

Section Manager
Mike Douglas W4MDD

**Assistant Section Manager
SM Emeritus**
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

**Assistant Section
Manager Executive**
Ben Henley, KI4IGX

**Assistant Section
Manager Administrative**
Randy Payne, K4EZM

**Assistant Section Manager
Legal Affairs**
Biff Craine, K4LAW

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

**Assistant Section Manager
Publications**
Jim Weslager, K3WR

Affiliated Club Coordinator
Open

Public Information Coordinator
Mike Lunsford, KB4FHP

Section Emergency Coordinator
Ben Henley, KI4IGX

Section Traffic Manager
Doug Williams, N2DW

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 FELLOW AMATEURS

Wow, into the third month as Section Manager. Boy does the time fly or shall I say I am old, time seems to go faster as you age.

I realize that in the South the Spring Equinox does not have the same meaning as up North. There, the North that is, it means maybe the snow has ended for the year, they hope. Down here it means, hotter temperatures and we begin looking for our "snowstorms" aka hurricanes. I know, it is a downer, but it is something we need to have in the back of our minds.

In other news, hopefully we see some light at the end of that tunnel, Covid 19, so we can get back to having hamfests, a real Field Day experience, etc. I know



there is real interest there. I attended the Zephyr Hills Tailgate Swapfest Saturday, March 20, it was well attended.

For now, 73

Mike, W4MDD

SPRING 2021 QUARTERLY ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES MEETING TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM

The Spring 2021 ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting will be held on Saturday April 24, 2021 at 1400 EDT, as a Zoom meeting, instead of a “face to face” meeting due to the continuing COVID-19 situation. The information to log into the Zoom meeting is located the Section ARES page at : <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-section-programs/ares/>

The Zoom meeting will be open for attendees to check in 15 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start at 1400, to allow participants time to log in and be sure their video and or audio is functioning. Everyone is welcome to attend the Zoom meeting, but due to the terms of our Zoom account we are limited to a seating of 100.

We will also be live streaming our meeting via the Section YouTube



Channel and the meeting will be recorded on our YouTube Channel to be available for future viewing. The ARRL West Central Florida Section YouTube Channel is located at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFA4-HEjr-LYMFisVG_Nk5A.

HARMONICS

Interested in getting your feet wet using digital modes? Well, the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club conducts a digital net on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. The net is hosted on the club's 444.100 DMR repeater using Talk Group TAC 315. On average a dozen people have been checking into the net. This may be a great way to add another operating mode to your skill and knowledge set.

And, for those who may be interested in EchoLink, the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club

has a 2-meter net on Thursdays at 7:30 PM. The net uses the club's 2-meter analog repeater frequency of 146.805 MHz (-) offset with a PL tone of 100.

No 2-meter radio? No problem! Hams can participate on the analog net via EchoLink using a computer, an iPhone or an Android phone. Click on W4AC-R (Node 513309) on the EchoLink directory screen to establish EchoLink contact. (Note this is a new node for EchoLink).

NORMAN XANDERS WX4NEX APPOINTED AS AN ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER

On Monday February 22, 2021, Mike Douglas W4MDD, appointed Norman Xanders WX4NEX to be an Assistant Section Manager as Liaison to the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Ruskin.

Douglas had the following comments to say about the appointment of Xanders as an Assistant Section Manager, Norman is a ham familiar to many of you, especially those of you in Polk County. Norman is Assistant EC for Polk County and can be heard every Wednesday at 7:00 PM on the Polk County ARES and Information Net. I have appointed Norman to be Assistant Section Manager, Skywarn Liaison to the National Weather Service. Norman has also been made an Official Emergency Station. Please make Norman welcome and offer any help as he settles in with his duties.”

Xanders was originally licensed in late 2016 and has been a storm chaser for over 20 years here in central Florida, specifically in Polk County. One day, Xanders got the RadarScope app for his smartphone and was looking at other Spotters on the map and saw some with call signs, inquired

into it, and found out they were part of a Skywarn Net. This is where Xanders began his amateur radio journey.

Since becoming licensed, Xanders has volunteered extensively for Polk County ARES as a net control operator. Xanders then became an Assistant Net Manager, and then Net Manager for the Polk County ARES Net. In 2019, Xanders became the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Operations for Polk County ARES. Xanders also serves as a net control station for the National Weather Service SKYWARN Information Net, which is held on the NI4CE Repeater System every Tuesday at 2100 hours.

Xanders had the following to say about his amateur radio experience, “I believe volunteering in your community is important and is the reason I do it, I like helping others.”



CHUCK JOHNSTON W4CWJ APPOINTED AS AN ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGER

On Friday February 25th, 2021, Mike Douglas W4MDD, appointed Chuck Johnston W4CWJ as an Assistant Section Manager as Rural Communities Coordinator.

Douglas had the following comments to say about the appointment of Johnston, “I can not take credit for this appointment, it was suggested to me by Sanford Wyatt, KM4WXX. After hearing Sanford’s

reasoning, I almost instantly processed Chuck’s appointment. Chuck has a lot of ties and influence with agriculture in



the rural areas of Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto, and Hardee counties. That same influence extends throughout the state as well as Tallahassee. Please help me welcome Chuck as he settles into his position as a new ASM.”

Johnston was originally licensed in 2015 and is a Florida native. Johnston’s interest in radio started with building kits in his father’s radio shack as a teenager. Johnston obtained a commercial radio operator license, and then started working at the Sarasota Fire Department in the communications division. Johnston help to start the Sarasota Agricultural Recovery Group (SARG) in 2010 and is currently the coordinator for SARG. SARG is an organization composed of farmers and ranchers from the local area, many of

whom are amateur radio operators. The members of SARG provide service to rural communities during disasters and operate in support of the ESF-17.

Johnston had the following comments to say about his appointment as Assistant Section Manager, “Experience has shown that the communications challenges in the heartland areas of the state vastly differ from that of the coastal areas. I hope to work with Mike, our Section Manager, to identify opportunities to enhance ham radio’s effectiveness when called on.”

Johnston in his professional career currently raises beef cattle in eastern Sarasota County. Johnston previously worked in fire rescue and in his final assignment was Emergency Management Director for Sarasota County.

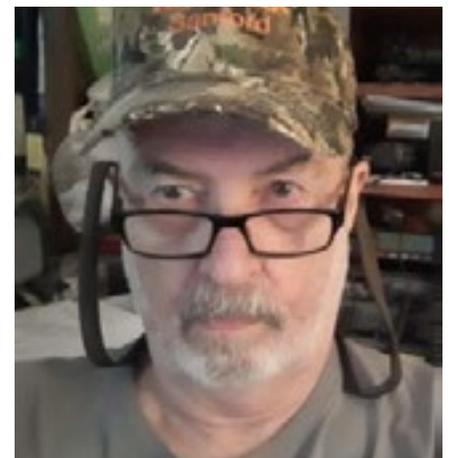
SANFORD WYATT KM4WXX APPOINTED AS NET MANAGER OF SECTION ARES AND INFORMATION NET - VHF/UHF

On Monday February 22, 2021, Mike Douglas W4MDD appointed Sanford Wyatt KM4WXX to be the Net Manager of the Section ARES and Information Net on VHF/UHF, which is held on Monday evening at 1930 on the NI4CE Repeater System. Wyatt succeeds J.C. Rivero K4RTC who had served as Net Manager since January 2015 and stepped down in December 2020, due to increased commitments with his employer. Randy Payne K4EZM continues in his role as Net Manager for the Section ARES and Information Net on HF, which is held on Saturday morning at 0730 on 3940 KHz.

Douglas had the following comments to say about of Wyatt, “Sanford has been elevated to ARES Net and Information Manager for 2 meter/70 centimeter section, replacing J. C. Rivero, K4RTC.

Please welcome Sanford in his new role.”

Wyatt became interested in shortwave radio in the late 1950’s and received a Novice license in 1958 at Ft Myers, FL. Wyatt had gotten out of amateur radio for a period of time and in 2016 was re-licensed with his current callsign of KM4WXX after retiring. In 2018, Wyatt was appointed as an ARRL Net Manager as an Assistant Net Manager of the Eagle Net, the NTS traffic net for the ARRL West Central Florida Section.



Wyatt also serves as Net Manager for the Sarasota Agriculture Recovery Group (SARG) Net, which provides service to ESF-17. Wyatt is also a member of Sarasota Emergency Radio Club, Sarasota County ARES, a certified NWS Skywarn Spotter, and an alternate operator for the Sarasota County EOC to the weekly State EOC SARNET on Wednesday at 1300. Wyatt also

provides service as a member Florida State Agriculture Recovery Team (SART).

