



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 – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



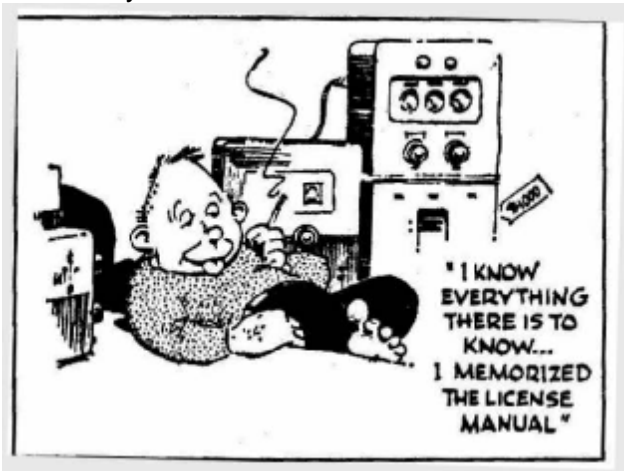
-- MARCH 2009 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I've several things that I would like to get off my chest this time around.

This switch to HDTV broadcasting has confused even those of us who try to keep up with it. Originally scheduled for 17 February, the new administration requested a delay as the funds to subsidize the cost of analog converters had been used up. That met with varied reactions, however, many stations—including several in our area--stuck to the original schedule and shut down their analog transmitters. In spite of many news articles on this major change in broadcasting, the call centers set up by many stations were flooded with complaints. Recall that the ARRL had agreed to the FCC's request that radio amateurs provide "technical educational assistance" assistance in their communities. The FCC was to provide "media, brochures or other materials" to assist the hams. Obviously, all that has fallen through the cracks of bureaucracy, as we never heard another word about it.

Back in November 1964, QST published this cartoon by "Gil" Gildersleeve-W1CDJ:



I realize that studying for any exam requires memorization. However, being a good operator goes beyond memorization and passing the license exam. Newly licensed hams should soon realize that there is much to learn about operating that is not in the license manuals. Don't be

shy to ask for assistance from the Old Timers in the TARC. Don't be like the jerk in the cartoon.

I was happy to see many TARC members up at Orlando. I'll reserve judgment on the attendance, but I know there was activity and interest at the Flex Radio booth. Hi Hi!

73 to all de Stew-W4MO

-- EXTRA CLASS SESSIONS UNDER WAY --



The Extra Class study sessions being held by Andy Durette-KB1HIP are being well attended and receiving very positive reviews. Andy deserves a lot of credit for organizing these classes!

-- MARCH MEETING --

The doors open at 6:30 PM with an "Eyeball QSO" period until the business meeting kicks off at 7:00 PM on **12 February 2009** 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. The program will be announced in the "tickle" e-mail prior to the meeting. We hope to see you there.

-- 2009 TARC DUES DEADLINE --

31 March is the deadline for payment of 2009 dues. If you haven't paid by then you will be dropped from the roster.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
12 February 2009

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB and Bill Anderson-WB4TJH from Sarasota, Jim Murdock-KG4KOT from Venice, Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF from Shelton, Conn., and Bill Hettler from Venice were welcomed as visitors. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 08 January 2009 meeting as published in the February 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Croft Taylor-VE3CT so moved, seconded by Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack reported sending a letter to the Venice Public Library on 13 January, transmitting \$62 to the Friends of the Venice Public Library in appreciation of our use of the Library for our VE sessions; a 20 January letter was received from the Library, thanking us for the donation; and e-mail notice was received from the State of Florida advising that it's time to renew our incorporation registration.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1660.32. Receipts were \$21.00 from the January 50/50, \$310.00 from membership renewals, \$62.00 for Library donation, \$8.00 for member badge, and \$5.00 donation from Bruce Brown-WA8IQF, totaling \$406.00. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater, \$111.50 for tower work, \$62.00 donation to the Library, and \$15.24 for newsletter printing and stamps, totaling \$203.06. The 12 February 2009 ending balance is \$1863.26. Peter Peas-N4RD moved for approval, seconded by Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, and passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Lee Darby-K4GCY is in Sarasota Memorial Hospital as the result of a fall at home, and is awaiting a pacemaker being implanted. Martin Horowitz-N4RD is at home undergoing treatment, and is in good spirits.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS advised that there have been no advance reservations for this Saturday's VE session, however, there could be a walk-in or so.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew-W4MO reported that the W4AC 2-meter installation is working.

CLUB PROPERTY – Stew-W4MO reported no change in the Club property inventory.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 89 members, including eight Life Members and nine First-Year Free members.

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

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS reported that the EARS would be co-sponsoring a hamfest on 14 March at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds and will be participating in the ARRL Field Day in June.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Konrad-WA3RRS reported there were 36 members and friends at the 04 January lunch at Denny's, Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. Bob Avrutik-N1RA, Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF and Larry Zimmer-W4LWZ put on a very informative program on X-rays. Jack Parsons-K3OTY is scheduled to present the 04 March program on antique broadcast radio receivers.

OLD BUSINESS – Jon Hamlet-W4ZW reported on recent activities of the Pine View School ARC. Some of the members would like to participate in such events as the High School Roundup however, as they only have Technician licenses, they are dependent on 10-meter openings—which have been nil.

Stew-W4MO asked if there were any comments or additions to the list of potential programs that was published in February's issue of *The Communicator*. Mike Hickey-NY4P commented he would like to see a program about the duties and responsibilities of a QSL manager, as he was considering volunteering as one.

Andy Durette-KB1HIP reported that the ongoing Extra Class training sessions are going well, with at least eight students attending.

NEW BUSINESS – None

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA offered his congratulations to Andy-KB1HIP for preparing and conducting an excellent training course.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM was made by Charlie Covell-W4DB, seconded by Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, and passed. There were 25 members and five guests present.

PROGRAM – Bruce Brown-WA8IQF offered an informative illustrated program on the construction, installation and operation of his 5-band Hex Beam.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

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
Uganda – 5X4X	Now to 31 May	77	23-04	22-05	21-02	17-23	15-21	17-20	17-20	NO
Solomon Is – H44MS	Now to 28 April	275	07-12	06-13	06-15	00-03	20-00	20-22	20-22	NO
Chagos – VQ9JC	Now to 18 April	54	23-02	22-03	21-23	16-21	15-19	15-20	NO	NO
Dominica – J79XBI	Now to 01 April	116	21-12	00-24	12-00	16-21	17-22	NO	NO	NO
Malawi – 7Q7HB, 7Q7AH	Now to 26 Mar	90	23-04	22-05	21-05	17-21	14-18	15-18	15-18	NO
Namibia – V5/DJ4SO	Now to 12 Mar	107	23-06	21-07	20-07	16-21	15-18	16-18	16-18	NO
Senegal – 6W2SC (mostly digital)	Now to 09 Mar	87	22-09	19-11	17-01	14-23	16-21	16-21	NO	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP (mostly digital)	Now to 09 Mar	90	22-08	20-10	18-01	14-23	16-20	16-20	NO	NO
Crozet Is – FT5WP	Now to 07 Mar	131	23-03	02-05	03-06	18-19	17-18	NO	NO	NO
Aves Is – YW0A	Now to 05 Mar	119	21-13	00-24	00-24	12-00	14-22	15-21	16-20	17-20
Mayotte – FH/G3SWH **	Now to 05 Mar	85	23-03	22-04	21-01	17-21	16-18	16-18	16-18	NO
Temotu – H40MS, H40FN	02 – 16 March	270	06-13	05-14	05-15	19-01	20-00	20-22	20-22	NO
Micronesia – V63AR, V63WW	04 – 11 March	293	07-13	06-14	06-15	20-01	20-23	21-22	21-22	NO
Chatham Is – ZL7T	06 – 11 March	230	05-12	04-13	02-10	19-01	21-01	20-10	NO	NO
Kerguelen Is – FT5XS	10 Mar – 15 Apr	144	00-02	02-04	03-06	04-09	NO	NO	NO	NO
Marshall Is – V73J, V63M (SSB/CW/RTTY)	11 – 14 March	282	06-13	04-14	12-15	18-01	19-00	19-22	19-22	NO
Palau – T88CD, T88WW (SSB/CW/RTTY)	14 – 16 March	306	09-12	07-13	12-15	14-16	21-23	21-23	NO	NO
Cocos Keeling – VK9AA	14 – 27 March	3	NO	2330	12-13	14-19	16-18	15-18	NO	NO
Norfolk Is – VK9N/ON5AX	15 – 22 March	250	06-12	04-14	05-14	23-02	20-01	21-00	22-23	22-23
Guam – NH0AA, KH2/AH0F	17 – 19 March	306	08-12	07-14	10-15	21-02	21-00	21-22	21-22	NO
Azerbaijan – 4K0CW	19 – 25 March	36	23-04	22-05	22-04	13-18	15-17	15-17	NO	NO
Mellish Reef – VK9GMW	22 Mar – 06 Apr	267	07-12	05-14	10-15	01-02	21-00	21-00	21023	NO
Lord Howe Is – VK9LA	24 Mar – 03 Apr	249	07-12	05-14	04-14	01-03	23-00	23-00	22-00	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0AAC	25 Mar – 01 Apr	262	06-12	04-14	04-15	23-03	20-01	20-00	20-00	NO
Mozambique – C9???	25 Mar – 05 Apr	101	23-05	22-06	21-02	16-18	13-17	15-17	15-17	NO

Updated 25 February 2009, based on 25 February 2009 *QRZ DX*, 23 February 2009 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

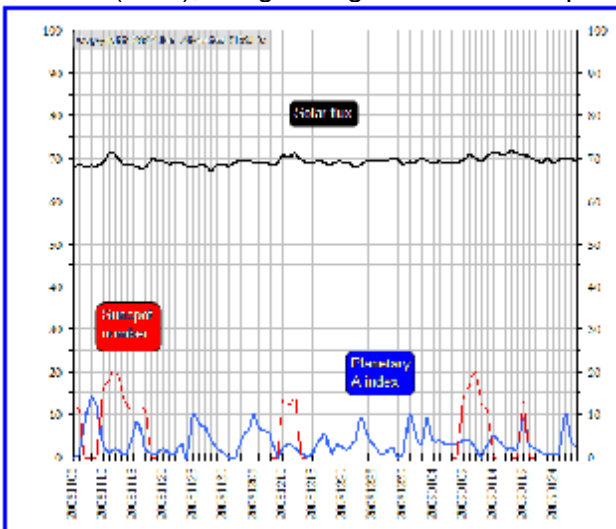
Notes: Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- FEBRUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During February, the Solar Flux ranged from 69 to 72, with a mean value of 70.0 (vs. 71.2 for February 2008 and 77.8 for February 2007). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 26 days.

Solar activity was very low. Region 1012 emerged on 09 and decayed 14 February; Region 1013 appeared 24 February.

Other than for active conditions 14-15 February due to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams (HSS), the geomagnetic field was quiet.



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

-- MARCH FORECAST --

March solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal levels, other than 14-18 March when high levels will be experienced. Solar flux should average 70 during March.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels 01-12 March. Activity is expected to increase to active levels 13-14 March due to recurrent HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels 15-31 March.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 24 February 2009, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 24 February 2009, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 24 February 2009)

-- DX NOTES IN THE MARGIN --

Note that there will be a number of Pacific DX-peditions during March involving propagation over salt water paths from the area. This also involves favorable transequatorial propagation, so look for these stations.

Also, the Vernal Equinox, occurring at 1124 GMT on 20 March, will bring the Sun north of the Equator. This can also enhance propagation as the Sun favors the northern hemisphere.

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
High Speed CW Contest	0900Z 01 Mar 1700Z 01 Mar	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, HSC#, or "NM"
ARRL International DX Contest	0000Z 07 Mar 2400Z 08 Mar	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	DXCC Entities	R/S, State/Prov. (DX sends power)
Spanish PSK31 Contest	1600Z 14 Mar 1600Z 15 Mar	80 – 10 Meters PSK31 Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial #
North American RTTY Sprint	0000Z 15 Mar 0400Z 15 Mar	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Calls, Serial#, name, State/Prov.
Russian DX Contest	1200Z 21 Mar 1200Z 22 Mar	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial#
BARTG (British) Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z 21 Mar 0200Z 23 Mar	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, 3-digit Serial#, 4-digit Time
9KCC (Kuwait) Contest	1200Z 22 Mar 1600Z 22 Mar	15 Meters Only Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T), Serial#
CQ WPX Phone Contest	0000Z 28 Mar 2400Z 29 Mar	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S, Serial#

From ARRL "Contest Corral" on the ARRL Web Site

-- IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN --

Yep, this is the last month for you to show your loyal support of the TARC by paying your 2009 dues. Still US\$15 for individual, but now US\$20 for family membership. Please complete a Membership Application, to update your personal data and interests, and mail with your check payable to "TARC" to:

Don Jansen-KI4VGE
4254 Pandora Road
Venice, FL 34293

-- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 14 March Charlotte County Hamfest, Englewood ARS and Peach River Radio Assn., Charlotte County Fairgrounds 2333 El Jobean Rd (SR 776), Port Charlotte. TI: 147.255 (PL 136.5)
- 21 March Martin County Hamfest, Martin County ARA, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Highway, Stuart. TI: 147.06 +600 (PL 107.2)

-- DESECHEO ISLAND – K5D --



The island, 14 miles west of Puerto Rico, is a US entity added to the DXCC list 01 March 1979

It's considered a separate DXCC entity as it is under the administration of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (DXCC Section II.1.b.). Desecheo was the 2nd most needed DXCC entity in Asia and 3rd most needed in Europe.



View of operating site, located on the perimeter of the helicopter landing pad. Various vertical antennas were sited on the beach with two beams on the hillside above the site.

While KP5 is the ITU prefix for Desecheo, the K5D call was issued for this operation in order to shorten the QSO exchange time. The stations came on the air at 1600 GMT on 13 February and closed down early 26 February. A total of 115,728 QSOs are in the K5D logs, on all bands from 6 (96 Qs) through 160 meters (7215 Qs).

Considering the success of this operation, it is doubtful that there will be enough demand to justify the costs and paperwork for another DXpedition from Desecheo within the next decade. Hope you're in their log!

-- ORLANDO HAMCATION SCENES --



Bob Marchese-K1NOK shot this view of the indoor flea market. Looks like a lot of interest at the far tables.



No matter the vintage, Collins equipment just has a classic look, and they worked every bit as great as they looked.



Here's some of what Bob saw in the indoor commercial area. Looks like enough of everything to keep everyone interested.



Konrad Owens-WA3RRS was also making the rounds, and caught Bob-K1NOK and his partners willing to offer some smiles and advice at their Ham Test Online booth.



Strolling by the FlexRadio booth, Konrad was sure he would find Stew Haag-W4MO in person. We know Stew's "kinda partial" to Flex, but he was obviously elsewhere at the time.



Bruce Brown-WA8IQF just couldn't resist the Hex-Beam booth. Anyone wonder why?

--SUPERMAN LIVES! --

One of the newly minted DXers came dashing in, a bit madly as usual, and shouted, "He lives. He lives. Superman lives!" When we got him down off the walls and somewhat coherent, he told us, between gasps, "You see when K5D was on from Desecheo Island, I heard this W4 in there, trying to work him. When K5D stood by for Fives, the W4 was portable Five. Then he stood by for Sixes and the W4 was portable Six. When K5D was looking for Ones, the W4 was portable One. It has to be Superman—it has to be. That W4 is faster than a speeding bullet!" Tearing himself loose, the DXer dashed off, shouting, "Superman lives. Superman lives in Four-land!"

Son of a Gun! What could we say? We decided we had better do some listening ourselves. It is not every day that one can work Superman.

(Adapted from *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited and published by Charles Allen-W5DV and James Allen-W6OGC, 1981)

--WHAT WE DON'T MISS AT ALL! --



"Gil" Gildersleeve, QST, January 1965

-- TARC WEB SITE INPUT NEEDED --

George-AB4AD, Jack-KY1Z and Bruce-WA8IQF care for our web site. However, they need NEWS, articles, photos, "whatever". You can forward any material to Jack-KY1Z via tamiamarc@gmail.com.

-- POSTAL RATE INCREASES --

Effective 11 May, US domestic mail will go up to 44 cents for envelopes and 28 cents for post cards. Air Mail to Canada will be 74 cents, 79 cents to Mexico and 98 cents to the rest of the world. US postage is still among the cheapest in the world, when you consider that air mail from Japan costs US\$1.20, from Australia it's US\$1.35, US\$1.55 from Switzerland, US\$1.10 from Italy, US\$2.15 from Germany, etc.

-- IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE --

On Friday, 13 February, people in central Kentucky heard loud booms, felt their houses shake, and saw a fireball streaking through the sky. This occurred scant hours after another fireball at least 10 times brighter than a full Moon lit up the sky over Italy. Although it is tempting to attribute these events to debris from the 10 February collision of the Iridium 33 and Kosmos 2251 satellites, the Kentucky and Italy fireballs also seem to be meteoroids, not manmade objects. Italian scientists are studying the ground track of their fireball, which was recorded by multiple cameras, and they will soon begin to hunt for meteorites.

A daylight fireball over Texas on Sunday, 15 February, triggered widespread reports that debris from a recent satellite collision was falling to Earth. Those reports were premature. Researchers have studied video of the event and concluded that the object was more likely a natural meteoroid about one meter wide traveling more than 20 km/s--much faster than orbital debris. Meteoroids hit Earth every day, and the Texas fireball was apparently one of them.

Videos, eye-witness reports and more information about these events may be found at <http://spaceweather.com>.

(From Space Weather News, 16 February 2009)



"That's All Folks!"

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	4 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Denny's TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	5 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	7
8	9	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	11 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	12 TARC Meeting, Gab Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	14 TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library ***
15	16 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	18 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	19 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	21 Martin County Hamfest, Stuart
22	23	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	25 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	28
29	30	31 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580				

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.

*** 14 March Charlotte County Hamfest, PRRA and EARS, Charlotte County Fairgrounds, Port Charlotte

**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) _____

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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Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

2009 TARC Officers

President: Stew Haag-W4MO
V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF
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