



# ARASWF

## NEWSLETTER



Vol. XX No. 7 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida September 2004

*From the Desk of Acting President, Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:*

This has been a summer like no other in Collier County. For as long as I can remember, and I've lived here 30+ years, we've never experienced as many hurricane threats and 'close calls' as we've had this year, in such a short span of time. And the season isn't over yet ! There are a few more storms out there, off the coast of Africa in the Atlantic in, 'hurricane alley' lining up heading in our direction.

Now, is not the time, to let our guard down. We must remain at the ready and be prepared to deal with anything that comes our way. We are truly lucky here in Naples to have escaped so many 'near misses' in the past, and more recently, from Charley, Frances and Ivan. When you see all the death, destruction, and loss of homes and businesses that were caused by these hurricanes, you can't help but think how blessed we are.

Of all the licensed hams in Collier County, and there are over 400, active or inactive, only a small handful of them were generous enough to volunteer their time and effort to man the EOC, the Red Cross and the Evacuation shelters that were activated during both hurricane events. These people left their families and homes in order to provide the emergency communications necessary between these sites when the power and telephone service was out, and cell phones were unreliable. Some of these individuals went up to the 'disaster zone' in Charlotte County to lend a hand and assist with E-Comms there for a few days. This is what 'real hams' do in times of need. It is one of the basic reasons why we are Amateur Radio Operators. They all deserve our appreciation and congratulations for their efforts. Hopefully, in future events, we will have more participation from ARASWF members to assist the people of Collier County and to give something back to this community we live in.

At our next meeting, we will share some of the things all of us experienced during these events, and how to be better prepared for the next time. That might just be next week !

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on Tuesday , Sept. 28 @ 1930 lcl at the Red Cross Chapter House.

Take Care, Stay SAFE.... 73 de WB2QLP Jordan

Treasurer's Report from Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL

Treasurer's Report Sept. 22, 2004

Balance on hand Aug 31, 2004		\$2489.19
Income		
Refund from Sprint	\$14.43	
Books sales class	158.50	
Dues	50.00	
Total	222.94	2712.12
Deposit error Aug	+33.50	2745.62
Expenses Sept	0.00	
Balance on Hand		\$2745.62

Submitted  
G. Wm. Reynolds, K2ZEL  
Treasurer

Report on Classes from Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL

This past month has been a trial for both teachers and students with the EMC activating for the hurricanes. The course lost 3 scheduled class sessions but have extended the course up through the exam date.  
The instructor pool includes K2ZEL, WD4FLY, W4MWZ, and KI4AIM. There are still 15 students active in the course.

**\*\* SWAP SHOP \*\***

**Icom 745 in good condition.** Was gone over by Scott Malcom and have worked CW and Phone yesterday with good reports and no tuner! No mike but I have tested it with two Icom mikes; pinout being the same. Covers 160 to 10 meter and general coverage. The unit comes with it's matching Icom power supply, PS-15, also in fine shape, original box. Original Manual included. The unit is stock, that is no extra FM module, mods or filters have been added. \$375 not including shipping or insurance. Call Jean, KI4DBJ at 353-9735 or e-mail: KI4DBJ@aol.com for more information.

*Editor's Note: These communications included at the request of Acting President Jordan Mash, WB2QLP, for the information of the general membership:*

09/09/2004

Please pass on to the members of ARASWF that the ARC is a little disappointed in the support they've received in exchange for the use of their facility. For those who have enjoyed the benefits of a comfortable facility for meetings, etc., I would ask that they're expecting very little in return to return the favor. Anyway, what else are people going to do during a hurricane, if they decide to stay. Might as well perform a service to the hosting organization.

Please pass this on.

Rick

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Richard A. Zyvoloski Jr, KG4WSG, CEM, FPEM  
Coordinator, Collier County Emergency Management &  
SKYWARN Coordinator  
Department Website: <http://www.collierem.org/>  
SKYWARN Website: <http://www.collierem.org/skywarn.htm>  
3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Bldg. F  
Naples, FL 34112

Office: 239-774 8444  
Fax: 239-775-5008/774-8354  
Pager: 239-982-1931

\* \* \* \* \*

09/09/2004

Hello Rick:

As acting President of the ARASWF, and as a 2X participant of both hurricane 'events' at the ARC, i was curious as to what was said to you from the ARC regarding the participation of ARASWF members . I, too, was dissappointed at our club's lack of participation in the E-Comms in both events. There were about 7 or 8 club members that manned the shelters and the ARC during both events. They were mainly the same people both times. A few different members became available for the Frances 'event' .

As you know , we had radio ops set up at 4 of the 6 shelters open in the Naples area, as well as at the ARC and th EOC. On Sat

nite, David Wiegel, KD4JEZ, ( not a current ARASWF member ) showed up at the Immokalee shelter and operated from there.

While MOST of these folks had little or no experience handling 'traffic' and many of them are new hams, I feel that with the limited training they had and what they had to deal with in unfamiliar and ill-equipped shelters, they ALL did an OUTSTANDING service. They ALL should be congratulated for a 'JOB WELL DONE ' .

I realize that we , the ARASWF , have a letter of understanding with the ARC to provide man power to provide communications for the shelters that are open during an emergency. We do the best we can with what we have available at the time ! Yes, there are literally hundreds of hams in the Collier County area, but most of them are NOT ARASWF or ARES members, nor are they active in the hobby. So the pool of resources that this large group could provide goes untapped.

I was personally thanked for our ( ARASWF ) assistance by both the Administrator and Asst. Administrator of the ARC during the Charley and Frances operations, and was told how much we helped them when their cell phones were not working or unreliable.

The operators at K4YHB were in constant comm , around the clock, with the shelters as well as the EOC. We will continue to do so if called upon again with the manpower we have available on hand at the time.

Respectfully,

73 de WB2QLP     Jordan Mash     ( acting Pres. ARASWF )

\* \* \* \* \*

*And This from RL Caron, K4GP, on the subject:*

Hearing that the Red Cross, reacting to the feeble response by radio operators in recent emergencies, did not feel the ham community was giving an adequate level of service in return for the use of facilities at the Naples HQ prompted me to put some thoughts to paper. Your club president, WB2QLP, asked me to submit it for publication in the newsletter.

Yes, there are altogether too many "credential collectors" out there who want to look important to their friends but always seem to find more compelling things to do when the need for their services arise. The ham community once again came close to

embarrassment on Hurricane Frances Sunday when both the Internet and the phones went down in the southern part of the state. The Collier 800 radio system continued to work, but had it also failed, even partially, safety and welfare traffic would have looked to ham radio for relief. I can assure you we would have not been up to the task. Not even close. Only a few hams, not even a dozen, among the several hundred in the county saw fit to donate time and effort to the cause of shelter communications and providing backup for existing services. By the time of the phone outage, many had already logged over 24 hours and a call on the 03 repeater for additional hams to go on standby only produced one response. A visiting ham from California, barely rested from having given two weeks of his time in Punta Gorda, stepped up to the plate and was at the EOC within 30 minutes. But absolutely nobody else responded, even though at least 10 other hams saw fit to "check in" at various stages of the emergency...not to volunteer to actually do any work...but to ask banal questions or make useless observations.

We owe a big hand to the small group of hams, several recently licensed, who have served long hours in one or both of the prior emergencies. But the vast majority of ticket holders in this area have so far been missing in action. This is not an indictment of hams who are public safety professionals or who otherwise have genuine obligations elsewhere (like the Marco Island group that has done an outstanding job for their own city.) Most of those who are unable to wear their ham radio hats full time during an emergency find ways to contribute at more opportune moments. But for the vast majority of amateur radio operators, service during an emergency is one of the few ways we have to "pay" for the billions of dollars worth of spectrum we have reserved--most of the time for relatively trivial uses. In times of crisis, when our "low tech" radios may be the only way to provide needed links in and out of disasters, we are expected to be there. By failing to rise to the occasion we are loudly inviting those who covet the spectrum we occupy to make a move on our frequencies.

At this writing, we are facing the possibility of another storm, the third in less than a month. Ham radio will once again be put to the test. It's obvious that with 9 shelters to cover, plus the EOC, and with some reserve for the unexpected, we will need far many more than the relative handful of participants who have made themselves available so far. I sincerely hope to be proven wrong, but my experience so far doesn't not arouse much optimism. In post analysis of the prior storms, several who did not serve asked why we had not called them by telephone or otherwise not made an effort to chase them down. Some offered pitifully weak excuses like "My battery went dead." or "I couldn't find my microphone."

An organized telephone bank or cars roaming neighborhoods with loudspeakers might be the only effective way of getting the passive out of their dream world and into action. But with fewer than a dozen people sharing a load that should be borne by a hundred or more, priorities dictate those already activated spend their precious time tending to the more urgent demands of the moment.

Am I unreasonable in expecting hams to interpret the pending arrival of a major hurricane as creating a need for an extra level of communications capability? Or that

they should take the initiative of listening to the county repeater for information? Am I showing my curmudgeon side by resenting people who "check in" to the emergency net but have nothing of value to contribute other than the clever new phonetics they have found for their overly-repeated call letters? NA6M becomes "Never Around Six Meters." Am I expected to laugh uncontrollably and roll on the floor of net control when I hear tripe like that?

C'mon folks. It's time to give something back besides your professional-grade wit. And there is no better way to do that than to serve in a genuine communications emergency. And who knows, you might just learn something new and meet a few nice people on the way.

There is another round of praise due, to those who have organized and are teaching the ham radio classes in the area. These dedicated individuals, several of whom also do emergency duty, are helping save the hobby from itself. I am not alone in believing that many of these newly-minted hams will play a significant role in the future of the ARES emergency communications effort in Collier County.

Good luck on the test, folks. We need your help.

RL Caron, K4GP

Visit our Club Web Site at: [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org)

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 28, 2004  
7:30 PM - RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE**