



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 2009 --

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving. We do have a lot of problems in these troubled times, however, each of us have certain gifts for which we should be thankful.

Jon Hamlet-W4ZW has been expanding his strong desire to assist young people in being introduced to, and then learning the basics of, Amateur Radio. In addition to his continuing involvement with the Pine View School Amateur Radio Club, Jon recently teamed up with George Becht-N2SQ in the latter's efforts at the Sarasota Military Academy Amateur Radio Club. Several members of our TARC VE Team conducted two exam sessions at SMA, which resulted in seven new, young radio amateurs. Jon's latest target is the Suncoast Polytechnical High School in Sarasota. Following his presentation of a program there, 64 students and a science teacher or two signed up for training for the Technician license.

In an effort to get these students acquainted with ham radio in action, Jon and George invited all who were interested—licensed or not—to help participate in the November ARRL Sweepstakes competition. Making use of equipment at the Sarasota Red Cross, they put a station on the air on Sunday, 22 November, with PVSARC, SMARC and SPHS participating. Can you recall your feelings when you first heard HF ham radio? I know I can, and I hope these young folks will feel the same during the coming years.

We can all agree that the future of ham radio is in the hands of the young people, and we appreciate the interest being shown in these schools, thanks to the efforts of hams like Jon and George.

73 to All de Stew-W4MO

-- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **01 December 2009** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. After the business meeting, we'll have an "eyeball QSO" session with refreshments.

-- A PLAY ON ELECTRONIC TERMS --

A reward of 500 MICROFARADS is offered for the information leading to the arrest of HOPALONG CAPACITY. This unrectified criminal escaped from a WESTON 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 MILLI HENRY who was found CHOKED 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 a BAND PASS. If encountered, he may offer SERIES RESISTANCE. The ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE spent the night searching for him in a MAGNETIC FIELD, where he had gone to EARTH. They had no success and believed he had returned OHM via a SHORT CIRCUIT. He was last seen riding a KILOCYCLE with his friend EDDY CURRENT who was playing a HARMONIC.

(The foregoing was originally published in *The Communicator* back in August 1995. It had been submitted by Lloyd Pfahler-W8FKL (SK), who was affectionately known at "The Grouch.")

--EXAM TIME AT THE SMA --



Two rows of candidates for their Technician licenses study the questions as TARC VEs prepare to grade the results at the 14 November VE Session at the Sarasota Military Academy.

(Photo via Jon Hamlet-W4ZW)

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
(Held at the Venice Public Library)
03 November 2009

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. (Burt Wizeman-KI4FH of Venice was a late-arriving visitor.)

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 06 October 2009 meeting as published in the November 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Konrad Owens-WA3RRS so moved, seconded by Don Gray-WD7A, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Received and replied affirmatively to e-mail for WCF Section Manager Dee Turner-N4GD regarding his data base on all the clubs/organizations within the Section. Flyers for the 05-06 December Tampa Bay Hamfest were offered.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1253.55. Receipts were \$13.00 from the October 50/50. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater site, and \$8.80 for stamps and \$118.76 for UPS batteries at the repeater, totaling \$141.90. The 03 November 2009 ending balance is \$1124.65.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing reported.

VE TESTING – Our next VE session will be at 10 AM on 14 November, and there is potential for two candidates.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew reported that all modes on our W4AC Repeater are currently operational. Stew remarked that members who intend to use EchoLink in order check into a TARC Net should try out the mode earlier in the day such that, if there is a problem, he could endeavor to make corrections prior to the net time. Stew commented that there was now a W4PVC EchoLink mode available on the 145.130 repeater operated by the SERC.

CLUB PROPERTY – No inventory changes.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 93 members, including seven Life Members and 24 First-Year Free members.

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

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS reported that the Englewood ARS will again be providing some communications sup-

port during the Boca Bop Triathlon scheduled for the coming weekend.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS stated that Suncoast Chapter 53 will be meeting tomorrow, 04 November, 11:30 AM at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Dennis Blanchard-K1YPP will tell of his experiences hiking all 2,176 miles of the Appalachian Trail, while also operating some QRP radio along the way.

OLD BUSINESS – With regard to our involvement in the SERC/TARC/PVSARC family, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW reported that he was elected SERC Vice President at their 02 November meeting. As such, amongst other activities, he will serve as Liaison to SERC, reporting on same at our future meetings.

Jon reported that there are now 16 students at the Sarasota Military Academy preparing to take license exams, scheduled for 21 November.

NEW BUSINESS – Stew announced that we need to appoint a Nominating Committee to draw up a slate of officers for 2010. Peter Pesa-N4RD was appointed Chairman (in absentia) and Bruce Brown-WA8IQF stated he would be willing to serve on the committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Dave Brandenburg-K5RQ commented that he's involved with the ham radio station on the USS Midway Museum Ship. While the K4M operation was active from Midway Island, the station on the USS Midway made a "Midway-to-Midway" QSO.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 6:40 PM was made by Dil Kay-W8DIL, seconded by Jon-W4ZW, and passed. There were 24 members and one visitor present.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary



Michael Bifalco-KJ4IFM commands attention during 22 November Sweepstakes activity.

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

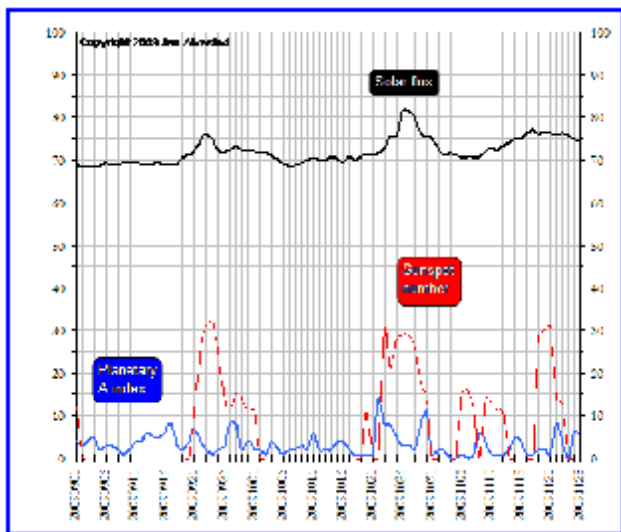
CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEAR-ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Pitcairn Is – VP6AL	Now to 01 Mar	226	02-13	02-14	12-16	15-22	16-21	17-20	16-21	NO
Papua New Guinea - P29CW	Now to 19 Dec	283	08-13	06-14	13-16	20-22	20-21	NO	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5R8IC	Now to 15 Dec	90	22-03	21-03	20-22	17-21	15-19	16-18	15-18	NO
Cameroon – TJ3SL	Now to 15 Dec	83	22-06	20-08	18-22	13-21	15-19	15-19	16-17	NO
Namibia – V5/DJ4SO	Now to 15 Dec	107	22-05	21-06	19-22	13-21	14-20	15-18	15-19	NO
Palau – T88CI ** perhaps some SSB	Now to 10 Dec	307	08-13	06-14	14-17	21-22	15-16	NO	NO	NO
Chad – TT8JT **	Now to 10 Dec	73	22-06	20-07	18-22	14-20	15-19	15-19	NO	NO
Christmas Is – VK9XX	Now to 05 Dec	334	11-13	10-14	13-15	15-16	15-16	NO	NO	NO
Cambodia – XU7UFT	03 – 08 Dec	349	11-12	11-13	13-14	14-18	15-19	NO	NO	NO
South Cook Is – E51PMR (req'd call sign)	06 – 13 Dec	246	04-13	04-14	13-16	16-22	18-21	18-20	18-21	NO
The Gambia – C5/SM1TDE	10 – 31 Dec	88	22-09	19-09	13-22	14-20	15-18	15-18	NO	NO
San Marino – T70A	12 – 14 Dec	48	22-08	21-08	12-17	14-16	14-16	NO	NO	NO
Singapore – 9V/IK1PMR ** and digital	14 – 17 Dec	347	11-12	12-13	13-14	15-19	16-18	16-18	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLY and JD1BMH	27 Dec – 01 Jan	317	07-13	06-14	21-23	20-22	NO	NO	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5R8HX **	28 Dec – 03 Jan	90	22-02	21-04	20-22	17-21	16-19	17-19	16-18	NO

Updated 27 November 2009, based on 25 November 2009 QRZ DX, 23 November 2009 *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.2.60 propagation software, available to download at <http://www.gsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- NOVEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Thru to 27 November, the Solar Flux ranged from 70 to 77, with a mean value of 73.7 (vs. 68.6 for November 2008 and 69.7 for November 2007). The A-index was ≥ 7 on only 2 days.

Solar activity was very low. Unsettled levels were on 9 and 14 November. Region 1030 (SSN 15) showed 05 Nov. and rotated off 12 Nov. Region 1031 (SSN 11) showed on 15 Nov. and decayed 17 Nov. Regions 1032 and 1033 (SSN 29) showed 18 Nov. and decayed by 22 November.



(Courtesy of: Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

-- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low with a slight chance of low periods. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. Solar flux should average 72.4 during December.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be predominantly quiet throughout December.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 27 October 2009, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 27 October 2009, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 27 October 2009)

-- HOWDY FROM EASTER ISLAND --



From the left, here's SQ8X, SP7HOV, PA3C, NI1L, SV2KBS and CE6TBN, the multinational team who put XR0Y on from Easter Island during November.

-- DUES TIME HAS ROLLED AROUND --

Yep, we can't stop the calendar so it's that time again. We are also asking that you submit an updated Membership Application Form along with your dues remittance. We are especially interested in knowing what aspects of ham radio intrigue you. This info can be helpful in planning future programs. So, please include your 2010 TARC dues in your next budget.

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

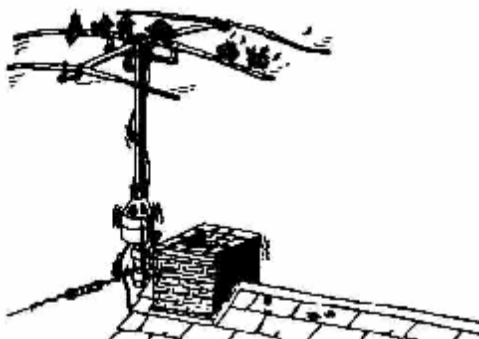
Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z 05 Dec 2400Z 05 Dec	160 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S, State (DX gives Serial #)
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z 12 Dec 2400Z 13 Dec	10 Meters Only Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), State, (DX gives Ser #)
PSK Death March	0000Z 12 Dec 2400Z 13 Dec	160 – 6 Meters PSK31/63	Anyone, Anywhere	Name, State or Country
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z 12 Dec 1400Z 13 Dec	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Croatian Stations	R/S/T, Serial Number
UBA (Belgian) Winter Contest	1700Z 12 Dec 1000Z 13 Dec	160 – 40 Meters SSB, CW, Digi.	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial Number
Czech DX RTTY Contest	0000Z 19 Dec 2400Z 20 Dec	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, CQ Zone (5, locally)
RAC (Canadian) Winter Contest	0000Z 19 Dec 2359Z 19 Dec	160 – 2 Meters Phone and CW	Canadian Stations Only	R/S/(T), Serial # (VE's give Prov)
ARRL Straight-Key Night	0000Z 01 Jan 2400Z 01 Jan	80 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere using Straight Keys	General QSO

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and December 2009 *WorldRadio Online*

-- HOWDY FROM CHESTERFIELD REEF --



TX3A was on the air from Chesterfield Reef from 03 thru 29 November when the CQ WW DX Contest ended. This was another simple low-band DXpedition by (lt-rt) George-AA7JV and Tomi-HA7RY. While they focused on 40 – 160-meter CW and RTTY, they were worked locally on 15 – 20 SSB.



-- REGIONAL REPEATERS --

Arcadia	W4MIN	147.075(+)	100 Hz
Arcadia	W4MIN	147.180(+)	
Englewood	N4EAR	146.700(-)	77 Hz
Englewood	K0DGF	146.775(-)	77 Hz
Laurel	N4SER	145.130(-)	
North Port	KI4DEH	147.120(+)	136.5 Hz
Pt. Charlotte	W4DUX	147.255(+)	136.5 Hz
Pt. Charlotte	KS4ST	147.015(-)	
Punta Gorda	WX4E	146.745(-)	
Punta Gorda	KC4GOA	146.685(-)	136.5 Hz
Sarasota	W4IE	146.910(-)	
Sarasota	N4SER	146.730(-)	100 Hz
Venice	W4AC	146.805(-)	100 Hz
Verna	NI4CE	145.430(-)	100 Hz

(Florida pages of the *ARRL Repeater Directory*)

-- INTRODUCTION TO SWEEPSTAKES --



Jon Hamlet-W4ZW introduced several new and future hams to HF via Sweepstakes.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Meet- ing @ 6 PM, Venice Li- brary	2 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Denny's in Sarasota TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater	3 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	5 Tampa Bay Hamfest, Manatee Civic Center 8 AM – 5 PM
6 Tampa Bay Hamfest, Mantee Civic Center 9 AM – 2 PM	7	8 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	9 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	10 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	12 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library
13	14 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC re- peater 146.805	15 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	16 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	19
20	21	22 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	23 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!	26
27	28	29 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	30 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	31 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805		

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeater will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. 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) _____

Single Member @ \$15.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$20.00/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

**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.

Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS
Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

2009 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