



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



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From The Presidents Shack:

QRZ? Hello to All:

January and February so far have been busy months, on and off the air. Rodney Smith, KI4DBI, and crew, provided communications for a half-marathon. Rodney is working on a similar project for the summer.

The Club officers have sent off the paperwork for incorporating the club, which will soon allow for the club to accept tax deductible donations. This will open the door to many opportunities.

Jordan Mash, WB2QLP, and Peter, KK4PG, and others are continuing to work on the club repeater interference problem and locating a new repeater location.

Orlando Hamfest!! WOW!! Sorry... this was my first time at Orlando. It was encouraging to see so many fellow radio operators in one spot. From boat anchors to the latest HF+ rig, Orlando had it all. I saw young licensees (e.g. Jesse KI4HEU, Taylor K4TKD), old operators (names withheld due to age discrimination), and many XYL's and harmonics alongside the OM working both sides of the tailgate tables. I just can't believe this hobby/service is on the way out.

DX is alive and well. For those of us who are vertically challenged, (that is possessing no tower and beam), and operate HF mobile, DX has been no problem. Carl Pacini, KI4AII, has bagged many neat contacts while operating mobile, perhaps most notably, a 30 minute QSO on 17m with a station in Massachusetts firing a whopping 4 (that is 'four') watts into the ether. Carl was mobile on I-95 southbound. Ask him about Europe and South America.

I have had several interesting contacts lately... a BICYCLE mobile in Texas on 17m and 20 watts (and Texan's always say everything is bigger in TX, HI HI ok maybe the propagation), and stations in Belize, Croatia, Malta, Barbados, and elsewhere. These contacts were on 15m. See, you CAN chase DX and chase the Yankee Dollar. (that is HF mobile in between jobs.)

And... if I heard correctly on 146.52 Sunday evening Feb 13 coming home from Orlando, I believe A.D., K4ADR had a QSO assist relay by an aeronautical mobile!! In A.D.'s words "Well, that may be a first." I might add that Jordan knows the pilot and had dinner with him previous to the QSO!! I may have it all wrong, so ask them about this cool QSO. (still working on my first aero mobile contact, been close... so close... but can't break the pile up)

See you at the meeting, Feb 22.

73, and good DX!!

Corey Mugaas KB4ETT

From Vice President Carl Pacini, KI4All:

The speaker for this month's meeting is Chalmers Sechrist, Ph.D. and former associate dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois. His areas of research are D-layer absorption and ground-based radar systems. He will speak about the history of ham radio circa the 1940s and 1950s. Club members will find this to be an informative and entertaining presentation.

In March, the club speaker is Joe Goggin, K9KNW. Joe will discuss meteor scatter. I am sure that club members will not want to miss this fascinating presentation about a very specialized and interesting area of radio communication.

Let us not forget that the club is trying to put together some type of DXpedition for summer 2006. If you have an interest in such an adventure please contact Carl Pacini at cpacini@fgcu.edu or Corey Mugaas at kb4ett@att.net.

If you have any interesting antennas for other club members to view, please bring them to the club meeting.

I would encourage club members to share any interesting contacts or stories from recent QSOs with other club members. These stories can be shared at club meetings. For example, I talked to a ham from Lowell, Mass. on Sunday who was running only 4 watts (QRP). He goes hiking pretty deep into the woods to do QRP operations. The secret is to get away from man-made electrical noise.

Carl, 73

Secretary's Report, from David Worboys, KG4ZLB:

Amateur Radio Association of South West Florida

Club meeting held at the Red Cross Building, Naples, FL on Tuesday January 25th 2005.

In attendance:

Rodney Smith, KI4DBI – Operations Director
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL – Treasurer
Carl Foust, WA9ZIF – Technical Director
Jordan Mash, WB2QLP – Past President
David Worboys, KG4ZLB – Secretary

Apologies:

Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT- President
Carl Pacini, KI4AII – Vice President

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MEETING MINUTES

In the absence of Corey, KB4ETT (President), Bill, K2ZEL, acted as Chairman of the meeting and there being a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 7.30pm.

The Chairman welcomed a large turnout to the meeting and introductions were made by all members and visitors.

The Chairman announced that the minutes of the last meeting had been posted in the most recent newsletter. The Chairman also announced to the meeting the names of the newly elected Officers for 2005. He also advised that Mike, WD8RFL, would be continuing to edit and deliver the club newsletter. The Chairman then read the Minutes of the November 2004 meeting (the last formal meeting) and presented the accounts for the 2004 year.

The Chairman reported to the meeting on the Treasurers report which showed a total income for 2005 at \$785 to date (including a \$10 member donation) and expenses of \$163.55 made up of postage stamps, office supplies and a donation from Club funds to the Tsunami relief fund. The Chairman reported that as of the date of the meeting the club's net balance amounted to \$3279.57

A motion to accept the minutes and Treasurers report was proposed by N3ISH and seconded by AA4RX, the motion was carried.

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Dan Summers, Manager of the Collier County Emergency Operations Center. Dan started by thanking everyone for their hard work during the 2004 hurricane season and posed the question about what was likely to come in 2005. He stated that the forecast models would be assessed in March and a more likely picture would emerge at that time. Dan told the meeting that he had worked 11 Presidential Emergency events during his tenure in emergency management and felt that it was very important to keep building the network locally and that he would try and provide the necessary financing as budgets permitted. He said that he was a firm believer in new technology but "the old fashioned way was better". As Amateur radio operators we can definitely pass traffic efficiently. He felt that it was important that we, as EOC members, should carefully think about our own family disaster plans in the event

of emergency but that he would still like to count on us to be in the shelters and pass traffic. Dan advised the members of the new organisation matrix within Collier County Emergency Management; this was now headed by the Bureau of Emergency Services with 5 distinct divisions reporting in to it including Emergency Medical Services and the Fire Department. Dan described a typical role for him in Emergency Management was to schedule emergency exercises and the next ones would be held in the spring of 2005 at the Hospital and Airport. Dan then went on to speak about wildfires. There was due to be a roundtable discussion about this problem to be held in February 2005 although Collier County was not such a problem area. Other surrounding Counties had much more risk of wildfire with significant amounts of "blow down" which of course was highly flammable. Dan asked the members to be alert to potential wildfire incidents and report in if necessary to the emergency services. "Spotter activity" was a very important part of keeping this potential problem at bay. Dan then went on to highlight some of the 2004 hurricane statistics for Collier County; there were 4 states of emergency declared (never has this happened before), there were 14 shelters open, over 6000 people were sheltered, local schools served over 30,000 meals. There were of course numerable press and media enquiries which only highlighted the work of the EOC. Collier County has 11 (soon to be 14) Disaster Response Trailers which are dual axle trailers capable of setting up shelters pretty much as needed and they can also be used as portable offices or mini forward command positions. Over 600 man hours were donated by Emergency Management officials and staff during the hurricanes in Charlotte County. The EOC Command Bus spent 126 hours in Charlotte County helping out with the unique problems experienced there, and finally, over 150,000 cubic yards of vegative debris was cleared away post hurricanes. Dan said that of the general lessons learned it was clear that the EOC was pretty well in compliance with evacuation procedures and if anything the EOC was slightly over cautious. Dan threw open the meeting to general questions from the floor.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

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.

Jordan, WB2QLP, advised the meeting that a member of the club, Armond Morgan, K4FOM had recently become an SK.

Jordan, WB2QLP, advised that he was speaking with Mark Kennedy about the source for the club vests and would report back. In addition, AD, K4ADR, would continue to handle the club T-Shirts and next month there would be a sign up sheet for a T-Shirt order.

Peter, KK4PG, advised the meeting that his wife, who was now the proud owner of a new sowing machine, was able to embroider call signs for new vests and he showed an example.

Rodney advised the meeting that there were pictures of the half marathon event that the club provided communications for the previous weekend. David, KG4ZLB, on behalf of the membership, offered the clubs thanks to Rodney for putting together what was a great public relations exercise for the club as well as being great training for possible emergency management.

Howard, AA4RX, reported to the meeting on the recent VE session held on Saturday January 22nd 2005.

There then followed an auction of surplus radio equipment from the clubs radio room conducted by David, KG4ZLB. After a slow start, a total of \$650 was raised to add to the already committed funding to purchase a new HF radio for the radio room.

The 50-50 was won by Peter, KK4PG.

Bill, K2ZEL, then advised the meeting that at a previously held Board Meeting it had been decided that the club would be changing its legal status to that of an incorporated body. This was to provide a measure of protection to the Officers and members in the event of a possible litigation against the club. In additions, steps were to be taken to change the club to Tax exempt status to allow the club to accept donations for which the donor would be able to obtain tax relief.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21.23pm

David A. Worboys
KG4ZLB
Secretary

From Treasurer, Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL:

February Treasurer's Report 2005

Starting Balance 1/1/2005	\$2658.12
Deposits Dues, 50/50, donation, equipment sales	<u>\$2180.00</u>
Net working funds	\$4838.12

Expenses	
Deposit correction and fee	\$18.50
Postmaster stamps	37.00
Office supplies	26.55
Am. Red Cross (Tsunami)	100.00
course books advance	149.60
Dept of State,FL (inc. fee)	<u>87.50</u>
Total expenses	\$418.15

Balance 15 Feb. 2005 \$4419.97

Note: \$731.00 of the deposit is from Equipment Surplus Sales
(to be set aside to replace the HF club station equipment)

Respectively submitted
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL
Treasurer

VE Session Announced:

The next VE Session will be held on April 2nd.

Skywarn Training Opportunity:

The National Weather Service Miami will provide FREE Basic and Advanced Skywarn training on FRIDAY, MARCH 4 and again on SATURDAY, MARCH 5, at the American Red Cross Chapter Building. For registration or Information e-mail your request to:

RichardZyvoloski@CollierGov.net

Additional information may be obtained at: [Collier County Emergency Management](#)

– General Membership Contributions –

From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

According to Radiodan (amateur dealer for Henry Amplifiers), as of 1-31-05, no more tube type or HF Henry amps will be produced. They evidently will still honor warranty work and some parts will be available. The reason given is that Henry apparently lost its lease at its production facility. I for one hate to hear this. There are a lot of nice amplifiers out there but nothing is quite like a Henry.

Check out <http://www.radiodan.com/> and read this notice for yourself.

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Electronic QSLing and the death of another tradition??

I have only been licensed since 1991 and I am sure that there have been some pretty major changes over the years of amateur radio. There are now so many Internet related amateur sites with treasures of information waiting to be tapped. I use these sites daily.

Recently after I had made a contact on psk-31 I received an e-mail stating that I had a confirmation card waiting. I had read about the new electronic QSL system being set up by the ARRL, but I had not bothered to check it out. This electronic card was at the eQSL web site. I was curious to see what this confirmation card would look like that was waiting for me some where out in cyberspace. I was very surprised when I brought up the site and got myself registered that I actually had over 150 of the little confirmations waiting to be viewed.

I was really impressed with how it all worked and I have since started using it. It is really a great way for the two stations to confirm their contact. I am sure that for the contester this has to be one of the greatest forms of confirming contacts ever devised. What worries me is that will this new technology be the demise of the little cardboard trophies that I so love to collect and hang on my walls.

I really enjoy it very much when I grab the mail and see either a card waiting to be read or the ones that come inside an envelope with the hams call sign proudly displayed along side of his name. I do this habit myself, I fill out my information on the envelope and without even a thought as I write my name, my call sign is added right along side my true name. I would imagine that my mailman has sometimes wondered if I had possibly changed my name.

When I receive these little cardboard trophies I can usually remember the QSO immediately or I will right away look the ham's call up in my log to get his information and to see if I had entered some special little notes about the QSO. The cardboard

cards I guess in a way have the same effect to the ham operator as a trophy mount would have to a big game hunter that hangs his prize on the wall. The other intriguing mystique on the paper cards is in the design their selves. The cards can be just made up of the very basic information and design or some very thoughtful designs, with much thought put into the design. For myself it is kind of like opening up a box of Cracker Jacks and seeing what surprise is inside. I can see where the new electronic QSLing is definitely here to stay; I just somehow hope that the two can coexist together in these changing times.

Mike Roda N0KFC

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Indoor Attic Antenna's-Always Surprises Me!

