



THE COMMUNICATOR



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

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

Incorporated 1984

<http://www.tamiamic.org>

August/September, 2017

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Next month:

How to set up your station to communicate via FT8.

President's message.....KB1HIP

The summer period is coming to an end as kids go back to school and the snowbirds return to Florida.

I am one of the snowbirds..... at the moment in New Hampshire enjoying the nice weather and the terrific seafood and planning to return to Venice in early October to start a new season.

I did not have an opportunity to do too much ham radio this summer. I did go visit Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO and his brother Joe, W1XXV in Maine to help set up Joe's station which includes the Kenwood TS2000 transceiver and the MFJ ALS600 solid state amplifier.

The wiring setup was pretty straightforward but we were not successful in preventing the

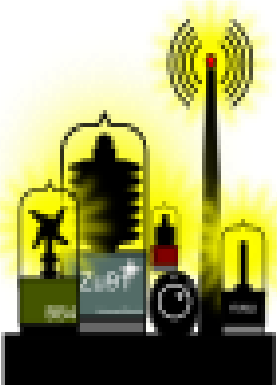
ALS600 from going into fault mode.

Subsequent conversations with MFJ determined the root cause of our problem; the microphone gain on the transceiver was set too high. After Jim and Joe made the adjustments the ALS600 now puts out the specified 500 watts.

We are planning a full slate of activities for the season in addition to the breakfast which I enjoy attending.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable rest of August and September.

VY 73 to All de Andy-KB1HIP



September Meeting

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **13 September, 2017** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive.

DX Jack's page....

..... *By Jack Sproat, W4JS*



MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

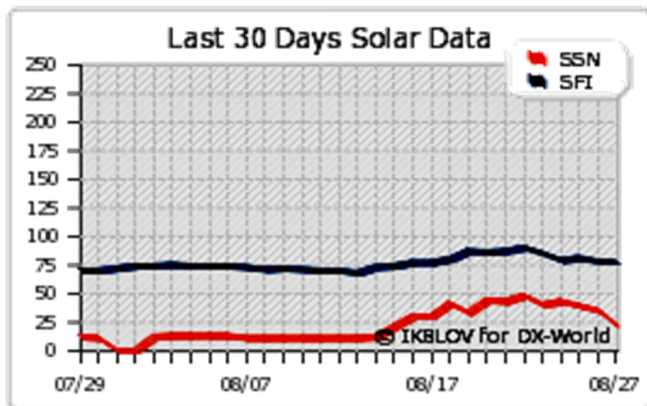
CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY

| COUNTRY – CALL SIGN | ACTIVITY PERIOD | BEARING | HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC) | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | 80 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 12 | 10 |
| French Polynesia – TX5EG by 3-op team | Now to 05 Sept | 243 | 03-12 | 02-13 | 01-13 | 17-03 | 17-01 | 17-03 | 00-01 | NO |
| South Cook Is – E51DLD by W6HB, ++ | Now to 08 Sept | 246 | 04-12 | 02-13 | 02-13 | 23-04 | 18-01 | 18-02 | NO | NO |
| Vanuatu – YJ0AT by KQ2L, **, focus on 40m | Now to 13 Sept | 262 | -- | 05-14 | 04-14 | 01-04 | 00-02 | 20-03 | 2100 | NO |
| Vietnam – XV9WJR by WA7WJR, ** | Now to 17 Sept | 348 | | No | Openings | | Fore-cast | | | |
| South Cook Is – E51JHQ by JA0JHQ, 80-6m | 01 to 04 Sept | 246 | 04-12 | 02-13 | 02-13 | 23-04 | 18-01 | 18-02 | NO | NO |
| Algeria – 7Y94I by Radio Club of Djelfa | 01 to 10 Sept | 62 | 23-06 | 21-05 | 20-03 | 16-22 | 14-22 | NO | NO | NO |
| St. Lucia – J68HZ by K9HZ, 160-6m | 01 to 16 Sept | 119 | 22-11 | 00-24 | 12-02 | 16-23 | 15-02 | 0000 | NO | NO |
| Market Reef – OJ0/OH2BR, HF, incl 60m | 02 to 09 Sept | 30 | 23-06 | 22-00 | 21-00 | 14-19 | 15-19 | NO | NO | NO |
| Mauritius – 3B8/PA3HGT, SSB + Digital | 05 to 22 Sept | 88 | -- | 23-03 | -- | 22-01 | -- | -- | -- | NO |
| Morocco – CN2??? by TA1HZ & TA7AZC | 06 to 13 Sept | 64 | 23-07 | 21-09 | 20-04 | 13-00 | 15-22 | 16-23 | NO | NO |
| French Polynesia – FO/DF1YP, SB + Digital | 06 Sep - 01 Oct | 243 | -- | -- | -- | 16-02 | 17-00 | 17-23 | -- | -- |
| Botswana – A25AL by IW5ELA, ** | 07 to 15 Sept | 105 | 23-05 | 22-06 | 21-06 | 18-09 | 17-19 | 16-18 | 1700 | NO |
| Liechtenstein – HB0/DL2SBY, focus on RTY | 09 to 15 Sept | 46 | 23-06 | 21-07 | 20-10 | 15-19 | 14-21 | 17-19 | NO | NO |
| Dodecanese – SV5/HB90AU, all modes | 09 to 22 Sept | 49 | -- | 21-06 | 21-07 | 17-20 | 16-18 | 16-19 | NO | NO |
| Niue – E6AG by VK5GR, 40-6m, mainly digi | 13 to 25 Sept | 252 | -- | 03-14 | 02-14 | 00-01 | 18-00 | 18-01 | 19-01 | 20-21 |
| Galapagos – HD8M by 5-op team, 160-6m | 14 to 21 Sept | 196 | 23-12 | 00-24 | 12-07 | 13-01 | 16-23 | 15-01 | 17-22 | NO |
| Svalbard – JW/OM6TC, CW & SSB | 15 to 20 Sept | 13 | 00-08 | 23-11 | 22-11 | 13-21 | 13-22 | 16-21 | NO | NO |
| Botswana – A25BI, SP & BE, 160-6m | 15 to 25 Sept | 105 | 23-05 | 22-06 | 21-06 | 18-09 | 16-19 | 16-19 | 16-18 | NO |
| Mauritania – 5T5OK by 9-op team, 160-6m | 16 to 28 Sept | 81 | 22-08 | 20-09 | 19-11 | 13-00 | 16-23 | 15-00 | 1900 | NO |
| St Pierre & Miquelon – FP/M0WUT, et al | 17 to 23 Sept | 39 | 22-11 | 10-04 | 12-01 | 15-22 | 14-00 | NO | NO | NO |
| Palau – T88XA by JA3KIO, 160-10m | 20 to 26 Sept | 307 | 09-12 | 07-13 | 07-13 | 14-16 | 14-17 | 16-17 | NO | NO |
| Micronesia – V63FKR, V63MLO by JA ops | 27 Sep - 02 Oct | 293 | 07-12 | 06-13 | 06-14 | 13-17 | 14-16 | 1530 | 2030 | NO |
| Burkina Faso – XT2AW by DF2WO | 28 Sep – 30 Oct | 83 | -- | 21-08 | 20-09 | 15-23 | 16-21 | 16-21 | NO | NO |
| Temotu – H40GC by Lz1GC, 160-10m | 30 Sep – 20 Oct | 270 | 06-12 | 05-13 | 04-14 | 13-15 | 23-01 | 20-00 | 20-21 | NO |

Updated 28 August 2017 based on 28 August *The Weekly DX*, the 23 August *QRZ DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold = the Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using *W6ELProp* propagation software. Solar Flux and K-index varied by dates in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

-- AUGUST SOLAR ACTIVITY --



(From DX-world.net)

-- SEPTEMBER FORECAST --

Improved seasonal propagation is expected.

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels throughout the month. There is a slight chance for M-class (R1-R2, Minor-Moderate) flares from 01-02 Sep as Region 2672 transits across the visible disk.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at mostly high levels throughout September due to recurrent CH HSS influence. A decrease to moderate levels is expected on 08 Sep, and again on 13

Sep due to electron redistribution associated with the arrival of the CH HSSs.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels on 01-02 Sep, 08-09 Sep, 13-17 Sep, 23-24 Sep and 25-29 Sep with G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels likely on 13-16 Sep and 27 Sep, and G2 (Moderate) geomagnetic storm levels likely on 14-15 Sep due to recurrent CH HSS activity.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 72 to 88, and average 79.8 during September.

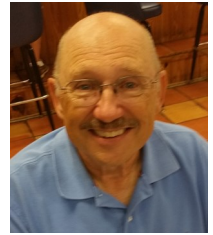
(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 28 August 2017, NOAA 27-day *Space Weather Outlook Table*, 28 August 2017, and 45 *Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 28 August 2017.)

-- OJ0/OH2BR – MARKET REEF --



OH2BR, OH2YQ and UA4WHX will be active as **OJ0/OH2BR** from Market Reef for one week starting September 2nd. (From DX-world.net)

Digital Frank's page • Wizardry By W2XYZ



What's more fun than working DX? Nothing! Well, maybe a couple of things are, but they are usually immoral, illegal, or fattening. Everyone enjoys working new stations on HF. Many of us have very minimal antennas (look, my hand is raised, too), and with this lull in propagation, pickings on the HF bands have been mighty slim. Last month (July), Dr. Joe Taylor did something about that. If you're thinking he banned antenna restrictions or created sunspots, you're totally wrong. Dr. Joe Taylor is an astrophysicist working as a professor at Princeton University. He is a former recipient of a Noble Prize in Physics. He is also K1JT.

Dr. Joe Taylor, or Joe as his parents call him, is the creator of several weak signal digital communication modes. You've probably heard of a couple of his many creations, like the JT65 mode which decodes signals around 25 db below the noise level, and JT9 which is even more sensitive, decoding signals around 27 db below the noise floor. I've used both JT65 and JT9 and have found them amazing. I've made many hundreds of contacts with these modes, many of them with just using five watts and a random length of wire in the attic as an antenna. Now the bad news... At times, I've had more fun watching paint dry than using JT65 or JT9. The reason being because it is so slow. It takes two full minutes to send a 13 character "canned" message and seeing if anyone replied to it. A quick QSO takes six minutes. I'm not knocking JT65 or JT9. I think they are wonderful and I'm thankful we have a means of enjoying our hobby when conditions are far less than perfect. I just wish it was quicker.

TA-DA (trumpet blaring) Enter FT8. Joe Taylor, K1JT and Steve Franke, K9AN developed a new mode called FT8 (Franke-Taylor). Its major claim(s) to glory is that it is four times faster than and almost as sensitive as JT65 or JT9. WOW—now that's what I'm talking about!!! A whole QSO including automatic log entry in 90 seconds. You are still limited to 13 characters in each transmission. Also it is a couple of db less sensitive than JT65, but in my experience I haven't noticed any problem with that.

How does it do it? It uses a modulation scheme of 8 frequency shifted tones spaced 5.86 Hz apart thereby occupying a total bandwidth of on 47 Hz. Furthermore it employs some weird sort of character set that is very efficient and does forward error checking. All that plus time synchronization and three data synchronizations during the transmission make for some pretty amazing results. More info on how it works is available several places online including <https://w5fc.org/2017/07/15/new-digital-mode-from-k1jt-ft8/> or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WSJT_\(amateur_radio_software\)#JT65](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WSJT_(amateur_radio_software)#JT65)

Do you want to know how to get it? You can get this software by sending \$1000.00 in small unmarked bills to W2XYZ or download it for FREE on the <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html> website. If you choose the free method rather than what I think should be your first choice, scroll to near the bottom of the page and look for wsjtx-1.8.0-rc1 in the flavor of your computer's operating system (Windows, Linux, Macintosh).

If you are familiar with using the digital modes and how to install software, you should now have enough experience to get your station on the air with FT8. If you are new to this type of communication and want more detailed instructions, I'll continue this topic next month in the newsletter. Until then...

A BOLT OUT OF THE BLUE

By San Yoder, K3SY

This article was originally published in the Eastside Venice Neighbors magazine in the October, 2015 issue. Since I'm out of town much of July, August, and September it's here to save newsletter prep time. SY

It was a typical Saturday afternoon on the farm in western Pennsylvania in the halcyon days of the mid-fifties. Mr. Snow and his eight-year-old son were fishing across the pond. It looked like it might rain, so my brother-in-law, Bill, and I were hustling to finish mowing the lawn. As our mowers converged on the last pass, CRACK!!! Lightning struck the water just feet from each of the four individuals there – scared the bejeebers out of all of us. With a quick check if anyone was injured, we all fled the scene to seek shelter.

Fast forward a generation to the mid-eighties. The eight-year old, Donald Snow, had grown up, matured, moved west, and became a writer. One of his works was a short story published in the spring 1987 edition of outdoor magazine “Gray’s Sporting Journal”. It was titled “In Someone’s Pursuit”, and dealt entirely with he and his father fishing at Yoder’s pond. In that article he gave a very much embellished account of the lightning strike.

His account read: “The wind that whipped the lawn chairs down suddenly stopped. The charcoal clouds were now a sick ochre. They seemed palpable, as if about to touch my face. Up the bank a ways, Dad hollered something about getting out of there. He was trotting to retrieve the metal lawn chairs when the first bolt hit. It knocked him flat. About the time I opened my lips, the second hit. After that, I don’t remember a thing.” He goes on; “You were flat on the bank when I got to you’ Yoder was saying to me, as if through a tiny horn. I realized my ears were ringing loud. ‘You were lyin’ there starin’ into the pond. That water was right up to your nose. By God, you boys are lucky to be alive.” As I said, the author exercised “poetic license”.

Fast forward once again to 2008. Something motivated me to “Google” Dr. Donald Snow. I found he is a professor of environmental studies at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, so I e-mailed him; noting that I was there when lightning struck while he was fishing, which he so vividly described in his magazine story.

After a month or so of waiting, I assumed my e-mail ended up in a spam folder. But then I received a reply. It opened with – “I apologize for not responding to you sooner. By the time March rolls around, I’m up to my forehead in student papers, senior theses, departmental mischief, and the occasional need to sleep. The semester, and year, ended 25 minutes ago, and now I return to real life, civility and a stack of unanswered correspondence – of which your kind message sat on top.”

Reminiscing followed, and a copy of “Fruit Room” – tales of his growing up, was attached.

I am sometimes amazed that a micro-second burst of electrical energy can weave a thread of memories across generations.



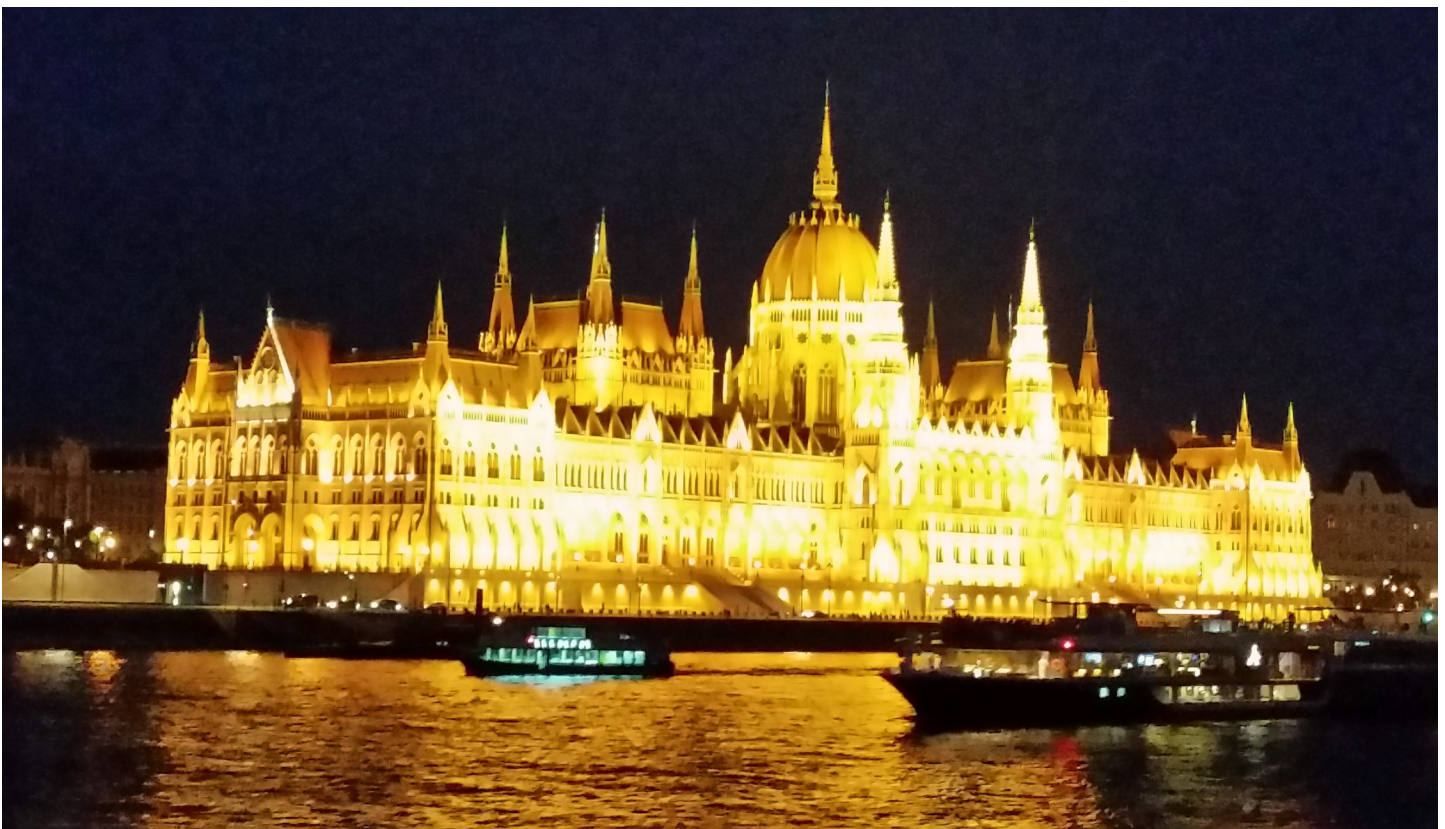
Yoder’s ponds, ca. 1955

Scenes from July's European excursion by K3SY

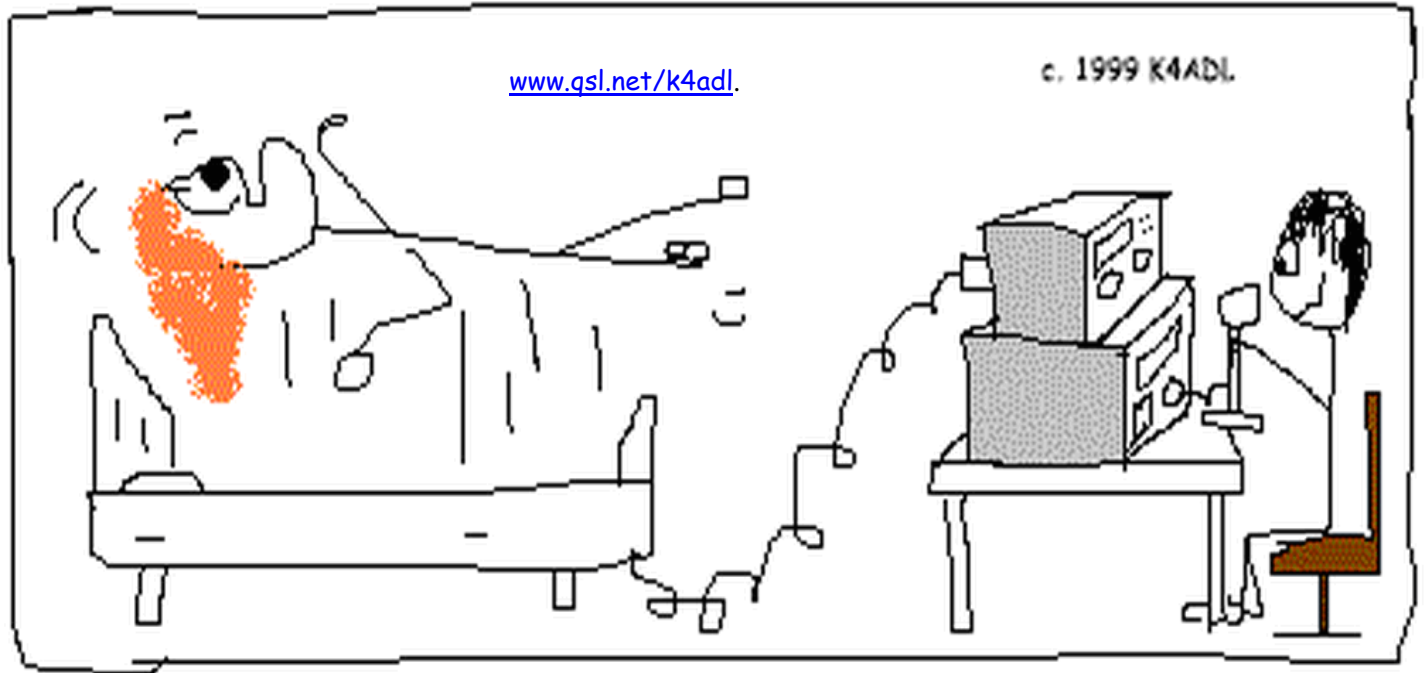


Remnants of the Berlin wall—note the ^ guard tower atop the “Pirates” building

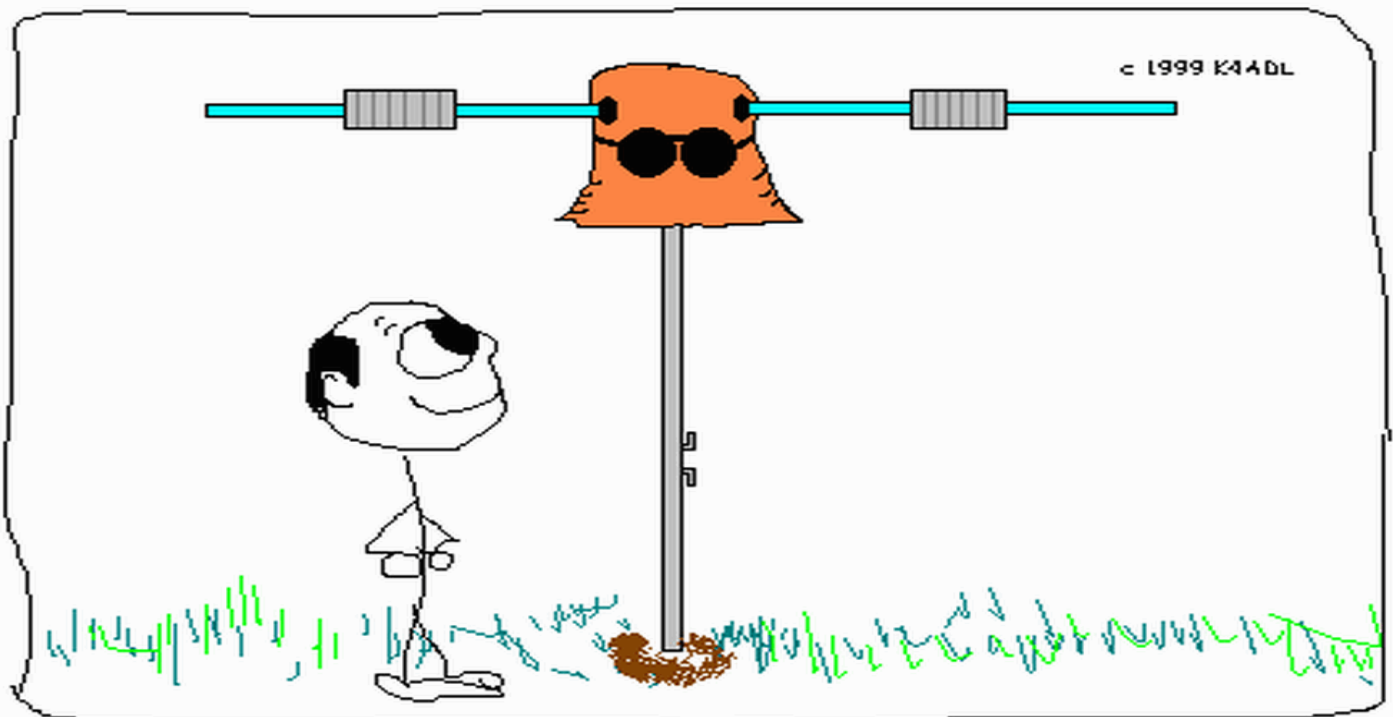
Budapest at sunset



Smile, your HOA is looking out for you!



ONCE A COMMON PRACTICE FOR APARTMENT DWELLERS, LOADING UP THE BEDSPRINGS IS NOW CONSIDERED POLITICALLY INCORRECT.



WARREN REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A "DISGUISED FLAGPOLE ANTENNA."

September 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| * Peaches opens at 6:00 AM, orders taken at 7:00. | | | | | 1 Breakfast @ Peaches * | 2 |
| 3 | 4 QCWA 11:30 AM Hibachi grill | 5 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 | 6 | 7 | 8 Breakfast @ Peaches * | 9 TARC VE Session @ Jacaranda Public Library 10:00 AM |
| 10 | 11 DARN Emergency net @ 11AM Starts on NI4CE/RPT 145.43 p1100 | 12 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 | 13 TARC meeting @ Coast Guard Training Center 7:00 PM | 14 | 15 Breakfast @ Peaches * | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 | 20 | 21 | 22 Breakfast @ Peaches * | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1 | 27 | 28 | 29 Breakfast @ Peaches * | 30 |

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____ Call sign _____ Class _____ ARRL, (Y/N) _____

Local Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ E-Mail _____

Summer Address _____ City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Alt. E-mail _____

Application Date _____ Amount enclosed _____

Please check items of interest:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A - ATV/SSTV | <input type="checkbox"/> L - Echo Link | <input type="checkbox"/> S - Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C - Contests | <input type="checkbox"/> N - Net Control | <input type="checkbox"/> T - Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D - Digital (DMR, PSK, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> O - Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> U - VHF/UHF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E - Emergency Comm. | <input type="checkbox"/> P - Packet | <input type="checkbox"/> V - VE Testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F - Field Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Q - Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> X - DX |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I - RFI/TVI | <input type="checkbox"/> R - Repeater | <input type="checkbox"/> Y - RTTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | | |

**MAIL TO: TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO Box 976
Nokomis, FL 34274**

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2017 TARC OFFICERS: | | | Dues: | |
| President: | Andy Durette | KB1HIP | Regular member | \$20.00/yr. |
| Vice President: | Gary Hagens | K6OC | After 6/1 - | \$10.00 to yr. end |
| Secretary: | Jim Shortill | KJ4NDO | After 10/31 | \$20.00 thru next yr. |
| Treasurer: | Frank Wroblewski | W2XYZ | Family Membership | \$25.00/yr |
| Directors: | Peter Boers | KV4LR | Non Voting Student | \$5.00/yr |
| | Larry Bryan | W8LIG | New licensee - | first year free. |
| | Don Jansen | KI4VGE | | |
| | Tom McDermitt | W3GXV | | |
| | San Yoder | K3SY | | |

*The Communicator is a monthly publication of
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