

Welcome to HamCation® 2023!

We are only 10 days from the first arrivals on Wednesday, February 8. Hard to believe! Some of you may already be enroute.

I want to briefly go over how the arrival at HamCation will go. There are very few changes from last year.

On Wednesday we anticipate having the gates open at 9 am. If you arrive before then, you will turn into the fairgrounds on Pete Parrish Road, and then make an immediate right turn into the parking/waiting area. The fairgrounds has removed lots of foliage and the entire waiting area is much better for RVs now.

As you enter the waiting area you will be met by a "Follow Me" golf cart who will get you lined up. Please don't cut into another line. Please just go where the golf cart leads you. It might look to you like another line should obviously get more RVs, but you may not realize the lines are carefully planned to allow RVs to get to the next line when it forms. So just please follow the golf cart and we will get everyone into the fairgrounds in order and as soon as possible.

Immediately upon getting in the line, we will meet you and give you your package right then. When the lines start moving you will then be able to enter the grounds without stopping at the RV tent.

If the gates are already open when you arrive, you will proceed through the gate and stop at the RV tent. Our volunteers will provide courteous traffic control and show you the way.

When you park you will find that **every power pole has a mix of 50-amp and 30-amp sockets**. About 31% of our guests need 50-amp service, and we have just about the right number of 50-amp sockets to satisfy those who really need it. If you don't need 50-amp, please don't plug into it just because it is there. I've attached a map showing our pods. This is the most current map; please disregard the one on our website as it has changed.

We expect about 200 RVs this year, just a few more than last year. We have been working hard to put together a good plan so that everyone can have a great time and a lot of fun. If you have any problems at all, I am available to help get it sorted out.

Our weather looks to be very nice for the entire week, with lows in the high 50s and highs in the mid-70s, with no rain in the forecast. My fingers are crossed, but it looks like a lovely week for HamCation.

One final request: our HF special event station chairman has asked me to pass along their frequencies. If you plan to operate, if possible give them a little space. They are on 14.250, 21.300, and 28.800 MHz.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone throughout the week. We are ready for you, and I wish you safe travels on your way to Orlando.

73,

Rich Wilson, WR4RW
RV and Tailgate Chairman