



# ARA Newsletter



January 1999 Vol.XV no.1

## The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Club Repeater – 146.67 (K4YHB) Club Packet Cluster Node – 145.070 (N1DL) Club Chat Node – 144.970 (CHAT)  
Club Home Page – <http://www.naplesfl.net/~araswf>

### The President's Note

Well the New Year is off to a bright start. We have two small classes started at Naples High this year rather than at Baron Collier High School. The change was made at the last minute and also changed the night from Thursday to Wednesday. The change caused the loss of Bill, K2ZEL as an instructor as he already had commitments for Wednesday evenings. The season is definitely upon us with increased traffic and a number of calls on the repeater reflecting our winter visitors and residents. The repeater had only one small problem that was corrected by Mark and Jordan. Chat has been running well with a number of the members active daily chatting back and forth. N1DL has continued with no problems. Come out to the meeting and provide some input for activities this coming year. - Martin, AD4TR

### A Note from the Vice President

It's not long until the year 2000 and all the computers on earth will crash. That's what some are saying, hi hi. So just in case they are right, we, Hams, better be ready. You will be the only one in your neighborhood with communications to the outside world, besides the CB'er !! They will be standing in line at your shack door wanting to sent messages to their loved ones to the north or where ever they may be. I don't believe this at all myself, but just in case "be prepared". Well maybe that's what I'm trying to say, we will never know where something can happen and you and your RADIO will become a life line to your neighbors. so keep all your equipment in top working order and "be prepared". We all hope this never will happen but we, Hams, will be there. I hope this will do because I couldn't think of a thing to write about. So till next month 73 KE4JZT HI HI

### Secretary's Comments

I won't be submitting anything is month as I am in London at present and will be in Germany later in the week. I will not be back in Naples until the weekend.  
73..Gary

### \*\*\*\*\* K 4 Y H B REPEATER NEWS \*\*\*\*\*

About 2 weeks ago, a situation arose that caused the repeater to hang up in the key down or transmit mode. None of the tones or codes that were sent to it remotely or via the telephone link would alleviate this problem. The repeater was keyed down at least 18 hours.

A work party consisting of WA1QPD, WB2WIH, & WB2QLP got together and drove to the repeater site to assess the situation and condition of the repeater. After the initial assessment of the equipment, it was determined that all that was needed was to briefly shut down the repeater and perform a hard reset. That did it !!! All is well and in good working order again. It was very fortunate that there was NO DAMAGE done to any of the club's equipment. De WB2QLP - Jordan



### **Silent Key - WB8SSN- Walter Wolbert**

Hi everyone. A lot of you may not have known Wally. Wally was one of the original Founders of the Heart of Ohio Ham Fiesta, circa 1975. Dolpha Wolbert - KD4DZV - is Wally's Son and lives in Florida. Dolpha is included in this message in case you want to send him a note of Sympathy. Below is the obituary as it appeared in The Marion Star.

The Marion Star - Saturday, January 2, 1999

"Walter "Wally" Wolbert, 78, of Bonita Springs, Fla. died Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1998 in Bonita Springs. He was born in Marion on Oct. 12, 1920 to Dolpha Wolbert and Edna Marie Houser both who preceded him in death. He married his first wife Ethel VanShaack Wolbert who died May 30, 1975. He then married Evelyn Dane Wolbert who is also deceased. He was a member of the American Legion Post 584, the Moose Lodge, and a HAM radio operator (Editors Note: WB8SSN). He worked at Marion

Power Shovel as a maintenance supervisor. He also served in World War II in the U.S. Navy. He is survived by Mrs. Bill (Pat) Wertz, Marion; Mrs. William (Wimp) and Judy Young, Marion; son Dolpha Wolbert, Naples, Fla.; one step son and two step grandchildren; four grand daughters and eight great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by one grand daughter and one son." Wally was active in the "Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida". His Presence will be missed at club activities and in particular at field day where he supervised the cook, Dolph. - KD4DZV.

### **Dinner Meeting**

Our first Dinner meeting for 1999 was held on January 6. at the usually place, the Pacific 41. 28 in all, OM's and XYL's had again a lovely time, chatting, telling jokes, Computer talk, talk about the sickness and there remedies. Everybody had a good time. N4GHN Wayne and Cleo's daughter and there son in law helped celebrate Cleo's Birthday. KD4LXD Peter and his wife Celia have also birthday in January. W2GOG George and Harriet had company from a good friend Jim Trier. Next meeting on Feb. 3. Call Sigi at 598-1353 with your reservation. That's all for now. 73 de Sigi W2JQ

### **From the EOC**

First, from everyone at the EOC, a best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous (Y2K)-1 to everyone! And it looks like it could be a busy one! Dr. Bill Gray at Colorado State University is out with his early, long range forecast for the 1999 Atlantic hurricane season. The good doctor and his team are predicting 14 named storms, 9 hurricanes and FOUR major hurricanes in 1999, or about 50 percent more than a typical, average season. The season just past brought 14 storms, 10 hurricanes and 3 majors, so it looks like more of the same. The bad news: the CSU team has underforecast the past three years. If that's the case in '99, it could be more like 1995, the second busiest year ever. The true concern of course is those 4 intense storms. These tend to be Cape Verde storms at the peak of season: and more likely to strike Florida than any other area. If you're still putting off improvements in your home hurricane protection, this is probably the time to get busy!

It's also time to plan a Mobile Command Center training trip. At least twice a year, we try to send the bus out for a shakedown and general training run, to keep ARES/RACES volunteers current on the set up, operation and tear down of the bus. We'll aim for mid to late February to allow adequate planning time and avoid the peak of hamfest season (Miami and Orlando). We'll do the planning at the ARES/RACES meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 7 PM in the EOC.

The arctic cold that swept through Collier County during the first week of the year may have only been a look at things to come. Remember that La Nina conditions in the Pacific, such as we have been in since last summer, generally mean an overall warmer than normal winter in the southeast. Historically, La Nina has also meant some sharp freezes in the state. While the early January blast did manage to push temperatures to the freezing mark in some areas, most of the county stayed just above 32 degrees. More cold air can be expected over the next month or two, so be ready to take precautions if necessary. Cold weather tips can be found on the EOC website at: [http://www.collierem.org/cold\\_wx.htm](http://www.collierem.org/cold_wx.htm).

For several years now, Emergency Management has used blast fax technology to transmit public safety advisories to government agencies, the new media, and businesses in Collier County. The system is used whenever there is an actual or imminent event which could place life or property in jeopardy. It has NOT been available for personal use however, as each page costs 75 cents, and our budget would not allow us to send a fax to each individual in the county. Now, thanks to OneList.com, we CAN make the service available to individuals who have an email account! To subscribe to CollierEMAlert, our new email service, simply point your web browser to: <http://www.collierem.org/alertsub.htm> and follow the instructions. The listserver service is used only when there is something happening that the public needs to be aware of: hurricane, severe weather warnings, critical blood shortages, etc. If it is important enough to send via blast fax it will be available via email. Keep in mind too, that this is an announcement list. That means

the EOC can send messages, but no one else. No spam, no flames, just information. These messages are also posted on the website at <http://www.collierem.org/emerg.htm> in a new format (using frames) that is much easier for us to change when needed, which means faster updates.

During hurricane 'Georges' we learned that our website would be taken down by the Naples Free-Net when the system was shut down to prevent serious electronic damage in the event of a power failure. We quickly established a mirror site on the County Government webserver, and the entire site is now backed up at: <http://www.co.collier.fl.us/emergency/> just in case! All file and page names are the same as the NFN site.

APRS users may have noticed a major improvement in SW Florida coverage. Two digis have gone on the air in Ft. Myers, nicely filling the gaps between Naples and the I-4 corridor. Our digis at Carnestown and the Courthouse are both working well, and Mobile Command was using APRS from the County Fair from January 8-17.

Remember the Collier County Emergency Net, on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays of the month, at 7 PM, on the EOC repeaters, 147.030 and 443.700. Monthly meetings at the EOC: February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 15 (note date change due to Governor's Hurricane Conference in Tampa), July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9 and December 14, 1999. 73 for now!

Gary Arnold, CEM Collier County Emergency Management - E-mail: [garnold@naples.net](mailto:garnold@naples.net) (Alt: [gary.arnold@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gary.arnold@worldnet.att.net)) - EM page: "<http://www.collierem.org/>"

**For Sale:**

Kenwood TS 930s ( 10,20,30,40,80,160)  
meters  
Kenwood MC 60 Microphone  
Kenwood TH 225A 2meters tranceiver  
Kenwood B-C7 Charger  
Kenwood SW 2100 Calibrator

Butternut Antenna HF-6VX  
Hustler Antenna G6-270 R

Low Pass filter 2000 watt  
Alpha Delta Delta 4N Coax switch surge  
protector

John E. Ritchey  
4521 Beechwood Lake Dr.  
Naples Fl. 34112

**For Sale:**

**COMPUTER:**

IBM motherboard-486@66MHZ-with coprocessor  
630 HD with \*I/O board  
\*Soundblaster 16  
CDROM drive @8x  
5.25 floppy drive-3.50 floppy drive  
\*Modem-28,800 KB  
Windows 3.1 Disks-6.2 DOS Disks  
\*Manuals  
Other Programs  
NO MONITOR  
\$115.00 or offer  
Call: Jerry Blumenthal-W8TWJ  
263-2172

**For Sale:**

Computer - 486DX2-50 w/ 16 meg ram, 200 meg hard  
drive, 3-1/2 floppy, 5-1/4 floppy, CDROM drive, Sound  
Blaster, keyboard, modem, 2 serial & 1 parallel ports, vga  
card, full tower case, w/ power supply, Manuals and  
master diskettes for Dos, Windows 3.11, etc. NO  
MONITOR On consignment to K2ZEL - 992-4708  
Owner wants \$150 negotiable

Baycom Packet modem w/ diskette - \$25.00

Computer - 486DX33 w/ 8 meg ram, 200meg HD, 3-1/2  
floppy, 2 serial, 1 parallel ports, vga card, minitower case  
w/ power supply, NO MONITOR - \$50.00  
Contact K2ZEL - 992-4708

**For Sale:**

From the estate of WB9SSN  
Ameritron 811 Amplifier with 3 tubes  
and all Manuals - \$400.00  
MFJ Antenna Tuner 989C with Manuals  
- \$150.00  
Contact Dolph at 455-0905

## Announcements

Club Meeting - 7:30 pm, January 26, 1999 at Shepherd of the Glades Church, Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples FL.

Dinner Meeting - 6:30 pm, February 3, 1990 - Call Sigi

Miami Hamfest February 6 and 7, 1999 Miami FL

### From the Editor

At the beginning of a new year it is time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to the next year's events. This past year the club participated in 2 walkathons, the swamp buggy parade, field day, held 2 examination sessions, and sponsored a class through the adult education program in Collier Co. Many of the members got together and made creditable showings in several of the contests. The newsletter was published ten times with a special supplement of field day pictures in July. We are beginning the new year with a class for new amateurs and a class for general at a new location. Because of a last minute change in the time and location I am not able to participate as an instructor because of other commitments. This is a time to also reflect on the content of the newsletter. During my tenure as editor I have received two contributions for the newsletter from the membership other than the monthly reports from the officers or chairmen of the committees. At present I have one article written by KU4XD which is to be published soon. The format of the newsletter and suggested content will be a topic for discussion by the executive board and the club in the near future. Your editor has been promised several articles that I believe would be of value to all members. Perhaps those articles will be coming forth from the prospective authors. Well Santa did not bring me a new tower so I will have to make do with my PVC pipe masts and guys until the I get a huge refund from the IRS. I would really like to get several VHF beams up with a good rotor so I can chase some of the activity. We all look forward to your attendance at the meetings and participation in the club activities. I'll see you at the meeting. De K2ZEL - Bill

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AD4TR - Martin Pelt, chm.

TO: