

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

February 9, 2022

Meeting held via ZOOM

Attendance: 19 (participant count on ZOOM)

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Earl McDow
Stuart Reisner
Amy AW4AMY
Jeff Capehart
Barbara KO4TWZ
Craig Fugate KK4INZ
Vann Chesney
Mike WB2FKO
Dean Covey
Wendell Wright
Mike WB2FKO
Susan Halbert
Brett Wallace
Emily Wallace
David Huckstep
Jim Bledsoe
Rosemary Jones

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

- 1. INTRODUCTION BADGING AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2022 MINUTES.** With respect to issues involving badging, AA3YB reported that there was difficulty in the arrangements between the EOC and ACSO on getting our additional volunteers through badging. The issue of liability for volunteers came up; Craig KK4INZ said that volunteers are covered by FL liability statutes as long as their deployment is documented by an EM putting them on a mission order. Badging, per se, is not critical for deployments to shelters (assuming background checks). AA3YB will put this information to the EM for their Approval.
- 2. FLAGLER COMMUNICATIONS DRILL UPDATE.** SHARES, voice, badging, and new EOC radio room clock; SLERS, data communication modes used for the drill. AA3YB read the summary from the spreadsheet AAR that had been submitted to Flagler and FDEM.
- 3. LAB N LUNCH UPDATE AND PLANS:** Talked about the soundcard interface that had been built at the most recent Lab N'Lunch.

- 4. ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION EMCOMM ACADEMY PLANS For VOICE TRAINING NETS AND ICS SEND/RECEIVE BY RADIOGRAM.** KX4Z showed Matthew Curtin KD8TTE's slides walking participants through the process of taking an ICS-213, converting it to a radiogram, sending a radiogram, receiving a radiogram, and translating it back to an ICS-213. Rosemary suggested that when we do radiogram practice the sender actually write the text being transmitted...this will help slow down the delivery so it can be copied. AA3YB said this was a good idea and will incorporate in his next Alachua ARES Operational Training Net where Radiograms are on the agenda.
- 5. ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION EMCOMM ACADEMY TRAINING PLANNED.** Radios are being pulled in by many mentors, and these radios will be used for teaching WinLink and a variety of other topics...many radios have been promised, so this may be an excellent event for the ~122 participants signed up for the EMCOMM Academy. KX4Z will talk through methods for data transmission, including FLDIGI and others; broadcast and P2P modes. WinLink described, radio-only systems; how to set up Winlink. Participants who have no WinLink accounts will be worked through setting up an account and sending an email by Telnet to WinLink for account establishment.
- 6. ARRL AUXCOMM FORUM.** AA3YB talked through the speakers and concept for the ARRL AUXCOMM Forum and the CISA/DHS AUXCOMM forum then next day at HamCation. This included an overview of AUXCOMM by FL AUXCOMM instructors; the introduction and remarks by the newly appointed FL Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), discussion of a more mature state AUSCOMM program by the Deputy Director of GA AUXCOMM (a private non-profit); and finally a national-level view from Mr. Josh Johnston, the new DEM at ARRL, and from Craig, KK4INZ, who will provide insight from his long public service from time as the FEMA Director, FDEM Director, and the Alachua EM. AA3YB will discuss amateur service integration at the local/county level, and all the initiatives in Alachua County, from a very strong local ARES group and including a growing AUXCOMM/SHARES involvement by those serving at the EOC and who are interested in "stepping up the game." AUXCOMM and ARES, AA3YB insists, are not mutually exclusive, but complementary.
- 7. PLANS FOR EMERGENCY POWER TRAINING.** Earl McDow talked what he will deal with in terms of emergency power; batteries and battery chemistry, solar power; generators. KX4Z walked very quickly through the slides that Earl will use for his ARRL Convention EMCOMM Academy training.
- 8. UPDATE ON NFL SECTION AND NEW SEC ACTIONS.** Arc Thames, the new SEC from Santa Rosa County, is really a "mover and shaker." Revived the NFL Section web site. Better days for the section are forseen. Very encouraging.
- 9. PLANS FOR EMERGENCY ANTENNA TRAINING.** A field expedient antenna and transmission line can be built entirely extension cord from Walmart, including connectors that look a lot like 120 v ac plugs and sockets. You have to see it to believe it. Gordon talked through his slide deck; will do a demo showing a variety of antenna subjects including propagation, line of sight, ground loss, different kinds of antennas, ionospheric refraction; the various layers and how they work.

- 10. HAMCATION FORUMS.** These include an AUXCOMM Forum hosted by DHS/CIAS, with John Peterson of DHS, David Byrum of FL AUXCOMM training, and the new FL SWIC,, Roger Lord. An interesting follow on to the ARRL Forum on somewhat the same subject the day before at the ARRL Convention. Another Forum is on a worldwide HF Text and chat network using BPQ32 hosted by West Mountain Radio. A forum on accelerating the growth of an Emergency Comms group, hosted by our own Gordon Gibby; a Forum on Battery Selection and Solar Charging; a Forum on HF Voice update; and finally a forum on ARRL Emergency Communication.
- 11. GO BOX FOR EOC.** Stuart Reisner is constructing a go box so we can take the HF IC-7300 from the EOC and deploy it out of the radio room if necessary.
- 12. FURTHER PLANS.** KX4Z described letter to ACS asking permission for an outreach with the Sheriff's Office for Field Day. KX4Z set up a field expedient HF demo at his trailer at the school where he teaches. First Graders, 30 or so, were wildly enthusiastic...wanted to know who he could talk to. A great deal of fun reaching out to folks with STEM.
- 13. OPEN FLOOR.** Questions invited from participants. Various logistical questions concerning the Convention and HamCation.
- 14. ADJOURN** at 20:09.