



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



Vol. XXII No. 1 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida January 2006

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: KK4PG
Peter Gaddy
Vice President: KI4AI
Carl Pacini
Secretary: KG4ZLB
David Worboys
Treasurer: K2ZEL
Bill Reynolds
Past President: KB4ETT
Corey Mugaas
Technical Director: WB2QLP
Jordan Mash
Ops. Director: KI4DBI
Rodney Smith
Public Info. Officer: KI4HQP
Elio Hernandez
Awards Manager: KD4VRZ
Gary Randall
VE Liaison: KG4ZLB
David Worboys
Newsletter: WD8RFL
Mike Welsh
Webmaster: KI4AIM
Rik Conklin
Social Chair: W2JQ
Sigi Boernet

From The President's Shack:

Happy New Year to all members of the ARASWF.

Here are a few of the events and projects we have in store for us this year:

- Contact with the International Space Station at Pine Ridge Middle School.
- A robust hamfest calendar.
- Daytrip Dxpedition to Key Wadin Island on April 1.
- Field Day.
- Reconstruction of the club tower and station at the Red Cross.
- Actual operation of the K4YHB repeater complete with Echolink access.
- A fund raiser get together this summer.

In addition to these projects already planned and in the works, I would like to propose two additional goals for the club this year:

1. Establish a Ham Radio entry-level class in conjunction with Collier Schools.
2. Work with the EOC/ARES/RACES to establish a formal plan for disaster preparedness.

Please bring your ideas and suggestions to the club meeting on January 24, 2006.

Just a reminder that Naples population continues to grow, and many hams are moving to the area. Please reach out to them and encourage them to join the ARASWF.

73's
Peter KK4PG

Treasurer's Report, From Bill Reynolds K2ZEL:

Annual Report of Treasurer for year 2005

Balance on hand 1 Jan, 2005		\$2658.12
Income		
Dues	\$1850.00	
Donation to Club	50.00	
50-50 proceeds	222.50	
Equipment Sales	915.00	
Total receipts	\$3037.50	
Working funds for 2005		5695.62

Expenses		
Postal charges	\$ 132.00	
Office supplies	26.55	
Incorporation Fee	87.50	
Donations A.R.C.	420.00	
Coax (repeater)	31.86	
Coax & rotorcable(ISS)	614.09	
Field Day Expenses	176.77	
Tower Bracket	55.12	
HRO, ICOM 746	1549.95	
Spectrum Repeater	1645.00	
Write Log update	30.00	
Liability Insurance	325.00	
Work party lunches	163.23	
Trailer License	40.58	
Bank Charges	40.75	
Books for Classes	149.60	
Total Expenses	\$5488.00	

Balance on Hand 1 January 2006	\$207.62
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Submitted 1 January 2006

G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL
Treasurer
Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida, Inc.

2006 HAMFEST CALENDAR, SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION

Prepared by Frank Butler, W4RH

January 21	Fort Myers, FL
January 28	Arcadia, FL
January 28	Greenville, AL
February 4-5	Miami, FL
February 10-12	Orlando, FL
February 18	Sebring, FL
February 18	Brooksville, FL
February 25	Dalton, GA
March 11	Port Charlotte, FL
March 18	Marietta, GA (Kennehoochee)
March 18	Fort Walton Beach, FL
March 18	Stuart, FL
March 25	New Port Richey, FL
March 25	Jacksonville, FL
March 25	Plantation, FL
April 8	Pace, FL (Floridatown)
April 15	Defuniak Springs, FL
April 22-23	Mobile, AL
April 22-23	Gainesville, FL
April 22	Calhoun, GA
May 6-7	Birmingham, AL
May 6	St. Petersburg, FL (SPARC)
May 14	Moulton, AL
May 19-21	Dayton, OH
June 3	Atlanta, GA
June 3	Fort McCoy, FL
June 10	Fort Payne, AL
July 8	Gainesville, GA (Lanierland)
July 14-15	Milton, FL
August 12	Ellijay, GA
August 12	Fort Pierce, FL
August 19-20	Huntsville, AL

