



# The WA4IWL Newsletter



ENGLEWOOD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

[www.fcrosby.com/ears/](http://www.fcrosby.com/ears/)

August 2001

## EARS

P.O. Box 572  
Englewood, FL  
34295

## 2001 Officers

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### Newsletter Editor

Dennis Babcock  
K4NF  
698-0248

## From The President

First of all, I would like to thank all of our members who helped with and participated in the International Lighthouse event at Boca Grande and to give special recognition to Ken-W1NQT and Ken-W4JQT who co-chaired the event. Read all about the lighthouse event farther down the log. I would also like to thank those who helped with communications for the Englewood Pioneer Day parade, again Ken-W1NQT, Bruce-K2OY, J.R.-K9HUY, Jerry-K4JWE and myself Vic-KF4VHX.

Next, let's get a "rogues gallery" going. Call it what you will, but the idea is to share pictures of each of us in our ham shack. Freeman-W1NPR will post our ham shack pictures on the club web site for all to view (we'll print copies for those not on the web). Let us have a picture of you in your shack - old, or new, color, black & white, digital or film. This will make it easier for all of us to put a name and a face together as well as see what equipment you are using. Bring your photo to the meeting, or send it directly to Freeman. Let's get the "rogues gallery" started!

Last of all, EARS has been invited to provide communication support for the annual Englewood ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK to be held Saturday, October 13th. It will start at Bay Harbor Ford at 8:00 a.m.; head East down the North side of SR 776 and then turn left on Drury Lane. It ends at the Beverly Health Care facility near the end of Drury where refreshments will be served. For our part we will need about four (4) participants stationed strategically along the route. Please let me know if you would like to help out.

73  
Vic-KF4VHX

## News Items

★ **ARLHS To Hold First Convention!** Members of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) will gather in Georgia this November for their first ever convention. The event is set for Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10 at the Holiday Inn- 195 in Brunswick. The burgeoning organization is less than a year old and already has almost 400 members worldwide. Jim Weidner-K2JXW, (ARLHS #001) founder and president of ARLHS, urged all members to mark the dates on their calendars and plan to attend.

★ **A new email reflector** for West Central Florida's Volunteer Examiners has been created. ALL Volunteer Examiners, no matter their VEC affiliation are invited and encouraged to join the new WCFVE@yahoogroups.com reflector. To subscribe, please send an email to WCFVE-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Please pass this information on to all Volunteer Examiners in your Club.

Paul J. Toth-NA4AR

Assistant Section Manager-ARRL WCF Section, Assistant Director-ARRL Southeastern Division  
West Central Florida SKYWARN Group (WX4TBW)

Visit my web page at <http://www.qsl.net/na4ar>

## CLUB MEETING

Englewood Amateur Radio Club meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 September 21. The program for after our business meeting is on installation of amateur radio equipment in a mobile environment. This will be presented by Dave Hanson-KB0EBM an active member in RACES and the Peace River Repeater Association.**

## July Meeting Minutes

President Vic Emmelkamp-KF4VHX, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

No guests or new members this month.

Ken-W4JQT made a motion to accept the minutes of last month's meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by N4MLJ-Howard and the motion carried.

Bruce-K2OY gave the Treasurer's report. The ending account balance is \$3192.55. A motion for acceptance of the report was made by Bobby-KF4YOW, seconded by Doreene-KF4CS and the motion carried.

### Announcements

*Membership directories* - if you have any changes that need to be made, please give it to Dennis-K4NF, to keep the database correct.

*Name badges* - If you need a name badge, we can order them. Contact Vic-KF4VHX.

*ARRL Election:* Paul Toth-NA4AR is running for election - SE Vice Director.

*Alzheimer Walk in October* - There will be more info next month. This only takes an hour or two and refreshments will be provided at Rehabilitation Center afterwards.

*Pioneer Day Parade* - Labor Day Weekend. The Jaycees are sponsoring it this year instead of the Chamber of Commerce. John-WB0GUX, past coordinator, is with the old organization so he won't be the focal point this year. Vic-KF4VHX said he would see if our presence would be desired for the parade.

