



Alachua County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES(R))
North Florida Amateur Radio Club (NFARC)
Alachua EOC Radio Club
(three groups that work together)

CONTACT: Gordon L. Gibby MD
Public Information Officer,
NFARC/ARES 2025 Fall Technician Class
15216 NW 41st Ave
Newberry FL 32669
Phone: 352 246 6183
Email: docvacuumtubes@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alachua County-Affiliated Ham Club Provides Entry Level Amateur Radio Course
This Fall at Alachua County EOC

Get ready to enter the exciting world of local and world-wide personal radio communications in Amateur Radio! Our local EOC-affiliated ham radio club is opening up a 13-week Thursday night class to pass your Technician FCC license test and get going in ham radio! You can sign up here: <https://forms.gle/e4nwur6Zv3z6E325A>

These volunteers have years and years of experience serving our county during hurricanes, providing backup communications for all our resident shelters, and also providing multiple backup methods for reaching the State of Florida, even if Internet and cell phone quit. Not only that, but they are very experienced at ham radio and routinely score at or near the top nationally, in summer and winter Field Day emergency exercise competitions.

Their course is completely free and taught at the EOC, at 1100 SE 27th Street, in the EOC conference room, 7-9 PM, beginning September 4th and continuing every Thursday night except the week of Thanksgiving. Most sessions will end before 9PM. You'll be ready to take your entry-level ham radio test on December 4th -- or at any of multiple other dates. You will need to procure either print or online educational materials for the Technician license course from a group we have found to be

extremely easy to use and interesting: <https://www.hamradioschool.com/> Their materials are in the \$30 range and include access to a wealth of great educational material.

You'll have an exciting experience learning a bit about radio and electronics! Most Thursday nights, your volunteer instructor will have your group get right on the air for a moment, to check into our weekly practice radio meeting, known as a "net" which has been running in Alachua County for decades and provides the emergency communications backup during hurricanes. You'll become quite familiar with our high-power ham radio station at the EOC, and with the steps to become a volunteer for the county, if you wish.

Ham radio is a hobby of 1,000 sub-hobbies, as it is the premier method our nation uses to allow citizens to dabble into electronics, radio, microprocessors, and transmitting and receiving. You can do Morse Code, voice and even world-wide radio "texting" and radio "email." Our local group is experienced at all of these techniques, and is even building an expertise in using about ten amateur radio low-earth-orbit satellites for communications. Quite an accomplished group serving our county!

###