



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>



-- MARCH 2013 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

March is upon us, which means our participation in the Shark Tooth Festival is only some 43 days away. Have you signed up yet? We have offers from the Venice High School Radio Club membership to work both the 10-K Sharks Tooth Run and the on-site HF operation of Special Event station K4S during the April 12 – 14 Festival. We can always use another six or seven participants from TARC for set up, operating, logging, and take down. Will that include you?

The TARC Club Inquiry survey request has earned a 50% response. That's fair, but not an overwhelming percentage. Additional response is more than welcome. I thank each of you who have submitted comments and I intend to produce a summation next month.

I assume you know that our Program Chairman Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB is responsible for presentations at our monthly meetings. I wholeheartedly support Hans with his dedication preparing a variety of programs, but he could use input from our members. For instance, there have been a fair number of new antenna projects the last few months (with some still in the works). Wouldn't it be informative if these individuals got together and presented at least a brief synopsis of their endeavors? If you're interested, coordinate this through Hans.

By the way did I mention the upcoming Shark Tooth Festival? Hi Hi!! Have you offered your abilities and talents yet? I would like to thank Stew Haag-W4MO who offered the use of his handhelds for the race monitoring and to Steve Case-WC4SE for involving the W4VHS Radio Club in this Community Event. How about you, will you join us?

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

-- FEBRUARY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **13 February 2013** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program will be the 2011 operation by the

Micro-Lite Penguins DXpedition Team of VP8ORK from the South Orkney Islands.



This DXpedition was named "DXpedition of the Year" at the 2011 Dayton Hamvention so, for sure, this should be an interesting program.

-- SHARKS TOOTH ACTIVITIES --

Fred-KJ4TNI has highlighted the potential involvement by the TARC in the Sharks tooth Festival activities scheduled for 12-14 April. Perhaps some expansion discussion is warranted since a number of our members are in the Club only for a year or so.



Back in 2006, the suggestion arose that the TARC contact the sponsors of the annual Venice Sharks Tooth Festival to determine if they would be amenable to our setting up a HF ham See **Sharks Tooth**, page 2

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

13 February 2013

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Allan Culbert-K0AL from Nokomis, FL/Cedar Rapids, IA, and Edith Norby from San Francisco were welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 09 January meeting as published in the February issue of *The Communicator*. Conrad Owens-WA3RRS so moved, seconded by Jon Donnelly-KY4JD, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – The Secretary reported applying for use of the Special Event call sign K4S 12-14 April for the Sharks Tooth Festival, and the application was approved by the ARRL. A notice of this proposed operation was sent to ARRL and CQ Communications for publication in the April issues of *QST* and *CQ*.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE read the Treasurer's Report for January. The starting balance was \$2877.32. Receipts were \$610.00 from membership dues and \$21.00 from the January meeting 50/50, totaling \$631.00. Expenses were \$11.10 to Birch Communications for Internet service, \$61.25 for annual renewal of Florida incorporation and \$21.83 for office expenses, totaling \$94.18. The ending balance is \$3414.14. Vic Ouellette-K1CGI moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – It was reported that Life Member Hal Cole-W4GUY passed away on 30 January 2013.

VE TESTING – There was one candidate at our 09 February VE session. A senior at VHS, he got interested on Wednesday, studied some of Thursday and Friday, and missed only two questions for his Technician license.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both repeaters are operational.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY advised that as of 12 February we have 69 members, including seven Life Members, of which 46 have paid their 2013 dues.

NET OPERATIONS – All nets have been averaging about six check ins.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 31 members, spouses and friends present at the 06 February luncheon at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. The program was an excellent PP presentation by Jim Wise-W4PRO describing his

experiences when he operated 7Q7PRO from Malawi last April-May. All are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of the month around 11:15 AM.

OLD BUSINESS – Fred-KJ4TNI asked how many had submitted his "TARC Club Inquiry" and requested that those who had not yet done so to submit it as soon as possible. Fred wants to review the input to best determine members' interests such that appropriate programs and activities can be initiated.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred passed around two forms for members to sign up for participation as monitors for the Sharks Tooth 10-K Run on 13 April and/or operation of K4S from the Sharks Tooth Festival site or from home.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Fred asked how many had attended the Orlando Hamcation and was pleasantly surprised by the generous show of hands.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM was made by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Tom Fraser-AK4ZM, and passed. There were 20 members and two visitors present.

PROGRAM – Vic Ouellette-K1CGI presented a very professional program highlighting his bus tour last summer from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA via The Mother Road, US Route 66.

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

Sharks Tooth, from page 1

radio operation to spread word about the Festival and its goals. That inquiry proved positive and Special Event station call sign K4S was obtained for use during the 3-day event. The photo on page 1 shows our first operation, by ourselves out on the eastern limit of the grounds.

In the following years the annual K4S operation became internal, alongside organizations such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Generally operations were in the 20-meter phone band.

Two years ago the first Sharks Tooth 10-K Run was held and a number of members provided communications as they monitored the course. Last year that run was certified by the USATF and our monitoring more organized.

However, due to heavy local QRM and lack of K4S staffing in 2011, the 2012 operation of K4S took place from the homes of several members on RTTY, PSK31 and SSB.

Several members have offered to put K4S on the air from the festival site and from their home stations. Contact Fred if you're willing to help.

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
Minami Torishima – JD1/JG8NQJ; **	Now to 15 April	308	07-12	06-13	06-14	13-16	20-01	21-23	21-22	21-22
Sudan – ST2SF – All modes	Now to 15 April	66	23-04	22-06	21-06	17-02	12-01	13-23	15-20	16-20
Senegal – 6V7S; by RK4FF	Now to 03 April	87	23-08	21-10	19-11	13-01	13-23	14-21	15-20	15-20
Cambodia – XU7ACQ; by KF0RQ, all mod	Now to 18 Mar	349	NO	11-12	11-13	13-15	14-18	15-17	14-17	17-18
Turkey – TA???: by DJ7RJ	Now to 18 Mar	44	23-05	22-06	21-05	12-21	13-18	15-17	15-17	15-17
Togo – 5V7JD; by F8AEJ, holiday style	Now to 15 Mar	87	23-07	22-08	20-08	12-01	13-23	14-22	16-20	16-20
Cambodia – XU7AFU; by ON4AFU	Now to 14 Mar	349	--	11-12	11-13	13-15	14-18	15-17	14-17	17-18
Albania – ZA/IZ4JMA; all modes	Now to 12 Mar	48	23-06	22-08	20-06	12-20	13-18	15-17	16-17	16-17
Senegal – 6W2SC; by HA3AUI, **	Now to 10 Mar	87	23-08	21-10	19-11	13-01	13-23	14-21	15-20	15-20
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP; by HA3AUI, **	Now to 10 Mar	90	23-08	21-09	20-09	12-01	13-23	14-22	15-20	16-20
Clipperton Island – TX5K; international team	Now to 10 Mar	242	00-13	00-24	14-09	14-01	15-00	17-22	18-21	19-21
Burkina Faso – XT2TT; Italian team op	Now to 06 Mar	83	23-07	21-08	20-09	12-01	12-00	13-23	15-20	15-20
South Sudan – Z81Z; by K4ZW	Now to 06 Mar	74	23-04	22-05	21-05	19-01	15-23	14-21	15-20	16-19
Rodrigues Is – 3B9DX; JA ops, all modes	02 to 10 March	84	23-02	22-03	22-03	19-00	15-19	13-18	14-17	15-17
Rwanda – 9X0NH; by G3RWF, **	04 to 12 March	81	23-04	22-05	22-06	19-01	15-22	14-22	15-21	17-19
Lesotho – 7P8PB; by EI7CC, holiday style	06 to 26 March	110	23-05	22-06	21-07	18-03	12-19	13-17	14-16	14-16
Solomon Is – H44G; German team, 4 stations	08 to 25 March	275	07-12	06-13	06-14	12-16	13-02	19-01	20-23	20-22
Spraty Is – 9M4SLL; international team	10 to 18 March	337	1100	10-12	10-13	12-15	14-18	15-18	16-18	16-18
Temotu Is – H40T; German/Polish team	12 to 23 March	270	07-12	06-13	05-14	01-15	19-02	19-01	19-23	20-22
Tuvalu – T2GM; Scottish team operation	12 to 23 March	267	06-12	05-13	04-15	01-18	17-03	18-01	18-00	19-23
Chatham Is – ZL7LC; by ZL1LC, PSK31	14 to 20 March	230	05-12	04-13	03-13	00-08	18-03	19-01	22-00	21-00
Tuvalu – T2???: by NL8F, ++	19 Mar – 02 Apr	267	06-12	05-13	04-14	01-15	13-04	18-02	18-01	19-23
Easter Is – XR0YG; British team op, **	20 to 27 March	208	01-12	00-13	23-14	13-08	13-03	14-00	15-00	16-22
Niue – E6SG, E6RQ; focus on 6, some HF	22 to 29 March	252	05-12	03-14	03-14	00-14	17-04	17-02	18-00	18-23
Mayotte – TO7BC; by DL7BC	25 Mar – 12 Apr	85	23-03	22-04	22-05	20-01	15-00	12-23	14-21	15-19
Mariana Is – KH0/R0FA, KH0/RA0FU	25 Mar – 04 Apr	306	08-12	07-13	07-13	12-17	13-16	20-00	21-23	21-23
Tonga – A3EAQ; by SP5EAQ, ++	26 Mar – 16 Apr	253	05-12	04-14	03-14	00-14	17-04	18-02	18-01	18-23
Cocos Keeling – VK9CZ; Scottish team	30 Mar – 13 Apr	3	NO	NO	2300	12-14	13-01	16-20	19-20	19-20

Updated 28 February based on the 25 February *The Weekly DX*, the 27 February *QRZ DX*, and the NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page, <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold =h 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.

-- FEBRUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 95 to 114, with a mean value of 108.7 (vs. 110.8 for February 2012 and 91.0 for February 2011), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on seven days. The sunspot number through 27 February ranged from 25 to 117, with a mean of 60.0. Sunspot Regions 1666 to 1683 were active, with one M-class and 31 C-class flares.

-- MARCH FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels during March with a slight chance of M-class flares after 10 March when Region 1675 returns.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be normal to moderate levels.

The geomagnetic field should be at mostly quiet levels with the exception of 01 and 21 March when recurrent CH HSS are expected to be geoeffective.

The Solar Flux should range from 95 to 120 and average 103.5 during March.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 25 February 2013, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 25 February 2013, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 25 February 2013)

-- THE 5X8C TEAM --



The international team that put 5X8C on 06-18 Feb handed out 81,251 Q's to 21,009 DXers worldwide. Great job guys!!

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING MARCH

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL International Phone DX Contest	0000Z 02 Mar 2400Z 03 Mar	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	DXCC Entities (DX gives power in report)	RS, State/Province
DARC (German) 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z 03 Mar 1700Z 03 Mar	10 Meters Only Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
BARTG (British) HF RTTY Contest	0200Z 16 Mar 0200Z 18 Mar	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	3-digit Serial, 4-digit Time
Russian DX Contest	1200Z 16 Mar 1200Z 17 Mar	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
North American Sprint	0000Z 17 Mar 0400Z 17 Mar	80 – 20 Meters SSB Only	North American countries, states, provinces	Calls, Serial, Name, S/P/C
CQ WPX SSB Contest	0000Z 30 Mar 2400Z 31 Mar	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RS, Serial

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.

-- RADIOS THAT RAISED THE BAR --

One of the members of the Florida Contest Group recently asked for the opinion of other members regarding game changing contest and DX radios since 1970, i.e., radios that raised the bar. Keep in mind that the FCG guys are active and they're active at contesting and DXing. In the ARRL CW DX Contest, some members had over 3000 Qs in 48 hours, and many members averaged around 1000 Qs. In other words, the members know and use their radios such that they have real world experience with "what works."

So, what do they consider to be the game changing radios (arranged somewhat in chronological order)?

Collins KWM-2 and KWM-2A
 Drake R4C and T4XC
 Signal One CX7 and CX11
 Kenwood TS-50, TS930, TS 820S and TS-850SAT
 ICOM IC-751A and IC-735
 Ten-Tec Argonaut and Omni
 Yaesu 901 and FT-1000
 Elecraft K3

There were various reasons for their selections, such as the Collins KWM-2 being the epitome of the first transceivers, Drake offering great radios at affordable prices, Signal One pioneering digital readouts, etc. Several of the radios mentioned were by manufacturers who no longer serve the amateur radio market, or who have disappeared. But, over the years, they did raise the bar.

The start is what stops most people. – Don Shula

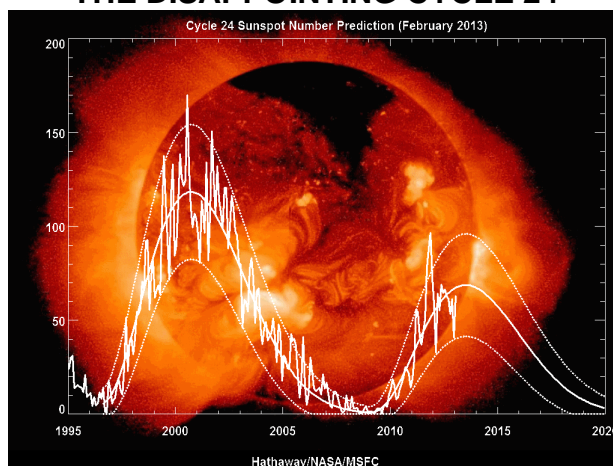
-- HAM CLASSIFIED --

Don Jansen-KI4VGE (941-493-3176) still has a few items available. Make a reasonable offer on any of the following:

2-Meter HT 7.5 VDC battery and charger
 5/8 WL 2-Meter mobile antenna
 J-38 Key
 Heathkit IM-21 RMS Meter
 Heathkit IM-11 VTVM Meter
 Micronta 22-210 VTVM
 Radio Shack Bulk-Tape Eraser

Jack Sproat-W4JS (941-475-1929) has an MFJ-1778 G5RV Antenna available. It's 102' long and covers 160-10 Meters. New \$44.95; up one month and repackaged, \$25.

-- THE DISAPPOINTING CYCLE 24 --



The current prediction for Sunspot Cycle 24 gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 69 in the Fall of 2013. (From <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>)

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	QCWA Lunch, @ Denny's 11:15 AM	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
TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	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
TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr		TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr		TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on the W4AC 444.100 MHz Repeater. 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.)

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: San Yoder-K3SY

2013 TARC Officers

President: Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI
V. President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP
Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS
Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE
Directors: Bob Avrutik-N1RA
Rich Greenberg-N6LRT
Conrad Owens-WA3RRS
Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS
San Yoder-K3SY