



SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

BY DARRELL DAVIS, KT4WX

ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION MANAGER

Section Manager
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

Assistant Section Manager Executive
Ben Henley, KI4IGX

Assistant Section Manager Administrative
Randy Payne, K4EZM

Assistant Section Manager Legal Affairs
Biff Craine, K4LAW

Assistant Section Manager SM Emeritus & Tampa Bay Area
Dee Turner, N4GD

Assistant Section Manager PIC/ACC Assistant
Steve Muller, KM4VRK

Affiliated Club Coordinator
Mike Douglas, W4MDD

Public Information Coordinator
Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

Section Emergency Coordinator
Ben Henley, KI4IGX

Section Traffic Manager
Doug Williams, N2DW

Section Youth Coordinator
Christine Duez KK4KJN

Technical Coordinator
Dave Birnbaum, K2LYV

Assistant Section Manager Publications
Jim Weslager, K3WR

On Monday November 30th, the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season finally came to an end. The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season broke nearly every record in the hurricane record books that have existed for a very long time. I have included a graphic produced



last hurricane season that came close to this record breaking season was the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Thankfully we only

2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season by the numbers



by NOAA that illustrates very well just how many records were broken. The

had one direct impact from Hurricane Eta that went

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north just off the Florida west coast in early to mid-November and several closer calls earlier in the season. However those along the northern Gulf coast were not as fortunate and had multiple hurricane landfalls to deal with. Please remember these people in your prayers and thoughts as they continue the long road to recovery.

Mike Douglas W4MDD, our Section Manager elect, and I will be manning the ARRL table at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Friday December 11 and Saturday December 12. This year's hamfest will not be in the Expo center due to COVID-19. The ARRL table and the vendors will be in the Carriage House, which I would describe as the "garage stalls". These are stalls that have a garage door and a long overhang. All the rest of the swap tables that used to be inside will be outside in the tailgating area. There will be an ARRL forum in the armory building as well as a limited number of other forums. Many of you may not be planning to attend due to taking precautions due to COVID-19, I do understand your concern and will miss your attendance. To those who are planning on attending, Mike and I look forward to seeing you as you stop by the ARRL table and at the ARRL forum.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year, and also Happy Hanukkah to all my Jewish friends as well. This holiday season will be no doubt different as some to perhaps numerous families will not have the traditional get together that they have had in years past due to COVID-19. If you are planning to get together, remember those who are less fortunate and try to be an encouragement to them if you can. Sadly, the holiday season can be a lonely and depressing time for many that have suffered loss recently. Take some time and let them know that they are not alone and that they still have people who care about them.

This will be last Section Managers Musings column as my term as your Section Managers draws to a conclusion on December 31, 2020. I want to say a sincere and heart felt THANK YOU to the confidence you bestowed in me for the past six years and to all of you who send me words of kindness and kudos. I will be staying on in Mike's cabinet and continuing to be doing the following: TECHCON chairman, Section webmaster and social media coordinator, creation of WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASES, and gathering of content for the WCF PRESSER and the WCF EXPERIMENTER. Plenty of tasks to keep me busy.

Mike, this is now your column and space.
73 de Darrell KT4WX.

SECTION NET CANCELLATIONS FOR DECEMBER

As is traditional with the holidays in December, the following nets will be canceled for the following occasions and holidays.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net - Thursday 2100: Thursday December 24, 2020 will be canceled in observance of Christmas, and Thursday December 31, 2020 in observance of New Years Day.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on the NI4CE Repeater System - Monday 1930: Monday December 21, 2020 will be canceled in observance of Christmas and Monday December 28, 2020 will be canceled in observance of New Years Day.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz - Saturday December 12, 2020 due to the Tampa Bay Hamfest, Saturday December 26, 2020 in observance of Christmas, and Saturday January 2, 2021 in observance of New



Years Day.

