



# 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://tamamiarc.tripod.com>  
W4AC Repeater – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL



-- AUGUST 2005 --

### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

We are having Florida-type weather up here: short thunderstorms daily, humidity at least 80 percent, and temps at 90 or better! Although we do have central air, it's not at its best on the second floor, so take advantage of an air conditioned car and air conditioned restaurants.

We now have a slew of tourists up here due to the thoroughbred track at Saratoga. The horses are being shipped up here from Belmont by trucks, trailers, and even planes. Lake George draws a variety of people, ranging from bikers to hikers to shoppers. The Saratoga Performing Arts draws everyone, with programs offering ballet to rock. It's a toss up to see if the traffic up here beats I-75 on a good day!

What I've read in the meeting minutes indicate that Don Fontain-N4ET seems to be guiding everything along a smooth course.

I believe that Field Day participation by TARC members was low due to the fact that the Snowbirds had flown, and none of us are as young as we used to be. Just can't stop the calendar!

Joy and I will be back in Venice on October 13. As the flights are getting more expensive—almost hour-by-hour—we booked before we had to mortgage the house.

Again, my thanks to the Board, the committees, and the officers for carrying on while I'm away.

VY 73 de Matt-W2EQV

### -- AUGUST TARC MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 11 August 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, Jack Sproat-W4JS will give an overhead slide presentation on lightning protection. Typically, attendance is rather sparse during the summer months, so try to get out if you're still in the area, and show your support of TARC.

*"Never give your kid a name that's too long to remember, or too long to fit on the back of a hand tooled belt."* – Wrangler TV advertisement

### -- DROPPING OF MORSE PROPOSED --

The FCC is proposing to drop Morse code testing as a requirement for any/every class of US amateur radio license.

In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) adopted 15 July and issued 20 July, the FCC said that comments already received indicated that the majority of amateurs support eliminating the code test for the General Class license and says that maintaining code exams for Extra Class (*as the ARRL proposed*) "would not be in the public interest." The FCC declined to propose any additional changes suggested in any of the 18 petitions received after the ITU dropped the international requirement for Morse proficiency as a condition for issuing amateur radio licenses with privileges below 30 MHz.

The NPRM is WT Docket 05-235. Comments may be filed for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register (which hasn't yet happened), with an additional 15 days for reply comments.

(From the *CQ Newsroom*, 20 July 2005)

### -- REMINDERS --

It has been brought to your editor's attention that, while the TARC Net Schedule was published in the July newsletter, the time of these nets was absent. Our Simplex Net meets on 146.58 MHz at 7:30 PM every Tuesday. The TARC Net meets at 7:30 PM on our W4AC Repeater on 146.805 (-) MHz (output frequency, with 100 Hz PL tone required on input) every Thursday except on the second Thursday of each month, which is our meeting night.

Speaking of nets, the Snowbird Net holds forth twice daily: 10:00 AM on 14.278 MHz and 7:00 PM on 7.230 MHz.

Also, we have an 8:00 AM breakfast every Tuesday at Peach's Restaurant, located in the Venice Pines Shopping Plaza at the northeast corner of Jacaranda Blvd. and Center Road. Then at 8:00 AM every Friday, we have breakfast at Mel's Diner, located just south of the new Lowes Home Center, US 41 south of Shamrock Blvd.

Show your support of your TARC by participating in these activities.

*"A day without sunshine is like, night."*

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

14 July 2005

Vice President Don Fontaine-N4ET called the meeting called to order at 7:00 PM and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**MINUTES** – Don asked for a motion accepting the minutes of the 12 May 2005 meeting as published in the June issue of *The Communicator*. Lee Darby-K4GCY so moved, however, Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A stated there was an error in the Treasurer's Report quoted in those minutes. Receipts were \$45, rather than \$30 as stated, such that the 09 June 2005 ending balance was \$5048.21. Peter Pesa-N4RD then moved that the minutes be accepted as amended, seconded by Lee-K4GCY, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported that on 12 June letters were mailed to Jack Godefroy-KA0DZE, notifying him of his selection for TARC Life Membership; to Dave-KD6VZZ and Marlene Hostler, thanking them for donation of equipment from the estate of Bob Retter-KD4SOJ, Marlene's father; and to Robert H. Retter, thanking him for the donation of equipment from the estate of his father, Bob-KD4SOJ. Jack also read a letter received from Nicole Hunt, thanking us for the HT radio she was given after passing her Technician exam on 11 June. The HT was donated by John Mazzoccoli-W2OG, and Nicole is now KI4KRK.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 09 June 2005 balance was \$5048.21. Receipts were \$11.00 from the June 50/50 drawing; expenses were \$94.10 for call sign badges, \$12.96 for a treasurer's file box, and \$5.78 for printing, totaling \$112.84. The 14 July ending balance is \$4946.37. Charlie Covell-W4DB moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Lee-K4GCY, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Don-N4ET reported the death of Joe Glickauf-W9WDN on 09 July at age 93. Jack-W4JS commented that, as Joe had no local relatives, he was able to get the address of Joe's daughter via Lemon Bay Funeral Home and the lawyer processing Joe's estate, and this info was sent to Joy Klapp-N2WUD, who has sent a sympathy card. Peter-N4RD reported that Beverly Dean, XYL of deceased TARC member Dick Dean, had recently had an operation on her hand.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS commented there would be a special exam session at his home this Saturday for a ham from Sarasota.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that our W4AC repeater is running OK from the Anderson Electric site. Jack-W4JS advised that

he has copies of communications between Bob Avrutik-N1RA and Russ Oder of the Florida Amateur Digital Communications Association regarding our obtaining a coordinated frequency—145.61 MHz was Bob's choice—for establishment of a packet gateway station. Such a facility would allow access to the DX Packet Cluster and digital communication between packet stations worldwide.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Charlie Covell-W4DB offered copies of the latest inventory of TARC equipment, and commented that decisions should be made, selecting those items which could be offered for auction to the membership.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – While no apparent action has been taken with the TARC Press Release previously prepared by Don-WD7A, and given to Jon Hamlet-W4ZW for follow up, Don did get a notice of tonight's meeting published in the *Venice Gondolier* and the *Sarasota County* supplement to the *Englewood Sun* newspapers.

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR** – Peter Pesa-N4RD reported that he had been in touch with the Red Cross in Sarasota and with the Catholic Diocese Amateur Radio Network (DARN), determining how TARC could possibly interface with either NGO.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Acknowledging that Net Manager Bob Murphy's equipment capabilities for our two-meter nets was marginal at best, Pete-N4RD moved that a Kenwood TR-7950 radio owned by TARC be loaned to Bob for as long as he serves as Net Manager. Seconded by Lee-K4GCY and passed.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – EARS President, Martin Horowitz-N4FA stated that the Englewood ARS Field Day effort was successful, however, he noted there was not much participation by TARC members who had been invited. Marty also commented that there will be major changes in EARS officers next year.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS was rather dismayed to learn that only three Suncoast Chapter 53 members attended the 06 July lunch at the Panda Pavilion, and invited all to join the 03 August lunch.

**CLUB HISTORIAN** – Don-N4ET asked that anyone willing to volunteer for this position please contact him.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Jack-W4JS reminded all that, back in April, we had been asked to name a Public Information Officer.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Don-WD7A discussed the possibility of TARC preparing a club brochure that could be printed and made available to the public at the local libraries, Radio Shack store, hamfests, etc. Diana Gregory-KI4GRF offered to assist in this effort.

Please see **MINUTES** on 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							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Sable Is – CY0AA	Now to 05 Aug	41	<b>23-11</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>09-05</b>	17-21	NO	NO	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/IK5XCT	Now to 06 Aug	51	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>21-09</b>	<b>12-00</b>	19-00	NO	NO	NO
St Pierre & Miquelon – FP/KB9LIE & K9OT	Now to 07 Aug	39	<b>23-10</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>00-24</b>	12-02	14-18	--	--	--
Cambodia – XU7TZG	Now to 10 Aug	349	NO	NO	NO	11-15	11-14	13-18	NO	NO
Crete – SV9/F8UFT	Now to 14 Aug	51	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>13-00</b>	18-23	17-22	NO	NO
Wallis Is – FW5ZL	Now to 15 Aug	260	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>00-07</b>	23-05	19-04	19-00	NO
Malawi – 7Q7HB	Now to 01 Oct	90	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	19-00	21-00	15-18	NO	NO
Fernando de Noronha – PY0F/EA & CT Ops	01 – 14 August	115	<b>23-09</b>	<b>21-11</b>	<b>20-12</b>	<b>13-04</b>	16-00	16-00	NO	NO
Uganda – 5X1W	03 – 13 August	77	<b>00-04</b>	<b>23-05</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>18-01</b>	19-00	17-22	NO	NO
Iceland – TF/EA3EKS	06 – 13 August	28	<b>00-08</b>	<b>21-11</b>	<b>12-23</b>	15-19	NO	NO	NO	NO
Benin – TY/F6FVX	13 Aug - 06 Sep	85	<b>23-06</b>	<b>21-07</b>	<b>20-04</b>	<b>12-03</b>	16-23	16-23	NO	NO
Monaco – 3A/F5RBB	29 Aug – 04 Sep	50	<b>23-06</b>	<b>21-07</b>	<b>20-05</b>	<b>12-00</b>	16-21	16-21	NO	NO

Updated 29 July 2005, based on 27 July 2005 *QRZ DX*, 25 July 2005 *The Weekly DX*, and *DX Alert Issue 227*

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.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index vary in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

### -- SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING JULY --

During July, the Solar Flux ranged from 71 up to 130, with a mean value of 96.3 (vs. 130.1 for July 2004 and 127.8 for July 2003). There were several days when no sunspots were visible. The A-index was  $\leq 10$  on 13 days during July.

On 10 July a coronal mass ejection (CME) from a day earlier hit Earth, and caused a geomagnetic storm. The same day it hit, the planetary A index jumped to 47 and another CME began its journey from the sun. As a result the planetary A went back up—this time to 48 on 12 July. (*The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 24, No. 27)

### -- AUGUST PROPAGATION --

During August, solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. A greater than 10 MeV proton event is not expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 02, 08-12 and 17-22 August. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to minor storm levels. A recurrent high speed coronal hole wind stream is expected to produce unsettled to minor storm levels on 16-18 August. Otherwise, expect quiet to unsettled conditions. The Solar Flux should range from 80 to 120 during August. (From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 26 July 2005, and *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 26 July 2005)

In general, expect signals on the 17- and 20-meter bands to peak during the two-hour window immediately following sunrise and again during the late afternoon. These two bands, and to a lesser degree the 15-meter band, will see openings for DX throughout the daylight hours—generally into the southern hemisphere.

Between sunset and sunrise, 20 meters is expected to be the best DX band, however, it will be a shadow

of its former self due to the low solar activity. Fairly good conditions are also expected on 30, 40 and 80 meters, despite high static at times.

Expect Above Normal conditions on 2-5, 8, 12-17, 22-24 and 29-31 August, and High Normal conditions on 11, 18, 21 and 25-28 August.

(From “Propagation,” Tomas Hood-NW7US, August 2005 *CQ*)

### -- THE PROGRESS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION IN AMERICA --

In **1836**, young American inventor Samuel Morse tapped out a message to his friend Alfred Vail on the first telegraph.....

In **1876**, Alexander Graham Bell sent a verbal message to his assistant, Thomas Watson, on the first telephone.....

In **1896**, residents of Milwaukee placed calls to friends on the first “dial” telephones.....

In **1973**, American consumers placed phone calls to friends on the first cordless phones.....

In the high-tech **1990s**, technology-crazed Americans went 100% mobile with their communication, enjoying remarkably clear conversations on marvel-of-technology cellular phones.....

And today, in **2005**, young Americans use their ultra high-tech, extremely advanced, primo-quality cellular phones...to tap out *text messages* to their friends. Progress!

(As Yogi Bera would say, “It’s déjà vu all over again.”)

(From “The Fundalini Pages,” *MAD*, August 2005)

*“A highwayman is as much a robber when he plunders in a gang as when single; and a nation that makes an unjust war is only a great gang.”* – Benjamin Franklin

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
TARA "Grid Dip" Contest	0000Z 06 Aug 2400Z 06 Aug	80 – 6 Meters PSK & RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere	Name + Grid Square
ARLHS National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend	0001Z 06 Aug 2359Z 07 Aug	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Lighthouses/Lightships in USA	Serial No., Name + State
10-10 International Summer Phone QSO Party	0001Z 06 Aug 2359Z 07 Aug	10 Meters Only Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Name, State, 10-10# (if a member)
North American QSO Party	1800Z 06 Aug 0600Z 07 Aug	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in North America	Name + State
Worked All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 13 Aug 2359Z 14 Aug	80 – 10 Meters CW & RTTY	CW: Eu Stations Only RTTY: Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial Number
International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend	0001Z 20 Aug 2359Z 21 Aug	All Bands Phone/CW/Digital	Lighthouses/Lightships (This is not a contest)	R/S/(T), Name + State
North American QSO Party	1800Z 20 Aug 0600Z 21 Aug	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in North America	Name + State
SARTG (Swedish) Worldwide RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z; 1600Z-2349Z 20 Aug, and 0800Z-1600Z 21 Aug	80 – 10 Meters RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial Number
Romanian DX Contest	1200Z 27 Aug 1200Z 28 Aug	80 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Romanian Stations and Stations outside USA	R/S/(T) + Serial Number
SCC (Slovenian) RTTY Championship	1800Z 16 July 0600Z 17 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Name + State

From August 2005 *QST* and August 2005 *WorldRadio*

### -- EUROPEAN HF CHAMPIONSHIP --

The European HF Championship will be held from 1200 GMT to 2359 GMT on 06 August. This is strictly a European contest, so if/when you hear EU stations calling "CQ Contest" or exchanging serial numbers, do not call in to participate.

### -- EXTRA CLASS STUDY MATERIALS --

The following study materials for Element 4, Extra Class written examination, are available from Jack-W4JS:

*ARRL Extra Class License Manual, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*ARRL's Extra Q & A*

*Extra Class Audio Theory Course*, recorded by Gordon West-WB6NO

All materials are valid through 30 June 2006, and were made available to the TARC courtesy of Lee Cain-W4RIO (who aced Element 4 at the 11 June VE session), and Steve Shields-WA4SS, who donated the materials to Lee.

If you've been sitting on the fence, debating whether or not to upgrade, why not take advantage of these excellent, proven study materials?

*"There is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse."* – Ronald Reagan

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### --WAE DX CONTEST --

During the 13-14 August WAE DX Contest, European stations will likely ask, "Any QTCs?" A QTC is a report of a previous QSO that is sent back to another station. The idea is that after a number of European stations have been worked, a list of these stations can be reported back during a QSO with another European station. Such QTCs are a source of extra points for the Europeans.

A QTC contains the time, call sign and QSO number of the station being reported, e.g., 1300/DL2DN/134, which means that at 1300 GMT you worked DL2DN and received QSO #134.

A QSO can be reported only once and not back to the original station. A maximum of 10 QTCs to a station is allowed.

Keep a uniform list of QTCs sent, e.g., 3/7 indicates that this is the third set of QTCs you have sent and that 7 QSOs are being reported.

If this sounds confusing, it becomes quite clear after you listen to another contest station passing QTCs and you can easily follow suit.

*"Telling the truth has never been easy and has never really gone out of style, but has gotten harder these days because the language we speak has been captured by deliberate liars."* – Erica Jong

**-- LIGHTNING RANGE GUIDE --**

*(This item has been offered before, but its usefulness is timeless.)*

We are definitely into the electrical storm season, therefore, it might be useful to be able to estimate how far away lightning is striking.

While the speed of light is virtually instantaneous (300 million meters/second), sound travels at a much slower rate. Under "standard conditions" of 59° F and at sea level, sound travels at 1116 feet/second (340 meters/second). Adjusting for summertime conditions of 80° F, the speed of sound is approximately 1140 ft/sec (348 m/sec). Therefore, if you see a bolt of lightning and start counting off the seconds until you hear the thunder, you will have a good estimation of how far distant the lightning is from you.

<u>Time (sec)</u>	<u>Distance (mi.)</u>
1	0.22
2	0.43
3	0.65
4	0.86
5	1.08
10	2.16
15	3.24
20	4.32
30	6.50

The "30-30 rule" recommends that you seek a safe location if the time between lightning and thunder is 30 seconds, and that you not resume outdoor activities until 30 minutes after the last thunder was heard. However, lightning has been known to travel up to 20 miles horizontally prior to striking the ground, so there is no sure-fire prediction of a "safe" distance from lightning.

**-- VANITY FEE HIKE --**

The FCC has approved raising the fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by \$1.10 for the forthcoming fiscal year. The fee, presently \$20.80 for a 10-year term, will increase to \$21.90.

The FCC bases its fees on its anticipated annual costs of processing license applications, but averages the costs of small fees over the life of the license term. The new fee is based on an annual amount of \$2.19, multiplied by the 10-year term of the license. The FCC anticipates collecting a total of \$166,443 in revenue from vanity call sign applications over the next fiscal year, meaning it expects to receive approximately 7,600 vanity applications.

The current fees have been in effect since 10 August 2004; the new fees take effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

*(From the CQ Newsroom, 07 July 2005)*

*"Honk if you love peace and quiet."*

**MINUTES, from page 2**

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Bob Preston-N4CTC announced that he would be moving to Colorado within the next two weeks. Bob commented that he has truly enjoyed his relationship with the TARC members and will have many fond memories—for which he received a round of applause.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:52 PM was made by Lee-K4GCV, seconded by Charlie-W4DB, and passed. There were 14 members present.

**PROGRAM** – An informal "show and tell" program resulted in a variety of comments, exhibits and discussions of the members' early experiences in amateur radio.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

**-- FCC 605 MAIN FORM REVISED --**

Effective 18 July 2005 the revised FCC Form 605 "Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services" went into effect. This form is used for renewal of Amateur Radio licenses and to notify the FCC of address changes.

The revised form includes a new Question 13, which has nothing to do with Amateur Radio. However, failure to answer "NO" to this question could result in dismissal of the application.

Internet users can use this form electronically. For those who prefer paper, Jack-W4JS has copies of the new form, along with abbreviated instructions for your use.

*(From CQ Newsroom, 09 July 2005)*

**-- FOR SALE --**

While not located nearby, the following items are offered for sale by an amateur who lost his lease in a ham-friendly mobile home park over near Kissimmee.

- 1) 58-ft. Rohn 25 tower, complete with top section, mast, thrust bearing, base section, guy wires, turnbuckles, thimbles, guy anchors, etc. - \$1100.
- 2) Skyhawk 3X10 computer optimized tri-band Yagi - \$1200.
- 3) T-2X Tailtwister rotator - \$600.
- 4) DCU-1 Digital Automatic Controller for T-2X - \$500.

Everything is on the ground and ready for pickup. Prices are negotiable. Contact:

Leo Turkadze-N3GD  
7500 Osceola Polk Line Rd.  
Davenport, FL 33896  
Tel: 863-420-0529

**-- LIGHTNING DISSIPATORS --**

*(When your editor had a 50' tower erected in West Java the fabricator/installer put a sharp-pointed brass fitting at the top of the mast for "lightning protection." However, the tower installer in Central Java did not believe in such items. Some time back, when we saw spiny metal objects affixed to wooden FPL transmission structures, we learned they were to keep birds from roosting—not for lightning protection. Recently we listened to a local ham extol the virtues of a "porcupine" on the mast for protection. So, what is the straight skinny?)*

Some people think that if you have many sharp points around a tall object, it will give off enough ions to enshroud the object and eliminate lightning strikes. If this were true, towers with many antennas would never be hit—but they are. Lightning strike occurrence goes up as the square of height over average terrain. Brushes or static dissipation devices will not prevent a strike.

One of the selling points for "porcupines" is that they reduce the electrostatic voltage between the cloud's center charge and the site. This is indicated as being done with a grounding system that reduces the induced electrostatic voltage in the ground by the brush creating ions, blown away by the wind. This would be a great idea, however, the ground can provide the induced voltage faster than the brush can create ions. In fact, with a 5-Ohm grounding system, the earth can provide electrostatically induced voltage to the tower 4000 times faster than the brush can dissipate it!

Wind blown ions will not cancel the earth/cloud charge and prevent a strike from happening. If there is no wind, the ion space charge will drift upwards. The ions make the air more conductive and can help direct the stepped leader (precursor to the strike) to the brush, resulting in an upward going streamer (return stroke).

A US Navy report, done in cooperation with the USAF, NOAA and the FAA, states that, after several years of study, dissipation devices have not prevented any lightning strikes. If they worked, NASA would be using them extensively. The FAA did another study and has video tapes showing them being hit.

*(Conclusion: It's what you put into the ground system that will give protection—not what you hang on the tower.)*

*(From Lightning Protection and Grounding Solutions for Communication Sites, Ken B. Rand, Poly-Phaser, 2000)*

*"Never kick a fresh cow pie on a hot day." – Wrangler TV advertisement*

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**-- WEB SITE INPUT NEEDED --**

TARC Webmaster John Fyke-VE6AIV needs your help!! John has set up an admirable Web site for our club at <http://tamiamiarc.tripod.com>, however, he has done about all he can by himself. You can help flesh out the site with your input to John. For instance, he needs more biographic material from the members. How about some photos of your station or of your ham radio activities? Have you seen any articles that are worthy of the site for the enjoyment of others? Any such input would be most appreciated by John. E-mail him at [ve6aiv@rac.ca](mailto:ve6aiv@rac.ca). Remember, this is your club and your Web site.

**-- W4AC/R IS NOW ALSO ON 440 --**

If you have 440 MHz capability in your rig, why not try our new W4AC repeater operating on 444.100 MHz? The machine has been running now for several weeks, and you're invited to give it a try. Thanks to Stew Haaq-W4MO for this new repeater!

**-- RECENT ARRL POLL RESULTS --**

On 22 July 2005, when asked "Have you ever used the ARRL Technical Information Service," 226 of the 2017 respondents said "Yes, often" and 699 said "Yes, occasionally." However 876 respondents said "No" and 216 never heard of this service. *(A need for better advertising, or superfluous ARRL overhead expense?)*

The 15 July 2005 poll asked "What is your favorite on-line resource when shopping for used ham equipment?" While 869 of the 2299 respondents said they never buy used equipment on-line, 854 folks utilize "eBay." Of the other options offered, such as "eHam" and "QRZ.com," the ARRL's "Radios On-Line" came in dead last, being used by only 131 respondents. *(A need for better advertising, or superfluous ARRL overhead expense?)*

A total of 2862 hams responded to the query "When operating SSB, do you use speech processing?" While 10.1% claimed they don't operate SSB and the rigs of 7.1% don't have a speech processor, 32.9% of the respondents use processing only when needed, 25.1% always use it, and 24.8% never use it. *(How would your editor respond, for processing is always on in the IC-730 but never on in the IC-775DSP?)*

**-- WHAT'S YOUR DUES STATUS? --**

If a review of your check book doesn't indicate that you've paid your 2005 dues, or you don't have a 2005 dues card in your wallet, you probably are delinquent with your current TARC dues. Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A will be most happy to receive your payment and issue you a card.