ARASWF NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXI No. 10 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida October 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 Mugas
Vice President: KI4AII
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 Laison: AA4RX
Howard Roux
Newsletter: WD8RFL
Mike Welsh
Webmaster: KI4AIM
Rik Conklin
Social Chair: W2JQ
Sigi Boernet

From The Presidents Shack:

Hello to all,

September proved to be a busy month for the club. The ARASWF provided two excellent demonstrations of Amateur Radio to middle school students of Collier County. The NASA Nights event at Pine Ridge Middle School and also at Immokalee Middle School were a great success. Students were able to communicate with NASA personnel in California via Amateur Radio. I know that we generated interest in many students and a few parents. To the club members that provided equipment and the precious commodity of time, I say Thank You.

The same night as the Pine Ridge Middle School event was also the club meeting. The membership voted to replace our ailing repeater with a new unit. We should receive the new repeater soon and will need to form a work party for installation.

After what has seemed like a 'dead spot' in HF activity, it is fun to have had some success lately on 17 meters, and even 10 meters recently provided QSO's into Puerto Rico and a few states in the North East.

One item that we will discuss at the October club meeting is the leadership of the ARASWF in 2006. I will be stepping down as President of the ARASWF at the end of 2005. A Nominating Committee is normally formed at the October meeting. Have you thought about serving as an Officer of the club for 2006? There are no restrictions as to license class for officers. What would you like to see the club do next year? Perhaps you can provide guidance as an officer of the ARASWF. Give it some thought.

73,
Corey Mugaas KB4ETT

Secretary's Report, From Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL:

Minutes of September 2005 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by vice president Carl, KI4AII, as the president was participating in the NASA night at Pine Ridge School with other members of the club operating a demonstration station as a step in preparation for the space station contact hopefully to be scheduled later in the coming year. Following introductions, Dr. Chalmers Sechrist presented an interesting discussion on "D" Layer Adsorption of Radio Frequencies.

The Treasurer's report was given by Bill, K2ZEL and was approved as read.
The Treasurer reported that the post office box has been obtained for the club.
The club's official mailing address is:

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida, Inc.
Post Office Box 111604
Naples, FL 34108

Peter Gaddy, KK4PG, presented the findings of the comparison of the investigation for the purchase of a new repeater to replace our present machine. KI4AII requested a motion from the floor for the purchase of a new machine. A.D., K4ADR, made the motion that the club purchase the Spectrum S-7R repeater with NHRC-5 controller at the bid price of $1645.00. Carl, WA9ZIF, seconded the motion. Following discussion of the motion the club voted unanimously to purchase the new unit and the treasurer was instructed to complete the details of the purchase and arrange for its delivery for installation.

There being no further business for the meeting the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Submitted
G. Wm. Reynolds, K2ZEL
Secretary Pro-Tem

Treasurer's Report, From Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL:

Treasurer's Report for September 2005

Balance on hand 1 September 2005		$2975.23
Income		
Dues	$37.50	
50/50 Gaddy party	110.00	
50/50 meeting	31.50	
Hurricane relief	20.00	
Total income	198.50	
		$3173.50
Expenses		
Food Repeater antenna installation	$132.76	
Col. Co. A.R.C. semi annual donation	200.00	
American Red Cross Hurricane Relief	120.00	
Post office Box rental (6 mos.)	21.00	
Total expenses	$473.67	
Balance on hand 27 September 2005		$2700.06

27 September 2005
G. Wm. Reynolds, Treasurer
ARASWF, Inc.

Report on NASA Nights, From David Worboys, KG4ZLB:

NASA Night – September 27th 2005

As you may already be aware, some months ago the Club was approached by Pine Ridge Middle School, to see if we would be prepared to facilitate a contact between school students and the International Space Station as part of the ARISS program. At the time of writing the school has been notified that it has jumped the waiting list by two years and we should expect to be notified of our "window" within the next 12 months and possibly as soon as 4-6 weeks as we are able to do this on "short-notice".

The School held a "NASA Night" on Tuesday September 27th which was an event to promote and educate parents, teachers and students not directly involved with the NASA program. The Club was asked to set up a radio demonstration and skeds were set up with NASA facilities so that students could ask related questions to the experts.

Seven of us arrived at the School at 2.30pm and proceeded to assemble the tri-band beam and set it on top of the tower trailer. At that time of the day we were working in 93 degree heat and direct sun but after an hour or so the antenna was hoisted and we

retired to the comfort of the air conditioned school and began to assemble the station. Our equipment consisted of two Icom 746's (one as a back-up), an Ameritron AL-80B amplifier, PSU etc. We also had a static satellite communication station set up for people to look at (courtesy of Doug, N4DMD)

Our first contact was with G6UW at Cambridge University in the UK which caused a lot of excitement from bystanders not aware of the distances that HF could cover. A number of other QSO's followed into Maine, New York, Kentucky and Michigan before we established contact with NA6MF, at the NASA Ames Center in Silicon Valley, California http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/about/index.html

Ames is a research and development centre for NASA manned space flight and of course, most students wanted to ask questions about the ISS, the Space Shuttle etc, not exactly a speciality of Ames. The planned sked with NASA Kennedy Space Center (where all the answers were!), was problematic due to skip distance - we were too close). So questions asked were relayed via Ames in California to KSC and the answer relayed back to us in Naples – it worked very well!

We operated for 2.5 hour, spent most of the time with Ames and the students asked a number of questions which were duly answered. Our final contact was with CE4ATS, Alex running mobile in Santiago, Chile!

Members attending the event were Corey, KB4ETT, Jordan WB2QLP, Allen KI4IMA, David KG4ZLB, Tim KC4SSD, Jesse KI4HEU, Taylor KI4TKD, with visiting appearances from Peter KK4PG and Morey KI4HEV. Our thanks to all that participated and lent equipment for the event.

Here are some pictures of the event.


Amateur
Radio
Association
of S.W. FLA.


AMATEUR RADIO STATION
K4YHB


PINE RIDGE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SEPT 27 W A S A NIGHT
OCT 06 S A C 5 PM
11 GRDS HEALTH SCREENING
PANTHERS

NASA Night – September 29h 2005

Two days after the Pine Ridge Middle School event, we reconvened at the Immokalee Middle School to present our portable station to the students and parents for the second NASA Night.

After arranging to "meet" on 146.520, six of us travelled the not inconsiderable distance out to Immokalee. Attendees from the club for this event were Jordan WB2QLP, Rodney KI4DBI, Peter KK4PG, Allen KI4IMA, Jack KI4HQQ and David KG4ZLB.

In contrast to the previous event, this time we were allocated a space outside (although under cover) and after pulling the tower trailer into the school yard, we proceeded to set up. Our efforts at Pine Ridge earlier in the week stood us in good stead as the antenna was raised in record time and once we had it all hooked up to the amplifier and the 746, we tried to tune up and found that the unit refused to match to the antenna! Suspecting that the coax was at fault (closer inspection of the PL259 indicated that a problem possibly existed), Jordan set about re-soldering the plug whilst the others brought down the antenna. An inspection of the antenna end of the coax revealed that the problem might have been coax related so to save time, the entire run of coax was replaced.

Once the antenna was re-raised, we found that again, the radio's tuner refused to match the antenna. It seemed to be a tuner problem and we found that by not using the antenna tuner we could operate with a semi-respectable swr of about 1:8:1.

And then it rained, our timing was impeccable.

And it rained, and rained. It seemed that the students and parents were subject to dissolving in the rain because hardly anyone appeared! All of us sat round talking at great length with the NASA representative about all manner of subjects including future moon landings and the meteorite collection that he brought with him.

Some 60 or so minutes into the event, we were suddenly swamped with visitors and having established contact with NASA Ames again, a steady stream of questions were transmitted from the students and answered by the professionals.

The School provided refreshments for the exhibitors, at one point there seemed to be about 5 12" pizzas's each – it would have been so rude to not eat them so we all took turns to take on board some "fuel"

And at about 8.20pm the sky took a nasty turn for the worse with very dark clouds and lightning headed straight for us so, discretion being the better part of valour, we quickly packed up and started for home.

The drive home was "interesting" to put it mildly. Torrential rain, huge amounts of standing water and no street lights for the better part of 20 miles meant that we convoyed at 20 mph.

We all agreed that both events went very well and the Schools concerned have since expressed their gratitude to the Club for providing the station(s).

Finally, on behalf of the Club, a great many thanks to the Members who ventured out to help.

E-Mail from Sharon Brower, ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager, From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

Hi Jordan,

Great job by all who worked on the NASA project!!!

N1RL, Rick Lindquist at ARRL HQ would like some of the photos from the newsletter for either the web site or QST. Can someone please send them to him in Jpeg format as single photos? N1RL@arrl.org

Also, Rosalie White, K1STO, our ARISS coordinator at HQ asked me to pass along congratulations to the club for the successful presentations.

Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Media and PR Manager at HQ Thought the info was great. Among his comments were "I hope the media understood that "it's not your father's Ham radio."

Keep up the good work over there.

73
Sherri W4STB

Report on Field Day 2005, From Jeff Buerger, NJ2F:

The ARRL has posted the 2005 Field Day results on their website. At this time it is available only to ARRL members. There were 13 entrants in the 4F category and the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida came in 1st place in that category.

Congratulations and thanks to all who operated and supported this event.

Holiday Party, Anyone? From Sigi Boernet, W2JQ:

If any one is interested in a Christmas dinner this year, to be held again at the Perkins Restaurant at Pine ridge road, in early December, let me know so that I can make reservation.

73 from Sigi, W2JQ

w2jq@comcast.net

Wind Speed Table and Conditions, from John Simander, NS0I:

Conversion table for knots to miles per hour:
KTS to MPH
5 Knots = 5.8 MPH
10 Knots = 11.5 MPH
15 Knots = 17.3 MPH
20 Knots = 23.0 MPH
25 Knots = 28.8 MPH
30 Knots = 34.6 MPH
35 Knots = 40.3 MPH
40 Knots = 46.1 MPH
45 Knots = 51.8 MPH
50 Knots = 57.6 MPH
55 Knots = 63.4 MPH
60 Knots = 69.1 MPH
65 Knots = 74.9 MPH
70 Knots = 80.6 MPH
75 Knots = 86.4 MPH
80 Knots = 92.2 MPH
85 Knots = 97.9 MPH
90 Knots = 103.7 MPH
95 Knots = 109.4 MPH
100 Knots = 115.2 MPH
105 Knots = 121.0 MPH
110 Knots = 126.7 MPH
115 Knots = 132.5 MPH
120 Knots = 138.2 MPH
125 Knots = 144.0 MPH
130 Knots = 149.8 MPH
135 Knots = 155.5 MPH
140 Knots = 161.3 MPH
145 Knots = 167.0 MPH
150 Knots = 172.8 MPH

Wind speed in MPH and Visible Condition

0 Calm smoke rises vertically
1-4 Light air direction of wind shown by smoke but not by wind vanes
4-7 Light breeze wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary wind vane moved by wind
8-12 Gentle breeze leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag
13-18 Moderate breeze raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved
19-24 Fresh breeze small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland water
25-31 Strong breeze large branches in motion; telephone wires whistle; umbrellas used with difficulty
32-38 Moderate gale whole trees in motion; inconvenience in walking against wind
39-46 Fresh gale breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress
47-54 Strong gale slight structural damage occurs; chimney pots and slates removed
55-63 Whole gale trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs
64-72 Storm very rarely experienced; accompanied by widespread damage
73+ Hurricane devastation occurs

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

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - OCTOBER 25, 2005
7:30 PM - RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE