



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXII No. 7 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
July 2012

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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

June was a blur... Field Day 2012 results are in the books and our stations and equipment are packed away for next year. We scored 3,382 points, almost a 1,000 points more than last year score (2,446). A big part of that increase was 950 bonus points, including a 100 points for media & press coverage. I hope many of you caught us on WINK news. Frank-W4RBW did a great job promoting our club and amateur radio. Try the link listed below of one of the three segments that ran June 24th.

<http://www.winknews.com/Local-Florida/2012-06-24/Ham-Radio-Operators-hold-field-day-event-this-weekend>

Although the numerical results were better than last year, club participation was down somewhat. There were so many memorable moments that pictures and film could not capture.... Wind, rain, lightning, and antennas a very exciting mix. Plus you had to be there to enjoy the annual Field Day Chilli that Bob-W2HI graciously prepared.

Special thanks to Bob Morrell-AH8M who has loaned use his antenna trailer for the past several Field Day events. This year Bob has decided to donate his trailer to the club. His generous gift will give us permanently two tri-banders for Field Day and the means to improve our score again next year.

Kudos to all who attended Field Day and helped with set up and tear down. Without you it would have been impossible to score any points.

Bill-N1MMQ, Uli-AG0X, and I attended the ARRL SFL Town Hall meeting held in Ft. Myers this past weekend. Dave Fowler-K4DLF our Section Manager presented news and updates from the League. There were breakout groups for DX and Contesting, ARRL appointments, and DXCC card checking. However, the highlight of the day were the section awards. We had several club members recognized for their service to the club and efforts to promote amateur radio. Hopefully, the following individuals have received their awards in the mail from Dave and this is not a surprise!

- 🕒 George Tomlinson - AA4GT ~ Past President and Field Day Chairman
- 🕒 Bob Graf - W2HI ~ Club Secretary for five years.... this was a HUGE effort!
- 🕒 David Worboys - KG4ZLB ~ Past VP, Secretary, and current newsletter editor
- 🕒 Harry Sevush - KD4JMV ~ Club Director & VHF net control coordinator

We are planning a club celebration for August 12th, please check further in the newsletter for details.

73

Ken-W9KB

Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Executive Board Meeting held at Trimax Wireless, Naples, Florida, on Tuesday, July 10, 2012.

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

Absent: Bill Krauss, N1MMQ - President
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 June 1st with a bank balance of \$3918.19. The current balance as of July 10th was \$3,541.39 which included club (Field Day) expenses (401.80) and dues deposits \$25.

Old Business: Ken-W9KB discussed Field Day results (June 23 & 24) held at Veteran's Park. The club made 878 contacts (2482 points) during the twenty hour operating period. The club also scored 950 bonus points for operating five radios on emergency power, having press & media coverage, holding the event in a public place, having a public information packet, having Dan Summers our Collier County EOC Director visit the Field Day site with the Emergency Mobile Command Center, and finally submitting our results online. Several members came out over the weekend to participate.

New storage boxes for the trailers were discussed. Ken-W9KB indicated Northern Tool has aluminum boxes in the \$300-400 price range. It was suggested that eBay and Amazon might offer more competitive pricing. This item was tabled pending further investigation.

New Business:

Uli-AG0X discussed several ways he has evaluated to provide a secure internet link to the D-Star repeater located at the County Barn Facility. The most reasonable cost solution may be a

Comcast cable connection (\$60.00 per month). The board discussed various ways to fund this monthly expense. Membership pledges, HT raffles, and equipment auctions were considered.

D-Star plans are progressing very well. It should be operation by 4th quarter this year. Editor's note: DV Dongle is a reasonably priced way to explore the D-Star world. Check out www.qth.com periodically for deals on used equipment.

VE Testing: The topic of license upgrades and VE testing was raised. The board discussed the need for study classes and timing for a fall VE test session. The club membership list will be reviewed and a list of potential upgrades identified. The board will attempt to organize a study program to accommodate the majority. Further timing and location information will be forthcoming.

Specific assignments that were taken out of the meeting:

- 🕒 Uli-AG0X – Contact John Daly & Dustin regarding D-Star repeater.
- 🕒 Ken-W9KB – Follow-up Antenna Trailer storage box pricing.
- 🕒 Ken-W9KB – Identify license upgrade candidates from club roster.

Next Board Meeting – Trimax Wireless, Tuesday August 14th @ 2:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

New Members

None this month.

News Items

As many of you may know, one of the projects the club is pursuing this year is the resurrection of the county D-Star repeater... many may ask why, particularly when our local FM repeaters are idle some much of the time. I would suggest that D-Star is the future of VHF/UHF repeater systems and the next generation of hams will view FM systems, like the we currently do the old Collins S-line radios of the past.

Uli-AG0X found this link and passed it along to me... I just finished watching all three videos, and all I can say is WOW! I learned quite a bit more about D-Star. John-WD4QDX is a great presenter... hang in there watch all three videos, as they say he saves the best for last.

While I'm personally more of an HF guy, this technology really excites me. I am even more excited to get the D-Star system up and running the end of this year.

As I have mentioned earlier, you can get into D-Star system without a radio... check out DV Dongles. I have purchased a couple of used ones on www.qth.com for about \$100 each. While there are none currently available, that changes weekly.

http://arvideonews.com/hrn/HRN_Episode_0012B.html

<http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-009318>

73
Ken-W9KB

You Are Invited to the CW Open

- *The CW Open is 3 separate 4-hour CW contests.*
- * Sept 1: 1200-1559Z; Sept 1: 2000-2359Z; Sept 2: 0400-0759Z
- * Participate in 1, 2 or all 3 sessions
- * 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters – work 1 or more bands
- *Each session is scored separately*
- * Awards for each session
- * Awards for combined session scores
- *Many contest logs support CW Open (see ****www.cwops.org/cwopen.html***)
- * Exchange is Serial Number and Given Name (e.g. 4 alex)

- * Score is 1 point per call sign worked *once per band*
- * Multiplier is 1 multiplier per call sign worked *once per session*
- * Each session is logged separately and begins with 0 points and 0 multipliers
- *Awards*
- * Beautiful trophy for winner of each session
- * Beautiful plaques for HP, LP and QRP winners of each session
- * Beautiful trophy for winner of combined session scores
- * Beautiful plaques for HP, LP and QRP winners of combined session scores
- *Categories*
- * HP=legal power above 100 watts
- * LP = 100 watts or less
- * QRP= 5 watts or less
- * Single ops
- * Teams of single ops (see www.cwops.org/cwopen.html)

<<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?CWops/b6d91425e9/077d029b95/e6975f855c>>)

- * Packet, Skimmer, and Reverse Beacon systems are allowed!
- * *For All Rules go to www.cwops.org/cwopen.html

South Florida DX Assoc.

SFDXA WebSite: <http://qsl.net/k4fk>

New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Effective July 1, 2012

The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool -- released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in January 2012 -- becomes effective on Sunday, July 1. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions -- E1D09,

E2A14 and E6E10 -- have been removed from the new pool. The current Technician class question pool that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current General class pool that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015.

Lightning has special significance in Florida, since our state leads the nation in lightning strikes.

Unfortunately, this means that Florida also leads the nation deaths and injuries caused by lightning.

LIGHTNING MYTHS

Perhaps the greatest lightning myth is that if it is not raining, lightning can't strike. Lightning has been known to strike up to 10 miles or more away from the main thunderstorm core, and frequently occurs within 5 miles of the thunderstorm core. This type of lightning is often referred to as a "bolt from the blue", but actually originates from the sides of a nearby thunderstorm cloud and extends out horizontally from the cloud for a few miles before reaching the ground. At least three south Florida lightning-related deaths in recent years were from lightning striking outside the rain area. Although many people believe this type of lightning is rare, it occurs in virtually every thunderstorm. The key to remaining safe from this type of lightning strike is to keep an eye to the sky and watch for darkening skies on the horizon along with distant rumbles of thunder. Don't just look overhead for signs of an approaching storm! Although being inside a hard-topped metal vehicle is safer than being outside, it can also provide a false sense of safety and should never be a substitute for going indoors unless there is no completely enclosed building nearby. Vehicles are relatively safe providing that you are not in contact with the outside shell of the car. This means placing your arms and hands on your lap and away from the window and steering wheel. Convertible automobiles offer no protection from lightning.

LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS

When outdoors, keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening clouds, flashes of lightning or increasing wind which may be signs of an approaching thunderstorm. Get to a safe shelter indoors immediately if you hear thunder. Remain indoors for 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Do not be fooled by sunshine or blue sky. Fully enclosed buildings are the safest places to be during a thunderstorm, but even here there are places to avoid. Stay away from open doors, windows, screened porches and open garages, stoves, metal pipes, sinks and plugged-in electrical devices. Stay out of the shower or bathtub and off the toilet. Do not use a corded telephone or computer. Unplug major appliances such as televisions and air conditioners. Lightning can enter the house through electrical, telephone and plumbing connections. Avoid trees, water and metal objects as these are especially vulnerable to lightning strikes and offer absolutely no security from lightning. For boaters, a measure of last resort is to go under deck or crouch down in the center of the boat away from the mast or other metal hardware. Rubber boots offer little protection. Swimming, wading, snorkeling and scuba diving are not safe activities during thunderstorms. Persons struck by lightning receive a severe electrical shock and may be burned, however they carry no electrical charge and can be attended to safely. An unresponsive person can be revived by applying CPR. Other persons who appear only stunned may also need medical attention.

It is very important to know the weather forecast before you head outdoors, especially if you are responsible for the safety of others. A portable NOAA All-Hazards Radio is a great way to monitor the

latest forecasts and warnings while outdoors. National Weather Service products such as the Hazardous Weather Outlook and Surf Fore-cast describe the daily lightning danger in south Florida on a four-tiered scale ranging from none, to slight, to moderate to high. However, any thunderstorm can produce a lightning flash which can kill you and those nearby.

Products such as the Short Term Forecast, Special Weather Statements and Severe Thunderstorm

Warnings give information on potentially deadly lightning in your area. These products can be found on the Miami-South Florida National Weather Service website at weather.gov/southflorida or through NOAA All-Hazards Radio.

For further information go to the following web site: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

Newsletter Articles Wanted

Working on a new kit or homebrew 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

FOR SALE: 2 meter Station. The package comes includes, ground plane antenna, Lambda regulated power supply (Model.LKS-CC-12-R), and Wilson WE-800 2 meter synthesized portable amateur radio (800 channels)

I would like \$200 for the set-up, you pick up.

Thank you,

George Gallipeau
473 Riviera Blvd. W
Naples
239 793 8394

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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Web Site

www.araswf.org