

THE **COMMUNICATOR**

Newsletter of the TAMIAMI 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



-- APRIL 2011 -

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

The move to our new meeting site, along with date and time changes makes up the first order for discussion. A number of us felt that the early meeting time, the limited time frame, the need to set up and store away all the chairs and tables, and several other constraints impeded our flexibility at the Library. Consequently, a quiet search had been underway to procure a more "flexible" meeting facility. Through the efforts of Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, we were able to gain access to the Coast Guard Auxiliary training facility on South Harbor Drive. Several TARC members have already undertaken some work at that site, setting up VHF and UHF radios. The flotilla commander is very pleased with the relationship between our two organizations, and it looks like a win-win arrangement for all concerned.

Another bright spot on the horizon is the strong potential for an Amateur Radio Club at the Venice High School. Physics teacher Steve Case and math teacher Rob Lash both aced their Technician exams at a special session held at the high school by several TARC VEs earlier this week. Both these new hams have done their "homework" and they are full of energy with regard to ham radio. They have been thinking how ham radio points of interest can be included in their respective classes. When the ongoing expansion of VHS is completed, they are looking forward to getting antennas on top of the new 3story building, with a club station on the first floor. This presents a golden opportunity for the TARC to perform public service and lend assistance to young hams. You know we do need young people in ham radio!

Don't forget TARC's planned activities during the Sharks Tooth Festival, 08 – 10 April. So far, 20 TARC members have signed up to assist setting up, monitoring the 10-K Sharks Tooth Run, and operating Special Event Station K4S. If you haven't yet signed on, please do so at our April meeting, or at least stop by our Festival site.

73, Stew Haag-W4MO

-- APRIL MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **06 April 2011** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive, just west of the Venice Airport. Following the business meeting, Hans Napfel-WA2ZZB will give a presentation on "The Hubble Telescope and Astronomy." That sounds pretty interesting and we hope to see you there.

-- BHUTAN, NEPAL AND TIBET --



Jim Wise-W4PRO was vacationing in the area when several radio clubs put him to work, telling of his "Himalayan Adventures." Here's Jim, wearing his *gho*, the national attire of Bhutan, as he described his solo 2004 ham radio operations from Bhutan and Nepal, along with a side trip to Tibet, China. His photos provided good insight to the people and the lands of those countries.

-- NI4CE REPEATER NETWORK --

When the West Central Florida Group, Inc. got started a dozen years ago, the TARC contributed \$500 to their efforts. This helped get the NI4CE "Big Stick" repeater on the air, with their antennas at about 1000' up in Verna, and excellent 2-meter and 70 cm coverage of the WCF Section. Daily nets are held on this network, and you may find some of them to be of interest. Check out http://www.ni4ce.org/nets/ for frequencies, schedules and details of these nets.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the Meeting 01 March 2011

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Jim Wise-W4PRO and Linda Wise-W7PRO of Virginia Beach, VA, Andy Bobak-N2NDG of Richfield Springs, NY, Lew Ladwig-WB0NAI of Port Angeles, WA Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF of Shelton, CT, and Pam Krijgsman and Bill Bobak were all welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – A motion to accept the minutes of the 08 February 2011 meeting as published in the March 2011 issue of *The Communicator* was made by Bruce Brown-WA8IQF, seconded by John Donnelly-KY4JD, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported submitting the form to renew our Florida sales tax exemption. At this time, Jack reported that 16 members had signed up to assist at the Sharks Tooth 10-k Run and operation of K4S from the Festival 08 – 10 April. The Sign-Up Sheet was again passed around for operating time notations and for additional members to sign up.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-Kl4VGE gave the February Treasurer's Report. The starting balance was \$2772.80. Receipts were \$24.00 from the February 50/50, \$128 in dues, \$10.00 in donations, and \$220.00 for sale of club equipment, totaling \$382.00. Expenses were \$15.02 for DayStar Internet service, \$5.00 for Attendance Drawing, totaling \$20.02. The ending balance is \$3134.78. Charlie Covell-W4DB moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Stew paid homage to loyal member Lee Darby-K4GCY who died on 28 February at the age of 94.

VE TESTING – Our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 12 March at the Venice Public Library. There have been no inquiries to date.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters and the Kenwood remote HF radio are operational.

CLUB PROPERTY – Stew commented that there is still an inventory of items available to the members.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported we have 63 Regular Members, of which 51 have paid their 2011 dues, eight Hon-

orary Life members, and four First Year Free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not in attendance. Jack-W4JS commented that net participation has been very sparse. Stew pondered if we should just forget about holding these nets.

LIAISON TO EARS – No one in attendance could report on recent meetings of the Englewood ARS.

LIAISON TO QCWA – The next gathering of Suncoast Chapter 53 will be 02 March at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Jim Wise-W4PRO will offer his program "Himalayan Adventure" regarding his 2004 DXpedition to Bhutan and Nepal. All are welcome to come on out, have lunch and enjoy the camaraderie.

OLD BUSINESS – Sunshine Committee volunteer(s) still needed. No one volunteered, and Stew requested the members to "think about it."

NEW BUSINESS – Change of Meeting Venue - Stew announced that the officers had been discussing changing the location, date and time of the TARC meetings. Various factors have prompted this interest, including a more suitable meeting time, minimizing conflicts with other obligations of members, less restriction on allowable time for meetings, etc. As such, Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary based in Venice, has engaged in discussions with the officers of that organization with regard to the TARC using their facility. TARC officers have visited the facility and have met with these officers, concluding that the facility meets our desires and the officers are agreeable to our use of same. Guenther subsequently prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which he read to the TARC members. Following agreement to the MOU. subject to an addition for renewal of the MOU on an annual basis, Stew was authorized to sign same. Pending signature by both organizations. the April TARC meeting would be held at the Coast Guard facility on Wednesday, 06 April 2011.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM was made by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed. There were 23 members and seven visitors present.

PROGRAM – "Himalayan Adventure" with photography and dialog by Jim Wise-W4PRO from Virginia Beach, VA, describing his 2004 DXpedi-See **Minutes**, page 5

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY	BEAR-	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Uganda – 5X1VJ	Now to 08 June	77	23-04	23-05	22-05	19-02	17-01	16-21	16-01	NO
Sierra Leone – 9L5MS; Dutch team operation	Now to 16 April	91		21-09	21-07	11-04	14-00	16-21	16-00	NO
Corsica – FK/F8DZY; spare time operation	Now to 17 April	51	23-06	22-08	21-06	11-01	14-22	16-20	16-20	NO
Seychelles – S79UFT; French team operation	Now to 15 April	68	23-03	23-03	23-03	19-00	18-23	17-20	16-19	16-19
Uganda – 5X1NH	Now to 14 April	77	23-04	23-05	22-05	19-02	17-01	16-21	16-01	NO
Liberia – EL???; Italian team operation	Now to 13 April	92	23-07	21-08	21-07	12-03	13-01	15-21	16-20	16-19
Solomon Is – H44MS; ++ focus on 40/80	Now to 12 April	275	07-12	06-13	06-13	02-15	13-15	20-23	20-22	21-22
Svalbard – JW/F8DVD	01 to 08 April	13	00-08	23-11	23-11	11-01	13-22	13-23	20-22	16-20
Papua New Guinea – P29VCX; Team op.	02 to 07 April	283	08-12	07-13	07-13	04-16	13-16	21-00	21-23	01-03
Albania – ZA/F4DTO	02 to 16 April	48	00-05	22-06	22-06	11-00	12-22	15-19	17-18	1800
Papua New Guinea – P29NI; Team op.	08 to 14 April	283	08-12	07-13	07-13	04-16	13-16	21-00	21-23	01-03
American Samoa – AI5P/KH8; holiday style	08 to 18 April	256	05-12	03-14	03-14	18-05	18-04	18-00	19-23	19-23
Svalbard – JW1RSA	05 to 15 April	13	00-08	23-11	23-11	11-01	13-22	13-23	20-22	16-20
Reunion Is – TO2Z; holiday style operation	09 to 22 April	91	23-02	22-03	23-04	04-05	04-05	1530	14-16	NO
Vietnam – XV2LC & XV4LC	10 to 25 April	348				1200				
Nepal – 9N7DX	13 Apr - 01 May	13				00-04		16-18		NO
Botswana – A25FC; Team operation	14 to 18 April	105	23-05	22-06	22-06	17-18	13-17	15-17	15-17	NO
Papua New Guinea – P29VLR; Team op.	15 to 18 April	283	08-12	07-12	07-12	04-16	14-16	21-00	22-23	01-03
St. Barthelemy – FJ/OH2YL	15 to 27 April	113	22-11	00-24	00-24	10-05	12-04	14-23	16-21	15-03
Togo – 5V7CC; German team operation	15 to 28 April	87	23-06	22-08	22-07	11-04	13-02	16-22	16-20	23-00
Central Kiribati – T31A; US team operation	17 to 28 April	267	05-12	03-14	03-13	17-06	18-04	18-00	18-21	19-20
Mayotte - TO2FH; Brazilian team operation	18 to 25 April	85	00-03	23-04	23-04	19-04	16-22	16-20	15-19	15-19
Corsica – TK4DS; Belgian team operation	21 to 24 April	51	23-06	22-08	21-06	11-01	14-22	16-20	16-20	NO
Papua New Guinea – P29LVR	22 to 27 April	283	08-12	07-13	07-13	05-16	13-16	21-00	22-02	01-03
Ghana – 9GLK; Dutch duo operation	28 Apr – 06 May	88	23-06	22-07	22-08	10-04	12-02	15-22	21-04	23-00
Ogasawara – JD1BMT & JD1BLY	30 Apr – 07 May	317	09-11	08-12	08-12	04-15	20-04	21-04	21-04	NO

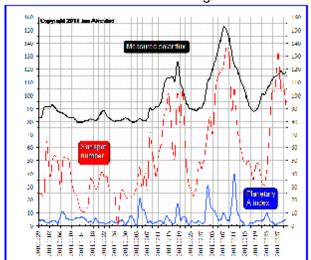
Updated 30 March 2011, based on 30 March 2011 *QRZ DX*, 28 March 2011 *The Weekly DX* and http://www.ng3k.com

Notes: Time in bold = Bands 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.ngsl.net/w6elprop/. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- MARCH SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During March the Solar Flux ranged from 88 to 155, with a mean value of 115.7 (vs. 83.4 for March 2010 and 69.3 for March 2009). The Aindex was \geq 7 on 11 days. Through 30 March, the sunspot number ranged from 31 to 137, with a mean of 77.9.

Sunspot Regions 1166 thru 1183 were active during February, with 140 C-class, 21 M-Class and one X-Class flares occurring.



(Thanks to Jan Alvestad, http://www.solen.info/solar/)

-- APRIL FORECAST --

Solar activity is forecast to be low during April with C-class flares expected and a chance for M-class flares from Regions 1178 and 1183.

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 01-02 April. The Solar Flux should average 114.2 during April.

The geomagnetic field should be unsettled 01 April, decreasing to quiet levels 02-06 April. Quiet to unsettled levels will return 07-09 April, 18-19 and 30 April due to a recurrent coronal holes.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 29 March 2011, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 29 March 2011, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 29 March 2011)

-- VU4PB - ANDAMAN ISLAND --

The Indian teams put a new one in the logs of several deserving TARC DXers with their 15-31 March operation from Port Blair. While the times and frequencies they selected didn't always favor the east coast of North America, being on at the right time paid off for the guys. Well done!

APRIL MAJOR CONTESTS

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Bulgarian Open 40-Meter Contest	0400Z 02 April 0800Z 02 April	40 Meters Only CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	6-digit Serial + previous Serial
Polish DX Contest	1500Z 02 April 1500Z 03 April	160 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Polish Stations Only	RS(T) and Serial
Spanish RTTY Contest	1600Z 02 April 1600Z 03 April	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and Serial
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z 02 April 1800Z 03 April	160 – UHF Phone, CW, Digital	See <u>www.qcwa.org/</u> for rules	See QCWA Web Site
European Spring Sprint	1600Z 09 April 1959Z 09 April	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	European Stations Only	Both calls, Serial, Name
Japan International DX Contest	0700Z 09 April 1300Z 10 April	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Japanese Stations Only	RST, CQ Zone (5,locally)
Yuri Gagarin DX Contest	2100Z 09 April 2100Z 10 April	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, ITU Zone (8, locally)
Holyland DX Contest	2100Z 15 April 2100Z 16 April	160 – 10 Meters Phone, CW, Digital	Israeli Stations Only	RS(T) and Serial
European Spring Sprint	1600Z 16 April 1959Z 16 April	80 – 20 Meters Phone Only	European Stations Only	Both calls, Serial, Name
Serbian DX Contest	2100Z 16 April 2100Z 18 April	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, ITU Zone (8, locally)
10-10 Spring Digital Contest	0001Z 23 April 2359Z 24 April	10 Meters Only Digital Modes Only	Members of 10-10 International	Call, name, county, S/P/C
Polish DX RTTY Contest	1200Z 23 April 1200Z 24 April	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
Helvetia Contest	1300Z 23 April 1259Z 24 April	160 – 10 Meters Phone, CW, Digital	Swiss Stations Only	RS/(T), Serial
Florida QSO Party	1800Z 30 April 2159Z 01 May	40 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	www.floridaqsoparty.org for details	See Web Site
BARTG 75 Sprint	1700Z 30 April 2100Z 30 April	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Serial

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity From ARRL "Contest Corral," Web Site and WA7BNM Contest Calendar



Minutes, from page 2

tion to Nepal and Bhutan with a side visit to Tibet.

Jack Sproat-W4JS Secretary

-- NIST USER SURVEY --

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's Time and Frequency Division is conducting a survey to learn more about its users, and to find out how they can make its services more useful in the future.

NIST services include stations WWV, WWVH, and WWVB, which provide reference time and frequency signals by radio. NIST also operates its Internet Time Service, which provides accurate time synchronization to computer systems, and several other services that provide time information via telephone or web pages.

John Lowe, the manager of National Institute of Standards and Technology radio stations WWV, WWVH and WWVB in Ft. Collins, Colorado. He says that the survey should take just a few minutes to complete, and your input will be greatly appreciated.

If you use any of these services please complete the 10-minute survey which is on-line at www.tf.nist.gov/survey.

(Courtesy of Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1754, 25 March 2011)

-- ARISS HAS 600th QSO --

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, better known by the acronym ARISS, reached a milestone on Thursday, 17 March. This occurred when it held its 600th space to ground contact between astronaut Cady Coleman, KC5ZTH on board the International Space Station and students from several schools in Plock and Liszyno, Poland.

The contact supported lessons about space and space exploration, communication and technology. Scout Amateur Radio Club S-P-5-Zed-B-A handled the radio connection during which the astronaut Coleman fielded 19 space related questions from the students at the two schools.

Nearly 120 people were in the audience and there was also extensive media coverage. This included newspapers, four scientific magazines, one radio magazine, a television station, national radio and two internet portals.

(Courtesy of Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1754, 25 March 2011)

-- REGIONAL 2-METER REPEATERS --

1120101	**************************************		
Arcadia	W4MIN	147.075(+)	100 Hz
Arcadia	W4MIN	147.180(+)	
Bradenton	K4GG	146.820(-)	100 Hz
Bradenton	KF4MBN	147.195(+)	100 Hz
Englewood	N4EAR	146.700(-)	77 Hz
Englewood	K0DGF	146.775(-)	77 Hz
Englewood	W4AC	146.805(-)	100 Hz
Grove City	K8ONV	146.865(-)	136.5 Hz
Laurel	N4SER	145.130(-)	100 Hz
North Port	K4NPT	147.120(+)	136.5 Hz
North Port	W0AC	146.970(-)	136.5 Hz
Pt. Charlotte	N4FOB	146.925(-)	136.5 Hz
Pt. Charlotte	KS4ST	147.015(+)	
Pt. Charlotte	W4DUX	147.255(+)	136.5 Hz
Punta Gorda	WX4E	146.745(-)	136.5 Hz
Punta Gorda	KF4QWC	146.685(-)	136.5 Hz
Sarasota	W4IE	146.910(-)	
Sarasota	KF4RJC	145.370(-)	74.4 Hz
Verna	NI4CE	145.430(-)	100 Hz

-- THE "OLD TIMER" --



Our modern ham radio equipment certainly doesn't resemble what the hams of yesteryear utilized for communication. While the basic dipole antenna remains as it was, numerous improvements have been made in antenna design and construction. Considering what they had to work with, their achievements were monumental.



April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	2
3	4	5 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	6 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	7 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM K4S Setup @ Sharks Tooth Festival	9 Sharks Tooth 10-k Run K4S Operation TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
K4S Final Day of Operation; Take Down	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE repeater 145.430	12 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	16
17	18	19 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	21 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	23
24	25	26 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	28 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	30

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	Applica	ation Date
Please check activity inter	ests: Ass't Net Contro	ol, RFI/TVI, VE Testing, T	'raining, Packet, RTTY,
Computers, DXing, O	Contests, Field Day_	, Publicity, Emergency Com	nunications, Special Events,
VHF/UHF, SSTV, A	TV, Repeater, Ed	choLink, Other (specify)	
•	•	•	Iembership @ \$5.00/year (New Regular ber grants membership through remainder of year

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

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Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE
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Peter Pesa-N4RD Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI Bob Avrutik-N1RA