



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMX No.2 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
February 2010

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**Next Meeting will be held on February 23rd
2010 at 7.00pm**

From the President's Shack

We have a number of outside Club activities planned for the next couple of months specifically timed to allow our Seasonal Members to attend and thus avoiding the hot weather that accompanies later in the year events (such as Field Day). See elsewhere in this Newsletter for details or visit the Club's website ([here](#))

Please try and support your Club by attending;

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting and as many of you as can make it to the Oil Well Park Special Event Station this coming weekend, 20th and 21st February; till' then..

73's

Dave

W4SFR



Meeting Minutes

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, January 26th, 2010

Officers and

Directors Present:

David Schaare, W4SFR - President
David Worboys , KG4ZLB – Vice President
Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary
Tim Wallen, KC4SSD – Treasurer
Peter Gaddy, KK4PG – Director
Karl Geng, N1DL – Director
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Director
Tim Gibbons, N4PIX – Director

Apologies:

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

There being a quorum present with 35 members (including 8 officers and 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 previous meeting was dispensed with since they were published previously in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill, K2ZEL, presented his final Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2009, summarized as follows:

Beginning Balance, 1/01/2009	\$ 4,359.23
Income, Total 2009	\$ 3,058.50
Disbursements, Total 2009	<u>\$ 4,329.15</u>
Ending Balance, 12/31/2009	\$ 3,088.58

Officers' Reports:

Life Membership: Tim KC4SSD reported that the Executive Board had approved his recommendation that Life Membership be extended to Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL, in recognition of his past 17 years of service to the club serving in several Board capacities, most recently Treasurer. He now made a motion that the club membership approve this Life Membership for K2ZEL. Motion was seconded by George AA4GT, and approved unanimously.

Keewaydin Expedition: Peter KK4PG reported that that proposed date of the Keewaydin Expedition has been changed to Saturday, April 3rd, because the originally planned date of March 27th conflicted with Golden Gate Frontier Days, where the club usually provides communications. So far about 15 persons have signed up to participate, requiring that 2 boats be utilized. Cost to cover expenses is \$15. per person, and participants were encouraged to pay this fee as soon as possible.

Oil Well Park Special Event: Tim KC4SSD reported that plans continue to evolve for this Special Event to be held on Saturday & Sunday, February 20-21. Some question has been raised by Collier County as to what rental fee, if any, will be charged. Frank Halas W4RBW volunteered to look into this matter to determine if the club can use the park without a fee.

UHF Repeater: Peter KK4PG reported that the UHF repeater has been tested OK, and is ready for installation. Probable location will be atop a 5-story building near the City Dock. Still needed are a UHF duplexer and some 70-80 feet of Heliac cable, which he will attempt to obtain at discounted prices. In the meantime, he urged members to advise him of any of these items that may be available elsewhere.

2010 Dues: Bob W2HI noted that there are still about 30 or so members who have not renewed their membership for 2010, and he encouraged all such members to remit their 2010 dues as soon as possible. The "official" 2010 club Roster will be prepared on April 1st, and anyone whose dues remain unpaid will be dropped from the rolls and the mailing list.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Upgrades: Peter KK4PG reported that the 146.67 repeater has received several recent improvements, including installation of a pre-amp to improve receiver sensitivity, installation of the repaired power amplifier, which allowed the Kenwood repeater to operate at reduced power while the amplifier puts out approximately 95 watts. Also, the speed of the CW identifier has been reduced to 20 wpm, as per FCC requirements.

Old Business:

New Business:

Remote Control: Karl N1DL announced that he has a presentation available regarding remote control of an amateur station, that he will make available to any member who is interested – just send him an email and he'll make arrangements to deliver the presentation.

Orlando Hamfest: Peter KK4PG suggested that members who attend the hamfest at Orlando on February 12-13-14 stay in touch via the UHF frequency of 446.150. He noted that it is near impossible to expect any reliable communications on any of the VHF frequencies due to the large number of attendees.

Members' Photos: Tim N4PIX requested that members send him photos of their stations so he can accumulate them into a "coffee table" type of book. Then Bob W2HI repeated his often made request that members provide him (as webmaster) with a

station photo and some brief commentary about their station, so they can be included in the "Members Gallery" photo page on the club web site. To date, only 7 members have submitted photos, and **all** members are encouraged to do so. Just send the digital photo as an attachment to a commentary file to webmaster@araswf.org. If the photo needs some improvement or enhancement, it will be done prior to publishing on the web site.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle was won by Gary, K8YMN, who graciously donated his winnings back to the club treasury.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Dave W4SFR at 8:05 pm.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary



New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following as new members of the Club:

John Culter, KJ4QAY (of Naples)

Brian Hemmis, K3USC (also from Naples)

Robert Ostrin, WB2TGY (again, Naples!)

Randy Schaaf, W9ZR (of Bonita Springs)

Alan Moriarty - N8CX (of Lakewood OH. Local address not yet given)

Welcome everyone!



News Items

The following message (from Jeff, NJ2F) was posted on our ARASWF Yahoo group board:

The executive board of the group running Frontier Days at the end of March, met this week and decided on buying their own radios. Therefore our help is no longer needed. I personally want to thank all our radio volunteers that gave their time and expertise to this project in the past. Thanks again, 73, Jeff, NJ2F

For those of you not yet subscribed, please [click here](#) add "subscribe" to the subject line and join us. Its free!

from Karl, N1DL

Our member Paul Paulsen, KJ5CB is in critical condition in the hospital after a brain hemorrhage.

If you would like to send him a card or letter of encouragement please send it to his home in Marco and his XYL Judy will bring it to him.

*Paul Paulsen
685 Embassy Court
Marco Island, FL 34145*

On behalf of the Club we should also like to extend our very best wishes to Paul for a speedy recovery.

from Tim (N4PIX)

You Are A Redneck Ham Operator If...

- 1. One leg of your dipole is tied to the outhouse.*
 - 2. Needle nose pliers are needed to turn your transceiver on and off.*
 - 3. You paid more for your mobile antenna than you did for your wife's wedding ring.*
 - 4. You paused for ID every ten minutes while on your honeymoon.*
 - 5. Your spouse says "Honey do you love me?" And your response is ROGER ROGER ROGER!*
 - 6. Your trailer home is part of your antenna.*
 - 7. Your mobile radio costs more than the vehicle it's mounted in.*
 - 8. Your power supply consists of jumper cables hanging out the window of your shack attached to the battery of your truck.*
 - 9. Your HF rig is the latest ICOM or KENWOOD and your Desk Mic came from Radio Shack.*
 - 10. Your idea of RF is REAL FINE audio.*
 - 11. Your home-brew amplifier resembles a moonshine whiskey still in Alabama.*
 - 12. Your TV antenna and 10 Meter Beam are one in the same.*
 - 13. You own a linear amplifier but not a lawn mower.*
-

from George (AA4GT)



SPAR Announces Winter Field Day 2009

*Field Day is perhaps the most popular of the many activities enjoyed by Amateurs. Every June the bands come alive with improvised signals proving the ability to respond to emergencies. The event also offers an opportunity for camaraderie and a chance to test ourselves in less than ideal circumstances, however, emergencies and natural disasters don't always happen in the summer. Winter winds, icy limbs and bitter cold replace the thunderstorms and blistering heat of summer. To test our abilities to operate in the winter, in 2007 SPAR established a Winter Field Day event and invited all Amateur Radio operators to participate. In both 2007 and 2008 the event was enjoyed by many and considered a success and has been designated an annual event to be held the **last full weekend each January**. Therefore it is time to issue the invitation for the Third Annual SPAR Winter Field Day!*

The 2010 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 30, 2010 through 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 31, 2010. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: set up emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.

The official rules can be found at [the SPAR web site](#). The event is open to all amateurs, although we encourage everyone to join in the discussions and other activities sponsored by SPAR. Information about SPAR can be found on the [SPAR Home Page](#). Membership is free and open to all amateurs who want to encourage technical and operating skills. You can register by going to the [SPAR Forum](#) and registering, using your amateur call sign as your user name.

Please join with SPAR in promoting amateur radio and keeping our bands alive!

from Ed (K1QUE)

Here are two pictures of my 20 Meter Flagpole. The base is first constructed of an 8" dia. X 24" cardboard form. Then a 2"dia. X 30" length of PVC pipe was placed in the center of the 8" dia. tube. The PVC pipe is then held in place by filling the 8" tube with cement. The flag pole is made of three 6' sections of aluminum tubing. The lower one is 2" dia. The center one is 1.875" dia. And the top one is 1.750" dia. The sections are overlapped 6" as well as the lower unit into the PVC pipe. Two .250"dia. x 3" machine bolts 4" apart and 90 degrees from each other fasten the lower unit to the PVC pipe and the other sections are held together with #6 sheet metal screws. This gives a height of about 16.5'. The pole was then finished off with standard flag pole hardware. There are six 18' radials, three stretched out to the south and three stretched out to the north about 1.5' apart. This pattern was chosen because of a very narrow lot.

From here in Florida, using this antenna I maintain a sked with friends in CT and IL every morning at 0900 on SSB. I've also worked Denali National Park in AK and broken a few DX pileups as well on CW using just 90 watts.

If you are space limited as I am, I recommend giving something like this a try. It was great fun to build and I figure I have about \$100.00 tied up in the whole project.





from David (K64ZLB)

I can not think of any really suitable reason to publish this photo, certainly from an amateur radio perspective except that the person who took it is a ham. Thats my excuse and I am sticking to it!

That person is Mission Specialist Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP who is currently circling the Earth in the International Space Station and this image, amongst a number of others ([see here](#)) was sent back to Earth via Twitter - I would love to have said via Slow Scan TV but I suppose thats progress for you (!)

Anyway, for those of you that have been to the Kennedy Space Center and taken the "full experience tour", you will now just how large an area KSC covers and the distance between the two launch pads. This image , from 300 miles up, conveys the scale.



from George (AA4GT)

Obituary

Grove Edwin (G.E., Sam) Sammons, 80, of Fort Myers, FL went peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, February 7, 2010 at Hospice House, after a brave battle with cancer. He would have us remember one thing: know Jesus, live, walk, trust and rest in Him.

G.E. was a resident of Lee County for more than 50 years. He was a co-owner of Ward Sammons Construction and along with his father, Grove R. Sammons, dug all of the canals during the development of Lehigh Acres. He served in the Florida National Guard for 10 years, was a lifelong NRA member, dedicated years of service as a trolley driver at Lee Memorial Hospital, and was a member of Guiding Light Community Church. A 32nd degree Mason in the Scottish Rite at Tropical Lodge #26 since 1961, G.E. was also a member of the Araba Shrine Temple, Motor Escort Patrol, Provost Guard and numerous other Shrine units. He was a member of both Amaranth and White Shrine. G.E. was also a 50 year member of the Shrine Amateur HAM Radio Unit and the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club with the call letters of WA4DQE.

He is survived by a daughter, Sharon Lee (Chris), and sons, Bill, Chris, and David Sammons (Linda). Also surviving are grandchildren, Brittany, Cassi and Jonathan Lee, Chase Sammons and their grandmother, Patricia Sammons Verkler as well as many cherished family members and lifelong friends. He was predeceased by his son, Thomas E. Sammons, parents, Grove and Mary Sammons and his wife, Colleen Sammons.

A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, February 19 at 10:00 AM at Guiding Light Community Church in N. Fort Myers which meets at the Noah Lodge at 41 Willis Road. A private internment will be held at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers please make contributions to Guiding Light Community Church P.O. Box 3949 N. Fort Myers, 33918 or to the Shiners Hospital for Children in Tampa.

Published in The News-Press on February 16, 2010



Trading Post

Wanted

Don (KG4BVT) is looking for an Icom PS-125 power supply. If anyone has one for sale please contact Don via e-mail [\(click\)](#)



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>

President: W4SFR

Dave Schaare

Vice President: KG4ZLB

David Worboys

Secretary: W2HI

Bob Graf

Treasurer: KC4SSD

Tim Wallen

Director: KK4PG

Peter Gaddy

Director:

Tim Gibbons, N4PIX

Director: N1DL

Karl Geng

Director: AA4GT

George Tomlinson

Newsletter Editor: KG4ZLB

David Worboys

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Bob Graf

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Web Site

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