



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>



-- AUGUST 2010 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I've been travelling quite a bit over the past weeks and that will continue to be my primary activity during the coming weeks. Attendance at various ham radio functions as well as some family events back up in Kentucky. As such, I've cut back some on my local computer-oriented activities, but we should get in the swing of things in another month or so.

I thought the editor of CQ had a good message in his "Zero Bias" editorial in the August issue of that magazine. Pertinent points and additional comments follow below.

73, Stew Haag-W4MO

-- HAM RADIO STATUS; THE UNKNOWN --

(The editorial of Editor Rich Moseson-W2VU in the August issue of CQ is entitled "Still 'Successfully Dying' After All These Years." He raises some interesting observations, but there are paradoxes which he does not address. The following comments may give our TARC members some points to ponder.)

According to the data regularly assembled by Joe Speroni-AH0A (www.ah0a.org), as of 30 June there were 694,346 amateur radio licenses in the USA and possessions. Of these licenses, 10,599 are for radio clubs, and 342,064 are held by Technician class licensees. This is the greatest number of licensees in the history of ham radio in the USA, and indicates that there are about 2.2 radio amateurs for every 1000 residents.

Back in 1960 (prior to "incentive licensing"), the licensing structure and requirements were different from today. Novices and Technicians needed 5 wpm Morse as an exam element. Generals had to pass 13 wpm Morse, however, a General class licensee had all privileges on all bands. At that time, there were 227,500 amateur radio licensees in the USA, or about 1.3 amateurs per 1000 residents. It seems evident that elimination of the Morse element has opened the doorway into ham radio for more people.

How many of today's hams are active remains a major unknown. While the hams of 1960 had more constraints in obtaining a license, it is likely that they had no constraints in erecting good antennas. As such, the vast majority of them were active on HF. Prior to the 1970s, Home Owner Associations—with their covenants and deed restrictions—were unknown. As more and more housing is now available only in regulated subdivisions, the potential for a ham to put up a tall tower with effective directional antennas has become extremely limited within metropolitan areas. Some of today's hams resort to just working HF mobile in order to get on the air. However, even if only one-third of today's hams are on the air, they still outnumber the total number of US hams in 1960.

Some "analysts" use the www.QRZ.com data base in an effort to determine the relative activity of today's hams. QRZ shows the number of times a call sign has been looked up so, the more hits, the more active the station. That has its fallacies, however. A QSL manager for some active DX stations may not even be on the air, but his call sign will show many hits by stations wanting his mailing address. Stations who never work DX will have few hits, but they may be active in some domestic nets, or keeping skeds with some of their old buddies.

Therefore, the activity status by today's hams is hard to fathom. One factor not mentioned in the referenced editorial regards the availability of ham radio stores. Back in 1960, even with fewer hams, there were ham radio stores in most cities of any size—including Sarasota. The last regional ham store, up in Brandon, closed about five years ago. Perhaps the failure of such stores is indicative of today's activity.

-- AUGUST MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **03 August 2010** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. A program will follow the business meeting. Details in Monday's "tickler."

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
06 July 2010

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB from Sarasota was welcomed as a new member, and Rich Greenberg-N6LRT of Sarasota was welcomed as a visitor.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 01 June 2010 meeting as published in the July 2010 issue of *The Communicator*. Ron Hogarth-K4AUX so moved, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack reported that he had been contacted by a Kathy Furman-N6XUD, who was offering a new NYE-Johnson straight key to the club and that he had picked up the key.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1098.97. Receipts were \$20.00 from the June 50/50 and a \$200 donation from the DARN, totaling \$220.00. Expenses were \$14.96 for DayStar Internet service, \$207.05 for insurance on the equipment at the repeater site, \$119.00 for liability insurance, and \$24.00 annual rental fee on the propane tank at the repeater site, totaling \$365.01. The 06 July 2010 ending balance is \$953.96. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF moved to approve the report, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Stew commented on his accident in Germany which caused him to miss the Friedrichshafen Hamfest, and he reported on the passing of former TARC member Al Bry-W2MEL on 04 June and the passing of TARC friend Mayme Howe on 16 June.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS stated that our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 10 July. To date there have been no inquiries.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are working as intended. The EchoLink mode has not been reactivated to date. The remote Kenwood radio is operational from the repeater site.

CLUB PROPERTY – No inventory changes.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we now have 103 members, including nine Life Members, 33 First-Year Free members, and 61 dues paying members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present. Jack-W4JS reported that turnout for the nets has been very low, with no more than three or four members participating.

LIAISON TO EARS – Conrad Owens-WA3RRS gave a brief report on the Field Day activity by the Englewood ARS.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS stated that Suncoast Chapter 53's 02 June lunch at the Panda Pavilion here in Venice attracted 14 members/spouses/friends. Tomorrow, 07 July, the Chapter will again be at the Panda Pavilion around 11:15 AM for lunch and everyone is welcome.

OLD BUSINESS – Jon Hamlet-W4ZW was not present to provide any updates on the activities of the school clubs' members. Jack-W4JS reported on the Field Day operation by the sponsors and some of the members of the ham radio clubs at Pine View School and Sarasota Military Academy.

NEW BUSINESS – Conrad-WA3RRS reported that the ground within the fence at the repeater tower is overgrown with weeds, and suggested that concrete pavers could be installed to clean up the area and make it more user friendly if the emergency generator had to be rolled out and put into service. Conrad has inquired into potential cost, and a pallet of used pavers can be purchased for \$80, with labor costs estimated at \$20/hour. Stew suggested that action on this proposal be delayed until firm prices are determined. Conrad so moved, seconded by Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS and passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 6:30 PM was made by Bruce-WA8IQF, seconded by Conrad-WA3RRS and passed. There were 19 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Don Watson-K9DDO gave a power point presentation on "Ham Radio in Deed Restricted Communities—Yes, You Can," which showed a number stealth and semi-stealth antennas in the region.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations. James Madison (1751-1836), U. S. President, Speech, 16 June 1788

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)	Now on the Air	130	--	00-06	--	1100	--	--	--	--
Rwanda – 9X0TL; 600w, spare time operation	Now to 31 Aug	81	21-04	22-05	22-02	18-00	17-23	20-00	17-21	NO
Mayotte – FH8ND; by F1OKV	Now to 23 Aug	85	00-04	23-04	23-01	19-22	20-22	NO	NO	NO
Cambodia – XU7AJW; by ON4JW	Now to 14 Aug	349	NO	NO	NO	12-13	12-14	NO	NO	NO
Guam – KH2/KT3Q	01 to 07 Aug	306	09-11	07-12	07-13	02-06	21-03	21-03	NO	NO
Seychelles – S79DB; Holiday style operation	03 to 14 Aug	68	--	23-04	23-00	19-23	18-22	18-22	NO	NO
Kenya – 5Z4/IZ2DPX	04 to 17 Aug	76	--	23-05	22-02	18-00	17-23	18-23	18-21	NO
Cape Verde – D4C; by IK2NCJ	05 to 26 Aug	89	23-08	20-11	20-06	12-03	16-23	16-02	17-22	NO
Mariana Is – KH0/KT3Q; from Saipan Is.	08 to 14 Aug	306	08-11	07-13	07-13	13-15	21-00	00-04	NO	NO
Cambodia – XU7ATM; by F8ATM	10 to 17 Aug	349	NO	NO	NO	12-14	12-15	NO	NO	NO
Vietnam – XV2LC; by VK6LC	12 Aug to 10 Sep	348	--	NO	NO	12-13	12-13	NO	--	--
Botswana – A25/W2LPL & W2DPL ++	16 to 19 Aug	105	23-05	22-07	--	17-18	14-17	16-17	16-17	NO
Canary Is – EA8/DK2TUX	16 to 20 Aug	72	--	21-10	20-06	12-03	15-00	16-01	--	--
Market Reef – OJ0SARTG; team operation	20 to 23 Aug	30	00-05	22-07	22-00	14-20	14-20	NO	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0???; by Australian team	27 Aug to 02 Sep	262	06-12	04-13	05-14	00-05	20-01	23-01	20-01	NO

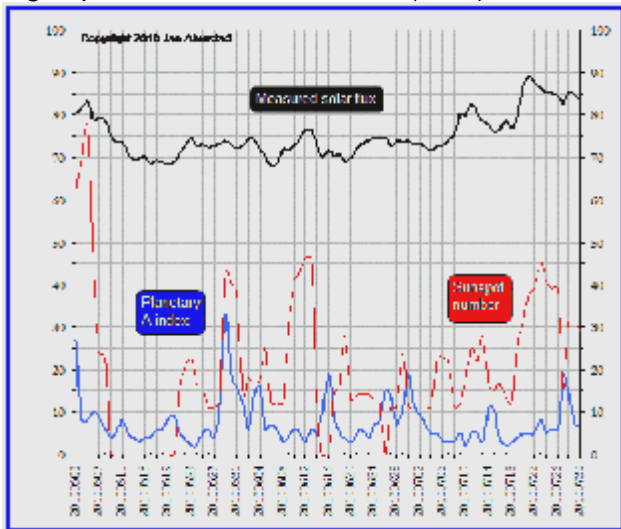
Updated 29 July 2010, based on 28 July 2010 QRZ DX, 26 July 2010 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

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

-- JULY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During July the Solar Flux ranged from 72 to 89, with a mean value of 79.9 (vs. 68.3 for July 2009 and 65.7 for July 2008). The A-index was ≥ 7 on nine days. The daily SSN ranged from 11 to 45, with a mean of 22.6.

Sunspot Regions 1087 thru 1092 formed during July. Nine C-class solar flares occurred during July, causing geomagnetic field disturbances 14-15 and 28-29 July. Other disturbances were due to recurrent coronal mass ejections causing high speed solar wind streams (HSS).



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

-- AUGUST FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels during most of the month.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to

reach high levels during 01-07 August. The solar flux should average 81.1 during August.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet 01-09 August. Activity is expected to increase to quiet to unsettled levels, with a chance for brief active periods 10-12 August due to recurrent HSS. Quiet conditions are expected 13-22 August. Activity is expected to increase to quiet to unsettled levels with a chance for brief active periods 23-25 August. Quiet conditions should return 26-31 August.

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

-- DX0DX FROM THE SPRATLY ISLANDS --



A multinational team from 12 countries will activate DX0DX 6-24 January 2011 from Thitu Island (Pagasa Is. in Tagalog), the 2nd largest of the Spratly Islands. There are 100 inhabitants, mostly military, fishermen and a weatherman. .

AUGUST CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
South Africa DX Contest	1200Z 01 Aug 1630Z 01 Aug	80 – 20 Meters Phone Only	South African stations	R/S, Serial
TARA Grid Dip Contest	0000Z 07 Aug 2359Z 07 Aug	160 – 6 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Name, Grid Square
10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party	0001Z 07 Aug 2359Z 08 Aug	10 Meters Only Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere (exchange 10-10 #)	Call, Name, S/P/C
North American QSO Party	1800Z 07 Aug 0600Z 08 Aug	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in North American entities	Name, S/P/C
Straight Key Weekend Sprint	0000Z 08 Aug 2359Z 08 Aug	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere with mechanical key	R/S/T, Name S/P/C, SKCC #
Worked All Europe Contest	0000Z 14 Aug 2359Z 15 Aug	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	European stations - see www.waedc.de for rules	R/S/T, Serial
Keymen's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z 14 Aug 1200Z 15 Aug	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Japanese stations only	R/S/T, "NA" (for North America)
ARRL Rookie Roundup	1800Z 15 Aug 2359Z 15 Aug	80 – 6 Meters Phone Only	Stations licensed less than 3 years	Calls, Name, year 1 st license, S/P/C
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z 21 Aug 1600Z 22 Aug	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial
Russian District Award Contest	0800Z 21 Aug 0800Z 22 Aug	160 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Russian stations only	R/S(T), Serial
North American QSO Party	1800Z 21 Aug 0600Z 22 Aug	160 – 2 Meters Phone Only	Stations in North American entities	Name, S/P/C
Romanian DX Contest	1200Z 28 Aug 1159Z 29 Aug	80 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S(T), Serial
Slovenian Contest Club RTTY Championship	1200Z 28 Aug 1159Z 29 Aug	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Year 1 st License (4 digits)
South Africa DX Contest	1400Z 29 Aug 1600Z 29 Aug	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	South African stations	R/S/T, Serial

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

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

-- REGIONAL REPEATERS --

Arcadia	W4MIN	147.075(+)	100 Hz
Arcadia	W4MIN	147.180(+)	
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(-)	
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	N4SER	146.730(-)	100 Hz
Sarasota	N4SER	147.390(+)	100Hz
Sarasota	KF4RJC	145.370(-)	74.4 Hz
Verna	NI4CE	145.430(-)	100 Hz

-- HAMVENTION ATTENDANCE UP --

After hitting a low of 17,253 in 2008, attendance at the Dayton Hamvention® was up this year for the second straight year, according to the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. DARA says 2010 attendance was 19,750, up nearly 900 from 2009 and up 2500 from 2008. The highest attendance ever at Dayton was 33,669 in 1993, according to DARA.

("Ham Radio News," CQ, August 2010)

-- CHINESE PRESIDENT SEES SAT QSOS --

ANSAT News Service reports that Chinese President Hu Jintao watched and listened as several students at the China Science and Technology Museum make contacts via the Chinese HO-68 amateur satellite. President Hu "encouraged (them) for further activities and confirmed the positive effects of amateur satellites."

("Ham Radio News," CQ, August 2010)

-- SUNSPOT NUMBER DERIVATION --

The Wolf number (also known as the International Sunspot Number, relative sunspot number, or Zürich number) is a quantity which measures the number of sunspots and groups of sunspots present on the surface of the sun. The system was originated by Rudolf Wolf in 1849 in Zürich, Switzerland.

The relative sunspot number R is computed using the formula (collected as a daily index of sunspot activity):

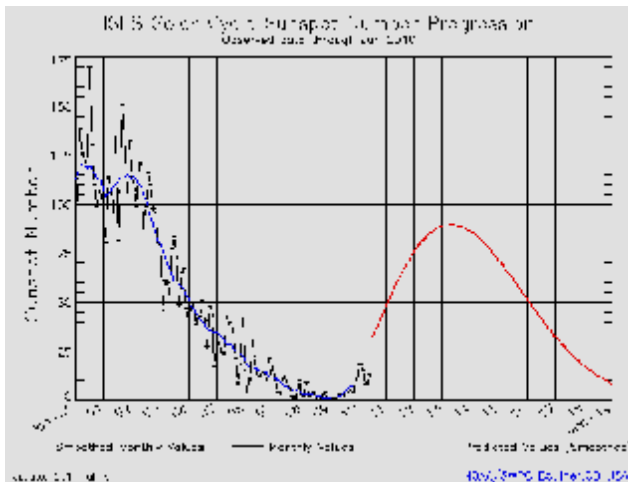
$$R = k(10g + s)$$

where

s is the number of individual spots,
 g is the number of sunspot groups, and
 k is a factor that varies with location and instrumentation (also known as the *observatory factor* or the *personal reduction coefficient* K).

There are actually at least two "official" sunspot numbers reported. The International Sunspot Number is compiled by the Solar Influences Data Analysis Center in Belgium. The NOAA sunspot number is compiled by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The following chart shows the decline of Sunspot Cycle 23 (average daily SIDC SSN of 0.8 in December 2008) and the slow progression of Cycle 24, which is forecast to peak in 2013 with a SSN of about 90.



(From *Wikipedia*, NOAA, and *SolarCycle24.com*)

-- BLETCHLEY PARK GOING ON LINE --

BBC reports that millions of Bletchley Park documents will soon be available on line. Bletchley Park was the British code-breaking center during WW II. Hewlett-Packard donated scanners and volunteers will begin the task.

(From "WorldRadio Online Newsfront," *WorldRadio Online*, August 2010)

-- SIGNALING MERIT BADGE RETURNS --

In its 100th anniversary year, the Boy Scouts of America has announced the limited return of four previously retired merit badges—including *Signaling*.

The program's goal is for a majority of registered Boy Scouts to earn one or more of the merit badges during BSA's centennial year—2010. "The badges offered have a history that can be traced back to the origins of the BSA," the BSA web site notes.

Badges for Carpentry, Tracking, and Pathfinding are also part of the limited return. Requirements must be met no later than 31 December 2010, and original requirements are being used.

The Signaling badge requisites, dating to 1911, include: Making an electric buzzer outfit, wireless, blinker or other signaling device; sending and receiving International Morse Code; sending Morse by wig-wag and by blinker or other light device; sending and receiving Semaphore; to "know the proper application of the International Morse and Semaphore Codes: when, where and how they can be used to best advantage;" and to "discuss briefly various other codes and methods of signaling which are in common use."

"The Signaling merit badge is a great way to encourage hams who are already involved in Scouting to mentor this limited-time badge in their troop and perhaps in other ways, such as camps," said ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky-N5ZGT. He added that radio amateurs who want to help but are not involved in Scouting—"especially clubs that have more resources and volunteers"—should contact their local BSA Council to inquire about Scoutmasters in their area to contact. (*ARRL*)

(From "WorldRadio Online Newsfront," *WorldRadio Online*, August 2010)

-- SOCIAL NETWORKING HAMS --

CQ magazine conducts a mail-in Reader Survey in each issue. The May survey asked about hams using "social networking" sites on the Internet. Surprisingly, 37% belong to at least one such site. Of that group; 87% belong to Facebook, 22% each to LinkedIn and Twitter, 15% to MySpace, and 16% to other site. Some 37% log in daily, and some 10% of their contacts are with ham friends.

More than 3500 Facebook users (mostly under 45 years of age) have signed up as fans of CQ.

(From "What You've Told Us...." CQ, August 2010)

August 2010

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

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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2010 TARC Officers

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V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF
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Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE
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Jack Gaddas-KY1Z
Bob Avrutik-N1RA