



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

I know its early but this is the November newsletter. I hope everyone has a great time with family and friends this month.



We owe a big thank you to Jim N7JIM for planning, resourcing, and conducting a "How to Solder" class before the October club meeting. He had a dozen or so club members in attendance and half of them got to do some soldering.

Jim is also hosting a Parks on the Air (POTA) open house on November 15th as a show-tell-do and hands-on event for club members. See the article inside for details.

December 12-14 is the annual ARRL 10m Contest event. TARC has

KN4BAR



competed as a club station for several years now. See the article inside for details.

Yes, the newsletter was published early this month. I will be on a road trip to and along the Blue Ridge Parkway for some great fall foliage experiences from 10/23 thru 11/2. I didn't want to have to worry about getting this published while on the road.

We only offer club logo attire for sale twice a year: fall and spring. Now is the time to get your order in—using the online store please. It keeps the work load down on the volunteer order taker.....me. The board will be looking at other options for providing club logo apparel in the future as was discussed at the club meeting in October. If you have any suggestions for possible vendors or suppliers to consider please send an email to

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

- Ham Club Online is ACTIVE..... 2
- TARC Email Contact List..... 2
- COMMITTEE REPORTS 3
- Pine View School Update..... 4
- Club Shirts, Hats, Name Tags... 5
- POTA Open House Invite 5
- Ham vanWinkle 6
- ARRL 10m Contest in Dec. 7
- Shack of the Month 8
- Fox Hunting is Back! 9

Do you have content to share with other club members? Email to: communicator@tamiamiarc.org

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Meeting—Nov 12, 2025](#)
Marconi Transmitter Site in Nova Scotia, Gerard KQ4DVD
- ◆ [POTA Open House—Nov 15, 2025](#)
See page 8 inside
- ◆ [Meeting—Dec 10, 2025](#)
[Election of Club Officers](#)
- ◆ [Holiday Party, December 17th at the Hotel Venezia in Venice](#)
- ◆ [Meeting—Jan 14, 2026](#)
[POTA How to Do it, Jim N7JIM](#)

Welcome New Members

10/11/25	First Year	Debbie Marshall	Technician	pending
10/11/25	Member	Steven Valeski	General	KC4UYR
9/10/25	Member	Robert Gerhart	Technician	KR4BJZ
9/8/25	Member	Darrel Steinhour	General	K4KSB
8/17/25	Member	Richard Lewis	General	KN4NBU

Ham Club Online (HCOL) for Membership Management is Working Well

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

We successfully migrated all club membership records to Ham Club Online (HCOL) in late September. The bulk mail feature of HCOL was used on 2025-09-27 12:35:46 EDT to send the October issue of *The Communicator* to all 165 club members. The system reported that two of the email addresses were undeliverable to the address used. The migration process further determined that 3 club member addresses were not valid and we noticed that 4 club members have never provided an email address to the club.

The results of this first bulk emailing were disappointing in that 9 of our club members can't be contacted by email and this is the primary way the club has to keep our membership informed about club events and activities.

SO.....if you did not receive an email from the club on 2025-09-27 12:35:46 EDT then please do two things immediately. First, look in your spam folder to see if your

email client service flagged this email as spam. If so, then mark the message as “not spam” so that your email client will deliver future emails from our HCOL system to your inbox. Second, if the message was not in spam then please notify the club's Membership Manager, Roger N9RM, and provide him with the correct email address to use for you in our club membership records.

Email: membership@tamiamiarc.org

Please notice that HCOL will NOT accept or use a callsign@arrl.net email address. The ARRL's mail forwarding service is notoriously bad and routinely fails to forward properly.

The Communicator newsletter can always be found on the club website: <http://tamiamiarc.org>

If you have questions or comments about HCOL and TARC's membership management, please send an email to hcolhelp@tamiamiarc.org.

73, de Paul KN4BAR

President's Message (cont'd)

bod@tamiamiarc.org.

Our online store is also taking reservations until Dec 10 for the club's annual Holiday Party on Dec 17th at Hotel Venezia on the bypass in Venice. Come celebrate the holidays with us.

We are coming up on the annual club meeting on December 10th when officers and directors are elected for

the 2026 year. John KQ4ELH is the nominating committee chairman. Please let him know of your interest in positions. So far I believe there is a candidate for every position except for a new club president. Please give some consideration to being our next leader and help chart the future of TARC in the coming years.

73, de Paul KN4BAR

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine
Shaun KQ4YAX

VE Testing
Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 10/11/25
Number tested: 4
Passed: 4
New Members: 2
Member Upgrades: 1
Next Test Date: 11/08/25

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
Roger N9RM

As of: 10/14/25
Total Membership:..... 168
140 Regular Members
4 Associate Members
8 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/>

On 10/09/25 we noticed a problem with the 146.805 MHz repeater. It appears to be a receiver problem. The spare Kenwood repeater has been placed in service. Echo Link support is NOT available at this time.

The North Port repeater on 147.120 MHz is off the air **PERMANENTLY**.

Remote Station
Tom W8QJF

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

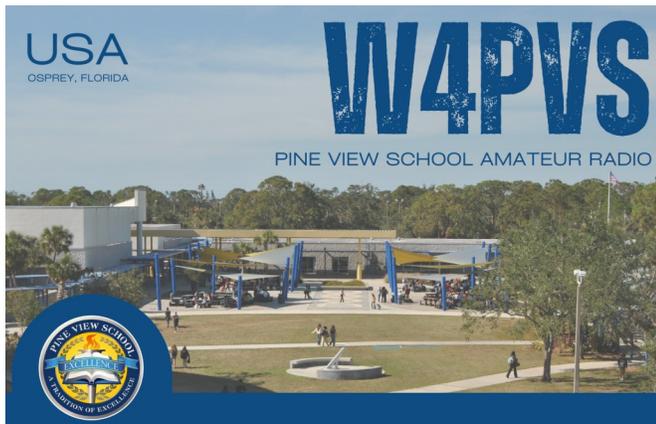
Several club members are regular users of the HF station and they give it great signal reports sent and received. If you are antenna or cost constrained from trying HF comms, this is for you!

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 an occasional guest net control to relieve them on the Tuesday DMR and Wednesday 10 meter nets.

Pine View School Update

The students in the Pine View School ham radio club have designed their own QSL card and TARC has used the ARRL grant funds to purchase 500 cards for the school. We have also assisted them in setting up a QRZ account for the W4PVS club call sign under the teacher sponsor, Marie Rosander's call sign KQ4ZVO. They already have a few QSO confirmations!



The club vice president, **Diya Panthulu KQ4ZYN**, has graciously given permission for us to publish here an article she recently submitted to the school's monthly news paper for publication. Her article is republished with permission at right.

With Steve NS4P and Paul KN4BAR out of town for much of October the club now has two new members working with the PVS club students. Thank you Jon W4OMX and Mark KQ4EKK. The PVS club students are getting ready to compete in the October 20-24 semiannual ARRL School Club Roundup.



Jon W4OMX finds POTA spots for the PVS operators to work.

A student's perspective on the school club from the school newsletter, *The Torch* :



School club VP Diya KQ4ZYN wrote: "At Pine View, students in the HAM Radio club are learning about communication beyond cell phones, having obtained their FCC licenses to operate radios to communicate with people across the world — no internet needed."

With the help of radios, Pine View partnered with Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC) to establish contact with astronaut Suni Williams on the International Space Station in January. Continued student interest led to the idea of a permanent radio station being built on campus.

Paul Nienaber, member of TARC, described how the radio works.

"The radio that we use generates an electromagnetic wave, and it goes out over a wire to the antenna. The antenna then lets that electromagnetic wave radiate out into the atmosphere," Nienaber said, "And at the other end, another antenna does the same thing. It captures that electromagnetic wave, turns it back into an electrical signal that goes down the wire to another radio... [then] I push the button on the microphone, I say hello, and somebody answers and says hello, and we talk."

This radio station will be built on the side of the yellow building — chosen by TARC as an optimal location due to its lack of obstructions.

Marie Rosander, HAM Radio Club sponsor, said "there [are] guidelines being followed. We have had all this equipment since March... now we're just waiting for the facilities to mount it because, since this is the school's property, we cannot do it ourselves. I see the students when they work together. They also problem solve, when we have any problems with the radio, and it's completely student-led... and we don't know where it will go." Rosander said, "I just love how fun [it is] ... I think it's just a cool thing that students can experience and gain a lot of knowledge from.

73, de Diya KQ4ZYN



Mark KQ4EKK helps PVS operators learn about hotspots and QRZ.

Get 'em while you can. We only open up the ordering system for these club embroidered logo clothing items twice a year....fall and spring. The current ordering window closes on November 6th. You can place your order on the club's website online store page: <https://tamiamiarc.org/wp-easycart-parent/store/>

You can pay online using PayPal, or you can choose at check out, to make a "direct payment" with your promise to make a cash, check, or credit card payment directly to the club treasurer at any club meeting or by mail to TARC, PO Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274.

Our local vendors for these club embroidered logo items prefer to receive bulk orders like this at certain times of the year instead of taking

individual orders during an entire year.

Bulk purchase orders will be placed with our local vendors for these items on Monday, November 6, 2025. We must receive your order by then. Delivery of placed orders takes 2 to 3 weeks and will be made in person to club members at the next scheduled club meeting or event.

We need to thank Tom W1ICU and Richard KQ4APW for being the past club contacts for this activity. For this year, I will be taking and coordinating the orders. If you have any questions, comments, or complaints please let me know.

73, de Paul KN4BAR
paul9aber@gmail.com



Plastic Name Tag
\$9.00



Trucker's Cap
White or Club Green
\$28.00



Sport-Tek® Micro-pique Sport-Wick® Polo
White or Club Green
\$38



Port Authority® Silk Touch™ Polo
Club Green ONLY
\$34

POTA Open House—Learn How to Do It!

I will be hosting an "Introduction to POTA" event on Saturday, November 15th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at Myakka State Forest. I will stick around after the event for anyone who wants to take the opportunity to activate the park or observe a park activation.

I will cover the following:

- Basic Rules
- Researching a Park to Activate
- Equipment Setup
- Activating a Park, making QSOs
- Submitting Logs



It doesn't take much equipment to get started and there are no HOA antenna restrictions!

The Myakka State Forest is located at 2000 S River Rd, Englewood, FL 34223. Drive down the gravel road about 1/2 mile and there is a covered pavilion on the left just after the park offices. It would be very beneficial if you registered with the parksontheair.com website before attending and that way you can get credit for any contacts you make. If you make the minimum

number of 10 contacts required you could actually "activate" the park under your own call sign.

73, de Jim N7JIM

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.

In past columns, I wrote about things I missed from the past and things I didn't recognize about the present. This month, I'd like to share some thoughts on things that both returning hams and newly licensed hams probably don't know much about.

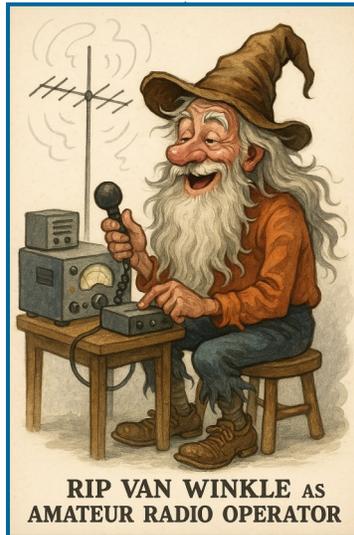
What the Heck is a Baofeng?

When I left ham radio in the early 90's, most consumer goods manufacturing was just beginning to migrate to China from Korea and Japan, with most ham gear still coming from Japan. Though I was used to consumer electronics from traditionally Japanese brands now being manufactured in China, I guess I was unprepared to find new brands of amateur equipment originating there. So when I see ads for Baofeng multi-band HT's selling for about the price of a six pack and a pack of cigarettes, I'm astonished. Can they really work? Are they just burners? What's the catch?

I didn't buy one, so I can't answer as to their quality, but they do have a following. At that price, if you lose or break one, it's no big deal. But what they bring to the game is incredible. Here's why I think they are a big deal:

- New hams, especially new Technicians, now have an entry into analog VHF / UHF for almost nothing.
- There are also DMR digital / analog radios available for ~\$50.

But here's the thing. One, these radios aren't necessarily new-ham friendly, and two, what the heck do you do with them once you figure out how to set them up?



Digital Radio – WIIFM?

Digital radio is still a mystery to me. WIIFM is the question all salespeople try to answer to close a deal: What's In It For ME? That's a question I haven't been able to answer yet for myself, but I bet there are a lot of new / returning hams for which it may be just what the doctor ordered. I may need to see it in action in a couple of situations to see if it is worth the challenge of navigating competing protocols, finding access OTA, buying / configuring a hotspot, etc. I'm still not sure what to do with it when you get it to work.

On the other hand, good old 2M FM activity around here is deader than a mackerel on a red tide beach, so if you want to use an HT for anything more than hearing the time every hour, DMR may be your only hope.

