



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>

July/August, 2019

In this issue:

President's Message: 1

Meeting Notice:1

DX Jack's Page: 2

Groups.io: 3

Regatta: 4-5

Tom's Tech Tips: 6

Stuff: 7

SrqAres Training: 8

Club Calendar: 9

Membership Application: .10

President's message.....KB1HIP

AS I was reviewing the minutes of the June 12 meeting, I was amazed at what the club has accomplished in the last few years.

Through the efforts of our members, officers and board of directors, we have an effective Volunteer Examiners (VE) monthly testing program, an organized weekly on-the-air nets on UHF, VHF and HF bands, a terrific Elmer and license training program, several operating events throughout the year, a new Groups.io communications tool and, of course, several social breakfasts during the week.

Finally, all of these activities are reported in the monthly "TARC Communicator" which is a publication that we all should be proud of. As a result of all this work/activity we now have a record 121 members in the club. We should all be happy to be associated with this club.

In the May monthly meeting, the club added \$80 to the \$20 that was received from the Shark's Tooth QSL activity for a total of \$100. At the June meeting, the members contributed another \$100. So in all, we will donate \$200 to the Special Olympics. Thanks to the members who contributed.

We participated in the 2019 ARRL Field Day which took place on June 22 and 23 using our club call, W4AC, and Frank's call, W2XYZ, for the GO-TA station.

We set up our five stations and several antennas at the USCG Auxiliary Training Center. We installed several long wire antennas, a 2 element Mosely beam on a tripod stand, and three vertical antennas. All the stations were housed in our two tents in the field and inside the Training Center.

Our equipment was powered by generators and a small solar/battery installation. We had many members who operated on CW, SSB voice and FT8 digital mode during the 24-hour period. We had visitors including members of the ARRL West Central Division who came to look at our operations. Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, has submitted our 3224-preliminary score to the ARRL. Thanks to all who participated.

As a reminder the club agreed to cancel the monthly meetings for July and August and resume the meetings starting in September.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable July and August.

VY 73 to All de Andy-KB1HIP



'SUMMER BULLETIN'
July/August
Issue
No meetings
Till September

September
Full report
on
Field Day

Next meeting September 11, 2019

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **11 September, 2019** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive.

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 OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Solomon Is – H44MS by DL2GAC; ++	Now to 20 July	274	NO	08-11	06-12	03-05	02-04	20-03	NO	NO
Market Reef – OJ0C by 4-op team	Now to 20 July	31	NIL	01-07	23-05	11-23	NIL	NO	NO	NO
Georgia – 4L/DL7ZM; mainly 6m CW/SB/FT	Now to 21 July	37	NO	00-01	22-04	12-23	NO	NO	NO	NO
SMO Malta – 1A0C by 14-op team, 3 stations	Now to 21 July	50	01-04	23-07	21-04	11-00	NIL	NO	NO	NO
Balearic Is – EA6/DK5ON, all modes	Now to 26 July	55	00-05	22-08	21-05	11-00	21-22	NO	NO	NO
Somalia – 6O100 by EP3CQ; most 6m FT8	Now to 31 July	69	NO	NIL	NIL	2000	16-18	NO	NO	NO
Palestine – E44WE by SP9FIH; SSB/FT8/RV	Now to 03 Aug	49	NIL	23-04	22-04	12-00	20-22	NO	NO	NO
Corsica – TK/DJ0TP, holiday style	Now to 08 Aug	51	01-05	23-07	21-04	11-00	20-21	NO	NO	NO
Vietnam – XV9DXB by HB9DXB, **	20 Jul – 03 Aug	346	--	NO	--	1400	--	--	--	--
Vanuatu – YJ0GA by ZL3GA, CW/SB/FT8	21 Jul – 03 Aug	262	NIL	06-11	05-12	04-06	02-03	19-03	NIL	NO
Cape Verde Is – D44TEG by HB9EBT, **	22 to 29 July	90	--	22-10	20-07	17-03	16-23	21-22	NO	-NO
The Gambia – C5SP by SP3PS, SSB/FT8	23 Jul – 05 Aug	88	--	--	--	17-23	17-21	2100	NO	NO
Market Reef – OJ0DX by 4-op team	25 to 31 July	31	NIL	01-07	23-05	11-23	NIL	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7SU by JI3KDH; **, 100w	31 Jul – 07 Aug	40	--	--	--	0200	NO	NO	NO	NO
St Paul Is – CY9C by 7-op team, all modes	31 Jul – 07 Aug	35	00-11	21-13	19-14	11-03	21-02	23-00	NO	NO
Lord Howe Is – VK9APX by AI5P, CW/FT8	01 to 10 August	249	--	07-11	06-12	NIL	0200	--	--	--
Aland Is – OH0UDG by 3-op team, all modes	03 to 17 August	31	02-04	23-08	21-01	12-22	NO	NO	NO	NO
Madagascar – 5R8PX, SSB + Digital	03 to 17 August	92	NO	00-01	NIL	1300	1500	NO	NO	NO
South Korea – HL18FINA; all modes	Now to 18 Aug	335	NO	NIL	NIL	21-23	NO	NO	NO	NO
Maldives – 8Q7GB by IZ2DLV, CW/SB/FT8	06 to 18 August	40	NO	NIL	01-02	0200	NIL	NO	--	--
St Pierre & Miquelon – TO5M, 4 ops, all mod	10 to 18 August	39	23-11	20-13	00-24	18-22	12-00	23-00	NO	NO
Market Reef – OJ00 by 4-op team	17 to 24 August	31	NIL	01-07	23-05	11-23	NIL	NO	NO	NO
Solomon Is – H44??? By DL2GMI, SB/FT8	23 Aug – 02 Sep	274	NIL	08-11	--	03-04	--	20-02	--	NO
Burundi – 9U3TMM by IV3TMM, SB/Digi	31 Aug – 17 Sep	83	--	23-04	22-05	19-01	14-22	18-20	NO	NO

Prepared 14 July based on 08 July *The Weekly DX*, <https://dx-world.net/> and <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Times shown are for S-5 or better signals and 60% or better opening probability; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast, NIL = band is open but signals below S-5 threshold. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. Propagation forecasts are calculated using *W6ELProp* propagation software and VOACAP <http://www.voacap.com/hf/>.

-- JULY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 14 July, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux had a mean value of 67.1. The A_p index was ≥ 7 on four days. One small Cycle 25 sunspot group appeared on 07 July and was gone the next day.

-- JULY - AUGUST SOLAR FORECAST --

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

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal levels during the outlook period.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to range from quiet to active. Active levels are expected from 05-07 August in response to influence from an anticipated positive polarity CH HSS. Unsettled levels are likely on 28 July and 24 August. The remainder of the outlook period is expected to be at quiet levels under a nominal solar wind regime.

The 10.7 cm Solar Flux is forecast to be at 67 throughout the outlook period.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 08 July 2019, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 08 July 2019, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 14 July 2019)

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-- YJ0GA – VANUATU --



Geoff-ZL3GA will be active as **YJ0GA** from the Malowia Guest House, Northern Efate Isl (OC-035) during 21 July to 03 August. His QTH is a beachfront location. QRV using a Cranklr and FT-450D on CW, SSB and FT8 including entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest. QSL via LoTW, Club Log OQRS or Buro/Direct via ZL3GA. All QSL donations are given to the local village preschool. (Now that is true Ham Spirit!)

TNX to <https://dx-world.net/>

(While a couple Cycle 25 sunspots have popped up, it will another year or so before that cycle has any effect on HF propagation.)

Groups.io Nears Critical Mass

By Paul, KN4BAR

First offered in May, our TARC Groups.io mail list, message board now has 52 club members as subscribers. That's just under half of the members on our official club roster. Given the number of club members who are seasonal residents, this is an excellent service for everyone to keep informed about club activities, stay in touch, and share information about the hobby and themselves.

Its easy to subscribe:

TARC-VeniceFL+subscribe@groups.io

Once subscribed, its easy to post messages. This is a closed group so only subscribers can read or post messages. Just send an email to:

TARC-VeniceFL@groups.io

You can choose to receive posts delivered to your email address in real time as they are posted, or to just receive one daily email with a summary of posts made the previous day. Edit your

subscription settings to make delivery and profile changes to your account.

If you haven't done so already, please set the Display Name that appears on your message posts to your First Name + Callsign. That's how other members recognize you and makes it convenient to know who is posting what. It's easy to do at the following link:

<https://groups.io/account?page=viewprofile>

Just click on the Edit button for the TARC-VeniceFL group, then edit "Display Name". While you are there, why not upload a picture of yourself and create a short biography too. Let other members know who you are.

(You may have to provide a login or obtain a temporary one if you've never visited the TARC-Venice FL [Groups.io](https://groups.io) page before.)

National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (NLLW)

Mark your calendars for the NLLW on August 3rd and 4th, 2019.

ARLHS Purpose

The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) is devoted to maritime communications, amateur radio, lighthouses, and lightships. Its members travel to lighthouses around the world where they operate amateur radio equipment at or near the light. Collecting lighthouse QSLs is popular for some amateur radio operators. ARLHS is a membership organization with over 1665 members worldwide.



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 as a summer bulletin. The Communicator is made available to all members via e-mail, and is available for viewing on the club's web site - www.tamiamiarc.org.

Editor - San Yoder, K3SY, who acknowledges and thanks these writers who contributed this month: Andy Durette, KB1HIP (President), Jack Sproat, W4JS, Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, and Tom Shrilla, W8QJF

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



Regatta Radio Support

By Paul, KN4BAR



From the minutes of the June meeting (to be published in the September Communicator): "The club received a request from the Sarasota Scullers Rowing Club to provide radio safety over-watch/coverage for the September 28th rowing event held on the Intracoastal Waterway. The rowing club indicates that previous 5 watt radio coverage did not work. The TARC will undertake this request and evaluate the technical challenge."

Most of us never have need of running a cross-band repeater although many of the dual-band radios being sold have that capability. In preparation for supporting the communications needs of the Battle of the Bridges Rowing Regatta on September 28th, several of us wanted to test the feasibility of using a low power cross-band repeater station established along the shoreline of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) at about the mid-point of the published race course.



Tom, W4IEE, got out the manuals for his TYT-7800 dual-bander and programmed a pair of VHF/UHF simplex channels to use. Stevie, W4INK volunteered the use of his boat. Paul, KN4BAR and Frank, W2XYZ provided land-

based stations for testing communication along the race course. On the morning of July 3rd we converged on the ICW to test this concept.

First, we found very quickly that the TARC 146.805 repeater was not reliable at all for HT stations along the bank of the ICW. If we could "hit" the repeater at all, there was no readable audio received. Most times and locations we couldn't even "hit" the repeater. Three different HTs were tried, all with this same result.



Stevie hit the water around 10:40 am and began making com checks on the x-



bander. Paul drove up and down the length of the race course making com checks from along the bank of the ICW from the start to finish points of the race. Everything was going great for about 20 minutes or so until the x-bander stopped work-

ing and shut down. Our first assumption was that it had over-heated, (a common problem when using the x-band mode), but after 15 minutes of waiting and some trouble-shooting, Frank discovered that it was a small, 5 amp fuse inside the cigarette lighter plug that had failed. It's surprising that a little 5 amp fuse held up that long. When replaced with a slightly larger fuse, the radio came to life again. Tom was the x-bander control operator, and he ran the radio at just 10 W.



Tom said that setting up the radio to do x-band operations was simple and straightforward, even using the Chinese radio's manual for the instructions!

We did notice that the x-bander was extremely hot to the touch during the short 20 minutes or so operating period. So, even though the cause of this shut-down was a simple blown fuse, we remained concerned about the radio over-heating when getting heavy use over an eight-to-twelve hour operating event such as the Row-



Con't >>



ing Regatta. Tom came up with the great idea of placing the radios inside an insulated box with some dry-ice on the bottom of the box, covered by a plywood platform to support the radios above the dry ice. We are going to test out that arrangement over the next week or two to see how feasible it will be.

We will need to repeat this test one more time later in July, using 2, x-band repeaters (one for race control, and one for race safety/admin). The Venice High School was closed for summer break until July 12. We have obtained permission to place antennas on the top row of the stadium bleachers and to **make use of the air con-**

ditioned press box above the bleachers for the radios, thus giving us access to both power and a cool place to operate. Hopefully, the same great crew can assemble one more time to do a full dress rehearsal for the regatta support.

I'll be attending the next organizing committee meeting for the regatta on July 23rd where I can report that TARC will be able to provide the proposed repeater coverage for the race. I'll also review a proposed communications plan with the organizers at that time. All that is still needed is TARC volunteers with dual band HT radios who want to spend a day in a boat on the ICW on September 28th. If that's you, please contact me at paul9aber@gmail.com to sign up.

Regatta prep update

We think we have all the bugs worked out, and we've made arrangements to operate the repeaters from on top of the Press Box at the VHS stadium right along the ICW. This will provide a temperature controlled environment for the repeater radios, and another 20 feet or so in antenna height.

We have planned a final, dress rehearsal test of this cross-band repeater system for the morning of Thursday, July 25, 2019 from about 10 am until noon. We should have boats on the water in the ICW and a few shore based stations as well. ALL amateur radio operators are welcome to participate in the testing. If you have a dual band HT or mobile rig this would be a great opportunity to try out cross-band operations. We will be running two separate, open nets for this test as follows:

- X-BAND-1: receives on 446.260 PL 156.7, and transmits on 147.435
- X-BAND-2: receives on 446.274 PL 156.7, and transmits on 147.465

Using CHIRP to program my BF-F8HP HT i had to change the "offset" from the normal + or - choices to the choice called "split". This then allowed me to enter in the actual transmit frequency needed. Each radio is going to be different so you'll need to dig out that manual and do some reading.

Again, these will be open nets. Be polite and jump in when appropriate to do so. We are looking to identify any dead spots or weak signals anywhere along the ICW from just north of the Hatchett Creek bridge to just south of the Circus Bridge...either on the water or along the shore. Range for the X-BAND repeaters should be about 10 miles give or take. **If you identify a bad location along the ICW, please report it here.** **de KN4BAR**

TOM'S TECH TIPS:

By Tom W8QJF



Here is the first of many anticipated TECH TIPS provided by Tom, W8QJF. We hope you find Tom's shared insight interesting and informative.

Windows 10 God Mode: There's a special folder you can enable that exposes most of Windows admin, management, settings, and Control Panel tools in a single, easy-to-scroll-through interface. It's really impressive. To enable it:

1. Right-click on the Windows 10 desktop and "Create a new folder."
2. Right-click the new folder and rename the folder: "GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}" (without " marks), press enter and you're all set!

Field Day 2019

The set-up crew works on antennas Friday of Field Day weekend, getting a jump on operations set to start on Saturday.

Watch for a full Field Day report in September.





Orlando HamCation
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 Orlando, Florida 32857
 E-mail info@hamcation.com
 Phone 407-841-0874
www.hamcation.com

The Orlando Amateur Radio Club is grateful to all the volunteers who were active during HamCation® 2019.

HamCation is the second largest Amateur Radio Convention in the world

We like to give your organization this donation, because of the activities of the volunteers who donated their volunteer hours toward your organization.

Thank You

Michael Cauley, W4MCA
 General Chairman
 Orlando HamCation® 2019



The letter at left was received by Steve, WA1ZKN from the Florida Hamcation organization thanking him for his volunteer time during the hamfest. Steve donated the \$20.00 included to TARC. Steve and Patti, N4IGI, also volunteer at Dayton and at local TARC events.

A blast from the past

The photo below was taken at Peaches a scant six years ago. (I apologize for the poor lighting). Of the nine TARC members in the picture, (not counting the arm), who were regular attendees at the time, only one (barely visible) is still a fre-

quent customer. Can you old-timers match names and calls to the faces? It may be interesting to note that three of the nine shown are now life members of TARC.

Photo by K3SY



SRQARES SEZ

SRQARES is pleased to announce that an FCC Technician Class license training course has been formed. Jim Woodson, KE4INM, with the Sarasota County School Board has arranged for 10 school custodians to attend, and they have provided a location for the training.

This will allow the school hurricane evacuation shelters to have emergency, amateur radio communications in the event of an evacuation order being issued by Sarasota County.

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC) has volunteered to present its Technician Class license training course, and the school board has OK'd attendance to this training session for other interested persons.

We have approximately 15 seats available for this training. If your spouse, neighbor, friend, or other family member might be interested in this training have them e-mail paul9aber@gmail.com to request a seat in the course.

Where: Training Portable Classroom at Construction Services, 7889 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota

When: **Monday, July 22,**
10 am to 2 pm
Tuesday, July 23,
10 am to 2 pm
Wednesday, July 24,
10 am to 2 pm

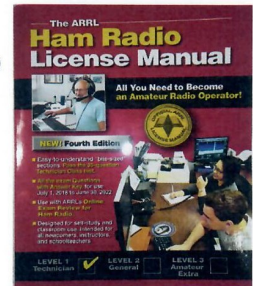
VE testing session, July 24, 2 pm to 4 pm

IT'S OK TO BE A HAM

- Talk to the world without the Internet
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- Learn the basics of radio and electronics
- Learn how to communicate
- Learn what equipment is needed
- Learn how to be a safe and courteous operator



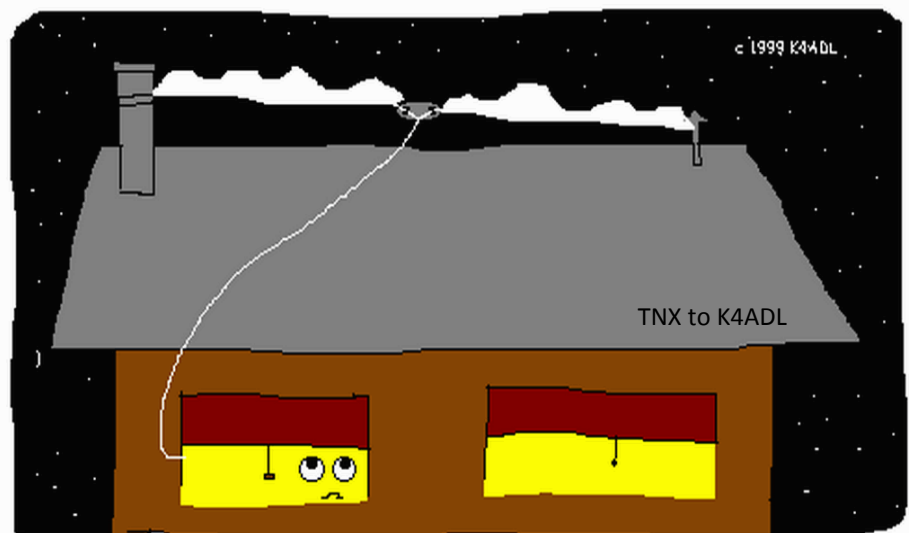
12 hours of face-to-face instruction presented as 3, 4-hour classes prepares you to take the FCC Technician Class license test

WHERE: Training Portable Classroom at Construction Services, 7889 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota

WHEN: July 22, 23, and 24, 2019 from 10 am to 2 pm. Testing immediately following last class.

Suggested Text: ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 4th Edition, ISBN: 978-1625950475
Available from Amazon at \$32.95 paperback, or \$19.99 Kindle e-book.

SIGN UP NOW!



WILBUR ASSUMED HIS MAGNET-WIRE DIPOLE WAS INVISIBLE TO THE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, BUT THE FIRST SNOWSTORM OF THE SEASON PROVED HIM WRONG.

Why TARC members are thankful for no snow!



July/August, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
21	22	23 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i> <i>DMR net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC 444.1</i>	24	25 <i>TARC net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC / RPT 146.805 **</i> <i>+10 M net</i>	26 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i>	27
28	29	30 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i> <i>DMR net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC 444.1</i>	31	1 <i>TARC net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC / RPT 146.805 **</i> <i>+10M net</i>	2 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i>	3
4	5 <i>QCWA 11:30</i> <i>Sweet Tomatoes</i> <i>4994 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota</i>	6 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i> <i>DMR net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC 444.1</i>	7 <u>NO TARC meeting this month</u>	8 <i>TARC net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC / RPT 146.805 **</i> <i>+10M net</i>	9 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i>	10 <i>TARC VE Session @</i> <i>Jacaranda Public Library</i>
11	12 <i>DARN Emergency net @ 11AM Starts on NI4CE/RPT 145.43 pl100</i>	13 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i> <i>DMR net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC 444.1</i>	14	15 <i>TARC net @ 7:30 PM</i> <i>W4AC / RPT 146.805 **</i> <i>+10 M net</i>	16 <i>Breakfast @ Peaches *</i>	17
18	19	20	<i>DMR net meets on TAC 311 + 10 meter net follows the 2 meter net at 28.450</i>	22	23	24 <i>* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM, orders taken at 7:00.</i>

**The W4AC 146.805 Repeater is ANALOG, PL100. [If the 2-m repeater is down, please QSY to 146.58 simplex]

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

Name _____ Call sign _____ Class _____ ARRL, (Y/N) _____

Local Address _____ City _____ 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) _____ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Z - QRP |

**For payments by mail send to:
TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO Box 976
Nokomis, FL 34274**

**Web site payments accepted via PayPal.
(Add \$1.00 convenience fee.)**

2019 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
	Chet Fennell	KG4IYS
	Guenther Hennig	AJ4QX
	Paul Nienaber (PIO)	KN4BAR
	Steve Phillips	WA1ZKN
	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.	

For office use:
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