

# Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

## MINUTES

July 13, 2022

Attendance: 21 (participation by ZOOM)

Gordon Gibby  
Leland Gallup  
Eric Pleace  
Glen Johnson KO4ILJ  
Craig Fugate  
Susan Halbert  
Gordon Beattie  
Barbara Matthews  
Jeff Capehart  
Brett Wallace  
Emily Wallace  
David Huckstep  
Alice Huckstep  
David Fox  
Amy Woods  
Jim Bledsoe  
Mike KD4INH  
Dean Covey  
Mike WB2FKO  
Earl McDow  
Rosemary Jones

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

- 1. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF JUNE 2022 MINUTES.** June 2022 minutes approved.
- 2. 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. Director EM has list of 19 current ARES members with County badges. Pending are five. W4JIR talked to the process he has undertaken with the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office and the Direction, EM, to get with the County HR department. County is finally “getting in the game.” Movement expected in the near future.
- 3. NEW METHOD FOR REPORTING ARES HOURS.** A new form/reporting system developed by our SEC that will allow each ARES member and event coordinator to fill out an online form to capture and report all the activities we’re undertaking here in Alachua County. The forms allow each actor to report hours and events as they happen. When they are

submitted, the results are rolled into a spreadsheet for overall reporting. Much different from hour reporting mechanisms that have been used in the past.

4. **TREASURER's REPORT INSURANCE RENEWED.** At our next in person ARES meeting, Susan suggests we pass the hat to get donations for those who have put out over FD and for other things, and who can't quite afford the expenditure.
5. **FIELD DAY RESULTS.** We entered as 2F with GOTA and VHF Stations, expecting 6m to work. Columbia County was a 3 or 4A. Clay County had 746 contacts with 6 transmitters. Santa Rosa and GARS did much much better, especially the latter. Our group had 702 contacts, 2782 Operating Points, 1390 bonus points, and 4172 overall points. We had new collaboration with EOC and with the MARC unit. MUCH more CW because of Dave Fox. Four ed talks which is much better. Training on H&W messages was done for the first time.
6. **INCIDENT COMMAND POST COMMENTARY.** First time we have ever tried this. Craig Fugate put it all together all by himself. Many improvements were observed and an ICP is the way to go. Problems: heat and mosquitoes. Suggested that there be better coordination in the future to handle both visitor and participant flow.
7. **FIELD DAY AAR/IP.** Last year's AAR/IP had 49 items for improvement – we addressed and resolved most all of them for this year's FD. This year\*s AAR/IP has items which we had not realized going in would be a problem at all – which is why flexibility and planning/training in advance of FD are so important. Brett Wallace showed and discussed a draft AAR/IP for FD 2022, which has been published and put on the webiste. Brett walked through the organization of the AAR. Requested photos from FD participants to help flesh out the AAR. This AAR/IP has an executive summary, illustrated with an image showing KK4INZ speaking with the Alachua Sheriff, Clovis Watson. Advancements noted...much better community visibility; much better support and understanding by and among agencies of Alachua County local government; increased interoperability with key communications assets and people – Region 3 MARC, for example. Wider range of volunteers involved with FD. Validation of our “tower trailer/generator” trailer. Better logistical arrangement of the basic operational site, with more and better travel trailers. Better arrangement for receiving visitors. First ever use of an ICP and better operational coordination. Unexpected RFI thought to have been from inadequate separation of HF and microwave systems. Better understanding of the need for wider grasp of computer-IT uses for FD. Truly successful GOTA for the first time. Significantly improved efficiency of contacts, with 40% increases, putting us in to top echelons in the nation for a 2F effort. More volunteers, more and better education operators. Experience with diesel generator provided by the MARC led KX4Z to acquire a diesel generator. Significantly expanded computing assets. Much more use of CW by comparison with last year. Because of our significantly improved capability we may move to a 3F next. The formal ed we did is an important advance over our previous efforts. Much improved training on taking and handling health and welfare traffic that can be employed in the future in support of the general public as compared with “mere” service to a supported agency. Our microwave network included two more Ubiquities than we had last year. KG4VWI suggested practicing this several times during the year. Validated use of 40-10 sloper antenna. Better field management of assets. Major strengths demonstrated: Outreach to community. Coordination with MARC. Teardown post FD. New GOTA trained two operators. Five RV assets, up from 2. FT8 logging eventually worked; mesh succeeded in getting data in an out of a rebar reinforced building (EOC). Better information flow and visibility of other FD groups' operations. Far better use of modes than last

year, although voice continues to be an area for improvement. Operation on more bands than last year, even though 6m proved “dead” until the end of our operational period. Winlink radiogram messaging was very successful, and did not need to use a digipeater. We had better safety than last year, including actual use of grounding. Primary areas for improvement: significant RFI for some portions and interference between Station 2 and the GOTA station. Had excess operators...possibly need to go 3F next year. Modest public visitation. Need to improve broader understanding of the networking and logging systems; make sure contesting and application software is actually on the computers; time synchronization as an example. NH2KW then proceeded to step through the draft to familiarize the reader with FEMA/IC standard format for doing an AAR/IP. Important that we use standard FEMA/DHS terminology so that we can better integrate with Federal and other agencies using the IC format and language. There are 30 items for the Improvement Plan. Will not cover them here in these minutes. Meeting participants polled for input to the improvement plan. KG4VWI suggested we improve documentation for equipment and expenditures. Didn't have an operations chief before the event; same is true with logistics. Need people to actually sign up for tasks. ARES meeting participants offered suggestions for additional improvement of the operation. These included a “shakedown” table top the weekend before FD, in which the radios and computers to be used will be set out in the EOC. Goal is to ensure all software for FD is installed, time synch methods established, training on logging, mesh system validated, and general rig operation for all modes stepped through. Not only will the machines be ready to go, but a trained cadre of operators will be able to handle on the spot issues with new operators during FD itself.

8. **DIESEL GENERATOR EFFORT.** KX4Z discussed this as an acquisition prompted by our experience with the MARC use of diesel power generation.
9. **NEW GAINESVILLE ARC LEADERSHIP AND THIS MONTH'S SEC RADIOGRAM CHALLENGE.** New Red Cross director offered that he would like to speak with KX4Z. Because of Earl Sloan we also have a link with the Cross Creek volunteer fire department. July Radiogram challenge. Radiogram to describe the “go to” antenna . ARC THAMES W4CPD, Milton, FL 32572, 850 889 3767 arc dot thames atsign scares dot org. W4UFL said that we have to have some on our nets agree to be the “NTS liaison” for the net or else we can't claim we have accomplished that particular tasker. Four of us have done the challenge so far.
10. **ADJOURN** at 2043, 13 July 2022.