

THE WCF PRESSER



WCF Country
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

March 2019
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SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the March issue of the WCF PRESSER.

February was certainly a busy month and went by so fast. Your ARRL Section Leadership was in attendance at the Orlando Hamcation in early February and several in the Section Leadership were presenters at the 5th Annual TECHCON. Thank you to all of you who were presenters at TECHCON for your very good and fascinating presentations as we have several new topics.

Thanks to Dave Birnbaum K2LYV, one of our ARRL Technical Specialist, who did the Friday afternoon workshop/seminar on Introduction to Python. I certainly learned quite a bit about Python and will now add it to my list of preferred programming languages.

Hamfest season continues into the month of March, through



April, and ends in the month of May.

Also we will have the 32nd Annual Bike MS Citrus Tour coming up in early May. If you are planning on volunteering, please go to the Citrus Tour Amateur Radio web site at <http://www.citrustour.org>. We are now beginning the final planning and preparation stages for the Bike MS Citrus Tour as well.

Also we are planning to restart the WCF EXPERIMENTER by the first of April so if you have any good technical oriented articles please submit them to our

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newsletter editor Jim Weslager K3WR via email at weslager@gmail.com.

I will be continuing my Bits and Bytes column. If you have a project, project summary, or even a short tech tip, please send it in. Jim will work with you on helping you prepare your article.

Since we are on the subject of newsletter, we are always looking for good news to print in the WCF PRESSER each month. If you have any articles please send those also to Jim Weslager K3WR via email at weslager@gmail.com. Having content makes a newsletter a lot easier to publish.

County Parks On The Air (CPOTA) begins on March 1. Take time and go out and activate a county park. There is now active a County Parks On The Air Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/>

arrlwcfcpota. For further information read the column about County Parks On The Air in this newsletter.

Last of all do not forget that the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season is now only 3 months away from starting. Be thinking about your hurricane supplies, radio equipment, personal supplies, etc. Now is the time to work on getting that stuff when there is no rush. Waiting until 5 days before a storm can make impact, and notice I say "can make impact" is too late and that is a fact we were all reminded of during Hurricane Irma in 2017. Now is the time to prepare.

See you all next month.

SPRING QUARTERLY ARES MEETING - 4/20/19

The Spring 2019 West Central Florida Section ARES meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 20, 2019 at the Pasco County EOC in New Port Richey at 1300.

Preceding the Section ARES meeting, there will be the traditional Section ARES Luncheon at 1100 at Sonny's BBQ at 5130 Little Road in New Port Richey.

For more information on the Section ARES Luncheon, including location and directions, go to

<http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-spring-2019/>.

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2019 BIKE MS CITRUS TOUR

5/04/19 AND 5/05/19

That time is starting to draw closer. The 2019 Bike MS Citrus Tour will be held on Saturday May 4th and Sunday May 5th 2019. The ride takes place in the northeast side of Polk County not far from Champions Gate.



There will be some route changes that will be publicly announced sometime during the month of March. One change that is being made public is that the start and end of the ride on both Saturday and Sunday will be at the Omni Hotel at Champions Gate. The ride will not be starting or finishing at Fantasy of Flight as it has done in recent years.

There are typically several different rides of various lengths on Saturday and Sunday. Amateur radio is the primary method of communications support for the Bike MS Citrus Tour. For the second year in a row, the ARRL West Central Florida Section is the sponsor of the amateur radio communications for the bike tour.

Mike Bresse W2YS, one of our Assistant Section Managers, is the amateur radio coordinator for the event. There is tentatively scheduled a radio programming and check out session on Friday May 3rd, at 1800, for anyone who wishes to do so, may come and be sure their radios are programmed with all the proper frequencies for operations and or logistics. Also there will be post event get together to say thank you

to those who volunteered and also as a "hotwash" to discuss what went right and where we can improve.

We are need of volunteers for make the communications support for this event successful. To those who have already signed up for this year, thank you. If you have not done so, you may register to volunteer at the following website: <http://www.citrustour.org>.



As the preparation for the ride progress, all ride related documents are posted to this website. If you have any questions concerning the Bike MS Citrus Tour feel free to contact Mike Bresse W2YS via email at mbresse@slbservicesgroup.com.



COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

March 2, 2019

Charlotte County Hamfest 2019
Punta Gorda Boat Club
802 West Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

March 2, 2019

ZAARC Hamfest 2019
St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church
5855 16th Street
Zephyrhills, FL 33539

March 16, 2019

Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest 2019
Millennium Academy
10005 Ridge Road
New Port Richey, FL 34652

March 23, 2019

Sarasota Emergency Radio Club Hamfest 2019
Sarasota Red Cross HQ
2001 Cantu Ct.
Sarasota, FL 34232

April 6, 2019

Pasco County Spring Hamfest 2019
Gunn Highway Flea Market
2317 Gunn Highway
Odessa, FL 33556

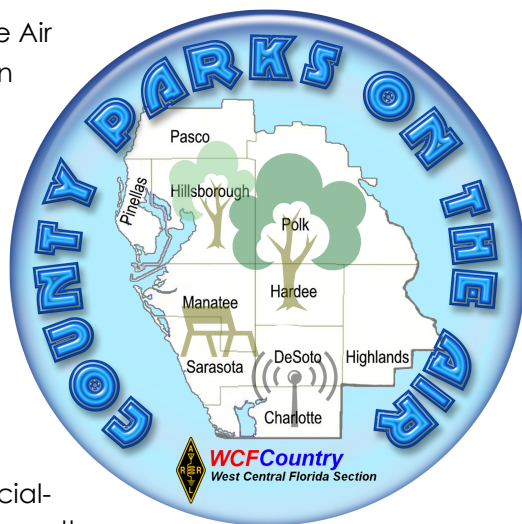
April 13, 2019

TARCFest XLV
TARC Clubhouse
7801N. 22nd St.
Tampa, FL

COUNTY PARKS ON THE AIR STARTING 3/01/19

County Parks On The Air will get underway on March 1, 2019 and run through the remainder of the year. The list of county parks and the event rules is on the CPOTA web page which is on the Section website at <http://arrlwcfl.org/wcf-special-events/county-parks-on-the-air/>.

Last month, a County Parks On The Air Facebook page was created to support the County Parks On The Air activities. The purpose for the County Parks On The Air Facebook page is:



- (1) For activators to register their intent to activate a county park on a certain date, time, bands, modes, and or frequencies they intend to operate upon.
- (2) Post pictures of activations either in progress or recently completed.
- (3) Show pictures of stations and or related equipment used for an activation or planned activation.
- (4) Share general statistics from a recent activation or a chase to share his statistics of operation.

Anyone may post to the Facebook page but we ask that everyone keep your posts civil and without any obscene, indecent, or profane language. Any posts that violate these rules will be removed by a page administrator.

We thank everyone for their understanding on this matter

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager - ARRL West Central Florida Section



West Central Florida STM Reports

JANUARY 2019

Doug Williams N2DW STM

Station Activity Reports (SAR)

Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
N2DW	0	9	8	0	17
W8IM	0	8	14	1	23
KT4WX	1	7	8	1	17
W4INK	1	6	8	0	15
N1PZP	0	14	31	0	45

Public Service Honor Roll

N2DW	107
W8IM	103
KT4WX	97
W4INK	75
N1PZP	110

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	31	1216	49	970	W4PXE
SPARC	40	522	41	1070	KK4WTE

CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club

Based in New Port Richey in Pasco County, the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club, or GCARC as it is often called, operates a Analog/Fusion repeater, with the club callsign of WA4GDN, on 146.670 MHz with a PL tone of 146.2 Hz. Note: This repeater will be on tone access for analog mode by the time you read this.

The club is blessed with a clubhouse located at 6909 Tierra Verde St. in Port Richey, that they use for their monthly meetings, for ARRL Field Day, and other events.

GCARC holds a spring and fall tailgate hamfest each year at the Millenium Academy in New Port Richey.

GCARC has a website at <http://www.gulfcoastarc.org>, and Social Media pages on Facebook, Twitter, and a YouTube Channel as well. GCARC streams their monthly club meetings on Facebook live.

The ARRL Public Information Officer for the club is Chris Bloxsom AA4CB and you may contact him with questions about the club via email at aa4cb@arrl.net.

GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: A screenshot of their homepage.

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club
"An ARRL Affiliated Club"

Visit us on Social Media

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WELCOME TO THE GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB!

(West Central Florida Section, An ARRL Affiliated Club)

Next Board Meeting February 25th, 2018 6:00 PM

Next General Meeting is right after that at 7:00 PM

We are located at 6909 Tierra Verde St. Port Richey, FL 34668 in Pasco County, West Central Florida just Northwest of Tampa. Everyone is welcome!!! Activities to include annual Field Day event, Club Picnics, Annual Club Ham Fest, Fox Hunts, ARRL/VEC exams, special events, local ARES/RACES support, Club HF station, VHF/UHF repeaters and more.

Please email webmaster@gulfcoastarc.org with any suggestions, content (especially upcoming events), photos or Ham related items of interest.