



# THE COMMUNICATOR



Mailing Address: P. O. Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274

W4AC Repeaters: 444.100 MHz (DMR) & 146.805 MHz (-) (PL100Analog)

Incorporated 1984

<http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

November, 2020

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## President's message...KJ4NDO

November is the month when the snowbirds return to Venice. We welcome all of you back to the balmy shores and moderate breezes of Florida.

It seems like the only thing that's consistent these days is change. No one can foresee if the events we all enjoy will be held in 2021; the 10K and 5K road races, the Shark's Tooth Festival, Summer Field Day, Winter Field Day, the Battle of the Bridges, etc. Other traditional events may or may not be held. Clearly, we have more than a few opportunities to excel. Hold on, it's going to be an interesting ride.

I'd like to thank Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, and the members of the Board of Directors for their efforts to create a working budget structure for our club. We will present a proposed budget to the club for approval during the November 11th TARC meeting. This budget is still a work in progress, as are most budgets. But at this point in time it is the beginning of a workable tool for our club.

One of the neat things about our club is the many opportunities to select an interest in some segment of ham radio, and participate and grow in that discipline. FT8 is a current example. There are always members ready, willing, and able to introduce a member to the latest communication technology, or one of the most

efficient technologies; for example, Morse code.

There are many options to help you learn Morse code. CWops is a system that has been in use for over ten years. The CWops Academy and Morse trainer help

students learn the code in an easy step-by-step process. G4FON uses the Koch method. Unlike the Farnsworth method which seeks to reduce the gap between letters as you become more efficient, Koch came up with the idea that you should start off just learning two letters at full speed and add additional letters once you reach 90% proficiency, until you have mastered all of them. Both of these systems are available via Google.

I note that November 3rd, election day, as usual, falls on a Tuesday. Our digital net starts at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday. This day will be a memorable one for our country. We will be, like ham radio operators everywhere, on the air, on our net, talking and listening.

Speaking of elections, there will be election of TARC officers in December. If anyone has an interest in serving, please make your desires known to any of the officers or directors.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable November.

*73s to all, Jim - KJ4NDO*



**Next Month**  
**TARC**  
**Elections**  
**Dues are**  
**DUE 1/2021**

**Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday,  
November 11, 2020 via ZOOM.**  
***Check Groups.io for the link to connect.***

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 10/14/20 Meeting*

Vice President, Steve Phillips, NS4P, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with the pledge to the flag. We welcomed a new club member Herb Lauber, W8MAO, who has been a ham for many years. There was a moment of silence observed in memory of Bob Avrutik, N1RA, who passed away on October 10, 2020 at the age of 96. Bob was a TARC Life Member and enjoyed DXing. Bob and his XYL Marie kept in touch with other members by attending Saturday morning breakfasts at the DAV.

**MINUTES:** Steve, NS4P, requested a motion to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting as published in The Communicator. Motion was made by Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, seconded by Dennis Ciborowski, W9CIB, and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$6,891.88, receipts of \$153.81, expenses of \$2,274.65, and an ending balance for the month of September of \$4,771.04. Under expenses, \$2,000.00 has been set aside as a "reserve" for future use. Since the club recently acquired equipment, the Board of Directors recommended that money be put aside for future use when such equipment would need to be upgraded or replaced. The Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Frank, W2XYZ, received a couple of new membership applications.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**SUNSHINE:** Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, is recovering at home from out-patient surgery.

**VE TESTING:** Steve, NS4P, said that TARC appears to be the only club south of Tampa and north of Naples that is offering VE testing on a regular basis. This past Saturday his GP VE test team held the October test session, which had two candidates and both passed the Technician exam. Last month Steve began electronic submission of the test documents to the ARRL. Submissions uploaded on Sunday were processed within the next two business days. Candidates were ecstatic that they got their call signs so quickly! ARRL requires that all candidates have an FRN prior to taking an exam for the VE Coordinator to submit test documents electronically.

**LIAISON TO QCWA:** There are no QCWA meetings occurring as not enough people want to participate due to the pandemic.

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL:** Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported that the new controller is up and running. You will now hear announcements periodically about upcoming nets, time and date. There is also a recording device feature so you can test out your audio and hear how it sounds. Frank has also been in contact with Joe Giardina, N4ADI, in Punta Gorda who wants to connect his tower in his backyard to the club's tower for a 30 day trial period. This may give us coverage as far south as N. Fort Myers.

Just a reminder that the digital net is held on the club 444.100 DMR repeater using talk group TAC 315. The club 2m analog repeater frequency is 146.805 MHz ( - ) PL 100. The digital net opens Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The 2m net opens Thursday at 7:30 PM. Hams can participate on this net via EchoLink using a computer, an iPhone or an Android system based phone. Click on W2XYZ-R (Node 571146) on the EchoLink directory screen to establish EchoLink contact. The 10m net is on frequency 28.450 MHz, upper sideband, and begins immediately after the conclusion of the 2m net.

