



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMXVI No. 2 - The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
February 15, 2016

### In This Issue:

- Nickels & Dimes
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Membership Meeting Minutes
- Upcoming Contest Calendar
- News Articles

The next Club Meeting will be held February 23<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7:00pm  
at the Red Cross - 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive - Naples, FL

## Nickels & Dimes

What a beautiful weekend up in Orlando! The temperatures were cool enough to enjoy walking around the flea market, sunshine and not a drop of rain the entire weekend! I had a great time meeting old friends and making a few new ones. The good deals were secondary...

The HamCation team held their 70<sup>th</sup> annual event and was host for the 2016 ARRL National Convention. The League had a big presence in Orlando, and I had the privilege to meet the new CEO elect, Tom Gallagher – NY2RF who is a great guy and virtual neighbor from across the state in Palm Beach.

Friday night, I went to the Florida Contest Group (FCG) dinner Friday and shared a table with Martin Pelt – N4UU, his lovely wife Patty-N4TUU, and Bob Brady – WA8QYJ from Naples. Martin is a past President of the ARASWF and avid contester who now lives just south of Gainesville. If you follow the reflectors, you know Martin has posted some big scores over the years. Last year marked a first, he and Patty went mobile for the Florida QSO Party and made a ton of contacts. They both enjoyed this new endeavor, with a new 'pile up' at every county line.

Our FCG dinner guest speaker was Ward Silver – N0AX. Ward is the editor of the ARRL Handbook, the ARRL Antenna book and just about everything else the League publishes. He challenged the contest community to develop new ways to make the sport more open and transparent. Among many new ideas, Ward suggested online scoring whereby all your contacts would be sent and stored in the 'cloud'. This would allow instantaneous feedback and rate information to all contest participants. His message was all about making contesting more appealing to the younger hams who grew up playing video games online will expect more immediate results. The days of submitting your log and waiting a year for certificates are no longer acceptable. Ward and others are pushing the contesting sport into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Speaking of timely feedback, Team AA4PP managed to again take home a plaque for top Club in the 2015 Florida QSO Party! Good job, thanks to a super effort from AA4GT, AC4ZM, K4AOR, K9PWQ, KC8JCB, KD4JMV, NC2H, NH6GR & W9KB.

Making contacts is what this hobby is all about, whether it's Winter Field Day, Orlando, or an 'eyeball' at a local club meeting. If you haven't made a contact recently dust off your rig and work a little DX or hop on one of our local repeaters.

Another opportunity for contacts, the annual Oil Well Outing is coming up this weekend - February 20<sup>th</sup>. Plan to stop out, play radio and meet some of the other Club members in action and enjoy lunch in the park (map and details is included in this Newsletter).

Also, don't miss the next Dr. Al – KP4AQI presentation at our meeting on February 23<sup>th</sup>. Life is too short to coast, get involved, plan to attend the Oil Well Outing and make a few 'contacts'!

See you at the next meeting February 23<sup>th</sup> at the Red Cross.

73

Ken-W9KB  
ARASWF Secretary/Treasurer

<b>Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida</b>
---

**Executive Board Meeting held at Apollo, Naples, FL  
Tuesday – January 19, 2016**

**Present:** Uli Altvater, AG0X – President  
Frank Halas – W4RBW  
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary/Treasurer  
Mark Harms, AC4ZM – Director  
Larry Kielasa, KC8JCB – Director  
Dave Ducett, WB8VQU – Director  
Gary Lee, K8YMN – Director  
Craig, NC2H – Webmaster

**Absent:** None

---

---

**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 \$3,745.52. Expenses this month included Club Liability Insurance - \$200, Florida Sun Biz Filing - \$61.25 to date. Dues received included \$360.22 from PayPal receipts and \$75 from traditional means.

The Board reviewed their performance to the 2015 budget vs. actual and adopted a 2016 balanced budget based upon expected revenues of \$2375 for the year.

**Old Business:**

Repeater Updates: AB4NP is offline and a work party is scheduled for early February to update the repeater station. The Florida Repeater Council (FRC) has been updated with our changes, however, their website still is old of date. A follow up email was sent to prompt a change.

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 continues to meet at 7PM on the second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross. The Collier CERT Group is planning a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise for March 12<sup>th</sup> to test their readiness. The EmComm team will provide VHF communications.

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

### **New Business:**

Winter Field Day: Larry-KC8JCB reported that Winter Field Day will be held at his home. He has antennas for virtually all the bands: 160m through 440mHZ. This year the team plans to maximize their score with more QSO's and multipliers for all the bands and modes.

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.

Meeting Presentations: Dr. Al Torres – KP4AQI has agreed to make three presentations this year on antenna theory and misconceptions. His first will be given at the upcoming January meeting.

Travelling Junk Box(s): Dave – WB8VQU suggested we try a 'travelling junk box' program, similar to what his Michigan radio club does to promote meeting excitement. The idea is to fill a USPS medium flat rate box with items from your shack you no longer use or need (not necessarily serviceable perhaps). Then you tape it up securely and bring it to the next meeting. You exchange your box for another that someone else brought for the same purpose. One man's junk... another's treasure.

The Board discussed the idea and decided to bring it up at the next meeting and survey the Club interest.

### Upcoming Events:

- Winter Field Day – January 31<sup>st</sup>
- EmComm meeting – February 9<sup>th</sup> (7pm at the Red Cross)
- Oil Well Park Outing – February 20<sup>th</sup>

**Next Board Meeting** – February 16<sup>th</sup> (7pm at Uli's business QTH)

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken-W9KB  
Secretary

# Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Regular Membership Meeting held at the Naples American Red Cross.  
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Officers and  
Directors present:

Uli Altvater, AG0X – President  
Frank Halas – W4RBW  
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-nine members were present and seven guests (all received a Club flyer from AC4ZM).

**Treasurer's Report:** Ken-W9KB reported that Club checking balance was \$3,745.52 including expenses of \$200 for Club Liability Insurance, \$61.25 and for Florida Sun Biz (non-profit) filing. Dues receipts totaled \$435.22, including \$360.22 from PayPal.

**Old Business:** Uli-AG0X reported that the AB4NP (D-Star) repeater at Marbella is currently off the air and will be repaired shortly, a work party is planned for February 6<sup>th</sup> to retune the duplexers and setup a new Raspberry Pi to handle the gateway.

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 Naples Daily News Marathon was cancelled this year due to severe weather. Ed was onsite to handle any emergency traffic and notify volunteers of the cancellation.

The next EmComm meeting will be held Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Eight passes, with one candidate taking both the Tech and General elements.

Mark also commented that the Thanksgiving 'envelop stuffing' party was a success since all the guests at the meeting tonight received an invitation as an outcome. Good job!

**New Business:**

Larry-KC8JCB reported that Winter Field Day will be held at his home. He has antennas for virtually all the bands: 160m through 440mHZ. This year the team plans to maximize their score with more QSO's and multipliers for all the bands and modes.

Rich-K4AOR discussed the nature and propose of the Oil Well Outing for the guests in attendance. The event will be held February 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am for setup, lunch around noon. Details and a map will be included in this month's Newsletter. Plan to attend and make a QSO and enjoy a hot dog or burger!

Ken-W9KB described an idea that Dave-WB8VQU shared at the last Board meeting. WB8VQU suggested we try a 'travelling junk box' program, similar to what his Michigan radio club does to promote meeting excitement. The idea is to fill a USPS medium flat rate box with items from your shack you no longer use or need (not necessarily serviceable perhaps). Then you tape it up securely and bring it to the next meeting. You exchange your box for another that someone else brought for the same purpose. One man's junk... another's treasure.

A straw vote supported the idea, bring your treasure box to the next meeting for exchange.

50/50 Raffle was won by Rich-K4AOR (\$67.50)

**Presentation:** Dr. Al Torres – KP4AQI gave a very informative and entertaining lecture on "Antenna Gain & Myth". Dr. Al explored the problem of quantifying the real gain of HF antennas and debunked some the antenna manufacture's hyperbole associated with their claims, in the absent of a real scientific method to measure gain.

Dr. Al will give two more presentations before flying back to Dayton at the end of the season. Mark your personal calendars, don't miss these great opportunities!

**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

### February 2016

+ AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 17
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 24
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 26 to 2159Z, Feb 28
+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 27 to 1800Z, Feb 28
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 27 to 1300Z, Feb 28
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 27 to 0600Z, Feb 28
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 28

### March 2016

+ AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 1
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 5 to 2400Z, Mar 6
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Mar 5
+ DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 6
+ SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 6
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Mar 12 to 2359Z, Mar 13
+ AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 12
+ EA PSK63 Contest	1600Z, Mar 12 to 1600Z, Mar 13
+ Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 12 to 1900Z, Mar 13
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 13
+ Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 13 to 0100Z, Mar 14
+ SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest	1600Z, Mar 18 to 1000Z, Mar 20
+ BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 21
+ Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 19 to 1200Z, Mar 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 21
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 23
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 26 to 2400Z, Mar 27



Run for the Bacon QRP Contest – March 21st



# QRZ DX

*DX reporting since 1979*



February 10, 2016

Carl Smith, N4AA / C6AAA  
Editor

Issue 2016-07E

## JD1 - OGASAWARA

**JD1BMT:** Masaru, JE4SMQ will also be on the air February 19-22 working 49-6 CW/SSB/PSK31/RTTY/JT65. QSL to home call.

**JD1BOW:** Nobu, JA0JHQ will use this call from Komagari February 13-22. He will work 160-6 meters on CW and digital modes, focusing on 160 CW; PSK31/RTTY on 40 & 15. QSL to home call.

**JD1/JI3XTZ** will be working 40-10 using Digital modes from Chichijima February 19-22. QSL to home call

## VK0EK - HEARD ISLAND

*March is shaping up to be another VERY active DXpedition month. The BRAVEHEART, fresh from its adventures at South Sandwich and South Georgia, will be taking the 14 team members to Heard.*

*First will be the much anticipated operation from Heard Island. They expect to stay on the island from **March 18 to April 10**. For all the details on this one see: <<http://vk0ek.org/>>. Here are just a few:*

### VK0EK Goals

For the current expedition, we will use the callsign VK0EK. We expect worldwide demand for as many as 150,000 contacts, with as many as 50,000 different stations. In order to satisfy this demand, we will operate 4 – 6 stations at Atlas Cove and 2 stations at Spit Bay for a period of nearly three weeks, with a team of up to 14 radio operators. The Atlas Cove site will be set up first, and then Spit Bay – so Spit Bay will be a few days shorter than Atlas as far as we know – but we will update this page with more details as we get closer to activation. We are developing a “fast deploy” strategy so that we can be on the air in one day, and break down in one day maximize the time on the air. This will be a “full service” operation (all-bands, all modes), with the four stations running continuously. We plan to dedicate one station to making only “All-time-new-ones” (ATNOs), giving radio operators their first contact ever with Heard Island. We will also make special efforts to log contacts with all license class operators, who have more limited band privileges.

Feb. 5, 2016: The container carrying the equipment for the expedition has arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, and has been put into storage awaiting arrival of the advance team March. 3. The vessel Braveheart will arrive March 5, while the full team will arrive March 7. We will sail for Heard Island March 10, weather permitting, of course!

In addition, we are very appreciative of our South Africa team: Paul, ZS1A; Pierre, ZS1HF; Malcolm, ZS6MAL; Sue ZS1AFR and Tom, ZS1AFS. Together with similar teams in California, Virginia, and Perth, Australia, the logistics is being managed professionally and securely.

## FT4JA - JUAN DA NOVA

Scheduled to run from **March 29 to April 11** this DXpedition will occur during much of the time of the Heard Island operation. Following the change of dates of the expedition to Heard, most wanted DXCC countries # 4 and # 5 will be on the air at the same time! To minimize problems on the bands, we suggested to the VK0EK team to adopt a common band plan to share the segments on the different bands, taking into account the specificities of each region. Each of us will benefit in terms of clarity and efficiency. It is available on our website. Again, all comments are welcome now through our pilot stations. See more details at: <<http://www.juandenovadx.com/en/>>

## XW - LAOS

**3W3B:** Bruce, AA4XR will be in Laos February 12-24. He will focus on RTTY and CW on 80-10. QSL via E21EIC.

**XW1IC:** Champ, E21EIC plans to be here February 12-16 to including operating in the CQ WPX RTTY contest. QSL using LoTW or use OQRS.



*A view of the “ATLAS” camp site of the 1997 VK0IR DXpedition. This site will again be used by VK0EK. A second site will also be used to provide better coverage to areas not easily accessible from Atlas. Significant detail is provided on the web site.*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**6D0F:** In celebration of the apostolic journey of his holiness Pope Francis to Mexico February 12-18, this special event station will be on the air. Several locations will be used. QSL via XE1LM.

**7V7WRD:** Members of the Algerian Amateur Radio Union will be celebrating World Radio Day with this call on February 13. QSL via 7X2VB.

**9K55NLD:** This station celebrates Kuwait's National Liberation Day and will be on the air until the end of February. QSL via 9K2NO.

**TP30CE:** The Council of Europe Radio Amateur Club celebrates its 30th anniversary February 12-13. QSL via F5LGF.

**Z34LOVE:** This one celebrates Valentine's Day from Macedonia February 6-21. QSL via Z37RSM (the Radio Society of Macedonia).

## NCDXF

The Winter 2016 NCDXF Newsletter is now available. Access all the newsletters at: <[www.ncdxf.org/pages/newsletter.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/newsletter.html)>. Contributions enable NCDXF to support its mission and this newsletter. Contributions may be made on their website at: <[www.ncdxf.org/pages/contribute.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/contribute.html)>.

## INDEXA

The Winter 2016 INDEXA Newsletter is also available on their web site: <<http://indexa.org>>. Contributions may be made on their web site as well.





## **NEW MEMBER ALERT**

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

<b>KD0ZBM</b>	<b>General</b>
<b>KE8DCI</b>	<b>Technician</b>
<b>KM4QYJ</b>	<b>Technician</b>
<b>KM4QGW</b>	<b>Extra</b>
<b>KM4QYK</b>	<b>General</b>
<b>KE0GOL</b>	<b>Extra</b>
<b>KM4QYL</b>	<b>Technician</b>

<b>Joe Tittiger</b>
<b>Larry Grand</b>
<b>Stephen Merrette</b>
<b>Egon Behle</b>
<b>Jason Kataras</b>
<b>Steven Hall</b>
<b>Allen Lerta</b>

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](mailto:AC4ZM@ARASWF.ORG)



**ARRL**  
**VEC**





# Oil Well Outing

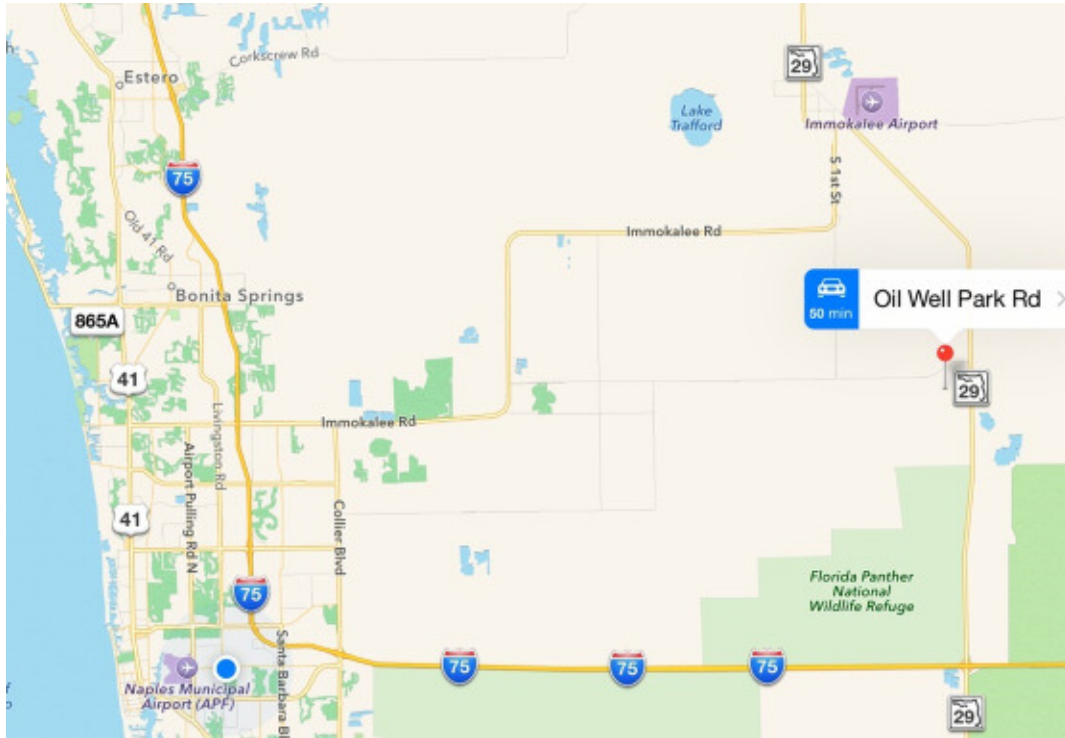
## February 20th

- Setup starts around 9am (or when you arrive)
- Lunch around noon (Hot dogs & Hamburgers)
- Usually QRT around 2pm



# Oil Well Park Maps

North



North





# 2016 Winter Field Day





**W4FF FLORIDA FARM**

**Club Summary and Score Sheet**  
**submission for the**  
**Annual Winter Field Day**  
**January 30 and 31, 2016**

<b>Club CallSign :</b>	<b>W4FF</b>	<b>Club Name :</b>	<b>Florida Farm</b>
<b>Bands :</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Power :</b>	<b>LOW (30 to 80 watts)</b>
<b>Modes :</b>	<b>MIXED+</b>	<b>ARRL Section :</b>	<b>SFL (Eastern Time)</b>
<b>Default Exchange :</b>	<b>MO SFL</b>	<b>Station Category :</b>	<b>Multi-Op, Multi-TX, Away, Outdoor</b>
<b>Grid square :</b>	<b>EL96EF</b>	<b>Software :</b>	<b>N1MM+ / N3FJP / Paper</b>

**Operator(s) :** **W4FF, AA4GT, AC4ZM, K4AOR, KC8JCB, NC2H, KC4RAC, W2ARP, KD4JMV, KU1Q**

<b>Contact Name :</b>	<b>Florida Farm</b>	<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Amateur Radio Assn of SW Florida</b>
<b>Address :</b>	<b>3152 Poinciana Drive</b>	<b>e-Mail :</b>	<b>ac4zm@hotmail.com</b>
<b>City/State/Zip :</b>	<b>Naples FL 34105</b>	<b>Country :</b>	<b>USA</b>

<b>Band</b>	<b>CW</b>	<b>PH</b>	<b>DI</b>	<b>TV</b>	<b>SA</b>		
<b>160M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>W8D NO CONTACT</b>
<b>80M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>40M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>20M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>15M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>10M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>6M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>2M</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>222</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>440</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	
						<b>QSO's</b>	<b>Mult</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>Bonus Points:</b>		<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>25,432</b>
<b>Gas Generator</b>	<b>Outdoors</b>	<b>Bonus Points :</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Deep Cycle Batteries</b>	<b>Away</b>	<b>Total Score :</b>	<b>28,432</b>

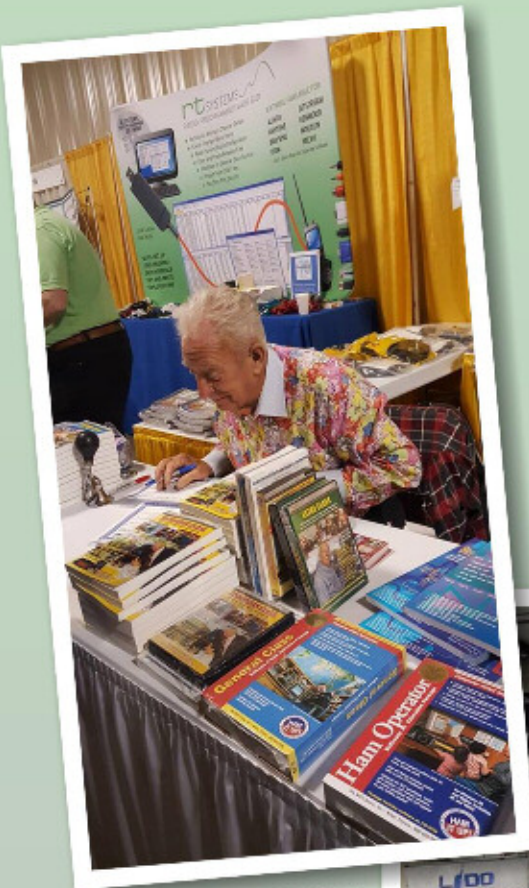
**Rig :** Icom IC-706mk2g using 30 to 80 Watts with a Rigblaster Advantage,  
**Rig :** Icom IC-7000, Icom IC-7200, Yaesu FT-991  
**Antennas :** Tri-Bander Tri-Plexer, J-Poles & verticals (VHF/UHF), 2-Carolina Windom 160 & 80, 6M Yagi  
**Operator count :**

(122) AA4GT	George Tomlinson	(2) KC8JCB	Larry Kielasa
(38) AC4ZM	Mark Harms	(5) KU1Q	Walt Horvay
(106) K4AOR	Richard Seifert		
(2) KC4RAC	Richard Carlone		
(376) W2ARP	Bob Pantazes		
(72) NC2H	Craig Henning		
(25) KD4JMV	Harry Sevush		

**QSO's Count (748) W4FF Florida Farm**

I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations established for amateur radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the Contest Committee.

# Orlando Highlights



Gordo-WB6NOA



???



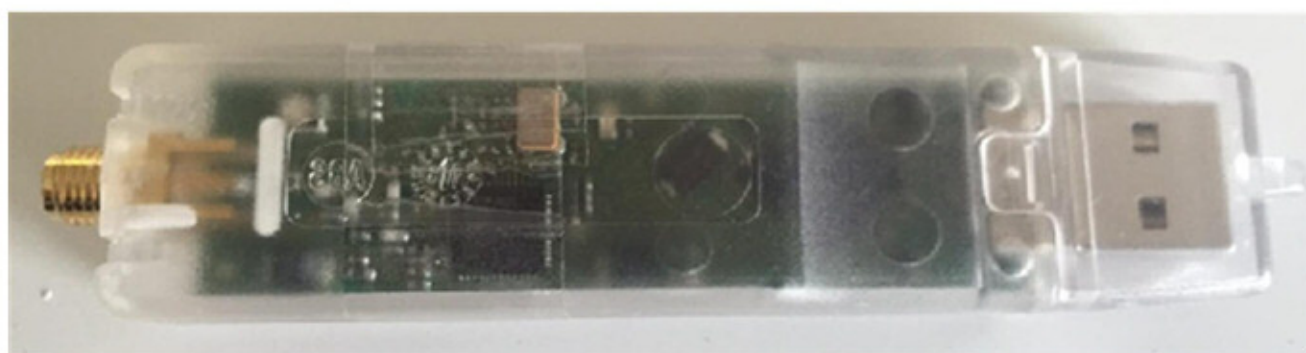




# DVmini North American Sales Team



Uli-AG0X, Monica-DG1SW, & Torsen-DG3HT



DVmini-4





Brian-K9RA



Brian-K3USC



# Where to go During a Communications Shutdown

Local radio amateur group volunteers can help maintain communications until the normal operations resume.

Ken Reid | February 3, 2016



If you've been in meetings and exercises that simulate a total communications loss, you've likely wondered what you would do in the event of a catastrophic failure that takes down cellular, Internet, power, and even your own systems.

Haiti, Jan. 12, 2010. Within a few days after the quake, a team of amateur radio operators from WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center was called upon to serve as the main source of medical communications. Over the next five weeks, the team manned a 24-hour net connecting Haiti field hospitals, the University of Miami Medical Center and the U.S. Navy hospital ship Comfort, relaying on-the-spot medical advice from stateside doctors, relaying medical supplies, charter airplane flight schedules and helping coordinate emergency helicopter and fast boat evacuations.

In Joplin, Mo., May 22, 2011. The hospital, two local fire stations and the town took a direct hit by an F5 tornado. All normal communications were down for weeks. Regional amateur radio operators were called in to help establish communications.

Fortunately, in these scenarios, there have been established relationships between government agencies and groups of volunteer amateur radio operators who were on call, up to speed and equipped to help.

There have also been multiple examples nationwide of 911 centers losing radio communications with police, fire and ambulance because of accidental cable-cutting, cybercutting, or simple equipment failure. Local radio amateur group volunteers are called upon to help maintain communications until the normal operations resume.

## Your Plan B: Amateur Radio Support

What are your plans for emergency backup communications in the event of a serious failure, or if you need to communicate outside of your normal working range? Think no cell, no Internet service, no power, or the need to set up communications in a remote area.

Georgia's emergency management community is tackling this challenge in partnership with the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) nationwide Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) network: Here in Atlanta (and in counties around the state), groups of skilled volunteer radio operators are trained to respond to requests for backup support from local, state and federal agencies.

In my first year serving as Atlanta ARES emergency coordinator, we've made strides to ensure readiness. Our priorities are having a corps of volunteers who are well oriented and trained; building working relationships with emergency management agencies; ensuring that systems, technologies and protocols are in place; and participating in joint planning and drilling exercises.

Today, Atlanta ARES has a home base at the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency, which dedicated space in its EOP for a permanent radio room and multiple rooftop antennas. Amateurs also operate from a radio room at the state operations center of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

In coordination with the Georgia Department of Public Health, radio amateurs man an all-volunteer network operating from 30 amateur-radio-equipped hospitals around the state. This includes the 16 regional coordinating hospitals that train monthly to ensure effective back-up communications in the event of an emergency or disaster.

The Atlanta ARES team also participates in regional, multi-agency tabletop exercises several times a year, and runs amateur radio net control operations for major civic events, including the annual Peachtree Road Race and Atlanta Marathon.

## Amateur Radio, in Brief

Here in Georgia, ARES members are required to complete FEMA 100-, 200-, 700- and 800-level classwork, so they can understand how to work within the Incident Command System. To align with served agency needs, members are also working to become fluent in three digital communication formats that enable us to send and receive text, email and ICS-213 forms. We



use specially developed software, such as Fldigi, and support amateur communications formats like Winlink, and D-RATS. Our Atlanta ARES group practices digital and voice operations weekly.

VHF radios are similar to public service radios and are used for local line-of-sight talk up to 5 miles, and up to 25 miles with the use of a repeater. Most radio operators have an HT (portable 5 watts) and many have a mobile radio with up to 70 watts. Data can be sent over VHF with the use of a computer and relatively low-cost interface unit.

D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) is the digital counterpart to VHF, incorporating digital voice and data. It has both HTs and mobile units that usually incorporate VHF analog. A computer is still needed to send digital data. Other digital radio standards are available: D-STAR is our preference, due to state- and region-wide adoption and support from GEMA.

HF (high frequency) is for talking throughout the state, regionally, and beyond. Data can be sent over HF with an interface and a computer. HF is propagation-dependent, so the signal will not be easily heard in some conditions. Also, because HF signals bounce off the ionosphere, a relay may be needed when direct communication to the intended station is not possible. For example, a message sent from Atlanta may need to be relayed through a Chicago station to be heard in Miami, and we can do this.

Unlike public service encrypted radios, amateur radio by FCC regulation may not use encryption of any kind. Anyone with a radio that can tune to the frequency being used can hear the voice part of the transmission. Digital amateur radios can only be decoded by other radios equipped to receive digital transmissions.

## How to Engage With Us

You'll find local amateur radio groups eager to connect and explore how they can help. Learn more about ARRL's ARES group and how to contact your local emergency coordinator at [www.arrl.org/ares](http://www.arrl.org/ares) . Contact your local radio club and ask if they have an ARES group and, if not, ask if they'd be willing to set one up. And rest assured that we know our role is supportive only:

Amateur radio operators will be stopped and turned away at building access points and on the road to emergencies, unless your security personnel have also been trained to recognize their identification and let them through. If you have requirements like background checks and TB tests for in-hospital sites, work with your local ARES group to get them handled. They'll also need access to work with any installed gear to keep it operational and to keep their skills with that gear sharp.

ARES volunteers will go where they are needed with the gear they own, and do their best, but they may be limited by your systems. The essential first step is for your agency to install an outside permanent antenna. A robust VHF or wire HF antenna costs around \$100 (plus the cost of coax cable), and goes a long way toward ensuring a reliable signal. A second step, which I'd urge you to consider, is investing in a fully operational radio station, which is a relatively small investment: you can set up a full HF and VHF radio station for about the same cost as two public service handheld transmitters.

If you believe there's a possibility that you could have a total communications system failure, or be called upon to assist a fellow agency in need, consider bringing an amateur radio team on board. You'll then have a group of easily integrated radio operators ready to support you.

*Ken Reid is the ARES emergency coordinator, Atlanta; Net Manager of the Georgia Hospital HF Net; president of the Atlanta Radio Club; and a GEMA Certified Emergency Manager.*



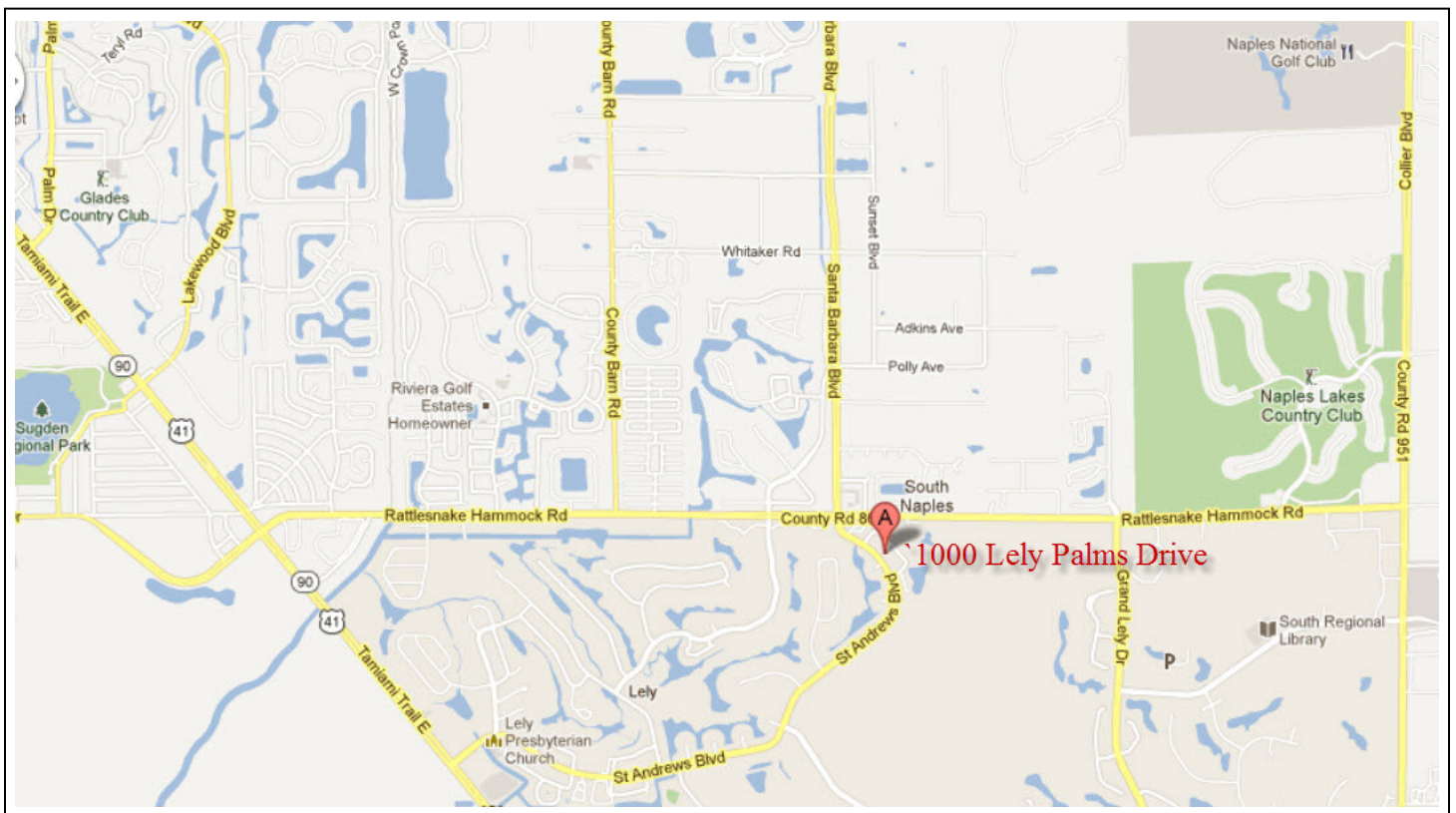


**Royal Palm Chapter 152 meets every second Thursday of the month**

at the Lely Palms Manor, Next Luncheon Meeting: March 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm

1000 Lely Palms Blvd.

Naples, FL 34114



## For Sale

All Equipment is not quite 2 years old, except where noted:

IC-7000 – with original box (used less than 50 hours)	\$875
IC-208H – about 7 years old. (used very little with box & remote kit)	\$200
Hustler 6BTV Vertical antenna	\$130
Astron SS-30M – 30amp switching power supply	\$110
LDG IT-100 Auto-tuner for IC-7000	\$100
75 feet – DXE 400Max RG-8 with PL-259's (new \$94.45)	\$50
DXE Radial Wire – 500 feet BRAND NEW in box (new 53.95)	\$35
DXE TB-3P Tilt base for Hustler 4, 5, or 6 BTV (new 61.95)	\$40
DXE Radial Plate (new \$57.95)	\$40
MFJ 260C Dummy Load (never used)	\$30
MFJ 1702C Antenna Switch	\$30
50 feet – RG-8 with PL-259's (new \$60.95)	\$40

Contact Joe-W1JDZ

[jdzaks@gmail.com](mailto:jdzaks@gmail.com)



## 2016 Local Net Activities

DAY	TIME	FREQ.	PL. TONE	LENGTH	NET NAME	LOCATION
EVERYDAY	2:00 AM	146.670-	136.5 Hz.	90	INSOMMIAC NET	Allstar: 2560 - WynSystem
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	8:00 PM	REF 1C	D-STAR	180	International Dstar Net	???
SUNDAYS	9:00 PM	REF 2A	D-STAR	60	SE WX NET	All over the SE States
MONDAYS	7:30 PM	147.345+	136.5 Hz.	30	FMARC MEETING	Fort Myers, FL.
MONDAYS	8:00 PM	147.345+	136.5 Hz.	30	FMARC NEWBIE NET	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.
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	146.910-	110.9 Hz.	30	BRWD CNTY EMERG. NET	Allstar 28478 L/WB2QLP-R
WEDNESDAYS	8:00 PM	146.670-	136.5 Hz.	20	ARASWF CLUB NET	Naples, FL.
THURSDAYS	7:30 PM	146.670-	136.5 Hz.	30	SFL SKYWARN NET	WAN System - East Coast
THURSDAYS	8:00 PM	147.030+	136.5 Hz.	10	ARES/EMCOMM NET	Naples, FL.
THURSDAYS	9:00 PM	REF 45C	D-STAR	60	Florida DSTAR Net	FLORIDA

Courtesy of KD4JMV



# THE FLORIDA QSO PARTY 2015 AWARD CERTIFICATE



**SPONSORED BY  
THE FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP**

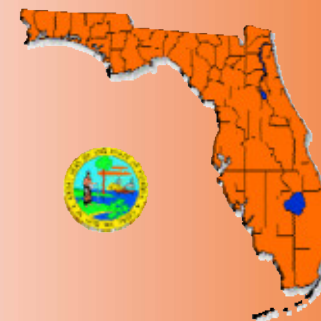
THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO

**AA4PP**

IN RECOGNITION OF COMPLETING THE 2015 FQP  
SPELLING BEE AND SPELLING "ORANGE"

**MIXED 1X1 SWEEP #433**

**SSB 1X1 SWEEP #145**



**18TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
EVENT**

RON WETJEN WD4AHZ  
FCG VP FOR FQP APRIL 2015



**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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**



## Amateur Radio Emergency Service®

### ARES® Registration Form

Name:	
Call Sign:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, ZIP code:	
e-mail address(es):	
Home phone number:	
Work phone number:	
Cell phone number:	
License Class:	

Check bands and modes that you can operate:

MODE	HF	6 meters	2 meters	222 MHz	440 MHz	Others	
SSB							
CW							
FM							
DATA							
PACKET							
Other modes (specify below)							
Mobile Operation							

Can your home station be operated without commercial power? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact ARES® and ARRL Section Leaders in your area: [www.arrl.org/sections/](http://www.arrl.org/sections/).  
Learn about ARRL-sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses:  
[www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog](http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog)

## Club Information

Next Meeting Time: February 23<sup>th</sup> @ 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)
- ARASWF EmComm – K4YHB 147.030 mHz (+600 kHz)

2015 Club Officers:

President: Uli Altvater – [AG0X@araswf.org](mailto:AG0X@araswf.org)  
Vice President: Frank Halas – [W4RBW@araswf.org](mailto:W4RBW@araswf.org)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bills – [W9KB@araswf.org](mailto:W9KB@araswf.org)  
Director: Dave Ducett – [WB8VQU@araswf.org](mailto:WB8VQU@araswf.org)  
Director: Mark Harms – [AC4ZM@araswf.org](mailto:AC4ZM@araswf.org)  
Director: Larry Kielasa – [KC8JCB@araswf.org](mailto:KC8JCB@araswf.org)  
Director: Gary Lee – [K8YMN@araswf.org](mailto:K8YMN@araswf.org)  
Newsletter Editor: Ken Bills – [W9KB@araswf.org](mailto:W9KB@araswf.org)  
Webmaster: Craig Henning – [NC2H@araswf.org](mailto:NC2H@araswf.org)

Club Website:

<http://www.araswf.org>

Visit  
the



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

**Web Site**

**www.araswf.org**