

## THE WCF PRESSER: ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NEWS

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ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager

### ARRL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT THE 40TH ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST:

## TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

It is only a few days away. Start preparing now for the ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention which is always held in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Friday December 11 and Saturday December 12, 2015. This will be the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and will be held for the third year at the Agricultural Show Center in Plant City. For more information go to the hamfest website at

<http://www.fgcarc.org> Our guest from ARRL Headquarters this year will be Mike Gruber W1MG, the Electromagnetic

Compatibility Specialist from the ARRL Lab. Welcome Mike to this years Tampa Bay Hamfest. As of this date of this publication Mike Gruber W1MG from the ARRL Lab will have his forum from 1200-1300 and the ARRL forum will be from 1300-1400. Check the forum schedule on the FGCARC website for last minute changes.



### 2016 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION COMING TO ORLANDO HAMCATION THIS HAMFEST SEASON.



The ARRL Board of Directors voted at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in July 2015, to designate the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Orlando Hamcation, February 12-14 2016, as the site of the 2016 ARRL National Convention. The 2016 Orlando Hamcation will be a ARRL Expo with an extra ARRL Headquarters presence. For more information go to the Hamcation website at <http://www.hamcation.org> and you can find out more information about the ARRL Expo at <http://www.arrl.org/expo>.

### 2ND ANNUAL WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION TECHNICAL CONFERENCE – HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EOC:

Coming up on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Central Florida Section Technical Conference, which will be held at the Hillsborough County EOC which is located at 2711 E. Hanna Av., in Tampa. Registration for the conference is now open and you may register online at the Section website at <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>. We are looking for presenters at the conference. Many from last year are returning this year but we are still looking for new presenters as well. Your presentation can be in any area of amateur radio technology. We will have a special guest speaker again this year from the ARRL Laboratory. Stay tuned for more details

## 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 start on January 1, 2016 and 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. However there are four NPA units in the Southern Florida Section and five NPA units in the Northern Florida Section.

The ARRL website has a webpage devoted to NPOTA information at <http://www.arrl.org/npota>. I have added a new webpage 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/>.

### UPCOMING HAMFESTS IN THE SECTION:

- Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>: 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest – Agricultural Show Center – Plant City, FL. *ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention*. Info: <http://arrlwcf.org/event/40th-annual-tampa-bay-hamfest-arrrl-west-central-florida-section-convention/>
- Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>: TARCfest XXXV – Tampa Amateur Radio Clubhouse – Tampa., FL.
- Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup>: Fort Myers Hamfest – *ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention*. Info: <http://swflhamfest.info/>
- Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Desoto County Hamfest – Arcadia, FL. Info: <http://www.desotoarc.org/>

### THE 2015 HURRICANE SEASON IS HISTORY. PREPARE FOR THE WINTER STORM SEASON:

The 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season ended on Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Thankfully the hurricane season for us was mostly a quiet one with one or two alarms. This was in thanks mostly to the resurgence of the El Nino. Now that winter is shortly to arrive, we do have potential for severe weather from cold fronts early in 2016 due to the El Nino. Continue to occasionally check out your radio equipment and check your supplies in case you are asked to deploy in case ARES is activated.

### 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

## THE SECTION ARES AND INFORMATION NET COMPILING AN NCS ROSTER:



The WCF Section ARES and Information Net on Monday evening at 1930 (7:30 P.M.) on the [NI4CE Repeater System](#) is looking for volunteers to be Net Control. J.C. Rivero K4RTC, Net Manager is looking for volunteers to serve as Net Control, so a net control schedule can be established. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Darrell Davis KT4WX via email at [kt4wx@arrl.net](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.net). I have heard from several of you already and thank you for volunteering to be an NCS. The net control schedule will be put together in late December and will go into effect in January.

The WCF Section ARES and Information HF Net will continue to meet on Saturday morning at 0830 (8:30 A.M.) on 3911 KHz, which meets mostly on 3913 KHz, with Neil Lauritsen W4NHL, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator continuing in his position as Net Manager.

## AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 COMPANION BILL (S 1685) PASSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE. UP TO 114 COSPONSORS OF THE HOUSE BILL (HR-1301):

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Senate Bill 1685, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, was approved by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Sadly one of the two votes against the bill was from Senator Bill Nelson. Now would be a good time to contact Senator Nelson and ask him to reconsider his position when the bill heads to the U.S. Senate floor for a vote. For information on how to contact him see WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE #57 at <http://arrlwcf.org/news/2015/11/16/wcf-section-press-release-57/>. House Resolution 1301, the U.S. House of Representatives version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, is up to 114 co-sponsors as of November 24<sup>th</sup>.

US House Representative [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4<sup>th</sup> 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 112 co-sponsors as of November 2. As of press time, two Representatives with districts that are in the West Central Florida Section: Representative Daniel Webster, 10<sup>th</sup> District, that covers the north central part of Polk County and Representative Tom Rooney, 17<sup>th</sup> 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>. Look at this page for information on how to send a letter to your Representative or Senator, the current list of co-sponsors, etc. 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 pre-emption 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 NOVEMBER:

On Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Peace River Hamfest at the Punta Gorda Boat Clubhouse in Punta Gorda. The hamfest was well attended and enjoyed by all. I even had the privilege of helping with an ARRL VE test session for one candidate that showed up at the end of the hamfest. The candidate successfully passed his Technician exam and by now has his callsign.



On Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>, Dee Turner N4GD, Dave Rockwell W4PXE, and I attended the SPARCFest at Freedom Lake Park in Largo. The hamfest was well attended and I even found at the end of the hamfest an old Hitachi 30 MHz oscilloscope that someone had discarded when they left. I took it home, cleaned the case, cleaned the potentiometer controls with Deox It and it is working beautifully. One man's trash is definitely another man's treasure.



(See page 6 for the rest of the Highlights from November)



## **SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGERS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2015**

**By Doug Williams N2DW – Section Traffic Manager:**

### **Station Activity Reports (SAR):**

**N2DW:** Originated 0, Received 9, Sent 7, Delivered 0, and Total 16  
**W8IM:** Originated 2, Received 11, Sent 16, Delivered 7, and Total 36  
**W4PXE:** Originated 1, Received 11, Sent 12, Delivered 1, and Total 25  
**K4EEI:** Originated 0, Received 79, Sent 80, Delivered 1, and Total 160  
**W2SU:** Originated 0, Received 4, Sent 4, Delivered 4, and Total 12

### **Public Service Honor Roll:**

**N2DW** 86  
**W8IM** 76

### **West Central Florida Section Net Activity Reports:**

**AIN:** Sessions 4, Stations 52, Traffic 1, Minutes 87  
Net Manager – WA4ATF  
**EAGLE NET:** Sessions 31, Stations 1097, Traffic 31, Minutes 1002  
Net Manager – W4PXE  
**SPARC NET:** Sessions 39, Stations 526, Traffic 36, Minutes 884  
Net Manager – W4TSP

## **SECTION ARES REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2015**

**By Randy Payne K4EZM – Assistant Section Manager**

The following ARES groups filed reports for the month of October:

**Charlotte County:** Number of ARES Members 117, Number of ARES Nets 4, Number of Drills 4, Number of drills and training sessions 4, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 85, Number of public service events 17, Number of hours of public service events 82, and no emergency activations

**Hardee County:** Number of ARES Members 28, Number of ARES Nets 8, Number of Drills 0, Number of drills and training sessions 1, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 1, Number of public service events 0, Number of hours of public service events 0, and no emergency activations.

**Highlands County:** Number of ARES Members 6, Number of ARES Nets 4, Number of Drills 0, Number of drills and training sessions 1, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 1, Number of public service events 0, Number of hours of public service events 0, and no emergency activations.

**Pinellas County:** Number of ARES Members 93, Number of ARES Nets 8, Number of Drills 4, Number of drills and training sessions 4, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 1, Number of public service events 1, Number of hours of public service events 4, and no emergency activations.

## SECTION ARES REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2015 (Continued)

**Pasco County:** Number of ARES Members 42, Number of ARES Nets 4, Number of Drills 4, Number of drills and training sessions 0, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 0, Number of public service events 2, Number of hours of public service events 9, and no emergency activations

**Sarasota County:** Number of ARES Members 18, Number of ARES Nets 0, Number of Drills 0, Number of drills and training sessions 0, Number of hours conducting drills and training sessions 80, Number of public service events 0, Number of hours of public service events 0, and no emergency activations.

The following ARRL Official Emergency Stations submitted a report for October: K7TEN, W1WAB, KM4ECQ, KR4X, and W4XDS.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER (Continued):

On Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup>, Christine Duez KK4KJN and I attended and participated in the Lake Wales Radio Amateurs (LWRA) monthly radio sprint, called affectionately the Gobbler Sprint. Over a dozen amateurs attended and everyone had a good time setting up, operating, having a grilled lunch together.



## STATION APPOINTEE MONTHLY REPORT 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.

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL. REMEMBER WHAT IS IMPORTANT:**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends, and a Happy New Year. The holidays can be very busy and It is so easy to get caught up in the shopping and the gifts. Do not forget to remember to spend time with your family and friends during this special time and to remember the real meaning of the season.

## **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](mailto: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. See you all next year and 73 de Darrell KT4WX