



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>

September, 2018

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President's message.....KB1HIP

I came back to Florida with my wife in early August from my snowbird time in New Hampshire to take care of her mother who was hospitalized and is now in rehab at the Village on the Isle facility.

While I was here I ran the monthly DARN net (Disaster Amateur Radio Network), since both Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO and Ken Magill, KK4IGK were out of town. It was a good net with 20 RF check-ins. DARN is responsible for ten counties which are part of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Venice. Please check in on the net which takes place on the second Monday of each month.

Ham radio activities in NH were very light this summer. I did manage to set up my Icom 706 mobile radio with a new MFJ 20 meter hamstick which I bought at the Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) in Salem, NH. I visited Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO and his brother Joe, W1XXV in Maine to help replace the guy lines on three push poles that support Joe's 40 to 10 meter Alpha-Delta DXEE dipole which had come down as a result of four Nor'easter storms that hit Maine last winter. While I was there I helped load four containers of radio equipment, which came from a silent key, in Jim's truck to bring back to Venice for our January auction.

I am going back to New Hampshire for a few more weeks and plan to be back in Florida in mid-September in time to begin a new season of activities with the TARC club. I am looking forward to that.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable September.

VY 73 to all, de Andy-KB1HIP

This issue contains two less pages than usual.

No meetings in July and August - no minutes.

DX Jack is in New Mexico riding horses instead of chasing DX. Watch for his page next month.

SEPTEMBER meeting

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

Digital Frank (W2XYZ) is back in town!

Hill, I'm back from my summer break. I appreciated Finlay B. Shark filling in for me while I was gone and gave you his observations of our Field Day. Hopefully, the Red Tide dissipates so he can return to our shores in time for the next Shark Tooth Festival. Meeting-wise, things have been quiet over the summer, but things have been happening you might not be aware of.

The first is, we have a new net. It's still in its infancy stage, but interest is growing. Steve, WA1ZKN began a local 10 meter phone net on Thursday evenings. It's an informal net and begins around 8 pm, or whenever the 7:30 pm 2 meter net finishes. Steve calls up the net on 28.495 USB. It's a great opportunity to try different mics or antennas, or just chat with others. One of the nice things about it is, Technicians are permitted phone operation on that frequency. So far members in the West Villages and Venice Gardens have had no problems checking in. We need some check-ins from more distant locations to really see how well 10 m is working for us. Who knows, we may have to change the net from a 10 m net to a 40 m net or maybe a 6 m net, depending on the ground wave coverage versus atmospheric noise received.

Another change that occurred this summer is our UHF DMR repeater is no longer tied to the "C" Bridge in Chicago. Thanks to Stew W4MO and his son David, the repeater is now directly connected to the Brandmeister master network. What that means for us is, instead of having a couple dozen possible talkgroups to pick from, we now have access to over 1200 talkgroups from all over the world. Probably more importantly, we have small specific interest groups such as "Hurricane Watch" or "SKYWARN" to pick from. We also have eliminated the middleman by going directly to Brandmeister. That means one less thing (location) that could go wrong.

So far the DMR net has been working ten times better than before. Previously, at times, we had problems of being unable to access our own repeater because some distant station had our

time slot in use. Essentially, that problem is gone. We also had problems when hotspot users (like snowbirds) tried to enter the net, we would be unable to hear them or they couldn't hear us. Even worse is when they were in for a while and then suddenly disappeared, due to network problems. Of course, network problems can still arise, but the issues we had before caused by bottlenecks or whatever unknown problem(s) were giving us an issue, have greatly lessened.

It is reported that the Sarasota club, that operates the DMR repeater at the Laurel location, is raising their antenna. If/when that happens, club members in the Sarasota area will then find it easier to check in the Tuesday evening TARC DMR Chat Net by accessing the Laurel repeater at 444.700 MHz.

