

# Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

## MINUTES

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

Attendance: 15. Meeting held in person at the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center in southeast Gainesville, as well as participation by ZOOM.

Gordon Gibby  
Leland Gallup  
Eric Pleace  
Susan Halbert  
Vann Chesney  
Jim Bledsoe  
Jeff Capehart  
David Huckstep  
Wendell Wright  
Judith Rosemary Jones  
Earl McDow  
Brett Wallace  
Emily Wallace  
Mike WB2FKO  
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.

- 1. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2022 MINUTES.** August 2022 minutes approved.
- 2. VOLUNTEER BADGE UPDATE.** Badged: Capehart; Gibby; Gallup; Huckstep; Wright; McDow; Halbert; Rovak; Sloan; Jones; Ridlon; Carter; Chesney; Tilley; Covey; Woods; Roberts; Rulauagh; Swain; Bledsoe; Troupe; West; Boal; Hunn; Wallace. Total 26 are badged. None currently pending. 15 actually present at tonight's meeting. KX4Z: that's who you can count on in an emergency. This is but a portion of those who are members of ARES; the number reflects the degree of commitment we can expect to see for actual emergencies or events where amateur operators might be of service to the community.
- 3. NEW METHOD FOR REPORTING ARES HOURS.** W4UFL demonstrated on the NFRC website the use of the new hours reporting form. Clarified that the operator sponsoring an event report the number of operators and the total number of hours. The purpose is to show the League what (by hours and ops) how much people in the field are doing.
- 4. "THE SAD TALE OF DEPLOYMENT GONE BAD" AND NEW MEETING PLACE NEED.** We have been disinvited from the Wednesday meeting of the Cornerstone Church. KX4Z described how we "screwed up" on a number of points. No one made it clear to Gordon that the Church forbade meetings on Wednesday night. KX4Z thought the rules that applied to

“school” meetings, rather than “church” meetings. The church was having a meeting on the night we had our meeting. The Pastor was the one who spoke with Gordon about what had gone wrong. The Pastor’s primary ministry goal is the indigent and homeless. He is very protective of his church, which meets at 7:00pm. The “church” and the school are two separate business entities. Church people began to file in at the hour we were already in the building. We’d already taken all the parking places. We as guests did not move our cars. There were also some unpleasant interactions between our group and some of the church members. We apparently succeeded in really annoying some of them. The Pastor does not have a key to the school because it’s a different unit...school being a locked container for security reasons. Someone asked the pastor if he could unlock the door...which didn’t go over well because the Pastor doesn’t have a key. But there were several interactions that didn’t go well. Lessons: as guests we need to be specially careful. If we are at a place we need not be ordering around. We need eyes on the ground to alert us to the fact that we might be annoying without realizing it. We need to be very, very, careful. We need to be deferential and not commentors/telling other what to do. We need to be on our best behavior. As guests we need to be careful – get lay of land before “going with our mouths.” The building committee at Cornerstone, consequently, doesn’t want us to meet Wednesday. The floor was then opened to discussion as to meeting place options. KX4Z said the option was open to continue meeting at Cornerstone: a different day and still go to that location. KI4KEA talked about Queen of Peace as a space; there is WiFi there, adequate parking, first floor, zero cost. Another option was considered – meeting at the EOC. After all options opened up and discussed, a vote was taken among the options. Decision: go with Queen of Peace for our next meeting and see how that goes. KI4KEA will take the lead on running this with QOP.

5. **FIELD DAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS REPORTS.** Capehart: suggests we just list 3F and that’s what we do, even thought that is not what is suggested by the improvement plan. Pleace suggests that we recruit through Hackerspace. Ubiquity: McDow says the way ahead is reverting to the physical separation with a yagi (as we did in 2021). KX4Z went thru the other elements of the improvement. Brett agreed to be the pre-FD ops chief, with Gallup as Deputy able to take over if Brett is away for business. Brett on exercises; nothing. PIO: adverstise 2 m talk ins. Craig said he’d provide rope. Wendell as log chief and Rosemary as deputy. More trucks? Three established. So...incremental action on the FD AAR improvement plan.
6. **DEMO NTP SERVER.** Jim Bledsoe showed how we could use an NTP antenna; connect with a machine which will be the network NTP. Once we have a mesh network up at FD, they point their Dimension 4 to his NTP server. When implemented this solution will take care of the time synch issues that plagued our FD 2022 digital operations.
7. **ALL FL SET AND OVERVIEW OF ALACHUA PARTICIPATION.** Jeff Capehart pointed everyone to the SET website, which is the NFL Section website. Capehart briefly described the exercise scenario. First point: activation of members without using telephone, text, email. Leaves walking/shouting....or radio. So...leave your HT/base VHF on the .820 repeater Saturday morning. Worked through the timeline on the Service Denied Explan. Asked for participants. AA3YB will recruit on air during the ARES net. Capehart will continue to develop the conops for our local group’s involvement; simulated shelters and hospitals, with the EOC activated in support. AA3YB described the overall State concept of the “injects,” and defined what they were. Stressed that certain artificialities would have to be accepted – those who wanted to simulate a shelter or hospital from a park or other site not at home could go there in advance. Everyone would be well advised to make sure battery backup and alternate

antennas were up and running before STARTEX. More to follow after W4UFL receives the inject package from W4CPD

8. **TECHNICIAN COURSE RESULTS AND GENERAL COURSE.** According to KX4Z, the best we've ever had. He then asked the group to consider doing a General course. AA3YB noted that the Gen'l question pool expires middle of 2023; therefore, if we teach, let's teach before that because many of us have already taught with this current question pool, and so wouldn't have to prepare new materials. Consensus – we'll do General in January late.
9. **THIS MONTH'S SEC RADIOGRAM CHALLENGE.** Find the challenge on the Section's website...the big button on the right hand of the page. Jeff Capehart showed the address information to be used.
10. **DIESEL GENERATOR WORK.** KX4Z described how his diesel generator works...thanks to Wendell's suggestion on timing being important for diesel engines!
11. **ALACHUA COUNTY TASKBOOK SIGNOFFS.** The meeting afforded training that permitted the trainees to get that training signed off in the Alachua EOC/Shelter task book. W4UFL was available to have Level One of the FL ARES task book signed off.
12. **ALACHUA COUNTY GO BOX RADIO TRAINING AND SIGNOFF.** KX4Z demonstrated opening of the go box, connection of the antenna and power supply. How to program frequency and tone. Sign offs done for the trainees. W4JIR conducted an excellent ZOOM training session for how to connect and use the public safety radio...what it encompasses, how the ham with the LEO at a shelter should first and foremost get from the LEO his/her identifier, so that if the ham is monitoring the public safety radio while the officer is somewhere else, then if need be the amateur can report to dispatch why the officer (ID'd by designator) is not available. Also described the circumstances under which the amateur might use the radio (emergency, etc) to communicate with dispatch. Signoffs on task books then done for the participants!
13. **ADJOURN** at 2115 15 September 2022.