



# THE COMMUNICATOR



Mailing Address: P. O. Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274

W4AC Repeaters: 444.100 MHz (DMR) & 146.805 MHz (-) (PL100Analog)

Incorporated 1984

<http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

July, 2018

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## President's message.....KB1HIP

**E**ven though I am vacationing in NH for a few months, that did not stop the TARC club from operating smoothly while I am away. Gary Hagens, K6OC, chaired the June monthly meeting and presided over two important initiatives. One, Jack Sproat, W4JS and Stu Haag, W4MO, were voted in as Life Members of the Club in recognition of their many contributions and service to the TARC Club. Congratulations to Jack and Stu for this long overdue recognition. Also, some club members and the TARC club contributed to add to the money that was received from the Shark's Tooth QSL response. We will make a donation to the Special Olympics program. Thanks to the members who contributed.

As we planned, we participated in the 2018 ARRL Field Day which took place on the 23 and 24 of June using our club call, W4AC. We set up our two stations and antennas at the USCG Auxiliary Training Center. We installed a long wire antenna, a 2 element Mosely beam on a tripod stand and our new tent in the field outside the Training Center. Our equipment was powered by a Honda 3000 generator and a small solar installation. We had 13 club members who operated on CW, SSB voice and digital mode during the 24 hour period.

We had quite a few visitors who came to look at our operations, including members of the Scouts, ARRL section managers, Nancy Detert, Chair of the Sarasota County Board of Commissioners, and people who read about us in the newspaper. Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ has submitted our score to the ARRL. Thanks to all who participated.

As a reminder the club agreed to cancel the monthly meetings for July and August and resume the meetings starting in September.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable July and August.

VY 73 to All de Andy-KB1HIP



**NO TARC Meetings**

**July**

**and**

**August**

**Next Communicator**

**August/September**

## Next meeting SEPTEMBER

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **12 September, 2018** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** *Minutes of the 6/13/18 Meeting*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Gary Hagens, K6OC. The pledge to the flag followed. Introductions were made by name and call sign.

**MINUTES:** Vice President Hagens requested a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2018 meeting as published in the Communicator. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$5,448.67, income of \$168.45, expenses of \$266.78, and an ending balance as of May 31, 2018 of 5,350.34.

**SUNSHINE:** Nothing to report.

**VE TESTING:** Don Jansen, KI4VGE, reported that six candidates passed the Technician exam, one candidate passed the Amateur Extra exam and one candidate passed both the General exam and the Amateur Extra exam.

**LIAISON TO QCWA:** QCWA meetings have been suspended for the summer. They will resume in October. That said, fourteen members, spouses and guests met informally at the China Tokyo restaurant for luncheon fellowship.

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL:** Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported that the digital repeater 444.10 MHz was working satisfactorily; the frequency used being TAC 311. The Club 2 Meter analog repeater is 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100. The digital net opens Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The 2 Meter net opens Thursday at 7:30 PM.

**MEMBERSHIP:** There are 55 regular members, 14 first-year, 5 life and one comp, for a total of 75.

**PUBLICITY:** Due to the efforts of Tom Porada, W4IEE, Club meeting information is beginning to regularly appear in the local newspapers.

**OLD BUSINESS: 1.)** The annual Field Day 24 hour radio communications exercise will begin at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 23rd, and end at 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 24th. Location - USCG Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive, Venice, FL. If you missed the meeting and did not sign up to participate, but wish to do so, come to the USCG center and we'll integrate you into the operation.

2.) Field Day visitors. Mr. John Patrick, N9OU, a local scout Master, advised the Club that he would attempt to get Scouts to visit the Field Day Site, probably after 5 PM on Saturday or midmorning Sunday.

3.) USCG Antenna Repair. On June 12th, an intrepid team of TARC repair volunteers re-installed the USCG maritime frequency antenna to its proper place on the short antenna tower.

4.) Band Pass Filters. Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, received the DX band-pass filters and showed them the club. He said that these filters would be in use during Field Day to reduce signal interference.

**NEW BUSINESS: 1.)** By motion made, seconded and approved, the Club voted Life Member status for Mr. Jack Sproat, W4JS, and Mr. Stu Haag, W4MO, both long serving and contributing Club members, who have advanced the art and science of Radio Communications.

2.) Special Olympics Program. The Club received some small donations as a result of the Shark tooth Festival. Members increased that amount by contributions from the membership attending the meeting and from the Club treasury. In all, a sum of \$150.00 was collected for the Special Olympics Program.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Frank Wroblewski in the amount of \$15.00. He donated it back to the Club. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

There were 19 members and visitors present. After the close of the meeting, the program was provided by Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, who presented a series of interesting videos on WWII.

## A shark's eye view of Field Day by.. Finlay B.S.

**F**inlay B. Shark here, guest writer for the Tamiami Communicator newsletter. My buddy San was at the beach not long ago and asked me to fill in again for Frank, W2XYZ, which usually does an article here. Frank is an okay-kind-of-guy, but he has something of a problem. Not too much up there, if you know what I mean. His sinker doesn't go all the way to the bottom. The tide seems to be out all the time. I asked him to bring me a nice Virginian Ham from the Hamvention. So what's he bring me... a canned ham from Virginia. It was tasty, but not exactly what I was planning to sink my teeth into. Frank was busy with Field Day this month, so back by popular demand (of San), here I am to tell you about your Field Day.

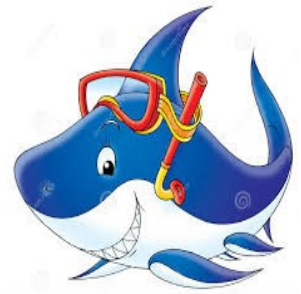
I got a better view of you guys this time. You were right on the beach at the Coast Guard station, just north of our family business, Sharkey's. About eight of you showed up Friday morning after eating some peaches or something like that. Frank may not be the sharpest hook in the tackle box, but some of you guys aren't either.

I thought you'd have learned from the Shark's Tooth Festival, you can't catch DX fish with that stupid looking fishing pole contraption you put about 25 feet in the air. What are you trying to catch, flying fish??? The other stupid thing was no better. 133 feet of what looked like fishing line up 35 feet in the air **with no hook on the end of it.** After several hours of debaiting and debating, you must have realized you didn't bring the tackle boxes, so you all went home and came back on Saturday at 11:30 in the morning.

When you arrived on Saturday you really came equipped. You had everything imaginable, two tents, tables, chairs, assorted hardware and lots of tackle boxes from Icom, Kenwood, and Yaesu. I got a good laugh seeing the picnic coolers full of bottles of water. Silly Hams, they didn't need to bring water, the Gulf is only a few yards away and is full of it. As the day continued, more and more of you Hams kept showing up to look at the tackle boxes. You even had four little Hams (Hamlettes?) in some kind of Army-looking uniform show up and play with the tackle boxes.

I noticed you had three Hams fishing. The first one was using fish-finding sonar as his location kept beeping continuously. The other guys were directing the fish to go to (2) Alpha in West Central Florida. I don't know what that means, may-

be there's a fish processing plant there or whatever. Anyway, one was looking for the W4AC kind of fish and the other for GOTA fish. I didn't see any fish being caught on those crazy riggings during the day, however the Hams said they did catch a few (remember Hams and fisherman lie a lot about their catch). When it got dark, the excitement seemed to pick up and apparently many more fish were caught during the night. I'll have to take their word on that as it was too dark to see what was happening on the beach.



Sunday morning a squall started forming over my territory, but never made it on shore. The guys continued calling the fish in to the processing plant and kept beeping with the sonar all morning long. About noon, a massive storm moved in from the east. Wow, even I was impressed with all the lightning buzzing around. Rain, like you wouldn't believe. I know from experience Hams don't like getting wet. I know this because when my buddies and I check the beach, you see them all standing there and none of them are going in the water. Duh! Why wear the swimsuit if you don't want to go in the water and frolic with us?

About 1:30 the Hams decided to pack it in. The rain slowed enough to where they could get the tackle boxes and some other hardware into the cars. They left with plans to let the tents dry and take them down on Monday. Thankfully they took down their stupid fishing rigging on Monday too. I sure would have been embarrassed if some of my northern friends swam down and noticed what kind of fishermen live in my neighborhood.

Even with those stupid poles and long fishing line, the sonar guys directed 213 fish. The other guys directed 124 W4AC fish and 20 GOTA fish to the processing plant in Alpha, West Central Florida. One of the new guys caught fish with a computer; a PSK31 fish. I don't know what the computer bait tastes like, but he did manage to catch 14 of these buggers using a computer. I'd love to taste some of those computers, so if any of you no longer want to use one, please drop it off the end of the pier, I'll be waiting.

Your friend 'til the end,

Finlay



## Field Day Scout visit

By John Patrick, N9OU

Four Boy Scouts from the Ft. Myers area and one Girl Scout from Venice attended our Field Day to work on their Radio Merit Badge. The Boy Scouts represented two different families from two different troops. Andrew and David K. were from Troop 316 (chartered by St. Cecilia Catholic Church), while Cameron and Xavier C. were from Troop 110 (chartered by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of North Fort Myers).

All four earned the Radio Merit Badge, which required them to understand the radio spectrum, different types of radio modulation, understand the basic building blocks of a radio station, know the difference between amateur radio and broadcast radio (including short wave), know what call-signs are and how they are used (in both amateur radio and broadcasting), know the phonetic alphabet, and know the safety requirements for working with radio. The fun requirement is that they need at least 10 minutes of time on the radio using proper call-signs, Q-codes and signal reports. The Boy Scouts had to do some research and come prepared with answers for several questions ahead of time, including knowing about careers in radio.

I am an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 77 in Venice, chartered by Grace United Methodist Church on the island. I am a registered Merit Badge Councilor



for Radio as well as several other Merit Badges. Radio is one of approximately 150 Merit Badges Scouts can earn. Merit Badges run the spectrum of knowledge, hobbies, and careers, and examples include Chess, Coin Collecting, Fishing, Photography, Robotics, Shotgun Shooting, and Wilderness Survival.

To reach the highest rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn a minimum of 21 Merit Badges of which 13 are specifically required. Examples of these Eagle-required Merit Badges include First Aid, Cooking, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, Swimming, and Camping.

## Karenia brevis *(per Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)*

***Karenia brevis*** is a single-cell organism belonging to a group of algae called dinoflagellates. ***Karenia brevis*** is known as the Florida red tide organism. In large numbers, it causes red tide along Florida's coastline. ***Karenia brevis*** can be found in Gulf waters any time of the year, but most commonly in the fall. Large concentrations of these cells, called blooms, can discolor water red to brown. ***Karenia brevis*** produces a neurotoxin that can kill fish and other marine life, make shellfish toxic for human consumption, and cause respiratory irritation in humans who breathe the aerosols released by the cells when they break open.



***Thanks to Dennis, KN4KTT for providing surgical masks to mitigate the effects of the red tide during our operations.***



# Field Day Friday .....antenna setup



Lots of room at the Coast Guard facility



Heave ho, Mateys



OOPS.. I think I squashed a bug!



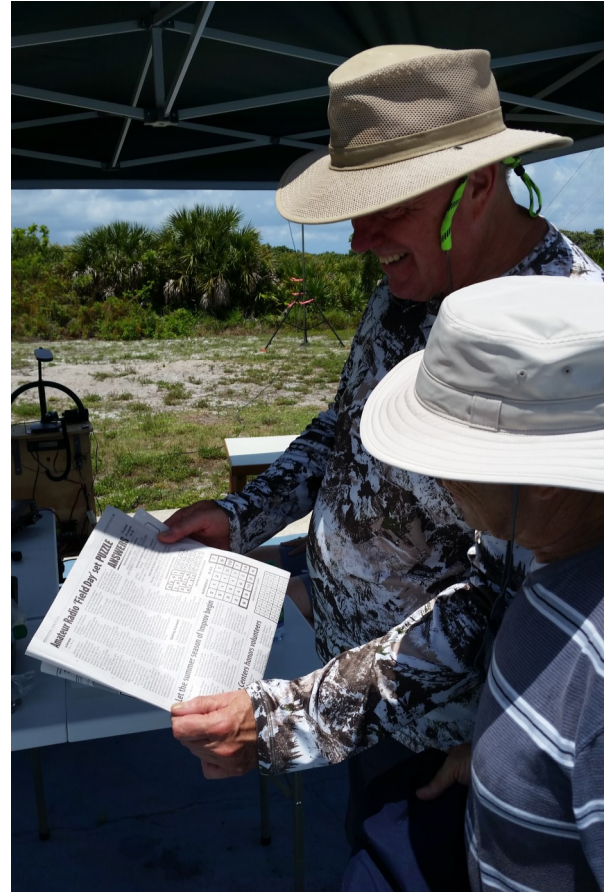
Ready  
To  
Roll!



# Field Day Saturday



ARRL Section Manager Darrell Davis, KT4WX, and Youth Coordinator Christine Durez, KK4KIN visited



Tom and Frank review Tom's article published by the Gondolier



Field Day Call Used: W4AC - GOTA Station Call: W2XYZ



Number of transmitters in simultaneous operation: 2



Number of Participants: 13





# Field Day Saturday night/Sunday



Night falls, and the beat goes on.

Nancy Detert, Chair of the Sarasota County Board of Commissioners chats with Frank, WB2XYZ, TARC field-day coordinator. Nancy was kind enough to visit in response to a personal letter of invitation from San, K3SY—(neighbors).



And then the rains came, and Tom's head fell at the end of the rainbow!



# Field Day Monday



Good thing Jim has a big garage.



Total CW QSOs: 213 X 2 = Total CW QSO points: 426

Total Digital QSOs: 14 X 2 = Total Digital QSO points: 28

Entry Class: Club or non-club portable

Total Phone QSOs: 144 X 1 = Total Phone QSO points: 144

Total QSO points: 598

Total Bonus Points Claimed: 1270



The wrecking crew with San, Jerry took the pic.

The wrecking crew with Jerry, San took the pic.



# Antennas Us (Revisited—sort of!)

It started out as a great morning over at Peach's for breakfast Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Jim S. and Frank W. had a plan to go over to the Auxiliary Coast Guard property and put their VHF/UHF antenna back into play as it had previously come loose off its mount. They were all enthusiastic about it. They had the right hardware, the right tools, and even hired a guy with a telescoping bucket truck for the occasion. They figured all they had to do was to sit back and watch the bucket guy put the pieces together.



Well, a few of us heard their conversations over breakfast and decided to head over to watch the Jim & Frank show. Chet, Steve and I hopped into our vehicles and headed over. Shortly afterwards the gang was all there except for the bucket truck. Bucket guy was searching for 1200 Tamiami Drive, or some such address, but certainly not 1200 South Harbor Drive. Needless to say he was a good 30 minutes late. So much for planning...



Bucket guy's truck was a big old heavy bucket truck with more than adequate reach required for the job. Before positioning his truck, bucket guy walked the property to determine his best approach so as not to damage any of the concrete walkways. He decided to pull straight in headed toward the back of the property in the direction of the ocean with the intent of then backing up to the CG building near the base of the antenna tower.

Again, so much for planning. As soon as bucket guy got into position and started to back up he began digging a deeper and deeper hole until the truck was stuck with its rear wheels spinning. All of us tried filling the hole with rocks and wood and whatever was around but to no avail. Stuck is stuck!

I figured I'd get my tow straps out of my Tacoma and see if I could help pull him out of the hole with 4 wheel drive. Steve offered up something like "Mine's bigger than yours, let me do it". Not wanting to get into 'that' kind of a conversation, knowing that Steve is younger than me, I let him get his full size pick-up and hooked him up.



After multiple tries Steve was able to assist bucket guy to an additional 3' of hole length before the tow straps broke. The sand was too soft, the truck was too heavy, and the straps too weak. There was nothing more we could do - bucket guy was on his own. We later heard him talking with his boss on the phone.

Steve quickly assessed the overall situation and jumped into action with his best protective gear and climbed the tower. He got the antenna mounted to the cross brace in short order but was having trouble pulling the other end of the brace into place because of the torque from the antenna on the other end. Jim and Chet grabbed some old conduit and began applying upward pressure to the base of the antenna. Steve was able to finish the job shortly thereafter.

It took about 30 minutes to get the antenna mounted (thanks Steve!), but about 2 hours beforehand trying and failing to get the bucket truck unstuck!

When we finally left, bucket guy was still waiting for help to arrive. Hope he's not still there!





## The new Tech question pool — not

Here is a test I found in an old file c.a. 1970s – B.I. (before internet) – author unknown. It isn't intended to measure intelligence, fluency with words, or mathematical ability. It will, however, give you some gauge of your mental flexibility and creativity – and may help you sharpen your brain for that Extra test. Any 100% correct entries submitted at a TARC meeting will earn a certificate of genius. You are on the honor system to use only your brain and NOT Google any answers. (Answers will appear in a future issue). LOTS OF LUCK! ..... de K3SY


**INSTRUCTIONS:** Each question below contains the initials of words that will make the result correct. Find the missing words. For example:

26 L. of the A. = 26 letters of the alphabet.

- a. 26 L. of the A. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 7 W. of the A.W. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. 1,001 A.N. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. 12 S of the Z. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. 54 C. in a D. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. 9 P. in the S.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. 88 P.K. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. 13 S. on the A.F. \_\_\_\_\_
- i. 32 D. at which W.F. \_\_\_\_\_
- j. 18 H on a G.C. \_\_\_\_\_
- k. 90 D. in a R.A. \_\_\_\_\_
- l. 200 D. for P.G. in M. \_\_\_\_\_
- m. 8 S. on a S.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- n. 3 B.M. (S.H.T.R.) \_\_\_\_\_
- o. 4 Q. in a F.G. \_\_\_\_\_
- p. 24 H. in a D. \_\_\_\_\_
- q. 1 W. on a U. \_\_\_\_\_
- r. 5 D. in a Z.C. \_\_\_\_\_
- s. 57 H.V. \_\_\_\_\_
- t. 11 P. on a F.T. \_\_\_\_\_
- u. 1,000 W. that a P. is W. \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 29 D. in F. in a L.Y. \_\_\_\_\_
- w. 64 S. on a C. \_\_\_\_\_
- x. 40 D and N of the G.F. \_\_\_\_\_



# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 QCWA 11:30 AM China-Tokyo Restaurant, 549 US 41 N. Bypass, Ven-	3 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	4 	5 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	6 Breakfast @ Peaches *	7
8	9 DARN Emergency net @ 11AM Starts on NI4CE/RPT 145.43 pl100	10 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	11 <b>NO TARC Meeting this month</b>	12 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	13 Breakfast @ Peaches *	14 <b>TARC VE Session @ Jacaranda Public Library 10:00 AM</b>
15	16	17 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	18	19 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	20 Breakfast @ Peaches *	21
22	23	24 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	25	26 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	27 Breakfast @ Peaches *	28
29	30	31 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1				* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM, orders taken at 7:00.

\*\*The W4AC 146.805 Repeater is now ANALOG, PL100. [If the 2-m repeater is down, please QSY to 146.58 simplex]



**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL, (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Application Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check items of interest:**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A - ATV/SSTV                 | <input type="checkbox"/> L - Echo Link   | <input type="checkbox"/> S - Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C - Contests                 | <input type="checkbox"/> N - Net Control | <input type="checkbox"/> T - Training       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D - Digital (DMR, PSK, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> O - Computers   | <input type="checkbox"/> U - VHF/UHF        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E - Emergency Comm.          | <input type="checkbox"/> P - Packet      | <input type="checkbox"/> V - VE Testing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F - Field Day                | <input type="checkbox"/> Q - Publicity   | <input type="checkbox"/> X - DX             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I - RFI/TVI                  | <input type="checkbox"/> R - Repeater    | <input type="checkbox"/> Y - RTTY           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Z - QRP            |

**MAIL TO: TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
PO Box 976  
Nokomis, FL 34274**

<b>2018 TARC OFFICERS:</b> President: Andy Durette KB1HIP Vice President: Gary Hagens K6OC Secretary: Jim Shortill KJ4NDO Treasurer: Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ Directors: Peter Boers KV4LR Larry Bryan W8LIG Don Jansen KI4VGE Tom McDermitt W3GXV San Yoder K3SY Guenther Hennig AJ4QX Dir. & Pub. Inf. Tom Porada W4IEE		<b>Dues:</b> Regular member \$20.00/yr. After 6/1 - \$10.00 to yr. end After 10/31 \$20.00 thru next yr. Family Membership \$25.00/yr Non Voting Student \$5.00/yr New licensee - first year free.
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*The Communicator is a monthly publication of  
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