



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol.XVI No.10

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The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Disenchanted

Last month I sent with the newsletter a questionnaire asking for a response to several question relating to club activities and participation. Normally one would expect a twenty-five percent response to a questionnaire mailed to the membership of an organization. There were one hundred twenty five sent out e-mail and snail mail. I received back **five** (5) responses. Four were received by e-mail and one was passed to me at the club meeting on 26 September. From this response I am very disenchanted with the level of response to the endeavors that the officers and active persons put forth in the development of the club's activities. It indicates an unwillingness of individuals to take part in proposed activities and to serve the club as officers or committee members. The persons who come to the meetings and who carry out the proposed activities are the stalwarts that have done these task for a significant number of years.

I can not fault that small group that have served the club well during the past several years. Those that have served as officers have tried to schedule activities and programs that would be interesting to the membership. When the membership are not there to support the elected officers or not there to support the planned activities (field day, contests, etc.), the planners become very frustrated and respond with "What and Why am I doing all of this?". I know that I personally feel this each month as I try to assemble a newsletter when I have not received responses from some of the committees and officers who are feeling the same frustration. In the three plus years that I have been editor, I have received **one** (1) article that I was able to publish and one that was too long to include in the newsletter because of space constraints. I took the jpb as editor from Mike who was having the same problems and who was having more time demands on his personal business. I am now at the point in my thinking that there appears to be little need for a radio club in Naples. If that is true there is no need for officers or for a club station, or for a newsletter. It is in your ballpark.

What are you going to do about it??? Will you step forward and take on a responsibility in the club?? Will you help out those who Have tried??? De K2ZEL

From the EOC

2000 Hurricane Season Officially Busier than '99

When tropical storm "Michael" formed from a cold core low halfway between the Carolinas and Bermuda on October 17, the 2000 Hurricane Season passed 1999 in named storm activity. "Michael" is the 13th named storm of the year. "Lenny," the 12th named storm, was the last of 1999 in November. As this is written, there are still 6 weeks left in the current season. It looks as though the Cape Verde season is over, but keep an eye on the Gulf and western Caribbean, the favored spawning grounds late in the season. These storms generally move north, then east, and are often a threat to the west coast of Florida.

Upgrades for Mobile Command

HF and APRS capabilities aboard the Mobile Command and Communications Center are being upgraded to newer, better technologies. The 10 year old Icom 725s are being replaced by a pair of IC-706MkIIG all band/all mode transceivers with DSP capabilities. The new rigs will not only replace the original HF equipment, but will provide backup VHF SSB links, and add UHF SSB options as well. We'll be studying the best way to take advantage of these rigs, and will probably be adding some additional antennas.

A new Garmin StreetPilot GPS and a Kenwood D-700 dual band packet ready radio are also being installed replacing three discrete units. The D-700 has text displays which read-out APRS data, and a full suite of APRS goodies as well as 9600 baud capability. The StreetPilot includes a large map display, and can go to street level anywhere in the country with the use of map modules. All of this equipment should be installed by 1 November...and training/familiarity sessions will fol-

low!

VHF SSB Tests completed with Mobile Command

In July, a crew of operators took the bus to the Broward-Collier County line for tests of the new VHF SSB equipment in the EOC. A 160 watt amplifier has been moved to the roof where it feeds nearly full power to a rotatable CushCraft 13B2 at 165 feet. Two meter SSB was the most reliable mode (other than the 800 MHz trunking system) aboard the bus, with solid copy out to about 65 miles from the EOC. KD4DZW, K4GP, N3ISH and NV4Z operated on 2 SSB, 75, 40, and 20 meters both enroute and while on brief stops at the 63 mm rest area and the Miccosukee reservation at the county line.

Our next scheduled ARES/RACES meeting will be Tuesday, November 14 at the EOC, at 7:00 PM. Everyone's welcome! Remember the Collier County Emergency Net on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays at 7 on 147.030/443.700, and the Collier County ARES/RACES website at <http://www.collierem.org/races.htm>.

73, Gary WB2WPA

**Nominate
Next Year's
Officers
24 October 2000**

Dinner meeting !

I am sorry to announce, that 4GHN Wayne Lecureux is a silent key. Wayne and his wife Cleo always joined us at the dinner meeting, he will be missed.

