



# 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



-- MAY 2005 --

**-- BOB RETTER – KD4SOJ --**

Just one month shy of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Bob Retter-KD4SOJ lost his life in an auto accident on 21 April 2005. Bob moved to Venice from Cincinnati, Ohio in 1975 and had been an active member of the TARC over the past decade.

Bob was a faithful participant at the Tuesday and Friday breakfasts, where he would often inject astute observations into the surrounding conversation. Having worked in the Railway Postal Service, he offered many recollections of the midwestern towns and cities that were along his various routes. There is no question but that Bob had the respect of all who knew him. No one ever heard a word from him critical of another person, just as no one ever heard a word critical of Bob. He was just an easy going, very likable person!

The funeral service for Bob was held 26 April at the Faith Lutheran Church in Sarasota, where Bob had been a loyal member. During the service, the Reverend Stephen Winemiller remarked that Bob was a Radio Amateur and, as such, communicated with others rather as God communicates with all of us. Those TARC members who gather for Friday breakfast were well represented at the service and, of the six pall bearers, five were Bob's friends from the TARC: Bob Avrutik-N1RA, Hal Cole-W4GUY, Don Fontaine-N4ET, Bob Officer-WA6WAY, and Jack Sproat-W4JS.

Whenever Bob would offer his report on the TARC 2-meter nets, his comments would always be prefaced with, "Another beautiful day here in Paradise, otherwise known as South Venice." Well, Bob, the weather here will undoubtedly be as fine as in the past but, for so many of us, our lives will not be as beautiful without you. VY 73 Bob. SK

*"Privacy is absolutely essential to maintaining a free society. The idea that is at the foundation of the notion of privacy is that the citizen is not the tool or instrument of government—but the reverse....If you have no privacy, it will tend to follow that you have no political freedom..."* – Benno C. Schmidt, President, Yale University, 05 December 1986.

**-- MAY MEETING --**

Our May TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 12 May 2005 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 (formerly Bon Secours Hospital). The results of the extraordinary election will be announced and the new officers will assume their positions and duties.

**-- VISIBLE LIGHT COMMUNICATIONS --**

Two Australian hams have broken that nation's record for visible light voice communications. Between 1100 and 1200 GMT (*about 9 to 10 PM local time*) on 19 February 2005, two-way full-duplex voice communication was established at 475 THz (that's a wavelength of 630 nm—visible light) over a distance of 167.7 km between stations on the summits of Mount Wellington near Hobart and Mount Barrow, near Launceston, Tasmania.

Both transmitters used current modulated 1 W red Luxeon Lumileds into 200 mm ( $\pm 8$ " ) diameter Fresnel lens and they were clearly visible with the naked eye. The signals were detected by silicon photodiodes at the focus of Fresnel lens and a FET input amplifier.

Signals going north from Hobart were reported as 4/7 with some scintillation and slow fading by VK7JG, VK7ZJA on Mt. Barrow. The signals received at Mt. Wellington by VK7MJ and VK7TW were very noisy with readability of about 3/3, as the two-way duplex voice contacts were completed.

*(They must have some very clean air "Down Under.")*

*(From WIA News, ARNewslines, as reported on the May 2005 WorldRadio)*

**-- CALL SIGN STATUS --**

As of 15 March 2005, call signs issued sequentially in the Fourth District were up to:

Extra                      General/Technician  
AI4JN                              KI4JCI

*(From May 2005 Worldradio)*

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## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

14 April 2005

President Eddie Palmer-K4JP called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. After the pledge of allegiance to the US flag, introductions were made all around.

**MINUTES** – As the March meeting was our Annual Auction, there were no minutes for March.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – As Treasurer Peter Pesa-N4RD had resigned, there was no update from the Treasurer's Report published in the April issue of *The Communicator*. President Palmer reported that he had appointed former treasurer Bob Officer-WA6WAY and Charlie Larson-KD4FZ to audit the financial records.

**SUNSHINE** - President Palmer offered a tribute to deceased member Bill Rockwood-KE4ZAK, and Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS read a "Thank You" note from Bill's wife, Betty, in which she thanked the TARC members for their kindness and support given to Bill during his last months.

**DONATION** - President Palmer reported that Milt Kohl-W8MK had contributed a "like new" Cushcraft R7 antenna to the TARC, and offered the antenna for sale to club members. Past President John Fyke-VE6AIV offered the highest bid of \$130 for this antenna.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Secretary Jack-W4JS commented that he had sent an e-mail query to a Matt Howell at Clear Channel Communications in an effort to clarify the right for the TARC repeater equipment to be installed at the CCC tower in Nokomis. No response has been received.

President Palmer then recounted a history of the SERC/Venice repeater.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Jon Hamlet-W4ZW commented that it is evident that there is an air of ill feeling in the Club and opined that, in the business world, such divisions are solved by a change in the leadership. Jon then moved that all TARC officers resign such that new officers can be elected, and Croft Taylor-VE3CT seconded the motion.

President Palmer then read from a Petition for Termination of Membership of President Palmer-K4JP and Director James Frey-W8ISZ that had been circulated locally. President Palmer then read from his rebuttal to the petition, and the floor was open for discussion. The crux of the matter is that the TARC had invested funds and donated equipment to the repeater system installed on the CCC tower in Nokomis, however, the licensee of that installation is the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club. During the discussion, President Palmer reported that he alone was responsible for the negotiation with CCC for the re-

peater site and that verbal permission had been granted to him alone as being the "Engineer of the 145.130 MHz Repeater."

The motion on the floor was then reformatted to state that the present TARC officers and directors are to resign, that a Nominating Committee would be formed to select new candidates for the officer and director positions, that ballots would be sent via e-mail or mail to provide voting opportunities to all members, and that these ballots would be due back prior to the 12 May 2005 meeting. The motion passed on a show of hands. All officers then resigned from their positions.

A Nominating Committee was formed, consisting of Chairman Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, Croft Taylor-VE3CT, Matt Klapp-W2EQV, and Al Howes-KT4IO.

Jon Hamlet-W4ZW then moved that the ballot also ask the members to vote that the TARC shall own and operate a coordinated repeater/repeaters with its own site(s), license, and under the exclusive control of the TARC. Croft-VE3CT seconded the motion and it carried.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn at 9:02 PM was made by Martin Horowitz-N4FA, seconded by Lee Darby-K4GCY and passed. There were 34 members present.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary Pro Tem

### -- TARC NET SCHEDULE --

The following schedule is provided by the TARC Net Manager, Bob Murphy-WA1UHG:

03 May	(s)	Bob-WA6WAY
05 May	(r)	Jack-W4JS
10 May	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
12 May		Meeting – No Net
17 May	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
19 May	(r)	Charlie-AG4TT
24 May	(s)	Jack-W4JS
26 May	(r)	Jack-W4JS
31 May	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
02 June	(r)	Bob-WA1UHG
07 June	(s)	Jack-W4JS
09 June		Meeting – No Net
14 June	(s)	Bob-WA6WAY
16 June	(r)	Jack-W4JS
21 June	(s)	Jim-W8ISZ
23 June	(r)	Charlie-AG4TT
28 June	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
30 June	(r)	Bob-WA1UHG

Note the following:

(r) = 146.805 W4AC Repeater; (s) = 146.58 Simplex  
Please contact Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG if you can assist as a Net Control Station.

## 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							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
The Sudan – ST2BF	Now Active	66	--	--	--	<b>17-23</b>	--	NO	--	NO
Seychelles – S79QK	Now to 08 May	68	--	--	--	<b>18-23</b>	--	19-22	NO	NO
Niue – ZK2QQ	Now to 08 May	252	--	--	--	<b>23-06</b>	--	20-22	--	--
Mauritius – 3B8MM	Now to 10 May	88	<b>00-03</b>	<b>23-04</b>	<b>03-04</b>	03-05	0400	1500	NO	NO
Mongolia – JT1Y	Now to 10 May	354	NO	NO	09-12	<b>01-04</b>	02-04	NO	NO	NO
Kyrgyzstan – EX/ES1RA	Now to 17 May	18	NO	<b>00-01</b>	<b>00-02</b>	01-04	1830	NO	NO	NO
Chatham Is – ZL7/KH0RR	02 – 06 May	230	<b>04-11</b>	<b>03-12</b>	<b>02-06</b>	<b>00-04</b>	00-03	22-00	22-00	NO
Dodecanese – SV5/DJ5AA & DL3DRN	02 – 16 May	49	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-06</b>	17-22	17-22	NO	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ/VE7YL & VK3DYL	02 – 21 May	262	<b>06-11</b>	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>01-06</b>	02-04	02-04	NO	NO
Albania – ZA2???	03 – 10 May	48	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>13-23</b>	17-22	NO	NO	NO
Monaco – 3A0CE	04 – 08 May	50	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-06</b>	15-00	19-00	NO	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLW, JD1BLZ ++	05 – 08 May	317	<b>09-11</b>	<b>08-12</b>	<b>07-13</b>	13-15	13-15	22-00	NO	NO
UN Headquarters – 4U1UN	12 – 15 May	25	<b>21-13</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>00-24</b>	18-02	16-02	NO	NO	NO
Malawi – 7Q7WW	13 May – June??	90	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	05-06	09-10	15-16	NO	NO
Tonga – A35/VE7YL & VK3DYL	23 May – 08 June	253	<b>05-11</b>	<b>03-12</b>	<b>02-13</b>	<b>23-07</b>	22-04	18-05	18-03	NO
St Pierre & Miquelon – FP/N6RA	09 – 21 June	39	<b>23-10</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>00-24</b>	12-05	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 29 April 2005, based on 27 April 2005 *QRZ DX* and 25 April 2005 *The Weekly DX*, and *DX Alert #214*

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

Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated from *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software,

<http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL; Solar Flux and K-index vary in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

### -- SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING APRIL --

During April the Solar Flux ranged from 78 up to 106, with a mean value of 85.9 (vs. 101.3 for April 2004 and 126.5 for April 2003). The A-index was  $\leq$  10 on 18 days during April.

### -- MAY PROPAGATION --

During May, solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. A greater than 10 MeV proton event is not expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 02-08 May and 10-16 May. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to major storm levels. Recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams are expected to produce unsettled to major storm levels on 01-03 May, and unsettled to minor storm levels on 09-11 May. Quiet to Active levels are expected on 17-18 and 20-22 May. Otherwise, expect quiet to unsettled conditions. The Solar Flux should range from 80 to 95 during May. (From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 26 April 2005, and NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 26 April 2005*)

### -- SPACE WEATHER OUTLOOK --

As Sunspot Cycle 23 continues its decline, HF operators would do well to avail themselves of the Space Weather Outlook Table available from the NOAA Space Environment Center. Over a period of the past three months your editor has compared the forecast Solar Flux and Planetary A-Index values in those tables with the daily values broadcast on WWV. While the forecast values and the actual values are seldom exactly the same, the forecast trend of

the solar flux and A-index are very close. Thus, use of these tables can provide guidance toward what HF propagation will be like on a day-by day basis.

Go to <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/wwire.html> if you wish make use of this operating tool.

### -- PENDING DXPEDITIONS --

At least four DXCC entities that are in the 2004 Most Wanted Countries here in the North American Eastern Time Zone will be activated over the coming months.

In the September-October time frame, **KH7-Kure Island** will be on the air. Kure ranks as #15 most needed here on the East Coast.

From 24 October to 07 November, VK9XG will be on from **Christmas Island**. This DXCC entity is #27 most needed. This is a "tough one" in that signals from the only operating sites go right into a mountain on the path to North America.

Also in the October-November time frame, FR/G-**Glorioso Island** will be activated by a French team of DXers. This operation was originally scheduled for May, however, transport was unavailable. November propagation should be better than May, so the delay is fortuitous. Glorioso ranks #7 most wanted in the Eastern Time Zone.

From 07 to 21 November VK9CC will be active from the **Cocos Keeling Islands**, an entity that ranks #26 in this area.

Other good DX coming on during the summer include CY9SS from **St. Paul Island** during June-July and CY0AA from **Sable Island** from 27 July to 03 August.

So, keep your rigs in good operating shape!

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z 07 May 1959Z 08 May	160 – 10 Meters SSB/CW/Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + Serial No.
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z 14 May 2100Z 14 May	80 – 19 Meters CW Only	Members of FISTS International CW Club	Name, R/S/T, State, FISTS #, or Power
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest	1200Z 14 May 1200Z 15 May	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial No., CQ Zone
40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Baltic Contest	2100Z 21 May 0200Z 22 May	80 Meters Phone & CW	Stations in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and EU Countries	R/S/(T) + Serial No.
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z 21 May 1200Z 22 May	80 – 10 Meters PSK 31	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial No.
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1800Z 21 May 1800Z 22 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Spanish Stations Only	R/S/T + Serial No.
CQ WW WPX Contest	0000Z 28 May 2400Z 29 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial No.

From May 2005 *QST* and May 2005 *WorldRadio*

### -- CQ ANNOUNCES "DX MARATHON" --

*CQ* magazine has announced the revival of its long-dormant CQ DX Marathon, which last ran in 1948, before morphing into the annual CQ World Wide DX Contest.

This new CQ DX Marathon will essentially be a year-long DX contest, with stations competing to contact as many DXCC entities and CQ Zones of the World as possible over a full year, then starting again at zero at the beginning of the next year. The first running of this event will be in 2006. The new CQ DX Marathon is aimed at reinvigorating DXing. *CQ* outlined the program 16 April at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California. Scoring will consist of the total number of DXCC entities and CQ zones contacted over the course of a year. There will be no multipliers, and each entity and zone counts only once.

Rules for the new CQ DX Marathon will be on the CQ Web site <http://www/cq-amateur-radio.com> and in the May 2005 issue of *CQ* magazine.

### -- HOSPICE ASSISTANCE --

Dr. W. Brian Guthrie was the Hospice doctor caring for Bill Rockwood-KE4ZAK. Dr. Guthrie has asked Bill if members of the TARC would be interested in establishing a communications link between the various hospice facilities in southwest Florida during times of emergency. If there is interest, Dr. Guthrie would like to meet with the appropriate members.

(From 20 March e-mail from John Fyke-VE6AIV.)

*"Among a people generally corrupt, liberty cannot long exist."* – Edmund Burke, 03 April 1777

### -- EXERCISE FOR SENIORS --

The following is an exercise recommend for senior citizens to build muscle strength in the arm and shoulders. It is very easy and you only need to do it three times a week.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-pound potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, then relax. Each day you will find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple weeks, move up to 10-pound sacks and then to 50-pound sacks. Eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each sack.

(TNX to Croft Taylor-VE3CT for that gem of wisdom! Who says Canadians have no sense of humor?)

### -- UPCOMING VE SESSION --

The next scheduled VE Session for new or upgrading of licenses will be on 14 May at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 So. Nokomis Avenue. These ARRL coordinated exam sessions are conducted by members of both the Tamiami ARC and the Englewood ARS. If you are considering an upgrade or if you know anyone interested in obtaining an amateur radio license, contact the VE Team Liaison Jack Sproat-W4JS at 475-1929.

*"The dearest ambition of a slave is not liberty, but to have a slave of his own."* – Sir Richard Burton

## --THE POLITICS OF BPL --

Tom Anderson-WW5L recently posted an article from *The Dallas Morning News* on the TowerTalk e-mail reflector. A committee in the Texas Senate approved legislation to encourage deployment of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) for Internet access. The legislation passed by the Senate Business and Commerce Committee would allow utilities to contract with operators to install the BPL equipment, and regulated utilities would then pay the broadband operators for use of the Internet service.

Electric utilities have promoted the legislation for its potential to improve the power grid. The service helps the utilities monitor faulty power lines and immediately dispatch line crews, or automatically read meters and process requests to disconnect or reconnect service. "That broadband signal is going to be everywhere that our electric facilities go," stated Stephen Houle, VP of Corporate technology for TXU Electric Delivery. "That opens up a whole new book for us in what we can do." Houle estimated broadband deployment across 70 – 80 percent of the TXU Electric Delivery service territory would cost from \$300 - \$500 million. Tom Smith, Director of Public Citizen's Texas office, stated, "We have a very valuable commodity in the *socialized power grid* (emphasis added).

Jim Jarvis-N2EA commented that the argument supporting BPL is usually that of providing service to the last five, or so, percent of Internet users not served by cable. "If 80% coverage will cost \$500M, then I would guesstimate the remaining 20% will cost something close to \$2.0B. And, of course, nobody would pay the resulting rates." Jim adds, "The Socialized Power Grid' is a charming expression. Fertile, in so many ways. None more fertile than the immediate area around the TX state legislature, however."

Kelly Johnson-N6KJ opined that there are a number of BPL alternatives, such as 3G cellular, WiMax, or ad hoc WiFi networks. 3G cellular equipment exists today that can provide up to 3.8 Mbps and it will soon go to 7.6 Mbps. "There is almost no end to the number of BPL alternatives. To bad the FCC and PUC regulators can't see it."

Tom Rauch-W8JI rather well summed it all up. "I have a two channel ISDN line that actually gives a true 110-120K speed either up or down on the two bridged 64K channels, and I'm about 25 miles on a telephone copper pair from the central office. I'm one of those 'target people' in an area not served by cable or DSL. Go figure why anyone would think BPL could offer something useful in rural areas! My guess is it's really more about how our political System works than anything else."

## -- MOORE'S LAW --

It was just 40 years ago that Intel co-founder Gordon Moore made an historic prophecy. In a paper published 19 April 1965, Moore predicted that the number of transistors on a computer chip would double every year. A decade later, he revised what has become known as Moore's Law: The number of transistors on a chip would double every two years. How prophetic he was!

Computers once the size of refrigerators now fit in the palm of your hand. A \$40 Furby talking toy has four times the processing power of a 1960s Apollo moon lander. A cell phone that cost \$2000 in 1984 can now be had for 4100 or less. Camera pills wirelessly transmit photos of patients' digestive tracts. In 1971, Intel was able to put 2300 transistors on its first microprocessor; later this year, it will release a processor with 1.7 billion transistors!

But Moore's prediction turned out to be much more than a codification of the exponential speed of technological progress. "It became an almost religious faith in human ingenuity and a belief in the future," stated Carver Mead, the former professor at the California Institute of Technology who coined the term "Moore's Law." "It spoiled everyone into thinking that this would go on forever."

However, by most accounts, Moore's Law will collide with the laws of physics sometime in the next 15 years. That's when it will become physically impossible to squeeze more transistors onto a single chip. To keep Moore's Law alive, scientists and engineers are working to develop new technologies to enhance or replace silicon chips

(From "Gordon Moore's Law turns 40" by Dean Takahashi, Knight Ridder Newspapers, published in the *Englewood Sun*, 17 April 2005)

## -- SOUTH FLORIDA HAMFESTS --

- 01 May FREE Hamfest at Lake Maggiore Park, 9<sup>th</sup> St. South & 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, St. Petersburg. TI: 147.060; Info: Peter-W4GTO, [pgbango@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pgbango@tampabay.rr.com)
- 14 May Titusville Hamfest at DAV Chapter 109, 435 Singleton Ave. TI: 145.490 (PL 100); Info: Bob-N6USP, 352-264-2622
- 28 May FREE Hamfest at Plum Park Plaza, 141 NW 20<sup>th</sup> St., Boca Raton. TI: 145.290; Info: W4RIS, 561-483-9029

(From <http://bellsouthpwp.net/k/kb4vol>, the Web site of Bill Britton-KB4VOL

"Abuse of power isn't limited to bad guys in other countries. It happens in our own country if we're not vigilant." – Clint Eastwood, *Parade*, 12 January '97

