injectors, fuel pipes, new fuel pump on Gordon's kitchen table. Hasn't gotten it to run yet, but hope and optimism abound in the Alachua ARES group.
10. **EOC GO-BOX AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS UPDATE.** Stuart Reisner showed the fruits of his 80 hours. Made to fit an Icom 7300 and associated kit. Weather proof. AA3YB and W4JIR described the completely rebuilt EOC radio station
11. **THIS MONTH'S SEC RADIOGRAM CHALLENGE.** Mentioned that it was on the NFL section website
12. **SET FOR OCTOBER NOW LARGE ALL-SECTION EVENT.** Arc Thames has assembled a great group to head up all FLORIDA Simulated Emergency Test. Will take place on 1 October. Arc has gotten south and central sections signed up! More to follow.
13. **SBTX RADIO.** The future of ham radio. Total SDR, so it can be any modulation, 40w on low end. Designed and built in India. Open sourced, so improvements are coming out continuously. KX4Z is impressed with the machine...anything that can be done on a 7300 can be done on this.
14. **ADJOURN** at 2049 10 August 2022.