Call to Action

What makes TARC such an awesome club is the knowledge, experience, and helpfulness of its members. I believe we all bring something to the table. In the very recent past, members have done demonstrations and presentations on a number of topics of great value to new and returning hams, such as the POTA presentation, the soldering clinic, the antenna analyzer presentation, etc. We always have an interesting and educational presentation at the end of our meetings, but how about if we also have some hands-on interactive sessions before the meeting, such as the above mentioned clinics and demos? Some suggestions:

- DMR for newbies with some hands on demonstrations. WIIFM?
- RTTY modes, including PSK31, RTTY, and other modes I don't know about that let me have a

(Continued on page 7)

keyboard chat OTA. These were very niche modes 30 years ago.

- DX spotting techniques and beacons
- Using the club's remote station
- Using antenna analyzers / understanding Smith Charts

With that said, let me throw this back to you, fellow TARCian:

- What would you like to see a hands-on clinic demonstrate?
- Would you be interested in coming to the monthly meeting 30 – 60 minutes early to lead or participate in such a clinic?

Have you recently discovered something new and fascinating that you would like to share with the club?

If you have any suggestions, please post to our groups.io channel. I'll bet that if you would like more information about something, someone else in the club is also curious, and someone else in the club knows the answer.

73, Chris KK4QA

Editors Note:

It looks like Chris has stopped reminiscing and now wants to take a more active role in the club to answer the burning question in every new ham's life....."I have a license; What do I do with it?"

Chris's timing couldn't be better! Bob KN4RKE who is both a TARC and EARS club member is starting a Google Meet video conference room online to help answer this question. Stay tuned for details in the coming weeks and months.

73, de Paul KN4BAR

ARRL 10m Contest—Call to Action

After a one year absence from the ARRL 10-Meter Contest due to equipment damaged by Hurricane Milton, the club will once again do a multi-operator effort in the 2025 ARRL 10-Meter Contest. The contest is scheduled for **December 12, 13, & 14**.

The ARRL 10-Meter contest has historically been a big worldwide event, with many individuals and clubs competing. While we seem to be on the downside of the 11-year propagation cycle, conditions are still good enough that it should still draw a big crowd of participants.

What makes this contest different is that the 10-Meter band is basically a daylight band. The band opens as soon as the sun comes up in the morning, and dies out when the sun sets, giving Operators an opportunity to get some sleep. But long-time par-

ticipants know that the band has been known to come alive late in the evening. That's when it really becomes fun as it seems the whole world is on the air. It also bears repeating, the three days give everyone plenty of time to accommodate your weekend schedule. The event starts at 8pm (00:00 UTC) on Friday night December 12, picks up at a leisurely 8am on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and ends Sunday night December 14 at 8pm (23:59 UTC).

We seriously hope all club members, regardless of experience, know that you are welcome and encouraged to participate. Newer members will find this a great contest to get experience in a low pressure, fun event. You can choose to operate using SSB or CW modes. Sorry, no FT8 in this contest. New to CW? You can be paired with an experienced operator. This is a

great opportunity to learn about contesting and your skills are certain to improve. And don't be put off because this is a 3-day event. Spend as much or as little time participating as you wish. Come to operate or come to observe and socialize, nothing brings hams together better than a contest.

The event will be hosted by Al Culbert, KOAL, at his home station in Nokomis. The operating schedule, directions to Al's house and other details of the contest will be published on the TARC's Groups.io page in coming weeks. We urge you to Sign Up early to get times that best fit your schedule.

If you still have questions or to sign up now please contact **Tony KX1G** at KX1G@ARRL.NET, 978-956-3430. 73.

Shack of the Month



Sorry!

No Ham or
Hams available
this month.

Fortunately,

we have plenty of turkey
in November.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Wednesday, December 17th, 6 to 9 pm

Location: **Hotel Venezia**
425 Us Highway 41 Bypass N., Venice

RSVP: by December 10th please
[https://tamiamiarc.org/store/?
model_number=Res-1](https://tamiamiarc.org/store/?model_number=Res-1)

The Englewood Amateur Radio Society (EARS) has held several well attended fox hunts during 2025. The most recent one was held on Saturday, October 18, 2025 and, via our TARC Groups.io message service, all of us in TARC were invited to participate in the fun. Bob KN4RKE is the EARS club fox master and he has become more creative and devious in locating the hidden fox transmitter for participants to find.



This time the fox was hidden in the Rotunda West area of Charlotte county. The many canals separating parts of the community from each other and the circular nature of the road network makes in nearly impossible to get from point A to point B in any kind of a straight line.

Bob setup the fox transmitter

near a park bench, along a paved walking trail well away from the Rotunda West Community Park parking lot. Finding the park location was hard enough but then you still had to go looking for Bob with the big smile on his face sitting on the park bench by the play ground. Challenging and fun too!!

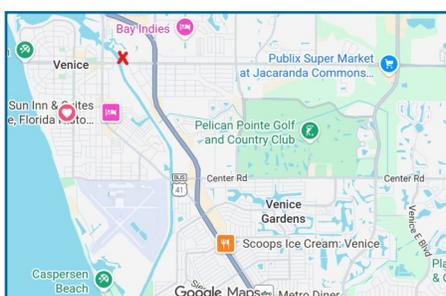


- First Place: KN4YIU and KN4YIV, Shirley Duke and Steve Malone (21 minutes) on the left.
- Second Place: KN4BAR, Paul Nienaber (32 minutes) on the right.
- Third Place: KE4VEM and KN4PHQ, Matthew Henry and John Hodgden
- Fourth Place: KE5ODR , Doug Fraizer

EARS Can't Have All the FUN. TARC Fox Hunt on November 22nd!

A few years back, TARC did try to hold a few fox hunts. Turn out was minimal and the conditions and locations of the hunts were less than optimal. Bob KN4RKE seems to have found a great formula for holding these events and he has agreed to help us do one here in the Venice area on Saturday, November 22, 2025.

This will be a driving hunt with minimal walking required. You will have to get out of your car a few times to get new bearings on the fox location. We will start with signup and registration between 9 and 9:30 am in the parking lot of Legacy Park near the old Venice Train Station. The start point is marked with the **red "X"** on the map shown here. The fox transmitter will be somewhere in the boundaries of the map.



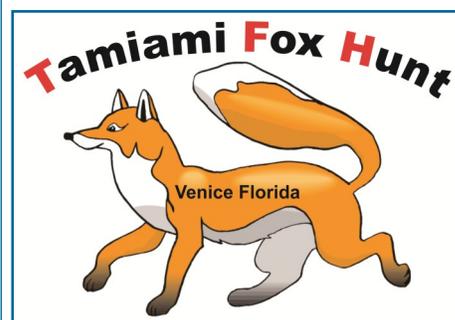
With some help from Bob KN4RKE we will publish instructions for the hunt and maybe a little better map. I think we will use a fox transmitter frequency of 146.565 MHz. Keep an eye on Groups.io messages in November for details.

The internet has 100s, maybe 1,000s, of videos and instructions on how to do radio direction finding (RDF), a.k.a. fox hunting. These videos give you tips on how to do it and what

equipment is needed to do it well.

The weather should be great this time of year and many of our seasonal club members should be back in town by then too. So, mark your calendars for 9 am to noon on November 22nd for some fox hunting fun!

73, de Paul KN4BAR



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 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 — EchoLink W4AC-R (Node# 513309)

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

<[FULL REPEATER INFORMATION HERE](#)>

WEEKLY RADIO NET SCHEDULE

MONDAYS, 5:00 pm (HF net)
7258 KHz LSB

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

<[FULL NET SCHEDULE INFORMATION HERE](#)>

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 are 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 and Nancy N4ZM who acknowledge and thank contributing writers and photographers.

2025 TARC Officers:

- President**
Paul Nienaber KN4BAR
- Vice President**
Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ
- Secretary**
Randy Aitken KO4PIV
secretary@tamiamiarc.org
- Treasurer**
Dwight Sullivan KT4DDS
treasurer@tamiamiarc.org

2025 TARC Directors:

- Brian Jacobson W1JBD
- Steve Phillips NS4P
- Nancy Heinrich N4ZM
- OPEN POSITION** 10/10/25
- Roger McEntarfer N9RM

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

Annual Club Dues are due each year on the anniversary date of your last dues payment. The club’s membership system sends automatic renewal notices by email 30 days in advance of a due date.

Regular member: \$25.00/year Family membership: \$30.00/year
Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.

New licensee: Tested by TARC VE– gets a free first year of club membership.



TARC Website: www.tamiamiarc.org

Contact: webmaster@tamiamiarc.org

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

