



WCF ARES® Communicator

Professional Humility – Leave Egos at Home

December 2025

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Christine Duez K4KJN

William Miller N1CDO

Dan Noah WX4DAN

Fellow ARES® Members,

[Editor's Note: We originally planned our December issue to focus on SKYWARN® and weather readiness in conjunction with SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD). Sadly, the ongoing government shutdown has limited the scope of SRD this year.]

I'm sure all of us in public service have come across individuals who believe they are "large and in-charge". They insist that they be the lead and boss everyone around. When we encounter two individuals who immediately butt heads, they become disruptive to our response to the incident situation. This attitude and mindset are counterproductive and can result in operational failures and safety hazards. Also, this does not present a "Professional" image. In our emergency communications training, we should all have learned to leave our egos at home. When we are activated and report to an incident or event, we need to be open-minded and willing to do what is needed, not necessarily our specialty. I've come to call this **professional humility**.

Many of you know that I am a fan of artificial intelligence (AI). I asked Google's AI tool, Gemini, to explain professional humility. Here's what I learned.

***Professional humility** is the practice of acknowledging one's limitations while valuing the contributions and perspectives of others. It involves self-awareness, a willingness to learn from mistakes, and prioritizing the collective good over personal ego. This trait fosters better teamwork, stronger relationships, and a culture of continuous improvement.*

Key characteristics of professional humility:

- **Self-awareness:** Recognizing your strengths and weaknesses honestly, without arrogance or excessive pride.
- **Openness to others:** Valuing the ideas, skills, and contributions of colleagues, team members, and clients, and being open to learning from them.
- **Focus on the collective:** Prioritizing the common welfare and team success over personal gain or recognition.
- **Accountability:** Admitting mistakes and taking responsibility for them rather than blaming others.
- **Service orientation:** Directing your attention outwards to understand and assist others, fostering a spirit of service.
- **Continuous learning:** Acknowledging that you can always learn more and using mistakes as opportunities for growth.

How professional humility is demonstrated:

- **Giving credit:** Acknowledging the team's collective effort in a project's success rather than taking personal credit.
- **Welcoming feedback:** Actively seeking and incorporating different ideas into your work, even if they are better than your own.
- **Encouraging others:** Nurturing the development of team members and helping them achieve their goals.
- **Being accessible:** Maintaining an open-door policy and encouraging questions to create a supportive learning environment.

As ARES radio operators, we need to be ready to provide the services needed at an incident

or event. Maybe you wanted to be the net control station (NCS), but the event organizer has two NCS operators already. You might be asked to be the operator at Water Station #3. Accept the position and give it your best. Check in with your tactical call sign, when called (and don't forget to close with your amateur call). When you are not handling radio traffic, volunteer to help the team at the water station. You could hand out bottles or collect the empties. I know you didn't sign up to be "water boy", but showing a willingness to pitch in and get the job done goes a long way to fostering positive attitudes among our supported organizations.

Similar situations arise during emergency or disaster incidents. You might be asked to help direct evacuees coming to a shelter to the sign-in table when you are not on the radio. Remember, do not take on any duties for which you are not qualified. Be ready to lend a helping hand when needed. It goes without saying though, don't let these collateral duties interfere with your primary mission of communications. If necessary, politely advise the requester that you have a radio check-in coming up and so you need to decline at that moment. When in doubt, follow the directions of your on-site supervisor. Oh, don't forget to note these duties and discussions in your ICS-214 Activity Log.

Professional humility goes a long way to reducing stress during an event or incident. Especially during a disaster, keeping stress to a minimum is necessary. We are most effective when we have heightened awareness but are free from debilitating stresses. The first step in this process is leaving our egos at home. Do what we are asked to do to the best of our ability and pride ourselves on jobs well-done. We will leave a good impression with our supported partners. Be a member of your agency's team before, during, and after your participation. And don't forget to thank them for the opportunity to be included.

So, when in doubt, BE HUMBLE!

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

(This month's guest editor is Dave Byrum, KA4EBX, Florida State AUXCOMM Coordinator





ARES Field Reports

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

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Form 4 - ARES Monthly SEC Report

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

Total number of ARES members:	414
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	N/D
Number of DEC/ECs reporting this month:	9
Total number of DEC/ECs in section:	9
Number of ARES net sessions held:	56
Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	17
Number of participants in nets:	869

	Number	Person-Hrs
Exercises this month:	2	73.00
Training events this month:	15	178.00
Public service events this month:	0	0.00
Community service events this month:	3	243.00
Emergency events this month:	0	0.00
SKYWARN events this month:	9	213.00
Meetings this month:	14	233.00
Unclassified events this month:	22	68.00

Call signs of DEC/ECs reporting:

W4PXE, W4PXE, W4PXE

Activity Details:

CHARLOTTE COUNTY-----

- Monthly Drill at EOC grounds on Oct 23, with CCFD observing. 17 Attendees, 3 hours.
- Mobile Repeater on Manasota Key Condo roof used successfully for Waterfest and Parade Events. Range tested at 5+ miles. Permanent Proposal being prepared to Condo.
- Monthly Meeting at Perkins in PC. 28 attendees, 3 hours

HARDEE COUNTY-----

Conducted four sessions of the Hardee County ARES Net on Monday October 6, 13, 20, and 27. Had a total of 22 checkins and total net time was 75 minutes. Total volunteer time for nets: 1.25 Hours. On Saturday October 25, Darrell Davis KT4WX was part of the communications team of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, in providing communications for the annual Warriors Walk around Lake Hollingsworth. Total volunteer time: 3 hours.

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 10/28/2025. Following introduction of new members and EC announcements, we heard from all the AECs. The Feature of the Month was titled, "Simplex vs Duplex" and Reverse Operation. The Question of the Month was, "What is the SKYWARN effort in Manatee County?"

A monthly EmComm Staff (AEC's, Deputies, and Liaisons) Meeting was held via Zoom on 10/1/2025.

A monthly MCESG, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting was held via Zoom on 10/16/2025.

A monthly EOC Training Session and Work Party was held in the EOC on 10/29/2025.

PASCO COUNTY-----

Attended Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club meeting with SEC Dave Rockwell, W4PXE, and presented the ARES strategy for Pasco County to the members of the club.

PINELLAS COUNTY-----

Five EOC Radio Room equipment training and maintenance events.

POLK COUNTY-----

Simplex net exercise held on 10/28/2025. 4 GRMS nets 124 check-ins X 15 minutes@ and 4 Winlink nets 80 check-ins X 15minutes@ We did one hands-on training teaching antenna building.

SARASOTA COUNTY-----

Conducted Winlink training and practice.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY-----

Worked on Training with the new NXDN base station.

DESOTO COUNTY-----

Nothing significant to report.

Official Emergency Stations-----

N4NOA, Bill Johnson, Hillsborough County, moo.bil@yahoo.com

HC Staff Meet

HC ARES Net 4 sessions

WCF 80 Meter Net 4 Sessions

KR4X, Larry Gispert, Hillsborough County, larr.gispert@verizon.net

O.E.S. for KR4X for October 2025

5 times for 5 hours checked into CGCWOA CW Net on 14.052 mhz

4 times for 4 hours checked into the SFL ARES Net on 3.940 mhz

4 times for 4 hours checked into the WCF ARES EC/OES Net on 3.940 mhz

total of 13 hours no miles driven

KO4IHP, Tim Gardner, Sarasota County, tim@gardnertech.net

Check in to SRQARES Net Oct 16th, 30th, on Freq. 146.730, Check-in via Winlink to KG7KIQ

Check-in to WCF ARES Net Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27. Total Traffic Received = 4, on Freq. 442.950, Total Time = 143 mins.

Administrative and Other Comments:

CHARLOTTE COUNTY-----

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Range tested at 5+ miles. Permanent Proposal being prepared to Condo.

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Report submitted by James Nelson, AEC, W4AII, comtechrallc@gmail.com

HARDEE COUNTY-----

Ken Evers W9KBE continues to stay in touch with the Hardee County Sheriff and Hardee County BOCC, concerning the mounting of three amateur radio and one GMRS repeaters on the two new county towers. The construction on the new Hardee County EOC began in October 2025.

MANATEE COUNTY-----

October 2025 Membership Metrics;

1) 54 Active Members

2) 40 Qualified (74%) - 16 at Level 1, 18 at Level 2, 6 at Level 3

3) Amateur Licensees: 25 Extra, 4 Adv, 13 Gen, 12 Tech

MCESG supported the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act by sending signed letters on our letterhead, to Representative Vern Buchanan, Senator Ashley Moody and Senator Rick Scott.

MCESG has been asked to manage the liquidation of the Cecil Fox (KF4CSM/SK) Radio Estate. Cecil and Melody insisted that the equipment find a good home for a "Needy" cause rather than a "Greedy" price. In the coming months, we will proceed in several phases. We have moved all of the KF4CSM Radio Estate equipment into our inventory & storage. The next MCESG Board Meeting will review and discuss a recommended list of Cecil Fox equipment to purchase for MCESG Projects.

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

PASCO COUNTY-----

Nothing significant to report. Report submitted by Tim Cunningham, EC, KM4GV, tdc@earthling.net.

PINELLAS COUNTY-----

Report submitted by Will Scott, AEC, W7WMS, will.w7wms@gmail.com.

POLK COUNTY-----

Reported by Christine Duez, EC, K4KJN, cduetz12@yahoo.net.

SARASOTA COUNTY-----

Reported by Mike Kearney, EC, KG7KIQ, mbk7@comcast.net.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY-----

Report submitted by Jeffrey Bronsing, EC, KJ4NEO, kj4neo@gmail.com

DESOTO COUNTY-----

Reported by Doug Christ, KN4YT, EC, kn4yt@yahoo.com.

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

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