

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

September 10, 2025

Attendance **17**: The meeting was at the Queen of Peace Catholic Community, after three months at the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center, and via ZOOM. Meeting attendees are not specifically noted as attending live and in person or via ZOOM.

Gordon Gibby
Leland Gallup
Jeff Capehart
Susan Halbert
Angela Basham
Emily Wallace
Brett Wallace, Jr
Brett Wallace
Dean Covey
Mark McDow
Earl McDow
Manish Sahni
David Huckstep
Brian Joy
Mike Hasselbeck
Roger Weiss
Hugh Minnich

Introductions and Live FT8 Demo. From 1830 until 1900 when the meeting commenced. Moreover, at about 1853, KX4Z began the evening's presentation by showing a live FT8 session in WSJTX. He used the opportunity to go over the basics of FT8 again. He worked through an FT8 screen to show what all the various sections of the basic FT8 screen show. Gordon demonstrated the elements of the system he is using to conduct a live FT8 session. Introductions, including two people who had not been part of this group. These included Roger Weiss and Angela Basham. The former lives near Lake Butler, and the latter lives in Alachua city.

- 1. MINUTES APPROVED FOR AUGUST 2025/PREVIOUS MONTH ARES HOURS REPORT.** Jeff Capehart went through a list of the activities of the group, as listed on a slide projected on screen for all participants. These include the ARES net, lab n' lunches, and an upcoming POTA event on October 4. Minutes approved for August 2025. Previous months' hours: we had 72 hours in August. The ARES meeting accounted for 40. AA3YB mentioned the Technician License course that ARES members are co-teaching, and how the first session had nine attendees and was well-attended.
- 2. SPECIAL PROGRAM TOPIC – UNDERSTANDING ICS; WHAT IT IS AND WHY WE USE IT IN EMCOMM.** Rather than attempting the capture of two fine presentations in these minutes, the Secretary points the interested at the North Florida Amateur Radio Club web page,

where supporting written materials will be posted. The presenters are Brett Wallace, NH2KW, and Susan Halbert, KG4VWI. Brett discussed the Incident Command System (ICS) at both the macro level of Federal doctrine and structure, and from the point of view of having practical experience of ICS use in EMCOMM. Both aspects of his presentation are recorded in the materials on the NFARC web page. Dr Susan Halbert explored the application of ICS principles in the area of Florida State government activity – specifically with the Florida Department of Agriculture, where she is an entomologist and in that capacity uses ICS principles day to day. Dr Halbert had some actual preserved samples of organisms that pose a threat to Florida's agriculture. The State's efforts to address these significant concerns leverage ICS as a method for structuring control over hundreds of traps, trappers, inspectors, eradicators, identifiers, and more. Coordinating these very many moving parts is a perfect "target" for ICS use. Dr Halbert described the fascinating methods used to control these insidious pests. She makes bugs a fit subject for a major motion picture, not just ICS use!

3. **PROGRAM TOPIC #2.** Leadership Opportunities/Future Lab N'Lunches. Sat Sunday 27 September will be a KX4Z led Lab N' Lunch. Saturday October 4, hosted by Ron Lewis and Leland Gallup at San Felasco North. Wed, October 8 Meeting, with FLDGI and JS8Call demos for use in Emergency Digital Comms. Tuesday Sept 30 will be at Santa Fe College Volunteer Fair.
4. **PROGRAM TOPIC #3.** Public Outreach for Veterans' Day and December Santa Delivery at Santa Fe College. KX4Z put out that we have a chance to be involved in either or these events. November the 11th at the Veterans' Park, Tower Road, and on Dec 6th, Santa Delivery at Santa Fe College. Brett Wallace spoke about this group's possible support both of these events – that we should support GARS in their response/participation in both of these events. In effect, not have this ARES group do its own "thing," but rather support GARS. Angela Basham pointed out that GARS has a 45\$ membership fee, and that NFARC is free to join. This led to a free discussion of the purposes of GARS and ARES; that they the two groups have complementary purposes, that the two groups do not "compete," but serve other functions. ARES is technology and EMCOMM oriented, whereas GARS is not, but rather serves other missions. Group agreed that this ARES group will not have its own independent activity for these two events, but rather will support whatever GARS does – since GARS always supports the events.
5. **PROGRAM TOPIC #4.** Training plans – updating or growth and training programs, with a detailed overview of the ARRL and FL task books and their differences one from another, as well as how our local badging process works. FL SEM favors using the ARRL national task book as opposed to a FL specific task book. In FL, our ARES group has most of the evaluators who can evaluate and certify someone as having accomplished the note task book's tasks. KX4Z showed a slide comparing the FL with the national ARRL level, and how the two differ with respect to physical competence as compared with educational attainment. KX4Z said that the new ARRL basic level emergency communications course took about three hours. Level 2 of the task books: FL is closer to the ARRL. The ARRL level two requires, among other things, the new ARRL intermediate level emergency communications course. FL's task book is much more practical. Discussion of AUXCOMM and how we in Alachua County are participating in a regional effort to align our amateur efforts under an AUXCOMM rubric. NH2KW expressed concern with the variety of taskbooks. NH2KW proposed that we continue "laissez faire," in the sense that we retain our addenda to the State or National taskbooks and continue with people doing whichever of those taskbooks they'd initiated. He proposed a motion on this, but while that was underway, the EC, Jeff Capehart, suggested Jeff said we should grandfather current,

and use the new task book going ahead for new members. This led to a candid and frank exchange of view. Gordon was having difficulty dealing with two competing motions at the same time and NH2KW decided to abruptly leave the meeting at that time. The matter was left unsettled, and the meeting adjourned. In view of the late hour, the suggestion was made that we table the discussion for another meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT. At 2041 EDT.