



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message

I hope you all had a great Fourth of July even if it was a bit wet of a weekend. I know that all of our club members who participated in or visited our ARRL Field Day at the end of June did have a great time. Full details about the event are inside the newsletter thanks to a nice article from Frank W2XYZ. We had a really good turnout of almost 40 club members, but that leaves over 120 club members who did not participate. We will do this again for Winter Field Day on the last weekend in January. Make plans now to get RadioActive with the club!

Missing from this year's field day was attendance by public or elected officials, and publication in local news media. Our former Public Information Officer (PIO) did make a press release and even sent some letters to local officials to solicit their attendance. Dwight KT4DDS did this as an above and beyond the call of duty service to the club. What was missing was the "personal touch" of face-to-

face or phone/email contacts. As our club treasurer, Dwight already has a full-time job for the club. We announced the vacancy and need for a new club PIO at the end of 2024. We really, really need a PIO for the club. Not just for field day publicity; but also, to promote amateur radio in the community and to recruit new amateurs and club members....to grow the club. It's past time for a club member to step up and take on the PIO role.



The "Spring into Action" and "Get Off Your Butt" club license upgrade incentive for 2025 has expired. I'm pleased to report that 8 club members took advantage of this generous offer to upgrade their license class by testing with our great TARC VE team. The incentive offer finished with a real flurry of activity

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KN4BAR

Welcome New Members

7/12/25	First Year	Dale (Jerry) Moser	Technician	pending
7/2/25	Member	Paul Johnson	Advanced	N4APJ
6/30/25	Member	Karl Downing	Technician	KD8LXA
6/27/25	Member	Fausto Momoli	Technician	K2SGL
5/21/25	Member	Jeff Cohen	General	KC1JSN

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Upcoming Events

[September 10, 2025](#)

Program: TBAG

◆ [No Meetings Jul or Aug](#)

◆ [SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER](#)

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

Emergency Communications (EmComm)

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

To be really effective in providing this service you should become a member of the ARRL sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Learn how to be part of the EmComm solution and not part of the problem before a storm strikes. The West Central Florida (WCF) Section has an ARES organization in Sarasota County. Visit their website at <http://srqares.org>.

Many TARC members will check in before, during, and after a storm on the TARC 2m repeater (146.805 (-) PL 100 Hz). We don't operate a full time net here but you can usually find a club member or two that either has information or is looking for some.

The Sarasota ARES organization



does operate a more formal net in the hours before, during, and after the storm. This is a **directed EmComm net for ARES** members during a storm event. ONLY enter this net with TRUE emergency traffic (LIFE OR DEATH stuff). Otherwise, only monitor it for the latest info.

146.730/145.130 MHz PL 100 Hz
(linked repeaters)

Echo Link 155574 (N4SER-L)

HF Hurricane Watch Net
14.325 and 7.268 Mhz

President's Message (cont'd)

in July with 12 club members upgrading on the last day of the offer.

Some club members have expressed privacy concerns about their club membership records. Renewal of club memberships for the 2025 club year were somewhat chaotic what with a new treasure and membership coordinator just stepping into their new roles. Almost a dozen members double paid their 2025 dues! More than 30 members had to be reminded multiple times that their dues had not yet been paid. This created confusion among many of our club members and a lot of extra and unnecessary work for club officers.

Board member Roger N9RM sug-

gested to the board back in May that we consider using an online service for our club membership and dues collection management. Roger has used **Ham Club Online (HCOL)** for several years now to manage club membership at his up north club. The board requested a trial club account be established for TARC, and board members have had access to this online club management software during June and July.

Read the article inside the newsletter for the board's recommendation about considering the adoption of HCOL for our club membership management.

73, Paul KN4BAR

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine
Shaun KQ4YAX

VE Testing
Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 7/12/25
Number tested: 3
Passed: 3
New Members: 1
Member Upgrades: 2
Next Test Date: 8/9/25

CONGRATULATIONS UPGRADES!

- Bob KQ4MZA to General
- Steven N0AQL to Extra
- Fausto K2SGL to General
- David KR4BDF to Extra

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: 7/12/25

Total Membership:..... 164

138 Regular Members
3 Associate Members
7 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

The ARRL has a great job description for what the PIO does:

<https://www.arrl.org/public-information-officer>

They also have a great online, self-paced study program to help you get started. Dwight is a graduate and he is available to mentor you!

Repeater / Technical
Frank W2XYZ

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

The North Port repeater on 147.120 MHz is off the air **PERMANENTLY**. Frank W2XYZ gave a great after-meeting presentation on June 12th about how to use the remote HF and SDR stations. The slides are on our website. Steve NS4P finished installing the new computer at the repeater site for Echo Link.

Remote Station
Tom W8QJF

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

Several club members are regular users of the HF station and they give it great signal reports sent and received. If you are antenna or cost constrained from trying HF comms, this is for you!

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 W2ZYZ and Steve NS4P would like to have occasional guest net controls to relieve them on the Tuesday DMR and Wednesday 10 meter nets.

DX Editor: Tony DiCenzo, KX1G

Email: KX1G@ARRL.NET

SPECIAL EDITION

July-August (Summer) 2025 - Issue 33

Summer Solstice?

There are no Top 100 Most Wanted entities scheduled in July or August at this time. For the latest info check **Announced DX Operations** <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>



Saying so long to Chasing DX....A new DX column to debut soon

So, you were wondering why this is a SPECIAL EDITION..... After doing this column for 33 issues over a period of 36 months, this is the last 'Chasing DX' column'. But don't be disappointed. I will debut a new DX-related column this Fall. It won't be monthly, but it is likely to debut in September or October. The working title for the new column is 'Just this DXer's opinion ...', but that may change. The last topic in this issue is an example of what you will see in **Just this DXer's opinion ...** And it doesn't need to be just my opinion. I will invite all club members to be guest columnists. Let me hear from you after you've seen it. Have a great summer break! And good luck Chasing DX!

July-August DX Contests

Don't look for much in terms of contest action in July, but it picks up considerably in early August. Maybe also try participating in a DX net?

- July 26-27 -- RSGB IOTA contest
- August 2 -- European HF Championship
- Aug 9-10 -- Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest, CW

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

HF Nets: <https://hamnetlist.blogspot.com/2021/08/hf-net-around-world-dx-nets-by-time.html>

A few things to try this summer

Summer is a good time to try new things. Here are a few suggestions. First, dust off that key and try making a CW contact or two. If you're not using CW you are missing a world of DX. If your reaction is it is too hard, know that DX contacts can be really short (599 KX1G) AND they can be set up in memory so you just HIT THE BUTTON!

The other thing is try out a DX net. The URL for a directory of nets was in the last section. It can be fun, and it can be the way to get that ATNO you need for that initial DXCC.

Question of the Month for July August 2025:

What do you like best about Amateur Radio?

My answer is that it fits every aspect of my life. When I needed a hobby it was there. When I didn't have time for radio it sat patiently. When I worked an ATNO it was an accomplishment. The members of the clubs I am in are my friends. And when I am in my 90s I will still be having fun with it. Who could ask for more?

TARC VE-Team Has Long History

TARC VE-Team In Action



VE-Team Lead, Steve NS4P presents club members Steve N0AQL and Bob KQ4MZA with their \$50 DxEngineering gift cards for upgrading their licenses. CONGRATULATIONS!

Team members Frank W2XYZ, Al KOAL, Ray K2NET, John K4GEI, and Tony W4RFV look on.



Steve N0AQL upgraded from Advanced to Amateur Extra and did very well on the 50 question test! He said the old 20 wpm code requirement kept him from doing this sooner.

The Tamiami ARC has developed many traditions through it's almost 65 years of continuous operation. Among them is hosting an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE) team and administering FCC Amateur Radio Operator licensing examinations right here in Venice. Steve, NS4P has been the team lead since 2020 and the club administers about 100 exams each year.

TARC schedules an exam session on the 2nd Saturday of each month, except February and December when we move the testing date so we can attend hamfests!. As one of the few VE teams on the Suncoast that offers testing sessions on a regular basis, we often get candidates traveling from Brooksville and Sebring to attend our test sessions. TARC now has about a dozen ARRL Certified VEs.

Yes! You must apply, learn the "rules", and pass a test in order to be certified as an ARRL VE. You must have a General license as minimum and an Amateur Extra license is desirable so that you may certify all levels of license testing.

About 2 years ago, the TARC VE team transitioned to all electronic testing using tablets and the ExamTools website instead of paper exams. The ARRL still supports paper exam booklets and exams, but that program will be shut down in October, 2025. It should be noted that, if necessary to accommodate candidates that cannot use a tablet, we can generate a paper exam and answer sheet using ExamTools, and then score the exam using a cell phone camera.

After our most recent exam session one of the candidates, Bob KQ4MZA, told me that the ham radio books TARC had placed on the library shelf 2 years ago are what got him started in ham radio. Now he is a General and well on his way to enjoying our great hobby. He said he calls himself a "home grown ham!".

Steve is always on the lookout for new VEs to get certified and join our club team. Contact him to get started by sending an email to the team at VE-Team@tamiamiarc.org.



Follow this link to get information about the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator program.

<http://arri.org/volunteer-examiners>

Or email the TARC VE Team VE-Team@tamiamiarc.org

Everyone keeps asking, “How was Field Day?” In a word, great, but that doesn’t tell you very much. Backing up to get the big picture, we knew the Air Force was planning to do some construction at the Coast Guard station for some time now. They did begin construction near the end of 2024. We held our Winter Field Day at the CG station, but were limited as to where we placed our antennas. Your Board of Directors felt we needed to look for a new site for the ARRL Field Day in June. There are lots of parks we could have operated from, but we’re sort of spoiled. We wanted a location that protected us from thunderstorms and mosquitoes, and was air conditioned, with lots of room for antennas. We considered several churches, our repeat site in Englewood, numerous parks, even Al’s cottage. None of



those considered met all of our expectations for one reason or another.

One day, John N3PQD mentioned to a board member, Steve NS4P the club might want to consider the Venice Gardens Civic Association clubhouse. John is a board member on Venice Gardens Association. The two of them checked the facility. Steve’s response was full of (good) expletives about the building. What he didn’t know until that day, and probably other board members didn’t know either, was that behind the clubhouse is a very large county park. The park is not well marked and not readily noticeable from the road, so that was a most pleasant surprise. Your board of directors agreed, this is the place we want to

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“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 June and July:

- Bob KQ4MZA to General
- Steven N0AQL to Extra
- Fausto K2SGL to General
- David KR4BDF to Extra

A total of 8 club members took advantage of this year’s license upgrade offer. Congratulations to all!

TIME HAS EXPIRED!
YOU’LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL
NEXT YEAR.

The Ongoing Adventures of Ham van Winkle



So here I am, back after 30 years QRT. This is a column for those, like me, returning to the world's greatest hobby after a long ham radio nap.

The 3 G's: Get Good Gear!

When I decided to get active again, I didn't have a 40 year old TS-520 in the closet to dust off. I had to start building a station from scratch again. And I'd like to think I learned a few lessons in the 30+ years away. Lots of things I tried to learn to do by buying in cheap – cheap K-Mart guitar, crappy hand-me down golf clubs, a hamfest Tempo One ... you get the drift. Trying to master inferior gear doesn't make you any better, it just makes things more difficult and frustrating. Don't limp in on the cheap only to quit in frustration in six months. As my grandmother taught me, "a miser always pays twice". Buy once, cry once, and get on with it.

There is so much really great, modern gear out there at reasonable prices. A great HF/6m radio can be bought new for about \$1k. And that's in today's dollars, whereas the Kenwoods we craved in 1985 were that much or more in 1985 dollars. I think today's modern rigs, with built-in sound cards, waterfall displays, CW keyers, voice keyers, tuners, USB connections, and more, represent fantastic value. Make a modern rig the core of your shack, and invest in

the best antenna / tuner system your situation permits. These are investments in your happiness.

I know some hams dig nostalgia and part of their joy from the hobby is restoring and operating vintage gear, and I say more power to them. But for me, my goal was to get back on the air with minimal technical difficulty and get my operating skills back up to speed. My station is modest, but modern, and the question is never "is it the radio or me". It's me. And as for my guitar, it's a Martin HD-28 now. I still play badly, but it's not because of the guitar.

Strange New Modes!

I've barely begun to scratch the surface in using modes that were either non-existent or way outside of the mainstream 30 years ago. Back then, AX.25 and packet radio were just getting started, and a fairly expensive TNC got your 2m radio a slow connection to a DX spotting BBS (pre-internet). Now there are a dozen digital modes available when you connect your rig's internal sound card to one of several software programs. WSJT-X and Fldigi are among the more popular, but there are many others out there.

Of all of these new modes, the one with the most buzz is clearly FT8. Some love it, some say that, just like AM, SSB, RTTY, and no-code licenses, it has destroyed the magic that was once spark gap radio.

That's a debate for another day. I like FT8. Once set up, I was able to

start making contacts quickly and easily. Yes, the exchange is impersonal, but I've never been much of a rag-chewer, and I don't see it as much different from a gratuitous "ur 5nn fl" DX QSO. For those of us returning to the hobby, FT8 gives us good, quick feedback on current propagation on any band we choose, which for me is good (re)education. I'm still relearning what bands are open to where / when, and what I can expect with my antenna. I'm not afraid to leave FT8 and go to SSB when the band is open, and I'm building the DXCC count. If you haven't done it, get your radio and your computer connected, and check out what you can do with FT8/FT4, PSK31, WinLink, SSTV, and a host of other modes.

Time Marches On

Scottish poet Robert Burns said "Nae man can tether time nor tide". If all I wanted was to communicate, I could get out my fountain pen and stationery and write someone a letter in cursive. Or I could email them. My life today is not much like it was in 1995, and neither is ham radio. We've both moved on, but we both still have our history. What I still have is the childlike curiosity that made ham radio so much fun in the first place. How does it work? Why does it work? Can I make it work better? Don't be afraid to embrace all that's new with that same curiosity.

de Chris KK4QA

Chasing DX (Cont'd)

Field Day Pictures



(Continued from page 4)

Just this DXers opinion: Shortwave Radio DXers vs Ham DXers – Differences in Propaga- tion?

While I love summer, it has always bothered me that band conditions on the low bands (30m- 160m) during the late summer months (July and August in particular) are terrible in the late afternoons because of static QRM from electrical storms. Wanting to know more about it I posed the question to Google. The answer it gave me was posed in terms of how shortwave listener DXers experienced conditions rather than hams. But while it focused on AM and FM broadcasts and reception differences between indoor and outdoor anten-

nas, and style of antennas [Helical antennas were said to work best for FM, and the types of skip (e-tropo and E-skip, versus F-layer skip), things we don't hear much of, if anything at all. But they did get into a discussion of the solar cycle (are we on the upside or downside?) and propagation during cold versus warm months, noting there is a distinction between the southern and northern states (ya think). But having lived in three corners of the USA (north, south and west) my experience suggests distance and direction play a more significant role. If you are a new DXer, learn about propagation. It can be invaluable as you are chasing ATNOs.

*** *_*

73, de Tony KX1G

13 Colonies TARC Challenge

We had a good number of TARC participants in this, the third annual 13 colonies club challenge. So Now it's time to announce the club standings in the TARC 13 Colonies Challenge:

1. K0AL, Al Culbert 71 points
2. N7JIM, Jim Miller 56 points
3. KN4BAR, Paul Nienaber 38 points
4. KM2T, Bob Sorenson 36 points
5. W2XYZ, Frank Wroblewski 36 points
6. N9RM, Roger McEntfarer 30 points
7. KQ4DEP, Tom Potts 27 points
8. W4RFV, Tony Levenson 22 points
9. NT1AP, Tom Phillips 17points
10. KR4BDF, David Brain 15 points

11. W1BIU, Paul Klebaur, 11 points
12. W4JS, Jack Sproat 10 points
13. KV4LR, Peter Boers 9 points
14. Jonathon Phillips 2 points

Congratulations to all. Scores vary

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2025 ARRL Field Day (Cont'd)

Field Day Pictures



be. The problem was, we didn't know if the clubhouse would be available to us, whether it would be available on that weekend, and will the county let us erect antennas for safety and other reasons.

As mentioned, John is on the Association's board, so he was able to coerce, I mean, lobby for us, to use the facility. He also checked the scheduling and saw it was available, and he negotiated a very fair price for us to rent the clubhouse for the weekend. All of that would be in vain if the county wouldn't let us use the park. Our silver-tongued president, Paul, KN4BAR, spoke with the county and sold them on the idea of how this is beneficial to the community and obtained, in writing, permission to put up our antennas and leave them up all weekend long. Unbelievable as it originally seemed, we obtained a great(er) location for Field Day. The next part was planning the antenna layout and operational setup. A couple of us did

some measuring between trees, ingress to the building, and layout of satellite equipment, beams, and wire antennas. Speaking of wire antennas, we thought it might be possible to use the 80m band at this new location. We were always hampered from using 80m at the CG station because of the extremely high noise level at that location. We needed a good 80m antenna for FD. At the June club meeting, members approved the purchase of a high power (1kw) endfed halfwave antenna that covers 80-10 meters. Such an antenna was purchased and is now part of the club's inventory.

"So, how was Field Day?" We usually set up the antennas on Friday, after a hearty breakfast at Perkins. We didn't do that this year because leaving the antennas up during the day on Friday and Friday night without anyone watching them would be unsafe and unwise to do. About 15, or so, club members showed up

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2025 ARRL Field Day (Cont'd)

at 9 AM Saturday morning to do all the work. They only had 5 hours to get things right at this new location. The Saturday morning crowd managed to erect the 2m/70cm yagis that we'd use for satellites, a Buddi-hex beam that would be used for VHF contacts, a second Buddi-hex beam for HF contacts, the Mosley 2 element yagi for 20-15-10 meters, a 40 meter dipole, and the new EFHW 80m-10m antenna. The team managed to get that all done, run the coax cables indoors, test the antennas, and were completely done by lunchtime.

Steve AA4TI brought a big serving of Sloppy Joe's, with buns and coleslaw plus potato chips for our lunch. Patti N4IGI supplied us with her famous oatmeal raisin cookies. Shortly before 2 PM, we powered up the generator and got on the air. We tested the equipment (again) for operational readiness, plus we made an effort to hold down a clear frequency for when things started in a few minutes. 2 PM came and much to my pleasant surprise, everything worked and operators were making points. We had visitors come by that afternoon. Pineview teacher, Marie, came and observed the operation. She even gave a hand at operating the GOTA station. Later, Pineview student, Rugan KQ4VZX operated the GOTA station and made a number of contacts for us. Things continued well and we were fed again....this time some homemade mac and

cheese with freshly made brownies from John N3PQD and XYL Marty. Everything worked including numerous satellite contacts and a very special contact Steve, NS4P, made with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station.

As hoped, the 80m band was not nearly as noisy as we used to experience at the CG station. Noise on 80 was about S5-S7. Not exactly quiet but pretty much expected for summer conditions on the band. We found 80m great that night for CW and digital. The SSB guys made excellent use of the 40m band. Around midnight, Gerard KQ4DVD showed up with our late night snack, two boxes of donuts. Contacts continued to pile up during the night and before long Steve NS4P showed up with hot Dunkin' coffee and breakfast. Paul, KN4BAR, came by in the morning and made a bunch of bonus points for us. He had previously copied the ARRL FD message. He made another 100 points by sending a WinLink message to our Section Manager. Then he made another 100 bonus points by sending out 10 traffic messages.

More bonus points were made by holding a technical class. At 10:30 Tom K7ONE began his class on using a Nano VNA. When he first suggested having the class, he wasn't sure if anyone would be interested. Much to his surprise he had about a dozen eager students. He gave a very thor-

ough, yet easy to understand class on how to calibrate and set up the VNA to measure SWR. Shortly after noon, we started putting away items we would no longer need. We took down the 40m dipole and disassembled the GOTA station. We began cleaning up odds and ends but our two HF stations and VHF station continued to make contacts right up to the 2 PM finish line. During the entire time frame we only had one problem. The gas ran out in the generator, but it was quickly refueled and put back in operation within minutes. Before I mention the actual number of QSOs and points we earned, I need to mention how quickly and efficiently our group of volunteers disassembled the antennas, broke down the stations, rolled up the coax and packed everything into vehicles provided by Steve, Mark, San, and John. The equipment went back in our storage space in so orderly manner, that even our quartermaster, Richard, was impressed. We are ready for our next event. (Library Day???)

"So, how was Field Day?" In my opinion, it was excellent. It's hard to measure one year against the other since bonus points vary due to availability of invited visitors and other factors. QSO points vary due to weather conditions, equipment failures, and propagation. We had 33 members/visitors attend the event. Thanks to all concerned, we made **1580 bonus points**.

2025 ARRL Field Day (Cont'd)

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Here's a breakdown of the QSOs:

- 217 CW QSOs for 434 points
- 356 Digital QSOs for 712 points
- 708 Phone QSOs for 708 points

With 1580 bonus points and 1854 QSO points, **the club**

score is 3434, PLUS we had at least three club members (Tom NT1AP Paul KN4BAR, and Alex VE3CKI) operate from their home and donate their points to the club, so the aggregate score is even higher than the numbers I'm showing here. I know I say this every year, but thanks to all members and guests for making this the best Field Day the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club has ever had.

de Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ

Ham Club Online Software Trial Invitation

The board of directors has decided to ask the club membership at the September club meeting to approve the adoption of Ham Club On Line (www.hamclubonline.com) as our new membership management software. This is a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), web-based application that administrators and club members will access via any web browser. Over 500 clubs have already adopted this application, among them our neighbor to the north, the Sarasota ARC, just last month.

This new management software includes a number of desirable features. Members can control access to their phone number(s) and email address in the club roster. Members can review and edit their own member profile information directly online. The application links to the FCC URL database and imports mailing address, license class, and license expiration date into the club's membership database. We could now alert members to an expiring FCC license. Online payment of dues is also supported by the application among many, many other benefits and features.

Nothing new and nice comes without a cost. In this case, the cost is \$1/pp/yr (<\$200 a year), and club members will need to

use their email address and a user-defined password to access the system. However, member access is not required (but it is encouraged). Members could still use email, snail mail, or face-to-face contacts with club officers who could then make entries into the database on the member's behalf. You could have less work to do by passing your workload along to a club officer.....not the most desirable course of action; but it could be done if you are "computer challenged".

So, between now and September 12th, take the system for a test drive. Apply online for an HCOL account and associate that account with the trial **TARC club account on HCOL**. You will need the last four digits of your FCC FRN. You can find your FRN printed on your license or by looking yourself up on the [FCCs ULS](http://FCCs.ULS). You will also need to provide the TARC club application code of "i2ecu4x0zxqps" when requesting to join the TARC club. HCOL does not accept name@arrl.net email addresses! Start the process of creating your HCOL account here: <https://secure.hamclubonline.com/register.php>

Questions/Help....[email me](mailto:email.me). de Paul KN4BAR

AA4TI Effort in the 2025 Florida QSO Party

Club member Steve AA4TI is a newer club member and he is an avid contester and county hunter. *The Communicator* will feature an article from Steve in the September and October issues that describes his station and contesting approach in the 2025 FL QSO Party.

The Florida QSO Party has been a favorite for him ever



since he relocated to Florida from Costa Rica in 2018. For the 2021 FQP I decided to operate as an Expedition station, and since that time, he has been working as an Expedition entry every year while honing my routes and station to maximize performance.



Shack of the Month



***No Submissions Received
This Month***

*I'll bet your shack is
better than this one!*

Mobile Antenna Mounts

There is a great alternative to typical mobile antenna mounts sold specifically for ham radio. Recently while trying to find the best (robust and least damaging) way to install a dual band antenna on a new Subaru Forester I came across “ditch light mounts”. Ditch lights are something I had never heard of. If you are considering an antenna mount for your vehicle, you should consider them.

Ditch lights are lights that mount near the back corners of the hood, presumably to light up ditches on the side of the road. Most of the mounts appear to bolt onto the hinge for the hood. I purchased one of the pair from a Subaru accessory fabricator and paid a steep price be-



cause my car is the first year of its generation, and accessory vendors have not caught up with the model yet. A search for mounts for my 20 year old Tacoma truck

turned up many choices for less than \$20 per pair. The same goes for other makes and models.

The only modification I had to make for antenna use was to enlarge the hole where the light mounts, to accom-



modate a standard SO239 antenna mount/connector. I hope this helps someone who has been as frustrated as me trying to find a place on a new vehicle to mount an antenna.

Another hint – Comet Antennas is supposed to soon start selling a new line of “GI” ground independent antennas.

They were on exhibit at Hamvention. Comet recognizes the need for all the new cars that are not made from good old steel to have good antenna mounts.

de Tom N7ONE

13 Colonies TARC Challenge (Cont'd)

for many reasons. Some have better antennas, some have more time to operate, some are on the learning curve, but one thing pertains to all...it was fun.

This year’s winner, Al K0AL will have his name added to the challenge plaque. The winner each year gets to hang the plaque on their shack wall.

Everyone who submitted a score for the challenge received a nice, framed Certificate of Achievement suitable for hanging on the wall in the shack. An example certificate is shown at right. I hope that next year we will have double the number of participants!

73, de Frank W2XYZ



Club Repeaters

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

The Tamiami Amateur Radio club was organized in 1960 to serve Venice and the 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.



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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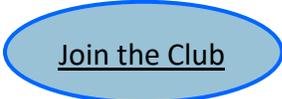
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Steve Phillips	NS4P
Nancy Heinrich	N4ZM
Jack Rosen	W1JJR
Roger McEntarfer	N9RM

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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.



TARC Website: www.tamiamiarc.org

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