Tom Wilson, W1ICU, continues to host via Zoom a virtual breakfast gathering on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. For details please refer to the Groups.io site.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, reported there are 104 regular members, 28 first year members, 8 life members, and 1 comp for a total membership of 141. Emails will be sent out reminding members that club dues should be paid by January 1. Any member that does not pay their dues by March 1 will be dropped from the club roster.

**OLD BUSINESS: 1.** Repeater Maintenance Team update. Chet, KG4IYS, reported the optical fiber is working well and the radios have been repaired and are back at the repeater site. Radios will be moved next week to the recently installed rack. The tower climber is still scheduled to assess the condition of the tower, but no date has been given as the tower climber's schedule depends upon another company who is paying his transportation costs.

**2.** Club Remote Station. Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, stated the remote station subscription service is on hold until all bands are functioning. Tom and Steve, NS4P tested a vertical antenna this week and it seems to work. The Repeater Maintenance Team will discuss options for future direction. In the meantime, if any-

## TARC Minutes, continued

one is interested in trying out the station on 20m contact Tom Shrilla, W8QJF.

**3. Fox Hunting.** Paul, KN4BAR, said that the next fox hunt is on Sunday, November 15 at 9:00 AM and will meet at the Norma Jean's Sports Bar parking lot. You may participate as individuals or teams.

**4. License Classes.** Paul, KN4BAR, stated that eight people are enrolled in the current General class, which ends in early November. The new system of students doing independent study using Ham Test Online supported by weekly Zoom conferences seems to be working well. Going forward, TARC will charge each student \$15.00 and then waive the \$15.00 VE Testing fee if the student takes the test through TARC. TARC will be offering a Technician class in the spring. Responding to a question from the floor Paul stated that the instructors will gauge interest in an Extra training series and proceed accordingly.

**5. Club Equipment.** Steve, NS4P, mentioned that he still has lots of ham equipment in his garage and trailer for sale. San Yoder, K3SY, suggested to post a few items in The Communicator.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **1.** Jim, KJ4NDO, will be contacting Public Works in November to see what their plan is for future use of the tower and antennas at the old Venice police station on Capri Isles.

**2.** Icom requested \$750 to fix the damaged IC-7300. The Board of Directors determined that this was not financially responsible, and we requested that the unit

be returned without repair. Steve, NS4P, is assessing what is wrong with the radio besides the damaged USB port.

**3.** The membership approved buying a fairly new IC-7300 radio from Chet, KG4IYS, at a great price of \$500 and selling the damaged IC-7300 at a "best price market will bear" after Steve's assessment.

**4.** As the budget plan is being prepared, Paul, KN4BAR, requested members to email him by October 18 with any ideas for special events to participate in, and/or the purchase of new assets for the club.

**5.** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in an effort to keep our members safe, the TARC Christmas Party is cancelled this year.

**6.** Mike Lechky, W0MJL, said that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is selling its land and building effective January 1, 2021 to the U.S. Air Force. The club will be looking for a new location to hold club meetings. If anyone has any suggestions please let a board member know.

**7.** Joe Wyatt, KN4RKK, mentioned that the North Port Amateur Radio Club is conducting an emergency drill on Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 AM on 147.120 MHz PL 136.5. All local hams are welcomed to participate.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM. There were 22 members and no guests on the Zoom session.

**Program:** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR presented "What is Winlink?"



## TOM'S TECH TIPS:

It won't replace grid squares but **What 3 Words** is "The simplest way to talk about location". It's a really accurate application to share locations. Example: "**silver.ruby.shades**" puts you at the White House South Lawn. **Option.metro.save** is the

W1AW memorial station. **Undertaking.ships.future** is CoolToday Park, and **employer.breathtaking.letters** puts you at Peach's. Meet for *Battle of the Bridges* pre-dawn at **silent.manufacturer.astronomer** or have BOAT 2 move to **playlist.adopt.alert**.

We can post precisely where our flea space is at the next Hamcation or think how this could clarify locations at foxhunts. From a pinpoint street address to a remote DX-Pedition takes only three common words. Some European areas use *what3words* in place of street addresses. It's available on Android, Apple and online at <https://what3words.com>.

**73, Tom W8QJF**



DX Jack's page....

..... By Jack Sproat, W4JS



## MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY &amp; 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
Palau – T88SS by KE1AT, FT8 w/40/80 CW	Now Active	306	NO	09-12	08-13	13-14	21-22	2200	NO	NO
North Cook Is – E51WL	Now Active	255	07-10	04-13	03-13	05-10	17-24	17-24	17-23	18-21
Antarctica – LU1ZG by LU3HRS, most FT8	Now Active	171	NO	NO	01-06	23-01	20-24	2300	NO	NO
Jan Mayen – JX2US by LA2US, ** FT8	Now to 31 Mar	21	23-08	22-11	1200	1300	NO	NO	NO	NO
Iraq – Y19/IU5HWS ++	Now to 20 Jan	43	00-03	21-05	20-07	1400	12-15	13-14	NO	NO
Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ/JD1	Now to 15 Jan	308	1000	07-13	06-14	NO	20-23	21-22	2100	NO
Antarctica – 8J1RL	Now to 01 Jan	158	NO	NO	NO	23-24	1200	NO	NO	NO
Afghanistan – T6AA by S53R	Now to 15 Dec	<u>25/205</u>	NO	NO	23-24	NO	NO	NO	<u>1400</u>	NO
Malawi – 7Q6M by K6ZO	Now to 06 Dec	90	NO	23-03	22-05	20-23	18-22	16-22	13-20	1400
St Vincent – J88/8P5AB	Now to 03 Dec	121	22-12	20-14	00-24	02-24	12-23	12-22	13-21	NO
Belize – V31CO by W0YBS, all modes	Now to 13 Nov	211	21-14	00-24	00-24	12-23	14-18	1500	NO	NO
South Sudan – Z81D by Y11DZ, SB,Dgy,FT8	Now to 10 Nov	74	NO	22-04	21-02	19-23	17-22	13-21	13-18	NO
French Polynesia – TX0T by VE3LYC	Now to 05 Nov	243	--	03-12	02-12	23-09	16-01	--	--	--
Maldives – 8Q7RM by HB9SHD, SSB + Digi	02 to 29 Nov	<u>40/220</u>	NO	23-10	22-24	2200	13-16	13-15	<u>1400</u>	NO
Malawi – 7Q7RU by 3-op team, all modes	11 to 18 Nov	90	NO	23-03	22-05	20-23	18-22	16-22	13-	1400
St Vincent – J8/UR5BCP, mainly FT8/FT4	21 to 28 Nov	121	--	20-14	00-24	02-24	12-23	12-22	13-21	13-21
St Vincent – J88PI by GW4DVB	23 Nov to 01 Dec	121	--	20-14	00-24	02-24	12=23	12-22	13-21	13-21

Prepared 30 Oct 2020 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX 20-40, Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin No. 1487* and *DX World.Net*

**Notes:** Times shown are for S-5 or better signals and 60% or better opening probability. ??? = Call Sign or Date not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast, NIL = band is open but signals below S-5 threshold. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using VOACAP <http://www.voacap.com/hf/>.

## -- OCTOBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 30 October, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 71 to 88, with a mean value of 74.5. The  $A_p$  index was  $\geq 7$  on 13 days during that period. Sunspot groups were visible on 20 days, varying from one to two groups at a time. Minor C-Class flares occurred on three days.

## -- NOVEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels with a slight chance for C-class flares on 01 Nov as new Region 2778 rotates across the visible disk. Very low levels are expected the rest of the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be reach unsettled to active levels on 01 Nov, 17-21 Nov, 23-25 Nov and 28 Nov, with G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels likely on 22 Nov due to recurrent CH HSS effects.

The solar flux should range from 68 to 75 and average 72.4 for the month.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 26 Oct 2020, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 26 Oct 2020, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 27 Oct 2020.)

## -- MALAWAI – 7Q7RU --

A NEWS UPDATE by Vasily-R7AL via <https://www.dx-world.net/7q7ru-malawi/>.

It's only a few days left before our departure and we are announcing the "7Q7RU Band-Slot Challenge". The purpose of this competition is working 7Q7RU on as many different bands and modes as possible. TOP TEN stations will win a special plaque sponsored by team members and

shipped from Russia worldwide. Good luck to all and see you soon on the air!



## -- TX0T QRV FROM TATAKOTO ATOLL --



Cezar-VE3LYC arrived OK in Papeete 28 October. Flights to Tatakoto Atoll are so rare, that the residents may order goods to be flown in, so he worried if there would be sufficient space on the plane for his equipment. Obviously there was, he procured lodging and was soon on the air and in the logs of several local DXers. (From <https://www.dx-world.net/tx0t-tatakoto-atoll-oc-298new/>)

# Bob Avrutik, N1RA, “Number One Radio Amateur”, Silent Key

March 23, 1924 - October 10, 2020

Robert "Bob" Franklin Avrutik passed away peacefully Saturday October 10th with his loved ones near.

Bob was born the second son of Joseph & Bella Avrutik in Yonkers, NY and was the light of his mother's eye. He was built to be an engineer and developed his lifelong passion of Ham radio (W2NVO / N1RA) at age 13 ultimately spending over 80 years participating in and enjoying all facets of Amateur Radio.

He served the U.S. Army Air Corps in WWII stationed in Agra, India outside the Taj Mahal using his Ham skills to fix aircraft radios and keep troop morale high by running the air base radio station. Upon returning to the states, he attended NYU and received his degree in Electronics Engineering while also starting the University's Amateur Radio Club.

He met the love of his life Marie Derivan (Yonkers, NY) through her father (also a Ham) who asked him to help his daughter, stranded in New Orleans, while returning from a cross country trip - Bob was up for the task, and the two developed a lifelong partnership based in true

love, kindness and respect. Bob had a long and esteemed career at Philips Medical Systems (Shelton, CT) - often traveling overseas for his role as Quality Assurance Manager.

Bob retired in 1986 to Nokomis, Florida and spent his retirement travelling the world with Marie, visiting with family, sailing on Whaley Lake, fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, tinkering with any and all electronics, providing helpful assistance to those in need, and attending his beloved weekly Tamiami Amateur Radio Club breakfasts. He remained in Ham radio, even late in life by serving as a Volunteer Examiner administering Amateur Radio Exams to candidates for licenses.

Bob loved animals, and had a specific affinity for miniature dachshunds.

Robert is survived by his loving wife of 70 years Marie, his devoted children, daughter Marie (Charlie) and son Charles (Denise), grandchildren James (Johnna) and Caroline (Tom), Julianne and Timothy as well as great grandchildren Landon, Ziva, Ollie and Hudson.

A burial service will be held at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810



State Road 72, Sarasota, FL on Tuesday, November 17 at 11 AM.

Donations in Bob's memory can be made to either Tidewell Hospice at Tidewell Foundation, Inc., 5955 Rand Boulevard, Sarasota, FL 34238 or The Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Condolences may be sent to Marie Avrutik, Bay Village (#844), 8400 Vamo Road, Sarasota, FL 34231



## From Roger, KY4RS .....

My friend up home, Jack, AB4WS posted an acknowledgment of **Bob, N1RA** on his pod cast....FYI

<https://www.spreaker.com/user/ab4ws/2020-10-16-rs-ab4ws>

Note: Bob is mentioned at about the 4 minute mark.

# Antenna Safety



By Peter Boers, KV4LR

**Y**our grandkids are next to the pool, your flagpole antenna is next to it and you just got a new amplifier that needs to get tested out. How safe is your kilowatt transmitter? It's a question every HAM should be able to answer - even if nobody asked that question.

For relatively low power transmitters there is a simple table - Table 1, >> and if your power level at the given frequency is less than what is listed, you can make the assumption that it is safe. This table comes from FCC OET65, and a link to that document and the table is [here](#). More specific information for radio amateur stations is in [OET65b](#), and this document contains some very good examples based on typical radio amateur bands and antennas.

If your output power is more than what is listed in the table, you should do some calculations. You'll need to know your output power and antenna gain. The calculation will give you the power density (in mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) at some distance from the antenna and you can compare that with the limits in table 2.

TABLE 1. Power thresholds for routine evaluation of amateur radio stations.

Wavelength Band	Transmitter Power (watts)
MF	
160 m	500
HF	
80 m	500
75 m	500
40 m	500
30 m	425
20 m	225
17 m	125
15 m	100
12 m	75
10 m	50
VHF (all bands)	50
UHF	
70 cm	70
33 cm	150
23 cm	200
13 cm	250
SHF (all bands)	250
EHF (all bands)	250

Frequency range	Controlled / Occupational exposure		Uncontrolled / General exposure	
	MHz	mW / cm <sup>2</sup>	Averaging time (minutes)	mW/cm <sup>2</sup>
0.3 – 1.34	100	6	100	30
1.34 – 30	900/f <sup>2</sup>	6	180/f <sup>2</sup>	30
30 – 300		6		30
300 – 1500		6		30
1500 – 100,000		6		30

First some basic theory. The kW (or other power level) that you are pushing out of the antenna just does not disappear. If your antenna was a true isotropic radiator ( that means it radiates the same in each direction) the energy would be smeared out equally over a sphere. The surface of that sphere at a distance R from the antenna would have an area of 4.π.R<sup>2</sup>. Using the metric system and starting with a 1000 W output and a distance of 10 meters (30 feet) from the antenna we would have 1000/4π.10.10 or approximately 0.8 Watt per square meter.

Not all antennas are isotropic. In fact it's very difficult to make a truly isotropic antenna since virtually all antennas radiate better in one direction than another. The ratio how much better the antenna radiates in the best direction over and above the theoretical isotropic antenna is defined as the antenna gain and is usually listed in dB (or dB<sub>i</sub> ). A dipole typically has a gain of around 2 dB and with some additional elements maybe 4 to 6 dB. Bear in mind that

we are doing power calculations, and thus a doubling of power is 3 dB, so 6 dB would be 4 times the power.

The limits in FCC OET65 are listed in mW/cm<sup>2</sup>. Since there are 1000 mW in a Watt and 10,000 cm<sup>2</sup> in a m<sup>2</sup>, the 0.8 Watt/m<sup>2</sup> we calculated about can also be stated as 0.08 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>. Now that we know all this, we can work with the following formula and come up with the power density estimate at some distance from the antenna, provided we are more than 1/6 of the wavelength ( λ/2π ) away from the antenna.

$$S = P.G/(40.π.R^2)$$

R is in meters  
 P is the power in Watts  
 G is the numerical gain of the antenna (not the dB's)  
 S is the power density in mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

This is typically a very conservative estimate. Feedline loss, not being in the main beam of the antenna and modulation method all can reduce the power density at the specific point you are doing this calculation for. In addition, there are two levels of limit, the higher one is for occupational exposure (exposure of people >>>>

## Antenna Safety, continued .....

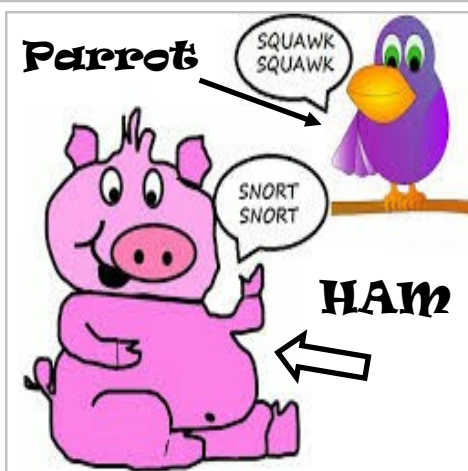
that KNOW they are affected and have the ability to do something about it) and exposure limits for the general public. The limits are for the average power, with the averaging time ranging from 30 minutes for the general public and 6 minutes for the occupational exposure.

Lets do an example for a 20 meter antenna with a 4 dBi gain, fed by a 600W transmitter, and using FT8 mode and calculate at what the safe distance is for your neighbors. FT8 implies that worst case we have a 15 second on – 15 second off mode with pretty much full power, so the duty cycle is 50%. Ignoring feedline loss we put an average power of 300W into

the antenna. With the 4dB gain the effective radiated power is 2.5 times the 300W.

Plugging this in the above listed equation, and using the uncontrolled limit of  $180/f^2$  with  $f=14.074$  MHz gets us a limit of  $0.909 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ . Then  $0.909 = 750 / (4.\pi.R^2)$ . This gives you a safe distance of 8.1 meters or 26'.

If you are too close for comfort in this quick and dirty approach, you should read FCC OET65b. It is specifically intended for radio amateurs and lists many more examples and goes into much more detail on how to include other factors that limit RF exposure.



**By** now nearly everyone is aware that we have made many changes at our repeater site. One of the changes is the addition of an ARCOM RC-210 Repeater Controller.

A controller does as its name implies, controls the repeater. It has other features too. It adds a courtesy tone when you un-key your microphone, sends identification of the station and allows sending voice information such as the time, or date, or an announcement when a meeting is scheduled. Here's a basic summary of what our controller is doing:

- Courtesy tone
- Three different voice ID messages
- CW identification
- Net reminder messages on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Meeting reminder message on second Wednesday of the month

But wait, there's more... If you transmit and press 11 on you mic or handheld, it will respond with the cur-

rent time. If you press 22 in the same manner, it tells you the day of the week and date - (very useful for retirees spending lots and lots of time at home during the pandemic).

If you transmit and press 99, and then release your PTT, you should hear it say **READY**. That activates a voice recorder. Press the PTT again and announce your call sign, and a brief test message, such as "Testing one, two, three." Release the PTT and you'll hear how well you are coming into the receiver at the repeater site. [This is similar to the Parrot function on the DMR repeater]. You can experiment and see if you have a solid signal while sitting in the recliner in your living room, or if you need to move outdoors to be heard better.

A couple more features, although not fully implemented yet is the ability to integrate our Echolink presence at the repeater site instead of my garage (still working on that one). Or have it announce the voltage level of our storage batteries. It's also possible to connect a weather station to it and have it announce temperature, or wind, or precipitation. We could also connect a NOAA weather station to it and activate it to broadcast weather alerts.

The uses are many, and we've just begun to make use of its features. If anyone is interested in learning more about it, or even better yet, to learn how to program its features; information, and software are available at <https://www.arcomcontrollers.com/> Your suggestions and/or program code are most welcome.

**73, Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ**



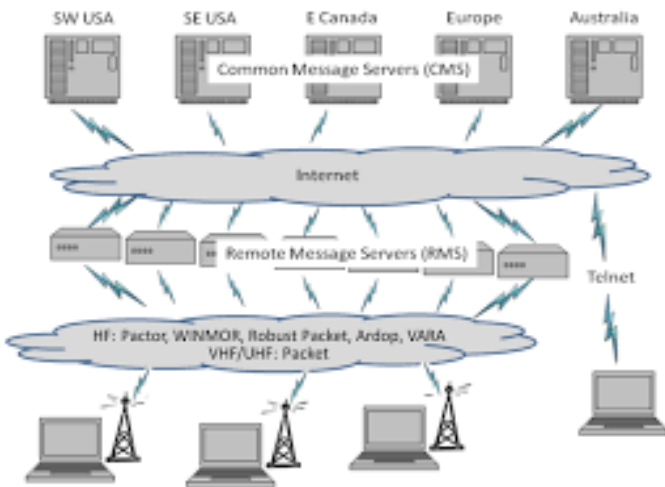
**Our thoughts and prayers go out to Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, (and to Lisa). Hans is fighting serious health issues. Hans has faithfully provided dozens of programs for TARC and QCWA meetings for many years. His programs on his "black box" involvement as well as about "ones and zeros" are always appreciated.**



By Paul, KN4BAR

**T**he storm is over. There's no power, no Internet, and no phone service. How do you let friends and loved ones around the world know that you are OK? Simple - send them an email! Yes, if you have a ham radio and a TNC/Modem or an external sound card, you can do just that.

**Winlink Global Email** is a network of amateur radio and authorized government-licensed stations that provides worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the Internet is not present. The system is built, operated, and administered entirely by licensed "Ham" volunteers. It works on HF and also on VHF/UHF thanks to a Winlink Gateway (RMS) station in Sarasota operated and maintained by the Sarasota Amateur Radio Club. Frequency is 144.950 MHz, and call sign is N4SER-10.



Winlink is a store-and-forward email server system. Its architecture consists of a global network of hundreds of Remote Mail Servers (RMSs) operated and

maintained by local area hams and registered with the Winlink system. These RMSs connect client stations (that's you) with the global level Common Message Servers (CMSs) strategically located around the globe. We have 5 such servers in North America. This system integrates seamlessly with the Internet wherever Internet service is available. It allows client stations to send **and receive** email messages by RF.

### A Winlink Express Station (using Winmor, Ardop, or VARA sound card modem)



If you are already an FT-8 or PSK station then you have all the hardware needed to become a Winlink client station as well. And, if you don't already have this hardware, why not invest a few dollars in an external sound card and associated connecting cables. This is another good reason to upgrade your station and your operating skills by adding Winlink, FT-8, PSK, and a host of other digital modes. The cost is low ranging from just under \$100 to about \$200 for the sound card hardware. Many new transceivers have a sound card already built in to the radio. For the most part, the required software is **FREE!** And, as an added bonus, it is not that hard to install, configure, and use.

Our website has an Elmer page now with basic information about the Winlink system, and with links to software downloads, and configuration assistance. If you Google "Winlink Sound Card" you will get all the help ever needed. In these boring Covid-19 days, adding another dimension to your ham radio experience might be just what the doctor ordered. 📡

## Nationwide Red Cross Emergency Communications Drill Set for November 14, 2020

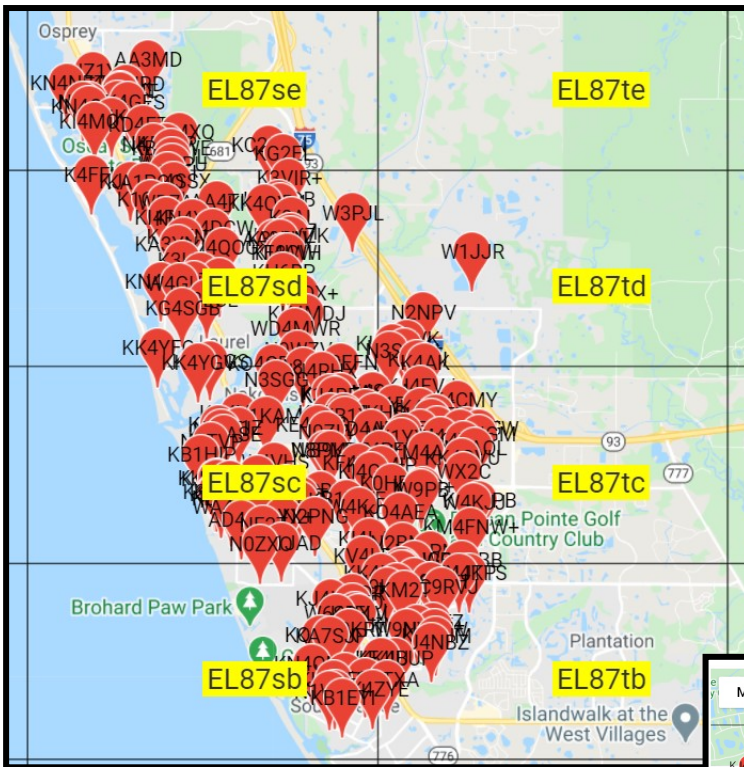
The fall drill will be a **Winlink-specific** event with these goals: (1) pass traditional American Red Cross (ARC) forms from as many states and as many radio amateurs as possible to one of six division clearinghouses, and (2), bring as many radio operators as possible up to a "basic" level of **Winlink proficiency**. A series of **Winlink Workshops** is held each Thursday at 0100 UTC on Zoom. Open to all amateurs.



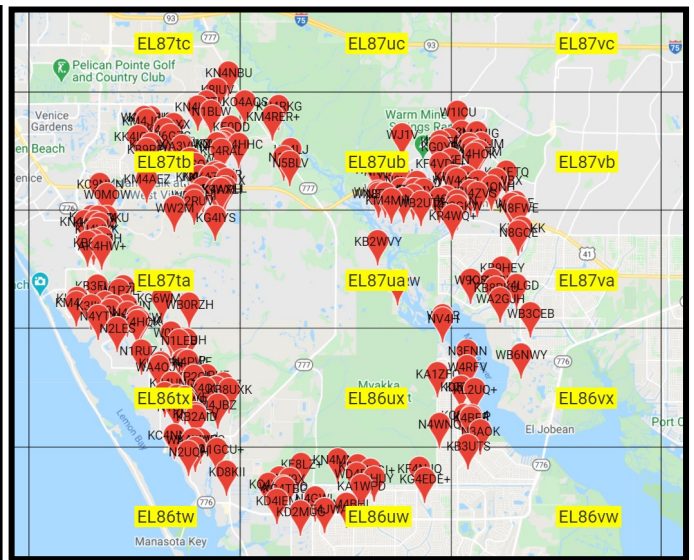
# Is your next-door neighbor a ham?

Have you ever wondered how many hams live close to you? Last month, Steve, K4EU sent an e-mail noting this web site: <https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map/>

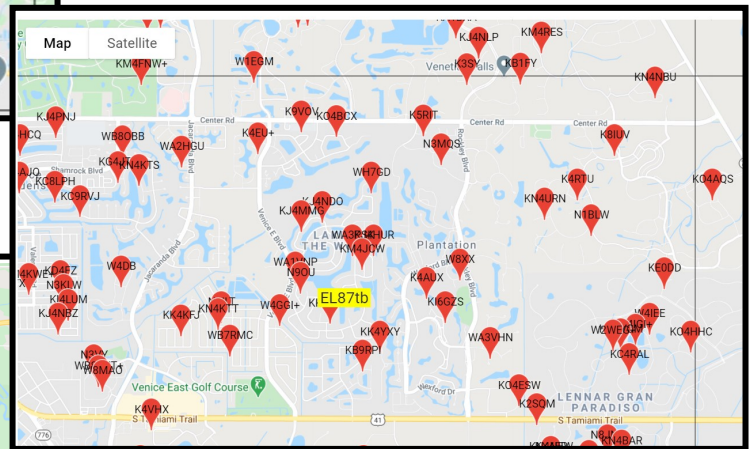
It's a lot of fun. Just type in your call and see who lives nearby. Click on the grid square and see who's there. Click on a balloon and get the call and address - unless it's a PO box. It shows hams in the immediate area. Here are a few screen shots:



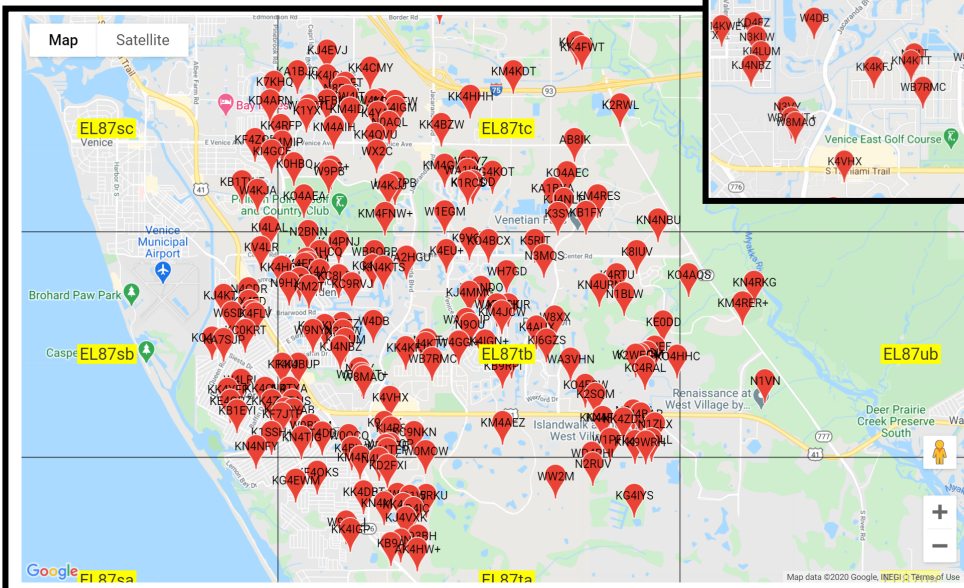
^^ The Venice city grid square (EL87sc) They grow like mushrooms!



