

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

January 14, 2026

Attendance **21**: The meeting was at the 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
David Huckstep
Brett Wallace
Emily Wallace
Susan Halbert
Manish Sahni
Jeff Capehart
Rosemary (Judith) Jones
Earl McDow
Mark McDow
Earl Sloan
Hugh Minnich
Brian Joy
Reid Tillery
Ron Lewis
Mark Miller
Mike Hasselbeck
Jessica Winters
Charlie Scordo
Melissa
Cooper Campen
John Campen

- Introductions.
- MINUTES APPROVED FOR DECEMBER 2025 meeting.
- PREVIOUS MONTH ARES HOURS REPORT. 193

1. MEMBER SIGNUP. All individuals attending agreed to join both the NF4RC and NF4AC clubs as members.

2. ELECTION RESULTS. Gordon nominated a set of officers for the two clubs from the attendees present. Voting took place to elect the following as leaders of the organizations in their respective offices as follows:

2026 OFFICERS	NFARC	Alachua EOC
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President	Gordon Gibby	Brett Wallace
Vice President	Earl Sloan	Emily Wallace
Secretary	Jeff Capehart	Earl McDow
Treasurer	Susan Halbert	Mark McDow

3. OUTCOME OF CLUB MOTION RELATED TO EC QUALIFICATIONS. Gordon announced that the Alachua ARES EC, Jeff Capehart, has completed the FEMA Independent Study Professional Development Series courses as required under Level 3 from the ARRL TASKBOOK. Furthermore, he shared that information with the county emergency manager who was quite impressed with our level of commitment considering the time required to complete all 7 courses in the series.

4. FLDIGI TRAINING SESSION SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2026. Gordon announced a training session using FLDIGI for hams to get ready for Winter Field Day using PSK31. A chance to gain skills and preparation for operating at WFD 2026. *EDITORS NOTE: 7 people attended the training which covered how to use FLDIGI as well as practice sending and receiving WFD exchanges.*

5. WINTER FIELD DAY. Gordon announced that WFD 2026 will be one of two major exercises each year for volunteers to grow in assets and skills. The training plan was posted to the NF4RC.club website. Training will be included for emergency related skills and hands on participation. The date for WFD is Saturday January 24, 2026.

6. LOCAL HAM RADIO COURSES. Gordon discussed his experiences teaching a local ham radio course. Members were asked about plans for the next class. A straw poll resulted in preference for a General license course starting in February, completing by end of March so that students could take the test in April with GARS. Suggestions were made to use the EOC from 10am-2pm with lunch. Concerns were expressed about having enough badged members with key access to the facility.

7. LOCAL WINLINK CONTEST. Reid Tillery presented an idea for a local contest of sorts using Winlink or other methods to send messages. This would be to make it fun to practice sending messages and provide competition amongst our members through participating in an exercise. The goal would be to increase formal messaging. Participants could gain points by sending messages. About half of the attendees expressed interest in participating in such an exercise. Brett shared how Winlink messages could be helpful for long lists of items needed at shelters, as well as how hams could help people get messages and radiograms out via RRI.

8. LABNLUNCH IDEA. Gordon passed around some 3D printed plastic housings that can be used to place PowerPole connectors and fuses similar to a RigRunner or other power strip type item. If there is enough interest, supplies can be ordered and housings manufactured for an upcoming LabNLunch.

9. ADJOURNMENT. At 2029 EST.

*Editor-- The secret word for this month is **BANANA**.*