

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

## **MINUTES**

**May 11, 2022**

Meeting held via ZOOM

Attendance: 14 (participant count in person and on ZOOM)

Gordon Gibby  
Leland Gallup  
Chris Carr  
Craig Fugate  
Jim Bledsoe  
Lorilyn Roberts  
Earl Sloan  
Vann Chesney  
Barbara Matthews  
Susan Halbert  
David Huckstep  
WB2FKO  
Jeff Capehart  
Rosemary Jones

**Introductions.** From 1830 until 1859 when the meeting commenced. For the first time in a very long while, 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 34<sup>th</sup> Ave, Gainesville.

- 1. INTRODUCTION, INTEGRATION INTO ALACHUA ARES/APPROVAL OF APRIL 2022 MINUTES.** Goups.io/NFARC, Thursday Op Training Nets; Tech Nites; Winlink Training; Wednesday EOC Training/Region 3/5/drills; License Classes; Lunch N’Labs. These are all the way this ARES group is conducting training to as to integrate operators in to skills necessary for emergency communications. April minutes approved.
- 2. BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING.** Volunteers give time resulting in the feeling they have more time; same with giving money, and giving meaning, and giving love...all of this from a Forbes Review.
- 3. FIELD DAY LOCATION UPDATES.** We are approved to use San Felasco State Park, but we have heard that our original January plan has in fact now been passed to ACSO. Back channel has it that we will be at the ACSO campus after all. The EMA has now put itself in the lead/driving the process of requesting the use of the ACSO. They feel that we are part of them, which they see as meaning they have a responsibility to grow their organization with us integrally included – this is a great advance, The ARES group created a draft slide show that has been “adopted” by the EM for presentation to the County, edited/augmented for a presentation to the County Commission. Again, a great advance on our integration with EM. KX4Z showed a draft of the Powerpoint presentation that will be used for our appearance

before the County Commission. This is the presentation that the EM itself wants us to use for the Commission, and they have shaped it to present the narrative that best supports the ESF2 function we represent for the County's EM Dept.

4. **BADGING UPDATE.** See photo for list of badged volunteers. 19 badged as of now, even though some are not active in "showing up. Pending badging: Reid Tillery, Dean Covey; Brett Wallace; Amy Wallace; Lorilyn Roberts. The currently badged volunteers are: 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; Jidith Jones; Vann Chesney; Alan West, and Robert Swain. Some of these volunteers may not be active,
5. **FIELD DAY SIGNUPS AND EQUIPMENT.** **Incident Commander (IC)** and other positions. **Incident Commander:** David Huckstep – Prior to the event; Craig Fugate: Saturday DAY; Leland Gallup: Saturday NIGHT; Brett Wallace: Sunday. **Deputy IC:** Amy Woods. **PIO:** Jim Bledsoe. **Safety Officer:** Brett Wallace. **Liaison:** Reid Tillery. **Planning Section Chief:** Gordon Gibby. **Operations:** NEED VOLUNTEER: Prior; Leland Gallup: Saturday DAY; David Huckstep: Saturday NIGHT; Leland Gallup: Sunday. **Logistics Chief:** NEED VOLUNTEER; Emily Wallace: Sunday lunch. **Finance and Accounting:** Dean Covey. **Documentation:** Gordon Gibby. **AAR:** Brett Wallace. **Satellite Unit:** Ron Lewis. **Microwave Unit:** Earl McDow. **Logging Computer Unit Leader:** Gordon Gibby. **STN1 Antenna Unit Leader:** David Huckstep. **STN2 Antenna Unit Leader:** Gordon Gibby. **VHF Antenna Unit Leader:** Craig Fugate. As to **EQUIPMENT**...Gordon is offering a 7300 transceiver, RG8X coax (x2), VHF/UHF/HF antennas, 2 generators, 50-100 foot electrical cords, and solar generation capability. Amy is offering a 7300 and an extremely capable and expensive solar generation system. Brett is offering his 705/amp combination and a 1500 watt solar system. Jim is offering his Yaesu 857 all band/mode rig, RG8X and a 6m antenna. Emily Wallace offers to replicate her REMARKABLE luncheon fare from last year's FD. David Huckstep is offeing his 7300 (which makes a total of three 7300s so far, as well as an 857 and an 705 with amp for all mode QRO. Finally, Chief Rulapaugh is looking at stationing a MARC unit with tower/generator for training purposes...and he'll undoubtedly challenge NFARC/NF4AC on the FD points!
6. **SEC REQUESTED RADIOGRAM TRAINING UPDATE.** AA3YB showed how RRI's template in Winlink generates a Radiogram, showed how to use the RRI/Radiogram Template to find an RRI Region 4 liaison to whom to send a radiogram addressed to Arc Thames, the NFL SEC. AA3YB showed how the template can be used as a training tool to see exactly how a Radiogram performs punctuation, a check generator, and such. KX4Z showed how to use the FCC's website to find the address of an amateur (useful to address a Radiogram).
7. **SHARES ALACHUA ARES EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL UPDATE.** Want to add Jim Bledsoe and Brett Wallace, as well as Wendell Wright (whom we have not yet submitted).
8. **RADIOGRAM PRACTICE.** Very useful drill with a number of different messages to be passed between fictional EOCs shelters, and hospitals. Copy speed and following the conventions for Radiograms is extremely important, as participants discovered. The .820 repeater was used by some participants, but the stock antennas on the Hts were a limiting factor. Remembering the check is significant! Clarification of the check is important. KX4Z reiterated

the reasons why the Radiogram provides an air of formality; that it provides accountability and with use of conventions helps speed and accuracy. Columbia County EC practices having an urgent message that is best sent by phone...tactical trumps formal in things like med car accidents/emergencies, etc. "Send ambulance now."

9. **FLAGLER FDEM MONTHLY DRILL UPDATE.** KX4Z, AA3YB, and W4JIR talked about the Alachua EOC's Flagler exercise; Alachua county is the only one really that is being effective in the exercise. No contact with the State (!). Phone is very, very problematic. Encouraging counties to improve NVIS antennas. SLERS use by Alachua and Flagler only. We have encouraged other counties to consider digital techniques to improve throughput when antennas and propagation hamper phone on the amateur and SHARES frequencies both. We cannot do the sat phone part of the drill because our satphone is not compatible with Flagler's.
10. **TECHNICIAN LICENSE COURSE.** We will look in to August; new question pool comes out 1 July. KI4KEA will do propagation; Rosemary wants to do the basic intro/rules.
11. **STATION ACTIVITIES.** **KX4Z** – rehung SHARES antenna; resurrecte broken PACTOR modem; added AES encryption; EOC gear book (!) written – a 31 page draft of how to use all the equipment, connectors, and batteries in the EOC radio room; section radiogram exercise; Winlink exercise. **KG4VWI** has improved her Winlink skills and is working on Morse Code; **KO4LBS** has done the May SEC Radiogram challenge as well as Winlink Training emails; she has also been looking at Dstar. **Judith (Rosemary) Jones** is looking at improving her simplex abilities by operating from the Red Cross, **W4JIR** discussed the repair of the EOC Yaesu dual band. It has now been shipped to Yaesu for repairs. Has been assembling his own off-grid go box with a 7300, a VHF/UHF rig, solar, – a complete off-grid capable assemblage which he'd like to finish by Field Day. **AA3YB** cautions against impulse buys. He bought a control unit for his cheap Chinese G90, which doesn't add much to the actual functionality of a small 20w HF rig, but which costs just as much and is almost as large – defeating the purpose of a small, low current drain, HF radio. **KI4KEA** is very active on phone, much DX and listening to international broadcast. Prepared a wonderful spreadsheet of repeaters within 100 miles of Gainesville. He has a new Yaesu rig for HF; **Barbara Matthews** has been improving her antenna, and working with GARS for Field Day operations. She is promoting GARS as the GARS PIO. **Earl Sloan** has gotten Winlink and FT8 going again after a break of a year; has picked up a Raspberry Pi and is looking at a Piegate. **KK4INZ** has a new 6m antenna, and secured a personal 6m record: 100watts 4k miles to Argentina! Recommended the Digital Net 3590 MHz for PSK31...a very good net and very friendly. No pressure and a good way to practice. He is getting more comfortable doing it. If you haven't done a digital mode, this is a good way to start. You seen all the conversations; it's like text to everybody. AC4QS seconded Craig's recommendation to check in on the PSK to keep that skill. He is using a new radio to get in to DMR (using a hotspot) on a local net. Doing FT8, and is working on a project radio – an Icom 781 that was in his brother's garage for a decade – trying to get it took work. Interested in Vara FM, and is looking to do some simplex Vara FM work. **KG4VWI** reported that the UF digipeater is missing a Raspberry Pi...component shortage affecting the ability to find a replacement. **KX4Z** says that the old "NEWBERRY" digipeater, which we disconnected when the Forest Service sold the tower on which our digipeater was mounted, may soon be back in service. Mike Sherrill discovered that our repeater on the tower had been removed. Turns out the Forestry Service rented the tower back. Mike Sherrill found the equipment at the Forestry Service, which means that we might be able to get our digipeater back up and running. **KK4INZ** has offered to look and see if he's got a spare Pi to give to KX4Z. **AA3YB** asked for

suggestions for the Op Training Net; possibility of doing 10m SSB net is on the table. More to follow later.

**12. ADJOURN** at 21:04.