



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274
W4AC Repeaters – 444.100 MHz(DMR) & 146.805 MHz(-) both w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- DECEMBER 2016 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

As I was having breakfast with some of our members on Saturday, I was thinking how lucky we were to be able not only to share our ham radio knowledge and experience with each other but also to be able to build strong, caring and enduring friendships.

I guess Thanksgiving is a good time to think and reflect on these gifts that we some time take for granted. I want to thank all the officers and board of directors who help manage the TARC. I also thank the membership for their support and encouragement. Thank You.

The holiday season is marching on and pretty soon we will be starting a new year. We have organized a Christmas Party which will be held at the Left Coast Seafood restaurant on Friday, December 16 from 4 to 7 PM. The BoD has proposed that the cost of the meal for TARC members be taken from the Treasury. This proposal was approved by the membership at the November 14 monthly meeting. The members must pay for their spouse or guest. A separate email was distributed by Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, which gives all the details.

There were a lot of items that were brought up at the last monthly meeting and I encourage all the members to read the minutes which are included in this issue of *The Communicator*.

In closing I want to wish all the members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

VY 73 to All de Andy-KB1HIP

-- DECEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **14 December 2016** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will offer an updated/expanded version of his popular program "Life Before Radio." Yes, there was life before radio waves were transmitted and/or detected. Come on out and get exposed to some good practical history.

"Listen to the wisdom of the old."

-- LOCAL MEMBERS' TOWERS/STATIONS --

Last month we showed two photos of the tower and beams at the Radio Cottage of Al Culbert-K0AL in Nokomis. As best we know, only two other resident TARC members have towers and beams—sure not like in the "old days".

-- THE ANTENNAS AT W5GJ --



Bob Schneider-W5GJ has an impressive array of antennas at his QTH on the Isle of Venice. On the left can be seen a section of Bob's Hy-Tower vertical used for 80m & 40m; on the right is his 50' US Tower crank-up at about 35' with yagis for 30m through 6m & 2m. Bob also has a wire antenna up for 160m.



Here are two of the four stations Bob has set up in his shop/garage and house. Here we see an IC-746PRO driving an ICOM PW1 kw amp on 6m. Below the 746PRO is an IC-7600 which also drives the PW1. Bob has a 2m kw amp that can be driven by the 746PRO. Inside his house,

See **ANTENNAS**, pg. 4

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
9 November 2016

President Andy Durette, KB1HIP, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with the pledge to the Flag. Introductions were made all around by name and call sign.

MINUTES: President Durette requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 14 October meeting as published in the Communicator. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer San Yoder, K3Sy, reported a beginning balance of \$5,217.07, income of \$37.50 and an ending balance of \$5,245.57.

SUNSHINE: Jack Sproat, W4JS, has been under the weather for a bit.

VE TESTING: To date there have been no inquiries from candidates for our 12 November session.

LIAISON TO QCWA: There were 37 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and spouses at the November 2nd lunch/meeting at the IHop restaurant in Sarasota. Dennis Blanchard, K1YPP, gave a program describing his bicycle experiences riding from Oregon to Sarasota. Any and all are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of each month at about 11:30 AM. The QCWA is changing its restaurant meeting location due to the sudden closure of Denny's. Please contact a member if you would like to attend the December lunch/meeting.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Both the 146.805 MHz repeater and the 444.10 digital repeaters are operating satisfactorily.

MEMBERSHIP: San Yoder reported that the club had 65 members. The breakdown is: 52 regular members, 7 student, 4 life, 2 comp. 2017 dues will be able to be paid during the November meeting. Remember, if you invite a Ham or an interested person to the meeting you can earn an extra red ticket for the 50-50 drawing.

OLD BUSINESS: DARN will be testing different repeaters on Thursday, November 10 at 11:00AM. Join us and see if you can receive these distant repeaters.

Tips and tricks for December: Al Culbert will present his tip during the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Christmas Party - The Christmas Party will be held at the Left Coast Seafood Restaurant, Venice, FL on December 16th. Cocktails, 4:00PM - 5:00PM, Dinner, 5:00PM - 7:00 PM.

The club will pay for members' meals. Members must pay for wives and guests. Cost is \$30.00 each. Members will receive an E-mail detailing dinner choices and the address to which checks must be sent.

2. Door prize - The club authorized \$10.00 per bottle for the purchase of three bottles of wine to be used as door prizes.

3. An initiative concerning the club growth was tabled to allow further discussion and a review of the respective by-laws.

4. The club discussed creating a certificate of thanks and appreciation to be presented to USCG Flotilla 86, for allowing the TARC to use its classroom for Club monthly meetings. In addition, the club voted to add a check for \$200.00 to the certificate for Flotilla community initiatives.

5. The amount of current club yearly dues was discussed. Current dues are \$25.00 per year. The club treasury has more than enough funds to meet current obligations. By motion made, seconded and approved, the club agreed to reduce the yearly dues to \$20.00.

6. The club financial records have not been audited for some years. The current treasurer, San Yoder, K3SY, recommended that the audit take place before the new treasurer assumed control in 2017.

7. Publicity volunteer - The Club discussed this issue and decided to table it for further discussion and consideration at a later date.

8. President Durette noted that the Young Marines was a local, vibrant organization. He suggested that our club contact the young Marines organization to see if we could be of service.

9. Jack Sproat, W4JS, will be passing the preparation of the club newsletter, *The Communicator*, to San Yoder, K3SY, beginning with the January 2017 issue.

10. Nominating Committee - The Committee is composed of Chairman Glenn Hyde, N4MXQ, and Tom McDermitt, W3GXV. Club members wishing to serve in an officer position should contact Glenn or Tom.

11. The membership discussed participation in the Sharks Tooth Festival in 2017. By motion made, seconded and approved, the club agreed to participate in the Festival. President Durette indicated that he would ask Jack Sproat to obtain the special call "K4S" for the Shark Tooth Festival.

12. Al Culbert, K0AL, advised the club about the unusual actions of the ARRL Board of Directors with respect to the Southeastern Division

See **MINUTES**, Pg.4

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
Madagascar – 5R8IC by F6ICX, **	Now to 04 Feb	90	22-02	21-03	22-03	19-22	19-20	18-19	NO	NO
DR Congo – 9Q0HQ/3 by IS0BWM, ++	Now to 25 Dec	88	22-05	21-06	--	16-21	15-19	15-19	16-18	NO
St Kitts – V47JA by W5JON, ++, incl 6m	Now to 15 Dec	114	20-13	12-00	--	15-20	16-18	NO	NO	NO
Trinidad – 9Y4/K4NHW ++, digi, sp time op	Now to 14 Dec	126	--	00-24	12-23	14-20	--	--	--	--
Rodrigues Is – 3B9HA by G0CKV**	Now to 12 Dec	84	23-01	22-01	NO	21-22	NO	NO	NO	NO
Malta – 9H3AP by G8GNI, 100w, digital	Now to 09 Dec	55	--	18-08	16-23	14-17	--	--	--	--
Mauritius – 3B8/DJ7RJ, 500 w	Now to 06 Dec	88	22-02	21-03	23-01	20-22	19-20	NO	NO	NO
Cambodia – XU7AEZ, Russian team op	Now to 05 Dec	349	1130	No	Other	Openings	Fore-cast	NO	NO	NO
St Martin – FS/K9NU, K9EL, etc.	01 to 11 Dec	113	19-14	00-24	13-21	14-20	NO	NO	NO	NO
Bonaire – PJ4/DL1COP & DC7MO, holi styl	03 to 15 Dec	136	20-14	12-00	13-22	14-21	16-19	NO	NO	NO
Bonaire – PJ4/NA9Q, all modes	04 to 10 Dec	136	--	12-00	13-22	14-21	16-19	NO	NO	NO
Palestine – E44QX by DF8DX **time limited	08 to 12 Dec	49	22-05	20-00	19-21	13-17	14-15	NO	NO	--
Turks & Cacos – VP5/VE7ACN, ** holi styl	10 to 19 Dec	116	00-24	00-24	13-22	14-22	15-20	NO	NO	NO
St Lucia – J68HZ by K9HZ, all modes inc 6m	17 Dec – 02 Jan	119	21-13	00-24	13-23	13-22	15-20	1700	NO	NO
Norfolk Is – VK9NM by VK1MA, holiday stl	19 to 26 Dec	250	07-13	05-14	09-15	13-18	18-23	16-18	NO	NO
PE & Marion Is – ZS1LS by ZS1BCE ++ digi	24 Dec for 17 mo	130	23-02	22-04	22-01	20-23	2030	NO	NO	NO
Palau – T88GA by JA7XBG **, incl 6m	25 to 29 Dec	307	08-13	07-14	07-15	14-17	15-17	1630	NO	NO
Nicaragua – H74B, H74WL ++ some CW/RV	31 Dec – 06 Jan	194	00-24	00-24	12-01	14-22	14-22	15-22	16-20	NO

Updated 30 November 2016 based on the 28 November 2016 *The Weekly DX*, the 30 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 dates in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

-- NOVEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During November, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 75 to 86, with a mean value of 78.7 (vs. 109.6 for November 2015 and 155.3 for November 2014), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 18 days. Through 29 November, the sunspot number ranged from 0 to 51, with a mean of 20.6.

Solar activity through to 29 November was quiet with two Class M and five Class C solar flares. Geomagnetic disturbances caused the A_p to peak at 32 on the 1st, 32 to 39 on 10-11 Nov, and 39-48 on 24-25 Nov.

-- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels with a slight chance for C-class flares for the month. 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 with high levels likely on 01-07 December, 10-18 December and again on 22-24 December due to recurrent CH HSS influence.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels are expected from 07-11 December and 19-24 December with G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels likely on 10 and 21-22 December due to recurrent CH HSS effects.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 78 to 84 and average 80.5 during December.

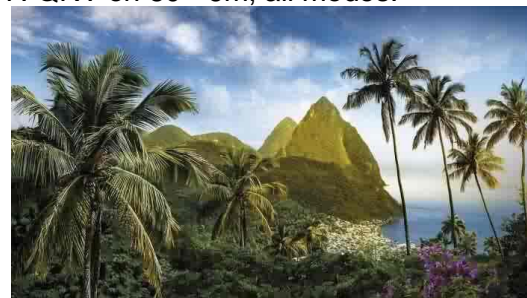
(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 28 November 2016, *NOAA 27-day Space*

Weather Outlook Table, 28 November 2016, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 28 November 2016.)

-- SOME DX TO LOOK FOR --



Ryosei-JH0IXE will again be active from Palau as T8CW between 26 December to 06 January 2017. QRV on 80 - 6m, all modes.



Eight US "Buddipole Buddies" will be active from St. Lucia as J6/home calls 04-12 Dec. QRV on 160m – 6m.

Four US DXers will be active from the US Virgin Is. as KP2/home calls 06 – 14 Dec.

From *DXWorld.net*, 30 November 2016.

MINUTES, from Pg.2

Director and Vice Director election. A summary of the actions of the ARRL Board were presented in the November Communicator for all to evaluate. A lively discussion occurred. The club agreed to continue discussion on this matter at the December meeting.

13. Stew Haag, W4MO, has proposed to purchase a 2 meter digital repeater and install it on the club antenna. The current 2 meter analog station (146.805 MHz) is used by the Disaster Amateur Radio Network (DARN) for emergency operations. Stew requests that the club evaluate the matter and decide what is best for the club. The club decided to continue discussion of this matter at the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M. There were 14 members and one guest in attendance.

Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, presented a program on Reverse Beacons.

Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO

Secretary

ANTENNAS, from pg. 1

Bob also has an IC-7800 driving a legal limit Alpha amp. Bob's usually on CW—see his Vibroplex banner—but note that Heil boom mounted mike in the right foreground.

-- THE ANTENNAS AT W4JS --



Ron LeBrun-KB4RON is dwarfed by the 40m-6m SteppIR and Cushcraft 40m beam at the QTH of Jack Sproat-W4JS. There's a decent chance the 40m beam will be replaced sometime in the coming Spring with a 7-element 6m beam in Jack's quest for 6m DXCC.

Jack has had a variety of towers and beams over the past 20 years at this QTH. In early 1997 a 72' motorized US Tower supported the Cushcraft A-3S, A-3WS and 40-2CD beams. A HyGain TH-11 replaced the A-3S and A-3WS

around 2000. The raising cable broke on the tower in 2004, so the TH-11 was put atop a 60' AlumaTower erected about 125' to the south. In 2007, the disabled US Tower was replaced with this 70' Rohn 45 tower with a 4-el SteppIR at 72' and the reliable 40m beam at 86'. In 2013, the driven element on the SteppIR was replaced with the "trombone element" to give the antenna 40m to 6m capability.



These radios and antennas helped bring Jack's DXCC total up to 350 entities on Phone. On the left is his CW/RTTY station, an IC-7600 driving an ICOM PW1 kw amp (on the floor below the desk drawers). His SSB station is on the right; a vintage IC-775DSP driving a Tokyo Hy-Power HL-1.5KFX kw amp on the shelf above. (Yeah, lots of wires and cables under the desk!)

-- UPCOMING HAMFESTS --

OCALA – Silver Springs Radio Club, National Guard Armory, 900 SW 20th St. 7:30 AM – 2 PM, 03 December. Admission \$5.

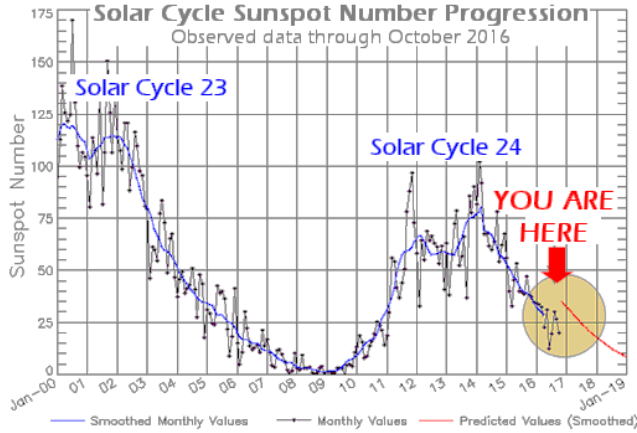
PLANT CITY – Tampa Bay Hamfest, Florida Strawberry Festival grounds, 7 AM – 7PM, 09-10 December. Admission \$10.

ORLANDO – HamCation, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 9 AM – 5 PM, 10-12 February. Admission \$15.



-- STATUS OF SOLAR CYCLE 24 --

The sun has looked remarkably blank lately, with few dark cores interrupting the featureless solar disk. This is a sign that Solar Minimum is coming. Indeed, sunspot counts have just reached their lowest level since 2011. With respect to the sunspot cycle, you are here:



The solar cycle is like a pendulum, swinging back and forth between periods of high and low sunspot number every 11 years. These data from NOAA show that the pendulum is swinging toward low sunspot numbers even faster than expected. (The red line is the forecast; black dots are actual measurements.). Given the current progression, forecasters expect the cycle to bottom out with a deep Solar Minimum in 2019-2020.

Solar Minimum is widely misunderstood. Many people think it brings a period of dull quiet. In fact, space weather changes in interesting ways. For instance, as the extreme ultraviolet output of the sun decreases, the upper atmosphere of Earth cools and collapses. This allows space junk to accumulate around our planet. Also, the heliosphere shrinks, bringing interstellar space closer to Earth; galactic cosmic rays penetrate the inner solar system *and our atmosphere* with relative ease. Meanwhile, geomagnetic storms and auroras will continue--caused mainly by solar wind streams instead of CMEs. Indeed, Solar Minimum is coming, but it won't be dull.

(From *Spaceweather.com*, 17 Nov 2016)

-- 2017 DUES ARE NOW DUE --

Just a reminder that your \$20 TARC 2017 dues are now due. There is a grace period until 28 February 2017, after which date unpaid members will be dropped from the roster. So, if you're doing any "Holiday Shopping", remember to set aside enough to cover your dues.

-- END OF THE TRAIL --

(Some of the following prose is borrowed from the final issue of the West Coast DX Bulletin, dated 18 July 1979)

Sooner or later most of us learn that even the longest road has an end, that the most glorious day has a sunset, the beautiful melody a final note, and that even the most enthusiastic can tire. With this issue of *The Communicator* comes the retirement of your current editor.

Hugh "Cass" Cassidy-WA6AUD (SK) and his wife published the weekly WCDXB for just over 11 years—some 600 issues of that very unique DX newsletter that was run off on a mimeograph machine and sent out via first class mail. While your editor cannot claim as many issues, we have been plugging along alone, preparing this newsletter, for at least 16 or 17 years. At their final gathering, the leader of the Palos Verdes Sundancers stated to Cass, "I can understand how you can grow a bit weary. Down in the Palos Verdes country all the PV types worked so hard to get Cycle 21 going that they seem to have lost all their bounce. And you know what happens to a dancer who has lost his bounce." Most all will agree, for most are now at an age where they have less of a bounce than in a time now gone.

Also, in all honesty, your editor is finding his primary ham radio interests to be out of sync with the apparent majority of current TARC members. When we joined TARC in 1998, virtually every member was active on HF. Now the resident members active on HF number around 10 or so, with but a handful of serious DXers.

As Cass bid farewell to his friends, one QRPer slipped Cass a note, which read....

Let us go then, you and I,
To where the evening meets the sky,
To where the yesterdays have gone,
To where the words are always song.

And thus this era ends.....

Jack Sproat-W4JS

AND STAR BLAZE ADDS.....



"May our trails be full of new adventures."

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 TARC Chat @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, Orders taken at 7:00 AM	3
4	5 QCWA, 11:30 @ Oriental Buffet, 4458 Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, Exclusive DMR Net 7:30 PM, W4AC 444.100	7	8 TARC Chat @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, Orders taken at 7:00 AM	10 TARC VE Session 10 AM Jacaranda Public Library
11	12 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Rptr 145.430	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, Exclusive DMR Net 7:30 PM, W4AC 444.100	14 TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	15 TARC Chat @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, Orders taken at 7:00 AM	17
18	19	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, Exclusive DMR Net 7:30 PM, W4AC 444.100	21	22 TARC Chat @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, Orders taken at 7:00 AM	24
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!	26	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, Exclusive DMR Net 7:30 PM, W4AC 444.100	28	29 TARC Chat @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater is 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 @ \$20.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$25.00/year__, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year__ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$10.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$20.00 dues payment after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, P. O. Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P. O. Box 976
NOKOMIS, FL 34274**

The Communicator is a monthly publication
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS
Circulation: San Yoder-K3SY

2016 TARC Officers

President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP
V. President: Gary Hagens-K6OC
Secretary: Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO
Treasurer: San Yoder-K3SY
Directors: Peter Boers-KV4LR
Larry Bryan-W8LIG
Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX
Don Jansen-KI4VGE
Tom McDermitt-W3GXV