



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMXII No. 11 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
November 2012

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**The next Club Meeting will be held November 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 7.00pm at the Red Cross, Naples.**

## Treasurer's

### From the President's Shack

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#### Nickels & Dimes

November signals the end of our club year, nominations for club officers and board members are currently open and elections will be held at our next meeting on November 27<sup>th</sup>. I'm running for cover next year... I would like to run again for Secretary/Treasurer again since I have spend the last eleven months learning the job. I promise I will made different mistakes next year!

AA4GT is leading the nomination committee this year, so if you have any interest in serving on the board next year, please contact George.

We had another busy month, starting with a VE session before last month's meeting. We had three members upgrade to General and one new Technician. Congratulations to:

Nathan Boelk – KK4LVT (G)

Michael Day – KA4YSM (G)

Caleb Hopper – KK4LVV (G)

Gary Weinberg – KK4MIW (T)

Joe-K9KNW hosted a Winter Field Day planning session out at the Tiki Hut and we set-up the club radios and worked a few contacts in the Kentucky QSO Party. George-AA4GT bagged a few new counties. Afterwards, we feasted on hot dogs and chips.

We have a few note worthy upcoming events, the first is the annual Christmas Party which will be held at the Royal Woods Country Club on December 4<sup>th</sup> more details will follow in the newsletter. The new club officers and board members will be installed at this meeting.

Bill-N1MMQ is launching a new project *Santa Grams* which will be held at the Coastland Mall during the Holiday season. The idea is to use National Traffic System forms and forward messages to the North Pole.

Harry-KD4JMV is working on a swap meet which will be held on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Church of Life on Shadowlawn Drive between Davis Blvd and East Tamiami Trail. This will start at the crack of dawn and run until noon. Remember, the early birds get the deals! Watch the newsletter for details and map.

I would be remiss not to mention D-Star. There has been a lot of activity on our local repeater AA4PP when comparing with other south Florida repeaters: W4BUG (Ft. Lauderdale), W4AES (Orlando) and W4ICY (St. Petersburg) for traffic volumes.

Ken-W9KB

ARASWF Treasurer

Monthly Bonus Links:

<http://dstar101.com/>

<http://query.ki4swy.org/>

<http://www.dstarusers.org/repeaters.php>

## Meeting Minutes

### Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

**Regular Membership Meeting held at the Naples American Red Cross.  
Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

#### **Officers and**

#### **Directors Present:**

Bill Krauss, N1MMQ – President  
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President  
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer  
Uli Altvater, AGØX – Director  
Frank Halas, W4RBW – Director  
Henrietta Horvay, KA1JVN – Director  
Harry Sevush, KD4JMV – Director

#### **Absent:**

Bob Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called To Order:** The President called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty two members were in attendance.

**Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves by name and call sign.

**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 October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the club's bank balance was \$3,472.39 with expenses of \$217.86 (Echolink/Postage) and deposits of \$23.50 leaving an ending balance of \$3,278.03.

**Officers' Reports:** Ken-W9KB reported the D-Star repeater was up and running nicely, including the linking function. Reflectors (Internet conference rooms) can be linked and unlinked with simple DMTF tones. Our local two meter (module C) repeater will be linked directly to REF030C temporarily for users to gain an appreciation of traffic protocol.

Bill-N1MMQ reported that the club FM repeater performance was improved, however the Echolink connection is still remains down. A new UHF radio interface has been received and is being tested. There was some discussion about relocating the Echolink gateway computer at the repeater site, eliminating the need for a UHF link. That solution requires an Internet connection at the repeater site and will be investigated.

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

George-AA4GT reported the PA QSO Party was held this year at Joe Goggin's 'Tiki Hut' over the October 13-14<sup>th</sup> weekend. Members participation was good including minted Nate-KK4LVT Boelk.

**New Business:** Bill-N1MMQ announced a "Santa Gram's" holiday project that he plans to run at the Coastland Mall. The idea is to provide radio grams to friends and family (including the big guy at the North pole). These will be relayed and delivered via amateur radio. The intent is to gain public awareness for amateur radio in our community and attract a few new members.

Harry-KD4JMV reported he has located a site for the "Free Flea Swap", The Tree of Life Church on Shadowlawn south of Davis Blvd. He has contacted the County regarding permitting. This event is planned for January. The intent is to provide club members an opportunity to swap or sell their old equipment and raise a few dollars for the club.

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.

The club elections will be held at next month's membership meeting. Frank-W4RBW, George-AA4GT, and Uli-AG0X were appointed to the nominating committee at the last board meeting. Members interesting in running for an office or director's position should contact one of these committee members.

**Special Program:** Bruce-K9PWQ described an Automatic Mobile Power Control project he is building. This project was featured in the November 2012 issue of QST. If there is interest, this is something members could build as a club project.

Uli-AG0X provided an in depth description of the MARS program. The focus was geared towards the opportunities MARS offers club members. Uli outlined the requirements and training required to become a licensed MARS operator, and net operations to the extent that he could without breaching security.

**50/50:** The 50/50 raffle was won by Uli-AG0X. He donated his winnings to the club. \$41.00 will be deposited in the club's checking account. Thank you, Uli!

**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

<b>Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida</b>
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**Executive Board Meeting held at Trimax Wireless, Naples, Florida, on Tuesday, November 13, 2012.**

**Present:** Bill Krauss, N1MMQ - President  
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President  
Robert Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President  
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer  
Uli Altvater, AG0X – Director  
Frank Halas, W4RBW – Director  
Henrietta Horvay, KA1JVN – Director  
Harry Sevush, KD4JMV – Director

**Absent:** None

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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 November 1<sup>st</sup> with a bank balance of \$3214.78. The no expenditures were incurred this month thus far and \$12.50 deposited a dues check. The current balance was \$3227.28.

**Old Business:** Bill-N1MMQ reported that the Echolink connection was restored to the club repeater. Some connectivity issues were reported by iPhone app users. Uli-AG0X mentioned there is a possibly of relocating the Echolink gateway computer at the Marbella site, pending an Internet connection being investigated by Tim-KC4SSD. This would eliminate the UHF remote link connection and provide a more robust connection. The group also discussed the Marbella site antenna configuration and possible solutions to improve the signal coverage to the south Naples area. A motion was made by Henrietta-KA1JVN to allocate \$600 to fund maintenance and improvements to the repeater system. The motion was approved without dissent.

Uli-AG0X reported the results of his recent visit with John Daly to an Immokalee County Repeater (280 ft) site. The County would like to add repeater coverage north into Hendry County, ideally as far as LaBelle. Uli shared some calculations he had made and suggested this would only provide fringe coverage from the Immokalee site. Addition investigation will be required.

George-AA4GT reported that a slate of officers has been organized for submission at the next general membership meeting.

Bill-N1MM reported he had made several calls to the Activities Manager at the Coast Mall regarding a proposed Santa Grams project. At this time, they were not very supportive of the project concept. He reported they did not see much benefit to the mall. Other venues were suggested and discussed. The board finally agreed to table this project proposal, with the recommendation that discussions with the mall management be initiated in the June/July time frame next year.

Harry-KD4JMV discussed the club swap meet he is planning for next year at the Tree of Life Church in East Naples. After review of south Florida ham-fest calendars, it was decided January 12<sup>th</sup> would be the best date. The event is scheduled to run from 6:00am until noon. All sellers will be charged \$2.00 per parking space. General admission will be free.

### **New Business:**

The next VE testing date was set for November 27<sup>th</sup> prior to our next club meeting.

**Christmas Party:** Bill-N1MMQ finalized arrangements with the food manger at the Royal Woods. It has been scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>. Menu items will include a choice of beef, chicken or salmon and on request a vegetarian plate. The price this year will be \$25.00 per person which will include door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. There will be a cash bar and happy hour starts at 6:30pm

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

- 🕒 Uli-AG0X – Obtain Repeater & Antenna cost information
- 🕒 Ken-W9KB – Christmas party name tags & ARRL door prizes

**Next Board Meeting** – Trimax Wireless, Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Bills, W9KB  
Secretary

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### New Members

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

Rafael Gonzalez - KK4LVU

Caleb Hopper - KK4LVV

Nathan Boelk - KK4LVT

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

## News Items

It's that time of year to celebrate the holidays. Please plan to join us and share some fun with your fellow club members. This year's party will again be held at the beautiful Royal Woods Country Club. The date, time and place are listed below.

Please plan to bring a check to the next meeting or at least RSVP as soon as possible so we can get a good attendance count.

The cost this year is \$25.00 per person which includes a plated dinner, door prizes, and one free chance at 50/50 (of course you can purchase a few more). This year's menu will include a choice of beef tips, chicken Marsala, smoked salmon or a vegetarian plate upon special request, please indicate your choice when you RSVP.

Royal Woods Country Club

4300 Royal Woods Blvd.

Naples, FL 34112

Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup>

Happy Hour 6:30pm

Dinner 7:00pm

\$25.00 per person

Don't wait on this event as we may sellout.

73

Ken-W9KB

# **ARASWF Holiday Party**

**December 4, 2012**

## **Royal Woods Country Club**

\$25.00 per person

Includes dinner, door prizes & 50/50 raffle

Menu

Beef Tips

Smoked Salmon

Chicken Marsala

Vegetarian Plate upon early special request

***RSVP - w9kb@comcast.net***

# **D-STAR REPEATER IS ON THE AIR!**



The D-STAR Repeater is fully functional.

Program the following frequencies for local use:

	<u>URCALL</u>	<u>RPT1</u>	<u>RPT2</u>
145.490 MHz. -0.600 offset:	CQCQCQ••	AA4PP••C	AA4PP••G
441.500 MHz +5.000 offset:	CQCQCQ••	AA4PP••C	AA4PP••G

(NOTE: " • " represents a "space" )

## **ECHOLINK IS OPERATIONAL AGAIN!**

Harry KD4JMV reports that Echolink is up and running again on the club repeater, WB2QLP (146.670 (-) 136.5PL) , thanks to the efforts of Bill, N1MMQ. Our node number is 389568.

To use the Echolink, key the repeater, identify with your call sign, then enter " \* " (asterisk) before the node number you are calling. When finished, enter " # " (pound sign) to disconnect the echo link.

We hope our seasonal members who are beginning to return to Naples will utilize the Echolink to stay in touch with their friends "back home". Also, we encourage them to announce their arrival on the Naples Info Net, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, on the club repeater WB2QLP.

To keep current with what is going on with ARASWF, everyone is encouraged to visit the club web site [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org), at least on a weekly basis. The web site is updated daily with current happenings, and has maps to the various events that take place, along with other items of interest.

Please, support your club, and support your web site.

**HAM RADIO IN SPACE: HAMS ASKED TO HELP FIND MISSING F1 CUBESAT** An article published on the AMSAT-UK website reports that the F Space team at the F-P-T University in Vietnam are requesting Amateur Radio operators continue to listen for their F-1 Cube Sat. The mini satellite went missing shortly after it was deployed from the International Space Station on October 4 but never heard on Earth. F 1 was expected to begin transmitting beacon alternatively on its main and backup channels 30 minutes after deployment. Its operating frequencies are on 437.485 MHz while in daylight and 145.980 in satellite darkness. More information and guide to download F-1 telemetry decoder can be found at [tinyurl.com/f1-info](http://tinyurl.com/f1-info). Decoded data can be submitted on using a File Transfer Protocol client to thuvt (at) fpt (dot) edu (dot) vn. Audio recordings are highly appreciated. (F1 Cube sat Team)

### **Vanity Call Sign Fee Increased On September 4 2012**

On August 3, the FCC announced via a Final Rule in the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 80 cents, from \$14.20 to \$15. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 4, 2012, the first day the new fee is in effect. Earlier this year, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule making and Order (NPRM), seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

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 10 year 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.

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. According to the FCC, the fees that are collected from vanity call signs are used to offset the cost of monitoring and researching new call sign requests to prevent the issuance of duplicate call signs. When asked why the fee is payable upon renewal, the FCC stated in 2011 that "[more than likely, fees that are collected only on new issues and at the time of changes in call signs will not generate sufficient revenues to offset the cost of managing and monitoring this work at the Commission, the FCC stated in 2011. Therefore, we conclude that the basis upon which the Commission collects fees on Amateur Radio Vanity call signs will not change."

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 16 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). In Fiscal Year 2012, the FCC expects to grant 14,300 vanity call signs, bringing in \$214,500 from the vanity call sign program, and looks to recover a total of \$339,844,000 in fees from all the Services that it regulates.



### **ARRL -- Your One-Stop Resource for Amateur Radio News and Information**

Join or Renew Today! ARRL membership includes *QST*, Amateur Radio's most popular and informative journal, delivered to your mailbox each month.

Subscribe to *NCJ -- the National Contest Journal*. Published bi-monthly, features articles by top testers, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint and QSO Parties.

Subscribe to *QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters*. Published bi-monthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members: Subscribe to the *ARES E-Letter* (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the *ARRL Contest Update* (bi-weekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts -- and much more!

Find us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. ARRL offers a wide array of products to enhance your enjoyment of Amateur Radio

## **N0D - - Special Event Station celebrating The End of the world!**

That's right, the end is finally near. According to one of the three Mayan Calendars, the End of the world will occur on Dec 21, 2012. To celebrate this literally once in a lifetime event, Special Event Station N0D (Now Zero Days) will be activated on 10-80 meters and on several satellite passes for three days during and after (?) the end of the world. December 20; is a celebration of the end of the world. December 21, the day of destruction, we will be on the air as long as possible. December 22<sup>nd</sup>, that is a little iffy right now.

Amateur radio stations around the crumbling globe are invited to contact N0D, who will be operating from a secret, undisclosed location. Our operating schedule may be a little erratic as destruction rains down upon us and as long as our antennas hold out. Those of you who may be looking skyward for the end of the world, N0D will be operating on several satellite passes.

This will provide cosmic, maybe even intergalactic coverage for the end of the world as we know it. Thanks to Allen, our Doomsday press release has been picked up by the AMSAT News Service and will be carried in a future bulletin in about a week or so.

You can celebrate Doomsday by contacting N0D directly on the air. Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Doomsday number.

QSL with SASE to KK5W. If Doomsday actually does happen, we regret that a QSL will not be possible so hold on to your SASE until the 22<sup>nd</sup> at least. Check out our website for a preview of the N0D QSL card.

Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Doomsday number. Official Doomsday stations will receive the Doomsday Station Certificate.

It is not entirely clear exactly how it will happen. Will it be a cataclysmic shift in the earth's magnetic field, Global Warming on steroids, earthquakes, volcanoes floods, global thermonuclear war, meteor collision, the 10 plagues of Egypt UFO invasion who knows ? There are scientists, soothsayers and philosophers on both sides of the question. Either way it will be an event worth remembering.. .or maybe there will be no one left to remember it?

More information is available on the Official N0D website, [www.nowzerodays.com](http://www.nowzerodays.com)  
You can also e-mail the N0D team at [N0D.Doomsday@gmail.com](mailto:N0D.Doomsday@gmail.com). Check our website for the latest updates. [www.nowzerodays.com](http://www.nowzerodays.com)

## Trading Post

**FOR SALE:** New-in-the-box Rohn R-SA253UA Universal Side-Arm Mount. I'm asking \$50, and can deliver to Lee, Collier, or Hendry Counties. Pick-up by appointment, shipping will require a price quote. Located in Golden Gate Estates.

Thanks,  
Dave Sheppard  
KJ4NKJ

## 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)