



# 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 2011 --

## -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I was elected TARC President in 2007 and assumed my duties in January 2008. After four years as president, I am willingly passing the gavel on to my successor, who will be elected at our 14 December meeting.

Like all things in life, there have been successful experiences, and there have been those on the negative side. Recounting the months, I do believe the successes exceed the negatives.

One of our greatest successes is due to the efforts of Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX in establishing our firm relationship with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, which resulted in our guaranteed use of the training facility for our meetings. The dates and times are much better for all our members. Add in the great programs Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB has been preparing and you can understand why our meeting attendance is steady and rising. With the cooperation of several members, the repeater site is almost a show place. The newly installed electric starter on our generator has made emergency operation of the repeaters much easier. Such cooperative efforts by our members have made my term in office quite a bit easier for me.

I must admit that one item I sincerely believe in has yet to bear results. That is the use of our 444.100 MHz repeater instead of the 2-meter machine for our nets. There is no question but that the 444.100 machine talks and hears further than the 2-meter repeater. I have given 440 radios to several members and, at our November meeting, I handed out a dozen 440 HTs to any members who wanted one. Yet, to this day I hear nothing but silence on 444.100. It is my fervent hope that the members will give serious consideration to moving the nets to 444.100. I guarantee there will be better coverage, which could result in better participation.

I want to thank all of you for your loyalty over the past three years. The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club is a good club, and I am proud to have been president over the past four years.

73 to All de Stew Haag-W4MO

## -- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **14 December 2011** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. This will be our Annual Election, so please come out and cast your vote to show your support of our officers and directors. Also, Hans-WB2ZZB has a good program cooked up!

## -- WELCOME, DEE! --



Prior to our November meeting, Stew Haag-W4MO offers a welcoming handshake to West Central Florida Section Manager Dee Turner-N4GD. Dee came down from his home in Pinellas Park to bring us up to date on WCF Section activities and to make advance sale tickets available for the Tampa Bay Hamfest.

## -- HEADS UP! DUES ARE DUE! --

This is a reminder that 2012 TARC dues should be paid prior to the end of 2011. Yes, we do have a 3-month grace period, however, our treasury would look much better if those 2012 dues were rolling in right now. Dues are \$5 for students under 18 years of age, \$25 for individual membership, and \$30 for family membership. Please fill out a Membership Application, as found on the last page of the newsletter (which helps with record keeping), and submit it along with your payment to the address on the Application. Thanks in advance!!

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

09 November 2011

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Section Manager Dee Turner-N4GD of Pinellas Park, Lenee Owens of Sarasota, Diane Gaddas of Venice, Ken Gooding of Rotonda, Jim Semradek of Placida and Robert Unsell of Venice were welcomed as visitors.

**MINUTES** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported that the Treasurer's Report was shown with an error in the minutes of the 12 October 2011 meeting published in the November 2011 issue of *The Communicator*, due to a typo by the secretary. The closing balance was \$1835.03, and the error has been corrected in the minutes on record. A motion to accept the corrected minutes was made by Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, seconded by Mel Bullock-W4PSE, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – An interesting and informative letter from Martin Zippe-AF4ID/DJ6OM was read by the secretary.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE read the Treasurer's Report for October. The starting balance was \$1835.03. Receipts were \$18.00 from the October 50/50, \$100 from dues and an \$18 donation from Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, totaling \$136.00. Expenses were \$14.95 for Internet service and \$5 for the attendance drawing, totaling \$19.95. The ending balance is \$1951.08. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Dil Kay-W8DIL, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Stew-W4MO reported that he had talked via Skype to Martin Zippe-AF4ID/DJ6OM and that Martin was in good spirits. Stew then read the following e-mail which was received from Bob Miller-KJ4NLP who is convalescing. "At midweek I had the staples removed, and am now in the healing stage of the three incisions. It will be a few weeks more before I'm permitted to drive. Please convey to the members of TARC my appreciation for their get-well card and encouragement."

**VE TESTING** – Our next VE session will be this Saturday 12 November. To date there have been no inquiries.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational in both analog and digital modes. The remote Flex 3000 is in service. Anyone wishing to access the Flex needs to contact Stew-W4MO for procedures.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – The inventory of club property has not changed.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have a total of 73 members and reminded all that 2012 dues are now due.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Stew commented that turnout for our nets remains very poor.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – There were 27 members and spouses present at the 02 November luncheon/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB presented his PP program on The Greatest Inventors. Visitors are welcome to our group the first Wednesday of the month at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Nothing carried over.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Stew announced that the Annual Election will be held at the 14 December meeting of our Club. Therefore, as per Article VI, Para 21 of the TARC Bylaws, "At a regularly scheduled November meeting of the Club, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee comprised of a chairman and not less than two members." Stew then appointed the current Directors to form the Nominating Committee and select their Chairman.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – WCF Section Manager Dee Turner-N4GD briefly presented an overview of Section activities, noting that several new clubs had formed and affiliated with the ARRL. Dee offered Tampa Bay Hamfest tickets for sale at the discounted price, and contributed an ARRL World Map for inclusion in the 50-50 raffle.

Andy Durette-KB1HIP asked if there has been any interest in a training class for the Technician license. Jack-W4JS stated he would contact Steve Case-WC4SE, co-sponsor of the Venice High School ARC in this matter. Guenther Henig-AJ4QX commented that there had been about four Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel interested but he would have to determine the current status of such interest.

Guenther-AJ4QX reported he had contacted a person who is capable of installing the electric starter kit on our generator, and he will arrange a time for follow up.

Stew-W4MO offered 12 HTs that have been programmed for several 440 MHz repeaters, in an effort to get members onto those machines.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn was made Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed. There were 26

See **MINUTES**, page 4

## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

### CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY

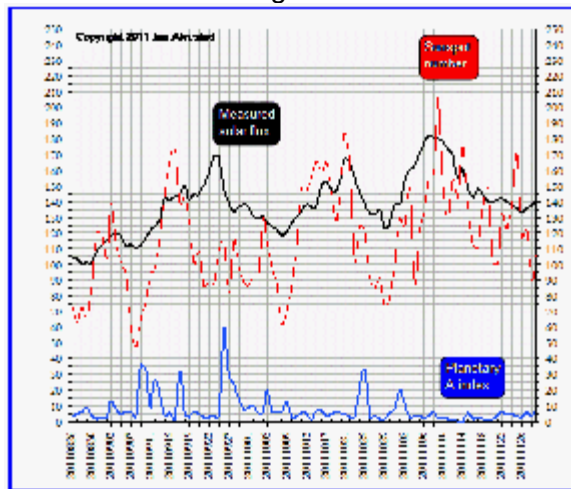
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Afghanistan – T6RH, T6BP; CW, PSK31	Now Active	26	--	--	--	<u>13-16</u>	<u>13-15</u>	<u>1330</u>	<u>1330</u>	NO
Sable Is – CY0/VE1AWW; spare time op.	Now to 31 Dec	41	<u>21-13</u>	<u>12-08</u>	<u>12-23</u>	<u>13-21</u>	<u>14-20</u>	<u>15-19</u>	<u>16-17</u>	NO
Niue – ZK2V, ZK2X	Now to 31 Dec	252	<u>05-13</u>	<u>03-15</u>	<u>04-14</u>	<u>13-01</u>	<u>14-00</u>	<u>17-00</u>	<u>18-23</u>	20-22
Chad – TT8PK; spare time operation	Now to 23 Dec	73	<u>22-06</u>	<u>20-07</u>	<u>20-07</u>	<u>13-00</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>14-21</u>	<u>14-20</u>
Madagascar – 5R8IC; ** and digital	Now to 17 Dec	90	<u>22-03</u>	<u>21-03</u>	<u>22-03</u>	<u>17-00</u>	<u>15-23</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>13-21</u>	<u>14-17</u>
Vietnam – XV2RZ; Phone and CW	Now to 12 Dec	348	<u>11-12</u>	<u>11-13</u>	<u>11-13</u>	<u>13-01</u>	<u>14-19</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>15-16</u>	<u>15-17</u>
Vietnam – XV2LC; Phone and CW	02 to 12 Dec	348	--	--	--	<u>13-01</u>	<u>14-19</u>	--	<u>15-16</u>	--
Namibia – V5/DJ2BQ	02 Dec – 16 Jan	107	<u>22-05</u>	<u>21-06</u>	<u>20-06</u>	<u>17-00</u>	<u>12-00</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>14-21</u>
Palau – T8CC, T88UU; holiday style	07 to 16 Dec	307	<u>08-13</u>	<u>07-14</u>	<u>06-14</u>	<u>13-01</u>	<u>14-00</u>	<u>21-23</u>	<u>21-23</u>	2130
Ethiopia – ET3AA; US team operation	08 to 13 Dec	66	<u>22-04</u>	<u>21-05</u>	<u>21-05</u>	<u>13-00</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-21</u>	<u>13-21</u>	<u>14-20</u>
Palestine – E44PM; exact dates unclear	14 to 31 Dec	49	<u>22-06</u>	<u>20-07</u>	<u>20-07</u>	<u>13-00</u>	<u>13-18</u>	<u>13-17</u>	<u>14-16</u>	1500
Togo – 5V7MA; ++, spare time operation	19 Dec – 04 Jan	87	--	--	--	<u>12-00</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>14-21</u>	<u>15-20</u>
Ogasawara – JD1BLY; all modes	24 Dec – 02 Jan	317	<u>07-13</u>	<u>06-14</u>	<u>06-14</u>	<u>20-01</u>	<u>21-00</u>	<u>21-23</u>	<u>2200</u>	<u>2200</u>
Rwanda – 9X0PY; focus on high bands	24 Dec – 07 Jan	81	<u>22-05</u>	<u>21-06</u>	<u>21-05</u>	<u>15-00</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-21</u>	<u>13-20</u>	<u>14-19</u>
Namibia – V5/DH3WO, V5/DJ2HD	26 Dec – 05 Jan	107	<u>22-05</u>	<u>21-06</u>	<u>21-06</u>	<u>17-00</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>14-21</u>
Burundi – 9U3TMM; ++ and RTTY	28 Dec – 04 Jan	83	<u>22-05</u>	<u>21-06</u>	<u>21-05</u>	<u>15-00</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>13-21</u>	<u>14-19</u>
Ogasawara – JD1BMH; all modes	30 Dec – 07 Jan	317	<u>07-13</u>	<u>06-14</u>	<u>06-15</u>	<u>20-01</u>	<u>21-00</u>	<u>21-00</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>22-23</u>
Palau – T88OW	30 Dec – 08 Jan	307	<u>08-13</u>	<u>07-14</u>	<u>07-14</u>	<u>13-01</u>	<u>14-00</u>	<u>21-00</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>22-23</u>
Namibia – V5/DL1ZU	31 Dec – 13 Jan	107	<u>22-05</u>	<u>21-06</u>	<u>21-06</u>	<u>17-00</u>	<u>12-00</u>	<u>13-23</u>	<u>13-22</u>	<u>14-21</u>

Updated 28 November 2011, based on 23 November 2011 *QRZ DX*, 28 November 2011 *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 133 to 181, with a mean value of 152.8 (vs. 82.6 for November 2010 and 73.6 for November 2009). The A-index was  $\geq 7$  on 7 days. Through 29 November, the sunspot number ranged from 90 to 220, with a mean of 136.9. Sunspot Regions 1334 thru 1364 were active during November, with 201 C-class, 13 M-class and one X-Class flares occurring.



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

### -- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is forecast to be at predominantly low levels during December, with a slight chance of isolated M-class flares.

No proton events at geosynchronous orbit are expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux

at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal levels during the month. The Solar Flux should average 151 during December.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet with the exception of 02, 9-10, 23 and 27-29 December when quiet to unsettled levels are expected due to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 29 November 2011, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 29 November 2011, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 29 November 2011)

### --9N7MD – NEPAL DXPEDITION --



The operating site of the recent 9N7MD DXpedition that was a popular quest for local DXers. From 14 – 24 November, the international team made 28,300 QSOs. Photo courtesy of Sam Frantz-K0YAK/9N7AK via *QRZ DX*.

## MAJOR CONTESTS DURING NOVEMBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z 03 Dec 2400Z 03 Dec	160 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, State
10 Meter RTTY Contest	0000Z 04 Dec 2359Z 04 Dec	10 Meters Only RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, State
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	0000Z 10 Dec 2400Z 11 Dec	10 Meters Only Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), State
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z 17 Dec 2400Z 18 Dec	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, CQ Zone (5 locally)
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z 17 Dec 2359Z 17 Dec	160 – 2 Meters Phone and CW	Canadian Stations	RS(T), Serial
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z 17 Dec 1400Z 18 Dec	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial

*Legend:* Serial = Sequential number of contact; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity  
From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

### MINUTES, from Page 2

members and six visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Conrad Owens-WA3RRS, assisted by Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB presented "Down Under Adventure," describing Conrad and Lenee's trip to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji earlier this year.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

### -- 60-METER BAND CHANGES --

On 18 November 2011, the FCC released a Report and Order with new 5MHz rules for the 60-meter band to take effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

The FCC adopted the use of the name "60 meter band" to refer to 5MHz amateur radio in the frequency range 5330.5-5406.4 kHz, but USA General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class hams are still only allowed to transmit on 5 specific channels in the band.

The FCC changed the rules to allow Phone (USB only), RTTY, Data, and CW; with specific limitations on the use of these modes. Data or RTTY operators must be careful to limit the length of transmission to avoid causing harmful interference to US Government stations.

#### 60-Meter Channel Frequencies

Suppressed VFO	Dial	Carrier freq
5330.5 kHz USB	(center of channel = 5332.0)	
5346.5 kHz USB	(center of channel = 5348.0)	
5357.0 kHz USB	(center of channel = 5358.5)	
New!		
5371.5 kHz USB	(center of channel = 5373.0)	
5403.5 kHz USB	(center of channel = 5405.0)	

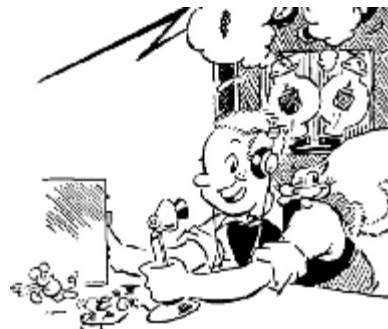
Note: The FCC deleted the channel at 5366.5 USB (center=5368.0) and "replaced" it with channel 5357.0 kHz USB (center=5358.5)

The maximum allowed power level is now 100Watts PEP (ERP) effective radiated power referenced to a dipole. If another type of antenna is used, the station licensee must maintain a record of either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Upper Sideband Phone, Data, or RTTY transmissions may use dial (VFO) USB suppressed carrier frequency at 1.5 kHz below the center of the channel. Transmissions must not exceed the 2.8kHz bandwidth channel. RTTY modes such as PSK31 must not exceed 60Hz necessary bandwidth. Data modes must not exceed 2.8 kHz bandwidth. CW bandwidth must not exceed 150Hz bandwidth and the CW frequency should be at the center of the channel.

Data stations operating under Section §97.221 automatically controlled digital station, are not allowed on these 5MHz channels.

(Thanks to Dan Schaaf-K3ZXL for this summary of the very long FCC R&O.)



# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	3 <b>Tampa Bay Hamfest Manatee Convention Center</b>
4 <b>Tampa Bay Hamfest Manatee Convention Center</b>	5	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	7 QCWA Lunch, 11:15 @ Denny's TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	8 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	10 <b>TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library</b>
11	12 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	14 <b>TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center</b>	15 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	17
18	19	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	21 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	22 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	24
25 <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS to ONE and ALL</i>	26	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	28 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	29 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	31

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 @ \$25.00/year \_\_, Family Membership @ \$30.00/year \_\_, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year \_\_ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment 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

2011 TARC Officers

President: Stew Haag-W4MO  
V. President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP  
Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE  
Directors: Conrad Owens-WA3RRS  
Peter Pesa-N4RD  
Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI  
Bob Avrutik-N1RA