



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



Vol. XX No. 10 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida December 2004

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP, Acting President:

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to All ARASWF Members and their Families!

Here we are at the end of another year, and what a year it has been! Still fresh in everyone's mind is the 'stormy' summer of 2004. Starting in August, the state of Florida was hit by 4 major hurricanes. While we were very lucky in escaping the wrath of all of them here in Collier County, our neighbors to the north were not as fortunate. Parts of Lee County were hit bad by Charlie, but Charlotte County got the worst damage. This hurricane was the Gulf Coast's equivalent to hurricane Andrew, which devastated the Miami-Dade County area in 1992. In September, Hurricanes Frances & Jean did more damage to the Gulf Coastal areas north of here, and Hurricane Ivan terrorized the Florida panhandle. In some areas, it will take years to get back to normal once again. Statewide, Amateur Radio Operators played an important role in providing emergency communications during and after each storm.

In 2004, thanks to some dedicated club members, there have been a number of successful club projects completed. We had a very enjoyable and successful Special Event Station set up at the Florida Sports Park for the Swamp Buggy Races in March. The K4YHB operators contacted over 150 stations worldwide. Much appreciation goes to ARASWF Treasurer, Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, for holding 2 separate Amateur Radio Class Sessions during 2004. With his excellent teaching ability and the help of our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, Howard Roux, AA4RX, and his VE Team, we now have about 20 new hams locally. Amateur Radio exam sessions were held twice in 2004. Some of these new hams have already joined the club and some are new club officers for 2005 !!! In June, we held Field Day at the Red Cross HQ. With many members attending and operating HF and VHF rigs, our score this year surpassed previous years totals. We placed 3rd in our class, nationwide, not too bad!

During the active hurricane season in the late summer and fall, many of the ARASWF members assisted with emergency communications at the K4YHB / Red Cross station, and at the Collier County ARES / Emergency Operations Center, WB2WPA station.

The new officers for 2005 already are working on upcoming events for the ARASWF members to participate in. Guest speakers are being lined up for our future meetings and our club members have been asked to provide communications for some

community sponsored events. This is a great opportunity for the ARASWF to get local residents familiar with Amateur Radio and the service we can deliver when needed. Please continue to support the club in the new year by attending some of these functions.

It certainly has been an honor for me to serve in a variety of official positions with the ARASWF over the 27 years as a club member.

I plan to remain as an active club member. I am delighted to see that many of the new club officers come from a ' new generation of ham operators '. I'm sure they will bring new ideas and a new direction for the ARASWF in 2005. They will certainly have my support , I hope they will have yours, too.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to All.....

Very 73 WB2QLP Jordan Mash

* * * * *

SECRETARY'S REPORT

From Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, Secretary Pro-Tem:

Minutes of the November 2004 Meeting

The November meeting of the ARASWF was called to order by acting president Jordan, WB2QLP, at 7:38 pm 23 November 2004 at the Red Cross Chapter House. Bill, K2ZEL, was appointed sec. pro-tem for the meeting. Following introductions of members and guests the October minutes were read and approved by the membership. The treasurer's report was read and approved as read. Merle, W4MWZ, gave a short report of the Coast Guard special event. Sigi, W2JQ requested that members get signed up for the Dec. Dinner meeting to be held 10 Dec. at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road. We will be ordering from the menu and new officers will be recognized and outgoing officers will be thanked for their service to the club. R.L. Caron gave an update on the EOC repeater system and the progress with the installation of the voting receivers. He also indicated that there will be a repeater linked to the system in Immokalee 147.36 MHz. Bill announced the prospective class schedule for the class starting on 22 Jan. 2005. The slate of officers was presented by the nominating committee and elections were conducted. the officers for 2005 are:

Past President	Jordan, WB2QLP
President	Corey, KB4ETT
Vice President	Carl, KI4AI
Secretary	David, KG4ZLB
Treasurer	Bill, K2ZEL
Technical Director	Carl, WA9ZIF
Operations Director	Rodney, KI4DBI

Mike, WD8RFL, will continue as news letter editor and Elio, KI4HQP, is our new Public Information Officer. Rik, KI4AIM, will continue to maintain the club web page.

Officers and committee chairs were reminded that annual reports should be sent to Mike for the newsletter.

