

# **Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs**

## **MINUTES**

**January 12, 2022**

Meeting held via ZOOM

Attendance: 19 (participant count on ZOOM)

Gordon Gibby  
Chris Carr  
Leland Gallup  
Barbara Mathews KOTWZ  
Craig Fugate KK4INZ  
Susan Halbert  
Brett NH2KW  
David Huckstep W4JIR  
Mike WB2FKO  
Dean Covey KV4RL  
Earl McDow  
Jeff Capehart  
Lorilyn Roberts  
Wendell Wright  
Amy KO4IDO  
Reid Tillery  
Vann Chesney  
Mike WB2FKO

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

- 1. INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2021 MINUTES.** Approved.
- 2. ALACHUA ARES ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021.** HSEEP Whirlwind Boom; IPP in March; an equipment swap meet in April; a Technician Class License at Santa Fe (didn't work so well); Lab n'Lunch soldered polarity protectors; Field Day in June, with 500 contacts including an large number of 6m contacts; double our total from previous year, 15 operators, upper third of the nation in 2F; IPP written up; SET in October; Extra Class course in November; work day at the EOC where we fixed safety issues and polarity protectors for the go-boxes; NVIS net and Operational Training Nets initiated on regular basis; SARNET and other checkins done on normal basis; go boxes and antennas for 14 shelters all tested in place (thanks to COL Huckstep); Reid Tillery coached on several data techniques; solid state amp at EOC "blew up" and now successfully repaired; EOC antenna(s) improved/raised; permanent ground rods and covers put in ground at ACSO; new Alachua County emergency manager and deputy – successful ARES integration with new team; 5 SHARES ERPS, one of the largest SHARES turnouts, probably, for a local group; solar powered training course at Field Day; many in group now have solar power (demonstrated at Field Day); LiFePo4 batteries now at

EOC and charging; have a dozen Tech Nite presentations; Several participated in Red Cross exercises and first ever FD satellite contacts.

3. **MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2022 AND ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS.** 17 people have used the links to “join” the club(s). Explained why we have two clubs (call signs and liability); NFARC is the “red cross” club; NFARC officers reelected; (Capehart President, Guertin VP; Susan Halbert Treasurer; Gallup Sec’y); next were elections for Alachua EOC Radio Club; Officers reelected for 2022 (Gibby, Pres; Guertin; VP; Halbert, Treasurer; Gallup, Sec’y).
4. **LAB N LUNCH AND EOC WORK:** Before the Lab’n Lunch topic, AA3YB covered PACTOR modem improvement at the EOC, and familiarization with the SLERS 800 MHz radio system; explanation of SLERS as a digital/encrypted trunked capability similar to SARNET. Lab n’Lunch at Wendy’s Jan 22; soldering at 1-4:30; improved sound card interface (if you already have sound card interface you do not need one); uses newer sound card and new sound card dongle that have USB port built in. Dongle glued to the new circuit board; Different cables for different radios; will work for Winlink/FLDIGI/RTTY, etc.
5. **ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND ALACHUA ARES(R)** Alachua ARES has been asked by ARRL to do the EMCOMM training track at the ARRL national convention. This is an all-day forum that is similar to our previous 2 day training. Seven hours of training in our EMCOMM track; everyone welcome to attend, but is pricey (90\$). Much of the training track is basically a repeat of what we did in 2020 at Oak Park Baptist. Close to 70 sign ups so far. Gordon needs folks to sign up and mentor, because this is important to us and our group’s national reputation. There will be basic information, nets, message handling, ARES discussion, AUXCOMM forum, Winlink intro sessions, mentoring, and a section on power supplies and expedient antennas.
6. **AUXCOMM FORUM AT THE ARRL CONVENTION EMCOMM TRACK.** AA3YB described the three levels of AUXCOMM representation at the Forum: ARRL director of emergency management (?); AUXCOMM FL POCs and teachers, including the possibility of the FL SWIC appearing, and Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, former FEMA director, who has insight as to communications requirements for when disaster takes infrastructure ruly off grid and national communications are necessary when there is NO internet. Discussion of ALE, of FL’s interaction with the SHARES program director, and other subjects.
7. **CHEAP REFURBISHED COMPUTERS: UPDATE.** Gordon KX4Z showed a computer that he bought refurbished from RTR. For \$200 it’s pretty amazing. Lenovo manufacture.
8. **BEATY TOWERS REPORT.** Earl K4ZSW reports that Beaty Towers’ digipeater station needs a new Raspberry Pi 3b. He thinks he’s solved the power problem, so he has his name with six different suppliers for Raspberry Pi 3b...supply chain issues.
9. **NEW SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR MEETING.** We have a new SEC, Arc Thames. Our EC, Jeff Capehart discussed the new SEC’s first meeting (virtual). Arc had a ZOOM meeting a couple of weeks ago. Arc was the EC out in a Panhandle county. Arc has already changed things on the website for NFL section, brought on board new EC for a variety of counties. Can produce certificates for the EC s. ARRL has changed the ways that reports are done monthly; ARRL not interested in anything other than the total number of checkins for the month.

**10. GROUPS.IO SIGNUP REPORT** 50 people are now on groups.io and this is very much the way to go. Everyone can use to send messages to the group. Mike WB2FKO is the admin for the group.io and passed on some suggestions for how to make sure the messages get to you the way you want to get information.

**11. ADJOURN** at 8:28 EST.