

## GARS E-Board March

### I. Sickness and health:

1. Larry is away visiting his son – send flowers or some tribute.
2. Gary's daughter SueAnn Hunt passed away due to cancer –card, not a member.
3. Hal and Fae, Fae has breast cancer, doing aggressive radiation/chemo treatment. Things are improving, he thinks.
4. Helkie might go home to Daytona Beach when he is able – honorary member of GARS suggested with a plaque and recognition (life membership – restricted to 5% membership of club)

### II. OFFICER REPORTS:

1. Webmaster: Will wait until after hamfest to update look of website. Concern over updated 2020 events.
2. Secretary: PO Box key. Working to locate the 2<sup>nd</sup> key. (Every year, when it's renewed....a letter has to be signed designating who holds the key. Letter must be on GARS letterhead. Motion to spend \$60 to start the process to obtain another key.)
3. ARES Report:
  - \* 2020 Florida EmComm Conference & Exercise success (3rd Annual) -- MAKE THIS OLD BUSINESS?
  - \* EC-001 Course held Friday/Monday before/after conference. 14 attended; 5 passed.
  - \* Gordon KX4Z is now an evaluator for the Florida ARES TaskBook. (Working on 2 or 3 more people).
  - \* Gordon & Leland attended Volunteer Florida Conference March 3-4
  - \* A trailer was assembled by members in February @ Gordon's (future Tower trailer).
  - \* Next Meeting 7pm Wed., March 11, 2020 @ Red Cross
  - \* There will be a Florida ARES Forum at the Fort Walton Beach Hamfest on Saturday 3/21/20

#### **\*2020 Florida EmComm Conference & Exercise success**

Exercise--7 deployment locations (Teams of 6) with 4 EM/EOC staff and Gordon as Exercise Controller. Duration was 3 hours.

Excellent relationship building with our emergency manager and his staff. ARES is in good stead with him. This will bear enormous good fruit for us during the upcoming hurricane season and thereafter. The emergency manager was generally pleased by what he saw, and has made some very very useful comments about how we can improve our communications support to the EOC itself during an activation.

(Successful also because of HT on 2 meter HTs communicating via the Gainesville Repeater.)

#### **\*Volunteer Florida Conference 2020**

\*\*Dr. Gibby and Leland Gallup went to Orlando on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning to attend a Volunteer Florida conference. This was an event staged by Volunteer Florida, a state-chartered agency that is responsible and acts as an interface between voluntary organizations active in disasters and the state. It was spun off from the Florida department of Emergency Management a couple of years ago.

\*\*They heard presentations not only by the state of Florida's VF mass care (ESF 6) liaison, we also heard from the FEMA rep who is responsible for ESF 15 (the liaison with volunteer organizations).

\*\*Some amateur radio operators from elsewhere in the state were also present at the conference. Attending the conference was to understand how Alachua ARES might better fit in as a volunteer organization into the bigger support picture. Both Gordon and Leland found it to be a useful conference, because besides learning about the VF structure, and volunteer organizations active in disasters in general, they also made some connections with other amateur radio operators in the state.

4. Treasurer:

- a. Paid \$300 for general liability ARRL network April 1, 2020-2021.
- b. No renewal for equipment insurance has appeared in his email/mail. He emailed ARRL risk strategy. He stated that W1GLV was getting notifications for renewal. The email address has been updated to [treasurer@gars.net](mailto:treasurer@gars.net).
- c. GARS.club website renewal is due, will pay for 2 more years \$90. He will check with QTH.net.
- d. He will be sending out around March 10<sup>th</sup> membership renewals that are due by April to participate in events.

5. VP & repeater trustee report:

- a. Hamfest, 5-6 weeks left.
  - i. Trying to get tables. 30 tables are paid for. Will take care of it next Tuesday. (Last Fri Stuart Reisner – agreed that GARS can borrow tables from his church.)
  - ii. Vendors: Jill, not there. Rick (sign man from Baton Rouge) 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, package is in process in Baton Rouge.
  - iii. Stuff needed to be priced and sold at club table.
  - iv. Biggest issue last year was Internet access to process transactions. Larry is working on it.
  - v. Plan is to raise the price \$1 for everything.
  - vi. Will run tailgate in parking lot and grassy area in front of the church. Handicap parking will be at end of that parking lot,
  - vii. New floor plan with Nightfire in the main spot in front.
  - viii. Handouts to pass out at General meeting needed. NE Marion/Levy County
  - ix. Mar 14 7:30 PiperClub restaurant to advertise
- b. Field day:
  - i. Need to build/assemble/adjust equipment, stuff from Ed Sills widow, SB101 and power supply to sell, tube gear, Gary/SueAnn have stuff in storage.
  - ii. Left turn signal needs fixing on trailer.
  - iii. SARnet repeater link repair attempt made 3x. They replaced all of the parts. Trying to relocate to a better tower to separate UHF and VHF signals. (Randy is retiring the end of this month.) It seems to still be working great.
  - iv. New proposed SARnet tower location: Tower in Austin Cary Forest, about 500 ft on west side of Waldo Road. Dept of Transportation and cabbie already on tower. (Dept of Transportation would host the tower if GARS installs the feedline and tower.) Issue about remote shut down capabilities and accessibilities. \*Wireless/Internet/HTs...?

6. President report:

- i. At Emergency conference K4ZSW, Earl McDow, did a presentation on digital modes and emergency power services. He will be a speaker at next GARS meeting, March 17<sup>th</sup> aka election day.
- ii. Bi-laws: eboard homework to review before next eBoard meeting.
  1. Will discuss at next eBoard meeting.
  2. # of people required for a quorum has been reduced.
  3. Bi-laws need to be voted on and sent to the state.
- iii. Congratulations on a successful Emergency Communications Conference and repeater.

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Jeff, ARES rep, requested email ARES notes to eBoard when he is not present.
2. North FL ARES Marty Brown is looking for a replacement for his ARES position.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

## 1. Field Day feedback