



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 2013 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

One down, two to go. Hope all of you shared Thanksgiving, the first day of the holiday season, with your loved ones. Sadly, the weather around the globe has made the next two holidays a time for us to cherish what we have.

The next 32 days will be full of parties, shopping, traveling and a myriad of honey do's and the like, so what happens to ham radio time? Then there's cell phone time, tree decorating, football games, trying to sign up for Obamacare etc. to keep you busy.

Health experts around the world agree that effective time management lets you get more done in less time and it's better for both mental and physical wellbeing. While you're balancing personal and everyday tasks the hours just sail by. Wouldn't a brief sojourn on 10 meters help relieve the tension?

Don't let the time management bug suck all the spontaneous fun out of being a ham. There will come times during the days' festivities when ham radio will be a much better choice than watching another politician confessing to drug usage or watching George Zimmerman going to jail again.

But what if all that last minute joy of hitting that one DX location you need for the next award goes down the tube because your amp has an intermittent cable connection, or a messed up low pass filter in your transceiver? Be ready.

May you all have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and enjoy your best New Year, ever.

VY 73 to All de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **11 December 2013** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. This will be our Annual Meeting at which time election of the officers to serve during 2014 will be held. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will offer a program of interest, so come on out and see just what Hans has to offer this month.

-- TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE --



Stan Robinson-W9SMR led off our November program with a discussion and photos of a PSK31 operation which he and his buddy Bob-KC9UR undertook in August as the Pontoon Portable A.P.E (August PSK-31 Expedition), with their antenna on a pontoon boat in a lake.



Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB then offered his very informative program, "Life Before Radio", which went back to the creation of the Universe, with highlights of events and inventions up until wireless communication became a reality.

-- A REMINDER --

Just a reminder that the 2014 dues of \$25/individual and \$30/family are now due.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

13 November 2013

Our meetings have resumed at the Coast Guard Auxiliary training facility. President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 09 October meeting as published in the November issue of *The Communicator*. Tom Fraser-AK4ZM so moved, seconded by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing sent or received during the month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen reported that the starting balance was \$3589.02. Receipts were \$13.00 from the September 50/50. Expenses were \$12.93 to Birch Communications for Internet service, \$25.00 donation to the West Central Florida Group, Inc., sponsor of the regional NI4CE Repeater, and \$38.24 supplemental insurance on repeater equipment, totaling \$76.17. The 31 October balance was \$3525.85. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that he had been exchanging e-mail with Bruce Brown-WA8IQF, such that Bruce's vision problem has apparently been mitigated.

VE TESTING – There were no candidates at our 09 November VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both repeaters are operational with proper ID's, however the digital aspects of the 440 machine will remain in service. Hopefully it won't be active in the digital mode during our Tuesday night nets.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – The latest roster shows two student members, three life members and 17 of our total 61 members have paid up for 2014.

NET OPERATIONS – Turnout is picking up some with the return of the seasonal members.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 29 members, spouses and friends at our 06 November lunch at Denny's up in Sarasota. Tom Fraser-AK4ZM presented his fine program on Byrd's 1928-30 Antarctic expedition.

OLD BUSINESS – Fred asked if there was any follow up regarding short technical presentations at our meetings, to which there was no response.

NEW BUSINESS – Guenter-AJ4QX reported that he and Jim Murdock-KG4KOT, as the Nominating Committee, had received agreement to serve as candidates for 2014 from the following members:

Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI – President

Andy Durette-KB1HIP – Vice President

Rich Greenberg-N6LRT – Treasurer

Jack Sproat-W4JS – Secretary (and advising that this would be his 16th and last year)

Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO – Any position other than Treasurer

Conrad Owens-WA3RRS – Director

San Yoder-K3SY – Director

Bob Avrutik-N1RA – Director

Fred thanked the Nominating Committee for their positive efforts. Fred then thanked the following members: Stew Haag-W4MO for maintenance of the repeaters, Don Jansen-KI4VGE for his service as treasurer, San Yoder-K3SY for maintenance of the club roster and preparation of membership cards, and Jack Sproat-W4JS for his service as secretary and newsletter editor/publisher.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Andy Durette-KB1HIP announced that he was planning a course in basic electronics which would include an introduction to Amateur Radio.

Fred-KJ4TNI reported that he and Don-KI4VGE had tested the use of 2-meter simplex for coverage of the Sharks Tooth 10-K Run with satisfactory results.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:19 PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Tom Fraser-AK4ZM, and passed. There were 17 members present.

PROGRAM – We enjoyed two programs at this meeting. Stan Robinson-W9SMR led off with a discussion and photos of a PSK31 operation which he and his buddy Bob-KC9UR undertook in August as the Pontoon Portable A.P.E (August PSK-31 Expedition), with their antenna out on a pontoon boat in a lake. Some 200 stations were worked, with Sri Lanka being the best DX. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB then offered a very informative program, "Life Before Radio", which went back in time to the creation of the Universe, with highlights of events and inventions up until wireless communication became a reality.

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

Opportunities multiply as they are seized; they die when neglected.

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING 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
Mauritius – 3B8JB & 3B8/SM6GOT	Now to 16 Dec	88	22-01	21-03	21-03	17-00	12-23	13-22	13-21	14-19
Madagascar – 5R8IC; by F6ICX **	Now to 15 Dec	90	22-03	21-04	20-04	17-00	13-23	13-22	13-21	14-19
Vietnam – XV2LRR; by SM6LRR, CW/SSB	Now to 14 Dec	348	--	09-14	09-14	13-20	13-18	14-17	14-16	15-17
“	“	“	“	21-00	21-00	23-00	“	“	“	“
Laccadive Is – VU7AG; 9-op team	Now to 10 Dec	36	22-02	21-03	20-04	12-23	12-23	13-22	13-21	14-19
India – AU2JCB; Indian SE operation	Now to 10 Nov	19	22-02	21-03	20-02	12-21	13-15	1330	NO	NO
Vietnam – XV2RZ; by OH4MDY, CW/SSB	Now to 08 Dec	348	--	--	--	13-20	13-18	14-17	14-16	15-17
“	“	“	--	--	--	23-00	“	“	“	“
Senegal – 6V7D; by DL7VOA **	Now to 07 Dec	87	--	20-09	18-09	12-00	12-23	13-21	14-21	15-19
St Barthelemy – FJ/DK7LX, CW/RTTY	Now to 06 Dec	113	--	00-24	00-24	12-00	12-23	13-22	14-21	15-20
West Kiribati – T30TS & T30KN	Now to 04 Dec	277	--	04-14	04-15	13-01	14-01	18-00	19-00	19-23
Fiji – 3D2AD, OV & FW; all modes	Now to 04 Dec	258	06-13	05-14	04-14	12-19	17-00	18-00	18-00	19-23
East Kiribati – T32TM; by NL8F	Now to 03 Dec	267	03-13	02-14	01-15	16-01	16-01	16-00	16-00	17-23
Papua New Guinea – P29VNX; by JA1NLX	01 to 06 Dec	283	--	--	06-14	13-20	19-01	19-00	20-00	21-23
Ascension Is – ZD8UW; British team	02 to 06 Dec	108	--	20-09	20-08	12-00	12-23	12-23	13-22	14-20
East Kiribati – T32RC; 4-op team, all modes	04 to 11 Dec	267	03-13	02-14	01-15	12-04	16-02	16-01	17-00	17-23
Micronesia – V63XG; by JA1XGI	04 to 12 Dec	293	07-13	05-14	05-14	13-01	14-01	14-00	20-23	20-22
Niue – E6RQ; by VK4WR	07 to 17 Dec	252	05-13	04-14	04-14	12-02	13-01	17-01	17-00	18-23
Senegal – 6W/AA1AC	08 to 14 Dec	87	21-09	20-09	18-08	12-00	12-23	13-22	13-21	14-20
Namibia – V5/DJ2HD; holiday style op.	14 Dec to 18 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-00	12-23	12-23	13-22	13-21
Seychelles – S79ACR; by UA3DJY	15 Dec to 15 Jan	68	22-03	21-04	20-04	13-00	12-23	13-21	13-20	14-19
Temotu – H40FN; by DK9FN	21 Dec to 10 Jan	270	06-13	05-14	05-14	13-01	18-00	19-00	19-23	20-22
Lesotho – 7P8CE; by DK1CE	22 to 24 Dec	110	22-04	21-05	21-05	17-00	12-23	13-22	14-21	14-21
Lesotho – 7P8DJ; by DJ2HD, holiday style	22 to 24 Dec	110	22-04	21-05	21-05	17-00	12-23	13-22	14-21	14-21
Lesotho – 7P8WO; by DH3WO, spare time	22 to 24 Dec	110	22-04	21-05	21-05	17-00	12-23	13-22	14-21	14-21
Namibia – V5/DL3DXX	24 Dec to 08 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-23	13-22	13-22	14-21	14-21
Namibia – V5/DH3WO; holiday style op	31 Dec to 06 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-23	13-22	13-22	14-21	14-21

Updated 27 November based on the 25 November *The Weekly DX*, the 27 November *QRZ DX*, and the NG3K DX Page, <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold = the 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 --

The Solar Flux ranged from 116 to 178, with a mean value of 148.3 (vs. 146.0 for November 2012 and 152.8 for November 2011), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 8 days. The sunspot number through 29 November ranged from 47 to 282, with a mean of 124.5. Four X-class, 19 M-class and 263 C-class flares occurred through 29 Nov.

November's HF propagation was excellent with generally quiet conditions other than some disturbed conditions 7-11, 16 and 23 November.

-- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with a chance of moderate activity through to 16 December as a chain of regions that produced moderate to high activity during the last rotation return to the visible disk. Predominantly low level activity is expected for the remainder of the month.

No proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be normal to moderate levels during the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be quiet to 03 December. Quiet to unsettled condi-

tions are expected 04 December with quiet to active conditions 06-08 December. With the exception of 13-14 and 22-23 December, quiet conditions are expected for the remainder of December.

The Solar Flux should range from 130 to 165 and average 146.5 during December.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 November 2013, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 November 2013, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 25 November 2013)

-- NOVEMBER'S DX HIGHLIGHTS --

November offered a plethora of DX for the Deserving. 5J0R from San Andres kicked things off with excellent signals on all bands. The Wake Island K9W operation scored over 100,000 Q's in 12 days' operation. That operation was held to honor the 98 US civilian workers held prisoner by the Japanese and executed in October 1943. The XR0ZR from Juan Fernandez Is. made over 59,000 Q's during that team's efforts. The 3DA0ET team handed out almost 35,000 Q's to 15,387 happy DXers. The Myanmar-XZ1J team gave out 42,550 Q's and S21ZBC/ZBB racked up 52,000 Q's. Great DX!!

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING DECEMBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z 07 Dec 2359Z 07 Dec	160 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, State
VU International DX Contest	1200Z 07 Dec 1200Z 08 Dec	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Indian and other Asian Countries	RS(T), Serial
Ten Meter RTTY Contest	0000Z 08 Dec 2359Z 08 Dec	10 Meters Only RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, State
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z 14 Dec 2359Z 15 Dec	10 Meters Only SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), State
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z 21 Dec 2400Z 21 Dec	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, CQ Zone (5) locally
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z 21 Dec 1400Z 22 Dec	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
SKCC Straight Key Sprint	0000Z 26 Dec 0200Z 26 Dec	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Members of Straight Key Century Club	RST, State, Name, Power
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z 28 Dec 2359Z 28 Dec	160 – 2 Meters SSB and CW	Canadian Provinces and Territories	RS(T), Serial
RAEM Contest	0000Z 29 Dec 1159Z 29 Dec	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere; see www.http://raem.srr.ru	Serial, Lat/Long in degrees
ARRL Straight Key Night	0000Z 01 Jan 2400Z 01 Jan	80 – 6 Meters CW Only	Straight key general type QSO	General QSO information

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

NOTE: State QSO Parties and "membership clubs" contests are not shown. See above references for information.

-- UNLICENSED RADIO SHUT DOWN --

The Pinellas Park Police Department Community Redevelopment Area Policing Unit teamed with investigators from the FCC has busted an unlicensed broadcaster that was within the city limits of the city of Pinellas Park, Florida.

On 15 November investigators determined that Joseph Kervenson of Kenneth City was listed as the Chief Executive Officer of the unlicensed radio station using the call letters of WKMJ. The unlicensed station was operating on 102.1 MHz in the FM broadcast band.

During the investigation officers seized the stations transmitter and antenna. Kervenson was charged with unauthorized transmissions to, or interference with, a public or commercial radio station licensed by the FCC. This is 3rd degree felony under Florida state law FSS 877.27. He was booked into the Pinellas County Jail with bail set at \$5,000. He has since been released on bond. (KB5TJI, tbnweekly.com, via *Amateur Radio Newslines™ Report 1893* – November 22 2013)

-- THE K9YA TELEGRAPH --

The December 2013 issue of the K9YA Telegraph now available. This is a free, general interest monthly amateur radio electronic maga-

zine delivered as a full-color PDF file. This latest issue contains a number of interesting items including Part 2 of an article on International Law and Ham Radio authored by Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL. To check out sample issues, subscribe or write an article, visit the K9YA Telegraph Web site at www.k9ya.org. (via *Amateur Radio Newslines™ Report 1893* – 22 November 2013)

-- SANTA'S AT THE KEYBOARD --



Santa's rapping out the RTTY and handing out QSOs from KL7NORTHPOLE to the Deserving. Are you expecting any ham gear for Christmas? Better hook up with Santa and let him know what to leave at your QTH. The staff and management at *The Communicator* wish you well!!

-- RFI OF AFCI BREAKERS --

The ARRL Lab has worked with a manufacturer of arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) breakers to resolve complaints that Amateur Radio RF was causing certain breaker models to trip unnecessarily. The AFCI is a safety device similar to the GFI. AFCIs detect potentially hazardous arc faults that result from often unseen damage or poor connections in wiring and in extension cords and cord sets.

"Several months ago we started receiving reports from amateurs that when they transmitted, their AFCI breakers were tripping," said Mike Gruber-W1MG the ARRL Lab's EMC specialist. Gruber pointed out that the National Electrical Code (NEC) already requires AFCIs in some household circuits, but not all US jurisdictions have adopted the requirement.

As AFCIs became more common in new construction in the US, reports started coming in that AFCIs in the vicinity -- not just in the radio amateur's home -- would trip in the presence of RF from an Amateur Radio transmitter. While each manufacturer's design is proprietary, most AFCIs detect arcs by monitoring the shape of the alternating current waveform, changes in current levels, voltage irregularities, and the presence of high frequency emissions or "noise." The ARRL Lab dug into the problem.

"Last summer we built a test fixture in which we could test any type of circuit breaker," Gruber said. It involved using W1AW as an RF source. Gruber said he bought one of "every AFCI that I could get my hands on," but when the Lab began testing them during W1AW transmissions, none of the devices tripped. A ham in New Mexico who had reported AFCI problems sent some of his breakers to the ARRL Lab, "and those tripped when we tested them," Gruber said. The problematic breakers were certain models made by Eaton Corporation. "We already had an Eaton breaker, an older model, but it did not trip," he noted, adding that the breaker had a yellow button. The newer model, which had a white button, did trip in the presence of RF, however, even at power levels down to about 50 Watts on 17 meters.

Gruber contacted Eaton, and two of the manufacturer's engineers visited ARRL Headquarters in August. "Eaton was extremely cooperative and eager to resolve this," Gruber recounted. "They spent the day with us, going over our test methods and took some of the problematic

breakers back with them, eventually developing a modified version.

"We have just finished testing the new version of the breaker, and it did not trip during W1AW transmissions and in other tests," Gruber reported. He said the new breaker is still in the queue for UL approval.

In information provided to ARRL Eaton engineer Lanson Relyea said that because AFCIs rely on HF emission detection to verify arcing, "any signal that conducts or radiates a signal within the detection band of the AFCI can cause interference and cause the device to trip without the presence of a true arcing condition."

Eaton and ARRL agreed that when the manufacturer comes out with any new models of breakers, it will ask the League to test them at W1AW. Eaton also has agreed to work with anyone having a problem with RF tripping its AFCIs.

Hams experiencing unwanted tripping problems with their or their neighbors' AFCIs should first contact the manufacturer. In the case of Eaton breakers, contact Bob Handick (412-893-3746) or Joe Fello (412-893-3745).

(ARRL Letter, 21 November 2013)

-- NEW SE DIVISION DIRECTOR --

The ARRL Southeastern Division will have a new director on January 1. Ballots were counted November 15, and challenger Doug Rehman-K4AC of Mt Dora, Florida, narrowly defeated incumbent Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt-W4OZK, of Huntsville, Alabama, 961 to 949 votes. Rehman was among challengers who ran against Sarratt in 2010. Sarratt had served as a director since 2007.

There was no change in the vice director position. Incumbent Vice Director Jim Millsap-WB4NWS outpolled challenger George Hawrysko-K4AWA 1429 to 467 votes. Millsap, of Acworth, Georgia, was appointed in 2012 to complete the term of Andrea Hartlage-KG4IUM who resigned when she moved out of the Southeastern Division.

(ARRL Letter, 21 November 2013)



December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	4 QCWA Lunch @ Panda Pavilion 11:15 AM	5 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	7
8	9 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	11 TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	12 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	14 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
15	16	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	18	19 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	21
22	23	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!!	26 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	28
29	30	31 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr				

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on the W4AC 444.100 MHz Repeater. 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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Circulation: San Yoder-K3SY

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Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS

Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

Directors: Bob Avrutik-N1RA

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Conrad Owens-WA3RRS

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