



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 2012 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Well there's no doubt that our summer weather has arrived complete with its associated spectacular lightning fireworks. Jack-W4JS has already had one lightning strike on his tower, but he was prepared and all cables had been disconnected his shack.

At our May 29th breakfast at Peach's we were all happy to welcome Martin Zippe-AF4ID back to the area. Martin looks great, considering the medical experiences he has undergone. Breakfast also provided us with updates on the Dayton HamVention which was attended by Stew-W4MO. Stew has been expounding on the Flex 6000 which was on display at the Dayton event. If you're in the area and missing these morning repasts you are really short changing yourself.

My son Michael-N3BXH is located in Maryland and his club has joined with several other nearby clubs with the intention of having the largest Field Day operation on the middle East Coast. Their call sign will be "N3PT" so if you happen to get on for Field Day and hear them, given them a call.

This will be a short message this month as things have just piled on with seemingly no let up. I thought retirement was supposed to be relaxing.

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

-- JUNE MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **13 June 2012** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Notice of the program will be given in the e-mail tickler.

"If the government can take a man's money without his consent, there is no limit to the additional tyranny it may practice upon him; for, with his money, it can hire soldiers to stand over him, keep him in subjection, plunder him at discretion, and kill him if he resists." – Lysander Spooner, 1852

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-- WELCOME, SCOTT --



TARC President Fred Iathwood-KJ4TNI welcomes Scott Montgomery-KJ4HUU, Recovery Section Manager with the Sarasota EOC, who gave an informative program about the operation of the EOC at our May meeting.

-- WHAT IS THE POINT? --

(Your editor came across an article with the above title, written by Robert F. Ogg, Jr. 33^o, in the May issue of The Northern Light, a magazine for Scottish Rite Masons. In many ways, his comments can be adapted to Amateur Radio and the Tamiami ARC.)

Those who have earned an Amateur Radio license do belong to a fraternity of sorts, for we all went through the ritual of preparing for, and passing examinations given to us by those who have experienced these rituals before us.

So, what is the point of our "fraternity" and why did you, as an individual, desire to join it? The answers are as diverse as the members, ranging from desire to communicate with distant lands to a continued interest in electronics, to being able to provide communication in times of need, inter alia. Regardless of the desire, the goal remains the same: membership.

Furthermore, why did you desire to join the TARC? Undoubtedly it was for the camaraderie of being with others who share your interests.

See **Point**, pg. 2

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

09 May 2012

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Bob Faulcon-N1LVO from North Port, John Kandes-KK4IGL of Venice, and Scott Montgomery-KJ4HUU from Sarasota were visitors.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 April meeting as published in the May issue of *The Communicator*. Rich Greenberg-N6LRT so moved, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2,963.19. Receipts were \$16.00 from the April meeting 50/50 and \$25 from dues, totaling \$41.00. Expenses were \$15.18 for Internet service. The ending balance is \$2,989.01. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing reported.

VE TESTING – Regular VE session will be held on 12 May, and there has been one inquiry to date.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational in both analog and digital modes.

CLUB PROPERTY – Stew Haag-W4MO stated that there is no longer any Club property at his QTH.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 56 dues paying members and eight Life Members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred-KJ4TNI reported that some six to seven stations have been participating in the Tuesday night 440 Net. The Thursday night 2-meter net typically has 3 to 6 stations checking in.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 18 members, spouses and friends present at the 02 May luncheon/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53. Vic Ouellette-K1CGI presented a very interesting video of his 2010 trip “1000 miles Up the Amazon and Devil’s Island.” Starting 06 June, many of our group will get together around 11:15 AM the first Wednesday of the month at the Panda Pavilion Chinese Buffet here on South Tamiami Trail, and all are welcome to join us.

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing carried over.

NEW BUSINESS – Nothing.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Fred commented that former TARC member Peter Pesa-N4RD had visited with those at the 08 May breakfast at Peach’s.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Bob-K1RCS, and passed. There were 13 members and three visitors present.

PROGRAM – Scott Montgomery-KJ4HUU, Recovery Section Manager, offered an informative program regarding the structuring and operation of the Sarasota Emergency Operations Center.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

Point, from pg. 1

Who is the most important person in our Club? Brother Ogg considers it to be the person sitting next to you; no matter who that may be. The Club exists to serve him/her and assist them in whatever way possible. It is the job of the Club’s leaders to determine those needs/interests and to figure out how to meet them. The Club must offer a rewarding experience for those for whom participation is an option.

