



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message

It's back to business again on September 10th with our first club membership meeting after the summer break. It sure was hot this year but at least we did get a good amount of rain to keep some of the evenings cool and the lakes full.

A lot has happened over the summer break and your board of directors has stayed busy earning their exorbitant salaries. There are several member votes on the agenda for the September 10th meeting including the 2025/6 Budget, joining Ham Club Online for membership management, and sponsoring the annual Florida State Parks on the Air contest event in April of each year. There is an article about each vote item inside *The Communicator*.

We do have two key manager/coordinator positions that need a volunteer to assume the duties of each position. The **Public Information Officer or PIO** has the responsibility of promoting amateur

KN4BAR



radio in general, and TARC specific programs and events. The position requires establishing relationships with local media outlets and community service organizations in our area. The **Membership Manager** is responsible for the recruitment and management of club members. Each new member must be welcomed into the club and membership information managed. I am very please to announce that Roger N9RM has agreed to take on this role for the club.

The job description for the PIO position is on our website at <[Job Descriptions](#)>. Email the board of directors if interested: bod@tamiamiarc.org.

Please try to attend the September 10th club meeting. We have important business to discuss.

73, Paul KN4BAR

Inside This Issue

EmComm for Disasters 2
 New TARC 40 meter Net..... 2
 COMMITTEE REPORTS 3
 Florida State Parks on the Air .. 4
 Don K9DD0 SK..... 5
 2025-26 Operating Budget 5
 Ham VanWinkle 6
 Trip Down Memory Lane 7
 HCOL Trial Invitation..... 8
 Shack of the Month 9
 AA4TI's 2025 FQP Saga 10
 Just Sayn' (new column) 12

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Meeting—Sep 10, 2025](#)
[Password Management, Frank W2XYZ](#)
- ◆ [Meeting—Oct 8, 2025](#)
[Home Solar Dos and Dents, Lee Byron Hayes](#)
- ◆ [Meeting—Nov 12, 2025](#)
[Marconi Transmitter Site in Nova Scotia, Gerard KQ4DVD](#)
- ◆ [Meeting—Dec 10, 2025](#)
[Election of Club Officers](#)
- ◆ [Holiday Party, 12/17/25](#)
[at the Hotel Venezia](#)

Welcome New Members

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------|
| 7/12/25 | First Year | Dale (Jerry) Moser | Technician | KR4FHK |
| 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 |

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

New 40 Meter Net Announced

TARC is very pleased to announce that there will be yet another amateur radio net starting in our area on Monday, September 8, 2025. John KQ4ELH will be hosting a club chat net at **7:30 pm on 7225 KHz every Monday night** from then on. Although John has a newish call sign, he is an old time amateur getting back into the hobby again after recently retiring to the Venice and Englewood area.

John says that 40 meters should offer good NVIS and ground wave propagation at this time of the evening and he is hopeful that the net will be able to capture not only

local TARC club members; but also other hams in the state and perhaps the southeast as well. 40 meters is always busy in the evenings and although the net is scheduled to be on 7225 KHz, John says you should be prepared to go up 5 or some multiple of 5 KHz for the net to find an open frequency.



NOT John KQ4ELH

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine
Shaun KQ4YAX

VE Testing
Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 8/9/25
Number tested: 2
Passed: 2
New Members: 0
Member Upgrades: 0
Next Test Date: 9/13/25

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN!

Eight club members took advantage of the club's 2025 license upgrade incentive .
Well done!

QCWA Liaison
Al 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 Coordinator
Roger N9RM

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**.

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, and Steve KN4NFX 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.

TARC To Sponsor the Florida State Parks on the Air (POTA) Event

POTA is FUN !

POTA activations have become a big attraction for many club members in the 2020's. It all started in 2016 with a one-off contest to encourage amateur radio operators to visit our national parks and operate remotely. The concept has grown to become not only a popular nation-wide ham activity; but now also includes many foreign (DX) park entities as well. Visit the [POTA website](https://fspota.org) to get yourself registered and start getting some outdoor activity with nice fresh air and a little bit of exercise, too. We have many club members who do POTA activations in the Venice area. Join us! If you can't get out anymore, than become a "park hunter" and participate from the comfort of your shack. Either way, make contacts and earn POTA awards.



Subject to membership approval at the September club meeting, TARC will sponsor this state-wide operating event in April of each year beginning in 2026. The Florida State Parks on the Air (POTA) event was started in late 2016 by Matt NJ4Y with the sponsorship of the Lakeland ARC. Just as the event was starting to catch on with Florida hams we had the COVID-19 pandemic.



lic in April.

The event never fully recovered from this disruption and its organizers became less and less available to promote the event and to score submitted logs. By early 2025 this event was all but finished.

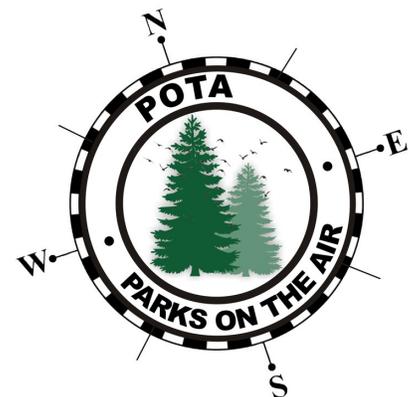
The TARC board of directors decided to offer to take the event over if the organizers would relinquish full control of the event. In late July 2025 we received that agreement to transition the event to TARC. We have a group of 8 club members who have formed a TARC committee to manage the event. Thanks to the following club members who are currently reviewing the event rules and operating procedures to get ready for the April 2026 event. They are:

Jim N7JIM as Committee Chairman, Paul KN4BAR, Jack W1JJR, Mark KQ4EKK, Ken NS1C, Jonathan

W4OMX, Steve NS4P, and Frank W2XYZ

There is a new website for the event at <https://fspota.org> and there is a Groups.io messaging account to support the event as well at <https://groups.io/g/flspota>. Anyone interested in participating in this event next year is urged to subscribe to the Groups.io account for the latest information.

Participating in the POTA program year round is a great way to keep your ham radio skills sharp, learn how to operate portable and to stay involved with the hobby. You can be an "activator" out in the fresh air working from a park, or you can be a "hunter" working from the comfort of your air conditioned shack. Learn more about POTA and get registered to participate in the national POTA program that has been around since 2016.



Get even more Radio-Active! Start hunting and activating national and state parks!

<https://parksontheair.com>

73, de Paul KN4BAR



Don Watson K9DDO was a member of TARC until 2020 and he was a long time member of the Sarasota ARC. Don and Hans Napfel (SK) WB2ZZB would come down together from Sarasota. Hans was retired from Fairchild and was a major player in development of the "black box" flight recorders.

Hans prepared many QCWA and TARC programs. When Hans died in 2020, Don dropped out of TARC as he no longer had a reason to come down to Venice any more.

Through QCWA and TARC, Don had many friends among the TARC membership. This picture from 2019 of San K3SY, Don K9DDO and Hans WB2ZZB was provided by San.



His many other friends from TARC bid him farewell right after his interment at the Sarasota National Cemetery on July 24th with a nice luncheon at the Joey D's in Sarasota.



2025-2026 TARC Budget Vote at September Meeting

At our September meeting, the board of directors will present the operating budget for next year that begins on October 1, 2025, for approval by the membership. Once approved by the club membership this document will serve as the spending authority for the club Treasurer during the year. Only items not included in the budget or that exceed budgeted spending by more than 10 percent will be brought to the membership for additional approval during the year.

We have been using this process for the past four years now with great results. The treasurer can be more responsive to paying regular, recurring obligations that are included in the budget. Only extraordinary expenditures not included in the budget will require approval from the membership during the year.



Members are asked to review the budget before the next club meeting on September 10th. If you have any questions you can email the treasurer, [Dwight KT4DDS](mailto:Dwight.KT4DDS@tamiamiarc.org), or you can

bring the question to the meeting. The budget can be viewed at this TARC website page link:

<https://tamiamiarc.org/tarc/wp-content/uploads/TARC-Budget-FY-2025-6-1.pdf>

73, de Paul KN4BAR

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, and finding it a very different place.

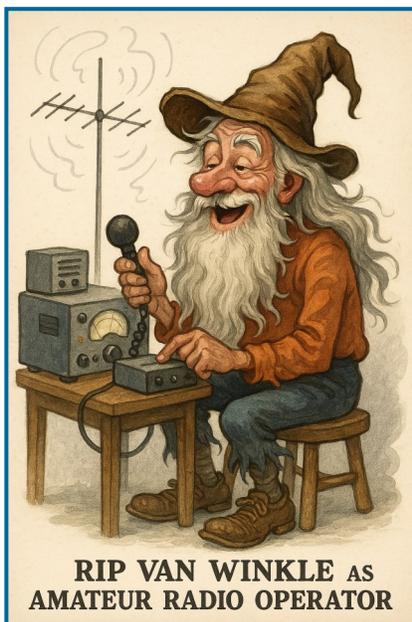
Last month I shared my suggestion that when getting back into radio after some time away, to get the best modern gear you can afford. For me, that means reduced frustration and increased opportunity. Now that I've been up and running for several months, I'd like to share some observations about ham radio as I see it now 30 years later.

Getting Back on CW

I'm trying. Really. But it's not easy. In my first life as a ham, I did pass the 13 WPM test for General, and got to my Advanced license I could do 20+ ultimately, but never took the Extra Class exam. As I mentioned, I'm using some software to get my ear used to the cadence and rhythm of the letters, trying to hear entire letters as a single entity, and ultimately entire words and calls. So far, it's working.

As I listen to CW QSO's lately, I've noticed a few things. Notably:

There's a lot of sloppy CW on the air. Not just the newbies or returning OF's (like me) struggling with a slow fist on a straight key, but guys sending really fast with poor timing and spacing. I also see what must be keyboard generated code sent by sloppy typists. Sloppy fists make for frustrating CW, and I'm not here for



frustration. That said, I won't be embarrassed by my sending, since I probably won't be the worst one out there.

There is not a lot of CW on the HF bands, certainly not as much as I remember. Propagation hasn't been great lately, but daytime listening on 20 – 15 – 10 has been pretty sparse. What's there is largely POTA, special events stations, and the occasional DXpedition. Not much more than callsign, obligatory 5nn, and QTH. Kinda like an FT8 QSO that you can hear.

Still, I want to regain some measure of competence at CW. It will open up a lot of QSO and DX opportunities that I'm not seeing on SSB and FT8. It also has the advantage of not annoying my family when I quietly call CQ at 1:00 AM

Computers are Everywhere!

Not surprised to find how much of a

role the personal computer plays in the modern ham shack. These things were the core of my professional life for 40 plus years. Not everyone uses CAT or USB connections to control their rigs, but even where the rig has no direct computer connection, there are probably one or more computers (and several monitors) keeping track of what's going on. There are thousands of software programs available to the ham, and many are free. Here are a few that I've found that I really like.

Logging Programs – I like QRZ.com for day to day logging, and upload all of my QSOs to LoTW. Most logging programs will upload / download in ADIF format, so it's easy to sync them. Having them in more than one place provides some backup. Club



Log and eQSL are fine also, but I haven't gotten to them yet. One logging program I like is DXLog.net by Chris Kovarik, 9A5K. I use this for my meager contesting efforts, and it has templates available for pretty

(Continued on page 13)

Take a Trip Down Memory Lane



I happened across a directory on our webserver that contained images used in the old, pre-2018 TARC website.
Who do you recognize?
More to Come Next Month!



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 can 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 the

visibility of 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 for the club). 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 10th, 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!** Please use a true personal email address to register. Start the process of creating your HCOL account here: <https://secure.hamclubonline.com/register.php>

Questions/Help....email me. de Paul KN4BAR

TARC WEEKLY RADIO NET SCHEDULE

MONDAYS, 7:30 pm (starting 9/8/25)

7225 KHz LSB
plus 5 or 10 kHz for QRM

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)

CHECK INS WELCOMED on ALL NETS.
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY WILL TRAIN



TARC is an ARRL affiliated club. Are you an ARRL member?

CONTENT NEEDED

With our large club membership representing years and years of professional experience in many different industries and locations, there should not be shortage of great articles submitted to *The Communicator* for publication in our monthly club newsletter.

BUT, There is!

Ham etiquette says no social issues, no religion, and no politics make for good ham discussion. This leaves a huge amount of other good ham related stuff to be talked about.

Please give some thought to writing up something whether it be technical, operating, DX related or just good ham humor. Articles can be 50 words or 500 words or more and anything in between.

Pictures are always a good idea. Some of our members don't read so they only look at the pictures!

Please send you pictures, jokes, one-liners and short stories to

communicaitor@tamiamiarc.org

Shack of the Month

In response to our August call for **Shack of the Month** submissions, the first response received was from Jim N7JIM. It was an unexpected response; but a very creative and timely one: a portable parks on the air (POTA) shack! So, thank you Jim!

Jim wrote in his email submission:

"Paul, attached our pictures of my POTA shack. I am using a Yaesu FT-891, EFHW antenna normally with a 10m and 20m 33' section attached to a 10m telescoping pole. I have an additional 33' I can link onto the antenna which adds 15m and 40m.

For power I am using two 6Ah batteries connected in parallel and will use one 6Ah battery when traveling or for shorter activations. I can easily get 1.5 hours of operation with a heavy pile up using the 6Ah battery. I also have a Xiegi G90 that I have had good success with but wanted the extra punch and power when band conditions aren't that great. When traveling by air I bring a 6m telescoping carbon fiber pole that will fit into checked luggage.

While visiting my son, I made contact with TARC member Jon Phillips W4OMZ as a park-2-park QSO from US-9391 Luce Line Trail, Minneapolis, Minnesota to US-21136 Deep Creek Preserve, Port Charlotte, Florida."

Jim also sent some pictures from an activation he did while on vacation



in July 2025 from US-1048 Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville, Alabama. He turned the park pavilion shown above into his portable POTA station for the day.



Parks on the Air started as a national one year only event in 2016 sponsored by ARRL. It has morphed into a ham radio phenomena over the last 9 years with hundreds of hams on the air every day calling CQ from a national or state park and hundreds more "hunters" sitting at home in their shacks answering the call! Get even more **Radio-Active!**

<https://parksontheair.com>

73, de Paul KN4BAR

AA4TI 2025 FQP Expedition Station Saga

The Florida QSO Party has been a favorite for me (AA4TI) ever since I relocated to Florida from Costa Rica in 2018. For the 2021 FQP I decided to operate as an Expedition station, and since that time, I have been working as an Expedition entry every year while honing my routes and station to maximize performance.

I have traditionally operated as a SOAB Mixed Expedition station from County lines. This plan has always produced good results since every QSO counts for two counties. However, the plan is not without problems. First and foremost is the difficulty in finding suitable county lines to operate from.

As a County Hunter, I make it a point that all of my operating locations split the county lines so that my contacts are acceptable under MARAC rules for county line operations. Compounding this issue is the requirement for all of the county lines to be reasonably close together so that the lost time traveling between each operational site is minimal. Typically, set up, tear down and travel time gobbles up about half of the available contest period so that the station is actually only on the air for about 10 hours of the 20 hour period.

The Expedition station that I have assembled requires a fair amount of “real estate” since my choice of antenna has been a 33 foot vertical that has four 25 foot ground radials. Most of the county lines that I have

operated from are located on rural dirt roads or private property because of the need for “real estate” to set up the antenna. In fact, this year the AA4TI Expedition only operated from one county line that was on a paved road right of way.



I use Randy Majors Maps with county line overlays along with Google Street views to determine exact GPS coordinates for my operating sites. Obviously, permission has to be obtained to operate from private property owners in some cases, which has never been much of a problem. I learned from experience that actual site visits are a must in advance of the FQP.

A few years ago, I did not make these visits and relied on Google Street View. At one location, I discovered that a big solar panel farm had been built near the county line sometime after the Google Street View pictures were taken. This solar

farm completely wiped out my radio reception and I had to find another location on the fly which resulted in a fair amount of lost time during the party.

I usually start preparing for the FQP a couple of weeks in advance. Over the past several years, this task has taken less time each year since I have built a complete station dedicated to FQP alone. Most of the year, this station resides in my closet on a high shelf.

My routes to each county line have been honed and improved each year. The station itself includes the portable antenna system with UnUn and ground radials, an operating desk that is custom fitted to the passenger side front seat of my Honda CRV, radio, tuner, power supply, Winkeyer, paddle, cables and ground rods, laptop computer, lighting, generator, etc. It still takes a full day to get the equipment installed in the car. Once the desk is in place with



all of the equipment set on it, everything gets “wire tied” to the desk for safety purposes. Nothing causes a bigger “OH S*&t moment than when equipment starts flying around from

AA4TI 2025 FQP Expedition Station Saga (cont'd)

The Communicator September 2025

hard braking or a back road pothole.

No part of the station is grounded/bonded to the vehicle... the car is nothing more than a shelter from the elements. On Saturday night during the FQP, at dusk, I can close up the car, start the engine, run the AC and keep all of the bugs out! We do have a whole lot of bugs that start showing up when the sun goes down. With my task lighting turned on, my vehicle becomes a magnet for mosquitos and various flying critters so it is critical to be able to close the windows of the vehicle.

After the FQP, it takes quite a few hours to “de-trash” the car and dismantle everything and stow it away for next year.

Setting up the station, operating in the FQP and stowing the station has become an increasingly tiring event. The two days of FQP usually have me leaving the house at 10am on Saturday, and returning home about 11:30 pm that night. Then, after just a few hours of sleep, I leave the house on Sunday morning around 5:30am and return home about 7:30 pm. So, I decided that this year will likely be my last “full effort” Expedition operation – I’m 75 years old, and not getting any younger. I’m not sure what the 2026 FQP will look like but there is a full year ahead in which to make that determination. Maybe I can be a 1X1 call sign next time around?

To that end, I decided that I would try to go out with a “bang” this year and bring in a second operator to

help reduce the burden. Enter Dave – K8DV. Dave lives in Ohio and has been a friend for many years. When I lived in Ohio, Dave spear-headed many SQP operations in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Our group was quite successful having “wins” in all three states multiple times. A couple of times, we set Ohio QP records



using a group of seasoned operators and five radios from Dave’s house in Goshen, Ohio. Those were massive operations that required a Herculean effort by Dave to set up and network.

Dave usually comes to Florida for a visit to HamCation every year. This year, when I told him I was thinking of not doing the FQP Expedition, he offered to fly back down in April to be a second operator and another source of “labor” for setup, operating and tear down of the Expedition station. I readily accepted his offer. Many “Thank You’s” go out to Dave for making this trip to play radio in the FQP. And “Thank You’s”

are due our wives for putting up with this insanity. My wife, however, has already spent the FQP prize money (??? - see last comment under “Tidbits”). Dave’s wife is still working out how she will get her pound of flesh from him.

After brain-storming ideas to maximize the 2025 Expedition effort, Dave and I decided that we would do two complete stations – one dedicated to CW and another for SSB. On paper, this sounded like a great idea, but in practice, it turned out to be a huge effort ... much more than double the effort of putting a single station in play.

Dave shipped down five bandpass filters (one was all band selectable) and some misc. fittings and grounding materials. My son (AA8Z) shipped me back the IC7300 that I gave him as a permanent loan. I started building a second operating desk for the back seat of the Honda CRV and assembling all of the cables and radio bonding/grounding straps. I’m a firm believer of using short coax jumpers and correctly sized inter-connecting cables with loads of ferrite beads. Too many times in the past I’ve had stray RF show up unexpectedly. The one constant with Expedition stations is that Mr. Murphy will always show up to create problems. I began assembling the rest of the stuff to set up two nearly identical IC7300 stations with LDG AT600 tuners, WinKeyers, etc.

TO BE CONTINUED IN OCTOBER

73, de Steve AA4TI

Thoughts and Observations for the Active DXer

In this first issue:

- Were you looking for 'Chasing DX'?
- ARRL introduces 10-Band DXCC
- What does KX1G, with 346 entities confirmed, have in common with LA1K, who has 382 confirmed entities?

Were you looking for 'Chasing DX'????

If you were looking for the Chasing DX column you found it. Same topic (DXing), but different name, format and content. After 30 monthly columns dedicated to sharing advice on how to find, work, and confirm contacts with DX stations, I felt we all needed a pause to let the advice filter in, let you fly on your own, so to speak. But chasing DX gets the juices flowing. There are always issues, ideas and challenges. This new column will give you a few things each month to think about. And if you want to add your 2 cents worth, jump right in.

ARRL introduces 10-Band DXCC

If you thought 5-Band DXCC was hard, wait 'till you go after the new 10-Band DXCC award. 6m to 160m, with the exception of 60m. I am betting there are people among us who have achieved 10-band DXCC already. (I am definitely not one of them, but I just discovered I can work 6m on my hex beam). Let me hear from you.

What does KX1G, with 346 entities confirmed, have in common with LA1K, who has 382 confirmed entities?

Answer: We need to confirm 2 more DXCC entities to achieve #1 Honor Roll. Forget me. Think about LA1K, and a whole bunch of hams worldwide who have 370, 380, and even 390+ once-current entities confirmed. They may have attained #1 Honor Roll

Just sayin'..... (new column)

(Worked them all!) but the DXCC listings show they have fewer than 340 of the most recent current entities confirmed. Hey, ARRL! You need to publish, annually, the Name/Calls/Entity counts of everyone who has worked 340 or more DXCC entities. They were the best of the best and their achievements ought to be remembered. Indeed, a notebook directory or a wall plaque that visitors to HQ could see would be a nice addition.

That's it for this edition of 'Just sayin'.

73! Tony KX1G



*TARC members are encouraged to suggest topics or submit contributions to 'Just sayin...'. Please limit contributions to about a half page, which is about 250 words. Submissions will be included when space is available. Send them to KX1G@gmail.com.

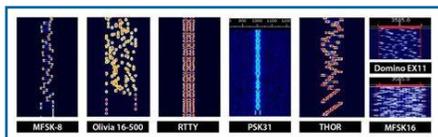
73, Tony KX1G



Be a good operator. Click the image to learn the code.

The Ongoing Adventures of Ham vanWinkle (cont'd)

much every contest I've tried. What a joy to have the software do the dupe checking and scoring in real time as opposed to the paper logs and dupe sheets we used 30 years



ago. Lots of others out there, these are the ones I've tried.

Digital Modes Terminal Programs – I've used WSJT-X, FLDigi, and WinWarbler. WSJT-X is for FT8 / FT4. The other are for keyboard stuff. I haven't gotten to TTY or SSTV modes yet, so I'm mostly just monitoring. Their CW readers are fair at best.

Morse / CW Trainers – If you're trying to get your CW chops back, there are lots of programs available to help you practice. Learning methodologies are like religions, and I'm not here to start that war. I've downloaded and installed Just Learn Morse Code, and I find it pretty flexible. I'm having it send me random words at the moment, and my accuracy is definitely improving. Time spent practicing is time well spent.

Raspberry Pi Stuff – Lot of stuff is available specifically written for the Raspberry Pi. If you're not familiar

with this amazing little device, look it up online. It's a sub \$100 complete computer about the size of a deck of cards, typically running a Linux OS. Perhaps the most popular ham app available for the Pi (and for Linux in general) is HamClock. It's more than just a UTC clock, it has a grey line map, propagation data DX spots, and more all on one screen. The Raspberry Pi is also the core component of lots of digital radio hotspots, and there are lots of kits that allow you to experiment and interface the Pi to control just about anything.

And then there's YouTube. Thirty years ago if you needed to look something up, it meant opening a book (if you had it). Now, between Google and YouTube all of the



knowledge of the known universe is at your fingertips. Countless videos about rig and station setup. If you have a question, someone has probably already posted the answer. Don't be afraid to search online for software to help with some particular need. Just beware that (like for this

column!) there is no guarantee of the poster's competence. As a famous post by Abraham Lincoln warns "you can't trust everything you read on the internet".

Captain Obvious Signing Off (for now)

Maybe most of what I write here is a blinding flash of the obvious for the seasoned ham. I get that. I hope my observations and experiences strike a chord with the many hams, like me, who are coming back to something both familiar and strange at the same time. I don't pretend to be all-knowing and correct – far from it – and welcome others to share their experiences and recommendations.

de Chris KK4QA

Editor's Note: I am extremely grateful to Chirs for sharing his experiences and insights upon returning to the wonderful world of amateur radio. We have many club members who have or now are experiencing this same renewal. Even more impactful is that these articles can serve as an introduction and road map to how to get started in HF amateur radio for all the newly licensed amateurs in the club. **Everybody: Get Radio-Active!**



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.



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

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

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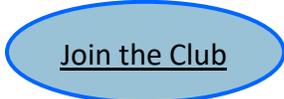
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- Nancy Heinrich N4ZM
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Annual Club Dues are due on January 1st of each year and are considered past due on March 1st of each year.

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 year's.
Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.



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