

THE WCF PRESSER



WCF Country
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

February 2019
Issue # 34

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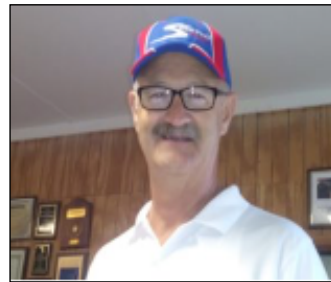
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SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the February 2019 issue of the WCF PRESSER with a new layout and new editor. Jim Weslager K3WR, of Sebring in Highlands County, came to me and volunteered to be the editor of the WCF PRESSER noting that



Jim Weslager, K3WR

we had a great newsletter but a plain layout. He sent me some samples of his work and I was very impressed. One of those samples is now the new layout of the WCF PRESSER and I hope you enjoyed seeing it each month as much as I do. If anyone has any content submissions for the WCF PRESSER please send those to Jim Weslager K3WR via email at weslager@gmail.com. Please send those to Jim one week before the first of the month of publication. For example for the March issue, please send the content via email to Jim one week before February 28, 2019. This gives Jim the time needed to do the layout properly and be able to publish the WCF PRESSER on schedule. It used to take me about 8 hours to do a newsletter, so I know

how much work it is. Jim will also be the new editor of the WCF EXPERIMENTER as well starting with the Spring 2019 issue. If you have a project you have designed and or built, tell us about it. Other hams would like to hear about your work. The deadline for article submission for publication is the 15th of March 2019 for the Spring 2019 issue.

This is a busy time of the year for ham radio activities particularly the months January through March. So there are a lot of amateur radio activities for you to enjoy and participate in. However be thinking ahead to the next hurricane season now and start your preparations now. Now you can take your time and do that "Go Kit rebuild" you may have been planning, new emergency power source or emergency power source repair you have been wanting to do, and or slowly restocking any supplies whose expiration dates that already passed. Now you can do that and not be in a hurry. Just remember hurricane season starts June 1, 2019, which is only 4 months away.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming hamfest, meeting, or public service event. 73

SPRING QUARTERLY ARES MEETING - 1/20/19

The Spring 2019 West Central Florida Section ARES meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday April 20, 2019 at the Pasco County EOC in New Port Richey at 1300.

Preceding the Section ARES meeting, there will be traditional Section ARES Luncheon at 1100.

For more information on the Section ARES Luncheon, including location and directions, go to <http://>

arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-spring-2019/.

For more information on the Section ARES meeting, including location and directions go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-spring-2019/>



5th ANNUAL TECHCON - 2/22/19 and 2/23/19 KAI SIWIAK KE4PT OUR ARRL GUEST

The 5th Annual TECHCON, the Technical Conference for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, will be held at the Hillsborough County EOC on 9450 E. Columbus Dr., just off of I-75, on the east side of Tampa.



Kai Siwiak, KE4PT

Our guest to represent ARRL HQ this year will be Kai Siwiak KE4PT. Kai is the editor of QEX Magazine and QST Technical Editor. Kai lives

over in Broward County and will be driving over to be with us for both days of TECHCON.

For more details you can go to the Section website and see WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE #19-03 at <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2019/01/16/wcf-section-press-release-19-03/>.

Also new to TECHCON this coming year will be the addition of a Friday afternoon workshop/seminar. Dave Birnbaum K2LYV, one of our ARRL Technical Specialist, and recent QEX author, will be conducting an Introduction to Python workshop/seminar.

This will be following general schedule for TECHCON in 2019:

◆	Friday	2/22/19	1300 – 1700	Workshop on Introduction to Python.
◆	Friday	2/22/19	1800 – 2100	Friday Evening Social.
◆	Saturday	2/23/19	0800 – 0845	Open and Welcome.
◆	Saturday	2/23/19	0900 – 1200	General Session – Morning.
◆	Saturday	2/23/19	1330 – 1630	General Session – Afternoon.

Darrell Davis KT4WX, our Section Manager, is working on compiling the list of presentations and schedule for speakers. Look for a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE to announce when this is published on the Section website.

