## WCFPRESSER



The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

Oct 2019 Issue # 42

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## SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS by Darrell Davis, KT4WX ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the October issue of the WCF PRESSER. As Jim Weslager K3WR and I were working on getting the September issue prepared for publication, in which I reminded everyone to stay vigilant concerning hurricane season, we had a Labor Day weekend case of "heartburn" with the close call from Hurricane Dorian. All of the ARES organizations were in stand by mode in case their services were required. Some were scheduled in the last days before Labor Day weekend to activate but when Hurricane Dorian made the abrupt turn to north on Labor Day. Highlands County ARES did activate as requested by Highlands County Emergency Management and had ARES



personnel in shelters for about 28 hours. Thankfully, for Florida, Hurricane Dorian did make that turn and we were not impacted here in the ARRL West Central Florida Section but other ARRL Sections were much more impacted than we were. The hardest hit was the northern Bahamas and we need to remember those people in prayer and in our thoughts, as they begin the long road of recovery. There has been some amateur radio assistance provided by some amateur radio operators in

Cont' on page 2

#### **SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS (CON'T)**

our Section to Agape Air, per their request, to augment their communications for delivery of supplies. I wish to personally thank those amateur radio operators in Sarasota and Charlotte County who stepped up to the plate to fulfill the request of this agency.

The hurricane season is certainly not over and we have certainly seen an active Atlantic for the whole month of September, which is normal for this time of year. There is often another secondary peak of activity in early October. Remember to continue to monitor the latest advisories and tropical weather

outlooks issued by the National Hurricane Center.

Everyone by now is starting to wonder, "When is it going to cool off?". According to the statistics kept by the National Weather Service office in Ruskin, which covers the ARRL West Central Florida Section, on average the first night with temperatures below 60 degrees occurs from October 11 through October 28,

Autumn Low Temperatures

At or Below 60°F

Sep 28

Oct 11

Oct 12

Oct 14

Oct 15

Oct 14

Oct 14

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The National Weather Service office in Ruskin has an article on their website that gives you these facts and figures and in quite a bit of detail at <a href="https://www.weather.gov/tbw/whencool">https://www.weather.gov/tbw/whencool</a>. The real cool down does not happen typically until November. So we do have two things to look forward to in November: cooler weather and the end of hurricane season. These are both early Christmas presents as far as I am concerned.

Over the summer I installed the Echolink software in my computer at home so I can check in on some of the local club and ARES nets as I have opportunity. I am also hoping to put up a 2 Meter 10 or 11 element beam

and a 70 centimeter beam to check into more local club or ARES Nets on 2 Meters and or 70 centimeters. I was planning to build a couple unless I run across a 2 Meter and 70 centimeter beams at a hamfest for the right price, as the fall hamfest season is now getting into swing. I look forward to seeing all of you at an upcoming hamfest and of course at the Tampa Bay Hamfest in mid

December.

going roughly from north to south.

# NEW EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR SARASOTA COUNTY ARES APPOINTED

Gary Wells WB9AYD was appointed as the



ARRL Emergency
Coordinator for the
recently formed Sarasota
County ARES.

Wells is active on SSB, CW, digital modes such as PSK31, FT8, Pactor, VARA and several other modes, and is also am involved

with HF,VHF, and UHF Winlink both involving ham radio and SHARES.

Wells enjoys experimenting with his go box capabilities utilizing NVIS and AREDN and enjoys using his Flex Radio for DXing from home. Wells was first licensed in 1969 as a novice as WN9AYD and then progressed to WB9AYD as an Extra Class ham.

Wells, in his professional career, was in the process control/industrial/factory automation world and has been retired for 11 years. Wells and his wife moved to Sarasota from the Chicago/Milwaukee area in 2009 and now live in Sarasota County year around.

Wells said the following about his new role as ARRL Emergency Coordinator, "Ham radio is my passion and I look forward to working with other ARES members and hams going forward in my new role."

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ARRL OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

On Tuesday
September 24,
2019, the ARRL
News service
announced
that the new
ARRL
Volunteer
Monitors
program will



commence operation on Tuesday October 1, 2019 and that the current ARRL Official Observers program will cease operation after Monday September 30, 2019. To read the full ARRL news article please go to <a href="http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-thanks-official-observers-as-volunteer-monitor-program-is-set-to-debut">http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-thanks-official-observers-as-volunteer-monitor-program-is-set-to-debut</a>.

Darrell Davis, KT4WX, our Section Manager, made the following comments on this topic, "I am taking this opportunity to thank Dennis Griffin W4DG, our ARRL Official Observer Coordinator, and the eleven ARRL Official Observers in the ARRL West Central Florida Section who has selflessly served as ARRL Official Observers. The amateur radio community is a better community thanks to your service. Your time of appointment may be going into history, but your service will be remembered. Again, a sincere thank you for your service."

#### 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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ni4ce">https://www.facebook.com/ni4ce</a>.

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.

### SECTION NET CANCELLATIONS FOR OCTOBER

The HF edition of the WCF Section ARES and Information Net that is scheduled for Saturday October 12th and Saturday October 19th at 0730 on 3940 KHz or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net, will be cancelled due to Melbourne Hamfest on Saturday October 12th, which is also the ARRL Florida State Convention for 2019, and the WCF Section ARES Meeting on Saturday October 19th.



The HF edition of the WCF Section ARES and Information Net will resume its normal operation on Saturday October 26 at 0730 on 3940 KHz or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net whichever is later.

### 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.

### **COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION**

#### October 26, 2019

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

### November 9, 2019 <u>SPARC Fest 2019</u>

Freedom Lake ParK 9990 46th Street North Pinellas Park, FL , FL 33782



#### November 16, 2019

Special TARCFest TARC Clubhouse 7801 N. 22nd St, Tampa, FL 33610

Note: This is a reschedule for the TARCFEST on Saturday 8/17/19 that was formally cancelled due to local area flooding at the time.

#### December 13-14, 2019

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



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

The 54th Annual Melbourne Hamfest and 2019 ARRL Florida State

PCARS

Platinum.

Coast

Amateur

Radio

Society

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 <a href="http://arrlwcf.org/event/54th-annual-melbourne-hamfest-day-one/">http://arrlwcf.org/event/54th-annual-melbourne-hamfest-day-one/</a>.

## TOM'S TECH TIPS: BACKGROUND APPS THAT STEAL WINDOWS 10 PERFORMANCE

If your computer seems to be slower than it should be, now would be a good time to see what applications are needless-

ly running in the background. It's helpful to have some background apps running, but far too many developers be-lieve that their application should be one of them. It's time to take control of your own computer.

To see what's running open **Settings** and type **background** in the search panel. Choose **Background apps** from the list and you'll probably be amazed by the applications listed there.

Literally dozens of applications were set to run in the background, from 3D Builder and 3D Viewer (who needs that?) to the Xbox Console Companion and the Xbox Game Bar (which I also never use). After rebooting, turning off most of these background applications will have just one effect: Your computer will be faster. Those unneeded background apps will drain a laptop computer's battery, waste band- width on any computer that's attached to the internet, and needlessly consume system resources.

There's an option at the top of the list to turn off all background applications. That's not a good idea because Edge (if you use it), OneNote, and some other applications will work more efficiently if you allow them to run in the back- ground. Most applications don't need to though so you can turn them off. Turning off the background application doesn't change the way the application runs when it has focus. About the only background process I load is Windows Security.

73, Tom, W8QJF

### 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 <a href="http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/">http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/</a>.

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 <a href="http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/">http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/</a>.

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.

#### **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 and it will be held at the Golden Corral on Providence Road on the west side of Brandon. The link to the Section has already been updated with the correct venue information for the Fall 2019 Section ARES Luncheon.

GENCY SE

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: <a href="http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-fall-2019/">http://arrlwcf.org/event/wcf-section-ares-luncheon-fall-2019/</a>.

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

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

Welcome back. This is part 2 of my review, of some of my favorite Amateur Radio podcasts. I will give you a brief summary of my next



three favorite podcasts. What I like the most about these next upcoming shows is that they are basically created by individual hams that work hard on bringing this information to you and they love the

hobby. No big corporate or network companies behind them. These guys do most of the work themselves.

Let's start the next review with one of our local hams here in Florida.

Ham Radio
Concepts. The man
behind this great
podcast is Eric Hofer,
callsign is KJ4YZI. After
reading his bio off his
website it looks like
we both found the
radio hobby the same



way. Our Dad's both had a CB radio in the car and that is what piqued our interest when we were just young lads.

Ham Radio Concepts, HRC for short, has a very impressive number of videos on YouTube. There you can find Eric showing us some of the latest radio gear that has come out. While in other videos he will interview people from some of the top manufactures of amateur radio gear.

Eric has recently started shooting videos on how to get into amateur radio satellites. After watching his videos about satellites, it got me interested and and I went out and picked up an Arrow antenna just like most of the Satchasers use. Another set of videos that he did was the "Learning the HF Ham bands". Each video was an introduction to every HF band that we can use. What the privileges were and what modes of operation are popular. For the newly licensed ham or recently upgraded ham this is very informative.

I had the chance to meet Eric at this year's Dayton's Hamvention. We did not get to talk long, but I did get to say hello and thank him for putting all his time and energy into HRC. I am looking forward to catching him at the next big hamfest. He did make a bunch of videos of his time at Xenia, Ohio. The show's website is

https://www.hamradioconcepts.com/

Now over to the west

coast and we have recently found a Podcaster out of southern California. Josh Nass KI6NAZ aka "Hoshnasi". He also runs his video podcasts out of the



house.

Josh has a long list of videos available. There are many categories to his videos that can be useful. A couple that I recently watched was "Get your Technician license", "Emergency Communications", "Are you new to radio? "In addition, he also has a set of videos on how to

get your General and Extra class license. Josh has done a numerous number of videos on new operating modes, interviews with ARRL Division directors, and some kit building.



Recently he did a live stream titled "Build a Micro uBitX All Mode All Band HF Ham Radio". It was great! Like a lot of his streams Josh is on the camera as well as in the chat room interacting with his audience.

David Casler KEOOG hosts a show called "Ask Dave". Well before I talk about his podcasting, I must give him a thumbs up on his work that he does to his website. http://dcasler.com/.



Dave's site provides a lot of information about amateur radio. Guides for all Amateur Radio Licenses can be found on the front page. The site is very user interactive. You can leave comments on anything that is posted to the pages.

In one of his latest videos Dave breaks down the 2-meter band. He goes into great detail to explain why we have band plans. Dave then talks about the modes of operation and what frequencies are specificity assigned for each mode. This is no text book explanation, he makes it simple to understand. If you have been in the hobby for 30 years or 30 minutes you will come out learning something new after watching this and many of his other videos.

Product reviews and unboxing videos is another great value that Dave adds to the ham radio community. I have seen him put together various antennas and test out some new radios. Not all the reviews are great. He says it like it is.

Well that about wraps up my review of my top 5 Podcast shows. It looks like there are new shows coming on-line all the time. So, keep an eye or ear out for them. I would like to leave a couple of links to other shows that are popular in the amateur radio podcasting world. Please go check them out and subscribe.

#### Chris Bloxsom AA4CB

Twitter - @aa4cb\_Chris Facebook - fb.com/ aa4cb email - aa4cb@arrl.net,Extra class operator & licensed for 30+ years. Currently the webmaster and social media manager for East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club, and Pasco County ARES. He is a ARRL life member and volunteer examiner. You can usually catch him on 6 meters and FT8. He has visited many clubs in WCF promoting Yaesu System Fusion.

### JOINT EFFORT BY PASCO ARES, HILLSBOROUGH ARES AND PASCO COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HELP TO LICENSE 22 NEW AMATEUR OPERATORS

PASCO COUNTY- In a joint effort nearly 2 dozen people passed their Technician class license in New Port Richey.



This class concluded with a test session, on the afternoon of the 16th, with a grand total of 22 newly licensed amateur radio operators.

Many thanks to the instructors for their efforts and the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner (VE) team.



With multiple agencies coming together, Pasco County ARES, Pasco County Office of

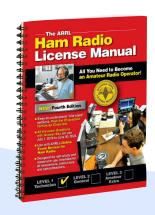


Emergency
Management, and
with a tremendous
support from
Hillsborough
County ARES, a
technician class
was held at the
Pasco County
E.O.C. on August
2nd and the 16th.

A special thanks to Ralph McCullough, WA3YFQ, Emergency Coordinator, Pasco County ARES, for months of planning and organizing this event.



The study material used for this class was the A.R.R.L.'S Technician book.



### 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 <a href="http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/contact-info/">http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/contact-info/</a>. Nominations will

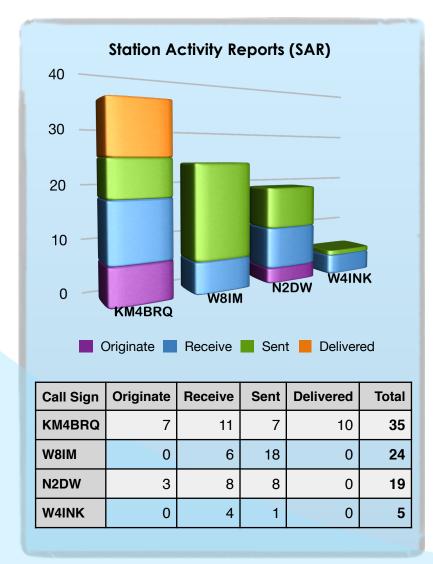
close on Saturday November 30, 2019 and the Section Manager and his cabinet will choose a recipient from the nominations received. The award will be presented to the recipient at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 14, 2019 during the ARRL forum.

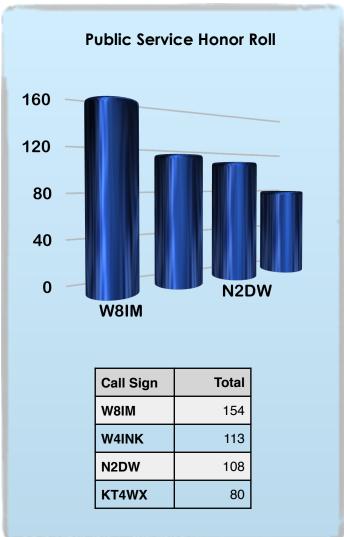
The 2018 White Award was bestowed on Mike Bresse W2YS, an Assistant Section Manager and the Amateur Radio Coordinator for the Bike MS Citrus Tour. Mike had been the SAG Coordinator for the Bike MS Citrus Tour for a number of years and succeeded Jason Triolo KD4ACG as Amateur Radio Coordinator in 2018. 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 August 2019





### **West Central Net Activity Reports**

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	31	1410	32	1036	W4PXE
SPARC	40	499	35	996	KK4WTE

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

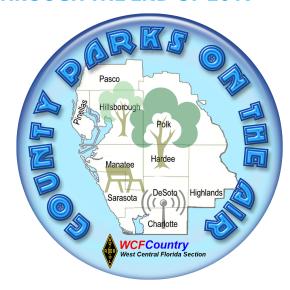
Just a reminder that County Parks On The Air is underway now through December 31, 2019. This is a great opportunity to get out and sharpen your operating skills and also test your portable equipment setup as well. The list of county parks and the event rules is on the CPOTA web page which is on the Section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

### **CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH - WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA GROUP**

This month we will cover one of our regional organizations. The West Central Florida Group (also known as WCFG) is a regional organization and not a traditional local radio club. The primary purpose of WCFG is to operate the NI4CE Repeater System that consists of six repeaters (five 70 centimeter and one 2 Meter) at five different sites: Holiday, Riverview, Lake Placid, Bartow, and the original site at Verna.

WCFG holds its annual meeting at the Tampa Bay Hamfest, has a table at the Tampa Bay Hamfest, and operates a website and Facebook page. Their website is located at <a href="https://ni4ce.org">https://ni4ce.org</a> and their Facebook page is at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ni4ce">https://www.facebook.com/ni4ce</a>. WCFG also sponsors two NXDN repeaters: one in Riverview and one in Verna.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section holds the majority of the Section nets on the NI4CE Repeater System and extends its sincere thanks to the West Central Florida Group for allowing the use of the NI4CE Repeater System for the Section Nets. The times of the Section Nets are listed elsewhere in each issue of the WCF PRESSER.

<u>WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA GROUP</u> - A screenshot of their web page that shows the NI4CE Repeater System coverage

