



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMIX No. 10 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
October 2009

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**Next Club meeting will be held October 27<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm at the Golden Gate  
Community Center as usual**

## From the President's Shack

Hello from the President's shack!

With our Members from the north returning, at this time I would like to ask everyone to carefully think about who they would like to have represent them on the Club's Board in 2010. At the next meeting I will be convening a Nominating Committee and the formal voting will take place at the November Club meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup> so I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the last two meetings of this year!

73's for now!

Dave

W4SFR

## Notice # 1

A general Ham Radio Class will be given in November at the Marco Island CAP hanger. The dates may be Nov 7<sup>th</sup> but will be confirmed in the next two weeks. We are also testing for Technician, General, and Amateur extra next Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Hanger starting about 9:00am . Anyone can walk in if you think you are ready for the test. You will need Drivers license or other federal Accepted ID, social Security number, and \$14 in cash (exact) change.

You can call me at 239-595-6683 if you or anyone else you know wants to take the test. We will have a full house as we have about 30 testing this Saturday.

Oct. 31st we planning an open orientation for new Tech operators to explain Echolink, Winlink, PSK-31 data ,SSTV , new equipment available and more! You are all welcome. This will take place at the CAP hanger.

Remember we meet at Porky's Last Stand restaurant in Marco Island Thursdays 11:45 am. We are in the far right corner as you enter. We are also meeting on Tuesday at Amigo's Mexican restaurant same time.

The primary repeater for Marco Island is 146.850 MHz -600khz tone 141.3 Hz. Jump on the repeater and call me or via the phone at 239-595-6683; 73 Jim K3AVR/HK3AVR

## **Notice # 2**

Alex (KJ4KGZ) would like everyone to know that that the pictures from the Collier County EOC tour should be available on the club website very soon!

## **Notice # 3**

Congratulations to Uli (KJ4IBM) who recently passed his Extra Class exam in Ft. Myers and is now AGOX. (That call was from a former ARRL Director and Vice President Marshall Quiat who became a silent key in 2006)

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida**

**Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2009**

**Directors Present:** David Schaare, W4SFR – President  
David Worboys , KG4ZLB – Vice President  
Peter Gaddy, KK4PG – Past President  
Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary  
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL – Treasurer  
Tim Wallen, KC4SSD – Technical Director

**Apologies:** Karl Geng, N1DL – Emergency Communications Director

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called To Order:**

There being a quorum present with 14 members (including 6 directors) in attendance, Dave, W4SFR, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 of the August meeting was dispensed with since they were published previously in the Newsletter.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Bill, K2ZEL, presented a Treasurer's Report as of September 22nd, 2009, summarized as follows:

Beginning Balance, 1/1/2009	\$ 4,268.90
Income, Year-to-date	\$ 2,278.50
Disbursements, Year-to-date	<u>\$ 2,981.62</u>
Ending Balance, 9/22/2009	\$ 3,565.78

### **Officers' Reports:**

K2ZEL – Treasurer: Peter KK4PG reported that the Executive Board received a memorandum from Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, wherein he indicated that he does not plan to stand in nomination for an additional term as Treasurer of ARASWF, after fifteen years serving in various capacities including Newsletter Editor, Secretary/Treasurer, and Treasurer. Bill expressed his thanks to the membership for the privilege of being able to serve ARASWF, and indicated he will do everything he can to assist the incoming Treasurer, including preparing and posting the 2010 dues notices. He said he expects to participate as a member and perhaps will be able to contribute some material for the newsletter.

On a motion by Peter. KK4PG, seconded by George, AA4GT, the membership unanimously offered Bill well-deserved congratulations for his past contributions.

Pennsylvania QSO Party: Peter, KK4PG, announced that George, AA4GT, is attempting to organize club participation in the Pennsylvania QSO Party scheduled for October 11 and 12, 2009. George then asked for expressions of interest from the membership and received seven positive responses. Bob, W2HI, reported that the 1X1 call sign W4F (the same call sign we used for Field Day) has been approved for our use during this contest. Tim, KC4SSD, announced that he will investigate the possibility of being able to set up at E's store for this event.

Missing Headset: Peter KK4PG again announced that a headset belonging to Fred KF4MJJ and used at Field Day 2009 is still missing, and it may be that someone took it home by mistake. Fred is asking all members who participated in Field Day to look at the equipment they brought home from the Field Day site to see if Fred's headset was mistakenly included. Anyone finding the headset please contact Fred, or any of the club officers to arrange for return. (Editors Note: Subsequent to the meeting the headset was discovered by another member and arrangements are being made to return it to Fred.)

UHF Repeater: Peter, KK4PG, reported that a new site in downtown Naples is under consideration for a UHF repeater that would like to the other VHF repeaters. A new UHF repeater has been received by the club, and is in process of being evaluated and tuned.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Old Business:**

D-Star Repeater: Tim, N4PIX, announced that the VHF D-Star repeater owned by Collier County is still off the air, and there is no indication when, if ever, it will be made active. He inquired if it might not be possible to arrange with Collier County for some sort of arrangement (loan, lease, etc.) whereby ARASWF could take possession of the D-Star repeater and put it on the air. Frank Halas, W4RBW, offered to follow up on this idea to determine if any such possibilities exist. In the meantime, Tim, N4PIX, offered to present a discussion about D-Star at a future meeting.

### **New Business:**

Club Activities: George, AA4GT, noted the sparse attendance at membership meetings, and talked about the need to get both new members and existing members more involved in club activities and special events, including teaching

activities. Peter, KK4PG, suggested that the Pennsylvania QSO Party might be considered a "dry run" to gauge members' interest in events like this. Then Bruce, K9PWQ, inquired about scheduled speakers and/or discussion topics for future meetings. Frank, W4RBW, suggested there might be some benefit to establishing a "talk with Santa" event during the Christmas holidays. A general discussion followed, resulting with Tim, N4PIX, offering to provide some leadership in coordinating these and other ideas. More about this later.

### **Special Feature:**

There was no special feature this month.

### **50/50:**

The 50/50 raffle was won by Bill, K2ZEL, who generously contributed his winnings back to the club treasury. Many thanks, Bill!

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Dave, W4SFR, at 7:50 pm.

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

## PA QSO Party report

George Tomlinson, AA4GT, in his never ending quest to hunt for counties, sponsored this years PA QSO party. The event was held at E's Market in the Golden Gate Estates on the weekend of October 10/11. The name of the game was to contact all 67 counties in the state of Pennsylvania. Mike, WD8RFL helped George and I network the logging computers a few days prior to the event. Mike is best known for his prowess with computer systems and over-priced coffee shops in downtown Naples.



*Our shelter. Photo courtesy of N4PIX.*

The weekend was hot, too hot. In fact, unseasonably hot would be the best way to describe it. Still, the rain never fell and besides a few red ants, the only real calamity was the loss of two wrenches sacrificed to the tree gods while attempting to string up our dipoles. The tower trailer was backed into place and expertly assembled by A.D., K4ADR and Gerardo, KJ4JTL. Now, when I say expertly, I really mean there was some confusion after the beam antenna was assembled. Apparently, it was on the wrong end of the trailer. So, the decision was made to drag the radials against the roof of E's delivery van in a vain attempt to lift it over the trailer and into position for assembly on the mast. We then performed a little swearing! The assembly of the ARASWF shelter was straightforward even though it was estimated that it hadn't seen the light of day in 10 to 15 years. A.D.,



Gerardo, and Robert, KJ4IBO, cobbled the many pieces together and with the gracious donation by The Marco Island Civil Air Patrol of three large tables and several chairs we had a usable shelter. We completed setting up our three stations: 20 meter voice, 40 meter voice and a 20 meter digital station running PSK31, RTTY, and SSTV, with only an hour 'til show time. We began the contest as W4F, the same call we used for Field Day 2009.



Robert explains the intricacies of SSTV to an uninterested audience.

*Photo by N4PIX*

The fuel to keep us going after the setup was supplied by my wife Ursula, KJ4IBP, in the form of breakfast burritos. Each one was meticulously wrapped and garnished with her secret ingredient: love. And even though she is standing over me right now as I type this tapping her foot, I can't thank her enough for her contribution. She also gave me the opportunity to show off my youngest son, Sam, who, though not a ham yet, has a strong desire to talk on the radio. Unfortunately, due to the lack of usable language skills, Sam did not make any contacts over the weekend.





A.D., K4ADR, wonders if 40m will ever open up.

*Photo courtesy of Robert, KJ4IBO*

In all, sixty-six contacts were made. George and A.D. persevered even though band conditions were less than desirable. I managed to get the worst score of the team- zero. I contributed my problems to the fact my dipole was facing the wrong direction, or at least that's what I'm going to report.



"Wow Dad! You were right about PSK." *Photo courtesy of N4PIX*

Two students from the Marco club Technician class stopped by, as well as several other hams from the club. A local named Molly, approached the tent and inquired what we were up to. I told her we were amateur radio operators and were participating in a contest. She responded with a, "cool." However, she had reservations that the government might be listening. I assured her that our hobby had not produced any Black helicopters over Naples- any that I knew of anyway. My understanding was they were spraying for mosquitoes. Anyway, I invited Molly to attend the Marco class the following weekend if she had anymore questions or if she just wanted to be part of the greatest hobby on the planet.



Due to poor band conditions, A.D. and Gerardo, KJ4JTL, try to beat their high score in solitaire. *I forget who took this one.*

All in all, the PA QSO party was a resounding success. We survived the heat, lost tools, endured an uncertain tent, Molly, and my wife's burritos. As usual, the camaraderie our club members exude make any event, contacts or not, an enjoyable endeavor. Plans for next year are already in the works. We hope to see you then.

### Club Information

Meeting Time: 4th Tuesday 7:00pm Golden Gate Community Center  
4701 Golden Gate Parkway  
Naples FL

**Club Repeater:** WB2QLP  
146.670 (-600) PL 136.5  
EOC Repeater:WB2WPA  
147.030 (+600)

### Club Web Site:

<http://www.araswf.org>

### Club Officers/ Chairpersons

**President:** W4SFR  
Dave Schaare

**Vice President:** KG4ZLB  
David Worboys

**Secretary:** W2HI  
Bob Graf

**Treasurer:** K2ZEL  
Bill Reynolds

**Past President:** KK4PG  
Peter Gaddy

**Technical Director:** KC4SSD  
Tim Wallen

**Emergency Comm. Director:** N1DL  
Karl Geng

**Newsletter Editor:** KG4ZLB  
David Worboys

<http://www.kg4zlb.com>

**Webmaster:** W2HI  
Bob Graf

**VE Liaison:** KG4ZLB  
David Worboys

**Ops. Director:** Vacant

**Public Information Officer:** Vacant

**Special Events Co-ord.** Vacant

**Awards Manager:** Vacant

**Social Chair:** Vacant

Visit  
the



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

**Web Site**

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