

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXI No. 12 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
December 2011

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***NO* Meeting will be held in December as the Club's Christmas Dinner is held in place of the meeting. The next formal Club Meeting will be held January 24th 2011 at 7.00pm at the Red Cross, Naples.**

From the President's Shack

Well it has been a long year and the Club did get a few things done. We did get someone to run the VE sessions. Also the tower was installed at the Red Cross and the antenna for the RC was installed by AD. We do have a working reform with the RC. The Club had a good Field Day. The Club is doing Lunch on the first and third Wednesday of the month. I hope that keeps up. We had a good day at Oil Well Park. The last is that we had a nice Christmas Party. We had 36 attend. There was a lot of door prizes and we had a lot of good fellowship. That's what it is all about. I hope that the members get behind Bill and give him all the help you gave me.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

George AA4GT & Mary NV4Z

Meeting Minutes

October 2011 Meeting minutes prepared by Frank (W4KBW)

A.R.A.S.W.F. meeting October 25th 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7PM by George Tomlinson AA4GT

Treasurer's report from Joe Goggin K9KNW presently have 3,5077.25 on the books Has paid for insurance on the trailer and other miscellaneous expenditures. Bruce Funston K9PWQ stated he had food supplies left over from this year's field day and ask what course of action did he need to take to dispense of these item. It was agreed upon to bring those to the club meeting for refreshments till they were gone.

Old Business;

Discussion was held in regards to a replacement antenna tower base for A.D. Randolph K4ADR that was loaned to the club for the construction of antenna for the ARC antenna. A.D. stated he was not in a hurry for the item. So the club will be on the lookout for a replacement. If anyone has a laying around contact George AA4GT.

VE's needed for future testing of HAM's who may be interested in getting their first license or obtaining a higher class of license. See David Ducett WB8VOU for further details.

New Business;

New officers for the upcoming year for the ARASWF are needed. Anyone interested please contact A.D. Randolph K4ADR, we need your support to keep the club going. Please be active. We need directors also.

Christmas party is scheduled to be at the Royal Wood Country Club off Rattlesnake Hammock Road the date is December the 10th. (please place this on your calendar) the cost will be 22 dollars a person. Look forward to seeing you there. This is a sit down dinner and there is a cash bar. Sounds like a good time. David Ducett WB8VQU and Gary LeeK8YMN will be those who will have tickets for this event.

Joe Goggin K9KNW will be in charge of the auction that is to be held on November 22nd. Anyone who like to donate equipment for the club auction please contact Joe. Items donate to the club when sold proceeds will go to the club treasury. Items to auction off by individuals need to have a minimum bid placed on the item to be sold. That money will be returned to the person who placed it up for sale. It was determined that Goody Boxes will be sold as is and not as individual items from box.

Karl Geng N1DL, is looking for applicants who may be interested in MARS RADIO. If you have a desire please contact Karl.

"Show and Tell"

Bruce Funston K9PWQ gave a very good demonstration on fast scan TV that operates in the 440 MHZ band and 900 MHZ and the 1200 MHZ band interesting to know that with some output power that the distance is very limited and the usage of repeaters is a must some amplifier circuits are good for 4 to 8 watts and that a output of 20 watts is considered very good. The real amplification comes with multi element yagi antennas to obtain huge amounts of gain of the signal. Some antennas that came into his discussion was K1FO with a 14db gain.

50/50 draw was won by George Danz KJ4FSD.

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

**Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the American Red Cross, Naples, Florida,
on Tuesday, November 22nd, 2011**

Officers and

Directors Present:

George Tomlinson, AA4GT - President

Karl Geng, N1DL - Vice President

Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary

Joe Goggin, K9KNW - Treasurer

Uli Altvater, AGØX - Director

Frank Halas, W4RBW - Director

Apologies:

Peter Gaddy, KK4PG - Director

David Schaare, W4SFR - Past President

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

There being a quorum present with 33 members (including 6 officers and directors and 1 guest) in attendance, George AA4GT called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions:

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call sign 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 will be published in the ARASWF Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Joe Goggin K9KNW, reported that the bank balance as of the end of October, 2011, was \$3,244.15.

Officers' Reports:

Committee Reports:

Old Business:

New Business:

A.D., K4ADR, announced his intention of organizing another Special Event at Oil Well Park on February 25th, 2012, and asked the membership to think about this date. He will bring this matter up again at the January membership meeting for a final resolution.

Election of Officers and Directors:

The nominating committee reported their recommendations for officers and directors for 2012 as follows:

President	Bill, N1MMQ
Vice President	Bob, WB2TGY
Secy/Treasurer	Ken, W9KB
Director	Frank, W4RBW
Director	Uli, AGØX

In addition, nominations were made from the floor, as follows:

Director	Harry, KD4JMV
Director	Henrietta, KA1JVN

A motion to close the nominations and approve the above slate of officers and directors was made by Frank W4RBW, seconded by Karl N1DL, and unanimously approved.

Special Program:

A club auction was conducted, for the first time, with Rodger K1HH, acting as auctioneer, and Joe K9KNW, as auction bookkeeper. Items donated to the club were auctioned, with 100% of the proceeds going to the club treasury. Items not donated were auctioned with 10% of the final price going to the club and 90% going to the member who owned the item. This successful first auction, which took about 1 hour to complete, netted \$446. to the club treasury. Well done, Rodger and Joe!

Following the auction, it was suggested that members might consider listing their items in future issues of the club Newsletter, so that they might receive auction bids by email. Members wishing to do so are encouraged to send all the details to the Newsletter editor, David KG4ZLB.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle was won by Ken, W9KB.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by George AA4GT at 8:45 pm.

Bob Graf, W2HI
Secretary

New Members

None this month!

News Items

DUES REMINDER

The 2012 dues are payable now. Annual membership dues are \$25.00 for Active members, the same as last year. Family members related to paid-up Active members maintain their club membership without payment of additional dues.

Hopefully all members will have their dues paid by January 24th – the next membership meeting, after which the official membership Roster will be prepared and posted on the club web site, www.araswf.org. The Roster is also used to determine the mailing list for the club newsletter.

Please stay current, support your club, and not miss any exciting future issues of the newsletter.

Simply make out your check for \$25.00 payable to “ARASWF, as shown below:

Name Here
Address Here
Town Here, Zip Code

1003

PAY TO THE ORDER OF **ARASWF** \$ **25.00**
TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS

DATE **DATE**

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
CHESTER, NY 01234

FOR **W4XXX - DUES - 2012** YOUR SIGNATURE

001003

708470 6*

Send your check, together with the Dues Notice and Renewal Information Form sent to you previously by email, to:

**ARASWF
P.O. Box 111604
Naples, FL 34108-0127**

Many thanks, and we look forward to your participation in club activities in 2012.

from Bill (K2ZEL)

A Turn-Counting Controller for A Screwdriver Type Antenna

By Dr. G. Wm Reynolds, K2ZEL

At the right is pictured the completed project of the controller that was developed following the catastrophic failure of the original controller supplied with the screwdriver antenna that has been used for several years in the mobile/ portable station in vehicle. The original controller was a double pole double throw center off momentary switch. The screwdriver type antenna was selected for high frequency operations because it would tune to all amateur frequencies and all MARS HF frequencies (each at a single position of the adjustable base loading coil (inductance) of the vertically oriented antenna.). After reviewing the instructions that were provided with the antenna it was noted that the "4 wire" control cable for the antenna had two wires for the motor voltage to adjust the length of the inductor and two wires labeled sensor. The two wires labeled sensor were found to be a switch closure which opened and closed each revolution of the motor. This meant that an up/ down counter could be used to indicate the position of the inductor for the frequency the user was using and the project became much simpler to build. While assembling/ building this controller the writer has opted to use this article as an illustration of the K.I.S.S. principle (Keep It Simple S——) in selecting and developing a project to enhance your operations. There are several axioms one uses in developing the project follow with comment related to this controller.

1. Define and prioritize the objective/ goal of the accessory.

In order to be able to continue the use of this it is required that the DPDT, center off, switch be replaced. Since this antenna will be mounted on the roof of the minivan it would be highly desirable to know the position of the inductor remotely (i.e. inside the vehicle, at the operating console in shack, etc.) because the operator can not see the position when adjusting the antenna. There is also a time constraint when tuning for minimum SWR. With this type antenna the time to move the position of the inductor adjustment may over a minute (much too long even using low power). If you can preposition the inductor with the counter the final adjustment can be done in a few seconds (rocking the switch at low power).

2. Don't reinvent the wheel.

Make a block diagram of you objective from item (1).

Start a search for accessories from the antenna manufacturers that will control and indicate the position of the inductor . All that I checked either made their own version of a counting

controller or recommended a controller from a third party. The least expensive was a controller offered by MFJ Enterprises. The price range for the controllers from just over \$100 to several hundred. (Economics rears it's ugly head). Expand the search for up/down counting module kits. I located a 4 - digit kit at <http://www.electronickits.com> at a reasonable cost. With "off the shelf" components from Radio Shack (switches, enclosure, and relay) the total projected cost would be under \$50 One of the advantages of using the kit for the module is that the builder does not have to locate unique parts for the project. In this case just switch closures for power, count, and direction.

3. Proceed with order of kit and get needed parts from Radio Shack.

With materials in hand it took about 2 hours to build and test.



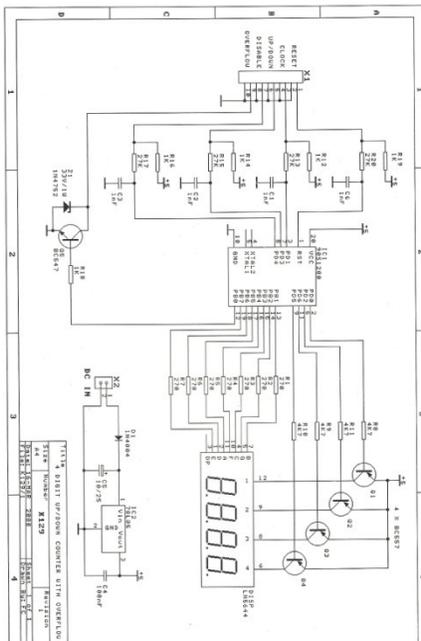
Counter Module

Above is a photo of the kit as received. At left is the schematic diagram of the circuit. In the specifications for the module contact bouncing is accomplished by a delay interrupt coding of the micro-controller (MCU) which controls all functions in the completed module. The circuit board is a single sided board and all soldering is done on the bottom of the board.. When building the module mount the display last allowing space that will permit the display to fit the opening in the top of the enclosure.

In the lower portion of the enclosure the power switch, reset switch, and the DPDT center off switch will be mounted. From the schematic it should be noted that the input transition is from about 5vdc to 0 vdc for all inputs. Both a male and female connector for the module is provided in the kit.

Incidental components

The additional components needed areas follows: 1 - relay

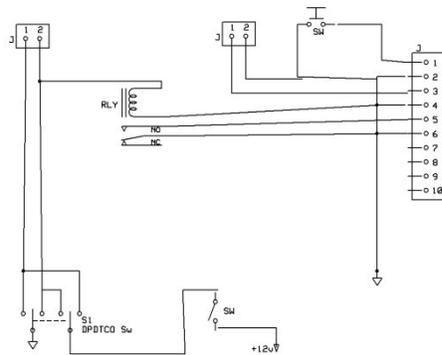


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12 vdc SPDT; 1 SPST switch; 1 SPSTMO switch; connector to mate control cable; and connector for 12vdc input. The author built these items on a perf board and the connector to the counter was from the counter module kit.. A sketch of the wiring is at the lower right. The counter module and the wired perf board were mounted in the enclosure and final testing was done.

Using the MFJ antenna analyzer as a signal source and SWR indicator and the antenna mounted with feed line and control cable connected, the controller was energized and the frequency vs. turns counted. The data from this test was entered into a spreadsheet and produces the graph shown at the lower left. The test for frequency was repeated several times and the repeatability of the data was within five percent.

This controller now allows the operator to preset the position and will allow fine tuning of antenna for minimum SWR within 10 sec. for any given frequency of operations.



From George (AA4GT)

A small selection of photographs taken at the Club's Christmas Party; thanks George!

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Trading Post

FOR SALE

Icom IC-V8000 - 75-watt, 2-meter transceiver.

The specs for this radio are readily available everywhere.

This particular radio:

- Has been used VERY LITTLE;
- Has never been used in a mobile;
- Has never been operated at full 75-watts – only at medium 25-watt power;
- Has never been used on a rainy day;
- Has never been exposed to smoke or any other pollutants;
- Has a die-cast aluminum chassis, 200 memory channels, CTCSS & DTCS standard, DTMF encoder;
- Comes complete with HM-133V remote control microphone, mounting bracket, manual, all original accessories, in original box;
- Is a real “find” for someone who wants a LIKE-NEW radio at a deep discount;
- Will make a great Christmas present for yourself, or anyone else, like your wife, girl friend, son, daughter, long-lost uncle, black-sheep brother-in-law, etc.

Photo below is a catalog photo, and this radio looks exactly like it.

PRICE: \$150.00 – FINAL SALE

CONTACT: Bob, W2HI, w2hi@araswf.org

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Icom 746 Pro \$900.00

Ameritron AL 811 \$500.00

Ameritron AL 81 HD \$900.00

Hustler 6BTV Vertical \$85.00

Vibroplex bug 1954 Refurbished by Vibroplex \$170.00

Vibroplex bug 1956 Refurbished by Vibroplex \$170.00

Icom AH4 tuner \$150.00

Other equipment FREE

Phone 239-774-1759

E-Mail aa4gt@comcast.net

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

GAP Challenger antenna for sale works good must sell because I'm moving into a restricted neighborhood.

\$125 or best offer! - Frank (W4KRB) fhalas@comcast.net

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Club Information

Meeting Info: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00pm

American Red Cross
2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive
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: AA4GT
George

Vice President: N1DL
Karl

Secretary: W2HI
Bob

Treasurer: K9KNW
Joe

Director: KK4PG
Peter

Director: AG0X
Uli

Director: W4RBW
Frank

Past President: W4SFR
Dave

Newsletter Editor: KG4ZLB
David

Webmaster: W2HI Bob

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