

Alachua ARES/NFARC/NF4AC Clubs

MINUTES

April 8, 2026

Attendance **18**: The meeting was at the Alachua EOC and via ZOOM.

Gordon Gibby
Brett Wallace
Brett W. Wallace
Susan Halbert
Jeff Capehart
Angela Basham
Colton Meagher
Earl Sloan
Judith Rosemary Jones
Manish Sahni
Earl McDow
Mark McDow
Reid Tillery
Chris Cochran N1CSC
Karen Whited AB4NW
Larry Whited AB4NX

Via Zoom:

Hugh Minnich
Brian Joy

- Introductions.
- MINUTES FROM **APRIL 2026** meeting were posted to the website.
- PREVIOUS MONTH ARES HOURS REPORT. **88.5**
- OLD BUSINESS

Discussions on digital operations provided these regular opportunities:

- 1) Winlink Monday is one way to get credit for digital Winlink operation
- 2) Sunday night at 7pm on 3590 is a PSK31 net
- 3) Brett has been running Winlink P2P and said so far 4 people have checked in.
- 4) FLDIGI training is available on the Black Swan Net by KD8TTE who runs the OHIO State Guard AUXCOMM system.

The social dinner Saturday April 4 at Los Pollos was a success! Next month the plan is to return to Sonny's on 39th avenue on Saturday May 2nd.

The FL POTA and ARRL Open House is planned for Saturday April 18 at San Felasco Hammock State Park Alachua entrance. \$4 per vehicle.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Brett gave a shout-out to Charlie Scordo for inspiring Marion County's MeshTastic initiative. TV20 had a story about their efforts. It uses 900 MHz so it is basically unlicensed and hams and non-hams can be involved.

Tech Night for May will be "Hamtronics" at 7pm on Thursday May 7th.

LabNLunch for May will be "Data Cables" and "1:1 Balun TuneUp" on Saturday May 16th 1pm at Gordon's.

A Field Day TaskForce was developed. 10 volunteers expressed interest. Earl Sloan said he would like to do lunch and breakfast. Earl McDow said he would help with MESH. (Editor's note: Earl Sloan KI4OXD volunteered to lead the 2026 Field Day operation subsequently via email, with Gordon and Rosemary also volunteering assistant leadership. The plan is to have Field Day at the Cuscowilla Nature Center in Micanopy on June 27-28 with setup on Friday June 26)

- **PROGRAM: Shelter Go-Boxes**

Brett Wallace discussed and demonstrated a Go-BOX equipped with a Ham Radio transceiver, public safety Motorola radio, and various cables all contained in a sealed rugged rack-mount equipment box very similar to the ones you see the roadies handling for concert equipment. A key point was to make use of the "Quick Menu" to get access to various setup items in case a channel, frequency, repeater, simplex, or tone needs to be changed or programmed in. The manuals are included in the Go Box. Each box also includes a 3-ring binder with photos and details about antenna coax connections at each shelter.

There was a question about what to bring to a shelter. Gordon mentioned that everyone should read the COMM PLAN on the ARES (NF4RC.club) website. There is a part of the communications plan that includes suggested items that radio volunteers should bring to the shelter when deployed.

- **Final Wrap-up**

Gordon mentioned he will be gone in July and August.

- **ADJOURNMENT.** At 2039 EST.