The Eagle Net, our NTS traffic net that meets daily at 2030, will operate as scheduled during the holidays. There will be special sessions of the Eagle Net on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve with Darrell Davis KT4WX our Section Manager as Net Control. All other nets will resume normal operations on Monday January 4th, 2021.



SECTION NET INFORMATION

Here is a list of the current Section Nets that are in operation: Please feel free to check in and participate on these nets as you are able to do so.

DAY / NET	NET	NET TIME	SYSTEM/FREQ	NET MANAGER
Daily	Eagle Net (West Central Florida Section NTS Net)	2030 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Dave Rockwell W4PXE
Monday	West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net	1930 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	J.C. Rivero K4RTC
Thursday	West Central Florida Section Technical Net	2100 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Jim Peterson AF2W
Saturday	West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net	0730 hours	3940 KHz	Randy Payne K4EZM

The Section ARES Information Net on 3940 KHz will start at either 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net whichever is later.

For more information on the NI4CE Repeater System, including frequencies and a coverage map go to <http://www.ni4ce.org> or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ni4ce>.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section wishes to thank the West Central Florida Group Inc. for the use of the NI4CE Repeater System for the Section Nets that are on VHF and UHF.

COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

TAMPA BAY HAMFEST FRIDAY 12/11/20 & SATURDAY 12/12/20

Coming up



on Friday December 11, 2020 and Saturday December 12, 2020 is the 45th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and 20th Annual ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention.

The Hamfest will take place at the Florida Strawberry Festival Grounds Expo Center In Plant City.

Please mark your calendar for this event as this is our annual ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention.

The ARRL forum will be at 1300 hours in the Armory building.

If there are any changes as to whether the Tampa Bay Hamfest will be held or not held due to the COVID-19 situation, by the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council, the organizer of the Tampa Bay Hamfest, a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE will be issued to announce any changes.

Please make plans to attend and support the largest hamfest in the ARRL West Central Florida Section.

For the latest information about the Tampa Bay Hamfest you may go their website at <http://www.fgcarc.org>.

The following information is from Bill Williams AG4QX, chairman of the Tampa Bay Hamfest about how this year's hamfest will work out:

"The hamfest this year will be outside only. There will be a 10 foot area between every tailgate space. That will allow social distancing but will also allow tailgaters to sell off the side of their space. If you unload and move your vehicle to the regular parking lot you will have a 16ft x 40ft area to sell from, either side.

Some of our commercial dealers will be on both sides of the Carriage House under the porch-like cover. Make sure you check both sides of the Carriage House.

The ARRL will be inside a booth on the west side of the Carriage house. It will include card checking, including 160M. Make sure you check both sides of the Carriage House.

Free club spaces have not been worked out yet. If your club desires a small space for a club table send a message using the CONTACT FORM button under the Contact Us heading. Remember a free club table is for marketing your club and no selling except club memberships. If your club or a member is buying a tailgate space to sell from your club can probably fit in there. Remember if you park your vehicles in regular parking then you have a 16ft by 40ft tailgate space open on three sides. And remember social distancing!

There will be no Forums as such but being the ARRL West Central Section and Florida State Convention there will be an ARRL Meeting in the ARMORY with representatives from the three Florida sections and the Southeast Division. Masks and social distancing will be enforced. You can also talk with your ARRL representatives at their booth on the West side of the Carriage House.

A food truck will be available at the hamfest to sell food.

We will have testing in the Armory from 10 AM to 12 noon on Saturday only. No reservations required, walk-ins are welcome. Be there by 11:15 at the latest. If you plan on taking more than one test make sure you are there early enough to take them all. Masks and social distancing will be enforced. Make sure you bring the required stuff, look it up in the testing section.

Commercial license testing is available with advanced registration required. Day and time can be adjusted to the test taker within reason. Use the above mentioned CONTACT FORM to let us know.

Since we are not renting the Expo Building this year we have dropped the price of admission to \$5, tailgate spaces are \$10. Limited electric is available at \$5.

BIKE MS CITRUS TOUR 2021 - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

by Dana Rodakis K4LK

Amateur Radio Coordinator - Bike MS Citrus Tour

Join us on March 6th, 2021 as we support the Mid-Florida chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, in their largest fundraising event of the year, with 800 - 1,000 cyclists on the (mostly) rural roads of Central Florida. Our start/end points for 2021 will be the Omni Resort at Champions Gate. There will be 23 or 54 mile routes for the cyclists to choose from. On Friday, March 5th we will place arrows on the route. Details will be published once they are finalized, typically 30 days before the start of the event.

Ham radio equipped volunteers assist in a number of roles, including:

- Rest Stop Operators
- Supply Truck operator
- Mobile Rover (patrol course, in vehicle too small to transport a bike)
- SAG/Greenway (patrol course, able to transport bike/rider off course)
- Shadow (travel with MS Society officials, to provide an on-air link)
- Ride Marshal (on-air bike, patrolling course as a cyclist. This position has additional requirements, so please contact us for info. All skill levels welcome.)
- Law Enforcement liaison
- Logistics Support



We use the WC4PEM repeater system (444.625+ in Davenport, 444.950+ in Frost-proof and 443.900+ in Kathleen, all use a 127.3 Hz CTCSS tone). If you would like to assist us, please visit citrustour.org and click the "Contact Us" link.



Editors Note: Due to the COVID-19 situation, the 2021 Bike MS Citrus Tour has been scaled back from the normal two days ride to a one day ride only. There will not be a Friday evening programming session or a Saturday evening dinner. Also the single day ride will be shorter than it has been in years past.



SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

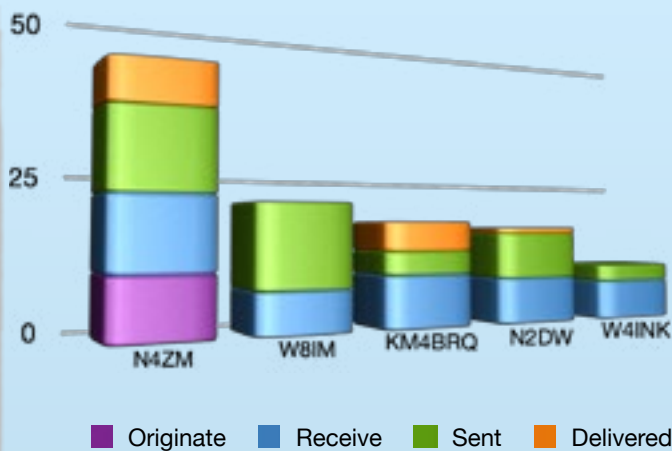
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

West Central Florida STM Reports

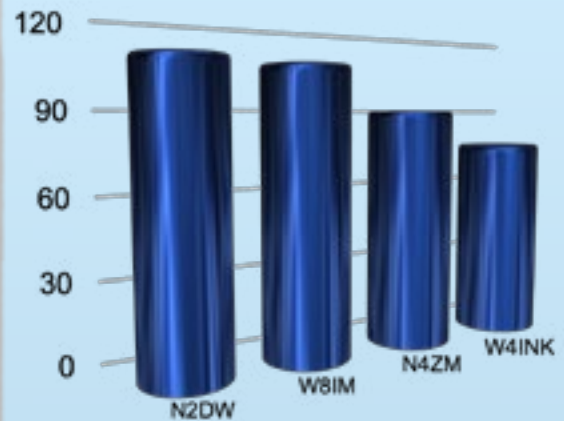
October 2020

Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
N4ZM	10	12	13	7	42
W8IM	0	7	14	0	21
KM4BRQ	0	9	4	5	18
N2DW	0	8	8	1	17
W4INK	0	7	3	0	10

Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
N2DW	108
W8IM	106
N4ZM	90
W4INK	76

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	31	1482	33	999	W4PXE
SPARC	39	714	47	1321	KN4LUZ
SRQUARES	5	82	3	57	KB2ICN
SARASOTA ERC	4	72	4	62	KB2ICN