



ARASWF

NEWSLETTER



Vol. XXII No. 3 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida March 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: 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

From the President's Shack:

Dear Fellow Members:

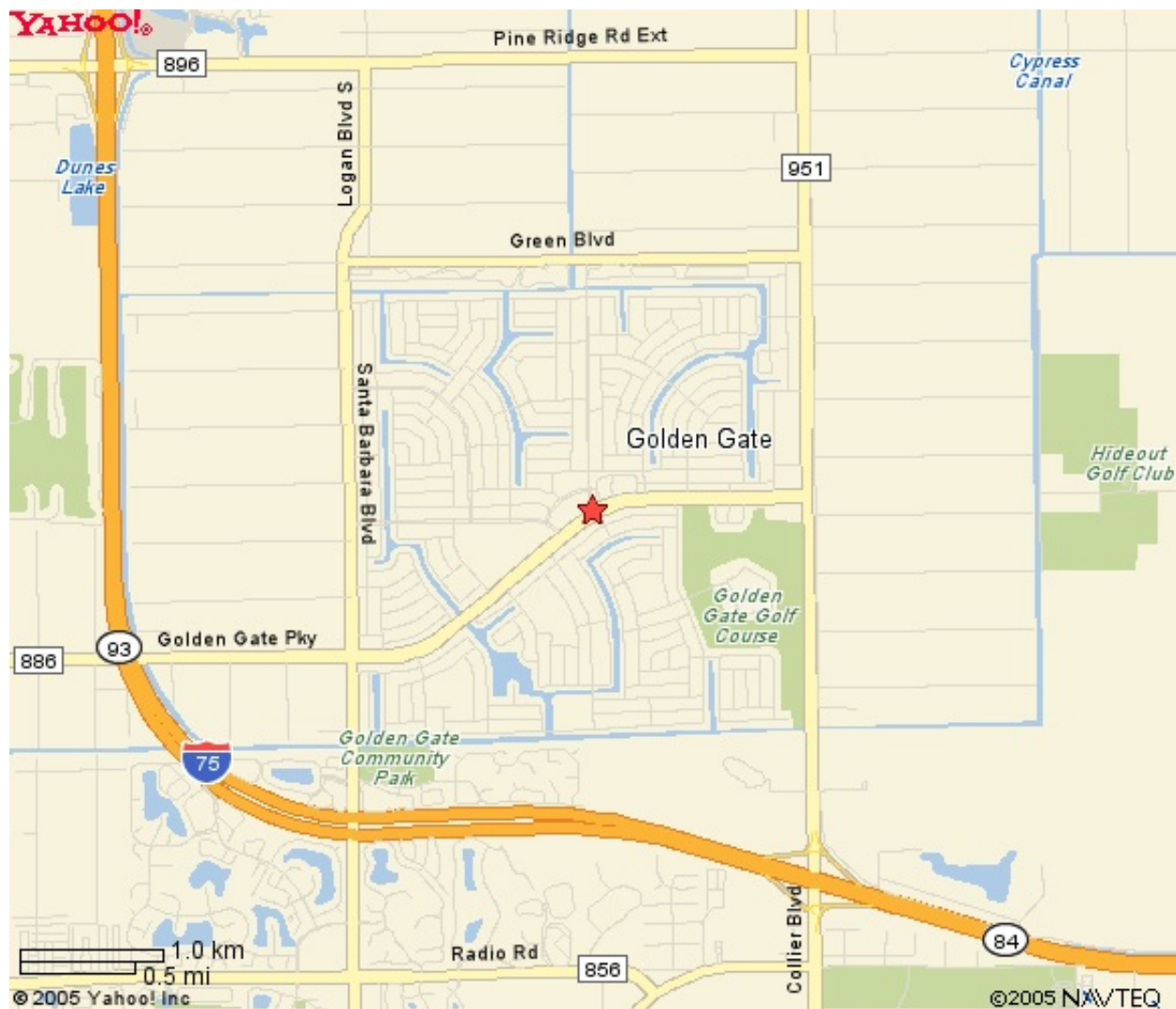
Our next meeting will be March 28, 2006 at our new location: 4701 Golden Gate Parkway in the City of Golden Gate. The new meeting start time will be 7:00 PM. Your Board of Directors will meet at 6:45 PM.

At this meeting Deposits will be due in the amount of \$30.00 for those wishing to attend the Keywadin Island Dxpediton. All deposits must be received no later than March 30, 2006.

73's

Peter P. Gaddy
KK4PG

SEE MAP ON NEXT PAGE



NEW MEETING LOCATION:

Golden Gate Community Center
4701 Golden Gate Parkway
Naples, FL

Next Meeting:

Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Time: 7pm

Amateur Radio Association of South West Florida

Club meeting held at the Red Cross Building, Naples, FL on Tuesday February 28th, 2006.

In attendance:

Peter Gaddy, KK4PG - President
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL - Treasurer
Rodney Smith, KI4DBI - Operations Director
Jordan Mash, WB2QLP - Technical Director
David Worboys, KG4ZLB - Secretary
Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT- Past President
Carl Pacini, KI4AII - Vice President

Apologies:

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MEETING MINUTES

Peter, KK4PG (President) acted as Chairman of the meeting and there being a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 7.36pm.

As usual, attendees introduced themselves to the meeting for the benefit of new members and visitors.

Peter, KK4PG, advised the meeting that this would be the last Club meeting held at the Red Cross and that the next meeting would be held at the Golden Gate Community Center on Golden Gate Parkway. At this new venue, there is plenty of room, ample car parking space and internally, meeting rooms and an auditorium. If it was found that the room that we had booked was insufficient for our needs then we had the ability to apply for a different room going forward. Peter said that members should listen to the Club Nets and refer to the Club Newsletter to ensure correct dates and times for the next meeting but unless anything altered in the intervening period, then the next meeting would be held on the last Tuesday of the month as per normal. Peter, KK4PG, reported that at the earlier Board Meeting, the re-written Club byelaws/constitution had been considered and duly voted on. The Board had unanimously accepted the new byelaws and they would be posted on the Club website for all members to review and comment upon if so desired.

Peter announced that the day trip dxpedition to Key Waden would be held weather permitting, on April 8th 2006. Although the sign-up sheet had been available at the last Club meeting, any newcomers to the Club or Members who were not aware of the trip could sign up this evening. Peter also said that a deposit of \$20 would be required at the March Club meeting.

The idea of a Club fundraiser had been floated at the last meeting and although Sigi, W2JQ had been approached to head up the project, he now felt that he had no real experience of such things and consequently was not happy to take on this project. Peter asked for volunteers and with no response, the matter was held over to the next meeting.

ISS CONTACT: Peter reported that following the hugely successful ISS contact with Pine Ridge and Immokalee Middle Schools held a few days previously, he would be running the audio tape of the event after the following nights scheduled Club Net. In addition, DVD's of the contact had been produced and were available to interested members. Special "gold" DVD's had also been produced for those members who had provided the bulk of the equipment and time. Also these DVD's were to be sent to Sharon Lea at PRMS and to Bill McArthur, KC5ACR. David, KG4ZLB offered to send these DVD's and to also send copies to Gary, KD5VRZ, Doug, N4DMD and Taylor, K4TKD who were not present at the Club meeting. The Club would like to offer its sincere gratitude to Mike, WD8RFL for his time, effort and finances in producing the DVD product for the benefit of the Club.

Following on from the ISS Contact, the Club now has a large amount of Coaxial and rotor cable

available for sale. David, KG4ZLB acted as an auctioneer and after much good natured haggling, these items were sold to WB2QLP, KK4PG and KI4IMA thus providing a return of funds to the Club treasury.

Treasurers Report: – Bill, K2ZEL reported a very healthy balance in hand of \$4745.25 although \$2025 of this money was already earmarked for the replacement of the Club tower and antenna system destroyed during Hurricane season 2005. Bill also reported that the Club roster presently showed 80 members, 2 of which were Life Members and 13 family members. Therefore the Club had 65 fully paid up members although between 10 and 15 members had not renewed at the present time.

Previous Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting having been published in the recent Newsletter, were taken as read and approved by the members present.

ARES/RACES: Fred, KF4MJJ, advised that classes would be set up to provide interested members with minimum FEMA training standards. Additionally, on March 7th, there would be a dedication of the new mobile command post at the Collier County Government Offices and members were welcome to attend.

Club Repeater: Peter reported that both he and Dan, WB7ECV were working on further enhancements to the repeater and to the Echolink system that was now attached to it. Dan provided a brief talk on the complexities of the system and showed block diagrams of the components that made up both the repeater and Echolink systems now fully installed at the Marbella site. Peter advised that he would be bringing the old repeater up to the Marbella as a back-up system which should be a simple case of plugging in should the primary repeater suffer a failure. There followed a discussion about various aspects of the repeater including the “voting” system, insertion losses and heat build up in the repeater room.

Any Other Business:

Jordan, WB2QLP advised that he had a new list of items for sale and that interested members should see him after the meeting for the list.

Field Day: Jordan announced that with the demise of the Red Cross building as a Field Day site for the Club, arrangements had been made to hold the Field Day event on the property of Club member Joe Goggins. This would be a return for the Club to the traditional type of Field Day with tents and mobile antenna structures although power was available as well as water and some “bare necessities” of life. With only two more meetings available before Field Day, decisions needed to be made about the number of transmitters to be used and other logistical problems.

VE Session: David, KG4ZLB, advised the meeting that the VE testing session had been held the previous Saturday and that two new licences had been granted and one upgrade. Future VE sessions would be announced in due course.

A motion to close the meeting was proposed by Carl, WA9ZIF and seconded by Mike, WD8RFL, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9.00pm.

David A. Worboys
KG4ZLB
Secretary

From Our President, Peter Gaddy, KK4PG:

Final ARASWF Bylaws as approved on February 28, 2006

BYLAWS OF THE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

PREAMBLE

The AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC. (HEREINAFTER CALLED THE ARASWF) is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, to further Amateur Radio in the public interest through cooperation, operating efficiency, information exchange, programs, and activities including, but not limited to, the following objectives:

To promote cooperation with other organizations and agencies, and to promote the advancement of public service and safety through amateur radio communications;

To promote participation of its members in emergency communications so that the safety of the public may better be served;

To assist its members and all other radio amateurs with an ongoing education program to improve their technical proficiency as amateur radio operators;

To operate a public service net and to promote participation in the net by radio amateurs thus training them in communications techniques;

To own, operate and maintain communication repeaters to extend the range of mobile and/or other types of communications by club members;

To promote, from time to time, contests in which operating skills may be improved, issue certificates of merit, promote social programs, and sponsor activities for and on behalf of its membership;

To publish monthly a publication to be known as the "ARASWF Newsletter", which shall be made available to its members and others qualified to receive it. This newsletter shall be considered the official publication of the ARASWF, and members may elect to receive it by electronic mail, pursuant to such rules as may be adopted by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: There shall be four classes of membership, namely active, family, honorary and life.

Section 2: Active membership is open to anyone holding a valid amateur radio license

and who has made application and paid any and all fees and dues in accordance with these bylaws. Active members in good standing shall be granted all the rights, privileges and obligations of membership, including the right to vote and hold office.

Section 3: Family membership shall be open to anyone holding a valid amateur radio license, who by reason of being related to an active member in good standing and who is an immediate member of the active member's household residing at the same address, has made application according to the bylaws. A family member shall be granted all the rights, privileges and obligations of membership, including the right to vote and hold office, but shall not be required to pay dues.

Section 4: Honorary membership may be granted on an individual basis to persons in the community who have a bona fide interest in ARASWF activities. Such membership shall be proposed by the Board of Directors and confirmed by a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a duly held membership business meeting. Persons proposed for honorary membership need not be licensed radio amateurs, need not be members, nor shall they be required to pay dues or fees as may be prescribed in these bylaws. Honorary members shall be extended the rights and privileges of active membership, but shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

Section 5: Life membership may be granted to an individual active member who has provided outstanding service and dedication to the ARASWF. An individual may be proposed for life membership by any active or family member of the ARASWF who is eligible to vote, who presents the proposal to the Board of Directors for consideration. The award of life membership must be approved by a majority vote of the directors present at a duly held Board of Directors meeting, and a subsequent majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a duly held membership business meeting. A life member shall be granted all the rights, privileges and obligations of membership, including the right to vote and hold office, but shall be shall not be required to pay dues.

Section 6: Expulsion from membership may be effected in cases of qualification falsification, repeated violations of ARASWF repeater or access code privileges, intentional use of illegal amateur radio procedures, or repeated violations of amateur radio rules of operation. Expulsion is effected by a recommendation approved by a majority vote of directors present at a duly held Board of Directors' meeting, written notification to the member offering said member and/or legal counsel or other representative the opportunity to oppose the recommendation of expulsion, and a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a duly held membership business meeting.

ARTICLE 2 - DUES

Section 1: Annual membership dues are \$25.00 US (twenty-five dollars) per year for ARASWF active members.

Section 2: Any change in annual membership dues must be approved by a majority vote of directors present at a duly held Board of Directors' meeting and a subsequent majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a duly held membership business meeting.

Section 3: The fiscal year for the ARASWF is the calendar year. Any new member who joins the ARASWF after July 1st of each year will be required to pay only one-half the annual dues in effect for the respective fiscal year.

Section 4: The annual membership dues of any member in financial hardship or extenuating circumstances may be waived in whole or in part by the Board of Directors. This waiver shall expire at the end of the membership year, and may be granted in the same fashion for additional years on a year by year basis.

ARTICLE 3 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The affairs of the ARASWF shall be administered by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Technical Director(s)
- Operations Director(s)
- Immediate Past President

The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined into a single office.

Section 2: Those members of the Board of Directors who must be elected by the membership are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 3: The Technical Director and the Operations Director shall be appointed by a majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors who have been elected by the membership, and the immediate past president.

Section 4: In the event of an emergency or emergencies (e.g., hurricane or other natural disaster or man-made disaster), the President may appoint, with Board of Directors' approval, a second Technical Director and/or Operations Director. Each Technical Director or Operations Director shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 5: Members of the Board of Directors shall have a term of office from January 1 to December 31 of the respective calendar year.

Section 6: Members of the Board of Directors must be natural persons who are 18 years of age or older, and who are active or family members in good standing. Members of the Board of Directors need not be residents of the state of Florida.

Section 7: Each member of the Board of Directors shall be entitled to one vote at Board of Directors' meetings.

Section 8: The number of members of the Board of Directors may be increased or decreased by a majority vote of members present and eligible to vote at a duly held ARASWF business meeting. The total number of Directors shall be not less than three.

Section 9: If deemed necessary by the President or any other two officers acting in the absence of the President, a Board of Directors' meeting may be conducted by radio on any amateur radio frequency or other mode of electronic communication or via the U.S.mail.

Section 10: A Director may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the Board of Directors or to the President. A resignation is effective when notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a later date. If s resignation id made effective at a later date, the Board of Directors may fill the pending vacancy before the effective date if the Board of Directors provides that the successor does not take office until the effective date.

Section 11: The Board of Directors shall be responsible for:

- Assuring liability insurance coverage (if available)
- Maintaining ARRL affiliation
- Acting as officers of the ARASWF
- designating an appropriately licensed member as Club Licensee
- providing, planning and policy recommendations to the membership for approval and/or implementation

ARTICLE 4 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Each year at the regular monthly membership business meeting for October, the President will name a nominating committee, who shall place in nomination qualified candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2: Nominations from the floor shall be taken from the membership at the monthly membership business meeting for November.

Section 3: Immediately following nominations from the floor, the President will declare nominations closed, and a majority vote of eligible members present and eligible to vote shall determine the election of officers from the slate of nominations.

Section 4: The installation of new officers will take place at the December membership meeting.

ARTICLE 5 – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1: It shall be the duty of the President to call and preside at Board of Directors' meetings, to preside at regular and special meetings of the ARASWF, and provide ARASWF guidance and leadership including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees for special interests as deemed advisable. These activities may include, but shall not be limited to:

- ARASWF Newsletter
- Emergency Preparedness
- Technical Programs
- Education
- Public Relations
- Interference
- Field Day
- QCWA
- Ad Hoc Committees
- DXpeditions

The President shall also perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of President.

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President, to assist the President in the performance of his duties, to be the program chairperson at the regular monthly membership meetings, and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of Vice President..

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep all ARASWF records, to initiate notices of all ARASWF meetings, to report to the membership of the ARASWF all decisions and actions of the Board of Directors as recorded in the minutes of such meetings, to record the minutes of regular and special membership meetings, to handle all correspondence pertaining to ARASWF matters, to retain copies of correspondence, and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of Secretary. Upon retirement from office, the Secretary shall transfer to the successor, or the President, all minutes, ARASWF records, supplies, and other ARASWF property in his/her possession.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to maintain accounts of record and report monthly to the Board of Directors any income, expenditures, and bank balances and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of Treasurer. Upon retirement from office, the Treasurer shall transfer to the successor or the President all

funds, account books, all financial records and other ARASWF property in his/her possession.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Technical Director to provide for safekeeping of all ARASWF owned equipment, to maintain inventory records of all equipment, to file the annual report of equipment for insurance purposes, to make available to all qualified members short-term use of ARASWF test equipment, to examine and accept equipment donated to the ARASWF, to make all this information available to the membership, and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the position of Technical Director.

The Technical Director shall have authority to:

- Initiate repairs to ARASWF owned and operated equipment;
- Make expenditures approved by the Board of Directors up to \$250.00;
- Make expenditures greater than \$250.00 approved by the ARASWF membership at a duly held business meeting;
- Make recommendations for upgrading or adding to existing equipment.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the Operations Director to assure that the installation and operation of ARASWF equipment is in compliance with the rules and regulations of the FCC and directions of the Board of Directors. He/she also will, with the assistance of the Technical Director, assure that the routine maintenance of equipment is timely accomplished. He/she also will be an Ad Hoc member of committees/groups established by the ARASWF to accomplish various operating activities sponsored or endorsed by the ARASWF.

Section 7: It shall be the duty of the Immediate Past President to provide continuity and guidance to the Board of Directors as a member of such board, and to preside at regular monthly membership meetings of the ARASWF in the absence of both the President and Vice President.

ARTICLE 6 - FINANCES

Section 1: The Treasurer shall deposit all funds of the ARASWF in a manner to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Only the Treasurer, President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be authorized to sign checks in payment of debts of the ARASWF.

Section 3: Any expenditure that is less than \$250.00 for a club purpose or activity must have the approval of any three members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Any expenditure that is \$250.00 or greater but less than \$500.00 must have the approval of a majority of members of the Board of Directors.

Section 5: Any expenditure that is \$500.00 or greater must first be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors and subsequently approved by a majority of members present and eligible to vote at a duly held business meeting of the ARASWF.

ARTICLE 7 - MEETINGS

Section 1: The regularly monthly business meeting of the ARASWF shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month unless otherwise scheduled by the Board of Directors for a legitimate reason.

Section 2: The annual meeting of the ARASWF shall be held in the month of December of each year at a location, date and time designated by the Board of Directors. The December meeting will be a social gathering for the purpose of installing new officers and will include brief annual reports from the officers and awards for outstanding member service to the ARASWF. The December meeting will be held no later than the end of the second week of December pending the arrangements of the committee appointed by the President to plan the meeting.

Section 3: Notice of all regular, special and board meetings may be made by oral or written notice to the membership. Such notice may be communicated in person, by telephone, telegraph, email, radio, teletype, mail, or any form of electronic communication or transmission.

Section 4: The regular monthly business meetings of the ARASWF shall be primarily technical or informative and cover ARASWF business requiring membership attention and/or approval, except that the annual meeting held in December shall be primarily social.

Section 5: A quorum of nine (9) members, two (2) of whom must be members of the Board of Directors, shall be required to hold and conduct a regular business meeting. A quorum, once established, shall not be broken by withdrawal of members from the meeting.

Section 6: The President shall have the authority to cancel or postpone a regularly scheduled meeting in case of emergency, holiday, or unavailability of meeting place.

Section 7: Special meetings of the ARASWF may be called by the Board of Directors to discuss and transact specific and/or imperative business where a decision from the membership is required.

Section 8: ARASWF Board of Directors' meetings will be called by the President as necessary, announced in the ARASWF Newsletter or on the ARASWF repeater. All Board of Directors' meetings are open to all voting members.

Section 9: A quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the membership of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 8 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1: The following shall be the regular order of business at all regular or special meetings of the ARASWF:

- A. Meeting called to order.
- B. Introduction of members, guests, visitors, and new members.
- C. Reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting.
- D. Officers' reports.
- E. Committee reports.
- F. Old business.
- G. New business.
- H. General welfare.
- I. Special feature.
- J. Adjournment

Section 2: Unless specifically provided for elsewhere in the bylaws "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all parliamentary procedures for the ARASWF at regular, special, committee and board meetings.

ARTICLE 9 – AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF BYLAWS

Section 1: Any proposal to amend or repeal these bylaws must be submitted, in writing, to the Board of Directors. If the proposed amendment has the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors, the Board will instruct the Secretary to notify the membership in writing of the proposed amendment at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to take place.

Section 2: These bylaws may be amended or repealed by a majority of members present and eligible to vote at a duly held business meeting.

Section 3: No amendment or repeal of these bylaws can be made which is not in harmony with the laws of the State of Florida governing the formation and chartering of a not-for-profit corporation.

ARTICLE 10 - MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1: In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the ARASWF, all property or

assets owned by the ARASWF shall be liquidated by the Board of Directors and all funds donated to a charity to be determined by a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a duly held business meeting.

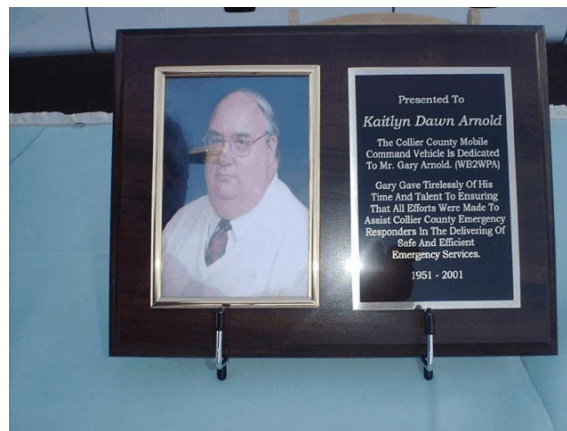
Section 2: Confidential ARASWF repeater programming codes shall be made available only to Board of Directors members and those persons authorized by the Board of Directors to perform work on the ARASWF repeater(s).

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From Fred Edwards, K4MJJ:

Dedication of New Collier Mobile Command Center

On Tuesday March 7, 2006 the Collier County Emergency Management Department dedicated the new MACC-1. The unit was dedicated to Gary Arnold, WB2WPA, SK, who had been a major contributor to the Emergency Operations of Collier County.



In attendance, among others, were:

Kady Arnold, KA4YWC
Rick Zyvoloski, KG4WSG
Rodney Smith, KI4DBI
Fred Edwards, KF4MJJ
Jordan Mash, WB2QLP
Gerry Wheeler, KG4NBB
Elio Hernandez, KI4HQP
Maury Steiner, KI4HEV
Dale Huguley, KG5QD
Peter Gaddy, KK4PG
R. L. Caron, K4GP
John Simander, NS0I



(Photos from John Simander and Jordan Mash)

Also from Fred Edwards, K4MJJ:

A list of the VHF Fire frequencies in use locally, is available on www.swflhams.com

You will need to sign up to access the file. Search for "Collier County Fire Frequencies" to access the file repository.

From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

[NASA Solar Storm Warning](#)

The K7RA Solar Update

SEATTLE, WA, Mar 10, 2006--A big news story this week (big to us, anyway) generated more email than I've ever received. If you were one of the kind folks who sent in an alert about a new prediction for sunspot cycle 24, I'm sorry that I couldn't get back to everyone.

A new computer model of solar dynamics produced by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research ([NCAR](#)) predicts the next solar cycle to begin a bit later than had been thought, but to rise much higher,--perhaps by as much as 30 to 50 percent--than the current solar cycle just ending. The model claims to predict cycles 16-23 with 97 percent accuracy using earlier data. For those yearning for another Cycle 19 of the 1950s--one that I missed--50 percent higher would just about get us there!

The NCAR [news page](#) has a report. So does the [NASA Web site](#). [Another article](#) from Science@NASA claims the Cycle 23 solar minimum is already here--or at least the beginning of it. Thanks to the multitude of hams who wrote regarding this prediction for the next solar cycle.

As for current propagation, solar activity remains low, with many recent days of zero sunspots and even more ahead. The vernal equinox (ie, spring) is only a couple of weeks away. This is a good time for HF propagation, even with few sunspots, as the Southern and Northern hemispheres are equally bathed in the sun's radiation. Friday, March 10 could have unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions, with unsettled conditions on Saturday, quiet to unsettled on Sunday, and quiet on Monday, March 13.

Bob Poortinga, K9SQL, of Bloomington, Indiana, writes about his experience on 15 meters last week during the ARRL International DX Contest (SSB). He ran 100 W into a wire antenna--he wasn't specific--and worked 44 countries.

He reports: "Highlights included 2 JAs (heard two others), Tonga, Ascension Island, and three KH6s. Also heard, but did not work, VK6NS and a ZL1 station. Had lots of QSOs to South America, mostly Argentina and Brazil. The Pacific opening lasted about two hours, occurring about 2130-2330 UTC Sunday. The three KH6s were worked within 15 minutes of each other, and I did not hear them again".

Bob likes the [BeaconSee](#) software for monitoring NCDXF/IARU beacons. "I can't say enough about this program," he says. Check it out!

Mark Schreiner, NK8Q, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, wrote to say how much fun he is having at the bottom of the cycle running QRP, and how great the lower part of the HF spectrum is with so little solar activity.

"About 1-1/2 hours after local sunrise I heard 3D2NB on 40 meters on March 3, and once I figured out the QSX, I worked him within a matter of a couple of calls. I was amazed to hear a station at such great distance so late after local sunrise! I had worked a Fiji Islands station who was barely copiable by me (so I can't imagine how my signal was for him unless his antenna was something special) early last summer at about 5 AM during the peak of gray line, just before my local sunrise, but to work this station so late after

sunrise and with at least an S5 to S7 signal strength at my end, I thought was absolutely amazing!"

Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, now has the call sign once held by broadcaster Jean Shepard. As WD2XGJ, Warren experiments with longwave transmissions on 137.8 KHz. Look at the cool [stone tower](#) where he operates his station. The site has other photos and information about his VLF equipment.

For more information concerning propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see the ARRL Technical Information Service [Propagation](#) page. An [archive](#) of past bulletins is on the ARRL Web site.

Sunspot numbers for March 2 through March 8 were 0, 0, 13, 28, 27, 25 and 24, with a mean of 16.7. 10.7 cm flux was 76.1, 75.5, 75, 74.2, 73.6, 74.4, and 72.4, with a mean of 74.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 3, 2, 8, 12 and 4, with a mean of 5.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 1, 1, 8, 6 and 3, with a mean of 3.6.

Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington

13 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HURT A RADIO CLUB

1. Don't attend training or meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is over.
3. When at a business meeting, vote yes to everything and then do nothing to help.
4. The next day (or right after the meeting) find fault with your board of directors and officers.
5. Take no part in club committees
6. Do not pay attention at training. Stay in the back and talk to another member. (Nobody will notice)
7. Show up for the events, but nothing else.
8. Talk cooperation. Don't cooperate.
9. If you are asked to help, always say you are too busy.
10. Never read anything pertaining to the organization or the radio service in general. You might learn too much.
11. Never accept an office; it is much easier to criticize than to actually do anything.
12. If appointed to a committee, never give it any time. Let the chairman do all the work.
13. Don't do anything more than the bare minimum. Then when others willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help the cause, scream and yell that the club is run by a clique.

ANOTHER STORY ABOUT CLUBS

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

From ARRL News:

NO LOLLIES ON SPACE STATION, COMMANDER TELLS YOUNGSTERS IN SPACE QSO

International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, this month educated and inspired youngsters in Florida and the Australian outback during separate Amateur Radio contacts. McArthur spoke from NA1SS with youngsters attending Collier County, Florida, public schools on February 8, and at the Charleville Cosmos Centre in Queensland on February 17. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program arranged both events. Students at Florida's Pine Ridge and Immokalee middle schools posed several questions on the subject of robotics aboard the ISS, and McArthur discussed use of the space station's robotic arm, Canadarm 2.

"We use the robotic arm only occasionally onboard the ISS," McArthur explained. "It's used to either relocate people or equipment on the outside, which happens only occasionally. Also, we will sometimes use the cameras installed on the robotic arm to do video surveys of the exterior of the station."

McArthur told the students that it took extensive training to learn how to properly manipulate the Canadarm 2, used mostly to move equipment and cargo that's too large for the astronauts to handle during space walks.

Twice during the contact, McArthur offered some words of inspiration and encouragement to those contemplating careers as astronauts. "Do not be afraid to follow your dreams," he advised. "Reach high, because even if you fall a little bit short you will have accomplished so much more than if you're afraid to even try."

Members of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida (ARASWF) set up and operated the equipment necessary for the direct VHF contact between NA1SS and K4YHB at Pine Ridge Middle School, a NASA Explorer School. Coordinating Teacher Sharon Lea, who once met McArthur, took a moment at the end of the QSO to express gratitude on behalf of the schools for making the contact possible. "This was a wonderful experience for us all," she said.

Some 150 school officials, teachers, parents and students were on hand, and two TV stations, a local radio station and the Naples Daily News reported on the space contact.

Nine days later, youngsters attending the Charleville School of Distance Education gathered at the Cosmos Centre in the Australian outback to hook up with McArthur via ham radio and a Verizon Conferencing teleconferencing link

from WH6PN at Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu to the Queensland facility.

McArthur told the students that he's been an astronaut for 15 years, and his duty tour aboard the ISS marked his fourth flight into space. "Prior to this, my longest mission was 14 days--two weeks," McArthur responded to one question, noting that he enjoyed being in space very much. "This one will be a little more than a half-year, and, to me, it's the difference between visiting a wonderful place and living there."

Looking ahead to longer-duration space flights, one student wanted to know how long it would take to get to Mars. "It would take somewhere between six and nine months depending on the technology used and also depending on how the planets are aligned," McArthur replied.

"Do you eat chocolate bars and lollies?" another student wanted to know. "Well, we have no lollies," McArthur answered, "but that's only because Valeri [Tokarev] and I didn't ask for them. Yes, we do have chocolate bars, chocolate candy, other candy, and if a crew wanted lollies they could ask for them, and they would have them up here."

Beyond that, McArthur said, the cuisine aboard the ISS largely consisted of foods familiar on Earth, although all meals come already prepared and usually dehydrated.

The school waited nearly two years for its contact to be scheduled, and just 12 hours before the event a thunderstorm knocked out telephone service throughout the town. Earth station operator and ARISS veteran Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, said a repair crew managed to get the telephone system back up with only two hours to spare.

National TV and radio and local media joined the audience on hand to report on the contact. The Charleville Cosmos Center is an observatory in outback Queensland some 800 km west of Brisbane.

ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> is an international educational outreach with US participation from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.



ARASWF Station of the Month

(Editor's Note: The only response from the membership for station pictures and narrative, was from Peter Gaddy, KK4PG. Please send in your submissions for the next newsletter. WD8RFL@ARRL.NET)

KK4PG



Another Tower Going In At KK4PG

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

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - MARCH 28, 2006
7:00 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Please submit your articles or reports by the 10th of the month. Images in jpg or gif format if possible. Proof read your material. Provide complete names with call signs. Identify the source of any materials not written personally. Check URL's for validity.

E-Mail to: WD8RFL@ARRL.NET