



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 Repeaters – 444.100 MHz(+) & 146.805 MHz(-) both w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- FEBRUARY 2016 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

February has arrived and our work list grows. January's meeting brought up the request for volunteers for the Sharks Tooth 10k Run to be held 05 March. We still have need for one more volunteer. How about you? As you must all remember, that run is followed closely by the annual Sharks Tooth Festival. However, this year the Festival will be a month later, 08-10 April. Jack-W4JS has already obtained use of our special event call sign, K4S, and he's notified CQ and QST of the dates and times of operation for the publishing in their special events columns. Let's make this year's K4S our best to date.

Our Secretary Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO is setting up a relationship with the local Boy Scouts in an effort to promote Ham Radio to interest these young men in VHS operation. We will provide the Scout Troop with six Tech Q&A manuals and help as needed. This is another opening for you to get involved with (hint-hint).

I know that not all TARC members subscribe to QST; if you don't, it's your loss. The February issue has some interesting articles. I found one comment very informative in the "Letters from Our Members" page. Two letters discuss RFI from LED bulbs, both in-house and nearby. Read up on this subject and it might help bring some HF signals out of the noise.

Don't forget to continue supporting the "Parity Act" with your Senate and Congressional Rep's. And remember your club depends on you to make it the best one around.

VY 73 de Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI

-- FEBRUARY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **10 February 2016** 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.

-- NEW ARRL PRESIDENT --

The ARRL Board of Directors has elected ARRL First Vice President Rick Roderick-K5UR, of Little Rock, Arkansas, as ARRL President. The Board took the action at its 2016 Annual Meeting 15-15 January in Windsor, CT. Roderick, 63, assumed office for a 2-year term at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. He is the ARRL's 16th president.



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]

A ham for 48 years, and Life Member of both the ARRL and QCWA, Roderick is an attorney. He has served on the ARRL Board of Directors for 24 years and is an enthusiastic Amateur Radio operator and DXer on HF and VHF/UHF. He and his wife Holly have two adult children.

The Board also chose other officers, electing Dakota Division Director Greg Widin-K0GW of Stillwater, MN as First Vice President, and Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky- N5ZGT of Albuquerque, NM as Vice President.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 21 January 2016)

-- LAST MONTH TO PAY YOUR 2016 DUES --

February is the last month remaining for payment of your 2016 dues. See Treasurer San Yoder-K3SY at a Peach's breakfast or at our meeting. If you can't attend those events, please mail your \$25 check direct to him at.

1820 Batello Drive, Venice, FL 34292

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

13 January 2016

President Lathwood called the meeting to order at 7 PM with a pledge to the flag.

Introductions were made all around and guests, (K4EU, Steve and W8IQX, Dirk) were introduced. Boy Scout Leader Mr. John Patrick, N9OU, was introduced.

MINUTES: President Lathwood requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December meeting as published in the January issue of the Communicator. Motion was made and seconded and the minutes were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE: San Yoder, K3SY, announced that Mel Bullock, W4PSE, Honorary Life club member had passed away. The club forwarded letters of notification with copies of the Death Certificate to the ARRL, Silent key Section of QST and to the FCC, Amateur Manager. Mr. Bullock died on December 12, 2015. He was 94 years old.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer San Yoder, K3SY, reported a beginning balance of \$5,456.07. December expenses were \$1085.31 and receipts were \$1,530.00. Current balance is \$5,900.76. Bob Avrutik, N1RA, moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Gary Hagens, K6OC, and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine - Nothing known

VE Testing - The Venice Library will close permanently at the end of this month. VE testing will now be held at the Jacaranda Library for all future testing. VE Team Liaison Jack Sproat, W4JS, reported that both candidates at our January 9 session were successful, with one getting his Technician license and the other upgrading to Amateur Extra. The latter was so happy that he joined the TARC even though he lived in Pennsylvania.

Repeater/Technical - Both the 146.805 and the 444.100 repeaters are operating satisfactorily.

Publicity/Membership - San Yoder reported that we have 58 members.

NET Operations - President Lathwood, KJ4TNI, reports that Club nets are averaging 8/9 members per night of operation. Members were advised that the Disaster Amateur Radio Network operates on the second Monday of every month beginning at 11 AM. Members were invited to participate.

LIAISON TO QCWA - Jack Sproat, W4JS, reported that 31 QCWA members and friends at-

tended the January 6 lunch/meeting. Al Culbert, K0AL, provided a program that described his bicycle trip through various European countries.

OLD BUSINESS - Sharks Tooth Festival (Run and Event): we need 5/6 more volunteers to cover the Shark Tooth 10K Run to be held March 5th. President Lathwood collected the "T" shirt sizes from all volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS - Jack Sproat, W4JS, stated that he had submitted Special Event notices of our Shark Tooth Festival K4S operation for publication in the April issues of both QST and CQ.

President Lathwood advised the membership that there would be a Board meeting in February or March. Members were advised to bring concerns/suggestions to the Board for discussion at the Board meeting.

President Lathwood noted that our treasury was reasonably funded. That said, members should begin to consider some allocation of funds for necessary long term equipment replacement and /or repair, as necessary.

Jim Shortill Discussed the Sarasota EOC Deer Prairie exercise to be held on Saturday, January 16, 2016. This training exercise simulated the loss of electric power due to a forest fire. Excessive wind damage and casualties were planned into the exercise. Participants were to set up operations in a field site and at the American Red Cross center in Sarasota, FL. More info to follow after the exercise.

Boy Scout Leader Mr. John Patrick, N9OU, thanked the Club for its support of the Boy Scouts Radio Merit Badge operations. He presented the Club with a thank you card signed by all of the Scouts that participated in the International Jamboree on The Air last October. Mr. Patrick also gave Scout event patches to the members who set up and ran the Ham radio station. Scout Leader Patrick said that all of the Scouts really enjoyed operating on the Ham radio bands.

In prior club discussions, the leadership of our club reached out to him and advised that our club would be willing to purchase Technician License Manuals for those Scouts who would like to obtain their Technician License. Mr. Patrick said that he thought about five Scouts would study for the Technician License exam.

A motion was made by Guenther Henning, AJ4QX, seconded by Bob Avrutik, N1RA, to purchase five Technician License Manuals from the ARRL and send them To Mr. Patrick for dis-

See Minutes, page 5

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
Solomon Is - H44MS; by DL2GAC, 80-6m	Now to 14 April	275	07-13	06-14	06-14	03-16	14-16	19-23	20-22	2100
Mauritius – 3B8HC by HB9ARY ++, slo CW	Now to 08 Feb	88	23-02	22-03	23-02	22-03	22-23	20-21	NO	NO
So. Cook Is – E51RJR; by ZL1BQD **	Now to 07 Feb	246	05-13	03-14	03-15	16-01	17-23	18-22	19-22	20-21
Kenya – 5Z4/DF3FS, holiday style	Now to 07 Feb	76	23-04	22-05	23-03	20-23	19-20	20-21	19-20	18-19
Vietnam – XV3TH by SM3NFB, CW/SB/PK	Now to 06 Feb	348	--	11-12	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
So. Georgia Is – VP8SGI, 14-op team	29 Jan – 09 Feb	155	00-07	23-09	00-08	22-03	22-00	NO	NO	NO
Lesotho – 7P8C, 5-station operation	08 to 17 Feb	110	23-04	22-05	21-06	19-23	17-20	16-21	14-18	NO
Namibia – V5/DC8QT, DD8ZX & DJ9KM	09 Feb – 18 Sep	107	23-05	21-07	21-01	18-00	17-21	16-20	15-21	16-17
Easter Is – CE0Y/W7YQAQ, CW & RTTY	10 to 14 Feb	208	--	00-13	23-14	14-01	15-00	16-22	--	--
Togo – 5V7TH; by ON6DX, all modes & 6m	10 to 22 Feb	87	--	21-08	20-08	16-00	14-21	16-20	16-19	16-19
Senegal – 6W7/F6HMJ, all bands **	10 Feb – 01 Mar	87	22-08	21-10	19-11	13-00	14-22	16-20	16-19	16-19
Mauritius – 3B8HD by OE4AAC, holiday stl	11 Feb – 01 Mar	88	--	22-03	23-02	22-03	2130	2030	NO	NO
Gambia – C5DX by G4DJX, spare time op	12 to 19 Feb	88	--	20-10	19-04	13-00	14-21	16-20	16-19	16-19
Fiji – 3D2PW by DF6PW, ** mainly WARC	13 to 19 Feb	258	06-13	05-14	07-14	01-17	01-04	19-23	20-00	20-00
Tonga – A35T by 8-op team (dates tentative)	18 to 24 Feb	253	06-12	04-14	04-15	00-17	18-00	19-23	19-01	20-00
Guinea – 3XY1T by I2YSB & team, incl 6m	18 Feb – 04 Mar	90	23-08	21-10	20-10	12-00	14-22	15-20	16-20	16-20
Micronesia – V63DX by JA7HMZ	19 to 24 Feb	293	07-13	06-14	06-14	14-16	14-16	14-16	1500	2100
Guantanamo Bay – KG4WV & KG4HF	19 Feb – 04 Mar	135	00-24	00-24	00-24	15-22	16-21	16-21	NO	NO
Sao Tome & Principe – S9BK by HB9BEI	25 Feb – 25 Mar	90	--	21-08	20-08	17-00	14-22	16-20	15-20	17-19
Iceland – TF/DF8AN	26 Feb – 01 Mar	28	23-10	22-13	19-22	14-18	14-17	NO	NO	NO

Updated 28 January based on 25 Jan *The Weekly DX*, 27 Jan *QRZ DX* and the NG3K Contest-DX site, <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.

-- JANUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 29 January the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 95 to 115, with a mean value of 103.6 (vs. 141.3 for January 2015 and 159.3 for January 2014), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 18 days. Through 28 January, the sunspot number ranged from 26 to 84, with a mean of 51.6.

Space weather during January ranged from quiet to active with one M-class and 25 C-class flares through the 28th. Severe geomagnetic disturbances from multiple CMEs peaked the A_p to 80 during 01 January, 27-39 during 6-7 January, 27 on 11-13 and 32-67 on 19-21 January.

-- FEBRUARY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low levels throughout February.

No proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux is expected to be at moderate levels 07-08 and 14-18 February.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels 02-03, 07-10, 17-27 and 29 February due to recurrent CH HSS activity. The remaining 11 days of February should enjoy a quiet geomagnetic field.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 100 to 110 and average 103.3 during February.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 January 2016, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 January 2016, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 25 January 2016.)

-- THE VP8STI OPERATION --

The 14-member Intrepid DX team that landed on Southern Tule Island in the South Sandwich Islands had a truly rough row to hoe. Landing in rough waters, one member fell into the sea, along with one generator. The member was saved—the generator was not. They were set up 18 January and planned to operate until the 27th.



On 24 January 70 mph winds and 2'-3' of snow destroyed two tents and most yagi antennas were broken. Following repairs, four stations returned to the air. On the 25th the master of the *RV Braveheart* ordered the team to abandon their camp due to an ice flow that could block ship's access to their camp. They boarded the *Braveheart*, cleaned up their camp the following day and departed for South Georgia Is. where they are now operating as VP8SGI.

The paraphrase the late Bette Davis, "Antarctic DXpeditions ain't for sissies." (From <http://dxnews.com/vp8sti-south-sandwich/>)

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING FEBRUARY 2016

Triathlon DX Contest			10-10 International Winter Contest			CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest		
06 Feb 0000Z		06 Feb 2359Z	06 Feb 0001Z		07 Feb 2359Z	13 Feb 000Z		14 Feb 2359Z
3.5-28	--	CW, SSB, Digital	28	--	SSB	3.5-28	--	RTTY
RS(T), Serial			Name, member # or "0", SPC			RST, Serial		
http://triathlon-dx-contest.gr			http://www.ten-ten.org			http://www.cqwprrtty.com/rules.htm		
Dutch PACC Contest			ARRL International DX Contest			Russian PSK WW Contest		
13 Feb 1200Z		14 Feb 1200Z	20 Feb 0000Z		21 Feb 2359Z	20 Feb 1200Z		21 Feb 1159Z
1.8-28	--	CW, SSB	1.8-28	--	CW	1.8-28	--	PSK31, 63 &125
RS(T), Serial			RST, State			RST, Serial		
http://pacc.veron.nl/			http://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-dx			http://www.rdrclub.ru		
REF Contest			UBA DX Contest			North American QSO Party		
27 Feb 0600Z		28 Feb 1800Z	27 Feb 1300Z		28 Feb 1300Z	27 Feb 1800Z		28 Feb 0559Z
3.5-28	--	SSB	3.5-28	--	CW	3.5-28	--	RTTY
RS, Serial			RST, Serial			Name, S/P/C		
http://concours.r-e-f.org/contest/			www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules			http://www.nciweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf		

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.arrrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2016/February%202016.pdf> for the complete list of the contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be held during February.

--TARCIANS MOB PEACH'S --



DaveGill-K4JDG carefully reviews his bill for computer errors at our 19 January breakfast. Was the 19-member turnout a tribute to the date being Robert E. Lee's 208th birthday?



The view from the west end of the tables. Guenther Henning-AJ4QX kept listeners engrossed by relating some of his life threatening experiences during WW II fleeing from the Soviets.

(TNX to N1RA-Bob Avrutik's daughter, Marie, for these photos.)

MINUTES, from page 2

tribution (and monitoring) to the interested Scouts. Motion passed.

The Club Secretary will coordinate the purchase and shipment to Mr. Patrick.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR - It was announced that the Amateur Radio Parity Act, (H.R. 1301 in the House of Representatives and S 1685 in the Senate) was now in Committee. Club members were asked to contact their representatives in the House and Senate, asking them to sign on to the bill as co-sponsors.

The Club Membership was advised that cell phone sellers would soon be provided the cell phone numbers of US cell phones for sales purposes. Members were urged to place their cell phone numbers on the Government sponsored "Do not call list."

ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made to adjourn at 7:45 Pm. It was seconded and voted upon and approved. There were 24 members and 2 guests present for this meeting.

ROGRAM - Jim Dirksen, W8MDM, presented a slide show of the 2015 Dayton Hamvention. Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, assisted.

James Shortill
Secretary

-- FAR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS --

The **Foundation for Amateur Radio** Invites Scholarship Applications: The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc ([FAR](#)) invites [applications](#) for the 2016-2017 academic year for the [46 scholarships](#) it administers. Applicants must hold a valid Amateur Radio license and be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school. Students do not apply for specific scholarships; each application will be considered for all of the scholarships for which the applicant is qualified. In order to be considered for the Chichester and QCWA scholarships (for the QCWA applications, look at <http://www.qcwa.org/scholarship-program.htm>), applicants must obtain the appropriate recommendations. [Applications](#) must be submitted by 15 April, although applicants may edit their applications until 07 May. [Contact](#) FAR for more information.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 21 January 2016)



-- WHERE THE WORK GETS DONE --



Here's the work bench of Bob Marchese-K1NOK with an array of test equipment as well as some fine décor such as the classic Drake equipment on the top shelf. Bob has a passion to restore Collins equipment, and his work is top notch.



Bob's top of the line main station at his northern home, consisting of the ICOM IC-7800 driving an Alpha 87A amp, putting full legal power to his 3-element SteppIR beam. Here the classic décor is a Collins 75S-3 receiver on the top shelf. Bob does hold the coveted DXCC #1 Honor Roll standing with all 339 DXCC entities worked and confirmed.

-- VE SESSIONS CHANGE OF VENUE --

Beginning 13 February, all 2016 TARC VE sessions will be held at 10 AM in the Conference Room of the Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd, Venice. Due to a prior scheduling conflict, ONLY the 12 March session will be held in the Computer Lab of the library.

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	3 QCWA @ 11:30 AM, Denny's, Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota	4 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	5 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	6
7	8 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Rptr 145.430	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	10 TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	11 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	12 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	13 TARC VE Session 10 AM Jacaranda Public Library
14	15	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	17	18 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	19 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	20
21	22	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	24	25 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	27
28	29					

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**

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