

WCF



Nov/Dec 2025 - Issue #68



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

Stephen Park W4OEP



QST de AB4KA

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

As we find ourselves entering the holiday season (and rapidly approaching the end of 2025), it is my sincere desire that we can all find ourselves with much for which to be thankful. For one, I am extremely thankful that, even though hurricane season is technically still with us, we have had no storms this year. After last year I think the Lord decided that we needed a break!

Secondly, I personally am thankful and honored that I was appointed to carry on the role of Section Manager when Mike Douglas, W4MDD needed to step down for personal reasons. I appreciate the fact that Mike allowed me to work with him and as time went on he began giving me additional responsibilities. Essentially, we had a transition plan in place for when the time came and things have gone quite smoothly.

It also helps that we have an excellent leadership team in the WCF section who has made the

transition that much easier. Any time I am at an Amateur Radio event, I am proud to say that I am from the West Central Florida section.

We do have a couple of items of business to take care of before time slips away...

1. Please be sure to send your letters for the "Pass the Bill" campaign (information can be found at arrrl.org)
2. Be sure to vote for our Southeastern Division Director. All ARRL members should have received an email with a link for voting and a postcard with the same link.
3. Remember to attend the Tampa Bay Hamfest and ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention on December 12-13 and the Strawberry Festival grounds in Plant City. We're looking forward to a great event this year!

Here's wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

Until next time...

73 de Jimmy Russ, AB4KA

Florida State Parks on the Air Under New Management



Source: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR

Florida State Parks "On The Air" contest was started in 2016 by Matt Stevens NJ4Y, who was a member of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, and was supported by a group of amateur radio operators from central Florida who love to get out and operate portable in our beautiful state. Florida State Parks On The Air was first held in April 2017, as a one day event.

In July 2025 management of the event passed to the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club in Venice. This will be a four-day event on April 17-20, 2026. Operating hours are from 1200 UTC to 2359 UTC each day (Friday through Monday) with NO overnight operation allowed from 8:00 PM to 7:59 AM local time the next morning. There are 174 state parks, trails, and historical sites on the official park list for the event. Full details and rules can be found on the event website: <https://fspota.org>.

The purpose of the event is to:

- Promote public awareness of ham radio and Florida's state parks system
- Contribute to the recognition and appreciation of Florida's diverse ecology
- Encourage camaraderie and sportsmanship among Florida's Amateur Radio Operators,
- Encourage youth (under 18) participation, and
- Provide a venue for Florida amateurs to get out and enjoy operating in the great outdoors.

Clubs in Florida are encouraged to begin making plans to participate in the CLUB STATION category. This can be a great way to encourage and motivate club members to learn more about Parks on the Air and how to operate year-round as an individual. If nothing else, club members can get some fresh air and exercise by visiting one or more of Florida's great state parks. In 2026 Georgia and Alabama will also be holding their state park on the air contests this same weekend. Amateurs everywhere are encouraged to "hunt" for these many park stations during the contest.

Thanks to Paul Nienaber KN4BAR, President of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, for the information that went into this press release.

Nominations for the Ellen White W1YL Award Opened November 1st

Nominations for the 2025 Ellen White W1YL Award opened on Saturday November 1, 2025. Nominations for the 2025 Ellen White W1YL Award may be made via the Section website Contact and Information Form at <https://arrlwcfc.org/section-forms/contact-info/>.

The Ellen White W1YL Award is given by the ARRL West Central Florida Section each year to honor the amateur radio operator who has made the greatest contribution to amateur radio in the ARRL West Central Florida Section for the current calendar year.

Nominations for the 2025 Ellen White W1YL award will close on Sunday November 30, 2025. The recipient of the award will be announced on Friday December 12, 2025 at the Tampa Bay Hamfest and the award will be presented to that recipient during the ARRL forum at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday December 13, 2025.

The namesake of the award, Ellen White W1YL, became a Silent Key on Saturday November 5, 2022.

White was appointed by Darrell Davis KT4WX in 2016, Section Manager of the ARRL West Central Florida section at the time, due to her contributions to amateur radio over many years, which

included being in amateur radio for 75 years and working at ARRL HQ for 25 years.

For details on the Ellen White W1YL Award, you may go to the Section website Ellen White W1YL Award page at <https://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/ellen-white-w1yl-award/>.

For a detailed article on the life of Ellen White W1YL, please go to the ARRL News article published on November 7, 2022 at <https://www.arrl.org/news/ellen-white-w1yl-silent-key-devoted-lifetime-to-amateur-radio-and-arrl>.

Date and Venue for the 12th Annual TECHCON set



The date and venue for the 12th Annual TECHCON have been set. The date for the 12th Annual TECHCON, the Annual Technical Conference for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, is Saturday February 28, 2026.

The venue for the 12th Annual TECHCON will once again be the Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Complex, located at 9450 E. Columbus Dr., Tampa, FL

33519, on the east side of Tampa, just on the west side of I-75.

Starting with the 12th Annual TECHCON, we will no longer live stream the presentations as the logistics to do so are too difficult to manage properly.

The 12th Annual TECHCON presentations will be recorded and the presenter slides will be added to it during post-production editing, once again facilitated by Russ Delaney N4RTD, one of our Assistant Section Managers. Upon completion they will be uploaded to the Section YouTube channel once they are completed. The Section YouTube channel is located at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFA4-HEjr-IYMFisVG_Nk5A.

Registration for the 12th Annual TECHCON is now open. We are looking for presenters for TECHCON. To have a successful TECHCON, we must have those who are willing to be presenters, especially those who have not been a presenter before. The topic of presentation is, as always, the choice of the presenter, as long as the topic is related to amateur radio.

You may register to either attend or make a presentation for TECHCON at <https://arrlwcf.org/section-forms/wcftechconfregistration/>.

For more information about TECHCON you may go to the

TECHCON webpage on the Section website at <https://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>.

Section Net Cancellations for November and December

In observance of Thanksgiving, the 50th Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest, Christmas, and New Years holidays, and in keeping with tradition, the following Section nets will be cancelled during the months of November and December 2025:

For the month of November the following Section nets will be cancelled:

- The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on the NI4CE Repeater System scheduled for 1930 EST on Monday November 24, 2025 will be cancelled. This net will resume normal operation on Monday December 1, 2025.
- The ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net on the NI4CE Repeater System scheduled for 2100 EST on Thursday November 27, 2025 will be cancelled. This net will resume normal operation on Thursday December 4, 2025.

- The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz scheduled for 0730 EST on Saturday November 29, 2025 will be cancelled. This net will resume normal operation for the last session of 2025 on Saturday December 6, 2025.

For the month of December, the following Section Nets will be cancelled:

- The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz scheduled for 0730 EST on Saturday December 13, 2025 will be cancelled due to the operation of the Tampa Bay Hamfest. The net will resume normal operation on Saturday January 3, 2026.
- The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on the NI4CE Repeater System scheduled for 1930 EST on Monday December 22, 2025 and Monday December 29, 2025 will be cancelled. This net will resume normal operation on Monday January 5, 2026.
- The ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Net on the NI4CE Repeater System scheduled for 2100 EST on Thursday December 25, 2025 and Thursday January 1, 2026 will be cancelled. This net will resume normal operation on Thursday January 8, 2026.

- The ARRL West Central Florida Section ARES and Information Net on 3940 KHz scheduled for 0730 EST on Saturday December 20, 2025 and Saturday December 27, 2025 will be cancelled. This net will resume normal operation on Saturday January 3, 2026.

The Eagle Net, the NTS traffic for the ARRL West Central Florida Section, on the NI4CE Repeater System scheduled for 2030 EST daily, will operate as scheduled throughout the holidays, as it is an NTS traffic net. In keeping with tradition, Darrell Davis KT4WX, will be net control of the Eagle Net for the Christmas Eve and New Years Eve editions of the Eagle Net.

The ARRL West Central Florida Section wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year season.

WCF Section Nets

The following is a list of ARRL West Central Florida Section Nets:

Day of Week	Net	Time	Frequency
Sunday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Monday	WCF Section ARES / Information Net	1930	NI4CE/R
Monday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Tuesday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Wednesday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Thursday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Thursday	WCF Section Technical Net	2100	NI4CE/R
Friday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R
Saturday	WCF Section ARES / Information Net	0730 [^]	3940 KHz
Saturday	Eagle Net	2030	NI4CE/R

[^] Net start will be at 0730 or immediately following the Florida Phone Traffic Net.

Be sure to visit the ARRL West Central Florida Section



channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/@arrlwcfc>



WCFCountry
West Central Florida Section

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



SCAN ME TO VISIT WEBSITE

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

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

