

**Alachua County ARES
MINUTES May Meeting May 9 2018**

**North Florida Amateur Radio Club NF4RC
GAINESVILLE RED CROSS BUILDING
1425 NW 6th St, Gainesville, FL 32601**

Attending

**John T. KM4JTE
Roald M. KN4JGC (Bell)
Jim R. KN4KWN (Chiefland)
James H. KM4YDK (Gnv)
Earl S. KI4OXD (Hawthorne)
Vann C. AC4QS
Susan H. KG4VWI
Leland G. AA3YB
Alvin O. KM4DLF (Gnv)
Rosemary J. KI4QBZ
Jeff C. W4UFL
Zeev G. KN4JQE
Gordon G. KX4Z
Chris C.
there was at least another that didn't sign.**

There was the requisite time spent finding outlets and extension cords and etc. The SHELTER-A prototype wifi shelter information system was activated.

- 1. Introduction – Jeff Capehart welcomed several new guests. (I counted 15 total)**
- 2. Demo of D-Rats – marred by one of the two baofeng-vhf stations not TRANSMITTING (red light on soundcard interface would not come on) which after the meeting analysis showed was a LOOSE USB PORT SOCKET. The ability of D-RATS to do chat functions and graphical file transfer was pointed to, but the limitation being that it doesn't deal very well with NODE stations that could extend the range. G. gibby**
- 3. VOICE MESSAGE TRAFFIC PASSING --- we split the group into three teams, one in the back hall, one in the foyer and one in the conference room and transacted three messages on 146.490 VHF simplex with an ad-hoc netcontrol and a lot of fun! There were questions beforehand on the proper way to announce “figures” “Mixed” and “I spell” kinds of things, and more discussion afterwards as well. Everyone did a lot better than the FIRST time we tried this 3 months ago, with much slower speaking of the message, but there were unnecessary names of**

parts of the Preamble transmitted (Don't say “station of origin” etc!) – and more breaks for “fills” than required. A secret error in the Check was missed by both transmitting and receiving team --- but overall there was a lot of improvement demonstrated. And everyone seemed to have FUN!

4. **UPLOADING NEW FILES INTO SHELTER SERVER** --- Gordon demonstrated how to us upload files into the SHELTER-A server using Coffee Cup FTP(free) software and everyone with a laptop and software installed got the username and password into their systems. The web site is “hamradioband.com” and in practice, multiple people were able to upload files successfully. It goes **BLINDINGLY** fast since these are small files. One participant was using a different kind of FTP program but had no difficulty from their tablet.
5. **Prgramming Baofeng Transceiver for a Repeater** – Using a Handout, Gordon showed first how the general Bofeng method for adjusting a menu item goes, and then walked everyone through the (somewhat complicated) steps to programming in a repeater frequency in a Baofeng transceiver. Multiple people were thus convinced that using CHIRP is a **LOT EASIER**.
6. **John Troupe and Vann Chesney** then went over some of the last minute planning for the June 9th 9 AM Exercise, meeting at the antenna tower assembly on the right as you turn into the Waccassassa facility on the south side of 39th AVenue east of the airport. Discussion revolved around finding adequate HF equipment to staff the various protagonists in the exercise. There was not yet an updated ICS-205. Mention was made of a hotwash luncheon afterwards, TBD. Several people volunteered to bring canopies / chairs, and gordon indicated he had a generator. There was a warning to use UPS protection between generators and expensive ham radios for fear of power voltage variations.
7. **Report on the EOC License! Hooray!** Jeff Capehart discussed the random call sign KN4LVL that we've received and has also applied for a “Vanity” call sign. Indications are this takes less than 3 weeks to receive, so there is a very good chance that we'll have it before the June 9th Exercise and certainly for the majority of the Hurricane Season. This brings with it the availability of an WINLINK email address, and a free web page on QSL.NET
8. **Meeting Adjourned on that happy note!**

<https://www.coffeecup.com/free-ftp/>
click the ORANGE button for the free software....