

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY – SECTION NET CANCELLATIONS:



I would like to wish all of you a safe and Happy Independence Day on July 4th. Enjoy the time you will spend with friends and family, but remember to be safe during your celebration. Take time out and remember to be thankful that we live in this great country and can enjoy the freedoms we have, which include amateur radio.

The Section ARES and Information Net on Saturday July 2nd at 0830 hours on 3913 Khz and the Section ARES and Information Net on Monday July 4th at 1930 hours on the NI4CE Repeater System will be canceled in observance of Independence Day. The Eagle Net will operate as scheduled, as is normal for NTS Traffic nets.

NEXT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING ON SATURDAY JULY 9TH.

The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday July 9th at 1300. The meeting will be held at the Manatee County EOC. As is customary, the meeting will be preceded by the West Central Florida Section ARES Luncheon at 1100. The luncheon will be held at Beef O Bradys at 4286 53rd Ave E, which is also State Road 70, in Bradenton. For information on the Section ARES Luncheon go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-0716/> and for more information on the Section ARES Meeting go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-0716/>. I look forward to seeing many of you there as can make it.

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 and is just a little over 90 days away. 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.

35TH ANNUAL ARRL AND TAPR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE... (CONTINUED)

I want to dispel a myth about DCC that I may have unintentionally help to foster. It is the premier digital communications technology amateur radio conference in the country but it is not just for the RF and software engineers among us. There is something at DCC all technical levels of amateur radio operators: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. There is a whole second track that have introduction sessions for beginners to compliment the main program track. In case you were wondering, the West Central Florida Section Technical Conference is patterned almost entirely after DCC.

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.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

We are now out of the hamfest season. However there are some hamfests coming up that are out of our normal hamfest season to keep things interesting:

- Saturday July 23: [LARCFEST 2016 – Revolution Church, Lakeland, FL.](#)
- Saturday August 20: [TARCFest XXXVII – Tampa ARC Clubhouse – Tampa, FL](#)
- Saturday September 24: [Pasco County Hamfest – Gunn Highway Fleamarket – Odessa, FL](#)

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:



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>.

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/>.

HAMFEST AND SECTION NEWS ROUNDUP

In July and August, I will be disseminating supplements to the July and August issues of THE WCF PRESSER. These supplements will cover some of the past news from the last hamfest season and other events that we have not had a chance to cover in the regular issue of THE WCF PRESSER. Look for those supplements on the Section website with an announcement on the ARRL remailer.

UP TO 5 COSPONSORS IN THE SENATE BILL (S. 1685) AND UP TO 126 COSPONSORS OF THE HOUSE BILL (HR-1301):

Update 5/28/16: To quote the ARRL news article, “After 2-1/2 months of intense negotiations, ARRL has reached an agreement with the Community Associations Institute (CAI) — the national association of homeowners associations — concerning amended language of the [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#). This will allow H.R. 1301 to proceed to what is hoped will be passage of the bill in both houses of Congress this year.” For the complete ARRL news article go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-reaches-agreement-with-community-associations-institute-on-parity-act>

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 126 co-sponsors as of May 12th.

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, 2015 with Senator [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the United States Senate. HR1301, the original House bill is now up to 126 co-sponsors as of May 12th. 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.”

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EAGLE NET HELD FOR FIELD DAY

On Saturday June 25, a special edition of the Eagle Net, the NTS Traffic Net for the West Central Florida Section which is conducted daily on the NI4CE Repeater System. The net started at 2000, one half hour earlier than scheduled, which was a good thing. The net ran just shy of two hours and handled 19 pieces of NTS Traffic. This traffic included messages to the Section Manager from Field Day sites so they could receive 100 bonus points and messages to thrid parties and other amateur radio operators from Field Day sites, which count for 10 points each under Field Day rules.

A special thanks for Dave Rockwell W4PXE, the substitute NCS and Net Manager for the Eagle Net, for his outstanding job as NCS. Dave was filling in for Christine KK4KJN, who was with Darrell KT4WX on the Field Day Caravan.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF JUNE:

On Friday June 17th, Darrell KT4WX, attended the American Victory Ship ARC monthly meeting. This club holds their monthly meetings on board the American Victory Ship, a cargo ship that was in service during the Second World War. The ship is now a museum and is docked in the Port of Tampa. The meeting was held in the crew galley, which was an interesting experience. On Saturday June 25 and Sunday June 26, Darrell Davis KT4WX and Christine Duez KK4KJN conducted the 16th Annual West Central Florida Section Field Day Caravan. The Caravan covered 504 miles, went through all ten counties of the West Central Florida Section, and stopped at 16 Field Day sites. Unfortunately, the Caravan missed three Field Day sites due to them either not operating or their site not accessible during the time their visit was scheduled during the Caravan. Our apologies to these groups for not being able to pay them a visit. The Caravan was running on APRS using the callsign K4WCF-9 and even received two Field Day messages for Darrell via APRS and two others on HF as well. The rest of the Field Day messages were received during a special session of the Eagle Net.

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>

In the July and August issues of the WCF PRESSER, we will have some pictures from the events and hamfests from the first half of 2016. Look for them. Also we will be resuming as well the Section ARES and Traffic reports as well. Press deadlines did not permit inclusion in this issue.

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.