



# 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://tamiamiarc.tripod.com>  
W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- DECEMBER 2005 --

### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

'Tis the season to be jolly and there are several upcoming activities for TARC members.

On 03-04 December, the Tampa Bay Hamfest will be held at the Manatee Civic Center, US 301 and Haben Blvd. up in Palmetto. This is the biggest hamfest in our area, sponsored by the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council, of which our TARC is a member.

The TARC Christmas Party will be the evening of 10 December. This is our social event of the year, so we hope to see you there.

There is a very good possibility that our W4AC Repeater will be relocated to a new and improved site before the end of the year. Most of the equipment is on hand and all that remains is approval of a lease agreement by all parties.

As follow up to our discussion at the November meeting, Peter Pesa-N4RD and I have been looking into the availability and cost of a charter bus for the Orlando Hamcation in early February. So far, we have about 12 signups, but we need at least 18 more.

Our W4AC Repeater seems to be running very well, however, it could use more activity. Also, the TARC web site is operational, and it should be used more frequently. We also hope to hear you on our Tuesday and Thursday night 2-meter nets.

It's good to be back South, although Joy and I will be returning to the snow country for a week over Christmas. We plan to return before the new year.

See you at our December meeting and then at our Christmas Party.

VY 73,  
Matt-W2EQV

### -- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 08 December 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. This will be our **Annual Meeting**, such that, in addition to conducting current business at hand, we will finalize and ratify our Bylaws and elect our officers and directors for 2006. Please attend to participate in these activities.

### -- REVISED TARC BYLAWS --

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club Bylaws which had been in effect since December 1980 were carefully reviewed and revised by the officers and directors in October, and copies of those revised Bylaws were sent to all TARC members. Feedback was received from several members and subsequent revisions—mostly of a grammatical nature—were made. The November revision was sent via e-mail to all members (89 percent) having that capability on 07 November. No further feedback has been received, either via e-mail or via written comments.

The general membership will be called upon to ratify these new bylaws at our 08 December meeting. You will note, in Article X – Amendment of Bylaws, that you have the opportunity to submit a written proxy if you cannot attend that meeting. Therefore, if you cannot participate in voting at that meeting, please mail or e-mail your proxy to the TARC Secretary, Jack Sproat-W4JS at [w4js@juno.com](mailto:w4js@juno.com).

### -- TARC NET SCHEDULE --

Remember to check into our twice weekly nets at 7:30 PM, so we know you're alive and kicking. Tuesday, we're on 146.58 simplex and Thursday we're on our W4AC Repeater, 146.805 (w/100 Hz PL tone).

Our Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG could use assistance with more Net Control Station. Several of our former NCSs have moved from the area, so your help, filling in the gaps, would be appreciated. Give Bob a call and, at the same time, show your support of the TARC. These are your nets, and the TARC is your club.

### -- CHARTER BUS TO ORLANDO? --

President Matt Klapp-W2EQV and Peter Pesa-N4RD have looked into the potential for chartering a bus from Venice to Orlando for the "Hamcation" on 11 February. The bus would leave Venice at 7 AM and be back at 6 PM. The cost would be approximately \$30, including the hamfest entry ticket. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to Matt at [mhklapp1@verizon.net](mailto:mhklapp1@verizon.net) or via phone at 488-8572, or Pete at [peterpesa@comcast.net](mailto:peterpesa@comcast.net) or phone 475-3770.

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

10 November 2005

President Matt Klapp-W2EQV called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the pledge of allegiance was recited. Introductions were made all around, and Larry Och-KA3YNK and his wife Georgette-KA3YFS (not present) were welcomed as new TARC members. Jim Lacourse of Venice and Norman Pollock of Warren, Ohio were recognized as visitors.

**MINUTES** – Peter Pesa-N4RD moved that the minutes of the 13 October 2005 meeting be accepted as published in the November issue of *The Communicator*, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported receipt of a Thank You note from Diana-KI4GRF, thanking the club for the Radio Shack HT. Jack commented on receipt of a letter from the WCF Group, Inc. requesting a donation to the NI4CE (“Big Stick”) repeater system. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved that we not donate, seconded by Peter-N4RD, and passed on a show of hands. Diana-KI4GRF reported she had received a nice letter from John Miller-WA9YHW, congratulating her on her successful upgrade to General Class.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 13 October starting balance was \$4870.54. Receipts were \$22.00 from the September 50/50 drawing and \$15.00 dues from Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ. Expenses were \$15.97 for newsletter postage and printing. The 10 November ending balance is \$4891.57. Peter-N4RD moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Diana-KI4GRF, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Chairman Joy Klapp-N2WVD reported that had been no Sunshine Reports in the past three months. Peter-N4RD reported that Marty Horowitz-N4FA had nasal surgery and Joy will send Marty a card.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS commented there should be at least two candidates at the 12 November session.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that the radio for the W4AC Repeater is operating properly, however, the coax and antenna are not in good shape. Jack-W4JS gave a brief overview of his discussions to date with Newport Homes with regard to the TARC relocating our repeater to Newport’s tower in Englewood.

**PACKET/GATEWAY** – Bob Avrutik-N1RA had no updates at this time, but expected news within a few weeks.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Bob-N1RA reported that Hal Cole-W4GUY, who had sold his former equipment, now desires to get on the air once again, and that Hal would like to borrow one of the TARC transceivers until he can obtain new equipment. Verbal permission was granted by the members.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-WD7A has prepared a brochure layout, but it still lacks some relative photos. Diana-KI4GRF stated she had written Nicole Hunt-KI4KRK, asking her to model for a photo, but had no response. Jack-W4JS said he would send Nicole an e-mail regarding this item.

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR** – Chairman Peter Pesa-N4RD suggested we have a “mission statement” which addressed emergency communications in our Bylaws, and offered an example. Don-WD7A read such a statement from the incorporation papers of the Peace River Radio Club. Peter requested that the Diocese Amateur Radio Net (DARN) be given authorization to have exclusive use of our W4AC Repeater during any DARN emergency operations. Don-WD7A so moved, seconded by Bob-N1RA and passed.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present, but Jack-W4JS remarked that we are getting some 6-8 check-ins for our two nets. Jack commented that we only have four net control stations and asked that others consider volunteering.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Englewood ARS president, Marty Horowitz-N4FA was not present.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported that 22 Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 02 November lunch/meeting at Denny’s up in Sarasota. Ken Anderson-W4JQT put on a very interesting program about the development and installation of the ATT microwave relay system back some 50 years ago. Jack advised that Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will offer a program on Old Time Radio at the 07 December meeting, and invited all interested persons to attend.

**CLUB HISTORIAN** – This position remains vacant, with the items being stored at the home of Jack-W4JS.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS spoke of the need for volunteers to put on programs at future meetings. Konrad has contacted WCF SM Dee Turner-N4GD, who will come down for a meeting. Don-WD7A stated there were two recent ARRL practices he wanted explained: paid “volunteers” and why ARRL HQ seems to be trying to control where these “volunteers” will be assigned.

See **MINUTES, page 5**

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## 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    |
| Ascension Is – ZD8I                  | Now Active      | 108      | <b>22-07</b>                    | <b>21-08</b> | <b>19-23</b> | <b>14-21</b> | 15-20        | 16-19 | 16-19 | NO    |
| Antarctica – VU3BPZ                  | Now to March    | 180      | --                              | --           | --           | 22-23        | --           | NO    | --    | --    |
| Jan Mayen – JX9NOA                   | Active ASAP     | 21       | <b>22-12</b>                    | <b>12-17</b> | <b>13-17</b> | 14-15        | 1430         | NO    | NO    | NO    |
| Mayotte – TX0P                       | Now to 07 Dec   | 84       | <b>22-03</b>                    | <b>21-04</b> | <b>19-22</b> | <b>15-20</b> | 16-18        | 18-19 | NO    | NO    |
| Suriname – PZ5PA                     | Now to 14 Dec   | 126      | <b>21-12</b>                    | <b>00-24</b> | <b>00-24</b> | <b>13-22</b> | <b>14-20</b> | 16-18 | 15-20 | 16-18 |
| Tanzania – 5H1CM                     | Now to 16 Dec   | 83       | <b>22-04</b>                    | <b>21-05</b> | <b>19-23</b> | <b>13-21</b> | <b>15-19</b> | 16-18 | NO    | NO    |
| Sri Lanka – 4S7PAG                   | Now to 16 Dec   | 28       | <b>22-01</b>                    | <b>21-00</b> | <b>20-22</b> | <b>14-21</b> | 15-19        | 15-19 | 1800  | NO    |
| Egypt – SU8BHI                       | Now to 31 Dec   | 54       | <b>22-06</b>                    | <b>20-07</b> | <b>17-23</b> | <b>14-17</b> | <b>15-16</b> | 1530  | 19-20 | NO    |
| Thailand – HS0ZFI                    | 05 – 31 Dec     | 355      | <b>11-12</b>                    | <b>23-01</b> | <b>13-20</b> | <b>14-18</b> | 15-16        | 15-18 | NO    | NO    |
| Namibia – V5???                      | 11 – 22 Dec     | 107      | <b>22-05</b>                    | <b>21-06</b> | <b>20-23</b> | <b>17-22</b> | 17-19        | 16-19 | 16-19 | NO    |
| Gabon – TR8CR                        | 12 Dec – 12 Jan | 88       | <b>22-06</b>                    | <b>20-07</b> | <b>19-23</b> | <b>14-21</b> | <b>15-20</b> | 16-18 | 16-18 | NO    |
| Senegal – 6W/HA7TM                   | 15 – 22 Dec     | 87       | <b>22-09</b>                    | <b>19-05</b> | <b>12-23</b> | <b>13-21</b> | <b>14-19</b> | 15-18 | 16-18 | NO    |
| Micronesia – V63O                    | 28 – 31 Dec     | 293      | <b>07-13</b>                    | <b>06-14</b> | <b>13-17</b> | <b>15-16</b> | 20-21        | 20-21 | NO    | NO    |

Updated 27 November 2005, based on 21 November 2005 *QRZ DX*, 23 November 2005 *The Weekly DX*, and *DX Alert Issue 244*

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

### -- NOVEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During the first 28 days of November, the Solar Flux ranged from 77 up to 102, with a mean value of 86.3 (vs. 113.2 for November 2004 and 140.8 for November 2003). The A-index was  $\leq 10$  on 21 days.

While there were days when no sunspots were visible, the general absence of geomagnetic disturbances made for good propagation on 17 meters and lower frequencies.

### -- DECEMBER PROPAGATION --

During December, solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. No greater than 10 MeV proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 01-08 December.

The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to minor storm levels. Unsettled to active levels are possible on 10 December due to recurrence. Otherwise, expect quiet to unsettled conditions.

The Solar Flux should range from 75 to 90 during December. The best propagation is expected during the latter half of December.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 22 November 2005 and NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 22 November 2005)

### -- FINDING HAMS VIA ZIP CODE --

If you want to find the call signs of other hams in your area, there are at least two routes to achieve that goal. Stew Haag-W4MO recommends the PerCon Spectrum at [www.perconcorp.com/google\\_ham.html](http://www.perconcorp.com/google_ham.html). You can also try <http://www.qrz.com>. Go to Main Index, Call Sign Database, Name Search, and enter the zip code.

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### -- DECIBELS VIS-S-VIS S-UNITS --

Many “old timers” consider an S-unit to equal 6 dB, however, there is no documented industry-wide standard. In 1978 the IARU Region 1 Conference in Hungary recommended that one S-unit equal 6 dB. The recommendation (which is in the Technical Standards section of the IARU Region 1 HF Managers Handbook) was adopted at the Brighton Conference in 1981 as a standard for Amateur Radio equipment manufacturers. It is interesting to note that they state that their recommendation corresponds to an already widespread “unofficial” standard (quotation marks in the original). The biggest problem with the IARU Region 1 document is that it’s just a recommendation.

How important is it that your S-meter be 6 dB per S-unit? If you are using your S-meter for absolute measurements, then you will have to calibrate it, using a calibrated signal generator, over its full range on all the bands, with all combinations of filters, and with and without any preamp and/or front-end attenuator. Is it really that important to you?

(From “How many dB are there in an S-Unit?,” Carl Luetzelschwab-K9LA, October 2005 *WorldRadio*.)

### --SILENT KEY – JT1BG --

Baatar Sambuu-JT1BG, who gave many DXers their first QSO with Mongolia, became a Silent Key 13 November 2005. First licensed in 1977, Baatar was one of the more active stations in Mongolia. He held DXCC Honor Roll, 5BDXCC, 5BWAZ and 5BWAC. He is survived by his wife OD, son Jargal-JT1CT, daughter Oyuna-JT1CC, and a grandson. Baatar liked to tell how his grandson would sit on his lap and listen to Baatar operate. (From *QRZ DX*, 23 November 2005)

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

| Contest/Special Event         | Begin-End Times/Dates        | Bands/Modes                    | QSO With                                      | Exchange                       |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| ARRL 10-Meter Contest         | 0000Z 10 Dec<br>2359Z 11 Dec | 10 Meters Only<br>Phone & CW   | Anyone, Anywhere                              | R/S/(T) + State/<br>Province   |
| Czech DX RTTY Contest         | 0000Z 17 Dec<br>2400Z 17 Dec | 80 – 10 Meters<br>RTTY Only    | Anyone, Anywhere                              | R/S/T + CQ Zone                |
| PSK31 Death March             | 0000Z 17 Dec<br>2400Z 18 Dec | 80 – 6 Meters<br>PSK31 & PSK63 | Anyone, Anywhere                              | Name + QTH                     |
| Croatian CW Contest           | 1400Z 17 Dec<br>1400Z 18 Dec | 160 – 10 Meters<br>CW Only     | Anyone, Anywhere                              | R/S/T + Serial<br>No.          |
| RAC (Canadian) Winter Contest | 0000Z 17 Dec<br>2359Z 17 Dec | 160 – 10 Meters<br>Phone & CW  | Canadian Stations Only                        | R/S/(T) + Serial<br>No.        |
| ARRL Straight Key Night       | 0000Z 01 Jan<br>2359Z 01 Jan | 80 – 10 Meters<br>CW Only      | Anyone, Anywhere, by use<br>of a straight key | “SKN”, Report,<br>and then QSO |

From December 2005 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

### -- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 3-4 Dec Tampa Bay Hamfest, at Manatee Civic Center, 1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto. TI: 145.190, Info: Jim-KG4JSZ, 407-356-3574
- 10 Dec Ocala Hamfest, at County Agricultural Center, 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd., Ocala. TI: 146.610 (PL 123 Hz), Info: Bill-N6WGM, [n6wgm@cfl.rr.com](mailto:n6wgm@cfl.rr.com)

(From <http://bellsouthpwp.net/k/kb4vol/>, the Web site of Bill Britton-KB4VOL)

### -- “VIEW TAX” --

It seems that a number of municipalities are basing property taxes on the value of the view from respective properties. Take the case of David Bischoff up in Orford, New Hampshire. He lives in a one-room cabin with no electricity, no municipal water, no phone, and not even a driveway. However, he does have a panoramic view of nearby hills and distant mountains, which makes his property seven times more valuable than if it had no view, according to the latest property assessment. In fact, the view added \$140,000 to the assessed value! (From “View tax triggers revolt in N.H.” by Katharine Webster, AP, 01 November 2005 *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*)

Now, here is a wonderful opportunity for radio amateurs, who want to erect those “hideous towers and beams that devalue property,” according to many misunderstanding neighbors, to help those neighbors reduce their taxes. If a dedicated Amateur wanted to construct a first-class multi-transmitter contest station with a few 100-foot towers loaded with lots of aluminum, would not that “detract” from the view? I’m sure Mr. Bischoff would welcome such a new neighbor, as he banked the reduction in his taxes.

### -- 2006 ELECTION SLATE --

Nominating Committee Chairman Bernie Holtman-W4GO, assisted by Charlie Covell-W4DB and Peter Pesa-N4RD, has come up with the following TARC members who are ready, willing and able to serve our club during 2006.

- President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS
- V. President Matt Klapp-W2EQV
- Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS
- Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A
- Director Stew Haag-W4MO
- Director Bob Avrutik-N1RA
- Director Jon Hamlet-W4ZW
- Director Croft Taylor-VE3CT

As the Bylaws call for “three or more Directors,” all of the candidates for Director may be elected to that position. Nominations for officers made be made from the floor during the election process at our 08 December meeting.

### -- RECENT ARRL SURVEY RESULTS --

The 05 August survey asked, “What is your opinion about the recent FCC proposal to discontinue Morse code testing for Amateur Radio licenses?” “Fine with me” replied 4604 of the respondents, while 4466 felt “It is a terrible idea.” Meanwhile 415 don’t care either way. With a total response from 9485 people, this question obviously still attracts a lot of controversy and strong opinions.

It looks like the Internet is definitely dominant as an information source nowadays. “When you’re searching for technical information, which media do you use most often?” was the 07 October query. Of the 2318 respondents, 75.1% use the Internet, versus 20.8% using books and 4.1% relying on magazines.

## **MINUTES, from page 2**

Matt-W2EQV remarked on the distribution of the Bylaws revisions to the membership. Inclusion of a "mission statement" will be addressed, with the likelihood of it being shown in both the new Bylaws and in the upcoming revision of the Articles of Incorporation.

When Matt-W2EQV reminded all of the 10 December TARC Christmas Party, Peter-N4RD proposed that the club subsidize the ticket cost. Both Don-WD7A and Jack-W4JS countered that 501(c)(3) regulations prohibit such a subsidy. Diana-KI4GRF moved that we have a special meeting on 10 December at the Boca Royale Country Club and that the TARC pay the cost of the meeting room. Peter-N4RD seconded this motion, which passed by show of hands. Konrad-WA3RRS moved and Frank Arona-K4FEA seconded that the meeting room rental shall be \$10/person. Said motion passed by show of hands.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Matt-W2EQV stated that Bernie Holtman-W4GO would be Chairman of the Nominating Committee, assisted by Charlie Covell-W4DB. Peter-N4RD volunteered to be the third committee member.

Matt reported that several members would like the membership roster on the TARC web site to show only names and call signs. Diana-KI4GRF so moved, seconded by Konrad-WA3RRS and passed.

Matt recalled when the TARC used to have a charter bus to the Orlando Hamfest, and commented he would like to revive that practice. A show of hands indicated about 10 people (of those present) willing to go by bus. Matt will look into the availability and cost of such a charter, and asked all to spread the word, invite EARS members, etc.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS** – Matt commented that during October one member had been extremely active, helping others with their computers and radios, such that he named Stew Haag-W4MO as recipient of the "October Elmer Award." Stew received a round of applause for his efforts.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM was made by Larry Och-KA3YNX, seconded by Diana-KI4GRF, and passed. There were 17 members and 2 visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Jack-W4JS recalled the days when installing a ham station in an automobile was quite a bit more complicated than nowadays. He then displayed the 1953-vintage Elmac transmitter and receiver, and fired up the converted PE-101C dynamotor that supplied the high voltage to the transmitter.

Jack Sproat-W4JS, Secretary

## **-- INTERNET USE INCREASING --**

2003 data recently released by the federal Census Bureau show that 55 percent of US households had access to the Internet, more than triple the percentage in 1997. Internet usage increased with education, income and the presence of school-age children at home.

School-age children are most likely to use home computers to play games or do school work. Adults are most likely to use home computers for e-mail, to search for information about products and services, and to read news, weather and sports information.

These data show that saturation of Internet use has become more uniform across the US. Computers are most prevalent in the western states, where 59 percent of households have them. They are less prevalent in the southern states where 52 percent of households have them. Alaska, New Hampshire and Colorado have the highest rates of Internet use; Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana have the lowest. Women are slightly more likely than men to use a computer at home, reversing an historical trend.

A 2005 report by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that 68 percent of adults use the Internet, up from 63 percent in 2004. It also found that 22 percent of US adults have never used the Internet. Young adults were the most likely to use the Internet, with a big drop-off among people 70 and older.

Internet advertising revenue is expected to reach nearly \$12 billion this year, more than double the amount from five years ago.

(From "More Americans are using Internet; security worries increase," Associated Press, *Englewood Sun*, 28 October 2005)

## **-- REWARD OFFERED!! --**

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of the desperate criminal Hop-A-Long Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a primary cell where he had been clamped in ions, awaiting the gauss chamber. He is charged with the induction of an 18-turn coil named Millihenry, who was found chocked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band pass. If encountered, he may offer resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he went to ground. They had no success and believe he returned Ohm via a short circuit. He was last seen riding a megacycle with his friend Eddy Current, who was playing a harmonic.

(Courtesy of Al Bry-W2MEL)