

## **THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS**

**Issue #19 – August 2016**

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For the PDF version of this newsletter, which will include any pictures and graphics, you may download and read offline go to <http://arrlwcf.org/home/the-wcf-section-presser-arrrl-west-central-florida-section-news/>

### **THE WEATHER IS HOT AND THE TROPICS ARE HEATING UP**

According to the National Weather Service Office in Ruskin, July 2016 was one of the hottest July's since records have been kept. For the next month or so be very careful in this heat: Try to save your outdoor strenuous activities for early or late in the day, take frequent breaks, stay well hydrated. Remember proper hydration is water or drinks with electrolytes. As much as we love soft drinks, they are not proper hydration, in fact they will de-hydrate you. Also the tropical Atlantic will be producing tropical waves starting now from the coast of Africa. The peak of the season will be on September 10, about 5 weeks from now. Regularly check the latest Tropical Weather Outlooks from the National Hurricane Center. Also check your equipment and supplies in case you are activated for communications duty in your local ARES or CERT group.

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> through Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

## **WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST – 10/01/16**

At the last quarterly West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting in Manatee County EOC, it was decided to hold a Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup>. This SET will be primarily a communications test between the ten county EOC's in our Section and between the ten county EOC's and the State EOC. Some of the local ARES groups are planning a local drill to coincide with the Section SET on that date. Look for more information on the Section ARES SET as plans are developed.

## **NEXT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING – 10/15/16**

The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held on Saturday October 15, 2016 at 1300. The meeting will be held at the Pasco County EOC. As is customary, the meeting will be preceded by the Sonny's BBQ at XXXX Little Road, in New Port Richey. For information on the Section ARES Luncheon go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-1016/> and for more information on the Section ARES Meeting go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-1016/>. I look forward to seeing many of you there as can make it.

## **41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST AND 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION CONVENTION – 12/09/16 AND 12/10/16**

That time of the year is coming around again soon. The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual West Central Florida Section Convention will be held on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>. This years hamfest will still be held in Plant City at the Strawberry Festival Grounds but at the Expo Center building instead of the Agricultural Show Center, which is about 2 blocks away. The Agricultural Show Center was unavailable but the Expo Center was made available and the forum rooms are a tremendous improvement over what was available before. For more details go to the hamfest website at <http://www.fgcarc.org>.

## **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.

## **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.

## UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

We are still out of the hamfest season. However there are some hamfests coming up between now and the start of the next hamfest season to keep things interesting:

- Saturday August 20: [TARCFest XXXVII – Tampa ARC Clubhouse – Tampa, FL](#)
- Saturday September 24: [Pasco County Hamfest – Gunn Highway Fleamarket – Odessa, FL](#)
- Saturday November 12: [SPARCFest – Freedom Lake Park – Largo, FL](#)
- Friday December 9 and Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> - [41st Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and 16th Annual West Central Florida Section Convention – Plant City, FL](#)

## CURRENT WCF SECTION NET SCHEDULE. PARTICIPATE IF YOU CAN:



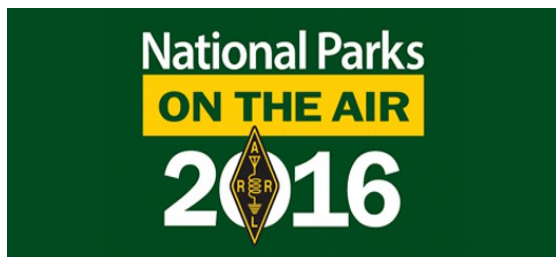
**WCFCountry**  
West Central Florida Section

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>.

## 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. 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/>.

## HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE PASSES MODIFIED VERSION OF AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT IN THE U.S. HOUSE – H.R. 1301:

**Update 7/13/16:** The full House Energy and Commerce Committee at a markup session on July 13 unanimously adopted a substitute bill in the form of an amendment to the Amateur Radio Parity Act. (H.R. 1301). For the complete news article go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-receives-favorable-house-energy-and-commerce-committee-report>. The next step for the bill as amended is for consideration by the full House. There is no current timetable for that action. On May 28, 2016, the ARRL published a press release announcing the agreement reached with the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the representatives of the HOA's. For the complete news article go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrrl-reaches-agreement-with-community-associations-institute-on-parity-act>.

In November 2015, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

US House Representative [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>. As of press time, two Representatives with districts that are in the West Central Florida Section: Representative Daniel Webster, 10<sup>th</sup> District, that covers the north central part of Polk County and Representative Tom Rooney, 17<sup>th</sup> 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 JULY:

On Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup>, Darrell Davis KT4WX attended and did a compilation of several presentations at the monthly Sun City Center Amateur Radio Club. The meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all who attended. On Saturday July 9, 2016, Darrell Davis KT4WX, Ben Henley KI4IGX, Randy Payne K4EZM, Dee Turner N4GD attended the quarterly West Central Florida Section ARES meeting. On Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Darrell Davis KT4WX attended and facilitated the ARRL table at the LARCFest 2016 in Kathleen, just outside of Lakeland. In spite of the hot weather the hamfest was well attended and the ARRL VE test session held at the hamfest produced successful candidates including Liam KM4STS, who is only 8 years old, upgrading to General. Liam plans on upgrading to Extra. On Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>, Darrell Davis KT4WX attended and participated in the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs monthly QRP and ARES Go-Kit radio sprint. In spite of the very hot weather, ten turned out for the event.



*Liam KM4STS posing with his mom Aimee KM4STT and Darrell Davis KT4WX Section Manager after congratulating Liam on passing his General class license exam on Saturday 7/23/16.*

## 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](mailto: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.