



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida

Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341

W4AC Repeaters – 444.100 MHz(+) & 146.805 MHz(-) both w/100 Hz PL

Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- DECEMBER 2015 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

It's that time of the year when many groups like ours tend to look back and say "Look at what we did this year". Well, personally I think it's time to look ahead at what we can strive to accomplish in 2016.

How about working on Programs to increase attendance at our monthly meetings? Do you respond by hiding behind the comment, "I've never put on a program in front of a group like this"? Well there once was a time when you didn't know who Hiram Percy Maxim was. Right? Time to bite the bullet, step up to the plate, go for the Gold, at least get into the game.

Maybe this is the year for you to get involved in TARC activities like the Shark Tooth Festival and I mean at the site not at home. Oh, I hear you responding, "man I'm too old for that kind of stuff," baloney (or some other term). If N1RA can show up every year, and now in his nineties, then so can you!!!

The annual Sharks Tooth 10K Run will be in March in 2016, several weeks prior to the Sharks Tooth Festival 08-10 April. This should take some of the strain off working the K4S station at our festival booth.

Let's make 2016 a year to remember. Get involved, show some spunk and don't criticize when you haven't even tried to back this great group.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good year to come HAPPY DXING TO ALL

VY 73 de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **09 December 2015** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program has not been determined at "press time" but Program Director Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will undoubtedly have something to offer of interest to all.

To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it.

-- PARITY ACT UPDATE --

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015-- H.R.1301 in the US House of Representative and S 1685 in the US Senate-- would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. HR 1301 was introduced 04 March with 12 original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. S 1685 was introduced 25 June 25 with one cosponsor.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden-W7EQI chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. S 1685 was referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, with Florida's Senator Bill Nelson voting against the bill.

Members of the Florida Contest Group have been calling Nelson's Tampa office (813-225-7040) to voice their displeasure, and e-mail can be sent via <https://www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill>

The ARRL has prepared a video which clarifies misconceptions about the parity bills. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMY-5U1cJ6E> and <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Clarity%20on%20Parity.pdf>

(From <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>)

Don't squat with your spurs on.

**Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
11 November 2015**

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a flag pledge. Introductions were then made all around. Mel and Anette Walter-KD9EIN from Indiana, Stuart Blood-KF4YNB from Venice, Dick Lee-W9DMH from Wisconsin and John Matthews - KG7FZR of Sarasota were our honored guests.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 14 October 2015 meeting as published in the November 2015 issue of *The Communicator*. Glenn Hyde-N4MXQ so moved, seconded by Frank Wroblewski-W2XYZ, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

TREASURER'S REPORT – San Yoder-K3SY reported that the starting balance on 10/01/2105 was \$4,720.07. There were Receipts of \$17.50 for the 50/50 raffle and no Expenses. We had a closing balance of \$4,737.57. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Don Jansen-KJ4VGE, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE - Joe Klapp-N2WUD had a procedure and is resting at home. Ed Clark-K8ZM is having back issues and is also resting at home.

VE TESTING – No candidates lined up at this time for the 14 November VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both the 146.805 and 444.100 machines are operating satisfactorily.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported we have 53 regular members, 1 complimentary member, 8 student members and 4 life members for a total of 66 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred reminded all of our 440 and 2-meter nets.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 37 members and spouses at the 4 November lunch at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL. Hans Napel offered a PP presentation of "Life Before Radio and Life After Radio."

OLD BUSINESS – TARC supported the Boy Scouts at their October 17 Jamboree on the Air.

NEW BUSINESS – Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO discussed how we can help the Boy Scouts get their Technician license. Possibly purchase study books and or a class. Girl Scouts are to be contacted also.

A nominating committee was set up for elections of 2016 TARC officers. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX and Glenn Hyde-N4MXQ volunteered.

The Christmas Dinner was discussed. The members present voted that everyone should pay the full amount for dinner with no TARC Treasury assistance. Cost is \$25 per person.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Jack Sproat-W4JS discussed how the VHS ham club is getting along.

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:40 PM, a motion to adjourn was made by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Gary Hagens-K6OC, and passed. There were 21 members and 5 visitors present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB showed a film about Military War Zones he has seen on his travels and a film on "Life During Ham Radio". Stan Robinson-W9SMR showed a film on how high corn grows in Indiana.

Dave Gill-K4JDG
Secretary

-- FCC FILING SYSTEM DOWN AGAIN --

Continuing problems at the Federal Candy Company. (*Gee, no paper licenses and now delayed licenses. Your tax dollars at work-NOT.*)

The FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic batch filing (EBF) system is down again, after working for a brief window on Wednesday, 18 November following an outage on Friday, 13 November. Some files were processed through the system on the 18th, but the FCC reported on 19 November that it was again unable to process VEC license and examination session files. The problem remains unresolved.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma-AB1FM, said her office again had to alert the FCC IT staff, which is looking into the issue but did not estimate how long the system would be down. Somma said it was the third time the EBF system has gone down since late September, when the FCC said a process had stopped running on an FCC server.

The FCC doesn't have a long term fix in place yet, and it appears the same issue is recurring with greater frequency. Applicants should expect delays in exam license processing, until the FCC can get fix the problem. The FCC has apologized for the continued inconvenience this is causing the Amateur Radio community.

(From www.arrl.org/news, 20 November 2015)

-- PAY 2016 DUES ANYTIME --

Just a reminder that your 2016 dues can be paid at any time. See Treasurer San Yoder-K3SY or mail your \$25 check to him.

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
Liberia – EL2DW; by KD4UDU ++	Now to 17 Dec	92	--	--	--	12-22	--	14-20	--	15-20
Madagascar – 5R8IC; by F6ICX** + SSB,RY	Now to 12 Dec	90	23-02	22-03	22-23	20-22	21-23	20-21	2000	NO
Mauritius – 3B8HB, 3B8JB; all modes	Now to 11 Dec	88	--	22-02	22-02	18-22	18-20	18-21	18-20	1900
Guinea Bissau – J52HF; by IZ3BUR ++	Now to 10 Dec	90	--	--	--	13-22	--	15-19	--	15-19
Sri Lanka – 4S7DLG; by two German ops	Now to 06 Dec	28	0000	23-00	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Vietnam – XV2D; by SM6LRR, all modes	Now to 05 Dec	348	1130	1130	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7JC; by VE2FDJ	Now to 05 Dec	41	23-01	22-02	20-23	14-22	14-21	14-19	15-18	16-17
Fiji – 3D2RJ; by five US ops	03 to 11 Dec	258	06-13	05-14	12-15	13-15	18-19	19-22	20-22	20-22
South Cook Is – E51XGI; by JA1XGI	03 to 10 Dec	246	04-13	03-14	12-15	15-00	17-23	18-22	19-21	20-21
Lord Howe Is - VK2IAY/9; by VK2IAY ++	16 to 23 Dec	249	--	--	--	14-17	14-17	15-18	--	NO
Reunion – FR/F5UOW; CW, digi, spare time	16 Dec – 08 Jan	91	--	23-02	22-23	20-22	20-21	2100	NO	NO
Rotuma – 3D2AG/p; all modes	20 Dec – 15 Jan	263	06-13	05-15	12-15	18-00	18-22	19-21	20-21	20-21
Palau – T88RY; by I2DMI, RTTY	22 to 29 Dec	306	08-13	07-14	13-14	14-17	15-16	1530	1530	NO
Senegal – 6W/WA3DX; spare time op ++	26 Dec – 12 Jan	87	22-09	20-09	18-23	13-22	14-20	15-19	15-18	15-18
Vanuatu – YJ4AO; by DL7VOA, holiday styl	27 Dec – 13 Jan	262	07-13	06-15	13-15	14-17	15-18	15-18	15-18	NO

Updated 26 November based on the 23 November *The Weekly DX*, the 25 November *QRZ DX* and, <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold = the Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using W6ELProp propagation software. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

-- NOVEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 29 November the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 96 to 124, with a mean value of 110.1 (vs. 101.9 for November 2014 and 102.7 for November 2013), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 23 days. Through 28 November, the sunspot number ranged from 29 to 95, with a mean of 62.8.

Space weather during November ranged from quiet to active with four M-class and 92 C-class flares through the 28th. Severe geomagnetic disturbances from multiple CMEs peaked the A_p to 48-56 on 3-4 November, 80 on the 7th, 56 on the 10th and 39 on 18 November.

-- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be low with low to very low levels through 07 December. There is a chance for M0class flare activity from 08-19 December with the return of the old Region 2454.

No proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux is expected to be at normal to moderate levels with high levels likely 06-13 and 22-23 December due to CH HSS influence.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels 05-12 and 22-23 December with G1 (Minor) storm levels likely 06-07 December due to recurrent CH HSSs activity.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 100 to 115 and average 109.4 during December.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 23 November 2015, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 23 November 2015, and

45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 23 November 2015.)

-- WILLIS ISLAND WRAPPED UP --



Eight multinational ops put VK9WA on the air 14-23 November from this barren islet 450 km off the east coast of Australia in the Coral Sea. Some 61,700 Q's were given out to 17,160 stations around the world. While Willis was #32 in ClubLog's most wanted list, from the pileups generated it seemed like it was #1 (*Hi Hi*).



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MAJOR CONTESTS DURING DECEMBER 2015

ARRL 160 Meter Contest			TARA RTTY Melee			Ten Meter RTTY Contest		
04 Dec 2200Z	06 Dec 1600Z		05 Dec 0000Z	05 Dec 2359Z		06 Dec 0000Z	06 Dec 2400Z	
1.8	--	CW	1.8-28	--	RTTY	28	--	RTTY
RST, ARRL Section			RST, S/P			RST, S/P		
www.arrl.org/160-meter			www.n2ty.org/seasons			www.rttycontesting.com		
ARRL 10 Meter Contest			Russian 160 Meter Contest			OK DX RTTY Contest		
12 Dec 0000Z	13 Dec 2359Z		18 Dec 2000Z	18 Dec 2359Z		19 Dec 0000Z	19 Dec 2359Z	
28	--	CW, SSB	1.8	--	CW, SSB	3.5-28	-	RTTY
RST, S/P			RS(T), Serial			RST, CQ Zone		
www.arrl.org/10-meter			www.grz.ru/contest/detail/90.html			http://okrtty.crk.cz/index.php?page=english		
RAC Winter COntest			Croatian CW Contest			RAEM Contest		
19 Dec 0000Z	19 Dec 2359Z		19 Dec 1400Z	20 Dec 1400Z		27 Dec 0000Z	27 Dec 1159Z	
1.8-28	50/144	CW, SSB	1.8-28	--	CW	3.5-28	--	CW
RS(T), Serial			RST, Serial			Serial, Latitude, Longitude (e.g. 27N 82W)		
http://wp.rac.ca/?s=winter+contest			http://9acw.org/index.php/rules/english			http://raem.srr.ru/contest/raem_2014		

Legend: Serial = 3-digit 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: Only major contests are shown, i.e. state QSO parties, miscellaneous sprints, etc. are not shown. See http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/Contest_Corral_1510.pdf for the complete list of the 57 contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be held during December.

-- SEYCHELLES ISLANDS – S79C --



This 6-man international team gave out some 21,500 Q's to 9800 stations from Coetivy Island in 140 hours of operating 17–22 November. Of interest, Coetivy Island is an open prison and rehab center for drug addicts.

-- SARASOTA COUNTY EMCOM --

In Sarasota County, the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), working as volunteers for emergency Management, will staff the Wetgen Communications Room at the EOC during activations and drills. The ACS call sign at the EOC is WC4EM and, when conditions warrant, controlled nets will be conducted on the following

frequencies: 145.130- (no tone), 146.520 simplex, 146.580 simplex, 146.730- (100Hz), 147.120+ (136.5Hz), 147.390 (100Hz), 443.550+ (100Hz). Also the section-wide Big Stick repeater on 145.430 (100Hz) may be a source for weather information.

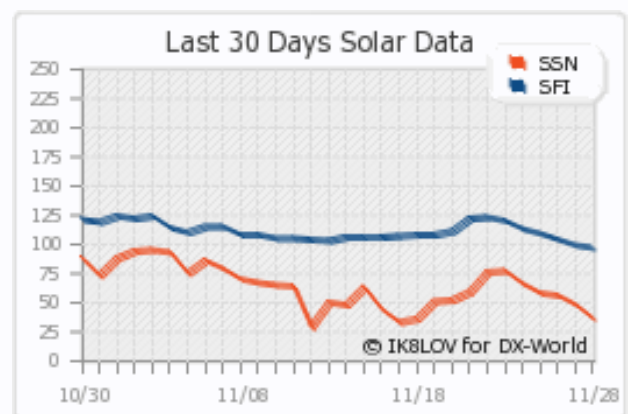
Bob Davisson-KA4BOB and Ed Gansen-K8DSS are the ACS – Deputy Radio Officers.
(From Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO)

-- NEW FCC WEBSITE COMING --

The FCC has announced that its large-scale website redesign will be completed by December 10. The switch to the new site is set to begin on December 10 at 0100 UTC and will be completed about 4 hours later.

The FCC said the new website has been designed to provide "better functionality, an improved design, and better searchability and navigability." (*Lots of luck, folks!*)

(From ARRL News, 24 November 2015)



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	2 QCWA @ 11:30 AM, Denny's, Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota	3 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	5
6	7 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Rptr 145.430	8 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	9 TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	10 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	12 TARC VE Session 10 AM Venice Public Library
13	14	15 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	16	17 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	19
20	21	22 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	23	24 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 <u>MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE & ALL!!</u>	26
27	28	29	30	31	01 January HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016	

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater or the 444.100 Repeater are inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on 146.580 MHz simplex. 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 Letters of Interests: (N) Net Control___, (I) RFI/TVI___, (V) VE Testing___, (T) Training___, (P) Packet___, (Y) RTTY___, (D) PSK, etc.____, (O) Computers___, (X) DX___, (C) Contests___, (F) Field Day___, (Q) Publicity___, (E) Emergency Communications___, (S) Special Events___, (U) VHF/UHF___, (A) ATV/SSTV, (R) Repeater___, (L) 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**

<p><i>The Communicator</i> is a monthly publication Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS Circulation: San Yoder-K3SY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2015 TARC Officers</u></p> <p>President: Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI V. President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP Secretary: Dave Gill-K4JDG Treasurer: San Yoder-K3SY Directors: Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO Conrad Owens-WA3RRS Gary Hagens-K6OC Tom McDermitt-W3GXV</p>
