

*NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA RED CROSS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA*

*ALACHUA COUNTY EOC RADIO CLUB OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA*

MINUTES of Combined Meeting  
Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
Red Cross building of Alachua County

Meeting was called to order shortly after 7 PM by Jeff Capehart.

Discussion of formation of Red Cross Club. New Constitution has been sent out by email, some copies available. The required four officer signatories all signed, and then applications were taken for membership, and the following members unanimously approved (because of Internet access, only first initials are presented):

MEMBERS RED CROSS

J. Capehart - President  
J. Jones - Vice President  
G. Gibby - Secretary  
S. Halbert - Treasurer  
C. Carr  
G. Culbreth  
C. Grant  
J. Clifton  
T. Cox  
E. Gray

Discussion of formation of EOC Radio Club. Unclear if we would be able to use the N4ASO call sign; might need a separate callsign for WINLINK purposes. Discussion that easy to form club and utilize if it seems best. 2 Signatures on the Constitution, and following members were unanimously approved:

MEMBERS EOC RADIO CLUB

J. Capehart - President  
G. Gibby - Secretary  
C. Carr  
J. Clifton

G. Culbreth  
T. Cox / T. Cox  
J. Jones  
E. Gray  
C. Grant  
S. Halbert

Discussion (AfterAction Reports) of the Hurricane Matthew activation of the group, in which we staffed three shelters and the EOC and Red Cross amateur radio locations. There was a problem with very late notification to Jeff of which shelters would actually be opened. This made planning and staffing more difficult. Jeff, like many, has a job, and could not “go down” to the EOC and listen; had to wait for information or call to check on them. Discussion of the possibility of getting a representative down there, versus simply having them call us to notify us which shelters can be planned for. Conclusion: Rosemary says she can often go down to the EOC and simply sit and listen.

Discussion of shelter staffing: Jeff attempted to staff shelters with 2 people, but this wasn't always possible because of individual desires, lack of available replacements, etc. The Senior center ended up with only one staff from our group.

Next Time: Call for “availability” of hams when at the predicted tropical storm level, which would be much earlier. Chris points out the need for staffing at the Red Cross, which was announced on the Thursday net (but no where else?). Discussion of antennas (Larry had a problem) -- Rosemary volunteers a spare antenna to Larry. The County simply cannot staff 18 (potential) shelters due to THEIR lack of staffing. Question raised: Why do we go to different shelters every time!!? (Apparently complex matrix of what is available at each shelter) The Senior Center is an extremely likely shelter in all events, and is a very nice place and apparently has an antenna cable installed, an antenna available in a closet, but not yet affixed to the building. VOLUNTEERS: Gordon, Rosemary, Susan, Tom and Gene will work on getting that antenna installed at the Senior Center.

Suggestion to carry antennas with you; County promised antennas, but that resulted in two antennas sitting in the radio room at the EOC (not yet installed). Noted that Westwood middle school has a threaded, capped, tube going through the wall, which makes for easy passage of coax cable. Doing the same at other locations was heartily endorsed, but we don't know how to get this done.

Discussion that at the Lake City Community location people were using handhelds

There is an old “search and rescue trailer” -- but on further questioning it actually is no longer owned by any of us.

Discussion of the need for situational awareness; the shelter residents are often EAGER for information on how the property they had to leave is likely fairing. Shelter county staff don't have much information on this -- when bulletins become available, they draw a CROWD in locations where that is possible. We didn't get much information this time. The 800 MHz radios were very clear; there were NO landline phones at the Shelters; The EOC was primarily interested in getting a “head count” from us, for paperwork reasons. Food for the shelters was bobbed a bit, but handled locally.

Discussed that the Alachua County shelters had no cots -- only cement for residents to sleep on. Could FEMA provide cots? Red Cross no longer provides cots. Cots were however present at the Special Needs Shelter (Senior Center).

Rumor Control: Floridadisaster.org provides information. They had hote availability etc, excellent information. Gas Buddy app on computer -- came up with a way to know which station no longer had gasoline. AirBNB -- had an app to handle home availability. Power outages -- only updated every 12 hours on official sites.

Discussion of training -- general consensus to “up our game” and provide training.

Insurance: GARS club is working on some insurance ideas. Loaned Radios? No insurance yet. Workman compensation covers actual deployed people. Might be a good idea to insure the red cross equipment.

Next “meeting” is a construction meeting of \$10 TNCs, November 5<sup>th</sup> 0830 at the Red Cross.

Minutes submitted by G. Gibby  
October 16, 2016