



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



Vol. XXI No. 3 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida March 2005

Club Information

Meeting Time:
4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Red Cross Chapter House
Northbrooke Plaza Dr.
Naples FL
Club Repeater:
K4YHB—146.670 (-600)
EOC Repeater:
WB2WPA—147.030 (+600)
Club Home Page
<http://www.araswf.org>
Club Officers/ Chairmen
President: KB4ETT
Corey Mugaas
Vice President: KI4AI
Carl Pacini
Secretary: KG4ZLB
David Worboys
Treasurer: K2ZEL
Bill Reynolds
Past President: WB2QLP
Jordan Mash
Technical Director: WA9ZIF
Carl Foust
Ops. Director: KI4DBI
Rodney Smith
Public Info. Officer: KI4HQP
Elio Hernandez
Awards Manager: KD4VRZ
Gary Randall
VE Liaison: AA4RX
Howard Roux
Newsletter: WD8RFL
Mike Welsh
Webmaster: KI4AIM
Rik Conklin
Social Chair: W2JQ
Sigi Boernet

From the President's Shack:

March has brought the club good news and an exciting opportunity. First, we are glad to report that the club is now incorporated. This provides a measure of protection to the club officers and members. It also opens the way for the club to be able to accept donations and provide a tax deduction for the donor.

The ARASWF has been asked to set up a special QSO between the International Space Station and the students of Pine Ridge Middle School. A meeting was held Friday March 11 to begin planning for this endeavor. A committee was formed to accurately complete the lengthy application form required by ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station). Soon we will begin planning the technical aspects of this project. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. There are many, many things to be done for this project to be successful.

We may be closer to having a new repeater site. So far, we have had a favorable reception from the management of the prospective site and are working through the 'proper channels' to secure this desirable location for the club repeater. Hopefully we will be able to move the repeater soon.

The club meeting this month should include a report from those who were shopping for a new HF+ rig for the club station. Our HF capability will soon be restored.

73
Corey Mugaas
President ARASWF

Secretary's Report:

Amateur Radio Association of South West Florida

Club meeting held at the Red Cross Building, Naples, FL on Tuesday February 22nd 2005.

In attendance:

Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT- President
Rodney Smith, KI4DBI – Operations Director
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL – Treasurer
Carl Foust, WA9ZIF – Technical Director
Jordan Mash, WB2QLP – Past President
David Worboys, KG4ZLB – Secretary
Carl Pacini, KI4AII – Vice President

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MEETING MINUTES

Corey, KB4ETT (President), acted as Chairman of the meeting and there being a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 7.30pm.

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed (another) large turnout to the meeting and introductions were made by all members and visitors.

Treasurers Report: Bill, K2ZEL, presented to the meeting the Treasurers report which showed a total income as at February 15th 2005 of \$4838.12 which comprised the beginning of year balance plus subscriptions and receipts in the intervening period. As regards expenses, a total of \$418.15 had been expended comprising, inter alia, training course materials, State company incorporation fees and the donation to the Tsunami appeal. This left a net balance in Club funds of \$4419.97. Bill noted that this balance also included the proceeds of the auction of old club equipment held in January which now totalled \$731. Bill also reported that future items of large expenditure would include Field Day expenses and Insurance for the Club which was calculated on a dollar per thousand basis. A motion to approve the Treasurers report was proposed by KD4VRY and seconded by KI4DBI, the motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting had already been published in the February 2005 newsletter and were taken as read.

Guest Speaker: Corey, KB4ETT, introduced the guest speaker to the meeting. Dr. Chalmers Seachrist (previously W3OGL) gave a lecture to the meeting on the history of Amateur Radio from the 1940's and 50's to an enthusiastic audience of members. Dr. Seachrist firstly explained his personal background; he had become fascinated with AM radio in the 1940's listening to the short wave bands from his home QTH of Glen Rock in Pennsylvania at the tender age of 14. Shortly after he discovered W1AW and learned to read and copy code, finally travelling to Baltimore to take his amateur exams in front of the FCC as was required then. He became more and more immersed in AM radio and took correspondence courses in repairing AM radios, something which he did for his local community during WWII. He explained that at that time he wanted to try 40m CW and he built himself a crystal controlled transmitter, the "606", on a breadboard. In 1947 he heard a rumour that hams were using the 2m band on AM and after attending various meetings where he found out more, he purchased surplus military radio equipment as there was a huge surplus of this after the cessation of hostilities. His interest in the ionosphere began in 1950 when he went to Penn State to study the ionospheric region eventually obtaining a Doctorate from his work in studying the D region of the ionosphere as well as ground based radar. Dr. Seachrist explained that his interest and subsequent career in the study of the D region was a natural extension to his early days as an amateur radio operator but that he had not been active on the

bands for quite some time due to his immersion in his studies. Dr. Seachrist then gave a slide presentation of early transmitter equipment, including pictures of some of the types of equipment he had constructed as a young man. He also handed out some notes of this history of amateur radio to the meeting. A question from the audience was would Dr. Seachrist be willing to present to the meeting a lecture on the D region at some time in the future and he readily agreed. Corey, KB4ETT, thanked Dr. Seachrist on behalf of the Club for his time in presenting a highly informative and enjoyable lecture.

Club Repeater: Corey, KB4ETT, advised the meeting of the current state of play concerning the 640 repeater and Jordan, WB2QLP told the meeting that the noise from the condo elevators had largely been eliminated by changing the DB Products antenna to a low gain antenna and therefore we had no noise but an ineffective machine. We are now looking at the possibility of changing the repeater site and reintroducing the DB antenna which has now been modified by Peter, KK4PG. It is now hoped that the repeater will have been moved to a new location by the time of the next meeting. Peter, KK4PG, advised that the committee set up by the Board to investigate the repeater problem had identified two potential sites, one as a back up, but that he would be grateful if any club members had any location suggestions to talk to Jordan, WB2QLP, in the first instance.

ARISS: One of the teachers from Pine Ridge Middle School addressed the meeting to advise that as part of the NASA Rover program, the school had been selected to make application for an International Space Station/School contact and would like the club like to be part of the organisation for this event. A quick poll of members present indicated that the club would be more than willing to help and after discussion a sub committee comprising of Jordan, WB2QLP, Doug, N4DMD and Gary, KD4VRZ would be asked to investigate the requirements and report back to the club. It was anticipated that the contact could be scheduled as far out as 18 months but it was important that the club was fully prepared for the event should NASA bring a contact date forward.

New HF transceiver: Corey, KB4ETT, advised the meeting that the total raised from the auction of surplus club equipment was \$731 and that the Board had elected a sub committee to research into the prices and shipping charges of three different transceivers that would fit into the club budget. He would report back to the membership once this research had been completed.

Next Month: Carl, KI4AII, advised the meeting that the next guest speaker would be talking on the subject of Meteor Scatter.

Up Coming Events: Fred, KF4MJJ, reported to the meeting that there was due to be held a two day SKYWARN training session at the Naples Red Cross building on March 4th and 5th 2005. Each day's course was different. Furthermore there was due to be held a mass casualty exercise at Naples Municipal Airport on May 5th where the Red Cross would be involved. Additionally on March 5th, a search and rescue exercise would be held at Marco Island Airport. This information was noted by Rodney, KI4DBI, who would ascertain whether the club could be involved in any of these events.

Club Vests/T-Shirts: Jordan, WB2QLP advised the meeting that they could now order club vests through him and club t-shirts through AD, K4ADR. Lists would be available after the meeting for interested parties to make any orders.

50/50 Raffle: The 50/50 raffle was won by Mike, WD8RFL who donated his winnings to Club funds.

A motion to close the meeting was proposed by David, KG4ZLB and seconded by Carl, W9ZIF and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8.50pm

David A. Worboys
KG4ZLB
Secretary

Member Contributions:

From Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL: (An e-mail he received)

Dear Fellow Radio Amateur,

I am sending you a copy of the Florida Statutes concerning having a scanner in your vehicle(s).

This was prompted by a few incidents during the past year's hurricane season. Many individuals volunteered many hours and they used their own equipment. During this time a few law enforcement officers became curious as to how a non-law enforcement individual could monitor police and other radios. Needless to say, it became necessary to offer a few long-winded explanations without any supporting substance.

Please refer to Section 3 which sites the exemption.

I have placed a folded copy of the law in a sealable sandwich bag. This is kept in the glove compartment of each vehicle at my home. If I must use my daughter's car, even though I never intend to do so, I will have a copy with me at all times. Ideally it would be great to have a copy in your wallet but I found this to be too cumbersome.

State of Florida Mobile Scanner Law

Source:

FLORIDA STATUTES (1995) -

Title 46, CRIMES; Ch. 843, OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE; § 843.16

843.16 Unlawful to install radio equipment using assigned frequency of state or law enforcement officers; definitions; exceptions; penalties

(1) No person, firm, or corporation shall install in any motor vehicle or business establishment, except an emergency vehicle or crime watch vehicle as herein defined or a place established by municipal, county, state, or federal authority for governmental purposes, any frequency modulation radio receiving equipment so adjusted or tuned as to receive messages or signals on frequencies assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to police or law enforcement officers of any city or county of the state or to the state or any of its agencies. Provided, nothing herein shall be construed to affect any radio station licensed by the Federal communications Commission or to affect any recognized newspaper or news publication engaged in covering the news on a full-time basis or any alarm system contractor certified pursuant to Part II of Chapter 489, Operating a Central Monitoring System.

(2) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Emergency vehicle" shall specifically mean:

1. Any motor vehicle used by any law enforcement officer or employee of any city, any county, the state, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the Armed Forces of the United States while on official business;
2. Any fire department vehicle of any city or county of the state or any state fire department vehicle;
3. Any motor vehicle designated as an emergency vehicle by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles when said vehicle is to be assigned the use of frequencies assigned to the state;

4. Any motor vehicle designated as an emergency vehicle by the sheriff of any county in the state when said vehicle is to be assigned the use of frequencies assigned to the said county

5. Any motor vehicle designated as an emergency vehicle by the chief of police of any city in the state when said vehicle is to be assigned the use of frequencies assigned to the said city.

(b) "Crime watch vehicle" means any motor vehicle used by any person participating in a citizen crime watch or neighborhood watch program when such program and use are approved in writing by the appropriate sheriff or chief of police where the vehicle will be used and the vehicle is assigned the use of frequencies assigned to the county or city. Such approval shall be renewed annually.

(3) This section shall not apply to any holder of a valid amateur radio operator or station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission or to any recognized newspaper or news publication engaged in covering the news on a full-time basis or any alarm system contractor certified pursuant to Part II of Chapter 489, Operating a Central Monitoring System.

(4) Any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

73,

Carl Zelich, AA4MI

(Editor's Note: The 2004 State Statutes are available online. Use a search engine or try the following link:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch0843/SEC16.HTM&Title=->2004->Ch0843->Section%2016#0843.16)

From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

Ham Radio 'Classic'

[David Sanford \(W1DLS\)](#) on December 15, 2003

[View comments about this article!](#)

I believe that the future of ham radio can be found in it's past. As each year passes and technology advances, the magic of radio seems to fade. If we examine radio for it's utilitarian value, we find that the Internet is in many ways "better" than HF, and cell phones are "better" than VHF. And as we all know, everyone in America has access to both the Internet and cell phones. The military has abandoned Morse code, and even phone patches to the troops are being phased out in favor of Satellite communications. When every cop has a cell phone and laptop in his cruiser, how much value do the guys in the orange vests with HTs really bring to the party? (Yes, I think there is still value there, but the world has changed, and I don't think it is the same value that was brought to the table 25 years ago.)

So what's left? Plenty. There is still a hobby of radio communication, electronic experimentation, and antenna building out there. We need to take a lesson from the guys in the classic car clubs. Cars have become much too complicated for the average guy to work on. But Americans love their cars. So what do they do? Buy a Classic! -- One with a carburetor, and a real "points and

condenser" ignition system. And real CHROME!!! You can still have a garage full of really cool tools, and a fun way to spend your time. The car guys know that technology has passed them by, but they don't care. They know that the car they play with is not really that practical anymore, but that's not the point of it. It's a hobby, and they know it. And you know what? America is absolutely crazy about cars from the sixties. Cars from the sixties routinely show up in movies cast in the present. Manufacturers now make replicas of the VW beetle, and Ford Mustang from the sixties.

Guess what? Radios from the same time era are pretty neat too. You can actually work on them, they look cool, and when you turn them on the glow of the tubes is a lot like the rumble of the motor in that '65 GTO. Classic radios are like classic cars in that they both have souls. They both give you that exciting feeling that comes from knowing that "this thing could kill you if you're not careful." If you need a ride to work, take your 2002 Toyota. If you need to call work, use your cell phone. If you want to have fun, take the GTO and burn rubber. Or if you like radios, fire up the Viking II and the Skyrider and light up the ether! What will we talk about? Modulators, power supplies, and antennas, of course! Radio is our hobby.

Remember the guys who were into Photography back in the sixties? They had dark rooms in their basements, and SLRs with ten different lenses. They changed their equipment as Technology changed. Have you seen any "Photographers" recently? I haven't. Technology stole their magic.

Before we change the name of our hobby to the "Radio Professionals of America" or before we drop the code, or before we eliminate real QSLs, let's think about what will remain. It is a mistake to try to keep up with technology that passes the ham's ability to tinker. Just let the technology pass us by. We aren't the cutting edge anymore, and we never will be again. Let's accept it, and enjoy the hobby that we have created. If we continue buying boxes we can't tinker with, the radio hobby will offer nothing that the Internet and cell phones can't. At that point, the hobby will be lost. Let's build our own boxes. Ham Radio "Classic" is where the magic is!

Rain Gutter Antenna's Amaze Me Too!

Last Fall of 2004 I was compelled to write up a little article on how effective indoor attic dipoles can be for working the HF bands. This was after working a recent RTTY contest where many nice contacts were made using hidden indoor attic dipoles.

Well, I am once again compelled to add a sequel to that article, this time after playing in the just past NAQP RTTY contest. Being "antenna challenged" my 80 meter capability has always been well less than desired. At best I have used long wire antenna's and rain gutters via my MFJ-949D antenna tuner and a counterpoise wire but I never really operated on 80 meters with any confidence, and for good reason.

With the solar cycle nearing its dip 80 meters at night is becoming a band one has to learn to live with, and in this recent contest I hooked up a 15 foot length of 18AWG hookup wire to my outside gutter downspout via a sheet metal screw, took another 62 foot length and ran it around my basement shack and then out to lay in the garage to act as a counterpoise and let my tuner do the work. The counterpoise helps keep "hot RF" off the rig and key.

In about 10 hours of working the contest at 100 watts, I made 230 QSO's and about 45% were all on 80 Meters! Of those I would say 30% was made while "running" stations, calling "CQ Test" and waiting for a reply. I was amazed how many US stations heard my RTTY signal, including stations in WA, CA, TX and AZ! I had to repeat my exchange maybe once the whole time and from the US East Coast (NJ) that means an effective signal on 80 meters going out almost 3000 miles. Very amazing I think considering whom knows what type of radiated pattern my gutters make.

Now the gutters are not spliced together or anything like that to make them electrically better conductors, just a quick tap on the downspout and a sheet metal screw is it. So God only knows how efficient such a radiator is but it certainly works in a pinch. Looking at my computer log and running statistics for overall country total I have worked 49 countries on 80 meters all on this type of make shift aerial, mostly EU and Caribbean stations which are easier to work from the Eastern US.

I make no pretense this is the best scenario for any ham with restricted antenna conditions. I merely offer it as an alternate solution (and a trick that has been around for decades) for hams who want to work the low bands now that the higher ones are becoming graveyards, especially at night when we are home and off from work. 80 meters is a very broad band allocation and I know I sharpened my cw fist many years ago working that band, with a random wire and no tuner at that time (rig was old Heathkit tube so no worries on swr at that time).

73's to all and don't let low sunspot numbers keep you off the HF bands!

RESULTS OF MY ONLINE SHOPPING FOR K4YHB RADIO - BY WB2QLP

ICOM IC-746pro	KNWD TS-2000	YAESU FT-847	DEALER
\$ 1499.95 *	\$ 1599.95	NOT LISTED	BURGHARDT (SD)
\$ 1499.95 *	\$ 1589.95	NOT LISTED	AUSTIN AM. RAD. (TX)
\$ 1489.00 *	\$ 1529.00	CALL	KJI ELECTRONICS (NJ)
\$ 1549.95 *	\$ 1599.95	\$ 1389.00	HAM STATION (IN)
\$ 1549.00 *	\$ 1539.00	\$ 1299.00	GIGA PARTS (AL)
\$ 1549.00 *	\$ 1589.00	\$ 1339.00	TEXAS TOWERS (TX)
\$ 1549.95 *	\$ 1649.95	\$ 1349.95	UNIVERSAL RADIO (OH)
\$ 1549.95 *	\$ 1539.95	\$ 1299.95	HRO (GA)

* INDICATES FREE MATCHING PS-125 PWR SUPPLY

PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX OR SHIPPING CHARGES

PRICES INCREASE ON MARCH 1, 2005 DUE TO YEN / DOLLAR RATIO

From John Simander, NS0I:

[Next Solar Maximum Cycle](#)

ITEMS FOR SALE:

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS-140S with PS-430 power supply (20A). \$285.00
MFJ-986 Antenna Tuner. \$75.00 (\$65 if purchased with TS140S)
Vibroplex Semi-automatic key (Bug). \$60.00 (\$50 if purchased
with TS140S and MFJ986)

Realistic HTX-100 Mobile 10 meter transceiver SSB/CW. \$75.00

Kenwood R-5000 shortwave receiver (100khz - 30Mhz) \$340.00

Auto Antenna tuner (QRP to 30watts) by LDG Electronics. \$55.00

All six items for \$800.00

Operating manuals included with all items, except Bug !!.

Contact John at (239) 261 2789 or jaw@naples.net

HAMFEST INFORMATION:

JACKSONVILLE:

JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA
ANNUAL TAILGATE PARTY
2 APRIL 2005

SPONSORED BY THE GREATER JACKSONVILLE HAMFEST COMMITTEE, INC. RANGE, OPARC, BARS AND OTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS JOIN US IN AN OLD FASHION TAILGATE PARTY..FOOD..MUSIC..AND WHAT-ALL ONE \$5.00 ea. ADMISSION PERMITS YOU TO BUY, SELL, DRAWING FOR PRIZES.

COME EARLY FOR SELF CONTAINED RV CAMPING, TENTS, BED OF PICKUP. ETC. PORTA POTTYS WILL BE PROVIDED. WATER AND ELECTRICITY LIMITED.

BREAKFAST SERVED AT OPENING (0700) til 0930 AM.
LUNCH AVAILABLE 1130 TIL ??

Just as last year there will be camping (tent, car or ground) and motor home Rving. Must be self contained. We will have water, porta-pots, limited electricity available. Marshmallow roast for kids (?) and other fun stuff. The site will be open Friday afternoon for setups, overnight camping and cookouts. Swapping and shopping until everyone goes home on SATURDAY.

LOCATED ON MORSE AVE, WESTSIDE, OFF BLANDING BLVD.
FROM 103 ST GO SOUTH ON BLANDING BLVD. PASS FLEA MARKET ON RIGHT. CONTINUE SOUTH TO MORSE AVE (RED LIGHT), TURN RIGHT (WEST). GO ABOUT 2 MILES. TAILGATE IS ON LEFT. SIGNS ARE POSTED AT ENTRANCE. THERE IS NO EXIT OFF I295 TO MORSE. TALKIN 146.76. CALL 904-272-1472 OR EMAIL lrich@pobox.com for more Info.

GAINESVILLE:

Hello Every One! I am writing to every ham I can find to inform you of the "POOR MAN'S HAMFEST coming up in Gainesville, FL on APRIL 23 and 24, 2005. This will also our 50 Year Anniversary of our club. GARS Club is making a special effort to make this a very SPECIAL HAMFEST. We are promoting it very heavily and hope to have many vendors and tailgaters.

Would you also be willing to help promote the fest by telling your friends and maybe even forwarding this mail to those on your Mail List that may have an interest. Have the info published in your club's newsletter! Look around the shack and see if there is anything you could bring to the tailgate. It is a great location for a Hamfest with a camping area and easily accessible for auto's, wheel chairs and scooters. FREE PARKING

Mark the date, April 23 and 24 on your calendar now and plan to attend. For more info go to <http://www.gars.net/hamfest> or contact me.

Thanks for your Help.

PS: The food is always GREAT at this fest. Bring your appetite with you!

73
Ray W4YTC
Hamfest Chairman

Visit My Ham Web Page
www.gsl.net/w4ytc

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

***Pictures from the February Meeting
From Elio Hernandez, KI4HQP
Public Information Officer:***

Our Guest Speaker: Dr. Chalmers Sechrist:



Meeting Activities:



Sharon Lee, Pine Ridge Middle School discussing the ISS Contact:



**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - MARCH 22, 2005
7:30 PM - RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE**