

# Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

## MINUTES

**March 9, 2022**

Meeting held via ZOOM

Attendance: 18 (participant count on ZOOM)

Gordon Gibby  
Leland Gallup  
Earl McDow  
Dave Huckstep W4JIR  
Jeff Capehart  
Craig Fugate KK4INZ  
Vann Chesney  
Dean Covey  
Brett Wallace  
Dean Huckstep  
Mike WB2FKO  
Wendell KN4TWS  
Mike KD4INH  
Amy WA4AMY  
Rosemary KI4QBZ  
Reid Tillery  
Lorilyn KO4LBS  
Susan Halbert

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

- 1. INTRODUCTION BADGING AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2022 MINUTES.** Dalton Herding says that the ACFR can do its own badging; likes the sample we provided and it looks as if we could make progress on the shelter/volunteer badges.
- 2. FIELD DAY 2022 REQUEST:** Dalton Herding said to KX4Z that the request has gotten to a point where there is no further action; reasons are “political” in nature. May have to work optional plans for one or two transmitters at EOC and one or two at another location. May look at a COOP operation for the EOC off-site. Rosemary suggested that operating at the Red Cross can be looked at even if it’s not an EOC. Dalton is willing to go to bat for us with ARRL for variations on rules if we need them to serve the EOC.
- 3. FIELD DAY 2022 PLANNING:** KX4Z went over some improvement listing from last year: rules, PIO planning; continuous oversight by a person who is actually in charge; section chief pre-op meetings; documents printed out waterproof; hosting of visitors/tour guides; fire extinguishers; weather an issue/more shelters-trailers; better placards/call signs; voltmeters at each station; lighter gas cans; voice ops – challenging but we’ll support; level out scheduling – diffi-

cult to do because people don't want graveyard shifts, etc.; lightning arrestors actually connected; safety officer who is actually able to do safety stuff; operational periods defined with briefings so folks can know what is working/not; VHF transceivers at each station on 146.55; rotate people around; portapotty in shade; set tents up AFTER rain (?); increasing network staff (Earl's MESH); add emergency boot USBs for each computer and restore points; add 1 battery for intermediate MESH station; pre-event training outside of working hours; additional ops/deputies. This year FD Saturday is June 25<sup>th</sup>. AA3YB offered to be ops chief; NH2KW said better to have operational periods with an Ops chief to do one period and Deputy to another; KK4INZ recommended one person at one station to check in and check out people and assign them to stations. Check in/log in, gets assignment and then we'll know – one location with one person doing for a shift; ideally staffed throughout the event. One single entry point – one person in charge for that shift loggin in, assigning, PIO and Safety being there as well; visitors greeted; Brett offered to be ICS/Ops for Sunday; then Leland would be Saturday; Craig offered to take shift; Dave Huckstep offered IC for a shift; mock up of the ICS/command post and systems two weeks before (Brett can't do it the week before); IC crew can ensure uniform way of logging for the operations, with the IC able to run a receiver/IC have logging computer to see what's happening – redirect efforts. KX4Z asked Mike Hasselbeck to get in to operations – but can't participate in the weeks before, but potentially could pitch in where needed on FD weekend itself. Amy agrees to also be an IC as well; Reid to be liaison on Saturday; Dean agreed to be Finance as long as not much is required; Wendell/Gordon to do planning; Emily Wallace would do lunch for the Sunday. NH2KW will do the AAR draft.

4. **UPDATE ON MEETING PLACES/COOP:** W4JIR discussed locations that were being looked at for EOC coop. Also discussed were physical meeting places for the ARES meetings – Red Cross has been looked at, but difficult to run antennas outside. Westside Baptist – but can't open windows so would have to run coax 150' to get outside; Cornerstone Academy Science Room, could probably put in permanent station – on second floor with no elevators. KX4Z has keys and can get in 24 hrs/day; windows open and could get antenna in to pine trees permanently connected; Trinity United: safe location and GARS meets there, but the windows are locked and can't get an antenna out and very difficult to get coax outside. Rooms are pretty good Faraday cage; Reid suggested looking at the YMCA where he in the past had Coast Guard auxiliary meetings. Earl McDow said that it might be possible to use Trinity United's third floor former satellite dish/coax so we might be able to get line running outside. Susan asked whether there'd be costing for use of facilities such as Trinity, Westside, etc. KX4Z thinks Westside would be minimal; Cornerstone would likely be free; W4JIR advocated ZOOM as the meeting method, thinks numbers of participants would drop off if we went to physical locations; Reid suggested monthly meetings by ZOOM, with periodic physical training sessions; these would be "special meetings." Susan agreed that the training can be done better with separate period sessions, to have Lab'n Lunches continue;
5. **UPDATE ON MONTHLY FLAGLER COMMS DRILL:** AA3YB gave an overview, covering the modes and methods set out for the drill – this included that Flagler EM asked Alachua to be NCS for the phone nets on SHARES and amateur HF; Brett NH2KW described the inter-county efforts to establish good AUXCOMM pathways for securing reliable comms – example of issues included deconflicting times for the various phone nets; satellite phone – not sure if connection process actually worked; SLERS – had to select from between two local towers; were able to establish VHF comms with Marion county. All in all, this, our second full-up participation, was better than the first.

6. **LAB'N LUNCH FOR MAR 12:** Finish the connectors for the soundcards; get warm and fuzzy with your manual so you buy and connect so you can wire connectors to radios. 1200 at Wendy's on 39<sup>th</sup>.
7. **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 March he asks 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.
8. **MAKING THE EOC RADIOS PORTABLE – GO BOX:** Discussion of what is needed and the goal of the operation.
9. **ADJOURN** at 20:36.