



THE COMMUNICATOR



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

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

Incorporated 1984

<https://www.tamiamiarc.org>

September, 2021

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President's message.... NS4P

Bumps in the road, obstacles, hiccups, and failures; these things are part of life and a big part of ham radio. Normally as I type this message, my radio is tuned to whatever band is open and I am "reading the mail"; either by watching FT8 decodes, or listening to an interesting QSO or net somewhere on the bands. But today, my radio is silent. While I have a deserved reputation as a stress tester of all things radio related (I seem to have a particular talent for blowing up antenna tuners), this time it's not my fault, or at least not totally my fault.

The universe seems to have a particular knack for finding and exploiting the smallest weakness in a ham radio station. I am sure that many of us have experienced the frustration of fixing some deficiency in our station – such as a defective barrel connector in the coax – only to have a gremlin pop up further down the line (hmmm, maybe I should have replaced that sketchy-looking RG-8 jumper after all).

But, as my old boss was fond of saying, there are no problems, only opportunities. A large part of the fun of ham radio is that we get to use our skills and experience, along with the skills and experience of our friends, to tackle and solve these problems. This club in particular has members with an incredibly varied set of backgrounds and experiences. Our breakfast and lunch meetings, as well as our operating events such as Field Day, are all opportunities to discuss our latest challenges and learn from one another. This social network of shared experience is the backbone of this club and is the best part of ham radio. While we are all sad to hear about the difficulties we each encounter in ham radio and real life, I do enjoy how the club members go out of their way to help each other.

As for my latest challenge, well – you will have to come to breakfast to hear all the details (show and tell time!), but I've already had several club members offer to help me recover and get back on the air. As it turns out, I was thinking about making some changes in this part of my station anyway, so this turns out to be the right time to get started. With a bit of luck, this won't cost much in terms of money, and only a small amount of sweat equity will be required.

So, face the challenges and embrace the opportunities. Remember that ham radio is a social hobby and that helping each other is part of the fun. Each of these challenges is a chance to learn something, as well as a chance to share your experiences with other hams. Because if we didn't do that, we'd have nothing to talk about except the weather.



73, Steve

Next Month

**AREDN
Hardware
FCC & RF
Rules**

Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, September 08, 2021 via ZOOM. <<<< NOTE!!

[Check Groups.io for the link to connect.](#)

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 06/09/21 Meeting*

The monthly club meeting was conducted on Zoom and was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Phillips, NS4P. Steve recited the pledge to the flag. Attendance was captured via the Zoom session. The club welcomed Frank Ireland, N4OAA, who earned his license in 1990 and recently moved to Venice. Nancy Heinrich, N4ZM, has been a ham since 1963 and recently joined TARC.

MINUTES: Steve, NS4P, requested a motion to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting as published in The Communicator. Motion was made by Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, seconded by Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$19,406.21, receipts of \$125.71 (including dues + Amazon Smile donation \$14.71), reserve fund contribution of \$167.00, expenses of \$763.82, and an ending balance for the month of May of \$18,935.10. Motion was made by Randy Aitken, KO4PIV, seconded by Steve Froggatt, KN4NFX, and the Treasurer's report was approved. Just a reminder, AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you. Simply, sign up for Amazon Smile and, if you like, list the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club as your charity and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchases to our club.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUNSHINE: N/A

VE TESTING: Steve, NS4P, mentioned that he has six candidates for the June session. He is also hopeful that the county will be relaxing their restrictions and beginning in July the VE sessions will be back at the Venice Library. In addition, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, earned his badge as a Volunteer Examiner.

LIAISON TO QCWA: NA

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Frank, W2XYZ, reported 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 digital net

opens Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. The club 2m analog repeater frequency is 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100. The 2m net opens Thursdays at 7:30 PM. Hams can participate on the analog net via EchoLink using a computer, an iPhone, or an Android system based phone. Click on W4AC-R (Node 513309) 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 Nienaber, KN4BAR, reported there are now 111 regular members, 9 first year members, 3 associate members (no call sign), 8 life members, and 1 comp for a total membership of 132. All members are listed on the Members Only page on the TARC website.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Repeater Maintenance Team Update. Chet, KG4IYS, mentioned the tower guys will return when their schedule allows. The revised shipping date for the AV-680 antenna is now September 14, 2021. In the meantime, Frank, W2XYZ, and Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, will discuss how best to repair Ed's old AV-680 antenna. There are about six active members using the remote station. Frank, N4OAA, thanked the club for setting up a great remote station – he is extremely pleased with the number of contacts he can make.

2. Fox Hunts. Paul, KN4BAR, mentioned the June 5 fox hunt was a huge success with six teams participating. Tom, KN4ONE, hid the foxes. Gary Wells, WB9AYD, found the first fox while Frank, W2XYZ, and Ken Cox, KI4YHX, found the second fox; they will hide the foxes at the next hunt on June 18 at Carlton Reserve. Paul is getting all the permits for the Tamiami Fox Hunt on October 23.

3. Field Day. Frank, W2XYZ, reported that Field Day is June 25-27 and TARC will set up operations at USCGA. Mode captains are Andy Durette, KB1HIP for phone; Chet, KG4IYS for digital; and TBD for CW. They will oversee setting up computer for logging, radio, and antenna. There will also be a GOTA sta-

Continued >>>>>

TARC Minutes, continued

tion set up for newly licensed hams. Email Frank to be a participant or just show up. On the TARC website is a schedule of time slot availability. Motion was made by Nancy, N4ZM, for \$150 budget for food and beverages, seconded by Paul, KN4BAR, and approved.

4. National Lighthouse Day. Andy, KB1HIP, received permission for TARC to set up a station on August 7 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at USA910 Port Boca Grande Lighthouse. For this event, we will be using the club's IC-7300, an amp, and power from the lighthouse. Andy also paid the W4AC dues for the lighthouse association.

5. TARC Web Site. Paul, KN4BAR, shared with us on his screen key webpages that are of interest to our members.

6. Club Meetings. Traditionally, TARC suspends the July and August board of directors and club meetings due to summer vacations. Motion was made by

Randy, KO4PIV, and Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, seconded, and membership approved. Steve, NS4P, was ecstatic to report that we will once again hold our monthly club meetings in person beginning September 8. The actual location is TBD, but the options include USCGA, American Legion, or Venice City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Jim, KJ4NDO volunteered to coordinate the holiday party this year. Jim will narrow down the list of possibilities and present to membership at the September meeting two top choices of location with menu selections.

2. Randy, KO4PIV, volunteered to think/plan a picnic or barbecue.

ADJOURNMENT: Steve, KN4NFX, made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Chet, KG4IYS, seconded, and the membership adjourned at 8:08 PM. There were 22 members at the meeting.

Program: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, presented Hurricane Preparedness & Radio Operations.

TOM'S TECH TIPS: Summer FM DX/Sporadic E, FM Band

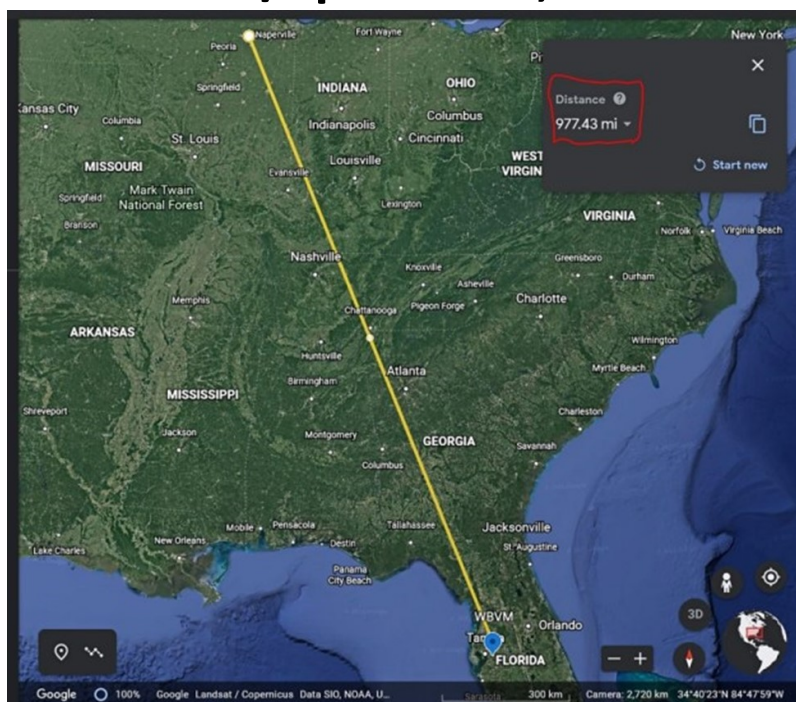


By Tom, W8QJF

The [VHF Propagation Map](#) tip I wrote about previously is really coming into play

now. Open your squelch on 2 & 6 meters and tune around for the next several weeks. A telltale sign of 'crazy conditions' is garbled audio or interference on an otherwise strong FM repeater, simplex, public service or FM commercial broadcast.

Tuning through the seven NOAA Weather Radio channels from 162.40 – 162.55 can be fruitful as each announces their location every few minutes. [Here's](#) a short feature from [The SWLing Post](#).



Mark your calendar! The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club in Venice, FL is sponsoring its first **ANNUAL CLASSIC FOX HUNT** to be held at the T. Mabry Carlton Reserve in Venice on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Go to: <https://tamiamiarc.org/annual-fox-hunt/> for event details and pre-registration form (required).

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	BEAR-ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Antarctica – 8J1RL, CW/FT8	Now to 31 Dec	158	NO	01-03	01-04	NO	1200	NO	NO	NO
South Sudan - Z81D, mostly FT8, some SSB	Again Active	74	NO	23-04	22-05	19-02	17-24	12-24	20-21	NO
Malawi – 7Q7CT, mostly FT8, some SSB	Resident Op	93	--	00-04	--	20-01	--	14-22	--	--
Tonga - A35JP by JA0RQV, CW/SSB/FT8	Now to 31 Oct	253	0900	05-12	04-13	07-13	18-21	18-02	18-01	19-01
St Helena – ZD7GB by G3WIP, SSB/FT8	Now to 30 Sep	110	00-06	22-08	21-08	18-11	10-02	11-24	12-24	17-23
St. Lucia – J68HZ by K9HZ, CW/SSB/FT8	Now to 30 Sep	119	22-11	20-13	00-24	00-24	11-02	12-01	13-24	18-23
Corsica – TK/DJ0TP, mostly FT8, some SSB	Now to 14 Sep	51	23-06	22-08	21-04	17-23	12-21	19-20	NO	NO
Cape Verde – D4SAL by EA7KNT, all mode	Now to 05 Sep	89	23-08	21-10	20-11	16-04	12-23	15-22	18-21	2100
Thailand – HS400OZ, Special Event Op	01 Sep to 31 Oct	355	NO	NO	NO	NO	2400	NO	NO	NO
Dodecanese – SV5/HB9OAU, SSB/Digital	04 to 16 Sep	49	00-03	22-06	22-06	18-24	12-20	13-19	NO	NO
Dodecanese – SV5/DL2AAZ, SSB/CW	05 to 19 Sep	49	--	22-06	22-06	18-24	12-20	13-19	NO	NO
Liechtenstein – HB0/DL5YM & DL5YL	05 to 28 Sep	46	00-06	22-09	21-03	17-22	17-20	NO	NO	NO
Kosovo – Z68XX by DL2JRM, **	10 to 13 Sep	46	00-04	22-07	21-06	17-22	12-20	1900	NO	NO
Niger - 5UAIHM by F4IHM, **	11 Sep to 22 Oct	80	00-05	22-07	21-07	18-03	16-23	14-22	18-21	NO
Rwanda – 9X2AW by DF2WO, CW/SB/Digi	13 to 28 Sep	81	NO	23-04	22-05	20-02	17-01	12-23	18-22	NO
Guinea – 3X2021 by F1TMY	Mid-Sep to ???	90	23-06	22-09	21-10	17-01	14-24	12-22	19-21	NO
Faroe Is – OY/LB5SH, SSB/FT8/CW	17 to 20 Sep	32	00-08	22-10	21-24	18-20	NO	NO	NO	NO
Tanzania – 5H1IP by HA3JB, CW/SSB/Digi	17 to 30 Sep	81	NO	00-02	23-04	21-02	20-24	14-22	18-21	NO
St Pierre & Miquelon – FP/KV1J, SB/CW/Di	21 Sep to 05 Oct	39	22-11	20-13	00-24	11-03	15-01	12-24	21-23	NO
Tanzania – 5H3MB by IK2GZU, all modes	25 Sep to 20 Nov	81	NO	00-02	23-04	21-02	20-24	14-22	18-21	NO
Maldives-8Q7CQ by G0VJG, Digi, some CW	29 Sep to 13 Oct	40	NO	2400	23-02	19-22	16-17	1600	NO	NO

Prepared 30 August 2021 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX* 21-34, and the *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* No. 1529..

Notes: Times shown are for S-5 or better signals and 50% 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 forecast opening times are calculated using VOACAP <http://www.voacap.com/hf/>.

-- AUGUST SOLAR ACTIVITY --

From 01 through 30 August, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 71 to 91, with a mean value of 77.8. The A_p index was ≥ 7 on 14 days during that period. Sunspot regions were visible on 24 days, varying from one to four groups. There were 35 C-class solar flares on 10 days, and one M-class flare during the month.

-- SEPTEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels until 03 Sep with Region 2860 rotating off the visible disk on 04 Sep. Moderate levels are also likely on 16-25 Sep as Region 2860 rotates back onto the visible disk. Very low levels are expected on 04-15 Sep.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at moderate to high levels until 05 Sep due to CME influences. Normal to moderate levels are expected on 06-25 Sep.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at G1-Minor storm levels on 01 Sep, 26 Sep and 28 Sep. Unsettled to active levels are expected on 02-03 Sep, 11-12 Sep, 21 Sep, 27 Sep and 29-30 Sep all due to recurrent CH HSS influences. Quiet to unsettled levels are expected for the remainder of the outlook period.

The solar flux should range from 80 to 90 and average 86.5 for the month of September.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 30 August 2021, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 30 August 2021, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 30 August 2021.)

-- 2022 BOUVET DXPEDITION UPDATE --

(The following comes from the 30 August 2021 Press Release #5 by the 3Y0J team.)

Northern California DX Foundation has voted to grant \$100,000 to the 3Y0J DXpedition scheduled for November 2022. This is an all-time high donation and matches the previous donation given to Bouvet projects, and shows the trust the NCDXF has in this project.

The DXpedition will be carried out by "Amateur Radio DXpeditions", a Norwegian non-profit organization created for the purpose of conducting DXpeditions. With an overall budget of \$650,000 this will be the most expensive DXpedition ever.

For transport, the team has contracted for the MARAMA, a unique twin mast Sailing Yacht, designed by Dominique Presles, and built of aluminium by the N2A shipyard in St Nazaire, under the control of Bureau Véritas. Additional power is provided by a John Deere/Baudouin 320 hp diesel engine.

See further details/info at <http://www.3y0j.no>

(Back when Chuck Brady (SK) was worked at 3Y0C on 10m SSB in Dec 2000 and 20m SSB in Feb 2001, the Cycle 23 SSN was ≥ 175 . The Nov 2022 SSN may be around 50.)

CQ, CQ, CQ, W4AC, LOTA, IOTA, POTA (3 for 1)

by Frank
Wroblewski
W2XYZ

CQ, CQ, CQ, this is special event station W4AC with activation of the Boca Grande Lighthouse on the National Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend - is what people heard on Saturday August 7. All total, about a dozen or so club members and several spouses made the trip to Gasparilla Island in Charlotte/Lee County. Andy, KB1HIP, made arrangements with the park service to permit us to operate from under the lighthouse (no, not the basement, it's a raised structure) on that Saturday. Park officials set some rules that were a matter of concern. Our main concern was they said no generators allowed (noise), but a 120v outlet is available for our use.

We wanted to use the club's 500 watt amplifier (originally donated to the club by Jack, W4JS). Past experience showed without an amplifier, very few phone contacts could be made, so running an amp was essential. The amplifier draws about 10 amps at 120 volts, which should be all right in most cases. The radio and computer, add maybe another amp or two. Assuming we would be on a 15 amp line, everything should be fine. That is assuming the gift shop/museum above us didn't have the ice cream freezer, or whatever, plugged into the same circuit. It certainly would not have improved the club's image to the park if the gift shop went dark with customers inside, or wound up with a freezer full of melted Eskimo Bars.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, when we arrived we found that the gift shop/museum is closed until September 6 for renovations. That eliminated part of the problem but what if the outside circuit isn't turned on or if we trip the breaker, how should we reset the breaker if everything is closed? Marconi or someone else above must have been watching over us. Power was available, we tripped no breakers, and encountered no problems at all. We even had decent weather and minimal effects from red tide. It pretty much

was a perfect day, which Andy first thought might be a disaster when he arrived and saw the gates locked. That, too, worked itself out. Propagation could have been better, but it was on par for how it has been for some time now.

We operated strictly phone this year. Our primary antenna was a 20m Trans World Compact Vertical, also known by several other names including our club's designed "Iota Antenna." (As a side note, if anyone is interested in building one of these compact HOA friendly antennas, plans can be found on our reflector page under files:

<https://tarc-venicefl.groups.io/g/main/files/ANTENNA%20WHITE%20PAPERS>).

So how did we do? I'd say pretty darn good. We worked 93 stations, primarily US stations with a sprinkling of DX entities. Although we were there to promote lighthouses, specifically Boca Grande USA-910, our location offered a couple of other desirable reasons to make contact with us. For Islands On The Air (IOTA) collectors, we were NA-069. For Parks On The Air (POTA) collectors, we were K-1874. Much to our surprise most contacts were interested in our POTA number and didn't really care much about the lighthouse number or the IOTA number. Considering the activity generated with POTA, our club may make another outdoor adventure to a State Park and activate it under the POTA umbrella in the future.

Around 3:30 propagation on the 20m band was dead. We checked other bands and they didn't seem promising either, so we decided to leave on a high note and call it a day. We packed up and left around 4 pm. As we were driving home, our daily thunderstorms fired up, affirming our wisdom of leaving when we did. A perfect day and I think all of us are looking forward to doing something similar again.



More vvv

Port Boca Grande Lighthouse and Museum



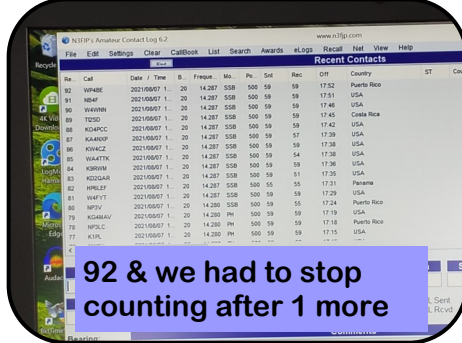
Port Boca Grande Lighthouse



The operating position in air conditioned comfort



Third shift



92 & we had to stop counting after 1 more



Local history

Wooden Cleat from the Old Prospect Dock. Ships would tie off to the dock to receive or load their mail. The cleat is made of old Port Boca Grande.

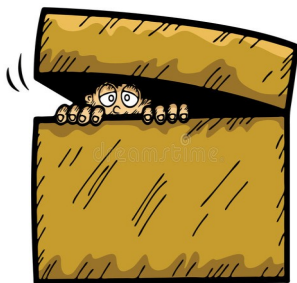
Presented by Capt. Martin E. Schreiber of Gateway from the Port Boca Grande.



Looking North



Looking South



Hidden QST Archives

Turns out the World Radio History site has a semi-hidden archive of QST issues past the 1960s that aren't indexed on the QST archive section. It is a bit disorganized (most of the 1970s issues before 1978 appear in the 1960s directory), the scans aren't always the best, but it's a great resource when looking for a technical reference that's unavailable on the ARRL web.

<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/>

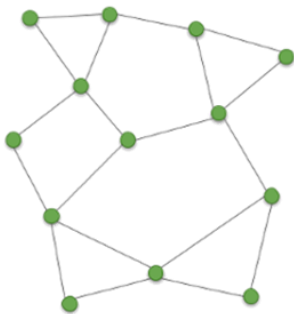
What is AREDN and What Good is It?

The AREDN® acronym stands for “**Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network**”. It provides a way for amateur radio operators to create high-speed ad-hoc data networks for use in emergency and service-oriented communications. An AREDN® network is able to serve as the transport mechanism for the preferred applications people rely upon to communicate with each other in the normal course of their business and social interactions. Depending on the characteristics of the AREDN® implementation, this digital data network can operate on RF at near-internet speeds with many miles between network nodes.

AREDN® is 21st century packet radio at Mbps speeds. In today’s high-tech society people have become accustomed to different ways of handling their communication needs. The preferred methods involve short messaging and keyboard-to-keyboard communication, along with audio-video communication using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and various streaming technologies. These modes, and more, are possible with AREDN®. Anything that can be done on the internet can be done on a mesh network, limited only by your imagination.

Website: arednmesh.org

Every AREDN® node is capable of automatically joining an AREDN® mesh network which is operating with the same SSID, channel, and bandwidth. A mesh topology consists of independent nodes which each explore their surroundings by broadcasting their



identity and listening for their neighbors’ responses. Once nodes identify others within radio range, they share this information so that each node has a picture of the network topology. Periodic updates adjust the routes based on changes in signal quality or loss of

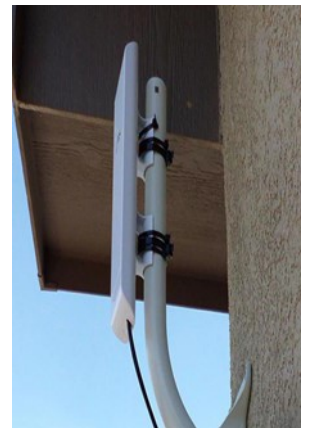
by *KN4BAR, Paul Nienaber*

AREDN™
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY DATA NETWORK



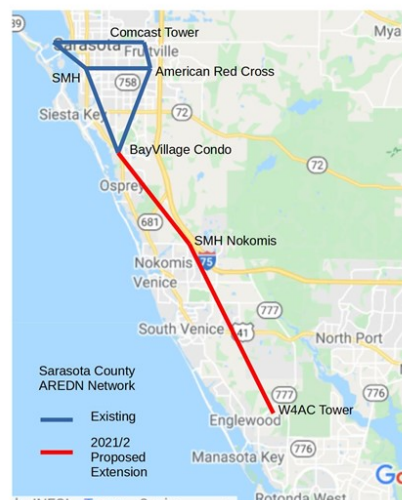
a link, allowing the network to adapt to changing conditions. Since there are usually several possible routes between nodes, and since network disruptions typically affect only part of the network, a mesh topology can be self-healing.

An AREDN® mesh makes use of standard, off-the-shelf WiFi routers, smart VLAN switches, and WiFi radio/antenna equipment. The consumer firmware on these devices is replaced by flashing them with customized firmware to allow the amateur radio mesh network to be formed and managed. This approach results in low equipment entry costs and ready availability of equipment for building an AREDN® mesh network. The picture at right shows a Ubiquity NanoStation M2 radio/antenna combination mounted below the roof eave on a home.



Mesh networks typically exist at three levels: backbone, relay, and endpoint. The backbone consists of stations at high elevations with highly directional antennas used to connect widely-separated regions of a

network with each other. Relay stations then make the mesh available in smaller geographical areas for the endpoint or originating stations to access the mesh. The Sarasota Emergency Radio Club and its Sarasota Digital Group members have been working since

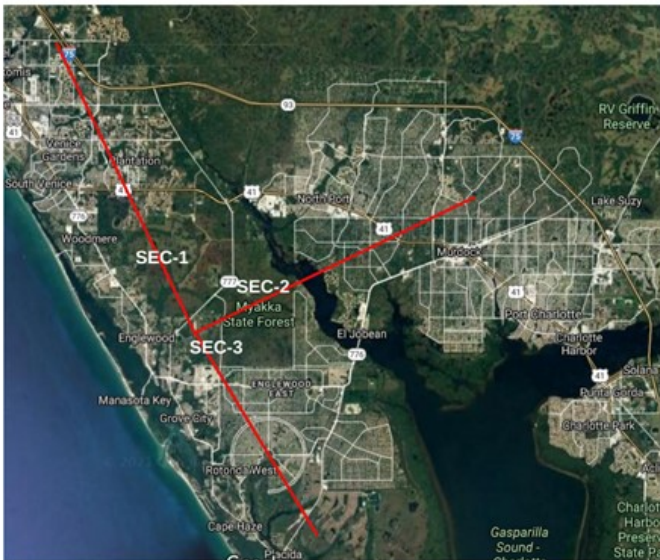


Con't >>

Amateur Radio Emergency Data Networkcon't

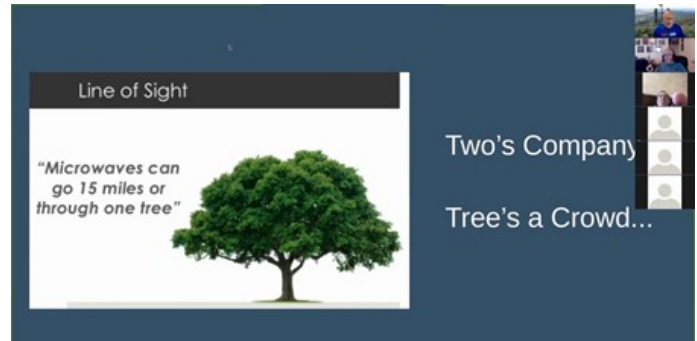
2017 to build out an AREDN® mesh for Sarasota County that would eventually link with existing networks in Tampa and Fort Meyers. To date they have established functioning relay nodes at the Comcast tower on Fruitville Rd., the American Red Cross, the Emergency Operations Center, Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota, Sarasota Sailing Squadron, and the BayVillage condominium in Osprey. A relay node is planned for the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Nokomis by the end of this year, and another relay node is expected sometime next year for the Laurel Rd. tower in Nokomis.

These last two nodes will place the mesh network within RF range of our leased tower on Paul Morris Dr. in Englewood. From these new locations, the mesh network can be extended into Venice, South Venice, Nokomis, North Port, Englewood, and Rotunda West. The Paul Morris Dr. tower is also within RF range of a Charlotte County EMS tower at the Ray's stadium on Rt. 776 near Toledo Blade Blvd., and would allow for a further extension of the mesh network into Charlotte County and points south.



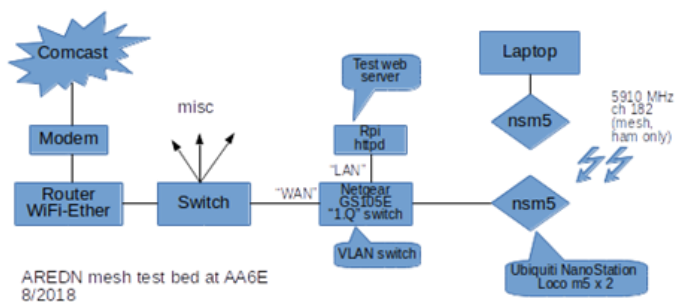
Adding AREDN® mesh network capability at the TARC Englewood tower would be of immense public service import as well as a means of providing our club members with an opportunity to explore operating and developing applications for use on a GHz high-speed RF data network. A proposal to do this will be made at the September 8th TARC club meeting.

Connecting to the mesh network by club members would require a clear and unobstructed line-of-site to



a relay node or other access point in the system. This is the greatest limitation of using these GHz frequencies for high speed data transmission. An entry-level station with line-of-site to an access point can be purchased for around \$100, and it would be connected to your home computer with ordinary Cat 5 cable (UV and direct burial rated depending on routing of the cable).

A more capable operator station could be built around an AREDN® flashed smart VLAN switch or WiFi router connected to the home internet gateway router. Such a system would allow additional mesh IP connections for ancillary equipment or services such as VoIP phone, video camera stream, weather station, web or file server, etc.



There will be an article next month discussing equipment and configuration for an AREDN® network station to help interested members get started in building a station and experimenting with an RF mesh network. For those who don't believe they will be able to achieve good line-of-sight to a relay node we will discuss the internet tunneling approach for non-RF connection to the mesh network.



Ve grow too soon oldt, und too latz schmart.

Dutch Proverb

Recollections of Mount Sutro

By Bob Miller, KJ4NLP

In the July/August issue you saw a news article about Bob Miller, KJ4NLP, celebrating 50 years in the priesthood. When I asked Bob about his involvement at the Mount Sutro antenna system, he responded with the account shown below.

For me, it triggered thoughts about management development sessions my employer supplied in the '70s

from Dr. Morris Massey, who promoted the concept "What You Are Is Where You Were When". (Check out Google and You Tube if you are not familiar with Dr. Massey.) Bob's interest in radio is not new – it had its roots way back when, even though his lifetime work was in the priesthood.

de K3SY

Commercial radio and television broadcast stations found covering the San Francisco Bay area daunting. Mt. San Bruno to the south, Mt. Sutro in the middle of San Francisco, Mt. Diablo in the East Bay were all sites suitable for erecting towers and transmitters. This required customers to either aim their antennas with a rotator or to use multiple antennas.

By 1960, the market was growing beyond the ability of broadcasters to keep up. The decision was to erect a huge tower capable of serving multiple transmitters and supporting antennas. The single station housed in the Sutro Mansion was scrapped, and a modern concrete building erected and fed by a direct power line from the Pacific Gas and Electric's service for the city. Most of the AM, FM radio, and television stations were moved to this new tower.

At the same time, the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco decided to update the emergency service of the police, ambulance, and fire departments, which until then were served by street-corner call boxes, hard-wired to a facility known as Central Fire Alarm located west of Van Ness Avenue. The control panels in this facility had been installed after the earthquake and fire of 1906, replete with marble panels, mechanical relay and switches, dials, and signal

lights. The winning contractor was the Fairchild's DuMont Labs of Clifton, NJ.

A transmitting facility was constructed at nearby Twin Peaks, where one of the peaks was excavated to house the transmitters in order to ensure security in the event of a bombing from the air. San Francisco's Presidio had the distinction of being one of the control centers for the Nike missile installations at several sites in the Bay Area, and the presence of Japanese off the coast was still a memory from World War II. While working on these transmitters in the testing phase, I always had to be aware that one might be suddenly energized.

DuMont's initial installation encountered challenging signal reflections off of buildings constructed with

steel girders in the city's core. Further, there were valleys in the city that high-frequency radio signals could not reach.

Two engineers were "borrowed" from Hammarlund to solve the problem. I was hired to install the modifications to the transceivers which we installed on the emergency vehicles. At the time, I had only Novice HAM and Commercial tickets. For several months, we tested every idea, air-freighting the failed modifications back to New Jersey until the problems were solved.

The old hard-wired call-boxes were kept in place, and found use years later when an earthquake took out the recently-installed computer monitoring service. It pays to always keep a backup plan in mind for any busy communications system.



Random Dits and Dahs

How fortunate to live under the end of the rainbow where the pot of gold can be found! Tom, W8QJF looked across the pond one morning to see the above scene. That's Chet, KG4IYS's house sitting on the treasure trove. Note Chet's famous flagpole with Old Glory flying at half-staff in honor of our service men and women on Memorial Day.



Remember

the good old days BI (before internet)? If you worked in an office, you probably had co-workers passing on many-times re-copied gems similar to the stuff you now get from a few of your friends via e-mail. I recently came upon one such paper in my archives. As I perused the content, I was impressed with the timelessness of the wisdom contained therewith. de K3SY Here goes:

Sattinger's Law: It works better if you plug it in.

Dibble's First Law of Sociology: Some do, some don't.

Pudder's Law: Anything that begins well ends badly.

Kitman's Law: Pure drivel tends to drive off the TV screen ordinary drivel.

Law of Probable Dispersal: Whatever hits the fan will probably not be evenly distributed.

Casey Stengle's Law: Good hitting always stops good hitting and vice versa.

Yogi Berra's Laws: 1. People never go there anymore; it's too crowded. 2. You can observe a lot by just watching.

Lefty Gomez's Law: If you don't throw it, they can't hit it.

Satchel Paige's Law: Don't look back; they may be gaining on you.

Damon Runyan's Law: The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but that's the way to bet.

Gilner's Law of Political Leadership: Look over your shoulder now and then, to be sure someone's following you.

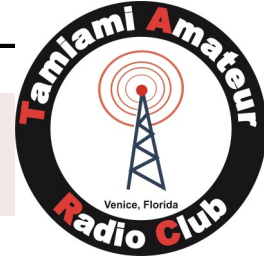
Randolph's Cardinal Principal of Statecraft: Never needlessly disturb a thing at rest.

Mancken's Law: Whenever A attempts by law to impose his moral standards upon B, A is most likely a scoundrel.

Murphy's Law: 1. Nothing is as easy as it looks. 2. Everything takes longer than you think. 3. If anything can go wrong, it will.

O'Toole's Corollary: Murphy was an optimist.

September 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 # Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	2 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	3 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	4
5	6 	7 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	8 # Virtual Breakfast 10 AM <u>TARC meeting 7:00 PM via ZOOM</u>	9 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	10 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	11 TARC VE session @ Venice Library 10 A
12	13 DARN net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 p1100	14 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	15 # Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	16 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	17 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	18
19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	22 # Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM 	23 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	24 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	25
26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	29 # Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	30 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.

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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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 2nd Fam. Memb. _____ Call Sign _____ Class _____ ARRL ? Yes ___ No ___
 LOCAL ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
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 Application date _____ PAYMENT: Amount _____ by: Check ___ Cash ___ PayPal ___ *First year free ___

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Dues:

Regular member: \$20.00/year

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

*New licensee tested through the TARC VE program:

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: <https://www.tamiamiarc.org>

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