



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. MMXVII No. 10 - The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida  
October 15, 2017

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- Nickels & Dimes
- Board Meeting Minutes (No meeting this summer)
- May Membership Meeting Minutes
- Upcoming Contest Calendar
- 

The next Club Meeting will be held October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
at the Red Cross - 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive - Naples, FL

## Nickels & Dimes

It certainly was an eventful summer season. The last time I wrote in this space, we were still putting out some of the largest local wildfires in a decade. Today we are still cleaning up debris after one of the largest hurricanes to hit the area since Donna. Many of our members were impacted by one or both disasters. Our local ARES group certainly got a work out, in fact, many amateur radio operators from across the country were drafted, and are still in Puerto Rico which was devastated by Maria.

I will spare you the global warning arguments, the point is simply this – like a good Boy Scout, “We must be prepared”. Fortunately, my wife and I had taken a Hurricane Preparedness Class offered earlier this summer by the Collier County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO). They visually illustrated the possible damage caused by CAT1 through CAT5 storms, but more importantly, emphasized the predictable and resulting chaotic county wide impacts afterwards. No power, limited gasoline, food, and ice etc. Many of our long-time members know the drill, first hand from previous storms.

Armed with our fresh CCSO knowledge and facing a potential CAT5 storm threat, we executed our emergency plan and evacuated early the week before the Irma hit the area (our stay threshold was a CAT3 level). Had Irma made landfall as a full strength CAT5 as she was predicted earlier in the week, our homes and businesses would have looked like so many area mobile home communities that made the national news.

Again, the point – develop a family emergency plan, considering the threat level, the latest and most current threat status – then execute your plan, sooner rather than later. You definitely want to be ahead of the curve if you evacuate... major traffic jams, long gas lines, and no hotel room are the resulting penalty!

Suffice it to say a good plan will save a lot of grief and frustration.

Speaking of good plans, our Club met for three luncheon meetings this summer and we are getting ready for our first meeting of the new season at the Red Cross. The good news is: The Club antenna is still standing upright! Unfortunately, that is not the case at the local repeater sites. Signal strength reports are down due to bend masts and resulting tilted propagation patterns. We are still developing damage repair plans and will have more to report at our next ARASWF meeting scheduled at the Red Cross – October 24<sup>th</sup> (7PM).

Jerry Smith, NW9H will update us then on the advantages of FT-8, don’t miss his presentation. Hope to see you all there!

73,  
Ken-W9KB  
ARASWF Secretary

# ARASWF Membership Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2017

- President's Remarks – AG0X
- The Pledge of Allegiance – All
- Introductions - All
- Treasurer's Report – N4LAK
  - Larry reported the following income and expenses items: 50/50 - \$27, Donations \$28, PayPal (Dues) transfer \$455.43, Post Office Box renewal \$76.00, Antenna Trailer Tags renewal \$77.70. Ending Balance \$5,101.60
- Old Business
  - Repeater Updates – AG0X
    - Uli reported the DMR located at the Marbella site is down due to a bent antenna.
  - Website Update – NC2H
    - Craig is concerned about the recent increase in hacker activity he has seen on the websites he manages. He has put in increased protection and advises all members to be especially careful of all their passwords.
  - Spring Outing – N4LAK
    - Larry reported on the April 8 Veterans Park outing.
    - The possibility of an additional outing was discussed.
  - EmComm Updates – AC4ZM
    - Mark reported the next meeting is June 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - SET Exercise planned for August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - VE Testing – AC4ZM
    - Mark reported that 2 individuals came for testing. One passed.
- New Business
  - Summer Luncheon Meetings – AC4ZM
    - Mark reported that we will have three luncheon meetings (same venues as last year). He will put together a flier for an eBlast latter early next month.

- 2017 Field Day Operations – N4LAK
  - Larry discussed the preliminary plans for Field Day. There was consensus that we use the same basic plan as last year.
- Collinear Antenna Building Project – AG0X
  - Uli reported that the building program has been delayed, since early prototypes did not yield expected gains.
- Walk-In's
  - Larry-N4LAK encouraged members to check out the Wednesday night 'Round Table' net format on the 146.670 MHZ repeater. The basic idea is to keep the discussion informal (without preamble).
- 50/50 Raffle
- Social Break
- Presentation –Field Day - Larry N4LAK
  - Larry's presentation was very well received and he addressed many questions from the members.
- Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ken Bills-W9KB

## Contest Calendar

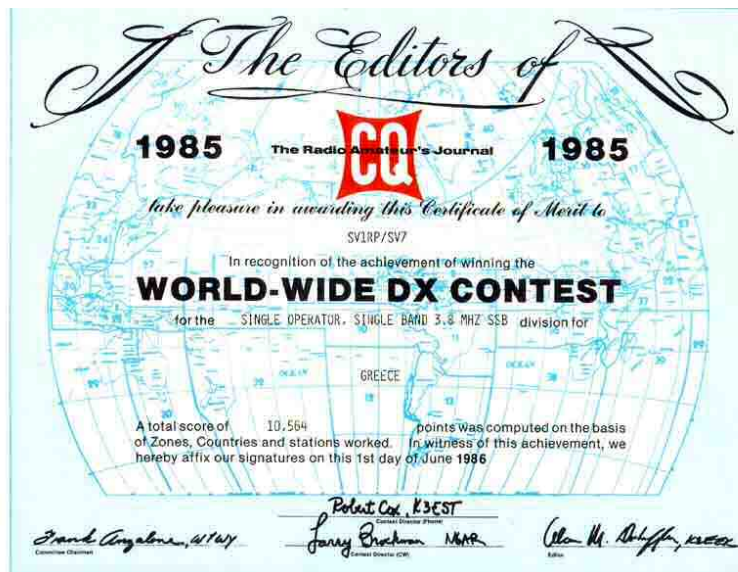
### October 2017

+ Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 14 to 1559Z, Oct 15
+ Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 14 to 0800Z, Oct 15
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 14 to 1200Z, Oct 15
+ Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 14 to 2359Z, Oct 15
+ Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 14 to 2200Z, Oct 15
+ FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 14
+ Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 15
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 16
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 21 to 2359Z, Oct 22
+ New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 21 to 0200Z, Oct 22
+ Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 21 to 1459Z, Oct 22
+ Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 22 to 0100Z, Oct 23
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 25
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 28 to 2400Z, Oct 29

### November 2017

+ Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 4 to 1200Z, Nov 5
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 4 to 0300Z, Nov 6
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Nov 5
+ WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 11 to 2359Z, Nov 12
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 11 to 2359Z, Nov 12
+ JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 11 to 1300Z, Nov 12

+ OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 11 to 1200Z, Nov 12
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 11 to 2359Z, Nov 12
+ CQ-WE Contest	1900Z, Nov 11 to 0500Z, Nov 13
+ YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 17
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 18 to 1000Z, Nov 19
+ LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 18 to 1200Z, Nov 19
+ All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 18 to 0700Z, Nov 19
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 18 to 0300Z, Nov 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 20
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 22
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 25 to 2400Z, Nov 26



## "Force of 50" Steps Up to Assist Hurricane-Ravaged Puerto Rico

Members of the Amateur Radio community have volunteered to assist in the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico and Dominica and, to a lesser extent, the US Virgin Islands. This week, 50 of the most accomplished US radio amateurs responded within 24 hours to a call from the American Red Cross (ARC) to deploy to Puerto Rico and provide emergency communications assistance there. At the ARC's request, ARRL rallied the US Amateur Radio community to provide up to 25 two-

person teams of highly qualified hams. ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, said that more than 350 answered the call, from nearly every state.



"This generous outpouring of response represents the finest qualities of the Amateur Radio community," he said. "These individuals are dropping whatever they are doing now, heading off to an extended hardship-duty assignment, and offering their special talents to Americans who have been cut off from their families, living amid

widespread destruction and without electrical power since Hurricane Maria struck the Caribbean region last week."

The group's principal mission will be to move health-and-welfare information from the island back to the US mainland, where that data will be entered in the Red Cross [Safe and Well](#) system. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) has been asked to assist these operators when they check in with tactical, health-and-welfare (H&W), and Safe and Well messages.

SATERN and other active nets are not accepting incoming H&W inquiries. The Caribbean Emergency and Weather Net (CEWN) is taking incoming H&W inquiries via e-mail [for Dominica](#). The Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA) is taking inquiries (only one per sender) via e-mail [for Puerto Rico](#). Inquiries should include the full name and location of both the sender and the individual(s) being sought and the sender's e-mail address.





The group will be in Puerto Rico for up to 3 weeks. ARRL has equipped each team with an HF transceiver, software, a dipole antenna, a power supply and all connecting cables, fitted in a rugged waterproof container. In an unprecedented and crucial move, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) agreed to help get the Ham Aid gear to Puerto Rico.

The League also is sending two VHF repeaters, a dozen hand-held transceivers, five mobile radios, what Gallagher described as "5 cubic feet of batteries," a number of small 2-kW portable generators, and solar-powered battery chargers. The hams and their equipment will be sent to Red Cross shelters extending from San Juan to the western end of the island.

In addition, ARRL has committed to purchasing up to \$50,000 worth of new Ham Aid gear for this and for future emergencies.



Ham Aid kits are packed and ready for shipping at ARRL Headquarters.



Denis Santiago, WP4KJJ (right), and Raul Gonzalez, KP4RGD, organized the communication network in Puerto Rico and operate the station at American Red Cross's temporary San Juan headquarters, "with a great number of hams who left their families to help Puerto Rico to recover," ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager Oscar Resto, KP4RF, told ARRL.

ARRL's Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, said this was the first time in the nearly 75-year relationship between ARRL and the ARC that such a request for assistance had been made. "Hurricane Maria has devastated the island's communications infrastructure," Corey said. "Without electricity and telephone, and with most of the cell sites out of service, millions of Americans are cut off from communicating. Shelters are unable to reach local emergency services. And, people cannot check on the welfare of their loved ones. The situation is dire."

The [Yasme Foundation](#) announced this week that it has made a grant to ARRL's [Ham Aid](#) fund, in support of the Amateur Radio response to the recent hurricanes in the US and Caribbean. The Ham Aid fund was created in 2005 in response to the need for equipment and resources to support the Amateur Radio response to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

A September 27 [CNN report](#) documented the personal impact of the storm on Puerto Rico and Amateur Radio's role in the recovery.



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## How You Can Help

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has asked for contributions to ARRL's [Ham Aid](#) fund. "Equipment has been flying out the door since Hurricane Harvey struck the US mainland," he emphasized. "From meeting requirements in aid of Hurricane Irma victims in the US Virgin Islands and Florida, our store of Ham Aid kits has been depleted."

ARRL's Ham Aid program loans Amateur Radio equipment kits to established Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) groups and partner agencies during disaster responses, in order to establish Amateur Radio communication support. Ham Aid is supported by donations from individuals and corporations, including many of our ham radio industry partners.



ARRL has previously staged Ham Aid equipment in Texas as well as supplied kits to Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. With the Ham Aid inventory depleted, donations are needed now. Contributions to Ham Aid are 100% tax deductible. To donate online, select "Ham Aid" from the [ARRL donation form](#). To donate by mail, print a donation form, and mail it with your check payable to ARRL, noting "Ham Aid" on the memo line of your check. Mail to ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 USA.

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DONATE

## Ohio Radio Amateurs Support Annual Air Force Marathon

When about 15,000 runners left the starting line at the [Air Force Marathon](#), Half Marathon, and 10K races, more than 65 Amateur Radio volunteers were on hand in the Dayton, Ohio, area on September 16 to help ensure their safety. The event starts and ends at the Air Force Museum, and the course runs through Wright-Patterson Air Force Base ([WPAFB](#)) and on the streets of Fairborn. Net control stations located at the start/finish line near the National Museum of the US Air Force directed a medical net on 70 centimeters and a logistics net on 2 meters. Hams also provided communication at

the eight medical and 25 hydration stations positioned throughout the courses.



USAF Marathon Race Director Robert Aguiar said race officials consider the Amateur Radio volunteers a vital resource and have come rely on their professionalism and communication skills. He said it

would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to have the race without Amateur Radio-provided emergency, logistic, and medical communications among the race director, his staff, the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) incident commander, and the hydration and medical stations.

Air Force Marathon Amateur Radio Lead Volunteer David Crawford, KF4KWW, thanked all the Amateur Radio volunteers, some of whom have been turning out for the event for many years.

"Their support helped ensure another USAF Marathon that occurred safely and met the runner's needs," he said. While most of his volunteers were from the greater Dayton area, some came from as far away as Michigan and Wisconsin. In addition to providing communication to aid stations, Amateur Radio operators also served as "tail-end Charlies" for the marathon and half marathon. Each had an APRS transmitter, as did lead vehicles and selected runners, allowing race officials and emergency services to have a more accurate picture of how the race was progressing.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association ([DARA](#)) emergency communication van served as the command center for the race and net control for the logistics net. The Xenia Weather Amateur Radio Network ([XWARN](#)) communication trailer housed the medical net control. KF4KWW thanked both groups for their support. -- *Thanks to Henry Ruminski, W8HJR*



**The DARA emergency communication van served as the command center. From rear to front: Melissa Markland, KD8LZH; Shawna Collins, N2TUJ, and Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ. [Photo courtesy of Dave Crawford, KF4KWW]**



## Amateur Radio Reports: Arecibo Observatory Dish Sustained Serious Damage from Maria

Articles on the [National Geographic](#) and [Space.com](#) websites last weekend cited Amateur Radio reports that Puerto Rico's [Arecibo Observatory](#) came through Hurricane Maria largely intact but "with some significant damage." Universities Space Research Association ([USRA](#)), which helps to operate the Observatory, said it learned via "short wave radio contact" that staff and family members sheltering at Arecibo are safe.

"The major structures, including the 300-meter telescope, are intact, though suffered some damage when the atmospheric radar line feed broke off, and falling debris from it punctured the dish in several places," USRA reported on its website. "Also, a separate 12-meter dish used as a phase reference for Very Long Baseline Interferometry was lost."



**The famous Arecibo Observatory dish.**

Observatory officials are still assessing the damage, but Jim Breakall, WA3FET, of Penn State University, told ARRL that the 96-foot line feed antenna at 430 MHz is "historically the key piece to the observatory." It's also the antenna that he and others have used for Amateur Radio moonbounce activities from Arecibo. The Observatory is home to KP4AO.

"To hear that this 10,000-pound key piece to the Observatory fell and hit the 1,000-meter dish is just a huge shock," Breakall said last Saturday. "This antenna was connected to the 2.5 million W 430-MHz radar transmitter that was a key to ionospheric experiments. It is a great loss for sure."

Angel Vazquez, WP3R, who manages radio telescope operations at the Observatory, was one of the only radio amateurs able to pass along any information; among those he contacted was Princeton University professor and Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT. Vazquez was using a generator that, Breakall told ARRL, was not working very well. "Many others have heard about all of this and have come to help relay messages to loved ones and friends to let people know they are okay," Breakall added.



The line feed antenna can be seen pointing downward from the overhead array of equipment.

Breakall said he's less concerned to learn that his own Amateur Radio contest station, on a hill not far from the Observatory, was destroyed by Hurricane Maria. "While this is sad for me and others, my concern is with the safety and health of many friends and the people of Puerto Rico in General," he said. This is my second home, and many of the people there I treat as my brothers and sisters."

USRA reported last weekend that the access road to the Observatory was covered with debris

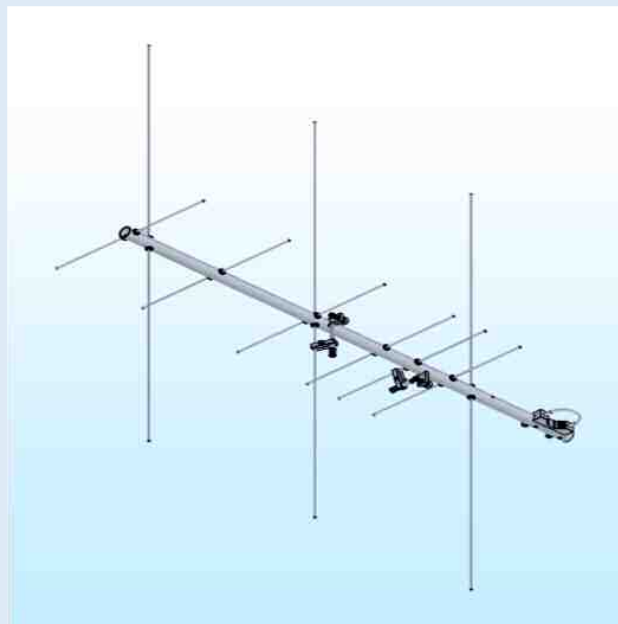
and impassable.

Breakall told ARRL that he's worried about what might happen in the weeks and months ahead. "I just hope that desperation does not set in, and things get out of hand there," he said. "It is going to be very tough."





30ft ROHN 25 tower  
Including 2 M-Squared 440 and 2 meter circular Satellite Antennas



If you know of anyone that needs these CHEAP let me know.  
All they have to do is take the tower down and it is theirs.

[glrandall@comcast.net](mailto:glrandall@comcast.net)



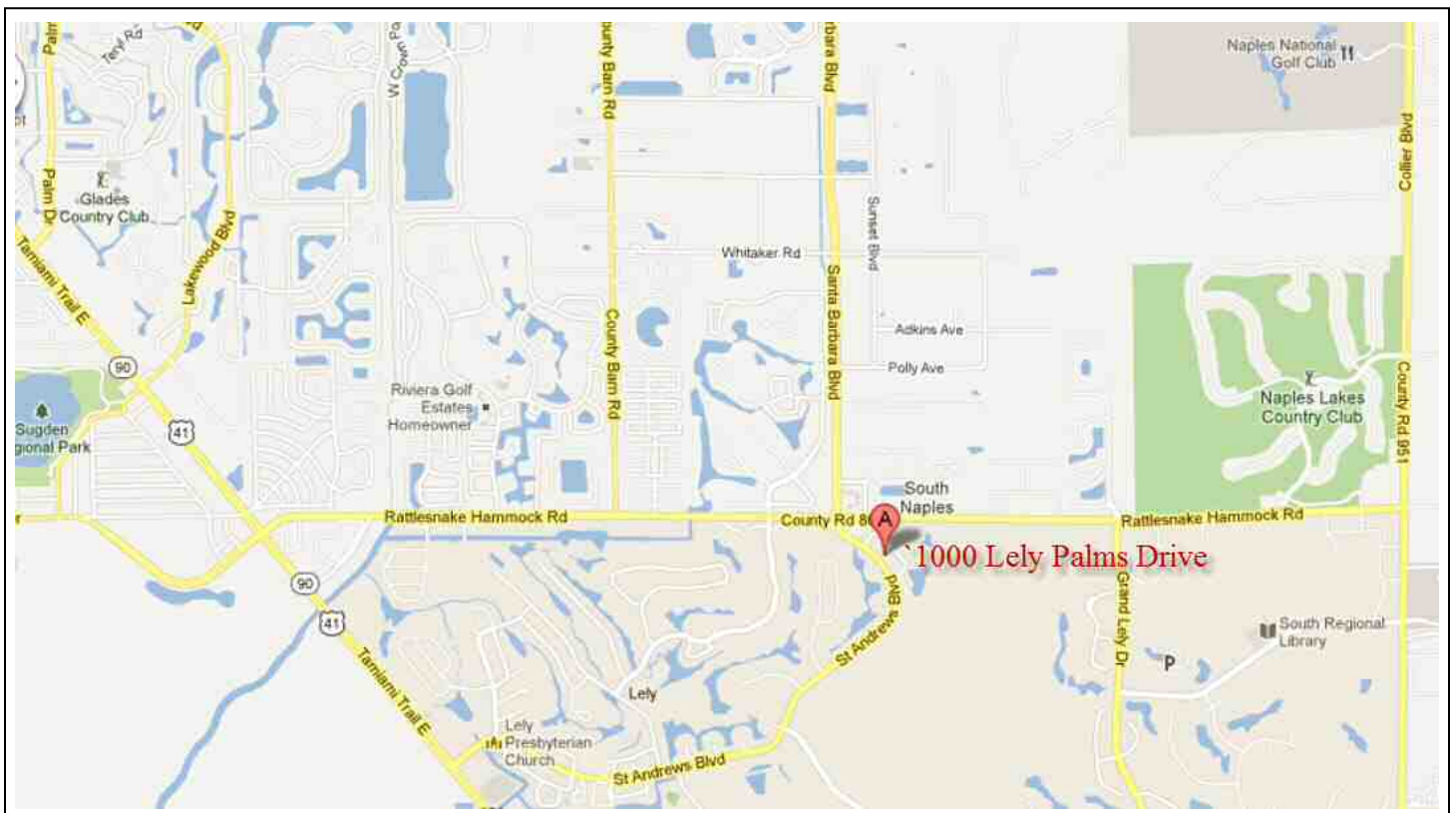


**Royal Palm Chapter 152 meets every second Thursday of the month**

at the Lely Palms Manor, Next Luncheon Meeting: November 9<sup>th</sup> 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 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: October 24<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 D-Star – AB4NP 145.270 MHz (-600kHz)
- ARASWF EmComm – K4YHB 147.030 MHz (+600 kHz)
- ARASWF DMR – AB4NP 444.9875 MHz (+5 MHz)

### 2017 Club Officers:

President: Uli Altvater – [AG0X@araswf.org](mailto:AG0X@araswf.org)  
Vice President: Frank Halas – [W4RBW@araswf.org](mailto:W4RBW@araswf.org)  
Treasurer: Larry Kielasa – [N4LAK@araswf.org](mailto:N4LAK@araswf.org)  
Secretary: Ken Bills – [W9KB@araswf.org](mailto:W9KB@araswf.org)  
Director: Mark Harms – [AC4ZM@araswf.org](mailto:AC4ZM@araswf.org)  
Director: Chris Taylor – [KM4UJI@araswf.org](mailto:KM4UJI@araswf.org)  
Director: Craig Henning - [NC2H@araswf.org](mailto:NC2H@araswf.org)  
Director: Gary Lee – [K8YMN@araswf.org](mailto:K8YMN@araswf.org)  
Newsletter Editor: Larry Kielasa – [N4LAK@araswf.org](mailto:N4LAK@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](http://www.araswf.org)**