



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 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- NOVEMBER 2007 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Signs of Halloween are all around us now—in the neighborhoods and, of course, in the merchandise emporiums. Here on our street we have huge glowing monsters, spider webs, and lots of pumpkins. At the WA3RRS QTH, we take advantage of the season by buying small pumpkins to eat. Tired of pumpkin pie? Well, probably not, but, for another treat, try pumpkin hunter style—an Italian favorite. Peel and cut up a small pumpkin into one-inch square pieces. Sauté slowly for about 20 minutes in olive oil seasoned with salt, pepper and rosemary. It's really quite good.

More TARC members are arriving from the North. At the October 26 breakfast, it was nice to welcome back John Donnelly-KY4JD and Roger Schmitt-WB4HDW from Kentucky. Mary Elizabeth and Bernie Holtman-W4GO are due in by month's end, and others will be following.

In mid-October, Bob Preston-N4CTC was also with us for a few days, and he picked up the check for the Friday breakfast!! He's already experienced 4 inches of snow at his Colorado QTH, so he's looking forward to spending more time in subtropical Venice in the future.

I'll soon be spending a little time with family out in New Mexico, where I hope it will be warm. I expect that Vice President Matt Klapp-W2EQV will be presiding over our next meeting in my absence.

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

-- NOVEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 08 November 2007 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 the business meeting, West Central Florida Section Manager Dee Turner-N4GD will bring us up to date on matters of interest in the WCF Section and the ARRL. So, come on out and show your interest in our Club and our Section.

None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free. – J. W. Von Goethe

-- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 03 Nov Lake ARA Hamfest, Eustis Senior Center, 301 W. Ward Ave., Eustis. TI: 147.255 PL 103.5, Info: David KR4OW 352-551-4043
- 10 Nov Free Hamfest at Chester's Electronics, 311 Missouri Ave. N., Largo. Info: 727-585-4736
- 24 Nov Okeechobee ARC Hamfest at Freedom Ranch, 11655 US 41/98, SE, Okeechobee. TI: 147.090 (PL 100), Info: Harry-KF4KDO, 863-467-7454
- 01-02 Dec Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council 32nd Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest and WCF Section Convention, Manatee Civic Center, US 301 and Harban Blvd. TI: 145.190, 146.955 (PL 100), Info: Jim-KG4JSZ, 863-422-0176

(From November *QST* and web site of Bill Britton KB4VOL)

--JOVIAL JOKESTERS --



It sure looks like Ron-K4AUX is getting a big kick from whatever Peter-N4RD and Marty-N4FA are telling him at the October meeting. Just more evidence that TARC meetings are very serious affairs!

To silence criticism is to silence freedom. – Sidney Hook, New York Times Magazine, 30 September 1951

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

11 October 2007

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. David Moyers-WD9ANK, of Floyds Knob, Tennessee, was welcomed as a visitor. Introductions were then made all around, and it was good to see Bob Preston-N4CTC back from Colorado on a short visit.

MINUTES – Konrad asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 13 September 2007 meeting as published in the October 2007 issue of *The Communicator*. Diana Gregory-KI4GRF so moved, seconded by Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported on three items of interest. Application was made on 05 October for authorization to use call sign K4S on 11-13 April 2008 from the Venice Sharks Tooth Festival, and this authorization was received 08 October from the ARRL/VEC. The reservation form for use of the study room at the Jacaranda Library for our monthly officers' meeting was received, completed and returned to the Library 10 October via mail. There has been an exchange of e-mail with Newport Offices, Inc., regarding installation of a LPG storage tank at the repeater site.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 13 September starting balance was \$3904.35. Receipts were \$5.00 from the August 50/50 drawing, and \$15.00 from new member dues, totaling \$20.00. Expenses were \$15.86 for Internet service at the repeater and \$3.75 for newsletter printing, totaling \$19.61. The 11 October ending balance is \$3904.74. Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Jim LaCourse-K4IH, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – It was reported that Charlie Covell-W4DB has been checking into our weekly nets and is sounding good.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS stated that at least one candidate is expected at our 13 October VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that the EchoLink mode is now connected directly to the computer at our repeater site, and that the identifier has been changed to "W4AC Link" and/or "W4AC-R." The interference that had been causing the cacophony of ringing sounds was traced to the sub audible tone on the output frequency being picked up by the receiver, and Stew has disabled that feature, eliminating the problem.

CLUB PROPERTY – Surplus, miscellaneous Club items are being taken over to the Melbourne Hamfest this Saturday for possible sale.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don Gray-WD7A reported that we now have 78 members. This includes five Life Members and six first year free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG reported on recent weekly net activity and asked for more members to volunteer as Net Control Stations. Konrad reminded all of our two weekly 2-meter nets, and our Tuesday and Friday breakfasts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF reported that she has been checking with the Venice Gondolier Sun with regard to the TARC biographical articles she had submitted, but has had no firm response to date.

LIAISON TO EARS – Marty Horowitz-N4FA reported that the EARS now has 68 members, and they are planning for their Christmas Party at the Boca Royale Country Club in Englewood.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that there were 14 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends at the Chapter's first luncheon/meeting of the 2007-2008 season on 03 October at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Jack invited anyone interested in the QCWA to attend these events the first Wednesday of each month.

OLD BUSINESS – Several pending items remain:

- Emergency Generator – Konrad reported that Calkins LP Gas Co. in Englewood has made the conversion from gasoline fuel to LPG fuel.
- Potential for Training at Pine View School – No follow up has been reported to date.

NEW BUSINESS – Konrad reminded all of our TARC Christmas Dinner, which is scheduled for 19 December at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant in Sarasota. It will be a buffet event at a cost of \$18 per person, which must be prepaid at the time reservation is made. Notice will be given in the November newsletter.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Bruce Brown-WA8IQF reported that he had recently demonstrated his mobile radio to several Scout leaders. There are two radio merit badges Scouts can attain, and these leaders will check with the regional council to determine if there would be enough interest such that TARC could possibly assist these Scouts.

Bob Avrutik-N1RA reported that he had received a copy of the current ARRL Repeater Directory, and that our W4AC Repeater is listed, albeit with the wrong PL Tone frequency. Bob advised that he could install the W4AC Packet Gateway Station at the repeater site, utilizing some 120' of existing coax on the tower, however, a decent antenna is needed. Bob recommended a 7 dBi Ringo Ranger, which

See MINUTES, page 4

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 |
| Falkland Is – VP8CXV | Now Active | 165 | 00-09 | 23-10 | 22-08 | 12-23 | 14-22 | 17-21 | 17-21 | NO |
| Egypt – SU8BHI | Now to 30 Nov | 54 | 22-05 | 19-07 | 18-23 | 13-17 | 15-17 | 15-17 | NO | NO |
| India – AT60MY | Now to 17 Nov | 19 | 22-01 | 22-01 | 12-13 | 13-17 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| ITU-Geneva – 4U1WRC | Now to 16 Nov | 47 | 22-08 | 20-09 | 12-18 | 14-17 | 14-16 | NO | NO | NO |
| Balearic Is – EA6/LU5FF | Now to 16 Nov | 55 | 21-08 | 18-08 | 12-19 | 14-18 | 15-17 | 16-17 | NO | NO |
| Afghanistan – T6EE | Now to 12 Nov | 26 | 22-03 | 21-02 | 21-00 | 13-14 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Cambodia – XU7MDY | Now to 12 Nov | 349 | 11-12 | 10-12 | 13-14 | 15-18 | 15-18 | NO | NO | NO |
| Malawi – 7Q7HB | Now to 10 Nov | 90 | 22-04 | 21-04 | 20-00 | 15-21 | 15-19 | 16-18 | 16-18 | NO |
| Laos – XW3DT | Now to 06 Nov | 353 | 11-12 | 10-13 | 23-00 | 13-20 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Malta – 9H3ML | 01 – 08 Nov | 55 | 21-07 | 18-08 | 16-18 | 13-18 | 15-17 | 15-17 | NO | NO |
| Syria – YK9SV | 01 – 12 Nov | 46 | 22-05 | 20-06 | 20-00 | 13-16 | 14-16 | NO | NO | NO |
| Norfolk Island – VK9ANH | 01 – 14 Nov | 250 | -- | 06-14 | 08-15 | 18-00 | 19-23 | 19-23 | NO | NO |
| Tonga – A35AX | 02 – 14 Nov | 253 | -- | 04-14 | 12-14 | 17-00 | 18-22 | 19-21 | 19-22 | 20-21 |
| Brunei – V8(various suffixes) | 04 – 18 Nov | 330 | 10-12 | 09-13 | 13-15 | 15-18 | 16-17 | NO | NO | NO |
| Mauritius – 3B8/SM7DKF | 08 – 24 Nov | 88 | 22-02 | 21-03 | 20-23 | 15-21 | 14-20 | 15-19 | 15-19 | NO |
| Egypt – SU0ARA | 10 – 18 Nov | 54 | 22-05 | 19-07 | 18-23 | 13-17 | 15-17 | 15-17 | NO | NO |
| Revilla Gigedo – XF4YK and 6E4LM | 15 Nov – 15 Dec | 259 | 22-14 | 00-24 | 14-23 | 15-21 | 16-20 | NO | NO | NO |
| Easter Island – CE0Y/OE2SNL | 16 – 25 Nov | 208 | 01-12 | 23-14 | 20-16 | 13-00 | 14-22 | 15-21 | 16-21 | 16-21 |
| San Andres Is – HK0/home calls | 19 – 27 Nov | 177 | 00-24 | 00-24 | 12-23 | 14-22 | 15-20 | 15-20 | NO | NO |
| Tunisia – 3V8SS ** | 19 Nov – 20 Dec | 57 | 21-08 | 20-00 | 16-19 | 13-18 | 15-17 | 15-16 | NO | NO |
| Uganda – 5X1NH | 21 – 30 Nov | 77 | 21-04 | 21-05 | 19-23 | 13-21 | 14-19 | 15-18 | 15-18 | NO |
| Indonesia – YB1AQB | 25 Nov – 15 Dec | 327 | 10-13 | 09-14 | 13-14 | 15-19 | 16-19 | 16-19 | NO | NO |
| Mozambique – C91KDJ ** | 29 Nov – 10 Dec | 101 | 22-04 | 21-05 | 20-23 | 13-21 | 14-19 | 15-19 | 15-19 | NO |
| The Gambia – C56JJ | 30 Nov – 07 Dec | 88 | 21-09 | 19-09 | 12-23 | 13-21 | 15-19 | 16-18 | 16-18 | NO |

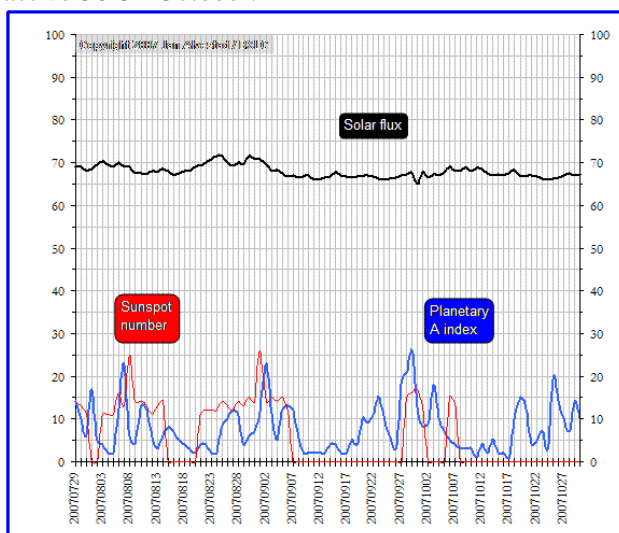
Updated 31 October 2007, based on 31 October 2007 *QRZ DX*, 29 October 2007 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

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.qsl.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 67 to 69, with a mean value of 67.6 (vs. 74.4 for October 2006 and 76.6 for October 2005). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 24 days.

Recurrent coronal hole high speed streams (HSS) caused active geomagnetic conditions 03-04, active levels 18-20, quiet to active 26-27, and unsettled to active 30-31 October.



(Courtesy of Jan Alvestad, the DX-Listeners Club, <http://www.dxl.com/solar/>)

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-- NOVEMBER FORECAST --

During November, solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected reach high levels 01-08 November and again 16-26 November. The solar flux should remain around 67-68 during November, i.e., essentially no sunspots during the month.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet 01-13 November, increasing to unsettled to active 14-16 November due to recurrent coronal hole HSS. Unsettled to quiet conditions are expected 17-19, increasing to unsettled to minor storm levels 21-22 November. Activity is expected to be at unsettled to active 23-27, decreasing to unsettled to quiet 28-30 November.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 30 October 2007, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 30 October 2007, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 29 October 2007.)

-- NEW PREFIX COMING INTO USE --

The ITU has approved a new call sign block, E7A to E7Z, for Bosnia and Herzegovina to replace the T9A – T9Z block currently in use. The changeover should take place later this year.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 22 October 2007)

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

| Contest/Special Event | Begin-End Times/Dates | Bands/Modes | QSO With | Exchange |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| ARRL November Sweepstakes | 2100Z 03 Nov 0300Z 05 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters CW Only | USA and Canadian Stations Only | Serial #, Power Category, last two digits of year 1 st licensed, ARRL/CRRL section |
| High Speed Club CW Contest | 0900Z–1100Z 1500Z-1700Z 04 November | 80- 10 Meters CW, 10-30 kc up from band edge | Any high speed CW operator anywhere | R/S/T + HSC #, or NM if non- member |
| Ukrainian DX Contest | 1200Z 03 Nov 1200Z 04 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters Phone and CW | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/(T) + Serial Number |
| DARC 10-Meter Digital “Corona” | 1100Z 04 Nov 1700Z 04 Nov | 10 Meters Only All Digi Modes | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/T + Serial Number |
| Japan International DX Contest | 0700Z 10 Nov 1300Z 11 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters Phone Only | Japanese Stations Only | R/S + CQ Zone (5 for Florida) |
| Worked All Europe DX Contest | 0000Z 10 Nov 2359Z 11 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/T + Serial Number |
| OK-OM DX Contest | 1200Z 10 Nov 1200Z 11 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters CW Only | Czech and Slovak Stations Only | R/S/T + Serial Number |
| ARRL November Sweepstakes | 2100Z 17 Nov 0300Z 19 Nov | 160 – 10 Meters Phone Only | USA and Canadian Stations Only | Serial #, Power Category, last two digits of year 1 st licensed, ARRL/CRRL section |
| Bulgarian DX Contest | 1200Z 17 Nov 1200Z 18 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters Phone and CW | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/(T) + ITU Zone (8 for Fla.) |
| CQ World Wide DX Contest | 0000Z 24 Nov 2400Z 25 Nov | 80 – 10 Meters CW Only | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/T + CQ Zone (5 for Fla.) |

From November 2007 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

MINUTES, from Page 2

would cost about \$100. Peter Pesa-N4RD moved that \$100 be allocated for purchase of this antenna, seconded by Jim Lacourse-K4IH, and passed.

Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA asked about the status of the latest name tag order, and Don-WD7A presented Guenther with his badge.

Peter Pesa-N4RD suggested that members of both the Nominating Committee and the Audit Committee be named as soon as possible. When Konrad called for volunteers, Marty Horowitz-N4FA and Peter-N4RD volunteered for the Nominating Committee, and Bruce Brown-WA8IQF and Guenther Hennig-KF4WFA volunteered for the Audit Committee.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:59 PM was made, seconded, and passed. There were 18 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Bruce Brown-WA8IQF presented a colorful and informative photo presentation entitled, “Venice to Anchorage; a North American Journey.”

Jack Sproat-W4JS - Secretary

-- LOWER VANITY FEE NOW IN EFFECT --

As of 17 September, the fee for a 10-year vanity call sign was reduced from US\$20.80 down to US\$11.70. This is the lowest fee ever charged for this service. Since the vanity call sign program began in 1996, fees have ranged from US\$12 to US\$50.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 22 October 2007)

-- DIRECTV ENTERING BPL ARENA --

Satellite TV provider DirecTV is reportedly going into the BPL business, partnering with the Current Group to offer customers high-speed Internet and phone service via power lines, to better compete with cable and phone company package offers. Current Technologies is considered one of the BPL “good guys” since there have been no significant interference problems in the company’s service areas in Cincinnati, OH and Dallas, TX. This service may start up by the end of this year.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 22 October 2007)

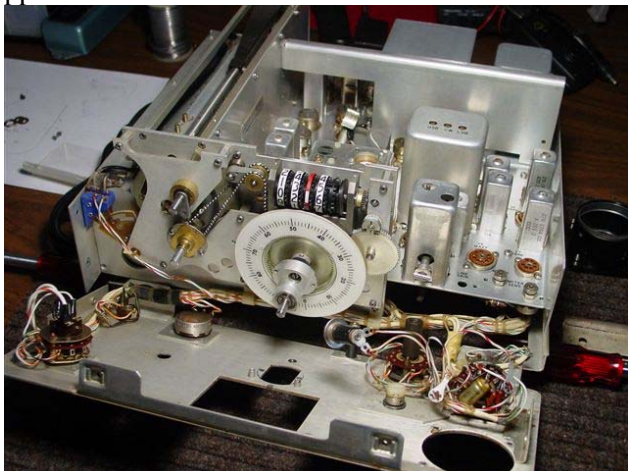
-- K1NOK'S LATEST LABOR OF LOVE --

Bob Marchese-K1NOK, like many of us, loves the Collins radios and he enjoys finding and refurbishing Collins equipment for his personal collection. Collins was always considered the standard of excellence, and any ham who could afford their equipment knew he had the "crème de la crème." Since Collins has been gone from the Amateur Radio market for about 25 years, Collins gear—in any state of repair—is becoming more difficult to find. Bob has always yearned for a Collins 51S-1 receiver (as shown below), and he recently found at a reasonable price. As can be seen, his restoration efforts are coming along.



The 51S-1 is a dual or triple conversion (dependent on the frequency) USB, LSB, AM, and CW receiver for signals from 0.2 to 30.0 MHz. Coverage is continuous in thirty 1-megahertz bands. The 51S-1, and its variants, utilize 17 tubes and 12 semiconductors. It was introduced in 1959 at a price of \$1828 (about 1/2 the price of a new '59 Ford convertible), primarily for the military and commercial market. Used ones are currently fetching \$1100-2100.

The radio is exceptionally stable as, during a temperature change from 0 to +50°C after 20 minutes warmup, audio output frequency will not vary more than +/- 885 Hz for carrier frequencies from 2 to 7 MHz. Stability varies from 36 ppm at 7 MHz to 27 ppm at 30 MHz.

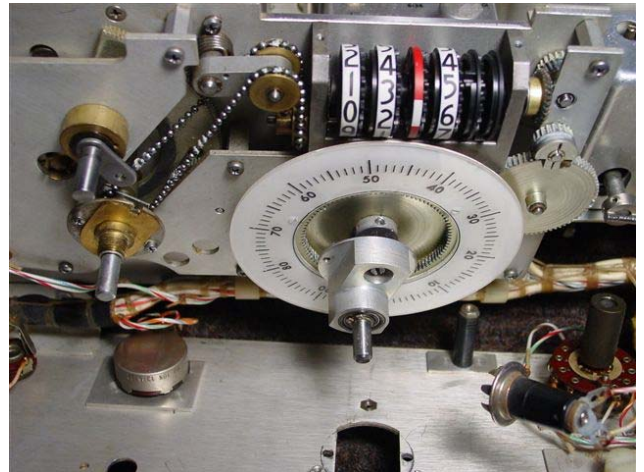


The previous photo shows the chassis of Bob's 51S-1, stripped of its tubes, meter, etc. Note the wiring harness, and the beautiful finish on the aluminum chassis even after years of service.

While frequency setting is done via the large rotary dial, the actual RF tuning is done via the use of a variety of tuned slugs in the long chamber along the left side of the chassis.



The above photo shows more of the main chassis layout, with the power supply and audio sections located behind the aluminum RF shield.



Here's a close up photo of the planetary gear drive for the rotary dial frequency display, which is calibrated in kHz, and the rotary drum dial for determining the MHz. Note the continuous ball chain, operated by the band selection control, which drives the drum dial frequency display and the components of the slug tuners in the RF section.

-- 2008 TARC DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE --

It's now "open season" for payment of your 2008 TARC dues, and Treasurer Don Gray –WD7A will be glad to trade you a dues card for US\$15. Also, all members who received free membership prior to October 2006 are now "eligible" to pay dues for continued membership in the TARC.

-- WORLD COMMUNICATION CONFAB --

The 2007 World Radio Communication Conference (WRC-07) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) kicked off 22 October, running through 16 November in Geneva, Switzerland.

While most of the 28 agenda items under consideration do not directly affect Amateur Radio, several proposals of interest to hams will be considered during WRC-07. Heading the list is the possibility of a new, secondary allocation to the Amateur Service just above 5 MHz.

Mexico has proposed providing a worldwide, secondary allocation for the Amateur Service at 5.260-5.410 MHz, with the fixed and mobile services remaining primary. This frequency range includes the five channel frequencies that US amateurs now use (the so-called 60-Meter Band) under restrictions on a secondary basis. The proposal cites experiments demonstrating the value of the 5 MHz band and showing that amateurs can operate there without causing harmful interference to the primary services.

Some European countries are taking a slightly different approach toward the same objective. They call for amateur stations to operate on "5260-5410 kHz on a secondary basis. Stations shall not use a radiated power exceeding 24 dBW (250 W)."

Cuba proposes addressing the need for such an amateur allocation by placing it on the agenda for the next WRC, scheduled for 2011.

WRC-07 will also consider a secondary allocation to the Amateur Service on 135.7-137.8 kHz. Amateurs now have no allocations lower than 1800 kHz, however, with the current widespread use of digital technology, amateurs can now make better use of weak signal than ever before. More than 20 nations have already allowed individuals, most of them radio amateurs, to experiment on frequencies between 73-200 kHz, and 15 European nations allow amateur operations on 135.7-137.8 kHz.

There are four items on the International Amateur Radio Union's (IARU) "wish list" for the next WRC-11. The two items of most general interest are:

- ❖ Allocation of 495-510 kHz to the Amateur Service on either a primary or secondary basis. This will permit the development of reliable groundwave systems for disaster relief and provide a spectrum for experimentation with digital signal processing.
- ❖ If the ITU Member States decide to review HF allocations at WRC-11, the IARU asks for consideration of expansion of the amateur bands near 10, 14, and 18 MHz in order to better accommodate increased activity.

The status of HF issues at WRC-11 is uncertain.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 26, No. 42)

-- VISTA STILL A PUZZLE --

Now 10 months since its long delayed introduction, Microsoft's Vista operating system is still the biggest puzzle affecting computer buying decisions. Vista was considered "unexciting" when it appeared, as Microsoft had dumped many of the promised features, and most of what remained were already available in the Apple Macintosh OS X operating system. On the plus side, Vista did offer a stronger security system and better integrated searching.

Experience has shown that many Vista PCs start up more slowly than new PCs running Windows XP. Too many software and hardware products still don't run, or don't run properly, with Vista.

If you're shopping for a new Windows computer, one of your first decisions is whether or not you want to get Vista or stick with Windows XP. Some PC makers are still offering XP on a few new consumer PCs. For instance, Dell offers four laptops and two desktops that can be ordered with XP.

If you do opt for Vista, it's best to go with the Home Premium. Most Windows consumer models are loaded with "craplets"—crippled trial versions of programs. These can be avoided by buying a so-called business PC. Dell allows you to opt out of the trial software.

Buy at least two gigabytes of memory for Home Premium or upgraded versions of Vista.

Vista's graphical interface works best with a separate, or "discrete," graphics card that has its own memory.

Any "dual core" processor from Intel or AMD should be fine for Vista.

Don't scrimp on hard drive capacity, and even an average PC should come with 300 gigabytes of hard drive space.

If shopping in a retail store, you can check the performance rating. Click "Show more details" in Vista's "Welcome Center" screen. If the rating is less than 3.0, avoid that computer. For best results, look for 3.5 or better.

For a versatile Vista PC with Home Premium, two gigs of memory, discrete video, a large hard disk and a dual-core processor, you should expect to pay US\$800 or more.

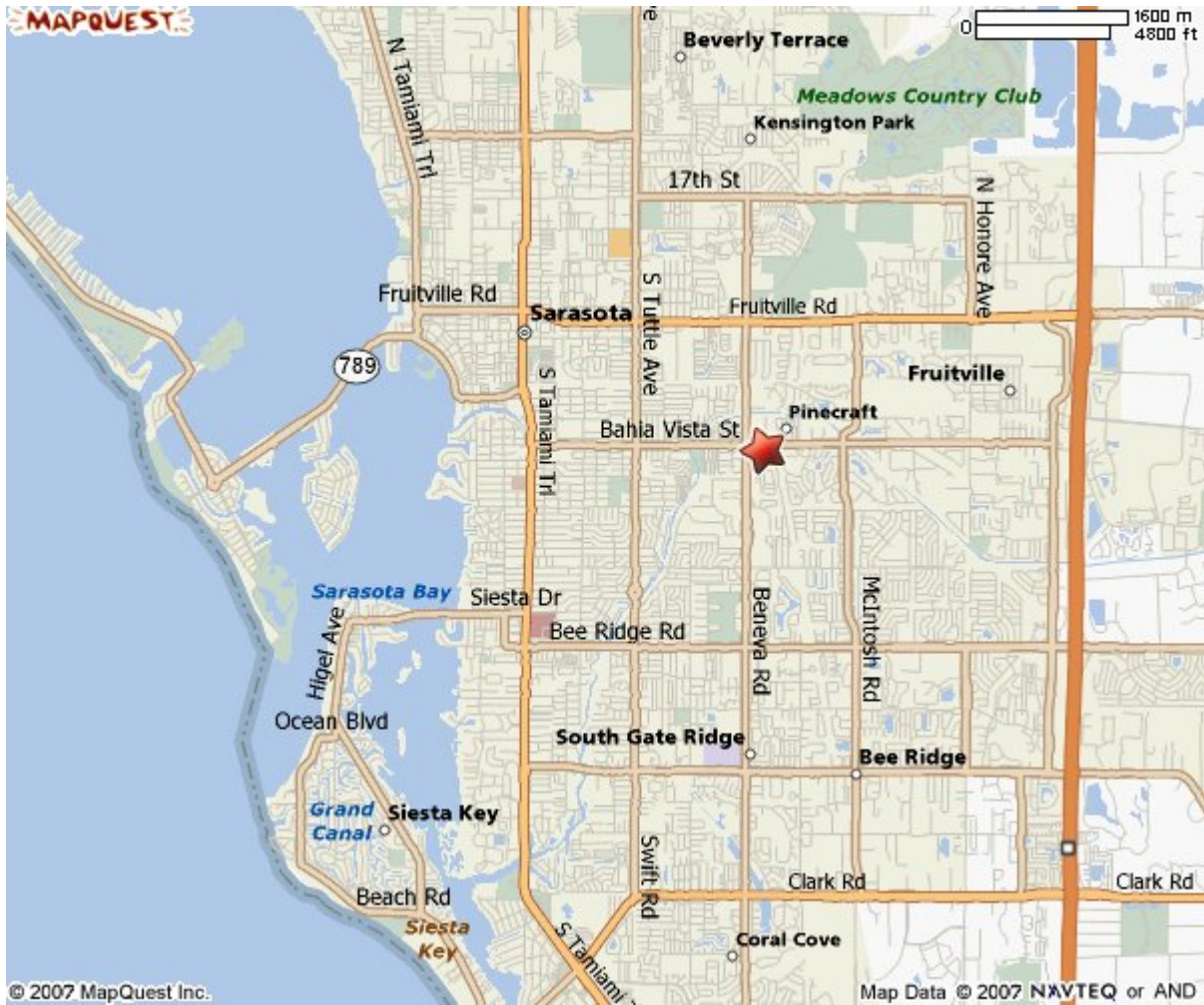
(From "Microsoft's Vista still a puzzle in annual PC buyer's guide," Walter Mossberg, *Herald Tribune*, 22 October 2007)

-- TAMPA BAY HAMFEST TICKETS --

Advance sale tickets to this Hamfest will be available for purchase at a cost of US\$6 at our 08 November TARC meeting. Save a couple bucks and get your ticket at the meeting. This is our largest regional Hamfest, so let's show support for this event!!

TARC CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club's 2007 Christmas Dinner will be held at 6:00 PM on 19 December at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant, located at 3713 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, FL 34232 (941-955-8007). We will be offered a buffet to choose from, with dessert being served at our tables, at a cost of US\$18 per person. Should you desire details on this highly rated restaurant, check their web site at <http://troyercorp.com/restaurant/sarasota/sarasota.php>. See map below for general location of Troyer's.



(CUT ON ABOVE LINE)

Enclosed please find US\$_____ as payment for _____ person(s) to attend the 2007 TARC Christmas Dinner.

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Return this portion of this page, with check payable to the Tamiami ARC, **on or before 13 December**, to:

Donald Gray
761 Mangrove Road
Venice, FL 34293

(NOTE: If you care to do so, you may add payment of your US\$15.00 2008 dues to the cost of your dinner reservation, all in one check.)

**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 _____

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 @ \$18.50/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

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

The Communicator is a monthly publication
Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Editor: Jack Sproat – W4JS
Circulation: Don Gray – WD7A

2007 TARC Officers

President: Konrad Owens – WA3RRS
V. President: Matt Klapp – W2EQV
Secretary: Jack Sproat – W4JS
Treasurer: Don Gray – WD7A
Directors: Croft Taylor – VE3CT
Jon Hamlet – W4ZW
Charlie Covell – W4DB
Stew Haag – W4MO