



# 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 2007 --

### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Our TARC Special Event Station K4S at the Sharks Tooth Festival made 531 contacts, exceeding last year's effort by 119 QSOs. The weather was ideal, and we had very good Club participation. I was pleased that several Englewood Amateur Radio Society members also stopped by to chat and to operate. As was the case last year, Eric Owen-KD4MZM came down from Sarasota and made quite a number of Satellite contacts using a hand-held Arrow antenna and a duo-band HT. Many thanks to Stew-W4MO, Matt-W2EQV, Charlie-W4DB, and Bruce-WA8IQF for their equipment and transportation contributions, and to Jack-W4JS for taking care of the license and being the QSL manager for K4S.

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

### -- MAY MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 10 May 2007 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. Following the business meeting, Jack Sproat-W4JS will demonstrate the art of installing a PL-259 male fitting on coaxial cable. Come on out, maybe learn something about this process, which can be frustrating at times.

### -- THE APRIL MEETING ROLLS ALONG --



TARC President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS has everyone's attention at our April meeting.

### -- A TIMELY LESSON IN GEOGRAPHY --



Bob Avrutik-N1RA enlightened all at the April TARC meeting with maps, photos and tales of his cruise from Dubai, United Arab Emirates to Italy.

### --VANITY CALL SIGN FEE TO BE CUT --

In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making released 18 April 2007, the FCC is proposing to cut the administrative fee for a vanity call sign from the current \$20.80 to \$11.70. If ultimately adopted, this would be the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC anticipates some 14,700 applications for vanity call signs during the next fiscal year. The FCC proposed to collect nearly \$290.3 million in FY 2007 regulatory fees.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 20 April 2007)

### -- TARC NET SCHEDULE --

Remember to check into our Tuesday 146.58 MHz simplex net and our Thursday 146.805 MHz W4AC net; both at 7:30 PM, so we know you're alive and kicking. Our Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG could use your assistance as a Net Control Station, as our Snowbird NCSs have departed until next Fall. Your help would be appreciated. Contact Bob on one of the nets or via e-mail at [wa1uhg@yahoo.com](mailto:wa1uhg@yahoo.com).

*"He who laughs last, thinks slowest."*

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

12 April 2007

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF was welcomed as a new member, and Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB of Sarasota and Don Jansen of Venice were recognized as visitors. Don will be going for his Technician license 14 April. Introductions were then made all around.

**MINUTES** – Konrad asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 08 March 2007 meeting as published in the April 2007 issue of *The Communicator*. Bob Avrutik-N1RA so moved, seconded by Roger Schmitt-WB4HDW, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Jack-W4JS reported receiving a “Thank You” note from Hal Cole in response to his being granted Honorary Life Membership in the TARC. Jack commented that he had updated the Club’s Detail Record on the ARRL Web site.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 08 March starting balance was \$4095.77. Receipts were \$17.50 from the March 50/50 drawing, \$105.00 from renewal dues, and \$250 from the sale of a MFJ Antenna Tuner, totaling \$372.50. Expenses were \$22.72 for stamps and newsletter printing. The 12 April ending balance is \$4445.55. Dil Kay-KB8YLK moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Matt Klapp-W2EQV reported all well.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS stated that several candidates were expected at the VE session this coming Saturday.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that all seemed OK with our repeater. Bob Avrutik-N1RA advised that he wants to install the packet gateway station at Jacaranda Trace, if the TARC receives permission to install equipment at that site.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Jack reported being advised by Bob Sullenberger-KG4VDU that a ham in Sarasota wanted to give away a 40-foot tower. Jack’s request for more information had not been answered prior to tonight’s meeting.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-WD7A reported that 74 members are now in good standing. This includes four Honorary Life Members and four first-year gratis members. Fifteen members have been dropped for nonpayment of 2007 dues.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG stated that he needs more net control

stations for the TARC Tuesday and Thursday 2-meter nets. Roger-WB4HDW replied that he would help when he’s here next season.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF reported that she had been making contacts with various organizations, Station WENG, etc., spreading the word about the upcoming Sharks Tooth Festival. Diana had a number of Festival posters, and handed out several to the members for posting by them.

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Martin Horowitz-N4FA reported that the Charlotte County Hamfest was considered a success, with some 500 persons attending, and with several commercial vendors participating. North Port ARC will be the lead club for the 2008 hamfest.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported that 31 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 04 April luncheon and auction. This lunch was also the year’s “free lunch” which helped make the auction more enjoyable. The 02 May lunch will be the last one in Sarasota, and the June through September lunches will be at the Panda Pavilion in Venice.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Discussion was held regarding several pending items:

- Jacaranda Trace – Don-WD7A reported that his program “Ham Radio Now” was presented to Jacaranda Trace (JT) residents on 20 March. This resulted in five people expressing interest in training for their Technician licenses. A draft Memorandum of Agreement between JT and TARC was given to JT staff for review and comment. Don expressed the desire to start training as soon as possible, regardless of the status of the MOA, and asked for volunteers to administer and/or help with a training program. Stew Haag-W4MO, Mike Hickey-AI4SR, and Jim LaCourse-K4IH agreed to help with training. Don volunteered to organize, select the training media, and set the training schedule.
- Golf Shirts – Konrad stated that, following discussion at the 10 April Board of Directors meeting, the officers and directors considered there was not enough interest to merit the Club paying for the \$60-100 setup charge for these shirts.
- TARC Badges – Don passed around a list of those members lacking badges, based on our best records. Members were asked to verify their need and check that their name and call sign were correct. Any member who thought he should be on the list was asked to contact Don after the meeting. TARC will provide badges at no cost for members presently in good standing, other than for the first-year gratis members. Don ad-

See MINUTES, page 5

## 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 (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Mongolia – JT1Y	Now to 03 May	354	NO	NO	<b>10-11</b>	<b>12-16</b>	01-04	NO	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLK & JD1BLY	Now to 04 May	317	<b>09-11</b>	<b>08-12</b>	<b>07-13</b>	<b>12-05</b>	21-01	21-04	NO	NO
Mozambique – C91AF	Now to 06 May	101	<b>23-05</b>	<b>23-05</b>	<b>23-06</b>	<b>16-17</b>	13-16	13-16	NO	NO
Fiji – 3D2RI, 3D2AP, 3D2UY, 3D2TZ	Now to 07 May	258	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-13</b>	<b>00-06</b>	<b>19-04</b>	19-04	19-04	20-00
Scarborough Reef – BS7H	Now to 07 May	333	NO	<b>10-12</b>	<b>10-12</b>	<b>11-16</b>	15-17	15-17	NO	NO
Malta – 9H3RT	Now to 11 May	55	<b>00-05</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>20-06</b>	<b>11-00</b>	15-23	15-23	NO	NO
North Cook Is – E51QMA & E51TUG	Now to mid-May	255	<b>04-12</b>	<b>02-13</b>	<b>01-13</b>	<b>17-06</b>	<b>17-04</b>	18-04	17-04	NO
Lebanon – OD5/CT1EFS	Now to 01 June	48	<b>00-03</b>	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>15-23</b>	18-21	15-21	NO	NO
Nepal – 9N7AU, 9N7IC & 9N7TE	10 – 15 May	13	NO	NO	NO	<b>15-20</b>	23-03	NO	NO	NO
Liechtenstein – HB0 ???	27 – 29 May	46	<b>00-05</b>	<b>23-07</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>15-00</b>	15-00	NO	NO	NO
Agalega – 3B6 by Polish Ops	28 May–11 June	75	<b>00-03</b>	<b>23-03</b>	<b>23-00</b>	<b>03-05</b>	19-22	16-18	NO	NO

Updated 26 April 2007, based on 25 April 2007 *QRZ DX*, 23 April 2007 *The Weekly DX*, and *K1XN's DX Alert 703*

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.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

### -- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During the month of April, the Solar Flux ranged from 68 up to 87, with a mean value of 72.4 (vs. 89.2 for April 2006 and 85.9 for April 2005). The A-index was  $\leq 10$  on 21 days.

Solar activity was generally very low, with no visible sunspots for 20 days during April. Coronal Hole 267 provided a coronal mass ejection that caused storms in Earth's geomagnetic field 28-30 April.

### -- MAY PROPAGATION FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to continue at very low levels during May. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The solar flux should remain close to 70 during May.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels during 29 April to 07 May.

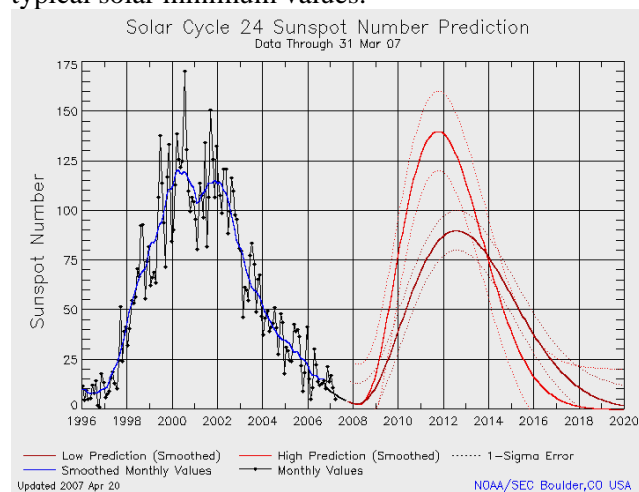
Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be mostly quiet from 30 April to 18 May. A recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream is expected to cause unsettled to minor storm conditions 19-20 May. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected 21 May through the remainder of the month.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 24 April 2007 and NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 24 April 2007.)

### -- SOLAR CYCLE 24 PREDICTION --

The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel, made up of scientists from various nations, anticipates the solar minimum marking the onset of Sunspot Cycle 24 will occur in March 2008 ( $\pm 6$  months). The panel reached this conclusion due to the lack of indicators of minimum-like conditions on the Sun at the time the panel met in March 2007. There have been no high-latitude sunspots observed with the expected Cycle 24 polarity, the configuration of the large scale white-light corona has not yet relaxed to a simple

dipole, the heliospheric current sheet has not yet flattened, and activity measures such as cosmic ray flux, radio flux, and sunspot number have not yet reached typical solar minimum values.



Considering the expected long interval until the onset of Cycle 24, the Prediction Panel has been unable to reach a single consensus prediction for the amplitude of Cycle 24. Two possible peaks were agreed upon. Should Cycle 24 peak with a SSN of  $140 \pm 20$  the peak will occur near October 2011; with a maximum SSN of  $90 \pm 10$ , the peak will occur around August 2012.

*(Like it or not, it looks like we'll have to be patient for Cycle 24 to come along. In the meanwhile, propagation will undoubtedly deteriorate some from current conditions.)*

(From 25 April 2007 NOAA Press Release)

### -- BS7H – SCARBOROUGH REEF --

The DXpedition team arrived at the reef at sunset 28 April, and the 20-meter CW station came on the air at 1347 GMT 29 April from Rock #4. That station switched to Phone and a second station was set up on Rock#2 for CW on 30 April. At press time, no local DXers have managed a QSO with BS7H.

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
10-10 International Spring Contest	0001Z 05 May 2359Z 06 May	10 Meters Only CW/Digital Modes	Members of 10-10 International	Call, Name, QTH, 10-10#
ARI (Italian) International DX Contest	2000Z 05 May 2359Z 06 May	160 – 10 Meters Phone/CW/RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z 12 May 1200Z 13 May	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z 12 May 2100Z 12 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	FISTS Members	R/S/T, QTH, Name, Power
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest	1200Z 12 May 1200Z 13 May	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial No. & CQ Zone
40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Baltic Contest	2100Z 19 May 0200Z 20 May	80 Meters Only Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
European Union PSK DX Contest	1200Z 19 May 1200Z 20 May	80 – 10 Meters PSK31	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Serial Number
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1800Z 19 May 1800Z 20 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Spanish Stations Only	R/S/T and Serial Number
All America Contest	1500Z 19 May 2359Z 20 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in North and South America Only	R/S/T + Continent
CQ World Wide WPX Contest	0000Z 26 May 2400Z 27 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Serial Number

From May 2007 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

### -- K4S ON THE AIR! --

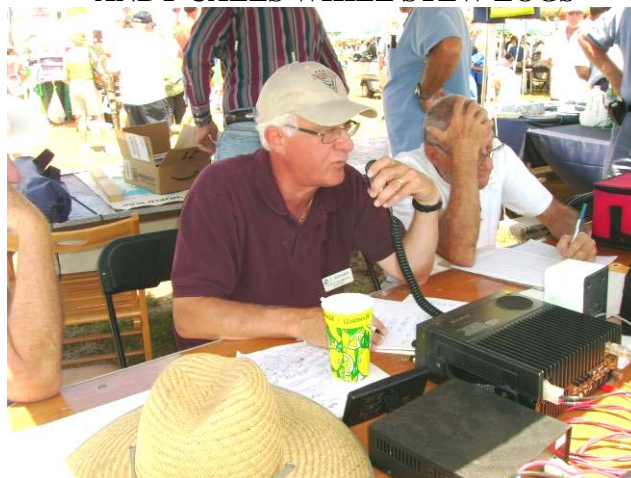


Carole Salmon-WA2VVJ, XYL of Bill-W2IL, logs while Ron Hogarth-K4AUX lets the world know that K4S is on the air from the Sharks Tooth Festival.

There were 23 TARC members and friends involved with the set-up, operation and take-down of our K4S station. These included Eric-KD4MZM, Stew-W4MO, Carole-WA2VVJ, Martin-N4FA, Bill-W2IL, Charlie-W4DB, Andy-KB1HIP, Bob-N0XEB, Dil-KB8YLK, Matt-W2EQV, Konrad-WA3RRS, Bruce-WA8IQF, Jon-W4ZW, Diana-KI4GRF, Joy-N2WUD, Steve-WB4UKL, Tom-WA3PRC, Bob-KG4VDU, Peter-N4RD, Mike-NY4P, Ron-K4AUX, Don-WD7A and Jack-W4JS.

K4S came on the air at 1607 GMT (1207 EDT) 20 April, and was on the air approximately 26 hours until the last QSO at 1900 GMT (1500 EDT) 22 April. During those 26 hours of “air time” a total of 531 QSOs were recorded into the log. A total of 20 DXCC entities were worked with Russia being the best DX—about 9300 km. At least 40 States and several Canadian provinces were worked. In addition to the HF operation on 20 meters, Eric Owen-Kd4MZM made numerous satellite contacts via the AO-51 Satellite.

### -- ANDY CALLS WHILE STEW LOGS --



Andy Durette-KB1HIP works the pileup while Stew Haag-W4MO logs the QSOs at K4S.

## -- K4S ON THE AO-51 SATELLITE --



Eric Owen-KD4MZM came down all three days to put K4S on the AO-51 Satellite. He's shown here the morning of 22 April aiming his Arrow duo-band antenna at the bird and working the satellite guys with his ICOM W32A duo-band 5-watt FM HT. Stew-W4MO and Bill are listening on the remote speaker, while Eric gets into the pileup.

### MINUTES, from page 2

- vised that if anyone needed a replacement badge due to loss or change of call sign, they will have to pay \$8.00 for a new badge.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Several items were offered for consideration:

- Honorary Life Member – Stew-W4MO expressed, with explanation, his feeling that long-time TARC member Ed Connors-WB1GHK deserved to be granted Life Membership. Bob-N1RA so moved, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.
- Sharks Tooth Festival Special Event Station – Konrad advised all, regarding the status of equipment, and passed around a sign-up sheet for those willing to help set up the station on Friday, 20 April, operate the station, and help take down the station on Sunday, 22 April. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF stated his van could haul equipment to the site. Marty Horowitz-N4FA suggested that we maintain a station monitoring our W4AC repeater to provide talk-in to members of other clubs that might like to participate.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Mike-AI4SR asked if anyone was familiar with the hamfest this Saturday at the Tampa ARC site. Martin Zippe-AF4ID commented that he had attended in the past, and that it was a rather small event.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:42 PM was made by Marty-N4FA, seconded by Matt-W2EQV, and passed. There were 24 members and two visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Assisted by Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB, Bob Avrutik-N1RA offered a very informative presentation, using Power Point and some video, describing the highlights of his April 2006 cruise from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to Italy.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

## -- OK BRUCE, DID YOU LOG THAT QSO? --



Bruce Brown-WA8IQF and Steve Frobese-WB4UKL seem to be discussing logging (or propagation, or whatever?).

## -- PRUDENT PC SHOPPING --

It's not that simple to buy a new computer with confidence now that Windows Vista has arrived. Keep in mind that Vista isn't that exciting a replacement for Windows XP, although it is prettier and has better searching and stronger security. Also, many makers of Windows software and hardware have failed to update their products to work properly with Vista.

**Vista Versions:** The cheapest PCs will have only the stripped-down Vista Home Basic. To get the full Vista experience, you will need a more expensive machine loaded with Vista Home Premium.

**Memory:** Get at least one gigabyte of memory, or RAM, for Home Basic, and two gigabytes for all other Vista versions.

**Video:** Home Premium and other versions of Vista will work best on machines with a separate, or "discrete," graphics card with dedicated video memory.

**Processor:** Current Intel or AMD processors will work with Home Basic. For Home Premium and higher versions of Vista, a "dual core" processor such as Intel's Core 2 Duo or AMD's Athlon 64 X2 is recommended.

**Hard Drive:** If you're not interested in video, music or photos, 80 or 100 gigabytes should be sufficient. If you want these features, 250 gigabytes or more are needed.

See **PRUDENT**, page 6

## PRUDENT, from page 5

**Disks:** Don't buy one of the competing new high-definition disk drives, Blu-ray or HD-DVD, until the war between these competing formats is settled. Stick with plain old DVD.

**Junky Software:** Nearly all Vista PCs are loaded with "craplets"—the useless trial versions of programs. For a small fee the dealer may remove these for you.

**Price:** For a versatile desktop machine, loaded with Home Premium, two gigs of memory, discrete video, a large hard disk and a dual-core processor, you will spend about \$800 or more, without a monitor. Just don't buy more, or less, machine than you need.

**Apple iMac:** This is probably the best desktop computer for mainstream consumers, offering great hardware and superior built-in software. The MacOS X includes most of the key new features of Vista, and the iMac can even run Vista, along with its own operating system. The iMac is still largely free of the security problems inherent to Windows.

(From "Need a PC? Prudent act may be to wait, or even buy a Mac" by Walter Mossberg, *Herald-Tribune*, 23 April 2007)

## -- THE VISTA BLUES --

*(The following comes from "Using a new PC is ruined by a tangle of trial programs" and "New PC loaded with junk? Here's some help," Walter Mossberg, Herald-Tribune, 09 April and 16 April 2007.)*

There are two main problems greeting those who buy new Windows Vista PCs. One is a plethora of "teaser software" and advertisements for products that must be cleared and uninstalled to make way for your personal programs and files. The second is the welter of security programs you have to master and update, even on a machine right out of the box.

Another problem, however, is how slowly a new Windows Vista machine starts and restarts, even if you haven't loaded any of your own software.

It boils down to lack of respect for the consumer. The manufacturers of these teasers, advertisements and security programs do not act as if the new computer belongs to you. They act as if it is a billboard for restricted trial software and ads for Web sites and services that they can sell to third-party companies who want you to buy these products. These programs are sometimes called "craplets" and for obvious reasons.

For instance, a new Sony Vaio SZ laptop came pre-loaded with two dozen trial programs and free offers. Four icons represented come-ons for various AOL services and two for Microsoft. The "Watch Hit Movies Now!" icon showed that Sony had loaded four full-length films, taking up more than 4 giga-

bytes of hard-disk space. However, if you wanted to watch these movies, you have to pay Sony.

A cold start of the machine took more than two minutes and a restart took more than three minutes. In contrast, a brand new Apple MacBook laptop did a cold start in 29 seconds and a restart in 34 seconds.

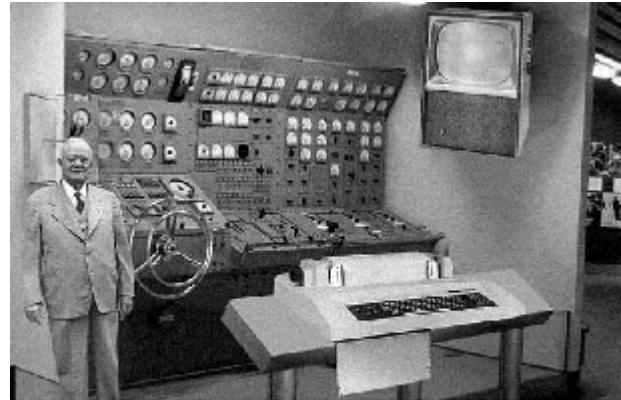
So, what can you do? One ray of hope is a free program called PC Decrapifier, which can be downloaded at [pcdecrapifier.com](http://pcdecrapifier.com). This software automates the process of uninstalling craplets. Before this program runs, it allows you to remove from its proposed deletion list any programs it considers junk, but which you might want to keep.

Dell offers its high-end machines without the craplets, if you so request their deletion. Certain business models may be clean except for some trial business software, like accounting programs.

Another option is to have a local shop custom build your machine, but you will probably pay more.

Some techies can wipe out the hard disk and reinstall Windows so they start with a clean machine. This is not recommended for average users, however. Many new PCs no longer come with disks for reinstalling a full, clean version of Windows. Or buy an Apple Macintosh, as they are free of these craplets.

## -- SPEAKING OF COMPUTERS --



Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However, the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientist readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use.

The above photo and description come from a 1954 issue of *Popular Mechanics*. The text reads: "Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a 'home computer' could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientist readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use." *But what a difference when digital and solid state technologies replaced analog and vacuum tubes! Think of the FPL bill just to light up all the tubes and ancillary equipment.*

## -- A SHORT COURSE IN ELECTRICITY --

(This "short course" is courtesy of Bob Prestin-NACTC. Quite informative for the newcomer.)

Some people have rather strange ideas about electricity. There are some who think that, if you remove a light bulb from its socket, then electricity will leak out. They have supposedly proven this hypothesis by sticking a finger into the socket. The ones who survived now believe that there is, indeed, electricity in there and that it is leaking out.

These people also believe that switches work by applying pressure to the wires so that the current cannot get through, and that dimmer switches have a screw action that gradually varies the pressure.

This short course was developed to correct misconceptions and provide better understanding, so one can talk knowledgeably as well as use the stuff safely.

Electricity was discovered when the ancient Greeks rubbed their cats with amber rods. The Greeks called this "Static Electricity" even though the cat was more often seen running out of the house, hotly pursued by an ancient experimenter. Maybe the name was some form of wishful thinking by the Greeks. Whatever, the sparks that emanated from the hurtling cat were man's first feeble attempt at creating electricity.

Having created static electricity, the Greeks did not know what to do with highly charged cats, so they spent the rest of their time inventing democracy and building ruins in Athens.

Many years later, an Italian discovered that frogs' legs could be made to leap all round the room by prodding them with metal electrodes. This discovery led to the creation of the battery which consisted of a number of metal plates with pads of paper soaked in a salt solution. How the connection between frogs' legs and metal plates was made is a well kept Latin secret. Why the French now like to eat frogs' legs is an even bigger mystery.

Having heard about the invention of the battery, which is a source of moving electricity, the sort that can travel through wires, Faraday, an Englishman, went one better and invented the generator. He did this by first inventing the electric motor. He then connected it in reverse so that, when the rotor was turned in a brisk and energetic manner, electricity came flooding out the wires. (If you thought that the English have unusual thought processes, this should reinforce that belief.)

Faraday knew that electricity was coming out of the generator because there was a reading on a couple of meters he had put into the electric circuit. The meters that he used were a volt meter and an amp meter. By a strange coincidence, the volt meter was named after Volta (an Italian) and the amp meter after Ampere (a Frenchman).

The European nature of electricity does not end there. The ratio of volts to amps is known as resistance, which is measured in ohms (after a German) and is represented by omega, a Greek letter. Apart from Benjamin Franklin and his absurd experiment with a key and a kite in a thunderstorm (the man was plainly mad), the Europeans have the subject of electricity all tied up.

The most common thing that electricity moves in is wire. For normal, low power electricity there are two wires—one white, one black. However, for really powerful electricity there is a third green wire that carries a special booster so that extra large appliances can be connected. In most houses there is a box containing thin wire that is not strong enough for all occasions. This thin wire is known as fuse wire, because it has a habit of melting, often causing inconvenience late at night and in the cold. When I replaced the fuse with a short length of fencing wire, it no longer caused any further trouble, even when the washing machine went up in smoke after the motor seized and burst into flames.

When television was first invented, the only electricity fast enough to do the job was the black and white variety. It took a number of years before fast, colored electricity was developed. Engineers always knew that color TV was achievable because, on their way to work every day, they went past traffic lights that changed color. These traffic lights changed color very slowly, but at least it was possible. The breakthrough came when they realized that traffic signals used colored light, whereas what they needed was colored electricity. Then it was relatively easy to develop different colored wires in with the new forms of electricity could run. If you do not believe this, open up the back of your TV and you will find lots of different colored wires.

Batteries are very interesting. They have "direct" electricity instead of the "alternating" electricity that comes into your house through the main wires and then comes out through various sockets in the walls. The reason it is called "direct" is that when you buy batteries you put them directly into the radio or recorder or other device. When they run down, they go directly into the garbage, and you go directly to the store for new batteries. The house's electricity is called alternating as you can plug your appliance into a socket in the kitchen, or alternatively in the living room, or alternatively in the bathroom. Simple, eh?

Research is being conducted into such phenomena as why water and electricity do not mix, and the associated problem of how submarines can use electricity safely underwater. Then there's the problem of remote controls. How do the one for the TV and the one for the video recorder not get confused?

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Member @ \$15.00/year \_\_, Family Membership @ \$18.50/year \_\_ (\$8.00 after 30 June for remainder of calendar year. \$15.00 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**

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