



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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



-- NOVEMBER 2008 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

My October "Message" was devoted to the relationship that is developing between the TARC and Pine View School. Since our October meeting, we have been engaged in two events at Pine View that definitely firmed up our mutual interests.

Under the guidance of Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, several TARC members set up an animated display table and operational HF station at the Pine View School Fair on 11 October. Many students stopped by our exhibit to pick up ARRL brochures, and some tried their hand at the Morse keyer of Bob Avrutik-N1RA. Some 20 students put their names on the Sign Up sheet as possible members of the pending radio club at the school. We considered this to be a very positive experience.

On 23 October, Jon-W4ZW, Bob-N1RA and I attended the first meeting of the Pine View School Amateur Radio Club (PVSARC). As a number of students had advised Club Sponsor Martha Ackroyd of their prior commitments, only eight students were able to attend. However, we anticipate about 20 to attend the next meeting on 03 November. Jon had prepared an excellent Power Point presentation that focused strongly on the various interests and operating modes now available in Ham Radio. It was soon apparent that the use of the Amateur Radio Satellites really caught their interest. As such, Jon is planning to set up a station capable of working the current satellites, and he has requested the assistance of our satellite guru Eric Owen-KD4MZM for recommendations and guidance.

The school is going to provide the PVSARC with a dedicated Internet access portal that will prove invaluable to the club members in innumerable ways.

I am truly thrilled with all of these recent developments. They really demonstrate what our club can do when there is a goal needing our attention. So far only a few have done all the work. I hope you will be willing to help if asked.

73 de Stew-W4MO

-- NOVEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will start with a Technical/General Discussion at 6:30 PM, and the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM on **13 November 2008** 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, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW will present a program on the current popular interests and operating moods in Amateur Radio. It's a great show, so don't miss it!

-- "PINE VIEW ON OUR MIND" --



Again, at our October meeting, the main discussions centered on how the TARC can assist in development of an Amateur Radio Club at the Pine View School. Here, Jon Hamlet-W4ZW (right background) is discussing his efforts to date with regard to the Pine View School Fair.

-- TARC WEB SITE INPUT NEEDED --

We're sure that all who have visited our new TARC web site will agree that we can be proud of the effort put into that site by George-AB4AD, Jack-KY1Z and Bruce-WA8ISQ. However, they need NEWS, articles, photos, "whatever" in order to keep the site up to date and interesting. Please forward any contributions to Jack-KY1Z via tamiamiarc@gmail.com.

---OOO---

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

09 October 2008

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Visitor Martha Ackroyd, biology teacher at Pine View School, was recognized. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 September 2008 meeting as published in the October 2008 issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack reported receiving and responding to the Jacaranda Library's reservation form for use of a study room for our monthly officers' meetings during 2009.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2479.71. Receipts were \$9.00 from the September 50/50, and \$15.00 for two name tags. Expenses were \$14.45 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater, and \$2.57 for printing, totaling \$17.02. The 09 October 2008 ending balance is \$2486.69. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for approval, seconded by Jack Gaddas-KY1Z, and passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Jennifer Brown, daughter of Bruce Brown-WA8IQF is recovering from spinal fusion surgery in Grayson, GA.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS advised that to date there were no potential candidates for this Saturday's VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew-W4MO reported that the lower inverted-V at the repeater site was lowered about 30' on 04 October, however, WENG-FM still interferes with the FlexRadio. On the positive side, the property owners intend to erect a 300' self-supporting tower and TARC is welcome to install its antennas at the top of that tower. The existing tower will be taken down, and a new/separate storm-proof radio equipment building will be constructed along the east side of the main building.

CLUB PROPERTY – Charlie-W4DB reported no change in the Club property inventory.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 77 members, includ-

ing seven Life Members and five First-Year Free members.

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

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad-WA3RRS reported on recent Englewood ARS activity.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported there were 19 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends at the 01 October luncheon/meeting at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota, and he invited anyone interested to join in.

OLD BUSINESS – We plan to prepare an article for the newspaper, advising about the creation of the Pine View School Amateur Radio Club and tying such early exposure to ham radio into career development.

Jack Gaddas-KY1Z reported on recent updates to our TARC Web Site.

Two members currently working on license upgrades have contacted mentors for assistance.

NEW BUSINESS – The Pine View School Fair is scheduled for this Saturday, 11 October, and Jon Hamlet-W4ZW gave an informative background on the Fair and how the TARC can assist publicize the school's new Amateur Radio Club at that Fair. Jon had applied for a Club License, and the call sign KJ4HBL has been issued. Jon then applied for vanity call signs W4PVC, N4PVR and AJ4PV, recognizing that the trustee for the latter license must hold an Extra Class license. Jon has procured tables and prepared exhibits for display, including an operational HF station. It was agreed that set up should begin at 8:30 AM, with the Fair getting under way around 11 AM. Several members offered to assist Jon with setting up and manning the booth.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Peter Pesa-N4RD encouraged the members to use our repeater to a greater extent.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM was made by Peter-N4RD, seconded by Konrad-WA3RRS, and passed. There were 16 members and one guest present.

PROGRAM – The "program" dealt with the above enlightening discussions and our hope for the future.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Sierra Leone – 9L0W (by 3 German ops)	Now to 11 Nov	91	22-08	19-09	12-23	13-21	15-19	15-19	17-19	NO
Chagos – VQ9RD (by KIIG)	Now to 11 Nov	54	22-01	19-02	19-22	14-19	15-18	15-18	NO	NO
Oman – A43DLH	Now to 11 Nov	43	23-03	21-03	19-00	14-15	14-15	NO	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0AQY, YJ0AVE (by 2 JA's)	Now to 06 Nov	262	06-12	05-15	08-15	18-00	19-22	20-21	20-21	NO
Andaman & Nicobar Is – VU4RG, VU4MY	Now to 03 Nov	8	23-00	23-00	12-13	14-17	15-20	17-18	NO	NO
Lakshadweep Is – VU7NRO, VU7RJ	Now to 03 Nov	36	22-01	21-23	19-22	14-19	15-18	15-19	NO	NO
Albania – ZA1/XE1MO	01 Nov – 09 Nov	48	--	20-08	--	13-17	--	1500	--	NO
Cambodia – XU7AVO, PBL, ARJ, UJR	06 Nov – 11 Nov	349	11-12	10-12	1300	15-17	15-19	NO	NO	NO
India – VU3NLF, VU3NLG (by 2 DL ops)	06 Nov – 14 Nov	19	23-01	22-01	21-22	14-17	NO	NO	NO	NO
Bhutan – A5100A (by F2VX, F9DK, etc.)	07 Nov – 17 Nov	8	23-00	22-01	22-00	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Seychelles – S79UH, S79MV (by 2 JA's)	09 Nov – 14 Nov	68	22-03	21-04	20-23	15-20	15-19	15-19	17-18	NO
Senegal – 6W2SC (by HA3AU1)	15 Nov – 09 Mar	87	21-09	18-04	12-22	14-20	16-18	16-18	NO	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP (by HA3AU1)	15 Nov – 09 Mar	90	21-09	18-05	13-22	14-20	16-19	16-18	NO	NO
Swaziland – 3DA0VM (by ZS6AVM)	19 Nov – 23 Nov	106	22-04	21-05	20-00	12-21	14-19	15-19	15-19	NO
Central Kiribati – T3IDX (by JA8BMK)	20 Nov – 30 Nov	267	05-13	04-14	12-14	17-23	18-21	18-20	19-20	NO
Fiji – 3D2YA ** (by JA1NLX)	21 Nov – 27 Nov	258	06-12	05-14	12-15	18-22	19-20	19-22	20-21	NO
Zambia – 9J3A (by S53A)	22 Nov – 02 Dec	95	22-04	20-06	19-23	13-21	15-19	16-18	16-19	NO
Palau – T88CI, T99CJ (by HA5AO, HA7TM)	22 Nov – 03 Dec	306	08-13	06-14	13-17	15-16	15-16	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7SC ** (by SP2JMB)	26 Nov – 10 Dec	41	22-02	20-00	19-22	14-20	15-19	15-19	17-18	NO
Bangladesh – S2???? (by 4 Bangladeshi ops)	29 Nov – 04 Dec	8	23-00	12-13	20-21	20-21	NO	NO	NO	NO

Updated 28 September 2008, based on 22 September 2008 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

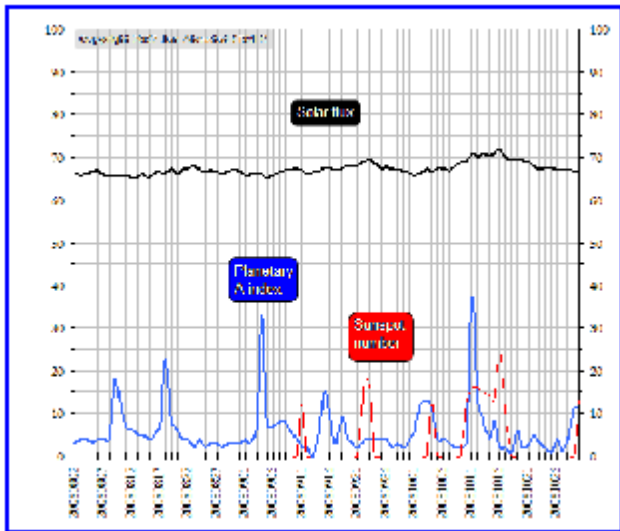
Notes: **Time in bold** = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- OCTOBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During October, the Solar Flux ranged from 66 to 72, with a mean value of 68.4 (vs. 67.6 for October 2007 and 74.4 for October 2006). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 24 days.

October's geomagnetic field activity was at quiet levels during the month, other than unsettled to active levels 02-05 Oct, active to minor storms 11-13 Oct, unsettled levels 22 Oct, and unsettled to active 29-31 Oct due to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams (HSS).

Four groups of Cycle 24 sunspots appeared during October; see figure below. The sunspot number was 13 on 31 October.



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

-- NOVEMBER FORECAST --

November solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected reach high levels 01-06 and 08-15 November. Solar flux should range between 67 and 70 during the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels 01-06 November. Activity is expected to increase to minor storm levels on 07 November due to recurrent HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels 08-09 November as the HSS subsides. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet levels during 10-23 November, increasing to unsettled levels on 24-27 November. Quiet conditions should return 28-30 November.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 28 October 2008, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 28 October 2008, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 28 October 2008)

-- DESECHEO COMING EARLY 2009 --

After eight years of sometimes contentious negotiations, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has approved a DXpedition to Desecheo Island – KP5 sometime between 15 January and 30 March 2009. There were seven competing proposals for the operation, and the USF&WS selected that of veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin-K4UEE and Glenn Johnson-W0GJ.

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z 01 Nov 1200Z 02 Nov	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S(T) + Serial Number
ARRL November Sweepstakes	2100Z 01 Nov 0300Z 03 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	USA Stations	Serial, category, call, ck, section
Worked All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 08 Nov 2400Z 09 Nov	80 – 10 Meters Digital Modes	European Stations	R/S/T + Serial Number
Japan International DX Contest	0700Z 08 Nov 1300Z 09 Nov	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Japanese Stations	R/S + CQ Zone (5, locally)
OK-OM DX Contest	1200Z 08 Nov 1200Z 09 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Czech and Slovak Stations	R/S/T + Serial Number
Bulgarian DX Contest	1200Z 15 Nov 1200Z 16 Nov	80 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S(T) + ITU Zone (8, locally)
ARRL November Sweepstakes	2100Z 15 Nov 0300Z 17 Nov	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	USA Stations	Serial, category, call, ck, section
PSK63 QSO Party	0000Z 16 Nov 2400Z 16 Nov	160 – 10 Meters BPSK63 Mode	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial Number
CQWW DX Contest	0000Z 22 Nov 2400Z 23 Nov	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	DXCC Entities (USA Q's for zones only)	R/S/T + CQ Zone (5 locally)

From "Contest Corral" on the ARRL Web Site

-- SPACE TOURIST ON FROM THE ISS --

Richard Garriott-W5KWQ was active on the ham bands during his recent visit to the International Space Station in mid-October, with emphasis on QSOs with school stations and Scouts during the annual Jamboree on the Air. Both voice and SSTV contacts were made.

Garriott, a millionaire video game developer, is the son of former astronaut Owen Garriott-W5LFL, the first person to make ham radio contacts from space, almost exactly 25 years ago. Richard's call sign was originally that of his grandfather.

(From CQ News Service, 23 October 2008)

-- ARRL HIT WITH "PHISHING" SCHEME --

The ARRL has warned members using "@arrl.net" e-mail addresses to beware of messages claiming to have come from the League, requesting personal information such as user names and passwords. The ARRL advises that "these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at 'phishing' and did not originate from ARRL....There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users." Members were advised to just delete any such messages.

(From CQ News Service, 23 October 2008)

Life is a compromise of what your ego wants to do, what experience tells you to do, and what your nerves let you do. – Bruce Crampton

-- TARC NET SCHEDULE --

As shown on the Calendar, we have three weekly nets. Tuesday at 7:30 PM is the 145.610 MHz Experimental Net; Wednesday at 8:00 PM is the DX Net on our 146.805 MHz W4AC Repeater; and Thursday at 7:30 PM is the Emergency Net on our W4AC repeater. Members and friends are more than welcome to check into any or all of these nets.

-- WHAT DREAMS WERE MADE OF --



Jim Millsap-W9CTO owns this collection of classic AM equipment. Right to left: National HRO-60 receiver and Hallicrafters SX88 transmitter atop the Johnson Desk Kilowatt, (unknown), Collins 75A-? receiver and 32V-? transmitter, and Collins KW1 kilowatt transmitter. Sure brings back memories and dreams!

-- THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE! --



In contrast to the top-of-the-line station of W9CTO, Jack-W4JS was the proud owner of this very basic mobile station back in 1957.

The September issue of *Electric Radio* (which your editor receives courtesy of Konrad Owens – WA3RRS) brought back some memories. The lead article, “A Stancor ST-203-A Transmitter Restoration” recalled the days when I had that 10-meter transmitter installed in my 1954 Ford (photo above). The author of the *Electric Radio* article also used a Gonset Super Six converter—also shown above, left of the transmitter, with the mandatory noise blanker attached below. Fords were infamous for ignition noise!

Ray Neather (call sign now forgotten), was building a new house, and he needed some help to install a French drain around the perimeter of the basement excavation. He offered me the kit version of the Stancor and a Mallory vibrator power supply for a day’s work. As the kit was selling for US\$47.50, that was a very good deal.

I already had the Gonset installed in my car, so it was just the “next step” to install the Stancor. The xmtr held only two crystals, one of which was for the net frequency of the Western Pennsylvania Mobileers. I took first place, crystal controlled, in their 1957 10-meter ground wave contest. I would drive out of town, about half way up a hill, situated between two golf courses and no houses.

However, the time I recall most was when I was in the car, operating the rig while my mom was inside a shopping center quite some miles from the Channel 2 TV station. Just as she returned to the car, a big guy walked up to my window, proclaiming, “You’re knocking out all the TV’s and I’m gonna report you!” Yep, that Stancor was a TVI generator for sure.

-- SPECIAL ELECTION --

As Director Charlie Covell-W4DB is facing hip surgery with follow up recuperation, he has requested to be relieved of his position on the Board of Directors. Jack Gaddas-KY1Z has offered to be a candidate for that position. Therefore, in compliance with Article V, paragraph 15 of the TARC Bylaws, a special election will be held at the 13 November meeting.

-- EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE TURMOIL --

The FCC had issued an experimental license for Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) for 100-kilowatt digital broadcasting to Alaska on the HF bands, including 7.10–7.60 MHz—the upper two-thirds of the 40-meter ham radio band. As such, the ARRL petitioned the FCC, claiming “there is a 100% certainty for severe, continuous, harmful interference from operation of the DART facilities as authorized by the Commission to ongoing Amateur Radio operation at 7.1 to 7.3 MHz.” The petition asked that the FCC either cancel the experimental license or at least delete the 40-meter allocation.

On 24 October, the FCC revised the 40-meter allocation to a smaller 7.3-7.6 MHz segment. The FCC’s published reason for the change was that “operation in the band 7.1-7.3 MHz will cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio Service licensees.”

(From CQ News Service, 23 and 24 October 2008)

-- NEED AN “ELMER”? --

If you’re studying for an upgrade, and feel the need for “comfort and assistance,” contact any of the following TARC members:

General Class

Jack Gaddas-WA1HSU jgaddas@verizon.net
Mike Hickey-NY4P ai4sr@hotmail.com
Konrad Owens-WA3RRS kdowens39@hotmail.com
Jack Sproat-W4JS w4js@juno.com

Extra Class

Jack Gaddas-WA1HSU jgaddas@verizon.net
Stew Haag-W4MO w4mo@win.net
Bob Avrutik-N1RA n1ra@juno.com

-- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

29 Nov Okeechobee ARC “Hamfest in the Woods,” at Freedom Ranch, 11655 US 441 SE. TI: 147.195 (PL 100 Hz); Info: Dennis-AD4PS, 863.578.0220

(From October 2008 QST)

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	5 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Panda Pavilion TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	8 TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library
9	10 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	12 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	13 TARC Meeting, Tech Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	19 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	22
23	24	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	26 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM	29
30						

Personal Events

Get more great calendars at CalendarsThatWork.com

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

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

Local Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Summer Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

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

Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Control___, RFI/TVI___, VE Testing___, Training___, Packet___, RTTY___,
Computers___, DXing___, Contests___, Field Day___, Publicity___, Emergency Communications___, Special Events___,
VHF/UHF___, SSTV___, ATV___, Repeater___, EchoLink___, Other (specify) _____

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

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Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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2008 TARC Officers

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Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS

Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

Directors: Konrad Owens-WA3RRS

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Charlie Covell – W4DB

Bob Avrutik-N1RA