

2010
Vol. V
June



The Villages
FLORIDA
Amateur RADIO Club



K4VRC CLUB REPEATER

443.225MHz +5MHz shift PL 103.5Hz

NEXT MEETING:

When: Tuesday June 15, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

**Location: Intrepid Room At
Lake Miona Rec Center**

Program: Field Day Preparedness

Minutes of May 18, 2009 Meeting

The Meeting was called to order by the President, George Rutkoskie, W4GOR, at 7:10 pm at the Intrepid Room of Lake Miona Recreation Center. Guests were greeted personally by The President. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and all were thanked for their attendance.

The President asked for **The Minutes** of the previous meeting 20th of April, 2010. The Minutes were available for the members to review from the Internet, and copies were passed out at the meeting. He asked for any comments or corrections, and then requested a Motion to accept the Minutes. The motion was made by Jules Deschenes and seconded by several members. The Motion passed by a voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report was then called for. Copies of the Report were passed around. The Treasurer, Bob Goodspeed, WB3HML, read the report and explained the entries. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Report. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Committee Reports: Villages Radio Club shirts, hats, and Badges are available for those who ordered them. These members include: KC9PEZ, AC7V, W4CRV, and KN9B/ Please check with George for your order, George then asked about the suggestion that we have a Club Booklet (with information about the Club and its programs. A discussion followed. The issue was taken under advisement by the Board of Directors.

ARES Report was presented by Ed Crowell. We are looking at the Hurricane Season very soon this year. We have a SET June 30th and training 8 June. The D-Star Repeater is complete and Training for operators is coming up. We also want to have Packet Training Nets to bring the members up to speed because we expect a call for Digital Text Forwarding. The NFL Section and Paul Eakin are promoting Neighborhood Ham Watch. The idea is to involve Radio hams who are not active in Clubs and ARES to serve as information points for their neighbors during various events. This would help the neighborhood areas to have safety information and current conditions at their Homes through Ham Radio. All that would be required would be a VHF Radio to participate. We will hear more about this as time passes. Finally, we have copies of the Stealth Antenna CD for those who would like them.

The Club Education Report was presented by Dennis Hardoin. We will be holding a Program with the Grade School June 16th using our Radios to demonstrate for and with the Students. Meanwhile the program will be making Code Oscillators. We will participate with Villages Camp August 3, and 4th. Next year we will be working with TWO Schools. There may even be enough interest to hold another License Class later this year!

Field Day: Finally, we want to make our Planning for Field Day more formalized. Lists were passed around by Dennis for Set-up, Tear Down, Operators, and Loggers for this years Field Day. All were encouraged to sign-up.

DX-County Hunters Committee Fran and Carol are monitoring this.

ARRL NEWS—There are many Events during the Summer. Check your QST Magazine!

QCWA: Hal Lloyd, W4OE, President of the Quarter Century Wireless Association would like to invite all the members to a meeting at the Veranda in Lake Sumter Landing on the Second Thursday of the month. We have our own Chapter right here in the Villages.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Elmers: There were no new problems.

Minutes of May 18, 2009 Meeting

Programs for Club Meetings:

The President asked for suggestions regarding Programs for Club Meetings in the next few months, Satellite TV Technology, and History of Ham Radio was suggested. Jules Deschenes offered to present part of a previous program he had done on the latter topic.

The Newsletter is produced by Art Fenn, KB9MI. He had another 12 page Newsletter with articles from far and wide! Good job, Art. Please help him out with material to publish in the Newsletter.

The Club Website: Please check out the website. You will find it at www.tvarc.net. It has a wealth of information on it including Weather, hyperlinks, and Club Data. The Firehouse 51 Weather Station is to be found there. It is always interesting to see what the weather is like at any hour of the day. These Minutes are posted there too for your review.

Silent Keys: One of our old members, Dave Reinhart, K8BXP, has passed away.

The Cookie Monster list was passed around for additional volunteers. We have only September to fill. We need one more volunteer.

The Fifty-fifty drawing was held and the Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Comments for the Good of the Order were requested, and the Meeting adjourned.

The Program was on Slow Scan TV by Frank Gudicello. He presented material about Slow Scan TV and several other topics. The program was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Crowell, W5TWR, Secretary



NEW

THE VILLAGE NET — RAG CHEW

NEW

MONDAYS AT 11:00 AM ON 443.225MHz +5MHz shift PL 103.5Hz

NEW

ALL WELCOME

NEW

This is a new net designed to get the newly licensed hams to become active and older hams to also get on the air. Please check in and rag chew.

Notice we have changes repeaters!

Field Day

We need help at Field Day on Saturday & Sunday, June 26 & 27. Operators are needed and people for setup and tear down. Come to the this months meeting and get final information on Field Day. The Field Day Site will be at Sheriff's Annex in The Villages on Hwy 466 and Morse Blvd.

This is from Bob, K2TV, who has visited us . Some of you may remember him. He is the co-editor of his club's newsletter and this is an article that he has written for his newsletter. I thought you may enjoy this and be good information for some of the hams that have not worked Field Day. His club is: **Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB, Fire Island, NY**. This was used in last years newsletter.

Field Day 2009... Come on down!

By Bob Myers, K2TV

Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB, Fire Island, NY.

Set aside the weekend of June 27th and 28th for Amateur Radio field Day. If you never operated field day, this is your chance to get in on some good fun and camaraderie. If you are a seasoned field day operator, then you can share your knowledge with others. I've found that during the years that I wasn't very active on the air due to work and family commitments, field day was a kind of renewing experience. It kept me in touch with the hobby that I've loved and kept me coming back to for the past fifty years. With this in mind I have some observations on field day.

The club needs to know what equipment you will bring down. Label everything with your call letters. Radios, power supplies, microphones, antennas, computers, headphones, etc. are all needed. Let the field day committee know what you want to bring with you. If you have a favorite CW key or keyer, a set of headphones that you are comfortable with, bring them down. Many operators will bring a rig down with the stipulation that only they will operate it or at least not let it out of their sight. That is fine as long as the committee is aware of the restrictions and can find a slot for it.

The bands that are permissible for field day operation are 160, 80/75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, 1.25. and 70 CM bands. We need equipment for as many as those bands as possible. What is your favorite mode? Is it CW, SSB, PSK or RTTY? Bring your expertise on operating those modes to share with a new ham. You might even want to try or learn about a new mode or rig yourself and field day is the place to do it. Setup begins at 7AM on Saturday and we should be on the air by 2PM and then operate a full 24 hours until 2PM on Sunday when we break down the stations. We need as many people as possible to help with the setup and break down as well as operate.

A few tips when operating the contest portion of field day. The exchange of information with the other stations will consist of a number corresponding to the number of transmitters in use at the station with a letter for the entry class of station. The second letter designation is the ARRL section where the station is located. For instance if W2GSB in the New York City-Long Island (NLI) ARRL section works K4VRC in the Northern Florida (NFL) section, the exchange will be something like this:

"K4VRA THIS IS W2GSB 7F NLI OVER.." "W2GSB THIS IS K4VRA QSL 2A NFL FROM K4VRA" "THIS IS W2GSB QSL AND THANKS FROM W2GSB".

Of course we would use ITU standard phonetics on phone for the exchange. The exchange is casual unlike most other contests and pleasantries are acceptable and encouraged. Don't forget to log the information and if using a paper log you must put the call of the station on a "dupe sheet".

There are two ways to operate during the operation. My favorite is the “search and pounce” method. If you visualize the dial of a radio like an upside down hair comb and the teeth of the comb are stations calling CQ field day. You start at the bottom of the band (left side of the comb) and slowly tune up a little until you hear the first station calling CQ FD. You check the dupe sheet or enter the call into the logging computer and if the station has not been worked already, then call the station. When that station is worked you finish logging and then slowly continue up the band until you hear the next station and repeat the process. The beauty of this method is that you can take your time to enter the information into the log and go on to then next station at your leisure. You repeat this until you have reached the other end of the band segment for the mode you are operating. It is like the story of the tortois and the hare... slow and steady wins the race. The other method is to find an empty frequency, no easy task on field day, and call “CQ FIELD DAY”. Then answer the stations that come back to you. When that does not get many contacts then go back to the search and pounce technique or change bands.

If paper logging is used for a particular operating position, it is advantageous to have a second person to do the logging and dupe checking. One person operates the rig and the other logs. Computer logging is easier and only one person needs to do it, but there is no reason why one person can't log on the computer and the other operates. This is a good way for new operators to learn. I've seen where an operator just learning the code pairs up with a seasoned CW operator and in a matter of a few hours found that their code speed increased just by copying along.

We are plan to have a “Get on the Air” (GOTA) station available and if you know any youngsters or adults that would like to operate bring them down. The GOTA station works separate from the main group to introduce new comers to ham radio by allowing them to operate with the help of a seasoned operator as a guide. This is a great introduction to Amateur Radio.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- Are you on the proper band and mode? Do not change bands or modes without coordination. Some of the operating positions have band pass filters installed on the output of the rig to cut down on interference between stations and will be destroyed if it is not used on the band it is designed for. Always check first.
- Are you on the correct antenna? The antenna feed line will be labeled as to the antenna type and band.
- Beware of the band edges for the mode you are using. There will be designators at each station to let you know the band segments to use.
- Do you have the proper paper log and dupe sheet for the band you are on? The band and mode should be written on the top of the log and dupe sheet. Put your call in the left margin on the paper log sheet. If we later have questions about a contact or your hand writing we know whom to ask. Please write clearly.
- Are you logged into the proper band on the logging computer? Type the word OPON followed by your call on the computer logger. This will log you into the computer as the operator.
- Do not put food or drinks on the equipment.
- Be careful of wires and cables in the area. They may not be able to see easily especially at night.
- If you don't know how to operate or tune a piece of gear, ask someone who knows.
- Ask questions if you are not sure.

HAVE FUN!

Education Report

June 2010

Schools Out!

We finished up the Villages after school program and it was a great success. We are invited to have a class in both the Intermediate and Middle School next year. We have been invited to have a "Radio Day" at the Villages Summer Camp on June 16th.

A contingency of 7 village hams traveled to Belleville Ward-Highlands elementary School and put on a tedious 5 1/2 hour program on Ham radio. We set up antennas, had a Morse code lab, Echo Link, HF and 2 meter rigs making contacts and having the kids talk on the Radio. This was quite a day with about 200 3rd graders. Thanks to George, Bob, Frank, Brad, Ralph, Leon and Dennis.

Technician Class Starting August 4th

The class will be at Station #51 starting at 7:PM and running till 9:PM. The test will be given at the same QTH on Monday August 16th commencing at 7:00 PM. The class dates are August 4th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th and the test on the 16th. If anyone is interested or knows someone who would like to attend the Free class, Please have them contact me.

Dennis Hardoin VP/ED dhardoin@comcast.net



AREA HAM NEWS

NEWS RELEASE 5/24/2010

Lake County Amateur Radio Association Graduates New Ham Operators

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association (LARA) offered a one day course for the Federal Communications Commission Technician license ,which is the beginning ham radio license and graduated 32 new ham operators. The course was held at the Lake Tech, Institute of Public Safety in Tavares, Florida on Saturday May 22, 2010.

These new Technician Class radio operators will be able to operate an amateur radio station using voice or digital communications on VHF and UHF amateur frequencies.

This was the largest ham radio license class that LARA has ever run and they were happy with the outcome which produced a 90% pass rate. The course was presented in a class room setting using a PowerPoint presentation produced by the Plano Amateur Radio Klub of Plano , Texas. Students were presented ham radio study information on screen by the computer projector and had to complete various quizzes as they went along to determine if they were learning the necessary information. The instructor, Doug Rehmen , K4AC was available to answer questions and explain the new material. Doug was assisted by Rick Butz , N7WE. After the course material had been presented a volunteer examination team headed up by Paul Branch , K3NON was brought in to administer and proctor the Technician exam.

The time involved was approximately seven hours to deliver the course material and another hour to administer the exam. Students had an hour off for lunch and a few short breaks. It was a busy day of concentration and learning but it paid off for most of them when 32 out of 35 students who took the exam became new ham operators.

Lake County Amateur Radio Association offers monthly ham radio testing at their club house the third Saturday of each month and in the future they hope to be able to offer similar class room courses leading to Technician as well as advanced licenses.

For more information about ham radio activities in Lake County please visit the following web sites. < www.k4fc.org > < www.n4fla.org >

John T Luebbers
Lake County ARES P.I.O.
5739 Bounty Circle
Tavares, FL. 32778
352 343 8344

Notes: Plano Amateur Radio Klub is spelled with a " K " and not a C.

AREA HAM NEWS

PRESS RELEASE 5/26/2010

Lake County Amateur Radio Operators Take Part in Annual Field Day

Lake County amateur radio operators , often called Hams, will take part in an annual radio communications contest called Field Day on June 26 and 27 , 2010. The purpose of this event is to have fun and practice setting up portable radio communications equipment for use during natural or man made disasters. The goal is to see who can make the most radio contacts nationally during this 24 hour period. The Lake County group has always been one of the contenders for top honors in the United states.

Amateur Radio activity is growing in the United States. In 2009 over 30,000 new people became “hams “.The technical skills of hams also has improved as almost 50% of American Radio operators have gone beyond the entry level licensing requirements and passed the more difficult testing to earn higher class FCC licenses. There are more than 680,000 Amateur Radio operators in the U.S. and 2.5 million around the world. In Lake County alone there are about 400 ham operators.

In the past few months there have been numerous reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during emergencies around the world. A perfect example of this has been the recent earthquake disaster in Haiti. Amateur radio operators are often the first to provide critical early information and observations to responders in crisis situations. FEMA , DHS , the National Weather Service and Emergency Management offices have Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) operators in their emergency plans just as we have here in Lake County.

