

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS
Issue #22 – February 2017
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FEBRUARY TO BE A BUSY MONTH:

February is usually a very busy month with the Orlando Hamcation and TECHCON all taking place in the shortest month of the year. It is also the middle of hamfest season in Florida as well. I look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando and at TECHCON as well.

We had a very interesting month in January with the passage of a strong cold front that caused SKYWARN activation in many counties in the West Central Florida Section. If you have not already done so, get your SKYWARN certification at a local session when offered by the National Weather Service or you can get it on line at <http://www.weather.gov/tbw/skywarn>.

ORLANDO HAMCATION IN JUST A FEW DAYS FROM NOW – 2/10/17-2/12/17



In just a few short days from now is the 2017 Orlando Hamcation and the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. As usual it will be held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds on Colonial Dr. (State Road 50). It is starting at 0900 all three days this year just like last year. For more information including ticket purchase go to the hamcation website at <http://www.hamcation.org>. I will be there on Friday and Saturday, so I look forward to seeing and greeting many of you there.

NEXT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING – 4/08/17



The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday April 8, 2017 at 1300. The meeting will be held at the Pinellas County EOC. As is customary, the meeting will be preceded by The location of the Section ARES Luncheon is now being finalized and will be announced soon. For more information on the Section ARES Meeting go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-0417/>. I look forward to seeing many of you there as can make it.

3rd 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) is almost here. TECHCON 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 having a Friday evening social (another idea borrowed from DCC) at a local restaurant on Friday February 24, 2017 around 1800. Also registration is now open. If you plan on attending and or speaking please be sure to register at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/>

MUNICIPAL PARKS ON THE AIR – NEW OPERATING EVENT

We are going to have an operating event here in the West Central Florida Section, called Municipal Parks On The Air. This will be similar to National Parks On The Air in style, but will make eligible for activation of all city, town, and county parks in the West Central Florida Section. This will allow for more participation by local hams as activators and more opportunities for chasers. The event is tentatively scheduled to go from April 1 through November 30. WCF Section Press Release #6, which you can see on the Section website at [gives more information about Municipal Parks On The Air](http://arrlwcf.org/news/2017/01/30/wcf-section-press-release-6-2/). The link to that press release is <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2017/01/30/wcf-section-press-release-6-2/>

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT REFILED AND PASSED BY THE U.S. HOUSE AND ON TO THE U.S. SENATE:



Update 1/23/17: The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017, refiled in the U.S. House or Representatives on January 13, 2017, was passed unusually quickly on January 23, 2017 by unanimous consent and has been passed now to the U.S. Senate for consideration. The previous version, 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. 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 will 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:

We are now in Part 2 of our hamfest season. Take a look at the hamfest schedule as it appears to be quite busy. After March, the 2016-2017 hamfest is over.

- 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](#)
- Saturday March 4: [ZAARCFest 2017 – Zephyrhills Lions Club – Zephyrhills, FL](#)
- Saturday March 11: [Charlotte County Hamfest – Punta Gorda Boat Club – Punta Gorda, FL](#)
- Saturday May 27: [Wormfest 2017 – Freedom Lake Park - Largo, FL](#)

2017 MS CITRUS BIKE TOUR – 5/06/17 AND 5/07/17



Coming up in about three months will be the 2017 MS Citrus Bike Tour. The good news is the route as of right now is the same route as last year and it is not on Dayton Hamvention weekend this year. If you are planning on volunteering you will need to register. There is a new site for registration and information at <http://www.citrustour.org>.

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.

WINTER IS HERE. BE THINKING AHEAD:

Although we are out of hurricane season we can still have other emergencies that could require our services as we saw during the winter months. 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.

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.

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.

CURRENT WCF SECTION NET SCHEDULE. PARTICIPATE IF YOU CAN:



WCFCountry
West Central Florida Section

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:

Contact Information

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Section Information

- Section Website:
<http://www.arrlwcf.org>
- Section Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/arrlwcf>
- Section 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.