



# 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 Repeater – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL  
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- JANUARY 2010 --

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter the new year of 2010, I would like to recall some of the events that were positive for our Tamiami ARC during 2009.

Foremost, perhaps, is the fact that our dues paying membership has remained stable during an era when many organizations are losing members and closing their doors.

While not perfect, due to location and ambient noise, our repeater and associated modes have functioned quite reliably during the year.

TARC member Andy Durette-KB1HIP developed and implemented courses for the Amateur Extra license. All of his students who took the exam passed—a great level of achievement—and an “Atta Boy” for Andy!

Again, we participated in the Venice Sharks Tooth Festival, putting Special Event Station K4S on the air for three days. Some 475 QSOs were made, and 113 QSLs replied to. We do appreciate the hospitality the Festival offers us.

The August CQ Reader Survey asked about young people in ham radio, including personal encouragement of young people. I believe TARC has offered such encouragement. Through the efforts of Jon Hamlet-W4ZW and several other members our positive involvement with the Pine View School Amateur Radio Club has continued. TARC showed its support by donating \$150 to the PVSARC for the purchase of equipment. In addition, Jon helped with some training at the Sarasota Military Academy, and introduced Amateur Radio to students at the Suncoast Polytechnical High School in Sarasota. Under the guidance of Jon and SMA's George Becht-N2SQ, newly licensed students participated in the November ARRL Sweepstakes and the December 10 Meter Contest.

The TARC Volunteer Examiners conducted 12 VE sessions during 2009, resulting in 24 new Technicians, five upgrades to General and six upgrades to Amateur Extra. We hope that all these licensees will get the utmost enjoyment from ham radio, as many of us have.

73 to All de Stew-W4MO

## -- JANUARY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **05 January 2010** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. After the business meeting, we'll have a program of interest.

## -- DECEMBER TARC MEETING --



While Bruce-WA8IQF settles up with the pizza guy, the members and visitors get ready to chow down.



A while later, most of the members have filled up and departed. Don-WD7A, Don-K9DDO, Bill-W2IL and Stew-W4MO survey the “damage.” No doubt about it, as proven weekly at our two breakfasts, TARC members do have an affinity for food.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**01 December 2009**

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Dave Schoenthaler-K0HBQ of Venice and Don Watson-K9DDO of Sarasota were welcomed as visitors.

**MINUTES** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 03 November 2009 meeting as published in the December 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX so moved, seconded by Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing sent or received during the past month.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1124.65. Receipts were \$42.00 from the October 50/50 and \$170.00 from 2010 membership dues payments, totaling \$212.00. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater site, and \$2.57 for printing, totaling \$16.91. The 01 December 2009 ending balance is \$1319.74. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved to approve the report, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE** – Nothing reported.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS reported that two VE Sessions were held on 14 November and another session on 21 November. These sessions yielded 11 new Technicians, of which 8 are students at the Sarasota Military Academy.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew reported that all modes on our W4AC Repeater are currently operational.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – No inventory changes.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 104 members, including seven Life Members and 35 First-Year Free members.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG commented that we are not getting too many stations checking into our three weekly nets, and encouraged better participation. Bob also could use some more volunteers to be Net Control stations. Jack-W4JS then read from an e-mail exchange with W0AC who is operating an IRLP/EchoLink simplex node over in North Port on 146.590 MHz. This operation is causing interference to our Tuesday Simplex Net on 146.580 MHz. As W0AC does not appear willing to move to another frequency, we

will select another frequency lower in the simplex window for our net.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS reported that the Englewood ARS provide some communications support during the Boca Bop Triathlon. The EARS Christmas Party will be held 13 December. EARS plans for some form of hamfest in March are not panning out favorably at this time.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS stated that Suncoast Chapter 53 November luncheon/meeting was held 04 November with 29 members/spouses/friends in attendance. On 02 December the chapter will meet at 11:30 AM at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Larry Mulvehill-WB2ZPI, cover photographer for CQ, will discuss "Gadgets."

**OLD BUSINESS** – Jon Hamlet-W4ZW reported that he was elected SERC Vice President at their November meeting. SERC will hold its Christmas party and Annual Election on 07 December. Jon's involvement with SERC stems from that club's working relationship with the Sarasota Red Cross, which has appropriate facilities for training, VE sessions, and HF operations, all of which could be utilized by the members of the school clubs with which Jon is involved. Jon reported that a second class for Technician licenses has been formed at the Sarasota Military Academy, and that 64 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students at the Suncoast Polytechnical High School are interested in classes for Technician licenses. In addition, Jon has been approached by Riverview High School, where there is interest in forming a Ham Radio club. Jon stated that he could use some assistance with all this potential training.

Stew-W4MO expressed his appreciation of Jon's efforts in getting young people interested in Ham Radio, and seeing that they earn their licenses.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Stew turned the floor over to Peter Pesa-N4RD, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Peter announced that, as no other members expressed any interest, the current officers had agreed to serve during 2010. There was one proviso, however. Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE had agreed to continue with the financial aspects of that office, however, he wished to be relieved of responsibilities for the Club Roster. After some discussion, San Yoder-K3SY agreed to assume the task of maintaining the roster. Peter then moved that the Secretary be directed to cast one vote for re-

See **MINUTES**, pg. 4

## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

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
Willis Island – VK9WBM	Now to 01 May	271	<b>08-13</b>	<b>07-14</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>15-20</b>	<b>20-21</b>	16-19	NO	NO
Pitcairn Is – VP6AL	Now to 01 Mar	226	<b>03-13</b>	<b>01-14</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>15-00</b>	<b>16-22</b>	17-21	18-21	19-21
Afghanistan – T6LC	Now to 03 Mar	26	--	<b>22-04</b>	--	13-14	--	--	--	--
Thailand – HS0ZGQ	Now to 25 Jan	355	--	<b>23-00</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>15-18</b>	15-16	16-18	NO	NO
Sri Lanka – 4S7KKG	Now to 07 Jan	28	<b>23-01</b>	<b>22-00</b>	<b>21-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	<b>15-17</b>	16-17	16-17	NO
Fiji – 3D2/WB2TJO (holiday style operation)	Now to 03 Jan	258	--	<b>05-14</b>	--	<b>17-23</b>	--	--	--	--
Maldives – 8Q7CE **	08 – 25 January	41	--	<b>21-03</b>	<b>20-23</b>	<b>14-21</b>	--	--	--	--
South Shetland Is – XR9JA	10 – 14 January	169	<b>01-08</b>	<b>00-09</b>	<b>23-08</b>	<b>22-23</b>	21-22	21-22	NO	NO
United Arab Emirates – A6/VE6LB **	10 Jan to 07 Feb	43	<b>23-04</b>	<b>21-05</b>	20-23	<b>14-16</b>	<b>15-16</b>	NO	NO	NO
Thailand – HS0ZJF **	12 Jan to 08 Mar	355	<b>1200</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>15-18</b>	15-16	16-18	NO	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP digi; some SSB/CW	15 Jan to 31 Mar	90	<b>22-09</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>13-23</b>	<b>14-21</b>	15-19	15-20	17-18	NO
Senegal – 6W2SC digital; some SSB/CW	15 Jan to 31 Mar	87	<b>22-09</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>13-23</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19	16-18	16-18
Austral Is – FO/DL1AWI and friends	18 Jan to 05 Feb	239	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>04-16</b>	<b>15-00</b>	<b>16-23</b>	<b>17-22</b>	18-22	18-22
Juan Fernandez Is – CE0Z/JA8BMK	19 Jan to 02 Feb	177	<b>00-11</b>	<b>22-13</b>	<b>12-09</b>	<b>13-00</b>	<b>14-22</b>	<b>15-22</b>	16-21	17-20
Vanuatu – YJ0MM	21 – 28 January	262	<b>07-13</b>	<b>06-15</b>	<b>08-16</b>	<b>18-00</b>	<b>19-22</b>	20-21	20-21	NO
Falkland Is – VP8DMN	21 – 29 January	165	<b>00-09</b>	<b>23-10</b>	<b>23-09</b>	<b>13-00</b>	<b>14-23</b>	16-22	16-22	2200
Uganda – 5X1NH	21 Jan to 21 Mar	77	<b>22-04</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>20-00</b>	<b>13-21</b>	<b>15-19</b>	16-19	16-19	NO
The Sudan – ST26ASC; Arab Scout Conf.	22 – 28 January	66	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>19-00</b>	<b>13-21</b>	<b>15-20</b>	16-19	16-19	NO
Fernando de Noronha – PY0F/PY2XB	23 Jan to 03 Feb	115	<b>22-10</b>	<b>19-12</b>	<b>13-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-21</b>	15-20	16-20	16-20
Senegal – 6W/GM4FDM; 6W/HAONAR	26 Jan to 10 Feb	87	<b>22-09</b>	<b>19-09</b>	<b>13-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19	16-18	16-18

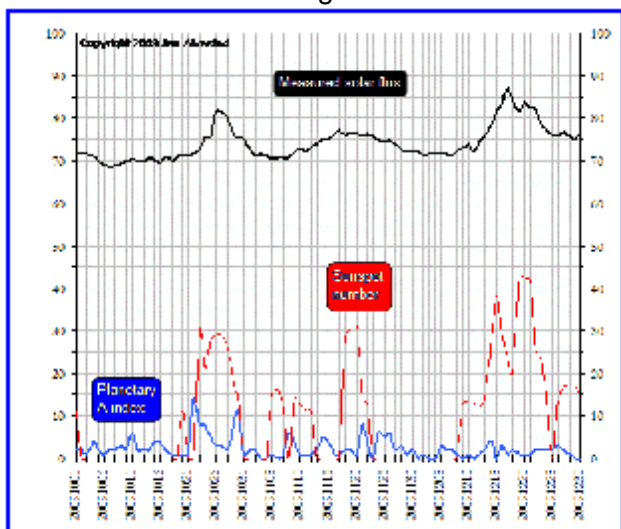
Updated 30 December 2009, based on 30 December 2009 QRZ DX and <http://www.ng3k.com>

**Notes:** Time in bold = Band(s) 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 V.2.60 propagation software, available to download at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

### -- DECEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During December, the Solar Flux ranged from 71 to 87, with a mean value of 77.0 (vs. 69.2 for December 2008 and 78.6 for December 2007). The A-index remained below 7 as the geomagnetic field was quiet during the month.

Solar activity was very low to low. Region 1034 emerged 10 Dec and decayed 13 Dec. Region 1035 emerged 14 Dec, yielding several C-class flares. Regions 1036 and 1037 emerged 19 Dec and Region 1038 emerged 20 Dec. Region 1036 produced numerous B- and C-flares before fading 25 Dec. Region 1039 emerged 27 Dec. December's average SSN was 15.2.



(Courtesy of: Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

### -- JANUARY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low with some low periods during the second half of the month. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. Solar flux should average 78.9 during January.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be mostly at quiet levels throughout January.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 29 December 2009, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 29 December 2009, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 29 December 2009)

### -- HAPPY HAMS AT SMA --



George-N2SQ (lt) and his wife Alice Becht-KJ4QMG (rt) flank the happy members of the Sarasota Military Academy Amateur Radio Club-W4SMA. Additional students are reportedly studying to earn their licenses and join the club.



## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z 02 Jan 2400Z 03 Jan	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, State, Serial Number
Kid's Day	1800Z 03 Jan 2400Z 03 Jan	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Kids on the Air from other stations	Name, age, QTH, favorite color
PODXS 070 PSKFest	0000Z 09 Jan 2400Z 09 Jan	80 – 10 Meters PSK31 Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Call, R/S/T, State
North American QSO Party	1800Z 09 Jan 0600Z 10 Jan	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	North American Countries	Name, State
LZ (Bulgarian) Open Contest	0000Z 16 Jan 0600Z 16 Jan	80 & 40 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Serial # + Serial # of previous QSO
UK (United Kingdom) DX RTTY Contest	1200Z 16 Jan 1200Z 17 Jan	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial Number
HA (Hungarian) DX Contest	1200Z 16 Jan 1200Z 17 Jan	160 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial Number
North American QSO Party	1800Z 16 Jan 0600Z 17 Jan	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	North American Countries	Name, State
BARTG (British) RTTY Sprint	1200Z 23 Jan 1200Z 24 Jan	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Serial Number
ARRL January VHF Sweepstake	2200Z 29 Jan 2200Z 31 Jan	6 Meters & Up Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	Maidenhead Grid Square
REF (French) Contest	0600Z 30 Jan 1800Z 31 Jan	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	France and French Overseas Territories	R/S/T, Serial Number
UBA (Belgian) Contest	1300Z 30 Jan 1300Z 31 Jan	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere; EU Stations are preferred	R/S, Serial Number

From ARRL "Contest Corral" web page and January 2010 *WorldRadio Online*

### MINUTES, from pg. 2

election of the current officers, which was seconded and passed.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Bob-N1RA moved that the cost of tonight's pizza be paid from the treasury. Peter-N4RD seconded the motion, which then passed.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 6:42 PM was made by Peter-N4RD, seconded by Jon-W4ZW, and passed. There were 26 members and two visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – A socializing session featuring Eyeball QSOs and pizza was held.

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

### -- 2010 DUES ARE DUE --

The new year is upon us, which means that 2010 TARC dues are definitely due. We have a 3-month grace period, until 31 March, but we would appreciate if you can pay your dues as soon as possible. All members who were granted "First Year Free" membership prior to October 2009 are now obligated to pay their dues if they desire to remain a TARC member. If you like the TARC, please stay with us.

### -- TAMPA BAY HAMFEST --



C. T. Morgan, down all the way from Chattanooga, was the major vendor and he attracted a lot of attention from hamfest attendees. That cordobes hat and an unlit cigar are C. T.'s trademarks.

### -- OUR TARC NETS ON THE AIR --

As well as remembering your 2010 TARC dues, you're welcome to participate in any or all of our weekly 2-meter nets. See the calendar on the following page for schedules.

# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM <b>TARC Meeting 6 PM @ Venice Public Library</b>	QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Panda Pavilion  TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC re- peater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Meeting, Tech Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
31						

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeater will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. 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 interests: Ass't Net Control \_\_, RFI/TVI \_\_, VE Testing \_\_, Training \_\_, Packet \_\_, RTTY \_\_,  
Computers \_\_, DXing \_\_, Contests \_\_, Field Day \_\_, Publicity \_\_, Emergency Communications \_\_, Special Events \_\_,  
VHF/UHF \_\_, SSTV \_\_, ATV \_\_, Repeater \_\_, EchoLink \_\_, Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Member @ \$15.00/year \_\_, Family Membership @ \$20.00/year \_\_ (\$8.00 after 30 June for remainder of calendar year. \$15.00 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**

*The Communicator* is a monthly publication  
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

2009 TARC Officers

President: Stew Haag-W4MO  
V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF  
Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE  
Directors: Konrad Owens-WA3RRS  
Jon Hamlet - W4ZW  
Jack Gaddas-KY1Z  
Bob Avrutik-N1RA