



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. XXII No. 11 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida November 2006

Club Information

Meeting Time: 4th Tuesday
at 7:30 p.m. Golden Gate
Community Center
4701 Golden Gate Parkway
Naples FL
Club Repeater: K4YHB
146.670 (-600) PL 136.5
EOC Repeater:
WB2WPA 147.030 (+600)
Club Web Site:
<http://www.araswf.org>
Club Officers/ Chairpersons
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
Emergency Comm. Dir:
N1DL, Karl Geng
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

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Minutes of the October 24, 2006 Meeting
By Bob Graf, W2HI, Club Secretary:

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, October 24th, 2006.

Present: Peter Gady, KK4PG - President
Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL - Treasurer
Jordan Marsh, WB2QLP - Co-Technical Director
Tim Wallen, KC4SSD - Co-Technical Director
Rodney Smith, KI4DBI - Operations Director

Apologies: Carl Pacini, KI4AI - Vice President
Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT - Past President

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

There being a quorum present with 25 members including 6 directors in attendance, Peter, KK4PG (President) called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Introductions:

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call for the benefit of the members and guests in attendance.

Special Feature:

Appreciation Plaque: Peter, KK4PG (President) presented a Plaque indicating the appreciation of the club to Joe Goggins, K9KNW, in thanks for his hosting the 2006 Field Day on his property.

Reading & Approval of Previous Minutes:

Acceptance of the minutes of the August meeting as published in the ARASWF Newsletter was dispensed with.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill, K2ZEL, submitted a verbal Treasurer's Report that indicated a balance of \$4571.32 as of 10/24/06, after payment of \$325.06 in expenses during the past month. Income for the month was \$221. Acting upon a suggestion from the membership, KK4PG suggested that Bill investigate whether it might be to the club's advantage to keep some of the funds in an interest bearing account. Bill will so investigate and report back to the Board of Directors.

Officers' Reports:

New Meeting Start Time: KK4PG announced that the Board of directors approved changing the start time of future membership meetings from 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM, beginning next month (November), which was met with appreciation from the membership.

Christmas Dinner / December Meeting: Peter, KK4PG, announced that the Christmas Dinner and December membership meeting, which was originally scheduled for Friday, December 1st, will be changed to Friday, December 8th, at 6:00 PM, Site is the same as last year – Perkins Restaurant on Pine Ridge Road just east of I-75.

Changes to ARASWF By-Laws: Peter, KK4PG, announced the Board of Director's intention to make an additional change to the Bylaws to provide for future notification of such changes to be via electronic mail, or e-mail, in lieu of written notice mailed individually to each member. This proposed change, together with the other proposed changes announced previously, will be mailed to each member together with the 2007 dues renewal notice, in time for a subsequent vote by the membership. In response to a question from the floor as to whether or not the club should request a receipt for such e-mail notices, KK4PG pointed out that receipts are not required for written notices that are mailed, and it is likely that the number of returned e-mail notices will not be any greater than the number of returned mail notices.

Election of Officers: KK4PG announced that nominations for club offices in 2007 will be made at the November meeting. Incumbent President Peter, KK4PG, incumbent Treasurer Bill, K2ZEL, and incumbent Secretary Bob, W2HI, have all indicated a willingness to continue in their offices for at least another year. Carl, KI4AI, who was present at the earlier Board of Directors meeting, was not present at the membership meeting and thus did not have an opportunity to say whether he was available for another term. Since the pending changes to the Bylaws have not yet been voted upon, the only elected offices that will be voted upon at the November meeting are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Non-elected officers, including Jordan, WB2QLP (Co-Technical Director) and Tim, KC4SSD (Co-Technical Director) also indicated their willingness to continue serving. However, Rodney, KB4ETT (Operations Director) indicated to the membership that he would prefer not to continue in this office for another year due to his moving to Ft. Myers.

Echolink: KK4PG announced that the problems with the commercial modem utilized for the Echolink connection have apparently been resolved, and the Echolink appears to be operating normally.

Future Activities: KK4PG asked the membership to think about participation in some future activities, including a possible "scavenger hunt", a possible "Super Bowl party", and a possible return to Keewaydin Island in the Spring of 2007 for an expedition.

Committee Reports:

VE Testing: Carolyn, AI4CZ, reported that the most recent VE testing was done on September 30th, with 6 candidates in attendance. KI4ROD passed the Tech exam, W4YOE passed the General exam, K1EOJ passed the Extra exam, and N4DMD also passed the extra exam. There will not be any testing done in December due to Carolyn's planned absence. For 2007, tentative testing dates are established on the 4th Saturday of January (1/27), April (4/28), July (7/28), and October (10/27). However, some of these dates may conflict with Contests, and Jeff, NJ2F, will coordinate an investigation of contest dates for 2007 and report back if any of the proposed testing dates need to be moved.

Carolyn also indicated that the Collier EOC has offered the continued use of their training rooms on South Horseshoe Drive for future testing, and it is anticipated that future testing will be done there. There are now 17 accredited VEs in the club, and Carolyn reminded the membership that additional VEs would be welcome..

6-Meter AM Net: Jeff, NJ2F, reported that the 6-meter AM Net seems to be attracting 10-15 check-ins each Monday night at 7:30PM on 50.400 MHz, and he invited more members to participate. Vintage AM radios are not a requirement for checking into the net – several regular check-ins are using modern radios.

Old Business:

Emergency Communications: Karl, N1DL, announced his intention to place an item in next month's newsletter that provides a summary of what is being done by other clubs with regard to emergency communications and post-disaster support, and that will provide an opportunity for the membership to indicate their ability and willingness, or lack thereof, to be actively involved with emergency communications in Collier County. He stressed the importance of deciding on a strategic plan of action and direction for the club, before becoming bogged down now with the details of an operating plan that includes required training and other controversial matters. Once a strategic mission and direction is determined, we could inventory the available assets (reliable availability of members and equipment) and make a presentation to Collier County EOC that includes specific and dependable things that the club can do before, during, and after future emergency situations. He stressed the importance of determining what we actually can do, and what we are actually willing to do, all in real numbers, as the most important part of this process.

New Business:

Hamfests: Bill, K2ZEL, reminded the membership that "hamfest season" is fast approaching, with the next popular hamfest being at Okeechobee on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25th. Others include Tampa Bay on December 2-3, Ft. Myers on January 20th, and the Southeastern Division Convention at Orlando on February 9-11. It was reported also that the Miami convention is "no-more", and will not be held this year.

Special Features:

Old Photos: Dan, W4BN, passed around some old photos showing his various stations dating back to 1946, and the vintage equipment he has reconditioned and used over the years.

Visit to Dominica: Karl, N1DL, gave a very interesting talk and visual presentation about his recent visit to the Commonwealth of Dominica, or “J7 Land” as he describes it, to operate in a recent worldwide contest. This is an area where there is an active ham community that is quite isolated, which Karl visits regularly. He then indicated that the hams there were appreciative of the high frequency radio donated to them by George, N3ISH, and he presented George with his own “J79GT” call sign that has been issued to him by the Commonwealth of Dominica.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle was won by Anthony, KB2SFA, who graciously donated his winnings back to the club treasury.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. on a motion made by N3ISH, seconded by N1DL, and unanimously approved.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary

Article by Karl Geng, N1DL, Emergency Communications Director:

Emergency Communications and then some ...

(suggestions for a club strategy in support of our communities by Karl N1DL)

During the last few club meetings we touched on a number of aspects dealing with emergency communications, ARES, RACES, CERTS etc. and I volunteered to write a straw man for a club strategic discussion dealing with this subject.

To start with let me state that we need to agree on the strategy first before we all get entangled in details like training, identifications, insurance, exercises, call-up trees, memberships, agreements, etc. That's why I felt we need to start at the top level and once agreed upon the strategy work out the tactics and details.

Traditionally Amateur Radio has always played a role in emergency communications. When all else fails, as the saying goes, hams can improvise point to point communications and set up networks of relay stations to move messages along. Amateurs have won the gratitude of the nation for their exemplary performance in times of natural disasters over decades.

The amateur's outstanding record of organized preparation for emergency communications and performance under fire has been largely responsible for the decision of the Federal Government to set up special regulations and set aside special frequencies for use by amateurs in providing auxiliary communications for Civil Defense purposes primarily in war time. This is how RACES the "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service" was formed and has been supporting local government functions.

The ARRL our National Organization for Amateur Radio augmented this capability for peacetime with the AREC (Amateur Radio Emergency Corps) from which today's ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) developed.

What has changed?

Well frankly a lot has changed but some things stayed the same. Technology has changed. Just about everyone has a cell phone these days. Internet is wide spread and landline phones are no longer party lines but practically in every household. The world has changed too. We now deal with the threat of terrorist activities in addition to man-made and natural disasters. The people density has changed dramatically in many areas that were sparsely populated before. Collier and Lee Counties are a prime example for this.

What has not changed is the requirement for skilled participants in all aspects of Emergency Communications – including preparedness, operational activities and multidisciplinary support.

What could or should the role of our club the ARASWF and our members be?

Well to start with – and this is important – whatever we come up with – it has to be a voluntary arrangement. No one is forced to participate. It is much better to have a small, motivated, proficient and ready emergency support team which can be counted on if the need arises, then lists of potential members that cannot or will not activate or do not have the health, training, equipment etc to seriously participate. So lets not try to fit everyone into an Emcomm role.

Can we agree as a club that we encourage voluntary participation of our members in Emergency Service?

Can we agree that we support these individual members by ratifying memorandums of understanding with local agencies that delineate our willingness, capability and capacity to work with them?

Can we see beyond the traditional role of manning communications desks?

Are we willing to provide our individual and collective skills beyond communications in the narrowest sense to help in training other civilians and government workers in communication techniques – help with computer and networking issues (especially in a post disaster situation)?

Are we willing to prepare, maintain and possibly modify our communication assets (e.g. mobile towers, gensets) so that we can loan it to other agencies if need arises?

Are we ready to reach out to non ham groups that also support Emergency Preparedness and Response (e.g. CERTS) that may need skilled communicators to better perform their functions?

These are the issues we need to discuss and formulate a club strategy for. Once we have done that – the rest will fall into place and we are off to a new beginning, Historic happenings are just that – history. It is the future we must discuss and agree to embrace. Our hobby has given all of us a lot of pleasure over many years. It is multifaceted and allowed us to develop skills in many specialties. Lets put this knowledge to good use for the benefit of our communities.

Karl, N1DL



Repeater Map handed out at EOC Meeting on October 10, 2006 by Fred Edwards, KF4MJJ

News of General Interest

From Jeff Beals, WA4AW:

As you may have heard, the Red Cross are now requiring background checks of all their employees & volunteers, including ARES communicators. This action is a sign of the times we live in today, however they seem to be requiring more info that should be needed for a criminal BC. As a victim of identity theft myself, I can understand one's reticence to provide such info to a third party. Please convey this info to your ARES members & let me know their feelings about this ARC requirement.

73,

Jeff WA4AW

See the full ARRL article at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/10/25/1/?nc=1>

Some highlights:

"The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check," Harrison asserted. "They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer." Harrison said that could also include a credit check and a mode-of-living check.

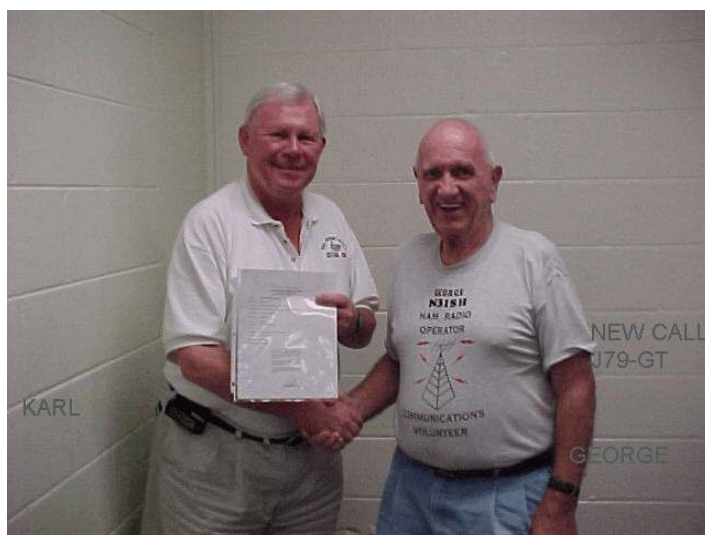
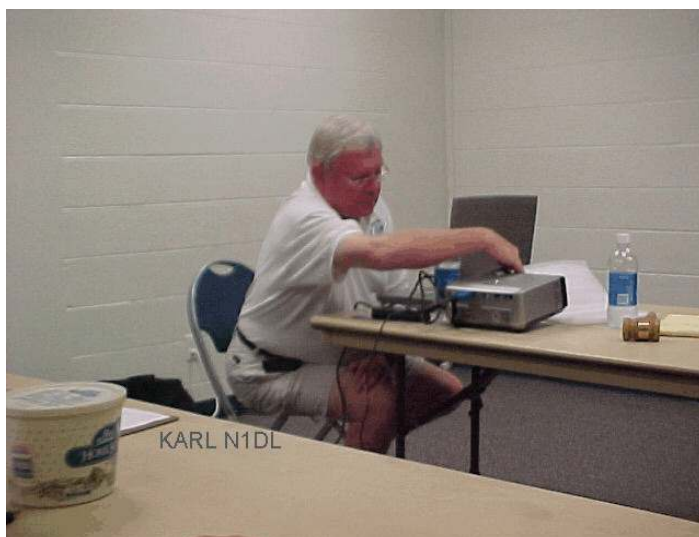
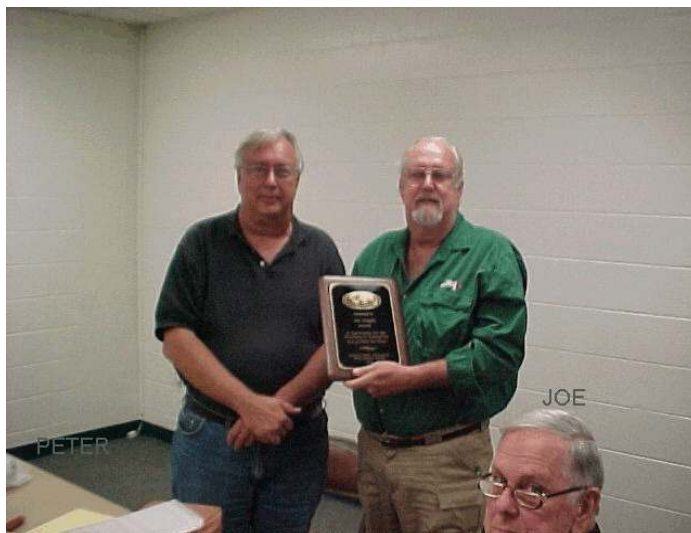
In the course of the application process, prospective volunteers must agree to let MBC obtain a wide range of personal information bearing not just on criminal background and creditworthiness but, MBC says, "character, general reputation [and] personal characteristics." MBC advises, "The nature and scope of this disclosure and authorization is all-encompassing . . ."

ARRL Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X, says ARES leaders can assign volunteers who don't want to submit to the ARC criminal background check to ARES duties "away from the action" that don't involve direct interaction with the ARC. "We certainly understand the risks that are involved in having background checks done -- such as potential identity theft," Ewald told one worried SEC. "Those volunteers who do go through the background check will, indeed, enter at their own risk in this regard."

EOC Work Party Announced:

Continuation of the work begun on cleaning up the old County radios will commence at 0830 on November 18, 2006. It will be at the same place, the County facility on 195 Basik Drive in Naples. This place is on Route 41 east of 951 next to the old Krehling (now CEMEX) cement plant.

Pictures from the October 24th Meeting
(Photos Courtesy of George Tomlinson, N3ISH)



And Now For Something COMPLETELY Different...
Submitted by John Simander, NS0I

Have You Ever HEARD the Sun?

Click on the link below for an interesting article on radio emissions from our Sun:

http://www.heliotown.com/Radio_Sun_Introduction.html

Click on the link labeled: November 6 2006 1747ut peak.mp3 and listen. (Requires an MP3 player on your computer.) Other sound files are also available.

If you are having trouble, this link will retrieve the MP3 file:

http://www.heliotown.com/Snov6_06_1747ut1822.mp3

*** * * ITEMS FOR SALE * * ***

Antennas:

Mosley TA-33 JR, \$75 (10-15-20 meters)
K4SUS 4-element Quad (new), \$75 (6 meters)
Cushcraft 13B2, \$50 (2 meters)
Cushcraft Ringo Ranger ARX-2, \$25 (2 meters)

Radios:

Icom IC-730, \$150 (10-80 meters)
Yaesu FT-227R, \$25 (2 meters)

Contact Glenn Niesen, KE4KTZ, at ke4ktz@arrl.net or 455-4682 for further information.

Late Breaking News, from Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

As of December 15, the 75-meter phone band will begin at 3600 kHz, the 40-meter phone band will start at 7125 kHz and the General Class phone band on 15 meters will begin at 21,275 kHz. A summary of the new band plans as well as other major features of the ruling appears on page 2 of the December issue of CQ, which is in the mail now to subscribers, and should be on newsstands soon as well.

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

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 28, 2006
7:30 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER