This is the first of the TARC Newsletters called "QRM". Unfortunately, presently I do not have in my computer a program(s) that will produce the kind of newsletter we are looking to have. That will change in the future. For now you'll have to put up without 'whirly-birds' and cuties. This edition will be like the Sgt. Friday from the old TV series Dragnet -- "just the facts". -- Editor

LATE BREAKING NEWS !!!!!!!

THE ALUNIMUM IS IN THE AIR !!!! STOP BY THE CLUBHOUSE AND SEE THE 110 FOOT TOWERS SPORTING THE TWO-ELEMENT 40 METER BEAM AND THE FORCE12 TRI-BAND C-31 BEAM.

See the end of the newsletter for more pictures

TARCFest XIV August 27, 2005

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

The summertime version of TARCFest, TARCFest XIV (TARCFest 14 for those who are not Roman) will be held the last Saturday in August, August 27th.

TARCFest XIV, "*Florida's Friendliest Tailgate*" is coming up in the summer shade of the TARC Clubhouse grounds. The date for the fourteenth Tampa Amateur Radio Club Tailgate is Saturday **August 27th 2005**. Set up for tailgaters begins at 7:00am and trading opens up at 8:00am to the buyers. The tailgate runs usually until about 1:00pm or until the last lie is told or last boatanchor sold. Talk In will be on the 147.105 repeater (if the tone is on it is 146.2). All are welcome.

This will be our fourteenth tailgate and each one has been fun and exciting. TARCFest XIII in April 2005 was a huge success with a near-record number of sellers and buyers.

This August the traders will once again gather under the shade trees at the 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 in advance.

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 in April and, as always, hamburgers, hot dogs, specialty sandwiches and liquid refreshments will be available throughout the morning.

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

Directions: From I-4 Take the Hillsborough Avenue (US 92) exit west to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, AROC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

From I-275 take the Sligh Avenue exit east to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, TAROC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

From I-75 take I-4 west to Hillsborough Avenue (US 92) exit west to 22nd Street and turn North on 22nd Street, AROC is located at on the right at the end of 22nd Street.

See you there.

Late breaking news: Kathy and Mark are going to be selling Philly Cheese Steaks !!
(Antacids can be purchased at the 7-11 at the corner of 22nd & Sligh Aves.)

FROM N4ZXI ABOUT THE HAMCLUB.ORG WEB SITE

Oh, What a Tangled Web We Weave...

Now that the new home for HamClub.org has been obtained I have been working on the "Look and feel" that should help with some of the suggestions that have been made to make the site more inviting and easier to navigate.

One of the best things the new site has is a big pipe! For the RF heads, we are going from QRP to a KW! More on that later.

I hope you all like the new format and functions, it is a fresh look. Have a suggestion or

contribution? Drop me an e-mail from the contact page on the site.
73, and keep pushing the radio frontier

N4ZXI - Bruce Orand
Website Administrator

Emergency Management and Amateur Radio: A partnership that helps people….

Larry - KR4X Emergency Manager, Hillsbourgh County, Florida

Many doomsayers have trumpeted the death of amateur radio as a viable hobby in this modern communications age. Some would say "What is the use of spending thousands of dollars on radios when one can talk worldwide via the internet?" The only rebuttal I can offer is that when the proverbial "#$@% hits the fan" two-way radio seems to be the system of communications that communities fall back on to insure vital emergency services. I do not have to be redundant and point out all the things accomplished by amateur radio operators last summer during Florida's historical hurricane season. I will only say that those of us whose job it is to respond and recover from disasters know who we can rely on when the chips are down.

I want to point out some obvious things that amateur radio operators can do to better endear themselves to emergency personnel.

1. Be organized and have a clear mission or tasking. Showing up unannounced causes more problems than it fixes.
2. Think ahead and know what potential communications a devastated community needs. Come prepared to fill those needs.
3. Align yourself with a recognized disaster response agency, i.e. Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. These agencies have a clearly identified mission during times of disaster.
4. Build on your creative capabilities. The ability to assist in reestablishing existing communications might be the greatest benefit you can offer, i.e. Hardee County's Sheriff Radio system restored by hams.
5. Participate in the local ARES/RACES program. This organization is already recognized by local authorities and will aid in getting a useful mission assigned during a disaster.

Amateur Radio has a long a distinguished career in improving the art of radio communications as well as helping their communities respond to disasters. You, as a new ham have to carry that torch forward. Utilize all of the frequencies and modes of communications available to you. Think outside of the box.

Larry/KR4X

Lu - K4LVR

ECHO LINK & THE TARC 440 MACHINE

The Tampa Amateur Radio club currently has Echolink facilities over their UHF Repeater - N4TP. This repeaters is on a frequency of 443.025 positive offset with a sub audible tone (CTCSS or PL) of 146.2Hz

The Club's Echolink connectivity is managed by Lu Romero - K4LVR and bears his call sign. The system is available for use by all licensed amateurs from 6am to 1:30am daily.

What is Echolink? It's a system that effectively creates a long speaker, microphone and push to talk extension cord from a radio to another radio over the public Internet using Voice over IP technology.

Echolink is a fun mode, enabling worldwide communications with amateurs from around the world.

Using the Echolink system on the UHF repeater is simple. You can control most functions on the system using your radio's touch-tone pad. For more information, see www.hamclub.org. Look for the Echolink tab on the left frame of the webpage. There you will find instructions on the use of the system.

Simple instructions can also be acquired by accessing the repeater, giving your call sign and pressing *411 on your touch-tone pad. The Echolink system will give you a quick run down on how the system is to be used.

For more information about the Echolink system on the UHF repeater, please contact

Lu, K4LVR at **k4lvr@hamclub.org.**

Greetings TARCians!

We are pleased, and grateful, to announce our first CERT Net on the .105 this Wednesday (7/20) starting at 8:00 p.m. The purpose of this Net is to encourage the many shy CERT Hams to GET ON THE AIR! We will take check ins, have announcements, provide information about CERT on the air, and take traffic from any and all participants.

You are all invited and welcome to listen in, check in, ask questions and participate in this Net. Perhaps as a result of this Net, some CERT folks will become more interested in Ham Radio? Perhaps some TARC folks will become interested in CERT? It can't hurt!

Speaking on behalf of the CERT Planning Team, I wish to thank the TARC Board and members for the gracious use of the repeater for our group. We are very aware of how difficult communications WILL be during an emergency situation. If these new Hams don't practice when it's calm and quiet, they'll never be able to handle communications when it's all blowing around and a huge mess!

Thank you for your patience and forbearance with our use of your repeater.

Sincerely,
Jodi Pecoraro
KI4FWJ

TARC WOWS CUBS!!

By Warren Elly W1GUD

Editor's Note: TARC Hams have made a tradition of helping Tampa Cub Scouts enjoy their annual June Day Camp along the Hillsborough River at Plant Park on the University of Tampa Campus…

June 2003- The freckle faced kid had done the Ham Radio rotation at Cub Scout Day Camp. He'd told an Ohio ham on 20 meters his favorite color and favorite sports team. Using portable radios he learned are called HTs, he'd talked to his buddies on 2 meters across the field. And he'd used a Morse code oscillator and a chart of the alphabet and code characters to send his name to his partner, and listened as the partner did the same. I asked him if he'd done all the activities and he said yes. He asked if he could do one of them again. Which one? The freckle faced kid pointed to the code oscillators.

The kid and 168 other Cub Scouts from the Gulf Ridge Council enjoyed opening day of Summer Day Camp making name tags out of leather and yarn with paint and wooden mallets. They swam, shot arrows and BB guns. And they got a hands on introduction to Amateur Radio with more than a dozen volunteers from the Tampa Amateur Radio Club. This was our 10th year supporting the day camp.

With only a few weeks to Field Day, it was a tune up of sorts for TARC. The camp operates from Plant Park, a beautiful spot at the University of Tampa along the Hillsborough River. We set up a tower trailer from ARES-RACES, and used one of the club's FORCE12 C3E tribanders and HAM IV rotators. Code practice oscillators, 2meter hand helds, and an ICOM IC-746 rounded out the operation. But there was one more thing that could be considered a Field Day warm up. Rain and thunder showers.

Fortunately we'd set up the tower trailer next to the building that the scouts would use in case of inclement weather. So when the heavens opened just before lunch time, TARC members were able to grab the radios, the code oscillators, and the coax, and move operations indoors.

While the Cubs and their Leaders set up marble games and bowling to replace the bow and arrow and BB gun range, TARC was able to keep the radios and Morse going without missing a beat.

The TARCFest Legacy

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

The year was 1997 and the Tampa Amateur Radio Club, a longtime resident of Davis Islands was given notice that their landlord wanted them to leave the island. Club members went through all of the normal reactions – anger, denial, etc. Paul Nerger, KF9EY was TARC president at the time and we began exploring alternatives to folding out tent and going home.

We had been residents at our clubhouse facility for 50 years – since 1947 when the Coast Guard had no further use for their brig. That's right friends. For 50 years, TARC was in the old Coast Guard brig used during WWII and put out to pasture shortly after the war's conclusion.

We had a darn fine windmill tower with a crow's nest (or widow's walk) at 45 feet allowing easy work at the top on the club tribander. At the other end of the coax our setup was not as nice. The brig was small, divided into three smaller rooms. The largest was the meeting room where all business (and more than a little consumption of 807's, or beer) was conducted. It was fortunate that we only had 47 members back then. The room comfortably seated 12. There was an area off the main room where the refrigerator lived, the window air conditioner unit didn't (I quickly learned why we never met in the summer months until after labor day), and the bathrooms (the one that worked was the Men's Room).

The radio room was L shaped and had homebrew shelving where years of operating had taken place. The operating positions were made of wood, but made well. This shack was designed for the days when a mobile radio was simply one with casters on the bottom. The operating chairs were wooden ass-killers, which did not lend themselves to contesting and rag chewing.

And then there was the room that we only opened to get the lawn mower out of once a month and the generator once a year (on Field Day). You should have seen the stuff we found in there when we moved.

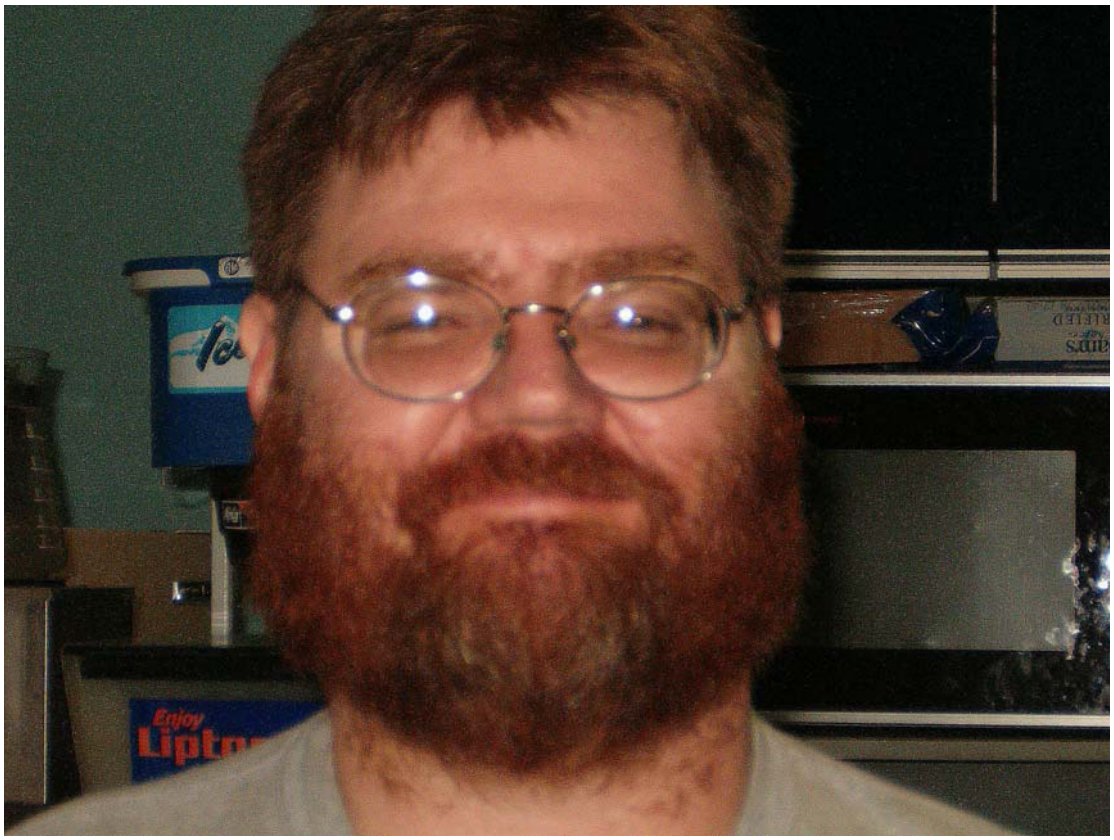
One thing that all of the rooms had in common, other than being a haven for Amateur Radio enthusiasts to go one night a month and on every Saturday morning to be among their own, was rats. Big coax-eating rats. One of our members used to put out trays of antifreeze as poison in an effort to kill them, however, the big coax-eating rats seemed to enjoy the antifreeze. We suggested he add a twist of lime.

Forward to 1998, with Joe Gigliotti, W4EMI as TARC President (he had a different call back then – KT4JJ). The club had been struggling with the idea of moving to another facility. After all, our utility bill never exceeded $10. We had waterfront property at +4 ft above sea level. We had coax-eating rats. We had a home that we could afford. Then the light went on. We should be able to make money at the new location that the City had put forth to make us happy to leave the brig. We could have tailgates at the new

place. Charge a little money. Do it twice a year. We can make the place pay for itself!

And thus my friends, TARCFest was born. Our first TARCFest, TARCFest I was held in April of 1999. A small group of people (about 175 which was actually a pleasant surprise) came and had a great time. The club happily made about $700 on that first TARCFest (counting several $100 Founder Donations pledged at the event). We routinely have doubled the attendance and the take for TARCFest, infusing the club treasury with the majority of the dollars that have gone to building improvements, towers, antennae, coax etc. at our new clubhouse. It is hard to believe that we are now closing in on TARCFest XIV. Seven years of TARCFests.

There are many pictures from past TARCFests on our website at www.hamclub.org . You should take the time to review them and see the pictoral history of TARCFest.



Sorting out the dits and dahs… Wes K4NQ

We've got a class started for people who want to learn Morse Code. We're not talking 35-wpm, contest grade operator training here, just the necessary competency needed to pass the Element 1 code exam without any stress or sorrow. We've started off using a code training CD created by a clever fellow named Chuck Adams, K7QO.

Go to his website at http://www.k7qo.net/ and check it out. If you have any trouble

getting and making the course CD just drop me an e-mail at k4nq@hamclub.org and I'll see what I can do to make you one. I'm not going to make dozens of them, so try to do it yourself first!

Come on down to the clubhouse on Monday evenings at about 6:30 PM and take a swing at it. Despite what many have said, Morse isn't that hard to learn and you may just find yourself enjoying it. Just don't tell anyone I said that…

73 es CUL de K4NQ

WEAK SIGNAL HAM RADIO

An Introduction from W1GUD EL87RV

Editor's Note: There is a whole other world of Ham Radio that most folks are already licensed for; it's called Weak Signals, running SSB, CW and the DIGITAL modes above 30 MHz...

We have just, at the TARC Clubhouse, finished installing antennas for this mode covering the six through 1.2 GHz bands on tower number two.
These notes from a club house program night serve as a primer to would be weak signal DXers!

GRID SQUARES
-World Divided into 32,000 Maidenhead Locator Squares
-The Grids are the currency of Weak Signal Hams, VUCC Awards

Grid Squares describe a location on the earth's surface based on lat/lon. This system is useful for aiming antennas and as an exchange in contests. The grid locator can be 2, 4 or 6 characters. The biggest "squares" (fields) are 10° of latitude and 20° of longitude. They are labeled with a letter for each (the "letter" squares, eg EL for all but a piece of Florida in the panhandle). The middle sized squares (grid squares) are 1/10th the size and are designated by numbers (the "number" squares, eg EL87 for Tampa). The baby sized squares are 1/24th the size again and get you to within a few miles of your location, indicated in two letters eg EL87RV for W1GUD qth.

