



ARA Newsletter



The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

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/~araswfl>

(This note was passed along by Gary. Recall the accuracy of this forecast during the week following the prediction)

PUBLIC SEVERE WEATHER OUTLOOK STORM PREDICTION CENTER NORMAN OK 6 AM CDT WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 1998
...OUTBREAK OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WITH TORNADOES...DAMAGING WINDS AND LARGE HAIL EXPECTED FOR
LARGE PARTS OF THE LOWER MISSOURI...MID MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO VALLEYS...

THE STORM PREDICTION CENTER IN NORMAN OKLAHOMA IS FORECASTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERE
THUNDERSTORMS WITH A FEW INTENSE TORNADOES...DAMAGING WINDS AND LARGE HAIL FOR PARTS OF THE
LOWER MISSOURI...MID MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO VALLEYS THIS AFTERNOON AND TONIGHT. THE AREAS MOST LIKELY
TO EXPERIENCE THIS ACTIVITY INCLUDE:

MUCH OF ILLINOIS AND INDIANA...PARTS OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MISSOURI...WESTERN AND CENTRAL
KENTUCKY...WESTERN TENNESSEE...SOUTHWESTERN OHIO AND NORTHERN ARKANSAS.

A LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM CURRENTLY NEAR THE CENTRAL KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA BORDER IS EXPECTED TO
INTENSIFY AND MOVE NORTHEASTWARD TODAY IN RESPONSE TO THE APPROACH FROM THE WEST OF A VERY
STRONG JET STREAM AND UPPER TROUGH. A STRONG SOUTHERLY FLOW EAST OF THE LOW WILL SPREAD A VERY
MOIST AND INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE AIR MASS NORTHWARD INTO THE LOWER MISSOURI AND MID MISSISSIPPI
VALLEYS BY THIS AFTERNOON.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS THAT OCCURRED ON TUESDAY OVER PORTIONS OF THE CENTRAL PLAINS HAVE
WEAKENED OVERNIGHT. HOWEVER GIVEN THE VERY FAVORABLE PARAMETERS THAT WILL BE COMING INTO PLACE
BY EARLY AFTERNOON...RAPID REDEVELOPMENT OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS ARE FORECASTED TO TAKE PLACE
ACROSS EASTERN MISSOURI INTO ILLINOIS.

THE STRONG MID/UPPER JET UPWARDS TO 150 KT AT 35000 FEET IN CONCERT WITH THE EXPECTED 50 KT SOUTHERLY
LOW LEVEL JET WILL PROVIDE CONDITIONS VERY FAVORABLE FOR SUPERCELLS AND TORNADOS. WITH SUCH AN
UNSTABLE AIR MASS AS TEMPERATURES RISE TO NEAR 80F SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WILL DEVELOP AND SPREAD
RAPIDLY NORTH AND EAST ACROSS MISSOURI INTO THE MID MISSISSIPPI VALLEY LATER THIS AFTERNOON AND
CONTINUE VERY ACTIVE ACROSS THE WESTERN OHIO VALLEY AND FURTHER SOUTH INTO KENTUCKY...TENNESSEE
AND NORTHERN ARKANSAS EARLY TONIGHT. A VERY FAVORABLE VERTICAL WIND STRUCTURE FOR SUPER CELLS IS
EXPECTED TO DEVELOP ACROSS SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI...SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA
WHERE THERE IS A PARTICULARLY HIGH RISK OF TORNADOS AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WITH THE POTENTIAL
FOR LARGE TORNADOES.

THIS AFTERNOON DAMAGING WINDS AND LARGE HAIL WILL BECOME A WIDESPREAD THREAT ACROSS MUCH OF THE
SEVERE OUTLOOK AREA CONTINUING WELL INTO THE NIGHTTIME HOURS.

THIS IS A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS WEATHER SITUATION. THOSE IN THE THREATENED AREAS ARE URGED TO
REVIEW SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY RULES... AND LISTEN TO RADIO...TV...OR NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR LATER
WATCHES ...WARNINGS AND STATEMENTS.

Secretary/Treasurers Report by Steve Fleishman KD4VRY

Well the repeater is working, the roster really is in the mail and the gang out at Bill's did great in the wpx
contest - over 2000 q's.

Don't forget the dinner meeting at PACIFIC 41 the 1st Wednesday of every month. Contact Sigi at 598-1353

The SMARS newsletter reports that AMSAT hopes to launch the PHASE 3D satellite in May.

Don Meilke told me that the club shirts are in for those who ordered them. Contact Don - WD4FLY

For those with antenna restrictions, I have taken my towers down for an upcoming move and have had no problem
staying connected to the CHAT node or N1DL with indoor antennas. Also, I've been working the repeater from an
attic antenna and made some 10 & 15 meter contacts with a dipole strung in the garage. So you can get on the air,
restricted or not.

Three people passed exams this month at the VE session including Pat Pelt - congratulations!

Jim Scardelis N4ZFD has relocated to Washington State, and is working for Microsoft. Wow!

Mark Fadden WA1QDP and Naples Two Way Radio deserve our thanks and appreciation for jumping right on our repeater problem and solving it! Thanks Mark.

See y'all at the meeting . de Steve KD4VRY

The Vice President's Note-

This last weekend I put together a list of who has birthdays each month , so maybe we could put this in our news letter each month. As I did this I counted each year how many Hams were born that year . As I did this , I found out our oldest member was born in 1908 and our youngest member was born in 1974. The next thing I saw was ,102 of the Club members were 50 years old or older. And at the last count we had about 123 members .also of that 102 , 58 of them are 70 years old or older. Is the ham a dieing breed ?What can we do to prevent this ?I believe we need to get out , let the public see us in different activties. If we dont , in the future there will not be enough Hams to keep the bands active and we all know what that means. So with that ,here is the list of who have Birthdays in the month April

.KE4JZT, KF4AER, W4RAZ, KA1TMU, K2VMD, WA3JTU, AB4VT, and W1GOG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND MANY MORE TO YOU MY FELLOW HAMS

73 de KE4JZT

The Presidents Note -

This past month has been busy with the exams given at the close of the course. It is reported that there are 3 new hams in the area. The contest went very well at the QTH. We had over 2000 q's. It was a blast. Look for information on the statewide disaster exercise to be held in May. They are going to try and destroy SW Fla with a hurricane again. de Bill KE4RGH

President

KE4RGH - Bill Sterns

Vice President

KE4JZT - A.D. Randolph

Secretary

KD4VRY - Steve Fleishman

Past President/ Field Day Chairman

AD4TR - Martin Pelt

Repeater Trustee/ Technical Chairman

WB2QLP Jordan Mash

DX Packet Cluster Node

KD4VRZ - Gary Randall

Training Committee

N4XSE - Michael Spencer

KO4MD - Robert Smith

Newsletter

K2ZEL - G. Wm. Reynolds

Webmaster

KE4KTZ - Glenn Niesen

VE Coordinator

KD4VRZ - Gary Randall

EOC Notes

Following the severe thunderstorm warning/skywarn activation Thursday night, I did manage to make several corrections and improvements to the net operation modes. The tail messages are now working properly, and the ids will be fixed shortly. Timers have been fixed so both EOC repeaters are set up the same, which avoids timing problems when they are linked.

I have also added the DTMF code '703' to the alert sequence. This code is sent in less than 3/4 of a second, and allows those with DTMF PAGING (not DTMF squelch!) to have their radios sitting silently until the DTMF code activates it. This code WILL be transitted at the end of the alert sequence effective immediately. Check your equipment manual to see if you have DTMF paging capability and how to program the 703 code into it.

I will be doing some testing over the next few days getting the rest of the bugs out.

Also: We have moved the EOC and Ochopee APRS digis to 144.39, the new National APRS frequency, effective at 6 PM Thursday. This is in keeping with the moves all around us.

Finally, don't forget the Intermediate/Advanced SKYWARN training at 7 PM, on Tuesday 14 April at the EOC!!!

MORE DEATH & DESTRUCTION FROM TORNADOS

It's happened again, this time in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia. Clusters of strong tornados have killed at least 20, injured hundreds, and left hundreds more homeless. The Storm Prediction Center (formerly the National Severe Storms Forecast Center) in Norman, Oklahoma, issued a forecast calling for a "significant tornadic outbreak" in an area extending from the "lower Mississippi Valley to northern Georgia and Tennessee" early on the morning of April 8. By mid afternoon, and well into the early morning hours of the 9th,

tornados were ripping across several states in the area. The National Weather Service says at least 20 tornado warnings were issued between 6 pm and midnight as a second wave of severe thunderstorms rolled across the deep south. Once again, NWS provided ample warning, but the loss of life points out just how destructive these storms can be. A radar image pulled from the Intellicast website shows mesocyclones, hail and tornadic signatures all over 6 state, including the Panama City area in the panhandle of Florida. Tornados ranged as far north as Cuyahoga County Ohio. This IS severe weather season. Keep an eye on the sky and an ear on the radio!

NOAA ALERTS COMING TO EOC REPEATERS

We will be installing a SAME capable NOAA Weather Radio on the EOC repeater system this month, as soon as some technical glitches can be worked out. The goal is to automatically put NOAA audio on the air on both the 147.03 and 443.700 repeaters when a watch or warning is received. The real technical glitch comes in a desire to automatically record the statement for later playback if needed. We are also addressing concerns about the possible interruption of a 911 report of severe weather, and how to best insert severe weather statements into special operations, such as nets, or SKYWARN operations. Look for more details next month. Thanks to Mark WA1QDP for his help in modifying our receiver to provide the needed connections to the controller, and to Steve Stroebel at Link Communications for his help in developing the controller programming.

DTMF ALERTING ADDED TO EOC REPEATERS

In late March, an additional alerting function was added to the EOC repeaters which allows radios with DTMF paging capabilities to be activated when the repeaters are switched to a special mode. At the March ARES/RACES meeting, devoted to severe weather planning, it was agreed that we will use the touch tone code "703" to open DTMF capable receivers. This code has been added to the alert function used to start all special modes on both repeaters. Check your radio's manual to see if it is capable of DTMF paging. If so, program the code "703" into the system. When you want to be alerted to an emergency, but do not want to listen to traffic, simply turn on your DTMF paging capability. If the alert system is activated, you will not hear the voice announcement telling you to stand by, or the 1050 hz tone, but the touch tone codes should open your receiver so you can hear the emergency announcement or net. If you have one of WA4UKBs alerting boards, and bought it from Ken more than a month or so ago, you may need to have the alert tone adjusted. Originally, the 03 repeater controller was not able to generate a true 1050 tone, so we used the closest possible: 1063.2. The Link controller installed last year is programmed to transmit exactly the 1050 tone, and Ken's board is so selective that some are missing alerts! Contact WA4UKB for information on tuning the input for the correct frequency, or if you're interested in purchasing a board. Ken has provided them at cost, and they can be used on a mobile or portable radio, or even a scanner...anything that can receive the repeater and provide audio to the board. It's a simple, inexpensive way to be alerted if something is going on! See you next month! 73 de WB2WPA

I know it's past your deadline, but I was just notified today that our SKYWARN session must be pushed back to May...and am shooting for May 12. It was scheduled for tonight, but our speaker hurt his back somehow, and is unable to travel. We need to get the word out as quickly and widely as possible! Anything you can do would be much appreciated...but I know you're headed out of town...

Thanks... 73, Gary

Now that we have a club license and a permanent call for the station, it is time to design a club QSL card to use in recognizing particular contacts when operating as a club in special events. We need a card which uniquely portrays this area of southwest Florida and the nature of our club.

Therefor for the next ninety days all members are encouraged to submit suggestions or mock-ups of proposed cards for a committee to review and to bring to the club for possible adoption. Entries may be delivered to any one of the officers or the editor to pass along for committee review.

The club call is K4YHB
P.O. Box 990146
Naples, FL 34116

Club Activities

Next Club Meeting - April 28, 1998 at 7:30 pm at Shepard of the Glade Lutheran Church on Rattlesnake Hammock Road and Polly Avenue.

Next Dinner Meeting - May 6, 1998 - Call Sigi for Details at 598-1353

Editor's Comments -

It appears that the older I get the faster that time slips by. This past month has been no exception to the rule. The dead line for the news letter came up fast and although I try to get the word out timely it seems that one or two reports drag on to the very last minute. This puts a bit of stress on the old man's system. Noting AD's comments re the age of the members who are 70 or older this year and there are times I feel every minute of it. I just can't get all the things that I want done as quickly as I want to get them done. It takes more time these days.

On a brighter note - I just received my copy of Acrobat 3.0 (the full version) so will be playing with the newsletter file for electronic publication on the web site. I have to unload a moderate amount of stuff from the hard drive to get room for the installation so it will have to wait until I get back from Branson. Then we will try to get it over to Gary and Glen for uploading to the home page.

Will see y'all at the meeting de K2ZEL