



# THE COMMUNICATOR



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

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

Incorporated 1984

<http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

July, 2017

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

**W**e participated in the 2017 ARRL Field Day which took place on the 24 and 25 of June using our club call, W4AC. We set up our stations and antennas in Al Culbert's KOAL, garage and lawn.

We put up a temporary 40 meter dipole and a 2 element Mosely beam on a tripod stand like we used at the Sharks tooth festival. We powered our equipment with a Honda 3000 generator and a small solar installation.

We had 11 club members who operated during the 24 hour period. Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ submitted our

score to the ARRL. Thanks to all who participated. We should all be proud of our operating activities this year.

As we go through the slow summer months of July and August, the Board of Directors recommended that we cancel the monthly meetings for July and August and resume the meetings starting in September. The club approved this motion at the monthly meeting held on 14 June 2017.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable July and August.

VY 73 to All de Andy-KB1HIP

### Editors note.....

**A** European cruise in July, and class reunions in August and September represent busy travel months for your editor. It's hard to believe I will be visiting high school classmates sixty years after graduation. 1957 was a good year!

With all the goings-on, and with TARC meetings suspended for the months of July and August, time to edit The Communicator will be in short supply. So, I hope you will find an abbreviated August/September issue sufficient to satisfy your insatiable need to keep up with TARC events.

Rest assured an issue will be forthcoming in time to warn you of the reinstated meetings in September. In the meantime, happy DXing, DMRing, and whatever other pursuits you will be engaged in during the summer.

..... 73, San, K3SY

## July and August meetings cancelled.

### Next meeting September 13, 2017

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **13 September, 2017** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive.

*The Communicator is a monthly publication of  
The TamiAmateur Radio Club, Inc. Editor: San Yoder, K3SY*

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 6/14/17 Meeting*

President Andy Durette, KB1HIP, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the Flag. Introductions were made all around by name and call sign.

**MINUTES:** President Durette requested a motion to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting as published in the Communicator; the motion was made, seconded and approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The club received two letters. One was a \$24.00 bill for the rental of the propane tank that supplies the emergency generator at the repeater site. The club agreed that Treasurer should pay the bill. The other letter was a bill for insurance coverage of repeater equipment. The matter was put before the membership. After discussion, a motion was made to pay the bill. The motion was seconded and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$7,374.38, income of \$116.00, expenses of \$461.00 and an ending balance of \$7029.38

**SUNSHINE:** Al Culbert, K0AL, reported that Phil Jung, K9PJ, had undergone surgery at Doctor's Hospital and was resting comfortably at home.

**VE TESTING:** Don Jansen, KI4VGE, reported that four candidates were present for testing. Of the four, one passed Technician, one General and one Extra. One did not pass.

**LIAISON TO QCWA:** There were 12 members, spouses and visitors present at the Hibachi Grill in Venice, FL, for the June 8, 2017 meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53. There was no program presented.

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL:** Both the 146.805 MHz digital repeater and the 444.10 MHz digital repeater are operating satisfactorily.

**MEMBERSHIP:** There are 49 Regular, 8 First Year, 4 Life, 0 Student and 1 Comp. for a total of 62 members.

**OLD BUSINESS:** 1.) After Action comments from the Shark Tooth Festival. Members agreed to discuss these issues in September

2. Florida QSO Party. Statistics; our club Team worked all states via 552 QSOs including contacts with all 50 states. Foreign countries included: Canada, Italy, Spain, Dom. Republic, England, Switzerland and Germany. Not bad for a group of non-contest guys.

3. New Tent: Because of the cost of this item, members agreed to address this item in the fall when the full membership is present.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1.) Field Day: Field Day will be held on June 24th and 25th. Membership discussed the issue and indicated that they would like to participate this year. A work party consisting of Frank Wroblewski, W4XYZ, Tom Porada, W4IEE, and Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, were tasked to develop an antenna site; additionally, eight members volunteered for radio operator service. San Yoder, K3SY, will send out a club wide notice of Field Day participation and a call for additional volunteers.

2.) July and August Meeting Suspension: President Durette discussed this matter. He noted that the great majority of the club members left Venice to go North and that summer meetings were sparsely attended. After discussion, Gary Hagens, K6OC, submitted motion to suspend the July and August meetings. The motion was seconded by Guenther Henning, AJ4QX. All approved. Motion Passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

There were 11 Ham members present.

Andy Durette, KB1HIP, won the 50-50 drawing; He donated his winnings to the Club.

**PROGRAM:** There was no program.



*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 PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Maldives – SQ7KN by G4RN, all modes	New to 04 July	41	0100	00-01	NO	0200	NO	NO	NO	NO
East Kiribati – T32AZ by KH6QJ	New to 04 July	267	04-12	03-13	–	17-05	–	NO	–	NO
Haiti – 4V1G by 2-op team, focus on 6m	New to 08 July	131		Pray for	Spec-	adic	E			
Isle of Man – G048KA by G048KA, digital	New to 09 July	41	00-06	22-09	21-10	16-00	20-00	NO	NO	NO
French Polynesia – TX5EG by 5-op team	New to 17 July	243	03-12	01-13	01-12	17-06	18-05	17-04	NO	–
Marshall Reef – OJ0V by 4-op team	01 to 07 July	31	01-03	23-07	22-08	08-00	NO	NO	NO	NO
Croat – S00VK by 5-op team, HF + 6m	01 to 09 July	51	00-04	22-06	21-06	13-06	16-22	NO	NO	NO
Lesos – XW4QR by 3 W3B, CW, RY, JT65	03 to 14 July	353		No	Open-	ings	Fero-	cast		
St Pierre & Miquelon – FP30V1, all modes	04 to 18 July	39	23-10	00-24	10-07	08-05	NO	NO	NO	NO
Luxembourg – LXPA5X, LXPGEM	06 to 09 July	44	00-05	22-08	21-09	08-00	NO	NO	NO	NO
Vanuatu – YJ0GA by ZL3GA, holiday style	07 to 13 July	262	06-12	04-13	04-13	01-06	23-05	20-04	NO	NO
Georgia – 4L/DL7ZM, 6m from 3,300m elev	13 to 20 July	37		Pray for	Spec-	adic	E			
Maldives – SQ7PW by G4PWO, SSB + digi	18 July – 01 Aug	41	–	00-01	–	0230	NO	NO	NO	NO
Arctic Russia – R00C from near UA30TA	20 to 24 July	340	NO	09-10	NO	10-12	NO	NO	NO	NO
Marquesas Is – TX5EG by 5-op team	29 July – 06 Aug	245	03-12	01-14	00-13	15-06	16-04	17-05	23-01	NO

Updated 29 June 2017 based on 26 June The Weekly DX, the 28 June QRZ DX, and <http://www.no3k.com>  
**Notes:** Time in bold = the Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; +- = Mostly SSB; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using W6ELProp propagation software. Solar Flux and K-Index varied by dates in accordance with the NOAA SWPC 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table and USAF 45 Day AP Forecast.

**-- JUNE SOLAR ACTIVITY --**

Through 01-29 June, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 72 to 79, with a mean value of 74.9 (vs. 81.9 for June 2016 and 123.2 for June 2015), and the  $A_p$  index was  $\geq 7$  on 13 days. Through 28 June, the sunspot number ranged from 0 to 35, with a mean of 18.5.

Solar activity through to 28 June was generally quiet with 18 Class C solar flares early in the month. Significant geomagnetic disturbances did occur briefly driving the  $A_p$  to 39 on 11 June and 48 on 16 June.

**-- JULY FORECAST --**

Solar activity is expected to be very low, with a slight chance for C-class flare activity, throughout the month.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels on 01-03 Jul, and 16-18 Jul. Normal and normal to moderate flux levels are expected to prevail throughout the remainder of the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at quiet and quiet to unsettled levels through most of July; however, G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm conditions are likely on 13 Jul with active conditions likely on 14-15, 21-23 and 25-26 Jul due to the anticipated influence of a recurrent, negative polarity CH HSS.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 72 to 77, and average 74.6 during July.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 26 June 2017, NOAA 27-day Space

Weather Outlook Table, 26 June 2017, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 26 June 2017.)

**-- T32AZ – EAST KIRIBATI --**



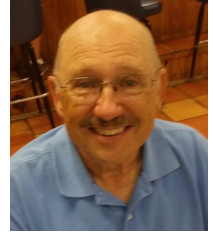
Ken KH6QJ is active as T32AZ from Crystal Lodge, Kiritimati, East Kiribati until 04 July, between June 28 to July 4, 2017. QRV on 80-40-20-15-10m, CW/SSB.

(From <https://dx-world.net/>)



## FIELD DAY REPORT

By W2XYZ



**F**ield Day 2017 is now history and the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club is now part of that history. As I'm sure all Hams know, the ARRL sponsor's Field Day on the last full weekend in June. Unlike the last few years, this year our club participated in it, and participate we did!!! We operated as a 2A, which means a club station running two transmitters.

Eleven club members showed up at Al's (K0AL) "Cottage" for Field Day this year. We used W4IEE's 3kw Honda generator for power and it ran flawlessly. On the equipment side, our club's Icom IC-746 was used and supplemented with a 500 watt Ameritron amplifier supplied by KJ4NDO. The second station ran at 100 watts and used KB1HIP's Icom IC-7000 transceiver.

The 2 element beam we usually use at the Shark Tooth Festival (supplied by KB1HIP) was up to approximately 30 feet. The "Armstrong" method was used to rotate the antenna to the appropriate direction. Our other antenna was a 40 meter dipole up about 20 feet. For bonus points, we operated a Yaesu FT-817 (W2XYZ) powered by the sun to make the five necessary contacts needed by the rules. All equipment worked perfectly and operators were fed with delicious home-baked cookies supplied by N4MXQ and Jane. Our accommodations in Al's garage were great. Even the weather was great with no thunderstorms requiring us to shut down operations. The only thing not in our favor was propagation.

I remember in Field Days past, the bands were very crowded. It used to be nearly impossible to find a clear spot to call CQ. Things were very different this year. This year, during the day hours, you pretty much had your choice of calling frequencies. I don't think there were any fewer stations participating in Field Day this year, I think daytime absorption of the D and E layers of the ionosphere were so high that short distance communication was difficult. The F layer of the ionosphere was not much use either, being it was daytime and we are around the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

The handful of stations heard on the air during the day this year were probably the "Big Gun" stations. The "Little Pistols" were just being absorbed by Mother Nature. After the sun set, 20 meters went dead and 40 meters started perking up. It was not nearly as crowded on 40 as years past, but there was considerably more activity going on. During the night, we worked every (yes, I said every) CW station we heard. We must have put out a pretty good signal as hardly anyone asked us to repeat our information. When we ran out of new stations on 40 CW, we reconfigured. We downloaded software and set the equipment for PSK-31 operation. That was working well, but then the sun started rising and 40 went out. Around sunrise 20 started okay, but as soon as the sun was high in the sky, the signals faded.

So, how did the club do on its first return to Field Day? We earned 450 bonus points for using a generator, having a safety officer appointed, operating a solar powered station and submitting our log electronically. We made 5 digital contacts, 53 phone contacts and 151 CW contacts giving us a total 815 points. 815 might be a long way from first place, but this was our first time.

We learned many valuable lessons about getting more bonus points, the need for lower band antennas, having equipment configured for the digital modes and more. Many of us learned contest-style operating skills. All of us learned patience and endurance. Most importantly we learned that as a club we work together well. Everyone involved gave their max and it showed by how smoothly the operation ran.

Did we have a good time? Just ask K6OC, K3SY, W4IEE, KJ4NDO, N4MXQ, AJ4QX, KB1HIP, KN4BAR, K8ZM, AC8NS or W2XYZ for their opinion. I'm sure the reply will be affirmative.

73, Frank W2XYZ

# Field Day in pictures.....



**First the dipole**



**Our hosts**



**OK Frank, just a little higher**



**H  
U  
M  
M  
<**



**Station is all set to go**

# Field Day in pictures.....



**How did we ever get along before USB fans?**



?  
?  
?



**OK, Gary, keep that amp working or your coffee will get cold.**



**Wonder what happens if I push this button ?**



**But Frank, that's the CW rig!**



**Break time!**

# Field Day in pictures.....



**Running 'em?**



**Our DX check assistant**



**P  
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A  
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E**



**The sunshine boys**



**Just one more contact please!**

# Field Day in pictures.....



*Jim gets to store all that stuff at his house.*



*Can't we just call on the cell?*



*Class photo of the take-down crew.*



# July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM, or- ders taken at 7:00.					Breakfast @ Peaches *	1
2	3 QCWA 11:30 AM Hibachi grill	4 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	5	6	7 Breakfast @ Peaches *	8 <b>TARC VE Session @ Jacaranda Public Library 10:00 AM</b>
9	10 DARN Emer- gency net @ 11AM Starts on NI4CE/RPT 145.43 p1100	11 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	12 <b><u>No TARC meeting this month.</u></b>	13	14 Breakfast @ Peaches *	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	19	20	21 Breakfast @ Peaches *	22
23	24	25 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	26	27	28 Breakfast @ Peaches *	29
30	31					

**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) _____        |  |   |

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

**2017 TARC OFFICERS:**

President:	Andy Durette	KB1HIP
Vice President:	Gary Hagens	K6OC
Secretary:	Jim Shortill	KJ4NDO
Treasurer:	Frank Wroblewski	W2XYZ
Directors:	Peter Boers	KV4LR
	Larry Bryan	W8LIG
	Don Jansen	KI4VGE
	Tom McDermitt	W3GXV
	San Yoder	K3SY

**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.

*The Communicator is a monthly publication of  
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