

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS
Issue #13 – January 2016
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HAPPY NEW YEAR. TIME TO SET GOALS AND FOR EVALUATION.



Welcome to the first issue of THE WCF PRESSER for 2016. It is hard to believe another year is upon us. I am still humbled that you allowed me to be your Section Manager and it is hard for me to believe that it has been one year since I began my service as your Section Manager. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. We had some good accomplishments last year but there are areas that we can still improve upon. This is a good time of the year for all of us to reflect on past accomplishments, take note of those areas that still need improvement, and make up a list of things we wish to accomplish this coming year. I am making out now a “task list” for my duties as Section Manager and my own projects as well as this is helpful to me to stay on track. May I recommend that all of us, take a few moments and do an evaluation of our service in amateur radio. Are there areas that we had accomplishments and areas we can improve?. Maybe that new amateur could use your help, or doing a little extra public service, or perhaps build that new project, try that new mode, or even a new facet of the hobby that you have not done before.

2016 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION COMING TO ORLANDO HAMCATION THIS HAMFEST SEASON.



The ARRL Board of Directors voted at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in July 2015, to designate the 70th Annual Orlando Hamcation, February 12-14 2016, as the site of the 2016 ARRL National Convention. The 2016 Orlando Hamcation will be a ARRL Expo with an extra ARRL Headquarters presence. For more information go to the Hamcation website at <http://www.hamcation.org> and you can find out more information about the ARRL Expo at <http://www.arrl.org/expo>.

2ND ANNUAL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION TECHNICAL CONFERENCE – 2/27/16 - HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EOC:

Coming up on Saturday February 27th 2016, will be the 2nd Annual West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, which will be held at the Hillsborough County EOC which is located at 2711 E. Hanna Av., in Tampa. Registration for the conference is now open and you may register online at the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>. Registrations are starting to come in and we several new speakers as part of the lineup as well as many of our speakers from last year are speaking again this year. However we are still looking for presenters and your presentation can be in any area of amateur radio technology. We will have a special guest speaker again this year from the ARRL Laboratory. Look for a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE this month on who our ARRL guest will be and look for a tentative conference schedule in early February. Stay tuned for more details

QUARTERLY WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING – 1/23/16 – SARASOTA COUNTY EOC



The next quarterly West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting will be held on Saturday January 23rd at 1300 (1:00 PM.) at the Sarasota County EOC, preceded as usual by the West Central Florida Section ARES Luncheon at 1100 (11:00 AM.) at Gecko's Grill and Pub. For directions and other information on the West Central Florida Section ARES Luncheon you may go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-0116/> and for directions and other information on the West Central Florida ARES Meeting you may go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-0116/>

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



There is a lot of excitement about this event already. The ARRL is sponsoring the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA). This event started on January 1, 2016 and will run until December 31, 2016. 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 are 433 National Park Administrative

(NPA) units in the United States that are eligible for activation. 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. Desoto was activated by the Mid Florida DX Association on New Years Day. You will find a report on this in the February issue of THE WCF PRESSER. However there are four NPA units in the Southern Florida Section and five NPA units in the Northern Florida Sections.

The ARRL website has a web page devoted to NPOTA information at <http://www.arrl.org/npota>. I have added a new web page to the Section website with a lot of good information about the National Parks On The Air at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/npota-wcf/>.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

The second half of the 2015-2016 hamfest season now resumes after the break for Christmas and New Year holidays:

- Saturday January 9th: TARCfest XXXV – Tampa Amateur Radio Clubhouse – Tampa., FL.
- Friday January 15th – Saturday January 16th: Fort Myers Hamfest – *ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention*. Info: <http://swflhamfest.info/>
- Saturday January 16th – South Coast Amateur Radio Service Tailgate – Golden Corral 4700 N. U.S. 98 – Lakeland.
- Saturday January 23rd: Desoto County Hamfest – Arcadia, FL. Info: <http://www.desotoarc.org/>

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE WCF EXPERIMENTER:

Geoff Haines N1GY, our Technical Coordinator, will soon be putting together the next issue of THE WCF EXPERIMENTER, the technical newsletter for the ARRL West Central Florida Section. If you have recently build a new project, modified an existing piece of amateur radio equipment or project, or even written some amateur radio related software, others would like to hear about your work. f you have an article you would like to submit please send it to Geoff via email at n1gy@arrl.net. Geoff can work with almost any format you send him. For the current and past issues of THE WCF EXPERIMENTER you may go to <http://arrlwcf.org/home/the-wcf-experimenter-technical-newsletter/>.

