



# THE COMMUNICATOR



## President's Message

Another great club year is coming to an end and what a year it has been!

- We facilitated an amateur radio contact for the local Pine View School (PVS) with the International Space Station under the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) umbrella.
- We obtained a grant from the ARRL to fund the ARISS contact and to create a ham radio station at PVS. We trained and license 17 new Technician Class operators at the school and the school now has an active ham radio club sponsored by TARC!
- We took over the sponsorship of a state-wide and national amateur radio event. The Florida State Parks on the Air Contest in April of each year is now managed by a committee of TARC members.
- Of course we did all the other normal things TARC has done

## KN4BAR



for many years now too. We had great member participation in the Meglathon Races and Shark's Tooth Festival SES in Venice and we made great scores in the Winter and Summer field day events.

None of this would have been possible without the support and participation of our many club members. YOU make the club. Without YOU we would just be a bunch of grumpy old hams having breakfasts together and meeting once a month to tell old war stories. NO...TARC is a very active club of great hams who enjoy this great hobby of ours, and who support local events and activities.

Thank you all for being great club members and my very best 73 and holiday wishes for you and your

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Meeting—Dec 10, 2025](#)  
[Election of Club Officers](#)  
[Club Group Photograph Taken](#)
- ◆ [W4AC 10m contest station—Dec 12-14, 2025](#)
- ◆ [Holiday Party, December 17th at the Hotel Venezia in Venice](#)
- ◆ [Meeting—Jan 14, 2026](#)  
[POTA How to Do it, Jim N7JIM](#)
- ◆ [Winter Field Day](#)  
[Jan 24-25, 2026](#)

## Welcome New Members

11/19/25	Member	Bernie Schmelz	General	K1BES
11/12/25	Member	Cieran George	Technician	KR4FW
11/6/25	Member	Thomas Auth	Extra	K3HV
10/11/25	First Year	Debbie Marshall	Technician	KR4H-
10/11/25	Member	Steven Valeski	General	KC4UY

## Tips for Using Ham Club Online (HCOL)

### 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](mailto:bod@tamiamiarc.org)

Secretary

[secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

Treasurer

[treasurer@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:treasurer@tamiamiarc.org)

Volunteer Examiner Team

[VE-team@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:VE-team@tamiamiarc.org)

Ask Elmer ham assistance

[askelmer@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:askelmer@tamiamiarc.org)

The Communicator submissions

[communicator@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:communicator@tamiamiarc.org)

Quartermaster (equipment mgr)

[quartermaster@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:quartermaster@tamiamiarc.org)

Librarian (ham book library)

[librarian@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:librarian@tamiamiarc.org)

Membership Coordinator

[membership@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:membership@tamiamiarc.org)

Webmaster—report a problem

[websupport@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:websupport@tamiamiarc.org)

December is that time of year when we used to start hounding our members to pay their annual dues. With the recent adoption of HCOL for club membership management, that is no longer the case. Club member dues are now paid on the one year anniversary date of the last date you paid your dues. The best part is that HCOL will send each member a reminder about 30 days before their dues are due. The even more better best part [sic] about using HCOL is that members can easily pay their annual dues online...even without logging in to HCOL to do this.

Just entering your call sign is enough for HCOL to find your membership record and to take you to a dues payment screen using PayPal to collect your dues via an online payment. The following screen shot shows just how easy this is. You start by going to the HCOL login screen:

<https://www.hamclubonline.com/>



You don't even need to log in to pay your dues. Just click this menu choice and follow the prompts to easily pay online.

If you haven't logged in yet to your account that too is pretty easy to accomplish. You already have an account as a club member and HCOL knows your call sign. So to get yourself logged in the first time just click the link below the login prompts that says “forgot password”.



You will be asked for your call sign and then HCOL will send a password reset email to the address you used when you first joined the club and the address we use to send your monthly **Communicator** newsletter.

73, de Paul KN4BAR

## President's Message (cont'd)

families, and for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Speaking of the new year, there is a lot going on then too:

- 12/25 W4AC contest station
- 01/26 Winter Field Day
- 02/26 Buss to Hamcation
- 03/26 Meglathon Race Support
- 04/26 W4AC Florida QSO Party
- 04/26 Sharks Tooth Festival SES
- 04/26 W4AC Florida State POTA
- 06/26 ARRL Field Day

And my final parting message to the club is to remind everyone that December is the time for the club's annual meeting and the election of new officers and directors. Please plan to attend and make your voice heard. We still need a candidate for the office of President. WHO will be the next leader of TARC and WHO will take the club into the future?

73, de Paul KN4BAR

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Sunshine**  
Shaun KQ4YAX

**VE Testing**  
Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 11/8/25  
Number tested: 1  
Passed: 1  
New Members: 0  
Member Upgrades: 0  
Next Test Date: 12/6/25

**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: 11/21/25**  
**Total Membership:..... 171**  
145 Regular Members  
1 Associate Members  
8 First Year Members  
17 Life Members

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<https://tamiamiarc.org/membership/members/>  
**REVIEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORD FOR ACCURACY. SEND CHANGES TO:**  
[membership@tamiamiarc.org](mailto: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 146.805 repeater has been restored to operation. Adjustments to the duplexers and receiver, repair of the amplifier, and upgrades to connecting cables seem to have eliminated the interference problems. Echolink is again available.

**Remote Station**  
Tom W8QJF

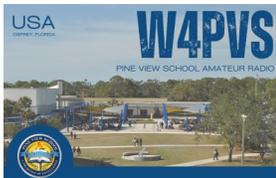
<https://tamiamiarc.org/club-remote-hf-station>

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 at Pine View School (PVS) participated in the 2025 Fall ARRL School Club Roundup during the October 17-20 event. Operating with a portable ground mounted Transworld vertical dipole antenna they had 90 contacts that included working 27 states, 8 other school stations, and 9 DX contacts. They achieved a contest score of 7,020 points! See the [YouTube video](#) of these great kids in action.

On October 31st Steve NS4P and Mark KQ4EKK installed a permanent horizontal EFHF 40-10 meter antenna using the two, 25-foot flag pole masts that were finally installed by the PVS facilities staff the week before. After some tuning, the antenna gives great SWR performance on all bands. This should greatly increase the student club members ability to hear and make contact with other HF stations.



The Diamond A-300 gives the station V/UHF capability. Maybe a student net with the club at Sarasota Military Academy someday?



Not too bad for a Multi-band antenna. Transceiver tuner can handle this easily.



The teacher sponsor, Marie KQ4ZVO, has proposed a schedule for kit building with the students later this year and for weather ballon tracking and fox hunting next year. Marie and three of the student club

members have been studying for the General Class license exam. Hopefully someone in the club will be able to serve as the control operator full time to allow the school's club station and student operators to get on the air more often than just once a week when TARC provides the control operator.

**73, de Paul KN4BAR**



Do you recognize the all electric work truck that helped make all this possible?

# HAPPY HOLIDAY WISHES TO ALL!



**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)

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## POTA Open House—A Fun and Educational Event



We had a good turnout for the TARC POTA (Parks on the Air) event at Myakka State forest on November 15th. Seven of the participants activated the park by making at least 10 QSOs within the park boundaries. Several were first time activators and band conditions were good which resulted in multiple DX QSOs. Activation modes used were SSB, Digital and CW across several bands. We also had 4 stations and 7 different antennas set up to show some of the options available for portable operation.

A copy of the presentation given is on the TARC web site under Elmer's Corner tab

<https://tamiamiarc.org/tarc/wp-content/uploads/Pota-Activation-Slides.pdf>

I will be giving the same presentation at the January TARC Monthly meeting. We can also host additional local POTA events if there is an interest. TARC is sponsoring the annual Florida Parks on the Air Contest event and it is scheduled for April 17-20, 2026. Maybe TARC can operate as a club station then?



Thanks to everyone that helped out with antennas and equipment.

*73, de Jim N7JIM*

More pictures showing participants and the many different types of portable antennas that club members brought for display are shown on the next page.

# November POTA Open House Pictures



## Sometimes It's The Simple Things

We've all had frustrating experiences trying to chase down some gremlin in our gear, whether it be ham radio or other types of equipment, but three recent experiences reminded me of the old medical adage – “If you hear hoofbeats, don't expect Zebras”.

The intent of this trope is to remind us that while exotic issues do pop up occasionally, more often it's the obvious.

**Mystery #1** – SWR issues – I have an Ed Fong J-Pole antenna that has operated reliably for several years. Recently I needed to disconnect the feed line so I could close my hurricane shutters, and when I reconnected the coax, I noticed that the SWR was much higher than the normal 1.1:1. I immediately started on a search for cuts in the feedline, damage to the antenna, corrosion at the joints, and all the other normal stuff - all to no avail. Then I disconnected the feedline one last time and happened to glance down at the PL-259 connector and noticed that the center conductor pin had never been soldered! This is a jumper I made myself, several years ago, which had served without ever causing a problem, until it did. A quick repair with the soldering iron, and everything returned to normal.

**Mystery #2** – A computer that won't start - I was asked to look at a relatively new computer that had been working great and then suddenly stopped. Note that this is a computer that I unboxed and set up so clearly it had been installed perfectly. (pride goeth before the fall!). Everything appeared in order, but it simply would not boot up. Other devices on the same branch circuit were working, and there was no evidence of magic smoke leakage. After a few minutes of puzzling, I noticed that something did not look quite right with the power cord. It turned out that the plug was in the socket but not fully bottomed out. A bit of a push, and all was well. Egg on my face!

**Mystery #3** – A radio that powers up but will not transmit. A known working radio, purchased new by the user, suddenly stopped transmitting. A thorough review of

the manual and checking of the most likely settings did not indicate anything abnormal. Again, there was no evidence of destroyed components or other damage. When preparing the device to return to the manufacturer for repair, it was suggested that we contact the Technical Support department of the US-based manufacturer. An actual human technician answered, and after going through the basics, he suggested that we confirm that the device was not in “Demo Mode”. Remember where I said we checked the “most likely” settings – Demo Mode was not on that list. Yup – somehow Demo Mode was enabled, which made all the lights and meters work, but inhibited transmit. A quick change in the menu to return to normal operation and no expensive shipping was required!



73, de Steve NS4P

So keep an open mind when chasing problems – even if you are sure that that jumper is good, or the device is plugged in, or you are positive the configuration is correct, it might not be – so check the simple stuff before calling in for that RMA number.





## WINTER FIELD DAY 2026



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**NOW:**

**Saturday and Sunday  
JANUARY 24 and 25, 2026**

### Full Details and Sign Ups Coming in January

- Great opportunity for new amateurs to get some HF operating experience
- Learn about antennas by helping to set them up on Friday afternoon
- Maybe there might possibly be a repeat of the well received and much asked for VNA seminar by Tom K7ONE?

## 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 participants 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](mailto:KX1G@ARRL.NET), 978-956-3430. 73.

## SHACK OF THE MONTH John KQ4ELH

I use an Audio-Visual Cart to contain my equipment.:

- Top Shelf from left to right: Powerwerx SS30DV for transceiver power supply, ICOM7300 transceiver, MFJ-297 Dummy Load/power meter
- Middle Shelf from Left to right: Elecraft KPA500 500 Watt Amplifier, Lab Supply for 12V Bus
- Bottom shelf: Old equipment and 3KVA Isolation Transformer



I use a Half Wave 40-meter Antenna located inside plastic pipe on top of gutter. The MFJ998rt Antenna Tuner is located inside the Lanai, up top, adjacent to the feed point. A 4' paired length of wire connects the Balun to the feed point, through the screening.



### Editor's Note

It's all about the antenna...always! And, in a deed restricted community like where John (and most of us) live, it is very hard to have a good, efficient HF antenna. John has found a novel way to get an antenna on his roof! For the longest time, Steve NS4P, was always talking about his "drunken snake" roof top HF antenna. He had a 166 foot long 80-10 EFHW wire serpentine over most of his roof in his deed restricted community for several years. Steve now has a Greyline flagpole (vertical OCF) HF antenna in his yard.



Despite the best laid plans of men and mice, we had a very shaky start to the Nov 22nd fox hunt in Venice. The plan called for participants to go to Legacy Park near the Venice Train Depot to register and begin the hunt from there. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to us, the annual Venice "Turkey Trot for the Twig" race was being hosted at that location too and the parking lots and adjacent streets were full. So at the 11th hour using the TARC repeater for coordination we moved the registration location to the old Albertsons grocery store parking lot.

All the participants eventually found their way to this new location and we had 12 participants that registered to compete. Five of them were new to foxhunting so we

formed 4 teams made up of new and experienced fox hunters.

- Team 1: Mat KE4VEM and daughter Sara with new hunters Karl KD8LXA and YL Olivera, and Bill W2CWL.
- Team 2: Steve W4SNW and Paul KN4BAR
- Team 3: Darrel K4KSB and new hunter Cieran KR4FWZ
- Team 4: Shirley KN4YIU and Steve KN4YIV and new hunter John KN4PHQ

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Sarasota Military Academy (SMA) School Update

The Sarasota Military Academy High School, W4SMA, has finished its first phase of antenna installations! Our high school campus now has a 10-element HF beam, a 6m beam, and a pair of M2 2m and 70cm circularly polarized satellite beams with automatic-tracking capability. Our ARDC grant-funded project was delayed by the unfortunate passing of John Chaput KK4LI after his long battle with cancer. After John's passing in August, his son Jared KK4CYG was able to complete our install, enabling us to finalize the high school's ARDC grant. Both John and Jared of JC Tower Service LLC did phenomenal work. Our antenna array is a work of art.

Our current cohort of 18 Radio I students have also begun testing for their Technician licenses on-campus, and 90% are on-track for their license in the course. Another 3 are on-track for an upgrade to General. We've applied to FPL, Toshiba, and others for additional funding to expand the high school program, and intend to apply for a second ARDC grant to ex-

pand our program to Sarasota Military Academy Prep, our middle school across town.

In June of 2025, John Geimer K4GEI at SMA High was lucky enough to participate in the ARRL's Teachers Institute module on WSPR Pico Balloons. Dawn Sudbury from SMA Prep attended the ARRL Teacher's Institute 1 in October. With George Becht N2SQ, SERC and TARC members' support, and a little luck, SMA plans to start licensing more capable amateur operators from our cadre of JROTC cadets.

Any TARC members interested in



The clubs HF beam antenna can just be seen in the top left corner of the roof.

getting involved with W4SMA should contact John K4GEI at :

**jpgeimer@gmail.com or at  
john.geimer@oursma.org.**



## November Fox Hunt (Cont'd)

At 9:30 on the dot the fox (Bob KN4RKE) turned on the transmitter and the hunt was on. The initial bearing of the signal was pretty much due North from the Albertson's parking lot and everyone was on the road in about 5 minutes! We didn't meet up again until we all found the secret fox location on Gulf Coast Blvd at Bypass Park in Venice.

(<https://mapq.st/3XPgw9e>)

- Team 1 finished at 9:43 am In first place.
- Team 3 finished at 10:07 am in second place
- Team 2 finished at 10:08 am in third place (yes...it was a race to th finish!)
- Team 4 did fnish at a later time.

Our thanks to the many Englewood ARS members who participated and served as the fox for this event. Honorable mention goes to White W4SNW for representing the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club. And a special recognition goes out to two new club members who participated to represent TARC in this event: Cieran KR4FWZ and Karl KD8LXA.

Bob says he loves doing these events and there is a good level of participation from Englewood club members. He plans to do another fox hunt later in the year in the Englewood area. Maybe we can get a little more TARC participation going for fox hunting and we can turn this into a club rivalry event?

**73, de Paul KN4BAR**



**Team 1 ET 13 minutes!**



**Team 3 ET 37 minutes**



**Team 3 ET 38 minutes**



**Team 3 ET 60+ minutes**

The Whiley and Elusive  
**FOX**  
Bob KN4RKE



**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, 1:30 pm** (HF net)  
7251 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](http://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](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)
- Treasurer**  
Dwight Sullivan KT4DDS  
[treasurer@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:treasurer@tamiamiarc.org)

**2025 TARC Directors:**

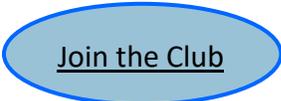
- Brian Jacobson W1JBD
- Steve Phillips NS4P
- Nancy Heinrich N4ZM
- OPEN POSITION** 10/10/25
- Roger McEntarfer N9RM

CONTACT BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY EMAIL:  
[bod@tamiamiarc.org](mailto: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](http://www.tamiamiarc.org)

**Contact:** [webmaster@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:webmaster@tamiamiarc.org)

**General Info Contact the club secretary:** [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

