



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

June, 2017

<u>in this issue:</u>
President's <u>Message:</u> 1
Meeting Notice:1
Meeting Minutes: 2
DX Jack's <u>Page:</u> 3
Digital Frank's <u>Page</u> : 4
Whiskey Four Big-Time- <u>Radio:</u> 5
<u>Kudos</u> : 6
Dayton <u>Hamvention</u> : 7-8
W4AC <u>QSL Card</u> : . 9-10
Club <u>Calendar</u> : 11
Membership

President's message.....KB1HIP

he Florida QSO party took place on the 29th and 30th of April 2017. We operated from Al Culbert's KOAL station on Friday and Saturday using our club call, W4AC. We made over 500 contacts representing Sarasota County. We had a lot of fun. Thanks to Al for the use of his station.

The club has agreed to operate at the 2017 ARRL Field Day that As we go through the summer will take place on the 24th and 25th of June. All has agreed to let us use his QTH for this event. We plan to erect temporary antennas, including a two element Mosely beam and some ing in September. We will have long wires. We will be discussing the setup details at our next club meeting on 14 June. You can sign up to operate at the monthly meeting.

As we come to the summer quiet season. I want to thank all the members who helped organize three operating events this year: The Shark's Tooth festival, the Florida QSO party and the upcoming ARRL Field Day. With the addition of the equipment auction and the Shark's Tooth 10K race that we monitored, we had one of our best years for Club activities in a long time.

months of July and August, the Board of Directors recommend that we cancel the monthly meetings for July and August, and resume the meetings starta vote on the proposal at the June monthly meeting

I hope everyone has an enjoyable June.

VY 73 to all, de Andy-KB1HIP

Next month:

Application: 12

Field Day Notes

No meeting pending membership approval.

June Meeting

Our meeting will start at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, 14 June, 2017 at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President Andy Durette, KB1HIP, called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 April 12, 2017 meeting as published in the Communicator, after correction of Tom Porada's call sign Motion was made, seconded and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$7,402.56, income of \$25.50, expenses of \$53.68 and an ending balance of \$7,374.38

SUNSHINE:

VE TESTING: Don Jansen, KI4VGE, reported that one candidate took the exam and passed.

LIAISON TO QCWA: There were 22 members, spouses and visitors present for the May, 2017 meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53. Don Watson, K9DDO, presented a program on the restoration of family heirloom radios.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Both the 146.805 MHz digital repeater and the 444.10 MHz digital repeater are operating satisfactorily. Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, noted that participation on the Thursday evening net on 146.58 MHz simplex (analog) had fallen off due to many club members departing for their northern homes. Frank recommended that the Thursday net be temporarily suspended until fall. Members agreed.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. President Durette, KB1HIP, suggested that discussion of the Shark Tooth Festival after action comments be put off until the Fall as many Club members have departed for their northern homes.

2. Florida QSO Party. Eleven Club operators assisted Al Culbert, K0AL, for the weekend QSO party. Our team made contacts all over the US and in foreign countries. Running the station and the computer recording system developed good teamwork under the pressure of the contest. Al

Minutes of the 5/10/17 Meeting

Culbert will brief the Club on detailed Florida QSO Party operations and statistics at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Tom Porada, W4IEE, presented his detailed research on a new club tent. After review and some discussion, the president indicated that he would like to discuss the purchase and use of a new tent at a director's meeting with the objective of additional review and a later presentation to the club membership in the fall.

- 2.) Field Day: Field Day will be held on June 24th and 25th. Membership discussed the issue and then indicated that they would like to participate this year. Club treasurer was tasked to develop a moderate budget for incidental costs. This Field Day event will be further discussed at the June meeting on June 14th.
- 3.) W4AC QSL cards: Tom Porada, W4IEE, with a hand from Jack Sproat, W4JS, researched the price and availability, and created a new design for a new club QSL card. After membership review, it was moved, seconded and approved to authorize Tom to spend \$100.00 to purchase 500 W4AC QSL cards for Club use.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

There were ten Ham members and two Ham visitors present.

Gary Hagens, K6OC, won the 50-50 drawing. He donated his winnings to the Club.

PROGRAM: Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, presented a review of how technology has changed ordinary things. One example being the flexibility of the mechanical stage used for shows observed during a Royal Caribbean cruise.

The other involved how Morse code technology transitioned from a paper record, as envisioned by Mr. Morse, to a clicking repeater from which operators soon learned to identify the rhythm of clicking sound with words, to the sound of dits and dahs for fast transmission of words and sentences.



DX Jack's page....

...... By Jack Sproat, W4JS

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY CALL DION	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEAR- ING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
COUNTRY - CALL SIGN			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Cameroon - TJ3PD by AA9WO	Now Active	83	00-05	22-07	22-03	21-01	17-02	NO	NO	NO
Minami Torishima - JG8NQJ/JD1, **, RTTY	Now to 15 July	308	09-11	07-12	07-13	10-15	11-12	NO	NO	NO
Zimbabwe - Z25DX by K00W, **	Now to 18 June	97	00-05	22-06	22-07	05-09	07-10	1000	NO	NO
Kenya - 5Z4/OZIAA	Now to 15 June	76	00-04	23-04	00-02	21-01	21-00	2200	NO	NO
Liechtenstein - HB0 GMUYE by 4-op team	01 to 06 June	46	00-05	22-07	21-07	11-23	16-22	NO	NO	NO
Reunion - FR.F4HPK, all modes	04 to 16 June	91	-	00-03	NO	04-05	NO	NO	122	122
Malta - 9H3XG by JA1XGL ++, RTTY	07 to 12 June	55	CO PROCES	22-07	21-08	17-01	16-00	NO	0.075	
Palas - TSCW by JH0IXE, all modes	09 to 18 June	306	09-11	08-12	08-12	11-15	1100	NO	NO	NO
Albania - ZA/IK7JWX by 4-op team	10 to 20 June	48	00-04	22-06	22-07	18-00	17-23	NO	NO	NO
French Polynesia - TX5EG by 5-op team	11 to 19 June	243	03-12	01-13	01-12	18-07	18-05	17-05	NO	
Farce Is - OY/K2HVN, **	13 to 26 June	32		22-09	21-11	08-01	NO	NO	NO	NO
Cyprus - 5B/DL6JF, ** holiday style	15 to 25 June	48	00-03	23-04	22-05	19-00	17-22	NO	NO	NO
Palau - TSSRR, MK, VV, HY, FM & NC	16 to 23 June	306	09-11	08-12	08-12	11-15	1100	NO	NO	
Christmas Is - VK9AA by HL1AHS	24 June-01 July		NO	0000	NO	00-02		0130	NO	NO
Palau - TSSTJ by JR1FKR, ++, RTTY	28 June-02 July	154 306	-	08-12		11-14	01-02 11-12	0130 NO	-	NO
French Polynesia - TXSEG by 5-op team	29 June-17 July	243	03-12	01-13	01-12	18-07	18-05	17-05	NO	

Updated 30 May 2017 based on the 24 May QRZ DX and, http://www.nq3k.com

Notes: Time in boild - the Bands with 75-100% opening; 222 - 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 WidELProp 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.

-- MAY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 01-30 May, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 69 to 82, with a mean value of 73.6 (vs. 93.2 for May 2016 and 120.7 for May 2015), and the ♣ index was ≥ 7 on 19 days. Through 29 May, the sunspot number ranged from 0 to 55, with a mean of 17.8.

Solar activity through to 29 May was quiet with only two Class C solar flares. Significant geomagnetic disturbances occurred, driving the & to 67 on 27 May and 111 on 28 May, with G3 geomagnetic storms.

-- JUNE FORECAST --

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

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels with high levels likely from 16-24 Jun due to CH HSS influence.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at mostly quiet conditions are expected through 09 Jun. From 10-19 Jun, unsettled to active levels are expected with G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm levels likely on 16 Jun due to recurrent CH HSS effects. Mostly quiet conditions are expected to return from 20-24 Jun.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux should range from 70 to 80, and average 74.7 during June.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 29 May 2017, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 29 May 2017, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 29 May 2017.)



Jean-Piere-F6CTF announces he will be active from French Polynesia during June to September 2017 as TX5JF and TX5JF/MM on 80m – 10m. Jean-Pierre will be sailing his ketch, SS MOUILLAGE to Polynesia. (Lots of DX coming from French Polynesia during June!)

(From dx-world.net)



(From dx-world.net)

Digital Frank's page.DMR Wizardry By W2XYZ

I'm baaaack, but not for just another digital newsletter article. This time I'm back from Dayton, or more properly, Xenia, or more specifically, Hamvention.

The big rumor from the manufacturers was there would be a dual-band DMR handheld released at the show. The rumor proved untrue. There were no dual-band DMR radios at the show. R&L Electronics was selling the Tytera MD-380 DMR UHF handheld for \$80, but that was the only good DMR deal going. Connect Systems has a mobile (base station if you add a power supply) DMR radio for either VHF or UHF available for \$280, but that's not new, it's been on the market for a while already.

The use of DMR was very popular at and around the Hamvention. There was one DMR repeater located on site at the show, plus the Dayton area has two permanent DMR repeaters (one in Kettering and the other in Huber Heights). Listening to general chatter, there was quite a bit of activity going on all three repeaters. Looking around, many Hams were carrying DMR handhelds, with the Tytera MD-380 being the most popular by far.

Although there were not new DMR products on the market, digital was by far the shining star at the show. The buzz word was SDR. It seems everyone, even small manufacturing companies in the US are producing SDR HF radios. All sorts were available from QRP kits, to QRO manufactured radios from big name companies.

What I found of particular interest is how they are able to build real quality receivers with SDR technology and at a much lower price than with the traditional radios. For example, the new ICOM IC-7300. Reviews say it's fantastic. It was being sold at \$1175 (with ICOM rebate). Until recently, a radio with such specifications would have cost several thousand dollars and still would not have all the capabilities found in the IC-7300.

If any of you are wondering how the Hamvention in Xenia compared to that held at Hara's Arena? The official jury is still out on that decision.

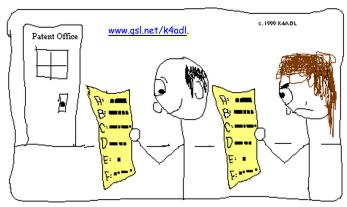


My observations are there were less attendees, less vendors, and fewer stalls in the flea market. I think many wanted to see if this was going to work out before committing to Xenia. I think the DARA club and the Xenia community did an outstanding job of planning the event. Most everything was well thought out, but there is much room for improvement. Overall I'd give them an A- for Hamvention. I'm sure next year will be even better.

DARA is committed to the location for a minimum of three years and I personally think it will be the permanent spot, primarily because there is nothing else as suitable around. The biggest problem was the weather, which of course could not be changed. We had lots of rain and the flea market area, and one parking lot, was a sea of mud.

I'm sure the flea marketeers would have done much better business had it not rained or had they been located on asphalt. To sum up the experience, I'll quote what I heard one Ham say, "It's not as good as Hara's was years ago, but it's a heck of a lot better than Hara's was in recent years."

73, Frank W2XYZ



LUCKILY FOR US, SAMUEL MORSE ARRIVES AT THE PATENT OFFICE JUST SECONDS BEFORE IGOR CZNXOVIZKYNOVIA

Whiskey Four Big-Time-Radio

o you consider yourself to be a ham radio freak, geek, nerd or super-fan? If you are, or are a wanna-be, perhaps you should check out Whiskey Four Big Time Radio (W4BTR).

It all started as a club station formed in Texas in the '80s, specifically to promote old-time-radio and Morse code operation. TARC member Bob Schneider, currently W5GJ, is the founder of the club, with W5WVK the club's original call. It featured code practice and a slow-code net.

When Bob moved to New Jersey, he took the operation with him, and re-established it there under call-sign W2JJ. Fans there did contesting, slow-code nets, and other "old-time-radio" ops.

Another move to Florida, and Bob brought the operation with him. W4BTR is the club call now, and operates as number three of Bob's seven stations located at his QTH in Venice. (Refer to the March '17 issue of The Communicator for a look at all of Bob's stations.)

Here is the station lineup:

Station #3 is an AM and CW station with a Barker & Williamson 5100B transmitter. The receiver is a Collins 75 A-4 all mode. Bob's original Hallicrafters S 53-A is used as a station monitor. Two bugs and a



straight key round out the setup.

Bob has generously extended an invitation to any TARC member to operate the W4BTR station. So if you live with HOA-challenged antennas, have a shared interest in sustaining old-time-radio, and would like to operate a vintage station, contact Bob for an operating time and enjoy!

Bob's other vintage stations are available as well to enthusiasts who wish to re-visit some of their "days-of-yore" setups they may have owned. So, miss that Collins lineup you had back in the day, and would like to re-visit the thrill you had then, contact Bob to set up an operating time, and feel years younger.

If a slow-code net is something you would like to get involved with, please let Bob know. He is interested in re-establishing a net to keep Morse code alive and well.

KUDOS

The following appeared in the Dayton 2017 Hamvention publication under the section listing 2017 ARRL/DARA Scholarships. Emma was a student member of TARC from 2014 to 2016. Our congratulations to Emma and our best wishes for a stellar career.

Emma C. Bonham, KK4YFQ

Emma C. Bonham, KK4YFQ, is from Nokomis, Florida. While completing her senior year at Venice High School, she also began classes at the State College of Florida. She is active in her high school's orchestra, receiving the most valuable player award in 2014.



Emma was first licensed in 2014, and holds a Technician license. She has used ham radio to volunteer in numerous community events.

Fascinated by space travel and exploration, Emma plans to continue classes at Purdue College, focusing on Robotics Engineering. Her goal is to someday "work with NASA or a collaborating company to create robotic equipment such as the Mars Curiosity Rover," or other type of space machinery. Emma says, perhaps if I am lucky enough, and with a lot of hard work and dedication, I will eventually get to work on the space station as an engineer."

Bob Avrutik, NIRA

Bob Avrutik, N1RA, (left) receives his seventyfive year pin from Don Watson, K9DDO at the May QCWA meeting in Sarasota. Bob has actually been licensed for seventy-seven years, so the recognition is a couple of years late.

Bob operates SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 et. al. from his "closet" ham shack, using a vertical antenna in his back yard. He is on the air almost daily.

He has been known to use the phonetics "number one radio amateur" on occasion. We should all be so lucky to have such a neat call.

Bob is a life member of TARC and is a regular participant in the Disaster Amateur Radio Network (DARN). He can be found at breakfast at Peaches most Tuesdays and Fridays.

Our congratulations to Bob on his many years of ham radio service, and we wish him many more years of dits and dahs.



Scenes from the 2017 Dayton Hamvention

The following photos from Dayton were supplied by Bob Marchese, K1NOK



Bob, K1NOK is seated second on left.



This is what 24,000 people in line looks like.



Lots and lots of stuffand more stuff





And then it rained! But it was dry inside! Con't >>>>>

Dayton Hamvention, con't....



No mud here.



The big names were there.



Richard M. Nixon

A few characters attended.



Some folks got stuck here.



And a little name-dropping composite.



It was as long drive home!

Designing the new W4AC QSL card

by Tom Porada W4IEE

fter the 2017 QSL party held over at Al's (K0AL) shack in Nokomis during the last weekend in April, the club decided it needed a QSL card to go out as a response to QSLs received.

It turns out I had been working on pricing a new tent canopy since the one we used at the Sharks Tooth Festival left us all wanting for something better. In looking into various companies I found what appeared to be the best design from a company named Eurmax www.eurmax.com). There were a few of these at the festival and they looked pretty well built.

At the festival, you might recall, we had no signage at first and we looked like a group of senior citizens hiding behind some kind of ancient electronics with a big antenna in the background. Many passers-by, simply passed us by, not knowing who we were or what we were doing. Jim Shortill, for all his hard work, misremembered where he put the TARC banner (yes, he did eventually find it after the festival right where he put it to ensure that he'd find it when needed...hi, hi).

One of the options for the canopy was to do custom printing on any surface using a process called sublimation. OK, so what do we print? I decided to grab a copy of the TARC logo so Eurmax could do a mock-up with printing. Were you aware that our 50 year old club did not have a logo? I looked at the website header but couldn't use it because it was too low of a resolution. I grabbed the logo off the Communicator from San but it had the same issue of low resolution. So, I created one, passed it around the club at break-

fast, got some feedback and tweaked the design. I used that logo in a presentation about a new canopy at the May TARC club meeting. A copy is included here.



Apparently, my presentation & logo design efforts were misconstrued somehow. I was mistaken for someone who knew how to do graphics design work and was put on the spot to create the new QSL card. Always up for a challenge, I accepted the assignment.

Now what? Where do I start? I went into my computer and pulled up the design of my previous QSL card I used in Carson City, Nevada as KK7YW. The face of that card was a picture I had taken of wild horses pretty close up. Nevada has wild horses everywhere, and I've always liked QSLs that tell a story of the area in photos. So, I had a starting point. Now all I needed was some good photos that represented the Florida way of life.

We haven't been here in Florida all that long, and the largest selection of photos I shot was of my new house being constructed. I had a few others here and there, but nothing suitable for the QSL. On the other hand, my wife Tonia took some interesting photos on a short trip we took to Key West a few months back. One was taken at the back of a motel in Key Largo on our way down. It showed the water, boats, chairs, umbrellas and the obligatory sunset. It looked pretty good to me, so I decided to use it for the front of the QSL. Oh, Tonia was happy 'bout that!

I have been using a graphics design product from Corel for almost 30 years - ever since I worked for Digital Equipment Corporation in Boston. It is called CorelDraw, and I buy an update every few years, usually a version or so behind (spell – cheaper), but relatively up to date. I know how to use 5% of its functionality, but I have a good handle on it.

To do printable designs you have to know something about the printing process because it impacts the way you lay out the design. For most designs you need a 'bleed' area. This is an oversized area just outside the design frame. It may require a 1/8" or 1/4" extra on all sides depending on the printer. This area will not show up in the final printing. You also have to allow for some none-printing space around the inside edge of

W4AC QSL card, continued

your design, just in case the final cut is slightly off. In other words, you have to know your target printer before beginning your design. I've used UX5UO (http://www.ux5uoqsl.com) in the past and decided to use him again. He will print directly from a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " design with no bleeds and his price is always right at \$78/1,000 QSLs, with glossy color on side 1 and matt grey-scale on side two.

To create the card I started by defining a 3 ½" x 5 ½" page and plunking down a cropped image of Tonia's photo as layer 1. Think about layers as what Disney did way back - one clear layer had an image of Mickey Mouse, the next clear layer had Minnie, the next had some background trees or something. You could see thru the whole set but you could work on each one individually. I added W4AC on another layer, then Venice on a third layer. CorelDraw and most drawing packages have a 'color picker' tool that looks like an eye dropper. You put the tool over another color in the design and 'suck it up' then flood the new space with it. That is how I got the color that fills in the call letters and QTH. I sucked it out of one of the palm trees. The card front looks very relaxed and casual with the browns and yellows. At the bottom right for USA, I individually colored each letter and used a narrow black line around each letter of .5 points I think.

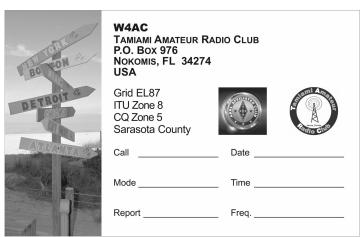


I then created the back of the card using another page in CorelDraw. The page size was the same. I had a photo of the sign post out behind Sharkey's that shows the distance to many cities. That seemed appropriate for the QSL so I added it. Of course I had to run over and take a better

photo with my better camera with a strobe to get the shadows out, then converted the color to grey -scale, cropped & sized it and it now appears on the left of side two.

Time to add some logos. Well, I already had the new club logo from the canopy mock-up, so down it went. But it didn't look so good in grey scale (thanks for the extra work Frank!!), so I had to tweak the colors so it would better work in grey-scale. Then I asked our esteemed leaders about an ARRL logo. No one had the answer but Jim S. took it upon himself to find out that we are an ARRL Affiliated Club and he had the ARRL folks send me a link to the appropriate logo.

Lastly, I copied the side 2 information layout from my NV card, made the address, grid, ITU, CQ and county changes and voila, the card was done. They are now on order and we should have them later this month.



All in all, I probably have 10-15 hours into the design of the card and logo and various iterations. Much of that was searching for what to do, then getting the photos and graphics together and doing the implementation. Non-custom cards are easy, but if you want a card that shows something the way YOU want it, expect to put in the time.

I just finished designing my new W4IEE QSL. I probably have 40 hours into it and it looks nothing like I envisioned it when I started, but it is unique and sends the message I want.

73, Tom, W4IEE

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Breakfast @ Peaches *	3
4	5 QCWA 11:30 AM Hibachi grill	6 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	7		9 Breakfast @ Peaches *	10 TARC VE Session @ Jacaranda Public Library 10:00 AM
11	12 DARN Emergency net @ 11AM Starts on NI4CE/RPT 145.43 pl100	13 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	14 TARC meeting @ Coast Guard Training Center 7:00 PM	15	16 Breakfast @ Peaches *	17
18	19	20 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	21	22	23 Breakfast @ Peaches *	24 FD17 ARRL FIELD DAY
25 FD17 ARRL FIELD DAY	26	27 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	28	29	30 Breakfast @ Peaches *	* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM, orders taken at 7:00.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name		Call sign	Class	ARRL, (Y/N)		
Local Address_		City	Z	.ip		
Phone	Cell	E-Mail				
Summer Addres	5S	City	St	Zip		
Phone	Alt. E-	-mail				
Application Dat	te	_ Amount enclose	ed			
 D - Digital (DMR, PSK, etc.) E - Emergency Comm. F - Field Day I - RFI/TVI Other (Specify) 		[] O - Computers [] P - Packet [] Q - Publicity [] R - Repeater ATEUR RADIO	ol [s [[[] T - Training [] U - VHF/UHF [] V - VE Testing [] X - DX [] Y - RTTY		
2017 TARC OFF President: Vice President: Secretary: Treasurer: Directors:	FICERS: Andy Durette Gary Hagens Jim Shortill Frank Wroblewski Peter Boers Larry Bryan Don Jansen	KB1HIP K6OC KJ4NDO W2XYZ KV4LR W8LIG	After 10/31 Family Memb Non Voting St	\$10.00 to yr. end \$20.00 thru next yr. pership \$25.00/yr		

The Communicator is a monthly publication of The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Editor: San Yoder, K3SY http://www.tamiamiarc.org Webmaster: Dave Gill, K4JDG

W3GXV

K3SY

Tom McDermitt

San Yoder