



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXII No. 5 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
May 2012

In This Issue:

- ◆ *From the Presidents Shack*
- ◆ *Membership Meeting minutes*
- ◆ *New Members*
- ◆ *News Items*
- ◆ *Trading Post – Buy/Sell/Swap!*

**The next Club Meeting will be held May 22nd 2012 at 7.00pm at the Red Cross,
Naples.**

Treasurer's

From the President's Shack

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Nickels & Dimes

April was a very productive month.... We finished the Florida QSO Party with 832 contacts this year. The club participation was very good, including contributions from club members: George-AA4GT, Cal-AK4QP, Mark-KC8RRO, Dave-WB8VQU, Rich-KK4IOY, and Bill-N1MMQ. Dan-KJ4YYB a.k.a. 'Tennessee', an out of state operator, showed up from a contact made on the club repeater. He logged many contacts over the two day contest for our club. Also, Charlie-N1MMQ's first harmonic, made some contacts including a very special QSO with WD4WDW, the Walt Disney World club station up in Kissimmee. We had several other members drop in to lend a hand including: Bob-W0OB, Tim-N4PIX, and Bob-WA8QYJ.

Harry-KD4JMV and Ernie-KA1VY were heard working from their home QTH's and submitted their scores for club credit. It is rumoured that we might be in contention for 'Top Club' spot this year. Results will not be known for sure until next year, when they will be announced by the Florida Contest Group during the Orlando Hamcation.

The next big project is 2012 Field Day - June 23-24th. This year we will be operating *al fresco* at the Veteran's Park in North Naples. Planning and preparations for this event are under way. We plan to run either a 4A or 5A operation and a GOTA station (for our newly licensed members).

However, the ultimate success of this endeavour depends upon the involvement of our membership. If every member would commit just two hours to this project, we would have all our stations manned during the 24 hour operation. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate this year.

This month, we had a very productive meeting with Collier County to discuss the D-Star Repeater. Dan Summers and John Daly walked our board through the County Barn radio facility, showing us the actual equipment. We discussed several ways to provide a secure Internet connection to the facility, ultimately bringing the system online as SWFL D-Star Gateway. This system will be open and available to all our local and seasonal amateurs radio operators.

Of course, the D-Star repeater will require personal equipment updates, so you might start looking at used equipment offerings. The most economical way to get online today, is the DV Dongle. This device plugs into your personal computer and permits world wide communication. We will provide more information on various product solutions, as we get closer to an on-air status.

Meeting Minutes

Regular Membership Meeting held at the Naples American Red Cross. Tuesday, April 24th, 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

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 (18 members, 3 officers & 2 directors) along with two guests in attendance.

Introductions:

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call sign. We had four guest in attendance Bob & Sue Mitchell (AD9DU & KB9ZEJ), Bill Ravenel, and Gates Mariotti (Cal-AK4QP's grandson).

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 April 24th, 2012, the club's bank balance was \$4,297 will income of \$256 from dues, donations, and 50/50 income, less expenses of \$377.

Officers' Reports: None at this time (business meeting abbreviated to provide time for guest presenter).

Committee Reports:

Old Business:

Wednesday Night 2 meter information net: Bill-N1MMQ announced that the Wednesday night information net was active last . 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. A sign up sheet was circulated to gather interested operators and their preferred time slots.

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. A focus list was briefly discussed:

- Contact Past project leaders (Jeff-NJ2F/A.D.-K4ADR)
- Locate Radios & Equipment (Club/Members)
- Food Resources (Frank-W4RBW/Bruce-K9PWQ)
- Publicity (Newspaper/TV)
- City/County Proclamations
- ARRL Resources

Special Program: Fred Edwards-KJ4MJJ gave an very interesting presentation covering 'Emergency Commutations'. Fred has been involved in ARES/RACES here in southwest Florida for many years. He discussed the various emergency communication systems used by the county, such as local repeaters, county VHF/UHF systems, and radio 'go-boxes'. He offered to provide EOC/NIMS training courses to the membership.

50/50:

The 50/50 raffle (\$24) was won by W4RBW.

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

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Executive Board Meeting held at Trimax Wireless, Naples, Florida, on Thursday, May 3, 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 1:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report – Ken-W9KB provided a treasurer's report commencing April 1st with a bank balance of \$4,418. The expected ending balance for April 2012 is \$4,307 which included the club expenses (\$166) and dues deposits \$56.

Old Business: Ken-W9KB discussed the Florida QSO Party (April 28 & 29) held at Red Cross. The club made 832 contacts over the twenty hour operating period. Several members came out over the weekend to participate. Station operators included: AA4GT, KC8RRO, KJ4YYR, KK4IOY, K9PWQ, N1MMQ, WB8VQU, W9KB. Bill-N1MMQ brought his son Charlie out and he worked a few stations including, WD4WDW. This was a very exciting contact for Charlie, since

this is the Walt Disney World ARS in Orlando! A good time was had by all that attended.

New Business: A site visit to the Collier County Barn Facility was conducted prior to this meeting. The purpose of the visit is to inspect the D-Star repeater and discuss ways to install a secure internet bridge to the site. It was a very productive with Collier County Department Directors, Dan Summers and John Daly in attendance. Dan said he would provide the club a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to let the club connect the repeater to the internet with a secure connection and manage and operate the repeater for a nominal sum of one dollar per year.

Uli-AG0X will follow-up with John Daly and Dustin DeBres-KI4IKW to work out the internet connection logistics.

The club equipment inventory was discussed. Response to an earlier membership email appeal was very productive. All the outstanding equipment has been located and returned to the club.

Harry-KD4JMV retrieved the UHF Echolink from Carl-WA9ZIF and has them back in service from his QTH.

The Immokalee 2m tower project was discussed. Contact with the tower owner was made and follow-up discussions scheduled around his calendar.

Amateur radio classes & VE Testing were discussed. Various approaches to study classes were discussed and it is planned that we will have a program ready for the fall season.

Frank-W4RBW has secured Veteran's Park for Field Day this year. The board discussed the project at length and put together a planning focus list:

- Past project leaders (Jeff-NJ2F/A.D.-K4ADR)
- Equipment (Club/Members)
- Food (Bob-W2HI/Bruce-K9PWQ)
- Publicity (Newspaper/TV)
- City/County Proclamations
- ARRL Resources

Specific assignments that were taken out of the meeting:

- Uli-AG0X – Contact John Daly & Dustin
- Ken-W9KB – Follow-up with Field Day Resource contacts/list

Next Board Meeting – Trimax Wireless, Tuesday June 19th @ 2:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Bills, W9KB
Secretary

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

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

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

Absent: Robert Ostrin, WB2TGY – Vice President
George Tomlinson, AA4GT – Past President
Frank Halas, W4RBW – 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 April 1st with a bank balance of \$4,418. The expected ending balance for April 2012 is \$4,307 which included the club expenses (\$166) and dues deposits \$56.

Old Business: None

New Business: Harry-KD4JMV advised the board that Carl-WA9ZIF indicated he would no longer like to house and service the club UHF Echolink which bridge the 2m to the internet. There was a motion made and seconded to have Harry pick up the UHF Echolinks and setup them up at his QTH.

The Immokalee 2m tower project was discussed. Contact with the tower owner was made and follow-up discussions scheduled around his calendar.

A site visit to the Collier County Barn Facility was scheduled for May 3, 2012. The purpose of this visit is to inspect the D-Star repeater and discuss ways to install a secure internet bridge to the site.

The club equipment inventory was discussed. Response to an earlier membership email appeal was very productive. All the outstanding equipment has been located, arrangements will be made to have it delivered or picked up.

Amateur radio classes & VE Testing were discussed. Various approaches to study classes were discussed and it is planned that we will have a program ready for the fall season.

Ken-W9KB discussed the upcoming Florida QSO Party April 28 & 29; the plan is to rule a multi-multi operation from the Red Cross facility in north Naples. There are (2) ten hours windows of operation, from 12:00 to 9:59pm Saturday and from 8:00am to 5:59pm Sunday evening.

Frank-W4RBW has secured Veteran's Park for Field Day this year. The board discussed the project at length and put together a planning focus list:

- Past project leaders (Jeff-NJ2F/A.D.-K4ADR)
- Radios & Equipment (Club/Members)
- Food (Frank-W4RBW/Bruce-K9PWQ)
- Publicity - Newspaper/TV
- City/County Proclamations
- ARRL Resources

Specific assignments that were taken out of the meeting:

- Uli-AG0X – Contact Immokalee 2m tower owner
- Harry-KD4JMV – Follow-up with WA9ZIF UHF Echolink relocation
- Ken-W9KB – Follow-up with Field Day Resource contacts/list

Next Board Meeting – Trimax Wireless, Tuesday May 3th @ 2:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Bills, W9KB
Secretary

New Members

None this month.

News Items

(from Ken W9KB)

Pictures from the Florida QSO party





(from George AA4GT)

This Is a new antenna just put up 5-2-12. It is up 70 feet. Down at the bottom on the right is a 2 meter 440 J-pole.

This antenna was built by Roger K1HH & Me AA4GT. The maintenance man here, put it up for me.

It works great. At the bottom is a 2 meter 440 J-pole. I am on the top floor here, which is the 3rd floor. The wire antenna is up over 70 feet and the 2 meter 440 J-pole is up 60 feet. The antennas are right over my head on the roof. Who said you can't have an antenna in a complex like this.



(from Harry KD4JMV)

Radio: The Original Social Network

Published on Saturday, February 25, 2012 by David Brandenburg, K5RQ Sent in by **Jeff Beals, WA4AW**

"Social Networking" and all its numerous assorted facets is definitely the "in" thing for 2012. Well, I'm here to tell you that Facebook can't hold a candle to the "social network" system available to amateur radio operators ("hams")! I've been an amateur radio for over 50 years (licensed at 14) and count among my "friends" a wide variety of men and women in every imaginable situation. And forget the general geek, nerd "ham" stereotype—I've had QSO's (contacts) with kings and heads of state, authors, poets, scientists, TV/radio and movie personalities, politicians, astronauts, software analysts, engineers, concert performers, educators, athletes, CEO's, officials and employees in probably every government organization and publicly and privately held companies, marathon runners, doctors, lawyers, school children, scouts, soldiers in war zones and in every branch of the military, journalists ... shall I go on? I've talked to them from their homes, castles, offices, hotels, in airplanes, space crafts, cruise ships and small and large sailboats, trucks, riding bikes, running, etc., and in every state in the union, probably nearly every country in the world (and some new ones you've never heard of), on every body of water, high on a mountaintop, in big cities and tiny villages rarely heard of, in Eastern Bloc countries behind the Iron Curtain, in exotic places and islands uninhabited with humans (normally) and every imaginable type of amateur radio setup from an 8-year-old whose antenna is some wires strung in the trees to huge, vastly expensive and sophisticated radio stations. Actually I've never tallied up the exact number of my "friends" to date, but it probably numbers well over a 100,000 and I'm still adding new ones every day. There are literally over 3,000,000 hams worldwide in our "address book" just waiting to talk to us. And you know, the most wonderful, magical thing about our amateur radio "friends" is that when we're on the air together no one cares whether you're rich or poor or what your race, religion, ethnic background, sexual preference, political preferences or affiliations are, or your age, gender or occupation or whether you're fat, skinny, ugly or beautiful, or even if you're an ally or a foe in the world arena. Amateur radio literally breaks down every prejudice and barrier. Everyone is amazingly "a friend"—if only for these small moments in time. *David Brandenburg of Osprey has been a ham radio operator for more than five decades*

Proud to be a ham!

(from Harry KD4JMV)

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Named CQ Contributing Editor

Succeeds Fred Maia, W5YI (Silent Key)

(Hicksville, NY) April 17, 2012 -- Retired FCC amateur radio enforcement chief Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has been named a *CQ* magazine contributing editor, it was announced today by *CQ* Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Hollingsworth will succeed "Washington Readout" editor Fred Maia, W5YI, who recently became a Silent Key.

Hollingsworth, a ham since 1960 and a longtime FCC attorney, became a household name in amateur radio in 1998 when he was named Special Counsel for Amateur Radio in the Commission's newly-created Enforcement Bureau. His highly-visible enforcement actions were cheered by a vast majority of the

amateur community after more than a decade during which FCC enforcement on the ham bands was virtually non-existent. Hollingsworth retired from the FCC in 2008, but has continued to be in demand as a speaker at hamfests and radio club meetings.

His new monthly column - to be titled "Riley's Ramblings" - will incorporate "Washington Readout's" cover-age of legislative and administrative actions that affect amateur radio, as well as additional topics of importance and/or interest to CQ's readers, all related in the distinctive common-sense style that has made Riley a sought-after speaker. His first column will appear in the July, 2012, issue of *CQ*, and will explain why ongoing FCC enforcement actions since his retirement have been somewhat "under the radar."

"We are pleased and honored to have Riley joining our staff," said Moseson. "His stature in the amateur radio community is second-to-none, and his ability to explain sometimes-arcane legal and regulatory language in plain English fits right in with *CQ*'s long-standing dedication to providing practical, useful information for our readers to help them get the most enjoyment possible out of the amateur radio hobby. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship."

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to *CQ* and to amateur radio generally," noted Hollingsworth. "As a 13-year-old Novice in South Carolina nervously making my first contact with an overheated Johnson Challenger and a barely effective vertical, not in my wildest imagination did I think I would be writing for a ham radio magazine someday. I am very appreciative of this offer and I hope I can be a valuable asset to the magazine."

Hollingsworth holds a Master's degree from the University of South Carolina, and a law degree from Wake Forest University. He lives in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Pat.

(from Harry KD4JMV)

How to Work the Amateur FM Satellites

Vince Waelti (K9TSU) Taken from Eham.net

Being only a technician level amateur radio operator, I'll be honest when I can say that I wanted to try something a little less "ordinary" than VHF/UHF simplex, or repeaters.

Being licensed at fourteen, and still fourteen, I wanted something that not many people can say that they do in their free time. I wanted that "dx" contact on one-forty-four megahertz simplex, which I did once, with a contact three hundred and fifty miles on five watts.

I started to think on the idea. I remember looking out my window and seeing a nice little three element, two meter yagi on a portable mast outside. I thought, "What can I do with that, there has to be something."

I remembered being told all these stories of hams talking with other hams with amateur satellites. I began to re-search the topic. I had a dual band hand-held, and a hand-tracking yagi, and I even had the software to track them from when I was trying to QSO with NA1SS on the International Space Station.

I found the three FM satellites that I wanted to work, AO27, AO51, and SO50. I began to re-solder the connections on that antenna, and get the frequencies written down. I wanted my first pass to be a good, workable one. At that time, I did not even know that I should be worrying about elevation. I just knew

that the bird, AO51, which is no longer with us, was going roughly from South to North-West. I ran outside quickly with the beam in the "vertical" position (at that time I did not know how to correctly polarize the antenna for satellites) outside, and sure enough, I heard calls from the "zero land". I did not exactly know what to do, so I listened to exchanges go on. I heard Cuba, to Alaska, and far between. I wanted very badly to talk, but it suddenly faded out. A few seconds later, it came back, which was probably due to my lack of following the satellite's polarization as it spun four hundred miles above me with my antenna. I never had an exchange that day, but I soon did.

The next day after coming home from school early, I heard AO51 on the stock hand-held antenna. I ran inside, plugged in the yagi, and ran outside with the tape recorder. I threw out my old call, "KC9TSU EN52". No response. I thought to myself "let's try this," and then said "KC9TSU hand-held EN52." I was amazed that people were clearing out to give a "hand-held" station more airtime. I had two contacts that day, before the bird faded below the horizon. I exchanged with two stations on the East Coast.

I am only getting my feet wet with amateur satellites in low Earth Orbit. I've so far been working the FM birds since late November, 2011. I've experimented with two antennas. My WB2HOL Tape Measure Yagi and a three-element solid-wire yagi.

I am no expert, by any means, but I have found out a few things that make a difference. You need to keep the squelch all the way off! I ignored this at first, but you hear the carrier before the bird, so it does make a difference.

I've also decided to actually track the satellite. Sometimes I would get so excited by my contacts, that I would forget to keep moving my antenna. I wondered why I wasn't hearing it anymore, but I moved the antenna a little, and there it was, again.

Doppler makes a difference! I was once told by a ham "Doppler doesn't make a difference". Well, maybe on the two meter side, not so much, but on the seventy-centimeter down-link, it is a huge difference. I found it best to start ten kilohertz up from the down-link at the beginning of the pass, and ten kilohertz down at the end.

Polarization, polarization, polarization! Polarization is key. When the satellite is just barely coming over the horizon, I keep my antenna at forty-five degrees polarized, since I don't know what orientation the satellite's antenna is as it tumbles above me. Once I acquire the signal, I adjust my polarization on my yagi, and continue to follow it, until I lose it over the horizon.

Also, make sure you use a tape recorder! I once had fifteen contacts on an eight degree pass! All you have to do is remember someone's call to return, but when you go to log, it is right on the tape, waiting for you. I recommend taping a piece of thin foam over the mic to keep out wind noise.

Call sign identifiers! If you are outside of your grid square, or away from home, be "stroke portable!" If you are on that hand-held, like me, say "hand-held!" You would be amazed by how friendly the amateur radio satellite community is when they hear special identifiers. People seem to always want to get that hand-held, mobile, or portable station, so say it!

I've also been told that a full duplex hand-held works best, so you can hear yourself on the down-link. Mine is semi duplex, so I can't hear myself, but that is why you ask your ham radio buddies who are on the other end for the recording! I post all my recordings on my website for people to find.

There are a lot of interesting, and fun, things to do with our beloved hobby of amateur radio, and if you haven't given amateur satellites a try, go for it! It's just a "glorified repeater", but the fun of it is, you are

talking via a repeater traveling at speeds of twelve thousand miles per hour, four hundred miles above the earth. Like I said, I am new to this mode of communication through ham radio, but enjoying it greatly! I started off frustrated because I would read the compass backward, and have the yagi pointing the wrong way, now I don't even look at compass degrees, just the "rough" direction. Good luck to anyone who tries communication via terrestrial based repeaters!

Vincent Waelti, K9TSU - www.k9tsu.tk

(from Harry KD4JMV)

Pictures from April's meeting (Presentation about ARES/RACES and Emergency Comms)



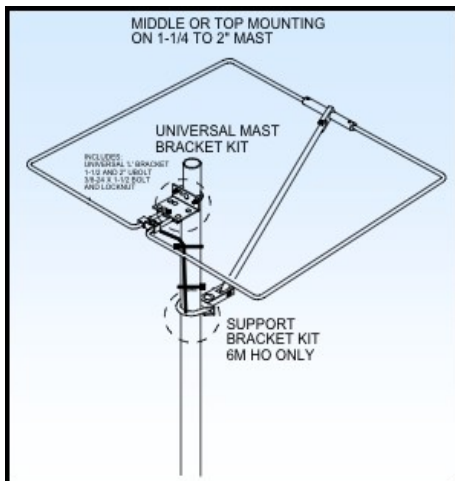


Trading Post

FOR SALE:

M2 6-meter HO Loop Antenna with Mast/Top Bracket kit.

Perfect Condition – never installed outdoors – only installed in my attic
Completely assembled & ready to use
Mounts on separate mast (not supplied)
Complete with mast bracket kit
Instructions included
Omnidirectional horizontal polarization
Perfect for ARASWF 6-meter Round Table
Costs \$125. New
Sell for \$50,
Contact Bob W2HI at w2hi@araswf.org



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
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Web Site

www.araswf.org