

THE WCF PRESSER



WCF Country
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

June 2019
Issue # 38

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SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

It is finally here whether we want it or not. I am talking about the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season. The season began on Saturday June 1st and will run through Saturday November 30th. If you have not done so, I strongly encourage you to complete your hurricane season preparations very soon. NOAA Climate Prediction Center released the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook on Thursday May 23. You can read NOAA press release at <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-predicts-near-normal-2019-atlantic-hurricane-season>. They are predicting a 40 percent chance of a near normal season, and 30 percent chances of an above average and below average



hurricane season each. However do not let your guard down. Please complete any preparations you need to make in your hurricane supplies and any repairs, modifications, or improvements soon so you will be ready for this hurricane season. IT ONLY TAKES ONE for you to have a very rough season as we rediscovered in 2017. Activity does focus on the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean in early and late hurricane season with more

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SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS (CON'T)

systems coming from the eastern Atlantic in mid season. However a tropical system can form anywhere in the Atlantic basin anytime during hurricane season. DO NOT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. Please check the Tropical Weather Outlook, that is issued four times daily by the National Hurricane Center during hurricane season, daily and often. Tropical systems have a way of popping up when you least expect. For some very interesting reading, go to the new blog for the National Hurricane Center at <https://noaanhc.wordpress.com/>. It has some very interesting articles and gives you something to think about.

We apologize for this issue of the WCF PRESSER being late this month. My life was very hectic with end of the semester, college graduation, and end of the school year work. As many of you know I have been helping my Mom out and am in the process of putting my base station back together since moving back into the family home, which was next door to my small home on the same property. It might have been a very short move but it was still a lot of work! Thank you to all of you for your continued prayers and thoughts for me and my Mom during this time.

I and my team look forward to seeing many of you on ARRL Field Day in a couple of weeks. It will be really neat to see what all y'all come up with for Field Day stations. They are very unique and creative.

73 de Darrell KT4WX

SUMMER QUARTERLY ARES MEETING

The Summer 2019 West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting is scheduled for Saturday July 13, 2019 at the Highlands County EOC in



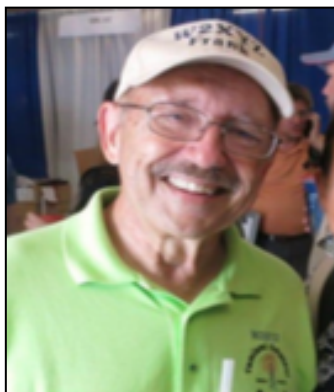
Sebring at 1300. Preceding the Section ARES meeting, there will be the traditional Section ARES Luncheon at the Sebring Diner at 1100, which is located at 4040 U.S. 27 South in Sebring just a couple of miles north of the Highlands County EOC. For more information on the Section ARES Luncheon, including location and directions, go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-summer-2019/>. For more information on the Section ARES meeting, including location and directions go <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-summer-2019/>.

The Fall 2019 West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting will be tentatively held on Saturday October 19, 2019 at the Hillsborough County EOC and the Section ARES Luncheon will be somewhere nearby.

A BRIEF HAMVENTION HISTORY

by Frank WROBLEWSKI, W2XYZ

The Green Shirts invaded Xenia and have successfully returned from their conquest. No invaders were lost in the operation and all returned with various booty and stories of treasures beyond your imagination. (I won a significant prize for the third time in 23 years). Of course I'm talking about the 2019 Dayton Hamvention. The current venue for this event is Xenia, but it wasn't always so. Hamvention actually started 67 years ago, that's 1952 if my math is correct. The first Hamvention was held at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton.



In 1964 Hamvention moved to Hara's Arena. Hara's, located in the Dayton suburb of Trotwood, was basically a hockey arena. In a hodge-podge way, there were several connected buildings and a very large parking lot. An ideal place to hold such a world class convention, and the ideal city to host it. Fifty percent of the US population lives within 500 miles of Dayton. Dayton is served by a first-class international airport, and the city is large enough to have adequate hotels, restaurants, and other attractions (such as the Wright-Patterson museum).

All went well for Hamvention at Hara's, until Hara's started falling apart. Some years back, Hara's lost its hockey franchise and began a downward spiral. Repairs to the buildings and parking lot were done only on an as needed basis, and sometimes not even that. The city's code enforcers ensured the buildings maintained

a minimal standard for the safety of convention goers, but the parking lot looked like it was carpet bombed. Pot holes the size of small craters pocked the flea market area. Indoor plumbing also became a problem, and who from the 2011 Hamvention doesn't remember "Old Faithful" when a sewer pipe under the flea market area ruptured and sprayed attendees and merchandise with raw sewage.

Enough is enough. Attendance steadily dropped at Hara's from its peak of 35,000 in 1994 to around 20,000 near its final days at Hara's. DARA (Dayton Amateur Radio Association), which hosts Hamvention encountered contract difficulties with the owners of Hara's over a number of issues. A decision was made to find a new home for Hamvention. Several sites were considered with the winner being the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. A decision was made that the 2017 Hamvention would be held in Xenia.

The fairgrounds are about 20 minutes or so from Dayton and although the acreage is adequate there were other short-comings...like buildings, and a decent flea market area, parking, hotels, restaurants, etc. I don't know how they did it, but they pulled it off successfully. Somehow things got coordinated and things happened. In addition to the three large and two smaller buildings, two large tents were erected for vendors. Off-site parking was coordinated with frequent shuttles. Basically everything came together in the right way, except for the weather.

It poured Hamvention weekend in 2017. The on-site parking became a green soup with tow

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COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

August 17, 2019

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



October 26, 2019

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



November 9, 2019

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



Bumper Stickers We Have Seen



Cont' from page 3

A BRIEF HAMVENTION HISTORY (CON'T)

trucks and tractors abounding to haul out stuck conventioners. The flea market fared no better. You needed boots, or no shoes at all, to traverse

the marketers. In spite of the new venue and the discomforts provided by Mother Nature, attendance was 29,000. Bad news travels fast (especially via airwaves) and 2018 showed a slight drop in attendance to 28,000.

Much to the surprise of the 2018 attendees, a number of improvements were made, especially in the area of parking and the flea market. Good news travels almost as fast as bad news and the word got around that Hamvention is back. This year things went great. The weather was perfect (can you

believe it, no rain the whole weekend). The flea market had crushed asphalt for pathways, free shuttle busses ran about every five minutes. Police presence was everywhere directing traffic and providing security. The locals absolutely loved us and told us how pleased they were to have our convention there. Attendance for 2019 has not been published yet, but it was announced that attendance was significantly above 30,000. When you consider 67 years ago attendance was 600 with 7 vendors, things have really changed.



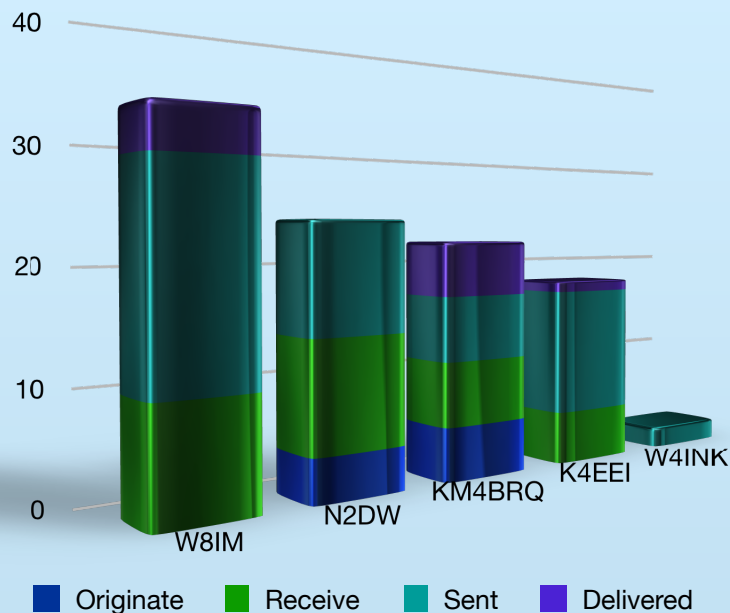
SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

by Doug Williams N2DW

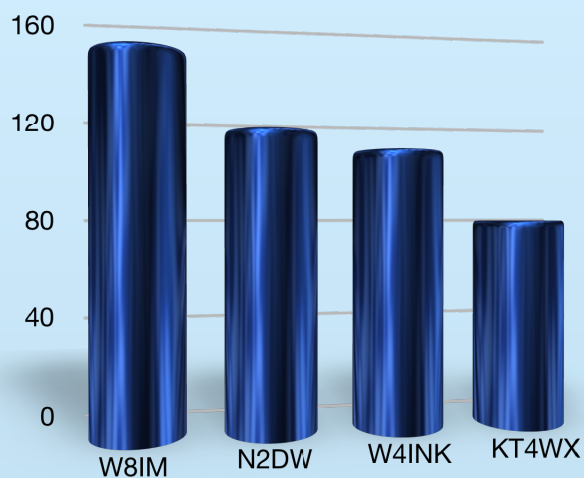
Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

West Central Florida STM Reports

APRIL 2019



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
W8IM	0	10	19	4	33
N2DW	4	10	10	0	24
KM4BRQ	5	6	6	5	22
K4EEI	0	5	12	1	18
W4INK	0	0	2	0	2



W8IM	143
N2DW	114
W4INK	107
KT4WX	80

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	30	1,405	46	1,026	W4PXE
SPARC	39	525	38	1,023	KK4WTE
CERT	4	48	2	48	KK4WTE

UPPER PINELLAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CONDUCTS TECHNICIAN CLASS

by Stephen M. Foy, N4FOY

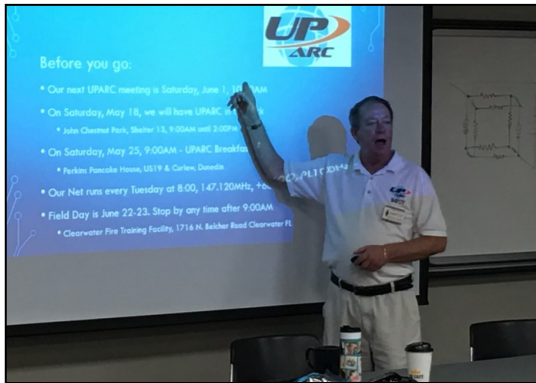
The Upper Pinellas Amateur Radio Club recently conducted a technician class for 17 students comprised of 7 firemen and 10 laymen.

Stephen Foy, N4OY, conducted two, 4-hour training sessions with each class being two weeks apart.

In the first session, held on April 27, Foy stressed the importance of the approach to study – learn only the correct answers. Foy explained the concept of the grouping of questions, then presented key questions from each group (how to use Ohm's Law, how does a repeater work, how does wavelength relate to frequency, etc.). The class was free to go and study for two weeks, emphasizing that an hour each day should accomplish the goal. The students were also advised to repeatedly take practice exams in preparation for their licensing test.

During the second session on May 11th, the students reviewed questions and had hands-on time with the 8 Elmers who bought HF, VHF, UHF radios, and CHIRP PCs for HTs, to the class.

Following an hour of quiet time, the exams were administered to the students.



Stephen Foy, N4FOY



Those students that followed our recommended method of study passed with one or two missed questions. It was obvious who put in the time and who didn't.

At the conclusion of the class, a neighboring fire company asked Foy to train their personnel using the same method. He and the club are in the planning stages for that event during July.

Steve believes that growing the hobby is as important to the the Upper Pinellas Amateur Radio Club as it is to the ARRL as a whole.

Mr. Stephen Foy is an ARRL Registered Instructor and belongs to the Upper Pinellas Amateur Radio Club. He also is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).





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 Manatee 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.arrrl.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://arrrlwcf.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/arrrlwcf>.

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.

CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

This month we will focus on the Brandon Amateur radio society or BARS as they are known. Located in the unincorporated community of Brandon, just east of Tampa, in Hillsborough County, the Brandon Amateur Radio Society operates two repeaters: one on 147.165 MHz with a PL tone of 136.5 Hz, and the other on 443.500 MHz on a PL of 127.3 Hz that is a Yaesu System Fusion repeater that operates in Automatic Mode Selection (AMS) in either Analog or Fusion mode. The VHF repeater is linked to the Echolink N4DLW-R Node 851343 and the UHF repeater has a WIRES X Node as well. BARS operates a website at <http://www.brandonhamradio.org>, has a monthly newsletter called "The Antenna", offers free VE amateur radio testing on the first Saturday of the month. In addition to their regular club meeting on the third Thursday of the month, members of the club regularly have a Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday breakfast social get togethers as well. For details and more information about their club activities go to their website at <http://www.brandonhamradio.org>.

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: A screenshot of their homepage.

BRANDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITIES

FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS
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