



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 Repeater – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL



-- MARCH 2008 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Many hams don't take advantage of the fact that the Orlando Hamcation is a three-day event, and the best flea market merchandise is snapped up on Friday. I was up there both Friday and Saturday but, unfortunately, I didn't have a truck which I could have loaded up with some great buys. You know I'm a big fan of the software driven Flex Radio. I managed to escort one ham who was flashing a credit card to the Flex Radio exhibit, where he bought one. Bob Marchese-K1NOK took some photos at Orlando, and you will find them in this issue of *The Communicator*.

We had a nice turnout of members for the technical discussion session prior to our February TARC meeting. This first session covered an Introduction to EchoLink and the use of Skype and "magicJack" as alternative means of telephone communication. There are so many alternative means of communication these days that it's hard to keep track of everything!

Our first hands-on "computer skills" session was on 19 February at my home, and the attendance was great. A CD covering "Programs and Utilities" was given to everyone so that they could go over various techniques at their own pace at home. I'm sure no individual knows all there is to know about computers, but the more knowledge and skills we learn, the better we can utilize the potential of this important tool. Considering the success of this first session, I will be asking if there is a desire to have these sessions more than just once a month.

VY 73 de Stew-W4MO

-- MARCH MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will start with a Technical Discussion at 6:30 PM, and the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM on **13 March 2008** 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, the official video of the 2007 Scarborough Reef – BS7H will be shown. The rarest of the rare, and still needed by all local DXers (but bragging time for K1NOK!).

-- FINAL NOTICE - 2008 TARC DUES --

If your 2008 TARC dues remain unpaid by 31 March, you will be dropped from the TARC Membership Roster. This will also be the last issue of *The Communicator* which you will receive. Your US\$15 dues can either be paid to Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE or vial mail to:

Donald Jansen
4254 Pandora Road
Venice, FL 34293

Also, all members who received free membership prior to October 2007 are now "eligible" to pay dues for continued membership in the TARC.

The 2008 Membership Roster will be prepared and distributed in April, following closing the books on the renewal of membership dues.

-- PRE-MEETING TECH DISCUSSION --



Prior to the 14 February business meeting, Stew Haag-W4MO provided an introduction to such alternative means of communication as EchoLink, Skype and magicJack. While the latter two are strictly Internet-based, EchoLink matches up the use of the Internet and our W4AC Repeater.

-- GREAT JOB, GUYS!!! --

Congratulations to both Bob Avrutik-N1RA and Dan Schaff-K3ZXL who worked the VP6DX-Ducie Island DXpedition on all available 20 band-slots. This required Phone/CW/RTTY QSOs on 10 through 160 meters. Some real dedicated DXing!

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

14 February 2008

Starting a 6:35 PM, prior to the membership meeting, Stew Haag-W4MO provided an Introduction to EchoLink and the use of Skype and "magicJack" as alternative means of telephone communication. This discussion ceased for commencement of the program.

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF and his XYL, Pam, and Eric Owen-KD4MZM were recognized as guests. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 17 January 2008 meeting as published in the February 2008 issue of *The Communicator*. Mike Hickey-NY4P so moved, seconded by Bob Marchese-K1NOK, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack-W4JS read excerpts from a letter received from the Venice Public Library, thanking the TARC for the \$65 donation (from funds retained from the VE test fees). Jack also commented on an e-mail exchange regarding Special Event Station W0S,

which will be commemorating the sinking of the *Titanic* the same weekend as we will be active with K4S from the Sharks Tooth Festival, 11-13 April 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the 17 January 2008 starting balance was \$2994.63. Receipts were \$28.00 from the January 50/50 drawing, \$187.00 from membership dues, and \$5.00 miscellaneous, totaling \$220.00. Expenses were \$14.45 for Internet service at the repeater, \$11.20 for newsletter printing and stamps, and \$8.20 for stamps, totaling \$55.60. The 14 February 2008 ending balance is \$3159.03.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Matt Klapp-W2EQV reported everything to be up to date, and no updates were offered from the floor.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that our one candidate at the 09 February VE session successfully upgraded from Technician to General Class.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew-W4MO reported that the equipment at the repeater site is working properly.

CLUB PROPERTY – Mike-NY4P asked about the status of the club's IC-746. Jack-W4JS replied that it was currently with Jeff-W9NYX and Jeff Watson-KI4QOG. Inquiries will be forthcoming to determine if the "loaned out" equipment is being used and/or if other members could possibly put the equipment to better usage.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 83 members, including five Life Members and four First-Year Free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present, and no report was offered. Stew-W4MO commented that members using EchoLink can check into any of the TARC nets, even if they do not have an operational radio.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF reported no progress getting anything published in the *Venice Gondolier Sun*.

LIAISON TO EARS – No one from EARS was present, however, flyers for the Charlotte County Hamfest were distributed.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that 31 members and friends attended the 06 February lunch/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53 at Denny's up in Sarasota. Jack-W4JS showed photos and described the towers and beams he's had in the past, with emphasis on his newly installed Rohn tower and SteppIR beam. The next meeting will be 05 March, and all are invited.

OLD BUSINESS – Two items are carried over:

- Jack-W4JS reported that the DX Net is attracting an average of 11 stations, and reminded all that this net meets every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on the W4AC 146.805 repeater.
- Jack also reported that the TARC officers had decided that the potential topics were too diverse for an on-the-air Computer Net, and that such topics were better discussed on a one-to-one basis. In response for a request as to who would be willing to mentor such sessions, Stew-W4MO offered his knowledge and residence. The first session will begin around 9:00 AM, after breakfast at Peach's, and will be held on a monthly basis. Jack-W4JS will e-mail members advising them of this activity, with a request for topics of interest for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS – Jack-W4JS stated that, following the suggestion of Mike-NY4P at the January meeting, he had sent e-mail to all members (having that capability), requesting photos of their stations and a brief biographical sketch for use in both the newsletter and the TARC web site. Response to date has been very poor! Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA commented that he is not receiving TARC e-mail. Stew-W4MO will be working on Guenther's computer in the near future, hopefully resolving this problem.

See **MINUTES, page 4**

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
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP (mostly digital)	Now to 15 April	90	--	--	19-05	12-01	14-23	16-21	15-22	18-19
Senegal – 6W2SC (mostly digital)	Now to 15 April	87	22-08	20-09	18-05	12-00	14-22	16-21	15-22	NO
Bangladesh – S21XF	Now to 01 April	6	NO	23-01	23-01	13-16	14-16	NO	NO	--
Djibouti – J20MB	Now to 31 Mar	61	--	--	--	16-01	14-23	16-20	16-20	NO
Sint Maarten – PJ7/W8EB	Now to 23 Mar	113	21-13	00-24	00-24	12-00	14-23	16-21	17-20	17-20
Uganda – 5X1NH	Now to 22 Mar	77	23-05	22-05	21-02	17-01	14-21	16-20	16-20	17-19
Reunion Is – FR5EZ	Now to 21 Mar	91	23-03	22-04	22-01	17-19	17-18	15-16	NO	NO
Crete – SV9/DJ7RJ	Now to 15 Mar	51	23-06	21-07	19-02	13-19	15-18	17-18	17-18	NO
Mauritius – 3B8/G4FKH **	Now to 14 Mar	88	--	22-04	21-01	17-19	16-17	15-17	15-17	NO
Cambodia – XU7DLH	Now to 14 Mar	349	1130	11-12	--	--	--	--	--	NO
Falkland Is – VP8/DL2AH	Now to 13 Mar	165	--	23-11	22-08	12-01	14-00	15-22	17-21	17-21
Kenya – 5Z4HW	Now to 11 Mar	76	23-04	22-05	22-01	16-00	16-22	17-20	17-20	NO
Nicaragua – H7/IV3IHY **	Now to 11 Mar	194	20-16	00-24	12-02	14-00	16-22	18-21	18-21	NO
Fiji – 3D2/JM1YGG	Now to 10 Mar	258	06-13	04-14	05-15	18-20	19-00	19-23	20-22	20-22
Belize – V31MN **	Now to 09 Mar	211	00-24	00-24	13-01	16-23	17-22	NO	NO	NO
St. Kitts – V4/W1USN, AA1M & W1SSR	Now to 07 Mar	114	21-13	00-24	00-24	12-00	13-00	15-21	17-29	17-20
The Gambia – C56YK	Now to 06 Mar	88	22-08	20-09	18-05	12-00	14-22	16-20	16-20	NO
Brunei – V8/SM5GMZ	01 – 15 March	330	11-12	10-13	11-14	14-18	16-17	16-17	NO	NO
Solomon Is – H44MS	05 Mar – 27 Apr	275	07-12	06-13	05-14	13-15	23-01	20-22	01-02	NO
Clipperton Is – TX5C	07 – 17 March	242	00-13	00-24	00-24	14-01	16-00	19-21	19-21	NO
Rwanda – 9X0R	16 – 27 March	81	23-05	22-05	21-02	7-01	14-00	16-21	16-21	NO
Juan Fernandez Is – CE0Z/DK2AH	18 Mar – 07 Apr	177	00-11	22-13	11-09	12-03	14-01	15-00	17-22	18-21
Vietnam – 3W3M	20 Mar – 02 Apr	348	--	11-12	12-13	13-16	00-01	00-01	NO	NO
Spratly Is – 9M0???	22 – 30 March	337	1100	11-12	12-13	14-17	1500	15-17	NO	NO
Lord Howe Is – VK9ALH	23 – 30 March	240	07-12	05-13	04-14	00-03	21-01	22-00	22-02	00-02
Jan Mayen Is – JX9JKA	22 Mar – 08 Oct	21	00-09	23-10	21-00	13-21	15-10	15-21	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5R8HT	30 Mar – 17 Apr	90	23-04	22-04	22-04	20-23	16-17	14-16	14-17	NO

Updated 27 February 2008, based on 27 February 2008 *QRZ DX*, 25 February 2008 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

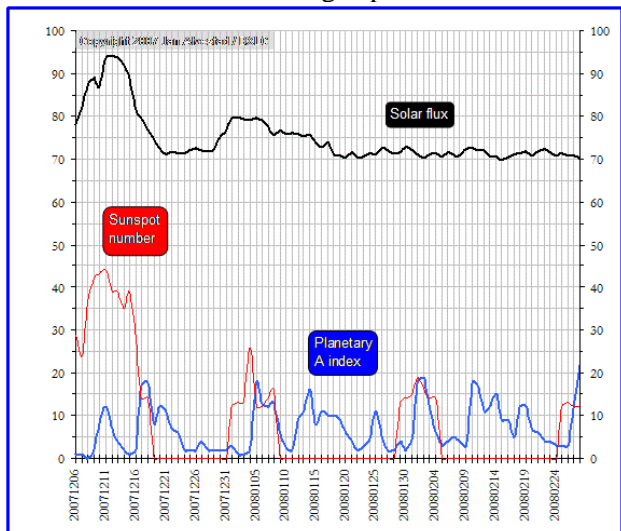
Note: **Time in bold** = Best Band(s) for opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Phone Only; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast.

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.

-- FEBRUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During February, the Solar Flux ranged from 70 to 73, with a mean value of 71.2 (vs. 77.8 for February 2007 and 76.6 for February 2006). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 18 days.

Geomagnetic field activity was quiet, with unsettled to active conditions 01-04, 10-16 and 28-29 due to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams.



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

-- MARCH FORECAST --

During March, solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected reach high levels except 08 March. Solar flux should average 70 during the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be unsettled to active 01 March from recurrent coronal hole high speed streams (HSS). Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected 02-07 March. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled to active levels 08-13 March with minor to major storm periods at high latitudes due to recurrent coronal hole HSS. Quiet to unsettled levels are expected 14-25, then increasing to unsettled to active 26-28 due to recurrent coronal hole HSS. Activity should decrease to quiet to unsettled conditions 29-31 March.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 26 February 2008, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 26 February 2008, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 26 February 2008.)

-- 2008 DUES ARE, IN FACT, NOW DUE --

If you haven't paid your 2008 dues, it's getting down to the wire. All dues must be paid by 31 March or you're no longer a TARC member.

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL International DX Contest	0000Z 01 Mar 2400Z 02 Mar	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	DXCC entities outside Canada and the USA	R/S + State or Province
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	2200Z 01 Mar 1200Z 02 Mar	160 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Serial Number
Spanish PSK31 Contest	1600Z 08 Mar 1600Z 09 Mar	80 – 10 Meters PSK31 Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial Number
North American RTTY Sprint	0000Z 09 Mar 0400Z 09 Mar	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Call Signs, name Serial #, State
10-10 Mobile QSO Party	0001Z 15 Mar 2359Z 15 Mar	10 - Meters Only SSB, CW, Dig'tl	Anyone, Anywhere	Name, County, State, 10-10 #
Russian DX Contest	1200Z 15 Mar 1200Z 16 Mar	160 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + Serial Number
9KCC (Kuwaiti) Contest	1200Z 16 Mar 1600Z 16 Mar	15 Meters Only Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + Serial Number
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	2200Z 22 Mar 2200Z 24 Mar	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	3-digit Serial # 4-digit Time
CQ WPX SSB Contest	0000Z 29 Mar 2400Z 30 Mar	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S + Serial Number

From March 2008 *WorldRadio* And ARRL Web Site

MINUTES, from page 2

lem.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR –Bob Avrutik-N1RA stated he would like to see a calendar in the newsletter showing the times and dates of TARC activities.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM was made by Jim LaCourse-K4IH, seconded by Guenther-KF4WFA, and passed. There were 22 members and visitors present.

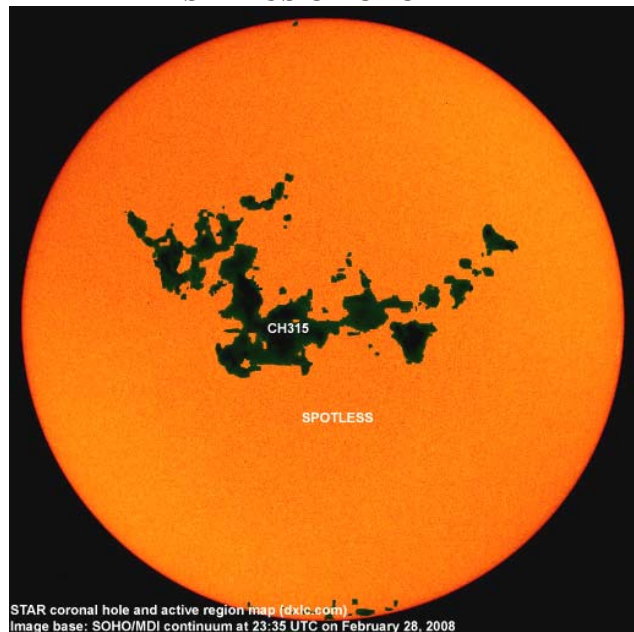
PROGRAM – Bob-N1RA offered a detailed program and illustrated discussion of using the W4AC Packet Gateway Station on 145.610 MHz.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- OK, WHOSE STATION IS THIS? --



-- STATUS OF CYCLE 24 --



A most recent view of the Sun shows it to be spotless but with significant coronal holes, which can emit high speed streams affecting the Earth's geomagnetic field. The Sun was spotless on 19 days during February.

NOAA recently published the "Predicted Sunspot Numbers & Radio Flux" prepared by the Solar Influences Data Analysis Center in Belgium. Their forecast shows Cycle 24 sunspot activity increasing in November 2008 and peaking in January 2012 with 113 spots. Stable 15-meter propagation to Japan and Southeast Asia will occur after September 2009.

--LEARNING ABOUT PACKET --



Bob Avrutik-N1RA, assisted by Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF, presented an in-depth discussion on the use of Packet Radio at our February meeting. In addition to displaying the packet monitor screen, connection was made via our W4AC gateway station to one of the packet clusters that are available. Contact Bob for personal assistance in utilizing this mode.

-- SNOWBIRD NET HAS QSY'd --

The Snowbird Net has changed its 20-meter frequency. This net, which starts at 10:00 AM Eastern time, now meets on 14.293 MHz.

--VP6DX SETS NEW RECORDS --



If you didn't work the VP6DX Ducie Island DXpedition, you must not have been on HF over the past weeks. The stations were on the air over some 15 days, amassing a total of 183,686 QSOs. There was good to excellent propagation from this area, and it was about impossible to not tune across their consistent signals. A lot of excellent planning plus great operators made this an outstanding DXpedition.

-- JON HAMLET-W4ZW --



Note the apparent absence of a microphone on Jon's operating desk. He's a die-hard CW enthusiast, and darned good at it! (*Ed. note: Jon dropped the "h" from his name so he could send his name faster!*). Jon was first licensed as a teenager in December 1955 as KN4HHG, upgraded to K4HHG in March 1956 and held K4HHG until 1996 when he applied for and received W4ZW.

Jon's station consists of two Yaesu FT-1000MP's, an FT-1000D, a Kenwood TS-950SDX, Alpha 87A and Acom 2000A amplifiers. Antennas on the roof of his 3-story home are a 3-element SteppIR, two Cushcraft A4S yagis, a Cushcraft 40-2CD 40-meter beam, plus a variety of wires and verticals. Jon runs a Yaesu 657D/ATAS-120 when mobile (*operating CW?*)

--DON JANSEN-KI4VGE --



Don became interested in amateur radio as a member of the South Venice C.E.R.T. Team, which required at least one member to be a licensed amateur radio operator for their emergency communications. He received his Technician license in April 2007, and is studying for his General license. In addition to a paying job, Don is our TARC Treasurer.

-- ORLANDO HAMCATION SCENES --

Bob Marchese-K1NOK has “worked ‘em all” so he (second from left) and some buddies are in the business of helping civilians study to pass the Ham Radio exams, and for existing licensees to upgrade. With Morse no longer an issue, their motto is “What’s your excuse?”



A beautiful Collins S-Line for sale in the flea market. They sure had a classic look and feel.



Tokyo Hy Power knows how to attract the hams!



-- GETTING UP IN THE WORLD! --



Stew Haag-W4MO recently assisted the Sarasota ARA get their 146.910 MHz W4IE repeater running better. Here is 160’ AGL on the roof of the Sarasota Memorial Hospital.



Meanwhile, Peter Pesa-N4RD is doing the “heavy lifting” down in the repeater room. Stew had tuned these duplexers for SARA in order to get their repeater into proper service. There’s an EchoLink connection available between the W4IE and the Tamiami ARC W4AC 146.805 MHz Repeater.

-- FCC DENIES MORSE PETITIONS --

In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order (MOO)* released today, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to be proficient in Morse code.

Anthony Gordon-KG6EQM asserted Morse was necessary for national security. Russell Ward-W4NI was miffed that his earlier petition against dropping Morse was needlessly delayed.

(From ARRL web site, 29 February 2008)

“You don’t understand anything until you learn it more than one way.” – Marvin Minsky, Scientist

March 2008 Activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 TARC Net on 145.610 (simplex) @ 7:30 PM	5 DX Net on W4AC – 146.805 @ 8:00 PM	6 TARC Net on W4AC – 146.805 @ 7:30 PM	7	8 TARC VE Session; Charlotte County Hamfest
9	10	11 TARC Net on 145.610 (simplex) @ 7:30 PM	12 DX Net on W4AC – 146.805 @ 8:00 PM	13 TARC Meet- ing—Tech Session @ 6:30; meet- ing @ 7 PM	14	15 Martin Co. ARA Ham- fest - Stuart
16	17	18 TARC Net on 145.610 (simplex) @ 7:30 PM	19 DX Net on W4AC – 146.805 @ 8:00 PM	20 TARC Net on W4AC – 146.805 @ 7:30 PM	21	22
23	24	25 TARC Net on 145.610 (simplex) @ 7:30 PM	26 DX Net on W4AC – 146.805 @ 8:00 PM	27 TARC Net on W4AC – 146.805 @ 7:30 PM	28	29
30	31					

**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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ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

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Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

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