

THE WCF PRESSER



WCF Country
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

Aug 2019

Issue # 40

Section Manager

Darrell Davis KT4WX

**Assistant Section
Manager Executive**

Ben Henley KI4IGX

**Assistant Section
Manager Administrative**

Randy Payne K4EZM

**Assistant Section Manager
Legal Affairs:**

Biff Craine K4LAW

**Assistant Section Manager
SM Emeritus and Tampa Bay Area**

Dee Turner N4GD

**Assistant Section Manager
Coastal Area**

Geoff Haines N1GY

**Assistant Section Manager
PIC/ACC Assistant**

Steve Muller KM4VRK

Affiliated Club Coordinator

Mike Douglas W4MDD

Official Observer Coordinator

Dennis Griffin W4DG

Public Information Coordinator

Rich Kennedy N4ESS

Section Emergency Coordinator

Ben Henley KI4IGX

Section Traffic Manager

Doug Williams N2DW

Section Youth Coordinator

Christine Duez KK4KJN

Technical Coordinator

Geoff Haines N1GY

SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the August issue of the WCF PRESSER. At the time I am writing this, there is the first of what could be many Tropical Waves down in the Windward and Leeward Islands that is working its way towards the Bahamas and Florida by the end of the week. Usually around the first week of August, the tropical Atlantic really starts cooking and so if you have not completed any preparations for hurricane season, now is the time to do so. The El Nino is continuing to hold on but is forecast to relax the late summer to early fall time frame. We hope it will hold until near the end of hurricane season but there are no guarantees. Continue to monitor the latest Tropical Weather Outlook issued four times daily by the National



Hurricane Center. Tropical systems can pop up often and with little or no warning. I know I can sound a like a "broken record" or for today's generation "a scratched CD", but vigilance is the word of the day. Test your equipment on a regular basis and check your supplies.

It seems like here in Florida we have four seasons: Early Summer, Summer, Late Summer, and a brief January/February cool spell.

Cont' on page 2

SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS (CON'T)

I may say that "tongue in cheek" but we are in the middle of the summer and it is very hot right now. Be sure to stay safe while working outside. Stay hydrated, take frequent breaks, and try if you can to keep your more strenuous activities to the cooler parts of the day if possible.

I am finally getting my base station fully re-setup from the move from my house back into the main house with my Mom back in late March. I am looking to building and putting up a 2 Meter beam so I can check into more of the local nets here in the Section. It will be complemented with a 5 element 70 centimeter beam, I bought at a hamfest and repaired and want to put up as well. Thankfully, I am about 50-70 miles from most repeaters in the coastal counties with Pasco County being my long haul at 80-90 miles, so I hope to be able to check into more local nets to better communicate with all of you. I have also installed Echolink software on my station computer and smartphone to check into some of the local nets via Echolink as well.

Next year, specifically on January 15, 2020, the ARRL West Central Florida Section will turn 20 years old. We are planning a 20th Anniversary celebration with a few special activities and events throughout the year. You will find information on that elsewhere in this issue of the WCF PRESSER.

Also we have set the venue and date for TECHCON 2020 as well. There is information about TECHCON elsewhere in this issue of the WCF PRESSER as well. Also last month we restarted the WCF EXPERIMENTER and are already planning for the Fall issue. I hope you enjoyed it.

We are looking for content for the WCF PRESSER. The WCF PRESSER should not be simply "what Jim and Darrell wrote up this month". We are always in need for good articles and even information to make the WCF PRESSER an interesting newsletter to read. We on purpose do not re-print ARRL News in the WCF PRESSER as you have already read it on the ARRL website, the ARRL Facebook page or get it via the ARRL remailer.

We strive to bring you mostly local content that you do not read elsewhere and that is where you come in. If your club, ARES group, or group is doing an amateur radio event, please send it to Jim Weslager K3WR via email at weslager@gmail.com. Jim will take your content and lay it out where it will look great.

I look forward to seeing all of you during the late summer and fall hamfest season.

SECTION NET INFORMATION

Here is a list of the current Section Nets that are in operation: Please feel free to check in and participate on these nets as you are able to do so.

DAY / NET	NET	TIME	SYSTEM/FREQ	NET MANAGER
Daily	Eagle Net (West Central Florida Section NTS Net)	2030 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Dave Rockwell W4PXE
Monday	West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net	1930 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	J.C. Rivero K4RTC
Thursday	West Central Florida Section Technical Net	2100 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Geoff Haines N1GY
Saturday	West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net	0730 hours	3940 KHz	Randy Payne K4EZM

The Section ARES Information Net on 3940 KHz will start at either 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net whichever is later.

For more information on the NI4CE Repeater System, including frequencies and a coverage map go to <http://www.ni4ce.org> or

visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ni4ce>.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section wishes to thank the West Central Florida Group Inc. for the use of the NI4CE Repeater System for the Section Nets that are on VHF and UHF.

COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

August 17, 2019

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



October 26, 2019

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



September 28, 2019

2019 Fall Pasco County Hamfest
Gunn Highway Flea Market
2317 Gunn Highway
Odessa, FL 33556

November 9, 2019

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



TARC TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, (TARC), Venice, Florida, received a request from the Sarasota Scullers Rowing Club to provide radio safety over-watch coverage for the September 28th "Battle of the Bridges" rowing event on the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The rowing club indicates that previous 5-watt radio coverage did not work.

A few of the TARC members have been planning the details of this public service activity. So far they have overcome challenges of gaps in coverage by the club's two-meter repeater, overheating portable cross-band repeater, placing 2 portable cross-band repeaters for race control and safety/admin needs into service and

obtaining optimal locations for repeater antennas and a base of operations.

For the event, TARC members will take to the water of the ICW in boats and various locations along the shoreline using VHF/UHF communications. This should provide the communications needs of the rowing event, which is expected to draw plenty of competitive scullers and onlookers alike.



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND (NLLW)

The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) is

radio, lighthouses, and lightships. Its members travel to lighthouses around the world where they operate amateur radio equipment at or near the light. Collecting lighthouse QSLs is popular for some amateur radio operators. ARLHS is a membership organization with over 1665 members worldwide.

events in existence probably because there are very few rules and it is not the usual contest type event. It is also free and there are no prizes for contacting large numbers of other stations. There is little doubt that the month of August has become "Lighthouse Month" due largely to the popularity and growth of the ILLW.

More information is available about the National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend at <https://illw.net/index.php>.



devoted to maritime communications, amateur

The ILLW takes place on the 3rd full weekend in August each year and attracts over 500 lighthouse entries located in over 40 countries. It is one of the most popular international amateur radio

TECHCON 2020 DATE AND VENUE SET - REGISTRATION OPEN AND CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The 6th Annual TECHCON date and venue have been set. The 6th Annual TECHCON, the ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, will be held on Friday February 21, 2020 and Saturday February 22, 2020.

The location for the 6th Annual TECHCON will be at the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center located in Punta Gorda. The Friday Afternoon Workshop will be on "Introduction to Internet of Things" by Jon Pellant W1JP, the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Charlotte County and ARRL Technical Specialist.

Registration is now open for the 6th Annual TECHCON. If you are planning on attending TECHCON, please register for TECHCON by filling out a TECHCON Registration Form on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/>.

Some of our previous presenters at TECHCON are planning on returning for the 6th Annual TECHCON, but we are looking for new



presenters for the 6th Annual TECHCON as well. If you wish to be a presenter, please fill out the TECHCON Registration Form and our Section Manager Darrell Davis KT4WX will get back with you. For more information on TECHCON you may go to the TECHCON web page on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>.

Some have already registered since the initial announcement in the WCF EXPERIMENTER and in a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE last month. Thank you to those of you who have registered for TECHCON and plan on attending.

TOM'S TECH TIPS: BY TOM - W8QJF



Tom, W8QJF

Here is an interesting TECH TIP provided by Tom, W8QJF. We hope you find Tom's shared insight interesting and informative.

Windows 10 God Mode:
There's a special folder you can enable that exposes most of Windows admin,

management, settings, and Control Panel tools in a single, easy-to-scroll-through interface. It's really impressive.

To enable it:

1. Right-click on the Windows 10 desktop and "Create a new folder."
2. Right-click the new folder and rename the folder:
"GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}"
(without " marks), press enter and you're all set!

Courtesy of The Communicator, a publication of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Venice, FL

Editor's Note: Additional information can be found on-line about this feature by Googling "windows god mode"

COUNTY PARKS ON THE AIR STILL UNDERWAY THROUGH THE END OF 2019

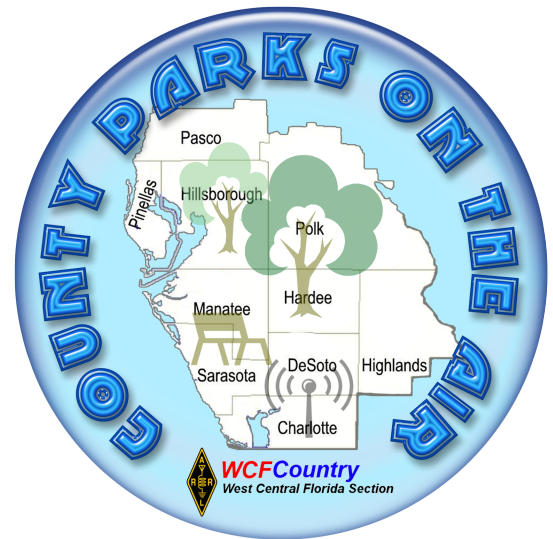
Just a reminder that County Parks On The Air is underway now through December 31, 2019. This is a great opportunity to get out and sharpen your operating skills and also test your portable equipment setup as well. The list of county parks and the event rules is on the CPOTA web page which is on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/countyparks-on-the-air/>. We hope to see an increase in activity particularly as the fall and early winter approaches. If you have HF mobile, consider even pulling up in a county park and operating from your vehicle.

Following some previous suggestions, if you do not have a Facebook account and wish to do a County Park on the Air Activation, please email that information to Darrell Davis KT4WX, our Section Manager and he will post it to the County Parks On The Air Facebook page for viewing. Please send that information one week or more in advance of your planned activation.

If you already have a Facebook account you are encouraged to post it directly to the County Parks On The Air Facebook page. Thanks for your understanding.

We are working a Facebook plug in for the Section website so you can see the latest CPOTA postings as well. There will be a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE to announce when that is complete.

The purpose for the County Parks On The Air Facebook page is:



- (1) For activators to register their intent to activate a county park on a certain date, time, bands, modes, and or frequencies they intend to operate upon.
- (2) Post pictures of activations either in progress or recently completed.
- (3) Show pictures of stations and or related equipment used for an activation or planned activation.
- (4) Share general statistics from a recent activation or a chase to share his statistics of operation.

Anyone may post to the Facebook page but we ask that everyone keep your posts civil and without any obscene, indecent, or profane language. Any posts that violate these rules will be removed by a page administrator. We thank everyone for their understanding on this matter.

FALL 2019 ARRL WCF SECTION ARES LUNCHEON AND MEETING

The Fall 2019 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting is scheduled for Saturday October 19, 2019, at the Hillsborough County EOC on east side of Tampa at 1300.

Preceding the Section ARES meeting, there will be the traditional Section ARES Luncheon with the venue to be finalized in August.

For more information on the Fall 2019 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Luncheon and Meeting, including the addresses, maps on how to get there, and talk in frequencies, you may go to following for each:
Fall 2019 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Luncheon: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-fall-2019/>.

Fall 2019 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-fall-2019/>.

The Winter 2020 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting will be held for the second year in a row at the Southwest Florida Regional Hamfest in Fort Myers in early January.

There will be no scheduled Luncheon prior to the meeting due to the activities at the Southwest Florida Regional Hamfest. This allows us the opportunity to meet some of the other ARES staff and personnel from the Southern Florida Section. This was well received last year and helps to avoid date conflicts with the hamfest season during the early months of the year.



FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REGION 4 COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE REPORT

By Gene King, KI4LEH

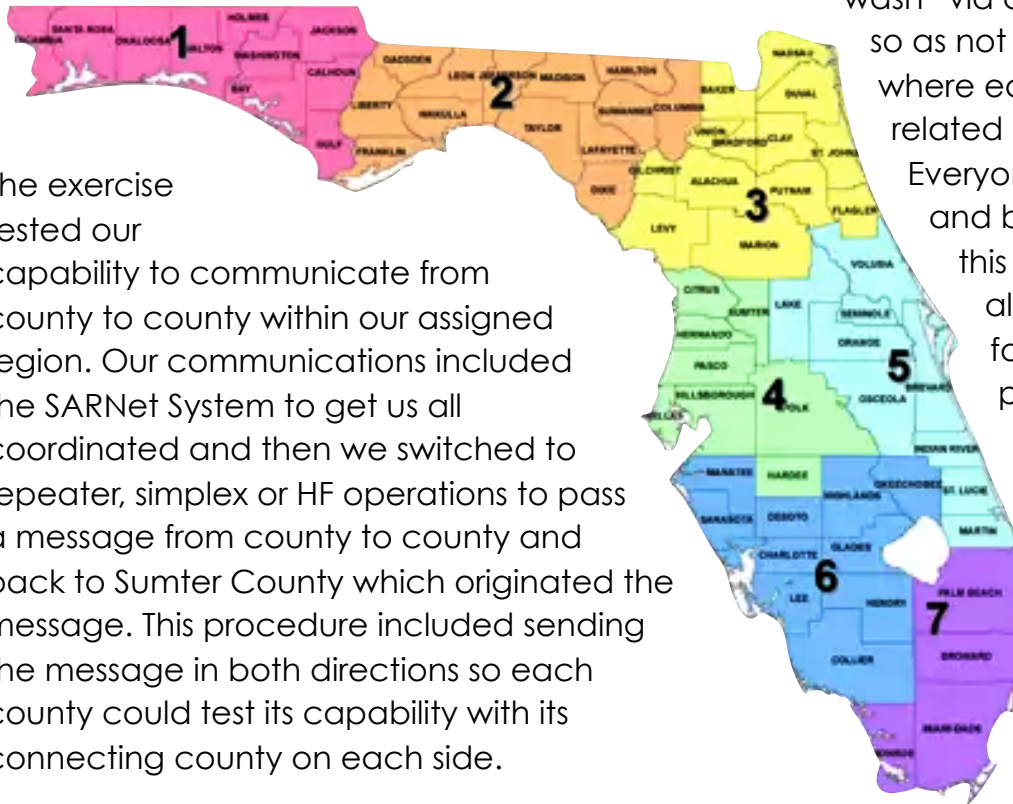
RACES Radio Officer - Sumter County Emergency Management



Gene King, KI4LEH

The Sumter County Emergency Management RACES Team hosted what we called the Region 4 Communications Exercise on Monday July 15, 2019.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management has separated Florida into Regions, and the following counties fall into Region 4: Sumter, Polk, Hardee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus.



The exercise tested our capability to communicate from county to county within our assigned region. Our communications included the SARNet System to get us all coordinated and then we switched to repeater, simplex or HF operations to pass a message from county to county and back to Sumter County which originated the message. This procedure included sending the message in both directions so each county could test its capability with its connecting county on each side.

As with most exercises of this nature, several counties did have some minor issues, which were resolved. Again, these exercises help us to find those minor issues, find the solution for those issues, and correct the problems. Our hope, of course, is that when we are activated/deployed we will have a properly

working communications system, know which system or mode

works best for our needs, and fulfill our role as EmComm Operators serving our respective agencies to the best of our abilities.

The exercise was well received by those who participated; we again had a good "Hot-wash" via a telephone conference call, so as not to tie up the SARNet System, where each county's participants related their take on the exercise.

Everyone appreciated the exercise and by unanimous input want to do this exercise quarterly. They would also like to have the opportunity for the Region 4, exercise participants, to meet for an hour or so at the next Tampa Bay Hamfest on December 13-14, 2019. This way, we can get to know each other a little better than just over the airwaves.

We look forward to the next time we do the Region 4 Communications Exercise as well as any other exercise in which we can learn from and hone our skills as radio operators enhancing our abilities as EmComm teams no matter if we operate under an ARES or RACES umbrella.

THE ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION TURNS 20 YEARS OLD NEXT JANUARY



On January 15, 2020, the ARRL West Central Florida Section will turn 20 years old. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Section, your Section staff are planning some special events for next year. The following events are being planned to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Section during the year 2020.

A 20th anniversary party is being planned immediately following the TARCfest on Saturday January 11, 2020, which is the Saturday immediately preceding the Section's anniversary on Wednesday January 15th, 2020.

A special 20th anniversary West Central Florida Section logo to be used during 2020 in all Section publications and on the Section website. The anniversary logo will be unveiled at the ARRL forum at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 14, 2019.

A K4WCF activation in each of the ten counties over a weekend for 10 weekends that will run twice during the year. The first time will be in the early part of 2020 and the second time will be towards the end of 2020. This will give everyone two opportunities to work the K4WCF special events station in each of the ten counties. A operation similar to this was held in January 2000 when the Section commenced operation. An operating event that will go all year to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Section.

There will be more details about the 20th Anniversary celebration in the months to come.

WCF EXPERIMENTER IS BACK IN PUBLICATION AND SUMMER 2019 ISSUE IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

The WCF EXPERIMENTER is back in publication and has a totally new look. The WCF EXPERIMENTER Summer 2019 issue is now available for download. To download the Summer 2019 issue and any other previous issues please go to the WCF EXPERIMENTER webpage at <http://arriwcf.org/home/the-wcf-experimenter-technical-newsletter/>. The WCF EXPERIMENTER will be published quarterly, and on occasion a supplemental issue as needed.

Jim Weslager K3WR is the new editor for the WCF EXPERIMENTER and also the WCF PRESSER, our Section monthly newsletter. We are looking for articles for future editions of THE WCF EXPERIMENTER. If you would like to submit an article, please send those submissions to Jim Weslager K3WR via email at weslager@gmail.com.



LAST MINUTE FIELD DAY

Rich Kennedy - N4ESS ARRL WCF PIC

A tremendous amount of last minute effort goes into deciding whether a club will participate in Field Day each year. Smart phones abound among the members of most clubs and all of them with alarm apps. I had no idea that field day is in two weeks and no one mentioned it at the last meeting, is a phrase I have heard before. Set an alarm with a 6 month, 3 month, 2 month, 1 month, and whatever else works to keep you on track for Field Day. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. It is not the third weekend or the last weekend in June. It is the fourth full weekend of June, every year, and yet it sneaks up on us.

I had a chance to visit a few groups this year for Field Day and saw everything from tents, campers, train station museums, and historical society park pavilions. They were all using some type of emergency power and antennas hung on poles, thrown through trees, and a portable tower here and there. CW chimed, voices peaked, and digital sounds sang into the night. The thing that they all had in common, no matter how big or small, was that they all decided to participate. Some by a well-planned effort and others by a last minute decision but they participated. Speaking to the participants was enlightening to say the least. Some vowed, last year, that they were not going to do Field Day because of age, heat, weather, or lack of participation by others in their group but here they were. There were comments that Field Day was going good despite the bands and some complained the lack of CW operators was hampering their score with others using digital to shore up the scores. I did find an overall common denominator, food. Food of all kinds, flavors, sizes, shapes, mom's recipe tacos to Wawa Convenience store foot longs. BBQ was a big deal for the group in Lakeland and homemade food from the Zephyrhills club president graced the tables of the combined East Pasco and Zephyrhills group. No one went hungry

and if they did it was their own fault. I made sure to visit a few clubs at eating time to make sure that I gave an honest opinion of their Field Day fare.



Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

Why am I talking about Field Day? It is gone for another year and yet before you know it the fourth full weekend in June will be upon us. Start planning now. Remember all of the gripes that people had and talk them out. Location can be a large determining factor for turn out. Older clubs will find it hard to get the older member to sit in a tent at ninety degrees and talk on the radio. The Lakeland Amateur Radio club has a solution to that. Take time to call them and others that do Field Day in a bit more comfort. Start to look for the next location well ahead of time. The fact that "we have always done Field Day in the same field" should not be the determining factor for your Field Day location if your participation is waning. Field Day, for a club, should be an event for everyone. Make it a group dinner, picnic, outing, teaching session, learning session, but make it a group event. Clubs use considerable club resources and Field Day should benefit the club, as a whole. Don't let the same six guys have all the fun. I saw a nine year old on SSB knocking out contacts while an eighty year old guy banged out CW contacts a few feet away. Yes, I got pictures.

Make Field Day a family, a club, a community event. Invite everyone and as a club member stop by and sign the sign-in sheet. You don't have to operate unless you want to, just show up, show your support, take lots of pictures for your club, share your pictures with the WCF section, and by all means EAT.



SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

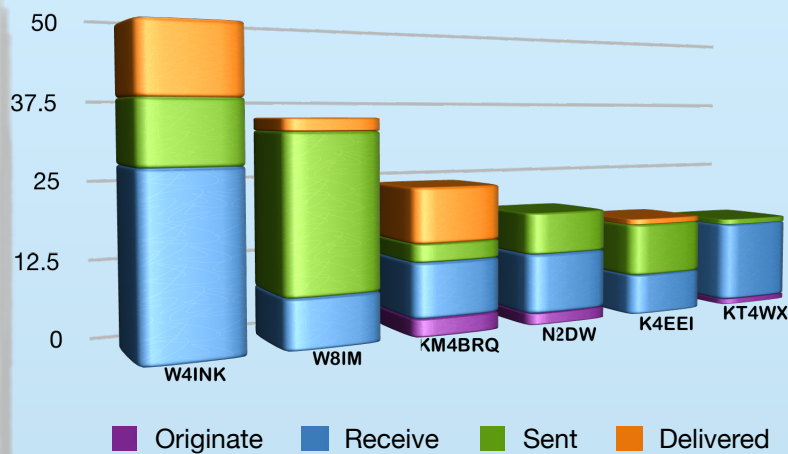
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

West Central Florida STM Reports

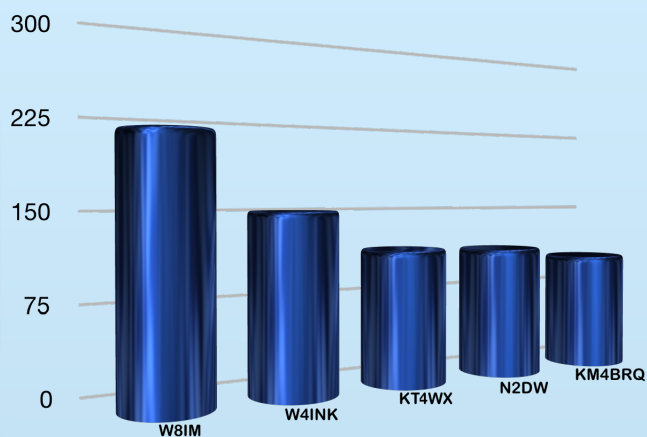
June 2019

Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
W4INK	0	28	10	11	49
W8IM	0	8	25	2	35
KM4BRQ	3	9	3	9	24
N2DW	2	10	7	0	19
K4EEI	0	7	9	1	17
KT4WX	1	14	1	0	16

Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
W8IM	213
KM4BRQ	104
N2DW	114
W4INK	150
KT4WX	116

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	30	1230	60	1049	W4PXE
SPARC	38	468	36	975	KK4WTE
CERT	4	29	2	35	KK4WTE

CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH - CLEARWATER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Club Website: <http://www.carshamradio.org/>

Located in Clearwater, in Pinellas County, operates one VHF repeater and two UHF repeaters on the following frequencies: 146.970 MHz, 444.150 MHz, and 444.450 MHz, all of them on a PL tone of 146.2. Hz., under the callsign of W4JMH.

The club conducts VE testing and holds monthly membership meetings on the 2nd

Monday and 2nd Thursday respectively at the Clearwater Fire Training Facility and operated the last Field Day with the St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club and the Upper Pinellas Amateur Radio Club from the same facility.

The club was recently recreated their website and has a recently redesigned logo.

CLEARWATER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY: A screenshot of their homepage.



Clearwater Amateur Radio Society, Inc

HOME REPEATERS TESTING MEETINGS OFFICERS WHATS NEW & EVENTS MEMBERSHIP **USEFUL LINKS**

Useful Links

Regional and State Ham Links

[Florida Contest Group](#)
[Tampa Bay Hamfest](#)
[ARRL West Central Florida Section](#)
[ARRL Southeastern Division](#)
[West Central Florida Group / NI4CE Repeater System](#)
[Florida Repeater Council](#)

National / International

[ARRL – The National Organization for Amateur Radio](#)
[IARU – International Amateur Radio Union](#)
[IARU – HAM Operating Ethics](#)
[Radio Amateurs of Canada](#)
[Radio Society of Great Britain](#)

Calendar

CARS Business Meeting

August 8, 2019 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
1700 North Belcher Rd , Clearwater , FL 33765

Amateur Radio Testing

August 12, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Clearwater Fire Training Facility, 1716 I Belcher Rd, Clearwater, FL 33765, USA

Amateur Radio Testing

September 9, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Clearwater Fire Training Facility, 1716 I Belcher Rd, Clearwater, FL 33765, USA