



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXVIII No. 3 - The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
March 23, 2017

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The next Club Meeting will be held March 27th at 7:00pm
at the Red Cross - 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive - Naples, FL

Nickels & Dimes

The Veteran's Park outing, held this past weekend, was a big success. Morning temperatures were cool, but not too cold for setup... the weather turned absolutely perfect as the morning sun reached for high noon!

New member Ken Delp – KL7FD made sure all were feed and hydrated for the event. His hot dogs and roasted chickens were a big hit with the twenty-two members who turned out. Larry – N4LAK hauled the tri-band antenna trailer to the site, setup went smoothly, and the 30' Mosley helped pull in quite a few of DX contacts. Egon – KF4DX worked with a few newer members to teach them the art of working a pileup... listen, wait, then insert your call at just the right time to be heard and make a contact.

Indeed, another great day in paradise!

This month there is a lot of work and activity scheduled. Here are just a few teams in action:

- Craig – NC2H and a small team are off to the Marbella repeater site to further improve the antenna and grounding connections (thanks to Dr. Al's suggestions).
- Mitch – K7DX is leading a team to address a Red Cross remote HF station.
- Larry – N4LAK is pulling together ideas and plans for Field Day, never too early.

If any of these areas interest you, please contact the team champions and get involved.

Also, check out the CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest this weekend: <https://www.cqwpvx.com/>

Egon – KF7DX will be operating from PJ2T - Signal Point in Curaçao. Catch him on the bands, you should have no problem hearing him, their station is very loud and has great ears!

That's it... short and sweet for this month. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please bring them to the next meeting and share.

73,
Ken-W9KB
ARASWF Secretary

Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

Executive Board Meeting held at Apollo Lighting Tuesday – March 20, 2018

Present:

Uli Altvater, AG0X – President
Frank Halas, W4RBW – Vice President
Larry Kielasa, N4LAK – Treasurer
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary
Mark Harms, AC4ZM – Director
Craig Henning, NC2H – Director

Absent:

Gary Lee, K8YMN – Director
Chris Taylor, KM4UJI – Director

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

President's Report – Uli-AG0X greeted everyone present. He opened the meeting explaining that his business has been growing exponentially over the past few months, and his time has become too limited to effectively continue as ARASWF President. Reluctantly, Uli announced his resignation, which was a very difficult decision. The board discussed an interim succession plan.

Treasurer's Report – Larry-N4LAK reported the Club checking balance was \$3,773.04

Old Business:

Repeater Updates: Uli-AG0X purchased a replacement DMR repeater which has been installed and is operational. He wishes to retain ownership and stated he will maintain the repeater. A winch has been installed on the club mast to ease the maintenance of the site antennas. Grounding protection improvements will be made over the next few weeks.

Website Updates: Fine business, no problems.

VE Testing: Mark-AC4ZM reported that one candidate upgraded last month.

Proposed Club By-Laws: Ken-W9KB reported the by-law changes first discussed at the January membership meeting were passed by the membership at the February meeting. The revised by-law document has been uploaded to the website.

Veteran's Park Social Outing: Ken-W9KB reported that there was a very good turn out for the event, with twenty-two members on the sign-up sheet, plus a few that did not sign up.

New member Ken Delp – KL7FD provided a great lunch for the members and there was plenty of good food and drink for everyone. Egon – KF4DX mentored a few new members on the art of contesting and they made quite a few DX contacts in the process. The event was a big success and will likely held again next year.

New Business:

Consent Agenda: Larry-N4LAK reviewed and discussed the merits of the consent agenda for handling routine business item to speed up the regular meeting. It will be discussed with the membership and likely added to next year's agenda.

Cash Receipts: Larry-N4LAK reviewed his policy to issue receipts for all cash payments.

Committee Structure: Larry-N4LAK discussed his idea of committee structures to handle the repeater, antennas, and finances of the club.

Annual Dues Collection: Ken-W9KB reported that about two-thirds of our members have paid their 2018 dues (67 of 104 active 2017 members).

Walk-In Items: None

Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 17th (7pm)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Bills-W9KB
Secretary

ARASWF Membership Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2018

- **Vice President's Remarks** – AG0X
- **The Pledge of Allegiance** – All
- **Introductions** – All
 - Twenty-four members were in attendance and five guests: Ken Delp – KL7FD, Jack Parker – W8ISH, John Hawley – N2PBY, Brian Miller – K9RA, Mike Conte KA2FPZ, and Marianne Kielasa.
- **Treasurer's Report** – N4LAK
 - Larry reported the club treasury balance was \$4,144.86 including PayPal dues receipts of \$646.82. Expenses were \$200 for the Club Liability Insurance and \$72.79 for Winter Field refreshments.
- **Old Business**
 - Repeater Updates – AG0X
 - The DMR router was apparently damaged when station was hit by lightning, a replacement will be installed next week. The D-Star VHF antenna is also defective (high SWR). Another work party will be scheduled to address these concerns.
 - VE Testing – AC4ZM
 - Mark reported that (1) candidate upgraded from Advanced and passed his extra exam.
 - Winter Field Day – N4LAK
 - Weather hampered operations and limited contacts were made this year.
- **New Business**
 - Proposed Club By-Law Change(s) – W9KB
 - A proposal to increase club dues, move the election month from November to February, and increase the number of members serving on

the Board was discussed. After a lengthy discussion, members voted to adopt the changes which will take effect next calendar year.

- Spring Social Outing – W9KB
 - Ken-W9KB proposed three venues for this year's spring outing. Traditionally it has been held at Oil Well, however, many advantages of a closer location were discussed. Ken agreed to send out a survey to determine the membership preference, including date.
- Walk-In's
 - Egon-KF4DX will be operating in Curaçao at PJ2T for the WPX SSB Contest, the weekend of March 24-25th. Look for Egon on the different bands!
- 50/50 Raffle - \$51 paid to Dave – K2DH with \$50 paid to club treasury

- **Social Break**

- Presentation – Dr. Al – KP4AQI "RLC: La Familia or the *Basics of Lightning Protection for Communication Towers*"
 - Dr. Al provided an informative and entertaining presentation regarding the lightning protection for station antennas (this same presentation will be given in Orlando at an IEEE gathering). Dr. Al dispelled many misnomers and provided some very insightful facts regarding the nature of lightning and its effects while seeking a path to ground.

The presentation will be included on the website. Thank you, Dr. Al, for another great presentation!

- **Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Bills-W9KB

Contest Calendar

March 2018

+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 24 to 2400Z, Mar 25
+ FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 24
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 28

April 2018

+ SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 5
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Apr 7 to 2359Z, Apr 8
+ SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 7 to 1500Z, Apr 8
+ JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 14 to 1300Z, Apr 15
+ Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 2359Z, Apr 15
+ Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1700Z, Apr 15
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 16
+ Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 20 to 2100Z, Apr 21
+ CQMM DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 21 to 2359Z, Apr 22
+ Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22
+ Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 21 to 1800Z, Apr 22
+ YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 21 to 1700Z, Apr 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 25
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 28 to 2359Z, Apr 29
+ SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 28 to 1200Z, Apr 29
+ Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 28 to 1259Z, Apr 29
+ Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 28 to 2159Z, Apr 29

Why ARRL is Recommending Enhanced HF Privileges for Technicians

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW privileges. ARRL believes the additional digital privileges will attract younger people to Amateur Radio.



The proposed additional HF phone privileges are 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. Technicians already have HF privileges on parts of 10 meters.

Some in the Amateur Radio community have questioned the need for expanded Technician privileges or to express other perspectives. ARRL has responded to point out some of the key advantages of its [petition](#), which recognizes the tremendous technological advances and changes in Amateur Radio. Some key points:

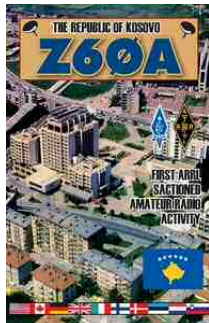
- A thorough review of operating privileges available to the entry-level license has not taken place since the late 1970s, when the Novice-class license -- the entry-level license at that time, and no longer issued -- was modified to allow Novices access to a limited portion of 10 meters. This included the first HF phone privileges for Novices.
- The 2-year process that led to the development of ARRL's petition includes *significant* input from the Amateur Radio community. The two surveys that the ARRL board's Entry-Level License (ELL) Committee conducted on this issue drew more than 8,000 responses from ARRL members.
- The 378,000 Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population, yet the Technician-class license no longer serves its original purpose from 18 years ago. Many Technicians do not participate actively, pursue on-air and public service opportunities, renew their licenses, or upgrade. An uncomfortably large attrition rate exists among Technician licensees. Technician licenses are not upgrading, because they don't find their operating privileges interesting enough to keep them in the hobby.
- The proposed addition of 275 kilohertz of HF phone privileges, spread across 80, 40, and 15 meters, would allow Technicians the opportunity to develop and expand their understanding of HF propagation. In addition, this proposed change would allow Technician licensees to participate in public service-oriented,

emergency, and Section traffic nets on 75 meters, from 3900 to 4000 kHz, where primary state/Section-wide public service activities often take place.

- Additional operating privileges for Technicians will not limit their incentive to upgrade. ARRL points out that Technicians now have access to 850 kilohertz of spectrum in four HF bands. ARRL proposes an additional 275 kilohertz on three of those bands, so the total under this proposal is 1,125 kilohertz on four bands - 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Compare that to current General-class HF privileges: 3150 kilohertz across nine HF bands -- 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. In addition, Generals have access to the five 60-meter channels and to the two newest bands, 2200 and 630 meters. The incentive to upgrade from Technician to General is a tripling of the available HF spectrum; upgrading to General allows access to eight additional bands, including the prime daytime bands of 20 and 17 meters. Also, Technicians upgrading to General or higher are permitted the maximum amateur power level of 1500 W PEP.

In short:



Before shutting down on March 12, Z60A in Kosovo had logged 98,450 contacts during its celebratory operations to hand out a new one to the madding crowd.

The 30-day-long initial activation of the newest DXCC entity encountered 30,541 individual call signs in 174 DXCC entities. "Mission Goodwill Kosovo" expressed appreciation to the 28 operators from various countries near and far who turned out to handle the pileups. The Z60A logs will be uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW) soon, and QSL cards will be at the printer's next week.

FT8 DXpedition Mode Field Test Attracts Upward of 500 Participants

The "Fox" and the "Hounds" were on the bands March 6, as the *WSJT-X* development group conducted a field test of the still-beta [FT8 DXpedition Mode](#). A second beta version of *WSJT-X* version 1.9.0, which includes the DXpedition-mode-capable version of FT8 -- was released recently. Version 1.9.0-rc2 was made available to allow further field testing of the FT8 DXpedition mode, which is designed to permit DXpeditions to make FT8 contacts at very high rates.



Developer Joe Taylor -- the "T" in FT8 -- has released a few highlights drawn from his observations during the public test. The "Fox" is the DXpedition station, while "Hounds" comprise the pileup. According to the [FT8 DXpedition Mode User Guide](#), contacts between the DXpedition station and callers can be completed in as little as one transmission apiece by the calling station. DXpedition stations can transmit up to five signals simultaneously, allowing contact rates up to about 500 per hour, under ideal conditions.

"The overwhelming majority of participating Hounds operated as intended, and according to instructions," Taylor said. "I copied 190 unique Hound call signs during the 2300 [UTC] hour -- when I was acting as Fox on 20 meters -- and 330 unique call signs during the whole 4 hours. I suppose that we had at least 400 - 500 participants, maybe more."

Taylor said that depending on programming progress and his own schedule, the development team may schedule another public test in a few weeks.

- Fox's multi-signal capability worked very well at the tested values, NSlots = 3, 4, and 5. "This feature is surely a keeper, and I see no reason not to use NSlots = 5 — especially if the Fox is running power," Taylor said.
- In the 4 test hours, the number of contacts logged by Foxes on 20, 30, 40, and 80 meters was 320, 189, 454, and 351, respectively. "However, a regrettable program bug was preventing deletion of Hound call signs from Fox's 'QSO-in-Progress' list after a QSO had been logged," Taylor explained. "As a result, many repeated 'RR73' messages were sent, many dupe QSOs were logged, and the 'QSO-in-Progress' list kept growing. As another consequence, some QSOs took up to about 20 min to complete, and a number of Hounds who had been sent a report never received their QSO-confirming 'RR73.'"
- AA7A worked 120 unique call signs in the 40-meter hour, and the other Foxes worked comparable, slightly lower numbers. When this program bug is corrected, hourly contacts in the 300 – 400 range should certainly be achievable.
- Some Hounds did not operate as intended. "Several kept trying to raise Fox by calling below 1,000 Hz," Taylor said, adding that most of these stations he noticed were in non-English speaking countries. He suggested translations of the *FT8 DXpedition Mode User Guide* may be needed.

- A few would-be Hounds were obviously not using version 1.9.0-rc2, and were calling Fox blind in first sequence. A few Hounds tried using compound call signs, which is not supported, "and which needs to be made more clear in the instructions," Taylor said.

Taylor recommended two operating hints that should be used as needed, but, in general, were not used during the March 6 public test:

- Hounds should manually reset their TX frequency as needed to evade human-generated interference.
- Fox may decide to use the randomizing feature to vary TX frequency.

Some relatively minor bugs and other things came to light during the test run:

- Spurious "call sign mismatch" warning messages were displayed to the Fox operator.
- Fox's log window should automatically scroll to the bottom (or maybe it should simply show the most recent ~10 contacts logged).
- Fox's "Max Calls" parameter may not have worked as designed.
- Sometimes Fox sent "RR73" to the same station in more than one slot, in the same transmission.
- Some users saw the dreaded "Blue Decode" button.
- Hounds sometimes send a spuriously low-signal report to Fox, even when Fox is loud.
- If Hound hits "Enter" with the DX Call box empty, a blank message can be transmitted.
- If a random station (not Fox) calls a Hound, it can trigger a Hound transmission, just as if Fox had called.
- Previously decoded Hound call signs can sometimes reappear in Fox's left window, when they should not.

Taylor outlined a few new features the development team may decide to implement:

- Possibly as an option for debugging, a display window that shows the Fox operator the contents of all active queues is being considered.
- Limit the number of contacts-in-progress to no more than NSlots.
- Include an option to suppress display of the waterfall timestamp.
- Have Fox call CQ in one slot at least once every few minutes.
- Taylor asked, "Should Hound's TX3 frequency be re-randomized for each repeat try?"

He said that depending on programming progress and his own schedule, the development team may schedule another public test in a few weeks.

Installation packages for Windows, Linux, macOS, and Raspbian Jessie have been posted on the *WSJT* website.

Taylor told ARRL earlier this year that the goal is to have the official release of *WSJT-X* version 1.9.0 finished, documented, and thoroughly tested, well in advance of the planned KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island in June. General availability of the official *WSJT-X* version 1.9.0 will be announced "in the near future," the development group said.



2018 ARASWF dues MUST be current by April 1st
to remain in good standing



Jerry – KB1NNH



Larry – N4LAK & Marianne



Karl – N1DL



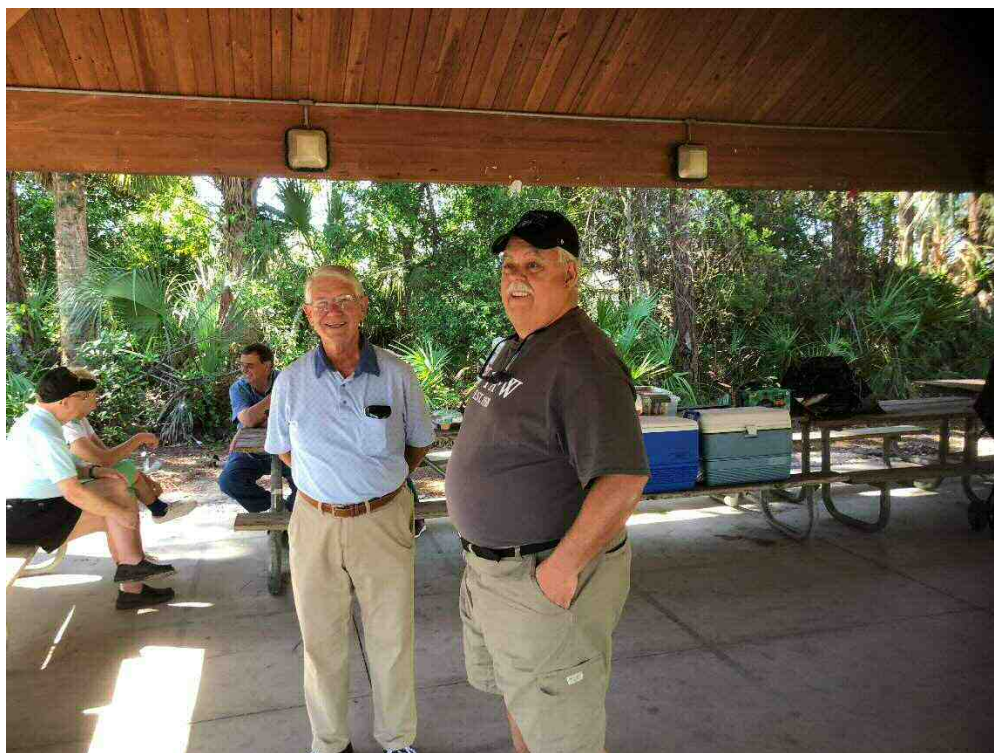
LR: Walt – KU1Q, Henrietta – KA1JVN, Larry – N4LAK & Marianne



Ken – KL7DX



Egon – KF4DX



Mark – AC4ZM & Craig – NC2H



LR: Johnny – W4PYZ, Ernie – KA1VY, Roy – KW4G



L-R: Glenn – KN4DDV, Jerry – KB1NNH, Vic – NE1Y, Egon – KF4DX



Sharon – NH6GR



LR: Ken – W9KB, Uli – AG0X, Egon – KF4DX

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If you have any news or articles to post, please forward to the Editor.

QSL?

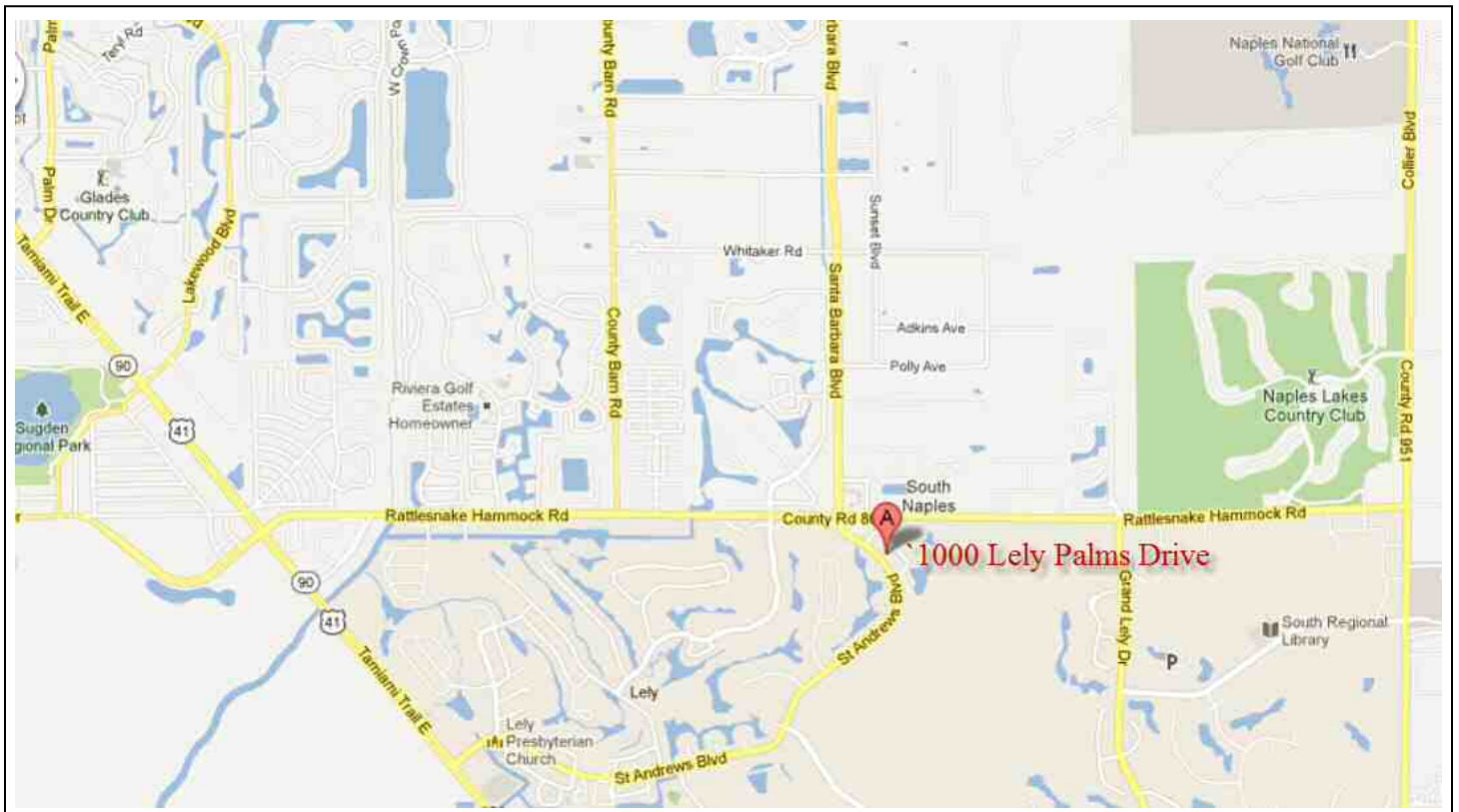


Royal Palm Chapter 152 meets every second Thursday of the month

at the Lely Palms Manor, Next Luncheon Meeting: April 12th 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: March 27th @ 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
Vice President: Frank Halas – W4RBW@araswf.org
Treasurer: Larry Kielasa – N4LAK@araswf.org
Secretary: Ken Bills – W9KB@araswf.org
Director: Mark Harms – AC4ZM@araswf.org
Director: Chris Taylor – KM4UJI@araswf.org
Director: Craig Henning - NC2H@araswf.org
Director: Gary Lee – K8YMN@araswf.org
Newsletter Editor: Larry Kielasa – N4LAK@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