



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message ...KN4BAR



By now most of our club members have returned from Hamvention and are well rested and getting ready for ARRL Field Day at the end of June. The traditional "flagpole picture" was taken exactly at 12 noon on Saturday at Hamvention. That picture and a short description of the event is published inside this edition of the newsletter.

For our newer club members, we traditionally take July and August "off" from club meetings and activities. It's too hot to do much outdoor activity and many members

plan vacations and family visits for this time of the year. We ask the membership at each June meeting to approve waving the bylaw requirement to hold monthly meetings of the club.

We will be holding Field Day at a new location this year—the Venice Gardens Community Association has agreed to rent us the use of the association building on Shamrock Blvd. in Venice (air conditioned of course!). There's a short article inside the newsletter with all the details. We do need to give a big thank you to John N3PQD for facilitating this. He is on the board of directors for the association and helped to make this move a reality.

Many of us have invested a lot of time, money, and sweat in building our ham radio "shacks". Our newer members keep hearing the term "radio shack" but may be having difficulty visualizing what it is, what

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome New Members

5/21/25	Member	Jeff Cohen	General	KC1JSN
4/16/25	Member	Maynard Brewer	General	KC1IXM
4/12/25	Member	Hugh "Greg" Smith	Extra	WG1O
3/30/25	Member	Steve Petrofsky	Advanced	N0AQL
3/10/25	Associate	Paul Ernst	none	none

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Upcoming Events

[Meeting 6:30 pm Wed, June 11, 2025](#)

[Program: Frank W2XYZ. ARRL Field Day. Set Up and Logging](#)

♦ [ARRL Field Day, June 28 and 29, 2025](#)

♦ [No Meetings Jul or Aug](#)

♦ [SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER](#)

♦ [Holiday Party, December 17th at the Venezia Hotel in Venice](#)



ARRL Field Day, June 28-29, 2025

TARC Has Elmers

Who or what is an “Elmer”? In “ham speak” an Elmer is any experienced amateur radio operator who helps a new or less experienced ham learn about the hobby in general or about specific radio related topics.

To help new hams get any help they may need, TARC has created the generic email address:

“askelmer@tamiamiarc.org”. Currently, Steve NS4P receives these emails and either he can provide the help requested or he will find another club member who can.

TARC Contact Emails

Board of Directors

bod@tamiamiarc.org

Secretary

secretary@tamiamiarc.org

Treasurer

treasurer@tamiamiarc.org

Volunteer Examiner Team

VE-team@tamiamiarc.org

Ask Elmer ham assistance

askelmer@tamiamiarc.org

The Communicator submissions

communicator@tamiamiarc.org

Quartermaster (equipment mgr)

quartermaster@tamiamiarc.org

Librarian (ham book library)

librarian@tamiamiarc.org

Membership Coordinator

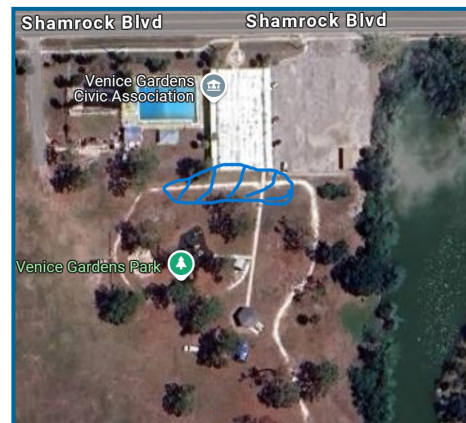
membership@tamiamiarc.org

Webmaster—report a problem

websupport@tamiamiarc.org

Field Day is always the fourth weekend in June. This year it falls on June 28 and 29, 2025. TARC will be operating from a new location this year. Our old Coast Guard Aux. location on Venice island is now the home of a new Air Force radar installation. Our concerns over future access and the strong possibility of RFI either from us or to us led the board of directors to look for an alternative location.

Thanks to John N3PQD we found a new home at the Venice Gardens Community Association, 406 Shamrock Blvd. in Venice. John is on the board of directors for the association and he facilitated our approval to do field day using their air conditioned association building and the county has approved placement of



our antennas in the adjacent Shamrock Park (shown in blue hash). We will be donating \$50 more to use this venue than we donated to the USCG Aux. for the weekend; but we believe this to be a superior location in many respects.

Be sure to attend the June 11th club meeting for more details and to sign up for an operating shift or two.

President's Message (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

it looks like, and how to get started building one of their own. SO, starting with this edition of *The Communicator*, I would like to feature one club member's ham radio “shack” as a full page article each month. I am starting with my own to serve as an exemplar of what is needed.

Relax. Not a lot of original, creative writing is necessary to participate. Pictures and equipment lists and descriptions are all that is really necessary. Please send me your “Shack” information and pictures and I will publish one each month.

We did get some unexpected bad news in May. The home of our North Port repeater at the WKDW community radio station went off the air in November 2024 when it changed locations and moved its tower. The tower never went up at the new location. And it seems the station management pledged the repeater system as collateral to secure a FEMA disaster assistance loan. Then the station manager also “donated” the repeater system to TARC in November of last year as an inducement to get us to take it over. That loan is now in default and FEMA has directed all assets of the station to be frozen while they investigate. More info to follow.

73, Paul KN4BAR

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Communicator June 2025

Sunshine Shaun KQ4YAX

A get well card was sent to Alex W2GAN last month. He is recovering nicely at home now.

VE Testing Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 5/10/25

Number tested: 2

Passed: 2

New Members: 0

Member Upgrades: 1

Next Test Date: 6/14/25

CONGRATULATIONS UPGRADES!

- Richard KK4AHZ to General

Membership license upgrade incentive offer expires July 12, 2025.

Cash in while you can!

QCWA Liaison AI KOAL

Chapter 53 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) meets for lunch at 11AM on the first Monday of each month at Denny's on Bee Ridge in Sarasota. You do not need to be a member of QCWA to attend and your "Plus 1" is welcome. There is an interesting program along with an excellent meal and fellowship. For more information on QCWA see the Chapter website –

<https://qcwa53.org>

(no meetings Jun—Sep)

Membership Nancy N4ZM

As of: 5/19/25

Total Membership:..... 160

132 Regular Members

2 Associate Members

10 First Year Members

16 Life Members

<https://tamiamiarc.org/membership/members/>

REVIEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORD FOR ACCURACY. SEND CHANGES TO:

membership@tamiamiarc.org

Public Information Officer OPEN POSITION

Repeater / Technical Frank W2XYZ

<https://tamiamiarc.org/tarc-repeaters/>

The North Port repeater on 147.120 MHz is off the air **PERMANENTLY**. It's a long sad story but it was pledged as collateral for a now in default FEMA loan to WKDW.

On a positive note, a new echolink and remote access computer has been installed at the Englewood site.

Remote Station Tom W8QJF

<https://tamiamiarc.org/club-remote-hf-station/>

Net Manager Paul KN4BAR

Thanks to our regular 2 meter net controllers Tony W4RFV, Steve KN4NFX, and Gerard KQ4DVD for keeping a great rotating schedule. I'm sure Frank W2ZYX and Steve NS4P would like to have occasional guest net controls to relieve them on the Tuesday DMR and Wednesday 10 meter nets.

“Get Off Your Butt” License Upgrade Incentive Program

For the third year now, TARC has offered its club members a great incentive to upgrade their FCC license. This year’s incentive was approved by the membership in January and is active until the end of the club’s Volunteer Examination scheduled for July 8, 2025. Any club member who tests with TARC and upgrades their license will receive:

- A \$50 DxEngineering Gift Card
- 2026 Dues paid in full
- Testing Fee PAID by TARC

This offer is limited to the first 11

club members who qualify. You must be a current 2025 member and already hold a Novice class license or higher.

Congratulations to the following club members who have “cashed in” in May:

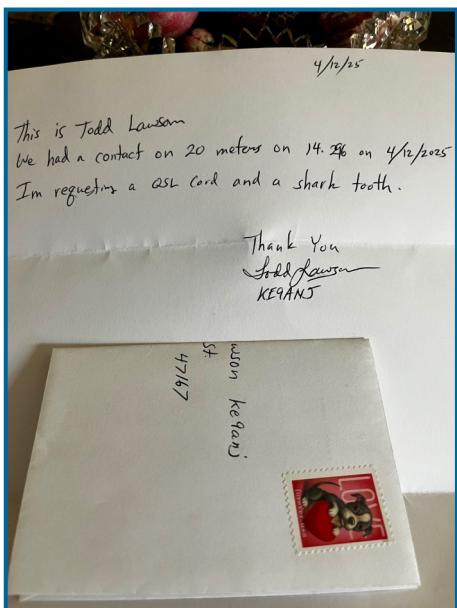
- Richard KK4AHZ to General

Next testing date is June 14th. We have 7 gift cards left to give away. And, **YOU** only have 2 months remaining to “cash in”! SO,

GET OFF YOUR BUTT



Some of the QSL cards received from the April Special Event..K4S



You don’t even need a fancy, printed QSL card. Just send a note and don’t forget the all-important SASE!

Shark’s Tooth Festival QSLs

Last month we reported on the great success of this K4S special event station operation in Venice having made 441 HF QSOs during the weekend. We thanked our club’s QSL Manager, Steve Hawley, K4EU for being the one to receive and respond to all the QSL cards received from contacts made.

Steve gave his report to the event organizers in mid-May along with some details of the work he had to do to answer all the QSLs. Most of us don’t realize how much work goes into the job of QSL Manager for a large event like our Shark’s Tooth Festival.

If you sign up as an operator for any of our club special events, please be



sure to follow the instructions and the script given for calling CQ and for completing contacts made during the event. Steve reports that there

were a fair number of QSL cards or just hand written notes with no SASE’s or complete identifying information of the contact’s station or contact band and time. The pictures at left show the volume and type of QSLs received. Some required extra effort on Steve’s part to figure out who they were from and to be able to confirm the contact.

Please be a good operator and keep an accurate logbook. When sending or replying to QSL cards ensure the accuracy of your contact and station information. Be a good ham!

DX Editor: Tony DiCenzo, KX1G

Email: KX1G@ARRL.NET

Announced Top-100 DXPEDITIONS scheduled in June 2025

DATES	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	QSL INFO	INFO
April 25-May 7	Austral Is #74	TX9A	Check DXW.NET	HF

For the latest info check [Announced DX Operations](https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html) <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

A quick check of the Announced DX Ops shows little in the way of Top-100

The schedule of Most Needed entities that have DXpeditions is at the top of this column because if you are chasing DX you don't want to miss any opportunities to work them. The one noted above (Austral Island #74) is the only one listed for the next several months. But check the web site frequently as new announcements can come at any time.

June DX Contests

Details at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

- Jun 7 – 8 ARRL Inter. Digital Contest
- June 21-22 All Asian DX Contest, CW All Asian DX Contest, CW



Answer to the May Question of the Month:

The question was: If you were a physicist, you would recognize polar covalent molecules, dipole-dipole bonds, hydrogen bonds, ion-induced dipole interactions, induced dipole forces, and London dispersion forces as types of dipoles. As a ham, you also know your dipoles. Or do you?

Question: How many types of Dipole antennas do hams use? And do dipoles require a balun? Here's what members said:

- Half wave (Flat top, Inverted Vee)
- Off Center Fed (OCF, a.k.a. Windom)
- Multi-band (trapped, fanned, parallel)
- Folded
- G5RV
- Log Periodic
- Coax (sometimes called a Bazooka or Double bazooka)
- Vertical

Question of the Month for June 2025

Want to get a good start on DXCC? Just work all the North America DXCC entities. Here are 49 of them!

4U	United Nations	FM/TO	Martinique	HO-	HP Panama	HQ-HR	Honduras
6Y	Jamaica	FO/TX	Clipperton	HQ-	HR Honduras	J3#*	Grenada
8P	Barbados	FP	St. Pierre & Miquelon	J3#*	Renada	J6#*	St. Lucia
C6	Bahamas	FS/TO	St Martin	J6#*	St. Lucia	J7#*	Dominica
CY0	Sable Is.	HH	Haiti	J7#*	Dominica	J8#	St. Vincent
CY9	St.Paul Is	HI	Dominican Republic	HKO	San Andres & Providencia	K,W,N, AA-AK USA	
FJ/TO	St. Barthelemy	HKO	San Andres & Providencia	HO-HP	Panama		

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The Ongoing Adventures of Ham vanWinkle

Groups.io

TARC uses the Groups.io email messaging service to keep in touch with our members and for members to communicate with each other to share news, announcements, technical tidbits, rare Dx spots, etc., etc.

It is a subscription based service and you must request a subscription to participate. Each new member is given a subscription invitation at the time they first join the club. Unfortunately, not everyone does.

If you aren't subscribed and are feeling a bit like a club mushroom who is kept in the dark about club events and activities, THEN you should consider subscribing to the service.

It is easy enough to do. Just send an email to this address using the email address you wish to subscribe with:

main+subscribe@TARC-VeniceFL.groups.io

If you are a club member in good standing, then your request will be approved. Create an account with your email address and password and you are IN!

So here I am, back after 30 years QRT. Boy, have things changed.

Whatever happened to:

...2 Meter FM

When I was last active, everyone was on 2 meters, and I mean ON 2 METERS! Repeaters were busy all the time. Everyone had a rig in their car, and lots of us had HT's. Remember the Icom IC-2AT? It was the bomb! Then, I guess, along came cheap cell phone service in the late 90's and we didn't all need the repeater for autopatch anymore.

The first thing I did when I got my license back was to buy an HT to get on 2m and meet local hams. The radio is great, but local VHF/UHF has become a desert. It's nice that we have the scheduled nets to keep the dust off our gear, but I kinda miss the drive time chats and the evening DX spots.

...The Manufacturers and Dealers

Every month QST used to bring me the latest offers from Amateur Electronic Supply, Heathkit, Henry Radio, Cushcraft, MFJ, and countless others, all wanting me to call their 800 number and give them my credit card. Time marches on, I guess. Sadly, and many of the principals of these companies are now SK. Still, there are a few specialty retailers, DX Engineering and Ham Radio Outlet come to mind, that are there to provide personal service and keep us from the clutches of Amazon and eBay.

...QSL Cards

I've only been back on the air for about six months now, but have yet to receive a QSL card from anyone, US or DX. Likely because I haven't sent any, but in days past, I received a steady flow of QSL cards, to which I always sent a reply card. I was saddened to learn of the passing of W4MPY, the QSL card king of my early years in ham radio.

I bought a lot of cards from *QSLs by W4MPY*. I found a new QSL card printer (KB3IFH, does nice work) and bought a box of cards, but I have a hunch they will last me a lifetime.

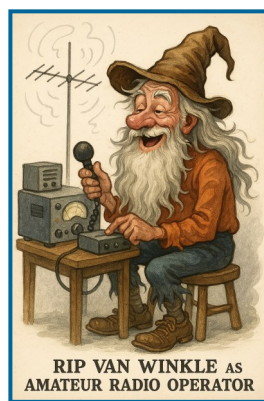
QRZ, LoTW, eQSL and the rest of the alphabet soup of online logging

sites are convenient and make chasing awards easier, but emailed QSLs and PDF award certificates just ain't the same as opening the mailbox and finding something someone took the time to send you. To me, that effort was part of the camaraderie that makes ham radio special.

...My Old Friends

I lost touch with a lot of great folks when I went QRT. Some are still active hams and a few are very prominent in the contesting and DX community. Many are now SKs, may they rest in peace. Everyone wants coveted 1x2 call signs, but it's kind of sad to see the call signs of old friends now assigned to strangers.

73, Chris KK4QA



HamVention 2025



I had a wonderful time at Hamcation 2025 this year with my son Justin (K9GCC). This was our second time attending since we both got our Ham licenses. My big purchase was a new radio for my Wisconsin QTH, as I was getting tired of hauling my Icom IC-7300 back and forth from Florida. I love my IC-7300 but wanted to try something a little different so I picked a Yeasu FT-710. I was able to get an additional \$100 off for purchasing it at Hamvention in addition to the \$200 off the sale price, so I was very happy. Justin picked up a new dual band mobile antenna for his Jeep and a telescoping antenna for his HT. We also picked up the usual trinkets such as survivor pens, pins, hats, t-shirts, sweatshirt, key rings, POTA travel mug and more stuff that I just can't remember. Good thing we drove this year to be able to carry all this stuff home. It was a great father-son bonding experience. We are already making plans for attending again next year!!! 73, de Shaun KQ4YAX



Except for a downpour Friday night, the weather was GREAT!



TL:DR - It was one of the best Hamventions ever!



AI KOAL had no trouble getting around the fairgrounds

It was a very good show this year. The weather cooperated, with highs in the low 80s and some breeze to keep things cool. A very strong storm front passed through on Friday night, but the heavy stuff passed to the north and south of the Fairgrounds, leaving almost all the flea market tents untouched. The parking areas and flea market were a little damp in the mornings, but remained non-muddy for the entire event

Every inside vendor spot was sold, and there were very few no-shows. The newly expanded flea market was very full and very busy - I got good deals on a couple of very rare items that were on

my list.

Except for R&L, all the major vendors and manufacturers were there, with the normal Hamvention specials and coupons available. I grazed the inside exhibits, picking up a few things here and there, with my major purchase being a new RigExpert antenna analyzer that I look forward to using to adjust the new POTA antennas I am building.

Several people remarked that even at the end of the day, the grounds were filled with happy, smiling faces and the mood everywhere was cheerful and upbeat.

TARC made a good appearance this year with about 10 members and friends making the Noon Saturday photo shoot and several more that were there on Friday only, or were busy making sales in the Flea Market.

Except for the fact that for the 49th year in a row I did not win a door prize, it was a great show.

73 de Steve NS4P

Message Service and Reflector Etiquette

The Communicator June 2025

Many of us belong to one or more Groups.io or other email reflector services that cater to our special interests such as: club affairs, DX, Propagation, Specific Equipment, Etc. Etc. There are some very basic rules of the road to follow as a responsible user of these messaging services. There can be 100s, even 1000s, of subscribers to such a service and bad etiquette by you affects all of them! Avoid these three common breaches of message service etiquette:

INAPPROPRIATE OR OFFENSIVE COMMENTS

Conduct of this kind is never tolerated by moderators and can result in you being unsubscribed from the service. Beyond obscene or offensive language, personal attacks, religious and political commentary are usually not allowed unless that happens to be the purpose of the group or reflector. There are many such services out there where you can express yourself and your beliefs freely. The TARC reflector is **NOT** one of them.

MESSAGE THREAD HIJACKING

What is a message thread? Simply, it is the original posted message and all of the replies to that post. It is a compete online, back-and-forth conversation about whatever the topic or subject of the original posted message was about.

Hijacking occurs when a user makes a reply to a posted message and begins talking about something com-

pletely different and unrelated to the topic or subject of the message. This happens when a user is either not informed enough about message service etiquette, or is just too damn lazy to post a new message to the service with the topic or subject that they want to talk about. As an example of thread hijacking:

User Bill posts an original message with the topic of "how many apple trees do you have?"

User John replies with, "I have 2 apple trees in my yard"

User Mary replies with, "my apple trees all died last year"

User Not2Bright replies with, "Hey, does anyone know where I can buy an aluminum foil cap?"

This last message is **OFF TOPIC**. It is part of the apple tree thread and it carries that topic or subject in the reply. Worse yet, another ill informed user will see this off topic post and reply to it with, "Oh, the homeless guy by the Walmart store sells them really cheap." SO, now there is a new foil cap thread that has begun inside the apple tree thread.

Message thread hijacking is a very, very common occurrence. Smart, well informed users won't do this. They will **ALWAYS** start a new topic or subject to begin a new discussion about whatever it is they want to

talk about.

REPLY Vs. REPLY TO SENDER

If you take the easy way and just click on the REPLY option then your comments will go to ALL of the users in the group or reflector. In many cases this is appropriate and your comments are truly meant to be of interest to everyone in the group. However, if your comment is meant for **ONLY** the original poster of the message that you are replying to, then you should look at the many reply **OPTIONS** shown in the footer at the bottom of the message you are replying to. One of those reply options is **REPLY TO SENDER**. In this case your reply will go **ONLY** to the sender of the message you are replying to.

Groups.io Links:

You receive all messages sent to this group.

[View/Reply Online \(#7206\)](#) | [Reply to Group](#) | [Reply to Sender](#) | [Mute This Topic](#) | [New Topic](#)
[Your Subscription](#) | [Contact Group Owner](#) | [Unsubscribe \[paul9aber@gmail.com\]](#)

We all feel the burden of receiving too many emails every day. Please choose to make use of the **REPLY TO SENDER** option when appropriate to reduce the email message volume being received by group or reflector users.

If you are not yet a member of the TARC-VeniceFL@groups.io reflector, then now is a good time to [SUBSCRIBE](#). Just click this link to join.

Paul KN4BAR, Groups.io Moderator

What is a Repeater TOT?

Most of us are all licensed and experienced amateur radio operators and we can talk to anyone, anywhere, anytime, for as long as we want. WELL, that's not completely true when using a repeater. Repeaters are great for users in the same general geographic area to allow for reliable local radio communications. Most clubs operate one or more repeaters for the use of their club members and generally they are available for any licensed amateur to use.

Repeaters have Trustees that are responsible to the FCC for ensuring compliance with all rules and regulations. Trustees are also charged with servicing and maintaining these repeater systems and for replacing them when they stop working. Over heating from long transmission times is one of the surest ways to kill any radio transmitter not designed for continuous operation. Most amateur radio repeaters are NOT designed for continuous operation. SO, most Trustees set a **time-out-timer (TOT)** that will automatically stop the repeater from transmitting after so many seconds of continuous transmission. The TARC repeaters, as with most repeaters, are set to stop transmitting after 3 minutes of continuous transmission. The repeater then remains in a standby mode for an additional 3 minutes of cooling off time before it will again resume transmitting.

As good ham radio operators who know how things work, know the

rules, and the best practices for ham radio operations, none of us would ever talk longer than 3 minutes in any single transmission on a repeater. Never. That's why you will hear hams making a long transmission stop transmitting every few minutes using the phrase, "break for time". They are allowing the repeater's TOT to reset before continuing with their long transmission.

There are two things all good hams must remember about how the TOT is activated and how it gets reset.

FIRST. The repeater has a "tail" on each transmission. After you release the PTT button on your microphone, the repeater continues to transmit for a few seconds. The TOT timer DOES NOT RESET until the transmitter has stopped transmitting. SO, listen for the transmitter drop or watch your S-meter to see when it drops. THEN, and only then, can you resume transmitting.

During short exchanges between users you will notice that the transmitter doesn't drop immediately. You should ALWAYS wait for the transmitter to drop BEFORE pressing your own PTT button and allow the repeater time to rest before you transmit. If multiple users have a long series of relatively short conversation exchanges, without allowing time for the repeater TOT to reset, then the 3 minute time limit can be reached and the repeater placed in standby mode for 3 minutes or so.

SECOND. If you are one of those long

-winded talkers that likes to tell a good story when it's your turn to talk, then please remember to keep an eye on the clock! If you are approaching the 3 minute time limit then do the "break for time" statement and release the PTT button. AND, WAIT for the repeater tail to drop before you push the button again to resume your soliloquy. All too often, users take the pause for time but FAIL TO WAIT for the repeater tail to drop. This allows the TOT to keep running, uninterrupted and again, the repeater will time out.

Don't be "that guy" who fails to follow the rules and practice good repeater operating procedures. Don't be the guy that either kills the repeater by over heating it, or causes everyone to have to wait while the repeater TOT resets.

73, Paul KN4BAR

TARC WEEKLY RADIO NET SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS, 7:30 pm (DMR net)

444.100 Mhz, color code 1,
TS 1, Talk Group 310442

WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 pm (HF net)

28.460 Mhz USB

THURSDAYS, 7:30 pm (FM net)

146.805 Mhz PL 100 Hz (-)
ECHO LINK: 513309 (W4AC-R)

Net Manager, Paul KN4BAR

HOW TO GET YOUR TARC CLUB NAME TAG

Frank W2XYZ takes the orders from members at club meetings or events or by email. He works with a local company in Sarasota to have them made and that company prefers to process orders in bulk at one time. So, Frank normally holds the orders he receives until he has enough to make it worthwhile for the vendor to process and for Frank to drive up to Sarasota to pick them up. From time to time, Frank will ask me to put the name tags up for sale in the online store on our website. Right now, they are not available for order/purchase online.

Be sure to give Frank your first name exactly as you want it to appear on the name tag along with your call sign. Email Frank: Frank.

TARC also offers club logo'd shirts twice a year. Usually in the Spring and Fall. Look for groups.io messages or notices in **The Communicator** to find ordering window openings for name tags and shirts.



Shack of the Month

I hope that this new feature in **The Communicator** will run each month if our club members respond with pictures and descriptions of their “shacks”. Mine has taken shape over the 8 years that I have now been a ham. It is currently on its fourth “revision”. I think I finally have it just the way I like it. Maybe?

I have both HF and V/UHF stations in my shack with an outside flagpole antenna for HF and a vertical in the attic for the dual band radios. I use the free Dx Lab Suites for my logging and spotting software. A recently replaced, 55-inch TV, is the latest addition to the shack.



The two best additions to the shack were made about three years ago. The addition of a Greyline Flagpole Antenna (vertical OCF-dipole, 80-6m), Yaesu DX-10 radio, and a linear amplifier (ACOM 1010, 600W) completely changed my life as a ham. Having a great antenna in a deed restricted community and a 600W “punch” to break through those pesky pile-ups was a real game changer.

Living in a deed restricted communi-



ty is always a challenge for any ham. BUT, where there is a will, there is a way! My very first HF antenna was the aluminum rain gutter on one side of my house with a counterpoise wire stretched on the ground beneath the gutter. **It worked!** In 2017 (near minimum solar cycle!) I worked more than 30 states, Europe, Caribbean, and South America. Never could break through most pile ups but I did, for the most part, get good signal reports.

I then tried a 40-10m OCF dipole wire strung up in the attic space. I could hear very well; but hardly anyone ever heard me. I guess all the aluminum ducting and roofing materials (cement tile roof) were just too much for my 100W radio to punch through.

In 2019 I moved the wire outside and “hid it” in the bushes. This worked well and I managed to get WAS and nearly DXCC contacts in the log book. The neighbors and HOA never said anything about it.

Where there's a will; there's a way!

73, de Paul KN4BAR

CHASING DX CQ DX CQ DX (cont'd)

The PVS Kids



Paul KN4BAR and STEMania co-director, Curtis KR4AMK selling ham radio



STEMania co-directors, Alisa and Curtis KR4AMK with son Connor KR4AMF, president PVS ham radio club



Paul KN4BAR shows PVS club members that you can fox hunt with just a radio and use your body as a signal attenuator when you get close

(Continued from page 5)

KG4# Guantanamo Bay
KL,AL,NL, WL Alaska
KP1 Navassa I.
KP2 Virgin Is.
KP3,4 Puerto Rico
KP522 Desecheo I.
OX Greenland
PJ5,652 Saba & St. Eustatius

PJ753 Sint Maarten
TG, TD Guatemala
TI, TE Costa Rica
TI9 Cocos I.
V2 Antigua & Barbuda
V3 Belize
V437 St. Kitts & Nevis
VA-VG,VO-VY Canada
VP2E Anguilla

VP2M Montserrat
VP2V British Virgin Is.
VP5 Turks & Caicos Is.
VP9 Bermuda
XA-XI Mexico
XA4-XI4 Revillagigedo
YN,H6-7,HT Nicaragua
YS, HU El Salvador
YVO Aves I.

The question is: How many have YOU confirmed???

0-10
11-20
21-30
31-40
41-49

**Still a Wet nosed DXer
Got promise
Ohhh, sleepless nights ahead
Your friends starting to notice
You are the Big Gun!**

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

Pine View School Update

Steve NS4P and Paul KN4BAR consulted with school facilities and maintenance workers at the end of April. We provided a bill of materials for the construction of 2, 25-foot grounded masts near the classroom with the radio station.



These will be installed over the summer months with a feedline passthrough into the classroom for the antennas. The school ham radio club will start the Fall school term with a permanent V/UHF dual band antenna and a 40-10 meter end fed antenna for use anytime by club members.

Marie Rosander KQ4ZVO will be attending the **ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology** course in June. This great educator

training initiative from ARRL provides a full week of ham radio and wireless technology information to school STEM teachers from around the country.

We did a small scale ham radio fox hunt with the school club members on May 9th. We have also partnered with a local nonprofit company, **STEMania**, to participate with them at local school educational events to promote ham radio. Betty KO4GKT and OM Richard KQ4APW did an event with them on April 25th at Alta Vista school, and Paul KN4BAR did one on May 2nd at Fruitville school.

Just like our club, the schools will all be shutting down for the summer. We will resume activities with them again in late August.

73, Paul KN4BAR

1.25 Meters is *NOT DEAD!*

The Communicator June 2025

The 1.25-meter band, often referred to as the 220 MHz band, holds a fascinating place in the history of amateur radio, with early experimentation by adventurous operators in the 1930s paving the way for its official recognition in the 1970s, while also facing threats to its integrity from potential sell-offs and reallocations in the 1990s. Today, as a product of its history, this band remains underutilized, yet it occupies a unique niche, providing dedicated operators with a distinctive platform for local FM communications and, surprisingly, for VHF DX enthusiasts, all waiting to be fully explored and appreciated. Spanning from 220 to 225 MHz in its current allocated form, the band offers a range of VHF frequencies that can accommodate various modes of operation. This series of articles will delve into the intriguing propagation characteristics of the 1.25-meter band, examining how its unique attributes influence communication range and effectiveness, as well as the versatile equipment options and modes that can unlock its full potential.

It wasn't until the 1970s that the band was officially allocated for amateur use in the United States, specifically from 220 to 225 MHz, providing a new frontier for radio enthusiasts. In the years following its allocation, the 1.25-meter band faced significant challenges, including serious discussions in the late 1980s and early 1990s about the potential sell-off of the band for commercial use, which raised con-

cerns among amateur operators about losing access to this valuable spectrum. The threat of reallocation for a Class E Citizen's Band service at 224 MHz was also considered, but ultimately, these proposals did not come to fruition, allowing the band to remain dedicated to amateur use.

The threat of spectrum sell-off is further compounded by the limited availability of radios specifically designed for the 1.25-meter band; manufacturers have largely focused on the more popular 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands, leaving operators



with fewer options for modern equipment. Additionally, the 1.25-meter band is primarily utilized in the Americas, with many other countries lacking formal allocations for amateur use, further isolating the band and its operators. This combination of uncertainty, limited equipment options, and geographical restrictions has created a self-perpetuating cycle, contributing to the band's relative obscurity and underutilization in the broader amateur radio landscape.

In contrast, the 2-meter band (144-148 MHz) was allocated for amateur radio in the early 1950s and quickly

became one of the most popular bands for VHF communications, while the 70-centimeter band (420-450 MHz) was allocated in the 1970s, further expanding the options available to amateur operators. Today, while the 1.25-meter band remains underutilized compared to its more popular counterparts, it continues to offer a unique niche for dedicated operators. Its history of resilience against commercial pressures and its official recognition as an amateur band highlights its importance in the broader context of amateur radio, standing as a testament to the spirit of experimentation and innovation that defines the amateur radio community.

I discovered the 1.25-meter band during my exploration of the VHF/UHF spectrum. While I still identify as an HF operator, always in search of DX, my passion for radio began in my youth, spending countless hours on my shortwave radio hunting for distant stations. My interest in VHF/UHF emerged unexpectedly when, while testing a VHF radio, I picked up a CQ from Key West at my home QTH in Nokomis. My fascination with DX remains, but my understanding of it has evolved. As a POTA operator eager to activate more bands while in the park, I stumbled upon the 1.25-meter band and began to delve into its potential, igniting a new chapter in my radio journey.

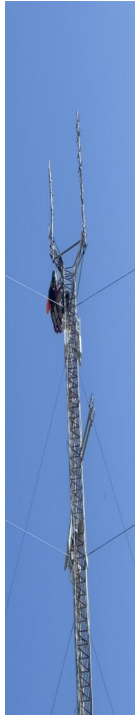
TO BE CONTINUED. 73, de Jon W4OMX

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 Sun-Shine 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 — Use TS-1 for TARC Private Talk Group (TG) 310442. and local TG 2 and 9. Use TS-2 for ALL other possible Brandmeister TGs available dynamically on TS-2.

Analog 2m Repeater - 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100Hz — Echo-Link W4AC-R (Node# 513309)

Dual Mode Yaesu System Fusion (YSF) / Analog 2m Repeater 147.120 MHz (+) PL 136.5Hz (encode AND squelch)

++++PERMANENTLY OFF THE AIR UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE LOST THE NORTH PORT TOWER LOCATION FOR THIS REPEATER AND ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME++++

ALL TARC Repeaters bear the FCC Callsign of W4AC . Repeater trustee is Randy KQ4PIV. Location: 565 Paul Morris Dr., Englewood, FL

THE COMMUNICATOR is a publication of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC). It is published monthly; except during the summer months when 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.

Co-Editors— Paul KN4BAR Nancy N4ZM, and Hop AC8NS who acknowledge and thank contributing writers and photographers.

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Nancy Heinrich	N4ZM
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Roger McEntarfer	N9RM

CONTACT BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY EMAIL:
bod@tamiamiarc.org

Annual Club Dues are due on January 1st of each year and are considered past due on March 1st of each year.

Regular member: \$25.00/year Family membership: \$30.00/year
after 6/1 — \$12.00 or \$15.00 to year end.
After 10/31 — You pay current and next years.
Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.

[Join the Club](#)

TARC Website: www.tamiamiarc.org

Contact: webmaster@tamiamiarc.org

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

