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Issue #64

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Mike Douglas W4MDD

**Assistant Section Manager
Technology / SM Emeritus**
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

**Assistant Section Manager
Administrative**
Randy Payne, K4EZM

**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

**Assistant Section Manager
Affiliated Club Coordinator**
Jim Schilling, KG4JSZ

**Assistant Section Manager
Pubic Service Community**
Mike Lunsford, KB4FHP

**Assistant Section Manager
National Traffic System**
Doug Williams, N2DW

Section Traffic Manager
Dave Rockwell, W4PXE

Section Emergency Coordinator
Bill Johnson N4NOA

Public Information Coordinator
Christine Duez, KK4KJN

Section Youth Coordinator
Open

WELCOME TO THE REBOOT OF THE WCF PRESSER AND WCF EXPERIMENTER

By Darrell Davis KT4WX
Assistant Manager - Technology

Welcome to the reboot of the WCF PRESSER and the WCF EXPERIMENTER. It has been some time since there has been a publication of the WCF PRESSER and or the WCF EXPERIMENTER. I would like to welcome to the publication team, Russ Delaney N4RTD, one of our ARRL Technical Specialists. Russ will be assisting me in helping to gather content for both newsletters.

Being Russ is retired, and I still work for a living, he can devote more time to helping to gather good content for both newsletters. Russ will make a nice compliment to our publication team. Russ has quite a talent for helping his fellow hams as

well as in video production. Russ hosts the YouTube Channel called "Spurious Emissions" that has very well done and professionally produced videos that are oriented towards amateur radio. Please welcome Russ to our publication team.

Jim Weslager K3WR our Assistant Section Manager for Publications, is continuing in his capacity doing layout for both our newsletters. Thanks Jim, for sharing your talent with the amateur radio community.

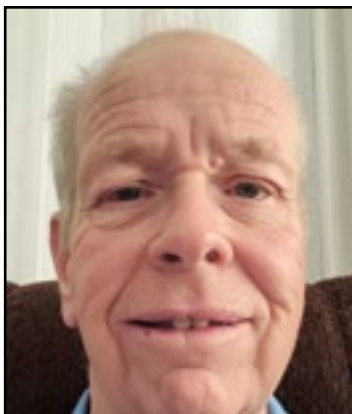
However, this does not let everyone else "off the hook" so to speak. We still need you, the reader, to send in good content to our team so we can have nice quality material to publish in both the WCF PRESSER and the WCF EXPERIMENTER. You may send in that content to me via email at kt4wx@arrl.net or Russ via email at rtdelan@outlook.com.

Meanwhile, enjoy the latest editions of the WCF PRESSER and WCF EXPERIMENTER.

MIKE DOUGLAS, W4MDD ELECTED TO A SECOND TERM AS SECTION MANAGER & MICKEY BAKER, N4MB AS DIVISION DIRECTOR. JEFF BEALS, WA4AW ELECTED VICE DIRECTOR

On Friday November 18, 2022 ballots in the election cycle for Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section and the ARRL Southeastern Division were counted. The following was the results of that count:

Michael Douglas, W4MDD was unopposed for re-election and was declared elected. Douglas has served as Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section



since January 1, 2021. Douglas will begin his second term as Section Manager on January 1, 2023.

Jeff Beals, WA4AW, won a three way re-election bid to become the new ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director. Beals has previously served as the ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director from 2009-2013, and Section Manager of the



ARRL Southern Florida Section for two terms from 2015-2018. Beals will take office as Vice Director on January 1, 2023. Beals succeeds Jim Schilling, KG4JSZ, of Haines City, in Polk County, who had served as Vice Director since January 1, 2020, who did not seek re-election as Vice Director.



Mickey Baker, N4MB won a four way re-election bid for a second term as ARRL Southeastern Division Director. Baker has served as Division Director since January 1, 2022. Baker will begin his second term as Division Director on January 1, 2023.

For full details of the ARRL Southeastern Division election you may read the ARRL News article at <http://www.arrl.org/news/2022-arrl-board-of-directors-election-results>.

9TH ANNUAL TECHCON DATE AND VENUE SET



The date for the 9th Annual TECHCON, the Annual Technical Conference for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, is Friday February 24, 2023 and Saturday February 25, 2023.

The venue for the 9th Annual TECHCON will be the [Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Complex](#), located at 9450 E. Columbus Dr., Tampa, FL 33519, on the east side of Tampa, just on the west side of I-75.

The 9th Annual TECHCON will be a face to face conference but also will be available for viewing

via Zoom teleconferencing once again this year. The 9th Annual TECHCON will see a resumption of the Friday afternoon Workshop, for the first time since 2020.

The presentations for TECHCON will be recorded and available for viewing on the Section's YouTube channel immediately after the conclusion of TECHCON which is located at <https://www.youtube.com/@arrlwestcentralflorida-sect8740/featured>

**REGISTER FOR THE
9TH ANNUAL TECHCON**

You may register to either attend or make a presentation for TECHCON at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/>

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

NEW AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR AND TWO EAGLE NET ASSISTANT NET MANAGERS APPOINTED

On Tuesday January 3, 2022, Mike Douglas W4MDD, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, made the final round of appointments to start the year 2023.

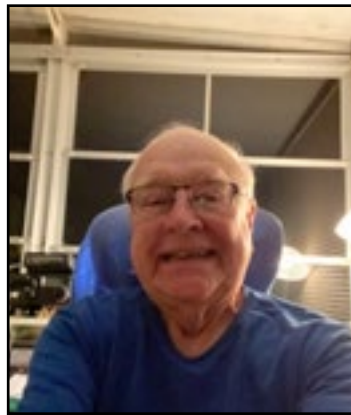
Jim Schilling KG4JSZ, has been appointed as the ARRL



Affiliated Club Coordinator and an Assistant Section Manager. Schilling was first licensed in 2000, and has served in a number of capacities in amateur radio clubs and organizations. Schilling served as President of the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council, which sponsors the Tampa Bay Hamfest, from 2004 through 2007, and then served as President of the Lockheed Martin Amateur Radio Association from 2008 through 2010. Schilling was then elected in 2019 to be ARRL Vice Director for the ARRL Southeastern Division, which includes all three ARRL Florida sections. Schilling also

currently serves as Secretary and Director of Special Ops for the Mid Florida DX Association: <http://www.w4fdx.com/>. In his professional career, Schilling works as a mechanical engineer for Lockheed Martin in Orlando.

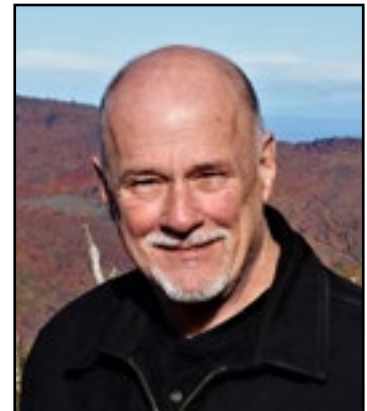
Ron Balaze KE8B, has been appointed as an ARRL Net Manager to serve as an Assistant Net Manager for the Eagle Net, the NTS Traffic Net for



the ARRL West Central Florida Section. Balaze currently serves as the net control for the Eagle Net on Sunday evening. Balaze was first licensed in 1978, and upgraded to General class in 1979. Balaze was inactive for a number of years, before retiring and subsequently moving to Florida. Balaze began his return to amateur radio with a Yaesu FT-60R handheld, and has now expanded into a full fledged HF, VHF, and UHF station. Balaze is a member of the Sarasota Emer-

gency Radio Club (SERC) and a supporter of the West Central Florida Group, the owners of the NI4CE Repeater System. In his professional career, Balaze worked as a weigh-master, weights and measures inspector, meteorologist, and concluded his career as the laboratory manager of the state meteorology lab where they calibrated mass, volume, length and temperature standards.

Jack Harris W4AXE, has been appointed as an ARRL Net Manager to serve as an Assistant Net Manager for the



Eagle Net, the NTS Traffic Net for the ARRL West Central Florida Section. Harris currently serves as the net control for the Eagle Net on Wednesday evening. Harris was first licensed as a Technician class licensee in 1995, and upgraded to General class in 2005, and then upgraded to Extra class in 2021. In his professional career of over 40 years, Harris has worked in the IT industry, specifically in the area of cybersecurity. Harris is currently working on his Ph.D. in Technology.

WINTER 2023

SECTION ARES LUNCHEON AND MEETING

DATE AND VENUE SET

The date and venue for the Winter 2023 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Luncheon and ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting have been set. The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Luncheon will be held at 1100 EDT on Saturday January 28, 2023, at the Golden Corral located at 815 Providence Road, Brandon, FL 33511. The Golden Corral is on the west side of Brandon, very close to the east side of I-75.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting will be held at 1300 EDT on Saturday January 28, 2023, at the Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Complex located at 9450 E. Columbus Dr., Tampa, FL 33619. The Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Complex is home to the Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center and is located on the east side of Tampa, very close to the west side of I-75.



As is traditional, the Section ARES Meeting will be simultaneously conducted on Zoom and on the Section YouTube channel which is located at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFA4-HEjr-IYMFisVG_Nk5A.

The Zoom meeting information for the Section ARES Meeting has been published and is located on the Section ARES page located at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-section-programs/ares/>.

K9XV & W4CWJ

ELLEN WHITE, W1YL

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

For the first time in the history of the Ellen White W1YL Award, there are two recipients of the award. The Ellen White, W1YL Award was established in 2016 in memory of Ellen White, W1YL who recently became a Silent Key in November of 2022. The Ellen White, W1YL Award is to name the amateur radio operator who has made the greatest contribution to amateur radio in the ARRL West Central Florida Section.

The 2022 Ellen White, W1YL Award recipients are

Tom Chance, K9XV and Chuck Johnston, W4CWJ.

Tom Chance, K9XV, being active in Charlotte County ARES since he moved here following retirement in 2015, has been the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Charlotte County since April 2021. Chance led Charlotte County ARES in its response to the landfall of Hurricane Ian in late September of 2021 and early October of 2022, which occurred in Charlotte County. Charlotte County ARES remained in service for two weeks following landfall.

Chuck Johnston, W4CWJ, Assistant Section Manager for Rural Communities since February 2021, is the coordinator for the Sarasota Agricultural Recovery Group (SARG) since its inception in 2010, obtained his amateur radio license in 2015, and successfully integrated amateur radio into SARG. In addition, Johnston led SARG in the recovery following the landfall of Hurricane Ian, and planned the exercises "High and Dry" in 2021 and "High and Dry - Part 2", earlier in 2022.

For detailed biographies of Chance please go to <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2021/07/29/wcf-section-press-release-21-35/> and for Johnston please go to <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2021/03/15/wcf-section-press-release-21-12/>.

Mike Douglas, W4MDD, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, made the following comments about Chance and Johnston receiving the 2022 Ellen White W1YL Award, "This year we had three nominees for this annual award. They were Thomas Chance, K9XV,



2022 Award Recipients

Tom Chance, K9XV

Chuck Johnson, W4CWJ



Tom Chance, K9XV

Charles Johnston, W4CWJ and Paul Toth, NB9X. Paul Toth had sent a glowing and heart felt letter in support of Tom Chance.

As this was a very challenging Hurricane season and the three candidates were all deserving of the Ellen White Award. It was a tough call as who should receive the award. As Section Manager I have made the decision to award both Charles Johnston and Thomas Chance the Ellen White Award for 2022. I and on behalf, I'm sure, most if not all Amateurs in West Central Florida Section owe a



Chuck Johnson, W4CWJ

very large thanks to Paul, Chuck and Tom for their yeoman efforts, this extreme year."

The ARRL West Central Florida Section congratulates Tom Chance, K9XV and Chuck Johnston, W4CWJ on being named the 2022 Ellen White W1YL Award recipients. The 2022 Ellen White W1YL Award will be presented at the ARRL forum during the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 10, 2022.

The West Central Florida Group, the owners and operators of the NI4CE Repeater System, have sponsored a one year ARRL membership for one of the recipients, and an anonymous donor has sponsored a one year ARRL membership for the other recipient.

For all the details and history of the Ellen White W1YL Award you may go to <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/ellen-white-w1yl-award/>

NEW EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR SARASOTA COUNTY ARES

Mike Douglas, W4MDD, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, has appointed Chuck Cooper, K1CHC to be the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Sarasota County ARES, also known as SRQARES, effective on Tuesday December 13, 2022.

Chuck Cooper, K1CHC, succeeds Gary Wells, WB9AYD, who recently stepped down as ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Sarasota County ARES due to his moving out of area in the near future. Wells had served as ARRL Emergency Coordinator for

Sarasota County ARES since September 2019.

Cooper, originally from Ipswich, Massachusetts, has had a lifelong interest in radios and electronics, beginning with listening to shortwave radio on his grandmother's wood cabinet floor model vacuum tube radio. Cooper progressed into being in Citizens Band radio, then obtained his first amateur radio license in the late 1970's with the callsign KA1GKY, and currently holds a General class license with the callsign K1CHC.

Cooper started an ARES group in his

local area to support emergency communications for his local police department, and for his work with this ARES group, Cooper received an ARRL Emergency Communications Commendation from the ARRL Eastern Massachu-



setts Section for "Extraordinary Performance and Integration of ARES into Public Safety Operations".

Cooper in his professional career, served in the Ipswich Police Department from 1973 until 2006, as a police officer, detective, and Director of Emergency Management for the last five years of his career.



NEW SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER, ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER, & EAGLE NET MANAGER APPOINTED

On January 1, 2023, Mike Douglas W4MDD, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, made the following appointments effective:

Dave Rockwell W4PXE was appointed to be the new Section Traffic Manager. Rockwell succeeds Doug Williams N2DW, who had been Section Traffic Manager since 2005. Rockwell had previously served as Net Manager of the Eagle Net, the NTS traffic net for the ARRL West Central Florida Section since April 2014, and as ARRL Public Information Coordinator from January 2015 through early January 2016. Rockwell was the Ellen White W1YL Award recipient for 2019. Rockwell is active in Pinellas County ARES/ACS, serves as an ARRL Technical Specialist, and also provides communications as a volunteer for the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Doug Williams N2DW, was appointed to be an Assistant Section Manager, as Traffic Net Liaison. Williams had previously served as Section Traffic Manager since 2005, is active on many NTS traffic nets on HF and VHF, and in Pinellas County ARES/ACS as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator.



Sanford Wyatt KM4WXX, was appointed to be the new Net Manager of the Eagle Net, the NTS traffic net for the ARRL West Central



Florida Section. Wyatt succeeds Dave Rockwell W4PXE, who had served as Net Manager for the Eagle Net since April 2014, and stepped down on December 31, 2022 to assume his new appointment as Section Traffic Manager.

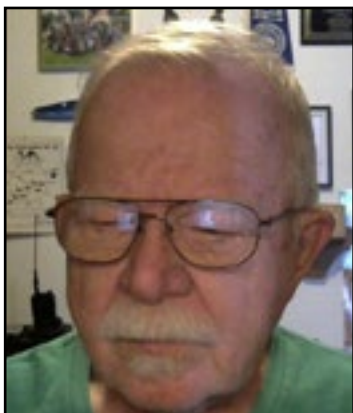
Wyatt also serves as the Net Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on VHF/UHF, since February 2021. Wyatt is active in the Sarasota Agricultural Recovery Group. Wyatt was the Ellen White W1YL Award recipient for 2021.

All the above appointments were previously announced at the ARRL forum held during the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 10, 2022, by Mike Douglas W4MDD, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section. All these appointments became effective on January 1, 2023.

SECTION MANAGER ANNOUNCES CABINET LEVEL CHANGES

At the ARRL forum on Saturday December 10, 2022, Mike Douglas W4MDD, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, announced the following changes to his cabinet, which involves many current cabinet members changing to different cabinet positions. The following changes, became effective on Tuesday December 13, 2022:

Bill Johnson, N4NOA, who lives in Brandon in Hillsborough County, has been appointed to be the new Section Emergency Coordinator.



Johnson was previously the Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Southern Florida Section in the early to mid 1980's. At that time, nine of the ten

counties of the ARRL West Central Florida Section were part of the ARRL Southern Florida Section. Johnson succeeds Christine Duez K4KJN who had been Section Emergency Coordinator since August 2021.

Christine Duez, K4KJN, who lives near Lake Wales



in Polk County, was appointed to be the new Public Information Coordinator. Duez succeeds Mike Lunsford KB4FHP, who had been Public Information Coordinator since early 2021.

Mike Lunsford, KB4FHP, who also lives near Lake Wales in Polk County, was



appointed to be an Assistant Section Manager as Public Safety Liaison.

Lunsford in addition to having served as Public Information Coordinator since 2021, has also served as the President of the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs since January 2022, and was just re-elected to a second term for 2023.



Got Club News?

Let's hear it here and share it with others in the WCF section.



We will be having our Winter Field Day and would love to see you there. Come down and get on the air. You do not need to be a member to attend. If you plan on coming let us know by emailing wfd@eparsonline.org



If you are serious about emergency communications, we welcome you to join us for our yearly event. We are sure you will find this event a pleasant change and challenge to that of a normal Summer Field Day

When: Jan 28/29 2023
 Time: 2pm Sat. to 2pm Sunday (24 hr event)
 Where: San Antonio Train Depot
 32627 Railroad Ave, San Antonio, FL 33576
 Email: wfd@eparsonline.org to sign up

East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

Follow us on





Food and refreshments will be available.
 DX contacts will be available when the bands are open :)
 Perfect opportunity for Technician class operators to get on HF

AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEER OPERATORS NEEDED

By Dana Rodakis, K4LK and Mike Bresse, W2YS

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease that affects the central nervous system and can cause symptoms such as numbness, tingling, mood changes, memory problems, pain, fatigue, blindness and/or paralysis.

Every year in March the National Multiple Sclerosis Society hosts a charity bicycle ride on the streets in Polk County to raise money for research, treatment and those living with the disease. Participating bicycle riders train for the ride and fund raise with \$250 minimum. This year the ride will be held on March 18 & 19.

On both days the ride begins and ends at the Omni Orlando Resort, 1200 Masters Blvd, Championsgate, FL 33896. The riders can choose the distance they have trained for. There are distances of 23, 50, 72 and 100 miles. There are 7 rest stops along the routes so the riders can take a break and get something to eat or drink. On Sunday there are 23 and 50 mile routes and 2 rest stops. We are expecting close to 500 riders.

Amateur radio operators provide ALL communications between mobile units, the command post, supply vehicles, rest stops and NMSS staff. Communications is conducted via a directed NET using tactical call signs and location tracking via APRS and new software that allows the NET Manager to dispatch and track mobile units. We use a linked repeater system on UHF. It's the perfect emergency training without the emergency. Many of the amateur volunteers have been supporting this event using their personal vehicles. Some come from Jacksonville and Miami. We are on duty between 6:30 AM and about 5 PM (Saturday) and about 2 PM (Sunday)



We need additional help in the following areas:

Mobile Positions:

- **Rover Unit** - A rover unit is a mobile unit (personal vehicle) on the course that is unable to transport bicycles & riders.
- **SAG Unit (Support & Gear)** - A SAG unit is a mobile unit (personal vehicle) on the course that can transport bicycles & riders.
- **Greenway Unit (Support & Gear)** - A Greenway unit is a pickup truck supplied by Greenway Ford in Orlando. They transport bicycles & riders and are typically the first units on the course and the last off. (Greenways are subject to availability).
- **Logistics (Event Production) Support** - Driving Rest Stop supply trucks.
- **Shadow Unit** - A volunteer that rides with a member of the NMSS staff or a Bicycle Mechanic to provide a direct link to that person during the event.



- Passenger (Radio Operator, non-driver) - A non-driving passenger who rides in a mobile unit to provide radio communications for that unit so the driver can concentrate on the road.
- Ride Marshall - A participating, fundraising rider that carries a portable radio to relay weather and road hazards and provides mentoring to other riders on proper etiquette during group riding.

Stationary Positions:

- Rest Stop Communicator - A volunteer stationed at a rest stop to communicate the needs and status of that rest stop.
- Command Post Support - A volunteer stationed at the command post to assist the primary net controller.
- Start / Finish - A volunteer positioned at the starting line or finish line and providing radio communications for their position.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping with this event, please visit to www.citrustour.org and click the "Register" button to express your desire to help. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Editors Note: Here is the contact information for Dan and Mike

Dana Rodakis, K4LK
Amateur Radio Coordinator
Greenway 1
bikeMS Citrus Tour
k4lk@mac.com

Mike Bresse, W2YS
Net Manager
bikeMS Citrus Tour
mike@slbservicesgroup.com

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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.