North Florida Amateur Radio Club / AlachuaARES(R) FEB 2026 MEETING
Tentative Program, **WED FEB 11, 2026**

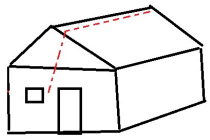
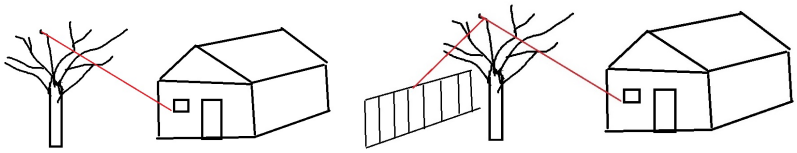
QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Cafeteria/Auditorium Building, Room #5

For more information, see the last page, which has detailed connection information.
ZOOM LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89530741792

Have something you'd like on the AGENDA?? This agenda was put together by our elected leadership teams. Speak up, we will create room for you!!
Contact Gordon 352 246 6183

~~**TimeKeeper: Volunteer Brett Wallace NH2KW**~~
(he's out of town on a volunteer service trip)

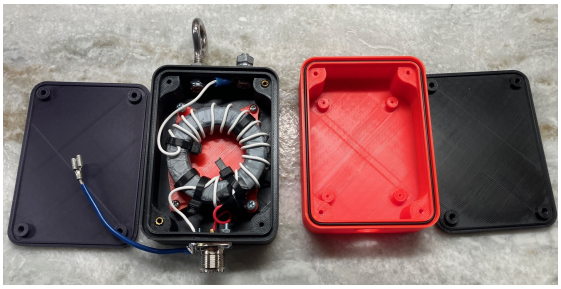
Time	Item	Presenter
6:30 PM	Ragchew/ Informal Conversations / SWAP SHOP Bring SWAP SHOP Items if you have stuff to allow to become prized possessions of OTHERS for Free or $$ I'm going to have one or more inexpensive MPPT Solar Charge Controllers to GIVE AWAY as I don't need them any more. They are good for about 5A of DC charge to a 12V battery	Jeff Capehart W4UFL
7:00-7:08	Formal Meeting / **Introductions**	Jeff W4UFL
7:08-7:10	Approval of January 2026 Minutes https://www.nf4rc.club/prior-meetings-2/2026-2/minutes-january-2026-meeting/	Jeff W4UFL
7:10-7:15 (5 min)	Previous Month Hours Report	Jeff W4UFL
7:15-7:45 (30 min)	**Go over the Winter Field Day AARIP Report (see attachment)** ***We came in the upper 6% of ALL the Indoor Category -- but we identified multiple WEAKNESSES.*** *Review out of courtesy so we don't have to waste everyone's time. Major findings included we really need to work on more people having "general ham radio skills" so they aren't limited to one mode (FM) and 2 bands (2 meters/70cm) but can use many more bands and modes effectively.* Multiple things we can work on to get better!	Gordon KX4Z
7:45-8:00 (15)	**Refresher on VHF Winlink - exercise this month** EOC 144.990 VARA Peer to Peer	Earl KI4OXD

8:00-8:10 (10 min)	LabNLunch = Balun project -- pass around sheet See accompanying information about the three different types of Balun (un-uns) you could buy or build to work with simple antennas on multiple bands. There are almost innumerable ways you can make a multi-band antenna using these baluns, even if you live in an HOA, if you are willing. Inside (attic antenna) or outside (sloping, vertical or inverted vee) are possible with almost any kind of wire you can think of, even wires that are basically INVISIBLE.  	Gordon KX4Z
8:10-8:20 (10 min)	Planning for MARCH General Class Course Beginning (Teacher volunteers -- pass around sheet)	Gordon KX4Z
8:20-8:25 (5 min)	Trips to the EOC -- ? March when opened??	Gordon
8:25-8:30 (5 min)	Present SWOT Analysis Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats for our group and our missions.	Jeff W4UFL
	Anything else? Speak NOW after reading this if you would like to add something else in!	
	Adjourn	

LAB N LUNCH BALUN ORDER FORM

These baluns (or perhaps more properly, Un-Uns) are great for simple unbalanced antennas, either resonant or non resonant. You can build them yourself, or get Chinese versions cheaply or really high quality ones made similarly to ours, for about twice or three times the price. Most of them should work well!

Representative examples of case and construction.



NAME: _____

Material has to be ordered and received or obtained from local sources and this takes TIME, so you must order at least 5 days before the event. Check one or more that you wish. Communicate back to Gordon KX4Z docvacuumtubes@gmail.com or 352 246 6183 before the deadline! Thanks!

