



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



-- JANUARY 2014 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Our Christmas Party was a Joyful event with over forty in attendance making for a chance to renew contact with many snowbirds down for the season. Thank you Joy for your hospitality, and an excellent variety of delicious repasts.

Now I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. That being said, it is time to start making 2014 an enriching and productive enterprise. The Sharks Tooth Festival will be held 11 – 13 April and the Sharks Tooth 10-K Run will be 12 April. These events are our primary opportunity to support the community and an excellent method of promoting Amateur Radio. Therefore our participation in those events needs the support of our entire membership. There will be ample ways for all to participate, such as providing equipment, personal time and effort, plus operating time.

Last year we did a fair amount of HF work from the site and this year we plan on doubling that output. We utilized a yagi supplied by Andy Durette-KB1HIP last year, and this year we are trying for two antennas to be used alternately to improve our totals. Keep an ear tuned to discussions at meetings and breakfasts for current updates.

In closing, I would like to thank Don Jansen-K14VGE for his diligent and tireless devotion to the duties of Club Treasurer. When you see Don, give him your thanks.

VY 73 to All de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- JANUARY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **08 January 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.

-- 2014 DUES REMINDER --

Only two months remain for members to renew their dues for 2014. Said dues are \$25/individual and \$30/family.

-- DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS --

The faithful eagerly await Fred calling the meeting to order.



After the meeting and annual election, San Yoder-K3SY took us underground as he explained the whys and wherefores of underground electrical power distribution systems.



**Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
11 December 2013**

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 13 November meeting as published in the December issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Boers-KV4LR so moved, seconded by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Several items were received during the month, including a letter from the West Central Florida Group, Inc. thanking us for our \$25 donation to the NI4CE West Central Florida Repeater System; and flyers for the Southwest Florida Hamfest (Ft. Myers) and the Orlando Hamcation.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen reported that the starting balance was \$3525.85. Receipts were \$635 from membership dues, \$14.00 from the November 50/50 and \$14 donation from Ken Magill-KK4IGK, totaling \$663. Expenses were \$12.93 to Birch Communications for Internet service. The 30 November balance was \$4175.92. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Jack-W4JS reported that both Bruce Brown-WA8IQT and Dave Witt-WD9W, respectively, spent 20 days in hospital and cards were sent by Joy Klapp-N2WUD.

VE TESTING – There is one potential candidate for this Saturday's VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both repeaters are operating well.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – The latest roster, dated 10 December, shows two student members, four life members and 29 of our total 63 members paid up for 2014.

NET OPERATIONS – Dismal participation by the members.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 35 members, spouses and friends at our 04 December lunch at Denny's up in Sarasota. Stan Robinson-W9SMR led off with a discussion and photos of a PSK31 operation with the antenna out on a pontoon boat in a lake. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB then offered his program, "Life Before Radio".

OLD BUSINESS – As both Andy Durette-KB1HIP and Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX were not in attendance, the status of having short tech-

nical presentations at our meetings could not be reported upon.

NEW BUSINESS – Annual Election: Fred stated that the following were the candidates for 2014:

Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI – President
Andy Durette-KB1HIP – Vice President
Rich Greenberg-N6LRT – Treasurer
Jack Sproat-W4JS – Secretary
Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO – Director
Conrad Owens-WA3RRS – Director
San Yoder-K3SY – Director
Bob Avrutik-N1RA – Director

Fred called for nominations from the floor, of which there were none. Fred asked for a motion that the proposed slate of officers be approved, which was so moved by Peter Boers-KV4LR, seconded by Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB and passed. Fred called for a voice vote for the candidates, which was unanimous.

Jack-W4JS then proposed a Club Membership competition for working special event station W100AW and the W1AW/portable operations that will take place from every state during 2014. Rules would be derived from the ARRL web page with certificates awarded to the top three TARC members having the most contacts, based on their log entries. A show of hands indicated some interest, such that a log format and further info will be sent to all members prior to 01 January 2014.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:22 PM passed. There were 23 members present.

PROGRAM – San Yoder-K3SY presented an interesting program on the development of underground electrical service systems, and the current status of several installations.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- NEW TECH QUESTION POOL --

Maria Somma-AB1FM, the ARRL/VEC Manager has announced that the NCVET Question Pool Committee has released the new 2014-2018 Technician Class, Element 2, question pool to the public. This pool will take effect 01 July 2014, and will remain valid until 30 June 2018. The current Technician question pool, released back in 2010, is valid until 30 June 2014.

(From *ARRL News*, 12 December 2013)

Nine tenths of education is encouragement.

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
Namibia – V5/DJ2HD; holiday style op.	Now to 18 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-06	12-01	12-23	13-23	13-21
Seychelles – S79ACR; by UA3DJY	Now to 15 Jan	68	22-03	21-04	21-04	15-00	12-23	12-23	13-21	13-19
Temotu – H40FN; by DK9FN	Now to 10 Jan	270	07-13	06-14	06-14	13-02	14-01	18-01	19-00	20-23
Namibia – V5/DL3DXX	Now to 08 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-02	12-00	12-23	13-23	13-21
Namibia – V5/DH3WO; holiday style op	Now to 06 Jan	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-02	12-00	12-23	13-23	13-21
Bahamas – C6A/9H5G; SSB + digital	01 to 31 January	113	00-24	13-00	14-22	16-19	16-19	NO	NO	NO
SMO Malta – 1A0KM, 18 op team	02 to 07 January	50	22-08	19-09	19-08	12-00	12-20	13-19	13-19	14-17
Namibia – V5/DL9NDS & V5/DJ2BQ	02 to 18 January	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-02	12-00	12-23	13-23	13-21
Senegal – 6W7SK; by F6BLP	03 to 21 January	87	22-09	20-09	19-09	12-00	13-23	13-22	14-21	15-20
Tanzania – 5H1VC; by I2GPT, holiday style	04 to 12 January	83	23-04	21-05	21-05	17-00	12-00	13-23	13-20	13-19
Cambodia – Xu7AEU; by M6CFW ++	09 to 14 January	349	11-12	10-13	10-13	13-01	14-20	14-19	15-17	15-17
Guantanamo Bay – KG4AS, KG4SS	17 to 27 January	135	00-24	00-24	13-00	14-22	16-21	15-21	16-20	NO
South Cook Is – E51CDW; by BA4DW	21 to 27 January	246	04-13	03-14	03-15	13-01	16-01	17-00	17-23	19-22
Amsterdam Is – FT5ZM; 16 op team	24 Jan to 12 Feb	128	23-00	22-02	22-02	19-03	17-21	12-19	13-17	13-17
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	<u>308</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>13-14</u>	<u>12-14</u>	<u>13-20</u>	<u>14-00</u>	<u>14-18</u>	<u>15-18</u>	<u>15-18</u>
Burkina Faso – XT2AW; by DF2WO	26 Jan to 28 Feb	83	22-08	21-08	20-09	12-01	12-23	13-23	13-22	14-21

Updated 25 December 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 January issue, only solar activity through 26 December can be reported. Propagation forecasts are based on the Space Weather Outlook Table through 18 January and the USAF 45-Day AP Forecast for the remainder of the month.

-- DECEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 123 to 175, with a mean value of 149.5 (vs. 108.5 for December 2012 and 141.3 for December 2011), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 9 days. The sunspot number through 26 December ranged from 83 to 169, with a mean of 119.9. Ten M-class and 201 C-class flares occurred through 24 December.

Quiet conditions generally prevailed other than some disturbed conditions 8 and 14 December.

-- JANUARY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels with a chance for an X-class event through 02 January when Region 1934 rotates around the west limb of the disk. Activity may reach moderate to high levels beginning 07 January when Old Region 1928 returns. These elevated levels of solar activity may last throughout the month.

No proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be normal to moderate levels during the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, in the absence of any transient features with the following exceptions:

03-04, 10 21-22 and 30-31 January, when conditions may reach active levels in response to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams.

The Solar Flux should range from 125 to 175 and average 149.2 during January.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 23 December 2013, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 23 December 2013, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 2December 2013)

-- DECEMBER'S DX HIGHLIGHTS --

The all Indian operation of VU7AG from Agatti Island in the Lakshadweep Islands ran from 20 November to 10 December, handing out some 55,300 Q's to 17,600 DXers. Of the total, 13,600 Q's were with North American stations. It was a FB operation by all accounts.

T32RC was on from Kiritimati (pronounced Kiritimas) Island, aka Christmas Island, east Kiribati (pronounced Kirimas) 04 – 11 December. Some 10,700 Q's were handed out to 5400 DXers. North American DXers ran up 6200 Q's.

Members of the Cambridge Wireless Society put ZD8UW on from Ascension Island 02 – 06 December. Their rather short term operation made some 12,600 Q's with 7080 DXers. North American station accounted for 6070 Q's.

In observation of the death of Nelson Mandela, the South African Radio League operated SE station ZS9MADIBA, starting 12 December and continuing through 14 January 2014. "Madiba" was a popular nickname for Mandela. QSLs are available via the SARL.

This is the DX Season—don't miss out on it!!

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING JANUARY

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL Straight Key Night	0000Z 01 Jan 2400Z 01 Jan	80 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere via use of a Straight Key	General QSO information
PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	0000Z 04 Jan 2400Z 04 Jan	80 – 10 Meters PSK31 Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Call Sign, RST, S/P/C
WW Peace Messenger Cities	1200Z 04 Jan 1200Z 05 Jan	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Stations in Peach Messenger Cities	RS(T), CQ Zone
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z 04 Jan 2400Z 05 Jan	80 – 10 Meters All Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, S/P
YLISSB QSO Party	0000Z 11 Jan 2359Z 12 Jan	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Members of Young Ladies Int'l SB Society	Call Sign, RS
MI QRP Club January QRP Contest	1200Z 11 Jan 2359Z 11 Jan	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere; running 5 watts or less	RST, S/P/C, Power
Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z 11 Jan 2359Z 12 Jan	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Members of SKCC via use of a Straight Key	RST, QTH, Name
North American QSO Party	1800Z 11 Jan 0559Z 12 Jan	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	North American Countries + KH6/KL7	Name, S/P/C
Rumanian Open Contest	0000Z 18 Jan 0400Z 18 Jan	80 and 40 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	3-dig Serial + Serial of prev QSO
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z 18 Jan 1200Z 19 Jan	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
North American QSO Party	1800Z 18 Jan 0559Z 19 Jan	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	North American Countries + KH6/KL7	Name, S/P/C
ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z 18 Jan 0400Z 20 Jan	6 Meters and up SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square
REF French Contest	0600Z 25 Jan 1800Z 26 Jan	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in France and French Possessions	RST, Serial
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z 25 Jan 1200Z 26 Jan	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Serial
UBA (Belgian) Contest	1300Z 25 Jan 1300Z 26 Jan	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RS, Serial
Winter Field Day	1700Z 25 Jan 1700Z 26 Jan	160 – 6 Meters + SSB, CW, Digital	www.spar-hams.org for details	Call, RS(T), local temp, category
Classic Exchange	1400Z 26 Jan 0800Z 27 Jan	160 – 2 Meters CW Only	Stations using xmtr/rcvr combos from tube era	RST, QTH, xmtr rcvr

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.

-- THE WEAK SUNSPOT CYCLE 24 --

On 11 December, four leading solar scientists told journalists attending the American Geophysical Union fall conference in San Francisco that solar Cycle 24 has demonstrated extremely low sunspot activity and is the weakest cycle in over 100 years. This already has resulted in milder "space weather" and less-intense geomagnetic storms and "energetic particle events," such as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), NASA scientist Nat Gopalswamy said.

"The weak activity of Cycle 24 is thought to be due to the weak polar magnetic field in Cycle 23," an AGU news release explained. "If this

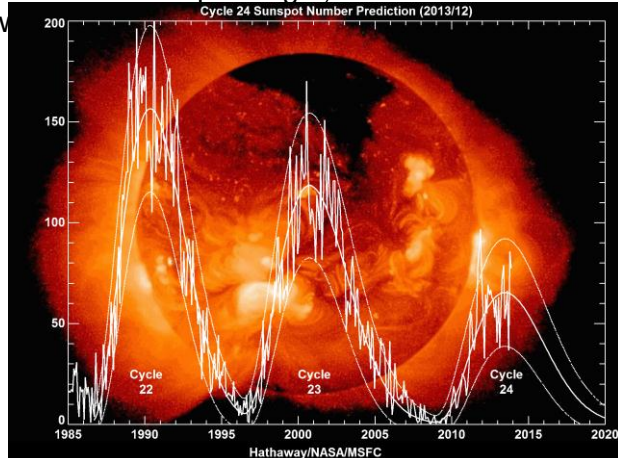
trend continues for the next couple of cycles, the Sun may be heading for a global minimum."

The scientists drew no specific conclusions regarding the impact of the extremely weak Cycle 24 on radio propagation. Stanford University's Leif Svalgaard said this weak cycle had been predicted based on the behavior of the Sun's polar magnetic fields, which translate into fewer sunspots. Svalgaard believes that in a few years it will be possible to use polar field data to determine the robustness of Cycle 25. The Sun's weak polar magnetic field could lead to an increase in cosmic ray activity, which could af-

See **Cycle 24**, pg. 5

Cycle 24, from pg. 4

fect manned spaceflight, the news conference



According to Spaceweather.com, since 2004 there have been 821 days without sunspots, compared to 486 spotless days for the typical solar minimum, but none of these days fell within 2012 or 2013. At press time the sunspot number was , while the 10.7 centimeter solar flux was

(From *ARRL Letter*, 17 December 2013)

-- SHARKS TOOTH ACTIVITY --

Fred-KJ4TNI mentioned the Sharks Tooth Festival and the 10-K Run in his President's message. These events are the only "publicity" that the TARC gets during the year, so it's important that we are seen and identified.

Field tests have shown that 2-meter HTs can cover the race course, so if you have an HT how about volunteering to provide communications support to that race.



The Sharks Tooth Festival just gets bigger and better every year, as the photo verifies.



(Photo from Sharks Tooth Festival web page.)

HF operations from the site requires volunteers to help set up the station(s), operators, loggers, and a take down crew. Start thinking ahead to 11-13 April and how you can lend a hand.

-- TOWER CLIMBER STEALS COPPER --

Around 10 AM on 06 December engineers phoned the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office reporting that an alarm on the cell phone tower in the 1900 block of Tamiami Trail alerted them that someone was climbing that tower. Recent thefts at the tower had prompted engineers to put the tower under surveillance.

While the suspect had fled the scene by the time they arrived, deputies found a backpack containing burglary tools. A photo of the man climbing the tower was provided, which allowed authorities to recognize the Orange Blossom Lane, Nokomis resident. He was charged with theft of copper, burglary, possession of burglary tools, dealing in stolen property and possession of a controlled substance.

The suspect was transported to the Sarasota County Jail, where he remains on \$32,000 bond. According to the report, he had scrapped 34 pounds of high-grade copper wire on 07 December, one day after the burglary.

(From *The Englewood Sun*, "Report: Man scales tower, steals copper," 25 December 2013)

-- CRINKLED KRIS KRINGLE --



If Santa didn't deliver that new radio gear you were wishing for, perhaps this untimely collision was the reason. Did some strong RF signals mess up Santa's navigation? Hopefully, the old gentleman will do better for you next year.

(TNX to Don Watson-K9DDO for the photo!)

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!!	2 QCWA, 11:30 @ Denny's in Sarasota TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.805	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	4
5	6	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	8 TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	9 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	11 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
12	13 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	15	16 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	18
19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	22	23 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	25
26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	29	30 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	31 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 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) _____

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

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1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

The Communicator is a monthly publication
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Circulation: San Yoder-K3SY

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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