

# THE WCF PRESSER



**WCF Country**  
West Central Florida Section

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

Nov 2019

Issue # 43

**Section Manager**

Darrell Davis KT4WX

**Assistant Section  
Manager Executive**

Ben Henley KI4IGX

**Assistant Section  
Manager Administrative**

Randy Payne K4EZM

**Assistant Section Manager  
Legal Affairs:**

Biff Craine K4LAW

**Assistant Section Manager  
SM Emeritus and Tampa Bay Area**

Dee Turner N4GD

**Assistant Section Manager  
Coastal Area**

Geoff Haines N1GY

**Assistant Section Manager  
PIC/ACC Assistant**

Steve Muller KM4VRK

**Affiliated Club Coordinator**

Mike Douglas W4MDD

**Official Observer Coordinator**

Dennis Griffin W4DG

**Public Information Coordinator**

Rich Kennedy N4ESS

**Section Emergency Coordinator**

Ben Henley KI4IGX

**Section Traffic Manager**

Doug Williams N2DW

**Section Youth Coordinator**

Christine Duez KK4KJN

**Technical Coordinator**

Geoff Haines N1GY

## SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

by Darrell Davis, KT4WX

### ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

Welcome to the November issue of the WCF PRESSER. It is hard to believe that 2019 is coming to end and the holiday season is just around the corner. We have not seen much of that cool weather we talked about in this column last month but hopefully will be around the corner soon. Sadly, one of the few disadvantages of living in the West Central Florida Section is we do not get to see the beautiful fall colors much of the northern states enjoy. Some of you may take time to travel to see these fall colors. If so, have a nice trip and enjoy this beautiful aspect of creation.

With the end of November, which is 30 days or less depending upon when you



read this, will also be the end of the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Although the hurricane season is almost over, our remaining tropical activity for this time of the year typically will form in the western Caribbean and or near the Yucatan Peninsula and move north towards the United States and typically get caught up by the first cold fronts of the winter season. Please continue to monitor the latest Tropical Weather Outlooks issued by the National Hurricane Center.

Cont' on page 2

## SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS (CON'T)

Being this is November, Thursday November 28th will be Thanksgiving Day here in the United States. Be sure to take some time out and count the blessings you have had this year and be thankful for them. Even the poorest of Americans have more than many people in many countries around the world. We have a standard of living that many in countries around the world will never be able to experience. Also be sure to spend some quality time with your family and friends. Some of your family and or friends may have experienced loss, either personal or material, and may be still hurting and that hurt is felt the most at this time of the year. Try to be an encouragement to them and simply be there for them and listen to them. That is often more helpful than you may know. This is one of the reasons we cancel several Section nets during November and December, so to give you time to spend with friends and family. If you are wondering, I do plan to keep my Christmas Eve and New Years Eve tradition of being NCS for the Eagle Net on those evenings, for those who check into the Eagle Net, to hear your answers to the questions about Christmas and or New Years that I will ask.

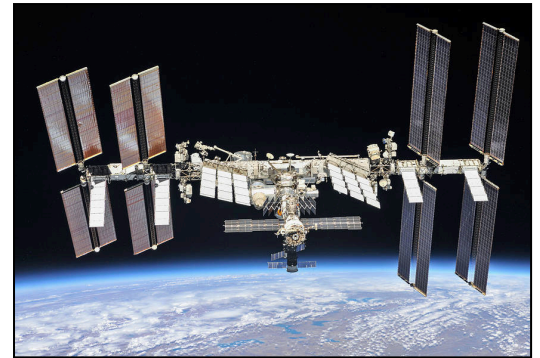
I am wishing all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving Day at the end of this month and look forward to seeing many of you at various hamfests this month and the Tampa Bay Hamfest in December.

## RIVER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL SELECTED TO BE ON THE LIST FOR ARISS CONTACTS

River Ridge High School, in New Port Richey in Pasco County, made the list of schools to be included on the list for schools to make contact with the International Space Station via Amateur Radio in the first half of 2020. The primary

goal of the ARISS program is to engage young people in Science, Technology,

Engineering, Arts and Math (STEM) activities and raise their awareness of space communications, radio communications, space exploration, and related areas of study and career possibilities. They are now at work completing an acceptable equipment plan that demonstrates their ability to execute the ham radio contact.



Once their equipment plan is approved by the ARISS Technical Mentors, the final selected schools/organizations will be scheduled as their availability and flexibility match up with the scheduling opportunities offered by NASA.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section would like to congratulate the team at Ridge River High School for being selected to be on the list for ARISS contacts in the spring semester of 2020.

## SECTION NET CANCELLATIONS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER



**WCFCountry**  
**West Central Florida Section**

In observance of Thanksgiving Day in late November, the following Section Nets will be cancelled: The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net for Monday November 25th on the NI4CE Repeater System and the ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net on Saturday November 30th.

Due to the ongoing activities of the Tampa Bay Hamfest, the ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net on Saturday December 14th will be cancelled.

In observance of Christmas Day and New Years Day in late December the following Section nets on the following days will be cancelled: The ARRL West Central Florida

Section ARES and Information Net for Monday December 22nd and Monday December 29th on the NI4CE Repeater System and the ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net on Saturday December 21 and Saturday December 29th. The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on the NI4CE Repeater System will resume normal operation on Monday January 6, 2020. The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz at 0730 will resume normal operation on Saturday January 4th, 2020.

The Eagle Net, being it is a traffic net, will run as scheduled throughout the holidays, 365 days a year, at 2030 hours on the NI4CE Repeater System.

**CANCELLED**

## 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.

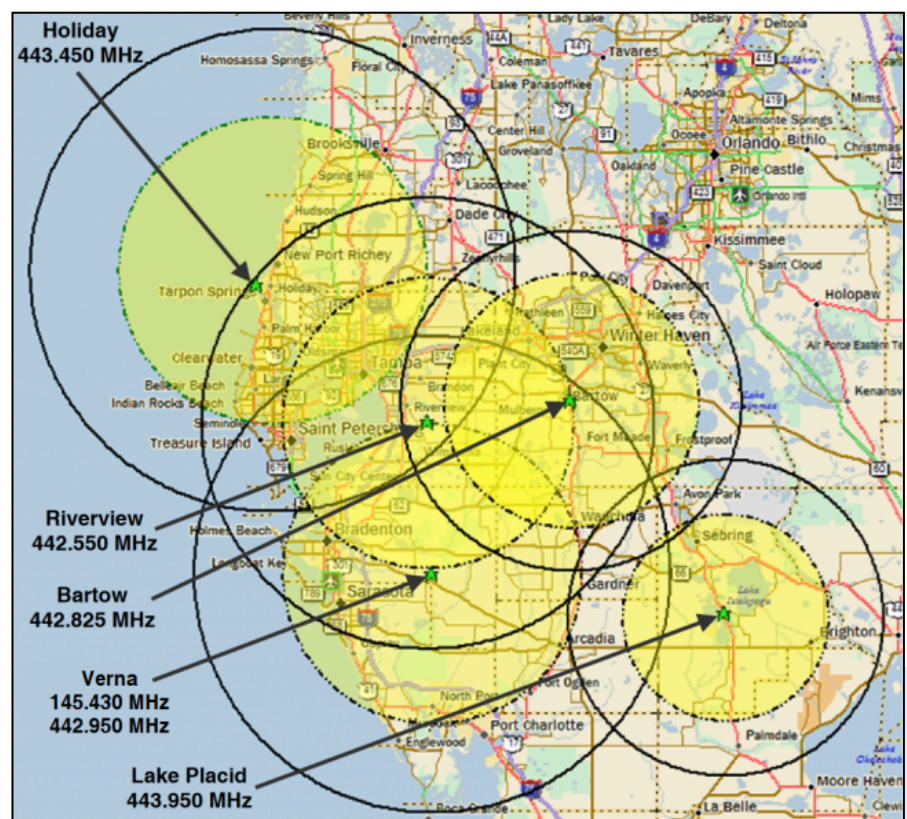
DAY / NET	NET	TIME	SYSTEM/FREQ	NET MANAGER
<b>Daily</b>	Eagle Net (West Central Florida Section NTS Net)	2030 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Dave Rockwell W4PXE
<b>Monday</b>	West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net	1930 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	J.C. Rivero K4RTC
<b>Thursday</b>	West Central 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.

**NI4CE Repeater Map**



## 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

#### November 9, 2019

SPARC Fest 2019  
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.

#### November 23, 2019

SouthCARS Tailgate  
Golden Corral – North  
Lakeland  
4705 US 98 North, FL  
Lakeland, FL 33809



#### 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

## MIKE SPRENGER W4UOO IS AWARDED THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE TO SCOUTING AWARD

The ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award has been awarded to Mike Sprenger W4UOO. Sprenger, who resides in Valrico in



Hillsborough County, is an Extra Class amateur radio operator first licensed in 1992 at the USF Radio and

Electronics Club and himself achieved Eagle Scout rank in 1982.

Sprenger serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster in BSA Troop 686, currently teaches Radio Merit Badge, and is a member of the Tampa Amateur Radio Club and the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association. Combining a lifelong interest in space and NASA, operating highlights include applying for and operating a successful Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) 2m radio contact with Dr. Ronald Parise WA4SIR/SK aboard STS-67 in 1995 from the South Florida Museum / Bishop Planetarium enabling 11 middle school students to ask Dr. Parise questions about life in space.

Sprenger has served on staff at two BSA National and one World Scouting Jamboree, which include operating the 2013 National Scouting Jamboree and facilitating a 2 Meter ARISS contact enabling Scouts to speak with Major Luca Parmitano KF5KDP about life aboard the International Space Station.

At the 2019 World Scouting Jamboree, Sprenger operated the NA1WJ telebridge connection to ON4ISS enabling the ARISS contact for 16 Scouts to talk to Astronaut & Scoutmaster Drew Morgan KI5AAA aboard the ISS.

In his professional career, Sprenger works as a Production and Digital Event/Webcast strategist and in his spare time can be found enjoying the pace of an Florida AM group QSO with a Hallicrafters SX-43 receiver, that belonged to his uncle Ken Wise who originally held the callsign of W4UOO and is now a silent key, and is using a BC-610 transmitter for the ultimate reclined armchair QSO. Sprenger is also active in his church technology ministry, and plays the bass guitar.

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The Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award was officially established through a resolution that the ARRL Board adopted at its 2013 Annual Meeting. It builds on the long relationship between the BSA and ARRL that began with the development of the Wireless Merit Badge in 1918 and is today Radio Merit Badge. The League's award recognizes radio amateurs who, as registered Scouting leaders, make a significant contribution to give Scouts a memorable experience with Amateur Radio.

## 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.

## 2020 BikeMS CITRUS TOUR

by Michael Bresse, W2YS

Assistant Section Manager

Amateur Radio Coordinator - 2020

BikeMS Citrus Tour

Dates for the 2020 BikeMS Citrus Tour have been announced. The 2020 Citrus Tour will be on March 7th & 8th. Yes, that's two months earlier than in recent years. The hope is to get more riders with the cooler temperatures and



try to avoid the severe weather like we had last year.

Volunteer registration opened on the

[www.citrustour.org](http://www.citrustour.org) website on October 8th. We already have 16 volunteers confirm that they will be here for the event. As usual we need as many amateur radio volunteers as we can get. Amateur radio volunteers provide all route support from communications to transporting cyclist who have mechanical issues or just can't make it

any further on their own.

The routes will be almost identical to last year. We will be out and back to the Omni Resort at Championsgate both days with



four routes (20, 50, 75 & 100 mile) heading to the south toward Frostproof on Saturday and three routes (20, 50 & 75 mile) heading toward Polk City & Haines City on Sunday. There will be some minor route changes from last year as they try to eliminate a few hills.

If you are interested in Emergency Communications this event is excellent practice as we run two fully directed nets and handle routine, priority and emergency traffic. A lot of our volunteers have been working this event for over 10 years and some come from as far away as Miami.

For more information about the Citrus Tour or to register as a volunteer visit [www.citrustour.org](http://www.citrustour.org).

