



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



-- JUNE 2005 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

As I begin serving as your new president, I first want to thank those who nominated me to this position, and to the TARC members who put their trust in me with their votes. I feel confident that all of your officers and directors will ultimately prove in due course that they have earned your trust. We also hope that we can count on your support as we begin to implement our agenda over the coming months.

For the benefit of both those members present at the May meeting and those who were absent, I would like to discuss several of the actions which the officers and directors will begin to implement. Keep in mind that any and all actions which directly affect the members will only be taken after they have been understood and approved by the members at our meetings.

We want our general membership to work with the officers in several ways. Please try to provide this assistance if you are asked. Joy Klapp-N2WUD has offered to chair the Sunshine Committee, and during the summer months, you can keep her advised via mhklapp@nycap.rr.com. Charlie Covell-AG4TT is the chair of the Club Property Committee. There are vacancies on several committees, and we would appreciate your help, if possible. In due course, we intend to assign various directors to provide overview of the various committees, therefore, you don't have to be an "expert" for assistance will be available.

The Club Property Committee is attempting to locate and inventory all equipment and items owned by the TARC. This does not mean that such club property will be placed in one location, rather, we just want to know what we own and where it is located. There has been no such tabulated control over this property in the past. The board of directors will review this inventory periodically, and unnecessary items will be listed in *The Communicator* such that all TARC members will have the opportunity to participate in a "silent auction" for those items.

Our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are in need of updating, and the officers will soon address this need. The revised documents will be presented to the membership for final approval. Following that,

all members will have the opportunity to procure these documents for their possible reference.

We recognize that good programs at our meetings are an incentive for our members to turn out on meeting nights. In the past, the TARC vice president was responsible for these programs. However, a greater variety of programs could undoubtedly be scheduled or procured if there is a Program Committee, made up of members with varied interests and contacts. If vice president Don Fontaine-N4ET asks for your assistance in this area, please offer whatever help you can provide.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, the TARC is obligated to provide charitable assistance to others. We have done this to a limited degree, such as contributing the ARRL Library Set to the Venice Public Library. As we are now financially viable, we should consider how we can assist, via grants or scholarships, needy students, school radio clubs, etc. Your personal thoughts would be most welcome.

While we haven't participated in Field Day or other club type activities recently, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, trustee of our club license W4AC, has advised that he often receives request for a QSL from W4AC. The members did budget money at our May meeting for the design and procurement of W4AC QSL cards. They will undoubtedly last us for a good while.

So, you can see that changes are in the wind. However, I believe all of these proposed activities will be beneficial to the club and to you, the loyal members.

VY 73, Matt-W2EQV

-- JUNE MEETING --

Our June TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 09 June 2005 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 (formerly Bon Secours Hospital). The program will be the March 2000 FO0AAA Clipperton Island DXpedition. "From its legendary DXpeditions over the last 50 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."

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

12 May 2005

President Pro Tem Eddie Palmer-K4JP called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Charlie Covell-AG4TT led the pledge of allegiance to the US flag, and introductions were made all around. George Emigh-AB4BD, his wife Nellie and son Geordon were recognized as visitors. George joined the TARC after the meeting.

MINUTES – Eddie-K4JP asked that the minutes of the 14 April 2005 meeting be approved as printed in the May issue of *The Communicator*. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW requested that the fifth paragraph of those minutes be amended to read, “Jon Hamlet-W4ZW then moved that the TARC shall own, operate and maintain a coordinated repeater/repeaters with its/their own site/sites, license, and under the exclusive control of the TARC.” Charlie-AG4TT moved and Lee Darby-K4GKY seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried.

SUNSHINE – President Pro Tem Palmer offered a tribute to deceased member Bob Retter-KD4SOJ, who died in an auto accident 21 April. A Hospice Memorial Service for Bill Rockwood-KE4ZAK was held 12 May at St. Raphael’s Catholic Church in Englewood.

EXCEPTIONAL ELECTION – President Pro Tem Palmer stated that the Nominating Committee had not excluded candidates who were biased in the recent disagreement and that he could therefore declare the election null and void or a motion could be made, deleting the requirement that the candidates for this election be “unbiased and independent of the former club officers.” Lee-K4GKY so moved, Bob Preston-N4CTC seconded, and the motion passed. Eddie-K4JP then turned the chair over to Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to announce the results of the exceptional election. Jon read the following:

“In accordance with the direction at the last meeting, the TARC Nominating Committee met and developed a slate of nominees for club officers and directors. The Nominating Committee thought that it would be appropriate to have all but one of the officers to be full time residents to insure continuity through the year. Either the President or the Vice President could be a seasonal resident, since the other would fill in during the off-season. We felt the same about the directors, and put forth a slate of five directors.

“Electronic ballots were sent out to all members who had an e-mail address on file, and paper ballots were sent to 17 members who did not have e-mail

addresses. 47 ballots were received and the results are tabulated below for each candidate.

“For President:	Matt Klapp-W2EQV	45 votes
“For Vice President:	Don Fontaine-N4ET	45 votes
“For Secretary:	Jack Sproat-W4JS	44 votes
“For Treasurer:	Don Gray-WD7A	45 votes
“For Directors:	Croft Taylor-VE3CT	45 votes
	Jon Hamlet-W4ZW	45 votes
	Bob Avrutik-N1RA	44 votes
	Don Gray-WD7A	45 votes
	Don Fontaine-N4ET	45 votes

“One member wrote in Eddie Palmer for President and abstained from all other candidates. One member abstained from all candidates.”

The chair was then assumed by President Matt Klapp-W2EQV and the other officers assumed their respective duties.

CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS accepted a letter dated 10 May 2005 from Stew Haag-W4MO, legally transferring the following items and equipment to the TARC for use by the TARC: Kenwood Model TKR-750-2 Repeater, ICT Model #12012-30D power supply, Model 64546/SNC six can duplexer, and a DB224-E four-bay VHF antenna. While the first two items are in use by the TARC at the Anderson electric site in Venice, the latter two items are in use by the SERC at the Clear Channel Communications site in Nokomis/Laurel. Jack-W4JS then presented Stew-W4MO with a letter dated 10 May 2005 acknowledging receipt of these items, valued at \$4431, by the TARC and expressing the club’s gratitude and appreciation. Stew received a round of applause for his generosity.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the club’s 29 April 2005 account balance at Community National Bank was \$5131.55. He is holding checks payable to TARC totaling \$195.00, and there are outstanding bills of \$61.25 for annual renewal of our Florida incorporation, and \$23.99 for newsletter printing and postage, totaling \$85.24. These will be paid when new signature cards have been filed with the bank. Eddie-K4JP moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Lee-K4GKY and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that a candidate from Punta Gorda was coming up for the 14 May VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Jon-W4ZW updated the members on the status of our W4AC Repeater. Coordination has been received from the Florida Repeater Council for both the 146.805 MHz system now in service, and for a future 444.550 MHz

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repeater, for which equipment is presently available. Jon is looking for a new site, further south in Sarasota County, for both repeaters. If possible, this site could also be utilized for a TARC HF club station.

Jon then opened the floor for discussion of options for the TARC equipment now in use by the SERC at the CCC site. The question of the 1-5/8" hard line purchased by TARC, but stored on reels at the residence of SERC member Al Alviani-N4LML, was raised. Jim Frey-W8ISZ remarked that the duplexers now being used by the W4AC repeater at the Anderson site belong to the SERC. Peter Pesa-N4RD moved that (1) the TARC donate our antenna and hard line at the CCC site to the SERC, (2) the Motorola Micor repeater and duplexers belonging to TARC at the CCC site be removed for use by TARC, (3) the SERC duplexers at the Anderson site be returned to SERC for their use, (4) the hard line owned by TARC be retrieved from Mr. Alviani, and (5) that SERC furnish the TARC with a letter acknowledging receipt of the TARC antenna and hard line at the CCC site. Seconded by Charlie-AG4TT and passed unanimously.

LIAISON TO EARS – Marty Horowitz-N4FA, President of the Englewood ARS, advised that EARS would be setting up for Field Day on Friday, 24 June, and would participate in Field Day until about 11 AM on 26 June, at which time a hot lunch will be available to all.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that 21 members and guests of Suncoast Chapter 53 attended the last meeting of the season on 04 May. An excellent and informative program was offered by David Haag-KF4VGD, relative to his efforts in establishing a VHF communications network in Papua Barat Province, Indonesia on New Guinea Island.

OLD BUSINESS – Eddie-K4JP reported that Bob Officer-WA6WAY was moving to Pickens, SC and is in the process of cleaning out his storage facility, where there are several Motorola and GE equipment cabinets and two HF beams. Following discussion, Peter-N4RD moved that these items be scrapped; seconded by Don Fontaine-N4ET, and passed.

NEW BUSINESS – Matt-W2EQV presented a list of topics which the new officers and board of directors will address in the coming months. These included the following:

- 1) Assigning committee overview/liaison to the various directors.
- 2) Design and procurement of a W4AC QSL card. Jon-W4ZW moved that we budget up to \$100 for this purpose, seconded by Peter-N4RD, and passed.

- 3) Establishment of an Inventory Control Committee, chaired by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, that will document all items now owned by, or donated to, TARC, showing where these items are being kept. Bob requested that anyone now holding such items advise him as soon as possible. Peter-N4RD suggested that *The Communicator* provide a monthly list of items available to all club members via "silent auction." This was agreed, and the Board of Directors will determine which items to keep for club use and which to offer for auction.
- 4) Revision and updating of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and making these documents available to all members.
- 5) Determining the best recipient(s) for financial support from the TARC. Peter-N4RD commented that the EARS had just provided two \$500 scholarships to graduates of Lemon Bay High School. Jon-W4ZW opined that radio clubs at schools and universities could use some financial support. Matt-W2EQV suggested that the Board of Directors give this further consideration.
- 6) Establishing a Program Committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Eddie-K4JP remarked that, if the club is interested in establishing a club house and station, we might consider the State-owned property on Englewood Road just north of Jacaranda Blvd., where the abandoned fire tower is located. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM was made by Eddie-K4JP, seconded by Lee Darby-K4GCY and passed. There were 20 members and 2 visitors present.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- CLUB PROPERTY INVENTORY --

A Club Property Committee is being formed under the chairmanship of Charlie Covell-AG4TT. A list of all known club property has been initiated, describing the items, their probable condition and where they are located. If you are in possession of any equipment or items which are TARC property, please advise Charlie. Call him at 408-9224 or send an e-mail to chcovell@comcast.net. Thanks for your cooperation.

"We wanted a savior but we got someone who was only interested in himself." – Helen Sanchez (Stella Garcia) in Clint Eastwood's "Joe Kidd"

"Modesty is the only sure bait when you angle for praise." – Lord Chesterfield

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION FORECASTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEAR-ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Chad – TT8M, TT8AMO	Now to 01 Aug	73	00-05	23-06	21-07	17-00	17-22	NO	NO	NO
Chad – TT8PK	Now to 20 July	73	00-05	23-06	21-07	17-00	17-22	NO	NO	NO
Mozambique – C91EP	Now to 02 July	101	00-04	23-06	05-07	00-02	NO	NO	NO	NO
Tonga – A35/VE7YL & VK3DYL	Now to 08 June	253	05-11	03-13	02-14	18-07	19-05	19-05	00-04	NO
Malawi – 7Q7WW	Now to 13 June	90	00-04	23-05	21-00	18-22	19-21	12-17	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/F1PNR	Now to 28 June	51	00-05	22-07	21-08	16-00	18-23	NO	NO	NO
St Pierre & Miquelon – FP/N6RA	09 – 21 June	39	23-10	00-24	00-24	12-05	NO	NO	NO	NO
St Paul Island – CY9SS	June - July	35	23-11	00-24	00-24	15-03	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 29 May 2005, based on 25 May 2005 *QRZ DX* and 23 May 2005 *The Weekly DX*

Notes: ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Phone Only; ** = CW Only; NO = No Opening forecast; **Time in bold** = Best Band(s) for opening.

Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated from *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL; Solar Flux and K-index vary in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

-- SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING MAY --

During May the Solar Flux ranged from 82 up to 126, with a mean value of 99.5 (vs. 99.7 for May 2004 and 116.2 for May 2003). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 13 days during May.

For several days in mid-May, HF propagation was nil, although the 6-meter band came alive with DX. The cause of this phenomenon was a tremendous explosion near sunspot 739 at 1650 GMT 13 May. The coronal mass ejection (CME) that resulted first impacted the Earth's magnetic field at 0230 GMT 15 May. On 15 May, the planetary K-index reached 9—its highest limit—and the mid-latitude, high latitude and planetary A indices were 44, 77 and 105. The WWV broadcast at 2118 GMT on 15 May reported that Space Weather was “Extreme”, Geomagnetic Storms were at “G5” (extreme) and Radio Blackouts were “R3” (strong).

A severe CME, such as occurred 13 May, causes the average solar wind speed to rapidly increase, like a shock wave heading toward Earth. If the polarity of the Sun's magnetic field is southward when the shock wave hits Earth's magnetic field, the shock wave couples into Earth's magnetic field and can cause large variations in the Earth's magnetic field. That was apparently the situation when the shock wave arrived on 15 May.

On Friday, 13 May, Mike Shaffer-KA3JAW up in Tampa began scanning the low VHF TV channels because of the possibility of aurora from the CME. At 5 PM EDST he received both audio and video from KGAN, Channel 2 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa—a distance of about 1100 miles. Numerous 6-meter openings into the Caribbean and South America were reported. But the HF bands were very quiet!

(From *ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 20*, Tad Cook-K7RA, 16 May 2005 and *The Sun, the Earth, the Ionosphere: What the Numbers Mean, and Propagation Predictions*, Carl Luetzelschwab-K9LF, 06 February 2003)

-- JUNE PROPAGATION --

During June, solar activity is expected to be at mostly very low to low levels. A greater than 10 MeV proton event is not expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 07-19 June. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to major storm levels. Recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams are expected to produce active to minor storm levels on 11-14 June. Otherwise, expect quiet to unsettled conditions. The Solar Flux should range from 80 to 105 during June. (From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 24 May 2005*, and *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 24 May 2005*)

Propagation on 10 meters will be limited to *sporadic-E* short-skip openings. DX on 15 and 17 meters will be a challenge with the decreased solar activity. When the solar flux is up and the A-index is low, 15 may support openings into Europe and Russia. The 20-meter band will be fair to good during hours of darkness, with the best openings around sunrise. The 30-, 40- and 80-meter bands should offer good nighttime openings, despite higher static levels.

Sporadic-E propagation starts to peak during June, so expect an increase in short-skip openings on HF, and often on 6 and 2 meters, with paths open between 50 and 2300 miles. (From “Propagation” by Tomas Hood-NW7US, June 2005 *CQ*)

-- BREAKFAST VENUE CHANGE --

Effective 10 May 2005, the Tuesday TARC breakfasts are being held at 8:00 AM in Peach's Restaurant, located just north of the Sweetbay Supermarket in the Venice Pines Shopping Plaza, at the northeast corner of Jacaranda Blvd, and Center Rd. Come on out and join in. The food is quite good, the service fine, the prices aren't bad, and the ambiance is quite bright and cheerful. So, come on out and socialize with your fellow TARC members. Our Friday breakfasts as still at 8:00 AM in Mel's Diner on US 41.

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
World Wide Major Six Club Contest	2300Z 03 June 0300Z 06 June	6 Meters Only Phone/CW	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square
IARU Region 1 Field Day	1500Z 04 June 1459Z 05 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	IARU Region 1 Stations (Europe and Africa)	R/S/T + Serial No.
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z 12 June 2400Z 12 June	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Portuguese Stations Only	R/S + Serial No.
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z 11 June 1500Z 12 June	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + CQ Zone
All Asian DX Contest	0000Z 18 June 2400Z 19 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Asian Stations Only	R/S/T + 2-Digit No. For Operator's Age
SMIRK QSO Party	0000Z 19 June 2400Z 20 June	6 Meters Only Phone/CW	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square + SMIRK No. (if a member)
Spanish Islands Contest	0600Z 19 June 1200Z 19 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB/CW/RTTY	Stations on Spanish Islands	R/S/T + Serial No.
ARRL Field Day	1800Z 25 June 2100Z 26 June	All Bands and All Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	Station Category + ARRL Section
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1800Z 25 June 1800Z 26 June	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Spanish Stations	R/S + Serial No.
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z 25 June 1400Z 26 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial No.

From June 2005 *QST* and June 2005 *WorldRadio*

-- TWO MORE CQ OPERATING AWARDS --

(The new "CQ Field Award" was described in our April newsletter. Two additional operating awards have subsequently been announced by CQ.)

CQ DX Marathon - The New CQ DX Marathon is a renewal of the concept of the original "CQ DX Marathon" which was last run in 1948. The latter evolved into the present-day CW WorldWide DX Contests.

The new CQ DX Marathon is a year-long DX hunt, starting 01 January 2006, with the participants competing to see who can work the greatest number of DXCC entities and CQ Zones over the course of a full year.

There are two operating classes in which to compete, "Formula" and "Unlimited." The Formula Class is for stations using 10 watts, or less, output, and to stations running 100 watts, or less, to antennas limited to verticals or dipoles. The Unlimited Class is for those stations normally considered competitive in contests, i.e., "big gun" stations.

Currently, logs can only be submitted via a special downloadable matrix that will be available at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. There is some possibility that the ARRL's Logbook of the World will support this activity.

The top-scoring station in each CQ zone or entity will receive a certificate; where there is sufficient

activity, additional certificates may also be awarded. There is no cost for these awards.

CQ iDX Award – This is an introductory award to encourage development of a DXing "mindset" by recognizing the accomplishments of those amateurs who make confirmed contacts with between 25 and 100 different DXCC entities through the use of Internet-linked repeater systems or remote bases. It is mandatory that at least one end of each VoIP QSO must be made by amateur radio. Computer-to-computer QSOs, such as are possible via Echolink, will not count.

The basic award is issued for confirmed VoIP contacts with amateurs in at least 25 DXCC entities. All contacts must be made after 0000 GMT, 01 January 2006. Acceptable confirmations include traditional QSL cards, verifiable e-mail, and electronic/online.

Applications should be submitted on the official "CQ iDX Award" applications form. A fee of \$6.00 is required for CQ subscribers, and \$12.00 for non-subscribers. Applications, confirmations and fees (check payable to B. F. Williams) should be sent to the CQ DX Awards Manager:

Billy Williams-N4UF
PO Box 9673
Jacksonville, FL 32208-0673

Complete rules can be seen on the CQ Magazine web site, <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

-- VATICAN RADIO CONVICTED --

Back in April 2001, the Italian government threatened to shut off electricity to Vatican Radio due to a dispute centering on electromagnetic radiation. Consequently, Vatican Radio agreed to shut down its medium wave transmissions of the 1530 kHz band for seven hours a day. The houses nearest the Vatican Radio antennas, and on Italian territory, were built illegally, but had then been accepted by the Italian government. While the radio transmissions were blamed for leukemia deaths in that area, the danger from some 7000 cubic meters of Italian government radioactive waste was never questioned by Italian officials. Three Vatican officials were charged with "damaging the environment" and were scheduled to go on trial in the fall of 2001. (From "God's Voice vs. the 'Greens'", *The WA4IWLetter, Englewood Amateur Radio Society, Inc.*, May 2001)

On 09 May 2005, BBC News reported that a Roman Catholic Cardinal Roberto Tucci and Father Pasquale Borgomeo, who were in charge of Vatican Radio, were convicted of "polluting the atmosphere with powerful electromagnetic waves." While their 10-day jail sentences were suspended, they were ordered to pay damages and court costs, which could run into millions of euros.

The first trial was stopped in 2002 when a judge ruled that Italy had no jurisdiction over the radio station, as it is a part of the Vatican City, an independent sovereign state. However, that decision was overturned and Cardinal Tucci and Father Borgomeo went back on trial.

While an "environmental group" cheered the decision, which would "protect people from the risk of 'electro-smog'," and the residents of the formerly illegal housing were pleased, Vatican Radio program director Reverend Federico Lombardi said, "We're stunned." He vowed to appeal, saying emissions were within international limits and "in line with accords between Italy and the Vatican."

(From "Vatican Radio Officials Convicted," BBC News, 09 May 2005)

-- MURS, ANYONE? --

The 20 May 2005 survey on the ARRL Web site asked, "Do you own a MURS transceiver?" Of the 1965 respondents, 211 claimed they did, while 1754 persons did not or did not know what MURS even was. Fortunately, for the unwashed, the ARRL did provide a link to the FCC site that defined the "Multi Use Radio Service" that was created 23 May 2002. MURS consists of five channels, between approximately 152.8 and 154.6 MHz, that are to be used for private or commercial 2-way, short distance, voice or data communication. *So, now you know!*

-- CW BEATS TEXT MESSAGING --

During a 13 May appearance on NBC's *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, Chip Margelli-K7JA and Ken Miller-K6CTW were able to pass a message via CW more rapidly than teenaged world text-messaging champ Ben Cook of Utah and his friend Jason, who were equipped with cell phones.

The CW team used Yaesu FT-817 transceivers and operated on 432.200 MHz to avoid RFI from the TV equipment in the studio and to avoid interfering with NBC's gear. Margelli transmitted with a Bencher paddle at about 28-30 wpm, the fastest speed Miller could copy and produce legible text by hand. Miller stated that, "Ben was just getting ready to start entering the last two words when I was done." Jason's jaw dropped when he saw Miller raising his hand to signal he had copied the CW text successfully.

What was the message? "I just save a bunch of money on my car insurance."

(From ARRL Web Site, 16 May 2005)

-- "ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES" --

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has recognized three regional radio amateurs among 34 individuals on its list of "2005 Environmental Heroes." Paul Toth-NA4AR of Seminole, Bob Stanhope-W3RMS of Valrico, and Sean Fleeman-N4SCF of New Port Richey were recognized for their efforts as amateur radio net control operators for the National weather Service office in Ruskin during hurricanes Charley and Frances, where they volunteered a total of 125 hours during those storms.

(From *The ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 18*)

-- USA LICENSING DATA --

George McCouch-K3UD recently offered some interesting, but distressing, data on the QRZ.com Web site, regarding the status of USA licensed Radio Amateurs.

	<u>14 May 2000</u>	<u>01 May 2005</u>
Novice	49,329	29,595
Tech/Tech+	334,254	318,019
General	112,677	136,765
Advanced	99,782	76,404
Extra	<u>78,750</u>	<u>106,577</u>
Total	674,792	666,360

These data show that, in spite of incentives by the FCC to modernize the license structure and the exam requirements, the Amateur Radio population is declining in the US.

"Our enemies are nearer the truth in their opinions of us than we are ourselves." - LaRocheFoucauld.