

***Hello EARS Members,***

***Saturday evening Liz and I returned from a very enjoyable mini vacation. We had been camping near St. Augustine, FL. Well, I knew it was time to get the newsletter out and so I thought I would sit down Sunday and whip it out. Well it wasn't to be. I was planning to use a new publishing program I bought that could do anything I wanted. What I didn't expect was the long and arduous learning curve. It's like trying to learn Adobe Photoshop in one night. No way!!***

***So here is my dilemma, spend another week learning the new program or put together the essentials and go to press now. I choose the latter.***

***Here is the quick and dirty version:***

#### **President's Message**

Allergy season is here and it's taking its toll on me. We need several good heavy downpours to wash it all out of the air and off of surfaces. Some rain would also help reduce the number of wildfires. At my parent's house, the fish are jumping out of their usual deep holes on the sides of the Rotonda canals to keep from drying out. You could probably walk across parts of the canal without getting much more than your knees wet. However, I can't complain too much about the many gorgeous days we've been enjoying. Enough talk about the weather; and, on we go to the ham stuff.

The club's scholarship committee informed me they have selected an excellent student to be awarded this year's \$500.00 EARS scholarship at the Lemon Bay High School Senior Class Awards Ceremony on the evening of Tuesday, May 19, 2009. I will allow the scholarship committee to report their selection to everyone at the May meeting.

Please remember the *June* meeting is not on the regularly scheduled night. **Monday, June 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM** is when that EARS meeting will be held. We will also use that meeting to work out the last minute details for Field Day. Ken, W4JQT, informed us he as already has the tents lined up. We had some discussion on where various pieces of equipment were located, including radios, antennas, power supplies, and laptops (with new logging software, when available). Thanks to Marty, N4FA, for his care of our generator despite the trouble the fuel from it caused him with his lanai. Nicole, KG4TGI, and I relocated the generator, battery charger, heavy duty power cable, ground rods, and a large cooler from Marty's home to J.R.'s, K9HUY, place. Thanks to J.R. for also making room to store these items. No one has yet volunteered/re-committed themselves to be head chef or to purchase any grocery items for our Field Day picnic, but hopefully those details can be worked out at the May meeting.

I didn't take any notes at the April meeting, so I leave you in the good hands of our secretary, Ken, W4JQT, and our new newsletter editor, Vic, K4VHX.

73,  
Matthew Henry, KE4VEM

## **Minutes of Meeting April 16, 2009**

**Call to Order** – President Matthew Henry, KE4VEM called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 18 members in attendance, and no guests.

**Secretary's Report** – With an approved motion, the minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting were accepted as published in the news letter.

**Treasurer's Report** – Given by Mike Daly, K4MWD. The report was accepted as amended to clarify wording, and shows \$2192.58 in checking, and \$2722.34 in savings. On a motion, the Treasurer's report was accepted as amended

**Correspondence** – Matthew, KE4VEM reported the date for the June meeting has been firmed up with the church, and will be Monday, June 15, 2009 at the usual time of 7:30 pm.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**Testing** – One candidate passed the extra class exam at the last VE session.

**DX** – Tom Hawes, WA3PRC gave the DX report.

**Field Day** – Action items were identified. The church site has been reserved.

**RACES** – The simulated emergency test held on March 28<sup>th</sup> was discussed.

**Scholarship** – Given by Mike Daly, K4MWD. Mike reported that due to a mixup at the Post Office in the P. O. Box, he has not received the candidate applications from Lemon Bay High School, but will go to the school and pick up another package. A motion was made and carried that the committee be authorized to select the candidate to receive the scholarship.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Comments** – Jerry, K4JWE reported on the Kenwood TS-520 that has been donated to the club, and his efforts to ensure proper ownership associated with the donation. He reports this work has been completed. The unit is under going final testing and will be offered for sale in the near future.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Ken Anderson – W4JQT

Secretary

## **Sky Lab Up Close and Personal**

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, recently conducted ham radio activities aboard the International Space Station on the 25th anniversary of his father, Owen, W5LFL, operating the first ham radio station from space. At the time of that initial operation, I was living about a mile from the Johnson Space Center which is located just south of Houston. As part of the preparation for Owen's flight, local hams were requested to bring their hand held 2 meter rigs to the Space Center to conduct simulated communication tests. W5LFL was located in the spacecraft mock up and the rest of us were spread around the premises and assigned a "country" designation that would be in an orbital path. When our time came, we all called repeatedly while he recorded received signals. From this, NASA somehow established the periods of time during orbital pass over that he would either listen or transmit.

When the time for his flight and operation neared, I concluded that I could increase my chances of actually working him by going to Australia where there would be a significant number of orbital passes but substantially fewer people calling him. Having an XYL in the airline business facilitated this decision. Besides we had been there before and loved it. So, off we went to VK land. Presenting my US license to the authorities in Sydney, I was able to select my new call, VK2EKK, my initials. I was fortunate enough to fall in with a local group who had a club station at a small abandoned civilian airport. We spent several nights with them doing the Aussie thing, drinking beer and telling tales. Heard the Spacecraft on several passes but never able to work them. Had a lot of fun though.

Keith Kelly, KC5AS

## **HEATHKIT GEAR FOR SALE**

I have spent the last several years buying anything painted HeathKit green at area hamfests. I am never going to get around to checking it all out, let alone restoring or using it. I currently have for sale a HW-101 five band CW/SSB Transceiver with HP-23 power supply. Power supply is good and transceiver looks good but is untested. Have copy of manual. Asking \$125 for both. Also available is SB-300 five band CW/SSB receiver and SB-401 five band CW/SSB transmitter. Both units look good but again are untested. The 300 has no xtal pack so must either find xtals on e-bay or set up to transceive with the 401. Have partial copy of manual for 300. Asking \$100 for either or \$175 for both. Contact Keith, KC5AS at 697-9325 locally or 239 659-0321 in Naples

Some pictures from Keith's recent antenna party:



