



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 and 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

Welcome to a new year and a new decade: 2020. It is hard to believe that another year and another decade is upon us. I hope all of had a great Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Years holidays. It is also hard to believe I am starting my six year as your Section Manager, a journey that began on January 1, 2015. As I write this, on December 30 and 31, I am compiling my annual task list for 2020. I find it helps me to stay on target and not get sidetracked as easily. What is really amazing is to go back at the end of the year and see what you accomplished.

This year, 2020, also marks the 20th Anniversary of the ARRL West Central Florida Section. The exact date of the anniversary will be January 15,



2020. So to celebrate we are doing three things:

(1) Using a special 20th Anniversary Logo which was designed by our newsletter editor and newest Assistant Section Manager for Publications, Jim Weslager K3WR.

(2) We will have a 20th Anniversary Party, with some cake and light refreshments, at the TARCfest on Saturday January 11, 2020, which will be the hamfest that is the nearest to our actual anniversary date.

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SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS (CON'T)

(3) A K4WCF Special Event activation in all ten counties, similar to the K4WCF activation that was done in 2000, when the Section commenced operation. Look for details of this elsewhere in this issue of the WCF PRESSER. This event will repeat once or twice more later in the year. Also do not forget that Winter Field Day will be Saturday January 25, 2020. I have heard of several groups that plan to participate.

As of December 31, 2019, we wrapped up County Parks On the Air. Please send in any logs to me when you have them prepared. My email and address are located on Page 16 in every issue of QST. We will announce the results of the 2019 County Parks On The Air sometime later this year as soon as we have them compiled, in a future edition of the WCF PRESSER and will announce it by a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE.

Keep your eyes on the weather for the upcoming winter months. It is forecast, at the time I write this, to be rather mild winter for us from what I have seen so far from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center. However, you never know when we will get that strong cold front, especially in February or March. Do not let your guard down.

Enjoy the upcoming winter and spring hamfest season. I usually take a break from Section activities for the most part in the last two weeks of December to rest up or try to get other work done, as I will not have time to do them once the hamfest season is in full swing. That is all for this month and look forward to seeing many of you at an upcoming hamfest, meeting, or special event.

WCF SECTION 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - ANNIVERSARY PARTY FOLLOWING THE TARC FEST

The ARRL West Central Florida Section will turn 20 years old on January 15, 2020. The Section will be holding a WCF Section 20th Anniversary Party on Saturday January 11th, 2020 at 1200, immediately following the conclusion of the Winter 2020 TARC FEST, at the Tampa Amateur Radio Clubhouse, which is located at 7801 North 22nd Street on the north side of Tampa.

If you have never been to the Tampa Amateur Radio Clubhouse, the best way to get there is to take I-275 to exit 48, which is Sligh Avenue and go east on Sligh Avenue for approximately 1-2 miles and then turn left onto 22nd Street and take it all the way to the end and the clubhouse will be on your right.

We look forward to seeing many of you there. Stop by and share your good memories of how amateur radio is special to you. That is a great way to celebrate the WCF Section 20th Anniversary.

ON THE AIR WITH SANTA

by Chris Bloxsom. AA4CB
ARRL Public Information Officer



Dade City, FL – Santa Claus came to Dade City, Florida on December 21st via ham radio. Local amateur radio operators from the East Pasco Amateur Radio Society came

together and helped Santa talk to the kids.

The club puts on this special event for 3 days usually the 21st to the 23rd (weather permitting). We take part in the annual Church Street Christmas event, where the street is closed and the houses and all the Churches are decorated. There is music and entertainment provided to the public. The event runs 7 to 9 PM.



John KK4ITX and guest operator tell Santa if he was naughty or nice. What do you think the Grinch would like for Christmas?

This year's Talk to Santa event was a bit rough. The weather was poor. The temperature was in the low 60's with light rain. But still members showed up at 6 pm and started to set up.

Rick Lesquier, KK4LW, and his wife Tina brought down their Yaesu FT-897, a battery, and portable antenna. Duane Archibald, N4WDH, brought a pop up canopy. We set up the tent and station in about 15 minutes. We ran an extension cord to the house so we could set up the lighting, tables, miscellaneous stuff.



The owners of the house, Scott and Kim Price,



have been very generous to EPARS for allowing us to set up there. They look forward to seeing the club there every year. They get into the Christmas spirit and participate in Church Street Christmas every year. Without them this event would not be possible.

Other members that came out to provide support was John KK4ITX and his wife KM4CUG. They were ones that greeted the people and operated the radio for the kids to

speak to Santa Claus. After each QSO they also provided a special event QSL card to everyone.

The role of Santa was played by Chris Bloxsom AA4CB, as he has done for the past 8 years. This year he had some company Mrs. Claus, Chris' YL Bonnie, was happy to assist. Mrs. Claus was allowed to get on the air and talk to the kids.

Other members came down to provide support. Jack Suske N9GKO, David Conlin KJ4UUY, and Jack Olson KG4GTN and his family stopped there to assist.

More information on this and other club events can be found on <http://eparsonline.org>

WINTER FIELD DAY - JANUARY 25-26, 2020

By Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ

Everyone who has had his license more than a day or two knows of the ARRL Field Day in June. A few years ago several Hams in the Midwest started a new event, Winter Field Day. Somewhat surprisingly, Winter Field Day (WFD) is catching on.

Our club, [Tamiami Amateur Radio Club] participated for the first time last year. We operated from North Jetty Park with two transmitters. We made 182 phone contacts, 0 CW and 0 digital.

This event has three categories, Indoors, Outdoors, and Home. We entered the Outdoor category and of the 230 stations registered as Outdoors, we placed 91st.

We plan to enter the WFD event again this year. WFD begins at 2 pm EST Saturday Jan 25 and runs for 24 hours until Sunday Jan 26 2 pm EST. We intend to operate Outdoors at the Coast Guard station; however, in case of inclement weather such as last year, we'll move indoors and adjust our category accordingly.

We'll run two 500 watt transmitters, one for phone and one for CW. FT8 is not permitted in WFD. Digital modes such as RTTY, PSK31, Olivia, etc. are allowed.

Many of you remember the difficulty we had trying to operate phone or CW last June at Field Day due to overloading of the receivers from the FT8 stations. We are going to use WFD as a learning opportunity to avoid that same problem next June. Although FT8 is not permitted in WFD, we will set up a FT8 station and operate it independent of the WFD activities. This will give us a chance to try some of the ideas members have in configuring the stations to avoid or eliminate the overloading of the receivers.

A planning meeting will be held in January (date TBD) and all are invited to bring their ideas and suggested solutions for our dilemma to the meeting. Think about antenna layout, antenna types, equipment, and methods of physical separation.

Published courtesy of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, (TARC), Venice, Florida

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	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	Vacant
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

January 25, 2020

DeSoto County Hamfest 2020
Turner Civic Center Exhibit Hall,
2260 NE Roan Street
Arcadia, FL 34266



March 14, 2020

Gulf Coast ARC Spring 2020 Hamfest
Millennium Academy,
10005 Ridge Road
New Port
Richey, FL 34652



February 7-9, 2020

74th Annual Orlando Hamcation
Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park
4603 W. Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32808



March 28, 2020

2020 SERC Hamfest and Tailgate
Sarasota Red Cross HQ, 2001 Cantu Ct.
Sarasota, FL 34232



February 15, 2020

Highlands County Hamfest 2020
First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine
111 Lake Josephine Drive
Sebring, FL 33875



April 18, 2020

TARCFest SPRING 2020
TARC Clubhouse,
7801 N. 22nd Street
Tampa, FL



March 7, 2020

Charlotte County Hamfest 2020
Punta Gorda Boat Club,
802 West Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, 33950



May 23, 2020

WORMFest 2020
Freedom Lake Park,
9990 46th Street North
Pinellas Park, FL , FL 33782



TECHCON 2020 JUST AROUND THE CORNER - PLAN ON ATTENDING

Time for the 6th Annual TECHCON is getting closer. The 6th Annual TECHCON, the ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, will be held on Friday February 21, 2020 and Saturday February 22, 2020.

TECHCON will be at the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center located in Punta Gorda.

The Friday Afternoon Workshop will be on "Introduction to Internet of Things" by Jon Pellant, W1JP, the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Charlotte County and ARRL Technical Specialist.

Following the Friday Afternoon Workshop will be the Friday Evening Social at 1800. The Friday Evening Social will be held at the Golden Corral on US41 just south of downtown Punta Gorda. Family and friends are welcome to come with you. This is a great time to socialize, talk about projects, etc. Also there is in the planning a workshop on Linux during the day on Saturday. As of 1/01/20 we have about 25



registered for TECHCON. If you plan on attending please go and register at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconregistration/>.

For more information on TECHCON you may go to the TECHCON web page on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>

Information there includes Google maps on the location of the Charlotte County EOC and the Golden Corral. Some have already registered since the initial announcement in the WCF EXPERIMENTER and in a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE last month. Thank you to those of you who have registered for TECHCON and plan on attending.

2020 BikeMS CITRUS TOUR

by Michael Bresse, W2YS

Assistant Section Manager

Amateur Radio Coordinator - 2020

BikeMS Citrus Tour

Dates for the 2020 BikeMS Citrus Tour have been announced. The 2020 Citrus Tour will be on March 7th & 8th. Yes, that's two months



earlier than in recent years. The hope is to get more riders with the cooler temperatures and try to avoid the severe weather like we had last year.

Volunteer registration opened on the www.citrustour.org website on October 8th. We already have 16 volunteers confirm that they will be here for the event. As usual we need as many amateur radio volunteers as we can get. Amateur radio volunteers provide all route support from communications to transporting cyclist who have mechanical issues or just can't make it any further on their own. The routes will be almost identical to last year. We will be out and back to the Omni Resort

at Championsgate both days with four routes (20, 50, 75 & 100 mile) heading to the south toward Frostproof on Saturday and three routes (20, 50 & 75 mile) heading toward Polk City & Haines City on Sunday. There will be some minor route changes from last year as they try to eliminate a few hills.



If you are interested in Emergency Communications this event is excellent practice as we run two fully directed nets and handle routine, priority and emergency traffic. A lot of our volunteers have been working this event for over 10 years and some come from as far away as Miami.

For more information about the Citrus Tour or to register as a volunteer visit www.citrustour.org.



SECTION 20TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO UNVEILED AND SECTION WEBSITE MAKEOVER

This year will mark the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the ARRL West Central Florida Section. As part of the 20th Anniversary celebration, the Section will use a special 20th Anniversary Logo, in place of the regular Section Logo.



Jim Weslager K3WR, editor of the WCF PRESSER and WCF EXPERIMENTER, created the 20th Anniversary logo. The logo is available for

download from the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org>.

The standard Section logo was created by the late Paul Knupke N4PK, who became a Silent Key very suddenly in 2002, whose callsign is held today by Paul Knupke Sr.

The Section website has gotten a new look for the 20th Anniversary celebration as well. This is the first new look that the Section website has had since January 2015, when the Section website got a complete overhaul, the first overhaul since the website was originally created in January 2000.

Other celebrations planned in 2020 will be the anniversary party on January 11, 2020 at the TARCfest and the K4WCF Special Event Station activation planned for several times in 2020.

ATTENTION ALL ARRL STATION APPOINTEES: DO NOT FORGET YOUR TO FILE YOUR MONTHLY REPORTS

Just a reminder to all ARRL Station Appointees: Do not forget to file your monthly reports. To make it convenient for you, we have included report forms for all ARRL Station Appointments on the Section website at <http://www.arrlwcf.org>. Go to the menu at the top of the website and hover your mouse on the "Section Files and Forms" menu and all the Section forms including a reporting form for your particular ARRL Station Appointment will come up. When you fill it out successfully, you will receive an on screen confirmation and an email confirmation to the email address you supplied in the report. That report will also go to the appropriate Section Cabinet member who is the coordinator for your area of responsibility.

Reports are due by 5th day of every month for the previous month's activity.

Sometimes you will not have any activity and that is not a problem. It is still important to file your reports even when you have no activity. On all the forms there is a no activity for this month button. This lets us know who is still active and in effect, "I am still active and available if needed".

If reports are not received after a period of time, the Station Appointment will be cancelled for lack of activity. Your cooperation in filing your monthly reports is appreciated.



SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

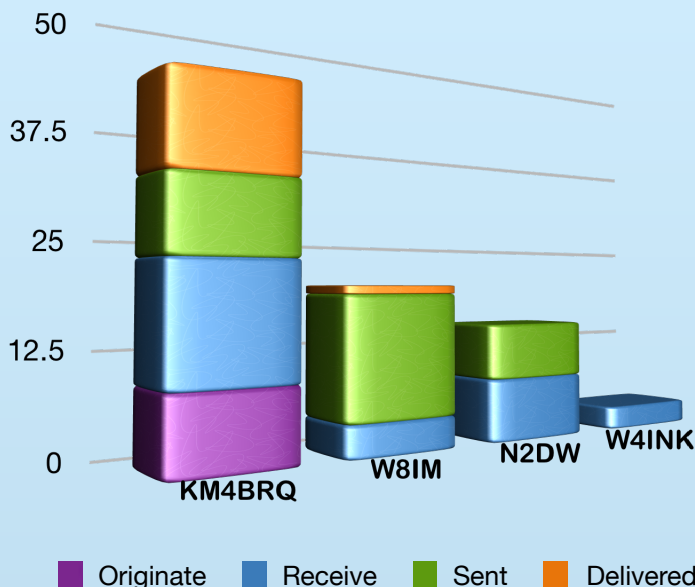
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

West Central Florida STM Reports

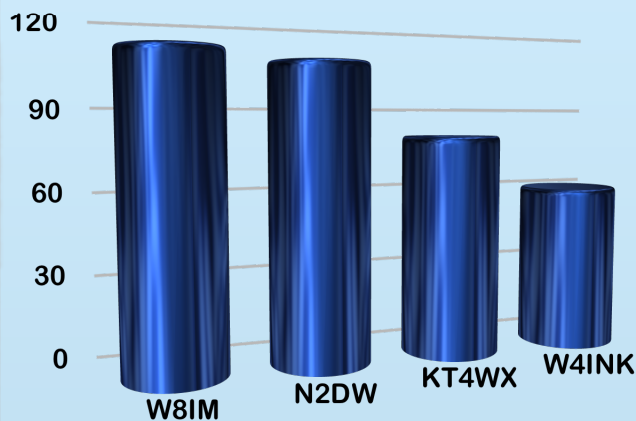
November 2019

Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
KM4BRQ	9	14	9	11	43
W8IM	0	4	15	1	20
N2DW	0	8	7	0	15
W4INK	0	3	0	0	3

Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
W8IM	110
N2DW	106
KT4WX	80
W4INK	60

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	30	1298	31	916	W4PXE
SPARC	38	540	36	1033	KN4LUZ

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ACTIVATE K4WCF SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE WCF SECTION.

The Section will be holding a ARRL West Central Florida Section 20th Anniversary Operating Event special operating event to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the ARRL West Central Florida Section. As part of this celebration, K4WCF, the callsign of the West Central Florida Section, will be activated one weekend in each county of the West Central Florida Section until all ten counties are activated over a period of ten weekends. A K4WCF operation was done in January of 2000 when the West Central Florida Section commenced operation. This will be repeated once or twice more later during the year, either in the fall and or the summer and fall, to give everyone an opportunity to work K4WC in all ten counties. This will not be a contest but simply an operating event to celebrate the anniversary of the West Central Florida Section.

The West Central Florida Section is now taking applications for ARES and or ACS groups, CERT groups, or radio clubs to apply to be authorized to activate K4WCF for a weekend at a time for each respective weekend. A special event web page on the Section website will be setup once the rules are finalized. The following is the tentative schedule of operating weekends for the first running of K4WCF in the Winter and Spring of 2020 and the groups, clubs, or individuals who have volunteered to operate K4WCF:

- Hillsborough County: 1/11/20 and 1/12/20
- Manatee County: 1/18/20 and 1/19/20
- Sarasota County: 1/25/20 and 1/26/20
- Charlotte County: 2/01/20 and 2/02/20
- Desoto County: 2/15/20 and 2/16/20

- Highlands County 2/22/20 and 2/23/20
- Polk County: 2/29/20 and 3/01/20
- Hardee County: 3/14/20 and 3/15/20
- Pasco County: 3/21/20 and 3/22/20
- Pinellas County: 3/29/20 and 3/30/20 - St.Petersburg Amateur Radio Club.

The publication of the WCF Section 20th Anniversary Operating Event page and the schedule of who is going to operate will be announced by future WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASES and in the January WCF PRESSER. Groups interested in operating K4WCF in a particular county please use the Contact Form on the Section website to apply. Please state on the Contact Form the name of your organization, where you would activate K4WCF, and for what county you are volunteering to activate. The criteria for operating K4WCF is two fold:

- (1) A station operating K4WCF must be located in the county it is activating.
- (2) Have the capability to hand out contacts on VHF and UHF so that our Technician class licensees can participate by making contacts as well.

K4WCF may be operated either portable, from a club station, an EOC station, or a base station.

For the full list of activation criteria, operating rules, etc., may be found on the K4WCF Special Operating Event webpage at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/k4wcf-20th-anniversary-operating-event-2020/>.

Yahoo Groups Shutdown has Ham Radio Interest Groups Seeking to Save Content

Yahoo Groups, which has hosted a considerable number of ham radio interest groups over the years, is shutting down. All previously posted content on the site became unavailable in mid-December, but Yahoo is processing requests to download content until January 31, 2020. Yahoo also has provided group administrators ("admins") a way to export data ahead of that deadline. Groups will continue to live on in some limited fashion, but all groups will become private, and nearly all of the functionality that made them popular in the first place will disappear.

Around since 2001, Yahoo Groups, now owned by Verizon, has provided online repositories of communications and information on a wide variety of specialized subjects and activities, including Amateur Radio. Yahoo Groups for nearly every radio have been established, where owners could exchange information and ask questions. Other groups on the Yahoo platform offered a watering hole for those interested in a particular ham radio activity as well as for those who want to buy and sell gear and components. Some clubs and ham radio logging software users have taken advantage of Yahoo Groups.

New platforms such as Groups.io, Facebook, and Google are looking to assume the role that Yahoo Groups is stepping away from. Groups.io charges fees to migrate content onto its platform, however, and Facebook and Google lack the ability to import content at all. With Groups.io as the most likely

successor platform, many admins have assumed the migration expense and relocated group content so it would not be lost. Not all groups have been as fortunate, however, putting them into the position of starting from scratch and losing years of conversations, files, polls, and data.

Web application developer Andy Majot, K5QO, of Sellersburg, Indiana, took the initiative to download archives of Yahoo Groups devoted to individual ham radio gear and uploaded them to his personal website.

"I hope to have them hosted in perpetuity for future hams to use," Majot told ARRL. "It should be noted that I backed up groups regardless of whether they are living on in other platforms; I wanted to snapshot the groups as they were on Yahoo prior to their deletion." Majot noted that several of the groups he has archived have already migrated their content to Groups.io, but many more have not.

Majot said an organization called Archive Team is helping to save as many Yahoo Groups as possible and has been backing these up since the closure announcement in October, but, Majot said, progress has nearly halted since Yahoo cut off access to many group features in mid-December.

Majot invited those seeking to relocate Yahoo Groups archives to contact him. "I would be happy to host these files, alongside my other archives," he said. — Thanks to Andy Majot, K5QO

Reprinted courtesy of the ARRL News

CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH - ZEPHYRHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club (known also as ZAARC) is located in Zephyrhills southeastern Pasco County. The club maintains a website, operates a 2 Meter repeater on 146.910 MHz on a PL tone of 146.2 Hz and a UHF repeater on 441.425 with no PL

tone at present. Members of the club help with VE Exams, meet for breakfast weekly, and have a daily ragchew on VHF simplex and or UHF simplex. The club also conducts an annual hamfest in Zephyrhills, usually in the spring of every year.



Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club

Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Site Manager: KK4ITX, John

W1PB Repeater: 146.910- Tone: 146.2/146.2
UHF Repeater: 441.425+ No Tones at this time (WIP)
2m Net Mondays @ 7:00 pm (except 3rd Monday)



Click On a Page Link Below

Amateur Radio Parity Act

American Radio History

APRS

ARES / Emergency

ARRL / WCF Section

Buy, Sell, Swap & Trade

Contact Info

County Parks on the Air

CW

Digital

EchoLink/AllStar

Florida State Pk on Air

VE Exam Info

Guest Book **NEW**

Area Hamfests

International Amateur Radio Union

Links of Note

Membership

Area Nets

Projects

QRP page

Radio Repair

Repeaters

Satellite

Statewide SARnetFL

Tech Area

Weak Signal Operations

WSPR

Notices*

Monthly Business Meeting
3rd Monday, 6:00 PM
General Meeting
3rd Monday, 7:00 PM
St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
Park in Rear
5855 16th St., Zephyrhills



Zhills Coffee Time (ragchew)
Put out your Call even if it's quiet !
(Fri.- Wed.) **08:00 - 08:30** (+/-)
145.750 or 446.750 Simplex



ZAARC Breakfast
THURSDAYS 8:00am (Order Time)
Village Inn [Click Here](#)
5214 Gall Blvd. Zephyrhills

New Monday Net time 7

Upcoming Events

Church St. Christmas (Dade City)
Dec. 21, 22 & 23 (7-9pm)