

**THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS**  
**Issue #28 – August 2017**  
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**ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager**

**TROPICAL STORM EMILY AND STAYING VIGILANT**

On Monday July 31 (just before we went to press) in the early morning hours, Tropical Storm Emily spun up in the Gulf of Mexico just east of the mouth of Tampa Bay, then made landfall at 1100 EDT at Anna Maria island on the coast of Manatee County, moved through Hardee and southern Polk Counties and by the morning of Tuesday August 1, had moved across Indian River County and exited the east coast near Vero Beach. Several ARES organizations here in the West Central Florida Section had been on standby in case of activation, thankfully. The winds never reached more than 40 miles in most places and the main event was localized flooding and very heavy rain. Thankfully as some one put it, Tropical Storm Emily was “The storm that was not”.

I have to admit, I have been keeping an eye on the National Hurricane Center Tropical Weather Outlook, which is issued four times a day, and it surprised me. These tropical cyclones, given the right circumstances, can spin up very quickly and with almost no warning. This little storm that was a non-event, could have been much much worse and given the right circumstances many of us could have been in a middle of an emergency and providing our services on short notice to our served agencies. The lesson we learned or in some cases re-learned is to stay vigilant on what is going on in the weather forecasts for your area and to the National Hurricane Center forecasts. Two products that are very useful are the [Tropical Weather Outlook – Text](#) and [Tropical Weather Outlook - Graphical](#), which are issued four times a day by the National Hurricane Center and the [Area Forecast Discussion](#) issued by the National Weather Service Office in Ruskin which is updated several times a day. You can read both of these products on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. There are smartphone and tablet apps you can install on your device to read them as well. Check your supplies and equipment often. Use your ARES Go-Kits on occasion to be sure they are in working order, both equipment and batteries. Most of all have your emergency plan for you and your family complete ahead of time.

**WCF SECTION SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST SCHEDULED FOR 8/12/17**



The WCF Section Simulated Emergency Test for 2017 will be held on the morning of Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> and will be scheduled from 0900 through 1130 hours. The goal of the Simulated Emergency Test is to test communications, without the use of the NI4CE repeater system or the statewide SARNet, between the ten county EOC's and the State EOC in Tallahassee, to test the VHF and UHF capabilities of the county EOC's to communicate either on simplex or on local repeaters only and to test communications on HF via NVIS between the ten county EOC's and the State EOC's.

For more information on the SET, you may go to the WCF Section Simulated Emergency Test page at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/west-central-florida-section-ares-simulated-emergency-test/>. We look forward to the participation of the ten county EOC's in the SET.

## 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. If you do not file a report at least once a year, your appointment may be canceled due to lack of activity.

## NEXT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING – 10/21/17:



The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday October 21, 2017 at 1300. The meeting will be held at the Hillsborough County EOC. As is customary, the meeting will be preceded by the Section ARES Luncheon, which will be held at , 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-1017> and for more information on the Section ARES Luncheon go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-fall-2017/>. I look forward to seeing many of you there as can make it.

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



**Update 7/12/17:** The [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) of 2017 was introduced in the US Senate on July 12, marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are the Senate sponsors. The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowner's association (HOA) or subject to any private land use regulations, the right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes. The Senate bill, S. 1534, is identical to H.R. 555, which passed the US House of Representatives in January.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, is calling on League members to urge their US Senators to support the [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) of 2017, S. 1534. ARRL has opened a [RallyCongress page](#) to simplify the task. For more information see the ARRL News article at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-president-issues-call-for-members-to-reach-out-to-their-senators-to-support-s-1534>.

The [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) of 2017, refiled in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 13, 2017, was passed unusually quickly on January 23, 2017. 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.”

