



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 2012 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

As you can see I'm starting this in November, the month of Thanksgiving. Time to thank you for putting up with me for almost a year. I thank Jack-W4JS for a very impressive and successful production of *The Communicator* and his coordinating of our monthly VE sessions and the VEs who participate. Next we all need to thank the Board members for their diligent work at keeping our club moving forward. Don-K14VGE gets warm appreciation for his time serving as our treasurer. A big thank you to Stew-W4MO for his guidance and maintenance of our repeaters. Then we need to thank Andy-KB1HIP for his training programs and his work on our new brochure which informs our local unknowing neighbors of our club's purpose and endeavors. Another huge thank you to the entire membership for your cooperative ability to provide the Venice area with valuable service.

Now we enter the Christmas season; the time of Giving. We meet with family and friends and share happiness and joy; and remember those who have left our ranks. Soon we will begin a new year of commitment. I thank each and every member for allowing me to enjoy your friendship. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD YEAR TO COME.

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

-- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **12 December 2012** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program will be a NOVA video, "Lightning! – Nature's Most Dazzling and Dangerous Display." While our lightning season is finished for this year, this will give you something to think about before the next one rolls around.

The pessimist worries about the wind; the optimist thinks it will change; the realist adjusts the sails. – William Arthur Ward

-- A "HEADS UP" --

If you have any money left over from "Black Friday" or "Cyber Monday" keep in mind that Treasurer Don Jansen-K14VGE will be happy to collect your \$25 dues for 2013. See Don at our December meeting, or mail your (updated) application form and check to the address on the form.

-- 325 YEARS IN AMATEUR RADIO --



Four of our TARC members were among those honored with QCWA Service Awards at the 07 November lunch/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53. Together, the six radio amateurs in this photo represent 325 years activity in the hobby. Shown are (left to right) Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB (61 years), Bob Avrutik-N1RA (71 years), Jack Sproat-W4JS (58 years), Conrad Owens-WA3RRS (55 years), Len Carlson-K4IWL (60 years) and Bob Modrcin-W0LEY (60 years).

-- ISS QSO WITH SCIENCE MUSEUM --

An amateur radio contact between the International Space Station and students at the South Florida Science Museum was broadcast throughout the West Palm Beach area on educational, local access and public television, and watched by students throughout the county's
See **ISS QSO**, page 2

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

14 November 2012

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Dave Bennett-KK4MDJ, Dexter Atkinson-KB1FY and Stan Robinson-W9SMR were welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES –Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 10 October meeting as published in the November issue of *The Communicator*. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX so moved, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE –Nothing received or sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT –Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2456.53. Receipts were \$25.00 from membership dues, \$17.00 from the October meeting 50/50, and a \$16.00 donation from Phil Jung-K9PJ, totaling \$58.00. Expenses were \$15.01 to Birch Communications for Internet service. The ending balance is \$2499.52. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE –No activity reported.

VE TESTING – Our VE session was held 10 November with Tom Fraser-KD8OTO getting 100% on the Amateur Extra class exam and Dave Bennett-KK4MDJ earning his General class license. Congratulatory applause was offered to both by the members.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY advised that we have 59 dues paying member and eight Life Members, for a total of 67 Club members.

NET OPERATIONS –While those participating in the nets have not been too numerous, we had 12 stations check in to our 13 November 440 Net.

LIAISON TO QCWA –There were 30 members, spouses and friends present at the 07 November lunch/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53, held at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. The program consisted of photos and descriptions of the activities of a number of the members during the summer. All are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of the month around 11:15 AM.

OLD BUSINESS –Nothing carried over.

NEW BUSINESS –A sign in sheet was passed around to determine which members would attend a Christmas gathering on 08 December at the residence of Joy Klapp-N2WUD. Unlike previous years, all food will be furnished.

Jack-W4JS asked how many members present would be interested in buying \$9 advance sale tickets for the 01-02 December Tampa Bay Hamfest. Fourteen members so indicated and Jack will order the tickets ASAP.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR –Phil Jung-K9PJ reported that he is trying to sell off amateur gear from the estate of a Silent Key. Anyone interested should contact Phil.

ADJOURNMENT –A motion to adjourn at 7:21PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Roger Schmitt-KY4RS, and passed. There were 24 members and three visitors present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB showed the video of the HK0NA-Malpelo Island DXpedition.

Jack Sproat – W4JS
Secretary

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school district. According to the AMSAT News Service, over 150,000 students watched the contact and it is estimated that an additional 100,000 people in the region tuned it in as well, along with retired Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter, who sat in on the contact at the museum.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 21 November 2012)



Gil – QST February 1966

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
Afghanistan – T6MH; ++ and digital	Now Active	26	23-03	22-04	21-00	13-15	13-14	13-14	NO	NO
Franz Josef Land – RIIFJ	Now Active	6	23-12	21-13	19-15	15-19	15-00	15-22	NO	NO
South Shetland Is – RI1ANF	Now to 28 Feb	169	01-08	00-09	23-09	21-01	13-23	13-23	13-00	13-14
Angola – D3AA	Now to 15 Feb	95	22-05	20-07	19-07	13-23	12-23	13-21	13-21	15-19
Sable Is – CY0/VE1AWW	Now to 31 Dec	41	20-13	00-24	00-24	12-23	13-21	13-21	14-20	15-19
Crete – SX9S	Now to 31 Dec	51	22-06	20-08	--	12-23	13-17	13-17	14-16	1500
Tanzania – 5H3NP; by WB0VGI	Now to 15 Dec	83	22-04	21-05	20-05	17-23	12-23	13-21	13-19	14-18
Mauritius – 3B8/F1BCS	Now to 14 Dec	88	22-02	21-02	21-03	17-00	15-22	13-21	14-18	14-16
Uganda – 5X1NH - **, some SSB & Digital	Now to 11 Dec	76	22-04	21-05	20-05	16-23	13-22	13-21	14-19	15-18
Maldives – 8Q7AU; by HB9OAU, ++	Now to 11 Dec	41	--	--	--	13-23	13-22	13-21	14-20	15-18
Vietnam – XV2RZ	Now to 10 Dec	348	11-12	10-13	13-20	13-00	14-17	14-17	14-18	1530
Mauritania – 5T0SP; Polish Team, All Modes	Now to 10 Dec	81	22-08	20-09	17-08	12-23	13-22	13-21	14-20	15-18
Solomon Is – H44MS; ++ by DL2GAC	Now to 10 Dec	275	07-13	06-14	05-15	13-17	19-00	19-23	20-22	20-22
Madagascar – 5R8IC; **& digital, holiday stl	Now to 09 Dec	90	22-02	21-03	21-04	17-23	16-22	15-21	14-18	15-17
South Cook Is – E51TLA; CW & RTTY	Now to 08 Dec	246	04-13	03-14	03-15	13-00	16-00	16-23	18-22	19-21
Auckland & Campbell Is – ZL9HR; Team Op	01 to 09 Dec	224	08-12	06-13	06-13	05-16	16-01	13-08	20-21	NO
Cambodia – XU1A; all modes	05 to 17 Dec	349	11-12	10-13	13-20	13-00	14-18	14-17	15-17	15-19
Micronesia – V63XG; **, some SSB/digital	05 to 12 Dec	293	--	05-14	05-15	13-00	14-00	20-23	20-22	20-22
Fernando de Noronha – PY0FRP	06 to 10 Dec	115	--	20-11	12-08	12-00	13-22	13-21	14-20	17-19
Samoa – 5W0RK; all modes	08 to 31 Dec	257	--	--	--	13-00	17-00	17-00	18-23	19-22
Ogasawara – JD1BLY; all modes	10 to 13 Dec	317	--	05-14	04-15	14-01	21-00	21-23	21-22	2130
South Cook Is – E51E; ++, RTTY, some CW	10 Dec – 05 Jan	246	04-13	04-14	03-15	13-00	16-00	17-23	18-22	19-21
Temotu – H40FN	22 Dec – 07 Jan	270	07-13	05-14	05-15	13-00	18-00	19-23	20-22	20-21
Namibia – V5/DL3DXX & DK1CE	22 Dec – 02 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	20-06	17-23	13-22	13-21	14-20	15-20
Namibia – V5/DJ2HD; ++ and RTTY	22 Dec – 12 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	20-06	17-23	13-22	13-21	14-20	15-20
Palau – T8CW; mainly RTTY, PSK31, JT65A	24 Dec – 06 Jan	306	08-13	07-15	06-16	14-00	14-23	21-23	21-22	21-22
Maldives – 8Q7MS; ++	26 Dec – 03 Jan	41	22-02	21-03	20-00	12-23	13-21	14-20	15-19	16-18

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

Notes: Time in bold = h 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 38 to 146, with a mean value of 121.1 (vs. 152.8 for November 2011 and 82.6 for November 2010), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on seven days. The sunspot number ranged from 34 to 188, with a mean of 73.5. Sunspot Regions 1602 to 1624 were active, with 14 M-class and 124 C-class flares.

-- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with a chance for M-class flares 01 November. A decrease to low levels is forecast from 02-04 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 01-05, 08-11 and 19-31 December. High flux levels are expected at all other times due to coronal hole high speed (CHSS) stream activity.

The geomagnetic field may be at quiet to active levels during December. From 01-05 December, quiet to unsettled levels are expected in response to multiple CHSS. A return to quiet levels is expected 06-10 December.

Another increase to quiet to unsettled levels is expected 11-15 December due to recurrent CHSS. A return to quiet levels is expected for the remainder of December.

The Solar Flux should average 121.6 during December.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 26 November 2012, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 26 November 2012, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 26 November 2012)

-- ST. PETER & ST. PAUL ROCKS --



The 12-day PT0S operation from St. Peter & St. Paul Rocks was a challenge for most of the TARC Dxers. The 4-man team managed to run up a total of some 44,200 Q's from this desolate cluster of Brazilian rocks out in the Atlantic.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING NOVEMBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z 01 Dec 2400Z 01 Dec	160 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, S/P
10-Meter RTTY Contest	0000Z 02 Dec 2359Z 02 Dec	10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, S/P
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z 08 Dec 2400Z 09 Dec	10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), S/P
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z 09 Dec 2359Z 09 Dec	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere with manual key, bug, etc.	RST, QTH, Name "none"
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z 15 Dec 2400Z 16 Dec	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, CQ Zone (5 locally)
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z 15 Dec 1400Z 16 Dec	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
SKCC Straight Key Sprint	0000Z 26 Dec 0200Z 26 Dec	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere with straight key	RST, S/P/C, Name, Power
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z 29 Dec 2359Z 29 Dec	160 – 2 Meters Phone and CW	Canadian Stations	RS(T), Serial
ARRL Straight Key Night	0000Z 01 Jan 2400Z 01 Jan	80 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere with Casual 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.

-- AMATEUR RADIO IN CHINA --

Revised regulations on amateur radio are working their way through China's government and are expected to open the door for wide-spread licensing of individuals and clubs in the world's most populous nation. The new rules are also expected to expand recognition of amateur radio organizations in China from only the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) to include the relatively new Chinese Radio Amateurs Club (CRAC). According to *Newsline*, the CRAC is expected to become China's official representative to the International Amateur Radio Union.

Of interest will be the article "Inside a Chinese Contest Station - B1Z in the WPX SSB Contest," in the January 2013 issue of *CQ* magazine.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 21 November 2012)

-- NICHE MAGAZINES LIVE ON --

Several months ago, *Newsweek* announced that only a digital format of the magazine will be available, effective January 2013.

On 31 October, comedian and talk show host Conan O'Brien did a segment on his TBS show, "Conan," called "Real Magazines that Outlasted *Newsweek*" ... and guess which magazine was featured first? It was the Amateur Radio publication *CQ*.

Of course he was making fun of the titles of most of the magazines (that's his job), but the October cover of *CQ* was still splashed across national television! And the serious point of the whole segment (that he probably didn't realize he was making) was that even though general interest magazines such as *Newsweek* are in trouble, niche magazines - such as *CQ* and the others he featured - are still going strong. There is a future for print magazines and niche magazines are that future. The entire segment may be viewed on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/RsXRpV>
(From a *CQ* e-mail notice)

-- MORSE GREETINGS FROM SPACE --

Students at Japan's Fukuoka Institute of Technology built the FITSAT-1 satellite, also known as Niwaka, now in orbit. The satellite has an array of LEDs that controllers hope will be visible from Earth with the naked eye. According to the AMSAT News Service, Professor Takushi Tanaka - JA6AVG, said his team plans to flash "HI THIS NIWAKA JAPAN" in Morse Code from orbit on Christmas Eve (December 24) and was planning to conduct tests throughout December. So keep an eye to the sky for messages from above in Morse

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 21 November 2012)

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Tampa Bay Hamfest, Manatee Convention Center, Palmetto
2 Tampa Bay Hamfest, Manatee Convention Center, Palmetto	3	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	5 QCWA Lunch, @ Denny's 11:15 AM TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	8 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
9	10 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE repeater 145.430	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	12 TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	13 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	19 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	22
23/30	24/31	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	26 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	29

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

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

The Communicator is a monthly publication
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