



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://tamiamiarc.tripod.com>
W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- JUNE 2007 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Well, the Dayton Hamvention has come and gone, and I will rely on Stew Haag-W4MO, who was in attendance, for a full report. I'm also anxious to see if he brought back any goodies. Time was when I never missed this "Rite of Spring." Now that I'm down here, it is quite a trip.

As we enter the month of June, thoughts of Field Day come to mind. Although TARC doesn't sponsor a FD operation, all members are invited to assist the Englewood Amateur Radio Society (EARS) in their FD operation. They will set up Friday, June 22 behind the Englewood United Methodist Church at 700 E. Dearborn St. in Englewood. Operating begins at 1800 GMT (2:00 PM), Saturday June 23 and they will shut down around 11 AM on Sunday.

Following this, there will be a picnic at the FD site, with food and drink provided by EARS. Those attending may, at their option, bring an additional dish—dessert, etc. Several TARC members, including myself, have enjoyed this event in prior years, and I encourage all of you to come on out for a good time. What's more, this is one way to insure that we get a good rain storm!

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

-- THE EYES HAVE IT --



All eyes appear to be on Stew-W4MO and his yellow shirt at the May TARC meeting.

"Never miss a good chance to shut up." - Will Rogers

-- CATHOLIC CHARITIES WINS AWARD --

On 16 May, at the 2007 Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference held at the Broward County Convention Center, Catholic Charities received the Humanitarian Award for their disaster response efforts throughout the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons and their continued efforts in assisting disaster victims in 2006.

Volunteer Florida and the Volunteer Florida Foundation nominated Catholic Charities for the honor at the Conference. Deacon Marcus Hepburn, emergency management specialist for the Florida Catholic Conference stated, "Catholic Charities was particularly cited for its emphasis on serving the most vulnerable among Florida's citizens. While all seven diocesan agencies in Florida were recognized for their work, Hepburn commended the Diocese of Venice as a leader in relief efforts and should be especially proud of its accomplishments.

(From Catholic Charities 22 May 2007 Press Release via Bob Sullenberger-KG4VDU)

-- JUNE MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 14 June 2007 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. Following the business meeting, a PBS Nova video "Lightning" will be shown. Come on out, and maybe learn something about this natural phenomenon which will be visiting us rather regularly during the coming months.

-- TARC MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS --

TARC membership interests have been tabulated, with some interesting results. The most popular interest is Computers (45.9%), closely followed by DX (41.0%), VHF/UHF (39.3%), Emergency Communications (36.1%), Field Day (32.8%), and EchoLink (31.1%). Interestingly, we have 15 permanent resident members interested in Field Day. Maybe with someone to assume the lead position, TARC could once again actively participate in FD.

"Fear is the passion of slaves." – Patrick Henry

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

10 May 2007

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Eric Owen-KD4MZM of Sarasota was recognized as a visitor. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Konrad asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 12 April 2007 meeting as published in the May 2007 issue of *The Communicator*. Mike Hickey-NY4P so moved, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack-W4JS reported sending a letter to Ed Connors-WB1GHK advising him of being granted honorary Life Membership in the TARC, having received a nice “Thank You” letter with a photo of Ed in return. This letter was passed around for all to see. Jack also had sent a letter to Maggie Riggall, Executive Director of the Sharks Tooth Festival, expressing the Club’s appreciation for the opportunity to operate our Special Event Station K4S from the Festival site.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 12 April starting balance was \$4445.55. Receipts were \$17.00 from the March 50/50 drawing, \$15.00 from new member dues, and a \$3.50 donation, totaling \$35.50. Expenses were \$120.64 for liability insurance premium, \$132.50 for call sign badges, \$10.65 for bank checks, and \$6.23 for stamps and newsletter printing, totaling \$270.02. The 10 May ending balance is \$4211.03. Don reported that our current total membership is 76, including five Life Members and five first year free members. Dil Kay-KB8YLK moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Jim LaCourse-K4IH, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – No negative news.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS stated that several candidates were expected at the VE session this coming Saturday.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that all seemed OK with our repeater. Bob Avrutik-N1RA advised that the packet gateway station is now operational from our W4AC Repeater site, and welcomed all to try it on 145.610 MHz.

