

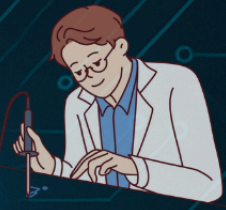
WCF



Sept / Oct 2025 - Issue #67

PRESSER

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section



Section Cabinet

Section Manager
Jimmy Russ AB4KA

Assistant Section Manager
Section Emergency Coordinator
Section Traffic Manager
Dave Rockwell W4PXE

Assistant Section Manager Technology
Technical Coordinator
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

Assistant Section Managers

Mike Douglas, W4MDD

Randy Payne K4EZM

Paul Toth NB9X

Russ Delaney N4RTD

Doug Williams N2DW

Mike Lunsford KB4FHP

Chuck Johnston W4CWJ

Dee Turner, N4GD

Christine Duez K4KJN

William Miller N1CDO

Dan Noah WX4DAN

Doug Christ KN4YT

Stephen Park W4OEP



**By Jimmy Russ, Section Manager,
ARRL West Central Florida
Division**

QST de AB4KA

In the early days of Amateur Radio, a gentleman by the name of Paul Segal, W9EEA (SK) wrote "The Amateur's Code". Originally written in 1928, the 1947 version goes something like this:

The Radio Amateur is....

CONSIDERATE...The radio amateur never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...The radio amateur offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in their country, through which Amateur Radio in their country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...The radio amateur keeps their station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. Their operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY...The radio amateur operates slowly and patiently

when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...The radio amateur's station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

Now that you've read it, read it again and ask yourself "Does this describe me"?

Every paragraph of the code is important, however I would like to concentrate on two in particular. The first one is **LOYAL**. Are you a member of a club? When is the last time you went to a meeting? Are you an ARRL member? Forgive me for saying so, but if you are not, you should be.

The second is **CONSIDERATE**. Every time you are on the air, someone is listening. Every time you go to that club meeting, someone is watching. Are you setting a good example for new amateurs? In case you don't remember, new hams watch old hams. Are you a keyboard

commando? Do you post your negative opinions online, or do you keep things positive? We should all do our best to keep the negativism to a minimum.

While I understand that the world in which we live has changed drastically since 1928 (in many ways, not for the better), we would all do well to incorporate the Radio Amateur's Code into not only our amateur radio lives, but into our lives in general. If we did, the amateur radio world (indeed the world in general) would be a better place.

Until next time...

Jimmy Russ, AB4KA

"PASS THE BILL" ARRL Grassroots Campaign is Underway



Please help pass the "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act". This piece of legislation will help STOP homeowner's associations from banning amateur radio antennas. We've got a great chance of getting this passed this year, but we

need your help!

How can you help? By sending a letter to your Representative and Senators asking that they co-sponsor and support H.R. 1094 and S. 459.

How can you send these letters? It is easy.

Go to — <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>— enter your call sign and click on "Send My Letters" and your letters will be delivered to our Washington legislative team for hand delivery to your Representative and Senators.

Does your individual letter matter? YES.

Your Representative and Senators need to know that the passage of this legislation is important to you.

Your letter could be the difference in whether we are able to pass H.R. 1094 and S. 459.

This is not only for league members, but for everyone. Please pass this along to every ham you know and encourage them to help. If every amateur radio operator helps and sends their letters, we can't lose!"

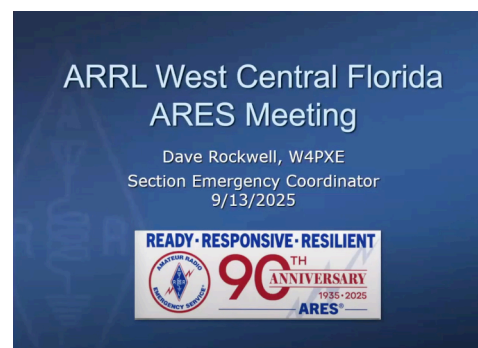
For more information you may read the ARRL news article: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-launches-nationwide-grassroots-campaign-to-pass-amateur-radio-emergency-preparedness-act-1>

WCF Section ARES Meeting Fall 2025

Video and Slides are Now Available



ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES resumed having quarterly Section ARES meetings on Saturday September 13, 2025, and this meeting was held via Zoom. The video and slides from the meeting are now available for viewing and download respectively.



To view the video of this meeting you may go to the ARRL West Central Florida Section YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TY1BSZsG6Zw>. The main landing page for the

Section YouTube channel is located at <https://www.youtube.com/@arrlwcf>

To download the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, you may go to the Section website ARES page located at <https://arrlwcf.org/wcf-section-programs/ares/>. The slides for the meeting are located in the Section near the bottom of the page entitled, "WCF Section ARES Communications Plan and supporting documents."

The next WCF Section ARES meeting is being planned as an in-person meeting at the Tampa Bay Hamest on Saturday December 13, 2025.



Cecil Fox KF4CSM is a Silent Key

Cecil Fox Jr. KF4CSM, the Assistant Emergency Coordinator of Operations for Manatee County ARES, passed away on Sunday September 14, 2025 after a battle with cancer. Fox was 74 years old at the time of his passing.

Fox is survived by his loving wife, Melody Fox; sister, Sandra Fox; sons Charles, Eric, and daughter-in-law Lynne; son-in-law David; and cherished grandchildren Jackson, Tyler, and Haley, who added so much joy to his life.

Fox was a proud graduate of Manatee High School and furthered his education by earning an Associate of Science degree from Vincennes University.

Fox was in the United States Army for 31 years, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major, and having received numerous commendation medals for various aspects of his service.

Cecil also served his community as a deputy sheriff with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office for 12 years.

A man of deep Christian faith, Fox served as a Deacon at Bible Baptist Church near Bradenton, and was actively involved in numerous ministries. He lived out the scripture, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13), in both his professional and personal life.

Visitation and a memorial service were held on Thursday 9/18/25 and Friday 9/19/25. For the full text of the obituary you may go to <https://www.brownandsonsfuneral.com/obituaries/Cecil-E-Fox-Jr?obId=45402834>.

The Bradenton Times ran an article about his passing. You may read that article at <https://thebradentontimes.com/stories/cecil-fox-jr,160660>



John Chaput KK4LI is a Silent Key

John Chaput KK4Li, became a Silent Key on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025 after a protracted cancer battle. Chaput was 63 years old at the time of his passing. Chaput is survived by his wife Cyndi, twin sons Evan Hunter Chaput and Jared Sean Chaput, grandson Jackson Lee Chaput, granddaughter Kelli Jo Chaput, daughter-in-law Kayla JoAnn Chaput, sister Marie Mills-Chaput, brother-in-law John Andrew "Andy" Spires, niece Jennifer "Jen" Fairfield, and nephew Phillip "Phil" Lloyd Mills, as well as countless other family members and friends.

Chaput got into amateur radio in the 1970's, and tinkered with amateur radio equipment from that time, and was active in amateur radio for the rest of his life. Chaput was active in the Highlands County Amateur Radio Club and the West Central Florida Group, the owner/operators of the NI4CE Repeater System. Chaput assisted with the maintenance of the Highlands County Amateur Radio Club repeaters. Chaput also helped out a number of amateur radio clubs and individual amateur radio operators with tower climbing when they were in need as a service to the amateur radio community.

Chaput ran a television repair shop in Lake Placid and eventually got into the tower climbing business, mounting internet access points on towers for RV Parks, among other tower climbing.

Chaput also served as deacon for First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine and later as a leader for the youth and young adults at Leisure Lakes Baptist Church, John was an inspiration to all of those who encountered him. Never seeming to be without a smile, John could brighten any day and share the love of Jesus with any stranger without hesitation.

A celebration of life ceremony was held on Saturday August 16, 2025 in Lake Placid. For the full text of the obituary you may go to https://www.midfloridanewspapers.com/highlands_news-sun/obituaries/john-r-chaput/article_8f2e2f2d-04ea-4405-b1a1-dfd5bd145b11.html

Section Manager Workshop Held at ARRL Headquarters

09/19/2025

ARRL Section Managers from around the country were at ARRL Headquarters for a

training workshop on September 13, 2025.

They visited with program leaders from across the Headquarters staff to learn about all the ways ARRL serves members. Within the ARRL Field Organization, Section Managers are the key frontline volunteers.

There are 71 sections spread across the Western Hemisphere. Section Managers are elected to two-year terms by ARRL members who live in their sections.

<https://www.arrl.org/news/section-manager-workshop-held-at-arrl-headquarters>



In attendance were (L to R) Jimmy Russ, ABAKA, of the West Central Florida Section; Craig McVey, NDCSH, of the Nevada Section; Jay Ballinger, N6SAC, of the Sacramento Valley Section; Ralph Katz, AABRK, of the Michigan Section; Barry Buelow, WB1Y, of the Iowa Section; David Overton, W5JDO, of the West Texas Section; Nonar Vizcarrondo, NP4H, of the Northern New Jersey Section; and Don Lynn, ND7L, of the Idaho Section.

Section Manager Workshop Held at ARRL Headquarters

09/19/2025

ARRL Section Managers from around the country were at ARRL Headquarters for a

W4MLB COME JOIN US AT THE **60TH ANNUAL MELBOURNE HAMFEST²⁰²⁵**
THE PLATINUM COAST AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
OCTOBER 10 - 11
MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM, 625 E HIBISCUS BLVD, MELBOURNE, FL 32901.

ARRL STATE CONVENTION
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES + MAJOR PRIZES

- ✓ COMMERCIAL VENDORS
- ✓ INDOOR SWAP TABLE
- ✓ OUTDOOR TAILGATE AREA
- ✓ CONSIGNMENT TABLE

BUY ADMISSION, RAFFLE, TAILGATE, OR TABLES
HFPCARS.PLUMTX.COM

GENERAL INFORMATION: [MELBOURNEHAMFEST.ORG](https://www.melbournehamfest.org)
CONTACT: HAMFEST@PCARS.ORG

PCARS Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society

DETAILS

National Preparedness Month: Know Your Risk

credit: arrl.org

Radio amateurs are valuable resources to their communities in times of crisis. This week, hams in Connecticut were featured in news coverage as they participated in a mass casualty drill with St. Vincent Medical Center in Bridgeport. Several scenarios played out in which amateur radio volunteers helped the hospital connect with other medical facilities, including a targeted cyberattack, mass shooting, and explosions.

While radio can provide resilience to communities, preparedness for those who would operate the radios begins at home. During National Preparedness Month, ARRL is sharing resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on how to be prepared.

The starting point for building your own resilience is to understand what threats you face in your area. On the website www.Ready.gov, there are tools to learn what disasters are most likely to impact your specific area and how to prepare for them.

ARRL Director of Emergency

Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says a plan should be tailored to threats you're likely to face. "While we should all be ready for anything – there are going to be threats specific to a region. Everyone should be well aware of the events that happen in your area," he said.

There is additional information on the FEMA website to learn about region-specific disasters such as hurricanes. Radio amateurs are encouraged to find an ARES group in their area at www.arrl.org/ares.

Be sure to visit the ARRL West Central Florida Section

You Tube

channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/@arrlwcf>



WCFCountry
West Central Florida Section

WCF Section Nets

The following is a list of ARRL West Central Florida Section Nets:

Day of Week	Net	Time	Frequency
Sunday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Monday	WCF Section ARES / Information Net	1930	NI4CE/R
Monday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Tuesday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Wednesday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Thursday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Thursday	WCF Section Technical Net	2100	NI4CE/R
Friday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Saturday	WCF Section ARES / Information Net	0730^	3940 KHz
Saturday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R

^ Net start will be at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net.

For more information on the NI4CE/R go to <http://www.ni4ce.org>

THE FLORIDA
GULF COAST
AMATEUR
RADIO COUNCIL
PRESENTS:

50TH ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST



AND WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CONVENTION

FRIDAY DEC. 12TH 1PM-6PM

SAT. DEC. 13TH 8AM-3PM

Expo Building
Strawberry Festival Grounds
301 N. Berryfest Pl
Plant City, FL 33563

HOURLY
DOOR
PRIZES

WAS DXCC
CARD
CHECKING

Talk-in
147.165
PL 136.5

ARRL
VEC EXAMS

Admission at the gate \$13
Advanced Ticket purchase \$10
under 12 FREE
Public service/military in uniform



SCAN ME TO VISIT WEBSITE

TAMPABAYHAMFEST.ORG

Indoor table \$20
Booth, 10x10 with 2 tables \$60
Electric \$10
Outdoor space \$10
Camping (see website for details) \$20
1 Club Table FREE
1 Club selling table \$15

Amateur License Testing Available!

On-site testing will be conducted by
the East Pasco Amateur Radio Society
Applicants must be pre-registered and
have a FRN number prior to testing.
To register email N4WDH@arrl.net

THE FLORIDA
GULF COAST
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50TH ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST



AND WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CONVENTION

FRIDAY DEC. 12TH 1PM-6PM

SAT. DEC. 13TH 8AM-3PM

Come down, set up and represent your club

We can provide a table free of charge to any established amateur radio club. The free club table can be used to help promote the club and its members to the general public. It is often a gathering point for club members to distribute informational flyers and promote upcoming events at the club. The table is provided with two chairs. Order a CLUB SALES TABLE if you need space to sell product for the club or its members.



Order
your
table(s)
on
the
website

