

WA4IWL NEWSLETTER

www.earsradioclub.org



December, 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy holidays to all. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Mine was surrounded by lots of family members and friends. With any luck we will enjoy the company of our fellow hams, family, and friends at the December 13th banquet, which replaces the regular meeting for the month of December. Remember that the nominations for next year's officers remain open through the banquet. It is that time of year to pay annual dues, so send your EARS check to our Treasurer along with any changes to your listing for the EARS 2010 Directory. We covered a great number of topics at our November meeting, so be sure to read through the minutes in the Secretary's report.

73,
Matthew Henry, KE4VEM

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Following are the minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting of the Englewood Amateur Radio Society:

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by President Matthew Henry, KE4VEM with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Introductions were then made around the room, with special recognition for a new member, John Cerniglia, WD9JAC. There were 22 members in attendance at the meeting and no visitors.

Secretary's Report – A motion to accept the minutes of last months meeting, as printed in the news letter was seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report – Last months report was sent out by e-mail. A motion to accept last months report was seconded and carried.

The current Treasurers Report dated 10/30/09, reported by Mike Daly, K4MWD, and given by Acting Treasurer Vic Emmelkamp, K4VHX shows the following:

Checking	\$2257.85
Savings	\$2776.37

A motion to accept the Treasurers report was seconded and carried.

Correspondence – A flyer for the Tampa Bay Hamfest, which will be the ARRL Florida State Convention, is to be held December 5th and 6th.

A letter of appreciation from the Awards Committee at Lemon Bay High School was received and read at the meeting. They

expressed thanks for our participation, and hope that we continue to support their work helping students transition to higher education.

The Okeechobee ham fest will be held Saturday, November 28th.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine – Mike Daly, K4MWD is having some heart tests.

RACES – Mel Rathbun, W9BSM gave the RACES report.

Boca-Bop – Held on Nov. 8th. Matthew Henry KE4VEM reported the operation went very well, with six of the seven positions filled. Hand Held radios do not make the repeater very well. One minor accident occurred to a child when the wind blew a sign over and one major issue when a swimmer had a heart attack. Hams played a major role in getting the swimmer to shore and getting an ambulance on site. The swimmer was transported to the hospital, but after two days, passed away.

DX – Tom, WA3PRC reported nothing unusual.

Hamfest - At the present time, we do not have a hamfest committee, and no plans have been made to put on a hamfest. No one at the meeting volunteered to head up a committee or work on one. Due to lack of interest, it looks like EARS will not put on a hamfest this next spring.

OLD BUSINESS:

The EARS Christmas party is to be held Sunday December 13th. \$22.00 each. Rotonda

Shirts – 50 shirts have been ordered and paid for. The supplier is having a rough time in today's economic climate so there has been a delay in delivery.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made to insert a line item in next year's budget of \$500.00 for Lemon Bay Scholarships. The motion carried, and a committee was formed consisting of Vic Emmelkamp-K4VHX, Gene Reilly-KI4FJJ, Mel Rathbun-W9BSM, Marty Horowitz-N4FA.

Vic-K4VHX visited River Oaks assisted living center and found some interest in amateur radio. More to follow on this.

The floor was opened to nominate officers for next year, with the following results:

President: Matthew Henry – KE4VEM

Vice President: Tom Hawes – WA3PRC

Treasurer: Mike Daly – K4MWD
Vic Emmelkamp-K4VHX(PT)

Secretary: Gene Reilly –KI4FJT
KenBlackshaw–W1NT(PT)
Pam Eggleton – K1UEG(PT)

Trustees: Vic Emmelkamp–K4VHX
Don Spencer WA4IWL
Marty Horowitz–N4FA
Ken Anderson – W4JQT

(PT=Part Time)

Nominations will remain open through the next meeting.

Tom Hawes, WA3PRC has an Alpha amplifier for Sale.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm carried.

Ken Anderson – W4JQT
Secretary

OUR THIRD OPERATOR PROFILE

A chance to get to know your fellow EARS members better.

I received the following from Ken:

Ken Anderson - W4JQT

My interest in radio started in 1928 at six years of age, when my father took me with him to a neighbor's house to listen to the presidential election returns on the radio. (We did not have a radio at home). This exposure developed more in my high school class where we had an informal radio club with five members, experimenting and building radios. We had one amateur radio operator in our town. That was Dr. Gross, who operated on 160 meters and we could hear him at the top of the AM broadcast band. Thus began my exposure to amateur radio and a strong desire to understand more about radio and wireless communication.

Shortly after high school in 1942 I was inducted into the army, and after basic training near Little Rock, Arkansas, transferred to the 420th Signal Company located at Ft. George Wright near Spokane, Washington, which later moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. The 420th Signal Co. provided complete communications for the 21st Air Force HQ. My job there, along with others, was operating teletype systems to and from all 2nd Air Force Bases around the U.S.

In early 1944 the 420th signal co. had some overseas training in California, and then traveled by troop train to Hampton Roads, Virginia where we embarked on a Liberty ship for our trip overseas. We traveled in a large convoy, and arrived in Italy in May, 1944. There we were assigned to the 15th Air Force HQ Service Command, where we did about the same type work as with the 2nd Air Force in the States.

After the war was over I arrived back home in Indiana and decided to continue my education at Valparaiso Tech in Valparaiso, Indiana. I registered for their complete course in Radio Engineering, and it was while attending this school that I obtained my amateur radio license, and also the commercial 1st Class Radio Telephone License.

While attending Valpo Tech, Alice and I were married and we lived in one of the house trailers on the school property. (Vet-Ville) I finished the engineering curriculum in 1948, and my first job was at radio station WIBM in Jackson, Michigan. Alice stayed with her folks in South Bend. A little later I went to work for AT&T in South Bend, and shortly after that our daughter was born. We found a house and were back together as a family.

While working at AT&T I learned a lot about telephone equipment and VF carrier systems. In 1950 AT&T's coast to coast microwave system went across northern Indiana and since I already had my commercial radio license I was assigned to work on that. After overseeing the installation and acceptance of one of the microwave stations I was assigned to maintain five microwave stations in South Bend maintenance territory. During that time I also conducted training classes in Michigan and Kentucky on the microwave system and associated equipment.

In 1955 I was transferred to AT&T's Central Area HQ in Cincinnati, Ohio and assigned to the Radio Engineering Group in the Transmission Engineering Department. There I studied microwave system propagation, did new system lineups, and investigated and resolved radio system troubles in a 13 state area. Needless to say, it was a traveling job. In 1963 my job moved to Chicago, Illinois, and in 1965 to Washington, D.C., where I retired from AT&T in 1982 after 34 plus years of service.

Thus my early interest in amateur radio developed into a very challenging and satisfying career, both in military and civilian life. I have tried to share my experience and knowledge by helping others, conducting training classes for amateur radio license exams, and by being active in local radio clubs where ever I lived. I have been blessed by being able to work at something I truly enjoyed, and associating with really good people in all phases of communications, both amateur and professional.

73, W4JQT

Editors Note: Each month I will try to have an operator profile for you and thanks to those of you who have already submitted your profiles.

Communications for the Boca Bop Triathlon

On November 8, 2009, six hams volunteered their services to assist with a well-worthwhile annual community event on Boca Grande – the Boca Bop Triathlon, sponsored by the Englewood Optimist Club. The proceeds from the event are used to benefit local youth through scholarships, toy drives, the downtown Halloween candy distribution, and various other means. Further, the participants of the event tend to find the competition to be an enjoyable experience that keeps them coming back year after year. In fact, this year had a record attendance, with somewhere in the neighborhood of over 300 participants. The large number of attendees made the help of volunteers to run the event even more valuable and greatly appreciated.

Our ham communicators were: Keith Kelly – KC5AS (Staging Area and Finish - transition); Matthew Henry – KE4VEM (Boat - swimmers); Tom Hawes – WA3PRC (Lighthouse - cyclists); Nicole Henry – KG4TGI (Roving Sidekick to Safety Director); John Combs – K8JPC (Gulfshores Drive – cyclist loop); and, Vic Emmelkamp – K4VHX

(Miller’s Marina – runners). We had one position for to cover the cyclists midway left unmanned but we still managed just fine.

Dr. John reported that he assisted cyclists at the north end of Gasparilla Island by helping with vehicle traffic as the participants made their turns onto the loop; this was helpful since no Charlotte County officer was solicited to direct traffic despite the Lee County officers assisting at the south end of the course. In addition to serving as extra eyes to help keep participants on the course safe, we relay information to the course officials.

Our reports on the location of the athletes were heard by the course Safety Director through Nicole, and Nicole said he was very grateful. Nicole also assisted one young girl whose head got banged up on the beach when a speaker on a stand blew over due to high winds; Nicole helped the girl get to the EMTs and reported the incident to the Safety Director.

On the boat, we help set up and take down the float line for the swimmers’ course. During the event, we watch for struggling swimmers, encourage them, and, if necessary, pull them out of the water. Unfortunately, this year we had a medical emergency in the water that, despite our best efforts, resulted in a loss of life. A female swimmer appeared to have suffered a heart attack and despite the EMTs restarting her heart before being airlifted to the hospital, we later learned she did not survive. Because the Sheriff’s boat, with EMTs onboard, joined in with the boat that had pulled the distressed swimmer from the water, we backed out of the way and I reported by radio to the shore to arrange for medical personnel to meet the boat on the beach with emergency transport ready.

Keith, Tom, and Vic also reported the locations of tri-athletes and provided encouragement to them as the passed. Afterward, we all enjoyed a nice breakfast at The Outlet Restaurant at the Inlet, where we shared our experiences. Due to some

difficulty making it into the repeater with handheld radios, we've decided portable mobile rigs might be the best setup for next year. EARS members were a big help as usual. Our efforts were noted by the event organizers and, whether the athletes knew hams helped or not, I'm sure they felt reassured to see more volunteers (some in our old EARS shirts) throughout the course looking out for them. Thanks.

Matthew Henry, KE4VEM

EARS Christmas Party

Place: Rotonda Golf and Country Club Restaurant

Time: 6PM social hour; 7PM dinner.

Date: December 13, 2009

Appetizers: Cocomat Shrimp
Cheese and Crackers
Stuffed Mushrooms

Entree: Choice of:

1. Prime Rib
2. Chicken Piccata
3. Stuffed Grouper

All entrees come with carrots and red potatoes.

Cheesecake for dessert. Tea and Coffee.

Price: \$22.00 per person.

Please make your reservations with and send your check made out to "EARS" to:

Vic Emmelkamp, K4VHX
1181 Manor Road
Englewood, FL 34223
473-5560
or

Martin Horowitz, N4FA
348 Ardenwood Drive
Englewood, FL 34223
473-1123

Local Happenings:

ARRL Florida State Convention The 2009 Tampa Bay Hamfest December 5th & 6th, 2009

VE Exam Sessions: The exams are given at 10:00 A.M. the 2nd Saturday of each month in the conference room of the Venice public library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue, Venice, FL. The exam cost is \$15.00. Contact Jack Sproat-W4JS, w4js@juno.com, 475-1929.

RACES: Communications Training Nets are held on the last Wednesday and Thursday of each month. The Wednesday night Emergency Communications Information Net begins at 8PM on 146.745. On Thursday the West County Englewood EOC will conduct their Tactical Net beginning at 9:30AM on 146.865. On Thursday morning at 10 AM the Charlotte County EOC will call a tactical net for all RACES members on 146.745.

QCWA Chapter 53 Meeting: 11:30 A.M., 1st Wednesday of each month at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, October through May, and the Panda Pavilion in Venice June through September.

Snowbird Net: Net is twice daily; first on 14.293 MHz at 10:00AM and on 7.230+- MHz at 7:00 P.M.

Connecticut Connection Net: Net is twice daily at 8:00 A.M. on 14.340+- MHz and at 7:30 P.M. on 7.225 MHz immediately after the Snowbird net.

Two Meter Nets

EARS Simplex 146.550 Wednesday 7:30pm
NPARC 147.120+Tuesday 8:00pm
CARS 146.745- Daily 8:30am
TARC 146.580- Tuesday 7:30pm
TARC DX 146.805- Wednesday 8:00pm
TARC 146.805- Thursday 7:30pm

Weekly Area Amateur Breakfasts:

- Tuesday, 7 A.M. at Denny's in Englewood
- Tuesday, 8 A.M. at Good Times in Englewood
- Tuesday, 7:45 A.M. at Peach's in Venice
- Friday, 7:45 A.M. at Peach's in Venice

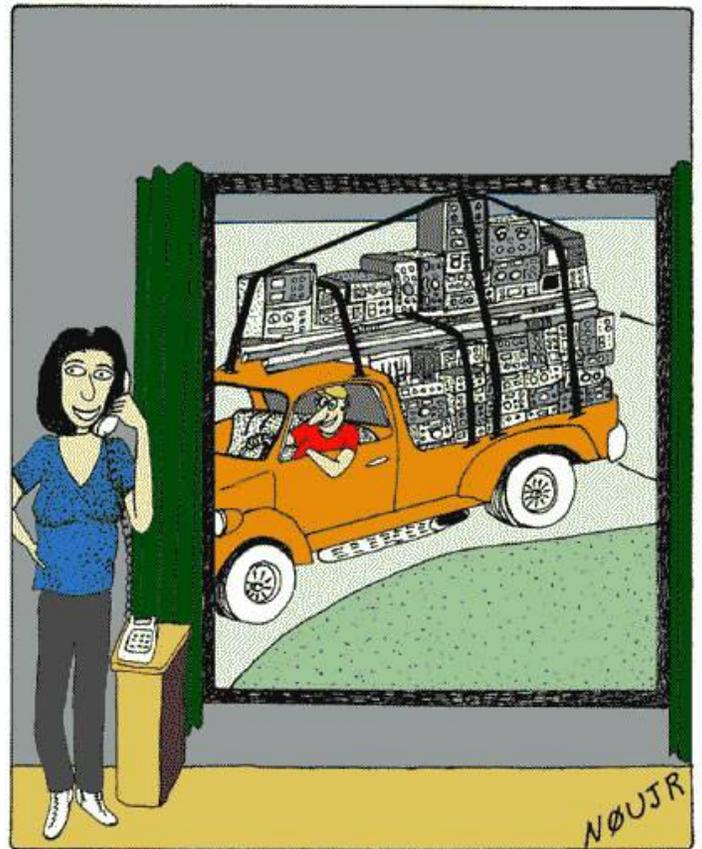
Christmas On The Air By Pam Eggleton K1UEG

How about a diversion this Christmas season for all you hams? Consider tuning up the rig for these Christmas Special Event stations. On December 12 and 13, the Twin Christmas Cities, Bethlehem and Nazareth, WX3MAS, are on the air from Pennsylvania for Christmas Greetings. On December 19, KC5OUR, will be on the air from Belen, New Mexico to broadcast Christmas from Bethlehem (Spanish: Belen). On that same date, W4T will be promoting a Tennessee Christmas from Cookeville. While you're on the radio, maybe you should attempt a QSO with David Christmas AB9NT, or Donald Christmas KF4VEG. With fair propagation, maybe you can raise Robert, K8PMD, in Christmas, Michigan, or Earl, KB7NJW, or Linda, KB7YFL, in Christmas Valley, Oregon. Our state has Christmas, Florida where John, KC4ZHE, or Paul, KE4ZZH might be on the air waves. Swing the beam and call Canadian hams, Kenneth Christmas VE3FHB, or Roger Christmas, VE1CMR. Depending on the sunspot activity, give SJ Christmas, G0BEC or TR Christmas, G1IUT a try. Don't leave out David Christmas, VK4DJC broadcasting from the outback. After all those QSO's, you may be hungry for a holiday treat so give Bob, G4HZV, on Christmas Pie Avenue a call. Of course if Santa will be delivering what we really want, he'll be directing his reindeer and sleigh to Christmas Island for a DXpedition. Merry Christmas 161.



Merry Christmas to All

Editor/Publisher: Vic Emmelkmp-K4VHX



"No Greg went to the ham auction this afternoon, to get rid of a couple old radios that were cluttering up the place...Oh I think I hear him pulling in now!"