



# ARASWF

## *Newsletter*



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The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

### Editorial Notes

Our meeting this month is at the Red Cross Chapter House at 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive, Naples FL. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. with the board and members arriving around 7 p.m.. Next month there will be no regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday because of the holidays. There will be a newsletter published next month with pictures of the Christmas Party/ Annual Installation of Officers. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday in January 2002. There will also be a January newsletter. Officers and committee chairs are reminded to prepare annual reports for the December newsletter. I will remind you in early December.

On the 15th and 16th the annual ARRL 10 Meter contest will happen. Each year the club members participate in this event submitting their scores to the editor and to ARRL as both individuals and as club members. The data needs to be passed to the secretary so that he can inform ARRL of the participation.

In the December Issue of the newsletter there will be the annual update form for the club files and the 2002 dues are due January 1st. Dues may be mailed to the Secretary/ Treasurer or may be brought to the January meeting. New membership cards will be issued on receipt of your dues. Remember dues are \$25.00 for individual families.

This coming month this station will be off the air for about 5 days as I have two trees removed that interfere with the turning of the antenna when the tower is cranked to full height. Then I will reinstall the antennas hopefully in time for the 10 meter contest. At the end of this last month I invested in Microsoft's Windows XP and installed it on the main computer that I use for most of my work. It works fine provided your computer is of the recent vintage and has enough memory. Except for a small problem that I had with the CD burner (no longer supported) which I replaced. In doing so I removed to old unit and uninstalled it. I promptly lost all the CD ROM drivers and had to reinstall the operating system in order to get all the proper drivers back to operate all the hardware. As a result I lost about a week of my e-mail that I did not have backed up. Lesson **BACKUP EVERYTHING.** Murphy's Law applies. 73 de K2ZEL

## EXTRAORDINARY BAND OPENING ON 6 METERS by WB2QLP

Many of you that know me know that I have an intense interest in the 6 meter band. My fascination with this "Magic Band" dates back to the mid 1960's, when I first was introduced to 6 meter AM by on old school buddy, Roy, WA2NZA.

I remember him telling me of band openings that you could work around the world with only a few watts of power & a small antenna when the conditions are just right. And you didn't have to hold a General Class ticket ! I thought " THIS IS FOR ME ! "

As a relatively new ham, 14 yrs old, with very limited funds, i was able to save money from my allowance and my supermarket job to purchase my first transmitter and receiver for 6 meters. Shortly thereafter, I too was in on the fun of 6 meter band openings. I had a ball talking to the 'locals', stations all over the U.S. and DX stations too.

This 4 mhz wide band often has characteristics of both HF & VHF frequencies. Many types of radio wave propagation are sooner or later present on 6 meters. Many hams who are not familiar with 6 are of the opinion that this part of the radio spectrum is a waste of time & space, due to the scarcity of band openings. Well, i say to those people , you just DON'T KNOW 6 meters. In order to enjoy this unusual band, you have to learn to be very patient and be willing to spend hours upon hours of listening to 'white noise', while waiting for something fantastic to happen. Call it "hours of boredom waiting for minutes of intense fun."

On 6, the band can open so suddenly , its like opening the door to a party already in progress !

Well, after 36 years on the Magic Band and working my share of DX, i thought i had experienced it all, but WOW, was i mistaken ! On the morning of Tuesday, October 30, a few short weeks ago, the 6 meter band opened to the European Continent BIG TIME.....maybe once in a lifetime ! From here in S.W. Florida, 6 meter band openings to Europe are rare and the signals are weak and borderline, but copyable. BUT.....on this day, for almost 5 hours, starting at about 7 am est, 6 meters was WIDE OPEN from Ireland & Great Britain, in the west, across the continent to the East as far as the Ukraine, east of the Black Sea in Russia and south into the island nation of Malta, in the Mediterranean Sea. There were hundreds of stations on the air, most of them 5x9 +. I had close to 60 qso's in 15 countries on CW & SSB. Another local ham, K4SN, Terry, in Lehigh Acres, worked over 150 qso's in over 20 countries ! The band sounded like 10 meters on a contest Saturday morning !!! Here is a partial list of some of the DX worked.. EI6, MM0, SV1, IK2,3,4,5, IS0, I, UX0, 9H1, F, YU1, 9A, IT9, S54, UT5, VO1, IZ4, EH1, IW4,5,8,9.

