



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMIX No. 3 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
March 2009

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- And finally.....!

**Next Meeting will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 7.00pm**

## From the President's Shack

Hello from the President's shack!

There will be more on this at the next Club meeting but as regards the repeater situation, the Kenwood TKR-840 is up and running on 146.670 (-600) with a PL tone of 136.5 and is located at the Marbella. The plan is for two additional repeaters to be linked to 146.670, one in Golden Gate Estates (145.270) and the third (frequency undetermined) in the Downtown Naples area. These will be on the air sometime soon, as time permits.

Also we are looking for volunteers for Frontiers Day in Golden Gate on the 27th 28th and 29<sup>th</sup> of March. If you can help over any of the three days then please e-mail Jeff (NJ2F) at [nj2f@arrl.net](mailto:nj2f@arrl.net)

See you all at the next meeting!

73's  
Dave  
W4SFR

## Notices

### 2009 ARASWF ROSTER

All club members are encouraged to check the 2009 Roster to be sure they are included. If anyone's call sign is not included below, then one of two things has happened. Either (1) we have made a mistake in preparing the Roster, or (2) the 2009 dues have not been received. Please contact the Secretary for any changes that are necessary.

The 2009 Roster below is sorted by call sign area.

AA1KI  
K1EQJ

AA4GT  
AI4UG

KJ5CB

K1PQY	K4ADR	WB7ECV
K1UQE	K4TVO	
KA1JVN	K4ZH	K8SRH
KA1VY	KC4SSD	W8TWJ
KU1Q	KD4DZU	WB8VQU
N1DL	KD4VRY	
N1DO	KG4ZLB	K9KNW
N1NPR	KI4AII	K9PWQ
W1ERE	KI4DBI	K9ZKJ
W1KEC	KI4HEU	KB9APD
W1LYN	KI4HEV	KB9UIN
	KI4HEW	N9RG
K2HNY	KI4HEX	WA9ZIF
K2ZEL	KI4HEY	W9WZ
KA2EYL	KI4IMA	
KA2GKC	KI4JBT	KBØWDP
KB2SFA	KI4JNM	WØEAQ
KB2TRD	KI4JUG	WØMIA
NJ2F	KI4KQK	WØOB
W2HI	KI4NE	
W2JQ	KI4PZP	
WA2KXE	KJ4IBQ	
WA2SQO	KK4PG	
WB2GGE	N4SKT	
	N4VMT	
K3AVE	N4PIX	
VA3YB	N4XIC	
	NV4Z	
	W4BN	
	W4CTE	
	W4MWZ	
	W4SFR	
	WD4FLY	

## Help wanted

ARASWF Members-

I am a recent retiree living in ZIP code 34119 (between Immokalee and Bonita Beach Rd's).

I am unlicensed and in the process of preparing for the Technicians exam which I plan to take sometime in March.

I am in the "information overload" stage.

I would like to get set up so that I can "listen in" soon after I take the exam and so that I go on the air as soon as I receive my call sign.

However, I'm stuck with more than a few questions:

1. Antenna type- I live in a community with very restrictive bylaws regarding "stuff" in the yard/on the house. I need help in sorting this out.
2. Equipment selection- I'm in the process of reading the equipment reviews and comparisons and I'm lost. I like to travel and would like to make contacts around the globe to get travel advice. Would like the advice on an experienced HAM.
3. Getting started and on line etiquette advice.

The Licensing Manual suggests that I would be greatly helped by an "Elmer" and I think that's the right Rx for me.

If there is anyone in my vicinity who could spare a few hours to help me at this stage of the game, it would be much appreciated.

Thanks for your consideration-

Bob Hooper

[rhooper@cnavinc.com](mailto:rhooper@cnavinc.com)

239-495-0063

## Meeting Minutes

None this month!

## ECOMM

(From Fred (KF4MJJ), an article detailing Southern Maryland's emergency operations arrangements)

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(The So. Md. Red Cross Hambulance is a donated ambulance that has been retrofitted to provide emergency radio communications )

Most of us expect that each time we pick up a phone we will hear that familiar dial tone. But, what would happen if the majority of the people in one area tried to make calls at the same time? Perhaps silence...

That is often what happens when there is a disaster that affects many people. The crisis on 9/11 was a good example of how cell phone and land line phones can be overloaded with a

surge of calls. All of us would want to find out if our loved ones are safe and out of harm's way, but that could take away the link we have to our volunteers in the disaster area.

The solution the [Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross](#) has developed to counter that scenario is to use radio communications. A few years ago our chapter partnered with a local amateur radio club and began a project to have an independent communications network of operators and radio systems to meet just about any requirement we could imagine that would impact our chapter's operating areas.

The Southern Maryland Chapter covers three counties and over 1,000 square miles of land. We are bordered by two major rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. So, how do we cover such a large area? Radios and lots of them.

We first turned to our friends in the [Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club](#). They provided us with radios and the personnel to run them. Some of our volunteers were already Hams -- a slang term used for amateur shortwave radio operators. The hams did a great job of manning the shelters and helping out at different events; the more we worked with them the more we realized how much we all had in common. Public service is a big part of what the hams do.

As time went along many of the radio club members joined the Red Cross as volunteers and things really got going. An old ambulance was acquired by the chapter and it was offered to the radio operators as a mobile communications van that could be sent out to a disaster as a command post and communications link.

That is all the encouragement they needed to take charge and move out! The Charles County government was changing over to a different radio band and their old radios were going to be discarded. Timing is everything! It just so happened that these radios were absolutely perfect for the newly named Hamulance. Yes, it is corny, but the name stuck. The radios were in very good shape and the radio club bought the software to re-program the radios to make them usable on the "Ham" frequencies. The Sheriff's department asked that we program in three of their mutual aid frequencies so that we could communicate with them if they needed us. Since radios only work if you have someone to talk to, Mike Zabco, the CEO of the chapter, offered the radio operators a room in the La Plata office as a communications room.

Now there was a mobile unit and a base station to talk to. More and more projects were undertaken by the Hams/Red Cross volunteers as even more radios and vehicles were made available to them.

Through countless hours of hard work and donations, the radio group has given the chapter a three tier approach to making sure that we can communicate with any of our volunteers and many other public service organizations. The tiers include local area, statewide, and worldwide communications.

The first tier is local area communications. We use hand held radios to talk to others in proximities of a few feet up to several miles. This is what we would use to communicate around a shelter or on the ground at a disaster. These radios use Ham, Family Radio Service (FRS), and some commercial frequencies.

The second tier is the statewide area. This is where the real fun starts. The Hambulance is one of several vehicles statewide that have mobile radios in them. There are five positions in the vehicle that can access over 13 high powered radios -- high power meaning 50 to 110 watts. There is one operating station that can use High Frequency or short wave to communicate to just about any place on earth depending on the time of day and atmospheric conditions. The Hambulance has over 30 hand held radios that can be deployed to provide the local area communications I first described. It can send digital messages not too much different from what most of us know as text messages on our cell phone.

There are also CB radios on board the Hambulance. When the folks at Wal-Mart donate a tractor trailer full of water, it is beneficial to be able to talk to the truck driver to give him directions on where to park. There are also radios that can be re-programmed to work with just about any other agency that uses the frequencies our radios cover. The Hambulance also has generators to make its own power. It has additional AC units to keep us cool in the heat of summer and a really great heating system to keep us warm in the winter.

There are many other vehicles that have both Ham and Red Cross radios in them. Some are Red Cross and even more are privately owned. Using a Red Cross radio allows any volunteer to use the Red Cross frequencies to talk with other mobile units and base stations, since you need an FCC license to use a Ham Radio.

There are several radio operators that have installed radios in their own homes and erected antennas to provide us with a fairly extensive network of base stations. They monitor the mobile stations and at times can relay messages from a shelter that may be in a less than ideal place for a radio to work. We have been very fortunate to have partnerships with local leaders in both business and the Ham communities. As a result of

one of these partnerships, we have a network of radio repeaters that allow us to use hand held radios and communicate from Upper Marlboro to almost Point Lookout using the Ham Radio frequencies.

During one hurricane event we had over 20 volunteers and radio operators helping us with shelters and Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV) in the field. We never lost contact with any of them!

We have developed what we call a Go-Kit. These are suitcase like radio stations. A person can pick up a kit, go to a shelter or any other location we need to operate from, and set up a complete communications station. There are radios, both fixed and hand held, power supply, antennas and cables needed to get on the air. I have seen these set up on a card table with a trash can as an antenna support and a car battery to run it.

The last Tier is the World Wide Area. All of our base stations are capable of using High Frequency radio to communicate anywhere in the world. They all have the Red Cross and Ham radios. This is a vital link in case of a major disaster when you need help from outside of your local area. Imagine being in a situation like Hurricane Katrina and the guy who can help you is over 300 miles away.

This is an overview of what the local Red Cross chapter is doing to be better prepared to communicate when disaster strikes. Through the dedication of our volunteers and partnerships with many other organizations, our goal is to provide reliable and effective communications when and where we need it.





(The So. Md. Red Cross Ham Ambulance has been refitted inside, with the help of the So. Md. Amateur Radio Club, to provide local area, statewide, and world-wide communications via radio)

## Cartoon Corner



## And Finally.....!

Thanks to George (AA4GT) for sending in a picture of his totally hidden and unobvious, "Stealth Hustler" Antenna !



### 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

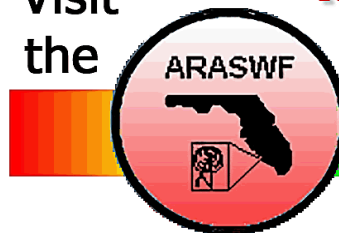
**Public Information Officer:** Vacant

**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)