

THE WCF PRESSER



WCF Country
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

April 2019
Issue # 36

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
Coastal Area**

Geoff Haines N1GY

**Assistant Section Manager
PIC/ACC Assistant**

Steve Muller KM4VRK

Affiliated Club Coordinator

Mike Douglas W4MDD

Official Observer Coordinator

Dennis Griffin W4DG

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

Geoff Haines N1GY

SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the April issue of THE WCF PRESSER.

You will notice that there are submissions of several articles from several of our Section Managers. That is due to the fact that I have asked several in my Section Cabinet to start writing articles for the WCF PRESSER on a regular basis. In the past, I have created most of the content but I would like to see you, the amateur radio operators here in the West Central Florida Section, generate more of the content.

If you are an ARRL Public Information Officer, please send upcoming events, or special activity announcements to Jim Weslager K3WR, the editor of the WCF PRESSER via email at weslager@gmail.com. You



can send him Jim information and or articles as an email and send any supporting graphics (pictures, logos, etc.) as an attachment. Do not worry about how it looks, as Jim will make it look good in appearance.

If your club, ARES group, etc., has anything you would like to see in the WCF PRESSER, please send that to Jim as well. Getting content makes a newsletter editors job much easier.

Cont' on page 2

Cont' from page 1

A personal note. As of this writing, I will be in the process of moving from my small home (a retired construction office) back into the main house with my Mom, which is on the same property. Since my Father's death, one year ago, my Mom's health has been in decline and the time has come to move back in to be a help to her. My base station will be off the air for about 2 weeks during the move, so I may not be able to be on as many nets as I normally can participate in. I do plan to keep up my hamfest/meeting travel schedule as of the present time.

Also I am in the last month of my last semester in college before graduation (taking General Physics I) and the last weeks of a semester are a busy time, so if I miss your email or phone call and do not return them right away, I will apologize in advance and ask you bear with me.

I will briefly remind all of you that the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season is now only 2 months from starting. Be sure to go over your equipment and supplies to be sure they are ready by the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. Do not wait until a storm is 3-7 days out as recent experience reminds us that is often too late to get adequate supplies. The 2019 Atlantic Hurricane season run from June 1st through November 30th.

Take care everyone and look forward to seeing you at a hamfest, meeting, or other get together.

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/>.

For more information on the Section ARES meeting, including location and directions go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-spring-2019/>

CITRUS TOUR UPDATE FROM THE AMATEUR RADIO COORDINATOR

by Michael Bresse - W2YS

As mentioned in last month's issue there will be route changes this year. This year we will be out and back from the Omni Resort at Championsgate both days.

While the routes are not finalized yet I can say on Saturday we will have 4 routes, they will be approximately 20, 50, 75 and 100 miles. All routes

will head to the south through Davenport with the 100 mile route going as far south as Frostproof before returning to the Omni.

bike

MS

On Sunday we will have 3 routes, they will be approximately 20, 50 and 75 miles. These routes will head to the west and south west before looping back to the Omni.

Our frequency plan should be finalized by next months update.

Current Volunteer Status (as of March 25th, 2019)

42 volunteers registered to work the event:

- 4 Command Post
- 4 Admin Shadows
- 2 Ride Marshalls
- 5 Greenways
- 10 SAGs
- 2 Rovers
- 6 Rest Stops
- 2 Start/Finish Line
- 3 Logistics
- 1 Passenger

We still have 26 volunteers from last year that have not advised if they are returning for 2019.

We are always in need for volunteers. To cover all positions we need between 70 and 80 amateur radio volunteers for this event. The most needed positions at this time are non-driving amateur radio passengers to ride with bike mechanics and shuttle buses, however, we are accepting for all positions.

For a complete list of positions and more information about the event please visit www.citrustour.org.



COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

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

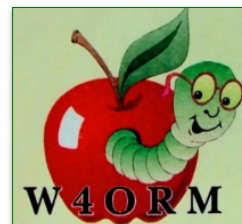


May 11, 2019

East Pasco Tailgate 2019
Church Street Park
37746 Church Avenue
Dade City, FL 33523

May 25, 2019

WormFest 2019
Freedom Lake Park
9990 46th Street North
Pinellas Park, FL , FL 33782



August 17, 2019

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

November 9, 2019

SPARC Fest 2019
Freedom Lake Park
9990 46th Street North
Pinellas Park, FL , FL 33782



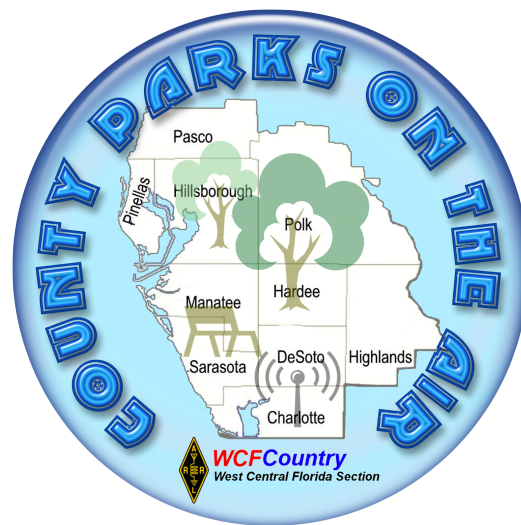
COUNTY PARKS ON THE AIR STARTING 3/01/19

County Parks On The Air is underway now through December 31, 2019. The list of county parks and the event rules is on the CPOTA web page which is on the Section website at <http://arllwcf.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

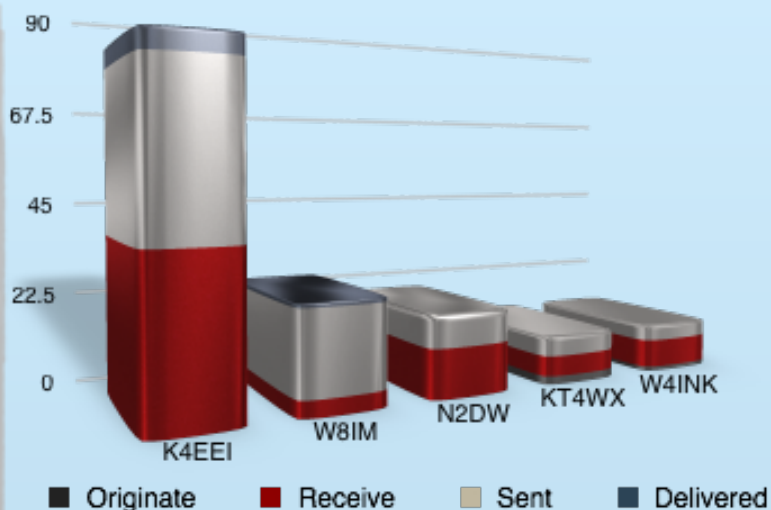
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

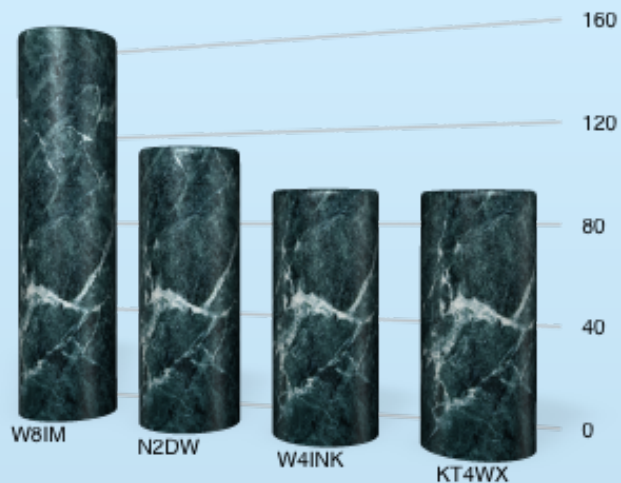
West Central Florida STM Reports

FEBRUARY 2019

Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Public Service Honor Roll



W8IM	160
N2DW	110
W4INK	93
KT4WX	92

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	28	1196	48	921	W4PXE
SPARC	36	523	32	998	KK4WTE
CERT	4	35	0	50	KK4WTE

ZEPHYRHILLS AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ELECTS NEW

by Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

ARRL WCF Section Public Information Coordinator

The monthly meeting of the Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club was held on Monday, March 18, 2019. The outgoing president, Gerry Hewitt, WB8GKY, presided over the meeting. The ladies of the club have taken on the role of the two top officers. They look forward to another great year as the club continues to grow.



The newly elected officers are:

- Janice Curtis, WB3BJL - President
- Marie (Toni) Nelson, KF7HIC - Vice President
- Scott Bowden, AB1MC - Secretary
- Charlie Nelson, KE7UTH - Treasurer

COORDINATING & SHARING OF INFORMATION

by Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

ARRL WCF Section Public Information Coordinator

Amateur radio clubs in the West Central Florida, WCF, Section enjoy the luxury of good weather for most of the year. Yes, we have few cold spells and yes, there are a few sweltering days but on the whole we have a great section to be in.

The members of our clubs come from many different areas across the country to join those of us that are from here and create some extremely diverse organizations. I have scanned the internet to find that most of these clubs have up to date webpages that give information about their club and activities. A few have links to the arrlwcf.org section page and some have links to other clubs in their area.

Working together in amateur radio gets ideas passed along and active groups that join together for a common cause. The fact is that WCF Section is comprised of ten counties. We live in a three section state that has overlapping activities. Each of the clubs in this section should be using a Public Information Officer, PIO, to distribute information about their organization with the rest of the section.

The WCF Section website has a page for the PIO to submit a monthly report that will make its way to the Section Manager, Darrell Davis, KT4WX, and myself, Rich Kennedy, N4ESS, Public Information Coordinator. This report will assist in disseminating information about your recent and upcoming events. Your activities are of interest to others, so pass them on. Planning for the year to include hamfests, tailgates, field day activities helps everyone in the section to keep away from

“Working together in amateur radio gets ideas passed along and active groups that join together for a common cause.”

activity conflicts on any given weekend.

You don't need to wait to send information in to the section. Start at the beginning of the year with a schedule and update it as needed. Let us know how things are going in the monthly reports. The information can be distributed efficiently through the section website. Give your section staff a chance to help you and your organization have a larger presence in the section and the state. The more people know about you the more they will want to know. New members are out there so let us help you find them.

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION HOSTING A TRAFFIC TRAINING NET

by **David M. Rockwell, W4PXE**
Email: w4pxe@arrl.net

During major disasters and other emergencies, when regular communications are disrupted, amateur radio operators are ready to provide direct communications from the effected locations to county, state, and national emergency managers.

Using simple HF and VHF nets, properly trained hams can collect information and pass it to those who need act on it. Examples include, requests for supplies and equipment from state agencies, coordination of federal response, situation reports from the frontline, and welfare messages to family and friends outside the disaster area.

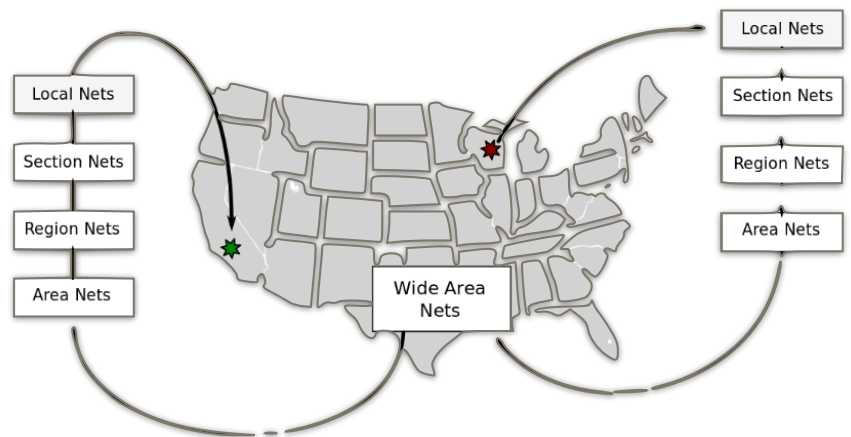
Often, this important information must transit several stations before reaching the correct responder or resource provider. It is critical that the information flow accurately and quickly to its destination.

That is where the radiogram comes in. A radiogram is a formatted message that can be passed from one station to another with virtually no corruption.

Every amateur radio operator involved in emergency services should learn traffic handling skills before they are needed in a disaster or emergency. Participating in regular traffic nets offers the opportunity to hone these skills and practice them regularly.

The West Central Florida (WCF) Section has identified traffic handling as an essential skill for all radio operators. The Section is going to host a

Traffic Training Net starting on April 17. The net will meet each Wednesday evening at 9:00 PM or after the Eagle Net on the NI4CE repeater system.



Dave Rockwell, W4PXE, the Eagle Net Manager, will facilitate the training. Stevie Barker, W4INK, will serve as net control. The team will run the training sessions as a roll-call net, meaning there will be a list of assigned stations. This is similar to what is done on many HF nets. The training sessions are designed to be 30 to 45 minutes in length.

Topics to be covered include the reasons for traffic handling, the message format, the structure of the National Traffic System, and special message formats used during emergencies and routine operations.

Net members (that is the students) will be given practical assignments to complete each week. Those who complete all four sessions will receive an ARRL certificate. The plan calls for up to 15 net members. Other station are welcome to listen in and an open log will be kept of visitors.

The WCF Section is looking forward to a very informative and lively Traffic Training Net.

For more information or to join the net and participate, hams should send Dave an email with their name and call sign to W4PXE@ARRL.NET.



ARRL FIELD DAY AND THE WCF SECTION FIELD DAY CARAVAN IS COMING SOON

ARRL Field Day is coming sooner than we all realize. This year ARRL Field Day will be on Saturday June 22, 2019 and Sunday June 23, 2019.

The 19th Annual WCF Section Field Day Caravan will once again take to the road on Saturday June 22 to visit Field Day sites in the West Central Florida Section.

At this time three teams are tentatively set to visit the various Field Day sites in the West Central Florida Section:

Team #1: Darrell Davis KT4WX, Section Manager and Christine Duez K4KJN, Section Youth Coordinator, will visit the counties of Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties.

Team #2: Mike Douglas W4MDD, Affiliated Club Coordinator, and Steve Muller KM4VRK, Assistant Section Manager, will visit Charlotte, Sarasota, and Mantee Counties.

Team #3: Ben Henley KI4IGX, Section Emergency Coordinator, and Randy Payne K4EZM, Assistant Section Manager, will visit Polk, Hardee, Highlands and Desoto Counties.

If you wish a visit at your Field Day site, please register your Field Day site with the ARRL Field Day locator at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> by Saturday June 8th, as we will construct a travel itinerary from entries on the ARRL Field Day Locator. All three Field Day caravan teams will once again run APRS so you can track their progress on RF or via the aprs.fi website.

There is a West Central Florida Section Field Day Caravan web page on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/west-central-florida-section-field-day-caravan/>. The travel itinerary, once completed, will be published on the West Central Florida Field Day Caravan web page and will be announced in a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE.

Also pictures from the Field Day Caravan will be posted on the Section Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/arrlwcf>.

Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, radio amateurs throughout North America have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).

Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.

FLORIDA SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATORS MEET WITH STATE COMMUNICATION LEADERS

by John Wells, W4CMH

PIO & SEC Southern Florida Section

Email: w4cmh@arri.net

Fort Myers, FL., February 25, 2019 – Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Section Emergency Coordinators (SEC) from Northern, West Central and Southern Florida met last week with State Emergency Management Communication Leaders to discuss improved integration of Amateur Radio during emergencies. The importance of Amateur Radio was realized in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael's destructive impact that directly affected communications from the area. In some counties, it was the only means of communicating with emergency management officials.

A glaring hole in coordinating these volunteer communicators was a lack of an effective Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ARES and the State of Florida. During the meeting this element was discussed, and a draft was presented for further consideration. The MOU if agreed upon, will make ARES and Amateur Radio a valid resource that can be easily requested for an incident.

Ben Henley the West Central Section Emergency Coordinator said that "For the first time ARES will be integrated into the State Communication Team". This concept is one that is not currently established within the system and has resulted in the inability to pre-stage Amateur Radio assets prior to an incident like a hurricane.

Amateur Radio Operators possess a unique set of skills that are crucial when normal communications fail, and those skills allow for quick deployment of equipment and restoration of communication between critical entities. It was discussed how important the first 24 hours are during an incident where normal communication

systems fail, requiring an effective backup method like Amateur Radio. To facilitate deployment of communication resources more effectively, the three Sections previously agreed to work together as one entity during an incident. According to Ben Henley, "There is better cooperation between all three Florida Sections and the State of Florida".

Changes to the current way in which ARES operators are credentialed, trained and deployed are necessary to keep Amateur Radio a viable means of backup communications for Emergency Management to utilize in an incident. For this to happen it will require the effort from everyone in the Florida Amateur Radio community and according to Karl Martin the Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator, "This is a team effort, without the team working together we get nothing accomplished".

The SEC's and State Leaders look forward to working together in the future and overcoming any shortcomings to ensure an effective response when Amateur Radio backup communications is requested.



Photo: (Left to Right) Bob Little (Telecommunications Specialist III), Ben Henley (SEC West Central Florida Section), Ben Bass (Telecommunications Administrator Florida Department of Emergency Management), Karl Martin (SEC Northern Florida Section), John Wells (SEC Southern Florida Section), Brad Haag (Assistant SEC West Central Florida Section), and Nick Simoncini (FDLE Statewide Communications Coordinator)

FLORIDA QSO PARTY

The 2019 Florida QSO Party will be held April 27 and 28; we sure hope you'll join us by activating your Florida HF stations – home, club, school, mobile and rover all welcomed. Let's make all 67 counties "radio-active".

2019 FQP Rules Changes:

- New expedition category added; perfect for portable multi-county adventurers/campers
- Lowering the low power limit from 150W to 100W output
- Suggested frequency ranges are established

Please check out the rules and further details at our Web Site: <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/>

The Florida QSO Party Objective:

- Everyone works Florida
- Florida works Everyone

When: April 27 & 28, 2019

Two, 10-hour operating periods with a 10-hour break (20 hours total operating time.)

• Saturday, April 27

1600 Z - 0159 Z / 12 pm - 9:59 PM (EDT)

• Sunday, April 28

1200 Z - 2159 Z / 8 AM - 5:59 PM (EDT)

Exchange:

- **FL stations** - RST & Florida county
- **Non-FL stations** - RST & QTH
(state, province or country)

Where: 10, 15, 20 and 40 Meters
Suggested operating frequencies:

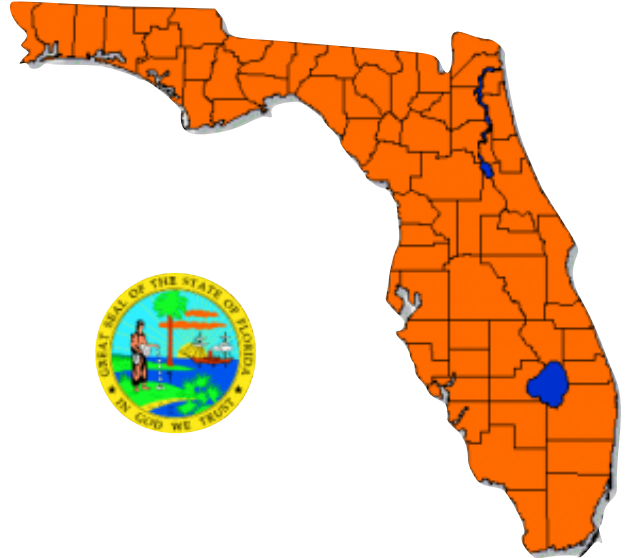
CW: 7.020-7.045, 14.025-14.055, 21.030-21.050, 28.030-28.050 MHz

Phone: 7.185-7.245, 14.240-14.295, 21.320-21.350, and 28.450-28.480 MHz

Mobile Window - we expect at least 15 mobile stations will be active and most can be found here:

CW: 7.025-7.035, 14.040-14.050, 21.040-21.050, 28.040-28.050 MHz

Phone: 7.230-7.240, 14.265-14.275 MHz



22nd Anniversary Special Event Award 2019 FQP Spelling Bee!

- We will have a total of 6 special 1x1 stations below whose suffixes spell CITRUS.
- Contact all 6 of these 1x1 stations to earn this award.
- These stations will be on both modes full-time and should be very accessible.
- QSL these 1x1 calls active in FQP via KU9C direct or via bureau.
- The callsigns and hosts are TBA soon!

Prizes:

Beautiful color Certificates for top participants
Plaques for top finishing entrants.

Detailed rules, mobile routes, past results, plaques, county maps and much more!

Web Site: <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/>

Florida Stations of all types – please go to the FQP website and register your fixed, mobile, rover and 1x1 Spelling Bee operations; just click on the "Counties" link and then the Activation Forms to get started – thanks!

CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: Peace River Radio Association

Based in Punta Gorda, in Charlotte County, the Peace River Radio Association (PRRA) operates two repeaters with the club callsign of W4DUX: A VHF analog voice repeater on 147.225 MHz on a PL of 136.5 Hz, and a UHF DMR Repeater on 442.925 MHz.

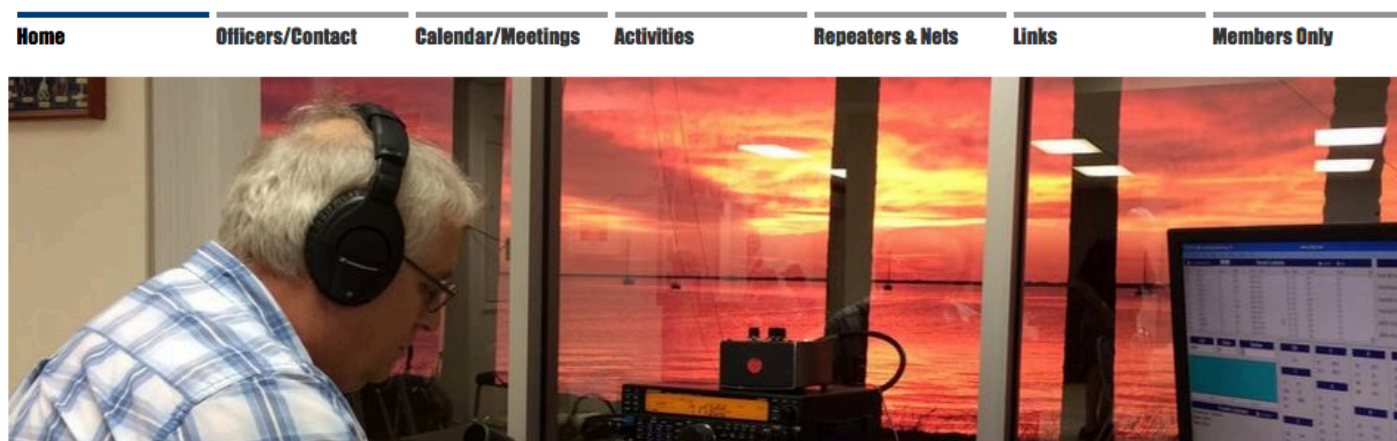
The PRRA has a club website at <http://prra.club> and holds a hamfest in the spring and their annual ARRL Field Day operation at the Punta Gorda Boat Club near downtown Punta

Gorda, which sits right on the Peace River where it is between 1-2 miles across and is a beautiful location. The PRRA also does ARRL Field Day from the Punta Gorda Boat Club.

PEACE RIVER RADIO ASSOCIATION - A screenshot of their homepage:

PEACE RIVER RADIO ASSOCIATION [A screenshot of their homepage.](#)

Peace River Radio Association - W4DUX



Announcements: 2019 Charlotte County Hamfest is Saturday March 2nd.

[2019 HAMFEST FLYER CLICK HERE](#)



Founded in 1984, PRRA is an affiliated club of the ARRL, the national association of Amateur Radio. More than half of PRRA members are also members of ARRL.

PRRA is an ARRL Special Service Club, organized as a non-profit corporation, engaged in a well-balanced program of activities to promote Amateur Radio and provide communications service for the communities of Charlotte County. The programs include the following:

- ❖ PRRA encourages new ham training by offering Amateur Radio license classes for Technician, General and Extra Class licenses, and mentoring activities to improve skill and operating abilities.
- ❖ PRRA promotes Amateur Radio by highlighting the presence of Amateur Radio in the Country by arranging media coverage of PRRA activities.