

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

OCTOBER 13, 2022

Attendance: 24. Meeting held in person at the Queen of Peace Catholic Community, west of I-75 in Alachua County, as well as participation by ZOOM

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Eric Pleace
Craig Fugate
Susan Halbert
Dean Covey
Jeff Capehart
Brett Wallace
Emily Wallace
Brett Wallace Junior
Wendell Wright
Jim Bledsoe
John Simonds KC4MWK
Rene Simonds KD4KSC
Earl McDow
Judith Rosemary Jones
Reid Tillery
Mike KB4INH
Mike WB2FKO
John Trites NO5x
Barbara Matthews
Vann Chesney
David Huckstep
Lorilyn Roberts

Introductions. From 1830 until 1859 when the meeting commenced. The NFARC/NF4AC radio club met for this month in person and via Zoom. KX4Z handed out the volunteer appreciation value cards.

- 1. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2022 MINUTES.** September 2022 minutes approved.
- 2. NEW METHOD FOR REPORTING ARES HOURS.** Jeff Capehart described how this is working now. Questions asked and answered.
- 3. HURRICANE IAN: AFTER ACTION REVIEW/INPUT/REVIEW OF POSSIBLE REPORT/IMPROVEMENT PLANS.** Brett Wallace walked through a presentation on the draft of the AAR. He led a spirited discussion that got half way through the draft of the AAR and fully engaged the membership! He asked attendees at this meeting to offer suggestions in a “hot wash” fashion, keeping in mind the need for sober brevity. First on the agenda for

discussion was the ARES Incident Action Plan. This is the state-level IAP for the North Florida Section, ARRL, and the goals from the IAP were read to the attendees. Question from the floor on where this IAP is located; it is now on our website. There was considerable back and forth on the nature of disaster response and the relationship among governmental levels. KK4INZ said that when the gov declares a disaster, each of the 67 FL counties is under direct state authority for the purposes of disaster response. Local authority gets resources/etc as directed by the governor. Jeff Capehart's version of the Alachua specific IAP is suggested as what we should be looking at. NH2KW says that the SET's plan and the local IAP for an actual event should be fairly similar. The IAP that Brett showed was the State's ARES IAP, and then the counties implement at the local level. Capehart's IAP goals and objectives were put out on the Monday before the event. There was confusion as to the local IAP's goals and objectives. We did have a local 201 and assignments. We went over the four shelters that we were able to man, with two volunteers at each shelter, plus two at the EOC. VHF net control was "off loaded" from the EOC to an off site location. W4JIR provided this support, and it was excellent. Susan Halbert reiterated this point, based on experience from Hurricane Irma. Jim Bledsoe commented on his perspective as an employee of Alachua County, who was in the EOC during Ian. Brett talked thru the incident command structure for our local IAP. KX4Z discussed the Monday planning meeting that was held at the EOC in anticipation of the hurricane's arrival. It turns out that information KX4Z had on Monday turned out not to be correct, because we were not able to attend meetings on Tuesday. Deployment planning worked simultaneously with development of IAP goals and objectives. We discussed the notification phase and points: not every member was notified concurrently. Information was varying. The Everbridge notification system has been implemented in furtherance of our EOC/EM notification needs; we are now in the EOC ESF2 comms plan. What to do with "comms down"? Well, we do have a conventional "cone of three days" check in on the .820 repeater. We talked about the development of our Comms Plan, which will, when completed, address the notification and information flow needs. Suggestion: setting up a "watch bill" of people who indicate a willingness to deploy. KG4VWI noted that family and other concerns strongly impact our volunteer's ability. Discussion of deployment and sustainment issues for our volunteers. KK4INZ described the reality of comms needs: local rural areas are not priority for restoring comms; outlying areas of county won't be priority. As of right now, down in southwest FL, the barrier islands are in the situation where amateur radio is actually providing tactical support. His view is that our ability to establish HF comms from the county to reach the state is key, then local areas/rural areas. In a real disaster the under served areas are where amateur communicators can really serve. NH2KW foresees that deployment of volunteers can shift from, say, shelters to supporting outlying area. Think of the comms need as radiating from the EOC as the hub, and outlying fire stations/cities are the spokes. Gainesville proper isn't the issue, but rather contact with smaller towns. W4JIR notes that the new building code for schools/etc require bidirectional amplifiers, which effectively eliminates the need for amateur support (assuming that the 800 MHz trunk is up). So...priorities may be that contacting the state is the highest amateur priority, with schools/shelters falling off as to the need for our volunteers. Make sure points of failure are distributed and make sure that we are flexible with respect to how volunteers can be used. Brett showed the "community lifelines." It's really about continuity of government; safety security, water power, fuel, hazmat. We fit in under ESF2. We facilitate public safety backup. Discussed the "planning P" that is key as to how we actually plan and operate. Discussed the importance of doing the tasks that we are given, no matter what they are, as long as feel competent doing the mission. As the discussion had gone on for almost the entire period scheduled for the meeting, the organizer quickly moved through a couple of other agenda points before adjourning for the evening.

- 4. REVIEW OF OPERATIONS OF PUBLIC SERVICE RADIO SYSTEM -- SIGNOFFS.**
W4JIR trained everyone in the room, and signed off taskbooks.
- 5. BEATY TOWER DIGIPEATER SYSTEM – REVIEW OF UPGRADE WORK.** Earl McDow has tested the system at his house; needs to go down to Beaty towers and install.
- 6. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.** KX4Z very briefly mentioned what this is and what it will do when we have the chance to revise/review.
- 7. REVIEW OF DIESEL GENERATOR WORK.** It works!
- 8. ADJOURN** at 2046 13 October 2022.