

WA4IWL NEWSLETTER

www.earsradioclub.org



March 1, 2015

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Secretary Marcia Fowler KA1GCV

EARS meeting
February 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Vic Emmelkamp K4GHX, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 14 members and 1 visitor present. Our 2 new members are Alan Edwards KJ4VXL and Jim Porter KA8PBA.

The Secretary's report by Marcia KA1GCV was accepted as published in the newsletter.

A letter of thanks was received from Helen Wilde (Al W8JZZ's xyl). She received a bouquet of flowers from us in memory of her husband.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: We sent a get well card to Vic Emmelkamp K4GHX.... he has been hospitalized a second time for atrial fibrillation. Hopefully, new meds will improve his AF.

DX: TomWA3PRC reported on a few contacts he received.

Hamfests: Four of our members were at the Orlando Hamfest. Next ones coming up are Newport Richey and DeLand (no dates announced).

Old Business: Pam K1UEG had a suggestion to get our group together for mini field day get-togethers. We could find places to make calls from and just practice our radio techniques. She picked ME to visit places around town with her! I felt special (but dumb.)

Anyway, we first went to Lemon Bay Park....they have a covered pavilion with picnic tables (aha! we could have a picnic while practicing!); electric access; space next to the pavilion for vertical or dipole; and no fee parking. Restrooms are in the building, but close at 6 pm. The drawback was reserve a date (\$\$) or first-come, first-serve.

Then, we went to Buchan Airfield....they had a building with restrooms and electric; no fee parking, but limited antenna capabilities close to the building. It's very pretty there and interestingly, have the vegetables gardens fenced-in for anyone who is interested in renting a space for a garden. (I thought we could at least have a salad.)

Thirdly, we went to Indian Mound Park....this has a pavilion with covered picnic tables; restrooms and electric at the building by the boat ramp; possible vertical antenna grassy spot next to the building; and no fee parking. This looked like a good possibility, too.

After this, we went to the Military Memorial at the very end of Dearborn....what a lovely place. Everyone should go there and admire it....but, alas, not a place for practicing our specialty....no place for an antenna; no overhead coverage; but we lingered and enjoyed. This was a fun day!

New Business: Because we did not have a meeting at our annual Dinner, we are announcing members who have been asked and/or are willing to be part of our 2015 Officers for the third and the final vote. The secretary will place one unanimous vote for the following slate:

For President: Steve Churchill N9USZ
For Vice President: Joanne Adamy KC4WJ
For Treasurer: Mike Daly K4MWD
For Secretary: Marcia Fowler KA1GCV

For Trustees: Matthew Henry KE4VEM, Thomas Hawes WA3PRC, and Pamela Eggleton K1UEG. Matthew Henry and Steve Churchill will continue to have signature authority along with the Treasurer.

Congratulations to the 2015 Officers and Trustees of Englewood Amateur Radio Society!

Guest speakers: We had 2 speakers tonight: long-time friends Jack Landis and Tom Dignam. They grew up in the same neighborhood here in Englewood around 1938. It was so interesting to hear about the town and people in that era....pictures of the stores and homes that are still standing; and how they had to go to school, etc. It was lovely to reminisce with them and we all enjoyed their talk. Hopefully they will return and do it all over again....it was a lot to take in all at once. Thank you so much Jack and Tom.

A motion to adjourn was made and accepted by all present at 8:20 pm.
Our next meeting will be on March 17, 2015 (St. Patrick's Day!) at 7pm in the CGA building on 776.

Respectfully submitted

Marcia Fowler KA1GCV

Secretary

Next Meeting
Tuesday March 17th
7:00 pm
Coast Guard Auxiliary Station

DX



Tom WA3PRC

As you all know by now the Navassa Island DX Expedition (K1N) has come and gone. This Island is #2 on the DXCC list and I need for my DXCC list. So I prepared for the event. Tuesday morning I turned on my radio and had light copy on them. Wednesday morning I turned on my radio and there they were on 20m SSB loud and clear with a lot of DQRM. (Deliberate Interference of Communication signals)

Seeing that I needed this Island for my DXCC list I fired up my amplifier. Tuned it for 750 Watts, made my call and got my answer. From then on I used a 100 Watts. The following are my K1N contacts

20M SSB 750w 20M CW 100w 15M SSB 100w
20M RTTY 100w 15M RTTY 100w 17M CW
100w and 17M SSB 100w

That was enough and decided to let others make their contact also the second week they were operating around the world and reception was down. This contact brings me to six entities that I need to have worked them all

DQRM It seems that many Hams (?) have come together to offer interference to all DX Expeditions. Why? Who knows. If you encounter this you will have to train your ears to copy through all the noise

