



The WA4IWL Newsletter



From the President

EARS
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As you can see this month's newsletter is different and we hope to your liking. Jack Sproat-W4JS who has done an outstanding job for several years now editing and publishing our newsletter is taking a much-needed rest and in his place our new editor/publisher is Dennis Babcock, K4NF. **Dennis would like to hear from our readers with comments, suggestions, classified items and most of all content. Articles and material for inclusion in the newsletter will be needed each month. We are asking each of you to act as a reporter on our newsletter staff. Contact Dennis by email (k4nf@arrl.net) or phone (698-0248); he is counting on you!**

It's deja vous all over again. We are participating for the third year in a row in the INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND. The event is from 0001 UTC on Saturday 18 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 19 August 2001. EARS. will be setting up transmitters and receivers at the Boca Grand Lighthouse on the southern tip of Gasparilla Island and operating station K8ONV during the daylight hours from approximately 8 AM. until sunset.

Over 200 amateur radio stations will transmit from lighthouses and lightships in over 40 countries. The event is NOT a contest, each station decides how they will operate their station regards modes and bands. Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period - only as much as they can. There are no restrictions on aerials or power. Operators will have a chance to enjoy themselves and have fun while making contact with as many amateur radio stations at other lighthouses and lightships as possible.

Take a look at their web site for more details. The URL is: <http://www.vk2ce.com/i1lw/index.html>

If you would like to get involved in the fun call Ken Blackshaw-W1NQT or Kens Anderson-W4JQT who have agreed to coordinate the event. Operators needed!

73 Vic KF4VHX

News Items

- ★ The next Charlotte County Civilian Police Academy course will be held August 14 thru September 20. Call the Sheriff's office (639-2101), Corporal Liz Smith, for information.
- ★ The Hamfest 2002 committee met on July 11 and finalized their selection of the date and location for next years Hamfest. It will be held Saturday, March 9th, 2002 at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds across from Ranger Stadium. At this time both EARS. and the Peace River Repeater Assoc. (PRRA) will sponsor the event. Our committee members are: Vic Emmelkamp, KF4VHX, Jerry Meckenberg, K4JWE and Howard White, KD4MMY. The committee members from PRRA are: Dave Hanson, WBOEVM, Bill Norris, KC7TSG and Larry Brown, KD4KVE.

CLUB MEETING

Englewood Amateur Radio Club meetings are on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 PM. Meeting location is at the Englewood United Methodist Church 700 E. Dearborn St. (near Pine St. & River Road). Contact one of the officers for directions to the meeting room. **NEXT MEETING: Friday August 17. The program for after our business meeting is on COAX & CONNECTORS and will be presented by Bruce Robideau, K2OY.** An officers/directors meeting will be held in the church's library at 6 PM.

July Meeting Minutes

President Vic Emmelkamp KF4VHX, opened the meeting promptly at 7:30 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Howard Hawkins, WB8IGU, SK, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then guests were introduced. A large number of YL's and XYL's were in attendance due to the advertised nature of our program.

New members - Dan Tomcik, K4OU. Amateur Radio - Extra Class.

A motion by KC4WJ, Joann Adamy, to accept the minutes of last month's meeting as printed in the newsletter was seconded by KA1GCU, Gene Fowler, and carried.

W4JQT, Ken Anderson (Acting for K2OY), gave the Treasurer's report. Expenses for the past month were \$276.75 with revenues of \$221.00, giving an ending balance of \$3,050.46. A motion for acceptance of the report was made by KB4OCM, Joe Ventura, seconded by KA1GCV, Marcia Fowler, and carried.

Announcements: Membership directories and membership badges are available.

Correspondence: The Secretary read a letter from Ken Anderson, detailing his repair and disposition of equipment donated by Bert VanHouten, W3TPW, and Don Glaum, KB8YXE. Ken presented our radio club with a check for \$200 representing the proceeds of his efforts.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine - Gene Fowler reported family thanks for our card sent remembering Howard Hawkins, WB8IGU, SK.

Races - Frank Maren mentioned our monthly RACES drill next Thursday, July 26, at the Charlotte County San Casa site. There will also be a hurricane seminar on Wednesday, the 25th, at the Rotonda Legion Hall with Wayne Salladay and Jim Reef.

Publicity - Gerry, K4JWE, reported an amazing amount of publicity for our Field Day activities and that other clubs were envious.

Testing - Ken, W4JQT, reported that there would be no testing this month but that there would be testing on the third Saturday of next month.

DX - J.R., K9HUY, told us about working Honduras on 6 meters.

Field Day - Keith Herve read the report of our activities including a summary of our points earned, over 2800, a fine Field Day.

Old Business

The motion last month to authorize a total of \$500 towards Hamfest

2002 was discussed thoroughly. Ken Anderson called the question and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

There was discussion of August's Lighthouse weekend activity at the Boca Grande Lighthouse. Out activity will be publicized both in CQ and QST.

Program: The speakers were Jerry Mechenberg and Judy Abbott of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary discussing the 'Sea Partners' program. They had a multimedia presentation detailing the problems with sea pollution. Much of it is visible, styrofoam cups, garbage bags, balloons. It is a real problem for sea animals that either get caught in them or mistakenly ingest them. Soap is very dangerous due to the carcinogens it contains. People caught littering the ocean, either from boat or from shore, are subject to big fines. Garbage dumping of plastic in any form is illegal. Finally we watched a video about a pygmy sperm whale, nicknamed 'Inky', who washed up on our eastern shores in an emaciated condition. Medical examination finally showed that Inky's stomach was filled with various bits of plastic residue, including a large piece of a garbage bag. All this was making it impossible for him to absorb nutrients from what food he was eating. They were able to remove all this debris and the little whale then made a speedy recovery.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. There were 25 members and six guests present.

Ken Blackshaw WINQT
Secretary

SNOWBIRD NET

The SnowBird Net meets daily at 10 AM on 14.278 MHz and at 7 PM on 7.230 MHz. Come and join in to talk to them as they spend their summer months elsewhere. Some are unable to return to the Englewood area anymore and enjoy keeping in touch back here.

Amateur Radio Items For Sale

Yaesu FT-990 HF Multi-mode transceiver w/internal ac supply. Included is a 500 Hz cw filter, matching SP-6 speaker w/filters, hand mike, Radio Shack "HighBall" 2" dynamic mike w/stand, Yaesu manual and boxes. \$1,000 PH: Dennis, K4NF, 698-0248.

EARS BOOSTER CLUB

Thanks to the recent contributors:

W3TPW - Bert VanHouten
KB8YXE - Don Glaum

INTERESTING URLS

www.geocities.com/mmhamsoft/mmsstv/index.htm - Slow Scan TV
www.crick.com/hamu/ - Morse Code Tutor and Exam Tutor
www.xmlog.com/ - Free logging program with rig control, etc. Call K4NF to talk to a user.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY SKYWARN PROGRAM (June 2001)

1. Skywarn may be activated by a National Weather Service (NWS) Alert by an announcement on the Weather Radio, K4WCF repeater, or by NWS links to local Charlotte County Repeaters.

2. The Alert Status may be :

A. Condition BLUE--Standby Net.

1. WX4TBW, the NWS Amateur Radio Station in Ruskin, will activate a Standby Skywarn Net on the 442.95+MHz, PL 100, K4WCF repeater.
2. County Skywarn Net Control Operators will monitor and notify WX4TBW of their status.
3. WX4TBW will relay NWS weather (wx) bulletins, and advisories on the K4WCF repeater.
4. WX4TBW will identify its call every 10 minutes, and send a short Tropical Alert Message every 15 minutes.

B. Condition YELLOW--Watch Net. (WX4TBW will upgrade to Condition Yellow).

1. Charlotte County Skywarn Net Control Operator will activate the local Skywarn Repeater on 147.255+ MHz (W4DUX) or alternate 146.925- MHz (WA9NLA) repeater.

a. Charlotte Skywarn Net Control will:

1. ID the station as the primary local Skywarn Net, either formal or Informal.
2. State the reason for Skywarn Net Activation, and Condition Yellow Status.
3. Ask for an Alternate Net Control Station operator volunteer.
4. Monitor WX4TBW and check in as indicated above in para. 2.A.2.

2. Local County Spotters will check in with Call Sign, Skywarn ID, Location, local WX info.

3. Local Net Control will check in to WX4TBW and advise status. Non-hams use -800 phone.

C. Condition RED--Warning Net. (Severe Weather Imminent or Spotted). (WX4TBW is Condition Red).

1. Charlotte County Skywarn Net Control activates the local Skywarn Net as Condition RED and notifies all spotter stations to report severe weather and/or related damage to local Net Control only, using their call sign and spotter ID. Spotters should report the following weather criteria:

- a. Winds of 58 mph, or greater.
- b. Dime size or greater Hail.
- c. Local Flooding details.
- d. Estimated rainfall of 2" or more per one hour period, or 4" per day.
- e. Funnel clouds, waterspouts and tornadoes.

2. Each Severe Weather Spotter Report should contain a Call Sign, ID #, County, location, weather criteria and when available details of weather travel, wind direction, etc. Call sign exchange completes each report. Spotters continue to monitor the Skywarn Net.

3. Damage Reports--Location, description, injuries and death, estimate of time occurred.

4. Only Local Skywarn Net Control will coordinate and pass spotter reports to WX4TBW. This will limit the field reporting and reduce QRM to WX4TBW, the K4WCF Repeater, and -800#.

3. ARES/RACES- In the event of a Tropical Storm, Hurricane, or disaster, requiring activation of ARES/RACES, local county EOC communication plans will become effective. The Skywarn Net will be notified of ARES/RACES activation by the EOC Coordinator. The Local Skywarn Net may QSY to alternate frequencies depending on available resources.

4. COUNTY SKYWARN NET ACTIVATION may occur without NWS Alert as weather conditions warrant.

Local Skywarn net control will coordinate spotter reports and communicate with NWS via -800 phone.

5. Required Radio Gear:

A. County Skywarn Net Control should have available the capability of:

1. Transmitting a reasonable quieting signal into the local Skywarn Repeater. (147.255+MHz) or alternate (146.925-MHz).
2. Communicating with the Manatee County K4WCF repeater on 70CM UHF (442.95+MHZ, PL100), and VHF (145.43-MHz, PL 100), which the NWS and WX4TBW will be utilizing for Skywarn and ARES/RACES operations respectively.
3. HF Communication backup with NWS and WX4TBW on either 3.911 or 7.281MHz.
4. Operating with emergency power .
5. APRS communication on 144.390MHz and/or the Internet.
6. Immediate access to a telephone. (-800 hotline).

6. Charlotte County Skywarn Coordinator, Jack, KE4IM. (575-8221).

E.A.R.S.
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