



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 2013 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Well, another summer has passed and the migration will commence. The result, I hope, will be a sizeable increase in meeting and "NET" attendance and let's not forget the twice weekly AM repast's at Peaches. These weekly get together events are really much more than social gatherings bringing more "HAM" conversations than our monthly meetings do. For example DX talk is always prevalent at the west end of the table while SDR and VHF/UHF can always erupt at the middle and east end of the table.

As you may know, I reentered this exciting hobby about three years ago after a prolonged hiatus (I was first licensed as WB2MEQ in '62) and has it changed! I was an active 6 meter enthusiast, having built a Heathkit "Seneca" and with the aid of my "Elmer" (W2VDI) I restored a "Harvey Wells T-90--but I transgress. A recent morning conversation--actually several mornings--began to discuss Digital Voice (DV) and the conversation was over my head, so I have been doing some research on the subject and while I am not an expert I have started to understand a lot more.

It seems that ICOM brought the first such technology to the US from the Japanese Amateur Radio League (JARL). ICOM licensed the D-Star name (*for Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio*) and here is where it becomes a bit quirky, as the subject of protocols comes into the picture. There is an ICOM protocol called the "the backbone protocol" which is proprietary to ICOM's need to make money so it is not open to us to build gear to utilize D-Star networks.

There are a few more items of interest such as the AMBE vocoder used by ICOM but this is also a proprietary chip belonging to a company known as DVSI. To continue would make me an author writing a book, but to add another topic to the list for you to look at is CODEC. ICOM's D-Star will be around for a long time but there are other options in development with that upstart YEASU offering its new system. I hope this will cause some of you to look into digital radio.

Don't forget that protocol.
VY 73 to All de Fred-KJ4TNI

-- OCTOBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **09 October 2013** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. San Yoder-K3SY is scheduled to give his program on Lightning Arrestors and Surge Suppression.

-- TWO HAM RADIO ICONS PASSED --

Wayne Green-W2NSD passed away 13 September 2013 at the age of 91. Green was a publisher, writer, and consultant. He was formerly editor of CQ magazine before he went on to found *73*, *80 Micro*, *Byte*, *CD Review*, *Cold Fusion*, *Kilobaud Microcomputing*, *RUN*, *InCider*, and *Pico*, as well as publishing books and running a software company. In the early 1980s, he assisted in the creation of the groundbreaking Brazilian microcomputing magazine, *Micro Sistemas*.

Green was noted for his involvement in a number of controversies and disputes in the Ham Radio world, notably with the ARRL and CQ magazine.

Palomar Engineers President **John E. "Jack" Althouse-K6NY** of San Diego, California, died 15 September after suffering a massive stroke. He was 90. With his death, his alter ego "Kurt N. Sterba," who penned the "Aerials" columns in *WorldRadio* from 1999 until 2012 and authored books on antennas for *WorldRadio*, also passes into Amateur Radio history.

Palomar Engineers, the Escondido company he operated, may become a thing of the past as well. A message on the company's website says Palomar Engineers is "temporarily closed" and "not taking orders at this time." A regular QST advertiser, Palomar marketed balun kits, RFI kits, toroids and ferrite cores and beads. It once offered antennas and other accessories.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 19 September 2013)

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TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

11 September 2013

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Following the flag salute, Fred asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the events of 11 September 2001. Introductions were then made all around.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 14 August meeting as published in the September issue of *The Communicator*. Bob Avrutik-N1RA so moved, seconded by Dave Gill-K4JDG, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing sent or received during the month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen reported that the starting balance was \$3569.88. Receipts were \$10.00 from the August 50/50 and a \$15.00 membership fee, totaling \$25.00. Expenses were \$12.93 to Birch Communications for Internet service. The 31 August balance was \$3581.95. Guenther Henig-AJ4QX moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Jack-W4JS reported the passing of his father-in-law over in Indonesia, and thanked the club for the sympathy card. The step-mother of Conrad Owens-WA3RRS passed away out in Silver City, NM and San Yoder-K3SY is undergoing daily IV treatment for pneumonia. Cards were sent to Conrad and San.

VE TESTING – One potential candidate from Everglades City has inquired about our 14 September VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both repeaters are operational as long as the digital machinegun isn't present on the 440 repeater. The 440 Net the previous night was canceled due to the interference.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – The latest roster shows 56 paid members, two student members and three life members for a total of 61 members.

NET OPERATIONS – No comments.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 16 members, spouses and friends at our informal 04 September lunch at the Panda Pavilion. This was our last lunch at the Panda until next June, as we will return to Denny's in Sarasota starting 02 October; all are invited to participate.

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing carried over.

NEW BUSINESS – Guenther-AJ4QX commented his feeling that if a visitor to a radio club meeting doesn't see or hear discussion of radio-oriented topics, they will likely not return. Gunther sees our members having experience and those with little experience, and asked what can the Old Timers do to make the meetings really be an example of a radio club meeting? As an example, a presentation on antennas and how they work could be useful, with several half-hour discussions being sufficient to maintain interest.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM was made by Bob-N1RA, seconded by Dave-K4JDG, and passed. There were 14 members present.

PROGRAM – The official video of the 2007 BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition was shown.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- KEYBOARD TRICKS --

The following was submitted by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT for your edification.

The item by Bob Avrutik-N1RA on "Mouse Tricks" in the January issue of *The Communicator* reminded me that I know of a few similar items you might be interested in. If you like to keep your hands on the keyboard and are distracted when you have to grab the mouse and double click on a desktop icon to start an app, you will be glad to know there is a keyboard shortcut you can use for this. However, you have to prepare the desktop icon first.

The way by which you prepare it is to right-click on the icon and select "Properties". When "Properties" opens, select the "Shortcut" tab if it isn't already selected. Next decide which keyboard character which you want to use as the shortcut. I have only used a-z and 0-9 but others may work. The character is not case sensitive. Whichever key you have selected, type it into the "Shortcut key" window, and the default of "none" will change to "Ctrl + Alt + X" where "X" is the key you selected. OK out. Now, holding "Ctrl + Alt + the key you selected" will open the app.

To remove it, get to the same "Shortcut key" window and backspace over "X". It will restore the default of "none". OK out.

I use this on WinXP, but I believe it will work the same way for newer windows, to at least 7 and probably 8. Sorry Mac users; I have no idea of how to do this on a Mac.

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
Nepal – 9N1AA; Mostly RTTY	Now Active	13	23-01	22-02	21-02	12-21	13-15	13-14	NO	NO
Jordan – JY9FC; by E78A, ** + SSB/Digital	Now Active	49	22-05	21-06	20-05	12-00	13-17	14-17	15-17	15-17
Libya – 5A1AL; QSL using PayPal	Now Active	60	22-06	20-08	19-08	12-00	13-19	14-18	15-18	15-18
Afghanistan – T6RH; by N3HU	Now Active	26	--	--	--	12-16	13-15	13-14	13-14	NO
Uganda – 5X1NH; by G3RWF	Now to 16 Nov	77	23-04	21-05	21-05	16-01	13-23	14-21	15-20	14-20
Rotuma – 3D2RA, 3D2GC/p; by LZ team	Now to 11 Oct	263	05-12	04-13	04-14	13-02	18-01	18-00	19-23	19-22
Laos – XW4XR; by AA4XR, CW & RTTY	Now to 09 Oct	353	1100	10-12	10-13	13-01	13-18	14-17	14-17	NO
Sable Is – CY0P; 3-Op team, all modes	01 to 11 Oct	41	21-12	00-24	00-24	12-01	13-23	14-21	16-19	15-20
Nepal – 9N2YY; by OH2YY ++	02 to 05 Oct		--	--	--	--	13-15	13-14	NO	NO
Austral Is – TX5D; 2-Op team; all modes	02 to 14 Oct	239	03-12	02-13	01-13	15-02	16-01	16-00	18-23	18-22
Mariana Is – AH0KT; by JH8PHT	03 to 07 Oct	306	07-12	07-13	06-13	13-02	14-01	20-00	21-22	21-22
Mayotte – TO2TT; Italian team	03 to 17 Oct	85	22-03	21-04	21-04	17-23	13-20	14-18	15-18	15-18
Solomon Is – H44MS; by DL2GAC	03 Oct – 26 Nov	275	06-13	06-13	05-14	13-01	19-01	19-00	20-22	20-22
Bhutan – A52YY; by OH2YY ++	06 to 10 Oct	8	--	22-01	--	12-01	13-15	13-14	NO	NO
Wake Is – K9W; 12-Op team	07 to 18 Oct	297	06-13	04-14	04-14	13-01	19-00	19-00	20-22	20-22
Juan Fernandez – XR0ZR; 7-Op team	08 Oct – 20 Nov	177	00-11	22-12	22-13	12-01	13-00	14-23	15-22	16-21
South Cook Is – E51YIV on OC-013	09 to 13 Oct	246	04-12	03-14	02-13	16-04	16-01	17-00	17-23	19-21
Seychelles – S79MHY; by IZ1MHY	09 to 16 Oct	68	22-03	21-04	21-03	16-00	12-21	14-20	16-18	16-18
Senegal – 6V7T; by F5RAV, PSK & SSB	09 to 17 Oct	87	22-08	20-09	19-09	11-00	13-22	14-21	16-19	16-19
Mariana Is – KH0M; by JF1VXB	10 to 14 Oct	306	07-12	06-13	06-14	13-01	14-01	20-00	21-22	21-22
Bhutan – A52AEF, EQW, IVU; all modes	10 to 20 Oct	8	23-00	22-01	21-02	12-20	13-21	13-14	NO	NO
Guantanamo Bay – KG4WV, KG4HF	11 to 25 Oct	135	00-24	00-24	13-00	15-21	15-21	NO	NO	NO
Fiji -3D2GC; by LZ1GC, CW & SSB	12 to 15 Oct	258	05-12	05-13	04-14	00-01	18-01	18-00	19-22	19-22
Congo – TN2MS; Dutch team, all modes	12 to 24 Oct	88	22-06	21-07	20-06	12-00	12-23	13-21	15-20	15-20
South Cook Is – E51YIV on OC-083	13 to 17 Oct	246	04-12	03-14	02-13	16-04	16-01	17-00	17-23	19-21
Mozambique – C82DX; 14 Op team	15 to 22 Oct	101	22-04	21-05	21-05	17-00	12-20	13-20	14-18	15-19
Sierra Leone – 9L???. 2-Op team	16 to 21 Oct	91	22-08	20-09	20-09	12-00	12-23	13-21	15-20	16-19
Mariana Is – NH0J; 2-Op team, OC-086	17 to 21 Oct	306	07-13	06-13	07-14	13-01	20-00	20-23	21-22	21-22
Cyprus – 5B4ALB; by RT9T	17 Oct – 04 Nov	48	22-05	20-07	20-02	12-17	13-17	14-16	14-16	14-16
Cape Verde – D44TXT; 2-Op team	19 Oct – 07 Nov	89	22-09	19-09	18-02	12-23	14-21	15-19	16-19	16-19
Senegal – 6V7S; by RK4FF	22 Oct – 27 Nov	87	22-08	20-09	19-02	12-23	13-22	15-20	15-19	15-20
Ogasawara – JD1BOI; SSB, GW, RTTY	25 Oct – 03 Nov	317	07-12	05-14	07-14	20-00	21-23	21-22	21-22	NO
Austral Is – TX5RV; 2-Op team **	30 Oct – 06 Nov	239	03-12	02-13	01-13	15-01	16-00	17-23	18-22	19-21

Updated 30 September based on the 30 September *The Weekly DX*, the 25 September *QRZ DX*, and the NG3K Contest/DX Page, <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold = the 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 92 to 110, with a mean value of 102.7 (vs. 123.2 for September 2012 and 134.5 for September 2011), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 12 days. The sunspot number through 29 September ranged from 12 to 98, with a mean of 55.4. Sunspot Regions 1836 to 1854 were active, with 24 C-class flares occurring.

HF propagation definitely improved the last week of September, with 10 meters opening up into India, Japan and Asiatic Russia.

-- OCTOBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low during October.

A S1 solar radiation storm is occurring until 02 October from the effects of a 29 September coronal mass ejection. No S1 or greater proton events are expected during the rest of October.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at moderate to high levels through 10 October due to CME effects.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels 01-02, quiet to active 02-04, quiet to unsettled 10-11, 14-16 and 21 October due to CH HSS activity.

The Solar Flux should range from 85 to 105 and average 96.6 during October.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 30 September 2013, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 30 September 2013, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 29 September 2013)

-- MISCHIEVOUS CYCLE 24 --

Cycle 24 has stumped the experts for sure. Based on the smoothed sunspot numbers to date the cycle appears to have peaked in February 2012 with a SSN of 66.9.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING OCTOBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
TARA PSK Rumble	05 Oct 0000Z 05 Oct 2400Z	160 – 6 Meters PSK Only	Anyone, Anywhere See www.n2ty.org	Name, Call Area
EPC Russia DX Contest	05 Oct 0400Z 06 Oct 0359Z	160 – 10 Meters Digital Modes	EPC Members	Serial, Grid Square
Oceania DX Phone Contest	05 Oct 0800Z 06 Oct 0800Z	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations in Oceania	RS, Serial
Worked All Britain HF Contest	05 Oct 1200Z 06 Oct 1200Z	20 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations in UK	RS, Serial, Country
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	06 Oct 0700Z 06 Oct 1900Z	15 and 10 Meters SSB and CW	Stations in UK	Serial
10-10 Sprint	10 Oct 0001Z 10 Oct 2359Z	10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Members of 10-10 International	Call, Name, S/P/C
Macrothen RTTY Contest	12 Oct 0000Z 13 Oct 1600Z	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	4-character Grid Square
Oceania DX CW Contest	12 Oct 0800Z 13 Oct 0800Z	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Oceania	RST, Serial
Scandinavian Activity Contest	12 Oct 1200Z 13 Oct 1200Z	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations in Scandinavia	RS, Serial
FISTS Fall Sprint	12 Oct 1700Z 12 Oct 2100Z	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Members of FISTS	RST, S/P/C, Name, Power
North American RTTY Sprint	13 Oct 0000Z 13 Oct 0400Z	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	Stations in North America	Both Calls, Serial, QTH, Name
Arucaria VHF Contest	19 Oct 0000Z 20 Oct 1600Z	6 and 2 Meters SSB and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	RS(T), 4-character Grid Square
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	19 Oct 0000Z 20 Oct 2400Z	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Operator's Age
10-10 Fall CW QSO Party	19 Oct 0001Z 20 Oct 2359Z	10 Meters CW Only	Members of 10-10 International	Call, Name, S/P/C
Scandinavian YLRA Contest	19 Oct 1000Z 20 Oct 1000Z	80 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	YL Stations	RS(T), 88 for YLs 73 for OMs
Worked All Germany	19 Oct 1500Z 20 Oct 1459Z	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Stations in Germany	RS(T), Serial
W/VE Islands QSO Party	19 Oct 1600Z 20 Oct 2359Z	SSB, CW, Digital	IOTA Stations in USA and Canada	RS(T), S/P
CQ WW SSB Contest	26 Oct 0000Z 27 Oct 2359Z	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RS, CQ Zone (5)

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 are not shown. See above references for information.

-- VANITY HQ WEB SITE QRT --

A website that served for 14 years as the first stop for many hams seeking a vanity call sign has been shut down. "Vanity HQ" was taken offline by its founder Mike Carroll, N4MC, citing "a shift in my priorities," according to the *ARRL Letter*. The report noted that similar information is still available and likely-to-become available call signs may be accessed via the RadioQTH website at <http://www.radioqth.net/>.

(From *CQ Newsroom*, 20 September 2013)

Nine tenths of education is encouragement.

-- IMRESSIVE LICENSE CERTIFICATE --

If you would like something more impressive looking on your shack wall than the standard FCC license, you might like to take a look at <http://radioqth.net/certificate/default.aspx>



October 2013

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

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