



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXV No. 12 - The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
December 15, 2015

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The next Club Meeting will be held January 26th 2016 at 7:00pm
at the Red Cross - 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive Naples, FL

Nickels & Dimes

MSU vs. Iowa - another one bites the dust... The Spartans looked good and so did the members who attended our Christmas Party. The Foxfire staff was excellent and made sure we were well served with excellent menu selections. Uli-AGØX welcomed the group and recognized several Club members for their outstanding service and contributors this past year including special awards for Larry-KC8JCB and his 2015 Field Day project leadership, Mark-AC4ZM for his continued recruitment and VE leadership efforts, Rich-K4AOR for his outstanding service and project involvement throughout the year, and Dr. Al Torres-KP2AQI for his most excellent meeting presentations.

The highlight of the evening was the White Elephant gift exchange (which you can Google for details). This year's gift instructions were specific: don't spend any money, bring something from your shack that you no longer need or a Holiday gift from last year you never liked. Thanks to Craig-NC2H and Ray-W1FF who both suggested this great idea for our party, it was a big hit with the members who attended.

The most often heard comment of the evening was, "Where's the radio?" An old Kenwood VHF (TM-261A) rig was one of the first gifts picked and unwrapped, which happened to be the most desirable and 'stolen' gift of the evening. Harry-KD4JMV made the first steal and several members stole it afterwards, it eventually ended up in the hands of Rich-K4AOR. The most unexpected gift of the evening was a bird house. I will be happy to share the story of this particular gift at the next meeting for those members interested.

Everyone had a great time and while it may be too soon to make plans for next year, rest assured that those who attended this year will be thinking about what *special* White Elephant gift to bring next year.

While this year may be over except for a few more parties and turkey dinners, the Club will be off to a fast start in January. Here are few key dates you should mark on your calendar:

- EmComm meeting – January 12th 7pm at the Red Cross
- Naples Daily News ½ Marathon – January 17th
- Winter Field Day – January 31st
- Oil Well Park Outing – February 20th

On behalf of the Board, it has been a pleasure to work with and serve the Club membership. We are always open to new ideas and old ways to improve upon. One idea for instance that we have talked about is increased repeaters activity, and this still remains a challenge for next year's Board. This is probably one of the best ways of attracting new members into the Club. Perhaps some small group schedules rather than formal nets might help heat up the activity, or maybe a QCWA afternoon schedule? Just a few ideas to consider; in the meantime dust off the old VHF rig (install one in your car) and stay tuned on 146.670 MHz.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Ken-W9KB
ARASWF Secretary/Treasurer

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

**Executive Board Meeting held at Apollo, Naples, FL
Tuesday - November 17, 2015**

Present: Uli Altvater, AG0X – President
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Harms, AC4ZM – Director
Larry Kielasa, KC8JCB – Director
Craig, NC2H – Webmaster

Absent: Dave Ducett, WB8VQU – Director
Gary Lee, K8YMN – Director

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

President's Report – Uli-AG0X welcomed the Board and gave a brief update.

Treasurer's Report – Ken-W9KB reported the beginning balance this month was \$3,763.85
Expenses included T-Mobile Internet \$30 and \$73.50 for USPS Postage for Club Flyer Project.

Old Business:

Marbella Updates: AB4NP (D-Star) is offline and will likely not be repaired until January because of Holiday and personal work load issues. This is not a problem since AA4PP is running without issue.

Website Updates: Craig-NC2H reported that he had updated the website's software. Club Net schedules will be updated.

EmComm Updates: Mark-AC4ZM reported that the group is planning an exercise for November 21st to test VHF communications. Mark also mentioned that future EOC meetings scheduled in the evenings starting in January, second Tuesday of the month starting at 7pm.

VE Testing: Mark-AC4ZM stated he has three candidates scheduled for testing next week.

New Business:

Christmas Party: Ken-W9KB reported that this year's party is scheduled for December 5th at the Foxfire Country Club. There will be three menu selections: Prime Rib, Salmon, and Chicken Alfredo. The cost this year is \$30 including tip. A 'White Elephant' gift exchange was suggested by Larry-KC8JCB and will be added to this year's event for fun.

Elections: Ken-W9KB reported that all of the active officers were seeking reelection. Frank Halas-W4RBW expressed interest earlier in the VP position and the nominating committee confirmed his intent.

Presentation: Ken-W9KB mentioned that there was interest expressed at the last meeting for a presentation on QSL methods. He agreed to give a presentation at the general membership meeting covering QSL process and the different systems available.

Oil Park Outing: Mark-AC4ZM reported that Rich-K4AOR has agreed to run this project again next February and proposed a \$100 budget for food and miscellaneous expenses. A motion was made and seconded, which passed unanimously approving the project funding.

Upcoming Events:

- EmComm meeting – January 12th 7pm at the Red Cross
- Naples Daily News 1/2 Marathon – January 17th
- Winter Field Day – January 31st
- Oil Well Park Outing – February 20th

Next Board Meeting – January 19th 7pm at Uli's business QTH.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken-W9KB
Secretary

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Membership Meeting held at the Naples American Red Cross.
Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Officers and	Uli Altvater, AG0X – President
Directors present:	Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer
	Mark Harms, AC4ZM – Director
	Larry Kielasa, KC8JCB - Director
	Craig Henning, NC2H - Webmaster

Absent:	Gary Lee, K8YMN – Director
	Dave Ducett, WB8VQU – Director

Meeting called to order: Uli-AG0X called the meeting to order and opened it with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction: All attendees were introduced by name and call sign. Twenty four members were present.

Treasurer's Report: Ken-W9KB reported that Club checking balance was \$3,763.85 including expenses of \$30 for T-Mobile Internet and \$73.50 for USPS postage for the Club Flyer program.

Old Business: Uli-AG0X reported that the AB4NP (D-Star) repeater at Marbella is currently off the air and will be likely repaired after the Holidays in January.

Craig-NC2H reported that no significant changes were made last month. He has added a Club calendar to the website. Members should check that for dates of upcoming activities.

Ed-K1UQE provided an updated EmComm report of this past month's activities. The next meeting will be held the second Tuesday in January (which is January 12th) at 7:00pm at the Red Cross. This is a new date and time that hopefully will be more convenient for members.

Old Business cont'd:

Mark-AC4ZM reported we had seven candidates test this month.

Mark also reported that his 'Thanksgiving Envelope Stuffing' party went well. Eleven members and spouses attended and hand stuffed all 150 envelopes with Flyers and a hand addressed personal note. He will mail these out in January to current FCC licensed non-members so they will not get lost in the Holiday mail barrage. Hopefully, we will get some new members from this personalized effort.

New Business:

Christmas Party: Ken-W9KB reported that this year's party is scheduled for December 5th at the Foxfire Country Club. There will be three menu selections: Prime Rib, Salmon, and Chicken Alfredo. The cost this year is \$30 including tip. A 'White Elephant' gift exchange was suggested by Larry-KC8JCB and will be added to this year's event for fun.

Elections: Ken-W9KB reported that all of the active officers were seeking reelection. Frank Halas-W4RBW expressed interest earlier in the VP position and the nominating committee confirmed his intent. Nominations from the floor were opened and no further interest or intent was put forth, nominations were closed. The current Board as it stands and Frank Halas were elected by acclamation. Congratulations to the 2016 Board members!

50/50 Raffle was won by Ken-W9KB (\$34)

Presentation: Ken-W9KB gave a QSL presentation covering etiquette and the various methods involved in QSLing. Direct, ARRL Bureau, ARRL LoTW, eQSL, and Global QSL systems were covered in depth.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:02 p.m. made and seconded. Motion passed by all present.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken-W9KB, Secretary

Contest Calendar

December 2015	
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 16
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 16
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 17
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 18
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 18
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 18
+ Russian 160-Meter Contest	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 18
+ AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 18
+ RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
+ OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 19
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
+ Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 21
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 23
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 23
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 25
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 25
+ DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
+ World Wide Iron Ham Contest	1200Z, Dec 26 to 1159Z, Dec 27
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 26 to 1500Z, Dec 27
+ RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 27
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 30
January 2016	
+ AGB New Year Snowball Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 1

+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 1
+ SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
+ AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
+ QRP ARCI New Years Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Jan 1
+ PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 2
+ WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 2 to 1200Z, Jan 3
+ Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 2 to 1500Z, Jan 3
+ ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
+ Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 3
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 5
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 6
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Jan 6
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 8
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 8
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 8
+ Old New Year Contest	0500Z-0900Z, Jan 9
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jan 10 to 2400Z, Jan 11
+ UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	1200Z, Jan 9 to 1200Z, Jan 10
+ North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0559Z, Jan 10
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 10
+ DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 10
+ Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 10
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 13
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 13
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 15
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 15
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 15

Local Net Activities

DAY	TIME	FREQ.	PL. TONE	LENGTH	NET NAME	LOCATION
EVERYDAY	2:00 AM	147.105+	136.5 Hz.	90	INSOMMIAC NET	Allstar: 2560 - WynSystem
MON - SAT	1:00 PM	443.100+	136.5 Hz.	120	The Alaska Morning Net	Allstar: 27133 - Alaska REF
MON - SAT	1:00 PM	147.105+	136.5 Hz.	120	The Alaska Morning Net	Allstar: 27133 - Alaska REF
SUNDAYS	7:30 PM	146.790-	136.5 Hz.	30	Loggerhead Net	Sanibel Island, FL.
SUNDAYS	9:00 PM	REF 45C	D-STAR	60	Florida DSTAR Net	Florida
SUNDAYS	10:00PM	147.105+	136.5 Hz.	90	WynSystem Tech Net	AllStar: 2560 - WinSystem
SUNDAYS	10:00 PM	443.100+	136.5 Hz.	90	WynSystem Tech Net	AllStar: 2560 - WinSystem
MONDAYS	7:30 PM	145.170-	136.5 Hz.	30	FMARC MEETING	Fort Myers, FL.
TUESDAYS	5:00 PM	28.430+/-	USB	15	10m SSB NET	Naples, FL.
TUESDAYS	7:00 PM	146.670-	136.5 Hz.	60	SFL VOIP NET	Naples, FL.
TUESDAYS	7:00 PM	147.105+	136.5 Hz.	60	SFL VOIP NET	Naples, FL.
TUESDAYS	7:00 PM	443.100+	136.5 Hz.	60	SFL VOIP NET	Naples, FL.
WEDNESDAYS	8:00 PM	146.670-	136.5 Hz.	20	ARASWF CLUB NET	Naples, FL.
THURSDAYS	7:00 PM	146.670-	136.5 Hz.	60	SFL SKYWARN NET	WAN System - East Coast
THURSDAYS	8:00 PM	147.103+	136.5 Hz.	20	ARES/EMCOMM NET	Naples, FL.
THURSDAYS	9:00 PM	REF 2A	D-STAR	60	SE WX NET	All over the SE States

Courtesy of KD4JMV



NEW MEMBER ALERT

**Please welcome our recently minted
and upgraded members**

**WB1FXB
KC8JCB
KM4PMM
KM4PML
KM4PMK
KW4OZ**

**General
Extra
Technician
Technician
Technician
Extra**

**Ron Anderson
Larry Kielasa
Frank Grasson
Kurtis Nolan
Tom Cholakov
Ivan Cholakov**

**Amateur License Exams
Monthly, 4th Tuesday, 5:30 pm
No December Exam
American Red Cross
2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive
Naples, FL
Mark Harms
AC4ZM@ARASWF.ORG**



**ARRL
VEC**





Meetings Location
American Red Cross
2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive
Naples, FL 34119
Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Next meeting is January 12, 2016

Nets every Thursday at 8:00 pm on 147.030 -600 offset, 136.5 tone
Digital practice net after voice until 10:00 pm

Meeting Minutes and Topics of Interest

Please note that ARES has changed to the 147.030 Repeater for nets !
A digital emergency practice net follows the voice net !

Starting January 12, 2016 meetings for the Collier County ARES group will be held at the American Red Cross starting at 7:00 P.M.

Using the BES building for special events and other SET type events after hours requires a 45 to 60 day request notice. Practicing many operators at different times on the equipment in the building is needed to be a skillful group.

The November Simulated Emergency Test had seven check ins. Mark AC4ZM was net control along with Craig NC2H in Bonita Springs. Out of county Popeye from Punta Gorda and Rich from Estero were able to operate the 147.030 K4YHB repeater full quieting. Other check ins came from various locations from within Collier County. Digital ICS forms 214 and 309 were exchanged using PSK250. Morse code information was also exchanged. A few HF frequencies were also tested for their close abilities.

January 17 is the Half Marathon Race. Check points will be assigned by Ed.

Thank You

MARK HARMS
AC4ZM AEC

ARASWF Year End Review

EDUCATION - There were many new activities and special interest groups held throughout the year. Software Defined Radio (SDR) seminars were hosted by Uli-AG0X and Ken-W9KB. Several Digitally School Sessions using FLdigi, FLmsg, and MMSSTV software were conducted at the American Red Cross on Saturday mornings by Mark-AC4ZM, and last but not least Dr. Al Torres-KP4AQI gave many great antenna presentations after our regular business meetings.

ACTIVITIES - In January our ARES group members provided check point support for the Naples Daily News Half Marathon Officials. Emergency coordinator Ed Esborn-K1UQU held a team meeting and assigned members several points around the course. In the month of March, members were invited to join other Collier County C.E.R.T. groups for a joint Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Our ARES team provided radio communications on the behalf of BES during this exercise. The Collier County ARES group conducts many different SET's throughout the year using the K4YHB repeater (147.030 mHz) which was completely rebuilt this year.

Later in January, George-AA4GT organized the Winter Field Day contest held at the 'Florida Farm Tiki-Hut'. The exchange includes the outside air temperature, which his crew enjoys sharing with cooler northern neighbors. George, originally from the Keystone state, organized the Pennsylvania QSO Party held in October.

Rich-K4AOR organized the annual Oil Well Park Family Outing held in February. Hot dogs and hamburgers were the fare of the day. It was 'BYOR', members brought their own rigs and portable antenna to setup and test.

The Florida Contest Group (FCG) sponsors the annual Florida QSO Party held in April. We participated with the other stations operating across Florida to put out Collier County.

ARRL Field Day is the biggest event of the year. It is always held on the fourth full weekend in June every year, with thousands of other stations participating across the country. This is a 24 hour operation involving all modes on all bands (except WARC).

David-WB8VQU led a field trip in June to visit the USS American Victory Ship which is docked in Tampa. They toured the ship and operated the onboard amateur radio station W4AVM. His team helped celebrate the ship's birthday.

Finally, Club members helped the Boy Scouts this year with their annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) project held in October.

COMMUNICATIONS - A new member brochure was printed and mailed, repeaters were resurrected and improved, and Craig-NC2H updated and polished the old Club website. Check us out - take time to log into a net or visit <http://araswf.org/new/> for updates.

Mark-AC4ZM

Christmas Party Pictures



All the others are posted in the online in our Flickr account.



Check them out at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/106607564@N04/>



AMATEUR RADIO OBSESSIVES WHO SEND MESSAGES FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



In 1993, Bob Allphin and a team of 11 other men took a boat to remote Howland Island, an uninhabited slip of coral that is officially part of a group called United States Minor Outlying Islands located in the Pacific Ocean.

It's not a place where tourists tend to gather, save a very specific breed. "If that rings a bell," says Allphin, "It's because that's the island Amelia Earhart was looking for when she ran out of gas and disappeared."

The trip was going according to plan, but as the week progressed, the waves offshore grew larger and larger. Powerless, the small gathering could only watch as the whitecapped water

separated them from their main vessel. With ample supplies visible off shore, they ran out of water. “And there’s no worse feeling because you’re on an island where the temperature is 120 and you’re thirsty as hell,” says Allphin.

The dozen tourists combed the beach for upturned seashells filled with rainwater and strained that through a t-shirt into a bucket, adding iodine pills. This was the stew they planned to subsist on when they had a breakthrough—the crew was able to get water ashore. Still, they wound up stranded on the island an extra seven days.



Antennas set up on Niue, a tiny island in the South Pacific Ocean, and location of one of Don Beattie's DXpeditions (Photo: Hilary Claytonsmith)

Perhaps the most shocking thing is that this group risked their lives for a passion that is esoteric even by esoteric tourism standards—they weren't out at the remote island for Amelia Earhart. They were there to make contact with as many amateur radio operators from all over the world as possible.

According to the American Radio Relay League, which is the national membership association for amateur radio operators in the U.S., there are around 3 million operators worldwide. Amateur radio (which is also known as ham radio, and its users as hams) is, simply put, non-commercial use of radio frequencies to communicate. Amateur radio operators typically apply for a license from their country’s governing body—in the U.S. there are three levels of licenses with ascending privileges, which are earned by taking written tests. Operators assemble their own small stations, including transceivers and antenna. Once setup, some are

content just to talk with fellow Hams, reveling in the thrill of chatting with a stranger several states or oceans away. There are some who like to bounce radio waves off the moon. There is “contesting”, where operators compete to contact the most people within a short amount of time. There’s DXing, an obsession with contacting those stations farthest away from the operator. And there’s DXpeditions, where intrepid hams travel to far flung places with little to no operators and set up stations so their global community can knock a new location off their list.

DXpeditioning has existed in some form since the early 20th century. Today, such trips take various shapes. There are small ones where operators fly in and out; some even stay in hotels or at spots maintained by fellow hams where equipment is at the ready. Then there are the big operations—treks to often uninhabited, remote outposts that take months of planning, teams of up to twenty people, and hundreds of thousands of dollars. Multiple flights are taken, boats chartered, shipping containers filled with tons of equipment, tents erected. Many of these trips are determined by Club Log, an online application that allows operators to upload confirmed radio contacts and pinpoint the least contacted places in the world, which make up the “Most Wanted”.



Operating one of the radio stations on Rodrigues in Mauritius. (Photo: Hilary Claytonsmith)

The top ten locations on that list are the Holy Grail of DXpedition sites. Journeying to those spots is what 71-year-old Georgia-based Allphin—who is retired from his job at a mutual fund—specializes in. Allphin has been on about 40 DXpeditions, 11 of them to Most Wanted locales. (DXpeditions reshuffle the top ten list, accounting for Allphin’s unintuitive count.)

There are a few reasons that places land on the Most Wanted list.

"It's either political, or it's a government agency that's trying to protect the wildlife, or it's so doggone hard to get there you can't afford it," says Allphin.

North Korea, which hasn't been worked in over a decade, is number one on the Most Wanted list. (Polish radio amateur Dom Grzyb recently announced that he was inching closer to gaining approval to operate in the country.)

DXpeditioning does involve some of the romantic trappings of exploration—desolate snow-scapes, tropical beaches, rough sea journeys, and wild animals. It also involves a lot of red tape, physical labor, and planning—and all for the love of racking up amateur radio contacts. If this sounds like fun, you might be a DXpeditioner.

Here are some things to consider: Negotiating access to hotspots like Bhutan, which restricts tourism, or Navassa Island in the Caribbean, which is overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, can take years. It took Allphin's team over a decade to get permission to set foot on Navassa, which they visited in January. Because you often pack in all your supplies, including radio equipment, there are customs authorities to grapple with and taxes (or trying to avoid taxes). There are other expenses to consider, from helicopter rides to paying for the oversight of Fish and Wildlife employees.

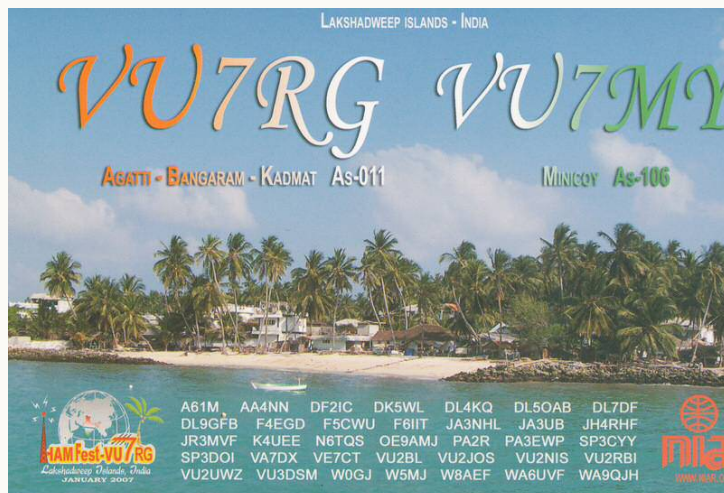


Bob Allphin's DXpedition group to Antarctica. (Photo: Peter I DXpedition Archives)

Allphin has embarked on trips with price tags surpassing half a million dollars. In order to defray costs, many expeditions set up donation pages and organizations such as the Northern California DXpedition Foundation and the Yasme Foundation mete out grants.

Now that you've planned and executed your often many legged journey, the sweating begins. Upon arrival, you must erect your "radio city", as Allphin calls it, where you will live for several weeks, sleeping and working in 24-hour shifts in order to make as many contacts as possible. It can take two to three days to set up all the antennas and other equipment, according to Don Beattie, an amateur radio operator in the UK who has been on about 20 DXpeditions. "And for many people, they come from halfway around the world so they're jetlagged and in some cases they've had a particularly rough sea passage in the last couple of days," says Beattie. "They arrive in less than tip top shape, so you have to be a little careful on how hard you drive the team to set up."

And then of course, there are the vagaries of your destination. Salt air can be tough on equipment and Beattie has heard stories of operators showering with their antenna every 24 hours to scrub away salt. Allphin packed a cattle prod for his trip to Heard Island in the Antarctic, which he shared with elephant seals that can reach 16 feet and weigh over two tons. (He didn't have to use it.)



A QSL card from Bob Allphin's DXpedition to Lakshadweep Islands in India. (Photo: Bob Allphin)

Once the radio city has risen, it's time to start making contacts. DXpeditioners get the word out ahead of time via amateur radio organizations, expedition websites, and by taking out ads in

niche magazines. The number of people trying to make contact with, say, Lakshadweep, an island in the Laccadive Sea off the coast of India, is not small. Such trips can result in well over 100,000 contacts. Allphin participated in a trip where 195,000 contacts were made. The result of thousands of people calling at the same time is a “pileup”—something DXpeditioners speak about with awe.

“When you tune across it, it just sounds like white noise,” says Beattie. “You can’t hear any speech, all you can hear is this incredible buzz as you tune across the frequencies. And knowing how to distill that down to the one call sign quickly and get a contact confirmed and then move on to the next one—that is one of the big skills.”

There’s no chitchat on a DXpedition—hams call the expedition and state their call sign, a series of letters and numbers that is essentially their radio name. (“Some of it is Morse [code], it’s not all talky talky,” says Beattie.) The team member that answers repeats this back to them, along with a “signal report”—usually the number “59”—meaning everything has come in loud and clear, and the transaction ends.

“That’s a big thrill, and frankly, I think it’s one of the motivations that a lot of DXers would say is primary,” says Allphin. “They are tested to the limit in those pileups.”

Once contact is made, it is commemorated with a “QSL card”, a postcard made specially for the trip and sent via post. (Coordinating the sending of the postcards represents yet another logistical project.)



Bob Allphin on St George Island. (Photo: Peter I DXpedition Archives)

DXpeditioning is not without its risks. In 1982, two German hams on a trip to Amboyna Cay in the South China Sea were killed when occupying forces attacked their ship.

DXpeditioner Charles "Rusty" Epps had his own brush with death in 1974 on a trek to the Palmyra Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

"All that is, is a pile of busted coral and seashells that the tides and waves have stacked up on a reef," recalls Epps.

While they were there another boat, carrying a man and woman, lodged itself on the reef. Epps and his team paddled out in dinghies and helped pull them ashore.

"We knew they were strange and would not have wanted to stay with them," says Epps. "But we were leaving the next morning anyway."

Not long after the DXpeditioners took off, a yacht arrived bearing an adventurous and wealthy couple from San Diego, Malcolm and Eleanor Graham subsequently vanished. The couple that Epps helped rescue - Buck Duane Walker and his girlfriend Stephanie Stearns, later surfaced on the stolen yacht. Eleanor's bones were discovered in 1981; Malcolm's (body) was never found. Walker was convicted of killing Eleanor; Stearns, who was represented by Vincent Bugliosi, the attorney that prosecuted serial killer Charles Manson, was acquitted. The saga was turned into a TV movie and chronicled in a book by Bugliosi.



A QSL card from a trip to an uninhabited reef in the Pacific, Kingman Reef. (Photo: Bob Allphin)

"It became so clear that had we stayed, we could have been the ones murdered," says Epps. Most risks run by DXpeditioners are not so dramatic—in addition to the time he had to hunt and gather water on Howland Island, Allphin recalled his second sketchiest moment as that of being forced to leap from the shore of an Antarctic island into a Zodiac boat.

"It was an ugly, ugly place," says Allphin. "There were about five million penguins there and the penguin poo was very deep. It was raining and we were stuck in that stuff."

As he prepared to jump, his mind was on a nearby leopard seal, a predator that looks a little bit like Voldemort.

"The worst case scenario that was going through everybody's mind was, 'I miss the boat, I end up in the water and I have to contend with this leopard seal,'" says Allphin. (He made it.) Leopard seals, arduous journeys, bureaucracy and occasional mayhem have hardly deterred hardcore hams from their quests.

"It's a cocktail of things, I think, really," says Beattie. "First of all, it's the challenge of doing it. Why do you climb Everest? Because it's there. Why do we do this? Because it's fun doing all the planning, it's a hell of a lot of fun getting there, and it's a hell of a lot of fun when you get there." Penguin poo notwithstanding, Allphin, who earned his amateur radio license when he was 14, says he will next turn his attention to destinations in the Pacific. "Amateur radio is pretty much the greatest hobby in the entire world," he says.

BY ANDY WRIGHT / 07 DEC 2015

There's a New Ham in the House!

US Rep Steve Pearce (R-NM) has become the third Amateur Radio licensee in the Congress. Pearce recently became KG5KIQ. He joins his House colleague, Rep Daniel Benishek, KB8TOW (R-MI), and Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR). Pearce had reached out earlier this year to ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and New Mexico Section Manager Ed James, KA8JMW, to find out more about ham radio.

"He said he had learned of ham radio and was interested in its utility for communicating with others wirelessly, especially at long distances on HF," Milesosky recounted.

More recently the congressman alerted Milesosky and James that he would be passing through Albuquerque and wanted to meet with them to chat further about Amateur Radio. The get-together over coffee with Pearce, an aide, James, and Milesosky lasted for "a very productive hour," Milesosky said. On November 12, Pearce's aide contacted James to say that the Congressman has just arrived in Albuquerque and wanted to take the Technician license examination, if possible.

"We notified Frank Warren, AB5WJ, whose VE team regularly conducts on-demand licensing exams," Milesosky said. Three hours after our first indication that he was in town, the Congressman was taking his Technician license exam."

The FCC granted Pearce's license on November 18.



**Rep Steve Pearce,
KG5KIQ (R-NM-2).**



US Rep Greg Walden-W7EQI, Latest Amateur Radio Parity Act Cosponsors

US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), is among the latest House members to sign on as an Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 cosponsor. One of three radio amateurs in Congress, Walden chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, tr H.R. 1301, the House version of the legislation.

As of December 2, there were 117 cosponsors in the



**US Rep Greg Walden,
W7EQI (R-OR).**

US House and three cosponsors for S. 1685, the US Senate bill, which cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November 18. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said cosponsorship by Walden, the subcommittee chair, is a highlight of the bill's progress in the House.

"Rep Walden and his subcommittee staff have been very helpful all along the way," she added. President Craigie also said it's important that ARRL members continue to write, call, or e-mail their members of Congress, including those who already have become cosponsors.

"We want the members of Congress who signed on months ago to be reminded periodically that their help is important and appreciated by constituents," President Craigie said. "Keeping Capitol Hill's attention is not a one-and-done thing. Thanking our supporters is both good manners and good strategy."

Other US House members who became H.R. 1301 cosponsors in November include three from Texas and two from Wisconsin: Reps Ron Kind (D-WI), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Gene Green (D-TX), Sam Johnson (R-TX), and Vela Filemon (D-TX)

The bill calls on the FCC to apply its "reasonable accommodation" standard to private land-use restrictions. It would offer Amateur Radio operators an opportunity to negotiate with homeowners associations in subdivisions that now preclude the installation outdoor ham antennas.

More information on the Amateur Radio Parity Act is available on the ARRL website.



Used Gear For Sale

Tarheel model 200A-HP Mobile Antenna - \$600 new



Motorized Lift and Lay Antenna Mount - \$459 new



\$600 for both the Tarheel antenna & mount

Miles Riggall, NY2AR

miles@riggall.com

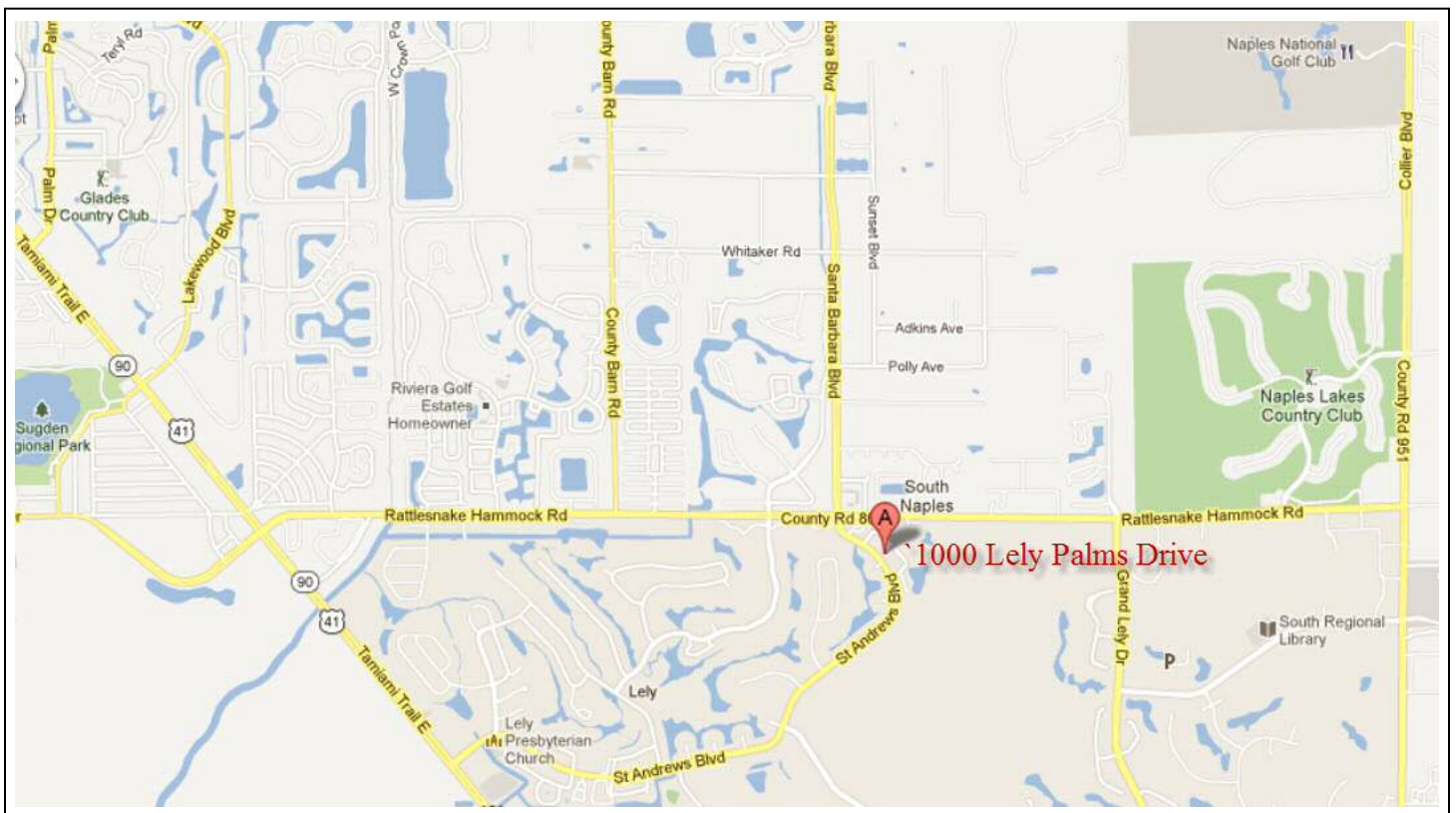


Royal Palm Chapter 152 meets every second Thursday of the month

at the Lely Palms Manor, Next Luncheon Meeting: January 14th at 12:15 pm

1000 Lely Palms Blvd.

Naples, FL 34114



**AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby petition the officers and members of the AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC. for membership. I attest that I hold a current FCC issued Amateur Radio License, and that I will follow legal procedures and protocol, and conduct myself in a manner that will further Amateur Radio.

NAME: _____ **CALL:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

LICENSE CLASS: _____ **ARRL MEMBER:** ☐ YES ☐ NO

HAVE YOU EVER PREVIOUSLY BEEN A MEMBER OF ARASWF ☐ NO ☐ YES - Year _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S CALL (If Applicable): _____ **SPOUSE'S LICENSE CLASS:** _____

OUT OF AREA ADDRESS (If Applicable): _____

OUT OF AREA PHONE (If Applicable): _____

This Application must be filed prior to the Membership Business Meeting at which time action will be taken. It is not mandatory that the applicant be in attendance.

The Membership Business Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM (except June, July, August and December) at the American Red Cross Building at 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive, Naples, Florida.

The ARASWF Newsletter is distributed monthly by e-mail prior to the monthly Membership Business Meeting and contains meeting dates, location and other information, and will be sent to the e-mail address indicated on this Application. If you do not have an e-mail address, the please notify us and request that the Newsletter be sent to you via U.S. Mail.

Please mail this Application with a copy of your Amateur Radio License and a check or money order in the amount of \$25.00 (annual membership dues), to the ARASWF at the address below. Paid membership is valid for one calendar year. If a new member's Application is dated after July 1st, the annual membership dues are one-half the annual dues amount, and a check or money order in the amount of \$12.50 should accompany this application.

Please make checks or money orders payable to "Amateur Radio Assn. of Southwest Florida", or to "ARASWF".

**Amateur Radio Assn. of Southwest Florida
P.O. Box 111604
Naples, FL 34108**

Club Information

Next Meeting Time: January 26th @ 7:00PM

Meeting Location:
American Red Cross
2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive
Naples, FL

Club Repeaters:

- ARASWF FM - WB2QLP 146.670 mHz (-600 kHz) PL 136.5 HZ
- ARASWF D-Star – AA4PP 145.490 mHz (-600 kHz)/441.5 mHz (5.0kHz)
- Collier EOC – K4YHB 147.030 mHz (+600 kHz)

2015 Club Officers:

President: Uli Altvater – AG0X@araswf.org
Vice President: Frank Halas – fhalas@comcast.net
Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bills – W9KB@araswf.org
Director: Dave Ducett – WB8VQU@araswf.org
Director: Mark Harms – AC4ZM@araswf.org
Director: Larry Kielasa – KC8JCB@araswf.org
Director: Gary Lee – K8YMN@araswf.org
Newsletter Editor: Ken Bills – W9KB@araswf.org
Webmaster: Craig Henning – NC2H@araswf.org

Club Website:

<http://www.araswf.org>

Visit
the



**Amateur Radio Association
of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

Web Site

www.araswf.org