

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



#### -- MARCH 2010 -

#### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I'm sure one thing all of us can agree upon is that this has been one long, dragged out winter season. I can probably count on the fingers of both hands the days in 2010 when our temperatures were in the historically average range. It sure hasn't been too conducive to any outdoor radio activities.

It was a pleasant surprise to see a fine photo of TARC Director Jon Hamlet-W4ZW on the front cover of the March issue of *CQ* magazine. Jon's up on his roof, attending to his antennas. Inside the magazine there's a nice write up about the efforts, since 2008, of Jon and (fellow TARC member) Dave Brandenburg-K5RQ to get students interested in Amateur Radio. Jon and Dave have provided equipment for base stations at these schools, as well as HT's for use by the licensed students.

The CQ cover photographer, Larry Mulvehill-WB2ZPI, now lives in Sarasota and is known to several of our members. Who knows, maybe some other TARC members may be spotted by Larry's lens. So, be prepared!

There is a lot of upcoming activity on the air. For one thing, we are activating our 444.100 MHz Repeater with the 4-bay antenna at a higher position on the tower. This repeater is giving excellent coverage so, if you have one of the newer duo-band HT's, give it a try.

For HF operators, with increasing sunspot numbers, there have been excellent openings up as high as 12 meters. With the ARRL DX Contest next weekend, look for activity on 10 meters. Contests always "open up" the bands! Antenna restricted? Look into using the digital modes, where low power and small antennas will yield results. An increasing number of TARC members are moving into the digital modes with satisfying results.

Digital modes do require interfacing your computer and your radio. To assure the best results, don't bog down your computer with unnecessary programs that can hinder its performance.

73 to All de Stew-W4MO

#### -- MARCH MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **02 March 2010** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. After the business meeting, Bob Avrutik-N1RA and Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF will present a program, entitled "The Latest Digital Modes."

#### -- STEW'S DIGITAL INTRODUCTION --



TARC President Stew Haag-W4MO gives an introduction at our February meeting to the new 50-watt Kenwood NXR-710/810 digital/analog repeater now in operation for W4AC on 146.805 MHz. Give it a try with either mode.

#### -- ORLANDO HAMCATION ACTIVITY --



While this is a web site photo from the 2009 Hamcation activity, it's representative of this year's event.

# TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the Meeting 02 February 2010

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF from Sheldon, CT; Bill Titus-KJ4OWQ from Ocala, and Jack Garneau-KB1CSS from North Port were welcomed as visitors.

**MINUTES** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 05 January 2010 meeting as published in the February 2010 issue of *The Communicator*. Croft Taylor-VE3CT so moved, seconded by Konrad Owens-WA3RRS, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Received flyer for Charlotte County Hamfest, 13-14 March. Submitted and paid renewal of Florida Incorporation. Via transmittal letter, submitted \$126 (withholding from VE fees) to the Friends of Venice Library. Submitted announcements of our 09-11 April K4S operation from the Sharks Tooth Festival to *QST*, *CQ* and *WorldRadio Online*.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1613.40. Receipts were \$57.00 from the January 50/50, \$94.00 from 2010 membership dues payments, and \$126.00 for the Venice Library from withheld VE fees, totaling \$277.00. Expenses were \$14.34 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater site, \$46.25 for Florida incorporation fee, and \$126.00 donation to the Friends of Venice Public Library, totaling \$186.59. The 02 February 2010 ending balance is \$1703.81. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW moved to approve the report, seconded by Jon Krigsman-N1BDF, and passed.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE** – No known illnesses to report.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS reported that our next VE session will be at 10 AM on 13 February.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew reported that all modes on our new analog/digital W4AC Repeater are currently operational. Stew advised that operators may have to utilize the tone squelch feature of their radio in order to reject the signals from the Spring Hill KF4IXU repeater.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – No inventory changes. **PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 99 members, including seven Life Members, 11 First-Year Free

members, and two new members for 2010.

**NET OPERATIONS - Net Manager Bob Mur**phy-WA1UHG was not present. Jack-W4JS commented that the sponsor οf the IRLP/EchoLink simplex node on 146.590 MHz will be presenting a program at the February EARS meeting about his operation, which raises the potential for increased use of this facility. We will continue holding our Tuesday Simplex Net on 146.580 MHz until we see if interference does develop.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS did not attend the January EARS meeting.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS stated that the Suncoast Chapter 53 January luncheon/meeting was 06 January with 40 members/spouses/friends in attendance. Tomorrow, 03 February we will meet at 11:30 AM at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. N. T. "LEN" Carlson-K4IWL will describe "The Shack in the Back." All are welcome.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Stew-W4MO has not yet been able to contact the owner regarding a new lease agreement for use of the room and tower at our W4AC repeater site.

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

SERC – Jon reported that the SERC has thrown its support behind an organization known as Sarasota Auxiliary Communication Service, Inc. Jon made three announcements at the 01 February SERC meeting. 1) He is organizing General Class license classes to be held at the Sarasota Red Cross; 2) George Becht-N2SQ is looking into the possibility of procuring a bus to the Orlando HamCation, and 3) the W4AC repeater now offers both analog and digital modes.

Pine View School – Certain members of the PVSARC have completed scholarship applications for submittal to the ARRL and Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR). The ARRL granted 58 scholarships and the FAR granted 48 scholarships in 2009.

Sarasota Military Academy – The second Technician training class is already underway with six students participating.

Suncoast Polytechnical High School – Technician classes for 64 students whenever the logistics have been coordinated .

Riverview High School – Nothing to report at this time.

See MINUTES, pg. 4

#### **CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS**

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY CALLSION	ACTIVITY	BEAR-	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Maldives – 8Q7IA; SSB, CW, PSK	Now to 18 May	41		22-02		14-22	14-21			
Kenya – 5Z4/LA9PF; 100w, 3 el yagi or loop	Now to 11 May	76	23-04	22-05	22-02	17-00	14-22	16-21	17-20	18-20
Malawi – 7Q7PF; 100w, 3 el yagi or loop	Now to 11 May	90	23-04	22-05	22-01	17-22	15-19	15-18	16-18	16-17
Uganda – 5X7JD; ++, 100w, vertical	Now to 30 April	77		22-05		17-00				
Solomon Is – H44MS	Now to 20 April	275	07-13	06-13	06-13	13-15	20-00	20-23	21-22	21-22
Malawi – 7Q7HB; ** + digital	Now to 15 April	90	23-04	22-05	22-01	17-22	15-19	15-18	16-18	16-17
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP; mainly digital, 100w	Now to 31 March	90	23-08	21-10	20-03	13-00	15-21	18-20	20-21	NO
Senegal – 6W2SC; mainly digital, 100w	Now to 31 March	87	23-08	20-10	20-09	12-01	13-23	16-22	17-19	17-19
South Shetland Is – XR9JA; SSB, CW, PSK	Now to 26 March	169	00-09	23-10	00-06	22-01	21-23	20-21	2300	NO
Uganda -5X1NH; CW & digital, some SSB	Now to 21 March	77	23-04	22-05	22-02	17-00	15-23	16-20	1830	NO
Dodecanese – SV5/DJ7RJ; mainly low bands	Now to 17 March	49	23-05	21-07	21-04	13-19	15-18	16-17	16-17	NO
Burundi – 9U1VO and friends; 100w/verticals	Now to 06 March	83	23-05	22-06	22-01	17-23	15-21	16-20	16-20	NO
Maldives – 8Q7JK; ++, 100w, dipoles	Now to 05 March	41		22-02		14-22	14-21	17-20	19-21	NO
Juan Fernandez – XR0ZN	01 Mar to 30 Apr	177	00-11	22-13	21-09	12-02	14-01	14-00	15-23	17-22
Cocos Keeling – VK9C/NL8F or VK9COF	03 to 10 March	3	NO	NO	NO	13-20	15-18	16-17	16-17	2030
Samoa – 5W??? by K6HFA, then N7OU	03 to 15 March	257	05-12	03-14	03-14	17-02	18-01	18-23		
Rodriguez Is – 3B9/G3LZQ; mostly low band	03 Mar to 02 Apr	84	23-02	22-03	22-03	17-22	15-17	15-17	1630	1700
Gambia – C56KR; ++, wires	05 to 24 March	88	22-08	20-10	20-08	12-01	13-23	15-22	17-20	19-22
Lesotho – 7P8AO; 300w, verticals	08 to 22 March	110	23-05	22-06	21-06	17-20	13-18	14-17	15-16	NO
Marshall Is – V7/N4XP	09 to 22 March	282	06-13	04-14	04-14	18-01	19-00	19-21	19-21	19-21
Tonga – A3???; by K6HFA	12 Mar to 02 Apr	253	03-14	03-14	03-14	18-03	18-01	19-23		
South Cook Is – E51COF; verticals	20 - 30 March	246	04-12	02-13	02-13	17-02	17-00	18-23	19-22	19-22
Ogasawara – JD1BNN and friends	28 Mar to 12 Apr	317	08-12	07-13	11-13	00-03	22-23	2200	2200	NO

Updated 25 February 2010, based on 24 February 2010 *QRZ DX*, 22 February 2010 *The Weekly DX* and <a href="http://www.ng3k.com">http://www.ng3k.com</a>

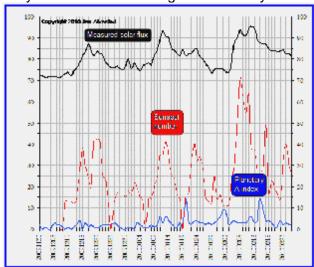
Notes: Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.2.60* propagation software, available to download at <a href="http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/">http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/</a>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

#### -- FEBRUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 27 February, the Solar Flux ranged from 74 to 96, with a mean value of 85.3 (vs. 70.0 for February 2009 and 71.2 for February 2008). The A-index exceeded 7 on six days.

No proton events were observed at geosynchronous orbit.

Solar activity was very low to moderate. B-, C- and M-Class flares were produced by Sunspot Regions 1045, 1046, 1048 and 1049 as they rotated across the sun's disk. Regions 1050 and 1051 were visible on 27 February. The average daily SSN was 29.2 through 27 February.



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

#### -- MARCH FORECAST --

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. Solar activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled 01-02 March. Quiet levels are expected 03-14 March, with isolated unsettled levels 15-15 March. Activity is expected to return to quiet levels 17-31 March. March's solar flux should average 83.6.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 23 February 2010, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 23 February 2010, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 23 February 2010)

#### -- MEET ALI - A61C --



Ali Al Banna – A61C over in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates is one of the DX stations for whom Jack-W4JS is QSL manager.

#### **MARCH CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES**

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL DX Contest	0000Z 06 Mar 2400Z 07 Mar	160 - 10 Meters Phone Only	DXCC Entities	R/S and State or Province
High Speed CW Contest	0900Z 06 Mar 1700Z 06 Mar	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone who can work high speed CW	R/S/T, HSC #, or "NM"
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	2000Z 06 Mar 1159Z 07 Mar	160 - 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere; see www.ucc.zp.ua for details	State/Province, Serial Number
Spanish PSK 31 Contest	1600Z 13 Mar 1600Z 14 Mar	80 – 10 Meters BPSK31 Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Serial Number
North American RTTY Sprint	0000Z 14 Mar 0400Z 14 Mar	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Both Calls, Name Ser #, State
10-10 Mobile QSO Party	0001Z 20 Mar 2359Z 20 Mar	10 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digi	Mobiles QSO Anyone Fixed Stns QSO Mobiles	See <u>www.ten-</u> ten.org
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z 20 Mar 0200Z 22 Mar	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	See www.bartg.org.uk
Russian DX Contest	1200Z 20 Mar 1200Z 21 Mar	160 - 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
9KCC Contest	1200Z 20 Mar 1600Z 21 Mar	15 Meters Only Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
CQ WPX SSB Contest	0000Z 27 Mar 2400Z 28 Mar	160 - 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S and Serial Number

From ARRL "Contest Corral," March 2010 QST and March 2010 WorldRadio Online

#### MINUTES, from pg. 2

**NEW BUSINESS** – Preliminary discussions took place regarding our 09-11 April of Special Event Station K4S from the Sharks Tooth Festival. A sign up sheet was circulated, with 12 members volunteering their assistance. Konrad-WA3RRS stated he had submitted the data sheet to the sponsor, indicating our need for electrical power, two tables and 12 chairs, and a request for a quieter location than last year.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR - None**

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 6:30 PM was made by Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed. There were 26 members and three visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Stew Haag-W4MO provided information on the new 50-watt Kenwood NXR-710/810 digital/analog repeater now in operation for W4AC on 146.805 MHz.

Jack Sproat-W4JS Secretary

#### -- OUR TARC NETS ON THE AIR --

With virtually all of our Snowbird members now in the area, please remember that you're welcome to participate in any or all of our weekly 2-meter nets. See the calendar page for schedules. Show that you can turn out for a net as well as you turn out for breakfast.

#### -- FLORIDA HAMFESTS --

 13 – 14 Mar: Peace River Radio Assn and Englewood ARS, at Tropical Gulf Acres Clubhouse, 28245 Pasadena Dr, Punta Gorda. \$5 admission.

20 March: Martin County ARA, at Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, Stuart. Free admission!

(From March 2001 QST)

#### -- FINAL 2010 DUES REMINDER --

It's that time again when we must remind all that 31 March 2010 is the cutoff date for all members who have not yet paid their TARC dues for 2010. Actually, if you haven't paid your dues, you are still on our roster since 31 December courtesy of our 3-month grace period. If you cannot attend our March meeting to pay your dues in person, please fill out the application form in this newsletter, write out a check to "TARC" and mail to the address on the form. We don't want to lose you, but the future is entirely in your hands.

Education and intelligence aren't the same thing. – Chinese Fortune Cookie

"Government is the only enterprise in the world which expands in size when its failures increase." – US District Judge Janice Brown

#### -- NEW ARRL WEB SITE DELAYED -

On 23 February--two days before the new ARRL Web site was to come on line--ARRL COO Harold Kramer-WJ1B, decided to delay the unveiling of the Web site until late March. "Work on the new ARRL Web site has progressed at a frantic pace but there are still some potential 'bugs' that could affect members. We need to be sure we get it right," Kramer said. "Our members' security, information and ability to actually use of all the options on the new site outweigh any rush to meet an artificial deadline. It's just good customer service."

The new Web site--which will contain the online store, class registrations, audio, video, DXCC information, contest data, individualized member options and other 21st century opportunities for members--is one of the largest technology upgrade activities that ARRL and Fathom, the company programming the site, have ever undertaken. "Reviewers have been unanimously impressed and are helping make sure we create the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible," Kramer explained.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts-W1AGP, the current ARRL Web site is not only used by ARRL members, but is a prime reference source for engineers, hams and wireless technicians around the world, making it the premier place to find information about Amateur Radio, its activities and the sciences behind it. "The Web is our main face to the world, and the new Web site will be fantastic," he said. "Although we all regret the delay, I believe our members will appreciate our diligence about the ease of use, security and navigation for the new site."

(From the ARRL Web site, 27 February 2010)

#### -- ILLEGAL DICOUNTED SUBSCRITIONS --

(CQ magazine has been around since 1945, and it's noted for its good coverage of ham radio operations, product reviews, DX coverage, etc. CQ originated such awards as Worked All Zones (WAZ), Worked All Prefixes (WPX), CQ DX Field Award, and CQ DX Award. In addition, CQ sponsors eleven HF and VHF contests, including the two of the most popular DX contests in the world: the CQ Wide World DX Contest and the WPX Contest. Financial support for these activities comes strictly from magazine subscriptions, therefore it is interesting that unscrupulous hucksters have been offering such subscriptions at deeply discounted prices. The following words of

caution are from CQ Publisher Dick Ross-K2MGA. Be forewarned.)

We've been hearing from hams who claim they "won" an auction on E-Bay for a 3-year CQ subscription for \$27, or found some other online source of a 1-year subscription for \$10 or \$15. These are not authorized by CQ and you are very likely getting ripped off!

The prices cited above barely cover our postage costs for mailing 12 or 36 issues of the magazine, to say nothing of printing expenses, cost of articles, staff salaries, overhead and all the other expenses associated with running a business.

Some sellers are abusing relationships we've established with firms that do school fund-raisers (we make nothing on those but hope you'll enjoy the magazine enough to renew at the regular price); others are just plain crooks -- they'll take your money, never submit an order and leave us scratching our heads when you call asking why you haven't started getting your magazines yet.

Please deal with known, reputable firms -- there are plenty of legit companies on the internet selling legit CQ subscriptions (generally at full price, though) -- or subscribe through us directly, either on our web store, by phone at our toll-free number, or by mail. As for the deep discounters, remember the basic warning about any scam: If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

#### -- STATUS OF AMATEUR LICENSING --

As of 31 January 2010, there were 685,583 Amateur Radio licenses outstanding in the United States. These consisted of 119,627 Amateur Extra, 60,668 Advanced, 151,305 General, 335,018 Technician and 16,965 Novice licenses. On 31 January 2009, there were 664,272 licenses outstanding. Therefore, over the past year, the Radio Amateur population gained 21,311 licensees during the past year. The ARRL/VEC reports that more than 30,000 new people entered the Amateur Radio Service in 2009, therefore, some 8,700 people dropped out for various reasons,

The Radio Amateur population in the United States peaked in April 2003, when there were 687,860 licenses outstanding. If the 2009 rate of net growth continues, the former peak could be reached in another two or three months. It will remain to be seen if this actually occurs.

(From CQ News Online, and the Web site of Joe Speroni-AH0A)

---000---

### March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Meeting @ 6 PM, Venice Library	3 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Denny's in Sarasota TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	5 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	6
7	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, + 7:45 AM	TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library PRRA/EARS Hamfest
PRRA/EARS Hamfest (Punta Gorda)	15	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, + 7:45 AM	20 Martin County ARA Hamfest Stuart
21	22	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 Breakfast @ Peach's, + 7:45 AM	27
28	29	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	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, EchoI	Link, Other (specify)					
Single Member @ \$15.00/year, Fa grants membership through remainder o		ear (\$8.00 after 30 June for remaind year.)	ler of calendar yea	r. \$15.00 after 31 Octobe			

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

#### TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. 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
Konrad Owens-WA3RRS

Jon Hamlet – W4ZW Jack Gaddas-KY1Z Bob Avrutik-N1RA