



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



-- JULY 2013 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Summer is here and the DXer's are having at it on both HF and six meters. That is if they aren't residing in a Deed Restricted Development. It is almost unbelievable some of the rulings these small groups have in place. Our bi-weekly breakfast meetings almost regularly have extended bouts of discourse centered on this subject. Seems life is just filled with challenges.

Field Day has come and gone and while TARC had no direct Club involvement, yours truly did visit a few local groups as they strove to do their best in this annual event. The Englewood ARS seemed to have the most active participation of the local groups that I visited and they all seemed to have enjoyed the day. Maybe next year for us. Right guys?

Jack-W4JS was scheduled to give a presentation on HF propagation at the June meeting. The turnout was very small due to the weather such that he gave only an oral overview of the subject which those of us that braved the rain did enjoy. He will give the complete program at our July meeting—weather permitting. Hi Hi!!

I hope all will enjoy a peaceful summer both here and up north. It's a good time to run a maintenance check on our antennas and to enjoy our hobby.

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

-- JULY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **10 July 2013** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Following the business meeting, Jack Sproat-W4JS will offer a program about HF propagation, what Solar Flux, k and A numbers mean, Sporadic E, etc. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and the faithful will turn out.

Courtesy opens many doors.

Security is not in having things; it's in handling things.

Don't just think; act!

(Yep, more Chinese Fortune Cookies logic.)

-- STORM CHASER-WJØG --

(The death of these three men was rather well covered in the media, but none of the MSM articles mentioned that Tim Samaras was a ham.)

Professional storm chasers Tim Samaras-WJØG, his son Paul Samaras and fellow investigator Carl Young died May 31 near El Reno, Oklahoma, when an EF3 tornado suddenly



changed paths and slammed into their vehicle, and they were unable to escape. In his biography on The Weather Channel website, Tim Samaras said that he always carried along Amateur Radio equipment when he chased storms. "I chase the most powerful storms on the planet," Tim Samaras said in a video on his personal

website. "At times I have mixed feelings about chasing these storms. On one hand they are incredibly beautiful; on the other hand, these powerful storms can create devastating damage that change people's lives forever." The TWISTEX tornado research team that Tim Samaras founded has been featured on The Discovery Channel's "Storm Chasers."

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 20 June 2013)

-- CONTEST UNIVERSITY VIDEOS --

(You don't have to be into contesting to take advantage of these training videos.)

Several videos of the 2013 Contest University sessions from this year's Dayton Hamvention are now available on the Word-Wide-Web. ICOM, a Contest University sponsor, posted the videos to YouTube. To find them simply go to www.youtube.com/user/IcomAmericaInc. Then simply scroll down to the bottom of the page to Contest University at Dayton Hamvention and choose the video or videos that you wish to play.

(From *Amateur Radio Newslite™ Report 1871*, 21 June 2013)

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
12 June 2013

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. No introductions were made following a flag salute as all nine of us in attendance knew each other.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 08 May meeting as published in the June issue of *The Communicator*. San Yoder-K3SY so moved, seconded by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – A certificate received from Skywarn Station WX4TN for its QSO with K4S on 13 April was passed around.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen reported that the starting balance was \$3988.84. Receipts were \$16.00 from the May meeting 50/50 and a \$16 donation from Phil Jung-K9PJ, totaling \$32.00. Expenses were \$11.10 to Birch Communications for Internet service. The ending balance is \$4009.74. Fred-KJ4TNI moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Joy Klapp-N2WUD has advised that she had mailed a "Thinking of You" card to Lucie Zippe, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

VE TESTING – There were no candidates for our 08 June VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both repeaters are operational as long as the digital motorboating isn't present on the 440 repeater.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY advised that there has been no change in membership since our May meeting.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred commented that we have about 3 or 4 stations checking in to the two nets.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 17 members, spouses and friends at the informal lunch at the Panda Pavilion on 05 June.

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing.

NEW BUSINESS – The subject of bringing down the 40' tower and beam at the QTH of Martin Horowitz-N4FL was on the agenda but, with the limited attendance, nothing was decided. Fred will contact Martin.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Nothing.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM was made Guenther-AJ4QX, seconded by Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, and passed.

Due to the rather severe thunderstorms, there were only nine members present.

PROGRAM – Because of the limited attendance, Jack Sproat-W4JS offered only a verbal summary of his program on HF Propagation, with the program rescheduled to the 10 July meeting.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- DAYTON HOLDS STEADY --

The Dayton Hamvention website has announced that 24,542 people attended this year, up 59 from last year's attendance. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has sponsored Hamvention since 1952. Originally called the Southwestern Ohio Hamvention, the inaugural event, held in March in downtown Dayton, attracted 600 attendees--twice the number anticipated. Hamvention attendance peaked at 33,669 in 1993, before the 1996 change in date from April to May (*and before the depression kicked in*). While attendance has fluctuated over the years, Dayton Hamvention has grown to international proportions, attracting members of the worldwide Amateur Radio community each spring. On its website DARA already is counting down the days, hours and minutes until the next Dayton Hamvention, which takes place May 16, 17 and 18, 2014.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 20 June 2013)

-- THE HEATHKIT SAGA --

Those of us who became active in ham radio via the "Heathkit Route" are eagerly anticipating a return of this iconic brand to the amateur radio scenario. Hopefully CQ will reveal a bit more than we now know about the new owners.

The still-anonymous new owners of Heathkit have posted a FAQ page on the heathkit.com website <<http://www.heathkit.com/heathkit-faq.html>>.

They say they definitely plan to bring totally new kits to market, and "likely" revivals of older kits as well. About themselves, they will only say that they are all kit-builders and ham radio operators, and feel that revealing their identities at this time will distract them from the task of getting the company off the ground.

The August issue of CQ will carry an article by Editor Rich Moseson-W2VU, on what is and isn't known (as of press time) about the company and its new owners.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 28 June 2013)

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
Mozambique – C91GBA; by EA4GBA ++	Now to 31 Dec	101	00-05	23-06	22-06	22-09	10-17	13-17	15-17	15-17
Laos – XW0YJY; by E21E1C	Now to 14 Sept	353	NO	NO	NO	17-18	14-20	11-13	NO	NO
Cote d'Ivoire – TU5DF;; by F5SWB **	Now to 31 July	90	--	22-08	21-09	00-24	12-04	13-04	20-03	13-04
Guantanamo Bay – KG4RX, TO, AS; **	Now to 09 July	135	19-15	00-24	00-24	00-24	20-04	NO	NO	NO
Chagos – VQ93JC; by ND9M, FD style	Now to 07 July	54	0100	00-02	23-03	20-05	17-04	14-23	12-23	NO
Christmas Is – VK9DAC; by VK3DAC ++	Now to 07 July	334	NO	NO	11-12	10-14	10-15	10-17	NO	NO
St Eustatius – PJ5/K3TRM; HF, focus on 6m	Now to 06 July	114	23-11	00-24	00-24	00-24	12-05	20-04	14-03	16-04
Luxembourg – LX/OO6P; ON ops, all modes	Now to 05 July	43	00-05	23-07	22-08	00-24	13-01	07-02	20-22	NO
Market Reef – OJ0V; ON ops, CW and SSB	01 to 06 July	31	01-02	00-06	23-07	20-11	11-00	09-02	NO	NO
Senegal – 6V7S; by RK4FF	01 to 16 July	87	00-07	22-09	20-10	00-24	15-00	14-01	14-01	NO
Ghana – 9G5AA; all modes holiday style	02 to 07 July	88	00-06	22-08	21-09	00-24	13-03	21-04	21-04	NO
St Pierre & Miquelon – FP/KV1J; all modes	06 to 16 July	39	00-10	20-14	00-24	00-24	12-14	NO	NO	NO
San Felix – CE0Z/WU2D; ++ spare time op	08 to 15 July	177	--	--	--	00-24	13-05	16-04	--	--
Marquesas – FO/UT6UD; CW, SSB, RTTY	07 to 13 July	245	--	--	00-14	00-24	15-07	16-06	17-05	17-05
Austral Is – FO/UT6UD; CW, SSB, RTTY	14 to 22 July	239	--	--	01-13	21-17	16-07	17-04	17-05	17-05
Madagascar – 5R8NE; by IZ2DPX ++	16 to 30 July	90	--	23-05	--	20-07	17-22	12-17	14-16	14-16
Mozambique – C91GR; by ZS6AYU **	19 to 23 July	101	--	23-06	22-06	21-08	11-17	12-17	14-17	14-17
Faroe Is – OY/DL3UB; ** holiday style	29 July – 09 Aug	32	00-06	23-09	21-11	10-02	12-00	11-01	NO	NO

Updated 28 June based on the 24 June *The Weekly DX*, the 26 June *QRZ DX*, and the NG3K Contest/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 V.2.60* propagation software, available to download at <http://www.qsl.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 90 to 133, with a mean value of 110.3 (vs. 120.6 for June 2012 and 95.8 for June 2011), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 19 days. The sunspot number through 29 June ranged from 14 to 137, with a mean of 79.8. Sunspot Regions 1761 to 1782 were active, with five M-class and 58 C-class flares.

It was another "rough month" with the A_p index hitting 54 on 01 June, 34 on 07 June during five active days, 17 on 21 June during six active days and 56 on 29 June during four active days. G2 and G3 level geomagnetic storms caused radio blackouts.

-- JULY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low with a chance for M-class flares 01 through 14 July with the return of old Region 1768.

No greater than 10 MeV proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 01 through 07 July and 19 through 20 July in response to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be quiet 01 to 04 July with quiet to unsettled conditions 05 to 06 July due to recurrent CHSS. Quiet conditions are expected 07 to 16 July, quiet to unsettled conditions on 17 July and unsettled to active levels 18 to 27 July due to recurrent CHSS.

The Solar Flux should range from 105 to 130 and average 117.3 during July.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 24 June 2013, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 24 June 2013, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 24 June 2013)

-- WAKE ISLAND OPERATION --



The team reports that plans for its upcoming K9W operation this fall are "progressing nicely." Most of the needed equipment is in hand and being checked out before shipment to staging areas in California and Hawaii. The operation will commemorate 98 US civilians who died on Wake in October 1943 during WW II.

A team of 12 operators is being assembled with plans to operate five stations over a 14-day period on all modes, 160 through 6 meters. The team anticipates that the operation will start the last week of September or first week of October, depending on the military flight schedule into and out of Wake. — *K9W Wake Atoll Management Team via ARRL News*, 30 June 2013.

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 – 2 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere (VE stations are multipliers)	RS(T), Serial
Ten-Ten Spirit of 76 QSO Party	0000Z 01 July 2400Z 07 July	10 Meters Only SSB, CW & Digital	Members of 10-10 International	Call, Name, 10-10 #, S/P/C
Venezuelan Independence Day Contest	0000Z 06 July 2400Z 07 July	160 – 10 Meters SSB, CW & Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
German DX RTTY Contest	1100Z 06 July 1059Z 07 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
DARC 10-Meter Digital Corona	1100Z 07 July 1700Z 07 July	10 Meters Only All Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z 13 July 0400Z 13 July	80 – 10 Meters CW	FISTS Members 100 Watts Max. Power	RST, S/P/C, 1 st Name, Power
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z 13 July 1200Z 14 July	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), IARU Zone (8, locally)
Bulgarian DMC RTTY Contest	1200Z 20 July 1200Z 21 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
CQ WW VHF Contest	1800Z 20 July 2100Z 21 July	6 and 2 Meters SSB, CW & Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	4-Character Grid Square
North American QSO Party RTTY	1800Z 20 July 0600Z 21 July	80 – 10 Meters RTTY	States, Provinces, North American Entities	Name, S/P/C
RSGB IOTA Centenary Contest	1200Z 27 July 1200Z 28 July	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Stations on IOTA Designated Islands	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.

-- FCC CITES ONLINE RETAILER --

The FCC has cited an Omaha, Nebraska based online retailer for marketing unauthorized RF devices, including high power 10 and 12 meter amplifiers, in violation of FCC rules. An FCC "Citation and Order" released June 6 orders Enterprise Group Inc, doing business as ePowerAmps, to immediately stop advertising, marketing and selling "all unauthorized radio frequency devices, specifically modified Citizens Band (CB) radios and non-certified RF amplifiers for use in the 10 and 12 meter bands" or face possible fines and seizure of equipment.

An agent from the FCC's Kansas City office observed on ePowerAmps' website "illegally modified CB radios being offered for sale," as well as various modifications and upgrades. These included swapping out the original final amplifier for a higher powered replacement. Linear amplifiers offered for sale varied between 120 W and **8200 W** (*emphasis added*), and the Commission said none of the 50 linears offered for sale appeared to have FCC certification.

The FCC gave ePowerAmps 30 days to confirm "in writing" that it has stopped marketing

unauthorized RF devices and to provide certain information to the Commission.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 20 June 2013)

-- HAMSTUDY.ORG ON THE WWW --

Icom America has announced sponsorship for HamStudy.org. This is a new website that offers free learning tools for existing and potential amateur radio operators.

HamStudy.org users studying for an amateur radio license exam can choose from three online learning modules for each ham radio license class. These are Technician, General or Amateur Extra. FCC Commercial Element 1, 3, 5 and 6 study modules are also available.

Educational materials include flash cards, question lists and practice tests. Users who register for a free account can access personalized study history and submit explanations to amateur radio questions. Website registrants may also choose to log into their account using their Google or Facebook credentials.

The site is accessible at www.hamstudy.org.
(ICOM Release via *Amateur Radio Newslines*™ Report 1871, 21 June 2013)

July 2013

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

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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