

**THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS**  
**Issue #21 – January 2017**  
**By Darrell Davis KT4WX**  
**ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager**

For the PDF version of this newsletter, which will include any pictures and graphics, you may download and read offline go to <http://arrlwcf.org/home/the-wcf-section-presser-arrl-west-central-florida-section-news/>

**WELCOME TO 2017:**

Welcome to the first edition of THE WCF PRESSER for 2017. I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Just to let you know, I began my second term as your Section Manager on January 1. Thank you to each and every one of you for your overwhelming support. We were able to accomplish a lot during my first term as your Section Manager. Two notable accomplishments were starting the annual West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, which next month will enter its third year. Also facilitating the ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference and encouraging it to be held in the Section for the first time in 22 years. we continued much of the work started by my predecessor Dee Turner N4GD, however, we do not want to rest on past accomplishments.

**THE WCF SECTION TURNS 17 YEARS OLD THIS MONTH:**



On January 15, the West Central Florida Section will turn 17 years old. The Section came into existence on January 15, 2000 after ARRL members cast ballots in favor of creating the new Section in late 1999. Our Section is still the youngest Section in existence today. Happy Birthday WCF Section!

**NEXT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING – 1/28/17**



The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday January 28, 2017 at 1300. The meeting will be held at the Desoto County EOC. As is customary, the meeting will be preceded by For information on the Section ARES Luncheon go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-0117/> and for more information on the Section ARES Meeting go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-0117/>. I look forward to seeing many of you there as can make it.

**WINTER IS HERE. BE THINKING AHEAD:**

Although we are out of hurricane season we can still have other emergencies that could require our services. We can have some very strong cold fronts in January or February, even with it not being an El Nino year. So always keep inventory on your supplies and check of your equipment just like you would during hurricane season. Also while we are out of hurricane season, this is the time to do improvements to your equipment for the next hurricane season being our chances are lower for activation during the winter months.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TECHCON (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION TECHNICAL CONFERENCE) – 2/25/17**

The third annual TECHCON (formerly know as the West Central Florida Section Technical Conference ) will be held on Saturday February 25, 2017 at the Sarasota Red Cross Headquarters on Cantu Ct. in Sarasota. Many of our previous speakers are planning on returning this year and we have already booked several new speakers as well. This years conference is shaping up to be our best conference yet. We are tentatively scheduling a Friday evening social (another idea borrowed from DCC) at a local restaurant on Friday February 24, 2017 around 1800. If you like the idea of a Friday night social, please let Darrell Davis KT4WX know via email, phone call, or text you like the idea. Also registration is now open. If you plan on attending and or speaking please be sure to register at <http://arrlwc.org/section-forms/wcfttechconfregistration/>

### **AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT DIES IN THE U.S. SENATE. BILL TO BE REFILLED IN THE 115TH CONGRESS IN JANUARY.**



**Update 12/09/16:** The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 died in the U.S Senate on December 9, 2016 primarily due to the opposition of one U.S. Senator: Senator Bill Nelson, one of own Senators from Florida. The legislation will be reintroduced in both houses of Congress after the 115th Session begins in January. For more information you may read the news article as

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-vows-continued-pursuit-of-the-amateur-radio-parity-act-in-the-115th-congress>. The ARRL has already been in contact with the sponsors of the bill to allow for an early introduction, which will give more time to obtain success.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act would have required the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal preemption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as 'covenants, conditions, and restrictions' (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.”

### **UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:**

With the start of the New Year, Part 2 of our hamfest season begins. Take a look at the hamfest schedule as it appears to be quite busy. It does now slow down again until early April:

- Saturday January 14: [TARCFest XXXVIII – Tampa ARC Clubhouse – Tampa, FL](#)
- Saturday January 14: [SouthCars Annual Tailgate – Golden Corral – N. Lakeland, FL](#)
- Saturday January 28: [Desoto County Hamfest – Turner Agri Civic Center – Arcadia, FL](#)
- Friday February 10 – Sunday February 12: [Orlando Hamcation and ARRL Southeastern Division Convention – Central Florida Fairgrounds – Orlando, FL](#).
- Saturday February 18: [Highlands County Hamfest – Lake Josephine Baptist Church – Sebring, FL](#)

## **RICH KENNEDY N4ESS JOINS THE SECTION CABINET AS ACC AND PIC:**



Rich Kennedy N4ESS has just been appointed at the Section Affiliated Clubs Coordinator and Public Information Coordinator for the West Central Florida Section, effective January 2, 2017. Rich just finished a 3 year tour of duty as the President of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club and has been a licensed radio amateur for 51 years. Rich brings a wealth of experience and excels in the area of public relations and information dissemination. Please congratulate and welcome Rich aboard. For more information about Rich you can go to his personal website at <http://www.n4ess.com> or his QRZ page.

## **CHECK OUT THE SECTION WEBSITE - <http://www.arrlwcf.org>:**

If you have not done so lately, check out all the information that is posted on the Section website at <http://www.arrlwcf.org>. The latest WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASES, upcoming special events, monthly club meetings, are all posted there. We will be adding more content to the Section website here in the next 30-60 days including the VE test session calendar, local radio net schedule, and lists of the various ARRL Station Appointee that serve you here in the West Central Florida Section.

## **ARRL STATION APPOINTEE MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE:**

Just a reminder to all in the WCF Section who hold an ARRL Station Appointment. Your monthly reports are due for the previous month of activity. You may file your reports on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/>. You may also send your report via email to the respective cabinet member that is the coordinator for your appointment as well. Many thanks to all of you who do file your reports. Filling a monthly report is a requirement to hold an ARRL Station Appointment.

## **CURRENT WCF SECTION NET SCHEDULE. PARTICIPATE IF YOU CAN:**



The WCF Section holds several different nets for different interests in amateur radio. The listing below gives you the net name, date, time, frequency, and net managers name and call. Here is a listing of the current Section Nets:

- WCF Section ARES/Information Net – VHF/UHF: Monday 1930 – NI4CE Repeater System – Net Manager is J.C. Rivero K4RTC, ARRL Net Manager.
- WCF Section Technical Net: Thursday 2100 – NI4CE Repeater System - Net Manager is Geoff Haines N1GY, ARRL Technical Coordinator.
- WCF Section ARES/Information Net – HF: Saturday 0830 - 3911 Khz or 3913 Khz - Net Manager is Neil Lauritsen W4NHL, ARRL Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator.
- Eagle Net – WCF Section Daily NTS Net: Daily 2030 – NI4CE Repeater System - Net Manager is Dave Rockwell W4PXE, ARRL Net Manager.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section would like to thank the West Central Florida Group, the owners and operators of the NI4CE repeater system, for allowing the VHF/UHF Section Nets to operate on the system. For more info on the system you may go to <http://wp.ni4ce.org>.

## **SECTION MANAGERS CONTACT INFORMATION AND CONCLUSION:**

Here is my contact information:

- U.S. Mail: 6350 Mills Road Fort Meade, FL 33841
- Telephone: (863) 245-9923
- Email: [kt4wx@arrl.org](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.org)
- Website: <http://www.kt4wx.org>.

The Section also has a website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

- Website: <http://www.arrlwcf.org>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arrlwcf>
- Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/arrlwcf>

That is all for this issue of THE WCF PRESSER. Otherwise, see you all at a hamfest, meeting, or other special events this month. 73 de Darrell KT4WX.