

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



#### -- APRIL 2015 --

#### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Well folks, the Ides of March are gone for another year leaving us with nothing to do. Ooops, I forgot about the Sharks Tooth Festival 10-12 April. I have to thank Secretary Dave Gill (now known as "W4CQDX") for all the work he has done in scheduling the event's manpower roster. Things are looking up but, as always, there is room for more operators (Hint, Hint).

This month's QST has some interesting subject matter pertaining to two models of the FlexRadio SDRs which is well worth the time to read. Right here in Venice some additional reading and studying is close to winding down as Andy Durette-KB1HIP finishes up his Amateur Extra Class course. Thanks Andy for your efforts once again.

There appears to be some movement in the direction of the TARC participating in the ARRL Field Day this year!!!! Let's see if this has enough support to materialize. It's been about a dozen years since TARC was on the air for Field Day.

This message is a bit short but some health issues are slowing me down somewhat. See you all at the meeting.

VY 73 de Fred-KJ4TNI

#### -- APRIL MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, <u>**08 April 2015**</u> at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. San Yoder-K3SY will offer a program "An encounter with Astronaut Story Musgrave".

#### -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

It is not well known, but for many years the major manufacturers of HF transceivers, have quietly fitted them with a special circuit that would cause your transceiver to internally combust should you use it to exhibit poor operating practices. Like maintaining a nuclear deterrent, they have always lived in hope that they would never be forced to activate this circuit. However, manufacturers have been concerned for some time with the poor behavior of many operators when using their equipment, and what they heard during the recent Tromelin Island and Navassa Island DXpeditions has forced them to act. Therefore at 0000Z Wednesday 01 April 2015 a coded message will be sent to all transceivers they have sold, activating this circuit. Once activated your transceiver will internally combust if you undertake any of the following:

a) Calling when the DX station is transmitting something other than your call sign; it can sense the DX station's signal and what is sent.

b) Calling when you can't hear the DX station; it can also sense when the DX station's signal cannot be heard.

c) Tuning up on the DX station's frequency; if you send a tone for more than 50ms and the radio senses another signal on the frequency.

d) Sending or saying \*up\*• or \*down\*• on a frequency occupied by another signal.

e) Sending strings of dits or dahs, using profane language, or broadcasting music or anything else prerecorded.

f) Calling if the DX op is asking for a region other than yours; the circuit can sense which region you reside in (Note that this only works if you are in NA/SA/EU.)

This list is not exhaustive and it can be remotely adapted as poor operating practices change. It has also been acknowledged there is a risk that people will blow up their rigs simply because they inadvertently forget to put the split button in service. Therefore, the manufacturers are prepared, at their cost, to install a big flashing red light on top of your rig as a visual reminder.

But, of course, the risk of detonation remains with you. It should also go without saying, but any attempt to remove the circuit will cause the rig to explode.

RELEASE ENDS, 01 April 2015; 73

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#### Tamiami Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Meeting 11 March 2015

Before the meeting, Karen Hates gave an overview of the 10K race and how TARC would help.

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a flag pledge. Introductions were then made all around, with Thom West-KD6CJX, Tom Wrobel-W1GRI, and Warren Worth-KB2DLF being welcomed as visitors.

**MINUTES –** Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 February 2015 meeting as published in the March 2015 issue of *The Communicator*. Frank Wroblewski-W2XYZ so moved, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE –** None

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer San Yoder-K3SY reported that the starting balance was \$4,927.62. Receipts were \$25 from the February 50/50, \$26 donation from Bob Marchese-K1NOK, \$36 for Name Tag Sales, \$225 for donated PC Sales, and \$155 for dues for a total of \$467. There were no expenses so that left a closing balance was \$5,394.62. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Al Culbert-K0AL, and passed.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Dil Kay, former TARC member, passed away Feb 5.

Tom McDermitt- W3GXV had Cochlear Implants. Turn on date is March 13.

**VE TESTING** – 8 of the 9 candidates that showed up at the 14 February VE session passed.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Both the 146.805 and 444.100 machines are operating satisfacto-rily.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 50 full members, 8 student members, 1 honorary member, and 4 life members for a total of 63 members.

**NET OPERATIONS –** Fred reminded all of our 440 and 2-meter nets. Fred noted the 440 net attendance was a little light, probably due to the Extra Class test being given at the same time.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – There were 24 members and spouses at the 04 March lunch at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota. Don Watson-K9DDO did a presentation about rebuilding a 1937 Morse Radio.

**OLD BUSINESS –** TARC Library now online.

**NEW BUSINESS –** Dave Gill-K4JDG showed the Sharks Tooth sign up sheets.

A motion was proposed for purchasing 3 electrical kit projects for Sharks Tooth at under \$25 each.

Tom McDermitt-W3GXV moved for acceptance, seconded by Gary Hagens-K6OC, and passed.

A motion was proposed for purchasing TARC Logo pens for handouts for Sharks Tooth for around \$220.

Glenn Hyde-N4MXQ moved for acceptance, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Mostly comments about the Sharks Tooth event and the projects/handouts for the hospitality tent.

**ADJOURNMENT** – At 7:45 PM, a motion to adjourn was made by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Bob Smith- KK4WIT, and passed. There were 23 members and 3 visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Stan Robinson-W9SMR gave a presentation on some remote operations at Round Lake in Bristol Indiana and Gasparilla Island.

Dave Gill-K4JDG Secretary

#### -- ACTIVITY BY HF MODES --

From time to time Michael Wells-G7VJR runs a report on the Club Log database that analyses the proportion of SSB, CW and data modes logged in DX QSOs. His latest update includes data up to 31 December 2014.

The last measurements were as follows:

- CW 41.9%
- SSB 40.0%
- Data (other) 18.1%

The following chart starts at 1963. Note that while CW has declined from its former peak of 60% some 50 years ago, the more noticeable loss is with SSB. RTTY/Digital has shown gains



in recent years as more DXpeditions include RTTY as one of their modes.

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY	BEAR-	R- HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
COUNTRY - CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Reunion - FR/F5MNW, **	Now to 14 April	91	23-03	23-03	22-04	19-05	17-22	15-17	14-16	15-16
Namibia – V5/DM4TK, ++	Now to 09 April	107	23-06	22-07	22-07	18-02	11-20	12-18	14-18	15-17
Micronesia - V6Z; by 2-op team, all modes	Now to 09 April	293	07-12	06-13	06-13	02-17	13-04	19-01	20-23	20-22
Nauru - C21EU; 4-op team, all modes	Now to 04 April	279		06-13	05-14	01-16	13-04	19-01	19-22	19-22
Samoa - 5W0KJ, JY, VE, MA; all modes	01 to 15 April	257	05-12	03-14	03-14	23-14	12-05	17-03	18-00	18-22
Chagos – VQ9ET; by DU7ET	01 to 14 April	54	23-02	23-02	22-02	19-04	11-23	12-23	15-20	16-19
Trindade & Martin Vaz - PQ0T; 3-op team	02 to 04 April	127	23-09	22-09	21-10	11-06	11-04	12-01	13-23	14-21
Monaco - 3A/F4HAU, 3A/F4FET; SSB, RTY	02 to 05 April	50		21-09	21-07	11-01	11-23	12-21	15-18	16-19
Chatham Is - ZL3E; 3-op team, all modes	03 to 15 April	230		03-13	03-13	23-07	18-05	18-03	19-00	20-23
Palau – T88MZ; by AF1Y, spare time op	03 to 10 April	307	09-12	08-13	08-13	05-17	13-05	21-02	21-22	21-22
Corsica - TK/IW5ELA; ** holiday style	04 to 09 April	50		21-08	21-07	11-01	11-00	12-22	16-18	16-18
Svalbard – JW/F8DVD	09 to 15 April	13	01-07	23-10	23-10	11-23	15-21	15-21	15-21	17-19
Ascension Is - ZD8N; by G3ZVW, all modes	09 to 21 April	108	23-08	21-09	21-10	11-05	11-04	12-00	14-22	15-20
Vanuatu – YJ0XG; by JA1XGI, **	13 to 19 April	262		05-13	05-13	01-15	13-05	19-00	19-23	20-21
Spratly Is - DX0P; 9-op team, 2 stations	14 to 20 April	337	NO	1100	1100	11-14	13-17	14-17	13-18	16-17
Cape Verde Is – D44TDK; by HB9FDT	16 to 24 April	89				11-04		15-22		17-18
Reunion - FR/F5PLC; ** QRP, mainly 20m	16 Apr - 16 Jun	91	23-03	23-03	22-04	19-05	17-22	15-16	14-16	15-16
Mauritania – 5T2MM; by 5T0JL	17 to 20 April	81	23-07	21-09	21-10	10-03	11-00	15-20	16-19	15-20
Micronesia – V63DX; by JA7HMZ	17 to 25 April	293	07-12	06-13	06-13	02-15	12-05	19-23	20-21	20-21
Vanuatu - YJ0MT; by JA0RQV	21 Apr - 05 May	262		05-13	05-13	01-15	13-06	19-00	19-21	20-21
Norfolk Is - VK9NT; by 4-op team	24 Apr – 04 May	250	06-12	04-13	04-13	01-14	19-07	20-05	20-01	20-22
Ogasawara – JD1BLY; by JI5RPT, all modes	29 Apr – 05 May	317		08-12	07-13	04-16	13-05	20-02	21-05	NO
Bhutan – A52AEF, ARJ, IVU; all modes	30 Apr - 06 May	8	NO	NO	NO	22-01	23-04	00-03	00-03	NO

#### MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

Updated 31 March based on the 30 March 2015 *The Weekly DX* and, <u>http://www.ng3k.com</u> <u>Notes:</u> **Time in bold** = the Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. <u>Long Path bearings</u> and <u>opening times</u> are <u>underlined</u>. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp* propagation software. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

#### -- MARCH SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 30 March the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 109 to 146, with a mean value of 121.4 (vs. 145.1 for March 2014 and 111.4 for March 2013), and the  $A_p$  index was  $\geq$  7 on 23 days. Through 30 March, the sunspot number ranged from 20 to 127, with a mean of 61.6.

March was active, with one X-class, 14 Mclass and 254 C-class flares through the  $30^{th}$ . Severe geomagnetic disturbances drove the  $A_p$ up to 107 on 16 March. While the polar paths sometimes weak, propagation was generally favorable on all HF bands.

#### -- APRIL FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels through 14 April, with predominantly low levels through the rest of the month.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels with the exception of 03-06 and 14-18 April.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels 02-04 April. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected 05-11 April, with unsettled to active conditions 12-20 and 25-30 April due to recurrent coronal hole high speed solar wind streams. The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 120 to 150 and average 137.2 during April.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 30 March 2015, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 30 March 2015, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 30 March 2015.)

-- THE E30FB TEAM --



Here's the 9-member international E30FB team that handed out 62,673 Q's to 20,141 Deserving DXers worldwide from Asmara, Eritrea. The DXpedition was in support of the Japanese charity Foundation for Global Children.

The problem with the world is that the intelligent people are full of doubts, while the stupid ones are full of confidence.

	Polish D>	< Contest	Spanish RTTY Contest			Japan International DX Contest			
04 April	1500Z	05 April 1500Z	04 April 1600Z		05 April 1600Z	11 April 0700Z		12 April 1300Z	
1.8-28		SSB, CW	3.5-28		RTTY	1.8-28		CW	
	RS(T), Serial			RST. Serial			RST, CQ Zone		
http://w	ww.spdxc	ontest.pzk.org.pl	http://concursos.ure.es/en/eartty/bases/			http://www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html			
Y	′uri Gaga	rin Contest	Worked All Provinces of China			CQMM DX Contest			
11 April	2100Z	12 April 2100Z	18 April 0600Z 19 April 0559Z		18 April 1200Z		19 April 2359Z		
1.8-28		CW	3.5-28		SSB, CW	3.5-28		CW	
	RST, IT	U Zone	RS(T), Serial		RST, Continent				
	www.gc.qst.ru/en www.mulandxc.or		ndxc.org	www.cqmmdx.com					
YU	(Serbian	) DX Contest	Polish DX RTTY Contest		Helvetia (Swiss) Contest				
18 April	2100Z	See website	25 April	1200Z	26 April 1200Z	25 April	1300Z	26 April 1259Z	
1.8-28		CW	3.5-28		RTTY	1.8-28		SSB, CW, RTTY	
RST, ITU Zone		RST, Serial			RS(T), Serial				
www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs				<u>www.pk</u>				ska.ch	

#### **MAJOR CONTESTS DURING APRIL 2015**

Legend: Serial = 3-digit sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <u>http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/</u> NOTE: Only major contests are shown, i.e. state QSO parties, miscellaneous sprints, etc. are not shown. See <u>http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/Contest Corral 1504.pdf</u> for the complete list of the 47

contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be held during April.

-- A DEDICATED DXER --



After selling his house and moving into a temporary home, Dan Schaaf-K3ZXL of Punta Gorda has traded off his towers and beams for a vertical. However, being a dedicated DXer, when Dan learned the Juan Fernandez-3G0ZC operation was workable on six meters, and his vertical couldn't do the trick, he put Plan B into operation. His 6-meter beam was quickly reassembled, put up on an 8' ladder, aimed south and held in place with a cinder block. It paid off, as he got 3G0ZC into his log for his 6-meter DXCC #101.

Motto: If you want to get on the air, you can do it—one way or another.

#### -- WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2015 --

Mark down 18 April as the day that radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on that day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union or IARU was formed in Paris, France.

Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum.

Today, Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with over 3,000,000 licensed operators scattered around the globe. World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.

(From *Amateur-Radio-Newsline*<sup>™</sup>, Report 1957, 20 March 2015)



IN A RARE BURST OF CREATIVITY, JIMMY SPAMS THE NEW SGROUPS WITH A QUESTION THAT HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN ASKED.

#### -- FROM KATHMANDU, NEPAL --



The Polish team, Rafal-9N7CC, Bogdan-9N7FD and Janusz-9N7WE, who put Kathmandu on the air 18 – 30 March. They were quite workable here, especially on 20 and 15-meter SSB and RTTY.

#### -- VIBROPLEX PURCHASES BENCHER --

Bencher Inc. has announced the sale of its Amateur Radio product line to Vibroplex LLC of Knoxville, Tennessee, owned by Scott Robbins-W4PA. "This sale ends Bencher's presence in the Amateur Radio field, thus allowing the principals, Jere Benedict, President, and Bob Locher-W9KNI, to move towards retirement," the announcement said. Product lines included in the sale include the Bencher BY series of iambic paddles as well as the ST series of single-lever paddles, the Bencher Hex Paddle, the N2DAN Mercury Paddle, and the Bencher RJ series hand keys. The sale also includes the HK-1 Universal Hook-up kit and the YA-1 Low Pass Filter. Vibroplex has agreed to honor the manufacturer's warranties and to provide parts and support, and it will continue offering Bencher products through existing marketing channels. Benedict and Locher expressed "gratitude to the Amateur Radio community for its interest and support since the sale of the first Bencher Amateur Radio products in the early 1970s."

(The ARRL Letter, 19 March 2015)

#### -- FCC CUTTING FIELD STAFF --

It has recently been reported that the FCC is planning to cut its Enforcement Bureau staff in half and close three-quarters of its field offices, replacing them with so-called "Tiger Team" strike forces. But roving correspondent Plerre Pullinmyleg reports via *Amateur-Radio*- *Newsline* that is only the tip of the iceberg. Here's Pierre's report:

"Vee have learned from our confused sources that zee FCC's proposed enforcement "Tiger Teams" will be only part of a menagerie of planned strike forcez, including lion, leopard, cheetah and chimpanzee teams. Each of zeese will be devoted to enforczing FCC rules in a particular radio service, representing in total a titanic new response to lawlessness upon the airwavez.

"Beginning 01 April, enforcement in zee Amateur Service will be the responsibility of the FCC Chimpanzee Team strike force. Zeee special agents will leap into action whenever a rules violation is detected on zee ham bands, going bananas and swinging from tower to tower until the violator is brought to justice.

"Zee ultimate goal, according to newly-named team chief Sam Simian, is to make it coconut clear to the amateur radio community zat zee FCC means business and zat hams who monkey around with zee rules will eventually slip up and be brought down."

(From *Amateur-Radio-Newsline*<sup>™</sup>, Report 1958, 27 March 2015)

#### -- CW GEEKS GUIDE TO MORSE CODE --

Passing a CW test is no longer required to get an amateur radio license, but there's still a mystique about Morse Code, and many hams are interested in acquiring this skill and getting on the air. That being the case, Dan Romanchik-KB6NU, has announced the publication of his new book titled "The "CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code."

KB6NU is the author of the "No-Nonsense" license study guides. His new "CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code" is all about helping hams learn Morse, assisting in finding a key that's right for them, and showing how to get on the air. It also teaches hams how to use abbreviations, Q-signals and prosigns properly.

The "CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code" is available in several different formats. These include a PDF, Nook, or Kindle e-book versions directly from KB6NU.com. Paperback copies can be purchased through amazon.com. The e-book versions cost \$2.99 while the paperback is priced at \$7.99.

(From *Amateur-Radio-Newsline*<sup>™</sup>, Report1958, 27 March 2015)

### **April 2015**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			QCWA,11:15 @ Denny's, Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM	TARC VE Session 10 AM Venice Public Library
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Rptr 145.430	Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr		TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr		TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM	
26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	29	30 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805		

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater or the 444.100 Repeater are inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on 146.580 MHz simplex. Thanks for your cooperation.

# 18 APRIL 2015 WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

اليوم العالمي لراديو الهواة

Día Mundial del Radioaficionado

Всемирный День радиолюбителя

Journée mondiale de la radio amateur

世界业余无线电日

**Global Communication and Friendship for All** 

WWW.IARU.ORG/WORLD-AMATEUR-RADIO-DAY



ITU & IARU: Celebrating 150 Years of Advancing the Telecommunication Art



#### 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	Applic	ation Date
Please check Letters of Interests: (N) Net	Control, (I) RFI/TVI, (V) VE Tes	ting_, (T) Training_, (P) Packet_, (Y)
RTTY_, (D) PSK, etc, (O) Computers	s, (X) DX, (C) Contests, (F) Fig	eld Day_, (Q) Publicity_, (E) Emergen-
cy Communications, (S) Special Events	s_, (U) VHF/UHF_, (A) ATV/SSTV	, (R) Repeater, (L) EchoLink, Other
(specify)		

Regular Member @ \$25.00/year \_\_\_\_, Family Membership @ \$30.00/year\_\_\_\_, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year\_\_\_\_\_. (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment 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

<i>The Communicator</i> is a monthly publication				
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.				
Editor:	Jack Sproat-W4JS			
Circulation:	San Yoder-K3SY			
2	2013 TARC Officers			
President:	Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI			
V. President:	Andy Durette-KB1HIP			
Secretary:	Dave Gill-K4JDG			
Treasurer:	San Yoder-K3SY			
Directors:	Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO			
	Conrad Owens-WA3RRS			
	Gary Hagens-K6OC			
	Tom McDermitt-W3GXV			