



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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



-- JUNE 2011 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

My personal highlight of the past month was attending the Dayton Hamvention 19-22 May. The weather was cooperative and the attendance was estimated at about 25,000 people.

Hamfest sales were good, with one vendor of Wouxun HTs selling his entire stock of 500 radios by noon.

On the down side, the sewerage system was not cooperative. On Saturday, a major sewer



backup resulted in the closure of most of the restrooms inside Hara Arena and sewage leaked from manholes into the flea market area. Attendees "managed" by using portable toilets already set up outside and by stepping cautiously through portions of the flea market. Instead of looking up for antennas, they kept their eyes on the ground! Everything was restored to normal by Sunday morning.

Bob Marchese-K1NOK was the only TARC member I met at Dayton. A couple of Bob's photos showing Hamvention activity are elsewhere in this newsletter. There were a number of Chinese hams in attendance, and several of them were especially interested in EME operation.

While Dayton isn't as convenient as when I lived in Louisville, it is one event I always try to attend. If you've never gone, you should try it at least once in your lifetime.

73, Stew Haag-W4MO

-- JUNE MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **01 JUNE 2011** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive, just west of the Venice Airport. Following the business meeting, Jack Sproat-W4JS will give a program on 'Sunspots—Why and What.'

-- "REVEREND" STEW? --



No, Stew isn't calling for Divine Assistance at our May meeting. Rather he's holding two HTs to increase audio volume while using the 440 MHz W4AC Repeater and VOIP to talk to his son, David-W4HAG, who is over in Wamena, Papua Barat Province, Indonesia.

-- SEEKING LIFETIME EXAM CREDIT --

The Anchorage VEC has petitioned the FCC to grant lifetime credit for all amateur examination elements passed, even if the license associated with them has been expired for more than two years. Currently, only Technician exams passed before 1987 are granted lifetime credit. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the group says it is unfair to grant element credit for some applicants but not for others. The FCC had not indicated whether it would post the petition for public comment.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 19 May 2011)

Without geometry, life is pointless.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
04 May 2011

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Steve Case-W4VFL, of Venice, was welcomed as a visitor.

MINUTES – A motion to accept the minutes of the 06 April 2011 meeting as published in the May 2011 issue of *The Communicator* was made by Dil Kay-W8DIL, seconded by Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – No correspondence received or sent during the past month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE gave the April Treasurer's Report. The starting balance was \$3240.27. Receipts were \$23.00 from the April 50/50, and \$50 in dues, totaling \$733.00. Expenses were \$14.94 for DayStar Internet service, \$29.96 for office expenses, \$117.39 for Liability Insurance, and \$5.00 for the Attendance Drawing, totaling \$167.31. The ending balance is \$3145.96. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – The TARC Silent Key Memorial plaque was displayed, showing the addition of John Mazzocoli-W2OG who had passed away 31 March at the age of 69.

VE TESTING – Our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 14 May at the Venice Public Library. At least four candidates are expected.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational. The remote Kenwood HF transceiver is temporarily out of service as the methodology for its operation is being revised.

CLUB PROPERTY – Stew commented that the inventory of club property now consists mostly of some antenna tuners.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY was not present, however, Don-KI4VGE reported that we have a total of 62 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present but it was commented that we suffer continued poor turn out for the nets.

LIAISON TO EARS – Conrad Owens-WA3RRS wasn't present.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Suncoast Chapter 53 held its May meeting today at Denny's on Bee

Ridge Road in Sarasota. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB showed "The Hubble Space Telescope and Astronomy." That was the last lunch at Denny's for this season, with June-September lunches being at the Panda Pavilion. All are welcome to come on out, have lunch and enjoy the camaraderie.

OLD BUSINESS – Stew offered some comments regarding the set up and operation of Special Event Station K4S at the Sharks Tooth Festival. Operating and logging support was definitely down from previous years, and several of those who had volunteered to assist never showed up. Those who did participate generally enjoyed the experience.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Jack-W4JS commented that he had worked two stations in Argentina on six meters earlier today, and suggested that those who are antenna restricted consider at least trying a 6-meter horizontal loop as the Sporadic-E season develops.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM was made by Bruce Brown-WA8IQF, seconded by Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS, and passed. There were 16 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Stew-W4MO demonstrated the use of a HT to access the W4AC Repeater and utilize VOIP to contact his son, David-W4HAG, over in Wamena, Papua Barat, Indonesia.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- FIRST IN THE WORLD, 2009 --



For the past several years, CQ magazine has sponsored an annual CQ DX Marathon in which operators attempt to work as many CQ Zones and DXCC entities as possible during the calendar year. Here's Jack-W4JS giving "thumbs up" for taking First Place in the Unlimited Category on SSB with all 40 Zones and 244 entities.

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEAR-ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Tanzania – 5H2DCL **	Now to 10 July	83	00-04	23-05	23-05	19-00	16-21	17-23	21-22	NO
Nepal – 9N7AK ++ and digital	Now to 01 July	13	NO	NO	--	20-04	02-04	02-04	NO	NO
Morocco – CN2RN	Now to 20 June	64	00-06	21-09	21-09	09-06	19-02	21-04	NO	NO
Chad – TT8PK; spare time operation	Now to 15 June	73	00-05	22-06	22-06	17-01	15-22	15-22	NO	NO
Trindade & Martin Vaz – PP0T; tean op	Now to 15 June	127	23-09	22-10	22-11	10-22	15-20	14-20	15-20	NO
Uganda – 5X1VJ	Now to 08 June	77	00-04	23-05	23-05	19-01	20-00	20-00	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5H8KS	Now to 06 June	90	00-04	23-05	00-04	04-06	05-06	NO	NO	NO
Cocos-Keeling Is – VK9CI; mostly digital	01 to 07 June	<u>183</u>	NO	<u>11-12</u>	NO	<u>09-12</u>	<u>10-11</u>	<u>10-11</u>	<u>01-02</u>	NO
Saudi Arabia – 7Z1IR & 7Z1TT; two stations	03 to 05 June	49	--	23-03	--	19-06	19-04	20-04	NO	NO
Svalbard – JW1EOA ++	10 to 15 June	13	NO	00-08	01-07	17-22	18-02	NO	NO	NO
Rotuma Is – 3D2CJ; all modes	17 to 24 June	263	05-12	03-13	04-13	23-13	19-05	19-04	19-04	NO
Marquesas Is – FO???; spare time op.	18 to 26 June	245	03-12	00-13	00-13	16-06	21-05	21-05	22-01	NO
Maldives – 8Q7LR ++	21 June - 02 July	41	--	00-02	--	02-04	02-03	02-03	NO	NO
Palau – T88ZA; all modes w/ two stations	24 to 27 June	307	09-11	08-12	08-12	11-14	00-05	00-05	NO	NO
French Polynesia – FO???; spare time op.	27 June – 03 July	243	03-12	02-12	02-12	17-10	18-05	22-04	22-04	23-03

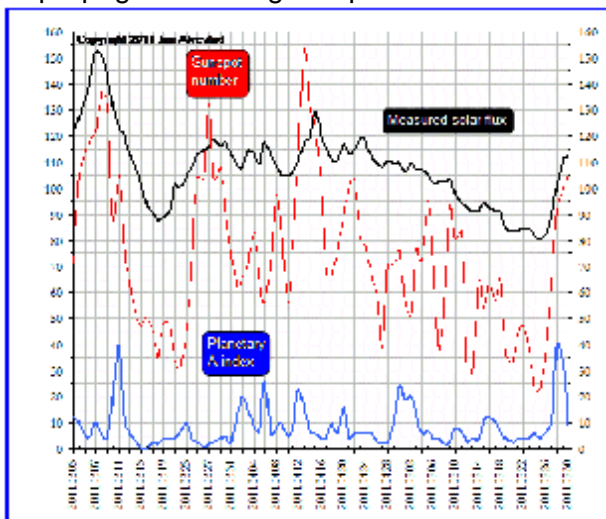
Updated 28 May 2011, based on 25 May 2011 *QRZ DX*, 23 May 2011 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold = Bands 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.gsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- MAY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During May the Solar Flux ranged from 80 to 112, with a mean value of 96.0 (vs. 73.9 for May 2010 and 70.6 for May 2009). The A-index was ≥ 7 on 12 days. Through 30 May, the sunspot number ranged from 23 to 105, with a mean of 59.9—a 30% decline from April.

Sunspot Regions 1203 thru 1229 were active during May, with 53 C-class and two M-Class flares occurring. Geomagnetic storms up to the G-2 level 27-29 May caused greatly diminished HF propagation during that period.



(Thanks to Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

-- JUNE FORECAST --

Solar activity is forecast to be very low during June.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron

flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels. High levels are expected 01-06 June. The Solar Flux should average 86 during June.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet 01-10 June. Active levels are expected 11-12 June and 22-27 June in response to recurrent coronal hole high-speed streams.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 24 May 2011, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 24 May 2011, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 24 May 2011)

-- WWV, WWVH PASSING INTO HISTORY --

On 25 April 2011 NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center announced that, effective 06 September, broadcasting of geophysical alert messages on WWV and WWVH will cease. These messages inform listeners of the solar flux, the mid-latitude A and K indices and space weather storm, both current and predicted. These messages are heard 18 minutes after the hour on WWV and 45 minutes after the hour on WWVH. The current day's update is first heard at 2118 GMT from WWV and 2145 from WWVH.

These updates can be seen on the Internet via <http://dx.gsl.net/propagation/>. Apparently the time and frequency standards of WWV and WWVH are not affected by this diminished service.

Neither current events nor history show that the majority rule, or ever did rule. Jefferson Davis, President, Confederate States of America

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING JUNE

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Ten-Ten Open Season	0000Z 04 June 2400Z 05 June	10 Meters Only PSK31 Only	Members of 10-10 International	Call Sign, Name and S/P/C
Maritime QSO Party	1200Z 04 June 0300Z 05 June	160 – VHF/UHF Phone and CW	Stations in Canadian Maritime Provinces	RS(T) and S/P/C
SEANET Contest	1200Z 04 June 1200Z 05 June	80 – 10 Meters Phone, CW, Digital	Stations in ASEAN Countries	RS(T) and Serial
UKSMG Sporadic E Contest	1300Z 04 June 1300Z 05 June	6 Meters Only Phone, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and 6-digit Grid Square
Portugal Day	0000Z 11 June 2400Z 11 June	80 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T) and Serial
DRCG Long Distant Contest	0000Z 11 June See Web Site	80 – 10 Meters Digital Only	See www.drcg.de for details	RST, CQ Zone, and UTC time
Australian Shires Contest	0600Z 11 June 0600Z 12 June	80 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Australian Stations	RS(T) and CQ Zone
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z 11 June 1500Z 12 June	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and CQ Zone
All Asian DX Contest	0000Z 18 June 2400Z 19 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Asian Nations	RST and Age of Operator
SMIRK QSO Party	0000Z 18 June 2359Z 19 June	6 Meters Only Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square
WAB 50 MHz Phone	0900Z 19 June 1500Z 19 June	6 Meters Only Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RS and Serial
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 25 June 1200Z 26 June	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and Serial
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z 25 June 1400Z 26 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and Serial
ARRL Field Day	1800Z 25 June 2100Z 26 June	160 – VHF/UHF Phone, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere; see ARRL site for details	Category and ARRL Section

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity
From ARRL "Contest Corral," Web Site and WA7BNM Contest Calendar

-- GRID SQUARE LOCATOR MAP --

If you work any 6-meter stations, most don't care about your QTH, but they do want to know your "grid square." This is especially critical with DX stations and Stateside stations who collect grid squares for certain awards. The basic grid square, such as EL87, measures 2° longitude and 1° latitude; the subsquare, such as EL87TA, measures 5' longitude and 2.5' latitude. If you plan to work 6-meter DX, get your grid square written down or memorized. To find it, go to: http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php.

Enter your call sign or street address to bring up your 6-digit grid square and map showing your location. The latter can be zoomed in for a recent aerial photo of your QTH.

-- RF SAFETY CALCULATOR --

If you've filled out a NCVFC Form 605 recently, you know that you are to certify that your station will comply with Section 97.13(c) of the FCC rules regarding RF Radiation Safety. Even

if you never even saw that form, you are still responsible to be in compliance. So, how do you determine if you are in compliance?

Go to http://hintlink.com/power_density.htm and fill in the blanks, after reading the means to determine "average power estimate" and the "exemptions." You will have to know the power lost in your coax and the gain of your antenna, and whether that gain is quoted in dBd or dBi.

--SUNSPOT NUMBERS --

Sunspot numbers are rather misleading, as the number is determined by multiplying the number of groups by 10 and then adding on the actual number of spots counted. Therefore, if there were six groups of spots and a total of 16 spots, the sunspot number would be 76. Daily sunspot numbers are somewhat indicative of propagation that could take effect within a couple days, but it is the "smoothed sunspot number" that goes into the record books. Unfortunately, that number comes six months later.

-- HAMVENTION, INSIDE AND OUT --



Bob Marchese-K1NOK offers this shot of part of the crowd attending the 2011 Dayton Hamvention. There were six buildings, some larger than this, full of hams galore.



Here's a photo of some of the crowd outside the buildings. We've heard that some participants brought some collectors' items to the flea market area, but they were only for show and "not for sale."

Some of you may not be aware that TARC snowbird member Frank Schwab-W8OK (SK) is the guy who organized the first Hamvention back in the late 1950s. It was held in a hotel, and the response was so good, that the Dayton ARC decided to make it an annual affair. Frank was a CW Dxr extraordinaire. When we newbies would see Frank, and tell him of our recent DXploits, his standard response was, "junk DX."

Frank's W8OK call sign has been assigned to the Dayton SKYWARN system.

In keeping Americans ill-educated, ill-informed and constitutionally ignorant, the education establishment has been the politician's major and most faithful partner. – Walter Williams

-- SUNSPOT GENERATION --

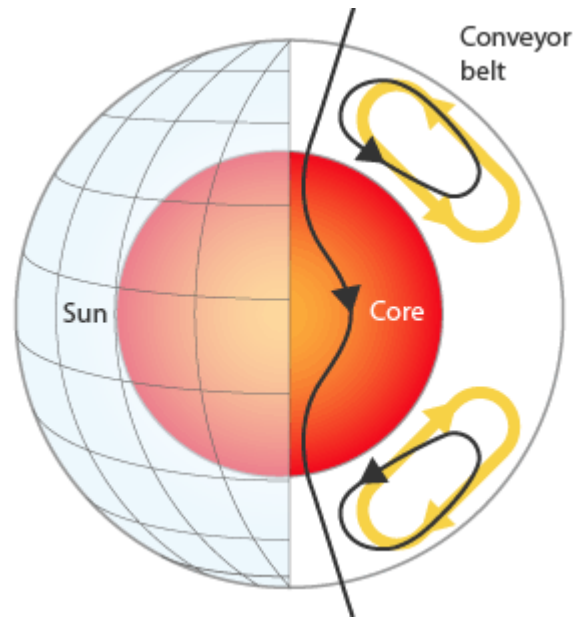


Diagram showing how the Sun's conveyor transports plasma across its surface to the pole, where it sinks before rising at the equator.

Solar physicists may have discovered why the Sun experienced a prolonged period of weak activity between the end of Cycle 23 and the beginning of the current Cycle 24.

The most recent so-called "solar minimum" occurred in December 2008. Its drawn-out nature extended the total length of Cycle 23 to 12.6 years, making it the longest in almost 200 years.

The new research suggests that the longer-than-expected period of weak activity may have been linked to changes in the way a hot mixture of charged particles, called plasma, circulated in the Sun.

The study, conducted by Dr Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado and her US colleagues, is published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

The Sun's activity strengthens and weakens on a cycle that typically lasts 10.7 years. Accurate records began in 1755 and we are now into Cycle 24.

Cycle 23, which ended in December 2008, was both longer than average and had the smallest number of sunspots for a century. Sunspots are areas of intense magnetic activity that are visible as dark spots on the star's surface.

The new research suggests that one reason for the prolonged period of weak activity could be changes in the Sun's "conveyor belt".

Similar to the Earth's ocean currents, the Sun's
See **SUN**, page 6

SUN, from page 5

conveyor transports plasma across its surface to the pole. Here, the plasma sinks into the heart of the Sun before rising again at the equator.

During Cycle 23, these currents of fire extended all the way to the poles, while in earlier cycles they only extended about two thirds of the way.

Dr Roger Ulrich of the University of California, Los Angeles, a co-author of the study, said the findings highlighted the importance of our monitoring of the Sun.

The research team used sophisticated computer simulations to show how changes in the conveyor might have affected cycle duration. They found that the increased length of the conveyor and its slower rate of return flow explained the prolonged Cycle 23.

However, Dr David Hathaway, a solar physicist from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, who was not involved in the latest study, argued that it was the speed and not the extent of the conveyor that was of real importance. The conveyor has been running at record high-speeds for over five years. Dr Hathaway said: "I believe this could explain the unusually deep solar minimum."

(From "Sun's 'quiet period' explained," by Howard Falcon-Lang, Science Reporter for BBC On Line, 13 August 2010.)

-- OFFICIAL ANTENNA STATIONS --

One of the local QRPers (*fledgling DXer*) came by last week, the worries of the world heavy on him. "I think we amateurs must enhance our image," he said, "and we must be a self-disciplining group so that the rest of the world will know how true-blue we amateurs really are." We had heard the call to up-lift before, and this time we were a bit more wary.

"How's that?" we asked, and the QRPer was well into his pitch. "It's the question of excess power," he said. "I think we must be very scrupulous in this area and, in order to self-police ourselves, I think we ought to have something along the order of the Official Observer Stations. Maybe we could call it an Official Antenna Station. What do you think?"

We were thinking that we were again being led down some primrose path but, at this point, we had to know the answer. "How will it work?" we asked, and the QRPer beamed that big beady-eyed smile.

"Simple!" he exclaimed, "very simple. And I have made my application to handle the duties

and workload in this area myself, figuring that I had to set a good example. All I will do is look for antennas capable of handling excess power. I will do some simple checking, like feeding a heavy overload into the antenna system under check and if it does not blow, it will be a de facto matter of excess power capability and we will have the wretch nailed. I will duly note it in my report which I will forward for remedial actions as may be needed. I certainly will feel it my duty to note and cite all transgressors. We must enhance our image. Definitely!!"

We thought this over for a bit for something was missing here. "Tell me," we asked very carefully, "if an excess load does blow the traps, short the elements to the boom and blasts the balun and coax, what do you do then?"

The QRPer was again all smiles. "THAT would prove that the station was legitimate, that the antenna system was not capable of handling excess power, and I would duly issue a Certificate of Compliance. Thus, the honest DXer will be rewarded and the transgressor identified. And it will be a bit quieter in this area and, by then, some of us more deserving DXers will have a chance at those rare ones like Nepal, Cambodia and Spratly Islands. Get the picture?"

(From "DX IS!, The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin," edited and published by C. T. Allen-W5DV and J. M. Allen-W6OGC, 1981)

For those not chasing DX some 40 years ago, this is to advise that the West Coast DX Bulletin was THE DX bulletin of the era. Keep in mind that there were no spotting networks nor e-mail to spread DX news back then-- just phones and mail service. But, no DXpedition of any import failed to advise the Bulletin to notify DXers, and the skill, experience and devotion of its contributors consistently enabled it to publish the most timely and accurate DX information available.

Hugh "Cass" Cassidy-WA6AUD was editor, typist, printer, circulation manager, advertising manager, and whatever other functions popped up, with only the assistance of his XYL, Virginia.

Following some 15 years of devotion to spreading the DX news, and with some 3,200 subscribers, Cass called it quits in July 1979. No other DX bulletin ever attempted to replace the "supporting characters" such as Red Eyed Louie, Slim, the Old Timer, the Palos Verdes Sundancers, etc., nor the sage philosophies of Cass Cassidy, found in that publication.

Yea, those Golden Days, so long gone. Where did they go?

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	2 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	4
5	6	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	8 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	11 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
12	13 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	15 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	16 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	18
19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	22 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	25
26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	29 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 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) _____

Regular Member @ \$25.00/year ____ , Family Membership @ \$30.00/year____ , Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year____ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment 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.

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