CLUB PROPERTY – No acquisitions nor dispersals.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – The 2007 Membership List, effective 21 April, has been sent to all members.

NET OPERATIONS – Konrad reminded all of our Tuesday and Thursday 2-meter nets and encour-

aged participation. Konrad also reminded all of our Tuesday and Friday breakfasts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Jack stated that Diana Gregory-KI4GRF had called him to report that she had been spreading the word about the ARRL Field Day in June. Konrad briefly discussed potential assistance by TARC members with the EARS Field Day operation.

LIAISON TO EARS – No report, as Konrad did not attend the April EARS meeting.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that 19 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 02 May luncheon/meeting. This was the last one in Sarasota, as the June through September lunches will be at the Panda Pavilion in Venice, and all are invited.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussion was held regarding several pending items:

- Jacaranda Trace – Don-WD7A stated there had been no further contact with the management of Jacaranda Trace. Don mentioned that there is an Internet site, <http://kb2wvy-repeater.4t.com/>, that introduces the “Jacaranda Trace Repeater Club” and discusses the 442.050 MHz repeater, which is an IRLP and Echolink Node System at Jacaranda Trace under the control of a John Stewart-KB2WVY. Konrad commented that he had received a phone call from Mr. Stewart, who expressed his willingness to cooperate with the TARC at Jacaranda Trace, although he could not offer any assistance with HF radio. Stew-W4MO commented that he is following up on this.
- TARC Badges – Don laid out the badge which had been received, and will mail badges to those now out of town.

NEW BUSINESS – Several items were offered for consideration:

- Konrad announced that Bob Avrutik-N1RA had resigned as a TARC Director on 18 April, therefore an election was required at this time for a new Director. Jack-W4JS nominated Charlie Covell-W4DB and Peter Pesa-N4RD seconded the nomination. There being no nominations from the floor, Peter moved that the nominations be closed; seconded by Jack-W4JS. Charlie-W4DB was unanimously elected by voice vote.
- Konrad commented that a recent review by Don-WD7A indicated that several of the ARRL publications previously donated by the TARC to the Venice Public Library were 4-6 years old, and those related to licensing were no longer relative. A more intensive survey will determine which books to replace. We will also determine if the

See MINUTES, page 5

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION FORECASTS

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
Bhutan – A52VE	Now Active	8	NO	NO	NO	21-02	21-02	NO	NO	NO
“ “	“ “	<u>352</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>12-13</u>	<u>01-03</u>	NO	NO
Ivory Coast – TU2/F5LDY	Now Active	90	23-07	22-08	20-10	10-03	22-02	15-03	NO	NO
Guinea – 3XM6JR, 3XD2Z	Now Active	90	23-07	21-09	20-10	09-03	13-01	21-01	18-01	NO
Pitcairn Is – VP6TD (PSK31 + SSB, CW)	Now Active	226	02-12	00-12	23-11	15-09	16-05	18-03	19-03	17-04
Singapore – 9V1AP (PSK31 & RTTY)	Now Active	347	NO	NO	NO	11-14	12-13	NO	NO	NO
Timor-Leste – 4W6AAV	Now to 04 June	300	09-10	08-12	07-13	11-14	03-05	23-04	NO	NO
Monaco – 3A7JO	02 – 10 June	50	00-05	22-08	21-09	11-00	10-00	NO	NO	NO
Agalega – 3B6SP	06 - 17 June	75	00-03	23-04	22-04	04-06	16-18	15-20	NO	NO
Antigua – V26HS	09 – 24 June	113	22-12	00-24	00-24	19-14	13-04	18-03	15-03	22-02
Liechtenstein – HB0/PA0ABM	15 – 22 June	46	00-05	22-08	21-09	11-00	09-23	NO	NO	NO
Market Reef – OJ0/home calls	01 – 07 July	31	01-04	23-07	22-09	10-23	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 31 May 2007, based on 30 May 2007 *QRZ DX*, 28 May 2007 *The Weekly DX*, *K1XN's DX Alert 705-C* and <http://www.n3gk.com>

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

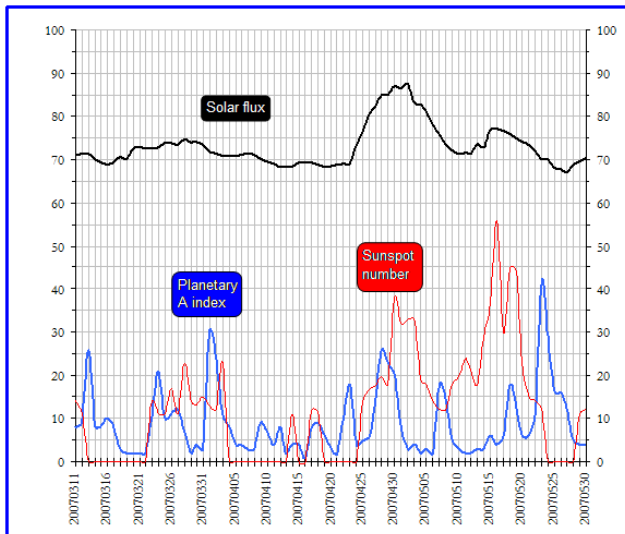
Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

-- MAY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During the month of May, the Solar Flux ranged from 67 up to 87, with a mean value of 74.5 (vs. 80.9 for May 2006 and 99.5 for May 2005). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 23 days.

Solar activity was generally very low. The Earth's geomagnetic field was quiet 01-06 May, followed by quiet to minor storms 07-08 and 18 May. On 23 May a major storm drove the Ap up to 42, and the field was quiet to major storms 24-27 M

The flowing graph summarizes the sunspot numbers (red), the solar flux (black) and the planetary A index, Ap (blue), during the month of May. Note the periods of no visible sunspots at various times during the month.



(Courtesy of Jan Alvestad, the DX-Listeners' Club, <http://www.dxl.com/solar/>)

-- JUNE PROPAGATION FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to continue at very low to low levels during June. Isolated C-class flares are possible 08-21 June due to the return of old region

956 to the visible disk. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels during 30 May-03 June, 17 June, and 20-25 June.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be mostly quiet from 30 May-02 June. Activity is expected to increase to quiet to active levels 03-04 June due to a recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream (HSS). Following mostly quiet levels 05-13 June, unsettled to active periods are expected 14-15 June due to HSS. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected 16-19 June, followed by unsettled to minor storm conditions 20-23 June, with major storm periods possible. 24-30 June will be quiet to unsettled.

The solar flux should range from 65 to 75 during June.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 29 May 2007 and NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 29 May 2007.)

-- GREAT CIRCLE BEARINGS --

If you have recently acquired a beam antenna, or if you're just interested in how far and in what direction a DXCC entity is located, the North Jersey DX Association has a very helpful tool on its Internet site. Go to <http://njdxa.org/dx-tools/dxclist.shtml>. Enter either your longitude and latitude (in decimal format) or your zip code, and select if you want the distances in kilometers or miles. You can personalize the printout with your name and call sign, if desired. Click "Generate List" and the short and long path bearings, distance, latitude and longitude, continent and CQ Zone for every DXCC entity will be shown. The printout totals 12 pages.

(Thanks to Marty Horowitz-N4FA for this lead.)

"Never kick a cow chip on a hot day." – Will Rogers

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
South East Asia Net (SEANET) Contest	1200Z 02 June 1200Z 03 June	40 – 10 Meters CW/SSB/Digital	South East Asian Entities	R/S/(T) + Serial Number
IARU Region 1 Field Day	1500Z 02 June 1459Z 03 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	European Stations	R/S/T + Serial Number
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z 09 June 0300Z 11 June	6 Meters and Up CW & SSB	Anyone, Anywhere	Call Sign + Grid Square
ANARTS (Australian) WW RTTY/ Digital Contest	0000Z 09 June 2400Z 10 June	80 – 10 Meters Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + CQ Zone and UTC time
Asia-Pacific Sprint	1100Z 10 June 1300Z 10 June	20 and 15 Meters SSB Only	Asian and Oceanic Stations Only	R/S + Serial Number
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z 09 June 2400Z 09 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Portugal and DXCC Entities	R/S + Serial Number
GACW (Argentinean) WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z 09 June 1500Z 10 June	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + CQ Zone
All Asian DX Contest	0000Z 16 June 2400Z 17 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Asian Stations	R/S/T + Operator's Age
SMIRK QSO Party	0000Z 16 June 2400Z 17 June	6 Meters Only SSB & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square + SMIRK # (if appl)
ARRL Field Day	1800Z 23 June 2100Z 24 June	160 and Up CW/SSB/Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	See May <i>QST</i> for categories
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 23 June 1200Z 24 June	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Spanish Stations Only	R/S + Serial Number

From June 2007 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

-- QCWA SIXTY-SIXTY AWARD --

To recognize radio amateurs licensed for 25 years or more, the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) was founded 14 November 1947. To celebrate its 60th Anniversary, QCWA President John Johnston-W3BE announced on 18 May 2007 that the QCWA is offering a new operating award: QCWA Sixty-Sixty Award.

Eligibility Requirements are as follow:

1. Applicant must submit a list of 60 different two-way contacts with QCWA Members.
2. Two-way contacts may utilize any RF mode of operation on any frequency authorized for amateur use, including the use of VHF/UHF repeaters.
3. Log information should include the time (UTC), date of contact, call sign, QCWA Member's name and membership number.
4. Applicant should include with each application a statement in his/her own words that the contacts are true and correct and were made in accordance with both the amateur regulatory requirements for his/her country of residence and the QCWA requirements as set forth for the Award.
5. There is a fee of US\$2.00 for applicants. (Check, cash, or money order only. No credit cards or stamps are accepted.) Award certificates will be gratis to stations outside North America, but dona-

tions to defray postage and handling will be gratefully accepted.

6. Applicants are requested to submit the requested items to:

Robert Buus – W2OD
8 Donner Street
Holmdel, NJ 07733-2004

(From *QCWA Hotlist*, 22 May 2007)

-- WORKING WITH HARD LINE --



Eric Owen-KD4MZM demonstrates the inexpensive way he fabricates coax connections for surplus 3/4" hard line at the May TARC meeting.

MINUTES, from page 2

TARC can put an identity/contact sticker in all the books, giving credit to the Club as the donor and providing a means of contact with the Club.

- At the 08 May Board Meeting, the TARC officers decided to determine the cost of converting the TARC generator at the W4AC Repeater site from gasoline to LPG fuel. The rationale is that the LPG can be stored outside at the site, there would be no need to coordinate the handling of numerous gasoline cans, finding sources of gasoline during emergencies, etc. The best way to utilize the LPG is via the use of two 30# tanks, such that gas withdrawal is at a low rate to prevent freezing. The estimated cost is \$500: \$250 for the carburetor conversion kit, \$70 for a dual-tank regulator, \$136 for two 30# LPG tanks, and \$44 contingency. Jim-K4IH moved budgeting \$500 for the conversion, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Peter-N4RD advised all that the 145.130 MHz Laurel Repeater operated by the SERC has been inoperative for several months as the SERC apparently lacks the wherewithal to correct the problem before the arrival of hurricane season next month. Peter then moved that Konrad send a letter to the SERC, advising SERC that the TARC would be willing to provide the technical assistance needed to reactivate that repeater. Seconded by Charlie-W4DB, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM was made by Dil-KB8YLK, seconded by Charlie-W4DB, and passed. There were 16 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Jack-W4JS demonstrated the method he has successfully used to solder PL259 connectors to coaxial cable. Eric Owen-KD4MZM displayed and discussed the means by which he fabricates female connectors for surplus hard line cable. Stew-W4MO showed off a crimping tool he has used commercially to attach connectors to coaxial cable.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- LAPTOP SHOPPING HINTS --

Good information is available on the Internet if you're shopping for a new desktop or laptop computer; go to <http://walt.allthingsd.com/guide>. Two guides are available, one for each type computer.

There are some interesting changes and features in store for laptops. Later this year or in early 2008, laptops will utilize a "solid state drive" or SSD in place of the traditional hard disk, with a faster drive made of memory chips like those used in digital cam-

eras. More and more laptops will be using LEDs to light up their screens.

Certain new laptops will have a new type of Wi-Fi wireless networking built-in. It's called "N" and it promises to be faster and to have a longer range.

Built-in Web camera and microphone will be common, as well as a feature that allows you to play music, videos or DVDs without booting up Windows. Another key feature is a new kind of slot on the side of most laptops for add-on cards, like wireless modems. It's called an Express Card slot, however, it comes in two sizes. Old-style cards, called PC Cards, won't fit into these new slots, so unless you want to buy new cards, you might look for a laptop that has both the old and new slots.

Unless you rarely take your laptop with you or run it strictly on battery power, look for a laptop that offers at least three hours of battery life without requiring you to dim the screen so much you can't see anything.

Most well-configured Windows laptops, with typical 15.4" screens, are selling between \$900 and \$1500. Among the Windows machines, Sony and Lenovo make well designed laptops, however almost any name brand will be fine.

(From "Watch for special features when buying a laptop," Walter Mossberg, *Herald-Tribune*, 07 May 2007.)

-- THE ROCK #2 STATION AT BS7H --



(Photo courtesy of BS7H Web Site)

Stations were set up on four of the largest rocks of the multitude comprising Scarborough Reef. SteppIR verticals were used at three stations and a multiband beam at the fourth station.

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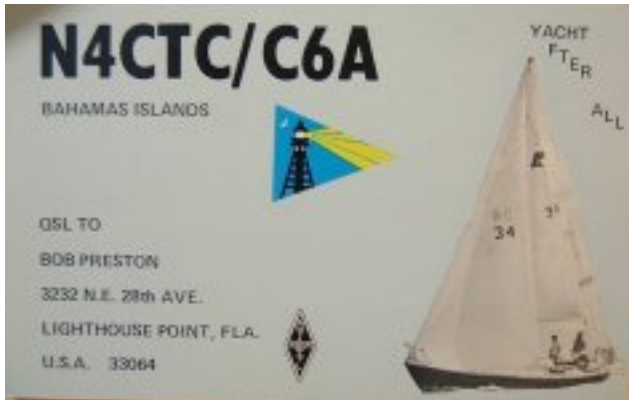
-- THE ROCK #4 STATION AT BS7H --



(Photo courtesy of BS7H Web Site)

The BS7H Scarborough Reef operation ran four stations from 1348 GMT, 29 April to 2354 GMT 05 May, during which time 17,884 stations made 45,820 QSOs with BS7H. (JR House-K9HUY, over in Englewood East was the only local DXer to get into the BS7H log with a 20-meter CW contact.) Only 3528 North American stations were worked, of which about 1000 were in the eastern states. During those ± 5.5 days BS7H was on the air, our local area only had workable propagation for about one hour each day on 02, 04 and 05 May. Considering that the BS7H web site has been "hit" over 1,000,000 times, demand for Scarborough Reef obviously remains very high!

-- NAUTICAL BOB-N4CTC --



Back in 1979, Bob Preston-N4CTC became active in the HHH Net that comes on 7.235 MHz daily at 0700 GMT. This net was founded by Hank Greenberg-W2LTP in 1976 as a Worked All States and DX Assistance Net. As Bob and his family cruised the Bahamas every summer until the end of August, he offered QSOs from 50 Bahamian islands. In three years, he handed out about 70 certificates.

The boat was a Pearson Renegade, 28' waterline, and the antenna was usually a wire tossed over a palm tree. Rig was a TS-120 with a diesel battery for power, and a compact MFJ tuner.

--W4AC PACKET STATION --



Jerry DeLong-KD4YAL came down recently from Tampa to help get the W4AC packet gateway station up and running from the repeater site. Give it a try on 145.610 MHz.

-- SHARKS TOOTH FESTIVAL --



Satellite guru Eric Owen-KD4MZM shares the camera with George Emig-AB4BD during a quiet evening at the Festival. Looks like Andy Durette-KB1HIP and Stew Haag-W4MO in the background, keeping K4S on the air.



TARC President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS mans the rig at K4S while Stew-W4MO does the logging.

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**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 _____

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 @ \$18.50/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
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2007 TARC Officers

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