

WA4IWL NEWSLETTER



September, 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President's Message

Having writer's block when it came to putting together a President's Message for this month's newsletter, I asked my wife, Nicole, KG4TGI, for her suggestions. Here's what I got from her – "We talked about stuff and we get free t-shirts!" Seriously, though, when the Secretary does such a good job covering the meeting minutes, it is difficult not to be redundant.

I'm glad to see our rainy season is kicking in; I actually had to let some water out of the pool recently, and my parents' Rotonda canals are on the rise to near-normal levels.

Thanks to Tom, WA3PRC, and the others who operated from the Boca Grande

Lighthouse for Lighthouse Weekend. It was good to hear the event was fun and that the folks who maintain the lighthouse were again receptive to the ham radio presence.

ARES/RACES is planning another Simulated Emergency Test for October 17, 2009 at around 9 AM, with Mel, W9BSM, taking the lead in developing the scenario. Mel welcomes input for suggested communications and operator involvement.

Those interested in becoming a member of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), please call the RSVP office at 941-613-2299 to register for the training course that will begin September 8, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the Englewood United Methodist Church. CERT welcomes anyone to participate but would benefit greatly from an alliance with ham radio operators who can relay their findings and needs to the county Emergency Operations Center when other modes of communications fail.

73,
Matthew Henry, KE4VEM

SECRETARY'S REPORT



ENGLEWOOD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Minutes of the Meeting

August 20, 2009

President Matthew Henry, KE4VEM, opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

We had 14 members and 1 guest: Bruce Hergot, WA3GSA (who joined on the spot) present for this meeting.

A motion by Keith Kelly, KC5AS, to accept the minutes of last month's meeting as printed in the newsletter was seconded by Charles Utz, K1QNF, and carried.

Our Treasurer Vic Emmelkamp, K4VHX reported a net worth balance of \$4511.16. This does not include an additional \$1295 we earned through sales, (mainly from Sel Kerrigan's estate) at the Fort Pierce Hamfest.

A motion to approve this report was made by Ken Blackshaw, W1NQT, and seconded by Nicole Henry, KG4TGI, and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: A bill for our Post Office Box has arrived -\$44.00. Also we received an email from the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club commenting on improving relations between their group and ours.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Sunshine – John Combs and Martin Horowitz are both at home. Marty Henry is also home and doing better.
- RACES – See newsletter for RACES event schedule. Charles Utz, K1QNF, reported no further progress on 2M antenna installation at the Englewood hospital. There also seems to be a trend country wide to phase out RACES,

replacing it with ARES but not in Charlotte County.

- Publicity – Comments about station W4C which operated from Punta Gorda the past weekend as part of the Hurricane Charlie Fifth Anniversary. Station was worked from Boca Grande Lighthouse.
- Testing – No report. Except to note that the Sarasota Library hours are changing which will impact the testing schedule. (see below)
- DX – J.R.House, K9HUY, reported that controversy concerning Yemen contacts from 9 years ago has been straightened out and these are now “good” contacts. Tom Hawes, WA3PRC, mentioned an expedition to Conway Reef in October '09.
- Hamfest/FD – for 2010, our club will be in charge. We need a new venue. Old one is too expensive. We need to get together with the Peace River club regarding this matter. Matthew Henry, KE4VEM agreed to discuss this with them at the next RACES staff meeting.
- Christmas Party – Dec. 13 – Rotunda Golf and Country Club. 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Tee shirts – Vic, K4VHX has received a quote from Rich Margey the Tee Shirt Man, KE1DH in Cape Coral for 36, shirts with collar and pocket, at \$11/shirt.

Keith Kelley moved (2nd by Ken Blackshaw) that the Club purchase tee shirts and provide one **FREE** for all members, provided they are picked up at a club meeting. An email announcement will be sent to all members asking for their size

preference. . The shirts will be light blue with navy lettering. Motion passed.

Vic Emmelkamp, K4VHX moved (2nd by Ken Blackshaw) that the club authorize him to spend \$396 for initial tee shirt purchase. Motion passed.

Tom Hawes commented that Lighthouse Day QSL card re-design was still pending. In the meantime we'll use the old cards with stickers. They made 43 contacts including 15 Lighthouses during Lighthouse Weekend. They had 2 antennas and operated both Saturday and Sunday.

NEW BUSINESS: Pam Eggleton, K1VEG, moved that the newsletter have a "featured operator" each month. (2nd by Ken Blackshaw). Motion passed.

Keith Kelly moved that we donate \$50 to the Barrier Island Society in gratitude for their support with out LH Weekend activities (2nd by Vic Emmelkamp). Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Matthew Henry, KE4VEM, talked about working Amateur Radio Satellites. You may e-mail him for more info.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training will take place at the Englewood United Methodist Church on Sept. 8. Contact Matthew Henry, KE4VEM for further details.

PROGRAM: As the meeting ran late, we put off the program until next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Ken Blackshaw
Secretary

EARS Christmas Party

**Place: Rotonda Golf and Country Club
Restaurant**

Time: 6PM social hour; 7PM dinner.

Date: December 13, 2009

**Appetizers: Coconut 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

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**

National News Item:

MFJ Purchases Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line

MFJ Enterprises, Inc., Starkville, Mississippi has purchased Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line from Laird Technologies, St. Louis, Missouri effective July 31, 2009.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Local Happenings:

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: 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

End of Summer Hamfest



2ND ANNUAL
PEACE RIVER RADIO ASSOCIATION
IS SPONSORING THE
N4XJQ LAMBIEFEST

Saturday & Sunday, September 5 & 6, 2009
8AM - 4 PM

Good Deals - New Friends - And a Good Ole Time for Everyone

Location: Tropical Gulf Acres Clubhouse
Admission: FREE
Tailgate: \$3.00 per vehicle (bring your own table(s))
Inside Tables: \$5.00 (25 Tables available)

Some Electric, over night parking is OK (no hookups)

Talk-in 147.255

Exit #158 Trucks: Grade
Turn Left on US 41 go
5 Blocks South to St. Ives Drive and
Turn Right at The Campground the
TGA Clubhouse is Straight Ahead.



For more information contact Tom Lambie (J) (Home) 941-638-3670 or (Cell) 941-661-2547

SOS at Sea - Submitted by Pam Eggleton, K1UEG

Whether the call was received as SOS or CQD, the use of these Morse code distress signals deserve an honorary place in history and the saving of lives at sea.

The earliest recorded incident of a sea rescue performed after receiving a radioteletype Morse code distress call, was on March 17, 1899 off the coast of England. The East Goodwin lightship in the Dover Straits sent the distress call reporting the grounding of the steamship Elbe. The signal was received by a shore station which dispatched a lifeboat.

Nationally, January 23, 2009 was designated as the 100th anniversary of the first time a radio call for help resulted in saving many lives at sea. On that date in 1909, the RMS Republic was rammed by the SS Florida in dense fog south of Nantucket Island. The wireless operator on the Republic jury rigged some batteries and was able to send out the CQD distress call along with the ship's coordinates. The call was received and relayed to the RMS Baltic which responded and took on all the passengers and most of the crew. On previous voyages, the Republic's operator had demonstrated the radio equipment to a number of US Congressmen, but none believed it was capable of saving lives. The SS Florida had no radio.

Other notable radio distress calls recorded during that same year included the Cunard liner Slavonia which on June 10, 1909 was wrecked off the Azores. The SOS was sent, two ships responded, and as a result no lives were lost. The SS Antilles was next to run aground in the Bahama Islands. The radio distress signal was sent and the SS Comus responded to rescue all passengers.

Forty seven years later, the Italian liner Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish liner Stockholm off Nantucket, in spite of radar and other modern communication devices. Over 1,600 passengers and crew were

rescued due to the immediate response of vessels receiving the SOS.

These recorded incidents are but a few of many which resulted in rescue at sea due to the radio distress signal SOS sent.

The Morse code message, "Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence", was sent across the airwaves on January 31, 1997 signaling the end of the use of Morse code for distress calls in French waters. In subsequent years until its final demise in February 1999, marine interests around the world have phased out the use of Morse Code in favor of the satellite based GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System).

While there is always merit in moving forward with technology, I wanted to step back and reflect on the tremendous contribution of Morse code usage on ships in the past.

I admire those operators, past and present, who learn, practice and encourage the use of Morse code for distress calls at sea. My hope is that amateur radio operators will continue to keep this code alive and in the event of a technological crash, this basic tool, which has served us well for so long, would still be as useful today.

Author: Unknown at this time.



Editor/Publisher: Vic Emmelkmp-K4VHX