



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>



-- JULY 2012 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Has it been a month already? I can't speak for the rest of you, but May flew by and June has really blasted by. Too many projects and not enough time for me. I keep trying to reach final closure on some projects but I find that "Final Closure" is an impossibility. You think you've finished then another improvement enters the picture to boost the net result of the project and off you go again.

My latest venture began in May with my commencing development of an HF shack by purchasing a Yaesu 450-D and some associated equipment. Next step was to provide an antenna system. No deed restrictions to hamper this project, but space and trees were the limiting factors.

Breakfast discussions at Peach's with Bob Avrutik-N1RA pointed me to a Hy-Gain vertical and the game was on. Then came the mounting design and again Bob suggested I use a two pipe arrangement. This showed me what a great group we have. It seems that Hal Cole-W4GUY was in need of just such a mounting system so a group of our members showed up at his house and accomplished two things. We created a great tilt over antenna mast and it taught yours truly how to erect a Florida mast for a vertical antenna.

Our newest TARC member, Bob Faulcon-N1LVO, and some other members came over the first weekend in June and it took four of us just 15 minutes to plant a 20 foot pipe 10 feet into Florida soil.

This club can do anything requested or required as a team effort. Be proud of your club and its history. By the way what are you doing Field Day????

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

Hard works pays off in the future; laziness pays off now. – Chinese Fortune Cookie

If the world seems cold, kindle a fire to warm it. – Chinese Fortune Cookie

-- JULY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **11 July 2012** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program will be the official video of the FO0AAA DXpedition to Clipperton Island, one of the world's most remote and mysterious islands. From its legendary DXpeditions over the past sixty years, to its chilling history of shipwreck, murder and piracy, join the FO0AAA team as they activate one of Amateur Radio's most magical destinations.

-- SETTING UP SHOP --

Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB sets up his reliable computer, while Victor Ouellette-K1CGI readies the projector for Hans' presentation at our June meeting.



-- OHIO INITIATES "PBR-1" LAW --

Ohio has joined the roster of states that have incorporated into state law federal restrictions on zoning laws that involve amateur radio antennas and towers. Significantly, Ohio's new law requires any agency that denies an amateur's antenna application to state the reasons for the denial and--on any appeal--the agency has the burden of proof, not the amateur.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 25 June 2012)

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
13 June 2012**

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Bob Faulcon-N1LVO from North Port was welcomed as a new member, and Dave Gill, who passed his Technician exam 09 June was welcomed as a visitor.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 09 May meeting as published in the June issue of *The Communicator*. Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS so moved, seconded by Ron Pedersen-KJ4EVJ, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2,989.01. Receipts were \$10.00 from the April meeting 50/50 and a \$9.00 donation, totaling \$19.00. Expenses were \$15.18 for Internet service. The ending balance is \$2,992.83. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bruce Brown-WA8IQF, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Jack Sproat-W4JS reported receiving an e-mail from Roger Schmitt-KY4RS in which Roger thanked everyone for the get well card sent by the Sunshine Committee, i.e., Joy Klapp-N2WUD.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that VE session was held last Saturday, 09 June, with one candidate passing Element 2, the Technician exam.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational in both analog and digital modes. Station trustee Stew Haag-W4MO reported that there is a new tenant in the commercial building at the repeater site. The current owner is hopeful that this tenant will buy the building at the end of his two-year lease. If this comes to pass, our status at the site will be dependent upon our working relationship with that owner.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 57 dues paying members and eight Life Members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred-KJ4TNI reported that some six to seven stations have been participating in the Tuesday night 440 Net. The Thursday night 2-meter net typically has 3 to 6 stations checking in.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 14 members, spouses and friends present at the 06

June luncheon at the Panda Pavilion Chinese Buffet here on South Tamiami Trail. All are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of the month around 11:15 AM. at the Panda where we gather through September.

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing carried over.

