



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341
W4AC Repeater – 444.100 MHz & 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- MAY 2011 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I must admit that this year's TARC participation in the Venice Sharks Tooth Festival activities did not go as well as in previous years.

The order I placed for digital HT's got botched, such that the HT's which I received could not be programmed. As such, we were not able to furnish enough HT's to the members who showed up to provide communications links along the route of the 10-K run. We were able to shuffle some of the guys to alternative posts and the sponsor expressed appreciation for our help. However, it was an embarrassing situation.

The K4S station was getting out well from the Festival site, however, reception was awful once one of the nearby vendors cranked up their personal generator. Vertical antennas are most susceptible to such ignition QRM, and the R-5 was no exception. I have suggested that we keep our eyes open for a small tri-band beam antenna that we can use in the future.

I was also disappointed with the turnout of members to operate and log the K4S station. Of the dozen who were scheduled, several never showed up. Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI and I were the only members at the station from 9 AM until noontime on Sunday, 10 April. Phone calls to some of the stalwarts did bring them out in short order. However, if people agree to volunteer to be on hand for a certain job, they should be there.

Well, we learn something every day, and I did learn a lot at the Sharks Tooth this year. I hope the future years go much better.

73, Stew Haag-W4MO

-- MAY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **04 MAY 2011** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive, just west of the Venice Airport. Following the business meeting, we should have a program of interest. We'll try to give details with the e-mail meeting reminder.

-- INTO DEEP SPACE WITH HANS --



Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB took us into deep space at our April meeting with his very informative program on "The Hubble Telescope and Astronomy."

-- TARC FRIDAY "EATING SOCIETY" --



Prior to heading out to set up the K4S Special Event Station, these guys enjoyed another great breakfast session at Peach's. Now, if we could just get just get as many members to check into our 2-meter nets!

A common mistake people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools. – Douglas Adams

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
06 April 2011

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF of Shelton, CT, Coast Guard Auxiliary Vice Commandant Ed Stebner, and Karen Haynes, Event Director for Active Suncoast were welcomed as visitors.

At this time, Stew asked Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX to welcome the TARC to the Coast Guard Auxiliary training facility. Guenther gave some background on the relationship that has been developing between the CGA and the TARC. The facility has been made available to us in return to our willingness to provide assistance with the facility's computers and amateur radio equipment. We are asked to leave the facility looking as it did prior to our meetings.

Karen Haynes was then asked to offer her comments regarding the pending communication support by TARC members who volunteered to help monitor the upcoming Sharks tooth 10-K Run. Karen reviewed the locations of the monitors explained certain tasks expected from the monitors. Volunteer T-shirts were distributed to the monitors.

MINUTES – A motion to accept the minutes of the 02 March 2011 meeting as published in the April 2011 issue of *The Communicator* was made by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, seconded by Ron Pedersen-KJ4EVJ, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported mailing a letter on 25 March, thanking the Venice Public Library for its past support and giving written notice that we would no longer be holding our meetings there.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE gave the March Treasurer's Report. The starting balance was \$3134.78. Receipts were \$23.00 from the March 50/50, \$60 in dues, and \$50.00 for sale of club equipment, totaling \$133.00. Expenses were \$15.02 for DayStar Internet service, \$7.49 for Memorial Plaque engraving and \$5.00 for the Attendance Drawing, totaling \$27.51. The ending balance is \$3240.27. Charlie Covell-W4DB moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Stew announced that Joy Klapp-N2WUD has volunteered to resume serving as the Sunshine Committee. Stew then announced the 31 March passing of John Mazzoccoli-

W2OG at the age of 69. Stew also informed the members of the recent surgery undergone by Carole Salmon-WA2VVJ.

VE TESTING – Our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 09 April at the Venice Public Library. There have been several inquiries to date.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational and Stew demonstrated the effectiveness of the 440 digital repeater mode. A new concept in remote HF operation will be set up at the repeater site within 3-4 weeks.

CLUB PROPERTY – Stew commented that the inventory of club property has dwindled significantly.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported we have 53 Regular Members, eight Honorary Life members, and four First Year Free members, comprised of 36 Amateur Extra, 6 Advanced, 16 General and 7 Technicians.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG reported continued poor turn out for the nets—typically 3 to 4 stations on the Simplex Net and 5 to 6 stations on the Repeater Net. Stew pondered the reasons for the poor showing. Roger Schmitt-KY4RS commented that the nets have to offer something interesting to attract participation.

LIAISON TO EARS – Conrad Owens-WA3RRS hasn't attended recent meetings of the Englewood ARS, however, he offered brief comments taken from the EARS minutes.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Suncoast Chapter 53 held its April meeting today at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Bill Schlapfer-KA2HEA gave a program "Microphones Around the World." The last lunch at Denny's for this season will be on 04 May, with our June-September lunches then being held at the Panda Pavilion. All are welcome to come on out, have lunch and enjoy our camaraderie.

OLD BUSINESS – Brief overview of preparation for set up and operation of Special Event Station K4S at the Sharks Tooth Festival.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we need more membership cards printed. He and Don Jansen will check with Venice Printing.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM was made by Bruce Brown-WA8IQF, seconded by Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, and

See **Minutes**, page 5

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY

COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Chad – TT8PK; spare time operation	Now to 15 June	73	00-05	23-06	22-06	18-02	17-23	17-23	18-23	NO
Trindade & Martin Vaz – PP0T; team op	Now to 15 June	127	00-08	23-09	22-10	10-03	14-21	15-21	15-21	16-20
Uganda – 5X1VJ	Now to 08 June	77	00-04	23-05	23-05	19-01	17-00	18-01	18-01	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BMT & JD1BLY	Now to 07 May	317	09-11	08-12	08-12	11-16	00-02	11-15	22-00	NO
Ghana – 9G5LK; Dutch duo operation	Now to 06 May	87	23-06	22-07	22-07	10-04	13-02	18-20	18-23	NO
Hong Kong – VR2/F4BKV	Now to 06 May	340	NO	NO	NO	11-14	14-16	14-16	13-19	NO
Albania – ZA/LZ1UQ & ZA/LZ2HM	Now to 05 May	48	00-04	23-06	22-06	10-01	13-23	17-21	17-22	NO
Mariana Is – AH0/AB2RF; mainly digital	Now to 05 May	306	08-11	07-12	07-12	11-16	13-17	21-00	01-03	NO
Afghanistan – T6PSE; team operation	10 days in May	26	NO	00-01	NO	01-04	01-04	01-04	NO	NO
Senegal – 6W/EAI1BT	03 to 12 May	87	23-07	21-09	21-10	10-04	13-01	16-22	17-22	17-20
Ogasawara – JD1BMH	04 to 13 May	317	09-11	08-12	08-12	11-16	00-02	11-15	22-00	NO
Dodecanese – SV5/PA1JF	08 to 22 May	49	--	22-06	22-06	16-06	13-00	16-23	17-23	NO
Dodecanese – SX5F; Greek team operation	14 to 22 May	49	00-04	22-06	22-06	16-06	13-00	16-23	17-23	NO
St Barthelemy – FJ/OS1T	14 to 22 May	114	--	00-24	00-24	09-06	13-04	15-03	18-02	16-03
Tuvalu – T2XG	17 to 24 May	267	--	04-13	04-13	23-14	19-06	19-03	19-06	2300
Svalbard Is – JW8HGA	19 to 23 May	13	NO	00-08	00-07	19-15	15-01	11-04	1400	NO

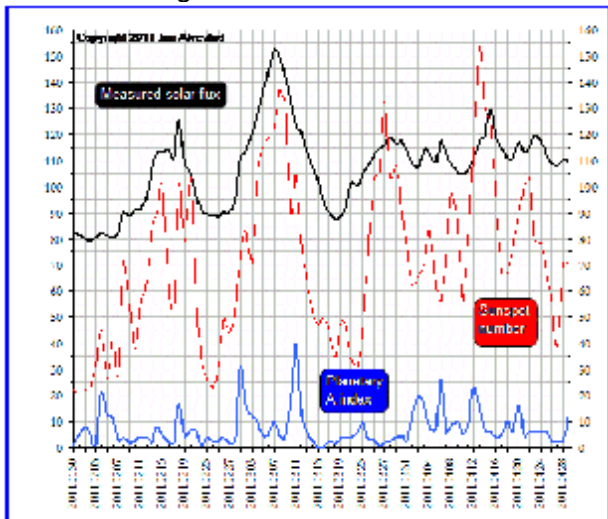
Updated 27 April 2011, based on 27 April 2011 QRZ DX, 25 April 2011 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

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

-- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During April the Solar Flux ranged from 105 to 129, with a mean value of 112.2 (vs. 76.0 for April 2010 and 69.7 for April 2009). The A-index was ≥ 7 on 14 days. Through 29 April, the sunspot number ranged from 39 to 153, with a mean of 86.8.

Sunspot Regions 1183 thru 1203 were active during April, with 102 C-class and three M-Class flares occurring.



(Thanks to Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

-- MAY FORECAST --

Solar activity is forecast to be low during May.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels. However, an in-

crease to moderate to high levels is possible 02-05 May, 11-13 May and 19-22 May in response to coronal hole high speed streams (HSS). The Solar Flux should average 112 during May.

The geomagnetic field should be unsettled 01-02 May, 08-10 May, 18-19 May and 26-28 May in response to HSS.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 26 April 2011, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 26 April 2011, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 26 April 2011)

-- KANTON ISLAND-T31A --



The international team ran a good show from this volcanic rim island with over 30,000 QSOs during their one-week operation.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING MAY

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest	0001Z 07 May 2359Z 08 May	Ten Meters Only CW Only	10-10 Members	Call Sign, Name, State
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z 07 May 1959Z 08 May	160 – 10 Meters CW, SSB, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T) and Serial
Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest	1200Z 14 May 1200Z 15 May	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial, CQ Zone (5 locally)
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z 14 May 1200Z 15 May	160 – 10 Meters CW and SSB	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T) and Serial
Portuguese Navy Day	1500Z 14 May 1500Z 15 May	80 – 10 Meters CW and SSB	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial, CQ Zone (5 locally)
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z 14 May 0300Z 15 May	Six Meters Only CW, SSB, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	6-Character Grid Square
Portuguese Navy Day	0800Z 21 May 1500Z 21 May	80 – 10 Meters Digital Modes Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial, CQ Zone (5 locally)
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z 21 May 1200Z 22 May	80 – 10 Meters PSK Modes Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and Serial
His Majesty King of Spain Contest	1200Z 21 May 1200Z 22 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and Serial
CQ WW WPX Contest	0000Z 28 May 2400Z 29 May	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST and Serial
Baltic Contest	2100Z 28 May 0200Z 29 May	80 Meters Only SSB and CW	Anyone; points only for ES, LY and YL QSOs	RS(T) and Serial

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity
From ARRL "Contest Corral," Web Site and WA7BNM Contest Calendar

-- MILE 4 OF SHARKS TOOTH 10-K RUN --



A group of runners and the Festival mascot get water two-thirds through the run.



-- MORE RUNNERS EN ROUTE --



Some of the ± 600 runners mingle near the Start/Finish post after the race. There were no incidents during the race.

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passed. There were 29 members and three visitors present.

PROGRAM – A very interesting P.P. presentation on “The Hubble Telescope and Astronomy” was offered by Hans Napfeti-WB2ZZB
Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- THANKS AND WELL DONE! --



Karen Haynes, Event Director for Active Suncoast, the sponsor of the Sharks Tooth 10-K Run, chats with Stew Haag-W4MO and Andy Durette-KB1HIP after the race.

-- GETTING K4S ON THE AIR --



Looks like the shelter and tables are in place. All that's needed is the equipment to put K4S on the air from the Sharks Tooth Festival. Let's get everything unloaded and set up, guys!

-- THE R-5 STANDS STRAIGHT AND TALL --



The Cushcraft R-5 antenna that has served us well since 2006 is up and ready to go to work. Unfortunately, generator QRM overpowered many of the incoming signals.

-- K4S IS ON THE AIR! --



DXer Extraordinaire Bob Marchese-K1NOK, who has all 340 DXCC entities, at the K4S mike.

The QSO rate for this year's operation was down from previous years, due mostly to the generator ignition QRM that made receiving very difficult. Hopefully use of a yagi next year will minimize such interference.

Questions provide the key to unlocking our unlimited potential – Chinese Fortune Cookie

-- TAKING A BREAK AFTER THE RUN --



Garbed in their volunteer shirts from monitoring the Sharks Tooth 5-K race, the guys take time for the camera. It's understood that Andy Durette-KB1HIP (left) did join the race from Mile 5 but was just missed by the *Sports Illustrated* cameraman. Maybe next year, Andy.

-- MORE SHARKS TOOTH ACTIVITIES --



Roger Schmitt-KY4RS at the mike of K4S.

-- THANKS TO ALL! --

Thanks to all members who supported our Sharks Tooth efforts this year, and to Roger Schmitt-KY4RS, San Yoder-K3SY and Bob Marchese-K1NOK for the photos.



Bruce Brown-WA8IQF modulates the 20-meter band from K4S. Looks like Conrad-WA3RRS and Stew-W4MO are catching up on the news while San-K3SY meditates.



Quite a nice turnout of visitors to the Sharks Tooth Festival.



Hold on a minute! Is this really Johnnie Depp from "Pirates of the Caribbean"?

We must always have old memories and young ideas. – Chinese Fortune Cookie

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	4 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	5 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	7
8	9 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	11 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	12 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	14 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
15	16	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	18 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	19 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	21
22	23	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	25 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 TARC Emer- gency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	28
29	30	31 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580				

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeater will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. Thanks for your cooperation.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____ Call Sign _____ Class ____ ARRL (Y/N)____

Local Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Summer Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. _____ E-Mail _____ Application Date _____

Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Control____, RFI/TVI____, VE Testing____, Training____, Packet____, RTTY____,
Computers____, DXing____, Contests____, Field Day____, Publicity____, Emergency Communications____, Special Events____,
VHF/UHF____, SSTV____, ATV____, Repeater____, EchoLink____, Other (specify) _____

Regular Member @ \$25.00/year ____ , Family Membership @ \$30.00/year____ , Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year____ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

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