Newsletter of the TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, (TARC), Venice, Florida



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

January, 2020

In this issue:

President's Message: 1
Meeting Notice:1
Meeting Minutes: 2

Minutes &	
Winter	
<u>Field Day</u> :	3

DX Jac	ck's	
Page:		4

TARC	pa	rty	7		
Photo:	<u>s</u> :		5	-	6

Antenna	
Shootout:	7-8

Rando	m	
Stuff:		9

Tom	's	Tech	
<u>Tips</u>	&	Bus:	10

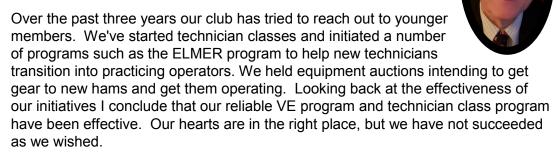
Club	
Calendar:	 11

Membership	
Application:	. 12

President's message....KJ4NDO

Let me begin my first president's message by thanking all of the members who voted for me as president. It is an honor for me to serve as the TARC president.

Please feel free to contact me and our club officers and directors with your suggestions and comments



In this, we are not alone. See the January, 2020 issue of QST, page 9, CEO's message, and page 66 and following. The article "Nashua Area Radio Society Outreach to New Hams," can provide a roadmap for us. As the authors of this article state; "(We)Create(ed) ... successful new programs by learning from early failed attempts and improving the elements that worked until we got the results we were looking for." We'll discuss this matter in depth at the board of director's meeting on Saturday, January 4, 2020, so send your suggestions to the board or to the club officers.

Our club is solid, innovative, fun. Members help other members improve their skills. Our antenna shootout day was an enjoyable example of our creativity. Maybe a Buddipole shootout day at the north jetty is next.

We have received approval from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary to set up our Winter Field Day operation Saturday, January 25 and Sunday January 26. Set up is allowed on Friday, January 24th. We have one meeting on the 8th of January for discussion and final planning. If you know a technician level operator, or any other operator, please invite them to join us for radio operation experience, coffee, donuts and good fellowship.

I hope that everyone has had a happy holiday season. 73 to all. Jim KJ4NDO

Next meeting January 8, 2020

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **08 January, 2020** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive.

Next
Month
Winter
Field Day
Report

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the 12/11/19 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President Durette, KB1HIP. The pledge to the flag followed. Introductions were made by name and call sign.

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting as published in the Communicator, were accepted by motion made, seconded and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported an ending November balance of \$4,286.53. The treasurer's report was approved.

SUNSHINE: Jim Shortill was in the hospital with a perforated appendix. Surgery followed. He is well on the road to recovery now.

San reported that former member and VE Chair, Don Jansen, JKI4VGE, visited past president Fred Lathwood, KJ4TNI, in Marana AZ. Fred was in good spirits, but his hearing and eyesight are failing.

VE TESTING: Steve Phillips, formerly WA1ZKN, now NS4P: We have had no VE sessions since the last meeting. The next session will December 14th, and this will be our last session at the Jacaranda Library. Starting in January TARC VE sessions will be held at the Venice Library "on the island." The schedule will remain the same with sessions every second Saturday of the month at 10 AM, except for February, which will be held on the 3rd Saturday to avoid conflict with Hamcation.

LIAISON TO QCWA: About 27 members, spouses, and guests met in December at Denny's restaurant in Sarasota. The program: A trip to Switzerland, by San Yoder.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported that both the digital and analog repeaters were working well. The frequency for the digital operations is talk group TAC 311. The club 2 meter analog repeater frequency 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. Hams can participate on this net via EchoLink using a computer, an IPhone or an Android system based phone. Click on W2XYZ-R on the EchoLink directory screen to establish EchoLink contact. The 10 meter net is on frequency 28.450 MHz, upper side band, and begins immediately after the conclusion of the 2 meter net. The 10 meter frequency was chosen so Novice/Technician licensees could participate.

About 12 to 14 members on average participate in these nets every month.

MEMBERSHIP: Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, reported that there are 87 regular, paid members, 45 first year free members, 0 student members, 7 life members and 1 comp. member, for a total of 140.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Status of licensing courses: Andy Durette, KB1HIP. Andy led a discussion about starting an Amateur Extra course in 2020 after the new question pool comes out in July. Discussion will continue.

2. Rotating Net Control Operators for Digital and Analog Nets. The net control operators for our weekly nets (San, K3SY, and Steve, WA1ZKN) offered to help new technician licensees to become good net control operators. We have a net control script. New net control operators would have a trainer at their elbow throughout the net. Other hams noted that running a net was the best way to gain experience. "We all started this way," they said.

If you want to volunteer for net control please contact Steve. He developed the sample script and will train new net control operators. Contact Steve at: sphilips3@gmail.com if you want to join this happy, informal band of radio operators.

- 3.) Christmas Party. The club Christmas party was held at Valenti's Restorante, 1200 East Venice Avenue, Venice, on December 10, 2019. Approximately 57 members and guests attended. A good time was had by all.
- 4.) Bus to Hamcation. Members wishing to take a bus to Hamcation in Orlando should contact Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, immediately (w2xyz@arrl.net) as the bus is filling up.
- 5. Antenna "shoot-out" at the North Jetty. Members set up several different design types of homemade and store bought antennas to see which was the most efficient. We discovered that

Minutes, con't

the differences in efficiency levels were very small and all of the antennas were really quite effective. It was a pleasant day in the park for all.

NEW BUSINESS 1.) Winter Field Day, 2 PM Saturday, January 25, thru Sunday January 26 at 2 PM. Set up no sooner than 2 PM Friday before. Location will be the USCG Auxiliary Station, 1200 Harbor Drive, Venice, FL. Winter Field Day has grown into a technically challenging, enjoyable, member driven event. Clear your calendars and get ready for fun field event.

- Boca Grande/Gasparilla Lighthouses (USA 910) Communication Event. Andy Durette, KB1HIP. This communication event would be part of the Amateur Radio Light House Society Christmas Lights program. This event runs from December 21, 2019 to January 3, 2020. Members selected Saturday, December 28th as a tentative date to open the Lights Program net. Interested? Contact Andy Durette at: af durette@hotmail.com.
- 3.) Election of Officers for 2020. The nominating officer presented a slate of officers for the club's evaluation: President, Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Vice President, Steve Phillips, NS4P, Recording Secretary, Patti Phillips, N4IGI, Treasurer, Frank Wroblewski. W2XYZ. The selections were put before the membership for vote. By unanimous vote the members elected the new slate of officers.

The membership also approved the following members as Board of Directors:

Andy Durette, KB1HIP, Gary Hagens, K60C, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, San Yoder, K3SY, Guenther Henning, AJ4QX, Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, Peter Boers, KV4LR.

NOTE: A Repeat Notice for All Members: Late Risers of the World Unite: Members who would like to attend a TARC fellowship breakfast beginning during the daylight hours, now have the option to attend a TARC breakfast at 8:30 AM Wednesdays, at the I Hop restaurant, 4369 Tamiami Trail South, Venice, FL. Ph: (941) 445-5494. Hope to see you there.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. There were 39 members and visitors present. The 50-50 winner was Mike Lechky, W0MJL, who won \$37.00.

Program: Steve Phillips, Logging contacts via electronic systems.

Winter Field Day







Everyone who has had his license more than a day or two knows of the ARRL Field Day in June. A few years ago several Hams in the Midwest started a new event, Winter Field Day. Somewhat surprisingly, Winter Field Day (WFD) is catching on. Our club participated for the first time last year. We operated from North Jetty Park with two transmitters. We made 182 phone contacts, 0 CW and 0 digital. This event has three categories, Indoors, Outdoors, and Home. We entered the Outdoor category and of the 230 stations registered as

We plan to enter the WFD event again this year. WFD begins at 2

Outdoors, we placed 91st.

pm EST Saturday Jan 25 and runs for 24 hours until Sunday Jan 26 2 pm EST. We intend to operate Outdoors at the Coast Guard station; however in case of inclement weather such as last year, we'll move indoors and adjust our category accordingly. We'll run two 500 watt transmitters, one for phone and one for CW. FT8 is not permitted in WFD. Digital modes such as RTTY, PSK31, Olivia, etc. are allowed.

Many of you remember the difficulty we had trying to operate phone or CW last June at Field Day due to overloading of the receivers from tion. the FT8 stations. We are going to use WFD as a learning opportunity

to avoid that same problem next June. Although FT8 is not permitted in WFD, we will set up a FT8 station and operate it independent of the WFD activities. This will give us a chance to try some of the ideas members have in configuring the stations to avoid or eliminate the overloading of the receivers.

A planning meeting will be held in January (date TBD) and all are invited to bring their ideas and suggested solutions for our dilemma to the meeting. Think about antenna layout, antenna types, equipment, and methods of physical separa-

73, Frank, W2XYZ

DX Jack's page....

...... By Jack Sproat, W4JS

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY - CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY	BEAR-	HF	BAND	S and	BEST (OPENIN	IG TIMI	ES (UT	C)
COUNTRY - CALL SIGN	PERIOD	ING	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Thailand – HS0ZME by SM6NT, **	Now - Apr 2020	355/ <u>175</u>	NO	N0	1200	0000	NO	1300	NO	NO
Gambia – C5YK by ON7YK, CW/SSB/FT8	Now - Mar 2020	88	23-07	21-10	20-00	17-21	16-19	13-15	NO	NO
W. Malaysia – 9M2MRS by PA0RRS,CW/FT	Now to 27 Feb	352/ <u>172</u>	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	1300	NO	NO
Gambia – C5SP by SP3PS, SSB/FT8/FT4	Now to 17 Jan	88	23-07	21-10	20-00	17-21	16-19	13-15	NO	NO
Rotuma Is – 3D2AG/P, **	Now to 15 Jan	263	0900	06-13	05-13	07-10	19-21	1900	NO	NO
Thailand – HS0ZNR by VK2BY, SSB/FT8	Now to 08 Jan	355/ <u>175</u>	NO	NO	1200	0000	NO	1300	NO	NO
Cyprus SBA – ZC4UW by 8 op team	02 to 07 January	48	01-03	22-06	21-07	13-16	13-16	13-15	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7BS by RX3AMY	03 to 23 January	41	NO	23-01	21-23	18-22	13-17	14-16	1500	NO
Palestine – E44RU by 4 op team, CW/SB/FT8	06 to 12 January	49	00-03	22-05	21-06	13-14	13-16	14-15	NO	NO
Palau – T88AQ by JH6WDG, CW/SSB/FT8	07 to 13 January	307	NO	09-12	08-13	23-00	22-23	2200	NO	NO
Norfolk Is – VK9NK by SP9FIH, CW/SB/RY	12 Jan to 12 Apr	250	1000	07-12	06-13	14-15	2200	19-22	21-22	NO
Palau – T88CZ, EF, DK, DN, etc. by 6 JA ops	15 to 23 January	307	NO	09-12	08-13	23-00	22-23	2200	NO	NO
Cocos Is – TI9??? By 2 op team, SSB	20 Jan to 09 Feb	193	00-12	21-14	20-16	06-00	13-00	13-23	14-22	20-21
Gambia – C5XW by G5XW, holiday style	28 Jan to 07 Feb	88		21-10	20-00	17-21	16-19			

Prepared 27 December 2019 based on the 19 December 2016 *The Weekly DX*, https://dx-world.net/ and, http://www.ng3k.com
Notes: Times shown are for S-5 or better signals and 60% or better opening probability, ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB;

** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast, NIL = band is open but signals below S-5 threshold.

Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using VOACAP http://www.voacap.com/hf/.

-- DECEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through to 26 December, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 69 to 73, with a mean value of 70.8. The A_0 index was > 7 on only two days.

Two sunspot groups, considered to be precursors of Cycle 25, appeared 24 Dec. By 26 Dec, one had decayed to plage and the other had decayed to an inactive unipolar spot group.

-- JANUARY FORECAST -

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels throughout January.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to reach unsettled to active levels on 14-15 Jan and unsettled 21-23 Jan due to CH HSS activity.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 70 to 72, and average 70.9 during January.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 23 December 2019, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 23 December 2019, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 23 December 2019.)

-- 26 DEC ROTUMA UPDATE --

"Greetings from Rotuma Island. The linear is behaving, and generator power available when not heavy rain, otherwise running FT8 on solar power. The 160m antenna is still not up due to king tides and impossibility to setup on the beach at the moment. It almost got washed away (including myself) yesterday with very strong waves. Right now we have a cyclone warning, strong winds and heavy rain. All antennas are lowered until further notice. EMCOM has been activated through PACTOR. More up-

dates later if antennas are still up. VY 73s Antoine 3D2AG"



Category 1 Cyclone Sarai strengthening as it approaches Fiji

(From https://dx-world.net/3d2ag-p-rotuma/)

We hope that Antoine will be safe and secure should "Sarai" target Rotuma Island. He deserves a lot of credit for putting on this one-man operation for our benefit despite transportation and weather problems.

-- UPCOMING BERMUDA OPERATION --



Closer to home, Joe-WB9EAO will be active from Bermuda as WB9EAO/VP9 09-14 January 2020. QRV on 160-17m; CW (QRS) and SSB. (See https://dx-world.net/wb9eao-vp9-bermuda/)

Scenes from the TARC holiday party

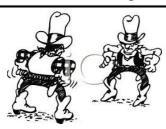


Good times at the TARC party



TARC Antenna Shootout

Well we did it. We used six different antennas all using the same radio (one at a time of course) and compared them to one another by looking at the signal reports received by others on PSKreporter. The antennas used were:



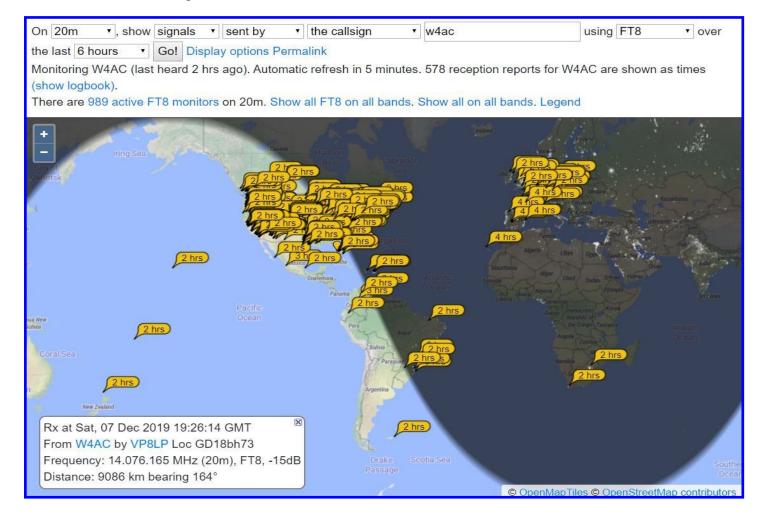
- 1. The original lota antenna
- 2. Super Antenna MP-1
- 3. Force 12 Sigma GT-5

- 4. TW Globetrotter Antenna
- 5. Homebrew Quarter wave vertical
- 6. Homebrew 20m Ground Plane

We found out they all work very well. Absolute measurements were not possible due to varying path conditions and different radiation patterns from different types of antennas. What we did conclude is the antennas of the same type; lota, GT-5, TW were essentially equal. The homebrew version (lota) of the compact vertical dipoles worked as well as the commercial version (TW and GT-5) of the compact vertical dipoles. Possibly the MP-1 was insignificantly poorer and the 20m ground plane and 20m vertical insignificantly better.

Exactly how did we do? Attached is a screen capture I made after our shootout. It's a compilation of all the stations that heard W4AC that afternoon. Each yellow flag represents a station that reported receiving us. Our little antennas really lit up the US and other parts of the world too. I'd say our members have "The right stuff."

73, Frank, W2XYZ



Shots from the shootout













Random samplings



<< Steve, NS4P is agog as he wit-nesses a home-brew Stirling engine running; built by Tom, KN4ONE.

Inset - an Almond right-angle coupling drive built by Tom.



>>>>

Al, KOAL, with Edith by his side, recently celebrated his 80th birthday with cake, drinks, and chit-chat at his home in Nokomis. Al is one of the few hams we know with an entire house dedicated to his ham operations. He just completed a "four-square" 80 meter array at his "cottage" ham shack.





<< President Jim, KJ4NDO, and treasurer Frank, W2XYZ present a check for \$200.00 to Randy Klinger of the Special Olympics organization. Some QSLs sent to confirm working K4S at the Shark's Tooth Festival included donations. TARC members added enough to bring the total to \$200.00.

THE COMMUNICATOR is a publication of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC). It is published monthly; except during the summer months, the July and August issues will be combined. The Communicator is made available to all members via e-mail, and is available for viewing on the club's web site - www.tamiamiarc.org.

Editor - San Yoder, K3SY, who acknowledges and thanks these contributing writers: Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Jack Sproat, W4JS, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, and Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ

Articles of general interest to club members are solicited and welcomed. Please submit photos and/or copy (preferably in Word) to: k3sy@arrl.net. 73, San

TOM'S TECH TIPS: WINDOWS SECURITY

I fix a lot of laptop and desktop PC's for individuals, schools and businesses. The biggest problem, by far, is when users install and run multiple instances of antivirus and malware programs. They literally fight each other and can bring your PC to its knees. Microsoft was tired of rogue downloads and files wrecking their operating systems and giving them a 'black eye', so they

stepped-up and did something about it. Windows 10 includes its own, quite-effective and



free *Windows Security*, and that's all you need. It is on by default and constantly updates itself. For a look-see go to **StartàSettings-->Update & Security**.



New PC'S frequently ship with trial versions of antivirus/malware programs. They are there because manufactures pay Microsoft handsomely to include them, hoping you will become a lifelong subscriber. You should immediately uninstall them and use the default *Windows Security* instead. It's not always easy to uninstall third-party malware/antivirus software. You can do it from the control panel's Programs and Features or from the software's own program folder, found in the start menu. You can also Google "Uninstall

McAfee, Kaspersky, Norton, ESE", etc. to get started. Stay away from programs that offer to fix your computer – Ccleaner is *the worst* and was caught installing a Trojan Horse to phone home.

By the way...If you are still running Windows 8.1, 7, Vista, '98 or '95, stop it! You can still upgrade to Windows 10 from most older versions for free, (at least for now). Windows 10 was designed and tested to run on "boat anchor" machines, so it should run on yours.

73, TOM, W8QJF



Greyhound used to say, "...and leaving the driving to us." TARC is saying nearly the same thing when it comes to the Orlando Hamcation. As a club, TARC is going to Hamcation. If you don't look forward to 5 hours of driving on I-75 and I-4, and would rather someone else handle that chore while you relax in comfort and chat with friends, then get on the bus. We are taking seat reservations for \$10 each. We have twentysomething seats already reserved on our 47 passenger bus and they seem to be filling quicker than I

thought. The total cost of the trip will be determined when we know the exact number of attendees, but expect it to be about \$50, maybe less. To reserve your seat, give or send me \$10 as a deposit towards the total cost. You can mail a check to the club's mailbox or directly to me, hand me money, or use your credit card on PayPal and send \$10.50 to:

<u>treasurer@tamiamiarc.org</u> (the extra fifty cents is to cover Pay-Pal's processing fee).

The bus will depart the Venice Coast Guard Station (where we

hold our club meetings) on Harbor Rd. at 6 AM on Saturday, Feb. 8, and take us to Hamcation. It will depart Hamcation when it closes at 5 PM. We expect the bus will bring us back to our cars parked at the Coast Guard Station before 8 PM.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE--The bus will remain on site all day (in case you want to put your boat anchor on the bus instead of carrying it around). It also has abundant luggage space for transporting plenty of your junque back to Venice (please, no towers). AND, the bus has a bathroom for your convenience, our noses, and healthy sanitation.

73, Frank , W2XYZ, treas.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
TARC du due! Rei	new now!	20 HARY N	20 EV YEA?	TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	Breakfast @ Peaches *	Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
5	6	7	8 IHOP 8:30	9	10	11
	QCWA 11:30 AM Denny's Bee Ridge Road	1 caciico	TARC meet- ing @ Coast Guard Train- ing Center 7:00 PM.	TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	Breakfast @ Peaches *	Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 Tampa Hamfest
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	Breakfast @ IHOP 8:30	TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	Janu	Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 Regional Hamfest wary 17 & 18, 2020 hasored by the Myers Amateur Radio Club
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	Breakfast @ IHOP 8:30	TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	Breakfast @ Peaches *	Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 Winter FD Arcadia Hamfest
26 Winter	27	28	29	30	31	* Peaches
Field Day		Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	Breakfast @ IHOP 8:30	TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	Breakfast @ Peaches *	opens at 6:00 AM. Orders taken at 7:00

^{**}The W4AC 146.805 Repeater is 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	Zi	p
PhoneCell	F	E-Mail	
Summer Address	City	St	_ Zip
PhoneAlt.	. E-mail		
Application Date	Amount enclose	d	
 D - Digital (DMR, PSK, etc.) E - Emergency Comm. F - Field Day I - RFI/TVI Other (Specify) For payments by mail send to:	[] P - Packet [] Q - Publicity [] R - Repeater	l [[[[S - Special Events T - Training U - VHF/UHF V - VE Testing X - DX Y - RTTY Z - QRP
TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO C PO Box 976 Nokomis, FL 34274	Web sit	e payments a 1.00 convenie	ccepted via PayPal. nce fee.)
2020 TARC OFFICERS: President: Jim Shortill Vice President: Steve Phillips Secretary: Patti Phillips Treasurer: Frank Wroblews Directors: Peter Boers Andy Durette Chet Fennell Gary Hagens Guenther Hennig Paul Nienaber Tom Shrilla San Yoder	KJ4NDO NS4P N4IGI W2XYZ KV4LR KB1HIP KG4IYS K6OC AJ4QX KN4BAR W8QJF	After 6/1 - After 10/31 Family Memberson Voting Standard New licensee	\$20.00/yr. \$10.00 to yr. end \$20.00 thru next yr. ership \$25.00/yr udent \$5.00/yr - first year free.

The Communicator is a monthly publication of

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Editor: San Yoder, K3SY http://www.tamiamiarc.org Webmaster: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR