

Section Manager
Mike Douglas W4MDD

Assistant Section Manager
SM Emeritus
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

Assistant Section Manager
Publications
Jim Weslager, K3WR

Affiliated Club Coordinator
Open

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
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

SECTION MANAGER'S MUSINGS

BY MIKE DOUGLAS, W4MDD
ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION MANAGER

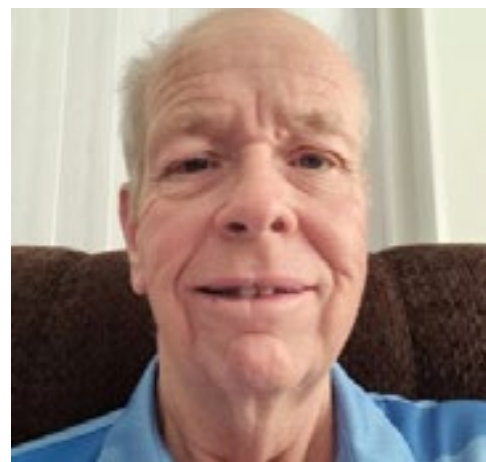
WHAT'S BEHIND DOOR FOUR

Happy New Year to all.

As to the above title, "What's Behind Door Four" it is thinking back to the game show "Lets Make Deal." I do hope that my Tesla is behind that door.

This will be a short report this time, I'm a little out of the loop as I'm not in the area currently. In fact I'm closer to the North Pole, Northbrook, IL to be exact. The current temperature here is 25 degrees. Really looking forward to flying back to Florida a January 19th. Please let me know if any of you would like me to bring back this weather with me.

Concerning my intentions with respect to the Section, short term I have no designs to reinvent the wheel I plan on kicking the tires and checking their air pressures. It will be business as usual with the help of Darrell and the other



current cabinet members.

I really want to explore getting young people into the fraternity as well, into the organization. I will be looking for members to help with that endeavor as I see that that is what will keep us alive.

Looking forward to a successful tenure as the 4th Section Manager of the West Central Florida of the ARRL.

For now,

73 de Mike W4MDD

DARRELL DAVIS KT4WX APPOINTED ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER AND TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Mike Douglas W4MDD, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, appointed Darrell Davis KT4WX to be an Assistant Section Manager. Davis will serve as the Executive Assistant Section Manager. Dave Birnbaum K2LYV, Technical Coordinator of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, had decided to step down as Technical Coordinator on Thursday December 31, 2020. Douglas appointed Darrell Davis KT4WX, as the new Technical Coordinator for the ARRL West Central Florida Section. Davis has previously served as Technical Coordinator from 2000 through the middle of 2004.

Douglas had the following to say about the appointment of Davis, "Darrell Davis, KT4WX will remain an integral part of the West Central Florida Section of the ARRL. As I transition into the new post of Section Manager I will continue to rely on Darrell's expertise. I do not plan, in the immediate future, on making any changes to staff of the WCF. The Section has been running quite smoothly. I have no desire to reinvent the wheel".

Davis said the following about his appointments, "I feel honored to serve on Mike's cabinet as one of his Assistant Section Manager's and to serve for the second time as Technical Coordinator. I got my start in the West Central Florida Section serving as Technical Coordinator and I really enjoyed serving in that capacity. Building and experimenting

with radio, electronics, and computers is my first love in amateur radio." Davis

also will continue to serve as Chairman of TECHCON, the ARRL West Central Florida



Section Technical Conference as part of his responsibilities as Technical Coordinator.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section extends its sincere thanks to Dave Birnbaum K2LYV for his service as Technical Coordinator for the later part of 2019 and 2020. Birnbaum will continue as an ARRL Technical Specialist and regular contributor to the section newsletters, the WCF PRESSER and the WCF EXPERIMENTER. Birnbaum has also been an annual presenter at TECHCON and plans to continue in that role as well.

WINTER 2021 QUARTERLY ARRL WCF SECTION ARES MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM

The Winter 2021 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting will be held on Saturday January 16, 2021 at 1400 EDT, as a Zoom meeting, instead of a “face to face” meeting due to the continuing COVID-19 situation.

The information to log into the Zoom meeting is located the Section ARES page at : <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-section-programs/ares/>

The Zoom meeting will be open for attendees to check in 15 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start at 1400, to allow participants time to log in and be sure their video and or audio is functioning.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Zoom meeting, but due to the terms of our Zoom account we are limited to a seating of 100.



STEVE MULLER KM4VRK IS A SILENT KEY

Steve Muller KM4VRK, an Assistant Section Manager for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, became a Silent Key on Saturday December 12, 2020, due to complications following a prolonged battle with cancer. Muller was 69 years old.

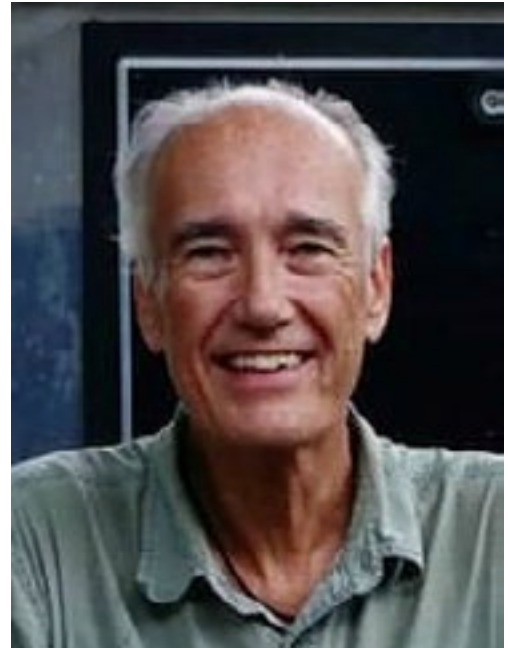
Muller became an amateur radio operator in 2016. Upon relocating to Hardee County in 2016, Muller became active with Hardee County ARES, and serving for two activations of Hardee County ARES: Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Muller had also served as a net control station for the Eagle Net and the Hardee County ARES Net. Muller was an ARRL Official Emergency Station, an ARRL Technical Specialist, and was appointed as an Assistant Section Manager in 2018.

Muller was also active, until recently, with the Coast Guard Auxiliary helping to provide communications.

Darrell Davis KT4WX, former Section

Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, made the following statement about Muller's passing, "Steve was very dedicated to public



service through ARES and the ARRL West Central Florida Section. Steve gave fantastic service in his deployment during Hurricane Irma even with facing damage to his home from the storm. Steve will be missed by all who knew him and myself in particular. I am praying for his wife and children during this difficult time."

Muller is survived by his wife Abby and five children. There was no memorial service or graveside service.



RANDY PAYNE K4EZM IS THE 2020 WHITE AWARD RECIPIENT

Randy Payne K4EZM, of Sebring, has been named the 2020 White Award recipient. The White Award, established in 2016 in honor of Ellen White W1YL, is to name the amateur radio operator who has made the greatest contribution to amateur radio in the ARRL West Central Florida Section.

Payne was first licensed in 1957 as KN4KTI, later upgrading to a Conditional Technician with the call of K4KTI, which he allowed to expire while in college. After Payne graduated from college in 1965, he passed his Advanced class license earning his current call sign of K4EZM.

While living in Homestead in the mid 1960's Payne participated in the local RACES/CD (Civil Defense) group, developing the main area of his interest in Amateur Radio: emergency communications. That interest led to his enrollment in ARES around 2002 in Highlands County. In March of 2005 Payne was appointed as the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Highlands County ARES. In 2015, Payne was appointed as an Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator by Ben Henley KI4IGX, and as an Assistant Section Manager by Darrell Davis KT4WX.

Payne enjoys building antennas, small pieces of equipment including Morse code keys, and dreams of constructing an HF transceiver. Payne is also a Drake Radio equipment enthusiast which includes owning two Drake TR-7s and several Drake tube receivers and transmitters, all of which need some restoration.

Payne in his professional career was a schoolteacher, a church pastor and assistant pastor in several churches, and as an adjunct professor and Reference Desk Assistant at South Florida State College,



from which he retired in 2012. Payne earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at Stetson University in 1965, a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1975, a PhD in Church History in 1981, and a Master of Library Science degree from University of South Florida.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section congratulates Randy Payne K4EZM on being named the 2020 White Award Recipient. The 2020 White Award was presented at the ARRL forum during the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 12, 2020.

Payne will also receive a one-year ARRL membership compliments of the West Central Florida Group, who operate the NI4CE Repeater System for the being the recipient of the 2020 White Award. For all the details and history of the White Award you may go to <http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/white-award/>.

SARA AND SERC SET MERGED ON NEW YEARS DAY 2021

The Sarasota Amateur Radio Association, (SARA: <http://www.saraclub.org>) and the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club, (SERC: <http://www.n4ser.org>) entered into negotiations to merge the two clubs into one club on Thursday October 15, 2020. Both clubs share many of the same members and the two clubs felt that consolidating each club's efforts into one unified organization brings strength and continuity to the local amateur radio community.

The Sarasota Amateur Radio Association was formed in 1962 from a group of amateur radio operators looking for technical information for the benefit of its members, knowledge for the ever-growing hobby of amateur radio, and to share this information with each other to further their knowledge.

The Sarasota Emergency Radio Club was formed in 1976, and was the first organization to put an amateur radio repeater on the air in Sarasota County. The Sarasota Emergency Radio Club has expanded over time with multiple repeaters and Winlink gateways in the Sarasota and Venice Communities.

The merger of SARA and SERC was completed and took effect January 1, 2021. SERC members look forward to warmly welcoming the SARA members into our organization.

SERC is extremely excited about this merger and welcome the many

talented hams from SARA to be



members of the SERC family.

For more information, please refer to the SERC website at <http://www.n4ser.org>.

Thanks to Gary Wells WB9AYD, President of the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club, for the information used in this article.

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.

EAGLE NET HAS BEST YEAR YET

Greetings:

Eagle Net experienced its best year since 2012 with 17,341 check-ins. We processed 406 messages including 365 net reports and 41 radiograms. Our total time was 11,806 minutes (8 days, 4 hours, 46 minutes). We've experienced a steady growth every year since 2012.

Eagle Net, the National Traffic System Net, for the West Central Florida Section meets every night at 8:30 PM local time unless preempted by Sky Warn. The

net is hosted on the NI4CE repeater system. The NI4CE system is operated by the West Central Florida Group, Inc. (not directly associated with the ARRL WCF Section).

The net has regular participants from the following counties:

WCF Counties

- Charlotte
- Desoto
- Hardee
- Highlands
- Hillsborough
- Manatee
- Pasco

- Pinellas
- Polk
- Sarasota

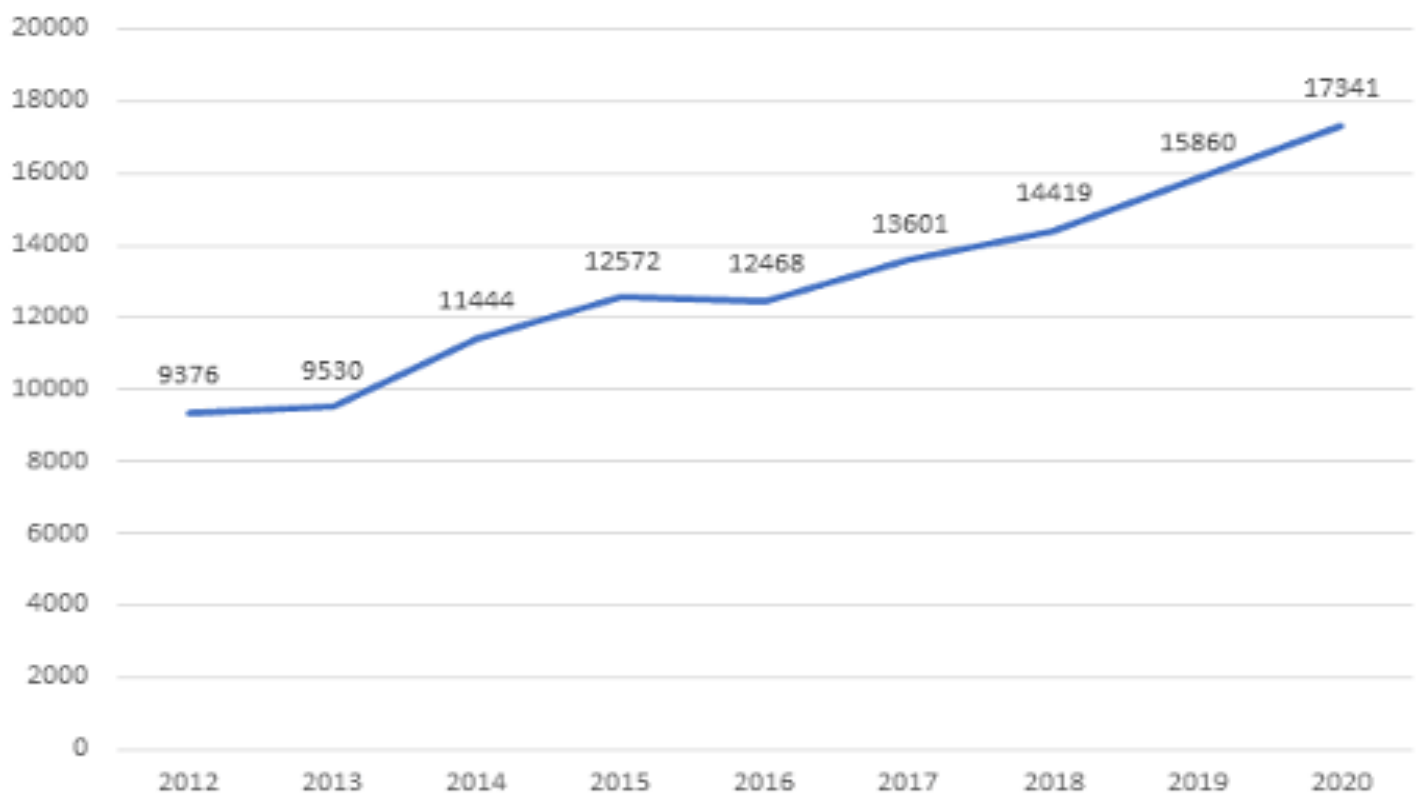
Other counties

- Hernando
- Citrus
- Okeechobee
- Lee
- Osceola

All amateurs are encouraged to check into Eagle Net. Also, we encourage all stations to consider bringing radiograms to the net. Traffic handling is one of the most important skills for our public service stations.

Best regards,
Dave Rockwell, W4PXE

Annual Eagle Net Check-Ins



2020 Yearly Totals				
Month	Check-Ins	Traffic	Time	Sessions
Dec	1,325	35	964	31
Nov	1,369	31	936	29
Oct	1,482	33	999	31
Sep	1,353	32	939	30
Aug	1,510	34	994	31
Jul	1,466	37	989	31
Jun	1,373	43	989	30
May	1,429	36	974	31
Apr	1,562	32	1,025	30
Mar	1,630	31	1,058	31
Feb	1,403	30	943	29
Jan	1,439	32	996	31
Total	17,341	406	11,806	365

Annual Totals	
Year	Check-Ins
2012	9,376
2013	9,530
2014	11,444
2015	12,572
2016	12,468
2017	13,601
2018	14,419
2019	15,860
2020	17,341

WCF Section Nets

The following is a list of ARRL West Central Florida Section Nets:

Day of Week	Net	Time	Frequency
Sunday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Monday	WCF Section ARES / Information Net	1930	NI4CE/R
Monday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Tuesday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Wednesday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Thursday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Thursday	WCF Section Technical Net	2100	NI4CE/R
Friday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Saturday	WCF Section ARES / Information Net	0730 [^]	3940 KHz
Saturday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R

[^] Net start will be at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net.

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.



SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

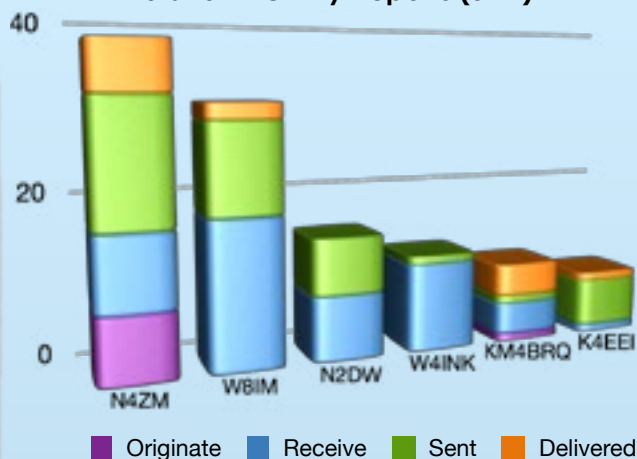
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

West Central Florida STM Reports

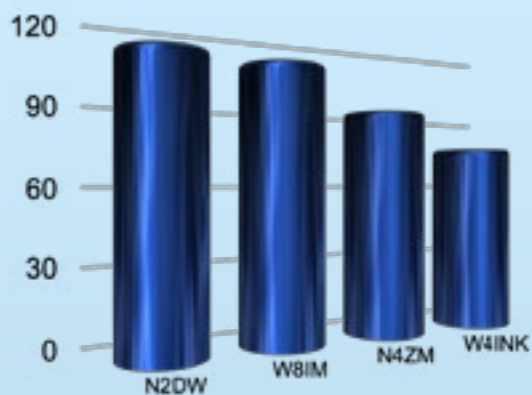
November 2020

Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
N4ZM	8	9	15	6	38
W8IM	0	18	11	2	31
N2DW	0	8	7	0	15
W4INK	0	11	1	0	12
KM4BRQ	1	4	1	4	10
K4EEI	0	1	6	1	8

Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
W8IM	156
N2DW	110
N4ZM	88
W4INK	81

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	29	1369	31	936	W4PXE
SPARC	39	808	46	1517	KN4LUZ
CERT (St. Pete)	2	34	2	52	KN4LUZ
SRQUARES	3	49	2	37	KB2ICN
SARASOTA ERC	4	69	2	65	KB2ICN

TECHCON 2021 DATE AND VENUE SET

The 7th Annual TECHCON date and venue have been set. The 7th Annual TECHCON, the ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, will be held on Friday February 26, 2021 and Saturday February 27, 2021. The location for the 7th Annual TECHCON will be at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center located between Winter Haven and Lakeland. The Friday Afternoon Workshop topic is to be determined.

If the Polk County Emergency Operations Center becomes unavailable due to the situation COVID-19, the conference will be transitioned to a virtual conference via Zoom Teleconferencing.

Registration is now open for the 7th Annual TECHCON. If you are planning on attending TECHCON, please register for TECHCON by filling out a TECHCON Registration Form on the Section website at



<http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftech-conregistration/>. Some of our previous presenters at TECHCON are planning on returning for the 7th Annual TECHCON, but we are looking for new presenters for the 7th Annual TECHCON as well. If you wish to be a presenter, please fill out the TECHCON Registration Form and our current Section Manager Darrell Davis KT4WX will get back with you. 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/>.

The Hernando County Amateur Radio Assoc.
Presents the ARRL Sanctioned

“Brooksville Hamfest”

Saturday February 20, 2021



\$6.00

Admission
INCLUDES PARKING!!

Sand Hill Scout Reservation

11210 Cortez Blvd. (Hwy 50), Brooksville, FL 34613-5401

**Ham Gear
New & Used**

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146.715/.115

**Gate Opens
8:00am**

**VE
Testing
9 to 11**

Inside Tables Tailgating Space
\$10 ea. \$10 ea.

Clip & Save Coupon

\$1.00 OFF
Admission

Gates Open 8:00 am

Good for up to 4 admissions



www.hcara.org

For Tailgating Space or Inside Tables
contact:

Email: wb0ysx@tampabay.rr.com