



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. XXIII No. 11 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida Nov. 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:

From The President's Shack

Minutes of the October 23, 2007 Meeting

Feature Article:
My First Elmer and the Long Road to Amateur Radio
by Rodger Hough, KI4NFQ

"Stray Currents"
Submissions from our Members & Readers

Local Hamfests

"Signing Off... With the December Issue"
Your Newsletter Editor, Mike Welsh, WD8RFL

From The President's Shack:



Dear Members:

All members are encouraged to attend the annual Christmas and Holiday party on December 7, 2007. There will be a cash bar, dancing music, valuable door prizes and favors for spouses as well as the usual cast of characters that provide great entertainment. Members of the Marco Amateur Radio Club have been invited to attend. Any member may bring a non-club member as their guest.

I wish to thank all of the members of the ARASWF for the support you have given me during my tenure as president during the last two years. Now is a good time to reflect upon our goals and measure how well we have been able to achieve them. The goals of the ARASWF are set forth in the Preamble to our Constitution (Bylaws since our incorporation). Here is the Preamble:

The AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA (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.*

We have worked to achieve the goals set forth in the preamble. Despite some severe setbacks, like the loss of our club station and the termination of our memorandum of understanding with the Red Cross, we have continued to provide a core of trained radio operators to meet our public service obligation.

There are some very positive trends that have been developing. Over the last two years the foundation of the club has been considerably strengthened by an increase in membership and an increase in our cash reserves. On the national level the number of licensed radio amateurs has been increasing. I suggest that we take advantage of these trends by promoting Amateur Radio through information sharing, technical exploration, and community involvement.

One final note, don't forget that this is your club; we need participation by every member. It belongs to the members. We need to let the Officers and the Board of Directors know what the club needs. Attend Board Meetings and communicate with the officers. If they don't listen throw them out of office and get new ones.

Happy Holiday's & 73's

Peter
KK4PG



Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, October 23rd, 2007

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

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

There being a quorum present with 18 members, including 5 directors, in attendance, Peter, KK4PG (President) called the meeting to order at 7:20 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 abbreviated Treasurer's Report:

“We do have money.”

(Note: Bill did not have possession of the club checkbook during the month, and did not prepare his usual Treasurer's Report.

Officers' Reports:

Personal loss: Peter KK4PG announced that Larry K8SRH suffered a personal loss when his wife Marge passed away last week. Larry will be moving back to the Naples area about the 1st week in November, and will need assistance in erecting his radio antennas at that time, and would appreciate any help that he receives.

Upcoming events – Christmas Party: Peter KK4PG reminded the membership that Bill K2ZEL is accepting deposits for the club annual meeting and Christmas Party to be held Friday, December 7th.

Web Site: Peter KK4PG announced that the web hosting for the araswf.org web site has been prepaid and extended for 8 years until the year 2016, to coincide with the term of the domain name.

Committee Reports:

Nominations for Club Officers 2008: Peter KK4PG announced that the nominating committee will be recommending the nomination of the following persons for 2008:

President – to be determined
Vice President – Tim Gibbons, KI4UAT
Secretary – Bob Graf, W2HI (Incumbent)
Treasurer – Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL (Incumbent)

Peter asked the membership to consider a replacement for him as President due to the many commitments he has in other activities. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the November meeting, followed by actual voting at that time.

Peter also announced that Jordan, WB2QLP has agreed to continue as Technical Director, and Karl, N1DL will continue as Emergency Communications Director.

Old Business:

New Business:

Collier Emergency Communications: Fred, KF4MJJ, announced that there are 2 new D-Star digital repeaters on the air, on the following frequencies:

(2 meters) – 145.490 (-) MHz, No PL tone required
(440) – 441.500 (+) MHz, No PL tone required

The antennas are 200 feet high, and located at County Barn Road.

Special Features:

This month's special feature was a presentation by A.D., K4ADR, about the benefits of using "Logbook of the World" (LoTW) for QSO recoding and confirmation. The LoTW system is a depository of log records submitted by users from around the world, and began operation on September 15, 2003. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. To minimize the chance of fraudulent submissions to LoTW, all QSO records must be digitally signed using a digital certificate obtained from ARRL. Obtaining such a certificate requires verification of the licensee's identity. Help with the required Initial set-up is available from many users and the ARRL, which provides a "walk-through" on the ARRL web site.

Software developed by ARRL can be used to convert a log file (in ADIF or Cabrillo file format) into a file of digitally signed QSO data, ready for submission

to LoTW. In order to obtain credit and confirmation for older contacts, they must be entered into the system, either individually or in bulk form using this software.

At present there are approximately 142-million QSOs recorded with LoTW by about 18,000 users and 26,000 call signs. A.D. reports that close to 50% of contest RTTY operators are currently using this service, and about 20-25% of SSB operators are users also. LoTW is maintained and fully supported by ARRL, and there are no charges involved other than those required for award certificates such as DXCC, etc. The big advantage of zero cost for QSO confirmation is offset somewhat by the fact that individual QSL cards cannot be printed out from the data base, as they can on eQSL. However, the summary records produced by the system are extensive, outstanding and accurate.

Next month's feature will be a presentation by Kary N1DL about the remote control of station equipment, provided that there is on-line access made available at the meeting. Fred KF4MJJ agreed to investigate the availability of such access point through the County, and to arrange for it to be available on the next meeting night.

Questions and Answers:

The floor was opened for questions from the members present, and several were raised and discussed.

Final Matters:

Peter KK4PG announced that club Secretary Bob W2HI will not be in attendance at the November meeting, and he asked for a volunteer to record the Minutes of that meeting. Bill, K2ZEL volunteered to do so.

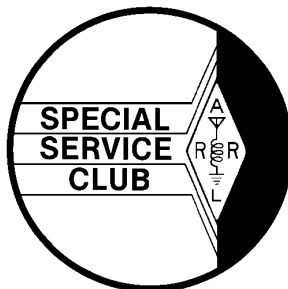
50/50:

The 50/50 raffle was won by Peter KK4PG (again).

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary



Feature Article From One of Our Members

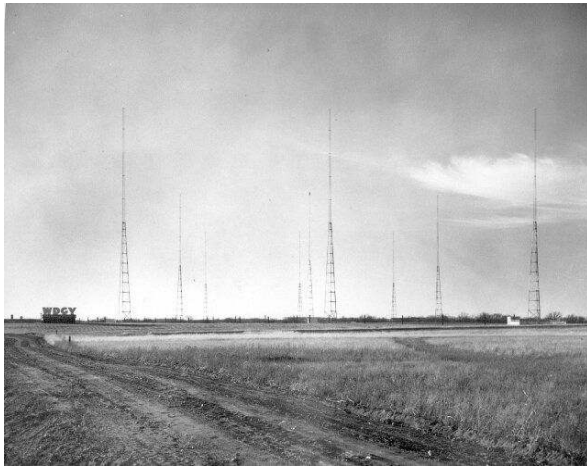
My First Elmer and the Long Road to Amateur Radio by Rodger Hough, KI4NFQ

I'm Rodger, KI4NFQ, and I am a relatively new ham. I got my Technician license in January of 2006, my General (with 5 WPM code) in March 2006, and my Extra October 2007. Now I have wanted to be a ham since I was about 10 years old. You see, I have a love affair with radio. I memorized the serial number of an old Emerson table radio of my parents when I was about 6, and for my 8th grade graduation I asked for and received an RCA battery operated tube radio. Those 67.5 volt batteries were expensive! In high school I met Carl Roller. He was a Novice Ham, had a Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver and a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter. I envied him so much. I got a J-38 key and started practicing. But something happened when I was fifteen that delayed me from getting my Amateur License.

My high school had a JROTC unit. One day I was called into the ROTC office and asked if I was looking for a job. I said "Yes Sir!" I was told to report to Radio Station KDMO and meet a Mr. Lee Crocker. I was excited. I knew the radio station generally hired a teenager to do janitorial duties and to drive their remote broadcast car. When I got to the station Mr. Crocker said to me "so you want to be a radio announcer?" and I did \$1.00 an hour working weekends. It was working that Saturday night shift that led me to my first ELMER, though I had never heard that word at the time. After sign-off on Saturday night, the station's Chief Engineer, George Providence, (a ham) came in to do weekly maintenance. I started hanging around and he started ELMERING me. He taught me how to tune a transmitter, how to measure frequency, how to use an RF bridge, measure harmonic distortion, adjust relays, and reminded me that heat and dirt are the enemies of electronics. I was fascinated, but learned that I would need a COMMERCIAL RADIOTELEPHONE FIRST CLASS LICENSE to be a Chief Engineer.

So I studied, and when I was 17, I passed my FCC test. By the time I was 18, I was Chief Engineer of multi-tower array KRIG in Odessa, Texas. That job didn't last long. You see, you wore a Colt 45, loaded with shot shells when you went to check the base currents at the towers. Many times a big old rattler would be coiled up near one of the matching coils. And the snakes would slither through the trenches into the transmitter on occasion. If the transmitter went off, you could almost bet you could open the interlock and find fried snake across the high voltage supply. I worked at several stations, including KBHM, Branson, Missouri, where you had to access the transmitter by boat when the lake was high. KBHM's tower was short (120') for its frequency of 1220KC, thus it had a high base current of over 9 amps, from only a 500 watt transmitter. Getting on that tower was always a warming experience! A tower painter using a spray rig was doing the hot step till I could cut the power back.

Most of the transmitters I maintained in my early years were 5000 watts output or less, but in my final semester at Arkansas (KHOG/KNWA) I got a job offer from 50,000 watt WDGY in Minneapolis. WDGY was owned by Storz Broadcasting; then the largest contemporary music chain in the United States.



Nine Towers



Tower Aerials

I've enclosed a few pictures of that 9 tower array and transmitter and phasor installation. This transmitter operated at 50,000 watts daytime and 25,000 watts nighttime and had separate direction patterns for day and night operation.

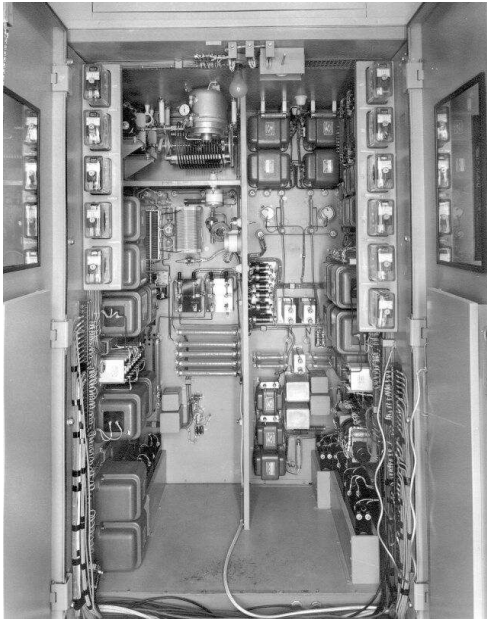


WDGY Westinghouse

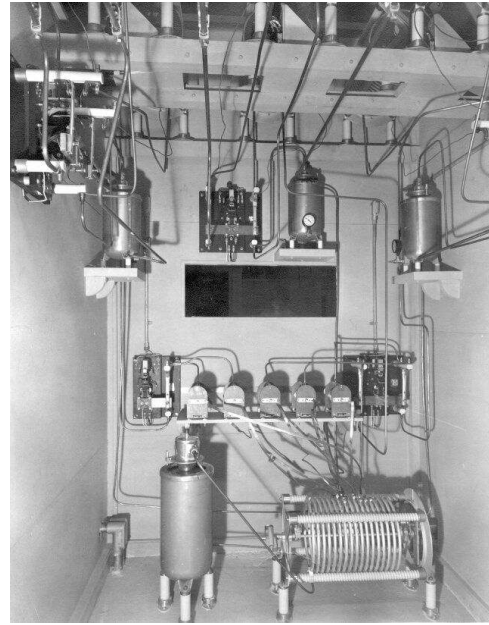


WDGY Phase Room

Talk about RF power; this Westinghouse transmitter was actually rated at 100,000 watts output. That means it needed over 50,000 watts of audio to achieve 100 percent plate modulation. And the base common point current was 32.4 amps. The tubes were almost 4 feet tall and you needed a special two wheel cart to move them in and out of the transmitter. When we changed patterns and power you could almost feel the building shake. Of course the transmitter put out enough heat to warm the building in those cold Minnesota winters. In the summer we ducted that heat out.



Inside the Westinghouse

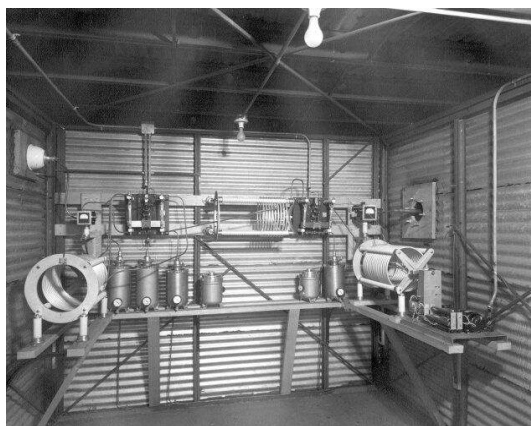


Inside the Phase Room

When I first came to WDGY in 1966/67 there were two Chief Engineers, one for Studio Operations, the other for Transmitter/Phasor Operations. Their names were Ken Olesen and Don Dahl. They were great ELMERS! I was one of about 10 First Phones on staff. After a couple of years, I left to be operations manager of a station in Wichita (KWBB/KQTY); then returned to Minneapolis to work as on air talent for another 50,000 watt station KSTP (Hubbard Broadcasting). I left broadcasting in 1973 and went into the private sector, building television studios, audio studios, and remote trucks. In about 1980, Ken and Don from WDGY asked me to return as a contract Chief Engineer and I did, and was eventually offered the job of System Chief for the Storz chain. I declined and returned to the private sector, coming to Naples where I built and operated REEL IMAGE, INC. the area's first AVID non-linear film and video production facility. I've sold that facility and have now retired from Commercial Radio to Amateur Radio. Boy, this Amateur gear is so small; maybe I can find a good ELMER somewhere. 73s!

Rodger Hough
KI4NFQ

nfn07981@naples.net



ATU at WDGY

Stray Currents

From David Worboys, M0ZLB:

How to Build Your Own Sputnik: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7049002.stm>

From George Tomlinson, N3ISH:

My Log for the PA QSO Party 2007

Call: N3ISH Section: SFL County: Collier

Name: George Tomlinson

PA Club Affiliation: Florida Contest Group

ENTRY CLASS: SINGLE-OP STATION: HOME STATION POWER: HIGH

SCORE CALCULATION

160 and 80 CW = $0 \times 2.0 = 0$

Counties = 62

Other CW = $0 \times 1.5 = 0$

Sections = 0

SSB & FM = $339 \times 1.0 = 339$

DX = 0

RTTY = $0 \times 2.0 = 0$

PSK = $0 \times 2.0 = 0$

Total QSOs = 339 Total Points $339 \times$ Total Multipliers = 62

Total Raw Score = 21018

Bonus Multiplier 1 \times Raw Score 21018 = 21018

Special Event Station Bonus = $0 \times 200 = 0$

Mobile and Rover Bonus = $0 \times 500 = 0$

FINAL SCORE = Total Score + Bonus Points = 21018

Also from George, N3ISH:

Birth of a Sunspot: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/18sep_trilobite.htm

From John Simander, NS0I:

2007 Field Day Results

We got beat by Ft Myers by 364 Qs and 1026 points.

Click on W4LX "hot link" for their pictures.

2008 is coming !!!!

2007 Field Day Results Displaying entries for Section=SFL Entries 1 to 25 of 27 listed

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	N4BP	11,645	1E	1,137	5		SFL	2	
2	W4MLB	8,646	2F	2,150	2	AF4Z	SFL	27	Platinum Coast ARS
3	W4J	6,256	3A	1,745	2	AD4C	SFL	323	Jupiter Tequesta Repeater Group
4	W1HR	6,096	1A	1,503	2		SFL	3	Ham Radio Brasspounders
5	K4HRS	5,236	2A	1,556	2	WA4AQV	SFL	18	Harris-Intersil ARC
6	W4LX	4,968	5A	1,158	2	N3NAI	SFL	27	Fort Myers ARC
7	K4YHB	3,942	5A	1,522	2	AI4CZ	SFL	23	ARA of Southwest FL
8	K4RS	2,640	2A	453	2		SFL	37	Fort Pierce ARC
9	KK4TA	2,422	2A	884	2		SFL	3	Okee Three
10	W4OT	2,256	3A	357	2		SFL	13	Vero Beach ARC
11	W4SS	2,250	2A	580	2	AI4PW	SFL	6	Palms West ARC
12	N4UM	1,998	1A	441	2		SFL	20	Florida Keys ARES
13	W4NLX	1,976	2A	610	2		SFL	20	Indian River ARC
14	W4ARM	1,956	1D	505	2		SFL	1	
15	W4HAW	1,886	2A	418	2		SFL	14	West Palm Beach ARC
16	K4WRC	1,810	3A	530	2		SFL	46	Wellington RC
17	AB4ET	1,690	1E	139	5		SFL	1	
18	W4EIP	1,640	1D	410	2		SFL	1	Florida Contest Group
19	K2UGH	1,335	3D	183	5		SFL	4	
20	W4SVI	1,282	1A	300	2		SFL	10	Everglades ARC
21	K4OKE	992	1F	186	2		SFL	5	Okeec Hober ARC
22	K4DCS	644	2E	47	2		SFL	3	
23	KU4IS	390	3AB	4	5		SFL	3	
24	K4CRM	386	1E	58	2		SFL	2	
25	AI4CJ	322	1E	36	2		SFL	1	

From George Tomlinson, N3ISH:

Iraq to be Back on the Air Later This Month (November): <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=7846>

And This from George as well... (What an impressive station!)

[FRC] W3PP M/M

Class: M/M HP

QTH: DE

Operating Time (hrs): 48

Summary:

Band QSOs Zones Countries

160:	83	13	39
80:	236	21	75
40:	400	26	95
20:	956	31	126
15:	1471	26	128
10:	211	16	49

Total: 3357 133 512 Total Score = 5,990,760

Club: Frankford Radio Club

OPS: W3PP K3WI WB4FDT +non FRC - K1RY N3RRR KB3MJ K3JD

We had our share of problems, but all in all I am very pleased with our efforts. The new recruits did very well and K3WI was a superb addition the the FRC ranks. He is a virtual run machine that requires little maintenance. I am inserting a picture of the crew at startup. 73, Dallas W3PP



L to R K1RY (160), K3WI (80), N3RRR (15), WB4FDT (20), KB3MJ (40)

LOCAL HAMFESTS

November 17, 2007

Flamingo Net / UMARC Free Flea

University of Miami Physics Parking Lot

5001 San Amaro

Coral Gables, FL

<http://www.FlamingoNet.8m.net>

Talk-In: 146.865- (PL 103.5)

Contact: Bill Moore, WA4TEJ

Phone: 305-264-4465 (days)

Email: wa4tej@juno.com

November 24, 2007

Okeechobee Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Freedom Ranch

11655 State Road 441 SE

Okeechobee, FL

Free Parking

8AM Till 4PM

Free Tailgate with paid admission

\$5.00 at GATE

Famous Catfish dinner by the Okeechobee JC's

Along with Drinks, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Coffee and Doughnuts

Prizes given out Hourly

Grand prize at 12:00 NOON must be Present

Setup Saturday 6am – Secure grounds

First tailgate area FREE W/admission extra \$5.00 each

<http://www.k4oke.com>

Talk-In: 147.090+ (PL 100) Tone May Be Off

Contact: Harry Robbins, KF4KDO

Phone: 863-467-7454

Fax: 863-467-0516

Email: redbirds@strato.net

Signing Off... with the December Issue...

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the readership of our Newsletter over the past several years, while I have been editing and publishing it. I'll be turning over the reins to David Worboys, M0ZLB, starting with the January 2008 issue. It has been fun assembling the various materials I receive each month, and I hope each of you has gotten something of value from reading it. I'm sure David will bring our Newsletter a fresh look, and perhaps add an "international" flair to it. Please continue to submit materials to the newsletter editor... make the task easier, and keep it interesting for our club members. I apologize to those of you that have sent materials from time to time, that do not get included. Usually it is because the material is time sensitive, and has "gone out of date" by the time the Newsletter is published. Thanks for sending it along.

73,
Mike Welsh, WD8RFL

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 27, 2007
7:30 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER**

www.araswf.org

Visit
the



**Amateur Radio Association
of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

Web Site

www.araswf.org