<table>
<tr><th>ORDER</th><th>BALUN</th><th>Usage</th><th>Similar Commercial Unit</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>❑</td>
<td>49:1 End Fed Half Wave Balun
in ABS plastic case. 14 turns of high temp, corrosion resistant PTFE wire, tapped at 2 turns for approx 50 ohms. May require a modest tuner to achieve 50 ohms, depending on frequency.
<table>
<tr><td>ABS Plastic
(box, cover, plate: filament cost)</td><td>2.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>FT-240-43 ferrite</td><td>9.93</td></tr>
<tr><td>Approx 3 feet of high temp, tinned Teflon insulated PTFE wire</td><td>4.15</td></tr>
<tr><td>Approx 2 feet of yellow gas Teflon tape</td><td>0.46</td></tr>
<tr><td>4 #4-3/8" stainless sheet metal screws (secure toroid plate)</td><td>0.75</td></tr>
<tr><td>4 #6-1/2" stainless sheet metal screws
(secure cover)</td><td>0.77</td></tr>
<tr><td>4-6 zip-ties</td><td>0.50</td></tr>
<tr><td>Teflon nickel-plated SO-239
(won't melt when soldering)</td><td>4.50</td></tr>
<tr><td>2sets 4-40 screw / nut to secure SO239</td><td>0.44</td></tr>
</table>
</td>
<td>Use with a half-wave length of wire (of any type) at the lowest band you wish to use. It will generally be usable at ALL HARMONICS of that frequency.
Use 468/F(MHz) to give the foot length of your wire and then tune for best SWR

Your antenna wire can be almost any shape as long as it gets away from the ground! Vertical, sloping, bent -- doesn't much matter.

Use some coax or (optimally) 1/4 wave counterpoise laying on ground. May wish to use several turns of coax as a "choke Balun" or alternatively a real 1:1 choke Balun to avoid</td>
<td>Amazon:
(unknown interior)
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D9LP4RLZ
$29.50

Balun Designs
(very similar design)
https://www.balundesigns.com/model-49134e-49-1-80-10m-efhw-500-watts/ $89.95</td>
</tr>
</table>

	<table><tr><td>Solder lugs</td><td>free</td></tr><tr><td>Zinc-plated 1/4" eyelet bolt x 2"</td><td>0.75</td></tr><tr><td>10-24x 1" stainless bolt, 2 nuts for antenna connection</td><td>0.75</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>$25.00</td></tr></table>	common mode current	
❑	**9:1 NON-RESONANT ANTENNA BALUN (UNUN)** Use this with a non-resonant length of wire to work most HF ham bands using a capable (external) antenna tuner that can tune up to 10:1 to 50 ohms. This is the type Balun I use when on the road with my trailer. Add some wire on the ground as a counterpoise and use a 1:1 choke Balun. Suggested non resonant lengths are 29 feet, 35.5 feet, 41 feet, 58, 71 feet. Balun is built with 3 wires wound together trifilar, and then soldered to make 9:1 voltage Balun <table><tr><td>ABS Plastic (box, cover, plate: filament cost)</td><td>2.00</td></tr><tr><td>FT-240-43 ferrite</td><td>9.93</td></tr><tr><td>Approx 5 feet of high temp, tinned Teflon insulated PTFE wire</td><td>6.00</td></tr><tr><td>Approx 2 feet of yellow gas Teflon tape</td><td>0.46</td></tr><tr><td>4 #4-3/8" stainless sheet metal screws (secure toroid plate)</td><td>0.75</td></tr><tr><td>4 #6-1/2" stainless sheet metal screws (secure cover)</td><td>0.77</td></tr><tr><td>4-6 zip-ties</td><td>0.50</td></tr><tr><td>Teflon nickel-plated SO-239 (won't melt when soldering)</td><td>4.50</td></tr></table>	This is a nice antenna if you have an external antenna tuner and don't have enough room for a full size antenna on the band you want to work. 9:1 baluns are the traditional compromise for non-resonant lengths of wire -- they aren't optimal ANYWHERE, but they aren't TERRIBLE anywhere either, so they generally "work" You'll definitely want a 1:1 Balun as a choke, and you can use one or more "counterpoise wires" on the ground connected to the ground terminal of the Balun. (We built that in while we're building it) Counterpoise wires can be just about any length, although 1/4 wavelength might be best.	Amazon https://www.amazon.com/Long-Line-Shortwave-Impedance-Conversion-50%CE%A9%E2%80%91450%CE%A9/dp/B0FFSJ61N7 BALUN DESIGNS https://www.balundesigns.com/model-9130sw-9-1-unun-1-5-54-mhz-300-watts Similar design - $68

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<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>$26.85</td></tr>
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</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>❑</td><td>
1:1 CHOKE BALUN (UNUN)

This is nothing more than a common mode choke made by wiring parallel wires 11 turns around a ferrite. It creates huge LOSS for the common mode currents and negligible loss for the real signal.

SO-239 on both ends.
<table>
<tr><td>ABS Plastic
(box, cover, plate: filament cost)</td><td>2.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>FT-240-31 ferrite</td><td>8.99</td></tr>
<tr><td>Approx 5 feet of high temp, tinned Teflon insulated PTFE wire</td><td>6.00</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Solder lugs</td><td>free</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>$28.91</td></tr>
</table>
</td><td>Use this at the TRANSMITTER END -- perhaps a few feet from your transmitter It will generally knock down considerably the bothersome "common mode current" coming from unbalanced antenna systems.</td><td>AMAZON:

They have multiple units that are not enclosed in a case, just the ferrite and coax with connectors around them. These should work fine, just not enclosed in a case. Example: https://www.amazon.com/EM-25-Shortwave-1-8-30MHz-WOOKLEA-Accessories/dp/B0FS21ZQR4

$25.00

BALUN DESIGN (very similar design)_ https://www.balundesigns.com/copy-of-model-1110-qrp-1-1-isolation-choke-balun-1-5-54-mhz-300-watts $69.95</td></tr>
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