

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



-- MARCH 2011 -

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

There's no question but that the loss of Lee Darby-K4GCY just two days ago takes precedence in all my thoughts. I had so much respect and admiration for Lee that it could fill a book. I've known a lot of great men in my life, and Lee was right up at the top. Tuesday breakfasts will never be the same without Lee sitting on the other side of the table. Farewell, Good Friend!

Last month—and undoubtedly for a longer time period—I lamented the lack of use of our two repeaters. Some 10 years ago during the winter season a dozen or so members would check into our Thursday night net on the repeater—which had a marginal machine and an antenna at 100' at the Anderson Electric facility. Now we have state-of-the-art equipment with the antenna at 200', but we're lucky to get six people into the net. If a guy in Arcadia can hear us and be full quieting, why can't those of you well within the range of this repeater make use of it?

We are not alone with this problem, however. In the March issue of *WorldRadio Online*, well known ham radio reporter/writer Bill Pasternak-WA6ITF (*Amateur Radio Newsline*[™]) comments that the lack of use of repeaters is a "human problem" not a technical one. I must agree with him. The almost universal use of cell phones has caused many hams to forsake use of their local repeaters. Multiple "smart phones" that can text, access the Internet, stream music, etc. are given away free by the service provider just to get entire families to sign up.

With almost 700,000 licensees in the States, where are these hams operating? The HF bands aren't that crowded, even as propagation is improving. For sure, repeaters aren't overwhelmed with traffic. Again, it's the "human problem." I'll wager that the implementation of restrictive covenants and deeds over the past 30 or so years has done more to diminish ham radio activity than any other factor imaginable.

However, regardless of where you live, you can put an antenna somewhere for VHF/UHF.

73, Stew Haag-W4MO

-- MARCH MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **01 March 2011** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 So. Nokomis St. Following the business meeting, our guest Jim Wise-W4PRO will present his program, "Himalayan Adventures". This is a photo journey of Nepal and Bhutan, where Jim operated as 9N7PR and A52PRO in 2004. This should be a barnburner, so come on out! We hope to see you there.

-- LOWEL E. "LEE" DARBY-K4GCY; SK --



We mourn the passing of Lee Darby (Captain, USN-Ret) on 26 February at the age of 94. Lee was truly admired and was an inspiration to all who knew him. We will always treasure what time we shared with him. *Via con Dios*, Lee.

- INSIDE VIETNAM WITH CONRAD-WA3RRS -



Conrad Owens-WA3RRS gave us a fine photo tour of Vietnam at our February meeting.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the Meeting 08 February 2011

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Ed Ashway-K3EIN of Wilton, CT, Andy Bobak-N2NDG of Richfield Springs, NY, Jon Krijgsmman-N1BDF of Shelton, CT, and Yuli Sproat, Laraine Jansen, Doris Brown, and Bill Bobak were all welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – A motion to accept the minutes of the 04 January 2011 meeting as published in the February 2011 issue of *The Communicator* was moved by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported a variety of correspondence. This included 1) a letter from the Venice Public Library thanking the TARC for donating \$132 from VE fees, 2) sending e-mail notices to *QST, CQ* and *WorldRadio Online* regarding Special Event Station K4S, 3) sending e-mail notice to all members advising them of the dues increase, 4) sending e-mail notice on 06 January spelling out the Bylaws amendments to be voted on at this meeting, and 5) receipt of a form to renew our Florida sales tax exemption.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE gave the January Treasurer's Report. The starting balance was \$1355.82. Receipts were \$18.50 from the January 50/50, \$365 in dues, \$1098.50 in donations, and \$20.00 for name tags, totaling \$1502.00. Expenses were \$15.02 for DayStar Internet service, \$61.25 for Florida corporation renewal, and \$8.75 for one name tag, totaling \$85.02. The ending balance is \$2772.80. San Yoder-K3SY moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing reported.

VE TESTING – Our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 12 January at the Venice Public Library. There have been three inquiries to date.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters and the Kenwood remote HF radio are operational.

CLUB PROPERTY – All club property (other than items donated with the proviso that they be maintained for use by the Club) is on display and is available tonight for purchase by the members. **PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – San Yoder-K3SY reported we have 63 dues paying members, nine Honorary Life members, and two First Year Free members, totaling 74 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG expressed joy that eight members participated in the 03 February repeater net. Otherwise, net participation remains very sparse.

LIAISON TO EARS – Conrad Owens-WA3RRS has not attended recent meetings of the Englewood ARS.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Suncoast Chapter 53 had 44 folks at the 02 February luncheon meeting, with a video of ham radio operation on the ISS being the program. Our next gathering will be 02 March at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Bill Schlapfer-KA2HEA will give a Power Point program of his worldwide working career. All are welcome to come on out, have lunch and enjoy the camaraderie.

OLD BUSINÉSS – 1) Financial Audit Committee Report has been prepared.

2) Sunshine Committee volunteer(s) still needed.

NEW BUSINESS – <u>Vote on Proposed Amend-</u> <u>ments to Bylaws.</u> At the 04 January TARC meeting, the members present voted for, inter alia, two proposals which require amending the TARC Bylaws. As notice of any such amendments requires 30 days notice to the members, notice was sent to all members via e-mail on 06 January 2011. As the 30-day requirement has been met, Stew read and called for a vote on the following amendments:

 Article III, Para.4 of the Bylaws now provides a year's free membership in the Club for anyone who attains their first license at a TARC VE session. By amendment, said privilege shall be deleted from the Bylaws. The members voted in favor of the amendment

Article III, Para. 8.a of the Bylaws now provides for a three-month grace period, i.e., until 31 March, for payment of current dues. By amendment, said grace period shall be reduced to two months. The members voted in favor of the amendment.

Said amendments shall become effective 01 March 2011.

Sign Up Sheet for Sharks Tooth Festival – Three sheets were circulated for volunteers to assist with the K4S operation and monitoring of the Saturday morning 10-K Run. A total of 16 See **Minutes**, page 5

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY

	ACTIVITY	BEAR- HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)								
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Uganda – 5X1NH	Now to 14 Apr	77	23-04	22-05	22-05	19-01	16-23	16-21	16-20	16-20
Solomon Is – H44MS; ++ focus on 40/80	Now to12 April	275	07-12	06-13	06-14	13-15	20-01	20-00	20-23	20-23
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP; CW, RTTY	Now to 31 Mar	90	23-08	21-10	20-09	12-02	12-00	14-23	15-21	17-19
Senegal – 6W2SC; CW, RTTY	Now to 31 Mar	87	23-08	21-10	20-11	12-01	13-23	14-22	15-21	15-21
Namibia - V5/DJ4SO ** and Digital	Now to 23 Mar	107	23-06	21-07	22-07	17-00	12-21	13-19	15-17	15-17
Angola – D2AM	Now to 17 Mar	96	23-06	21-07	21-07	14-01	13-23	14-21	15-20	16-20
South Shetland Is – LU1ZS; ++ on 20 meters	Now to 15 Mar	169	00-09	23-10	00-09	22-02	21-22	21-22	21-22	NO
Tanzania – 5H???; spare time operation	Now to 08 Mar	83	23-04	22-05	22-05	17-23	15-21	15-19	16-19	16-19
Papua New Guinea – P29CW; spare time op	Now to 05 Mar	283	08-13	07-13	07-14	13-15	14-17	21-22	2130	2130
Cocos Keeling Is - VK9C/G6AY; CW Only	Now to 05 Mar	3	NO	1200	2330	13-19	15-17	16-17	16-17	NO
Vietnam – 3W6LI	01 to 07 March	348	1130	11-12	11-12	14-19	14-18	14-18	NO	NO
West Kiribati – T30AQ, T30RH ++ & RTTY	01 to 17 March	277	06-13	04-14	05-15	13-03	18-01	19-00	19-22	20-21
Ghana – 9G1AA; ++, mainly 20 & 15 meters	01 to 20 March	87	23-07	21-09	21-08	12-01	13-23	14-21	15-21	15-21
Cambodia – XU7FMZ; ++ holiday style op.	02 to 28 March	349	NO	11-12		13-16	14-19	15-18	16-18	16-18
Revilla Gigedo – 4A4A; 5-station op.	03 to 20 March	259	00-13	00-24	13-09	14-01	16-23	17-22	17-22	NO
Cambodia – XU7AFU/XU7KOH	05 to 15 March	349	NO	11-12	1200	13-17	14-19	15-18	16-18	16-18
Namibia – V5/ZS6AYU; ** holiday style	06 to 16 March	107	23-06	21-07	22-07	17-00	13-22	13-20	14-18	15-17
Sable Island – CY0/N0TG; 3-man op.	07 to 15 March	41	22-12	00-24	12-01	13-22	16-19	16-18	NO	NO
Cambodia – XU7SSB	08 to 15 March	349	NO	11-12	1200	13-17	14-19	15-18	16-18	16-18
Lesotho – 7P8PB, 7P8CF, 7P8KDJ	09 to 23 March	110	23-05	22-06	22-06	17-21	12-19	13-17	15-16	15-16
Andaman & Nicobar Is. – VU4PB 4-stn op.	15 to 31 March	8	NO	23-00	NO	12-02	14-20	16-19	17-18	17-18
Fiji – 3D2A; focus on low bands	15 Mar to 02 Apr	258	06-12	04-13	04-14	00-03	19-02	19-00	19-23	20-22
Sierra Leone – 9L5MS; 3-stn Dutch operation	15 Mar to 04 Apr	91	23-08	21-09	20-09	12-01	14-00	16-21	18-19	1900
Cocos Keeling Is – VK9CF; ++	19 to 29 March	3	NO	NO		13-20	15-19	16-18	16-18	NO
Mariana Is – KH0/WE8A, K8RLY	30 Mar to 02 Apr	306	08-12	07-13	08-13	13-15	21-01	22-01	22-01	NO
Liberia – EL???; 4 station Italian operation	31 Mar to 13 Apr	92	23-07	21-08	21-09	12-02	14-00	16-21	18-20	NO

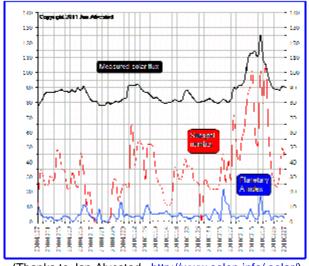
Updated 27 February 2011, based on 23 February 2011 QRZ DX, 21 February 2011 The Weekly DX and http://www.ng3k.com

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 <u>opening times</u> are <u>underlined</u>. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.2.60* propagation software, available to download at <u>http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/</u>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- FEBRUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During February the Solar Flux ranged from 79 to 125, with a mean value of 91.0 (vs. 84.8 for February 2010 and 70.0 for February 2009). The A-index was \geq 7 on 10 days. Through 27 February, the sunspot number ranged from 22 to 103, with a mean of 53.5.

Sunspot Regions 1152 thru 1165 were active during February, with 97 C-class, 12 M-Class and one X-Class flares occurring.



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

-- MARCH FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to vary from very low to moderate throughout March.

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 01-04 March. High levels are expected 05-13 March, with normal to moderate levels 14-18 March, followed by high levels 19-21 March. Moderate levels should prevail the rest of the month. The Solar Flux should average 96.2 during March.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet to unsettled 01-02 March, decreasing to quiet levels 03-06 March. Quiet to unsettled levels will return 07-10 March due to a recurrent HSS. While 11-13 should be quiet, another recurrent HSS will raise activity levels to quiet to unsettled 14-15 March. Predominantly quiet levels are expected for the remainder of March.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 22 February 2011, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 15 February 2011, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 25 February 2011)

Questions provide the key to unlocking our unlimited potential. - Chinese Fortune Cookie

MARCH CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

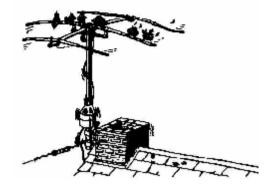
Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL International Phone DX	0000Z 05 Mar	160 – 10 Meters	DXCC Entities	RS and State; DX
Contest	2400Z 06 Mar	SSB Only		sends power
Open Ukraine RTTY Contest	2200Z 05 Mar	80 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	Serial
	1200Z 06 Mar	RTTY Only		
Spanish PSK31 Contest	1600Z 12 Mar	80 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
	1600Z 13 Mar	PSK31 Only		
North American RTTY Sprint	0000Z 13 Mar	80 – 20 Meters	North American and DX	Call Signs, Serial,
	0400Z 13 Mar	RTTY Only	stations	Name, S/P/C
10-10 Mobile QSO Party	0001Z 19 Mar	10 Meters Only	10-10 Members operat-	Call, Name,
	2359Z 19 Mar	SSB, CW, Digital	ing mobile	County, S/P/C
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z 19 Mar	80 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	3-digit Serial
	0200Z 21 Mar	RTTY Only		4-digit Time
Russian DX Contest	1200Z 19 Mar	160 – 6 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
	1200Z 20 Mar	SSB and CW		
CQ WPX SSB Contest	0000Z 26 Mar	160 – 10 Meters	Anyone, Anywhere	RS, Serial
	2400Z 27 Mar	SSB Only		

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity From ARRL "Contest Corral," February 2011 *QST*, WA7BNM Contest Calendar

-- INDISPENSIBLE HANS-WB2ZZB --



No question but that Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB has been a mainstay for developing and/or presenting programs at our meetings. While Martin Zippe-DJ4OM/AF4ID looks on, Hans gets his computer and projector ready for action.



-- SEEN AT ORLANDO HAMCATION --



TARC members Tom Fraser-KD8OTO (I) and Bob Avrutik-N1RA visiting the QCWA table.



Those Ameritron linears sure look mighty pretty and tempting.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Andy Durette-KB1HIP has worked up an attractive update of the TARC brochure, which was passed around with positive response.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:00 PM was made by Andy Durette-KB1HIP, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed. There were 30 members and seven visitors present.

PROGRAM – "Inside Vietnam" with photography and narration by Conrad Owens-WA3RRS and Power Point presentation by Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB was warmly received by the audience.

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

-- SOLAR STORM "GLOBAL KATRINA" --

The British *Mail*OnLine recently offered an article stating that "Earth is overdue a solar storm as the sun enters its most active period" and advising readers to "Get ready for a 'global Katrina': Biggest ever solar storm could cause power cuts which last for MONTHS."

Continuing, the article advised that the world is overdue a ferocious 'space storm' that could knock out communications satellites, ground aircraft and trigger blackouts - causing hundreds of billions of pounds of damage, scientists say. A massive eruption of the sun would save waves of radiation and charged particles to Earth, damaging the satellite systems used for synchronizing computers, airline navigation and phone networks. If the storm is powerful enough it could even crash stock markets and cause power cuts that last weeks or months, experts told the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The chances of a disruption from space are getting stronger because the sun is entering the most active period of its 11 to 12-year natural cycle. The world got a taster of the sun's explosive power last week when the strongest solar eruption in five years sent a torrent of charged plasma hurtling towards the world at 580 miles per second. Professor Sir John Beddington, the British government's chief scientific adviser, said: "The issue of space weather has got to be taken seriously. We've had a relatively quiet period of space weather - but we can't expect that guiet period to continue." At the same time over that period the potential vulnerability of our systems has increased dramatically, whether it is the smart grid in our electricity systems or the ubiquitous use of GPS in just about everything we use these days.

Jane Lubchenco, head of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, while not in a panic mode, said: "This is not a matter of if, it is simply a matter of when and how big. The last time we had a maximum in the solar cycle, about 10 years ago, the world was a very different place. Cell phones are now ubiquitous; they were certainly around, but we didn't rely on them for so many different things. Many things that we take for granted today are so much more prone to the process of space weather than was the case in the last solar maximum."

So, what has ignited this sudden concern over Sunspot Cycle 24 and space weather? Solar storms are caused by massive explosions on the sun. The explosions release waves of X-rays and ultraviolet radiation which, which the solar disc is facing us, reach the Earth within minutes, potentially disrupting radio signals and poaaibly damaging the electronics of satellites. They are followed 10 to 20 minutes later by a burst of energetic particles which cause even more havoc with satellites - and then 15 to 30 hours later by supercharged plasma which collides with Earth's magnetic field. The plasma creates the aurora - or Northern Lights - and can induce electrical currents in power lines and cables.

So, how much havoc has Cycle 24 created to date that warrants this grave concern? Thru 27 February, 99 solar flares have occurred during the month. During February, the highest level of geomagnetic field disturbance occurred on 04 February when the 3-hour planetary k-index rose to 6, i.e., no HF openings. This condition was caused not by solar flares but by recurrent coronal mass ejections. On 15 February there was one X-class and five C-class flares, vet the 3-hour planetary k-index never rose above 2 in the following days, i.e., no propagation hindrance. On 18 February the 3-hour planetary k-index rose to 5 following 5 M-class and 15 Cclass flares. As such, disturbed propagation with poor openings, QSB and noise would prevail.

We will not accuse the harbingers of gloom and doom of overdoing it, for we know that "panic" sells in the media. Yes, as stated, we are "entering the most active period" of Solar Cycle 24. However, this cycle is forecast to be one of the weakest in recent history. The "hottest" cycle ever, was Cycle 19, which peaked in the mid-50s. It will never be replicated by the current Cycle 24.

-- PHOTO GALLERY --



The orders are in and the guys wait for their breakfasts at Peach's. Gee, if they would just show as much interest in our nets!



Members looking over the TARC equipment being offered for sale at our February meeting.



A general view of the Friday attendance at the Orlando HamCation. Estimates are that the Saturday turnout was about four times as large. So, ham radio seems to still be alive and well in this neck of the woods.



Looks like "Time On My Hands" at the MFJ setup at HamCation. Many dealers there were offering MFJ products, which may account for the quietude at the home display.



HRO came down from their Atlanta outlet for the first time, and they were obviously glad they came. A very popular spot!



Going a bit south of Orlando, we spot the team that put VP8ORK on the air from the South Orkney Islands. Over 63,600 QSOs were made in 12 days. The NCDXF was a major sponsor of that very well run DXpedition.

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM TARC Meet- ing @ 6 PM, Venice Public Library	2 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Denny's in Sarasota TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater	3 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM	5
6	7	8 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	9 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	10 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM	12 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library PRRA 'Fest Punta Gorda
13	14 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	15 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	16 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM	19
20	21	22 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	23 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM	26
27	28	29 Breakfast @ Peach's, <u>+</u> 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	30 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	31 TARC Emer- gency 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	Coll Sign	Class	$\mathbf{ADDI} (\mathbf{V} / \mathbf{N})$		
			$_$ AKKL (1/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

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.				
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2	2011 TARC Officers			
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V. President:	Bruce Brown-WA8IQF			
Secretary:	Jack Sproat-W4JS			
Treasurer:	Don Jansen-KI4VGE			
Directors:	Conrad Owens-WA3RRS			
	Peter Pesa-N4RD			
	Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI			
	Bob Avrutik-N1RA			