



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>



-- OCTOBER 2012 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Fall is here and our northern compatriots will be returning with an influx of summertime stories. The nets will have bigger turn outs and the weather threats will be reduced. The holiday get-togethers will soon be upon us, winter will come and go and the cycle will begin again. It would seem as though nothing will change. Not so!

This summer was one of the hottest and driest (for many areas) historically speaking and it would seem that there really is some credence to the Global Warming concerns. We had massive amounts of flooding in the east while the lack of rain in the western states gave rise to massive forest fires which destroyed thousands of homes. Our chosen hobby found itself very important in all of these disasters and as the projections are indicating there will be much more of the same awaiting us in the future. Here in Florida we prepare for the hurricane season on a yearly basis, while up north fall brings on the preparation for winter's onslaught.

What does all this have to do with us as hams. The most visible effects of all the future weather impacts will be in the form of a greater magnitude expand frequency of natural disasters. FEMA and local disaster response organizations have had to cut their operating budgets due to their associated financial short falls. It would seem that in the long run we will have to step up to the plate. How do we do this?

We need to increase our capabilities and then continue honing them. We need to show the general public that though we are titled "Amateur Radio Operators" we are in fact PROFESSIONALS. If you have any doubts as to what I have said go to the following link for a down to earth sobering look at our future challenges. www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4995

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory, and You always see better with your heart. - Chinese Fortune Cookies

-- OCTOBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **10 October 2012** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program will be something of interest—we assume.

-- A "HAM" IS DEFINED --

A month ago, President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI asked the members to submit to him their definition of how they envisioned a typical Radio Amateur, aka a "Ham." Fred pored over the submittals and determined that the following offering was most applicable.

"An often porky guy with perhaps a smoky aroma who is prone to inane discourse at all hours of the day and night, but especially at breakfast. Tickling the ether with finger twitches or flapping lips, he touches the farthest regions of Earth, and a 'new one' may be his greatest pleasure in life. (He is misunderstood by many.)"

This thoughtful observation was submitted by Conrad Owens-WA3RRS. Congratulations, Conrad and enjoy your meal at Sharky's!!

-- HOW TO RECOGNIZE A DXER --

(Now that Conrad has enlightened all on the characteristics of a typical ham, how does one recognize a ham who's devoted to DXing? The following comes from *The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited/published by C. T. Allen-W5DV and J. M. Allen-W6OGC, 1981)

"Tell me," the QRPer asks, "how come you hear all this talk about how easy it is to recognize a real old and long-time DXer? I've seen a lot of DXers and to me they seem to come in all sizes, shapes and condition. What's the story?"

Although his words were a clue that he had been looking for facial features and body shapes, and we knew that we could best this one. "One must learn," we guardedly advised, "that the DXer you see at breakfast or club

See **DXER**, page 4

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

12 September 2012

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. There were no visitors.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 08 August meeting as published in the September issue of *The Communicator*. Bob Avrutik-N1RA so moved, seconded by Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing received.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2901.64. Receipts were \$13.00 from the August meeting 50/50. Expenses were \$15.01 for Internet service and \$199.09 for insurance on the repeater equipment, totaling \$214.10. The ending balance is \$2700.54. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – No activity reported.

VE TESTING – There were no candidates for the 08 September VE session.

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

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY was not present to give any updates.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred-KJ4TNI asked for a show of hands from members who have the capability to get on the nets. When he asked for a show of hands from those who check into the nets, there was a decided decline. Fred asked if the nets were held at a different time, would there be more interest? There were no positive reactions. Fred then asked for any ideas that could stir up interest in the nets. None were offered at the meeting.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 16 members, spouses and friends present at the 05 September lunch at the Panda Pavilion in Venice. That was our final lunch at the Panda Pavilion as our meetings will be at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota from October through May 2013. All are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of the month around 11:15 AM.

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing carried over.

NEW BUSINESS – Fred-KJ4TNI reported that, while he was supposed to name the winner of his request for the best definition of the word "ham" as applied to amateur radio operators, he

had left his reference material at home. Fred did state that Conrad Owens-WA3RRS was the winner, and this would be better explained at the next Friday breakfast.

We had received an e-mail notice of the upcoming Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), which described the locations of the planned stations and requested input from anyone interested with regard to what equipment they could furnish, when they could operate, etc. As none of the planned JOTA sites were convenient to this area, no one expressed any interest in participating.

Fred briefly described the activities involved in the 28 October triathlon to be held in the Venice/Englewood area. The sponsors are soliciting communications assistance from hams in the area, and other clubs and individuals have expressed interest. Fred was able to get positive reactions from most of the members present.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:16 PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Guenther-AJ4QX, and passed. There were 12 members and no visitors present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB power point presentations on two diverse subjects. The first, "Who Invented Radio?", provided historical data and dates relative to Hertz, Marconi, Tesla, Stubblefield, et al, with the conclusion that Heinrich Hertz first demonstrated the development of radio frequency transmission and reception. Hans then followed with "Exploring Russia" which highlighted Hans' and Lisa's trip to western Russia and several other western European nations.

Jack Sproat – W4JS

Secretary



Halloween's coming!!

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
Svalbard IS – JW2US; ++, LA2US	Now to 30 Nov	13	--	21-12	--	12-23	14-20	14-17	14-21	14-21
Chagos Archipelago – VQ9JC; ** by ND9M	Now to 15 Nov	54	23-01	21-02	21-03	17-01	12-23	12-22	14-19	15-19
Reunion Is – FR/DJ7RJ	Now to 21 Oct	91	23-02	22-03	22-03	19-00	17-21	17-20	16-19	15-17
Niger – 5U5U; 3-man team, all modes	Now to 15 Oct	77	23-06	21-07	20-08	11-01	12-00	13-21	15-19	15-19
Tanzania/Zanzibar – 5H1HS/3 and 5H1HS	Now to 13 Oct	83	23-03	22-04	21-05	19-01	16-00	12-23	13-21	14-19
Conway Reef – 3D2C; International Team	Now to 05 Oct	255	06-12	04-13	04-14	01-15	18-03	18-01	19-00	20-22
Tristan da Cuna – ZD9UW; ++, some RTTY	Now to 04 Oct	132	23-07	22-08	22-09	19-09	11-00	12-21	13-18	13-17
Monaco – 3A/G0VJG	01 to 05 Oct	50	23-07	21-09	19-09	11-02	12-22	12-20	14-18	15-18
Mongolia – JT1EV; by JA6EV	02 to 08 Oct	354	1030	08-12	23-13	23-02	00-01	12-13	NO	NO
Tanzania – 5H2DK; by OH2NNE	02 to 27 Oct	83	23-03	22-04	21-05	19-01	16-00	12-23	13-21	14-19
Chad – TT8TT; Italian Team operation	03 to 16 Oct	73	22-05	22-06	21-07	17-01	12-00	12-23	14-20	16-18
Mariana Is – AH0KT; by JH8PHT	04 to 09 Oct	306	08-12	07-13	06-14	12-17	13-01	14-01	21-23	21-22
Mayotte – TO2M; by F6AML	04 to 19 Oct	85	23-03	22-04	21-04	18-01	12-23	12-21	13-20	14-18
Palau – T88IK; ++ by JF1LUT, also 6 meters	05 to 10 Oct	306	--	--	--	--	13-02	14-01	21-23	21-22
Christmas Is – VK9XM; 2-man team	06 to 12 Oct	334	--	11-12	10-13	12-16	13-19	14-17	14-16	15-16
French Polynesia – FO/F6BCW; **	06 to 26 Oct	243	--	02-13	01-14	15-11	15-02	16-01	16-01	16-00
Sable Is – CY0/WA4DAN & AA4VK	08 to 17 Oct	41	22-12	00-24	00-24	11-02	12-23	13-22	14-20	15-20
Tanzania – 5H3NP; by WB0VGI	08 Oct – 12 Dec	83	23-03	22-04	21-05	19-01	16-00	12-22	14-21	15-19
Fiji – 3D2ZY; by PY7ZY	11 to 15 Oct	258	06-12	05-14	04-14	02-07	18-01	18-00	19-23	20-22
Mariana Is – KH0/JA1FMY; SSB & PSK31	13 to 15 Oct	306	--	--	--	--	13-01	14-01	--	--
Uganda – 5X1NH; ** by G5RWF, some SSB	15 Oct – 12 Dec	77	22-04	22-04	21-05	19-02	16-23	12-23	13-21	14-20
Rodriguez Is – 3B9SP; by Swiss Team	16 to 23 Oct	84	23-01	22-02	21-03	19-00	16-21	15-20	13-19	14-18
West Kiribati – T30PY; by Brazilian Team	16 to 25 Oct	277	06-12	05-13	04-15	01-16	13-02	14-01	18-00	19-23
Solomon Is – H44MS; ++ by DL2GAC	17 Oct – 10 Dec	275	07-12	06-13	05-14	04-15	23-01	19-01	19-00	20-23
Mariana Is – NH0J; by Japanese Team	18 to 22 Oct	306	08-12	06-13	06-14	12-17	13-01	14-00	21-23	21-22
Macau – XX9FTR; by Spanish Team	18 to 29 Oct	341	10-11	09-12	09-13	12-01	14-16	14-16	14-17	NO
Vietnam – XV29FM; by JL7XBN	19 to 22 Oct	348	--	--	--	12-01	--	14-18	--	15-17
Papua New Guinea – P29VCX; Intern'l Team	20 to 24 Oct	283	08-12	07-13	06-14	05-17	13-23	19-01	20-00	20-23
Seychelles – S79UN, S79YY, S79LC	21 Oct – 04 Nov	68	22-02	21-03	20-04	19-03	12-00	12-23	13-21	14-20
Zimbabwe – Z21GF; by ZS6AYU	22 to 25 Oct	97	22-04	21-05	21-05	18-04	12-00	12-23	13-21	14-19
Senegal – 6V7S; by RK4FF	22 Oct – 03 Nov	87	22-08	20-10	19-10	12-00	12-23	13-22	13-21	15-20
American Samoa – KH8/JA2ZL	23 to 29 Oct	256	05-12	03-14	03-14	00-17	16-01	17-01	17-00	18-23
Togo – 5V7TH; by ON4CIT, also 6 meters	26 Oct – 05 Nov	87	--	21-07	20-08	12-04	12-00	12-23	13-22	13-21
Papua New Guinea – P29NI; Intern'l Team	27 to 31 Oct	283	08-12	07-13	06-14	06-17	13-00	19-00	20-00	21-22

Updated 28 September based on 26 September *QRZ DX*, 24 September *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.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- SEPTEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 97 to 146, with a mean value of 123.2 (vs. 134.5 for September 2011 and 81.0 for September 2010), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on 13 days. Through 29 September the sunspot number ranged from 44 to 156, with a mean of 83.5. Sunspot Regions 1559 to 1583 were active, with three M-class and 126 C-class flares. A series of C-class flares in the first days of the month sent CMEs Earth-bound with resultant disturbances to the geomagnetic field.

-- OCTOBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There's a slight chance for a proton event through 08 October.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 08-09, 09-10 and 17-18 October.

Geomagnetic field activity will remain at mostly quiet to unsettled except for 03-05, 09-10, 16-17, 26 and 30-31 October when recurrent coro-

nal hole high speed streams are expected to bring a chance for active levels

The Solar Flux should average 132.4 during October.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 24 September 2012, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 24 September 2012, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 24 September 2012)

-- CONWAY REEF-3D2C NOW ACTIVE --



Following the great Swains Island DXpedition, local DXers are keeping active with this one.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING OCTOBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
PSK Rumble – The Fall Classic	0000Z 06 Oct 2400Z 06 Oct	160 – 6 Meters PSK Modes	Anyone, Anywhere 100 Watts Max Power	Name, Call District
Worked All Provinces of China	0000Z 06 Oct 2359Z 06 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Stations in Chinese provinces, incl Tibet	RS(T), Serial
EPC Russia DX Contest	0400Z 06 Oct 0359Z 07 Oct	160 – 10 Meters PSK63 Only	Anyone, Anywhere 100 Watts Max Power	Serial, Grid Square
Oceania DX Phone Contest	0800Z 06 Oct 0800Z 07 Oct	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations within IARU WAC boundaries	RS, Serial
Worked All Britain HF Contest	1200Z 06 Oct 1200Z 07 Oct	20 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RS, Serial, DXCC Entity
10-10 Sprint	0001Z 10 Oct 2359Z 10 Oct	10 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digital	10-10 Members	Name, “0” (if non-member), State
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z 13 Oct 1600Z 14 Oct	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square
Oceania DX CW Contest	0800Z 13 Oct 0800Z 14 Oct	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations within IARU WAC boundaries	RST, Serial
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 13 Oct 1200Z 14 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Scandinavian Stations Only	RS, Serial
North American RTTY Sprint	0000Z 14 Oct 0400Z 14 Oct	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	DXCC Entities in North America	Both Calls, Serial, QTH, Name
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z 14 Oct 2359Z 14 Oct	160 – 6 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere with manual key, bug, etc.	RST, QTH, Name “none”
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z 20 Oct 2400Z 21 Oct	80 – 10 Meters Baudot RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Operator’s Age (“00” for YL)
10-10 Fall CW QSO Party	0001Z 20 Oct 2359Z 21 Oct	10 Meters Only CW Only	10-10 Members	Name, “0” (if non-member), State
Worked All Germany	1500Z 20 Oct 1459Z 21 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	German Stations Only	RS(T), Serial
CQ World Wide SSB Contest	0000Z 27 Oct 2359Z 28 Oct	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	DXCC Entities	RS, CQ Zone (5 locally)

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.

DXER, from page 1

meetings has often shed his normal attire for some sharper rags. You’ll have to catch him at ease, such as when he’s in his shack.

“You talk in circles,” he pounded back. “Just how do you tell a DXer...a real, true-blue, old-timer, three hundred plus DXer? Tell me!”

“One must recognize that to view a DXer from the front is often not the best for recognition,” we lectured the QRPer, “One must learn that the rear elevation is often of more value in identification. If you will take the time to note, you will learn that the relaxed DXers have a great fondness for pants with the seats cut knee-length. Often the sag of the bag in the britches is the true index of the achievement of the DXer.”

The QRPer jumped to his feet shouting “You’re right! You’re absolutely right! I’ve noted it before but never really understood. It is true that DXers

are fond of wearing pants with the seats cut knee-length!”

We were delighted that the QRPer had recognized one of the Inevitable Truths, but he was right back with another query. “But how about those DXers with short legs? How can they have a low sag in the bag without it getting down around their ankles?”

We advised the QRPer to do his own research. For once one learns to recognize a true-blue DXer by the seat of his pants sagging far towards the knee level, the full horizon of introspective DX thinking will start to open. And should you not yet be a Believer, check the cut of the seat and the sag of the bag the next time you’re out on reconnaissance. But beware of those false DXers without the full-cut of the true DXer, for you may be up against a DX dilettante. Really!!

-- ANTENNA DAY, 26 SEPTEMBER --



Ron LeBrun-KB4RON and Dave Nix started off the day up on the 70' W4JS tower, where they replaced the M2 rotator. Following testing and calibration they went down to the TARC repeater site off River Rd. in eastern Englewood.



Dave Nix did the honors by climbing up to the 2-meter antenna at the 180' level. Note that the elements of the 4-bay antenna were aimed at different headings, resulting in a rather omnidirectional pattern. The objective of the climb was to orient all elements in a northerly more cardioid pattern to better serve our membership in the Venice area.

Dave completed the alignment of the dipole elements, however, he also discovered that one element was broken.



Stew Haag-W4MO, W4AC license trustee and Chief Engineer of the repeaters, was contacted and advised of the antenna problem which had disabled the repeater. Stew agreed to using an element off the 2-bay antenna stored at the W4JS QTH to replace the broken element.

Ron Lebrun returned on Friday, 28 September and made the replacement. The 2-meter repeater was back in service before noontime. So, how about making use of it!!!!

-- ANOTHER INNOVATOR PASSES --

Everett Gracey, WA6CBA, who co-founded both Mirage Communications (now a part of MFJ) and RF Concepts, passed away in late August at age 90. Gracey was also responsible for bringing Alinco products into the US ham marketplace and most recently was the dealer representative for LDG Electronics. He was also involved with AMSAT and the SAREX/ARISS.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 24 September 2012)

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	3 QCWA Lunch, @ Panda Pavilion 11:15 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	4 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	5 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	6
7	8 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE repeater 145.430	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	10 TARC Meeting @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center	11 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	12 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	13 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Library
14	15	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	17 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	18 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	19 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	20
21	22	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	24 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	27
28	29	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr	31 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805			

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

**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: San Yoder-K3SY

2012 TARC Officers

President: Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI

V. President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP

Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS

Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

Directors: Bob Avrutik-N1RA

Rich Greenberg-N6LRT

Conrad Owens-WA3RRS

Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS

San Yoder-K3SY