



ARASWF

Newsletter



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

From the President's Shack:

In 1959 the Phil-Mont Amateur Radio club produced a classic documentary about emergency communication entitled "Every Single Minute". This film is now available on the internet at:

[Phil-Mont Video](#)

(<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2943570522939177086&hl=en>)

Take a look at this 22 minute film, while obviously dated, it gives some good insight about how things were done in the "good old days".

Peter
KK4PG

Minutes of the February 27th 2007 Meeting, by Bob Graf, W2HI:

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, February 27th

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

Apologies:

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

There being a quorum present with 37 members, including 4 directors, 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, including 3 visiting members of the Marco Island Radio Club.

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, reported that the present balance of the club bank account is \$6,732.96, after receipts of \$845. in 2007 dues and \$33. from last month's 50-50 drawing, and after payments of \$43. for refreshments at the January meeting and \$119.45 for transfer of the club web site to a new hosting service. A motion was made by Tim, KC4SSD, and duly seconded, the treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Officers' Reports:

Upcoming events: KK4PG announced the following dates for upcoming events:
Saturday, March 31 – Operation ComGapFill – emergency operations exercise
Saturday, April 7 – Next VE test session
Saturday, April 21 – Annual DXpedition to Keewaydin Island
Tuesday, April 27 – April membership meeting

Operation ComGapFill: Karl, N1DL, Peter, KK4PG, discussed the upcoming Operation ComGapFill to be held on Saturday, March 31, 2007, from 0900 to

1200 hours local time. The intent of the exercise is to demonstrate our ability to communicate both within and outside Collier County in the event of an emergency. Contact will be made with Broward, Lee and Glades Counties, as well as with the Collier EOC. Three teams will conduct the exercise:

Team A will operate locally on 2 meters FM using repeaters and simplex;

Team B will operate SSB on 144.200 MHz and 50.130 MHz to other counties and (hopefully) to the Miami hurricane center;

Team C will act as Mission Control and communicate with FEMA and other agencies.

Some 7-8 members initially indicated their interest in participating in this exercise. A sign-up sheet was distributed so members could indicate their willingness to participate.

Refreshments at Monthly Meetings: Peter, KK4PG, inquired of the membership about their interest in having refreshments at future club meetings. There was little interest expressed in support of doing so.

Committee Reports:

VE Testing: Carolyn, AI4CZ, reported on a very successful VE testing session that was held on Saturday, March 4th, where 24 persons appeared for testing or upgrade. Two of these had expired CSCEs and declined to retest. Five candidates tested for a new Technician license, and all passed. Four candidates presented CSCEs to upgrade to General, and all were approved. Ten candidates tested for General, and nine passed. One candidate upgraded to Extra via a CSCE, and two candidates tested for Extra, and both passed. She then introduced each successful upgrader by name and call. (Note: asterisk “ * “ after calls below indicate ARASWF members.)

New Techs are Brian Bolen, Jerry Clark, Timothy Gibbons, Alfred Santos, Kory Scott Gruenbaum.

New Generals are J. Anthony Rowtie KB2SFA*, Michael Gideon Sr. WD4FLZ, Wilford Hecox KI4PZP*, Robert Quinn KI4LUD*, Cindy Quinn KI4NWU*, Lisa Grant KK9TTL, Mary Tyner KF4VAK, Jeffrey Bolen KI4HEZ, Conrad Braun KI4KQK*, Patrick Walsh KI4SZH, Evan Anderson KA6QOY, Frederick Edwards KF4MJJ*, Laman Gray Jr. KI4QEG

New Extras are Davis Schaare W4SFR*, William Reece K6HFE*, Lewis Cosby III W7MAK.

Then Carolyn thanked the member VEs who assisted at the session, including WB2QLP, NJ2F, WØOB, WD4FLY, K4GP, W2HI, N9RG, KK4PG, N1DL – also WØEAQ who assisted as a non-VE.

The next test session will be held on Saturday, April 7th, at 9:30 AM. At the same location on South Horseshoe Drive, and she will be looking for Accredited VE volunteers to assist at this session.

6-Meter AM Net: Jeff, NJ2F, reported that the 6-meter AM Net seems to be attracting 10-15 check-ins each Monday night at 7:30PM on 50.400 MHz, and he invited more members to participate. Vintage AM radios are not a requirement for checking into the net, but they are gaining in popularity – about half of the check-ins are using vintage 6-meter radios.

Old Business:

Club Antenna Trailer: Tim, KC4SSD, announced that most parts for renovation of the club antenna trailer have either been received or are on order, and he expected that the necessary renovations would be made on or about the 10th of March at his QTH at 111 - 3rd Street NW.. The trailer will be refurbished with new paint, new tires, new storage boxes, etc. A call will go out over the repeater for volunteers to join a work party to complete this work.

New Business:

Special Features:

Peter, KK4PG, announced that the special presentation by Joe, N2XYZ, about the amateur radio station NJ2BB on the battleship New Jersey originally scheduled for this meeting has been postponed to the March meeting to be held on March 27th.

Karl, N1DL, presented an interesting slide show of his recent travels to South America and the Amazon River, where he operated on all bands and made several interesting contacts, including some contacts with ARASWF club members, whom he thanked for their participation.

Quarter Century Wireless Association:

Representatives of the QCWA announced that their monthly meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month, at 12:00 noon at Lely Palms main dining room. This location is across from Shepherd of the Glades Church on Rattlesnake Hammock Road. It is reported that this is the best \$10.00 Lunch ever.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle was won by Bob, WØ7OB, and \$26. was added to the club treasury.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. on a motion made by George, N3ISH, seconded by Carl, WA9ZIF, and unanimously approved.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary

ARASWF QUIZ:

QUESTION: WHAT'S THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA?

ANSWER: THE ARASWF WEB SITE: WWW.ARASWF.ORG

Have you checked out the club web site lately? If you do, you're likely to notice the following changes:

- Improved readability due to larger type and brighter background;
- New information about the ARASWF 2-meter and 6-meter nets;
- New information about VE Testing;
- New "Upcoming Events" calendar that is kept current;
- Up-to-date listing of area Hamfests;
- New "Photos" page where photos of club activities can be posted for all to see;
- New Roster, now sorted by both Last Name and Callsign;
- The complete Bylaws of ARASWF;
- Archive of past ARASWF Newsletters for viewing and downloading;
- New "What's New" page documenting the growth and changes to the web site;
- A new Application Form for new members, and current members who wish to update their personal data on file with the club Secretary & Treasurer;

Remember, this is YOUR web site, and worthwhile content of interest to all members can be posted here in a timely manner if submitted to the webmaster.

Attention all you pro-am photographers out there:

Please email your photos for inclusion on the web site to:

webmaster@araswf.org

Many thanks!

Bob Graf, W2HI, Acting Webmaster

6 Meter AM Net, by Jeff Buerger, NJ2F:

6 Meter AM Net

Mondays at 7:30 pm local
50.400

The 6 meter am net of SW Florida is alive and well. Come give it a try. We meet weekly on Monday nights at 7:30 pm local. Centered around Collier county, we get about a dozen check-ins weekly. Also a few have checked in from Lee county and in the summer E-skip season, we have had check-ins from as far as 1400 miles. About half of us have vintage 6 meter radios from the 1950's and 1960's. The other half use whatever will get them on 6 meter am. Most modern rigs today are all mode and include the 50 mhz band. (6 meters). So if you are 6 meter capable, come join us for an informal and fun net. Included here is a photo of my 6 meter shack. The old antique on the left is a Clegg Thor 6 from about 1960 . To the right of that radio is an Icom IC-7000, a state-of -the-art radio which also operates 6 meters along with many other ham bands. So remember, Monday nights at 7:30 pm on 50.400 am. Talk to you all soon, 73 de NJ2F, Jeff



NJ2F 6 Meter Station

From Allen Randolph, KI4IMA:

HELP LOCATE KI4IMA DVD's

What I am trying to locate, are two DVD's that I have floating around out there somewhere with the membership. They were just getting passed from one person to the next, and I have lost track of them. One is titled "VP8THU South Sandwich Is. 2002" and the other is "VP8GEO South Georgia 2002". Please contact me if you have either of these. THANKS !

Allen Randolph, KI4IMA KI4IMA@earthlink.net

From Richard Zyvoloski, KG4WSG:

Editor's Note: Intended for last month's newsletter, but missed the deadline. The SKYWARN training continues, so please look into it.



**Collier County
Emergency Management Department**

Training Opportunity



FREE training program being offered twice in Collier County:

The National Weather Service Miami will provide FREE Basic and Advanced Skywarn training, twice. The first set of classes are held on **Friday, March 2** and they'll be offered again on **Saturday, March 3, 2007**, at **Collier Co. Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**, 3301 Tamiami Tr. E., Bldg F/Rm 103 (Co. Admin Bldg), FL 34112. Training will be presented by the Miami National Weather Service (NWS) Office.

Skywarn storm spotters are the eyes in the field for the National Weather Service.

Basic Skywarn training is straightforward...and fun. The two hour class will be offered twice. It will ***begin at 10 am*** each day. The class includes information necessary to report weather hazards to the NWS Miami. Simple terminology for thunderstorms and tornadoes is covered, and severe weather definitions are highlighted. In addition, NWS watch and warning functions are discussed.

Advanced Skywarn training will be offered each day ***beginning at 1:00 pm***. It lasts about two hours. This class is designed to provide a deeper understanding of hazardous weather effects in South Florida by providing meteorological tools necessary to evaluate the hazardous weather environment. Some of the subjects include thunderstorm classifications, tornadic thunderstorm schematic, and optimum Severe Weather locations within storm cells.

FAQs...

What is a Storm Spotter?

The Skywarn spotter program is a nationwide network of volunteers trained by the National Weather Service (NWS) to report significant weather. Anyone is welcome to participate. ***Must be at least 18 to be a spotter.***

Why Skywarn?

The NWS's mission is to **protect lives and property**. When weather conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms or tornadoes are expected to develop, a severe thunderstorm or tornado WATCH is

issued. A Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado WARNING is issued when severe weather has been reported by a Skywarn spotter or indicated by Doppler radar. Skywarn volunteers become the NWS's and local Emergency Management's eyes and ears, helping to provide better weather watch and warning services.

Who will activate Skywarn?

The NWS and/or the local emergency management authorities may activate the Skywarn net whenever there is a threat of severe weather or the NWS issues a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch.

Registration/Information:
E-mail your request to register to:
RichardZyvoloski@CollierGov.net
Home Page: www.CollierEM.org



**Collier Board of County
Commissioners**

3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Bldg. F/Suite 103
Naples, FL 34112
Phone: 239-774-8000
Fax: 239-775-5008
Email: RichardZyvoloski@CollierGov.net



Submitted by Jordan Mash, WB2QLP:

Morse Code Still Has Its Place

Morse Code didn't really die last week with the end of a requirement that all ham radio operators learn it to secure their licenses from the Federal Communications Commission. Rather, the code evolved.

For evidence, flip open your cellphone and send a text message. Chances are that this modern equivalent of Morse Code takes as long or longer than the 30 words-per-minute speed that 19th-century telegraph operators had to maintain.

One method of communication translates letters into short and long sounds called dashes and dots and transmits them by the weakest radio waves to and from locations around the world. The other uses satellite technology to transmit actual letters to and from a screen in each phone.

But the same electromagnetic forces that have existed in the universe since the beginning of time enable both to work.

A New Englander named Samuel F. B. Morse invented the telegraph and the code in 1837. His invention transformed business, especially shipping, and government. It facilitated the long-distance transfer of capital and was particularly useful in the growth of newspapers.

Human events might have taken a totally different turn had it not been for Mr. Morse.

The military will continue to train some personnel in Morse Code because people we spy on still use it. Die-hard ham radio operators will also preserve the art of conversing in Morse in the way that many people prefer the therapy of wind sailing over motorized boating.

History and Hollywood movies are filled with examples of human beings who by sounding out the dashes and dots were rescued from certain death in remote parts of the world.

Don't be too quick to bury Morse Code. You never know when it might again come in handy.

Also from Jordan...

QSL Card Care and Feeding

David F. Doler Jr. (WA3YAY) on February 26, 2007
From eHam.net Articles

If you're going to print your own QSL cards, have a look at www.wihelm-research.com first. What you're sending to that other ham might not last very long if you using a generic brand ink and photo paper. In fact, using the cheap stuff, your card might last less than a year before it fades into oblivion.

I received a home printed QSL a couple of days ago from a Ham in Florida. It was a pretty one with a nice bright sunset and all the QSO information printed on it. Knowing from my experience with digital photography and printing, I'll have to keep that card in a closed box unless I want to see that sunset disappear in relatively short order.

On my desk are about two hundred cards that I've received that were printed in the 70's and 80's by commercial printers like 'The Little Print Shop'. These were offset printed or maybe by 4-color CMYK process for photos. Done properly and cared for, these cards will last a lifetime. Cards made by at-home inkjet methods probably won't.

When I was a novice in the mid-70, I had the stamina to stay on the air for hours on end happily pounding out 20 watts of CW on 40 and 80 meters. This netted me lot of QSL cards. Ever so proud of my accomplishments, I made the mistake of cellophane taping my favorite cards up onto heavy poster boards and sticking the whole thing up on the wall.

Even the best quality QSL cards are probably not printed on archival quality, acid free paper stock and they eventually my cards interacted with the adhesive on the tape and turned brown - and fell off the board too. To compound my mistake, I attempted to pull off some of what tape remained only to damage the back surface of the cards and in some cases ripped the card too.

During a recent work project repairing old engineering blueprints, I discovered a small company in New York City called Talis (212-219-0770) that sells bookbinding supplies. They have an archival quality pressure sensitive, thin, transparent paper tape called Filmoplast P that's made from a special wood-free paper that virtually disappears leaving a mend that both looks and feels like the original paper. It won't discolor or damage the QSL card over time. Needless to say, I bought a roll and brought the old cards out into light and did my best to repair the tears and rips. It worked well and the cards should be stable for quite a while.

You should store QSL cards in an archival-quality, acid-free box. Tamis also sells these. But if you want to display the cards either on the wall or in a ring binder, be sure that the clear oversheets do not contain unstable chemicals such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyether or acetate as these can, under the right conditions bind to the surface of the card. Also never, ever use the cheap "static"-type photo holders. They are about as un-archival as they come and will surely stain your cards over time. The best combination is a binder with acid-free fiber materials and 'foggy' Polypropylene for a coversheet. These offer the best environment for the cards survival.

The way I see it, QSL cards, like a well-kept logbook are a history lesson about your life as a Ham. It's worth sending good quality cards and taking care of the ones you get. One of my favorites is from K1HO aboard the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's R/V Knorr research ship. I had a QSO with them while they were at sea right over the site of their discovery of the RMS Titanic in 1985.

That's one that will last a long time.

Last Month's Guest Speaker Presentation

Karl Geng, N1DL on his recent voyage up the Amazon River:

Karl N1DL gave a slide presentation of his recent trip up the Amazon River from Macapa to Manaus and his maritime mobile operation. A number of club members worked him as V73FA/mm from the MS Regatta, a 30,000 ton passenger vessel registered in the Marshall Islands. Karl's station is very compact in a waterproof case containing an ICOM 7000, a 110/220 V power supply, a micro keyer, digital modem for PSK, RTTY, Pactor etc, and a PC. His antenna is only 1 foot in length when disassembled and was clamped to the verandah rim of the ship.

His next trip in June will be to the Pacific visiting the Cook Islands (call E51ADL) and a number of islands in the Society and Marquesa chain (FO).



MS Regatta



QSL Aboard Ship



Trip Route



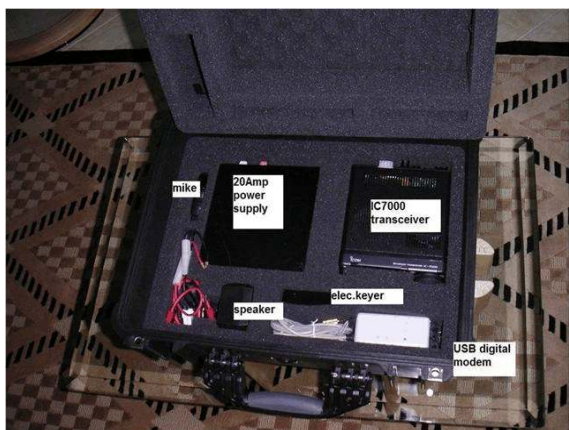
Antenna Mounted on Fantail Railing



Antenna Tuner and Mounting Detail



Station Setup



Station Carrying Case Layer 1



Station Carrying Case Layer 2

WELL DONE, KARL !

Editor's Note: Use the magnification tool (zoom) in Acrobat Reader to make the page and images larger.

From Mike Welsh, WD8RFL:

Traffic Handling

See the following web site for an excellent tutorial on Traffic Handling for ARRL Radiograms: [KV5R Traffic Handler Training](#)
You may download a DOC file of the training materials to keep as a handy reference.

Another web page containing many useful links is here: [Tools for Message Handling](#)
There are several versions of the message form, which you may download and print..

FUN STUFF !

From Peter Gaddy, KK4PG:

Try your hand at an Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzle:

[Sarrio Crossword Puzzle](#)

Humor from David Worboys, M0ZLB:

Editor's Note: This is HUMOR, from one of the Monty Python originators. The original and a response from a "Colonist" are posted here: [John Cleese Message](#)

A Message from John Cleese to the citizens of the United States of America

16 November 2006

A Message from John Cleese to the citizens of the United States of America:

In light of your failure to elect a competent President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately.

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (excepting Kansas, which she does not fancy).

Your new prime minister, Tony Blair, will appoint a governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

(You should look up "revocation" in the Oxford English Dictionary) 1. Then look up aluminium, and check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed at just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it.

2. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'favour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters and the suffix -ize will be replaced by the suffix -ise. Generally, you will Be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels (look up 'vocabulary').

3. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication.

There is no such thing as US English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take account of the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of '-ize'. You will relearn your original national anthem, God Save The Queen.

4. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.

5. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not adult enough to be independent.

6. Guns should only be handled by adults. If you're not adult enough to sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist then you're not grown up enough to handle a gun. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. A permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.

7. All American cars are hereby banned. They are crap and this is for your own good. When we show you German cars, you will understand what we mean.

8. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

9. The Former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) - roughly \$6/US gallon. Get used to it.

10. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.

11. The cold tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as Beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager.

American brands will be referred to as Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.

12. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialogue in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.

13. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full Kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).

14. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware that there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable.

15. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.

16. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).

17. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 pm with proper cups, never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; strawberries in season.

John Cleese

From your Newsletter Editor, Mike, WD8RFL:

Thanks to all of you that submit materials for the Newsletter each month. I try and send out the newsletter on the 15th of each month. Please submit your articles, photos, etc. to me at WD8RFL@ARRL.NET Please send photos in JPG format, and documents in DOC or RTF format, or just in the body of your e-mail. If you are contributing something that you did not write, please include a citation as to the source.

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

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