

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS
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THE PRESSER IS BACK AFTER A FEW MONTHS HIATUS AND UPDATES ON MY HEALTH:

Welcome back to the WCF PRESSER after its has been in hiatus for September through November. As many of you know, I am a part time college student working on my degree in Computer Engineering Technology. The two classes I am taking this semester were more involved than I expected. I enjoyed the topics (Digital Electronics I and Electronics III) but it was more material at once than I should have been handling at once.

Then on October 21 (the date of the Melbourne Hamfest), after a strong head cold from the week before, I started noticing the symptoms of an middle ear infection which finally got so bad that it retracted my ear drums and by early November was causing severe insomnia and anxiety as well. I had many sleepless nights starting in early November which resulted in my missing work and two local hamfests in November. After taking numerous rounds of antibiotics, I was scheduled and had outpatient surgery the day before Thanksgiving which was successful. After taking some natural herbs, my natural sleep cycles starting to come back at the end of November. I do appreciate the many of who were praying for me and thinking about me during my period of illness.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as well. I would also like to wish my Jewish friends a Happy Hanukkah as well, a time remembered for deliverance from tyranny. Take a time out from some of your regular activities and spend quality time with your family and friends. You never know there are some you may run across who could use your encouragement and you may not even know it.

WINTER IS ALMOST HERE AND HURRICANE SEASON HAS COME TO AN END:



On Wednesday November 30, the 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season came to an end. This has been one of the more active tropical storm seasons we have seen in several years. This was the first year in 11 years the continental United States saw a landfall of a hurricane. We had in our Section two very close calls: Tropical Storm Colin in June and Hurricane Matthew in early October. Each storm skirted one of the coastlines of the State of Florida. I would like to thank many of you who gave of themselves and helped out our various served agencies here in the West Central Florida Section.

WINTER IS ALMOST HERE...(Continued)

Do not let down your guard too much. Although we are out of hurricane season we can still have other emergencies that could require our services. Also we can have some very strong cold fronts in January or February. They are not expected to be as strong this year with the forecast of the onset of La Nina conditions following last years strong El Nino. However it only takes one strong cold front to put SKYWARN or ARES to work before, during, or afterwards. 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.

41st ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST AND 16th ANNUAL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION CONVENTION – 12/09/16 AND 12/10/16

That time of the year is coming around again soon. The 41st Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and the 16th Annual West Central Florida Section Convention will be held on Friday December 9th and Saturday December 10th. This years hamfest will still be held in Plant City at the Strawberry Festival Grounds but at the Expo Center building instead of the Agricultural Show Center, which is about 2 blocks away. The Agricultural Show Center was unavailable but the Expo Center was made available and the forum rooms are a tremendous improvement over what was available before. For more details go to the hamfest website at <http://www.fgcarc.org>.

SECTION NET CANCELLATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In observance of the Christmas and New Years holidays the following Section Nets are canceled:

- Section ARES/Information Net – Monday on NI4CE/R: The sessions for Monday December 26th and Monday January 2nd are canceled.
- Section ARES/Information Net – Saturday on 3913 Khz: The sessions for Saturday December 24th and December 31st are canceled.

The Section Technical Net and Eagle Net will carry on as scheduled through the Holidays.

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.

3rd Annual TECHCON – 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://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/>

35TH ANNUAL ARRL AND TAPR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS:



The annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) on September 16-18 was an outstanding success. Darrell Davis KT4WX and Geoff Haines N1GY attended DCC to represent the ARRL and the West Central Florida Section. I wish to thank those of you who took the time and expense to attend. We are in the running to have DCC again locally for 2018 or 2019. We will keep you posted when we get picked to host again.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

We are coming to and end on Part 1 of the 2016-2017 hamfest season. After the Tampa Bay Hamfest the hamfest season goes into remission until January. Then the hamfest begin again sincerity after the first of January.

- Friday December 9 and Saturday December 10th - [41st Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and 16th Annual West Central Florida Section Convention – Plant City, FL](#)
- 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](#)

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 NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR COMING TO A NATIONAL PARK NEAR YOU.



There has a lot of excitement about this event already. The ARRL is sponsoring the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA). There is only one month left for NPOTA and it comes to an end at 2359 on 12/31/16. This event is not a contest, per se, but a radio operating event similar to Field Day. The event is being held by the ARRL to commemorate the centennial of the National Park Service. There is only one NPA unit in the West Central

Florida Section and it is Desoto National Memorial just north of Bradenton on the shore of the Manatee River. The ARRL website has a web page devoted to NPOTA information at <http://www.arrl.org/npota>.

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:



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>.

FULL U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASS THE AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT AND SEND IT ON TO THE U.S. SENATE:



Update 9/12/16: The full U.S. House of Representatives voted to suspend their own rules and unanimously approved H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The bill has gone to the U.S. Senate for approval. For the full ARRL story on this go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-passes-in-the-us-house-of-representatives>

If you have not already done so please contact our two U.S. Senators: Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Marco Rubio. Please urge them to vote for the Senate version (S. 1685) of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. Time is running out because if the bill does not pass the Senate and then is signed by the President before the end of the year, the bill will die because this Congress is coming to a conclusion, and we will be back to square one.

US House Representative [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4th 2015 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle: seven Republicans and five Democrats. US Senator [Roger Wicker](#) (R-MS) introduced the companion bill S 1685 on June 26, 2015 with Senator [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the United States Senate. HR1301, the original House bill is now up to 126 co-sponsors as of May 12th. As of press time, two Representatives with districts that are in the West Central Florida Section: Representative Daniel Webster, 10th District, that covers the north central part of Polk County and Representative Tom Rooney, 17th District, that covers Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, southeastern Hillsborough, eastern Manatee, and southern Polk Counties.

The direct link to the ARRL page devoted to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. The following is a quote from the ARRL website, "The Amateur Radio Parity Act would 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."

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
- 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.