



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



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From "Acting" President, Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

That Was The Week That Was (TW 3)

There were 2 notable news items of great importance that occurred last week . Of course one was Hurricane Charley, the other, the sudden resignation of ARASWF Club Pres. Mark Kennedy, WA4MK.

We all made it through the worst storm to hit us in Southwest Florida's history. It appears that there were no fatalities or serious injuries that occurred in the Naples area as a result of Hurricane Charley. That's incredibly GOOD news for us. We were very lucky here in Collier County to escape the wrath of a Cat 4 Hurricane that came so close. Our neighbors to the immediate north in Lee & Charlotte Counties were not so fortunate. There was major devastation in some areas and there were at least a dozen deaths attributed directly to the storm. That total is expected to go higher as more inspections of destroyed residences are made in the upcoming days. Locally, we sustained some minor damage to homes and businesses. It was mostly roofs and vegetation that suffered the most damage. Commercial power was out for many almost the entire weekend.

The Collier EOC and the Red Cross were activated on Thursday , Aug 12 in advance of the storm. Local hams from around the county participated and manned the communications positions at both facilities as well as the 3 shelters that were activated. Members of the ARES group: Fred, KF4MJJ - R.L., K4GP - and Jerry, KG4NBB manned the EOC and the WB2WPA Repeater (147.03) . The Red Cross station was staffed by ARASWF club members, Carl - KI4AII, Alan - KF4OXE & Jordan - WB2QLP. At the local shelters were : Paul - K9OLE at Barron Collier HS, Rodney, KI4DBI at Gulf Coast HS and Jean, KI4DBJ was at Corkscrew Middle School.

All of these gentleman did an outstanding job over the entire period and congratulations should go out to all for a job well done. Some of these people were at their positions until Sunday night, 48 hrs after the storm had passed. Although there was a small turnout overall, these men got the job done. Hopefully, if there is ever a next time , we'll have a larger participation from our club members.

On Wednesday afternoon, Aug.11, many club members were all shocked to learn about the sudden resignation of the ARASWF Club President, Mark Kennedy, WA4MK. No one was more shocked than myself. I was told the bad news on the air at the same time as many other club members on the 146.64 rprr. In his letter of resignation, Mark stated that personal health concerns were the reason for his decision. Mark deserves our sincere appreciation for all he has done for the ARASWF. It will be hard to find someone who will give the ARASWF as much time and dedication as Mark has given. There were many positive advancements that he was responsible for that benefitted the Club during his time as president.

Mark, we ALL wish you well and good health in the future. Your shoes will be hard to fill.

As acting temporary ARASWF President , I ask for your patience and assistance for myself and the other Club officers by understanding the difficult position for which we have been suddenly placed.

Our next meeting, on Tuesday Aug.24 is a very important meeting. The future of the ARASWF is at stake. I hope we have a large turnout to discuss the future plans and direction for the ARASWF.

73 de WB2QLP Jordan

Visit our Club Web Site at: www.araswf.org

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - AUGUST 24, 2004 7:30 PM - RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE

Copy of letter from Mark Kennedy, WA4MK:

**AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
OF
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

Red Cross Chapter House
Northbrooke Plaza Drive
Naples, Florida

Mark Kennedy, WA4MK
President, ARASWF
1241 12th Street North
Naples, Florida 34102
(239) 262-3254

Wednesday, August 11, 2004

Dear Members,

It is with deep regret that I must make this announcement.

After long consideration I have come to the conclusion that it would be in the best interest that I step down as president of the ARASWF effective this date.

As some of you may know, I have been diagnosed with what could be a serious medical condition that if not treated properly could result in the loss of my liver. The medical treatment has left me in most cases debilitated. The treatment is to continue for approximately eleven months and hopefully will take care of this disease.

I would like to take this opportunity to express to all, my deepest thanks for allowing me the opportunity to act as your president. My only regret is that I will not be able to continue until the end of my second term this December. I feel it only fair to step down to allow the ARASWF to continue forward.

I recommend that the Vice-President, Jordan Mash, take over this position until the members can select a new president. I have complete faith in the abilities of Jordan to accomplish the challenges ahead.

Again, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support throughout the last two years. I have made some good friends and will miss all of you.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Kennedy, WA4MK

Editor's Note:

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there is no report from the Treasurer or the Secretary this month. I hope all our members endured "Charley", with as little damage as possible, and that everyone, and all their friends and family are well. A job "well done", by all that were able to help our community, during this time of need. Stay tuned, and attend the next meeting if at all possible. Don't forget the 2m net on Wednesday evenings, at 0730 local, on the 146.640 repeater!

Since the e-mail list is in such poor condition, if you know of anyone that has not received this, and have their current e-mail address, please forward it to them. Anyone that wishes to send me their current e-mail address (if you did not receive this directly from me), please do so. wd8rfl@arrl.net My sincere apologies to those members that are not receiving this newsletter. You are not being overlooked... I just do not have a valid e-mail address for you!

73's - Mike Welsh, WD8RFL
"Interim" Newsletter Editor