*Newsletter:* Dennis-K4NF made a newsletter announcement. If you have any ideas for articles or things of interest to include - please let Dennis know. We are sending out 70 through the mail and 40 through e-mail.

*QST articles:* Ken-W4JQT announced he had some handouts with a selection of QST articles by Al Kahn for distribution to the group. Al worked for Electrovoice. Dan Tomcik, one of our members, used to work with him at Ten-Tec.

### Correspondence

We have received a 'thank-you' card in response to our sympathy card on Howard-WB8IGU passing. His XYL, Imogene, will be staying in Florida and if anyone wishes to say 'hi' her phone number is in the EARS directory.

Ken-W1NQT reported a phone call with Art Komarek-WB9VQD in Pennsylvania. He's moved and we now have his corrected mailing address. Art probably won't be back here because of cancer. We really appreciate his \$40 contribution to our Ears Booster Club.

An announcement was made about the Port St. Lucie Hamfest on November 10. We received newsletters from the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association and from CARS.

### Committee Reports

*Sunshine* - John-N1KEN's wife is in the hospital, having undergone an operation yesterday.

*RACES* - Frank-W4VV reported our next practice session will be August the 29th, the last Thursday of the month. He showed a few photos taken at last month's session.

*Publicity* - Jerry-K4JWE has organized publicity for our Lighthouse Weekend participation at Boca Grande. The Sun Herald and the Gasparilla Gazette are expected.

*Lighthouse Weekend* - Ken-W4JQT and Ken-W1NQT reported that we are participating in the International Lighthouse Weekend this weekend mainly daylight hours. This is not a contest, but an event. Frank-W 4VV, printed out a list of 319 lighthouses that are registered around the world as participating. This is our third year in this event. We are activating both the lighthouse and Gasparilla Island. Tom-WA3PRC and Vin-KG4IAV loaned us their rigs for this operation. We have a handsome QSL to send out that Jack-W4JS had designed last year. Vic-KF4VHX will be acting as our mainland liaison in case we need something.

*Testing* - Ken-W4JQT reported that there will be no testing this month but that there will be testing on the third Saturday of next month. There is one candidate for testing which has been deferred to next month.

*DX* - Bruce-K2OY discussed the various solar parameters indicating a downturn in our DX cycle. He talked about working Somalia last month, T5

*Hamfest 2002* - Vic-KF4VHX reported that he and K4JWE-Jerry, attended a meeting yesterday for filling in the ARRL application. Then they went over the contract with the fairgrounds and got that set up. The first flier will be out September 8. Our first expenditure will be with the application going to the Fairgrounds and that'll be \$100.

### Program

The speaker was Bruce-K2OY who provided us with a very interesting and informative presentation on coaxial cables and the related connectors.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. There were 24 members present.

Ken Blackshaw-W1NQT  
Secretary

## Ears Booster Club

Thanks to the recent contributor:  
Art Komarek-WB9VQE

### Address Change

Bert Van Houten-W3TPW: In addition to receiving mail at his listed EARS directory address, he will be receiving mail at his present address:

Elbert H. Van Houten                      PH: 718-891-9806  
Sunrise at Sheepshead Bay              Cell: 917-687-8805  
Room 323B  
2211 Emmons Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

(Let the phone ring awhile to allow time for him to reach the phone.)

### 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 Equipment For Sale

No listings this month. Contact Dennis-K4NF to list your equipment by the first Friday of each month.

### Interesting URLs

<http://www.hamradio-online.com/> - Online addition of Ham Radio magazine.

### October Hamfests

10/13 - ARC-Bradford Area, Starke, FL  
<http://ku4ay.net/starkehamfest.html>  
Contact: John Bradley-KU4AY 2363 NW CR 225 Lawtey, FL 32058 Phone: 904-782-1185 Email: hamfest@ku4ay.net

10/13 - Cy Harris-W4MAQ Memorial Free Flea, Plantation, FL  
<http://www.geocities.com/bcepn/freeflea.html>  
Contact: Robin Terrill-N4HHP Phone: 954-583-3625  
Email: kg4chw@arrl.net

10/13 - Egypt Shrine Temple Radio Association, Tampa, FL  
Contact: Keith Dean-KA4JLW, PO Box 4500 Tampa, FL 33677-4500, Phone: 813-879-2449, Email: kwdean@gte.net

10/27 - Greater Jacksonville Hamfest Association, Jacksonville, FL  
<http://www.jacksonville.net/~lrich/JAXHAMFEST.html>, Contact: Richard Smythe-KF4PBL 4473 Hudnall Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207, Phone: 904-739-9713  
Email: rsmythe2@bellsouth.net

### From The Editor

Well here is the second addition and maybe some of the Email delivery problems are cured. I will continue to send the newsletter in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF) to those that want it by Email. It is the one reader program with both PC & Mac formats, can print the document in the original format and is free for personal use. If

anyone needs help downloading, installing or using please let me know as this saves the club money and work.

Keep the club in mind when you come across news items related to Amateur radio and contact one of the officers or the newsletter editor so we might keep our club members informed.

Look for updates to the EARS club directory in the Oct. newsletter.

Dennis-K4NF

### K8ONV's 2001 International Lighthouse Weekend

August 18 and 19 an intrepid group of operators and supporters of our club activated the Boca Grande Lighthouse on Gasparilla Island for this special event. This was the third year of our participation and we continue to get more efficient in our handling of it. Having good weather doesn't hurt either.

Ken-W4JQT and I co-chaired the committee that made this happen and it's always a pleasure to work with Ken. We were blessed with a plethora of volunteers, both as operators and workers. It's always a bit intimidating thinking about getting antennas up in an environment not designed with antennas in mind. But our Field Day experience applies very well here.

On Thursday, Ken and I, as well as Frank W4VV and Tom-A3PRC paid our \$3.50 to cross the bridge out to Boca Grande. One of the toughest parts of erecting antennas is agreeing on where they should go. We had decided that a G5RV was the way to go this year, and finally agreed on a location which we felt would minimize the effect of the big fuel tanks that are just to the North of the site of operation. By the way, we were in the picnic ground that is just adjacent to the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is actually closed during the month of August, so we didn't have the opportunity to operate right in the Lighthouse. I should also point out that we had some excellent "mainland" support from Alice-KE4TVS delivering a key piece of antenna-raising equipment we had forgotten. I volunteered to walk across the bridge rather than pay an additional toll to collect said equipment.

On Saturday morning, the crews met at the Lighthouse area around 8 o'clock and quickly hooked up to the G5RV and were operational. It seemed like there were a lot of hams around the country just waiting for Boca Grande Lighthouse to come on the air! Conditions throughout the weekend were rather poor on HF, and 99% of our 203 contacts were made on 20 meters. We don't use CW for this event because it just doesn't have the impact or ease that phone has. Once you have sent "Gasparilla Island" and "Boca Grande Lighthouse" a few times with CW, your enthusiasm for the CW operation tends to wane. Also, there just doesn't seem to be anywhere the number of hams listening on CW for our "CQ LH" call.

Jerry-K4JWE arranged great publicity for this event. I think that's one of the main reasons for our participation in that it brings the public's attention to Ham Radio. Bryce-KG4EDE and Pam-KG4EDF were present at the time the reporter and photographer from the Sun Herald arrived and we were able to get a great photo of Bryce operating in the Sunday paper. We also attempted to get

people to understand the difference between our hobby and the internet, and show some reasons why we are different and more exciting than simply sitting at a computer connected to another computer. Perhaps another young person will be inspired by seeing what Bryce was doing this weekend. We also had reporters from the Gasparilla Gazette and the Boca Beacon.

On both Saturday and Sunday, 20 meters seemed to go quiet around 3 p.m. and the sun was starting to come around to the side of the picnic shelter where we were operating. So, when Ken-W4JQT suggested it was a good time to shut down for the day, he had unanimous support.



Still, we made 203 contacts mainly on 20, but also a few on 15, 10, and yes -- 2 meters. We ended up with 29 states, blanketing the eastern part of the U.S., and also seven countries, all in the Western Hemisphere. Many Englewood hams attempted to reach us, but most were not successful. W4VV, K2OY, and W A4IWL were able to make the ground wave link to us. We had wonderful support from a great group of operators and supporters. Vince-KG4IAV logged almost all weekend and provided one of the rigs which we used. His XYL, Evelyn, stayed with us under the shelter most of Sunday. The other rig was provided by Tom-WA3PRC. Tom also had quite a following of amateurs from Erie, PA who were waiting to talk to our station. He was a key member of the team.

Bobby-KF4YOW a relatively new ham who has already qualified for DXCC, did yeoman's service operating our station. It's nice to see such operating enthusiasm from a new ham.

Another great member of the team was Marty-KE4UFS who kept our cooler stocked with lots of cold drinks. By the way, this still represents our use of the stocks from our Field Day operation. It was warm out there and staying well hydrated makes for healthy hams.

Other club members who participated in the weekend, in no particular order were, our President Vic-KF4VHX, J.R.-K9HUY, Dan-K4OV, Jack-WA8GRO, Jack-WX1JAD, Roxena-W1ROX, Carol and Melvin Baker, -- Carol is the daughter of one of our Silent

Key members Ben Kosmeder-WD4FRO, and Dave Hanson-KBOEVM, from Charlotte County RACES also stopped in.

So, it was a fine weekend. The weather cooperated. We got everything set up and taken down with no one getting hurt, and we made a lot of contacts. We're looking forward to next year's operation at Boca Grande Lighthouse.

Ken Blackshaw-WINQT

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SKYWARN GROUP  
OPERATIONS PROTOCOL  
ADDENDUM 1  
July 1, 2001**

**TROPICAL EVENT ACTIVATION**

The West Central Florida SKYWARN Group will take the following actions in response to a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Event:

1. Upon the issuance of a Tropical Storm Warning and/or a Hurricane Warning for any county in the Ruskin Central Warning Area or upon request of the NWS-Ruskin Warning Coordination Meteorologist, WX4TBW will be activated and remain manned for the duration of the storm event.
2. WX4TBW will operate on the following frequencies:
  - a. VHF/UHF 146.76, 442.95 444.425 (alt), 444.775 (alt)
  - b. HF: Daytime 7281 KHz, Nighttime 3911 KHz
  - c. APRS: 144.390
3. Each county SKYWARN organization affected by the WARNING will activate SKYWARN operations in concert with ARES/RACES/ACS operations in their county. It is recommended that the SKYWARN Liaison from each county to the Regional SKYWARN Net be located at the County Emergency Operations Center or at some other secure location. This liaison should be able to maintain contact with County Emergency Management officials, the County Spotter network and the Regional SKYWARN Net from his/her operating position.
4. During Tropical/Hurricane Net operations, the County SKYWARN liaison will be responsible for:
  - a. Forwarding all severe weather reports received from SKYWARN spotters deployed in the county to NWS Ruskin by whatever means possible. These reports will follow the criteria and report formatting as used during other SKYWARN Nets.
  - b. Forwarding Shelter status, Transportation status and other information of public interest from the

Emergency Operations Center to NWS-Ruskin by whatever means possible.

- c. Relay Severe Weather Warnings/Advisories and other essential information from the NWS-Ruskin to Emergency Management.
  - d. Provide NWS-Ruskin with damage reports and any other information of public interest from his/her county. These reports may include Slow Scan TV images of damage and other scenes of interest to the NWS.
  - e. Provide a backup communications conduit between County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service.
5. Once the storm has passed, WX4TBW will remain in operation for as long as necessary to receive damage reports and other pertinent information from the field. WX4TBW will also provide field operators with any additional Severe Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories as needed to safeguard the operators in the field and the general public.
  6. In the event of a catastrophic disaster, WX4TBW will serve as a gateway to the National Weather Service Regional and National Headquarters and/or other Federal and State agencies as requested by the management of the NWS-Ruskin office. This support will also include a liaison with one or more Military Affiliated Radio Service (MARS) organizations if possible.
  7. In the event of a catastrophic disaster, WX4TBW will maintain communications with SKYWARN liaisons by whatever means necessary, including HF, VHF and UHF communications. WX4TBW will also function as a Net Control Station as requested by the NWS and/or the ARRL West Central Florida Section.
  8. WX4TBW will terminate operations as directed by the Meteorologist in Charge or the Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the NWSFO-Ruskin.