



# 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  
Web Site -- <http://tamiamiarc.tripod.com>  
W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- MAY 2006 --

### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

The operation of the TARC Special Event Station K4S at the Sharks Tooth Festival was a great success, and we'll plan to do it again next year. There were plenty of members on hand to help out and, considering the current status of long distance propagation, we made a lot of contacts. Let no one ever demean the capability of a vertical antenna—that Cushcraft R7 proved to be a great antenna. Our operation was enhanced by the nearby presence of a caged Florida Panther that dozed peacefully as we fought our way through the QRM.

Bob Avrutik-N1RA, back from a cruise in the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea, shared his log with us at Mel's Diner. There are so many entries in it that I have to wonder if he got in any time for sightseeing! It looked like Bob worked most of the Russian ham population.

This time of year we bid farewell to our Snowbird members, and we sure hope they enjoy the summer in the cooler latitudes. My plans don't include any travel, so I'll be sticking around as the temperature rises. We're already enjoying the pool, where the water temperature is no up to 82 degrees.

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

### -- K4S ON THE AIR --



Obviously a very neat operational set up, as seen on 09 April. However, there were trials and tribulations; see set up and operating photos inside.

### -- MAY MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 11 May 2006 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. After the business meeting, Matt Klapp-W2EQV will show photos of K4S activities by TARC members at the Sharks Tooth Festival. Come on out and show support of your club.

### -- ARRL WILL DO VANITY RENEWALS--

On 12 April the ARRL VEC announced that it now can process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to both ARRL members and nonmembers, although members will pay less. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as the ARRL VEC.

The current regulatory fee for a vanity call sign is \$21.90, however, the FCC has proposed to reduce the fee to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. If adopted, the fee would go into effect in August or September. The ARRL's fee for processing members' vanity licenses is \$5.00, in addition to the FCC fee. For non-ARRL members, the processing fee is \$14.00. The licensee needs to complete a license renewal request, using NCVET Form 605, submit it along with a form available on the ARRL web site, and pay the total fee via check or credit card. See <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html> for details. Nonmembers can find instructions at <http://arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>.

(From *ARRL Letter*, Vol. 25, No. 15)

### -- TARC WEEKLY NETS --

Try to remember our two weekly TARC 2-meter nets. The TARC Simplex Net meets every Tuesday at 7:30 PM on 146.580 MHz; the TARC Net is held every Thursday, except on meeting dates, at 7:30 PM on our 146.805 W4AC Repeater (- 600 Hz offset and 100 Hz PL tone required). Take the time to check in and keep us updated on your activities.

*"OK, so what's the speed of dark?"*

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

06 April 2006

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Garrett Eelman of Nokomis, Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB of Sarasota, David Haag-W4HAG of Venice, Marcella Mills of Venice and Mary Mills of Chesterton, IN were welcomed as guests, and introductions were made all around.

**MINUTES** – Bob Marchese-K1NOK moved that the minutes of the March 2006 meeting be accepted as published in the April 2006 issue of *The Communicator*, seconded by Jim LaCourse-AI4NQ, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Several informal items were offered. Copies of the front page of the 12 April issue of *QRZ DX*, which contains a photo of Marie and Bob Avrutik-N1RA after their arrival at the Dubai, UAE airport were passed around. Jack-W4JS stated he had tried to contact the sponsors of the Sharks Tooth Festival to determine the date of the 2007 Festival, however, they are taking a well deserved break until 17 April.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 09 March starting balance was \$5053.27. Receipts were \$22.00 from the March 50/50 drawing, \$165.00 from dues renewals, \$15.00 for a new member, and \$20.00 for sale of a section of Rohn 25G, totaling \$222.00. Expenses were \$82.00 for two months' Internet service at the W4AC Repeater site, and \$22.00 for a TARC address stamp and newsletter printing, totaling \$104.00. The ending balance is \$5171.27. Don reported that our current membership is 69, including two Life Members and seven first year free members. Croft Taylor-VE3CT moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Nothing reported.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS reported that two candidates passed the Element 3 written exam, but didn't attempt Element 1, at the 08 April VE session.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that our W4AC Repeater is running properly, following replacement of the interim duplexers on 18 March with our original duplexers, which Stew identified via some distinctive scratches. Croft-VE3CT reported that he had attended the 03 April SERC meeting at which time Edward Palmer-K4JP related to the SERC membership how he happened to locate the proper duplexers for TARC. According to Mr. Palmer, he was on the east coast, when he decided to attend a computer show somewhere north of Miami. It happened that a vendor at that show was a

ham, and he happened to have the proper duplexers. Mr. Palmer purchased same for \$200, for which he was reimbursed by SERC.

**PACKET/GATEWAY** – Nothing reported.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Jack-W4JS reported that Rick Morandi-KI4RMO purchased a section of the Rohn 25G from the Club for \$20, and donated 3-1/2 sections of Rohn 20G to the Club. Konrad-WA3RRS acknowledged the donation of an ICOM IC-765 HF Transceiver to the Club by Garrett Eelman. Acknowledgement letters are to be sent out to the three latest donors of equipment.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-WD7A reported that the membership roster had been purged of all those who had not paid their 2006 dues or are otherwise entitled to membership. Don will have a roster ready for distribution in the near future.

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR** – No report.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG commented that we need additional/new net control operators. Bob also stated that, if our W4AC Repeater should be out of service when the Thursday night net is scheduled, all stations are to go to our usual simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Konrad-WA3RRS remarked that TARC members who wish to participate in Field Day from the EARS site would be welcome to do so. Konrad also reported that the 146.700 MHz EARS repeater has been relocated to a tower at the Sea Oats Nursery on Englewood Road. A 77 Hz tone is required for access.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported that 36 Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 05 April lunch/meeting at Denny's in Sarasota. Ed Allen-WA4ISB of Cox Broadcasting presented a power point program on the installation of multi-ton TV and FM antennas on tall towers.

**CLUB HISTORIAN** – There were no volunteers for this position.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Scholarship/Financial Assistance: Jon Hamlet-W4ZW reported that he had just sent off his letter to the School Board, on behalf of the TARC's interest in offering a \$500 scholarship.

Sharks Tooth Festival: Jack-W4JS reported that some 412 HF and over 30 Satellite QSOs were made from the K4S operation. Jack recognized Andy Durette-KB1HIP as being a mainstay in supplying equipment and in manning the microphone. QSL cards are already arriving and Jack will place an order for the K4S QSLs in the near future.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Jon-W4ZW moved that Ed Cronk-W9ATV be granted Life Membership in the TARC; seconded by Croft-VE3CT, and passed.

See **MINUTES**, page 5

## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION FORECASTS

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
Jan Mayen – JX9NOA	Now Operative	21	--	--	--	10-02	--	NO	--	NO
Vietnam – 3W9JR	Now Operative	348	NO	NO	NO	11-17	16-18	NO	NO	NO
Mali – TZ6PVI	Now Operative	82	<b>23-07</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>20-09</b>	16-00	15-00	NO	NO	NO
Afghanistan – T68G	Now Operative	26	NO	<b>23-01</b>	<b>23-02</b>	18-04	01-03	NO	NO	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP	Now to 10 June	89	<b>23-07</b>	<b>22-09</b>	<b>20-10</b>	<b>11-00</b>	12-01	18-22	NO	NO
Chad – TT8LN	Now to 10 June	73	<b>23-05</b>	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-06</b>	17-00	17-00	NO	NO	NO
Somalia – 6O0M	Now to 19 May	66	<b>00-03</b>	<b>23-04</b>	<b>23-04</b>	19-23	19-00	NO	NO	NO
Liberia – EL2PM	Now to 15 May	92	<b>23-07</b>	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-04</b>	<b>15-02</b>	15-03	NO	NO	NO
Mauritius – 3B8/ON4LAC	Now to 13 May	88	<b>00-03</b>	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-04</b>	03-06	NO	NO	NO	NO
Malawi – 7Q7LA, 7Q7HB	Now to 10 May	90	<b>00-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	18-22	21-22	15-17	NO	NO
Mongolia – JT0Y, JT1Y	Now to 08 May	354	NO	NO	<b>08-11</b>	<b>01-05</b>	02-04	NO	NO	NO
St. Pierre & Miquelon – FP/DJ2VO	05 – 20 May	39	<b>23-11</b>	<b>00-24</b>	<b>00-24</b>	12-03	NO	NO	NO	NO
Lord Howe Is – VK9LNO	05 – 13 May	249	<b>06-11</b>	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-12</b>	<b>01-06</b>	02-04	22-04	NO	NO
American Samoa – AH8/W9EYE	15 – 21 May	256	<b>05-11</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>02-13</b>	<b>18-06</b>	18-04	18-04	NO	NO
Norfolk Island – V19NI	25 May – 20 Jun	250	<b>05-11</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>00-06</b>	00-04	21-04	21-03	NO
Faroe Island – OY???	29 May – 08 Jun	32	<b>00-06</b>	<b>22-09</b>	<b>20-10</b>	09-00	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 28 April 2006, based on 26 April 2006 *QRZ DX*, 17 April 2006 *The Weekly DX* and *K1XN's DX Alert #604-D*

Note: **Time in bold** = Best Band(s) for opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Phone Only; \*\* = CW Only; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www/qsll.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

### -- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During April, the Solar Flux ranged from 75 up to 101, with a mean value of 89.2 (vs. 85.9 for April 2005 and 101.3 for April 2004). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 22 days. A good month for ham radio!

The Sun was noticeably more active than during the previous two months, what with the A-index being at 100 or better near the beginning and end of April, and disturbed conditions occurring several times. These disturbances were generally predicted by the NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table. Over 60 visible sun spots were seen near the end of April.

### -- MAY PROPAGATION FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at predominately very low to low levels with isolated moderate activity possible through 06 May. No greater than 10MeV proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 07-18 May.

The geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels for the majority of the forecast period. Active to minor storm conditions are expected on 02 May and again on 19 May. Active to major storm conditions are expected on 06-07 May and on 10-12 May. Activity is due to effects from recurrent coronal hole wind streams. The Solar Flux should range from 75 to 95 during May.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 26 April 2006 and *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 April 2006)

### -- ANDAMAN ISLAND REPORT --

Some 32 foreign and 40 Indian operators were licensed to operate 18-25 April from this entity, which is the 5<sup>th</sup> Most Needed in North America. Propagation from this area was limited to openings on 17 and 20 meters, with signal never greater than S5 to S6. Hams in Canada and the northern states—even those in the Carolinas—had better conditions than locally. However, on the plus side, all the local DXers with beams and amplifiers did manage to get into the logs of several of those stations operating from Port Blair.

### -- INITIAL SHARKS TOOTH SET UP --



Ah, ha, the shelter's up and being admired by all. But what's Peter-N4RD looking for? The perfect ground, the missing link, a gopher tortoise? OR, has he just heard that we have to move the installation? Such, unfortunately, was the case!

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
10-10 International Spring Contest	0001Z 06 May 2359Z 07 May	10 Meters Only CW/Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	Call, Name, QTH 10-10 No.
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z 06 May 1959Z 07 May	160 – 10 Meters CW/SSB/Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + Serial No.
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z 13 May 1200Z 14 May	160 – 10 Meters CW/SSB	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + Serial No.
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z 13 May 2100Z 13 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Name, QTH, Power
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest	1200Z 13 May 1200Z 14 May	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial No. CQ Zone
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z 20 May 1200Z 21 May	80 – 10 Meters PSK31	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial No.
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1800Z 20 May 1800Z 21 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Spanish Stations Only	R/S/T + Serial No.
CQ World Wide WPX Contest	0000Z 27 May 2400Z 28 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial No.

From May 2006 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

### -- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

06 May North Brevard ARC FREE Hamfest,  
DAV Chapter 109, 435 Singleton Ave.,  
Titusville. TI: 145.490 (PL 100.0),  
Info: Bob-N6USP, 321-264-  
2622

(From <http://bellsouthpwp.net/k/kb4vol>, the Web site of Bill Britton-KB4VOL and April 2006 *QST*)

### -- UPCOMING DARN ACTIVITY --

The Diocese Amateur Radio Network (DARN) will be conducting a communications exercise at 11 AM on 08 May, and TARC members are encouraged to check in when prompted by the Net Control. As the DARN will be using our W4AC Repeater, please avoid use of EchoLink during the exercise period. Thanks!

### -- OUR PRESIDENT TAKES COMMAND --



OK, now put it HERE, and let's get crackin'!

### --FINALLY, ON THE AIR! --



Andy-KB1HIP, “The Voice of K4S,” goes at it, with Diana-KI4GRF logging, Bob-N1RA thinking of his upcoming cruise, while Bob-KG4VDU and Bob-K1NOK discuss “whatever.”

Our operation from the Sharks Tooth Festival ran up some 412 HF QSOs to eight countries and over 30 satellite QSOs—the latter thanks to the efforts of Eric Owen-KD4MZM. Those TARC members who helped set up, operate and take down included Bob-N1RA, Charlie-W4DB, Andy-KB1HIP, Don-WD7A, Diana-KI4GRF, Stew-W4MO, Jon-W4ZW, Blake-KE4SGK, Matt-W2EQV, Joy-N2WUD, Jim-AI4NQ, Bob-K1NOK, Konrad-WA3RRS, Peter-N4RD, Bill-WA2EIL, Roger-WB4HDW, Bob-KG4VDU, Croft-VE3CT, and Jack-W4JS.

To date, about 100 QSLs have been received, and a full color K4S QSL, showing five photos of our station and the surrounding festival, has been ordered. QSL via W4JS, if you did work K4S.

## MINUTES, from page 2

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS** – Bob Sullenberger-KG4VDU gave a brief report on the DARN monthly practice drills, and an update on DARN activities.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM was made by Dil Kay-KB8YLK, seconded by Bernie Holtman-W4GO, and passed. There were 19 members and five visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – David Haag-W4HAG offered a very interesting power point presentation relating his efforts, on behalf of Airwave Missions, to install VHF radio links between isolated villages in the mountainous region of Papua Barat Province, Indonesia.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

### -- NOW THAT'S A DX HAT FOR SURE! --



Stew's operating (?), Andy's logging, and Eric's wondering, "What's with these TARC people?"

### -- GO GET 'EM, DON! --



Don-WD7A is really digging for those QSOs, with moral support from Stew-W4MO.

### -- SATELLITE VIA HANDITALKIE --

During our operation of K4S from the Sharks Tooth Festival, Eric Owen-KD4MZM came down to put our Special Event Station onto two of the current amateur radio satellites. For those who would like to remain active on the air but cannot due to antenna restrictions, perhaps these satellites can offer you that opportunity.

Eric's station was relatively simple and straightforward: An ICOM W32A duo-band 5-watt FM HT and a hand-held Arrow duo-band yagi antenna. AES prices are \$290 for the HT and \$132 for the antenna with duplexer—not too bad for the opportunity to get on the air. What follows is a brief introduction to operating the LEO (Low Earth Orbiting) satellites.

Eric accessed the SO-50 and AO-51 satellites for K4S. SO-50 has an uplink of 145.850 (67 Hz PL) and a downlink of 436.800; AO-51 has an uplink of 145.920 (67 Hz PL) and a downlink of 435.300. The LEO FM satellites are fast moving, with a 10 to 15-minute window, therefore you must know when you can hear and work these birds. A free tracking program is available off the Internet from Carl Gregory-K8CG at <http://www.sat-net.com/winorbit>. You can log into <http://www.heavens-above.com>, register with your location, and this site will show 24-hour forecasts of all amateur radio satellites that will pass overhead, including times for AOS (Access of Signal), midway and LOS (Loss of Signal), direction on the pass and its maximum elevation—in degrees above horizon.

To compensate for Doppler shift, frequencies have to be changed about every two minutes during an average 12-minute pass. As an example, for SO-50, this would typically be:

<u>UPLINK</u>	<u>DOWNLINK</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
145.845	436.805	AOS
145.850	436.800	
145.850	436.795	Middle of Pass
145.850	436.790	
145.855	436.785	LOS

At the scheduled time of AOS, aim the antenna at the horizon on the forecast azimuth and listen for signals. Call "CQ Satellite" if it's quiet. Keep aiming the antenna for maximum signal strength, along the bird's track.

Other LEO birds of interest include AO-27 (145.850 uplink/436.795 downlink) and the International Space Station (voice up 144.490/ 145.800 down; 437.800 up/145.800 down).

(From Eric Owen-KD4MZM and "Fun of a Budget: QRP'n via Satellite," Dave Ingram-K4TJWJ, November 1998 *CQ VHF*)

**-- MARIE & BOB-N1RA IN DUBAI --**



When Bob-N1RA and Marie arrived 09 April at the Dubai International Airport, they were met by Michel-A6/OD5TX (for whom Jack-W4JS is QSL manager). There was a BIG concern that Bob would not be allowed to bring his radio equipment through Dubai Customs, such that he could operate from the cruise ship sailing from Dubai. Michel had been doing his best to obtain clearance for Bob, but was encountering difficulties. As such, prior to Bob's departure from Nokomis, Michel sent the following e-mail:

"Please be assured that you WILL operate from the ship! Inshallah (*God willing*)

"If for any reason you are unable to carry your radio, and we don't get succeed in getting the permission from the TRA, I will hand over to you my personal radio, which is a Kenwood TS-50S. You will need to bring with you an extra controller for the screwdriver antenna, and you should make sure that the controller you get interfaces between your antenna and the TS-50S.

"I know what it means not to be able to be active! I will not allow this to happen to you on your cruise!

*(Michel then told Bob of how frustrated he was, trying to get a ham license in Lebanon during the civil war, in Saudi Arabia, and in the UAE, where he was the first foreigner to finally get a license.)*

"Just make sure you get here safely with your wife and my radio will be yours in case we don't get the permit. I will find a way to get a new radio later on, if you take mine. The process is a little bit complicated, but I will find a way."

Bob has related his reaction to Michel's potential personal sacrifice as follows:

"I could not accept his offer as this was just too much for him to give. I chose to take the chance of getting through Customs instead. Michel is more than everything that one could hope for in a fraternity brother whom you have never even met."

*(A remarkable example of international good will at its finest. What more can anyone add to that?)*

**-- KUDOS TO THE TARC MEMBERS --**

*(Eric Owen-KD4MZM learned of our planned Sharks Tooth Festival Special Event at the 05 April Suncoast Chapter QCWA lunch, and he was invited to bring down his portable satellite gear to join in the fun. Your editor has heard further from Eric, including the following.)*

I want to say "thanks" to the TARC for allowing me to come and put K4S on the satellites. This was my first time to be an operator at a Special Event Station. I felt very lucky to be able to do this with a great group of hams. I found the TARC group very open to me and what I did. I enjoyed being able to answer questions from fellow hams and the public. I'm looking forward to your next event. I hope this helps (*proper satellite reporting*) with the QSL cards you may be getting for the satellite QSOs. Feel free to ask if you need help with one.

73 de Eric-KD4MZM

*(It's so nice that the friendly attitude of the TARC folks was witnessed by Eric! TNX Eric, for giving of your time and expertise at K4S.)*

**-- "BIG BAD BPL"? --**

The latest FCC statistics on the status of high-speed Internet services indicate a minuscule share for broadband over power line (BPL). As of 30 June 2005, there were 4872 business and residential BPL connections that deliver at speeds greater than 200 kbps in at least one direction. The total number of high-speed lines for all technologies—DSL, cable and traditional wireline—is 42,866,469. Therefore, BPL has a bit more than 0.01 percent of the total. The number of residential BPL connections having greater than 200 kbps in both directions is 3916, out of a total of 34,259,411. These data must be reported to the FCC twice each year.

*So, is the ARRL blowing this whole "Big Bad BPL" business out of proportion to the reality of the situation? There are undoubtedly more radio amateurs negatively affected by homeowner associations, deed restrictions, etc. than are affected by BPL.*

*(From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No.15)*

**-- MAY TARC NET SCHEDULE --**

02 May	(s)	Jack-W4JS
04 May	(r)	Jack-W4JS
09 May	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
11 May		Meeting – No Net
16 May	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
18 May	(r)	Charlie-W4DB
23 May	(s)	Jack-W4JS
25 May	(r)	Bob-WA1UHG
30 May	(s)	Charlie-W4DB

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