



THE COMMUNICATOR



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

W4AC Repeaters: 444.100 MHz (DMR), PL 100 Hz & 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100 Hz

Incorporated 1984

http://www.tamiamiarc.org

January, 2017

In this issue:

iii tiiis issue.
President's <u>Message:</u> 1
Meeting Notice:1
Meeting Minutes:2
DX Jack's <u>Page:</u> 3
Digital Frank's <u>Page:</u> 4
WX2C sale <u>Items:</u> 5
Other stuff Pages: 6 to 8
Club Calendar: 9

Next month watch for:
More DMR info.
Intro to 60 meters.

Membership

Application: 10

Please note:

2017 dues are
due. If you neglect to re-up,
this may be your
penultimate
newsletter.

President's message.....KB1HIP

e finished the last year with a wonderful Christmas party at the Left Coast Restaurant. Our thanks to Don Jansen, Jim Shortill and San Yoder who planned and managed this activity. We all enjoyed it very much.

As we finish the year we are excited at the prospect and possibilities of a new year. First, we want to thank all the officers, members of the board, VE team members and we want again to thank Jack Sproat, W4JS, for his seventeen plus years as the editor of the TARC newsletter "The Communicator", who is retiring from this position.

We look forward to a New Year with a combination of old and new leadership which will help us continue to make our Radio Club active, vibrant and fun to be a part of.

The Officers are myself, KB1HIP, as President, Gary Hagens, K6OC, as Vice-President, Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO as Secretary, and Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ as Treasurer. San Yoder, K3SY, will assume the responsibility of editing the "Communicator" and also will serve on the board.

Other board members will be Peter Boers, KV4LR, Guenther Henning, AJ4QX, Tom McDermitt, W3GXV, Don Jansen, KI4VGE, and Larry Bryan, W8LIG. Don Jansen will take over the responsibility of coordinating the monthly FCC sanctioned

Volunteer Examiner (VE) Amateur Radio testing.

We plan to have more activities and training this coming year. We have the Sharks tooth 10K Run that we have committed to monitor on 04 March, and we plan to operate as K4S at the annual Sharks tooth festival on 07-09 April.

We are active in planning a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) training session which will take place in the near future.

The WX2C donated items sale will be held in January, and February will be tied up with the Orlando Hamcation, so we will need activities for March and beyond. Please think about some options.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

VY 73 to All, de Andy-KB1HIP

January Meeting

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **11 January, 2017** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Items donated by the estate of WX2C will be offered for sale. See page 5.

Happy New Year

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the 12/14/16 Meeting

President Andy Durette, KB1HIP, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with the pledge to the Flag. Introductions were made all around by name and call sign.

MINUTES: President Durette requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 9 November 2016 meeting as published in the Communicator. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: President Durette read a thank you letter from the Venice Public Library thanking the club for a donation of \$90.00.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer San Yoder, K3Sy, reported a beginning balance of \$5,254.57, income of \$650.00 and an ending balance of \$5,904.57.

SUNSHINE: Jack Sproat, W4JS, was in the hospital for a short time, but is now recovering comfortably at home.

The club was notified that a long time member, John B. Parsons, K3OTY, an Extra class Ham, had died. Our club offers our sympathy to his family.

VE TESTING: On the 10 December VE session there were two candidates and they both passed the Element 2 exam for Technician licenses.

LIAISON TO QCWA: Gary Hagens, K6OC, reported there were 35 Suncoast Chapter 53 members and spouses and friends in attendance at the December 5th. lunch at the new location - the Oriental Buffet on Bee Ridge road in Sarasota. The program was an entertaining and informative power point/video program on China by Guy Spencer, KT4GUY.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Both the 146.805 MHz repeater and the 444.10 digital repeaters are operating satisfactorily. Glen Hyde, N4MXQ, Reported that 7 - 12 members on average sign into the 444.100MHz digital net.

MEMBERSHIP: San Yoder reported that the club had 68 members.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. A reminder, the TARC Christmas party is this Friday, 16 December, from 4-5 PM. Cocktails are available; Supper is from 5 - 7 PM. Door prizes are waiting for the lucky winner.

- 2. President Durette asked the membership if someone would volunteer to create a certificate for the donation that the Club is giving to the flotilla. After reflection by the membership the club realized that, at this time, we did not have the art capability. The matter was tabled temporarily.
- 3. Tom McDermitt agreed to audit the club books. Club finances have not been audited for two years and the Board requested that an audit be performed.
- 4. Status of two meter station, 146.805MHz. Both the Board and the club members addressed this issue. Gary Hagens, K6OC, noted that the station was

running well and was meeting club and community needs. He moved that the club continue analogue operation without any change. The motion was seconded by Mel Walter, KD9EIN. Motion unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. San Yoder, K3SY, was confirmed as the new editor of the Communicator. Members or Hams who read the Communicator who have articles or ideas for articles are urged to contact San.

- 2. The Shark Tooth 10K road race is scheduled for Saturday, March 4th. The Shark Tooth Festival will be held 7 9 April 2017. The club provides short wave radio safety over watch for the 10K runners and operates special event station K4S during the Festival. The Secretary requested volunteers and 8 members volunteered to participate in the 10K event and 7 for the Festival. Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, agreed to conduct a communications test at the airport using the new digital radios to ensure that they would function properly during the 10K road race
- 3. The club received a donation of Ham equipment from the estate of Raymond Baker, WX2C. This equipment will be auctioned off during the January meeting. Because there is a lot of gear, the January meeting may be shortened to conduct the auction. Members will receive notice via the Communicator of the equipment that is available for auction. Please keep in mind that the club has not tested this equipment and no guarantees are offered.
- 4. Mr. Glen Hyde, N4MXQ, acting as the Club nominating committee, presented a slate of officers for the next year consisting of: Andy Durette, President, Gary Hagens, VP, Frank Wroblewski, Treasurer, Jim Shortill, Secretary, and San Yoder as Director and Editor of the Communicator. By motion made and seconded, the membership unanimously accepted the slate of officers for the 2017 year.
- 5. Glen also volunteered to manage a technical class session for members who want to learn digital procedures or Echolink.

A reminder: The 2017 Orlando Hamcation will be held February 10, 11, and 12, 2017, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32808

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The number of members attending was 15.

Program: The program consisted of three presentations: Frank Wroblewski presented a photographic program about our repeater site; Dave Gill, K4JDG, displayed a National Parks map of contacts made during the National Parks on the Air program. Dave was a "chaser," ferreting out hard to confirm signals. He made over 400 confirmed contacts; Hans Napfel,WB2ZZB, presented a slide and music presentation titled: "Life Before Radio", that explored the human condition before the harnessing of electricity and the development of two way radio.

DX Jack's page....

...... By Jack Sproat, W4JS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY CALL SIGN ACTIVITY BEAR- HF BANDS and BEST (OPENING TIMES (UTC)					
COUNTRY - CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Minami Torishima – JD1/JG8NQJ **	Now to 15 March	308				15-16	NO	NO		NO
Kenya – 5Z4/AK0SK, 100w, SSB	Now to 06 Jan	76	23-04	22-04		19-21	19-20	1900	NO	NO
Palau - T8CW by JH0IXE, all modes & 6m	26 Dec to 06 Jan	306	08-13	07-14	13-15	14-17	15-17	1630	NO	NO
Canary Is – EA8/IV3HAX; CW, PSK, RTTY	27 Dec to 06 Jan	72	21-09	18-01	13-22	14-20	15-19	16-18	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7ND by LZ1COM	30 Dec to 05 Jan	41	23-01	22-02	NO	20-21	18-19	NO	NO	NO
Qatar – A70X, team op, all modes	01 to 07 January	45	22-04	21-04	23-01	18-21	1500	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7AZ by DL8AZ, SSB	02 to 11 January	41		22-02		20-21	18-19	NO	NO	NO
Laos – XW4XR by AA4XR, CW, RY, JT65	03 to 21 January	353	1200	1200	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Micronesia – V63ARJ, LSS, AVO, etc.	04 to 22 January	293	07-13	06-15	13-16	14-16	15-16	2100	NO	NO
South Cook Is – E51AMF by K7ADD	05 to 09 January	246	04-13	03-15	13-15	17-22	17-22	18-22	NO	NO
Laos – XW4ZW by K4ZW, focus low bands	06 to 16 January	353	1200	1200	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
PE & Marion Is – ZS8Z by ZS1BCE	07 Jan to 2018	130	23-03	22-04	22-04	21-23	NO	NO	NO	NO
Cyprus SBA – ZC4SB by G0GSB, CW/SSB	11 to25 January	48	22-06	21-06	19-02	14-16				
North Cook Is – E51AMF by K7ADD	11 Jan to 06 Feb	255	04-13	03-15	04-16	17-23	18-21	17-21	18-21	NO
Palau - T88SM, T88HS, T88TK, etc.	12 to 18 January	306	08-13	07-14	13-16	15-17	16-17	NO	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0AA, FM, WW; all modes	20 Jan to 23 Feb	262	07-13	06-15	13-16	14-18	15-21	20-21	NO	NO
Iceland – TF/DL1NX by PY2SEX	20 to 26 January	28	22-12	12-14	14-18	15-17	16-17	NO	NO	NO
Guinea Bissau – J5UAP by HA3AUI, **	20 Jan to 03 Mar	90	22-09	19-09	17-23	14-21	15-20	15-20	NO	NO
Senegal – 6W2SC by HA3AUI, **	20 Jan to 03 Mar	87	22-09	19-10	17-23	14-21	16-19	15-19	NO	NO
Ivory Coast – TU5MH, 4-op team, all modes	22 Jan to 02 Feb	90	22-08	20-09	19-23	14-21	15-19	15-19	NO	NO

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

Updated 27 December 2016 based on the 19 December 2016 *The Weekly DX*, the 21 December *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.

-- DECEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through to 26 December, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 71 to 85, with a mean value of 75.5 (vs. 113.0 for December 2015 and 141.3 for December 2014), and the A_p index was \geq 7 on 14 days. Through 26 December, the sunspot number ranged from 0 to 62, with a mean of 19.4.

Solar activity through to 26 December was quiet with five Class C solar flares. Geomagnetic disturbances caused the A_p to peak from 32 to 39 on the 8th and 9th, 32 on 11th, and 32-67 on 21 and 22 Dec.

-- JANUARY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels throughout January. No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to G1 (Minor) levels on 04-05 Jan, 17-19 Jan, and 31 Jan. Active conditions are likely on 06-07 Jan, 20-21 Jan, and 26 Jan. Unsettled conditions are likely on 02-03 Jan, 08 Jan, 14 Jan, 22 Jan, 27 Jan, and 29-30 Jan. All anticipated enhancements in field activity are due to recurrent CH HSSs. Mostly quiet conditions are expected for the remainder of the month.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 73 to 79, and average 76 during January.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 26 December 2016, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 26 December 2016, and

45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 26 December 2016.)

-- SOME DX TO LOOK FOR -



Remo-HB9SHD is active from Uepi Island, IOTA OC-149, as H44SHD. He'll return home on 10 January.



Mauro-IV3HAX is returning to the Canary Islands for another CW, RTTY and PSK operation from 27 Dec to 06 Jan. (See propagation in DX table.)

(TNX to http://www.dxcoffee.com/eng/ for the info.)

Digital Frank's page..

By W2XYZ

The 1010101010101010s of DMR

Are we having fun yet? If you own an MD-380 DMR handheld radio, the answer might be NO. And why not??? Because you need information on how to program it and use it. You were told you can do all sorts of cool things like being able to talk to repeaters around the world and across the nation. But you are used to talking on the local ana-



log repeater and need to know what's different. Well relief is at hand. I'll walk you through it. Let's take it a step at a time.

Here's some important information about the DMR system:

First of all, your radio is capable of storing info for 1000 channels, so no need to worry about filling the thing up. The knob on top lets you select any of 16 pre-programmed channels. A group of 16 channels is called a ZONE. You can program a maximum of 250 zones to your radio, so plenty of space there also. If you desire, you can mix analog channels and DMR channels in the same zone.

This month's article will look at how you can acquire the needed software and install it on your computer. Future articles will help you 'see' what's in your radio. We'll also learn to save the contents so you can screw-up your radio when programming it and still get it back to the way it was. Later we'll talk about getting other repeaters (like those up north, or wherever) programmed into your radio for when you sojourn to the northland or other parts of our beautiful state.

To begin with, you'll need a computer with a Windows operating system, programming software, programming cable, and of course the MD-380 radio. In the box Tytera sent you with the radio, you should have a programming cable, and a small CD with programming software on it. That CD is likely outdated. Let's go online and get the good stuff.

Fire up your browser and go to this URL: http://www.tyt888.com/?mod=download

Once you reach the web site, simply read the Chinese instructions, or wait two seconds for the computer to translate it to English. You'll see a smorgasbord of programs to pick from. Select "MD380" or "Programming software for MD380". This is the one we'll download. If you download the wrong program, your radio won't work, the economy will falter, and you may even be accused of hacking into the Chinese election process.

When your pointer is over "MD-380" click the left mouse button. This will cause the browser to open a box at the bottom of the page, asking what you want to do. Select "SAVE AS" (picking "SAVE" would have also worked, but this is easier in the long run). Another big box opens and you'll see where the program will be saved (C:\Downloads on my computer). Write this information down on a piece of paper because we are going to need it in a couple of minutes. {...waiting while you write it down...} Okay, now with your pointer over the "SAVE AS" hit the ENTER button and the file highlighted in blue (201612201332310.rar on my computer) will begin its journey from China to your hard drive. This file designation may change, depending on the latest version there.

Good job! Go get something to drink because it will take from five to twenty minutes to completely download. {...are you back yet?...} Hope you can still see straight after that drink!

Now, if you are computer savvy and adventuresome, you can proceed to extract the downloaded file and install the application on your computer. Or you can wait until next month, and I will walk you through the process.

In the meantime, I suggest you apply for your DMR radio ID. Without it not much will happen. Go to this URL and follow the instructions:

https://www.dmr-marc.net/cgi-bin/trbo-database/userreg.cgi

They will e-mail your ID and you will be ready to use the program once you successfully load it.

OK, I've used my allotted space for this month. Until February - 73, and kerchunk carefully.

These items donated to TARC by the estate of Raymond Baker, WX2C, will be offered for sale at the January club meeting.

Autex Research WM-1, Deluxe Compu-MFJ 945E Mobile Antenna Tuner Low 23. 1. ting SWR/watt Meter Power 2. Kenwood TS-50 Transceiver 24. Royce Field Strength/SWR Meter 3. Kenwood AT-50 Auto Antenna Tuner 25. MFJ - 941D Versa Tuner 26. Kenwood MC-80 Desk Mike 4. MFJ 495 Memory Keyer 5. Radio Shack 10 amp, 12v DC Supply 27. Two (2) Ameritron ARB-704 Interface Radio Shack 3 amp, 12v DC Supply 6. 28. Bus Bar/ Ground Bar, mounted and predrilled Ameritron Model ALS 600 Amplifier with 7. Ameritron ALS-600PS power supply 29. ICOM Model 718, HF Transceiver with box 8. (2) Two Ameritron RS-35A power supplies (could be used with ICOM 718) ICOM Model 718, HF Transceiver 30. transceiver units, see below. 31. ICOM Model IC-180 Auto Tuner Yaesu FT-5100 UHF/VHF Transceiver. 9. 32. ICOM IC-20 Desk Mike 10. Kenwood TM-261A UHF Transceiver 33. ICOM IC-50 Desk Mike Ameritron Model AL80B Amplifier with 11. internal power supply with spare 34. MFJ-1775 Mini-Dipole Multi Band 572B tube Antenna 12. MFJ-1214 Computer Interface 35. Alpha Delta Four Position Switch 13. MFJ-8621 VHF Data Interface 36. LDG Model 600 Watt Meter 14. MFJ-12723Microphone / TNC Switch 37. Plastic parts box with coax plugs and sockets 15. LDG Model AT-600 Auto Tuner 38. MFJ Model 1704 four position switch 16. LDG Model AT-1000 Auto Tuner with 39. Five (6) cardboard boxes of surprising power supply miscellaneous radio gear, some antique, some not, plus plastic tubs and a large plastic footlocker. 17. Radio Shack HTX Transceiver with Mike 18. Radio Shack Model HTA-20 2 Meter. 30 Misc coax and grounding wire. Watt Amplifier 40. 19. Kenwood AT-50 auto Antenna Tuner 41. Lafayette Field Strength Meter / SWR Meter 20. Radio Shack HTX-10 all Mode Transceiv-42. er, 10 Meter Band ICOM Model IC-T7A FM Transceiver

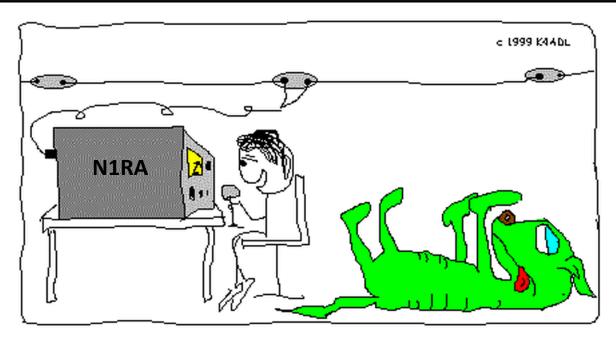
21.

22.

Kenwood MC-60 Desk Mike

MFJ-259B HF-VHF SWR Analyzer

UHF/VHF Hand Held Radio with Manual



DELIGHTED AT HOW WELL HE GETS OUT WITH A KILOWATT AND AN INDOOR DIPOLE,
BOB GIVES LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE EFFECTS OF NEAR-FIELD RF.

Thanks to K4ADL for generating "kartoons" that seem to use TARC hams as inspiration.





Scenes from TARC Christmas party at Left Coast Seafood, 12/16/16



The usual suspects at Peaches

Editors Dits and Dahs - - - -

t all started in the mid-fifties. I began listening to hams on the old Silvertone short-wave radio, which led to my first attempt at Morse code. About the same time, I signed up for a journalism course in high school. That resulted in my being named editor of my high school newspaper. It took another twenty years to really learn the code and pass the technician/advanced/extra tests.

Fast forward to the early '90s. The Lehigh Valley Corvair Club lost its newsletter editor. I stepped forward then and edited "The Fifth Wheel" for eleven years until I moved to Florida in 2004.

It seems that "what goes around, comes around". When "DX Jack" announced his retirement from editing "The Communicator", I waited patiently for someone to volunteer. That didn't seem to be happening, so I decided to trade my job as treasurer for a new endeavor as editor of the TARC newsletter.

I hope I can do half as good a job as Jack did. I will try to make the publication interesting, informative and relevant. I solicit help from all club members – including written articles, ideas, suggestions, and constructive criticism.

73, de San, K3SY



TARC member

Bob Curts,

KA9ZAZ

Silent Key

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 QCWA 11:30 AM Oriental Buf- fet 4458 Bee Ridge	3 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	4	5 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	6 Breakfast @ Peaches *	7
8	9	10 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	11 TARC meet- ing @ Coast Guard Train- ing Center 7:00 PM	12 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	13 Breakfast @ Peaches *	14 TARC VE Session @ Jacaranda Public Library 10:00 AM
15	16 DARN Emergency net @ 11AM Starts on NI4CE/RPT 145.43 pl100	17 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	18	19 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	20 Breakfast @ Peaches *	21
22	23	24 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	25	26 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	27 Breakfast @ Peaches *	28
29	30	31 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1			* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM, or- ders taken at 7:00.	

^{**} If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater is inoperative, nets may move to 146.580 MHz simplex. Thanks for your cooperation.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name		Call sign	Class	ARRL, (Y/N)		
Local Address		City	Zi	p		
PhoneCell_		1	E-Mail	[ail		
Summer Addres	8	City	St	_ Zip		
Phone	Alt. I	E-mail				
Application Date	e	Amount enclose	ed			
 C - Contests D - Digital (DMR, PSK, etc.) E - Emergency Comm. F - Field Day I - RFI/TVI Other (Specify) 		[] P - Packet [] Q - Publicity [] R - Repeater	ol [U - VHF/UHF V - VE Testing X - DX Y - RTTY		
2017 TARC OFF President: Vice President: Secretary: Treasurer: Directors:	Nokomis, FL 3 TICERS: Andy Durette Gary Hagens Jim Shortill Frank Wroblewski Peter Boers Larry Bryan Don Jansen Guenther Hennig Tom McDermitt	KB1HIP K6OC KJ4NDO W2XYZ KV4LR W8LIG KI4VGE	After 10/31 Family Member Non Voting St	\$10.00 to yr. end \$20.00 thru next yr. ership \$25.00/yr		

The Communicator is a monthly publication of The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Editor: San Yoder, K3SY http://www.tamiamiarc.org Webmaster: Dave Gill, K4JDG

K3SY

San Yoder