



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXII No. 3 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
March 2012

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**The next Club Meeting will be held March 27th 2012 at 7.00pm at the Red Cross,
Naples.**

From the President's Shack

Well, another month has gone by and I'm sitting at the desk watching my wife type this for me (LOL). Trust me - you DON'T want to see what kind of typist I am!

First of all, I want to thank everyone who attended last month's meeting, especially to our Guest Speaker Pete Jordan, K1PJ. It's good to know that CW hasn't died, it just keeps changing to meet the times!

A special thanks goes to all those behind the scenes that make these meetings a success – seriously, do you really think I could do this alone?!

Okay, now on to the subject of this month's "note":

CQ – CQ! Contesting, Field Day. Contacts, Contacts, Contacts! With the warm weather coming – ha! ha! – Our thoughts need to start turning to where we're going to be for Field Day. It's coming up sooner than we think. There are quite a few really good areas that we should consider, and some areas that are better than others.

If you were able to attend February's meeting, you know that this is a definite Hot Topic. The Board needs your input, observations, communications! We need to show people that, like CW, we haven't died out either! We won't go quietly – that's for sure! We need fresh blood and fresh ideas (along with more members).

The March Meeting will prove to be another exciting (okay, at least interesting), meeting and I (and the Board) need you to be in attendance with your ideas. Hopefully, by the meeting, the Board will have come up with several places and one of them will be what you, the Members, want or feel would be a great site.

The speaker for March is (Drum roll, please!) Dave Clark, W8DO. He is the DXCC Field Checker, as well as a whole list of what he does (come to the meeting and you'll find out!).

Well, it's time for the wife to get back to work so I'll say 73's and I'll see you on March 27th at 7:00pm!

Bill, N1MMQ

Meeting Minutes

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Membership Meeting held at the Naples American Red Cross.
Tuesday, February 28th, 2012

Officers and

Directors Present:

Bill Krauss, N1MMQ – President
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer
Uli Altvater, AGØX – Director
Henrietta Horvay, KA1JVN – Director
Harry Sevush, KD4JMV – Director

Absent:

George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President
Bob Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President
Frank Halas, W4RBW – Director

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called To Order:

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present (25 members, 2 officers & 3 directors) along with two guests in attendance.

Introductions:

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call sign.

Reading & Approval of Previous Minutes:

Previous meeting minutes were passed out and dispensed with, since they were published previously in the ARASWF Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that as of February 28th, 2012, the club's bank balance was \$4070.42, will income of \$187.50 from dues and 50/50 income, less expenses of \$305 (Oil Well) and \$163 (Red Cross Antenna).

Officers' Reports:

Ken-W9KB reported that Frank-W4RBW scheduled a successful meeting with Dan Summers, Director of Collier County Emergency Services. Mr. Summers outlined the many different communication systems the county has at their disposal during any emergency event. While amateur radio was not a top option, Mr. Summers welcomed the addition of ARASWF member participation, providing those members complete a minimum level of online training (ICS100,

200, and 700) and provide a completed background information form. The board is working on a process to facilitate member involvement with the Collier County EOC operations. This will be reported at a later date.

Committee Reports:

Uli-AG0X reported that the club has intentions to expand it's repeater coverage in Collier County. He mentioned three systems discussed at the last board meeting including, a new UHF system to be located in downtown Naples, a second VHF repeater to be located in Immokalee (to extend the range of WB2QLP existing system), and the currently inactive Collier County D-Star system. Uli plans to meet with the Collier County IT director to discuss the secure connection the later system to the Internet, which has been a previous roadblock.

Thom-N5KFR reported that a 200' tower with antenna is available in Immokalee. He reported the site has an equipment room available to house a modern repeater. The repeater committee will pursue this opportunity.

Old Business:

Oil Well Special Event – K4ADR chaired another successful annual on-the-air event. The WB2QLP special event was held February 25th. Setup started around 7:30am. Over twenty club members attended the Oil Well event this year. A.D. not only organized this event, but worked the grill dishing out hamburgers and hot dogs for the station operators and guests. Bob-W2HI posted additional information and pictures on the club web page

Wednesday Night 2 meter information net: Bill-N1MMQ announced that the Wednesday night information net was started last month. He encouraged club members to check-in and *warm up* the local VHF airwaves.

New Business:

Ken-W9KB reported that the Florida QSO Party is scheduled for April 28-29th. He is planning a multi-op club effort. All members are welcome to participate.

2012 ARRL Field Day is not that far away, please contact W9KB if you have any interest in chairing or working on the organization of this year's event.

Special Program:

Pete Jordan-K1PJ gave a very informative presentation covering the history of CW. He discussed various ways to learn CW, the advantage of this mode over others in terms of signal to noise ratio, and the fun he and many others have had operating this musical mode. Many members provided comments on their own learning experiences and perspectives regarding this mode.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle (\$29) was won by K1UQE.

Adjournment:

After the 50/50 raffle, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The President adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Bills – W9KB
Secretary

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Executive Board Meeting held at Trimax Wireless, Naples, Florida, on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

Present: Bill Krauss, N1MMQ – President
Robert Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer
Uli Altvater, AG0X - Director
Henrietta Horvay, KA1JVN – Director
Harry Sevush, KD4JMV – Director

Absent: Frank Halas, W4RBW – Director
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report – Ken-W9KB provided a treasurer's report commencing January 1st with a bank balance of \$4,122.36. The ending balance for January 2012 was \$4,351.75 which included the club expenses (\$388.61) and dues deposits (\$618).

Old Business: It was pointed out that AD-K4ADR still had some expenses related to the Red Cross tower installation. Henrietta-KA1JVN moved that we issue a check to reimburse K4ADR, seconded by Bill-N1MMQ.

New Business:

Harry-KD4JMV has scheduled Peter-K1PJ for a presentation at the next general membership meeting. K1PJ will discuss CW operations.

Ken-W9KB mentioned Field Day and need for a secure chairman. It was mentioned K4ADR & NJ2F co-chaired a successful event a few years ago. W9KB will contact them to see if either would be interested in helping or chairing the event again this year. Possible locations were discussed, this year the board agreed to make it more public friendly.

Amateur radio classes & VE Testing were discussed. The first order of business is to identify all the certified VE instructors within the club. Next, instructors will need to be identified and organized. It was thought the Red Cross facility would be a good location to conduct training & testing. Various incentives were discussed.

Frank-W4RBW had a meeting with Dan Summers, Collier County EOC Director. Dan detailed the various emergency communication systems in place within the county. He also outlined his view of how the ARASWF club could participate. Basically, he would welcome any club member to work either at the central EOC center or one of ten emergency shelters, providing members first complete the following online NIMS classes: ICS100, ICS200, ICS300, ICS400. He also recommended ICS700. After successfully completing each class, the participant is issued a (http PDF link). These links should be emailed, along with a completed Collier County Disaster Volunteer Registration Form to Dan Summers. The board will outline a process for members to follow to facilitate this process.

The board discussed three new repeater projects:

- UHF system in central Naples – AG0X's donated system.
- VHF system in Immokalee – will extend coverage to eastern Collier, Glades, & Hendry)
- D-Star system at Collier County facility - AGOX will meet with John Daly, Collier County IT Director to discuss secure internet link.

Specific assignments that were taken out of the meeting:

- Bill-N1MMQ volunteered to call Peter-KK4PG regarding the second VHF club repeater system and it's availability for the Immokalee tower.
- Harry-KD4JMV agreed to contact KF4MJJ regarding a EOC/ARES presentation for the March membership meeting.
- Ken-W9KB agreed to locate the Immokalee tower contact from last year's meeting minutes.

- Uli-AG0X will meet with John Daly, Collier County IT Director, to discuss the feasibility of providing a secure Internet connection link to the county owner D-Star repeater.

Next Board Meeting – Trimax Wireless, Thursday March 22th @ 5:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Bills, W9KB
Secretary

New Members

None this month.

News Items

from Ken (W9KB)

WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS"

From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY, and POOGIE MURRAY. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision.

They changed it to "HYALMU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1910 some confusion resulted between signals from the amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station call became "HAM". In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals as commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional

committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM".

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time in radio, an amateur is a "HAM".

from Ken (W9KB)

2012 National Hurricane Conference Amateur Radio Activities

The National Hurricane Conference will be held March 26-29, at the Hilton Orlando in Orlando Florida. There will be several amateur radio activities going on during the week. The National Hurricane Conference (NHC) leadership continues to recognize the valuable contributions of amateur radio and again invited us to participate with two sessions. What a great opportunity for amateur radio!

NHC Session #1: Monday, March 26, 2012 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, the main amateur radio session titled, "Amateur Radio Training Sessions: Disaster Communications Before, During and After Hurricanes."

NHC Session #2: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, at the National Hurricane Conference (NHC), there will be an amateur radio session designed for Emergency Management agencies called "Amateur Radio Rap Session-The Emergency Manager's Hidden Resource".

On Monday, March 26, 2012 from 7:00 pm to 9:00pm, the ARRL Southeastern Division and the Orange County EOC will host an interactive free "NHC Workshop" for all ARES interested amateur radio operators at the Orange County Emergency Operations Center, 6590 Amory Court, Winter Park, FL 32792. You will be able to meet other like-minded hams and the presenters of the Hurricane Conference amateur radio sessions. The agenda will be: introductions, conference presenters summarize the NHC amateur radio presentations, emergency communications discussion, questions & answers and door prizes.

All hams are invited at no cost to attend the National Hurricane Conference amateur radio sessions and Orange County EOC Workshop.

For additional information:

National Hurricane Conference

<http://www.southeastern.arrl.org/2012NationalHurricaneConferenceActivities.pdf>

ARRL Southeastern Division

Hurricane Conference presenters are:

Special Guest Speakers – TBA

John McHugh, K4AG - Coordinator for Amateur Radio, National Hurricane Center, WX4NHC Julio Ripoll WD4R - WX4NHC Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator, National Hurricane Center Rob Macedo, KD1CY - Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net and ARRL SEC, Eastern Massachusetts Mike Corey, KI1U - ARRL Emergency Preparedness manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK - ARRL Southeastern Division Director

We encourage you to visit all the activities you can and learn more about amateur radio emergency communications. Hope to see you there!

73,

Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

ARRL Southeastern Division Director

Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM

ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director

<http://www.southeastern.arrl.org>

from Harry (KD4JMV)

I would like to thank K4ADR/A.D. for helping me put up my antenna station. I know he went out of his way for me, but I REALLY thank him very much. As you can see I have my station up and running.

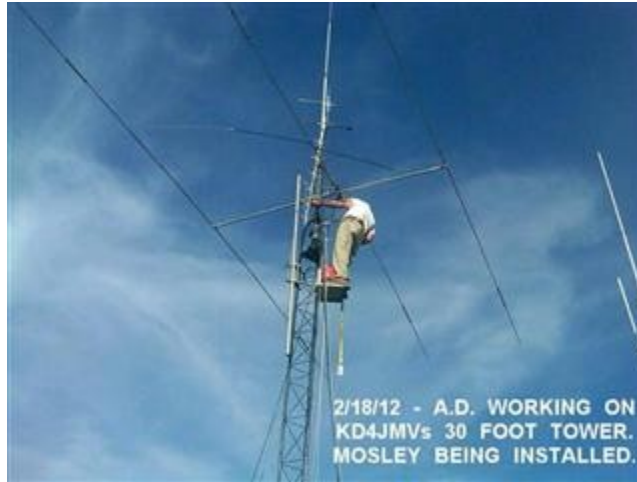
I also want to thank the ARASWF for the Antenna and I will be working the bands as best I can and give credit to the Club for the help.

I would like to also give thanks to N1MMQ/Bill for helping with the Guide Wire Support the week later. Many thanks goes to the members of the Club for their help in getting my mind in the right direction.

AGAIN THANKS, KD4JMV/HARRY

(Editors note: There follows a selection of pictures supplied by Harry in addition to the ones published in last months Newsletter!)











From (Bob W2HI)

OIL WELL PARK SPECIAL EVENT

The second annual Oil Well Park Special Event was held on Saturday, February 25th, 2012, from 8am to 2pm. Approximately 26-28 members and guests attended, and there were on-the-air operations at 4 locations. The weather started poorly, and improved steadily throughout the day until the afternoon when the sun appeared.

Gourmet delicacies, provided by A.D., K4ADR, included hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and assorted accompaniments.

Those members who failed to attend missed an opportunity for comradeship and social networking – here's hoping you will be able to attend next year.

Some photos of the event appear below. More photos are on the club web site – www.araswf.org.





THANK YOU!

A special thanks are due Tim, KC4SSD. Although he was not able to attend the Oil Well Park Special Event held on Saturday, February 25th, he graciously allowed the club to use his Honda 3000 generator, which provided most of the power at the event.

Many thanks, Tim.



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
Frank
Director: AG0X
Uli
Director: KD4JMV
Harry
Director: KA1JVN
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Past President: AA4GT
George

Newsletter Editor: KG4ZLB
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Webmaster: W2HI Bob

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Web Site

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