Since I was playing radio man I did notice some good entities on the bands. To name a few. T77, Z81 TI9, XW, 3G, ZD8, C31, Xp3 and PW

I did work the 3G on 20m SSB and 12m CW, the C31 17m CW and the XP3 17m CW

That's a list you will have to look up and see what Country they are

Lots of DX out there so turn on the radios and blow out the cob webs

FT5WO: Crozet Island. Audio recording.
FT5WO (F4DYW) was active today for a short time. He appeared on 20m SSB between 14:00z and 15:20z. Dx World obtained an audio recording of this super rare DXCC entity. ft5wo-20-ssb-03

FT5WQ & FT5XT – Crozet / Kerguelen

UPDATE: FT5WQ/MM was QRV earlier today off the Crozet coastline. No official word if he'll land and operate from this most wanted DXCC, or continue his journey. However, other sources suggest Gildas will be active for 1-2 days from the island within the next week. Listen to 'FT5WQ/MM 20 SSB' on Audioboo

Tom WA3PRC

Amateur Band Plan:

http://www.w9dup.org/pdfs/amateur_band_plan.pdf

From the Florida Repeater Council

INTERFERENCE - What is it?

- Definitions
- Types of Interference
- Man made "Non-Radio" Remedies
- Man made "Radio (Amateur & Commercial)" Remedies"
- Conclusion

Interference Definitions

It may seem somewhat academic at this point to define interference, but the best understanding starts with a strong foundation in fundamentals.

Webster defines interference as: "... radio. a. A jumbling of radio signals, caused by the reception of undesired ones. b. The signals or devices producing the incoherence."

Meanwhile the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines harmful interference as interference which endangers the functioning of a radio navigation service or other safety services or seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radio communication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations.

From the amateur's standpoint, this means you cannot communicate. However, remember that the amateur service is not a safety or essential service. Some moderation must be considered (e.g. hearing a distant co-channel repeater when your local repeater is not active), While being annoying, is not "interference". Hearing adjacent channel splatter while carrying on a conversation on simplex or your local repeater, while affecting the quality of the conversation, is not truly interference. If it makes communication completely impossible, then it should be considered interference, although it still may not be harmful or necessarily willful. Take note at this point that many of the noise sources to be defined below do not affect FM/PM type radio operation except to cause desensing of the radio, possibly masking the desired signal.

Taking Webster quite literally, we first examine types of interference.

Types of Interference:

Natural:

- Lightning: crashing type momentary interference
- Static electricity: crashing, ripping, tearing sounds
- Thermal shot: momentary impulse, raises noise floor of receiver
- Solar radiation: raises noise floor of receiver

There isn't much that can be done about these sources.

Man made:

Non-Radio:

- Electric power sources (60 Hz) leakage, arcing neon signs (continual arc) fluorescent light fixtures (more arcing) computer clocks (disc drive controllers etc... (lovely 144 MHz sources)

Radio sources:

- Co-channel: same frequency various power levels - strongest signal captures receiver.
- Adjacent Channel: close in frequency with significant power can cause desensing of receiver, pulling of AFC, even capture.
- Intermodulation: unrelated frequency mixes with another signal generating a signal on or close to the receive frequency desensing, capturing etc.
- Equipment malfunction: cable connectors loose, corrode causing rectification which in turn creates new signals. Amplifiers driven into non-linearities causing spurs. Parasitic oscillation in amplifiers.

As you can readily see, there are a multitude of problems waiting for solutions. Each, with few exceptions, is solvable. It takes patience, perseverance and the cooperation of others.

The natural phenomena as defined above are not within our capability to solve. It is the manmade signals that by and large can be attenuated or controlled.

Man made "Non-Radio" Remedies:

Electric Power sources: these mostly emanate from leaky insulators or cables belonging to the power company, and with sufficient coaxing they will repair them. It may take considerable convincing on your part, but once convinced they will repair them.

Neon signs: These are more difficult to control because of their design. Most sign companies will not be cooperative. However, the saving thing here is these typically do not interfere with FM/PM unless you are in the immediate proximity.

Florescent Light fixtures: These, when working properly, are not a problem. However, when they fail they can become annoying. If they fail, the alternatives are repair or replacement. In that same vein are the mercury vapor and sodium vapor lights used for outdoor lighting. These utilize an arcing mechanism for startup, and when they fail this becomes a great noise annoyance.

Computer clocks, etc.: This is a problem that is very pervasive with the increased appearance of faster and faster computers. Here, the best defense is Tempest shielded machines however these are not available for everyone, especially your neighbor. An alternative is to start with shielded/filtered power cords. On plastic cabinet computers, the use of RFI sprays on the interior of the case with conductive fingers to the metal chassis has been proven effective.. Monitors, because of the harmonic-rich signals that float around inside, require special attention, including RFI sprays, conductive fingers, and filtered/shielded cables.

The most important thing to grasp is don't let these problems beat you. They can be solved. If you need help, there are other amateurs out there that are ready, willing and able to help. Just ask.

Sometimes they also could use a hand. It's called sharing the load.

Those are most of the man made problems. Now for the difficult ones: Interference from other amateurs and commercial sources.

Man made "Radio (Amateur & Commercial)" Remedies:

There are two basic types:

Unintentional or accidental (e.g. keying up on the

repeater before turning up the volume control, or sitting on the microphone). This has happened to many of us, and those of you that haven't done it yet will sooner or later.

The other type is the harmful, willful or mischievous interference. This is intentionally tying up a repeater or frequency to prevent its use by other persons. Typical examples are the touch tone bandit, the purveyor of objectionable language, and the false cry for help. Many of these incidents are frequently reported in QST, CQ, and 73 magazines. The false cries for help not only cost the taxpayer in terms of manpower sent needlessly but they cost credibility to every one with a legitimate need for help. It's the classic case of the "boy who cried wolf" enough times, and no response will come.

The FCC is usually not interested in solving unintentional or accidental interference. However they do occasionally assist in rectifying harmful interference. Sometimes they use the term, "malicious." to justify their involvement. It is rare that they will get involved in an amateur radio interference complaint unless the offended amateur radio community has already done a lot of the work themselves.

Some of the things to do are:

Document call signs on paper and with audio recordings.

Keep a log of when the interference occurred, what was said, who said it (if known), and what the circumstances were.

Form your own transmitter hunt. If possible, buy direction-finding equipment. Many clubs own direction-finding equipment for fox hunts and interference solving.

Try to solve the interference yourself before contacting others for help. Remember that the FCC has no enforcement powers, but your coordinator may be able to help you by supplying telephone numbers and addresses of individuals. The coordinator may also be able to help you in other ways. Remember that the repeater which has the

older coordination date rightfully has the upper hand in an interference complaint which involves repeaters and repeater users. Remember that the offender in most repeater complaints is the user, not the repeater. The offender may have transmitted from a mountaintop to his home repeater and keyed up your repeater. This is NOT the type of interference that is the fault of the repeater. The user must learn that there are some locations which are not suited for working repeaters, particularly on two meters. He must learn that this is a major reason that the FCC Rules and Regulations state that we must use power levels which are necessary only to establish reliable communications, and nothing more. High power levels on a mountaintop are inviting complaints. Many interference problems in the future will be solved ONLY by using CTCSS tone encoding and decoding on repeaters. The time is coming (perhaps within the next five years) that most repeaters will be required to use subaudible or other types of encoding for access in order to subdue interference problems.

Conclusion:

Some co-channel repeaters have overlapping coverage areas, in which a user will hear both repeaters. This situation becomes more troublesome during band openings. The user can eliminate most of the nuisance noise by using CTCSS tone decode. This, of course, is only possible if the repeater which he desires to hear has tone encoding. Many repeaters now encode tone, even though they may not be decoding tone, because they know that many of their users will experience problems of overlapping coverage and that they will be able to monitor only that machine by using tone decoding on the user's radio.

On the other hand, if the repeater itself experiences increasing incidences of distant users of other machines keying it up, tone decoding may be necessary. Many repeater owners have hesitated to install tone-decoding options on their repeaters. However, it may be necessary to insure that some of

the man-made and natural interference does not constantly key up the repeater. Because of this, the time is coming that every ham using repeaters will have to have tone encoding capabilities on their radios. All radios presently being marketed in the United States now include tone encoding as a standard feature. Many radios also now have tone decoding as a standard feature, particularly hand helds. This feature is available as an option on virtually all radios on the market today. In addition, there are several amateur accessory manufacturers who sell tone decoder boards. Most advertise in QST, [The SERA Repeater Journal], and the ARRL Repeater Directory.

Reprinted courtesy of the SouthEastern Repeater Association

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/07/2015 | ZAARC-EPARS Springfest 2015

Location: Zephyrhills, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club & East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

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

03/28/2015 | 19th Annual Hamfest

Location: Hudson, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://gulfcoastarc.org>

04/04/2015 | ARRL West Central Florida Section Technical Conference

Location: Sebring, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: ARRL West Central Florida Section

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

•04/18/2015 | TARCFest XXXIII

Location: Tampa, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club

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

[Learn More](#)

Local

Testing

Please email the contact to confirm dates and times.

Sponsor: SCARE

Date: Third Monday of each month

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Gino J. Ferranti

(941) 629-7933

Email: ke4tjo@arrl.net

Location: Edgewater Methodist Church, 19190 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL.

Sponsor: Tamiami ARC

Date: Second Saturday each month

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: John R. Sproat

(941) 475-1929

Email: w4js@juno.com

Location: Venice Public Library Conference Room
300 Nokomis Ave S

Reservations Appreciated!

tamiamiarc.org

Venice FL 34285-2416

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:

Chapter 53 now has its summer lunches the first Wednesday of each month, June through September, around 11:15 AM at the Hibachi Grill Buffet in the Bird Bay Plaza shopping center on US 41 Bypass, Venice.

Snowbird Net: Net is twice daily; first on 14.317 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.

PA/Florida Connection Net: Net is twice daily at 8:00 -9:00A.M. on 14.340 MHz and at 6:30-7:00 P.M. on 7.233 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's website is at: <http://tamiamiarc.org/>

PRRA 146.255 - Sunday 8:00 p.m.
NI4CE 145.430 - Daily 8:30 p.m WCF ARRL Traffic net

LOCAL REPEATERS

MHz (-) Tone

145.130 (-) N4SER Laurel/SERC
145.430 100 NI4CE Verna/Big Stick
146.570 N4XJQ Punta Gorda
146.5900 W0AC 136.5 North Port
146.700 77 N4EAR Englewood/EARS
146.730 100 N4SER Sarasota/SERC
146.745 136.5 WX4E Charlotte County/ARC
146.775 77 K0DGF Englewood
146.805 100T W4AC Venice/TARC
146.865 K8ONV Port Charlotte/EARS.
146.910 W4IE Sarasota/ARA (A)
146.925 N4ZNU Port Charlotte
147.015 KS4ST Port Charlotte
147.120 136.5 K4NPT North Port/NPARC
147.255 136.5 W4DUX Port Charlotte/PRRA
442.050 100 KB2WVY Placida/Stewart
442.100. 136.5 KA9RIX North Port
442.700 136.5 N4FOB Port Charlotte
442.925 136.5 W4DUX Port Charlotte/PRRA
442.950 100 K4WCF Big Stick
444.625 77T K0DGF Englewood

444.975 136.5 KS4ST Punta Gorda/CARS

Miscellaneous Charlotte County Amateur Radio Activity

All local repeaters use PL Tone of 136.5 Mhz Except the Englewood 146.865 Mhz or the Gator 147.015 Mhz Repeater

Sunshine Net Everyday at 8:30 Am on 146.745 Mhz and 444.975 Mhz.

SW Florida Traffic Net Everyday except Sunday at 10:00 AM on 147.345 Mhz and 146.685 Mhz.
PRRA Sunday Night Net Sunday at 8:00 PM on 147.255 MHz and 442.925 Mhz

North Port Net Tuesday at 8:00 PM on 147.120 Mhz.

Sky Warn Net Tuesday 9:00 PM Big Stick (NI4CE repeater sys) 145.430 PL 100 and 442.950 PL 100

Voip and Tech Net (Naples) Tues 7:30 PM Naples 146.670 PL136.5, Arcdia 147.180 PL 100 and Venice 442.050 PL 100. also on Echolink at nodes 451949, 389568, 213895, and 205293

Windmill Net Sunday at 9:00 Pm on 28.475 Mhz SSB

75 Meter Vintage Equip Net Tuesday at 5:00 PM on 3.810 Mhz

EARS Simplex Net Wed at 7:30 on 146.550 Mhz

Food and Fellowship

Punta Gorda ELKS lodge, Shore Drive in Punta Gorda, 11:00 AM Every Friday.

Denny's Restaurant, corner of RT 41 and RT 776 in Murdock, 7:30 AM Every Saturday

IHOP Punta Gorda, diagonally across RT 41 from the Police and Fire Station and directly across Grace St. from the Golden Corral. 1145 Am Wednesday.

Denny's – Englewood, SR 776 and Placida Rd (next to Bay Harbor Ford) : 7:00 AM every Tuesday

FROM THE EDITOR



Mike K4MWD

Starting next month the Treasurer's report will be in the newsletter. I plan to list the bank balance at the time of the newsletter as well as income and expenses since the previous report. I could use some input on the level of detail you'd like to see. I think it's silly to maintain a program like Quicken or QuickBooks and will probably opt for a simple spreadsheet showing a few accounts like:

Income

- from dues
- from table sales
- contributions
- other income

Expenses

- hamfests
- field day
- annual dinner
- other expenses

Cash on hand

Deposits

Current bank balance

Your thoughts?

73,
mike

Letters to the editor should be emailed to:

99wentworth@gmail.com Put Editor in the subject line.