



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida

Mailing Address: PO Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274

W4AC Repeaters – 444.100 MHz(+) & 146.805 MHz(-) both w/100 Hz PL

Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- MAY 2016 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

At the 13 April 2016 TARC Meeting an election was held to appoint a new President and Vice President. Gary Hagens was elected Vice President and I was elected President. In writing this message I was thinking about the huge responsibility that the President has to help insure the growth and vitality of the club. So I would like to thank Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI, for his efforts in running the club for the last three years. At the same time I would like to acknowledge the work done by prior presidents, present and past officers and board of director members. Thank you for your fine service. We would not exist without your dedication.

The K4S Special Event Station that we operated at the Sharks Tooth Festival grounds at the airport on 08-10 April was a huge success with many TARC members operating at the Festival Site and at their home QTHs. The equipment that we set up worked perfectly with terrific signal reports from almost 700 US and DX contacts. For the record this was our eleventh year at the Festival operating with the K4S call sign.

In my message in the April issue of *The Communicator* I mentioned that we first heard, at the Englewood Amateur Radio Society (EARS) monthly meeting, that our 444.100 MHz repeater was being converted to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) capability. This conversion, made without the consent and approval of the TARC Officers and Board of Directors, created a huge issue with the shutdown, without notice, of the analog UHF net that is/was scheduled for every Tuesday evening. This brought up the question of who controls the W4AC club license, the VHF/UHF repeaters and the assigned frequency pairs that were assigned to the TARC by the Florida Repeater Council some 10 years ago. It was agreed and confirmed that all are under the sole control of the Club not any individual. An attempt to reach a reasonable solution was rebuffed and the Club had no option but to change the Trustee of the W4AC club call to regain control of the repeater operations. We are still work-

ing on this issue and we are hoping that we can make satisfactory progress in the coming month.

VY 73 de Andy Durette-KB1HIP

-- MAY MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **11 May 2016** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive. Program details are not available at "press time" but Program Chairman Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will undoubtedly have something of interest for us.

- PETITION TO REMOVE GAIN LIMITATION -

The FCC has put on public notice and invited comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11767), filed on behalf of an amateur amplifier distributor, which seeks to revise the Amateur Service rules regarding maximum permissible amplifier gain. Expert Linears America LLC of Magnolia, Texas, which distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy, wants the FCC to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on amateur amplifiers that's spelled out in §97.317(a)(3). Expert asserts that there should be no gain limitation at all on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service.



"There is no technical or regulatory reason [that] an amplifier capable of being driven to full legal output by even a fraction of a watt should not be available to Amateur Radio operators in the United States," Expert said in its *Petition*.

Expert maintains that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators. While the FCC proposed in its 2004 *Notice of Proposed*

See **FCC**, pg. 6

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**Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
13 April 2016**

Vice President Durette called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a pledge to the flag.

The following visitors were recognized and welcomed: Andy Bobak, N2NDQ.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March meeting were accepted upon motion and approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Club account had a balance at the end of March of \$6,351.85. Receipts totaled \$39.00. There were no expenses. A motion was made to accept the report. It was seconded and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUNSHINE: Nothing discussed.

VE TESTING: Jack Sproat, W4JS, reports that there was one candidate who came to take the tests; and he passed both the Technician and the General examinations.

LIAISON TO QCWA: Jack Sproat, W4JS, reported that 26 members (spouses and friends) attended the March lunch meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53. Hans Napfel provided the luncheon presentation program.

MEMBERSHIP: The number of TARC members by category is: Regular 50, Student 7, Life 4, complementary 1, for a total of 62.

OLD BUSINESS: Vice President Durette thanked the Club members who participated in the operation of the HF amateur radio station for the Shark's Tooth Festival on April 8, 9 and 10. He also thanked those members who contributed equipment for use at the festival. VP Durette reported that our club amateur radio operators made over 500 contacts. The exact number will be published in next issue of "The Communicator." Jim Shortill requested that any after action comments be forwarded to him. The membership commended Andy Durette and Jim Shortill for their hours of service during the Shark's Tooth Festival.

Fred Lathwood delivered plenty of coffee and two flats of donuts to the teams operating Shark's Tooth Amateur Radio station. By motion made, seconded and approved, the Club agreed to reimburse Fred for the welcomed coffee and donuts.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Due to the resignation of Fred Lathwood as President, an election was required to fill the President's position. Vice President Andy Durette indicated that he would run for President. That left the Vice President's position open.

Gary Hagens indicated that he would run for Vice President.

Both gentlemen were nominated for their respective positions. There were no other candidates. The membership unanimously approved Andy Durette, KB1HIP as President and Gary Hagens, K6OC as Vice President. The Secretary was directed to cast one vote for Mr. Durette and one Vote for Mr. Hagens, and the new officers were accepted into their new positions.

2. Club UHF repeater frequency 444.100 MHz is now inoperable on analog. Neither the Directors nor most of the Club members were aware of any change. Mr. Stew Haag, W4MO, Club license trustee and a well respected member, addressed the members at the meeting by advising that he had replaced the old UHF repeater with a new digital DMR repeater he had purchased and installed. Mr. Haag said that he did not need the Club's permission to use the Club frequency or to install the new digital repeater. The Club had no say in the matter and he, Mr. Haag, could do as he pleased. Club President Andy Durette noted that if Stew had coordinated with the Club, the Club could have purchased the DMR repeater and put it on the Club frequency, a win-win for everybody in the Club. Mr. Haag replied that he did not want or need the Club to purchase the DMR digital repeater. He indicated that he could do whatever he wanted, and had.

President Durette replied the Club Directors and Executive would review the issue and do what was best for the Club.

3. President Durette reminded the membership that the Disaster Amateur Radio Network tested the Network on 2 meters every month, on the second Monday, at 11:00 AM. Visitors were welcome to call into the net.

ADJOURNMENT: Club business having been concluded President Durette requested a Motion to Adjourn. The motion was made, seconded and approved. There were 21 Hams in attendance.

PROGRAM: Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, presented a historical review of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition that explored that new territory. He presented pictures of the route taken and locations visited by the expedition.

Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO
Secretary

"Your wisdom will find a way."

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
Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ/JD1, ** sp time	Now to 15 May	308	08-11	07-12	07-13	03-05	02-04	01-04	NO	NO
So. Cook Is – E51DLD by W6HB, ++	Now to 10 May	246	04-12	02-13	02-13	22-06	17-04	17-03	18-04	19-20
Ogasawara – JD1BOI by JI1LET, all modes	Now to 06 May	317	09-11	08-12	09-12	12-15	11-15	NO	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLY by JI5RPT, all modes	Now to 06 May	317	--	08-12	09-12	12-15	11-15	NO	NO	NO
Aland Is – OH0/PA0VHA	Now to 06 May	31	00-04	23-07	22-06	13-18	13-14	NO	NO	NO
Burkina Faso – XT2IVU, XT2AEF, all modes	Now to 04 May	83	23-06	22-08	21-04	18-02	15-00	15-02	NO	NO
Palau – T88RF by JJ2RCJ, mainly RTTY	01 to 05 May	307	09-11	08-12	10-12	12-14	11-15	NO	NO	NO
Dem Rep Congo – 9Q0HQ by IV3FSG	01 to 22 May	88	00-05	23-06	22-06	19-23	18-00	17-00	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0CS by HB9LCA, ** holi'd stl	01 to 27 May	262	06-11	04-13	04-13	02-06	00-03	23-05	NO	NO
Palestine – E44QX by 3 op team, **, SB, RY	08 to 15 May	49	00-03	23-04	22-05	19-23	18-00	17-21	NO	NO
Fernando de Noronha – PY0NY by PY4NY	13 to 23 May	115	23-09	21-11	19-12	16-02	21-00	16-02	NO	NO
Norfolk Is – VK9NT by 5 op team, all modes	20 to 31 May	250	06-11	04-13	03-07	01-06	00-04	21-05	22-04	NO
So. Cook Is – E51XYZ by AI6Y, all modes	20 to 31 May	246	--	02-13	02-11	22-05	19-03	18-04	NO	NO

Updated 27 April based on the 25 April 2016 *The Weekly DX*, the 27 April *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 date in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

-- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Throughout April the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 77 to 117, with a mean value of 90.1 (vs. 129.4 for April 2015 and 144.3 for April 2014), and the A_p index was ≥ 7 on 20 days. Through 29 April, the sunspot number ranged from 11 to 86, with a mean of 37.8.

