



# 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 – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL  
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- DECEMBER 2008 --

### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I believe the past month has been a good one for the TARC.

Over the course of three weeks, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW met with the student members of the new Pine View School Amateur Radio Club (PVSARC) for one hour on Monday afternoons. With slides and references, Jon provided some basic training to prepare them for the Technician Class examination. Jon also provided each member with a copy of the ARRL's training manuals for their use at home.

On Monday 24 November, five members of the TARC VE Team conducted a special exam session at the school for five PVSARC members and their faculty sponsor, Martha Ackroyd. I was mighty happy when all six examinees successfully passed the exam, and Jon was ecstatic! VE Ray Baker-WX2C captured Jon's feeling in the accompanying photo. The successful licensees also look pretty happy!

In his congratulatory e-mail to the new licensees, Jon suggested what ham radio interest can lead to. "Congratulations! I'm so very proud of you! You have now completed the first step in what will be a fascinating journey as you follow communications technology in your lifetime. Whether it is space communications, electronics experimentation, radio astronomy, or just having fun making friends around the world, you will find that the endless facets of Amateur Radio will keep its appeal and hold your interest."

Well put, Jon, and I know personally that ham radio can provide a good foundation for exciting careers. Best Wishes to the new Pine View licensees from your fellow TARC members!

73 de Stew-W4MO

### -- TARC WEB SITE INPUT NEEDED --

George-AB4AD, Jack-KY1Z and Bruce-WA8IQF care for our web site. However, they need NEWS, articles, photos, "whatever". You can forward any material to Jack-KY1Z via [tamiamiarc@gmail.com](mailto:tamiamiarc@gmail.com).

### -- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will start with a Technical/General Discussion at 6:30 PM, and the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM on **11 December 2008** 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, a program of interest will be offered. Come on out and see just what might be offered.

### -- WELL DONE!! --



No question but that Jon Hamlet-W4ZW feels great that his training efforts were fruitful as these Pine View School ARC members and their faculty sponsor, Martha Ackroyd, passed their Technician exams. (Don't fret; Tom-KJ4GVC in the back row already has his Tech ticket.)

A similar number of students had planned to take the exam on 24 November, however, there were some absentees, and several had gone out of town with their parents for Thanksgiving. Jon plans a roundup of those students for our 13 December TARC VE session.

*The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse. – US President James Madison, Speech, Virginia State Convention, 02 December 1829*

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**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**13 November 2008**

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Visitors Martha Ackroyd, biology teacher at Pine View School, Andy Bobak-N2NDQ of Richfield Springs, NY and his brother Bill Bobak of Venice, Joe Moore-W4GHF of Venice, and WCF Section Manager Dee Turner-N4GD were recognized. Introductions were then made all around.

**MINUTES** –Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 09 October 2008 meeting as published in the November 2008 issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Konrad Owens-WA3RRS, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing reported.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2486.69. Receipts were \$14.00 from the October 50/50, \$8.00 for one name tag, \$45.00 for three memberships, and a \$5.00 donation, totaling \$72.00. Expenses were \$14.43 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater, \$445.00 for repeater tower work, \$3.00 for printing and \$8.40 for stamps, totaling \$470.83. The 13 November 2008 ending balance is \$2087.86. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW moved for approval, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE** – Doris Brown, wife of Bruce Brown-WA8IQF is recovering from gall bladder surgery 11 November. Martin Horowitz-N4FA commented that EARS member John Combs-W4VMD was recovering in the Venice Hospital after surgery.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS advised that Don Jansen-KI4VGE and another candidate upgraded to General and a candidate from Sarasota passed the Technician exam at last Saturday's VE session.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew-W4MO reported that the repeater is "limping along" but he has some plans for improvements. Interference problems from unknown source(s) have hampered use of the remote HF radios and the EchoLink mode.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Stew-W4MO reported no change in the Club property inventory.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 78 members, includ-

ing eight Life Members and five First-Year Free members.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Martin-N4FA reported on recent Englewood ARS participation in the Boca Bop Triathlon.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported there were 30 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends at the 05 November luncheon/meeting at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB offered an informative program showing how to prepare animated Power Point presentations by utilizing old photographs.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Jon Hamlet-W4ZW gave a brief overview of his efforts establishing a radio club at the Pine View School. One past deterrent was overcome when biology teacher Martha Ackroyd, who is a former amateur radio licensee, offered to be the faculty sponsor for a radio club. Once word spread at the school, a number of students expressed their interest, and Jon has been conducting Technician classes for several weeks. Those students will go for their licenses later this month, and Jon is preparing for a second class. Initially, a satellite antenna will be installed on the roof of the classroom, with a HF antenna to follow. The club has received a license with the call sign W4PVC.

**NEW BUSINESS** – There are several items of note.

- 1) Special Election – Due to the resignation of Director Charlie Covell-W4DB, due to pending surgery and recovery, a special election is required as per Article VI, Paragraph 20 of the TARC Bylaws. Bob Avrutik-N1RA nominated Jack Gaddas-KY1Z, seconded by Martin Horowitz-N4FA. There being no nominations from the floor, Peter Pesa-N4RD moved that the nominations be closed and the Secretary directed to cast one ballot signifying the unanimous vote for the nominee.
- 2) Nominating Committee – As our Annual Election will be at our 11 December meeting, in compliance with Article VI, Paragraph 21, Stew-W4MO appointed Peter Pesa-N4RD as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, assisted by Martin Horowitz-N4FA and Matt Klapp-W2EQV.
- 3) TARC Christmas Dinner – As no action had been taken regarding a date and See **Minutes** on pg. 6

## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Senegal – 6W2SC (mostly digital)	Now to 09 Mar	87	<b>21-09</b>	<b>18-09</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	16-18	16-18	NO	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP (mostly digital)	Now to 09 Mar	90	<b>22-09</b>	<b>18-09</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	16-18	16-18	NO	NO
Canary Is – EA8/ON5JV; EA8/ON6AK	Now to 03 Feb	72	--	<b>12-05</b>	--	<b>14-20</b>	--	--	--	--
Madagascar – 5R8IC **	Now to 14 Dec	90	--	--	<b>20-22</b>	<b>17-20</b>	15-18	15-18	15-18	NO
Antarctica – FT5YI	Now to 15 Dec	180	--	--	--	<b>13-22</b>	--	--	--	--
New Caledonia – FK/F5AHO	Now to 12 Dec	258	--	<b>06-15</b>	--	<b>14-00</b>	19-22	--	--	--
Maldives – 8Q7SC, 8Q7GU, 8Q7GC	Now to 10 Dec	41	<b>22-02</b>	<b>20-00</b>	<b>19-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19	15-19	17-18	NO
North Cook Is – E51QQQ	Now to 09 Dec	255	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>16-23</b>	<b>17-21</b>	17-20	17-21	18-20
Zimbabwe – Z21LS	Now to 09 Dec	97	--	--	--	<b>13-21</b>	--	--	--	--
Reunion Is – TO3R	Now to 06 Dec	91	<b>22-02</b>	<b>21-03</b>	<b>20-23</b>	<b>16-21</b>	<b>15-19</b>	16-18	16-18	NO
American Samoa – KH8/KK6H	05 to 09 Dec	256	<b>05-13</b>	<b>04-15</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>17-23</b>	<b>18-21</b>	18-20	18-20	NO
Antarctica – KC4AAA	05 Dec to 05 Jan	180	NO	<b>03-09</b>	07-09	<b>22-23</b>	20-23	2000	NO	NO
Crozet Is – FT5WO	10 to 31 Dec	131	<b>23-01</b>	<b>22-03</b>	<b>21-23</b>	<b>18-22</b>	18-22	NO	NO	NO
Gabon – TR50R	15 Dec to 15 Jan	88	<b>22-06</b>	<b>20-08</b>	<b>19-23</b>	<b>13-21</b>	15-19	15-19	16-17	NO
Cambodia – XU7ACY	15 Dec to 30 Jan	349	<b>11-12</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>13-14</b>	15-17	15-17	NO	NO	NO
Morocco – CN89NY	21 Dec to 03 Jan	64	<b>21-09</b>	<b>17-23</b>	<b>13-20</b>	<b>15-18</b>	16-17	16-17	NO	NO
Antarctica – OPOLE	26 Dec to 15 Feb	180	--	<b>-3-09</b>	--	<b>22-23</b>	--	--	--	--
Ogasawara – JD1BLY, JD1BMH	28 Dec to 02 Jan	317	<b>07-13</b>	<b>05-14</b>	<b>21-23</b>	21-22	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ascension Is – ZD8UW (British Ops)	31 Dec to 09 Jan	108	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>13-23</b>	<b>13-21</b>	15-19	16-18	16-18	NO
Bangladesh – S2???	31 Dec to 10 Jan	8	<b>23-00</b>	<b>22-00</b>	13-14	2030	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 28 November 2008, based on 26 November *QRZ DX*, 24 November 2008 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

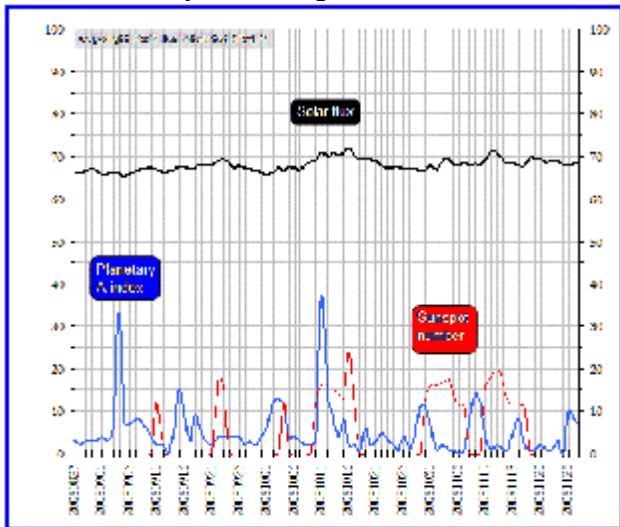
Notes: **Time in bold** = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

### -- NOVEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During November, the Solar Flux ranged from 67 to 71, with a mean value of 68.6 (vs. 69.7 for November 2007 and 86.3 for November 2006). The A-index was  $\leq 10$  on 24 days.

November's geomagnetic field activity was at quiet levels during the month, other than unsettled to active levels 07-09 Nov, and unsettled levels 16 and 26-27 Nov due to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams (HSS).

Cycle 24 Region 1007 formed 30 October and produced low-level C-class flares on 03 and 04 Nov. Region 1008 formed 10 Nov. Both regions lasted nine days. See figure below.



(Courtesy of: Jan Alvestad, DX Listeners Club <http://www.dxl.com/solar/>)

### -- DECEMBER FORECAST --

December solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected reach high levels 01-03 and 06-12 December. Solar flux should range between 68 and 70 during the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels 01-03 December, increasing to unsettled to active levels 04-06 Dec due to recurrent HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels 07-21 December. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled levels 22-24 Dec, returning to quiet conditions for the remainder of the month.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 November 2008, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 November 2008, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 26 November 2008)

### -- 40-METER BAND CHANGES --

On 29 March 2009, stations in IARU Region 1 (Europe, Africa, and across northern Asia) will have Phone privileges up to 7.200 MHz. Currently those stations generally can not operate Phone above 7.100 MHz, which necessitates split frequency operation to work stations in the USofA. This expansion has been achieved due to cooperation by foreign broadcasting stations to move out of the 7.100-7.200 MHz spectrum.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 27, No. 47)

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z 13 Dec 2359Z 14 Dec	10 Meters Only Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), State or Province
PSK Death March	0000Z 13 Dec 2400Z 14 Dec	80 – 6 Meters PSK Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	Name, State or Province
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z 20 Dec 1400Z 21 Dec	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial Number
Slovak DX RTTY Contest	0000Z 20 Dec 2400Z 20 Dec	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, CQ Zone
Radio Amateurs of Canada Winter Contest	0000Z 27 Dec 2359Z 27 Dec	160 – 2 Meters Phone & CW	Canadian Stations Only	R/S/T, Serial Number
RAEM (Russian) Contest	0200Z 27 Dec 0959Z 27 Dec	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Russian Stations Only	Serial No., degs lat & lon

From "Contest Corral" on the ARRL Web Site

### -- PINE VIEW EXAM SESSION --



Four of the six examinees filling out the paper work.



Pine View School ARC Faculty Sponsor Martha Ackroyd working on her exam papers.

### -- TARC NET SCHEDULE --

As shown on the Calendar, we have three weekly nets. Tuesday at 7:30 PM is the 146.580 MHz Simplex Net; Wednesday at 8:00 PM is the DX Net on our 146.805 MHz W4AC Repeater; and Thursday at 7:30 PM is the Emergency Net on our W4AC repeater. Check in if you can.

### -- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 06-07 Dec Florida Gulf Coast Amateur radio Council 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest at the Manatee Civic Center, Haben Blvd. & US 301, Palmetto. TI: 146.955 (PL 100 Hz); Info: Keating-KC4HSI, 813-765-8916
- 13 Dec Silver Springs Radio Club Hamfest at Green Clover Hall Field and Parking Lots, SE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave & Ft. King St, Ocala. TI: 146.610 (PL 123 Hz), Info: William-N6WGM, 352-873-2017

(From November & December 2008 QST)

### -- NEED AN "ELMER"? --

If you're studying for an upgrade, and feel the need for "comfort and assistance," contact any of the following TARC members:

#### General Class

- Jack Gaddas-KY1Z [igaddas@verizon.net](mailto:igaddas@verizon.net)
- Mike Hickey-NY4P [ai4sr@hotmail.com](mailto:ai4sr@hotmail.com)
- Konrad Owens-WA3RRS [kdowns39@hotmail.com](mailto:kdowns39@hotmail.com)
- Jack Sproat-W4JS [w4js@juno.com](mailto:w4js@juno.com)

#### Extra Class

- Jack Gaddas-KY1Z [igaddas@verizon.net](mailto:igaddas@verizon.net)
- Stew Haag-W4MO [w4mo@win.net](mailto:w4mo@win.net)
- Bob Avrutik-N1RA [n1ra@juno.com](mailto:n1ra@juno.com)

In addition to the above, Andy Durette-KB1HIP has offered to conduct an Extra Class training course, and some six TARC members have indicated interest. Contact Andy via [AF\\_Durette@hotmail.com](mailto:AF_Durette@hotmail.com).

### -- TNX RAY-WX2C! --

Our sincere thanks to Ray Baker-WX2C for taking the great Pine View photos!



**Minutes** from pg. 2

venue for a TARC Christmas Dinner, the Englewood ARS offered TARC members the opportunity to participate in its 21 December dinner at the Hills Restaurant, Ronda West. The cost is \$22.50 per person, and interested members should contact Martin Horowitz-N4FA as soon as possible.

- 4) Tuesday Night Simplex Net – Jack-W4JS asked for agreement that this net return to its original frequency of 146.580 MHz. The members so agreed.
- 5) First Year Free Membership – Jack-W4JS commented that the officers had agreed that the Pine View students who obtain their first licenses at TARC VE sessions be granted First Year Free status. The members so agreed.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Andy Durette-KB1HIP announced that he was willing to start a class for the Extra Class. A show of hands indicated at least a half dozen members interested, and a list of names was made.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:26 PM was made by Peter-N4RD, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed. There were 19 members and five guests present.

**PROGRAM** – Jon Hamlet offered a very informative program on development of a radio club at Pine View School, the initial station to be set up, and how the components of that station will function.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

**-- JON HAS OUR ATTENTION --**



Jon Hamlet-W4ZW has everyone’s attention at our November meeting as he discussed the equipment planned for use at the Pine View School ARC station W4PVC. One of the first

priorities is installation of a satellite station for contacting Low Earth Orbiting Satellites.



Jon shows a view of the PVSARC exhibit table at the 11 October Pine View Fair. That exhibit drew a dozen or more students into the club, and resulted in members getting their first licenses six weeks later.

**-- “HASHAFISTI SCRATCHI” – SILENT KEY --**

George Floyd, Jr.-WA4DGA, who wrote under the pseudonym Hashafisti Scratchi for CQ magazine died 22 November at age 91. Between 1947 and 1971, writing as a Japanese-American ham with fractured English and contorted spelling. Scratchi (supposedly) wrote from “Feenix, Ariz.,” beginning each column with “Deer Hon. Ed.” He would skewer the pomposity and poor operating practices he encountered on the air. For many CQ readers, Scratchi was the first item read in each month’s issue.

In real life, Floyd was an engineer and executive with General Electric, first in Schenectady before moving to Lynchburg, Virginia in the late 1950s.

(From CQ News, 25 November 2008)

**-- HIGH SPEED INTERNET --**

According to Speedtest.net, some of the best international download connection speeds are:

Jakarta, Indonesia	21,000
Seoul, Korea	21,800
Tampa, FL	23,300
Bern, Switzerland	29,804
Stuttgart, Germany	30,580
Tokyo, Japan	31,368

The slowest download connection speed in Tokyo is 20,400 kbs. Verizon and Comcast offer 10,386 kbps Internet connections locally; the significantly higher speed available in Tampa is provided by E Solutions Corporation.

# December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	3 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Denny's TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	4 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	5 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	6 Tampa Bay Hamfest and West Central Florida Section Convention
7 Tampa Bay Hamfest and West Central Florida Section Convention	8 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	10 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	11 TARC Meeting, Tech Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	12 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	13 TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library
14	15	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	17 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	18 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	19 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	20
21	22	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	24 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	27
28	29	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	31 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805			

Personal Events

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Member @ \$15.00/year \_\_\_ , Family Membership @ \$18.50/year\_\_\_ (\$8.00 after 30 June for remainder of calendar year. \$15.00 after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

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Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

2008 TARC Officers

President: Stew Haag-W4MO  
V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF  
Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE  
Directors: Konrad Owens-WA3RRS  
Jon Hamlet – W4ZW  
Jack Gaddas-KY1Z  
Bob Avrutik-N1RA