



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 – 444.100 MHz & 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- MAY 2010 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I believe I can report that the past month has generally been positive for the TARC.

We had a good turnout of members to set up the K4S station at the Sharks Tooth Festival site on April 9th, and we got the station on the air by noontime that day. Five operators kept the station on until 7 PM, under rather trying conditions.

Before sunrise on April 10th seven volunteers were on hand to provide communications along the route of the Inaugural Sharks Tooth 10K Run. Their assistance did not go unnoticed and was appreciated by the Run's sponsor and organizer. We'll probably be asked back next year, so "plan ahead."

Following the Run, we got K4S back on the air around 9:30 AM until after 8 PM with seven operators pitching in. We chose not to operate on Sunday, April 11th, due to rain and potential lightning.

When the on-site station was shut down, three members operated as K4S from their home stations, with CW being offered for the first time. Some 1215 QSOs were made this year, spreading Sharks Tooth publicity more than ever.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the TARC members who gave of their time in support of our K4S efforts. Great job, guys!!

You are aware that some form of constant RFI at the repeater site was locking up our 2-meter repeater. As such, the repeater had been shut down for a week or so. It appears that deteriorated coax and connectors on the antenna were the culprits. I've ordered new LMR600 coax and connectors which are scheduled for installation on May 1st when some other antenna work will be carried out.

73 to All de Stew-W4MO

-- MAY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **04 May 2010** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. After the business meeting, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW will give a Power Point presentation on EchoLink and VoIP. Come and learn about these modes!

-- K4S ON THE AIR! --



The "antenna farm" at K4S—the venerable Cushcraft R5 and a BudiPole dipole. (Photo from Jim Murdock-KG4KOT)

-- SHARKS TOOTH 10K RUN --



Runners pass the water station where Roger Schmitt-KY4RS was posted. (KY4RS Photo)

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

06 April 2010

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB from Sarasota, Lewis Tenzer-N2LU from Sarasota and future ham Bill Franklin from Venice were welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 02 March 2010 meeting as published in the April 2010 issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack reported that the IRS Form 990-N in e-Postcard format, an annual requirement for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, was submitted to the IRS on 01 April 2010.

At this time, volunteer sign up sheets for our K4S set up and operation and for communications assistance for the initial Sharks Tooth 10K Run were distributed. It was also announced that Stew has 10 HT's, both analog and digital, available for use at the Sharks Tooth 10K Run.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1774.47. Receipts were \$26.00 from the February 50/50 and \$75.00 from 2010 membership dues payments, and \$9.00 for one call sign badge, totaling \$110.00. Expenses were \$8.75 for one call sign badge. The 02 March 2010 ending balance is \$1875.72. Dil Kay-W8DIL moved to approve the report, seconded by Don Gray-WD7A, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Jack-W4JS advised that QCWA Chapter 53 member Jack Parsons-K3OTY, who is known to many TARC members, would be undergoing heart cauterization the next day.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 10 April, and at least three candidates are expected.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew reported that the new analog/digital W4AC Repeater, and the EchoLink and Packet Gateway modes are working satisfactorily. Switching placement of the 146 and 444 MHz antennas on the tower has been delayed due to both bad weather and unforeseen site problems.

CLUB PROPERTY – No inventory changes.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we now have 83 members, including seven Life Members, 20 First-Year Free members, and 56 paid-up members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present. We will continue holding our Tuesday Simplex Net on 146.580 MHz until we see if interference does develop.

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS reported that EARS considered their hamfest to have been a success, and they are now giving thought to this year's Field Day operation.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS stated that Suncoast Chapter 53's 03 March luncheon/meeting brought out 49 members/spouses/friends. Tomorrow, 07 April, the Chapter will meet at 11:30 AM at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. TARC member Jon Hamlet-W4ZW will offer his program on doing business in Russia. Anyone who's missed Jon's presentation were invited to come out, have lunch and enjoy a great program

OLD BUSINESS – Stew-W4MO has met with several persons at the company that owns the repeater site, however, discussion of a lease agreement has not come up.

Jon Hamlet-W4ZW provided updates on our current relationships with organizations and schools.

