



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>



-- SEPTEMBER 2012 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Well another month has flown past for those of us here in Paradise. I hope all is well with our members spending the summer away from us. As I address the September message I would like to direct your attention to a challenge sent your direction in August. I won't repeat it, so as to save some typing. Eight stalwarts have responded to date which is a very disappointing number, but you still have until the day of the September meeting to proffer your response. The winner will be the proud recipient of a XXXXXXXXX. Sorry you have to wait until meeting night to learn what the reward is.

The members have been busy here with two new vertical antennas rising above the horizon. Members have been upgrading their license levels, plus equipment and software upgrades have been discussed and described at our weekly breakfasts, among many other worldly items. What's been going on in and around your shacks?

Every organization of our type needs to be prepared; not only for emergencies but, from time to time, at assessing its goals. It means rearranging its thoughts as to where it wants to be in the future. The next several months promise to be interesting if not exciting. Which means we all must be open minded to the possibilities before us. (What did he just say?) Stay tuned, attend the breakfast group, join our nets and read the Communicator.

73 to All, Fred-KJ4TNI

-- SEPTEMBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **12 September 2012** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will offer a personal program, "Exploring Russia," based on his travels in that nation a couple years back. It's always worthwhile to learn of other cultures and people, so come on out if you can.

-- NO HELP FROM THE FCC --

The FCC has told Congress that there is "no compelling reason" for it to revisit its previous decisions not to extend its limited pre-emption of restrictive state and local antenna laws to private land use regulations. These CC&R, or Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, are imposed by developers and homeowners' associations on purchasers of homes in many areas. The report to Congress released on 20 August is the result of a study mandated earlier this year--with the ARRL's strong backing--of the value of amateur radio emergency communications and impediments (including CC&Rs) to effective amateur communications.

The Commission said commenters disagreed over the impact of CC&Rs on amateur radio emergency capabilities and that "a review of the record does not indicate that amateur operators are unable to find homes that are not subject to such restrictions." The report also said the FCC does not believe Congressional action is necessary regarding CC&Rs or other impediments to amateur communication.

So, if you live under the control of a HOA you can forget about any assistance from the FCC with regard to putting up a decent HF antenna.

(From CQ Newsroom, 23 August 2012)

-- CONWAY REEF DXPEDITION --



A 19-operator international team will activate Conway Reef from 24 September to 05 October. Conway is in the semirare category, dependent on Dxpeditions to be on the air. The timing of this operation is positive as there's even 75-100% probability of 10-meter openings. You have plenty of advance notice, so get some sort of antenna up and get on the air!!!

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
08 August 2012

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Yuli Sproat was recognized as a visitor.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 July meeting as published in the August issue of *The Communicator*. Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS so moved, seconded by Rich Greenberg-N6LRT, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported receiving an e-mail from Jack Gaddas-KY1Z who has been riding his bicycle out in Colorado and had crossed over the Continental Divide.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$2890.65. Receipts were \$11.00 from the July meeting 50/50 and \$15 membership dues, totaling \$26.00. Expenses were \$15.01 for Internet service. The ending balance is \$2,901.64. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Bob Faulcon-N1LVO, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – No activity reported.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that VE session will be held this Saturday held this Saturday, 11 August, with no queries to date. Stew Haag-W4MO spoke up, stating that his son Mark was planning to sit for the exams at this session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational in both analog and digital modes.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported that we have 57 dues paying members and eight Life Members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred-KJ4TNI reported that participation in the TARC nets has been very poor and asked that the members get on the air and show some support for the nets.

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were only seven members, spouses and friends present at the 01 August luncheon at the Panda Pavilion Chinese Buffet here on South Tamiami Trail. All are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of the month around 11:15 AM. at the Panda where we gather through September, when we return to Denny's in Sarasota for the October through May "season."

OLD BUSINESS – Nothing carried over.

NEW BUSINESS – Nothing.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Fred-KJ4TNI commented that he had received some interesting responses to his query regarding the origin of using the term "ham" to apply to an amateur radio operator. The deadline for submittals is Tuesday, 11 September such that the winner will be announced at the 12 September TARC meeting.

Don-KI4VGE reminded the members to let him know if they wanted a TARC name/call sign badge. These are produced up in Sarasota and cost \$10 each.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:13 PM was made by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, seconded by Bob-N1RA, and passed. There were 16 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB offered an in-depth discussion and power point program concerning the development and use of the "black box" on commercial aircraft and other carriers.

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- JUST WHERE ARE YOU? --

RichGreenberg-N6LRT passed along a web site wherein you can change latitude and longitude values from a decimal format to the degrees, minutes, seconds format. However, you first have to know just where you are to start with.

The primary or initial web site to be used is http://www.ehow.com/how_7372763_grid-square-using-google-maps.html which will get you started. It's suggested that you print out the directions, as it is a bit squirrely, before bringing up the map. This info is also needed to properly calibrate a GPS instrument.

To convert the decimal format from above to degrees, minutes and seconds, go to <http://transition.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDDMMSS-ecimal.html> and plug in the values.

Even if you do not have a directional antenna, if you want to use any propagation programs, you have to know where you are. Also, some spotting sites want to know where you are in order to provide heading and distance to stations of interest.

One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory.

You have at your command the wisdom of the ages.

From Chinese Fortune Cookies

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
Afghanistan – T6TJ, T6SS, T6VT	Now Active	26	--	--	--	20-04	13-17	13-16	--	--
Svalbard Is. – JW2US; ++, some CW	Now to Nov	13	--	23-11	22-12	12-00	13-22	14-22	13-00	16-19
Chagos – VQ9JC; **	Now to Nov	54	23-01	22-02	22-03	18-03	14-23	13-22	15-21	16-19
Djibouti – J28NC	Now to 17 Sept	61	23-03	22-04	22-04	19-01	16-00	14-22	15-21	15-21
Namibia – V55V/p	01 to 08 Sept	107	23-05	22-07	21-07	19-02	12-19	13-18	15-18	15-18
Reunion Is – FR/DF8AN; **	02 to 10 Sept	91	23-03	23-03	22-04	20-04	18-23	17-20	16-17	1600
Nauru – C21BN	03 to 10 Sept	279	--	06-13	05-14	12-16	13-03	19-02	19-23	19-22
Maldives – 8Q7OE; SSB and PSK	03 to 14 Sept	41	--	23-02	22-02	20-03	15-22	15-22	18-21	16-20
Mauritius – 3B8/IW5ELA; ** holiday style	05 to 12 Sept	88	23-02	22-03	22-04	19-01	17-22	16-18	14-17	15-17
Swains Island – NH8S; International Team	05 to 18 Sept	260	05-12	03-14	03-14	17-14	17-04	17-03	18-01	18-00
Mariana Is – KK6WW/KH0, KH0R	06 to 09 Sept	306	--	--	07-13	12-17	20-04	20-02	21-00	21-02
Svalbard Is – JW8DW	12 to 19 Sept	13	00-08	23-11	22-12	12-23	13-23	13-00	16-23	2000
Greenland – XP2I; **	13 to 17 Sept	13	00-10	22-12	21-14	12-00	12-03	13-01	NO	NO
Palau – T8XX, T88UE; CW and RTTY	14 to 28 Sept	306	08-12	08-13	07-14	12-17	13-03	14-02	21-00	21-02
Liechtenstein – HB0/various ON operators	18 to 23 Sept	46	23-07	21-09	20-09	12-23	13-21	14-19	16-19	15-20
Conway Reef – 3D2C; International Team	24 Sept – 05 Oct	255	06-12	04-13	04-14	01-15	18-03	19-02	19-00	20-23
Reunion Is – FR/DJ7RJ	26 Sept – 21 Oct	91	23-02	22-03	22-03	19-05	18-22	17-19	16-18	15-16

Updated 31 August based on 29 August QRZ DX, 27 August *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold = 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.

-- AUGUST SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 94 to 150, with a mean value of 115,7 (vs. 101.8 for August 2011 and 79.5 for August 2010), and the A-index was ≥ 7 on 16 days. Through 30 August the sunspot number ranged from 32 to 160, with a mean of 83.9. These values indicate a decline from July. Sunspot Regions 1534 to 1559 were active, with nine M-class and 99 C-class flares.

-- SEPTEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels during September with a slight chance for M-class activity. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels 09-10 September, 16-17 September and 22-25 September.

The geomagnetic field should be at quiet to unsettled levels until 15 September as a recurrent coronal hole high speed stream (HSS) moves into a geoeffective position. Unsettled to active conditions are expected 15-16 September. Conditions are expected to be quiet to unsettled from 17 through 21 September. Another recurrent HSS is expected to become geoeffective 22-25 September, after which conditions should be quiet to unsettled for the remainder of the month.

The Solar Flux is forecast to range from 95 to 125 and average 110.7. Best propagation is forecast for 01-08 and 26-30 September.

(From 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, SWPC/NOAA, 27 August and 45 Day AP Forecast, SWPC/NOAA, 27 August.

-- SWAINS ISLAND EXPEDITION --



Privately owned Swains Island first came on as a new entity in July 2006, with little or no activity since. Worldwide, Swains is ranked #31 in the 2011 Most Needed Survey by *The DX Magazine*. It will be activated by a 19-member international team 05 to 18 September, so here's your chance for a rather rare one. Swains has a population of 37 Tokelauans, who harvest the island's coconuts.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING SEPTEMBER

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 SSB Only	Asian Stations	RS, Operator's Age
Russian Radio RTTY WW	0000Z 01 Sep 2400Z 01 Sep	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, WAZ Zone
DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"	1100Z 01 Sep 1700Z 01 Sep	10 Meters Only All Digital Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, Serial
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z 07 Sep 1800Z 08 Sep	160 – VHF SSB, CW, Digital	QCWA Members	Call, Yr. 1 st Lic., Name, State
Worked All Europe DX Contest	0000Z 08 Sep 2400Z 09 Sep	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/	RST, Serial, QTC if requested
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z 08 Sep 0259Z 10 Sep	6 Meters and Up SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	Grid Square
North American Sprint	0000Z 09 Sep 0400Z 09 Sep	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	Stations in North American Countries	Calls, Serial, Name, State
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 15 Sep 1159Z 16 Sep	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Scandinavian Countries	RST, Serial
North American Sprint	0000Z 16 Sep 0400Z 16 Sep	80 – 20 Meters SSB Only	Stations in North American Countries	Calls, Serial Name, State
CQ WW RTTY Contest	0000Z 29 Sep 2400Z 30 Sep	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	RST, CQ Zone, S/P/C

Legend: Serial = Sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

NOTE: State QSO Parties and "membership clubs" contests are not shown. See above references for information.

NOTE: Contests are not permitted on 60, 30, 17 and 12 Meters

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

-- THE QRPER BLOWS IT AGAIN --

Last week we ran into one of the local QRPer whom last we had heard in a pile-up for a rare one. "How did you make out?" we asked and learned to regret the inquiry.

The QRPer gritted his teeth, his beady eyes glinting and he started to implode. "You know," the QRPer said, "I tried all the tricks and nothing worked. Nothing at all. Why does it always happen to me. Me!! Me, who deserves better."

We thought this over for bit, figuring that maybe we had better hold back our own thoughts. "What happened?" we asked. "Well," the QRPer said, "this cat was working by districts. When he was in the other districts I would jump in and yell "When are you going to work the Fours? When are you going to work the Fours?" Well, after a couple hours of missing him when he did work the Fours and then jumping in and asking when he was going to work the Fours, for no reason at all this fellow starts yelling "Never!" and went QRT.

The QRPer fastened his beady eyes on us. "What do you think was bothering him? Probably did not know how to handle a pileup, don't you think?"

Son of a Gun! What could we say. We have heard of these things before....we know the malady but not the cure.

(From "DX IS!, The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin," edited and published by C. T. Allen-W5DV and J. M. Allen-W6OGC, 1981)



"Gil" Gildersleeve – January 1959 QST

September 2012

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

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeaters 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) _____

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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1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD
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