

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS

Issue #10 – October 2015

By Darrell Davis KT4WX

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

THE TROPICS ARE STILL ACTIVE. STAY TUNED TO THE TROPICS AND PREPARE FOR THE WINTER SEASON.

We had another potential scare just this last week. Thankfully, a frontal trough came down over the State of Florida and blocked Hurricane Joaquin from paying the United States, or specifically Florida, a visit. Remember the folks and amateur radio operators of the Bahamas affected by Hurricane Joaquin in your thoughts and prayers. This is a reminder that despite of the El Nino, we could still have a late season hurricane. Do not forget that Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 were late October hurricanes. Please continue to monitor the daily Tropical Weather Outlooks issued by the National Hurricane Center. Also as we transition out of hurricane season into winter, we do have potential for severe weather from cold fronts early in 2016 due to the El Nino. Continue to occasionally check out your radio equipment and check your supplies in case you are asked to deploy in case ARES is activated.

STATION APPOINTEE MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE FOR SEPTEMBER:

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.

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING – SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH – CHARLOTTE COUNTY EOC.

The next West Central Florida Section ARES meeting will be held at 1300 (1:00 P.M.) at the Charlotte County EOC at 24561 Airport Road, Punta Gorda. The Charlotte County EOC is next door to the Port Charlotte airport. The meeting will be preceded, as is the usual routine, with an ARES luncheon at the Skyview Cafe, 28000 Airport Road, Punta Gorda.

For directions and other information on the WCF Section ARES luncheon go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon/> and on the WCF Section ARES meeting go to <http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-meeting-2/>.

ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT THE 40TH ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST:

Start preparing now for the ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention which is always held in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Friday December 11 and Saturday December 12, 2015. This will be the 40th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and will be held for the third year at the Agricultural Show Center in Plant City. For more information go to the hamfest website at <http://www.fgcarc.org> Our guest from ARRL Headquarters this year will be Mike Gruber W1MG, the Electromagnetic Compatibility Specialist from the ARRL Lab. Welcome Mike to this years Tampa Bay Hamfest.

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 2015, 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. For more information go to the Hamcation website at <http://www.hamcation.org> and you can find out more information about the ARRL Expo at <http://www.arrl.org/expo>.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

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

- Friday October 9 and Saturday October 10: 50th Annual Melbourne Hamfest – Melbourne Auditorium – Melbourne, FL. *ARRL Florida State Convention*. Info: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/50th-annual-melbourne-hamfest-arrl-florida-state-convention/>
- Saturday November 7th: Peace River Repeater Association Hamfest – Punta Gorda Boat Club – Punta Gorda, FL. Info: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/event/peace-river-hamfest/>
- Saturday November 7th: Lakeland Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest – Revolution Church – Lakeland, FL. Info: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/event/larc-annual-hamfest-2015/>
- Saturday November 14th: SPARCFest 2015 – Freedom Lake Park – Largo, FL. Info: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/event/sparcfest-2015/>
- Friday December 11th and Saturday December 12th: 40th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest – Agricultural Show Center – Plant City, FL. *ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention*. Info: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/40th-annual-tampa-bay-hamfest-arrl-west-central-florida-section-convention/>

GEOFF HAINES N1GY REAPPOINTED AS AN ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER.

Geoff Haines N1GY, after stepping down as an Assistant Section Manager at the end of 2014, due to health concerns, has been reappointed as an Assistant Section Manager effective on Friday September 19, 2015. Geoff is continuing in his capacity also as the Technical Coordinator for the West Central Florida Section. Geoff's other duties include Net Manager of the West Central Florida Section Technical Net and editor of the WCF Experimenter, the official technical newsletter of the West Central Florida Section. Welcome back Geoff, as an Assistant Section Manager

SARASOTA COUNTY EOC RADIO ROOM NAMED AFTER AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR

Sarasota County Emergency Management named the radio room at the new Sarasota County EOC in honor of Ron Wetjen WD4AHZ, the Emergency Coordinator for Sarasota County ACS (ARES and RACES combined) early in the month of September. Ron has served as Emergency Coordinator for quite a number of years and congratulations go to Ron for receiving this recognition of his service. For pictures and more info see WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE #53 at <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2015/09/10/wcf-section-press-release-53/>.

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@arrl.net. A net control schedule will be put together real soon.

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 SEPTEMBER:

On Monday September 7th, Christine Duez KK4KJN, our Section Youth Coordinator, payed a visit to the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club as their guest speaker filling in for me due to my being sick that evening.

On Saturday September 12, I attended the 8th Annual LambieFest at the Tropical Gulf Acres Clubhouse on the south side of Punta Gorda. The clubhouse grounds were waterlogged from all the summer rain and while we were there, it rained again and after the rain it was flooded and several folks got their vehicles stuck trying to get out. Despite of the rain, a good time was had and the hamfest was well attended.

On Thursday September 17th, I took an airline flight to ARRL HQ to attend the Section Managers Workshop for all new Section Managers on Friday September 18 – Sunday September 20. We were given an extensive tour of ARRL HQ, got to operate W1AW for a time, and heard quite a number of the departments heads of various ARRL departments at headquarters give information presentations in what functions their departments provided to ARRL members and all amateur radio operators. There will be an upcoming WCF Section Press Release with some pictures for your viewing that were taken during this visit.

On Saturday September 26th, I attended the 24th Annual Pasco County Hamfest at the Gunn Highway Flea Market right off of State Road 54 in Odessa. The hamfest was enjoyed by everyone who attended and the folks there provided a tent for the ARRL table being it was an all outdoors hamfest.

There will be upcoming WCF Section Press Releases on the latest hamfest visits. Stay tuned.

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 COMPANION BILL (S 1685) INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE, 99 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. US Senator [Roger Wicker](#) (R-MS) introduced the companion bill 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 99 co-sponsors as of October 3. 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 direct link to the ARRL page devoted to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 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.

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015

By Doug Williams N2DW:

Station Activity Reports (SAR):

N2DW:	Originated 0, Received 9, Sent 7, Delivered 0, and Total 16
W8IM:	Originated 0, Received 14, Sent 15, Delivered 2, and Total 31
W4PXE:	Originated 8, Received 10, Sent 17, Delivered 4, and Total 39
K4EEI	Originated 0, Received 48, Sent 46, Delivered 2, and Total 96
W2SU	Originated 0, Received 2, Sent 3, Delivered 1, and Total 6

Public Service Honor Roll:

N2DW	86
W8IM	81

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015 (Continued)

West Central Florida Section Net Activity Reports:

AIN: Sessions 5, Stations 51, Traffic 3, Minutes 87
Net Manager – WA4ATF

EAGLE NET: Sessions 31, Stations 1083, Traffic 31, Minutes 1010
Net Manager – W4PXE

SPARC NET: Sessions 28, Stations 535, Traffic 55, Minutes 822
Net Manager – W4TS

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 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