



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



-- MAY 2009 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

First off, I want to express my sincere gratitude to those who volunteered to help out for setting up, operating, and taking down Special Event Station K4S at the Venice Sharks Tooth Festival. Bob-K1NOK, Bob-N1RA, Andy-KB1HIP, Jack-KY1Z, Matt-W2EQV, San-K3SY, Konrad-WA3RRS, Peter-N4RD, Guenther-KF4WFA, Ron-KJ4EVJ, Mike-NY4P, Jon-W4ZW, Roger-WB4HDW, Chuck-KA8SQE, Dil-W8DIL, Bruce-WA8IQF, Bob-KA9ZAZ, and Bob-N0XEA were there when needed. In total, the K4S volunteers totaled some 25% of our total TARC membership, which is commendable.

This was our fourth year participating in the Festival, and each year we try to improve on previous operations. This year, for the first time, we scheduled volunteers in specific time slots to insure that at least three operators would be available at all times. Considering the poor propagation conditions, Andy-KB1HIP installed his 600-watt solid state amp on Saturday, yielding a better QSO rate.

This year some 475 QSOs were made and, as of one week after the event, 80 QSLs had been received and responded to. A total of \$20 had been contributed to the Special Athlete Boosters with some of the incoming QSLs

For next year, I propose that we definitely run higher power at the site. We should also give serious thought to using a yagi antenna. Also, I want the operators trained such that they can use a FlexRadio for the K4S operation.

73 to all de Stew-W4MO

-- MAY MEETING --

The doors open at **6:30 PM** with an "Eyeball QSO" period until the business meeting kicks off at **7:00 PM** on **14 May 2009** 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. The program will be a video/slide show of our K4S activities prepared by Roger Schmitt-WB4HDW. We hope to see you there.

--THIS IS TARC TERRITORY! --



Early arrivals from the set-up crew stake out their "claim" for the TARC's K4S site at the Sharks Tooth Festival.



Dil-W8DIL supervises as Bob-K1NOK breaks ground for the antenna mast support.

(Ed. note: K4S photos are courtesy of San-K3SY, Konrad-WA3RRS and Roger-WB4HDW.)

-- TARC VE SESSIONS --

A reminder that the TARC VE sessions are held the second Saturday of the month in the Conference room of the Venice Public Library, 300 So. Nokomis Ave., Venice. Be there at 9:00 AM when the doors open—advance reservations are appreciated but not required.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
09 April 2009

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were made all around.

MINUTES –Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 12 March 2009 meeting as published in the April 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA so moved, seconded by Mike Hickey-NY4P, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing during the past month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1906.27. Receipts were \$45.00 from the February 50/50, and \$155.00 from membership renewals, totaling \$200.00. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater, and \$3.42 for newsletter printing, totaling \$17.74. The 09 April 2009 ending balance is \$2089.53. Charlie Covell-W4DB moved for approval, seconded by San Yoder-K3SY, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Matt Klapp-W2EQV reported “all quiet.”

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS advised that there will be at least one candidate at this Saturday's VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew-W4MO reported that our W4AC 2-meter repeater is working satisfactorily, and that the EchoLink mode will be activated in the near future.

CLUB PROPERTY – Stew-W4MO reported no change in the Club property inventory.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 85 members, including eight Life Members and 18 First-Year Free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present.

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS reported that EARS considered the Charlotte County Hamfest to have been a success. There were two contestants in the Fox Hunt.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that there were 34 members, spouses and friends at the 01 April luncheon meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53 at Denny's, Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF offered photos and verbal descriptions of the construction and installation of his 5-band HexBeam.

OLD BUSINESS – K4S at the Sharks Tooth Festival – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS gave an overview of the logistical arrangements for the antenna, transceiver, shelter, Club banner, logs, lighting, combination mic/headset, grounding, etc. The Sign Up sheets were again circulated for additional volunteers.

Pine View School ARC Update – Bob-N1RA reported that a very successful demonstration of the use of the EchoLink mode was given at the 30 March PVSARC meeting. Several contacts were made with both Stateside and DX stations. The school will be holding an in-house “Clubs Fair” which could provide the opportunity for the Radio Club to gain some more new members. As most of the current members are upper-classmen, it's vital that new members join to keep the club going after they graduate.

NEW BUSINESS – Nothing

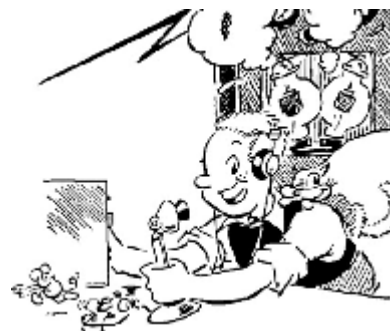
COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – San Yoder-K3SY asked about the possibility of having TARC golf shirts made for the members. Jack-W4JS stated that this subject had come up a couple years ago and that he had visited a local shop which could supply and embroider the shirts. As we do not know where the original shirts had been made, it would cost around \$75 for the pattern set up. The idea was then dropped at that time.

Mike Hickey-NY4P reported that there is an interesting 30-some page French “Ham-Mag” available at no cost on the Internet—such as the E-version of “WorldRadio.” Check out <http://www.ham-mag.com>.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:29 PM was made by Konrad Owens-WA3RRS, seconded by Dil Kay-W8DIL, and passed. There were 20 members and no visitors present.

PROGRAM – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS offered a video, “Voice of Victory,” which explained the wartime conversion of the Hallicrafters HT-4 transmitters into the military BC-610 with ancillary equipment.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary



CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

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
Nigeria – 5N00CH	Now to 24 July	84	23-06	21-07	20-07	12-02	21-23	21-23	NO	NO
Chad – TT8CF	Now to 01 July	73	23-05	22-06	21-06	16-00	16-22	16-22	NO	NO
Uganda – 5X4X	Now to 31 May	77	--	22-05	22-05	17-23	16-23	16-23	NO	NO
Uganda – 5X1NH **	Now to 11 May	77	23-04	22-05	22-05	17-23	16-23	16-23	NO	NO
Morocco – 5F1ROM	Now to 10 May	64	23-07	21-08	19-06	14-01	14-00	NO	NO	NO
Bhutan – A52DT	Now to 06 May	8	NO	NO	NO	12-04	23-04	NO	NO	NO
Tonga – A35KL **	Now to 06 May	253	--	03-14	02-13	18-06	19-04	--	--	--
Cayman Is – ZF2ZB	Now to 06 May	169	00-24	11-05	16-02	18-01	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLK and JD1BLY	Now to 05 May	317	09-11	08-12	10-14	01-04	13-15	NO	NO	NO
Liechtenstein – HB0/DL2SBY	Now to 04 May	46	23-06	22-07	20-05	13-00	19-21	18-20	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0KS + YJ0KS, 05-07 May	Now to 07 May	262	06-12	04-13	03-13	23-05	20-03	20-03	21-03	NO
San Marino – T70A (by seven Italian ops)	01 – 03 May	48	23-05	21-06	19-06	12-00	17-22	17-22	NO	NO
Fiji – 3D2ZW (from four different islands)	01 – 08 May	258	05-12	04-14	03-13	00-05	19-01	19-01	19-01	NO
Nauru – C21TI (by Spanish team)	01 – 30 May	279	06-12	05-13	04-15	00-05	20-04	20-04	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BMT and JD1BMH	02 – 12 May	317	09-11	08-12	10-14	13-15	13-15	NO	NO	NO
Ascension Is – ZD8KR **	04 – 11 May	108	--	--	--	11-00	--	--	--	--
Micronesia – V63DX and V63CW	11 – 16 May	293	--	06-13	05-14	01-05	01-04	01-04	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/F4FLQ (mostly digital modes)	11 – 29 May	51	--	--	20-07	--	10-00	--	NO	--
Niue – ZK2V	16 May – 20 Jun	252	04-12	02-13	--	18-06	--	22-03	--	--
El Salvador – YS1G **	17 – 23 May	206	21-14	00-24	00-24	--	--	--	--	--
Corsica – TK/IZ5FDD and TK/IW5ELA	20 – 24 May	51	--	21-08	20-07	12-00	12-00	21-22	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/F5MCC	22 May – 11 Jun	51	00-05	21-08	20-07	12-00	12-00	21-22	NO	NO

Updated 30 March 2009, based on 25 March 2009 *QRZ DX*, 30 March 2009 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

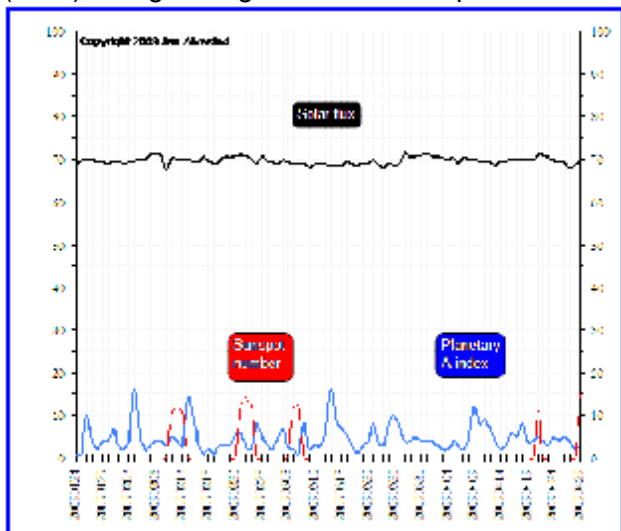
Notes: Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.2.60* propagation software, available to download at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During April, the Solar Flux ranged from 68 to 71, with a mean value of 69.8 (vs. 70.3 for April 2008 and 72.4 for April 2007). The A-index was ≤ 7 on 27 days. (With minimal Solar Flux, $A > 7$ is a better indicator of disturbed conditions.)

Solar activity was very low. Sunspot Region 1015 formed on 21 and disappeared 23 April; Region 1016 developed 29 April.

Other than for one isolated minor storm period 11 April and unsettled levels 16 April due to recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams (HSS), the geomagnetic field was quiet.



(Courtesy of: Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

-- MAY FORECAST --

May solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to increase to high levels 08 – 11 May. Solar flux should average 70 during May.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels through 05 May. Activity is expected to increase to unsettled levels 06 – 09, with active conditions 06 May due to recurrent HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels 10 – 31 May.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 28 April 2009, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 28 April 2009, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 28 April 2009)

-- DX NOTES IN THE MARGIN --

The YW0A Aves Island DXpedition is still delayed as the Venezuelan navy schedule would require the team to stay at least 30 days on the island. None of them have that much free time.

DXpeditions are getting very expensive. For example, the cost just to charter a plane for the October Midway Island operation is \$58,000.

Peter-DM2BBN will be active from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as ET3BN for the next several years.

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CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
10-10 Spring CW & Digital Contests	0001Z 02 May 2359Z 03 May	10 Meters Only CW or Digital	Members of Ten-Ten International	Call Sign, Name, 10-10 #, State
Portuguese Navy Day	1500Z 02 May 1500Z 03 May	80 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digi	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial No., CQ Zone
ARI (Italian) International DX Contest	2000Z 02 May 1959Z 03 May	160 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digi	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial Number
CQ-M (Russian) International DX Contest	1200Z 09 May 1200Z 10 May	160 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, SSTV	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T,V), Serial Number
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest (Italian)	1200Z 09 May 1200Z 10 May	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial No., CQ Zone
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z 09 May 2100Z 09 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	FISTS Members in US, Canada & DXCC	RST, QTH, FISTS # or Power
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z 09 May 0300Z 10 May	Six Meters Only SSB, CW, Digi	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square (six-character prefer'd)
European PSK DX Contest	1200Z 16 May 1200Z 17 May	80 – 10 Meters PSK31	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial Number
All America Contest (Brazilian)	1500Z 16 May 2359Z 17 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	South American Stations	RST, Continent
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 16 May 1200Z 17 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial Number
Baltic Contest (Lithuanian)	2100Z 16 May 0200Z 17 May	80 Meters Only SSB and CW	Baltic Stations and DXCC Entities	RS(T), Serial Number
CQ World Wide WPX Contest	0000Z 30 May 2400Z 31 May	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial Number

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and *WorldRadio*

-- FINALLY CAUGHT IN THE ACT --



Before he headed back to Wisconsin, Dave Witt-WD9W took the first photos of one of those lively TARC breakfast sessions at Peach's. Don't be shy about coming out—there's always room for more. Around 7:45AM, Tuesday and Friday at Peach's, 1230 Jacaranda Blvd.—in the shopping center.

There's a myth that time is money. In fact, time is more precious than money. It is a nonrenewable resource. Once you've spent it badly, it's gone forever. Neil Fiore

-- PATIENTLY WAITING --



The orders are in and the TARCians await their breakfasts.

-- WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR INPUT --

What say? Have any items you think would be of interest to our members? Jack Gaddas-KY1Z needs material for our TARC web site. Contact Jack via tamiamiarc@gmail.com. Photos and other items are welcome for our newsletter. Send articles, photos, etc. to w4js@juno.com and your editor will be a happy camper.

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-- LOTS OF PLANNING AND LABOR --



Here's a shot of the completely refurbished base and raising fixture for the US Towers MA40 tubular tower being installed at the QTH of Jack Gaddas-KY1Z. It looks better than new!!



The telescoping, two-section tubular tower is attached and just starting to rise up from its supporting cradle. Note Bob-N1RA providing moral support. When completed, Jack will have a two-element home-brew cubical quad at the top of this tower.

After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead!

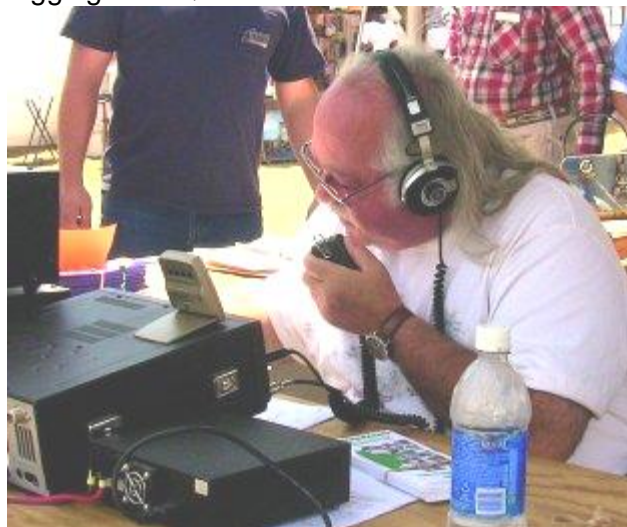
-- PUTTING K4S ON THE AIR! --



Jack-KY1Z looks kinda lonely as he gets the operation under way.



Roger-WB4HDW takes his turn working and logging K4S QSOs.



Bruce-WA8IQF puts in his shift at the station on the last day of our Special Event operation.

My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government. – Thomas Jefferson

--MORE ACTION AT K4S --



Here's Andy-KB1HIP handing out the QSOs on the last day. That's Andy's solid state Ameritron amp on top of the IC-746PRO, and that gain in signal was a big boost to the QSO rate.



Bob-N1RA and Stew-W4MO discuss the who, what and why of CW to a Festival visitor.



Jon-W4ZW demonstrates his HT to Olivia-KJ4KTN and Matthew-KJ4KTL. Jon did make several CW contacts from K4S—a first in our four years of operation from the Festival.

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-- S. F. B. MORSE "GOOGLED" --

In recognition of the birthday of Samuel Morse, on 27 April the Google masthead was spelled out with multi-colored dots and dashes.

Morse was born 27 April 1791 and is credited as the inventor of the telegraph and of the code that bears his name. This is only half correct. While Morse did invent the telegraph apparatus, his original code was a series of numbers that corresponded by word-entries in a book at each telegraph station. It was Morse's assistant, Alfred Vail, who actually developed the dot-dash code that allowed any word to be sent efficiently, without the need for "translations."

(From the *CQ Newsroom*, 27 April 2009)

--DANCING FOR SOME SUN SPOTS --

We dropped down by the Caspersen Beach Drum Circle to see what the Sundancers were doing. "Just marking time," the Caspersen Sundancers leader said, "just marking time." We had hoped for more and back in a cluster of palms we could hear the dry rattle of the tenor bongos. But then the air was shattered by the thundering boom of a bass bongo, we clinging to a tree while the very sands shook beneath us. "What's that?" we shakily asked as things settled. "It felt like a 6.5 on the Richter!" The C.S. leader smiled. "That's BIG DX," he said, "and we were just doing a bit of testing. BIG DX will soon be here and all we Caspersen Sundancers will be out there to bring the new Cycle 24 routines to the Deserving DXers everywhere. BIG DX will boom the DX into everyone. DX for all!" And the C.S. leader did a couple of fancy steps, slapped his hands three times and the skies reeled again as Bass Bongo back in the palms boomed. "Have to warn SRQ every time we get ready to test," the C.S. leader said. "Gives them a chance to run in a couple of sonic booms unnoticed by the EPA people. We work together on these things."

(Adapted from *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited and published by Charles Allen-W5DV and James Allen-W6OGC, 1981)

-- PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS? --

Any TARC members willing to put on a program at our meetings? Do you know anyone in other organizations who could put on an interesting program? Please advise Stew-W4MO or Bruce-WA8IQF if you can help out. We need good programs to maintain or improve attendance at our meetings.

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Panda Pavilion TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC re- peater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Meet- ing, Tech Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Re- peater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	
31						

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, repeater nets will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz.

**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) _____

Single Member @ \$15.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$20.00/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

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ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

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Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF

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