



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>



-- OCTOBER 2014 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Breakfast at Peaches on the fifth of September brought up a pro and con type debate concerning DX chasing where many hams actually rent the use of remote locations to reach areas normally unreachable from their home QTH's. Is it fair for someone in NYC not being able to work a rather rare South Pacific DXpedition with full legal power and his excellent yagi while the guy down the street with 100 watts and a vertical does it through a West Coast remote station set up by some another ham? Worth some consideration???

Bob Marchese-K1NOK sent us an interesting e-mail about the SAR (Statewide Amateur Radio) network being established throughout Florida. Since our UHF repeater gets little usage (HINT!!!), it opens a door for TARC to really make a difference in emergencies. It is being looked into.

A pertinent side note to think about. Only a few days following distribution of our September newsletter, where I cautioned against distracted driving, a 53-year old Nokomis gentleman doing 45 mph ran straight into the rear of a pickup truck. The truck was stopped at the Legacy Trail stop light and the 53-year old was texting while driving his new motor scooter.

VY 73 to All de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- OCTOBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **08 October 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.

-- AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT --

There are now 47 co-sponsors for the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014 (H.R. 4969). Another half-dozen or so US House Members have indicated that they will sign on when Congress returns, something they can do only while Congress is in session.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, introduced in the US House of Representatives with bipartisan support in late June, calls on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The limited PRB-1 pre-emption currently applies only to state and municipal land-use ordinances. The FCC has indicated its reluctance to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements -- often called covenants, conditions, and restrictions or CC&Rs -- without direction from Congress.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 25 September 2014)

-- NEW SKYHOOK --



At his Indiana summer QTH, Stan Robinson-W9SMR has the freedom to put up this 48' self-supporting tower and 5-band Hex Beam. Stan had given the antenna a successful trial run at 10' during his "pontoon portable" PSK31 operation on 19-20 August. Lookin' Great, Stan!!

**Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
10 September 2014**

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a flag pledge. Introductions were then made all around, with Helmut Michel from Sarasota being recognized as a visitor.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 13 August meeting as published in the September issue of *The Communicator*. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX so moved, seconded by Bob Smith-KK4WLT, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing sent nor received.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Due to the absence of Treasurer Dave Gill-K4JDG, Jack Sproat-W4JS reported on Dave's behalf. The starting balance was \$4120.32. Receipts were \$15.95 from John Kennedy-N2LW as payment for his desktop call sign. Expenses were \$178.20 to Jack Sproat for the HostGator.com for three years of web hosting fees, and \$59.80 to Dave Gill for three ARRL Technician Q&A manuals, totaling \$238.00. The closing balance was \$3,898.27. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Don Jansen-KI4VGE, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing to report.

VE TESTING – We have had several inquiries for attendance at our 13 September VE session.

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

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – No changes since the 01 August roster was distributed to all members.

NET OPERATIONS – No comment.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 14 members and spouses at our 03 September lunch at the Hibachi Grill Buffet in Bird Bay Plaza. This was our final lunch there, as we will be returning to Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota starting 01 October for the 2014-2015 Season.

OLD BUSINESS – Fred advised that he has been working some with a Herald-Tribune writer, who has given him some guidance in preparation of some material publicizing the TARC. Fred asked the members to prepare some input regarding their personal experiences in amateur radio, e.g., why they got into electronics and ham radio, whether ham radio benefitted their work career, highlights of their ham radio experiences, etc.

NEW BUSINESS – Nothing.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Nothing.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn was made at 7:19 by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Tom McDermitt-W3GXV, and passed. There were 12 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB offered an updated video presentation on the 2007 BS7H-Scarborough Reef DXpedition.

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

-- WISCONSIN HAM DIES IN FALL --



Tower involved in fatal fall

James G. Linstedt-W9ZUC of Eau Clair, Wisconsin died 16 September from injuries he sustained when he fell 95 feet from a tower in Eagle Point, near Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Linstedt, age 59, is reported to have had extensive experience climbing and working on towers. He also was reported to have been wearing an over the shoulder safety harness, but was not tied off while working on the 100 ft. tower at the home of Ronald Anderson-W9RMA, located on the shore of Lake Wissota.

(From the *Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire*, 19 September 2014)

(While no TARCians we know of are lucky enough to have a 100' tower, this is an unfortunate tale of what can happen when you overlook the basics of safety—whether up in the air or on the ground. Electrical shock can kill just as fast as a 100' fall. So, always be alert!)

The wise thing to do is to prepare for the unexpected.

Not to alter one's faults is to be faulty indeed.

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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
Saba & Sint Eustatius – PJ6/G4IUF, all modes	Now to 02 Nov	114	21-12	00-24	00-24	11-07	12-01	12-00	13-23	14-21
Reunion Is – FR/DJ7RJ; CW and SSB	Now to 30 Oct	91	23-02	22-03	22-03	18-05	16-21	14-20	12-19	14-16
Nauru – C21GC; by LZ1GC, all modes	Now to 14 Oct	279	06-12	05-13	05-14	00-16	13-02	14-01	19-23	19-21
Cape Verde – D44KS; by EA7FTR SSB/RTY	Now to 10 Oct	89	22-08	20-11	19-12	11-02	12-01	13-23	13-22	15-20
Tanzania – 5H1MD; by IZ1MHY, all modes	Now to 10 Oct	83	23-04	22-04	22-05	18-06	11-01	12-00	12-22	13-21
French Polynesia – FO/DF1YP, holiday style	Now to 08 Oct	243	03-12	02-13	02-13	15-13	15-09	15-04	16-03	16-01
Nepal – 9N7CJ; by F3CJ ++	Now to 06 Oct	13	--	--	--	11-03	12-02	--	--	--
South Cook Is – E51HDJ, E51XIW	Now to 06 Oct	246	04-12	02-14	02-14	22-18	16-06	16-03	17-02	17-00
Tristan da Cunha – ZD9ZS, ZD9XF	Now to 03 Oct	132	23-07	22-08	22-08	19-11	11-00	12-23	12-22	13-19
Bhutan – A52O; by OH2YY & OH1TV	Now to 02 Oct	8	NO	23-00	23-00	11-05	12-03	13-16	14-15	14-15
Malawi – 7Q7VW; by DK2WV, all modes	01 – 21 Oct	90	23-04	22-05	22-05	18-06	12-23	12-22	13-21	14-18
West Kiribati – T30D; big German team op	02 – 15 Oct	277	06-12	04-13	04-14	00-19	13-03	14-02	18-01	19-00
Micronesia – V63XP; by JH0JHQ	03 – 06 Oct	293	07-12	06-13	06-13	01-16	13-03	20-02	20-01	20-23
Fiji – 3D2YA; by JA1NLX, **	03 – 09 Oct	258	--	--	04-13	01-15	17-14	18-03	18-02	18-01
Austral Is – TX5Z; by N7QT, all modes	03 – 13 Oct	239	03-12	02-14	02-13	15-13	16-03	16-02	16-00	17-23
Tonga – A35RT; by VK3GK, spare time op	03 – 14 Oct	253	05-12	04-14	03-14	23-18	17-04	17-03	18-02	18-00
Vanuatu – YJ0X; team operation, all modes	03 – 15 Oct	262	06-12	05-14	05-14	01-15	18-02	19-01	19-00	20-23
Seychelles – S79KB; by DL2SBY, all modes	04 – 18 Oct	68	--	--	21-03	18-04	12-00	12-23	12-22	13-20
Kenya – 5Z4/DJ4EL; ++	04 – 19 Oct	76	--	22-04	--	18-02	11-01	12-00	13-22	14-21
Timor Leste – 4W/G3ZEM; **	08 – 20 Oct	300	09-12	08-13	08-13	12-18	13-01	14-00	22-23	22-23
Mariana Is – W1AW/KH0 by JA1NVF	08 – 21 Oct	306	07-12	06-13	06-13	12-02	13-01	20-00	21-23	21-22
Tokelau – ZK3Q, ZK3E; two-man SP team	08 – 29 Oct	262	05-12	03-14	03-14	12-10	13-02	17-02	17-01	18-00
Easter Is – CE0Y/DK5BP & DL8LR	11 – 18 Oct	208	--	00-13	23-13	12-09	13-02	14-01	14-00	15-23
Lord Howe Is – VK9DLX; German team op	13 – 29 Oct	249	07-12	06-13	06-13	02-14	18-03	19-02	20-01	21-00
South Cook Is – E51NOU; by N7OU, **	13 Oct to 09 Nov	246	04-12	02-14	02-14	12-09	16-02	16-01	17-01	17-00
Zambia – 9I50JO; by 9J2BO	15 – 31 Oct	95	22-04	21-05	21-05	17-04	12-00	12-23	13-21	13-17
Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ/JD1, **	15 Oct to 01 Dec	308	07-12	05-14	05-14	12-03	13-02	20-01	20-00	21-23
Marquesas Is – TX7G; 3-man team, all modes	18 – 26 Oct	245	03-12	00-14	00-14	12-09	14-02	15-01	15-01	16-00
Albania – ZA/F4DTO, ZA/F4GFE; ++	18 – 27 Oct	48	--	21-08	--	12-03	12-20	12-19	13-18	14-17
Christmas Is – VK9XSP; SP team op	18 – 31 Oct	334	11-12	10-13	10-13	12-00	13-01	14-00	14-17	15-17
Timor Leste – 4W/K7CO; team op, SSB, CW	19 – 31 Oct	300	09-12	08-13	08-13	12-19	13-02	14-01	22-00	22-23
Madagascar – 5R8M; Italian team op	20 Oct to 04 Nov	90	22-03	22-04	21-03	19-06	15-23	12-22	12-21	13-19
American Samoa – KH8B	21 – 27 Oct	256	05-12	03-14	03-14	12-10	16-02	17-02	17-01	18-00
Macao – XX9??; 5-man team op	22 Oct to 01 Nov	341	10-12	09-13	10-12	12-02	13-01	13-16	14-15	14-15
Nepal – 9N7CJ; by F3CJ, ++	24 Oct to 04 Nov	13	--	--	--	12-03	13-15	--	--	--
Maldives – 8Q7OO; by GM0IO	29 Oct to 11 Nov	41	22-01	21-02	21-02	12-00	12-23	13-22	14-21	15-20
Namibia – V5/OE3SZA; ++	29 Oct to 11 Nov	107	22-05	21-06	--	17-06	12-00	12-00	12-23	13-21
Tromelin – FT4TA; French team operation	30 Oct to 10 Nov	84	22-02	21-03	21-03	18-02	15-23	12-21	13-19	14-16

Updated 29 September based on the 22 September *The Weekly DX*, the 24 September *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.

-- SEPTEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 119 to 181, with a mean value of 146.2 (vs. 102.7 for September 2013 and 123.2 for September 2012), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 24 days. The sunspot number through 29 September ranged from 72 to 203, with a mean of 126.1.

September was a rather unsettled to active month, with one X-class, 11 M-class and numerous C-class flares. Propagation was generally favorable for the faithful.

-- OCTOBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate levels (R1-R2, Minor-Moderate) with a slight chance for X-class flaring (R3-Strong or greater) throughout October.

A slight chance for a greater than 10 MeV proton event (S1-Minor and above) exists throughout October due to potential flare activity.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be normal to moderate levels with high levels possible 01-02 and 22-29 October due to coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS) influence.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels 01-02, 15, 17, 19-20, 25-27 and 29 October. Unsettled to active levels are expected on 16 and 21-24 October

The Solar Flux should range from 120-195 and average 158.9 during October.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 29 September 2014, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 29 September 2014, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 29 Sept 2014.)

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING OCTOBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Oceania DX Phone Contest	0800Z 04 Oct 0800Z 05 Oct	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations in Oceania	RS, serial
Russian WW Digital Contest	1200Z 04 Oct 1159Z 05 Oct	160 – 10 Meters BPSK63, RTTY	Anyone, Anywhere; 100 watts max	RST, serial
Worked All Britain HF Contest	1200Z 04 Oct 1200Z 05 Oct	20 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations in the British Isles	RS, serial, DXCC entity
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z 05 Oct 1900Z 05 Oct	15 & 10 Meters SSB and CW	UK stations	RS(T), serial
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z 11 Oct 1600Z 12 Oct	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid square
Oceania DX CW Contest	0800Z 11 Oct 0800Z 12 Oct	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Oceania	RST, serial
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 11 Oct 1200Z 12 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Scandinavian stations	RS, serial
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z 18 Oct 2400Z 19 Oct	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Japanese Stations	RST, Age of operator
Worked All Germany	1500Z 18 Oct 1459Z 19 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	German Stations	RS(T), serial
CQ WW DX SSB Contest	0000Z 25 Oct 2359Z 26 Oct	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	DXCC Entities	RS, CQ Zone

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%201410v2.pdf> for the complete list of the 45 contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be on during October.



(B. C., 17 September 2014)

When TARC's two master epicurean chefs, Conrad Owens-WA3RRS and Ed Clark-K8ZM start discussing their food preparations at a Peach's breakfast, this is rather well how the conversation sounds to those of us more accustomed to traditional Southren fare such as burgers, hush puppies, grits, greens, catfish, Johnny Cake, Coke, Dr. Pepper, etc.

-- FIT FOR HEARD ISLAND --



Planners for the 2015 Heard Island DXpedition originally dealt with a South African firm for transportation. When that firm hiked the costs significantly, they searched elsewhere. The charter has gone to the *Akademik Shokalskiy*, owned and operated by the Russian Federation (Far Eastern Hydrometeorological Research Institute, Vladivostok). The vessel is an ice-strengthened polar research and supply ship.

-- MEMBERS IMPROVING STATIONS --



Don Watson-K9DDO has rebuilt his Sarasota station with a mixture of modern and classic. Don's new Kenwood TS-590 has a new Vibroplex paddle in front, ready for action. The classic Astatic D-104 "banjo" mike head has been fitted with an electret element and mounted on a hand crafted mahogany stand. On the right is Don's 500-watt Ameritron solid state amplifier.



Meanwhile, up in the Atlanta, Georgia area, Bruce Brown-WA8IQF has just gotten his station set up to his liking. From left to right we see his Astron power supply, the Icom PW-1 solid state kilowatt amplifier, his Icom IC-7600 transceiver with a dual-time clock, monitor and the controller for his SteppIR vertical above it, and his dedicated radio computer. Take note of his call sign displayed on top of the computer.

Nice looking stations there, Don and Bruce, and we hope they perform as well as they look.

-- NOTABLE QUOTES

"I find friendship to be like wine, raw when new, ripened with age, the true old man's milk and restorative cordial." – Thomas Jefferson, 17 August 1811

"We have the wolf by the ears and feel the danger of either holding or letting him loose." – Thomas Jefferson, 18 July 1824

-- HOW CLEAN IS YOUR XCVR? --

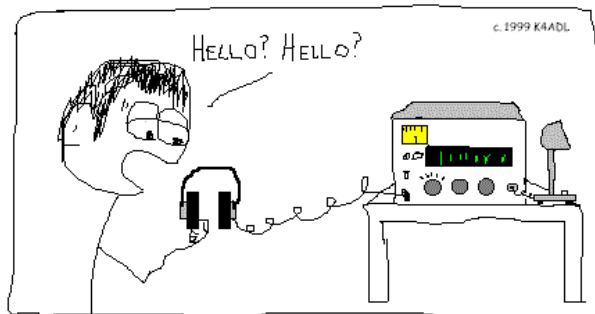
An interesting web page that measures the transmitter performance of noise element production by a number of popular amateur radio transceivers has been created by Jim Brown-K9YC. In his research, much of which is derived from ARRL lab tests, Brown measured such areas as key clicks, intermodulation distortion, and phase noise. You can see the results of his study if you take a look on the web at <http://k9yc.com/TXNoise.pdf>.

(From *Amateur Radio Newsline*(tm) Report 1937 – 26 September 2014)

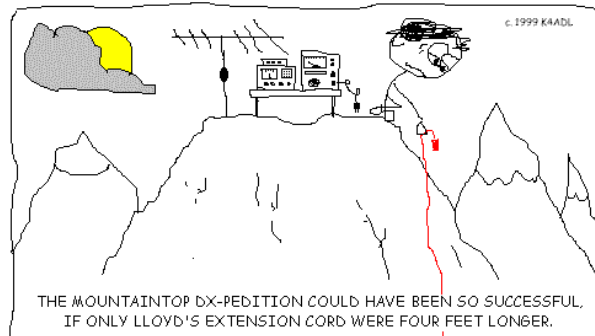
-- THE DEMISE OF RADIO SHACK --

The Florida Contest Group reflector hosted a number of comments regarding Radio Shack's fall from grace. A number of guys recalled the days after WW II when tons of surplus radios and electronics were available dirt cheap. Many hams got their start with modified "command sets" for transmitting and receiving. Heathkit got its start using surplus components in its kits. They also remembered when every town had a radio or appliance dealer where tubes and parts could be bought and receivers repaired.

Those days are gone, but it was a great era.



THE TRANSITION FROM SHORT-WAVE-LISTENER TO HAM OPERATOR WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT FOR EDMUND.



THE MOUNTAINTOP DX-PEDITION COULD HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL, IF ONLY LLOYD'S EXTENSION CORD WERE FOUR FEET LONGER.

Both of the above "original ham radio cartoons of dubious merit" are by Andy Cohn-K4ADL whose motto is "A Sick Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste." We appreciate Andy's permission to put some of his humor into club newsletters.

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 QCWA, 11:15 @ Denny's, Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota	2 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	3 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	4
5	6	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	8 TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	9 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	10 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	11 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
12	13 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE re- peater 145.430	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	15	16 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	17 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	18
19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	22	23 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	24 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM	25
26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	29	30 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	31 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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