



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. XXIII No. 10 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida October 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

### Reminders:

ARRL Elections are open

ARASWF Christmas Dinner and Festivities will be  
December 7, 2007

ARASWF Officer Elections will be held at the  
November Meeting.

<b>Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida</b>
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**Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center,  
Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, September 25th, 2007**

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

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called To Order:**

There being a quorum present with 18 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		\$4,865.00
Total Income:	\$ 37.50	
Available funds		\$4,902.50
Expenses:		
Total expenses	\$ 0.00	
Balance 8/28/07		\$4,902.50

**Officers' Reports:**

Radio Interview: Peter KK4PG announced that he, George N3ISH and Jordan WB2QLP appeared on local radio station WGCU on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, from 2 – 3pm, and discussed amateur radio. They described local activities, and the assistance amateur radio provides in time of emergencies. There were

about 10 call-ins, which was remarkable for this type of show. He said that the host might want to a live show from Field Day next year.

Upcoming events – Christmas Party: Peter KK4PG reminded the membership that the only club social activity during the year, the Christmas Party, is being planned for Friday night, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 will be \$15., 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, and the ladies will receive a favor. Bill K2ZEL passed around a sign-up sheet, and began to receive deposits from the members. The issue of music entertainment has not yet been resolved, and Peter asked if any of the members know someone who might be able to provide music entertainment, will they please let him know.

### **Committee Reports:**

6-Meter Net: A.D. K4ADR reported that there were 14 check-ins on the Monday night 6-meter, which continues to be alive and well.

### **Old Business:**

Emergency Communications: Peter KK4PG again talked about our relationship with Collier EOC and the club's participation in emergency communications, and at the County shelters in particular. There appears to be some lack of communication in this regard. We were previously told by EOC that our participation at Collier shelters would not be needed since county radios were being placed at all the shelters for use by anyone there – not necessarily a licensed amateur radio operator. This was followed by a request from Collier EC KF4MJJ for a list of members who would be available to man the shelters, which seems to contradict what we were told previously by EOC.

(Editor's Note: The following comments regarding the shelters were sent to KK4PG back in August, 2006)

“The most profound change now in effect is of course the UHF commercial system put into operation at the shelters. I have been an advocate of this ever since Paul K9OLE suggested splitting off one of the school system's trunk channels as a dedicated EOC repeater during emergencies. It makes all the sense in the world from a number of perspectives: it's by far the best radio system in the county coverage-wise; there is plenty of equipment available at no cost as the school system is constantly being updated with state-of-the-art equipment--the latest series providing GPS locator info to the dispatch center; and best of all, the radios don't have to be tended by a licensed ham radio operator.

Rather than see this as a slight on the ham community (as I'm sure some will) this move by the EOC allows the very limited people

resources we have to be used in a more appropriate and productive manner. After all, our ham training makes us valuable more as innovative communicators than as baby sitters to a radio set that may be needed for a routine matter once or twice in a 24-hour period. And we all know that not once in the 8 activations of the prior two seasons did we have enough hams to cover all the open shelters. Now, with the UHF, any one of dozens of volunteers at a shelter can be assigned to keep an ear out for the EOC radio. Simple and effective.

So what's left for us? Well, for openers, we should continue to be ready to provide shelter comms should the need arise. The WWAV tower is a rugged one, but I've seen taller and stronger structures come down in storms. And of course, any part of the repeater chain could fail--most likely some component right there at the shelter. And that's not to say that hams cannot volunteer to tend those shelter radios--having their 2-meter rigs also set up for side chatter and backup. It's just that now, limited ham resources do not HAVE to be expended at the preparatory and storm arrival stage of the crisis. We can and should be monitoring the situation from wherever we might be, and be ready to respond to any communications crises that arise. But we don't necessarily have to spend a 12 or 24 hour cycle in a shelter reading a book or doing crossword puzzles.

Our real role locally should be that of the ham community nationwide: a unique recourse of people, equipment, established protocols, and innovation to serve the public's need for specialized communications when unusual or emergency situations arise. Hams are uniquely able to "invent" systems on the fly, tailored to practically any unforeseen need that might be created by a natural or other disaster.

The clear thinking of Paul Johnson and Dan Summers establishing primary shelter communications on an existing UHF system (one that is relegated to very light duty in emergencies) is a huge advantage to the Collier ham community. We can finally now look toward using our limited number of trained and dedicated hams in a manner more in keeping with our traditional role, and best of all providing a service to the community that no other resource can provide at any cost.

I'm also in agreement with another comment I heard, that our real value may ultimately be in the post-disaster phase of the emergency--establishing communications links in the field where they will likely be most needed."

Peter observed that we never received a mutually acceptable Memorandum of Understanding from County EOC that might clarify our position as regards the shelters. At present, the club's position is that initial requests for assistance from Collier EOC, or anyone else for that matter, should first go to the EC who is

responsible for maintaining a list of available ARES volunteers, so ARES can be activated with an organized emergency response. At this time it does not appear that the local ARES is well organized and they may not, in fact, be able to respond to an emergency situation. If that is the case, then it might be appropriate to review the entire ARES/ARASWF/EOC relationship and try to formulate a structure that is acceptable to all parties and within which we can operate. In any event, this matter will be referred to our Emergency Communications Director, Karl N1DL, upon his return to the area.

### **New Business:**

Field Day Study Committee: Peter KK4PG announced that the members of this study committee will meet briefly after the meeting. So far, the committee consists of Jordan WB2QLP, John NSØI, Bob KI4LUD, Minot WB2GGE, and Bruce K9PWQ.

Nominating Committee: Peter KK4PG announced that it not too early to start thinking about club officers for the year 2008, and he solicited volunteers for a nominating committee. The committee met briefly after the meeting, and consisted of Peter KK4PG, A.D.K4ADR, and Mike WD8RFL.

New Remote Input for K4YHB Repeater: Peter, KK4PG, announced that Dan WB7ECV has donated a surplus repeater for use as a new, separate remote input to the club repeater. It has a receiver already tuned to 146.07, and needs a UHF link transmitter and a new controller. On a motion by George N3ISH, seconded by Bruce K9PWQ, the membership unanimously approved the purchase of a new controller for this unit.

Amateur Radio Classes: Peter KK4PG solicited the interest of the members present in being associated with an effort to provide instructional classes locally to persons interested in taking exams for amateur radio licenses. Apparently there are some prospects in this regard, and Peter will report back to the membership at a future meeting.

### **Special Features:**

This month's special feature was a Power Point presentation by Bill K2ZEL about NVIS – Near Vertical Incidence Skywave. The presentation was well received, and prompted many questions and observations from the floor. Later, Bill announced that there are additional Power Point presentations that are available for club use, including one describing military surplus gear coming onto the market, and another concerning the transition of hams from VHF/UHF to HF operations, although this latter presentation is quite lengthy and would probably need to be divided into several segments and presented at different meeting dates.

**50/50:**

The 50/50 raffle was won by Peter KK4PG, who donated his winnings back to the club treasury.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**Bob Graf, W2HI**  
**Secretary**

### **ARRL Elections - A Reminder to all ARRL Members**

ARRL members should have received ballots for the Southeastern Division election.

Please review your choices and vote for the candidate you feel can best represent YOU on the ARRL Board of Directors.

### **ARASWF ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Annual ARASWF Christmas Party and Dinner will be held at:

VFW Post 7721, located at 800 Neff Way, Naples, FL 34119 on December 7, 2007.  
[This is near the intersection of Pine Ridge Road and 951 (Collier Blvd)]

Cocktail hour starts at 6:00pm, with dinner served at 7:00pm

Dinner price is \$15 per person and there will be a cash bar.

Main dish baked chicken and roast beef

Server gratuity for dinner is included in the price, but bar tips are not.

There will be Door Prizes.

If attending, you will need to sign up in advance and pay the \$15 meal price, per person attending. See Bob, KI4LUD or Peter, KK4PG.

Please register and pay for your meal(s) at one of the next few meetings.

## Items of General Interest

*Submitted by Fred Edwards, KF4MJJ:*

### **CoCoRaHS - Volunteer Rainfall Observing Network**

Some of you may have heard of a voluntary rainfall observing and reporting network called CoCoRaHS (pronounced co-co-raws). It stands for Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. Cocorahs is a nationwide program of volunteers who submit their rainfall and hail data on a daily basis to the CoCoRaHS web site. After some quality control, the data then gets plotted on a map and sent to each NWS office as a text file filtered for each office location. In other words, the CoCoRaHS network augments the current and conventional data network.

Florida is scheduled to join the CoCoRaHS program on October 1st, and it would be great to have as many volunteers as possible participate here in South Florida.

Please spread the word around among the HAM and SKYWARN nets about this program.

We will be headlining a link to CoCoRaHS on our web site sometime this week. For additional information, sign-up and volunteer requirements please visit the CoCoRaHS web site:

[www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)

Thanks,

Rob

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Robert Molleda  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
National Weather Service  
11691 SW 17th ST  
Miami, FL 33165  
305-229-4520  
Fax: 305-229-4553  
[Robert.Molleda@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Molleda@noaa.gov)

**UPDATE:** Registration for Florida CoCoRaHS volunteers is now open (the state pull down menu now shows Florida). Please pass this information along to all interested parties in order to be ready to go by 1 Oct.

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Application.aspx>

***From Peter Gaddy, KK4PG:***

Civil Air Patrol  
Marco Island Composite Squadron  
Florida Wing - Unit #SER-FL-376  
P. O. Box 225, Marco Island, FL 34146-0225  
MEDIA RELEASE - September 2007

## **Free "Ham" Radio Operator Classes Scheduled**

The Marco Island Civil Air Patrol, in cooperation with the K5MI Marco Island Ham Club, will conduct two FCC amateur radio license courses, free of tuition and open to the public. There are exam fees and an optional cost of \$20.00 for books and supplies, if an attendee chooses to purchase them.

Applicants can be of any age but must have legal ID and SSN to qualify for licensing.

All training will include hands-on operation of VHF amateur radio equipment and actual radio contact with other seasoned "hams" (licensed amateur radio operators). The present FCC regulations no longer require Morse Code proficiency.

The Technician course will begin on Saturday October 13th 8:00 am to noon at the Marco Island CAP hanger located at the Marco Island Airport - end of Main Sail Drive, off Collier Blvd. Classes will start promptly at 8:00am on the 13th and 20th with the technician exam given on the 27th of October. Exam fees are \$14.00.

The General class training will be at the same location and start on Saturday November 3rd. with a total of 4 classes every Saturday until technician and general class testing on December 1.

Enrollment will be limited to a first-come-first-served basis. If over-subscribed, a waiting list will be maintained. More courses are planned for early next year.

To enroll for attendance in either of these two classes, please contact Jim Carrender at [k3avr@comcast.net](mailto:k3avr@comcast.net) or 239-389-1486 and give your name, mailing address including zip code, email address, and phone number.

For further Information, contact Lt. Col. Richard C. Niess, CAP - Public Affairs Officer, 239-530-0786

***From George Tomlinson, N3ISH:***

Smartuner™ Installations & Applications - Rain Gutter Antenna with SG-230  
<http://www.sgcworld.com/raingutterinstall.html>



***Also from George, N3ISH:***

## **The N3ISG Flag Pole Antenna for 160 to 10 Meters**



This is the Flag Pole Antenna constructed by George Tomlinson, N3ISH.

The coil is 30 inches long by 6 inches. The wire is 115 foot long and the flag pole is 20 feet high. I will have a bird house around it to keep it out of the weather. It is set up as a auto transformer as per Dan WB7ECV. Dan has helped me a lot in the design of the coil. I hope to get some contacts on 160 this winter, I joined the Straight Key Club and I hope to do better with my CW. Right now, I need a DR. HI HI. I am using a mini straight and I am have fun. That is what it is all about. I did get a contact from UU1CC from the Ukraine on 30 meters, and he give me a 579 report. That made me happy, knowing that I made it. I now have it set up for 160 meters. Hope to see you on 160. 73 George N3ISH



160 meter auto transformer. 115 ft of #8 aluminum wire. All hardware is stainless steel. The coil is 30 inches by 6 inches with 115 Ft of wire. It is flat at 1.8119. No tuner needed.



Coax Lead to Radio



Choke to Reduce Static

## **Special Supplement to this Month's Newsletter**

Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, has written an excellent article entitled: "Station DC Power Distribution". It is attached to the e-mail along with this edition of the newsletter, in PDF format.

Visit our Club Web Site at: [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org)

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - OCTOBER 23, 2007  
7:30 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER**