



# 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>

March, 202

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## President's message .... KN4BAR

I think April is most likely the busiest month for the club. It is also a sad time for the club as we bid farewell to our seasonal club members returning to their northern QTHs. We thank them all for visiting with us and participating in our many winter club activities, and we wish them a safe return trip.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual BBQ&Q was well attended in March with 68 club members and their YL's, friends and family members in attendance at the Oscar Sherer

State Park in Nokomis. Once again, great BBQ was prepared by our very own pitmasters Chip W00s and Jim N7JIM with purchasing and meal planning done by Tom W4IEE. Park POTA activation was done by Steve NS4P on FT8 and he entertained many questions from club members and visitors interested in learning more about Parks on the Air. Our entertainment was courtesy of Dwight KT4DDS with his pickup band friends Danny and Bruce providing an hour of great Irish music for us to enjoy.

Now to the busy part of the month. April 6-7 is the Florida State POTA contest. This year, I have issued a challenge to club members to see who can activate the most parks during this contest. April 13-14 is the Venice Shark's Tooth Festival and this year we will have a 10x10 booth on Venice Ave. in front of City Hall to operate from. Steve NS4P and Frank W2XYZ are planning our operations for the K4S special event station listed on QRZ and in the April QST magazine. Finishing up the month's activities is the Florida QSO party on April 27-28 with Frank W2XYZ doing the planning for this event. Look for information postings to our Groups.io message service and on our website for full details on these events.

We have a new Communicator newsletter editor in April. Welcome to Tom KE4RXM who has graciously volunteered to take over this vital role in the club. This is Tom's first edition and I'm looking forward to reading it! Tom has a special email address for receiving submissions to the newsletter. Please send your articles to: [communicator@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:communicator@tamiamiarc.org)  
We also bid farewell to our outgoing **Communicator** editor, San K3SY who has done an exemplary job of producing one of the finest club newsletters in the county for many years. Club members and many outside readers of the newsletter have always had nothing but praise for the content and style of our club's **Communicator**. San, we thank you for your service to the club and your many contributions to TARC over the years.



**Next Month**  
**Shark's Tooth**  
**Festival report**  
**And...**  
**MAYDAY!**

**Next meeting 6:30 PM, Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at Venice Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 825 The Rialto, Venice, 34285**

## CHASING DX *CQ DX CQ DX...*

April 2024 - Issue 18

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

### Announced Top-100 DXPEDITIONS scheduled in April 2024

DATES	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	QSL INFO	INFO
Mar 27 – Apr 3	Austral I #65	TX5XG	JA1XGI	10-160 CW+Digital and Greencube SAT
April 4-14	Pitcairn Is. #60	VP8G	PG5M	40-10m; 40-10m; CW SSB FT8
April 16-30	Austral Is #65	TX7W	Club Log OQRS (preferred), LoTW, or K5WE	160-6m; CW FT8 FT4 SSB RTTY; 500w
April 18 – May 8	Bhutan #69	A52P and A52CI	TBD	By SP9FIH as A52P and SP6CIK as A52CI fm Dochula; 40-6m; SSB CW + digital

For the latest info, always check *Announced DX Operations* at <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

### Major DX Contests in April 2024

There are no major DX contests scheduled in April. But check [contestcalendar.com](http://contestcalendar.com) for details of several smaller regional contests. Please also note that CQ Magazine appears to have ceased publication. As a sponsor of several well supported contests, efforts are underway to determine if the contests will continue. When definitive word has been reached we will include it here.

### DXpedition Exclusive!

Chasing DX has learned that a team of operators from North Korea and Glorioso Island have been given permission from The CRRL (Chinese Radio Relay League) to put Scarborough Reef on the air in February 2025. Watch this column for details!

### Glorioso Is, ClubLog #7, 5/24 – 6/19

Check [Groups.io](http://Groups.io) for details. Here is Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557262192352>

### Question of the Month for April 2024

Thank you Frank, W2XYZ, for suggesting the question:

**‘What exactly is Working Split’, why is it important, and how does one set up a radio to achieve it?’**

There is a wealth of information on this subject to be found on the web, but here is the basic information.

#### *What is working split?*

Working split pertains to two stations conducting a QSO using two frequencies, with one station listening on one frequency and transmitting on the other and the second station doing the opposite. For example, KL7ABC is sending CQ on 14.180 and listening "up 5". Your radio is set to receive on 14.180.

#### Why do DX stations usually work split?

The practice is used to help DX stations by spreading the calling stations out across a range of frequencies as a way to deal with pile ups.

#### How do you know a DX station is working split?

You LISTEN! The DX may say 'listening up', 'up' or "up 5", etc. Spots on DX Clusters will often pass that info along

#### How do I set up my radio?

Check your radio's user guide or consult with the club's Elmers if necessary to determine how to set up a split..

#### Are there other ways DX stations use to control pile ups?

Yes. They may ask for listeners from call areas (1,2...etc) or geography (Europe, Asia, USA, etc). This is usually to your advantage.

Got a suggestion or question for Chasing DX?? Please send it to [KX1G@ARRL.NET](mailto:KX1G@ARRL.NET). 73! KX1G

# TARC's Ray of SUNSHINE

-Editor's Pick

Florida is, after all, the Sunshine State. So, it is only befitting that TARC has a Sunshine Committee.

What does that mean? At TARC, we don't just take your dues checks, publish a roster and have a few meetings.

At TARC, you are not *just a number*. You are a Callsign, hihi. EVERY member of TARC is a valuable asset to the club, the hobby, and the community.

One special way TARC honors the individual is through SUNSHINE. The TARC Sunshine Committee offers outreach and support for our members suffering from illness, hospitalization, or other "QRN" in their life.

We want to be able to send a word of encouragement, any requested support, and communicate that the club's thoughts and prayers are with them as they go through their current challenge.

The Board of Directors recently appointed Shaun Helgesen (KO4YAX) to chair the TARC Sunshine Committee. I have asked Shaun to tell us a little about himself, and how he can be reached.



Shaun, KO4YAX

Shaun says "I thought I would introduce myself. My wife Kathy and I purchased a home in North Port in 2019. In May 2021 I retired from medical device company ABBOTT Labs after 41 years of service. Since retirement, we *Winter* in Florida from December through May and *Summer* in southeast Wisconsin from June through November (Yes, that means we are snowbirds). I received my Technician and General Class licenses through the TARC VE team in February 2022 and took advantage of the one year free TARC club membership. Taking advantage of the club license upgrade program, I received my Amateur Extra Class license in May 2023. In my Wisconsin shack I have an ICOM IC-7300 and generally use an EFHW, Hamstick whip dipole antenna or Wolf River Coil antenna. In Florida, I live in a strict HOA environment, so my "shack" is portable and I have to set it up and take it down for each use. I enjoy POTA and have activated multiple parks and made hundreds of QSOs as a hunter. I recently set up a mobile radio in my car using an ICOM IC-7100 with a Diamond SD330 screwdriver antenna. It works great, and I'm having lots of fun with it. I also enjoy learning about building and testing different types of antennas—club members are a great source of encouragement and support. You can find me generally at the clubs Tuesday Peaches breakfast, Wednesday Zoom brunch, and the Friday Perkins breakfast meetings.



If you hear of any members experiencing illness or hospitalization, please contact me via phone (847-815-0320) or email [shaun.helgesen@gmail.com](mailto:shaun.helgesen@gmail.com) and I will take it from there. If you yourself are facing hardship, please reach out to me. All information is held in confidence. TARC has as much LOVE as it does RESOURCES and we want to transmit both of them your way if you need it!"



**SUCCESS!** Members came together on a glorious spring day in Florida once again to Eat,

Be Entertained, and treated to BBQ'd "Caller" reading prizes put up for the bought all the good



Play Radio! Nearly 70 members and guests were Pork, Beef, and Chicken. San Yoder was the "Bingo out Raffle Ticket numbers. There were about 30 taking. The local TotalWine had to close down, TARC \$3 Buck Chuck !



*Danny Flynn WW3N on the Squeezebox*



*Tom W1ICU Wins Big*



*N7JIM watches the Prize Vault while Hop AC8NS discusses tangled wires with Steve.*



*Dwight KT4DDS covers Guitar and Vocals.....Steve NS4P, Joined by wife Patti, N4IGI at the POTA Station activating the park with FR8*



*Bruce Gartnet on the Fiddle*



*Pay Attention! Ticket # 0173*



*Working Together to Pack It Up*





A CHALLENGE...  
 WITHIN A CONTEST...  
 WITHIN a STATE...  
 WITHIN a CLUB!

*Brought to you  
 by Paul,  
 KN4BAR*



For the past 7 or so years members of the Lakeland ARC have been hosting a Florida State POTA event. It's publicized in QST and this year both Alabama and Georgia are both conducting their state POTA events as well. SO, there should be plenty of park-to-park contacts to be had (**bonus points!**). Full contest rules can be found here: <https://flspota.org/rules/>.

The exchange is simple but tricky in that you need to record and give the Florida Park ID, 3-letter designation from the Florida State POTA website: <https://flspota.org/parklist/>. SO, be sure to look up that park ID as you will need to give it or receive it as part of your contact exchange and as an entry in your contest log submission. You will also need the park number as well for submission of your log to the national POTA organization.

This year, I've added a local TARC challenge to add to the fun of this POTA event. My rules are very simple; whoever activates the most Florida parks during the contest period (**10 am to 6 pm, April 6 and 7**) will win the challenge. In the case of a tie, the total number of all QSO's made will be the tie breaker. Please send me an email after the contest with your claimed number of parks activated and total QSO points with a copy of your contest log attached for verification. I'll announce the winner at the April 10<sup>th</sup> club meeting.

Paul KN4BAR, [paul9aber@gmail.com](mailto:paul9aber@gmail.com)

NOTE: The Florida contest rules say that only five contacts are required to activate any Florida Park. So for the purpose of this challenge, you will only need five contacts for a park activation to count. However, if you want to submit your logs to the national POTA organization you will have to make 10 contacts at each park for your submission to qualify with them.



# What's NEW in Ham Radio

Tom Waters, KE4RXM

Beginning this month will be a regular feature, *What's New in Ham*. I will present a new product, trending topic, or article of general interest. If you have a topic you would like reviewed, please submit it via email.

Thanks to Paul, KN4BAR, there is quite a lot of activity on the POTA front. This is the time of year that Florida is most tolerable outside, so lets take advantage of it. If you are new to the sport, there are a number of things that go into it; far more than just grab radio, go to park, talk on radio. Paul is a great resource for getting started. Since I am a gear-head, here are some things to think about. After you read the article, be sure to click the link below to watch a video I think you will find interesting!

Determining what gear you need has *Basic* and *Personal* aspects. You need a radio that is conducive to portable activity. Yes, you could take your ftDX10. Heck, my FT-950 is a beast but has a handle on the side. But IC-705s, Xiegu (any), FT-817/8, 857, 891, Elecraft are more suited. You need to decide on an antenna. Many amateur operators choose to make a POTA outing a field test for a new antenna they bought or built. How will you power your station, will you be CW, or SSB, QRP, ORO, resonant, or tuning your antenna? How do you prefer to log? You may need a portable computer or tablet for that, keeping in mind the sun and the screen, power, etc. A successful POTA could turn into a pileup on a day with good conditions. Maybe you will just paper-log in the interest of time.

Some great tips Eric, N1JUR shows in his video are related to convenience. Using a Y-adapter if you will be working a tandem op (or an XYL is along for the day and wants to join in). Check out the Mic Plug trick specific to the Yaesu FT-891 (and 857D) radios. A game-changer for sure.

So before your next (or first) POTA, consider some of these thoughts from a seasoned operator that may make your life simple yet complete from a parkbench shack near you,



## CHECK OUT THIS NEW MUST-HAVE WORKBENCH TOOL—>>>

Recent advances in pathological science have resulted in the development of a new novel superconductive solder flux. This flux enables the creation of extremely low resistance solder joints, enabled by the colder fusion of the base metal and solder alloy. The flux has been determined by government agencies to be both safe and effective. Use of protective equipment is not required, however accidental contact may result in a silky smooth feeling on the affected skin.



+



=

**Super Solder  
FLUX**

AVAILABLE NOW AT:



## Everything is NOT “(O) K” anymore... POTA PARK IDENTIFIER CHANGES

The POTA organization has recently made a significant change to the Park Numbering system. In the past, parks in the United States were identified with a 4-digit number, with a Prefix of “K”.

POTA popularity has exploded, since the time of COVID-19 when we needed to stay away from each other, as well as the proliferation of available resources on YouTube, in QST, and other sources displaying it live, and how much fun you can have getting out in the fresh air and playing radio.

Because of this, POTA interest and participation has surged on an *International* level and quite frankly, they were running out of numbers, and the prefixes were confusing. Canadian parks had the prefix of VE (just like their callsigns) but the US was “K” which does not seem to have any direct correlation.

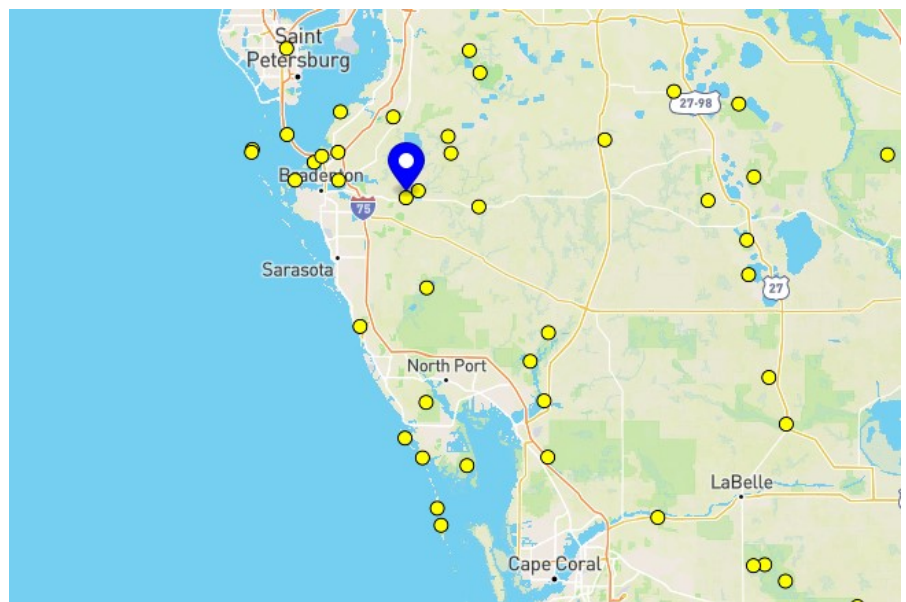
So, the **US parks will now have the prefix “US” (go figure!) and Canadian parks have CA.**

It is certainly possible to activate or hunt with POTA in DX so other countries have been aligned with a more straightforward nomenclature as well.

See this website for the official information: <https://docs.pota.app/docs/changes.html>

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*There are TONS of Parks in our area. There are 6 in the immediate vicinity of South Sarasota, Venice, and Englewood. There are lots more within a quick drive. Click the map to go to the POTA page.*



# HAMCATION HOLY-COW- - A great find in the boneyard.

Tom Waters, KE4RXM

Satellite Comms via Amateur repeaters in Outer Space (that’s just fun to type) or via the International Space Station (ISS) are all the rage. Besides skill, there are some specific pieces of equipment needed to do it in portable fashion. In this 2-part series, I will point out the 2 most important parts, the Radio, and the Antenna.

A radio which operates in *true* full-duplex is the best way to go. This is a dual-band radio which, when transmitting on the Main band, the Sub band continues to receive. Don’t confuse this with your radio that has Dual-Watch (or it’s variants). Those radios will silence the sub-band when transmitting. They either only have 1 actual receiver, or are not built with filtering and circuitry to prevent blowing out it’s own front-end when you key the main band.

A lot of new radios will work full-duplex now, but these include the Kenwood TH-D7x line. These radios are out of reach to many of us with a pricepoint of \$750 for the newest one, and used ones going for \$550 or more!

I found this great old Alinco HT and was overjoyed to learn it is Full Duplex. My very first ham radio was an Alinco HT (DJ-560) and I still have several models of this fine Japanese line (Often forgotten, but is the #4 big-name).

The DJ-G5 came out around 1995. This one still works as it should, and is in great condition considering it’s 29 years of use.

I got the package (marked \$50) for the hagggle of \$40 and it included the OEM headset, charger, 2 old batteries, a AA battery adapter, and an after-market battery that is dated 8/23. I am currently cycling the batteries through a charger and look forward to pairing it with the item I’ll show in Part 2 of this article next month. Stay Tuned!

**CQ THE NET!**

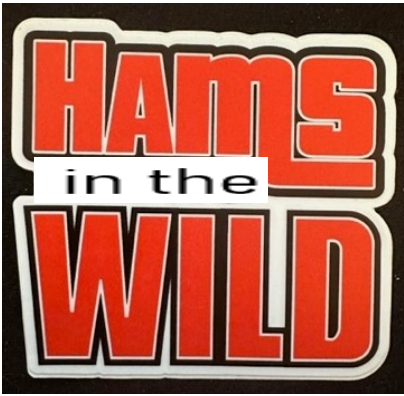
Tom KE4RXM, who is one of our 2 Net controllers for the 2m Chat net has launched a Tradert’s Net, which airs on the .805 machine on Tuesday nights, @ 8pm. Sandwiched between the SERC Swap n’ Shop on Monday nights, and the MARCI Trader’s Net on Wednesdays, the Tamiami Tradeshow will serve the southern Sarasota and Charlotte County region. Stop by to check in, offer your gear for sale, ask the net for items you may be looking for, request gear advice, etc. ALL traffic is welcome!



**TARC was shown LIVE on YouTube on Saturday!!!**  
Click the picture to check it out







# TARC Amateur Radio Once Again Provides Communications and Logistical Support to the Shark's Tooth Marathons





# ~ April, 2024 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Breakfast @ Peaches 6AM # DMR net 7:30 PM *Trader's Net 8PM	3 ~ZOOM breakfast 10 AM  +10m Net 7:30 pm	4  * 2m Net 7:30 PM	5 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	6  <u>FL State POTA Contest 10a-6p</u>  -Bkfst @ DAV 9:30
7  <u>FL State POTA Contest 10a-6p</u>	8 QCWA 11 AM @ Denny's Bee Ridge	9 Breakfast @ Peaches 6AM # DMR net 7:30 PM *Trader's Net 8PM	10 Zoom breakfast 10am  <u>TARC MTG 7:00 PM @ Venice Presby Church</u>	11  * 2m Net 7:30 PM	12 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	13  <u>Shark's Tooth Festival Venice</u>
14  <u>Shark's Tooth Festival Venice</u>	15 DARN net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 pl100	16 Breakfast @ Peaches 6AM # DMR net 7:30 PM *Trader's Net 8PM	17 ~ZOOM breakfast 10 AM  +10m Net 7:30 pm	18  * 2m Net 7:30 PM	19  Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	20  -Bkfst @ DAV 9:30 A
21	22	23 Breakfast @ Peaches 6AM # DMR net 7:30 PM *Trader's Net 8PM	24 ~ZOOM breakfast  +10m Net 7:30 pm	25  * 2m Net 7:30 PM	26 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	27
28	29	30 Breakfast @ Peaches 6AM # DMR net 7:30 PM *Trader's Net 8PM				

# DMR net on W4AC UHF  
 \* 2 meter net on W4AC VHF  
 + 10 meter net on 28.460

repeater - 444.10 MHz - Talk Group 310442  
 repeater - 146.805 MHz, (-), PL 100 or W4AC-R EchoLink  
 MHz +/- 5MHz as needed, depending on band activity.

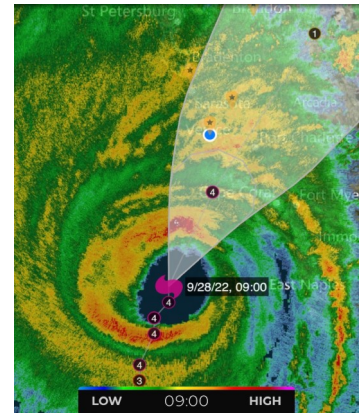


## BUSINESS...What's going on here?

**Holiday Party** planning continues, by Patti, N4IGI. The "Pencil It In" date is Wednesday, December 4. Although the venue has raised prices, she has negotiated hard and we will return to Plantation Golf & CC in Venice. Cocktails at 6 pm with diner served at 7 pm. A cost pp will be identified when the venue confirms the event date with Pat.

**Shark's Tooth Festival, April 13 and 14**, .Paul, KN4BAR reported that TARC renewed its membership with the Venice Main Street organization for 2024. In return, We have received a \$600 valued, 10x10 tent space in front of City Hall at no charge. The Club will operate a Special Event Station (K4S) at this event and members will actively work the bands LIVE, with a whiteboard displaying all the contacts they make. The public can see (and hear) the magic of that little black PTT button on a microphone right there in front of them, as it happens. Be sure to sign up to operate, or sit the booth, or come down and enjoy the Festival.

**Repeater Update** information flows regularly from Steve, NS4P. As of now, the primary Englewood repeater site which houses our 2m, DMR, and Remote HF stations is 100% SOLAR powered. Uninterrupted emergency communications capability is assured, well in advance of the 2024-25 hurricane season. In 2022, Hurricane Ian did damage and his mark can still be seen by observing the 2m antenna, it is noted to be as loose as an old shark's tooth. Steve is actively working to secure a tower climber to replace it. A new antenna, mount system, and funding are all In place and ready, the moment a contract with a qualified climber is secured.



**The Communicator Newsletter** editor of more than 7 years, San Yoder, K3SY has retired. He was presented with a nice plaque and round of applause at the March meeting. San Tom Waters, KE4RXM has taken over as the new editor. I remind the The Communicator is NOT a Tesla. Please submit any news leads, story ideas, considered for publication to the dedicated [communicator@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:communicator@tamiamiarc.org).







## REMINDERS:

Upcoming Hamfests Nearby-

4/13 [Tampa](#) ARC (the "other" TARC)

5/25 [Wormfest](#) in Pinellas Park

6/22 [Dade City Lodge Pre-Field Day Hamfest](#)

**Get Paid to Upgrade!** The TARC has a revolutionary initiative program to encourage its members to upgrade their license. To take advantage, all you need to do is take (and pass) an Amateur Licensing Exam which would upgrade you from a Technician to General, or General to Amateur Extra class license. TARC will match your efforts by: covering the cost of the exam, covering the cost of your 2025 club dues, AND give you a gift card worth \$50 at DXEngineering (a sponsor of this event).

- RULES:**
1. You take (and pass) your exam with TARC, either at a scheduled or arranged VE session.
  2. You test using the 2020-2024 Question Pool. The new 2024-2028 pool goes into effect July 1st so you must test by June 30th.
  3. Contact Steve Phillips NS4P or Paul Nienaber KN4BAR for details

**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](http://www.tamiamiarc.org) - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Editor - Tom Waters, KE4RXM, who acknowledges and thank contributing writers and photographers.

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### Dues:

Regular member: \$25.00/year

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.

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

TARC web site: [www.tamiamiarc.org](http://www.tamiamiarc.org)

Contact: Secretary, Gary Youngberg, W8SKI - [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

