



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. XXII No. 10 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida October 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) 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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***From the President's Shack:***  
*by Peter Gaddy, KK4PG*

On Saturday October 21, beginning at 8:30 AM, those who wish to participate are invited to help the EOC inventory, test, and help put together "Go-kits" for the school radios that are to cover the shelters. This will take place at 195 Basik Drive at the County facility. This is located off of US 41 (East of Collier Blvd.) near the Cemex plant. A map can be found at: [MAP](#) Enter the next drive-way on the north side of US 41, just past (to the east) of the Cemex plant. Drive back through the gates, and continue on between the two buildings.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in the VE sessions, they have been a great success. This is an important service for us to perform.

For those of you who were not present at the last Club meeting, a very interesting and spirited debate took place regarding the ARASWF's role in emergency communications. I think some very constructive suggestions were made and I look forward to continuing the debate at our next meeting.

Elections for Club Officers and Directors are just around the corner. An amendment to the constitution has been proposed to require all Club Officers to be elected. This will be voted on at the November meeting. All persons who are interested in serving as an officer or director should contact me as soon as possible ( [KK4PG@ARRL.NET](mailto:KK4PG@ARRL.NET) ).

73's  
Peter, KK4PG

***Minutes of the September 2006 Meeting:***

<b>Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida</b>
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**Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.**

**Present:** Peter Gady, KK4PG - President  
Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary  
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL - Treasurer  
Jordan Marsh, WB2QLP - Co-Technical Director

**Apologies:** Carl Pacini, KI4All - Vice President  
Tim Wallen, KC4SSD - Co-Technical Director  
Rodney Smith, KI4DBI - Operations Director  
Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT - Past President

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called To Order:**

There being a quorum present with 15 members including 4 directors in attendance, Peter, KK4PG (President) called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

**Introductions:**

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

**Reading & Approval of Previous Minutes:**

On a motion by Mike, WD8RFL, the minutes of the August meeting as published in the ARASWF Newsletter were unanimously accepted without change.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Bill, K2ZEL, submitted the Treasurer's Report that indicated the following:

Balance as of 23 May, 2006	\$4889.37
Deposits	\$ 338.00
Total	\$5227.37

**Expenses:**

Router for Field Day	\$ 42.39
Food for Field Day	\$ 257.60
ARRL VE Test Session	\$ 84.00
Post Office Box Rental	\$ 40.00
Total Expenses	\$ 423.99

Balance as of 26 September, 2006	\$4803.38
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**Bills Received & Pending:**

UPS for Repeater Site	\$ 59.86
Hitch & Ball for Club Trailer	\$ 46.92
Appreciation Plaque for K9KNW	\$ 78.28

K2ZEL reminded the membership that included in the balance is approximately \$2000. of funds dedicated to replacement of the club antenna system. On a motion by Carolyn, AI4CZ, the Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted without change.

**Officers' Reports:**

Appreciation Plaque: Peter, KK4PG, displayed the plaque that will be presented to Joe Goggin, K9KNW in thanks for his hosting the 2006 Field Day.

Membership Badges: KK4PG then displayed sample call sign badges that will be available for \$6.50 each. They will again be displayed at the October meeting when there should be more members present.

Board of Directors Meeting: KK4PG announced that it is becoming something of a tradition for the Board of Directors to meet at Mel's Diner before each regular business meeting, and he invited all members to attend. The time of the Board

meeting is 5:30 PM. Mel's Diner is located on SR 951, just north of Golden Gate Parkway.

Antenna Trailer: Jordan, WB2QLP, announced that a preliminary examination of the club antenna trailer showed a need for a thorough overhauling including new paint, new tires, new tarp, possible new tool box, etc. It will take at least one full weekend to do the necessary repairs, and he will solicit 8-10 members for the job.

Changes to ARASWF By-Laws: Peter, KK4PG, announced the Board of Director's intention to change the existing By-Laws to provide that all members of the Board of Directors be elected by the membership, as opposed to several now being appointed. Sample wording will be prepared for Board approval, then distributed to the membership via the ARASWF Newsletter prior to the October meeting where the changes will be voted upon.

Availability of incumbent officers: KK4PG announced that incumbent Treasurer Bill, K2ZEL, has indicated that he will be available to serve for another year if the membership wishes him to do so, as will Peter, KK4PG, as President. However, it is possible that Rodney, KI4DBI, may be leaving the area and it is yet to be determined if he will be available to continue as Operations Director.

EOC shelter radios: KK4PG announced that plans to help with the overhaul of EOC radios to be used in the emergency shelters, set for October 7<sup>th</sup>, conflict with the Hamfest scheduled for Ft. Lauderdale on that date, and the original date for the overhaul is subject to change.

### **Committee Reports:**

VE Testing: AI4CZ reported that the next VE testing session will be held on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM at a new location – the EOC training room at 2685 Horseshoe Drive South, suites 104/105. She needs a minimum of 6 accredited examiners in attendance. Jeff, NJ2F, reported that he just received his credentials as a VE examiner, and he will be in attendance, together with KK4PG, WB2QLP, W2HI, N3ISH, and several others. There are now 17 accredited VEs in the club.

6-Meter AM Net: Jeff, NJ2F, reported that the 6-meter AM Net tied the previous record with 16 check-ins last Monday at 7:30 PM on 50.400 MHz., including 5 stations using vintage 6-meter AM radios. He urged the membership to become active and join the net when they can.

### **Old Business:**

Relations with EOC: Peter, KK4PG, initiated a discussion of on-going dialog with Collier County EOC and the role of ARASWF in emergency communications and public service. It appears likely that future involvement in emergency communications will probably be post-event activities, since the EOC is taking over the communications responsibilities at the shelters. A lively discussion followed, including such topics as training and NEMA/ARRL course completion, and the basic premise of ham involvement in such activities. Two things were

evident as a result of these discussions. (1) There is divided opinion as to the extent of any obligation of the club and its members to be involved with emergency communications, and (2) there is need to solicit additional opinions from a greater percentage of the membership as to what our role should be. John, NSØI, suggested that consideration be given to preparing some kind of questionnaire that might be inserted into the Newsletter. Finally, KK4PG ended the discussion with the observation that Karl, N1DL, ARASWF Emergency Communications Director, is away and not present at the meeting, and he needs to be involved in future discussions, and the matter was tabled until his return.

ARASWF Club Station: Peter, KK4PG, reminded the membership that it is still to be decided whether to seek a new location for a club station. Following some discussion on this matter, it was decided to table the matter for another month while consideration is given to the formation of a search committee to seek out and consider possible locations. One thing is certain – is not possible to make any arrangements with the Golden Gate Community Center for such station. There simply is no space available here. Again, the membership may be solicited for opinions with regard to this matter. A club station may not be regularly used by permanently residing members, but it does (did) provide a facility for seasonal members. Jordan WB2QLP reminded the membership that the club previously spent funds for new radio equipment that is unused at the present time, and there is still the matter of the funds dedicated for antenna replacement.

#### **New Business:**

ARASWF Web Site: Carolyn, AI4CZ, reported that she is unable to continue hosting the server accessibility for the web site beyond the end of October, and that something needs to be done to assure its continuance beyond then. KK4PG will refer the matter to the Board of Directors for discussion and consideration of alternatives.

Hamfests: Jordan, WB2QLP, announced an “open” hamfest (no fees to buy or sell) at Ft. Lauderdale will be held on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 AM. More information can be had by doing a web search for **W4MAQ**. Talk-in on 146.19/79 repeater (no PL), backup on 146.31/91 repeater (110.9 PL). Also, the Melbourne hamfest is scheduled for October 14-15, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Talk-in on 146.25/85 repeater (no PL from 6AM – 11:30 PM).

#### **50/50:**

The 50/50 raffle was won by A.D., K4ADR, who graciously donated his winnings back to the club treasury.

#### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. on a motion made by K4ADR and duly seconded and unanimously approved.

**Bob Graf, W2HI**  
**Secretary**

***Proposed Bylaws revisions to be voted upon at November 2006 Meeting:***

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

**REVISIONS – OCTOBER, 2006**

**(Revised Article 3)**

**ARTICLE 3 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1: The affairs of the ARASWF shall be administered by a Board of Directors, consisting of seven active or family members of ARASWF, all of whom shall be elected by the membership as hereinafter described. The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Technical Director
- Operations Director
- Emergency Communications Director

In addition, the Immediate Past President shall be a member of the Board of Directors for the one year period following his/her retirement as President.

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

Section 2: All 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. There shall be no maximum age limit established.

Section 3: The number of directors may be increased or decreased by a majority vote of the 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 4: Members of the Board of Directors shall have a term of office from January 1 to December 31 of the respective calendar year. No decrease of the number of directors shall shorten the term of any incumbent director.

Section 5: Each member of the Board of Directors shall be entitled to one vote at Board of Directors' meetings.

Section 6: 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 7: 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 a resignation is 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 8: 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

Section 9: Except as herein specifically provided, the decisions of the Board of Directors shall be deemed final. Such decisions are subject to an appeal to the club in the form of a motion to appeal by a member or members. Two thirds of the members present and eligible to vote at a duly held ARASWF business meeting shall be necessary to reverse the Board of Directors' decision.

Section 10: The Board of Directors shall reconsider any of its decisions by motion of any board member.

#### **(Revised Article 4 - Section 1)**

### **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, Treasurer, Technical Director, Operations Director and Emergency Communications Director. Incumbent office holders who were previously elected to these positions may succeed themselves in the same office without term limit if reelected to that office in accordance with these bylaws.

#### **(Sections 2, 3 & 4 Unchanged – Included here for informative purposes only)**

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**

### **(New Article 5 - Section 7)**

Section 7: It shall be the duty of the Emergency Communications Director to promote cooperation with other organizations and agencies which may be expected to call upon ARASWF for communications assistance in time of emergencies, 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, and to assist its members and all other radio amateurs with an ongoing education program to improve their technical proficiency as amateur radio operators;

### **(Re-numbered Article 5 - Section 8)**

Section 8: 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 7 - MEETINGS**

### **(Revised Article 7, Section 9)**

Section 9: A quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the elected membership of the Board of Directors, not including the Immediate Past President whose presence or absence shall not be considered in establishing a quorum.

### **(Unchanged Article 9 – Included for informative purposes only)**

## **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.



## ***FEEDBACK - Comments & Items of Interest from Members and Readers:***

I want to thank K4GP, RL Caron, for his article on Emergency Radio Operations. I looked up the ICS 100 and downloaded it. My wife, KF4BVV, and myself, KF4BBV, have just completed the CERT program. Let me suggest that this is a great place for the ham community to get involved, especially if they are interested in Emergency Communications.

I was hoping to be able to lend a hand on sorting the School Bd radios, as I have had some experience with commercial radios, but I had to go to Chicago over that week end. If you should do this at another time in the future give me a call. I am the control operator for VRN Inc. a Land Mobile Radio System in the Vineyards. We have 40 or so UHF radios, and for the most part, the entire system is built around ICOM units and a repeater. That brings to mind a question, what happened to the clubs or the EOC's 440 repeater that I use to hear in Naples?

Great News Letter!

Chuck Grant KF4BBV

*Editor's Comment: Thanks Chuck! You're on notice that the next meeting to work on the EOC radios is on October 21 at 8:30am! Perhaps someone can address the issue of the 440 repeater?*

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*Editor's Comment: "Tell me it isn't so, department." Amateurs sometimes need to be reminded that operating outside of their license privileges is not permitted, and may have stiff penalties. This is an excerpt from The ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 38 (Sep 22, 2006), submitted by one of our readers:*

FCC Cites Several Instances of Unlicensed Use of Ham Bands NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 21, 2006 -- The FCC has notified several entities -- including two trucking companies and a balloon festival sponsor -- regarding the alleged use of Amateur Radio frequencies by unlicensed individuals. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth advised all of the parties that unlicensed use of radio equipment not only can interfere with licensed users but violates federal law and could lead to fines of up to \$10,000.....

A Technician class licensee in Puerto Rico -- Joaquin Diaz Fontanel, WP3BH, of Humaco -- was the target of a Warning Notice sent August 28 regarding alleged operation on 7.080 MHz, a frequency not available to Technician class operators.

"Such operation may reflect adversely on your qualifications to retain and Amateur Radio license," Hollingsworth warned. "Additionally, please be advised that any additional incidents of out-of-band operation may lead to revocation of your license or a monetary forfeiture, and no renewal or upgrade application would be granted until this matter is resolved."

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*For Sale:*

I have two HF tri-band beam antennas for sale. I have a Cushcraft A3 for \$150, and a Mosley TA-33jr for \$80. Both antennas are used. They have been exposed to several northwest Indiana winters, then stored for a while, so they need a little cleaning up. I have the manuals for both. I also have a controller for a Ham IV rotor. Make me an offer.

Roy Jackson N9RG  
(239) 254-9345  
[n9rg@arrl.net](mailto:n9rg@arrl.net)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Karl Geng, N1DL reported on the Wednesday Evening 2m net (on October 11) that the FCC had finally released the long-awaited "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order. If you wish to read the entire report, you may "open" or "save" it at: [FCC Report](#)

A summary of the report is also available at the ARRL web site: [ARRL Summary](#)  
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***VE Report, by Carolyn Conklin, AI4CZ:***

On Sept. 30, 2006 the ARASWF sponsored a testing session for new hams and those wishing to upgrade. The session was held at the new EOC Training Center on Horseshoe Drive South in Naples.

Six candidates presented themselves for examination as follows:  
1 tested for Tech, 2 tested for code, 1 tested for General, 2 tested for Extra

From this we have:

1 new Technician Class amateur	KI4ROD Ted Brousseau, Jr.
1 new General Class amateur	W4YOE Yoel Reinoso
2 new Extra Class amateurs	K1EOJ Joseph Agresti and N4DMD Douglas Dunfee

At this time I need to report an error made by me due to a misunderstanding.

All VE's please note:

The only time we collect the extra \$21.00 for Vanity Call Signs is: when the license for the Vanity Call Sign is about to expire as the Amateur License is up for renewal within 3 months.

I have corrected this matter with the ARRL and those who paid the extra are being reimbursed by the ARRL. I apologize for any inconvenience I caused the parties involved.

Carolyn AI4CZ  
VE Liason

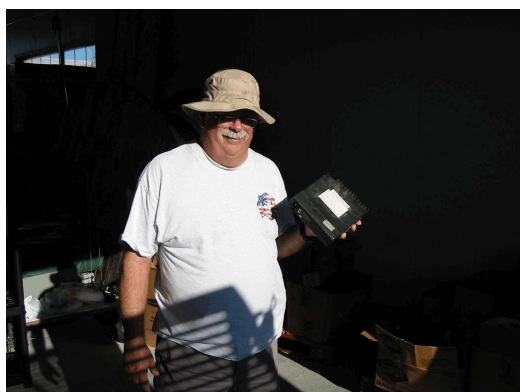
## ***EOC Radio Work Party October 7, 2006:***

*by Mike Welsh, WD8RFL*

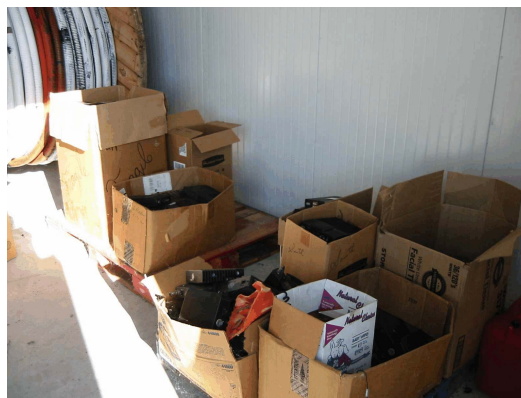
At 0900 on 7 OCT, four intrepid souls, led by Fred Edwards, KF4MJJ, met at the EOC storage facility on the East Trail to work on what seemed like a mountain of radios which had been removed from County vehicles, ostensibly School Busses. After sorting the approximately 150 or so radios by type and manufacturer, and removing the microphones, brackets and loose accumulations of crud, we had thirty that were targeted to be carefully cleaned. Toothbrushes, rags and a generous spritzing with bathroom cleaner, followed by a liberal application of elbow grease, seemed to do the trick. We then organized the corner area in the storage unit, and stacked all of the radios neatly on some shelving... awaiting the next work party, now scheduled for October 21 at 0830.

Those attending:

Fred Edwards KF4MJJ, Mike Gideon, Bob Quinn, KI4LUD and Mike Welsh, WD8RFL



KF4MJJ and the radio we targeted



The Pile of Stuff we started with




The Crew



(Left to right: Mike WD8RFL, Mike, Bob KI4LUD, Fred KF4MJJ)

## Sample K4YHB QSL Card

Created by Bob Graf, W2HI

<b>ARASWF</b>								
<b>Collier County, Florida, USA (Grid: EL96)</b>								
<b>K4YHB</b>								
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHZ	RST	MODE	QSL
								PSE
								TNX

 Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
P.O. Box 111604, Naples, Florida, 34108, USA

Bob created this card on his computer for use in responding to contacts made at Field Day, Keewaydin Island, etc. It is not the “official” QSL card for the Club Station, and perhaps we would like to adopt something to have printed up for use at Club events, etc.

Bob used Adobe Photoshop to create the card, and he fills in the QSO information and then prints a finished product on his ink-jet printer.

For those of you familiar with Photoshop, here is how Bob made the card:

“I made the card in Photoshop. Each element on the card is a separate layer, so everything can be moved, re-sized, etc. without disturbing any of the other elements. For printing samples, like the one above, I flatten the layers and reduce the bit size to 8. This reduces the size appreciably, and speeds up printing. The resolution is 300ppi, and this, too, can be reduced for faster printing, but I usually don’t do that in order to maintain maximum sharpness in the image.”

“Here at home, I maintain the layered version so I can enter the recipient’s information, such as Call, Date, UTC, MHz, RST, and Mode. Then when it prints out, it also prints all that data on the card – and it looks good!”

Well Done, Bob!

***Member in the Spotlight:***

**George Tomlinson, N3ISH**



**CQ COUNTY HUNTERS**

George N3ISH finished up all 3077 counties for the 3rd time.

I started my 3rd time August 4, 2004, and finished September 30<sup>th</sup> 2006 just short of twenty six months later.

For those of you that want to try, this is what you have to do. When you work the counties, they have to be in a mobile for it to count. They have all kinds of awards to work. They do have an award for working 18 wheelers, YL'S, Teams and other awards that you will find out when you start. There is a program called Kwin 2000 that will keep track of all awards as you work them. It takes a lot of dedication with long hours waiting for the county you need. Once you start to work them, they will get to know you and call you by name. County Hunting will get in your blood. You will pickup a lot of friends along the way. You can work them by phone, CW and FM 2 meters. One Ham from Japan finished up and it took him twenty two years to finish. Now that is a County Hunter. The hard ones are, as you expect, Hawaii, Alaska and the West coast. I was waiting for Honolulu on 30 meters CW on November 11th, 2005 and N8KIE put out the county. I jumped right in there and got him right away. My friends were talking on our chat room and KQ0B said: "Did you hear how loud N3ISH was?" I said yes and I am working off a mobile antenna on top of my house. They could not believe me. One ham in Colorado and I, were the only ones to get him. That made me feel good as it was on CW and the mobile antenna. When you first start you can get 50 or 60 counties a day. When you get over 1000 counties you start to slow down. Then when you get to 100 to go you may go days or weeks to get a county. It is very exciting to try, and they are all workable with a small antenna or a wire dipole. Mary worked them 5 times with 100 watts. It is what you want do, and how long you want to spend on the air. I started working them on 30 meters and been having a ball. If you have any questions, please call me. My phone number is 239-774-1759 and cell is 239-272-1759.

73 to all Hams  
George N3ISH



## Special Report - DXpedition to Dominica:

### Following Christopher Columbus' Footsteps (J7R Dxpediton September 2006) by Karl Geng, N1DL



- ☐ **J7R** Contest Call
- ☐ **J79DL** Karl Geng
- ☐ **J79MD** George Baron, MD

Confirming QSO with		Date		
		Day	Month	Year
UTC	MHz	RST	Mode 2-Way	

Operating from Dominica the "Nature Island" in the Caribbean in Wotten Waven, about 5 miles east of the capital Roseau in the mountains. Our special thanks to Hetty J73HPL and Clement J73CPL for their hospitality and use of their guest cottage and antennas and Clem J73CI for his guidance and support. Thanks also to Mr. James from the NTRC for the special call J7R.

CQ: 8 ITU: 11 IOTA: NA101 Grid: FK95

QSL Manager N1DL

1493, Columbus during his 2nd voyage to the new world, found the "Nature Island" on a Sunday, and called it Dominica. Probably he saw it earlier than the other islands in the area, because of the high volcanic mountains. 503 years later George W4LFK and Karl N1DL landed in Dominica too. They came by plane however, and landed at the Melville Hall airport which is located on the north east side of the island. With only 4700 ft of runway and a displaced landing threshold and mountains on one side and the sea on the other this was an experience for both pilots (even as passengers this time).



Clem J73CI, the president of the Dominica Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was already waiting outside the customs hall. By the way clearing our rigs, PCs etc through customs was no problem – as we found out later they had already been advised of our coming and we were pre-cleared by the Deputy Commissioner of Police J73CPL.



Deputy Commissioner of Police, Clement J73CPL

Clem drove us the 1 ½ hours over winding narrow mountain roads across the island to the capital Roseau on the south west side where we bought some food and a case of "807's". From there we wound our way up to the QTH of Hetty J73HPL and Clement J73CPL in Wotten Waven, a 280 people village on a small mountain plateau east of the capital. Hetty was waiting for us with a big smile and Clement helped us with our heavy luggage to the guest cottage adjacent to their house. The 3 large dogs were very noisy and looked threatening. But Clement assured us after introducing us to his dogs as "friends" we would be OK. He was right – these dogs were well trained and for the remainder of our stay were our friends.



**Hetty & Clement's QTH**



**Cottage QTH**

First priority – you guessed it – was looking at the antenna situation, securing one feed line and quickly setting up one station before it got dark. 3 hours after landing in Dominica on Thursday J79DL and J79MD were on the air with one IC-7000 transceiver on 20 and 40 meters in SSB. As we were both tired from the trip we packed it in around 11 pm and went '2m horizontal' in the guest cottage.



**George, Operating J7R**



**Beam**

Friday was antenna day. We checked out the antenna system, On a 40 ft tower was a Mosley TA-33 beam with 18 and 12 MHz added and a 40m dipole. We decided we needed an antenna for 80m too and a quick call on the 2m repeater to Clem assured us we could get some wire on loan from the club station J73Z. Hetty drove us down the mountain dodging numerous pot holes big enough to make a mini car disappear and delivered us to the Rental car company in Roseau. There we picked up a Suzuki 4 wheel mini SUV and George having just recovered from the drive down the mountain decided he was going to be the navigator and Karl the designated driver. This meant getting a Dominica driving license at the Canefield airport a mile away. US licenses are no good there and folks not familiar with driving on the left on narrow winding roads should probably not drive themselves. Having owned a Suzuki before and driven in the UK, Australia/NZ and South Africa this was not a challenge for Karl. (George may tell you some stories – don't believe them!)

With the 2m walkie we made contact with Clem and met up at the Radio Club where we picked up the wire. Then came our first independent drive up the mountain. We made it OK and proceeded to cut and install an 80m inverted vee.



**Clem J73CI - Karl J79DL - Tony J73TP**

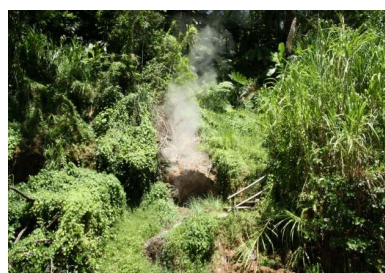


**Club - J73Z**

Next came the 2nd station and all our digital modems and PCs. Everything tested out OK after we had sanded the PL259s of various feed lines that were corroded in the sulfur laden air. The hot springs are only a few hundred feet away from the QTH.



**Hot Springs**



**Sulphur Spring**

Our schedule from then on was to operate with 2 stations until 10 pm, then George would operate one station until 0230 am and Karl would get up early at 0330 and start the day again. Conditions were reasonable and we had good propagation to the Americas, Europe and Africa. Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii were our only Pacific contacts. We completely missed Japan and the Far East. With 2 IC-7000 barefoot we did OK in the CQ RTTY contest but had it not been for the special call J7R it would have been much more difficult. It was nice to get some calls both in RTTY and SSB from the Naples and Marco crowd and during one morning even Hetty J73HPL worked a few of our friends.



**Karl J79DL & Conrad J73CAJ**

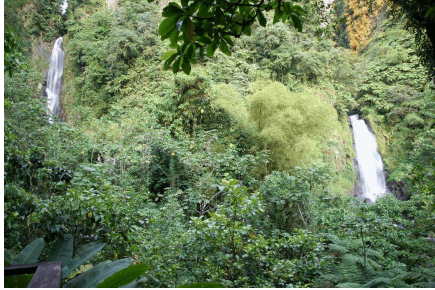


**George J79MD & Clem J73CI**



The rigs donated by N3ISH George arrived on the day we arrived and the rig for Conrad J73CAJ arrived on Monday. All were OK and worked fine. Conrad came up to our shack and visited together with his XYL and with Paula J73PL.

After the contest we took a few hours on each of the remaining days to tour the island and visit some local hams. One evening Hetty made a sumptuous and delicious Dominica dinner for us which Clem and his daughter Rohini were invited to as well.



**Trafalgar Falls**



**Beautiful Mountains**

We made some official visits to some government officials that Clement organized for us and had a good exchange with one of the ministers and the Chief Medical Officer of the country. George being a MD was interested how he could assist them and there were some specific areas they identified.

On the last full day Karls IC-7000 decided to strike and the max power went from 100W+ to less than 10W. Hetty offered us her IC-725 which we accepted and thus were able to go full blast until our very last minute.

We can't say enough about the friendliness of the people and helpfulness of the hams in Dominica. The country is still relatively untouched and beautiful. It is said that it is the only island that Columbus would still recognize.

Dominica we will be back soon!



Visit our Club Web Site at: [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org)

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - OCTOBER 24, 2006  
7:00 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER