



# 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  
Web Site -- <http://tamiamiarc.tripod.com>  
W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- APRIL 2007 --

### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

The Charlotte County Hamfest was a lot of fun, and Stew Haag-W4MO got a good price for a large MFJ antenna tuner which had been donated to our Club. We really appreciate Stew's fine salesmanship on our behalf.

TARC Special Event Station K4S will again be operating from the Sharks Tooth Festival site. However, please note that this year the site is at the east end of the Venice Airport near the trapeze school and Italian club. This year's dates are April 20, 21 and 22. We expect to set up Friday morning, April 20, and be running by that afternoon. Come on out and participate in the very enjoyable operation.

Finally, plans are going forward for a presentation on Amateur Radio at the Jacaranda Trace retirement complex in hope of generating some interest in ham radio, gaining some new TARC members, and getting the radio shack there back on the air.

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

### -- APRIL MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 12 April 2007 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. Following the business meeting, Bob Avrutik-N1RA will offer a power point presentation showing highlights of his 2006 cruise from Dubai, United Arab Emirates to Rome, Italy. Come on out and show support of your club.

### -- PENDING POSTAL RATE INCREASE --

New US postal rates will become effective 14 May 2007. Domestic First Class mail will increase to 41 cents for one ounce, 58 cents for two ounces and 75 cents for three ounces; post cards will increase from the current 24 cents to 26 cents. Mail to Canada and Mexico will go up from the current 63 cents to 69 cents, both for one ounce. Other international mail will cost 90 cents for one ounce. International Reply Coupons, which now cost \$1.85, will increase to \$2.00 each. (*Jack-W4JS has a limited number of valid IRCs available for \$1.00 each.*)

### -- "HAM RADIO NOW!" --

Back on 30 January 2007, Don Gray-WD7A and Stew Haag-W4MO met with the Director of Arts & Leisure at the Jacaranda Trace (JT) retirement complex in Venice. It seems that at some time in the past six active hams living at JT had installed and activated a ham radio station on the top floor of the residential building. The station had fallen into disuse, however, the Director was enthusiastic that new hams be sought from amongst the current residents, and that the station be reactivated.

Supported by Stew and Bob Avrutik-N1RA, Don prepared a power point presentation to describe the present-day activities within amateur radio, local ham activity, and the basics of licensing.

That program, entitled "Ham Radio Now!", was presented 20 March to a number of JT residents, including several who were current or former radio amateurs. One member of the audience raised several good, inquisitive questions during the presentation, and ultimately expressed a keen interest in becoming licensed. The Director and her family are also interested in earning licenses. As a result, serious thought and effort are being given toward implementing an entry level training class at JT.

### -- ALL EYES ARE FOCUSED --



Don Gray-WD7A had everyone's attention with his video and power point presentation of "Ham Radio Now!" at the March TARC meeting.

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

08 March 2007

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting, which was held in the meeting room of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, to order at 7:01 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Dave Witt-WD9W of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and Carl Ericson-K2QV of Venice were recognized as visitors. Introductions were then made all around.

**MINUTES** – Konrad asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 08 February 2007 meeting as published in the March 2007 issue of *The Communicator*. Dil Kay-KB8YLK so moved, seconded by Jim LaCourse-K4IH, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Jack-W4JS described the metal call sign displayed at his position. It was a gift from Sparrow Dayton-W4SUL, given in appreciation of Jack's efforts as a QSL manager and VE Team liaison.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 08 February starting balance was \$3987.77. Receipts were \$22.00 from the February 50/50 drawing, \$45.00 from renewal dues from three members, and \$45 dues from three new members, totaling \$112.00. Expenses were \$4.00 for newsletter printing. The 08 March ending balance is \$4095.77. Croft Taylor-VE3CT moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – It was reported that the brother of Matt Klapp-W2EQV had passed away. It was also reported that Jon Hamlet-W4ZW had been hospitalized for knee surgery, followed by severe throat infection.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS stated that three candidates were expected at the VE session this coming Saturday.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Bob Avrutik-N1RA reported that he has the packet gateway station operating properly from his home, with coverage as far south as Englewood Isles. The station is on 145.610 MHz and offers access to the DX clusters. Bob will gladly assist anyone interested in setting up equipment to utilize W4AC-Packet.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Some items from the Club's inventory will be offered for sale at the Charlotte County Hamfest.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-WD7A reported that 71 members are now in good standing. Don asked any who had not received a 2007 dues card to contact him.