The board was authorized to survey the current club equipment and to make arrangements to offer items for sale to members and at hamfests to help offset the cost of newer station radios.

Gary, WD4VRZ, won the 50-50 and donated those winnings to the treasury. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL
Sec. pro-tem

* * * * *

TREASURER's REPORT

From Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, Treasurer:

Treasurer's Report for Dec. 2004

Beginning Balance		2891.12
Nov 50-50	42.00	
New member dues	50.00	
	92.00	2988.12

Expenses	
Liability Insurance	325.00

Balance on hand 15 Dec 2004	2658.12
-----------------------------	---------

Submitted
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL
Treasurer

Annual Report of Treasurer for Year 2004

From Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, Treasurer

Beginning Balance 1 January 2004 1362.80

Income

Dues received	2337.50
refund Sprint	14.43
50-50 receipts	174.00
donation to Club	25.00
class book sales	376.00
refreshment kitty	6.00
refund for cabinet	167.48
deposit error	<u>32.63</u>

Total income 2004 3133.04

Total funds available 2004 4495.84

Expenses year 2004

Sprint	124.36
bank charge	6.00
Ham Outlet for P.S.	275.95
Banners for events	95.00
ARC donation	200.00
Home Depot for cab.	167.48
Field Day exp	100.00
True Value plug bars	57.19
Book adv. for class	447.74
Liability Insurance	325.00
Postmaster	<u>37.00</u>

Total expenses 2004 1837.72

Balance on Hand 31 December 2004 2658.12

Submitted December 2004
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL
Treasurer

ARRSUF NEWS

Amateur Radio License Class To be Offered

The annual winter class for individuals desiring to study for an amateur Radio License was announced by Dr. G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL, course coordinator for the "Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida. The class is sponsored by the club in cooperation with the Collier County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Collier County Emergency Management Center. Dr. Reynolds indicated that the class is not only for those seeking licenses but also to assist the club in providing communications assistance to the agencies in time of disaster or emergency.

The classes will be held at the Collier County Red Cross Chapter House located on North-Brooke Drive, Naples FL. Class hours will be from 9:00 am to 11:30 am on Saturdays beginning on 22 January 2005. The class will meet on 22 & 29 Jan.; 5,12,& 26 Feb.; 12,19,& 26 Mar. The license examination will be given in April (date to be confirmed) at the Red Cross Chapter House.

There will be a nominal fee for class materials. For additional information and registration for the class Contact Dr. Reynolds at 239-992-4708 or by e-mail at wreynolds39@comcast.net.

* * * * *

HELP WANTED !

Naples Daily News Half-Marathon

Communicators needed for Naples Daily News Half-Marathon on Sunday, January, 23, 2005. Race starts at 7 am sharp. Anyone with HT's and mobiles needed to man stations throughout the race course, and race control center. Please contact KI4DBI, Rodney Smith at (239) 304-1490.

Repeater Work Party

A work party is being organized to fix the .67 repeater. A tentative date has been set for Wednesday, December 29, 2004. Anyone wishing to help out should contact Corey Mugass, KB4ETT, at 564-1221 or try the .64 repeater during the daytime.

* * * * *

Up Coming Club Meeting Guest Speakers:

From Carl Pacini, KI4AI, Vice President

We have speakers planned for the first five meetings next year. In January, Dan Summers, Collier County EOC, will talk, and in February, Chalmers Sechrist, PH.D. will speak on the history of ham radio. Speakers in March, April, and May include Joe Goggin, K9KNW on meteor scatter, Jordan Mash, WB2QLP in April, on 6 meters and Charles Fueschel, Retired Director of Communications and Data Systems for NASA in May on space communications.

Members are asked to report at club meetings, or in the newsletter, any good contacts they make on 2 meter sideband. This is the time of year that the band opens up because of conditions.

Corey Mugass, KB4ETT, our new President, would like for any club members that wish to, to bring any new antennas, or homebrew antennas, to club meetings for other club members to look at and talk about. Also, he would like club members to bring up at meetings or place in the newsletter any interesting or unusual communication contacts. These contacts do not necessarily have to be limited to DX.

