



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday time. Thank all of you that elected me to be your TARC president for 2026. I will do my best to continue the great progress this club has made. I will be working with the board of directors to recommend items that will continue the great progress of the past few years. I and the other board members welcome all suggestions from the membership. Just write any ideas to bod@tamiamiarc.org.

Coming up soon in January is Winter Field Day on 1/24-25/2026. This is a great way for new hams to "learn the ropes" with control operators present to allow you access to all the bands. Time to sign up for operating slots. Then in early February there is HamCation, the second largest hamfest in the country. We have a bus available for those who prefer this method of travel. Time to sign up! This is a good opportunity to get something you

KG4IYS



really have been wishing for, or something you wish to sell, or to learn about new things at the presentations, or to look over the latest offerings from the major vendors.

As we go forward I will be asking all of you to consider participating in one or more of the club's committees, groups, activities, etc. To continue club growth we need a lot more participation than we have at present. Remember "many hands make lighter work".

Well let me end this by saying how honored I am to lead the club forward. The board and I will do our best to make this an exciting year in amateur radio.

73, Chet KG4IYS

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Meeting—Jan 14, 2026](#)
[POTA How to Do it, Jim N7JIM](#)
- ◆ [Winter Field Day](#)
[Jan 24-25, 2026](#)
- ◆ [Bus to HamCation](#)
[Saturday, Feb 14, 2026](#)
- ◆ [Megalodon Race](#)
[March 7 and 8, 2026](#)
- ◆ [5th Annual BBO*Q picnic at Oscar Shearer](#)
[March 22, 2026](#)

Welcome New Members

12/11/25	Member	Robert 'Bob' Inglis	Technician	KR4HBT
12/8/25	Member	Dan ODonovan	Extra	W4DOD
11/13/25	Member	Bernie Schmelz	General	K1BES
11/12/25	Member	Cieran George	Technician	KR4FWZ
11/6/25	Member	Thomas Auth	Extra	K3HV

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

Ham Club Online HELP

hcolhelp@tamiamiarc.org

Webmaster—report a problem

websupport@tamiamiarc.org

Tips for Using Ham Club Online (HCOL)

Last month we described how to use HCOL for payment of your club dues online and how to log in to your HCOL account with TARC. This month we will describe how to manage your individual profile and privacy settings within HCOL after you have logged in to your account.

Callsign:	KN4BAR
Class/Exp:	E / 2027-02-17
FRN:	0026214429
Name:	Paul Nienaber
Account Address:	13403 Coluccio St Venice FL 34293 United States
Account E-Mail:	paul9aber@gmail.com E-Mail Not Published
Club E-Mail:	paul9aber@gmail.com Update E-Mail Not Published
Cell Phone: (primary)	(941) 468-3843 / USA-mobile Update
Add Phone Number	

After first logging in, you will see your account profile shown in the top left corner of the screen as shown above. Here you can enter or update your phone number and email address any time. If you choose to edit your phone number then the screen shown below will pop up and you can make whatever changes you want. Notice that there

is a check box that you can use to hide your phone number from the public club roster. Administrators can still see your number and email address if so hidden, but no one else can.

HamClubOnline - Edit P	
Callsign:	KN4BAR
Name:	Paul Nienaber
Phone Number Type:	Cell
Country Code:	+1 (UNITED STATES)
Phone Number:	9414683843 (do not include
NI Formatted Number:	(941) 468-3843
NI Country Code:	USA
NI Carrier Name:	Verizon Wireless (mobile)
E.164:	+19414683843
Member's Primary Number?:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publish Number on Club Roster?:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do Not Activation Alert?:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Last Modified:	2025-06-13 12:37:49 EDT by Paul Nienaber
Update or Remove	

You can also use the “Roster Information” area to enter in other personal information, or to check the box that says “Hide on Roster” that will completely remove you from any public club membership roster.

Need help:

hcolhelp@tamiamiarc.org

Ride the Bus to Hamcation!



