



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXII No. 9 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
September 2012

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**The next Club Meeting will be held October 23rd 2012 at 7.00pm at the Red Cross,
Naples.**

Treasurer's
From the President's Shack

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Nickels & Dimes

Once again, the month seemed to evaporate quicker than an afternoon shower. Also, my travel schedule was intense so it seems like I just finished last month's column. A read of the board minutes would capture almost everything that transpired but permit me to expand upon a couple of items.

Uli-AG0X, Bill-N1MMQ, and I completed a site visit to the North Naples repeater and found that we had only 11 watts output instead of the expected 60-70. The Mirage amplifier was the culprit; apparently the finals have given up a second time. We took it off line and gained a few watts (15 watts). We figured an additional 6-10db was needed to resolve the spotty coverage issue.

Uli, Bill and Peter-KK4PG made a follow up visit to confirm the repeater programming and bump the repeater power setting from low to high. They discussed additional means to improve the repeater performance. Tim-KC4SSD responded online with a 4 element folded dipole!

Uli, Tim, and Peter proposed a plan to further improve the performance using Tim's 4 element folded dipole, relocating the present antenna location past an obstruction (providing a better view to the south), and using a shorter cable run back to the repeater with LMR-600 vs. RG-8. Uli calculated about a 4.5 db improvement with these improvements. This should give us significantly more effective radiated power (ERP).

Echolink will be returning soon. We are sorting through interface options and the leading candidate is the USB Signalink. I researched a few free solutions, but they don't quite provide the functionality without a lot of engineering and rework (time is money).

Finally, the VE session scheduled before the September 25th meeting has generated a few new hams, (and potential future club members). We have a scheduled follow-up session prior to the October meeting for those newly minted Tech's wishing to upgrade to a General. Two anxious candidates have requested this option.

Depending upon timing and VE schedules, we may continue to offer this format after the New Year on an ongoing basis. I am getting quite a bit of interest from individuals who plan to be in the area and would like to test.

Ken-W9KB
ARASWF Treasurer

This month's Bonus Link which I call "Fun with dB".

<http://www.sengpielaudio.com/calculator-amplification.htm>

Meeting Minutes

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Executive Board Meeting held at Trimax Wireless, Naples, Florida, on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

Present: Bill Krauss, N1MMQ - President
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer
Uli Altvater, AG0X – Director
Harry Sevush, KD4JMV – Director
Frank Halas, W4RBW - Director

Absent: Robert Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President
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 September 1st with a bank balance of \$3548.89. The only expenditure incurred this month was \$150 for a used Mosley TA-33 antenna to update our second trailer. The current balance remains \$3,398.89.

Old Business: The Echolink system is still down for repairs due to a lightning strike. Our insurance company issued a check for \$100 to cover the UHF link radio. The computer and interface were not included on the policy and thus not covered for any damage. Bill-N1MMQ has repaired the computer and found the radio still delivers half of its original power (reprogramming may restore full power). We will need a new or used radio interface. Various options were discussed. (Editors note: USB Signalink may be the best solution for about \$90.00).

A site visit to the Club's North Naples repeater was scheduled to investigate the reported spotty coverage. Details of that visit will be reported at the September Membership meeting.

Uli-AG0X updated the board on the D-Star repeater. We have a server up and running ircDDB software, however, the Icom ID-RP2D controller is not talking with the gateway computer. He recommended that it be sent back to Icom for service and firmware updates. The board approved a \$100 estimate of repair.

Antenna Trailer Storage: We discussed a permanent home for the trailers. Frank-W4RBW agreed to check with John Daly regarding the possibility of storage at the County Barn Fleet Facility. Other options were discussed and will be investigated.

New Business: A club sponsored tailgate swap was discussed as a means to raise some money for the various club projects the board has considered. Bill-N1MMQ agreed to check with WalMart regarding their large unused parking lot west of the east trail location. Veteran's Park, the Red Cross and other options were considered. Details will be forth coming.

VE Testing: The next testing date was set for 5:15pm - September 25th prior to our next club meeting. We will have a follow-up session on October 23th. Depending upon the success of these two sessions, we may continue to offers similar sessions before the meeting next year.

The Gold Coast Amateur Radio Club across the state offers the same testing format (Editor's note: This is the closest D-Star repeater for those members wishing to register their call signs in the US Trust system, a must to use DV Dongle and D-Star radios over the network).
<http://www.w4bug.org/>

Christmas Party: Bill-N1MMQ reported that Royal Woods will not begin to schedule Christmas events until September 15th. The actual date will be announced next month.

Specific assignments that were taken out of the meeting:

- 🕒 Uli-AG0X – Ship ID-RP2D controller to ICOM.
- 🕒 Frank-W4RBW – Contact John Daly re: trailer storage
- 🕒 Bill-N1MMQ – Contact Royal Woods re: Christmas Party venue

Next Board Meeting – Trimax Wireless, Tuesday October 9th @ 2:00 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Bills, W9KB
Secretary

New Members

One new member Richard Ellwanger - KB1IZV this month. Welcome!

News Items

PA QSO Party

1600Z, Oct 13 to 0500Z, Oct 14 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 14, 2012

We will be setting up a station at Joe's Tiki Hut. We will start setting up at 9am.

We will start at 12 noon till 1am on Saturday and 9am to 7pm Sunday. We would especially like to see anyone that would like to learn how to do a Contest. That is the time to learn, not when there is an emergency. This will be a good time to meet other members of the Club.

If you are coming, let me know and also please bring food and drinks for yourself.

Hope to see you.

George AA4GT

aa4gt@comcast.net

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From Roy (KW4G)

A few months ago I read an article in *QST* magazine that piqued my interest. The article was "Who's on JT65?" by Steve Ford, WB8IMY (*May 2012, p. 44*). I had operated several of the 'digital' modes in the past, including packet in the 80's and 90's, RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, PSK31 and PSK63. I had never heard much about JT65, except that it was used on 6 meters for meteor scatter work. I decided to give JT65 a shot on the HF bands.

I downloaded the free JT65HF software program from the Internet (details are available in the article), and installed it on my Windows computer. The setup was relatively straight-forward and easy. The program is even designed to interface with my rig control software, Commander by AA6YQ. Within a few minutes, I was up and running.

I won't go into the details of how to operate the JT65 mode here. Suffice it to say that transmissions have to be precisely timed. The Internet Time program built into Windows will not allow you to update the clock frequently enough for the accuracy required by JT65. I found several good clock setting programs on the Internet, and picked one that would allow me to set the program to update the clock every 10 minutes. I know some are going to ask if this is necessary. I believe it is, as computer clocks for some reason are notoriously inaccurate.

With the clock accuracy problem solved, I was making contacts. I made about 20 contacts during the first weekend of using the mode. I know this doesn't sound like many contacts, but my operating style is not to sit in a chair for hours on end making QSO's. I operate for a while, then do something else, then come back to operating. I also don't have a monster station. I have a Cushcraft R6000 vertical mounted about 10 feet off the ground, and a G5RV Jr., in an inverted vee configuration, mounted about 15 feet off the ground.

JT65 is a very slow moving mode. Your station transmits for 48 seconds, then idles for 12 seconds, then the other station repeats that process. Each exchange, therefore takes 2 minutes. Each transmission is limited to 13 characters, and exchanges are pretty much canned. A complete QSO takes about 5 minutes, if neither station needs a fill. A typical QSO goes like this:

```
CQ KW4G EL96
KW4G N9RG EN61
N9RG KW4G -09
KW4G N9RG -15
N9RG KW4G RRR
KW4G N9RG 73
CQ KW4G EL96
```