The repeater grid square. (EL86ux) ^^ Staying away from that tower!



EL87tb is the home to quite a few TARC members (including your editor). The map at left indicates the population in the square and partway into adjacent squares. Above is an expanded view. Do you see your call ?



# *Pandemic pastime prattle .....*

## *From Dwight, KT4DDS*

In hunting down the greatest songs of the early 20th Century, I ran across this Ham Radio Song! It was written in 1929 by Andy Razaf, Fats Waller, and Harry Brooks. They apparently re-wrote the words before using it in a musical comedy. I found a recording of it and put up on the web (link below) in case you are interested in hearing it. ;{>

<http://dwightsullivan.com/music/hamradiosong.mp3>

## *From Jeff, KO4NET, in Sa-ra-so-ta!*

Little do they know, this is about ham radio! - - - - - At least in my head.

<https://youtu.be/Mh85R-S-dh8>

## *From Tom, W8QJF*

'Lest we ever forget the [Rhythm of the Code!](#) A Dayton HamVention fixture.

## *From San, K3SY*

And your editor's all-time favorite, "The Knack"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dx6HojLBsnw>

## *From Paul, KN4BAR*

This is uncanny. 25 simple questions, and it geolocated my growing-up location within 25 miles. [Non ham].

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/upshot/dialect-quiz-map.html>

## **Fall TARC Fox Hunt scheduled**

**M** Meet Sunday, November 15, 2020, 9 am in the parking lot by Norma Jeans sports bar, 1635 U.S. 41 Bypass S, Venice, FL 34285. This is the north end of the former K-Mart shopping center. Steve, NS4P was the winner of our spring fox hunt so he will be the fox for this event. Paul, KN4BAR



will meet in the parking lot with all the hunters. There will be a Q&A session and equipment set-up/testing opportunities for all hunters before the hunt begins. First one (individual or team) to find the fox WINS! Visit the Elmer area of our club website for information about fox hunting, antennas, and attenuators.

# November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ***** <b>VOTE!</b> ***** DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 TAC 315	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	<b>6</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>7</b> Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> QCWA 11:30 AM Denny's Bee Ridge Road	<b>10</b> Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 TAC 315	<b>11</b> TARC meeting 7:00 PM via <u>ZOOM</u>	<b>12</b> TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	<b>13</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>14</b> DAV 9:30 TARC VE session @ NS4P resi- dence 10:00 Red Cross/ ARES Fall Drill
<b>15</b> Fox Hunt 9 AM 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <u>N1RA SVC.</u> <u>11 AM</u> DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 TAC 315	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	<b>20</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>21</b> Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 TAC 315	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>28</b> Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			+10 M net meets at 28.450 MHz	* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM. Or- ders taken at 7:00	

\*\*The W4AC analog repeater is on 146.805 MHz, PL 100. [If the repeater is down, please QSY to 146.58 simplex]

**THE COMMUNICATOR** is a publication of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC). It is published monthly; except during the summer months, the July and August issues will be combined. The Communicator is forwarded to all members via e-mail, and is available for viewing on the club's web site - [www.tamiamiarc.org](http://www.tamiamiarc.org) - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Editor - San Yoder, K3SY, who acknowledges and thanks these contributing writers this month: Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Patti Phillips, N4IGI, Jack Sproat, W4JS, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, Peter Boers, KV4LR, and Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ.

Articles of general interest to club members are solicited and welcomed. Please submit photos and/or copy (preferably in Word) to : [k3sy@arrl.net](mailto:k3sy@arrl.net) 73, San

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### TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. - Membership Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL ? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
YL/OM or  
2nd Fam. Memb. \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL ? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
LOCAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
SUMMER ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ALT. e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Application date \_\_\_\_\_ PAYMENT: Amount \_\_\_\_\_ by: Check \_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_ PayPal \_\_\_ First year free \_\_\_

For payments by mail send to:  
TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
PO Box 976  
Nokomis, FL 34274  
Web site [www.tamiamiarc.org](http://www.tamiamiarc.org) payments  
accepted via PayPal [Add \$1.00 convenience fee].

#### Dues:

Regular member: \$20.00/year

After 6/1 - \$10.00 to year end. After 10/31 \$20.00 thru next year.

Family membership: \$25.00/year. Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.

New licensee: 1/1 to 10/31 - free to year end.

11/1 to 12/31 - free thru next year.

Please note: After two month grace period thru Feb., non-renewals will be dropped.

TARC web site: <http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

Contact: Secretary, Patti Phillips, N4IGI - [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

