



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. XXII No. 7 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida July 2006

Club Information

Meeting Time:
4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Golden Gate Community
Center
4701 Golden Gate Parkway
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: W2HI
Bob Graf
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: AI4CZ
Carolyn Conklin
Newsletter: WD8RFL
Mike Welsh
Webmaster: KI4HEY
Eric Rice
Social Chair: W2JQ
Sigi Boernet

From the President's Shack:

Congratulations to all who attended Field Day 2006. The weather cooperated and a good time was had by all. We were also blessed with a great article on ham radio by the Naples Daily News. See:

http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2006/jun/30/slices_ham/

Dust off and tune up your vintage 6 Meter AM gear. Beginning soon will be the ARASWF 6 Meter Vintage AM Net. Members and non-members are encouraged to check in to our ragchew net. Please tune in to somewhere in the vicinity of 50.400 MHz.

Listen to the regularly scheduled net on 146.67 on Wednesday at 7:30 PM for further information. Vintage gear is encouraged, but all participants are welcome.

73's
KK4PG

Editor's Note: During the July 12, 2006 2m Net, it was announced that the 6m Vintage AM Net will first meet on Monday evening July 17 at 18:30 local time. Frequency 50.4 MHz (AM) Horizontal polarization.

“VINTAGE” Gear for the new 6M AM Net



HA-460 at the Shack of NJ2F



Gonset 6 meter "Gooney Bird" at the shack of KK4PG, equipment provided by N4DMD

From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

“MAGIC BAND” DOES ITS THING

Stations in several parts of the US took advantage of a monster opening on 6 meters -- the "Magic Band" -- Wednesday, July 12. The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, who also edits "How's DX?" for QST, says the band began warming up at his Maryland QTH before sunrise, but the biggest opening occurred just before 2100 UTC.

"The band stayed open to Europe until just after 0000Z today," McClenny said July 13. He credits fellow 6-meter DX chaser Marty Green, K2PLF, with tipping him off. "I ran downstairs and could not believe my ears," McClenny enthused in the July 13 edition of The Daily DX. "I have never heard conditions so good and so widespread into Europe."

McClenny said "the band was packed" from about 50.066 to well above 50.200 MHz with CW and SSB signals and even a few weak digital signals. So bountiful were the 6-meter DX spots, he recounts, "I didn't know where to begin." McClenny said conditions were so good "stations with 10-foot high antennas and 5 W were making it across the pond."

QST's "World Above 50 MHz" Editor Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, called it "probably the best 6 meter Es [sporadic E] opening of all time" into Europe. "I worked about two dozen Europeans as far east as Bulgaria but no new countries", Zimmerman said.

Rich Lawrence, KB1DMX, in Connecticut reported hearing stations in Italy, France, Spain, England, the Canary Islands, Serbia, Belgium and the Azores.

Rick Tharrington, KD4JRX, in North Carolina was among those posting exclamatory reports to the SixClub reflector. "I could not believe the European stations on the band," he said. "It sounded like 20 meters for while!" He worked EH8BPX and ON4IQ, among others, with 59 reports. "The magic band is working its magic today!" he added.

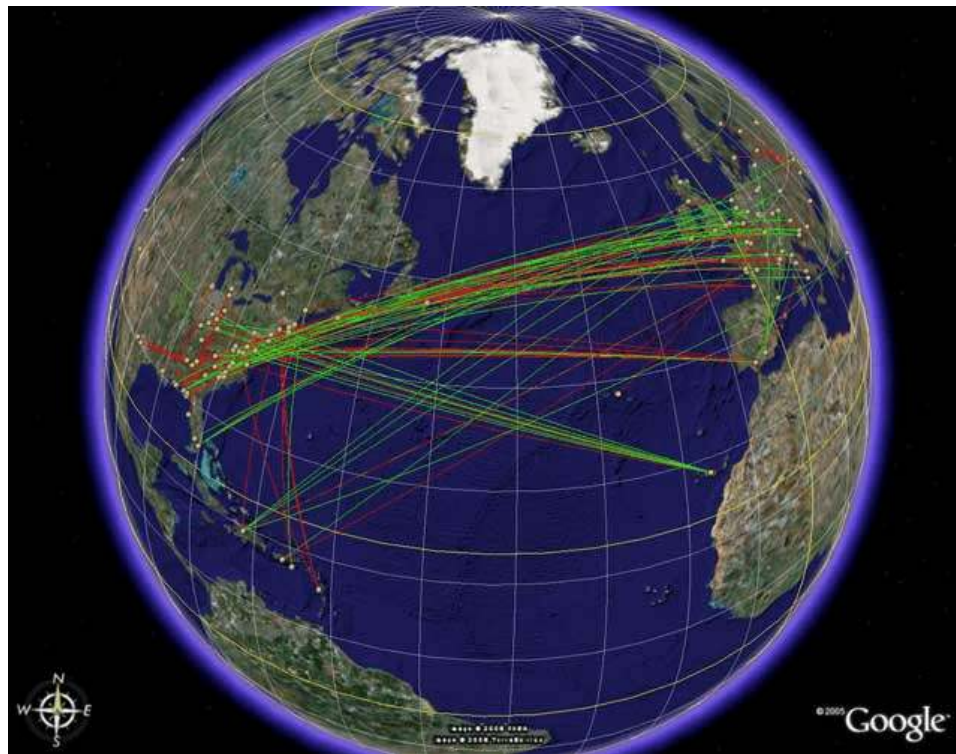
On the same reflector, Paul Lenharr, KB3NDS, reported working 18 stations in just under 45 minutes from his modest station -- 100 W to a dipole at 35 feet -- in Maryland. "This was one of the best openings for me since I started using 6 meters," he said.

In another SixClub posting, Jack Shutt, W9GT, said the band "was hopping" at his QTH in Indiana the evening of July 12, but he couldn't hear any DX. "Six meters, however, was open coast to coast," he reported, noting that he worked several stations to his west, including a couple in Nevada and one in California.

"I hope we can enjoy these conditions for a while yet," Shutt said. "Sure is fun when 6 is open!"

McClenny said Jose DaSilva, N4IS, in Southern Florida, may have been the first US station to work Montenegro on 6 meters when he snagged YU6DZ at 1559 UTC. "After four seasons on the band," McClenny concluded, "I would have to say that overall this has been the best -- and we are just about at the bottom of the sunspot cycle! Are you on 6?"

From John Simander, NS0I:



This is the visual depiction of the 6 meter spots at 10:00 A.M., Sunday June 18. Jordan was working Europe as well as KI4IMA and also NJ2F. (Image from Google Earth)

Also from John...

<http://www.73se.com/> A website dedicated to Community Special Events for Amateur Radio.

From RL Caron, K4GP:

VE Session a Success



A rare moment of silence as the Blackberrys and pagers are turned off for the ham radio exams at Building D of the Collier County Government complex on Wednesday evening (June 28th). The official Volunteer Examiner session was conducted by the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida and organized by its VE director, Carolyn Conklin, AI4CZ.

Assisting were certified Volunteer Examiners Karl, N1DL; George, N3ISH; Jordan, WB2QLP; and RL, K4GP.



Successfully completing the exam were Matthew Creeger and Jhony Desinor (above). Each is expected to be issued a formal call by the FCC within one week. A pre-3/21/87 upgrade to General class was issued to Mark Fadden, WA1QDP.

From Karl Geng, N1DL:

USAF Web Cam for “Operation Eagle Rescue”

Karl reports on a camera he assisted with installation on the roof of his residence condo. Note the use of Hi-tech, Mil-Spec Duct Tape... “The Handyman’s Secret Weapon”.



The photos show the USAF video camera taped to the top of the wall on the roof with a big lithium battery next to it.

From there the wires run to a transmitter tapped to the wall and also fed with another Lithium battery.

The L-band antenna is taped to a tripod (N1DL issue) to make things easier for the Air Force. The camera is pointed towards Naples and sends streaming video to the Ops Center of the exercise located at the EOC.



From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 Aug 2006 + Fort Pierce ARC

<http://www.qsl.net/w4akh>

Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 107.2) & 444.800 (PL 107.2)

Contact: Pete Amar, KD4SPW

1046 Trinidad Avenue

Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

Phone: 772-465-5204 or 772-519-1530

Email: Kd4spw@aol.com

Ft. Pierce, FL

Indian River Community College

3209 Virginia Avenue

Div: Southeastern

Sect: Southern Florida

14-15 Oct 2006 * Florida State Convention

Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.pcars.org>

Talk-In: 146.85 repeater - no tone

Contact: Jan A. Heise, K4QD

Platinum Coast ARS

PO Box 1004

Melbourne, FL 32902-1004

Phone: 321-956-2482

Fax: 321-956-2482

Email: k4qd@cfl.rr.com

Melbourne, FL

Melbourne Auditorium

625 East Hibiscus Blvd.

Div: Southeastern

Sect: Southern Florida

4 Nov 2006 + Titusville Hamfest

North Brevard ARC

<http://www.northbrevardradioclub.org>

Talk-In: 145.490 (PL 100.0)

Contact: Bob Jones, N6USP

c/o NBARC

PO Box 1033

Mims, FL 32754
Phone: 321-264-2622
Email: n6usp@gnc.net

Titusville, FL
Disabled American Veterans
435 Singleton Avenue
Div: Southeastern
Sect: Southern Florida

18 Nov 2006 x Free Flea

Flamingo Net & University of Miami ARCs
<http://www.FlamingoNet.8m.net>
Talk-In: 146.865 (PL 103.5)
Contact: Bill Moore, WA4TEJ
73 Palm Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33139
Phone: 305-264-4465
Email: wa4tej@juno.com

Coral Gables, FL
University of Miami Physics Parking Lot
5001 San Amaro
Div: Southeastern
Sect: Southern Florida

20 Jan 2007 + Southwest Florida Hamfest and Computer Show

Ft. Myers ARC
<http://www.fmarc.net>
Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 136.5)
Contact: Earl Spencer, K4FQU
1735 Hanson Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901
Phone: 239-332-1503
Fax: 239-282-1536
Email: k4fqu@juno.com

Fort Myers, FL
Araba Shrine Auditorium
2010 Hanson Street
Div: Southeastern
Sect: Southern Florida

FIELD DAY 2006

Photos by Peter Gaddy, KK4PG and George Tomlinson, N3ISH





(Editor's Note: Remember you can use the magnifier tool in Acrobat Reader to zoom.)

Florida's Turnpike to Take Part in ARRL Field Day 2006



NEWINGTON, CT, Jun 22, 2006--Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) has announced it's adding Amateur Radio communication to its hurricane and emergency preparedness plan. To give the initiative some visibility, FTE will host ARRL Field Day sites at its Orlando headquarters (Turkey Lake Service Plaza, milepost 263) and at its Pompano Beach operations center (Pompano Service Plaza, milepost 65). Operations will commence at 2 PM on Saturday, June 24, and continue until 2 PM on Sunday, June 25. Originated in 1933, Field Day is first and foremost a test of Amateur Radio's ability to get on the air from the field, simulating conditions that could occur during a hurricane, tornado or other emergency.



The WR4BS Field Day site will be in the parking area outside Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Headquarters, located at the Turkey Lake Service Plaza complex, milepost 263, Orlando.

"When cell phones and other technologies fail, Amateur Radio operators step up to the plate. They have a long track record of getting the message through when phone systems, the internet or any other infrastructure is compromised," says FTE Deputy Executive Director Christopher Warren, KD4FAB. "We want to make sure that in the event of a hurricane, our recovery efforts are not hampered by a lack of communication."

Inspired by Hurricane Wilma Incident

According to ARRL Southern Florida Public Information Officer Marty Falk, KI4IQZ, the genesis of the turnpike Field Day initiative goes back to 2005, when Hurricane Wilma knocked out the turnpike's communication system. Turnpike employees who are also

radio amateurs used their handhelds for backup communication. Falk says that impressed turnpike management enough to support this year's Field Day operation and add Amateur Radio to the turnpike's emergency preparedness plan.

Both FD sites are on the "Turnpike Mainline" -- 312 miles of roadway passing through 11 counties beginning near Florida City in Miami-Dade County and terminating near Wildwood in Sumter County. As part of their Field Day activities, the operators at the Turkey Lake and Pompano facilities will exchange real-time information about traffic conditions on the pike. The Florida Department of Transportation estimates that an average 1.8 million motorists use Florida's Turnpike every day.

Visitors Welcome



An estimated average 1.8 million motorists use Florida's Turnpike every day.

The Turnpike Mainline is a 312-mile-long toll highway that runs from Miami-Dade County in the south to Sumter County in the north. [FTE Photo]



Some 33,000 operators were on the air for the 2005 running of ARRL Field Day. [Rick Lindquist, N1RL, Photo]

Since both turnpike groups will set up their gear in parking areas near the service plazas, the public will be able to visit and be treated to a demonstration of Amateur Radio. Turnpike employees who are Amateur Radio operators will take part in the Field Day event along with local radio amateurs from south and central Florida.

The Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association (BRARA) and Florida Atlantic University Amateur Radio Club (K4FAU) and some members of the Hollywood Amateur Radio Club will team up at the Pompano service plaza, the site of one turnpike emergency operations center. BRARA President Sjaak Van Dam, W4RIS says the Pompano group will operate as N4EN in Class 2F, with one station on CW and the other on SSB. K4FAU will be the call sign of the "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station. N4EN also will operate via satellite and 6 meters.

The Bahia Shrine Amateur Radio Unit and licensed turnpike staffers will set up and operate from the Orlando service area site using the call sign WR4BS. It also will be a Class F operation.

Visiting radio amateurs and members of the general public are welcome at both sites.

Field Day each summer attracts hundreds of Amateur Radio clubs or groups and thousands of operators across the US to test their skills in setting up and operating in situations where electrical power is limited or unavailable.

Amateur Radio Month

Florida Gov Jeb Bush has proclaimed June as "Amateur Radio Month" in the Sunshine State. Field Day remains the League's most popular operating event. More than 33,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country participated in last year's ARRL Field Day -- more people on the air than in all of ARRL's other operating events combined. Last year's FD stations logged some 1.2 million QSOs.

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From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

We will never see this again in our lifetime... nor will the people of the next 50-to-1,000 Life Times!

Mars - The Red Planet is about to be spectacular!

This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287.

Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the Last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification...

Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye.

Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN

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**Please See the additional PDF File for the Updated Public Safety
Phone Directory for South West Florida, Courtesy Dan DeVaul,
WB7ECV**

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

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - JULY 25, 2006
7:00 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER**