



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. XXIII No. 6 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida June 2007

Club Information

Meeting Time: 4th Tuesday 7:30pm
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: None
Secretary: W2HI
Bob Graf
Treasurer: K2ZEL
Bill Reynolds
Past President: KK4PG
Peter Gaddy
Technical Director: WB2QLP
Jordan Mash
Emergency Comm. Director: N1DL
Karl Geng
Ops. Director: None
Public Information Officer: None
Special Events Coord.: KI4LUD
Bob Quinn
Awards Manager: KD4VRZ
Gary Randall
VE Liaison: AI4CZ
Carolyn Conklin
Newsletter: WD8RFL
Mike Welsh
Webmaster: W2HI
Bob Graf
Social Chair: W2JQ
Sigi Boernet

IN THIS ISSUE:

Minutes of May 22, 2007 Meeting

Mary Tomlinson Does it Again!

Rovers - Jordan Mash & Bob Morrell

Globe-Trotter Carl Pacini

Question?

Station of the Month, Karl Geng, N1DL

Field Day Information

General Interest

**"Green" (?) Energy Saving Noise Sources
Triathlon Report**

NOTICE: NO REGULAR MEETING IN JUNE.

**Please attend Field Day if you can, even if for
just a short while, to see what is going on. See
below, for the location and directions.**

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| Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida |
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**Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center,
Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, May 22nd, 2007**

Present: Peter Gaddy, KK4PG - President
Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL – Treasurer
Jordan Marsh, WB2QLP – Technical Director
Apologies: Karl Geng, N1DL – Emergency Operations Director

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

There being a quorum present with 20 members, including 4 directors, and 1 guest in attendance, Peter, KK4PG (President) called the meeting to order at 7:30 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:

Reading of the Minutes was dispensed with since they were previously published in the ARASWF Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill, K2ZEL, gave the following Treasurer's Report:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Cash on hand, Previous Balance | | \$6,134.28 |
| Income: | | |
| Member dues | \$ 25.00 | |
| 50/50 Proceeds from March | <u>\$ 21.00</u> | |
| Total income | \$ 46.00 | |
| Available funds | | \$6,180.28 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Trailer Hardware | \$ 54.58 | |
| Refreshments | \$ 29.67 | |
| Repeater Antenna | \$252.00 | |
| Antenna Shipping | <u>\$116.78</u> | |
| Total expenses | \$ 452.93 | |
| Cash on hand 5/22/07 | | \$5627.25 |

Officers' Reports:

Refreshments: Peter, KK4PG, gave special thanks to Bruce K9PWQ for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

Upcoming events - Naples Triathlon: Peter, KK4PG, announced that the next club event will be club participation at the Naples Triathlon on June 3rd, and that at least 2 additional members were needed to provide communications for the event. Bob, KI4LUD, who previously was coordinating this event, will be away, and in his absence A.D. K4ADR will be the chairman. Members who can participate are urged to contact AD prior to June 3rd. The event will be followed by a complimentary buffet for volunteers at the Naples, Beach Club.

Upcoming events – Field Day: Jordan, WB2QLP, discussed the planned field day activities and the need to coordinate member participation through him as Chairman of this event. He stated his concern that once the number of transmitters has been declared, it may be difficult to add additional transmitters without having to take one “off-line” to make room for the replacement. Also, he expressed concern about operating on digital modes while simultaneously operating CW during the contest, which is sure to create QRM and unnecessary interference. He stated that the Board of Directors is in agreement that members who come late to the Field Day site and wish to operate need to make their intentions known to the event Chairman (Jordan) before setting up their equipment to be sure it is within the plan of activities for the event. Finally, Jordan indicated that too much time was spent last year trying to keep the computer network operational that this year the computers will not be networked, and each station will be dedicated to a particular band (to avoid duplications) and will log their contacts separately on the PC assigned to that station. Then at the end of Field Day the totals will be compiled from the individual PC entries. Peter, KK4PG, announced that there will be refreshments at Field Day, probably to include hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on the grill, pizza, and whatever else might be provided by the members. Joe, K9KNW, who is hosting Field Day on his property in east Naples, informed the membership that there is a refrigerator available at the site, and a large grill is available for cooking, so these items do not need to be separately provided.

June Membership Meeting: Peter, KK4PG, announced that there will be no monthly membership meeting in June due to Field Day activities. The next membership meeting will be held July 24th.

Christmas Party: Peter, KK4PG, announced that the only club social activity during the year, the Christmas Party, is being planned for a Friday night in December, either December 7th or December 14th, and that the location will be at the VFW facility off Pine Ridge Road just west of Route 951 in Naples. A minimum of 50 persons is required, and the per person cost is expected to be \$15. - \$20., which will include a buffet dinner. A cash bar will also be available. This year there will be door prizes awarded, some of which will be substantial. Because the club needs to make certain monetary commitments and deposits, there will be a request that members planning to attend remit a deposit – this will be addressed in the Newsletter and at future meetings.

Committee Reports:

VE Testing: Carolyn, AI4CZ, reported that the next VE test session is being planned for the 2nd week in August – the exact date will be announced later. She reported also that 13 club VE's have participated in previous VE test sessions, and gave them special thanks for their efforts. Additional VE's are needed, and she encouraged members to become accredited with ARRL VEC and to participate in the test sessions.

Old Business:

New Repeater Antenna: Peter, KK4PG, announced that a new DB222E antenna has been received and installed at the repeater site, and that the primary repeater also has been repaired and will soon be re-installed. At that time, EchoLink will be available (it is not currently available while using the backup repeater.)

Antenna Trailer: Peter, KK4PG, announced that the club antenna trailer now has a new wood floor, new springs, tires, wheels and tow bar, and that painting the trailer remains uncompleted. A painting session is being planned for the coming weekend, and he encouraged volunteers to participate in this activity, which should complete the renovation of the trailer.

New Business:

Q&A Session: George, N3ISH. Asked if the club has applied to NEMA for an emergency generator. Apparently one might be made available upon application and following a club commitment to teach a basic course at a local school. Peter, KK4PG, responded that this matter will be referred to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Special Features:

Fred, KF4MJJ, discussed the importance of proper message handling using the ARRL Radiogram, and distributed written message handling examples and instructions to the membership. He then went through the procedure for passing a message using the distributed materials. Several suggestions for clarification were made from the floor, and everyone seemed to think the exercise was worth while.

Peter, KK4PG, suggested that Fred bring ARES/RACES registration forms to a future meeting so interested members can complete them and become registered. Peter also asked Fred to provide a membership list of ARES/RACES members so the club might coordinate with that organization.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle, in the amount of \$11., was won by Alysha, KI4VLN.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary

Mary Does It Again !

(The Whole Ball of Wax)

Mary started this time 12-24-1994 for the 6th time. She already had all but two counties done and lost her logs, so that is why there is a big time frame. The six times she worked 18,462 contacts. When you work all the counties, someone had to go out of the way so you could get your county. Bill KD7KST drove over 200 miles so that Mary could get her last county in Idaho. He traveled from a county in Washington. They call it WBOW award. The Whole Ball Of Wax. That is a lot of time next to the radio. Mary will work for other awards now. She wants to finish the Masters Gold award. There are only 16 people that have completed the Masters Gold Award. The other big Award is the 5 Star Award. When you work all the counties, you receive a Star. Mary has 5 Stars, so if you work Mary in a county you get five stars. That is a hard award to work. Mary has worked the counties six times and still needs nine stars in five states. Sometime you work someone in a county and they don't have a star. She really wants to work these two awards and that will be some achievement. With the small antenna we have, it makes it hard to work counties when they are all in a mobile. Mary and I have run all the counties two times in Florida. We are half done for the third time. See you on the air at 14.336 and 7.185.

73 Mary NV4Z & George N3ISH



George

Mary

What a (Rover) Trip !

By Jordan Mash, WB2QLP

Almost a year ago, Bob, AH8M, and myself began to tinker with the idea of doing a 'rover' operation for the 2007 ARRL June VHF Contest. For those of you who are not familiar with what a 'rover' operation is, the following is a brief description: You take 2 nuts (WB2QLP & AH8M) add multiple radios, a GPS receiver, an antenna tower trailer with many antennas & hit the road to go to other grid squares to operate in a VHF/UHF contest. Add in some fast food, lots of driving and a lot of visual searching for the right spot to set up. Got the idea ? Oh, I almost forgot: add a touch of "MURPHY!!!!".

Bob & I discussed the best way to operate 7 VHF / UHF bands in at least 6 grid squares within a reasonable distance from home, within the 30 hour contest period. This is no easy task.

After months of work, prepping the tower trailer, referencing grid maps, satellite mapping programs and past experiences, we had come up with a plan on where to go. We had decided to try the 6 grids that make up most of southern Florida, EL 88, 87, 86, 97, 96, 95. We had many discussions about all the equipment and odds and ends we needed to bring so we wouldn't be caught short. It came down to such small items as extra nuts for the antenna 'u' bolts, and extra 'AA' batteries, so we don't lose power in the GPS or flashlights, etc.

On contest day morning, things were going all too well. All of our plans were coming together nicely. 'Murphy' had not visited us, YET ! The contest starts at 2pm local time, and we departed Naples at 9 am all loaded up with plenty of time to get to our first set up spot. OK, about 200 miles north up I-75 to our first stop in EL88, fine, there by noon, latest, no problem, 7 antennas to erect when we get there, no problem. Well, on I-75 a few miles north of Bonita exit, we blow and shred a tire on the tower trailer. Hello Murphy !

After about 30 minutes, and a tire change, we are back on our way, thanks to Bob's handy jack work. The rest of the trip to EL 88 went uneventful ... until we got to our planned set up site, a bit later than expected . We learned real fast you don't pick a sports park parking lot from a satellite photo. The parking lot was empty in the overhead satellite photo. It wasn't, on this beautiful June Saturday morning ! The place was packed, over filled, with nowhere to park. Hello Murphy !

Where to now, we pondered...Time now: 12:30 pm, contest starts in 90 minutes. As we left there, we spotted a wide open empty cemetery just next door. Up front were acres of empty green grass, a beautiful spot, no trees, no shade, temp 90+. The graves were hundreds of feet back. We pulled in and Bob went to the office to ask for permission for us to set up our 'emergency communications trailer' . We were given permission to do so... so after a quick lunch break, we did. We parked and started to unload all the equipment. Time now: 1 pm. 60 min. to contest start. It took us more time than we expected to get ready to operate. We were still mounting antennas on the tower when the contest started. We decided that I go operate the beginning of the contest with the mobile antennas that are mounted on Bob's truck. He continued to mount all the beams on the tower outside in the heat. I was in the truck, A/C going ,

computer on my lap, making Q's and scoring points. At the start, 6m & 2m were active and I logged quite a number of different multipliers. Bob and I both misjudged the amount of time that was required to set up all the antennas on the tower. And now it was only 1 person doing all the set up ! Finally, after much labor the tower was loaded and ready to be cranked up.

Just about the time that we had a beam on 6m, the band closed . So we moved over to 2m and worked many grids all over Florida. Bob tried some of the UHF bands and worked a few guys on 220 & 432. More bands, more multipliers ! At about 5: 30 we were ready to break down and head for EL 87, the fishing pier at the Skyway Bridge in Tampa Bay, our next set up site. Breakdown took over an hour to dismantle and store all the gear.

On the way to EL 87 we discussed, and then realized how much area it took us to set up our operation. The area we needed was not going to be possible on the narrow fishing pier. Time for Plan B !!! We were going to have to operate again with Bob's mobile antennas. No set up, no breakdown !!! Yesssss !

When we arrived at the pier, at about 7 pm, it was very busy with Saturday night fishermen. Parking was very limited. The bands were dead by now and we worked a few locals on 6m, but 2m was better for propagation from out on the wide open water. Since we were in a new grid square, everything we worked were new multipliers. We stayed there till about 9pm. Then we departed to our next stop: Bob's home QTH in Cape Coral, EL 86.

Watching the GPS on the drive south, we started to operate from the mobile when we entered the new grid, EL 86...more Q's, more multipliers again. After a short stop at KF4YOX's QTH in Cape Coral, we headed to Bob's house. Now the time is after 11 pm. Light snack, then sleep....finally... after a long day.

Sunday morning, up bright and early, breakfast in Matlacha with Bob and his Lady. Now we were raring to go, and hoping to work a good 6m band opening today to make up for slow conditions yesterday. Not to be... OK, next stop EL 97, not too far away. We arrived there and found a site to set up just a few feet past the grid square border line. Roadside in the grass...nice spot and HOT !!! Set up took a long time since we were going to work all the bands, with all beams this time. Much to unload and mount on the tower. After almost 2 hours set up time, the tower was now loaded up and ready to crank up. Wow, what an effort it was to raise this beast . It was almost too much weight to raise up. We were nervous about the whole rig tipping over ! Fortunately the winds were light. Bob got the tower standing up, but we decided not to crank it up vertically. Too much of a load. No band opening on 6m, so we worked locals on 6 & 2 for more new grids and multipliers. Bob tried the upper UHF bands again with limited success. Not much activity around Florida up there on 902, 1296 or 2304. After 3 hours, only 1 Q on each band, same station about 20 miles away. We stayed in EL 97 a total of 7 hours. Now on to Naples, EL 96 & 95 and closer to home !

We were pretty wiped out from the day long stay in 97, so the mobile antennas were again used for our next two grid stops. It was getting too late and too dark to start to set up the tower again. We were running out of steam, too. When we got to EL 96 we

parked on a hill in Fiddler's Creek. 6m was starting to pop... finally... we worked a few DX stations up north, in a few new grids. Again, more new multipliers. We stayed there a bit then decided to drive down to our final stop in EL 95, on the Goodland Bridge. By the time we got there, 6 m was open, and we were filling up the log with new grids and our score rose considerably. Now in the dark, we parked in the shoulder lane on top of the Goodland Bridge. All of a sudden, blue lights were flashing behind us. It was a CCSO Deputy stopping to check us out. He saw all the antennas, and thought we were communicating with boats in the Gulf, smuggling aliens in. Fortunately the Deputy knew me, as he was a neighbor of our club president, KK4PG. Peter introduced him to me about a week ago... WHEW !!! After an ID check and interview, he departed and we finished the contest shortly afterwards, with 6m still open !!!

So, you want to do a 'ROVER' ? Have FUN !

P.S. Our final Q total was 281, and total score was 18,400 + points. Not bad for a mediocre contest.

P.P.S. Thanks to Paula , KE4JBT, for sending us over the 10,000 point mark.

GLOBE-TROTTER CARL PACINI, KL7/KI4AI

5/23/2007 I am leaving for Alaska on May 29 for ten days. I will be operating out of a mobile in Anchorage, Seward, and Fairbanks as KL7/KI4AI. I will be operating mostly on 17 and 20 meters. I may try 15 meters as well but I am not taking any antennas for 40 or 80 meters. I just do not have room for large antennas. 73, Carl Pacini, KI4AI

6/10/2007 I just returned from a 10-day trip to Alaska. My family and I flew to Anchorage. I operated as KL7/KI4AI for two days from Anchorage and Seward. My equipment included an Icom 706 Mark IIG, an Ameritron ALS500M amplifier, an MFJ 994B tuner, a mag mount, and an assortment of mobile antennas. I purchased two 12-volt deep cycle marine batteries while there. I operated from a rented SUV. Propagation was extremely difficult from Anchorage but I had more success from Seward (right on the water). I made numerous contacts with hams in the western US, Chile, Hawaii, and Lithuania. The real gem for me was Pitcairn Island (VP6TD) (Fletcher Christian and the descendants from "Mutiny on the Bounty"). All contacts were on 20 meters. Jordan, WB2QLP, and I heard each other on 20 meters but really did not have a QSO because of QSB and QRN. It was a good experience packing radio equipment and transporting it over 4000 miles and then setting up to get on the air. I have a new appreciation for the challenges faced by operators who live near mountains (as in Alaska).

73, Carl Pacini, KI4AI

QUESTION: Where can we go to find out about:

Current news - About repeaters, EchoLink, ARASWF club activities, etc.

Field Day 2007 – When and where, including detailed map

Amateur License Testing – When, where (including map), and what to bring to the test session

Club Meetings & Activities – When & where, including map

EchoLink – Rules and procedures

Club Roster – A complete listing of ARASWF members

Local area Nets – Frequencies, PL tones, etc.

Local Hamfests – When & where

Club Newsletters – View and download past issues

Club Photos – View members' photos, or submit your own

Club Bylaws – View the ARASWF Bylaws in their entirety

Files – View and download a Smith Chart, Emergency Message Forms, including ARRL Radiogram, Message Log, Message Format, etc.

Club Officers – View the current club officers & committees chairpersons

Application Form – Download and use to join ARASWF

Send Email – to any club officer, committee chairperson, webmaster

ANSWER: GO TO THE ARASWF CLUB WEBSITE:

www.araswf.org

There you will find current information about ARASWF club activities and answers to many questions, including all the information indicated above.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Acting Webmaster

STATION OF THE MONTH

KARL GENG, N1DL/4 in Blue Ridge, Georgia



Here are some pictures from my new QTH in Blue Ridge, Georgia.

The antennas are a 2 element SteppIR on a 55 ft FORCE12 crank-up mast with a 2m/70cm vertical on top. In addition, I have an inverted vee for 40m and a dipole cut for the CAP frequencies. More antennas to come, when there is more time.

The station was selected so that it can be easily (HI nothing is easy as it turns out) converted from local to remote control.



Initial setup of equipment

The rig is a Kenwood TS-480, the linear the new Tokyo Hi-Power HL-1.5KFX, the rotor a Yaesu G-1000DXA with a remote control serial board added.

The heart of the remote control station is a Dell Inspiron 8100 Laptop with WiFi and USB to Serial converters added. Thus, it is possible to either control the station locally with Ham Radio DeLuxe and have the SteppIR antenna controller and Linear follow the rig's frequency automatically or to use IRB (Internet Remote Base) software which allows control to all parts of the station separately via the Internet and either use Skype

or GSM internet audio for the voice link. The way the station is set up it can also do CW and PSK31 via remote control.

I will be adding another control unit with 8 relays that will allow some external switching and resetting of units. A feedback board to remotely measure certain voltages, temps etc is also planned.



The QTH is close to the TN, NC border on Choctaw Ridge a few miles south west of the town of Blue Ridge at an elevation close to 2200 feet. There is no electrical noise or any other that I have found so far.

Everything is well grounded but I want to add ICE lightning protectors for the coaxes and control cables (rotor and SteppIR). I have guyed the mast in its fully extended position with 1/4 inch Dacron rope as a precaution. Being on a ridge there can be high winds on occasion.

By the way, the mast moves up and down with a battery driven electric drill. Takes about 2 minutes in both directions with a worm drive mechanism.

The station works well and I am happy to have a directional antenna again - something I missed since moving from Marco Island to Naples a year ago.

K5MIR Curtis who lived a mile away from me in Marco is now my next ham neighbor about 1/2 mile away. Small world indeed.

73

Karl

FIELD DAY 2007

Field Day will be held beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday, June 23, 2007 and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday, June 24, 2007.

Location:

Joe Goggin's (K9KNW)
294 Brandy Lane
Naples, FL 34114

(Located off of SR951 (Collier Blvd) on Sabal Palm Road which is to the east of 951, north of the East Trail and south of Rattlesnake Hammock Road.

AS USUAL, THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETING IN JUNE DUE TO FIELD DAY



Some Things to Remember:

This will be an OUTDOOR EVENT! Bring bug repellent. Long pants and a long sleeve shirt might help with the bugs in the evening. A flashlight would also be a good idea for nighttime operations. If staying for the entire event onsite, don't forget any medications you might need as well as personal hygiene items. A hat? Sunscreen? Bathroom facilities, and a BBQ grill are provided.

General Interest

Interesting web article, submitted by John Simander, NS0I:

Turns out those “pig tail” fluorescent lamps, are not so “green” after all...

[Energy Saving Fluorescent Lamp Noise Source](#)

Triathlon Report:

The ARASWF participated in the Naples Triathlon on June 3, 2007. Members present to provide communications were: A.D. Randolph, K4ADR, Fred Edwards, KF4MJJ, Rodney Smith, KI4DBI, Tim Gibbons, KI4UAT, and Mike Welsh, WD8RFL. The race went along well, with only one known incident, where a runner passed out. Rodney was on the spot and called for paramedics. Fred relayed the call for help to authorities. A wonderful breakfast buffet was provided for the workers subsequent to the race.



Mike WD8RFL, AD K4ADR, Rodney KI4DBI
Fred KF4MJJ, Tim KI4UAT



Fred KF4MJJ setting up his station

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

NO MEETING IN JUNE - PLEASE TRY AND ATTEND FIELD DAY !

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - JULY 24, 2007
7:30 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER