WCF ARES® Communicator

Radio Station WIFM – What's in It for Me

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

Fellow ARES® Members,

As we all know, the American Radio Relay League ® (ARRL ®) - The National Association for Amateur Radio ® is the parent organization for Amateur Radio Emergency Services ® (ARES ®). The ARRL has been around for over 100 years and has represented our hobby at the national and international levels for decades. Personally, I joined the League shortly after obtaining my license in 2013 and over the following couple years attained Life Membership (I was working at the time). To me it was a natural evolution to become a member of the League. Similarly, I became a life member of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association ® (AFCEA ®) when I joined the Air Force and joined the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers ® (IEEE ®) after I attained my bachelor's in electrical engineering. I've benefitted over the years from my affiliation with these associations.

I've recently had discussions with a few hams who see no benefit to belonging to the ARRL. Most of these do not gain anything from being a member; they do not buy the books, serve in a Field Services position, or attend participate in the meetings and conventions of ARRL. I got it. These hams are very much tuned into what I call WIFM – "What's in it for me?" Hopefully, I can shed some light on why, as an active ARES member, you should consider keeping your ARRL membership active.

We are all aware that ARRL advocates for the amateur radio service at all levels of government. As members, we often do not see the immediate effects of this advocacy but the fact that we have been able to maintain our amateur access and privileges through numerous presidential administrations is a testament to the success of the League's advocacy. Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are under constant pressure to allocate more of the radio frequency spectrum to commercial interests who are willing to pay top dollar for the bandwidth. The ARRL is our first line of defense against reallocation. To the average ham, there is little day to day impact. I am reminded of the line from Jonie Mitchell's song *Big Yellow Taxi*, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. . ." While a considerable amount of the funding for spectrum advocacy comes from endowments and donations, there is still a significant investment from our annual (or life member) dues that goes toward keeping our frequencies for amateur use.

As ARES members, we should be constantly training and improving our skills. The ARRL Emergency Communications training courses are great first steps in learning and mastering what it takes to be an effective public service communicator. The ARRL has invested extensively to make these training courses relevant to present-day emergency communications. While many of us take courses through the National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU), which was formerly the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), the ARRL ARES courses give our members the foundation as to how amateur radio can integrate into disaster and emergency operations. The ARRL courses are excellent precursors to attending the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) Course and completing the AUXCOMM task book. The new EMCOMM classes have been designed with AUXCOMM in mind and will give you excellent background to complete your AUXCOMM qualifications.

One outstanding service provided through ARRL is the equipment insurance Program. It allows members to insure their radio equipment for a very reasonable premium, it's an all-risk policy and only requires a $50 deductible in the event of a loss. Many of us have experienced the

impacts of multiple hurricanes and some have suffered serious damage during our frequent thunderstorms. The insurance provides peace of mind in protecting the investment you have made in your radio shack. For more information, check out ARRL Insurance Program: Welcome!
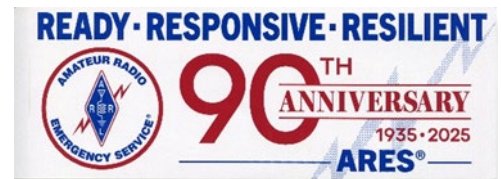
Another easily overlooked benefit is access to the QST archive via the ARRL website. This allows members to access articles from QST from 1915 - 2011, and complete issues of QST from 2012 forward. We recognize that many hams have stacks of the old QST issues. In my case, I don't save the stack. With access to any article from 1915 on, it's easy to use the archive to home in on that article covering the thing-a-ma-jig you are experimenting with. And don't forget, as a member you have online access to the latest version of QST. Additionally, there are various email newsletters to which you can subscribe and stay up to date with current events, and the Learning Center which offers an extensive selection of online courses.

And don't forget the Technical Information Service for those who need technical support, you can get one-on-one help with your technical problem working with one of the League's experts.

For less than $5/month, you can help preserve our rights as amateurs, participate in world-class communications training, access a wealth of technical information, protect your equipment from harm, and be eligible to become an appointed leader in our League. If you want to check out all the benefits of membership go to Value.pdf.

Sincerely,
Dave Rockwell, W4PXE
Section Emergency Coordinator
ARRL® West Central Florida Section
Email: w4pxe@arrl.net

(Thanks to guest editor, Jimmy Russ, ARRL WCF Section Manager)

Form 4 - ARES Monthly SEC Report

Print this page

Success! The following information was submitted by David Rockwell, W4PXE, WCF SEC for **West Central Florida, August, 2025**.

Total number of ARES members:	409
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	N/D
Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month:	8
Total number of DECs/ECs in section:	8
Number of ARES net sessions held:	45
Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	15
Number of participants in nets:	835

	Number	Person-Hrs
Exercises this month:	4	105.00
Training events this month:	11	114.00
Public service events this month:	0	0.00
Community service events this month:	0	0.00
Emergency events this month:	0	0.00
SKYWARN events this month:	13	225.00
Meetings this month:	12	212.00
Unclassified events this month:	11	38.00

Call signs of DECs reporting:
W4PXE, W4PXE

Activity Details:
CHARLOTTE COUNTY---
Conducted Technician testing for 20 County employees and community, after classes concluded. Most passed.

HARDEE COUNTY---
Conducted three sessions of the Hardee County ARES Net on Monday August 11, 18, and 25. Had a total of 10 checkins and a total net time of 35 minutes. Total volunteer time for nets was 0.8 hours.

On Saturday August 30, Darrell Davis KT4WX, representing Hardee County ARES, participated in the Polk County ARES Communications exercise from 0900 to 1100 hours. Sent several test messages and received several test messages. Total volunteer time was 2 hours for exercises.

MANATEE COUNTY--
The monthly Membership Meeting of the Manatee County Emergency Support Group, Inc. (ARES/RACES) was held in the Emergency Operations Center on 08/26/2025. The Feature of the Month was titled, "Our 800 MHz P25 Command Channel." The Question of the Month was, "Why and How to use Winlink Peer-to-Peer?"

An Operation Grazing Herd Drill was conducted on 8/16/2025. The drill was held concurrently with a public open house and was our first opportunity to conduct a "Show-N-Tell" of our operations from the ESF-5 Planning Room.
A summary follows:
• 18 Participants; 113 minutes duration
• 15 Affiliates, 1 Members, 1 MAT and 1 Visitor
• 10 Traffic Assignments
o 5 Winlink ICS-213 Messages sent/replied
o 0 Mobile Windshield Reconns
o 5 Voice via EOC Relay
• MAN-10 Sub-net for EOC Relay Stations
• MAN-17; 2 CERT GMRS participants via EOC Relay stations.
• 7 ICS-214 Logs submitted
• Total equipment failure of EOC GMRS operations.

At the invitation of the Bradenton Kiwanis Club, I was the guest speaker at a luncheon held on August 26. The talk was intended to introduce MCESG, Inc., aka ARES/RACES and centered on the capabilities we, as credentialed volunteers, provide to Emergency Management, Agencies, Partners and the Communities in Manatee County. A Youtube video of the presentation can be found at: https://youtu.be/AJOR2gKUJbA?si=nsioC5SQR41F4FWd

PASCO COUNTY---
August ACS meeting. with Shelter operations orientation pt1

PINELLAS COUNTY--
Weekly training and maintenance events at Pinellas EOC.

POLK COUNTY---
3 hours of activation.

SARASOTA COUNTY--
08-02-2025 SRQARES meeting, SkyWarn Training Class 08-16-2025

DESOTO COUNTY---
Nothing significant to report.

Official Emergency Stations:

KM4WXX, Sarasota County, Net manager for ARRL WCF Ares uhf/vhf net and Eagle Net.
34.5 hours.

N4NOA, Hillsborough County, QNI FPTN 29, QFN 25, SFL 14, WCF UHF 4
WCF 80M 5

KO4IHP, Sarasota County, Checked into SRQ ARES Net 3 x Times (7th,14th,28th) on 146.730Mhz (Checkins Only)
Checked into Manatee ARES Net 1 x time (Checkin only on 4th) 147.197Mhz
Checked into WCF ARES net 3 x times, 1 x time as NC on 442.950Mhz (4th,11th,18th & 25th)
WCF ARES Traffic Rec'd = 3, Sent = 0, Total time WCF ARES Net = 158 mins.,
Winlink Exercise / Testing w/ Thermal Belt Amateur Radio Club HF Gateway in SC - WB9AYD, N2NFG

in NY,
All over Vara HF on 10M and 40M

KR4X, Hillsborough County, O.E.S. Report from KR4X for August 2025
checked in 4 times into WCF ARES EC/OES Net on 3.940 mhz LSB
checked in 4 times into SFL ARES Net on 3.940 mhz LSB
checked in 4 times into CGCWOA CW Net on 14.052 mhz CW
checked in 3 times into HC ARES/RACES Net on 444.425 mhz NBFM
checked in 1 time into Florida NXDN Net on 442.0875 mhz
checked in 1 time into WCF INFO Net on 442.550 mhz FM
Total hours 17 hours 0 miles driven

--30--

Administrative and Other Comments:
CHARLOTTE COUNTY--
Charlotte County was very pleased with our extensive employee license training. We are well prepared for incidents and coordination procedures with our served agency.

Submitted by: comtechrallc@gmail.com

HARDEE COUNTY--
Total volunteer time for the month was 2.8 hours.

Submitted by: kt4wx@arrl.net

MANATEE COUNTY--
August 2025 Membership Metrics;
1) 54 Active Members
2) 42 Qualified (78%) - 16 at Level 1, 20 at Level 2, 6 at Level 3
3) Amateur Licensees: 25 Extra, 4 Adv, 13 Gen, 12 Tech
The MCESG Board created the "Cecil Fox Achievement Award" to honor Cecil's leadership and efforts in helping to form our organization. Frank Giannone and Brian Biery made the presentation to Cecil on July 25.

The MCESG, Inc.2025 FDACS Charitable Organization Sponsor Registration was accepted 7/7/25.

Monthly Elmering Sessions included;
• "HF Day," a roundtable held on the MAN-10 repeater, 8/13 at 10AM. The activities include NVIS sessions on 75/60/40 meters. SHARES Net check-in activities are also demonstrated by Level-2 members.
• Daily participation on the South Florida ARES Net (SFAN) on 3940 kHz is steadily increasing. We now have nine regular participants from Manatee County.
• The Winlink Elmers also set up a members new PC, raised an antenna and installed a SignaLink USB to conquer Packet, and built a new "cheeseboard" for both Packet and Vara-FM.

On August 6, I attended the quarterly meeting of the Manatee Opereations Working Group. I attended the monthly SHARES Working Group Meeting on August 22, and I continue to chair the EmComms Working Group for the Manatee County CERT Coalition.

A host of reference documents and training materials can be found on our website; MCESG.ORG

For more details, please feel free to contact me anytime by phone or text at (727) 542-4729 or by email at spark003@live.com

73,
Steve Park, W4OEP

Submitted by: spark003@live.com

PASCO COUNTY--
Nothing significant to report.

Submitted by: tdc@earthling.net

PINELLAS COUNTY--
Weekly nets include 2 HF nets on 10 and 40 meters, a 2m voice net and a Winlink training net.

Submitted by: will.w7wms@gmail.com

POLK COUNTY--
We held a join exercise with CERT/GRMS. We had traffic participation from Poinciana, Solivita, South Lakeland, LFD Station 3 (housing the CERT teams from NW Lakeland), Winter Haven area, Frostproof, Lake Ashton, and one from Levy County. I know other CERT members and communities were involved. The scripted and impromptu traffic was well presented. The folks who called in messages had NEVER participated in any training like this. The opportunity to send messages, with sometimes unexpected responses for additional info or updates created the dynamic we wanted to achieve. They learned the calm collected and precise message of Time, Event, Location (TEL method) of reporting is easy and very effective.

Submitted by: cduez10@yahoo.com

SARASOTA COUNTY--
08-16-2025, after my 8 years using the Red Cross Radio Room, (SERC/SRQARES/ACS/REDCOM/N4SER/NNF4FL) we were finally allowed to test the Mesh Bat-phone connected to the Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center.
Submitted by: mbk7@comcast.net

DESOTO COUNTY--
Nothing significant to report.

Submitted by: Kn4yt@yahoo.com