On June 26-27, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with the hams and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is all about. They will be using digital , voice and the historic Morse Code to communicate with other ham stations across the continent. Ham radio operation today encompasses modern methods of communication through the use of computers as well as satellites.

Using only emergency power, ham operators will construct temporary radio stations around the country for the weekend and send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or other infrastructure that can be compromised by hurricanes or tornados which are the two emergency disasters we are likely to see here in Florida . More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last years Field Day event.

Locally the Lake County Amateur Radio Association in cooperation with the Lake County Amateur Radio Emergency Service will be setting up portable radio stations at the Lake Tech , Institute of Public Safety 1565 Lane Park Cut Off in Tavares, Florida. Partnering in this event will also be the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Leesburg Fire Department , Howey-in-the-Hills Police Department, the Florida Baptist Convention Disaster Relief and Recovery group and Lake and Sumter EMS. These organizations will provide some of their emergency communications equipment for use by the ham operators .

The general public is invited to come over and see what ham radio is all about and to talk with the hams about their activities. You may even get a chance to talk to someone in some remote corner of the country. This is a 24 hour contest event that will run from 2:00 PM on Saturday to 2:00 PM on Sunday. The ham radio location will be open to visitors on Saturday June 26 from 12:00 noon until 5:00 PM and on Sunday June 27 from 8:00 AM until the end of the contest at 2:00pm.

People who are curious about ham radio operation generally are encouraged to check out the following web sites. < www.K4fc.org > < www.n4fla.org > < www.arrl.org > < www.ares.org >

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OTHER MONTHLY MEETINGS

THE VILLAGES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BOARD MEETING

MEETS THE 1st TUESDAY, 10:30 AM AT THE VERANDA RESTURANT IN LAKE SUMTER LANDING. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

QCWA (QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION) MEETING THE VILLAGES CHAPTER #217

THE 2nd THURSDAY, 10:30 AM AT THE VERANDA RESTURANT IN LAKE SUMTER LANDING. ALL WELCOME WHO HAVE BEEN LICENSED HAMS FOR 25 YEARS.

ARES (AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE) MEETING

THE 2nd THURSDAY, 7 PM AT THE SUMTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT ANNEX BUILDING SW CORNER OF THE SHOPPING CENTER IN WILDWOOD. ALL WELCOME
_FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ED CROWELL W5TWR AT 352-259-5736

AREA NETS

SKYWARN WEATHER NET

SUNDAYS AT 8:30 PM ON 147.03 PL OF 123.0
ALL WELCOME

SUMTER COUNTY ARES NET

MONDAYS AT 8:30 PM ON 146.925 PL OF 123.0
ALL WELCOME

LAKE COUNTY ARES NET

DAILY AT 7:00 PM ON 147.00 (-600) PL OF 103.5
PACKET NET DAILY AT 7:00 PM ON 145.010

MARION COUNTY ARES NET

TUESDAY AT 8:00 PM ON 146.940 PL OF 123.0

NEW

THE VILLAGE NET — RAG CHEW

NEW

MONDAYS AT 11:00 AM ON 443.225 +5 mhz shift WITH A PL OF 103.5

NEW

ALL WELCOME

NEW

TVARC

Upcoming Events

June 15th Meeting at Lake Miona 7:00 PM. Meeting Highlights
Video of Ward-Highlands School Trip
Presentation- Making Field Day Contacts
Final Preparations for Field Day

June 16th RADIO DAY at the Villages Primary School. Set up
at 7:30 AM. We will have 2—1 hour sessions with
the Kids. We will be checking out our Field Day
Rigs.

June 26th and 27th **FIELD DAY**

August 2nd and 3rd "Camp Villages" 10AM till noon at
Lake Miona Rec center. If you would like to help
out with this event, please contact me.
dhardoin@comcast.net.

Don't Forget Tech Class August 4th

"THE VILLAGES ANTENNA GUIDE"

A PRESENTATION AT OUR SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON CD. INQUIRE AT THE NEXT MEETING.



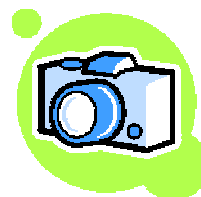
2010 OFFICERS



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Pictures and Articles Needed



If you have pictures or articles you would like to write for inclusion in the TVARC Newsletter, please contact the editor at editor@tvarc.net. Additionally, if you have ideas for articles, please contact the editor. This is the club's newsletter not just the club officers' or the editor's.

THE VILLAGES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE VILLAGES AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB
THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA
WEB SITE WWW.TVARC.NET

Electronically published monthly in Adobe Acrobat format and posted on www.tvarc.net

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The Villages Amateur Radio Club is an American Amateur Radio League (ARRL) affiliated radio club