



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



Vol. XXI No. 12 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida December 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 Liaison: AA4RX
Howard Roux
Newsletter: WD8RFL
Mike Welsh
Webmaster: KI4AIM
Rik Conklin
Social Chair: W2JQ
Sigi Boernet



George Tomlinson, N3ISH, Grand Master, Collier County Masons, presenting Carl Pacini, KI4AII, V.P. ARASWF, a certificate of appreciation for Hurricane Wilma Emergency Communications provided by ARASWF Club members.

From the Presidents Shack:

Just a quick note on club activities. On Saturday, December 3, a work party met at Pine Ridge Middle School and installed antennas, rotors, coax, and control cables for the International Space Station contact. Later that evening Sharon Lea informed club members that unfortunately the scheduled contact was scrubbed. A new date should be announced soon.

On Tuesday, December 13, a small work party met at the repeater site. The antenna mast was straightened (Hurricane Wilma bent it), new coax was installed and also a lightning protection system was set up.

HF activity has been slow but several members report

contacts on 6 meters in the late afternoon and evening.

73,
Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT

A Note from the New President, Peter Gaddy, KK4PG:

Dear Radio Club Members:

Please put on your thinking caps for the January meeting. At that meeting I would like everyone in attendance to be prepared to let your board of directors and other members know the following:

What should ARASWF do that it's not doing?
What should ARASWF stop doing?
What should be done to recruit new members?
How should new members be introduced to the Club?

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas,

Peter P. Gaddy
KK4PG

From Vice President, Carl Pacini, KI4All:

I would like to make a few comments on propagation and ask anyone if he or she would like to make a presentation on propagation.

Recently, DX propagation has been quite difficult to explain. For example, on Wednesday, December 14, I made contact with a ham in Israel from my mobile station. He gave me a signal report of 57. A short time later, I was not even heard in Western Europe. I used the same radio, same power level and operated on the same frequency. During the first week of December, I made a contact near Brisbane, Australia and received a signal report of 55. Just a short time later, I was 51 in Ireland. How can this be explained?

If anyone in the club would like to make a short presentation on propagation please contact Carl Pacini, KI4All, at 590-7344 or cpacini@fgcu.edu. I am sure that club members would be very interested in listening to your presentation.

73's
Carl, KI4All

Amateur Radio Association of South West Florida

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

In attendance:

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

Apologies:

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MEETING MINUTES

Carl, KI4AII (Vice - President), acted as Chairman of the meeting and there being a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 7.30pm.

2006 Club Officers: Carl, KI4AII, as head of the Nominations Committee presented to the meeting a list of Members who had agreed to stand as Officers for the 2006 membership year. Corey, KB4ETT and Carl, WA9ZIF had both indicated that they would not be standing for re-election.

The nominations were:

Peter, KK4PG as President
Carl, KI4AII as Vice-President
David, KG4ZLB as Secretary
Bill, K2ZEL as Treasurer
Rodney, KI4DBI as Operations Director

Corey, as current President would automatically be the 2006 Past President. No nominations had been made for the post of Technical Director at this time.

No nominations were received from the floor and John, NS0I proposed a motion that the list of nominations be accepted en masse, this motion was seconded by George, N3ISH and carried by the membership unanimously.

Secretary's Note: Since the meeting the Board has asked Jordan, WB2QLP to assume the position of Technical Director for the 2006 year, a position that he has accepted thus filling all of the Club Officer positions for the new year.

Club Repeater: Peter, KK4PG reported that that he had tried calling Spectrum Technologies a number of times but had never had any calls returned. He had also called the New Hampshire Radio Club who, as manufacturers of the controller, would have had an order from Spectrum for our repeater part. The confirmed that they had not had any orders from Spectrum. Peter confirmed that we had received the transmitter but no receive crystal! After a number of e-mails, Peter had been advised that the crystal would be received this Friday. Dan, WB7ECV said that we

could actually integrate everything ourselves, we just needed the parts!

ISS Contact: Doug, N4DMD reported that ARISS had given a date of December 12th at 9.32am for the school contact at Pine Ridge Middle School and that a work party was needed to set up the equipment. Carl, KI4AII undertook to collect names of Members who would be prepared to help, the work party being the following Saturday, December 3rd. Doug also advised that the Club would need to purchase some coaxial cable and rotor cable and John NS0I made a motion that the Board be empowered to purchase whatever was necessary, this was seconded by Peter, KK4PG and carried unanimously.

Secretary's Note: Approximately one hour after finishing the work party on December 3rd, we were advised that ARISS/NASA has scrubbed the planned contact for December 9th. No reasons were given and no new dates were proposed at this time. On a separate but still related issue, the Commander of the ISS, Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, was extremely active on the ISS during the week beginning November 28th and as a result, a few members including K4ADR, WB2QLP and KG4ZLB had successful QSO's.

Club Award: George, N3ISH, as Master of the Naples Masonic Lodge, presented an award to the Club for "outstanding performance during disasters", the award was accepted on behalf of the Club by Carl, KI4AII.

Xmas Dinner: After some discussion it was agreed that Sigi should arrange the Xmas dinner at Perkins for the evening of December 9th 2005 with a starting of 5.30pm.

Treasurers Report: – Bill, K2ZEL reported a balance as at October 1st 2005 of \$2699.52 and expenditure since then of \$1645.00 for the new repeater and \$16.25 in bank charges following the change in club address to the PO Box. Dues of \$37.50 were collected during the period being the only income. The balance on hand as at November 22nd 2005 was \$1075.77
Bill also reported that the Club had received two thank you notes from the Red Cross; one for the annual Club contribution and one for the extra Hurricane Relief contribution made subsequently.

Meeting Minutes: Octobers Meeting minutes, having been published in the last Club Newsletter, were taken as read.

Life Membership Award: David, KG4ZLB presented a short biography of Jordan, WB2QLP to the Members present and proposed a motion that he be granted a Life Membership in recognition of his unstinting and unselfish work for the Club over the best part of 30 years. The motion was seconded by John, NS0I and carried unanimously.

Ham Aid: Carl, KI4AII advised the meeting that he had spoken to Mary Hobart at ARRL HQ following the publication on the ARRL website that funds were available to help rebuild and repair emergency communication systems that had been damaged during the recent Hurricanes. Mary had advised that we needed to write directly to her explaining who we were, what our relationship was to the Red Cross and other served agencies, how the damage occurred, pictures of the damage and a budget for the repair or replacement of the damaged items. John, NS0I advised that the ARRL had recently added towers and antennas to their insurance coverage and Carl, KI4AII said that the Club did not have an insurance policy with the ARRL, only liability insurance. However he noted that the Club needed to consider having adequate coverage on equipment going forward.

Secretary's Note: Since the meeting David, KG4ZLB and Jordan, WB2QLP have prepared and sent the letter of application to Mary Hobart at ARRL.

Donation to Club: AD, K4ADR advised the meeting that a John Bacon had donated a number of items to the Club including a transceiver and amplifier with possibly an HF antenna to come. David, KG4ZLB advised that he had already written to Mr. Bacon thanking him

Okeechobee Ham Fest: Jordan reminded the members present that the Okeechobee Ham Fest was to be held on Saturday November 26th

10m Contest: Jordan, WB2QLP advised the meeting that the ARRL 10m contest was approaching and that if there was any interest, he would bring his tower trailer to the Red Cross so that members could work the contest.

50/50 Raffle: The 50/50 raffle was drawn by Merle, W4MWZ and was won by Carl, KI4AII who donated his winnings to Club funds.

A motion to close the meeting was proposed by AD, K4ADR and seconded by Allen, KI4IMA, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8.20pm.

David A. Worboys
KG4ZLB
Secretary

From Jack Cane, KI4HQQ:

Club Members are Active in Planned Radio Contact with ISS

A few weeks ago Club members gathered at the Pine Ridge Middle School to prepare the ground station for 2-meter contact with the International Space Station (ISS). For about six hours about 10 of us, directed by Doug, Gary and Jordan, laid cables, assembled antennas, tested radios and calibrated the antenna rotor.

We were expecting a mid-December contact, but that was later scrubbed by NASA. We now expect that the event will take place early in 2006. When it finally happens, the combined efforts of the ARASWF, the Collier County Public School System, the ISS, NASA, and Pine Ridge Middle School (PRMS) will come to fruition in a two-way radio conversation between students of PRMS and the astronauts of the ISS.

This contact is a part of a continuing program of cooperation between multiple organizations to increase awareness of our nation's space program among students in the K-12 public education process. The space station will be in communication range in an orbital pass of about six minutes.

The students of PRMS and the questions that they will send out to Space have been selected from a number of applicants based on their (interest, enthusiasm, grades, teacher recommendations, etc). Their peers will be listening in classrooms connected to the auditorium by closed-circuit TV links running throughout the school.



Doug, N4DMD working on Antenna Rotator
for ISS Contact

From David Worboys, KG4ZLB:

T'was the week before Christmas.....'

....well, three weeks and six days before to be precise but I felt as if Christmas did indeed come early for me!

For me, one of the “holy grails” of amateur radio has always been contacting the International Space Station and QSO-ing with one of the astronauts directly rather than using the cross band repeater or the packet system. And so for many months, armed with the Nova tracking system, I have watched the big white bird soar majestically over Florida, turned on the radio and been greeted with the squawking packet transmissions!

On the back of an e-mail that I received from my Club in England, I read a report of one of friends there having made contact one afternoon, and astonishingly, the ISS was calling CQ! I had imagined that as soon as the system was on voice, it would be swamped with hams trying to make contact.

So, on Monday November 28th, I checked the path and found that at about 4.20pm local, the ISS would be passing over at a 17 degree elevation; although I was at work at the time I thought I would have a go anyway.

I had driven to the local Post Office and was sitting in the car in the lot outside, when the ISS came over the horizon and I waited to see if the packet system was on or not. I had my mobile Icom radio set to the uplink frequency and was using my Icom h/t for

the downlink, holding it out the window of the car!

A couple of minutes into the pass I heard a voice and with growing excitement, waited to see if the station was in cross band and that what I was listening to was other hams talking to each other using the ISS as a big repeater system.

And then I heard,

*"This is NA1SS calling CQ"...*I nearly dropped the h/t. Composing myself quickly, I called back,

"NA1SS, this is KG4ZLB", immediately, the voice came back,

"KG4ZLB, this is NA1SS, solid copy, name is Bill".

Bill McArthur is the Commander of the ISS at the present time and his personal call is KC5ACR.

In response to my telling him who and where I was, I was interested to learn that he had spent a vacation in Naples just before leaving for the ISS on Expedition 12 from Russia. He also said that he sent his best wishes to everyone in Florida especially after the torrid time we have had in hurricane season, and then he was gone and over the horizon.

Needless to say, my QSL and SASE were in the mail within the hour.

During that week, Bill on the ISS was extremely active and I heard him talking to Jordan, WB2QLP and AD, K4ADR so congratulations to them on their QSO's.

When I returned from England on December 12th, my ISS QSL card was waiting for me and has taken pride of place ahead of the one from Japan that I got a few months ago!

Now if they would just put a solar powered repeater on the Moon.....!

RIG FOR SALE

KENWOOD TM-642A TRI-BAND FM TRANSCEIVER
2M/440/6M FM RIG COMES WITH ORIGINAL: MIC, MOBILE BRACKET, POWER CORD, MANUAL, BOX (TABS RIPPED OFF ONE END OF BOX). \$625.00 OBO
Contact Anthony, KB2SFA@AOL.COM 239-354-0695

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

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

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - JANUARY 24, 2006
7:30 PM - RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE**