



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
Web Site -- <http://tamamiarc.tripod.com>
W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- JUNE 2006 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

The schools are out and it's nice to see some kids biking around in our neighborhood during the day. They keep us retirees on our toes during those morning walks. The drought-like conditions have really lowered the lakes and there are lots of exposed tilapia nests. We've also observed a good many water fowl, including some roseate spoonbills when are rather rare in this area.

Stew Haag-W4MO reports that he picked up a nice 220 MHz repeater at the Dayton Hamvention, so it looks like we're going to have that capability at our repeater site. It sure is nice to have such a first-class facility for the TARC members to enjoy.

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

-- JUNE MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 08 June 2006 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. After the business meeting, a video, "Lightning Strikes," will be shown. We're now into the season for dangerous, damaging electrical storms, so you can probably learn something about this super powerful natural phenomenon. Come on out and show support of your club.

-- TARC WEEKLY NETS --

Try to remember our two weekly TARC 2-meter nets. The TARC Simplex Net meets every Tuesday at 7:30 PM on 146.580 MHz; the TARC Emergency Net is held every Thursday, except on meeting dates, at 7:30 PM on our 146.805 W4AC Repeater (- 600 Hz offset and 100 Hz PL tone required). Should the repeater be down for any reason, the Thursday net will be held on 146.580 MHz. Take the time to check in and keep us updated on your activities. Better yet, how about volunteering to be a Net Control Station? Contact our Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG if you're willing to help.

"The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws." – Cornelius Tacitus (55-117 A.D.)

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-- NO NEWS REGARDING MORSE --

All bets are off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement for access to the amateur HF bands. In July 2005, a FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making & Order proposed elimination of the Element 1 (5 words per minute) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the FCC to release a Report and Order to that effect by the end of 2006, but even that timetable could prove optimistic. Before tackling the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up the so-called "phone band expansion" proceeding. According to one FCC staff member, the latter proceeding is "way ahead" of the Morse proceeding.

FCC staff commented that "it takes a while to plow through 4000 comments," referring to the huge volume of opinions filed in the Morse docket. "They should probably start learning code," one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for one year. Even after the FCC goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely to pass before any new rules go into effect.

When the FCC does act, no one's expecting any major surprises. The FCC seems poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all amateur radio classes as it proposed last summer. Any FCC decision to eliminate the Morse requirement for HF access would have no impact on either current HF CW-only sub-bands or on the CW privileges of amateur radio licensees. Current Technician licensees who have not passed Element 1 will not gain HF access if the Morse requirement is dropped unless they first upgrade with the Element 3 written exam.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 25, No.20)

-- NEW TECH EXAMS START 01 JULY --

The significantly revised Element 2, Technician class question pool takes effect 01 July. The ARRL has produced a *Ham Radio License Manual* (\$24.95) and the fourth edition of the *Tech Q&A* (\$15.95) with all the pertinent questions and answers.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

11 May 2006

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Sanford Yoder-K3SY of Venice and Phil Coyne-KG4DCW of Nokomis arrived as visitors but were welcomed as new members of TARC by the end of the evening. Introductions were made all around.

MINUTES – Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved that the minutes of the 13 April 2006 meeting be accepted as published in the May 2006 issue of *The Communicator*, seconded by Jim LaCourse-AI4NQ, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack-W4JS reported sending and receiving the following letters:

25 April – Letter to Garrett Eelman for donation of IC-765 Transceiver having FMP of \$950

25 April – Letter to Rick Morandi-KI4RMO for donation of Rohn 20G tower sections; FMP of \$125

25 April – Letter to Troy Davis for donation of KLM “Big Sticker” 20-Meter beam; FMP \$1050

26 April – Letter to Ed Cronk-W9ATV informing Ed that he had received TARC Life Membership

Receipt of 26 April letter from Venice Public Library, informing us that our \$65 donation had been used to purchase a “coffee table” type book on the Egyptian female Pharaoh, Hatshepsut.

A letter has yet to be sent to Ted Curry acknowledging receipt of items from the estate of his father, Milt Curry-W4FZV.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 13 April starting balance was \$5171.27. Receipts were \$14.00 from the April 50/50 drawing and \$15.00 for a rejoining member, totaling \$29.00. Expenses were \$41.00 for one month’s Internet service at the W4AC Repeater site, \$22.00 shipping cost for receipt of ARRL brochures, \$68.00 for printing K4S QSL cards, \$12.08 for newsletter printing and postage, \$7.02 for mailing membership cards, \$35.00 for SAM’s Club membership and \$993.78 for generator (including sales tax), totaling \$1178.88. The ending balance is \$4021.39. Don reported that our current membership is 71, including three Life Members and seven first year free members. Peter Pesa-N4RD moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Jack-W4JS reported receiving a phone call from Ed Holdt-K2SCQ, advising that he was still suffering from a rash such that he could not attend the meeting.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that three candidates were scheduled for this Saturday’s VE session. Jack also commented that the ARRL will process renewals of Vanity Call signs for a processing fee of \$5.00 for ARRL members and \$14.00 for non-members.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that our W4AC Repeaters are running on both 146.805 and 444.100 MHz. Stew has installed both a Software Driven Radio and a Kenwood TS-480 for the HF Remote stations. Stew noted that several TARC members have been actively using the HF Remote facilities, and that he would be willing to assist anyone having high speed Internet service who wants to learn how to utilize the HF Remote stations.

PACKET/GATEWAY – Bob-N1RA reported that he does have the BBS facility operating, however, the antenna is very limited at present.

CLUB PROPERTY – Jack-W4JS commented on the items received from Ted Curry.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-WD7A reported that the up-to-date membership roster had been distributed to all members, and he asked for reports of any errors.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR – Peter-N4RD gave an in-depth review regarding DARN furnishing an emergency generator for use at the W4AC Repeater site. Peter checked various sources, and has concluded that the best generator for our needs would be available from SAM’s Club for about \$930, which will be reimbursed by DARN, plus sales tax. This unit would provide both 120 and 240 VAC output and the gasoline tank would be removable. The sales tax would be refundable if TARC proves its 501(3)(c) status. Following Peter’s discussion with the TARC officers and directors on 09 May, he was authorized to purchase the Black Max Generator, and given TARC checks to pay for SAM’s Club membership and the generator. Konrad-WA3RRS, Peter and Bob-N1RA purchased the generator on that date. Peter asked the membership for authorization of up to \$250 to purchase necessary ancillary items such as fuel tanks, power cable and outlet box, back up battery, battery charger, etc. Bob-N1RA so moved, seconded by Jim LaCourse-AI4NQ, and passed.

NET OPERATIONS – Peter-N4RD announced that DARN has requested use of our 146.805 MHz W4AC Repeater for a second net/drill, to be held at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of each month. Following brief discussion, Peter-N4RD moved for approval, seconded by Jim-AI4NQ, and passed. The secretary was directed to e-mail notice of this additional net/drill to TARC members.

See **MINUTES**, page 5

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 (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Chad – TT8PK	Now to 31 July	73	00-05	23-06	21-07	17-00	16-22	NO	NO	NO
Svalbard Is – JW4GHA	Now to 30 July	13	NO	00-09	22-11	13-02	18-00	NO	NO	NO
Congo – 9Q/ON7KEC	Now to 30 July	88	00-05	22-07	21-02	16-00	17-00	18-21	NO	NO
Norfolk Island – VI9NI	Now to 20 June	250	05-11	04-12	03-13	00-05	00-04	21-04	23-00	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP	Now to 10 June	90	23-07	21-09	20-10	12-00	12-00	NO	NO	NO
Chad – TT8LN	Now to 10 June	73	00-05	23-06	21-07	17-00	16-22	NO	NO	NO
Senegal – 6W/HA3AUI	Now to 10 June	87	23-07	21-09	20-11	13-02	13-00	NO	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/DL4FF	Now to 09 June	51	00-05	22-07	21-07	16-00	17-22	NO	NO	NO
Faroe Island – OY/Dutch Operators	Now to 08 June	32	00-06	22-09	20-12	10-00	NO	NO	NO	NO
Bermuda – VP9KF	Now to 05 June	67	21-13	00-24	17-14	12-04	15-04	NO	NO	NO
Qatar – A72006	01 Jun to 31 Aug	45	00-02	23-03	22-04	18-04	19-03	NO	NO	NO
East Malaysia – 9M6/JA3DFM & JA3EGZ	07 Jun to 10 Jul	329	NO	1100	1100	11-14	11-12	NO	NO	NO
Senegal – 6W/F6ELE	09 – 19 June	87	23-07	21-09	20-11	13-02	13-00	NO	NO	NO
Malawi – 7Q7WW	09 – 23 June	90	00-04	23-06	21-07	18-01	07-10	1000	NO	NO
Tahiti/Australes/Marquesas – FO/F6CTL	18 Jun to 18 Jul	242	03-12	02-12	00-12	16-07	17-05	17-05	22-03	NO
Mozambique – C91CF	29 Jun to 13 Jul	101	00-05	23-06	23-07	01-02	10-11	NO	NO	NO

Updated 27 May 2006, based on 24 May 2006 *QRZ DX*, 22 May 2006 *The Weekly DX* and *K1XN's DX Alert #606*

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

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

-- MAY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During the first 29 days of May, the Solar Flux ranged from 72 up to 93, with a mean value of 81.1 (vs. 99.5 for May 2005 and 99.7 for May 2004). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 22 days.

The geomagnetic field ranged from quiet to minor storm levels during the month. These disturbances, which occurred 04-07, 12-13, and 18 May were generally due to co-rotating interaction regions in advance of coronal hole high speed wind streams entering the Earth's environment. The NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Tables rather well predicted these disturbances. There were several days when no sun spots were visible, however, over 50 visible sun spots were recorded near the end of May

-- JUNE PROPAGATION FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. 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 on 04-13 June.

The geomagnetic field is expected to be quiet to unsettled for the majority of the forecast period. Recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams are expected to rotate into geoeffective positions 01-04 June, 07-08 June, and again on 14 June. Active to minor storm conditions are expected with the first coronal hole, while unsettled to active conditions are expected with the latter two coronal holes. The Solar Flux should range from 75 to 85 during June.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 23 May 2006 and *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 23 May 2006)

-- NOW, THIS IS DX!! --

Back in September 1977, NASA launched the Voyager 1 space probe to conduct close-up studies of Jupiter and Saturn, Saturn's rings, and the larger moons of the two planets. The probe is now 8.82 billion miles away—nearly 100 times the distance from the Sun to Earth.

Hams in Germany and Portugal reportedly have received signals from Voyager 1 in March and April. On 31 March, AMSAT-DL radio amateurs at the Institute for Environmental and Future Research at Bochum Observatory used a 20-meter radio telescope dish to detect the 8.4 GHz signal from Voyager 1.

Using Doppler shift and sky positioning, the German team received the signal for the first recorded reception of signals from Voyager 1 by radio amateurs.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 25, No. 17.)

-- REGIONAL REPEATERS --

Arcadia	W4MIN	147.075(+)	100 Hz
Englewood	N4EAR	146.700(+)	77 Hz
Laurel	N4SER	145.130(-)	
North Port	KI4DEH	147.120(+)	136.5
Pt. Charlotte	W4DUX	147.255(+)	136.5
Punta Gorda	WX4E	146.745(-)	
Sarasota	W4IE	146.910(-)	(**)
Sarasota	N4SER	146.730(-)	100 Hz
TARC	W4AC	146.805(-)	100 Hz
TARC	W4AC	444.100(+)	100Hz
Verna	NI4CE	145.430(-)	100 Hz

Notes: EchoLink available on W4AC repeater.

(**) Open Autopatch; use * to open, # to close

(From 02 July 2005 Florida Repeater Council Database)

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
SEANET Contest	1200Z 03 June 1200Z 04 June	160 – 10 Meters SSB/CW/Digital	Stations in the Southeast Asian Nations	R/S/(T) + Serial Number
IARU Region 1 Field Day	1500Z 03 June 1459Z 04 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	EU Stations Only	R/S/T + Serial Number
ANARTS WW RTTY/Digital Contest (Australian)	0000Z 10 June 2400Z 11 June	80 – 10 Meters Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, CQ Zone and Time
Asia-Pacific Sprint	1100Z 10 June 1300Z 10 June	20 & 15 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Asian and Pacific Island Nations	R/S + Serial Number
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z 11 June 2400Z 11 June	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S + Serial Number
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest (Argentinean)	1500Z 10 June 1500Z 11 June	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + CQ Zone
All-Asian DX Contest	0000Z 17 June 2400Z 18 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Asian Nations Only	R/S/T + Age of Operator
Spanish Islands Contest	0600Z 18 June 1200Z 18 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB/CW/RTTY	Stations on Spanish Islands	R/S/(T) + Serial Number
ARRL Field Day	1800Z 24 June 2100Z 25 June	All Bands and All Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	ARRL Section, Station Category
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 24 June 1200Z 25 June	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Spanish Stations Only	R/S/T + Serial Number

From June 2006 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

-- THE 50-YEAR QSL SAGA --

(This item did make the local paper, but not with the historical background.)

Back in 1956, newly licensed George Hitz-KN4DPI, of Deland, Florida, fired up his Johnson Adventurer transmitter and worked Dave-KN6MSI in the 40-meter Novice sub-band. Hitz sent off a QSL card, addressed only to “Amateur Radio—KN6NMI, Chief Op Dave, Address Unknown, Riverdale, Calif.” (Dave-KN6MSI was David Leaven, later WI6J, who died in 2003.) “I was 14 and, like me, Dave was a new ham and he wasn’t in the Call Book,” Hitz—now W1DA of Sudbury, Mass.—told ARRL. “I hoped there would be someone at the Riverdale post office that would know who Dave was, and it would get to him.” But Hitz made one big error: He addressed the card to Riverdale, rather than Dave’s actual QTH, Riverside, CA. Hitz put a return address on his card, but for reasons unknown it was only returned to his former Deland residence in early April 2006.

(From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 17)

-- U.S. CALL SIGN SEARCH --

Try <http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php> as a route to U.S. call signs. Enter the call sign, a state or a Zip Code. Use of Zip Code will list all calls in that area; then you can click on individual calls to get the name and address of the specific amateur.

-- UPCOMING DARN ACTIVITY --

The Diocese Amateur Radio Network (DARN) will now be conducting two communications exercises on our W4AC Repeater the second Monday of each month. The next exercises will be on 12 June at 11:00 AM and again at 7:00 PM. TARC members are encouraged to check in when prompted by the Net Control. Please avoid use of EchoLink during these exercise periods. Thanks!

-- EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES --



This ram’s head sphinx was one of the Egyptian antiquities viewed by Marie and Bob Avrutik-NIRA during the course of their cruise from Dubai to Italy. En route, Bob ran up 437 QSOs in 47 DXCC entities.

MINUTES, from page 2

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad-WA3RRS reminded all that TARC members who wish to participate in Field Day from the EARS site would be welcome to do so. Set up will be on Friday, 23 June, and there will be a picnic lunch provided around noon-time of Sunday, 25 June.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that 19 Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 03 May lunch/meeting at Denny's in Sarasota. The highlight of the meeting was presentation of the QCWA Presidential Award to Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB. Jack advised that the summer lunches will be held at 11:15 AM the first Wednesday of June through September at the Panda Pavilion, US 41, in Venice. All present were invited.

CLUB HISTORIAN – There were no volunteers for this position.

OLD BUSINESS – Scholarship/Financial Assistance: There has been no feedback to date from the School Board.

NEW BUSINESS – Nothing offered.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 8:11 PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed. There were 14 members present.

PROGRAM – Matt Klapp-W2EQV showed a variety of photos regarding the preparations for, set up, and operation of our Special Event Station K4S from the Venice Sharks Tooth Festival. Stew Haag-W4MO then demonstrated some of the steps taken to operate the Remote HF radios at our W4AC Repeater site.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- MEMORIES OF DUBAI --



When Marie and Bob Avrutik-N1RA arrived in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, they found it to be a very modern, cosmopolitan city. Pictured is one of Dubai's many ultra modern skyscrapers.

-- SUNSPOT CYCLE 24 FORECAST --

Scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado are predicting that the next sunspot cycle will be 30-50% stronger than Cycle 23, which should end around January 2007. The scientists are confident of their forecast for, in a series of test runs, the newly developed model simulated the strength of the past eight solar cycles with better than 98% accuracy.

The NCAR team's computer model, known as the Predictive Flux-transport Dynamo Model, draws on research showing that the evolution of sunspots is caused by a current of plasma, or electrified gas, that circulates between the Sun's equator and its poles over a period of 17 to 22 years. The sunspot process begins with tightly concentrated magnetic field lines in the outermost layer of the Sun's interior. These field lines rise to the surface at low latitudes and form bipolar sunspots, which are regions of concentrated magnetic fields. As the plasma nears the poles, it sinks about 200,000 km back into the convection zone as starts returning toward the equator at a speed of about one meter per second. The increasingly concentrated fields become stretched and twisted by the internal rotation of the Sun as they near the equator, becoming less stable than the surrounding plasma. This eventually causes coiled-up magnetic field lines to rise up, tear through the Sun's surface, and create new sunspots.

The Dynamo Model has enabled the NCAR scientists to predict that the upcoming Cycle 24 will produce sunspots across and area slightly larger than 2.5% of the visible surface of the Sun. However, they do not expect Cycle 24 to begin before late 2007 and to peak about 2012.

("Scientists Issue Unprecedented Forecast of Next Sunspot Cycle," *The National Center for Atmospheric Research & the UCAR Office of Programs*, 06 March 2006)

Astronomers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama also foresee a large and long solar cycle coming, however, they believe Cycle 24 will start later in 2006. NASA's statistics indicate that big cycles start early—although the data remain unclear and hasn't been well measured.

("Scientists Predict Big Sunspot Cycle Coming," *Spacedaily*, 06 March 2006)

The strongest solar cycle in recent memory was Cycle 19 which occurred in the late 1950s, when there were few satellites aloft, no astronauts in orbit and less reliance on electrical power grids than now. Efforts are underway to predict solar storms with enough advance warning to protect such facilities.

("Sun's next 11-year cycle could be 50 pct stronger," Deborah Zabarenko, 06 March 2006)