



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



Vol. XXI No. 1 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida January 2005

– NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS –

RED CROSS ID BADGE PICTURE WILL BE TAKEN AT JAN MEETING
PLEASE ATTEND

Red Cross Personnel will be available at the Jan. 25, 2005 ARASWF Meeting to take your picture for the RC ID Badge. This ID Badge will be necessary for you to have in your possession during any activation of a Red Cross / ARASWF operation. This is the ONLY ID BADGE available that will get you access anywhere in the county in the event of a major emergency, (hurricane, natural disaster / weather emergency, EOC activation, etc.) During an emergency or if a curfew is imposed, you WILL NOT be able to drive around anywhere in the county without this ID Badge. It is MANDATORY to have one of these. All members are urged to attend the meeting and have a ID Badge issued.

From The Presidents Shack:

Greetings! I hope 2005 finds everyone doing well and active on the bands. I am looking forward to serving as your President in 2005 and enjoying an active club this year.

The club certainly has started out 2005 with some great plans: Rodney Smith, KI4DBI, is organizing radio communications for a marathon to be held in Naples on January 23. He will need our support to make this event a success.

Carl Pacini, KI4AII, has been working hard at securing guest speakers for our club meetings. We will have some interesting topics to discuss.

A work party attended to the club repeater on December 30th, 2004. Jordan -WB2QLP, Rodney - KI4DBI, Carl - KI4AII, Peter - KK4PG, and myself were able to move the antenna to a much more secure location, replaced the antenna feed line, and installed a new power supply.

The new antenna location works great, but we are still experiencing interference from

the elevator systems located in the same room as the repeater. Jordan - WB2QLP, and Peter - KK4PG are continuing to research the problem. Thank you to all involved.

A VE testing session is scheduled for Saturday January 22 at the Red Cross. There is still time to study for an upgrade! (Carl Pacini - KI4AI was so psyched up about upgrading to General that he drove to Venice to take the test!! Congratulations Carl, welcome to HF.)

Do you enjoy the Wednesday night club net on 2 meters? I sure do. What a great way to keep in touch and relay information. Have you ever thought about being the Net Control Station sometime? Sure, it is a little scary at first (it was for me), but after the first few check-in's it is A LOT of fun!!

Not ready to 'just go on the air' as Net Control? Practice being a silent Net Control. Download the net script from our club website, listen to the net, and write down all the stations as they check in. Practice directing the net... (is there a mobile or portable station that should get priority?). Before long you will be 'going to the next station' before Net Control does!! When you are ready to be Net Control let one of the club officers know!

As Radio Amateurs, we have a desire to know how things work... and KEEP things working. From antenna systems to the most complicated circuits. I am sure every one of us has opened up a radio just to see all those individual components inside. It still amazes me how everything works together to produce the desired result.

Your club is quite similar. Individual members come together, each with their own talents and abilities, knowledge and experience, to produce the desired result... an active enjoyable Amateur Radio Club.

What would you like your club to do this year? What presentations would you like to have at the club meetings? What activities do you desire to participate in?

Please, let your club officers know. After all, our hobby is about communication.

73,

Corey Mugaas -- KB4ETT President ARASWF
kb4ett@att.net

From Vice President Carl Pacini, KI4AI

One of the most exciting experiences a ham can have is to go on a DXpedition. Please contact Carl Pacini, KI4AI, cpacini@fgcu.edu or Corey Mugass, KB4ETT, cgmugaas@att.net, if you are interested in discussing a DXpedition in summer 2006. Some possible destinations are the Aleutian Islands, Baffin Island, Greenland, Iceland, Newfoundland, Labrador, the Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands or the Hebrides Islands (off the coast of Scotland). We are open to suggestions for other destinations as well.

The speaker at January's club meeting is Dan Summers, Director, Collier County EOC. He will talk about emergency communications and the role of ham radio operators. In February, the guest speaker will be Chalmers Sechrist. He has a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and is the former associate dean of the college of engineering at the University of Illinois. He will talk about the history of ham radio with an emphasis on the late 1940s and the 1950s.

From Treasurer, Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL

Treasurer's Note

The 2005 dues notice has been mailed to all members. all dues are due at this time of the year. Please return your dues and the member update form to this office. Dues and the forms will also be collected at the January meeting.

Class Note

The club sponsored winter class will start on Sat. Jan. 22 at 9:00 at the Red Cross Chapter House. Prospective students are requested to register with Dr. Reynolds at 992-4708. This class will be using the current ARRL materials. Books will be available for the class.

From VE Liaison, Howard Roux, AA4RX

A VE session will be held on January 22nd at 9:30AM at the Red Cross building. Call 775-8776 for additional info.

A Special Note from our Secretary, David Worboys, KG4ZLB:

Letter from England

Well, what a difference a couple of weeks make! I enjoyed immensely the ARASWF Christmas dinner at Perkins and although I had an inkling that I might need to return to the UK, the speed of it surprised me! Its not appropriate to go into my Mothers health right now but suffice to say, she is "comfortable" and I will remain here until it is ok to return. Therefore it would be useful if someone could take over the duties of Club Secretary in the intervening period!

Now, on to radio!

I brought my 706 back with me and set up a semi-permanent station consisting of the radio plus the ever present G5RV which has served me faithfully every time I return here. At least this time I remembered to bring the microphone with me!

Within a few days I had established contact with Jordan (WB2QLP) and Jeff (NJ2F) via e-mail and we arranged some skeds on 17 metres. Largely a hit and miss affair but contact was established on two occasions so far although the only real two contact was with Jeff as Jordan couldn't really hear me - I think he has equipment that is far too expensive! I rigged up a homebrew dipole cut for 18.160 and Jeff did comment that my signal was stronger using that. Also had AD (K4ADR) in on one of the skeds.

Band conditions here in the UK have been abysmal since I arrived, as has the weather! The only guaranteed openings are on 40 and 80 with 20 and 17 being open Stateside during daylight hours (but only when the sun is out). When not chasing Jordan or Jeff, I have worked a number of stations to the east of me; in Switzerland, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Latvia, Hungary and European Russia. It does seem that the current G5RV set up favours eastern contacts so maybe I will have to think about re-siting it in due course.

Armed with my General licence, I approached the governing body here and obtained my full, class A, UK licence which believe it or not gives me the option to run a full 400 watts or 26dbw, as a maximum! Looking through the syllabus for the full licence here I can not possibly see how they can equate it to an FCC general but I am never one to look a gift horse in the mouth so I am now M0ZLB in the UK and KG4ZLB in the US!

Through the technology of the internet and with grateful thanks to Carl for providing the link, we have had two very successful Echolink skeds recently. I am not one to question whether VoIP is actually amateur radio, (its not really!), but the system works and last Thursday we had a great time with Jordan, Jeff, AD, Jerry (W8TWJ), Rodney (KI4DBI), Peter (KK4PG) and Doug and Taylor (whose call signs I neglected to record, apologies). Jerry actually broke off from his dinner at a local restaurant to sit in his car and get on the "net".

So for anyone who hasn't tried it, and is in close proximity to Carl, tune your 2m radio to 146.500 (simplex, no tones). Anyone of a technical nature with an internet linked PC, download the Echolink software and give it a try. I normally get on there about 12.30am my time (7.30pm edt) and give a call and Jeff, who is normally monitoring, or Jordan tends to give a call on the 640 machine to advise anyone who is listening that we are on Echolink. It is really great to be able to keep in touch with everyone whilst I am in "exile"

So, with that, I will sign off and look forward to speaking with you on Echolink or by pre-arranged sked the traditional way.

73's for now and Happy New Year.

David

KG4ZLB/M0ZLB

From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP

Michael C. " Mike " Gurka, K2UGH, ARRL Technical Specialist and Local Government Liaison, died December, 22, he was 64. Mike is survived by his wife, Stella, WB2FAU. Mike co-authored the current Lee County Antenna ordinance & was technical director for the Gulf Coast Area Repeater Club. He was a member of ARRL, QCWA & the Radio Club of America, where he was elected Fellow. Gurka was first licensed in 1956 as KN2UGH & served his country during the Vietnam conflict in the US Air Force. He was a retired electronics engineer , President/CEO of Atlantis Electronics & former director of Carteret Bank & Trust, Carteret, NJ. Mike was active in the Fort Myers amateur community as Vice President of the Gulf Coast Area Repeater Club, Edison Chapter 196, QCWA & the Lehigh PSK31 Club.

The "Rodney Report" from Rodney Smith, KI4DBI

(A regular column on interesting items each month)

I would like to mention a few Frequencies for members to monitor. 156.800 VHF CH 16 Coast Guard Calling and Distress 157.100 VHF Ch 22 Coast Guard Notice to Mariners 123.100 Coast Guard Search and Rescue Pri 122.900 Coast Guard Search and Rescue Secondary 154.295 155.820 153.950 Emergency Control Collier County 154.430 Emergency Control Lee County 153.425 Lee County Electric CO-OP.
73's, Rodney KI4DBI

*Some Interesting Links concerning the Tsunami Event,
From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP*

[World Wide MARA](#)

[Hams Lend A Helping Hand - The Hindu](#)

[UCF Professor Survives](#)

Lastly, From Mark Kennedy, WA4MK

Amateur Radio Equipment for Sale

ALL MUST GO. ANY REASONABLE OFFER WILL BE
ACCEPTED. MOST ITEMS HAVE PAPERWORK. ALL
ITEMS GUARANTEED IN WORKING CONDITION.

Example: Kenwood TS-850S, as low as \$300.

Radios

Kenwood TS-850S HF Transceiver - MARS Modified. Includes FM Mode.

ICOM IC-746 PRO HF/VHF Transceiver – MARS Modified.

ICOM 706 MKIIG All Mode Transceiver – All Mode. Removable Face Plate included.
MARS Modified.

Yaesu FT-1500M FM Transceiver – 100 Watts. MARS Modified.

Yaesu FT-8100 Duel Band FM Transceiver.

Yaesu FT-311RM 220 MHz FM Transceiver.

Amplifiers

Ameritron AL-811H – 800 Watts. 10 Meter Modified. 4 NEW Tubes.

Heathkit SB-220 – 2KW. NEW Relay Switch.

Antennas

Cubical Quad. 5 Band, 2 Element Quad. Includes 6 Meters.

Mosley TA-33. 3 Element HF Antenna with Mast.

Quad Antennas – 8, 5, and 4 Elements. VHF/SSB

Cubex UHF/VHF Yellow Jacket-46. 4 Element 2 Meter, 6 Element 70 Meter.
HAM STICKS – All Bands
Mobile Antennas – All Types including Mag Mount and VHF SSB.
ICOM AH-2b Antenna.
Comet GP-3 Base Antenna. VHF/UHF.

Tuners

Kenwood AT-130 – Used as Mobile.
MURCH UT-2000 Ultimate Transmatch.
ICOM AH-4 HF/50 MHz Auto Tuner

SWR Meters

Kenwood SWR and Power Meter. 200 to 2KW.
Heathkit HM-2140 SWR and Power Meter.

Power Supplies

Astron RS-50M
SEC 1212
ICOM PS-125 DC Power Supply

Speakers

TWO-AmCom Clearspeech Digital Speakers.
Kenwood SP-940 External Speaker with Filters.
ICOM SP-21 External Speaker with Filters.
FOUR – Mobile Speakers. 5 and 8 ohm.

Rotors

Alliance Rotor controller
CDE Antenna Rotor Controller

Microphones

Kenwood MC-60.
Heil Goldline.
ICOM SM-6 Desk Microphone.

Towers

Rohn 35 BX.. Heavy Duty Tilt-over. Used for the Sky Master Quad.
Rohn 30. with Base Plate and Rotor.

Digital

AEA Packratt Model PK-232MBX. Complete System with Cables and Software.

Miscellaneous

MFJ Mic Switch. MFJ-1262.

Benchner Silver Paddle Keyer.

Ameritron RCS-4 Remote Coax Switch. Should be used with the SkyMaster Quad.

Heil Foot switch.

Heil PRO Headset.

Coax Switches. 2 Way, 6 Way, and 3 Way.

Assorted lengths and types of used and new coax cable.

AND TOO MANY OTHER ITEMS TO LIST

**PLEASE CONTACT MARK – WA4MK – AT (239) 262-3254 OR
WA4MK@COMCAST.NET
THANK YOU!**

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

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