



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMXII No. 10 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
October 2012

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The next Club Meeting will be held **October 23<sup>th</sup>** 2012 at 7.00pm at the Red Cross in North Naples

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## Nickels & Dimes

October marks the beginning of a new season here in Naples as our early birds begin returning from their northern retreats, and in late September we once again commence our monthly membership meetings at the Red Cross.

Last month, we offered a VE test session before the meeting and had quite a successful turnout. We gained three new members who will help energize the club. In fact, Nate-KK4LVT and Caleb-KK4LVV showed up to participate in the PA QSO Party out at Joe's Tiki Hut with George-AA4GT and company. A follow up VE session will be offered October 23th to help move these guys up to Generals before the contest log is submitted.

I attended Paificon in Santa Clara, CA on October 11-13th. The ARRL was there in full force. I met many of the department managers and columnists, including the President Kay Craigie - N3KN... I had met her husband earlier at a technical session that we both attended and he was proud to introduce her afterwards.

The Mt. Diablo radio club did a great job organizing the event and their seminars were top notch. I spent all day Friday attending an antenna forum. Saturday, I listened to Laura Smith - FCC Council for Amateur Radio Enforcements, speak for an hour... she was great! This was followed by ARES, HF Propagation, Smith Chart, and D-Star forums. By the end of the day, my head was 'stretched' as the locals say in the Silicon Valley. For good measure, on Sunday, I attended a two more forums including one on "ARRL Resources for Radio Clubs". I did learn a few things that I hope to incorporate in our club in the next few months.

I strolled through the flea market and vendors areas, but to my wife's delight I did not buy a single item. However, I did score a few URLs... for later shopping over the internet, with free shipping, no tax etc.

I would highly recommend this show to anyone, it's a great vacation destination and there is nothing quite like having your head 'stretched' a bit to keep your radio synapses firing.

Closer to home, the board discussed a number of projects to stimulate community interest and attract perspective members. For instance, there are well over 500 licensed hams in Collier County. If you personally know of someone who is sitting on the sidelines, invite them to our next meeting; better yet offer to drive them. If that is not possible pass along their name(s) and we will include them on an upcoming mailing.

Ken-W9KB  
ARASWF Treasurer

Monthly Bonus Links:

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/PacificonSmithChart.pdf>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SimSmith/>

<http://www.pacificon.org/>

## Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

### Executive Board Meeting held at Trimax Wireless, Naples, Florida, on Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

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

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

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

**Treasurer's Report** – Ken-W9KB provided a treasurer's report commencing October 1<sup>st</sup> with a bank balance of \$3472.39. The expenditures incurred this month were \$90 for an Echolink UHF station setup (WA9ZIF), \$6.15 for postage, and \$23.50 deposited from the September's 50/50 drawing. The current balance was \$3,399.74.

**Old Business:** The group discussed the antenna configuration at the Marbella site and possible solutions to improve the signal coverage in the south Naples area. Uli-AG0X is gathering some cost information for various proposals.

George-AA4GT discussed the PA QSO Party (Oct. 13-14) and requested some PR in the upcoming newsletter and/or club emailing.

**New Business:** The board discussed a number of projects to increase member participation while providing community outreach and attracting new members.

- "Santa Grams" at the Coastland mall
- Lighthouse of Collier project
- Oil Well/Keewaydin Special Events Stations

**Echolink:** It was discussed and agreed upon to order a replacement interface for the Echolink setup. Two vendors were suggested Signalink and MFJ the estimated replacement price is \$100.

**VE Testing:** The next testing date was set for October 23<sup>th</sup> prior to our next club meeting. Depending upon the success of the sessions, we may continue to offer testing sessions in 2013. Timing would be prior to scheduled club meetings.

The board proposed a VE study session after the first of the year. Time and place determined based upon perspective students feedback.

**Christmas Party:** Bill-N1MMQ contacted the Royal Woods and has scheduled the Christmas party for December 4<sup>th</sup>. Menu items were discussed and will be finalized after soliciting membership feedback.

**Specific assignments** that were taken out of the meeting:

- Uli-AG0X – Obtain Antenna cost information
- Ken-W9KB – Research & order Echolink Interface
- Bill-N1MMQ – Contact Coastland Mall re: Santa Gram Project
- Bill-N1MMQ – Contact Royal Woods re: Christmas Party menu

**Next Board Meeting** – Trimax Wireless, Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Bills, W9KB  
Secretary

# **Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida**

Regular Membership Meeting held at the Naples American Red Cross.  
Tuesday, September 25<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

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Meeting Called To Order:**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sixteen members were present along with seven guests in attendance.

### **Introductions:**

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call sign. Our guests included:

Nate Boelk, Caleb Hopper, Eric-KF4IXA, Bob Mitchell-AB9DU,  
Sue Mitchell-KB9ZEJ, Frank Raab-KK4DQJ, and John Liddell.

### **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 September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the club's bank balance was \$3,548.89 with expenses of \$150 and an ending balance of \$3398.89.

### **Officers' Reports:**

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

### **Old Business:**

Bill-N1MMQ announced that the Wednesday night information net still was active. He encouraged club members to check-in regularly.

**New Business:** George-AA4GT announced the PA QSO Party will be run this year at Joe Goggin's 'Tiki Hut' over the October 13-14<sup>th</sup> weekend. All members were encouraged to attend for a few hours and try their hand at contest style operation. The newly minted hams, Nate Boelk and Caleb Hopper both indicated they would attend.

Bill-N1MMQ announced that the Christmas Party would again be at the Royal Woods Country Club this year. The price will be \$25.00 per person and the date is set for Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. There will be door prizes, plus an exciting 50/50 drawing.

There is a second VE session scheduled prior to the next regular membership meeting October 23<sup>th</sup> at 5:5pm. We have four candidates interested in taking the General exam and one candidate interested in taking the Technician exam. Walk-ins will be welcome.

**Special Program:** Ken-W9KB demonstrated his DV Dongle, and suggested that it is a great way to try D-Star on the cheap. This USB device decodes and encodes the audio stream that is routed over the Internet to either a repeater or reflector. He described a 'reflector' as a group of repeaters linked together in a conference bridge.

[http://www.dvdongle.com/DV\\_Dongle/Home.html](http://www.dvdongle.com/DV_Dongle/Home.html)

Eric Gissendaner-KF4IXA also demonstrated his DVAP (Digital Voice Assess Point) along with his D-Star HT. The DVAP is similar to the DV Dongle (same manufacture) in that the DVAP connects via USB to a computer. However, it differs from the DV Dongle in that the decode/encode audio stream is processed within the D-Star HT. Eric stated the advantage of this setup is that it allows him freedom to operate over a fairly wide area (1/4 mile) depending upon his antenna placement. This setup serves in effect as a D-Star 'hotspot'.

Erik made a contact with a VK (Australia) to demonstrate how easily it all works.

The D-Star topic was well received by those present as evidenced by the extended Q&A that following the presentation.

[http://dvapdongle.com/DV\\_Access\\_Point\\_Dongle/Home.html](http://dvapdongle.com/DV_Access_Point_Dongle/Home.html)

**50/50:** The 50/50 raffle was \$23.50.

**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

### October 23, 2012, Test Session

There will be a license test session held immediately prior to the October meeting on October 23rd at the American Red Cross building, at 5:30 PM. Candidates and VEs should plan to arrive at 5:15 PM to get settled and prepared for the exam.

Anyone applying for a new license will need to bring a photo ID (drivers license, etc.), a ball point pen, and \$15.00 examination fee. Exact change will be appreciated.

Anyone planning to upgrade their present license will need also to bring their original and one photo copy of their amateur license, and the original and one photo copy of any non-expired CSCEs from a previous exam date. (Photo copies will be retained and sent to ARRL VEC).

To make an appointment, please contact Ken Bills, W9KB in advance.

### October 23, 2012, Membership Meeting

A regular membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 23rd, at 7:00 PM, at the American Red Cross building at 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive, Naples. Everyone is welcome! You do not have to be an ARASWF member to attend this meeting. All interested persons (and interesting persons) are invited! A Nominating Committee is scheduled to be appointed at this meeting, to report back to the membership at the November meeting their recommendations and make nominations for 2013 officers and directors.

The primary 146.670(-) club repeater WB2QLP is on the air! PL is 136.5

## **Monthly "Extra" Input**

Please welcome our three newly minted ARASWF members from our last VE session:

Rafael Gonzalez - KK4LVU

Caleb Hopper - KK4LWV

Nathan Boelk - KK4LVT

Also, Congratulations to Tim-KC4SSD now an Extra Class Operator!

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**FOR SALE:** ICOM IC-756PROII, matching speaker and power supply,  
Bencher 1097 key, as well as an Astron RS-35M power supply.

239-877-3860

Tom Shuster - KI4HEX



## 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)