



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>

November, 2022

In this issue:	
President's Message	1-2
Meeting Notice	1
Program Notes	2
Antenna Expo	3
Chasing DX Tony, KX1G	4
Stormy Power	5-6
Hamfest News	7-8
New Memb.	8
Ian Aftermath	9
Stuff	10
Club Calendar	11
Membership Application	12

President's message.....NS4P

It's hard to believe that it's already been a month since hurricane Ian disrupted our lives here on the Suncoast. Based on what I have heard at breakfast and on our weekly nets, it appears that although nobody in our circle of friends was seriously injured, several of our members, especially those to the south of Venice, suffered significant property damage. Even a month later, electrical service is tenuous in places and Internet service still has not been restored. Even those of us with "minor" damage are spending a lot of time and energy on cleanup and repairs. Our thoughts are with all that are still recovering, and I hope that anyone that needs assistance will reach out to fellow club members so that we can try to provide some help to the best of our ability.



While recovery continues here, elsewhere in the ham radio world life goes on. "Contest Season" has started with the CQ Magazine World Wide DX SSB contest happening as I type this. Several more major contests are on the schedule over the next couple of months, and TARC will be participating in at least two of them. Winter Field Day comes up at on the last weekend of January (1/28 and 1/29 for 2023).

We also plan to participate in the Florida QSO Party which is scheduled for April 29th and 30th next year. As I have mentioned before, contests, especially when the club sets up a station, are an excellent opportunity for new hams (and those of us with a few years on us) to develop skills and have a bit of fun. When TARC sets up a station for a contest any ham, regardless of license class, can participate since we operate using the club call with Extra class control operators present.

We also have a couple of fun events scheduled for November. November 12th is the "QRP & Antenna Expo". This should be very interesting as several club members are planning to bring out new portable and QRP stations they have put together over the last year. Related to this, we will be setting up a station for a "Parks On The Air" activation at a local state park on November 19th (currently planned for Myakka River State Park, but stay tuned in case we need to move because of flood). POTA activations are always a lot of fun and it's a great low-key way to get used to operating.

If that's not enough fun for you, then take a look at the DX calendar! After a pause of a over a year, DXpeditions are again happening on a regular basis. As always, DXpeditions are subject to change and with pandemics, terrorist alerts, supply chain issues, in addition to the normal struggles when traveling internationally, this

Continued on page 2>>>

Next Issue
Antenna Expo Report
Election Info

Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, November 09, 2022 TENTATIVELY at Venice Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 825 The Rialto, Venice, 34285

President's message, continued

year is no different. But even with these challenges the DXpeditions are happening and picking up a "new one".

I am always amazed at the level of financial commitment and physical effort required to pull off a major DXpedition. While some may complain about paying \$5 for a QSL card I, for one, am happy to do it. For example, the team going to Bouvet Island (the #2 most wanted DX entity in the entire world) has a budget of about \$750,000 USD. A lot of that money is coming from the personal funds of the participants and most of the money will be spent on the boat regardless of whether or not they can get to the island, much less get to shore and set up the radio gear. It's a truly epic project worthy of your support (<https://www.3y0j.no>).

They are scheduled to get to the Island in January of 2023. In addition to the major projects, hams are starting to travel again and new (new to me anyway) DX spots are popping up on a regular basis. Even if you don't chase awards, it is kind of cool to say that you talked to the Vatican, or Antarctica.

It also hamfest season here in Florida. The hamfest calendar is packed with events, so take advantage of the cooler weather and visit a couple. The next one is the SERC hamfest in Sarasota on Nov. 5th and many TARC members will be there. TARC will be trying to

sell some of the gear that has been donated to us over the summer. We are lucky to have one of the biggest hamfests of the year almost in our backyard – Hamcation! Held the 2nd weekend in February (2/10-2/12 in 2023) it's the 2nd biggest hamfest in the US. TARC is planning to charter a bus again for 2023 so watch for more news on this soon.

In more good news, I am happy to report that through donations and insurance, we have been able to restore full capability of our repeaters with very little net expenditure of club funds. Thanks to San - K3SY and his son-in-law, Kurt, we again have a computer at the repeater site to run EchoLink.

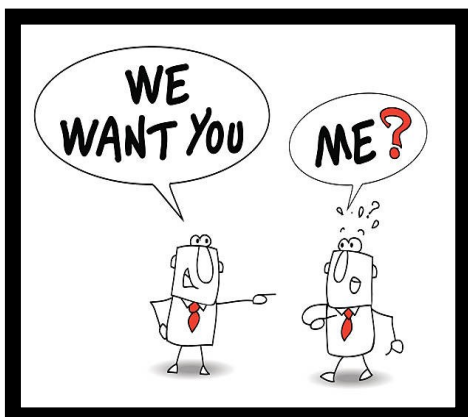
It also turns out that the DMR repeater that we thought required repair was in fact not broken, and the problems were all related to configuration of the new router. Luckily, we figured this out before we spent any money on shipping the old one out. Now that these issues have all been resolved our weekly nets are back to normal operation.

With all these events coming up, the (slightly) cooler weather, and the return of our seasonal friends, it's going to be a great winter on the Suncoast. Be sure to come out and participate in as many events as you can – this club is all about our members.

Thanks & 73, Steve, NS4P



PROGRAM SPEAKERS NEEDED!



You may have noticed that there are no speakers scheduled to give an after meeting program in 2023. That is because there are no speakers currently scheduled to speak. We all have great backgrounds in busi-

ness, technology, life, and amateur radio. Please consider sharing some of your knowledge, experience, or passion about some topic with the rest of us.

Even if the membership doesn't like you or your topic, we are all a polite group and will listen attentively to what you have to say and give you a great round of applause when you finish. Like any gift; it's the thought that counts! Presentations should be about 30 minutes in length give or take 10 minutes or so. You can talk about anything.

Ham radio topics are preferred, of course, but anything of interest to you and the membership is OK. If you have a suggestion for a topic

please make it and the club can try and find someone to come in and talk about it. Volunteer speakers or those with suggestions for topics should contact club VP, Paul, KN4BAR, email: paul9aber@gmail.com to talk about getting their topic on the schedule for 2023.

Meeting program schedule

November 09 - Open

December 14 - No program

January 11, 2023 - Open

February 09, 2023 - Open



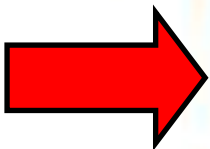
TARC QRP & ANTENNA EXPO!

QRP Rig and Antenna Expo!



This year, join your fellow club members at this outdoor activity to exhibit your QRP rigs, park rigs, antennas, and share ideas. See what others are using and get some real world feedback. Share your experiences and just socialize.

- Antenna analyzers will be available to check out your antennas.
- Some antennas may be available for you to borrow and test out at your QTH.
- 50-50 raffle.



When – November 12, 2022 Time – NOON
Where – Coast Guard Aux on Venice Island



SPUD GUN Competition! Bring your antenna launching devices for a fun spirited competition.

“You’ll shoot your eye out kid”

Be there or be off the air!

CHASING DX

CQ DX CQ DX....
November 2022

DX Editor: Tony DiCenzo, KX1G
KX1G@ARRL.NET

Announced DXPEDITIONS scheduled in NOVEMBER

DATES	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	QSL INFO	INFO
Oct 25 – Nov 4	Saba / Sint Eustatius	PJ5	W5JON direct	By W5JON as PJ5/W5JON; 60-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals
Oct 26 – Nov 3	Cocos Keeling	VK9CM; VK9C in CQ WW DX SSB contest	QSL via EB7DX	By VK6VY VK6SJ VK6CQ; 80-10m, some 6m; CW SSB FT8 https://www.dx-world.net/vk9cm-cocos-keeling-island/
Nov 2-7	Lesotho (Africa)	7P8CW	Via ClubLog OQRS	S. African team SSB CW + digital;

Also, Austral Is, Palau, Tonga, Tanzania, Djibouti and others. Check **Announced DX Operations** at <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

A word from the new DX Editor

I am honored and excited to be following in the footsteps of Jack Sprout, W4JS, as the DX editor of The Communicator. That Jack found time in his life to do the page for 20 years is amazing. Check out Jack's QRZ page and you will understand why. Thank you, Jack!

I am calling the page 'CHASING DX' because it is the Number 1 thing hams do worldwide. I will include things that alert, educate, and expand your DXing skills, and your DX totals. Have a DX question or a request? Do let me hear from you.

General DX Outlook For NOVEMBER 2022: Good and Improving!

November continues the contest season which draws many DX stations. Expect the Solar Flux Index to slowly rise and the noise on the bands from summer storms beginning to fade.

DX ALERT! DX ALERT! Two Top 25

It is time to get your station ready because December 15th starts what may be your best chance to work Bouvet Island and Crozet, #2 and #3, respectively, on the Most Wanted Entity list. The dates are still tentative but make a calendar entry. Dec 15-13 Crozet, and Jan 23-Feb 28 Bouvet Is.



Win this mug! ----->

Important DX Contests in November and December

- Worked All Europe, RTTY Nov 12-13
 - CW WW DX CW Nov 26-27
 - ARRL 10 Meter Contest, Dec 11-12
- Source: www.contestcalendar.com

How's your DXer health? Check all that apply

- I use ARRL's Log Book of the World (LoTW)
- I use a DX Cluster to check for DX spots and to check the SFI
- I can make QSOs in CW, SSB, Digital
- I Listen before I call a DX station
- I check the bands at Grayline UTC both morning and evening
- I check into DX nets
- I know how to use ClubLOG and OQRS
- I regularly check the website for Announced DX Operations
- I use my radios signal processor to make my signal easier for the DX station to pull me out from others calling.
- I use Split operation when directed.

If you checked all 10 you are a Pro! Seven, you are almost there. Five or less? Time to study.

Question of the Month

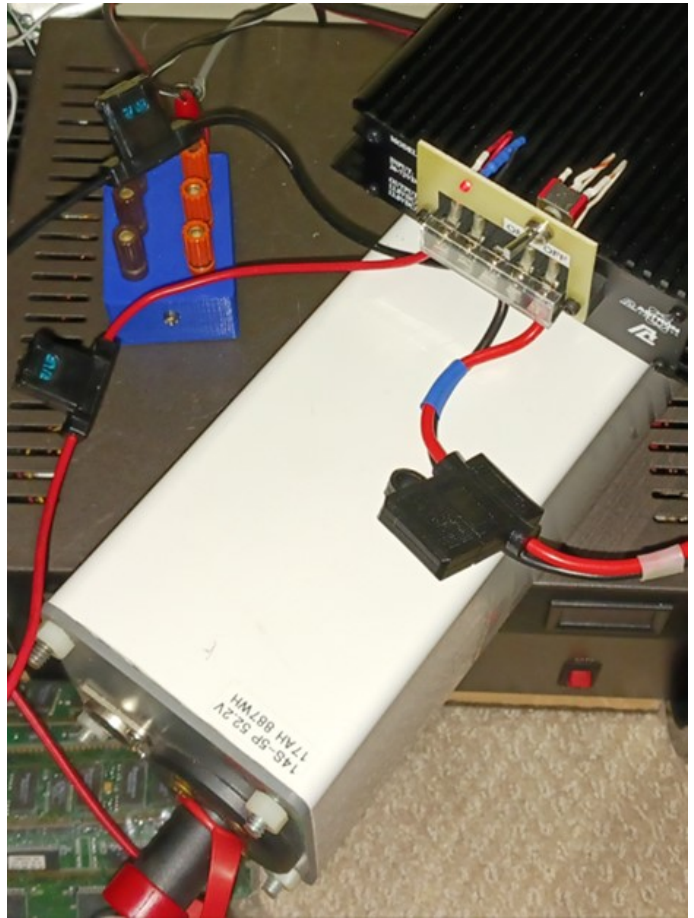
Win this mug! I have one question for you. If money were no obstacle, what one piece of equipment would you purchase to increase your DX CHASING ability? Best answer wins the mug. See the question posted in Group.io.

Stormy Power

by Tom K7ONE

During a hurricane and the inevitable powerless aftermath, any source of power is fair game. Having been through two in FL and a few in VA I learned to charge any and every battery owned. Ian provided the opportunity to use many of them in various ways. Here are some photos of my assorted power solutions. I encourage others to share their solutions on groups.io so we can all get ideas.

My VHF/UHF radios were powered continuously by batteries and voltage converters. The first was a battery assembled from parts of a scrap electric bicycle battery. It fed about 25V into an Astron 2412 voltage converter. The second was my home made bicycle battery feeding 52V into an Astron 4812 converter. Many Astron converters are available on eBay for a fraction of the original cost.



When power was down but internet was available, a lead acid battery from a trolling motor and inverter were used to fire up the cable modem and router. >>

Continued >>>

Stormy Power, continued

Any battery is fair game! Here is a cordless vacuum battery with a 3D printed adapter to use its power for other purposes.



TPL (Tom's Power and Light) in action. The small solar power system presented during one of the club's zoom meetings performed perfectly and kept my chest freezer running full time. (Granny didn't

thaw out!) The 4x100W panels on the shed roof were augmented with the 4x100W ones stored in a closet to prevent storm damage.

The 5500W generator is only run when 240V is needed to run the well pump. A small 15 year old 2000W Chinese generator is used most of the time. That small generator is much more fuel efficient and quieter. It started on the first pull after years without running. Many people run big generators to power a couple lights and their refrigerator. This is a huge waste of fuel when fuel is hard to get. Match the generator to the load!

Here's a fact I still can't believe I didn't know. You cannot siphon gas from a "modern" car! I always counted on the 30 gallons in the cars as a reserve supply of generator gas. K3SY informed me of this fact, and that today's gas thieves just drill a hole in a gas tank and let it drain into a catch pan.

Spoiler alert.... You cannot siphon gas from a Tesla either.



Don't Miss the Bus!!! It's not too early to make plans for the 2023 HamCation. Buy your tickets before December 1st and save \$5.00. Plan to make your early reservations for your seat on the TARC bus (details later). See you there!

Welcome To HamCation 2023

Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park

February 10th - 12th, 2023



Host of the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention

HamCation 2023

Come to one of the world's largest hamfest, where we pride ourselves on delivering a high-quality event to our attendees. Join us February 10-12, 2023 in beautiful Orlando, Florida for HamCation 2023.

[Read More...](#)

ARRL Event App

Navigate HamCation with ease. The ARRL Events app is available to use with Apple iOS, Android devices, and mobile browsers. It's full features and the best way to help you navigate the show!

Important HamCation Info!

Inside our website you'll find all the information you need to make your trip to HamCation the best it can be! Here's our most useful links.

[Directions](#)

[Parking](#)

Prizes, Prizes and More Prizes!

We gave away some great prizes for HamCation 2022. What does 2023 have in store? Be sure to check our prizes page and see what we have planned!

[Learn More!](#)

Purchase Tickets

Online or In-Person

Tickets are available for purchase through our online system, by postal mail, and at the event during the days of the event. Online ticket sales and mail-order ticket sales end January 31st. DO NOT MAIL a ticket request in after this date.

Ticket Prices

HamCation tickets are valid for all 3 days of the event. Tickets are 'per-person'. Ticket prices are as follows:

- Online Tickets and mail-order tickets purchased (postmarked) by December 1st, 2022: **\$20**
- Tickets purchased after December 1st and at the gate: **\$25**
- All ticket orders received **after December 31st Midnight (EST)** will be held in will-call window at the east ticket booth.
- Children 12 and under get FREE admission when accompanied by an adult with a ticket.
- Scouts from any scouting organization, 21 and under in uniform get FREE admission.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE HOTLINE, FOR TICKET ORDERS. The hotline is for information purposes only.

To be eligible for the early-bird ticket prize you must make your ticket purchases on or before January 14th. Each ticket will also be entered into the HamCation prize drawings for the Grand prize, Saturday prize, Sunday prize, and the hourly prize drawings. If you have additional questions about tickets please [contact us](#).

Purchase Online

Order your tickets easily and quickly online. Simply select how many tickets you wish and add to your cart. Checkout is safe, secure, and easy.

Tickets will be mailed once received from the Printer

1 Ticket = \$20.00

[Add To Cart](#)

Purchase By Mail

If you prefer, you can order your tickets via US mail by simply downloading the HamCation form. Please be aware of our ordering deadlines detailed above!

[Download Form](#)

LOCAL HAMFESTS




Coffee and Breakfast by Chick-fil-A

ARRL Door Prizes

Admission \$5.00
Donation

Indoor Electric Hookup Available

SERC HAMFEST

Nov 5th, 2022
8:00AM - 1:00PM

Tailgate Spots \$5.00 Indoor Tables \$15.00

Talk-In 146.730 -600
CTCSS 100hz

Where?
American Red Cross Campus
2001 Cantu Court
Sarasota, Florida




NO RV'S OR LARGE TRAILERS
SPACE IS LIMITED.

From the North on I-75 take exit 210 head west, keep to the left to Cattleman, turn left.
From the South on I-75 take exit 207, head west, keep to the right to Cattleman, turn right.
Look for the signs!

Keep Updated at www.n4ser.org

Questions? serchamfest@gmail.com

OUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA; CH50303
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE
OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-
7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR
RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE

The Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council Presents:
The 47th Annual

TAMPABAY HAMFEST

and Electronics Show

ARRL West Central Florida Convention
Second Largest Hamfest in Florida



Expo Building
Strawberry Festival Grounds
Parking behind 301 N Lemon St (Now Berryfest St)
Plant City, FL 33563

December 9-10, 2022
Friday, 1PM to 6PM—Saturday, 8AM to 4PM

Talk-in Brandon - 147.165 +, PL 136.5

For up-to-date information visit www.TampaBayHamfest.org

ARRL-VEC Exam and Commercial license testing
WAS, DXCC, IARU, VUCC Card Checking

Forums and Programs are updated regularly on website

Admission at the gate	\$10	Under 12 accompanying a paid admission	FREE
Advanced ticket purchase	\$9	Public service/military in uniform	FREE
Student with ID	\$5	Bulk Tickets Sales \$1 S/H if mailed	10/\$80
Indoor tables, 8ft	\$20	No vehicles of any kind in building	
Booth, 10ft x 10ft with 2 8ft tables	\$60		
Electric	\$10		
Tailgate space	\$10		
Camping	\$20		
Club table	\$0	1 free for club activities—no selling	
Club tables	\$15	EACH for selling	

Everyone entering the parking/tailgate/inside area must have a ticket visible.

See webpage for more information—www.tampabayhamfest.org

Revised: 26-Mar-2022

Welcome new members!

Date Joined	Memb. Type	First Name	Last Name	YL/OM	Call Sign
October 8, 2022	First Year	Salvatore	Cararo		KQ4DRO
October 6, 2022	Associate	David	Vazquez		WRUT919 (GMRS)
October 15, 2022	First Year	Gerard	Dunn		KQ4DVD
October 9, 2022	Member	Eric	Dick	Elizabeth	KN4KZK
October 19, 2022	Associate	John	McEnerney	Bernadette	none
October 13, 2022	First Year	Thomas	Boller		KQ4DCT

It is my due diligence duty to inform all TARC members that 2023 dues are due. If you go to "The Communicator" archives on the TARC web site and review the 2016 issues you will see that dues were \$25 per year in 2016. We have enjoyed a \$5 reduction to \$20 for the past six years. Be forewarned that the board is recommending a return to the \$25 per year fee to cover increasing expenses for our equipment and repeater operations. Still the best bargain in town!

IAN - The Aftermath

From Jack, W4JS

With regard to antenna loss, the 70' of Rohn 45 stayed in place, undoubtedly because when it was erected in 2007 we used three sets of 1/4" EHS guys rather than just two sets of 3/16" EHS guys as specified by Rohn. The antennas did not survive, however. Fig. 1 shows the 4-element SteppIR and 2-element Cushcraft 40-meter beam, however, there was also a 7-element 6-meter beam installed between those beams after that photo was taken.

Fig. 2 shows the results of Ian's effect on the beams. The double wall 2" mast is broken and bent over horizontal. Remains of the SteppIR boom and the 6-meter boom and some 6-meter elements are still hanging on. The clamshell mast clamp of the Yaesu 2800 rotator was broken, but the rotator operates OK without any sounds of distress. Those three antennas had a market value of some \$6,500, so we are obviously interested to see if our insurance will cover that cost under the "other structures" coverage.

Fig. 3 shows two of 60' pine trees which came down in the southern half of our one-acre property. Other pines were partially uprooted and should be taken down, and one fallen palm tree lies along the west side our home. In addition, pine and oak trees from the undeveloped acreage on our east side crashed down over our fence. It has proven to be impossible to track down the owner to advise them. We have registered with the "Samaritan's Purse" relief organization for removal of the fallen or damaged trees. No idea when they will arrive.

Yuli and I had removed the 80/40m Butternut vertical prior to Ian's visit. Yuli and I reinstalled it, and it has given us the means to work two new ones for the 2022 CQ DX Marathon. So, we are back on the air, albeit rather limited until we can rebuild. Our home lost a few asphalt shingles and the ridge vent was damaged. David Haag-W4HAG kindly installed the blue tarp which we got from the Florida National Guard operation. We also got a carton of MRE from the Guard, and the ones I've eaten have been quite tasty. The pool screen was also blown out but the framing is undamaged.

"This ain't my first rodeo" but we definitely hope that Ian was our first and last CAT 4, 155 mph super storm.

73, Blue Tarp Jack-W4JS



NS4P Pool



Cage



K4EU 60' tower



K4EU flagpole

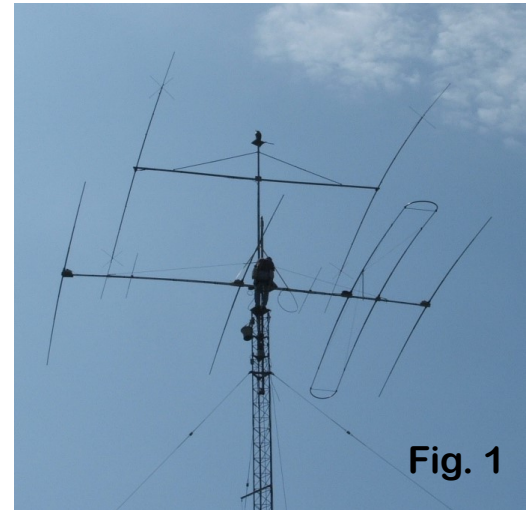


Fig. 1

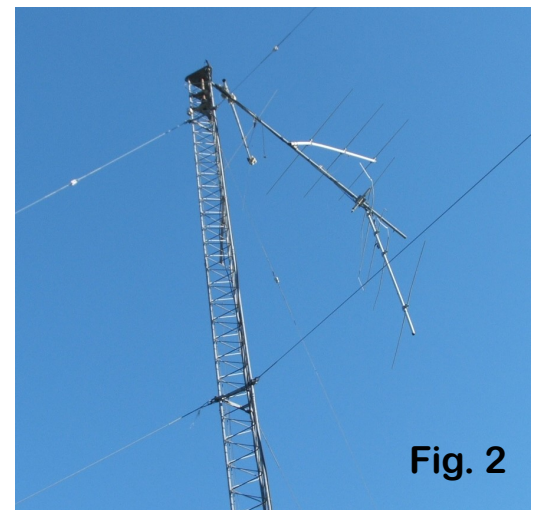


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Elections are coming, elections are coming!

December is the magic month for the election of TARC officers. If you would like to contribute to the success of the club by serving as an officer, or if you know someone who would, please let Andy, KB1HIP or San, K3SY know.

We need "new blood" to help out the old-timers who have been serving for many years. You can help!

What is AmazonSmile?

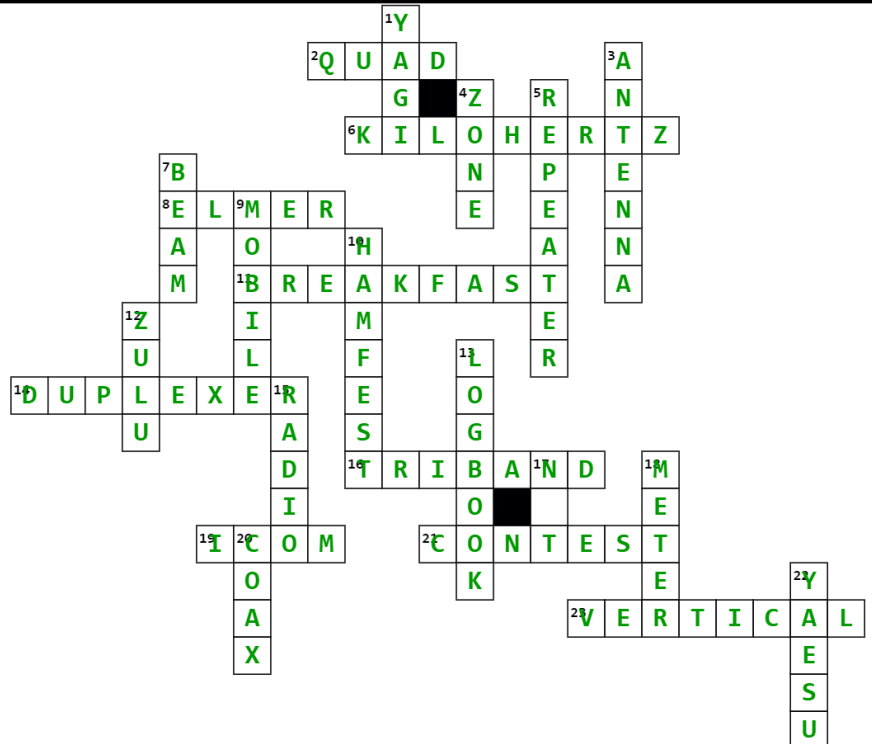
AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

We hope you will designate the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club as your charity of choice!



C OCTOBER CROSS ANSWER O R D





~ November, 2022 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 = Breakfast at Peaches (opens at 6, orders taken at 7) 	2 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	3 * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	4 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	5 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A BOD 1P
6 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	7 QCWA 11 AM @ Denny's Bee Ridge	8 VOTE! # DMR net 7:30 PM	9 ~ Virtual breakfast TARC MTG 7:00 PM <u>Check groups.io for location</u>	10 * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	11 Veterans Day Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	12 Bkfst @ DAV 9:30 TARC VE session @ Venice Library 10 A
13	14 DARN net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 p1100	15 # DMR net 7:30 PM	16 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	17 * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	18 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	19 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A
20	21	22 # DMR net 7:30 PM	23 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	24 Happy Thanksgiving * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	25 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	26 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A
27	28	29 # DMR net 7:30 PM	30 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	~ See Groups.io for ZOOM sign-on		

DMR net on W4AC UHF repeater - 444.10 MHz - Talk Group 310442
 * 2 meter net on W4AC VHF repeater - 146.805 MHz, (-), PL 100 or W4AC-R EchoLink
 + 10 meter net on 28.460 MHz +/- 10 MHz (depending on band activity) immediately following 2 M net.

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 forwarded to all members via e-mail, and is available for viewing on the club's web site - www.tamiamiarc.org - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Editor - San Yoder, K3SY, who acknowledges and thanks these contributing writers this month: Steve Phillips, NS4P, Tony DiCenzo, KX1G, Jack Sproat, W4JS, and Tom Babcock, K7ONE.

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

2022 TARC officers:

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sphillips3@gmail.com

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NAME _____	Call Sign _____	Class _____	ARRL ? Yes ___ No ___
2nd Fam. Memb. [or YL/OM] _____	Call Sign _____	Class _____	ARRL ? Yes ___ No ___
LOCAL ADDRESS _____	CITY _____	ZIP _____	
PHONE _____	CELL _____	e-mail _____	
SUMMER ADDRESS _____	CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____	ALT. e-mail _____		
Application date _____	PAYMENT: Amount _____	by: Check ___ Cash ___ PayPal ___	First year free ___

For payments by mail send to:

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

PO Box 976

Nokomis, FL 34274

Web site www.tamiamiarc.org payments accepted via PayPal [Add \$1.00 convenience fee].

Dues:

Regular member: \$20.00/year

After 6/1 - \$10.00 to year end. After 10/31 \$20.00 thru next year.

Family membership: \$25.00/year. Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.

New licensee: tested by TARC VE 1/1 to 10/31 - free to year end.

11/1 to 12/31 - free thru next year.

Please note: After two month grace period thru Feb., non-renewals will be dropped.

TARC web site: <http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

Contact: Secretary, Gary Youngberg, W8SKI - secretary@tamiamiarc.org

