

# WA4IWL NEWSLETTER

[www.earsradioclub.org](http://www.earsradioclub.org)



April 2012

## **PRESIDENT**



**Steve Churchill N9USZ**

I would like to introduce myself. I'm Steve Churchill ARS: N9USZ. I'm the new President of EARS, and I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in the Chicago area and moved down here about two years ago, although I have been visiting for over thirty years.

I have been an Amateur Radio Operator for almost twenty years and have enjoyed many different aspects of the hobby. I have also been an avid motorcyclist for over forty years and although not as active as I once was, I also enjoy the shooting sports and reload my own ammunition. I also enjoy music and in years past, worked with several bands doing live sound, and live recording as well as demo work. I forgot to mention, I've been a Certified diver for forty years this month and am a Keys diver(yes, I've seen the

statue of Christ.) Enough about me. Let's see what's been going on this year.

March was a very interesting month for the club. First, I reserved the Pavilion at the Church for Field Day the last full weekend of June. There are Picnic tables there and a concrete floor, so there will be no more chairs sinking in the sand. I will be looking for other members to help out in anyway they can and will appreciate any and all suggestions from all of the membership.

Moving along, on March 14th we had a SKYWARN storm spotter training session at the Englewood Hospital auditorium. The lecture was presented by Mr. Daniel Noah from the Ruskin, FL Office of the National Weather Service. Daniel gave an excellent and very animated presentation. I would recommend to all that you take this course and become certified. You can contact them <http://weather.gov/tampa> for information on class schedules.

On March 29th Victor K4VHX and I were invited to the Englewood hospital to observe Mel W9BSM and Charles K1QNF run a RACES drill on the digital communication and analog voice nets between several points in Charlotte County. Because of the cramped conditions in their operating space only two people can train at a time. All members will be afforded the opportunity to avail themselves of this training. I wholeheartedly urge you to do so. It's an interesting way to spend a morning.

See you next meeting and 73

Steve N9USZ



## Secretary's Report

EARS meeting March 15, 2012

Steve N9USZ called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 21 members and 1 guest: Mrs. Helen Wilde, wife of Al Wilde W8JZZ, who died recently. Mrs. Wilde gave thanks to the club members who helped with gathering and selling Al's equipment for her.

Vic K4VHX showed a 10 minute video of unmanned air vehicles: robots, helicopters with sensors with quad motors...an unbelievable trip into the future! These are small, indoor vehicles that are able to sense speed and direction accurately to perform a mapping of a building interior for optimal storage; and many other future ideas.

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

**The Treasurer's report** was presented by Vic K4VHX as follows:

Checking account.....	\$5032.50
Investment account.....	2804.26
Total amount.....	7836.76

In addition, the total gained from Al Wilde's estate was \$2084.00:

Disbursements: Helen Wilde	85% = \$1771.40
EARS club	15% = \$312.60

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

**Correspondence:** None

**Committee Reports:**

**Sunshine:** Keith Kelly had surgery today in Naples Hospital. A get well card was sent on 3/17/12. On 3/27, Keith reported he had a rapid recovery, plans to be in our area the weekend of 3/31, and may stay to have breakfast on the following Tuesday.

**RACES:** Mel W9BSM reported on the Skywarn program which had 61-63 participants and 9 guests. News from Washington, DC: there is talk about planning a reduction of budget for the weather bureau, which will affect us in the early warning systems.

**Publicity:** None

**Testing:** None

**DX:** Tom WA3PRC reported that there are solar flares and blackouts. Please see his detailed report.

**Hamfest:** Ten or more members in a minibus traveled to Punta Gorda; sold 2 of 3 scanners offered by G. Kelce, and the rest of the items in Al Wilde's estate. Everyone enjoyed themselves at the hamfest.

**Other:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Vic D4VHX presented the proposed 2012 Budget, the same as last year's: Income total = \$1270.00

Expense total = \$ 1422.00

He explained that last year we lost a number of members who either moved out of the area, or became SK's. So far this year, we added 6 new members; hopefully, our budget ratio will improve.

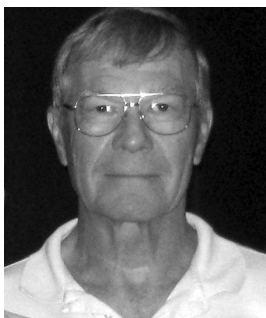
**Announcements:** Steve N9USZ reported the digital and analog training at Englewood Hospital will begin this month. We will explain/report how we made out at our next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Fowler KA1GCV  
Secretary



## DX REPORT

Let start off with Solar Flares, all of you know that Earth was hit with several Solar Flares at the beginning of March,, They did cause some interruption of communication in the ham bands... many times I turned on the radio to hear noise and weak signals,, this lasted for a few days than all was back to normal.. what was interesting is that one morning at 803am I could not hear my friends in North Pennsylvania but I was able to swing my beam toward the South Pacific and work the Island of Tonga on 15m CW with a 599 report

Other than what I call normal DX I was able to copy or work the following stations around the world. Asia with XW3 (Laos), T6 ( Afghanistan, an American),AT2 (India) and a YB8 (Indonesia). South Pacific A35 (Tonga). Than africa 3C0 (Annobon Island), 3V8 ( Tunisia),, All good DX,, you should give it a try

It is very simple to work 100 Countries for the DXCC,, If you do it I suggest using LBOW due to the cost of postage today,, Also the DX Expeditions always have a very nice card and for that I would send direct to the QSL manager with a couple green stamps....

Tom WA3PRC

## SOLAR FLARE NEWS

Save this solar flare predictions for future reference.

Head Principle;

1. Large solar storms are induced by 2 or more planets heliocentrically aligned with the Sun. This means that the centre of the combined planets has to go through the centre of the Sun

2. or more planets that heliocentrically align on the opposite sides of the Sun
3. Combinations of the above.

For instance take the 4-7 March date  
First Mars and Earth line up with the Sun Then  
Mercurius and Venus  
X5.4 Flare on 3/7/2012 @ 00:24 UTC - Sunspot 1429

Here the dates that we expect solar events, due to planetary alignments:

March 21st 2012  
April 22nd 2012  
May 25th  
June 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th  
June 25th till 27th 2012  
July 29th  
August 12th 2012  
August 22nd till 28th 2012  
September 21st 2012  
October 3rd 2012  
October 14th till 22nd 2012  
November 13th 2012  
December 3rd 2012

Let's look at the planetary alignments of December 16-17 2012, Jupiter, Earth, Venus in a line... (not with the Sun) Venus, Mars and Neptunus in a line (not with the Sun) And on 18-19 December... Saturn, Venus, Mercury ,Sun in a line...

Next meeting April 19th, 2012

7:30 PM

Englewood United Methodist  
Church

## Dues are due

Just a reminder from your Treasurer; it is time to renew your membership.

Individual memberships are \$15 per year and family memberships are \$18.50.

Don't miss out on this coming year's meetings and activities! Our by-laws require that you be a paid up member by the end of February to retain your voting rights and be included in the membership directory.

### Make checks payable to: E.A.R.S.

Mail your dues today to:

Victor Emmelkamp – K4VHX  
1181 Manor Rd  
Englewood, FL 34223

Thank you and 73 from the Club Officers.

## LOCAL:

## HAMFESTS/CONVENTIONS

### 04/14/2012 | [TARCFest XXVII](#)

**Location:** Tampa, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Tampa Amateur Radio Club

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

### 04/28/2012 | [Poor Mans Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Gainesville, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.gars.net>

### VE Exam Sessions:

7:00 p.m. on the Third Wednesday of the month at the Century Link Building at the corner of Harbor and S Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL.

Bring 2 forms of ID, your current license if upgrading and \$15

Contact Gino at 941-629-7933 for more info.

Click here for the next scheduled session.

[http://www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/port-charlotte-fl-33952-9999-18](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/port-charlotte-fl-33952-9999-18)

**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., 1<sup>st</sup> 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 14.317 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.

### 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 444.100 – Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

TARC 146.805 - Thursday 7:30 p.m.

TARC 146.805 – Wednesday 8:00 p.m. DX net

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

PRRA 146.255 - Sunday 8:00 p.m.

NICE 146.430 - Daily 8:30 p.m.

Letters to the editor should be emailed to:

[K4MWD@arrl.net](mailto:K4MWD@arrl.net) Put Editor in the subject line.



If you receive this newsletter and you haven't already received the 2012 Directory, please send me an email. If your photo is not in the directory, please send me a copy of a head and shoulders JPEG file. If you don't know what this is, ask someone's grandchild for help

Mike Daly K4MWD  
Editor