

**THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS**  
**Issue #33– December 2018**  
**By Darrell Davis KT4WX**  
**ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager**

**RESTARTING THE PRESSER AND MUCH HAS HAPPENED**

With this issue, I finally had time to produce (and restart) the WCF PRESSER. Between the Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters at South Florida State College and helping my Mother out following my Father's death (this includes a hospital stay for Mom, cleanup, and hurricane mitigation on our property), I have not had time to produce the WCF PRESSER. I want to thank all of you for your support, patience, and understanding during this time.

The 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season came to an end last Friday, November 30. It started out to look like a slower than normal season, with NOAA and Colorado State University revised their activity forecast down in August and the United States got nailed twice with Category 4 hurricanes: Hurricane Florence in September and Hurricane Michael in October, that was too close for comfort for us in the West Central Florida Section. I took away two reminders from this but there are more: (1) It only takes ONE storm for one to have a bad season even in a low activity forecast season and (2) The importance of preparedness. Particularly here in Florida, I am reminded of the importance of HF portable communications along with VHF and UHF communications. Take the next few months, while things are quiet on the hurricane front and look at your own preparedness.

**WISHING ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



I want to take the opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also am wishing all of our Jewish friends out there as well a Happy Hanukkah, which this year runs from sundown on Sunday December 2 and runs until sundown on Monday December 10. During this time of the year, do not let the busyness of the season ruin the real meaning of this season. Take time out and ponder the real meaning of these holidays. And take time as well to be an encouragement to someone who may need it. Christmas, in particular, can be a lonely time for some, especially those who have lost loved ones recently or even long ago. Be an encouragement to someone who needs it.

**WINTER QUARTERLY ARES MEETING – 1/19/19:**



The Winter 2019 West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday January 19, 2019 at the Southwest Florida Regional Hamfest, otherwise commonly known as the Fort Myers Hamfest. There will not be a schedule Section ARES Luncheon so everyone can enjoy the hamfest before the meeting. It was decided to hold the Section ARES meeting at the hamfest so there would be one less date conflict in one of the busiest months of the year for hamfests in Florida. For information on the location of the Winter 2019 Section ARES meeting you may go to

<http://arrlwcf.org/event/southwest-florida-regional-hamfest-2019-day-2-of-2/>.

## **43RD ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST AND 18TH ANNUAL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION CONVENTION**



Coming up on Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 will be the 2018 Tampa Bay Hamfest and ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention. It will be held at the Expo Center at the Strawberry Festival Grounds in Plant City. This is the only hamfest that routinely serves Strawberry Shortcake. The young people with the local Future Farmers of America (FFA) always do the concessions and do a great job. Our guest from ARRL Headquarters will be Steve Ewald WV1X, the ARRL Field Organization Supervisor.

### **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TECHCON – 2/22/19 and 2/23/19 - EXPANDING TO A SECOND DAY THIS COMING YEAR.**

The 5<sup>th</sup> 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. We are planning on having a guest from ARRL HQ. 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, will be conducting an Introduction to Python workshop/seminar. This will be following 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.

Registration is now open for TECHCON. We are looking for some new presenters as well. 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, please fill out the TECHCON registration form at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/> so we will have an accurate headcount.

### **MUNICIPAL PARKS ON THE AIR – UPDATE**

We are in the final planning stages for an operating event which will be starting, for real, on January 1, 2019 and will run through December 31, 2019. Many thanks to Mike Douglas W4MDD, our Affiliated Club Coordinator who is finalizing the park list (which is quite extensive) and many thanks to Randy Payne K4EZM, one of our Assistant Section Managers for chairing the rules committee. Work on the program is nearly complete and almost ready for publication. [Municipal Parks On The Air \(MPOTA\)](#). It will be an event similar to National Parks On The Air in 2016 but will focus on county, city, and town parks here in the West Central Florida Section.

## COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

The 2018-2019 hamfest will take a break here shortly but really get going early next year:

- Friday December 7 and Saturday December 8: [43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest](#) – Expo Center at the Strawberry Festival Grounds – Plant City.
- Saturday January 12, 2019 – [TARCFEST XLIV – TARC Clubhouse](#) – Tampa, FL.
- Friday January 18, 2019 and Saturday January 19, 2019 – [Southwest Florida Regional Hamfest – Southern Florida Section Convention](#) - Riverside Church of Fort Myers – Fort Myers, FL.
- Saturday January 26, 2019 – [Desoto County Hamfest 2019](#) – Turner Agri-Civic Center – Arcadia, FL.

## NEW EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR POLK COUNTY ARES



On Saturday December 1st, Mike Green AG4LT, stepped down as the Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES, due to personal reasons and time constraints. Green had served as Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES since January 1, 2016. Jim Stewart W4XDS, Polk County ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Operations, has been appointed as the new Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES effective on Saturday December 1st.

Stewart was first licensed in 2002, but did not really become active until 2011 after joining the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, then upgrading from Technician to Extra in only a few months. Stewart has since served as a board member of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club since 2016. In 2012, Stewart joined Polk County ARES, first volunteering to be a net control, then became net manager for the Polk County ARES Net, and finally became Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Operations which Stewart has been for several years. Professionally, Stewart was a Data Systems Technician in the U.S. Navy. Following 8 years in the U.S. Navy, Stewart worked for Publix as a COBOL programmer and finished his career with Publix as an Infrastructure Architect.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section extends his sincere thanks to Mike Green AG4LT for his three years of service as Emergency Coordinator of Polk County ARES and welcomes aboard Jim Stewart W4XDS as the new Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES.

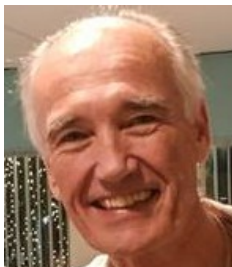
## **K4FB SELECTED TO BE THE NEW POLK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**



In early February of this year, Paul Womble K4FB, was selected to be the new Polk County Emergency Management Director. Womble had been previous one of the Emergency Management Coordinators for Polk County Emergency Management for a number of years. Womble has spent his entire working career in dealing with emergencies. Womble started out as a volunteer fire fighter and was early in his career a 911 dispatcher. Womble had also been employed by the Polk County chapter of the American Red Cross and Manatee County Emergency Management before joining Polk County Emergency Management. Womble has been a licensed radio amateur since 1992.

Womble is also currently an Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES. The ARRL West Central Florida Section congratulates Paul on his being selected to be the Polk County Emergency Management Director.

## **KM4VRK APPOINTED AS AN ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER**



Steve Muller KM4VRK, was appointed as an Assistant Section Manager on Monday July 23. Muller will be an assistant to Mike Douglas W4MDD and to Rich Kennedy N4ESS helping them in their capacities as an assistant Affiliated Club Coordinator and assistant Public Information Coordinator. Muller has been a licensed radio amateur since 2016 and has served as an ARRL Net Manager for the Eagle Net, the NTS Traffic Net for the West Central Florida Section and a Net Control Station. Muller is an ARRL Official Emergency Station and serves with Hardee County ARES and provided shelter communications for one of the

hurricane shelters in Hardee County during Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Irma in 2017, in spite of losing the roof on his house during Irma. Muller worked in Federal law enforcement for almost 30 years, is now retired and enjoys living out in the country in Hardee County with his wife Abby. Muller and Mike Douglas W4MDD were the second West Central Florida Section Field Day caravan team for ARRL Field Day this year. The ARRL West Central Florida Section welcomes Steve aboard as the newest Assistant Section Manager.

## **SECTION NET CANCELLATIONS FOR DECEMBER 2018**

The Section ARES Net on 3940 KHz at 0730 on Saturday December 8th will be canceled due to the ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention and Tampa Bay Hamfest which is being held on Friday December 7th and Saturday December 8th. In observance of the Christmas and New Years Holidays the Section ARES Net on 3940 KHz at 0730 hours on Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Saturday December 29<sup>th</sup> and the Section ARES and Information Net on the NI4CE Repeater System at 1930 hours on Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday December 31<sup>st</sup> will be canceled in observance of Christmas Day and New Years Day. The Section HF ARES net will resume normal operation on Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Section ARES and Information Net on the NI4CE Repeater System will resume operation on Monday January 7th, 2019. The Eagle Net which is conducted daily at 2030 hours on the NI4CE repeater system, will run as scheduled. The Section Technical Net, which is conducted every Thursday evening at 2100 hours on the NI4CE repeater system, will also run as scheduled. For the details see WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE #18-10 at <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2018/11/27/wcf-section-release-18-10/>



## CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: Glorious Society of the Wormhole

The name Wormhole, comes from the club operating a cross band link in the late 1980's and verbal legend says it was named the "Wormhole" after the phenomena in Star Trek. The club has a very interesting mascot: an apple with a worm coming out of it. Based in Pinellas County, the Glorious Wormhole of the Wormhole, or the Wormhole, as it is often called, operates two Fusion repeaters on 146.850 MHz and 442.625 MHz, conducts VE monthly testing, has an interesting website, publishes a monthly club newsletter, and holds an annual tailgate hamfest (which is always free) at Freedom Lake Park in Pinellas Park on Memorial Day weekend.

### Glorious Society of the Wormhole: [A screenshot of their homepage](#)



## AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT STILL IN SENATE COMMITTEE.



**Editors Note:** There has been no new updates to the Amateur Radio Parity Act since July 12, and unless barring a miracle, will die in the U.S. Senate this year. This is to simply update you on where the act is currently as of this printing.

**Update 7/12/18:** 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.

## **AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT STILL IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE (Continued):**

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."

## **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. See you at an upcoming hamfest or club meeting.  
73 de Darrell KT4WX.