



THE COMMUNICATOR



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

Serving the communities of Sarasota, Nokomis, Venice, Englewood, North Port

A 501c(3) Incorporated 1984

www.tamiamiarc.org

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President's message



I made my first visit to Hamvention this year and was part of the record setting 35,877 attendance figure! One can't really call themselves a "ham" unless they have made this pilgrimage. Just a little over 1,000 miles from Venice to Xenia, OH makes this both a financial and time commitment to the hobby; but the experience was worth it! Will I go again? Probably not. We are fortunate to have the second largest Hamfest in the county, HamCation, right here in our own backyard. Yes, it is second best; but it is nearby, and we have a charter bus to take us there each year. There is a nice article in the Communicator about the convention and our club members' participation.

Our club secretary, Art K4NUM resigned last month due to health issues. I am sorry to report that the complications from his pacemaker "upgrade" have become more serious than first reported. Art has been diagnosed with mesothelioma lung cancer and he is now investigating immunotherapy options for treatment. Our collective club thoughts and prayers are with Art at this time.

It looks like Frank W2XYZ is making a fantastic recovery from his bypass surgery last month but his physical limitations will preclude him from taking an active role in the club's ARRL Field Day preparations for this June 22-23 event. Richard KK4AHZ and Tom KE4RXM have volunteered to fill in for Frank this year. We will be at the USCG Aux station on Harbor Dr. S. in Venice. Please try to make time on your calendar to participate. Details of the event will be discussed at the June 12th club membership meeting and signups taken for participation.

The June general membership meeting will include the election of a new club Secretary. As I write this, we have several possible candidates and hope to have one of them to present to the membership for election to this important club officer position for the remainder of the 2024 term. We will also take a vote to suspend club membership meetings in July and August for a summer break.

The club Upgrade Incentive ends in two months. Only June 8 and July 13 VE test dates remain and we still have three DxEngineering \$50 gift cards and a paid 2025 club membership to give away so don't delay!



Next Month:
No meeting, No newsletter,
hopefully lots of rain.

NO SUMMER MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST.
See you on September 11th.

CHASING DX CQ DX CQ DX....

June 2024 - Issue 20

DX Editor: Tony DiCenzo, KX1G
KX1G@ARRL.NET**Announced Top-100 DXPEDITIONS** scheduled in June 2024

DATES	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	QSL INFO	INFO
May 24 – June 19	Glorioso Is #7	FT4GL	LoTW; for QSL card direct to F4FTV	Single operator working during his free time. Look for daily info on Groups.io
May 30 – June 10	Pitcairn Is. #62	VP6DF	QSL direct via N2ZN and LoTW	By WJ2O 160-10m; CW

For the latest info always check **Announced DX Operations** at <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>**DXworld's DXpedition timeline chart**

A tool that you might want to check monthly is DXWorlds DXpedition timeline chart. Self explanatory.

https://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw/timeline_1_1.php

Glorioso #7 DXpedition continues

As this column has gone to press at the end of May, we cannot report on progress of this badly needed entity. We will report on it in the July issue. But here's my advice: Try as hard as you can to this contact into your log book. It may be a long time until Glorioso is active again.

DX Contests

June 1-2, ARRL International Digital

June 15-16 All Asian DX, CW

Details on

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.htm>

An update on CQ Contests

It has been reported that the popular CQ World Wide WPX contest is now administered by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF). <https://wwrof.org/>

PostScript on last month's column

Last month I included a *suggestion* to do antenna maintenance now that the weather is better. Being in Florida I bet more than one of you got a laugh out of that. Sadly, my summer home is up north and my 'advice' has become a reality for me as one of my 5-band HexBeam antennas came down over the winter. When you read this, I will be up north working to restore the beam. Check Groups.io for progress reports.

Potential new 341st DXCC entity?

Somalia (Africa, Prefix T5,6O, Club Log #50) was previously two colonies called British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. After gaining independence from those countries in 1960, the former colonies merged to become the Somali Republic (aka Somalia), with Somalia (and the rest of the world) considering Somaliland to be a province. Recent DXpeditions to Somalia have been in the more heavily populated Somaliland area in the north. Now it seems that the citizens of Somaliland desire complete independence from Somalia. As a first step they are seeking diplomatic arrangements with Ethiopia (also formerly an Italian colony). This could lead to Somaliland becoming the DXCC's 341st entity. Stay tuned! More info about Somalia: <https://www.mapforham.com/dxatlas/?dxcc=232> (Thanks W4JS!)

Question of the Month for June 2024

Nothing irks a DXert more than someone deciding to chit-chat a DX station the DXer needs to work as an ATNO.

What are the top 5 things to NOT do when chasing a DX station who is working contacts at a fast rate?

Got a suggestion or question for Chasing DX?? Please send it to KX1G@ARRL.NET. 73! KX1G





DAYTON 2024 HAMVENTION®

Expanding Our Community

WINNER WINNER CHICKEN PORKCHOP DINNER

AS we operators know, be it simplex VHF, or Longpath DX around the World, Ham Radio brings people together. And THIS year, boy did it. A record-setting 35,877 people attended the largest Hamfest in the World. The small town of Xenia (zee-nee-uh) Ohio, just outside of Dayton comes alive for a short time in late May each year, playing host to hams who pilgrimage from all parts far and wide. The event, similar to Hamcation hosted right here in our home state at the Orlando fairgrounds, showcases the latest amateur radio technology, parts vendors, and a wonderful tailgate area, featuring much of the not-so-latest in technology. Unlike a tradeshow, business convention, or conference you may have attended in your professional career, there is a certain **energy** at one of these major events, typically held simultaneously in and out-doors. No Marriot Convention Centers. No Holiday Inn rubber chicken dinner banquets. This is *quintessential* radio.

As Paul alluded to in his president's message, and echoed by others at the Perkins table, there is a considerable expense just in getting there. You and I can push a PTT and be heard 1,000 miles away in less time than it takes a flea to hop. But it's 2 days of driving from Venice. And that's just the I-75 part, HIHI.

Anyone going to a major fest is probably not going there just to window-shop either. You've waited all year. Maybe a lifetime to attend a major fest. You have stopped buying name brand groceries and switched to generic sunscreen to scrimp up cash to bring home the bargains from the tailgate of all tailgates.

And so, as in many years past, a number of TARC members became blacktop surfers or braved the TSA lines to head out towards the Dayton Hamvention. These are some of their stories....



Left to Right, John N3PQD

Steve KN4NFX

Paul KN4BAR

Bob KN4RKE

Steve NS4P

Shaun KQ4YAX

Roger N9RM

And the Front Row Radio Gal,

Patti N4IGI

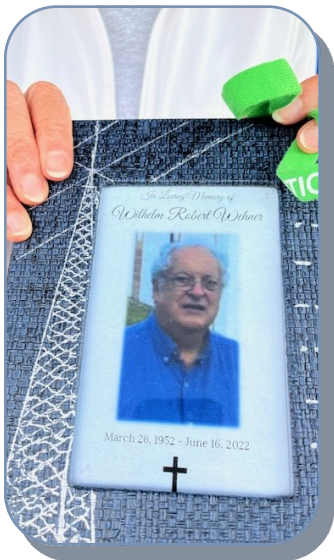
Continued

My son Justin K9GCC and I attended, both of us for the first time. As new hams of about 2.5 years or so, we had a wonderful time. We're already planning to attend next year with the intent of driving instead of flying, so that we don't have to hesitate on any purchases. I did have one impulse purchase of a Comet Dual Band mobile antenna for my Jeep in Wisconsin. After I bought it, I thought it was a little too long to carry on the plane. I'm grateful that Steve NS4P was willing to carry it home for me, so I didn't have to deal with any potential TSA issues.

The vendor booths were great, the flea market was fun, and the Pork Chop sandwich was fantastic (especially with beer). My favorite purchases were a J-38 practice telegraph keyer with a buzzer for \$20 and a new baseball cap with my name and call sign on it (something every nerdy ham needs).



Shaun Helgesen KQ4YAX

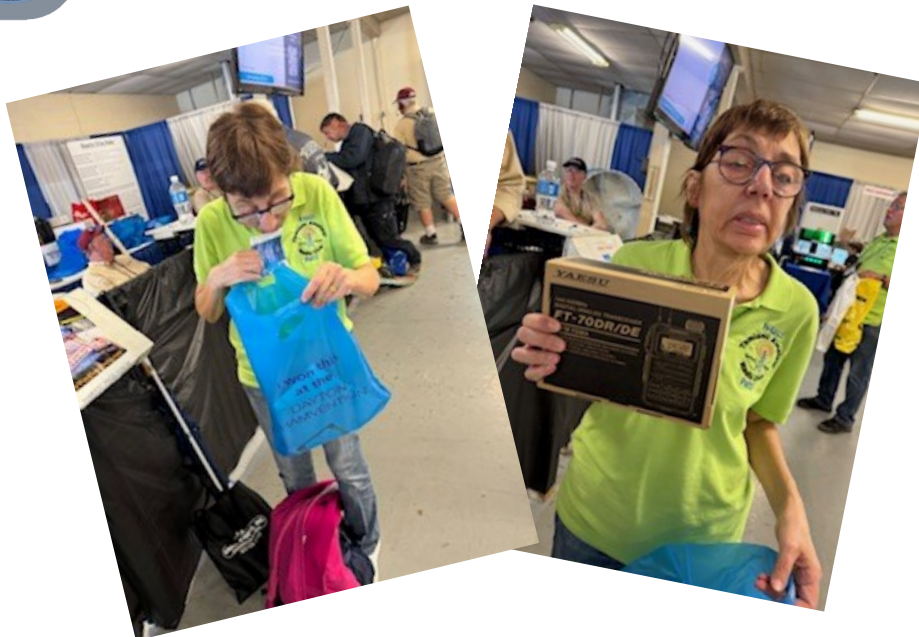


I came across a table where the woman was selling her late brother's equipment.

When she saw my TARC shirt, she said "You may have known my brother." She showed me this picture of him you see here. I never met him as he had gone north before I joined the club.

The world of Ham Radio is very small. You just don't know who you will come across. **John Zenner – N3PQD**

Editor's note: Her brother, Wilhelm Robert Wehner [WB8FXJ](#), became /SK June 16, 2022. A tribute was published in the [July/August 2022 issue of The Communicator](#).



Patti Phillips, N4IGI WINS HAMVENTION!

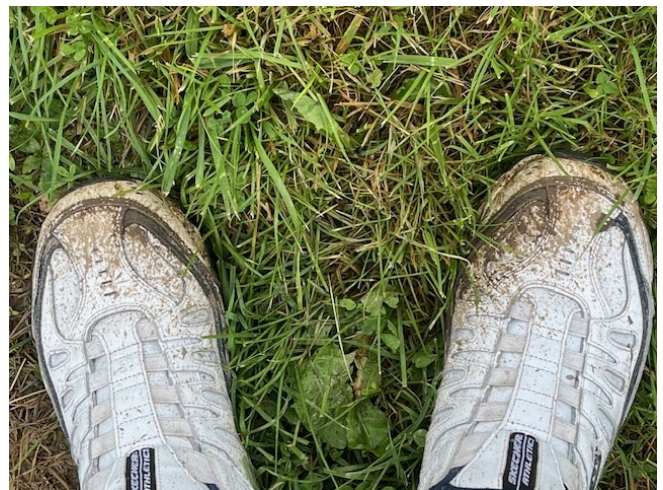
No longer able to cry "*I never win anything*" is our own Patti, who is Steve NS4P's XYL. Among many nice items in her winning prize bag were gift certificates for goods offered by a couple vendors, but the BIG item was a new Yaesu FT-70D dual band HT. Congrats Patti!



Sahun's New (old) Key



ARRL Required Rain fell on Friday, as in past years.



FIELD DAY 2024—HAM RADIO'S OPEN HOUSE

OBJECTIVE: To contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.



GET ON THE AIR!

Be a part of the most popular on-the-air operating event in amateur radio.
Join your local community and get in on the action!

**PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LOCAL
ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 22-23, 2024**

TARC Holds Field Day at the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flo-tilla 86 facility at 1200 Harbor Dr S, Venice, FL 34285 .

SETUP BEGINS ON FRIDAY MORNING

The actual event kicks off at 2pm LOCAL / 1800utc SATURDAY and runs until 4:59pm 20:59utc SUNDAY.



Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

SO MUCH TO DO, SO LITTLE TIME

Field day begins for TARC after the Friday breakfast with setup of all the antennas, feedlines, and radio gear. Please join in the fun, maybe even learn something!

At the General Meeting on June 12 there will be a presentation on the logging software, the finer points of Contest QSOs, and what the QSO-exchange for this event looks like.

Sunday is teardown. Again, please join us. Many hands make light work.

What's NEW(S) in Ham Radio

Welcome New Members				
3/27/24	Member	Sean Hynds	Technician	KQ4QGK
4/9/24	Member	John Farley	General	KC3BOG
4/13/24	First Year	Matt Campbell	Technician	KQ4RGA
4/16/24	Member	Clive Towndrow	Extra	KQ4PSG

A WARM AND SUNNY WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF TARC.

IF you are new to the club, **GET INVOLVED**. New Ham or returning after an absence from the hobby like many operators do, **EVERYONE** has something to contribute. Be it your current or former profession, your past radio career, your current goals, there's ample opportunity for **YOU** to become an Elmer. At TARC, Elmer is **NOT** synonymous with grumpy OMs, or Sad Ham. This is **THE Club** that prides itself on genuine, caring help and support of one another. Nowhere else will you be more welcome. **BE SURE** to check the calendar, find an event to attend, or present an idea of your own.

MAJOR AMATEUR RADIONEWS:

The **SUN** blew up. Or so it seems. Last month, we stood in awe, staring at the skies or our radio waterfalls and saw nothing happen when the 1st total solar eclipse in 19 years occurred.

Through May, we saw the effects of a Solar Storm that we may not likely see again in our lifetime, or hope not to anyway. HF radio propagation has at times almost been completely blocked by the effects of the sun. On days that any HF communication was possible, there was an eerie, almost haunting distortion effect to the audio and even the static. It was not unlike the distinct sound of audio when bouncing off the Aurora Borealis, but different. Ironically, the aurora was visible as far south as the Florida Keys; again a 1xlifetime event.

NERD STUFF: "Solar flares and geomagnetic storms can significantly impact the ability to communicate on the medium and high frequency (300 kHz - 30 MHz bands). Solar flares cause radio blackouts due to collisional absorption from enhanced D-region ionization, especially on the lower frequencies. Geomagnetic storms can cause large-scale depletions of ionospheric densities that can reduce the maximum usable frequency (MUF) on a global scale. These impacts can be observed in large-scale amateur radio networks such as the Reverse Beacon Network, WSPRnet, and PSKReporter." [Credit: HamSci](#)

[FREE \\$50 GIFT CARD FOR](#)



[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

TECH TIDBITS

THIS IS A GREAT GEAR SITE

As editor, I must do research. As a ham, it is my duty to seek out as much new tech, old parts, stuff I don't need, spend all my cash, and fill my shack with duplicates of everything I like or use regularly because while my PC might not be backed up, like all good hams, I have a *backup radio* (or 6) and all the accessories.

I recently didn't need a power supply. However an enabler on YouTube that I support introduced me to CHATT RADIO and a deal on an Alinco unit that NO ONE else had, apparently a hundred or so of a recently disco'd model (they always quit making the good stuff). I hopped over to the site and picked one up significantly cheaper than even the newer less featured models. By the way, Yes, Alinco makes power supplies, and they are of very high quality and feature-packed. I now have, ahem, TWO.

The YT alert in-part blew up owner KM4MPF Jim's day. I placed an online order painlessly via his website. I was in a hurry to get the deal as the quantity counter was dropping while I was on the site. After receiving my confirmation email, I browsed a little more. I found an item I could not live without and wanted to hopefully add it to the (free shipping) order. I called, and left a voicemail, but had resigned myself to not getting the other item added. Well, Jim actually returned my call. Bonus Points. He explained that if I remember correctly, severe storms took out his phones, he did have huge order volume, and other stuff. But he found the time to call me back about a piddly \$10 USB cord. We "chatted" as if old friends and he astonished me with the news my order was already shipped! He then offered to send me one in an envelope mailer, no cost to mail. I told him I would take 2, to make it worth the while. My dad will love the 2nd one. We talked some more and I let him get back to work. My gear arrived very quickly; the mailed USB cord before the power supply even! A week or so later, I was going thru things on my phone and accidentally dialed Chatt Radio. I hung up when the voicemail picked up. I didn't intend to call them. A little while later, Jim called me back, having seen the missed call from a customer. Wow! Who does that anymore?

CHATT RADIO has a unique selection of products from the names you know, and some you don't. Jim says they carry the items they actually use themselves. Pricing is in line with most *Big Name* ham retailers, and better in some cases. The unique items you may find will delight you too.

I hope you will check out a great small business owned by a real ham.



CQ THE NET!

DID YOU KNOW, there is an On-Air "Tech Support" net? This isn't to say it's a Technician Class net, but the net is Open to all, where one can ask a technical question of the participants at large. It will be very likely that another ham has the answer you seek. YOU may be that other ham to someone else!

Tune IN...

THURSDAY NIGHT @ 9pm

Is the WCF Section Technical net on the NI4CE system
145.430 (-) / 442.950 (+) 100 Hz



DO YOU WANT THE BEST MOBILE PHON LIGHTNING ALERT App ?
Check out [*My Lightning Tracker*](#)
It's clean interface is very accurate, and best of all, ham-friendly, aka CHEAP! The Pro version is .99!

Available for iOS and Android, this is a great tool in your Florida Summer weather preparedness arsenal. Click below to learn more.

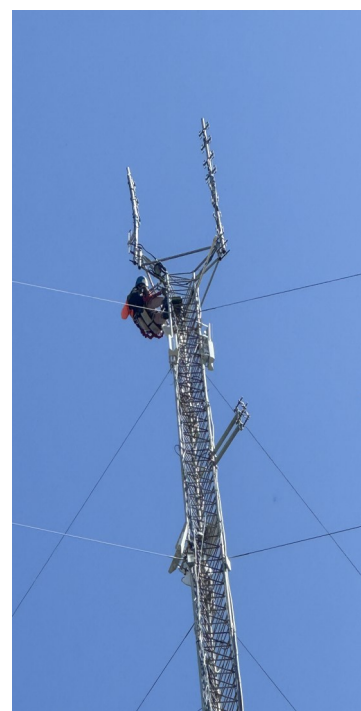


SERIOUS BUSINESS...What's going on around here?

Repeater Update On Monday, April 29 John Chaput - KK4LI, owner of JC Tower Services, came over from Lake Placid to make some temporary repairs on the 2-Meter antenna at the Englewood repeater site which was necessitated due to damage from Hurricane Ian. The surgery was a great success and northward repeater coverage has been restored. Bradenton can reach us, noisy, but capable.

A brand new antenna has been ordered.

UPDATE to the UPDATE...On Wednesday May 22nd, the new antenna arrived in spectacular shape, considering the packaging was all but destroyed. The very capable Jim N7JIM and our Quartermaster Richard KK4AHZ met the delivery, inspected it for damage, and then realized it will not fit inside the building, so some "bike lock" type supplies were sourced and secured it to the fencing. The antenna, an Exposed Dipole style was unscathed, even with the not-so-much Handle With Care shipping.



CLUB BUSINESS...continued

Meeting Minutes Distribution Change

The publishing of the minutes of the General Membership meetings serves an important purpose.

Historically they have appeared here in The Communicator.

Making them available in a timely manner is vital to members who are unable to attend meetings. Publishing them here is *not* timely.

Going forward beginning this month, we will email them directly to the full membership after review by the Board of Directors. You will now get them in days, instead of weeks.

Minutes have always been available on the Club website. Follow the example here to find them easily.

You Can Always Find Current and Past Meeting Minutes on the Homepage

The committee is keeping the following individuals in prayer as they deal with medical issues and work through recovery:

Shaun KQ4YAX can be reached at shaun.helgesen@gmail.com

- **Art Wester (K4NUM)**- Art underwent surgery to replace his pacemaker on April 15th. Recovery is not going very well. He experienced water on his lung and went to the Cleveland Clinic in Miami for biopsy and surgery to add a drainage tube. Unfortunately the biopsy revealed Art's right lung is covered with mesothelioma nodules. Art is declining chemo and radiation and considering immunotherapy. Please keep Art and his family in your prayers as he deals with his health issues.
- **Frank Wroblewski (W2XYZ)**- Frank had four bypass heart surgery on Thursday May 9th at SMH. He was in ICU for recovery for about 2 days after surgery. Frank was released from the hospital on Sunday May 12th three days after surgery. His surgery went very well and recovery is going very very well. Frank has been attending club breakfasts (both Peaches and Perkins) and Wednesday Zoom meetings.
- **Jeff Staple (KO4AEA)**- At Perkins Club breakfast, Jeff revealed that he had experienced stroke-like symptoms recently. When he went to the doctor it was confirmed that he did have a stroke that affected the right side of his body. He does have full movement of his body, however, has been walking with a cane to prevent him from falling. He will be starting physical therapy soon, so please keep Jeff in your thoughts and prayers and he goes through physical therapy and recovery.
- **Tom Zirolli (N2UD)**- Tom had to cancel recent travel plans due to unplanned **cholecystectomy** (Gallbladder **removal**) **appendectomy** on or about Friday May 24th. His recovery appears to be going well and he plans to start reintroducing high fat food back into his diet.



~ CLUB CALENDAR ~

TARC MEETINGS	SCHEDULED	TIME	LOCATION	THIS MONTH:
Board of Directors	1st Saturday	1:00pm	Zoom	June 8th
General Membership	2nd Wednesday	6:30pm	Venice Presbyterian Church	June 12th
TARC Annual Meeting	Once Yearly		During the Holiday Party	December 4th
NETS				
North Port Die Hards*	Mondays	8:00pm	TARC 147.120 Repeater	
TARC DMR	Tuesdays	7:30pm	TARC DMR TG 310442	
Tamiami Tradeshow	Tuesdays	8:00pm	TARC 146.805 Repeater	
TARC 10m HF Net	Wednesdays	7:30pm	28.460 +/- QRM 10m**	NO Net on 6/12!
Greybeard Knuckle Draggers*	Thursdays	5:00pm	7.215 (40m LSB)	
TARC 2m Chat Net	Thursdays	7:30pm	TARC 146.805 Repeater	
FELLOWSHIP				
Breakfast	Tuesdays	6:00am	Peach's in Venice	
Breakfast	Wednesdays	11:00am	Zoom	
Breakfast	Fridays	9:00am	Perkins in Venice	
Breakfast	Saturdays	9:30am	DAV in Venice	
OTHER INTERESTS				
Quarter Century Wireless Club	1st Monday	11:00am	Buffet City on Bee Ridge	June 3rd
TARC VE Licensure Testing	2nd Saturday	10:00am	Venice Library	June 8th
DARN Net	2nd Monday	11:00am	NI4CE Repeater (145.430)	
SERC Swap 'n Shop Net	Mondays	8:00pm	N4SER Repeater (146.730)	NO Net on 6/3
EARS 2m Chat Net	Tuesdays	7:00pm	K8ONV Repeater (146.865)	
MARCI (Manatee) Trader's Net	Wednesdays	8:00pm	K4GG Repeater (146.820)	
HAMCATION	2nd Weekend in Feb		Orlando Fairgrounds	
HAMVENTION	3rd Weekend in May		Dayton, Ohio	
ARRL Field Day	4th weekend in June		Coast Guard Stn. Venice	June 22-23
* Former members of the NPARC Class Portion of the 10 meter Band	**Technician	Please submit any changes or event information to the Editor via email: communicator@tamiamiarc.org		

~ CLUB REPEATERS ~

>DMR Repeater - 444.100 MHz (+) Color Code 1 — TARC PrivateTalk Group 310442
 >Analog 2m Repeater - 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100Hz — EchoLink W4AC-R (Node# 513309)
 >Dual Mode Yaesu System Fusion (YSF) / Analog 2m Repeater 147.120 MHz (+) PL 136.5Hz
 This repeater can be accessed using standard analog radios, OR Yaesu C4FM Radios and will auto-detect what mode is being received so there are no special settings for the end-user to access it.
 >ALL TARC Repeaters bear the FCC Callsign of W4AC [<FULL REPEATER INFORMATION HERE>](#)



REMINDERS:

Upcoming Hamfests Nearby-

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

8/24 [TarcFest](#) Tampa Amateur Radio Club

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 - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

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

2024 TARC Officers:

President

Paul Nienaber KN4BAR
paul9aber@gmail.com

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Secretary

Election Pending at 6/12 Meeting
secretary@tamiamiarc.org

Treasurer

Bob McAlister KN4RKE
treasurer@tamiamiarc.org

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Tom Shrilla	W8QJF	tshrilla@gmail.com
Dwight Sullivan	KT4DDS	dwightsull@gmail.com
Gary Youngberg	W8SKI	gary.kb8ski@juno.com

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 Website: www.tamiamiarc.org Webmaster: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR

General Info Contact the club secretary - secretary@tamiamiarc.org

