



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



-- SEPTEMBER 2009 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Undoubtedly the Big News for the Club is that our September meeting will be the last one in the Community Room of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. The Foundation will be closing its doors to all evening activities, effective the first of October.

We've been meeting in the Community Room since June 2001, and our association with the Foundation has always been of a positive nature—such as their making arrangements with the Chamber of Commerce to have our meetings over there when the Community Room had to be used for an ad hoc event.

Therefore, effective with our OCTOBER meeting, we will be using the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. As the Library closes at 8:00 PM, we will start the meetings at 6:00 PM. I hope these changes will not have a negative impact on your attendance at our meetings.

The weekend of 15 August, I was over at the Huntsville (Alabama) Hamfest lending support to the FlexRadio folks. There are some exciting things occurring for them, and which you will probably hear more about in the future.

Billed as "The World's Friendliest Hamfest" 34 forums were offered, with such luminaries as Solar Physicist Dr. David Hathaway, ARRL Awards Branch Manager Bill Moore-NC1L, K5D Team Member Tim Pearsson-K5AC, et al. Maybe some of our members could consider going over there next year.

73 to all de Stew-W4MO

-- SEPTEMBER MEETING --

The doors open at **6:30 PM** with an "Eyeball QSO" period until the business meeting kicks off at **7:00 PM** on **10 September 2009** 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. A program of interest will be offered. We hope to see you there.

-- MFJ BUYS CUSHCRAFT ANTENNAS --

One of the oldest brands in ham antennas, Cushcraft, has been sold to MFJ Enterprises. The antennas will continue to be manufactured in New Hampshire. MFJ has set up a special customer support line at (662-323-5803) to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services. The next MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft amateur product line. MFJ also distributes the line of Hy-Gain antennas.

(From *ARRL Contest Update*, 19 August 2009)

-- SOME OF THE VE "GANG" --



Now does this look like a gang who could send shivers down the back of any candidate for a new or upgrade Amateur Radio license? From left to right, Charlie-W4DB, Wil-W2IL, Martin-N4FA, Bob-N1AR, Peter-N4RD and Jack-W4JS are shown after a recent TARC VE session. Actually, the "pass rate" at our VE sessions has been quite positive, so the gang must not be too intimidating and the candidates well prepared.

TNX to VE Ray Baker-WX2C for the photo!

-- UPCOMING SCHEDULE CHANGES --

Start marking your calendars now so that you will not be left out when our TARC meetings begin to be held the First Tuesday of each month, effective 06 October. Also, starting in October, our VE sessions will begin at 10 AM when the Library opens its doors on its new schedule.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
13 August 2009

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were made all around. Potential hams Judy and Greg Dilger of Venice were welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 09 July 2009 meeting as published in the August 2009 issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – An advertising card was received from Project-Parts.com up in Clearwater, along with an e-mail notice of nominee being needed to replace Alan Pickering-KJ9N as treasurer of the West Central Florida Group. In addition, a notice was received from the Foundation regarding its discontinuing use of the Community Room for afterhours' events.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1468.25. Receipts were \$14.00 from the July 50/50, and \$15.00 dues payment, totaling \$29.00. Expenses were \$14.32 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater site, and \$31 for members' name tags, totaling \$45.34. The 13 August 2009 ending balance is \$1451.91. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF moved for approval of the report, seconded by Don Gray-WD7A, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Nothing reported.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS stated that there were three candidates at last Saturday's VE session. Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO earned his General Class upgrade, and two candidates—one from Sarasota and one from Bradenton—earned their Technician Class licenses

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew reported there had been a lightning strike at the repeater, but all equipment and modes except for the packet gateway are functioning.

CLUB PROPERTY – No change reported in the Club property inventory.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 92 members, including eight Life Members and 22 First-Year Free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present.

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS stated that he missed the July meeting.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that there were 14 members, spouses and friends at the 05 August lunch of Suncoast Chapter 53 at the Panda Pavilion in Venice.

OLD BUSINESS – Generator Maintenance/Operation: Konrad-WA3RRS has prepared instructions on how to set up the generator for operation and what equipment is to be connected during emergency operation. These instructions will be posted at the repeater site.

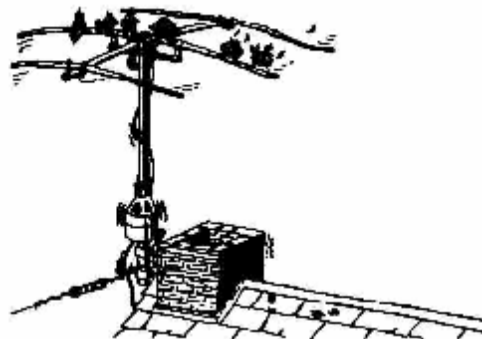
NEW BUSINESS – Following receipt of the notice from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice stating that the Community Room would no longer be available for evening functions, discussion ensued regarding possible new meeting locations. Of the sites listed as alternatives by the Foundation, only the two Venice libraries have meeting rooms available at no charge. Peter Pesa-N4RD moved that the Board of Directors determine a suitable location and that the membership would follow that recommendation. Bob Avrutik-N1RA seconded the motion, which passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Bob-N1RA announced that former TARC member Jack Schoenthaler-KI4REI is looking for about 20' of tower, if anyone knows where some many be available.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:36 PM was made by Peter-N4RD, seconded by Bruce-WA8IQF, and passed. There were 13 members and two visitors present.

PROGRAM – Due to technical difficulties, the planned program could not be shown.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary



CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

| 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 |
| Timor Leste – 4W6FR and/or 4W6AL | Now to 31 Oct | 300 | 09-12 | 08-13 | 11-14 | 14-16 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| | | <u>120</u> | NO | NO | 22-00 | 23-01 | <u>2330</u> | NO | NO | NO |
| Austral Is. – FO/G3BJ ** | 04 – 14 Sept | 239 | 03-12 | 01-13 | 00-12 | 16-04 | -- | 18-00 | -- | 19-23 |
| Svalbard Is – JW1SYL | 07 – 11 Sept | 13 | 00-09 | 22-11 | 20-23 | 14-20 | 14-20 | NO | NO | NO |
| Tuvalu – T2G ** | 08 – 14 Sept | 267 | 05-12 | 04-14 | 03-14 | 18-03 | 19-01 | 19-22 | 19-01 | NO |
| South Korea – HL9QST | 10 Sept – 13 Nov | 335 | -- | 09-12 | 12-13 | 13-15 | 23-01 | NO | NO | NO |
| Glorioso Is – FT5GA | 12 Sept – 08 Oct | 82 | 23-03 | 21-04 | 21-00 | 17-20 | 16-18 | 15-18 | NO | NO |
| Corsica – TK/DF6ZY; mainly RTTY | 16 Sept – 03 Oct | 51 | 22-07 | 20-07 | 18-02 | 13-19 | 15-18 | 16-18 | NO | NO |
| Western Kiribati – T30G ** | 17 – 23 Sept | 277 | 06-12 | 04-14 | 03-15 | 18-02 | 19-00 | 19-22 | 19-00 | -- |
| Niue – ZK2BJ ** | 18 – 25 Sept | 252 | 04-12 | 03-13 | 02-13 | 18-02 | -- | 19-22 | -- | 20-22 |
| Chatham Is – ZL7/N7OU ** | 18 – 30 Sept | 230 | 05-12 | 03-13 | 02-09 | 19-02 | 21-00 | 21-00 | 23-01 | NO |
| Mayotte – T07RJ | 22 Sept – 21 Oct | 85 | 23-03 | 22-04 | 21-00 | 17-19 | 16-17 | 16-17 | NO | NO |
| Monaco – 3A/HG3IPA | 23 – 30 Sept | 50 | 22-07 | 20-08 | 17-03 | 13-19 | 16-18 | 16-18 | NO | NO |
| Fiji – 3D2G ** | 24 – 27 Sept | 258 | 05-12 | 04-13 | 03-14 | 23-02 | 19-00 | 20-22 | 20-22 | NO |
| St. Pierre & Miquelon – FP/G3ZAY | 24 – 27 Sept | 39 | 22-12 | 11-03 | 12-00 | 16-19 | 16-19 | NO | NO | NO |
| Austral Is – TX5SPA | 28 Sept – 12 Oct | 239 | 03-12 | 01-13 | 00-12 | 16-01 | 16-00 | 17-23 | 18-22 | 18-22 |

Updated 20 August 2009, based on 19 August 2009 *QRZ DX*, 17 August 2009 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

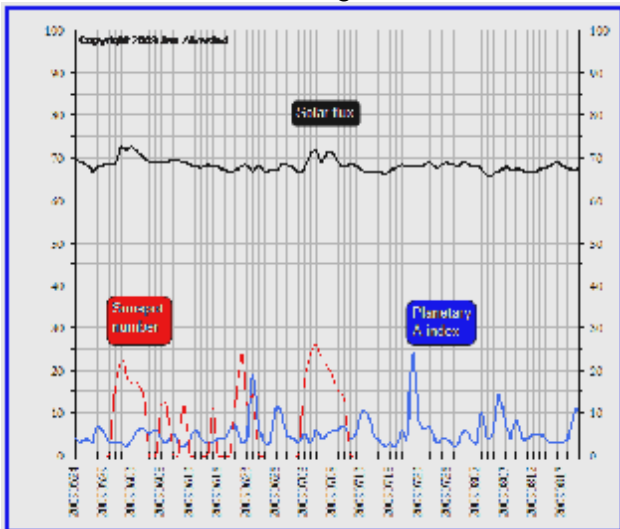
Notes: Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp V.2.60* propagation software, available to download at <http://www.gsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- AUGUST SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 23 August, the Solar Flux ranged from 66 to 69, with a mean value of 67.3 (vs. 66.5 for August 2008 and 69.2 for August 2007). The A-index was ≥ 7 on 8 days.

Solar activity was very low. Through 23 August, there have been no sunspots for 44 days.

Recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams (HSS) caused unsettled to minor storm levels 06-07 August, unsettled levels 09 August, active levels 12-13 August, and unsettled to minor storm levels 19-21 August.



(Courtesy of: Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

-- SEPTEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at

geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal flux levels. Solar flux should average 68 during September.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet levels with a chance of unsettled conditions 02, 09-10, and 21-22 September due to recurrent HSS.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 18 August 2009, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 18 August 2009, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 19 August 2009)

-- NUMBER FOUR MOST NEEDED!! --



The Glorioso Islands, located 220 km northwest of Madagascar became a French territory in 1930. A seasonal weather station was installed in 1955, becoming a full time station in 1960 to forecast cyclonic events in the Comoros-North Madagascar region to assure safe air and maritime traffic. Look for it 12 September – 08 October. Good Luck to One and All!!!

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

| Contest/Special Event | Begin-End Times/Dates | Bands/Modes | QSO With | Exchange |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Russian Radio RTTY World Wide | 0000Z 05 Sept 2400Z 05 Sept | 80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/T and CQ Zone (5, locally) |
| All-Asia DX Contest | 0000Z 05 Sept 2359Z 06 Sept | 160 – 10 Meters SSB Only | Stations in Asia | R/S and age of operator |
| Worked All Europe DX Contest | 0000Z 12 Sept 2400Z 13 Sept | 80 – 10 Meters SSB Only | Stations in Europe | R/S and Serial Number |
| ARRL September VHF QSO Party | 1800Z 12 Sept 0300Z 14 Sept | 6 Meters and Up SSB, CW, Digital | Anyone, Anywhere | 4-digit Maidenhead Grid Square |
| North American Sprint | 0000Z 13 Sept 0400Z 13 Sept | 80 – 20 Meters CW Only | Stations in North America | Call, Serial#, Name State/Province |
| Scandinavian Activity Contest | 1200Z 19 Sept 1200Z 20 Sept | 80 – 10 Meters CW Only | Stations in Scandinavian Countries | R/S/T and Serial Number |
| North American Sprint | 0000Z 20 Sept 0400Z 20 Sept | 80 – 20 Meters Phone Only | Stations in North America | Call, Serial#, Name State/Province |
| CQ World Wide RTTY Contest | 0000Z 26 Sept 2400Z 27 Sept | 80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only | Anyone, Anywhere | R/S/T, CQ Zone, State/VE Area |
| Scandinavian Activity Contest | 1200Z 26 Sept 1200Z 27 Sept | 80 – 10 Meters SSB Only | Stations in Scandinavian Countries | R/S and Serial Number |

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and *WorldRadio*

-- FRUSTRATED SUNDANCERS --

We could hear the dry rattle of the tenor bongos rustle the other evening. "What goes?" we asked the leader of the Caspersen Sundancers. "The last time we came by you were warming up that bass bongo and shaking the DXers out of the woodwork. We thought you had Cycle 24 with a downhill pull." "We overestimated the potential," he replied. "We thought we could do it with sheer power. But a thousand DXers pounding their own bongos will not produce what a little finesse and technique will. We are reevaluating our program; we have some new ones coming along...the Gavot, the Redova, the Gavotta, the Pavanne, etc. We will be concentrating on the pas, the chasse and the glissade. Beautiful steps you will agree for sure."

Son of a Gun! Here we had come down to the jump and jig country and we were hardly finding what we had expected. "But what about DX?" we asked. "What are the Caspersen Sundancers doing to bring back the good days with Cycle 24?" We were not getting through. It is late Summer here and the dancers have forgotten the tarantella for the pavanne. "Bring back that bass bongo," we suggested. "DXers have waited too long for Cycle 24. Forget the finesse...just bring lots of DX. A whole lot!"

We think we may have struck a responsive chord, for the leader of the Sundancers suddenly leaped into the air, clicked his heels three times before hitting the ground again, and shouted, "Beat those bongos...eight to the bar."

And off he went to Sharky's as the roar of the bongos swelled.

(Adapted from *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited and published by Charles Allen-W5DV and James Allen-W6OGC, 1981)

-- THIS ONE SURE DIDN'T GET AWAY --



We always hear about the "big one that got away," but Bob Preston-N4CTC sure landed this beauty. Fishing at a site accessible only to the most adventuresome, Bob hooked this 8.5# brown trout out there in Colorado. This catch should keep Bob's Omega-3 up to snuff for the immediate future.

The average man is a conformist, accepting miseries and disasters with the stoicism of a cow standing in the rain. – Colin Wilson (British)

September 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | 1 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580 | 2 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Panda Pavilion TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 3 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580 | 9 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 10 TARC Meeting, Gab Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM | 11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM | 12 TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library |
| 13 | 14 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805 | 15 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580 | 16 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 17 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580 | 23 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 24 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580 | 30 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM | |

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeater will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. 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) _____

Single Member @ \$15.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$20.00/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

**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.
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Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

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