



# 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>



-- DECEMBER 2010 --

## -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

When several of our DX chasers were discussing antennas and amplifiers at a recent TARC breakfast, I stirred up "shock and awe" when I stated that I could work around the world with just one watt if I cared to do so. Without going any further, I was referring to "Weak Signal Propagation Reporter" (WSPR), the computer program by which you can participate in a worldwide network of low power stations exchanging beacon-like transmissions to probe propagation paths. Most participants run only 0.10 to 5 watts power to dipole antennas. You will find a brief description of this mode elsewhere in this newsletter.

Since digital electronics came on the scene, ham radio has enjoyed many benefits. Fifty years ago the average radio amateur usually assembled Heathkits, modified WW II surplus radios and built their own antennas, and had a choice of three modes: AM, CW and RTTY. A glance at *Wikipedia* shows a potpourri of activities now available—IF YOU want to use them:

- Emergency Communications
- Direction Finding, i.e., "Fox hunting"
- Amateur TV, both slow and fast scan
- Amateur radio satellites
- Contests, Awards, QSL collecting
- Designing and building new antennas
- Contact distant countries, i.e., working DX
- Participate in Dxpeditions to other nations
- Participate in hamfests, club meetings and swap meets
- Hand building "homebrew" amateur radio gear
- High speed multimedia and TCP/IP
- High Speed Telegraphy
- Packet radio
- Portable, fixed, mobile and handheld operation
- Low-power operation (QRP)
- Severe weather spotting
- Use of Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) which may integrate with GPS

- Using the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) to connect radio repeaters via the Internet
- VHF, UHF and microwave operation on amateur radio high bands
- Vintage amateur radios, such as those using vacuum tube technology
- Become a Volunteer Examiner

George Lucas has commented, "You have to find something that you love enough to be able to take risks, jump over hurdles and break through the brick walls that are always going to be placed in front of you. If you don't have that kind of feeling for what it is you are doing, you'll stop at the first giant hurdle."

In ham radio, that first giant hurdle is passing the Technician exam and getting your license and call sign. Of the 695,400 US hams, fully 49.1% are Technician licensees, i.e., they have not gone beyond the first hurdle. While Technicians can participate in a number of the activities in the above list, there is much of the ham radio adventure which they are missing. Only they can answer why they have not gone further in this great hobby/service.

If you love ham radio, you will find an area of interest, and you will take the risks, jump over those hurdles, and break through those barriers to enjoy what ham radio can offer the hams of today. The ball is in your court—I urge you to make the most of the opportunities that are available.

73, Stew Haag-W4MO

## -- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **07 December 2010** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. A program of interest will follow the business meeting. Details will be in the e-mail "tickler." We hope to see you there.

*Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.*

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**02 November 2010**

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Tom Fraser-KD8OYO from Nokomis was welcomed as a new member.

**MINUTES** – A motion to accept the minutes of the 05 October 2010 meeting as published in the November 2010 issue of *The Communicator* was moved by Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported receiving a phone call from member John Mazzocoli-W2OG, during which John offered to donate a Kenwood xcvr, power supply and antenna tuner to the Club.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – In the absence of Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE, Jack-W4JS gave the 03 November Treasurer’s Report. The starting balance was \$967.56. Receipts were \$30.00 from the September 50/50 and \$15 in dues, totaling \$45.00. Expenses were \$14.73 for DayStar Internet service. The ending balance is \$997.83. Peter Pesa-N4RD moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE** – All quiet.

**VE TESTING** – Our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 13 November at the Venice Public Library. There have been no inquiries to date.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational. The remote Kenwood radio is operational from the repeater site, and it is being used by more operators. The EchoLink mode has not been reactivated to date.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – No inventory changes. Stew commented that he’s thinking of having a raffle grab bag to reduce the inventory of surplus equipment.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 106 members, including nine Life Members, 33 First-Year Free members, and 64 dues paying members. There are 44 Amateur Extra, seven Advanced, 20 General and 35 Technician class licensees.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present. Stew-W4MO commented that turnout for the nets has been very poor, with usually no more than three or four members participating.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – No one was present who could report on activity by the Englewood ARS.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Suncoast Chapter 53’s 06 October lunch at Denny’s on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB has prepared a program which should be of interest to everyone. All are welcome to come out, have lunch and enjoy the camaraderie.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Hans-WB2ZZB has been doing his best to repair the Club’s digital projector.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Nothing.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – San-K3SY gave some background on how he suggested to WEDU-TV personality Jack Perkins that he include a segment on Amateur Radio on his “West Coast Journal” program. Subsequently, WEDU-TV did record activities by the Sarasota Military Academy ARC members at Field Day and at the school’s station, with the first broadcast to be thanksgiving night.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 6:28 PM was made by Peter Pesa-N4RD, seconded by Vic Ouellette-K1CGI, and passed. There were 24 members present.

**PROGRAM** – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB offered an informative PP presentation on “Early Radio.”  
 Jack Sproat-W4JS  
 Secretary

**-- REGIONAL REPEATERS --**

Arcadia	W4MIN	147.075(+)	100 Hz
Arcadia	W4MIN	147.180(+)	
Englewood	N4EAR	146.700(-)	77 Hz
Englewood	K0DGF	146.775(-)	77 Hz
Englewood	W4AC	146.805(-)	103.5 Hz
Grove City	K8ONV	146.865(-)	136.5 Hz
Laurel	N4SER	145.130(-)	100 Hz
North Port	K4NPT	147.120(+)	136.5 Hz
North Port	W0AC	146.970(-)	136.5 Hz
Pt. Charlotte	N4FOB	146.925(-)	136.5 Hz
Pt. Charlotte	KS4ST	147.015(+)	
Pt. Charlotte	W4DUX	147.255(+)	136.5 Hz
Punta Gorda	WX4E	146.745(-)	136.5 Hz
Punta Gorda	KF4QWC	146.685(-)	136.5 Hz
Sarasota	W4IE	146.910(-)	
Sarasota	N4SER	146.730(-)	100 Hz
Sarasota	N4SER	147.390(+)	100 Hz
Sarasota	KF4RJC	145.370(-)	74.4 Hz
Verna	NI4CE	145.430(-)	100 Hz

**NOTE:** The 145.130 repeater in Laurel now requires a 100 Hz PL tone for access.

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## 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
Macquarie Is – VK0KEV; ++, RTTY	Now to April '12	220	<b>09-12</b>	<b>06-13</b>	<b>08-13</b>	13-15	17-18	NO	NO	NO
Gough Is – ZD9GI	Now to Oct '11	132	<b>23-06</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>22-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	14-21	13-22	NO	NO
Marion Island – ZS8M; back on in December	Now to May '11	130	<b>23-03</b>	<b>22-04</b>	--	<b>19-22</b>	18-23	NO	NO	NO
Angola – D2SG	Now to Feb '11	96	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-07</b>	<b>19-23</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19	16-18	16-18
South Shetlands – DT8A	Now to Feb '11	169	<b>01-08</b>	<b>00-09</b>	00-08	<b>22-23</b>	21-22	21-22	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5R8IC; **, Digital	Now to 18 Dec	90	<b>22-03</b>	<b>21-03</b>	<b>22-23</b>	<b>17-21</b>	<b>17-20</b>	15-19	15-20	16-17
Mauritius – 3B8/F1BCS	Now to 17 Dec	88	--	--	--	<b>15-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	<b>15-19</b>	--	--
Tristan da Cunha – ZD9T; CW, SSB, RTTY	Now to 08 Dec	132	<b>23-06</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>21-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	18-19	13-22	NO	NO
Tristan da Cunha – ZD9AH; ++	Now to 06 Dec	132	<b>23-06</b>	<b>22-07</b>	--	<b>13-22</b>	18-19	13-22	NO	NO
Vietnam – XV4SP; 700 w, all modes	Now to 06 Dec	348	<b>10-12</b>	<b>10-13</b>	NO	14-17	14-17	NO	NO	NO
Kermadec Is – ZL8X; team oper. 7 QRO stns	Now to 05 Dec	245	<b>06-12</b>	<b>05-14</b>	<b>12-14</b>	<b>16-23</b>	18-22	16-23	20-22	NO
Uganda – 5X1NH; **	Now to 05 Dec	77	<b>22-04</b>	<b>20-05</b>	<b>20-23</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>15-19</b>	15-18	15-18	NO
Niue – ZK2A; CW, RTTY; focus on Europe	Now to 03 Dec	252	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-14</b>	<b>12-15</b>	<b>17-23</b>	<b>18-22</b>	19-21	20-21	21-22
Senegal – 6W/AA1AC	01 to 07 Dec	87	<b>22-08</b>	<b>19-09</b>	<b>17-23</b>	<b>13-21</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19	16-18	16-18
Marshall Is – V73CF	01 to 16 Dec	282	--	<b>03-14</b>	<b>09-14</b>	<b>19-23</b>	<b>19-22</b>	19-20	19-20	NO
Chatham Is – ZL7/ZL1WY	02 to 09 Dec	230	<b>06-12</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>08-14</b>	<b>16-00</b>	19-23	19-22	NO	NO
Dem Rep of Congo – 9Q50ON	03 to 13 Dec	88	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>20-23</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-28</b>	<b>15-19</b>	16-18	16-18
Norfolk Is – VK9NN; **, RTTY	05 to 19 Dec	250	<b>07-13</b>	<b>06-14</b>	<b>07-14</b>	<b>14-20</b>	<b>19-22</b>	20-22	20-22	NO
Sable Is – CY0/N0TG	06 to 13 Dec	41	<b>20-14</b>	<b>12-21</b>	<b>13-20</b>	<b>15-18</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO
Zimbabwe – Z21DXI	06 to 17 Dec	97	<b>22-04</b>	<b>21-05</b>	<b>21-23</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19	16-18	16-18
Marshall Is – V73QQ; dates approximate	09 to 12 Dec	282	<b>05-12</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>09-14</b>	<b>19-23</b>	<b>19-22</b>	19-20	19-20	NO
Temotu – H40FN, H40FK	21 Dec to 23 Jan	270	<b>06-14</b>	<b>05-15</b>	<b>12-15</b>	<b>19-23</b>	<b>20-21</b>	20-21	20-21	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLY, JD1BMH	24 Dec to 08 Jan	317	<b>07-13</b>	<b>05-15</b>	14-16	15-17	NO	NO	NO	NO

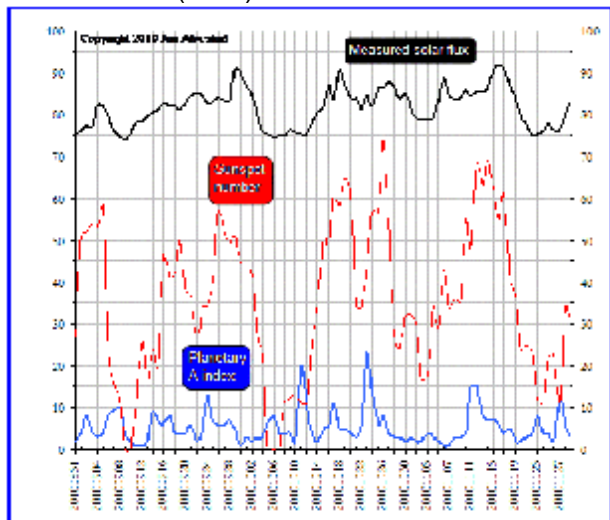
Updated 28 November 2010, based on 24 November 2010 *QRZ DX*, 22 November 2010 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

**Notes:** Time in bold = 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.

### -- NOVEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During November the Solar Flux ranged from 75 to 92, with a mean value of 82.6 (vs. 73.6 for November 2009 and 68.6 for November 2008). The A-index was  $\geq 7$  on 4 days. The sunspot number ranged from 11 to 68, with a mean of 35.5 through 29 November.

Sunspot Regions 1118 thru 1130 were active during November, with three M- and numerous C-class flares. However, geomagnetic field disturbances during were generally due to recurrent coronal mass ejections causing high speed solar wind streams (HSS).



(Thanks to Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

### -- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low with a slight chance of C-class flares 01-16 December.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels 01-12 December. An increase to high levels is possible 13-15 December due to recurrent HSS. The solar flux should average 81.3 during December.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet 01-10 December due to recurrent HSS. A slight increase to unsettled levels is possible 11-14 December due to recurrent HSS. Quiet levels are expected for the remainder of the month.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 23 November 2010, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 23 November 2010, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 23 November 2010)

### -- FUTURE DXPEDITIONS OF NOTE --

**Sprately Islands** – From 06 January – 01 February 2011, 37 operators from 15 countries will fire up **DX0DX** from Thitu Island (Pagasa in Filipino) in the Spratlys. Details at [www.dx0dx.net](http://www.dx0dx.net)

**Christmas Island** – Eight Japanese hams will be operating SSB, CW and Digital from **VK9X** 14 to 19 January.

(TNX to *The Weekly DX*, 29 November 2010)

## NOVEMBER CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z 03 Dec 1600Z 05 Dec	160 Meters Only CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, ARRL Section (WCF)
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z 04 Dec 2400Z 04 Dec	160 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, State
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z 11 Dec 2400Z 12 Dec	10 Meters Only Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), State
PSK Death March	0000Z 11 Dec 2400Z 12 Dec	160 – 6 Meters PSK Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Name and S/P/C
OK (Czech) RTTY Contest	0000Z 18 Dec 2400Z 19 Dec	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, CQ Zone (5 locally)
RAC (Canadian) Winter Contest	0000Z 18 Dec 2359Z 18 Dec	160 – 2 Meters Phone and CW	Canadian Stations Only	R/S/(T), Serial
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z 18 Dec 1400Z 19 Dec	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial
ARRL Rookie Roundup	1800Z 19 Dec 2359Z 19 Dec	80 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Calls, Name, Yr of 1 <sup>st</sup> License, State
RAEM (Russian) Contest	0000Z 26 Dec 1200Z 26 Dec	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Serial, N/S-E/W Latitude/Longitude
ARRL Straight Key Night	0000Z 01 Jan 2400Z 01 Jan	80 – UHF CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	General QSO Routine

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

From ARRL "Contest Corral," December 2010 QST, December 2010 *WorldRadio Online*, WA7BNM Contest Calendar

### -- OUR DOUBLE LOSS --



Within the span of seven weeks, we have lost two distinguished members of the TARC. While both are gone, they will be remembered for many years by those of us who knew and respected them as being true gentlemen.

Shown above at the March 2010 meeting of QCWA Suncoast Chapter 53, Bernie Holtman-W4GO is receiving his 75-Year Service Award Certificate from former QCWA President Croft Taylor-VE3CT. We lost Bernie 01 October 2010 and Croft passed away without warning on 17 November 2010 while en route to his Nokomis winter home. A Dakota (Sioux) proverb states, "We will be forever known by the tracks we leave." Both Bernie and Croft certainly left their

distinctive tracks in Amateur Radio. Peace be with both of you, Dear Friends. SK.

### -- WANNA TRY "WSPRing?" --

If MF and HF propagation interest you, and they should unless you're into "CQ 100" or EchoLink, you might want to consider trying WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter). WSPR (pronounced "whisper") is a worldwide network of low power stations exchanging beacon-like transmissions to probe potential propagation paths. Recently an average of 300 to 500 stations, scattered around the world, have been submitting roughly 50,000 to 100,000 WSPR reports each day.

WSPR is another *sound card mode*, with setup requirements similar to those of PSK31. WSPR transmits and receives, but it does not support normal types of on-the-air conversation. Rather, it sends and receives specially coded, beacon-like transmissions aimed at establishing whether particular propagation paths are open. Transmissions convey a call sign, station location, and power level using a compressed data format.

WSPR software can be freely downloaded from [www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/](http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/). WSPR requires audio connections between your computer and transceiver and you can use VOX control for TR switching. (From "WSPRing Around the World," pp 30-32, November QST)

## December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Denny's in Sarasota, TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater	2 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	4 <b>TAMPA BAY HAMFEST @ MANATEE CIVIC CENTER</b>
5 <b>TAMPA BAY HAMFEST @ MANATEE CIVIC CENTER</b>	6	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM <b>TARC Meet- ing @ 6 PM, Venice Library</b>	8 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	11 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library
12	13 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM. Starts on W4AC Repeater 146.805	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	15 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	16 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	18
19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	22 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE &amp; ALL!!</b>
26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	29 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	31 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	

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) \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member @ \$15.00/year \_\_\_\_ , Family Membership @ \$20.00/year\_\_\_\_, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year\_\_\_\_ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$8.00 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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Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Circulation: San Yoder-K3SY

2010 TARC Officers

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