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR** – Konrad reminded all of the DARN radio checks scheduled for

11:00 AM and 7:30 PM on 12 March, starting off on our W4AC Repeater.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Konrad encouraged all to participate in the TARC Tuesday and Thursday 2-meter nets.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF reported that she had sent a letter to the head of the Venice High School science department, advising that the TARC would be willing to work with students interested in amateur radio.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Martin Horowitz-N4FA reminded all of the Charlotte County Hamfest being held 10 March at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds. Marty also invited TARC members to participate along with EARS members in the ARRL Field Day in June.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported that 38 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 06 March luncheon meeting. QCWA Service pins were awarded to five TARC members who belong to the chapter. Joe Thiel-WA1VNP gave a very interesting program on the topic of "Space Junk." An auction will be held at the April meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Discussion was held regarding several pending items:

- Ratification of March 2007 Revision to TARC Bylaws – Jack-W4JS moved that the last sentence of Article III.5.c should read "Such Life Members shall have no further obligation for annual dues." This eliminates any reference to "assessments." Bob Avrutik-N1RA seconded the motion. Marty-N4FA asked if that was the only place the term "assessments" had been found in the Bylaws, and he was informed that was the case. The motion then passed unanimously. Konrad then called for a vote to ratify the revised Bylaws, as so amended, and said vote was unanimous.
- Golf Shirts – It was announced that a potential local supplier had been located, however, as the set up cost will be from \$50 to \$100, actual interest in such shirts, at an approximate cost of \$20-25, was requested via show of hands. Approximately 16 members indicated such interest.
- TARC Badges – The list of needed badges will be finalized in early April, and the order placed at that time.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Nothing offered.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM was made by Charlie Covell-W4DB, seconded by Marty Horowitz-N4FA, and passed. There were 21 members and two visitors present.

See MINUTES, page 5

## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION FORECASTS

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
New Caledonia – FK/FO5RK	Now thru April	258	<b>06-12</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>00-05</b>	<b>23-02</b>	21-02	21-03	01-02
Vietnam – XV6SW **	Now to 30 April	348	--	--	--	<b>12-15</b>	--	15-16	--	--
The Sudan – ST2R	Now to 30 April	66	<b>22-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-05</b>	<b>14-00</b>	14-22	14-22	NO	NO
Senegal – 6W2SC (HA3AUI)	Now to 30 April	87	<b>23-08</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>19-05</b>	<b>11-02</b>	<b>15-00</b>	17-00	17-00	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP (HA3AUI)	Now to 30 April	90	<b>23-08</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>20-10</b>	<b>11-03</b>	<b>14-01</b>	17-00	17-00	NO
Solomon Is – H44MS	Now to 25 April	275	<b>07-12</b>	<b>06-13</b>	<b>05-14</b>	<b>01-05</b>	00-04	21-00	21-00	NO
Agalega Is – 3B6/SP9MRO, 3B6/SP9PT	Now to 02 April	75	<b>23-03</b>	<b>22-04</b>	<b>22-04</b>	<b>18-23</b>	<b>15-21</b>	15-19	15-20	NO
Mali – TZ1T, TZ2T, TZ4T, TZ6PVI	02 – 07 April	82	<b>23-07</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>20-04</b>	<b>12-02</b>	<b>15-23</b>	17-21	18-20	NO
Micronesia – V63J, V63RE, V63WN	02 – 19 April	293	<b>07-12</b>	<b>06-13</b>	<b>05-14</b>	<b>00-05</b>	<b>21-02</b>	20-02	20-03	NO
Swains Is – N8S	04 - 15 April	260	<b>05-12</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>02-14</b>	<b>18-04</b>	<b>18-01</b>	19-01	19-03	0100
Swaziland – 3DA0FC	05 – 09 April	106	<b>23-05</b>	<b>22-06</b>	22-06	<b>12-18</b>	<b>14-16</b>	13-18	NO	NO
Lesotho – 7P8DX	05 – 12 April	110	<b>23-05</b>	<b>23-06</b>	22-07	<b>13-18</b>	13-17	14-17	NO	NO
Syria – YK1BA	09 – 27 April	46	<b>00-03</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>12-22</b>	16-20	16-20	NO	NO
Mongolia – JT1Y	14 Apr – 03 May	354	NO	NO	<b>10-11</b>	<b>01-04</b>	00-04	03-04	NO	NO
Samoa – 5W5AA	17 – 24 April	257	<b>05-12</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>02-13</b>	<b>18-06</b>	<b>18-03</b>	18-02	19-04	01-02
Fiji – 3D2RI, 3D2AP, 3D2UY, 3D2AP	27 Apr – 03 May	258	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>00-07</b>	<b>19-00</b>	19-00	20-05	01-04
Scarborough Reef – BS7H	Late Apr - May	333	NO	<b>10-11</b>	<b>10-12</b>	<b>12-16</b>	16-18	16-17	NO	NO