I have been an active, albeit casual HAM for 15 years. By casual I mean I spend more time in the Fall/Winter DX'ing and Contesting then the rest of the year due to my sport fishing disease. I have confirmed 202 Countries, have DXCC (and on 3 bands, just need 8 more for 40 meters) and when my wife and kids let me, I can work hundreds of stations in many contests with stations worldwide on numerous modes.

In this time I have played with more wire antenna designs than you can imagine all with the limitation of no real trees or other supports available. The G5RV-Jr (52 foot flat-top) can be quite an effective radiator for 10-40 meters and I have used that and other commercial antenna's as well (Cushcraft R5 for example). All under less then ideal land conditions. They have been strung from my house to ground stakes, buried in tree's only 25 feet high and strung in attics, all bent back on themselves and curved to fit the small space available.

In all this fun of experimentation for us who cant have towers and big beams, I have come to a conclusion that although outside antenna's are nice, my attic dipoles do just as good a job, and don't pick up too much additional electrical noise to warrant me changing them. Now if I had 2-100ft. tall pine tree's on 2 acres of land I would have a full size Carolina Windom up there in a minute, but I don't and having an R5 in the backyard or stringing the shorty G5RV up 25 feet in the backyard does not improve over my attic fan dipole, much to my surprice once again this weekend.

I have a 15/20 meter coax fed fan dipole in the attic which performs well, in fact I took the R5 down since it was perhaps annoying to the neighbors, was a lightning hazard and did not do any better then my attic antenna. I took my G5RV from the attic and made a 25 ft. tall mast out of 2x4's last Fall, 03 and strung it in my backyard. I worked a lot but it never blew my ears away vs. when it was in my attic. I had the left over wire still in the attic for the G5RV, just soldered them to my existing dipole, and with my rig's tuner I had a 40 meter dipole (only 52 feet long and taking multiple bends in the attic). On top of that my HVAC is in the attic and that must add some nice lobes to my radiated patterns! During the CQWW RTTY this past weekend I worked stations

throughout EU into Russia, Greece and SA as well, all on 40 meters and 100 watts. I just keep getting surprised on how well these antenna's can be for working all the bands, not just 10-20 meters.

Bottom line if you live in a community where antennas are frowned upon (amazing such a thing could exist!) then don't give up hope on making solid DX QSO's. Use your attic and you will be just as surprised as me how effective they can be. Don't worry about wire being in straight lines, make what bends you have too to make the length of wire fit, use good coax, a balun and proper safety and you will work the world.

73's, N2LK

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Check out the New ICOM IC-7000: [ICOM IC-7000](#)

More From David Worboys, KG4ZLB:

My UK club asked me for an article for their newsletter on US/UK licensing so I amended it for ARASWF and thought everyone might be interested in reading it.

US/UK Reciprocal Licensing

At the request of a member of my club in the UK, I was asked to write a short note for the Club newsletter on my experiences gaining US and UK licensing in case it may be of any use to fellow club members in the future. With a bit of amending to the UK version, here goes!

After obtaining my M3 in December 2002, I very soon relocated to sunny SW Florida and having checked with the FCC, in writing, I found that I was able to operate by appending "W4/" in front of my M3 callsign and had all the privileges offered by the FCC under the reciprocal arrangements. I never checked whether that meant that I could only run a maximum of 10w or not and therefore, I didn't, who would?

M3*** is the basic licence class which allows operators to run a maximum of 10w on all bands except 10 metres.

Pretty soon after, mainly because I was getting bored of having to call W4/M3CCM and finding that no-one recognised the call, plus it was a bit of a mouthful so I decided to go for the FCC Technician licence.

35 questions get 25 or so right, no problem. So I had a US licence and a US call, KG4ZLB. Then it got interesting because I signed KG4 for VHF/UHF and W4/M3CCM for HF, didn't actually appreciate that having entered the US system, the reciprocal arrangements cease and I was stuck with the operating privileges of a US Tech, namely 50 MHz and up!

Next thing was to progress up the ladder so I took the General written exam and passed that without any problem but of course a 5wpm Morse test was required. My General written pass gave me 365 days to pass the CW or face the written again. Now CW is not my favourite mode of operating and I procrastinated long and hard hoping that the FCC would drop the requirement! No such luck and by a cruel twist of fate I ended up taking the CW exam **366** days after the written pass – hadn't bargained for a leap year! Anyway, I failed spectacularly that Thursday evening and at that point hadn't had any US HF

privileges for over a year and had to face the written exam again as well!

So, the following Saturday I took the written again, and passed, and then took the CW on the Thursday evening after that. Call it divine intervention, call it luck, call it what you will, but I scraped through and got my General ticket.....HF hello again! Many thanks to Jerry, W8TWJ, for the Saturday morning CW lessons!

So, what was next? Go for the Amateur Extra or worry about upgrading my M3? I decided to go the UK route and e-mailed UK Club training officers about how to go for the Intermediate Licence.

The Intermediate Licence allows all band privileges but to a maximum of 50 w PEP. Call signs are now 2E***. The old style "G" calls for the UK have been exhausted and are now M3, 2E and M0 denoting Foundation (Tech), Intermediate (General) and Full (Extra)

I ordered the Intermediate manual which duly arrived, agreed with the club that I could forgo the class sessions and just make sure that I was available in May 2005 in the UK for the assessments and the exam itself. I therefore started to make little projects and revise the manual, realising that it was very similar to the General syllabus except for practical elements.

Sometime early November 2004, I was corresponding with the Deputy Director of the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) Eastern Region via e-mail about various subjects and one of them was the reciprocal arrangements between the US and the UK and visa versa. He suggested that I contact Ofcom (the UK regulator) and see what could be done which I duly did. They told me that with a General ticket in the US, and providing I had a main station address in the UK (which I do); I could pay my £15 and get a full UK licence! Quite unbelievable! I sent off my £15, copy of my licence and held my breath!

A couple of weeks later I hadn't heard anything and was beginning to believe that this was a dead duck, so I called Ofcom again and they said that they needed my original US licence, not a copy! So I sent at great expense (\$24), my original to my Mothers QTH with a request for her to send it on!

At this point in the story, things got a bit difficult in the personal side of things and I ended up on a plane two days after I had sent the licence home. Needless to say, I arrived at 8.00am on the Monday morning and my letter with the licence arrived at 8.30am – doh!

So I sent another £15 cheque, plus the application form and my original licence to Ofcom, recorded delivery and then held my breath again! Although the application form is quite clear on what overseas licences are acceptable for the three types of UK licence, I still believed, and still believe to this day, that the US General licence should be equivalent to an Intermediate. Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, I waited two days and then the full licence arrived, complete with the call that I had requested.

Still being a bit sceptical, I called Ofcom just to confirm that this was correct, even spoke to the RSGB again, but it was accurate and I now have an M0 call. By the way, a full UK licence only allows a maximum of 400w or 26dbw!

If anyone has any queries about reciprocal licensing, please feel free to e-mail me at kg4zlb@arrl.net and I would be most happy to help in any way I can.

Now on to Amateur Extra! That one really sorts the men from the boys!

David
KG4ZLB/M0ZLB

Pictures from the January Meeting, from Elio Hernandez, KI4HQP, Club Public Information Officer:



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Twas The Night Before The Hamfest

Twas the night before the hamfest and down in the shack,
I was making a list of things to bring back.
Now the straight key was abandon because of my fist,
So a shiny new paddle was fist on my list.
My transceiver is excellent but still ten years old,
Surely was top of the line the day she was sold.
Now the new rigs are a wonder and packed full of fun,
But I will never part with my 781.
And the feed line is Andrews the tower's many feet tall,
A T12 log periodic sits on top of it all.
Now the rotor is a tail twister which makes the elements dance,
But if the wind's pretty strong it'll need a kick in the pants.
You know I still have another rig that covers VHF,
Weak signal SSB, CW and UHF.
While making this list it's become obvious to me
I don't need any more gear, I should be as happy as can be.
So tomorrow at the hamfest I'll put on my tag,
Sit around one of the tables and listen to us brag.
About some of the rare countries we've heard on the air,
And talk about the problems of getting cards from anywhere.
And at the end of the day when the coffees turned cold,
And the prizes have been raffled and the bargains all sold.
I'll get in my car with good friends at my side,
And head for our homes with a feeling of pride.
See there's no better fraternity to spend part of your time,
With elmers, and newbies, and old timers in their prime.
This world renowned hobby is as simple as can be,
It's only made up of the efforts from you, and from me.

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

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