WA4IWL NEWSLETTER

March 2013

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Marcia Fowler KA1GCV

EARS meeting February 28, 2013

Steve N9USZ called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
There were 19 members and 4 visitors present.

Guest speakers George Jones and his son, Ron started the meeting with a program about "D star." They described it as a "digitally smart technology for amateur radio"; or "ECHO on steroids." It works on an open protocol. It was a very intense description of new technology being worked on by Amateurs(??) George and Ron did a wonderful job of explaining a very difficult, but interesting, project. Lots of questions were asked after the presentation, and many members sounded excited about learning more, as this was just an introduction.

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

The Treasurer's report and the projected budget for 2013 were given by Vic K4VHX. Our current balance is $5,517.72. Both were accepted as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sunshine: I have a report that Maryanne Rathburn had a stroke "about a month ago", but is now home and progressing slowly. An encouragement card will be sent out to her.
We also received "thank you" cards from 3 of the SK widows invited to our "Holiday Party" They were Shirley Cerniglia, Mary Kerrigan, and Diane and Loretta Henry. We appreciate their kindness.

DX: Please see Tom WA3PRC's report.

Hamfests: A few of the members went to the Hamfest in Orlando…they sold $98 worth and expended $35. The next Hamfest is Lambifest on March 9.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Vic K4VHX has received 9 résumés from Lemon Bay High School students for our scholarship.

Treasurer Vic K4VHX presented a proposed EARS 2013 budget with estimated income of $1200 and estimated expenses of $1200. See attached slide for details. A motion was made to accept the budget and it passed unanimously."

Announcements: The Club radio is working again; it was offered to the Fowlers to use until they can get one…..and we THANK you very much.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made and accepted by the members. We adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Fowler KA1GC, Secretary

INCOME	2012-ACTUAL	2013-ESTIMATE
CLUB TABLE	$1,263.00	$500.00
DUES	$794.00	$700.00
TOTAL	$2,057.00	$1,200.00
EXPENSES		
BADGES	$98.00	$29.00
CLUB SHIRTS	$0.00	$100.00
EDUCATION	$0.00	$0.00
BANK FEES	$78.00	$21.00
FOOD & DINNING	$385.00	$300.00
GIFTS & DONATIONS	$550.00	$600.00
MISCELLEOUS	$44.00	$50.00
POSTAGE	$73.00	$100.00
TOTAL	$1,228.00	$1,200.00
GAIN OR LOSS:	$829.00	$0.00

2013 EARS Budget Detail

NOTICE

Next meeting March 21st

7:30 PM

Englewood United Methodist Church

LOCAL

Time to catch up on recent photos.

Pam Eggleton K1UEG receives a plaque as EARS most outstanding member of the year at the January meeting.

January was the annual holiday party...

February Antenna Party K1UEG

What overkill?

missing photo K1UEG
at antenna party

Orlando Hamfest

Mike K4MWD, Tom WA3PRC, Vic K4VHX, George KA4JKY, seated Charles K1QNF, Dave W0RVR

Skip K4WDH and Keith KC5AS

February Meeting

Vic introducing George Jones who spoke about D-STAR.

Fred KB3UTS and friend

HAMFESTS/CONVENTIONS

03/16/2013 | Gulf Coast ARC's 17th Annual Hamfest

Location: Hudson, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club

04/20/2013 | TARCFest

Location: Tampa, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://www.hamclub.org

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

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., 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 14.317 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 Put Editor in the subject line.

I got a lot out of the D-STAR presentation at the last meeting, but it didn't involve D-STAR. One of the computers that George Jones' son Ron was using was a $35 linux computer called Rasberry PI http://www.raspberrypi.org/

their web site states:
The idea behind a tiny and cheap computer for kids came in 2006, when Eben Upton and his colleagues at the University of Cambridge's Computer Laboratory, including Rob Mullins, Jack Lang and Alan Mycroft, became concerned about the year-on-year decline in the numbers and skills levels of the A Level students applying to read Computer Science in each academic year. From a situation in the 1990s where most of the kids applying were coming to interview as experienced hobbyist programmers, the landscape in the 2000s was very different; a typical applicant might only have done a little web design.

(*The Raspberry Pi Foundation is a UK registered charity*)

I read somewhere that the PI stands for something like "python intensive" Python being one of the leading programming languages in Linux.

Well, I'm hooked! My order is in and I hope the wait is only the 6-weeks they warned about. Reading their monthly newsletters I saw an article about using the little computer as a controller for home automation. A free program let the author study the signals from a wireless receiver to learn the bit stream to activate the controllers.   Sounds like fun.

http://www.themagpi.com/en/issue/8

Next month we'll be back to a more conventional format with an extended article on DX.

Mike Daly K4MWD
Editor