



# ARASWF

## *Newsletter*



Vol.XVII No.4

April 2001

The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

### **Highlights for April 24 Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida will be filled with a variety of information for all club members. The meeting will start with the usual reports but will quickly get into the important upcoming activities. On the docket for discussion will be a report from the committee that visited the new Red Cross facility. The committee consisting of Mike, N4XSE, Jordan, WB2QLP, and Fred, KF4MJJ, will make recommendations regarding a station to be housed at the facility. There will be an open discussion on this report. Next there will be a report from George, N3ISH, regarding the progress in the planning for the Field Day. There will be Don's, WD4FLY, report on the walkathon and matters regarding the community service of the club. Don will also have comments on the shirts, caps, and t-shirts. Jeff, NJ2F, will pass along information related to the Florida QSO party scheduled for the last weekend of this month. This will be followed by other old business and then New Business.

The program presentation this month will be given by our own resident professor, Bill - K2ZEL. The topic will be "A Soundboard Smorgasbord". Bill will demonstrate the computer software that is available from the internet which will marry your computer to your transceiver for digital communications (additional information later in this issue). Bill has been a ham since 1957 and was very active in VHF prior to retiring here in southwest Florida. He is professor emeritus Physics at the State University of New York, Albany where he taught 25 years. He is also a retired engineering specialist electronics from the U.S. Navy. He was a pioneer in the use and application of microprocessor in the research laboratory for control and analysis applications. He assembled his first microcomputer in 1975 using an 8080 microprocessor wrote the basic operating system in machine code for the unit. His current ham activities are in the digital communications applications on all bands.

de Jeff, NJ2F



## Red Cross Committee Report

On the morning of Friday, April 6, 2001 ARASWF members Mike Spencer N4XSE, Fred Edwards KF4MJJ & Jordan Mash WB2QLP met with officials of the Collier County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Plans are being discussed regarding the setting up of an Amateur Radio station in their new facility located near the intersection of I-75 & Immokalee Rd. in North Naples.

Our club members were warmly welcomed and were given a tour of the new ARC building by Mr. Mike Meyerson, Chair for Disaster Planning , ARC, Collier County. He informed our group of the willingness to have a Ham Radio Station located in their new building to provide disaster and emergency communications, should the need ever arise. Currently there are no means of any type of radio communications set up there and the ARC personnel can only talk to their field vehicles by means of cell phone.

Mike, Fred and Jordan were shown an area in a secure room where the ham radio station would be located , and in the parking lot just outside a location was discussed where a 40-50 ft. tower would be installed to support the HF, VHF & ARC comm antennas.

The ARASWF members assured the ARC that all of the equipment needed to set up and sustain such a station would come from contributions from other ARASWF members and no expense would be incurred by the ARC. All of the labor for setting up the station , computers, towers and antennas would be furnished by volunteer members of the ARASWF.

There has been no date yet for the initial set up to begin, but June 1 ( official start of hurricane season ) was mentioned as the completion deadline. We hope to be 'on the air' from that site on or before that date.

The next step in this process is obtaining the approval from the ARC and the Board of Directors of the local ARC chapter. To do this, the committee is preparing a drawing that will show all of the existing conditions , and the proposed installation improvements, including the location of the tower, station location , storage areas needed, etc. This drawing will be used to obtain a permit for the tower and the installation details. The approvals by the ARC are probably perfunctory. However , the committee feels that the ARC should handle this relationship 'by the book' so we are documenting everything to avoid any misunderstanding.

If any members have any equipment , antennas, computers or accessories ( tables, chairs, lamps, storage cabinets, etc. ) that they

(continued)

would like to donate to this cause, please contact Mike ,Fred or Jordan.

Further updates will be posted to next month's newsletter and discussion about this project will be heard at the April meeting .

We hope to see you there for your input.....

73 de WB2QLP (for the committee)

(WB2QLP and KF4MJJ with Pat B. (Red Cross official) in picture)

---

## A Soundboard Smorgasbord

The personal computer has become an everyday component of the twenty-first century amateur radio station. The primary use is for maintaining the station log and log related activities. Also most modern amateur transceivers have a control port by which they can be computer controlled. The computer has been and is still used as the terminal for the terminal node controller that is used for the more traditional digital modes.

During the past two years there has been an upsurge in the development of digital signal processor (DSP) applications for both the traditional and the newer digital modes. The DSP hardware with appropriate software continues to be the latest in the traditional signal enhancement process throughout the hobby.

The current trend centers around the built-in "DSP" hardware (the sound card) which has become a standard feature on all the current personal computers. A number of bright, young amateurs have developed a number of applications which use the sound card to decode the received digital transmissions and to encode the transmitted digital transmission. These applications are available either free or at a low cost to the amateur community. There are applications for CW, PSK31, PSK63, MFSK16, MFSK8, RTTY, Hellschreiber, Throb, SSTV, and Packet.

The url for several of the more popular internet sites which will link you to the downloads are listed here in the order of my favorites.

1. <http://www.digitalham.net>
2. <http://qsl.net/wm2u>
3. <http://www.muenster.de/~welp>
4. <http://www.ac6v.com>

---

## Dinner Meeting

The dinner meeting was held on the fourth of April, in the Pacific 41 Restaurant. We had 14 hungry people present, and it was a pleasure to see what how the food disappeared. We also had 3 persons, who have there birthday in April, announced, with one person having birthday on the day of the dinner meeting. The Owner of the Restaurant presented one peace of cake with a candle on it, and the waitresses sang the birthday song, where everyone was singing along. The next dinner meeting will be on May 2nd. Please make your reservation with me per E-Mail. " w2jq@peganet.com " or by Phone "598-1353 " TNX 73 de Sigi

## Florida QSO Party

Have you ever wanted to feel like a rare DX station? To have people coming back to your CQ's rather than you calling them? Your chance to do so big time is next weekend - its: **The Florida QSO Party**

The goal of the Florida QSO Party is to activate Florida Hams. Hams from all over the world will be looking for Floridians next weekend and you could be the rare DX they seek!

It is a very straight forward contest, with CW and SSB QSOs on 10/15/20 and 40 meters.

The exchanges are:

(A) Florida stations send signal report and county.

(B) W/VE stations (including KH6/KL7) send signal report and state or province.

(C) DX stations (including KH2/KP4, etc.) send signal report and DX.

So, as a Florida ham you will send a report and your county... this is what the other stations are collecting - their goal being to "sweep" all 67 Florida counties - several stations did this during last years running of the FQP. In addition to home stations activating Florida's counties there will be over 10 mobile teams criss crossing Florida to try and make a "clean sweep" of Florida counties a reality for as many out of state participants as possible - last year we had one station in Lithuania who only missed the "clean sweep" by 2 counties!

What are the hours?

Contest Period: Last full weekend of April. There are two operating periods. 1600Z 28 April - 0159Z 29 April and 1200Z - 2159Z 29 April. 20 hours total. All stations may operate the full 20 hours.

What are the Frequencies?

Suggested frequencies: CW - plus or minus 35 kHz up, and plus or minus 10 kHz up for Novices/Technicians. Phone - plus or minus 7.260, 14.260, 21.335, and 28.485 MHz. Look for SSB activity on the hour and CW on the half hour. Fixed stations are urged to call CQ above/below these suggested frequencies to keep them clear for low power mobile operations. No 160 or 80 meters, WARC bands, or VHF bands. Why no 80/75 meters? Because many of the counties are being activated by mobile stations and it is virtually impossible to put out a good signal on 75 meters with a mobile whip - plus - the operating schedule is predominantly daylight hours allowing the mobile teams to spend a night in a hotel in the middle of their route before hitting the pavement on Sunday. Besides, since the goal is not for Florida hams to talk to each other but to QSO the rest of the world, there is not really a need for 75 or 80!

The first of the two ten hour periods starts on Saturday at Noon local (1600 UTC) and then Sunday's 10 hour period starts at 8:00 AM (1200 UTC). REMEMBER since you are the sought after station it is necessary for you to call CQ, very few stations outside of Florida will be calling CQ Florida - it is up to you to call "CQ Florida QSO Party".

for more go to <http://www.qsl.net/fqpp>

## **2001 Florida Governor's Conference with ARES/RACES**

Training on May 15 in Tampa, FL. Gary Arnold, WB2WPA, from Collier Co. will begin the Orientation at 1:30 PM. Speakers include N3BDW, Mgr. Hurricane Watch Net; WD4JR and KU4GY from the National Hurricane Center, and KG5QD from Collier ARES RACES. Contact Gary for more info at [garnold@naples.net](mailto:garnold@naples.net).

---

### **FIELD DAY 2001**

#### **PREPARING FOR THE BIG EMERGENCY**

THE LAST WEEKEND OF JUNE EVERY YEAR, THE HAM RADIO COMMUNITY IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA HAS A DRILL IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. THIS IS THE BIGGEST EVENT IN HAM RADIO FOR THE YEAR. THE RADIO CLUBS SETUP THEIR EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT TO PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY. THEY HAVE TO SETUP RADIOS, GENERATORS, ANTENNAS, POWER CORDS, COMPUTERS, AND ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT THAT WILL MAKE FIELD DAY A SUCCESS. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE ARE READY IF THE EMERGENCY COMES OUR WAY. THE HAM RADIO PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS INVOLVED IN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. WHEN THERE ARE EARTH QUAKES, TORNADOS, HURRICANES AND OTHER DISASTERS, ALWAYS READY TO LEND A HELPING HAND. PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AROUND HAM RADIO HAVE NO IDEA THE HOURS THAT MANY HAMS PUT IN A YEAR TRYING TO HELP PEOPLE THAT ARE IN NEED. TODAY WE ARE COMING TO YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN PREPARING FOR SUCH AN EMERGENCY. WE WANT TO HAVE OUR TEST IN A PARK SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF NAPLES AND SURROUNDING AREAS CAN STOP IN AND SEE WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR THEIR PROTECTION. WE ARE PUTTING AN EFFORT IN SO THAT WHEN AN EMERGENCY COMES OUR WAY, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO HANDLE THE TRAFFIC THAT WILL HAVE TO BE SENT. YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT DURING HURRICANES WE ARE IN THE EOC RUNNING THE RADIOS FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR PEOPLE HERE IN COLLIER COUNTY. NOW IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO HELP US IN OUR QUEST TO KEEP PEOPLE AS SAFE AS WE CAN. WE WILL HAVE TV AND RADIO COVERAGE OF OUR EVENT SO THAT THE PEOPLE HERE COLLIER COUNTY KNOW THAT SOMEONE IS TAKING TIME TO CARE FOR THEM. PLEASE HELP US IN OUR PRACTICE. WE HOPE THAT THE EMERGENCY NEVER COMES BUT IF IT DOES, WE WILL BE PREPARED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PLEASE HELP YOUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## **The President's Comment**

Here it's May almost and it sure fills like it. Summer heat starting to build up. The HF bands have not been the best the last week or so but 6 meters, that another story, the South Pacific has been coming in great and South America too. Dont have much else to say except I hope to see you at Field Day 73 KE4JZT A.D.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN MAY TO N9BHC , WA3JGC , KD4VRY, NY1H

---

## **From the Editor**

Well it has been an interesting month. As you can see from this issue the scheduled meeting of the club this month will have a lot of business for discussion. The committee chairmen and the officers have done an excellent job this past month in preparing their reports for you in preparation for the meeting.

In addition last month a bill was presented in the state legislature relating to amateur radio antennas, It is supposed to provide criteria for the permitting and installation of poles, masts, and towers for supporting antennas used in the operation of amateur radio stations licensed by the FCC, and to provide an effective date. This bill has undergone some revisions since its original introduction. I downloaded the six pages of the bill Monday the 16th and have read it. There was a response from the ARRL section manager of the 11th of April indicating that the current version affected Dade and Miami counties primarily. The version I downloaded did not have that limitation and at the writing of this note. As I read it now it appears to affect the entire state. On the 28th of March the Collier county EOC indicated opposition to the act as written then.

This bill is important to all of us as it defines the guidelines for the various zoning agencies in permitting and inspection of the antenna support structures that we need for use in our pursuit of our hobby and in carrying out our obligation to communications support in public emergencies.

To read the bill and to decide how to respond to your legislator go to the internet site <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/> and look up senate bill sb1502. Remember this is your hobby!

I know it is the time of the year when our winter visitors are getting ready to return north for the summer months. We wish them all a safe journey, and remind them to let me know when to change their mailing address for the next few months. Have a good summer and we will see you again next fall.

De Bill - K2ZEL

# **Meeting April 24, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.**

## 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](mailto:ad4tr@aol.com)

Vice President – WA3TIH - John.

e-mail – [nfn06110@naples.net](mailto:nfn06110@naples.net)

Secretary/Treasurer – KF4MJJ - Fred

e-mail – [edwardf@crossnet.org](mailto:edwardf@crossnet.org)

Past President – KE4RGH – Bill

e-mail – [ke4rgh@mediaone.net](mailto:ke4rgh@mediaone.net)

Repeater Trustee – WA1QDP - Mark

e-mail [wa1qdp@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wa1qdp@worldnet.att.net)

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)

## For Sale

KE4KCT has the following items for sale

LA-1000 NT Amp	400
Kenwood SP120	75
Kenwood SWR power 2000	80
Kenwood SWR power 200	80
Kenwood 440 HF xcvr	600
MFJ 949 Tuner	80
MFJ 259	175
Larson thru glass Dual	50
Sq 7900 Dual	50
Outbacker Ant hf	100
FP752HD pwr sup	100
Timewave DSP9	90
Alinco 580 dual bander HT	250
Alinco EJFIT 2m HT	200

Call Charles Frost @ 793-4024 to negotiate

## Contest Corner

4/28,29/01	Florida QSO Party
4/28,29/01	Helvetia DX Contest
5/5,6/01	ARI Intl,Dx contest
5/12,14/01	CQ-M Intl DX contest
5/19,20/01	Baltic Contest
5/26,27/01	CQ WW WPX CW Contest

