



ARA *Newsletter*



Vol.XV No.4

April 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

April Meeting

Y2K Discussion

At the April meeting on the 27th, Dr. Bill Reynolds, K2ZEL will lead a discussion on the Y2K problem and how it affects the amateur radio hobby. He indicates that there will be a demonstration of some of the diagnostic software that is available to check your computer. He suggests that you bring a couple of formatted 3-1/2 diskettes to the meeting to copy the shareware that will be available at the meeting.

Bill is professor emeritus, Physics, from the State University at Albany, NY and a retired Navy Engineering Duty Officer specializing in electronics. His electronics experience began over fifty years ago when he was trained as a navy electronics technician. He has been continuously licensed as an amateur radio operator since 1957 when he was issued the call K2ZEL. He moved to SW Florida in 1983 and joined the club shortly thereafter. Bill lives in Bonita Springs.

President's Column

A group of us ran the CQ WPX contest from my qth this past month. We had 3 stations set up complete with beams and amplifiers (life is to short for QRP). We scored over 2400 QSO's and over 4.5 million points and had a great time doing it. We sure could have used some more operators so next time we do this you guys come out. If any of you guys are looking for a fun contest you should make plans for the upcoming Florida QSO party on April the 24th and 25th. This is a great contests and it is a lot of fun to be the DX end of a contest. If you need more information contact me or go to

<http://home1.gte.net/wd4ahz/fcg/ssqp.htm> on the Internet.

We are currently updating our club records. If any members have club property stored or know where club property is please let Gary Randall KD4VRZ know at grandall@phase2net.com. Thanks

See you guys at the meeting .

73 Martin – AD4TR

Secretary/ Treasurer Report

This is a summary of the official minutes of the March meeting. The president called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Following introduction of the officers and the attendees the minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and approved. The current balance at the time of the meeting was \$1126.50. The 50/50 was won by Dick with \$12.00 going to the club treasury. The repeater trustee had nothing new to report regarding the repeater. The packet cluster trustee reported that N1DL was broke and need assistance in the repair of the same. The field day chairman indicated that discussion of field day plans will start this next month. Under new business two new members were welcomed into the club. Michael Welsh – WD8RFL and JoAnn Mountbriand – KB0WDP. The training committee reported that 5 members upgraded to TechPlus and that Victor Martiny passed the Technician test.

From the Vice President

May is upon us , so Field Day is not to far away , June 26 and 27 is the dates for it .I think its the one weekend of the year I see many of our Club members enjoying Ham Radio together in one place. Each year I see our score get higher and higher. So we need more of you each and every year so we can continue with this trend for years to come. Hope to see you there at the Potter's Estate in June. For the month of May , Happy Birthday to W3BLW , KB8EMG ,KD4VRY , KF4OLY , W4SGC , AD4YE , KD4DZQ , WA3JGC AND N9HBC.

One last note , it will not be the same this year at Field Day , we will miss the smiling face of WB8SSN , so this year I am dedicating my Field Day to Wally!

73 KE4JZT A.D

ARES/RACES 'Field trip:'

Fighting fire on the airport

The April 13 Collier County ARES/RACES meeting went on the road, visiting City of Naples Fire Station 3, located on the northwest corner of the airport. Station 3 is also the new home of the Mobile Command and Communications Center, as the bus shares the space with two crash fire/rescue trucks.

The older, smaller truck was out for maintenance, but the \$300,000 CF-3 truck was demonstrated for the group. Capable of accelerating from 0-60 in less than 30 seconds while carry several thousand gallons of water, and reaching any point on the airport property within a minute, CF-3 is an impressive piece of equipment. The truck can be completely operated by one man, spraying water or foam ahead of and under itself to penetrate flame or a burning spill. A water cannon on top of the cab can shoot a stream or spray of water over 100 feet with enough force to blow in windows.

The trucks responded to over 300 calls on the airport last year, and two the day of the tour! The two men on each shift are supplemented in a major incident by automatic aid from the East Naples Fire Department, as well as additional trucks and manpower from the other two City stations. Our thanks to Battalion Chief Mark Houghton and the duty crew for making us so welcome!

**NWR TEMPORARILY DISABLED
BY FIRE; AUDIO PROBLEMS
FIXED**

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Have you sent yours to Gary????

Send it to:

kd4vrz@arrl.net

1999 FIELD DAY - A.R.A.S.W.F. STYLE

THE MOST POPULAR ACTIVITY IN AMATEUR RADIO IS FAST APPROACHING : FIELD DAY 1999 . THIS YEARS EVENT WILL BE HELD ON THE PROPERTY OF N4VMT IN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES ON THE LAST FULL WEEKEND OF JUNE. AS ALWAYS, THIS IS THE LARGEST CONTEST EVENT IN OUR HOBBY. ON THIS WEEKEND, THERE WILL BE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HAMS ON THE AIR FROM THEIR VARIOUS LOCATIONS FROM ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA. THEY WILL ALL BE OPERATING THEIR STATIONS UNDER SIMULATED EMERGENCY CONDITIONS USING A VARIETY OF SHELTERS AND SUPPLIES OF POWER. FIELD DAY IS A TERRIFIC CLUB BUILDING ACTIVITY BRINGING OLD AND NEW FRIENDS TOGETHER FOR A WEEKEND OF FUN AND CAMARADERIE. ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE EVEN IF CONTESTING IS NOT YOUR CUP OF TEA. THERE ARE NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES GOING ON THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. WE WILL NEED ASSISTANCE WITH EVERYTHING FROM COOKING TO LOGGING TO SETTING UP ANTENNAS, RADIOS & COMPUTERS AND THEN BREAKDOWN ON SUNDAY.

FIELD DAY IS FUN, LOADS OF FUN AND SOME GREAT EXPERIENCES AND FOND MEMORIES ARE ALWAYS TAKEN HOME WHEN ITS OVER.

SO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE LAST WEEKEND IN JUNE AND KEEP IT OPEN FOR FIELD DAY & COME ON OUT FOR FUN, FOR FAST FURIOUS CONTESTING ACTION, AND SOME GOOD FOOD (MAYBE !) SEE YOU THERE73 de WB2QLP JORDAN ARASWF F.D.CHMN

Editorial Comment

This month are using a new format for the newsletter to allow us to both print it on a standard computer printer and to use the same file to prepare the newsletter for distribution by e-mail. This format will allow us to use the standard legal size paper folded twice for those copies that have to be snail mailed. When required I will be able to insert additional pages as half sheets to the issue. This will also allow the publication of additional articles at a reduced cost through using a standard printer attached to the computer remembering that each issue needs to have an even number of pages.

This month the club will mail through the USPS sixty-one (61) copies of the newsletter. This number is about half of the number that we have been mailing. The saving on printing, paper, and postage can only be realized if the club can e-mail at least seventy-five percent of each issue. If this can't be realized the time of the person doing the computer printing and the necessary ink/ toner supplies for the printer become a concern. By using the standard legal paper there is a savings. At a commercial printer it becomes cheaper to use the larger size paper. So if you have an appropriate e-mail address, **GET IT TO GARY AT** kd4vrz@arrl.net. Thanks – Bill

Hints and Tips

This column is a place for each of you to contribute various ideas and hints that have been passed on to you by other amateurs. When you submit a hint for this column and it is included in an issue of the newsletter you will be credited as the source. If you have received the hint from another source please credit your source. This is also a place to report interesting sites on the internet that you have visited looking for information regarding our hobby. This month I will pass along a couple of hints/ tips that I have recently had the occasion to apply to my equipment. To illustrate what we are looking for in your submissions.

Checking your frequency calibration – As our equipment ages the components age and change just as we age we change. You begin to notice this when you attempt to work the more exacting digital modes on HF. Most of the older gear either reads to the nearest kilohertz or hundred hertz and for modes that require that you be within +/- 50 Hz of the center frequency for proper operations. If you use WWV for the calibration of your secondary frequency standard you can only do the zero beat when there is no tone being sent. This means you have to get your adjustments done within a few seconds and then wait a minute to continue the checking. This makes for a slow proc-

ess. But sometimes this is the only way that you can get a reliable calibration. The other evening when talking with K4OSM, he passed along this tip for setting up the reference oscillator in a rig that has two vfo's. Two vfo's are common in all rigs that will allow you to use split frequency operations. You set one vfo on WWV in the AM mode.(By the way when doing the zero beat mentioned previously you should use the AM mode as most rigs inject a side tone for CW ops) Then you set the other vfo to the same frequency but place it in the USB mode. You switch between the two vfo's adjusting the reference oscillator for identical tones. By ear you can calibrate within a few Hz. If you use a scope or a counter to measure the audio frequency you can set the oscillator within a couple of Hz. I tried it out and it sure works. Assuming the age has not affected the stability of the regulators, this adjustment will put your rig right back on frequency.



Announcements

April 24& 25 – Florida QSO Party

April 27 – Club Technical and Business meeting – Shepherd of Glades Church on Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples at 7:30pm.

May 5 – Dinner Meeting – Call Sigi at 598-1353 for reservations

May 25 – CLUB Technical and Business meeting – Shepherd of Glades Church on Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples at 7:30 pm - Main topic Field Day

June 26 & 27 – Field day at Phil's Place in Golden Gate. Setup will start Friday afternoon. No regular meeting this month. Discussion at Field Day.

Note on e-mail addresses

We need to have all the email addresses of members that have them. We need particularly to have the address that will allow us to attach a pdf file containing the newsletter. The pdf file reader is available by down loading it from the club web site or from many other sites on the internet. FYI, the standard free Juno e-mail will not allow us to email an attachment. Therefor if you have another e-mail address please forward to Gary at kd4vrz@arrl.net