



ARA *Newsletter*



Vol.XV No. 8

August 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

Webmaster - KE4KTZ - Glenn

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From the Editor

Looking at the calendar I noted that this is the second anniversary of my tenure as your editor of the newsletter. Over the past two years I have had the good fortune that the officers and committee chairmen have responded quite well with their monthly reports to be included in the newsletter. The number of general interest or construction articles has been limited. This was the result of few submissions of materials to your editor. In fact there have only been three submissions of materials during the past two years. Most of the articles that were published came from your editor.

The newsletter needs to have one or more general interest items each month. Each of us have different interests within this hobby of ours. Please take time to write a short article on your own particular interest in the hobby and send it on to me. Diagrams and pictures may be included. If you would like to see your name in print, get busy and write that article.

This month the submissions by the regulars reflect the need for all of us to be aware that the hurricane season for this year still has several months before it ends and that most of the serious storms that impacted our area were during the last of August through the first part of October. You all need to follow the weather patterns and be ready if the area is threatened by a possible storm. I will see y'all at the next meeting.
De K2ZEL

Thoughts from the President

DR Grey, the famous hurricane fore-caster from Colorado State University, came out with his updated predictions earlier this month. He is still calling for 14 named storms. I did some surfing on the net and found some interesting charts. Of the 158 hurricanes to strike the eastern United States from 1900 to 1996 57 of them struck Florida. That is not great odds. Below is a chart dividing Florida into 4 sections and showing the number and intensity of the storms.

Category	1	2	3	4	5	total
Florida	17	16	17	6	1	57
Northwest	9	8	7	0	0	24
Northeast	2	7	0	0	0	9
Southwest	6	3	6	2	1	18
Southeast	5	10	7	4	0	26

(sectional totals will not equal state total. some storms hit more than 1 section)

As you can see Southwest Florida has been hit pretty hard in the past. Another interesting fact was that about 60% of Southwest Florida Direct hits by a hurricane occur in the month of September with the remaining 40% equally divided between August and October.

With September just around the corner lets make sure our plans to protect our family, property and provide emergency communications are in order. Remember most antennas are only designed to withstand a category 1 or 2 storm. We dodged the bullet with Hurricane George's last year. Lets hope we do it again. 73 de AD4TR

The Veep Speaks

Here it is the end of August and no sign of Hurricane season. Is this a case of coming in like a lamb and going out like a Lion. Don't be fooled by the start of this hurricane season , it's a long way from being over. So far no hurricanes, but it has not been a good summer for some Hams . Strong wind has taken down two towers in Lee County, lighting has hit the 146.670 repeater and the home of one Ham that I know of so far and its still early into the Summer Season. So please don't let your guard down , We still have Sept. to go yet.

Its good to hear the 146.670 back up and working. I would like to thank all of those who help in getting it back up and working. Thank You !!!

73 KE4JZT

From The Secretary

As I was not at the last meeting, and no one has forwarded any minutes to me, the only info I can pass to you is what is in the bank. The bank balance is \$1317.21 as of today. De KD4VRZ

Next Meeting

August 24, 1999

7:30 p.m.

**Shepherd of the Glades
Church**

**Rattlesnake Hammock
Road, Naples, Fl**

From the EOC

QUIET TROPICAL SEASON . . . SO FAR

The 1999 hurricane season has been unseasonably quiet. As this is written there has been just one semi-tropical storm, 'Arlene' and little else to even mention in the Atlantic. The eastern Pacific has been unusually quiet too, until the past week. Both 'Dora' and 'Eugene' reached category three strength as they traveled from south of the Gulf of Tejuanapec to the central Pacific south of Hawaii.

Unusual high pressure over most of the north Atlantic has kept tropical waves from developing beyond the local rainmaker stage. Over the second weekend in August though this high, called the Bermuda high, shows signs of weakening and shrinking. This could pave the way for a more active tropical season.

This type of weather isn't unusual. As recently as 1998 we've had little or no activity through the first three months. In '98 'Bonnie' didn't come along until September, and 12 more systems followed before December 1 rolled around. It's not ver yet!

GRAY FORECAST GLOOMY: NO CHANGE

Dr. William Gray of Colorado State University issued his final 1999 updated seasonal forecast on August 6: 14 named storms, 10 hurricanes, and 4 ma-

jors. That represents no change since the early season forecast last December. Dr. Gray's team expects conditions to change, probably during August, which will trigger much more tropical activity.

What it all means is that any time now, there could be a threat to the mainland United States. It could be in Texas, North Carolina, Louisiana, or Florida. If you haven't completed your preparations and restocked your supplies, this is a good time to do it!

OPERATORS NEEDED

When that threat does materialize, operators WILL be needed. Shelters must be manned in the event of communications failures. The EOC will need operators to man links to the shelters, the cities of Naples and Marco Island and the state of Florida. Please make yourselves available if at all possible to help in these critical areas. Those who begin operations when warnings are posted usually reach burnout before the storm actually arrives, and relief operators are needed.

Protect your home, prepare your family, and remember they can go with you to shelters or the EOC. If we lose communications, safety and recovery efforts are crippled badly. It's great to know people will be there after the storm, but more help is needed before and during the storm as well!

SKYWARN DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
TRAINING

It's always a question after a damaging wind event: was it a tornado or straight line winds? At the August 10 ARES/RACES meeting a small group went through training thanks to Walt Zaleski, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS Ruskin office. Walt presented a 45 minute workshop on recognizing the types of damage caused by each kind of wind, including complex scenarios such as a meandering tornado, at the Governor's Hurricane Conference in June. He has passed along the slides and graphics he used, and made it available to us in printed form. If you're interested in learning how to determine straight line or tornado damage, and more on the Fujita Scale and how it is applied, contact WB2WPA or KG5QD.

ARES/RACES MEETING: SEPTEMBER
15, 7:00 PM in the EOC.

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Our monthly dinner meeting was held again at the Pacific 41, on August 4, we had this time 17 Participants. A nice turnout for the summer month. hihhi. K2VMD Paul and Fran had company from Germany. They were introduced to all YI's and OM's. WA8LPQ is celebrating his birthday this month and so is N4NQB, Gail. Everybody was greeting our long lost friends N1BEE, Tom and Gretchen, everybody was chatting, and the time passed much too fast. Well I see you all in September. 73 de Sigi W2JQ> The next dinner meeting is on September 1.1999. And if you not on the list give me a call for Reservation. 598-1353
E-mail w2jq@peganet.com