THE BANDS ABOVE 30 MHZ

50.060-50.080 BEACONS
50.100-50.125 DX WINDOW
50.110 DX CALLING FREQUENCY
50.125 CALLING FREQUENCY
50.200 CALLING FREQUENCY

144.010-144.060 EME WINDOW
144.110 CW CALLING FREQUENCY
144.200 CALLING FREQUENCY
144.275-144.300 BEACONS

432.000-432.050 EME WINDOW
432.100 CALLING FREQUENCY
432.300-432.400 BEACONS

CALLING FREQUENCIES AREN'T FOR RAG CHEWS!!!

BAND OPENINGS AND DX

TROPOSPHERE- WHERE THE WEATHER IS, LAST 10 MILES ATMOSPHERE

-Tropo or Ducting (Troposphere Ducting) 144 MHz and above-Ducts are natural waveguides that trap signals close to the Earth for hundreds of miles with little loss of signal strength. Caused by weather patterns, Tropo usually intensifies after sunset and peaks just after sunrise. It can last for hours, or days. DX 1,000 miles and beyond routinely worked, even with low power and small antennas. Look for static highs on the weather map, off the east coast in the Atlantic, or along the Gulf of Mexico towards Texas.

-Tropo Scatter created by different by temperature and humidity gradients usually 500 miles maximum

IONOSPHERE- BETWEEN 50 AND 400 MILES ATMOSPHERE

-Sporadic E or E Skip 50MHz and above, the most dramatic DX producer of all, primarily on 50MHz. Results from formation of thin but unusually dense clouds of ionization in the E layer. These clouds appear to move about, intensify, and disappear rapidly and without warning. The causes of E skip are not fully understood. From late May to early August. A less intense E season usually occurs during December and January. Contacts as long as 3 and 4 thousand miles are commonplace.

-TE for Transequatorial (Field-Aligned irregularities) Creates paths 2500-5000 miles on 50 MHz and less commonly on 144 MHz. Only works for stations equally distant from the geomagnetic equator. Lucky for us, only US stations in Florida and California can normally make TE contacts, into South America of course.

This is a spring and fall event, tied to the March and September equinoxes, especially when solar activity is at the high point of the cycle.

-Meteor scatter-when meteors enter the Earth's atmosphere, they ionize a small trail through the E layer. This ionization typically lasts only a few seconds at 50MHz and even shorter at the higher frequencies. Before the ionization trail dissipates, the ionization can scatter, or sometimes reflect, VHF signals. Meteor scatter signals may not last long, but hey can be surprisingly strong, popping suddenly out of the noise and then slowly fading away.

PROPAGATION INDICATORS

Use commercial TV and FM broadcast stations, TV channels 2 through 6…look for evidence of more than one station on the same channel, which means sporadic E! The FM band 88-108 MHz is in the gap between TV channels 6 and 7, also useful for propagation. Some folks monitor the Weather Radio Band at 160 MHz. There are also hundreds of beacons on the bands all over the country. This is perhaps the best single indication of propagation that may be underway.

OPERATING TECHNIQUES

LISTEN. LISTEN. LISTEN.
DO NOT RAG CHEW ON THE CALLING FREQUENCIES
SPECIAL TECHNIQUES FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROPAGATION

And last but not least……

SUBMITTED BY AN ANNONMOUS HAM WHO DOES NOT HAVE A WIFE

Top Reasons why radios are better than Women

1. Radios don't get upset no matter how late you come home.

2. Radios do not spend any time in the bathroom

3. Radios do not mind if your shack looks like its ready to be declared a toxic waste site.

4. Radios never want to go shopping.

5. Radios don't care that you have no sense of direction. That's why computers with logging programs that automatically tell the rotor to turn the beam to the country were invented.

6. Radios don't complain about how much beer you drink or how many times you burp.

7. Radios never expect gifts such as flowers and dinner.

8. Radios don't want to spend holidays with their parents.

9. Radios don't need "quality quiet time together". They want to be used hot and heavy and run full out.

10. Radios don't mind if you watch football games all weekend as long as there isn't a big contest going on.


10 11:12AM