Wyatt in his professional career was in marine and the heavy construction industry for 42 years. Wyatt also served in the U.S. Air Force during the time of the Vietnam war. Wyatt is also currently a member of the American Legion Post 266 in Sarasota.

MIKE LUNSFORD KB4FHP APPOINTED AS PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

On Friday February 25, 2021, Mike Douglas W4MDD appointed Mike Lunsford KB4FHP to be ARRL Public Information Coordinator for the ARRL West Central Florida Section. Lunsford succeeds Rich Kennedy N4ESS who had served as Public Information Coordinator since 2017 and recently decided to step down.

Lunsford was first licensed at KN4ITQ in 2018 but had a long-time interest in Amateur Radio working with several organizations, including CERT and ARES, in his professional career before retirement. After retirement, Lunsford's wife encouraged him to get a hobby and amateur radio was the obvious choice. After getting his Technician class ticket Lunsford became quickly involved in the amateur radio community and became a member of the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs, Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, Polk County ARES, and a member of the ARRL. In 2019, Lunsford obtained the vanity call sign of KB4FHP, inspired by his time as a volunteer with the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary, upon upgrading to General class. Lunsford currently serves as an ARRL Technical Specialist for digital voice modes and is Secretary for the Lake Wales Radio

Amateurs.

In his professional career, Lunsford was employed by Polk County Fire Rescue for 40 years and retired as a Battalion Chief over Special



Operations, which included Office of Professional Standards, specialized response units, special events, and law enforcement liaison.

Lunsford also dealt with the Public Information Office section from Polk County Fire Rescue and other agencies on a daily basis. Lunsford was the 451st person to hold a paramedic license in the State of Florida and has maintained his license even in retirement. Lunsford also volunteered for 35 years as a Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary State Trooper and retired with the rank of Major.

Lunsford also owns a part time business, since 1981, doing electronics and two-way radio installations in law enforcement, fire, and EMS vehicles.

Lunsford had the following to say about his appointment as Public Information

Coordinator, "My Civics teacher in high school impressed upon me one day with this comment. He said, 'If you use anything your community provides...it is good civics to put something, (meaning yourself), back into that community.' I have always tried to put something back by volunteering. The discovery of what I had been missing all these years in friendship and a 'niche' that all hams have, loving to talk to someone you do not know, became a daily event. Becoming a General Class ticket holder

opened even more doors and developed interest in the hobby's newer technologies. I have a broad interest in digital technologies and am excited at the potentials these have in disaster communications in the future."

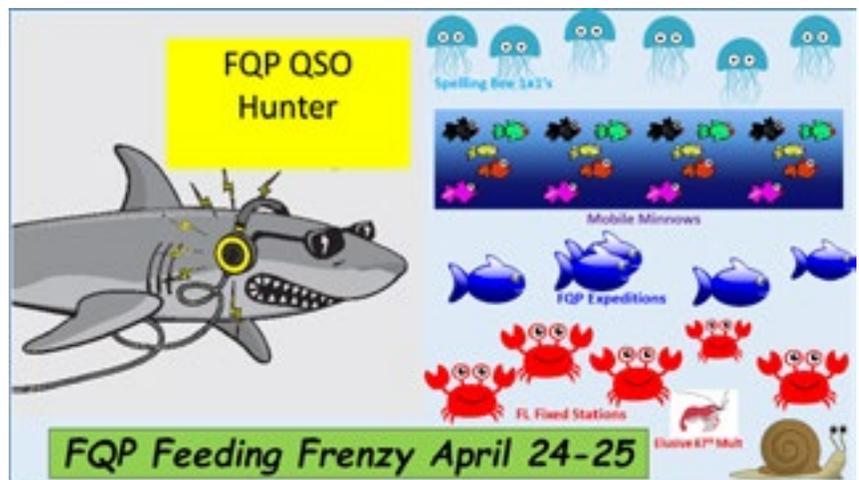
Lunsford's other interests are participation as a coach for Special Olympics, as his son is an athlete, for Bocce, Golf, Bowling, and being active at his church, First Baptist Church in Lake Wales, as a ministry volunteer.

2021 FLORIDA QSO PARTY

Hello West Central Florida Hams, the 2021 Florida QSO Party is **April 24 & 25**, and we hope you will join us. In its 24th year, the FQP is the second largest QSO party in the U.S. with approximately 120,000 QSO's made each year. It is a terrific operating event with a large following of fans.

Florida hams activate their HF stations to enhance our county coverage, including our 10 counties in WCF! The hungry hordes outside of Florida will be very happy to work you on CW, SSB or both (no digital). The rules allow for 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m FQP operations. Categories include fixed, mobile, expedition, technician and school stations, either single operator or multi-operator. Please be sure to register your County operations for each day of the FQP using the County Activation Forms at <https://floridaqsoparty.org/counties/>

Please see the Rules page at <http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/> for details; any



questions or if you need help registering your operation please email me at cqdenx4n@gmail.com

THANK YOU in advance for making the 2021 FQP another terrific event!

2021 FQP - So Bright, you gotta wear Shades!



Vy 73,
Chris, NX4N, on behalf of:
Chris, W4WF and Dan, K1TO – President and Past President Florida Contest Group, proud sponsors of the FQP since 1998.

ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION DEBUTS YOUTUBE CHANNEL. 7TH ANNUAL TECHCON PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ON NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL

On Friday February 26th, the ARRL West Central Florida Section opened a channel on YouTube. The link to the new ARRL West Central Florida Section YouTube channel is https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFA4-HEjr-LYMFisVG_Nk5A. You may also search for the YouTube channel on YouTube under the name "ARRL West Central Florida Section".



The purpose of the ARRL West Central Florida Section YouTube channel is to publish videos about different areas of interest in amateur radio primarily here

in the ARRL West Central Florida Section.



The topics will include but not be limited to: technical, ARES, QRP, Contesting, DXing, local radio clubs.

All of the presentations from the 7th Annual TECHCON held on Saturday February 26th are available for viewing on the new YouTube channel and are under a viewing list called 7th Annual TECHCON.

LAKELAND ARC DOING COMMUNICATIONS AT SUN N FUN FLY INN



The following is a press release generated by the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club concerning their activation of a special event station with the callsign W4S at the Sun N Fun Fly Inn to be held at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport from Tuesday April 13, 2021 through Sunday April 18, 2021:

"The Lakeland Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is pleased to announce that we have been selected as the host amateur radio station club for the 2021 Sun-N-Fun Fly-In - W4S, April 13-18. Jeff Schuck - WA4MMO has been selected as Committee Chairperson for the event and Todd Rush - W7STR as Assistant Chair. The Lakeland

Amateur Radio Club will be erecting a temporary tented radio station on site at Sun-N-Fun with both HF and VHF/UHF radio stations. LARC would like to offer a daily operating position to all licensed amateurs for this event. You may request either an 8AM-12PM or 1PM-5PM operating time.

Please contact Todd Rush at 307-250-3706 or w7str@yahoo.com to make your request. Each operator will receive 1 event pass and parking pass for the day of operating. We look forward to seeing you there and supporting a great event."



For more information about this event as it becomes available, you may go to the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club website at <http://lakelandarc.org> or the club news blog at <http://blog.lakelandarc.org>.

CHARLOTTE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY PLAN ANOTHER EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DRILL

The Charlotte Amateur Radio Society is planning another simulated emergency communications test on Saturday April 24, 2021 from 1000 through 1300 hours. The following information below was submitted as a press release by Doug Young KM4LKC:

“This exercise is part of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Society’s long-term multi-part educational program to ensure that radio amateurs in our area have a way to grow the skills that may be used in a variety of emergency communications situations. Our April 24th, 2021 exercise is the second in a three-part series that involves a simulated emergency. This simulated emergency includes a loss of regular emergency communications through telephone, cell phones, and Internet services.

The primary objective in this training phase is to quickly establish communication facilities across the County, using no services from any outside organization, and demonstrate that our members can communicate to each other and pass messages between operators county-wide.

The parameters of the drill specify that radio communications may not utilize any repeater services nor any Internet services, instead strictly relying on radio-to-radio communications. This amateur radio exercise is designed to test the capabilities of portable stations and to evaluate the usage of specific forms of digital communications as well as voice communications for passing traffic.

We will work primarily on HF frequencies with some operations testing on VHF



and UHF communications. The Charlotte Amateur Radio Society will have portable stations located across Charlotte County Florida with stations in Englewood, Murdock, Punta Gorda, and Babcock Ranch Community. Operations begin at 10:00 local time and will conclude at 13:00 local time.

Setting up the four(4) stations will include radios, power systems, antennas, and shelter for the operators at remote locations selected for radio coverage across the county. Licensed Amateur radio operators from Charlotte County and the directly surrounding counties that are not members of CARS are encouraged to visit the CARS website for information about how they can help on the day of the event from their own radios. See www.carsfl.org.

If news organizations wish to observe the stations during setup and operations please contact Douglas Young, KM4LKC email to: km4lkc@arrl.net

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

5/29/21
WORMFEST 2021

Tentatively Scheduled
Freedom Lake Park,
9990 N 46th Street,
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

The Wormfest is sponsored by the Glorious Society of the Wormhole. Their website is at <http://www.w4orm.org>.

6/12/21
2nd Annual Pre-Field Day Tailgator

Dade City Masonic Lodge No. 48,
F&AM of Florida
13642 21st Street South,
Dade City, FL 33523

HUMPDAY NET

by Bob Haynes, WB4AKA

Every Wednesday at 7:00 PM EST
The Humpday Net begins on the NI4M Repeater in Tampa, FL on 146.94 MHz PL 146.2 - a wide coverage repeater.

A friendly net. Good conversation and technical discussions - no politics. Come join the discussion and bring your friends.

Sponsored by Amateur Radio Electronics Union.

ZEPHYRHILLS AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

by Rich Kennedy, N4ESS - President
Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club

The Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club (ZAARC) held its annual election of officers last month.

The new incoming officers this month, March 2021, are as follows.

President: Rich Kennedy - N4ESS
Vice President: Jack Suske - N9GKO
Secretary: Scott Bowden - AB1MC
Treasurer: Charlie Nelson - KE7UTH

TOM'S TECH TIPS:

by Tom Shrilla, W8QJF

The keyboard trick to scroll quickly Scrolling is easy when you have a fancy mouse with a scroll wheel. If yours is acting up or you have a plain-Jane mouse, use your keyboard. Press the spacebar with your browser open to move down the page.

Want to scroll back up? Hold the Shift key and tap the spacebar again. You can use this trick in any major browser.

If you're having trouble, click on the background of whichever page you're on and try again. You may have inadvertently selected text or another element.

Reprint courtesy of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club

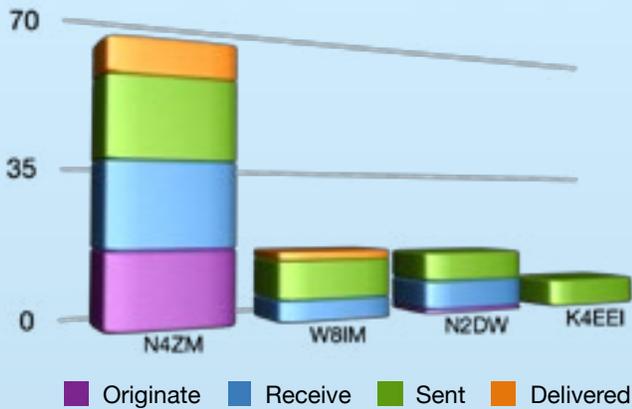


SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

by Doug Williams N2DW
 Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

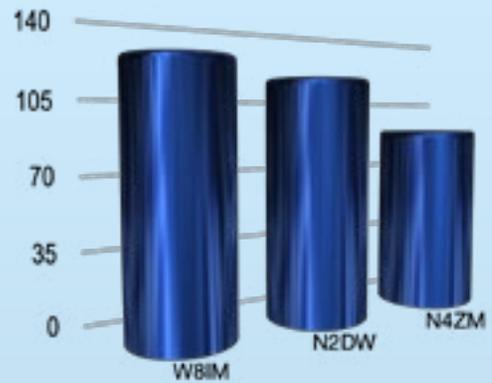
West Central Florida STM Reports
 February 2021

Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
N4ZM	17	19	18	8	62
W8IM	0	5	9	2	16
N2DW	1	7	7	0	15
K4EEI	0	0	7	0	7

Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
W8IM	123
N2DW	115
N4ZM	90

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	28	1263	36	886	W4PXE
SPARC	36	663	48	1326	KN4LUZ
CERT (St. Pete)	2	33	2	53	KN4LUZ
WCF ARES	4	142	4	167	KM4WXX

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	J.C. Rivero K4RTC
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.