

# W4IWL NEWSLETTER



JUNE, 2009

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well, Frank – W4VV, has made me (and, I'm sure, others) very envious. He shared his fancy "spud" cannon with us at the May meeting. As potato cannons go, this one is pretty high tech. It has a triple safety firing trigger which uses a sprinkler system mechanism, a detachable barrel for compact storage in his carrying bag, several bright orange PCV projectiles (instead of potatoes), a filling valve on the main chamber that allows pressurization from a bicycle pump, and a fishing reel on the barrel with line attached to the projectile. This awesome device makes stringing up wire antennas much more fun and helps one avoid the bug bites and scrapes from underbrush. While Frank advised that this tool is not a toy, the idea of using it sure does bring out the kid in all of us. This is exactly the kind of presentation we need to see more of at our meetings. Please share with us. Things are coming together for Field Day. A laptop was donated for use at the event. J.R. – K9HUY, is loading software on logging computers. Tom, WA3PRC, is arranging for the food and picnic supplies purchases. Frank, W4VV, again has volunteered to be "chief cook and bottle washer." Ken, W4JQT, has hired to Boy Scouts to put up the tents and has cleared things with the church. I have an open trailer with which to move the generator, ground rods, cooler, gas cans, etc. Someone offered to bring a couple of hose clamps for the ground rods. And many others are contributing to this team efforts (so please don't feel unappreciated if I

forgot to write your name down). Antennas and radios to be used have been sorted out. It should be another good event, atmospheric conditions (of all types) permitting. Come out and join us June 27-28, and tell the public (your friends, family, neighbors, etc.) they are welcome to come out and try out the radios. It was good to see Keith, KC5AS, and Marty, N4FA, both doing well enough to attend the May meeting. I hope we continue to see them in as good spirits. Marty also reported that the Christmas party is lined up already so mark your calendars; he hopes to actually enjoy his hard work this year.

I also want to thank everyone who participated in the March SET and those who turned in logs/reports. The Lessons Learned session is set for June 23, 2009 at 3:00 pm in the Incident Command Center at the Charlotte County Public Safety Building on Airport Road in Punta Gorda. ARES/RACES welcomes your input. I will not be attending due to my work schedule and because that is my two-year wedding anniversary, so I hope others can go and report back to us.

Remember the June **EARS meeting is Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.** Same time and place, but a different day. See you then.

73,

Matthew Henry, KE4VEM



## SECRETARYS REPORT



### Minutes of Meeting May 21, 2009

**Call to Order** – President Matt Henry, KE4VEM called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:35 pm. There were 22 members and one guest in attendance.

**Secretary's Report** – A motion was approved to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting as published in the May news letter.

**Treasurer's Report** – Given by Vic, K4VHX substituting for Mike Daly, who is up north now.

The report shows \$1692.58 in checking, and \$2731.13 in savings. A motion to accept the report carried.

**Correspondence** – A list of equipment for sale by Howard Kuhlman, N4MLJ, and a list of equipment for sale by a ham in Erie, PA were circulated. Tom Hawes, WA3PRC is the contact for the equipment for sale in Erie. Matt Henry read a letter requesting support for HR2160, by writing letters to your congressman.

**Sunshine** – Reports were given on Marty, N4FA, Dr. John Combs, W4VMD, and Keith Kelly, KC5AS.

**RACES** – Matt, KE4VEM reminded the group of the Races meetings the last Wednesday and Thursday of the month. He also discussed and showed a copy of a report by Englewood Hospital about the March 28<sup>th</sup> simulated

emergency tests, and other reports by those who participated in the SET.

**Publicity** – No report. Need someone to get some publicity for field day.

**Testing** – At the last session, six candidates took tests and six passed. One candidate took all three tests. .

**DX** – Tom, WA3PRC says mostly European. Frank, W4VV says 40 meters has been good during the early morning hours.

**Field Day** - Frank, W4VV agreed to cook for the picnic, Tom WA3PRC will get the picnic food, the site has been reserved with tents. Antennas were discussed. Tom is looking for a Mosely TA-33 Jr. for field day. Keith Kelly offered a butternut beam. Tom will pursue club QSL cards for field day and other club activities. The 6 meter band was ruled out. J. R. House, K9HUY will handle logging programs. Ken, W4JQT and Frank, W4VV will put up the wire antennas.

**Dayton Hamfest** – Frank, W4VV reported on the Dayton Hamfest. He said the flea market was smaller, but the commercial section was better. He also reported that he had met and talked with Frank Schwab's (W8OK) wife and she asked him to extend her thanks and appreciation for the welcome they always received from our EARS club. Frank spent winters here at Rambler's Rest. He was an excellent 50 wpm CW operator. Frank was one of the originators of the Dayton Hamfest.

**Old Business** – EARS Christmas Party set up for Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at Rotonda Country Club. The new editor, K4VHX is doing a fine job on our news letter.

**New Business** – Vic, K4VHX reported on awards and scholarships at Lemon Bay High School. Many awards were given, and \$590,000 in scholarships were given out. Our EARS \$500.00 scholarship went to Brandon (Flash) Wright. Brandon did many of the set-ups for visual and audio presentations at the high school and was always willing to help. Matt, KE4VEM knows Flash and says he got

that nick name doing these things quickly and with little advance notice.

**Program** - Frank, W4VV demonstrated the air gun he made, following the article in March QST, which can be used to put up wire antennas using tall trees for support. He did an excellent job of construction and presented a very interesting program.

**June Meeting** – Please note change - **Monday June 15** at 7:30 PM.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM>

Ken Anderson – W4JQT  
Secretary

## INTERESTING READING:

### OPERATING IN THE UK

In the early 1970's while living in the Chicago area, I was offered the opportunity to relocate to England for an indefinite period. I moved my family to the small village of Ickenham, northwest of London and convenient to Heathrow airport as I would be traveling throughout Europe on a regular basis. We lived there for 2 ½ years.

At that time I had been ham for about 14 years and held the call WA9JCV. I planned to try and operate from my new exotic QTH. Upon relocation I had to register as a resident alien, obtain a work permit, advise the local police of my address, and register with the socialized medical program. After that, obtaining a UK ham license was relatively easy. I only had to provide a copy of my US license, alien card, and details of radio equipment to be used. I was issued a license with the call G5BBE. Once the license was issued, customs released my radio gear that they had been holding.

This consisted of a Drake TR-4, power supply and antenna. The power supply had to be

rewired for 220 volts which was easily accomplished. The fact that the current was 50 cycle instead of 60 cycle did not present any problems. The antenna I took along was a Gotham vertical. I am sure some of you remember this very basic piece of equipment. It was a single aluminum tube about 25' tall with a large loading coil at the base. The center conductor of the coax feed line was connected to an alligator clip which had to be clamped to the coil at different positions to provide resonance on the desired band. It was crude but effective. The house we leased had a balcony off the second floor bedroom and the antenna was clamped to the balcony railing. The back yard overlooked a large sports complex which contained several cricket fields so the antenna was pretty much in the clear.

It has been over 30 years and my logs have long since been lost, but I still remember the excitement at being considered DX and working countries I had never even heard of before. The combination of the G5 call and my “funny” accent resulted in many stations wanting to contact me. While I had hoped to be able to maintain regular contact with buddies back in the US, it just didn't work out. I made lots of random US contacts but was unable to keep arranged schedules. All in all it was quite an experience.



Keith KC5AS

## 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)

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Ron McLeod K1FTB  
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Charles NeSmith AC4BF  
Wife: Phyllis  
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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

## BIG STICK –PICNIC

West Central Florida Group, Inc.  
31860 Taylor Grade Rd.  
Duette, fl. 33834

"The 3rd annual picnic will be held on Saturday June 20th 2009. We will have our picnic at the same location as our previous picnics at E. G. Simmons park in Ruskin, Fl. Details including a map to the site can be found on the [N14CE.ORG website](http://N14CE.ORG). The past two years have been a great success, and an opportunity to put an eyeball on those people you talk to day in and day out on the repeater that happen to be at the opposite end of the repeater network coverage, and those that are next door to you as well. The event is paid for entirely by several members of the board of directors. No funds from the West Central Florida group are used for this event. At the picnic we offer free ve testing. Also there will be as there was last year a basic and advanced Skywarn class given by the the fine folks at the national weather service office in Ruskin. The picnic is open to anyone who is associated with or would like to become involved with amateur radio or Skywarn. The best part about it is the price -free- so come grab a hamburger a hot dog, a cold drink and mingle with your fellow community f ham operators!"

Sean Fleeman, N3SCF



## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD-LBHS

On Wednesday March, 20<sup>th</sup> Vic Emmelkamp - K4VHX presented Brandon Wright with the EARS annual scholarship. Brandon is a very talented and deserving young man who was responsible for all things technical, i.e. audio, visual at LBHS.



## 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, 475-1929.

**RACES:** Communications Training Nets are held on the last Thursday and Friday of each month. The Wednesday night Emergency Communications Information Net begins at 8PM on 146.745 (-) MHz. On Thursday the Englewood EOC will conduct their Tactical Net beginning at 9:30AM on 146.865 (-) MHz.

**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

Editor/Publisher: Vic Emmelkmp-K4VHX

