

Section Manager
Mike Douglas W4MDD

Assistant Section Manager
SM Emeritus
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

Assistant Section
Manager Administrative
Randy Payne, K4EZM

Assistant Section Manager
Legal Affairs
Biff Craine, K4LAW

Assistant Section Manager
Skywarn Liasion
Norman Xanders, WX4NEX

Assistant Section Manager
SM Emeritus & Tampa Bay Area
Dee Turner, N4GD

Assistant Section Manager
Publications
Jim Weslager, K3WR

Affiliated Club Coordinator
Steve Maslin, NS4M

Public Information Coordinator
Mike Lunsford, KB4FHP

Assistant Section Manager
Ben Henley, KI4IGX

Section Traffic Manager
Doug Williams, N2DW

Section Emergency Coordinator
Christine Duez, KK4KJN

Section Youth Coordinator
Christine Duez, KK4KJN

Technical Coordinator
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

SECTION MANAGER'S MUSINGS

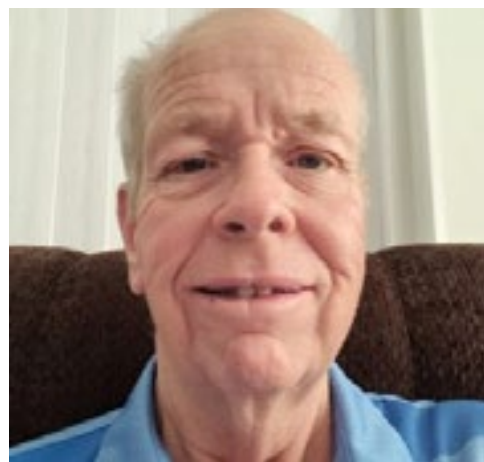
BY MIKE DOUGLAS, W4MDD

ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION MANAGER

HELLO WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION!

A short note for this issue of
the WCF Presser

Here's hoping you and yours
have or had a very Happy
Thanksgiving



Looking forward to seeing
many of you at the Tampa Bay Hamfest. Although this is not
my first at this hamfest, it will be the first as Section Manager.
Hopefully you will see something to ask Santa Claus for, that
is if you've been a good girl or boy!

Speaking of the Holidays, as always, I will be in the Chicago
area house sitting for my old boss and visiting family there.
I will be gone from December 17th through January 2nd,
assuming I do not have a blizzard up and am delayed.

Happy Chanukah or Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to
everyone!

Mike Douglas

8TH ANNUAL TECHCON DRAWING CLOSER

The 8th Annual TECHCON is drawing closer. The date for the 8th Annual TECHCON, the Annual Technical Conference for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, is Friday February 25, 2022 and Saturday February 26, 2022.



The venue for the 8th Annual TECHCON will be the Polk County Emergency Operations Center, located between Winter Haven and Lakeland in Polk County. The 7th Annual TECHCON, held in February of this year, had been scheduled to take place at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center, but became a virtual event only via Zoom due to concerns from COVID-19.

The 8th Annual TECHCON will be a face to face conference as it has been in years past but also will be available for viewing via Zoom teleconferencing. The 8th Annual TECHCON will see a resumption of the Friday Afternoon Workshop and Friday Evening Social. The presentations for TECHCON will be recorded and available for viewing on the Section's YouTube channel immediately after the conclusion of

TECHCON.

We are looking for presenters for this year's conference. If you have an area of interest that you would like to do a presentation upon, please contact Darrell Davis KT4WX via email at kt4wx@arrl.net. The topic of the presentation is up to the presenter, as long as is it technology oriented.

Registration for the 8th Annual TECHCON is now open. You may register to either attend or make a presentation for TECHCON at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconregistration/>.

For more information about TECHCON you may go to the TECHCON webpage on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>

BIKE MS CITRUS TOUR 2022 DATE SET

The date for the Bike MS Citrus Tour 2022 has been set for Saturday March 5, 2022 and Sunday March 6, 2022. The Bike MS Citrus Tour will start and finish both days at the Omni Resort at Champions Gate which is near the Osceola/Polk County line, with over 95 percent of the ride in the northern and eastern portions of Polk County.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section has sponsored the amateur radio communications for the Bike MS Citrus Tour since 2018. The Bike MS Citrus Tour for 2021 was canceled due to concerns from COVID-19.

For more information on the Bike MS Citrus Tour or to sign up to volunteer to help with communications, please go to the amateur radio Bike MS Citrus Tour page at <https://www.citrustour.org/>



A group of veteran Bike MS Citrus Tour volunteers went up to the Northern Florida Section to assist with communications for the Bike MS PGA Tour Cycle To The Shore on Saturday October 23, 2021 and Sunday October 24, 2021.



THE FOLLOWING ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NETS WILL HAVE NET CANCELLATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON OF 2021

In observance of Thanksgiving Day –
Thursday November 25th, 2021:

The ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net conducted on the NI4CE Repeater System at 2100 on Thursday, will be canceled on Thursday November 25th, 2021 and will resume normal operation on Thursday December 2nd, 2021.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Net – HF Edition conducted on Saturday at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net on 3940 KHz, will be canceled on Saturday November 27th, 2021 and will resume normal operation on Saturday December 4th, 2021.

In observance of the Tampa Bay Hamfest – Saturday December 11th, 2021:

The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Net – HF Edition conducted on Saturday at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net on 3940 KHz, will be canceled on Saturday December 11th, 2021 and will resume normal operation for its final session for the year 2021 on Saturday December 18th, 2021.

In observance of Christmas Day – Saturday December 25th, 2021 and New Years Day – Saturday January 1st,



2022:

The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Net – VHF/UHF Edition conducted on Monday at 1930 on the NI4CE Repeater System, will be canceled on Monday December 20th, 2021 and Monday December 27th, 2021 and will resume normal operation on Monday January 3rd, 2022.



The ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net conducted on Thursday at

2100 on the NI4CE Repeater System will be canceled on Thursday December 23rd, 2021 and Thursday December 30th, 2021 and will resume normal operation on Thursday January 6th, 2022.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Net – HF Edition conducted on 3940 KHz at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net will be canceled on Saturday December 25th, 2021 and Saturday January 1st, 2022 and will resume normal operation on Saturday January 8th, 2022.

The Eagle Net, the NTS traffic for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, which meets daily at 2030 on the NI4CE Repeater System will operate as normally scheduled. In keeping with holiday tradition, Darrell Davis KT4WX, Assistant Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, will be Net Control for the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve editions of the Eagle Net. Darrell will be asking a holiday oriented question on each net. Darrell will take answers from participating stations that wish to answer the holiday related question of the evening. The answers are always very interesting to listen to.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.



NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM TRAINING AT THE TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

By Dave Rockwell W4PXE
Net Manager - Eagle Net

The West Central Florida (WCF) Section has identified traffic handling as an essential skill for all radio operators. Rockwell, Net Manager of the West Central Florida National Traffic Net (known as Eagle Net) will present a short (90 minute) seminar on American Radio Relay League (ARRL) standard radiogram traffic. The session will be held the afternoon of December 10 at the Tampa Bay Hamfest in Plant City. No advanced registration is required.

During major disasters and other emergencies, when regular communications are disrupted, amateur radio operators are ready to provide direct communications from the effected locations to county, state, and national emergency managers. Using simple HF and VHF nets, properly trained hams can collect information and pass it to those who need act on it. Examples include, requests for supplies and equipment from state agencies, coordination of federal response, situation reports from the front line, and welfare messages to family and friends outside the disaster area. Often, this important information must transit several stations before reaching the correct responder or resource provider. It is critical that the information flow accurately and

quickly to its destination. That is where the radiogram comes in. A radiogram is



a formatted message that can be passed from one station to another with virtually no corruption. Every amateur radio operator involved in emergency services should learn traffic handling skills before they are needed in a disaster or emergency. Participating in regular traffic nets offers the opportunity to hone these skills and practice them regularly. For more information, please email Dave Rockwell at W4PXE@ARRL.NET. Attend at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Friday December 10 at 1330 (1:30 P.M.) in the Expo Building. <https://fgcarc.org/>

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	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	Sanford Wyatt KM4WXX
Thursday	West Central Florida Section Technical Net	2100 hours	NI4CE Repeater System	Jim Peterson AF2W
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 <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.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

01/15/2021

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club

Millennium Academy

10005 Ridge Road

New Port Richey, FL 34652



02/19/2022

Highlands County Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest

First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine

111 Lake Josephine Drive

Sebring, FL 33870

Website: <http://highlandsamateurradio.com>



TAMPA BAY HAMFEST 2021 JUST AROUND THE CORNER



The 46th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and the Annual ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention are just around the corner.

The Tampa Bay Hamfest will be held on Friday December 10th, 2021 and Saturday December 11th, 2021, at the Strawberry Festival facilities in Plant City, Florida. Exhibits and commercial vendors will be located in the Expo Hall. The general public parking and the only entrance is at the intersection of Lemon Street (now BerryFest St.) and West Palmetto Avenue. The Tailgate area (see below) will be the large grassy field adjacent to the Carriage House. All testing and related functions will be in the Armory building.

The following is an excerpt for the Tampa Bay Hamfest website at <http://fgcarc.org> concerning this year's Tampa Bay Hamfest by Bill Williams AG4QX, Chairman of the Tampa Bay Hamfest, "...We are well past the worst in the Covid pandemic and on the way to a much better year. This improvement puts us on our way to a more

normal Hamfest in December and I hope you all have noted December

10th and 11th on your calendar. Our plans are to return to the Florida Strawberry Festival grounds for a full inside expo hall and an even better tailgate this year. As always we welcome our many vendors and encourage early reservations as the Expo Hall space fills up quickly. Most vendors are particular as to where they want their booths and tables located so get your wants to us early on. Responding to some of the ideas and critiques regarding the website, we have transferred the website to A2 Hosting for a faster page response and have employed an SSL Certificate to assure your credit card and other sensitive data is safe when ordering tickets and space. Our URL address is now <https://fgcarc.org>, the 's' indicating a secure site. Again we ask our local hams to step up and volunteer to help plan and run the 2021 Tampa Bay Hamfest. There are always plenty of opportunities to help FGARC (Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council) and we welcome all who can assist in this once-a-year effort. Please contact me or any of our officers at [https://fgcarc.org/contact-page/...](https://fgcarc.org/contact-page/)

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT GMRS?

by Chris Bloxsom, AA4CB

GMRS (General Mobile radio Service). That other two-way radio service besides CB (Citizens Band) and FRS (Family Radio Service). What is GMRS? well as the FCC defines it- The General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) is a licensed radio service that uses channels around 462 MHz and 467 MHz. The most common use of GMRS channels is for short-distance, two-way voice communications using hand-held radios, mobile radios, and repeater systems. Services that provide functionality like GMRS include the CB and FRS and MURS (Multi-Use Radio Service).

GMRS is available to an individual for short-distance two-way communications to facilitate the activities of licensees and their immediate family members. Each licensee manages a system consisting of one or more transmitting units. The rules for GMRS limit eligibility for new GMRS system licenses to individuals in order to make the service available to personal users. (Some previously licensed non-individual systems can continue using GMRS.) In 2017, the FCC updated the GMRS by allotting additional interstitial channels in the 467 MHz band, increased the license term from 5 to 10 years, allowed transmission of limited data applications such as text messaging and GPS location information and made other updates to the GMRS rules to reflect modern application of the service.

GMRS licenses have been growing over the past couple of years. One of the biggest reasons is that there have been a couple of groups out there linking stations over the

internet. Most of us hams are familiar with analogue FM linking systems such as echo-link, IRLP and All-star. So, a group of GMRS users have 'edited' the HamVoip software to work on a separate network. Do not worry they can not connect GMRS users to Ham stations or vice versa. They are on different VOIP systems. While the software is almost the same, it has been modified to work separately from other network systems. Not all functions from the Hamvoip software are operational on the modded system.

One of the best groups of GMRS networked systems is called GMRSLive. You can check out their status page at <http://gmrslive.com/>. They also have a Facebook



group located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gmrslive>. You will need to join the FB group to see the posts. GMRSLive was created over a year ago and has been growing and growing in numbers every week. They have stations from all over the United States on their network. Remember

that GMRS is a Radio Service that is only available in the United States. You will not be hearing any DX stations from Europe on here. The only way you can get your node on the network is by being a VERIFIED GMRS license holder.

The admins as well as the general users of the system have maintained a very clean level of operators. You can not come into this network and talk trash or use foul language. This is not CB channel 19. This is a place where you can connect to other nodes and talk to people. Another advantage of this system over some of the others is that you can operate your own equipment. You are not going to be sold anything. You're not going to be told you must have model 123SN to be part of the network. You are not going to be told you can not connect via a hot-spot device. Here you can build your own interface. You can operate YOUR node as a repeater, a simplex link, or a radio less node it is all fine and dandy here. You decide what equipment you want to use to get into the system with. Upon requesting to join via an email, the Admin team will assign you 5 sequential node numbers. This is great for some of us radio nerds.

We can have 1 node set up to our repeater, or a link radio to a repeater or a personal hot-spot that you can use in your house as well as in your vehicle. I have heard some operators take them on vacation and use the WiFi from the hotel to connect and keep in touch with family or others on the system. You can even setup a node as a HUB. Any node can be a "HUB".

A node is not limited to one connection. There may be hardware limitations about the number of connections a given piece of hardware and internet connection can support. Typically, a HUB is located on a higher bandwidth Internet connection. A HUB usually does not have a node radio connected to it. As the system has been expanding some people have set up their own HUBS. Then they connect their other nodes to them. You do not have to use the public HUBS.

Equipment is fairly easy to get. There are a large quantity of Motorola UHF gear out there. As the commercial radio services upgrade to higher frequencies and digital



modes, the amount of older FM gear is out there. You can check out your next local ham-fest for some of these goodies. There are a lot of Motorola 1225 for about \$100. It is not that hard to assemble the rest of the parts to complete building a node. You will need a Raspberry Pi 3B+, power supply, SD card 8Gb minimum, and interface to the radio. Also going to need an UHF antenna. If you currently have an antenna that works on the 440 MHz (70cm) band you might be in luck and it will be broad enough to cover the GMRS 462/467 MHz frequencies. Do not get me wrong you can always purchase a fully assembled system online but that takes away the fun of building it yourself.

If you are interested in trying something different, then maybe GMRS is for you. It is not an expensive hobby. The basic radio

goes for under \$100. Just make sure it is repeater capable. Read the description on the specific model there are some that do not work repeater splits. FRS is not the same as GMRS, so stay away from them blister packs from Walmart.

I did say earlier that this is a licensed radio service. That is easy enough for everyone to obtain. Just go to the FCC website <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system>

First off you will need to get yourself an FRN number so click on the New User Registration and follow the instructions. here is a link to a video on how to do this <https://youtu.be/SaHcLG9cLS0>. After you have received your FRN number, you should have it in about 15 minutes so check your email, you can go back to

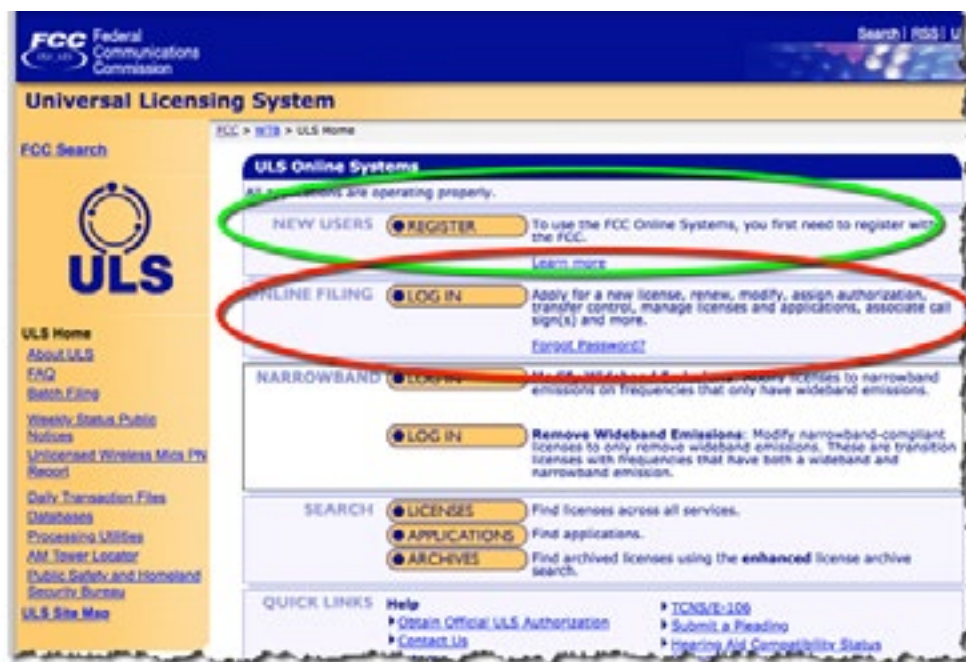
application then here is a link to a YouTube video on how to do this. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuX_zx35VpU

I have had my GMRS license for a couple



of years now. When I found out about the GMRS Live system I signed up for it. I have been a part of this networked system for some time now and have found the admins to be very helpful when it comes to answering questions. They are regular

'Joes' and have full time jobs but they will go out of their way to assist you and getting things going or point you in the right direction. There are many new groups joining the system. You can find a couple of HUBS in Florida, Michigan, and New York City area. There is even a node in Hawaii. These are just the node/hubs that you can see on the public list. There are some groups that operate on the GMRS Live system and have



the FCC site and apply for a GMRS license. No test just fill out the application and have your credit card handy. Again, if you are not sure on how to fill out the license

private HUBS. So you never know who you might run into on the network.

Every Sunday night at 9 pm eastern the

Michigan 625 group runs a net and it is linked into the GMRSLive HUB #411. The net is run in an orderly fashion just like you would hear on the ham repeaters. They pass information around, talk about any and all updates, issues, and try to answer any questions asked during the net. There is also a Tech Net on Tuesdays at the same time and HUB. You will find conversations about antennas, power supplies, and various other things.

Some more good news about GMRSLive. According to the FCC Report and Order released December 23, 2020, a GMRSLive license will now cost less than before. Currently, the application fee for a GMRSLive license is \$70. With the new Report and Order, the GMRSLive license fee will be \$35. As of the time of this article is written the fee is still \$70. Rumor has it sometime in 2022

Let talk about the local area for a second. There are many GMRSLive repeaters listed in the West Central Florida area. You can go to <https://mygmrs.com> to see all the repeaters in the area or the country. There is a couple of repeaters in the Tampa area that have a really big coverage area. There area repeaters in Polk, Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough counties.

With all the new users to GMRSLive radio this might be a good opportunity for the amateur radio clubs to introduce them to Ham radio. You will find that this is not a

Some links to videos for GMRSLive



<https://youtu.be/MzCR7QNNKhW>



<https://youtu.be/vy-WVL1-XvY>



<https://youtu.be/9Vr4brclvms>



<https://youtu.be/KLWxwwzXXcc>

technical minded hobby. They want to turn the radio on and push the button to talk. Some people will come to GMRSLive for basic radio communications. Many of us hams started on the CB radio years ago and then the Ham bug bit. I myself was on CB and then in junior High school I was introduced to ham radio. There are a couple of GMRSLive clubs that I have found that hold monthly meeting/breakfast get together.

The East Pasco Amateur Radio Society has invited many of the GMRSLive users to their monthly meetings and other events. A lot of the members in this club also hold a GMRSLive license. Unfortunately, GMRSLive does limit what you can do on the air. It is FM voice only mode. So no other modes are permitted. It might have been nice to run SSTV or some other short transmitting mode over the network. But again, not many tech savvy people out there. We have had some success by getting a technician book into their hands. In our October testing session 1 person earned their new Amateur

radio license.

73 de

WRBM944

AA4CB

“build it, learn it, teach it”



Chris Bloxsom

@aa4cb_chris

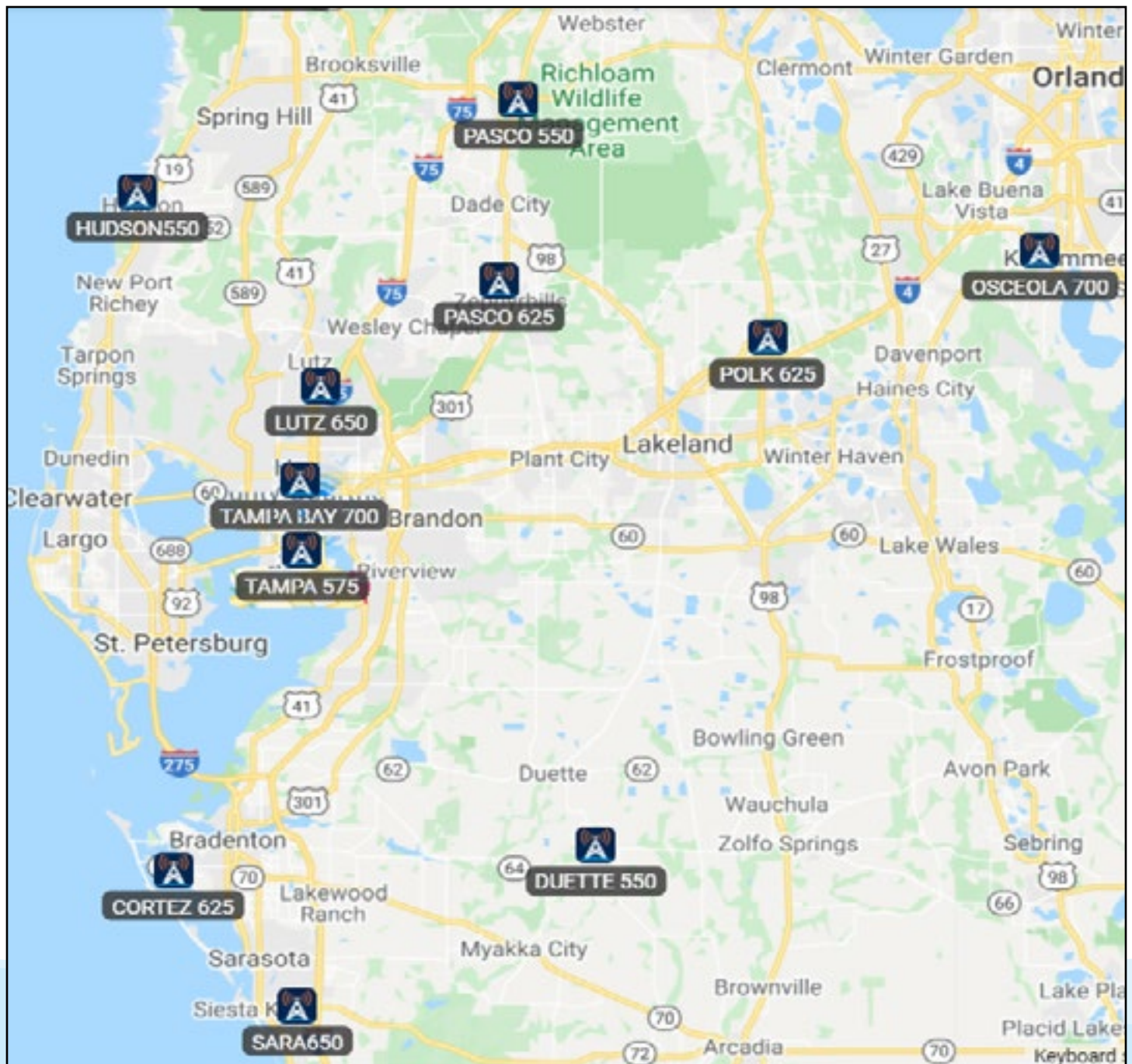
AA4CB

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Licensed for over 32

years. PIO, webmaster, Social media director for Eparsonline.org & various other groups.



GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TAILGATE FALL 2021 CANCELED. RESCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2022

On September 27, 2021, Carl Ekblad AJ4JA, Chairman of the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club Fall 2021 Tailgate Hamfest, announced that the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club Fall 2021 Tailgate Hamfest has been canceled due to concerns from COVID-19.

The hamfest is being rescheduled for January 15, 2022. The location will still be the Millennium Academy at 10005 Ridge Road in New Port Richey and the time will still be from 0800 through 1200 EDT. For hamfest information as

it becomes available you may go to the Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club website at <http://gulfcoastarc.com>.



HURRICANE SEASON IS WINDING DOWN!

Please join us for the weekly Hillsborough County, ARES Net every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm on the W4BCI repeater in Tampa.

Receive: 444.225 MHz, Transmit: 449.225 MHz, +5 MHz offset, PL tone of 146.2 Hz.

All check-ins welcome.



TALK TO SANTA

by Chris Bloxsom, AA4CB

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 public. What better way to introduce Amateur Radio to kids then to put the microphone in their hand and have them talk to the big jolly man from the North Pole.

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



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

Talk to Santa Claus via Amateur Radio



Santa Claus's Radio station East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

make a contact with ole Saint Nick, one of the club's 'elves fills out an official QSL card



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

for the QSO and gives it to the young operator who talked to Santa.

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.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please send an email to santa@eparsonline.org All help is greatly appreciated.



FREE HAM LICENSE TESTING

Next FREE ham license testing in Winter Haven, scheduled for the First Saturday of Each Month, at the American Red Cross building conducted by the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs. Testing for all classes of licenses. Go to LWRA.US for more information. Click on "Becoming A Ham." Register for the next convenient testing date before 6 p.m. on the Thursday prior. No walk-in's allowed on test day.



Technician test on that Saturday, new call sign and license confirmed on Monday. No charge for testing. Upgrade on day of test after passing proper element(s).

Fast and FREE!

December will probably be the last time someone may achieve a new amateur radio license or upgrade their current license before the FCC's new \$35 license fee goes into effect, most likely in January.

Lake Wales Radio Amateurs Club VE Team

THE HAMS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

Originally written in 2006. Republished here by permission.

*Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.*

*The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.*

*The children, Technicians,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.*

*Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.*

*When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.*

*Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,*

*While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.*

*It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh,
With an eight-element beam,*

*And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean,
So I thought for a moment
That it might be Wayne Green.*

*But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams,
On a mission this Christmas
To clean up the bands.*

*He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.*

*While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.*

*He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late
QSLs, for a start.*

*He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth
Till the station was grounded.*

*He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.*

*He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before -
Now it works like a champ).*

*A new low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.*

*He repaired the computer
That wouldn't compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.*

*Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
"A new rig?" I thought!*

*"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?
An Elecraft, TEN-TEC
Or Flex, could it be!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
It might be QRP!)*



*Yes! The Ultimate station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those weekends
I worked Public Service?*

*He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.*

*I should have been happy.
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost a month's rent!*

*He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."*

*Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no goodbye.*

*I ran back to the station,
And the pile up was big.
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.*

*Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.*

*The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What an old ham expects:
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."*





