



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. XXIII No. 7 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida July 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

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Section Manager

Uncle "Bob" Wants You !

From Bob Graf, W2HI:

NEWS FLASH!

RENOVATED ARASWF TRAILER / TOWER MAKES DEBUT AT FIELD DAY

The newly renovated ARASWF club trailer / tower appeared at Field Day 2007 to provide the antenna for 15 meters. It showed off it's new tires, new springs, new hardware, complete new paint job (using airplane paint for durability) and new lettering on the side to identify it as belonging to **Amateur Radio Association** and **ARA of Southwest Florida**, complete with lettered callsign **K4YHB**. Pictured below is the trailer as it arrived at Field Day. Everyone should be proud of this trailer, and give special thanks those members who completed the renovation work, including Dave W4SFR and Peter KK4PG for painting and lettering, Mark WA1QDP and Tim KC4SSD for welding and safety improvements, and A.D. K4ADR for construction and wooden platform work..



Committee Member Reports

VE Liaison Carolyn Conklin, AI4CZ:

The next Test Session is scheduled for August 11th at 9:30AM at the ITC Training Room on Horseshoe Drive.

VE's need to be there about 9AM. Please mark your calendars.

Carolyn has a new e-store at <http://www.cafepress.com/mrsc> where she is selling her artwork and has t-shirts and other merchandise for ARASWF members here: <http://www.cafepress.com/mrsc/2891740>

Echolink Coordinator, Carl Foust, WA9ZIF:

Echolink is back up and working on the repeater. (146.67) See the pages on our club web site for detailed information on Echolink operation:

<http://www.araswf.org/echolink.php>

News From the Membership

George Tomlinson, N3ISH:

I got my Extra !

Congratulations, George. Well Done !

AD Randolph, K4ADR:

2006 CQ WW DX 160 Contest - K4ADR - 1st Place low power for Fla. score of 14,985 points, 140 contacts , 40 states, 5 DX .Makes 2 years in a row now !

Way-To-Go, AD !

Karl Geng, N1DL:

(Karl is on a trip to the South Pacific. Papeete is the capital city of Tahiti)

June 28, 2007

Greetings from Papeete. Picked up the license this am and hear US including W4 coming thru around 2:30-3pm your time. Just worked WW4US in Jacksonville at 9 pm your time on 20m.

Greetings

Karl

FO/N1DL

Jordan Mash, WB2QLP: (related to Karl's Adventures)

Local Hams QSO with N1DL on his South Pacific Travels.

I was able to contact Karl, FO / N1DL, on 29 June at 1443 lcl on 14.347 on USB & CW . At the time he was located in Papeete, Tahiti in the South Pacific. His sigs were very weak (5x1) on USB, but our CW QSO rst 539. He was using the same equipment that he demonstrated at a recent club meeting.

We contacted again on 2 July, on 18.140 USB at 2100 lcl. He was located in Ouahina Island (?) also in French Polynesia. His sigs were much better on this QSO. A few other local hams in the Naples area were also able to speak with Karl. The pile-up was amazing on 17m that night and Karl had the world calling him !!

I'm sure he will give us an interesting 'play-by-play' story when he returns

Peter Gaddy, KK4PG:

Peter will be appearing on WGPU radio, July 31, 2007 from 2:00 - 3:00pm on the afternoon call-in talk show, Gulf Coast Live produced by Mike Kiniry. WGPU is the local Public Radio station (90.1 FM). They will be discussing "The Role of Amateur Radio". See the web page listing for Peter's appearance here:

<http://www.wgcu.org/gulfcoastlive/>

Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL:

Equipment Needed:

"Wanted dust collectors"

This station is looking for 1, 2, or 3 tnc's (terminal node controllers)

Kam Plus, Kam98 (all mode), pk-232 (any flavor) will negotiate

Need these units for an HF bbs for MARS.

Contact Bill, K2ZEL at 992-4708

From George Tomlinson, N3ISH:

George's Latest Antenna Project:



N3ISH - Flag pole and coil for 60, 40, 30, and 20 meters. Coil is 3/8th copper tubing

Jordan Mash, WB2QLP Reports:

NEW 2 m REPEATER IN THE GREATER NAPLES AREA IS ON THE AIR

A new 2m repeater is now active. It is located atop of The Hammock Bay Condominium just north of Marco Island, on CR 951 at Marco Shores. The repeater is owned and operated by the group of hams on Marco Island.

The repeaters call is K5MIF. The operating freq. is 146.85 / offset - 600 with a PL tone of 141.3 . The footprint of the 280 ft high repeater is impressive. It covers most of Collier County, and north to the Southwest Regional Int'l Airport, and east to the Broward County line. Testing is currently underway to determine the range of the outer limits of the repeater.

Mobile operators on 2m FM can assist with this testing by trying to access the repeater when they are traveling north or east of Collier County. The repeater is privately owned but all hams are welcome to use it.

Also from Jordan:

Magic Band Opens Wide to Allow Cross-Band Transatlantic Contact:

On Monday, June 25, there was a big opening to Europe on 6 meters (50 MHz), also known as the "magic band." In most areas, the opening started in the local US mid-morning, lasting until dark. According to QST column author of "The World Above 50 MHz" Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, "Many areas of the country that do not normally work Europe, including the Midwestern states, West Texas and Colorado, worked stations in Europe. At one point near the end of the opening, stations on the East Coast of the US were working stations in Hawaii on the Big Island." In this opening, Mike Smith, VE9AA, in New Brunswick was on 50 MHz when he worked Nigel Coleman, G7CNF, on CW cross-band; Coleman was on the 70 MHz band (4 meters) in England. Zimmerman said, "Though a few cross-band contacts were made via F2 propagation during the sunspot maximum period in the 1970s, this is believed to be the first 50/70 transatlantic cross-band contact ever made on multi-hop sporadic-E propagation." RSGB VHF/UHF Manager David Butler, G4ASR, concurred: "It certainly isn't the first United Kingdom-North America 4 meter/6 meter cross-band QSO, but it probably is the first via multi-hop sporadic-E." In North America, 70 MHz is channel 4 on television sets. Watch a YouTube video of the contact posted by VE9AA at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVIVWPJWcPo> and G7CNF's version with some audio enhancements at <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=X0wel14KAD0>

Ducie Island, VP6, DXpedition Gears Up: The Daily DX reports that the Ducie Island DXpedition Team, VP6DX, has been busy behind the scenes preparing for the much anticipated February 2008 DXpedition. It was also announced that the VP6DX team decided to extend the duration of the DXpedition. Plans are to depart Mangareva Island, part of the Gambier Islands in French Polynesia, via ship on February 5, 2008 and head for Pitcairn Island; this trip normally takes about 36 hours. The ops will spend a few hours on Pitcairn before taking another 36 hour trip boat ride to Ducie Island; they plan to arrive at sunrise on February 9, and hope to be up and running within 24 hours. The team needs to be back on Mangareva by March 3. If all goes well, including the weather, they will have VP6 on the air for as long as 19 days. There is a slight chance of a short visit to another uninhabited island if things on Ducie slow down. Henderson Island (also VP6, not a separate DXCC entity) is the only island on the way to and from Ducie Island

Station of the Month

Once Again - Karl Geng's Blue Ridge, GA Station

Editor's Note: Karl's Blue Ridge Station appeared as "Station of the Month" in last month's newsletter (June 2007). Since his station presents some novel aspects of Amateur Radio, particularly the "remote operation" capabilities, I am presenting a recent update on his station building progress. If anyone else wishes to send in some photos and a description of their station, I would be happy to include them in a future newsletter.



18 June 2007

Before I leave this second QTH with the new remote station N1DL/4 in Blue Ridge, GA and go on my South Pacific trip let me give you an interim report of the progress made these last 5 weeks.

First of all here is a list of all the components used in remote controlling the station:

Hardware:

Kenwood TS480SAT Transceiver
Tokyo Hi-Power HL-1.5KFX Solid State Linear Amplifier
SteppIR controller and 2 el SteppIR Yagi
FORCE12 aluminum crank-up mast
Yaesu G-1000DXA rotor
Idiom Press DXA rotor card (goes inside rotor control box for RS232 connection)
SEC1223 switching 20A power supply

Linksys wireless G video camera (to provide visual feedback)
ONTRAK ADR2200 RS232 Relay I/O interface (8 relay outputs)
USB to Serial adapters (three)
USB 4 port Hub from Radio Shack (my lap top had only one USB port)
Web Power Switch (8 outlets Ethernet/internet addressable)
Dell Inspiron 8100 lap top
Tripp lite UPS
and lots of specially made up cables, junction boxes and adapters.

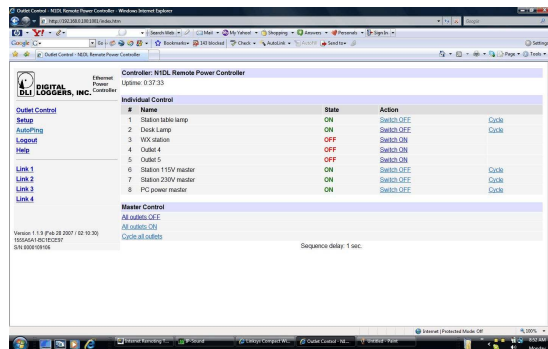
Software:

W4MQ Internet Remote Tool Kit and
HB9DRV Ham Radio Deluxe
Hamachi internet tunneling software

Network:

Linksys broadband router on a static IP address cable connection (with various port triggering and forwarding schemes)
Everything is wireless G, except for the power controller which is cable connected to the router Ethernet port.

The good news is: It all works!



Ethernet Power Control Display



Station Remote Control Display

However, some "challenges" remain for me to solve when I return.

The soft switch power button needs to be wired with an override to the remote controlled relay board. Otherwise after a power glitch beyond the UPS duty cycle the SteppIR won't function any longer.

The camera needs to be a tilt/pan/zoom model with IR illumination. Right now I remotely turn on the desk lamp and station lamp to get enough light for the camera in the evening and night.

The linear amp warning and fault condition reset is currently a hard power switch (mechanical) and needs to be remoted so that faults can be cleared and the amplifier recycled.

Remote temperature and voltage sensors need to be installed.

Some software/hardware solution is needed to prevent inexperienced ops (or old ones like me) from transmitting too early after a SteppIR frequency (band) change. The SteppIR can take up to 45 seconds to go from the home (totally retracted position) to 20 m or at least 15 seconds for band changes from 15m to 20m etc. Without waiting one could potentially ruin the linear amp by transmitting into totally miss-tuned antenna. This is my greatest worry and challenge at this time. Would also like to bring the antenna to the fully retracted position when not used or when thunderstorms are sensed.

I have provided two independent audio channels. One is SKYPE and the other is a GSM type somewhat narrower two way audio channel. They both work well but the transmit audio needs a maximum lock position. By the way they can be "on" simultaneously thus providing a way for "listen only stations" to participate.

Well thats all I was able to accomplish in these 5 weeks. Please don't forget we are in the mountains with few resources and even fewer stores to buy anything electronical.

More when I get back and have a chance to continue the evolution of the station.

Before I forget it - the remote works in SSB, CW and PSK mode although the latency of the Internet can be a bit unerving for a fast CW operator. Break-in is not possible.

Thanks to Mike KM4MI, Jim K3AVR and W4MQ Stan for their ideas and helping me test and debug.

73,

Karl
N1DL and N1DL/4 remote

Additional Editor's Note: Karl has done an outstanding job of putting together this remotely controlled station. For those interested in this aspect of Amateur Radio, there are several articles in recent QST issues dealing with it.

FIELD DAY 2007 - SPECIAL REPORT

NEWS RELEASE CONCERNING FIELD DAY BY PETER GADDY, KK4PG

For Immediate Release

For additional information contact:

Peter Paul Gaddy

370 12th Ave NW

Naples, FL 34120

239-304-6590

Petergaddy@earthlink.net

Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Modern Capabilities

Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 23-24

Naples, Florida – Thousands of Ham Radio operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities this weekend. Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies worldwide. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio – often called "Ham radio" - was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer "hams" traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 23-24, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Their slogan, "When all else fails..." is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "The communications networks that ham

radio people can quickly create have saved many lives in the past months when other systems failed or were overloaded."

In the Naples area, the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida (ARASWF.ORG) will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Joe Goggin's Ranch, 294 Brandy Lane, off Sable Palm Drive, on June 23 & 24th. They invite the public to come and see ham radio's capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

There are 660,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for the DHS Citizens' Corps, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and thousands of state and local agencies, all for free.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air!

From John Simander, NSOI:

K4YHB 2007 Field Day Totals

Band	MODE	QSOs
6	SSB	25
10	SSB	24
15	SSB	162
20	SSB	1002
40	SSB	153
40	CW	74
80	SSB	76
GOTA	SSB	6

Total	SSB	1448
	CW	74

		1522 Qs

In checking the old files I found the following totals:

Year	Total QSOs
1998	2085
1999	1923
2000	1135
2001	missing
2002	1747
2003	890
2004	1136
2005	1535
2006	1456

Field Day Photos

Please visit our Club Web Site for a complete report and photos from Field Day. Space prevents the many fine photos taken by our members from appearing here.

[Field Day 2007 Summary](#)

[Field Day 2007 Photos Page 1](#)

[Field Day 2007 Photos Page 2](#)





News from Sherri Brower, W4STB, our ARRL SFL Section Manager:

17 July 2007

Here is an opportunity for each of you to assist in an important political effort to protect ham radio. Our Senator, Bill Nelson is a member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

We need your help in contacting him and asking for this support. An example letter is included below. It is always best to personalize the letter rather than cut and paste the form. Also, fax or e-mail your letter if you can. Time is of the essence and all physical mail to the Congress is screened for harmful content and can take weeks to reach the addressee.

Fax: 202-228-2183

E-mail: Use web site <http://billnelson.senate.gov>

Please remember, and this is very important, that Chwat & Company receive a copy of the letter. You may send those to:

John.chwat@chwatco.com

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I request your support of S. 1629, the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act"; currently in the Commerce, Science and Technology Committee. This bill addresses interference to Emergency Radio Services caused by under-enforced Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. BPL transmits broadband Internet signals over electric utility lines. Unfortunately, without proper enforcement of Federal regulations these same wires can radiate harmful interference signals on Amateur Radio Emergency Service frequencies.

S. 1629 calls upon the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct a targeted study of the BPL interference and provide proper regulatory enforcement to eliminate the harmful signals. Past studies by the FCC were too broad in scope to identify the interference experienced by

Amateur Radio Operators. BPL developers have demonstrated solutions to prevent interference. Without a comprehensive causal study and rule enforcement, BPL can interrupt Amateur Emergency Services following disasters such as Andrew, Charlie, and Katrina in Florida when cell and standard landline phone services were interrupted for days and weeks.

I encourage your prompt attention and co-sponsorship to move S. 1629 out of Committee for a Senate floor vote.

Sincerely,

Name, Title, Address

Note: your address is important -- it identifies you as his constituent.

Thanks for your help.

73,

Sherri, W4STB

ARRL Southern Florida Section

Section Manager: Sharon T. Brower, W4STB w4stb@arri.org

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

<p>NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - JULY 24, 2007 7:30 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER</p>
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Our webmaster, W2HI (here disguised as Uncle Sam), wants all members who are in possession of photographs from previous club events to send them to him as an attachment to an email, so they can be included in the new "Photos" page on the club website, www.araswf.org.

Also, photos of your station are welcome, together with whatever description about equipment, antennas, etc. you might care to provide. Station photos will be posted in the "Members Gallery", also reachable from the "Photos" page.

PLEASE SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO:

[WEBMASTER](#)

Just click on the above "WEBMASTER" link to activate your email editor, to which the photos can be attached. Photos are best sent in .jpg or .jpeg format, but almost any format is acceptable, including .gif, .bmp, .tif, .psd, .pict, .raw, etc. If your photos are in need of re-sizing, color correction, sharpening, or other enhancement, it will be done prior to posting them.

Remember, this web site belongs to all the members like yourself, and your contributions will make it more interesting and enjoyable for everyone who visits our club website.

Photos from Field Day 2003 and 2004 are now posted, and the new "Members Gallery" has been started, and is sorely in need of additional photo contributions.