

Section Manager
Mike Douglas W4MDD

Assistant Section Manager
SM Emeritus
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

Assistant Section
Manager Administrative
Randy Payne, K4EZM

Assistant Section Manager
Legal Affairs
Biff Craine, K4LAW

Assistant Section Manager
Skywarn Liasion
Norman Xanders, WX4NEX

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

Assistant Section Manager
Publications
Jim Weslager, K3WR

Affiliated Club Coordinator
Steve Maslin, NS4M

Public Information Coordinator
Mike Lunsford, KB4FHP

Assistant Section Manager
Ben Henley, KI4IGX

Section Traffic Manager
Doug Williams, N2DW

Section Emergency Coordinator
Christine Duez, KK4KJN

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

HELLO WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION!

From the mind, or lack thereof, of the Section Manager,

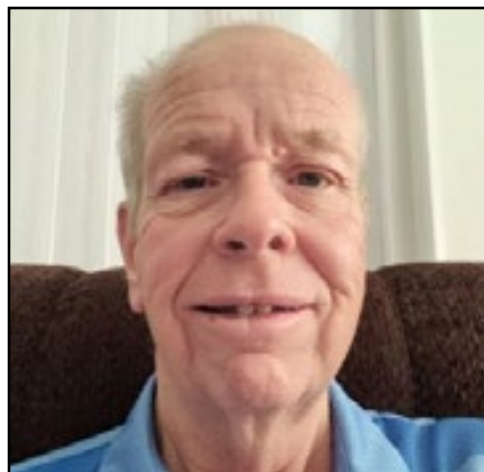
A belated Happy New Year.

As this the week before Hamcation my comments will be brief. Those of you he will be there, stroll by the ARRL Section stop by and say hi!

I'll be there beginning Wednesday as I'll be helping to setup that area. Looking forward to see the turnout, which I hope will be huge.

73,

Mike, W4MDD



8TH ANNUAL TECHCON DRAWING CLOSER

The 8th Annual TECHCON is drawing closer. The date for the 8th Annual TECHCON, the Annual Technical Conference for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, is Friday February 25, 2022 and Saturday February 26, 2022.



The venue for the 8th Annual TECHCON will be the Polk County Emergency Operations Center, located between Winter Haven and Lakeland in Polk County. The 7th Annual TECHCON, held in February of this year, had been scheduled to take place at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center, but became a virtual event only via Zoom due to concerns from COVID-19.

The 8th Annual TECHCON will be a face to face conference as it has been in years past but also will be available for viewing via Zoom teleconferencing. The 8th Annual TECHCON will see a resumption of the Friday Afternoon Workshop and Friday Evening Social. The presentations for TECHCON will be recorded and available for viewing on the Section's YouTube channel immediately after the conclusion of

TECHCON.

We are looking for presenters for this year's conference. If you have an area of interest that you would like to do a presentation upon, please contact Darrell Davis KT4WX via email at kt4wx@arrl.net. The topic of the presentation is up to the presenter, as long as is it technology oriented.

Registration for the 8th Annual TECHCON is now open. You may register to either attend or make a presentation for TECHCON at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconregistration/>.

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

8TH ANNUAL TECHCON UPDATE - FRIDAY WORKSHOP CANCELED

The 8th Annual TECHCON Friday Afternoon Workshop, which was scheduled for Friday February 25, 2022, has been canceled.

The Friday Evening Social scheduled for Friday February 25, 2022 and the Saturday General Presentation Tracks scheduled for Saturday February 26, 2022 will carry on as scheduled.

The following statement was issued by Darrell Davis KT4WX, Chairman of TECHCON concerning the cancellation of the Friday Afternoon Workshop, "I was scheduled to be presenter of the Friday Afternoon Workshop. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I was forced to cancel the Friday Afternoon Workshop. I will be conducting an abbreviated version of the



workshop, as a two time slot presentation during the Saturday General Presentation tracks. I apologize to anyone that this cancellation may have inconvenienced."

The Saturday General Presentations Track speaking schedule and presentation descriptions are scheduled to be published towards the end of next week.

ORLANDO HAMCATION 2022

February 11-13 2022

Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo

The Orlando HamCation will host the 2022 ARRL National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The convention memorializes the 75th anniversary of HamCation, which is one of the largest annual gatherings of radio amateurs in the US. The attendance was 24,200 for the 3 day event in 2020

The convention kicks off on Thursday, February 10th with a series of day-long ARRL Training Tracks and the ARRL National Convention luncheon at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld.

The ARRL has additional information regarding their training tracks and more during the national convention at their website - <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-expo>,



On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 11-13, HamCation will host the rest of the convention at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park in Orlando.

HamCation is sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL-affiliated club, and is supported by volunteers from radio clubs throughout the region.

Come to the world's second largest hamfest on February 11-13, 2022 in beautiful Orlando, Florida for [HamCation 2022](#) and the [ARRL National Convention](#).



BIKE MS CITRUS TOUR 2022 DATE SET

The date for the Bike MS Citrus Tour 2022 has been set for Saturday March 5, 2022 and Sunday March 6, 2022. The Bike MS Citrus Tour will start and finish both days at the Omni Resort at Champions Gate which is near the Osceola/Polk County line, with over 95 percent of the ride in the northern and eastern portions of Polk County.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section has sponsored the amateur radio communications for the Bike MS Citrus Tour since 2018. The Bike MS Citrus Tour for 2021 was canceled due to concerns from COVID-19.

For more information on the Bike MS Citrus Tour or to sign up to volunteer to help with communications, please go to the amateur radio Bike MS Citrus Tour page at



<https://www.citrustour.org/>

A group of veteran Bike MS Citrus Tour volunteers went up to the Northern Florida Section to assist with communications for the Bike MS PGA Tour Cycle To The Shore on Saturday October 23, 2021 and Sunday October 24, 2021.



ARRL SOUTHERN FLORIDA SECTION ARES NET TO EXPAND TO SIX DAY A WEEK OPERATION

The Southern Florida ARES Net (SFAN) currently meets on Saturday on 3940 KHz at 0800 hours. SFAN will be expanding from operation on Saturday to operation six days a week: Monday through Saturday. The start time of 0800 EDT will remain the same. The new Net Manager Ed Johnson W2PH issued the following statement concerning the expansion of the Southern Florida ARES Net.

“We will be beginning the new SFAN on Saturday March 5, 2022. It will meet on 3940 kHz at 8am Monday thru Saturday. The net will act as a means to join ARES groups in the lower half of Florida and will change to the Southern Florida Emergency Net during times of deployment. We have set up an email system for those interested in participating by registering at SFAN@groups.io. We will be looking for Net Control Stations as well as net Liaisons to both ARES and traffic nets for the purposes of training and developing means for passing Welfare traffic into the NTS.

Interested amateurs should contact the Net Manager, Ed W2PH at ed@w2ph.com

or w2ph@arrl.net. We also have an email network you can join at the website: SFAN@groups.io where you can register and be kept informed of our upcoming activity.”

Johnson has noted in his announcements on various HF nets that volunteers for Net Control from all three ARRL Florida Sections, will be accepted, so that net controls will be sufficiently saturated throughout the State of Florida, to support relaying of message during adverse band conditions. Johnson also stated that the net will primarily service the Southern Florida Section ARES and West Central Florida Section ARES and will be the counterpart of the Northern Florida ARES Net that currently meets on Monday through Saturday at 0900 on 3950 KHz.



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	Sanford Wyatt KM4WXX
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.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

02/19/2022

Highlands County Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest

First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine

111 Lake Josephine Drive

Sebring, FL 33870

Website: <http://highlandsamateurradio.com>



3/05/22

Charlotte County Hamfest 2022

30337 Cedar Road

Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Website: <https://www.prra.club>



4/09/22

TARCFest Spring 2022

Tampa ARC Clubhouse

7801 N. 22nd St.

Tampa, FL 33610

Website: <https://hamclub.org/wp>



Hillsborough County ARES/
RACES provides emergency
communications in the Tampa Bay
area during a critical event.

Are you prepared? Please join us
for our weekly Hillsborough ARES/
RACES Information and Training
Net on Thursday evenings at 7:30
pm on the W4BCI repeater in
Tampa.



Receive: 444.225 MHz, Transmit:
449.225 MHz, +5 MHz offset,
PL tone 146.2 Hz.

We feature info on ARES activities and upcoming EdVantage training classes.

All check-ins are welcome!

TRAVELERS REST SPECIAL EVENT STATION ACTIVE FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND IN FEBRUARY

The Travelers Rest Amateur Radio Club will be holding a Special Event Station to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Travelers Rest RV Resort located in Dade City in Pasco County. They will be running the special event callsign W5O. They will be operating on or near 7240 KHz on 40 Meters or 14240 KHz on 20 Meters. A certificate is available for working this special event station. For more information on this operation look at the Special Events Station column in the February 2022 QST Magazine.

Thanks to Chris Bloxsom AA4CB,

ARRL Public Information Officer, for the information to generate this press release.

