



ARA *Newsletter*



Vol.XV No.5

May 1999

The Journal of The Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Club Information

Meeting Time:

4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm at The
Shepherd of the Glades Church
Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples

Club Repeater:

K4YHB – 146.670 MHz (-600)

Club Packet Cluster Node:

N1DL – 145.070 MHz

Club Chat Node:

CHAT – 144.970 MHz

Club Home Page:

<http://naplesfl.net/~araswf> or
<http://naples.net/clubs/amradio>

Club Officers:

President – AD4TR – Martin

e-mail – ad4tr@aol.com

Vice President – KE4JZT – A.D.

e-mail – ke4jzt@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer – KD4VRZ – Gary

e-mail – kd4vrz@arrl.net

Past President – KE4RGH – Bill

e-mail – ke4rgh@mediaone.net

Repeater Trustee – WB2QLP – Jordan

e-mail – wb2qlp@aol.com

Club Chat Node – N4VMT – Phil

e-mail – n4vmt@aol.com

DX Packet Cluster Node – KD4VRZ

Newsletter Editor – K2ZEL – Bill

e-mail – nfn06232@naples.net

Training Committee – AD4TR



June 1998 Field Day Site

The above picture was taken at Field Day last year. This is what the site looked like as we began to operate. Field Day 1999 will take place on June 26 and 27 this year at the same location. Setup will begin on Friday afternoon after lunch and will continue until we can not see to work on the equipment. We need lots of help. Come on out and help setup and operate on Saturday and Sunday. See you there!!!



The President's Notes

Wow did it get hot and humid in a hurry or what. I know that can only mean 1 thing field day is just around the corner. I honestly believe that the ARRL schedules field day in the summer because they know us southern hams are much tougher than our northern counter parts. I personally feel we should push to move field day to January. During January the day time temps are usually in the 70's with low humidity. I have been told that sometimes up north that it can be a bit chilly in January but what is more important? A few northern hams with frost bite or some of us with heat stroke. I think I prefer a Frozen northern ham to a fried southern ham. Y'all let me know how you feel. I think we can pull this off after all most of the hams have moved to Florida, Texas and California. We have the big v o t i n g b l o c k s . Unfortunately it is too late to do anything about it this year. So y'all pack your sunscreen and insect repellent and I will see you at Phil's N4VMT's June 25th - 28th. 73 Martin AD4TR

The Vice President Speaks

The ARRL June VHF QSO Party was this past week. I was one of a few locals who was out trying to work the contest. The contacts were far and few . Six meters did not open except for a few short minutes here and there on Saturday. Sunday was even worse for six meters. Ground wave was the only two meter contacts that I made. The longest contact that I made was to TI5KD in EJ 79 in Costa Rico on six meters. The Propagation Gods were not good to us this June, so maybe next year will be better. Hopefully Field Day will be better, so see all of you there 73 A.D. KE4JZT



Field Day June 26 & 27

EOC/ RACES

Our EC, Donn Brown, W4RAZ, has approached me with what I think could be a very good idea. We discussed it briefly at the April ARES/ RACES meeting, and it received generally positive support. With that in mind, please allow me to run it up the flagpole...

Donn suggested using Field Day 99 (June 26-27) as a training/operating/Field Day event, using the Mobile Command and Communications Center. We've been looking for a training opportunity,

and this might be it! The idea is to set up the bus in a very public place during this year's Field Day, operate a two (possibly three) transmitter operation using only the equipment normally carried on board, battery power, as many modes as possible. Currently, we have two Icom 725 (160-10m) transceivers, plus 2m SSB/FM (160 watts), 6 FM, 70 cm FM, and packet/rtty on VHF/HF/UHF.

Having a couple of operator/logging teams working on the air, with a couple of other people to show the public through the bus and answer questions about amateur radio would be ideal. This could accomplish several goals:

- 36 hours of training aboard the bus...
- a challenging operating event with 100 watts and omni antennas, all bands 160-70cm...
- excellent exposure locally for amateur radio...
- a shakedown of the ham equipment...
- fun!

I know the club is planning it's annual FD activities, and this isn't about trying to draw from that excellent effort, but can give additional exposure to hamming in general AND the club (not to mention additional contacts per band & mode!). If you're interested, drop Donn or me a note, or give one of us a call. If we can go 24 hours, reat. If not, let's see what we can do. We can talk about it at the JUNE 15 ARES/RACES meeting Ideas, site suggestions, etc. are welcomed! If we have enough "rookies" in operating the bus, maybe we can do a pre-FD training run as well!



The Club VHF Specialist WB2QLP

Repeater Notes

I spoke to Mark, WA1QDP regarding the repeater. He has the parts (a relay) on order from the rprr manufacturer and we are waiting their arrival. Upon their arrival, the repeater will be shut down for repairs.

c u @ F.D. 73 Jordan

Dinner Meeting

Only a small group attended the dinner meeting this time, we all gathered around one table, and it was just like a family get together. Everybody enjoyed the conversation, and just everybody had something to add to the Memories, as they came up.

The next meeting is on July 7 1999. same place. Please call me for reservation at 598-1353. 73 de Sigi.

E-Mail w2jq@peganet.com

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
Minutes of Meeting
May 25th, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Martin Pelt, AD4TR. Club Officers and all attendees were introduced. Sign in Sheet is attached to these minutes of all attending members.

The Following Officers or Officials were present:

President Martin Pelt, AD4TR

Vice President A. Randolph, KE4JZT

Secretary/Treasure Gary Randall, KD4VRZ

Field Day Chairman Jordan Mash, WB2QLP

Newsletter Editor, W , K2ZEL

The Secretary/Treasure verified that a quorum was present and that the Officers present were qualified.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Motion made and accepted, that the minutes, having been reviewed be accepted as published.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

TREASURE'S REPORT: The ARA of SWF account is held by the SunTrust Bank of Naples. Attached to these minutes is the current P & L report ending 1999. Below is a brief report of our current balance.

Expenses	\$ 63.43
Income	\$ 0.0
Current balance	\$ 1443.60

Motion made and accepted to accept the Treasure's Report. Unanimously approved.

REPEATER TRUSTEE REPORT:

Sticking relay will be ordered and replaced within the next two weeks.

PACKET CLUSTER TRUSTEE REPORT: None

FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN REPORT:

There will be a packet breakfast on June 6th at the VFW in Golden Gate and after a review of the Field Day site will be given. Field Day will again this year be held at N4VMT's location. Field Day will consist of 4 stations, 10,15 and 20 meters with a novice station. It was discussed to run only low power and see how that goes.

OLE BUSINESS:

KD4VRZ is still looking for Club Equipment, anyone having club equipment please contact Gary.

NEW BUSINESS:

50/50 was won by N4XSE and donated to the club, \$23.00.

Bill KE4RGH gave a demonstration on WriteLog Contest Software that will be used for Field Day and is a Windows replacement for CT.

President Martin Pelt reminded the members that the next meeting of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida would be held at 7PM on July 27, 1999.

The meeting was adjourned by President Martin Pelt, AD4TR at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Randall, KD4VRZ
Secretary/Treasurer

PSK 31

During the past several months there has been a lot of activity related to a new digital mode - PSK 31 - that is becoming popular throughout the HF bands. More recently there has been released (for free) a version of this software which will run on a standard 16 bit sound card that is soundblaster compatible. You connect your computer to your transceiver, install the program, and you are ready to experiment with this new mode. Although I have not tested the program using Windows ver 3.1x, it is claimed that it will work with all versions of windows including Windows 3.1x, 95, 98, and NT. I have recently completed some live tests with W2JUP using Windows 98 as the operating system on Navy-Marine Corps MARS frequencies near the 40 meter band in the afternoon hours. We found that excellent keyboard to keyboard communications were possible with very noisy band conditions. Additionally I have monitored the calling frequency on 20 meters and have found that very reasonable copy was possible using a G5RV antenna. I have connected the computer to the accessory jack on the rear of the ICOM 735 and use the sound mixer controlling for the sound card to control the audio input and outputs to the transceiver. (A side note - the DSP characteristics

of the sound card also improved the quality of the signals on single side-band, at least to my untrained ear.)

What is PSK31? - PSK31 is a new digital mode based on the RTTY mode of operation. It is different in that it uses variable length digital codes to represent all 255 ASCII character codes rather than a constant length found in the Baudot or the ASCII code in common use today. It works at a 31.25 baud rate which works out to 50 words per minute communications. It is very useful in live keyboard to keyboard communications and allows for easy roundtable discussions on the air. When properly setup the mode uses a very narrow band width (31 Hz). This is possible because of the advanced DSP techniques inherent in the sound card and software. The other factor that allows the narrow band width is the application of PSK (phase shift keying). In the digital modes the band width is equal to the frequency shift plus the baud rate. Thus all other digital modes have a band width from 300 Hz to 1000 Hz and PSK31 has a 31 Hz band width as there is NO frequency shift. The narrow band width compares very favorably with CW and becomes very usable in poor band conditions and when operating QRP. PSK31 is NOT a digital mode that will make AMTOR, PACTOR,

Clover-II or Gtor obsolete. It does not offer error free links with another station. Although one can transmit small files using the application it is not designed to access mailboxes to relay large files.

Availability - It's FREE. The file "PSK31sbw.zip" written by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, is available on several Internet sites both here and abroad for the amateur to download. I will have several diskettes at the Field Day and at the next meeting in July for anyone that wishes to try the application. You may download the application from <http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html>. This site will also direct you to additional information regarding this mode and its development. There have been reported several newer modifications to the program which include a spectrum display for easier tuning when compared to the waterfall tuning display. These have not been released for general distribution yet but I expect that they will be released in the near future.

Getting on the air - It took me 20 minutes to find and to wire the plug for the back of the ICOM. It took another 5 minutes to load the application. I inserted the plugs into the sound card and ran the program. Viola! I was up and running with a few tweaks to the sound card mixer to assure that I was not over driving the card or the transceiver. At present I

am turning the transmitter on manually rather than using the vox. When I first started to listen to signals on the air, I was amazed at the weak signal capability. It has been a blast listening to the weak signal from all over Europe and observing the QSO's between a number of stations including US amateurs. Suggest you get the program and try it you will like it. Since I am Tech Plus I am limited to 10 meters and up for this mode, but I will be glad to setup with you at almost any time to try the new mode.

de

Field Day Map



