



# 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  
W4AC Repeater – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL



-- SEPTEMBER 2008 --

## -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

I hope that all of you have taken some time to check out our new TARC web site, which can be found at <http://tamiamiarc.org> if you misplaced the address. The site's template has been organized and, in some cases, sample material placed to give an idea of how the site will flesh out. Yes, some of the material is "ancient history" but it will be updated in due course. You can lend assistance in that area by submitting your comments via the "contact us" route given on the site.

In order for our web site to show the best of our club, we do need your assistance and cooperation. What would you like to see on the site? How about contributing a photo of your shack—be it in your car or in your home? Do you have any photos of TARC events, such as the Sharks Tooth Festival, that would look good on the site? Please use the "contact us" route with your thoughts and possible suggestions.

We have to thank George Emigh-AB4BD for the extensive work done to organize the site, make the initial entries, and get it enrolled with an appropriate server. George was assisted by Bruce Brown-WA8IQF and Jack Gaddas-KY1Z, who will assume the tasks of maintaining and updating the site. Three members, working behind the scene for our club and you, who definitely deserve your gratitude.

Back at our May meeting, Martha Ackroyd, a teacher at Pine View School, was in attendance as she was interested in sponsoring a radio club at that school. As it was near the end of the school year, I had no further contact until late August. She is still quite interested, plans to advise students of the potential for a club, and will determine their interest. The TARC has been trying for several years to assist in license training and setting up a station at Pine View, so I hope she will be able to give us a positive response in the near future.

VY 73 de Stew-W4MO

## -- CHANGE IN VANITY CALL SIGN FEE --

On 11 August, the FCC announced that the fee for a vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from US\$11.70 to US\$12.30, effective 25 September.

(From ARRL Special Bulletin 8, 26 August 2008)

## -- SEPTEMBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will start with a Technical Discussion at 6:30 PM, and the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM on **11 September 2008** 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, a general discussion will be held, regarding the current status and future goals and activities of the TARC.

## -- A POWER LESSON FROM SAN-K3SY --



San Yoder-K3SY offered a very informative program on "What Really Happens When Your Lights Blink or Go Out?" at our August meeting. San drew on his years of experience with Pennsylvania Power and Light.

## -- NEED AN "ELMER"? --

If you're studying for an upgrade, and feel the need for "comfort and assistance," contact any of the following TARC members:

### General Class

Jack Gaddas-WA1HSU [jgaddas@verizon.net](mailto:jgaddas@verizon.net)

Mike Hickey-NY4P [ai4sr@hotmail.com](mailto:ai4sr@hotmail.com)

Konrad Owens-WA3RRS

[kdowns39@hotmail.com](mailto:kdowns39@hotmail.com)

Jack Sproat-W4JS

[w4js@juno.com](mailto:w4js@juno.com)

### Extra Class

Jack Gaddas-WA1HSU [jgaddas@verizon.net](mailto:jgaddas@verizon.net)

Stew Haag-W4MO [w4mo@win.net](mailto:w4mo@win.net)

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Minutes of the Meeting**

**14 August 2008**

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were then made all around.

**MINUTES** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 10 July 2008 meeting as published in the August 2008 issue of *The Communicator*. Jon Hamlet-W4ZW so moved, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – A reminder that the Tampa ARC Funfest will be held 23 August and that Bruce Brown-WA8IQF plans to attend.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2762.21. Receipts were \$13.00 from the July 50/50 drawing and \$150.00 from the sale of Rohn tower sections, totaling \$163.00. Expenses were \$14.45 for Internet service at the repeater, \$210.45 for ARRL equipment insurance, \$32.95 for General Class License Manual (donated to Venice Public Library), \$15.04 for printing and stamps, and \$11.60 for Treasurer's expenses, totaling \$284.49. The 14 August 2008 ending balance is \$2640.72. Charlie Covell-W4DB moved for approval, seconded by Martin Horowitz-N4FA, and passed

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SUNSHINE** – Nothing reported.

**VE TESTING** – Jack-W4JS reported that two of the three candidates at last Saturday's session, including TARC's greg Shingle-KJ4FEZ, upgraded to General Class.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – Stew-W4MO reported that the computer for the EchoLink mode has to be replaced. The FlexRadio was partially operative due to interference from WENG-FM.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – Charlie-W4DB reported that the inventory has been adjusted to show sale of Rohn tower sections and base.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 76 members, including eight Life Members and five First-Year Free members.

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

**LIAISON TO EARS** – Martin-N4FA reported that the Englewood ARS will be operating from the Boca Grande Lighthouse this coming weekend, and invited any interested members to come on down.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Jack-W4JS reported there were 16 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends at the 06 August lunch at the Panda Pavilion in Venice, and invited all to join in these summer lunches, start-

ing around 11:15 AM the first Wednesday each month.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Bruce-WA8IQF reported that George Emigh-AB4BD has the new TARC Internet site laid out and that it should be operative by the September TARC meeting. Bruce and Jack Gaddas-WA1HSU will have responsibility for maintenance and updating of the site.

Stew-W4MO reported that to date no member currently working on license upgrades has contacted those members who have offered to give assistance. Stew urged them to take advantage of such assistance.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Nothing on the agenda.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Bruce-WA8IQF requested a set of keys for the repeater site, such that he and Jack-WA1HSU can access the site to operate the generator. Peter-N4RD promised to have a set made.

San Yoder-K3SY reported that he was among those interviewed by the Sarasota EOC for TV announcements regarding emergency communications. It was suggested that, if we can get a copy of that interview, it could be an interesting addition to our new web site.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM was made by Peter-N4RD, seconded by Jon-W4ZW, and passed. There were 12 members present.

**PROGRAM** – San Yoder-K3SY offered a very interesting program on "What Really Happens When Your Lights Blink or Go Out?" San offered both illustrative slides and physical examples of surge protectors and other hardware.

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

**-- TARC NET SCHEDULE --**

TARC has three weekly nets, and you're welcome to participate. On Tuesday we have the "Experimental Simplex Net" on 145.610 MHz at 7:30 PM. Wednesday at 8 PM, we have the DX Net on our 146.805 MHz W4AC Repeater. Thursday at 7:30 PM it's time for the TARC Emergency Net on our W4AC Repeater.

Interested? Well, what's holding you back? We understand there are several members who just listen to the DX Net. Come on, speak up and participate. It doesn't cost anything other than a bit of your time!

*"The kind of man who wants the government to adopt and enforce his ideas is always the kind of man whose ideas are idiotic."* – H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)

## 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
Jan Mayen – JX9JKA (SSB & Digital)	Now to 08 Oct	21	<b>23-09</b>	<b>22-11</b>	<b>12-13</b>	13-20	14-22	NO	NO	NO
Georgia – 4L7OA	Now to 30 Sept	37	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	20-04	<b>14-17</b>	16-17	NO	NO	NO
Kenya – 5Z4/RW1AU	Now to 30 Sept	76	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-01</b>	<b>17-00</b>	<b>16-22</b>	17-20	17-20	NO
Singapore – 9V1F1 (Formula 1 Grand Prix)	Now to 30 Sept	347	NO	<b>11-12</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>14-19</b>	16-19	16-19	NO	NO
China – BT1OJ, BT1OH, etc.	Now to 17 Sept	349	NO	<b>11-12</b>	<b>10-13</b>	<b>23-03</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7KK	Now to 17 Sept	41	<b>23-01</b>	<b>23-02</b>	<b>21-03</b>	<b>15-21</b>	15-20	16-21	NO	NO
Ascension Is. – ZD8LP, ZD8N	Now to 14 Sept	108	<b>23-08</b>	<b>21-08</b>	<b>19-04</b>	<b>12-01</b>	<b>16-21</b>	18-21	19-21	NO
Monaco – 3A/F5RBB	31 Aug – 10 Sept	50	--	<b>21-06</b>	--	<b>19-00</b>	--	17-21	--	NO
Tuvalu – T2???	02 – 08 Sept	267	<b>05-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>18-04</b>	<b>19-01</b>	19-00	19-00	NO
Cambodia – XU7YYY **	03 – 08 Sept	349	--	--	<b>1200</b>	<b>13-16</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO
Mariana Is – KH0/N2QP	04 – 08 Sept	306	<b>08-12</b>	<b>07-13</b>	<b>12-14</b>	<b>23-03</b>	21-23	01-02	NO	NO
Tokelau – ZK3???	± 05 – 26 Sept	262	<b>05-12</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>02-13</b>	<b>18-02</b>	<b>18-00</b>	19-22	19-22	NO
Svalbard Is – JW4LN **, JW7WCA	12 – 26 Sept	13	<b>00-10</b>	<b>22-12</b>	<b>11-14</b>	<b>13-20</b>	17-20	17-20	NO	NO
South Cook Is – E51NOU (CW only)	15 Sept – 11 Oct	246	--	<b>02-13</b>	<b>01-13</b>	<b>17-03</b>	<b>17-01</b>	<b>17-00</b>	19-21	19-21
Madagascar – 5R8EM	18 – 27 Sept	90	<b>23-03</b>	<b>22-04</b>	<b>21-04</b>	<b>18-20</b>	<b>14-17</b>	15-16	15-16	NO
Morocco – CN2IPA (mostly digital)	21 Sept – 05 Oct	64	<b>22-08</b>	<b>20-08</b>	<b>18-03</b>	<b>13-21</b>	<b>14-20</b>	17-20	17-20	NO
Botswana – A25/DL7DF	23 Sept – 06 Oct	105	<b>23-05</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>15-21</b>	<b>14-18</b>	15-18	15-18	17-18

Updated 27 August 2008, based on 27 August 2008 *QRZ DX*, 25 August 2008 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

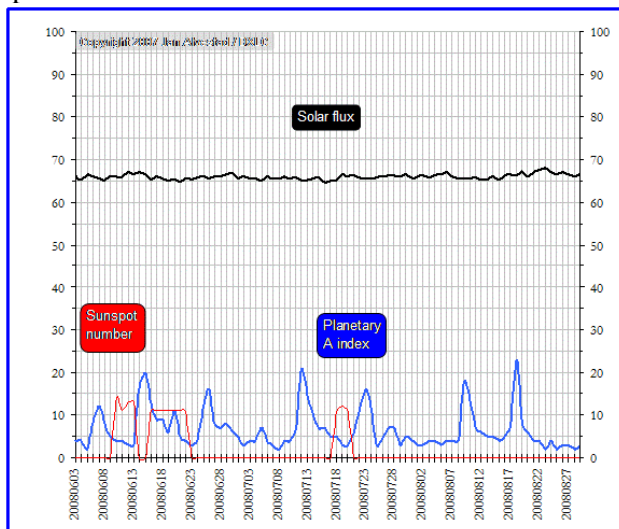
Notes: **Time in bold** = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. **Long Path** bearings and **opening times** are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with USAF 45-Day AP Forecast.

### -- AUGUST SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During August, the Solar Flux ranged from 65 to 67, with a mean value of 66.5 (vs. 69.2 for August 2007 and 79.0 for August 2006). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 27 days.

Geomagnetic field activity was quiet to unsettled levels 01-08 August, increasing to active levels 09-10 August due to recurrent coronal hole high speed streams (HSS). Activity decreased to quiet to unsettled to 11-17 August. Activity increased to active to storm levels 18 August then decreased to predominantly quiet to unsettled levels 19-31 August.

A small pseudo-sunspot appeared 21-22 August, however, it was not recorded by NOAA as a true sunspot.



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

### -- SEPTEMBER FORECAST --

September 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 reach high levels 07-12 and 15-22 September. Solar flux should average 66 during the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be quiet 01-04 September, increasing to unsettled levels on 05 September, due to a recurrent coronal hole HSS. Activity is expected to decrease to quiet to unsettled levels during 06-07 September as the HSS subsides. Quiet conditions are expected 08-11 September, increasing to unsettled levels 12-13 September. Activity should increase to active to minor storm levels on 14 September due to recurrent HSS. Activity should decrease to unsettled levels 15-16 September as the stream subsides. Quiet conditions are expected during 17-23 September, increasing to unsettled levels 24-25 September. Quiet conditions should prevail 26-20 September.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 26 August 2008, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 26 August 2008, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 26 August 2008)

### -- GLORIOSO DXPEDITION UPDATE --

The much anticipated French DXpedition to Glorioso Islands is now scheduled for late 2008. Glorioso (FR/G) ranks #4 Worldwide and #4 in eastern North America, so TO4G will be very popular when comes on the air.

## CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
All Asia Contest	0000Z 06 Sep 2400Z 07 Sep	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Asian Stations	R/S, Operator's Age
Russian Radio RTTY WW	0000Z 06 Sep 2400Z 06 Sep	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, WAZ zone (5 locally)
North American Sprint	0000Z 07 Sep 0400Z 07 Sep	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	Stations in North American Nations or entities	Call, Serial #, Name, State
WAE DX Contest	0000Z 13 Sep 2400Z 14 Sep	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Europe	R/S, Serial #
North American Sprint	0000Z 14 Sep 0400Z 14 Sep	80 – 20 Meters Phone Only	Stations in North American Nations or entities	Call, Serial #, Name, State
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 20 Sep 1200Z 21 Sep	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Scandinavian Nations and entities	R/S/T, Serial #
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z 20 Sep 1800Z 21 Sep	160 – VHF Phone, CW, Digi	Members of the QCWA	Call, year 1 <sup>st</sup> lic, name, chpt, QTH
CQ WW RTTY Contest	0000Z 27 Sep 2400Z 28 Sep	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, CQ zone (5 locally), State
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 27 Sep 1200Z 28 Sep	80 – 10 Meters Phone Only	Stations in Scandinavian Nations and entities	R/S/, Serial #

From "Contest Corral" on the ARRL Web Site

### -- "WHY FLY" AT N4RD"



Peter Pesa-N4RD has a 2-meter Ringo Ranger antenna and a WiFi expander at the top of his tower. For some reason the installation has attracted two owls—appearing to be young Great Horned Owls. So, if you give Peter a "hoot" on our W4AC Repeater you just might hear some accompaniment in the background.

### -- OK, WHAT'S WITH CYCLE 24? --

Back on 11 December 2007 a patch of magnetism on the sun was declared by NASA to be the first official sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24. The spot was in a high-latitude on the sun with reversed polarity compared to the previous Solar Cycle 23. The expectation was it meant that, after a very long time without sunspots, the sun would finally become active again. But that has not happened to any great extent.

**What's Happened to Date:** The 3-month moving average for daily sunspot numbers the past 14 months looks like this:

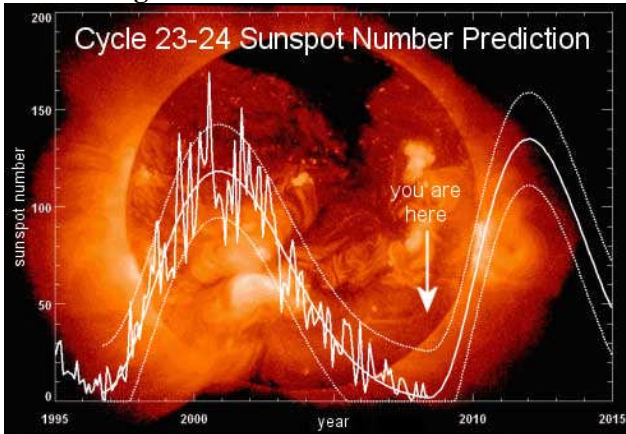
June 2007	18.7
July 2007	15.4
August 2007	10.2
September 2007	5.4
October 2007	3.0
November 2007	6.9
December 2007	8.1
January 2008	8.5
February 2008	8.4
March 2008	8.4
April 2008	8.9
May 2008	5.0
June 2008	3.7
July 2008	1.8

The July 2008 average was determined by adding together all daily sunspot numbers from 01 June through 31 August 31, then dividing by 92 (days).

The above tabulation shows why many forecasters thought the minimum was last October, but in fact we've instead reached a new low for the recent period. (Continued on page 5)



**Cycle 24, continued from page 4**  
**The Long Term Forecast:**



The solar cycle, 1995-2015. The “noisy” curve traces measured sunspot numbers; the smoothed curves are predictions. Credit: D. Hathaway/NASA/MSFC.

The High Altitude Observatory (HAO) in the National Center for Atmospheric Research, is located in Boulder, Colorado HAO has a model that replicated the sun’s previous cycles with about 98% accuracy. The HAO scientists tried prediction and showed they could get the last eight solar cycles better than any other technique. Given that, it is predicted that Cycle 24 is going to be big and it’s going to start late.

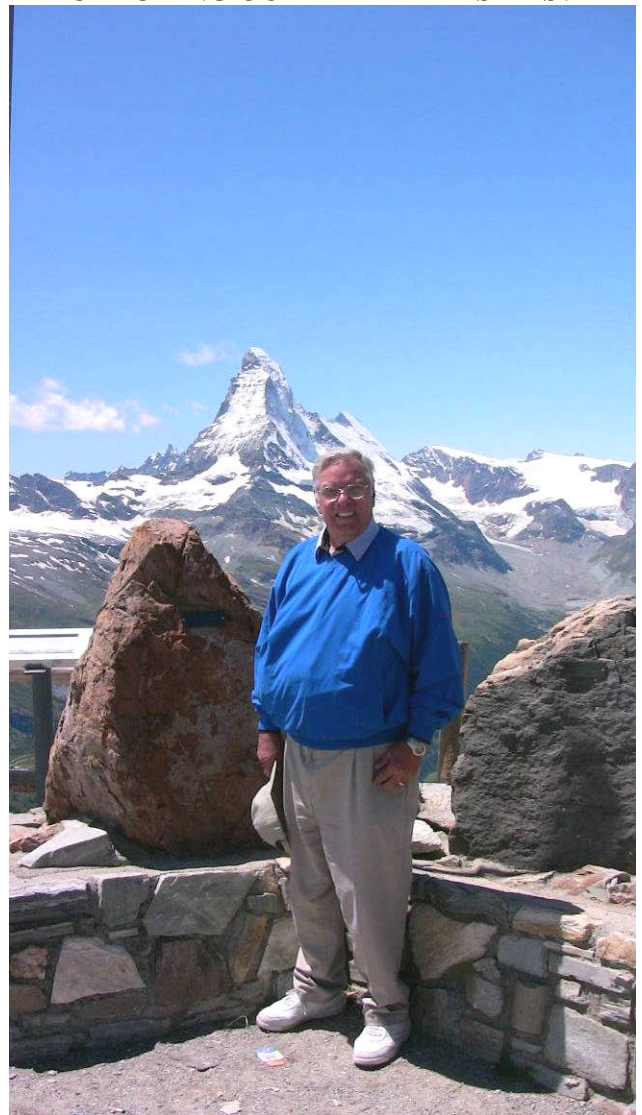
**Most Recent Activity:** Spaceweather.com showed a new sunspot emerging on 21-22 August with a sunspot number of 11 (in other words, one spot within one region). However, the official sunspot number from NOAA showed zero on both days. It seems that this little spot that tried to emerge never grew large enough to be counted as a sunspot. Instead it was just a little magnetic wrinkle, but one interesting aspect was that its polarity indicated a Cycle 24 event, The Mt. Wilson magnetogram data showed a dipole with the south pole leading the north, which in the northern hemisphere indicates a new cycle spot.

31 August marks 42 consecutive days with no sunspots. This will also bring the 3-month moving average for daily sunspot numbers down to 1.76, the lowest on this side of Cycle 23. This would be the three month average centered on July.

**Short Term Forecast:** The forecast for the next week is a planetary A index of 5 on every day, indicating more of the same quiet and stable geomagnetic conditions. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions 31 August to 03 September, and quiet to unsettled 04 September. The prediction for 05 September is a planetary A index of 18, probably from a recurring coronal hole and associated solar wind.

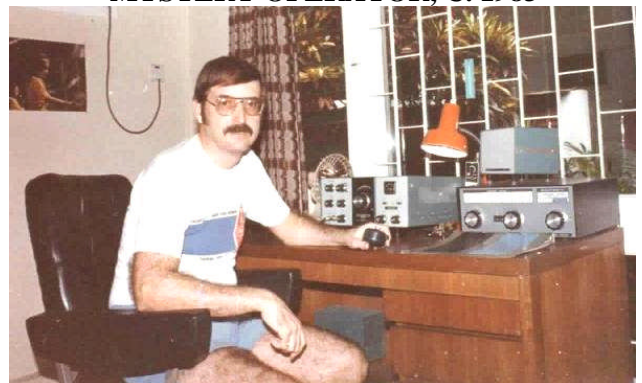
(From ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 36, ARLP036, <http://www.solarcycle24.com> and <http://www.earthfiles.com> )

**--CHECKING OUT REPEATER SITES? --**



This summer, Roger Schmitt-WB4HDW was enjoying the view of the Matterhorn, which is located on the border between Switzerland and Italy. With its top elevation of 14,692 ft. (4,478 m.), Roger wondered if he could hear our W4AC repeater from way up there.

**-- MYSTERY OPERATOR, C. 1983 --**



Any guesses of who and where?

# September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	3 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Panda Pavilion  TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	4 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	5 Breakfast @ (location to be announced), ± 7:45 AM	6
7	8 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	10 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	11 TARC Meeting, Tech Session @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7 PM	12 Breakfast @ (location to be announced), ± 7:45 AM	13 TARC VE Session @ 9:00 AM, Venice Public Library
14	15	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	17 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	18 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	19 Breakfast @ (location to be announced), ± 7:45 AM	20
21	22	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610	24 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	25 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	26 Breakfast @ (location to be announced), ± 7:45 AM	27
28	29	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:45 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 145.610				

Personal Events

**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 @ \$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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Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS

Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

2008 TARC Officers

President: Stew Haag-W4MO

V. President: Bruce Brown-WA8IQF

Secretary: Jack Sproat-W4JS

Treasurer: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

Directors: Konrad Owens-WA3RRS

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