

## INTRODUCTORY TRAINING PROGRAM / WINTER FIELD DAY ALACHUA COUNTY ARES(R) / NFARC

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services team at the Alachua County EOC would like to invite you to join us in this year's Winter Field Day. Amateur radio enthusiasts from all over the county will be on the air and making connections. It is a contest to see how many people you can make contact within a brief period of time, long enough to encourage advance planning and "shifts," just like a real incident. During this event we will hold special training sessions.

Please join us on January 24th from 0900-1600 (local) at the Alachua County Emergency Operations Center.

	TRAINING PROGRAM	WINTER FIELD DAY PARTICIPATION
SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026		
Location	Both portions of this event at the existing Alachua County EOC building, 1100 SE 27th St, Gainesville FL 32641. Parking is free, and usually ample on the weekends. The EOC building is the southern most building; the longer western structure is the Sheriff's Headquarters. [Weapons Policy: The facility is a locked, secure building and weapons are not allowed inside except for certain authorized persons.]	
Date / Time	Jan 24, 2026 0900 - 1600 local	Jan 24, 2026 0900-2300 local  Jan 25, 2026 0600 - 1200
Purposes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRAINING for our current members and others who wish to learn. This includes but is not limited to Alachua County staff from the EOC and other county's AUXCOMM personnel.</li> <li>• OPPORTUNITIES for our members to assist others in their learning (mentoring/elmering).</li> <li>• OPPORTUNITIES for participants to acquire signatures in their ARES or local EOC task books.</li> <li>• EXPERIENCE in actual operating conditions, and in using real radio equipment, making multiple contacts in the event sponsored by the Winter Field Day association for these purposes</li> <li>• Increased understanding and cohesiveness between participants.</li> </ul>	
0900-1100	MAIN EOC CONFERENCE ROOM Arrival, Welcoming & Introduction	

	<p>Brief explanation of the stations and radio assets to be brought into action for the effort; Divide into teams to set up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antenna Systems,</li> <li>• Antenna Multiplexer on table by Radio Room with coax to Stations.</li> <li>• Information Technology Systems, and</li> <li>• Radio Stations (2-3 Total: 1 VHF/HF in Radio Room; 1-2 HF in the Back Conference Room west of the Main Conference Room)</li> </ul> <p>This is a great chance for participants to get hands-on experience, and acquire potential sign-offs on Task Books.</p>	
1100	<p><b>MAIN CONF ROOM:</b> Briefing on the Winter Field Day Association's Rules and suggested techniques for operating.</p> <p>Following the Briefing, participants can visit the various operating stations to <b>observe or participate in contacts</b></p>	<p><b>RADIO ROOM &amp; BACK CONFERENCE ROOM</b> Alachua County ARES(R) personnel will commence operations at the stations at 1100 kick-off time. Operations at 1100 are likely to be on 40 / 20 / 15 / or 10 meter bands.</p> <p>Invite any interested visitors to jump in and operate!</p> <p>NOTE: Even visitors without a ham radio license can participate with mentoring.per FCC regulations.</p>
1200	<p><b>MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM</b> Working with FEMA ICS Forms to Get Proper Reimbursements for your County. After the brief the group can observe the radio operators participating in WFD.</p> <p><b>LUNCH SNACKS</b> (Nominal charge \$5)</p>	<p><b>LUNCH SNACKS</b> in Main Conference Room. (Nominal charge \$5)</p> <p>Operations Continue</p> <p>Invite any interested visitors to jump in and operate!</p>
1300	<p><b>MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM</b> <b>Community Text Messaging with Meshtastic.</b> Reid and Charlie will discuss Meshtastic with the group and then take them outside to demonstrate the product.</p>	<p>Operations Continue</p> <p>Invite any interested visitors to jump in and operate!</p>

1400	MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM <b>Developing a Volunteer Team of Radio Operators.</b> Using Training, Incidents and Events to build a solid volunteer group.	Operations Continue  Invite any interested visitors to jump in and operate!
1500	MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM Join for a brief "hot wash" discussion of the day's training and fill out our Evaluations  This will not take long and visitors are encouraged to definitely get some "time on the air" mentored as needed by our home crew before they depart!	Operations Continue  Invite any interested visitors to jump in and operate!
1600-2300	OPERATIONS CONTINUE, 20 meters is often useful all the way to 2300 to the West Coast	
REST PERIOD	When the last die-hard operator heads out, be sure the antennas are disconnected, trash is picked up, chairs are straightened, door to the AV room is OPEN for ventilation, and lights are OUT.	
SUNDAY JANUARY 25 2026		
0600-1200	Pastries & Light Breakfast available. Clean up after yourself!  Operation Begins as Eastern operators wake up and return to the air!	
1200	End of formal operations -- Brief HOTWASH capture of input followed by TEAR DOWN and CLEAN UP	
Tear-Down / Clean Up activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaxial cables rolled up and returned to owners</li> <li>• Driveway Protectors placed back in Radio Room under West table</li> <li>• Ad-hoc antennas stowed</li> <li>• All trash cleaned up into trash cans</li> <li>• All food removed</li> <li>• All antenna switches to "disconnected" positions</li> <li>• All tables clean</li> <li>• All chairs straightened, phones straightened, seating placards in place</li> <li>• Lights out</li> <li>• Doors closed and locked</li> </ul>	

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