



THE COMMUNICATOR



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

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

Incorporated 1984

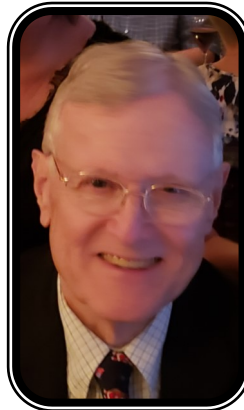
<http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

December, 2020

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President's message...KJ4NDO

Another year is coming to a close. This year has been a challenge for our club, but challenge creates opportunity and innovative thinking. Our last traditional meeting was in March. The effects of the virus grew and restrictions followed. There was some talk of not holding monthly meetings. But we're ham radio operators with a 2 Meter repeater and the skill and gumption to use it. Our next few meetings were transmitted on frequency 146.805 MHz (-) (PL100 Analog). We learned about the virus from an excellent on-air presentation by Sheeba Mesghali, M.D. Thanks to Steve Philips, NS4P, we transitioned to Zoom meetings, and were able to communicate and see each other again. The regular life of our club continued in its regular way. The virus didn't stop us.



I'd like to thank the Board of Directors, the officers and all of our members for their determination to improve our technical ability to communicate, through tower improvements, the creation of internet HF radio capability and the ongoing improvements to our repeater station. A special thanks goes to Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, who, in his quiet, professional way, with that little smile he has and his eyes all a twinkle, was the spark that made much of our technical improvement possible. That said, without all of us working together, we would not have a growing, successful and innovative club.

We will not have our usual Christmas party this year. Our party next year should be a duzey as we will have to make up the loss. Hold that thought.

Coming Events: The Amateur Radio Light House Society (ARLHS) Christmas Lights special event is ongoing. The event will be from 0001Z Saturday, December 19, 2020 to 2359Z Sunday, January 3, 2021.

We usually go to Boca Grande / Gasparilla Light, ARLHS No.: USA910. Contact Andy Durette, KB1HIP, if interested. Andy is working to get permission for us to use the site. We set up under the lighthouse as there are electric outlets there. This is a windswept, salt air and bright sunlight, KX3 kind of event. Winter Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31, 2021. Details are on the ARRL web site.

During the club meeting on December 9th, we will hold elections for the club Board of Directors and officers for 2021. I will not be running for President, but will stand for a Board of Directors position. Please consider running for one of the positions. Your involvement will ensure that the club will continue to be an important part of the community. Please contact San Yoder, K3SY, if interested.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. **73s to all, de Jim, KJ4NDO**



Next Month
Ultimax
Antenna
analysis

Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, December 09, 2020 via ZOOM.
Check Groups.io for the link to connect.
Election of 2021 TARC officers!

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 11/11/20 Meeting*

The monthly club meeting was conducted on Zoom and was called to order at 7:02 PM by president Shortill, KJ4NDO. Jim recited the pledge to the flag. Attendance was captured via the Zoom session; there were no visitors or new members.

MINUTES: Jim, KJ4NDO, requested a motion to accept the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting as published in The Communicator. Motion was made by Steve Phillips, NS4P, seconded by Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$4,771.04, receipts of \$161.00, expenses of \$583.64, and an ending balance for the month of October of \$4,348.40. Under expenses, \$500.00 was spent to purchase an essentially new IC-7300 radio from Chet Fennell, KG4IYS. The Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

CORRESPONDENCE: TARC received no correspondence since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUNSHINE: Jim, KJ4NDO, mentioned that long-time member Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, recently passed away and he sent Lisa (Hans' XYL) a sympathy card. Hans will be remembered for his love of technology and the many program presentations he presented at club meetings. His funeral is November 13, and his family has requested in lieu of flowers to send donations to TARC. A letter will be sent to Lisa acknowledging the names of the people who made donations. In addition, the funeral for Bob Avrutik, N1RA-SK is November 17.

VE TESTING: Steve, NS4P, said that he has a full house for the VE Test session on November 14. He has eight candidates of which five were students in the TARC General class.

LIAISON TO QCWA: For the first time in months, the QCWA meeting was held at Denny's and eight people attended this month.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Frank, W2XYZ, reported that both the digital and analog repeaters were working well. 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 side band, 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, KN4BAR, reported there are 112 regular members, 23 first year members, 8 life members, and 1 comp for a total membership of 144. 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 that the recently installed rack now neatly houses club equipment and the shack is well organized. The ground has been prepared for the installation of a new antenna. The tower climber is still scheduled to assess the condition of the tower, but no date has been given.

2. Club Remote Station. Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, stated that the remote TX subscription is up for renewal and made a motion for the club to pay for it. The request was unanimously approved by the membership. If anyone is interested in trying out the station on 20m or above contact Tom Shrilla, W8QJF.

3. Fox Hunting. Paul, KN4BAR, said that the next Fox Hunt is on 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 and Steve, NS4P, is planning on hiding two foxes for double the fun.

4. License Classes. Paul, KN4BAR, stated that he is planning on offering a Tech class in February 2021.

5. Club Equipment. Steve, NS4P, mentioned that some hamfests are on the calendar now. Al Culbert, KOAL, will be trying to sell some club gear in Clearwater on November 14 and Steve will try in Plant City on December 11-12.

6. Damaged IC 7300. Steve, NS4P, confirmed the USB port does not work on the damaged IC-7300; however, the data port, SD card reader, and keyer work. All bands are working fine and software updates can be applied. The club will be raffling off this radio in January for \$20 per ticket.

Continued >>>>

TARC Minutes, continued

7. Public Works Tower. Jim, KJ4NDO, mentioned that Public Works will not be addressing their plans for the future use of their tower on Capri Isles until after their building renovations are done in the Spring.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Paul, KN4BAR, stated the 2021 budget plan is available for members to review on the Members Only page on the TARC website. At the December meeting, membership will vote on the budget.

2. Paul, KN4BAR, created Equipment Purchase Request and Special Event templates for members with suggestions to use in order to provide details for the board of directors to consider. These templates are available on the website on the Officers and Directors page or you may request a copy from one of the board members.

3. The Sarasota Amateur Radio Association (SARA) has merged with Sarasota Emergency Radio Club (SERC). Beginning January 1, SERC will be the only

ham radio club in Sarasota. Dennis Ciborowski, W9CIB, mentioned that the SARA repeater is up and running at 50 watts on 444.925 C4FM (system fusion) & FM. People who have hotspots or DMR can access it.

4. At the December meeting, members will vote on officers and directors. San Yoder, K3SY, with the help of Andy Durette, KB1HIP, and Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, will comprise the nominating committee. If anyone is interested in being an officer or director, please contact San, K3SY.

5. Possible places for future club meetings may be a local church or city hall. Jim, KJ4NDO, will see if there is availability in late 2021.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM. There were 24 members on the Zoom session.

Program: Chet Fennell, KG4IYS presented "A Virtual Tour of the TARC Repeater Site".

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC) wants to help you get your license. In these COVID-19 days, in-person classes in confined space class rooms is not safe. SO, we are recommending that interested persons use already published, on-line study, courses to prepare for the FCC license exam. TARC will supple-

ment your self-study efforts with on-line ZOOM video chat sessions to answer your questions, and to supplement what you are learning in the on-line courses. TELL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS about it. Starts February 7th for 6 consecutive weeks.

We request a \$15 donation for our club volunteers to conduct the

weekly ZOOM video sessions. IF you test with us for your license, we will PAY the \$15 testing fee for you. Our goal is to keep you motivated and moving forward with your self-study, and to get you prepared to take and pass the FCC license examination.

<http://tamiamiarc.org/events/event/technician-license-course-feb-mar-2021/>

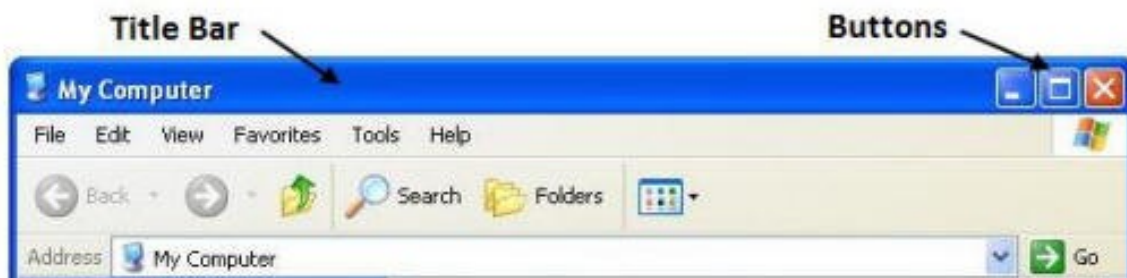


TOM'S TECH TIPS: Of all people my dad (WB8HJM/SK) showed me this one. In Windows, you know when you're dragging your mouse all around to find the tiny Maximize box? All you really need to do is double-click *anywhere* along the Title Bar (that long strip at the very top of



open program). POW! You can then double-click it again to restore it to Maximized.

Thanks Dad. ..._._



DX Jack's page....

..... By Jack Sproat, W4JS



MAJOR 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
Kenya – 5Z4VJ by G3AB	Now Active	77	NO	22-04	21-01	19-23	16-22	13-21	14-18	NO
Angola – D2EB	Now Active	96	NO	22-05	21-06	19-23	17-22	12-22	13-20	1400
Laos – XW0LP	Now Active	353	NO	NO	1200	2400	NO	NO	NO	NO
Jan Mayen – JX2US by LA2US, ** FT8	Now to 31 Mar	21	23-10	21-12	12-13	14-18	NO	NO	NO	NO
Iraq – YI9WS by IU5HWS ++	Now to 20 Jan	43	01-03	22-05	--	12-14	13-14	NO	NO	NO
Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ/JD1	Now to 15 Jan	308	09-10	06-13	06-14	2000	21-24	21-23	NO	NO
Antarctica – 8J1RL	Now to 01 Jan	158	NO	NO	NO	23-24	1200	NO	NO	NO
Greenland – OX3LX by OZ1DJJ	Now to 16 Dec	19	22-11	20-13	12-24	13-22	14-20	16-18	NO	NO
Afghanistan – T6AA by S53R	Now to 15 Dec	26	NO	01-03	23-01	1300	NO	NO	NO	NO
Mali – TZ1CE by DK1CE, CW/SSB	Now to 08 Dec	85	23-07	21-09	20-01	17-23	12-21	13-19	14-17	NO
Bahrain – A91UAE, SES by A9 team	Now to 02 Dec	44	NO	22-04	21-24	1200	13-14	1300	NO	NO
Rotuma – 3D2AG/p, dates tentative	15 Dec to 15 Jan	263	NO	06-13	05-14	09-10	18-21	19-20	NO	NO

Prepared 28 Nov 2020 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX 20-44*, *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* No. 1492 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/>.

-- NOVEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 28 November, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 77 to 110, with a mean value of 88.2. The A_p index was ≥ 7 on 10 days during that period. Sunspot groups were visible on 26 days, varying from one to four groups at a time. Minor C-Class flares occurred on 16 days.

-- DECEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is likely to be at low levels with a slight chance of R1 (Minor) radio blackouts 01-06 Dec. Very low levels are expected for the remainder of the outlook period.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be quiet to G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels. G1 conditions are likely on 19 Dec; active conditions are likely on 18, 20 and 22 Dec; unsettled conditions are likely on 03-04, 21, 23 and 30-31 Dec. All increases in geomagnetic activity are expected due to multiple, recurrent CH HSSs. The remainder of the month is expected to be at quiet levels.

The solar flux should range from 75 to 102 and average 87.3 for the month.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 23 Nov 2020, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 23 Nov 2020, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 26 Nov 2020.)

-- IRAQ – YI9WS --

Giorgio-YI9/IU5HWS received his official license from local authorities and, effective 25 November is operating as YI9WS. His QSL manager is Paolo-IK5SRF, however, they are applying for a LoTW account for YI9WS. As airmail postage from Italy is some US\$3, this is a good move both with regard to direct QSLing cost and security.

Giorgio is there on duty with the Italian military. Activity will continue on regular basis but always in his spare time. He is working with a simple dipole and mainly on 15, 17, 20 and 40 meters. No CW activity is planned so far.

(From <https://www.dx-world.net/yi9ws-iraqs-iraq/>)

-- TRUE-BLUE DXER --

One of our local QRPers dropped by to visit the Old Timer, to pass some time and to tell of his recent DX successes. In the course of things, the QRPer modestly asked, "When do you think I should start thinking of myself as a true-blue, upper echelon DXer?" The Old Timer stared off into the sunset for a bit, signed a bit and then asked, "When did you last call CQ DX?" When the QRPers stuttered and stammered about, the Old Timer added, "And when it is so long ago that you can no longer remember when you did, then it is time to start thinking that you might be getting near".

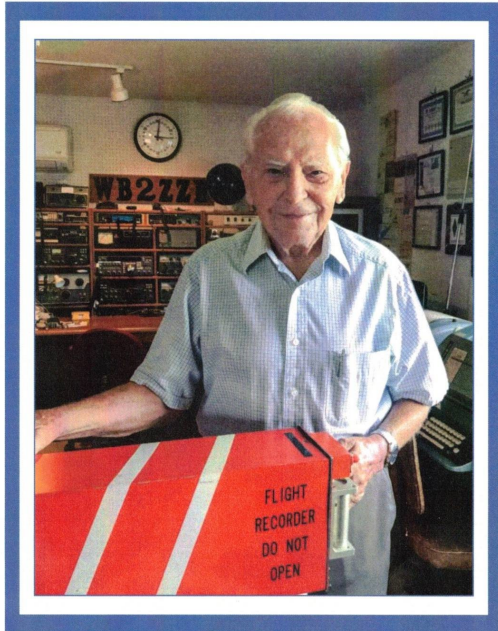
The QRPer also asked how to recognize an old and long-Dxer. The Old Timer advised that the DXer seen in public has usually shed his normal attire for sharper rags. One must learn that viewing the rear elevation is best for identification. Relaxed DXers have a fondness of pants with the seats cut knee-length. Often the sag of the bag in the britches is the true index of the true-blue DXer.

Son of a Gun! Doesn't that beat it all out! When the Old Timer speaks, it's like it's engraved on tablets of stone....

(From *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited/published by Charles T. Allen – W5DV and James M. Allen – W6OGC, February 1981)

Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, Silent Key

Hans was the lead engineer for the development of the "Black Box" flight and cockpit recorders



Honoring the life of Hans Napfel

September 19, 1931 – November 7, 2020

Friday, November 13, 2020 11:00 am
St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Sarasota, FL

Thanks to Roger Schmidt, KY4RS, for noting that Hans was remembered here:
AB4WS RADIO SHOW
Amateur Radio News and Information
In Greater Cincinnati, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana - For the Week of November 13, 2020. [at the 7:18 minute mark]
<https://www.spreaker.com/user/10886130/2020-11-13-rs-ab4ws>

Hans always had a love of technology which began as a young boy when he took apart radios to figure out how they worked. He was born and raised in Germany and turned his passion into his profession by studying Electrical Engineering. He got a job in New York and ended up staying in the United States permanently. He spent the majority of his career at Fairchild Industrial Products, where he developed a cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and flight data recorder (FDR), commonly known together as a "Black Box". Hans helped investigate many airplane accidents and spent the next 30 years constantly upgrading the Black Box. His company relocated him to Sarasota in 1981.

When he retired in 1994, Hans turned his attention to his technology hobbies. He enjoyed being a ham radio amateur (WB2ZZB) and had many radio friends around the world with whom he communicated via both voice and morse code. Hans became involved in many local clubs and organizations including the Sarasota and Tamiami Amateur Radio Assns, the Sarasota Technology Users Group, the Quarter Century Wireless Assn and several others. Not only was he a member, but he frequently served as Program Chair, creating and giving presentations on a variety of topics. He enjoyed monthly meetings with 10 different organizations and the friendships he developed with various members throughout his 40 years in Sarasota. Hans also loved helping people, especially solving computer problems. He made hundreds of house calls showing people how to set up their computers, use email, and surf the web. He was fortunate to have enjoyed over 25 years of retirement, punctuated with lots of tennis games, ski trips and cruises/trips throughout the world.

Known as "Opa" to his grandchildren and their friends, Hans will be forever remembered for his fun-loving nature and generosity. Donations in honor can be made to the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, P.O.Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274.

TARC was well represented at the funeral for Bob Avrutik, N1RA, at the Sarasota National Cemetery Nov. 17th. A few of the members who attended are shown here.



MEET THE ★ CANDIDATES

These candidates have been nominated to serve as officers of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club for the year 2021. This information is provided to inform club members prior to the December 9th elections.

For President - Steve Phillips, NS4P

My name is Steve Phillips, and I am running for the position of President of Tamiami Amateur Radio Club. I picked up my interest in ham radio from my dad Tom – NT1AP who had a regular sked with my Uncle Pete (K1BXE, SK) using an old homebrew AM transmitter in the basement of our house in Upstate New York. I was Originally licensed in 1976 as a Technician.

Since moving to the Venice area full-time a few years ago, I have learned a lot about modern ham radio including the digital modes like FT8 and DMR. I have also picked up the DXing bug and have managed to confirm over 200 countries and earn WAS on 7 bands. I am also active on VHF and UHF, participating in the weekly nets as well as Shark Tooth 10K. I am currently serving as the TARC Volunteer Examiner Team Liaison, a position I intend to continue with if I am elected to President

I want to be President of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club because I feel I have the desire, time, and energy to continue the tradition of TARC community involvement. I want to help make this club what you, the

members, want it to be. While serving as President, my main task will be to assist you, the members, the other officers, and the Board of Directors in developing and implementing a vision for the club. I especially want to help engage with our newly licensed amateurs to help get them to take those critical first steps in getting on the air.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this and learn a little about me. If you have any specific questions, you can find me on the air or at our weekly virtual breakfast. I really hope to see everyone at Peaches for in-person breakfast meetings soon. I will be happy to chat about any questions or issues, so give me a call or drop an e-mail @ NS4P@ARRL.net

Thanks, and 73 - Steve, NS4P



For Vice President - Tom Babcock, KN4ONE

I'm Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, and I have been a ham a little more than two years. I became interested in ham radio after playing with software defined radio dongles, and within a year I became an extra class operator. I love to build things, and ham radio has given me a whole new world of projects. Some additional hobbies include machine shop work, and pinball repair and restoration.

My station is basic and consists of an IC-7300 and an end fed half wave antenna. I also have a CS800D for DMR, UHF/VHF. Recently I picked up a 25W Anytone UHF/VHF mobile rig to play with. Field days have been great learning experiences for me. I have also been helping out with the repeater maintenance team and upgrades at the repeater site.

I am a mechanical engineer, but have spent a lot of my career working with instrumentation, control systems, and industrial data acquisition. Most of my career was spent as a plant engineer at a large shipyard

and at a turbine blade foundry. I also have experience at a start-up company and consulting. I still work part time for a NASA facility in Virginia as system administrator for a data acquisition system. We collect continuous data from hundreds of sensors, perform analysis, and predict equipment failure - hopefully before it happens!

Being a Navy brat, I spent most of my life in the Tidewater Virginia area. I moved to "Beautiful South Venice" in 2015 and have no regrets. I am very grateful for the friends I have made through TARC. If elected, I look forward to giving back to the club by serving as Vice President for 2021. **73, Tom, KN4ONE**

Con't >>>>>>





For Secretary - Patti Phillips, N4IGI

My name is Patti Phillips and I am running for the position of TARC Recording Secretary.

I have been involved with amateur radio since 1990 when I earned my Technician Plus license. Yes, back then I was able to do 5 wpm CW! I became interested in ham radio mainly due to my husband Steve (NS4P) and his family. I have always been intrigued by technology. I worked in the information technology field for over 35 years in Pittsburgh, PA before retiring in Venice. I started my career as a software developer and later went into management. I earned multiple degrees including a doctorate in Information Systems and Communications. I also taught graduate and doctorate level courses for over 15 years.

A few years ago, I upgraded my license to Extra and became a Volunteer Examiner. I enjoy participating in community events like Shark Tooth and Battle of the Bridges. I am a regular attendee at TARC club meetings, and I enjoy the technical discussions after the meetings. I am a very organized person and detail oriented making me a perfect candidate for recording secretary. I also have a year's worth of on the job experience!



73, Patti, N4IGI

For Treasurer - Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ

Hello members, I'm Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ. Most of you already know me, but many newer members may not. I've been the club treasurer for the past three years and if you'll have me, I'd like to continue in that position.

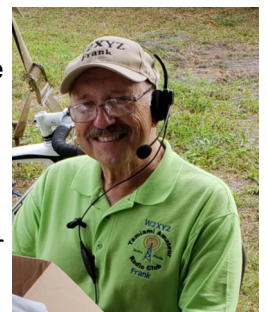
Financially, the club is on solid ground. We own about \$20,000 worth of equipment, have \$2000 in a reserve account and around \$6000 in operating funds. Our dues for 2021 will remain the same as they have been for the past several years, with no increase this year. If you haven't paid your 2021 dues yet, please consider doing so soon, as our membership year runs January to January. [Refer to Page 12 for details on paying dues.]

Our club will be making a few changes with the way we spend money. Beginning in 2021, we'll be operating with a budget. The idea of budgeting is not to restrict what we do, but rather to give us the freedom of spending without worry of unexpected cost com-

mitments. Details of the budget the directors have put together will be announced at the December club meeting, and further details are available on the club's website. In the budget we'll have categories for new equipment, repair and maintenance, club activities, and club expenses. The dollar value assigned to each category is flexible, contingent on Board approval, and is necessary to be that way as conditions vary (such as COVID cancelling many activities). We may find the limits to some categories may be higher than needed and others lower than needed. As said, this is the first year we are doing this, and adjustments will almost certainly be needed.

Thanks again for your continuing support, and if I am re-elected to this position, I might not demand a recount.

73, Frank , W2XYZ



Winter Field Day is always the last full weekend in January. This year it falls on Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31, 2021. It begins at 2 pm on Saturday and runs for a continuous 24 hours through Sunday. Special COVID-19 rules will apply to this year's Winter Field Day that are almost identical to those applied to the ARRL Summer Field Day in June. TARC did extremely well in Summer Field day, out scoring every other club and organization in the WCF section that participated. We are hopeful of doing the same with Winter Field Day. Follow the [Groups.io](https://www.groups.io) posts about this event to learn the who, what, where, and when details of TARC's participation.

Website: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

SDR Dongle fun - or - How I became a HAM

By Tom,
KN4ONE

SDR (Software defined radio) is the way of the future. Like it or not, economics make it so. My first introduction to SDR was when I saw a YouTube “mailbag” video from my favorite “maker”, Andreas Spiess (AKA the guy with the Swiss accent). In these mailbag videos, he opens dozens of electronic bits and pieces he buys mostly from China. On this fateful day he displayed a couple of SDR dongles. They were around \$20. These mailbag days are dangerous because we tinkers tend to buy some of the tiny trinkets he introduces.

After figuring out what SDR was, I was intrigued and wanted to buy two dongles so I could do trunk tracking scanning of the local public services like the fire department and sheriff. Hours of fun lead me to wondering about HAM radio. In searching for a HAM exam location I came across the TARC website. I was able to listen to the TARC analog and DMR nets using my dongles. So I took the technician test, met some great people, and it has all been fun and legal transmissions ever since.

An SDR dongle:



An interesting fact about these dongles is that the chips they use were never intended for use as a radio receiver. The chips were made for TV reception on USB dongles used with a PC. Some really smart guys figured out how to access the raw data and wrote some software drivers to make it all work. They spawned an entire industry.

When buying my dongles, I had no experience and a hard time deciding what brand to buy, so I bought one from two different manufacturers. Both work mostly the same, but after learning more, I prefer the RTL-SDR brand. I recently upgraded to an SDRPlay. SDRPlay is a much more advanced receiver, designed from the ground up as a radio receiver. It can display 10MHz of spectrum on a waterfall! There is tons of free software for use with these devices for everything from simple broadcast radio listening to

downloading the bitcoin block stream from a satellite. With the ability to receive from a few hundred kHz to GHz, there is plenty to explore. (Links below)

For example, ever wonder about all those airplanes overhead?

If you have an SDR dongle or SDRPlay receiver, you have all it takes to set up an ADS-B receiver and create your own personal “radar”. I don’t know much about piloting or aircraft, but planes now have transmitters that broadcast their position and other information. The signals are transmitted on 1090MHz. The Venice airport is quite a busy little airport which makes it more interesting. (See next page).

Using an SDRPlay and an antenna I made from 2 feet of TV coax, I have been able to receive the signals from up to 120 miles away (so far), and I have tracked up to 42 aircraft at once (so far). I also confirmed it works with the ~\$20 RTL-SDR dongles and the Nooelec dongle.



Here is a link to get you started. A good quick clear video to follow, with links in the description to free software: Note – If you use the SDRPlay you need to download the Dump1090 software from the SDRPlay website.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pJyCHh_cpE

A simple collinear antenna:

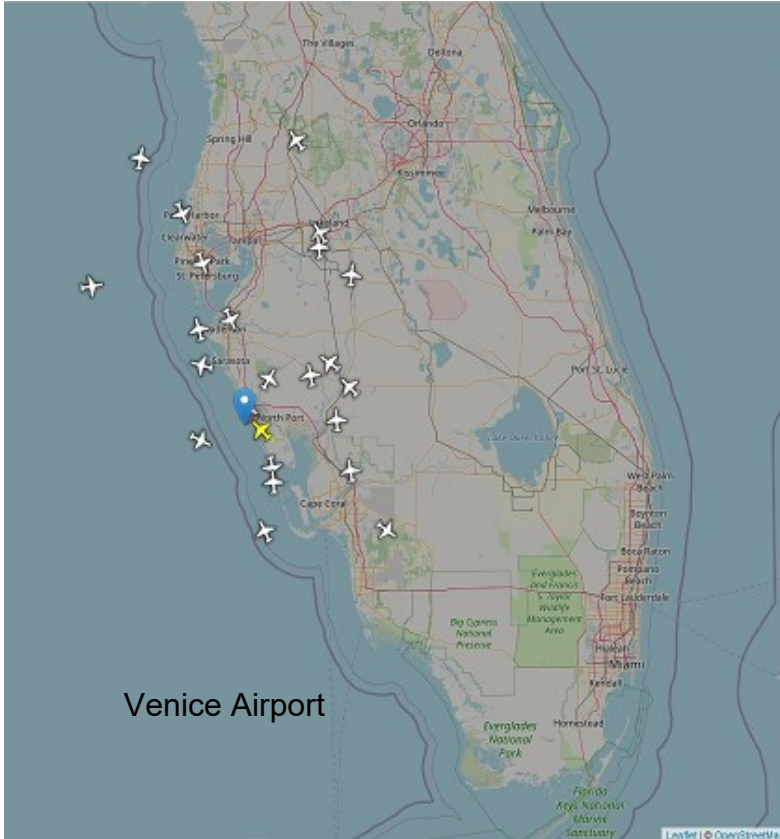
<https://www.balarad.net/>

RTL-SDR list of software:

<https://www.rtl-sdr.com/big-list-rtl-sdr-supported-software/>

Con't >>

SDR
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N205DS A1A4F2
Private N205DS
Civil
DA40

Diamond Aircraft Diamond Star DA40
Altitude: 2250 ft Vertical Speed: 0 ft/min Speed: 146.1 mph Heading: 316.0° Distance: 5.76 nmi Squawk: Engines: Species: none

Wake Turbulence:
Route:
Route not known

www.airport-data.com :: www.airliners.net :: www.airframes.org
Show on map :: Disable auto-select :: Submit route

Silhouette	Flag	Reg	ICAO	Callign	Route	Altitude	Speed
N835UP		AC20AC4				27000 ft	
N440YX		A59323					
N932JB		A845F4				35025 ft	
N406YX		AAC927	RPA4471			35000 ft	558.1 mph
N2114X		A1C033	N2114X			800 ft	100.1 mph
N923JB		A8222C	JB2416			30475 ft	585.7 mph
N205DS		A1A4F2	N205DS			2250 ft	146.1 mph
N430YX		A337ED	RPA4513			31000 ft	547.8 mph
N442TM		A5530D	N442TM			7150 ft	136.0 mph
N7833A		AA065D	SWA1993			33850 ft	406.0 mph
N485CT		A5F670	N485CT			12200 ft	398.2 mph
N835UP		AB6198	GAJ832			18725 ft	264.7 mph
N1899C		A14025	N1899C			26400 ft	405.1 mph
N670NK		AB0CEE	N65972			35000 ft	553.5 mph
N15BK		AD59CF	N15BK			5300 ft	193.3 mph
N9029F		ACTA33	AAL2009			38000 ft	478.7 mph
N429YX		A51F4A	RPA4429			31000 ft	509.3 mph
N234W5		A21876	K234W5			8300 ft	201.4 mph
N221WN		A1E6B9	SWA2015			39975 ft	469.5 mph
N7488W		AA11E7	SWA2030			14250 ft	422.3 mph
N813FS		AB190F	N813FS			3325 ft	115.1 mph
N208Z		A18FDB				13800 ft	
N61XP		A7EE60	N61XP			27000 ft	318.8 mph
N54DK		A609EB	N54DK			38000 ft	422.3 mph
N481EB		A5EC86	SUP481			22000 ft	293.4 mph

Please refer to page twelve for the TARC dues schedule, and note that dues for 2021 are now due. Pay by check or by PayPal on the TARC web site. The grace period for non-payment ends February 28th, after which non-renewals will be dropped. Don't miss out on all the fun! Re-up now!

Attention new (and old) TARC members !

I'll bet some of you have seen TARC members wearing the snazzy green shirts (designed by Tom, W4IEE) at meetings and wondered "how do I get one of those great shirts?" TARC team shirts are available from →

The cost of the shirt is \$30 plus tax, complete with logo, name, and call sign. Tall sizes are a couple of bucks

more. This is the same price we got when we did the initial order and Lisa and her husband have continued to offer the shirts at this price on an individual basis. Delivery usually takes about 3 weeks, depending on how busy they are.



The Embroidery Patch can also do call sign hats like the one I have. Many styles of hats are available, and the exact price depends on the hat you chose and the amount of embroidery. My hat with call sign on the front and club name on the back was about \$25. As with the shirts, delivery takes about 3 weeks.

Lisa Luck
Account Manager

The Embroidery Patch & More

SCREEN PRINTING & PROMOTIONALS

208 Warfield Ave. • Suite D • Venice, FL. 34285
Phone: (941) 488-0001 • Email: lisa@embpat.com



The fox population is not endangered!

by San, K3SY

It was not a dark and stormy night, but rather a bright and sunny morn when a small group of fox hunters parked their iron steeds in the asphalt meadow in front of Norma Jean's Emporium. After a modicum of time assaying the situation – including some basic instructions, and some hemming and hawing, it was determined that the hunt would commence.

Two teams were assembled. It's good there is no longer a novice class of hams, or we might have had novice novices hunting. The A-team was comprised of KN4BAR, a seasoned hound, and first timers KO4IHQ and K2SQM. K3SY joined W8QJF using a borrowed antenna, attenuator, and



might be heading. As we approached the Wellfield ball parks, the beeps began to make their presence known. A few more fits and starts brought us within sight of some familiar iron steeds, where we saw some nuts walking around in circles with antennas protruding from their bellies.

By now W8QJF was an expert, and had zeroed in on a nearby palm tree. Still no revelation of a fox. In a fit of inspiration, K3SY removed the antenna from his trusty Icom walkie, and searched the tree for the strongest signal. Lo and behold, there it was nestled in a crevice, and it was promptly dispatched humanely. The B-team was declared the winner with the dubious onus of hiding the fox for the next outing.

Needless to say, a good time was had by all. 📡

radio as the profoundly inexperienced B-team. NS4P, N4IGI, and W4IEE were elsewhere herding the foxes - in this case a skulk, as there were two foxes being hidden.

Trumpets – in the form of voice transmissions over the 146.565 frequency signaled time for the hounds to cast, so off we went. We had initially zeroed in on the general direction of the voice signals since the milliwatt emanations from the foxes were still out of range. Several steps to direction find helped us get closer to the range of the beeps of the foxes.

An inadvertent mention of a “ball field” by the fox herders gave a bit of a clue as to where we



December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM. Orders taken at 7:00	# See Groups.io for sign-on	1 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	2 Virtual # breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	3 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	4 Breakfast @ Peaches *	5 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
6	7 QCWA 11:30 AM Denny's Bee Ridge Road	8 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	9 Virtual # Breakfast 10 AM TARC meeting 7:00 PM via ZOOM	10 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	11 Breakfast @ Peaches * 	12 DAV 9:30 TARC VE session @ NS4P residence
13	14 Darn net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 pl100	15 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	16 Virtual # breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	17 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	18 Breakfast @ Peaches *	19 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
20	21	22 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	23 Virtual # breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	24 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	25 	26 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
27	28	29 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	30 Virtual # breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	31 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net		

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 - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Editor - San Yoder, K3SY, who acknowledges and thanks these contributing writers this month: Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Steve Phillips, NS4P, Patti Phillips, N4IGI, Jack Sproat, W4JS, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, and Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ.

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

2020 TARC officers:

President

Jim Shortill KJ4NDO
jnmshortill@netscape.net

Vice president

Steve Phillips NS4P
sphillips3@gmail.com

Secretary

Patti Phillips N4IGI
secretary@tamiamiarc.org

Treasurer

Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ
w2xyz@arrl.net

Directors:

Peter Boers	KV4LR	peterboers@ieee.org
Andy Durette	KB1HIP	af_durette@hotmail.com
Chet Fennell	KG4IYS	chet_fennell@msn.com
Gary Hagens	K6OC	g.hagens@verizon.net
Paul Nienaber	KN4BAR	paul9aber@gmail.com
Tom Shrilla	W8QJF	tshrilla@gmail.com
San Yoder	K3SY	k3sy.73@verizon.net

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 ___

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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

