



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



Vol. XXI No. 9 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida September 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

From the Presidents Shack:

Hello to all:

Just a few reminders about upcoming events. It is important to attend this months meeting as we will be voting on the purchase of a new 2 meter repeater for the club. The repeater we have, is ailing and it is fruitless to try to put more band-aids on it. This club certainly has gotten plenty of 'mileage' out of our old repeater and the board feels that a new repeater is in order.

Dr. Chalmers Secrist will be speaking on the subject of D-layer absorption. Dr. Secrist was a guest speaker earlier in the year and provided an enthusiastic presentation of the history of Amateur Radio. I know that many members look forward to hearing from him again.

NASA Nights at Pine Ridge Middle School will occur on the same night as our club meeting. The plan is for the club meeting to be held as usual at the Red Cross building at 7:30pm on September 27. The NASA Night event will be worked by Jordan WB2QLP, David KG4ZLB, myself and few other members.

NASA Nights will also be held in Immokalee on Thursday September 29. Perhaps this will allow other members to help out at that event which will showcase Amateur Radio to our community.

73,

Corey Mugaas KB4ETT

Amateur Radio Association of South West Florida

Club meeting held at the Red Cross Building, Naples, FL on Tuesday August 23rd, 2005.

In attendance:

Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT- President
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

=====

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. Introductions were made by all members present for the benefit of visiting guests.

Treasurers Report: Bill, K2ZEL presented the Treasurers report for the period to August 23rd 2005.

Balance on hand – 31 July 2005		\$2975.28
Income – dues	12.50	
- 50/50 (July)	<u>16.00</u>	
	28.50	
Balance as at 23 August 2005-09-01		<u>\$3003.78</u>

Bill also advised that the Club had received a further \$110 from the proceeds of Peter's Party 50/0 drawing. Although no expenditure had occurred during the preceding period, Bill advised that he had a bill from Jordan for lunch for the recent antenna/repeater working party.

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

Other Business:

Bill advised the meeting that he had updated the ARRL Club details and that all information held with the ARRL is now correct.

Corey, KB4ETT advised that the Club would be renting a 4"x6" post office box from the Cocohatchee Post Office on Immokalee Rd, this being the nearest to the Club. This would avoid any further mail being sent to us via the Red Cross.

Bill explained to the meeting that the Club Licence, which expires in April 2008, was currently in the name of Mark Kennedy; Mark was unlikely to be resuming any ham activities in the near future and therefore someone else from the Club needed to be the Club Trustee. That person needed to be active in the Club and an Extra class licence holder. Bill advised the meeting that the Board had asked Jordan, WB2QLP if he would take over the responsibility of the Club Licence. Jordan had accepted and Bill would make the necessary arrangements to transfer the licence into Jordan's name. A motion to accept the Boards proposal was made by Alan, KI4IMA and seconded by Tim, KC4SSB and the motion was carried unanimously.

Jordan, WB2QLP, reminded Members present of the upcoming NASA Nights which had been moved back one week to the 27th and 29th of September; this of course was going to be on one of the nights that the next Board and Club meeting was due to be held. Currently three members of the Board, Jordan, David, KG4ZLB and Corey, KB4ETT would be attending the nights. Jordan felt that 5 people minimum would be required and Alan, KI4IMA and Tim, KC4SSB volunteered their services for the evenings.

Club Repeater: Peter, KK4PG reported to the meeting that having inspected, serviced and repaired the 670 machine a number of times, it appeared that after a couple of hours of use, the repeater reverted to its previously identified faults inasmuch as it was cutting out and losing signal strength. Although the unit appeared to be ok on the transmission side, Jordan felt that it was time to acquire a completely new repeater unit. Jordan stated that the antenna itself was fine and that with receive being the problem, the suspect part was the repeater controller which in itself, was some 30 years old, the repeater itself being 11 or 12 years old. As such, it was probably past its best; it had taken at least two direct lightning strikes and with the "gremlins" present, some 30 odd trips back and forth to the site had now been undertaken. Peter, KK4PG advised the meeting that in his opinion, the club should consider the purchase of a fully integrated unit (controller and repeater all in one unit). Peter had undertaken some research into available products and had identified the Hamtronics 200T integrated repeater unit at a cost of \$1695 plus \$170 for the tone board and a further \$18 for the monitor speaker. This appeared to be the only integrated circuit repeater available. After some careful consideration and discussion amongst the membership present, Corey reported that the Board had decided that the Membership be approached to vote on the purchase of the Hamtronics product or other similar repeater, with the cost not to exceed \$2000, such vote to be made at the September 2005 Club meeting. Notification of this proposal would be given at the August meeting and would also be advertised in the Club Newsletter. In this way, as many members as possible would be given the chance to express their views and vote accordingly, either in person or via proxy vote. Jeff, NJ2F proposed a motion to carry over the vote to the October 2005 club meeting and on a show of hands the motion was defeated 13 – 10. As various Board members would be absent from the October meeting, Carl KI4AII would chair the meeting and make the necessary proposals to the meeting. Those members who would be unable to attend would be able to vote by proxy by sending their wishes via e-mail to Carl well in advance of the October meeting.

Rodney, KI4DBI reminded the meeting of the following nights net on 2m as well as his need for more orders for Club vests so that the unit cost would be as small as possible.

Fred, KF4MJJ advised the meeting that Tropical Depression 12 was in the Atlantic and that it was being watched carefully, more information would be available towards the end of the week. Additionally, interested parties could tune in to the 03 net every evening at 7.00pm.

Bill advised that he had donated a Rascal interface unit to the club and that the hardware and software required had already been set up on the computer in the radio room.

50/50 Raffle: The 50/50 raffle was drawn by Jesse, KI4HEU and was won by Peter, KK4PG

A motion to close the meeting was proposed by Rodney, KI4DBI and seconded by Carl, WA9ZIF, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9.10pm.

David A. Worboys
KG4ZLB
Secretary

Vice President's Report, Carl Pacini, KI4All:

"The ARASWF Constitution (on our website) is no longer a legally effective document. The articles of incorporation are now the operative document. We should have a set of by-laws (which would incorporate parts of the Constitution) but they have not been drafted yet. In the meantime, our operations are also subject to Florida statutes that regulate not-for-profit corporations. In Florida Statute section 617.0721 (2), it states that "a member who is entitled to vote may vote in person or, unless the articles of incorporation or the bylaws otherwise provide, may vote by proxy executed in writing by the member or by his or her duly authorized attorney in fact." The Board's position for purposes of the repeater vote or any other vote is that an email is "a writing."

If you wish to cast a vote on the proposed purchase of a new repeater and you will not be in attendance at the Sept. 27 meeting please send your proxy vote to Corey Mugaas or Carl Pacini by mail or electronic mail. Please state your name somewhere in the communication so we are clear on who cast the vote. If by email, please send your proxy vote to cpacini@fgcu.edu or kb4ett@att.net . Also, please make it clear how you are voting on the question of whether the club should purchase a new repeater.

Thanks for your participation, Carl Pacini, KI4All

Treasurer's Report, Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL:

1. The club has a new mailing address effective this date
ARASWF, Inc.
Post Office Box 111604
Naples, FL 34108
2. The executive board was polled and voted to donate \$100.00 for hurricane disaster relief through the American Red Cross.
3. Members that wish to donate money to the Hurricane Disaster Fund may donate through the club by giving a check to the treasurer made out to the club and marked Hurricane relief in the lower corner and the money will be added to the money allocated by the board. It has been suggested that members at the meeting be solicited for a contribution to this fund.

Membership Contributions of General Interest:

From Peter Gaddy, KK4PG:

As everyone knows the clubs repeater has reached the end of the line after more than a decade of service. The repeater is invaluable to the club for member recruitment, emergency communication, and just plain rag chewing.

In searching for a new repeater we decided to look for a unit with an integrated controller that would give us a turn key operation-at a reasonable price. Two candidates were found: Hamtrronics and Spectrum Technology. The Hamtrronics would cost about \$1935.00 and the Spectrum would cost about \$1645.00. I am recommending the Spectrum unit because it is a commercial unit with a good track record, and it would come with an NHRC controller that would give us more flexibility for the future.

The following links are for Hamtrronics, NHRC, and Spectrum.

<http://www.hamtrronics.com>
<http://www.nhrc.net/nhrc-5/>
<http://www.spectrumcoms.com>

Peter Gaddy
KK4PG

From John Simander, NS0I:

Here is a URL for some simple logbook software for the average guy that can be converted to ADIF format to import to most logging programs or to the ARRL LoTW.

<http://www.wb8nut.com/downloads.html>

73,
John
NS0I

Concerning NASA Nights, From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

Amateur Radio Connection with Collier County Public Schools:

Hello NASA Enthusiasts!

My name is Sharon Lea and I am the NES Team Lead for Collier County Public Schools in Florida. Our team consists of two middle schools who will be celebrating their 2nd Annual Fall NASA Night. Flyer describing event is attached. Pine Ridge Middle will host their gala evening science extravaganza on September 27 & Immokalee Middle will host theirs on September 29.

One event will be hosted by our new community partners the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida, ARASWF. The club will set up a radio station each of the nights mentioned above in the school's front courtyard. We would like to arrange for Hams from NASA Centers to have their "ears" on and be expecting our call at a designated time. In this way students can speak with NASA science mentors.

The ARASWF is the club who assisted our NES Team in filling out the application to contact the ISS. If our team is chosen, these are the folks who will make the ISS contact happen for our community. Our NES Team has become enthused about Ham radio operations since applying for the ISS radio contact. All team members plan to get their Amateur Radio License and we are going to establish a radio club at the two middle schools.

If any of you are Hams or know NASA folks who are, we would certainly appreciate arranging a contact on September 27 or September 29 or both!

Last year the Pine Ridge NASA Night hosted over 500 very excited community members while Immokalee had a turn out of approximately 150. We are expecting a considerably larger turn out at both schools this year! The Pine Ridge PTO is hosting a Carrabbas spaghetti dinner immediately before the science adventures begin!

The **whole community** is invited! Please help us contact NASA Hams, so that we can showcase NASA and the science of radio communications!

Scientifically yours,

Sharon Lea

NES Team Lead
Collier County Public Schools

school phone: 239-377-5078

cell phone: 239-272-2563

leash@collier.k12.fl.us

Pine Ridge Web Site: <http://collier.k12.fl.us/prm/news.htm> Sharon Lea, webmaster

Student/Parent Invitation sent out:



Launch into Learning



2nd Annual Fall NASA Explorer Night!
Tuesday, September 27, 5:30-8:30PM

*Multipurpose Room: 5:30-8:20PM - Live video conferencing with NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) and Glenn Research Center (GRC). Enjoy live interactive video conferences with the NASA experts!

*JSC "Views of Earth from Space!"

Presentation Times: (5:30 – 5:50PM) (6:00 – 6:20PM) (6:30 – 6:50PM)

*GRC "Into the Cosmos," with NASA physicist Joe Kolecki!

Presentation Times: (7:00 – 7:20PM) (7:30 – 7:50PM) (8:00 – 8:20PM)

*Courtyard in Front of School: 5:30 – 8:00PM Ham Radio Station to contact NASA Centers. Presented by the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida. Come talk to NASA! If you have questions, the experts have answers!

*Media Center: 7:00-8:30 - Mr. Les Gold, NASA AESP, will have moon rocks, meteorites, NASA toys, astronaut suit for your investigation. Mr. Gold will astound you with his knowledge of all things NASA, rockets, space, geology, planets, and much more!

*Gym: 7:00 – 8:30PM - The Everglades Astronomical Society assisted by PRMS teachers Mr. Wittenberg, and Mr. Anthony will host 2 Star Labs where visitors will be treated to galactic spectacles! This is way too cool to miss!

*Athletic Field: 6:30 – Dusk - Tube Rocket Launching! Come launch a rocket! Students, parents, and friends can make tube rockets in Rooms 701, Mrs. Stone's room, and 702, Mrs. Lea's room. Launch rockets under the supervision of Mr. Brenco, Mr. Mankiewicz, and PRMS teachers!

*Athletic Field: Dark to 8:30PM – The Everglades Astronomical Society presents "Telescope Viewing!" Come gaze at Naples' Starry Starry Night!

*Sixth Grade Wing: 7:00 – 8:30PM – PRMS' Mrs. Johnson and IMS' Mr. Waber will demonstrate "Robotic Reverie!" See the application of Newton's Laws in action!

*Celebrate the 2nd Annual Fall NASA Night with Pine Ridge Middle School! We are one of only

150 NASA Explorer Schools in the USA! Come! Enjoy! Marvel! Play! Wonder! Quest! Quiz! Question! Construct! Create! Launch! Interview! Investigate! Inquire! Test! Gaze! Discuss! Discover! Explore! Experiment! Razzle – Dazzle your mind!

Why We Do It, From Jeff Buerger, NJ2F:

THE ESSENCE OF HAM RADIO, ACCORDING TO W2SKE, SK

0 Bill Leonard, W2SKE, was a man of many accomplishments, both in his professional career and as a ham, and also as an ARRL Member of over 60 years standing. He and I were close friends from the time we met at Dartmouth in 1934. I believe some of his remarks made at the Dayton HamVention 10 years ago captured the essence of our hobby in words that bear repeating.

Bill told the attendees that, after half a century of hamming, he still could not help but regard radio as a miracle:

"Yes, I know how it works. I know how electrons flow, and how the Sun spots and the Moon bounces. But, to me, it is still magic. I have never lost that sense of awe and mystery. No matter how much radio I studied, no matter how many kits I put to-gether, no matter how many trees and tow-ers I climbed to put up no matter how many antennas, no matter how many contest QSOs and countries worked and QSL cards received-way down deep, I can hardly believe it. I hope the next generation of hams will carry with them, through the years, just-a little of that sense of the won-der of it all. And I hope it gives them a lifetime of pleasure, as it has me."-Gene Kern, W2BAK, Tenafly, New Jersey

Could anybody say it better?

Pres Graham W4FDA since 1937

Computer CW? From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

Should Computer CW be Encouraged?

By Jerry Keller (K3BZ) on August 22, 2005

Keyboard CW seems like an obvious partner of the many digital modes that are enjoying such popularity today, especially among the younger and newer members of the hobby. And the newest crop of software CW readers makes CW use even more painless.

Yes, there are some CW reader programs now that actually work! QRM, QRN, and bad propagation still adversely affect software's ability to copy weak signals, and the human

ear and brain will likely always be better, but the software is improving all the time.

The computer as a tool for sending and receiving CW may be the next logical step in a long series of improvements that range from the hand key to the "bug" and paddles, to the electronic keyers that are now built into nearly every transceiver.

OK, I know there are purists out there that will decry computer sending and receiving as not being "real CW", but there was a similar outcry when the hand calculator replaced doing basic arithmetic the long way on paper; when sewing machines replaced needle and thread; when washing machines replaced the washboard; when vacuum cleaners replaced rug beating; and when electric gadgets and appliances of all types replaced doing things by hand, saving countless hours of labor for everyone. Things change, and most of the changes can be considered progress if you apply a modern perspective.

On one of the DX reflectors, I recently asked what the attitude towards keyboard CW is among longtime CW users and advocates, and I was surprised to find that there seemed to be little or no opposition to it, at least in that limited forum. I was surprised because previously the message coming from the CW user community seemed to be simply "If we had to work hard to learn CW to get our ham licenses, nobody should get one with any less work." But if that attitude is NOT widely held, perhaps the CW user community deserves more credit for having a progressive and mature outlook.

Also from Jordan...

Ham Radio operators provide early communication after storm... view video:

<http://www.cbs47.com/mediacenter/Default.aspx?videoid=1838>

The technology has been around for close to 100 years, and during natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina, it could be one of the most reliable forms of communication.

"Ham radio" operators may soon be helping in the recovery effort during the cleanup phase of Katrina relief. Even after a storm like Katrina, operators in the gulf states can be back on the air delivering important information immediately.

Allen Jones is an amateur emergency radio operator in St., Johns County. While wind and rain can cut other forms of communication, Jones says ham radio operators can be back on the air in no time. Most have back-up generators and just need to put antennas back up that have been taken out.

Jones and others like him worked out of shelters during last year's hurricanes, making sure messages got out. For Katrina, Jones has already tried to help a friend who couldn't get in touch with a family member in hurricane ravaged Gulfport, Mississippi. Getting that important update may mean reaching out to several other operators along the way.

“They'll spread the word,” says Jones. “Somebody will know that person, and they'll find that person.”

Allen says there are 35 ham operators on his emergency communication team in St. Johns County. He'll soon learn if any of them will be needed to operate radio equipment where hurricane Katrina struck.

Ham operators hope to get a digital link set up at hospitals and the EOC in St. Johns County. That way, prescriptions and other important information can be printed and available to shelters.

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

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2005
7:30 PM - RED CROSS CHAPTER HOUSE**