



WA4GDN

NEWSLETTER

www.gulfcoastarc.com

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Hello all

I hope you all did well with this Hurricane. We dogged another one.

I know Pasco had 6 shelters open at the start and I want to thank Chris KC3CJU, Kevin KO4RIK, and Bill N7GCG. They maned the shelters for most of the time they were open.

We have things coming up. In Sept we have the POTA the 23th.

Oct our hamfest on the 7th. The T2T run/walk on the 28th, so please do sign up. I will have maps at our Sept meeting.

In Nov I would like to have a Fox Hunt around the 18th.

If you would like to do something step forward and say so. As a class, how to operate a radio or what does all the knobs do. How to put an end on coax. The list goes on, so speak up.

That is all for this month.

73

Barry N2NVP

IDALIA MESSES THINGS UP!

Sorry that this publication is a little late this month! Hurricane Idalia interrupted my schedule!!

We had guests arrive from the North on Monday and decided we would all be more comfortable if we were someplace else if we lost power. We have a generator but it would not power the AC. The irony of the situation is, when we arrived at the hotel in Gatlinburg TN, they had no power! They have been dealing with their own weather events recently and the power company was replacing damaged infrastructure! They let us check in and power was restored about 4hrs later! Any ways our guest enjoyed Tennessee and the Smokey Mountains!

I sincerely hope that everyone came through this event unscathed. Decisions on how to deal with such events are very difficult when they are so unpredictable. It's always, I believe , better to be SAFE then SORRY!

I am really looking forward to the next couple of months with all that's going on! Hamfest, POTA, Foxhunt, Tunnels to Towers! Hope everyone is able to participate in a couple of these!

The monthly membership meeting scheduled for Aug. 28th has been rescheduled to Tuesday Sept. 5, 7:00pm

As always we welcome contributions from any member for this publication. You have "content", send it to me I will publish it! chuck5kaz@gmail.com

Hurricane Idalia: ARRL Amateur Radio Volunteers Serve

*From **ARRL.ORG***

09/01/2023

Volunteers of [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) were using their Amateur Radio Service license privileges to serve communities affected by Hurricane Idalia. Idalia made landfall Wednesday, August 30 on Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 3 storm sustaining winds of 125 miles per hour. The storm tracked across Georgia and into South Carolina, and on Thursday morning it had moved offshore of North Carolina.

ARRL volunteers staffed key positions across the affected region. Section Emergency Coordinator of the [ARRL Northern Florida Section](#) Arc Thames, W4CPD, led the activation of [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) volunteers within the Section. Thames said the ARES volunteers would be staffing the radio room at the state Emergency Operation Center (EOC) until 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 31 and will provide additional service if needed. "So far there does not appear to be a large communications impact that would require amateur radio support," he said.

The [Florida Statewide Amateur Radio Network \(SARnet\)](#) was the primary emergency communications system used during the storm. The system is a series of linked UHF repeaters that covers the entire state. There were also HF nets linking counties to the state EOC.

In a message to ARES leadership in the affected Sections, ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, reminded them of gear at ARRL Headquarters that can be deployed if necessary. "We have equipment assets in our Ham Aid program available to you for loan if you have a need to backfill. These can be used during - long term recovery efforts as needed," wrote Johnston.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [approved an ARRL-requested emergency waiver to HF symbol rate limits](#), to allow higher speed data communications in the Amateur Radio Service response to Hurricane Idalia. [Read the waiver](#) (PDF)

Many counties in the ARRL Northern Florida Section were activated. Section Manager Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, was at the Clay County EOC for 27 hours. "We had a good number of our Northern Florida counties activated, as well as other places in the state. There were four shelters open here in Clay County alone," he said. As of press time, Roberts said the final information was still being tallied, but he knew of activations Duvall, St. Johns, Escambia, Marion, and Leon Counties.

In Ocala, the Marion County Emergency Radio Team (MERT) was activated to support shelter operations on Tuesday, August 29. Marion County ARES was placed on standby to support the MERT team and other served agencies. The county was spared the brunt of the impact. Marion County ARES Emergency Coordinator Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY, said the activation identified some opportunities for improvement in the area's disaster response. "We were very fortunate to have had little to do. However, the activation provided us some insight on factors that would impede communications in an emergency," he said.

Ham volunteers worked with the County Sheriff's office to ensure the amateur radio equipment onboard the Marion County Mobile Command Center was fully operational before it was deployed to Madison County, the area most heavily impacted by the storm.

Kaufman thanked the many local volunteers for their service during the hurricane. "I am personally proud to be a member of our increasingly tight-knit EmComm community," he said.

[Hurricane Watch Net](#) (HWN) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, said the storm called for "all hands on deck". Ahead of impact, the intensity and track of the storm greatly concerned him. "I have been watching and plotting hurricanes for over 35 years. I have witnessed, many times, a Hurricane cross a state line into another as a hurricane...two states were hit by the same hurricane. Never have I seen a storm cross three States as a Hurricane," said Graves.

The [WX4NHC amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center](#) was also active during the storm, as was the [Hurricane VoIP Net](#).

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club Operating Event

SAVE THE DATE for the club's first



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

8:00am til Noon



The Goals for this event are :

- ◆ Allow club members who currently hold a Technician class license an opportunity to operate on some new bands with expanded HF privileges.
- ◆ Allow club members who currently don't own HF equipment an opportunity to operate on HF bands.
- ◆ Allow club members who are new and have limited operating experience, an opportunity to gain some on-the-air experience.

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		LICENSE EXAM SESSION 10:00am Apoinment Only aj4ja@icloud.com	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		WA4GDN POTA ACTIVATION 8AM-12NOON STARKEY PARK	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	GCARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00pm	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB			

NOTES:

- ◆ Highlight of this month will be the club's first POTA Activation at Starkey Wilderness Park. This is an opportunity for any club member to make HF POTA contacts. Don't miss this!
- ◆ Exam Session scheduled for the 9th, contact Al, aj4ja@icloud.com.
- ◆ Membership meeting on the 25th 7:00pm Millennium Academy.
- ◆ Club luncheon for September has not yet been scheduled!

As always keep abreast of any updates or changes at the website or facebook!

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		HAMFEST! TESTING!
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	GCARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00pm	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		TUNNELS To TOWERS
29	30	31				
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz				

Always check the website and our facebook page for any changes in times or dates for club events!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME / CALL	BOARD POSITION	EMAIL
Barry Keaveny, N2NVP	President	keavbv@msn.com
Kevin McConn, KO4RIK	Vice-President	ko4rik@gmail.com
Ralph McCullough, WA3YFQ	Secretary	wa3yfq1@gmail.com
Maureen Keaveny, KB2QNK	Treasurer	keavme50@outlook.com
Chris McCullough, KC3CJU	Director	kc3cju@gmail.com
Mark Toussaint, N1MT	Director	n1mt@arrl.net

GCARC NETS

On **Monday** nights at 7:30pm we hold a “**system fusion**” net on the WA4GDN repeater at 146.670. We discuss all Amateur Radio topics, with an emphasis on the various Digital modes and beyond.

On **Tuesday** nights at 7:30pm we hold a **trader’s and general information net** on the WA4GDN repeater at 146.670. If you have an amateur radio related item to buy, sell, trade, or want, you may list it here. All brief amateur related announcements may be made here.

On **Thursday** nights at 7:30 pm the GCARC club holds a **10 meter HF net**. 10 Meters HF – 28.430 MHz SSB (USB). The purpose is to promote activity on the 10 meter band (especially during low sunspot activity). To give technician class operators an opportunity to operate phone, and to provide a venue for conversation and experimentation with antenna and ground wave propagation.

CLUB REPEATERS

New Port Richey 146.670/146.070 MHz PL Tone – 146.2 Hz Yaesu System Fusion Capable	Land O Lakes 145.330/144.730 MHz PL Tone – 146.2 Hz Yaesu System Fusion Capable
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & DUES

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club has Regular memberships available for licensed hams, Junior memberships for licensed hams under the age of 18, Family memberships for all family members residing at the same address, and Associate memberships for those not yet licensed. Membership runs for 12 months, beginning on January 1 and ends December 31.

For more information, you can contact Mark Toussaint at membership@gulfcoastarc.com. There is also a downloadable membership application on the website, gulfcoastarc.com/membership !

Regular & Associate Membership* \$25 Junior Membership \$15 Family Membership* \$30

- Associate & Family members who are non-licensed hams will not be granted voting privileges or have the privilege to serve on the board.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A NET CONTROLLER?

The club is looking for members to be **Net Controllers**

The Tuesday Night Net is an important function of the GCARC, and the Nets must have a controller to keep the flow of information orderly. Right now we need more Net Controllers, so the same few people aren't holding the Nets week after week.

Being a Net Controller is fun, you get to practice your on-the-air skills, and you get to use your radio equipment in a live exercise. And you are helping the club by donating about 30 minutes of your time for maybe one night a month. You will even be furnished scripted dialogue, so you don't have to ad lib.

If you are a member in good standing, and you have a radio rig that can reach the club repeater clearly and reliably, you can let us know if you'd like to be a Net controller by several means: you can post a message on our Facebook site, or send us a message through the "contact us" link on the web site, or just say so during a Net.

Please give it some thought. We'd love to have you join us as a Net Controller.

Nick

KN4IKR

stewartnick@erols.com

PASCO COUNTY ARES & SKYWARN NET



Wednesday at 7:30 PM.
146.670 GCARC Port Richey
147.135 Pasco County ARES Dade City
- All have PL-146.2

