



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 Repeaters – 444.100 MHz(+) & 146.805 MHz(-) both w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- NOVEMBER 2014 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

October was an active month for the TARC membership, what with several members touring various portions of the planet. I can't comment as to the activities enjoyed by our migrating snow birds as we haven't heard much from them to date.

Locally most of the happenings have been of a positive nature. Participation on the nets has increased a bit and I would like to thank Jack-W4JS and Bob Murphy-WA1UHG for stepping up each week as Net Controllers. We could always use some new voices, so jump right in.

Back in August, I explained the new status of our usage of the tower and facilities at the Englewood repeater site. This past month four of us (San Yoder-K4SY, Bob Faulcon-N1LVO, Peter Boers-KV4LR and yours truly) spent a few hours at the site rebuilding the cable support system from the tower base to the room housing the repeaters. Thank You, gentlemen.

Speaking of net usage, how many of you listened to the W4VHS (Venice High School) net on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm on our UHF repeater? IT IS A VERY PROFESSIONAL OPERATION. They're taking a brief hiatus, but we look forward to their return. While I'm praising our youth let me also add a plaudit for the sometimes neglected BOY SCOUTS.

In 2012, the ARRL contacted the Boy Scouts and proposed adding Morse Code to the Interpreter Strip (strips identifying Skills worn over the right hand shirt pocket) which displays a Scouts proficiency in a foreign language. The BSA agreed that it was a great idea and these strips became available during the 2013 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA).

The 57th JOTA was held this past 18-19 October weekend, with scouts being heard at stations around the world talking to, and learning more about, each other.

Our esteemed Treasurer, Dave Gill-K4JDG, has had a run of bad luck. First of all, his summer site in Georgia suffered a major antenna problem when a tree came down on his Spider

Beam. Compounding his problems, he fell while mowing his lawn here in Venice. Surgery was required and he is recuperating here at home. Drop him a line.

The Holidays are rapidly approaching so be on your best behavior and build up some points with you know who. And I hope to see you on the Air, on the nets, at Peaches for breakfast, and/or at our next meeting.

VY 73 to All de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- NOVEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **12 November 2014** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. We're sure that Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will have a program worthy of your attendance. We'll send out details in the e-mail meeting reminder.

-- WORKING AT THE REPEATER SITE --



Fred-KJ4TNI, Bob-N1LVO and Peter-KV4LR put in some effort replacing the "bridge" that supports the cables from the equipment building to the tower. (TNX San-K3SY for the photos.)

**Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
08 October 2014**

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with a flag pledge. Introductions were then made all around, with Glenn Hyde-N4MXQ from Nokomis being welcomed as a visitor.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 10 September meeting as published in the October issue of *The Communicator*. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB so moved, seconded by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing sent nor received.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Due to the absence of Treasurer Dave Gill-K4JDG, Jack Sproat-W4JS gave Dave's report on his behalf. The starting balance was \$3898.27. Receipts were \$14.00 from the 50/50 and a \$14.00 donation from Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI for a total of \$28.00. There were no expenses, such that the closing balance was \$3,926.27. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Tom McDermitt-W3GXV, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Fred reported that Treasurer Dave Gill-K4JDG had fallen while mowing his grass the previous Wednesday, tearing his quadriceps tendon that's connected to the top of his kneecap as well as breaking a portion of the kneecap. Dave underwent outpatient surgery and is recovering at home.

VE TESTING – We have not yet had any inquiries regarding our upcoming 11 October VE session. We have been contacted by George Becht-N2SQ regarding our availability to conduct a VE session at the Sarasota Military Academy in November. George is also trying to stir up some interest at the Pine View School and get that radio club and station reactivated.

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

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 56 full members, seven student members and five life members for a total of 68 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred reminded all of our 440 and 2-meter nets, and suggested that all listen at 7 PM on Wednesday nights when the Venice High School Radio Club uses our 440

repeater for its weekly net, which is run in a very professional manner.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 14 members and spouses at our 01 October lunch at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota. This was our first lunch for the 2014-2015 Season. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB presented an ARRL video of a 1959 program about amateur radio that was prepared by the Johns Hopkins University and broadcast on the ABC-TV network.

OLD BUSINESS – Fred asked the members for some input regarding their personal experiences in amateur radio that can be put on our web site, showing the diversity of typical ham radio licensees.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred asked for volunteers to help replace the decrepit wooden support beam for the various coaxial cables between the equipment building and the antenna tower at the repeater site. Peter Boers-KV4LR, Ed Clark-K8ZM and Bob Faulcon-N1LVO offered to help.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Nothing.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:30 by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Al Cullbert-K0AL, and passed. There were 19 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB offered two video presentations from the ARRL Centennial films collection—one narrated by Walter Cronkite about the service of amateurs during emergencies, and a portion of the 1959 Johns Hopkins University TV program mentioned above.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- NRA'S 143RD BIRTHDAY ON THE AIR --

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club will operate station K7NRA from the Gunsite Academy campus in Paulden, AZ on Monday, 17 November in recognition of the 143rd birthday of the National Rifle Association. K7NRA will be active on 7.250, 14.050, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz from 1500 to 2400 UTC. A unique NRA/Gunsite certificate will be awarded to those stations making contact during the event. QSL with a 9 x 12 SASE (90 cents postage) to: YARC, P.O. Box 11994, Prescott, AZ 86304. Check out www.w7yrc.org for more details.

(From *American Rifleman*, November 2014)

Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

A solid challenge will bring forth your finest abilities.

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Minami Torishima – JG8NQN/JD1, **	Now to 15 Dec	308	06-13	05-14	04-14	13-01	19-01	20-00	20-23	20-23
Reunion – FR/F5UOW, FR/F8FUA	Now to 20 Nov	91	22-02	21-03	21-03	18-00	15-23	13-21	13-20	14-17
Nepal – 9N7BM; by JA8BMK, holiday style	Now to 20 Nov	13	23-01	22-02	21-02	12-22	13-14	1330	1330	NO
Maldives – 8Q7OO; by GM0IIO	Now to 11 Nov	41	22-01	21-02	21-02	12-23	13-22	13-21	14-20	15-18
Namibia – V5/OE3SZA; ++	Now to 11 Nov	107	22-05	21-06	21-06	17-00	12-23	13-22	14-21	14-20
Tromelin – FT4TA; French team operation	Now to 10 Nov	84	22-02	21-03	21-03	17-00	12-22	13-20	13-17	14-16
South Cook Is – E51NOU; by N7OU, **	Now to 09 Nov	246	04-13	02-14	02-14	13-02	16-01	16-00	17-23	19-21
Cyprus – 5B/DG1BH; PSK + SSB, holiday stl	Now to 09 Nov	48	--	--	--	12-00	--	--	--	--
Madagascar – 5R8M; Italian team op	Now to 04 Nov	90	22-03	21-04	21-04	19-01	14-00	12-22	13-21	13-17
Nepal – 9N7CJ; by F3CL, ++	Now to 04 Nov	13	--	--	--	12-01	13-14	--	--	--
Micronesia – V63WJ; by JS3LSQ, ++	Now to 04 Nov	293	--	--	--	13-01	13-01	20-00	20-23	20-21
Senegal – 6W/DL7DF; All modes	01 to 13 Nov	87	22-08	20-10	19-11	12-00	12-22	13-22	14-20	15-19
Niue – E6RQ, E6SG; by VK4WR & VK4FI	02 to 09 Nov	252	--	03-14	03-14	13-01	16-01	17-00	17-00	19-22
Madagascar – 5R8IC; by F6ICX holiday style	03 to 12 Nov	90	22-03	21-03	21-04	18-00	14-22	13-20	14-18	15-17
Seychelles – S79VJ; DE3BWR & DD0VR	03 to 30 Nov	68	22-03	21-04	20-04	16-02	12-23	12-22	13-21	13-19
Brunei – V84YL; by team of four YL's	05 to 10 Nov	330	10-12	09-13	09-13	13-00	14-23	14-17	15-17	16-17
American Samoa – W1AW/KH8, team oper	02 to 14 Nov	256	05-13	03-14	03-14	12-01	16-01	17-00	17-00	18-23
Dodecanese – SV5/DL2JRM	07 to 10 Nov	49	22-06	20-08	19-08	12-00	13-18	13-17	14-16	1500
Micronesia – V63PJ; by JF2SDR, incl 6m	07 to 10 Nov	293	--	05-14	05-14	13-01	19-00	20-23	20-22	20-21
Palau – T88XC; by JA0FKK, all modes	07 to 16 Nov	307	08-13	07-14	06-14	13-01	14-01	14-00	21-23	21-22
Nicobar/Andaman Is – VU4KV; Indian team	08 to 30 Nov	353	22-00	22-00	21-01	12-01	13-20	14-20	14-19	15-17
Rodrigues Is – 3B9HA; by G0CKV **, hol stl	16 to 24 Nov	84	22-01	21-02	21-03	17-02	14-00	12-22	13-20	13-17
Burkina Faso – XT2AW; by DF2WO, hol stl	17 Nov – 02 Dec	83	22-07	20-08	20-09	12-02	12-00	12-23	13-22	13-21
Malawi – 7QAA; 2-man team, all modes	20 Nov – 02 Dec	90	22-04	21-04	21-05	17-02	12-00	12-23	13-20	13-18
Easter Is – CE0Y/PG5M **	23 to 28 Nov	208	01-12	23-13	23-13	12-05	13-01	13-00	14-00	15-23
Vietnam – 3W3O; by KM0O **	25 Nov – 24 Dec	348	10-12	10-13	10-13	12-01	13-00	14-18	14-16	15-16
Micronesia – V63DX, V63ZP; JA operators	28 Nov – 04 Dec	293	07-13	05-14	05-15	13-02	14-01	19-00	20-23	20-23

Updated 30 October based on the 27 October *The Weekly DX*, the 29 October *QRZ DX* and the NG3K DX Page, <http://www.ng3k.com>
Notes: **Time in bold** = the Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp* propagation software. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

-- OCTOBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 111 to 227, with a mean value of 153.7 (vs. 102.6 for October 2013 and 123.4 for October 2012), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 22 days. The sunspot number through 30 October ranged from 28 to 164, with a mean of 95.8.

October was a rather unsettled to active month, with six X-class, 44 M-class and 271 C-class flares through 30 October. In spite of several radio blackout events, propagation was generally favorable on all HF bands.

-- NOVEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low through 10 November. By 11 November through the rest of the month, solar activity is expected to increase to moderate R1-R2, Minor-Moderate) to high levels.

A chance for a greater than 10 MeV proton event (S1-Minor or greater) exists from 15-30 November due to potential flare activity.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 18-30 November due to Coronal Hole High Speed Streams activity.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with isolated active periods possible 04-07, 10-11, and from 13-30 November due to combinations of recurrent southward Bz, solar sector boundary crossings and CH HSS.

The Solar Flux should range from 115-200 and average 160.3 during November.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 27 October 2014, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 27 October 2014, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 27 Oct 2014.)

-- UPCOMING "BIG ONES" --

Navassa Island, now ranked #2 "Most Wanted" (right after DPR Korea) will be on the air for two weeks as K1N in January 2015 following award of landing rights to The KP1-5 Project team. Check out <http://navassadx.com/> for more details.

Mark-ON4WW has been granted permission by the Norwegian Polar Institute to land and reside on Bouvet Island mid-January through mid-April 2016. Bouvet will be #2 Most Wanted after the Navassa operation. Mark is seeking funding; check out www.on4ww.be/bouvet2016.html.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING OCTOBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z 01 Nov 1200Z 02 Nov	160 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
Himalayan Contest	1200Z 01 Nov 1200Z 02 Nov	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Indian Stations	RS(T), Power
Worked All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 08 Nov 2400Z 09 Nov	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere; see www.waedc.de for QTC rules	RST, Serial
10-10 Fall Digital QSO Party	0001Z 08 Nov 2359Z 09 Nov	10 Meters Only Digital Modes	Members of 10-10 International	Name, "0", S/P
Japan International DX Contest	0700Z 08 Nov 1300Z 09 Nov	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Japanese Stations	RS, CQ Zone (5)
OK-OM DX Contest	1200Z 08 Nov 1200Z 09 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Czech and Slovak Stations	RST, Serial
Bulgarian DX Contest	1200Z 22 Nov 1200Z 23 Nov	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), ITU Zone (8)
CQ WW DX CW Contest	0000Z 29 Nov 2359Z 30 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	DXCC Entities	RST, CQ Zone (5)

Legend: Serial = 3-digit sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

NOTE: Only international contests are shown, i.e. state QSO parties, miscellaneous sprints, etc. are not shown. See <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/Contest%20Corral%201411v2.pdf> for the complete list of the 35 contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be on during November.

-- RADIO AMATEURS LEAD INDONESIA --

Indonesia's new national leaders are both Amateur Radio licensees. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo-YD2JKW, holds a General class license. Vice President Jusuf Kalla, YC8HYK, is an Advanced class licensee.

Elected in July, Jokowi, 53, and Kalla, 72, were inaugurated on 20 October in Jakarta. Indonesia is the world's fourth-largest nation, with a population of approximately 250 million.

US Secretary of State John Kerry represented the US at the inauguration and met with the new president afterward.

President Jokowi previously served as Governor of Jakarta and as Mayor of Surakarta, Central Java.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 30 October 2014. *The dreams of US hams to see a yagi on top of the White House went up in smoke when L. B. Johnson trounced Barry Goldwater-K7UGA in the 1964 election.*)

Necessity does everything well.



Indonesia's new president Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, YD2JKW.

-- COMPUTER ADVANCEMENTS --



The Atanasoff-Berry computer used racks of vacuum tubes.

A September 1992 QST article, "ABC: The First Electronic Digital Computer," recounted the fascinating tale of the first real computer, the Atanasoff-Berry computer -- a vacuum tube device -- designed in 1939 and 1940 by university professor John Atanasoff and built by electrical engineering student Clifford Berry-W9TIJ.

(From "A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL," Al Brogdon-W1AB, *The ARRL Letter*, 23 October 2014)

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

-- THE FIRST TRANSISTOR RADIO --

TNX to Andy Durette-KB1HIP for giving a "heads up" to this article.

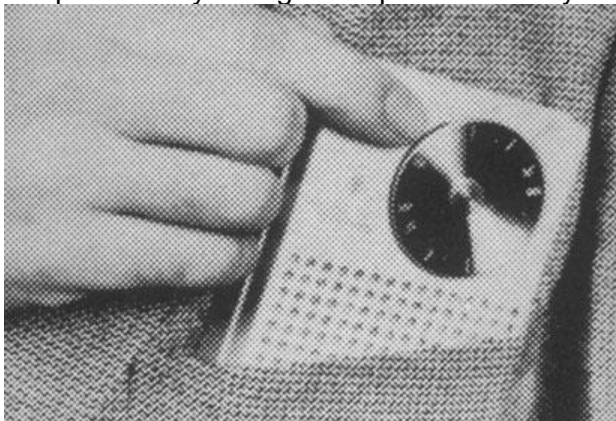
Texas Instruments announced plans for the Regency TR-1, the first transistor radio to be commercially sold, on October 18, 1954.

The move was a major one in tech history that would help propel transistors into mainstream use and also give new definition to portable electronics.

TI was producing germanium transistors at the time, but the market had been slow to respond, comfortable with vacuum tubes.

However, the use of transistors instead of vacuum tubes as the amplifier elements meant that the device was much smaller, required less power to operate, and was more shock-resistant. Transistor use also allowed "instant-on" operation because there were no filaments to heat up.

As to mobility, the typical portable tube radio of the 1950s was about the size and weight of a lunchbox, and was powered by several heavy, non-rechargeable batteries. A transistor radio could fit in a pocket, weighed half a pound, and was powered by a single compact 9V battery.



With these pros in mind, TI's executive vice president Pat Haggerty "decided that the electronics industry needed a transistor wake-up call and that a small radio would provide it," according to [TI's Web site](#).

Haggerty decided TI would develop the transistor radio business and the company's semiconductor products division took on the challenge of developing a method for mass-producing germanium transistors.

In the spring of 1954 and with a prototype in hand, TI searched out an established radio manufacturer to develop and market a radio using its transistors. TI soon partnered with the Regency Division of Industrial Development Engineering Associates (IDEA). The "transistor ra-

dio apparatus" was patented by IDEA's Richard Koch in 1955.

Prototype transistor radios built prior to the TR-1 required manually selecting and matching electrical components to make them work, which in turn created a prohibitive cost per unit for large-scale production. Koch designed a feedback circuit that accommodated the tolerance of production-run components and let them be soldered directly into the boards without manual selection.

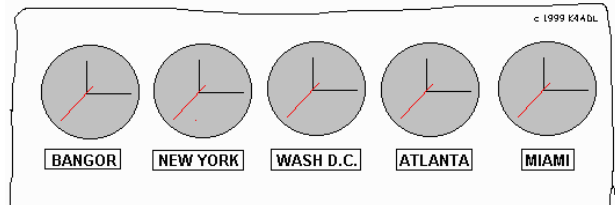
The new transistor radio would be introduced in New York and Los Angeles by mid-October to take advantage of holiday sales. The 5x3x1¼-inch radio used four TI transistors and a TI sub-miniature output transformer.

When it went on sale on November 1, the Regency TR-1 cost \$49.95. Although its price was high in terms of 1950s dollars, nearly 100,000 of the pocket radios were sold in a year.

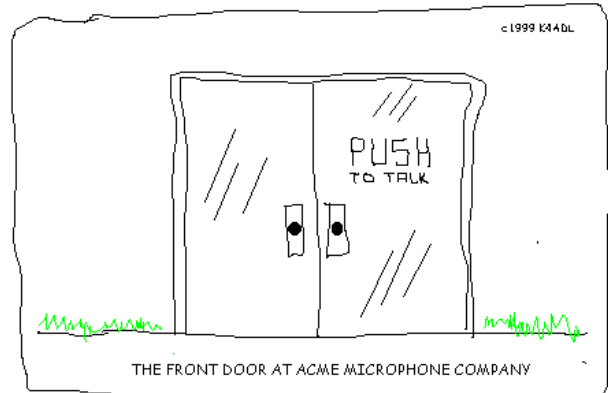
The transistor radio remains one of the most popular communications devices. Some estimates suggest that there are more than seven billion transistor radios in existence.

(From [Suzanne Deffree](#), *EDN Network*, 18 October 2013)

-- ANDY COHN-K4ADL KARTOONS --



WORLD TIME CLOCKS FOR THE INTERNATIONALLY CHALLENGED



THE FRONT DOOR AT ACME MICROPHONE COMPANY



November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Return to Standard Time – Set clocks back one hour.		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	QCWA, 11:15 @ Denny's, Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE repeater 145.430	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr		TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr		TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater or the 444.100 Repeater are inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on 146.580 MHz simplex. Thanks for your cooperation.

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

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

Local Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Summer Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. _____ E-Mail _____ 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) _____

Regular Member @ \$25.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$30.00/year __, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year __. (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment 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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Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS

Circulation: San Yoder-K3SY

2013 TARC Officers

President: Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI

V. President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP

Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS

Treasurer: Dave Gill-K4JDG

Directors: Bob Avrutik-N1RA

Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO

Conrad Owens-WA3RRS

San Yoder-K3SY