Pine View School – The Physics teacher passed the Technician exam at our last VE session at the Red Cross. Two students have upgraded to General class. The last round of scholarship applications to the Foundation for Amateur Radio was completed. WEDU videotaped the last PVSARC meeting for future broadcast. Pine View will offer a new course in Engineering/Electronics/Robotics next year, with Amateur Radio being included in the electronics curriculum.

Sarasota Military Academy – Jon and SMA advisor George Becht-N2SQ have installed a dual band VHF/UHF vertical and a 31' Eagle One vertical with an Icom AH-4 auto-tuner. Two students have upgraded to General class at our VE sessions at the Red Cross.

Suncoast Polytechnical High School – The head of the science department and one student passed their technician exams at our Red Cross VE session. The radio club there is

See **MINUTES**, pg. 5

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Marion Island – ZS8M (for one year)	Starting in May	130	00-06	05-07	07-08	10-12	10-11	NO	NO	NO
Chad – TT8PK; SSB, CW, some RTTY	Now to 10 June	73	00-05	22-06	22-06	16-00	17-22	21-23	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7IA; SSB, CW, PSK	Now to 18 May	41	--	23-02	--	02-04	18-20	--	--	--
Kenya – 5Z4/LA9PF; 100w, 3 el yagi or loop	Now to 11 May	76	23-04	22-05	22-05	18-00	16-23	17-23	18-21	--
Malawi – 7Q7PF; 100w, 3 el yagi or loop	Now to 11 May	90	23-04	22-05	22-05	18-22	16-17	16-17	16-17	NO
Seychelles – S79LR; PSK63,RTTY,CW,SSB	01 to 10 May	68	00-03	23-04	23-04	18-23	18-21	18-22	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLY, JD1BMH; all modes	02 to 14 May	317	--	08-12	07-12	12-15	00-03	00-03	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7SR	08 to 23 May	41	00-01	23-02	00-02	02-04	02-04	16-19	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/home calls	12 to 16 May	51	--	21-08	21-07	14-00	18-22	18-22	NO	--
Central African Republic – TL0A; RTTY,CW	13 to 26 May	79	--	22-06	22-06	17-02	19-00	19-00	NO	--
Aland Is – OH0/home calls; focus on WARC	15 to 28 May	31	00-04	22-08	22-08	12-22	12-21	NO	NO	NO
Samoa – 5W0OX; all modes	18 to 19 May	257	04-12	02-13	03-13	18-07	19-04	22-03	22-03	NO
Lord Howe Is – VK9CLH	21 to 31 May	249	06-12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Central Kiribati – T31X; all modes	22 May - 01 June	267	05-12	03-13	03-14	18-06	19-04	19-04	23-03	NO
Maldives – 8Q7AT; ++	23 May – 04 Jun	41	NO	23-01	--	02-04	--	--	--	--
Mongolia – JT9YW	25 May – 02 Jun	354	NO	NO	NO	11-16	00-03	NO	NO	NO
Corsica – TK9E; by Italian team	26 to 31 May	51	00-05	21-08	22-08	14-01	19-01	16-23	NO	NO
Palestine – E4X; Multinational team operation	28 May – 06 Jun	49	00-03	23-05	22-05	16-01	20-22	20-22	NO	NO

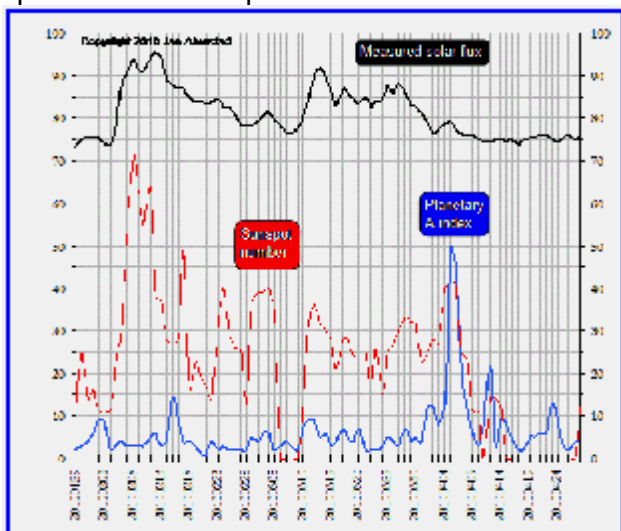
Updated 29 April 2010, based on 28 April 2010 *QRZ DX*, 26 April 2010 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

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.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 74 to 79 during April, with a mean value of 75.6 (vs. 69.7 for April 2009 and 70.3 for April 2008). The A-index exceeded 7 on 13 days. The average daily SSN was 11.6, with the Sun being spotless for 14 days.

Sunspot Region 1060 released a B3 solar flare 08 April, however, the geomagnetic field disturbances during April were generally due to coronal mass ejections and the resultant high speed solar wind speeds.



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

-- MAY FORECAST --

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The geomagnetic field should

be quiet 01-03 May; generally unsettled levels are expected 04-05 May due to a recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream (HSS). Quite levels should prevail 06-19 May, with generally unsettled levels 20-21 due to HSS. Activity should return to quiet levels 22-30 May with unsettled levels 31 May. May's solar flux should average 78.0.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 27 April 2010, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 27 April 2010, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 27 April 2010)

-- ZS8M-MARION ISLAND THIS MONTH --



The base camp whence the Marion Island signals will emanate once Pierre finishes other duties. Ranked #3 Most Wanted, worldwide, he will be popular! Don't fret if you don't get him on the first call as he'll be there for a year.

APRIL CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z 01 May 1959Z 02 May	160 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial Number
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z 08 May 1200Z 09 May	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial Number
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest	1200Z 08 May 1200Z 09 May	80 – 10 Meters Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial, CQ Zone
Portuguese Navy Day	1500Z 08 May 1500Z 09 May	80 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial, CQ Zone
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z 08 May 2100Z 08 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	FISTS members; give power if not member	R/S/T, QTH, Name
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z 08 May 0300Z 09 May	6 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square (6 digits preferred)
Portuguese Navy Day	0800Z 15 May 1500Z 15 May	80 – 10 Meters Digital Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial, CQ Zone
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z 15 May 1200Z 16 May	80 – 10 Meters Digital Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial, CQ Zone
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 15 May 1200Z 16 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial Number
Baltic Contest	2100Z 22 May 0200Z 23 May	80 Meters Only Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial Number
CQ WW WPX Contest	0000Z 29 May 2400Z 30 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial Number

From ARRL "Contest Corral," May 2010 QST and May 2010 *WorldRadio Online*

--SHARKS TOOTH ACTIVITIES --



Stew-W4MO and Conrad-WA3RRS wait at the 10K Run Finish Line to greet incoming runners. A total of 328 runners completed the 6.2-mile course in two hours or less. This inaugural run was organized by Active Suncoast, LLC, with the course being laid out by members of the Zoomers Triathlon and Running Club. A percentage of the runners' entry fees went to benefit the Special Olympics of Sarasota County—which is the primary beneficiary of the Sharks Tooth Festival.

Reports indicate that our TARC volunteers, who provided communications along the route of the race, had a ball. Let's look forward to 2011!



Well, here's the Dynamic Duo manning Special Event Station K4S following their early morning stint at the Sharks Tooth Run. A total of some 1215 Q's were made this year: On-site – 261, W4ZW – 608, WA8IQF – 299, W4JS – 47. To date, a bit over 100 QSL cards have been received and replied to.

Already, thoughts are being given with regard to equipment for next year's event.

MINUTES, from pg. 2

to be known as the GEEK Club, and Jon has applied for a club license. License classes started 18 March.

Riverview High School – Nothing from this school, however, a Sarasota High School student who heard about the proposed program, got in touch with Jon and passed her Technician exam at our last Red Cross VE session.

Sarasota Red Cross – Non-operational transceivers were sent out for repair, they have been received and are ready for installation. An April “antenna day” will be scheduled to put up two yagis and repair the existing inoperative one. Relationship with the Red Cross is outstanding.

Sharks Tooth Festival - A total of 19 volunteers have signed up to assist. Following tonight’s meeting a tabulation showing assignment times will be given out to the volunteers via e-mail.

At the 02 April Board meeting, the officers granted permission for several operators use their home stations to activate K4S on alternative bands from that being used at the on-site station. There are three published frequencies for K4S: 21.313, 18.153, and 14.236 MHz. Off-site stations will coordinate with the on-site station prior to using alternative bands.

NEW BUSINESS – Creation of a TARC Scholarship Fund. In consideration of the money in the treasury vis-à-vis recurring and potential expenses, at the 02 April Board meeting the officers decided against setting up a scholarship fund with money drawn from the treasury. Rather, the concept of establishing a Scholarship Fund with money donated to the fund by the members, over and above their dues payments, was favored for recommendation to the membership. Such contributions could be made anytime, and the Membership Application form will be modified to indicate such individual contributions. A receipt form will be prepared acknowledging the contribution for tax purposes.

Associate Membership – In an effort to retain younger members who were granted First Year Free status, and none of whom stayed on to become a full, dues paying member, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW proposed that non-voting Associate Membership be made available for students under the age of 18 years. Dues would be \$5 per year. It is recognized that the Bylaws will have to be revised and voted upon by the members. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Jon Hamlet-W4ZW and passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Fred Lathwood-KI4TNI stated that he appreciated the training efforts of Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, such that he and others were well prepared to pass their exams at our last Red Cross VE session.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM was made by Conrad Owens-WA3RRS, seconded by Vic Ouellete-K1CGI, and passed. There were 28 members and three visitors present.

PROGRAM – The video of the 2009 K5D DXpedition to Desecheo Island was shown.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- YI9PSE DXPEDITION --



From 02 – 12 April, the YI9PSE Dxpediton was on from Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq. The multinational team of 13 operators rang up 50,401 Q’s with 19,396 stations. As far as is known, all the local DXers managed to get this one into their logs. Here’s the 3-element SteppIR getting ready to go to work.



Just to keep everything under control, here’s the team’s smiling driver with his tricked out fully auto AK-47. (Sure puts what’s left of our Second Amendment “rights” to shame!)

--LEARNING THE "ROPES" --



Keeping K4S active from the Sharks Tooth Festival, here's Jon Hamlet-W4ZW explaining a thing or two to Greg Slowik-KJ4QMD. We know from experience that knowledge comes from books but skills come from putting knowledge into practice.

-- WHERE'S YOUR LOGGER, ROGER? --



Roger Schmit-KY4RS doing a solo operation of K4S. We're beholden to Roger for all these great photos of both the Sharks Tooth Run and the K4S station! Maybe we can elect him as Official TARC Photographer, and all the attendant privileges thereof. (Hmmm. With Roger back up in the Blue Grass State, we just might pull it off. Hi Hi!)

The object and practice of liberty lies in the limitation of government power. – U. S. General Douglas MacArthur (1880 – 1964)

-- DEDICATED!! --



Bruce Brown-WA8IQF works 'em and Stew Haag-W4MO logs 'em. Note the effectiveness of having a southpaw logger—absolutely no clashing of elbows.

-- PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT --

At the April TARC meeting it was proposed to create a new Membership Class aimed at licensed student radio amateurs. The following addition will therefore be made to the Bylaws:

"Student Membership, comprised of licensed amateur radio operators who are students under the age of 18 years upon payment of dues of \$5 per year. Such members shall not be eligible to vote on Club matters."

Our Bylaws state that "At least thirty (30) days notice of intention to submit a proposed amendment for ratification shall be given to the general membership." Following such notice, the Bylaws "may be amended when ratified by two-thirds of the voting members present, or via their written proxy, at a regular or special meeting." Following that procedure, the final (signature) page of the Bylaws will be revised to show that the Bylaws "were ratified by the membership at a general meeting of the Club...."

Therefore, the 04 May TARC meeting will serve as the date for the notice of intention and reading of the amendment to the membership. The amendment will then be voted upon at our 01 June TARC meeting.

-- 2010 TARC ROSTER --

The TARC roster for 2010 is in the process of being finalized. As all our current members now receive this newsletter, meeting prompts, etc. via e-mail, the roster will be sent out via that medium in the very near future.

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May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>St. Petersburg ARC Hamfest, Lake Maggiore Park 8 AM – 1 PM <u>Free</u></i>	3	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Meet- ing 6 PM @ Venice Public Library	5 QCWA Lunch, 11:15 AM @ Denny's TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	8 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library
9	10 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC re- peater 146.805	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	12 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	13 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	19 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	22
23	24	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	26 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	29 <i>The Glorious Society of the Wormhole "Wormfest", Freedom Lake Park, Pinellas Park</i>
30	31					

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) _____

Voluntary Contribution to the Tamiami ARC Scholarship Fund _____

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

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