



# THE COMMUNICATOR

## Newsletter of the TAMiami AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida  
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341  
Web Site -- <http://tamiarc.tripod.com>  
W4AC Repeater – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL



-- SEPTEMBER 2005 --

### -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Joy and I are really sorry to hear that Don Fontaine-N4ET had resigned. Don has been a stalwart supporter of the TARC from the very beginning, what with serving as an officer several times and being an active Volunteer Examiner. Most recently, he was willing to step into the gap when needed. Don has done a wonderful job for us and he will certainly be missed. Hopefully, he and Alma will keep in touch and perhaps still join with us for Friday breakfast.

I do try to keep in touch with the TARC and activities down there via EchoLink on the Thursday night net. I understand the number of stations checking into our nets is pretty minimal, so I hope more of you can participate, either directly or via EchoLink.

Well, we've sent the "Florida weather" back down to you, and we are now enjoying mid-seventy degrees in the daytime and cool at night. I've a hard time believing that we are approaching the beginning of Fall. Where does the time go?

With nothing unforeseen happening, Joy and I are scheduled to fly back to Florida on October 13<sup>th</sup>. I should be home there, settled in, and on time for the TARC meeting that night.

VY 73 de Matt-W2EQV

### -- SEPTEMBER MEETING --

Our September TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 08 September 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 a special election and short business meeting, the program will be an Introduction to Training for Red Cross Certification in Emergency Communications. All who are interested in assisting with emergency communications under the auspices of the Red Cross should attend this meeting.

*"Whoever controls the words controls the conversation, whoever controls the conversation controls its outcome, because framing the debate is the beginning of winning it."* – Erica Jong

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### -- SPECIAL ELECTION --

As noted in Matt's President's Message, Vice President Don Fontaine-N4ET has resigned for personal reasons. In accordance with the TARC By-laws, an election must be held at the next scheduled meeting following such a resignation, i.e., our 08 September meeting. Konrad Owens-WA3RRS has accepted the nomination for the position of Vice President, and a special election will therefore be the first order of business at our September meeting. Your attendance and participation in this election will be appreciated.

### -- TARC NET SCHEDULE --

The following schedule is provided by the TARC Net Manager, Bob Murphy-WA1UHG:

01 Sept	(r)	Jack-W4JS
06 Sept	(s)	Jack-W4JS
08 Sept		Meeting – No Net
13 Sept	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
15 Sept	(r)	Charlie-W4DB
20 Sept	(s)	Marty-N4FA
22 Sept	(r)	Jack-W4JS
27 Sept	(s)	Jack-W4JS
29 Sept	(r)	Bob-WA1UHG
04 Oct	(s)	Jack-W4JS
06 Oct	(r)	Marty-N4FA
11 Oct	(s)	Marty-N4FA
13 Oct		Meeting – No Net
18 Oct	(s)	Jack-W4JS
20 Oct	(r)	Jack-W4JS
25 Oct	(s)	Bob-WA1UHG
27 Oct	(r)	Charlie-W4DB

#### Note the following:

(r) = 146.805 W4AC Repeater; (s) = 146.58 Simplex  
Remember to check into our twice weekly nets at 7:30 PM, so we know you're alive and kicking. Our Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG sure would appreciate your assistance as a Net Control Station. Several of our former NCSs have moved from the area, so your help, filling in the gaps, would be appreciated. Give Bob a call and, at the same time, show your support of the TARC. These are your nets, and the TARC is your club.

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

11 August 2005

Vice President Don Fontaine-N4ET called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the pledge of allegiance was recited. Larry Hunt-WF7N and Judy Hunt-KB7CFT of Lakeland; Larry Och, Frank Arona-W8FAA and Chuck Lingo-KA8SQE of Nokomis; Joe Hanson-WX0G of Osprey; Dennis Chapman-KI4DLD of North Port; and Nellie Emigh and Geordon Emigh of Venice were welcomed as visitors. Special recognition was given to TARC member Nicole Hunt-KI4KRK, who had come over from Lakeland with her father and mother. Following the meeting, Chuck-KA8SQE became a TARC member.

**MINUTES** – Don asked for a motion accepting the minutes of the 14 July 2005 meeting as published in the August issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Diana Gregory-KI4GRF, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing to report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 14 July 2005 balance was \$4946.37. Receipts were \$9.00 from the July 50/50 drawing and a \$10.00 donation from Don Dold-KD9SJ. Expenses were \$12.54 for postage and printing. The 11 August ending balance is \$4952.83. Peter-N4RD moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Diana-KI4GRF, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Nothing to report.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS commented there would be a regularly scheduled exam session this Saturday, 13 August.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Peter-N4RD reported there was an “incident” on the W4AC Repeater during a recent TARC net, such that he disconnected the EchoLink mode, although that did not relieve the interference which was discontinued around 9:30 that night. EchoLink was reactivated the following day.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Chairman Charlie Covell-W4DB was not present.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF circulated several variations of innovative brochures which she had designed. While quite innovative, they utilized “published photos” such that we need TARC members to volunteer to model for our final brochures.

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR** – Peter Pesa-N4RD reported that he had again been in touch with community representatives in the Alameda Isles housing complex, who will review the options to get a 2-meter radio installed in their community center. Peter has four 2-meter radios available for installation

in various community centers once these potential locations are determined and permission granted.

Dennis Chapman-KI4DLD announced that Sarasota County had essentially divorced itself from the Amateur Radio aspects of emergency communication, in favor of the Red Cross assuming the jurisdiction. Two factors led to this decision: Red Cross is already responsible for the shelters, and Red Cross can cover personal liability and injury of volunteers. Dennis is responsible for organizing Red Cross emergency communication efforts in South County.

Mike Zimmerman-KI4KTP, a Red Cross representative, added additional comments regarding this change in emergency communications. The Sarasota County EOC has moved amateur radio equipment and a communications trailer to the Red Cross headquarters of Cattleman Road. Mike stated that communications volunteers must first participate in the Red Cross training program—the regular class for all volunteers and an additional class for shelter volunteers—and become certified by the Red Cross. Peter-N4RD will be given information on these classes and he will try to recruit TARC members for training, which would be provided at our convenience. As a forerunner to any training, the Red Cross communications trailer will be on site for inspection at our 13 October meeting.

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

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Peter-N4RD commented that he had talked via telephone with EARS President Martin Horowitz-N4FA, who is now up in Maine.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack Sproat-W4JS reported that seven Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 03 August lunch at the Panda Pavilion.

**CLUB HISTORIAN** – Don-N4ET asked for a volunteer, but with no response.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Nothing carried over.

**NEW BUSINESS** – There had been some consideration of moving the Friday breakfast from Mel's Diner to Tommy's Restaurant, however, as only three breakfast participants were present the matter was tabled.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Don-N4ET reminded all to support our web site by submitting personal information, photos, suitable articles, etc. to Webmaster John Fyke-VE6AIV.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM was made by Peter-N4RD, seconded by Diana-KI4GRF, and passed. There were 13 members and 9 visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Jack-W4JS gave a presentation on “Amateur Radio Station Lightning Protection.”

Jack Sproat-W4JS

Secretary

## 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							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Sudan – ST0RM	Now Active	66	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>16-01</b>	<b>16-23</b>	17-20	17-20	NO
Thailand - HS0ZCW	Now Active	355	--	<b>11-12</b>	--	<b>13-19</b>	--	14-17	--	NO
Monaco – 3A/F5RBB	Now to 04 Sept	50	<b>23-06</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>20-00</b>	<b>14-21</b>	17-20	NO	NO	NO
Benin – TY/F6FVX	Now to 04 Sept	85	<b>23-06</b>	<b>22-07</b>	<b>20-04</b>	<b>13-02</b>	17-22	17-22	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5R8HS	Now to 08 Sept	90	<b>23-03</b>	<b>22-04</b>	<b>22-04</b>	18-22	NO	NO	NO	NO
Malawi – 7Q7CE	Now to 16 Sept	90	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>18-23</b>	17-20	15-18	NO	NO
Malawi – 7Q7HB	Now to 01 Oct	90	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>18-23</b>	17-20	15-18	NO	NO
Svalbard – JW/DJ3KR **	03 – 20 Sept	13	<b>23-09</b>	<b>22-12</b>	<b>11-00</b>	12-22	13-22	16-22	NO	NO
Lichtenstein – HB0/ON6UQ & ON7TQ	11 – 23 Sept	46	<b>23-07</b>	<b>21-09</b>	<b>19-22</b>	<b>13-20</b>	16-19	16-19	NO	NO
Wake Is – KH9/W9I	19 – 30 Sept	297	<b>06-12</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>04-15</b>	<b>20-02</b>	<b>20-00</b>	20-22	20-22	NO
Kure Is – K7C	25 Sep – 06 Oct	298	<b>05-12</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>02-15</b>	<b>18-02</b>	<b>19-00</b>	20-22	20-22	NO
East Kiribati – T32EJW, T32S, T32Y	28 Sep – 15 Oct	267	<b>04-12</b>	<b>02-13</b>	<b>01-13</b>	<b>17-01</b>	<b>17-21</b>	18-21	18-21	NO
Bhutan – A52SY	03 – 10 October	8	<b>23-00</b>	<b>22-01</b>	<b>00-02</b>	13-15	14-15	NO	NO	NO

Updated 25 August 2005, based on 24 August 2005 *QRZ DX*, 15 August 2005 *The Weekly DX*, and *DX Alert Issue 230*

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/qsrl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index vary in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

### -- SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING AUGUST --

Through 28 August, the Solar Flux ranged from 75 up to 112, with a mean value of 91.3 (vs. 110.1 for August 2004 and 122.1 for August 2003). The A-index was  $\leq 10$  on 11 days.

On 23 August a greater than 10 MeV proton event occurred, such that on 24 August the Earth's geomagnetic storm level was "severe" and the HF bands were devoid of signals. At 1200 GMT, the estimated planetary K-index was 9 (its maximum value), which equates to an A-index of 400!!

### -- SEPTEMBER PROPAGATION --

During September, solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 02-08 and 14-19 September. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to minor storm levels. Unsettled to minor storm conditions are possible 09-10, 12-14 and 18-19 September due to recurrent coronal hole high speed wind streams. Otherwise, expect mostly quiet to unsettled conditions. The Solar Flux should range from 85 to 100 during September. (From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 23 August 2005 and *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 23 August 2005)

Expect Above Normal conditions on 1, 8-9, 1-12, 16-20, and 24-28 September; and High Normal conditions on 2, 7, 14-15, 21-23 and 29 September.

(From "Propagation," Tomas Hood-NW7US, September 2005 *CQ*)

### -- NORTH KOREA IS A "NO SHOW" --

In mid-August, DXers were alerted that KA2HTV would be in North Korea for a conference and that he had been assured he could operate as P5/KA2HTV. Dave expected to devote 20-23 August for his radio

activity. Well, those dates came and went, but with Dave being a "no show." Upon his return Stateside, Dave reported that when the time came to activate ham radio he was informed that the person who had given him such permission did "not have the authority" to do so. Dave donated some of the equipment he had carried over there to the authorities for possible future use under favorable conditions.

(From update via *The Weekly DX*)

### -- GLORIOSO UPDATE --

An update from Dany-F5CW advises that the pending operation from Glorioso could be in November, since it could take some time to get everyone ready. Some of the operators originally on board for this operation are now in French Guiana and Senegal, however, there are enough team members available to make this a good operation. Glorioso ranked #6 in the USA in the 2004 Most Wanted Countries survey of *The DX Magazine*.

(From *QRZ DX*, 24 August 2005)

### --PETER I PRESS RELEASE --

The 24 August press release concerning the upcoming 3Y0X DXpedition from Peter I Island reported, inter alia, that three team members had just returned from an inspection visit to Chile. Everything is on track for an early February 2006 activation of Peter I. Plans call for a 27 January departure from Punta Arenas, Chile with 3Y0X coming on around 03 February and operating for about 16 days. Peter I ranked #12 in the USA in the 2004 Most Wanted Countries.

Fifteen team members will meet in Atlanta for a training session from 15 – 19 September. There are a couple of team slots available, especially for a team physician.

(From *Peter I, Press Release #2006-2*)

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
All-Asian DX Contest	0000Z 03 Sept 2400Z 04 Sept	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Asia	R/S + Operator's Age
Russian RTTY World Wide Contest	0000Z 03 Sept 2400Z 03 Sept	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + WAZ Zone
North American Sprint	0000Z 11 Sept 0400Z 11 Sept	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	Stations in North America	Serial No., QTH and Name
Worked All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 10 Sept 2359Z 11 Sept	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Europe	R/S + Serial No.
Second-Class Operators Club Contest	1800Z 10 Sept 2400Z 10 Sept	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + QTH
North American Sprint	0000Z 18 Sept 0400Z 18 Sept	80 – 20 Meters Phone Only	Stations in North America	Serial No. QTH and Name
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 17 Sept 1200Z 18 Sept	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + Serial No.
Mediterranean Islands Contest	1200Z 17 Sept 1200Z 18 Sept	80 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Stations on Mediterranean Islands	R/S/(T) + Serial No.
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z 17 Sept 1800Z 18 Sept	160 – 2 Meters SSB/CW/Digital	QCWA Members	Year 1 <sup>st</sup> licensed, Chptr # or QTH
CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest	0000Z 24 Sept 2400Z 25 Sept	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T + CQ (WAZ) Zone
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 24 Sept 1200Z 25 Sept	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S + Serial No.
Tesla Cup Contest	0000Z 24 Sept 2400Z 24 Sept	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	4-digit Grid Square
Tesla Cup Contest	0000Z 26 Sept 2400Z 26 Sept	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Anyone, Anywhere	4-digit Grid Square

From September 2005 *QST*

### -- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 10-11 Sep Platinum Coast ARS Hamfest at Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne. Exit 180 (US 192) off I-95, east to Babcock St, north to Hibiscus, east to site. TI: 146.850; Info: Jeff-KG4IPO, 321-258-7065
- 24 Sept Suncoast ARC Hamfest at First Lutheran Church, 6416 Delaware Ave., New Port Richey. US 19 to Main St, east on Main to Congress St, south on Congress 3 blocks to Delaware, right on Delaware to site. TI: 146.64; Info: Ron-N9EE, 727-376-6575
- 24 Sept Bahia Shrine Amateur Radio Unit Hamfest, Bahia Shrine, 2300 Pembroke Dr., Orlando. Exit 90 (Maitland Blvd) off I-4, west on Maitland, left at 2<sup>nd</sup> stoplight onto Keller Rd, immediate right onto Pembroke. TI: 147.39 (103.5 Hz); Info: Warren-W4WHH, 407-365-6682

(From September 2005 *QST*)

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### -- VHF/UHF ANTENNA MANUAL --

As an inducement to rejoin the ARRL, Peter Pesa-N4RD has received the publication *ARRL VHF/UHF Antenna Classics* free of charge from the ARRL. Pete is offering the use of this manual by anyone interested in constructing VHF/UHF antennas for home or portable use. Contact Pete if you're interested.

### -- PROMOTION IN THE RANKS --

TARC member Jack Doyle-WX1JAD has been promoted from Captain to the position of Division Chief—in charge of Administration and Support Operations at the Nokomis Fire Department. Duties include overseeing the photo/video unit, communications, traffic control, and incident scene safety as well as public relations, public education, and other administrative functions. Congrats to Jack!

### -- FOR SALE --

Lee Darby-K4GCY has a Coleman Powermate 1850-Watt Generator for sale. Home Depot offers this generator for \$399, but it's yours for \$325. If you're interested, contact Lee at 922-1848 or via e-mail at [k4gcy@worldnet.att.net](mailto:k4gcy@worldnet.att.net).

## -- CHEAP LIGHTNING PROTECTION--

*(The following from Roger Elowitz-K2JAS is from the TowerTalk archives.)*

I've patiently read every single post on the subject of lightning protection and absolutely no one has mentioned the cheapest, most foolproof method of lightning protection....which I'll get to shortly. Here, I thought that if I simply disconnect my coax from the rigs I'd be safe, and then I read that a lightning bolt could jump from the end of the coax on the table to the equipment sitting there and fuse it to the desk. Then I'm supposed to ground the coax to prevent that, but it won't prevent the lightning from jumping out of my AC outlets and zapping the equipment. Of course I won't be foolish enough to ground my outlets too.

So, like a bolt out of the blue....it came to me! If you are really looking for cheap lightning protection insurance....simply place your equipment in the styrofoam packing and cardboard boxes it came in. You know....the boxes you keep in the attic and never use for anything. I'll bet any amount of money there isn't a single recorded insurance claim for lightning damage on equipment that was sitting in its factory carton!

And, if that doesn't spell TOTAL PROTECTION, you can always warp the equipment in anti-static cloth like....yep!...good ol' CLING-FREE. How many insurance claims worldwide do you imagine there are for lightning damage when the equipment was protected in this manner? ABSOLUTELY NONE! The odds must be phenomenal. In fact, wrapping your beams and towers with CLING-FREE anti-static cloths would almost certainly guarantee you a totally lightning-free zone! Neighbors will be coming from miles around to stand under your tower when there's lightning about. You could sell standing-room and pay for your tower installation.

Why didn't I think of this before? On second thought....NEVER MIND!

*(Additional comment by Dennis Schaefer-W5RZ)*

Not to burst your bubble, Roger, but I know a fellow who swears this happened. He had an ICOM 745 which was working. This was a spare rig, so he put the rig in its factory box and put it under his bed. Lightning hit very near his house. I think it demolished a pole transformer in his yard. He got the rig out, and it didn't work. There were several IC's blown. He swears it was from the tremendous EMP from the near strike. Of course, it would take a whole crew of engineers and lawyers to determine the truth, and don't want to go near that!

*"The only things you regret are the things you didn't do." – Crankshaft*

## -- WHERE ARE ALL THE HAMS? --

*(This article, which originated with Radio Bulgaria, was received by your editor from Michel Homsy-OD5TX)*

Following an article in eHam.net which raised questions about the worldwide distributions of hams and speculated about the possible reasons for differences in Ham populations across countries, Bob Olsen-KK7WN attempted to shed light on these issues.

He collected demographic data from various sources including the UN, the IARU, and other research organizations. He was able to find relatively complete and comparable information for 36 countries in North America, South America, Europe, Oceania and Asia, and which contain the "lion's share" of the world's Hams.

He focused on Hams as a percentage of a country's population. The average (median) has about one Ham for every 1300 residents. Examples of countries near this average include Sweden, Austria, Australia and the Netherlands.

The high-end "outliers" include Japan (1 per 99) and South Korea (1 per 333). Low-end "outliers" include Russia (1 per 33,000) and China (1 per 17,000, including Taiwan). Averages for countries by region are: North America (1 per 546), South America (1 per 2,800), Oceania (1 per 926), Scandinavia (1 per 819), Northern Europe (1 per 1,500), Southern Europe (1 per 2,100).

Ham percentages appear to be most influenced by a culture's attitude toward "personal electronic gadgetry," i.e., countries that have the greatest relative number of personal PCs and the greatest relative Internet use have the largest number of Hams per inhabitant. Ham percentages also appear to be strongly influenced by language. In particular, country Ham percentages are higher where a significant proportion of a country's population speaks a language that is widespread worldwide. Again this influence is most noticeable in North America, Oceania and Scandinavia.

Gross per capita income does not influence Ham penetration unless it is very low or accompanied by a strong general interest in electronic gadgetry. In fact, where gadgetry interest is low, higher incomes are associated with reduced relative interest in Ham radio.

Ham radio penetration is slightly greater where the population density is less. There is no evidence that this effect is related to the difficulty of antenna placement. It appears to be more related to an overall felt need to "stay connected."

*"Dissent is the highest form of patriotism." – Thomas Jefferson*