



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



-- NOVEMBER 2012 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Another month has passed, and our northern members are returning to their winter nests and all is well in Venice. However there are always one or two areas open to improvement, hence the following: At the October meeting I asked for volunteers to aid in promoting our organization and Amateur Radio in general in the Venice area.

What I proposed was setting up a simulated emergency station at one or two community events in downtown Venice. Using VHF and UHF equipment (so as to lessen disruption of any of our shack locations) showing the general public (and visiting hams) the importance of our ability to provide backup communications.

To my utter dismay only two hands went up out of twenty members present. At the following Friday's breakfast a couple of sour-tasting comments were voiced, which I will not comment upon. I surmise that I will be lectured to as to why I brought this to the forefront in our issue of *The Communicator* this month. Most members read this fine publication put out by Jack-W4JS each month and, since meeting and net attendance is somewhat lackluster during this time, this is my only method available.

Come to the meetings and make your comments, negative or positive, and be a contributing member.

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

-- NOVEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **14 November 2012** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program will be the official video of the recent HK0NA DXpedition to Malpelo Island. This operation was no easy task—definitely for the physically young and dedicated hams.

*No day is over if it makes a memory.
Plan for the best; prepare for the worst. -
Chinese Fortune Cookies*

-- PLAN AHEAD --

There's just one month to go before it's time to enjoy the Tampa Bay Hamfest 01-02 December. This event is the largest regional hamfest and is deserving of your support. In addition to a variety of vendors, there are a number of activities lined up that could tweak your interest, to wit:

An Antenna Building Class will be held from 1 – 4 PM on Saturday, wherein you will build a 2-element VHF antenna and dual band VHF/UHF J-Pole-in-a-pipe. Both those could be useful by anyone needing a good base station antenna. There's a \$25 charge for materials.

VE Exams will be given on a "walk in" basis on Saturday for anyone trying for a new license or an upgrade.

Ham Radio Deluxe will be described and update info presented by the founder of W4PC software and the owner of HRD.

A forum on the popular Buddipole antennas will be given by Chris Drummond-W3FF.

AMSAT, QCWA, MARS, ARRL, etc. will have forums relative to their organizations, and all are welcome to attend.

DXCC/WAS/UCC/IARU QSL card checking will be available all day Saturday. Here's a good chance to apply for or upgrade those awards without having to send cards up to Newington.

See <http://www.fgcarc.org> for complete information about this hamfest—you should find something of interest. Plan ahead.

-- ALINCO STILL IN BUSINESS --

GRE, the radio manufacturer which also represents Alinco in the US has ceased manufacturing of scanner radios. "GRE America will continue to market, service and support Alinco's radio products without any interruption," service tech and engineer Michael Herbert-WB6JKV says. "So for us amateurs, it will be business as usual. No worries for warranty repairs. We have a great parts supply."

From *Amateur Radio Newsline Report 1837* – 26 October 2012.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

10 October 2012

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Alice Yoder, Dexter Atkinson-KB1FY and Joe Thiel-WA1VNP were welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 12 September meeting as published in the October issue of *The Communicator*. Tom Fraser-KD8OTO so moved, seconded by San Yoder-K3SY, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing received or sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2700.54. Receipts were \$11.00 from the August meeting 50/50 and a \$10.00 donation from Stew Haag-W4MO. Expenses were \$15.01 for Internet service and \$250.00 for tower work on the 2-meter repeater antenna, totaling \$265.01. The ending balance is \$2456.53. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Curts-KA9ZAZ, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – No activity reported.

VE TESTING – There are two potential candidates for the 13 October VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – No changes in the membership.

NET OPERATIONS – About four to six members are checking into the TARC nets.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 23 members, spouses and friends present at the 03 October lunch/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53, held at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. National Director Ken Simpson-W8EM gave a presentation of upcoming changes in the management and operation of the QCWA. All are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of the month around 11:15 AM.

OLD BUSINESS – Fred gave an overview of his relative lack of success communicating with the triathlon communications coordinator, and called it quits.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred has observed that there is little exposure of ham radio, and the TARC, to the public and asked if there was any interest by club members in participating at local public events and exhibitions. Apparently free booths could be available where, possibly, a sta-

tion could be put on the air to demonstrate ham radio. Joe Thiel-WA1VNP commented that he would be glad to display his emergency communications gear, and Bob Avrutik-N1RA offered to display the HF mobile station in his car. No other members expressed any interest.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:24 PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS, and passed. There were 16 members and three visitors present.

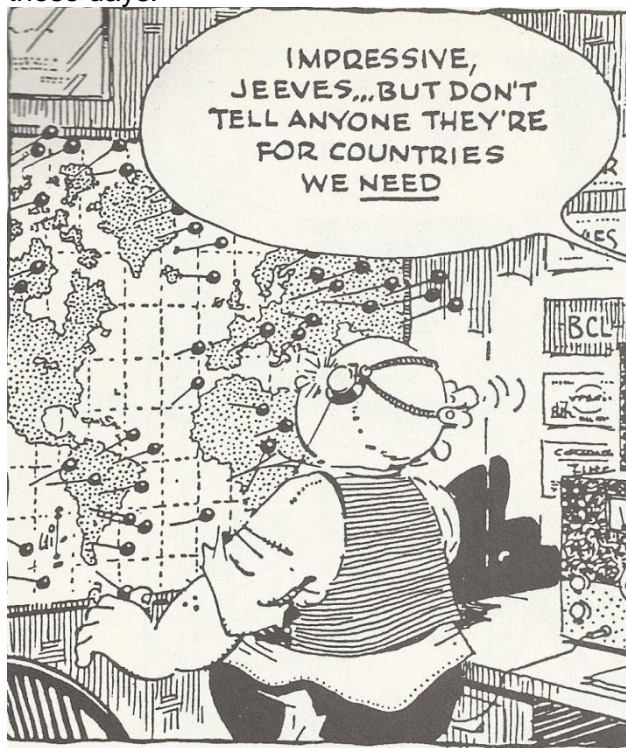
PROGRAM – San Yoder-K3SY offered a program "Points of Interest in the Northeast, and/or checks-offs of my Bucket List". Points of interest include San's recent visits to the 9/11 Memorial in Manhattan, the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA, the Horseshoe Curve near Altoona, PA, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and the NFL Hall of Fame among others.

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

-- THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE --

A bit of humor from the inimitable Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve-W1CJD (SK) who created over 1500 cartoons and covers for *QST* over a 40-year span. This offering is from the October 1964 issue of *QST*. Too bad no one ever took his place, as we sure could use some humor these days.



One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory
– Chinese fortune cookie

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
Tanzania – 5H3NP; by WB0VGI	Now to 12 Dec	83	22-04	21-04	20-05	18-00	12-20	13-19	14-18	15-17
Solomon Is – H44MS; ++ by DL2GAC	Now to 10 Dec	275	07-13	06-14	--	13-16	19-00	19-23	20-22	20-22
Svalbard IS – JW2US; ++, LA2US	Now to 30 Nov	13	--	21-13	--	13-18	14-17	14-16	14-17	15-16
Chagos Archipelago – VQ9JC; ** by ND9M	Now to 15 Nov	313	22-01	21-02	20-03	15-22	13-20	13-19	14-16	15-16
Maldives – 8Q7EJ; CW, SSB, RTTY	Now to 11 Nov	41	--	--	--	12-22	--	--	--	--
Mauritania – 5T5BV	Now to 10 Nov	81	22-08	20-09	18-11	12-00	12-22	13-21	15-19	15-19
Chatham Is – ZL7A; CW, SSB, Digital	01 to 09 Nov	230	06-12	05-13	04-14	15-01	19-01	21-00	17-01	23-00
Papua New Guinea – P29VPB; Int'l Team Op	02 to 04 Nov	283	08-12	07-13	06-14	13-15	19-20	20-22	21-22	21-22
Vanuatu – YJ0AFU; JT65 w/ some CW, SSB	03 to 10 Nov	262	06-12	05-14	04-14	13-15	18-00	19-23	20-22	21-22
Kenya – 5Z4/SMITDE; **, holiday style	05 to 22 Nov	76	--	21-04	21-05	18-00	13-22	13-21	14-19	14-18
Papua New Guinea – P29VCX; varied IOTA	06 to 13 Nov	283	08-13	07-14	06-14	08-17	14-01	20-00	20-23	21-22
Uganda – 5X1NH - **, some SSB & Digital	06 Nov – 11 Dec	77	22-04	21-05	20-05	18-23	13-22	13-21	14-20	15-18
Palau – T88ON; by JA3JND	09 to 13 Nov	306	08-13	07-14	06-15	13-00	14-00	14-23	21-22	1500
St Peter & Paul – PT0S; International Team	10 to 22 Nov	108	22-09	20-10	17-14	12-23	13-22	13-21	14-20	16-19
Madagascar – 5R8IC; ** & digital, holiday stl	10 Nov – 09 Dec	90	--	--	--	18-23	16-22	15-20	14-17	15-16
Brunei – V84SMD; International Team	11 to 23 Nov	330	10-12	09-13	09-14	13-00	14-18	14-18	15-17	16-17
South Cook Is – E51KBR; ++, RTTY, PSK31	12 to 19 Nov	246	--	--	--	13-01	16-00	16-00	17-23	19-22
South Cook Is – E51C, etc.; all modes	12 to 30 Nov	246	04-12	03-14	03-15	13-00	16-00	16-00	17-22	19-21
Lord Howe Is – VK9/OH1VR & VK9/OH3JR	17 to 27 Nov	249	07-12	06-14	06-14	12-17	14-01	20-00	21-00	22-23
South Cook Is – E51TLA; CW & RTTY	18 Nov – 08 Dec	246	04-13	03-14	03-15	13-00	16-00	16-00	18-22	19-22
Lesotho – 7P8D; International Team	23 Nov – 03 Dec	110	22-04	21-04	20-05	18-00	13-23	14-18	13-21	13-22
Mauritania – 5T0SP; Polish Team, All Modes	24 Nov – 10 Dec	81	22-08	19-09	17-12	12-23	13-21	13-20	15-19	15-18
Maldives – 8Q7AU; by HB9OAU, ++	26 Nov – 11 Dec	41	22-01	21-02	20-00	13-23	13-21	14-20	15-19	15-18
Auckland & Campbell Is – ZL9HR; Team Op	28 Nov – 09 Dec	224	08-12	06-13	06-14	13-16	17-00	16-00	NO	NO

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

Notes: Time in bold =h Bands 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.2.60 propagation software, available to download at <http://www.gsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- OCTOBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 98 to 156, with a mean value of 123.4 (vs. 137.3 for October 2011 and 81.7 for October 2010), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on nine days. The sunspot number ranged from 37 to 119, with a mean of 73.5. Sunspot Regions 1583 to 1602 were active, with one X-class, six M-class and 122 C-class flares. A total of 17 flares on 08-09 October drove the planetary A-index up to 111 with resultant radiation and geomagnetic storms.

-- NOVEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at low levels with a slight chance for M-class flares 01-04 and 15-25 November.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels 01-04 November. High flux levels are expected 05-24 November.

The geomagnetic field may be at active levels 01 November, with a chance of minor storm periods due to arrival of CMEs observed 27 October. Field activity should decrease to unsettled to active 02 November, decreasing to quiet to unsettled 03 November. Quiet conditions are expected 04-07 November. An increase to un-

settled is expected 08 November, further increasing to active levels 09 November with a chance of minor storm periods. Activity should decrease to quiet to active levels 10 November, with quiet levels expected for the rest of November.

The Solar Flux should average 118.2 during November.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 29 October 2012, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 29 October 2012, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 29 October 2012)

-- MISCELLANEOUS DX NOTES --

“Sandy” moving up the east coast caused the CY0-Sable Island operation to close down four days early. The runway on the beach was undergoing tidal flooding.

The NH8S-Swains Island QSLs are being printed in Italy and should be available soon. OQRS requests will be answered first. If you think you worked them but the online log doesn't show the QSO, check www.nh8s.org as there were some glitches in the logs that have been corrected.

QSL direct to WD5COV for 3D2C-Conway Reef QSLs if you haven't already sent a request to YT1AD.

Look for SE station VI6ARG30 05-19 Nov.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING NOVEMBER

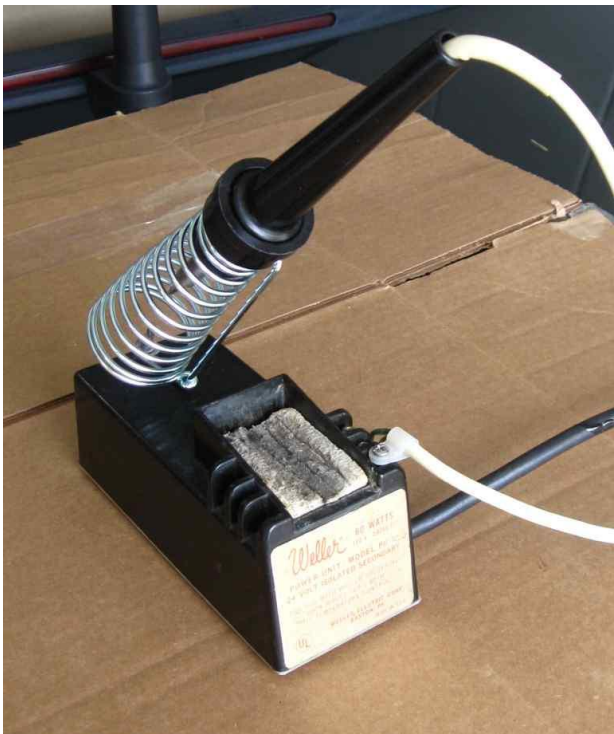
Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z 03 Nov 1200Z 04 Nov	160 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), Serial
ARRL November Sweepstakes	2100Z 03 Nov 0300Z 05 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes for exchange	See ARRL web site
DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"	1100Z 04 Nov 1700Z 04 Nov	10 Meters Only All Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
Worked All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 10 Nov 2400Z 11 Nov	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	EU Stations; QTC info at www.waedc.de	RST, Serial
10-10 Fall Digital DX Contest	0001Z 10 Nov 2359Z 11 Nov	10 Meters Only Digital Modes	10-10 Members	Name, "0" if non-member, State
Japan International DX Contest	0700Z 10 Nov 1300Z 11 Nov	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Japanese Stations	RS, CQ Zone (5 locally)
OK-OM DX Contest	1200Z 10 Nov 1200Z 11 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	OK-OM Stations	RST, Serial
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z 11 Nov 2359Z 11 Nov	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere with manual key, bug, etc.	RST, QTH, Name "none"
LZ DX Contest	1200Z 17 Nov 1200Z 18 Nov	80 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), ITU Zone (8 locally)
ARRL November Sweepstakes	2100Z 17 Nov 0300Z 19 Nov	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes for exchange	See ARRL web site
CQ World Wide CW Contest	0000Z 24 Nov 2359Z 26 Nov	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	DXCC Entities	RS, CQ Zone (5 locally)
SKCC Straight Key Sprint	0000Z 28 Nov 0200Z 28 Nov	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere with straight key	RST, S/P/C, Name, Power

Legend: Serial = 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: State QSO Parties and "membership clubs" contests are not shown. See above references for information.

-- SOLDERING STATION REPAIRS --



Rich Greenberg-N6LRT offers the following.

When your classic 1960s Weller W-TCP soldering station (pictured) has failed, you wonder who is available to perform repairs. The Weller Repair Center in Apex, NC does perform repairs on these models, but some parts are now unavailable (no longer in production or stocked).

<http://www.apexhandtools.com/weller/warranty.cfm>

I recently found that Greg, W9GB does perform repairs of these classic Weller W-TCP models from the 1960s. Repairing this model since 1975, Greg has acquired a stock of hard to find parts or replacements over the years.

My 45 yr old Weller (1967 mfg) recently failed and he was able to repair and restore my workbench tool. He kept me abreast through the repair process and his rates were reasonable. If you have one of these classics that is in need of repair in your junk box, you may wish to contact Greg via w9gb@arrl.net

(Perhaps of interest, your editor bought his 135-watt Weller Model S400 soldering gun in 1954. It's also been used in Indonesia and Jordan and it's still going strong. In fact, it's better than a Weller gun bought a couple years ago.)

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	3
4	5	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	7 QCWA Lunch, @ Panda Pa- vilion 11:15 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	8 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	10 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
11	12 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	14 TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	15 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	17
18	19	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	21 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	22 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	24
25	26	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	28 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	29 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on the W4AC 444.100 MHz Repeater. 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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The Communicator is a monthly publication
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