

## **THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS**

**Issue #11 – November 2015**

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**ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager**

### **HURRICANE SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE IN NOVEMBER. STAY TUNED AND PREPARE FOR THE WINTER STORM SEASON:**

The tropics have been relatively quiet since the close passage of Hurricane Joaquin in early October. The good news is that the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season will close on Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### **2ND ANNUAL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION TECHNICAL CONFERENCE – HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EOC:**

Coming up on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, which will be held at the Hillsborough County EOC which is located at 2711 E. Hanna Av., in Tampa. Registration for the conference is now open and you may register online at the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>. We are looking for presenters at the conference. Many from last year are returning this year but we are still looking for new presenters as well. Your presentation can be in any area of amateur radio technology. We will have a special guest speaker again this year from the ARRL Laboratory. Stay tuned for more details.

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

It is only a little over a month away. 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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:

- Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>: Peace River Repeater Association Hamfest – Punta Gorda Boat Club – Punta Gorda, FL. Info: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/event/peace-river-hamfest/>
- Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>: Lakeland Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest – Revolution Church – Lakeland, FL. Info: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/event/larc-annual-hamfest-2015/>
- Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>: SPARCFest 2015 – Freedom Lake Park – Largo, FL. Info: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/event/sparcfest-2015/>
- Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>: 40<sup>th</sup> 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-arri-west-central-florida-section-convention/>

## THE SECTION ARES AND INFORMATION NET COMPILING AN NCS ROSTER:

The WCF Section ARES and Information Net on Monday evening at 1930 (7:30 P.M.) on the [NI4CE Repeater System](#) is looking for volunteers to be Net Control. J.C. Rivero K4RTC, Net Manager 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](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.net). I have heard from several of you already and thank you for volunteering to be an NCS. 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 OCTOBER:

On Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, I honored a rain check (from being ill) and was the guest speaker at the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club and did a presentation on Introduction to the Arduino. Christine Duez KK4KJN, SYC, was present as well. The meeting was very well attended and almost standing room only.

On Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, Ben Henley KI4IGX – ASM, Randy Payne K4EZM – ASM, and I attended the Melbourne Hamfest, which was also the ARRL Florida State Convention. We attended an Encomm forum hosted by Phil Royce KE4PWE from the Florida Division of Emergency Management on Friday and the ARRL forum on Saturday. I got to meet and greet quite a few from the West Central Florida Section as well.

On Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>, Doug Williams N2DW – STM, Randy Payne K4EZM – ASM, Dee Turner N4GD – ASM, Geoff Haines N1GY – ASM/TC and I attended the quarterly West Central Florida Section ARES meeting at the Charlotte County EOC and the luncheon that preceded it at the Skyview Cafe at the Punta Gorda Airport.

Ending out the month, on Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>, I was able to “play radio” for a change at the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs monthly Radio Sprint, which was held this time at Mary Holland Park in Bartow.

## **AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 COMPANION BILL (S 1685) INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE, 112 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 112 co-sponsors as of November 2. As of press time, two Representatives with districts that are in the West Central Florida Section: Representative Daniel Webster, 10<sup>th</sup> District, that covers the north central part of Polk County and Representative Tom Rooney, 17<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**By Doug Williams N2DW:**

#### **Station Activity Reports (SAR):**

<b>N2DW:</b>	<b>Originated 0, Received 8, Sent 7, Delivered 0, and Total 15</b>
<b>W8IM:</b>	<b>Originated 0, Received 10, Sent 13, Delivered 4, and Total 27</b>
<b>W4PXE:</b>	<b>Originated 2, Received 19, Sent 17, Delivered 5, and Total 43</b>
<b>K4EEI</b>	<b>Originated 0, Received 94, Sent 104, Delivered 1, and Total 199</b>
<b>W2SU</b>	<b>Originated 0, Received 8, Sent 7, Delivered 6, and Total 21</b>

#### **Public Service Honor Roll:**

<b>N2DW</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>W8IM</b>	<b>77</b>

## **SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 (Continued)**

### **West Central Florida Section Net Activity Reports:**

**AIN:** Sessions 3, Stations 38, Traffic 2, Minutes 50  
Net Manager – WA4ATF

**EAGLE NET:** Sessions 30, Stations 939, Traffic 32, Minutes 902  
Net Manager – W4PXE

**SPARC NET:** Sessions 36, Stations 496, Traffic 37, Minutes 820  
Net Manager – W4TSP

### **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

### **RUNNING A LITTLE BEHIND SCHEDULE ON WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASES:**

Due to my work, school, and church ministry schedule in October, I am running behind on issuing some WCF PRESS RELEASES. Also I have been under the weather some in the latter part of October for which now I am seeking medical attention. Your thoughts and prayers for me are sincerely appreciated.

### **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](mailto: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. I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. We certainly have much to be thankful for, even in these difficult times. Enjoy the time you spend with family and friends this Thanksgiving season. Also remember that there are others out there that are less fortunate than we are at the moment. 73 de Darrell KT4WX