



12th ANNUAL TECHCON

West Central Florida Section Technical Conference

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2026
LIST OF PRESENTATIONS**

Revision 1.0 - 2/24/25

BUILDING A POOR MAN'S HOMEBREW SSB/CW SATELLITE GROUND STATION: - GORDON GIBBY KX4Z.

Sure, you can fight through the QRM on the FM repeaters, and you can empty your wallet to purchase a truly fine SSB/CW ground station to use the linear satellites. But what if you want a good working SSB/CW ground station using older gear and making up as much of the equipment as you can -- the old fashioned ham radio tradition? One ham goes over all the pitfalls and successes he has experienced trying to build his own antennas, 2-axis rotator, dual axis controller, switching sequencer, and very, very inexpensive preamplifiers with RF switching. VHF/UHF design is a lot different from HF and so microstrip design comes into play along with loads of 3D printing!

WHAT IT TOOK, FOR A SWEEP OF THE ARRL FIELD DAY EOC CATEGORY BY A FLORIDA TEAM - GORDON GIBBY KX4Z.

The ARRL Field Day has had an EOC Category (F) for 23 years. To help build up more Florida teams, this is a review of all the team-building, skill-building, and special radio assets that were required to bring this about, despite rather extraordinary impediments presented by the Alachua County EOC, which have actually gotten worse, not better, over time.

sBITX DEVELOPMENTS AND THE DEVELOPMENTS AND THE CLEANING UP OF THE zBITX: - GORDON GIBBY KX4Z.

HF Signals continued to produce "interesting" radios throughout the year, with much further development of the sBitx series, including 3rd party software that really added some punch to the product. Then the zBitx came out and almost immediately had what seemed to be fatal radio transmitter issues -- which an astute amateur radio operator solved! The product is now being revamped. A local ham club in that area has now produced a rock-bottom analog 40 meter radio, the LARCSET in time to be hit with the USA Tariffs! We'll review where HF Signals is at this point and what seems to be in the future of this ground-breaking small radio manufacturer.

DESKTOP LASERS FOR HAM RADIO - MIKE HEMBREY KV00OM.

This presentation is to illustrate some uses for Hobby Class lasers by Radio Amateurs and electronics enthusiasts. The information in this presentation was gained hands on experience.



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THE AUXILIARY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE: EVOLUTION AND INTEGRATION - BEN GREEN WD8CZP.

Will discuss in more depth the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), Evolution & Integration. The correct definition of ACS and the inclusion of ALL communications programs. What is a Communications Reserve? The differences and similarities of "PublicSafety" and "Public Service" programs. Why do we need a Communications Reserve with our 21st Century communications systems? How the introduction of the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Interoperability programs influenced the overall ACS programs. The introduction of EMCOMM – Emergency Communications and the evolution of AUXCOM – Auxiliary Communications.

TO THE RASPBERRY PI PICO - DARRELL DAVIS KT4WX.

Will introduce the Raspberry Pi Pico, highlight the difference between the Raspberry Pi and Raspberry Pi Pico, and give a brief overview of how to get started using the Raspberry Pi Pico.

INTRODUCTION TO MICROWAVES - BUDDY MORGAN WB4OMG.

A summary of the Amateur Bands, above 902 MHz. Propagation, Equipment, Antennas and operation Modes. Primary emphasis is on Terrestrial Weak Signal operations.

NXDN NOW! - PAUL TOTH NB9X.

This presentation will look at the current state of NXDN technology and activity here in West Central Florida Amateur Radio and some imminent new features. We will discuss a couple new features including Dynamic Talkgroups, GPS Tracking and a bridge to the APRS Network and plans to improve network resiliency and reliability.

OPEN FORUM FOR NXDN - PAUL TOTH NB9X.

This presentation will be an OPEN FORUM for NXDN users who need assistance with radio programming issues or who have questions about issues they have encountered. I will also be premiering some new features that have been added to the WXMsg2 NXDN messaging app. WXMsg2 is being released to coincide with the new release of flxNET, the traffic management system that binds the West Central Florida NXDN network together.