



ARA Newsletter



February 1999 -Vol.XV no.2

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> or <http://www.naples.net/clubs/amradio>

Comment from the President:

Our ham radio classes are moving along nicely. We have 2 students in the novice/tech class and 1 student in the general class. We will be testing March 10th, 7pm at Naples High School. Ant VE's that are available for the testing session please contact Dave KD9N. Also anyone interested in upgrading please let Dave know so he will have the proper testing material available. I want to thank Dale KG5QD for teaching the novice/tech class. (he bailed me out) We are in the middle of contest season and with the HF bands in the shape they are it's time to dust of those rigs and have some fun. Get in there and make some contacts and have some fun. We have the ARRL dx , and the CQ wpx contests coming up over the next couple of months and they are a couple of good ones.

73 Martin

The Vice-President speaks:

Its not long till 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 wherever 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. So till next month 73 KE4JZT HI HI

The Secretary writes:

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the Miami Hamboree, I know I did. There were a few 'steals and deals' reported by lucky buyers. It seemed to me that this year turn out was down and Corporate Dealers were thin on the ground. I guess the Orlando Hamfest is having an effect on Miami.

Everyone must know by now that Bill (K2ZEL) will be resigning as Editor of the newsletter after this issue, he will be missed. Hopefully someone will step in and assume his duties, but to my knowledge, as yet no one has materialized. Without an Editor there will be no newsletter! So lets hear from those budding journalists in the club! Don't be afraid to take the plunge. There is help from other members.

From the Webmaster:

The club's web page is now available by two addresses: www.naplesfl.net/~araswf and www.naples.net/clubs/amradio, The pages will be mirrored by both sites. The newsletter masthead now reflects both sites. ...Glenn (KE4KTZ)

Check your Computer for Y2K

1. Y2K PROBLEM - THERE ARE A LOT OF HEADLINES ABOUT THE Y2K PROBLEM. WILL IT AFFECT COMMUNICATIONS? IT CERTAINLY CAN. IS THERE A WAY AROUND THE Y2K PROBLEM SO THAT WE CAN STILL COMMUNICATE? THERE CERTAINLY IS. THIS ARTICLE WILL DEAL WITH PROCEDURES TO CHECK YOUR COMPUTER. THE NEXT ARTICLE WILL DISCUSS SOFTWARE AND OTHER HARDWARE.
2. HERE IS A PROCEDURE TO TEST YOUR COMPUTER FOR Y2K COMPLIANCE:
 - A. AT THE DOS PROMPT TYPE 'DATE 12-31-1999' AND HIT ENTER.
 - B. AT THE DOS PROMPT TYPE 'TIME 23:59:45' AND HIT ENTER.
 - C. WAIT AT LEAST 15 SECONDS AND TYPE 'DATE' AND HIT ENTER. IF THE DATE IS 01-01-2000 YOUR COMPUTER IS SAID TO 'ROLL-OVER'
 - D. TURN OFF THE COMPUTER.
 - E. TURN ON THE COMPUTER.
 - F. AT THE DOS PROMPT TYPE 'DATE' AND HIT ENTER. IF THE DATE IS 01-01-2000, CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR COMPUTER SHOULD BE Y2K COMPLIANT (THERE ARE OTHER CHECKS CONCERNING LEAP YEARS THAT IT STILL MUST PASS - SEE PARA 3 BELOW.) IF THE DATE IS SOMETHING OTHER THAN 01-01-2000, DO-- N'T GIVE UP HOPE YET. TRY THE FOLLOWING:
 - G. TURN OFF THE COMPUTER.
 - H. TURN ON THE COMPUTER.
 - I. DURING THE START UP PROCESS, THERE SHOULD BE A MESSAGE TELLING YOU WHICH KEY TO HIT TO BRING UP THE 'SETUP' PROGRAM. HIT THAT KEY.
 - J. WHILE IN THE SETUP PROGRAM, CHANGE THE DATE TO 01-01-2000.
 - K. SAVE THE CHANGES YOU MADE AND EXIT 'SETUP' (MOST COMPUTERS WILL REBOOT, IF NOT, MANUALLY TURN THE COMPUTER OFF, THEN ON AGAIN.)
 - L. AT THE DOS PROMPT, TYPE 'DATE' AND HIT ENTER.
 - M. IF THE DATE IS NOT 01-01-2000 YOUR COMPUTER IS NOT Y2K COMPLIANT.
 - N. IF THE DATE IS STILL 01-01-2000, TURN OFF YOUR COMPUTER AND THEN TURN IT ON AGAIN.
 - O. TYPE DATE AT THE DOS PROMPT. IF IT IS STILL 01-01-2000, YOUR COMPUTER IS 'MANUALLY' Y2K COMPLIANT. THIS MEANS YOU WILL HAVE TO MANUALLY SET THE DATE TO THE YEAR 2000 USING THE 'SETUP' PROGRAM. ONCE THAT IS DONE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN.
3. TO BE FULLY Y2K COMPLIANT, YOUR COMPUTER MUST ALSO HANDLE LEAP YEARS CORRECTLY. TO CHECK THIS USE THE PROCEDURE ABOVE TO SET THE DATE AND TIME TO 02-28-2000 23:59:45. WAIT AT LEAST 15 SECONDS AND CHECK THE DATE AGAIN. IF IT IS 02-29-2000, SET THE TIME TO 23:59:45, WAIT ANOTHER 15 SECONDS AND SEE IF THE DATE CHANGES TO 03-01-2000. REPEAT THIS FOR OTHER LEAP YEARS (2004, 2008, ETC.) IF THE DATE CHANGES WERE CORRECT FOR EACH LEAP YEAR AND YOUR COMPUTER PASSED THE CHECKS IN PARA 2, YOU ARE ALL SET.
4. WHAT IF YOUR COMPUTER ISN'T Y2K COMPLIANT? DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T MAKE YOU BUY A NEW ONE. YOU CAN SET THE DATES ON NON-Y2K COMPLIANT COMPUTERS TO 01-01-1992 WHEN THE MILLENNIUM COMES. BY HAVING A STANDARD WE'LL KNOW THAT 1992 REALLY MEANS 2000.
5. THE NEXT ARTICLE WILL COVER SOFTWARE AND OTHER HARDWARE.

March of Dimes:

This is about the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon on Sat. Apr. 17. I am need of volunteers with handhelds to help out at the check points. I have 13 volunteers so far, and would like to get 7 to 10 more to do it right... 73...de fly... Don Mielke WD4FLY.

Dinner Session

We had a very active group at the dinner session last month. Twenty-four persons gathered at the restaurant, and had a good time. The two main themes for the evening's discussion were computers and the telling of jokes. Of course there was also some elbow lifting. WOMR, Richard is celebrating his birthday this month, he said that he will be 39 this year, but he forgot to say how many times that hem has already celebrated the thirty-ninth birthday

If you have guests visiting you at home, you are welcome to bring them to the meeting. See you all next month 73 de Sigi

Please call Sigi at 598-1353 with your reservation for the dinner session on the second of March. Thank you.

From the EOC

NASA HURRICANE STUDY REVEALS INTRIGUING RESULTS

NASA and other weather researchers have gained intriguing new information about upper-level winds that drive hurricanes and the devastating impact of the storms as they collide with mountains.

The research is from a seven-week study conducted last summer during the Third Convection and Moisture Experiment (CAMEX-3) that involved NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and several universities in a concentrated effort to gauge the strength of Atlantic hurricane winds and rainfall.

"The wind patterns flowing into and out of the hurricanes at the upper altitudes were much more complicated than had been anticipated," said the lead mission scientist, Robbie Hood of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL. "At times, strong wind gusts were recorded at positions farther from the eyewall or with magnitudes greater than expected."

CAMEX-3 used a variety of data-gathering instruments aboard aircraft and spacecraft. Researchers flew aboard NASA's specially equipped DC-8 jetliner into hurricanes Bonnie, Danielle, Earl and Georges. An instrument-laden NASA ER-2 high-altitude aircraft also was flown above the hurricanes to collect first-of-its-kind data. Researchers utilized data from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission satellite and from specially designed laser instruments aboard the DC-8. The data are expected to help weather forecasters better predict storm strength and direction -- potentially saving lives and reducing evacuation zones along coastal areas.

"The multi-aircraft datasets obtained by NASA aircraft in these hurricanes are unprecedented in their comprehensiveness," said Dr. Ed Zipser, a weather expert from Texas A&M University in College Station. "They will provide researchers with the raw material to understand severe storms and their environment, and lead to improved track and intensity forecasts in the future."

"The amazing thing about this data from Georges is that the rain was enhanced significantly by the mountains in the interior of the Dominican Republic," said NASA researcher Dr. Gerald Heymsfield of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD. "We got a glimpse of the storm's impact with the mountainous island and the subsequent rain that eventually caused significant loss of life."

Heymsfield's images from a Doppler radar on the high-altitude aircraft show Hurricane Georges slamming into 9,000-foot mountains -- producing what appeared to be huge thunderstorms over the mountains.

"Understanding this very complicated interaction between Hurricane Georges and the mountains will keep us busy for a while," said Heymsfield.

The two NASA aircraft were flown a combined total of 132 hours over the month-long mission to sample various aspects of the hurricane environment. Information from three storms was captured while they made landfall. The hurricane team also utilized ground-based instruments on Andros Island, Bahamas, to monitor the daily tropical environment before and after each storm.

"Since each hurricane has its own personality with varying characteristics, having information describing four different storms represents a tremendous opportunity to improve our understanding of how hurricanes develop, change and move," said Hood. "Although these opportunities don't provide immediate comfort to those who directly experienced this season's devastating storms, the wealth of information collected by all the agencies will lead to better hurricane forecast capabilities in the future," she added.

"The real success of CAMEX-3 was the breadth of hurricane information collected," said Dr. Ramesh Kakar of NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, who is the atmospheric dynamics and remote sensing program manager. "The combination of scientists from eight NASA Centers, and the multi-agency, multi-university teamwork of CAMEX-3 was a tremendous example for future research activities."

Kakar said key to the success of CAMEX was assistance to NASA from numerous universities; the pilots and crews from NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA; team members from Goddard and NASA's Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA; and the project management staff from NASA's Ames Research Center, Mountain View, CA. "We're very grateful for the advice and coordination efforts of NOAA and the support from the Air Force Reserve 53rd Weather Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, MS. Help from the Federal Aviation Administration allowed the CAMEX-3 investigators to capitalize on key research opportunities when they arose," he added.

Announcements

Club Meeting - 7:30 pm, 23 February, 1999 at the Sheperd of the Glades Church on Rattlesnake

Hammock Road, Naples, FL

Dinner Meeting- 6:30 pm, 2 March, 1999 - Call Sigi at 598-1353

Club Meeting - 7:30 pm, 23 March, 1999 at the Sheperd of the Glades Church

Note from the Editor:

As noted by the secretary it looks as though I will need relief from the duties as editor for the months of March and possibly April. During the early part of March I will be recovering from a surgical procedure. The person who steps forward to assist during this interim period would have to request reports from the officers and the committee chairmen around the 6th of the month with date for replies on the 12th. This gives the person 48 hours to finish the setup and to do the editing necessary. It needs to be taken to the printer on Monday the 15th so that the newsletter may be mailed NLT Thursday the 18th. This assures that the newsletter will be in the hands of the membership no later than Monday before the meeting on the 23rd. The secretary provides an updated roster from which the mailing labels are made. Your present editor is using Microsoft Word as the word processing program. This program allows the insertion of pictures, figures, and charts. The editor has a template for the first page and a template for the back page. This makes it easier to add the reports and the articles that are slated for publication in any given month. I will be at the meeting this month and will be looking for a volunteer to help out for a couple of months. Thanks Bill - K2ZEL

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Published Monthly

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TO: