

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 (-) (PL100 Analog)

Incorporated 1984

http://www.tamiamiarc.org

February, 2023

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No dues?
Last Issue!

President's message KN4BAR

OK OMs and YLs, it's February and that means Valentines Day. No excuse if you forget! It occurred to me a few days ago that I am very fortunate to be president of this club. Why? Because our members are some of the nicest human beings I know; kind, generous, forgiving, hard working, and all around great amateur radio operators.

I was going to single out specific members for their many and much appreciated contributions of time, talent, and \$ to the successful operation of the club. But, on second thought that would be a bad idea for two reasons. One, there are just so many of you there isn't enough room to list you all and what



you do. Two, I would surely miss one or two folks that contribute a lot to the club and they would think their efforts aren't recognized or appreciated. SO, I'm taking the cowards way out.

We all know who you are and what you do. We see your messages on Groups.io, we listen to you at meetings and events and watch as you make them a success, and we see this all unfold each month in this newsletter. Thank you one and all! If you're not one of the movers and shakers, that's OK too. We have a lot of new hams that are still learning the ropes, we have members with jobs and family obligations that don't allow time for many club activities, and we have some members with physical limitations. It's all good! Everyone doing what they can; when they can.

Our Winter Field Day activity at the end of January was a huge success thanks to the over 30 club members who helped set up, operate, and take down the 4 stations and 7 temporary antennas used for the event. Many hands make for light work! We have a great club because we have so many great members.

Thank you one and all and don't forget Hamcation in Orlando February 10-12. Please consider riding on the charter bus with other club members on Saturday, February 11th. We still have a few seats available.

And a very important reminder:

The old, legacy, FCC CORES (**CO**mission **RE**gistration **S**ystem) expired in July 2022. Every licensed amateur must have a user account and an FRN (FCC Registration Number) in the new system to update your address, change your call sign, or renew your license. If you haven't done this yet, **NOW IS THE TIME!** https://www.arrl.org/fcc-cores-registration-instructions

73, Paul, KN4BAR

Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 08, 2023 at Venice Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 825 The Rialto, Venice 34285

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the 1/12/22 Meeting

Note, Elmer assistance meeting planned to occur 6-7 pm for information and mentoring of interested ham radio operators.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Flag Salute Took place with the Pledge of Allegiance Introductions:

Visitors - Patsy Fennell, XYL of Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, from Venice

Wally Goulet, N8UVK with JoAnne, XYL, from Venice

New members - None were noted

Remaining Introductions - Introductions from all remaining people

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES: Paul Nienaber KN4BAR -- Request for motion to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting as published in The Communicator.

Motion to approve was made by Randy Crete, N4TDT and was seconded by Steve Frogatt, KN4NFX. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: Gary Youngberg, W8SKI. None to report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ -- Request for motion to accept Treasurer's summary report for December, 2022.

The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Steve Froggatt, KN4NFX and was seconded by Jim Cook, W3APC. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUNSHINE: Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO

Jesse, KW4IT, a slow recovery, Paul, K1YOU, shoulder trouble, N2UD, Thomas, shoulder trouble.

VE TESTING: Steve Phillips, NS4P

One candidate scheduled to be tested on 1/14/2023. A total of 87 exams were given during 2022. Noted the ARRL will eventually transition to paperless testing system.

LIAISON TO QCWA: AI Culbert, K0AL

Sarasota QWCA meets on the first Monday of the month at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd at 11:00 am. Program for this month is Skywarn, lcl. weather observation.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ

Nets going well, with DMR net on Tuesday at 7pm. Some problems noted with Echolink, likely caused by M/S OS updates (drivers). Good attendance noted, with Steve, KN4NFX now in rotation as a new 2-meter net controller.

REMOTE STATION UPDATE; Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ

The station is working well, using IC7300 XCVR, dipole antenna height 120'. Members interested in using the station should check the TARC website for information.

PIO INFORMATION AND REPORT, Dwight Sullivan, KT4DDS

Gave information that TARC has 214 followers on the club's Facebook page. Will be sharing postings on other local clubs hamfests. Will be having a planning meeting with Andy Durrette, KB1HIP, and Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO on club publicity.

MEMBERSHIP: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Club has 162 total members including three associate members, ten first year (free memberships), 11 life memberships. Currently there are 62 members with dues unpaid status for 2023. Members will be dropped from the club roster on February 1, 2023 for non-payment of dues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TARC Club Shirts available soon, possible group order \$32.00 ea. By Tom,W1ICU. Check Groups.io for details when available.

Shown 4 element 2M flexible beam ant, contained in U.S. flag, by Tony KX1G

Fox Hunt event, Saturday, Feb. 18 at North Jetty Park, See Communicator

QSL Card mailing project, Brian, W1JBD, mentioned by Frank W2XYZ

Tony, KX1G present a nice coffee mug prize to Frank, W2XYZ for his winning answer to the DX question of the month in The Communicator.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Shark's Tooth 5 K, 10K Run, Steve, NS4P

Event returning to Venice Airport, dates Sat. March 4 and Sunday March 5, 2023.

TARC Minutes, continued

Routes not yet determined. TARC anticipating supporting event by reporting on runner's progress.

2. 2023 Winter Field Day, Frank, W2XYZ, January 28, 29 at USCG Stn.

Will have portable generators on site. Phone and CW mode.

Linear amps not allowed. Sign-ups are invited, with list passed around. Antenna setup on Fri. January 27 following breakfast at Perkins.

3. Bus to Hamcation, Frank, W2XYZ, February 11th, \$50pp.

Orlando Hamcation is Feb. 10 – 12. TARC's charter bus will make round trip from USCG to Orlando with stop at Sarasota Red Cross, and back on Saturday Feb. 11. Payment can be made on line via TARC's website by PayPal, or pay Frank directly.

NEW BUSINESS:

 TARC 2023 Barbecue Event, Proposed club activity. date, place and logistics. By Tom Porada W4IEE

Proposing Saturday, March 25th. Main dish consisting of pork loin and beef roast. Mentioned entry of \$10.00, overall costs foreseen about \$300-400.00. About 30-35 attending noted. Considering Oscar Scherer State Park as location. Will be asking for side dishes to be brought to the picnic. By show of hands, those present overwhelming support and would attend this event.

2. AV-680 Vertical Antenna, Steve, NS4P. Plan Assembly and Installation.

TARC has two MFJ antennas (1 new). Steve's home available for assembly outside, will work out date, and later install at repeater site. Contact Steve directly if interested in helping with the assembly or installation.

3. Fox Hunt, At North Jetty, Paul, KN4BAR. Saturday, February 18, 1 pm.

The frequency list was determined and sent for this event via Groups.io and in The Communicator

4. Special Event Station. Thoughts and suggestions. **Steve, NS4P**

A special event station event could be planned around most any community event (mentioned was the Megalodon Run). Discussed to take the place of the former Shark's Tooth Festival. A special event station can be collaborated with many local community events. Anyone with ideas for such an event should contact Steve.

Other new business; Is there any other new business to discuss?

Mentioned Ask Elmer program at TARC (mentoring new hams)

Email; askelmer@tarc.org

Comments; Are there any comments from the floor?

Nothing further heard

Adjournment; Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR. Adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at VPC

Fellowship Hall @ 7 pm Respectfully submitted, Gary Youngberg, W8SKI, Recording Secre-

Tony, KX1G, shows his 2meter Yagi-in-a-flag antenna



Vic, WT9Q, gave talk on Beverage-on-ground



Meeting program schedule

February 8 - Knots for Hams - Den, W2DEN

March 8 - Real-Time Flight Tracking - Tom, KE4RXM

April 12 - Homebrew Solar Generator - Steve, NS4P

Welcome new members

Date joined	Memb. type	First name	Last name	Call sign	License class
1/16/23	Associate	Megan	Flanagan	no call	None
1/6/23	Member	Jack	Prindle	AB4WS	Extra
1/2/23	Member	Jim	Zientara	W4MAN	Advanced

tary

CHASING DX CO DX CO DX....

DX Editor: Tony DiCenzo, KX1G February 2023 KX1G@ARRL.NET

Announced DXPEDITIONS scheduled in February

DATES	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	QSL INFO	Comment
1/23-2/28	Bouvet Is. #2	3Y0J	LoTW; also via	160-10m; CW SSB FT4/FT8 RTTY;
			M00X0	
2/17-2/24	Cocos Keeling #76	VK9CVG	Via M00X0	By G0VJG fm IOTA OC-003; 80-10m;
				mainly SSB, a little FT8

Source: Announced DX Operations https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

Two Cocos on the DXCC list?

Don't rush to the put your QSL card into the mail if you work Cocos Island. But if you work Cocos Keeling Island send it quickly! Cocos Is., TI9, is not rare. But Cocos Keeling Is., VK9C, certainly is. If you need it, chase it this month. You will get a chance to work VK9C in February. See above

Another question from a Deserving DXer

A newly licensed ham asks why DX signals disappear from 10/15/20 meter bands when it gets dark. It was a good question. Remember learning about the F layers? During the day, high band HF signals are reflected. But at night when the lower F layers disappear those signals go right on into space. The DX is still there. But their signals are not bending towards you. Nighttime DX can be found on the low bands (80/40/30), which the high F layers seen at night do reflect. Keep an eye open for great DX on the low bands. You'll be surprised what you can work.

Chasing DX is lifetime effort – Part 1

Yours truly has been invited to speak about chasing DX at upcoming QCWA and TARC meetings. The clubs are vastly different, so if you attend both clubs meetings you will hear me make different points. But a point, that is universal to a ham just getting started, an old timer that has achieved #1 on the Honor Roll, or like most of us, somewhere in between, is that DXing is a 365x24xLifetime endeavor. There are things that prove this point. Do you have multiple checklists that track entities you need versus what you have worked? Have you ever gotten up at 3am to work a rare entity? Have you invested hundreds, maybe thousands of dollars in equipment to give you an edge in pileups? Do you check the DX Clusters, bulletin boards, DXpedition lists, and Newsletters to know when that rare country is going to be on the air? And have you ever cancelled a family vacation to be sure you are available when that DX comes on the air? If you do, you are a DXer. Hope to see you at either or both of these talks.

Chasing DX is a lifetime effort – Part 2

A few days before putting this page to bed, I received this update from the former column editor, Jack Sproat, W4JS, which I want to share with my fellow TARC DXers. You will recall that Jack "retired" from writing the column for 20 years.

'I (have) TN8K (congo) confirmed on 10m-80m in a combination of CW/Phone/RTTY but this was a challenge for my "rebuilt" station, which will never take the place of my 4-el 40m-10m SteppIR that lan blew into many, many pieces. My Phone DXCC is 351 confirmed, 339 current, with BS7 Scarborough Reef being the only one I need for #1 Honor Roll. I enjoy working special event DX stations and, for instance, have made 81 Q's over the past 10 days or so with the stations participating in the ongoing WRTC special event operation. I've participated in the CQ DX Marathon for a number of years, and did manage to be #1 in the world on SSB back in 2009, when there weren't as many participants as today. Hi Hi!! DX has always been my only interest in ham radio, and I was pretty down hearted the last three months of 2022 when I only had my Butternut

Chasing DX, continued

80/40m vertical for an antenna, and very few DX stations to work. Y'all take care and remember DX IS!! '

We will, Jack! 73!

Result from the January 2023 Question of the month

The Question of the Month in January was:

How many DXCC entities did you work in the ARRL December ARRL 10-meter Contest?

I have to share with you that I received no responses. Nada. None. Nothing. No one posted a result. Now, this is not necessarily a surprise. I asked that question to a dozen hams, split evenly between new and experienced, on my home town net last week, and each, with some reluctance, said they did not participate in the contest. A few said they were not even aware of it. There are lots of possible reasons. But if you are a budding DXer or have never experienced the thrill of participating in a contest, they are probably the best way to work a lot of DX in a short period of time. In the 10m Contest, the weekend of December 10-11, there were well over 100 entities spotted on the 10-meter band. Many of those were not workable from the U.S. But operating from the frozen north

where propagation is poor I personally worked over 50 entities. Maybe we can do a club effort in the 10meter contest next year, give those interested, especially if you are new to the hobby, some first hand experience. Let me know if you are interested.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH for February 2023

As a DXer you know that if you have a confirmed contact from a deleted country (i.e. countries that have gone out of existence) it still counts toward many DXCC awards. That said, this month's question has three parts.

How many deleted countries are there on the ARRL list of Deleted Countries, how many of them do you have confirmed, and which DXCC award do deleted countries NOT count towards?

As before, the question will be posted on TARC's Groups.io page.

73! Tony, KX1G



Get on the bus, Gus! **Bus FAQs**

What is the cost of the bus?

♦ \$50.00 per person

Where and when do I get the bus?

- ♦ 6:30 AM at the Coast Guard Training Center on Harbor Drive
- ♦ Or about 7:15 at the Red Cross in Sarasota

Is there room on the bus for the stuff I buy?

♦ Fill up your luggage space!

Can I access the bus during the day?

The driver should be available for access at certain times during the day.

When does the bus leave for home?

HamCation FAQs

What frequency should I dial up on my handheld to talk to fellow TARCs?

146.805 simplex (the W4AC output frequency).

Is there a phone app?

Install the "ARRL Events" app on your smartphone to navigate HamCation



Hamcation 2023 - Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (tamiamiarc.org) 4:00 PM

First annual TARC BBQQ event announced What in the world is a BBQQ?

It's a BarBeQue & Qso event, of course!



ome one, come all to TARC's first annual BBQQ. This BarBeQue & Qso event should be an interesting afternoon for members and their significant others out in the Florida sunshine at the Oscar Sherer State Park in Osprey.

The event is scheduled for Saturday March 25 at 12:00pm noon in a very nice open area at the park. TARC has an area reserved that includes covering and a double wide charcoal grill. There is plenty of open space and picnic tables for setting up POTA stations under the club's call W4AC. Perfect for our needs.

A \$10/person fee is requested. Please get the fee to our treasurer, Frank W2XYZ, as soon as possible. Our goal is to have 40 people in attendance. Watch for further announcements via groups.o and our website.

There will NOT be any entry fee for your vehicle. Fees have been paid in advance for the reservation and everything is included in the \$10 fee.

TARC Grill Masters W4IEE and WO0S will be cooking up pork and beef over charcoal with some wood smoke flavor included. No inferior tube steaks or burgers for this crowd!

The BBQQ will be a pot luck affair for the other dishes except TARC will be providing water and some ice. We would like each member to bring an item or two including:

- Coleslaw
- Potato salad
- Macaroni salad
- Baked beans
- Garden salad
- · Cookies
- Brownies
- Chips (potato, corn, tortilla)
- Ice (enough for yourself and some to share)
- Beverages (bring a few extra and throw them into the common ice, beer and wine OK)
- A roll of paper towels
- One trash bag
- Portable folding table if you have one.

As the date gets closer to March 25 a call may go out for specific foods and items if need be.

This is shaping up to be a fun time!!

Questions can be sent to Tom Porada W4IEE, tom@porada.com, 775-461-6847.



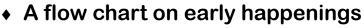


Grill Masters Tom, W4IEE, and Chip, WOoS

Winter Field Day







Complete wrap-up next month

It all started at Perkins where a record 21 TARCs had breakfast. Then moved to the Coast Guard Training Center for the all-important safety meeting.





Outside to lay the groundwork for the multiple antennas to be put in the air.



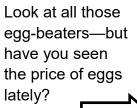
Wow! I can't believe Tom almost hit that plane taking off!





Supports going up by the supporting crew-who else?

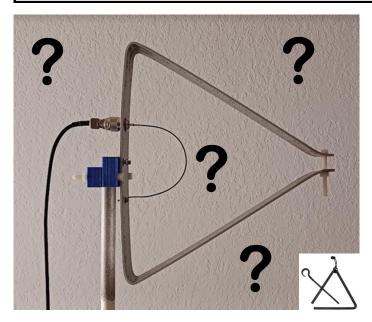






Ready for the moon shot!

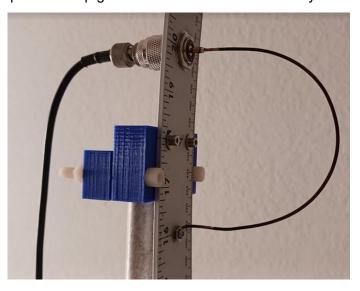




was a frigid morning in Beautiful South Venice, and I was needing a project to keep the joints from freezing up. Fortunately I came across this antenna article, and Harbor Freight is 2.5 miles from my QTH.

[This 2 meter band antenna will easily fit in your attic and can be built for the cost of a Happy Meal! If you are an ARRL member you have digital access to QEX magazine. The Jan/Feb issue has plans for this antenna, or ask a club/ARRL member for a print.]

Armed with my 30% off coupon, I braved the frigid outdoors to go there and purchase a 4' metal yard stick for \$5. Only 3' is needed but the 3' one they sell has a hole for hanging that would have caused problems with this design. So I got the 4' one which is wider and thicker, and then cut off 12". The trick to bending it is to anneal the bend points using a propane or map gas torch so it won't crack when you



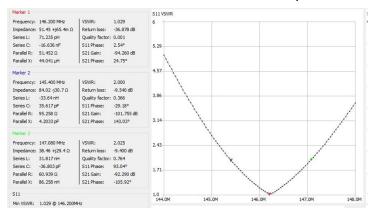


It looks like something Sop Sing would use to call the Cartwrights for dinner.

bend it. The only other specialty items needed are an SO239 connector and a nylon screw.

I bent mine so the gap at the end is naturally about 2" wide, and thus it puts the nylon screw in a good bit of tension. I used a $\frac{1}{4}$ x 2" nylon screw and nut. The gap forms a capacitor, and adjusting the gap tunes the antenna. Since I used a wider yard stick than the author, the gap on mine is larger for the same capacitance. Originally the mount was just a block of wood with a hole drilled through it. Later I 3D printed the one in the photo.

The beloved NanoVNA was used to dial it in to the 146.205 MHz. The results are shown in the plot.



Does it work? YES! My QTH is 9.5 crow-fly miles from the repeater. With the antenna in my living room connected to an HT I was able to have a perfectly clear QSO.

No, Hoss – Dinner is not ready.

Most Script, Next page >>>

Trriangle antenna – Post Script

After a few club members saw this antenna on a Wednesday Zoom chat, Doug (WA1KRX) and Peter (KV4LR) saw an opportunity to relive some of their work experience by testing the antenna for its vertizontal polarity and directional characteristics. On the test range at Doug's QTH, some highly scientific measurements were made using the NanoVNA in S12 mode. [Further report next month]

by K-SeventyOne, AKA Tom, K7ONE





TARColleagues seen at Fort Myers Hamfest









Fox Hunting Fun!

Back by popular demand, TARC will host a fox hunt (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) at the North Jetty Park in Nokomis starting at 1 pm on Saturday, February 18th. Meet in the parking lot near the pavilion and playground. We will set out two, 500 mW transmitters somewhere within the park boundaries. This is an untimed event with no award or prize other than bragging rights for the first person finding each fox. A ham license is not required to be a hunter so bring the family or friends

and introduce them to the hobby! Where: 1000 Casey Key Rd, Nokomis. More info:

https://tamiamiarc.org/events/event/fox-hunting-fun/



Will Robinson Ham Radioman



by San, K3SY

A tale of the Battery of the Bulge

ce upon a time in a land not so far, far away there was an antenna tower with two analog repeaters serving the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club. At some point the 70cm machine was converted to digital and morphed into a DMR repeater. Sometime later (around late 2016) the 2 meter machine briefly spoke the DMR language.

Wanting to stay current with all things digital, K3SY, cheapskate that he is, purchased a Tyterra UHF HT, and later a VHF unit, both with lithium batteries and charging stands.



As luck would have it, the 2 meter digital foray was short lived, so the VHF unit was quickly shoved to the back burner. A new AnyTone UHF HT made the UHF Tyterra seldom used.

Now, K3SY, not being the brightest bulb in the string, and being hard of hearing, didn't hear the Robot shouting DANGER, DANGER - and assuming the charger would perform a trickle charge function, failed to remove the radios from their stands when fully charged.



It took a split battery case to call attention to the fallacy of leaving the radios on the charging stand. The UHF unit split wide open, and the VHF unit had a deformed case. Needless to say the batteries are awaiting the reopening of the Sarasota County hazardous waste facility, closed by Ian.



Anyone want to buy two HTs, sans batteries?



~ February, 2023 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	- See Groups.IO for ZOOM sign-on	Peaches opens at 6 AM: Orders taken at 7	- Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	3 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	4 Breakfast @ DAV 9;30 A BOD 1P
5	G QCWA 11 AM @ Denny's Bee Ridge	7 Preakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	8 ~ Virtual breakfast TARC MTG 7:00 PM @ Venice Prsebyterian Church	* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	10 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A Orlando HamCation	Breakfast @ DAV 9;30 A Bus to Orlando HamCation
12 Orlando HamCation	13 DARN net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 pl100	Breakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	15 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	17 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	18 B'fast @ DAV 9;30 TARC VE session @ Venice Library 10 A
19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	22 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	24 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	25 Breakfast @ DAV 9;30 A
26	27	28 ← Breakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	Grace peri- od for dues payment ends today			

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: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, Gary Youngberg, W8SKI, Tony DiCenzo, KX1G, Tom Porada, W4IEE, 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

2023 TARC officers:

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Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ w2xyz@arrl.net

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TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. - Membership Application

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: Amo	ount by: Check	_ Cash PayPa	I 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: \$25.00/year

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

After 6/1 - \$12.00 to year end. After 10/31 \$25.00 thru next year. Family membership: \$30.00/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.

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

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