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.

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. Check the website and check it often.

THE SECTION ARES AND INFORMATION NET IMPLEMENTING AN NCS ROSTER:



The WCF Section ARES and Information Net on Monday evening at 1930 (7:30 PM.) on the [NI4CE Repeater System](#) is still looking for volunteers to be Net Control. I have heard from several of you already and thank you for volunteering to be an NCS. You will begin to see those who have volunteered to be net control beginning in January. J.C. Rivero K4RTC is the Net Manager for the Monday evening ARES Net. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Darrell Davis KT4WX via email at kt4wx@arrl.net.

The WCF Section ARES and Information HF Net will continue to meet on Saturday morning at 0830 (8:30 AM.) on 3911 KHz, which meets mostly on 3913 KHz, with Neil Lauritsen W4NHL, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator serving as Net Manager.

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 UP TO 5 COSPONSORS IN THE SENATE AND UP TO 114 COSPONSORS OF THE HOUSE BILL (HR-1301):

In mid November, Senate Bill 1685 (S. 1685), gained three additional co-sponsors, to bring the total co-sponsors to four. House Resolution 1301 (HR 1301), the U.S. House of Representatives version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, is up to 114 co-sponsors as of November 24th.

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, with Senator [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the United States Senate. HR1301, the original House bill is now up to 112 co-sponsors as of November 2. 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."

NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR AND EMERGENCY COORDINATOR APPOINTED FOLLOWING RETIREMENTS



Mike Green AG4LT became the new Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES on Friday January 1, 2016. Green had previously been an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Shelter Operations for several years and had many years of experience in law enforcement as a Polk County Sheriff's Deputy and a volunteer firefighter. Robin Retzloff AF1RE retired as Emergency Coordinator after five years of service. The West Central Florida Section would like to thank Robin for his five years of service as Emergency Coordinator and wishes him well in his future endeavors.



The Section will have a new Public Information Coordinator this month. Ken Treffinger K4RSQ will succeed Dave Rockwell W4PXE, as the new Public Information Coordinator for the West Central Florida Section. Treffinger currently serves as an ARRL Public Information Officer for the Sarasota Amateur Radio Association and a net control station weekly on the Eagle Net, the NTS net for the West Central Florida Section. Treffinger has served with Sarasota County Fire Rescue for many years and has been involved in training other firefighters for a number of years. The West Central Florida Section would like to thank Dave for his service in 2015 as Public Information Coordinator and he will continue in his capacity as Net Manager for the Eagle Net and as an Official Relay Station and a Technical Specialist.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

On Monday December 7th Christine Duez KK4KJN and I attended the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club Christmas Party. The party was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves.

On Friday December 11th and Saturday December 12th the 40th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and the 15th Annual West Central Florida Section Convention were held in conjunction. The following Section Cabinet members were in attendance: Darrell Davis KT4WX - Section Manager, Geoff Haines N1GY – Assistant Section Manager and Technical Coordinator, Ben Henley KI4IGX - Section Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Section Manager, Randy Payne K4EZM - Assistant Section Manager, Dee Turner N4GD - Assistant Section Manager, Christine Duez KK4KJN – Section Youth Coordinator, and Dave Rockwell W4PXE – Public Information Coordinator. Thank you to all the Section Cabinet members that took time to come to the Tampa Bay Hamfest and interacted with so many of our ARRL members and hams that attended the hamfest. Our guest from ARRL HQ was Mike Gruber W1MG and he did an interesting presentation on RFI. The slides for Mike's program are available for viewing on the Section website at:

http://arrlwcfc.org/download/tampabayhamfest2015/RFIMistakesMythsMisunderstandings_TampaBayHamfest2015.pptx.

I would like to thank Tony DeAngelo N2MFT and Steve Elliott KS4WA for their service at the ARRL table as DXCC Card Checkers. I would like to thank Jeff Beals WA4AW, Section Manager for the Southern Florida Section for his service in helping with the ARRL table. Also I would like to thank Doug Rehman K4AC, Southeastern Division Director and Mike Lee AA6ML, Southeastern Division Vice Director for their attendance and service at the hamfest as well.

Immediately following the Tampa Bay Hamfest, Christine Duez KK4KJN, Ben Henley KI4IGX, and Randy Payne K4EZM and I attended the Polk County ARES Christmas Party at the Polk County EOC between Winter Haven and Lakeland. We were treated to a great meal and good fellowship was had by all who attended. Also the change in Emergency Coordinators was announced at this meeting.

On Saturday December 26th Christine Duez KK4KJN and I participated in the after Christmas edition of the Lake Wales Radio Amateur monthly radio Sprint. Five stations total were setup and 12 people attended and participated. I was able to make check into the Florida Midday Traffic Net on 10 Watts, tested my VHF/UHF voice comm radio and beacon successfully on APRS several times. Everyone shared in grilled hot dogs and enjoyed good fellowship.

We will share pictures of these events in future WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASES on these events. Look for them in the month of January.

SECTION ARES REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2015

By Randy Payne K4EZM – Assistant Section Manager

The following ARES groups filed reports for the month of November:

Charlotte County: Number of ARES Members 117, Number of ARES Nets 4, Number of drills and training sessions 4, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 95, Number of public service events 16, Number of hours of public service events 87, and no emergency activations

SECTION ARES REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2015 - Continued

Hardee County: Number of ARES Members 6, Number of ARES Nets 5, Number of drills and training sessions 1, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 1, Number of public service events 0, Number of hours of public service events 0, and no emergency activations.

Highlands County: Number of ARES Members 28, Number of ARES Nets 8, Number of drills and training sessions 1, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 1, Number of public service events 0, Number of hours of public service events 0, and no emergency activations. Other comments: Distributed updated copies of ARES organizational material at ARES meeting.

Manatee County: Number of ARES Members 45, Number of ARES Nets 8, Number of drills and training sessions 0, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 108, Number of public service events 1, Number of hours of public service events 8, and no emergency activations. Other comments: held five ARES nets, three SKYWARN nets, and one ARES meeting.

Pinellas County: Number of ARES Members 95, Number of ARES Nets 8, Number of drills and training sessions 3, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 3, Number of public service events 1, Number of hours of public service events 8, and no emergency activations.

Pasco County: Number of ARES Members 42, Number of ARES Nets 4, Number of drills and training sessions 1, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 28, Number of public service events 2, Number of hours of public service events 40, and no emergency activations.

Sarasota County: Number of ARES Members 17, Number of ARES Nets 0, Number of drills and training sessions 0, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 0, Number of public service events 0, Number of hours of public service events 0, and no emergency activations. Other comments: Eight seven hours of miscellaneous volunteer time served this month.

The following ARRL Official Emergency Stations submitted a report for November: N7HUQ, KM4ECQ, K7TEN, KR4X, KM4FPB, W4XDS, W1WAB, and K8DSS. *(Note: This has been updated to reflect that KR4X was omitted originally. Our apologies for this error.)*

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2015

By Doug Williams N2DW – Section Traffic Manager:

Station Activity Reports (SAR):

N2DW:	Originated 0, Received 9, Sent 7, Delivered 0, and Total 16
W8IM:	Originated 1, Received 26, Sent 22, Delivered 7, and Total 56
W4PXE:	Originated 1, Received 9, Sent 10, Delivered 0, and Total 20
K4EEI	Originated 0, Received 75, Sent 73, Delivered 1, and Total 149
W2SU	Originated 0, Received 2, Sent 2, Delivered 1, and Total 5
K4RSQ	Originated 0, Received 1, Sent 1, Delivered 1, and Total 4
W4AVM	Originated 0, Received 1, Sent 2, Delivered 0, and Total 3

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2015 - Continued

Public Service Honor Roll:

N2DW	106
W8IM	90
KT4WX	80

West Central Florida Section Net Activity Reports:

AIN: Sessions 3, Stations 27, Traffic 3, Minutes 87
Net Manager – WA4ATF

EAGLE NET: Sessions 30, Stations 948, Traffic 26, Minutes 888
Net Manager – W4PXE

SPARC NET: Sessions 39, Stations 561, Traffic 43, Minutes 930
Net Manager – W4TSP

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. See you all at a hamfest, meeting, or other special events this month. 73 de Darrell KT4WX.