The most important members are the average members—those who do not seek rank and title. They just want to attend meetings and have an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Of equal importance, however, are the members who no longer bother to attend. Why are they important? They are important because we somehow failed to meet their expectations.

So, what is the point—why does the TARC exist?

We exist to help our members in their Amateur Radio interests.

We exist to provide a helping hand to our members as may be needed.

We exist to provide comradeship and to be good friends and company for each other.

We exist because we are an organization a member can be proud of belonging to.

We exist because we encourage our members to operate in support of the core values of Amateur Radio.

How many of you know a member who hasn’t attended our meetings recently? If so, how about giving them a phone call prior to our next meeting. Tell them you miss seeing them and encourage them to come out once again.

No person is important enough to make you angry. - Chinese Fortune Cookie

CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Angola – D3AA; quad & vertical	Now Active	95	00-05	23-07	22-07	16-02	16-23	14-21	12-22	NO
Afghanistan – T6JP; ++ & Digital, 20 m	Now to 31 July	26	--	--	--	22-03	21-03	22-03	NO	NO
Sable Is – CY0/VE1AWW; mspare time op	Now to 18 July	41	--	--	--	08-05	NO	NO	NO	NO
Afghanistan – T6JM; ++ & Digital, 20 m	Now to 13 June	26	--	--	--	22-03	21-03	22-03	NO	NO
Vietnam – XV2W; **, RTTY, some SSB	Now to 12 June	348	NO	NO	NO	1130	11-13	14-15	NO	NO
Uganda – 5X1RO; ** & PSK, spare time	Now to 10 June	77	00-04	23-05	23-05	19-07	15-01	21-02	21-02	NO
Gibraltar – ZQ3M, ZQ2ER; SES for QE II	Now to 10 June	61	00-06	22-08	21-09	00-24	17-04	07-05	0200	NO
Bhutan – A5A; International Team	Now to 06 June	8	NO	NO	NO	21-03	21-03	17-04	NO	NO
Mongolia – JT0YAB & JT0YPS	Now to 04 June	354	NO	NO	NO	00-14	22-07	22-05	NO	NO
French Polynesia – FO/F4EBT; varied islands	01 to 24 June	243	03-12	02-13	02-12	16-12	16-07	17-06	18-05	17-06
Marquesas Is – TX5VT; multi modes	03 to 11 June	245	--	--	--	00-24	--	--	--	--
Bhutan – A52JY, BA, MA & KJ; all modes	06 to 14 June	8	NO	NO	NO	21-03	21-03	18-05	NO	NO
Tanzania – 5H9CP; **	11 to 22 June	83	00-04	23-05	23-05	19-07	17-00	15-00	17-00	NO
Mariana Is – KH0N; **	15 to 18 June	306	09-11	08-12	07-12	03-17	00-06	09-06	11-12	NO
Malta – 9H3ZZ	17 to 29 June	55	00-05	22-07	22-07	00-24	19-03	08-04	NO	NO
Guernsey – GP3ZME/p	22 to 27 June	46	00-06	22-08	22-09	00-24	15-01	07-01	NO	NO
American Samoa – KH8/KL7RRC	27 Jun to 03 Jul	256	--	03-14	03-13	18-13	18-07	00-05	19-07	23-05

Updated 30 May based on 30 May *QRZ DX*, 28 May *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.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- MAY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 93 to 149, with a mean value of 121.4 (vs. 96.0 for May 2011 and 73.9 for May 2010), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on 16 days. Through 30 May the sunspot number ranged from 70 to 156, with a mean of 100.8. Sunspot Regions 1471 to 1492 were active, with 12 M-class and 164 C-class flares. With 11 M-class and 71 C-class flares occurring 05-10 May, S-1 solar storms and G-1 geomagnetic storms were initiated with scattered radio black-outs occurring.

-- JUNE FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels during June with a chance of M-class flares 01-13 June due to the return of old Region 1476.

A chance for greater than 10 MeV proton events at geosynchronous orbit exists through 13 June due to the return of old Region 1476.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux is expected to reach high levels 06-12 June and 20-23 June due to a coronal hole high speed stream (CHSS). Normal to moderate levels are expected during the rest of the month.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet to unsettled levels during most of June. There is a chance for isolated active periods 04-05, 18019 26 and 30 June.

The Solar Flux should average 114.3 during June.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 28 May 2012, NOAA 27-day Space

Weather Outlook Table, 28 May 2012, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 28 May 2012)

-- RANDOM DX COMMENTS --

TARC member Bob Marchese-K1NOK's friend Don Greenbaum-N1DG is Treasurer of the Northern California DX Foundation. Don presented a program at both the International DX Convention at Visalia, California and at the DX Forum at the Dayton HamVention with regard to the funding of DXpeditions.

Questionnaires were sent out to a number of DXpedition teams who had been funded in part by the NCDXF since 1997, and responses were received from 20 teams. It's worth noting that these 20 DXpeditions made almost two million QSOs at a cost of three million dollars. The budgets, funding sources and QSO distribution were analyzed. The operations were categorized as 1) the Fly-in, 2) the Semi-Rare, and 3) the Southern Ocean Dxpeditons.

In virtually all cases, the team members covered most of the costs, with clubs and foundations providing 24%, and individual donors the rest. The complete PP program can be seen on the NCDXF website www.ncdxf.org.

Some DXers criticize the Online QSL Request System as "selling" QSLs. Use of the OQRS is a convenient way to receive a DX QSL without sending your card and IRC/money and hope to get a return. Yes, they may ask if you want to make a donation above the minimum cost for their handling and posting of your card. Considering their expenses, some a donation is fitting.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING JUNE

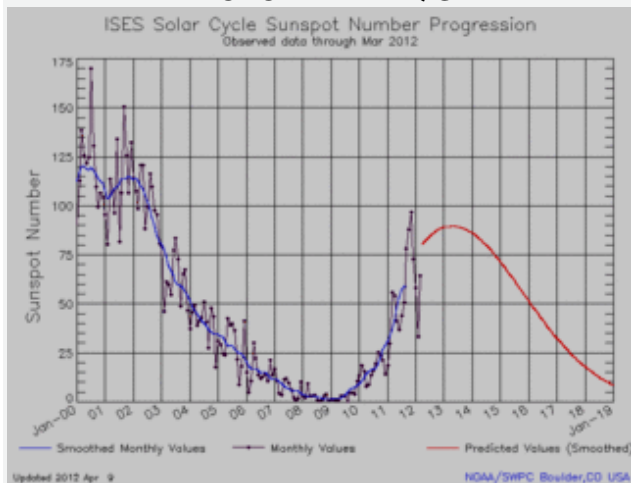
Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
SEANET Contest	1200Z 02 June 1200Z 03 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Southeast Asian Stations	RS(T), Serial
Six Club Contest	1700Z 02 June 2100Z 03 June	6 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	Call Sign, Grid Square
DRCG Long Distance Contest	0000Z 09 June See website	80 – 10 Meters Digital Only	See www.drcg.de for complete information	RST, CQ Zone, UTC Time
Australian Shires Contest	0600Z 09 June 0600Z 10 June	80 – 10 Meters CW and Digital	Australian Stations	RST, CQ Zone
Portugal Day	0000Z 09 June 2400Z 10 June	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z 09 June 1500Z 10 June	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, CQ Zone
REF DDFM Six Meter Contest	1600Z 09 June 1600Z 10 June	6 Meters Only SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial, Grid Square
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z 09 June 0300Z 11 June	6 Meters and Up SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square
All-Asian DX Contest	0000Z 16 June 2400Z 17 June	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Asia	RST, Operator's Age
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 23 June 1200Z 24 June	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, but Anyone Anywhere OK	RS, Serial
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z 23 June 1400Z 24 June	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
ARRL Field Day	1800Z 23 June 2100Z 24 June	160 – UHF SSB, CW, Digital	For complete info go to www.arrl.org/contests	Category, ARRL Section

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

NOTE: State QSO Parties and "membership clubs" contests are not shown. See above references for information.

-- CYCLE 24 FAQ'S --



(From Wikipedia)

(The following comes from the article "Four FAQs With Respect to Solar Cycle 24 by Carl Luetzelschwab-K9LA in the June 2012 issue of WorldRadio Online.)

1. Bridging the Gnevyshev Gap: Is It Possible We'll Be Seeing Two Peaks?

Solar Cycle 23 peaked in April 2000 at a maximum smoothed sunspot number (SSN) of 121. After a slight decline, it exhibited a second

peak in November 2001. The second peak gave 6-meter DXers excellent worldwide F2 openings. Of interest, the SSN was no higher in this second peak but it was higher in terms of the smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux.

Some past cycles had a second peak, such as Cycles 21, 22 and 23. Cycles 19 and 20 had no second peak. There is no theory regarding why some cycles have a second peak while others do not.

By the way, the interval between the two peaks of a solar cycle is called the *Gnevyshev Gap*.

2. Is Cycle 24 Going to Offer 6-Meter F2 Propagation?

As can be seen in the plot of Cycle 24's sunspot number progression, the International Space Environment Center forecast is for a SSN of 90 in early 2013, while the Marshall Space Flight Center forecasts a peak SSN of 59 in early 2013. The probability of F2 6-meter openings is less than 10%. While F2 openings are rather unlikely, Sporadic E openings always occur regardless of the solar cycle. Es usually oc-

See **FAQ'S**, page 5

FAQ'S, from page 4

curs in the late morning and early evening during the Summer and the early evening hours in December.

3. Are Sunspots Disappearing in Cycle 24?

Although the data are sparse and the later short-term data are highly variable, the declining trend in the maximum magnetic field strength over the years is quite obvious. Since we can only see sunspots when their magnetic field strength is greater than about 1500 Gauss, extrapolating these data suggests we may not see any sunspots after 2015 or so.

Even if sunspots disappear, that doesn't necessarily mean propagation will revert to extreme solar minimum conditions. Sunspots, along with the 10.7-cm solar flux, are but proxies for the true ionizing radiation—radiation at EUV (extreme ultraviolet) wavelengths. It is quite probable that we cannot see all the sunspots due to the decline in the maximum magnetic strength.

4. Is Cycle 24 the Lead-in to Another Maunder Minimum?

The Maunder Minimum was a period from 1645 to 1715 with few sunspots. The Maunder Minimum coincided with low temperatures in Europe—the Little Ice Age.

Cycle 24 has had some good activity, such as worldwide 10-meter openings last fall and winter, so another Maunder Minimum seems unlikely at the moment. Review of the sunspot cycles prior to the Maunder Minimum shows the cycle preceding the Minimum had a maximum SSN of about 20. However, the current decline over the past three cycles suggests that Cycle 25 is going to be very small or non-existent.

In Summary.....

It will be interesting to see what happens with the solar minimum period between Cycle 24 and Cycle 25. This may be an important clue as to where the Sun is heading. Even if another Minimum should occur, propagation should still be available due that EUV radiation that should still be occurring. Definitely a "wait and see" scenario.



-- CQ MAGAZINE DVDS --

Jack-W4JS has obtained two DVDs published by CQ Magazine which may be of interest and may provide some assistance to newly licensed members.

CQ Ham Radio Welcome Pak – This DVD shows the following programs:

- Ham Radio Horizons
- Getting Started in Ham Radio
- Getting Started in VHF

CQ HF Specialty Pak – This DVD contains two programs:

- Getting Started in DXing
- Getting Started in Contesting

The only shortcoming of these programs is that they were originally published in 1992, with a 2007 copyright renewal. Consequently, much has changed in ham radio over the past twenty year. For instance, there are numerous references to packet radio for uses where we now employ the Internet.

However, many of the basic factors of a ham radio station are the same today as they were 20 years ago. Discussions of antennas, coax cable, station grounding, lightning protections, etc. are still appropriate. DXing and contesting are still as competitive as 20 years ago, although radios have changed considerably and the Internet is now used for spotting stations.

Any members who wish to get some basic information on the subjects noted above may feel free to borrow these CDs from Jack-W4JS. Just let him know that you are interested.



Gil – February 1966 QST

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	QCWA Lunch, @ Panda Pa- vilion 11:15 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeaters 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.)

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The Communicator is a monthly publication
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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