

## NFARC/Alachua EOC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 11, 2026

Due to Hamcation and related limitations, we didn't have formal minutes from the meeting. However, the "agenda" is printed below, and thanks to a heads-up from Earl Sloan, I found where I had kept a listing of people volunteering to teach portions of the 8-session GENERAL CLASS COURSE:

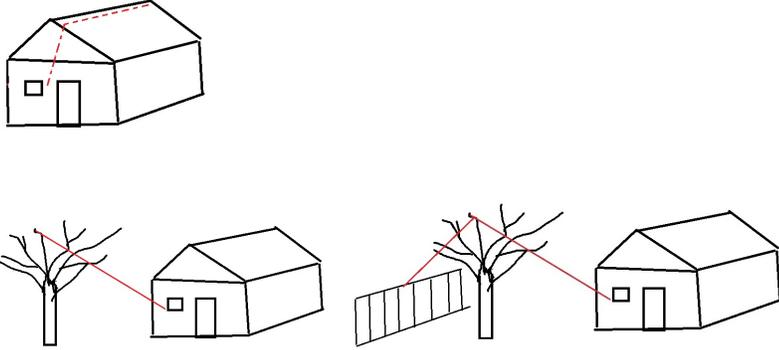
Session	Date	Topic	Volunteer Instructor
1	Mar 26	Rules and Regs	Jeff Capehart W4UFL (ran into scheduling issues) Gordon Gibby KX4Z
2	Apr 2	Operating the Radio	Earl Sloan KI4OXD
3	Apr 9	Digital Modes	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
4	Apr 16	Propagation	OPEN <i>Jeff considering</i>
5	Apr 23	Processing Signals	Gordon Gibby KX4Z
6	Apr 30	Antennas	Earl Sloan KI4OXD
7	May 7	Hamtronics 1	OPEN <i>Jeff considering</i>
8	May 14	Hamtronics 2/Safety	Earl McDow K4ZSW

Many thanks to our volunteers, and looking for additional volunteers to help with the OPEN slots!

## North Florida Amateur Radio Club / AlachuaARES(R) FEB 2026 MEETING

Tentative Program, **WED FEB 11, 2026**

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 / <b>Introductions</b>	Jeff W4UFL
7:08-7:10	Approval of January 2026 Minutes <a href="https://www.nf4rc.club/prior-meetings-2/2026-2/minutes-january-2026-meeting/">https://www.nf4rc.club/prior-meetings-2/2026-2/minutes-january-2026-meeting/</a>	Jeff W4UFL
7:10-7:15 (5 min)	Previous Month Hours Report	Jeff W4UFL

<p>7:15-7:45 (30 min)</p>	<p><b>Go over the Winter Field Day AARIP Report (see attachment)</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b><i>We came in the upper 6% of ALL the Indoor Category -- but we identified multiple WEAKNESSES.</i></b></p> </div> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Multiple things we can work on to get better!</p>	<p>Gordon KX4Z</p>
<p>7:45-8:00 (15)</p>	<p><b>Refresher on VHF Winlink - exercise this month</b> EOC 144.990 VARA Peer to Peer</p>	<p>Earl KI4OXD</p>
<p>8:00-8:10 (10 min)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p>Gordon KX4Z</p>
<p>8:10-8:20 (10 min)</p>	<p>Planning for MARCH General Class Course Beginning (Teacher volunteers -- pass around sheet)</p>	<p>Gordon KX4Z</p>
<p>8:20-8:25 (5 min)</p>	<p>Trips to the EOC -- ? March when opened??</p>	<p>Gordon</p>
<p>8:25-8:30 (5 min)</p>	<p>Present SWOT Analysis Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats for our group and our missions.</p>	<p>Jeff W4UFL</p>
	<p>Anything else? Speak NOW after reading this if you would like to add something else in!</p>	
	<p>Adjourn</p>	

(SWOT analysis presentation on next page)

**SWOT ANALYSIS PRESENTED (Developed by Club Leadership)**

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b>          Equipment / radio Assets (filters etc)          Mesh Network          Core group that wants to see work done          Fairly large involvement of our "people" Elsewhere in Winter Field Day          Have added Manish, Chris Corcoran from Tech          We DO Training / Technite LabNLunch (building)          Great strength in teaching course          2 people with radio trailers          1 person with trailer - not yet set up for radio          Ability to reach the State EOC without Internet (PACE)          [because of our engagement, Alachua County is more receptive; most counties think ham radio is "analog, and quaint"]</p>	<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>          Get out in front of public and show our group          School Course (3 students) writing book          Chances to TEACH tech license etc          Teaching more courses          New Recruit Invite / ARES Invite          (Print out Taskbook; fill it out) (1/year or more)          Hold sessions to do Taskbook Items          Lightweight presentations          Social Lines -- POTA, picnic, spring picnic, etc          FCU pays for CAMERAS -- add mesh to their cameras for backup (cameras are high up so maybe add mesh to them at 100 foot) - requires community effort.          More Goboxes for PEOPLE          Explain risks to internet &amp; options to reduce risks -- (mesh network, recommend exercises; Craig to possibly speak on risks) [very difficult to convince EM] [government does NOT like depending on volunteers for essential comms]          [HUGO went all the way to Charlotte]</p>
<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b>          20/80 rule          Limited engagement by larger ARES group (35!!)          10 of those GARS -- except Dean          Some in their 80's (Rosemary for example)          People leave (Wendell, Leland) - get bored &amp; leave          Limited HF skillsets (majority on TWO BANDS)          Limited leadership</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b>          - aging out          - lack of willingness to DO stuff          - plenty of willingness to RECOMMEND stuff          - lack of time/effort to carry out          - unwillingness to exert leadership (vulnerability)</p>