



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
Web Site -- <http://tamamiarc.tripod.com>
W4AC Repeaters – 146.805 MHz(-), 444.100 MHz(+) both w/100 Hz PL



-- OCTOBER 2007 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

Well, here comes October and the Snowbirds are starting to return—but not too many just yet. Fall is the one season I really miss from my Pennsylvania days. The foliage in the woods by our house, and on the surrounding hills, was spectacular. I also miss being ON a hill—which leads me to the subject of antennas.

As everyone knows, antennas work best when they have been installed during miserable weather. Down here, I guess that means heat and humidity. Anyhow, it seems that a number of our TARC members are upgrading antennas at this time, before better, i.e., cooler, weather sets in. Bruce Brown-WA8IQF is contemplating the joys of burying some 60 radials for his vertical antenna. Don Jansen-KI4VGE is (I think) going to put up an outdoor 2-meter antenna. Jack Sproat-W4JS has been sweating away installing an extensive grounding system for his new 70' Rohn tower. As for myself, I've been contemplating upgrading my stealth dipole from #26 wire to #13, since for unknown reasons—heavy birds perhaps—the current assembly does not want to stay up.

According to the October issue of *CQ*, conditions for the Phone weekend of the CQ World Wide DX Contest in late October may be a bit better than last year. We'll be ready!

VY 73 de Konrad-WA3RRS

-- TARC WEEKLY NETS --

The TARC Simplex Net meets every Tuesday at 7:30 PM on 146.580 MHz; the TARC Net is held every Thursday, except on meeting dates, at 7:30 PM on our 146.805 W4AC Repeater (- 600 Hz offset and 100 Hz PL tone required). These nets provide a good opportunity to blow the dust from your rigs and check up on the activities of your fellow members. So try to set some time aside each week for our nets.

In addition, the Snowbird Net meets daily on 14.278 MHz @ 10 AM, and on 7.230 MHz @ 7 PM. All are welcome to participate.

Also, keep in mind that the DARN radio check net meets the second Monday of each month, starting on our W4AC repeater, at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM. TARC members are welcome to participate.

-- OCTOBER MEETING --

Our next TARC meeting will be at 7:00 PM on 11 October 2007 in the Community Room of The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, 601 South Tamiami Trail (Business US 41), across from the Venice Regional Health Center. Following the business meeting, Bruce Brown-WA8IQF will give a program, "Venice to Anchorage; a North American Journey." Should be worth the price of admission, so come on out!

-- REGIONAL HAMFESTS --

- 06 Oct Hamfest at Terry Park Baptist Church, 7024 Merrill Rd., Jacksonville. TI: 146.700 PL 127.3, Info: Billy-N4UF 904-765-3230
- 13-14 Oct Platinum Coast ARS Florida State Convention, Melbourne City Auditorium, 625 East Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne. TI: 146.250, Info: Jan-K4QD 321-956-2482
- 03 Nov Lake ARA Hamfest, Eustis Senior Center, 301 W. Ward Ave., Eustis. TI: 147.255 PL 103.5, Info: David KR4OW 352-551-4043

(From October *QST* and web site of Bill Britton KB4VOL)

--BURUNDI ON THE AIR --



The German operators of 9U0A came on the air 28 September and were worked on 17 meters with good signals into our local area.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

13 September 2007

President Konrad Owens-WA3RRS called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Cullen Murphy-K1IXZ or Venice was welcomed as a new member and Jack Gaddas-KI4ZDP of Venice was welcomed as a visitor. Introductions were then made all around.

Konrad then asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Jim Halliday-NX2II.

MINUTES – Konrad asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 09 August 2007 meeting as published in the September 2007 issue of *The Communicator*. Peter Pesa-N4RD so moved, seconded by Mike Hickey-NY4P, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None received or sent during the month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Gray-WD7A reported that the 09 August starting balance was \$4022.51. Receipts were \$13.00 from the August 50/50 drawing, \$50.00 from sale of club items, and \$8.00 from new member dues, totaling \$71.00. Expenses were \$3.45 for newsletter printing, \$32.95 for a General Class License Manual, \$123.00 for books for the Venice Public Library and future training courses, \$8.03 for engraving Silent Key plate for NX2II, and \$21.75 for new member call sign badges, totaling \$189.16. The 13 September ending balance is \$3904.35. Stew Haag-W4MO moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – It was reported that Martin Horowitz-N4FA was back home and active on the Snowbird Net, that Charlie Covell-W4DB was home and doing well following his hip surgery, and that Bruce Brown-WA8IQF was returning to Venice after surgery on his hands. Stew-W4MO then advised that Dr. Jim Holtman, son of Bernie-W4GO, had passed away out in California.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS stated that the one candidate at our 08 September VE session had upgraded from Advanced to Extra, missing only one question on the exam.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew Haag-W4MO reported that our 2-meter repeater is operating satisfactorily.

CLUB PROPERTY – Ed Holt-K2SCQ had donated a KDK 2-meter radio, a Radio Shack power supply and miscellaneous items to the club.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don Gray-WD7A reported that we now have 77 members. This includes five Life Members and six first year free members.

NET OPERATIONS – Konrad reminded all of our two weekly 2-meter nets, and our Tuesday and Friday breakfasts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Diana Gregory-KI4GRF reported that she had interview Bob Murphy-WA1UHG, Bob Sullenberger-KG4VDU and Jack Sproat-W4JS. She had met with Kim Cool, local features editor with the Venice Gondolier Sun, who was favorable to publishing these biographical articles.

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad reported that discussions centered on EARS proposed activity from the Boca Grande Lighthouse for International Lighthouse Weekend.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS reported that five Suncoast Chapter 53 members and friends attended the 05 September lunch at the Panda Pavilion in Venice. The Chapter will resume its lunch/meetings on 03 October at Denny's on Bee ridge Road in Sarasota. Anyone interested in the QCWA is invited.

OLD BUSINESS – Discussion was held regarding several pending items:

➤ Publications for Venice Public Library – On 11 September, the following books were donated to the Library:

ARRL General Class Study Guide
ARRL Technician Class Study Guide
ARRL Technician Q&A Manual
Gordon West Technician Study Guide

The Library will insert a bookplate in these publications, stating: "A gift to the Venice Public Library from The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club. For information call 475-1929 or write to 1419 E. Manasota Beach Road, Englewood, FL 34223."

Bob Avrutik-N1RA asked if the Library has a subscription to *QST*. Diana-KI4GRF replied that it does.

➤ Emergency Generator – Stew-W4MO reported that the engine specs have been given to Calkins LP Gas Co. in Englewood to determine the cost of conversion from gasoline to LPG fuel. Labor could range from 1 to 8 hours. Keith Calkins has advised that the use of manifolded 30# LPG tanks would not provide a reliable fuel supply and recommended use of an above ground storage tank. As the \$500 previously approved for this conversion may prove inadequate, Mike Hickey-NY4P moved allocation of an additional \$100, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed.

➤ Potential for Training at Pine View School – No follow up has been reported to date.

NEW BUSINESS – None

See MINUTES, page 4

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION FORECASTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEAR-ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Falkland Is – VP8CXV	Now Active	165	00-09	23-10	22-07	12-00	13-23	15-22	15-22	18-20
Angola – D2NX	Now Active	95	--	21-06	20-01	12-23	15-21	16-20	16-20	NO
Egypt – SU8BHI	Now to 30 Nov	54	22-05	20-06	20-00	13-18	15-17	15-17	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5R8RJ	Now to 26 Oct	90	23-02	22-03	21-01	16-22	14-19	16-18	16-18	NO
Guyana – 8R1XR, 8R1XT	Now to 13 Oct	129	22-11	00-24	12-01	13-23	15-21	15-22	2000	NO
Niue – ZK2/DL2AH	Now to 12 Oct	252	--	03-14	12-13	17-01	18-00	19-21	20-21	20-21
Maldives – 8Q7AK	Now to 12 Oct	41	23-01	22-02	21-23	14-22	16-20	17-19	17-19	NO
Burundi – 9U0A	Now to 09 Oct	83	23-04	22-05	21-01	17-00	13-22	16-20	16-20	NO
Corsica – TK9Z	Now to 05 Oct	51	22-07	20-08	18-00	14-20	16-19	16-19	NO	NO
Willis Is – VK9WWI	Now to 04 Oct	271	07-12	06-13	06-14	01-02	21-00	21-23	21-23	NO
Svalbard Is – JW8DW, JW/OZ1HRS	01 – 07 October	13	23-10	23-12	11-23	17-21	14-22	17-21	NO	NO
Liberia – 5L2MS	03 – 24 October	92	22-08	20-09	18-01	13-23	15-21	14-20	NO	NO
Malawi – 7Q7CE	04 – 24 October	90	23-04	21-05	20-00	16-21	15-19	16-18	16-18	NO
Equatorial Guinea – 3C7Y	05 – 14 October	86	22-06	21-07	19-03	12-00	14-21	16-20	16-20	NO
Chatham Is – ZL7/Polish Operators	05 – 18 October	230	05-12	04-13	02-10	19-01	20-00	22-00	22-00	NO
Tanzania – 5H9PD	06 – 19 October	83	23-04	22-05	21-01	16-21	16-20	17-19	17-19	NO
Lord Howe Is – VK9CLF	08 – 18 October	249	07-12	05-14	05-14	19-01	21-00	20-00	NO	NO
South Cook Is – E51NOU	08 Oct – 03 Nov	246	04-12	02-13	03-12	16-01	17-00	17-22	18-22	18-22
Central Kiribati Is – T31XX	13 – 27 October	267	04-12	03-14	04-14	17-00	17-00	18-22	18-21	18-21
Montenegro – 4O0CE	17 – 21 October	47	22-07	20-07	17-21	14-18	15-17	15-17	NO	NO
The Gambia – C50C, C52C	17 – 30 October	88	22-08	20-09	17-02	12-23	14-21	16-20	16-20	NO
Chatham Is – ZL7/DL2AH	17 – 30 October	230	--	04-12	05-10	18-00	23-00	23-00	2300	NO
Lord Howe Is – VK9GLX	19 – 22 October	249	07-12	06-13	06-14	19-00	21-00	20-00	NO	NO
Norfolk Is – VK9CNF ++	19 – 25 October	250	06-12	05-13	04-14	18-01	20-23	21-23	2200	NO

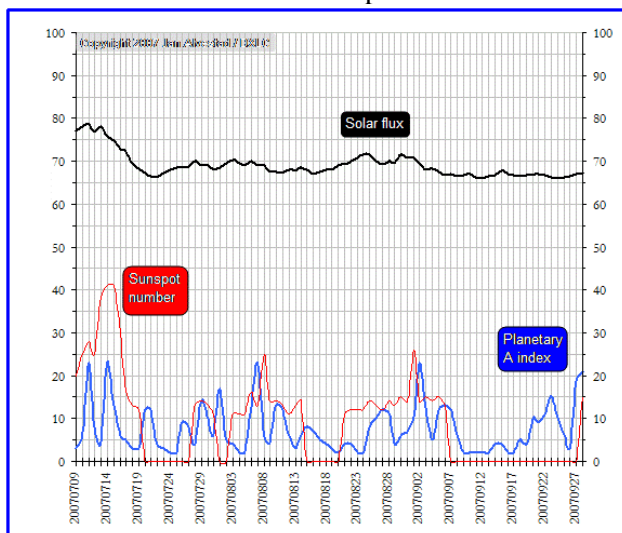
Updated 28 September 2007, based on 26 September 2007 *QRZ DX*, 24 September 2007 *The Weekly DX*, and <http://www.ng3k.com/>

Note: **Time in bold** = Best Band(s) for opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Phone Only; ** = CW Only; NO = No Opening forecast.
Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using *W6ELProp V.1.03* propagation software, available at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/> by Sheldon C. Shallon-W6EL. Solar Flux and K-index varied in accordance with NOAA 27-day forecast.

-- SEPTEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During September, the Solar Flux ranged from 65 to 71, with a mean value of 67.1 (vs. 75.4 for September 2006 and 90.8 for September 2005). The A-index was ≤ 10 on 18 days.

Recurrent coronal hole high speed streams caused active geomagnetic conditions 01-03, unsettled to active levels 05-07, quiet conditions 08-19, quiet to active 20-23, unsettled to quiet 24-26, and unsettled to minor storm levels 27-30 September.



(Courtesy of Jan Alvestad, the DX-Listeners Club, <http://www.dxlc.com/solar/>)

-- OCTOBER FORECAST --

During December, solar activity is expected to be very low. No proton events are expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected reach high levels 01-10 October and again 21-22 October. The solar flux should remain around 67-68 during October.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled 01-02 October, increasing to unsettled to active 03-04 October due to recurrent coronal hole HHS. Quiet conditions are expected 05-16 October, increasing to quiet to unsettled levels 17-19 October. After unsettled to active levels on 20 October, activity is expected to decrease to quiet to unsettled through the 25th, unsettled to active on the 26th, decreasing to quiet 28-29, and unsettled to active 30-31 October.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 September 2007, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 September 2007, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 28 September 2007.)

-- SIMPLE GRID LOCATOR --

If you work VHF or certain contests, Maidenhead grid squares are exchanged. To get your grid square go to <http://www.qrz.com/gridfinder> and type in your address. Click "locate" and your latitude, longitude and grid square will be shown.

CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z 07 Oct 1900Z 07 Oct	15 and 10 Meters Phone and CW	Stations in the United Kingdom	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
European Autumn Sprint	1600Z 06 Oct 1959Z 06 Oct	80 – 20 Meters Phone Only	European Stations Only	Both Calls, Serial No. & Name
Oceania DX Contest	0800Z 06 Oct 0800Z 07 Oct	160 - 10 Meters Phone Only	VK/ZL/Oceania Stations Only	R/S and Serial Number
PSK Rumble (The Fall Classic)	0000Z 06 Oct 2400Z 06 Oct	160 – 6 Meters PSK Modes	Anyone, Anywhere	Name and State/Province
10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z 10 Oct 2359Z 10 Oct	10 Meters Only Phone/CW/Digi	Anyone, Anywhere	Call, Name, State, 10-10#
Worked All Britain HF Contest	1200Z 13 Oct 1200Z 14 Oct	20 – 10 Meters Phone Only	British Stations Only	R/S, Serial No., DXCC Entity
North American RTTY Sprint	0000Z 14 Oct 0400Z 14 Oct	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	Both Calls, Serial No., State/Pr
European Autumn Sprint	1500Z 13 Oct 1859Z 13 Oct	80 – 20 Meters CW Only	European Stations Only	Both Calls, Serial No. & Name
Oceania DX Contest	0800Z 13 Oct 0800Z 14 Oct	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	VK/ZL/Oceania Stations Only	R/S/T and Serial Number
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z 13 Oct 2100Z 13 Oct	80 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, QTH, Name, FISTS #
Bill Windle QSO Party	0000Z 13 Oct 2359Z 13 Oct	160 – 2 Meters CW Only	Call “CQ BW” 15-45kc above band edge	R/S/T, Name or FOC #
Worked All Germany	1500Z 20 Oct 1459Z 21 Oct	80 – 10 Meters Phone and CW	German Stations Only	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
Asia-Pacific Sprint	0000Z 21 Oct 0200Z 21 Oct	20 – 15 Meters CW Only	Asia-Pacific Stations Only	R/S/T and Serial Number
JARTS World Wide RTTY Contest	0000Z 20 Oct 2400Z 21 Oct	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Age of Operator
CQ World Wide DX Contest	0000Z 27 Oct 2400Z 28 Oct	160 – 10 Meters Phone Only	DXCC Entities	R/S & CQ Zone (5 for Florida)
10-10 International CW/Digital Contest	0001Z 27 Oct 2359Z 28 Oct	10 Meters Only CW and Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	Call, Name, State, 10-10#

From October 2007 issues of *QST* and *WorldRadio*

-- CQ WORLD WIDE DX CONTEST --

The CQ WW DX Contest is the most popular DX contest world wide. Therefore, it presents a great opportunity for anyone interested in DXing to work new and semi-rare DXCC entities. Many operators go to “exotic” sites just for this event. Check out the <http://www.ng3k.com/> for a list of stations planning to operate in this contest.

Even if you are only into casual DXing, this is also a good time to see how your station competes against others. Keep in mind that even a marginal station will often enjoy better propagation conditions than others may, so don't be bashful about getting into this contest. Log submittal is optional; not required.

MINUTES, from Page 2

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – Don Jansen-KI4VGE asked if the TARC web site was

being kept up to date, and commented that the membership roster seemed out of date and difficult to read. There seemed to be general agreement regarding the roster. Cullen Murphy-K1IXZ commented that the DARN now has a very nice web site and promised distribution of the URL such that all could visit that site for comment.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM was made by Ron Hogarth-K4AUX, seconded by Jack-W4JS, and passed. There were 13 members and one visitor present.

PROGRAM – Jack Sproat-W4JS presented a review of “Amateur Radio Highlights, 1957 – 2007, With Emphasis on Licensing.”

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

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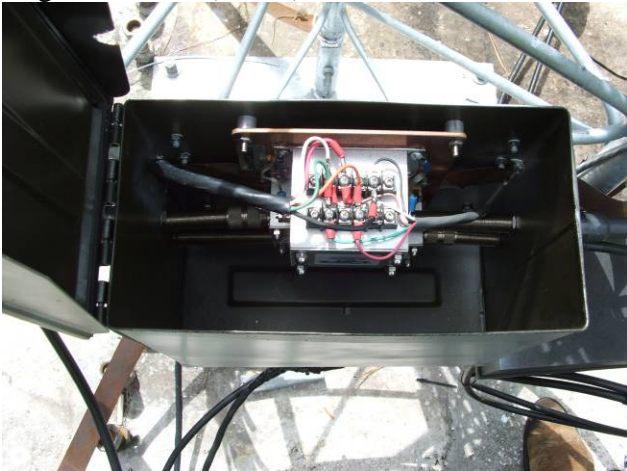
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--W4JS TOWER PROJECT --

The 70' tower is up, so the next stage involved the connection of the coaxial and rotator control cables. Following the same approach as with the 60' Aluma tower, lightning arrestors were installed in a surplus ammunition can. The first photo shows the arrestor installation and the remote antenna switch mounted on the tower. The 0.590" diameter LMR600 coax enters and leaves the suppressor box, and will connect to the SteppIR beam (once it arrives and is assembled and mounted). The 0.405" diameter LMR400 coax on the tower leg from the 40-meter beam enters and leaves the suppressor box and goes to the antenna switch. The other LMR400 from the antenna switch goes to the Hygain TH11DX beam on the Aluma tower, some 130' to the south.



Interior view of lightning suppressors mounted on a Harger copper plate. The copper plate is bonded with two 1.5" copper straps to the adjacent tower legs and ground rods. The top suppressor is for the antenna rotator, with two coaxial cable suppressors immediately below. All suppressors are from Industrial Communications Engineers, Ltd. (I.C.E.).

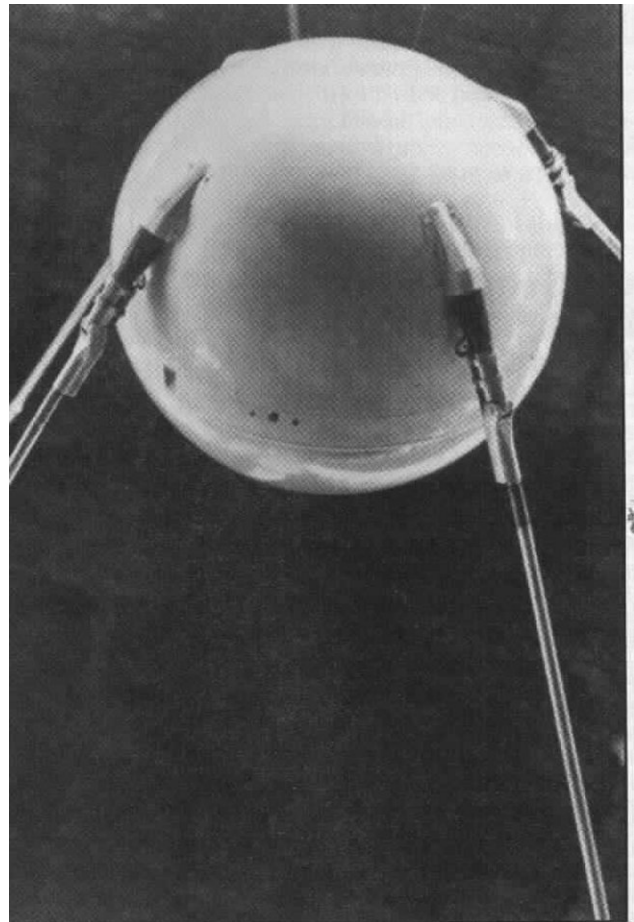


Lightning protection is mandatory in this area, therefore, serious effort was put into developing an

acceptable tower grounding system. A total of sixteen 10' copper pipes, four 8' galvanized ground rods, and some 280' of 1.5" copper strap were used. All guy wires were bonded together and grounded, and connection was made to the electrical and telephone service grounds. Below is a typical ground rod connection, utilizing Polyphaser hardware.



-- 50 YEARS SINCE SPUTNIK --



On 04 October 1957 the Soviet Union launched the first satellite in Earth orbit. The 183# basketball-size bird circles Earth every 98 minutes, with a "beep..beep...beep" on 20.005 mc that could be heard by anyone with a SW receiver. (Photo from Oct. CQ)

**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 _____

Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Control___, RFI/TVI___, VE Testing___, Training___, Packet___, RTTY___,
Computers___, DXing___, Contests___, Field Day___, Publicity___, Emergency Communications___, Special Events___,
VHF/UHF___, SSTV___, ATV___, Repeater___, EchoLink___, Other (specify) _____

Single Member @ \$15.00/year ___ , Family Membership @ \$18.50/year___ (\$8.00 after 30 June for remainder of calendar year. \$15.00 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

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

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