

THE WCF PRESSER



WCF Country
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

May 2019

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SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the May issue of THE WCF PRESSER. We are still in the process of keeping increased amount of content in THE WCF PRESSER from members of my cabinet. If your club, ARES group, etc., has anything you would like to see in the WCF PRESSER, please send that to Jim as well. Telepathy is not my talent or Jim's talent, so if you do not send it in to us, we cannot print it. Getting content makes a newsletter editors job much easier.

An update on my situation. As of the day I am writing this (April 29), I just finished up General Physics I class with my final exam, and I am still awaiting the results.

That was the final class I needed to complete my graduation requirements. I am scheduled to graduate from



South Florida State College on Tuesday May 7th at 1700 at the Wildstein Performing Arts Center, just south of Avon Park in northern Highlands County. If you are in the area, feel free to stop by and visit.

Thanks to all of you who have given me well wishes on my Facebook page and via email as well. I have been working on my Associate of Science in Computer Engineering Technology part time since 2007

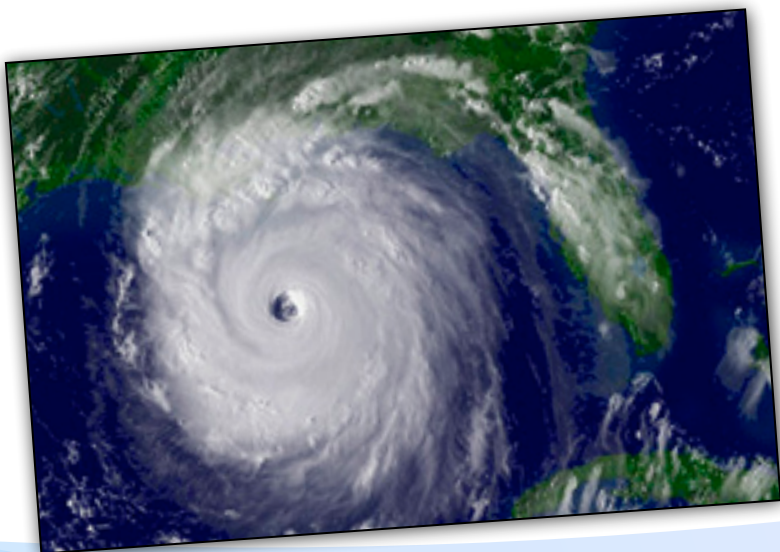
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(with a few years break in that time), so it is definitely good to finally finish. Now with college classes behind me, I will have more time for my church, amateur radio projects, and activities with the Section.

With respect to my base station, I have the shelving ready for my new operating desk and have nearly completed construction on my new workbench. I hope to finish the workbench this week or next week and then I can begin to put the workbench and base station back together. My VHF/UHF antennas are up, one of two of my HF antennas are moved but not up yet. I hope to get that done in the next few weeks, so I can check in on the Section net from a base station instead of the drivers seat of my Chevy Silverado. Again thank you for your understanding during this period.

I will briefly remind all of you that the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season is now only 30 days 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 runs from June 1st through November 30th.

Be sure to go over your equipment and supplies to be sure they are ready by the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

Also participate, if requested to do so, with your ARES or CERT group if they have a table at an upcoming hurricane expo. This is a great way to sell amateur radio to the public and for them to know what we do.

To those who will be participating in the Bike MS Citrus Tour in early May, I look forward to seeing many of you during that time.

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

PS: I apologize to all of you for being late with uploading the WCF PRESSER this month. Due to my involvement with the Bike MS Citrus Tour, work, and finishing my last college class, I simply ran out of time to upload this before the running of the Bike MS Citrus Tour. Thank you for your understanding.

FINAL CITRUS TOUR UPDATE BEFORE THE EVENT FROM THE AMATEUR RADIO COORDINATOR

by Michael Bresse - W2YS

The BikeMS Citrus Tour (May 4th and 5th, 2019) is a two day bicycle event in Central Florida and is mostly in Polk County. This is the largest fund raiser for the National MS Society in Central Florida. All route support and communications are provided by Amateur Radio.

Routes have been finalized. All routes start and end at the Omni Resort at Championsgate on both days.

Saturday will have a 23, 53, 75 and 106 mile route, all routes go to the south through Davenport with the 106 mile route going as far south as Lake Reedy in Frostproof before returning to the Omni.

Sunday will have a 23, 52 and a 79 mile route going to the west out to SR33 then back south and east to Haines City before returning to the Omni.

With less than 1 week to go our current Volunteer Status is (as of April 29th, 2019):

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

43 volunteers registered to work the event:

- 5 Command Post
- 6 Admin Shadows

bike

MS

- 2 Ride Marshalls
- 8 Greenways
- 6 SAGs
- 1 Rovers
- 6 Rest Stops
- 1 Start/Finish
- 3 Supply/Logistics
- 5 Passengers

We are still in need of volunteers, positions needed are Rest Stop Operators and Shadow units. If you can help, visit www.citrustour.org and go to the register page.

Editors Note: This edition of the WCF PRESSER was published immediately after the Bike MS Citrus Tour had concluded.

Bike MS is the largest fundraising bike series in the world. Each year, nearly 75,000 cyclists and more than 6,000 teams ride together to change the world for people with MS.



COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

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



TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SCORES BIG IN FLORIDA QSO PARTY

During the Florida QSO Party of April 27th and 28th, the operators of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC) made 1,017 contacts and chalked up 135,997 points during the contest using the W4AC club callsign.



Bob, W5GJ; Al, K0AL; and Tom, NZ1X were among the brasspounders on CW, while Tom, KN4ONE; Will, WB8FXJ, Pat, K1BBZ and Brian, W1JBD shared the microphone duties with SSB operations.

The TARC team made contest contacts with 49 states, 6 Canadian provinces, Barbados, Panama, Bhutan,



Belgium,
Germany,
Poland, Spain,
Poland
Jamaica,
Puerto Rico,
and Palmyra &
Jarvis Island.



Although HF band conditions were not favorable to the contesting team, Al's (K0AL) antenna system and equipment enabled the TARC ops to work the full 20 hours of the contest and racked up big points easily surpassing the 659 contacts during last year's Florida QSO Party.

Congrats on a very successful QSO Party and good luck besting your score next year.



A big thank you to W4AC for the news and photos.

FIELD DAY OPERATIONS

by Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

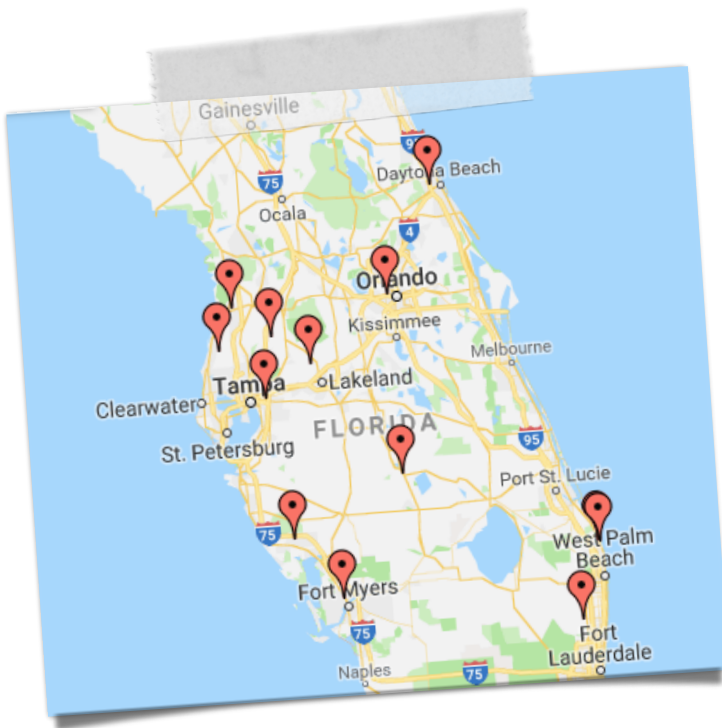
ARRL WCF Section Public Information Coordinator

The month has passed us by again and Field Day looms ever closer. There are several field day operations that happen in the WCF Section. Sadly some go unnoticed each year, but why?

Why, because they do not take the time to register on the ARRL Field Day locator.

Whether you are a large or small group, going out for a few hours or doing the whole operation, registering gets the word out. Visitors come from all walks of life and casual passersby will stop to see what is going on. Signage and registering your site will help you be recognizable to WCF staff and the public.

Remember you can join forces with other clubs and get in on the fun. A good example is the East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, EPARS, and the Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club, ZAARC, will be joining together in 2019 to keep field day alive for both clubs. This is a means of getting more operators and spreading the work around.



The Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, LARC, will be at the Kathleen Area Historical Society park again this year. They have lots of positions to fill and can always use another operator especially a CW operator.

Your club may have a time getting things organized and could use some good advice on things to do and not do for field day. There are several good people around for that but if you want someone that has been doing it for several years and with different organizations try giving Fred Delaney, K1DU, at the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club a call.

Fred has a long standing, and very successful history with field day and can give you good advice on setup, operating, and teardown. Fred, K1DU, email is k1du@aol.com.

These are but a few of the clubs in the area that will be having Field Day. Please visit the Field Day operations in your area and support the local groups.

Lastly but not the least important is testing. If you can incorporate a testing session at your field day that will draw in likeminded people and possibly get some new members.

Remember: Register your Field Day Operations.

CLEVER WAY TO ENTICE NET CONTROL OPERATORS

by Chris Blossom - AA4CB

Recently, at least in the past couple of years, I have seen a decrease of activity on some of the local ham radio club nets. Amateur operators were just no longer interested in checking into the local net.

I have seen this in a couple of clubs, so it is not just one group. As an example, East Pasco Amateur Radio Society (EPARS), the repeater, and most of its members are located in Dade City. The repeater covers most of Pasco County out to Port Richey. For years we always had one ham function as the Net Control Operator (NCO). This ham was retired and he took pleasure in running the net, making the announcements of events and activities out over the repeater. Then he moved out of state.

So the club now needed a net manager. Chris AA4CB, stepped up and put together a schedule with help from a couple of hams that volunteered to be net control once or twice a month. This seemed to work for the first year. Then I noticed activity dropped and check-ins were not as numerous as they used to be. It would seem that the net was the same old net every week. You would hear stations say "WX4XXX checking in, just for the numbers". Nets would be over in less than 15 minutes and barely any traffic or information was passed along to the hams participating with or monitoring the net.

Some Net Control Operators even said that they were not going to do this anymore if hams did not participate with the nets. They felt like they were wasting their time for only 3 check-ins. This problem seemed to be going on in other clubs as well. I would ask members of Club "XYZ ARC" and

hear horror stories of how they stopped doing the club nets altogether. Not enough participation was the main reason. I have heard nets with no Net Control Operator at the helm. That is just terrible, no NCO and no other hams would step up to fill in on the net.

Now how can we get more hams to be active on a weekly basis to get on the air? How about we reward the person who runs the net? Lets make it a competition so that more hams want to be active on the net. I will admit that EPARS did not come up with this Idea. We heard of a club that had a program like this. I reached out to them and we just made some adjustments. I thought that would be great thing to do for its members. So did the president of the club. We discussed some rules and "what-if's" about this program. I think we have it down pretty good. Let me see if I can explain this correctly.

How are we going to keep track of who did what net. Well we need a schedule. The schedule is available on-line for everyone to see who has requested the Tuesday net they want on a first-come, first-assigned basis. By using Google calendar, it is easy to setup and edit. With the schedule being available for everyone to see, we now needed to establish some simple rules. At year's end, the ham who has logged the greatest time as Net Control Operator wins a Yaesu Digital FT70 radio.

This seems like a good deal for the winner and since EPARS operates all Yaesu System Fusion repeaters, it only makes sense. There is even a prize for a 2nd place winner. That person will receive a \$50 gift certificate from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

Since we started this contest at the beginning of the 2019 calendar year, we have not had a net without a Net Control Operator. The topics on the net have expanded and attendance has increased. This seems to be working and I keep my fingers crossed.

For more details on this program please visit <http://eparsonline.org>



CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: KINGS POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Kings Point Amateur Radio Club, located in Kings Point, a retirement community located in Sun City Center in Hillsborough County, with the club callsign W4KPR, operate four repeaters: 145.450 MHz, 442.450 MHz, 927.0125 MHz, and 927.3325 MHz. According to their website, all of these repeaters are Analog/P25 mixed mode and operate on a PL tone of 162.2 Hz in analog mode and a Network Access Code of 293 in P25

Mode. They maintain a website at <http://kparc.org> and meet normally on the second Monday of the month at 1400 (2:00 P.M) at the Ripple Room in the Kings Point North Clubhouse. They also operate a club house on the east end of the Kings Point Main Clubhouse.

KINGS POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB [A screenshot of their homepage.](#)

[Nets](#) [Links & News](#) [Public Service](#) [Members](#) [About Us](#)


Kings Point Amateur Radio Club

The premiere Amateur Radio Club in West Central Florida

Welcome

CERT Net every Wednesday @ 19.30 EDT on 145.450 MHz: "W4KPR"

HF Net Thursdays @ 09.00 to 09.45 o

A photograph of a large, light-colored stone archway sign with the words "KINGS POINT" in a stylized, dark font. The sign is set against a backdrop of green trees and a clear sky.

The Kings Point Amateur Radio Club brings together all levels of ham radio operators from newcomers & veterans to share in the enjoyment of ham radio and provide the area with emergency communications in time of need. KPARC supports **Hillsborough** **ARES/RACES**, **CERT**, **NWS**, & local organizations.

Do you have in interest in Ham Radio but not yet licensed and want to know more. Stop by the club to chat with us. We hold regular classes and conduct exam sessions. Are you already a licensed ham and new to the area, stop by the club a chat with us about joining. We are an active group of hams !

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