Registration is open for TECHCON. We still have room for one or two speakers left in the schedule. If you have a project or presentation that you would like to give, please use the Section Information

Contact Form at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/contact-info/>. Your project or presentation can be on any technology topic as long as it is amateur radio related. If you plan on attending or are planning to be a speaker, and have not already done so, please fill out the TECHCON registration form at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconregistration/> so we will have an accurate headcount for the Friday seminar, Friday social, and Saturday general session.

2019 BIKE MS CITRUS TOUR 5/04/19 AND 5/05/19

It is that time of the year again. The 2019 Bike MS Citrus Tour will be held on Saturday May 4th and Sunday May 5th 2019. The ride takes place in the northeast side of Polk County not far from Champions Gate. There are typically several different rides of various lengths on Saturday and Sunday.

bike

Amateur radio is the primary method of communications support for the Bike MS Citrus Tour.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section is the sponsor of the amateur radio communications for the bike tour.

Mike Bresse W2YS, one of our Assistant Section Managers, is the amateur radio coordinator for the event. There is tentatively scheduled a radio programming and check out session on Friday May 3rd, at 1800, so anyone who wishes to do so, may come and be sure their radios are programmed with all the proper frequencies for operations and or

logistics. Also there will be post event get together to say thank you to those who volunteered and also as a "hotwash" to discuss what went right and where we can improve.



We are need of volunteers for make the communications support for this event successful. To those who have already signed up for this year, thank you. If you have not done so, you may register to volunteer at the following website: <http://www.citrustour.org>.

As the preparation for the ride progress, all ride related documents are posted to this website. If you have any questions concerning the Bike MS Citrus Tour feel free to contact Mike Bresse W2YS via email at mbresse@slbservicesgroup.com.

73rd ANNUAL ORLANDO HAMCATION - 2/08/19 THROUGH 2/10/19



The 73rd Annual Orlando Hamcation is just a few days away from the date of this publication.

The Orlando Hamcation will be as usual at the Central Florida Fairgrounds on Colonial Blvd., or State Road 50 if you prefer, on Friday February 8, 2019 through

Sunday February 10, 2019. This is also the 2019 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention.

Orlando Hamcation is now the 2nd largest hamfest in the United States with a lot of activities that will suit the interest of most.

For more information about Hamcation you may go to our Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/event/73rd-orlando-hamcation-day-one/> for and address and related Google map and for more specific information you may go to the Hamcation website at <http://www.hamcation.com>.

COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

February 8 - 10, 2019

73rd Annual Orlando Hamcation
4603 West Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32808

February 16, 2019

Highlands County Hamfest 2019
First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine
11 Lake Josephine Drive
Sebring, FL 33875

March 2, 2019

Charlotte County Hamfest 2019
Punta Gorda Boat Club
802 West Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

March 2, 2019

ZAARC Hamfest 2019
St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church
5855 16th Street
Zephyrhills, FL 33539

March 16, 2019

Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest 2019
Millennium Academy
10005 Ridge Road
New Port Richey, FL 34652

March 23, 2019

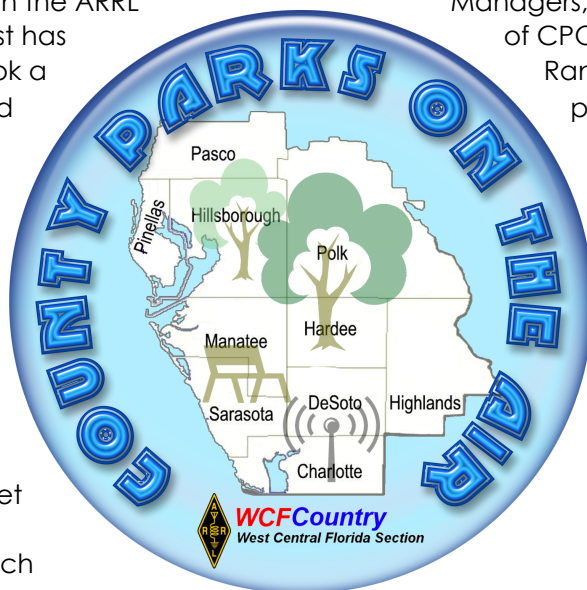
Sarasota Emergency Radio Club Hamfest 2019
Sarasota Red Cross HQ
2001 Cantu Ct.
Sarasota, FL 34232

MUNICIPAL PARKS ON THE AIR RENAMED - NOW COUNTY PARKS ON THE AIR FINALLY KICKING OFF ON 3/01/19

Mike Douglas W4MDD, our Affiliated Club Coordinator, completed the list of county parks in the ARRL West Central Florida Section. The list has several hundred parks on it and took a number of months to complete and assign designators for it.

Your Section cabinet made the decision to re-brand "Municipal Parks On The Air" as "County Parks On The Air" (CPOTA), due to the fact that many city and town parks information is now necessarily on the internet and will require a visit or telephone call to the appropriate municipalities to get a complete list of their respective parks, which would have taken much longer to complete.

Randy Payne K4EZM, one of our Assistant Section Managers, has completed his work on the list of CPOTA rules. Many thanks to Mike and Randy for their diligent labor on this project to make CPOTA possible.



County Parks On The Air will get underway on March 1, 2019 and run through the remainder of the year. The list of county parks and the event rules is on the CPOTA web page which is on the Section website at <http://arrlwcfl.org/wcf-special-events/county-parks-on-the-air/>.

MIKE BRESSE W2YS - THE 2018 RECIPIENT OF THE WHITE AWARD

On Saturday December 8th, 2018 at the Tampa Bay Hamfest and during the ARRL forum, the 2018 White Award was presented to Mike Bresse W2YS. Bresse received a 2018 ARRL Handbook from the ARRL West Central Florida Section and one year paid ARRL membership from the West Central Florida Group, the owners of the NI4CE repeater system.

Bresse was appointed an Assistant Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section on February 1, 2018, to be the amateur radio coordinator of the Bike MS Citrus Tour amateur radio communications upon the ARRL West Central Florida Section assuming the sponsorship of amateur radio communications for the Bike MS Citrus Tour in January of 2018.

Bresse took over as the amateur radio coordinator for the Bike MS Citrus Tour in 2018 succeeding Jason Triolo KD4ACG who had been the amateur radio coordinator for a number of years and had decided to step down to transition to coordinating the Bike Marshall program for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Bresse had previously been the SAG vehicle coordinator for a number of years and in 2017 became the amateur radio co-coordinator.

Bresse developed the amateur radio support website for the Bike MS Citrus Tour at <http://www.citrustour.org> in 2016, which provided a "one stop place" for all Bike MS Citrus Tour volunteer registration, related support documentation such as SOP's, assignment rosters, printable placards, etc. Bresse also implemented two nets, Logistics and Operations, to improve radio communications, and computer logging for the net control stations in 2018.



Mike Bresse, W2YS

Bresse has developed and plans to implement in 2019 an online form that can be filled out easily on a smartphone that riders on the route can simply fill out, which will pull their GPS coordinates, if they need to be sagged into another rest stop or the finish line, which will hopefully improve dispatch response time to render assistance to riders.

Darrell Davis KT4WX, Section Manager, said, "Mike W2YS is deserving of the White Award as he tirelessly spends a lot of his personal time and money, particularly in the months of March and April, in preparation for the Bike MS Citrus Tour. Mike does all the top level coordination for the ride, coordination of road stripping and route signage, has made tremendous improvement to the Logistics to support the Bike MS Citrus Tour, and is working on the new self-reporting form for SAG pickup by rider for 2019."

CHANGES TO ARES IN CHARLOTTE AND HILLSBOROUGH COUNTIES



On Saturday December 1, 2018, per the request of the Charlotte County Emergency Management, Charlotte County ARES is being reorganized and is now a part of the Charlotte County CERT Program.

Also per the request of Charlotte County Emergency Management, Jon Pellant W1JP was appointed the

new Emergency Coordinator of Charlotte County ARES. Pellant has been part of Charlotte County CERT and Charlotte County ARES since 2016 and has had previous experience in ARES in the cities of Boston and New York City.

On Saturday December 8, 2018, Roy Drury K4DCT, was appointed the interim EC for Hillsborough County ARES. Drury has been involved in Hillsborough County ARES for the last several years, was the Senior Assistant Emergency Coordinator, and was recently appointed to be an Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for planning.

CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

Based in St. Petersburg, in Pinellas County, the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club, or SPARC as it is often referred to operates three repeaters, with the callsign WA4AK, on 147.060 MHz - No PL tone, 224.660 MHz - No PL tone, and 444.475 MHz - 146.2 Hz PL tone.

The club has its own website, holds a daily net on their 147.060 MHz repeater, holds monthly VE testing, and holds a small hamfest called the SPARCFest in early November of every year at Freedom Lake Park in

Pinellas Park. SPARC is blessed to have a club station at DMI Research in Pinellas Park where they hold their monthly meetings and operate for special events.



St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club: A screenshot of their homepage



ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Home

Welcome to SPARC
Meeting Information
SPARC Fest 2018
VE License Exams
Calendar
Field Day
SPARC Repeaters
Club Station Activities
Upcoming Club HF Operating Events
SPARC Brochure

Membership

Become A Member
Member WebPages
Member List
Members QSL Cards
SPARC eMail List
SPARC Remote Status Page

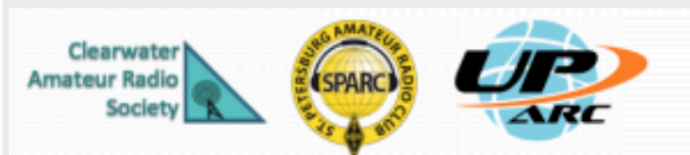
Club Business

Secretary's Minutes
General Equipment Sales Policies

FEATURED

SPARC's Winter Field Day Plans

BY TOM SCHAEFER NY4I



Do you like operating in the field but hate dripping in sweat while setting up antennas? Does the idea of enduring another Field Day constantly fighting off every mosquito in Tampa Bay make you wish they held Field Day in January? Well, you're in luck! [Winter Field Day](#) is an event very similar to the ... [More](#)

Learn about Ham Radio Satellite communications, Feb 1, SPARC Club Meeting

BY ED NZ1Q

Join us February 1 at the SPARC monthly meeting for a presentation on ham

Meeting Info

The next monthly SPARC club meeting is Friday, [February 1, 2019](#) at 7:30 PM.

PROGRAM: Amateur Radio Satellites with Drew KO4MA.

Next Executive Board Meeting

February 23rd at 2:00PM at club station. All Members welcome.

SPARC meets at the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church at 4901 5th Ave. N. in St. Petersburg. More details are available on our [meeting location page](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Winter Field Day Setup](#)

January 26 @ 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

THE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION TURNS NINETEEN.

By Darrell Davis KT4WX

Section Manager

On January 15, 2019, the ARRL West Central Florida Section quietly turned 19 years old. The ARRL West Central Florida Section is the newest ARRL Section to be formed and has a very interesting history on how it came into existence. This is the "Readers Digest" version of the history of the creation of our Section and it is based upon my memory of the events of that period.

In early 1999, the ARRL West Central Florida Section Committee was formed by a group of approximately 25 hams, of which our Section Traffic Manager Doug Williams N2DW and I were members. The purpose of the West Central Florida Section Committee was to foster the creation of the ARRL West Central Florida Section and draft a proposal to the ARRL Board of Directors to create the ARRL West Central Florida Section from the following counties in the Southern Florida Section at the time: Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota. After consultation with the hams in Lee County, and per their request, the WCF Section Committee dropped Lee County from its proposal.

After approximately 300 signatures were obtained by the WCF Section Committee in support of their proposal, the ARRL Board of Directors ordered a ballot to be conducted for the nine counties remaining in the proposal. After the ballots were counted, the vote by the ARRL members in the nine counties was 91.5 percent in favor of creation of the new Section and the majority of the ARRL members in each of the nine counties was in favor of the proposal. In September of 1999, the ARRL Board of Directors authorized the creation of the ARRL

West Central Florida Section and the Section would commence operation on January 15, 2000.

Shortly after the West Central Florida Section commenced operations, the ARRL members in Pasco County made their own proposal to the ARRL Board of Directors to change from being part of the Northern Florida Section to being part of the new West Central Florida Section. The majority of the ARRL members in Pasco County voted to join the new West Central Florida Section. The ARRL Board of Directors authorized Pasco County to join the West Central Florida Section in March of 2000.

For the details on the history of the creation of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, which would make interesting reading on a quiet evening, go to <http://www.qsl.net/wcfla>.

Happy Birthday, a little belated, to the ARRL West Central Florida Section. What makes our Section special is all the wonderful ARRL members and hams that make this Section go. Thank you for all of your hard work over the last 19 years.