September 16	Dallas, GA
September 23	New Port Richey, FL

October 7	Jacksonville, FL
October 7	Plantation, FL
October 14-15	Melbourne, FL
October 14	Augusta, GA
October 14	Starke, FL
October 14	Rome, GA

November 4-5	Lawrenceville, GA
November 11	Montgomery, AL
November 25	Okeechobee, FL

December 2-3	Palmetto, FL (Tampa)
December 9	Ocala, FL

NOTE: Some of these dates are estimates, based on previous years' dates. Please send corrections to: w4rh@arrl.org

Frank Butler, W4RH
ARRL Director, SE Division

From Carl Foust, WA9ZIF:

EchoLink

EchoLink Procedures

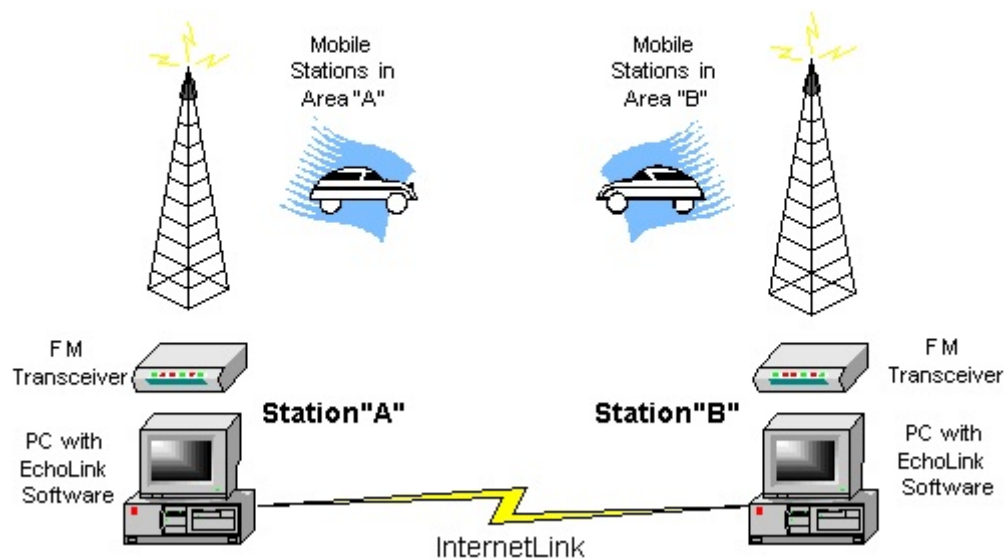
Key up, give your call letters
Enter DTMF tones (will say connecting to)
Wait for a connected to announcement
Call CQ or call a specific station
Carry on conversation (echolink will time out after 4 mins. Of continuous ***key down*** transmission).
After QSO Enter # sign to disconnect
Identify

The table below shows a list of the available codes you can transmit. When you transmit any DTMF tones, wait for a voice recorded cue such as 'Connecting to...' or '# not found...'

Annnnn	Connect to station index number nnnnn (ie. If the station's node number is 4242, you would transmit A4242 using your keypad)
A00	Connect to random station [any station currently active]
A01	Connect to random repeater or simplex station
A02	Connect to random conference server
A03	Connect to random personal user [Hams on their computers]
A08	Check status of link [use if not sure the current state of the link]
A09	Reconnect to last station connected
#	DISCONNECTS a link. (You do not need to disconnect if you were unable to connect to begin with)

A list of nodes can be found at: <http://www.echolink.org/links.asp>
Echolink software can be downloaded at : <http://www.echolink.org>

Linking Example



For more information:

QST Magazine, February 2003, pg. 44.

Software

<http://www.echolink.org> (Windows)

<http://www.dogparksoftware.com/EchoMac.html> (Mac OS/X)

Computer/Radio Interface:

<http://www.linkboards.com/>

<http://www.westmountainradio.com/>

<http://www.packetradio.com/rascalmkv.htm>

<http://ilinkca.com/>

Building your own Interface

<http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/interface.html>

For testing your audio, connect to node 9999. It will record and retransmit your audio so that you can set your receive and transmit levels.

Our node number is 47325 for Naples

FEATURE ARTICLE

From David Worboys, KG4ZLB:

Radio Caroline, the most famous Pirate Radio ship of them all!

Back in the mid-seventies, when I was just a lad, I was away at School and remember fondly listening to Caroline after lights out on an old AM receiver with an earpiece – strictly against the rules of course but what the hell!

The following is an extract from a talk given by a member of my club in England, CARS (Chelmsford Amateur Radio Club) by Carl, G3PEM who worked on board one of the ships during those illicit years; I hope you find it interesting.

For nearly 40 years the BBC ruled the airwaves with little or no competition. But then in the mid sixties something happened which would change the way we listened to music for ever. Pirate radio challenged the BBC's monopoly and the UK Government tried to shut them down, but couldn't, as they operated out to sea in international waters which was at the time, 3 miles out (now 12 miles)

Several pirate ships were launched; probably the most famous was Radio Caroline which operated off the Essex coast.

The ship itself was quite large and comfortable, but there were a few rules, alcohol was strictly rationed and overnight visits from girlfriends definitely not allowed.

It's difficult now to imagine just how popular the pirate radio stations were. Back in the mid sixties there were only two TV channels and they could only broadcast for part of the day. Radio was still the most popular medium and the DJ's were even more famous than the pop stars whose music they played. By the summer of 1967 the days of the pirate radio ships were numbered. The Labour Government who had tried so hard to close down the pirates, finally, succeeded by passing the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act.

Carl told us he first got involved when he was asked him if he would like a well paid job on high power transmitters, as he knew of an organisation who were looking for Engineers. He had his first interview with a man in Billericay, Essex who was a Radio Amateur (since moved to New Zealand). He fixed up a second interview with an ex-BBC Engineer at the Agents at Parkestone Quay. Carl said this was a real in depth exam and he even asked him how a valve worked! At this time the average wage at Marconi

Marine where Carl worked was between £7 & £8 (\$12-20) per week (in the 1960's) he was offered and accepted £25 per week with a two week on and one week off scheme. He then asked what it was for and he was told "Radio Caroline Offshore Radio".

On his first day he reported to Parkestone Quay to join the supply vessel to the "Mi Amigo" (the first Caroline ship), called "Offshore 2"; it was blowing Gale Force 6 or 7. The journey to outside the 3 mile limit by the Gunfleet Sands took one and a half hours and Carl said although he had been a deep sea sailor, he was soaking wet and "feeding the fish" all the way. He thought "what the heck am I doing out here when I had a nice warm comfortable job back in Chelmsford Marconi's?"

MV Caroline, a second ship, was a larger ship than the Mi Amigo and was moved to be called "The North Ship" in Ramsey Bay, off the Isle of Man. The radio audience for this ship was enormous, covering Manchester and Liverpool. Carl said that if a radio programme presenter today has an audience of 100K he thinks he is doing well, the Disc Jockeys on Caroline North were exceeding a 2million figure. Carl at a later time worked on both ships.

Mi Amigo had originally been a sailing ship but had been refitted with a small engine and a new central section of steel, welded into the iron bow and stern sections of its original 1921 build, to be used as a Radio Ship by Radio Nord in Sweden. Studio and transmitter equipment which was all new and up to the minute state of the art stuff at the time, included Gates control panels and switches, Garrard studio record decks, spot tape players for adverts and jingles and the latest Continental Electronics type 316 transmitters. Continental Electronics a well known American high power transmitter manufacturer designed their transmitters using a minimum of valve types so that the spares holding was kept to small number of types, a good feature for offshore or remote locations.

The maintenance routine was to do a complete clean up of the studio, switches, tape-heads and the air filters in the transmitters which were taken out and washed in the cook's sink in fresh water each night after shutdown. Once a week at night a full audio and full power line up was made culminating in playing mainly big band jazz at about 2am. This began to generate fan mail, mainly from the American forces in Germany with requests. On one occasion the DJ apologised on air and said "unfortunately we don't have that one"; three copies arrived from "they know not where" in the next post delivery.

They also received many signal reports from as far a field as the States and Australia (a 10kW transmitter, vertical aerial and as Carl put it, "the best ground plane in the world -

sea water").

When Carl arrived on the Mi Amigo they were only using one of the two 10kW transmitters although they had a combiner which they could not make work because it kept blowing its load. It was eventually discovered after one of the Engineers whilst on shore, rang a friend who had used Continental Electronics gear, that the American names for some of the component parts of the combiner were not the ones used in Europe. They reconnected with this knowledge and presto, 20 kW ready for 24-hr working.

The aerial was a cage with circular forms tapering from the top held up by the mast which the designer specified must have stays at no less than 13 degrees. This meant that large spreaders had to be provided, the lower one high enough up for the supply tender (which went to Holland once a month for fuel, water and other supplies) to get alongside.

Carl then said the first inkling that we were in any trouble was when the TV aerial on the set they were watching had to keep being realigned. They also felt that the motion of the ship at anchor had changed. Some of the crew went on deck and although the anchor chain was tight (miles of chain being dragged) came to the conclusion they were inside the three mile limit. A race ensued to shut down the transmitter and stow the crystals in a safe draw. Later in the evening they were told to put on their lifejackets and very soon they were on the beach with the heavy sea now breaking over them. The coastguards were firing rockets and eventually set up a Breeches Buoy. Carl helped all the DJs and operatives into the Buoy and on to the beach and then reported to the Captain that all the English crew were ashore and asked, as he had been a seaman, did he want him to stay? The Captain said "no you go". Carl made his way to the Buoy and realised that there was no one to help him in. He eventually managed with one leg in and one half in and doubled over; he lost his slippers but had the crystals and the Caroline theme record under his jacket. He walked up the beach and over the seawall with his toes and a few other parts of his anatomy blue with the cold (it had been snowing).

The Mi Amigo had gone ashore at Frinton in Essex where the space between the concrete breakwaters was not big enough to take a ship except at the one place near a concrete pillar - which was where they were! They were now Distressed Seamen and were driven to Walton Police Station where a Customs man appeared and said "any thing to declare". Carl said "yes" and handed over a part used wet packet of cigarettes! They were taken to a Walton outfitter and kitted out with plimsolls, jeans and a check shirt each. He said the jeans were rubbish, but the shirt was marvellous and he only

threw it away a year or so ago.

Carl volunteered to go with the ship whilst being towed to Holland and was signed on as super-numary crew to comply with the landing laws. When the ship arrived in Holland the whole area was swarmed with well-wishers and people wanting autographs as a result of the national press coverage.

While all this was going on, Ronan O'Reilly (Caroline Founder) had negotiated with a Swedish lady to hire the radio ship "Cheater2". This was a small ship with wire aerials and Carl came back with it to be positioned off the Essex coast.

The Mi Amigo as it was renamed, was refitted with a new generator with a diesel of the sort used by the German U-boats during the war to power their new 50kW transmitter. After it had been up and running for sometime the company sent an old boy from out of retirement to give it a working tune-up. Carl said the German used a stethoscope to listen to the Injectors and brought the revs and the fuel consumption down considerably, whilst still giving the same power output to the transmitter - he was most impressed with the expertise of a master. The 50kW transmitter was in three cabinets and was chosen over the Marconi equivalent as the cabinets would pass through a standard door opening. The studios were also re equipped with Gates controls, turntables and a VU meter (volume units - audio level) for the DJs which they would keep well up into the red (max) level. However, there was another level control after this, only available to the Engineers to make sure the DJs were not too enthusiastic and overdrive the transmitter!

One night when Carl was on duty and had been working all day he set the level just before a DJ change and nodded off to get some sleep. The next DJ was Rosko, whose theme or signature tune was Memphis, a noisy number with high audio peaks. There were cries of "Engineer, Engineer, the aerial is on fire". Carl rushed out to find every insulator arcing over to the rhythm of Memphis. He quickly shut down the transmitter, turned down the level and went back on the air. At a subsequent inspection of the stays it was found that some were only holding on with a single strand - they had someone looking over them that night or they would have lost the mast!

Some pictures of the Station:



Carl Thompson G3PEM with one of the 10kW Xmitters



Caroline Mi Amigo Studio



The Grounding on Essex Beach



Mi Amigo



MV Caroline

If anyone would like some more information on this story, please let me know!

Whilst the UK Government tried to stop Caroline and others, the Pirates paved the way for pop music and ultimately, commercial radio stations!

The “Ross Revenge”, Caroline’s last ship, now stands at berth in Tilbury Docks, in Essex and still broadcasts, albeit legally now and is heard over most of Northern Europe plus the rest of the world via DAB and the internet.

(Extracts used with kind permission of CARS)

David, KG4ZLB

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM JORDAN, WB2QLP

TO ALL ARASWF MEMBERS :

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF HAM GEAR IS SURPLUS TO OUR NEEDS. ANY EQUIPMENT NOT SOLD AS OF 1 / 20 / 06 WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE AT THE FT. MYERS HAMFEST ON 1 / 21 / 06

AMERITRON AL- 80 A HF AMPLIFIER	\$ 525.00
MFJ - 969 HF ANTENNA TUNER (1 KW +)	\$ 150.00
MFJ - 941 E HF ANTENNA TUNER (300W)	\$ 50.00
YAESU FT - 767 GX HF XCVR, BUILT IN P.S.	\$ 300.00
YAESU FT - 2800 2m FM XCVR , MIC, BOX	\$ 175.00
KENWOOD TS - 780 VHF/UHF ALL MODE XCVR	\$ 275.00

PLEASE CONTACT WB2QLP (455 - 4823) OR KK4PG (353 - 7330)

Also from Jordan, WB2QLP:

WEEKENDS BEST TIME TO CATCH NA1SS ON THE AIR

The best time to catch International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, on the air from NA1SS is during a weekend. Now about halfway through his six-month duty tour, McArthur already has more than 300 casual contacts in his log, and he's eager to up the count.

"Weekends seem to be Bill's favorite time to operate," says Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. "The weekend has few scheduled activities, so the crew may operate anywhere from 0800 until 2200 UTC."

But Ransom says McArthur also operates in his free time on weekdays, and that includes his lunch hour, scheduled around 1200 to 1400 UTC. "Bill has occasionally operated in this time during the week," he told ARRL.

The crew's work day ends about 1930 UTC, but McArthur and crewmate Valery Tokarev usually stay up for another couple of hours. The crew sleeps from 2130 until 0630 UTC.

McArthur recently completed Worked All Continents (WAC) from space, including the "traditional ARISS" requirement to work Antarctica.

"We clearly share a lot in common," McArthur told Chuck Kimball, N0MHJ, at Palmer Station's KC4AAC during their 2-meter contact December 17. "You know, we have this bond. Just our hostile environments are a little bit different."

McArthur's still trying to earn Worked All States (WAS) and DXCC from space and as 2005 drew to a close already had logged 37 states and 38 DXCC entities.

Responding to questions regarding the legitimacy of a DXCC earned from a spacecraft circling 220 miles above Earth, ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, concedes that while McArthur's efforts don't have that much to do with traditional DXCC, they won't devalue the efforts of those earning the award from Earth either.

"While rules are very important, particularly in defining the DXCC program, other concepts can, and often do, transcend mere rules," he said. "Think of this as more of a public relations opportunity."

In addition, McArthur has been averaging two ARISS school group contacts as his schedule permits. Not since Expedition 3--when there were three people

aboard the ISS for each crew increment--has a crew member done this on a regular basis.

The NA1SS worldwide voice and packet downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz. In Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific), the voice uplink is 144.49 MHz. In Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa), the voice uplink is 145.20 MHz. The worldwide packet uplink is 145.99 MHz.

When NA1SS is in crossband FM repeater mode, the worldwide downlink is 145.80 MHz, and the uplink is 437.80 MHz. All frequencies are subject to Doppler shift. The Science@NASA Web site provides location information for the ISS <http://science.nasa.gov/temp/StationLoc.html>

SOLE SURVIVING WEST VIRGINIA MINER KC8VKZ STILL CRITICAL

The only survivor of the January 3 mine explosion in Tallmansville, West Virginia is Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, of Philippi, West Virginia. At press time, he was listed in critical condition at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he is undergoing specialized treatment. Hams may wish to send a note of support on a QSL card to Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435. -- tnx Randy Padawer, K7RAN

FOSSETT SET FOR NEXT RECORD BID

Click here for article -> [FOSSETT STORY](#)

(<http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4609410.stm>)

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

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