



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida  
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341  
W4AC Repeater – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL  
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- AUGUST 2009 --

## -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

The past month has been a busy one for me— not that all my days aren't busy. Hi Hi!

My trip over to the Friedrichshafen Hamfest was undoubtedly the highlight. Again, it was a most enjoyable venture, due in no small part to the exceptional hospitality of Martin Zippe-DJ6OM/AF4ID and his wife, Lucie-DF3CJ. They devoted a lot of time and effort on my behalf, including an itinerary that included any regional towns with "Haag" in their names. Those of you who attended our July TARC meeting were able to see some of the results of their efforts. My sincere Thanks to Martin and Lucie!

Closer to home, I attended the Central States VHF Society Conference up in Chicago the latter part of July. I learned of some upcoming activities that should definitely broaden the appeal of VHF operating. More on that at a later date.

We have no complaints that the weather has remained relatively calm in our area, however, steps have been taken to assure that our emergency power supply at the W4AC Repeater site will remain in service should the need arrive. Jack Gaddas-KY1Z, Konrad Owens-WA3RRS and Bruce Brown-WA8IQF are now experienced with the steps to be taken to keep the repeater operating. Of course, we hope their services will not be called upon.

We don't yet know what will be offered for a program at our August meeting, but we have a couple weeks to come up with something of interest. So, can I count on you to come on out our August meeting?

73 to all de Stew-W4MO

## -- AUGUST MEETING --

The doors open at **6:30 PM** with an "Eyeball QSO" period until the business meeting kicks off at **7:00 PM** on **13 August 2009** in the Community Room of The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, 601 South Tamiami Trail (Business US 41), across from the Venice Regional Health Center. A program of interest will be offered. We hope to see you there.

## -- NORFOLK ISLAND ON THE AIR --



With the passing of Jim Smith-VK9NS last February, Norfolk Island has been quiet on the ham bands. A group of mainland Australians changed that situation with VK9IR and VK9NI both being activated for a week in the latter part of July. Several TARC DXers did well, working these operations on at least four bands.



The stations were set up at the Pacific Palms resort on the northerly tip of the island. About 10 minutes from the Norfolk Island Airport, it provided good accommodations at a location offering excellent propagation to the northeast.

Norfolk was first settled by Polynesians with Captain James Cook being the first European to land on the island in 1774. The history of Norfolk Island can be found on the *Wikipedia* web site.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**09 July 2009**

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were made all around. Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO was welcomed as a new TARC member. Potential ham Bob Miller of Venice and Carol Gray of Nokomis were welcomed as visitors. Don Gray-WD7A was welcomed back from Ohio.