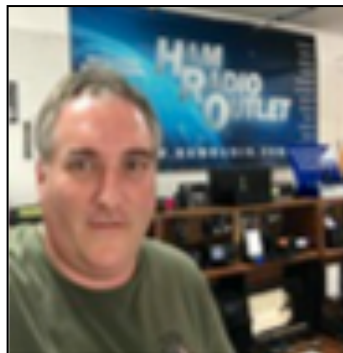


## TALK TO SANTA CLAUS

by Chris Bloxsom, AA4CB  
ARRL Public Information Officer

Dade City, FL - On December 21st to the 23rd the East Pasco Amateur Radio Society will be

allowing kids of all ages a chance to talk to Santa Claus.



The Club will be setting up a ham radio station at the Church Street Christmas Stroll event in Dade City. Club members will be at this

event for 3 days from 7 pm to 9 pm. They provide and promote amateur radio to the general public. What better way to introduce Amateur Radio to kids than to put the microphone in their hand and have them talk to the big jolly man from the North Pole.



Bobby is talking with Santa Claus telling him what he would like for Christmas, with a little help from Mom.

Kids of all ages can take a seat at the table and talk to Santa. "The conditions are great this time of year" says Chris Bloxsom AA4CB the club's event organizer, "the band opens directly to the far north and that allows us to talk to Santa. The children can say hello to him, ask about his reindeer, and let Santa know what they would like for Christmas."



The main event for the 3 days is the Christmas stroll down the street. All are invited to experience this free classic annual holiday



EPARS President Duane Archibald N4WDH helps out one of the "bigger" kids make contact with Santa

event along Dade City's historic Church Avenue where carolers, choirs, dancers and musicians perform along luminary lit sidewalks and brilliantly decorated homes. Santa will be there too! Come celebrate the spirit of Christmas with us as we enjoy the sights and sounds of this magical season. Street closes to vehicular traffic from 7 to 9 pm for strolling from the corner of 17th and Church Avenue to



the corner of 9th Street.

For over a decade EPARS has been bringing ham radio to the kids. When they make a contact with ole Saint Nick, one of the clubs 'elves' fills out an official QSL card for the QSO and gives it to the young operator who talked to Santa.

In addition to a QSL card we had out cookies and bottled water to anyone who stops by. Another benefit of doing this event every year is that we get to meet other hams. It is the holiday season and there are many hams that come to Florida and we get the opportunity to meet and greet with them at this event.



In 2019 EPARS handed out over 175 QSL card to the kids that picked up the mic and spoke with Santa. When the weather is good we get a good turnout. Thankfully we live in Florida and do not have to worry about it snowing here.

This year will be not any different. We will be setting up on the corner of 17th and Church Ave. If you find yourself in the area please stop by our table and say hi.



Dawn Randazzo WA4YL and Allen Noble KM4FBE are taking care of the Club promotion table. Handing out literature about ham radio.

If you would like to volunteer for this event please send an email to [santa@eparsonline.org](mailto:santa@eparsonline.org) All help is greatly appreciated.

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Chris Bloxsom AA4CB

Twitter - @aa4cb\_Chris Facebook – fb.com/aa4cb email – aa4cb@arrrl.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.

## REGATTA ROUNDUP

by Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR



On September 28th TARC members provided communications support for the first time to the 2nd annual "Battle of the Bridges" rowing regatta held along the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) in Venice.

Nineteen TARC club members and two volunteers from the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club (SERC) volunteered their time, equipment, and expertise to provide 2-way radio communications between the seven referee/ safety boats on the course and the three shore stations at the start, finish, and boat launch ramp locations.



The club established two cross-band repeaters atop the bleachers at the Venice High School (VHS) to provide local repeater service along

the race course. With the one unfortunate exception of the two boats located at the start line, we achieved excellent communications for stations along the entire 5,000 meter length of the race course. The race course provided a number of technical challenges for effective VHF/UHF line-of-sight

communications: below grade water level of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) itself, three major turns along the ICW race course, and three drawbridge structures between those turns.



The club wants to thank all of the members who volunteered to help support this great event. Despite the late start to the pre-race meeting at the boat launch ramp, and the less than perfect comms with boats 6 and 7 at the start line, all the participants had a great day out on the water or along the shore. Most of us had never seen, let alone participated in, a row- ing regatta event.



Space limits the listing of all volunteers; but 3 of them deserve to be singled out for recognition. Jim, KJ4NDO had the hardest job as Race Central, and was required to coordinate not only all the radio traffic from the race, but also maintained liaison with the USCG and the launch ramp operations staff.

Well done, Jim, and a special thank you! Frank, W2XYZ and Tom, W4IEE donated the use of their dual band mobile radios used for



the repeaters, and they invested a large number of hours, weeks, and days before the race to work out all the little details of positioning antennas

and radios at the VHS stadium to make our support of the event possible. They then manned the repeaters during the race as



control operators. *[And a special thank you to Paul, KN4BAR for masterminding the whole affair - San Yoder, K3SY.]*

Nothing is ever perfect and our first experience with this event proved that.



There were lots of lessons learned about organizing and briefing operators before the event; about the "real" location of the start line, and handling the mid-day shift change of operators. Hopefully, the Battle of the Bridges organizers will ask us back next year, and our club members will want to support the event again. This is going to be an annual event for the Venice area and it offers some great opportunities to see and be seen.

73, de Paul, KN4BAR



## FLORIDA ARMY MILITARY AUXILIARY RADIO SYSTEM EXERCISE

By Joe Bassett, W1WCN

By way of introduction, my name is Joe Bassett, operations officer (S3) for the Florida Army Military



Auxiliary Radio System. My amateur call is W1WCN. My AMARS personal call sign is AAR4WZ and billet call is AAA4FL3.

This message is a courtesy announcement to all Florida

amateur radio emergency and disaster operators regarding an upcoming national MARS exercise. MARS leadership encourages you, in your leadership role, to freely and liberally disseminate the following throughout your sphere of influence (ARES, RACES, radio clubs, etc.)

The exercise will take place during November and emphasize "...a high level of coordination with amateur radio...and facilitate amateur radio stations reception of a digital 60 meter DoD broadcast."

Messages of interest to the amateur radio community will be broadcast from WWV. In particular, amateur radio participation will take place November 16-17 2019. This participation will include reception of HF messages, interactivity with MARS stations on 60 meters, HF nets and local VHF/UHF nets.

MARS stations will identify themselves with MARS call signs on 60 meters. All contacts on other amateur frequencies will be using their amateur call signs. The primary exchanges between MARS and amateur stations will be County Status Reports. MARS stations may contact amateur

stations and request information concerning local infrastructure.

Amateur stations are encouraged to participate.

A sample of the information is included below. Responses from amateur radio stations should reflect actual conditions.

NO SIMULATED, EXAGGERATED, OR SIMULATED INFORMATION SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED.



Broadcasts transmitted on 60 meters and from WWV will utilize digital mode M110A. These broadcasts will be of interest to amateur radio operators interested in participating in the exercise.

Software (MS-DMT) is available to the amateur radio community for decoding of M110A. MS-DMT is available for download with installation information at [http://www.n2ckh.com/MARS\\_ALE\\_FORUM/MSDMT.html](http://www.n2ckh.com/MARS_ALE_FORUM/MSDMT.html).

ALL MESSAGES WILL BE TRANSMITTED VIA PLAIN TEXT. NO MESSAGES WILL BE ENCRYPTED.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions that you have, but please be patient. Further information will be forthcoming.

Grace and 73,

Joe Bassett – W1WCN  
AAR4WZ/AAA4FL3

## 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

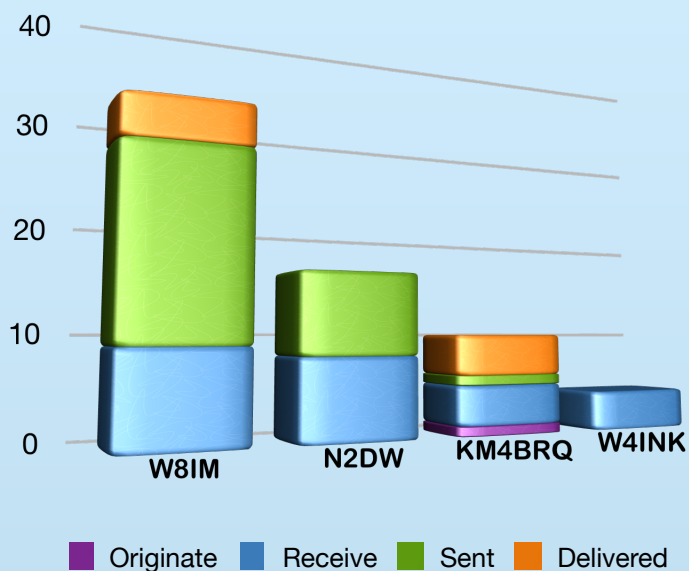
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

### West Central Florida STM Reports

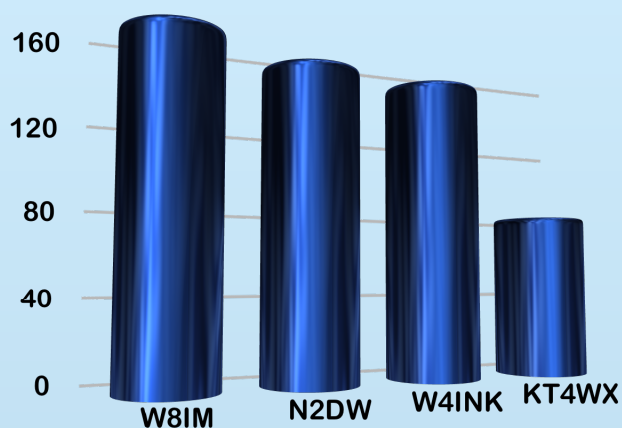
September 2019

#### Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
W8IM	0	9	18	4	31
N2DW	0	8	8	0	16
KM4BRQ	1	4	1	4	10
W4INK	0	4	0	0	4

#### Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
W8IM	158
N2DW	147
W4INK	144
KT4WX	80

#### West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	30	1365	31	978	W4PXE
SPARC	37	540	36	1109	KK4WTE

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

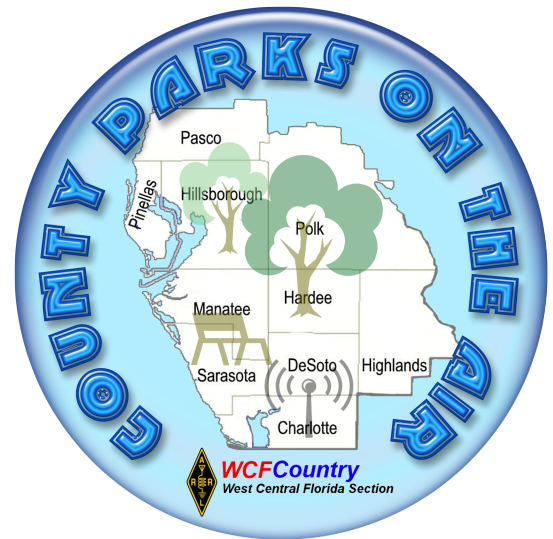
Just a reminder that County Parks On The Air is underway now through December 31, 2019. This is a great opportunity to get out and sharpen your operating skills and also test your portable equipment setup as well. The list of county parks and the event rules is on the CPOTA web page which is on the Section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

## CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH - FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP

The Florida Contest Group, with its virtual headquarters in Myakka City in central Manatee County, is another one of our regional organizations whose emphasis is, as you can tell by the name, contesting and has over 300 members across the entire state of Florida.

The Florida Contest Group has a website that lists all the activities they are involved in at <http://floridacontestgroup.org>, operate an email list on groups.io for communications

between members, and have a newsletter called The Gazette.

The Florida Contest Group has one formal meeting year, which is a Florida Contest Group supper held on the Friday evening of the Orlando Hamcation. The Florida Contest Group also meets during the Melbourne Hamfest as well.

The Florida Contest Groups is more widely known as the sponsor of the annual Florida QSO Party that is traditionally held on the last weekend in April.

### FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP - A snapshot of the club website.



**K2EUH - WF3C - K1TO - W1YL - K1KNO**  
**BACK ROW: N4GI - K4LO - K5KG**

