



# WCF ARES® Communicator

## Public Service Means Getting Off the Couch

November 2025

Fellow ARES® Members,

Amateur Radio Emergency Services® (ARES®) is built on serving the public and our sponsoring agencies. All ARES members should look for opportunities to employ their radio skills in support of special events and club activities. Just throwing out your call sign on the local net while sipping a cool one on the sofa does not embody the essence of public service. We need to participate in public events. The more chances we have to interface with our neighbors, club members, and ordinary citizens, the better our standing within the whole community will be. Each of us should look for opportunities to be out in public demonstrating proper radio operations and supporting events.

Where to begin? Start with your local ham club (you are a member, aren't you?). Join in on operating events and fellowship gatherings. These provide the perfect setting to show off your radio and social skills and there is always the chance you can recruit new members to ARES. Here in the ARRL® West Central Florida Section there are several opportunities; some to consider are:

- **Lake Wales Radio Amateurs, QRP in the Park** – This group meets on the last Saturday of the month. They include a “Tailgate Tech” session for new hams covering some aspects of radio such as WinLink, APRS, POTA, and many other topics. Hams are encouraged to bring their go-kits and operate on low power (QRP). The event concludes with their traditional “**Big Dogs on the Porch**” with their intrepid grilling team cooking hot dogs, hamburgers, and brats. Many folks bring potluck side dishes, as well. (Contact Mike Lunsford, KB4FHP, LWRA President, at [KB4FHP@arrl.net](mailto:KB4FHP@arrl.net))
- **West Central Florida National Traffic, Eagle Net** – Check-in at 8:30 PM Eastern, on the NI4CE repeater System. This is the National Traffic System net for our section. Stations may send formal radiogram traffic, normally at the beginning of the net. Radiograms to regular net participants can be delivered on the net. All amateur stations can participate. (See [NI4CE Map and Frequencies](#) for more information about the repeater system.) Every ARES member should be proficient in sending and receiving radiogram traffic. Also, Eagle Net offers opportunities for hams to try out being net control on a large regional VHF/UHF net. On Eagle Net, once the traffic portion of the net has concluded, the net control conducts a county-by-county check-in for all stations within our section and adjacent counties. (Contact: Sanford Wyatt, KM4WXX, Net Manager, [km4wxx@arrl.net](mailto:km4wxx@arrl.net) )
- **West Florida SKYWARN®/WX Alert Net** – This net meets every Tuesday at 7:30 PM Eastern on the NI4CE repeater system and the NI4CE NXDN talk group 1299. This net provides up-to-date weather forecast information. While designed for SKYWARN® Spotters, all amateurs may participate in the net. During periods of severe weather impacting the region, the net activates to provide up-to-the-minute weather data and collect Spotter severe storm reports for the National Weather Service (NWS). (Contact Paul Toth, NB9X, [paul.nb9x@gmail.com](mailto:paul.nb9x@gmail.com) for more information.)
- **NWS SKYWARN® Spotter Program** – The impacts of hazardous weather are experienced by many Americans each year. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly

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

290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. For more information, see [Tampa Bay SkyWarn Page](#). We strongly recommend that all ARES members receive SKYWARN training, which is included in the ARES Task Books as an optional competency.

- **WCF ARES and Information Net** – The Section ARES and Information Net meets at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) local time on Monday each week (except during the holidays). During the net, members of the Section staff provide announcements of upcoming amateur radio events such as Hamfests, tailgates, and other meetings. The net is held on the NI4CE analog repeater system.
- **WCF ARES HF Net** – For those with a General license or higher, you might want to check into the Section High Frequency (HF) ARES Net on Saturday morning on 3.940 MHZ, lower sideband at 7:30 AM or after the conclusion of the Florida Phone Traffic Net. This is a great opportunity to test out your HF equipment. Also, the Section Emergency Coordinator may active this net anytime if needed for disaster response or emergency communications.
- **WCF Technical Net** – The Technical Net meets every Thursday (except the holiday season) at 9:00 PM on the NI4CE analog repeater system. Section Technical Specialists are available to answer technical questions and provide updates on interesting projects.
- **Florida Phone Traffic Net (FPTN)** – FPTN meets every morning on 3.940 MHZ lower sideband to exchange formal written message traffic. Traffic handling is a skill all ARES members should master and FPTN is a great way to learn from a seasoned team. You can have your call sign added to the roster after some participation as a visitor. Instructions for joining the roster are provided during every net.

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

(Thanks to guest editor, Christine Duez, K4KJN, WCF Public Information Coordinator)





# ARES Field Reports

[Logout](#) David Rockwell, W4PXE, WCF SEC

[ARES Home](#) [Submit Form 2](#) [Submit Form 4](#) [List Reports](#) [Summary Reports](#)

## 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, September, 2025.**

Total number of ARES members:	371
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	N/D
Number of DEC/ECs reporting this month:	8
Total number of DEC/ECs in section:	9
Number of ARES net sessions held:	44
Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	18
Number of participants in nets:	776

	Number	Person-Hrs
Exercises this month:	5	158.00
Training events this month:	8	165.00
Public service events this month:	0	16.00
Community service events this month:	0	0.00
Emergency events this month:	0	0.00
SKYWARN events this month:	286	259.00
Meetings this month:	14	173.00
Unclassified events this month:	6	120.00

### Call signs of DEC/ECs reporting:

W4PXE, W4PXE, W4PXE

### Activity Details:

DESOTO COUNTY-----  
Nothing significant to report.

HARDEE COUNTY-----

Conducted five sessions of the Hardee County ARES Net, back on the WC4PEM Repeater System for the time being. Had a total of 31 checkins and total net time of 96 minutes for September. Total volunteer time for nets was 2.9 hours.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY-----

ARES members continue teaching a tech class to the jr ROTC at Sebring High School.

MANATEE COUNTY-----

The monthly Membership Meeting of the Manatee County Emergency Support Group, Inc. (ARES/RACES) was held at the Bible Baptist Church of Bradenton on 0/23/2025. Following, "A Tribute to Cecil Fox, KF4CSM/SK" (see video at <https://youtu.be/iATS3itUMXY>) we heard from all the AECs. The Feature of the Month was titled, "The New Main Site." The Question of the Month was, "Winlink Undesired Effects?"

POLK COUNTY-----

Conducted a hot wash of previous exercise. GMRS Net with 134 check-ins, Winlink 78 messages.

SARASOTA COUNTY-----

Responded to one Internet outage on all gateways including SHARES and computers. Duration 34 hours. Hours included in Unclassified Events.

PASCO COUNTY-----

Conducted the monthly meeting with orientation for SERT TRAC.

PINELLAS COUNTY-----

Four equipment maintenance and training events conducted.

SEC-----

SEC attended the Melbourne FL Hamfest in support of the South Florida Section. Published the monthly WCF ARES Communicator newsletter.

Official Emergency Stations -----

KM4WXX, Sanford Wyatt, Sarasota County, Net manager for ARRL WCF ARES UHF/VHF Net, 40 hours.

KO4IHP, Tim Gardner, Sarasota County, Check in to WCF ARES Nets 5 x times (1st,8th,15th,22nd,29th).

WCF ARES Net Total time = 182min. Traffic Rec'd = 5 on Freq. 442.950Mhz Check into SRQARES 1 x Time (9/4) on 146.730Mhz (check-in only)

N4NOA, William Johnson, Hillsborough County, 4 WCF ARES UHF/VHF Nets, WCF ARES HF Net Manager, conducted 3 sessions.

KR4X, Larry Gispert, Hillsborough County, OES report September 2025

1 hour checked into Florida NXDN Net on 442.0875 mhz

3 hours checked into CGCWOA CW Net on 14.052 mhz

2 hours checked into HC ARES/RACES Net on 442.550 mhz NBFM

3 hours checked into SFL ARES Net on 3.940 mhz

3 hours checked into WCF ARES EC/OES Net on 3.940 mhz

3 hours attended the Bi-Monthly HC ARES/RACES Meeting drove 20 miles  
total activity is 15 miles with 20 miles driven

SKYWARN/WX Alert Net-----

9/2 54 32 minutes

9/9 43 29 Minutes

9/16 56 34 minutes

9/23 66 34 minutes

9/30 60 34 minutes

Added as adjustment. 279 stations, 152.7 staff hours

Submitted by: Paul Toth, NB9X

**Administrative and Other Comments:**

DESOTO COUNTY-----

Nothing significant to report.

#### HARDEE COUNTY-----

The Wauchula repeater (146.625 MHz) is having either an antenna or hardliner issue at the moment. It does not hear like it used to. Using the WC4PEM Repeater System until the cause can be discovered.

#### HIGHLANDS COUNTY-----

EC reports that it has been a quiet month. Submitted by: Jeff Bronsing, KJ4NEO, kj4neo@gmail.com

#### MANATEE COUNTY-----

August 2025 Membership Metrics;

1) 55 Active Members

2) 41 Qualified (75%) - 16 at Level 1, 19 at Level 2, 6 at Level 3

3) Amateur Licensees: 26 Extra, 4 Adv, 13 Gen, 12 Tech

Two different Kiwanis' Club presentations were made on August 26 and September 5.

FCC Form 605-C was signed and submitted on 8/14/25 by Steve and Frank. FCC approval was granted on 8/19/25. Paperwork was submitted on 8/22/2025 to the Florida Amateur Spectrum Management Association (FASMA) to complete the transfer of MAN-2 to MCESG, Inc. and Manatee County Emergency Management. The change is in the FASMA queue.

We conducted a Site Survey and GMRS Radio Coverage exercise for the new Bayview CERT in Manatee County. 6 Team Members participated. We finished the day with a hot-wash and have developed a formal After-Action-Review.

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

#### POLK COUNTY-----

Received a new ICOM 7300 and ICOM 7900 for use at the EOC. Submitted by: Christine Duez, K4KJN, cduetz10@yahoo.com.

#### SARASOTA COUNTY-----

Submitted by: Mike Kearney, KG7KIQ, mbk7@comcast.net.

#### PASCO COUNTY-----

Submitted by: Tim Cunningham, KM4YGV, EC, tdc@earthling.net.

#### PINELLAS COUNTY-----

Submitted by: Will Scott, W7WMS, AEC, will.w7wms@gmail.com.

*Send comments or questions about this page to [ARES Support](#).*

*Version: 2.4.2, Revised: January 21, 2025*

*Copyright © 2025 American Radio Relay League, Inc., All Rights Reserved*