



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



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May 20, 2018

### In This Issue:

- Message from the President
- May 2018 Board Meeting Minutes
- April 2018 Membership Meeting Minutes (none provided)
- Upcoming Contest Calendar
- Club Calendar

The next Club Meeting will be held May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm  
at the Red Cross - 2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive - Naples, FL

## Message from the President

The May 22<sup>nd</sup> member meeting will be our last meeting of the season at the Red Cross. For June, Field Day will take the place of the member meeting and we will start the Summer Lunch Program in July. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon at the Perkins on Pine Ridge.

We will need people to help with Field Day planning! I will be sending an email blast asking each of you to help with this activity. Also, we will need to know who will be attending, and in what operating modes and times you would like to participate.

We had a club net on Wednesday May 16 on the 146.670 Repeater. Several members checked in or attempted to check in. Unfortunately, the repeater failed shortly after we started. We will try again possibly using the 147.030 (+600 136.5 PL) Repeater. Please look for another email blast.

Many thanks to Johnny Sparks, W4PYZ for taking the position of Repeater Coordinator. Johnny will be describing some of the work he has already done at the May Member Meeting.

Lastly, Jim Wilson, KN4IEY has been in discussion with representatives of the Boy Scouts concerning our club's possible participation in the Collier County Scouts Explorer Program. This is a career education program for young men and women who are 14 years and older. I think this would be a great opportunity for many of us who have expressed an interest in youth programs.

73

Larry, N4LAK

## Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida

### Executive Board Meeting held at Mel's Diner Tuesday – May 20, 2018

**Present:**

Larry Kielasa, N4LAK – President  
Jim Wilson, KN4IEY – Treasurer  
Ken Bills, W9KB – Secretary  
Mark Harms, AC4ZM – Director

**Absent:**

Frank Halas, W4RBW – Vice President  
Gary Lee, K8YMN – Director  
Chris Taylor, KM4UJI - Director

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### MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

**President's Report** – Larry greeted everyone present and discussed the committee structure status in brief before commencing with the agenda items. He plans to meet with Al Goodall with the Red Cross to discuss antenna improvements and options for remote radio access.

**Treasurer's Report** – Larry-N4LAK reported the Club checking balance was \$3,341.09 after a PayPal transfer of \$500 (PayPal balance \$4.62)

**Old Business:**

Issues List: Larry mentioned he had a discussion with Don Jolly, President of the Collier County Fair, and inquired about having a booth to promote our club. We discussed polling the club members to determine their interest and willingness to support this event, at this point the actual Fair date for 2019 is TBD.

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

Club Non-Profit Status: Jim Wilson, KN4IEY reported the club has applied for 501(c)3 status and expects the IRS may take a few months to reply.

## **New Business:**

Committee Structure: Larry-N4LAK outlined the following committees and chairman:

- Antenna – Jerry Smith, NW9H
- Remote Radio Access – Mitch Wolfson, K7DX
- Repeater – Johnny Sparks, W4PYZ
- Field Day – TBD
- Christmas Party – Perkin's (Pine Ridge) Saturday, December 1, 2018
- Contest Group - TBD

Calendar: Club events will be added to calendar and published in Newsletter and website.

Remote Radio: A Kenwood TS-480 has been purchased for this project (in transit from Ohio). This radio will eventually be installed at the Red Cross and will be accessible by members.

Web Content: Johnny Sparks, W4PYZ will be added as Repeater Coordinator.

Newsletter Content: Larry-N4LAK will submit article for May Newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit articles or topics of interest.

Member Meeting Agenda: The board discussed and set the agenda for May membership meeting.

Walk-In Items: Larry-N4LAK encouraged the board to check into the Wednesday night net. He plans to use Netlogger which tracks online member check-ins.

**Next Board Meeting** – Tuesday, June 12 (7pm)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Bills-W9KB  
Secretary

# Contest Calendar

## May 2018

|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| + 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 |

## June 2018

|                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| + 10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest  | 0001Z, Jun 2 to 2359Z, Jun 3   |
| + Wake-Up! QRP Sprint                 | 0600Z-0800Z, Jun 2             |
| + SEANET Contest                      | 1200Z, Jun 2 to 1200Z, Jun 3   |
| + VK Shires Contest                   | 0600Z, Jun 9 to 0600Z, Jun 10  |
| + Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB            | 1100Z-1300Z, Jun 9             |
| + SKCC Weekend Sprintathon            | 1200Z, Jun 9 to 2359Z, Jun 10  |
| + Portugal Day Contest                | 1200Z, Jun 9 to 1159Z, Jun 10  |
| + GACW WWSA CW DX Contest             | 1500Z, Jun 9 to 1500Z, Jun 10  |
| + REF DDFM 6m Contest                 | 1600Z, Jun 9 to 1600Z, Jun 10  |
| + ARRL June VHF Contest               | 1800Z, Jun 9 to 0300Z, Jun 11  |
| + All Asian DX Contest, CW            | 0000Z, Jun 16 to 2400Z, Jun 17 |
| + Run for the Bacon QRP Contest       | 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 18            |
| + Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest           | 1200Z, Jun 23 to 1200Z, Jun 24 |
| + His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB | 1200Z, Jun 23 to 1200Z, Jun 24 |
| + ARRL Field Day                      | 1800Z, Jun 23 to 2100Z, Jun 24 |
| + SKCC Sprint                         | 0000Z-0200Z, Jun 27            |

# Club Calendar

## 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 (Perkin's - Pine Ridge location)    |
|                       | August 28, 2018                                   |
|                       | September 25, 2018                                |
| Christmas Party       | December 1, 2018 (Perkin's - Pine Ridge location) |

## 2019

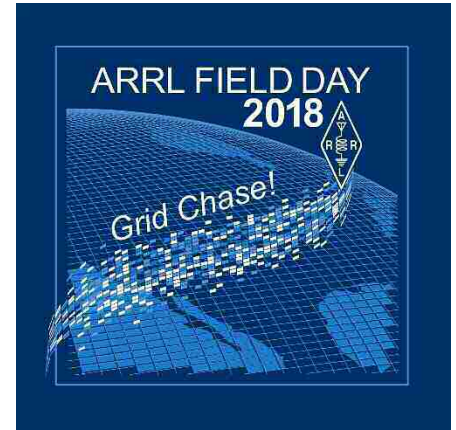
|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Winter Field Day                 | Jan 26-26 2019    |
| Orlando Hamcation                | Feb 8-10, 2019    |
| Club Picnic at Veterans Park     | February 16, 2019 |
| Collier County Fair Booth        | March, 2009       |
| 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   |

# ARRL Field Day Overview – The Big Picture

**Question: What is the most popular amateur radio event in the US and Canada?**

**Answer: The ARRL Field Day**

During the **fourth full weekend in June**, the eyes of the amateur radio community turn towards the annual Field Day operating event. From its beginning back in the 1930's as an event to test the field preparedness and emergency communications abilities of the burgeoning amateur radio community, Field Day has evolved into the largest on-the-air operation during the year. In 2016, contest logs were submitted by over **2,500 clubs**, groups and individuals across the US and Canada to the ARRL Contest Branch. These logs showed participation by over 35,000 individuals and almost over 1.30 million QSOs were reported during the brief 24-hours of the event.



**Field Day is officially an operating event not a contest.** The purpose remains today as it did in the beginning: **to demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations.** Groups across the continent use Field Day as a literal “show and tell” exhibition. At sites from the tundra of Alaska to the sandy beaches of Puerto Rico, amateur radio brings together its resources to show officials in government and various agencies what “amateur radio can do.”

Many clubs use Field Day as the focus of their annual calendar. Many hams that are not otherwise interested in contesting or DXing find themselves meeting various challenges to help their club run a successful Field Day operation. It is the thrill of the **“non-contest contest”** that brings out the best in thousands of amateurs who under most circumstances choose not to participate in the various sponsored contests.

What makes a good Field Day? Ask that question at any hamfest and you will probably receive a different answer from each person you interview. We offer a few basic ideas to keep in mind as you contemplate a Field Day operation. First, and foremost, is **Field Day should be a fun activity.** Field Day serves as one of the biggest introductory “drawing cards” we offer in trying to expand interest in the hobby. A Field Day that is technical in set-up may well produce a good score. But remember that a Field Day that practices **the “KISS” principle (Keep It Simple, Silly)** is more likely to attract interest and participation than one which is run like a hard-core contest.

This doesn't mean you don't do the technical planning and preparation to ensure the operation is a good demonstration of what hams can do. It does mean that you should consider having a wide-range of activities and “jobs” which will encourage participation. Yes, 40-meter CW will probably be a great way to rack up points. **But make certain that there are things for the non-CW inclined members of your group to do.** Standing around watching one or two operators make all the contacts is a sure-fire way to kill enthusiasm among your group.

For example, several years ago our local club put up its highest Field Day score ever. We had first-class stations and used outstanding operators on the “prime bands.” They put in 18-20 hours of hard core contest-style activity. The next year our club score fell approximately in half. But the number of people who actually made a contact using the club call went from eight to thirty-six. This brings us to the second major point: **a successful Field Day is well planned.**

Planning entails a wide range of things when it comes to Field Day. But they all start at a commonsense point: **set realistic goals for your group.** Plan your operation to bring out the best in your club members. If your club is primarily comprised of no-code operators, then set goals which allow their interests to be highlighted. If your club has lots of experience in various modes and operating conditions, plan a more challenging test for your group.

While many people will be important to your Field Day operation, the key person during the entire experience – from selection of the site to the submission of the score – will be **the Field Day Chairman or Coordinator.** This person needs to be a good organizer with the ability to delegate responsibility. The responsibilities are many: site selection, securing “band captains” for each transmitter, how to best utilize the operating site, helping solicit operators,

equipment, computers, generators, assisting in public relations, safety issues, training operator and much more. The Field Day Chairman needs a good working relationship with the club membership and officers. It's also helpful if they have some previous Field Day experience. Many clubs use an experienced Field Day Chairman along with an assistant Chairman who is in "training" to assume the job down the road.

How you organize your group for Field Day will depend on the number of participants and size of the operation you plan. **One helpful hint is to appoint an individual to head up each station /mode/ band.** These "band captains" should be responsible for planning their individual station, working in conjunction with the Field Day Chairman and the other stations planned. Band captains shouldn't be expected to do it all so make certain each has plenty of help for set-up, operating and taking down the site.

There are two criteria that determine your Transmitter class. First, you must be able to transmit a signal on the total number of band/modes that you claim simultaneously. For example, if you claim 10A, you must be able to transmit 10 different signals at the same time (remember that a band/mode counts as a separate band). Changing the band-switch to another band does not count as a "different signal." If you are claiming 10 transmitters, you need 10 stations capable of operating at the same time – remember operating means sending AND receiving. Second, you must actually have them on the air simultaneously at least once during the event.

In 2008 the ARRL added an online **Field Day Station Locator** application on the web. It remains a huge success (over 1500 stations post their information each year). To participate have someone from your club or group log on to the ARRLWeb at [www.arrl.org/field-day-locator](http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator) and click on the "Add A Station" link to input the required data. You can also visit the same site to search for Field Day locations in your area. **There is no individual preregistration required to participate and clubs are not required to register** their information, but the locator tool is an excellent way to help new or visiting amateurs in your area to find where they can come join in on the Field Day fun!

As you plan Field Day, don't overlook the wide range of bonus points that are available. **Since 2005, all entry classes are eligible for some type of bonus points.** Check the rules to see which bonus points you can earn!

If you are operating in a category that requires emergency power, you may receive a **100-point per transmitter (up to 20)** bonus if your entire operation is emergency powered. If you use commercial power for some of the equipment, sorry, you don't qualify for the emergency power bonus. **GOTA and the free VHF station are not eligible for this bonus.** And all entries must operate at least one transmitter to be classified in the event (no zero-A entries).

Are you operating in a **public place** (mall parking lot, a local park, in front of the fire department)? Don't forget the 100-point bonus. Add in a table, some amateur radio informational handouts, and some volunteers answering questions for visitors and you have another 100 points for an **Information Booth.**

Sometimes there is confusion as to the bonus for media publicity. Prepare a press release about your event and send it to the various local media outlets (television, radio, and newspapers). At that point you qualify for the **100-point media bonus.** While we hope the press will attend your event, their resources may not allow them to cover it. **The bonus is for the attempt to secure media publicity. And don't overlook the newly added 100-point social media bonus for actively engaging on at least one of the standard social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter (#ARRLFD), Instagram (for example). It's another way to reach the community at large in today's media age.**

Educating the state and local government officials and representatives of agencies with which you may work in an emergency is part of the Field Day goal. **You may claim a 100-point bonus if an elected or appointed local or state governmental official visits your site as a direct result of your invitation. A second 100-point bonus may be earned if a representative of one of the agencies which we serve (such as American Red Cross or Salvation Army) visits your site as a result of a direct invitation** from your group. Two things are required to earn this bonus: you must **formally invite** officials to visit the operation **and** one (or more) of them **must visit.** Maximum bonus is 100 points per category (100 for an elected official and 100 for an agency official – not 100 point per official). **ARRL/ARES officials do not qualify your group for this bonus.**



Part of any real emergency will be handling formal traffic for the agencies we serve. Field Day incorporates this into the exercise in two ways. First, 100 points are earned by **sending a formal message from the club to your ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator**. The message must be originated during the Field Day period. Why not have one of your club's experienced traffic-handlers work with someone just learning how to handle traffic involved in this part of Field Day

You should also be ready to garner points **for originating, relaying, or receiving and delivering formal messages** during the Field Day operation. You can gain **up to 100 points (10 points each for 10 messages)** as well as incorporating another segment of your club into the operation. **You can't double dip – so don't include the ARRL SM/SEC message as one of these messages, since it already receives a separate bonus.**

During any actual wide-scale emergency, W1AW will broadcast situation bulletins during the duration of the event. To allow groups to practice using this source of information, a 100-point bonus is awarded **for copying the special W1AW Field Day bulletin. You must copy this special bulletin on the air during the Field Day period.** It won't be sent out as an email or posted to an ARRL web page. It takes some planning on how to accomplish this at your Field Day site, but it is another available bonus category. The W1AW schedule is found in this packet with the rules. **The same Field Day bulletin will be transmitted on the West Coast from K6KPH** (schedule included with the W1AW schedule).

Groups for many years have used alternative power sources rather than commercial or petroleum-derivative powered generators to run part of their Field Day operation. To encourage this, an easy **100-point bonus** may be earned **by making at least five QSOs using a "natural power" source.** Solar, wind, water-power, methane or grain alcohol all qualify here. (Sorry, dry cell batteries are not considered alternative power).

Field Day is a time of experimentation and demonstration for many hams. Two rules encourage groups and individuals to broaden their scope during the weekend. If you **complete at least one QSO via one of the amateur satellites**, you earn a 100-point bonus. **The contact must be directly through the satellite between the two earth bound amateur stations, not relayed through a system that uses a satellite uplink system.** A dedicated satellite station does not count as an additional transmitter towards your group's total. **The total bonus is 100 points – not 100 points for each satellite that you contact. Also note that since 2007 Field Day you are allowed only one QSO on any single channel FM satellite.** A QSO with the ISS does not qualify for the bonus since it is not an Earth-to-Earth contact. However, if the astronauts on the ISS participate in Field Day (as they have during the past few years) I bet the excitement of that contact energizes your whole Field Day operation.

An easy bonus to earn is the **Educational Activity Bonus**. Eligible groups will receive a 100-point bonus for having a **formal educational component** associated with Field Day. It doesn't have to be a formal "classroom" session per se, but it must be a **structured activity** to broaden the knowledge base of participants. Some groups may decide to have a hands-on activity of teaching people the proper way to solder coax connectors while another group may decide to teach about proper grounding techniques and electrical safety. This activity can be broad enough to allow people to learn how to do something new but should have active involvement of participants. **It must be more than a simple demonstration of an activity.** Standing around watching someone send CW won't qualify. But teaching people how to make digital QSOs and then letting them try their hand at it would. **Be creative but keep in mind, this must be more than a passive activity to watch or a static display to read. See the FAQ on this bonus in the FD packet.**

If your Field Day group is operating in the **Class A or F** category, and are at least a two-transmitter entry, you have two more ways of adding operating excitement to your event. Groups at **2A or 2F** or higher may add a dedicated **GET ON THE AIR station (GOTA)**. This station may be **operated by any amateur licensed within the last year** (since Field Day 2013). In addition it may be operated by those holding Novice licenses or by those considered "generally inactive licensees". Non-licensed individuals may participate in this station but only under the direct supervision of a properly licensed control operator. **It may be operated on any Field Day band (HF or VHF) or mode, provided it is under the direct supervision of a control operator that has license privileges that includes that band and mode.** The complete guidelines are found in Field Day Rule 4.1.1. as well as in two FAQs in this packet.

**The number of QSOs permitted for the GOTA station is 500.** A GOTA operator will receive a 20-point bonus for every 20 QSOs they complete at the GOTA station, up to a maximum of 100 bonus points per GOTA operator (i.e. **each GOTA operator can earn a maximum of five 20-point bonuses**). The individual operator may make more than 100 GOTA QSOs but the additional QSOs are not eligible for the bonus. Other GOTA operators **may also earn GOTA bonuses**. **Remember that each GOTA operator is capped at 100-QSOs counting for the bonus. There is no “partial credit” – an operator must complete the required 20 QSOs to earn their bonus.** (You can’t “pool” GOTA QSOs and share towards a bonus.) Remember, **the maximum number of GOTA QSOs any group may make is capped at 500.**

If there is **an experienced mentor/coach supervising the GOTA station, the GOTA bonus points double** (20 QSOs would garner 40 bonus points if made under the supervision of the Coach and so forth.) There are a couple of guidelines. A mentor/coach **must be present continuously** while the GOTA station is being operated. Also the mentor/coach may advise GOTA operators, but is **not allowed to make the QSOs or perform functions such as logging**. They can talk the operator through the contacts, but can’t make the QSOs for them. You can have different GOTA coaches during the event but any time the GOTA station is in operation there must be a GOTA coach present in order to earn the bonus. Remember that the **GOTA station does not count as an additional transmitter** when calculating your operating class for Field Day and is not used in determining the number of transmitter for that bonus. It also does not affect your dedicated VHF/UHF station if operating at class 2A or higher. The GOTA station gives out the same exchange as its parent station.

For those in your club who are more VHF/UHF-oriented, any group operating as a **Class A (regardless of the number of transmitters)** **may also include one dedicated VHF/UHF station**. This will allow those licensees to participate fully on their favorite amateur bands above 50 MHz. **This dedicated VHF/UHF station does not count as an additional transmitter towards your group’s total and does not qualify for the 100 points per transmitter bonus.** Your group may operate more than one VHF/UHF station during the event. If you do, the first VHF/UHF transmitter does not count towards your transmitter total but the rest do count to increase your operating classification.

Getting youth involved in amateur radio is always important. Beginning in 2005, we added a new 100-point maximum bonus known as **the Youth Element bonus**. **For all Classes except B, you earn 20-points for each person (age 18 or younger) who completes at least one QSO.** Class B may earn either a 20 or 40 point bonus if their operators are age 18 or younger.

**Finally, groups participating as Class A may earn an additional 100-point bonus by having an active Safety Officer as part of their operation.** The Safety Officer must certify that a series of safety concerns were addressed and maintained during the Field Day operation. Information on this is found elsewhere in this packet.

After your successful Field Day operation, what happens next? Submitting the required paperwork on time is an absolute must. **Submit your entry** to the ARRL Contest Branch within **30 days of the end of the event**. For 2018 the submission deadline is **midnight Tuesday July 24<sup>th</sup>**. Your entry begins with a **completely and accurately filled out Summary Sheet** which shows all of the required information. Be careful: many of the commercial logging programs provide some basic information on your summary sheet, but leave some important things out. Your best bet is to use an official Summary Sheet. **All paper entries are required to use a completed Summary Sheet. Make certain you use the most current Summary Sheet from the ARRL, since there may have been changes that affect scoring. Make certain you complete all parts of the Summary Sheet.** Without your supplying us complete, accurate information, we can’t print the results accurately.

Consider making your submission via the new **ARRL Field Day Web Applet** that is found at [www.b4h.net/cabforms/](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/). At this site you can submit your summary sheet information directly to the ARRL and it will show receipt of the information within about 24 hours on the ARRL Web. **Remember that if you use this option you still need to submit your supporting documentation.** There it is a 50-point bonus to submit using the Web Applet. **Also, we can not accept only a Cabrillo format file as your Field Day entry. While it contains the QSO data, the header does not include everything necessary to completely and accurately report your entry. A Cabrillo-file must either include a completed official Summary Sheet or the entrant must submit the required Summary data at the [www.b4h.net/cabforms](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms) website.**

The logging requirements for Field Day are different from ARRL contests. Instead of standard log files, you are only required to submit a **Dupe Sheet, separated by band and mode**. For Field Day, paper copies of the dupe sheets are acceptable. Keep your logs available, however, in case we need to request you to submit them at a later time for clarification.

The final part of your submission includes the **various “proofs” of your bonus points claimed**. Some of these are easy. Log sheets noted with the specific QSOs made using natural power or your satellite contacts are sufficient for that bonus. A written statement verifying your location in a public place and a copy of your visitor’s log will be fine for claiming those points. Send in a copy of your Press Release, or a copy of any newspaper or media coverage you actually receive. And send in your photographs. **Be creative with your photography**. Sending in a picture of someone in a baseball cap pouring gas into a generator may be proof of use of emergency power, but probably won’t be used in the QST write-up. Creative photos of operators, interesting station set-ups, participation by young people and such are more likely to catch the eyes of QST editors.

**An excellent way to share your group’s Field Day story is via the Online Soapbox on the ARRL Web. Log on to [www.arrl.org/soapbox](http://www.arrl.org/soapbox) and select Field Day. From that site, you may upload a narrative of your group’s Field Day operation as well as photographs. Once these are proofed at ARRL Headquarters, they are posted to the web for thousands to share. In 2016 we had over 7 pages of Field Day Soapbox entries!**

The rules require a couple of specific proofs for some of the bonus points. You need to submit a copy of the fully serviced National Traffic System message sent to your Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator as well as any messages relayed from your site. You also need to submit a complete copy of the special Field Day message in your submission. If you submit electronically you should send these proofs as attachments to your email submission.

A couple of hints that might help you make your event even more successful might come in handy. Remember: that **while one of the purposes of the event is to have fun, you need to practice safety** as well. **Having a safety officer for the site is a good idea**. Make certain antennas are away from power lines. Generators should be grounded properly and operated carefully. Guy wires for temporary structures or towers need to be well marked. The safety officer needs to work closely with the Field Day Chairman to ensure everyone has a safe, as well as fun time.

**If you have questions about Field Day after reviewing the rules and packet, drop an email to [fdinfo@arrl.org](mailto:fdinfo@arrl.org) or phone (860) 594-0232 and we will be happy to help you. Field Day is the most popular amateur radio operating event in the US and Canada. Please contact the ARRL Contest Branch if we can assist you in some way to help ensure your Field Day operation this year is the best ever!**

Revised 2/2018

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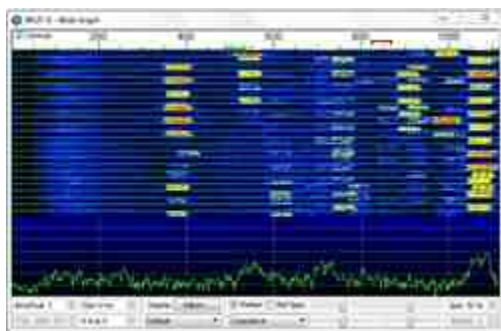
If you have any news or articles to post, please forward to the Editor.

QSL?

## FT8 Activity Bumping Up at Some Expense to Other Modes

Despite largely dismal HF conditions, there is no doubt that the recent FT8 digital protocol has hams on the air. The mode has caught on so quickly that co-developer Joe Taylor expressed surprise last fall at the rapid uptake of FT8 for making contacts on HF bands. Judging by Logbook of The World (LoTW) data, more than 2.3 million FT8 contacts were uploaded in 1 month -- a net gain of 1.2 million contacts on all modes over the same month last year, ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, said.

Over the same period, activity in some of the other modes has declined.



"Year-to-date DXCC applications are up by 11% over the same period last year," Fusaro said. "So far, we have processed 898 Worked All States (WAS) applications -- a 72% increase over the same period last year. Of those applications, 347 -- or 39% -- were FT8 endorsements. Application for VUCC are also up by 33% over 2017."

Fusaro said that while some feel that FT8 is "taking over the world," subsuming all other modes, that's not the case. "Activity in the traditional modes of SSB and CW has decreased only slightly, by 10%," he said. "The *real* decrease is in RTTY and PSK activity and in the other *WSJT-X* modes. I believe poor propagation would have cut into SSB and CW activity, regardless of the new mode." Anecdotal reports support Fusaro's hard numbers, with wall-to-wall signals surrounding the FT8 watering holes.

Late last year, Denny Berg, WB9MSM, achieved his goal of completing DXCC using FT8. It took him just 4 months.

"I can tell all of you that this mode is spreading like wildfire throughout all the HF bands," Berg told [The Daily DX](#) at the time. He said he was able to work all states on FT8 in about 6 weeks of operating.

Taylor has characterized SSB and CW as "general-purpose modes" that are good for ragchewing, DXing, contesting, disaster communication, and other purposes. On the other hand, he has said, FT8 and the other protocols in the [WSJT-X](#) suite are "special-purpose modes," designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using signals that may be too weak to work using more traditional modes -- and sometimes even too far down in the noise even to hear.



Denny Berg, WB9MSM, completed DXCC on FT8.

## National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC - On the Air for Annual Station Test

[WX4NHC](#), the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, will be on the air for the annual station test on Saturday, May 26, 1300 until 2100 UTC. This will be the station's 38th year of public service at the NHC. The purpose of the annual event is to test Amateur Radio station equipment, antennas, and computers in advance of the Atlantic Hurricane season -- June 1 through November 30.

"This event is good practice for ham radio operators worldwide as well as for National Weather Service (NWS) staff to become familiar with the Amateur Radio communications available during times of severe weather," said WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R. "We will be making brief contacts on many frequencies and modes, exchanging signal reports and basic weather data (sunny, rain, etc.) with any station in any location."



WX4NHC will be on the air on HF, VHF, UHF, 2- and 30-meter APRS and [WinLink](#); subject must contain "//WL2K". The Hurricane Watch Net frequency of 14.325 MHz will be primary for WX4NHC. Operation also will take place on the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) 2000-2100 UTC. (IRLP node 9219; EchoLink WX-TALK Conference node 7203). Florida Statewide SARNET and local VHF and UHF repeaters will be contacted.

QSLs are available via WD4R, with an S.A.S.E.





## ARRL to Show Off Ham Radio at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2018

With support from member volunteers, ARRL will put Amateur Radio on display for visitors to [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2018](#) -- the giant, annual airshow July 23 - 29 in Wisconsin, organized by the Experimental Aircraft Association ([EAA](#)). The event attracted more than 10,000 aircraft and nearly 600,000 visitors in 2017 to enjoy aerobatics displays, informative programs, hands-on workshops, and diverse aircraft spanning all eras of flight.



"The cross-over between Amateur Radio operators and pilots, aviation enthusiasts, and air show attendees has a strong correlation," said ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, who is part of the volunteer team organizing the ham radio exhibit at AirVenture. "Attendees include many

licensed and prospective Amateur Radio operators."

ARRL's exhibit will promote Amateur Radio to newcomers and inform all attendees of the similarly diverse technology and innovation enjoyed by both hams and pilots.

"Ham pilots are doing all sorts of things from the sky, including long-distance HF communications, aircraft tracking using APRS beacons, and search and rescue," Carlson said. "Developing the capability to communicate from your aircraft to a ham on the ground is also fun!"

ARRL has posted a [short survey](#) that invites pilots who are radio amateurs to share their ideas for exhibiting at EAA AirVenture 2018. The ARRL display will build upon existing ham radio demonstrations at the show, including EAA Amateur Radio Special Event station W9ZL, organized annually by the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club in Appleton, Wisconsin, and set up at the Pioneer Airport airstrip in Oshkosh. W9ZL will be on the air throughout the week of the Oshkosh air show.



Last summer, Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN, of Texas, successfully flew his single-engine aircraft *Spirit* on a solo, round-the-world adventure to commemorate Amelia Earhart's attempted circumnavigation 80 years earlier.



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

at the Lely Palms Manor, Next Luncheon Meeting: June 14<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**

## Club Information

Next Meeting Time: May 22<sup>nd</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: Larry Kielasa – [N4LAK@araswf.org](mailto:N4LAK@araswf.org)  
Vice President: Frank Halas – [W4RBW@araswf.org](mailto:W4RBW@araswf.org)  
Treasurer: Jim Wilson – [KN4IEY@araswf.org](mailto:KN4IEY@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)**