



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMX No.10 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
October 2010

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**Next Meeting will be held on October 26th
2010 at 7.00pm**

From the President's Shack

As you know, we have been trying very hard to secure a more conducive meeting place and indeed we thought that we had found an ideal new venue to use for the upcoming meeting! That is now in a holding pattern so we are once again forced to remain at the usual meeting place for the October meeting. Should this change an e-mail will be sent to all members advising of the new location but unless that happens I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting.

Traditionally the Club now starts to look at the new club year and the Officers and Directors for the new term so please come to the meeting and get involved.

Till then...

73's
Dave
W4SFR



Meeting Minutes

No meeting minutes for September were recorded and in the absence of a Directors meeting (due to be held October 12th but then canceled) there are no minutes to be published.



New Members

None this month!



News Items

from George (AA4GT)

The Mexico city earthquake and Mary NV4Z was there on the radio from Memphis TN passing messages in and out for two weeks.



(again) from George (AA4GT)

Ranks of operators continue to grow across the nation

By Robert Jennings
Staff Reporter

Technology is reworking traditional modes of communication and introducing new ones, but amateur radio is not its victim, in the Mid-South or elsewhere.

Hams, or holders of amateur radio licenses, have been on the air since shortly after the turn of the century, amusing themselves with international chitchat and relaying information during local and national emergencies. The American Relay Radio League (ARRL) was founded in 1914 and six years later, a ham in Pittsburgh paved the way for commercial radio stations by broadcasting recorded music to his neighbors.

Today there are 436,793 hams in the country, according to the ARRL, including about 2,000 in the Memphis area. Tennessee's ham population is 7,996; Arkansas has 3,315 hams and Mississippi 2,681.

"There are more than there were 10 years ago," said Elizabeth Karpicj of the ARRL, which has its headquarters in Newington, Conn. "The amateur radio population has grown slightly."

Memphians agree the hobby has expanded its appeal. "There are many, many more women in it than there used to be," said Kenneth Wadlow. He is among senior Memphis hams both in age and years of activity.

The attrition rate is comparatively small. Once a ham, always a ham, thinks Sydney P. Bradfield Jr., of Midtown, at 69 another oldtimer.

"I was working on a power amplifier when you called. I get more kick out of building than I do on the air. I've been fooling with it since I was a kid in grammar school. Now that I'm retired, I'm *really* into it."

Ham radio is triply meaningful to Mary Carter of the Highland Heights area. "It's a public service as

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Hams

well as a hobby," she said. But her appreciation extends beyond that.

"This amateur radio hobby really saved my mind, and possibly saved my life." Repeated back surgery had left her bed-ridden, adding to the complications of being visually handicapped from birth.

Her husband, a retired Overton Park zookeeper, brought her a transistor radio. "Eventually I got a portable all-bands receiver. I listened, and I got to know all the people."

"I called up one of the ladies I had heard on the radio and asked her how I could get my license." With a kit, she mastered a code tape and radio terms, then passed her novice operator's exam with flying colors. "Within two years I had my highest license."

The FCC grants six classes of licenses. "In the meantime I was operating. As you upgrade you are allowed more frequencies."

"It got me out of bed. It didn't completely heal me but it got my mind on something else."

She relayed messages after the earthquake disasters in Mexico City and San Salvador. "I was just listening when they needed somebody. I'm very shy when I'm not behind that microphone."

Mrs. Carter has cards from 261 countries where she has talked to hams. "People overseas just love me because of my Southern accent."

James E. Moffatt Jr., a Memphis ham, has seen an increase in hams. "Some areas of the city have their own clubs." Clubs include those at Navy Memphis, Germantown and Bartlett, plus the citywide Delta Club, Memphis Amateur Radio Association, Tri-State DX Association (for overseas and foreign contacts) and the VIP Club for the very high frequency spectrum.

Some Memphians are active in the Military Affiliate Radio Sys-

P. Elam, 66, former state senator.

He emphasized hams' unspectacular but useful role in facilitating the collection of contributions during fund-raising campaigns and in keeping parades under control. "We can slow a parade down or we can speed it up."

Hams often are far from dabblers with just enough radio knowledge to get an operator's license. Wadlow, 80, retired in 1965 as chief of communications for the Corps of Engineers' Memphis district. He began ham radio 60 years ago.

Wadlow is outside the mainstream in one phase. "I still stay with CW (the international Morse Code) over voice communication. It just seems a bit more natural to talk with my hands rather than with my mouth." He communicates by voice when the occasion dictates.

"It's a hobby. You don't make

any money out of it," Bradfield said. "My first radio set cost me \$75," Moffatt said. "That was 10 years ago. You can still do it."

"The radio I use cost \$1,300," said Thomas Jordan. He added that the cost can be as little as \$5 or \$6 for a simple wire antenna called a dipole. "It depends on how sophisticated you want to get."

No matter how hardy or committed the oldsters, amateur radio needs young blood. Two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D'Gerolamo Jr. are in the new wave. "They were licensed at 8 years old," Mrs. D'Gerolamo said. Angela, 11, and Joanna, 9, attend St. Agnes Academy.

"My husband is a ham radio operator," Mrs. D'Gerolamo said. "He has always felt that children need to be taught at an early age worthwhile things."

"He also felt that children can learn better and quicker than adults."

Editors Note - I hope you are able to read this newspaper print but if not, drop me a line and I will email you a larger copy.

from George (AA4GT)

Icom Counterfeits

I picked this up from a list-serve and thought I would share. Not so much that you might fall victim to a knockoff radio but just in amazement that someone would set up a factory and build an apparently working clone of an Icom radio. I wonder why they don't just call it something else.

You might also note that one of the imposter hand-helds has the speaker/mic jacks clearly labeled and the real Icom doesn't. I bet that annoyed them.

[Click here!](#)

and again, from George (AA4GT)

WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS"

From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY, and POOGIE MURRAY. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision.

They changed it to "HYALMU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1910 some confusion resulted between signals from the amateur wireless station

"HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station call became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals as commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM". That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators.

From that day to this, and probably to the end of time in radio, an amateur is a "HAM".

SO NOW YOU KNOW!

ARRL South Eastern Division Director Elections - some more information from your candidates.

From Doug Rehman K4AC

Please forgive this onetime email communication on what I think you'll agree is an important topic.

The ARRL is the only voice we have to represent our interests before the FCC and Congress. As amateurs, we have use of spectrum that would likely be valued in the billions of dollars - the frequencies we use are the equivalent of the National Forests and Parks, lands set aside for the use and enjoyment of Americans.

The ARRL fills a critical role in protecting our radio spectrum from the continual attacks of commercial interests seeking frequencies. A healthy ARRL is in all of our best interest.

Even with all of the excellent work protecting our spectrum, the ARRL is not without significant problems. Ironically, the root of many of these problems is a failure to communicate. Carefully crafted news flows outward from the Newington headquarters after decisions have already been made. Virtually no solicitation of ideas and opinions from the members occurs. Frequent solicitations for donations and advertising for high priced publications is the norm, making members feel more like financial targets of the ARRL than stakeholders in our national organization.

Part of the information not coming out of Newington is that League membership numbers have stagnated. Since 1/1/2008, ARRL membership has grown by about 2600 members, while the number of US licensees grew by more than 38,000. If you want to look at the longer term trends, since 2001 the ARRL membership has declined by about 4800 members, while the number of US amateurs has grown by about 11,000. Clearly the ARRL is having significant problems retaining existing members and attracting new ones.

My campaign website and campaign blog, www.k4ac.com and www.k4ac.net, have numerous ideas for reforming the ARRL, keeping you informed, and receiving your input.

Charting a new, successful course for the ARRL will require Directors with business skills and innovative thinking - not career League Politicians.

My experience in amateur radio, law enforcement/public safety/professional communications, business ownership and leadership will aide me in representing you, the members of the Southeastern Division, and helping to guide the ARRL's path.

Far too often, elections are about popularity instead of about choosing a person that has the best background, knowledge, skills, plans, and ideas. I ask you to go to the websites of the three candidates for Director and the two candidates for Vice Director. Read through what each candidate tells you about themselves, their accomplishments, their ideas, and how they will perform the duties of the position. Being on a committee is not an accomplishment for the membership. As you evaluate each candidate, remember the old truism: past performance is the best indicator of future success. The websites, ordered by office sought and call sign, are:

For Director:

K4AC www.k4ac.com (campaign website) www.k4ac.net (campaign blog)

W4OZK www.w4ozk.com

W4STB www.freewebs.com/w4stb

For Vice Director:

KG4IUM www.southeasterndivision.org

WA4AW www.wa4aw.com

In 2007, the last Southeastern Division Director election, just over one third of ARRL members in the Division voted. Together we can reform the ARRL, thereby safeguarding our hobby into the future. First I need your help to win the election by:

- * Letting me know the issues that are important to you
- * Discussing the election with all of your friends in the Division that are ARRL members
- * Casting your ballot for me as soon as it arrives in a couple of weeks
- * Once you've mailed your ballot, stay on your friends until they mail theirs

Thanks and 73,
Doug
K4AC

Candidate for ARRL SE Division Director

Campaign Website: www.k4ac.com

Campaign Blog: www.k4ac.net

From Greg Sarratt W4OZK

You will receive a ballot from the ARRL in the next few days. I ask that you vote for me and return the ballot in the two envelopes provided. It is important that you follow the return instructions in order for your vote to be counted.

It has been my pleasure serving as your ARRL Southeastern Division Director, the largest ARRL Division. It has been an enjoyable experience and responsibility for me. I have represented our Division, and will continue to do so, with my proven performance, integrity, leadership and experience.

I have enjoyed meeting many fine amateurs all across the Division and learning about many of your activities and concerns, which has helped to shape my member-driven thinking.

Our Division is the best and most active of all ARRL Divisions. Our activity and exposure in emergency communications, youth, new technology development, contesting, Hamfests, club activities, and much more, makes us the clear leader.

Still in my first term, I consider myself as new blood on the ARRL Board of Directors and I am highly qualified to continue in this position because of my extensive amateur radio and ARRL experience, including emergency communications, numerous ARRL positions held, proven performance, integrity, leadership, experience and dedication.

Look for more information at www.w4ozk.com and www.southeastern.arrl.org. If you have additional questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your trust, confidence and support and your vote in this election.

73,

Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

ARRL Southeastern Division Director

From Sherri Brower W4STB

If you believe in open communication between the members and the Board of Directors. If you want input on matters that affect YOU as a member. If you want involvement in Legislative Action and social events besides hamfests. If you believe in me and share these views.

Vote for Sherri, W4STB

Proven Leadership

ARRL Life Member

Remember, ARRL is a MEMBERSHIP organization, not a subscription to QST. Pass the word.

I was first licensed in November 1989 as N4XLF. I am a Life Member of ARRL and have held several ARRL appointments since 1991- Official Emergency Station, Public Information Officer, Local Government Liaison, Southern Florida Section Public Information Coordinator, Assistant Section Manager, Assistant Division Director and Section Manager of the Southern Florida Section since October 2002. I am an ARRL Volunteer Examiner and a Certified Examiner for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (ARECC) program.

I served on the advisory committee of Florida State Youth Amateur Radio Clubs (FYARC). In the Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club I served as President in 1999, Vice-president in 1997-1998, and served on the Field Day committee several times. Other memberships include A-1 Operator Club, Ten -10 (#55141), local ARES®, the Florida Contest Group, the Florida East Coast DX Club, and the St. Lucie Repeater Association.

I have completed the three ARRL ARECC courses and the required NIMS courses.

I worked with local and county officials in Indian River County to obtain reasonable accommodation for amateur radio towers and antennas. I've assisted amateurs in other Florida counties when their regulations were being revised. Articles I wrote about this issue appeared in "Florida Skip" and "World Radio."

I also participate in public service events, public displays and demonstrations of amateur radio and Skywarn activities. I wrote articles for the local club newsletter and other amateur radio publications, and taught Amateur Radio licensing classes. I enjoy working DX

(current total is 325), contesting (I'm known as "The Voice of Indian River County" in the Florida QSO party - listen for me), and just rag-chewing with friends.

In 1995 I became interested in amateur radio public relations when I needed to advertise licensing classes for the local club. I wrote a press release for Field Day and shortly after that I noticed in section news that my county needed a Public Information Officer (PIO). I asked the club president to recommend me for the PIO appointment. In 2002 I was the recipient of the Mc Gan Silver Antenna Award for Public Relations on behalf of Amateur Radio. In January 2003 ARRL President, Jim Haynie, W5JBP, appointed me to the ARRL PR committee and from 2004 through 2007 I chaired that committee. I was a panelist at the 2001, 2003 through 2007 ARRL Public Relations Forum at the Dayton Hamvention. I have presented training sessions for Section appointees and club officers and presented PR Forums at hamfests throughout the Southeastern Division and at Dayton. I've organized and been a panel in YL forums, youth forums and PR forums at other hamfests in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. I've appeared on radio and television to promote Amateur Radio. In 2006 I presented a communications segment for the Humane Society of the US training program for Disaster Animal Rescue Team (DART) in Florida. I am also an active member of Indian River County VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters)

As Section Manager of the Southern Florida Section I worked to keep the communications lines open between members and ARRL elected officials and Headquarters staff. I believe the limited lines of monthly section news are not enough and I often send e-mails to the section members to advise them of current important issues and news items. Each month the ARRL Section News page is updated with photos and all news items that I've been sent or I've found by surfing the net. The section cabinet and I bring informative forums to hamfests and we visit club meetings and hamfests, all in an effort to keep the ARRL motto a reality - "Of, By, and For the Amateur". My goal is to make the Amateur Radio experience a positive one for all hams.

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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>

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

Webmaster: W2HI

Bob Graf

Visit
the



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

Web Site

www.araswf.org