

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

January 8, 2025

Attendance: **16**. The meeting was held in person at KX4Z's house instead of the usual Queen of Peace Catholic Community, and via ZOOM. Meeting attendees are not specifically noted as attending live and in person or via ZOOM.

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Susan Halbert
Mark McDow
Earl McDow
Jeff Capehart
David Huckstep
Dean Covey
Rosemary Jones
Mike Hasselbeck
Manish Sahn
Earl Sloane
Hugh Minnich
Brian Joy
Larry Whitehead AB4NX
John Deane KD4MGR

Introductions. From 1830 until 1900 when the meeting commenced.

- 1. INTRODUCTION/COUNTY VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION PROCESS/MINUTES APPROVED FOR DECEMBER 2024/DISCUSSION OF DECEMBER ARES HOURS:** 152 hours, with 35 supporting Operation Santa, 20 for the December meeting, 62 total in prep for and execution of the Meteor Scatter event, and 20 for Earl McDow's editing labors producing the NFL section QST. December hours do not reflect the unreported EOC activations (Sec'y note: my bad, as I should always do so or remind another team member to do so. For the year 2024, there were 2805 total hours. Year big events included Summer Field Day and a number of hurricanes. The Section Emergency Coordinator is trying to get the 34 local EC's to put in hours. This is a difficult task. 42 counties, but only have designated 34 Emergency Coordinators. Once the newer figures are gathered, the NFL Section EC, Arc Thames, will backfill and put in total Section numbers and hours. **ARES GROUP MEMBERS.** The sixteen persons attending this meeting agreed to be members of the joint NFARC and NF4AC clubs (the designation is that minimally needed for obtaining liability insurance. John Deane offered to loan a DMR and VHF repeater to be turned over to the use of ARES. Current repeater is located downtown at the County Admin building, which already has a tower on top of the building. This is doable – we go to the Emergency Management Director, Jen, to Chief Theus, then to the County. John will send a list of the equipment to Gordon Gibby. Jim Carr will help getting the repeater up and running. Issue: liability. We (ARES) doesn't own anything. The

club's insurance would not cover this (the repeater on the tower). The liability issue needs to be worked out. Point made that NFARC/NF4AC clubs are not incorporated bodies, have no legal "life," and own no property – by comparison **with** GARS.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR NFARC AND NF4AC CLUBS 2025.

Officer	NFARC	Alachua EOC
1. President	David Huckstep	Gordon Gibby
2. Vice President	Judith Jones	Manish Sahni
3. Secretary	Leland Gallup	Mark McDow
4. Treasurer	Susan Halbert	Susan Halbert

3. **UPDATE ON VOLUNTEER BADGING PROTOCOL.** AA3YB updated the group: the volunteer registration portal system/registration is "all screwed up" and will be fixed. More information to follow when the registration process is unstuck. Also updated on Everbridge and how this has to be refreshed in terms of personnel notified. This includes removal of no longer active people, and the addition of those who now are.

4. **SUMMER FIELD DAY PRE-PLANNING.** We've talked with David Peaton about where we decide to have the Summer Field Day. Discussion of alternate locations; group tends to favor siting at the Main EOC; Earl Sloane, who leads SFD planning, remarked that he needs a PIO and Safety officer; Larry Whitehead will act as the Safety Officer (!). Mark McDow expressed, offline to AA3YB, that he might be willing to take on this role. Earl is looking at a flat top grill. Final notes as we go ahead: current plan is that we'll be a 4F operation, using to the fullest extent the 1000 foot radius rule that we've used productively for previous Field Days. At the February meeting we must pin down the location, so that we can then proceed with the permissions process.

5. **WINTER FIELD DAY FINAL PLANNING.** WFD is not run by the ARRL; it's their own association. KX4Z showed some planning, with the draft IAP on the club website. To facilitate discussion – especially of the thorny power issue – KX4Z used several slides that he'd prepared. These showed, among other things, predicted power budgets for operating various modes with Icom 7300s. The slides also touched on LiFePo4 batteries, inverters and power generation. We will use the EOC for WFD (permission came through today, 8 Jan), and we'll have one station in the EOC radio room, with two adjacent in the EOC main conference room. We only have one HF coax, so we will have to use multiplexers to allow the three stations in the EOC to use the one coax and one antenna. We will perhaps have another station in the grassy field, with a trailer and a sloping vertical dipole in a pine tree as well as a 6m antenna. Plan is that we could operate the trailer remotely or in person. Rules: more hours; no longer using "band modes" as multipliers. Multipliers for doing certain things: CW and digital are two points, voice is one. KX4Z illustrated how we can use multipliers. Issue: do we even need to worry about the single point we get as a multiplier for emergency power for everything? Also discussed computer interfacing. Discussion of power budgeting on emergency (battery) power. Decision: shore power (not battery). Decision: we will do a trailer, with either remote control (PSK) or in person (CW). We will do 6m and 2m. We can send Winlink SMS to the phone numbers of the local 6m net by Winlink SMS notifications. Gibby showed the IAP for WFD with the signup document. KX4Z attempted a demo of PSK using FLDIGI, and the macros. Gordon will do PSK31 mentoring the Saturday morning of the WFD at the EOC.

6. **LUNCH N' LAB.** KX4Z talked about what he will do at the Lab N'Lunch scheduled for this coming Saturday, 11 Jan, beginning at Wendy's on 39th Ave at 12:00, followed by adjourning to Gordon Gibby's house. The Lab N'Lunch will include testing inverters for RFI; he will set up an Icom 7300 with hamstick and check background noise as a baseline for the Lab N'Lunch.
7. **G-540 ROTATOR.** KX4Z showed the new rotator.
8. **2M AND 6M SIMPLEX CONNECTIONS IN WFD.** Decided: we will do. See 5 above.
7. **ADJOURNMENT.** At 2041 EST.