Not only was the band open from Florida but almost all of the U.S. call districts experienced great band conditions at the same time. Many experienced 6 meter operators all agree that this was truly a memorable event in the history of the 6 meter band.

These extraordinary conditions were due in large part to geomagnetic disturbances in our atmosphere caused by storms, or sun spots, on the surface of the sun which come in 11 year cycles.

STAND BY.....the MAGIC BAND ain't dead yet !!!!!

**FLASH!!! - WB2QLP Snags ALASKA for 50th State 11/18/2001**

CQWWDXSSB  
October 27-28, 2001

Call used KQ? Q

Operators--KQ? Q, WB2QLP, KF4OXE

Band	QSO's	Zones	DX
40mtrs	90	13	47
20mtrs	61	16	44
15mtrs	83	21	54
<u>10mtrs</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>69</u>
Total	492	73	214

The contest was fun but disappointing. We had only 3 operators and only 3 other club members showed up to see what was going on.

We set up WB2QLP's 40 mtr beam only to find out at the start of the contest that we had only 25 watts to the antenna due to high SWR. Even with the amp we had only 300 watts—not enuf for a contest !!!

Then KQ? Q's amp went bellyup at startup!! We had to run the entire contest with 100 watts—also not enuf for a contest. The 40mtr beam was fixed on Sat afternoon and they had a KW for Sat night.

KQ? Q's

Amp was beyond repair so the entire contest on 10-15-20mtrs was run with 100 watts.

The highlight of the contest was the training of a new contest op. KF4OXE has become a proficient contest operator and will be a valued operator. Please give Alan a “pat-on-the-back” for his achievement.

We still had fun and even took a break to watch the World Series on TV. We even went home to get a good night's sleep—why not, no one else took the time to come out. We tore down Sun and even got home near sunset and had time to wind down to go to work on Monday.

Many thanks to the Red Cross for the use of their fine facilities.

73

KQ? Q

John



## **From the President**

November, that means it time for the new officers to be voted on. So anyone who wants to run for any office please step forward ! And we don't count chads ! That will be the first order of business at the Nov. meeting. After that I would like to have a discussion about the club's repeater , 146.670. It is in a great location to cover the Collier County area , but there is the problem of access to do repairs when it is not working. So as a club we need to bring it to the floor and discuss this , because as most of you know it has not been working for quite a while and what can we do as a whole to correct this. I believe this is something that all club members need to have a voice in what needs to be done. So I hope to see you at the meeting , if not there , maybe at the Dec. dinner .

73 KE4JZT

A.D.

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## **From the Vice President**

Happy Thanksgiving to all members and their families. I hope this will be the start of a happy healthy holiday season. It's not too late to contact Sigi and make arrangements to attend the club Christmas Dinner on Dec. 5th at the Pacific 41 Restaurant. I know I'll be there with the rest of my family.

Upcoming operating events include the CQ WW DX CW Contest on Nov. 27-28. In December we have the ARRL 160 Meter Contest on the 7th-9th. Then the popular ARRL 10 Meter Contest will be held on Dec. 15th - 16th. This is a contest that many of our members will be operating.

The Southeastern Division Convention will be held on December 1st and 2nd in the Tampa area. Details can be found in the November issue of QST.

Don't forget to attend this month's meeting in order for us to pick new officers.

73 de NJ2F

**Last minute reminder! Okeechobee Hamfest, Saturday, November 24th. at the Elks Lodge Grounds Rt. 70 East.**

The Following Projects are on-going at the Collier EOC

1. Replacement of the 147.03 Antenna - the old one was badly corroded
2. Replacement of the Tower for the 03 antenna - old one badly rusted and unsafe
3. Renovation of the 03 repeater itself - at the moment it is near deaf and putting out 7 watts
4. Addition of a dedicated 440 antenna for the 443.700 repeater
5. Tying the repeaters to the Internet Radio Linking Project
6. Emergency Managers Weather Information Network retransmitter on 163.325 Mhz 1200 baud
7. Restoration of the Packet stack on 145.050 mhz
8. Amateur Television output transmitter on 427.725 Mhz - (Cable 56)

Good Progress is being made on all these projects and they may all be completed at approximately the same time since they are intertwined.

73 de kg5qd Dale

## Minutes of the October Meeting

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday October 23, 2001 at 7:30 pm by the president KE4JZT. There were 28 members and guests. This was the first meeting at the Red Cross Chapter House. Those present introduced themselves by name and call. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved with the correction of the information regarding the repeater council. The treasurer's report was read and noted that all current bills have been paid. The balance is 1443.37. The report was approved as read.

Mark gave a repeater status report. The problem appears to be at the site. There are problems in getting access to the site to make the repairs. The work has to be done during the working hours after scheduling the time to get access to the site.

The annual Christmas banquet will be held on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific 41 Restaurant. This also serves as the annual meeting for the club with the installation of officers. Reservation should be made with Sigi.

On Saturday at 0000Z the club will participate in the CQ WW DX contest. Jordan and John are coordinating the event. People are needed to help man the station.

It was voted that the club should sponsor examination twice a year in November and in March. The secretary is to contact Dave the VEC regarding the holding of the exams. Jeff reported that the Okachobee Hamfest will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November and the Tampa meeting will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. The Tampa meeting will also host the ARRL West Central Florida section meeting at the same time.

New club members are David Ducett, WB8VQU, Sonny Nelson, KB9ETQ, and Diana Nelson, KB9GAW.

Dale gave a report on the activities scheduled at the EOC. He indicated that the repeater was down pending the replacement of the antenna

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted

G. William Reynolds

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## Christmas Party and Annual Meeting

On December 5, 2001 we have the Christmas party at the Pacific 41 Restaurant.

Beginning with Cocktail hour at 6 pm.

You select from the menu, what you like to eat. At 7 pm we have dinner. There after Santa is coming and brings goodies, To this persons who brought one.

After all the gifts are giving, that end's the party. Hope to see you all next year.

73 de Sigi and Hanni.

Call Sigi for Reservations at 598-1`353

## **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 - 147.030 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/ Chairmen:**

**President – KE4JZT - A.D.**

**e-mail – [ke4jzt@aol.com](mailto:ke4jzt@aol.com)**

**Vice President – NJ2F - Jeff**

**e-mail – [NJ2F@aol.com](mailto:NJ2F@aol.com)**

**Secretary/Treasurer – K2ZEL, Bill**

**e-mail – [nfn06232@naples.net](mailto:nfn06232@naples.net)**

**Past President – AD4TR, Martin**

**e-mail – [ad4tr@aol.com](mailto:ad4tr@aol.com)**

**Repeater Trustee – WA1QDP - Mark**

**e-mail—[wa1qdp@aol.com](mailto:wa1qdp@aol.com)**

**Club Chat Node – N4VMT – Phil**

**e-mail – [n4vmt@aol.com](mailto:n4vmt@aol.com)**

**Newsletter Editor – K2ZEL – Bill**

**e-mail – [nfn06232@naples.net](mailto:nfn06232@naples.net)**

**Training Committee – AD4TR**

**Webmaster - KE4KTZ - Glenn**

**e-mail - [ke4ktz@amsat.org](mailto:ke4ktz@amsat.org)**

**Dinner Meeting Chairman - W2JQ, Sigi**

**e-mail - [w2jq@peganet.com](mailto:w2jq@peganet.com)**

**Awards Manager - KD4VRZ, Gary**

**e-mail - [grandall@phase2net.com](mailto:grandall@phase2net.com)**

## **December Contests**

**7-9 ARRL 160 Meter Contest**

**15 OK DX RTTY Contest**

**16-16 ARRL 10 Meter Contest**

**15-16 Croatian CW Contest**

**16 RAC Canada Winter Contest**

## **Hamfests**

### **December**

**1-2 Tampa Bay Hamfest**

### **January**

**11-12 Ft. Myers ARA**

**19-20 Sarasota ARA**

**26 Desota ARC**

**It is rumored that both WB2QLP and NJ2F  
worked Alaska on 18 Nov. 2001 completing  
50 state WAS. Congratulations!!!!**