



The TARC Reflector for May 2014

Hi Folks,

Here we are once again, time for the newsletter and I am sitting here contemplating what should be written. This is never going to be easy for me, for one I am not a writer and second I still feel like this is not my place.

If you were not at the meeting this past month you missed a great evening. The food and staff were great at Rock Bottom Seafood. Also, you missed the election of an officer. We now have a Vice President.

You will need to check out the minutes to see who it is.



The following T A R C Family Members have May Birthdays!

Steve Williams May 1st

David Myers May 5th

Amy Castleberry May 7th

Colby Swicord May 10th

Marianne Scholer May 13th

Dewey Rykard May 14th

Ashley Pitts May 21st

Dawn Kitchens May 26th

Alan Terrell May 27th

Sherri Neidlinger May 28th

Don't see your birthday? Let us know at w4ucj.tarc@gmail.com

A+ Test Results

There was a test session in April that yielded one new technician. He did an excellent job by only missing two questions. Way to go!
Jason Daughtry, KM4ARK

As you can see the FCC is in a new call series which are KM calls.



Make
sure that
you join
us at the
Rag
Chew
Breakfast

on Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at Seminole Wind in
Thomasville.

TARC Calendar for May

May 3rd – Monthly Meeting – 6pm

May 17th – Radio Reunion

May 17th – Test Session – TBD

April Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Announcements

Everyone was welcomed back to Rock Bottom Seafood. We were shy a few people but the place was still packed.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Bobby was not present for the reading of these.

Old Business

The tailgate went very well and John thanked everyone for coming out and helping.

The Radio Reunion has been set and it will be May 17, 2014. Bill will put us on the calendar. William is suppose to do the cooking of boston butts again. A flyer and email will go out closer to time for this event.

New Business

The nominating committee had done there job by coming up with two names for the position of Vice President, Stewart and Gary. After the club voted Gary is now your new vice president.

Once Gary was named Vice President he quickly went to work by making a motion that there be a committee put together to go over the by laws and make changes.

Field Day is approaching the dates for that are June 28 and 29. If you are wanting to help with this event please contact John or Gary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Swicord for Leann Doering, Secretary

The Great Circle

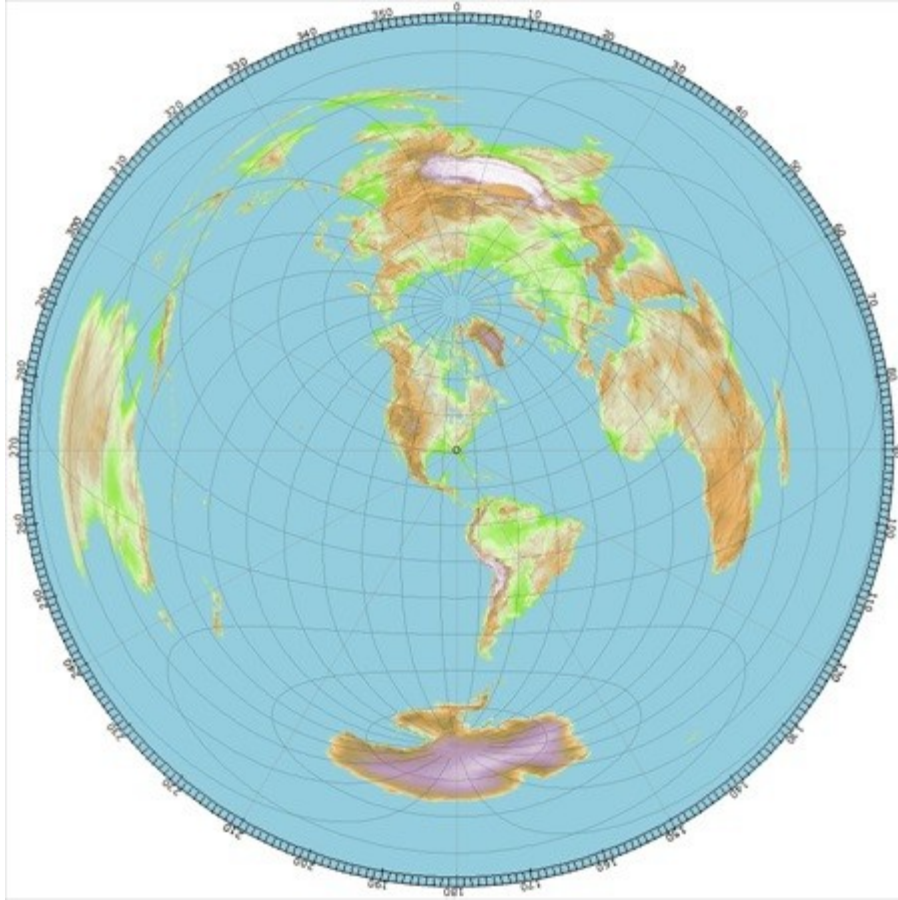
We all have a preconceived notion of what direction the stations we hear and work are. We can always go to qrz.com, look up a station, and get a bearing. But that's a rather tedious process. And we may get a bearing that "doesn't seem right," based on our notions of geography.

So based on how radio waves travel, here is a short true-false quiz:

1. Europe is due east of us
2. Asia is due west of us
3. South America is due south of us
4. California is due west of us

Did you answer them all correctly? The answer to each of them is False. Surprised? We have been looking at rectangular grid maps for so long that we have developed some erroneous notions about where in relation to "us" most other places are.

For local VHF and UHF signals the short distances mean that our line of sight direction is easy to understand. But radio waves travel the same way airplanes fly, by the "great circle" which is the actual shortest distance between two points. Here's a picture of a great circle map centered on Thomasville GA.



So you can see that Europe is centered on a 45 degree (northeast) bearing. Most of Asia is North of us. Almost all of South America is Southeast of us. None of California is due west of us, but part of Baja California in Mexico is.

If you took the General License class the questions refer to the Great Circle map as an “azimuthal projection,” meaning it shows you the azimuthal compass point from you to a second point on earth, by the shortest distance possible.

If you are erecting any kind of directional antenna (even a dipole is directional) this is information you need to know. For example, from Thomasville most of the US is covered by an antenna where the main horizontal lobe is centered on 300 degrees. The rest is covered pretty well with an antenna that is directional due north. This is good information for

Field Day, for instance. Most of Europe is at 45 degrees. And so on around the globe.

You can download free software from <http://www.qsl.net/sm3gsj/> that will draw your own map based on your location. All you need to know is your 6 character grid square. The software will let you save a map to your desktop and you can print it out for reference.

That's all for this month, have fun exploring the world with amateur radio.

de Lowell ny4d

Update on Steve Williams

Steve has been moved to a facility in Tallahassee. It is Select Specialty Hospital. He is doing okay but still does not have control of his legs and his mental state changes daily. The card that was signed at the meeting has been sent.