



# 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>



-- JUNE 2009 --

## -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

While I didn't cross trails with the other TARC members at the Dayton Hamvention, I was there and enjoying myself. Of course I spent time at the FlexRadio booth, learning what was new and exciting in their product line.

I also spent time with Gary Crabtree-KB8RQ, who is really into 2-meter moon bounce DXing. While I was there, he worked Tanzania for the first time. Of course, Gary's bodacious 2-meter antenna array (below) does help a bit!



I understand that we still have a need for a TARC member or two to assume the responsibilities of maintaining and exercising our generator at the W4AC Repeater site. As it is propane fuelled there's no need to worry about buying and carrying gasoline to the site, but the generator should be started up, at least monthly, the engine oil checked, etc. We will discuss this more at the June meeting. Meanwhile, give some thought to volunteering to assist in this role.

I do hope that you have contacted your elected representatives, urging them to support HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enforcement Act of 2009. If this bill should become law, it could nullify restrictive deed covenants and give hams a better chance to utilize their own property rights—possibly for the good of their neighbors if the need arises.

73 to all de Stew-W4MO

## -- JUNE MEETING --

The doors open at **6:30 PM** with an "Eyeball QSO" period until the business meeting kicks off at **7:00 PM** on **11 June 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. The program will be a video/slide show of our K4S activities prepared by Roger Schmitt-WB4HDW. We hope to see you there.

## -- DAYTON HAMVENTION BEACON --



The SteppIR Dream Beam 18 E, which covers 6.8 – 54 MHz, was up and running at the Hamvention. It made a great landmark for anyone who couldn't find the site. (TNX to Bob Marchese-K1NOK for the photo.)

*Only by acceptance of the past can you alter it. – Chinese Fortune Cookie*

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**14 May 2009**

Vice President Bruce Brown-WA8IQF called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were made all around. John Donahow-W2DUU of Englewood and Jim Shortill of Venice were welcomed as visitors.

**MINUTES** – Bruce asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 09 April 2009 meeting as published in the May 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA so moved, seconded by Dil Kay-W8DIL, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported receipt of an 01 May 2009 letter from Sean Fleeman-N4SCF, president of the West Central Florida Group, Inc., describing the activities of the Group over the past year and their plans for 2009.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2089.53. Receipts were \$18.00 from the February 50/50, and \$15.00 from membership renewals, totaling \$33.00. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater, and \$11.40 for stamps and newsletter printing, \$24.45 for shipping costs of ARRL brochures for Sharks Tooth Festival, \$.8.75 for one name tag and \$117.83 for insurance premium, totaling \$176.75. The 14 May 2009 ending balance is \$1945.78. Charlie Covell-W4DB moved for approval, seconded by Dil Kay-W8DIL, and passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE** – Jack-W4JS reported having talked with Martin Horowitz-N4FA, who is still undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS reported that out 09 May VE session went well for the six candidates present. Dil-W8DIL and Don-KI4VGE upgraded to Amateur Extra, Pat McKenzie from Sarasota went from civilian to Amateur Extra, one went from Tech to General and Harold McFarland and Dianne Hicks passed the Tech exam. Meanwhile, Ron Hogarth-K4AUX upgraded to Amateur Extra down at Fort Myers, and Roger Schmitt-WB4HDW did the same up in Kentucky.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Bruce reported that our W4AC 2-meter repeater is working satisfactorily, and that the EchoLink mode has been activated.

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

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 86 members, including eight Life Members and 20 First-Year Free members.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG reported that we are getting some 5 to 6 check-ins for the Simplex Net and 6 to 8 check-ins for the Emergency Net. Jack-W4JS added that the DX net was getting about 6 check-ins.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – No one present with EARS connection.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported that there were 29 members, spouses and friends at the 06 May luncheon meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53 at Denny's, Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. Konrad Owens-WA3RRS showed the video, "Voice of Victory," which explained the wartime conversion of the Hallicrafters HT-4 transmitters into the military BC-610 with ancillary equipment.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Bruce offered several comments in reviewing the K4S operation from Sharks Tooth Festival. These included:

Assign Personnel by Relative Skills: Determine which members will participate in Set Up, Take Down, Manning the display table, Operate and/or log, and Record and/or photograph on-site activities. Bruce added that if members had little experience on HF or dealing with pile ups, they should receive training prior to the event, and this was agreed upon. Guenther Hennig-KE4WFA commented that operators and loggers needed headphones to block out the local noise and chatter.

Use Higher Power: The use of an amplifier operational on 120 VAC proved to improve the QSO rate. A solid state amplifier is preferred as it requires less on-site power and does not require tuning.

Antenna: The Cushcraft R7 has performed well, however, it is susceptible to local QRM from generators. Use of a directional antenna should be given serious consideration and preparation.

Operate Alternative Home Stations: While the operation of supplemental stations from certain members' homes could improve QSO rates, is this truly in the spirit of the operation? This subject merits additional thought.

See **MINUTES**, pg. 4

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## 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
Nigeria – 5N00CH	Now to 24 July	84	<b>00-06</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>16-02</b>	18-02	21-01	NO	NO
Chad – TT8CF	Now to 01 July	73	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>16-22</b>	18-00	16-21	NO	NO
Niue – ZK2V	Now to 19 June	252	<b>04-12</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>01-13</b>	<b>18-07</b>	<b>18-05</b>	22-03	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/F5MCC	Now to 11 June	51	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>11-00</b>	10-00	NO	NO	NO
Vatican City – HV5PUL	01 – 05 June	50	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>11-00</b>	10-00	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7CQ ++	01 – 15 June	41	<b>0030</b>	<b>23-01</b>	--	<b>02-05</b>	02-05	NO	NO	NO
Svalbard Is. – JW/OK home call signs	05 – 15 June	13	NO	<b>00-09</b>	<b>23-10</b>	15-21	21-02	NO	NO	NO
Algeria – 7U2ISM	06 June – 06 July	62	<b>00-06</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-08</b>	<b>11-03</b>	11-03	22-23	NO	NO
Dodecanese Is. – SX5LA	08 – 14 June	49	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-07</b>	<b>12-00</b>	12-00	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7TB ++	08 – 25 June	41	--	<b>00-02</b>	--	<b>02-05</b>	--	--	--	--
Fernando de Noronha – ZY0F	10 – 15 June	115	<b>23-09</b>	<b>20-12</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>10-05</b>	19-03	22-02	17-02	NO
Montserrat – VP2MRT; HF + 6m	11 – 21 June	115	<b>22-11</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>11-05</b>	21-02	NO	NO	NO	NO
Soa Tome & Principe – S92LX **	13 – 27 June	90	<b>23-06</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>20-02</b>	<b>10-00</b>	18-23	18-22	NO	NO
Nauru – C21TI	16 – 21 June	279	<b>06-11</b>	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-15</b>	<b>00-06</b>	20-04	20-04	NO	NO
Guyana – 8R???; HF + 6m	16 June – 06 July	129	<b>23-11</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>12-04</b>	21-02	17-02	NO	NO
San Andres Is. – 5J0M; HF + 6m Es	19 June – 05 July	176	<b>21-15</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>13-04</b>	21-02	18-02	NO	NO
Liechtenstein – HB0/DL5YM & DL5YL **	20 June – 02 July	46	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-08</b>	<b>12-00</b>	10-00	NO	NO	NO
Mali – TZ6EI; mostly 6m with some HF	26 June – 05 July	82	<b>23-07</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>20-08</b>	<b>11-00</b>	21-00	21-23	NO	NO
Fiji – 3D2YA; mostly CW & RTTY	29 June – 03 July	258	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>00-06</b>	22-04	03-04	NO	NO

Updated 28 May 2009, based on 27 May 2009 QRZ DX, 25 May 2009 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

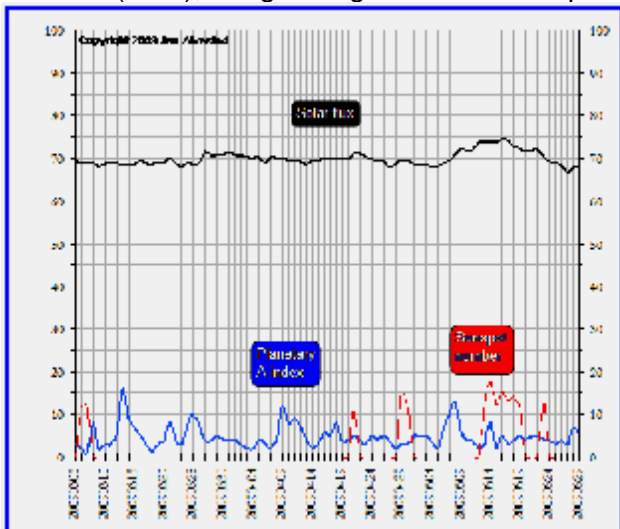
**Notes:** Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.2.60* propagation software, available to download at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>.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

### -- MAY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During May, the Solar Flux ranged from 67 to 74, with a mean value of 70.6 (vs. 68.4 for May 2008 and 74.5 for May 2007). The A-index was  $\leq 7$  on 29 days.

Solar activity was very low. Sunspot Region 1017 was numbered on 13 May and disappeared 24 May; Region 1018 was numbered on 23 May and decayed 24 May. The unofficial sunspot number for May is 3.5, the highest since November 2008.

Other than for isolated minor storm periods 07-08 May and active levels on 14 and 22 May due to recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams (HSS), the geomagnetic field was quiet.



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

### -- MAY FORECAST --

June 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 70.6 during June.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels through 02 June. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled levels 03-05 June due to recurrent HSS. Mostly quiet conditions are expected 06-09 June, with activity increasing to unsettled levels 10-11 June due to recurrent HSS. Mostly quiet conditions are expected 12-28 June, with activity increasing to unsettled levels 29-30 June.

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

### -- DX NOTES IN THE MARGIN --

There will be a number of new prefixes coming on from Portugal, Madeira Is. and the Azores Is. starting 01 June, reflecting the license classes and CEPT licenses. Existing call signs will not change.

DXpedition sailors Mike-KM9D and Jan-KF4TUG landed on New Georgia Is. on 16 May and are looking for a good operating site.

(From *The Weekly DX*, 25 May 2009)

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Australian Shires Contest	0600Z 06 June 0600Z 07 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Australian Stations	RS(T), CQ Zone
SEANET Contest	1200Z 06 June 1200Z 07 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Stations in the SE Asian Region	RS(T), Serial Number
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z 13 June 1500Z 14 June	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, CQ Zone
ANARTS WW RTTY	0000Z 13 June 2400Z 14 June	80 – 10 Meters All Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere; bonus for VK stations	RST, UTC time, CQ Zone
Portugal Day	0000Z 13 June 0000A 14 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere; bonus for CT stations	RS(T), Serial Number
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z 13 June 0300Z 15 June	6 Meters and Up SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	Maidenhead Grid Square
All-Asian DX Contest	0000Z 20 June 2400Z 21 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Asia	RST, Operator's Age
SMIRK QSO Party	0000Z 20 June 2400Z 21 June	6 Meters Only SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere (SMIRK # not req'd)	Call sign, SMIRK #, Grid Square
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 27 June 1200Z 28 June	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere; bonus for EA stations	RS, Serial Number
Marconi Memorial Contest	1400Z 27 June 1400Z 28 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial Number
ARRL Field Day	1800Z 27 June 2100Z 28 June	160 Meters & Up CW, SSB, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	ARRL Section

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and *WorldRadio*

### MINUTES from pg. 2

#### Update of activities at Pine View School ARC.

Bruce reported that Jon Hamlet-W4ZW and Dave Brandenburg-K5RQ have proposed to personally purchase five Yaesu FT-857D 100-watt HF/VHF/UHF radios and 50 Yaesu VX-6R handtalkies for the next school year. David will take this up with Yaesu and also with HRO. Jon has received the OK to buy them at dealer cost from one dealer, but to date he has only purchased one FT-857D, which was all the dealer had in stock. They plan to buy two more FT-857D's this month and up to 10 VX-6R HT's. Jon is standardizing with these two models of transceivers and HT's to most easily train the PVSARC members in their use.

Financial Support to PVSARC. Bruce reported that at the 22 May Board of Directors meeting, TARC President Stew Haag-W4MO proposed, and the Board of Directors approved, the TARC donating \$150 to the PVSARC. Bruce called for a motion that the TARC donate \$150 to the PVSARC. Mike Hickey-NY4P so moved, seconded by Guenther Hennig-KE4WFA, and passed.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Jack-W4JS reported having sent via e-mail a letter template to some 15 TARC members seeking support of HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

Enforcement Act of 2009. It was requested that they adapt the letter, as appropriate, and mail it to their congressman. Jack then covered the highlights of this proposed legislation, with respect to its trying to constrain the restrictions now placed on amateur radio antennas and support structures by homeowners associations, and deed restrictions and covenants. Stew-W4MO wants this distribution broadened, and Dil-W8DIL offered to send such a letter

Bruce raised the question regarding who has the time and inclination to check out and start up our generator at least once a month—year 'round. Mike Hickey-NY4P offered to assist. This matter will be discussed further in the near future.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None**

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM was made by Charlie Covell-W4DB, seconded by Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, and passed. There were 11 members and two visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Due to technical difficulties, the scheduled program was not presented.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

*No job is so simple that it cannot be done wrong.* – Chinese Fortune Cookie

**-- SOME DAYTON HAMVENTION SIGHTS --**



Members of the Deutsche Amateur-Radio-Club e.V. (DARC), the national IARU organization for German radio amateurs. Some 20 German hams attended Hamvention this year. (From DARC web site)



Some international visitors at the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) booth. Ramon-XE1KK, VU2??, Masa-JA1DM, Krish-VU2VKU, and Juan Carlos-TG9AJR were there to spread good will. (From JARL web site)



Potential clients for TARC member Bob Marchese-K1NOK and his HTOL associates.



Some mighty fine looking classic Collins gear getting unloaded for the flea market.



We hope this fellow got his flea market items organized a bit better.

(TNX to Bob-K1NOK for the preceding three photos.)



This is the (Japanese) Luso 44-meter (144-foot) crank-up tower. Retailing for \$52,000, Luso was offering a \$11,000 Hamvention discount to a buyer who would truck it away. (Photo by Ward Silver-N0AX)



DX Engineering's new hexagonal beam. (Photo by Ward Silver-NOAX)

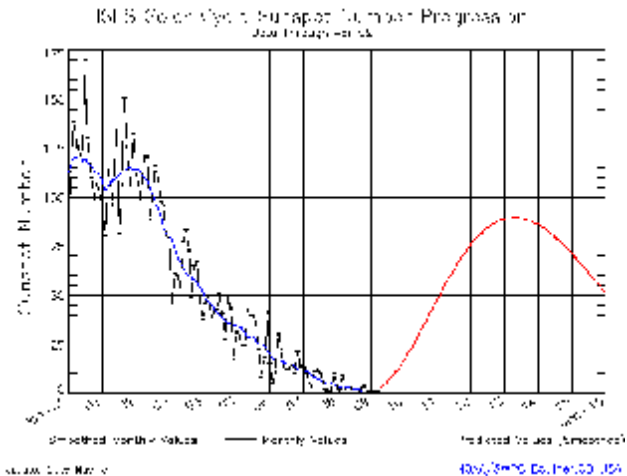
**-- MILD CYCLE 24 NOW PREDICTED --**

An international panel of experts has now predicted that the long awaited Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with only 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves accurate, Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Cycle 16, which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928.

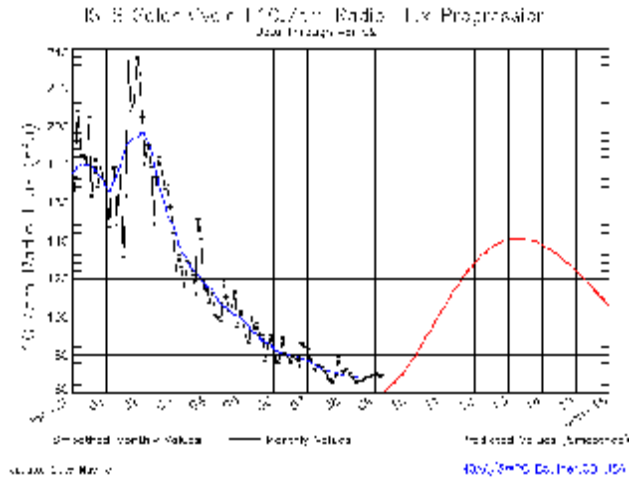
The panel considers that the solar minimum between cycles occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Cycle 23 and the start of Cycle 24. If that proves accurate, at 12 years and seven months Cycle 23 will be the longest cycle since 1823 and the third longest since 1755.

(From <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/> "Mild Solar Storm Season Predicted," 09 May 2009)

Keep in mind that the daily and monthly variations can diverge significantly from the smoothed sunspot number, as can be seen in the following chart.



The following chart indicates the smoothed Solar Flux peaking at 140 in 2013. When the Solar Flux was at that level in 2003, 10 meters was open to Europe, Africa and Asia during the winter months, but it was virtually closed during the summer months.



**-- MYSTERY HAM OF THE MONTH --**



On the right is a 200-watt homebrew transmitter which utilized a V70D triode in the final. Homebrew modulation monitor and plate modulator—probably a pair of 616 tubes. A Meisner Signal Shifter (often despairingly referred to as a "signal drifter" due to its instability), and homebrew power supply complete the transmitter side of the station. The receiver is a Hallicrafters SX-25 with detached speaker.

OK, any ideas of just who the owner/operator might be?

*The number of laws is constantly growing in all countries and, owing to this, what is called crime is very often not a crime at all, for it contains no element of violence or harm. P. D. Ouspensky (1878-1947), A New Model of the Universe.*

# June 2009

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

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

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

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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  
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Jack Gaddas-KY1Z  
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