



# ARASWF

## *Newsletter*



Vol.XVII No.8

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The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

### K4YHB IS NOW 'ON THE AIR' FROM RED CROSS HQ.

As of Monday, August 20, the Amateur Radio Station that was planned for the American Red Cross HQ. months ago is finally a reality. The Mosley TA-33 HF Beam antenna was installed there today with the help of an FPL 'cherry picker' boom truck.

FPL Lineman and truck operator, Tonie Sutton, KE4KRY, was instrumental in installing the Red Cross & Amateur Radio communication antennas. Last week, after a 'work party' made up of volunteer club members, was unable to get the big Tribander up on the 40 ft. tower due to the intense August heat, Jordan, WB2QLP, contacted an old friend, Tonie, KE4KRY, of Ft. Myers and asked for his assistance with the project.

Jordan knew Tonie worked for FPL for a long time and his job entailed working with a 55 ft. boom truck. Tonie was very glad to be of assistance to his fellow amateurs and the Red Cross. It was just what was needed to complete this project safely and quickly.

Once the beam was up on the tower, the coax was fed into the new 'shack' and the antenna was checked with a MFJ antenna analyzer. The SWR was perfect on all the bands. Now to hook up the rig and call CQ! The first QSO was on 20m SSB with a AG4/mobile in Michigan. The signal was 20db over S9... After clearing with the Mich. station, a YN7 called and also gave a strong signal report ( off the back of the beam ). The antenna was working FB ! After a few more DX QSO's, the station went QRT and secured.

In the coming weeks a few additional items and features will be installed at the new station. In addition to providing emergency communications when needed, plans are to have 2m Packet, Computers with Internet capability, and HF / VHF Contesting available to club members.

If any club members have ideas for additional features for this station, please make them known at future club meetings.

de WB2QLP

8/20/01

## President's Comments

Hurricane Season! We so far have been lucky again, let us hope it holds out for the next two months. But we have been preparing for the the worst with the installation of the tower and radio equipment at the Red Cross Building. When driving North on I 75 and crossing over Exit 17 take a look to the East! You will see the hard work that has been done by our Club. Its a wonderful site, 38 feet of tower with antennas on top of it. Which brings me to the next Club meeting. We need to come up with rules and guide lines on how this Station can be used by all Club members. So please come to the meeting and give us your comments and suggestions on this matter. So I hope to see you there. Also its time to start thinking about officers for the coming year.

73 KE4JZT

## Notes from VEEP

I am writing this from my vacation spot in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. I hope everyone is enjoying the hurricane - free season we are having so far. Let's hope it stays this way. Just a couple of reminders. There will be a hamfest in Tampa on Aug.25. Details are available in the August issue of QST. Also, on ept. 8th will be the Melbourne Hamfest. This event will be on the same date as the RRL Sept. VHF QSO Party. This VHF contest starts 1800 gmt on Saturday the 8th and runs until 0300 utc (11pm Sunday night). Hope to see some of you at the Hamfest and also work some of you during the VHF contest.

73 for now. de

## Tower Work Crew at Red Cross



## Minutes of July Meeting

The July meeting of the ARASWF was called to order on July 24, 2001 at 7:30 pm by the president KE4JZT. There were eighteen members and guests present. The secretary reported the statistics from Field Day as the minutes for the June outing. The treasurer reported that all current bills have been paid and that the treasury had a balance of \$1524.50.

New members received were N1JZJ, Richard Giampieto, W4TVQ, Art Hale, and KF4GIF, Peggy Hale (xyl).

WB2QLP reported on the progress on the installation of the tower at the Red Cross Chapter House. The hole has been dug and the steel is in place for the inspection. Following the inspection the concrete will be poured and when cured the tower will be installed. There are some items still needed for the station. Jordan will provide a list of those needs.

After some discussion the secretary was directed to investigate the possibility of holding our regular meetings at the Red Cross. If possible the secretary was directed to pencil in the availability of our future meetings there. It was also suggested that the availability of the classroom for a future class for amateurs be also investigated.

Eric, W4GIZ, reported on the Skywarn program and announced that there would be a class for those interested in the program in the near future.

Eric, KD4DZW, reported that equipment from the estate of silent key WB2WPA would be on display at Naples

Radio for those interested in purchasing the same from the estate.

Dale, KG5QD, reported that the vanity call WB2WPA has been requested for the EOC in memory of Gary. He also reported that the packet BBS has been taken down but there will be available a packet node for use during emergency communications. Much of the past month has been devoted to cleaning and reorganization.

N3ISH and NV4Z were commended for their outstanding job in chairing and organizing the field day activities. AD expressed thanks to all those who came out and participated in the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

G. Wm. Reynolds, K2ZEL, Sec.



# Next Meeting on August 28, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.

## **Amateur Radio Station at Red Cross is Step Closer to Reality**

The ARASWF club radio station that will be located at the Collier County Chapter of the American Red Cross became a step closer to reality on Saturday, July 28. On that morning, a volunteer 'work ' party comprised of club officers and members met there to install the concrete base for the antenna tower which will be erected in the coming weeks.

Club officers, KE4JZT & NJ2F, and members KQ0Q, KF4MJJ, & WB2QLP met in the rear parking lot of the ARC facility early Saturday morning to pour the concrete base for the 40 ft. antenna tower. The necessary tools, 10-80lb. bags of concrete mix and 'expertise' were supplied by KE4JZT and the 'labor' was supplied by ALL. The project was going along smooth until they ran out of concrete mix in mid pour!

A visit to the nearby hardware store revealed that they had just sold out their entire stock of concrete mix to another customer just moments earlier. So a trip to the Lowe's Home Improvement Center was necessary to purchase an additional ten 80 lb. bags of the needed concrete mix. Problem solved !

The pour resumed, the hole was filled and the tilt-over base plate and wall bracket were temporarily placed to assure the base bolts were properly positioned. The project was successfully completed in about 2 hours time.

It was estimated that the 1600 lb. base should take a few days to cure and harden sufficiently before the Rohn

tower can be installed. Another work party of volunteers will be needed in the coming weeks to erect the tower and install the antennas.

The current plans call for a HF Tri-band beam, a 2 meter SSB / FM beam for amateur communications use, and a 47 Mhz vertical for the Red Cross communications to be installed on the tower.

Presently, the donations from club members include an Icom HF Transceiver with power supply, a Rohn tower with accessories and antennas along with a computer. Before this station becomes fully functional, a few additional items will be needed. We are in need of an antenna rotor with control box, rotor cable and coax. Other incidental items needed are clocks, lamps, and fans.

Please contact N4XSE, KF4MJJ or WB2QLP if you have any of these items to donate to this station.

The process of planning and setting up this station has taken a bit longer than originally anticipated. There were some unforeseen events that delayed the entire process. We hope to be on the air in the very near future and use of the station will be open to all club members.

by WB2QLP -

# **Next Meeting on August 28, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.**



## The Editor's Report

This past month has been a very busy month for a number of our members as they have worked very hard in preparing the station at the Red Cross Chapter House. The picture at the left shows John going eenie meenie moe trying to select the appropriate bolts for assembling the tower, beam, etc on August 11th. The crew included WB2QLP, K2ZEL, KE4JZT, KG4NBB, KD4LXZ, KG5QD, KQ4Q, and KD4VRY. The other pictures in this issue show the crew hard at work during the morning. The following weekend the group completed the hole in the wall for the cables and on the 20th as reported on the front page the basic antennas are all up and tested. The station still needs another 2m FM rig for use with the repeaters and with EOC. We also need a rotor w/ cables and control to replace the one that is on loan. We also need antenna tuners (2) and we will also be getting a G5RV wire antenna for the station. The guide sheet for station use still needs to be prepared and the sign-in and logs have to be prepared. It is anticipated that club members will be able to use the station during normal working hours and at other time with appropriate prior arrangement for contests etc. The club will be looking for a set of operators to man this station during declared emergencies

As indicated in the minutes of the last meeting, I met with the executive director and the disaster chairman of the Red Cross prior to the work session to discuss the possibility of holding our regular meetings at the Chapter House. They are very willing for our group to meet there in one of the classrooms. They also have indicated that we can hold amateur radio classes there on the same site with advance coordination so as not to interfere with their regularly scheduled classes as a part of their program. This proposal will be discussed at the August meeting and if the membership is agreeable the meeting place will be change effective with the October meeting. Any change will be announced in the newsletter and on the repeater before it takes effect.

## Skywarn

There is a tentative date for basic skywarn training on Saturday September 22, 2001 at 10 AM. The training will be held at the Collier County EOC. All those wanting to attend please e-mail me at w4giz@arrl.net and let me know. I would like to have an idea of what the class size will be. You may also get information on Collier County Skywarn at [www.wxnet.org](http://www.wxnet.org) Thanks and hope to see you there.

Eric Gissendaner / W4GIZ

Collier County Skywarn Coordinator

w4giz@arrl.net

## 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

Vice President - NJ2F - Jeff

e-mail - NJ2F@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer - K2ZEL, Bill

e-mail - nfn06232@naples.net

Past President - AD4TR, Martin

e-mail - ad4tr@aol.com

Repeater Trustee - WA1QDP - Mark

e-mail - wa1qdp@aol.com

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

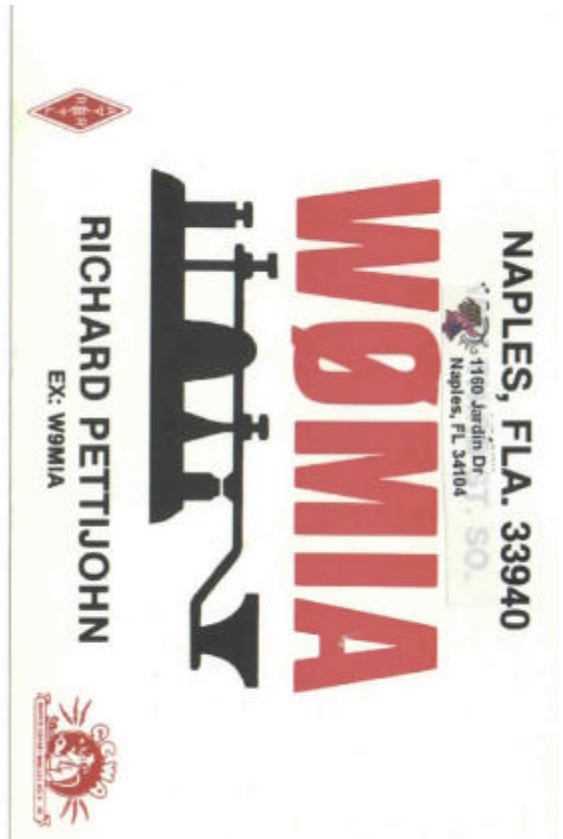
e-mail - ke4ktz@amsat.org

Dinner Meeting Chairman - W2JQ, Sigi

e-mail - w2jq@peganet.com

Awards Manager - KD4VRZ, Gary

e-mail - grandall@phase2net.com



### From the Webmaster

Here are two url's which came to my attention recently. They have some information that might be of use to you.

<http://www.qsl.net/hamguide> and

<http://www.radiostoreplus.com>

Be sure to check out the club home page for links and other good information.

De Glenn KE4KTZ

**Will We See You At The  
Next Club Meeting  
August 28, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.**