



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 2013 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI has been having some work done on his eyes, such that he's not reading a computer monitor very clearly. As such, Fred has asked to be excused from offering his words of wisdom this month. We hope Fred's back in action next month.

-- KC9UR/PONTOON PORTABLE --



TARC member Stan Robinson-W9SMR and his buddy Bob-KC9UR started preparation for the Pontoon Portable A.P.E (August PSK-31 Expedition) with the Penn Ohio DX Society 070 club some months ago. Bob spent many hours optimizing potential vertical antenna/radial configurations for launch angle and VSWR. Stan played with methods of mounting and supporting the 31 ft. LDG S9v31 vertical on an 8' square swim raft.

Stan and Bob have set up their Kenwood TS-590S transceivers on a pontoon boat at a pier

located at W9SMR/9, Round Lake near Fremont, IN. and have used both the floating vertical and a pier-mounted 18' vertical. Their A.P.E. operation is set for 20-21 August 20 on most bands in PSK-31 mode only.

If you can work PSK31, look for Stan and Bob operating as KC9UR/Pontoon Portable and give them a call. A SASE will get you a special QSL. Work KC9UR on three bands and receive a special "A.P.E. Hunter" certificate.

-- AUGUST MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **14 August 2013** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Following the business meeting, Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will offer a program on Radio Astronomy. This should be a good one of interest to all.

-- BOY SCOUT TROOP EARNS DXCC --



Boy Scouts of America Troop 5's club station KT5BSA in Pasadena, California, has become a member of the DX Century Club, and the Scouts did it the hard way. To achieve their goal,

troop members set up portable HF stations at various campouts and Scout events, and all 24 troop members contributed to working the DXCC entities needed to qualify. Travis Williams-AF6WU, assisted by his wife Kjerstin-AF6KJ, is the club's adviser and KT5BSA trustee.

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky-N5ZGT—himself an Eagle Scout—called the club's DXCC "a very neat accomplishment, and one I'm sure all of the boys and leaders involved are proud of."

(From ARRL Web Site, 24 July 2013)

Learning is a treasure which accompanies us everywhere. Chinese Fortune Cookie

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

10 July 2013

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Following the flag salute, introductions were made all around and Gary Youngberg-W8SKI from Cincinnati, Ohio was welcomed as a visitor.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 12 June meeting as published in the July issue of *The Communicator*. Dave Gill-K4JDG so moved, seconded by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – A flyer for the 31 August – 01 September Shelby Hamfest in Shelby, North Carolina was received and announced to the members.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen reported that the starting balance was \$4009.74. There were no receipts during the month. Expenses were \$12.93 to Birch Communications for Internet service, \$24.00 to Calkins LP Gas Co. for tank rental, \$207.67 to Marsh US Consumer for equipment insurance, and \$201.33 to Auto Owners Insurance for liability insurance, totaling \$445.93. The ending balance is \$3563.81. Jack Sproat-W4JS moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Dave Gill-K4JDG, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing reported during the month.

VE TESTING – There is one potential candidate for our 13 July VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both repeaters are operational as long as the digital motorboating isn't present on the 440 repeater.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – The latest roster shows 55 paid members, two student members and three life members for a total of 60 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred commented that we have about 3 or 4 stations checking in to the two nets.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were some 18 members, spouses and friends at the informal lunch at the Panda Pavilion on 03 July.

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing carried over.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred announced that the digital HTs furnished by Stew Haag-W4MO for communications for the annual Sharks Tooth 10-K Run will no longer be available. Fred asked that several options be considered, including the club purchasing a number of the inexpensive Chinese HTs that are available, with staged re-

payment to the club by the members who take possession of these HTs, and trying simplex communication along the course route. This will be discussed further at our August meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Bruce Brown-WA8IQF sent word that a program on hamsphere.com was given at a recent meeting of his club up in Georgia, and that it could possibly prove of interest to young computer-savvy people.

Dan Schaaf-K3ZXL has a 43" Zenith plasma monitor that he will donate to anyone who can get it back into service.

Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX asked if we still a relationship with the Venice High School Radio Club and was advised that both faculty sponsors of the W4VHS club and two students are members of the TARC, that we ran a VE session at VHS in April, that the W4VHS club has several working radios, and that a number of the members have been on the air, especially with PSK31 mode.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM was made by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, and passed.

There were 11 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Jack Sproat-W4JS offered a program on HF Propagation, discussing the ionosphere, gray line propagation, the effects of CMEs and solar flares, what the numbers in the solar flux, A- and K-indices mean, and how propagation forecasts are determined.

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

-- ARRL CENTENNIAL CALL SIGN? --



When the ARRL celebrates its 100th anniversary next year, it hopes to do so with a unique call sign for the occasion. The League board expressed a desire at its July meeting to request that the FCC issue it a temporary call sign of W100AW for use during 2014 by headquarters station W1AW and "by others as the W1AW trustee designates," according to a posting on the League's website. (*Lotts a Luck!!*)

(CQ Newsroom 27 July 2013)

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Mozambique – C91GBA; by EA4GBA ++	Now to 31 Dec	101	00-05	23-05	22-06	19-08	11-18	13-17	14-17	14-17
Laos – XW0YJY; by E21E1C	Now to 14 Sept	353	NO	NO	NO	11-13	12-14	12-20	15-17	NO
Sudan – ST2SF; by K0YAK ** & digital	Now to 31 Aug	66	00-04	23-05	22-06	18-05	12-00	14-23	17-21	17-21
Faroe Is – OY/DL3UB; ** holiday style	Now to 09 Aug	32	00-06	23-09	21-11	13-01	10-02	13-15	NO	NO
Ascension Is – ZD8LP; ++ and PSK	Now to 05 Aug	108	--	22-09	20-10	09-05	12-04	14-02	15-03	14-03
Namibia – V5/UX0HX, UZ1HZ & UT5UY	01 to 08 Aug	107	00-06	22-07	22-08	19-10	12-18	14-18	13-19	15-18
Malta – 9H3N; by JJ2NYT	02 to 10 Aug	55	--	22-07	21-07	12-05	13-00	13-00	NO	NO
Jersey Is - MJ/OT9Z; Belgian Team	02 to 09 Aug	46	00-06	22-08	21-10	10-02	16-00	10-00	NO	NO
Tanzania – 5H3BB; by KF8UN ++ mostly 20	02 to 20 Aug	83	--	23-05	22-05	20-05	17-00	14-00	14-22	14-22
Reunion Is – TO1PF; French Team	03 to 04 Aug	91	00-03	23-04	23-04	21-06	18-06	17-00	16-19	15-16
Crete – SV9/ON6DSL; ++ holiday style	12 to 21 Aug	51	--	22-06	21-07	19-05	13-23	14-23	14-22	NO
Greenland – OX5YL; International Team	16 to 20 Aug	13	01-09	23-11	21-13	11-04	14-00	11-03	NO	NO
Malta – 9H3MMM, 9H3NN; holiday style	21 to 26 Aug	55	--	22-07	21-07	12-05	13-00	13-00	NO	NO

Updated 31 July based on the 29 July *The Weekly DX*, the 31 July *QRZ DX*, and the NG3K Contest/DX Page, <http://www.ng3k.com>

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

-- JULY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 107 to 141, with a mean value of 115.6 (vs. 135.6 for July 2012 and 94.3 for July 2011), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 19 days. The sunspot number through 30 July ranged from 49 to 143, with a mean of 85.9. Sunspot Regions 1782 to 1809 were active, with one M-class and 121 C-class flares.

July's HF propagation was often disappointing what with the A_p index hitting 20 on 06 July during 3-day active period, 27 twice during the 10-15 July period, 15 and 14 during the 18-20 July period, and 12 and 14 during the 25-29 July period. G1 storms occurred 6, 11, 14 and 15 July.

-- AUGUST FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for M-class (R1 radio blackouts) flares throughout the month.

No proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 01 through 02 August and 22 through 25 August in response to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled conditions throughout August, barring any geoeffective transient features. There is a chance for active levels on 03-04 August and again on 21-23 August in response to recurrent CHSS.

The Solar Flux should range from 100 to 115 and average 105.6 during August.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 29 July 2013, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 29 July 2013, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 29 July 2013)

-- YL'S ON FROM GREENLAND --

Five YL operators from five nations will be on the air from Greenland 16 to 20 August. They plan to have a station on 24 hours a day and to be on 160 through 10 meters at one time or other from the QTH shown.



<http://home.online.no/~la6rha/greenland2013.htm> is their web site and PA5YL is their QSL manager.

-- FUTURE TEMOTU ACTIVITY --

The dates for the next H4ØFN DXpedition to Temotu by Siegfried Hari-DK9FN, are set. The single-op DXpedition will take place from December 21, 2013, until January 10, 2014. Hari has his airline ticket, and the license, good until 2014, is in hand. Hari says he plans to stay a week longer than usual, since he's unsure about making it back for another in 2014 (he operated as H4ØFN in 2010, 2011 and 2012), and there is some work to do on the island to support poor people and the hospital in Temotu.

(From ARRL Web Site 21 July 2013)

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MAJOR CONTESTS DURING AUGUST

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
TARA Grid Dip Shindig	0000Z 03 Aug 2359Z 03 Aug	160 – 10 Meters PSK and RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere	Name, 4-Character Grid Square
Ten-Ten Summer Phone QSO Party	0001Z 03 Aug 2359Z 04 Aug	10 Meters Only SSB Only	Members of 10-10 International	Call, Name, 10-10 #, S/P/C
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z 03 Aug 1800Z 04 Aug	222 MHz and Up SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	4-Character Grid Square
North American QSO Party	1800Z 03 Aug 0600Z 04 Aug	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	States, Provinces, North American Entities	Name, S/P/C
Worked All Europe	0000Z 10 Aug 2359Z 11 Aug	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	European Stations, see www.waedc.de re QTC	RST, Serial (and possible QTCs)
Fall VHF Sprint	2000Z 10 Aug 2400Z 10 Aug	6 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	4-Character Grid Square
Dominican Republic Contest	0000Z 17 Aug 2359Z 18 Aug	80 and 40 Meters SSB Only	(Apparently) HI Stations Only	RS, Serial
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z 17 Aug See Web Site	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere, see www.sartg.com/contest/wwrules.htm	RST, Serial
Russian District Award Contest	0800Z 17 Aug 0800Z 18 Aug	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Russian Stations Only	RS(T), Serial
Keymen's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z 17 Aug 1200Z 18 Aug	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Japanese Stations Only	RST, Continent (NA)
North American QSO Party	1800Z 17 Aug 0600Z 18 Aug	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	States, Provinces, North American Entities	Name, S/P/C
SARL Digital Contest	1300Z 18 Aug 1630Z 18 Aug	80 – 20 Meters Digital Modes	DXCC Entities in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean	RST, Serial
ARRL Rookie Roundup	1800Z 18 Aug 2359Z 18 Aug	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Stations licensed 3 years or less; Give both calls, 1 st name, year 1 st ->	->licensed, S/P
Romanian DX Contest	1200Z 24 Aug 1159Z 25 Aug	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z 24 Aug 1159Z 25 Aug	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, 4-digit year 1 st license
South Africa DX CW Contest	1300Z 25 Aug 1630Z 25 Aug	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	DXCC Entities in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean	RST, Serial

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

NOTE: State QSO Parties and "membership clubs" contests are not shown. See above references for information.

-- A \$40 SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO --

In true amateur radio spirit, Stephen Cass-KB1NWR, has authored an article for the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) *Spectrum* magazine describing a broadbanded software-defined (SDR) receiver that can be built for only \$40 worth of parts. According to *Amateur Radio Newsline*TM, Cass built the receiver using a Freeview P250 dongle, and indoor TV antenna and a Model B Raspberry Pi microcontroller. The complete article and a video of the device in operation may be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/inexpensive-sdr>.

(CQ Newsroom 27 July 2013)

-- LoTW PROBLEMS --

At the recent ARRL board meeting, Dakota Division Director Greg Widin, KØGW, reported on the work of the Ad Hoc LoTW Committee. The Board resolved, on Widin's motion, to authorize \$75,000 in order to procure outside professional services with the goal of improving LoTW's database implementation. The Board also okayed the hiring of a full-time Headquarters staff member with "strong IT development and architectural skills" to address LoTW improvements. (*ARRL Letter* 25 July)

Have a vision. Be demanding.

-- VACUUM TUBES RETURNING --

The Western Electric name has been resurrected for a new vacuum tube manufacturing venture here in the United States. With its headquarters in Rossville, Georgia, the operation will make vacuum tubes mainly for use in high-end audio components.

While tubes, or valves as they are known in Europe, were once the mainstay of the world's electronics, they were eventually supplanted by transistors and integrated circuits. Soon afterward most United States based manufacturers deserted the manufacture of tubes to follow the solid state trend. In recent years vacuum tube manufacturing has become the domain of specialty companies mainly in Russia and China, but even they only manufacture the most popular tubes like the venerable 12AX7 and 6L6. These are used in high end specialty audiophile gear and portable amplifiers preferred by some musicians.

The new incarnation of Western Electric is headed by Charles G. Whitener Jr.. Initially it will sell only a handful of different tube types that are exact reproductions of Western Electric "classics," such as the 300B. The latter was a power triode audio output tube that was originally designed to be used in movie theaters sound installations. (*Amateur Radio Newslines*TM Report 1875 – 19 July 2013)

-- MAJOR, BIG TIME QRO!! --

After the 2013 Dayton Hamvention, several hams, including videographer Randy K7AGE, went on a tour of the historic WLW 500 kW transmitter in Mason, Ohio. The tour was conducted by Jay K8CJY and Geoff W8GNM - both recent retirees from Harris Broadcast division. Catch the tour and pick up the facts about this historical, one of a kind station at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbHjcwloTiY> (From *ARRL Contest Update*, 31 July 2013)

-- NEW DISTRIBUTOR FOR ALINCO --

George Howard-NW4G, who is the Amateur Radio Division Manager at GigaParts says that he has received word that Alinco is back up and running and its products began shipping on July 17th.

In a posting to QRZ.com, Howard says that distribution is now being handled by a company called Remtronix Incorporated with a website at www.remtronix.com. A web search shows Remtronix to be located in Hayward, California not that far from San Francisco.

Howard also says that he has received word of several price reductions as well as announcement of the launch of the new Software Defined Radio based DX-SR9T high frequency transceiver.

(From *Amateur Radio Newslines*TM Report 1876, 26 July 2013)

-- MOZAMBIQUE OPERATION --

With less than 3 months to go until it's on the air in October, the C82DX Mozambique DXpedition team is continuing its preparations. Heading up the DXpedition are Don Greenbaum-N1DG, and Tom Harrell-N4XP. "We now have secured the vehicles and trailers that will take us overland from Pretoria to Xai Xai (grid square KG64), Mozambique," the team reports. "Low Band operations remain the primary objective, and we have secured both Titanex and Battle Creek Special verticals."

(From ARRL web page, 24 July 2013)

-- TOM CHRISTIAN-VP6TC/VR6TC, SK --

Tom Christian, VP6TC/VR6TC, a long-time radio amateur who became known as "the Voice of Pitcairn," died July 7 on the tiny South Pacific Island that was his lifelong home. He was 78 and a descendent of Fletcher Christian of "Mutiny on the *Bounty*" fame.

In 2009 he was diagnosed with possible Alzheimer's disease. According to his wife Betty-VP6YL/VR6YL, his health "deteriorated all too quickly," and the last few months were, in her words, "cruel ones to watch such a strong, vibrant man reduced to where he was not really aware of his surroundings and then was unable to walk and swallow food or liquid."

Tom was first licensed in 1957. Over the years, he and Betty kept in routine radio contact with their ham radio friends overseas as well as with two of their daughters who are hams. He often ran just 70 W into a 250 foot wire on 15 meters and was able to work the US easily. Tom was buried July 8 in the cemetery on Pitcairn. He was a Member of the British Empire (M.B.E), and served for 40 years on the Pitcairn Island Council as the Governor's Representative.

In addition to his wife, survivors include the couple's four daughters, Darilene; Sherilene; Jacqueline, VK2CDC, and Raelene, ZL2RAE

(From ARRL web site, 31 July 2013)

Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy. (Yep, more sensible Fortune Cookie logic.)

August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM	3
4	5	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	7 QCWA Lunch @ Panda Pavilion 11:15 AM	8 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM	10 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
11	12 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	14 TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	15 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM	17
18	19	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	21	22 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM	24
25	26	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	28	29 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:15 AM	31

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on the W4AC 444.100 MHz Repeater. 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) _____

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.)

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1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD
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The Communicator is a monthly publication
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