



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(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- NOVEMBER 2005 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

It's good to be back here, even though we had "Wilma" to welcome us! Joy and I had no problems here, and I hope you all fared as well.

I'm looking forward to our next TARC meeting, and having a chance to catch up with things.

Please review the proposed revised TARC Bylaws which are being transmitted with this issue of the newsletter.

I know this is short, but I'll see you all soon.

VY 73,

Matt-W2EQV

-- REVISED TARC BYLAWS --

Included with this issue of *The Communicator*, either as a separate MS Word file or as a print copy, are the Bylaws of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (As Revised October 2005). The Bylaws which had been in effect since December 1980 were carefully reviewed by the officers and directors, item by item, in October. Certain articles in those bylaws which were considered unnecessary or redundant—such as an Executive Board, whose duties were not defined and which was never in effect in recent years—were deleted. Other articles, such as Membership, were clarified and updated to current Club procedures. In total, the resultant bylaws are considered representative of the TARC of today and not of 25 years ago. Hopefully, you, the membership, will agree and vote to ratify these revised bylaws..

The general membership will be called upon to ratify these new bylaws at our 08 December meeting. You will note, in Article X – Amendment of Bylaws, that you have the opportunity to submit a written proxy if you cannot attend that meeting. (As a point of interest, the opportunity to utilize proxies was not available in the 1980 Bylaws.) Therefore, if you cannot participate in voting at that meeting, please mail or e-mail your proxy to the TARC Secretary, Jack Sproat-W4JS at w4js@juno.com.

-- MATURE MEDITATIONS --

-o- *I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.*

-o- *Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.*

-- NOVEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 10 November 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 a short business meeting, the program will be a discussion and (hopefully) demonstration of Mobile Ham Radio in the 1950's. It was a different ball game back then, so come, reminisce, or learn how it was back five decades ago.

-- TARC NET SCHEDULE --

The following schedule is provided by the TARC Net Manager, Bob Murphy-WA1UHG:

| | | |
|--------|-----|------------------|
| 01 Nov | (s) | Jack-W4JS |
| 03 Nov | (r) | Jack-W4JS |
| 08 Nov | (s) | Bob-WA1UHG |
| 10 Nov | | Meeting – No Net |
| 15 Nov | (s) | Marty-N4FA |
| 17 Nov | (r) | Charlie-W4DB |
| 22 Nov | (s) | Jack-W4JS |
| 24 Nov | (r) | Jack-W4JS |
| 29 Nov | (s) | Bob-WA1UHG |
| 01 Dec | (r) | Jack-W4JS |
| 06 Dec | (s) | Jack-W4JS |
| 08 Dec | | Meeting – No Net |
| 13 Dec | (s) | Marty-N4FA |
| 15 Dec | (r) | Charlie-W4DB |
| 20 Dec | (s) | Jack-W4JS |
| 22 Dec | (r) | Jack-W4JS |
| 27 Dec | (s) | Bob-WA1UHG |
| 29 Dec | (r) | Charlie-W4DB |

Note the following:

(r) = 146.805 W4AC Repeater; (s) = 146.58 Simplex

Remember to check into our twice weekly nets at 7:30 PM, so we know you're alive and kicking. Our Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG sure would appreciate your assistance as a Net Control Station. Several of our former NCSs have moved from the area, so your help, filling in the gaps, would be appreciated. Give Bob a call and, at the same time, show your support of the TARC. These are your nets, and the TARC is your club.

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TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

13 October 2005

Vice-President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and the pledge of allegiance was recited. Introductions were made all around, and Dave Gater-WD4MWR and Jim La-course of Venice were recognized as visitors.

MINUTES – Peter Pesa-N4RD moved that the minutes of the 08 September 2005 meeting be accepted as published in the October issue of *The Communicator*, seconded by Blake Hudson-KE4SGK, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported receipt of a letter from Jay Garlitz-AA4FL, reminding Florida clubs of the existence of the Gator Amateur Radio Club at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and asking that we spread the word about their club station W4DFU to any potential UF students.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 08 September starting balance was \$4933.37. Receipts were \$10.00 from the September 50/50 drawing and \$8.00 dues from Frank Arona-W8FAA (now K4FEA). Expenses were \$20.38 for newsletter postage and printing, \$55.75 for members' badges, and \$4.70 for door prize tickets. The 13 October ending balance is \$4870.54. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing to report.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS commented there were not candidates at the 08 October VE session, however, he has received a query regarding the November session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that the W4AC Repeater is operating properly.

PACKET/GATEWAY – Bob Avrutik-N1RA reported that Stew Haag-W4MO is setting up a computer and 2-meter station for this facility. Stew remarked that he has WinLink now set up on the equipment.

CLUB PROPERTY – Committee Chairman Charlie Covell-W4DB offered updated copies of the TARC equipment list, commenting that a number of the minor or obsolete items had been disposed of.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Jack-W4JS relayed an appeal from Diana Gregory-KI4GRF for TARC volunteers to be models for photos in the proposed club brochure. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW stated that he had photos of young visitors to his shack operating during several special events, and that he would forward these photos for possible use.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR – Chairman Peter Pesa-N4RD reported he had been in contact with representatives of the Diocese Amateur Radio Net (DARN), with the prospect of our contributing assistance to that group. Pete then remarked about the EARS losing its repeater site and suggested that TARC consider cooperating with EARS to put repeater antennas on the WENG tower. Discussions followed of the pros and cons of that site, with no conclusion being reached.

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

LIAISON TO EARS – Englewood ARS president, Marty Horowitz-N4FA detailed the history of the EARS repeater, and that the River Road site had been sold to owners who do not want the repeater to occupy any space in the building. Again, some options of cooperation between TARC and EARS ensued, with no outcome. Jack-W4JS said he would try to contact the new owners, as he knew them from when they built his home.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that eleven Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 05 October lunch/meeting at Denny's up in Sarasota. There was no formal program, with attendees just commenting on their activities during the summer months.

CLUB HISTORIAN – This position remains vacant, with the items being stored at the home of Jack-W4JS.

OLD BUSINESS – Marty-N4FA reminded all that the TARC Christmas Party will be held 10 December at the Boca Royale Country Club in Englewood.

NEW BUSINESS – Konrad-WA3RRS asked for volunteers to put on programs at future meetings, however, no offers were forthcoming.

Konrad advised that the TARC Bylaws had been revised to be more in keeping with the present day, and that copies of the revised Bylaws would be sent to all members with the November newsletter, for their review prior to ratification at the December meeting.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS – Konrad-WA3RRS reminded all to support our web site by submitting personal information, photos, suitable articles, etc. to Webmaster John Fyke-VE6AIV. Konrad also reminded all of our TARC nets and breakfasts, and of the daily Snowbird nets on 20 and 40 meters.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM was made by Charlie Covell-W4DB, seconded by Rick Morandi-KA4RMO, and passed. There were 16 members and 2 visitors present.

See **MINUTES**, page 5

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CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION FORECASTS

| CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------|----|
| COUNTRY – CALL SIGN | ACTIVITY PERIOD | BEARING | HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES | | | | | | | |
| | | | 80 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 12 | 10 |
| Ascension Is – ZD8I | Now Active | 108 | 22-07 | 21-09 | 19-23 | 14-21 | 15-20 | 15-20 | NO | NO |
| Antarctica – VU3BPZ | Now to March | 180 | -- | -- | -- | 21-24 | -- | NO | -- | -- |
| Jan Mayen – JX9NOA | Active ASAP | 21 | 21-12 | 09-18 | 13-17 | 14-16 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Egypt – SU8BHI | Now to 31 Dec | 54 | 22-05 | 20-07 | 17-23 | 14-17 | 15-17 | 15-17 | NO | NO |
| Christmas Is – VK9XG | Now to 07 Nov | 334 | 11-12 | 10-13 | 12-14 | 14-17 | 15-17 | NO | NO | NO |
| Cambodia – XU7TAS | Now to 10 Nov | 349 | 11-12 | 10-13 | 13-14 | 14-18 | 15-18 | 16-17 | NO | NO |
| Norfolk Is – VK9BRW | 02 – 09 Nov | 250 | 07-12 | 05-13 | 07-14 | 17-19 | 14-15 | 20-23 | 2200 | NO |
| Samoa – 5W??? | 04 – 07 Nov | 257 | 05-12 | 03-14 | 08-14 | 17-24 | 18-22 | 18-21 | 19-20 | NO |
| Temotu – H40??? | 05 – 11 Nov | 270 | 06-12 | 05-14 | 13-15 | 18-23 | 19-22 | 19-22 | 2030 | NO |
| Palmyra IS – KH5/KH7U | 05 – 19 Nov | 267 | 04-12 | 03-14 | 06-10 | 17-23 | 18-21 | 18-21 | 18-19 | NO |
| Central African Republic – TL??? | 06 – 30 Nov | 79 | 22-05 | 20-06 | 18-23 | 14-21 | 15-19 | 15-19 | NO | NO |
| Cocos Keeling – VK9CG | 07 – 21 Nov | 3 | 2300 | 11-14 | 14-23 | 15-18 | 15-17 | NO | NO | NO |
| Mayotte – TX0P | 09 Nov – 07 Dec | 85 | 22-03 | 21-04 | 19-23 | 15-21 | 16-19 | 15-19 | NO | NO |
| Seychelles – S79WU | 11 Nov – 02 Dec | 68 | 22-03 | 21-03 | 19-22 | 14-20 | 15-18 | 15-19 | NO | NO |
| Micronesia – V6A | 14 – 19 Nov | 293 | 07-13 | 05-14 | 13-16 | 14-16 | 15-16 | 2000 | NO | NO |
| Malyj Vysotskij Is – R1MVW | 17 – 28 Nov | 28 | 22-11 | 23-14 | 13-15 | 1400 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Bhutan – A52/F2VX | 18 Nov – 03 Dec | 8 | 22-01 | 21-24 | 14-21 | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Sri Lanka – 4S7PAG | 28 Nov – 16 Dec | 28 | 22-01 | 21-24 | 14-22 | 14-20 | 16-19 | 16-19 | NO | NO |
| Thailand – HS0ZFI | 05 – 31 Dec | 356 | 11-12 | 12-14 | 14-15 | 15-18 | 15-18 | NO | NO | NO |

Updated 30 October 2005, based on 26 October 2005 *QRZ DX*, 24 October 2005 *The Weekly DX*, and *DX Alert Issue 240*

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/qs1.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index vary in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

-- OCTOBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During October, the Solar Flux ranged from 72 up to 83, with a mean value of 76.6 (vs. 105.8 for October 2004 and 153.1 for October 2003). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 28 days.

The relative stability of the HF bands during October was a refreshing change from the rather wild conditions of September. While there were days when no sunspots were visible, the general absence of geomagnetic disturbances made for good propagation on 17 meters and lower frequencies. Sporadic-E provided some 10-meter openings into the southern hemisphere.

-- NOVEMBER PROPAGATION --

During November, solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. No greater than 10 MeV proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 05-11 and 16-17 November.

The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to minor storm levels. Unsettled to minor storm levels are possible on 04 November due to a recurrent coronal hole high speed wind stream. Otherwise, expect quiet to unsettled conditions.

The Solar Flux should range from 75 to 80 during November. The best propagation periods during November should occur from 01 to 09 and from 27 to 30 November.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 25 October 2005 and NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 25 October 2005)

-- ALL ABOARD WITH NIRA --

Marie and Bob Avrutik-N1RA are heading for the high seas once again! They will depart Dubai, United Arab Emirates 10 April 2006, with stops in Oman; Luxor and Alexandria, Egypt; Libya; and arrival in Rome on 24 April. Undoubtedly, Bob will be operating maritime mobile while in international waters. Details will be forthcoming just prior to their cruise date.

-- MORSE CODE TUTOR --

Sigurd Stenersen-LB3KB has created a computer program that makes it easy to learn the Morse code. The program can be downloaded from <http://justlearnmorsecode.com>. Sigurd states this is his contribution to the continued use of Morse code. You can contact Sigurd at sigurds@utvikling.com.

--NOT PLAIN VANILLA DX --

The above table shows some of the rarer DX that is soon to be on the bands. JX-Jan Mayen hasn't been on since 2002, however, propagation will be marginal at this time. The R1M-Malyj Vysotskij Island operation will be running high power to good antennas, so signals may be better than forecast. Both VK9X-Christmas Island and VK9C-Cocos-Keeling Islands are good catches, and appear workable. A5-Bhutan is on more than it was back 20 years ago, but propagation isn't that great in this stage of Cycle 23.

3Y-Peter I will be coming on February 2006 and the FR-Glorioso Island DXpedition is not scheduled for around April 2006—after the typhoon season in the Indian Ocean.

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

| Contest/Special Event | Begin-End Times/Dates | Bands/Modes | QSO With | Exchange |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| ARRL November Sweepstakes | 2100Z 05 Nov 0300Z 07 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters CW Only | Stations in Canada and USA | Serial #, Power Cat., Yr. Lic'nd |
| High Speed Club CW Contest | 0900Z 06 Nov 1700Z 06 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters CW Only | HSC Members Anywhere | R/S/T, HSC #, or "NM" |
| Ukrainian DX Contest | 1200Z 05 Nov 1200Z 06 Nov | 160 - 10 Meters CW/SSB/RTTY | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/(T) + Serial No. |
| Japan International DX Contest | 0700Z 12 Nov 1300Z 13 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters Phone Only | Stations in Japan | R/S + CQ Zone |
| Worked All Europe DX Contest | 0000Z 12 Nov 2359Z 13 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only | European Countries Only | R/S/T + Serial No. |
| OK/OM DX Contest | 1200Z 12 Nov 1200Z 13 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters CW Only | Czech and Slovak Stations Only | R/S/T + Serial No. |
| ARRL November Sweepstakes | 2100Z 19 Nov 0300Z 21 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters Phone Only | Stations in Canada and USA | Serial #, Power Cat., Yr. Lic'nd |
| Bulgarian DX Contest | 1200Z 19 Nov 1200Z 20 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters Phone & CW | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/(T) + ITU Zone |
| CQ World Wide DX Contest | 0000Z 26 Nov 2400Z 27 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters CW Only | Anyone, Anywhere (State-side QSOs for Zone Only) | R/S/T + CQ Zone |

From November 2005 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

-- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 05 Nov Titusville Hamfest at DAV Chapter 109, 435 Singleton Ave. TI: 145.490 (PL 100); Info: Bob-N6USP, n6usp@gnc.net
- 12 Nov FREE Hamfest at 311 Missouri Ave. N., Largo. Info: Len-K4BDP, 727-585-4736
- 26 Nov Okeechobee ARC Hamfest at the Agriculture Grounds, US 441 N and 23rd St., Okeechobee. TI: 147.09 (PL 100); Info: Harry-KF4KDO, 863-467-7454

(From <http://bellsouthpwp.net/k/kb4vol>, the Web site of Bill Britton-KB4VOL and November 2005 *QST*)

-- GEOCODER --

Bernie Holtman-W4GO informs us of an Internet site where you can find your latitude and longitude with a minimum of effort. Go to <http://geocoder.us/> and type in your street address, town, state and zip code. Click the prompt and it will give you the latitude and longitude in degrees out to six decimal places. (*Your editor compared the results of this modern way versus when he scaled his QTH off a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle. The two methods agreed within one second, or about 100 feet. Close enough for beam headings!*)

"Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?"

-- TARC CHRISTMAS PARTY --

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Boca Royale Golf and Country Club, 1601 Englewood Road (just south of the Englewood Isles Parkway traffic light), on Saturday 10 December 2005. Festivities start at 6:00 PM. We have the private "Green Room" which seats 50 people very comfortably, and provides for dancing. The all-inclusive price is \$27 per person.

We will start with hors d'oeuvres of:

- Cheese, Fruit and Crackers
- Swedish Meatballs
- Shrimp Spring Rolls

Dinner Entrees are served with Salad, fresh Baked Rolls and Butter, Vegetable and Potato or Rice, and are:

- Prime Rib of Beef
- Pork Chop
- Chicken Marsala
- Salmon

Dessert: Ice Cream Sundae

Beverages: Coffee, Hot and Iced Tea

TARC members, family and friends are invited. Please send your reservations with dinner selection(s) to:

- Don Gray-WD7A
- 761 Mangrove Road
- Venice, FL 34293

before 01 December. Come out and support our club. It should be a fun time!!

-- FAR SCHOLARSHIPS --

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, DC, plans to administer fifty-four (54) scholarships for the academic years 2006-2007 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three (3) of these scholarships. Ten (10) are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-one (41) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, **Florida**, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to 30 April 2006 from:

FAR Scholarships
P. O. Box 831
Riverdale, MD 30738

The FAR, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

(01 November 2005 FAR News Release)

-- DECLINING ARRL MEMBERSHIP --

Along with the decline in Amateur Radio licensees, membership in the ARRL also continues to decline. Based on the number of licensees and ARRL member/subscribers to *QST* (September data for each year), the following is evident:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Licensees</u> | <u>ARRL Members</u> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2001 | 682,933 | 130,825 |
| 2002 | 680,698 | 128,446 |
| 2005 | 662,867 | 118,695 |

Although ARRL membership figures are for both US and foreign amateurs, it can be seen that while the ARRL represented 19.15% of the US amateurs in 2001, it only represents 17.9% of the current US amateur population.

(From "Ham Radio Demographics," *The Communicator*, November 2002 and "Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation," November 2005 *QST*)

-- INDOOR STEALTH ANTENNAS --

(The following comes from the "Aerials" column written by Kurt N. Sterba, November 2005 WorldRadio.)

An octogenarian ham moved into a retirement home where antennas are prohibited, and he inquired about using either the MFJ 15-40 Meter Loop or the Isotron 80/40 Meter combo. Kurt's comments:

The 36" diameter MFJ loop has a radiation resistance of 0.005 ohms on 40 meters. To get any reasonable efficiency the resistance of the loop and its tuning capacitor must be very low. The loop is made of 1" tubing, the capacitor is the butterfly type and all parts are welded. While of good design, the efficiency probably is not great on this band. An efficient loop has a very narrow bandwidth, so retuning will be required with even a small frequency change. Loops do work well when low to the ground and they are more insensitive to their surroundings than ordinary antennas.

The Isotron is a very tiny antenna that appears to be a tuned circuit put up in the air with capacitive loading top and bottom. The 40-meter version was tested by ARRL a few years back, with some interesting results. The Isotron had a bandwidth of 100 kHz, causing the testers to remark that, "A wide bandwidth on an antenna this small suggests a lossy system."

Kurt ran some simple calculations based on figures in W4RNL's great antenna website www.cebik.com. A 40-meter dipole will have a bandwidth of about 400 kHz. A smaller antenna will have a bandwidth reduced proportional to its size. A dipole is 66' flong and the 40-meter Isotron is 22" high. This predicts a bandwidth of about 11 kHz. Instead the Isotron had 100 kHz bandwidth. The difference is explained by losses. Small antennas, if highly efficient, have very narrow bandwidths; wide bandwidth means losses. Comparison at ARRL showed the Isotron to be about 2 S-units lower in output than a dipole. So, you won't get out with it as well as you would with a full sized dipole. But, you will get out.

An alternative is to buy a tuner and use it to tune hidden wire antennas or existing pieces of metal. Or, you can put up "invisible" outdoor antennas.

MINUTES, from page 2

PROGRAM – Stew-Haag-W4MO gave a comprehensive discussion and demonstration of the use of the EchoLink mode on our W4AC repeater.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- MATURE MEDITATION --

"The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement."