



# THE COMMUNICATOR



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

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

Incorporated 1984

<http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

November, 2021

## In this issue:

President's Message	1,3,5
Meeting Notice	1
Meeting Minutes	2-3
W4JS VE Award	3
DX Jack's Page	4
Scout JOTA	5
Antenna EXPO	6
ISM Exploring	7
New RPTs & IYS's Shack	8
Join QCWA	9
Tom's Tech Tips	10
Club Calendar	11
Membership Application	12

## President's message.....NS4P

'Tis the Season! No, not that season – it's contest season!!! So yes, I was inspired by another article, but hear me out. I can imagine what you are thinking. Contesting? Are you kidding? That's not for me.



I will have to admit that until recently I was intimidated by the thought of ever participating in an amateur radio contest. Magazines and the Internet are filled with articles about "contest stations" showing off mega stations with expensive radios, giant amplifiers and even larger antenna farms. Radio manufacturers extol the virtues of their high-end (and high dollar) rigs as contest radios. I suppose that some of us have visions of operators working like a cattle auctioneer with too much caffeine and not enough sleep, logging a hundred QSOs an hour for an entire weekend. And you probably are not wrong. Those stations and operators do exist, but if you set reasonable goals and manage your expectations, ham radio contesting can be fun and an excellent learning experience for even the newest ham with the most modest of stations (and normal sleep habits).

How to get started? Start off by deciding what you want to accomplish. Since contests, especially the bigger world-wide contests, tend to bring out some of those rare locations a contest can be a great time to pick up a county/grid/state/country you need. You do not need to turn in a log for the QSO to count, and in my experience, contesters are very good about uploading logs to LOTW/QRZ.

There are several contest calendars available on-line with an overview of the rules and links to the details. In almost every case, the objective for the "Big Guns" is to make as many contacts as possible during the contest period, while conforming to the published rules. The key is to find a contest that suits your needs. You should understand what kind of station the participants will be looking to contact. For example, don't try to pick up states during a DX contest. Take a look at what is available and then ask some of the more experienced club members about what they think.

When it comes to actually jumping into the lake, the most important thing is to understand how the contest is going to operate. For your contest of choice, look up the appropriate web site and review the rules. Things that are important for the new participant is to note the bands and modes that will be used for the contest (most contests do not use the WARC bands or 60 Meters). It's also very important to understand the "exchange". The exchange is the information exchanged between the QSO partners and if you are going to turn in a log for a score, you must have the exchange information. Even if you are not turning in a log, it will make everything go more smoothly if you are prepared with the information to give to your QSO partner.

Con't P3 >>

### Next Month

Antenna expo report.  
Holiday party details

**Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive**

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 10/13/21 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 new member Jack Rosen, W1JJR.

**MINUTES:** Steve, NS4P, requested a motion to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting as published in The Communicator. Motion was made by Jesse Snyder, KW4IT, seconded by Tom Zirolli, N2UD, and approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The club received one QSL card which was subsequently handled by Jack Sproat, W4JS.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$16,625.78, receipts of \$185.00, reserve fund contribution of \$167.00, expenses of \$2,125.06 (the majority for the AREDN equipment), and an ending balance for the month of September of \$14,852.72. Motion was made by Steve Froggatt, KN4NFX, seconded by Tom Porada, W4IEE, 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, announced the test booklets went from five versions to 12 versions for each element. The new versions were used for the first time on October 9 by eight candidates earning four Technician and four General licenses. This was also a special day marking Jack Sproat, W4JS, 250<sup>th</sup> VE session. For this rare accomplishment, Jack received a Certificate of Appreciation and an ARRL handbook from the ARRL VE Coordinator.

**LIAISON TO QCWA:** After a hiatus of 18 months, the QCWA met again at Denny's on Bee Ridge in Sarasota. There were 14 people who met on October 4. QCWA membership is open to all hams licensed at least 25 years ago and does not need to be continuous. QCWA meetings are open to all hams; spouses and significant others are also encouraged to attend.

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL:** Frank, W2XYZ, reported the repeaters are working fine. 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 operates 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 28.460 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 119 regular members, 16 first year members, 5 associate members (no call sign), 10 life members, and 1 comp for a total membership of 151. All members are listed on the Members Only page on the TARC website.

**OLD BUSINESS: 1.** Repeater Maintenance Team Update. Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, reported we are working on fixing a background noise on EchoLink. The tower guys are very busy as this is their peak season so our tower projects are on hold.

**2.** Remote HF. Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, said there are no issues to report with the remote station. He even tried to use the station while in Iceland. We will be digging a trench to install feedline to a new vertical antenna.

**3.** Fox Hunts – Paul, KN4BAR, mentioned the Tamiami Fox Hunt was canceled and the fees were returned to the two pre-registered participants.

**4.** Club Meetings. We are planning to have the November and December club meetings in person at the USCGA. We will try to use Zoom too.

**5.** Holiday Party. Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, proposed December 14 at Left Coast Seafood for the holiday party. Membership will be surveyed to determine interest.

**6.** AREDN Link. SERC is making great progress on the AREDN link. Based on the faster than anticipated progress Paul, KN4BAR, motioned to upgrade the backbone link to 5 GHz nearly double channel capacity at a cost of about \$325.00, Jim, KJ4NDO, seconded, and membership approved. By the end of the month, you can try to access the network by connecting to SMH using a nanostation for about \$89.

Continued >>>>

## TARC Minutes, continued

**NEW BUSINESS:** 1. Local Scout Master John Patrick, N90U, requested ham support at the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event on October 16 from 8 AM until dark at Maxine Barrett Park.

2. Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, proposed an antenna expo at the USCGA parking lot tentatively scheduled for November 13 at noon. Bring your favorite antennas and we will discuss pros and cons of each.

3. Tom, W4IEE, mentioned the Southwest Florida Simulated Emergency Test held in October had some

issues. In November, ARRL Frequency Measuring Test will occur.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Rich MacCready, KK4AHZ, made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike Lechky, W0MJL, seconded, and the membership adjourned at 8:16 PM. There were 24 members at the meeting.

**Program:** Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, presented Radio-active Materials in Everyday Life.

## President's message, con't

For example, for the upcoming ARRL SSB Sweepstakes, the exchange must include – a sequential serial number, your “precedence” (a letter indicating what kind of station you are), call sign, two digit year the operator was first licensed, and your ARRL/RAC section identifier – “25, B, NS4P, 76, WCF” (FYI – this is one of the more annoying and complicated contest exchanges). Note

that for the Sweepstakes no RS (T) is required.

Now, this may all seem a bit intimidating for the new contest participant, but with a little prep it's pretty easy. You will want to log your contacts, so get a pen and paper (you can find logging sheets specific to each contest to print out on the web) or a computer logging program. Look up the information you need for the exchange and be ready when the contest begins.

Then, turn on the radio and..... listen. Tune around and listen to a few of the big signal stations to get an idea of how the exchange works. Remember, speed is important to the big operators, so you will want to give them only the bare minimum of information they need, in the order they expect it. Then, give it a try! During the early hours of the contest things can get pretty wild, but they do slow down toward the end, so if you are

**Con't P5 >>**

## TARC, ARRL honor Jack Sproat, W4JS, for his 250th VE session

Here is the story, in Jack's own words, of his final session, and the recognition that followed

Some of you know that on Saturday, 09 October, I participated in my 250th VE session. I had given Team Liaison Steve

Phillips - NS4P advance notice that this would be my final session. After our eight successful candidates had departed, Tom Porada - W4IEE brought in a half dozen cupcakes for Steve, Frank Wroblewski - W2XYZ, he and I to enjoy. 'Right kind' of all involved!!

However, at Peach's on Tuesday morning, I was honored with additional recognition. Steve presented me with an ARRL VEC Certificate of Appreciation for my participation in 250 VE sessions over the past 25 years. Gee, after that many years and sessions, I was still able to make some errors at



my final session!! Then, on behalf of the TARC membership, Steve presented me with the 2020 six-volume edition of the "Handbook"!! Such a kind and

generous gift!! As I had only the 1997 edition, it will be rather mind-bending reviewing all of the changes to our great hobby over the past 23 years.

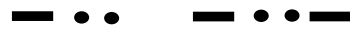
The TARC has grown some four-fold since I joined it in 1998, and much of that success is due to the rather dynamic leadership that has been at the helm in recent years. The right people in the right places at the right time definitely have been to

the Club's benefit.

From the bottom of my heart to All of You, Many Thanks and God Bless!!

**Jack Sproat - W4JS**

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
Rodriguez Is - 3B9FR, CW & FT8	Active Resident	84	23-01	23-01	22-02	21-01	18-23	16-22	13-21	13-19
Norfolk Is – VK9DX, CW	Active Resident	250	10-11	07-12	06-13	03-10	13-15	1400	19-23	20-23
Ecuador – HC1MD/2, CW/SSB/FT8&4	Now to ???	171	09-11	23-13	20-14	11-24	14-23	14-18	22-23	17-23
Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ, on 30m CW	Now to ???	308	08-12	07-13	06-13	21-22	20-22	20-23	21-23	2100
Corsica – TK4QL, mostly SSB	Casual Resident	57	23-07	21-09	20-04	11-19	12-18	12-17	13-16	NO
Antarctica – 8J1RL, CW/FT8	Now to 31 Dec	158	NO	NO	0200	23-05	2400	NO	NO	NO
UK Bases in Cyprus – ZC4GR, casual FT8	Now to 31 Dec	48	00-03	22-06	21-07	13-14	12-15	13-15	13-14	NO
Bahamas – C6AHB; team operation	Now to 22 Nov	113	00-24	00-24	13-23	13-21	NO	NO	NO	NO
Tanzania – 5H3MB by IK2GZU, all modes	Now to 20 Nov	82	NO	00-02	23-04	21-24	18-23	17-22	13-21	13-18
The Gambia – C5C by 4-op team	Now to 19 Nov	88	23-08	21-10	20-05	17-23	12-21	12-19	13-16	NO
Galapagos – HD8R by 14-op team	Now 07 Nov	196	00-12	22-14	21-15	13-01	12-03	14-22	1300	18-22
Saba & St Eustatius – PJ6/PD1BAT, FT8/SB	Now to 05 Nov	114	--	19-14	--	00-23	--	--	--	13-20
Lesotho – 7P8RU by 6-op team, all modes	Now to 04 Nov	110	NO	23-04	22-05	20-07	18-23	17-23	12-19	13-18
Namibia – V51WH by DK2WH, CW/SSB	01 Nov - 31 Mar	107	NO	22-06	21-06	19-07	18-24	16-23	12-21	13-19
Maldives – 8Q7RM by HB9SHD, FT8/SSB	01 – 30 Nov	40	--	23-01	22-02	19-23	12-22	13-18	13-17	14-16
eSwatini – 3DA0LP by ZS9DPL	01 – 05 Nov	106	NO	23-03	22-04	20-02	10-23	18-22	14-20	13-17
Mali – TZ1CE by DK1CE, CW/SSB/FT8	18 Nov to 08 Dec	85	23-06	21-09	20-10	17-24	11-23	12-22	13-20	13-18
St. Barthelemy – FJ/KP4DO	19 - 24 Nov	113	--	20-14	00-24	00-24	12-24	12-23	13-22	13-20
Mauritius – 3B8/KX7M & M0SDV	22 Nov to 01 Dec	88	NO	00-01	22-02	20-24	19-23	17-22	14-21	13-19
Rwanda – 9X4X by 6-op team, all modes	24 Nov to 01 Dec	81	NO	23-04	22-05	19-24	17-23	12-22	12-21	13-19

Prepared 27 October 2021 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX* 21-42, and the *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* No. 1537.

**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/>.

-- OCTOBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

From 01 through 27 October, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 72 to 111, with a mean value of 86.3. The  $A_p$  index was  $\geq 7$  on 11 days during that period. Sunspot regions were visible on 26 days, varying from one to six groups. There were 33 C-class and 3 M-class solar flares on 10 days during the period.

-- NOVEMBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels with a slight chance for M-class (R1-R2, Minor-Moderate) flares on 01-03 Nov as Region 2887 transits across the visible disk. Very low levels are expected from 04-15 Nov. Very low to low levels are expected again on 16-20 Nov with the return of Region 2887.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels throughout the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to reach unsettled levels on 06-08 Nov, 15-16 Nov, 23-26 Nov and 29 Nov, with active levels on 06 Nov due to CH HSS activity.

The solar flux should range from 82 to 96, and average 88.9 for the month of November.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 October 2021, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 October 2021, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 27 October 2021.)

-- SMOOTHED SUNSPOT NUMBER --

The daily sunspot number has little, if any, relationship to ionospheric variability. However, the most widely used Ionospheric Index, R12, is derived from the daily sunspot numbers. The R12 index is a twelve-month smoothed relative sunspot number.

The smoothed sunspot number can't ever be calculated for the current date. Because it needs data six months before and six months after any month to calculate the smoothed sunspot number for that month, it is always at least six months behind the current date.

To calculate the smoothed sunspot number for March 2021, you need the monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers for each of the months from September 2020 through September 2021. You take half the value of the September 2020 average, add it to half the value of the September 2021 average, then add it to the full value of each of the intervening 11 months. Take this total and divide by 12, and that is your smoothed sunspot number for March 2021. You cannot know the April 2021 smoothed sunspot number until the last day of October 2021.

The same reasoning can be applied to the daily Solar Flux. Solar flux readings are linearly related to sunspot numbers but any potential propagation conditions related to solar flux lag several days behind the recorded flux.



# World Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

by Jim, KJ4NDO

**The** Jamboree-on-the-Air is the world's largest digital/analog event taking place over the airwaves. Held every year on the third full weekend in October, the event connects millions of young people around the world for a weekend of online activities that promote friendship, earn merit badges, and help create global citizenship. JOTA enables young Scouts to participate and talk to each other over amateur radio and is focused on developing 21st-century skills throughout scouting. Scouts of all ages learn about communication technology, the values of good citizenship, and how we can together solve some of the most pressing challenges facing our planet.

Venice Troop 77 and the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC) have worked together for a number of years to make JOTA a success. On October 16, 2021, Scouts, Scout leaders and volunteers from TARC worked together to establish an amateur radio station at the Maxine Barritt Park for Scout JOTA use. Although there was electric power at the pavilion we used, we decided to use electricity from a Scout generator.

We set up two tables as base stations so Scouts could use two radios for learning. On one table we used an ICOM 7300 transceiver to feed a TransWorld antenna. The Transworld set up quickly, and the compactness of the antenna allowed us to position it away from the pavilion and citizen foot traffic. On the other table we set up a Yaesu model 857D transceiver. This radio fed a very efficient fan dipole home built by Scoutmaster John Patrick.

We had 15 Scouts and multiple Scout leaders in attendance. The Scouts worked other Troops in Ohio, Indiana, and New York, as well as international Scouts in Saskatchewan, Canada and the World Scout Bureau Global Support Centre operating as LX9S in Luxemburg.

We all had a great time. Working with Scouts is a joy. Their enthusiasm is contagious.

The following TARC members helped set up and run the Scout station.

John Patrick, N9OU, Scoutmaster, Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, Andy Durette, KB1HIP, Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, and Albert Maringer, VA6ALB, and his grandson Jordan Maringer.



## President's message, con't

really new, getting on the air in the last few hours of the operating period might be easier.

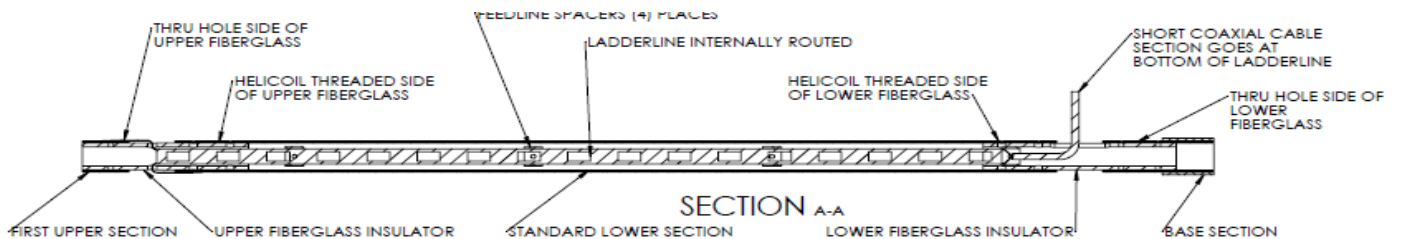
Hopefully this will pique your interest in contesting. There is a huge variety out there including some non-contest "operating events" like Field Day (if it's not a contest, why

do they keep score?) so you will be able to find something. But be warned - once you get started, you may find it addicting!  
73,  
**Steve**



# TARC ANTENNA EXPO!

UHF, VHF, HF, Portable, Base Station, Home Brew, Store Bought, Crazy Ideas, Etc.



Join your fellow club members at this outdoor activity to exhibit your antennas and share ideas. See what others are using and get some real world feedback. Share your experiences and just socialize.

- Antenna analyzers will be available to check out your antennas.
- Some antennas will be available for you to borrow and test out at your QTH.
- 50-50 raffle.      • See AREDN devices.

**When – November 13, 2021      Time – NOON**

**Where – Coast Guard Aux on Venice Island**



## Be there or be off the air!



# ISM Exploring

By Tom,KN4ONE

The ISM (Industrial, Scientific, Medical) radio frequency bands were originally intended for “*Operation of equipment or appliances designed to generate and use locally radio frequency energy for industrial, scientific, medical, domestic or similar purposes, excluding applications in the field of telecommunications*”. Your microwave oven operates in one of the ISM bands. Use of the ISM bands has exploded into wide use for low power communications, for everything from WIFI, to proximity cards, to Bluetooth, to wildlife tracking.

Undoubtedly you own many low power wireless devices operating in the ISM bands. Many that you may not have thought about. ISM frequencies are in 12 bands ranging from 6.765MHz to 246GHz.

For radio related fun I recently made a short exploration of a few of the bands for which I have receiving capability. I loaded the most recent version of SDR# (SDRsharp) software along with a plugin for it called RTL433. (433 is one of the most used ISM bands) The software was used in conjunction with an RTL-SDR radio receiv-

er USB dongle. For an antenna I used a broadband disccone already mounted on a pole outside the house.

Results of an overnight scan picked up the 21 device types shown. RTL433 knows about 170 device protocols it can decode. Only one device will be listed for a specific protocol. A signal that doesn't use a known protocol will be ignored. The weather station transmitters were expected, but I was surprised to see the tire pressure monitors (TPMS).

Device	Model	Temperature:	Humidity :	Modulation:	Freq :	RSSI :	SNR :	Type
Protocol:73 Model: LaCrosse-TX141THBv2 Channel:00	LaCrosse-TX141THBv2	29.70 C	59 %	ASK	433.9 MHz	-3.9 dB	12.1 dB	
Protocol:8 Model: LaCrosse-TX	LaCrosse-TX	28.3 C		ASK	433.8 MHz	-4.7 dB	9.1 dB	
Protocol:55 Model: Acurite-606TX	Acurite-606TX	23.9 C		ASK	434.0 MHz	-3.8 dB	9.4 dB	
Protocol:158 Model: Sharp-SPC775	Sharp-SPC775	156.8 C	146 %	FSK		-6.4 dB	17.0 dB	
Protocol:86 Model: Smoke-GS558	Smoke-GS558			ASK	433.9 MHz	-3.9 dB	12.6 dB	
Protocol:95 Model: Schrader-EG53MA4	Schrader-EG53MA4	25.6 C		ASK	314.9 MHz	-4.3 dB	10.0 dB	TPMS
Protocol:60 Model: Schrader	Schrader	36 C		ASK	433.9 MHz	-3.7 dB	14.9 dB	TPMS
Protocol:82 Model: Citroen	Citroen	18 C		FSK		-4.0 dB	10.8 dB	TPMS
Protocol:121 Model: Opus-XT300 Channel:0	Opus-XT300	-40 C		ASK	434.0 MHz	-1.8 dB	14.0 dB	
Protocol:171 Model: LaCrosse-TH2	LaCrosse-TH2	29.2 C	75 %	FSK		-1.8 dB	21.8 dB	
Protocol:89 Model: Ford	Ford	90.0 C		FSK		-2.0 dB	22.4 dB	TPMS
Protocol:36 Model: Efergy-e2CT	Efergy-e2CT			FSK		-8.9 dB	8.1 dB	
Protocol:4 Model: Waveman-Switch Channel:2	Waveman-Switch			ASK	433.8 MHz	-5.6 dB	7.9 dB	
Protocol:90 Model: Renault	Renault			FSK		-5.9 dB	9.7 dB	TPMS
Protocol:110 Model: PMV-107J	PMV-107J			FSK		-2.7 dB	15.9 dB	TPMS
Protocol:88 Model: Toyota	Toyota			FSK		-4.1 dB	10.6 dB	TPMS
Protocol:168 Model: Schrader-SMD3MA4	Schrader-SMD3MA4			ASK	315.0 MHz	-4.4 dB	11.3 dB	TPMS
Protocol:93 Model: Ford-CarRemote	Ford-CarRemote			ASK	315.0 MHz	-4.3 dB	10.7 dB	
Protocol:156 Model: Abarth 124 Spider	Abarth 124 Spider	28 C		FSK		-2.0 dB	21.6 dB	TPMS
Protocol:178 Model: Secplus_v1	Secplus_v1			ASK	315.0 MHz	-3.6 dB	11.8 dB	

After seeing the TPMS systems are mostly on 315MHz, I took the show on the road. I made a quick mag mount antenna for 315MHz, loaded my laptop in the car, and drove up to the shuttered Denny's on 41. Every TPMS manufacturer almost instantly showed up in a list!

One disappointment is there is no decoder for the power meters used by FPL. Our meters have transmitters that operate in a mesh network to relay the data back to FPL. It's also a two way radio allowing FPL to turn off your power if they need to. They operate in the 900MHz ISM band. Hundreds of signals can be seen on the spectrum, but

unfortunately they can't be decoded. No doubt there are hundreds or thousands of other protocols not in the list (like for my garage door button).

The software allows for filtering of any protocol and recording series of transmissions from any device. For example you could log all readings from you barbeque smoker cooker so you have documentation of the perfect temperature profile for smoking your butt. Very handy when you copyright that recipe!

All the software is free and easily found on the interwebs. Give it a try on a rainy day and you may

even read your neighbor's rain gauge.

<https://marco40github.wixsite.com/website/plugin-sdrsharp-pour-rtl-433?lang=en>



The road show

## There's a new repeater (or two, or three) in town!

The Sarasota Emergency Radio Club in cooperation with Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice announces the placement in service of the 444.575 UHF repeater located at Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice on Pinebrook Rd. in Venice. This repeater was 18 months in the planning and installing to get it on the air.

Today it was turned on and tested with good range reports. Also installed and tested is a Winlink gateway. It too is in service. This will greatly enhance emergency communications in the South County area. It also will link Sarasota Memorial's two hospitals together.

I want to acknowledge and thank the members of SRQARES, Sarasota Digital group Sarasota Emergency Radio Club and others who contributed to this system not only to get it on the air but financially as well.

Below is the information on the systems installed.

**Repeater: W4IE, 444.575+ 100/100.**

**Digipeater: NJ4M, 144.910.**

**VARAFM: W4IE. 446.775**

Also installed but not in service yet is AREDN Mesh. This is the high speed data network used by SRQARES for transferring data around Sarasota County and elsewhere. We still need some tuning done on this system before we put it in service. I will announce once it is in service. The linking system Allstar is also installed but needs some more programming before it goes in service.

Les Keegan-N4LPK

AEC of Communications

SRQARES

## SHACK ENVY



Occasionally *The Communicator* features a TARC member's well-appointed shack - such as W5GJ's 7 stations, and KOAL's "Cottage" shack. Shown here is KG4IYS's "second story" setup. With an abundantly equipped station, and space to connect, it's no wonder Chet is running out of wall space for certificates!





## CQ to all hams in the Venice/Sarasota and surrounding areas.

*After more than a year of no meetings, QCWA luncheon get-togethers have resumed at Denny's on Bee Ridge and we need your participation. As Jack, W4JS stated in his email recently, "we are trying to bring our chapter back to life". What better way to express those desires than to reprint Jack's notes here.*

Howdy to One and All

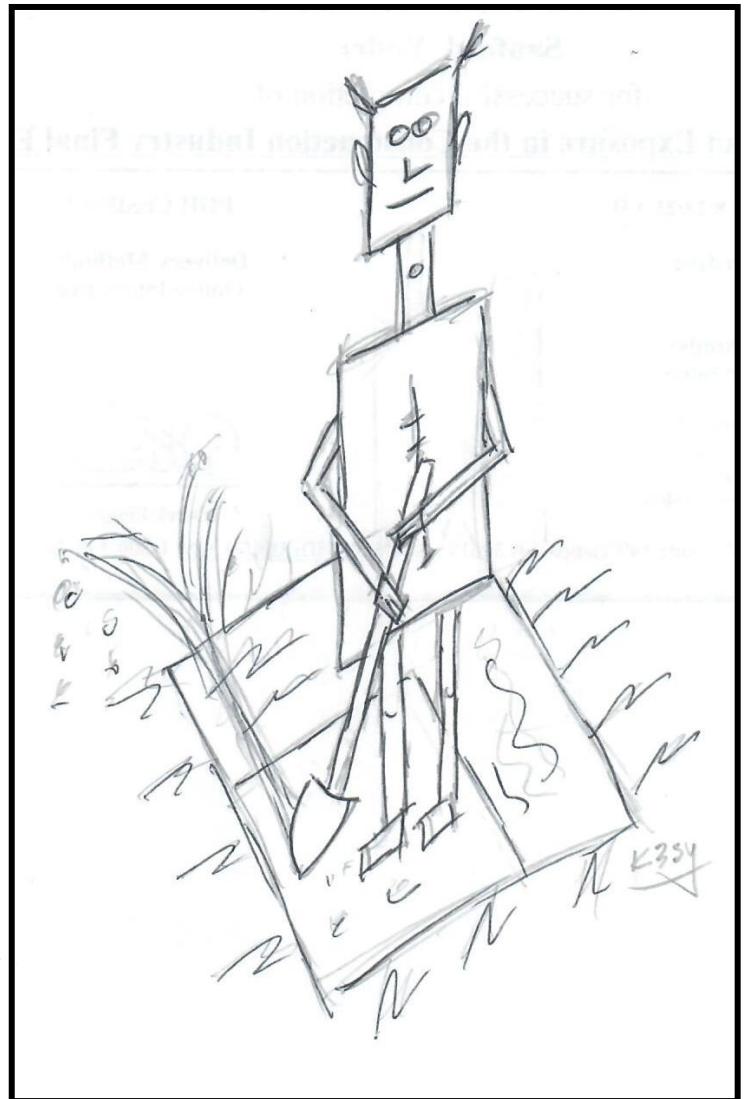
On 04 October, 16 members and guests of QCWA Suncoast Chapter 53 gathered at 11:00 AM for lunch at Denny's. As Denny's required at least 20 diners for us to enjoy the private room, special menu and service, we opted for a rearrangement of seating in the general dining area and ordering from the standard menu. We then paid our separate bills and gratuities to the waitresses. While we had no program or business meeting, it was great to see one and all and to join in a variety of conversations

Since then, President Don Watson - K9DDO has had several meetings with the Denny's management, and with positive results. Therefore, on 01 November we will again assemble in the private area we have enjoyed in the past. We will order from the standard Denny's menu and be responsible for paying our separate bills and gratuities. We will have the friendly competition of the Half Share Investment Club (AKA the 50/50). At this time, nothing has been firmed up regarding a program, but there is potential by 01 November. The November issue of *The Suncoaster*, featuring Don's President's Message, will be sent out before the end of [October].

So we are trying to bring our chapter back to life as it was some 19 months ago. Your cooperation in that effort will truly be appreciated. Please come on out if you can, and renew the companionship of your fellow members

VY 73 to All,

Jack Sproat - W4JS, Secretary



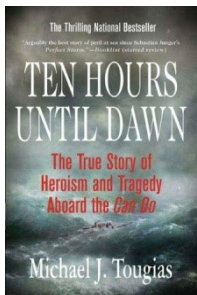
Lidar Lid struck a gusher when he dug a little too deep for his new antenna, not realizing how high the Florida water table is.



W8QJF Tom Shrilla

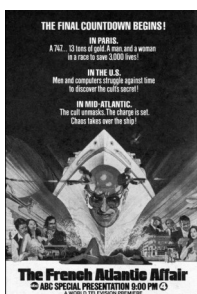
## TOM'S TECH TIPS: Unplug our computers for a bit

Shorter daytime hours is a great time to read some historical fiction for a change. These titles feature radio as a significant part of the plot and storyline. You might have to scrounge around for some titles, while many are available from Amazon and public libraries in multiple formats, including Kindle and audio books. Some have been made into movies, but I have not watched them.



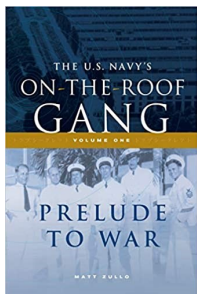
## Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the *Can Do*

During the blizzard of 1978, a tanker floundered on the shoals off the Massachusetts coast. The Coast Guard dispatched a patrol boat that was soon in trouble too. A pilot boat captain, Frank Quirk, heard of the Coast Guard's plight on his radio. He gathered his crew of four, readied his forty-nine-foot steel boat, the *Can Do*, and entered the maelstrom of the blizzard that was to become known as the Storm of the Century.



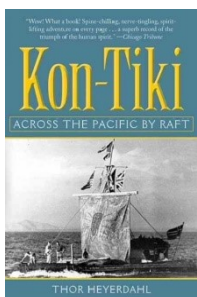
## The French Atlantic Affair

When the SS *Festivale* sets sail from New York to France, its 3,000 passengers include Pulitzer Prize-winning author Harold C. Clegg and 146 members of the Church of the Cosmic Path, led by Father Craig Dunleavy. Seizing control of the ship, Dunleavy demands \$70 million in gold, intending to kill everyone onboard once it's paid. Without knowing which passengers are cultists and warned that 12 will die for every hijacker harmed, Clegg and the captain search for a way to save 3,000 lives. A ham-passenger with his Atlas transceiver saves the day.



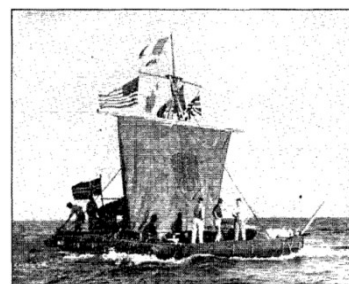
## THE US NAVY'S ON-THE-ROOF GANG: VOLUME I - PRELUDE TO WAR

is a historical novel based on the unknown true-life story of the "On-The-Roof Gang," the U.S. Navy's fledgling radio intelligence organization in the years leading up to World War II. These men would become known as the *On-The-Roof Gang* and were charged with keeping track of the IJN as they prepared for war with the United States.



## KON-TIKI: Across the Pacific by Raft

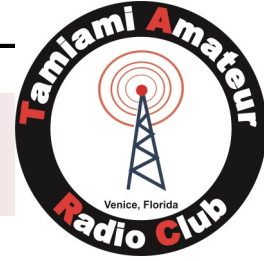
The expedition carried three watertight radio transmitters — one for 40 and 20 meters, one for 10 meters, and a third on 6 meters. Each unit used 2E30 tubes, providing 10 W of RF input. The Kon-Tiki also had onboard a National NC-173 receiver. Dry batteries, which proved problematic during the voyage, and a hand-cranked generator supplied the power. The radio gear would have to withstand the effects of moisture. C. F. Haddock, W1CTW, and H. A. Gardner, W1EHT, of the National Radio Company engineering staff took these considerations into account when designing and constructing the transmitting gear.



[ARRL article: "Most Unusual Expedition" Ever to Rely on Amateur Radio..."](#)

[QST December, 1947 Article: Kon-Tiki Communications Well Done!](#)

# November 2021



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



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

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

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

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sphillips3@gmail.com

**Vice president**

Tom Babcock KN4ONE  
t.m.babcock59@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Patti Phillips N4IGI  
secretary@tamiamiarc.org

**Treasurer**

Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ  
w2xyz@arrl.net

**Directors:**

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San Yoder	K3SY	<a href="mailto:k3sy.73@verizon.net">k3sy.73@verizon.net</a>

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

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

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

Dues:  
Regular member: \$20.00/year  
After 6/1 - \$10.00 to year end. After 10/31 \$20.00 thru next year.  
Family membership: \$25.00/year. Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.  
\*New licensee 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: <http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

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