Some stations will put something like:

```
TU 5W DP 73
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in their last transmission, meaning "Thank you 5 watts to a dipole antenna 73". You have to remember, you are limited to 13 characters. The '-09' and '-15' are signal reports. No 599's here!

You can be doing other things while operating JT65, but you have to constantly be checking the computer screen to see what the other station is sending so you can make the proper reply. It gets to be a bit tedious. Thankfully, there is an answer to this problem in a program called JT-Alert. With JT-Alert running, my computer sounds a bell and gives the background a different color when text is received with my call in it. I can let the computer call CQ, and if someone responds, I know because I hear the bell. JT-Alert has the added function of acting as a bridge between JT-65HF and the logging program I use called DXKeeper. I believe it also works with the popular Ham Radio Deluxe program. With JT-Alert I just click on the 'LOG' button in JT-65 after completing a QSO, and the contact is seamlessly logged to my general log. It makes operating the mode much more fun.

If you have an HF radio, a computer, and a sound-card interface, you already have the components required to operate on JT-65. I have worked 25 states and 14 countries in 71 total contacts, running just 10 watts of output power.

JT-65HF can be downloaded at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/jt65-hf/files/latest/download> . JT-Alert can be downloaded at <http://ham-apps.com/> . Give it a try!

Roy Jackson KW4G

Various items supplied by Harry

U.S. report: FCC's cell phone radiation guidelines outdated by Elinor Mills August 7, 2012

Cell phone usage changes, and new research could affect cell phone exposure limits, says a report by the Government Accountability Office. The Federal Communications Commission should review its cell phone radio-frequency (RF) exposure limit, which was set 15 years ago, because it does not include testing for potential harm from holding phones directly against the body or factor in the latest research, a government report recommended today.

When the RF exposure limit of 1.6 watts per kilogram specific absorption rate (SAR) was established in 1996, phones were bigger, bulkier, and carried in holsters outside of clothes and not in pockets, said Marcia Crosse, director of health care at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and co-author of the report. The report adds to mounting concern that the FCC standards are not the best measure of safety.

"The expectation was that people weren't holding it against their head for long periods of time," Crosse told CNET in a phone interview. "They have gotten slimmer, thinner, and more readily able to be put into a pocket. The exposure is different. Even a short distance from the body can dissipate the extent to which you are getting RF or the thermal effect, the heat you get from the phone. We think they need to consider how phones currently are being used and carried around."

The FCC RF energy exposure limit "may not reflect the latest research, and testing requirements may not identify maximum exposure in all possible usage conditions," concludes the GAO report, entitled "Exposure and Testing Requirements for Mobile Phones Should Be Reassessed" (PDF). "By testing mobile phones only when at a distance from the body, the FCC may not be identifying the maximum exposure, since some users may hold a mobile phone directly against the body while in use. Using a mobile phone in this manner could result in RF energy exposure above the maximum body-worn SAR determined during testing, although that may not necessarily be in excess of FCC's limit."

As to the studies of harm from RF exposure, the report says adverse health effects have not been demonstrated conclusively at this point. But this could be because of limitations in the studies, including design flaws.

"The research has been inconclusive," Crosse said. "There have been some studies that give some inkling that at high exposure levels there may be some risk. But studies haven't been replicated or there is the possibility that the study design was biased in some way. So there really is no conclusive evidence."

Among the research mentioned, the Interphone study did not show an increased risk of brain tumors from mobile phone use, "but at the highest level of exposure, findings suggested a possible increased risk of glioma," a type of tumor that starts in the brain or spine, the report said.

Also, cancers can take time to develop, making it difficult to conduct shorter term studies, according to the report. "Epidemiological studies to date have been limited in their ability to provide information about possible effects of long-term RF energy exposure because the prevalence of long-term mobile phone use

is still relatively limited and some tumors, including some cancerous tumors, do not develop until many years after exposure," the report said.

Related stories

- **Congressman introduces new cell radiation warning label law**

- ⌚ **FCC to re-examine cell phone radiation standards**

- ⌚ **CTIA moves to block SF cell phone law**

- ⌚ **The trouble with the cell phone radiation standard**

- ⌚ **WHO: Cell phones may cause cancer**

The report was hailed by the Environmental Working Group. The "FCC's current standards -- which have never been updated -- allow 20 times more radiation to reach the head than the body as a whole, do not account for the possible risks to children's developing brains and smaller bodies, and consider only the impact of short-term cell phone use, not frequent calling over decades," the group said in a statement. "In 1996, tweens and teens were not consumers of wireless technology, but today it's hard to find a group of young people who aren't armed with the latest mobile device," said Renee Sharp, director of the Environmental Working Group's California office and senior scientist. "Those populations who are now talking and texting daily were not considered by the FCC when it devised its safety standards 15 years ago."

Wireless trade group CTIA-The Wireless Association issued a statement today noting that the FCC has said it is confident that its standards are safe. "The FCC, the FDA, the National Cancer Institute, and the World Health Organization have each evaluated the scientific research on wireless phones that has been conducted worldwide for more than two decades. Each has found that the weight of the scientific research has not established that wireless phone use causes adverse health effects," the statement said. "The FCC has been vigilant in its oversight in this area and has set safety standards to make sure that radio frequency fields from wireless phones remain at what it has determined are safe levels. The FCC's safety standards include a 50-fold safety factor and, as the FCC has noted, are the most conservative in the world."

The FCC announced in June that it would take a closer look at its standards and will seek comments from experts and the public. The agency made that announcement after seeing a draft of the GAO report, according to Crosse. The GAO report was conducted at the request of Representatives Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), Anna Eschoo (D-Calif.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.).

Yesterday, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) introduced a bill called The Cell Phone Right to Know Act that would put warning labels on cell phones and require the Environmental Protection Agency to update the RF energy absorption rates.

Meanwhile, the CTIA is suing San Francisco over a law that would require cell phone vendors to provide consumers with a one-page fact sheet about potential health risks of cell phone radiation. The case is slated to begin in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday.

Elinor Mills

Elinor Mills covers Internet security and privacy. She joined CNET News in 2005 after working as a foreign correspondent for Reuters in Portugal and writing for The Industry Standard, the IDG News Service, and the Associated Press

Five things you should know about that gas generator Sent in by Al / kd4knv.

Now is the time – if you haven't already – to drag out the old gas generator to make sure it works if and when needed this hurricane season.

So let's get the point: Here are five things you should know about using your generator:

1. Never, ever use a generator inside a building, including homes, garages, crawlspaces and sheds. Levels of carbon monoxide may quickly reach deadly levels.
2. Read your instructions. Nobody does this and it's a big mistake. It will take all of 15 minutes or less. If you tossed them, try typing in the manufacturer name and model into a Google search bar to search for online manuals. You may be able to get what you need from a similar model.
3. Generators may be dangerous in wet conditions, causing electrical shock or electrocution in the worst scenarios. Try to keep rain off the generator, using perhaps a canopy to allow for open ventilation while keep raindrops from the generator. Make sure hands are dry before touching the generator.
4. Never plug generator into a home wall outlet. That could be like putting a match to a gas-soaked rag.
5. Keep the fuel in a safe place. Store gasoline, propane and other flammable liquids outside of living areas in proper safety containers. Label if needed.

What do you say? Do you have better tips? An interesting story about a problem with a generator?

May I add to #4. It is insanely dangerous and also illegal to do this, EVEN IF YOU DISCONNECT THE POWER TO THE HOUSE VIA A BREAKER. Why? 1) the breaker does NOT cut off anything but the "hot" side of the circuit—electricity can still back flow to FP&L. 2) If your generator energizes an FP&L line (and it most certainly can), it can kill FP&L employees who think the line is not energized. Basic electronics: transformers work in BOTH directions. A transformer that takes 13,000 volts of electricity and brings it down to 110 volts for your house is perfectly good at turning the 110 volts from your generator back into 13,000 volts on the power line out-side of your house. If you want to wire in a generator, you MUST contact a LICENSED electrician to install an approved transfer switch and any other necessary modifications.

ENFORCEMENT: FCC TELLS SPY SHOP TO STOP SELLING JAMMING DEVICES Sent in by Chuck / W4ROA

A California electronics retailer has been ordered to stop selling products designed to jam radio communications equipment. Amateur Radio Newlines' Jeff Clark, K8JAC, reports:

The FCC has issued an official Citation and Order to Spy Shop of Sherman Oaks, California that also does business as IQ Tronics, Inc., SpyShopOne.com, and SpyGadgetsShop.com. This, for marketing cell

phone, and Global Positioning System and other signal jamming devices in violation of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act, and Sections 2.803 and 15.201(b) of the Commission's rules.

In its July 18th Citation the FCC ordered that the Spy Shop should take immediate steps to come into compliance and to avoid any recurrence of this misconduct, including actions such as removing illegal signal jamming devices from displays and declining to sell signal jamming devices in the United States. The FCC said that if after receipt of the Citation, Spy Shop violates the Communications Act or the FCC Rules by marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices within the United States or its territories the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each such violation. In the case of a continuing violation, the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each day of such continuing violation up to a maximum forfeiture of \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act. In addition, violations could also can result in seizure of equipment as well as criminal sanctions, including imprisonment. As we go to air, a check of the company website shows that all of the gear that the FCC says is illegal to sell has been removed from the company website. (FCC) Sent in by Jeff / K8JAC

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!

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)

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