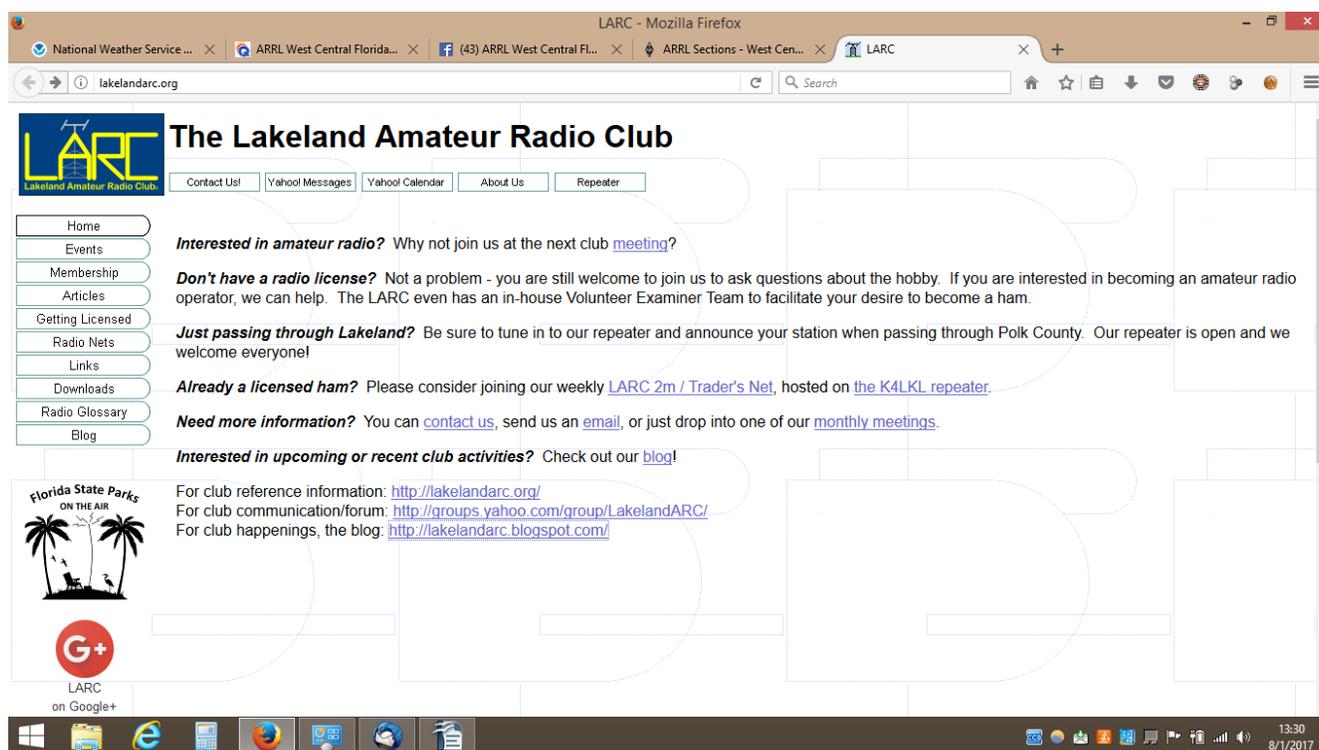
## CLUB WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTH: Lakeland Amateur Radio Club

Each month we will select, and not in any order, a club website and newsletter of the month to show you. That way you will become more acquainted with all the great amateur radio clubs, here in the West Central Florida Section. It will take a while to go through them all, so please be patient and we will get to them all.

**Lakeland Amateur Radio Club:** Based in the city of Lakeland, in Polk County. They have a website, an events blog to communicate their latest news, operate a repeater on 146.685 MHz with a PL of 127.3 Hz. that is running in Analog/Fusion automatic mode selection, and do a monthly VE testing session. They recently began holding an annual hamfest as well. One interesting fact to note that their club President Matthew R. Stevens is 23 years old.

**[Lakeland Amateur Radio Club News Blog:](#)** This is what the club uses to disseminate their latest news.

**[Lakeland Amateur Radio Club Website:](#)** A screenshot of the home page.



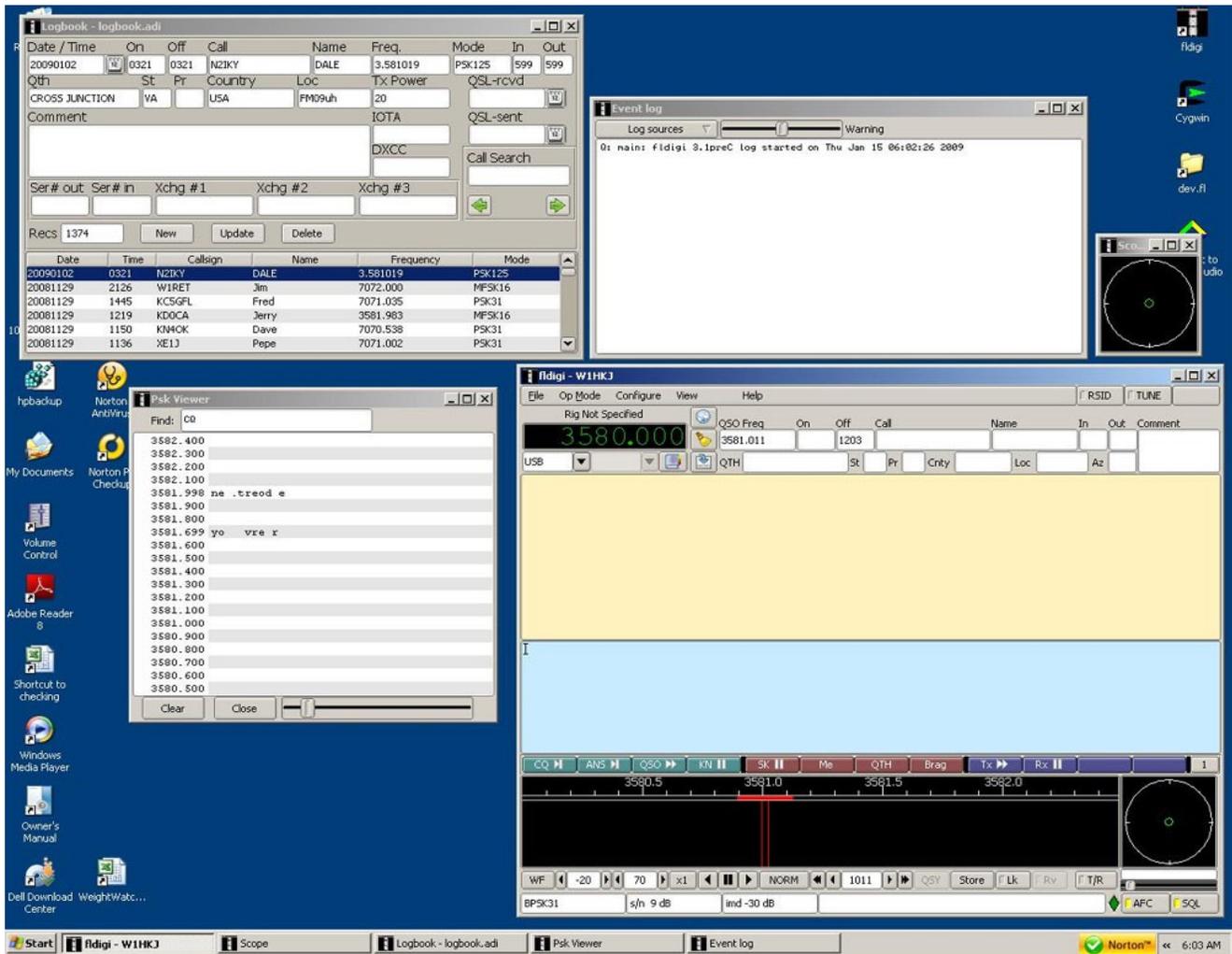
**CHECK OUT THE SECTION WEBSITE - <http://www.arrlwcf.org>:**

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 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.

## COMPUTER APPLICATION OF THE MONTH: FLDIGI

If you are looking to get into HF text digital communications or even try Digital text communications on VHF or UHF, then a great program is FLDIGI, developed by David Freese W1HKJ. FLDIGI can do CW, RTTY, PSK31, MFSK16, FSQ, Hellschreiber, Olivia, MT63, and many other digital modes. The only modes it will not do is SSTV and JT65/JT9. FLDIGI can be downloaded for FREE and there are versions for Windows, Linux, and the Macintosh platforms. David also also has program additions for transceiver control, file encapsulation for error free transfers over amateur radio, and even a logbook program with works with FLDIGI. You may download all of these programs at David's website at <http://www.w1hkj.com>.

The screenshot below is a view of FLDIGI open with several options being viewed on the screen:



## 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://www.ni4ce.org>.

*Please Note: The HF Edition of the WCF Section ARES and Information Net on Saturday at 0830 will be on 3911 or 3913 Khz until the ARRL Emergency Coordinators can discuss this at the next Section ARES Meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Hardee County EOC. An attempt was made to QSY to 3940 at 0830 but the frequency is in use during that time period and we were not aware of this. Our apologies to all for the confusion.*

## 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.