



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMXII No. 6 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
June 2012

### In This Issue:

- ◆ *From the Presidents Shack*
- ◆ *Membership Meeting minutes*
- ◆ *New Members*
- ◆ *News Items*
- ◆ *Trading Post – Buy/Sell/Swap!*



The next Club Meeting will be held **September 25<sup>th</sup> 2012** at 7.00pm at the Red Cross,  
Naples.

## *Treasurer's*

### **From the President's Shack**

^

#### **Nickels & Dimes**

Ready or not Field Day is upon us – June 23-24<sup>th</sup>. This is your chance to give back to the club, pull out your old clueeb t shirts from the closet, pack your lunch and favorite beverage, and head out to Veteran's Park to play radio for the weekend.

We plan to have a 5A and GOTA station, so there will be plenty of bandwidth available for those who attend next weekend. We will have two tri-banders pointed north and 15m & 20m should be hot! With some luck and a few sunspots, 10m might be the "money band". Last weekend, I noticed on the reflectors that 6m last weekend had some "magic" moments. Whatever band you prefer should be available!

Field Day setup will commence early Saturday morning - June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Veteran's Park, the trailers should arrive on-site about 8:00am, and antenna setup will start shortly thereafter. Once we have our tri-banders and wires up, it's onto phase two – Radio & Computer Setup. Last week at the Red Cross, we had a Tech meeting found that connecting the computers to the same network, was like herding cats... a couple computers seem change their "minds" and self connected to the Red Cross network for no apparent reason. I know there is some science involved here, but Murphy seemed to be laughing in the back of the room. Fortunately, since we will have only one network in the field, this should not be an issue. Stay tuned for more laughs next month.

Bob-W2HI will serve up the club traditional Field Day chili. If that sounds like heartburn with your constitution, you may wish to bring your own lunch. We'll have a big cooler of water and ice on hand to put the "flames" out.

When you pack your personal "go-box" for Field Day, please don't forget the following items:

Lunch box, snacks, drinks etc.	Headphones
Bug spray	Key or Paddle
Chilli bowl & spoon	Small cooling fan
Pen & Notepad	Extension cords (25' or 50')

Please mark your calendars and stop by, even if it's only to snap a few pictures and provide some moral support. Hope to see you all there!

73

Ken-W9KB

ARASWF Treasurer

## Meeting Minutes

**Regular Membership Meeting held at the Naples American Red Cross.**

**Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

**Officers and**

**Directors Present:**

Bill Krauss, N1MMQ – President  
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President  
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer  
Harry Sevush, KD4JMV – Director  
Frank Halas, W4RBW – Director

**Absent:**

Bob Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President  
Uli Altvater, AGØX – Director

---

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called To Order:**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present (14 members, 3 officers & 2 directors) along with three guests in attendance.

**Introductions:**

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call sign. We had three guests in attendance Bill Ravenel, Dean Whitsett-N1SXL, and Dan Lange-KJ4YYB.

**Reading & Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Previous meeting minutes were dispensed with, since they were published previously in the ARASWF Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that as of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the club's bank balance was \$4,346.95 with income of \$50 from 50/50 drawings and no expenses.

**Officers' Reports:**

None at this time (business meeting abbreviated to provide time for guest presenter).

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Old Business:**

Wednesday Night 2 meter information net: Bill-N1MMQ announced that the Wednesday night information net still was active. He encouraged club members to check-in regularly. The subject of NTS (National Traffic System) messages was discussed, and a motion made to permit their exchange on the club repeater net. After further discussion, the motion passed.

### **New Business:**

Ken-W9KB reported that the 2012 Field Day is scheduled for June 23-24<sup>th</sup>. The club is planning a 5A multi-op effort, with a GOTA station. All members are welcome to participate in setup and operation, which will commence Saturday morning at 8:00am at Veteran's Park (see club website for maps). A sign-up sheet was circulated to gather interested operators and their preferred time slots. Ken mentioned there was no approved budget for FD. A motion was made and seconded to designate \$500 for 2012 Field Day expenses.

The following focus list was briefly discussed:

- 🕒 Contact Past project leaders
- 🕒 Locate Radios & Equipment (Club/Members)
- 🕒 Food Resources
- 🕒 Publicity (Newspaper/TV)
- 🕒 City/County Proclamations
- 🕒 ARRL Resources

**Special Program:** Dean Whitsett-N1SXL gave a N1MM setup and overview presentation. Dean started with the actual downloads from the N1MM website and demonstrated how they were (and where) to be installed. Next, he indicated how the station setup data was entered into the program. Radio configuration and port setup was covered. He explained his experience with networking and suggested we concern it for Field Day.

Dean's topic was well received by those present; their interest was evident by the extended Q&A that followed the presentation.

**50/50:** The 50/50 raffle (\$18) was won by Ken-W9KB.

**Adjournment:** After the 50/50 raffle, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The President adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ken Bills – W9KB  
Secretary

## New Members

None this month.

## News Items

***(from Ken W9KB)***

This has been sent to the local TV stations & Naples Daily News

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **All communications down after Hurricane makes landfall....**

Public Demo of Emergency Communications June 23-24, 2012

Naples, FL – Despite the Internet, cell phones, email and modern communications, every year whole regions find themselves in the dark. Tornadoes, fires, storms, ice and even the occasional cutting of fiber optic cables leave people without the means to communicate. In these cases, the one consistent service that has never failed has been Amateur Radio. These radio operators, often called "hams" provide backup communications for everything from the American Red Cross to FEMA and even for the International Space Station. Local area "hams" will join with thousands of other Amateur Radio operators across the country and will be demonstrating their emergency capabilities this weekend.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during unexpected emergencies in towns across America including the California wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events world-wide. When trouble is brewing, Amateur Radio's people are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 23-24, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with Naples's ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about as hams across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the conclusion of the "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country. Their slogan, *"When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works"* is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event. "The fastest way to turn a crisis into a total disaster is to lose

communications," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "From the earthquake and tsunami in Japan to tornadoes in Missouri, ham radio provided the most reliable communication networks in the first critical hours of the events. Because ham radios are not dependent on the Internet, cell towers or other infrastructure, they work when nothing else is available. We need nothing between us but air."

In North Naples on June 23 & 24th, the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida (ARASWF) will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Veteran's Park located just off Immokalee Road east of Goodlette-Frank. They invite the public to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes. Amateur Radio is growing in the US. There are now over 700,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Services program, ham volunteers provide both emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies and non-emergency community services too, all for free. To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to [www.emergency-radio.org](http://www.emergency-radio.org). The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what local Amateur Radio operators can do for your community. They will gladly help you get on the air!

***(from Harry KD4JMV)***

### **FCC Seeks Higher Vanity Call Sign Fee**

The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule-making (NPRM)* on May 4, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$14.20 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$15 for 10 years, an increase of 80 cents. The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934 (as amended)* to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 *Report and Order*). The FCC said it anticipates some 14,300 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units," or applications, during the next fiscal year, collecting \$214,500 in fees from the program.

### **Vanity Fee Due for New, Renewal Applications**

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal six years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the **ULS** and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

### **ARRL Processes License Renewals, Including Vanities**

The **ARRL VEC** will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

The ARRL VEC will handle vanity license renewals for ARRL members for a small fee (license renewals for members with non-vanity call signs are free). Visit the **Call Sign Renewals or Changes** web page for complete instructions on how to have the ARRL renew your license for you or for how to do it yourself. License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the **ARRL Amateur Radio License Renewal web page**. The **FCC's forms page** also offers the required forms.

*(from Harry KD4JMV)*

### **Google Declares "Morse Code Is Perfect" with New *Gmail Tap* Mail Program**

*From the ARRL Newsletter 04/01/2012*

On April 1, Google announced that it has unveiled a new way to use its popular *Gmail* e-mail system. Called ***Gmail Tap***, it uses dots and dashes to form letters, a system of communicating that should be very familiar to radio amateurs. "Morse code is perfect," said *Gmail Tap* Engineer Mitch Fedenko. "It's just a dot and a dash. What's simpler than that?"

According to Google, *Gmail Tap* will let you tap without looking at your screen, replace the 26-key keyboard with two keys and double productivity by typing two e-mails at once.

"Technology is everywhere today," explained David Brook, Google Vice President for Communication Services in a **video** announcing *Gmail Tap*, "and everyone has a smart phone. Think about the size of [a smart phone]. It's only two inches, two-and-a-half inches, and we're trying to cram an entire 26-key keyboard into that space. It's time to think about 'How can we do this better?' using the technology that we have today. And that's where *Gmail Tap* comes in."

*Gmail Tap* replaces the default keyboard in the Gmail application with one that only has two buttons: One for a dot and one for a dash. Brook said that every single letter in the alphabet can be spelled out by using just these two characters.

The QWERTY keyboard -- invented in 1874 -- is still used today, largely unchanged. "In Morse code, every letter of the alphabet is represented by a simple pattern of dots and dashes, and once you know them, you can type without even looking at your screen," Brook said. "This makes it ideal for situations

where you need to discreetly send e-mails, such as when you're on a date or in a meeting with your boss." [*Editor's note: If your boss knows Morse code, this option might not work for you.*]

When Google Software Engineer Reed Morse came to Brook with the idea of bringing Morse code back, Brook said he got "really excited." Morse claims that Samuel F.B. Morse -- the creator of Morse code -- was his "great-grandfather's grand-father's brother." Morse is also the Lead Engineer for *Gmail Tap*.

Benefits of *Gmail Tap* include a split-screen function, enabling you to send two messages at once, to two completely different recipients. "*Gmail Tap* multitasking, it's an improvement over speech," Brook said. "You can say two things with your fingers that your mouth can only say one of. People are going to be twice as productive, and people are going to be able to write e-mails anytime they want." A planned "ship-to-shore mode" will "activate your phone's flash to communicate with other power users across an ocean (of people)." Also planned for the future is the Double-Black Diamond mode that will "add a third, fourth and more keyboards for writing up to eight messages at once."

*Gmail Tap* Product Lead Todd Smith said that "you can tap it in the morning, you can tap it at night, you can tap it in the bathroom. It [takes] a dot and a dash to have a conversation with the entire world. It's great!"

**(from Harry KD4JMV)**

THE ARASWF lost out on having a presentation on "DELTA LOOP" & "BALINS" from WA9AAA/DOUG. It was MY FAULT to update him on the meeting date & time. We will have WA9AAA later this year.

In place of the old presentation we had N1SXL/DEAN at the last minute to do an presentation to the N1MM LOGGING PROGRAM. This was in order to get all of us to get ready For FIELD DAY. It was a nice presentation, AND WISHING DEAN THE BEST ON HIS MOVE.....

THANKS AGAIN N1SXL/DEAN FROM THE ARASWF AND  
73 from KD4JMV/HARRY







## Trading Post

Nothing this month!

## 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:** N1MMQ  
Bill  
**Vice President:** WB2TGY  
Bob  
**Secretary:** W9KB  
Ken  
**Treasurer:** W9KB  
Ken  
**Director:** W4RBW  
Frank  
**Director:** AG0X  
Uli  
**Director:** KD4JMV  
Harry  
**Director:** KA1JVN  
Henrietta  
**Past President:** AA4GT  
George

**Newsletter Editor:** KG4ZLB  
David  
**Webmaster:** W2HI Bob

Visit  
the



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

**Web Site**

[www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org)