**MINUTES** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 June 2009 meeting as published in the July 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Jack Gaddas-KY1Z so moved, seconded by Mike Hickey-NY4P, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – A “Thank You” letter was received from the Special Olympics, acknowledging receipt of the \$20 we received with some QSLs for K4S. As that letter gave the dates for the 2010 Sharks Tooth Festival, application for use of K4S call sign 09-11 April 2010 was made and documentation received. Flyers for the 08 August Fort Pierce Hamfest were passed to interested members.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1956.46. Receipts were \$14.00 from the June 50/50, and \$20.00 from Special Olympics donations, totaling \$34.00. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater site, \$6.84 for printing \$250 donation to the Pine View School ARC, \$20.00 donation to the Special Olympics, \$207.05 premium on repeater insurance, and \$24 annual rental fee on propane storage tank for the emergency generator, totaling \$522.21. The 07 July 2009 ending balance is \$1468.25. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for approval of the report, seconded by Jack-KY1Z, and padded.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE** – Nothing reported.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS stated that there would be at least one candidate, Bob Miller, at Saturday’s scheduled VE session.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew reported that all equipment and modes at the repeater site are functioning.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – No change reported in the Club property inventory.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 89 members, including eight Life Members and 20 First-Year Free members.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG reminded all of the Simplex Net at 7:30 PM on 146.580 on Tuesdays, the DX Net at 8:00 PM on our 146.805 W4AC Repeater on Wednesdays, the TARC Net at 7:30 PM on our 146.805 W4AC Repeater on Thursdays, and the daily Snowbird Nets on 20 and 40 meters. Bob asked that anyone interested please offer to be an Acting Net Controller for these nets. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF reminded all of the DARN regular net 13 July and the special statewide drill on 15 July.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS stated that, although he missed the June meeting, he understood that the EARS Field Day operation was considered successful. Bruce-WA8IQF commented that the operator pool is shrinking, but that EARS had more CW than Phone operations.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported that there were 16 members, spouses and friends at the 01 July lunch of Suncoast Chapter 53 at the Panda Pavilion in Venice.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Generator Maintenance/Operation: Stew-W4MO and Bruce-WA8IQF successfully started and ran the standby generator several weeks ago. Jack-KY1Z and Konrad-WA3RRS, who have volunteered to maintain the generator when its use is required, both need to be familiarized with the preferred operational routine. Plans have been made to go to the repeater site next week to learn the routine and set priorities on what equipment should be powered during an emergency.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Nothing.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – San Yoder-K3SY commented that the board at Venetian Falls is interested in purchasing an emergency generator and asked about the source and make of the TARC generator. Peter Pesa-N4RD replied that it was a “Black Max” unit that was purchased at Sam’s Club.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM was made by Peter-N4RD, seconded by Don-KI4VGE, and passed. There were 15 members and two visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Stew Haag-W4MO showed photos taken at a new HDTV station in Louisville, the Dayton Hamvention, the Friedrichshafen Hamfest, Munich, and other memorable sites in Germany.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEAR-ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Belize – V31NP; ++ and PSK31	Now to 12 Aug	211	--	--	--	17-01	--	--	--	--
Lesotho – 7P8AO, 7P8YI, etc.	Now to 11 Aug	110	<b>23-06</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>00-08</b>	<b>10-16</b>	13-15	NO	NO	NO
Aland Is – OH0/CT1BWW	Now to 07 Aug	31	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>21-06</b>	13-21	13-19	NO	NO	NO
Ascension Is. – ZD8Z	Now to 07 Aug	108	<b>23-08</b>	<b>21-10</b>	<b>19-04</b>	<b>11-00</b>	17-21	15-21	16-20	NO
Dodecanese Is. – SX5SYMI	31 July – 03 Aug	49	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>20-06</b>	<b>13-23</b>	13-23	NO	NO	NO
Iceland – TF/IW8BLZ	31 July – 11 Aug	28	<b>00-08</b>	<b>22-10</b>	<b>19-01</b>	15-23	NO	NO	NO	NO
Market Reef - OJ0/CT1BWW (tentative)	01 – 02 August	31	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>21-10</b>	13-21	13-16	NO	NO	NO
Egypt – SU8LH	01 – 09 August	54	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>14-00</b>	17-22	17-22	NO	NO
Swaziland – 3DA0SS	01 – 14 August	106	<b>23-05</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>23-07</b>	<b>11-16</b>	13-15	NO	NO	NO
Timor Leste – 4W????; ** w/some SSB/RTTY	03 Aug – 03 Oct	300	--	<b>08-13</b>	<b>10-14</b>	13-16	14-16	--	--	--
Afghanistan – T6AD; **, perhaps PSK	08 – 22 August	26	--	<b>00-02</b>	--	02-04	--	NO	--	--
Ogasawara – JD1BLY and JD1BNF	09 – 14 August	317	<b>09-11</b>	<b>08-13</b>	<b>10-14</b>	<b>01-04</b>	22-00	22-01	NO	NO
Faroe Is. – OY/SP6IXF and OY/SP7VC	10 – 16 August	32	<b>00-07</b>	<b>21-10</b>	<b>11-03</b>	<b>13-23</b>	13-22	NO	NO	NO
Agalega & St. Brandon – 3B7FQ	10 – 30 August	81	--	<b>22-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	0330	1530	NO	NO	NO
Cyprus – 5B/G4MKP; **	14 – 25 August	47	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>20-05</b>	<b>13-22</b>	16-21	16-20	NO	NO
Nauru – C21TI; CW/SSB/RTTY	17 – 23 August	279	<b>06-12</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>04-15</b>	<b>00-05</b>	20-02	20-03	NO	NO
Crete – SV9/WB2GAI	21 Aug – 05 Oct	51	<b>23-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>19-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	16-19	--	--	NO
Marshall Is. – V73NF, V73J or V7XX	24 – 29 August	282	<b>06-12</b>	<b>04-14</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>19-04</b>	19-00	19-02	20-00	NO
Glorioso – FT5GA	31 Aug – 21 Sept	82	<b>23-03</b>	<b>22-04</b>	<b>22-04</b>	18-21	16-17	NO	NO	NO

Updated 29 July 2009, based on 29 July 2009 QRZ DX, 27 July 2009 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

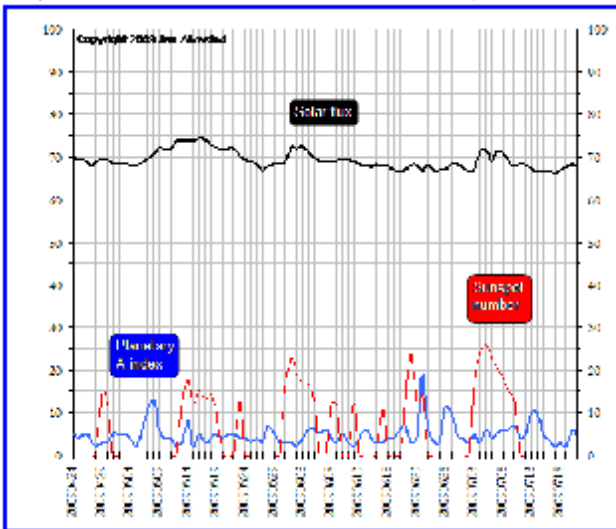
**Notes:** Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using W6ELProp V.2.60 propagation software, available to download at <http://www.gsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

### -- JULY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Solar Flux ranged from 66 to 72, with a mean value of 68.3 (vs. 65.7 for July 2008 and 71.6 for July 2007). The A-index was  $\leq 7$  on 25 days.

Solar activity was very low. Sunspot Region 1024 appeared 05 July, spawned a couple flares and departed the west limb 12 July; being the longest duration of any Cycle 24 sunspots to date. The unofficial sunspot number for August is 5.0.

Recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams (HSS) caused unsettled to storm level geomagnetic field activity 09-10, 14, and 22-25 July. Otherwise conditions were at quiet levels.



(Courtesy of: Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

### -- AUGUST FORECAST --

August solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 21-22 August. Solar flux should average 69.0 during August.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels 01-04 August, with isolated unsettled conditions 05-06 August due to recurrent HSS. After quiet levels, activity is expected to increase to unsettled levels 09-10 August, due to HSS, decreasing to quiet levels 11-17 August. Active to minor storm levels are expected 18 August due to recurrent HSS, decreasing to unsettled 19 August followed by a further decrease to quiet levels during the remainder of August.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 28 July 2009, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 28 July 2009, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 28 July 2009)

### -- DX NOTES IN THE MARGIN --

The latest word is that the Glorioso operation has been delayed until September 1<sup>st</sup>, due to priority needs of the French military—both equipment and staff. Long path propagation (beam 262°) on 20 meters may occur 1200-1400 UTC.

Paul Pai-BV4FH and his family have moved to mainland China and is now BM4HSG. (TNX QRZ DX 29 July 2009)

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party	0001Z 01 Aug 2359Z 02 Aug	10 Meters Only SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Call, Name, QTH, 10-10# (if u have it)
North American QSO Party	1800Z 01 Aug 0600Z 02 Aug	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Name and State
Worked All Europe (WAE) Contest	0000Z 08 Aug 2359Z 09 Aug	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	European Stations (See <a href="http://www.waedc.de">www.waedc.de</a> re.QTC)	R/S/T, Serial #, QTCs if requested
Russian District Award Contest	0800Z 15 Aug 0800Z 16 Aug	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Russian Stations Only	R/S/(T), Serial Number
North American QSO Party	1800Z 15 Aug 0600Z 16 Aug	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Name and State
YO (Romanian) DX Contest	1200Z 29 Aug 1159Z 30 Aug	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial Number
SCC (Slovenian) RTTY Championship	1200Z 29 Aug 1159Z 30 Aug	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, First Year Licensed

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and *WorldRadio*

### -- THE HONG KONG CONUMDRUM --



One of our members, who is working his way up the DXCC ladder, was caught between a rock and a hard place a few weeks back. It being the weekend, he felt a desire to prepare two fried eggs for his breakfast. However, he also had an ear open for Charlie-VR2009EAG who was coming in on 20 meters. The eternal question, "What to do?" was answered as chasing DX (correctly) took precedence over cooking.

Repeated calls to Charlie went unanswered, whilst the eggs continued on their path to ruin. In frustration, he returned to the scene above. No DX! No edible eggs! Anyone for Peach's?

### -- FUTURE SEQUENTIAL PREFIXES? --

The FCC went to the computerized system for issuing sequential call signs to new licensees some three decades ago, and the pool of call signs seemed endless. Amateur Extra calls were 2x2, starting with the letter "A." Advanced calls were also 2x2, starting with the letter "K." New Novice, Technician and General call signs were 2x3, starting with the letter "K."

Here in the Fourth District, which issues more new licenses than any other district, the FCC's system is going to face a major challenge in the foreseeable future. The Amateur Extra call signs are now of the AJ4R\_, with about 20 new sequential calls being issued per month. With only some 230 calls remaining in the "AJ4" series, and 676 call signs in the "AK4" series, there are only some 900 calls remaining for new Amateur Extra licensees in the contiguous 48 states. All "AL" prefixes are allocated for Alaska, and "AM" through "AZ" prefixes are allocated to other nations.

If the current rate of new Amateur Extra licensees continues, their distinctive 2x2 call signs in the Fourth District will be used up in less than four years.

### -- GETTING THE MEETING UNDERWAY --



The projector is set up, for the program, as President Stew-W4MO gets the members primed up for the July meeting.

# August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	5 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	8 TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library
9	10 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	12 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	13 TARC Meeting, Gab Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	19 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	22
23/30	24/31	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	26 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	29

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeater will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. Thanks for your cooperation.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_ ARRL (Y/N)\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Control \_\_, RFI/TVI \_\_, VE Testing \_\_, Training \_\_, Packet \_\_, RTTY \_\_,  
Computers \_\_, DXing \_\_, Contests \_\_, Field Day \_\_, Publicity \_\_, Emergency Communications \_\_, Special Events \_\_,  
VHF/UHF \_\_, SSTV \_\_, ATV \_\_, Repeater \_\_, EchoLink \_\_, Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Member @ \$15.00/year \_\_, Family Membership @ \$20.00/year \_\_ (\$8.00 after 30 June for remainder of calendar year. \$15.00 after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD  
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

*The Communicator* is a monthly publication  
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

2009 TARC Officers

President: Stew Haag-W4MO  
V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF  
Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE  
Directors: Konrad Owens-WA3RRS  
Jon Hamlet - W4ZW  
Jack Gaddas-KY1Z  
Bob Avrutik-N1RA