* * * * *

Pictures from November 2004 Meeting

From Elio Hernandez, KI4HQP, Public Information Officer



PROPAGATION REPORT:

SB PROP @ ARL \$ARLP052
ARLP052 Propagation de K7RA

ZCZC AP52
QST de W1AW
Propagation Forecast Bulletin 52 ARLP052
>From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA December 17, 2004
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP052
ARLP052 Propagation de K7RA

The 7-day averages for solar flux and sunspot numbers declined this week, and the averages for geomagnetic A index rose. The average daily sunspot number

declined over 19 points to 26.9, and average solar flux was down over 8 points to 88.7. Sunspot counts have been quite low, and will continue their retreat for about 2 more years.

If you look on page 12 of the latest edition of NOAA SEC's weekly Preliminary Report and Forecast of Solar Geophysical Data (for this week see, <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1528.pdf> , and the index at, <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/weekly/index.html>) you'll observe the predicted smoothed sunspot number for this month is 30, December 2005 is 10, and the lowest value is 5, projected for December 2006 and January 2007.

Following the December three years from now, in 2008, the monthly sunspot count for cycle 24 should increase rapidly. But in between will be some long spells with no sunspots at all. It is interesting to note that the longest period of 0 sunspots in recent memory was a little over 7 weeks during September and October of 1996, and the next low period we are talking about predicted for the end of 2006 is about 10 years after that.

Average sunspot cycles are about 11.1 years long, but have been as short as 7 and as long as 17 years. The average rise from minimum to maximum takes 4.8 years, and the average decline is around 6.2 years, so cycles rise faster than they decline.

The most active day in terms of geomagnetic indices over the past week was Monday, December 12, when a robust solar wind stream drove the mid-latitude A index to 24, the planetary A index to 36, and Alaska's college A index to 48. The quiet period this week was 2-3 days later on December 14-15 when the mid-latitude A index was 4 and 3.

Over last weekend during the ARRL 10-Meter Contest, Sunday had worse conditions than Saturday. There were periods when I couldn't hear anything from Seattle on 10-meters except stations in South America. This was the north-south trans-equatorial propagation commonly observed during periods of high geomagnetic activity. It isn't a case of propagation being enhanced over the north-south path, but this might be the only propagation mode available.

Our earth is now passing through a solar wind stream from a coronal hole. For Friday, December 17 the predicted planetary A index is 20, followed by 15, 8 and 5 for Saturday through Monday. We may expect slightly higher solar flux (which is somewhat related to sunspot counts) with this weekend's flux value around 90. This is expected to rise to around 105 by December 23.

A note from the Geomagnetic Dept of the Geophysical Institute of Prague says December 19 and 20 should be quiet, December 21 quiet to unsettled, and December 18 and 23 unsettled.

If you would like to comment or have a tip, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see the ARRL Technical Information Service propagation page at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>.

Sunspot numbers for December 9 through 15 were 39, 39, 16, 26, 22, 18 and 28 with a mean of 26.9. 10.7 cm flux was 87.4, 84.8, 89.8, 90.5, 89.7, 89.3 and 89.3, with a mean of 88.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 10, 15, 36, 11, 7 and 6 with a mean of 13.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 8, 11, 24, 8, 4 and 3, with a mean of 9.3. NNNN /EX

And last but not least, something to read tonight, December 24, 2004! (From K2ZEL)

Ham's Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before
Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the
tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne
Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late
QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard
drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the
postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the
eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

Editor's Note:

Don't forget, you can use the "zoom" tool (looks like a magnifying glass) in Acrobat Reader to enlarge the newsletter for easier viewing. Another way to enlarge the pages, is to select a larger window display percentage value, changeable from a drop down box on the "viewing" toolbar, if turned on. Slider bars appear, if the magnification causes the image to be larger than the window, which can be used to move the page around. Also the "hand" tool, will allow the page to be moved with the mouse.

73's... Mike, WD8RFL

Upcoming Hamfests:

8 Jan 2005 - Ft. Myers - Southwest Florida Hamfest & Computer Show, Fort Myers ARC
<http://fmarc.net>

5-6 Feb 2005 - Miami - Southern Florida Section Convention, Dade Radio Club of Miami
<http://www.hamboree.org>

11-13 Feb 2005 - Orlando - Northern Florida Section Convention, Orlando ARC
<http://www.oarc.org>

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

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - JANUARY 25, 2004
7:30 PM - RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE**