

THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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



-- MAY 2015 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Time seems to fly at times. Take last month for example. The annual Sharks Tooth Festival volunteer rosters didn't seem to fill up until the last minute and the day prior to the setup we found that our regular site had been moved clear to the other side of the midway. So we adapted.

The setup crew arrived and up went the antenna and then our canopies. The radio gear went into operation and the 20-meter band started to provide some good contacts. The event opened at 4pm and the radio went silent. We also learned that the new location had very little foot traffic, hence our first youth operation was a disappointment. We had a few youngsters who showed interest with the small H/T's and the CW area but as I said there was very little foot traffic.

A young lad from Georgia, named Micajah Steely, seemed to be a natural on the straight key and he also won the big electronics kit. He sent us a very nice thank-you note which stated that our TARC representatives made a very positive impression on him.

The very early risers on the 10K Run communications net team were the best, and with four students from the VHS Club who were real pro's.

TARC was well represented by the members who came to work and my thanks to all. By the way, even with the poor propagation we had a total of 581 contacts.

Some side notes: The TARC Library is growing and I'm hearing some hints of a Field Day operation. See you all at the May Meeting.

VY 73 de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- MAY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **08 April 2015** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will present a PP program on the history and development of flight recorders. This is a firsthand account as Hans was instrumental in such development.

-- NEPAL EARTHQUAKE EMCOMM --

(TNX to Bruce Brown-WA8IQF, who alerted us to the web site for this article.)

Amateur radio has stepped in to fill communication gaps in Nepal, which is struggling with power outages and a flaky Internet after a devastating earthquake on Saturday, 25 April killed over 5,000 people.

Hams are working round-the-clock to help people get in touch with relatives, pass on information and to alert about developing crises ever since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit about 80 kilometers from Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu.

Ham operators in Nepal and India are working in shifts to keep communications going between them and hams in other parts of the world like Turkey, Australia and New Zealand. The frequencies of 14.205 and 14.215 MHz are being monitored and kept clear for such health and welfare traffic.

Although there are 99 hams in Kathmandu, only about eight of them have HF stations.

The hams have been getting frequent requests from abroad to trace relatives and friends in the earthquake zone. The operators in Nepal then try to get information on the missing persons and transmit it back.

Nepalese Internet service providers, including Nepal Telecom, were able to maintain the country's connectivity to the Internet despite the earthquake. With downed mobile towers, severed overhead fiber cables and spotty electricity, connecting to the outside world will be challenging for weeks to come as the nation recovers from the devastation.

(From "Ham Radio Attempts to Fill Communication Gaps in Nepal Rescue Effort," John Ribeiro, Bangalore Correspondent for IDG News Service, IT World, 29 April 2015)

Apply yourself to the basics and progress will follow.

--...

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Meeting 8 April 2015

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with a flag pledge. Introductions were then made all around with Brendan Fazekas, Art Adams-WA9DOP and his wife being welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 March 2015 meeting as published in the April 2015 issue of *The Communicator*. Tom McDermitt-W3GXV so moved, seconded by Gary Hagens-K6OC, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer San Yoder-K3SY reported that the starting balance was \$5,394.62. Receipts were \$23 from the February 50/50, and \$130 for dues for a total of \$153. The expenses were \$79 for a bookshelf, \$75 for PC return, \$220 for TARC logo pens and \$82.55 for kids electronic projects for a total of \$456.55. We had a closing balance of \$5,091.07. Larry Bryan-W8LIG moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Gary Hagens-K6OC, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Jim Murdock-KG4KOT fell outside his home. Several doctors appointments later he is on the mend.

VE TESTING – 4 potential candidates for the 11 April VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both the 146.805 and 444.100 machines are operating satisfactorily.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 50 full members, 8 student members, 1 honorary member, and 4 life members for a total of 63 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred reminded all of our 440 and 2-meter nets. Fred noted the 440 net attendance was a little light, probably due to the Extra Class classes being given at the same time.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 29 members and spouses at the 01 April lunch at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB did a presentation on the History of Flight Recorders

OLD BUSINESS – TARC logo pens and kids projects purchased for Sharks Tooth.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred announced our location at the Sharks Tooth festival was changed.

Final discussions on Sharks Tooth and 10K support.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – It was brought up that anyone working the 10K race needed a cell phone with area code 941 to be able to accurately call in a 911.

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:45 PM, a motion to adjourn was made by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Al Culbert-K0AL, and passed. There were 24 members and 3 visitors present.

PROGRAM – San Yoder-K3SY gave a presentation on Story Musgrave and his many accomplishments.

Dave Gill-K4JDG Secretary

-- POWER SUPPLY NOISE --

(Have any strange new noises on your radio? Perhaps this information will be helpful.)

ARRL Laboratory Manager and EMI Expert Ed Hare-W1RFI told the <u>HamRadioNow</u> webcast recently that switching-mode power supplies are a more common noise source for radio amateurs than electrical power lines. <u>HamRadioNow</u> host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, interviewed Hare on April 4 at the Raleigh, North Carolina, <u>RARSfest</u>, where Hare also presented a forum, "Tall Tales from the ARRL Lab." Hare told Pearce that switching-mode power supplies are in -- or provide power for -- many home electronics these days.

"The old days of those iron transformers are gone," Hare said. "Every single one of these is a switcher. We're also seeing noise from pulsewidth control motors." Hare said the big culprits are "little wall warts," not switching supplied designed to power Amateur Radio equipment. "Every TV you own has a built-in switcher, almost every device has a wall wart, and a lot of these are imported, not necessarily meeting the FCC rules, so we're seeing more reports involving those," he said.

Hare also told *HamRadioNow* that a few LED-type light bulbs that are becoming more common also can be noise-generators, as are "grow lights" used for cultivating plants indoors.

From The ARRL Letter, 16 April 2015



DESTINED TO LIVE OUT HIS LIFE AS A POORLY-DRAWN STICK FIGURE, CHARLES FOUND SOLICE IN CHATTING WITH PEOPLE WHO WOULD NEVER SEE HIM

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY CALLSION	ACTIVITY	BEAR-	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)						C)	
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Sable Is – CY0/VA1AXC; ++, spare time op	Now to 05 June	41				21-12	15-03	12-03		
Guinea – 3XY5M; by PA5M, spare time op	Now to 31 May	90	23-07	21-09	21-09	07-04	12-02	16-01	15-01	22-02
Armenia – EK/DL7UCX & DK7AO	Now to 05 May	38	00-02	00-02 23-04 22-04		17-05	15-21	19-20	20-21	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLY; by JI5RPT, all modes	Now to 05 May	317	09-11	0-11 08-12 07-13		03-15	21-01	20-03	12-14	NO
Norfolk Is – VK9NT; by 4-op team	Now to 04 May	250	06-12	04-13	04-13	00-08	19-06	20-04	20-04	21-01
Bhutan – A52LSS; by JH3LSS, all modes	30 Apr – 06 May	8	NO	NO	NO	22-02	16-19	14-19	12-18	NO
Bhutan – A52AEF, ARJ, IVU; all modes	30 Apr – 06 May	8	NO	NO	NO	22-02	16-19	14-19	12-18	NO
Crete – J49TSL; by 7-op team, all modes	01 to 10 May	51	00-04	22-06	22-06	17-05	15-23	12-23	20-24	NO
Seychelles – S79RPS; by DL2RPS	02 to 08 May	68	00-03	23-03	23-03	19-05	16-23	15-23	15-23	16-21
Ogasawara – JD1YBT; by 4-op team	02 to 11 May	317	09-11	08-12	08-12	03-17	20-03	21-23	11-15	NO
Fernando de Noronha – ZW0FWA; Digital	03 to 07 May	115	23-09	21-11	20-12	10-06	13-04	15-02	15-02	15-02
Christmas Is – VK9X/JA0JHQ; CW, SSB	07 to 10 May	334	NO	1100	1100	10-14	16-19	18-19	11-14	NO
Chatham Is – ZL7/F8FUA; all modes	07 to 13 May	230	04-11	02-13 02-13		22-06	19-05	19-04	20-00	20-02
Isle of Man – MT0IXD; team op, SSB, digi	08 to 11 May	41	00-06	22-09 22-09		09-06	16-21	14-23	14-23	NO
Maldives – 8Q7BI; by DG4ABE, Digi, SSB	10 to 17 May	41				20-04	15-03	11-03	11-03	NO
Mauritius – 3B8/EA5IDG; SSB, RTTY	10 to 18 May	88		23-04	23-04	03-06	0400	13-16	14-16	14-16
Jersey – MJ/ON6EF; 3-op team	14 to 18 May	46	00-06	22-08	21-09	09-03	12-01	16-23	16-23	NO
Niue – E6ZS, NZ,TE & SS; JA ops, all modes	15 to 25 May	252	04-12	03-13	03-13	17-13	17-07	18-05	18-05	18-04
South Cook Is – E51DLD & VFT; 2 US ops	17 to 23 May	246	04-12	02-13	02-13	17-12	17-06	17-03	19-03	19-03
Rodrigues Is – 3B9/EA5IDQ, SSB, RTTY	19 to 24 May	84		23-03	22-04	03-06	03-04	13-15	04-05	15-17
Burkina Faso – XT2AW; by DF2WO	20 May – 25 Jun	83	23-06	22-08	22-08	07-04	09-01	13-01	16-00	16-00
Market Reef – OJOW; by OH3WS, spare time	23 to 31 May	31		23-07	23-07	00-24	10-00	10-01	21-00	NO
Niger – 5U5U; by F4WBN	30 May – 16 Jun	77	-	22-07	22-07	08-03	12-23	16-23	16-23	NO

Updated 29 April based on the 27 April 2015 The Weekly DX, the 29 April QRZ DX and, http://www.ng3k.com

Notes: **Time in bold** = the Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using W6ELProp propagation software. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

-- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 29 April the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 104 to 155, with a mean value of 130.4 (vs. 144.3 for April 2014 and 125.0 for April 2013), and the A_p index was \geq 7 on 15 days. Through 29 April, the sunspot number ranged from 26 to 153, with a mean of 74.1.

April was an active month, with 11 M-class and 154 C-class flares through the 29th. Severe geomagnetic disturbances drove the A_p up to 39 on the 2nd, 56 on the 10th, 80 on the 16th, 48 on the 17th, and to 27 on 21 April.

-- MAY FORECAST -

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low through 03 May, increasing to moderate levels from 07 through 16 May, returning to very low to low levels from 17 May through the rest of the month.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels through 06 May, normal levels from 07-12 May, moderate to high levels 13-14 May, high levels from 15-18, moderate levels 19-20 May moderate to high levels 21-23 May and moderate levels 24-31 May.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels through 10 May, unsettled to active levels 11-14 May, quiet to unsettled 15-17 May,

unsettled to active 18-20 May, quiet 21-25 May unsettled to active 26-29 May and quiet 30-31 May.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 110 to 135 and average 121.3 during May.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 27 April 2015, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 27 April 2015, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 27 April 2015.)

-- PLAN AHEAD FOR THIS PENDING DX --

Even though the sunspots are declining, rare and semi-rare DX is scheduled during the coming months:

September: Wake Island

October: Chesterfield Island November: Heard Island, Vietnam

December: Bouvet Island

January: Palmyra Atoll, So. Georgia Is,

PDR Korea, So. Sandwich Is,

Bouvet Is.

March: Juan De Nova/Europa, Palestine,

Cocos Keeling Is

Plan ahead to get them when you can as it will be another decade or more until they reappear. (From NG3K's "Announced DX Operations" as

seen at http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html)

"WORKING DX IS A CONTACT SPORT"

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING MAY 2015

ARI	Internation	nal DX Contest	ntest Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest			CQ-M International DX Contest				
02 May	1200Z	03 May 1159Z	09 May 1200Z 10 May 1200Z		09 May 1200Z		10 May 1200Z			
1.8-28		SSB, CW, RTTY	3.5-28		RTTY	1.8-28		SSB, CW		
	RS(T), Serial			RST. Serial, CQ Zone			RS(T), Serial			
	http://www.ari.it http://www.contestvolta.com			ntestvolta.com	http://www.cq-m.ru					
F	Portuguese	Navy Day	Nevada Mustang Roundup			50 MHz Spring Sprint				
09 May	1500Z	10 May 1500Z	09 May	1700Z	10 May 1700Z	09 May 2300Z		10 May 0300Z		
3.5-28		SSB, CW	1.8-28	50	SSB, CW, Digi		50	SSB, CW, Digi		
RS(T), Serial, CQ Zone		RS(T), S/P/C			Grid Square (6-char preferred)					
	www.nra.pt www.nvqsoparty.info			See http://www.homucopia.com						
Α	egean RT	TY Contest	His Majesty King of Spain Contest			CQ WW WPX Contest				
16 May	1200Z	17 May 1200Z	16 May	1200Z	17 May 1200Z	30 May	0000Z	31 May 2359Z		
3.5-28		RTTY	1.8-28		CW	1.8-28		CW		
RST, Serial			RST, Serial			RST, Serial				
http://www.aegeandxgroup.gr			http://concursos.ure.es/en			www.cqwpx.com				

Legend: Serial = 3-digit sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/
NOTE: Only major contests are shown, i.e. state QSO parties, miscellaneous sprints, etc. are not shown. See http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/Contest Corral 1505.pdf for the complete list of the 34 contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be held during May.

-- INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY --

April 25 was International Marconi Day (IMD), organized by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club in Cornwall, UK. IMD recognizes the anniversary of the birth of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi,

born on 25 April 1874. Participating stations were on the air during the period 0000 to 2400 UTC. The occasion offered an opportunity to contact historic Marconi-related radio sites around the world on HF.

Among the western hemisphere stations on the air were 4M5M



from Venezuela and VP8VPC from the Falkland Islands. The VPC suffix recalls the call sign of the Marconi spark transmitters in Stanley. The 150 kW transmitter, built in 1915, fed seven 305-foot masts and operated on 60-70 kHz. It was the most remote and most powerful station in the Royal Navy's First World War network of stations. After the war, VPC handled commercial message traffic to South America.

(From The ARRL Letter, 23 April 2015)

There is in the worst of fortunes the best chance of a happy ending.

--... ...--

-- MORSE IS ALIVE AND WELL --

Morse code enthusiasts might want to mark down the weekend of 01-03 May in Reno, Nevada. That's because the first West Coast CW Enthusiasts Confab is being held in conjunction with the ARRL Nevada State Convention also known as NVCON 2015.

Some of the highlights of the Confab will be seminars by Tom Taormina-K5RC, titled "CW - You are Missing Fun On the Air"; "Free dB's - The World of Wire Antennas" and "Field Day - The Gateway to Live Contesting," both presented by Hank Garretson-W6SX.

There will also be a CW Enthusiasts' Italian buffet dinner. CW only special event on-site station K7RC will be on the air on Saturday to allow for operating the 7th Call Area QSO Contest, 02-03 May.

More information is available on line at http://nvcon.org/events/cw.

(From Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1961, 17 April 2015)

-- K4S OPERATIONS SUMMARY --

This year's K4S operation yielded 581 QSOs:

K4S On Site: 485 Larry Bryan-W8LIG: 40 Bob Avrutik-N1RA: <u>56</u> Total: 581

While propagation was good on Friday, Saturday and Sunday left a lot to be desired.

TNX to all who helped out this year!

-- SHARKS TOOTH 10K RUN --





San Yoder-K3SY caught a passel of runners going by his communications check point at the Sharks Tooth 10K competitive run. Some 900 runners participated, making this the largest running of this event.

-- CLOSING FIELD OFFICES PROPOSED --

The US House Committee on Energy and Commerce has given the FCC until 07 May to produce documents related to FCC Enforcement Bureau proposals to close two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its staff of field agents.

The field office and personnel layoff proposals were outlined in a March 10 internal memorandum from Enforcement Bureau Chief Travis Le-Blanc and FCC Managing Director Jon Wilkins to EB field staff. The memo, obtained by ARRL and others, cited the need to take "a fresh look" at the Bureau's 20-year-old operating model in light of technology changes and tighter budgets.

ARRL leadership met with Enforcement Bureau staff and with Capitol Hill lawmakers in March to express its own concerns with the proposals in light of seemingly lax enforcement of the Amateur Service rules. ARRL CEO David Sumner-K1ZZ, also addressed the FCC's field office closure proposals in his "It Seems to Us" editorial ("Toothless Tigers?") in the May 2015 issue of *QST*. "Given everything that's on [the Enforcement Bureau's] plate — of which Amateur Radio is just a small part — reducing

the number of field agents from 63 to 33 and the number of field offices from 24 to 8 hardly sounds like progress," Sumner wrote.

(From http://www.arrl.org/news, 24 April 2015)

-- CQ SNAGS CONTEST CHEATERS --

The CQ World Wide Contest is the largest Amateur Radio competition in the world with over 30,000 participants. The CQ World Wide Contest Committee published a list of those amateurs who were disqualified from the 2014 CQ World Wide SSB contest or who received warnings for their operation as per:

"The CQ World Wide Contest Committee takes its job as referee for the contest very seriously. Each year a group of dedicated members spends many hours pouring over logs, listening to S-D-R recordings, and following up on input from the contest community. We do not always have perfect information and it is difficult when each entrant is operating from their own station without any outside observer. Even so, the logs and recordings often tell us a clear story. It is our job as referees to call them as we see them."

The statement goes on to say that each disqualified entrant will have been notified of the decision and given 5 days to respond. This is to allow everyone the opportunity to present an explanation of what appears in the log.

(From Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1962, 24 April 2015)

Since the ARRL has lifted virtually all limitations on the use of commercial Remote Ham Radio (RHR) sites by quasi DXers for DXCC credits, will the DXCC Desk use as much due diligence in approving DXCC applications?

The K4ADL Kartoon Korner



OWING TO HIS EXCELLENT BUT SOMEWHAT SELF-EFFACING SIGNMAKING SKILLS, LEONARD QUICKLY LOCATES HIS VEHICLE AT THE DAYTON HAMFEST.

Here's some good advice for anyone heading up to the Dayton Hamvention this year.

A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not why ships are built.

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	2
3	4	5 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	QCWA,11:15 @ Denny's, Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota	7 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	7 TARC VE Session 10 AM Venice Public Library
10	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Rptr 145.430	12 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	16
17	18	19 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	20	21 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	23
24/31	25	26 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	27	28 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	30

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater or the 444.100 Repeater are inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on 146.580 MHz simplex. 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	Applicat	tion Date
Please check Letters of Interests: (N) Net Control_	, (I) RFI/TVI_, (V) VE Testi	ng, (T) Training, (P) Packet, (Y
RTTY, (D) PSK, etc, (O) Computers, (X) D	DX, (C) Contests, (F) Field	d Day, (Q) Publicity, (E) Emergen
cy Communications, (S) Special Events, (U) V	/HF/UHF, (A) ATV/SSTV,	(R) Repeater, (L) EchoLink, Other
(specify)		
Regular Member @ \$25.00/year, Family Membership @ Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calend and all of the following year.)		

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

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