

# WA4IWL NEWSLETTER



July, 2009

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Matthew Henry, KE4VEM



Field Day 2009 was a success, as usual. We made many contacts on CW and Phone with stations all over the country and beyond, despite having fewer operators this Field Day than in past years. I believe 20M was our best band for being heard and it seemed we had better luck hunting other stations rather than camping on a frequency, calling CQ. Also, the Englewood Sun was gracious enough to give our area hams some publicity before and after the event.

The Field Day setup crew got things in place on Friday before a nice rain shower washed things off for us. Frank Maren - W4VV, assisted by Ken Anderson - W4JQT, was able to clean up the carburetor on our one year old generator so that we would have electricity for the event. We had lots of pizza, along with a cooler full of drinks from Tom Hawes - WA3PRC, to sustain our operators Saturday evening. Our presence at the Englewood United Methodist Church even

allowed us to assist a family whose car was broken into at the nearby Englewood Sports Park. We had comfortable weather for both the contest and picnic, and not too many bugs bothered us.

The picnic on Sunday was a big hit and there was plenty to eat. Guests who brought side dishes and desserts deserve our thanks. After cooking the burgers and hot dogs that Tom procured for the club, Frank allowed us to try out his air powered cannon, which, of course, was a real blast! Many people pitched in the make Field Day 2009 turn out as well as it did, both behind the scenes and at the event, and I thank all who did so.

Let's chat about the weather. Hopefully, this rain we've been getting continues to fall. Our plant life still needs it and the canals are only just beginning to inch their way back up. Apparently the wind and rain Wednesday evening was enough to cause my neighborhood to lose power for well over four hours, delaying my getting this message to the newsletter editor. I thought I heard an FPL truck in front of my house and was amused to find a Comcast employee outside my house trying to diagnose the cable issue, for which a dispatcher had sent him out to check. I relayed to him the information from the FPL recorded message that 310 customers were without power. I thought it was silly for customers to call in their cable being out when they can't even turn on their TVs, but he explained that Comcast apparently determined there was a problem in our area by the severe drop in the number of cable modems communicating on the network. He mentioned he could put a generator on Comcast's cable equipment to power the system but elected not to, since it would not do much good with power being out in the entire area. However, it was nice to know they were out there looking after my cable and communications needs. Nicole and I enjoyed a nice candlelit evening (fortunately it was not too hot without air

conditioning) amongst the chirps of a household filled with dying battery backups which blended in with all the deafening orchestra of frogs outside the house. I also used some of the down time to attempt cleaning up the carburetor on my own generator, working by flashlight without much success at keeping it running (hopefully my Ben & Jerry's ice cream in the fridge didn't get too melted!). I chalk up my experience as a reminder to prepare some of my luxury items for *any* storms that might come near.

Have a safe and happy Independence Day! We'll see you at the July 16<sup>th</sup> EARS meeting.

73s,  
Matthew Henry, KE4VEM

## SECRETARYS REPORT



### **Minutes of Meeting June 15, 2009**

**Call to Order** – President Matthew Henry, KE4VEM called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. There were 16 members and no guests in attendance. We met in room 100 of the Lamp Building instead of our usual meeting room due to a conflict with other activities.

**Secretary's Report** – a motion to approve the May minutes as appeared in the June news letter was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's report was given by Vic, K4VHX for Treasurer Mike Daly, who is at his summer home in New York. The report shows \$1769,58 in checking, and \$2731.13 in savings. A motion to accept the report carried.

**Correspondence** – A June meeting agenda item was read from the Vienna, Va. Wireless Society indicating that the ARRL Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF will be on hand to present Byron Black, W4SSY with his well earned QST Cover Plaque for his Spud Gun article in the March, 09 issue of QST.. The connection here is that Frank – W4VV built one of these guns from this article. It has been tested at our field day site and works very well. Frank also gave the program for our May meeting, displaying the unit and showed the construction, materials used, and the safety devices he built in. Frank mentioned that the unit is not a toy, and that it must be used and handled with care.

**Sunshine** – Marcia Fowler, KA1GCV reported that a card has been sent to Mary Kerrigan. Sel, WB1CYM passed away June 4, 2009. His service will be Monday, June 22, 10:00 am at St Francis church on Placida Road, Grove City.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Races** – A meeting is planned on June 23, 2009 to critique the SET held in March. A meeting is also planned to set up another Simulated Emergency Test in October. 2009.

**Publicity** – An e-mail from the Englewood Sun indicates they will attend our field day.

**Testing** – One candidate took and passed the Extra Class Exam at the June Session.

**DX** - JR, K9HUY says the six meter band was open for the VHF contest this weekend. He made 501 contacts and 138 grid squares. JR said propagation was in the eastern half of the country, which did not go west beyond the Mississippi river, most of both Saturday and

Sunday. Frank, W4VV reported that he has been hearing quite a bit from Europe and Japan. **Field Day** – Most everything is in place. Still need some publicity. Tents will go up on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and antenna set up on the 26<sup>th</sup>. K4VHX is away on a trip and will not be here for Field Day. Ken, K1NQT expects to be here as one of our CW operators. Picnic plans for Sunday noon look good. We will need help moving tables and chairs into tents.

**Old Business** - The Christmas Party date and location have not changed. Tom, WA3PRC is working on lighthouse QSL cards.

**New Business** – Vic, K4VHX will order a dozen FD-09 shirts, and check cost of EARS shirts.

8:35 pm. A motion to adjourn carried

Ken Anderson – W4JQT  
Secretary

## **Field Day Report 2009** (Condensed Version)

Field day started about a month ago when permission was obtained to use the wooded parking area behind the Englewood United Methodist Church. A short time later, the Boy Scouts agreed to set up the tents for field day.

June 25<sup>th</sup> – Roger Thomas, Church Maintenance Supervisor helped get the tents out of storage and bring to the field day site. Later he helped bring the tables and chairs over.

The scouts showed up on schedule and started setting up the tents. A problem was overcome when the instructions were found on the bottom of the second box. A zerox copy of the instructions was made so that each box now has a set of instructions. By the end of the day, the field day site was ready.

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Around 10 am. 12 volunteers showed up to help put up antennas. The ropes were already up for one antenna, using Frank Maren's air gun on its initial trial. One 125 foot dipole was put up and one Cushcraft R-5 vertical. Considerable time was spent on a beam antenna, but it would not tune up right, so a 40 meter dipole was put up as a third antenna. After lunch it was noticed that the generator would not start. Frank Maren, W4VV came to the rescue again by cleaning the carburetor and got the generator running.

June 27<sup>th</sup> – Ten members showed up to set up equipment and check things out. By 2 pm we went on the air calling CQ FD. We had some trouble with lap top logging programs or computers or both. Bill Stevens, W1AMU showed up and seemed to know what to do. It is amazing to see the skill and expertise that comes out at a time like this. Operations continued through out the night and into the next morning. Ken Blackshaw, W1NQT from Nantucket Island was on hand along with JR House, K9HUY to keep the CW station going. We are fortunate to have two good CW operators willing and able to dedicate their skills to the field day operation.

June 28<sup>th</sup> – The field day operations were discontinued around 11am. Antennas started coming down, and equipment was boxed up and placed in cars. By 12:30 the site had been cleaned up, the tables and chairs were all carried back to fellowship hall, and we were all ready for the picnic lunch. About 25 people were there for the picnic and it was enjoyed by all. Frank Maren, W4VV did his usual good job as chef with the hot dogs and hamburgers. We all put on our T shirts that said "I Survived Field Day 2009"

June 29<sup>th</sup> – The Scouts took down the tents, put the parts in their boxes, and set the boxes in Fellowship Hall. The next day, Roger Thomas

took the tents back to their storage shed. Thus ends Field Day 2009.

Ken Anderson  
W4JQT

**No Field Day would be complete without some pictures. See attachment.**

*In case you missed this last month, make sure you update your membership directory as follows:*

#### **DIRECTORY ADDITIONS:**

**The following members missed the March cutoff so please add them to your copy:**

James Lawlor KB2NZ  
2888 Ponce De Leon  
North Port FL 34286  
423-8051  
[lawlor.james@gmail.com](mailto:lawlor.james@gmail.com)

Mel Rathbun W9BSM  
Wife Mary Ann  
13525 Dibella Ave.  
Port Charlotte, FL 33981  
697-7608, Rptr. Dial-203  
[marymel51@comcast.net](mailto:marymel51@comcast.net)

David Senkpiel W4INN  
Wife: Arline  
505 Rose Apple Circle  
Port Charlotte, FL 33954  
255-5673  
[fourthhalf@yahoo.com](mailto:fourthhalf@yahoo.com)

Ron McLeod K1FTB  
Wife: Ginny  
25 Perimeter Dr.  
Englewood, FL 34223  
375-3794, Rptr. Dial-242  
Cell: 468-5654

[k1ftb32@comcast.net](mailto:k1ftb32@comcast.net)

Charles NeSmith AC4BF  
Wife: Phyllis  
PO Box 234  
Placida, FL 33946  
697-2242 Rptr. Dial-211  
Cell: 276-2170  
[ac4bf@slbb.net](mailto:ac4bf@slbb.net)  
Sec. Add:  
8078 Little Gasparilla Island  
Dock 97



#### **Equipment for Sale:**

Complete Low Band Station For Sale  
\$450.00

Yaesu FT-757 GX 10M to 160 M  
Yaesu Dinamic Desk Mike MD1  
Yaesu FP-700 Power Supply  
Also Eagle DX 6 Band Antenna

Call Howard Kuhlman N4 MLJ  
697-8559

E-mail [N4MLJ@ewol.com](mailto:N4MLJ@ewol.com)

#### **Local Happenings:**

VE Exam Sessions: The exams are given at 9:30 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](mailto: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.



Editor/Publisher: Vic Emmelkmp-K4VHX

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 7:30pm  
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