



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
Web Site -- <http://tamiamiarc.tripod.com>
W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- SEPTEMBER 2007 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

We're back from our first trip north since our Florida move in 2004. Our travels took us to our old hometown in Pennsylvania, and then through upstate New York and Ontario, and on to western Michigan for a week with the wife's family. The cooler weather was welcome, but we decided that our coming down here was the right move, even with the August heat. Of course, it's also hot now in certain areas up north. Bernie Holtman-W4GO reported via EchoLink on the TARC 2-meter net that Louisville was having a 100-degree heat wave.

Y'all keep cool, and I hope to see you at our September meeting.

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

-- SEPTEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 13 September 2007 in the Community Room of The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, 601 South Tamiami Trail (Business US 41), across from the Venice Regional Health Center. Following the business meeting, an overview of current licensing structure, exams and privileges will be discussed.

-- AMEN RADIO --

Recently, Don Gray-WD7A participated in discussion with a coordinator for the Florida United Methodist Church Emergency Response Team. This group desires to reestablish an amateur radio network to coordinate their efforts if conventional commercial communication is lost during an emergency situation. This network is known as the Amateur Methodist Emergency Network Radio (AMENradio).

Currently, the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church operates K4UMC in Lakeland on 3.990 MHz and 146.685 MHz, and 146.64 MHz in Holiday. A very informative web site is at <http://www.amenradio.org>. Further information on AMENradio is available from the station trustee Rev. Tom Norton-WA4RSG or Ms. Judy Keats-KI4QJH via webservant@amenradio.org.

Any TARC members with HF capabilities who might be interested in getting involved with this ef-

fort can check out the web site, contact the trustee, or contact Don-WD7A.

-- SILENT KEY: JIM HALLIDAY – NX2II --

The TARC lost one of its veteran members when Jim Halliday – NX2II was taken from us on 09 August 2007. Jim and his wife, Ora, had ceased being Snowbirds and settled permanently in Englewood earlier this year. Jim was faithful at checking into our TARC nets and the daily Snowbird Nets, where he often offered philosophical comments for all to ponder. Jim was also a member of the Englewood ARS, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, and QCWA Suncoast Chapter 53.

During World War II, Jim was a Flight Instructor in the US Army Air Corps, and his love of aviation continued after the war, both as a pilot of Ford Tri-motor transports in Central America and as a Certified Flight Instructor in the States. Jim admired Charles Lindbergh and Jim's ham radio call sign, NX2II, honored NX211, the registration ID for Lindbergh's famous "Spirit of Saint Louis."

A memorial service was held for Jim on 18 August at the Community Presbyterian Church in Englewood.

Farewell, Jim ... --

--AFTER THE AUGUST MEETING --



Director Jon Hamlet-W4ZW (lt) exchanges comments with Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

07 August 2007

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES – Konrad asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 12 July 2007 meeting as published in the August 2007 issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jack-W4JS announced receipt of flyers for the Fort Pierce Hamfest, and distributed some to those interested in the event. Jack read from an e-mail received from Bob Sullenberger-KG4VDU, reminding all of the DARN nets scheduled for Monday, 13 August. Jack also reported receiving a call from Ed Holdt-K2SCQ, offering the donation of some 2-meter equipment and a power supply to the TARC.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 12 July starting balance was \$4021.16. Receipts were \$10.00 from the July 50/50 drawing. Expenses were \$8.65 for stamps and newsletter printing. The 09 August ending balance is \$4022.51. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Peter-N4RD reported that Martin Horowitz-N4FA was back home after being in the Venice Hospital for treatment of pneumonia.

Jack-W4JS said he had received an e-mail from Ora Halliday, advising that Jim-NX2II was about to receive hospice care.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS stated that at least one candidate was expected at the VE session this coming Saturday.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that our 2-meter repeater is operating satisfactorily, and that he had installed a W4AC Repeater on our coordinated frequency of 444.100 MHz at the Jacaranda Trace radio room.

CLUB PROPERTY – No acquisitions or dispersals.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don Gray-WD7A reported that we now have 77 members. This includes five Life Members and six first year free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG reminded all of our Tuesday and Thursday 2-meter nets and asked for volunteers to be net control stations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF reported that she had conducted interviews with Bob

Murphy-WA1UHG and Bob Sullenberger-KG4VDU, with the objective of preparing biographical articles for publication in the Venice Gondolier Sun. If successful, Diana will continue with interviews of additional TARC members having varied amateur radio interests.

LIAISON TO EARS – No report, as Konrad did not attend the July EARS meeting.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that 10 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 01 August lunch at the Panda Pavilion in Venice. The next lunch will be on 05 September, and all are invited.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussion was held regarding several pending items:

- Jacaranda Trace – Don-WD7A stated that the training for Technician licenses has been postponed as only one trainee was interested at this time.
- Donated Library Publications – We have been advised that the Venice Public Library will insert a bookplate in the ARRL publications that had been donated by the TARC. The proposed wording is: “This book was donated by the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, See <http://tamiamiarc.tripod.com> or call 475-1929 for TARC information.” Peter Pesa-N4RD remarked that the Club’s “mission statement” should be included, and offered his version of such a statement. The library will be contacted to determine how much wording will fit on a typical bookplate.
- Emergency Generator – At the 10 May meeting, \$500 was budgeted for conversion of the generator at the repeater site from gasoline to LPG fuel. Stew Haag-W4MO has to give the supporting documents regarding the engine to the shop in Englewood that will do the conversion, such that they have the correct parts. The generator will then have to be transported to the shop for the conversion.
- Affiliation with Jacaranda Trace – Don Gray-WD7A commented that there was no written agreement between the TARC and Jacaranda Trace (JT), and questioned the propriety of installing the 440 repeater there without such an agreement. Peter Pesa-N4RD voiced his opinion that there was no need for such an agreement inasmuch as JT had made a key available for our exclusive use for access to the radio room and the roof. Stew Haag-W4MO stated that he had purchased the 440 antenna at his personal expense for future use by any JT residents who are licensed hams or who may become licensed. Stew

See MINUTES, page 6

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION FORECASTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEAR-ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Fiji – 3D2MT, 3D2F	Now to 04 Sep	258	05-12	04-13	04-13	00-04	19-02	19-23	00-03	01-02
Namibia – V5/DJ8VC	Now to 28 Sept	107	23-05	22-07	21-06	16-20	13-18	15-18	15-18	NO
Minami Torishima – JA6GXX/JD1	Now to 30 Sep	308	08-11	07-13	11-14	19-05	21-00	21-00	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7AK	01 – 15 Sept	41	23-01	23-02	02-03	16-21	16-20	16-20	NO	NO
Isle of Man – MD0LON	06 – 10 Sept	41	23-07	21-08	19-01	13-22	15-20	15-20	NO	NO
St. Brandon Is – 3B7C	07 – 24 Sept	81	23-03	22-03	21-00	17-00	19-21	14-16	NO	NO
Svalbard Is – JW/OZ7FOC	11 – 16 Sept	13	00-09	22-11	21-01	13-22	15-21	15-21	NO	NO
St Pierre & Miquelon – FP/K9MDO	12 – 18 Sept	39	22-11	10-03	12-01	15-22	17-19	NO	NO	NO
The Gambia – C56YK	14 – 27 Sept	88	22-08	21-09	18-04	12-01	14-23	15-21	15-21	NO
Egypt – SU8BHI	21 Sept – 30 Nov	54	23-05	22-06	20-02	13-19	15-18	15-18	NO	NO
Willis Is – VK9WWI	24 Sept – 04 Oct	271	07-12	06-13	06-14	13-16	20-00	21-23	21-23	2200
Burundi – 9U0A	26 Sept – 09 Oct	83	23-04	22-05	21-05	17-01	14-22	15-21	18-21	17-19
Niue – ZK2/DL2AH	29 Sept – 12 Oct	252	04-12	03-13	02-13	17-02	18-00	19-22	19-21	19-21
Papua New Guinea – P29NI	30 Sept – 05 Oct	283	07-12	07-13	07-14	13-16	14-16	15-16	21-23	2130
Maldives – 8Q7AK	01 – 14 October	41	23-01	22-02	20-22	13-22	15-20	15-20	NO	NO

Updated 30 August 2007, based on 29 August 2007 *QRZ DX*, 27 August 2007 *The Weekly DX*, *K1XN's DX Alert 708 -D* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

Note: **Time in bold** = Best Band(s) for opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Phone Only; ** = CW Only; NO = No Opening forecast.

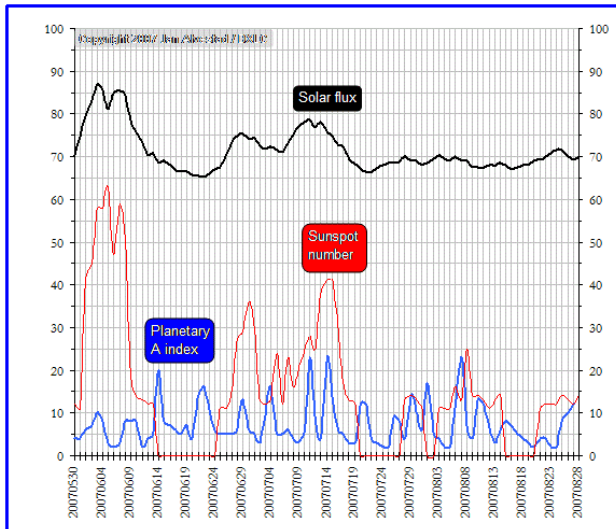
Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www/qs.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

-- AUGUST SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During the month of August, the Solar Flux ranged from 67 up to 72, with a mean value of 69.1 (vs. 79.0 for August 2006 and 90.8 for August 2005). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 24 days.

Solar activity was very low. Recurrent coronal hole high-speed wind streams (HSS) caused variable conditions in the geomagnetic field. While 01 August was unsettled to minor storms, quiet levels occurred through 06 August, quiet to minor storms 06-07, quiet to unsettled 08-09, quiet to active 10-11, quiet to unsettled 13-23, quiet on 24 August, unsettled to major storms 25 August, active 26-28 and quiet to unsettled 29-31 August.

The following graph summarizes the sunspot numbers (red), the solar flux (black) and the planetary A index, Ap (blue), over the past three months.



(Courtesy of Jan Alvestad, the DX-Listeners' Club, <http://www.dxl.com/solar/>)

- SEPTEMBER PROPAGATION FORECAST -

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels 01-10 and 24-30 September.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be quiet 01 September, increasing to active to minor storm levels 02-03 September due to recurrent coronal hole HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet to unsettled levels 04-05 September, increasing to unsettled to active levels 06-07 September, due to recurrent coronal hole HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet to unsettled levels through 21 September. Unsettled to active conditions are expected 22-24 September with active to minor storm levels through 30 September.

The solar flux should range from 65 to 70 during September.

(From NOAA Space Environment Center, *Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity*, 28 August 2007 and *27-Day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 28 August 2007)

-- SUNSET AT MARKET REEF --



From 12 – 16 August, five Swedish and Finnish operators put OJOB on the air from the Market Reef Lighthouse. (Photo from SM0W web site.)

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
All-Asian DX Contest	0000Z 01 Sep 2400Z 02 Sep	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Asia	R/S + Operator's Age
Russian RTTY Worldwide Contest	0000Z 01 Sep 2400Z 01 Sep	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + CQ Zone
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z 08 Sep 0300Z 10 Sep	6 Meters and Up Phone and CW	Anyone, Anywhere	Call Sign + Grid Square
Work All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 08 Sep 2359Z 09 Sep	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Europe	R/S + Serial Number
Second-Class Operators Club Marathon Sprint	1800Z 08 Sep 2400Z 08 Sep	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere (on the QRP calling freqs)	R/S/T + State or Province
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 15 Sep 1200Z 16 Sep	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Scandinavia	R/S/T + Serial Number
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z 15 Sep 1800Z 16 Sep	160 Meters - VHF Phone, CW, Digital	Members of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn	Yr. Licensed, QC-WA Chpt or State
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 22 Sep 1200Z 23 Sep	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Scandinavia	R/S + Serial Number
CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest	0000Z 29 Sep 2400Z 30 Sep	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, CQ Zone, State/Province
Top of Europe Contesters Worldwide Grid Contest	1200Z 29 Sep 1200Z 30 Sep	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Grid Square

From September 2007 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

--EARTH'S CHANGING MAGNETIC FIELD --

Scientists have long known that the magnetic north pole moves. James Ross located the pole for the first time in 1831. In 1904, Roald Amundsen found the pole again, only it had moved at least 50 km since the days of Ross.

The pole kept going north during the 20th Century at an average speed of 10 km per year, however, lately it has been traveling about 40 km per year according to scientist Larry Newitt of the Geological Survey of Canada. At this rate it will exit North America and reach Siberia in a few decades.

Sometimes the earth's magnetic field completely flips, i.e., the north and south poles swap places. Such reversals come at irregular intervals, averaging about 300,000 years. The last one was 780,000 years ago, so are we overdue for another? No one knows. It takes a few thousand years for a reversal to be completed, during that time the magnetic field does not vanish. The poles, however, pop up in unaccustomed places!

The earth's magnetic field is of interest to radio amateurs as its relative condition affect radio transmissions and reception. This field also protects us from space radiation and solar storms.

(From "Earth's Inconstant Magnetic Field," Dr. Tony Phillips, http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/29dec_magneticfield.htm)



Movement of the magnetic north pole, 1831-2001
It is important to understand that Magnetic North
See MAGNETIC FIELD, page 5

MAGNETIC FIELD, from page 4

and True North are not the same—especially in consideration of the constant movement of magnetic north. Therefore, if a radio amateur uses a compass to determine where to center a directional antenna for true north, he must be apply an angular correction known as *declination*. All better compasses are equipped such that the declination can be adjusted on the compass rose, yielding true north headings.

The National Geophysical Data Center's web site at <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/geomag/magfield.shtml> provides a quick and easy way to determine local declination. Enter your Zip Code, and the current declination angle will be given. Locally, it has changed over the past 100 years, as per:

1907	2.55 deg East
1957	1.92 deg East
2007	4.42 deg West

Admittedly, this correction would not have much effect on the performance of directional antennas, however, the correction angle is significant in other areas. For instance, Boston has had significant angles of declination over the past century:

1907	13.32 deg West
1957	15.35 deg West
2007	15.27 deg West

Declination in the Los Angeles area is now about 13 degrees East.

--TARC MEMBERS ON THE GO --

This summer provided time for some of our TARC members to get out of town, operate from different sites, go sightseeing and “flight seeing.” (Bruce Brown-WA8IQF will relate his Alaskan venture at our October meeting.)

-- AERONAUTICAL MOBILE? --



Bob Marchese-K1NOK loves DXing, where he's worked them all. His other love is flying, and here's Bob up 5500 feet over Boston's Logan International Airport in a Piper Cherokee.

-- THE N1RA/2 SHACK --

Bob Avrutik - N1RA likes to keep active chasing

DX, even when he's up in New York state for the summer. This year he finally got a really nice station set up, consisting of a Yaesu FT857D HF/6-meter transceiver, Astron SS-25M 25-Amp power supply, LDG AT-11MP automatic antenna tuner, Kantronics Kam Plus TNC for 2-meter packet, Bencher key, and a Cushcraft R-7 vertical for 40 – 10 meters.



-- OUT IN SOUTHERN UTAH --



Roger Schmitt-WD4HDW and his wife, Donna, enjoyed a trip out west this summer, which included seeing these natural arches near Lake Powell.

-- MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH --



Jack-W4JS is reassembling the Cushcraft 40-2CD 40-meter beam for his new tower. The temporary mast was used to align the boom truss struts.

MINUTES, from page 2

also commented that the JT attitude at meetings had been that JT preferred to cooperate with the TARC under verbal agreements rather than written agreements. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW moved that the TARC continue a relationship with Jacaranda Trace with regard to training of residents interested in obtaining amateur radio licenses and with provision of assistance in the establishment of an amateur radio club at Jacaranda Trace. Chuck Lingo-KA8SAE seconded the motion, which passed on voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS – License Training at Pine View School. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW reviewed his past experiences exposing the 6th to 8th grade students to Maxwell's Equations in a physics lecture via use of amateur radio. While the students were interested in ham radio, they were not permitted to put up any HF antennas either due to HOA restrictions or denial by their parents. However, with the potential for access to a remote HF station via computers, there may be students who would retain their interest in getting a license, hence a better potential for conducting a training course at the school. Stew Haag-W4MO then reviewed his experiences at the Central States VHF Society Conference, where he obtained license training materials which have been successfully used over the past seven years to train astronauts, 282 middle school students, 25 parents, siblings, etc. This material would be available for use at Pine View. Jon is following up in an effort to find a faculty member who would serve as a sponsor, and to gain an audience with the school administrators.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:49 PM was made by Chuck Lingo-KA8SAE, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed. There were 17 members present.

PROGRAM – Stew Haag-W4MO showed a series of photos, with appropriate discussion, of his June trip to Germany to attend the Ham Radio 2007 Friedrichshafen Hamfest.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

--HERE'S ONE WE MISSED! --

Back over Decoration Day weekend, 26-28 May, Special Event Station KOS highlighted the 2007 Strange Antenna Challenge. KOS utilized out-of-the-ordinary antennas to promote Amateur Radio and making do with what might be available during an emergency. Individuals and clubs were invited to participate by using anything but wire or pipe for a radiating element. Strange antennas used in past events, dating back to 2002, have included folding chairs, paint easels, ladders, tape measures, dog kennels, fences, cots and chicken wire with a trampoline as an apparent ground plane. Arnold Solomon-KC4ZUA

contributed an article, "You Worked WHO off WHAT?" in the September issue of *WorldRadio*, telling of his experiences in the 2007 event. Considering the HOA restrictions many of our members suffer, perhaps they might consider loading up a lawn chair or the roof gutters, and, "Who knows?"

-- W4JS TOWER PROJECT --

The action got really serious on 03 and 04 August. It was HOT both days, but the pros kept their cool and the first 40' of tower went up the first day.



Julio Peralta – W4HY bolts down the first 10' section of Rohn 45G while Ron LeBrun – KB4RON gets the power winch ready to mount onto this section.



The morning of 04 August, Ron's at the 40 ft. level as Julio hoists up the next section. The first set of 1/4" EHS guy wires are attached 21 ft. above ground.

-- TOPPING OFF THE TOWER --



Here's Ron-KB4RON at the top of the completed 70' tower, setting the 20-foot 2" mast into place. The third set of guy wires is at the 65' level. Two thrust bearings are used to ease alignment of the mast.

-- ON ITS WAY TO A NEW HOME --



The Cushcraft 40-2CD 40-meter beam being winched up the tram line to the top of the tower. The 2" mast is retracted into the tower to allow access for attachment of the boom and support struts, before raising the beam to 84' above ground.

-- SUCCESS!! --



Ron clamps the mast into the rotator with the 40-meter beam on a true north heading.

Assembly and erection of this tower, and installation of the 40-meter beam required a total of 39 man-hours work, including 9.5 hours being spent up on the tower. Considering the HOT weather conditions, it was very trying labor by Ron-KB4RON and Julio-W4HY. Remaining tower work involves final static tensioning of the guy wires and installation of the 4-element SteppIR beam. As delivery of that antenna will probably be in October, the temperatures should be more enjoyable when that final tower work is accomplished.

Meanwhile, work is proceeding on installation of PVC conduit between the two towers, pulling of coax and rotator control cables, and expansion of the ground system for the new tower.

-- ARRL DIRECTOR ELECTIONS --

Ballots will be sent to all "full" (licensed) ARRL members no later than 01 October for election of a new Director for the ARRL Southeastern Division. After 50 years of elected service, Frank Butler-W4RH is retiring, and four candidates have thrown their hats in the ring to become the new Director. Sherri Brower-W4STB of Vero Beach, Rudy Hubbard-WA4PUP of Milton, and Carl Zelich-AA4MI of Chuluota are the Floridians in the race. Greg Sarratt-W4OZK from Harvest, Alabama is the fourth candidate for Director.

In addition, there are two candidates for Vice Director of the Division: incumbent Sandy Donahue-W4RU from Dothan, Alabama and challenger Jeff Beals-WA4AW from Loxahatchee, Florida.

To be valid, ballots must be received at ARRL headquarters by noon, Friday, 16 November 2007.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 26, No.34)

-- I-40 BILLBOARD IN TENNESSEE --



With space and vinyl display donated by the sign company and ARRL-designed art work, this billboard on the rural property of Cliff Segar-KD4GT fronts Interstate 40 near Rockwood, Tennessee.

(From ARRL web site)

**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 _____

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) _____

Single Member @ \$15.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$18.50/year __ (\$8.00 after 30 June for remainder of calendar year. \$15.00 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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Circulation: Don Gray – WD7A

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