



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMIX No. 9 - The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
September 15, 2013

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- **Membership Meeting Minutes – No meeting this month**
- **Board Meeting Minutes – No meeting this month**
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**The next Club Meeting will be held September 24th 2013 at 7:00pm
at the Red Cross - 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive Naples, FL**

Nickels & Dimes

As I sat and watched the football games this past weekend, I wondered what happened to the summer. It's Labor Day, and I still have all those projects sitting on the back shelf that I had planned to finish during the raining summer season. Oh well, mañana...

This month's newsletter is coming to you early because I'm packing for a float trip down Danube and Rhine rivers. Of course the two rivers flow in opposite directions, however, they are connected via the Main-Danube Canal. The RMD is an engineering marvel spanning over a hundred miles with sixteen locks that connect the two rivers. The top lock of the canal crossing is the highest navigable waterway in the world.

While I haven't packed just yet (of course the XYL has fully packed and is ready to go), I have, however, programmed my ICOM IC-80AD HT with dozens of repeaters along the way. I hope to link back to Naples and stay in touch with the D-Star group using our new DCS024 reflector. As fan of social media, I will post a few interesting photos along the way on Facebook.

The repeater maintenance crew was busy this summer fine tuning both the D-Star and FM machines. The 670 machine was recently offline for mysterious reasons. Dave Schaare – W4SFR made some repairs and it should be reinstalled by the end of this week. At AA4PP, an intelligent web switch was added to automatically reboot the router when T-Mobile randomly changes our IP address. This previously caused problems and required a physical trip to the site to bring the system back online.

Also, this past summer our club grew nicely. Please welcome our newest members:

- Bojan Stricevic – KB2RST
- Bill Bernie – N8HRY
- Dan Kamm – K9JPB
- Tony Rahaim - KJ4PUJ

I hope you all have enjoyed your summer break and look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting - September 24th. Remember we will have a VE session preceding the meeting and welcome walk-ins. If you have been considering an upgrade, please visit: <http://www.grz.com/hamtest/> and start taking your practice exams online.

Ken-W9KB
ARASWF Secretary/Treasurer

Bonus link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhine%E2%80%93Main%E2%80%93Danube_Canal

Contest Corner

September 2013

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 2 to 0300Z, Sep 3
+ All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 7 to 2400Z, Sep 8
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Sep 7
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Sep 7 to 2359Z, Sep 8
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 7
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 8
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 8
+ Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 8
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z, Sep 11 to 0400Z, Sep 12
+ WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 14 to 2359Z, Sep 15
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16
+ North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 16
+ SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest	1600Z, Sep 20 to 1000Z, Sep 22
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 21 to 2400 local, Sep 22
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 21 to 1200Z, Sep 22
SRT HF Contest SSB	1300Z, Sep 21 to 1300Z, Sep 22
+ QRP Afield	1500Z, Sep 21 to 0300Z, Sep 22
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 21 to 2400Z, Sep 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 25
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z, Sep 25 to 0400Z, Sep 26
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 28 to 2000Z, Sep 29

October 2013

German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
+ SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 3
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 5
+ Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 5 to 0800Z, Oct 6
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 5 to 2159Z, Oct 6
+ EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 5
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z, Oct 9 to 0400Z, Oct 10
+ 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 12 to 1559Z, Oct 13
+ Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 12 to 0800Z, Oct 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Oct 12 to 2359Z, Oct 13
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 12 to 1200Z, Oct 13
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 2200Z, Oct 13
+ Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 2359Z, Oct 13
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 12
+ FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 12
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 13



Next time your down on Marco Island, check out the K5MI repeater on 146.985 mHZ (-600 mHZ), it is now running on the D-Star system.

AA4PP (441.5 mHZ), AB4FL (443.8 mHZ) and AB4NP (145.270 mHZ) and K5MI are all connected via a new DCS024C reflector located here in Naples.

Investigate D-Star as a new way to stay connected if you have antenna restrictions.

Reflectors can enable you can make QSO's worldwide!

Collier D-Star Team



The above photo includes optional HM-189GPS.

Hints For Successful Traffic Net Operations

Keep transmissions as short as possible without losing message clarity.

For voice nets, use only plain English and standard "prowords" (procedure words). "Q" signals are only for CW, and 10-codes are passé even for CB - most served agencies have abandoned codes in favor of plain English. Keep the net formal and professional, but friendly. An informal or casual style during an emergency net promotes sloppiness, and does little to impress served agencies.

If the net is a scheduled net, start on time! Tardiness indicates poor management and doesn't inspire confidence in the NCS.

Use a script to promote clear and concise communication. Scripts can be used to open and close the net, and for periodic "housekeeping" announcements. If you don't have a pre-printed script, take a moment to write one.

Frequently identify the name and purpose of the net. Advise listeners of the sub-audible squelch tone (CTCSS or DCS) required, if applicable. This can be part of your periodic "housekeeping" script.

If the net is an emergency operation, use your scripts to tell listeners where to find other nets, such as resource or specialized nets. In some cases, this may help prevent un-needed but well-meaning stations from checking-in just to offer their services, which distracts the net from its mission.

Be friendly, yet in control. Speak slowly and clearly with a calm, even, tone – not a monotone. Speak with confidence, even if you are inwardly nervous.

Acknowledge requests promptly and specifically so that net participants are not left wondering if they were heard or which one of several callers was recognized.

Ask specific questions – give specific instructions. This reduces the need for "repeats" and prevents confusion.

Have pencil and paper ready – write down ALL calls and tactical call signs. Practice writing down everyone's calls when you are not the NCS.

Read your radio's owner's manual and know your radio before an emergency occurs. Random fumbling with the knobs wastes valuable time and is very unprofessional.

Know how to use your microphone. Have another station advise you on the best distance and angle from your mouth to the microphone, and the proper mic gain setting. You may have to adjust your mic technique to compensate for increased background noise – talking louder will likely cause overmodulation or distortion. Articulate, don't slur.

When there is a "double" (i.e., when two or more stations transmit on the same frequency at the same time), listen to see if you can identify either station by call sign or by text. Then, ask

all stations to stand by while you solicit clarification or repeats from each station involved, as needed.

During check-ins, recognize participants by their tactical call sign whenever possible—it helps to let everyone else know which stations are on the air and become familiar with what the tactical call signs are.

Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you need it. The net manager should be able to assist you or locate additional help. That is part of their job.

You will make mistakes. Acknowledging them will earn the respect and support of net members, but don't dwell on them.

NEVER think out loud. If you need a moment to consider what to do next, say something like "stand by" or "please wait" and un-key your microphone while you think.

Transmit only facts. If there is a real need to make an educated guess or to speculate, make it clear to others that it is only speculation and not fact.

Avoid becoming the source for general information about the event. If it is an emergency, refer event status questions to the proper public information net or Public Information Officer (PIO). Avoid casual discussions about the served agency's response efforts on the air, since the press or the general public might be listening and take information out of context.

When necessary, use standard ITU phonetics. There is no such thing as "common spelling." Send all numbers as individual numbers, e.g., 334 is "three three four" not "three hundred thirty four."

ITU Phonetic Alphabet

A—alfa (AL-fa)	B—bravo (BRAH-voh)
C—charlie (CHAR-lee)	D—delta (DELL-tah)
E—echo (ECK-oh)	F—foxtrot (FOKS-trot)
G—golf (GOLF)	H—hotel (HOH-tell)
I—india (IN-dee-ah)	J—juliet (JU-lee-ett)
K—kilo (KEY-loh)	L—lima (LEE-mah)
M—mike (MIKE)	N—november (no-VEM-ber)
O—oscar (OSS-cah)	P—papa (PAH-PAH)
Q—quebec (kay-BECK)	R—romeo (ROW-me-oh)
S—sierra (SEE-air-rah)	T—tango (TANG-go)
U—uniform (YOU-ni-form)	V—victor (VIK-tor)
W—whiskey (WISS-key)	X—x-ray (ECKS-ray)
Y—yankee (YANG-key)	Z—zulu (ZOO-loo)

If the net has been quiet for more than ten minutes, check on operator status. This keeps the net running more smoothly and ensures that you know about equipment failures and missing operators as soon as possible.

Tactical call signs should be used to make it easier to call and identify stations. To initiate a call, use the location name or assignment instead of your FCC call sign. Use your FCC call sign only as you are required to: every ten minutes during an exchange and at the end of the exchange. Some examples of tactical call signs might be "command post", "Newington Police", "Shelter 1", or "Rover 4." Remember that you may initiate a communication by using tactical call sign only saving your actual call sign to end the conversation. For example: "Command post – Rover 4". Then the response, "Rover 4". The exchange is then made with Rover 4 clearing by saying "Rover 4, KA1ABC". Command then clears with "Command post, K0XYZ". This format now tells anyone else wishing to pass some new traffic that this exchange is complete and that they can now make a call with *their* traffic to command. Practice with this format makes sure that everyone is aware of how to correspond on the net.

Maps with tactical call signs can make it easier for the NCS to direct messages to a point closest to the addressee, and to dispatch and route additional help.

During drills, all stations should state frequently "this is a drill" and always emphasize the word "drill" in the text of every formal message, especially when transmitting simulated priority or emergency messages. This prevents other operators, the press, or public listening on scanners from assuming that an actual event has occurred. Ask any veteran emergency manager about the time their staff failed to do this! It is not a mistake you make twice.



Lighthouse of Collier Summer Camp



Sarah & George – AA4GT working 20m CW



Sea Water Antenna



SPAWARPacificT2 · 7 videos



155,491

249 6



About

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Uploaded on Oct 27, 2009

SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific has developed a technology that uses the magnetic induction properties of sodium chloride (salt) in sea water to create UHF/VHF/HF antenna.

Show more

Check out this link for more information:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tIZUhu21sQ>



**PEACE RIVER RADIO ASSOCIATION
IS SPONSORING THE 5th ANNUAL
N4XJQ LAMBIEFEST**

Saturday, September 15, 2012

6 AM – 2 PM

HOURLY PRIZES

Good Deals – New Friends —And a Good Ole Time for Everyone
Pancakes & Sausage, Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Coffee & Soda Available

Location: Tropical Gulf Acres Clubhouse

Admission: \$3.00

Tailgate: \$3.00 per vehicle (bring your own table(s))

Inside Tables: \$10.00 includes Admission (25 Tables available)

Some Electric, over night parking is OK (no hookups)

Talk-in 147.255 W4DUX.NET

Exit #158 Tuckers Grade

Turn Left on US 41 go-

5 Blocks South to St. Ives Drive and

Turn Right at The Camperland the

TGA Clubhouse is Straight Ahead.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT PRRA

PRRA

P.O. Box 510943

Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-0943

For more information contact Tom Lan





Royal Palm Chapter 152 meets every second Thursday of the month

at the Lely Palms Manor, Next Luncheon Meeting: September 12th 12:30pm

1000 Lely Palms Blvd.

Naples, FL 34114



THE FLORIDA QSO PARTY 2013 WORKED ALL 1X1 SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS



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THE FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP**

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO

AA4PP



K4F - ORANGE
K4L - PALM BEACH
K4O - MANATEE
K4R - BROWARD
K4I - HILLSBOROUGH
K4D - BREVARD
K4A - LAKE

FOR CONFIRMED CONTACTS WITH
ALL 7 1X1 FQP SPECIAL EVENT
STATIONS, WHOSE COMBINED
SUFFIXES SPELL "FLORIDA"
DURING THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
FQP IN APRIL OF 2013

**16TH
ANNIVERSARY
EVENT**

RON WETJEN WD4AHZ
FCG VP FOR FQP APRIL 2013



CERTIFICATE # 219

Club Information

Next Meeting Time: September 24th @ 7:00PM

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive
Naples, FL

Club Repeaters:

- ARASWF FM - WB2QLP 146.670 mHz (-600 kHz) PL 136.5 HZ
- ARASWF D-Star – AA4PP 145.490 mHz (-600 kHz)/441.5 mHz (5.0kHz)
- Collier EOC – WB2WPA 147.030 mHz (+600 kHz)

Club Officers:

President: Uli Altvater – AG0X@araswf.org
Vice President: Eric Gissendaner – KF4IXA@araswf.org
Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bills – W9KB@araswf.org
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Club Website:

<http://www.araswf.org>

Visit
the



**Amateur Radio Association
of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

Web Site

www.araswf.org