



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>

January, 2021

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President's message.....NS4P

Happy New Year!! First, I want to thank you for the confidence you have shown in electing me as TARC President for 2021. I hope to continue the tradition of excellence demonstrated by my predecessors, especially Jim, KJ4NDO, who successfully guided the club through an exceedingly difficult and turbulent year. His steady hand on the tiller enabled TARC to finish the year in a strong position, poised to move ahead in 2021.



While we certainly have some challenges to meet in the near future, there is reason for optimism. As I write this, the Pfizer vaccine has been approved and is being distributed. The Moderna vaccine is expected to be approved and begin distribution before Christmas and other vaccines should be available early in 2021. As the vaccines become widely available, we can look forward to resuming the normal, in-person club activities we all miss. I cannot wait to get that first cup of coffee at a Peach's breakfast.

With regards to ham radio, the future is also looking bright. We are on the upswing of Solar Cycle 25, and the ham bands are becoming more active. As the Coronavirus vaccine becomes available worldwide, DXpeditions are expected to resume, so all you DXers can look forward to filling in the holes on your DXCC chart. TARC plans to stay active in 2021, with Winter Field Day, Florida QSO Party, ARRL Field Day all on the schedule. With luck, it's possible that the Megalodon Challenge runs, Shark Tooth Festival, and Battle of the Bridges regatta will be held as scheduled for 2021.

TARC starts 2021 in an excellent position with respect to our repeaters and our finances. Thanks to generous donations, we have managed to upgrade all our repeater equipment, establish a remote HF station, and will be performing maintenance on our repeater tower. These upgrades, along with a lease agreement that we hope to execute soon, will secure our ability to support public service events in South Sarasota County for years to come. Even with all of these upgrades, we have managed to finish the year with financial reserves that ensure that we will be able to maintain this equipment for the long term.

TARC membership has also grown. License classes and VE sessions continued through 2020 and several people have taken advantage of extra time at home to get or upgrade their ham radio license. We have a strong core of active members and look forward to our newer members participating in all our events. Ham radio is very much a "learn by doing" hobby, so I want to encourage all our newer members to come out and participate in the public service and field events in 2021.

In conclusion, I am very excited for 2021. With an active membership, secure finances, and the promise of a return to normal, I believe that the year ahead will be a banner year for TARC. I look forward to a bright future. **73, Steve, NS4P**

Next Month
Repeater tower update

Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 13, 2020 via ZOOM. *Check Groups.io for the link to connect.*

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 was one new member and one guest. Don Spivey recently joined the club and we look forward to him getting his license. Dirk Scholten was a guest at the meeting.

MINUTES: Jim, KJ4NDO, requested a motion to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2020 meeting as published in The Communicator. Motion was made by Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, seconded by Andy Durette, KB1HIP, and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$6,252.36, receipts of \$3,408.75, expenses of \$380.72, and an ending balance for the month of November of \$9,280.39. The majority of the receipts were comprised of Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, donating an antenna for \$867.50, selling club gear for \$1,270.00, and the WB2ZZB Memorial receiving \$635.00. Motion was made by Tom Porada, W4IEE, seconded by Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, and the Treasurer's report was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: TARC received no correspondence since the last meeting. Thank you letters were written to Lisa Napfel, XYL of Hans WB2ZZB (SK), and her daughter Claudia for creating the Hans Napfel Memorial Fund for the club.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUNSHINE: Jim, KJ4NDO, requested that if any member knows of a club member or family member in the hospital or sick at home, please tell Jim. He will send a get well card.

VE TESTING: Steve Phillips, NS4P, said that he has three candidates for the December VE Test session. Last month eight candidates passed their exams of which five participated in the TARC General class.

LIAISON TO QCWA: There was no meeting this month. All of Hans Napfel's (WB2ZZB-SK) audio visual equipment was donated back to TARC. TARC will share the equipment with QCWA so they can continue their monthly presentations.

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 116 regular members, 23 first year members, 8 life members, and 1 comp for a total membership of 148. Remember club dues should be paid by January 1 either on-line, on the website via PayPal, or mail a check.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Repeater Maintenance Team Update. Chet, KG4IYS, reported that the new EchoLink has some functional problems that are being addressed. The tower climber will assess and make the necessary repair and enhancement work in one phase, which should only take about 3 days. Chet is working with Jon on a 10-year lease agreement for the repeater site ensuring that the club has no liability.

2. Club Remote Station. Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, stated that the Remote TX subscription was renewed and the remote station works well on 20m or above. The AV-680 antenna is expected to be shipped by the end of the month.

3. Fox Hunting. Paul, KN4BAR, said that two teams participated in the November Fox Hunt. Team Shrilla & Yoder (W8QJF & K3SY) found one fox; the other fox was never found. The next fox hunt will be possibly in late January. The club is also planning on a regional fox hunt on October 30, 2021.

4. License Classes. Paul, KN4BAR, stated that the next Tech class will be offered beginning February 7, 2021. The format will be self-study via Hamtest Online supplemented by weekly zoom sessions to answer questions and explain complicated concepts.

5. Club Equipment. Al Culbert, K0AL, was able to sell some club gear in Clearwater in November and Steve, NS4P, will try to sell the remaining gear in Plant City this weekend.

Continued >>>>

TARC Minutes, continued

6. 2021 Budget Plan: Paul, KN4BAR, requested a motion to accept the 2021 budget plan that was posted on the TARC website for the last month. Motion was made by Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, seconded by Andy Durette, KB1HIP, and approved. President Shortill, KJ4NDO, reminded the membership that spending authorizations, even though within budget, still require the matter to be submitted to the membership for approval.

7. Election of Officers for 2021. The nominating committee of San Yoder, K3SY, Andy Durette, KB1HIP, and Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, presented the slate of officers for the club's evaluation: President Steve Phillips, NS4P; Vice President Tom Babcock, KN4ONE; Recording Secretary Patti Phillips, N4IGI; and Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ. The selections were put before the membership for vote. By unanimous vote the members elected the new slate of officers.

The membership also approved the following members as Board of Directors: Peter Boers, KV4LR; Andy Durette, KB1HIP; Chet Fennell, KG4IYS; Gary Hagens, K60C; Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR; Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO; Tom Shrilla, W8QJF; and San Yoder, K3SY.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Andy, KB1HIP, mentioned the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society will hold their

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party from December 19, 2020 through January 3, 2021. This is the Boca Grande/Gasparilla Lighthouses (USA 910), which may temporarily be opened next week. Plan on participating on December 19 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. [Since changed to January 2nd, 2021 to avoid the RAC winter contest.]

2. Jim, KJ4NDO, mentioned Winter Field Day will begin 2:00 PM Saturday, January 30, thru Sunday January 31 at 2:00 PM. Make sure you are able to create a cabrillo file. Since we will be participating at home, please take the time to prepare your setup in advance of the event. We expect to operate in the same mode as Summer Field Day, but you are not permitted to use FT4 nor FT8.

3. Jim, KJ4NDO, thanked the membership for their dedication and support throughout this challenging year as he was president. He appreciated how flexible the club was conducting 2m and Zoom meetings throughout most of the year. The membership applauded Jim for a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM. There were 27 people on the Zoom session.

Program: Steve Phillips, NS4P, presented "Fox Hunting 101".

Technician class license course scheduled

TARC will offer a guided, self-study Technician class license training course starting with a ZOOM meeting at 1 pm on Sunday, February 7, 2021 and continuing each Sunday for the next 5 weeks ending on March 7, 2021.

Participants are asked to purchase the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual as a study aide, and to sign up for a six month subscription to Ham Test Online for their guided study and practice test questions.

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.

Our Sunday sessions are hosted by experienced club members to help guide participants' study and to answer questions they may have. Thanks to Steve, NS4P, Andy, WB1HIP, and Paul, KN4BAR for hosting the ZOOM training sessions. Let your family, friends, and neighbors know about this course and encourage them to attend if interested in becoming a ham.

Full details about the course and its costs can be found on our club website at:

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

Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes. Ralph Waldo Emerson

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	23-04	22-05	19-24	16-22	13-19	NO	NO
Angola – D2EB	Now Active	97	01-03	22-06	21-06	19-01	15-23	12-22	13-19	NO
Antarctica – RI01ANT, CW and FT8	Now to 30 May	See	Antarc	tica	Discus	sion	Below			
Jan Mayen – JX2US by LA2US, ** FT8	Now to 31 Mar	21	23-09	21-12	20-21	13-18	NO	NO	NO	NO
Somalia – 6O1OO, CW/SSB/FT8	Now to 31 Jan	69	NO	0100	23-10	20-23	17-20	13-18	NO	NO
Slovenia – S520SAFE, SES operation	Now to 31 Jan	45	23-07	21-09	22-01	12-15	13-16	14-16	NO	NO
Iraq – YI9WS by IU5HWS, ++	Now to 20 Jan	43	01-03	21-05	22-05	1200	13-15	1400	NO	NO
Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ/JD1	Now to 15 Jan	308	09-10	06-13	07-14	21-22	21-23	21-23	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BMH by JG7PSJ	Now to 09 Jan	318	1000	07-13	07-13	2100	22-23	2300	NO	NO
Rotuma – 3D2AG/p, CW/FT8	Now to 09 Jan	263	0400	06-13	05-13	06-10	20-21	NO	NO	NO
Antarctica – VP8DOI	01 Jan to 11 Feb	167	NO	0300	00-05	23-07	21-24	NO	NO	NO
Afghanistan – T6AA	03 Jan to ???	25	NO	0300	0200	NO	1300	NO	NO	NO
Costa Rica – TI2/ & TI3/AB3G, team op	03 to 09 Jan	186	--	20-15	00-24	02-24	12-23	14-23	--	--
Niger – 5UAIHM by F4IHM, CW	07 Jan to 11 Feb	50	--	22-07	--	18-24	--	--	--	--
Bolivia – CP1XRM by EA5RM, SSB + Digi	09 to 26 Jan	155	01-09	23-11	21-07	19-24	12-23	16-22	20-22	NO

Prepared 30 Dec 2020 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX 20-48*, *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* No. 1499 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/hfi/>.

-- DECEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 29 December, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 81 to 105, with a mean value of 87.6. The A_p index was ≥ 7 on 8 days during that period. Sunspot groups were visible on 27 days, varying from one to four groups at a time. One to three minor C-Class flares occurred on six days.

-- JANUARY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels throughout the month with a slight chance for low levels on 01-04 Jan, and 17-23 Jan due to the flare potential from Region 2795.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at moderate to high levels on 20-23 Jan due to recurrent CH HSS influences. Normal to moderate levels are expected for the remainder of the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels on 5-6 Jan, 18-20 Jan and 25 Jan, and quiet to unsettled levels on 03 Jan, and 21 Jan, all due to recurrent CH HSS influences. Mostly quiet levels are expected on the remaining days in the month.

The solar flux should range from 84 to 88 and average 86.0 for the month.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 28 Dec 2020, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 28 Dec 2020, and 45 *Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 28 Dec 2020.)

-- PENDING ANTARCTIC OPERATIONS --

There are two pending Antarctic operations shown in the above table, and there are significant

differences in what can be expected. For starters, the RI01ANT by Alexey Romov – RX6A will be from both the Russian Progress and Vostok stations. They are separated far enough that their beam headings and propagation potentials are quite different:

Progress – 169° 20m at 1400 UTC

Vostok – 182° 17m 2300-0100 UTC

Perhaps in the future, Alexey will provide a schedule of when he will be at either base such the “The Deserving” will have a better chance to know when and where to look for him.

The VP8DOI operation from Britain’s Halley station by Will Clark – M0ZXA has the potential for better propagation, as shown in the table, probably because that station is located on the north coast of Antarctica and closer to North America.

-- COORDINATES TO GRID SQUARES --

The use of Maidenhead grid squares is wide spread in FT8, 6 meters, certain contests, etc. To determine the beam heading to DX, such as those three Antarctic stations above, use of grid squares is invaluable.

GPS devices can provide the latitude and longitude of a location, so how can those coordinates give us a grid square? It can be accomplished via <https://fistsna.org/gridcalc.php>

You will need to have the latitude and longitude in decimal format. If your device gives the degree/minute/second format, divide the seconds by 60 and add the result to the minutes, and divide that number by 60. Add the final number to the degrees and you have the digital format. For example, 60°30’25” will be 60.506944444.

Event and Fund Raiser Planning

.. by Paul, KN4BAR

TARC has been growing by leaps and bounds over the last two years. We now own 2 repeaters, have tower management responsibilities, have acquired an inventory of HF station equipment, and expanded our membership base by almost 40 percent.

With such growth comes responsibilities, both financial and activity related. Money is needed to not only maintain but to eventually replace equipment. The club has been extremely fortunate in 2020 to have received large donations of equipment for the club to sell, and direct financial assistance from Chet, KG4IYS, for repeater and tower maintenance expenses. Such windfalls and great generosity can't be relied on to sustain the club in future years.



Club programs and events are needed to keep members interested in the hobby, active, and involved in both club and community events. We are looking for club members with experience and interest in fund raising activities and event planning to help establish a club strategy and the capability to sustain and continue to grow TARC in 2021.

As a beginning, the board of directors has approved the concept of TARC hosting a regional West-Central-Florida-wide (WCF) Fox Hunt event this fall as a fund raiser for the club.

We need your ideas or suggestions for how to accomplish these goals. Better yet, volunteer to be a part of this process and help shape the future of TARC. Contact: Paul, KN4BAR

paul9aber@gmail.com

Donations to Tamiami Amateur Radio Club

TARC has recently upgraded our club repeater and HF gear and has expanded the capabilities of the repeater systems. More improvements and enhancements are planned, but sufficient funds are required to maintain these systems. While 2020 was a good year for TARC from a financial standpoint, it is important to plan for the future.

TARC dues are very modest and we do take in a few dollars from the 50-50 raffle when we hold face-to-face meetings, but these are not enough to keep things going. One of the major sources of funding for TARC is donations.

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)(3) charitable organization. As such, donations of cash or property to TARC may be deductible from your Federal taxes depending on your individual situation (consult a tax professional for a determination). Donations to TARC are acknowledged with a signed letter as a receipt.

There are several ways members can support TARC:

- 1) Direct cash donations.
- 2) Donations of goods (especially amateur radio gear in good working order). TARC generally offers this gear for sale to club members before selling at a hamfest or on-line. Some gear may be kept by the club for use at Field Day and other events.
- 3) Bequest via your last will and testament.
- 4) Memorial donations (e.g., in lieu of flowers)

Donations are generally applied to the General Fund and used as approved by the Board and the club membership. Donations may be made anonymously.

If you have any questions, or you would like to arrange to make a donation, please contact any of the club officers or board members. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.



Consider this **due** process notification that if you **due** want to remain a member of TARC your **dues** are now **due**. If you want to be dropped from membership you **due** not have to **due** anything. The grace period expires February 28th, 2021. If you have already paid your **dues**, you are **due** a thank you!

ULTIMAX ANTENNA ANALYSIS



ULTIMAX 100

\$70.00 - \$85.00

80 TO 6 METERS END-FED ANTENNA

The ULTIMAX 100 antenna is designed with the H.O.A., limited space amateur and rapid deployment operator in mind. It provides for all-band operation from 80 through 6 meters continuously with just the use of an antenna tuner and no radials or grounding needed.

I've owned this antenna for a few months now but never got around to testing it. My model has the shortest wire at 24 feet. Recently I took it to Woodmere Park in Venice and strung it up as a sloper from 40' to about 15' above ground. I used 100 feet of RG-213 coax connected to a RigExpert analyzer with the following SWR results:

10 M	2.0 @ 28.000 MHz	<2.0 across the band
12 M	2.7 @ 24.958 MHz	<3.0 across the band
17 M	3.2 @ 21.441 MHz	>3.0 across the band
20 M	2.3 @ 14.011 MHz	<2.5 across the band
30 M	1.6 @ 10.100 MHz	<2.0 across the band
40 M	1.6 @ 07.294 MHz	<2.0 across the band
60 M	2.4 @ 05.446 MHz	<3.0 across the band
80 M	4.6 @ 03.999 MHz	>5.0 across the band

This antenna is rated for 1500 W PEP and 500 W CW. Looks like 17 and 80 M will need an external tuner (or some antenna wire tuning?) and the remaining bands should be tunable using internal transceiver tuners. I'm seriously thinking about making this my main QTH antenna; replacing the 4-band (40-20-10-6) OCF I'm using now. **73, Paul, KN4BAR**

Website: https://www.ultimax-antennas.com/store/p1/Ultimax_100.html

PS by K3SY:

I purchased the same antenna (24') and mounted it above my lanai cage (attached to my 2m/70cm mast down to the corner of the cage). Checked it with my MFJ analyzer. Found high SWR except on 6 meters, where it was 1:1. Back to the drawing board!

de San, K3SY

Did you know ? ? ? ?

When the D-STAR repeater in Sun City was taken down, we had no D-STAR connectivity in our area. Not too many of us still have dedicated D-STAR radios, but several newer Icom radios now include that mode.

We now have a D-STAR repeater in the area again. Joe, N4ADI (new club member) has put one on the air. The repeater is on a 100' tower in Punta Gorda. Set your radio to transmit on 444.0 and receive on 449.0 MHz.

At the same location, Joe has interconnected our W4AC 2m repeater to work through his 443.0 analog repeater. This means our QSO's are re-broadcast in Punta Gorda, and likewise, anyone using the N4ADI 443.0 repeater will be heard in the Venice area. This is a great way of extending our coverage, and to meet new Hams in the area.

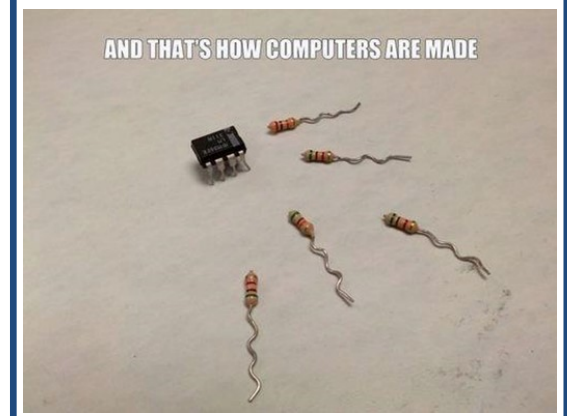
73, Frank W2XYZ

D-STAR®



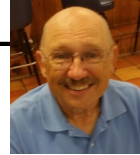
W8QJF

TOM'S TECH TIPS:



Winter Field Day

By Frank,



W2XYZ

Most of us are happy to say good-bye to 2020 and all the problems that came with it. I can think of two really good things that occurred during the pandemic. The first was in April - the Florida QSO Party. The second was in June - the ARRL Field Day event. The score standing isn't available yet for the Florida QSO Party, but I feel we did extremely well. We know our standing in the ARRL Field Day; Tamiami Amateur Radio Club came in number one for the West Central Florida section of the ARRL. Not only did we beat the other clubs pointwise, but we beat them handily.

The year 2021 starts off with hopes of quelling the pandemic and another chance for TARC to show the world (or at least the ham community) that the virus will not stop us from having fun, or communicating during an emergency. The last full weekend in January is Winter Field Day.

It's a little different from the ARRL Field Day held in the summer, but along the same lines with minor modifications and exceptions. Other years we set up outdoors as a club and operated in WFD.



Due to COVID and the precautions necessary, the organizers of WFD are allowing club to aggregate individual club member scores for a club score. That's the secret we did so well in the Florida QSO Party and the ARRL Field Day. Namely, we are more than just a club, we are all friends that work together well. We stick together and we work together.

Many of us got on the air and made contacts. Some just a handful of contacts, others contacted many more. Big or small matters not as much as all of us working together. Twenty stations making 50 QSO's each is better than one station making 500 contacts. Two Home stations operating from generators is more bonus points than a whole club station operating on generators. The same applies for all the other bonus points like outdoors, or satellite contacts. More details about all of that later as WFD draws nearer. For now let me summarize a few things:

1. Winter Field Day begins Saturday January 30 at 2pm EST and runs for 24 hours, until 2pm on Sunday January 31.

2. Operation is allowed on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands plus all permissible VHF and UHF frequencies. Notice the WARC (12m, 17m, 30m) bands and the 60m band are not allowed on WFD.
3. All modes that can carry emergency messages (such as: "SOS – HMS TITANIC – HIT ICE – SINKING – 82.556N 34.713W") are permitted for this event. That means you can use SSB, RTTY, CW, PSK-31, Olivia, MFSK, etc, etc, etc. Even Slow Scan TV is permitted, but not FT8 or FT4. These two modes are excluded because at present time there is no practical way to send emergency traffic with these modes. JS8CALL, which is similar to FT8 is permitted because messages can be passed (extremely slowly) with this mode.

4. Three station categories exist, Indoor, Outdoor, and Home. I suspect most of us will be in the Home category. The rules call for "Indoor" stations to be a structure other than a residence and you must use equipment and antennas erected not sooner than Friday 2pm and station setup cannot consume more than 12 hours.



If any brave souls wish to be an "Outdoor" station, their operation must be at least 30 feet from their home and must use equipment and antennas erected not sooner than Friday 2pm and station setup cannot consume more than 12 hours. Just a note here to those brave souls, if you start Saturday afternoon when it's sunny and warm and then decide to go indoors when the sun goes down, you may not classify as "Outdoors." You lose your 1500 bonus points and become a "Home" station.

5. QSO's receive one point for each phone contact and two points for each CW or digital contact. Count one multiplier for each mode operated per band. That may sound complicated, but don't worry, your logging software will figure out your points for you.
6. On the subject of software... I suggest Phone operators use N3FJP, CW operators use N1MM+, and digital operators FLDIGI. >>>>

W I N T E R F I E L D D A Y , 2 0 2 1

You don't need to use those specific programs, you may use any other program of your choosing, but the important part is, it must be able to export your log as a Cabrillo file.

7. One final summary note. You operate under your own call sign with whatever privileges your license permits. You do not operate with the club's call sign as W4AC. At the end of the WFD, when you file your log (please file even if you only made one QSO) it gets filed under your call sign, and where the Cabrillo form asks for the club name, you enter **Tami-ami Amateur Radio Club**—exactly that way. Do not use TARC or Tamiami ARC or any other
8. One final, final, summary note. We'll talk more about this at the January club meeting, Wednesday Zoom meetings, and weeknight nets, or just send me an email. I'll try to answer any question you might have in due time for WFD. If you'd like to read the WFD rules yourself, they can be found at: **<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>** under the Tab, RULES. **73, Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ**

Logs, logs, and more logs...



..de K3SY

Last June I wanted to participate in the TARC field day operation, and wanted to have a compatible logging program. I chose to buy the entire suite of N3FJP logging programs. If you like contesting, the suite has a program for any contest imaginable. All updates are free, and the programs are constantly being improved.

Recently I received information via Goups.io from Scott Davis, N3FJP, regarding updates. Here is a sampling of just three of the seventeen updates noted:

Hi All, In addition to wishing you a very blessed, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a wonderful holiday season, Kimberly, Chris and I are excited to let you know that...

ARRL RTTY Roundup 3.8 is Now Available!

ARRL RTTY Roundup 3.8 is now on the web site and ready for download! In addition to adding support for the **FT Roundup contest**, ARRL RTTY Roundup 3.8 includes all the upgrades that my son Chris, KB3KCN and I are adding to all of the contest software, including:

Automatic Update

The coming versions of all our software will automatically check for new updates. When a new update is found, you will have the option of keeping your current version or updating to the latest. Choosing to update should be as easy as clicking one button! As always, upgrades will continue to be free to registered users. These next upgrades should be the last ones that will require you to manually uninstall and reinstall.

All Logging Software Signed With a Certificate Authority's Digital Certificate

The next releases of all our logging software will now be digitally signed by a Certificate Authority before release, listing the publisher as **Affirmatech Inc**. You will still likely see the Windows Smart Screen for while after we publish a new upgrade, but it will hopefully stop more quickly and there should be fewer false positives from Internet Protection Software programs going forward.

Lord willing, Chris and I are doing our best to have the rest of the software ready for a mass release by early January, that will include all of these features, so please consider ARRL RTTY 3.8 a **sneak peak** for what's next to come with all the programs.

As always, upgrades are free to registered users. You'll find ARRL RTTY 3.8 here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/rttyroundup.html>

And the upgrade steps (which will be even easier for future releases) here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/upgradestepscontest.html>



Pictures from outer space via 2 meters!

by Tom, KN4ONE

On December 24th and continuing through the 31st the Space Station (ISS) was transmitting slow scan TV (SSTV) images on the 2 meter HAM band - (still ongoing as this goes to press). A few of us local space cadets were up for the challenge of receiving some images. There was some success and several images have already been posted to the Groups.io site.

SSTV is pretty old tech compared to anything modern. It takes about 3 minutes to receive an image, so getting a nice complete image from the ISS can be tricky. A typical overhead pass only lasts about 4 to 6 minutes, and an image transmission may start any time during the pass. If you've ever seen a visible pass, typically just after sunset or before sunrise, you've seen how fast it moves across the sky. There were no visible passes over Venice during this SSTV event.

For me, this was a learning experience. I had not yet interfaced my UHF/VHF radio to the computer. I first decided to interface my CS800D mobile rig to a computer. The radio has a 15 pin connector on the back so I first used that to connect through an Easy-Digi, which is basically just a couple of isolation transformers and a PTT isolation circuit. I switched to using a Rigblaster (garage sale find) so I could free up the Easy-Digi for a second receiver and computer. Later, after email to Rigblaster, they told me I could use the Kenwood cable that comes with Rigblaster to connect directly to the Mic jack. That all worked and I made a few image transmissions so NS4P could tune up his rig.

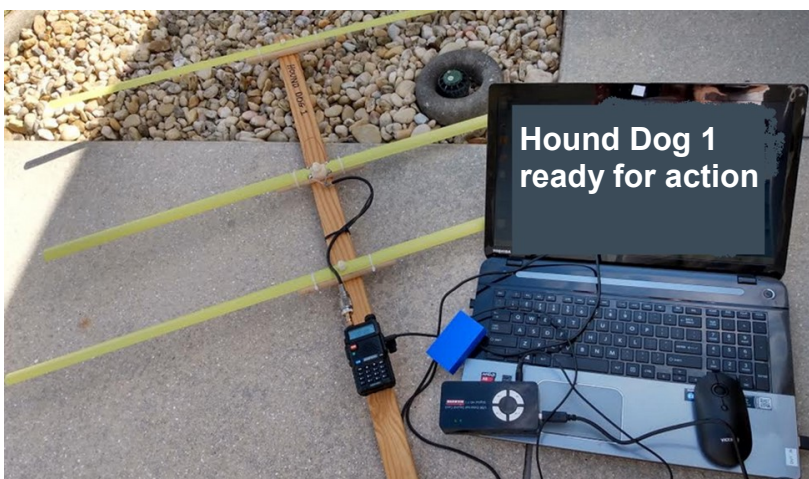
The second receiving rig (see photo) consists of a high tech tape measure antenna (The Hound Dog) and a Baofeng UV-5R. Initially I used the Easy-Digi (now in the blue printed box) connected to the laptop Mic input. By receiving my own transmissions I discovered the sound card in the low end laptop is so far out of calibration that no good image was possible. After using a USB sound card, it got much better but the image still had a slant to it. Using a calibration procedure, it was discovered the USB sound card sampling rate is off by 1.16Hz. This was easy to correct and then it worked fine. This rig is proof that you don't have to spend much to HAM some radio fun.

Since two rigs is never enough... I set up an SDRplay receiver with my desktop and just used a virtual audio cable to connect its software to the SSTV software.

First pass excitement!

So here comes the first pass at 12:22 PM (30 degrees elevation – not a particularly hopeful situation). You're standing on your front lawn, pointing a crazy looking stick to the NW sky, trying to see your computer screen in the daylight, and trying not to trip over the wires. People are driving by deciding if they should call Homeland Security. Then it happens! You hear that unmistakable warbling sound! You strain to see the screen and lo and behold – you have image sync! SUCCESS!

Images are immediately posted online. KN4ONE – Success! KN4BAR – Success! NS4P – well...he learned you need to connect the antenna to the radio....But Success on the next pass!



Best photo received as of Dec. 27. SDR receiver with a homemade Arrow style antenna in a horizontal position.  Con't >>

SSTV images from ISS recorded by TARC members



Pioneer Steve, NS4P



Pioneer Paul, KN4BAR



Tom, KN4ONE, is first out of the gate with the reward certificate!



Frank, W2XYZ takes BEST IN SHOW!



And, editor's prerogative to show three K3SY captures! First two skewed slightly prior to proper sync. Thanks to Tom, KN4ONE, for straightening me out for the third. (Pun intended).



WCF SECTION PRESS RELEASE #20-63 - 12/28/20: SARA AND SERC SET TO MERGE ON NEW YEARS DAY 2021

The Sarasota Amateur Radio Association, (SARA): <http://www.saraclub.org> and the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club (SERC): <http://www.n4ser.org> entered into negotiations to merge the two clubs into one club on Thursday October 15, 2020. Both clubs share many of the same members and the two clubs felt that consolidating each club's efforts into one unified organization brings strength and continuity to the local amateur radio community.

The merger of SARA and SERC will be complete and take effect January 1, 2021. SERC members look forward to warmly welcoming the SARA members into our organization. SERC is extremely excited about this merger and welcome the many talented hams from SARA to be members of the SERC family. For more information, please refer to the SERC website at <http://www.n4ser.org>.

January 2021



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

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: Steve Phillips, NS4P, Patti Phillips, N4IGI, Jack Sproat, W4JS, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, 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. 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
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Web site 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

