



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMX No.7 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
July 2010

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**Next Meeting will be held on July 27<sup>th</sup>  
2010 at 7.00pm**

## From the President's Shack

Not much to report this month; the Summer is now in full swing and those of us still here in SW FL are keeping a wary eye on the Atlantic basin to see what might be blowing our way. Now would be a great time to check your emergency kits, not just the radio stuff but your family supplies and emergency plans. Don't leave anything to chance.

Please make an effort to attend the next meeting (details elsewhere), it would be great to have a good turnout in what is traditionally a very sparse time for attendees at the meetings.

Till then.....

73's  
Dave  
W4SFR



## Meeting Minutes

No meeting in June (due to Field Day) so no minutes to publish!



## New Members

We would like to welcome Jim Ackerson, K4PNJ of Naples, welcome Jim!



## News Items

from Bob, W2HI

Letter recently received by the Club - if anyone has any interest then please feel free to make direct contact via the information provided.

*"We recently purchased a home with a tall ham radio tower in the backyard. We have no need for it.*

*If someone in your association is interested in it, please contact me.*

*Dale Whipple*

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from **George, AA4GT** - (item spotted in the Cape Coral Daily Breeze; not about our Club but its nice to see some positive publicity for the hobby in general)

## Ham radio operators to conduct 'Field Day' this weekend

24-hour event to help group prepare for disasters

When: 24 hours, 2 p.m., June 26, until 2 p.m., June 27

Cost: Free and open to the public

Ham radio operators are often called upon to act like first responders, restoring some semblance of communication in areas laid to waste by disasters.

Members of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club have utilized their skills in south Florida and New Orleans, responding to needs in the aftermath of hurricanes Andrew and Katrina.

Honing those skills is a must, said club member James Niccum, to ensure they will be ready when called upon.

To prepare, the club, like others across the United States, will take part in "Field Day," a 24-hour event of continuous radio transmission, testing equipment and prepping for emergencies.

"We're there for people in case of emergencies," Niccum said. "We're ready, willing and able to help."

The club will set up shop in the North Fort Myers Community Park, transmitting from 2 p.m. Saturday, June 26, until 2 p.m. Sunday, June 27.

Niccum said he's always had an interest in radio, but didn't truly dig into it until he retired to Lee County 25 years ago.

He said ham, or amateur, radio operators communicate with each other globally, though Saturday's event will focus primarily on chatting with other operators across the United States.

The focus, of course, is being to able to assist during emergencies.

"We always jump in in any emergency," Niccum said.

Field Day is also used as a tool to entice new members by giving them a hands on trial at ham radio.

Niccum said there are several levels of classification a ham radio operator can obtain, but everything starts with obtaining a license from the Federal Communication Commission.

After that, Niccum said people can outfit themselves with radio equipment at a cost of \$200 - \$300.

Now that Niccum is able to indulge in his passion for ham radio full time, he hopes to instill that same sense of fun and communication to others on Saturday. He also hopes to fine tune those skills so he, and the rest of the club, will be ready when called upon.

"I've always had an interest in radio. I never had time when I was working but when I retired, I said, 'I'm going to do this,'" Niccum said.

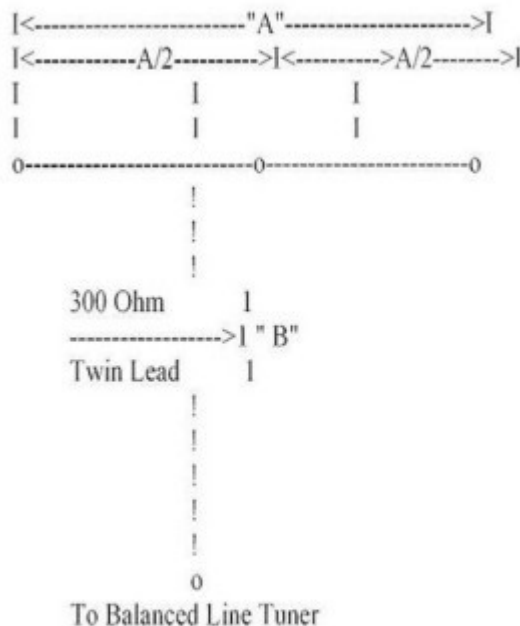
The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend to see hands on demonstrations of amateur radio.

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from George, AA4GT

*(George kindly handed out some information concerning this antenna at a recent Club meeting but felt that publication in the Newsletter might be more useful to the membership as a whole. If you have any queries concerning this antenna then please contact George)*

Subject: "SUPER ANTENNA"



Total "A"+"B"= 110',133',177',or 212'

Example:

"B" =40', "A"+"B"=133'

Then "A"= 133'-40' or 93'

A/2=46.5' or 46'-6"

from me, KG4ZLB

### Surge in US Amateur Radio licenses

With more than 18,000 new US Amateur Radio licenses issued in the first half of this year - 18,270 to be exact - 2010 is shaping up to be a banner year for Amateur Radio, the ARRL reports.

So far, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses.

In 2009, a total of 30,144 new licenses were granted, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks -- just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000, a whopping 84 percent! The ARRL VEC is one of 14 VECs who administer Amateur Radio license exams.

Comparing 2010 to 2009, the only month that had higher license totals in 2009 was January: 1960 licenses were issued in January 2009, compared with 1726 in January 2010. Beginning in February, 2010 showed higher new license numbers: 2263 in February 2010 versus 2749 in February 2010; 3463 in March 2009 compared with 3734 in March 2010; 3430 in April 2009 compared with 3508 in April 2010; 2717 in May 2009 compared with 3136 in May 2010, and 3011 in June 2009 versus 3417 in June 2010.

and.....

### FCC's warrant-less home searches alarm experts

You may not know it, but if you have a wireless router, a cordless phone, remote car-door opener, baby monitor or cellphone in your house, the FCC claims the right to enter your home without a warrant at any time of the day or night in order to inspect it - this according to a recent article published in *Alarm Systems Blog*.

The article continues:

That's the upshot of the rules the agency has followed for years to monitor licensed

television and radio stations, and to crack down on pirate radio broadcasters. And the commission maintains the same policy applies to any licensed or unlicensed radio-frequency device.

"Anything using RF energy — we have the right to inspect it to make sure it is not causing interference," says FCC spokesman David Fiske. That includes devices like Wi-Fi routers that use unlicensed spectrum, Fiske says.

The FCC claims it derives its warrant-less search power from the Communications Act of 1934, though the constitutionality of the claim has gone untested in the courts. That's largely because the FCC had little to do with average citizens for most of the last 75 years, when home transmitters were largely reserved to ham-radio operators and CB-radio aficionados. But in 2009, nearly every household in the United States has multiple devices that use radio waves and fall under the FCC's purview, making the commission's claimed authority ripe for a court challenge.

"It is a major stretch beyond case law to assert that authority with respect to a private home, which is at the heart of the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable search and seizure," says Electronic Frontier Foundation lawyer Lee Tien. "When it is a private home and when you are talking about an over-powered Wi-Fi antenna — the idea they could just go in is honestly quite bizarre."

George Washington University professor Orin Kerr, a constitutional law expert, also questions the legality of the policy.

"The Supreme Court has said that the government can't make warrant-less entries into homes for administrative inspections," Kerr said via e-mail, referring to a 1967 Supreme Court ruling that housing inspectors needed warrants to force their way into private residences. The FCC's online FAQ doesn't explain how the agency gets around that ruling, Kerr adds.

The rules came to attention this month when an FCC agent investigating a pirate radio station in Boulder, Colorado, left a copy of a 2005 FCC inspection policy on the door of a residence hosting the unlicensed 100-watt transmitter. "Whether you operate an amateur station or any other radio device, your authorization from the Commission comes with the obligation to allow inspection," the statement says.

## Trading Post

Nothing this time around!

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### 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>

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