

# THE WCF PRESSER



**WCF Country**  
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

Mar 2020  
Issue # 47

## 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 the March issue of the WCF PRESSER.

This issue wound up being jammed packed with a lot of feature articles that I hope you enjoy reading. The month of February has been to say the least a whirlwind of activity for me and March looks to almost be the same. February started with all the activities of the Orlando Hamcation, the Highlands County Hamfest in the middle and the 6th Annual TECHCON near the end of the month of February. Now I am in final preparations for the Bike MS Citrus Tour for 2020 which is the first weekend of March. Also there are five hamfests scheduled for the month of March.

I would like to thank all of you who attended our 6th Annual TECHCON. Planning is already beginning for the 7th Annual



TECHCON which will be the same weekend in February of next year, which is always two weeks after the Orlando Hamcation. Also in case you have not heard, the 2021 Orlando Hamcation will be the ARRL National Convention, which I know you will enjoy. I also wish to thank all of you who have volunteered to help out with the Bike MS Citrus Tour 2020. Without each and every one of you who volunteer, it would not be possible to support the Bike MS Citrus Tour with communications.

Cont' on page 2

## SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS (CON'T)

After the Bike MS Citrus Tour is completed, I will be getting back to gathering the content for the somewhat late Winter issue of the WCF EXPERIMENTER. We hope to have it out in mid March and then follow it up with the Spring issue in April or May. The busy schedule has hampered me from gathering content and that is why we are running behind on its publication. Thank you for your understanding.

I am personally looking forward to a week off from work in the middle of March for Spring Break in Highlands County to rest up a little. Since the end of January, I have been having back pain issues due to the bus route that I am driving. The route bus is a 19 year old special needs bus and the drivers compartment is very uncomfortable and causing me back issues. I am seeing a chiropractor and it is helping. I also am doing Lidocane patches and resting my back a lot which helps. That time of spring break will be helpful as well. I would appreciate your prayers for me as I look to try to get out of driving a school bus hopefully this summer if all goes well. If I wind up missing an event or two on rare occasion, it is not because I do not want to be there but that I am having back pain and my back could not handle the trip. Thank you for your understanding in advance.

That is all for this issue. Look forward to seeing many of you at an upcoming hamfest or event.

## FLORIDA ARES TASK BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The Florida ARES Task Book is now available for download from the West Central Florida Section ARES

webpage on the Section website

at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-section-programs/ares/>.



The Florida ARES Task Book, originally

adopted from the ARES Task Book created by the ARRL South Texas Section, has been compiled for use in the entire State of Florida by all three ARRL Florida Section ARES organizations. The three ARRL Florida Section Emergency Coordinators worked together on the compilation of the Florida ARES Task Book, and received numerous inputs from the ARRL Emergency Coordinators in all three ARRL Florida Sections.

The Florida ARES Task Book is intended for amateur radio operators who have made themselves available for deployment outside of their own county of residence for a mutual aid response in times of disaster, when such mutual aid is requested by a served agency.

The ARES Task Book is a concept first introduced in the new ARRL ARES Plan which came into effect in January 2019.

## RIVER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULED FOR ARISS CONTACT ON TUESDAY 3/03/20

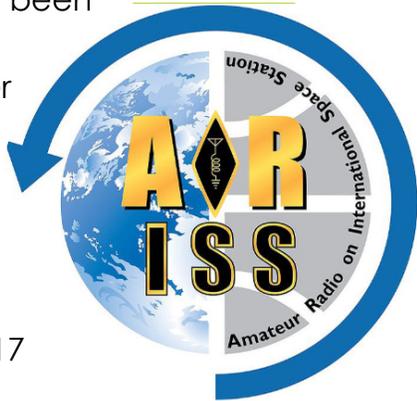
According to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station website (<http://www.ariss.org>), an International Space Station school contact has been

planned with participants at River Ridge High School, New Port Richey, FL. The event is scheduled to begin at approximately 15:17 UTC (10:17 EST) on

March 3, 2020. The duration of the contact is approximately 9 minutes and 30 seconds. The contact will be direct between NA1SS and Ralph McCullough WA3YFQ, who also serves as the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Pasco County. The contact should be audible over the state of Florida and adjacent areas.

Interested parties are invited to listen in on the 145.800 MHz downlink. The contact is expected to be conducted in English.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) inspires students, worldwide, to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering and math through amateur radio communications opportunities with the International Space Station (ISS) on-orbit crew. Students learn about life on board the ISS and explore Earth from space through science and math activities. ARISS provides opportunities for the school community (students, teachers, families and community members) to become more aware of the substantial benefits of human spaceflight and the exploration and discovery that occur on spaceflight journeys. Students have the



opportunity to learn about space technologies and the technologies involved with space communications through exploration of amateur radio.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section wishes the amateur radio team at River Ridge High School success in their contact and ask all other amateur radio operators to not to transmit on the downlink during the contact time. Also, remember that the signal from the International Space Station will experience Doppler effect and that the signal will be slightly above frequency early in the pass and will decrease slightly in frequency as the International Space Station passes overhead.

## ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETINGS LOCATION SWITCH

Due to construction at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center in the months of April and May, the locations for the ARRL West Central Florida

Section Quarterly ARES Meeting for Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 have been switched. The Spring 2020 meeting, scheduled on Saturday April 11, 2020 at 1300, will be held at the Sarasota Red Cross Headquarters, preceded by the Section ARES Luncheon at the Der Dutchmen Restaurant at 1100 on the same date. The Summer 2020 meeting, scheduled for Saturday July 11, 2020 will be held at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center, preceded by the Section ARES Luncheon at Sonny's BBQ on Recker Highway in Winter Haven.



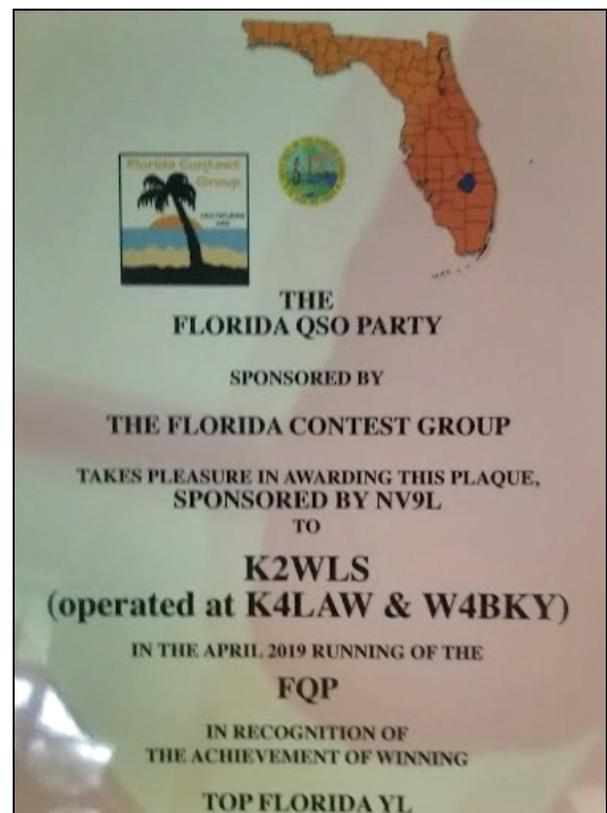
*Cont' next page*

A sincere thanks to Sarasota ARES and Polk ARES for agreeing to the date switch to accommodate the construction taking place at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center. The special events calendar on the Section website has been updated to reflect these changes.

## Dawn Drury K2WLS wins Florida QSO Party Awards

Congratulations to Dawn Drury, K2WLS for receiving two plaques for her outstanding efforts during the 2019 Florida QSO Party! Dawn earned First Place YL entry and First Place SSB for most points by any SSB low power entry! Dawn logged over 1100 QSOs in the 20-hour Florida QSO Party contest time period!

The ARRL West Central Florida Section congratulates Dawn on winning these prestigious Florida QSO Party awards. Dawn serves as a District Emergency Coordinator with the ARRL West Central Florida Section and is an Assistant Emergency Coordinator with Hillsborough County ARES/RACES.



Thanks to Daniel McDonald KA2TOC of the [Tampa Amateur Radio Club](#) for this article.

## 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
<b>Daily</b>	Eagle Net (West Central Florida Section NTS Net)	2030 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Dave Rockwell W4PXE
<b>Monday</b>	West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net	1930 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	J.C. Rivero K4RTC
<b>Thursday</b>	West Central Florida Section Technical Net	2100 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Vacant
<b>Saturday</b>	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

**March 7, 2020**

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



**March 28, 2020**

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



**March 14, 2020**

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



**March 28, 2020**

Pasco County Spring 2020 Hamfest  
Gunn Highway Flea Market  
Odessa, FL 33556

**April 18, 2020**

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



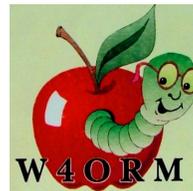
**March, 21, 2020**

ZAARC Hamfest 2020  
St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church  
5855 16th Street  
Zephyrhills, FL, FL 33539



**May 23, 2020**

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



## NEXT NVIS TEST SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY 3/07/20

On Saturday March 7, 2020 at 0900 a Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) test is being conducted on 75 Meters. Larry Gispert KR4X, an ARRL Official Emergency Station and Fred Seely AA4ME, who is with Highlands County ARES, will be overseeing these tests. The test will take place on a frequency of 3913 KHz on Lower Sideband (LSB). Depending upon the Maximum Useable Frequency, test may also be conducted on 60 Meters at 5370 KHz USB (CH-3), and on 40 Meters at 7282 KHz. Note: 60 meters is USB in order to keep emissions within the F.C.C. mandated channel limits. Also the Maximum Useable Frequency (often called the FoF2) info will be used to determine which frequency to use. NVIS theory suggests using the amateur band that is closest but below the projected FoF2 frequency.

Gispert stated the following concerning the NVIS test, "The current data does indicate that any Horizontal HF antenna mounted at a height of less than a quarter wave length above ground does exhibit some NVIS tendencies. We realize that most hams have their 80/75 meter antennas mounted at a height of less than 60 feet and those



antennas do exhibit some NVIS radiation. We adopted the height of less than 15 feet to insure maximum NVIS radiation... We were interested in proving the viability of this form of transmission for covering distances between 100 to 300 miles of separation by using High Frequency (HF). The thought was that during times of emergency the normal internet, telephone and VHF/UHF repeaters might be over crowded or disabled and two or more HF stations could provide the necessary communications links between identified emergency locations."

At 0900 Gispert and Seely will meet on 3.913 kHz LSB running NVIS antennas (horizontal dipoles mounted at a height of 15 feet or less). KR4X, will be setup at Picnic Island Park at the southern tip of the Interbay Peninsula in South Tampa and AA4ME will be setup in Highlands County (a distance of at least 100 miles apart). We will start at power levels of 100 watts and decrease incrementally to determine the viability of the communications path. All stations are welcome to listen in or participate with their NVIS antenna. Gispert and Seely have previously conducted these test in the 2009 and 2010 time frame and on a few occasions since then.



# SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

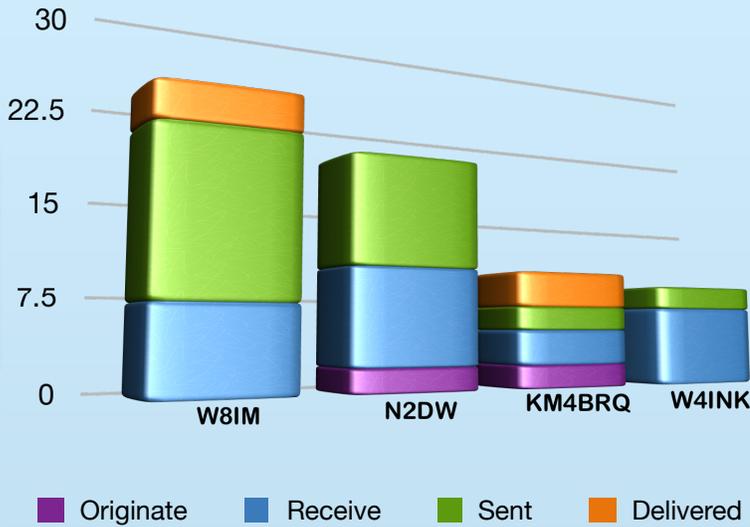
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

## West Central Florida STM Reports

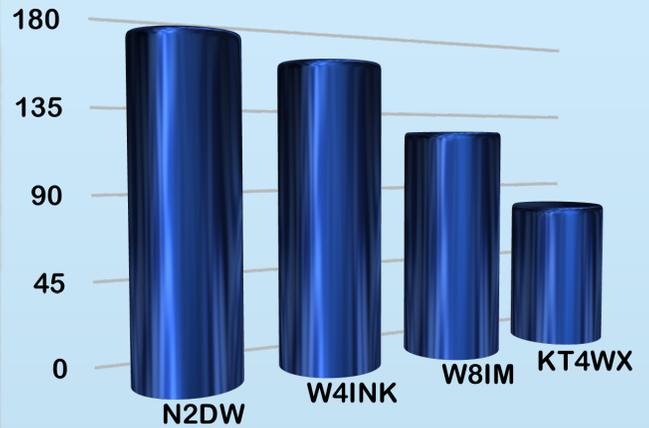
January 2020

### Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
W8IM	0	7	13	3	23
N2DW	2	8	9	0	19
KM4BRQ	2	3	2	3	10
W4INK	0	7	2	0	9

### Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
N2DW	169
W4INK	158
W8IM	123
KT4WX	80
KT4WX	80

### West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	31	1353	31	941	W4PXE
SPARC	39	545	39	1105	KN4LUZ
SQUARES	4	36	2	43	KB2ICN

# HAMS ON THE ISS TO CONTACT PASCO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

by Chris Bloxsom. AA4CB  
ARRL Public Information Officer

NEW PORT RICHEY, Florida. — Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, ARISS, is planning a long distance contact with a



local Pasco County High School. The crew of the International Space Station school are planning to talk with students at the River Ridge High School in New Port Richey. The contact will take place in early March of this year.



(Above: Astronaut Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC is one of the many crew members, aboard the ISS, that have 'called' to Earth via Ham radio.)

The Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club (GCARC) has agreed to set up equipment demonstrations at the school to help

students understand amateur radio components, how they work together, the importance of ham radio, and ham radio lingo.

Students will be able to experience hams connecting to other hams via satellites and ultimately the ISS. Students will be able to see firsthand how different types of antennas impact communication. ARISS provides opportunities for the school community (students, teachers, families and community members) to become more aware of the substantial benefits of human spaceflight and the exploration and discovery that occur on spaceflight journeys. Students have the opportunity to learn about space technologies and the technologies involved with space communications through exploration of amateur radio.

River Ridge H.S. is working the members of the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club to build this station. The high school has also involved River Ridge Middle School students in STEM and ARISS related activities. Linda Nowicki is the educator involved in making this happen. Linda has obtained her Technician class license in April 2019 and currently holds a General Class license. Her callsign is KN4TYA.



(above: Linda Nowiciki KN4TYA meets up with her mentor Dave Jordan AA4KN at Hamcation in Orlando 2019).

A Ham Radio club in this school is in the works. Linda has been the main force at River Ridge HS getting the kids interested in ham radio, as well as getting the ARISS proposal form. The school is one of just nine in the entire country that will communicate with the International

Space Station using amateur radio.

Gulf Coast A.R.C. will assist in the development and operation of this station. The club will also provides classes to any students that are

wishing to get their

Amateur Radio license. As part of the learning the students have been invited to attend any and all ham radio activities that are being put-on or supported by GCARC. This includes the A.R.R.L. Field Day in June. The club also supports many local events such as triathlons, 5k races, and emergency preparedness. Some of the classes that Gulf Coast A.R.C. have supported has been Skywarn training.

One of the goals of this event is to show students what you can do with Amateur Radio. River Ridge HS has a very active makerspace located in the Media Center. It includes 3D printers, drones, and Arduino kits. Students utilize the makerspace before and after school and during lunches. We plan to further support STEM objectives by setting up bi-weekly makerspace challenges relating to space exploration, space technologies, and amateur radio.



Information about this "out of this world" event can be found at <http://gulfcoastarc.org>

To learn more about Amateur Radio communications with the International Space Station please go to <https://www.ariss.org/>



The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) has all the info on getting on the air with Ham Radio satellites. <https://www.amsat.org/>



	<p><b>Chris Bloxsom AA4CB</b></p> <p>Twitter - @aa4cb_Chris          Email - aa4cb@arrl.net          licensed for 30+ years.          Webmaster and social media manager for EPARS ,GCARC, and Pasco Co. ARES. ARRL life member and VE.</p>
--	---

## N3PER FLORIDA III% ARC HELPING WITH BAHAMAS RELIEF ACTIVITY

by Chris Bloxsom. AA4CB  
ARRL Public Information Officer

PLANT CITY, Florida – In emergencies like hurricanes and other disasters amateur radio operators are important. Since the recent hurricane Dorian caused catastrophic



damage in the Bahamas. Dorian made landfall in the northwestern Bahamas as a Category 5 with 185-mph winds on Sept. 1, 2019. The Abacos Islands and Grand Bahama Island experienced devastating storm-surge flooding and catastrophic wind damage.

One amateur radio club in West Central Florida is helping out in its recovery. Members of the N3PER Florida III% Patriots Amateur Radio Club has been collecting food, clothing, and other necessities. On Tuesday September 10th Ray Thompson , KN4DUR and David VanBrummelen KN4GXF, gathered up supplies and loaded up their trailer. They delivered relief supplies to the Lakeland Airport where it will be sorted and reload to be shipped to the Bahamas.



Florida III% Patriots mission statement is we are a group of like minded American patriots who believe in and will defend the constitution, our homeland and our freedoms. We strive to develop relationships within our community with current and former military, law enforcement and first responders. Our goals are multi-faceted and not only do the above but help others in time of disasters working within the parameters of the law. We are open to all like minded patriots who share our core values and goals. We do not tolerate any forms of bigotry or racism, radical ideas towards our government or its overthrow. No one with that mindset is welcome among us.

The N3PER club has a weekly net every Sunday at 07:30 PM on the 146.880 repeater (146.2 PL) located in Dade City. You can also access the repeater via Echolink node K4EX-R #922106. All are welcome to join and talk part in discussion.

It is never too late to help out if you would like to assist in the relief efforts please go to <https://www.bahamas.com/relief>

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

The ARRL West Central Florida Section is holding an ARRL West Central Florida Section 20th Anniversary Operating Event to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the ARRL West Central Florida Section. The ARRL West Central Florida Section 20th Anniversary Operating Event is an activation of K4WCF, the callsign of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, in each of the ten counties of the ARRL West Central Florida Section at least once, hopefully several times, throughout the year 2020. Originally a tentative schedule was proposed for activation of K4WCF in each of the ten counties in the spring months was proposed, but this proved to be untenable. Therefore all weekends, except for ARRL Field Day, will be available on a "first come, first served" basis to any club, organization, or individual, that applies to activate K4WCF in any given county. The only restriction on activation is that the activation for a particular county must be within the county activated. The activation may be from a club station, EOC station, base station, portable or mobile fixed. Activation on VHF and UHF, including the NI4CE Repeater System, is being encouraged so Technician Class licensees can join in on the fun. This will not be a contest but simply an operating event to celebrate the anniversary of the West Central Florida Section. All log entries will be entered into the ARRL Logbook of the World. Any QSL card and or contact verification will be via ARRL LoTW. The following are activations of K4WCF that are scheduled at the present time:



- Highlands County - 3/07/20 and 3/08/20 - Highlands County Amateur Radio Club
- Pinellas County - 3/21/20 and 3/22/20 - St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club
- Pasco County - 3/28/20 and 3/29/20 - East Pasco Amateur Radio Society.

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. To apply to operate a K4WCF ARRL West Central Florida Section 20th Anniversary Operating Event station in your county, please use the Contact Form on the Section website. For the full list of activation criteria, operating rules, etc., may be found on the K4WCF 20th Anniversary Operating Event webpage at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/k4wcf-20th-anniversary-operating-event-2020/>.

**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](http://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](http://www.citrustour.org).