For the 4th consecutive year, TARC will again charter a luxury bus to take club members and invited guests to the second largest amateur radio event in the country in Orlando! Cost is \$60 pp. Bus leaves the north side public parking lot near Sharky's on Harbor Dr. S. in Venice at 6:15 am. We stop at the

American Red Cross chapter on Cantu Ct. in Sarasota around 6:45 am to make one more pickup there. The bus should arrive at HamCation right around 9 am as the gates open and the bus departs HamCation promptly at 4 pm for the return trip. Reservations and payment can be made online at the TARC store page on our website:

https://tamiamiarc.org/store/?model_number=Bus-001

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine

Shaun KQ4YAX

A get well card has been sent to Jim KJ4NDO at his brother's home in Maine. Jim had a fall while visiting there and his return to Florida will be delayed.

VE Testing

Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 12/6/25

Number tested: 0

Passed: 0

New Members: 0

Member Upgrades: 0

Next Test Date: 01/10/26

NOTE: A special VE-Test session will be held at Pine View School on 01/23/26 just for their club members who are testing for a General class license.

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

Roger N9RM

As of: 12/20/25

Total Membership:..... 177

154 Regular Members

2 Associate Members

4 First Year Members

17 Life Members

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

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>

A volunteer has come forward and the board of directors will consider him for appointment at it's January 10, 2026 meeting.

Repeater / Technical

Frank W2XYZ

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

On 10/09/25 we noticed a problem with the 146.805 MHz repeater. After much investigation, it appears to be an antenna or feedline issue on the tower. On 12/10/25 the membership approved a \$3,000 budget to schedule a tower climber as soon as possible to make repairs.

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 W2ZYX and Steve NS4P would like to have an occasional guest net control to relieve them on the Tuesday DMR and Wednesday 10 meter nets.

HOLIDAY PARTY December 17, 2025



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We thank San Yoder K3SY for being the annual Holiday Party picture man. For many years San has provided us with a fantastic slide show featuring club members in action at field days, special events, and other social activities. Thank you, San.



The Holiday Party would not have been possible except for John N3PQD who was the only one to step up this summer and volunteer to make all the arrangements for the party. Thank you John. Well done!

TARC Does Well in the ARRL 10m Contest

TARC team posts a score of 665,680 points in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Very few ham contests are held in December because the holidays compete for members attention. But the ARRL10-meter Contest, held this year on December 13-14, is the exception, usually drawing many participants worldwide, including multi-operator teams. Having competed as a team in the 2023 contest and then having to miss the 2024 contest due to damage to the contest station (we use KOAL's station), we once again fielded a club team in December with the hopes that this year might be an outstanding event as Cycle 25 propagation was expected to be good.

It wasn't as good as hoped. One day before the contest the Solar Flux Index (SFI) stood at 200. But on Friday it plunged to 164, and it continued to drop even further on Saturday and Sunday, to an SFI of 119 by the end of the contest.

But propagation was decent. The band opened early and was solid during daylight hours. We had solid contact with Europe early, lesser luck with the Pacific, Latin/South America and Africa. You can't work 'em, if you don't hear 'em, and we didn't hear 'em, even with a Yagi and 100' tower. The team made the most of it and, we are happy to report, achieved a very respectable score!

Participating in the Multi-Operator, Single Radio, High Power (MSHP) Class, we ended with exactly 1,000 contacts (572 CW contacts, 428 Phone) and 212 multipliers, yielding a score of 665,680 points. We worked 103 DXCC entities and 109 U.S., Mexican, and Canadian States and Provinces. We missed only 3 U.S. states on CW (missing DC, DE, MS) and we missed 12 U.S. states on SSB (Missing AK, AL, AR, DC, GA, LA, MD, MS, NE, OH, PA, and TN). We were not as fortunate working Mexican states and Canadian provinces.

We've heard that propagation up north was much worse. A couple of well known northern contesters report having made less than 400 Qs and the bands closing early. K1DG, one of the best, said he never heard Japan! (We worked Japan!) Several members of New England's famous Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) said they wrapped up early on Sunday because the band closed.

This time of year New England gets dark almost two hours earlier than in Florida.

We did not expect to be among the leaders and we weren't. The 3830 Scores web site shows that 12 multi-operator teams report having made between 2,000 and 4,000 QSOs and many worked 1,000+. But we did pretty well for our second attempt at this contest. Our 1,000 Q's will put us around the middle of the pack. We had about 150 fewer contacts and a lower score than we did in 2023, but that can be blamed on band conditions. Make no mistake, this was a good effort.

Members of the Contest Team (in alphabetical Order) were:

- **Al Culbert, KOAL**
- **Tony Di Cenzo, KX1G**
- **Karl Downing, KD8LXA**
- **Andy Durette, KB1HIP**
- **Steve Hawley, K4EU**
- **Tony Levenson, W4RFV**
- **Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ**
- **Ken Yasi, NS1C**
- **Tom Zirolli, N2UD**

A few other club members dropped by to provide their support. Maybe next year they and you will join the team?

Special thanks go out to TARC Life Member Al Culbert, KOAL, for the use of his home station and his hospitality.

Be sure to note there are two contests coming up:

- **Winter Field Day is this month! January 24-25, 2026**
- **The Florida QSO Party is April 25-26, 2026**

Be sure to watch for details in *The Communicator*.

73, de Frank, W2XYZ and Tony, KX1G



Al KOAL hardly working the key, or is that working the key hardly? Thanks Al for the use of your station for the ARRL 10m Contest.

2026 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL HAMFEST

HAMFEST

SPONSORED BY
FORT MYERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
JAN 16 & 17

FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE-BLDG U
8099 COLLEGE PARKWAY,
FORT MYERS, FL 33919

TALK IN
145.170 Ph 136.5

← HEAD WEST
EXIT 131
DANIELS PKWY

TAKE DANIELS PKWY TO FSW LANE. LOOK FOR THE LARGE PIRATE HEAD. SEE MAPS ON BACK.
FREE PARKING
HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE

GENERAL ADMISSION:
\$10 BEFORE 12/31-\$12 AT DOOR
FRIDAY 12PM-5PM AND SATURDAY 8AM-3PM
A FREE RAFFLE TICKET WILL BE GIVEN FOR EACH ADMISSION TICKET PURCHASED

STUDENTS FREE WITH VALID STUDENT ID (NO RAFFLE TICKET)
KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE WITH PAYING ADULT

- ON-SITE SECURITY PROVIDED
- GREAT FOOD AT REASONABLE PRICES AVAILABLE
- INFORMATIONAL FORUMS BOTH DAYS!
- FREE FCC LICENSE TESTING ON SATURDAY
Pre-registered 10:00 AM | Walk-ins 9:00 AM

Grand Prize
Yaesu FT-710

GREAT RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES!

ARRL Southern Florida Convention

PURCHASE TICKETS ON-LINE:
SWFLHAMFEST.COM

MAIL TICKET REQUESTS WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
FMARC • PO BOX 061183 • FORT MYERS, FL 33906-1183
PLEASE INCLUDE SASE. OTHERWISE TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? SWFLHAMFEST.COM

**January 16-17,
2026**

**Florida SouthWestern
State College
Building U
8099 College Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33919**

Bylaws Amendment to be Voted on Jan 14th

On December 10th at the last club meeting the board of directors notified club members that an amendment to the club’s bylaws was being proposed. The bylaws require that members be given 30 days advance notice of any such change and a scheduled vote to accept the amended by-laws. Please take a moment or two to review the proposed amendments:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15FSBYiC6avsNrhjw66gDPr7zwNGJTPdz/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105702755398107587698&rtprof=true&sd=true>

We have placed a [page on the club’s website](#) with an explanation of why the changes are being made. Basical-

ly, we needed to make changes to accommodate the way HCOL collects for dues and to allow for multi-year memberships, as requested by club members at recent meetings. Since we were amending the bylaws anyway, the board took this opportunity to make other changes that have been thought about in the past but not implemented because of the complexity of making amendments to the bylaws.

