

THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS

Issue #15 – April 2016

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NO WCF PRESSER FOR MARCH. RESUMING IN APRIL AND PLAYING CATCHUP:

My apologies for not having the March issue of THE WCF PRESSER out last month. Between my college studies at South Florida State College, the Section hamfest season and preparing for the WCF Section Technical Conference, there are just not enough hours in a day at times. It takes normally 6 to 8 hours to compile, edit, and publish THE WCF PRESSER each month. I am still planning to have some pictures from events this hamfest season, including the Orlando Hamcation and the WCF Section Technical Conference, and catch up in the next two issues on the Section ARES and Traffic reports starting next month. Stay tuned and thank you for taking the time to read THE WCF PRESSER each and every month.

2016 MS CITRUS BIKE TOUR – SATURDAY MAY 21 AND SUNDAY MAY 22:



The 2016 Annual MS Citrus Bike Tour is now less than 60 days away. Jason Triolo KD4ACG is once again reprising his role as the amateur radio coordinator for this event. The starting point will again this year be Fantasy of Flight just off of I-4 in northern Polk County near Polk City. The finish line will however move from the Caribe in Orlando to Champions Gate, just off of I-4 near exit 58, which is also just inside Osceola. Therefore 98 percent of the bike ride will be in Polk County and therefore the West Central Florida Section. So far, as of the publication of this newsletter, 20 volunteers have registered to help. We will need many more to help out to make amateur radio communications for this event a success again this year.

If you wish to volunteer please contact Jason Triolo KD4ACG at jtriolo@verizon.net or by phone at (425) 200-4516. If you are planning to volunteer, please register online at <http://www.citrustourradio.org>. I will be at a rest stop myself, so I look forward to hearing many of you.

35TH ANNUAL ARRL AND TAPR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN THE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION IN 2016.



The annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) is the premier annual digital communications conference in amateur radio in the United States. This year the West Central Florida Section is privileged to be the local co-host for the conference. The conference will be held on Friday September 16th through Sunday September 18th in St. Petersburg at the Hilton Bayfront near downtown. For more details you may go to the DCC page on TAPR's website at <http://www.tapr.org/dcc>. This conference has in attendance many of the "movers and shakers" in amateur radio digital communications. To see what DCC is like, you may go to the HamRadioNow youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/HamRadioNow>. There you will find past presentations from previous DCC gatherings and you will see how very high quality these presentations are. Mark your calendars now and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

BEN HENLEY KI4IGX HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL RECOVERING. RANDY PAYNE K4EZM APPOINTED INTERIM SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR.



Ben Henley KI4IGX, our Section Emergency Coordinator, who had been in the hospital since early March in Orlando, is now home from the hospital with his family in the Sebring area in Highlands County. On March 11, Randy Payne K4EZM, was appointed interim Section Emergency Coordinator, until Ben returns to good health and can resume his responsibilities. For any needs for ARES in the Section please continue to contact Randy K4EZM. Continue to remember Ben, his wife Sherri, and his daughter Victoria in your prayers and thoughts

UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

The 2015-2016 hamfest season has come to an end. However there are some hamfests coming up that are out of our normal hamfest season to keep things interesting:

- Saturday April 9: [TARCFest XXXVI – Tampa ARC Clubhouse – Tampa, FL.](#)
- Saturday May 28: [Wormfest 2016 – Freedom Lake Park, Largo, FL.](#)
- Saturday July 23: [LARCFEST – Revolution Church, Lakeland, FL.](#)
- Saturday August 20: [TARCFest XXXVII – Tampa ARC Clubhouse – Tampa, FL](#)

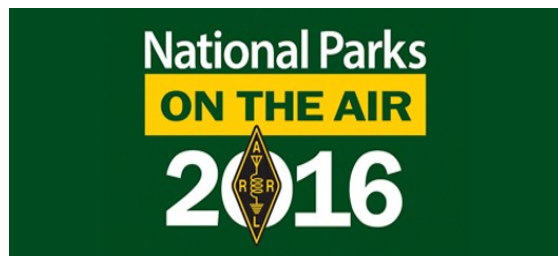
ARRL STATION APPOINTEE MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE:

Just a reminder to all in the WCF Section who hold an ARRL Station Appointment. Your monthly reports are due for the previous month of activity. You may file your reports on the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/>. You may also send your report via email to the respective cabinet member that is the coordinator for your appointment as well. Many thanks to all of you who do file your reports. Filling a monthly report is a requirement to hold an ARRL Station Appointment.

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE WCF EXPERIMENTER:

Geoff Haines N1GY, our Technical Coordinator, will shortly be putting together the next issue of THE WCF EXPERIMENTER, the technical newsletter for the ARRL West Central Florida Section. If you have recently build a new project, modified an existing piece of amateur radio equipment or project, or even written some amateur radio related software, others would like to hear about your work. f you have an article you would like to submit please send it to Geoff via email at n1gy@arrl.net. Geoff can work with almost any format you send him. For the current and past issues of THE WCF EXPERIMENTER you may go to <http://arrlwcf.org/home/the-wcf-experimenter-technical-newsletter/>.

ARRL NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR COMING TO A NATIONAL PARK NEAR YOU.



There is a lot of excitement about this event already. The ARRL is sponsoring the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA). This event started on January 1, 2016 and will run until December 31, 2016. This event is not a contest, per se, but a radio operating event similar to Field Day. The event is being held by the ARRL to commemorate the centennial of the National Park Service. There are 433 National Park Administrative

(NPA) units in the United States that are eligible for activation. There is only one NPA unit in the West Central Florida Section and it is Desoto National Memorial just north of Bradenton on the shore of the Manatee River. Desoto was activated by the Mid Florida DX Association on New Years Day. You will find a report on this in the March issue of THE WCF PRESSER. However there are four NPA units in the Southern Florida Section and five NPA units in the Northern Florida Sections.

The ARRL website has a web page devoted to NPOTA information at <http://www.arrl.org/npota>. I have added a new web page to the Section website with a lot of good information about the National Parks On The Air at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/npota-wcf/>.

CHECK OUT THE SECTION WEBSITE - <http://www.arrlwcf.org>:

If you have not done so lately, check out all the information that is posted on the Section website at <http://www.arrlwcf.org>. The latest WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASES, upcoming special events, monthly club meetings, are all posted there. We will be adding more content to the Section website here in the next 30-60 days including the VE test session calendar, local radio net schedule, and lists of the various ARRL Station Appointee that serve you here in the West Central Florida Section. Check the website and check it often.

CURRENT WCF SECTION NET SCHEDULE. PARTICIPATE IF YOU CAN:



WCFCountry
West Central Florida Section

The WCF Section holds several different nets for different interests in amateur radio. The listing below gives you the net name, date, time, frequency, and net managers name and call. Here is a listing of the current Section Nets:

- WCF Section ARES/Information Net – VHF/UHF: Monday 1930 – NI4CE Repeater System – Net Manager is J.C. Rivero K4RTC, ARRL Net Manager.
- WCF Section Technical Net: Thursday 2100 – NI4CE Repeater System - Net Manager is Geoff Haines N1GY, ARRL Technical Coordinator.
- WCF Section ARES/Information Net – HF: Saturday 0830 - 3911 Khz or 3913 Khz - Net Manager is Neil Lauritsen W4NHL, ARRL Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator.
- Eagle Net – WCF Section Daily NTS Net: Daily 2030 – NI4CE Repeater System - Net Manager is Dave Rockwell W4PXE, ARRL Net Manager.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section would like to thank the West Central Florida Group, the owners and operators of the NI4CE repeater system, for allowing the VHF/UHF Section Nets to operate on the system. For more info on the system you may go to <http://wp.ni4ce.org>.

UP TO 5 COSPONSORS IN THE SENATE AND UP TO 123 COSPONSORS OF THE HOUSE BILL (HR-1301):

In mid November, Senate Bill 1685 (S. 1685), gained three additional co-sponsors, to bring the total co-sponsors to four. House Resolution 1301 (HR 1301), the U.S. House of Representatives version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, is up to 123 co-sponsors as of February 24th.

US House Representative [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4th 2015 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle: seven Republicans and five Democrats. US Senator [Roger Wicker](#) (R-MS) introduced the companion bill S 1685 on June 26, with Senator [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the United States Senate. HR1301, the original House bill is now up to 123 co-sponsors as of February 24th. As of press time, two Representatives with districts that are in the West Central Florida Section: Representative Daniel Webster, 10th District, that covers the north central part of Polk County and Representative Tom Rooney, 17th District, that covers Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, southeastern Hillsborough, eastern Manatee, and southern Polk Counties.

The direct link to the ARRL page devoted to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. The following is a quote from the ARRL website, "The Amateur Radio Parity Act would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal preemption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as 'covenants, conditions, and restrictions' (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include private land-use agreements without direction from Congress."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

The following cabinet members attended the Orlando Hamcation, which was the 2016 ARRL National Convention, on Friday February 12 through Sunday February 14: Darrell Davis KT4WX - Section Manager, Ben Henley KI4IGX - Section Emergency Coordinator and ASM, Randy Payne K4EZM – Assistant Section Manager, Dee Turner N4GD – Assistant Section Manager, Geoff Haines N1GY, Technical Coordinator and ASM, Christine Duez KK4KJN – Section Youth Coordinator. It was a very busy three days and was very well attended. On Saturday February 20th, Darrell Davis KT4WX, attended the 23rd Annual Highlands County Hamfest sponsored by the Highlands County Amateur Radio Club, between Sebring and Lake Placid. Thanks to Eric Owen KD4MZM, Technical Specialist, for helping out at the ARRL table for this hamfest. This is always a small but fun tailgate at the southeast corner of the Section and in a good location. On Saturday February 27th, Darrell Davis KT4WX and Geoff Haines N1GY attended the 2nd Annual West Central Florida Section Technical Conference at the Hillsborough County EOC in Tampa. Ed Hare W1RFI was our representative from ARRL Headquarters for this event.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF MARCH:

On Saturday March 5th, Darrell Davis KT4WX attended the Zephyrhills hamfest sponsored by the East Pasco Amateur Radio Society and Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club. Also Geoff Haines N1GY attended the Peace River Hamfest sponsored by the Peace River Repeater Association in Punta Gorda. Both hamfest had good turnouts. On Saturday March 12th, Darrell Davis KT4WX and Dee Turner N4GD, attended the spring Upper Pinellas Amateur Radio Club Tailgate in Palm Harbor, which was very well attended for a small outdoor tailgate. On Saturday March 19th, Darrell Davis KT4WX, attended the annual Gulf Coast Hamfest, at E-Z Mini Storage in Hudson. The hamfest was enjoyed by all who attended, for the short time it could operate until it was forced to end early due to a squall line that moved in ahead of a cold front about 0945 hours. On Saturday March 26th, Darrell Davis KT4WX and Christine Duez KK4KJN, attended the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs monthly radio sprint and enjoyed getting to “play” radio with the 16 who attended.

SECTION MANAGERS CONTACT INFORMATION AND CONCLUSION:

Here is my contact information:

- U.S. Mail: 6350 Mills Road Fort Meade, FL 33841
- Telephone: (863) 245-9923
- Email: kt4wx@arrl.org
- Website: <http://www.kt4wx.org>.

The Section also has a website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

- Website: <http://www.arrlwcf.org>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arrlwcf>
- Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/arrlwcf>

That is all for this issue of THE WCF PRESSER. Otherwise, see you all at a hamfest, meeting, or other special events this month. 73 de Darrell KT4WX.