

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS

Issue #16 – May 2016

By Darrell Davis KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

2016 MS CITRUS BIKE TOUR – SATURDAY MAY 21 AND SUNDAY MAY 22:



The 2016 Annual MS Citrus Bike Tour is now less than 60 days away. Jason Triolo KD4ACG is once again reprising his role as the amateur radio coordinator for this event. The starting point will again this year be Fantasy of Flight just off of I-4 in northern Polk County near Polk City. The finish line will however move from the Caribe in Orlando to Champions Gate, just off of I-4 near exit 58, which is also just inside Osceola. Therefore 98 percent of the bike ride will be in Polk County and therefore the West Central Florida Section. So far, as of the publication of this newsletter, 25 volunteers have registered to help. We will need many more to help out to make amateur radio communications for this event a success again this year.

If you wish to volunteer please contact Jason Triolo KD4ACG at jtriolo@verizon.net or by phone at (425) 200-4516. If you are planning to volunteer, please register online at <http://www.citrustourradio.org>. I will be at a rest stop myself, so I look forward to hearing many of you.

2016 HURRICANE SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season will start on Wednesday June 1, 2016, just a little under a month from now and will continue until Wednesday November 30, 2016. It has been 10 years since the last hurricane impact and so it is easy to become complacent. Now would be a good time for all amateur radio operators to prepare themselves and their families for a potential hurricane impact. Now is the time to determine if you would have to evacuate or are you able to shelter in place. Now is the time to determine where you will go if you know you will have to evacuate, not when a storm is approaching. You will want to inventory and check your radio equipment and supplies which would include but not limited to: food, water, medicine, and first aid supplies. Remember you may not be able to get supplies for several days after a storm impact until emergency relief becomes available. For helpful tips you may go to <http://www.floridadisaster.org> for information on how to formulate or update your emergency plan.

If your ARES group or local radio club is planning to do a hurricane expo, please let me know via email so I can add your event to the Section website special events calendar. The following are hurricane expo's that I am aware of, with links for more information, that will have either ARES or amateur radio tables as of press time:

- 3rd Annual Hardee County Hurricane and Safety Expo – 5/07/16 - Wauchula, FL
- Tampa Bay Hurricane Expo at MOSI – 5/14/16 - Tampa, FL
<http://arrlwcf.org/event/tampa-bay-hurricane-expo-at-mosi/>

HOT WEATHER IS COMING SHORTLY. STAY WELL AND SAFE.

Our time for hot weather and afternoon thunderstorms is fast approaching. Be sure to stay properly hydrated when working outside on projects or chores, or work on these during the cooler parts of the day. This is a good time to work on that project on the workbench in the air conditioning. I almost got dehydrated the other day driving my school bus and did not even realize it. Also keep your eyes out now for the afternoon or morning thunderstorms, depending upon where you live that can come unexpectedly.

16th ANNUAL WCF SECTION FIELD DAY CARAVAN

The annual ARRL Field Day, which will be on Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th will soon be here once again. I am planning to do the WCF Section Field Day Caravan once again as has been the tradition in our Section, since its inception in 2000. To try to make it as fair as possible for everyone, I will take the trip around the Section in reverse of the route that was taken by Ben and I last year. Ben will not be able to join me for this year's caravan due to his ongoing health issues.

If you wish to have a visit from the Field Day Caravan, be sure to register your visit on the ARRL website as you normally would and have it registered by Saturday June 11th so I will have time to plan an itinerary. I will post the Field Day Caravan itinerary to the Section website Field Day Caravan page as soon as I have it completed approximately one week before Field Day. I look forward to seeing many of you on Field Day weekend.

35TH ANNUAL ARRL AND TAPR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN THE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION IN 2016.



The annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) is the premier annual digital communications conference in amateur radio in the United States. This year the West Central Florida Section is privileged to be the local co-host for the conference. The conference will be held on Friday September 16th through Sunday September 18th in St. Petersburg at the Hilton Bayfront near downtown. For more details you may go to the DCC page on TAPR's website at <http://www.tapr.org/dcc>. This conference has in attendance many of the "movers and shakers" in amateur radio digital communications. To see what DCC is like, you may go to the HamRadioNow youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/HamRadioNow>. There you will find past presentations from previous DCC gatherings and you will see how very high quality these presentations are. Mark your calendars now and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

ARRL STATION APPOINTEE MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE:

Just a reminder to all in the WCF Section who hold an ARRL Station Appointment. Your monthly reports are due for the previous month of activity. You may file your reports on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/>. You may also send your report via email to the respective cabinet member that is the coordinator for your appointment as well. Many thanks to all of you who do file your reports. Filling a monthly report is a requirement to hold an ARRL Station Appointment.

BEN HENLEY KI4IGX HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL RECOVERING. RANDY PAYNE K4EZM APPOINTED ACTING SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR.



Ben Henley KI4IGX, our Section Emergency Coordinator, who had been in the hospital since early March in Orlando, is now home from the hospital with his family in the Sebring area in Highlands County. On March 11, Randy Payne K4EZM, was appointed interim Section Emergency Coordinator, until Ben returns to good health and can resume his responsibilities. For any needs for ARES in the Section please continue to contact Randy K4EZM. Continue to remember Ben, his wife Sherri, and his daughter Victoria in your prayers and thoughts

UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

The 2015-2016 hamfest season has come to an end. However there are some hamfests coming up that are out of our normal hamfest season to keep things interesting:

- Saturday May 28: [Wormfest 2016 – Freedom Lake Park, Largo, FL.](#)
- Saturday July 23: [LARCFEST – Revolution Church, Lakeland, FL.](#)
- Saturday August 20: [TARCFest XXXVII – Tampa ARC Clubhouse – Tampa, FL](#)

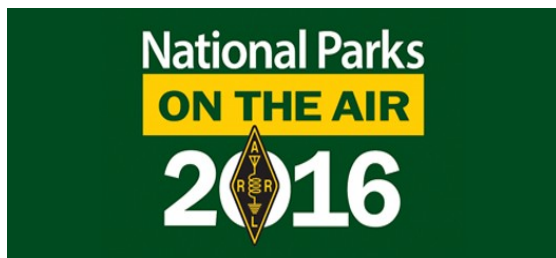
NEXT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING

The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday July 9th at the Manatee County EOC at 1300, which is located at 2101 47th Terrace East Bradenton, FL 34203. As is the custom, the meeting will be preceded by the West Central Florida ARES Luncheon at 1100, and the location as of press time, had still not been determined. For more information on the meeting location and a Google map you may go to our Section website and see the <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-0716/>.

PERSONAL UPDATE: MY RECENT ILLNESS AND THE SPRING COLLEGE SEMESTER

I have been sick frequently in the last few months. I was diagnosed in December with diverticulosis, which can flare up into diverticulitis, and have been trying to figure out what I can eat and what I can not eat that will keep me well and regular. Also I just finished the spring semester at South Florida State College, during which I was taking two classes, which I did complete successfully. So if I have inadvertently missed returning your phone call or email, please forgive me, and thank you for your understanding. Now that I have a block of time returned to my planner, I will begin to work on a backlog of Section related projects including some news to go into the next and subsequent issues of THE WCF PRESSER. Thank you for your prayers and thoughts as well.

ARRL NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR COMING TO A NATIONAL PARK NEAR YOU.



There is a lot of excitement about this event already. The ARRL is sponsoring the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA). This event started on January 1, 2016 and will run until December 31, 2016. This event is not a contest, per se, but a radio operating event similar to Field Day. The event is being held by the ARRL to commemorate the centennial of the National Park Service. There are 433 National Park Administrative

(NPA) units in the United States that are eligible for activation. There is only one NPA unit in the West Central Florida Section and it is Desoto National Memorial just north of Bradenton on the shore of the Manatee River. Desoto was activated by the Mid Florida DX Association on New Years Day. You will find a report on this in the March issue of THE WCF PRESSER. However there are four NPA units in the Southern Florida Section and five NPA units in the Northern Florida Sections.

The ARRL website has a web page devoted to NPOTA information at <http://www.arrl.org/npota>. I have added a new web page to the Section website with a lot of good information about the National Parks On The Air at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/npota-wcf/>.

CHECK OUT THE SECTION WEBSITE - <http://www.arrlwcf.org>:

If you have not done so lately, check out all the information that is posted on the Section website at <http://www.arrlwcf.org>. The latest WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASES, upcoming special events, monthly club meetings, are all posted there. We will be adding more content to the Section website here in the next 30-60 days including the VE test session calendar, local radio net schedule, and lists of the various ARRL Station Appointee that serve you here in the West Central Florida Section. Check the website and check it often.

CURRENT WCF SECTION NET SCHEDULE. PARTICIPATE IF YOU CAN:



WCFCountry
West Central Florida Section

The WCF Section holds several different nets for different interests in amateur radio. The listing below gives you the net name, date, time, frequency, and net managers name and call. Here is a listing of the current Section Nets:

- WCF Section ARES/Information Net – VHF/UHF: Monday 1930 – NI4CE Repeater System – Net Manager is J.C. Rivero K4RTC, ARRL Net Manager.
- WCF Section Technical Net: Thursday 2100 – NI4CE Repeater System - Net Manager is Geoff Haines N1GY, ARRL Technical Coordinator.
- WCF Section ARES/Information Net – HF: Saturday 0830 - 3911 Khz or 3913 Khz - Net Manager is Neil Lauritsen W4NHL, ARRL Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator.
- Eagle Net – WCF Section Daily NTS Net: Daily 2030 – NI4CE Repeater System - Net Manager is Dave Rockwell W4PXE, ARRL Net Manager.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section would like to thank the West Central Florida Group, the owners and operators of the NI4CE repeater system, for allowing the VHF/UHF Section Nets to operate on the system. For more info on the system you may go to <http://wp.ni4ce.org>.

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE WCF EXPERIMENTER:

Geoff Haines N1GY, our Technical Coordinator, will shortly be putting together the next issue of THE WCF EXPERIMENTER, the technical newsletter for the ARRL West Central Florida Section. If you have recently build a new project, modified an existing piece of amateur radio equipment or project, or even written some amateur radio related software, others would like to hear about your work. f you have an article you would like to submit please send it to Geoff via email at n1gy@arrl.net. Geoff can work with almost any format you send him. For the current and past issues of THE WCF EXPERIMENTER you may go to <http://arrlwcf.org/home/the-wcf-experimenter-technical-newsletter/>.

UP TO 5 COSPONSORS IN THE SENATE AND UP TO 123 COSPONSORS OF THE HOUSE BILL (HR-1301):

In mid November, Senate Bill 1685 (S. 1685), gained three additional co-sponsors, to bring the total co-sponsors to four. House Resolution 1301 (HR 1301), the U.S. House of Representatives version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, is up to 125 co-sponsors as of April 14th.

US House Representative [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4th 2015 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle: seven Republicans and five Democrats. US Senator [Roger Wicker](#) (R-MS) introduced the companion bill S 1685 on June 26, with Senator [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the United States Senate. HR1301, the original House bill is now up to 125 co-sponsors as of April 24th. As of press time, two Representatives with districts that are in the West Central Florida Section: Representative Daniel Webster, 10th District, that covers the north central part of Polk County and Representative Tom Rooney, 17th District, that covers Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, southeastern Hillsborough, eastern Manatee, and southern Polk Counties.

The direct link to the ARRL page devoted to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. The following is a quote from the ARRL website, "The Amateur Radio Parity Act would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal preemption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as 'covenants, conditions, and restrictions' (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include private land-use agreements without direction from Congress."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF APRIL:

On Saturday April 9th, I attended TARCfest 36 at the Tampa Amateur Radio Club clubhouse in Tampa and was made to feel at home once again as they always do. The hamfest was very well attended and the weather was great. On Saturday April 16th, Christine Duez KK4KJN, Biff Craine K4LAW, Randy Payne K4EZM and I attended the West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting which was held at the Polk County EOC. Many thanks to Mike Green AG4LT, EC for Polk County ARES, for making the arrangements for the meeting and luncheon location and to the folks at Polk County Emergency Management for the use of the facilities for the ARES meeting. On Saturday April 23rd, I attended the 2nd Annual Radios in the Park, hosted by the Bradenton Amateur Radio Club (BARC), which was held once again at Lake Manatee State Park east of Bradenton. This event was well attended, a great lunch was enjoyed. I just wished I had felt better on this visit as I was dealing with a diverticulosis flare up that had started that day.

SECTION MANAGERS CONTACT INFORMATION AND CONCLUSION:

Here is my contact information:

- U.S. Mail: 6350 Mills Road Fort Meade, FL 33841
- Telephone: (863) 245-9923
- Email: kt4wx@arrl.org
- Website: <http://www.kt4wx.org>.

The Section also has a website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

- Website: <http://www.arrlwcf.org>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arrlwcf>
- Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/arrlwcf>

That is all for this issue of THE WCF PRESSER. Otherwise, see you all at a hamfest, meeting, or other special events this month. 73 de Darrell KT4WX.