Still, on the topic of nets, the Thursday evening VHF net is growing larger. There was a period of time the repeater was down but became operational again last spring. Coverage from the 200' antenna on the tower in Englewood is excellent. Southern Sarasota County and northern Charlotte County are well within its footprint when using a base or mobile station. Many parts of Venice and Englewood can even access the repeater with a handheld in their home.

Access to this repeater has been enhanced with the addition of Echolink. Using Echolink from a home computer, a repeater equipped with Echolink, or a smartphone with the Echolink app, one can connect to W2XYZ-R, node 571146, which is tied to our VHF repeater. Likewise, if you have a friend in Cucamonga, or maybe Timbuktu, and Cucamonga or Timbuktu has an Echolink repeater in the neighborhood, you type the node number into your local radio and instantly be connected to that friend miles away.

That's about it for this month. Next month I'll be writing about the dizzying life of being an electron tightly bound to a nucleus; unless someone suggests a different topic.



How TARC got internet access on Field Day 2018 – think Client-BridgeW4IEE

At this year's Sharks Tooth Festival in April we used the internet to provide a timing signal for the FT8 station. The internet came to us via a Sprint hotspot linked via WIFI to one computer/station (see May 2018 Communicator, page 9). However, only one station had internet access using this method. Although other stations could have also used the hotspot via WIFI directly, like multiple cell phones could use it, that configuration would not have allowed the computers to 'talk' to each, only to the internet.

Our FD goal again this year was to have all stations linked over a local area network (LAN) so that we could use the N3FJP logging software to capture contacts immediately without further intervention. We did this at Al's garage for the 2017

FD and it worked great. We were actually competing between the stations to see which one made the most contacts.

So this year, I figured why not add the internet into the mix, distributed to each of the stations over the same LAN? This would give each station the capability to check QRZ.com, surf the internet or check personal emails during slow period.

The question became how to capture a wireless WIFI signal (from the hotspot) then distribute it to a series of computers via a LAN. This required the use of some sort of server which would hand out addresses to the connected stations. After much thinking, reading and surfing I

Con't >>

KN4BAR announces new Tech training sessions

A Technician Class license training course will be conducted again in 2018 during the month of December. The presentation will be updated to reflect the new, 2018-2022 Element 2 Question Pool, and will use the new ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 4th edition just published last month.

The course will consist of three Saturdays: Dec 1st from 1 to 5 pm, Dec 8th from 1 to 5 pm, and Dec 15th from 10 am to 1 pm. All classes will be held in the Jacaranda public library on Jacaranda Blvd. in Venice.

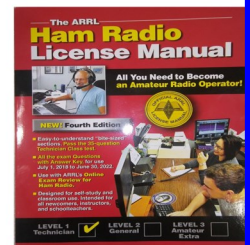
Please ask family, friends, and neighbors if they have any interest in obtaining their FCC license and have them contact Paul Nienaber at 941-468-3843 or by email to paul9aber@gmail.com to register.

IT'S OK TO BE A HAM

- Talk to the world without the Internet
- Help support county disaster communications needs
- Experiment with radio, digital, satellite, television, and microwave communication
- No Morse code is required! You can just talk or type.
- Low entry cost. Start for as little as \$100!
- No age restriction.....6 or 86 is OK

Short 35 question multiple choice test for entry level license

- This test preparation is *offered FREE of charge*. However, there is a \$33 cost for the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual
- Learn the basics of radio and electronics
- Learn how to communicate
- Learn what equipment is needed
- Learn how to be a safe and courteous operator



WHEN: Series of three, four-hour classes on Saturdays, December 1 and 8th from 1 pm to 5 pm, and December 15th 2018 from 10 am to 1 pm

WHERE: Jacaranda Public Library, Youth Activities Room, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice, FL 34293

Suggested Text: ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 4th Edition, ISBN: 978-1625950475 Available from Amazon at \$32.95 paperback, or \$19.99 Kindle e-book.

SIGN UP NOW!

CONTACT: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR at 941-468-3843



Driving ~~Miss Daisy~~ Ground Rods

by Tom, W4IEE

What ham radio task do you NOT look forward to? There are a few but most of us would agree that driving ground rods is simply a thankless task better left to someone with more brawn than brains. Driving an 8' rod with a 12 oz, 16 oz, 2 lb or 5 lb hammer produces the same result – plenty of sweat and a sore wrist with often 30 minutes or more spent time that you will never get back. Even those two handed fence post type driving tools don't perform the task much better than a hammer.

There is a better way! You can fully drive a rod in less than 2 minutes. All it takes is a 20 lb hammer drill and a rod-driving bit. Both are available from Home Depot (or other rental stores). Buying the bit online would be more cost effective in the long run. Borrowing the bit from another club member (there is at least one) would be the most economical way to get one.

Case-in-point: Recently, Gary H, K6OC, Chet F, KG4IYS, Paul N, KN4BAR and myself, W4IEE, drove in 9 ground rods in 3 ½ hours. That included driving to HD in Port Charlotte to pick up the hammer, going to my house (Gran Paradiso) and driving 3 rods, then to Gary's house (Pelican Point) to finish driving 2 rods, then over to Chet's house (Island Walk) to drive 4 rods, then back to Port Charlotte to drop off the hammer. Most of that time was driving the car, not driving the rods. We got the 4 hour rate and with tax and usage fee it came out to \$50.13—split 3 ways. Not bad!

Most of us could use more rods but hesitate to spend the time and energy to put them in. Find a few others and do as we did. Prepare first though. Have your rods ready and at the exact location you want them (be careful of what may be in the ground). Have a 5 or 6'

step ladder in place as well as a heavy duty extension cord. Wear gloves. Set the hammer to '4' speed, put one person on the ladder to start the hammering while another holds the rod steady. When the person on the ladder is bending over too much, hand off the hammer to the rod holder to finish the job from the ground. Move ladder & drill – repeat. If you spend more than 2 minutes per rod you are doing something wrong.

See Home Depot shelf label for hammer ID.



Client bridge, con't

discovered that we needed a 'client-bridge' device for this purpose. I checked through some of my old network routers and access points and found out that I could use at least one of them for this purpose. It became a 'simple' matter of re-configuring the unit's software into a 'client-bridge'. Although the change was actually simple to do, figuring out which setting to change took days! The rest was simple. It just required me to input the SSID and password from the hotspot and the five LAN ports on the old router were alive and available to the other computers.

By the way, if you ever wanted to 'borrow' WIFI from anyone and set up your own network all you need is their WIFI SSID and password then use a client-bridge!! Heck, you could probably use your neighbors signal for your whole house or run your RV's computers from another camper's rig without them knowing about it! Now-a-days there are many cars with built in WIFI – this same idea applies there also.

BTW - Don't call me if the WIFI cops show up at your door...I'm just the messenger. **W4IEE**

A peek inside K0AL's "cottage" shack



Most of us are happy with a corner in a room for our shack. Al has an entire house dedicated to ham radio.



Al's main op station sports an FT-1000 w/TenTec Titan 1.5 kW amp, while backup stations include a Collins S/line w/Collins 30L-1 1 kW amp, and a Drake 4-C line w/L-4B 1 kW amp.

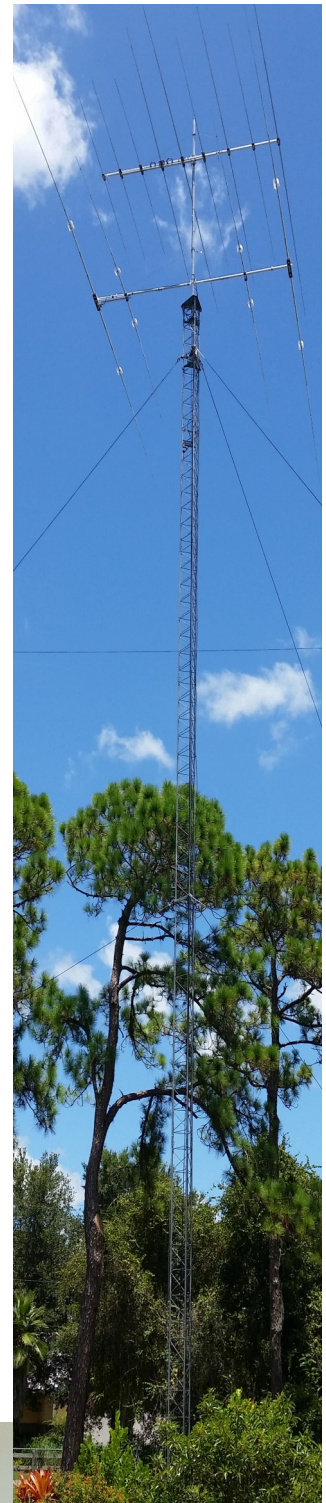
From thence Al has accumulated 5-band WAS (all with 1 x 2 letter calls), WAZ, and DXCC w/300+ confirmed.

Al has held KN0YVU, K0YVU, & K0AL calls, with operating privileges in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, and Italy w/o a foreign callsign, always with K0AL/xx.

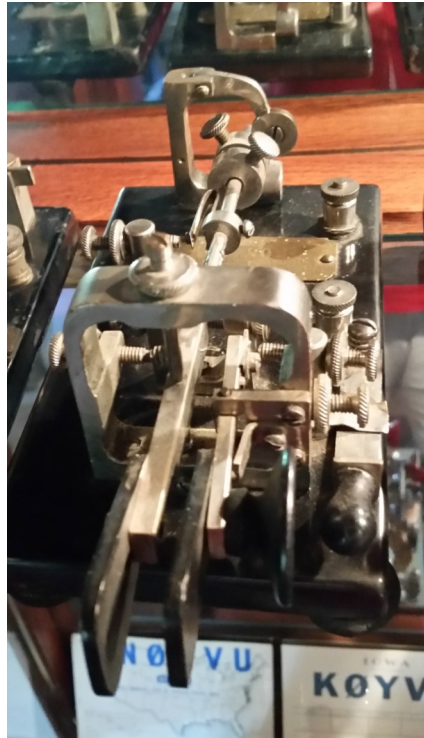


Opti-Beam 9-5 yagi @ 95' for 20, 17, 15, 12, & 10 M + J-K yagi @ 85' (2 el. ea on 30, 40M)

In case you think Al is antenna deprived, he also has an open wire fed dipole for 80M, & OW fed loop for 160M

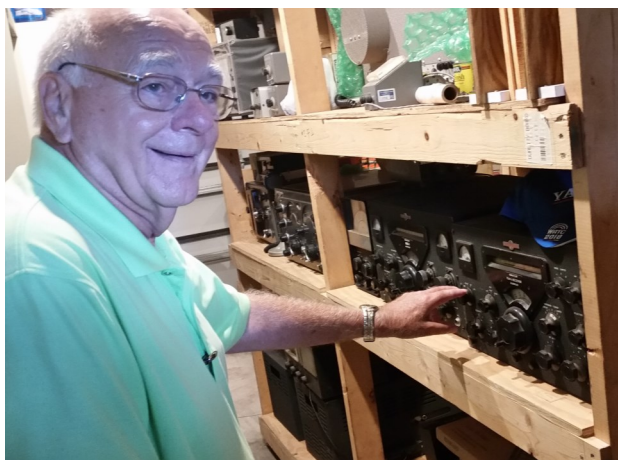


K0AL's "Cottage", con't



Al has a collection of 200 some keys, a few shown in a display case above-left. His prize key (above-center) is a 1915 Vibroplex "double-lever", semi-automatic—a gift from W0ZTP (SK).

All that metal in the air does create a lot of antenna envy!



A 3-car garage has equipment stacked floor to ceiling awaiting Al's skilled hands to return all to operating condition.



Watch where you park when you visit! Here you see parking restriction and a navigation aid from Al's pilot days.

K0AL's most memorable contact—a 10 meter AM mobile QSO with W4TJO (SK) that lasted from California to Phoenix.



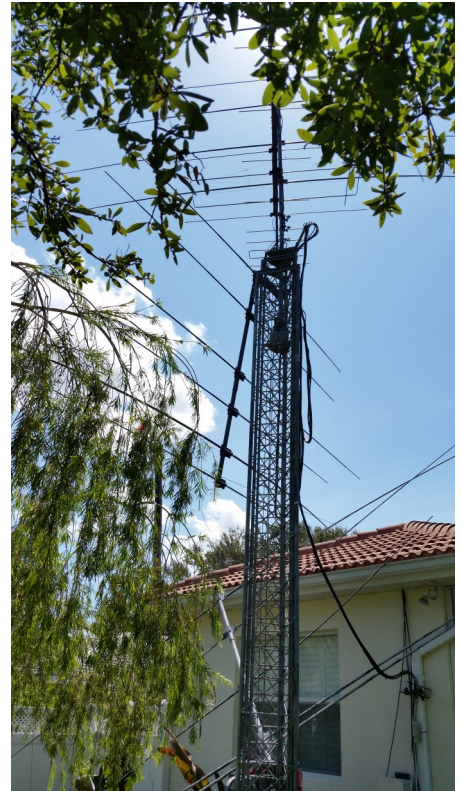
Exam date was 11/'59, & license in '60. Al learned what his call was via an ad from World Radio with his call on it.

Another case with a few of Al's collector pieces, all in operating condition.

“Captain Bob’s” (W5GJ) antenna system is out of the hospital

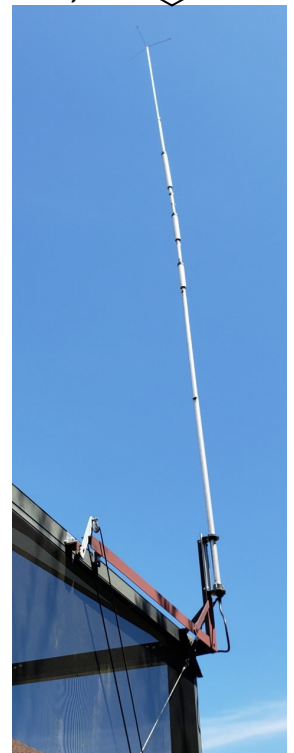
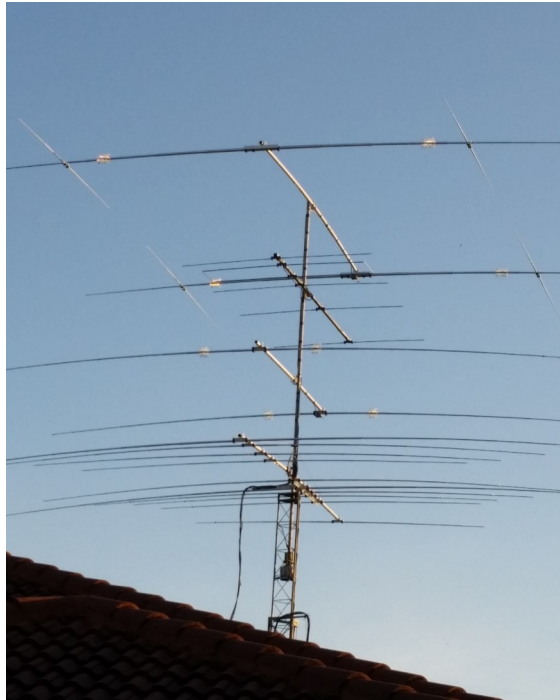
Irma paid a visit to W5GJ’s antenna farm last September, resulting in the mess you see at right. (See November 2017 Communicator.) Things are now back in order in better shape than before.

If Bob’s setup doesn’t give you antenna envy, you most likely don’t live under the spell of an HOA.



Before ^^^
<<< After

Compare my wimpy HOA-sanctioned lanai-cage vertical. (K3SY) ↓



Four TARC members - KJ4NLP, KG4IYS, W2XYZ, & K3SY attend NWS Tampa Bay SKYWARN® Program



K3SY photo

The impacts of hazardous weather are experienced by many Americans each year. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Please see <http://www.weather.gov/tbw/wx4tor>

Brain test answers

For those of you who wasted a few minutes in an attempt to decipher the nonsense published in the July Communicator as a practice session for the new Tech test, here are the answers. I apologize for the omission in question e. It should have included "(with the J.)" – without that it made no sense. Hope you aced the test!

de K3SY

Original 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. _____ 26 letters of the alphabet _____
- b. 7 W. of the A.W. _____ 7 wonders of the ancient world _____
- c. 1,001 A.N. _____ 1001 Arabian nights _____
- d. 12 S of the Z. _____ 12 signs of the zodiac _____
- e. 54 C. in a D. (with the J.) _____ 54 cards in a deck with the Jokers _____
- f. 9 P. in the S.S. _____ 9 planets in the solar system _____
- g. 88 P.K. _____ 88 piano keys _____
- h. 13 S. on the A.F. _____ 13 stars on the American flag _____
- i. 32 D. at which W.F. _____ 32 degrees at which water freezes _____
- j. 18 H on a G.C. _____ 18 holes on a golf course _____
- k. 90 D. in a R.A. _____ 90 degrees in a right angle _____
- l. 200 D. for P.G. in M. _____ 200 dollars for passing GO in Monopoly _____
- m. 8 S. on a S.S. _____ 8 sides on a stop sign _____
- n. 3 B.M. (S.H.T.R.) _____ 3 blind mice, see how they run _____
- o. 4 Q. in a F.G. _____ 4 quarters in a football game _____
- p. 24 H. in a D. _____ 24 hours in a day _____
- q. 1 W. on a U. _____ 1 wheel on a unicycle _____
- r. 5 D. in a Z.C. _____ 5 digits in a zip code _____
- s. 57 H.V. _____ 57 Heinz varieties _____
- t. 11 P. on a F.T. _____ 11 persons on a football team _____
- u. 1,000 W. that a P. is W. _____ 1000 words that a picture is worth _____
- v. 29 D. in F. in a L.Y. _____ 29 days in February in a leap year _____
- w. 64 S. on a C. _____ 64 squares on a checkerboard _____
- x. 40 D and N of the G.F. _____ 40 days and nights of the Great Flood _____



Signalink USB Integrated Sound Card


6-pin mini-din cable

Asking \$40.00. Contact Don, KI4VGE

dljansencfi@gmail.com 941-223-1129



September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Note: Following the 2-meter net, tune in to the 10 meter net.	* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM, orders taken at 7:00.	1
2	3 QCWA 11:30 AM China-Tokyo Restaurant, 549 US 41 N. Bypass, Venice	4 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	5	6 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	7 Breakfast @ Peaches *	8 TARC VE Session @ Jacaranda Public Library 10:00 AM
9	10 DARN Emergency net @ 11AM Starts on NI4CE/RPT 145.43 p1100	11 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	12 TARC meeting @ Coast Guard Training Center 7:00 PM	13 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	14 Breakfast @ Peaches *	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	19	20 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	21 Breakfast @ Peaches *	22
23	24	25 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	26	27 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **	28 Breakfast @ Peaches *	29
30						

**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: TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO Box 976
Nokomis, FL 34274**

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	Don Jansen	KI4VGE
	Tom McDermitt	W3GXV
	San Yoder	K3SY
	Guenther Hennig	AJ4QX
Dir. & Pub. Inf.	Tom Porada	W4IEE

Dues:	
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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