

# THE WCF PRESSER



**WCF Country**  
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

Sep 2019

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## SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

### ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the September issue of the WCF PRESSER. It is hard to believe that eight months of this year has already passed and the fall of the year will be here in a few weeks. Along with the fall of the year, we hope will come cooler weather. According to the records kept by the National Weather Service office in Ruskin, which is the NWS Office that serves our Section and several counties in the Southern Florida Section and Northern Florida Section, our first night with temperatures below 60 degrees typically occurs between October 10 and October 25. So hopefully in about six or seven weeks we will start having some cooler weather.



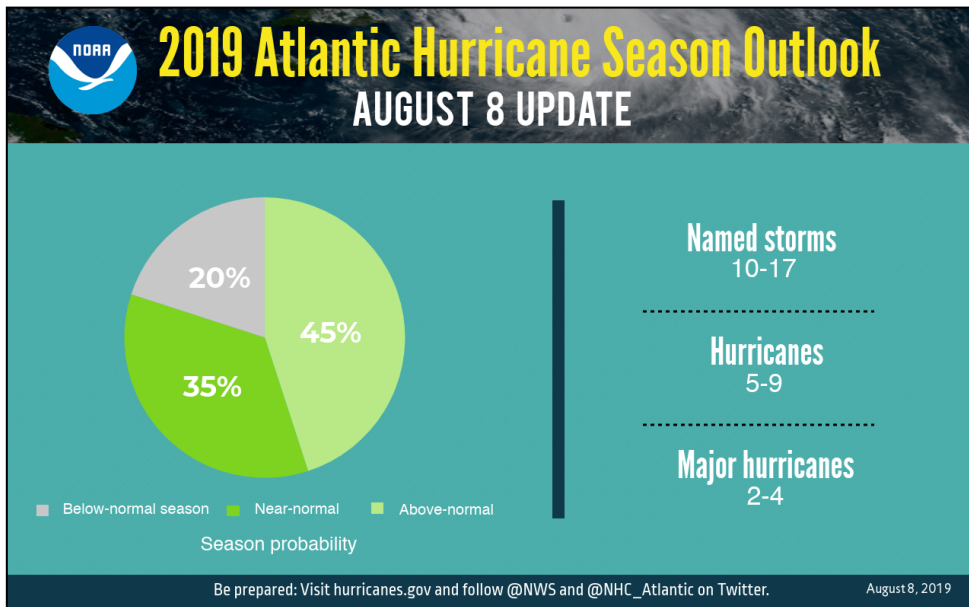
On September 10th will be the peak of the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which is just around the corner. It is ironic that Hurricane Irma hit the State of Florida on September 10, 2017, the peak of the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Everyone needs to stay vigilant between now and the end of the Atlantic Hurricane Season on November 30th. On August 8th, NOAA released their mid hurricane season outlook. The number of named storms, hurricanes, and major hurricanes is slightly up from the outlook issued in

*Cont' on page 2*

## SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS (CON'T)

May. The outlook was revised slightly upward due to the collapse of the El Nino in the Pacific Ocean that had been in place since late last year. Although our tropical storm activity has been slow until now, it is expected to increase shortly, especially with the peak of the season coming soon.

Our planning for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the ARRL West Central Florida Section in 2020 continues and I think you will enjoy what we are planning. Details will be forthcoming in subsequent issues of the WCF PRESSER this fall. Preparations are underway for the 19th Annual ARRL West Central Florida



Please continue to monitor the latest Tropical Weather Outlook issued by the National Hurricane Center in Miami. These storms can pop up very quickly, especially late in the season, so vigilance is the operative word here. Keep a constant check on your equipment and supplies to be sure they are ready when you need them the most. If a storm is predicted to get close to the State of Florida, fuel and canned goods can become short in supply, so we have to be thinking ahead. Those of us in ARES, CERT, and ACS have to especially be on guard, so we do not get caught unprepared.

Section Convention, which will be hosted by the 44th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest which is being held at the Florida Strawberry Festival Grounds in Plant City, and the 6th Annual TECHCON which is being held at the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center in Punta Gorda in February of next year. One last thing to talk about this month: The WCF PRESSER is always looking for good content. If you have an event go on in your local

club, ARES, CERT, or ACS group. please write it up and send it in. You can send that content to our newsletter editor Jim Weslager K3WR via email at [weslager@gmail.com](mailto:weslager@gmail.com). Send it photos or illustrations as well. Jim will work with what you send him and make the article layout look great.

That is all for this month. Take care and we will talk again next month.

## 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
<b>Daily</b>	Eagle Net (West Central Florida Section NTS Net)	2030 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Dave Rockwell W4PXE
<b>Monday</b>	West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net	1930 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	J.C. Rivero K4RTC
<b>Thursday</b>	West Central Florida Section Technical Net	2100 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Geoff Haines N1GY
<b>Saturday</b>	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

### September 28, 2019

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

### October 26, 2019

East Pasco Amateur Radio Society Fall 2019 Tailgate  
Church Street Park  
37746 Church Avenue  
Dade City, FL 33523

### November 9, 2019

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



### December 13-14, 2019

2019 Tampa Bay Hamfest  
Expo Hall – Strawberry Festival Grounds  
Lemon St and Palmetto Ave.  
Plant City, FL 33563

**TAMPA BAY HAMFEST**

## OPEN LETTER TO EAGLE NET PARTICIPANTS

From: Dave Rockwell, W4PXE, Net Manager, West Central Florida National Traffic (Eagle) Net

Fellow amateur operators,

Recently, some members of our community have taken it upon themselves to complain and correct fellow amateurs, over-the-air, regarding radio practice. Such corrections on-air, go against the long-standing practice of both commercial and amateur operators. As one who has spend a number of years as one and then the other, I'd like to request that we all refrain from correcting fellow amateurs' radio practice on-the-air.

Both when I began work as a commercial operator in 1973 and later in my training as a Military Affiliate (now Auxiliary) Radio System (MARS) augmentee and emergency radiotelephone operator, it was continuously stressed that we do not correct other operators' practice over-the-air. First, detracts from the principles of clear, concise, and effective communications.

Additionally, correcting operators on-the-air undermines their confidence and can compromise the "professionalism". It is perfectly acceptable to point out technical issues that compromise effective communications, but we must refrain from deriding fellow operators' practices. For example, it is acceptable to point, on FM, that an operator might be overdriving their audio, when in-turn causes the signal to break up. It is not acceptable to complain about how an operator makes a call or what phonetics he or she uses.

Our Eagle Net is a semi-controlled net, meaning that stations are may call net control rather than net control being the only station authorized to make calls. Many military nets are fully controlled. These are often called roll-call nets, because net control calls each station in order. Some HF traffic nets operate as roll-call nets as well. The instance of doubling is reduced, though it can occur on open call segments (e. g. calling for any short of time stations). In semi-open nets, the jury is out whether it is better to just make your call or to pause between the call out (i.e. "Net Control") and your ID (e.g., This is W4PXE). Personally, I unkey between the two and listen. That doesn't always prevent doubling, but if I do hear another station, then I wait my turn. Either way, we all must be patient. Remember, there are no prizes to be won to be the first person to check in for a county. There will be plenty of opportunities.

If you feel compelled to correct an operator on his or her practice, do it offline. If the person is active in QRZ, look up the email and send a short, courteous note. Alternatively, wait until after the net and call the station. If he or she answers, exchange phone numbers or emails and take the discussion off-air. We all share this medium and need to be a courteous and non-confrontational as possible, so everyone can enjoy our hobby, improve our skills, and expand our amateur radio people network. We are all in this hobby together and may need to rely on each other in a crisis.

Best regards,  
Dave Rockwell, W4PXE



## 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.

Following the Friday Afternoon Workshop will be the Friday Evening Social at 1800. The Friday Evening Social will be held at the Golden Corral on US41 just south of downtown Punta Gorda. Family and friends are welcome to come with you. This is a great time to socialize, talk about projects, etc. The address and maps for the location of the Friday Evening Social are located on the TECHCON webpage

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/wcftechconregistration/>.

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.

## 54th ANNUAL MELBOURNE HAMFEST AND ARRL FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION



The 54th Annual Melbourne Hamfest and 2019 ARRL Florida State Convention will be Friday October 11th and Saturday October 12th at the Melbourne Auditorium located on Hibiscus Drive near downtown Melbourne. The Melbourne Hamfest is also host to the 2019 ARRL Florida State Convention.

Please stop by and visit the ARRL table where Section officials from all three ARRL Florida Sections will put in time to meet and greet you.

For more information about the hamfest, including a link to the hamfest website you may view the calendar entry on the Section website at <http://arrlwcfl.org/event/54th-annual-melbourne-hamfest-day-one/>.

## 19th ANNUAL ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION CONVENTION AND TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

The 19th Annual ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention will be held in the conjunction with the 2019 Tampa Bay Hamfest.



The Tampa Bay Hamfest will once again be held at the Florida Strawberry Festival Grounds Expo Center on Friday December 13th and Saturday December 14th. Please stop by the ARRL table and visit with your Section staff.



Norm Fusaro W3IZ, the ARRL Director of Operations, will be our guest from ARRL HQ this year. The ARRL forum will be held on Saturday December 14th where the 2019 White Award will be presented to the recipient of the award and Norm Fusaro W3IZ will do a presentation.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

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

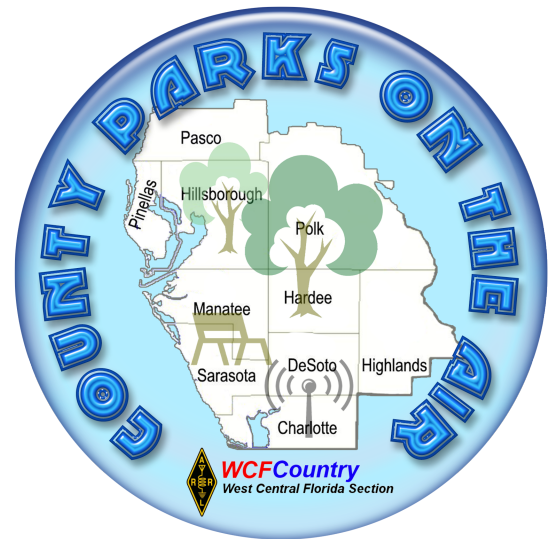
Just a reminder that County Parks On The Air is underway now through December 31, 2019. This is a great opportunity to get out and sharpen your operating skills and also test your portable equipment setup as well. The list of county parks and the event rules is on the CPOTA web page which is on the Section website at <http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/county-parks-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.



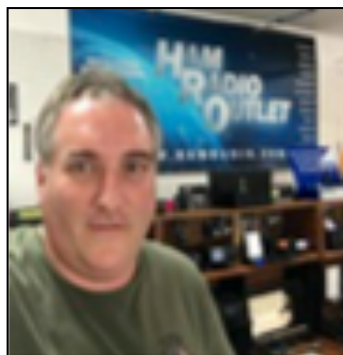


## TUNING INTO THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO PODCASTS

Chris Bloxsom, AA4CB

ARRL Public Information Officer

Ham radio is a great hobby. You can talk to people from all over the world on just a couple of watts and a wire. One new aspect



of ham radio is podcasts. A podcast is a digital audio or video file made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or mobile device, typically available as a series, new installments of

which can be received by subscribers automatically. Now with the new technology that is out there many people are doing LIVE streaming of their podcasts. This is a great media form cause now you can join a live podcast and be able to interact with the host or hosts of the show.

I have been watching and listening to podcast for the past couple of years. I find the audio podcasts good because when you are on a long road trip all you have to do is punch one up on your smartphone or tablet and play it threw the car stereo. I find this much better that listening to regular terrestrial AM of FM stations. The radio stations are always playing commercials. How many times can you listen to the same ad about product XYZ?

This review is going to be about my personnel favorite 5 ham radio video podcasts. All of them are available freely on the internet by going to the home page of the show. They are easy to listen to or watch on any home computer, laptop , or cell phone. I have an iPhone so I use Apple's podcasting app to add podcasts. The App will tell you when a new podcast is available. You tube is another way of

watching video podcasts. Log in to your YouTube account. Search for the name of the podcast and then subscribe to it. Check the notifications bell if you want to be notified every time there is a new video.

Now for my very favorite video podcasts.



W5KUB. Tom Medlin has been streaming his show on the internet for several years. In 2015 he started streaming his show called Amateur Radio Roundtable. The show was really about what is going on in the ham radio world today. The show has a good bunch of co-hosts that join in there every week. Some co-hosts to mention are Katie Allen WY7YL , Rich Moseson, W2VU, editor of CQ magazine, Josh Nass KI6NAS, Joe Eisenberg K0NEB, Dave Casler KE0OG, Martin F. Jue K5FLU- Founder of MFJ, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH- special counsel to FCC.

Besides their video podcasting over the internet they are also simulcasted on world famous shortwave station WBCQ on 5130 kHz. During the show you can join in on the chat room that is available. When everything is working properly Tom also takes phone calls near the end of the show. His show has been

known to run anywhere from an hour to 2 hours. You can find out more at their website <http://w5kub.com>.

In addition to the regular weekly shows that they do , the crew takes the show on the road. Tom and the



gang travel to some of the larger hamfest/conventions in the country. Hamvention in Xenia Ohio, Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama are two of the top shows that they do live streaming from.

Prizes , Prizes, Prizes. Every year the W5KUB.com crew give away prizes to their listeners during the Dayton and Huntsville hamfests. So, if you are in the chat room you are automatically registered to win. (note: See [w5kub.com](http://w5kub.com) for official rules)

After watching the show for the past 2 years I can honestly say that it feels like you are with family. I have been to many hamfests where the show has been live streaming. In the time that I have spent at these hamfests I have been lucky to meet with Tom , Katie, Joe. They are a good bunch of hams and a good bunch of people that have a love for Amateur Radio. I have gotten to know some of the hosts outside of the "ham radio thing". I enjoy their company and conversation. One of the hosts, Katie Allen WY7YL , we call each other "Twin", cause we both have the same birthday down to the year.



Coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> on my list of amateur radio podcasts has to be the show Ham Nation. With just over 400 episodes under their belt, yes you read that correctly FOUR HUNDRED shows. They bring you an excellent and informative show every Wednesday night. The hosts of the show are Bob Heil K9EID, Gordon West WB6NOA, George Thomas W5JDX, Don Wilbanks AE5DW, Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L, Amanda Alden K1DDN , Dale Puckett K0HYD. This show is part of the Twit.TV network. The show's website is <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>

If having fun with amateur radio was illegal these people would all have life sentences. You never know what is going to happen when you get this group together. The one thing I do know is that Gordo will be wearing some colorful dress shirt to capture the attention of the viewers. The show has many different segments that they manage to get done in about 90 minutes. All different ham radio topics are discussed during the show. One week the show will detail how to build a single band dipole antenna for the newly licensed ham. On another episode they will be discussing building a tube transmitter and receiver on a pine wood board. They also make the trip to some of the larger hamfests and conventions across the nation. Shoot some video, do some interviews and later put on the air. One of my favorite segments is called "Smoke and Solder" where George W5JDX assembles various ham radio related "stuff". George gives the audience tips on how to make it. A lot of the time he will take video to show step by step how something went together. Don Wilbanks brings us the weekly edition of Amateur Radio Newsline. Amamda takes questions from the viewers, sometimes shows off pictures of ham shacks that were sent into her. One of my favorite part of the show is when they explain home brewing stuff. Not only do they show you how to build a project ,but the plans are on their website. Dr.

Tamitha Skov  
WX6SWW  
brings us  
the weekly  
Solar  
Weather  
Update.



The main 2 hosts of the show are Bob Heil K9EID and Gordon West WB6NOA. If you have not seen them on the podcast then you might

have seen them at one of the large conventions. I had the privilege of speaking to Bob briefly one afternoon at the 2018 Hamcation in Orlando Florida. I was really amazed by Bob. I was sitting at one of the



picnic tables outside the food vendor area and Bob Heil walked by the table. I said, "Hello Bob." He turned around, came over to us, and sat down at the table. I have to say that he spent a good 15 minutes with us.

I was really impressed that someone who is so well known in the amateur radio world, so busy at hamfests, and has a tight schedule with all the interviews and forums that he puts on, had time sit down and chat with us. Oh wait a second....I was with three YL's.(Young Ladies)... now I get it. He wanted to talk to the YL's :) (the YL's were Dawn WA4YL, Melanie AG4YL, AND Catherine AC4YL)

We talked a bit of radio and bit of the show. I thanked him for all that he does for the hobby and that the show has been part of our regular Wednesday night TV watching for the past year. It was great to talk to him that day.

More to come next month as we continue with my review on some more amateur radio podcasts. I will be making the trip up to the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama on August 16th. This is known as "The World's Friendliest

Hamfest!" There I will be able to meet some more fellow Amateur radio operators and of course take a lot more pictures. I hope to see a bunch of you up there. This is one of the biggest hamfests in the Southeastern division.

In the meantime, you can start watching or listening to many different podcasts. If your new to this here are some simple instructions on how to. You can use any computer or phone that has a web browser, like Chrome, Safari or Microsoft Edge. Just go to the website that has podcasts,

for example [arrl.org/doctor](http://arrl.org/doctor). Follow the instructions on their website. Most offer many options on how to listen/watch their show.

If you are using a smart-phone, iPhone, or iPad. I can say that all of these devices have an App for podcasts. If it's not, go to the app store. Android phones you can use the Google podcasts app. Install the app. Open the Podcast app and go to the search page and type in the name of the podcast you want to find eg: ham talk live. Choose the podcast you want from the search results and click or tap on it again. Once on the podcast homepage you should see a list of most recent episodes. Just click or tap on one that you would like to listen to.

*Continued in the October 2019 edition the WCF Presser*



## 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.

### WHITE AWARD 2019 NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations for the 2019 White Award are now open. The White Award was established in 2016 to recognize the amateur radio operator who has made great accomplishments for amateur radio here in the ARRL West Central Florida Section, particularly in the last year.



Nominations are now open to any licensed radio amateur and nominations may be submitted by filling out the Contact Form on the Section website at <http://arriwcf.org/section-forms/contact-info/>. Nominations will

close on Saturday November 30, 2019 and the Section Manager and his cabinet will choose a recipient from the nominations received. The award will be presented to the recipient at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 14, 2019 during the ARRL forum.

The 2018 White Award was bestowed on Mike Bresse W2YS, an Assistant Section Manager and the Amateur Radio Coordinator for the Bike MS Citrus Tour. Mike had been the SAG Coordinator for the Bike MS Citrus Tour for a number of years and succeeded Jason Triolo KD4ACG as Amateur Radio Coordinator in 2018. Mike had put in each year countless hours of his time to helping to make the amateur radio communications for the Bike MS Citrus Tour a success.





## SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

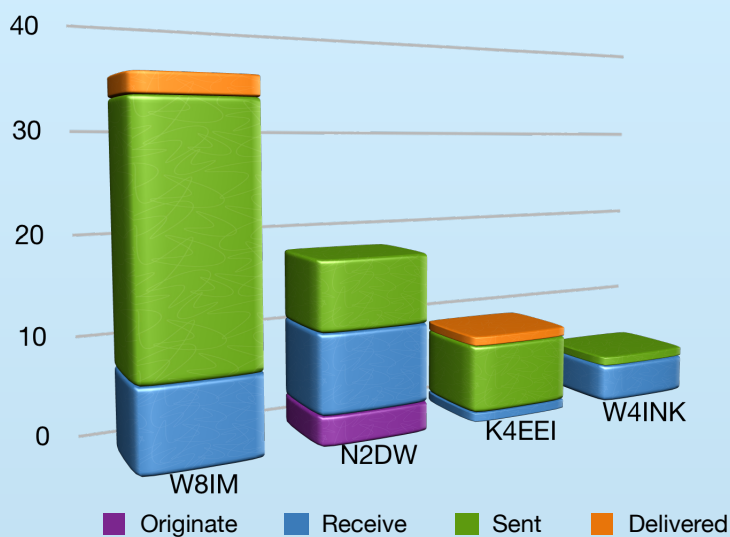
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

### West Central Florida STM Reports

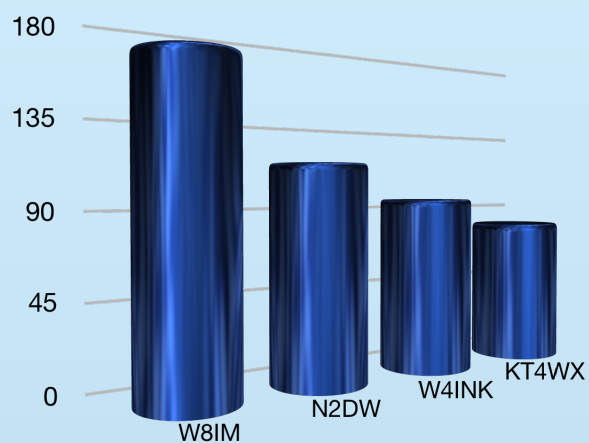
July 2019

#### Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
W8IM	0	8	25	2	35
N2DW	3	8	7	0	18
K4EEI	0	1	7	1	9
W4INK	0	4	1	0	5

#### Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
W8IM	165
N2DW	114
W4INK	95
KT4WX	80

#### West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	31	1357	32	966	W4PXE
SPARC	38	468	36	975	KK4WTE
CERT	2	16	1	23	KK4WTE

## YAESU FT3DR REVIEW

Chris Bloxsom, AA4CB

ARRL Public Information Officer

At the Dayton Hamvention Yaesu showed the public its new hand-held radio. The FT3DR. It is



a replacement for the current FT2DR. The radio looks really impressive. I had a chance to hold one in my hand at Dayton Hamvention. I was like a kid in the candy store pressing buttons and asking John Kruk, national sales manager for

Yaesu USA, a lot of questions. They were not available for sale then but they are now.

The FT3DR is a 2m/70 dual band hand-held radio. It has 2 receivers. That means dual band simultaneous receive. You can listen to both VHF & VHF or VHF & UHF or any combination of VHF and UHF. There are two decoders in that small radio. You can listen to 2 C4FM signals at the same time. Say you have the 146.880 Dade City K4EX repeater on VFO A and the 146.670 Port Richey WA4GDN repeater set to VFO B on the radio. You can monitor both frequencies at the same time. The radio has a full 5 watts of output power. You can of course choose to lower the power output to 2.5w , 1 watt of even .3 of a watt. Zero-point three (0.3) watts is great to amateurs who are using some type of "spot" like an Open-spot or a ZUMspot or some type of MMDVM. There are too many to list here. This is nice when operating C4FM it will not drain your battery as quickly as full power would do. If you have the Yaesu MH-851A11U optional camera / speaker microphone you can send and receive FULL COLOR pictures over the air. The color TFT LCD screen is set at 320x240. I have used this mic many times with my FTM-400 and FT2DR.

The Yaesu FT3DR is nicely packaged. When you open the box the first thing you see is the manual on top. This is a real book. It is not a sheet of paper with the basics on a radio, like some of the Chinese radios come with. After going through the manual, I can say that Yaesu as done



a nice job with getting information into the user's guide. There are plenty of screen shots to show you what the screen on the radio will look like when you navigate the keyboard driven menu. Inside the box in addition to the radio you will find the antenna, a battery charger , a USB cable (just for doing future firmware updates. This is not a programming cable.) and a 7.2 volt 2,200 mAh Lithium battery pack the SBR-14Li model. Other battery packs of different sizes and milli-amp-hours are available from Yaesu authorized dealers.

The FT3DR has a slightly smaller than the FT2DR. It does feel more comfortable in your hand. The side buttons have a slight angle to it. The radio is styled after the FT-70 hand-held. This is the latest and greatest handheld from Yaesu. They built this radio on suggestions from its customers. The color screen is the most noticeable feature of the radio. While the FT2 had an LCD grey screen display, the FT3 is now LCD full color. If you have an FT2 already, then all the accessories can be used on the ft3. charge, cables, mics, antennas.

Another new feature you get is the built-in Bluetooth. The Bluetooth enables you to operate the handheld with easy hands-free operation. You can purchase the Yaesu Bluetooth headset (SSM-BT10) to talk and listen to the radio or you can pair it with a BT enabled speaker that you might already have to just listen to the radio. The Bluetooth is built into the radio. On some other models you had to buy and install a Bluetooth board yourself. Not so here with the FT3DR. Something that I find really neat is the ability to record audio. With the SD card installed (up to 32GB) and configured you will be able to voice record the received and transmitted audio. This could be a useful during ARES events.

Just like its predecessor FT2DR the FT3DR has APRS built in. You can only run APRS on VFO B.

The radio comes with a high-sensitivity 66 channel GPS antenna. This increases the accuracy of the receiver and will give you an accurate local to where you are. Speaking of VFO B you can now add a name to your stored memory channels. This was not possible with the FT2DR. You could only assign a name to memory channels stored on VFO A.

My final thoughts on the FT3DR. I have owned all the C4FM radios that Yaesu has produced. I like the navigability of this one and it has all the "bells and whistles" needed to operate the Wires-X network. Navigating the menu system is easy. Battery life last pretty long. Yaesu has made storing memory channels even easier than before. You do not need a cable and PC to program.

#### The Receiver on VFO A range is:

0.5 - 1.8MHz (AM Broadcast)  
 1.8 - 30MHz (SW Band)  
 30 - 76MHz (50MHz HAM)  
 76 - 108MHz (FM Broadcast)  
 108 - 137MHz (Air Band)  
 137 - 174MHz (144MHz HAM)  
 174 - 222MHz (VHF TV)  
 222 - 420MHz (GEN1)  
 420 - 470MHz (430MHz HAM)  
 470 - 800MHz (UHF Band)  
 800 - 999.90MHz (GEN2, USA Cellular Blocked)

#### VFO B the range is :

B(Sub) Band RX: 108 - 137MHz (Air Band)  
 137 - 174MHz (144MHz HAM)  
 174 - 222MHz (VHF)  
 222 - 420MHz (GEN1)  
 420 - 470MHz (430MHz HAM)  
 470 - 580MHz (UHF Band)  
 TX: 144 - 148MHz, 430 - 450MHz

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