To inform everyone in the Club, we made a change to our dinner meeting. As of October 4, 2000 we are having the Dinner meeting now at the " Red Lobster Inn " located on the West side of Rt.41, about one block north of the Golden Gate Parkway. The dinner meeting is held like always, at the first Wednesday in the month, at 6 pm. You order from the regular Menu, or from the specialty Menu. Individual checks are made out.

Happy hour till 7 pm. 2 for 1.

The next Dinner meeting is on 1 November 2000.

We had 20 Persons present.

We respectfully bow our heads to honor Wayne. Anniversary and birthday were announced. The food was excellent, and plenty of it. The Menu has a large variety, to please everyone's taste. And the prices are reasonable.

So come on out, and join us at the next outing, on 11.1.2000 73 de Sigi W2JQ.

For reservation please call
598-1353 Sigi W2JQ

From the Webmaster

Due to the lack of updated information, the "Roster" page has been removed from the ARASWF Web page. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

73's...de..Glenn, KE4KTZ

General Good Stuff

The contest season has begun for this season with a lot of activity. The next ARRL contest is the annual ten meter contest the second full weekend in December (9 & 10) where operators may work 36 hours of the scheduled 48. Last year the club tried to get as many members as possible to participate in this event. The 10 meter band is open at this writing and it would be a good time for you to get into the contest. Rules in the Nov. QST.

This year the sponsor are requesting that the logs be submitted in the Cabrillo format. The format is explained in the November QST. It does not look too difficult for you to comply. There are several of the logging programs which directly output in the format to be submitted.

This past month I participated in the TARA FALL RUMBLE. This is a PSK mode contest sponsored in the spring and fall by the Troy Amateur Radio Association. This station made 111 confirmed QSOs during 16 of the 24 hour period. I was able to work all W call areas and was able to work 37 DXCC multipliers. Most contacts were of the usual short contest format but some were QSO of up to 20 minutes of rag chewing. If you have not tried it, This mode is taking over the keyboard to keyboard digital communications by storm. Since the last of February, I have worked over 500 stations.

Club Information

Meeting Time:

**4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm at The
Shepherd of the Glades Church
Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples**

Club Repeater:

K4YHB – 146.670 MHz (-600)

RACES/EOC Repeater

WB2WPA - 147.300 MHz (+600)

Club Chat Node:

CHAT – 144.970 MHz

ENAP Packet Node

WB2WPA-5 - 145.030 MHz

Club Home Page:

<http://naplesfl.net/~araswf> or

<http://naples.net/clubs/amradio>

Club Officers:

President – AD4TR – Martin

e-mail – ad4tr@aol.com

Vice President – WA3TIH - John.

e-mail – nfn06110@naples.net

Secretary/Treasurer – KF4MJJ - Fred

e-mail – edwardf@crossnet.org

Past President – KE4RGH – Bill

e-mail – ke4rgh@mediaone.net

Repeater Trustee – WA1QDP - Mark

e-mail wa1qdp@worldnet.att.net

Club Chat Node – N4VMT – Phil

e-mail – n4vmt@aol.com

Newsletter Editor – K2ZEL – Bill

e-mail – nfn06232@naples.net

Training Committee – AD4TR

Webmaster - KE4KTZ - Glenn

e-mail - ke4ktz@amsat.org

The Electronic QSL Card

There is a new interesting discussion going in the amateur community and that is the use of the “electronic QSL card”. Any amateur with a reasonable computer and access to the internet can generate an electronic QSL card which looks the same as the one that he usually snail mail to confirm a QSO with another amateur in the amateur radio community.

Recently there has been a discussion on one of the reflectors regarding the use of the e-qsL with reasons pro and con for its adoption as a valid confirmation of the two-way contact. In fact there is now an internet site at which an amateur may register and upload directly the QSL output from his electronic log. This data is then used to generate QSL cards for those other amateurs that are registered. The amateur goes to the site and calls up the cards addressed to himself and can view and print them with his printer.

You can make a contact, upload the data and get your QSL card for the contact in about two hours if the other guy uses the system. Recently I have also received several cards directly from the other amateur by e-mail and have printed the card up with the printer. This is definitely The way to go. It beats waiting for the bureau to send you an envelope with your cards. The site is - <http://www.eqsl.cc> . It works. Give us your opinion.

Meeting Schedule

24 Oct. 2000—Regular club meeting

1 Nov.2000— Dinner meeting

2 & 3 Dec. 2000 - Okachobee Ham Fest

6 & 7 Jan. Ft. Myers Ham Fest