

WA4IWL NEWSLETTER

www.earsradioclub.org



December 2011

“THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS” **Ham Radio-style**

Twass the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down.
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
“Old St. Nick.”
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
“I've emergency traffic!”
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
“Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid Leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! You're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!”
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
“Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!”

As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back—
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
His call sign engraved on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
“QSL, Via Bureau”
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes,
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
“Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!”

— Unknown Author - Thanks Pam



Secretary's Report-

Matthew opened the meeting with the Pledge at 7:30 pm. We had 18 members present including 1 new member Stan Warner KC9ULY from Englewood and Muncie, IN.

The Secretary's report was accepted as published in the Newsletter.

The Treasure's report was written by John Cerniglia and presented by VicK4VHX as follows.

October 31, 2011

Checking account \$2,844.07 club savings CD of \$2803.44 for a total of \$5,647.51
(A correction of +.05 to savings from last month)

We received a letter from Wells Fargo advising us of the Time Account (CD) maturing on November

10, 2011 at the same term.

No Payments made this month:

No Deposits

Submitted 11/17/2011

John A. Cerniglia W4JAC

Treasurer

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasure's report. The vote was all in favor.

Correspondence

We got a Credit Card application, Matthew destroyed same.

Sunshine Committee

A sympathy card was sent to the family of KF4YOW on October, 30th.

RACES Report

Mel gave us good news about the WIN Link system. It seems that the 70 cm systems problems were a result of a glitch in the program. The program was upgraded and it seems to be working well, they think. He also discussed how the digipeater in Murdock works. He also mentioned that a Simulated Emergency Test Drill will take place on the weekend (November 19-20) with Lee County and it will start at 10:am Saturday morning till noon. They will try to use 70cm to get down to Lee County. If they have trouble, they will switch to 2 meters.

Publicity

Vic K4VHX discussed our display at SweetBay Super Market on Saturday the 10th of November. We had a HF Station a Handy Talkie and literature. Eight members showed up and we also donated a Fruit basket that was won in a drawing by Stan Warner KC9ULY. A lot of folks stopped by and some local Hams.

Vic also mentioned that he will be giving a presentation about Amateur Radio and what it takes to get licensed to a group called "Take Back America" in Englewood on Monday November 21st.

Testing

We hold testing sessions on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Venice Library. Matthew also mentioned that a guest at our September meeting Dick Mullenex who was given a package from Ham Test Online passed his Technician test. Matthew also mentioned that he loaned out his Extra Class materials to the Fowlers so that they can pass their Extra exam. He also said that "He is willing to share the materials if anyone else wishes to use them."

DX

Tom gave an extensive report. 17,12 and 10 have been wide open. I'm sure he will submit a more detailed report. Several questions were asked about the Caribbean Islands and contacts to Cuba.

Hamfest

The Tampa Hamfest is December, 3rd and 4th. At Palmetto

Other

Field Day

There was a discussion about what radios we would be using. Tom mentioned that a Kenwood 450-S was donated and is being worked on and we should sell the club radio at Tampa and keep the 450-S. A motion was made, seconded and voted on to accept Tom's offer to expedite this.

Scholarship committee

We had Mike, Vic and Gene. Gene declined being involved on the committee because he is busy with other things. Matthew asked if anyone else would like to be involved. Mark mull agreed, and Vic volunteered to get in contact with the school and set up a meeting. We have in excess of \$500 in the fund.

Old Business

Vic gave a report about shopping for new T-shirts and gave a me a copy of the quotes. For 36 shirts of various sizes Vendor 1 Designer Tees total including Sales Tax was \$606.05 or \$16.83 per shirt.

Vendor 2 Premier Tee's \$386.48 including Sales Tax for 36 shirts, or a cost of \$10.74 per shirt A motion was made and seconded and the membership approved the purchase from Premier Tee's.

The EARS Christmas party will be held at the Rotunda Golf And country Club on January 2012. The cost will be \$24.00 per person. It was decided by the membership to subsidize the cost per person at \$4.00 to make the cost \$20.00.

Vic mentioned our interview with WENG and how to listen to the Podcast on line.

The oil change and tire repair on the Generator was mentioned and I will get to it as soon as possible.

New Business

Dues for 2012 are due and payable now or at the next meeting and are \$15.00

Pam thanked Vic K4VHX and Tom WA3PRC for helping her install her radio in her truck.

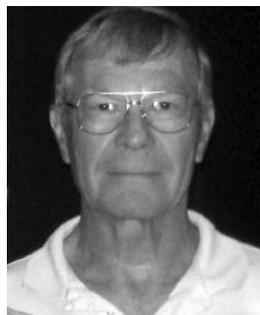
Matthew asked Mel about trying to set up a demonstration of the WIN link system . Matthew also mentioned if anyone had any ideas for demonstrations and programs for the meetings.

Al Wilde W8JZZ has a tower he is offering for FREE you can contact him at ahwilde@embarqu.mail.com or 941-697-4525

Matthew also mentioned that nominations are still open. Vic nominated himself for treasurer, as John's work makes it impossible for him to perform as treasurer. Elections will be held next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by Steven C. Churchill
N9USZ Vice President



DX REPORT

LAST MONTH WAS A GOOD ONE FOR DX,, THE NUMBERS WERE UP FOR MOST OF THE MONTH,, THE BANDS WERE A BIT SO-SO DURING THE DAY BUT CAME ALIVE LATE AFTERNOON AND WELL INTO THE EVENING,,

10,12 AND 15 WERE OPEN INTO THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND THE MID EAST.. I WAS ABLE TO WORK THE PJS, SOUTH COOK ISLAND,NIEU, KING ISLAND AND FRENCH POLYNESIA,, SAUDIA ARABIA WAS ON WITH TWO PREFIXS (HZ AND 7Z7) AND THE ONE I LIKE IS SV2ASP/A, MONK APOLLO FROM MT. ATHOS

AND THESE ARE JUST THE ONES I WORKED,, AS I SAID THE BANDS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE,, CHECK THE DX CLUSTER AND SEE WHO IS OUT THERE

73S

TOM WA3PRC

Next meeting December 15, 2011

7:30 PM

Englewood United Methodist
Church

Mary Martha Suite (RM 100-102)

Feedback from Vic's presentation about Amateur Radio and what it takes to get licensed to a group called "Take Back America"

Sent: November 22, 2011 12:42 PM

Subject: amateur radio followup

Hello All, Thank you for attending our Amateur Radio talk last night. Victor did a great job enlightening us about the ham radio world. Many of us are interested in studying for and obtaining the beginner license. The online practice course to study for the Technician License runs \$20. If several people sign up, the cost is \$18. Victor has offered to coordinate that for us. The site is www.hamtestonline.com. If you want to get a discount, or have any other questions, Victor's email address is: www.earsradioclub.org.

For those who prefer book style study, "2010-2014 Technician Class" by Gordon West is \$20.95, and the book along with interactive cd is \$29.95 at: <http://www.w5yi.org/catalog.php?sort=4> or call the W5YI Group at 800-669-9594. I also saw the book on Amazon for \$15.13 if they are still available. S&H is extra.

As a reminder, the Englewood Amateur Radio Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Methodist Church near River Road and Pine at 7:30pm.

If anyone wants to get together in a study group, we can meet at the TOCB office. Email me if you are interested and we'll see what we can set up.

Thanks again to Victor and attendees.

Sallie Blaser



Tampa Hamfest nets about \$300



This from FoxNews.com

The newest trend in American communication isn't another smartphone from Apple or Google but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Ham radio first took the nation by storm nearly a hundred years ago. Last month the FCC logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years. Compare that with 2005 when only 662,600 people hammed it up and you'll see why the American Radio Relay League -- the authority on all things ham -- is calling it a "golden age."



Nov. 16, 2011: Joe Carcia mans the mic at W1AW at the American Radio Relay League Headquarters in Newington, CT.

"Over the last five years we've had 20-25,000 new hams a year," Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the group, told FoxNews.com.

The unusual slang term -- a "ham" is more properly known as an amateur radio operator -- described a poor operator when the first wireless operators started out in the early 1900s. At that time, government and coastal ships would have to compete with amateurs for signal time, because stations all battled for the same radio wavelength. Frustrated commercial operators called the amateurs "hams" and complained that they jammed up the signal.

People like John Pritchett have used the slang term ever since.

"It takes an inquisitive mind that wants the challenge to speak with the rest of the world," Pritchett told FoxNews.com. "I meet a lot of people as a result amateur radio. It's a fascinating experience to meet somebody who you've talked to for years -- when you finally meet them and go, wow, that's you." Pritchett has been a ham for over 35 years. He sits in his ham shack slowly turning the dial on his amateur radio and listening attentively for a voice through the high radio frequency. But he's not looking for aliens: Pritchett is dialing in to make contact with someone around the world.

"W6JWK, This is John in Fresno, California," he

says.

Pritchett can communicate with people around the globe or even astronauts in space by talking through his microphone or using Morse code.

With more people joining the hobby, local ham radio businesses are growing as well. Amateur Electronics Supply in Las Vegas sells everything to do with ham radios, from transceivers, amplifiers and antennas to handhelds.

"We have clientele from all walks of life," manager Luke Rohn told FoxNews.com. "We have church groups who are interested in ham radio for a viable source of communication in times of natural disaster. We have young kids that find ham radio interesting. Maybe they've heard about it through their father and grandfather and it's a lot of fun for them."

According to the American Radio Relay League, retirees and emergency groups are among the main reasons for the nearly 30,000 new hams that pick up the hobby each year.

Ham is a boon for safety as well as a fun pastime:

When normal communications methods fail and cellphone towers are jammed, ham radios will still work and can help out in disaster situations, because they don't require towers to relay the signal.

"Amateur radio came into play very much during the major earthquake in the Bay Area in 1989. The only thing I had was a little handheld radio. Nothing else worked, telephones didn't work, cellphones didn't work, amateur radio just kept right on working,"

Pritchett said.

Looking to ham it up a bit with some friends? Try a fox hunt -- the radio equivalent of ham-to-ham combat. In a fox hunt, local amateur radio clubs search for a transmitter (called the fox) using their homemade antennas.

"The fox hunting is really fun -- the thrill of the chase, the competition of being the first to find the transmitter," said Rob Mavis, president of the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers club in Clovis, Calif.

Ham radio is inexpensive fun, as well: All you need is a couple hundred bucks to get started and a FCC license -- which is free, but requires a \$10 to \$12 fee to cover expenses.

So join the latest craze -- no iPhone app required.

Read more:

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/17/radio-days-are-back-ham-radio-licenses-at-all-time-high/#ixzz1gKprYmPP>

Sweetbay Photos





Looks like a great way to get our faces in front of the public. Thanks to all.



If you are not yet an ARRL member add your support and join now.

HAMFESTS/CONVENTIONS

01/14/2012 | [TARCFest XXVI.V](#)

Location: Tampa, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.hamclub.org>

01/21/2012 | [Southwest Florida Hamfest & Computer Show](#)

Location: Fort Myers, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://FMARC.net>

01/28/2012 | [DeSoto Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Arcadia, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: DeSoto Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://desotoarc.org>

02/10/2012 | [Northern Florida Section Convention \(Orlando HamCation\)](#)

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hamcation.com>

LOCAL:

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 8 PM on 146.745(-)MHz with a PL of 136.5

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 7.233+- MHz at 7:00 P.M.

Connecticut Connection Net: Net is twice daily at 8:00 A.M. on 14.343+- MHz and at 6:40 P.M. on 7.184+- MHz.

Two Meter Nets

EARS 146.550 - Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

NPARC 147.120 Tuesday 8:00 p.m.

CARS 146.745 - Daily 8:30 a.m.

TARC 146.580 - Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

TARC 146.805 - Thursday 7:30 p.m.

PRRA 146.255 - Sunday 8:00 p.m.

NICE 146.430 - Daily 8:30 p.m.

TARC's website is at: <http://tamiamiarc.org/>

Letters to the editor should be emailed to:

K4MWD@arrl.net Put Editor in the subject line.

Letters:

I am Charles T. NeSmith, AC4BF1@GMAIL.COM, and have been an EARS member for sometime.

I live on Little Gasparilla Island, and don't get to the meetings.

I'm wondering if any of the equipment the club has for sale is test equipment for old tube radios, which is my interest. If it is, I may be interested. I purchased an oscilloscope awhile back from the club, and it performs beautifully.

Thank you for your information. 73's , Charles

Ed: Thanks for your letter Charles. Anybody out there know of any equipment available?

Visit our website
www.earsradioclub.org