



ARA Newsletter



Vol XIII No.5

Club Repeater - 146.670(K4YHB) Club Packet Cluster Node -145.070(N1DL) Club Chat Node - 144.970 (CHAT)
Club Home Page - <http://www.naplesfl.net/~araswf>

The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

The President's Comment

We're one month away from Field Day, are you ready? I hope so! We had our first planning session over at the QTH of N4VMT on May 3rd. Looks like we'll be running 3A for the contest. WB2QLP will have more in this newsletter about our operations in Field Day '98.

The club received a generous donation from George Henderson WB4FUS this month. WB4FUS is moving to California in the next couple of months, and took this opportunity to lighten the load for the move. A lot of electronics pieces like wafer switches, relays, tubes, knobs, test equipment, and more were in the donation. I'll be going through the boxes this weekend and I'll be bringing what the club cannot use to the meeting. These items will be available to purchase for the benefit of the club. Please help out the club and bring some money to May's meeting.

We will be having a CT presentation at the May's meeting, also. This will be to go over how to use the K1EA's CT Contest Logging software. This is what we use at field day, and most other contests. It is important to see this if you plan on helping out at Field Day. It would be a little late to teach you for the first time at the contest. Any other software that you would like demonstrated at future meetings, please feel free to contact me or A.D. to set it up. I have a BIG projector display that I can bring in so everyone can see the screen.

Just a reminder, there will not be a meeting the month of June, but there will be a newsletter, due to our participation

73 de KE4RGH.

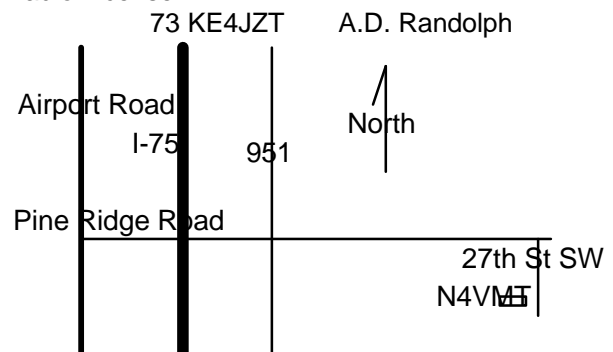
Field Day
June 27 & 28
N4VMT - QTH

Comment by The VEEP



Boy what a month for 2 meters. The band was wide open to the Northwest to Texas, Alabama, Mexico and many other areas. It didn't matter how much power you had, as I talked to one station in Texas and he was only running 3 watts. It didn't matter if it was SSB or FM, there was plenty of hams out there having fun. There was a few of the local guys who had contact with a Mexico station through the 146.670 repeater one afternoon, (boy wish I could have been there). And then they went simplex and made a contact there. So maybe the HF bands have not been the best but it looks like VHF is picking the slack. Also 6meters has had some opening too, so get out there and join in the fun. Just think, if the repeater was toned, that contact into Mexico would have never happened!

I expect to see everyone at Field Day, I'm sure we can use the operators, so we can top last years score. It gets bigger and better each year. Also if you know of someone interested in short wave radio or becoming a ham, bring him or her out to the site and maybe this will encourage them to get there Ham Radio License.



Secretary/ Treasurer Report

Field Day is only a month away which will be in lieu of the June monthly meeting. Preparations are underway, so come out and enjoy the fun. It is being held at Phil Potter's, N4VMT, at 1555 27th Street SW. Hopefully we'll have some of the public visit, maybe the Boy Scouts. Hope to see you there!

On a more serious note, Gil Bartlett, KD4DZR,

suffered a stroke on May 15 and is in Naples Community Hospital. Our prayers and best wishes go out to Gil for a swift and full recovery.

Don't forget that you can renew your ARRL dues through the Club and the Club gets \$2 each. Just send your renewal form to me at my home address with a check made out to ARASWF.

I'm holding club shirts for AD4MF, AD4TR, KD9N and WA3SMA. Please contact me

to pick them up. I will also bring them to the meeting. The cost is \$13.00 each.

Steve Fleishman KD4VRY

Secretary/Treasurer



Call for Field Day

Field Day is the most popular amateur radio event of the year. Thousands of hams all over the U.S. and Canada participate in the "Mother of ALL Contests". This is the most active and popular event that our clubs partakes in the entire year.

For those of you who are new to the hobby, let me give you an idea of "WHAT FIELD DAY IS" -- Field day is an emergency preparedness exercise that encourages the maintenance of portable communications equipment and the development of operating skills under difficult and unusual conditions.

Once a year, on the last full weekend in June, hams throughout the U.S. and Canada, pack up their portable and emergency gear and head out into a field, mountain top, beach, or park where they set up their stations complete with antennas and generators. They then try to contact as many other similar groups as possible in the twenty-seven (27) allotted time period. Most amateur frequencies (except WARC bands) and modes of operation are used by the groups. Some groups will even be powered by solar energy or wind power, while others will rely on gasoline generators and batteries.

If you have never operated in a contest before, here is an opportunity to enjoy a day of operating and lots of fun. Don't be shy, you will not be alone. Nearly everyone else there with you is not an experienced contest operator.

This year Phil Potter, N4VMT, has again given the club permission to use his south forty adjacent to his home. Phil is a past

secretary/ treasurer of the club. A map to his location is on the front page of this newsletter.

Plans call for the setting up of the tents, equipment, and antennas on Friday, June 26 at 12:00 noon.

MARK your calendar, Plan to take the whole weekend off, Come on out to the great outdoors, Scream into a microphone, pound a brass key, swat mosquitoes, and eat delicious food prepared by our now famous chef, Don Mielke, WD4FLY. Soooooo - Plan to attend and Join in the fun. All club members and their families are welcome.

de WB2QLP, field day chairman



Walkathon A Success

The ARASWF (ARA) participated in the annual March of Dimes WALKAMERICA on April 18, 1998 with 18 1/2 members volunteering their time and equipment.

The club received recognition in their letter to the groups participating. We were noted in BOLD PRINT explaining our function, and the club did receive a plaque that is quite attractive for our effort.

The following members took part(not necessarily in alphabetical order) Martin Pelt AD4TR, Bob Montbriand W0OB, Dick Pettijohn W0MIA, Richard St Amant W0MR, Don Hyer AA1KI, Gil Bartlett KD4DZR, Hanni Boenert N4SKI, and her other half Sigi W2JQ, Peter Pye KD4LXZ, A D Randolph KE4JZT, El Prez..Bill Stearns KE4RGH, Ken Ranson WA4UKB, Walter Denny K3OXB, Fred Edwards KF4JJ,

Dave Bennett KC4FYH, Bob Brady WA8QYJ, John Simander WA3TIH, A cameo appearance was made by Donn Brown W4RAZ, and de FLY... WD4FLY.

Your efforts were significant in the success of the event.. Our efforts in locating people and supplies, and the Poop-mobile operated by Uncle John (sometimes known as JOAN)

Thanks again for help...73...de FLY

A Challenge is Issued

I am writing this article because I have some deep guilt feelings. You see Tom K4TZ and myself have made a little wager with some of the other members of the club. We told the phone operators that our single CW station would out score all the phone stations they can put on the air at Field



Day. Currently we have K4TZ, K1PJ, myself and possibly W4ZKE to operate the CW station. With guys like those on my team the phone ops don't stand a chance. So I am asking, NO, I am pleading for people to come out and help. The phone

stations don't stand a chance and they will need all the help they can get !! We will be setting up Friday afternoon June 26th at N4VMT's QTH. The contest runs from 2 PM Saturday to 2 PM Sunday. We will have the traditional steak dinner Friday night for the setup crew and a picnic lunch Saturday before the contest starts. We need set up , tear down people. We also are would like to see everyone out there for the event. Please come out and try to help the phone ops out or at least come out and witness the slaughter !! 73 Martin Dah di dah....

From The "EOC"

HURRICANE ZEKE SLAMS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA UNDER A CLOUDLESS SKY

While southwest Florida went about it's regular business between May 11-15, Emergency Operations Centers across the state battled fictional hurricane 'ZEKE' which made landfall near Sanibel Island in the early morning hours of May 13. An estimated 50,000 people take part in the annual statewide hurricane exercise, from local, state and federal agencies.

ZEKE struck Florida from the south after crossing western Cuba, as a category three hurricane. Such a scenario would likely push the Gulf of Mexico over Marco Island, Everglades City, East Naples and the southern end of the city of Naples, with salt water being pushed inland nearly to Golden Gate.

It's not a far fetched scenario either...in fact, it's the track of the 1898 hurricane which slammed a then sparsely populated southwest Florida. Since then several storms have missed our coastline by less than 300 miles, including powerful hurricane Frederick in 1979. If you haven't begun your hurricane planning for the 1998 season, your behind the curve! Remember: hurricane season starts JUNE 1 and runs through NOVEMBER 30. Are you ready? Are you more ready that last year?

ARES/RACES TRAINING SESSION AT THE GOVERNOR'S HURRICANE CONFERENCE

The day of the week has changed this year, but the annual ARES/RACES training session is a go for the 12th annual Governor's Hurricane Conference in Tampa. The session has been moved to Monday this year, June 1, from 1:30

to 5:00 PM at the Tampa Convention Center. Amateurs who want to attend should go directly to the session. If it is the ONLY session you attend, there is no charge. If you plan to attend other training sessions there is a \$60 registration fee. The conference itself is \$100 and runs through Friday, June 5. You can attend the entire week (training sessions and the conference itself) for \$150. If you are interested in attending the ARES/RACES session please make your intentions known on the Tuesday night net. Perhaps others are also interested, and you can share a ride. WB2WPA is the session moderator, and KG5QD will be discussing weather distribution and APRS.

HURRICANE TRIVIA

Did you know . . . while El Nino tends to suppress hurricane activity in the Atlantic, a strong storm which develops in the western Atlantic will probably strike Florida! In fact, 'Andrew' was an El Nino hurricane! .Historically, a dry May usually means the chance of south Florida being struck by a hurricane increases by 75%! (National Weather Service data) The first storm of this year will be named 'Alex.' The name was selected to replace 'Andrew' in the 6 year hurricane name cycle. The center of 'Andrew' never entered Collier County, but the dangerous eyewall probably missed Everglades City and Marco Island by less than 10 miles. North Naples winds were estimated at 40-60 miles per hour, 75 in East Naples, and up to 120 in Everglades City and Marco Island. Storm surge was less than two feet, because the storm passed south of us. A land falling storm like 'Andrew' could cause a 20-25 foot storm surge in Collier County.73 until next month ..Gary WB2WPA

For Sale:

Gap DX-VIII Challenger Vertical Antenna 80/40/20/15/12/10/6/2 meters, 31'-5" high - \$125.00 Contact Jack WD4NSP Phone 941-992-2627 - Address 13311 Southampton Drive Bonita Springs, FL 34135 (Worthington Country Club) Jack WD4NSP

Antenna Tuner - MFJ -949B, 10 - 160 meters; Unidilla traps 10 to 15 meters including balun for dipole; 2 meter mobile ICOM IC25A 5-25 watts complete; ICOM 735 transceiver w/ antenna tuner, powersupply, speaker, and microphone ; Vertical antenna Butternut HF5V-x; 2 Vibroplex keys; 1 Vibroplex Iambic; 1 noise Bridge, TennaTest - Bob Koffron, WA8LPQ phone (941)775-9266

Two Antennas - Cushcraft no groundstick outside antenna in original unopened carton for 10,12,15,17,&20 meters -\$189.95; 10 meter full length adjustable two section custom made no ground stick outside base antenna - \$35.00 - Pete Noble, KF4IXD phone 793-8538

Think Field Day

Coming Events

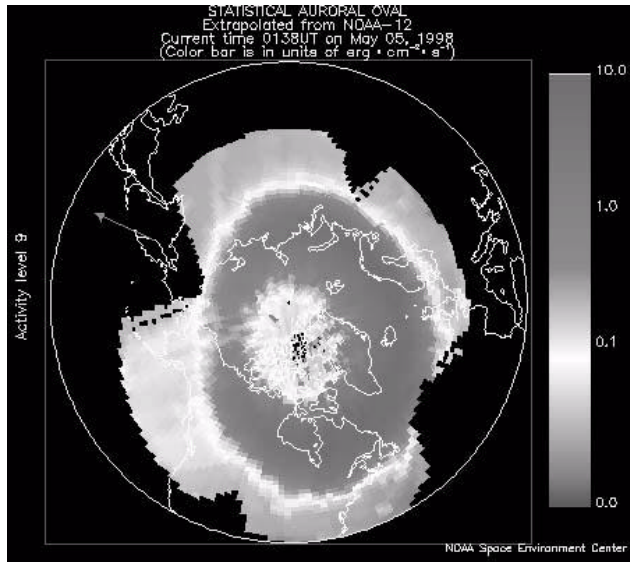
May 26 - Club Meeting at 7:30 pm at Shepard of the Glades Lutheran Church, Rattlesnake Road and Polly Avenue

June 26 Setup for Field Day at 12:00 to ? at N4VMT

June 27 & 28 **Field Day** (This event in lieu of the June club meeting) All invited to come out.

June 28 Cleanup and Pack up 12:00 'til done

North Polar Aurora Plot - 5/15/98



Editorial Comment - The Photos included this month were e-mailed to me by John WA3TIH. The aurora plot to the left brings back many memories when I chased DX on two meters running 100watts to an 829B and bouncing the signals off the curtain and listening for the hollow hiss of the returning cw signals. Ah what fun! At that time I was teaching in NYS north of Syracuse where the winter snowfall averaged 200 inches per year. Antennas and equipment was a tinker's delight as commercial VHF gear was rare and we all built our own. You really had to work hard to have a stable signal at these frequencies. To dig the signals out of the noise we built converters using surplus radar tubes with radial electrodes coming out of all sides of the glass. The biggest enemy to good reception was the shot noise of the heated filaments of all the tubes in the system. The advent of the solid state device which operate at much lower voltages and lower temperature have been a real boon to amateur radio. The fallout from the space program has provided us with compact stable microprocessor controlled equipment which is stable and easy to use but is very difficult if not impossible for the typical amateur to repair. As a result more of our fellow hams and newer members have to purchase expensive units in order to operate in the bands below 1GHz or have to operate cw which would allow them to use a simple crystal or vfo controlled transmitter. Even the receivers are costly today but are better than we had in the tube days. De K2ZEL