Hopefully, this will be the last time an amendment is needed. Please come to the meeting prepared with any comments you might have and be ready to vote!

73, de Paul KN4BAR

What are bylaws?

Bylaws are legal documents that outline the rules, regulations, and guidelines of your organization.

AI KOAL—New TARC Life Member

The club membership voted to approve the board of directors recommended award of club Life Membership to Allan 'AI' Culbert KOAL at the November club meeting. At the December club meeting, club president, Paul KN4BAR (at left) presented AI KOAL (2nd from right) with his certificate of life membership in the club. The award was witnessed by other club life members Peter KV4LR, San K3SY, and Chet KG4IYS (from left to right).

Congratulations, AI, and thank you for your years of service to the club, for helping to sell donated equipment for the club, and for generously giving freely the use of your great contesting station in Nokomis by the club for special events, and contest participation as W4AC.



Winter Field Day is January 24 and 25, 2026



Winter Field Day is always the last full weekend in January. In 2026 it falls on Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25, 2026. It starts at 1600 UTC on Saturday (11 am EST) the 24th, and ends at 21:59 UTC on Sunday, the 25th (4:59 pm EST). We will be operating a W4AC club station as usual again this year. Follow the Groups.io posts about this event to learn the who, what, where, and when details of TARC's participation.

This, and any field day activity, are great opportunities for new hams to experience the wonderful world of HF radio and contesting in general. It is a great opportunity to learn about the many different types of antennas as the club usually deploys several different antennas to operate on multiple bands during the contest. New hams are encouraged to get on the air under the tutelage of a great club Elmer and learn how to operate on HF and make contest contacts.

Learn more about Winter Field Day at their website: <https://winterfieldday.org/index.php>

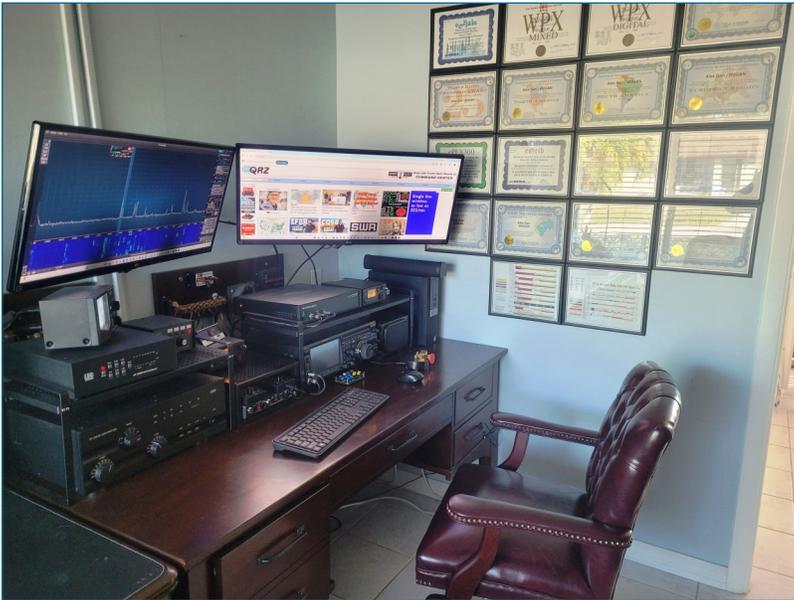
We will be taking signups for helpers, loggers, and operating shifts at the January 14, 2026 club meeting or you can reach out to Frank W2XYZ to signup directly with him.

- Winter Field Day Dates: 1/24 and 1/25, 2026
- Set up starts early Saturday morning, approximately 9 am
- Location: Venice Gardens Community Association, 406 Shamrock Blvd., Venice, FL
- Operating Times: Saturday 11am – 11pm, Sunday 8am – 5pm
- Takedown starts Sunday around 5pm, and as we wind down Sunday afternoon
- Operating time slot signup sheets will be available at the January 14th TARC monthly meeting.

73, de Frank W2XYZ

SHACK OF THE MONTH

Alex W2GAN



From left to right on table:

- From left to right on table ACOM 1010 tube amplifier
- 700w, 120 volt
- 2 Transverse microphone to 2 microphones
- 1 cw key, 1 headphone, 1 PTT device switch
- FTDX 101 D transceiver w/ Yaesu speaker
- with power supply, PC 64 GB. 1TB HD, i7
- On the wall – antenna switches, dummy load, PTT hub, low current hub and grounding panel.

In the picture above, From left to right on shelf:

- LDG AT- 1000PRO2 autotuner – 1 kw with SWR and PO meter on top
- MFJ 4 Port antenna remote switch
- 30A Power supply
- FLEX 6300 transiver
- 30A Power supply
- Sound bar on top of the PC.



In the back yard:

- Hustler 6BTV trap antenna - 24 feet, 32 radials – works 80 to 6 meter (no 12 or 17 m)
- My new just finished project – Mosley 10m, 15m and 20m mini Yagi antenna with YAESU G450A rotator, installed at 27 feet on a telescopic mast.

I will be more than glad to discuss my setup and equipment choices with the club members. Please contact me privately through the club Groups.io or by my personal email w2gan.alex@gmail.com

Thank you, 73, de Alex W2GAN

Pine View School Update



The last of the ARRL Club Grant money for the Pine View School (PVS) ham radio club and ISS contact expenses was spent during December to purchase antenna wire and components, and various electronic and balun kits for the club members to learn soldering. Steve NS4P and Clark KE4PPN spent a few hours teaching

the club members the basics in December while some of the club members operated the school station on HF and DMR worldwide.

The kids are already excited about preparing for and competing in the next, semi-annual ARRL School Club Roundup during the week of February 9-13, 2026. The teacher sponsor, Marie KQ4ZVO, and several of the student club members will be testing on January 23rd for



their General class licenses. The TARC VE team will host a special testing session on campus just for them.

Marie is already thinking about a fox hunt and perhaps a weather balloon tracking activity for her kids in the Spring. It's nice to have two active clubs at our local schools (PVS and SMA)!

73, de Paul KN4BAR

Congratulations to

Sarasota Military Academy (SMA) in Sarasota and to teacher sponsor John K4GEI for obtaining yet another ARRL Foundation Grant in 2026 for SDR receivers and soldering training supplies. **Well Done!**

2026 Officers and Directors

In a real nail-biter of an election at the December TARC Annual Meeting of the club, a full slate of candidates for club officers and directors emerged. Going into the election there had not been anyone yet nominated for club president and it was starting to look like we might begin the new year without one!

John KQ4ELH presided over the election portion of the meeting as the Nominating Committee Chairman. He read the slate of candidates and there was one candidate's name read for each position except that of president. When John called for nominations from the floor there was a noticeable pause and silence in the room and then San K3SY stood up, and in a loud and powerful voice, he nominate Chet Fennell KG4IYS for president.

The nomination was met with a round of applause from the members and John then asked Chet the all important question, "Chet, do you accept the nomination?" Chet said "Yes I do"! Thank you Chet.

John made a motion to elect our new officers and directors by acclamation since there was now only one candidate for each position. The membership then

elected the following slate of new officers and directors for 2026 to take office on January 1st:

Chester 'Chet' Fennell	KG4IYS	president
Frank Wroblewski	W2XYZ	vice president
Lou Ronnau	KC4LR	secretary
Dwight Sullivan	KT4DS	treasurer
Steve Phillips	NS4P	director
Roger McEntarfer	N9RM	director
Allan 'Al' Culbert	K0AL	director
James 'Jim' Miller	N7JIM	director
Paul Nienaber	KN4BAR	director

Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers and directors and thank you all for volunteering to give freely of your time and expertise to manage the affairs of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club.

Tuning a Tunable Coil

HF mobile operation has always been a part of ham radio, albeit on a bit of a niche basis. However, with the advent of Parks On The Air (POTA), portable HF has exploded in popularity and along with that, interest in mobile and quasi-mobile HF operation has increased significantly. Mobile HF setups are popular with POTA aficionados as they are low-footprint, stealthy, and require almost no setup time, which allows operators to activate a park without attracting a lot of attention or sneak in a quick activation on their lunch break.

Mobile HF antennas are a challenge. Even at the “short” wavelength of 10 meters, a half-wave vertical is about 8 feet tall and they only get taller from there. To build resonant antennas that will still clear most highway underpasses, antenna designers usually resort to some form of “loading coil” or “resonator” to physically shorten the antenna. A loading coil is a conductive wire, helically wound (like a spring). For mobile and portable use, the coil is usually wound around the outside of a non-conductive tube or rod (e.g., fiberglass) that provides physical support for the coil, and the entire assembly is then covered with a protective layer, such as heat-shrink tubing. The coil serves to make the antenna electrically long, while remaining physically short.

For ham radio use, we also need to have a method to adjust the resonant frequency (lowest SWR) of the antenna. A tuning system is usually necessary since the exact resonant frequency of an antenna system depends not only on the antenna design, but the actual installation. In addition, each operator has their own preferred mode of operations (CW, FTx, SSB) which are all segregated into different sections of each band. For best efficiency you should tune your antenna to be resonant near the frequency you will be using most of the time.

There are several variations of coil-loaded HF antennas for amateur use, but for this discussion, I want to ignore antennas with the loading coil at the base and concentrate on “Hamstick” type antennas (coil wound along a 4-foot fiberglass tube) and Hustler Mobile type antennas with a loading coil on top of a fixed mast.

With both types of antennas, the adjustable tuning whip (1/8” diameter hardened stainless steel rod) is held in place with either set screws or a clutch nut and collet



system. The process of tuning is relatively simple, if a bit tedious. Loosen the clamp and slide the whip out (longer exposed whip) to lower the resonant frequency

or slide the whip in (shorter exposed whip) to raise the resonant frequency. You can determine the resonant frequency by using an antenna analyzer (preferred) or using your transmitter (on very low power please) and an SWR meter - either internal to the rig or an external meter. The point of lowest SWR, typically 1.5:1 or less, indicates the resonant frequency. For best results, all testing should be done with the antenna in its normal operating position, using the feedline you intend to use for operation. Yes, this generally means taking the antenna off the car to make each adjustment - I did mention this might be tedious. In most cases, this process is straightforward – Test, adjust, test, adjust and so on until you get the resonant point where you want it. But in some cases, there is an additional consideration.

In circumstances where that band you are working with has a very wide operating range (e.g., 10 meters) you may see anomalous results when you try to raise the resonant frequency (less exposed whip) above a certain point. In my case, I could get the resonant frequency on my 10 meter antenna up to about 28.100 at which point the resonance point DECREASED as I shortened the whip further. Since I have an antenna analyzer with a graphical display, I could also see that the SWR vs Frequency curve developed multiple dips instead of a clean single dip that was expected. This was very strange, until I remembered a discussion we had at breakfast, literally the day before, about inserting the whip too deep into a Hamstick. What happens is that the bottom of the whip, inside the antenna, gets down inside the helical coil region of the antenna, detuning the coil and messing with the performance of the antenna. The solution is, as extreme as it sounds, to cut off the excess length of the whip so that it no longer detunes the coil. But how much do you cut off?

(Continued on page 12)

Tuning a Tunable Coil (Cont'd)

The method I used was to use a temporary whip to find the correct length. The wire you use needs to be the correct diameter to fit into the whip clamping system and stiff enough to stand up on its own. The Internet suggested wire coat hanger (remember to scrape off the paint or varnish) but I happened to have some stiff wire of the correct diameter in a junk box. The process is as follows:

Step 1. Measure the length of exposed tuning whip at your last best test point and then remove the tuning whip from the antenna.

Step 2. Cut a length of wire long enough to get properly clamped in the antenna, with the length of exposed wire several inches longer than what you had with the tuning whip. You only need enough wire in the antenna to reach the clamp – no more is needed as we will not be moving the temporary whip to tune the antenna.

Step 3. Insert the temporary whip into the antenna and clamp it in place.

Step 4. Find the resonant frequency of the antenna with the temporary whip installed. It should be lower than your desired frequency. If the resonant frequency is too high, start over again with a longer temporary whip.

Step 5. Cut off a bit of the temporary whip from the top (i.e., don't mess with the clamping system).

Step 6. Check the resonant frequency. If it's just right, congratulations – go to Step 7. If it's too high, you cut off too much wire – start over at Step 2 with a new piece of wire. If the frequency is too low, go back to Step 5.

Step 7. Once you have reached the desired resonant frequency, measure the length of exposed wire. Write this length down.

Step 8. Determine how much length you need to extend down through the clamping mechanism and down into the antenna (without interfering with the coil region). The manufacturer's instructions may be helpful here – In my case, the instructions provided a starting point for tuning by inserting 4 inches of the whip into the antenna, and a visual inspection showed that 4" provided good clearance to the coil for fine tuning. When you figure out how much whip you can extend into the antenna, measure this length, and add it to the number you got in Step

7. This extra length is important so that you have some margin for final tuning, and in case you want to lower the resonant frequency at some point in the future.

Step 9. Take your stainless steel whip and, measuring from the top of the whip, mark the whip (using a magic marker) at two points – the distance measured in Step 7 (exposed whip) and the total length you calculated in Step 8. Don't cut anything yet.

Step 10. Lay the marked whip next to your antenna, with the higher mark (exposed whip) at the tip of the fixed portion of the antenna. Look at the second mark and verify that it's long enough to go through the clamping mechanism, but short enough to clear the coil portion of the antenna with a bit of margin for fine tuning. If you don't like the results, go back and check your math in Step 8.

Step 11. Once you are sure you have the correct length, it's time to cut the whip. Note that the whip is made of extremely hard stainless steel. Do not attempt to cut the whip with diagonal cutters, wire cutters, cable cutters, scissors or any similar tool. You won't succeed in cutting the whip, but you will destroy the cutters. The proper method to cut an antenna whip is to use a cut-off wheel (e.g., Dremel tool) or notch the whip at the desired point using the corner of a file and then using appropriate tools (pliers, vice, etc) hold the whip on either side of the notch (as close as possible to the notch) and then bend the whip until it breaks. Then clean up the end of the whip using a file or grinder so you don't have any nubs that will prevent you from putting the whip into the antenna.

Step 12. Insert the whip into the antenna up to the magic marker mark indicating exposed whip length.

Now repeat the normal antenna tuning process, adjusting whip length by loosening the clamp and moving the whip. If everything is working properly, very little adjustment should be required. If major adjustments (more than an inch or so) are needed at this point either your math was bad or there may be other problems with the antenna system.

Good luck and happy mobiling!

73, de Steve NS4P

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 No. 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](#)>

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.

2026 TARC Officers:

- President**
Chester 'Chet' Fennell KG4IYS
- Vice President**
Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ
- Secretary**
Lou Ronnau KC4LR
secretary@tamiamiarc.org
- Treasure**
Dwight Sullivan KT4DS
treasurer@tamiamiarc.org

2026 TARC Directors:

- Steve Phillips NS4P
- Roger McEntarfer N9RM
- Allan 'Al' Culbert K0AL
- James 'Jim' Miller N7JIM
- Paul Nienaber KN4BAR

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

