



ARASWF

Newsletter



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

Treasurer's
From the President's Shack

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Nickels & Dimes

I'm not sure who lead me to believe the summer season here in Naples is slow, but I have found that to be the furthest thing from the truth.... just where do I begin.

I'll start with one the most gratifying events, the Lighthouse of Collier Kid's Summer Camp held at the beautiful Naples Beach Hotel. Dave Weigel – KD4JEZ has been involved with this project and introduced the children to Morse code a couple of years ago. This year he asked the club for some help to gathering up some used equipment for the children to use at camp.

<http://lighthouseofcollier.org/>

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2012/aug/14/lighthouse-of-collier-inc-3rd-annual-summer-camp-a/>

After a number of practice sessions, Dave invited George-AA4GT and I to attend the final *test* session. I wasn't sure what to expect as I drove over, but within a few minutes after arrival I knew it would be something special. While Morse code didn't hold the interest of all the campers, it did resonate with about six students. They were anxious to show off their skills and preceded to set-up the keys and practice oscillators (remember those days).

While all the students demonstrated their own unique skills, two stand-outs come to mind. The first was Sammy. He was a bit stubborn and heavy handed. He balled up his small six year old fist and proceeded to bang out code as he understood it... He was more focused on the oscillator's pitch control rather form or speed. It took some coaching for him to adapt the single finger technique, but I do wonder about those FIST operators....

Another student that demonstrated exceptional skills was ten year old Sara. She could send her name and age and most other short word combinations. As it turns out, she has the gift of perfect pitch. While watching the local news later that same week, I saw her being interviewed. Sara had been selected to sing the National Anthem at a pre-season Dolphins' game; this wasn't her first event either... Quite a little star!

The take away for me was gratitude and how much ham radio serves to connect us all together.

D-Star is coming... Uli – AG0X and I made a site visit and installed the gateway server at the tower site last week. While we have good internet connectivity, the server at the present time is not talking with the repeater controller. However, both the 2 meter (145.890-) and the 70 cm (441.500+) repeaters work great locally. It's just a matter of time and patience and we will get the gateway system online.

We did have a number of QSO's and the clarity is amazing. You do occasionally experience what is called "R2D2" as you approach the limits of coverage. Also, we did get coordinated frequency approval back

from the Florida Repeater Council. Since, they do not coordinate frequencies below 442.00 MHz, we will have to eventually bump our 70 cm frequency up to 442.100 MHz

As many know, KD4JMV's station was hit by lightening last week. Much of his station was affected including the club's Echolink computer and repeater interface module which were rendered inoperative. The regular nets for the next few weeks will be affected until this link can be brought back online.

Regularly scheduled nets this week were conducted on Echolink using the call KD4JMV for check-ins, no RF check-ins at this time. Your understanding and patience are appreciated.

In closing, we have two antenna trailers that need a permanent home. Care to adopt one? For instance, a fenced commercial business equipment lot with an empty corner would be ideal. Keep your eye out for these types of locations as your driving about Naples, drop me a line if you see anything promising.

Finally, you may want to consider a ticket upgrade. We will be offering a VE exam session September 25th at 5:15pm, just prior on next club meeting. It's not too difficult if you break out the books and start taking *daily* practice exams on QRZ.

<http://www.qrz.com/ht/>

The month's bonus links:

- 🕒 Great study guide material, check out the transmission line module
<http://www.fourier-series.com/rf-concepts/smithchart.html>
- 🕒 For DX Cluster spots, served up you way!
<http://www.ve7cc.net/>
- 🕒 Smith Chart software for matching your antennas etc.
<http://fritz.dellsperger.net/>
<http://www.fritz.dellsperger.net/downloads.htm>
- 🕒 N7TFP's Ionosphere Tutorial

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgmVPWRYw3I>

- 🕒 NASA Electromagnetic Spectrum Basics

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snNwE6txxP0&feature=related>

There has been a request for a VE session in mid-September. I looked up all the club members calls and here are the results:

39 - Extras (49.4%)
7 - Advanced (8.9%)
23 - Generals (29.1%)
9 - Technicians (11.3%)
1 - Novice (1.3%)

So it looks like there are a few candidates in the membership pool eligible for an upgrade. Don't be

afraid, start preparing now and taking the practice exams daily online. I found the best resource for me was QRZ. If you take a couple exams everyday from now until test time, I guarantee you will pass the exam. How is this possible? Simply because there are a fixed number of questions in the pool and if you take the exam everyday and study the ones you miss and understand why, you will 'ace' the final with flying colors.

If you are interested, please let me know. If there is enough interest we could schedule a couple of study sessions.

<http://www.qrz.com/ht/>

73

Ken-W9KB

Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Executive Board Meeting held at Trimax Wireless, Naples, Florida, on Tuesday, August 14, 2012.

Present: Bill Krauss, N1MMQ - President
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer
Uli Altwater, AG0X – Director
Harry Sevush, KD4JMV – Director

Absent: Robert Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President
Frank Halas, W4RBW - Director
Henrietta Horvay, KA1JVN – Director

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report – Ken-W9KB provided a treasurer's report commencing August 1st with a bank balance of \$3548.89. There were no additional recorded expenses as of August 14th. The current balance remains \$3,548.89.

Old Business: George-AA4GT discussed the Lighthouse of Collier Kid's Summer Camp which was held at the Naples Beach Hotel. This is a program for area children with sight impairments. Dave Weigel – KD4JEZ an area ham introduced the children to Morse code a few years ago. This year, he invited us to attend the final session and 'test' the students. Many of the children showed promise, but there were a few standouts. Dave requested the club help again next year, with the possibility of introducing a radio demonstration as part of the program.

Antenna Trailer Storage: The club trailers are being stored temporary at a club member's QTH and a permanent home for both is being sought. This item requires some leg work and a volunteer to coordinate.

Club Radio Repair: The club's Icom 746 Pro needs some minor repair work to restore 12v to the rear accessory connector. Several repair service options were discussed and it was decided to have the radio repaired prior to the Oil Well and next year's Field day.

New Business:

Uli-AG0X previously reported the cost(s) associated with installing a Comcast cable connection (\$50.00 per month) to the County Barn D-Star repeater site. However, this past month after a Comcast site visit, they quoted a very expensive installation fee for the proposed cable drop. Comcast would not cover the costs at the lower rate, but would at a higher commercial rate.

Uli then described Plan B, a T-Mobile wireless connection with a much lower monthly cost. A site visit is planned for later in the week to evaluate the connection reception and speed inside the tower shack. Editor's note: This connection works very well and is half the cost of the Comcast solution.

VE Testing: The topic of license upgrades and VE testing dates were discussed. The club membership list was reviewed in terms of license classes and potential candidates. They will be emailed with details of the upcoming test session. Editor's note: The testing date was set for 5:15pm - September 25th prior to our next club meeting.

Christmas Party: The board discussed different options for a Christmas party this year and agreed that last year's venue was a good value for the cost. Door prizes were discussed and DV Dongles were suggested as a means of generating some interest. Details will be forthcoming.

Specific assignments that were taken out of the meeting:

- 🕒 Uli-AG0X – Contact John Daly & Dustin regarding D-Star repeater
- 🕒 Ken-W9KB – Identify repair services for club Icom 746 Pro
- 🕒 Bill-N1MMQ – Contact Royal Woods re: Christmas Party venue

Next Board Meeting – Trimax Wireless, Tuesday September 11th @ 2:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

New Members

None this month.

News Items

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

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!"

Tips for Choosing your First Radio for Your Ham Station and getting on the AIR!

By N4UJW

I often get emails from new Technician class hams asking what should they buy for their first ham radio station. Questions such as "What is the best 2 meter radio?" "Should I start out with an ht or get a mobile for use in the house with a DC power supply?" "There are so many brands and models out there, I am so confused that I don't know what to buy and don't know where to start, can you help me?" What is the best antenna I should buy?" And on and on with similar questions asking me to help them decide on what is "best" for them. Well the simple answer is I do not know! Only you know what your goals and operating conditions are and the number of dollar bills in your wallet and many other variables. So here are some of the more popular questions I get with answers and tips that hopefully with help you decide on that first ham radio station to get you started on the air. Let us get started; I know you are in a hurry! I was back in 1988. You must ask yourself some or all of these questions: How much money do I want to spend? What do I want my ham station to do? Answers to these questions after much thought by you will be some of the main limiting factors for all of the questions below! Should I buy New or used? Both have disadvantages and advantages! Do your research and pick the choice that is "best" for your particular situation, wants and needs.

Should I operate only from inside the house OR the car, portable, OR all of these choices? So what is your decision? What is best for you?

If I decide to operate only from inside my house, do I have room for an outside antenna if needed for increased range and if so are there HOA or deed restrictions, limits on outside antennas, etc that will have to be overcome? Do I have room for hf antennas , which usually are large or long? Have you done your research?

Where do I live in relation to the nearest 2 meter repeater as far as distance is involved? There are many handy repeater listing sites on the web to get answers. Here is a good one: <http://rprr.amateur-radio.net/arm/rprr/index.html> Just follow the directions. 29

Are there 2 meter or 440 band repeaters near me? Same as above, see the link!

If I buy an ht, will it "hit" my local repeater from inside my house? You have to remember that your ht is very low power and mostly line of sight which is about 3 miles to the horizon at the 6 foot level of the antenna above the ground over flat terrain. There are many variables depending on how high and where the repeater antenna is relative to your location. Are there hills, mountains and other large metallic objects, etc in the way? Height is everything for your antenna and the repeater station! Get with some other local hams and see what they think.

Why would I want to use local repeaters or should I just operate simplex? Using one or more of your local repeaters will increase your range drastically compared to operating simplex! Remember that, as a good rule of thumb, simplex is very limited in range compared to using repeaters due to the frequencies used on the vhf/uhf ham bands. Most 2-meter repeaters are "free" to use and are what are called "open" as long as you have a minimum of a Technician license! If you limit yourself to simplex only, then you limit your range on 2 meters. Even with a more powerful mobile radio used in your home with an external antenna, your range may still be limited using simplex. Many variables include the type of antenna you use, your power output, how far the simplex or repeater station is from you, how high your antenna is and the other stations equipment, location and antenna height.

What antenna should I buy or build to put up on the house, apartment, condominium, etc? This is just like asking what car should you buy! The antenna is the station, not the radio! It and your feed line are the MOST important part of your station. Skimp on either and you will have a poor signal. Depending on whether you operate on the hf bands, or the higher frequency bands like 2 meters or the 440 band, will determine the size and type of antenna you will need. If you are interested in maximum range and DX, then a high gain Yagi is the way to go. Always buy coaxial cable that has the least loss per foot at 2 meters that you can afford. The choice of building or buying an antenna can get complicated and it all depends on its type, location, your abilities, budget, the proper equipment, tools, swr meter, time, do you need help installing it, etc.

If I operate mobile only, what is the best antenna for mobile use. Here again, there is that word "best"....only you can decide by comparing what is available and can it be mounted on your vehicle in the highest location near or on the center of its roof which is the "best" location for a mobile antenna. You want an antenna with a bit of gain if possible. Never mount an antenna next to the side of a metal vehicle where the radiator is within inches of metal. Top center of the highest main metal "mass" is the best location. A fiberglass roof directly under the antenna just will not work. Next best location is trunk mounted. Check the antenna reviews on the web and see what is out there and what you can mount on your particular vehicle.

What type of coax is needed for 2 meters if I have an outside antenna? Always get the lowest loss 50-ohm coaxial cable you can afford. Check the specifications before you buy! Stay away from the cheap rg58 types unless you have only a very few feet to use it. Few feet means less than 15 or 20...less is better due to lower loss per foot!

What brand of ht or mobile radio should I buy? I will answer this with questions. What car should you buy? Who makes the best fast food sandwich? As far as radios, it is totally your choice between the top 3 or 4 makers like Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood, and others not in any particular order or preference. Buy what you can afford and only what you will need given your operating goals and budget.

What is the best brand radio to buy among all of the companies that make 2-meter radios? See above! Why do I drive a different car than you? It fits my needs. 30

Should I buy a "dual bander".... you know a radio that has both the 2 meter and the 440 band? Yes and no! Strictly your choice... if you have a need for the addition of the 440 band and there are operators or stations that you desire to communicate with near you, and if you can afford the additional cost and complexities involved, then, yes. You might also want to consider using a dual bander for ham satellite communications, which can be, loads of fun...this will require a special dual band antenna along with a dual band radio! In addition, do not forget, a dual band radio will require a dual band antenna or one for each band!

What is the most simple 2 meter radio to operate? You asked so read on..... Any electronic device is "simple" to operate if you have learned how to use it. You can not expect a plug and play situation with ham radio equipment in most cases, especially when it come to simplicity of operation with modern "rigs". You were not born with the knowledge of how to turn on a microwave oven! The more bands, functions or "bells and whistles" a radio has, the more un-simple it becomes. Modern day menu driven radios can be very complicated as most new radios are. Can you imagine wanting to simply program in a repeater into memory in your radio and having to take a week studying the operator's manual just to find the section that tells you how? Here is an example. After searching the manual and finding the instructions on page 78...It says....to program a new repeater.... Push button C 2 times "quickly", wait for 1 second, then push and hold buttons A + B for 3 seconds then turn VFO A or B to desired frequency, press button A again while pressing button C to bring up the pl menu. Press button D until you see the correct pl tone on the display. Then press the set button. Change pl tone by pressing button B until the pl tone is displayed, then press and hold set button while pressing button for 2 seconds. Turn power off and wait 1 second then turn power back on..... then your new repeater should be set in memory...and on and on and on until the display blinks twice, etc, etc, etc. If this process fails, turn power off and push and hold buttons A and B while turning power back on to reset to default...then start over! Yuk! Also keep in mind that while doing the programming, you're using fingers 3 times the size of the buttons and by the time you get the programming done, the radio will be out of warranty! Only joking but this is something you have to consider when doing research on what to buy... ease of operating and programming! Try to find the operators manual online and take a look long BEFORE you buy the radio! If you have a new ham friend, take a look at his radio and see how it operates. Pick his brain.

Do I really need an swr meter if I don't plan on building my antenna? Simple answer is yes...a swr meter can be invaluable in troubleshooting coax or antenna problems that may and most likely will happen. Even most new out of the box antennas need adjusting for maximum performance when first installed for lowest swr and for periodic testing! If you plan to build your antennas, then a swr meter is necessary! If you can afford it, a good antenna analyzer can be very helpful.

In addition, there are hundreds of other questions that go on and on! Each ham radio station is different in one way or another. No two ham stations will be identical!

I have attempted to answer the more simple questions above but you can see by some of the questions that many hams ask when starting out that you have to do lots of research BEFORE you start buying a radio, antennas, etc and you have to set your goals and limits for your first ham radio 2 meter station. You should have already learned much of the answers in the questions above in preparing for your Technician exam. Refer back to your study guide and you might find the answer. Search Hamuniverse.com, you may find the answer here! If not email me and I will attempt to answer your question given enough detail by you. I need details, not broad ranging questions like "What is the best 2 meter ham station?", that make me guess at what you are asking! One last question that may be asked by you.

"If I am at the point that I am so frustrated with tuning my antenna or getting my radio on the air, where can I turn to for really good help?" One good tip for you is to check out local ham radio clubs for experienced hams in or near your hometown that may be willing to help you get started. Join and support your local ham radio club if you have one. You can do a search for ARRL affiliated clubs here! 31

Make as many local ham friends as possible and pick their brains! You will soon learn much more from those who have more experience than you. They can be invaluable to you with good local repeater and station setup information with hints and tips that will certainly get you started on the air. So where can I find a list of hams in my home town? Go to www.qrz.com look on the left side of the page, scroll down to "Site Menu" click, Scroll down to "Name Search", click, follow instructions on the next page that loads. You can search by zip code which is very helpful! Do not be surprised at the number of hams near you that you did not know were there!

If you think all of this is overwhelming at first, just wait until something goes wrong with your station... then you're learning experience with the world of ham radio will truly have begun! You have lots to learn so keep at it and have fun. 73, N4UJW

Editor's Note:

According to the FCC, every month in the United States, over 1,000 people get their first amateur radio (ham) license. This entry level license, Technician Class, comes with full privileges on VHF and UHF bands, as well as limited HF privileges. Because most new hams start with VHF and UHF, the most logical rig for the newly licensed operator is the "handie talkie", more commonly known as the HT. An HT is a high-tech version of the walkie-talkie. HTs get the new ham on the air immediately. They are limited however to line-of-sight communications, but because of repeaters located on tall buildings and mountain peaks, hams with HTs can talk for many miles. With the right antennas, HTs can even be used to talk to the International Space Station, space shuttle, or bounce signals off amateur radio satellites. The new ham can become trained in public service and emergency response, and volunteer to help with public events using their new HT. HTs are inexpensive compared to full-sized transceivers used as base stations.

Repeater Conduct *Taken From W4WXR*

Why do we need rules at all for repeater conduct or etiquette? We tend to assume that everyone knows the generally accepted rules. But, that could be careless of us and unfair to those who want or need to have a clearer definition of our expectations and requirements. It can also create discord when repeater users offend others by unknowingly breaking some unwritten rule. Activities that may be an irritation or

even a flagrant violation to one person might not be an issue at all to another. It's probably best for us to be clear about the rules we really think are important.

We understand that everyone slips once in a very great while, no matter how hard they try. But, we expect all users of the repeaters to do their very best to follow these few simple and obvious rules of repeater conduct.

1. **Always identify according to the regulations.** Correct operating procedure is a distinct characteristic of Amateur Radio. It's important that you convey to the public and to new hams the image that Amateur Radio operators really know what they are doing. A friendly style is great, but takes pains to operate professionally. Don't become sloppy. Amateur Radio regulations are largely self-enforced and we all need to work together towards these goals.
2. **Avoid lengthy conversations.** Please limit conversations to 15 or 20 minutes. Then take a good long break or move to another frequency. Other hams probably want to use the repeater but might not be interested in the subject your group is discussing. None of us should monopolize the repeater, even unintentionally. It's not enough to pause now and then and invite others to join in. They may just not be interested in the topic. Be polite, and don't be a "repeater hog."
3. **Do not engage soap boxing.** Soap boxing, which goes hand-in-hand with overly long conversations, is when people carry on a conversation on the repeater that is a thinly disguised broadcast. The subject is generally to "put down" an institution, group, or an individual for as wide as possible an audience. This is very objectionable to other repeater users and listeners. Using the club's repeaters as a platform for soap boxing is unacceptable. Conversations on the repeaters should be friendly ones. Do not make them negative commentaries on institutions, groups, or people. Don't use the repeaters to "put people down." Amateur Radio is not a broadcast medium – 97.113(5)(b). Are we talking about censorship? No, not exactly. A person may have the right to stand on the street and say bad things about someone. They don't have the same right when they are a guest in that person's house. When using repeaters, you are a guest operator. No one has any right to use the repeaters in ways that the club feels are objectionable.
4. **Do not routinely circumvent the time-out timer.** The repeater's time-out timer serves two purposes. The first purpose is to satisfy regulation 97.213(b) requiring us to limit repeater transmissions to a maximum of three minutes under automatic control. Two minutes for drive time during the morning and evening commute. Like many repeater owners, we also use the time-out timer as a way to encourage users to limit the length of individual transmissions. This gives everyone a chance to speak. Under normal conditions, it is rude to get around the time-out timer by momentarily dropping carrier to reset the timer or saying "Stand by, let me reset" and continuing. Always remember there may be an emergency, some-one may need the repeater. Please listen for the beep, wait a few seconds then continue! We have actually heard repeater conversations in which the average individual transmission was six to seven minutes. Even with only two stations talking, that would require each station to identify both at the beginning and the end of every transmission just to meet the 10-minute rule! Resetting the time-out timer should only be done as absolutely required and infrequently. Learn to speak concisely and limit the length of your individual transmissions.
5. **CB Lingo, "Q" codes and excessive phonetics.** Amateur Radio operators find the sound of CB lingo worse than fingernails on a blackboard. The main thing to remember is to just talk normal. Talk just like you would to someone in person. There's nothing different about talking over the radio. Using slang jargon just labels a person as an ex CB-er. Using any of the "Q" codes is just

about as bad, but is generally overlooked. You are talking on an FM repeater not a station in Europe on 80 Meter sideband. Just talk normal.

6. **Always yield the frequency to a breaking station.** This applies to calling or breaking stations you never know if they have an emergency or not...no more "station recognized". Always yield the frequency to an ARES/SKYWARN net, whether it is a practice net or not.
7. **Selling other items OTHER than ham related equipment.** Obviously selling any ham equipment is allowed as long as it's not done on a regular basis as a business. Although having run swap nets for years, some of the regulars were in the business of buying and selling. It was overlooked. But lately people in general conversations are advertising their vehicles, toys, other non ham related equipment and discussing prices. This is absolutely unacceptable on the repeater and will not be tolerated.
8. **Our repeaters are "G-Rated" 24 hours a day.** You never know who may be listening. Even late at night, there are generally people listening to the repeater, including non-hams. This is important to understand for several reasons. Our repeaters serve many purposes. One of the most important is the exposure it gives the hobby to the community. Any scanner can be used to listen to our repeaters. That's good – It's actually the most visible aspect of our club. It's one of our most effective forms of publicity. We want non-hams to know that Amateur Radio is an interesting hobby and a good group of people to get to know - something clean and educational - something they would want their kids to get in-involved in. Kids may or may not listen late at night, but their parents do. Think about CB. The government tolerates the language on CB partly because they only use a few kilohertz of spectrum. It's not a huge waste. Amateur Radio, on the other hand, uses a lot of valuable spectrum. There needs to be a noticeable difference between Amateur Radio and CB. Don't let our activities on the air become a weapon in the hands of people who want to discredit us. Let's all do our part to give Amateur Radio a positive image.

We want any ham that listens to us to think of us as good operators, not idiots. Any time we talk on the repeater, we are ambassadors for the hobby. Have you ever noticed how you like to listen to some repeaters, but sometimes you find a repeater that makes you roll your eyes and twist the knob? We lose good people because of what they hear on our repeaters.

Our rule is simple: absolutely no obscene, indecent or profane language at any time.

What gives the repeater owner the right to tell someone how to operate? All repeaters have rules. These rules often go beyond Part 97. And, users who refuse to comply with the repeater's rules can be told to stop using the repeaters. This is entirely at the judgment of the repeater trustees. Rule 97.205(e) says, "...Limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations is permissible." There are no qualifications – ifs, and's, or buts – to this rule. This isn't just the right to close a repeater. In fact, the ARRL says, "...a repeater does not have to be listed as being "closed" in The ARRL Repeater Directory in order to have a limited access." (Source: The ARRL's FCC Rule Book) The terms "open" and "closed" don't appear in the regulations at all! Listing a repeater as "open" means you don't have to be a member in order to use it. But, you still must follow the rules of the repeater.

The FCC supports a trustee's right to control the use of their repeaters. The letter reproduced below is an example. On Dec. 13, 2001, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote to a Mr. Banks because he had not stopped using a repeater when asked. (Reading between the lines it seems that Mr. Banks must have argued that the repeater was "open".) Mr. Hollingsworth explained that a repeater doesn't need to be "closed" for a trustee to require compliance among the users. Banks had to comply or expect FCC enforcement action. Please take time read this letter. Mr.

Hollingsworth can be reached at 717-338-2502 if you wish to discuss this. "A repeater is not a public utility - you don't have a "right" to use it! When you are using someone else's repeater you are, in effect, a visitor in the owner's station. So, you should conduct yourself accordingly. If you use that station in a manner that the owner finds objectionable, that person has every right to revoke your privilege of using it!" Beyond the FCC minimum requirements, it's up to each repeater owner to set their own operating rules. A repeater user needs to try to fit in. If the rules for the repeaters are uncomfortable for you and do not suit your personal needs or style we encourage you to try other repeaters or even try talking on simplex.

Newsletter Articles (always) Wanted!

Working on a new kit or home brew project? Have you recently received a rare or interesting QSL card? Received a new DXCC award or band endorsement? Or just have a cool photo (ham radio related) ham cartoon or joke, or some soap box comments to share with other club members? Why not consider submitting an article for the Newsletter. I am always looking for material for the Newsletter and feedback from club members goes a long way towards keeping the Newsletter interesting as well as stamping the club "personality" on our monthly publication. Articles should be submitted electronically. I particularly look forward to putting a new edition together every month.

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
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