



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. XXII No. 8 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida August 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: KI4AII
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:

Editor's Note: Our President must be away on important business, so no "news from the top". We'll look forward to hearing from Peter upon his return.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

It was noted by Fred Edwards, KF4MJJ, that the correct phone number for the Collier County Emergency Management Agency is 774-8000. An old number was listed in the Public Safety Phone Directory pdf file attached to the last newsletter. We regret any inconvenience.

Another avid newsletter reader, pointed out that the piece in the July Newsletter regarding the close approach of the planet Mars, was old information. This event apparently occurred in 2003. Anyone have a working time machine?

Thanks to everyone that participates in sending in articles of interest to the local Amateur Radio Community.

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center,
4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, July 25th, 2006.

Present: Peter Gady, KK4PG - President
Carl Pacini, KI4AII - Vice 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: Corey Mugaas, KB4ETT – Past President

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order:

There being a quorum present with 22 members, including 7 members of the Board of Directors, in attendance, Peter, KK4PG (President) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Reading & Approval of previous minutes:

Reading of the previous minutes was dispensed with, as they appeared in the ARASWF Newsletter already distributed to the members.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was dispensed with for this month. Peter, KK4PG, reported that approximately \$300. was spent for food at 2006 Field Day, and another \$43. for a replacement router for the computer network.

Committee Reports:

2006 Field Day: Peter, KK4PG, thanked everyone who participated for a successful 2006 Field Day, and singled out Allen, KI4IMA for special mention as a model ham who stuck it out for the duration. A Motion was made by N3ISH to nominate KI4IMA for Spirit of Field Day. This motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote. KK4PG announced that the Field Day logs and newspaper articles have been submitted to ARRL. He showed the members a copy of the newspaper article regarding club activities at Field Day that was sent to him by State Senator Burt Saunders. It was passed around for all to see, and then returned to the Club Secretary for archiving.

As a related matter, Peter, KK4PG, reported that the Board of Directors had

voted to obtain a Plaque to be presented to Joe Goggin, K9KNW, in recognition of his gracious hospitality in allowing the Club to use his property and facilities for 2006 Field Day. Peter and Jordan, WB2QLP will form a committee of two to accomplish the securing of the Plaque.

VE Testing: Carolyn, AI4CZ, reported on the recent VE session held at the EOC building training room located at the Collier County Government Center Complex on June 28th at 6:00 PM. This was an open, walk-in session, with the following VEs in attendance:

AI4CZ, Carolyn Conklin, VE Liaison
K4GP, R.L. Carson
N3ISH, George Tomlinson
N1DL, Karl Geng
WB2QLP, Jordan Marsh
WØMIA, Dick Pettijohn

Six candidates presented themselves for examination, including three who tested for Technician, two who tested for General, and one who presented documentation to be grandfathered to a General class license. At the end of the session two passed the examination for Technician, and one was accepted for General on the basis of his documentation. The new General class licensee is Mark Fadden, WA1GDP, and the new Technicians are Mark Creeger, KI4OBS and Jhony Desinor, KI4OBM.

Carolyn reminded the membership that the examination for General will be changing July 1, 2007, and the examination for Extra will be changing July 1, 2008, and she encouraged all who can upgrade to do so before these dates. She also encouraged all members to become accredited VEs, saying the club needs additional VEs to be certain that future testing sessions will be adequately staffed. She pointed out that even a General class licensee can become accredited as a VE and can administer Elements 1 and 2 exams, and she hoped that General class club members would consider becoming accredited.

Finally, Carolyn also stated that ARASWF is a "field-stocked" VE team, and as such the ARRL would like us to post advance dates for testing on at least a quarterly basis. After some discussion it was generally agreed that such future testing would be done quarterly in September, December, March and June, and that the actual day of the week and times for testing would need further discussion.

Ham database: Peter, KK4PG, reported that John, NSØI, has been putting together a database of all licensed hams living in Collier County, and the total number of such hams seems to be about 400. Peter said that the mailing of a letter of information about ARASWF and invitation is being considered once the database is complete. NSØI, raised the possibility of mailing out QSL cards instead of a letter, but after some discussion no action was taken on the suggestion.

2006 Hurricane Season: Rodney, KI4DBI, reported that he has a list of 27 ham

operators who will be available for emergency communications at the shelters. He also reported that Collier County has requested a list of hams that might be available during emergencies to provide communications from their home, and he encouraged all such members to contact him. It would be necessary for them to have emergency power available in the event of power loss, such as battery or generator power. As a related item of interest, John, NSØI, reported that 12 radios are currently being made available for shelter use by the Collier County EOC.

6 Meter AM Net: Jeff, NJ2F, reported that about a dozen stations signed onto the Monday night 6 Meter AM Net that begins at 7:30 PM on 50.400 MHz. This is a new net, and all members with 6-meter capability are invited to sign-in. It is not necessary that the equipment be vintage – it can be current equipment as well, since the new is more nostalgic than it is vintage. Horizontal polarization of antennas is necessary. Several club members mentioned that they are gathering vintage radios, and that several may become available to those members who do not currently have 6-meter capability. Jordan, WB2QLP, reported that low-pass filters were readily available at hamfests for only a dollar or two, for those using 6-meter AM and who feel that such low-pass filter is necessary. Peter, KK4PG, reported that many of the vintage radios being prepared for net use already have such filters installed in them, and there may not be a great need for them. Tim, KC4SSD, reported that he has a military tube tested that he will make available for testing vacuum tubes for the vintage radios.

As a related matter, Jordan, WB2QLP, announced that he had brought materials to construct several 6-meter dipoles for anyone interested in joining the new 6-meter net, and that he would be available after the meeting to help with their construction.

Eagle Rescue: Bob, KI4LUD, reported that participation in Eagle Rescue was somewhat less than overwhelmingly successful, due to an apparent lack of overall organization and several events being cancelled.

Web Site: Eric, KF4HEY, reported that he is in process of upgrading the web site. He is working on the Club Roster, and is looking into protecting email addresses via some kind of filter, and reducing the amount of spam that is being generated. Other items need updating, also, and he will get to them as time permits.

Introductions:

John, NSØI, made the observation that the regular introductions of meeting attendees had not been made earlier, so all attendees introduced themselves to the meeting for the benefit of new members and visitors. One out-of-town visitor, KI4OXE who was visiting from Georgia, was in attendance.

Peter, KK4PG, then introduced Bob Graf, W2HI, as the new club Secretary, who will complete the unexpired term of David Worboys, KG4ZLB, who resigned with regrets previously.

New Business:

Jordan, WB2QLP, suggested that the club approach the administration of the Golden Gate Community Center to determine if space might be available for a secure room to house the club station, and whether an antenna and tower might be erected here also. Peter, KK4PG, responded that he will look into the matter and report back to the club. Carolyn, AI4CZ, questioned whether the Club was still paying a monthly \$30. rental fee for use of the meeting room, and KK4PG responded that after this fee was paid for the first two meeting dates, it has been waived for all future monthly club meetings.

Special Feature:

Karl, N1DL, gave a very interesting talk and visual presentation about the Commonwealth of Dominica, or "J7 Land" as he described it. This is an area where there is an active ham community that is quite isolated and without sufficient assets to expand their ham activities. He encouraged the members to consider donating whatever unused ham gear they might be willing to part with, and assured them that it would be appreciated greatly. Jordan, WB2QLP, responded that perhaps Karl could ask the hams there to put together some sort of "wish list" that might prompt contributions of equipment from the members.

50/50:

Eric, KF4HEY, drew the winning 50-50 ticket, and the winner, Bill, K2ZEL, graciously donated his winnings back to the club treasury.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, John, NSØI, made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary

From John Simander, NSØI:

With all of the recent interest by some club members in "vintage" equipment, here is an interesting web site to check out:

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

***Report the presentation by Karl Geng, N1DL
From John Simander, NS0I:***

J7R

Commonwealth of Dominica

This is the call that has been issued to Karl, N1DL, for his upcoming Dxpedition/Contest trip in late September. In US terms this call is equivalent to WR or KR as J7 is the sole country prefix for Dominica. He and others will compete in the CQWW RTTY DX contest September 23-24. They will leave on September 21st and return on the 27th. George, W4LFK, a part time Marco Island resident and medical doctor, has been assigned the call J79MD and Karl already holds the call J79DL.

At our last club meeting Karl, N1DL, gave a great presentation on the Commonwealth of Dominica. Not only did he present pictures of the country, but also he showed pictures of the local hams. They showed a different story from what a travel brochure would give. First, Dominica has not become a tourist spot mainly because there is no large jet-port there. It is a modern country if late 1940's USA is modern to you. Everything they have is mostly made from something else, even their ham shack is made from 2 shipping containers with a roof placed over and one end closed. The average yearly income is only \$5500—less than what most of us have in our shack.

He also showed their repeater locations and equipment. The work party has to actually hack their way up the mountain side as there are no roads to the repeater site. Their path is completely grown over in 3 months so regular trips have to be made to keep the path from completely becoming impassable and the solar cells from being overgrown by vegetation. Their repeater is placed in plastic paint buckets and sunk into the ground and the solar panel then put over the bucket lids. Yes, they use machetes to cut their way through and also kill the snakes and other creatures along the way.

The hams of Dominica as well as the other residents are a very friendly and willing to give you the shirt off their back and the shoes on their feet if you have none. However, they are a very proud people and will accept charity if given in a “helpful” purpose. The club's repeater network is THE national emergency communication network. The ARASWF is becoming their “sister club” and is collecting items to be sent to them. George, N3ISH, has already donated a TS-440 HF transceiver and a TM-431A UHF transceiver. Even the smallest items are needed. A PL259 is recycled so many times it would seem not useable again to us. You just don't go around the corner to the local “Radio Shack” store to get them. If you have anything that you are willing to donate to them let Karl know n1dl@n1dl.com and he will make arrangements. Anything from rigs, antennas, spare parts, coax, and even old ARRL training publications are always in need.

If you did not see Karl's presentation some of the information is on the web page Karl has done for them. It can be found at on Karl's web page or at their own page.

Karl's page is at: www.n1dl.com and the website he built for the hams in
Dominica is at: www.j7hams.com

We look forward to Karl giving another presentation on other places he has been able to visit and operate from in the past.

***Report on the 6M AM Net
From Jeff Buerger, NJ2F:***

6 Meter AM Net

We are looking for a few more check-ins for our 6 Meter AM net on Monday evenings at 7:30 on 50.400. All of you with 50 MHz AM capabilities are welcome. New radios or old, please check in. The last three nets have averaged 12 check-ins. Come and listen to some fine old vintage radios and their classic audio. See you on 6.
de NJ2F, Jeff

Mystery Object of the Month



Can anyone identify this device, its inventor, or its purpose? Please e-mail your Newsletter Editor at: WD8RFL@ARRL.NET The earliest replies will be published in next months newsletter.

Shack of the Month

David Worboys, M0ZLB/KG4ZLB



Now who lives in a shack like this? Well it's me, David M0ZLB (or KG4ZLB when in Bonita Springs), and this is the shack in England where I currently am. It took a fair amount of time and effort (notwithstanding hard cash to get it here) to get it to this stage and I am still not totally happy with it so I am constantly tinkering with it's placement.

The radio equipment consists of an Icom 756ProII, and an Icom 706MKIIG. The ProII runs my HF station on 10m thru 80m with the 706 for VHF/UHF and 6m.

On 10 through 20m, the Icom feeds an Ameritron AL-80B that provides considerably more "juice" than the UK allows, that being a measly 400w. On 40 and 80m the 756 powers an Ameritron 811 which loafs at a reasonable 300w as my tuner will not take anything higher!

As most modern shacks are nowadays, the PC is most important and I use it for logging, satellite tracking, propagation programs and Echolink.

Going outside now, I have three different antennas for different bands. The first is the Cushcraft MA5B mini-beam which although I was sceptical about, has proved to be a top performer. It is currently only about 21' in the air as I feel that the neighbours need to get used to it before I take it higher.



If you look carefully, you will see the 40/80m longwire which is my second antenna and runs diagonally from the side of the house to the rear of the backyard.

And finally, this Maldol triband vertical which gives me 70cm, 2m and 6m and sits 35' up on the other side of the property. It was fun getting that up I can tell you! There has been a lot of 6 activity in the past few weeks and I have worked 22 different countries, so not bad for a vertical.



And that's about it! Always tinkering, always having new (and usually expensive) ideas, and I doubt I will ever be satisfied with it!

73's, David

And Now for Something Completely Different!

Please click on the following hyperlink to see details of an outstanding accomplishment by David Worboys, M0ZLB, in receiving SSTV pictures from the International Space Station!

[Chelmsford ARS Member David Worboys receives ISS SSTV pictures](#)

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

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - AUGUST 22, 2006
7:00 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER