

QRM de TARC

April 2003

Special Interest Articles:

- Letter from the President.
- Letter from the HF Director
- Letter from the VHF Director

Repeater Status



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QRM Making Noise Again

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

After being away for several years a new and exciting format for the club newsletter, *QRM*, has been designed by Bruce Orand, N4ZXI, Director of the TARC HF Council.

QRM has been the traditional method established a couple of generations ago for club information to be disseminated to the

members. With the advent of hamclub.org, the TARC webpage, and the email reflector (tarc@hamclub.org) the tried and true newsletter had been put on the shelf. After some discussion by the Board of Directors it was determined that there still would be value in reviving *QRM* not only to provide members with information about club activities but also as a marketing tool to let non-

members know what we are up to.

The new format will have distinct advantages over the old *QRM* published by the club in the late 90's. First, and most important, it will be published in a .pdf format which will allow *QRM* to be widely distributed over the internet to members and non-members alike. This will give us

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Letter from the President – QTC TARC

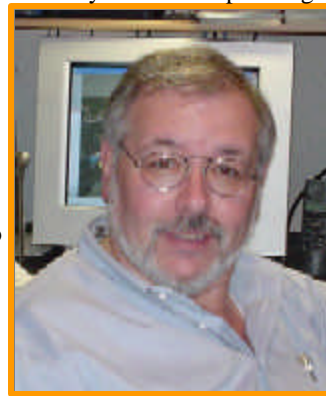
By Biff Craine, K4LAW

The success of any organization is dependent on the growth of that organization. The challenge for TARC in the new millennium has been to structure itself in such fashion that new members coming to the club will feel that they have come to a place where they are welcome, they can make friends with those who share their interest in amateur

radio, and they have an opportunity to expand their operating knowledge and skills. As a club, we are working toward those objectives.

We are working to make the facility available to members. There is seldom a Monday night where the club isn't open by 6:00 for our 7:30 meetings. HF Council Director Jim Gerhart, WA3DIT, has dedicated his Sunday afternoons to

opening up the clubhouse for all to enjoy. We have the ability to have 4 operating



Letter from the HF Director- How Does It Do That?

By Jim Gerhart – WA3DIT



Back in 1964 I went over to a ham's house. His call is W3FIE – Jim Stone. I walked into his shack, which was a spare bedroom at his house in Philadelphia. On one side of the room were two rows of radio equipment. Coming out of the speaker was a voice of someone that he was talking to. I don't remember who it was but I do remember that it was several states away and I wondered...."how does it do that"? The other thing that caught my attention was all those switches and knobs. "What do they do"? From

these two questions I went on to get my ham license and join in the fun.

HF operation has always been my favorite area of operation as it is for many people. But in an era of deed restrictions and limited space the opportunity to own and operate a premier HF station is difficult. My goal as HF Director is for the Club to offer this aspect of Amateur Radio in the European and Chinese Model. In these two locales it is customary to find radio clubs offering stations for the use of its members who either don't have the real estate or the

finances to have personal stations. Our HF operating positions in the Radio Room are complete. Our next stage is to increase the number of antennas so that we'll have multiple choices on the different bands. I love wire.....lots and lots of wire; so listen on the Nets and read the Newsletter for the additions of new antennas for the HF Bands.

Want to operate HF but don't have a station or the license? Come down to the Clubhouse Sunday afternoons and operate to your delight. Hope to see you there.

Letter from the VHF Director

By Bruce Orand – N4ZXI

I want to thank all of you for your votes that have placed me in the VHF Director's seat. It has been a long time since I was President of TBARS all those years ago. Much has changed since then, and all of it very positive.

In the months to come I would like to survey the membership to help

determine a course line for the VHF committee. Possible directions can be an ATV repeater where we could also include training courses and other special programs. Hmmm, a Ham-TV? Also the possibility of setting up a TARC IRLP system, more repeaters. I am also going to help coordinate a new session of the ARECC courses for more of the TARC membership.

Currently we have over a dozen that have passed levels 1, 2 and 3. We are among the highest with our numbers, but we can do better. Even if you never have to perform during an emergency, you can always use the skills learned in any event, even the weekly nets.

Which, by the way are on Tuesday nights at 8:00pm.



Repeater Status

by Mike Flether-NI4M

The 105 repeater now has a new controller. It was recently installed by Wes K4NQ with some assistance from yours truly, Mike, NI4M. The new controller will allow us to be more flexible with our messages and IDs. The old 105 controller will be refurbished and installed in the new 440 machine which will improve

the 440 repeater near Tampa Stadium. Remember the coordinated tone for 105 is 146.2 but we are using 103.5 temporarily and will revert to 146.2 in the near future. The 443.025 machine uses a 103.5 tone.

Repeater tip of the month.

It is impolite to "jump in" to someone's conversation to make a call then continue to

talk for 20 minutes. If you break in to make a call and contact the station you want to talk to have them switch to another repeater or maybe even Simplex. Yes Simplex, that is the mode your radio is in when the + and - symbols both disappear.



Presidents letter – continued.

positions in use simultaneously and our goal of providing quality equipment for our members use has been met and continues to get better.

We are working to provide our members with training. Morse code classes are available for those who ask one hour prior to our Monday meetings. Many of our members are willing to help newer hams learn about operating techniques and procedures...a process known in ham radio as Elmering. Being an Elmer is the best way we have to guarantee that new hams benefit from the decades of hamming that many of our members have and readily share. Remember, no one knows everything, but collectively we come darn close. Even if you have been a ham the last 10 years, I would suggest to you that there are

many things left to learn. There are no dumb questions, only dumb people that don't ask them.

One thing we need to work on is to emphasize the importance of membership in the American Radio Relay League. The ARRL publishes QST, the Journal of Amateur Radio, however, the magazine is one of the least important facets of membership. The ARRL is the voice for amateur radio in Washington and the world, constantly battling for the preservation, growth and development of our hobby. When commercial interests threaten to pay the government millions of dollars to take our operating privileges, it is the ARRL that is there fighting for our frequencies. If not for the ARRL, many of the VHF/UHF/SHF frequencies would be lost. And there will be many battles ahead.

If you are not a member of the ARRL or have not been a member of the ARRL for the last three years, TARC has arranged a special subsidized rate available to TARC members that will allow ARRL membership at an unbelievable rate of \$20 - \$19 off the normal annual dues. Support of the ARRL is critical to preserving our hobby.

We are working hard at TARC to provide our members with a wide variety of options to be part of amateur radio. Please take advantage of your club and all it has to offer. And if there is something the club should be offering its members, please feel free to make any suggestions that you may have.

See you Monday.

... ..

Florida House Minority Leader, WF4B, Doug Wiles

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

The Minority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives is ham radio operator Doug Wiles, (D) - St. Augustine, WF4B. Representative Wiles, 50, has lived in Florida all of his life, although he was born in Andalusia, Alabama. A graduate of the University of

Florida, Wiles is the owner of his own insurance agency in St. Augustine and a member of the Florida Legislature since 1996.

Doug proudly lists amateur radio as one of his recreational interests, in addition to sailing. Check Doug out at

<http://www.myfloridahouse.com> and click on Minority Leader.

*Doug Wiles – D
Florida House
Minority Leader*



...of club activities such as the first ever TARC-BARS picnic...

continued - QRM

the ability to let hams both in and out of the club learn about our club activities here at TARC, in living color and without killing a tree or licking a stamp. We will provide some hard copies for distribution to those without email capabilities and to be available at the clubhouse for our new members as they join. Also, by providing *QRM* in .pdf format, each edition can be conveniently archived on the webpage and easily pulled up for later reference. If your shack is like mine, there is too much paper that you never throw away but never really keep organized.

A second major advantage of the new format is adding the flexibility to include color pictures of club activities such as the first ever TARC-BARS picnic (see article inside). If a picture is worth a thousand words, this new format will be worth millions. Several of our members have digital cameras and take pictures from meetings and other events such as our annual Charley's outing at the Orlando Hamcation. Now we have a great way of disseminating the information.

A third advantage of the new *QRM* will be the ability to imbed links to websites in articles that are published. This will offer the reader the ability to obtain more information than is contained in the pages of *QRM* on topics of interest with a simple click of the mouse.

Finally, this format will allow us to more frequently publish *QRM*. Got an idea for a story? Write it and email it to Bruce, N4ZXI, who can publish it in *QRM* or on the club webpage at www.hamclub.org.

We hope you all

TARCFest IX April 19th 2003

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

TARCFest IX, "Florida's Friendliest Tailgate" is just around the corner. The date for the Tampa Amateur Radio Club Tailgate is

Saturday April 19, 2003, with set up for tailgaters beginning at 7:00am and trading opening up at 8:00am to the public. The tailgate runs usually until about 1:00pm or until the last lie is sold or last boat anchor is sold. Talk In will be on the 147.105 repeater. All are welcome.

This will be our ninth tailgate and each one has been fun and exciting.

TARCFest VIII in August 2002 was our most successful event to date with a record number of sellers and even more buyers. This

April all the traders will once again gather under the shade trees at our clubhouse to wheel and deal.

Admission will be \$2 per person with children 12 and under free. Those who wish to set up for tailgating will be charged an additional \$3. Plenty of spaces will be available in the tailgate area for sellers. And of course, free parking for the buyers. There are a limited number of spaces inside with indoor tables at \$15.00.

For additional details please feel free to view our webpage at

www.hamclub.org or if you have any specific questions email k4law@arrl.net.

We look forward to the same big crowds we had last August and, as always, hamburgers, hot

dogs and liquid refreshments will be available

throughout the morning.

Come for the fun, come for the deals. Come to TARCFest IX!

Directions: From anywhere take I-275 to Sligh Avenue, proceed east on Sligh to the intersection of Sligh and 22nd Street and turn left (north) at the light. The Tampa Amateur Radio Club Amateur Radio Operations Center is at the end of 22nd Street, 7801 N. 22nd Street in the shade of the KLM KT34 XA.

See you there.



"Admission will be \$2 per person with children 12 and under free."



Hearing Set on California Amateur Radio Antenna Bill

From the *ARRL Letter*

A legislative committee hearing has been set for March 26 on California's latest attempt to pass an Amateur Radio antenna bill, Assembly Bill 1228. The measure, introduced February 21 by Assemblyman Bob Dutton (R-63rd), has been referred to the Committee on Local Government.

ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and ARRL staffer and antenna expert Dean Straw, N6BV, are among those scheduled to testify on behalf of AB 1228 later this month before the committee.

In 2000, the California Legislature passed a bill incorporating the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1, but Gov Gray Davis vetoed the measure. Davis said at the time that he turned down the bill, then known as SB-1714, because funds for required studies were not included in his budget and because he considered amateur

antennas "a local rather than a state issue." ARRL Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, says AB 1228 addresses Gov Davis' objection to the 2000 bill by eliminating the need for a study at taxpayer expense. Goddard says the committee also is addressing concerns already raised by The League of California Cities.

Goddard said he and the late Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF, were involved in reviving the Amateur Radio antenna bill during the current legislative session. But he cited Mike Mitchell, W6RW, as "the sparkplug" of the 2003 PRB-1 bill committee. The committee is composed of Northern and Southern California hams, since California spans two ARRL divisions.

The new bill would incorporate the language of PRB-1 into California's statutes. AB 1228 would require any ordinance regulating Amateur Radio antenna structures to not

preclude Amateur Radio Service communications, to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communications, to allow amateur station antenna structures "at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate Amateur Radio Service communications," and to constitute "the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the city or county."

So far, 16 states have incorporated the essence of PRB-1 into their laws. An Amateur Radio antenna bill awaits the governor's signature in Utah, and similar measures are pending in several other states.

A copy of the proposed legislation is available on the California Legislature Web site
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/a_b_1201-1250/ab_1228_bill_20030221_introduced.html>.



TARC's Door is Always Open

In a literal sense, we do lock the door, but figuratively speaking, the door of TARC is open to all budding hams!

Over the years we have taught and instructed many to gain their "ticket." And for those who already had their license, we have been able to get upgrade them when desired.

One of the more interesting features of the club-house is the massive amount of space we have. Meetings and classes of 50 or 60 people are not a problem. And with the radio room isolated from the main hall, we can

let a few of the die-hards pound the key in peace without being bothered.

If you are new to ham radio, or have never been to the clubhouse, I invite you take a trip some Monday evening and enjoy the fellowship of a truly wonderful group.

Meetings are:
Each Monday - 7:30 pm
North of Sligh at the end of 22nd Street.

1st Monday – HF Council
2nd Monday – VHF Council
3rd Monday – Program night
4th Monday – General
5th Monday – Clean up



What Do We Do When Not on the Radio?



If there is one thing that Hams like to do; it's eat. And the members and friends of TARC are no exception to that statement. To the left is a brief shot of the Orlando HamCation Dinner XI. Each year when Orlando holds it's HamCation, the members of TARC get together on that Saturday night and trek out to Charley's Steak House for a relaxing and filling evening of steak, fellowship, steak, a few drinks, steak, a bit of Bravo Sierra, and we cannot forget the steaks.

However, we do not wait for Orlando to get a bite. The TARC crew seems to have found just about every restaurant in town! And if we haven't, we will. When do we do this? I'm glad you asked! There are snack nights after the meetings, but the better time is to come out on the "First Wednesday" of each month. Tune in to the '105 to find out where everyone is going, and bring your appetite.

Now You Know the Rest of the Story

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

Seldom if ever to you hear words of praise for amateur radio in the media. The following was excerpted from Paul Harvey's March 19, 2003 radio program and posted to the TARC reflector by Warren Elly, W1GUD.

"America's quiet warriors...are the legion of Ham Radio operators.

SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND of them who are always at ready for back-up duty in emergencies. Amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornados--after the nine-one-one attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the

disaster to the Space-Shuttle Columbia. And right now, at this moment...they are involved in Homeland Security to a greater degree than...you would want me...to make public." -Paul Harvey, 3/19 mid-day broadcast, ABC Radio.

Now we know the rest of the story. Thanks Paul.

Good day!



America's quiet warriors....

TARC/BARS Spring Fling Fun

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

The first ever TARC/BARS Spring Fling was a tremendous success. Judging from a review of the pictures documenting the event (www.hamclub.org click on "Friends") and the fact that there were no leftovers, everyone had a great time. Hopefully, instead of the first ever, that was the first annual. It was great time, fun for those who brought their families and

featured all levels of technology from the satellite station set up that Tony, W4TAS and Keith, N4ZQ provided to horseshoe pitching. All of the operating positions were up and running, but the focus was face to face rag chewing and fellowship.

For all those that came out and shared a good time of friendship and fellowship, the fun you had was thanks enough. For all those that helped get things ready and helped with all of the work on

Saturday special thanks are due. Among those that did some serious lifting included our EC (excellent cook) Gary, KC5QCN, who took command and control of the grill and produced 80 tasty hamburgers and 48 great hot dogs. Watch out Mel. Also thanks go to Ron, KC4HAY, who put the finishing touches on the cleanup before, and after the event and fixed up a grill that he has donated to the club that did a great job keeping up with the hardy ham appetites. Also the Thursday night cleaning

crew that brought order to the chaos down at the clubhouse. There were many hands that made the work light, you know who you are and thanks again. Special thanks also go to Ed, W7LGD for promoting the event among the BARS members who really turned out in force.

Now all we need to do is set the date for next year's TARC/BARS Spring Fling.





Tampa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
HF Council W4DUG
VHF/UHF Council N4TP
Post Office Box 11933
Tampa, FL 33680

Membership Application

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____ Class N T T+ G A E

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Year 1st licensed _____ Member ARRL Y/N _____

Home Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____ Email: _____

Enter desired password for your HamClub.org e-mail account _____ (already have one) _____

We are in need of people to teach and/or take classes, operate out of the clubhouse during contests and on weekends, operate during emergencies, and just help out around the club. If you think you can be available for any of these or other activities please mark them below. Thank you.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code Proficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Theory Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Code |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TVI/BCI | <input type="checkbox"/> VE Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Talks/Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Club Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> News Letter Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Author | <input type="checkbox"/> CW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSB | <input type="checkbox"/> QRP | <input type="checkbox"/> DX |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Handling | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Modes | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeaters | <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF Multi-Mode |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSTV/ATV | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> EME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Band Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Communications | |

Signature of Member _____ Date _____ Sponsor Signature _____

Tampa Amateur Radio Club

TARC
7801 N. 22nd Street
Tampa, FL

Mail To:
P.O. Box 11933
Tampa, FL 33680

E-Mail:
Info@HamClub.org

*Amateur Radio for
the 21st Century*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.HamClub.org



The Amateurs Code by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE..... never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL..... offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented

nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE..... with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY..... with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-

operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED..... Radio is an advocacy, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC..... with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.



About TARC...

The Tampa Amateur Radio club is focused on the growth and development of ham operators in the hobby and in the support of our local, national and international emergency communication needs.

Will Ham Radio be Shut Down if War is Declared?

From the *ARRL Letter*

Some amateurs have been wondering if the FCC will shut down Amateur Radio in the event that war breaks out in the Middle East. The short answer is "no."

Just prior to the Gulf War, §214.4(b)(4) of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations was deleted. This section had mandated the closing of all Amateur Radio stations except Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations in the event that the president proclaimed a war or national emergency. The last time Amateur Radio

was shut down was during World War II, although the FCC continued to give Amateur Radio examinations. While the Amateur Radio Service will not automatically be shut down if the President invokes the War Powers Act, Amateur Radio licensees must continue to observe any directives the FCC may issue in the interests of national security and of making spectrum available for government use.

The FCC is directed to work in coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

(NTIA) to issue "appropriate rules, regulations, orders and instructions" for use of the spectrum "as may be necessary to ensure the effective use of those portions of the radio spectrum shared by government and non-government users." Amateurs share most UHF allocations with the US government.

