

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 Repeater – 444.100 MHz &146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – http://tamiamiarc.org



-- FEBRUARY 2014 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I hope all had a Joyful and Festive Holiday Season. Many members journeyed North (yours truly included) and I truly hope all return safely to thaw out. Now we face a year with many challenges organizational wise and I will address a couple in the following paragraphs.

As those that attend our meetings know, club officer elections were held. San Yoder-K3SY will remain our membership officer and Jack Sproat-W4JS will remain as Secretary. Both have held these positions for a significant period of time with zeal and professional performance. It seems you will be saddled with me for another full term.

Rich Greenberg-N6LRT stepped up to the plate as our new treasurer but he has health issues which may prevent him from fulfilling the position. This may leave us without anyone to pay the bills etc. Don Jansen-KI4VGE has fulfilled this assignment with unfailing faith. This leaves us short a significant candidate and as our Secretary pointed out without all club posts being filled the bylaws state this is no longer a club. What do you say? Stepping up and taking this position is really easier then signing up for ObamaCare.

The next challenge on the table is our one and only (at this time) opportunity for self-promotion to our local population. The dates for the rapidly approaching SHARKS TOOTH FESTIVAL are April 11, 12 and 13th. I asked at the January meeting for help, aid, assistance and cooperation in making this year's event our best ever. All you need to do is contact me at: lath-wood@gmail.com.

With fortitude and perseverance I charge on, with a new position to be created in our fine organization come March. Stay tuned

VY 73 to All de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- 2014 DUES REMINDER --

February is the final month for members to renew their dues for 2014. Annual dues are \$25/individual and \$30/family.

-- FEBRUARY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **12 February 2014** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will offer a program of interest, so come on out and see just what Hans has to offer this month.

-- ARRL PRESIDENT REELECTED --

Kay Craigie-N3KN was elected to a third 2-year term at the 17-18 January ARRL Board meeting. Craigie has been actively participating in the ARRL Centennial activities, handing out QSO's worth 300 points each to the pileups.



ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, presides over the 17-18 January ARRL Board meeting. To her right is ARRL First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR. [Steve Ford, WB8IMY, photo]

Among the Board actions was instructing the HF Band Planning Committee to reach out to the membership regarding concerns pertaining to the increasing popularity of data modes, and to investigate and suggest ways that these modes can coexist. (Ed. Comment: Unlike CW, which can be used anywhere in the HF bands, digital and data modes are currently limited to certain discrete band segments other than on 160 and 30 meters. Somewhat by "gentlemen's agreement" these digital segments have been divided between the users of RTTY and PSK, however, that "agreement" is not always followed.)

(From The ARRL Letter, 23 January 2014)

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Meeting 08 January 2014

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Al Culbert-K0AL of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Nokomis was welcomed as a visitor. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 December meeting as published in the January issue of *The Communicator*. Dave Gill—K4JDG so moved, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – The secretary applied for and received authorization for the Club to use special event call sign K4S on 11-13 April in conjunction with the Venice Sharks Tooth Festival.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Past-Treasurer Don Jansen reported that the starting balance was \$4175.92. Receipts were \$16.00 from the December 50/50, \$255.00 from dues payments, a \$15.00 donation from Bob Faulcon-N1LVO, and \$66.00 for the Friends of Venice Library, totaling \$352.00. Expenses were \$66.00 donation to the Friends of Venice Library. The 31 December balance was \$4461.92. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Faulcon-N1LVO, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing reported.

VE TESTING – There is at least one candidate for Elements 2 and 3 at our 11 January VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both repeaters are operational.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – The 10 December roster shows two student members, four life members and all but 12 of our 63 members paid up for 2014.

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

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 26 members, spouses and friends at our 02 January lunch at Denny's up in Sarasota. Former National Secretary Walt Supina-N3WS offered a PP presentation on his Alaskan visit highlighting some history and details of the annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race run in early March from Anchorage to Nome..

OLD BUSINESS – There has not been any follow up regarding short technical presentations at our meetings.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred offered some discussion regarding assistance for setting up SE Sta-

tion K4S from the site of the Sharks Tooth Festival on 11 April and operation through the afternoon of 13 April.

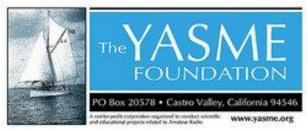
COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR - None.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM passed. There were 24 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Jim Greenleaf-K1ACT offered a discussion regarding his experiences with "Spy versus Spy" with emphasis on the use of shortwave radio.

Andy Durette-KB1HIP Acting Secretary

-- THE YASME FOUNDATION --



The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation, organized to conduct scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing, and to the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries. If you don't know the origin of the name, ask one of the old-time DXers in the club. Or you can read the ARRL book "YASME, The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions" written by James D. Cain, c. 2003.

-- ARRL BOARD MEETING --



The ARRL Board of Directors met January 17-18 near Hartford, Connecticut, for its annual meeting. [Steve Ford, WB8IMY, photo]

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 23 January 2014)

Whoever wants to reach a distant goal must take small steps.

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY CALLSION	ACTIVITY	BEAR-	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)						C)	
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Burkina Faso – XT2AW; by DF2WO	Now to 28 Feb	83	22-07	21-09	21-09	12-06	12-00	12-00	13-23	13-22
Tanzania – 5H1Z; by F6AML	Now to 18 Feb	83		22-05	22-05	18-03	12-00	13-22	13-20	14-18
Mauritius – 3B8/HB9ARY; ++	Now to 15 Feb	88	23-02	22-03	22-03	17-02	15-23	13-22	13-21	14-19
Amsterdam Is – FT5ZM; 16 op team	Now to 12 Feb	128	23-01	22-02	22-02	19-04	17-04	12-19	13-17	13-17
ιι ιι ιι		<u>308</u>	NO.	<u>12-14</u>	12-14	<u>12-17</u>	14-22	<u>14-18</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>15-18</u>
Benin – TY1TT; by ON6DX	Now to 05 Feb	85	22-07	21-08	21-08	11-08	12-01	12-00	12-23	13-22
Bhutan – A52JR; 4 operator team	Now to 04 Feb	8	23-01	23-01	22-02	12-04	13-18	13-15	1400	1400
Sao Tome & Principe – S9TF; 3 op team	01 - 13 February	90	22-06	21-07	21-08	12-01	12-00	13-23	13-22	14-21
Tanzania – 5I0DX; 5 op team from Zanzibar	02 – 13 February	83	23-04	21-05	22-05	18-03	12-00	13-23	13-21	14-18
Marshall Is – V73MW – by N6MW; **, RTY	04 – 14 February	282	05-13	04-14	04-15	13-09	14-02	18-01	19-00	19-23
Reunion – TO7CC; F6KOP Radio Club op	05 – 17 February	91	23-02	22-03	22-04	18-02	16-00	14-22	13-21	14-18
Rodriguez Is – 3B9/OE4AAC; **, holiday op	10 – 18 February	84	23-02	22-03	22-03	18-02	13-23	13-21	13-19	14-17
Lesotho – 7P8ID; by DK3ID, ++	11 – 16 February	110		22-06	21-06	18-03	12-00	13-22	13-19	14-17
Vanuatu – YJ???; by N7OU and NE7D, **	11 – 25 February	262	07-13	05-14	05-14	01-15	18-02	19-01	19-00	20-00
Maldives – 8Q7KB; by DL2SBY	12 – 24 February	41			22-03	12-00	13-23	13-22	14-21	15-19
Vietnam – XV2BM; by JA8BMK, holiday op	15 Feb – 05 Mar	348	11-12	11-12	11-13	12-01	13-01	14-18	15-16	15-16
New Caledonia – FK/K1HP; by JE2EHP	18 – 23 February	258	07-13	06-13	06-13	05-15	19-02	19-01	20-00	21-00
Tonga – A35AX; by DK1AX & DK1MA	24 Feb – 07 Mar	253	05-13	04-14	04-14	01-15	17-03	17-02	18-02	18-01
Uganda – 5X1XA; by G3PJT	25 Feb – 16 Mar	77	23-04	22-05	22-05	18-05	12-01	13-00	13-23	14-21
Cambodia – XU7ACQ; by KF0RQ	25 Feb – 21 Mar	349		11-12	11-13	13-01	13-01	14-19	15-18	16-18

Updated 28 January based on the 23 December *The Weekly DX*, the 25 December *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 propagation software. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table.

Due to the early publication of this February issue, only solar activity through 28 January can be reported. February propagation forecasts are based on the Space Weather Outlook Table through 22 February and the USAF 45-Day AP Forecast for the remainder of February.

-- JANUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 121 to 257, with a mean value of 159.0 (vs. 127.2 for January 2013 and 133.2 for January 2012), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 13 days. The sunspot number through 28 January ranged from 62 to 245, with a mean of 128.9. One X-class, 21 M-class and 193 C-class flares occurred through 28 January.

Quiet conditions generally prevailed other than some disturbed conditions 01-04, 09, 14, 17 and 21-23 January.

-- FEBRUARY FORECAST -

Solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels Moderate to high levels are possible through 09 February with the return of old Regions 1946 and 1944.

The greater than 10 MeV particle flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at background levels. The threat of a particle event will be greatest 03-10 February as old Region 1944 crosses the central meridian.

The greater than 2 MeV particle flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at low to moderate levels during the month, with the exception of 03-05 February.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels with the following exceptions: 07-08, 17-18 and 24-26 February, when unsettled to active conditions may occur due to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams.

The Solar Flux should range from 125 to 205 and average 157.7 during February.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 27 January 2014, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 27 January 2014, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 27 January 2014)

-- JANUARY'S DX HIGHLIGHTS -



Without question the FT5ZM operation from Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean was January's highlight. The pileups were spread out and extensive by DXers seeking a QSO with this entity, ranked #5 Most Needed worldwide. This DXpedition has a US\$450,000 budget (still shy over US\$100,000), so if you're at all serious about DXCC this may be the chance of your lifetime to get it.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING FEBRUARY

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Triathlon DX Contest	0000Z 01 Feb	80 – 10 Meters	Anyone; www.triathlon-	RS(T), Serial
	2359Z 01 Feb	SSB, CW, Digital	dx-contest.gr	
Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO	0001Z 01 Feb	10 Meters Only	10-10 Members	Call Sign, Name,
Party	2359Z 02 Feb	SSB Only		QTH
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z 01 Feb	160 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), ITU Zone
	1159Z 02 Feb	SSB, CW		(8, locally)
XE International RTTY	1800Z 01 Feb	80 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
Contest	1759Z 02 Feb	RTTY Only		
CQ WW RTTY WPX	0000Z 08 Feb	80 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
Contest	2400Z 09 Feb	RTTY Only		
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z 08 Feb	160 – 10 Meters	Dutch Stations Only	RS(T), Serial
	1200Z 09 Feb	SSB, CW		
Russian WW PSK Contest	2100Z 14 Feb	160 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
	2100Z 15 Feb	PSK31, 65, 125		
ARRL International CW DX	0000Z 15 Feb	160 – 10 Meters	DXCC Entities	RST, State
Contest	2359Z 16 Feb	CW Only		
REF (French) Contest	0600Z 22 Feb	80 – 10 Meters	Stations in France and	RS, Serial
	1800Z 23 Feb	SSB Only	French Possessions	
UBA (Belgian) Contest	1300Z 22 Feb	80 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
	1300Z 23 Feb	CW Only		
North American QSO Party	1800Z 22 Feb	80 – 10 Meters	North American Coun-	Name, S/P/C
RTTY	0559Z 23 Feb	RTTY Only	tries + KH6 and KL7	

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

-- LIDO KEY ON THE AIR --

Searching out Islands on the Air (IOTA) contacts is a pastime of many hams. To help in their pursuit, on 22 January several local hams decided to activate Lido Key which is designated as IOTA NA-034, US Island FL027S.



