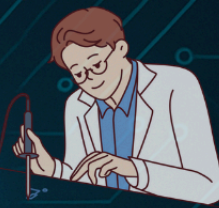


WCF



July/August 2025 - Issue #66



PRESSER

The Newsletter of the ARRL West Central Florida Section

Section Cabinet

Section Manager
Jimmy Russ AB4KA

Assistant Section Manager
Section Emergency Coordinator
Section Traffic Manager
Dave Rockwell W4PXE

Assistant Section Manager Technology
Technical Coordinator
Darrell Davis, KT4WX

Assistant Section Managers

Mike Douglas, W4MDD

Randy Payne K4EZM

Paul Toth NB9X

Russ Delaney N4RTD

Doug Williams N2DW

Mike Lunsford KB4FHP

Chuck Johnston W4CWJ

Dee Turner, N4GD

Christine Duez K4KJN

William Miller N1CDO

Dan Noah WX4DAN

Doug Christ KN4YT

Clayton Parrott KJ4RUS

Stephen Park W4OEP



**By Jimmy Russ, Section Manager,
ARRL West Central Florida
Division**

QST de AB4KA

2025 has already proven to be quite an interesting year, and we are only halfway through! Hopefully the second half of the year will bring us smooth sailing.

For those who don't know who I am, my name is Jimmy Russ, I am AB4KA and as of July 1 I am the new Section Manager for the West Central Florida section. Our prior Section Manager Mike Douglas, W4MDD felt the need to step down for personal reason. I had worked with Mike as an Assistant Section Manager for 3-1/2 years, and when he decided to retire from the position, he recommended me to headquarters to take his place. The leaders of the Field Organization talked to me and asked if I wanted the position, I said yes, and here we are. I am honored to have been considered, and it is a privilege to serve.

There are a few things I hope to accomplish while I am Section Manager. One of the most important issues I believe we

have in front of us is cooperation among people/clubs/groups, or the lack thereof. Whether it is ham "A" doesn't get along with ham "B" because one only works FM and the other love FT8, club "1" doesn't get along with club "2" because they have more members, do more activities and are making them look bad, group "X" doesn't get along with group "Y" because of (you fill in the problem)...

I have a newsflash...we're all in this together. The FCC doesn't care about any of that. They see Amateur Radio operators as a group of people using resources (i.e. bandwidth) who occasionally come in handy during emergencies. As for the groups and people who would like to take over our bands, that is another issue entirely. For example, right after I was licensed and Novices had just gained access to the 220 MHz band, the FCC sold 40% of that band to UPS (who is still not using it). It can happen quickly.

I have the following suggestions to try to alleviate some of this:

1. If someone else is using a different mode that you don't use, why not give it a shot? You might like it. The short version: Get on the air! It's kind of what

we do.

2. If you're a member of club "A" but you hear that club "B" is doing something, why not go check in out? You might like it, and I don't recall a requirement in part 97 where you can only be a member of one club. The short version: Participate!

3. Get on the air! The more we use the bands we have, the more likely we are to keep them.

4. Join the ARRL. The league is our only defense against losing our bands. They are our advocate and our lobbyist. Membership alone is worth that, not to mention the other benefits we get by being a league member.

In closing, let me say that I look forward to getting out and visiting different clubs and groups and meeting other amateur radio operators. Everyone has something to add, and remember...

We're all in this together!

73 de AB4KA



Chris AA4CB with Jimmy AB4KA at Field Day 2025 for the East Pasco Amateur Radio Society.

Section ARES Newsletter Gets a New Title

Starting with the June 2025 issue, Dave Rockwell W4PXE our Section Emergency Coordinator has given the ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES Newsletter, a new and permanent name: THE WCF ARES COMMUNICATOR.

The July 2025 issue of THE WCF ARES COMMUNICATOR, is now available for download on the new THE WCF ARES COMMUNICATOR page located at <https://arrlwcf.org/home/wcf-ares-communicator>.

All issues will be archived on this page for current and historical reference. Also the Section ARES reports filed the month before will be available for your viewing in each issue of THE WCF ARES COMMUNICATOR.

ARRL WCF Field Day Caravan 2025

Here are some of the photos from the three ARRL WCF Field Day Caravans that took place during Field Day 2025.



East Pasco Amateur Radio Society



Lakeland Amateur Radio Club



Lakeland Amateur Radio Club



Kings Point Amateur Radio Club



Kings Point Amateur Radio Club



Brandon Amateur Radio Society



Tampa Amateur Radio Club



Brandon Amateur Radio Society



Brandon Amateur Radio Society



Lakeland Amateur Radio Club



Brandon Amateur Radio Society



Tampa Amateur Radio Club



Lakeland Amateur Radio Club



Brandon Amateur Radio Society



Tampa Amateur Radio Club



Lakeland Amateur Radio Club





East Pasco Amateur Radio Society



Lakeland Amateur Radio Club



Lakeland Amateur Radio Club



In the July 2025 issue of SRQ Magazine, a very nice article was published about Chuck Johnston W4CWJ, our Assistant Section Manager for Rural Communities. To see the

full article you may go to <https://www.srqmagazine.com/articles/2217/In%20the%20Face%20of%20Disaster>.

Chuck Johnston W4CWJ has had a varied career, which started with the City of Sarasota as a fire fighter, and eventually he served as Interim Director of Emergency Management for Sarasota County around 2005.

Johnston then seeing a need for emergency recovery support for agricultural communities, founded the Sarasota Agricultural Recovery Group (SARG) in 2010 and has served continuously since that time as its coordinator.

After getting his amateur radio license in 2015, integrated amateur radio in SARG. Johnston has also planned several communications exercises, of which one of them was "High and Dry II" which took place early 2022. "High and Dry II", was very close to what happened during Hurricane Ian in September 2022.

Johnston led the response of SARG in the agricultural community in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in 2022.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section congratulates Chuck Johnston W4CWJ on having his service recognized in SRQ Magazine.

Upcoming NWS SKYWARN® In Person Training Sessions

For anyone who wishes to get SKYWARN® training conducted by the National Weather Service Office in Ruskin, there are a couple of classes coming up in the next few weeks.

On Saturday, July 19th, 2025 at 1000 EDT there will be a class at the Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Center (PSOC), located at 9450 E Columbus Dr., just off of Falkenburg Road, on the east side of Tampa.

On Tuesday, July 24th, 2025 there will be two back to back classes, at 1600 EDT and again at 1800 EDT, at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center, located at 1890 Jim Keene Blvd., off of Winter Lake Road, not far from the Polk County Parkway and on the west of Winter Haven.

With the weather we've been experiencing lately, not to mention the fact that it is hurricane season, this is a golden opportunity for those who have never been trained, or might be in need of refresher training.

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THE FLORIDA
GULF COAST
AMATEUR
RADIO COUNCIL
PRESENTS:

50TH ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST



AND WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CONVENTION

FRIDAY DEC. 12TH 1PM-6PM

SAT. DEC. 13TH 8AM-3PM

Expo Building
Strawberry Festival Grounds
301 N. Berryfest Pl
Plant City, FL 33563

HOURLY
DOOR
PRIZES

WAS DXCC
CARD
CHECKING

Talk-in
147.165
PL 136.5

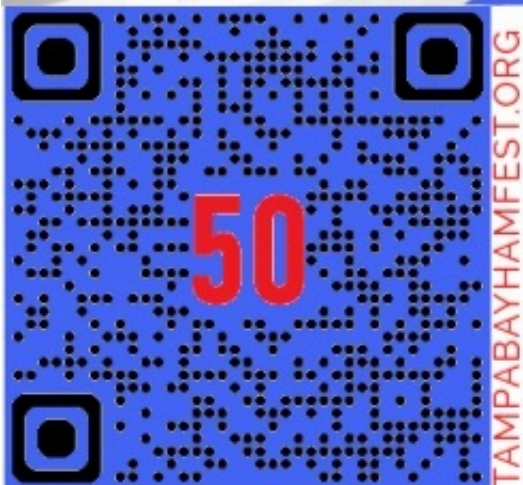
ARRL
VEC EXAMS

Admission at the gate \$13
Advanced Ticket purchase \$10
under 12 FREE
Public service/military in uniform

Indoor table \$20
Booth, 10x10 with 2 tables \$60
Electric \$10
Outdoor space \$10
Camping (see website for details) \$20
1 Club Table FREE
1 Club selling table \$15

Amateur License Testing Available!

On-site testing will be conducted by
the East Pasco Amateur Radio Society
Applicants must be pre-registered and
have a FRN number prior to testing.
To register email N4WDH@arrl.net



SCAN ME TO VISIT WEBSITE

TAMPABAYHAMFEST.ORG

THE FLORIDA
GULF COAST
AMATEUR
RADIO COUNCIL
PRESENTS:

50TH ANNUAL TAMPA BAY HAMFEST



AND WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CONVENTION

FRIDAY DEC. 12TH 1PM-6PM

SAT. DEC. 13TH 8AM-3PM

Come down, set up and represent your club

We can provide a table free of charge to any established amateur radio club. The free club table can be used to help promote the club and its members to the general public. It is often a gathering point for club members to distribute informational flyers and promote upcoming events at the club. The table is provided with two chairs. Order a CLUB SALES TABLE if you need space to sell product for the club or its members.



Order
your
table(s)
on
the
website

