

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

December 11, 2024

Attendance: 10. The meeting was held in person at the Queen of Peace Catholic Community (after a summer at the EOC) and via ZOOM. Meeting attendees are not specifically noted as attending live and in person or via ZOOM.

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Susan Halbert
Earl Sloan KI4OXD
Jeff Capehart
David Huckstep
Mike Hasselbeck
Hugh Minnich
Manish Sahni
Reid Tillery

Introductions. From 1830 until 1900 when the meeting commenced.

1. INTRODUCTION/COUNTY VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

PROCESS/APPROVAL/DISCUSSION OF NOVEMBER MINUTES/ARES HOURS.

Leland AA3YB began with a description of the new County volunteer registration process. This will be necessary for all our badged volunteers who support Alachua County Emergency Management, both at the EOC and as deployed in support of operations such as shelters during disasters. Demonstration of the registration process for becoming a “formal” volunteer, by using Gordon, KX4Z, who did this online and as shown on the display screen in the meeting room. Registration involves five steps; the last of which will eventually include the individual’s electronic signature on a waiver/release and on a memorandum of understanding. The EMD relationship, as formalized, will be between the EMD and the individual volunteer. The individual is then, when deployed under County request, a completely recognized volunteer under the law. This brings with it protection for both the individual (workmen’s comp, liability protection against individual exposure) and the County. The formal volunteer registration system is an ongoing process, as the draft MOU has been reviewed by County Legal, the County’s Volunteer Coordinator, and EM. Four of our group have been asked to review the draft and return comments by email to Mr David Peaton at EM. Goal is to have all of our badged volunteers ready to electronically execute the complete “package” (including release and MOU) by 31 January 2025. More to follow. AA3YB’s talk on the volunteer registration process was followed by introductions. November minutes approved. November hours: total of 114 hours, including lots for the November ARES meeting. Veterans’ Day hours, EOC stuff, etc. For half year: May 162; June 536; July 64; Aug 299 hours; Sept 286; Oct 222 hours; November (as stated above) 114. W4UFL distributed certifications of hurricane deployment during 2024; these can be . used for the Task Book. KX4Z summarized his review of the video that NH2KW pointed to for the Hurricane that devastated North Carolina. Issues, for example,

concerned use of repeaters for support of emergency operations. Point for us is that we have our own itinerant repeater.

2. **HOTWASH SANTA DELIVERY.** All the participants in Santa Delivery were recognized in this meeting. Gordon asked for thoughts on how the event went off. AA3YB thought we could do better making our group more festive/Christmasy. Dave Huckstep reported that he'd taken three interested parties info on new license classes. Susan offered her view that licensing classes are an important outreach method. Discussion of licensing training techniques. Susan recounted the training she had received. Earl had recommendations for setting up a "Santa Network," so that wish lists could be collected and "emailed to the North Pole." Manish: slow scan TV of Santa? Huckstep noted that we had nothing that really attracted people to our table. Folks would walk by unless we said something to them. Huckstep said that actually sending names, for example, in code, worked.
3. **WINTER FIELD DAY INITIAL PLANNING.** Gordon discovered that last WFD we were #7 out of 70. We did well because of multipliers! We were 3I; K4GNV had almost the same number of contacts, but didn't leverage multipliers, so they were about in the middle for the 4I, whereas we were in the upper 10% of the nation. Rules change now: 30 hours operation, starting at 11:00. NO band multipliers; big rules change is how multipliers are done. KX4Z went over this list of new multipliers and how they work. He suggested what we'd be able to do that would enhance our 2025 WFD prospects: 100% non-commercial power; away from home; deploy two new antennas; Winlink x1; copy special WFD bulletin; operate at least 6 bands; use more than one mode; operate at least 6 hrs straight. Current EOC – only one antenna available for HF, so we'll consider a separate antenna; Daytime money shot -- 20 meters/any mode. Without two antennas, we can't get two stations on 20 meters. Nighttime: 40/80 after 11:00pm. No FT8 – only PSK (Sec'y note: YIKES – as FT8 was our go-to mode last WDF, we'll have to get better at phone). We may consider shutting down operations at night. Gordon suggests that if we want two stations on a band we put a line over a pine tree in the grassy parking lot. Have a locked truck with BIG battery and remote control of that station for both CW and/or PSK. So...the issue on the table is whether it is worth it to do this. Gibby is agnostic, but is putting this additional work out there for discussion.
4. **TECHNICIAN TRAINING UPDATE.** Reid Tillery talked about his running a tech class; one just finished. Three from last class took test and all three passed. Next class starts on January 9. Need FRN before taking the exam that we always hope will follow the class. Reid will send URL/link for online training and Reid's POC information. Trenton/Gilchrist runs licensing exams on alternate month from when GARS does it. Gibby reports that the Trenton group is now doing really well, with a "go getter" new EC who is setting up antennas, etc. They are half the size of our group, and doesn't have the skill sets we do, but they are coming along nicely. Hamradioschool.com is the name of the online link that Reid is using. He reports that this organization will provide training materials to any one of us who is license-qualified to teach the subjects.
5. **METEOR SCATTER/POTA ACTIVATION UPDATE.** This coming weekend we'll be doing meteor scatter event. The weather is going to be better than we thought. Earlier we get the antenna up the better. Gibby laid out the equipment set up with 6m filter, amplifier, and the antenna (no tuner). Huckstep has taken care of the issue of getting the blown tuner sent to LDG for repair. Taking apart the go box was PAINFUL. He has done this on his own dime (!).

Talked about how to do the POTA piece of this event. Finally, talked about lunch at the Sonny's in Alachua.

6. **DISCUSSION NOT ON AGENDA.** Discussion of Eric Pleace's departure. Possible going away lunch and gift?
7. **ADJOURNMENT.** At 2024 EST.