Updated 29 March 2007, based on 28 March 2007 *QRZ DX*, 26 March 2007 *The Weekly DX*, and *K1XN's DX Alert 703*

Note: **Time in bold** = Best Band(s) for opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Phone Only; \*\* = CW Only; NO = No Opening forecast.  
Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www/qs1.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

### -- MARCH SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During the month of March, the Solar Flux ranged from 69 up to 76, with a mean value of 72.4 (vs. 75.2 for March 2006 and 89.8 for March 2005). The A-index was  $\leq 10$  on 21 days.

Solar activity was very low, with no visible sunspots 13-23 March. The geomagnetic field was disturbed 12-13 March due to a recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream (HSS). Minor storm levels occurred 23-25 March due to recurrent HSS.

### -- APRIL PROPAGATION FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels during April. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The solar flux should range from 70 to 75 during April

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels 03-07 and 10-18 April.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at minor storm levels 02-03 April with major storm periods at high latitudes due to recurrent HSS. Quiet to unsettled levels are expected 04-07 April. Activity should be quiet to unsettled 04-07 April, increasing to unsettled to minor storm levels 08-09 April. Quiet to unsettled levels are expected 10-19 April, followed by quiet to active levels 20-23 April. The remainder of April should be quiet to unsettled.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 27 March 2007 and NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 27 March 2007.)

*“He had delusions of adequacy.”* – Walter Kerr

### -- BS7H PLANNED FREQUENCIES --

BAND	SSB	CW	RTTY
10	28475	28024	28080
12	24945	24894	-
15	21295	21024	21080
17	18145	18074	-
20	14185	14024	14080
30	-	10104	-
30	-	10124	-
40	7057	7004	-
80	3799	3504	-
160	-	1826.5	-

See above table for short path openings. Long path openings are possible from 2230-0030 GMT on 20 meters. Propagation will be marginal with 20-meter maximum signals being S-6 to S-7 with a 3-element yagi on the receiver.

As of “press time” the exact operating dates of the Scarborough Reef DXpedition are unknown, however, their planned transmitting frequencies are shown above. All operations will be split frequency, with the BS5H operator indicating where he will be listening. Good luck!!

*“To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors, is sinful and tyrannical.”* – Thomas Jefferson, 1779

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z 31 Mar 1800Z 01 Apr	160 – VHF/UHF Phone, CW, Digital	Members of QCWA	Year 1 <sup>st</sup> Licensed, Chapter # or QTH
Polish DX Contest	1500Z 07 Apr 1500Z 08 Apr	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Polish Stations Only	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z 07 Apr 2359Z 15 Apr	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Lighthouses and/or ARLHS members	Serial No., Name and QTH
Spanish RTTY Contest	1600Z 07 Apr 1600Z 08 Apr	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Serial Number
European Union Spring Sprint	1600Z 14 Apr 1959Z 14 Apr	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	EU Stations Only	Both Calls, Serial Number & Name
Japan International DX Contest	0700Z 14 Apr 1300Z 15 Apr	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Japanese Stations Only	R/S/T and CQ Zone
Serbian DX Contest	2100Z 21 Apr 1700Z 22 Apr	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone (Note: Off the air 0501Z – 0859Z, 22 Apr)	ITU Zone
European Union Spring Sprint	1600Z 21 Apr 1959Z 21 Apr	80 – 20 Meters Phone Only	EU Stations Only	Both Calls, Serial Number & Name
TARA Skirmish – Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z 21 Apr 2400Z 21 Apr	160 – 6 Meters Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	Name and Prefix
Florida QSO Party	1600Z 28 Apr 2159Z 29 Apr	40 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone (Note: Off the air 0200Z – 1159Z, 29 Apr)	R/S/(T) & Florida County
Helvetia Contest	1300Z 28 Apr 1259Z 29 Apr	160 – 10 Meters Phone, CW, Digital	Swiss Stations Only	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
Polish DX RTTY Contest	1200Z 28 Apr 1200Z 29 Apr	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Serial Number
DX Colombia International Contest	0000Z 28 Apr 0000Z 29 Apr	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Colombian Stations Only	R/S/(T) and Serial Number

From April 2007 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

### --SHARKS TOOTH FESTIVAL --

The TARC will be operating Special Event Station K4S, 20-22 April, and assistance will be appreciated for set up, operating, and take down.

The Festival location has changed from last year. Take Avenida Del Circo off Tamiami Trail (US 41 Business) to Airport Avenue. Turn left (east) on Airport Ave. and follow the road to Venetian Waterway Park. Continue past the Park on the gravel road, through the gate into the Festival grounds.

Proposed frequencies are:

21.313	18.153
14.272	7.233

The station should come on the air before noontime on Friday, 20 April, and operate until 5 PM or later. On 21 April K4S will fire up at 9 AM and go until the bands close; on 22 April, from 9 AM until about 2 PM. QSL with SASE to Jack-W4JS to receive the award-winning K4S QSL card.

This was a fun event last year and it should be even better this time around, based on our past experiences. Last year our operation from the Sharks Tooth Festival ran up some 412 HF QSOs into eight countries and over 30 satellite QSOs.

### -- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 07 April  | North Brevard ARC Hamfest at DAV Chapter 109 Hall, 435 Singleton Ave., Titusville. TI: 145.49 (PL 100), Info: Bob-N6USP, 321-264-2622                         |
| 14 April  | Tampa ARC Hamfest at TARC Clubhouse, 7801 N 22 <sup>nd</sup> St., Tampa. TI: 147.105 (PL 146.2), Info: Bill-N4WEB, 813-382-9262                               |
| 28-29 Apr | Gainesville ARS Hamfest at Alachua County Fairgrounds, 3400 NE 39 <sup>th</sup> Ave (SR 222), Gainesville. TI: 146.82 (PL 123), Info: Ray-W4YTC, 352-339-4210 |

(From <http://bellsouthpwp.net/k/kb4vol>, the Web site of Bill Britton-KB4VOL and April *QST*)

### -- FUTURE HAM RADIO LICENSE --

Rumors fly of a No-Nothing Operator Class which may be offered in the future. It will entail a 10-question self-administered test for which the examinee must score zero.

(From Ray Dio III, April 2007 *WorldRadio*)

**-- SERVICE PINS AWARDED --**

A number of TARC members are also members of Suncoast Chapter 53 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) which meets monthly up in Sarasota. Years of service pins are available from the QCWA for its members who had been licensed for 50 years or more. On behalf of Chapter 53, QCWA Past President Croft Taylor-VE3CT presented pins to the following TARC/QCWA members at the 07 March meeting.



A 70-Year Pin for Bernie Holtman-W4GO



Croft gives a 65-Year Pin to Lee Darby-K4GKY



Bob Avrutik-N1RA gets his 65-Year Pin



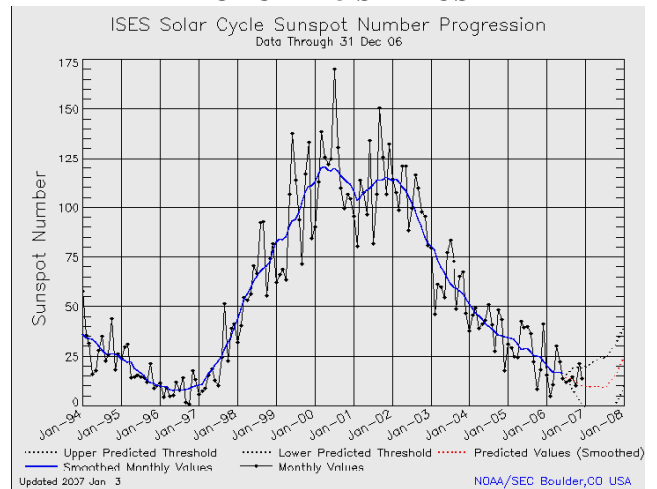
Croft hands a 60-Year Pin to Stew Haag-W4MO  
Andy Durette-KB1HIP was unable to attend this meeting to receive his 50-Year pin, which was given to Andy “informally” at a Friday TARC breakfast.

**-- ON-LINE GRID SQUARE LOCATOR --**

Laurent Haas-F6FVY as developed a simple on-line way to determine your grid square. First, go to <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/> which brings up a map of Europe. Use the arrows and scale to locate your house on the screen. Click on your house and get your grid square plus exact latitude and longitude.

(From April 2007 *WorldRadio*, pg.2)

**-- CYCLE 23 STATUS --**



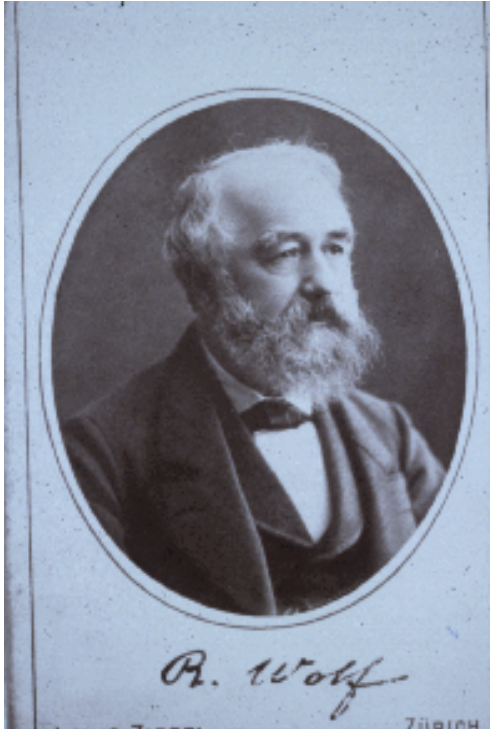
Note the flat red line, indicating an extended minimum until August/September 2007.

**MINUTES, from page 2**

**PROGRAM** – Don Gray-WD7A presented a power point and video program on “Amateur Radio Senior Initiative.” Don has been developing this program as an inducement for retirees to consider the hobby of amateur radio. Tonight’s presentation was intended to obtain critical assessment such that it can be fine tuned prior to its initial showing 20 March at Jacaranda Trace.

Jack Sproat-W4JS, Secretary

**-- FATHER OF SUNSPOT NUMBERS --**



In 1848 Rudolph Wolf (1816-1893) of Switzerland devised a daily method of estimating solar activity by counting the number of individual spots and groups of spots on the face of the sun. Wolf chose to compute his sunspot number by adding 10 times the number of groups to the total count of individual spots, because neither quantity alone completely captured the level of activity. Today, Wolf sunspot counts continue, since no other index of the sun's activity reaches into the past as far and as continuously.

An avid astronomical historian and an unrivaled expert on sunspot lore, Wolf confirmed the existence of a cycle in sunspot numbers. He also more accurately determined the cycle's length to be 11.1 years by using early historical records. Wolf, who became director of the Zurich Observatory, discovered independently the coincidence of the sunspot cycle with disturbances in the earth's magnetic field.

The cycle, though, is not symmetrical, for the spot count takes on the average about 4.8 years to rise from a minimum to a maximum and another 6.2 years to fall to a minimum once again. The largest annual mean number (190.2) occurred in 1957.

Determination of the sunspot number goes beyond simply counting the spots on the observed disc. The number of groups of spots is counted, and that number is multiplied by 10, then added to the number of individual sunspots. So if you saw 7 sunspots in 4 groups, the sunspot number would be 47. One spot would be 11; two spots in one group would be 12, etc. Results, however, vary greatly, since the measurement strongly depends on observer interpretation and experience and on the stability of the Earth's at-

mosphere above the observing site. Moreover, the use of Earth as a platform from which to record these numbers contributes to their variability, too, because the sun rotates and the evolving spot groups are distributed unevenly across solar longitudes. To compensate for these limitations, each daily international number is computed as a weighted average of measurements made from a network of cooperating observatories.

(From "Sunspot Numbers," NOAA National Geophysical Data Center, and *ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 12*, Tad Cook-K7RA)

**-- MASTER OF MORSE --**



Ted McElroy, Master of Code (Photo courtesy of Neal McEwen-K5RW via *QRZ DX* #2007-09)

The record for copying Morse Code goes back to July 1939. That's when Ted McElroy and a handful of others sat down at a competition in Asheville, North Carolina to compete in a Code Contest. They started at 40 wpm, gradually speeding up to 50, then 55 as one competitor falls, the speed increases to 60, then 65 with only two still in competition. As the speed reaches 70 wpm, one of the remaining competitors takes off his headphones and concedes victory to McElroy. The machine continues to run at 75 wpm and McElroy continues to copy. As the speed increases to 80 wpm, McElroy stops typing. The contest is over and McElroy's record is established at 75.2 wpm. That record still stands to this day.

(From *QRZ DX*, #2007-09)

**--THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE --**

If you've not paid your 2007 TARC dues, this will be your last issue of *The Communicator*. We hate to lose you, but the ball is in your court.

## -- CLARIFYING THE ISSUE --

Apparently a lot of confusion has arisen amongst Technician licensees with regard to their operating privileges since the end of the Morse code requirement. The following comes from the ARRL Web site, dated 20 March 2007.

Some Technician licensees who gained new privileges February 23 remain unaware or uninformed as to what they may and may not do on the HF bands, says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson-N1ND. In addition to all Amateur Radio operating privileges above 50 MHz, Technicians who never passed a Morse code test now have CW privileges on certain segments of 80, 40 and 15 meters plus new CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on certain segments of 10 meters. And that's *it*. "Know your privileges," Henderson advises all Amateur Radio licenses. He says some Technicians apparently believe their new HF phone privileges go far beyond what they really have.

"Technicians have *no* phone privileges on any HF band other than 10 meters, *period!*" Henderson emphasizes. "That's the bottom line. If you want to operate phone on the other HF bands, you'll have to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra class."

A lot of Technician licensees appear to have done just that, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni-AH0A. By 25 March, the number of General class licensees is up by 3955 over the February figure to 134,173, after hitting a 5-year low of just under 131,000 in January. The number of Technicians dropped by 5114 in the same period to 318,379--although there are still far more Techs than licensees of any other class. Meanwhile, the number of Amateur Extra licensees is at a 10-year high of 109,209 -- up by more than 600 since February. (*Note: The current US ham radio licenses total some 658,000; the ham population peaked at 687,860 in April 2003.*)

Most Technician license holders face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges on HF, but they no longer have to pass a Morse code examination. Technicians also may use their new HF privileges without having to apply for them first. No other license class automatically acquired additional privileges February 23. The "omnibus" rule changes effective last December 15 did not give Technician licensees without Morse code credit any additional privileges either.

Henderson further warns new Techs not to extrapolate additional phone privileges by misconstruing the FCC Part 97 rules to mean something they don't.

"Calls I've been getting lately indicate that some misinformed individuals believe Technicians may operate 'digital voice' on 80, 40 and 15, where they have only CW privileges," he says. "Not true. *Digital*

voice is really *digitized* voice, and it's *not* permitted in non-phone band segments."

Henderson reiterates that Technicians do not have FM voice privileges on 10 meters--or on any other HF band, for that matter.

The HF privileges all Technicians now have are equivalent to those that Novice licensees have enjoyed for years, Henderson notes. "This also means the 200 W maximum power limit still applies, regardless of where you operate in the HF bands," he says. Technicians may operate at up to the legal limit on VHF and UHF, however.

On 10 meters, Technician and Novice licensees have CW, RTTY and data privileges from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and CW and SSB privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz. "We're sorry that the sunspots aren't favoring 10 meters at this point in the sunspot cycle, but they will in a few years," Henderson allowed.

In addition, Technicians and Novices have CW--and *only* CW--privileges on from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz on 40 meters and 21.025 to 21.200 MHz on 15 meters.

## -- FCC FINES FLORIDA RADIO SHOP --

The FCC has levied a \$7000 fine against Ben Metzger of Titusville, doing business as ! Stop Communications/1 Stop CB Shop, for marketing non-certified CB transceivers. The Tampa FCC office issued Metzger a citation for marketing certain Galaxy and Connex transceivers. Metzger had asserted the items are Amateur Radio transceivers, which do not require FCC certification; not CB transceivers, which do. The FCC says the units can be used on both CB and amateur frequencies, and has determined that such dual-use transceivers are therefore CB transceivers under its rules. Metzger told the FCC last May that he had removed these radios from his store. FCC agents from Tampa visited the store later, however, and were able to buy a Connex CX3300HP, which Metzger modified to operate from 25.615 to 28.305 MHz. Metzger still claims the Connex is a ham radio transceiver and that he did not violate any FCC rules.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 26, No. 12)

## -- CUSHCRAFT ALIVE AND WELL --

News went out a couple weeks back that venerable antenna manufacturer had been purchased by Laird Technology, a British firm, and there were fears the amateurs would lose another firm. A check of the Cushcraft website indicates all is well. While Cushcraft dropped its monoband yagis, save for 10 and 40 meters, all the popular antennas are shown on the site, complete with assembly manuals. Fear not!

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 @ \$18.50/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**

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