

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 – http://tamiamiarc.org



-- AUGUST 2015 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Our July club meeting was a quite affair since our Georgia Cracker Dave Gill-K4JDG remained up north of the border (cracking DX, that is, hence the new title) but Jack-W4JS stepped up to his old seat as Secretary and kept me on the straight and narrow.

This month's *QST* has several interesting articles, one of which featured the use of an Android phone as an app creating unit. One such app could be used as a logging program. Anyone up to the challenge?

Speaking of challenges, how many have an emergency go bag? I mentioned such equipment several months ago but I haven't heard any response. Here's a challenge for September's meeting: Bring in your go bag to show off. Again, any takers?

While on the subject of emergencies how about the local DARN net the second Monday of each month? We could really use more involvement, so.....?????

We're looking forward for the winter's increase in members at the monthly meetings and at that other place that draws far more participation than our two nets. Hope all of you are enjoying summer pleasures.

VY 73 de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- AUGUST MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **12 August 2015** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program will be a presentation by Dave Gill-K4JDG on the use of the WSPR mode. A brief explanation of WSPR can be found on page 4.



ARRL DUES GOING UP --

The ARRL Board of Directors has approved a \$10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016. In doing so, the Board adopted a recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee. ARRL basic dues have been held at \$39 a year since 2001.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option. "One of the most difficult decisions a membership organization faces is a dues increase," he said. "Over the past 14 years we have managed to hold the increase in expenses to just 19 percent, against a US inflation rate of 32 percent over the same period. We have implemented operating efficiencies that allowed reducing the staff by 15 percent while expanding the range of services to members and to Amateur Radio as a whole. We created a development program, offering to those members who have greater financial capacity an opportunity to support their national association at a higher level."

Enhanced membership services since 2001 include inauguration of Logbook of The World® (LoTW, a digital edition of *QST* at no additional cost, expanded *QST* and video product reviews, ARRL publications for Kindle, Online Exam Review, and free license renewal assistance.

The cost of a basic ARRL membership will rise to \$49 on 01 January 2016. An ARRL Life Membership, now \$975, will increase to \$1225.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 23 July 29015)

-- LOCAL HAM GETTING PUBLISHED --

Dennis Lazar-W4DNN from Port Charlotte has taken the helm as Interim QRP Editor of *CQ* magazine. In his initial article in the August issue, Dennis recounts his 50 years' experience operating QRP. It's nice to see some of the local ham radio talent getting broad exposure.

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Meeting 06 July 2015

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a flag pledge. Introductions were then made all around, with Paul Johnson-NA8PJ from Venice being welcomed as a visitor.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 10 June meeting as published in the July issue of *The Communicator*. Pat Marx-N4PRM so moved, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing reported.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer San Yoder reported that the starting balance was \$5225.07. Receipts were \$12 from the June 50/50 and a \$5 donation, for a total of \$17.00. Expenses were \$301.00 for liability insurance, \$248.00 for repeater equipment insurance and \$24.00 for annual rental of the LPG tank at the repeater site, totaling \$573.00. The closing balance was \$4669.07. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Gary Hagens-K6OC, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing known.

VE TESTING – We have one candidate who inquired about our 11 July session. Notice was given that the new Element 3, General Class, exams are now in effect and they do contain some questions which will require studying.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both the 146.805 and 444.100 machines are operating satisfactorily.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 51 regular members, one complimentary member, eight student members and four life members for a total of 64 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred reminded all of our 440 and 2-meter nets, and hopes that more members will make an effort to check in.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 14 members and spouses at our 01 July lunch at the Hibachi Grill Buffet in the Bird Bay Plaza, US 41 Bypass, Venice. These local lunches will continue at 11 AM the first Wednesday of each month through September, when we return to Sarasota.

OLD BUSINESS – Fred advised that we have reserved the Left Coast Seafood buffet room on 12 December for our TARC Christmas Party. We can get there at 3-4 PM to socialize, with supper being available at 5 PM. Fred added

that the menu looks good and the price is quite reasonable. More details to follow.

NEW BUSINESS - Nothing.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB demonstrated his "early birth-day present" which is a new Microsoft tablet-style computer that can be adapted into a desk-top computer with all the latest bells and whistles.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:10 PM by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Tom McDermitt-W3GXV, and passed. There were 11 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – San Yoder-K3SY showed the new video of the 2014 FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition.

Jack Sproat-W4JS; Acting Secretary

-- FOR FANS OF SUDOKU --

CQ Sudoku

1	2	4	3	5	6	7	9
8			7	4			2
3			9	1			8
6				8			1
5				3			4
9			2	7			5
2			1	6		5	7
4	3	1	5	2	8	9	6
							3

Professional puzzle editor Marian Nagy, OM1EI, developed a Sudoku puzzle with the hints in the shape of the letters "CQ" and was kind enough to allow us to publish it. If you're not familiar with Sudoku, the goal is to have each number from 1 to 9 in every row, every column and each of the nine small squares within the one large square, without repeating. You'll find the solution to this puzzle on page 84, and be sure to visit Marian's website at < http://www.nairam.sk/ >.

(From May 2015 CQ)

The K4ADL Kartoon Korner



OBSESSED WITH HAM RADIO, DWIGHT FAILED TO DEVELOP ANY SOCIAL SKILLS.

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY BEAR- HF BANDS and BEST OPENI					OPENIN	NG TIMES (UTC)			
COUNTRY - CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Galapagos Is – HC8/G8OFQ; spare time op	Now to 30 Sep	196	00-12	00-24		14-04	16-00	18-21	18-21	NO
Djibouti – J20JM; by F5LCI, **, JT65	Now to 15 Sep	61	00-03	23-04	00-03	22-00	22-00	NO	NO	NO
Ethiopia – ET3AA; by Ukrainian team	Now to 21 Aug	66	00-03	23-04	23-04	22-00	22-00	23-00	NO	NO
Galapagos Is – HC8/LU9EFO	03 – 24 August	196	00-12	00-24	12-07	14-04	16-00	18-21	18-21	NO
Ogasawara – JO1LVZ/JD1; **, Digital, +6m	06 – 09 August	317	09-11	08-12	11-12	10-15	0430	NO	NO	NO
Cayman Is – ZF2EE; by OZ1BII	07 – 08 August	169	00-24	00-24	17-21	16-03	NO	NO	NO	NO
Faroe Is – OY/DL2JRM; **	07 – 10 August	32	00-07	22-10	21-01	17-22	NO	NO	NO	NO
Luxembourg – LX9YL; by Eu YL team, +6m	07 – 10 August	44	00-05	22-08	21-06	17-23	13-00	NO	NO	NO
Monaco – 3A/IZ8EGM; 40-6m	07 – 15 August	50		22-08	21-06	17-00	16-23	NO	NO	NO
Mariana Is - NH0J; JA team, all modes,+6m	08 – 13 August	306	09-11	08-12	10-13	13-16	14-16	NO	NO	NO
Seychelles – S79DPX; by IZ2DPX, ++ holidy	09 – 23 August	68		23-03	NO	23-04	23-00	NO	NO	NO
Iceland – TF/F4GGQ; ++	10 – 15 August	28	00-07	22-10		16-01	NO	NO	NO	NO
Dodecanese - SV5/DL1ZB; all modes, +6m	12 Aug – 29 Sep	49				17-23	18-21	13-22	NO	NO
Gambia – C5WP; by ON7WP, spare time op	15 Aug – 01 Sep	88	23-08	21-09	20-05	13-02	15-22	15-22	18-20	NO
Fernando de Noronha – PY0F/PP1CZ; HF +6	26 – 31 August	115	23-09	21-11	19-05	13-01	15-22	17-20	19-22	NO
Iceland – TF/K2VHN; holiday style	31 Aug – 07 Sep	28		-	21-02	12-23	15-18	15-18	NO	NO

Updated 29 July based on the 27 July 2015 The Weekly DX, the 29 July QRZ DX and, http://www.ng3k.com

Notes: **Time in bold** = the Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. 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.

-- JULY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During July the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 89 to 133, with a mean value of 107.0 (vs. 137.3 for July 2014 and 115.6 for July 2013), and the A_p index was \geq 7 on 21 days. Through 30 July, the sunspot number ranged from 27 to 131, with a mean of 68.4.

Space weather during July ranged from quiet to active with three M-class and 50 C-class flares through the 30^{th} . Severe geomagnetic disturbances from multiple CMEs peaked the A_p to 56 on the 4^{th} and 5^{th} , 39 on the 10^{th} , 67 on the 13^{th} and 48 on 23 July.

-- AUGUST FORECAST -

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels, with a chance of M-class flares 01-10 August.

No proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels 01, 07 and 17 August, with high levels expected during the rest of the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to reach G1 storm levels on 07 August, with active levels expected on 02, 08-09 and 19 August due to recurrent CH HSS. Quiet to unsettled activity is expected during the remainder of the month.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 85 to 115 and average 105.0 during August.

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







Eugene-UA4RX will be QRV as **RI1FJ** on 160-10m, CW/SSB/Digi as time permits from Heiss Island, F.J.L (EU-019) for one year.

(Preceding from DX-World.Net)

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING AUGUST 2015

TARA Grid		WAE DX Contest 50 M			50 MHz F	ИHz Fall Sprint	
01 Aug 0000Z	01 Aug 2400Z	08 Aug 0000Z		09 Aug 2359Z	08 Aug 2300Z		09 Aug 0300Z
1.8-28 50	RTTY, PSK	3.5-28		CW		50	All Modes
Name, 4-charact	er g\Grid Square	RST, Serial			4-character Grid Square		
www.n2ty.org/season	www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/			http://svhfs.org/2014_Fall_Sprint_Rules_Rev01.pdf			
Russian District	Keyman's Club of Japan Contest			CVA DX Contest			
15 Aug 0800Z	16 Aug 0800Z	15 Aug 1200Z 16 Aug 1200Z		16 Aug 1200Z	15 Aug	2100Z	16 Aug 2100Z
1.8-28	CW, SSB	1.8-28	50	CW	3.5-28	-	CW
RS(T), Serial (Ru	RST, Continent Code (NA)			RST, type (DX)			
http://rdaward	www.kcj-cw.com/contest/15 kcj contest rule e.pdf			http://www.craec.org			
CVA DX	W/VE Islands QSO Party			Romanian DX HF Contest			
22 Aug 2100Z	23 Aug 2100Z	29 Aug	1200Z	30 Aug 0300Z	29 Aug	1200Z	30 Aug 1200Z
3.5-28	SSB	3.5-28		All Modes	3.5-28		CW, SSB
RS, typ	RS(T), S/P/C or W/VE island designator			RS(T), Serial			
http://www	www.us	islands.org	nds.org/contest_rules.html			x.ro/en/english	

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 http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/ NOTE: Only major contests are shown, i.e. state QSO parties, miscellaneous sprints, etc. are not shown. See http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/Contest_Corral_1508.pdf for the complete list of the 43 contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be held during July.

-- SO WHAT THE HECK IS WSPR? --

As Dave Gill-K4JDG will offer a program on "WSPR", perhaps you should know some of the basics of what it's all about.

WSPR (pronounced "whisper") stands for "Weak Signal Propagation Reporter". It is a computer program used for weak-signal communication between amateur radio operators interested in this mode. The program was initially written by Nobel laureate Joe Taylor-K1JT, but is now open source and is developed by a small team. The program is designed for sending and receiving low-power beacon transmissions to test propagation paths on the MF and HF bands. The most popular frequency is in the 30-meter band.

WSPR implements a protocol designed for probing potential propagation paths with lowpower transmissions. Transmissions carry a station's call sign, Maidenhead grid locator, and transmitter power in dBm. The dBm values are encoded in the software, so only the values listed, e.g. 30 dBm (1W), 33 dBm (2W), 37 dBm (5W), 40 dBm (10W), can be used. Most people use 1W, which is 30 dBm. The program can decode signals with S/N as low as -28 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. Stations with internet access can automatically upload their reception reports to a central database called WSPRnet, which includes a mapping facility. The emission type used is "F1D", frequency shift keying. The WSPR protocol compresses the information in

the message into 50 binary digits. These are encoded with a convolutional code. The long constraint length makes undetected decoding errors less probable at the cost, that the highly efficient Viterbi algorithm must be replaced by a simple sequential algorithm for the decoding process.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WSPR_(Amateur_radio_software)

-- FCC OFFICE CLOSING STATUS --

The FCC is closing its field offices in or near Anchorage, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Norfolk, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan (Puerto Rico), Seattle, and <u>Tampa</u>. Enforcement Bureau field offices in or near Atlanta, San Francisco, and Columbia (Maryland) will relocate to FCC-owned sites nearby or in the same metropolitan areas. Columbia is where the FCC's HF Direction Finding (HFDF) facility is located.

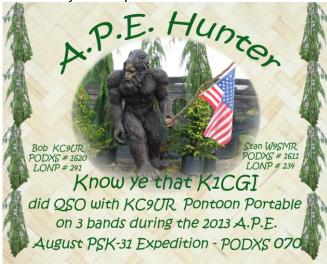
The FCC said relocated offices as well as those remaining open in or near New York City, <u>Miami</u>, Dallas, Chicago, Boston, Denver, Honolulu, New Orleans, Portland (Oregon), and Los Angeles "will be staffed and equipped to maintain the Commission's Field program." Rapid deployment teams will be stationed in Columbia and Denver to supplement enforcement efforts of other field offices as necessary and to "support high-priority enforcement actions nationwide." the FCC said in a news release.

(From The ARRL Letter, 23 July 29015)

--... ...--

-- HAMS HAVING FUN --

Some TARC members may recall the program Stan Robinson-W9SMR put on last year showing his 2014 "pontoon portable" operation. Well. Stan and his buddy Bob Billingsley-KC9UR, will be going "Pontoon Portable APE" as KC9UR once again on Monday 24 August through Wednesday 26 August, A.P.E. stands for the August Phaseshifter's Expedition, sponsored by Penn-Ohio DX Society 070 (PODXS070). They will be operating from a pontoon boat on Round Lake in the northeast corner of Indiana. In addition to operating the 40M -10M HF bands, they will try to help 6m enthusiasts by calling CQ at the top of each hour on the 50.290 MHz 6m PSK31 frequency. Their antennas include a 31' vertical mounted on a kayak, a 4-square phased array aboard the swim raft, a flagpole mounted multi-band dipole and a 6m double-bay on the pier.



In addition to a nice photo QSL, a custom "APE Hunter" certificate will be awarded tor those persistent enough to work them on three bands! (The one awarded to Vic Ouellette-K1CGI two years ago is shown above.) Of their 164 QSO's made last year, nine stations worked them on three bands and three stations worked them on four bands. Stan and Bob are really looking forward to working as many "Phaseshifters" as possible!

If you do work Stan and Bob, QSL with SASE.

-- QRZ.COM AGAIN UP AND RUNNING --

The popular QRZ.com website has been undergoing a major upgrade since 17 July, and things went quite a bit more slowly than initially anticipated. While the outage did not affect call sign lookups, QRZ.com Founder and President Fred Lloyd-AA7BQ said the site's engineers en-

countered some unforeseen problems. "We've replaced our forums software and are reconfiguring it for use with QRZ. While we realize that many folks have been concerned, we want to express our sincere thanks to those who have been patient and understanding with us as we work overtime to put the system back online." What started out as a simple update but went bad is now resolved and all the features of QRZ.com are now up and running.

-- AMATEUR RADIO ROUNDTABLE -

How many are familiar with the Amateur Radio Roundtable? FYI, it is a live weekly amateur radio webcast and a simulcast shortwave program, held every Tuesday night at 8 PM CDT (0100 UTC Wednesday). The show can viewed at W5KUB.com or heard on shortwave radio station, WTWW on 5085 KHz. Tom Medin-W5KUB is joined by co-host Ted Randall-WB8PUM from the QSO Radio Show. The show covers a wide range of topics for ham radio operators, shortwave listeners, and electronic hobbyists; including balloon launches, Satellite, go-kits, emergency communications, SDR, digital modes, DXing, home brewing, and more.

Watch Amateur Radio Roundtable by going to <u>W5KUB.com</u>.

-- VANITY FEE ENDING DATE --

According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, 03 September.

In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

(From ARRL Bulletin 23, 30 July 2015)

So, if you hanker for a vanity call sign to give a more personal touch to your license, wait until after the 3rd of September to make your no-fee move. If you should be interested, take a look at http://www.qrz.com/ to see if the call of interest is in service. If not, see http://www.radioqth.net/ to determine if that call sign is being processed. If not, go to http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=cft&id=amateur&page=cft_get_call_sign and do an on-line application.

August 2015

August 2010								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
						1		
2	3	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	QCWA,11:15 @ Hibatchi Grill Buffet, Bird Bay Plaza, US 41 Bypass, Venice	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	TARC VE Session 10 AM Venice Public Library		
9	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Rptr 145.430	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	13 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	15		
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	19	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	22		
23/30	24/31	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	26	27 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	29		

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.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name	Call Sign	Class ARRL (Y/N)
Local Address	City	Zip
Summer Address	City/State	Zip
Tel. No E-Mail	Applica	ation Date
Please check Letters of Interests: (N) Net Control	, (I) RFI/TVI_, (V) VE Test	ting, (T) Training, (P) Packet, (Y
RTTY, (D) PSK, etc, (O) Computers, (X) D	OX, (C) Contests, (F) Fie	ld Day, (Q) Publicity, (E) Emergen
cy Communications, (S) Special Events, (U) V	HF/UHF_, (A) ATV/SSTV	, (R) Repeater, (L) EchoLink, Other
(specify)		
Regular Member @ \$25.00/year, Family Membership @ Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calenda 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

The Communicator is a monthly publication Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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