

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



-- JULY 2009 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

During the late Winter and early Spring, Andy Durette-KB1HIP developed and conducted a 12-week training course for TARC members interested in upgrading to Amateur Extra Class. A total of eight students attended these two-hour classroom sessions, which finished in mid-April. To date, Matt Klapp-W2EQV, Bob Sullenberger(now) K1RBS, Dil Kay-W8DIL, Don Jansen-KI4VGE, Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, Roger Schmitt (now) KY4RS and Guenther Hennig (now) AJ4QX, have successfully taken and passed their Amateur Extra exams.

Andy certainly deserves a lot of credit for devoting countless hours developing the training materials and conducting the 24-hour classes. The students deserve a lot of credit for faithfully sticking with the course in their desire to maximize the amateur radio benefits they can receive via the ultimate Amateur Radio license class.

My sincere Thanks to Andy, and Congratulations to all!!

Unless you have been doing a Rip Van Winkle reenactment, you know that of Friday, 12 June, all over-the-air analog TV transmissions by commercial stations came to an end. When WAVE-TV up in Louisville, Kentucky came on the air in the late 40's, our Bernie Holtman-W4GO held the position of Assistant Chief Engineer under Wilbur Hudson. Soon afterwards, Bernie was promoted to the position of Chief Engineer at the station, and he held that position until he retired. Being the highest-ranking former engineer with WAVE-TV still up and about, Bernie was invited to be the person to "pull the switch" and take the analog WAVE-TV station off the air on 12 June. I think that was a gracious invitation and a true honor for Bernie.

I'll be attending what is probably the world's biggest hamfest over in Friedrichshafen, Germany again this year. I was there in 2007, accompanied by Martin Zippe-AF4ID/DJ6OM, and I look forward to a repeat of the great time I had two years ago.

73 to all de Stew-W4MO

-- JULY MEETING --

The doors open at **6:30 PM** with an "Eyeball QSO" period until the business meeting kicks off at **7:00 PM** on **09 July 2009** in the Community Room of The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, 601 South Tamiami Trail (Business US 41), across from the Venice Regional Health Center. A program of interest will be offered. We hope to see you there.

-- IT'S UP AND WORKING GREAT!! --



Here's the 20/17/15-meter cubical quad that Jack Gaddis-KY1Z has been working on over the past months—standing tall and proud! Not to plagiarize anyone but, quoting Jack:

Used tower/mast \$ 300 Homebrew Quad \$ 400 Related Expenses \$1000

Busting a pile-up into Malta

on the second call PRICELESS!!

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the Meeting 11 June 2009

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were made all around. Two potential hams, Bob Miller of Venice and David Burton from Rotonda were welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 14 May 2009 meeting as published in the June 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1945.78. Receipts were \$10.00 from the May 50/50, and \$15.00 from membership renewals, totaling \$25.00. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater. The 11 June 2009 ending balance is \$1956.46.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Peter-N4RD reported that Martin Horowitz-N4FA was leaving for New York later in the week for continued treatment.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS stated that there would be at least one candidate at Saturday's scheduled VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew reported that both remote HF radios had been out of service due to computer malfunction. Corrections have been made and all equipment/modes at the repeater site are now functioning properly. Bob Avrutik-N1RA added that the packet gateway mode is working well.

CLUB PROPERTY – No change reported in the Club property inventory.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 89 members, including eight Life Members and 20 First-Year Free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Jack-W4JS commented that the nets are getting about a half-dozen check-ins.

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS stated that the topic of discussion at the May EARS meeting dealt with last minute preparation for Field Day 27-28 June. TARC members are welcome to assist with the EARS operation.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that there were about 16 members, spouses and

friends at the 03 June lunch of Suncoast Chapter 53 at the Panda Pavilion in Venice.

OLD BUSINESS – Generator Maintenance/Operation: Jack Gaddas-KY1Z and Konrad-WA3RRS have volunteered to exercise the standby generator and operate it if needed during an emergency. They will coordinate with Stew regarding site access and orientation on equipment operation. Mike Hickey-NY4P had previously volunteered, but it is recognized that Jack and Konrad live much closer to the site.

