



ARASWF

Newsletter



Vol. MMXVIII No. 4 - The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida
April 22, 2018

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

Message from the President

First of all, let me say thanks again for electing me President.

This is the time of the year when many of our members will be heading up north and several of our members planning trips to the Dayton Hamvention May 18-20. Everybody have a good time and a safe trip!

The Club is making plans to participate in the ARRL Field Day on June 23rd and 24th at the Red Cross. We are already planning future events. The calendar is included in this newsletter. Please check out the website. The calendar will be continuously updated and hopefully we will be able to add new events. We are looking for ideas for new events, so if you have one, please bring it up at the member's meeting or send me an email and let's see if we can make it happen!

Speaking of Member's Meetings, we have one coming up April 22, so please plan to attend. Chris Taylor KM4UJI will be presenting his work on Raspberry PI DMR hot spots. I'm sure it will be interesting.

At the meeting I would like to discuss Club Nets. Our nets haven't been very active lately and I would like your ideas on what we can do to make them better. Please bring your ideas.

Summer Lunch meeting season is coming up. For July, we will be at the Perkins Restaurant on Pine Ridge at Noon on July 24. We will announce the next two venues as soon as we have them firmed up. Please mark your calendars!

Lastly, special thanks to Jerry Smith NW9H who has agreed to take the chair of the Antenna Committee and to Mitch Wolfson K7DX who has taken on the Chair of the Remote Access Radio Committee. We'll be reporting on these committee's activities during the Member's Meeting

73

Larry

N4LAK

ARASWF Membership Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2018

- **President's Remarks** – Uli-AG0X opened the meeting with the news that his business has grown so much in the last six months that he would be unable to provide adequate time to club priorities and activities. Uli had first mentioned this at last week's BOD meeting and Frank-W4RBW (VP) agreed to consider the interim role as President, however, he ultimately declined due to his own time constraints. Larry-N4LAK was interested and was nominated by Uli to succeed his role as President. Frank seconded the motion. The motion was discussed and the membership unanimously approved Larry's nomination. The membership all wished Uli the best of luck and thanked him for his many years of club service.
- **The Pledge of Allegiance** – All
- **Introductions** – All
 - Twenty-five members were in attendance and one guest: Brian Miller – K9RA
- **Treasurer's Report** – N4LAK
 - Larry reported the club treasury balance was \$4,176.01 including PayPal dues receipts of \$718.73. Expenses were \$314.96 for the Veteran's Park social outing.
- **Old Business**
 - Repeater Updates – N4LAK
 - The DMR router was replaced this past month, lightning protection will be added within the next week and a winch to raise and lower the new club mast.
 - VE Testing – AC4ZM
 - Mark reported that (2) candidates tested and successfully passed their Technician exams.
 - Veteran's Park – W9KB
 - Twenty-two members attended the event held March 17th. The weather was perfect and new member Ken Delp-KL7DX did a great job arranging and preparing the food and refreshments. Egon-KF4DX helped new members with the art of working a contest pileup. This event was recommended for consideration next year, perhaps earlier in the season.

- **New Business**

- Christmas Party – N4LAK
 - Larry-N4LAK suggested that it was not too early to think about the Christmas Party. Many members will be leaving before the next meeting and he solicited input from the membership for ideas and possible venues. Henrietta-KA1JVN mentioned many of the past locations as possibilities. Jerry-NW9H agreed to check with Lakewood CC. Survey Monkey was suggested as a tool to gather ideas, locations, and timing.
- Committee Structure – N4LAK
 - Larry-N4LAK discussed his idea to use committee to manage activities such as: repeaters, antenna maintenance, Red Cross remote radio setup, and perhaps contesting to name a few. Field Day is one of the biggest events of the year and will be organized and managed by committee.
- Walk-In's
 - Life member, Bill Reynolds-K2ZEL offered any members his QST collection and a surplus 220 MHZ antenna, he also volunteered to rebuild one of the Mosley tri-bander antennas (he just completed a similar project).
- 50/50 Raffle - \$56 paid to Dr. Al-KP4AQI with \$56 paid to club treasury

- **Social Break**

- Presentation – Dr. Al-KP4AQI *"Patch and PIFA Antennas: Diversity, Bandwidth, and Size"*.
 - Dr. Al provided an insightful presentation to challenge our members to understand and learn more about common antenna types used in everyday appliances (cell phones, routers, blue tooth, etc.), yet not so obvious in terms of design vis-à-vis our more common dipole baseline.

This was Dr. Al's last presentation of the season and along with the others will be included on the website. Thank you, Dr. Al, for another great season... safe travels back to Dayton!

- **Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Bills-W9KB

Contest Calendar

April 2018

+ 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

May 2018

+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 5 to 2359Z, May 6
+ ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 5 to 1159Z, May 6
+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 5 to 0700Z, May 6
+ Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 5 to 0400Z, May 6
+ Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 5 to 2359Z, May 6
+ New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 5 to 2400Z, May 6
+ CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 12 to 1159Z, May 13
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 12 to 2359Z, May 13
+ VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 12 to 1200Z, May 13
+ FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 12
+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 19 to 1200Z, May 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 21
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 23
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 26 to 2400Z, May 27

Dates of Club Events

2018

Florida QSO	April 28-29, 2018
Dayton Hamvention	May 18-20, 2018
ARRL Field Day	June 23-24, 2108
Summer Lunch Meetings	
	July 24, 2018
	August 28, 2018
	September 25, 2018
Christmas Party	December 1 or 8, 2018

2019

Winter Field Day	Jan 26-26 2019
Orlando Hamcation	Feb 8-10, 2019
Club Picnic at Veterans Park	February 16, 2019
Operating Event at Oil Well Park	March 16, 2019
Florida QSO Party	April 27-28, 2019
Dayton Hamvention	May 17-20, 2019
ARRL Field Day	June 29-30 2019

New 630-Meter Band Reported "Very Busy"

Amateur Radio got two new bands last year, and amateurs are beginning to use them. Ralph Wallio, W0RPK, of Greenville, North Carolina, and others who took part in ARRL's WD2XSH Part 5 Experimental operation or have a deep interest in what now is the 630-meter band (472 - 479 kHz), say activity is picking up.



The 630-meter antenna at NO3M.

Wallio maintains an [informal database](#) that tracks the activity of stations on a state-by-state basis, as well as how many states each station has worked. Topping the list is Eric Tichansky, [NO3M](#), in Pennsylvania, with 36 states worked on 630 meters, and 35 confirmed, including Hawaii and Alaska. NO3M, who also operates as W3CDX, reports eight DXCC entities worked on the new band.

"During the past 6 months, our list of stations in the US participating in QSOs on 630 meters has steadily increased to 108 stations across 39 states," Wallio told ARRL. "As of mid-April 2018, we have 6 months of operating experience over the past winter. Our 630-meter band has been very busy."

Wallio said modes frequently used for 630-meter contacts include CW, JT9, WSQ (weak-signal QSO), and FT8, with occasional additional digital mode experiments and SSB. Numerous US stations are also

participating in WSPR beacon transmission, reception, and reporting on 472 kHz. "An analysis of the past 30 days finds 59 stations occasionally transmitting 630-meter WSPR beacons in the US," Wallio added.

Transatlantic and transpacific contacts on the new band also have been reported.

John Langridge, KB5NJD, posts a [daily discussion](#) of 630-meter operations and conditions. He advises stations operating on 630 meters to upload their logs to Logbook of The World, so 630-meter operators participating in the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase ([IGC](#)) can receive credit.

Another WD2XSH participant, Rudy Severns, N6LF, discusses [LF-MF antenna design](#) on his website, with [notes](#). An [archive](#) of 600MRG discussions also is available.



Eric Tichansky, NO3M, has modified a Heathkit SB-1000 linear for 630 meters, so he can generate sufficient power to obtain 1 W ERP.

School's Ham Contact with Space Station Raises Amateur Radio Visibility in Alabama

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRISS](#)) school contact with crew member Ricky Arnold, KE5DAU, was a huge success on more than one level. Fifteen students at Pinson Valley High School in Alabama had the opportunity to [chat via ham radio](#) on April 10 in a direct contact with Arnold, who was at the helm of NA1SS for his inaugural ARISS contact. Witnessing the event in the packed school auditorium was an audience of 650 invited guests and students, while the remaining 1,150 members of the student body watched from their classrooms. The event was livestreamed to all 57 schools in the district.



"The ISS contact was a very valuable experience for the student body and the 15 select students that formulated and asked the questions, and great exposure for Amateur Radio!" said Alabaman and ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK.

The event attracted considerable media attention from TV news crews and a print reporter. The radio contact was then followed by a motivational speech from a US Navy Seal team member, after which four Navy Seals and Pinson Valley's vice principal parachuted onto the school's football field, Sarratt recounted.

English teacher Jennifer Moore, KF4INA, who served as the spark plug for the ARISS event, praised the support of Huntsville Amateur Radio Club members, who had

help from the Birmingham and Blount County Amateur Radio clubs.

Three TV stations posted stories on the ARISS event, [WVTM](#), [WBRC](#), and [CBS42](#). A [story](#) in the [Trussville Tribune](#) included a comment from Pinson City Council member and radio amateur Robbie Roberts, WB4WUI, who attended Pinson Valley High and went on to get an engineering degree. "I think it's great exposure for these kids," he told the reporter.





Astronaut Ricky Arnold, KE5DAU [NASA photo]



Roberts later told ARRL, "I thought the event was excellent and was a welcome bright spot for our community." He said his grandfather worked for NASA for many years and was significantly involved in work on SkyLab in the 1970s, "so the combination of ham radio and the ISS was of great interest."

ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, commended the cooperation of Alabama Power, which resolved a RF interference issue that would have affected the contact. The utility went to the extent of shutting down a substation to quiet the radio noise so that the contact could go forward.

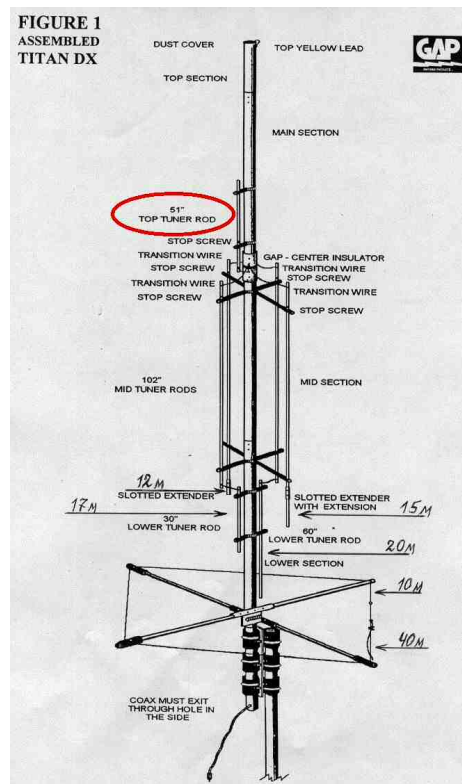
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If you have any news or articles to post, please forward to the Editor.

QSL?

FOR SALE

GAP Antenna Titan DX Antenna



Contact:

Gary Randall – KD4VRZ

grrandall@comcast.net

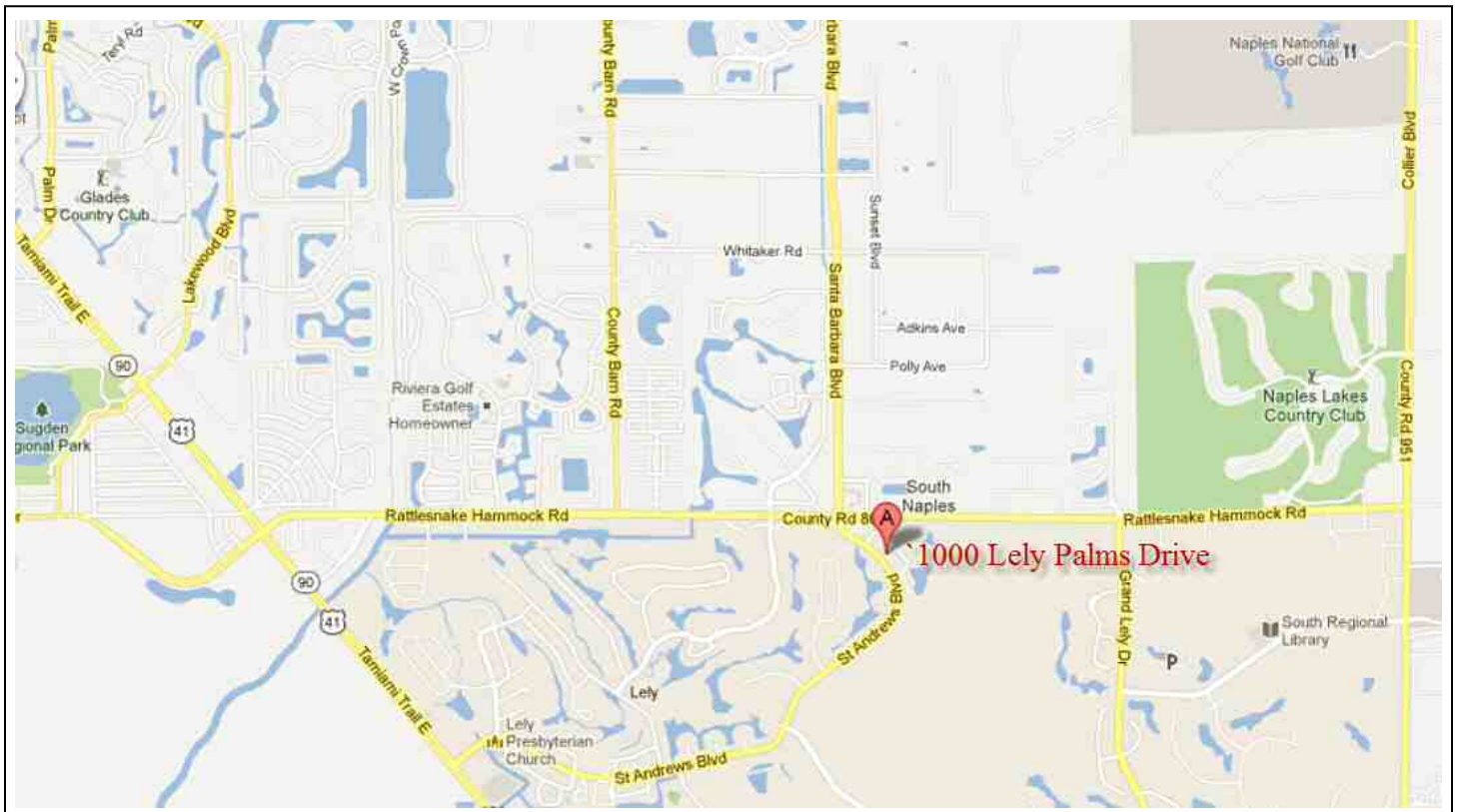


Royal Palm Chapter 152 meets every second Thursday of the month

at the Lely Palms Manor, Next Luncheon Meeting: May 10th 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: April 24th @ 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: Larry Kielasa – N4LAK@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