

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

June 8, 2022

Attendance: 19 (participant count in person and on ZOOM)

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Eric Pleace
Dave Fox
Barbara Matthews
Jim Bledsoe
Earl Sloan
David Huckstep
Wendell Wright
Dean Covey
Amy W4AMY
Rosemary Jones
Mike Shaffer KD4ING
Judy Gardner
Earl Sloan
Susan Halbert
Mike WB2FKO
Olivia KG5FHU
Craig Fugate

Introductions. From 1830 until 1859 when the meeting commenced. The NFARC/NF4AC radio club met “live” and via Zoom. The “live” meeting was at the CrossPoint Church /Cornerstone Academy, on the corner of NW16th Street and 34th Ave, Gainesville.

- 1. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF MAY 2022 MINUTES.** May 2022 minutes approved.
- 2. VOLUNTEER BADGE UPDATE.** Pending are Reid Tillery, Dean Covey, Brett Wallace, Amy Woods, and Lorilyn Roberts. Twenty (?) amateur operators are already badged for work with shelters: Jeff Capehart; David Huckstep; Larry Rovak; Michael Ridlon; Andy Hunn; John Troupe; Kevin Rulapaugh; Gordon Gibby; Wendell Wright; Earl Sloan; Randy Carter; Shannon Boal; Jim Bledsoe; Leland Gallup; Earl McDow; Judith Jones; Vann Chesney; Alan West, Susan Halbert, and Robert Swain. Up to EM as to the requests and requests for 24hour EOC access. Badging, whether for the shelters or for 24hr EOC access, is entirely up to the Director, EM, for process. We are in a patient holding pattern in this regard.
- 3. COUNTY COMMISSION PRESENTATION.** June 14. COL D Huckstep and Dr Gordon Gibby will represent our ARES auxiliary communicators before the County Commission, on behalf of the Alachua County EM and Alachua County Fire and Rescue. The slide deck that will be presented is vetted and edited by EM, on top of a draft by Gordon Gibby. We are being presented as a strong component of Alachua County Government. We have several underlying

objectives here: increase our integration in ESF2 matters with the EM, and to increase on their behalf our visibility to the County Commission. This is an important part of building our service base – if the community doesn't know who we are we are never going to be used to our full potential.

4. **FIELD DAY PRACTICE AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES.** NF4RC website has a calendar link with a number of practice opportunities. Icom 7300 training opportunities on Wed June 15 and Sat June 18. Tabletop practice via ZOOM on Thursday, June 23, at 7pm (two days before start of Field Day). This will cover the IAP in detail, which is being constantly revised and is available by link on the NF4RC club website. This is an opportunity to walk through Field Day. We are probably going to take equipment out on Friday the 24th, the day before FD proper begins. As an "F" station we are permitted to do that. 0800 Saturday is when we get going in preparation for real. Actual FD begins at 1400 EDTD. Last year we had 38 areas to improve, and we believe that we've addressed many of them. Rosemary suggests that we redo our training on the go-boxes.
5. **FIELD DAY FRIDAY EVENING BULLETIN CAPTURE.** A variety of digital modes sent by W1AW, the ARRL HQ. The frequency that is advertised is probably the center frequency of a particular digital mode. The sequence of modes is not advertised in advance. 2100-2145 is digital; 2145 on is on SSB. Same message. Once you get the message you email to KX4Z as documentation. We do this because we can get bonus points for our FD operation...so documentation is key
6. **FIELD DAY INCIDENT ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW.** Our EM tells us that we would be able to use the ACSO campus. Huckstep will walk the Station 2 area to relocate the grounding rods and to locate where the porta potties will be placed. KX4Z went over the concept of what the IAP is all about; showed the overview by Google Earth of where we will operate, and how we can have two stations within a thousand foot circle. KX4Z went over the 2F NFL exchange that we will use for the QSO's. We use NF4AC as our call sign for our 2F FD operation. Operations people we have, but KX4Z admits that he's stuck with being the Log chief. We have 2 HF stations that we can operate simultaneously. We have a "free" VHF transmitter; thanks to KK4INZ we used this "freebie" VHF station in 2021 to secure a lot of 6m contacts. We have Ron Lewis scheduled to be our satellite operator, but we must ensure he knows the proper exchange. We typically pick up a thousand bonus points during FD. Bonus points can come about from public information activities, safety Radiograms, copying the ARRL digital bulletin, and so much more. But getting the points requires documented proof; send the document as a PDF, because each document needs to be sent to ARRL. We have invited public dignitaries. We are serious about safety; we don't want the public to get hurt. Bring hat and stay out of sun. We'll have porta potties, trailers with toilets, and the EOC itself has toilets. We will have generators so we have lots of fuel and we're careful with fueling generators. We have fire extinguishers. Brett is our safety officer and has absolute veto authority over any particular operation. KX4Z went over rotating personnel operations, with an IC, and ops chiefs for operational periods, etc. We discussed our PIO steps to get bonus points. We will take our public info materials through the County to make sure that we have our information ducks in line. Huckstep will check on the EOC generator testing so that we don't have to do in FD. D Huckstep suspects Ken Cornell (?) who is running for reelection to County Commission may very well show up on FD even though it is a weekend. KX4Z went over the specific IAP timeline for FD. Two hours set up on Sat morning; then he described the three educational talks he'll give – permission requested to use the EOC conference room. These ed talks get us bonus

points. Gordon will show his common mode measurement devices; Earl and Amy will show their solar power systems. After the ed talks we will have lunch. After lunch we will test all systems...but no FD TX before 1400. Schedules for operations in waterproof form; ops will have to get docs for all of this, and make sure of the network's operation. The IC will not operate during his/her time and will be the master of ceremonies and supervisor. This means visitors can be properly handled, and ops can be run efficiently. For publicity, there has to be documentation that we actually do something. Since our PIO stuff will go out over County EM systems, that will get attention at, for example, the Gainesville Sun and other media. Bledsoe has contacted Mark Sexton, the County PIO...when he puts something on the County's website, that counts as publicity for bonus purposes. GOTA station uses Amy's call sign, and is not logged on the network, but the exchange is our NFL 2F exchange (?...weird); but GOTA is a "free" station and doesn't count on our 2 station HF max. The GOTA rules are in the IAP. Went over the staffing plan from page 12 of the IAP. Earl McDow described the microwave logging system...this year we will attempt to use Part 15 instead of Part 97...reason is because Part 15 allows encryption. But there are some issues with Part 15 networking, according to Earl, so we need to test on site and we need to learn more. Not sure at this precise moment how we will do this. Idea for our microwave MESH operations is to use AREDN but not on the ham frequencies...on Part 15 spectrum and under Part 15 rules. Earl will research. KX4Z used a Google Earth photo of the Station 2 area with draft locations of all the assets. Went over the transceiver assets for Station 2. Went over all the asset sign ups...coax, generators, solar panels, controllers, gas, trailers, etc. Finally, KX4Z went over the set up schedule. Fugate is the day IC, Gallup ops chief (day, Sat). Went over the operating schedule. Went over the list of suggested improvements from last year's AAR, and what we'll do this year to address the identified shortcomings. Strong recommendation that participants read the IAP...and especially the rules for FD that are embedded in the IAP. KX4Z demonstrated the logging software, and how it works.

7. **DISASTER EMERGENCY EMAIL SYSTEM.** Earl Sloan described KM4ACK's videos on Raspberry Pi to be used as an emergency email server; connects with PAT Winlink for Linux boxes. You could take this in to a disaster area and you turn your Raspberry Pi into a WiFi hotspot; brings up a page that folks can use to fill out emails that your PAT operating system can be used for email send outs. Operator reviews to make sure that it's ok for amateur radio. The operator then connect to an amateur RMS to get an email out. Can set it up so that there will not be a reply. Earl has tested on HF, and will then set up a 2m test so that you'll have a VHF station to then "connect" to an HF RMS for output. Would like to run a demo...perhaps at a future meeting.
8. **ADJOURN** at 2059 8 June 2022.