Update of activities at Pine View School ARC: Jon Hamlet-W4ZW reported that he has recently purchased a variety of equipment for the PVSARC. This included HTs, antennas and digital kits that will give access to digital modes such as PSK 31, RTTY, etc. These kits are to be assembled by the PVSARC members. Jon is planning to hold license classes for interested PVS students this summer. Jon then displayed the telescoping fiberglass vertical antenna which he had installed and used some during our K4S operation.

<u>Potential for PVSARC Repeater</u>: There has been interest in installation of a 2-meter repeater by the PVSARC. Jon is looking into the potential of access to the radio tower at the Sarasota County public works facility located just south of the school property.

NEW BUSINESS - Nothing.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR - None

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM was made by Peter Pesa-N4RD, seconded by Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA, and passed. There were 15 members and two visitors present.

PROGRAM – Video and photos taken by Roger Schmitt-KY4RS of our K4S activities, and photos taken at the Dayton Hamvention by Konrad Owens-WA3RRS were shown by Konrad.

Jack Sproat-W4JS Secretary



CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY	BEAR-	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Nigeria – 5N0OCH	Now to 24 July	84	00-06	22-08	21-09	17-01	17-01	22-01	NO	NO
Mauritius – 3B8/I3LDP	Now to 11 July	88		23-04	03-05	04-07	04-05	NO	NO	NO
Algeria – 7U2ISM	Now to 06 July	62	00-06	22-08	21-08	11-02	11-02	NO	NO	NO
Guyana – 8R1DB; HF + 6m (50.103 MHz)	Now to 06 July	128	23-10	00-24	0024	10-05	21-02	16-02	NO	NO
San Andres Is. – 5J0M; HF + 6m Es	Now to 05 July	176	21-15	00-24	00-24	13-04	21-03	17-03	NO	NO
Mali – TZ6EI; mostly 6m with some HF	Now to 05 July	82	00-06	22-09	20-09	11-00	21-23	17-23	NO	NO
Fiji – 3D2YA; mostly CW & RTTY	Now to 03 July	258	05-12	04-13	03-13	00-06	23-04	18-04	23-04	NO
Antigua – V29JKV; mostly 6m with some HF	Now to 03 July	113	22-12	00-24	11-04	16-03	NO	NO	NO	NO
Dodecanese – SV5/GM0IIO; SSB & CW	01 – 08 July	49				18-00				
Madagascar – 5R8KD; ** RTTY HF and 6m	04 – 17 July	90	00-04	23-04	04-05	05-06	NO	NO	NO	NO
Glorioso Is – FT5GA	09 – 28 July	82	00-03	23-04	04-05	04-06	09-10	NO	NO	NO
Montserrat – VP2MSJ; mostly 6m w/80, 60m	14 – 21 July	115	22-12	00-24	11-05	16-04	NO	NO	NO	NO
Norfolk Is – VK9NI	22 – 29 July	250	06-12	04-13	03-13	20-06	22-04	21-04	21-04	NO
Bahamas – C6APR, C6AXD, C6AQO	23 – 27 July	113	00-24	12-05	13-04	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Corsica – TK9X	25 July – 01 Aug	51	00-06	21-07	20-07	12-00	12-00	17-22	NO	NO
Aland Is – OH0/CT1BWW	26 July – 07 Aug	31	00-05	22-08	21-07	13-21	13-20	NO	NO	NO
Faroe Is – OY/IW4BLZ	27 – 29 July	32	00-07	21-10	00-24	12-00	12-00	NO	NO	NO
Dodecanese – SX5SYMI	31 July – 03 Aug	49	00-04	22-06	21-06	13-00	13-00	NO	NO	NO
Iceland – TF/IW8BLZ	31 July – 11 Aug	28	00-07	22-10	10-03	13-00	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 29 June 2009, based on 24 June 2009 QRZ DX, 29 June 2009 The Weekly DX, and http://www.ng3k.com/

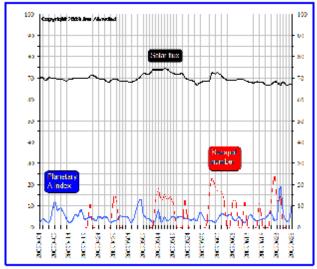
Notes: Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using W6ELProp V.2.60 propagation software, available to download at http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- JUNE SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Solar Flux ranged from 67 to 73, with a mean value of 68.7 (vs. 65.9 for June 2008 and 74.0 for June 2007). The A-index was < 7 on 26 days.

Solar activity was very low. Sunspot Region 1019 disappeared by 06 June; Region 1020 was numbered on 09 June and decayed to plage 13 June. Region 1021 lasted from 16-18 June; Region 1022 was numbered 21June and Region 1023 on 22 June, and both were plage by 24 June. The unofficial sunspot number for June is 6.6

Recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams (HSS) 21, 24-25 and 28-30 June caused unsettled geomagnetic field activity.



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

-- JULY FORECAST --

July solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal flux levels. Solar flux should average 69.7 during July.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels with a chance of unsettled conditions 01 July and 27-28 July due to recurrent HSS.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 23 June 2009, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 23 June 2009, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 26 May 2009)

-- DX NOTES IN THE MARGIN --

All direct QSLs for the January E44M-Palestine operation have been mailed and bureau cards are now being worked on.

Devon, 6W/PD9DX will be on HF SSBuntil 05 July. QSL via home call.

Radio Club Rancagua (formerly Radio Club of Chile) will be operating CE73RG for 73 days starting 22 July to commemorate its 73rd Anniversary. QSL via CE4WJK.

FT5GA should kick off from Glorioso Islands 09 July for 19 days. Propagation will be dicey above 10 MHz from this area. Keep your fingers crossed, and Good Luck, as this one is needed worldwide!!

(From *The Weekly DX*, 29 June 2009)

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Canada Day Contest	0000Z 01 July 2359Z 01 July	160 – 2 Meters SSB and CW	Canadian Stations	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	0000Z 04 July 2359Z 04 July	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
German DX RTTY Contest	1100Z 04 July 1059Z 05 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Serial Number
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z 11 July 0400Z 11 July	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	FISTS members	R/S/T, 1 st Name, QTH, Power
IARU HF World Champion- ship	1200Z 11 July 1200Z 12 July	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) and IARU Zone (8, locally)
North American RTTY QSO Party	1800Z 18 July 0600Z 19 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Stations in North America and Hawaii	Name and QTH
CQ World Wide VHF Contest	1800Z 18 July 2100Z 19 July	6 and 2 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	4-digit Maidenhead Grid Square
RSGB Islands On The Air (IOTA) Contest	1200Z 25 July 1200Z 26 July	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Island Stations	R/S/(T) and Serial Number

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WorldRadio

-- FOOD FOR THOUGHT --

The following commentary is by Tomas Hood-NW7US, Propagation Editor for CQ Amateur Radio magazine, in response to the May announcement by a panel of solar experts, predicting that their earlier predictions about Sunspot Cycle 24 would be wrong. Rather, they were now forecasting that the new cycle would peak in 2013 and would be the weakest in nearly a century. (From the CQ Web Site)

How Credible Are These "Experts"?

How much credibility should we grant to the panel of solar researchers and scientists that again releases a speculative prediction of the new Solar Cycle (the 24th since accurate solar cycle records have been kept)? Panel chairman Doug Biesecker of the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center states, "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78."

NASA's lead representative on the panel, Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center, adds, "It turns out that none of our models were totally correct... The sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

What I find entertaining is the self-importance prevalent in the solar science community, by both professional and some amateur participants. Pesnell states the obvious, "In our professional careers, we've never seen anything quite like it."

Yes, how many solar cycles can one experience during their professional life? The average

cycle lasts between 11 and 12 years. But the Sun is millions of years old. In my view, it is pretty arrogant to postulate that mankind has any real understanding and handle on what the Sun might do next. Pesnell, again: "Go ahead and mark your calendar for May 2013, but use a pencil."

If none of the models are totally correct, how are they making this current prediction with such dismal expectations? I'm not holding my breath in favor of supporting any of the predictions at this point.

No one can postulate with any credibility just how intense the new cycle will be, because there's no direct correlation between this solar minimum and any regular pattern of past minimums. In 2008 and 2009, the sun was quieter than any period during the 'Space Age' (again, a very short time of reference in relation to the millions of years of solar history). During the last two years, we've seen low sunspot counts, weak solar wind, low solar irradiance, and a period without a significant solar flare.

What does all of this mean in the real world of amateur communications? With the slow yet sure increase in solar activity during recent months as seen with the emergence of more frequent small sunspots (many of which are new cycle spots) and 'proto-sunspots,' there is hope that the sun is waking, at least. Other evidence that the sun is experiencing an increase in solar cycle activity is the 'zonal flows' (enormous currents of plasma on the sun's surface) that are

See **FOOD** on page 5

FOOD from page 4

gaining strength and slowly drifting toward the sun's equator. Tiny but significant increases in solar radio emissions are being observed. All these things are precursors of an awakening Solar Cycle 24.

Even this little of an increase in solar activity has brought some welcomed increase in excitement on the amateur radio bands. With continued very low geomagnetic activity, any slight increase in solar activity that strengthens the ionosphere translates to noticeable enhancements to radiowave propagation over many radio paths on the middle to low HF (high-frequency) bands.

The Panel expects another year of very quiet conditions. They expect the cycle to peak in 2013, which means a rapid rise in activity between 2010 and 2013. Whatever the final level of activity, one thing will likely happen: a rapid and chaotic rise in geomagnetic activity, at times at major storm levels, will occur. Enjoy the unique propagation opportunities currently presenting themselves during this quiet phase, because the game will change in the next few years, regardless of whose predictions hold true.

Prepare now for whatever the sun will do by honing your radio skills and increasing the efficiency of your antenna system; and participate in the on-the-air opportunities to be a part of the solar cycle story. As the story unfolds, be an active player and record as best you can your activity, what the sun is doing. I keep a log of all the solar data on a daily basis, and I record my contacts made, antenna and power used, modes, and other observations. This information might reveal new and interesting facts as we journey forward in this new solar cycle.

-- #4 MOST WANTED DXCC ENTITY --



The Glorioso Islands that will be activated 09 – 28 July by a team of French military hams. If you're into DXing, this is the BIG ONE!

-- MISSING SUNSPOTS MYSTERY --

Solar physicists may now understand why sunspots have been scarce for more than two years.

On 17 June 2009, two researchers from the National Solar Observatory announced that a jet stream deep inside the sun is migrating slower than usual through the Sun's interior, giving rise to the current lack of sunspots. A technique called helioseismology can detect and track this jet stream some 7000 km below the Sun's surface. New jet streams are generated near the Sun's poles every 11 years. These streams migrate slowly toward the Sun's equator and, when a jet stream reaches the critical latitude of 22 degrees, new-cycle sunspots begin to appear. The jet stream associated with Sunspot Cycle 24 has moved slower than normal, taking three years to cover a 10-degreee range in latitude compared to only two years for the Cycle 23 jet stream.

The jet stream is now, finally, reaching the critical 22-degree latitude, and solar activity should follow close behind.

(From "Mystery of the Missing Sunspots, Solved?" http://science.nasa.gov 17 June 2009)

-- THE EVER-SUFFERING "JEEVES" --



"Gil" Gildersleeve, March 1954 QST

To believe is very dull. To doubt is intensely engrossing. To be on the alert is to live; to be lulled into security is to die. Oscar Wilde

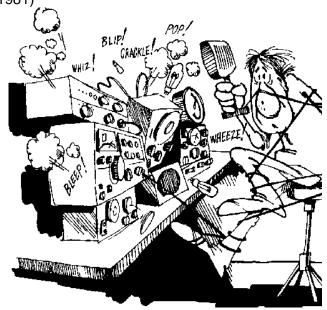
-- THE ETERNAL ENIGMAS --

We weren't ready for visitors a couple weeks back when who but the leader of the Caspersen Sundancers should show up, tippety-toeing up "I've come to bring you the driveway marl. Spring," he tells us. "I've come to bring you the eternal story of the new season, when nature bursts forth with the buds of spring and the new leaf of hope. In short, I've come to dance my Spring Dance for you." We adjourned to the radio room, and were overwhelmed. There he was, doing a couple of pirouettes, some fast fouette turns and a couple of easy arabesques. With stacks of unfiled papers on one desk, and stacks of outgoing cards on the QSL management desk, we were holding our breath anticipating the finale of the rites of spring. We never made it.

"I've saved the best for last," he tells us. "Now I shall do my grand jete, and no other Sundancer can equal my magnificence in this movement." And there he was, ready to soar. We tried to yell that the ceiling was too low for any grand jete. But we were too slow, and he tried. The CS leader took off like a bird, hit the ceiling and crashed into the QSL management desk. It was havoc as QSL cards flew every which way.

Later, when he had recovered and was gingerly exploring the bump on his head, he asked how he had done. "Magnificent," we replied. "Certainly you must have heard our 'bravos' even though you were unconscious."

(Adapted from *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited and published by Charles Allen-W5DV and James Allen-W6OGC, 1981)





Plan ahead for the 05 – 19 October operation from Midway Island, which ranks #24 worldwide as "Most Needed." Visit the web site for more details at http://www.midway2009.com

-- GRAY LINE EXPLAINED?? --

One of the local QRPers came by last week, his noble brow furrowed. "You know something," this QRPer said, "I've been trying to understand this 'twilight path' in DXing and I don't quite get it. What do you know about it?" We had to admit that we were not quite ready to accept the accolades of an "expert" but we knew where to find one. Off we went to the QTH of our renowned communications expert to post the query. The expert thought things over a bit and then spoke.

"To understand this matter," the expert stated positively, "one must understand the equation of time. This equation results from both the ellipticity of the Earth's orbit, and the consequent non-uniform motion of the Sun along the elliptic, as well as the obliquity of the ecliptic, the angle at which the ecliptic intersects the celestial equator. These factors cause the Sun to rise, set and cross the meridian as much as a quarter hour before or after the times it would have were its daily motion uniform."

The QRPer was silent after hearing all of this and there was that glassy look in his eyes. We finally had to nudge him a bit. "How about that?" we asked, "Does that answer your question?" The QRPer managed to stir a bit and his eyes refocused. "You know something," he said after a bit, "that answer sounds real good. Real good, and I understood every word of it. But, I forgot what the question was!"

Son of a gun! Those things do happen, even to the smartest DXer...

(Adapted from *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited and published by Charles Allen-W5DV and James Allen-W6OGC, 1981)

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 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	4
5	6	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 TARC Meet- ing, Gab Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library
12	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	DARN State- wide Practice Drill, W4AC Rptr, 9 AM – 12 Noon TARC DX Net 8 PM, 146.805	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, + 7:45 AM	18
19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	25
26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	31 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	

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	Applic	eation Date
Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Contr	rol, RFI/TVI, VE Testing,	Training, Packet, RTTY,
Computers, DXing, Contests, Field Da	y, Publicity, Emergency Con	nmunications, Special Events,
VHF/UHF, SSTV, ATV, Repeater, I	EchoLink, Other (specify)	
Single Member @ \$15.00/year, Family Membership @ \$: grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following the state of the state	•	inder of calendar year. \$15.00 after 31 October

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

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2009 TARC Officers

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V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF
Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS
Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE
Konrad Owens-WA3RRS

Jon Hamlet – W4ZW Jack Gaddas-KY1Z Bob Avrutik-N1RA