



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341
W4AC Repeater – 444.100 MHz & 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- JUNE 2010 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

This past month was another busy one for me. While the scheduled work on the repeaters' antennas was delayed one week, Ron LeBrun-KB4RON and Julio Peralta-W4HY carried out the changes in fine order. The 444.10 MHz antenna is up at 200', right on top of the tower. The 146.805 MHz antenna has the top of the array at 200'. Both repeaters are running normally and the results are as good as expected. Now, if we could just get more members to make use of these two repeaters!!!!

While on the tower, Ronnie removed the lower multi-band inverted-v antenna. The Flex-3000 that utilized that antenna was experiencing interference, such that it was not of use. The Flex and the antenna have now been reinstalled elsewhere, with the peak of the antenna up at 60'. Again, our members are encouraged to make use of these two remote controlled radios.

I went up to the Dayton Hamvention and found it to be well attended, with some new products on display for the first time. However, I'm really looking forward to going over to Friedrichshafen, Germany in June for what is, without a doubt, the largest hamfest in the world. I may not understand a lot of the lingo being spoken around me over there, but some sights speak louder than words.

I'm making one more appeal that our members make use of our repeaters and remote HF radios. A lot of time and money have been invested in these facilities, and it's a crying shame that they are so under-utilized. Turn on your FM radios and/or your computers, and make use of these communications tools.

73 to All de Stew-W4MO

-- JUNE MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **01 June 2010** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. After the business meeting, Stew Haag-W4MO will describe how our two remote control HF radios can be utilized. Come out and learn about making use of these facilities!

-- HE'S UP FOR THE TASK! --



Ron LeBrun-KB4RON works his way up the repeater tower. The standoff for the Kenwood HF antenna is just above him.

--VOTE ON NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS --

As noted in the Minutes, at our April meeting the membership voted to establish a new membership category for students. The following By-laws amendment to add the category of Student Membership was published in the May issue of *The Communicator* and read at the 04 May meeting, as follows:

"Student Membership, comprising licensed Amateur Radio operators who are students under the age of 18 years, upon payment of dues of \$5 per year. Such members shall not be eligible to vote on Club matters."

As 30 days notice has been duly given, the membership at the 01 June meeting will thereby vote in this amendment to the Bylaws.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
04 May 2010

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Lin DeVecchio-N2ROM from Sarasota was welcomed as a visitor.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 06 April 2010 meeting as published in the May 2010 issue of *The Communicator*. Dil Kay-W8DIL so moved, seconded by Guenther Henig-AJ4QX, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing received or sent during the past month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1936.38. Receipts were \$25.00 from the April 50/50, \$30.00 from 2010 membership dues payments, \$24.00 Scholarship Donation by Jim Murdock-KG4KOT, and \$16.00 for call sign badges, totaling \$95.00. Expenses were \$14.34 for DayStar Internet service, \$21.75 for three call sign badges, and \$289.48 for 180' of LMR600 coax cable for the 2-meter repeater antenna, totaling \$325.57. The 04 May 2010 ending balance is \$1705.81. San Yoder-K3SY moved to approve the report, seconded by Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Matt Klapp-W2EQV commented that all was quiet.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 08 May, with probably three candidates. In addition, there will be an extraordinary VE session the same day at the Sarasota Red Cross building at 5:30 PM.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Switching placement of the 146 and 444 MHz antennas on the tower should take place this Friday or Saturday, with new LMR600 coax being installed to the 2-meter antenna at its new location. It is expected that these antenna revisions will result in improved operation of the two repeaters. In response to Stew's query of how many members present have 440 capability, a show of hands indicated about eight or more members.

CLUB PROPERTY – No inventory changes.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we now have 88 members, including seven Life Members, 18 First-Year Free members, and 63 paid-up members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present.

LIAISON TO EARS – Conrad Owens-WA3RRS reported that EARS is looking for a site for this year's Field Day operation.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS stated that Suncoast Chapter 53's 07 April luncheon/meeting attracted 37 members/spouses/friends. Tomorrow, 05 May, the Chapter will meet at 11:30 AM at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will give a PowerPoint presentation on his travels in Egypt.

OLD BUSINESS – Stew-W4MO has met with several persons at the company that owns the repeater site, however, discussion of a lease agreement has not come up.

Jon Hamlet-W4ZW provided updates on our current relationships with organizations and schools.

Pine View School – Graduating Senior Zhu Simeng-KJ4KTI received notification that he will receive a ham radio scholarship..

Sarasota Military Academy – Jon gave a PP presentation on EchoLink to a small group of students.

Suncoast Polytechnical High School – Students are busy with preparation from school exams. During a recent demonstration at the school, Jon attracted attention while attempting a moonbounce contact.

Riverview High School – Nothing from this school as yet.

Sarasota Red Cross – All equipment has been repaired. Planning to participate in Field Day while using the Red Cross communications trailer from, as yet, an undetermined location.

NEW BUSINESS – Bylaws Amendment – Stew announced the following: In an effort to retain younger members who were granted First Year Free status, but none of whom stayed on to become a full, dues paying member, at our April meeting the membership voted that we establish a new membership category for students. The following Bylaws amendment to add the category of Student Membership was published in the May issue of *The Communicator*, as follows:

“Student Membership, comprising licensed Amateur Radio operators who are students under the age of 18 years, upon payment of dues of \$5 per year. Such members shall not be eligible to vote on Club matters.”

See **MINUTES**, pg. 4

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 |
| Marion Island – ZS8M (for one year) | Now on the Air | 130 | 00-06 | 06-08 | 07-08 | 10-12 | 10-11 | NO | NO | NO |
| St Vincent – J88CF; Kumar, native resident | Very Active! | 121 | 22-11 | 00-24 | 10-05 | 22-02 | 17-03 | NO | NO | NO |
| Mayotte – FH8ND; little activity 'til late June | Now to 15 Aug | 85 | 00-04 | 23-05 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 0500 | NO | NO | NO |
| Macquarie Is – VK0/ZL4DB; spare time op. | Now to 14 Aug | 220 | 04-11 | 01-05 | 02-04 | 00-02 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Belize – V31XB; HF + 6 meters | Now to 14 June | 211 | -- | 00-24 | 11-06 | 16-04 | 17-03 | NO | NO | NO |
| Chad – TT8PK; SSB, CW, some RTTY | Now to 10 June | 73 | 00-05 | 22-06 | 22-06 | 17-00 | 16-21 | 16-21 | NO | NO |
| Palestine – E4X; Multinational team operation | Now to 06 June | 49 | 00-03 | 23-05 | 23-05 | 17-05 | 17-23 | 17-23 | NO | NO |
| Tokelau – ZK3X; Ukrainian DX Group | Now to 06 June | 262 | 05-12 | 03-13 | 03-13 | 18-07 | 18-05 | 23-03 | 23-03 | NO |
| Ascension Is – ZD8J | 02 to 08 June | 108 | 23-08 | 21-10 | 20-04 | 10-00 | 18-23 | 16-21 | 16-21 | NO |
| Mongolia – JT0YAB, JT0YW, JT0YPS | 03 to 08 June | 354 | -- | NO | NO | 22-06 | 08-17 | NO | NO | NO |
| West Kiribati – T30XG; HF + 6 meters | 03 to 09 June | 277 | -- | 05-13 | -- | 19-14 | 09-14 | 00-05 | 00-05 | NO |
| Maldives – 8Q7TB | 05 to 26 June | 41 | 00-01 | 23-02 | 0130 | 02-04 | 02-04 | NO | NO | NO |
| Singapore – 9V1/AD6ZJ; mainly weekends | 06 to 28 June | 347 | NO | NO | NO | 12-13 | 12-13 | NO | NO | NO |
| San Andres Is – 5J0BV; HF + 6 meters | 10 to 21 June | 177 | 20-14 | 00-24 | 00-24 | 18-03 | 21-03 | 17-03 | -- | -- |
| Albania – ZA/HA5X; holiday style operation | 10 to 24 June | 48 | 00-04 | 22-06 | 22-06 | 13-00 | 20-23 | 20-23 | NO | NO |
| Guernsey Is – 2U0WMG | 11 to 17 June | 46 | 00-06 | 22-08 | 21-09 | 15-00 | 15-00 | NO | NO | NO |
| Malta – 9H3XW,9H3BS,9H3MK;individ ops | 12 to 25 June | 55 | 00-04 | 22-07 | 22-07 | 13-01 | 17-00 | 17-00 | NO | NO |
| Liechtenstein – HBO/OU4U | 22 to 27 June | 46 | 00-05 | 22-08 | 22-07 | 15-00 | 15-00 | NO | NO | NO |

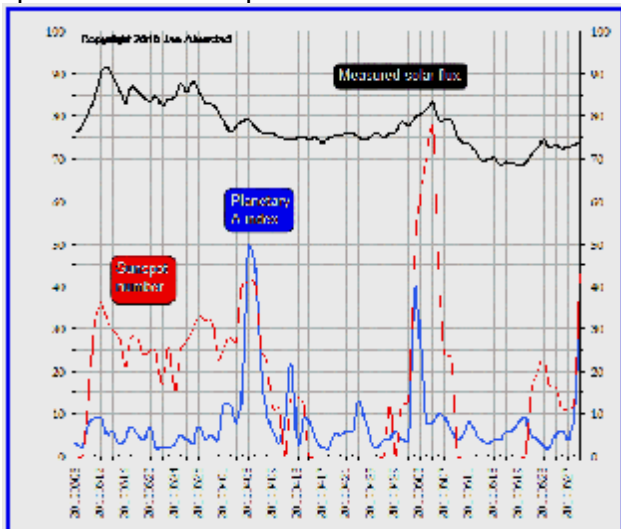
Updated 28 May 2010, based on 26 May 2010 *QRZ DX*, 24 May 2010 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

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 by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- MAY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 30 May the Solar Flux ranged from 69 to 83, with a mean value of 74.0 (vs. 70.6 for May 2009 and 68.4 for May 2008). The A-index was ≥ 7 on 13 days. The average daily SSN was 17.6, with the Sun being spotless for 11 days.

Sunspot Regions 1064 thru 1075 formed during May. While several C-class solar flares occurred during May, the geomagnetic field disturbances during May were generally due to coronal mass ejections and the resultant high speed solar wind speeds.



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

-- JUNE FORECAST --

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. Solar flux are expected to be at high levels 01-09 June. The geomagnetic field

should be quiet to unsettled 01 June. Quiet levels should prevail 02-14 June. Quiet to active levels are expected 15-16 June, with generally quiet levels through to 30 June. June's solar flux should average 75.5.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 25 May 2010, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 25 May 2010, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 28 May 2010)

-- 2009 DX MARATHON AWARD WINNER --

CQ sponsors an annual DX Marathon to see how many DX countries and CQ Zones can be worked during the calendar year by the participating stations. For the 2009 event, 320 stations in 48 countries and 23 CQ zones submitted logs, and the results were published in the June 2010 issue of CQ.

While well-known DXer Bob Locher-W9KNI worked 281 countries and all 40 zones in the Mixed/Unlimited category, TARC's Jack Sproat-W4JS took First Place in the All SSB/Unlimited category, having worked 244 countries in all 40 zones during the 12-month period.

In 2008, First Place in All SSB went to OZ1ADL, who worked 241 countries. So, in spite of there being 3% fewer countries being available during 2009, both the Mixed and All SSB winners produced more countries worked.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

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JUNE CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

| Contest/Special Event | Begin-End Times/Dates | Bands/Modes | QSO With | Exchange |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| UKSMG Summer Contest | 1300Z 05 June 1300Z 06 June | 6 Meters Only SSB and CW | Anyone, Anywhere | 6-digit Grid Square |
| SEANET Contest | 1200Z 05 June 1200Z 06 June | 80 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital | Only South East Asia Net Stations | R/S/(T), Serial Number |
| Portugal Day | 0000Z 12 June 2359Z 12 June | 80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/(T), Serial Number |
| Australian Shires Contest | 0600Z 12 June 0600Z 13 June | 80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW | Australian Stations Only | R/S/(T), CQ Zone |
| Asia-Pacific Sprint | 1100Z 12 June 1300Z 12 June | 20 & 15 Meters SSB Only | Pacific stations west of 180° Longitude | R/S, Serial Number |
| Grupo Argentino de CW DX Contest | 1500Z 12 June 1500Z 13 June | 80 – 10 Meters CW Only | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/T, CQ Zone |
| ARRL VHF QSO Party | 1800Z 12 June 0300Z 14 June | 6 Meters and Up SSB and CW | Anyone, Anywhere | 4-digit Grid Square |
| All-Asian DX Contest | 0000Z 19 June 2400Z 20 June | 160 – 6 Meters CW Only | Asian Stations Only | R/S/T, Operator Age |
| SMIRK QSO Party | 0000Z 19 June 2359Z 20 June | 6 Meters Only SSB and CW | Anyone, Anywhere | Call Sign, Grid Square |
| His Majesty King of Spain Contest | 1200Z 26 June 1200Z 27 June | 160 – 10 Meters SSB Only | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S, Serial Number |
| Marconi Memorial HF Contest | 1400Z 26 June 1400Z 27 June | 160 – 10 Meters CW Only | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/T, Serial Number |
| ARRL Field Day | 1800Z 26 June 2100Z 27 June | 160 Meters & Up SSB, CW, Digital | Anyone, Anywhere (see ARRL site for category) | Category, ARRL Section |

From ARRL "Contest Corral," June 2010 QST and June 2010 *WorldRadio Online*

MINUTES, from pg. 2

As 30 days' notice is required before the membership can vote to ratify this amendment, the final vote will occur at our 01 June TARC meeting.

Life Membership Nomination – Stew nominated both Lee Darby-K4GCY and Mel Bullock-W4PSE for Honorary Life Membership. Both meet the criteria for Life Membership, e.g., they are unable to attend meetings but have maintained their membership. Both are faithful in attending our Tuesday breakfasts, and Lee has a great record for assisting at our VE sessions. Stew added that he has known Mel since his days up in Louisville. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW moved that K4GCY and W4PSE be granted Life Membership, seconded by Bernie Holtman-W4GO, and passed by voice vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Vic Ouelette-K1CGI asked why just students were considered in the Student Membership amendment. It was explained that none of the First Year Free members who were students had stayed with us as dues paying members, and

this was an inducement to keep such students in the club.

Andy Durette-KB1HIP remarked that the owner of Ferguson Electronics often has customers inquiring if there is a local ham radio club, and he wonders if the TARC brochure is being updated. There is some work in progress on a new brochure.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 6:34 PM was made by Conrad Owens-WA3RRS, seconded by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX and passed. There were 22 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Jon Hamlet-W4ZW offered a very informative PP presentation on the workings of EchoLink and VoIP.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- TARC NET REMINDER --

Tuesdays, Simplex Net, 7:30 PM on 146.580

Wednesdays, DX Net, 8:00 PM on 146.805 (-)

Thursdays, Emergency Net, 7:30 PM on 146.805 (-)

-- REGIONAL REPEATERS --

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|------------|----------|
| Arcadia | W4MIN | 147.075(+) | 100 Hz |
| Arcadia | W4MIN | 147.180(+) | |
| Englewood | N4EAR | 146.700(-) | 77 Hz |
| Englewood | K0DGF | 146.775(-) | 77 Hz |
| Englewood | W4AC | 146.805(-) | 103.5 Hz |
| Grove City | K8ONV | 146.865(-) | 136.5 Hz |
| Laurel | N4SER | 145.130(-) | |
| North Port | K4NPT | 147.120(+) | 136.5 Hz |
| North Port | W0AC | 146.970(-) | 136.5 Hz |
| Pt. Charlotte | N4FOB | 146.925(-) | 136.5 Hz |
| Pt. Charlotte | KS4ST | 147.015(+) | |
| Pt. Charlotte | W4DUX | 147.255(+) | 136.5 Hz |
| Punta Gorda | WX4E | 146.745(-) | 136.5 Hz |
| Punta Gorda | KF4QWC | 146.685(-) | 136.5 Hz |
| Sarasota | W4IE | 146.910(-) | |
| Sarasota | N4SER | 146.730(-) | 100 Hz |
| Sarasota | N4SER | 147.390(+) | 100Hz |
| Sarasota | KF4RJC | 145.370(-) | 74.4 Hz |
| Verna | NI4CE | 145.430(-) | 100 Hz |

(From Florida Repeater Council web site)

-- RELOCATED ANTENNA ARRAYS --



Following the work of Ron LeBrun-KB4RON and Julio Peralta-W4HY, the 440 MHz 4-bay array is on top of the 200' tower, with the 2-meter 4-bay array immediately below. The 440 array is fed with 3/4" hard line; the 2-meter array with new LMR-600, which is electrically equivalent to 1/2" hard line. Now, folks, make use of them!

-- JON GIVES A LEARNING SESSION --



At our May meeting, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW gave us an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on just how the EchoLink and VoIP modes work. It seems that all digital communications have a lot in common with each other.

-- CONGRATS, LEE AND MEL --



Our two most recent Honorary Life Members and Lee Darby-K4GCY (r) and Mel Bullock-W4PSE (l), who were granted that distinction at our May meeting. Both take their eating seriously, and are pretty faithful in attending our Tuesday breakfasts at Peach's. Congratulations to both of you from all of us!

-- PROGRAMS ANYONE? --

The key to good attendance at club meetings is a good program that will encourage members to attend those meetings. TARC does not have a Program Manager, therefore we depend on some of our members to prepare and offer programs. If you know any outsiders who could offer interesting programs, please let us know.

June 2010

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

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) _____

Voluntary Contribution to the Tamiami ARC Scholarship Fund _____

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**

The Communicator is a monthly publication
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
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
Jon Hamlet – W4ZW
Jack Gaddas-KY1Z
Bob Avrutik-N1RA