TARC members Vic Ouellette-K1CGI and Stan Robinson-W9SMR braved the northern winds and 55 deg. temperature to set up a portable operation with Dennis Spiess-W2DEN and his XYL, Net-N2RDX of Nokomis. In a bit over 6 hours of operation, they made 127 QSOs on 20,

17, 12 and 10 meters. Of these, 82 were on PSK-31 (20 to 25w) and 45 were on SSB with 50w. A total of 28 States and 23 DXCC entities were worked, with VK7KT over in Tasmania being the best DX at 15,392 km on 20m, PSK-31.

A FB QSL is available for all who worked these intrepid operators.



This is a good example of hams having fun. To paraphrase the J. G. Wentworth TV ads, "It's your license, use it now!!" Why bother working for a license if you don't use it?

Allow your mind to absorb new knowledge.

-- AMATEUR RADIO LEGENDS --

Newer members of the Amateur Radio fraternity are undoubtedly unaware of two of Amateur Radio's traditional and most sacred symbols. Indeed there are two gruesome instruments of excruciating torture used to enforce law, order, and decency in Amateur Radio operation: the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch. Not long ago, at the stroke of Midnight following the day's din of a major hamfest, those who had been judged eligible, due to their exemplary proper operating practices, were inducted into the Order of the Wouff-Hong.

The Wouff-Hong



The **Wouff-Hong** is used to enforce **law and order** in Amateur Radio operating work. "The Old Man" (T.O.M.), originator of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch, is known to be the one and only Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, founder of the American Radio Relay League in 1914. T.O.M. wrote his first mention of a Wouff-Hong and a Rettysnitch in 1917. In 1919, the League received an actual Wouff-Hong specimen directly from T.O.M. The first photo of the Wouff-Hong was published in July 1919 *QST*.

The Rettysnitch



The **Rettysnitch** is used to enforce **decency** in Amateur Radio operating work. In 1921, the Washington DC Radio Club presented the Rettysnitch to the League's traffic manager. According to legend, the club received the Rettysnitch specimen from "The Old Man" himself. Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no further teeth. It was ordered to be displayed by its mate.

The Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch stories were retold by Rufus P. Turner, when he wrote "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts" in May 1934 *QST*. In 1930, *The ARRL Handbook* had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-

Hong appeared. By 1947 the *Handbook* had deleted both photos. An editorial on the Wouff-Hong (without the hyphen) appeared many years later in February 1961 *QST*. Presently, both of these legendary instruments are on display at the ARRL museum in Newington, CT.

A wonderful article about these two legends was written by L.B. Cebik-W4RNL, and appeared in September 1996 *QST*, on pages 59 and 60. Cebik offered that "We should not be troubled by the size of the task at hand: Curing Amateur Radio of its illegalities and indecencies. We have many more folks available to wield the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch. No, not on others, but on *ourselves* - to make sure that we set a model for how amateur operations ought to be conducted."

Do the Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch still hold their mystical power over us today? Cebik answered this question well, when he asked "Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams? Because those hams cared about Amateur Radio in their hearts. They desired that which they knew they could never have: A perfectly law-abiding, decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination electronics. to become admirers hams. Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit Amateur Radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves. And that is where you will find the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch today - deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it's time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly." He added, "May you never deserve their sting."

(Editor's note: While there are often examples of poor operating practices and lack of decency by way too many hams of the current era, we should all give homage to the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch, keep them in mind, and act accordingly when we are on the air. If you truly love ham radio you never need fear the wrath of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch.)

(From http://wouff-hong.com)



February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	З	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	QCWA,11:30 @ Denny's in Sarasota	6 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
9	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE repeater 145.430	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	13 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, + 7:00 AM	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	19	Z0 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	22
23	24	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	26	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	

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 inte	rests: Ass't Net Contro	l, RFI/TVI, VE Testing, T	Fraining, Packet, RTTY,			
Computers, DXing,	Contests, Field Day_	, Publicity, Emergency Com	munications, Special Events,			
VHF/UHF, SSTV, A	ATV, Repeater, Ec	choLink, Other (specify)				
			Membership @ \$5.00/year (New Regul ber grants membership through remainder of ye			

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

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2013 TARC Officers

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Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS
Treasurer: Rich Greenberg-N6LRT
Directors: Bob Avrutik-N1RA

Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO Conrad Owens-WA3RRS San Yoder-K3SY