



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341
W4AC Repeaters – 444.100 MHz(+) & 146.805 MHz(-) both w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- JANUARY 2016 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

December definitely t'was the season and I hope all of you had a Merry and Enjoyable Holiday. Now the New Year is upon us and time to go to work for the new year.

Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO is our new Secretary, and Jim will be updating the member Biodata of the Board of Directors (found on the TARC site and the last page of this newsletter) plus his self-found new goal of working with the local Boy Scouts of America. This latter endeavor needs the worthy support of the entire membership so let's be there whenever needed by Jim.

Next on the agenda for 2016, we need volunteers for the Sharks Tooth 10K Run on Saturday 05 March. We need ten "early risers" so please contact me. Next on the table is the Sharks Tooth Festival which will be held 08-10 April, and we have in hand the authorization to operate special event station K4S on those dates. The plea this year is for on-site operators. The equipment is already to go and we will have a new site on the Festival grounds.

That leaves June and it's been many years since there was TARC participation in a Field Day event so how about it????????

In closing may I thank Dave Gill-K4JDG for his term as Secretary and Jack-W4JS for his unwavering work on *The Communicator*, a Thank You for all our Club members.

VY 73 de Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI

-- JANUARY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **13 January 2016** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. The program has not been determined at "press time" but Program Director Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will undoubtedly have something to offer of interest to all.

Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.

A dose of adversity is often as needful as a dose of medicine.

-- PAY YOUR 2016 DUES ANYTIME --

Just a reminder that two months remain for payment of your 2016 dues. See Treasurer San Yoder-K3SY at a Peach's breakfast or at our meetings. If you can't attend those events, please mail your \$25 check direct to him at.

1820 Batello Drive
Venice, FL 34292



European countries have been sponsoring year-long on-the-air events for several years. The year-long Bulgarian Saints event has been held for several years, with special call signs every month. During 2015, Russia has celebrated the "Literary Year of Russia" with special event stations. Russia also was the primary sponsor of the year-long special event operation commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the IARU. (The US could not participate as the FCC will not issue the special **90IARU call signs.) Short-term special event operations have been offered by Belarus, Lithuania, etc. Such events provide activity on the HF bands, especially between major DXpeditions, and attractive certificates are available gratis via e-mail.

In 2014, the ARRL sponsored its W1AW/** and W100AW to commemorate its 100th Anniversary. For 2016, it is sponsoring a year-long opportunity for "Activators" to get on the air from National Parks and for "Chasers" to contact these stations. (Never mind that such federal areas are nowhere specified in the US Constitution—but that's another story.) However, in order to get any of the NPOTA certificates being offered, you **MUST** be a participant in the ARRL's Log-book of The World. No paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. *So mote it be.*

**Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
9 December 2015**

President Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a flag pledge. Introductions were then made all around. Paul Arnold from Nokomis was our honored guest.

MINUTES – Fred requested a motion to accept the minutes of the 11 November 2015 meeting as published in the December 2015 issue of *The Communicator*. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX so moved, seconded by Jack Sproat-W4JS, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

TREASURER'S REPORT – San Yoder-K3SY reported that the starting balance on 11/01/2105 was \$4,737.57. There were Receipts of \$18.50 for the 50/50 raffle, \$375 for Dues, and \$325 for Christmas Dinners for a total of \$718.50. There were no Expenses leaving a closing balance of \$5,456.07. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Gary Hagens-K6OC, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE - Nothing known

VE TESTING – 7 candidates lined up at this time for the 12 December VE session.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Both the 146.805 and 444.100 machines are operating satisfactorily.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – San Yoder-K3SY reported we have 55 regular members, 1 complimentary member, 8 student members and 4 life members for a total of 68 members.

NET OPERATIONS – Fred reminded all of our 440 and 2-meter nets

LIAISON TO QCWA – There were 35 members and spouses at the 2 December lunch at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL. Dennis Blanchard-K1YPP gave a presentation on Hiking the Vermont Long Trail which included some QRPp operating along the way.

OLD BUSINESS – Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO discussed more about the Scouts and possible help on getting their Technician License.

NEW BUSINESS – Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX announced the findings for 2016 TARC Officers nominations. He also questioned if the club had a quorum of members present to hold elections. A quorum at a regular meeting is 10% of membership minus student members, so the requirement was met.

A motion was made by San Yoder-K3SY for the elections. Bob Avrutik-N1RA moved for ac-

ceptance of the motion, seconded by Glenn Hyde-N4MXQ, and passed.

Elections were held and the following people are now TARC Officers for 2016: President: Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, Vice President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP, Secretary: Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO, Treasurer: San Yoder-K3SY. Board of Directors are: Peter Boers-KV4LR, Larry Bryan-W8LIG, Gary Hagens-K6OC, Glenn Hyde-N4MXQ and Tom McDermitt-W3GXV.

A Reminder of the Christmas Dinner at Left Coast Seafood on December 12 was made.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Stan Robinson-W9SMR reported that Sarasota Emergency Radio Club-SERC had a drill coming up and was looking for volunteers to support it.

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:40 PM, a motion to adjourn was made by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, seconded by Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB, and passed. There were 17 members and 1 visitor present.

PROGRAM – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB showed a video on the 2015 K1N Navassa Island DXpedition.

Dave Gill-K4JDG

Secretary



INDEXA



These are the national/international organizations that help keep Amateur Radio alive. While dues to the ARRL are not eligible as a charitable donation, any funds contributed to INDEXA and the NCDXF are fully tax deductible as they are both 501(c)(3) organizations.

To affirm is to make firm.

Advice, when most needed, is least heeded.

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 |
| Sable Is – CY0/VA1AXC; ++, 21-23Z | Now to 31 Jan | 41 | 21-13 | 11-07 | -- | 14-20 | 15-18 | 15-18 | NO | NO |
| Rotuma – 3D2AG/p; all modes | Now to 15 Jan | 263 | 06-13 | 04-15 | 12-15 | 18-00 | 18-23 | 19-21 | 20-21 | 20-21 |
| Laos – XW4XR; by 3W3B, CW & RTTY | Now to 15 Jan | 353 | 1200 | 11-12 | NO | 23-00 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Vanuatu – YJ4AO; by DL7VOA, holiday styl | Now to 13 Jan | 262 | 07-13 | 05-15 | 13-15 | 14-18 | 19-22 | 20-22 | 15-18 | NO |
| Senegal – 6W/WA3DX; spare time op ++ | Now to 12 Jan | 87 | -- | 19-09 | -- | 13-22 | 14-20 | 16-19 | 16-18 | 16-19 |
| Kenya – 5Z4/M0LEP; CW & SSB | Now to 10 Jan | 76 | -- | 22-04 | 23-00 | 19-22 | 19-21 | 20-21 | 2000 | 1900 |
| So. Cook Is – E51LLA; by OZ6TL, **, RY | Now to 09 Jan | 246 | 05-13 | 03-14 | 03-15 | 16-00 | 17-23 | 18-22 | 18-22 | 18-22 |
| Ogasawara – JD1BMH; by JG7PSJ, all modes | Now to 09 Jan | 317 | 07-13 | 06-14 | 13-15 | 21-23 | 21-23 | 2200 | NO | NO |
| Reunion – FR/F5UOW; CW, digi, spare time | Now to 08 Jan | 91 | -- | 22-02 | 22-00 | 20-23 | 18-21 | 2100 | 2100 | 2000 |
| Kyrgyzstan – EX/HB9DUR; focus on hi bands | Now to 08 Jan | 18 | 23-03 | 22-03 | 00-01 | 19-21 | 1330 | NO | NO | NO |
| Zimbabwe – Z21LS; by 7Z1HB, SB, CW, RY | Now to 07 Jan | 97 | 22-04 | 21-05 | 21-00 | 18-22 | 17-21 | 16-18 | 16-18 | 16-19 |
| Palau – T8CW; by JH0IXE, CW, SB, all Digi | Now to 07 Jan | 306 | 08-13 | 07-14 | 07-14 | 14-17 | 15-16 | 15-16 | 1530 | NO |
| Samoa – 5W0UO; by G4BUO, ** | 01 to 07 January | 257 | 05-13 | 04-15 | 13-15 | 17-00 | 18-22 | 19-21 | 19-22 | 2030 |
| Micronesia – V63GG; by JR2GAG, holi style | 01 to 08 January | 293 | 07-13 | 06-14 | 06-15 | 14-16 | 14-16 | 15-16 | 2100 | NO |
| Vanuatu – YJ0AFU; by VK4AFU, all modes | 02 to 10 January | 262 | 07-13 | 06-15 | 08-15 | 14-18 | 14-19 | 15-22 | 15-21 | NO |
| Sri Lanka – 4S7JTG, 4S7NTG by 2 EA ops. | 03 to 08 January | 28 | -- | 23-01 | NO | 2100 | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Lesotho – 7P8VR; by DD0VR | 04 to 07 January | 110 | -- | 21-05 | -- | 18-23 | -- | 19-21 | -- | NO |
| Senegal – 6W7SK; by F6BLP, all modes | 05 to 31 January | 87 | 22-09 | 20-09 | 18-00 | 13-23 | 14-21 | 16-19 | 16-18 | 16-19 |
| NZ SubArctic Is – ZL9A; team op, CW, SSB | 07 to 11 January | 224 | -- | 06-13 | 06-14 | 02-16 | 00-04 | NO | NO | NO |
| Panama – HP3/WJ2O; focus on low bands | 07 to 12 January | 172 | 21-14 | 12-01 | 13-23 | 15-20 | 18-19 | 16-20 | NO | NO |
| Palau – T88MK, SM, HS, RR, UW; all modes | 07 to 14 January | 306 | 08-13 | 07-14 | 07-14 | 14-17 | 15-16 | 15-17 | 1530 | NO |
| Palmyra Is – K5P; 9 Op team, 160-6m, all mo | 12 to 25 January | 267 | 04-13 | 03-14 | 12-14 | 17-00 | 17-22 | 18-21 | 18-20 | 19-21 |
| Laos – XW4ZW; by K4ZW, focus on lo band | 15 to 24 January | 353 | 1200 | 11-12 | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| So. Sandwich Is – VP8STI; Team op, all bnd | 17 to 27 January | 154 | 00-07 | 23-08 | 22-08 | 22-00 | 21-01 | NO | NO | NO |
| Fernando de Noronha – PY0F/PP1CZ | 19 to 26 January | 115 | 22-09 | 20-11 | 12-00 | 13-23 | 14-21 | 15-20 | 17-19 | 16-20 |
| Solomon Is - H44MS; by DL2GAC, 80-6m | 19 Jan – 14 April | 275 | 07-13 | 06-14 | 07-15 | 14-17 | 14-18 | 16-19 | 1600 | 2130 |
| Palau – T88UC; by JA9FIO | 21 to 26 January | 306 | 08-13 | 07-14 | 07-14 | 14-17 | 15-16 | 15-16 | 1530 | NO |
| Palau – T88HK; by JA6DND | 29 Jan – 02 Feb | 306 | 09-13 | 08-14 | 07-14 | 14-17 | 15-16 | 15-16 | 1530 | NO |

Updated 29 December based on the NG3K Contest-DX site, <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 date in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

-- DECEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 30 December the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 95 to 134, with a mean value of 113.5 (vs. 158.8 for December 2014 and 147.7 for December 2013), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 25 days. Through 29 December, the sunspot number ranged from 25 to 89, with a mean of 54.3.

Space weather during December ranged from quiet to active with six M-class and 106 C-class flares through the 28th. Severe geomagnetic disturbances from multiple CMEs peaked the A_p to 48 on 10 December, 39 on the 15th and 94 on 21 and 22 December.

-- JANUARY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate levels throughout January. Moderate activity is likely through 03 January. Low activity levels are expected 04-27 with moderate activity possible 15-31 January.

No proton events are expected.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux is expected to be at moderate to high levels 01-12 January and normal to moderate levels 13-31 January.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at active levels 01-03, 06-07, 10-11 and 28-31 January with G1 (Minor) storm levels likely during these periods due to recurrent CH HSS activity. Generally quiet conditions are expected 13-20 January with unsettled conditions during all other periods.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 105 to 115 and average 110.6 during January.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 28 December 2015, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 28 December 2015, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 28 December 2015.)

-- ENTITY NAME CHANGE --

New Zealand SubArctic Islands-ZL9 (shown above) was formerly known as the Auckland & Campbell Islands. No change in DXCC status.

- SO. SANDWICH/SO. GEORGIA PROJ.2016 -

The 17-27 January VP8STI operation will put the #3 most wanted DXCC entity on the air. Best propagation will be the first four days and the final two days. It won't be easy on the higher bands, so Good Luck if you need this one.

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING JANUARY 2016

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------|--|----|---------------|--|-----|------------------|
| ARRL Straight Key Night | | | ARRL RTTY Roundup | | | UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest | | |
| 01 Jan 0000Z | | 01 Jan 2359Z | 02 Jan 1800Z | | 03 Jan 2359Z | 09 Jan 1200Z | | 10 Jan 1200Z |
| All | All | CW | 3.5-28 | -- | RTTY, Digital | 3.5-28 | -- | BPSK63 |
| No Specific Exchange | | | RST, S/P | | | RSQ, Serial (starting with 1001) | | |
| www.arrl.org/straight-key-night | | | http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup | | | www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules | | |
| Hungarian DX Contest | | | BARTG RTTY Sprint | | | CQ 160-Meter Contest | | |
| 16 Jan 1200Z | | 17 Jan 1159Z | 23 Jan 1200Z | | 24 Jan 1200Z | 29 Jan 2200Z | | 31 Jan 2200Z |
| 1.8-28 | -- | CW, SSB | 3.5-28 | -- | RTTY | 1.8 | -- | CW |
| RS(T), Serial | | | Serial | | | RST, S/P | | |
| www.ha-dx.com/HADX/html/rules_en.html | | | www.bartg.org.uk/ | | | www.cq160.com/rules.htm | | |
| REF Contest | | | UBA DX Contest | | | ARRL January VHF Contest | | |
| 30 Jan 0600Z | | 31 Jan 1800Z | 30 Jan 1300Z | | 31 Jan 1300Z | 30 Jan 1900Z | | 01 Feb 0359Z |
| 3.5-28 | -- | CW | 3.5-28 | -- | SSB | -- | 50+ | CW, SSB, Digital |
| RST, Serial | | | RST, Serial | | | 4-character Grid Square | | |
| http://concours.r-e-f.org/contest/ | | | www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules | | | www.arrl.org/january-vhf | | |

Legend: Serial = 3-digit sequential number of contact starting with 001; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity

From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

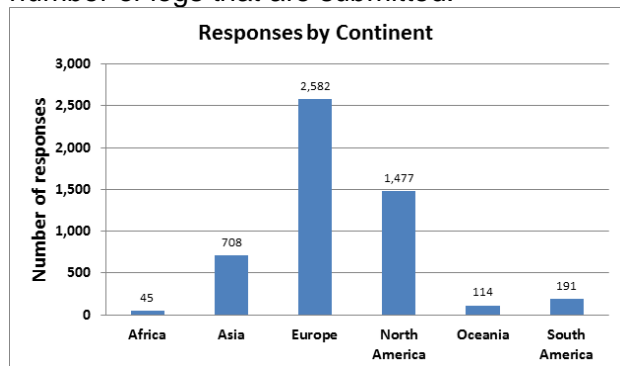
NOTE: Only major contests are shown, i.e. state QSO parties, miscellaneous sprints, etc. are not shown. See <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/January%202016%20CORRAL.pdf> for the complete list of the contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be held during December.

-- 2015 CQ CONTEST SURVEY --

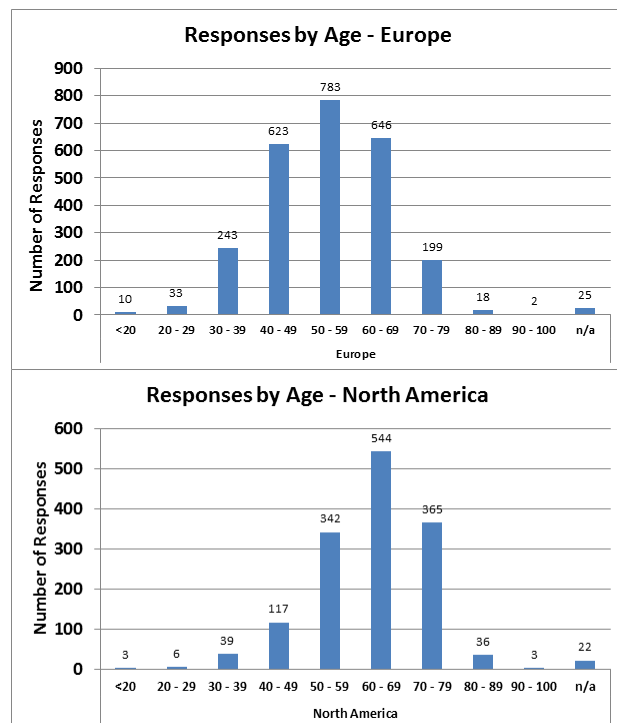
From 02-29 September 2015, the CQ WW Contest Committee conducted a survey of contesters who had submitted a log in the 2014 CQ WW SSB and CW events. Public invitation to take the survey was also made on the cq-contest e-mail reflector.

Contest operators around the world submitted 5,117 responses. Highlights of the survey follow.

Europe is the leader for contest activity. We see this in the survey results and in the number of logs that are submitted.



Ham operators are getting older. This may have an impact by lowering the number of operating hours, increasing number of multi-op entries, or eventually leading to less overall activity. European operators are a decade younger than those in North America.

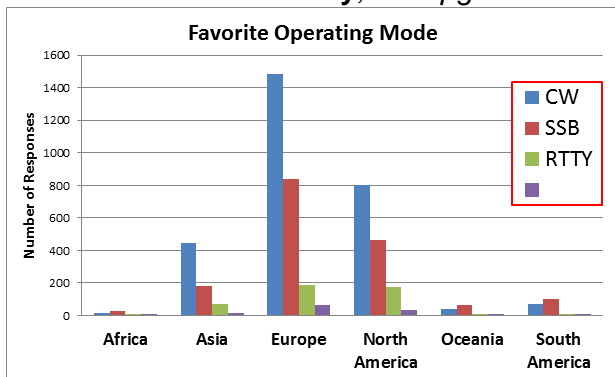


Any look around a ham radio club meeting or hamfest confirms that we are old. Should we be concerned about the future of radiosport and amateur radio? What can we do to encourage more young people to participate?

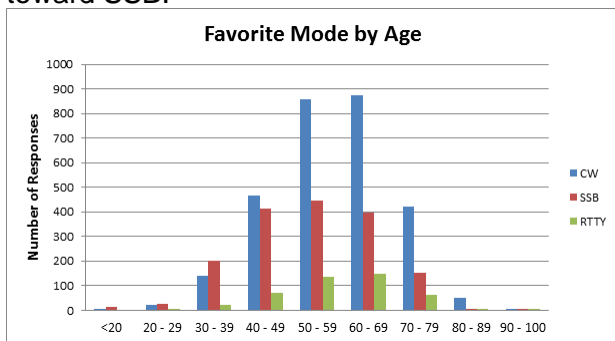
CW is the favorite operating mode. Perhaps a future survey can determine if this is for historical reasons or because CW is a more effective mode for DXing.

See **Contest Survey**, pg. 5

Contest Survey, from pg. 4



It is clear the CW remains an important mode. This general breakdown remained the same when sliced by continent and by interest level. We did see that younger operators tend more toward SSB.



(From <http://cqww.com/blog/2015-cq-ww-survey-results-part-1/>)

(Editor's Comments: While the ARRL likes to tout that there are over 700,000 radio amateurs in the USA, it is obvious that way too many are inactive operators. Onerous deed restrictions may prevent erection of decent antennas for many. Others may just prefer to have local repeater capability and then wait for a disaster that will probably never occur. Others are in ham radio for eyeball social camaraderie. Sadly none of them will experience the thrill of hearing or seeing their call sign coming in from a station on the opposite side of the world—but perhaps they just don't care.

With all the electronic gizmos offering instant communications, it's a wonder that any young people get into ham radio. Those who do should be cherished and nurtured into becoming talented, on-the-air operators. Otherwise, ham radio will become as exciting as watching grass grow.

Conquer your fears. Otherwise your fears will conquer you.

Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

Time to break out of that corner; unstuck that rut.

-- P5/3Z9DX IN PYONGYANG, DPRK --



Dom Grzyb-3Z9DX, operating as P5/3Z9DX, conducted a trial run on 20 and 21 December, making 790 SSB Q's with 749 stations on 15m and 10m. His station site had very high QRM and his vertical was only 2m above the ground, and surrounded by high rise buildings. When he returns in January/February for a longer operating period, it should be at a better location.



High steppers in a DPRK military event. Looks like they could show the Radio City Rockettes a thing or two.

(From <http://dxnews.com/p5-3z9dx-dprk/>)

--... ---

January 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr | 6 QCWA @ 11:30 AM, Denny's, Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota | 7 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 8 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM | 9 TARC VE Session 10 AM Venice Public Library |
| 10 | 11 DARN Emer- gency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Rptr 145.430 | 12 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr | 13 TARC Meet- ing @ 7 PM, Coast Guard Training Center | 14 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 15 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr | 20 | 21 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 22 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM | 23 |
| 24/31 | 25 | 26 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:00 AM 440 Net @ 7:30 PM, 444.100 Rptr | 27 | 28 TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805 | 29 Breakfast @ Peach's ± 7:00AM | 30 |

NOTE: If the W4AC 146.805 Repeater or the 444.100 Repeater are inoperative, nets scheduled for activity will be held on 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 _____ Zip _____

Summer Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. _____ E-Mail _____ Application Date _____

Please check Letters of Interests: (N) Net Control__, (I) RFI/TVI__, (V) VE Testing__, (T) Training__, (P) Packet__, (Y) RTTY__, (D) PSK, etc.__, (O) Computers__, (X) DX__, (C) Contests__, (F) Field Day__, (Q) Publicity__, (E) Emergency Communications__, (S) Special Events__, (U) VHF/UHF__, (A) ATV/SSTV, (R) Repeater__, (L) EchoLink__, Other (specify) _____

Regular Member @ \$25.00/year __, Family Membership @ \$30.00/year__, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year__ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

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2015 TARC Officers

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V. President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP
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Treasurer: San Yoder-K3SY
Directors: Gary Hagens-K6OC
Tom McDermitt-W3GXV
Peter Boers-KV4LR
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