

**SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS****BY DARRELL DAVIS, KT4WX****ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION MANAGER**

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 Manager Executive**  
 Ben Henley, KI4IGX

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

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 Biff Craine, K4LAW

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

**Assistant Section Manager  
 PIC/ACC Assistant**  
 Steve Muller, KM4VRK

**Affiliated Club Coordinator**  
 Mike Douglas, W4MDD

**Public Information Coordinator**  
 Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

**Section Emergency Coordinator**  
 Ben Henley, KI4IGX

**Section Traffic Manager**  
 Doug Williams, N2DW

**Section Youth Coordinator**  
 Christine Duez KK4KJN

**Technical Coordinator**  
 Dave Birnbaum, K2LYV

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

Welcome to the May issue of the WCF PRESSER. We all have been in isolation, and not going out unless we have to, for a month by the time you read this. Also by the time you read this, Executive Order 20-91 will have just expired and we are now entering Phase 1 of restarting the State of Florida and the economy, which involves restaurants to be able to seat 25 percent of their capacity and outside seating as long as everyone sits six weeks apart. We will most likely be in this phase for a period of time. Some amateur radio activities that are in person gatherings will take place but most likely many will not take place this month. Perhaps there will be some return of amateur radio activities in person in the month of June, if everything continues to go well. To say the least, we are not out of



woods by any means. Take advantage of this extra time and continue to work on some amateur radio projects while you are at home. This could be that new construction project, either a kit, modification, or project from scratch. This could also be to start and or continue to take some online training for those in ARES and emergency communications. Take care of yourself and stay well.

It is hard to believe that the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season will start in just under 30 days from now. Sadly, many local hurricane expos were cancelled and many local hurricane season

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exercises were cancelled as to not interfere with the COVID-19 response. Now is the time to take stock of your emergency supplies, which include food, fuel, batteries, etc. Now is the time to test your radios, antennas, and or emergency power sources to be sure they operate properly. Do not wait until a storm is threatening to do these things, as this will be too late. We all got a reminder of this during Hurricane Irma.

How ARRL Field Day will unfold is yet

## FREQUENCY MEASUREMENT

*by Dave Birnbaum, K2LYV*

*ARRL Technical Coordinator*

In the “good old days” one of the jobs of the Official Observers was to monitor ham signals that were out of band. This was needed because calibrating one’s VFO wasn’t accurate and it would drift over time. One of the activities that the ARRL sponsored was a twice-yearly Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) to allow hams to check their ability to accurately measure the frequencies emitted by their equipment.

The need for checking is no longer part of normal activities – most modern rigs are accurate to a few Hz in any ham band. But the FMT continues. Back in the 70s I used to participate in the FMT using a set of equipment, much of which was WWII surplus. A good result was within 100 Hz. The most recent FMT in mid-April required



to be seen but it is certain that ARRL Field Day will take place. As of right now, we are still planning to do the ARRL West Central Florida Section Caravan for Field Day mostly as we have done in years past, but there may be modifications. Hopefully we will have a better idea of how the Field Day and the Field Day Caravan will exactly unfold at the end of May.

That is all for this month. Stay safe and well.

less than 1 Hz accuracy to be “good.”

There are hams who take the frequency measurement process seriously. It is not unusual to hear of hams who have atomic clocks stabilized by GPS signals who worry about the Doppler shift of the signals from WWV. On the other hand, there are hams (like me) who can get sub-Hz accuracy with nothing more than our rig and some software – Fldigi is one example, WSJTX is another.

It’s an interesting exercise to try. There’s good writeups on the web covering a number of different ways to measure the test signal to fractions of 1Hz. There’s calibration software built into WSJT-X for example. Fldigi also includes a frequency analysis mode. K5CM who runs the FMT for the ARRL also runs “practice” tests -- the next one is on May 14 -- details on [k5cm.com](http://k5cm.com)

## WHAT TO DO WHEN CORONAVIRUS SHUTS DOWN HAMFESTS

by Chris Bloxsom, AA 4CB  
ARRL Public Information Officer

What is a ham supposed to do when there are no hamfests? By now everyone knows about the restrictions that have been put in place during this Corona virus situation. All the social distancing that has been going on this has basically shut down all of our Amateur Radio Club activities. No hamfests, no club meetings and no weekly breakfast. The Saturday morning breakfast meet ups are my favorite activity. The restaurants are



not open to dine in so what can one do? I guess we will have to stay home and cook.

I have found a couple of solutions to the lack of hamfests. I find myself on the iPhone scrolling through many ham radio dealers' websites. I must know the price of every radio from Ham Radio Outlet. I find myself spending a lot of time looking for the one GREAT deal that I cannot live without.



They say there is an app for everything. I must have all the radio store apps

installed by now. E-bay is a very dangerous app for me.

It is too easy to click "buy it now" and before you know it, you have already paid for it and it is on its way to you.

How many antennas can I possibly have for your new Yaesu HT? The answer is not enough.

They are all out there in different sizes. The small 2-inch antenna for talking around the house to your hotspot.

The regular 15-inch antenna so when you want to go outside and talk on the local repeater. Then there is the 42½ inch ABBREE antenna.

Facebook Marketplace. Anyone who has



Facebook

on their PC or phone can click on marketplace and search

for radios, antennas, and even towers. The app will give you results from your local area first then it will list items by distance. It also allows you to contact the seller and ask questions before you buy it. You can arrange how you are going to receive an





item. I usually like to meet the person in a safe location, say the Publix shopping center where you are out in the public and feel safer opposed to meeting a stranger at your or their house. It is always good to be safer. I have found this is an easy app to use. You can also sell your stuff on here. Snap a couple of pictures and write up a small description of the item. Heck, I have sold an old Yaesu FT-101EE in 40 minutes after the posting. Oh, and there is no fee for using this if you are buying or selling.



I am sure that everyone has heard this one,

it has been out there for years. In my opinion, this used to be a good place to search for ham radio items. In the past couple of years, I have seen less and less stuff out there being listed.



There are also some apps like Alibaba, AliExpress and Wish.

They do

not have the best selection of amateur radio gear available. Yes, I know what you're thinking cheap Chinese made radios. Well yes. They all have them \$22 Baofeng UV5r available. They come in many different colors and you can find a large selection of accessories for that radio on the site. Some people just want a cheap radio and I cannot argue with that. I am guilty of it myself. I look at the shelf on

the wall and it has two Baofeng UV5R's and a BF-T1, even a Wouxan HT. You will not find any of the big 3 listed there such as Icom, Yaesu, and Kenwood. If you do it is a clone or counterfeit. The prices look good on some of the stuff, but the wait time can be up to 30 days. They ship the product from China. It is what it is.

Amazon! By far this is the biggest online retailer on the Earth. Not just for ham radio gear but for everything. If you cannot find it on Amazon, then it does not exist. The web interface is easy to use. You can pay them in many different ways. You have your choice of shipping. If you have a Prime account not only you can watch Videos on your streaming device, but you get 2nd day shipping included. There are all sorts of different retailers on there.

At the time of this article we are hearing that Florida might be back open for business in 2 weeks. So hopefully life will be back to some sort of normal. We will all be able to get out there and enjoy the things we used to do. I wish everyone and your loved ones to be healthy and safe.

73 de AA4CB



Just another thought. Looks like a lot of us have some free

time. You could take some FEMA Courses. Join your local ARES group and you will be well prepared after everything that you learn from the courses.

These courses require a FEMA Student

Identification Number (SID). If you do not have one, you can register for one at <http://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>. You will provide the SID when you take the class test. Shortly after taking the test, you will receive an email stating that you passed and a link to your certificate or that you failed and encouraging you to review and take the test again. I suggest that you start with these courses.

- [IS-100.b Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100](#)
- [IS-200.b ICS for Single Resources and initial Action Incidents](#)
- [IS-700.a National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) An Introduction](#)
- [IS-800.b National Response Framework, An Introduction](#)

For more information please check out the WCF Section website <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-section-programs/ares/>



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## ARRL PROVIDES ADDITIONAL DIGITAL MAGAZINES TO MEMBERS

On April 17, 2020, ARRL HQ brought digital editions of QEX and NCJ online. Now all four ARRL magazines will be available in digital format as a standard ARRL membership benefit.



The four digital journals are: QEX, On The Air, QEX, and NCJ. You may access them one of two ways.

The first method is through the Android, iOS, or Amazon Kindle app called "ARRL Magazines".

The second method is through the ARRL website at the ARRL Magazines page: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines>.

For full details of this new ARRL membership benefit please read the ARRL news article entitled, "ARRL Announces New Benefits for Members" on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-new-benefits-for-members>.

## NEW NET MANAGER APPOINTED FOR THE WCF SECTION TECHNICAL NET

On Friday April 2, 2020, Burt Wizeman K4SRQ, an ARRL Technical Specialist, was appointed to be the new Net Manager for the ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net. Wizeman succeeds Geoff



Haines N1GY, who retired as Net Manager and Technical Coordinator for the ARRL West Central Florida Section in late 2019.

First licensed in 1982 as KB4BPP, has been involved in the technical side of amateur radio since being licensed. During this time Wizeman helped with the installation of the first digipeater in Lake Wales and built from kit form an early version of the original TAPR TNC for packet radio and even used packet radio to send and receive DOS program source code as text files via packet radio, an advanced feature for the time. Today Wizeman's interests in amateur radio include working with Windows and particularly Linux programming, doing projects with the Raspberry PI computer, kit building, wire antenna design, and computer repair. Wizeman is active with the [Sarasota Emergency Radio Club](#), the SERC Annual Hamfest, and

maintaining the SERC Facebook page.

Wizeman in his professional career had previously worked for Heathkit in Tampa in the early to mid 1980's, doing stand up comedy in the 1990's and in Information Technology, and more recently as a Christian school teacher and working in Information Technology for the Christian school he taught in and currently working in IT for Saraota County Board of County Commissioners. Wizeman's other interests include being involved in his church ministry and spending time with his wife Nancy and his children Hanna and Daniel.

Darrell Davis KT4WX, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section had the following to say about Wizeman's appointment, "Burt will make an excellent Net Manager for the WCF Section Technical Net. Burt is really good with people and has a real good technical background, a very effective combination especially on the Tech Net. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Phil Wilson N8IPS for filling in as an 'interim net manager' unofficially until Burt was appointed as Net Manager."

The ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net is held every Thursday evening at 2100 hours on the [NI4CE Repeater System](#). The ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net is an question and answer net for technical topics, with participants giving updates on projects as time permits.

## 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	Burt Wizeman K4SRQ
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.



## SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

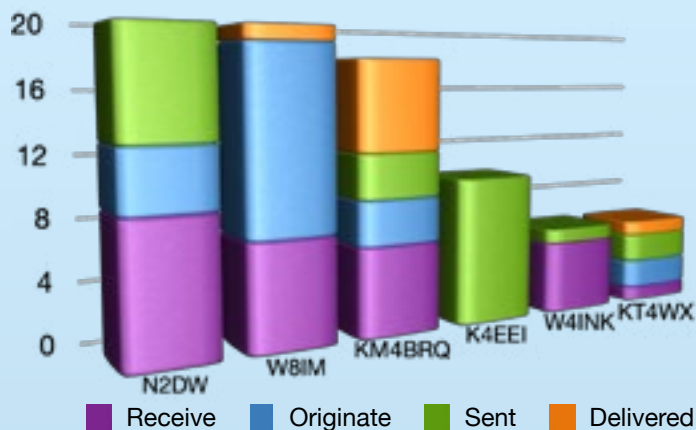
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

West Central Florida STM Reports

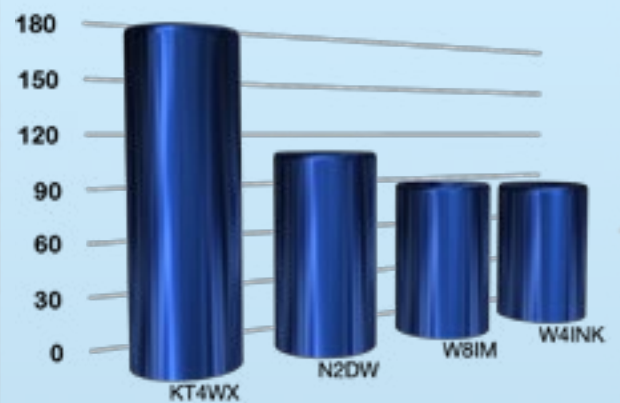
March 2020

### Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
N2DW	4	9	7	0	20
W8IM	12	7	0	1	20
KM4BRQ	3	6	3	6	18
K4EEI	0	0	10	0	10
W4INK	0	5	1	0	6
KT4WX	2	1	2	1	6

### Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
KT4WX	173
N2DW	110
W8IM	90
W4INK	87

### West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	31	1630	31	1058	W4PXE
SPARC	40	618	36	1289	KN4LUZ
SRQUARES	4	61	2	58	KB2ICN
SARASOTA ERC	4	73	3	63	KB2ICN



## COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

**MAY 9, 2030**

EPARS Tailgate

Church Street Park  
37746 Church Avenue  
Dade City, FL 33523

**CANCELED**

**MAY 23, 2020**

WORMFest 2020

Freedom Lake Park,  
9990 46th Street North  
Pinellas Park, FL , FL 33782



**JUNE 13**

MID-JUNE PRE-ARRL FIELD  
DAY TAILGATE 2020

Dade City Masonic Lodge  
13642 21st Street South  
Dade City, FL 33523

**AUGUST 22, 2020**

TARCFest SPRING 2020

TARC Clubhouse,  
7801 N. 22nd Street  
Tampa, FL



**NOV 14, 2020**

SPARCFEST 2020

Freedom Lake Park,  
9990 46th Street North  
Pinellas Park, FL , FL 33782



## WCF EXPERIMENTER WINTER 2020 REVISED ISSUE RELEASED

In the month of April, after several delays, the [WCF EXPERIMENTER](#) was published. Shortly after, an accident omission of a graphic and the proper publication credit notation in the lead article “Automatic Tuner for Small Magnetic Loop Antennas”, was discovered and corrected.



The updated version of the Winter 2020 edition of the WCF EXPERIMENTER has been posted to the Section website. Our apologies to all for this unintentional oversight and thank you in advance for your understanding.

This is also a final call for any issues of the Spring 2020 issue of the WCF EXPERIMENTER which will be published in the month of May after work on the May issue of the WCF PRESSER is completed. Afterwards, the normal quarterly publication schedule of the Experimenter will resume during the following months: January, April, July, and October. However, we need articles in order to continue to publish the WCF EXPERIMENTER a success.

If everyone says, “I just enjoy reading it”, then no articles would get written and there would be no articles to read.

You may send those articles to Jim Weslager K3WR, our Assistant Section Manager for Publications via email at [weslager@gmail.com](mailto:weslager@gmail.com). Jim can work with almost any format. To those who have written for the WCF EXPERIMENTER, a heartfelt and sincere THANK YOU.

## ARRL FIELD DAY IS ON. ARRL WCF SECTION FIELD DAY CARAVAN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR TIME BEING

The ARRL announced in a news article published on the ARRL website on March 27th entitled “[Field Day 2020 A Time to Adapt](#)” that ARRL Field Day 2020 will go forward as scheduled and there will not be any rule changes for Field Day this year. On April 21, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Paul Bourque N1SFE published a guide with Field Day suggestions entitled Creative Approaches to Field Day 2020. Field Day will unfold different for many amateur radio operators due to the situation with



COVID-19, and the isolation that has been imposed as a result of COVID-19. Each radio club,

ARES group, and or individuals will have to decide for themselves how they will operate Field Day with the current circumstances in mind. Many do not know if venues that they have chosen will be available for Field Day operations or will even know if that venue will be available by the middle of June.

If your club or group is planning to do ARRL Field Day and have decided upon how they are going to do Field Day and what venue that Field Day exercise is to be held, please go the [ARRL Field Day Locator](#) on the ARRL main website and register your Field Day operation and venue. At the time this article is being written,

the ARRL West Central Florida Section Field Day Caravan will be going forward as scheduled. The trip itinerary of the caravan is obtained from registrations on the ARRL Field Day Locator. The deadline

to be included in the Field Day Caravan will be extended this year to Monday June 22, 2020, just three days before Field Day, to give everyone the time needed to determine if they can hold Field Day or not.

## **SARASOTA AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY GROUP PARTICIPATES WITH SARASOTA K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM IN EXERCISE BY PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS VIA AMATEUR RADIO**

On Saturday February 15, 2020, the Sarasota Agricultural Recovery Group (SARG) and the Sarasota K-9 Search and Rescue Team jointly conducted a search and rescue exercise. SARG, which had formally organized in 2016 for the purpose of providing recovery services to agriculture during the recovery phase of a disaster, is composed of farmers, ranchers, heavy equipment operators, retired law enforcement, retired fire rescue, and a good number of amateur radio operators. Members of SARG and the Sarasota K-9 Search and Rescue Team made their way to the historic Cowboy Camp, located miles from paved roads, in an area of palmetto flatwoods, oak hammocks and marshes deep in the 24,000 acre Carlton Memorial Reserve of eastern Sarasota County.

Amateur radio operators who are members of SARG, used the 443.550 MHz WC4EM Repeater in Sarasota and 2 Meter FM Simplex with a base station and portable tower that they assembled and put up at the command post for communications. The 2M FM simplex base station and portable tower was used to communicate with amateur radio operators who accompanied the search and rescue teams, as normal cellular telephone service is marginal in many locations the Carlton Memorial Reserve. Both groups were able to practice essential skills and work on perfecting the chain of

command and communications that are key to success. Both groups also utilized the Incident Command System (ICS)



Photo courtesy of Steve Muller KM4VRK - Assistant Section Manager - ARRL West Central Florida Section.

for their command and control functions, filling out all ICS paperwork as though the exercise were a real-life incident. By working together to stage a remote emergency response exercise, new partnerships were made.

Steve Muller KM4VRK, an Assistant Section Manager and Mike Douglas W4MDD, our Affiliated Club Coordinator went to Sarasota County to represent the ARRL West Central Florida Section as observers of the exercise.

A more detailed account of this exercise was documented in an article written by Sarah Bostick, who is the Sustainable Agricultural Extension Agent for the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) extension office in Sarasota County, that appeared on page 8 of the April 2020 issue of THE SENTINEL, the monthly newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. To read the article in its entirety please go to <https://flsart.org/NewsMedia/sartsentinel/pdf/2020/sent-20-04.pdf>.