April was a rather moderate month, with only one M-class and 41 C-class flares through the 29th. Severe geomagnetic disturbances drove the A_p up to 48 on the 2nd, 67 on the 7th, 48 on 12-13, and to 32 on 23 April.

-- MAY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low through most of May with a chance for M-class flares 03-16 May due to the return of old Region 2529.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels with the exception of 01-03 and 10-13 May following recurrent coronal hole high speed stream events.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels on 01 May. Mostly quiet conditions are expected 02-08 May. Quiet to active levels are expected 09-11 May with quiet conditions 12-18 May. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected 19-21, 26-28 and 31 May.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 80 to 100 and average 88.4 during May.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 April 2016, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 April 2016, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 25 April 2016.)

-- COWS OVER THE WORLD --



Tom Callas-KCOW kicked off his "Cows Over the World" DXpedition from American Samoa on 13 April as KH8/KCOW. This is a self-financed operation by Tom and how long he's in each country/entity depends on how long the demand for Q's lasts. To date he's been very popular with FB signals. ClubLog provides regular QSO updates, and QSLs to his home call sign will be answered by an assistant during his operations.

-- SOME DX TO PLAN AHEAD FOR --

A preview of some upcoming DX on note:
 St Barthelemy – 17-29 June, not often on.
 Vanuatu – 08 June-14 July
 Pitcairn Is – 03 Sept-25 Nov, semi-rare
 Cocos (Keeling) – 20 Sept-04 Oct, tough one
 Temotu Is – 04-17 Oct, semi-rare
 Fiji – 21-25 Oct, semi-rare
 Chatham Is – 26 Oct-09 Nov, semi-rare
 Cambodia – 04-14 Nov, rare

"REAL RADIO BOUNCES OFF THE SKY"
 (TNX to Stan-K4SBZ, who explains radio to all.)

MAJOR CONTESTS DURING MAY 2016

ARI International DX Contest			Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest			CQ-M International DX Contest		
07 May 1200Z		08 May 1159Z	14 May 1200Z		15 May 1200Z	14 May 1200Z		15 May 1200Z
1.8-28	--	SSB, CW, RTTY	3.5-28	--	RTTY	1.8-28	--	SSB, CW
RS(T), Serial			RST, Serial, CQ Zone			RS(T), Serial		
http://www.ari.it			http://www.contestvolta.com			http://www.cq-m.ru		
Portuguese Navy Day			50 MHz Spring Sprint			Aegean RTTY Contest		
14 May 1500Z		15 May 1500Z	14 May 2300Z		15 May 0300Z	21 May 1200Z		22 May 1200Z
3.5-28	--	SSB, CW	--	50	SSB, CW, Digi	3.5-28	--	RTTY
Serial, CQ Zone			Grid Square (6-char preferred)			RST, Serial		
www.nra.pt			See http://www.homucopia.com			http://www.aegeandxgroup.gr		
His Majesty King of Spain Contest			CQ WW WPX Contest			Portuguese Navy Day		
21 May 1200Z		22 May 1200Z	28 May 0000Z		29 May 2359Z	28 May 0800Z		28 May 2359Z
1.8-28	--	CW	1.8-28	--	CW	3.5-28	--	Digital
RST, Serial			RST, Serial			Serial, CQ Zone		
http://concursos.ure.es/en			www.cqwp.com			www.nra.pt		

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/2016/May%202016%20CORRAL.pdf> for the complete list of the 41 contests/sprints/QSO parties/etc. that will be held during May.

-- K4S OPERATIONS SUMMARY --



Getting set up Friday morning, 08 April, and the mini-beam is ready for some RF.



Getting the logging laptop operational.



The sunshine blanked out the computer screen but this recycle bin provided the needed shade. Ham innovation!!

This year's K4S operation yielded 682 QSOs:

K4S On-Site SSB: 577

PSK31: 49

RTTY: 56

Total: 682

In spite of the decline in Sunspot Cycle 24, this year the K4S operation ran up over 100 more Q's than in 2015. To date, \$10 has been received in donations to the Special Athlete Boosters via incoming QSL cards.

TNX to all who helped out this year—it couldn't be done without you!

-- THE NEW ARRL CEO --

The ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher-NY2RF got down to work on his first day in office 18 April by promising to make the League's foundational business processes "rock solid" and bring them up to state of the art which members have a right to expect. Gallagher, who arrived at Headquarters on 29 February as CEO-Elect, has now assumed the top leadership post long held by David Sumner-K1ZZ, who officially retired 18 April.

During weeks of walking the halls and speaking with what he described as "the 95 outstanding employees we have here at Headquarters," Gallagher said he's seen a lot that's positive but acknowledged that some issues need attention.



ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF.

"My colleagues require the tools to do their jobs efficiently and effectively," he said. "When they don't have them it makes it harder for them to serve our members. We want to keep traffic moving. That will require investment and hard work, but we're going to do it."

Gallagher said some resources would be redeployed into areas that need more support, to improve or enhance the League's service.

The new CEO pointed to the recent example of more than 1000 issues of *QST* that were lost in transit to members due to a train derailment. "Within 24 hours, we knew exactly which copies had been destroyed, and the Circulation Department sent out replacement copies via First-Class Mail," he said. "That's the kind of world-class service we want to perpetuate."

QST readers soon will see Gallagher's monthly editorial, which he's renamed "Second Century." While it will be essentially the same format as Sumner's "It Seems to Us" editorial, "the latter belongs to Dave," Gallagher said.

Gallagher also has promised a spirit of openness and inclusiveness to bring the enrichment of Amateur Radio to a wider community. "Greater transparency is my guiding principle, as well as that of ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR,

and the goals included in the *Strategic Plan* approved by the ARRL Board of Directors," he added. Gallagher invited members to take their suggestions and concerns.

From *The ARRL Letter*, 21 April 2016)

-- YOUNG INNOVATIVE HAM --

A 10-year-old ARRL member from Snoqualmie, Washington, took first place in his grade and division for a magnetic loop antenna project he entered into the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair (WSSEF). Dragan Tuip-KG7OQT, was among the more than 700 presenters at the fair, held 1-2 April in Bremerton. His project, "Modular HF Mag Loop Antenna," stemmed from his desire for a compact antenna to use in his room with his HF transceiver. According to his dad, Martin Tuip-KG7HAX, Dragan built the antenna himself and successfully made JT65 contacts with Japan and Georgia. The 59th annual WSSEF marked Dragan's science fair debut.

"When they called my name during the award ceremony, I was stunned! I was amazed!" he told ARRL. "I learned that not everything is always the best, and some things still have room for improvement. I had several



Ten-year-old Dragan Tuip, KG7OQT, with his magnetic loop science fair entry. [Mike Bay/WSSEF photo]

people already ask me if they could buy the antenna." Licensed at age 8, Dragan wants to earn DXCC before he turns 11. He eventually hopes to market the antenna.

His magnetic loop consists of a 10-foot circumference loop of LMR-400 coaxial cable with a 2-foot circumference loop of solid copper and a variable capacitor for tuning housed in a central enclosure. According to Dragan, the antenna works on 40, 30, 20, 17, and 15 meters with a low SWR. The antenna can handle up to about 10 W for 100 percent duty cycle modes, and up to 15 W PEP for SSB.

The need for an indoor antenna arose after his mom didn't want any new holes drilled in the house nor any more visible antennas. Dragan

See **INNOVATIVE HAM**, pg.6

INNOVATIVE HAM, from pg. 5

had seen some mag loop-style antennas in articles his dad had been reading and asked if something like that might fit in his room.

"I told him that that size would work, and off he went to scavenge the house for parts to build a prototype," Martin Tuip said. "We had to order a capacitor for the prototype, and he built further upon that."

"He ran propagation tests using WSPR with my G5RV as reference, and the mag loop was about 80 percent as effective at a fraction of the size," Martin Tuip said.

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 28 April 2016)

Nice to learn of young kids who actually became hams and like to communicate without cell phones, texting, Facebook, etc.

FCC, from pg. 1

Rulemaking and Order in WT Docket 04-140 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a minimum of 50 W of drive power and did so, it did not further discuss the 15 dB amplification limit in the subsequent Report and Order in the docket.

"Although no party advocated retention of the 15 dB limit, it remains in place today," Expert pointed out in its filing. "In the intervening years, advancements in Amateur Radio transmitter technology have led to the availability of highly compact, sophisticated, low-power transmitters that require more than 15 dB of amplification to achieve maximum legal power output. Therefore, Expert seeks to remove the 15 dB limit from §97.317 so that Amateur Radio manufacturers and distributors will not be forced to needlessly cripple their amplifiers for sale in the United States."

(From *The ARRL Letter*, 28 April 2016)

Reading the comments on eHam.net from European operators of the SPE Expert 1.3K – FA, it's interesting to note they're achieving kilowatt output with 5-7 watts input and 1.5 kw from 10 watts input. As noted in Expert's petition, US hams can only buy these amps which have been "crippled" so they require at least 50 watts input to achieve 1.5 kw output. Hopefully the amateur community will lend support to this petition to do away with a regulation that was imposed some 40 years ago in response to CB enthusiasts driving illegal amps with their 5-watt radios. Another case of the "illegals" getting the upper hand over the law abiding folks.

"Every burden is a blessing."

-- NEED DENTURES? --

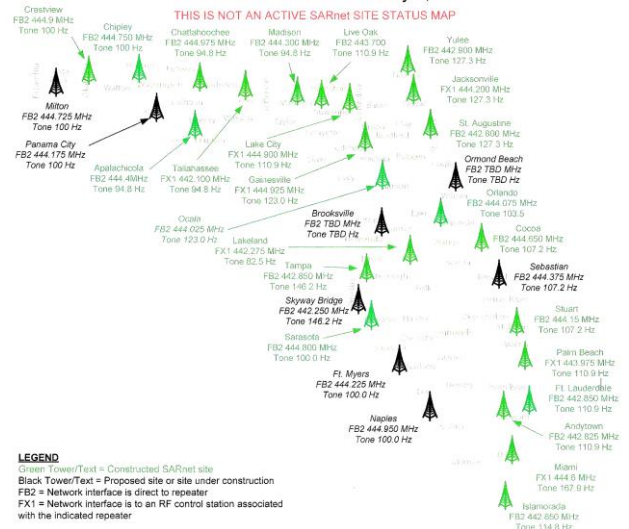


These babies should chew through the toughest steaks out there. But they'll cost you \$300 each. Of course, you probably only need one upper and one lower.

TNX to Andy Durette-KB1HIP and Glenn Hyde-N4MXQ for this and the other Sharks Tooth Festival photos.

-- THE FLORIDA SARNET --

Statewide Amateur Radio Network "SARNet"
Constructed Sites as of February 7, 2016



While a bit small to read, the above map shows, in green, the operational 440 MHz repeaters which have been linked together for an Amateur Radio Network covering the peripheral and north-central regions of Florida. The black towers represent locations which are planned or under construction. The 444.800 MHz with 100 PL repeater in Sarasota is the closest one to our area. Statewide nets are held at 9:00 AM daily. (THX Andy-KB1HIP for the input.)

"Conquer your fears. Otherwise your fears will conquer you."

May 2016

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

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, PO Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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NOKOMIS, FL 34274**

<p><i>The Communicator</i> is a monthly publication Of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS Circulation: San Yoder-K3SY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TARC Officers</u></p> <p>President: Andy Durette-KB1HIP V. President: Gary Hagens-K6OC Secretary: Jim Shortill-KJ4NDO Treasurer: San Yoder-K3SY Directors: Peter Boers-KV4LR Larry Bryan-W8LIG Don Jansen-KI4VGE Tom McDermitt-W3GXV</p>