NEW BUSINESS – Nothing.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Stew-W4MO provided some update info on the new FlexRadio 6000 series.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by San Yoder-K3SY, and passed. There were 19 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB offered an informative PP presentation on the development of the familiar UPC bar codes into the latest QR (Quick Response) codes which offer more capacity for information. Hans' second presentation dealt with the career of Nikola Tesla, a genius who died penniless.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- DEBBY DOES DOCK --



Tropical Storm Debby made a mess of Lisa and Hans-WB2ZZB Napfel's dock on Sarasota Bay. At least the jib crane kept the dinghy high and dry. No report on Hans' antennas so we assume they're OK.

-- NEW ELEMENT 4 EXAMS IN EFFECT --

Effective 01 July the new Amateur Extra Class question pool comes into use. Each exam is made up of 50 questions selected from the pool of just over 700 possible questions. The new question pool will be used through 30 June 2016. Next up is the Technician Class (Element 2) pool in 2014, followed by the General Class (Element 3) pool in 2015.

(From CQ Newsroom, 25 June 2012)

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
Angola – D3AA; quad & vertical	Now Active	95	00-06	22-07	22-07	16-01	15-23	14-22	13-22	NO
Chad – T8PK	Now to 06 Aug	73	00-05	22-06	22-06	18-03	16-22	12-01	NO	NO
Benin – TY2BP	Now to 31 July	85	--	--	--	09-04	--	16-03	--	NO
Afghanistan – T6JP; ++ & Digital, 20 m	Now to 31 July	26	NO	NO	NO	22-04	01-04	01-04	NO	NO
American Samoa – KH8PPG	Now to 03 July	256	--	03-13	03-13	18-13	18-06	19-05	18-06	01-04
SMOM – 1A0C; International Team	01 to 04 July	50	00-05	22-07	22-07	10-05	00-24	NO	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/ON8VP	01 to 06 July	51	00-05	22-07	22-07	00-24	08-06	10-11	NO	NO
South Cook Is – E51AND; straight key CW	02 July – 25 Aug	246	--	--	--	17-12	--	--	--	--
Indonesia – YE0M; Indonesian Team Op.	06 to 09 July	327	NO	1100	1100	09-14	11-15	09-16	11-18	NO
Corsica – TK12IOTA; **	07 to 21 July	51	00-05	22-08	22-07	10-05	10-01	09-01	NO	NO
South Cook Is – E51YNB, E51TAI	07 to 21 July	246	04-12	02-13	02-13	17-13	17-07	17-05	21-03	18-06
St. Pierre & Miquelon – FP/KV1J	09 to 17 July	39	23-10	00-24	00-24	10-04	11-14	NO	NO	NO
Guernsey – MU/OT9Z; Belgian Team	16 to 20 July	46	00-06	22-09	21-09	09-06	16-00	09-01	NO	NO
Balearic Is – EA6/IW2NEF; HF + 6m	16 to 27 July	55	00-06	21-08	22-08	15-01	10-01	16-00	NO	NO
Jersey – MJ/OT9Z; Belgian Team	20 to 27 July	46	00-06	22-09	21-10	10-02	14-00	14-00	NO	NO
St Paul Is – CY9M; International Team	26 July – 02 Aug	35	23-11	00-24	10-05	13-04	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 29 June based on 27 June *QRZ DX*, 25 June *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

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

-- JUNE SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 84 to 149, with a mean value of 120.6 (vs. 95.8 for June 2011 and 72.6 for June 2010), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on 17 days. Through 29 June the sunspot number ranged from 13 to 155, with a mean of 90.1. Sunspot Regions 1492 to 1516 were active, with nine M-class and 150 C-class flares. S-1 solar storms and G-2 geomagnetic storms occurred 17 June with radio blackouts occurring.

-- JULY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels until 03 July. Beginning 04 July, a chance exists for M-class flares due to the return of old Region 1504.

No proton events at geosynchronous orbit are expected, although a slight chance may exist when Region 1504 returns.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux is expected to reach high levels 03-08 July due to recurrent coronal hole high speed stream (CHSS) effects. Normal to moderate levels are expected during the rest of the month.

The geomagnetic field should be unsettled to active 01-03 July due to recurrent CHSS effects. Mostly quiet with isolated unsettled levels are expected until 26-30 July when active levels will return.

The Solar Flux should average 108.5 during July.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 25 June 2012, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 25 June 2012, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 25 June 2012)

-- 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT --

The 2012, 13 Colonies stations will operate from 12:01 AM Eastern (0401Z) on 01 July to 11:59 PM Eastern 05 July (0359Z 06 July). There will be at least two SE stations on from each of the original 13 British colonies which declared independence 04 July 1776.

The theme for 2012 is "Colonial Era US Navy Tall Ships". *Old Ironsides* adorns the 2012 certificate. You can work one state or all 13 and be eligible for the certificate. A "Clean Sweep" indicator will be affixed for working all 13 states. The 1x1 call signs and states are:

- K2A – New York
- K2B – Virginia
- K2C – Rhode Island
- K2D – Connecticut
- K2E – Delaware
- K2F – Maryland
- K2G – Georgia
- K2H – Massachusetts
- K2I – New Jersey
- K2J – North Carolina
- K2K – New Hampshire
- K2L – South Carolina
- K2M – Pennsylvania

Complete details, application info, image of the certificate, etc. are at <http://www.13colonies.info/>

In keeping Americans ill-educated, ill-informed and constitutionally ignorant, the education establishment has been the politician's major and most faithful partner. – Dr. Walter Williams

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MAJOR CONTESTS DURING JULY

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Canada Day Contest	0000Z 01 July 2359Z 01 July	160 Meters – UHF SSB and CW	Canadian Stations	RS(T), Serial
Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	0000Z 07 July 2400Z 08 July	160 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
DL (German) DX RTTY Contest	1100Z 07 July 1059Z 08 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z 14 July 1200Z 15 July	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), IARU Zone (8, locally)
DMC (Bulgarian) RTTY Contest	1200Z 14 July 1200Z 15 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST. Serial
CQ WW VHF Contest	1800Z 21 July 2100Z 22 July	6 and 2 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	4-digit Grid Square
North American QSO Party RTTY	1800Z 21 July 0600Z 22 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	States, VE Provinces, NA Countries	Name, S/P/C
IOTA Contest	1200Z 28 July 1200Z 29 July	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	IOTA-Island Stations	RS(T), Serial

Legend: Serial = 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.

--INDONESIAN "SPIDER-MAN" --



Wisnu Widjaja-YB0AZ is Vice Secretary General of ORARI, Indonesia's IARU organization, and serves as the ORARI representative to the IARU and any foreign affairs involving ORARI. He is also a faithful friend of your editor. He had a problem with his Optibeam OB-12-6 due to a coil that "disappeared", causing high SWR to occur on certain bands.

This 12-element, 6-band beam weighs 143 lb. and, when first installed, final assembly took place up on the 20-meter (65') tower. So, what to do? Some Indonesian ingenuity involved building a bamboo "hanging bridge." That "bridge" was then raised up the tower, braced against the tower, and held in place vertically with a tension rope. Then "Spider-Man" walked out that bridge to where the coil is to be attached and put it in place.

You will note that "Spider-Man" does have a rope tied around his waist and secured to the tower, rather than depending on magical webs. If his feet should slip, he won't fall 20 meters but he might get a headache crashing into the tower.

-- CLOSER TO HOME --



TARC members Dil Kay-W8DIL (l) and John Donnelly-KY4JD (c) giving big smiles for the camera of Roger Schmitt-KY4RS at the Milford, Ohio hamfest.

-- CQ MAGAZINE DVDS --

Need assistance getting started? Check out:

CQ Ham Radio Welcome Pak –
Ham Radio Horizons
Getting Started in Ham Radio
Getting Started in VHF

CQ HF Specialty Pak –
Getting Started in DXing
Getting Started in Contesting

Contact Jack-W4JS if you're interested.

-- ANOTHER WORK OF ART BY K1NOK --

TARC member Bob Marchese-K1NOK is at #1 DXCC Honor Roll (he has all 340 worked/confirmed) so he spends time on his next favorite segment of ham radio--restoration of vintage equipment. What follows is a series of photos and comments by Bob as he works his way through restoration of a National HRO-500 receiver.

The National Radio Company, headquartered in Malden, Massachusetts, USA was an American manufacturer of radio equipment from 1914 to 1991. National was right up there with Hallicrafters and Drake and a bit under Collins. The HRO-500 was the first solid state receiver made by National between 1964-1972. It was a triple conversion (three stages of IF) AM/CW/SSB receiver that covered 0.005 - 30 MHz. CW/SSB sensitivity was <math><1\text{ uV}</math> (10 dB S/N), which is no match for the 0.12 uV sensitivity of today's better receivers. This 32 lb receiver could operate from either AC or battery supply. The 1965 price was \$1295, which is equivalent to \$9448 today!!!



The receiver was pretty drab when Bob took possession. Note missing knob trim plates.



The cabinet and front panel are well worn.



The cabinet is removed and the radio stripped of knobs and other removable items.



A thorough cleaning with strong gunk cutting detergent is the next step.



Old capacitors replaced, the cabinet repainted, and power applied. Note the gleaming chassis and components!

See **HRO-500**, page 6

"Government is the only enterprise in the world which expands in size when its failures increase." – US District Judge Janice Brown

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HRO-500, from page 5



The finished project!! The HRO-500 looks as great as she did 40-plus years ago. If Bob can do similar restorations on those who operate such equipment, he would sure make a fortune!!

-- WORKED U.S. TERRITORIES AWARD --



As can be seen, the WUST Award is a very colorful certificate offered by the METRO DX Club of Morris, Illinois.

Contact a minimum of fourteen (14) of the current sixteen (16) IARU-recognized U.S. territories (as of 01 January 2011). The sixteen WUST territories are: KG4 (Guantanamo Bay), KH0 (Mariana Islands), KH1 (Baker & Howland Islands), KH2 (Guam), KH3 (Johnston Island), KH4 (Midway Island), KH5 (Palmyra & Jarvis Islands), KH5K (Kingman Reef), KH7K (Kure Island), KH8 (American Samoa), KH8S (Swains Island), KH9 (Wake Island), KP1 (Navassa Island), KP2 (US Virgin Islands), KP4 (Puerto Rico) and KP5 (Desecheo Island). Mixed bands and modes OK. No date restriction. GCR list certified by two licensed amateurs showing the callsign of the station worked, date, time, frequency/band and mode. All details are on http://www.metrodxclub.com/wust_award.htm

-- CLIPPERTON ISLAND --



Clipperton Island is an uninhabited 3.5-square-mile coral atoll in the eastern Pacific Ocean, southwest of Mexico and west of Central America, at 10°18'N 109°13'W. It is an overseas possession of France under direct authority of the Minister of Overseas France. The island is low-lying and largely barren, save for scattered grasses and a few clumps of coconut palms. A small volcanic outcrop rising to 95 ft on its southeast side is referred to as "Clipperton Rock". The atoll has been occupied at various times by guano miners, would-be settlers or military personnel, mostly from Mexico, which formerly claimed it until international arbitration awarded it to France in 1931. However, Clipperton has had no permanent inhabitants since 1945. It is still visited on occasion by fishermen, French Navy patrols, scientific researchers, film crews, and shipwreck survivors. It has also proven a popular site for transmissions by ham radio operators. (From [Wikipedia](#))

In early 2013 a DXpedition will head for Clipperton Island in what is being referred to as "a test/development project" for the 2014 Heard Island DXpedition. The team of 24 operators will sail from San Diego on 19 February, and will be QRV Clipperton for 10 days starting around 01 March. They will be active on all bands and all modes, and they will use DXA, the satellite-linked system that displays near-real-time log data on any web browser.

As the tropical environment of Clipperton is the opposite of the arctic environment of Heard, it will be interesting to learn what aspects of these DXpeditions will be similar.

The last Heard Island operation was in 1997 and Clipperton was last on the air in 2008. If you have any interest in DXCC, these will be your best chance to pick up one very rare entity and one semi-rare entity.

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July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	4 QCWA Lunch, @ Panda Pavilion 11:15 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	5 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	7
8	9 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE repeater 145.430	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	11 TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	12 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	14 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
15	16	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	18 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	19 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	21
22	23	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	25 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	28
29	30	31 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr				

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeaters 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) _____

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
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