

## **THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS**

**Issue #25 – May 2017**

**By Darrell Davis KT4WX**

**ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager**

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### **HOT WEATHER HAS ARRIVED AND HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS ON 6/01/17:**

Summer for us in Florida really starts in late April to early May, most of the time. It is hard to believe another hurricane season is just around the corner. Hurricane season for 2017 begins on June 1, 2017, one month from the date of this publication. Many of you will be participating in hurricane exercises and or hurricane expositions or seminars with your local ARES, ACS, or CERT groups. If you have not volunteered to participate, consider helping out if volunteers are asked for. Now is the time to make that improvement or repair to your Go-Kit and test it. Now is the time to check your inventory of supplies, medicines, water, etc., and you should you check for not only quantity but quality. Check your canned goods to be sure they are not beyond the expiration date. Do not wait until a storm is bearing down upon you, when the local stores where you normally shop may be out of stock on the items you need.

### **NEXT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING – 7/08/17**



The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday July 8, 2017 at 1300. The meeting will be held at the Hardee County EOC. As is customary, the meeting will be preceded by the Section ARES Luncheon, which will be held at Paul's Kitchen near downtown Wauchula, just a few blocks from the EOC. For more information on the Section ARES Meeting go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-0717/>. I look forward to seeing many of you there as can make it.

### **4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TECHCON DATE AND VENUE ESTABLISHED**

The Date and Venue for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual TECHCON for 2018 has been established. TECHCON will be held on Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center, which is located at 1890 Jim Keene Blvd., in Winter Haven. Jim Keene Blvd., is located just off of State Road 540 between Winter Haven and Lakeland, not too far from the State Road 540 exit off of the Polk County Parkway. Mark this date on your calendar and plan now to attend. Many of our speakers from previous years will be doing new programs next year. More information will come out late this year and early next year.

## STATE HURRICANE EXERCISE BEING CONDUCTED THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY

This week the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management will be conducting its annual Hurricane Exercise. If your local ARES, ACS, or CERT group has been asked to participate, your team leadership will ask for volunteers. Please do not contact the State EOC directly, but instead contact your local ARES, ACS, or CERT leadership about possible participation. The State EOC will be testing communications with the local county EOC's via SARNet and HF on 75 or 40 Meters.

You may read all about the details of SARNET as <http://www.sarnetfl.com>. There is a quarterly net at 0900 hours on the months that have a 5<sup>th</sup> Friday to take checkins from any county EOC's that are on and general checkins. The first net was on March 31, 2017 and the remaining three for 2017 is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, September 29<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup>, all at 0900. The net is called by repeater site starting in the panhandle and going down the west coast and coming back up the east coast.

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



In just a few days from now will be the 2017 MS Citrus Bike Tour. To all of you who have volunteered to help out again this year or for the first time, a sincere thank you. If you wish to read more about the MS Citrus Bike Tour on the amateur radio side at <http://www.citrustour.org>. This new site, once you register is a one stop source for route and rest stop maps in several formats, which is a major improvement new for this years event. The MS Citrus Bike Tour is a good opportunity to practice communications skills for use in emergency communications without an actual emergency.

## WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION FIELD DAY CARAVAN – 6/24/17



Coming up on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> will be ARRL Field Day for 2017. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual ARRL West Central Florida Field Day Caravan will be done slightly different that it has been done in past years. Two teams will take to the roads and tour the Section:

- Darrell Davis KT4WX, Section Manager, and Christine Duez KK4KJN, Section Youth Coordinator will tour Polk, Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties.
- Ben Henley KI4IGX, Section Emergency Coordinator and Randy Payne K4EZM, Assistant Section Manager will tour Highlands, Hardee, Desoto, Charlotte, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties.

Both teams should be able to complete their tours sometime on Saturday. For more details as time approaches go to the Section website Field Day caravan website at <http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/west-central-florida-section-field-day-caravan/>. If you wish a visit from the Field Day Caravan, please register your Field Day operation at the ARRL Field Day site at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>.

## UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

The 2016-2017 hamfest is now ending. No more hamfests after May until August:

- Saturday May 13: [EPARS Tailgate 2017 – Church Street Park – Dade City, FL.](#)
- Saturday May 27: [Wormfest 2017 – Freedom Lake Park - Largo, FL.](#)

## 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, and 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 our 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 require 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.”

## 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 during the summer months 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.

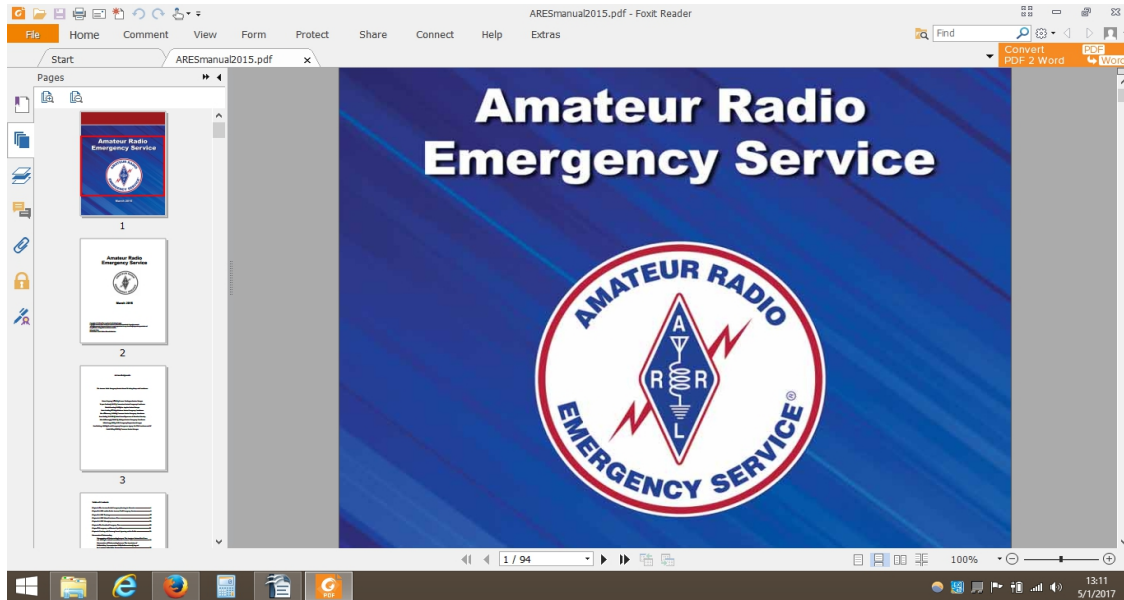
## ARRL STATION APPOINTEE MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE:

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. Filing a monthly report is a requirement to hold an ARRL Station Appointment.

## COMPUTER APPLICATION OF THE MONTH: FOXIT READER

The application for this month, I will bring to your attention is called *Foxit Reader*. Foxit Reader is a less demanding application than Adobe Acrobat Reader for opening, viewing, and printing out PDF files. You can even do PDF signatures on documents with this reader. You may go to <https://www.foxitsoftware.com/products/pdf-reader/> to download Foxit Reader. The full product is called Foxit PhantomPDF and is comparable to Adobe Acrobat. There is a version for Android devices (smartphones and tablets) as well.

If you are reading the PDF version of this newsletter, you can see below a sample screenshot in Windows of what Foxit Reader looks like. You can view multiple PDFs in Foxit Reader as well.



## 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:

### 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>.

### 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.