

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS

Issue #9 – September 2015

By Darrell Davis KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

THANKS TO ALL WHO WERE ON STANDBY FOR DEPLOYMENT DURING TROPICAL STORM ERIKA. STAY TUNED TO THE TROPICS.

Many ARES groups and amateur radio operators were on standby late last month (8/27-8/29) for possible activation for shelter communications in case Tropical Storm Erika paid us a visit. Thankfully, Erika degenerated in a trough of low pressure on Saturday 8/29/15, near Hispanola and Cuba. Ben Henley KI4IGX, our Section Emergency Coordinator and I wish to thank all of our ARES groups and amateur radio operators who were on standby for deployment. Hopefully this will be our only “scare” this hurricane season. However, the hurricane season is not over until 11/30/15. Please continue to monitor the daily Tropical Weather Outlooks issued by the National Hurricane Center. Also occasionally check out your radio equipment and check your supplies in case you are asked to deploy, which could be more likely for West Central Florida in late hurricane season.

STATION APPOINTEE MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE FOR AUGUST:

If you are serving as an ARRL Station Appointee, please be sure to file a monthly report by the 5th day of the month following the month being reported. If you still have not sent in your monthly report, please go ahead and do so anyway. For example for the month of January, your report would be due by February 5th. To those who have been filing their monthly reports, a sincere thank you for your effort. You can fill out te and fill out your monthly report there. Go to the section in the menu called Section Forms which is at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/> or select the appropriate report form in the Section Forms menu. Upon successful submission you will receive an on screen confirmation and almost immediately you will receive an email confirmation for your records that also goes to the Cabinet member that oversees your program. Your report is then filed and you are all done for the month. Regular reporting is an ARRL requirement to hold an ARRL Station Appointment.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

The 2015-2016 hamfest season is off and running and the hamfest calendar is getting busy:

- Saturday September 12: 8th Annual LambieFest – Tropical Gulf Acres Clubhouse – Punta Gorda, FL. Info: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/8th-annual-lambiefest/>
- Saturday September 12: Upper Pinellas Amateur Radio Club (UPARC) Fall Tailgate – Palm Harbor, FL Info: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/uparc-fall-tailgate/>
- Saturday September 26: 24th Annual Pasco County Hamfest – Gunn Highway Flea Market, Odessa, FL. Info: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/23rd-annual-pasco-county-hamfest/>
- Friday October 9 and Saturday October 10: 50th Annual Melbourne Hamfest – Melbourne Auditorium – Melbourne, FL. Info: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/50th-annual-melbourne-hamfest-arrl-florida-state-convention/>

More more information on hamfests and events in the Section , please visit our website Section Calendar at <http://www.arrlwcf.org/events> for more information.

2016 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION COMING TO ORLANDO HAMCATION THIS HAMFEST SEASON:

The ARRL Board of Directors voted at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in July, to designate the 70th Annual Orlando Hamcation, February 12-14 2016, as the site of the 2016 ARRL National Convention. The 2016 Orlando Hamcation will be a ARRL Expo with an extra ARRL Headquarters presence. Be sure to mark this one in your hamfest calendar for the upcoming hamfest season.

THE WCF SECTION INFORMATION AND SECTION ARES NET HAVE MERGED. HF SECTION ARES AND INFORMATION NET CONTINUES OPERATION

The newly combined WCF Section ARES and Information Net will continue to meet on Monday evening at 1930 (7:30 P.M.) on the NI4CE Repeater System with J.C. Rivero K4RTC serving as Net Manager for the combined net. J.C. is looking for volunteers to serve as Net Control, so a net control schedule can be established. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Darrell Davis KT4WX via email at kt4wx@arri.net.

The WCF Section ARES and Information HF Net will continue to meet on Saturday morning at 0830 (8:30 A.M.) on 3911 KHz, which meets mostly on 3913 KHz, with Neil Lauritsen W4NHL, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator continuing in his position as Net Manager.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF AUGUST:

August was a slow month, which meant being at home and catching up on projects before returning back to work on Wednesday August 19th. On Thursday August 13th, I had the privilege of presenting the ARRL Special Service Club Certificate at the monthly meeting of the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs monthly meeting.

On Saturday August 22nd, I helped to facilitate the ARRL table at the last TARCfest of 2015. Steve Elliott KS4WA (one of our DXCC Card Checkers) and Carl Zelich, AA4MI, ARRL Assistant Director Southeastern Division assisted with facilitation of the ARRL table. Carl was gathering signatures to help support the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 and Steve was also doing his role as DXCC Card Checker as well.

On Saturday August 29th, Christine Duez KK4KJN and I attended the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs (LWRA) monthly radio expedition held at the Fort Meade Outdoor Recreational Complex next to the Peace River just east of Fort Meade. The mosquitoes were not bad like we expected and the river was quite swollen like we expected but we have a real good pavilion to operate from. I got to setup my ARES Go-Kit and check it out and practice using my new antenna tuner I built a month ago. and even helped program a Baofeng radio for a fellow ham..

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 COMPANION BILL (S 1685) INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE, 94 COSPONSORS OF THE HOUSE BILL (HR-1301):

US House Representative [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle: seven Republicans and five Democrats. Since the last issue of THE WCF PRESSER was published, US Senator [Roger Wicker](#) (R-MS) introduced S 1685 on June 26, with Senator [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the United States Senate. HR1301, the original House bill is now up to 94 co-sponsors as of July 29. As of July 29th, 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 ARRL has moved and expanded the web page devoted to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. The direct link is <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. Look at this page for information on how to send a letter to your Representative or Senator, the current list of co-sponsors, etc. Check out the latest news article on the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 from Friday August 28th at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-clarity-on-amateur-radio-parity-statement-separates-fact-from-fiction> and the another recent article on Monday June 29 at <http://www.arrl.org/news/senate-sponsor-of-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-said-bill-promotes-regulatory-transparency-equali>.

The following is a summary 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 pre-emption 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."

Writing a letter to your Representative or Senator is the best method to ask him to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The ARRL is recommending that you send your letter to the ARRL for two reasons: (1) Because of security concerns, it can take from six to eight weeks for a letter sent directly to a Congressional office to be delivered and (2) It can be combined with other letters to your Congressperson and hand-delivered to their office on Capitol Hill.

CHECK OUT THE SECTION WEBSITE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO LATELY

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 meetings, etc., are all posted there. We will be adding more content to the Section website here in the next 30-60 days, including completion of the monthly local club meeting and 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.

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT FOR JULY 2015

By Doug Williams N2DW:

Station Activity Reports (SAR):

N2DW: Originated 0, Received 8, Sent 6, Delivered 1, and Total 15
W8IM: Originated 0, Received 26, Sent 30, Delivered 9, and Total 65
W4PXE: Originated 1, Received 19, Sent 29, Delivered 2, and Total 51
K4EEI: Originated 0, Received 83, Sent 67, Delivered 3, and Total 153
W2SU: Originated 0, Received 6, Sent 2, Delivered 3, and Total 11

Public Service Honor Roll:

N2DW 95
W8IM 105

West Central Florida Section Net Activity Reports:

AIN: Sessions 3, Stations 32, Traffic 1, Minutes 41
Net Manager – WA4ATF
EAGLE NET: Sessions 30, Stations 1096, Traffic 48, Minutes 977
Net Manager – W4PXE
SPARC NET: Sessions 37, Stations 535, Traffic 43, Minutes 848
Net Manager – W4TS

SECTION MANAGERS CONTACT INFORMATION AND CONCLUSION:

Here is my contact information. Much of this is listed now on Page 16 of QST.

- 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. The URL for those are:

- 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. 73 de Darrell KT4WX