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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
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

SECTION MANAGERS MUSINGS

BY DARRELL DAVIS, KT4WX

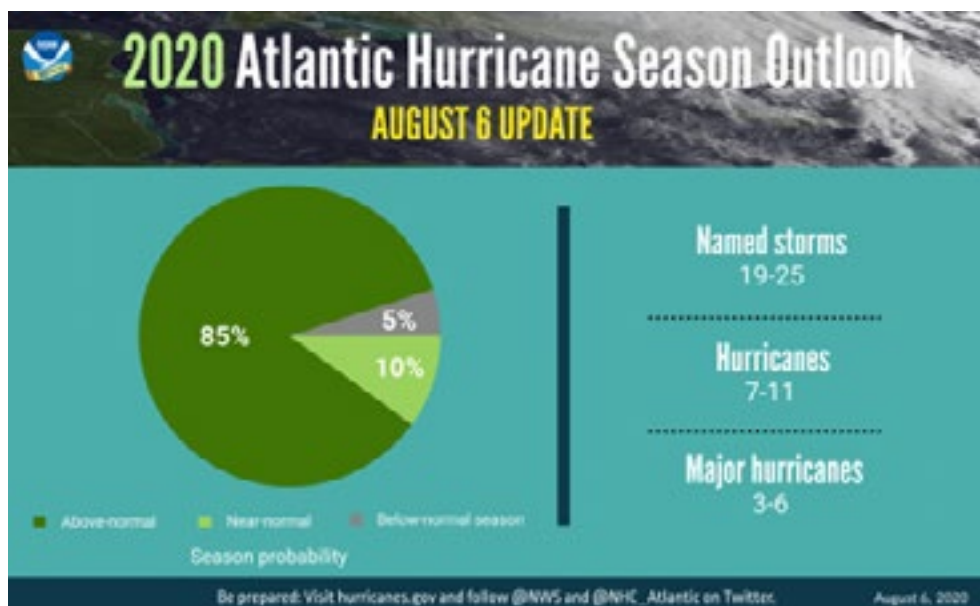
ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION MANAGER

Welcome to the August issue of the WCF PRESSER. It is now almost mid-August as I type this and the hottest month of the year is upon us. The good news is that cooler weather is getting close and in about 2 months we will begin to hopefully see some cooler weather. Just a reminder, be sure to watch yourself if you are working outside (like I have been doing this summer) and be sure to take frequent



breaks, stay hydrated, and try to save the hardest work for the cooler parts of the day.

On Thursday August 6th, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released their mid-season update to the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. As you can



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see from the graphic generated by NOAA, the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season has now an 85 percent chance of being above normal, up from 60 percent that was forecast in May. This season is forecast to be “extremely active”, with 19-25 named storms. So far, as of this writing we have had ten named tropical storms and eleven tropical depressions, which sets a record for the most tropical depression and tropical storms this early in the season. You may read the article, which has a link to the audio from the media conference call announcing the mid-season update, on the NOAA website at <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/extremely-active-hurricane-season-possible-for-atlantic-basin>. So if you have not finished your preparations for a potential hurricane, you will want to complete those preparations as soon as possible as we are entering the most active part of the Atlantic hurricane season. Also be sure to continue to listen to the latest Tropical Weather Outlook issued four times daily by the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

We have our first virtual hamfest here in the ARRL West Central Florida Section, which is the TARCfest coming up on Saturday August 22nd, as a result of the fallout from COVID-19. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue. With the COVID-19 situation such as it is, this may become more common for the time being.

Everyone take care and talk to you again next month. 73

NEW EMERGENCY COORDINATOR APPOINTED FOR POLK COUNTY ARES

On Wednesday July 29, 2020, Christine Duez K4KJN was appointed as ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES. Duez succeeds Jim Stewart W4XDS who had stepped down as ARRL Emergency Coordinator on June 30, 2020 due to family commitments.



Duez was first licensed in July 2012 with the callsign of KK4KJN and upgraded to Extra class in 2013. Duez applied for and was given her current vanity callsign of K4KJN in 2019. Duez has been active in Polk County ARES almost since being first licensed, and was appointed as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for SKYWARN. Duez has served as a control operator in the Polk County EOC for two activations, the most recent of them being Hurricane Irma in September 2017. In addition to her responsibilities with Polk County ARES, Duez has served as Section Youth Coordinator since 2015 and is the Saturday evening net control for the Eagle Net, the NTS traffic for the ARRL West Central Florida Section.

Darrell Davis KT4WX, Section Manager for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, made the following statement about the appointment of Duez as ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES, “Christine has the experience and good leadership skills to make her an excellent ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Polk County ARES. She also the advantage of being a good

public speaker but also has the heart of a servant, an excellent combination.”

Duez in her professional career, served in numerous capacities as an American Sign Language interpreter since 1989 and holding certification with the national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf since 1989. Duez has obtained an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences during her professional career and recently retired from the Polk County School District as an ASL interpreter for Southwest Middle School in Lakeland. Duez still does part time work as an ASL interpreter in retirement. Duez other interests include playing the piano for the Spanish ministry of her church, participation in Toastmasters (an organization that helps people build leadership and public speaking skills), continuing work on her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, growing flowers at home, and traveling.

NET MANAGER FOR THE ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION TECHNICAL NET

Darrell Davis KT4WX, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Section, has appointed Jim Peterson AF2W as the Net Manager for the ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net. Peterson succeeds Burt Wizeman K4SRQ, who recently stepped down as Net Manager due to work and family commitments.

Davis made the following comments about the appointment of Peterson as Net Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida Technical Net,



“Jim has extensive experience as net control, net manager, and also served on numerous occasions as NCS for the WCF Technical Net over the last year. Jim will make an excellent net manager for the WCF Section Technical Net.”

Peterson was first licensed in March of 1993 as KC2BGJ and soon upgraded to General and Extra class. Peterson then applied for and was granted the callsign of K2CSS, which stands for the first letter of the names of his three children, Catlin KC2OAR, Shannon, and Steven. Peterson became involved in the National Traffic System, serving as net control for several nets and then served as the Section Traffic Manager for the ARRL Eastern New York Section. Peterson was also involved with his local ARES/RACES group, participating in helping with communications for several public service events including the Empire State Games. Peterson assisted with communications for the American Red Cross in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attack on New York City. After relocating to Florida a few years ago, Peterson became involved in the Eagle Net, the NTS traffic net for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, and soon after became the Thursday evening NCS and an Assistant Net Manager. Peterson after relocating to Florida also applied and was granted his current callsign of AF2W

Peterson in his professional career has worked as an elevator adjuster, which involves providing programming and technical support for elevator maintenance, for 30 years. Peterson has been married to his wife Tara N2CSS for 28 years and has three children: Caitlin KC2OAR an army veteran and registered nurse, Shannon who is a medical receptionist and currently in college, and Stephen who is a dispatcher for the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

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.

TARCFEST SCHEDULED FOR 8/22/20 TRANSITIONING TO A VIRTUAL HAMFEST VIA ZOOM

The Tampa Amateur Radio Club announced that the in person TARCfest scheduled for Saturday August 22, 2020 has been cancelled due to fallout from the COVID-19 situation.

The TARCfest will be held as "TARCfest ZoomFest", which is a virtual hamfest held via the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Further details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized and will be made available on

the club website at <https://hamclub.org>.

For the full text of the announcement and link to the TARCfest ZoomFest flyer with the information on how to join via Zoom you may go to the Tampa Amateur Radio Club website at <https://hamclub.org/wp/?p=2328>.



COMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION

SEPTEMBER 26

Pasco County Hamfest - Fall 2020

Gunn Highway Flea Market
2317 Gunn Highway
Odessa, 33556

OCTOBER 9 & 10

55th Annual Melbourne Hamfest

(Two-Day Event)

Melbourne Auditorium
625 E. Hibiscus Blvd
Melbourne, FL 32901



NOVEMBER 14

SPARCFEST 2020

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



TAMPA BAY HAMFEST FRIDAY 12/11/20 & SATURDAY 12/12/20

Coming up
on Friday



December 11,
2020 and Saturday December 12, 2020 is the 45th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and 20th Annual ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention. The Hamfest will take place at the Florida Strawberry Festival Grounds Expo Center In Plant City. Please mark your calendar for this event as this is our annual ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention.

If there are any changes as to whether the Tampa Bay Hamfest will be held or not held due to the COVID-19 situation, by the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council, the organizer of the Tampa Bay Hamfest, a WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE will be issued to announce any changes.

Please make plans to attend and support the largest hamfest in the ARRL West Central Florida Section.

For the latest information about the Tampa Bay Hamfest you may go their website at <http://www.fgcarc.org>.

FROM DAWN'S ELMER: WHAT I LIKE ABOUT CONTESTING AND WHY

by Lu Romero, W4LT

I enjoy three things about contesting: 1) the station engineering challenge, 2) the competitiveness of measuring my station against others, bigger and smaller and 3) the camaraderie that is formed between operators, both on your team and also the ones you compete against.

Contesting in Amateur Radio is much like Sports Car Club of America "Club Racing". In SCCA club racing, you have a variety of skill level competitors using a variety of hardware (cars) to compete against in different classes, all lumped together in a single event. Some "race what they bring" to the track, others have specially prepared cars that they only use for the weekend race, still others have expensive purpose-built race cars, replete with sponsorships and portable garage trailers.

These different classes of car/driver combinations compete between themselves inside their own classes for class championships, but everybody is on the track at the same time, no matter what they are driving and no matter what skill level.

Just like we Hams do on Contest Weekends!

To me, that's the fun and the challenge of pitting my station and its "technical cards that it has been dealt" against other op's facilities, both large and small, and see how I stack up to my peers.

I don't have a dedicated contest sta-

tion. I "race what I drive to the track" at my home station, with a medium power

(500w maximum) "Tribander and Wires" setup. It's a pretty competitive environment when band conditions are good. But, when conditions dictate, and especially for my favorite contest (ARRL Sweepstakes), I make use of a "higher performance" vehicle for my contesting endeavors: The Tampa Amateur Radio Club's W4DUG station, which is equipped with "world class" antenna facilities. Although not a dedicated contest station, TARC's W4DUG/N4TP setup plays very competitively against medium sized facilities. Think of it as a souped-up Corvette... You CAN drive it to work (work normal DX) but it also has the engine and suspension performance to engage competitively with the Ferraris and Lotuses out there.

In either scenario, the fun is being able to engineer an efficient operating environment that takes the individual station's strengths and weaknesses and uses them to your competitive advantage. Different areas of the country experience different radio propagation conditions, so that is another facet to take into account. There are many moving parts in this scenario, so the chal-



lenge is to make them all work together in an efficient and effective manner.

Contest ops have a camaraderie that ties us together, just as race car drivers do. Most of the “big guns” know each other and have competed against each other for years. The challenge between these people is bragging right. And the competitiveness makes both operators better.

Back in the early 2000’s, I challenged myself to beat a really great operator, Paul N4PN (SK) in Sweepstakes. I set a goal to beat him in the low power single operator class of the contest. I studied his station to find his strengths and weaknesses and pitted my station against his. It took me five years to do it, but I finally beat Paul! This competition made me a much better operator in the process. And it was a thrill to meet Paul in person at the Dayton Contest dinner, shake his hand, give him a hug, and share Ham Radio fellowship my strongest competitor. Competing with Paul made me a better operator, and for that I will be eternally grateful to him.

Multi-Operator contests are a lot of fun. That’s when several operators get together and compete as a team against other teams of operators. Not only is it fun from a competitive manner, but the fellowship during the off-shift times in the event is a wonderful thing. In Multi Ops, you get to watch people better than you work, and learn not only by watching, but by asking “how the hell do you copy CW at 35wpm and have a conversation with me at the same time?”. In the

bigger Multi-Op facilities, it’s not only an honor to be invited, it’s an honor to use the incredible equipment that these facilities offer operators. It’s like being a weekend SCCA warrior and being invited to take a shift driving a Ford GT40 at LeMans!

Contesting may not be for everyone, but it is a fun activity in my Amateur Radio life. I get to meet interesting people, learn and improve my technique by not only watching but by competing against those who are “better” than me, and forging lifelong friendships with people all around the world. It’s fun and challenging to compete, not only against your friends, but also to have the opportunity to forge new friendships that last a lifetime. I’m still in touch with my first contest Elmer from over 40 years ago, who got me hooked one snowy November weekend.

As Jim White, K4OJ (SK), the founder of the Florida Contest Group once said: “I love contesting. There is something about the camaraderie, discipline and knowledge contesting demands that fits me; it doesn’t fit everyone... but it sure fits me.”. OJ’s to you, Jim! It sure fits me too!

73,
Lu, W4LT



SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT

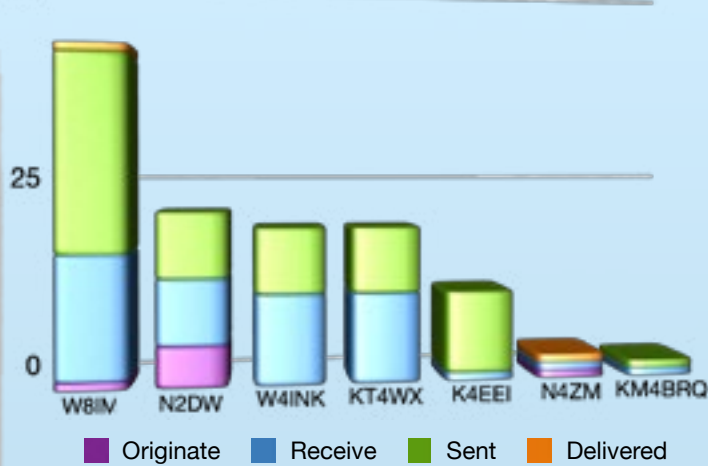
by Doug Williams N2DW

Section Traffic Manager, ARRL West Central Florida Section

West Central Florida STM Reports

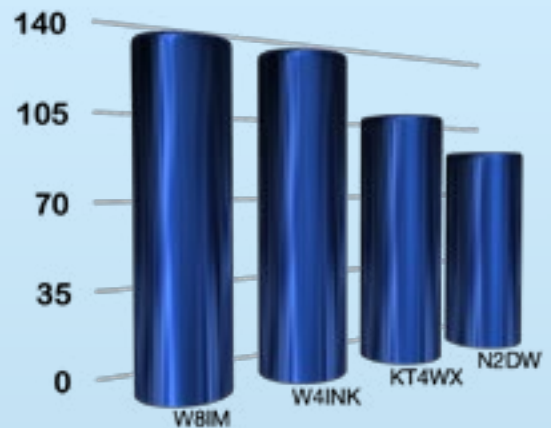
June 2020

Station Activity Reports (SAR)



Call Sign	Originate	Receive	Sent	Delivered	Total
W8IM	1	15	24	1	41
N2DW	5	8	8	0	21
W4INK	0	11	8	0	19
KT4WX	0	11	8	0	19
K4EEI	0	1	10	0	11
N4ZM	1	1	0	1	3
KM4BRQ	0	1	1	0	2

Public Service Honor Roll



Call Sign	Total
W8IM	130
W4INK	129
KT4WX	106
N2DW	91

West Central Net Activity Reports

Net Name	Sessions	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Manager
EAGLE NET	30	1373	43	989	W4PXE
SPARC	38	642	53	1210	KN4LUZ
SRQUARES	5	65	5	86	KB2ICN
SARASOTA ERC	4	73	3	73	KB2ICN