



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 273, Nokomis, FL 34274-0273



– JANUARY 2005 –

## – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE –

Bob Murphy-WA1UHG tells me that it has been 10 years since I took over as President of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club from him. The past 10 years have seen a lot of changes in our lives, but two of the best things I recall are all the good times and all the great friends we have and whom we are enjoying.

It was an extreme pleasure to chair your events during this decade. As chairman, I would ask for volunteers and I would always get whatever help was needed. If we asked for money for projects, there would be an instant response with donations. And, we have never lacked for someone to have breakfast with, and to enjoy the day.

To the credit of all our members, the TARC has never been a place for internal bickering, cliques, or negative influences. In the TARC, if you call for help, you get help. It is wonderful, in this era of declining membership in organizations, to see our club attracting many new members and growing.

We have projects reflecting our growth, such as our ongoing repeater upgrading, EchoLink, our pending new 2-meter repeater—with our own frequency and W4AC call sign—at the Anderson Electric site, and our potential emergency communications trailer; to name only a few.

Sadly, we have lost a number of our members over the last 10 years. We do miss those fellow hams and think of them often, for many of them still inspire us and strengthen our resolve and dedication to the TARC.

It has been because of all of you that I have truly enjoyed serving you over the last decade, and I hope to contribute to the club in one fashion or other for as long as I am able. My only advice to our incoming President, Eddie Palmer-K4JP, is that he relax and enjoy. It’s easy, for it is YOU—the members of TARC—who carry the club!! Thanks to all of you!!

73 de John – VE6AIV

*(Thanks, John; working with you was a pleasure!)*

*“When free discussion is denied, hardening of the arteries of democracy has set in, free institutions are but a lifeless form, and the death of the republic is at hand.” - William Randolph Hearst, 13 June 1941*

## – JANUARY MEETING –

The January TARC meeting will be at **7:00 PM 13 January 2005** in the Community Room of The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, 601 South Tamiami Trail (Business US 41), across from the Bon Secours Hospital. Following the business meeting, Paul Toth-NA4AR, President of the West Central Florida Group, Inc., will discuss the NI4CE “Big Stick” repeater system and the availability of the limited edition NI4CE “Hurricane Survivor” T-shirts for a tax-deductible \$15 contribution to support, expand and improve the system. Your attendance will be appreciated.

## – REGIONAL HAMFESTS –

- 08 Jan Fort Myers ARC Hamfest at Araba Shrine Auditorium, 2010 Hanson St, Ft. Myers. Exit 136 off I-75, west on Colonial Blvd (SR 882) to US 41; turn right (north) on US 41 to Hanson, turn right and go ½ block to Auditorium. TI: 146.88, Info: Earl-K4FQU, 239-332-1503
- 15 Jan North Port ARC Hamfest. Info: Bill-KG7TSG, 941-426-0214
- 29 Jan DeSoto County ARC Hamfest, Turner Civic Center, 2160 NE Roan St., Arcadia. US 17 north (past SR 70 intersection) to Gibson St., east on Gibson, which becomes Roan, to site. TI: 147.075, Info: Doug-KN4YT, 863-491-0618
- 5-6 Feb Dade Radio Club of Miami “Tropical Ham-boree” at Dade County Fair and Exposition Center, 10901 SW 24<sup>th</sup> St (Coral Way), Miami. TI: 147.000, Info: Evelyn-W4WYR, 305-642-4139

(From January 2005 *QST* and Web site of Bill Britton-KB4VOL, <http://bellsouthpwp.net/k/b/kb4vol>)

## – CALL SIGN STATUS –

As of 21 November 2004, call signs issued sequentially in the Fourth District were up to:

<u>Extra</u>	<u>General/Technician</u>
AI4HU	KI4HSK

(From January 2005 *WorldRadio*)

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

09 December 2004

President John Fyke-VE6AIV called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Marty Horowitz-W4MHH led the pledge of allegiance to the US flag. Ron Wetgen-WD4AHZ of Sarasota, Dennis Chapman-KI4DLD of Sarasota, Bob Stubbins-KI4FJT of North Port and Jay Foster-N2VWK of Venice were recognized as visitors.

**MINUTES** - Charlie Covell-AG4TT moved to forego reading of the minutes of the 11 November meeting, as published in the December issue of *The Communicator*; seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported receipt of an e-mail letter from the West Central Florida Group relative to purchase of NI4CE "Hurricane Survivor" T-shirts to help fund new repeater sites and improve existing repeater equipment operated by the WCFG. As Paul Toth-NA4AR, WCFG President will be the speaker at our 13 January meeting, further input will be available at that time.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Bob Officer-WA6WAY reported that a 07 December deposit of \$900.00, realized from hamfest sales, brought the current bank balance was \$4,332.22. With one outstanding check in the amount of \$14.46, the current account balance is \$4,317.76. Pete Pesa-N4RD moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Blake Hudson-KE4SGK, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** - Peter Pesa-N4RD advised that Virginia Dold was scheduled for surgery and that a card was being sent up to her. Several members have visited Bill Rockwood-KE4ZAK, and reported that Bill is holding his own. Repairs have been made to Bill's antenna and amplifier, and he is now back on the air with a good signal.

**VE TESTING** - Jack-W4JS advised that here will be a regularly scheduled VE session this Saturday, 11 December.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** - Jim Frey-W8ISZ commented that the repeater is running satisfactorily. Stew Haag-W4MO reported that the Echo Link mode is operating satisfactorily.

**CLUB GRANTS & DONATIONS** - Bob-WA6WAY repeated that TARC made \$900 at the Tampa Bay Hamfest from sales of donated equipment and items. The donated Clipperton amplifier and IC-676 are being held for use in the potential TARC communications trailer.

**FIELD DAY COMMITTEE** - While no volunteers for Field Day Chairman were forthcoming, Martin Horowitz-W4MHH invited TARC members to participate with the Englewood ARS, and Roxena Doyle-W1ROX extended an invitation on behalf of the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club.

**CLUB HISTORIAN** - Marty-W4MHH is looking for any collectable items that can be put into scrapbooks.

**NET OPERATIONS** - Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG distributed January/February net control schedules, and asked for more net control volunteers for the twice weekly 2-meter nets. John-VE6AIV reminded all of the daily Snowbird Nets: 14.278 MHz at 10 AM, and 7.230 MHz at 7 PM.

**LIAISON TO SERC/ARES/RACES** - Jim-W8ISZ repeated the invitation for TARC members to participate with the SERC Field Day effort. Last year there were 43 hams assisting at the SERC FD site.

**LIAISON TO RED CROSS** - Bob-WA6WAY reported he had recently met with Michael Zimmerman, Red Cross coordinator for volunteer support, and he was passing along Zimmerman's appreciation for support by TARC members during the hurricane experiences. Bob stated that he had not yet received the title to the Red Cross trailer now in our possession.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** - Jack-W4JS commented that there were 23 members and guests at the 01 December meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53 in Sarasota.

**CLUB PROMOTION/SCHOLARSHIP** - Nothing to report at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS** - Bob-WA6WAY stated he would like to get started on refurbishing the decommissioned Red Cross trailer after Christmas. It was agreed that volunteers would assemble at 10 AM on 03 January where the trailer is parked behind the home of Jack-W4JS, 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, to see what work is required.

**NEW BUSINESS** - There were several diverse items under New Business:

Change of Venue for Tuesday Breakfast - Martin-W4MHH has suggested that this breakfast move from the Country Hound to Denny's, both in Englewood, citing better food, better service, better prices, and the opportunity to associate with EARS members who now have a 7 AM breakfast at Denny's. Jack-W4JS stated his knowledge of the background for this TARC breakfast, with the observation that former participation by EARS members had dwindled considerably. All TARC members present, who attend this breakfast, agreed

See MINUTES, page 5

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## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY AND PROPAGATION FORECASTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY - CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Mauritania - 5T5DY	26 Dec - 09 Jan	81	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-10</b>	<b>12-23</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19	16-17	16-17
Easter Is - 3G0YP, 3G0YM	08 - 18 January	208	<b>02-12</b>	<b>00-14</b>	<b>13-00</b>	<b>14-23</b>	<b>15-22</b>	16-21	16-21	16-21
Maldives - 8Q7PR	09 - 17 January	41	<b>22-02</b>	<b>21-02</b>	<b>21-00</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>17-19</b>	16-18	NO	NO
Cambodia - XU7ACY	09 - 20 January	349	<b>11-13</b>	<b>10-14</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>14-19</b>	15-18	15-18	NO	NO
Peter I Is - 3Y0X	21 Jan - 04 Feb	183	<b>03-09</b>	<b>01-11</b>	<b>00-09</b>	<b>21-00</b>	21-00	NO	NO	NO
South Cook Is - ZK1SDE, SDZ, WET	31 Jan - 17 Feb	246	<b>05-12</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>03-15</b>	<b>16-01</b>	<b>17-00</b>	<b>18-23</b>	19-22	20-21
Somalia - 6O0G, 6O0CW	03 - 17 February	66	<b>23-03</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-04</b>	<b>16-00</b>	<b>16-21</b>	15-20	16-19	16-18
Crozet - FT5W	12 Feb - 01 April	131	–	–	–	04-09	–	NO	NO	NO
Fernando de Noronha - PY0FF	16 - 22 February	115	<b>23-09</b>	<b>20-11</b>	<b>18-01</b>	<b>13-23</b>	<b>15-21</b>	17-19	19-21	18-19

Updated 30 December 2004, based on 29 December 2004 *QRZ DX*, 20 December 2004 *The Weekly DX* and *K1XN DX Alert #198*.

Notes: ??? = Call sign not yet known, ++ = Phone Only, \*\* = CW Only, NO = No opening forecast, **Time in bold** = Best Band(s) for opening  
Long path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated via *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software,  
<http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL; Solar Flux and K-index vary as per NOAA 27-day forecast.

### – SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING DECEMBER –

During December, the Solar Flux ranged from 81 up to 111, with a mean value of 94.6 (vs. 115.1 for December 2003 and 156.9 for December 2002). The A-index was  $\leq 10$  on 18 days during December.

### -- JANUARY PROPAGATION --

During January, solar activity is expected to be very low to low. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 03-04, 14-15, 18-19, and 22-23 January. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from mostly quiet to active with isolated minor storm periods. High speed coronal hole streams are expected to produce occasional storm periods on 02-03, 13-14, 17-18, and 21-22 January; otherwise expect quiet to unsettled conditions. The Solar Flux should range from 95 to 110 during the month. (From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 29 December 2004* and *NOAA 27-Day Space Weather Outlook Table, 28 December 2004*)

### – ANDAMAN ISLAND DXPEDITION –

The Andaman Island DXpedition, VU4NRO and VU4RBI, came on the air as scheduled on 03 December, however, it was pretty much a “non-event” for local DXers. When heard, signals usually peaked to S-4 on the 20-meter long path around 1230 GMT, however, stations in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> call districts seemed to have better luck than did those in the 4<sup>th</sup> district. The path from the East Coast passed through either the northern (on short path) or the southern (on long path) auroral zones. Any geomagnetic activity caused significant disturbance to signals passing through these zones. Only West Coast stations had a “clear shot” which avoided the auroral zones. Furthermore, the

sunspot activity—indicated by the Solar Flux—remained significantly lower than had been forecast. Well, “maybe next time!”

During the normal operating activities of the DXpedition, there had been good media coverage locally and back in India. Those activities unexpectedly changed from “recreational” to “emergency.” The 26 December undersea earthquake and resultant Tsunami tidal waves which devastated countries bordering the Indian Ocean from Indonesia to Somalia also affected Andaman Island. The earthquake rocked the island, killing four residents, but the land mass is high enough to be safe from the tidal waves. However, regular communication channels were lost between Andaman and India, such that the battery-powered radios of the DXpedition team became the only communications link to India. Consequently, the island’s government was grateful that these hams were there. Hopefully, sometime after life returns to normal in that area, another DXpedition will be allowed to operate from Andaman Island as an expression of gratitude.

### – PETER I ISLAND DXPEDITION –

The 83-meter icebreaker *Antarctic Dream* will depart Punta Arenas, Chile 14 January, taking 21 DXpeditioners on the third ever DXpedition to Peter I Island in the Bellinghausen Sea. 3Y0X should come on the air 21 January and remain active for 16 days on Phone, CW, RTTY and PSK. There may be as many as 3 stations on one band at the same time.

CW up 23 kc from band edge; SSB on 3.75, 7.073, 14.19, 18.165.

QSL via Mike Grose-K4YL, PO Box 183, Flat Rock, NC 28731-0183.

(From *The Weekly DX*, 20 December 2004)

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
North American QSO Party	1800Z 08 January 0600Z 09 January	160 - 10 Meters CW Only	North American Stations Only	Name + State
Midwinter Contest	1400Z 08 January 2000Z 08 January	80 - 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + Serial No. OM's start w/001; YL's start w/2001
	0800Z 09 January 1400Z 09 January	80 - 10 Meters Phone Only		
North American QSO Party	1800Z 15 January 0600Z 16 January	160 - 10 Meters Phone Only	North American Stations Only	Name + State
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z 15 January 1200Z 16 January	160 - 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial Number
070 PSKFest	0000Z 15 January 2400Z 15 January	80 - 10 Meters PSK Modes Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + State
REF French Contest	0600Z 29 January 1800Z 30 January	80 - 10 Meters CY Only	Stations in France and Over- seas Territories	R/S/T + Serial Number
UBA Belgian Contest	1300Z 29 January 1300Z 30 January	80 - 10 Meters Phone Only	Belgian and European Stations Only	R/S + Serial Number

From January 2005 *Worldradio* and January 2005 *QST*

### – BPL NOT EMBRACED BY ISP –

Officials of Internet service provider EarthLink have told the FCC that broadband over power line (BPL) cannot commercially compete with the dominant cable or Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) technology today or in the near future. The EarthLink President/CEO and other company officials met 16 November with the FCC Chairman and a FCC attorney to deliver an *ex parte* presentation on several Wireline Competition Bureau and Common Carrier Bureau proceedings.

“EarthLink discussed that it has invested in and is in trials with several potential ‘third wire’ broadband transmission paths to the home, including WiFi, WiMax, MMDS and BPL,” EarthLink Counsel Mark O’Connor wrote in a 17 November letter to FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch. “However, EarthLink pointed out that cable and DSL still account for virtually all consumer broadband connections and that none of these alternative technologies offer a commercially viable alternative today or in the near future.”

An EarthLink analysis indicated the BPL is the most expensive of the broadband technologies it evaluated. EarthLink said that wireless and BPL “are not likely to be competitive in cost and performance with cable and DSL over the last mile to the home.” One unspecified BPL technical trial using Amperion equipment in a “wireless/BPL combo” was judged “not successful” by

EarthLink. In other trials, using Ambient and Current Technologies equipment, EarthLink’s assessment was that the high cost per household passed—\$125 in both instances—would require a better than 15 percent penetration market to attain a competitive cost.

EarthLink’s assessment determined that ADSL2+ (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line to 2000 and later standards) technology is the best option and can offer VoIP as well as high-speed broadband (at 6 to 10 MB/second) and video over copper wire and using on-premise consumer equipment.

(From ARRL Web Site, 16 December 2004)

### – SNOWBIRD NET REMINDER –

Even though most Snowbirds are enjoying our local weather, some “commute” back and forth, and some are still up in snow country. (*In a recent phone call, active “bird” Don Dold-KD9SJ informed us that he hopes to have a new GAP vertical up and operating as soon as the foot of snow is gone from his backyard.*) Join the “birds,” wherever they may be, daily at 10:00 AM on 14.278 MHz and at 7:00 PM on 7.230 MHz.

*“To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors, is sinful and tyrannical.” - Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Statutes of Religious Freedom, 1779*

## MINUTES, from page 2

that 8 AM was early enough for breakfast, therefore, Marty will poll the EARS members to see if they wish to have a joint breakfast at 8 AM. If there is no such interest, there is likelihood that the TARC breakfast will move to a more central location.

Appointment of Audit Committee - John-VE6AIV asked for volunteers for an Audit Committee, and Marty-W4MHH and Bob Avrutik-N1RA offered their service.

Club Repeater at Anderson Electric Site - As we do have the equipment, John-VE6AIV expressed his desire for the TARC to install a repeater, licensed to W4AC, at the former site of our repeater. Jim-W8ISZ has asked outgoing Section Manager Dave Armbrust-AE4MR for assistance in obtaining a coordinated frequency pair.

Christmas Party - John-VE6AIV reminded all of the upcoming Amateur Radio Christmas Party at the Marco Polo International Buffet on 18 December. John requested

authorization to spend approximately \$50 for corsages for the ladies; Bob-WA6WAY so moved, seconded by Peter Knorr-N2IZD, and passed.

Food for Hamfest Vendors' Reception - Bob-WA6WAY advised that he had received a request, just prior to the hamfest, for food for the Friday night vendors' reception. As TARC had participated in previous receptions, Bob purchased hams at a cost of \$87. Charlie Covell-AG4TT moved reimbursement of Bob's expense, seconded by Peter-N4RD, and passed.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** - John-VE6AIV turned the chair over to Bernie Holtman-W4GO, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Bernie announced the following candidates:

President: Eddie Palmer-K4JP  
Vice President: Peter Knorr-N2IZD  
Treasurer: Peter Pesa-N4RD  
Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Directors: Bill Rockwood-KE4ZAK  
John Fyke-VE6AIV  
Jim Frey-W8ISZ

The floor was open for nominations, and Marty-W4MHH nominated Peter Knorr-N2IZD for President. Peter explained that he had been offered that position by the Committee, however, he had to decline due to heavy work commitments. Charlie-AG4TT moved the nominations be closed, seconded by Peter-N2IZD, and passed. Peter Pesa-N4RD moved, seconded by Jim Halliday-NX2II, that the secretary be instructed to cast one vote for each of the named candidates. The secretary read the list of candidates and cast said vote.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM was made by George Kurhajec-N0IW, seconded by Blake Hudson-KE4SGK, and passed. There were 29 members and four guests present.

**PROGRAM** - Ron Wetgen-WD4AHZ, ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Sarasota County discussed the communications problems that arose during Hurricane Charley (and others) and the actions he has been taking during his two months' tenure to reorganize Amateur Radio emergency communications within the county.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

## -TARC NET SCHEDULE -

The following schedule is provided by the TARC Net Manager, Bob Murphy-WA1UHG:

04 Jan (s)	Bob - WA6WAY
06 Jan (r)	Peter - N2IZD
11 Jan (s)	Marty - W4MHH
13 January	Meeting - no net
18 Jan (s)	Peter - N2IZD
20 Jan (r)	Charlie - KD4FZ
25 Jan (s)	Jim - W8ISZ
27 Jan (r)	Jack - W4JS
01 Feb (s)	Jack - W4JS
03 Feb (r)	Charlie - KD4FZ
08 Feb (s)	Bob - WA6WAY
10 February	Meeting - no net
15 Feb (s)	Jim - W8ISZ
17 Feb (r)	John - VE6AIV
22 Feb (s)	Marty - W4MHH
24 Feb (r)	Bob - WA1UHG

(r) = 145.130 Repeater; (s) = 146.58 Simplex

Show your support of the TARC by showing up on the Tuesday and Thursday night nets—both at 7:30 PM.

Our Net Manager, Bob Murphy-WA1UHG, would appreciate hearing from anyone who would be willing to assist as a net control station for our weekly nets. Please let Bob know if you can help.

## - OLD RADIO SHOWS -

Recall the dramatic shows that used to be offered on radio, back in the "good old days" of broadcasting? If you want to again enjoy many of those programs, e.g., "Gunsmoke" with William Conrad as Matt Dillon, go to <http://www.radiolovers.com/>. You can make your selection from a variety of programs, click on a specific episode, sit back and "enjoy."

*"Heresies are experiments in man's unsatisfied search for truth."* - H. G. Wells, *Crus Ansata*

**-- U.S. LAGS IN CELL PHONE USE --**

While there are jokes and cartoons about cell phone use in the USofA, this country trails behind the rest of the “developed world” in use of this communications mode. According to the International Telecommunications Union data, some 57 percent of the US population use cell phones, but that’s not much greater than the percentage of wireless users in Jamaica, where 54 percent of the population have cell phones. By comparison, in Hong Kong there are 105.75 cellular subscribers for every 100 inhabitants; in Taiwan, there are 110 per 100. *(In Indonesia, parents get cell phones to “monitor” where their kids are. Used phones cost about \$35 and service is about \$12/month.)*

Why the lag in the USofA? The reasons range from credit checks to network quality to coverage areas. Wireless networks elsewhere are simply better than those in the USofA. “The quality of U.S. networks is only now coming close to the quality you would see in major European or Asian markets,” stated Albert Lin, an analyst at American Technology Research. European companies operate “third generation” mobile networks that enable users to zap videos and data by phone. That hasn’t been the case in the USofA.

Wireless companies in the USofA were second only to auto dealers in complaints to the Better Business Bureaus in 2003. They were the second-lowest ranked industry in the University of Michigan’s customer satisfaction index, second only to cable TV companies. One reason American consumers are miffed is the lack of coverage range.

Another reason for lower cell phone use in the USofA is how service is sold. The largest carriers sell phones by subscription, requiring a credit check and a commitment for at least one year. Roger Entner, a Yankee Group analyst, opines, “We have tapped out the prime-credit segment of the U.S. Everyone who wants to have a wireless phone and can pass a credit check has one. Everyone who can pass a credit check and doesn’t have one—after 10 years of a continuous barrage (of advertising), they’re not going to cave.”

If the industry wants more users, it will have to change its business model to embrace people with iffy credit who are willing to buy prepaid phone, he said. Companies are hesitant to do that because it doesn’t help them with the Wall Street analysts, who are looking at the number of subscribers, average revenue per subscriber, and the rate customers drop their service.

(From “U.S. wireless use trails the rest of developed world,” Ellen Simon, AP Business Writer, in 18 December 2004 *Englewood Herald Tribune*)

**-- FAR SCHOLARSHIPS --**

The Foundation for Amateur Radio is accepting applications for 55 scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year. The Foundation fully funds three of these scholarships, 10 are funded with the income from grants, and 42 are administered by the FAR without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to 30 April 2005 from:

FAR Scholarships  
PO Box 831  
Riverdale, MD 20738

(From FAR News Release, 01 December 2004)

**-- RESTRUCTURING “PROGRESS” --**

The ARRL does not anticipate any proposals from the FCC on the Morse requirement and further restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2006, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is still reviewing thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system. The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference left the choice to require Morse for HF access up to individual countries, and many have dropped Morse as an exam requirement.

Before the FCC adopts any changes, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC will then review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. The ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Amateur Radio licensing requirements before 2006, possibly later.

While this rule making process is under way, no changes have been made in the Amateur Radio Service rules. The 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element1) remains in place, and no proposed automatic upgrades or other rule changes have been put into effect.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 23, No. 50)