



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://tamamiarc.tripod.com>

W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- NOVEMBER 2006 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

We had a very good turnout of 15 Club members for our first TARC Friday breakfast at Denny's on 20 October. Our honorable TARC Vice President, Matt Klapp-W2EQV, and his wife Joy-N2WUD, recently back from their summer in upstate New York, were there, along with several other returning members. The food and service at Denny's was excellent, and we will be getting a separate dining area for future breakfasts.

The WA3RRS household is nearly completely unpacked at our new Venice location, and we are enjoying the beautiful natural wetlands behind our home. There are lots of birds to watch and, we understand, a 14-foot alligator shows up occasionally. Apparently the latter prefers to sun himself (herself?) on the opposite side of the preserve, which suits us just fine. A good instance when distance makes good neighbors.

I would like to remind our members of our two weekly nets on two meters. Participation in these nets has been quite meager during the past months, even though many members are permanent residents. These nets are useful, as they can confirm how well your equipment is working, and the simplex net often shows interesting regional propagation conditions. So, try to keep some time free for these nets. TNX!

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

-- TARC WEEKLY NETS --

The TARC Simplex Net meets every Tuesday at 7:30 PM on 146.580 MHz; the TARC Net is held every Thursday, except on meeting dates, at 7:30 PM on our 146.805 W4AC Repeater (- 600 Hz offset and 100 Hz PL tone required). In addition, the Snowbird Net meets daily on 14.278 MHz @ 10 AM, and on 7.230 MHz @ 7 PM.

-- UPCOMING DARN ACTIVITY --

The Diocese Amateur Radio Network (DARN) will conduct communications exercises at 11 AM and 7:30 PM on 14 November, and TARC members are encouraged to check in when prompted by the Net Control. As DARN makes use of our W4AC Repeater during these exercises, please avoid use of EchoLink during the exercise period. Thanks!

-- NOVEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 09 November 2006 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. After the business meeting, a video of the 1996 ZL8RI Kermadec Islands DXpedition will be shown. Come out and show support of your club.

-- U. S. LICENSING DATA UPDATE --

Both the number of radio amateurs holding US licenses, and ARRL membership, continues to decline. Based on data (September license figures for each year) from the web site of Joe Speroni-AH0A, <http://www.speroni.com>, and the annual "Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation" for QST subscribers, the following is evident:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Licensees</u>	<u>ARRL Members</u>
2001	682,933	130,825
2002	683,257	128,446
2005	663,888	116,695
2006	656,727	115,828

In contrast, the licensing data for Japan reveal growth in amateur radio. In March 2006, there were 3,192,744 amateur radio operator licenses in Japan. However, this humongous figure must be tempered by the fact that if an individual was tested for each of the four license classes, all of those licenses are still in effect. Furthermore, the operator license is life-long, so there are no data as to whether the licensee is still living. A better indicator, therefore, is the fact that, in March 2006, there were 555,351 amateur radio station licenses in Japan. These licenses cost \$120 for the initial fee and \$28 every five years for renewal.

In the US of A, there is one radio amateur for every 457 persons; in Japan, there is one ham for every 230 persons—about a 2:1 ratio in favor of the Japanese. The inherent interests in engineering and the sciences by the Japanese is undoubtedly a basis for this significant disparity in amateur radio interests.

"I intend to live forever.....so far, so good."

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

12 October 2006

Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Special recognition was given to West Central Florida Section Manager Dee Turner-N4GD, and Jeff Leary-KI4QFP of North Port and his nephew Richie DeVito-KI4QIA of Venice were welcomed as visitors. Introductions were made all around.

MINUTES – Peter Pesa-N4RD moved that the minutes of the 14 September 2006 meeting be accepted as published in the October 2006 issue of *The Communicator*, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack-W4JS announced receipt of several items of interest, including:

- o 14-15 October Melbourne Hamfest flier
- o “Thank You” note from Diana-KI4GRF, regarding loan of the Kenwood TS-140S
- o ARRL Bulletin 19, announcing the 04 October adoption of the Amateur Radio “Omnibus” docket 04-140. Jack briefly summarized the high points of this docket, and invited Dee Turner-N4GD to add any comments. Dee expanded on some topics, and then brought everyone up to date on the Tampa Bay Hamfest to be held 02-03 December at the Convention Center in Palmetto. Dee left 25 tickets for advance sale at \$6.00 each.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 14 September starting balance was \$4278.76. Receipts were \$14.00 from the September 50/50 drawing. Expenses were \$41.00 for one month’s Internet service at the W4AC Repeater site and \$3.85 for printing, totaling \$44.85. The ending balance is \$4247.91. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed. Don commented that he has submitted our tax-exempt status documentation to the Internet provider, but they have not yet ceased charging that expense.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – No news of any illnesses.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported at least one candidate for the 14 October VE session, at which time Jack Schoenthaler stated he also planned to attend to take the General written exam.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that our W4AC Repeater is operating satisfactorily.

CLUB PROPERTY – Jack advised that the club’s IC-725, which had been on loan to Hal Cole-W4GUY, has been returned. If no member wants to borrow it, this transceiver and power supply will be put up for sale at the Tampa Bay Hamfest.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-WD7A reported we now have 80 members, including three Life Members and 14 first-year-free members.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR – Peter Pesa-N4RD advised that he had received an e-mail from our Web Master John Fyke-VE6AIV, requesting some improvement in the write up now on our site regarding the DARN. Bob Sullenberger-KG4VDU, DARN Coordinator, responded that he would prepare an expanded write up.

NET OPERATIONS – Jack commented that the turnout for our two 2-meter nets has been very low lately. Jack then reminded all of the Tuesday and Thursday night nets.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF reported significant progress. John Watson-KI4QOG stated that one of the teachers at Pine View School held an Amateur Radio license at one time, and that she is willing to be examined for a new license and serve as custodian for a school club station, and to sponsor a school amateur radio club. John is well acquainted with the procedures required to establish a club at Pine View. Diana reported that the pastor at the First Baptist Church of Englewood is quite enthused about amateur radio and that a station could be set up in a secure location on the church property. Stew Haag-W4MO offered to provide a Cushcraft R-5 vertical antenna for the station. Diana has also located a suitable site in the Venice industrial park area where Morse code classes and other training could be conducted. Diana will not, however, initiate such training unless there are at least 10 students involved.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack reported that 19 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 04 October luncheon meetings at Denny’s on Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota.

OLD BUSINESS – Jack asked if those who received the ICOM and Kenwood transceivers on loan needed any assistance with setting up and using the equipment. Jeff Watson-W9NYX has the ICOM operating, and has made some DX contacts. Diana-KI4GRF stated that she can use some help setting up the Kenwood at the Baptist Church.

NEW BUSINESS – Jack related the fact that attendance at Mel’s for our Friday breakfasts has declined considerably. Consequently, at the 10 October officers’ meeting, Bob Avrutik-N1RA offered to see if the Venice Denny’s could accommodate our group and Stew-W4MO would inquire at Peach’s, where we now have our Tuesday breakfasts. Bob found Denny’s quite willing, but Peach’s declined to accommodate us. Peter-N4RD moved that we relocate to the Venice Denny’s, seconded by Bob-N1RA, and passed.

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
Revilla Gigedo – XF4DL	Now to 03 Nov	259	23-13	00-24	14-00	15-22	16-21	17-20	NO	--
Annobon Is – 3C0M	Now to 03 Nov	92	22-06	20-07	19-23	14-21	16-18	16-18	NO	NO
French Polynesia – FO/F5JFU	Now to 19 Nov	243	03-12	02-14	06-15	16-23	17-20	18-21	NO	NO
Cocos Keeling Is – VK9CGC	Now to 20 Nov	3	2300	22-23	21-23	15-18	15-17	NO	NO	NO
Chad – TT8PK	Now to 20 Nov	73	22-06	20-07	18-23	14-20	16-18	16-18	NO	NO
Micronesia – V63JQ, JY, OP and VE	01 – 15 Nov	293	07-13	06-14	13-16	19-22	20-21	2000	NO	NO
Tonga – A35AX	02 – 14 Nov	253	05-12	04-14	06-15	18-23	18-22	19-21	19-21	NO
North Cook Is – E5???	04 – 18 Nov	255	04-13	02-13	04-13	16-23	17-22	18-20	18-20	NO
Northern Mariana Is – KH0???	10 – 16 Nov	306	07-13	06-14	13-16	20-22	21-22	NO	NO	NO
Libya – 5A7A	15 – 19 Nov	60	22-06	19-08	16-23	14-18	15-17	15-17	NO	NO
South Cook Is – E5???	18 – 28 Nov	246	04-13	03-14	13-15	17-22	18-21	18-21	2000	NO
Lakshadweep Is – VU7RG	01 – 10 Dec	36	22-02	21-23	20-21	15-19	15-18	NO	NO	NO
Lakshadweep Is – VU7LD	01 – 31 Dec	36	22-02	21-23	19-22	14-20	15-18	16-19	NO	NO

Updated 26 October 2006, based on 25 October 2006 *QRZ DX*, 23 October 2006 *The Weekly DX*, and *K1XN's DX Alert 610-C*

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 varied in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

-- OCTOBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During October, the Solar Flux ranged from 70 up to 78, with a mean value of 74.2 (vs. 76.6 for October 2005 and 105.8 for October 2004). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 21 days.

There were several days during October when the geomagnetic field ranged from disturbed to minor storm levels. During the third week of October there were no visible sunspots. Space weather was rather well as forecast, and propagation conditions were generally favorable during the month.

-- NOVEMBER PROPAGATION --

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

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 28 October-03 November, and on 10-20 November.

The geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels for the majority of the period. Recurrent coronal hole wind streams are expected to rotate into geoeffective positions on 09-10 November and again on 17 November. Unsettled to minor storm periods are possible on those dates. The Solar Flux should range from 70 to 75 during November.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 24 October 2006 and NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 24 October 2006.)

-- "LAKSHADWEEP MONTH" --

Of the 337 DXCC entities, the Lakshadweep Islands rank as the Second Most Needed. Two operations will take place during December. QSL VU7LD via W3HNK; VU7RG via N2OO, if you work either or both operations. Good Luck!

-- DRESDEN CLUB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY --



It was 50 years ago when seven German hams founded DM3KML, the first Club Station at the Dresden Technical University. In following years, some 150 students got their licenses at four additional club stations at the university: DM3ML/Y41ZL, DM3VL/Y48ZL, DM3XL/Y51ZL and DM4SL/Y67ZL. All rigs had to be scratch-built by these hams back in that era. Now, club station DL0TUD, located in the Barkhausen Building (shown in the QSL) serves the University students who have ham licenses. On 13 October, the club members celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

For contests, the club uses their DM7A call sign and is QRV from HF up through 47 GHz and by laser. As Dresden is located in a valley, DM7A operates portable in the GHz contests from a mountain in the Erzgebirge range, some 100 km (60 mi.) from Dresden at an elevation of 1200 meters (3900') ASL.

(Courtesy of Uli-DL2DYL and Hen-DL2DSD. See photo on page 4.)

"Half the people you know are below average."

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
ARRL November Sweepstakes	2100Z 04 Nov 0300Z 06 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in US of A and Canada	Ser.#, Pwr. Class, Call, Yr. 1 st Licen.
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z 05 Nov 1700Z 05 Nov	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	HSCW Club members; no operating 1100Z-1459Z	R/S/T, HSC#, or “NM”
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z 04 Nov 1200Z 05 Nov	160 – 10 Meters Phone, CW, RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + Serial Number
Japan International DX Contest	0700Z 11 Nov 1300Z 13 Nov	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Japanese Stations Only	R/S + CQ Zone (5 for Florida)
Worked All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 11 Nov 2359Z 12 Nov	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	European Countries Only	R/S/T + Serial Number
OK/OM DX Contest	1200Z 11 Nov 1200Z 12 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Czech and Slovak Stations Only	R/S/T + Serial Number
ARRL November Sweepstakes	2100Z 18 Nov 0300Z 20 Nov	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in US of A and Canada	Ser.#, Pwr. Class, Call, Yr. 1 st Licen.
Bulgarian DX Contest	1200Z 18 Nov 1200Z 19 Nov	80 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/(T) + ITU Zone (8 for Fla)
CQ World Wide DX Contest	0000Z 25 Nov 2400Z 26 Nov	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	DXCC Entities	R/S/T + CQ Zone (5 for Fla)

From November 2006 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

-- SWINGIN' IN THE TALL COTTON --



So, how do you make repairs on a homebrew wide spaced 2-element 40- and 17-meter beam up some 85 feet? When the truss cable loosened on his beam, Steve Frobese-WB4UKL hired a local crane service and called his buddy Charlie Flanagan-KB8ORD to come down from Lake City. Here's Charlie reaching up toward the clouds. The lower beam is a homebrew tri-band, with 6 elements on 10 meters and 5 elements on 15 and 20 meters—on a 36-foot boom.

The upper right photo shows the equipment that drives RF up to the above antennas. Steve runs a Yaesu FT1000MP Mark V. Since this photo was taken, Steve has added two amplifiers, a Henry 3K and a Command Technology 2500. Way to go!

“A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.”

-- THE STATION AT WB4UKL --



-- “HALLO” FROM GERMANY --



Martin Zippe-AF4ID/DJ6OM's good friends, “Uli” Ulride-DL2DYL and “Hen” Henning-DL2DSD.

MINUTES

From page 2

Jack announced that both Bob-N1RA and Stew-W4MO were inviting members to come to their respective homes for demonstrations of the alternative ham radio modes, such as PSK31, RTTY, SDR and remote controlled radio. A show of hands by those present indicated about six members were interested. Contact information for both Bob and Stew was then given.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:44 PM was made by Charlie-W4DB, seconded by Jeff-W9NYX, and passed. There were 15 members and two visitors present.

PROGRAM – Jack-W4JS offered a program on “Making Use of the Magic Numbers,” i.e., better understanding and using the NOAA solar weather data such as Solar Flux Index, A-index and K-index.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- ITU MARKS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY --

This year marks the 100th anniversary of what became the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations. In November 1906 the first International Radiotelegraph Conference convened in Berlin, Germany. The 29 maritime nations which attended signed the “International Radiotelegraph Convention,” establishing the principle of compulsory two-way ship-to-shore communication and to keep the airwaves free from harmful interference. The annex to that convention contained the first regulations governing wireless telegraphy. Since expanded and revised via numerous conferences, these regulations are now known as the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union, or simply as “the Radio Regulations.”

Originally consisting of just 12 pages, the Radio Regulations—now a binding international treaty—now apply to frequencies ranging from 9 kHz to 400 GHz and incorporate more than 1000 pages describing how the radio spectrum may be used and shared around the world. Some 40 different radio services now compete for spectrum allocations to provide the bandwidth needed to extend services or support larger numbers of users.

As International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary Dave Sumner-K1ZZ stated, “Without the original guiding vision and the dedicated stewardship of subsequent generations of delegates to innumerable ITU conferences, the radio spectrum today might well be chaotic, polluted, and practically useless.”

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 25, No.42.)

-- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 04 Nov Titusville Hamfest at the DAV, 435 Singleton Ave., Titusville. TI: 145.490 (PL 100), Info: Bob-N6USP, 321.264.2622
- 04 Nov Eustis Hamfest at the Senior Center, 301 West Ward, Eustis. TI: 147.255 (PL 103.5) Info: David-KR4OW, 352.357.3485
- 25 Nov Okeechobee ARC Hamfest at Okeechobee County Civic Center, 1750 US 98, 1.3 mi. north of SR70, Okeechobee. TI: 147.090 PL 100.0), Info: Tom-KK4TA, 863.357.0384
- 02-03 Dec Tampa Bay Hamfest at Manatee Civic Center, 1 Huben Blvd, Palmetto. TI: 145.190, Info: Jim-KG4JSZ, 863.422.0176
- 09 Dec Silver Springs RC Hamfest, Marion County Extension Complex, 2232 NE Jacksonville, Rd., Ocala. TI: 146.610 (PL 123.0), Info: Bill-N6WGM, 352.873.2017

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

-- ITEMS DESERVING YOUR ATTENTION --

Please take heed of the following items—all of which will keep Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A busy:

TARC Christmas Dinner – Mark 07 December on your calendars for this event.

Time – 6:00 – 6:30 PM: Attitude Adjustment w/ Cash Bar. Meals served at 6:30 PM
Menu – Prime Rib of Beef or Chicken Cordon Bleu. Appetizer/salad, beverage and dessert included.

Cost -- \$20/person, including tax and gratuity

Tampa Bay Hamfest – This Hamfest is the largest one in this area. Scheduled for 02-03 December at the Manatee Civic Center. Don-WD7A has tickets for \$6.00 (vs. \$8 at the door).

2007 TARC Dues – As of 01 November 2006, dues payments for 2007 will be accepted. Please complete a new Membership Application form and submit it with your dues payment. This will avoid any confusion regarding dues payment status, and it will also provide the officers with a better understanding of your interests in amateur radio and the TARC. A copy of the form accompanies this issue of *The Communicator* for your convenience.

-- OMNIBUS AMATEUR RADIO R&O --

Back in 2004, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which became known as the "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding. The FCC's Report and Order relative to this proceeding was released on 10 October 2006.

While over a dozen items were addressed in this R&O, the following are of most interest to the average operator:

- Expanded the 75-meter phone subband. Generals will be able to use phone from 3800-4000kHz, Advanced licensees can use phone from 3700-4000, and Amateur Extras can use phone from 3600-4000 kHz. *(Of note, the ARRL is bemoaning this 150 kHz expansion. The League only wanted a 25 kHz expansion, and it fears for the loss of exclusive CW frequencies. A review of 80-meter phone vs. CW activity, as reported in the last 16 issues of QRZ DX, shows that 1.81 DX phone stations [in the 10-kHz DX window] are reported for every single DX CW station [in the bottom 20 kHz of the band]—almost 2:1.)*
- On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class licensees can use phone from 7125-7300 kHz, and Generals can use phone from 7175-7300 kHz.
- On 15 meters, General Class licensees will have phone privileges from 21.275-21.450 MHz.
- Eliminated the restrictions on RF power amplifiers which currently prohibit those amplifiers from operating on the 12- and 10-meter bands. However, amplifier manufacturers must design their products to avoid operation from 26-28 MHz prior to a grant of equipment certification.
- Allowed Novice and Tech+ licensees to operate in the General Class CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.
- Revised the vanity call sign rules to discourage on person from filing multiple applications for the same call sign on the same day. If more than one application is received from the same person on the same day, the FCC will process only the first application entered into the Universal Licensing System and the other applications will be rejected.
- Permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam.
- Proof of an expired General, Advanced or Extra Class license may now be used for Element 1 (Morse exam) credit when presented at a VE test session. The FCC Rules will be amended to read: 97.505(a)(9) *An expired FCC-granted Technician Class operator document granted before February 14, 1991; an expired FCC-granted Technician Class operator license document*

granted after February 14, 1991 accompanied by documentation showing the examinee has passed a telegraphy examination; or an expired FCC-granted General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class operator license document: Element 1.

- Deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations.
- Permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2-meter band.
- Permitted amateurs to retransmit communications from the International Space Station.

All of the new rules will go into effect 30 days after they are published in the *Federal Register*. Publication date and effective date are not yet known.

This R&O does not include any action on the FCC's proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes. A R&O for that proceeding, which was filed in 2005, is still pending.

(From VE Express Newsletter, 17 October 2006, The ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 41, 13 October 2006, ARRL Bulletin 19, 12 October 2006)

-- DEDICATED REMOTE RADIO FAN --



Bob Preston-N4CTC is a dedicated user of the remote radio installed at our W4AC Repeater site. As Bob states, "For those of us who are ANTENNALLY CHALLENGED by association restrictions, this is how we are big gunners on the bands. Radio and antenna located on River Road.....and operating position wherever my laptop or desktop computer alights. This is the QTH in Littleton, CO." Digipan is a free program and very easy and effective to use, but it has no CW capability. So, Bob uses Skype for the audio link, and MixW software for CW, PSK, RTTY, and other digital modes.

Bob adds, "It is truly a marvel to be able to continue to communicate with old friends, with the *minor* handicap of no radio or antenna. THANKS, STEW!!"

"OK, so what's the speed of dark?"