

Newsletter of the TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TARC), Venice, FI

THE COMMUNICATOR

Serving the Communities of Sarasota, Nokomis, Venice, Englewood, and North Port.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34273



Presidents Message... KN4BAR

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. The TARC annual holiday party will be on Wednesday, December 4th at the Plantation Golf and CC in Venice. If you are reading this and don't already have a reservation, then it is too late for you to attend. The reservation cutoff date was November 23rd. At last count, we had 55 club members and guests attending.

Youth involvement in amateur radio is starting to take off in Sarasota County. Both the Sarasota



Military Academy (SMA) in Sarasota and the Pine View School in Osprey are restarting their amateur radio clubs after being...

(continued on Page 3)

In This Issue

- Dits, Dues, and Dots..... 2
- ARC Club Shirts Available NOW!..... 2
- Presidents Message (cont). 3
- Chasing DX 4
- Pine View School ARISS Update... 5
- NP Repeater Site Update .. 6
- Net Manager and Control .. 7
- Operators Needed 7
- October Fox Hunt Results . 8
- Marconi-RCA Wireless Museum Visit. 9
- Streaming a Club Meeting... UPDATE?? 9
- A Call From the Past?10
- Tech TIDBIT - Rechargeable Li-Ion Batteries11
- Full Club Calendar.12

BREAKING NEWS!!
DECEMBER MEETING MOVED TO 12/18/24
SAME TIME & LOCATION

Welcome New Members

Name	Call Sign	Class	Membership	Date Joined
Ronald Alexander	N9VAD	Tech	Member	11/23/24
Kimbery Lustig-Spanedda	None	None	Associate	11/13/24
William Hopewell	KQ4YMQ	Gen.	First Year	11/12/24
Chasity Helton	W3DAY	Gen.	Member	10/20/24
Lawrence Fletcher	N/A	N/A	Associate	10/19/24

Upcoming Events

- 12/4/24 - TARC Holiday Party
- 12/18/24 - December Meeting
- 1/25&26/25 - ARRL Winter Field Day
- 2/7-9/25 - Hamcation

Dits, Dues, and Dots...

Dues Due Jan 1st

TARC member's annual dues (\$25 individual or \$30 family) are due on January 1st of each year and they are considered past due on March 1st. Members who have not paid their annual dues will be dropped from the club's membership roster and Groups.io service, and they will no longer receive the club newsletter, The Communicator, after this date.

You can pay by cash or check at any club meeting or event to

any board member. You can also pay online at the TARC store webpage by clicking the following link: (<https://tamiamiarc.org/wp-easycart-parent/store/>) using PayPal or any credit/debit card. And, you can always mail your check to TARC, PO Box 976, Nokomis, FL 342373.

This might also be a great time to review your club membership records for any changes to address, phone, license class, call sign, or ARRL membership status. You can always view the complete



club membership roster (and your own personal information) on the "Members Only" page of our website. Ask anyone what the page password is or send me an email and I'll give it to you.

73, Paul KN4BAR

Annual Meeting Wednesday December 18th

NOTE THE DATE CHANGE. The church notified us they will be using Fellowship Hall all day and evening on December 11th for a church event.

The December meeting is specified in our Bylaws for the election of officers and directors to lead the club in 2025. John K04ETH and Brian W1JBD have assembled a great slate of candidates for this election. Please plan to attend

this meeting to add your voice to the selection of the club's new, 2025 Board of Directors. Check Groups.io messages for the most recent list of nominees or contact the Nominating Committee representative, Brian W1JBDP <[email](#)> for information or to enter a name in nomination for one of the positions.

73, Paul KN4BAR



This Month in Ham Radio History

- 1922: The first transatlantic two-way contact between American amateur Fred Schnell and French amateur Léon Deloy took place in December.
- 1923: The first two-way contact between the UK and USA was made in December, between London and West Hartford, Connecticut.

**Spoiler Alert December is a great month to get started in DX. Make sure to check out the Chasing DX column on Page 4.

Presidents Message (cont)

(continued from Page 1)

off the air for 14 years or so. W4SMA and we hope W4PVS (it is available) will be operating by early next year if all goes according to plan. Look inside this issue of The Communicator for updates on activity at both schools. TARC now has a school STEM assistance committee headed by Betty KO4GKT ([email](#)) to promote amateur radio in our schools. She is always looking for interested club members to help in this regard.

The Monthly club meeting at 6:30 pm on **December 18, 2024** is the club's Annual Meeting. The club membership elects officers and directors for 2025 at this meeting. This year's Nominating Committee has done an outstanding job of compiling a slate of candidates for all positions on our board of directors. The list of candidates was published on Groups.io in November. Thank you John KQ4ELH and Brian W1JBD for your service in completing this valuable role. Well done!

Lot's of good stuff happening next year. Mark your calendars:

- Winter Field Day (Jan 25-26)
- Hamcation (Feb 7-9)
- TARC bus to Hamcation (Feb 8)
- Third Annual TARC BBQ sometime in March 2025.

I'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. C U next year.

de Paul KN4BAR. 73 to all!

Elmer Zoom Room

The club has established a permanent meeting room in Zoom where two or club members can meet online, share screens, and discuss solutions to problems they are having. You first need to install the Zoom application on your computer or phone. Accounts are free with some restrictions; but the new Elmer Zoom Room is free for club members to use with no time limit restrictions. Simply send an email to askelmer@tamiamiarc.org requesting to use the room. Steve, NS4P is currently receiving these emails and he will reply with a link to the room and he will give you a passcode that is required to enter the room. The passcode will be changed from time to time to control access to



the room and prevent abuse of this great member benefit. Eye-ball contacts are always best but sometimes distance, weather, or time constraints make an online virtual Elmering session the best way to get or give help to a fellow club member.

73, Paul KN4BAR

HOW TO PAY YOUR CLUB DUES:

As a reminder, TARC has a tiered structure for yearly membership dues which are \$25 per year. Membership payments are due on January 1 each year. There is a 60-day grace period. If dues are not paid by March 1, you are automatically removed from the roster. If you join the club the first time after June 1, the fee is only \$13 and your next payment is due on January 1 for the next full year.

Dues can be paid by mail, in person, or online by:

[<CLICKING HERE>](#)

Chasing DX CQ DX CQ DX...

DX Editor: Tony DiCenzo, KX1G

December 2024 - Issue 26

KX1G@ARRL.NET

Announced Top-100 DXPEDITIONS scheduled in December 2024

DATES	ENTITY	CALL-SIGN	QSL INFO	INFO
Nov. 25- Dec. 6	Tonga #100	A35GC	QSL via ES1SGC OQRS or LZ1GC	160-6m, focus on 160 80 60m; CW SSB FT4 FT8 RTTY
Dec. 13-19	Bangladesh #84	S21DX	EB7DX	160-10m, focus on 160 80 60m; CW SSB FT4 FT8 RTTY

Also expected in December: : India, British V.I., French Guiana, Dominica, Mariana, St. Martin and a LOT MORE! For the latest info always check **Announced DX Operations** at : <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

November DX Contests

Dec. 14-15, 2024 - ARRL 10m contest

** This is a great contest for beginners. The report is simple, either 59 FL or 599 FL. Lots and lots of DX. Europe and Africa in the morning, Latin, So. America and Asia in the evening.

Don't forget to work W4AC, TARC's club station!

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

Question of the Month for December 2024:

DXpeditions have caught on that using FT8 they can work a lot of DX in a short amount of time. If you have NOT started to use FT8 why not? If you have, has it gone smoothly? How many contacts and DXCC entities have you confirmed on FT8? Got any questions about set up? I will answer them in the next column.

Chasing DX in December

If you were successful chasing DX in the Summer, you are going to absolutely love Winter! Noise levels (QRN) oh the HF

bands are down and Europeans are back from extended summer breaks.

Answers to the November Question of the Month

The question was 'What is your favorite time(s) of day for Chasing DX, and why???'

Many club members responded that there really is not a bad time for chasing DX. But they note that time of day has a lot to do with what you can expect.

- Early morning at Sun up and mid morning (gray line) you can expect to hear Europe and long path Asian stations. 15-17-20 will open first, and 12-10 meters shortly after.

- Noon and Mid after noon you will hear the islands and South America. Focus on 12- 15-17-20-12. At Sun down until dark 15-17-20-30 should be good.
- After dark 20m will stick around for a while and 40 becomes the go-to DX band. 80 can offer DX if the band condx cooperate

But listen and check the spotting boards. Band openings can happen at any time, day or night.

Got a suggestion or question for Chasing DX??

Please send it to KX1G@ARRL.NET.

73! -KX1G



Pine View School Update...

Monthly Testing Sessions

As a reminder to all members, TARC offers Monthly testing opportunities at the Venice Library. These testing opportunities take place the second Saturday of every month.

Not only do these sessions provide a great way to get new Hams involved, but to further the education of current Hams. Keep a look out in the October issue for great incentives to current club members to upgrade their license.

-Chris Stape, K4PTS

[Click here to learn more](#)

Between December 12 and 15, 2024, Brian Darley, KM4YHZ from the Ft. Myers ARC will be setting up and testing his fantastic portable automatic satellite tracking station at Pine View School (PVS). Plans are for the station to remain at the school for further testing until the “big day”, as yet to be determined, during the last week in January, 2025.

The school’s STEM director, Marie Rosander, has scheduled an initial planning meeting on December 16th that will include Brian, TARC, PVS, and Sarasota School District people that have direct duties and responsibilities for making the ISS contact from the school. Steve NS4P has scheduled a special VE test ses-

sion at PVS for December 16th. We are hopeful that a majority of the 37 students, parents, and faculty that have been taking our Technician Class licensing classes will pass the test.

The school has formed an amateur radio club and Steve will be the club Trustee until such time as faculty members become licensed. The vanity call sign of W4PVS is available and will be requested for the school’s club. We have still not received any notification from the ARRL Club Grant program about our proposal to build an automatic satellite tracking station or an HF radio station for use at the school.

73, Paul KN4BAR

Join us for Breakfast

- Tuesday’s at Peach’s
- Friday at Perkin’s,
- Wednesday on Zoom.
- Saturday at Venice DAV

For more Information check out the club calendar on Page 8

Breaking News UPDATE!

Since this article was written we found out just before Thanksgiving that we have been awarded an \$11,200 grant from the ARRL Foundation to build an automatic satellite tracking ground station and to furnish a complete

HF amateur Radio Station to Pineview School. At the current time the club is finalizing the final build spec and making purchases. There are no changes to the projected timeline from the article above at this time. Keep an eye out on Groups.io or the January addition of The Communicator for further updates.

Draft Job Descriptions Prepared



Our club Secretary, Randy KO4P-IV has begun the process of creating formal, written job descriptions for major management functions

performed by volunteer club members. The board of directors thinks this “formalizing” of club volunteer duties and responsibil-

ities is long overdue. TARC is approaching 200 members and the former, less formalized approach to club management needs to be improved upon. All club members are encouraged to look at the draft Job Descriptions published on our website and to submit your comments and recommendations for changes to Randy by email to secretary@tamiamiarc.org. Webpage: <https://tamiamiarc.org/job-descriptions/>

73, Paul KN4BAR

New Membership Coordinator



Please join me in congratulating and thanking Nancy N4ZM for stepping up to be the club’s Membership Coordinator.

Nacy will now be responsible for entering all new members into the club’s membership roster and sending them a welcome email when they first join.

Any member needing to make changes or updates to their membership record should email these

changes to Nancy <[email](mailto:)>. At the beginning or each new year, she will begin reminding members that their dues are due and on March 1st of each year she will make any member with unpaid dues as “resigned”.

Resigned members will have their Groups.io subscriptions cancelled and they will no longer receive email copies of **The Communicator**.

73, Paul KN4BAR

CQ Santa

For the 16th consecutive year, The 3916 Nets will be presenting The Santa Net on 3.916 MHz. Good girls and boys can talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly at 7:00 PM (Central) starting Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, through Christmas Eve, December 24th.

**** Keep an eye on Groups.io for a possible Friday evening Santa NET on one of our local 2m repeater systems.**

Amateur Radio Returning to Sarasota Military Academy (SMA)

John Geimer K4GEI and George Becht N2SQ are excited to announce that amateur radio is returning to the Sarasota Military Academy!

In January, SMA will begin offering a for-credit science elective course designed to bring new amateurs through their Technician and General class examinations. Also in January, thanks to a grant from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications foundation, Sarasota Military Academy's radio club, W4SMA, will begin installation of a new, permanent

radio station. With a 6-band HF beam mounted on a tower atop our three-story classroom building, a satellite-tracking VHF/UHF array, and brand new transceivers, our students will have all the toys they need in order to get on the air.

W4SMA will also be rebooting our after-school club, and would love experienced operators to volunteer to show our cadets the ropes. Anyone interested will need to complete a background check at the Sarasota County School Board office at the Landings



(level 1 or level 2 is required); please email John K4GEI at jgeimer@gmail.com for further information.

73, John K4GEI

Want to share something with the club?

The Communicator is a publication by the club for the club. If you have something you would like to share about the Amateur Radio hobby or a Radio related event to recap, please send it to the Editor, by [<Clicking Here>](#). Your contributions will continue to make this publication a resource to our club.

A Call From the Past?

"History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future." - **Robert Penn Warren**

In the coming issues as we move into 2025 I would love to create a page to showcase and celebrate the history of TARC. This is the official call to all of our more seasoned members to help craft this corner so the newer members such as myself can continue to celebrate and learn from our clubs history. Submit any articles to communicator@tamiamiarc.org

-Chris, K4PTS

Streaming a Club Meeting...UPDATE??

The quest to successfully begin to stream the monthly meetings continues into the month of December.

I am happy to say that I have confirmed a clear schedule for the night of the meeting and do have plans to have my rig setup for streaming for the December Meeting and Voting. This will be a **VIEW ONLY** stream. There will be no participation from remote viewers to ensure the smooth flow of the meeting. If you are local please make all attempts to be at this meeting to have your vote and voice heard.

-Chris, K4PTS

Full Club Calendar

TARC MEETINGS	Scheduled	Time	Location	Next Upcoming:
Board of Directors	1st Saturday	1300	Zoom	December 7th
General Membership	3rd Wednesday	1830	Venice Presbyterian Church	***December 18th
TARC Annual Meeting	Annually	1830	Christmas Party	December 4th
Nets				
North Port Diehards*	Mondays	2000	TARC 147.120 Repeater	
TARC DMR Net	Tuesdays	1930	TARC DMR TG 310442	
Tamiami Tradeshow	Tuesdays	2000	TARC 146.805 Repeater	
TARC 10m HF Net	Wednesdays	1930	28.460 +/- QRM 10m**	
Greybeard Knuckle Draggers *	Thursdays	1700	7.215 (40m LSB)	
TARC 2m Chat Net	Thursdays	1930	TARC 146.805 Repeater	
Fellowship				
Breakfast	Tuesdays	0600	Peach's In Venice	
Breakfast	Wednesdays	1100	Zoom	
Breakfast	Fridays	0900	Perkins in Venice	
Breakfast	Saturdays	0930	DAV in Venice	
Other Interests/Nets				
Quarter Century Wireless Club	1st Monday	1100	Denny's on Bee Ridge	Contact N4ZM
TARC VE Licensure Testing	2nd Saturday	1000	Venice Library	December 14th
DARN Net	2nd Monday	1100	NI4CE Repeater (145.430)	
SERC Swap 'n Shop Net	Mondays	2000	N4SER Repeater (146.730 or 145.130)	
EARS 2m Chat Net	Tuesdays	1900	K8ONV Repeater (146.865)	
MARCI Trader's Net	Wednesdays	2000	K4GG Repeater (146.820)	
HAMCATION	2nd Weekend in Feb		Orlando Fairgrounds	February 8/9, 2025
HAMVENTION	2nd Weekend in May		Xenia (Dayton), Ohio	May 16-18, 2025
Winter Field Day	4th Weekend in Jan		Venice Coast Guard Station	January 25/26, 2025
ARRL Field Day	4th Weekend in June		Venice Coast Guard Station	June 28/29, 2025
*Former Members of the NPARC	**Technician Class Portion of the 10m Band	Please Submit any changes or event information to the Editor via email: communicator@tamiamiarc.org		

Stay Up-To-Date with whats going on!

Make sure to join our Groups.io for daily updates on what is going on within TARC. [CLICK HERE](#) to join.

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

The Tamiami Amateur Radio club was organized in 1960 to serve the Venice and surrounding area with emergency communications. The founders of our club realized that it is of paramount importance to organize the amateur radio operators in the area, to promote training and provide community service. We have had a proud history.

Following Hurricane Donna of 1960, a number of the radio amateurs in the Venice area decided to unite into a formal club. At 7:30 PM on 06 October 1960, twenty interested parties met at the Sunshine Kitchen, and E. B. Roberts was elected as temporary chairman. During the two-hour gathering, a committee consisting of Joe Barone, P. D. Baird and Martin Sharp was appointed to study and draw up bylaws for the organization.

In January 1985 the TARC was incorporated under the laws of Florida as a not-for-profit corporation and, in 2001, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the IRS.

Club Repeaters

DMR Repeater - 444.100 MHz (+) Color Code 1 - TARC Private Talk Group (TG) 310442. TS-1 for TG 310442, 2 and 9. Use TS-2 for ALL other possible Brandmeister TGs available dynamically.

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 (encode AND squelch) — This repeater can be accessed using standard analog radios, OR Yaesu C4FM Radios and will auto-detect what mode is being received (AMS) so there are no special settings for the end-user to access it.

+++++CURRENTLY WAITING FOR TOWER INSTALL+++++

ALL TARC Repeaters bear the FCC Callsign of W4AC. Repeater trustee is Paul KN4BAR.

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

Editor - Chris Stape - K4PTS, who acknowledges and thanks contributing writers and photographers.

2024 TARC Officers:

President	Paul Nienaber	KN4BAR	w4ac@tamiamiarc.org
Vice President	Dwight Sullivan	KT4DDS	
Secretary	Randy Aitken	KO4PIV	secretary@tamiamiarc.org
Treasurer	Bob McAlister	KN4RKE	treasurer@tamiamiarc.org

Directors:

Brian Johnson	W1JBD
Steve Phillips	NS4P
Tom Shrilla	W8QJF
Dwight Sullivan	KT4DDS
Gary Youngberg	W8SKI

Club Dues

Regular Member: \$25.00/year
 **After 7/1 - \$12.00 to end of year
 **After 10/31 - \$25.00 thru end of next year

Family Membership: \$30.00/year.

Non-Voting Student: \$5.00/year.

Please Note: After two month grace period thru Feb., all non-renewals will be removed from active status.

TARC Website: www.tamiamiarc.org **Contact:** webmaster@tamiamiarc.org
General Club Info Contact the Secretary: secretary@tamiamiarc.org