



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message

Ah, spring has finally sprung with budding trees, flowers, and, of course, weeds. March was quite a busy month with the Megalodon 10k/5k races (San Yoder, K3SY, made an exhilarating finish in the 5k); and, many of us with friends and family enjoyed a beautiful day at Oscar Scherer Park for the annual BBQ&Q (really tasty) while our POTA teams waxed eloquently on the bands. In fact the newly purchased Triplexer was put to use; it worked well, but will still require the use of bandpass filters to better purify the signals.

But there is more this month: please try to attend the Shark's Tooth Festival on April 11th and 12th; then Florida State Parks on the Air on April 17th through 20th (we are in charge this year); then we will activate the Florida QSO Party April 25th and 26th (AI, KOAL has graciously offered his QTH for our use). Whew! We need lots of participants, so please sign up as early as possible. More details will be given at the club meeting, plus

info from the leaders.

At this time, I wish to make a call out to the membership for more participation in club activities. I tend to see the same folks taking all tasks, but it would really be a help for everyone if we could spread the tasks around. I realize some of you have other pressing requirements, but the more we can spread the work around, the easier it is for everyone involved. Many hands make light work. With over 180 members, we should be able to take on more interesting events, as well as better staff the existing events. So please, please help if you can.

73 de OM Chet KG4IYS

KG4IYS



Welcome New Members

03/20/26	First Year	Dan Kennedy	Technician	KR4KQO
03/11/26	Member	Dorian Phillips	Technician	K04CDN
03/03/25	First Year	Mitchell Teicher	Technician	KR4JOY
02/17/26	Member	Rolf Ericson	Extra	KD0UB
02/13/26	First Year	Kevin Vaughan	Technician	KR4JNL

Inside This Issue

New Meeting Sign Up	2
TARC Email Contact List	2
COMMITTEE REPORTS	3
4th Annual BBQ&Q Pictures	4
FL State POTA Contest	5
License Upgrade Incentive	6
Shark's Tooth Festival K4S	6
Florida QSO Party	7
TARC Logo Apparel	7
Megalodon Race Pictures	8
Pine View School Update	9
Don't Pull the Plug	10
Collision Alert	11
SERC "Giving Challenge"	12

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Club Meeting 4/8/26](#)
["Pine View School ARC" Update from the Students!](#)
- ◆ [Shark's Tooth Festival 4/11-12/26. SES K4S](#)
- ◆ [FL State POTA 4/17-18/26](#)
[W4AC Club Station](#)
- ◆ [FL QSO Party 4/25-26/26](#)
[W4AC Club Station](#)
- ◆ [Club Meeting 5/13/26](#)
[Presenter TBA](#)

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



**SATURDAY,
APRIL 25, 2026
GATES OPEN:
TAILGATERS AT
7:00 AM:
PUBLIC 8:00 AM TILL
1:00 PM**



**ADMISSION \$ 5.00 PER PERSON;
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ARE FREE**

**TAILGATING IS FREE
W/ PAID ADMISSION
INDOOR TABLES
AVAILABLE FOR
\$ 15.00 EACH**

**GREAT FOOD & DRINK
RENEW YOUR TARC DUES
VE TESTING**

**TARC CLUBHOUSE IS LOCATED:
7801 N 22ND ST
TAMPA, FL 33610
TALK-IN REPEATER:
147.105 PL: 146.2**

NEW MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET!

**SURPRISE! It's Electronic.
Welcome to the 21st Century**

HamClubOnline
Calendar Event Attendance Management (TARC)

Event Name: Monthly Membership Meeting (Club Meeting)
Date/Time: 2026-03-11 18:30 - 2026-03-11 18:30 EDT
Location: Venice Presbyterian Church, The Rialto, Venice
Self Service Check-In Code: 3V

Membership Attendance: Search

First Name	Last Name	Call sign	Status	M.Expire
Richard L	Maccready	KX4AHZ	Attended	2025-12-31

Guest Attendance:

Name	Option
Johan White Xyl of Steve White	Remove
Shawn Helgesen K04yax	Remove
Steve White W4onw	Remove
Thomas Becht K2twb	Remove

RED—enter your call sign. **BLUE**—mark “Attended”

NEW MONTHLY MEETING SIGNUP SHEET

STARTING April 8, 2026

We are going to try an on-line attendance recording procedure for next month's meeting. We'll have a PC set up on the podium in back of the room where you can enter your callsign and record your attendance. There will be a method to record attendance for our visitors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunshine
Shaun KQ4YAX

We sent a get well card from TARC to Chip Estabrook WO0S. Chip is undergoing back surgery on March 18th.

VE Testing
Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 03/07/26
Number tested: 3
Passed: 3
New Members: 1
Member Upgrades: 0
Next Test Date: 04/04/26

CLUB UPGRADE INCENTINVE

Test with us by July 11, 2026

[Incentive Details](#)

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: 01/27/26

Total Membership:..... 179

- 158 Regular Members
- 1 Associate Member
- 3 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

Karl K4RLX



Pictures and videos of club activities and events are posted to Facebook, and notification of such pertinent posts will be sent out on groups io, To reach a wider audience I encourage you to "share" those posts that the community may be interested in on your own personal Facebook page.

[<Facebook Link>](#)

Repeater / Technical

Frank W2XYZ

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

No significant changes since last month. We are working to program a new repeater controller that should improve EchoLink performance. We are considering next steps to resolve the feedback issue.

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 W2XYZ and Steve NS4P would like to have an occasional guest net control to relieve them on the Tuesday DMR and Wednesday 10 meter nets.

Florida State POTA Contest

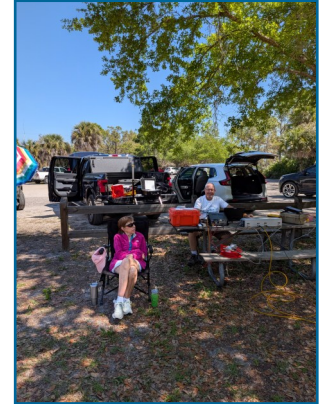
Jim N7JIM

<https://fspota.org>

The TARC sponsored POTA event will be April 17-20. The event rules are complete and posted on the web site. A TARC POTA "club" activation will take place on Friday, 4/17/26 at Myakka River State Park and again on Saturday, 4/18/26 at Oscar Scherer State Park from 8 am to 5 pm each day. Sign up with Jim N7JIM or Paul KN4BAR.

4th Annual TARC BBQ&Q a Huge Success

This annual club social event was once again a big hit with club members, their families, and their guests. Everyone enjoyed great BBQ food, a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation, and good camaraderie at Oscar Scherer State Park in Osprey on Sunday March 22, 2026. The weather was wonderful! Total attendance was 57 persons this year.



Steve NS4P, Frank W2XYZ, Tom K7ONE, and KARL K4RLX all managed to make POTA activations!

Lori (N7JIM's XYL), Mark KQ4EKK, & Karl KR4LA did a great job setting everything up for us to enjoy.

Unfortunately the two key players were absent for the party! Jim N7JIM had a family emergency up north and Chip K0OC was recovering from back surgery.

Better luck next year guys; but we all had a great time!

MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 13 and 14

Special thanks go out to Jim N7JIM, Chip W0OS, Karl K4RLX, Mark KQ4EKK, and their spouses for planning and cooking for this great club event. The POTA activation was overseen by Steve NS4P and Frank W2XYZ. **Thank you one and all!**

TARC to Compete in the Florida State POTA Contest

All club members are urged to compete as individuals in this annual, statewide Parks on the Air (POTA) Contest. Not only Florida; but, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas will be conducting their respective statewide contests during the weekend of April 18-20, 2026. The contest(s) are normally held the first weekend in April each year but in 2026 this is an Easter Sunday weekend.

Contest details and rules can be found at the fspota.org website. TARC took over the sponsorship of this event in 2025 and this will be our first year of managing it. One of the competing "Classes" for the event is "**Club Station**" and TARC is sponsoring a W4AC **Club Station** entry to the contest.

Our Florida state POTA contest is unique in that we will allow operations from Friday, 4/17 through Monday 4/20 from 8 am to 8 pm local time each day. We will host a club **W4AC operation on Friday 4/17 and again on Saturday 4/18**. The club will bring no radio equipment to each of these events. Instead, we are asking club members to bring their POTA stations out to the designated park between 8 am and 8 pm to operate as a W4AC **Club Station**.

Each participant will be asked to keep a separate log for the activation showing the STATION_CALLSIGN as W4AC and the OPERATOR as yourself. In this way you will get personal credit on the pota.app for the activation and QSOs as an individual. When all of the site logs are later combined by the TARC Site Host, TARC will get credit in the state contest for all of your hard work, too, as the W4AC STATION.

Let the Site Host know as soon as possible that you plan to participate, what band(s) and modes you would like to operate on, and what time period you plan to be at the park. Check in with the Site Host at the park on the event date to coordinate your assigned operating location and to obtain any required band pass filters.

Operate as W4AC for as long or as little as you like. When finished operating as W4AC, you are free to remain in the park and continue operating (new logbook please!) as yourself, or you may choose to go to another park and operate from there.

It is critical that you submit your W4AC log to the Site Host as soon as possible after the event so that he may consolidate all of the W4AC QSOs from that location for our Club Station contest entry.

Operating Sites Are:

- **Friday, April 17, 2026**
Myakka River State Park, US-1905
Site Host: Jim N7JIM
- **Saturday, April 18, 2026**
Oscar Sherer State Park, US-1909
Site Host: Paul KN4BAR

Our membership at Ham Club Online (HCOL) includes a club calendar of events and for operating events like these, we can have club members sign up online to participate in various tasks at each event. We are giving this a try for these two operating events in April.

You can log in to your HCOL account, go to the **Club Calendar** page, and select one of these upcoming events to sign up for it. For those who are computer challenged; paper signup sheets will be available at club meetings and breakfasts, and you can always email or talk with Frank W2XYZ, Jim N7JIM, or Paul KN4BAR any time to sign up or ask questions.

For the two planned club FL State POTA Contest activations (4/17 at Myakka River SP, and 4/18 at Oscar Scherer SP) we are certainly looking for experienced POTA activators with all the equipment needed to activate a park. But, **we also encourage anyone interested in learning more about POTA to stop by and ask questions or be a guest operator**. Remember to bring your own food and drink and a chair to sit on.

Please send any questions or comments to admin@fspota.org.

73, Jim N7JIM FSPOTA Committee Chairman



<https://www.facebook.com/LSPOTA/>



Like,
Subscribe,
Follow, and
Share
The event
link

2026 License Upgrade Incentive Announced

At our February board of directors meeting, the board approved of repeating this popular club incentive for members to upgrade their licenses. We currently have 22 Technician Class, 62 General Class, and 5 Advanced Class licensed club members that we would really like to see get upgraded. There's something for everybody!

<https://tamiamiarc.org/license-upgrade-incentive-program/>

The incentives are:

- **TARC pays for your examination fee. Pass or fail, we will pay the fee.**
- **2027 dues paid by the club**
- **\$50 DX-Engineering gift card**



No excuses, no cost, it's a no brainer. Get yourself upgraded this year!

Last test date is: Saturday, July 7, 2026

73, de your board of directors

All your club buddies are here to help you study and get ready. Attend a breakfast or two to get your questions answered:

- Tuesday 6 to 8 am [at Peach's](#)
- Friday 9 to 10 am [at Perkins's](#)

TARC SES for Shark's Tooth Festival in April

TARC has operated a Special Event Station (K4S) at the Venice [Shark's Tooth Festival](#) in April of each year since 2006. Here's a blast from the past to memorialize the event history:



"There really isn't much to tell since I was only a "Winter" member. I joined the club in year 2000 along with Stew Haag, Jack, W4JS, Al KOAL etc. when I purchased my condo in Venice. I do remember working at our table at the Sharks Tooth Festival which was at the Airport in those days. It was one of the early events we were at and I thought it would be nice to include a "Sharks Tooth" with every QSL card sent out, so I purchased a packet of 50 to start things off. If I remember correctly, we had only 15 or 20 members back in those days..." de Bob Marchese K1NOK

And so the tradition has continued to this day. The event was last sponsored by Special Olympics of Sarasota as a fund raising event and it was held at the Venice Airport Festival Grounds until 2020. The Covid pandemic suspended the event for 3

years and the Special Olympics folks declined to resume sponsoring the event. So, the Venice Main Street Association took it over in 2023 and moved the event venue to Centennial Park on Venice Ave in downtown Venice.



TARC, as a nonprofit member of the Association, was able to secure a no-fee space at the event to continue our tradition. Unfortunately, this year, 2026, will mark the first time we will not be on the actual festival grounds due to scheduling issues.

So...to continue the tradition, TARC has secured a pavilion rental at **Heritage Park near the Train Depot by the Venice Ave bridge. We will operate as the Special Event Station**

K4S from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12. Sign ups for set up crew, operating shifts (SSB, CW, digital), and tear down crew are now being taken in person at club breakfasts and meetings.



You can also sign up using your TARC club

membership account at Ham Club Online

(<https://hamclubonline.com>) by going to the "Club Calendar" page and selecting this event to participate in.

Full details about our Special Event Station plans for this event can be found on the club's website at:

<https://tamiamiarc.org/events/event/sharks-toot-festival/>

[SEE THE VIDEO REEL](#)

Florida QSO Party—W4AC Entry

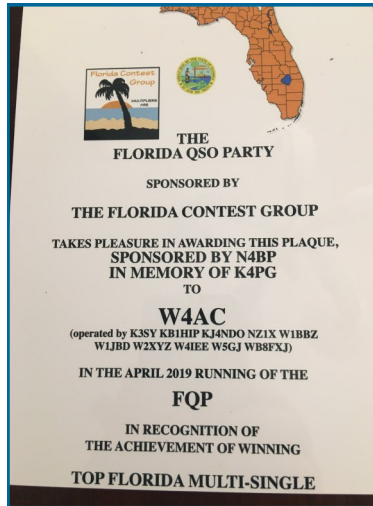
Once again, TARC will operate a club station to participate in this annual ham radio event. The 2026 Florida QSO Party will be held the weekend of April 25th – 26th, 2026.

Saturday 16:00:00Z (Noon EDT) – Sunday 01:59:59Z (9:59:59 PM EDT)

Sunday 12:00:00Z (8 AM EDT) – 21:59:59Z (5:59:59 PM EDT)

See website for rules: <https://floridaqsoparty.org/>

As in past years, TARC will operate from "Al's KOAL Cottage" in Nokomis making use of his first class equipment and antenna farm. This is a great and low stress



operating environment for new hams to get some experience operating HF on SSB, CW, FT8, and other digital modes. (1500 MacKintosh Blvd., Nokomis)

Contact Frank, W2XYZ to sign up for an operating shift or two as either an operator or logger.

73, de Frank W2XYZ

TARC Club Logo Apparel

At the beginning of 2025, the club membership voted to change our club LOGO'd apparel vendor. The previous vendor preferred to receive orders in bulk and the club was responsible for promoting sales, taking orders and collecting payment for those orders. We typically had two ordering periods per year; spring and fall.

The new vendor offers the same club shirt styles and colors as before and they have provided a website where club members can place individual orders at any time for a club LOGO'd shirt.

Ordering website:
<https://www.companycasuals.com/TARC>



Please note that for your very first order of any LOGO'd apparel item, there will be a \$15 embroidery setup fee charged to your purchase. Thereafter, any future orders with the same name and call sign will NOT have this fee charged to your orders.



After you have completed and submitted your online order, a company representative will call you to review the order and to provide payment

instructions. The preferred method of payment is by Zelle money transfer. Any questions concerning the ordering process or your order should be addressed directly to the vendor's representative.

The vendor will also take direct, phone or email orders from club members for **any other club LOGO'd apparel** items in their company's catalog. Please note that items such as mugs, bags, etc. must be ordered in bulk quantities to have the club logo applied to them.

Only apparel items can be ordered one at a time. You must provide the product number and item name when placing a direct order; e.g.: **TTCM4414 tentree® Space Dye Fleece Full-Zip Hoodie**

Online Catalog:
<https://redhottpress.com/>

Vendor Contact:
Barbara Harrison
Red Hott Press Inc.
941-526-3964
Barbara@RedHottPress.com

TARC Supports Megalodon Race in Venice



TARC has provided race monitoring 2-way radio support to this annual 10 and 5k race event in Venice for many years. This year we had a new first time event manager, John N3PQD as "Race Control". John did a great job recruiting volunteers to man the race course on both days of this weekend event from March 7th to March 8th 2026. Well done John!

See San K3SY Run:

<https://youtu.be/GA0teQ-UTiA?si=DCHyQ5gQknjokMA->

San was an entrant in the 5K race on Sunday, March 8th. He didn't win; but for an 86 year old he certainly put many of his fellow TARC club members to shame by competing in the event!

Saturday 10 K crew was:

Shaun KQ4YAX, Richard KK4AHZ, Ray K2NET, Dave KQ4IOI, Paul KN4BAR. Frank W2XYZ, Phil KD8HTS, Karl K4RLX, Mark KQ4EKK, and Brian W1JBD, Andy KB1HIP, and Frank W2XYZ.

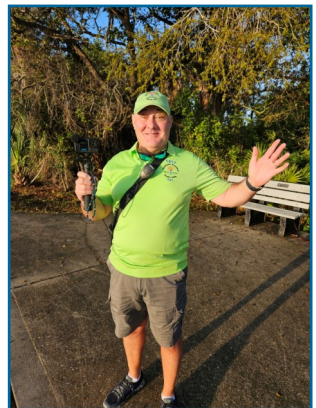
William Hopewell KQ4YMQ new member was at race control with me to observe and see what it was all about.

Sunday 5 K crew was:

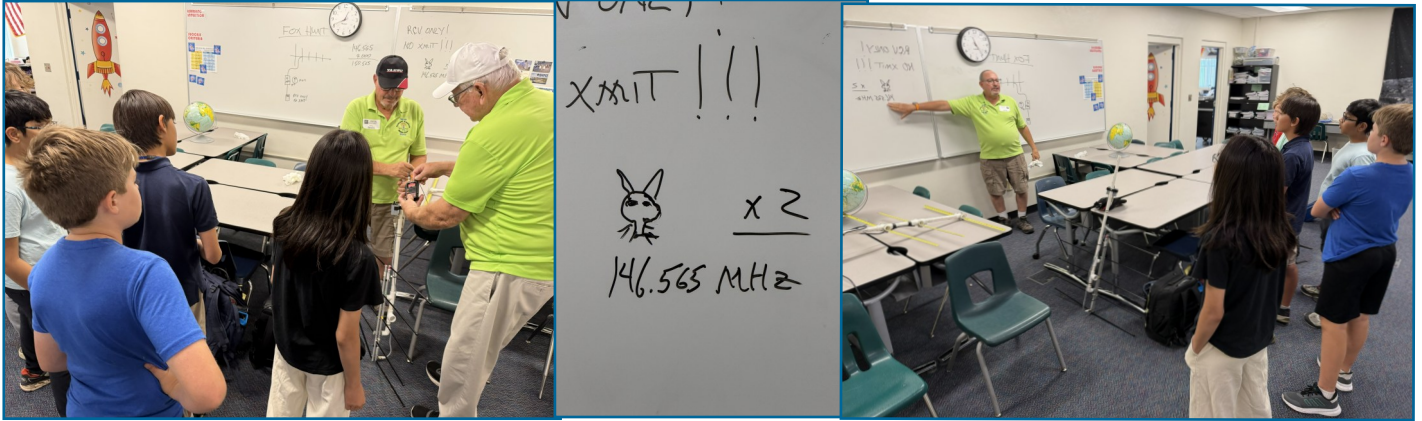
Dwight KT4DS, Shaun KO4YAX, Karl K4RLX, Mark KQ4EKK, Richard KK4AHZ, Phil KD8HTS. Bob KM2T was at race control with me to see what it was all about.

Thank you again to all that helped make this event run smooth.

de John N3PQD



Pine View School (PVS) Update



SO Just what the heck is an offset attenuator and how does it work and why do we need one?



PVS Ham Club Members learned fox hunting skills in March



Unfortunately (for us) our new PVS student contributor was selected to compete in a STEM regional contest in Orlando March 25-28 (fortunate for her). So we have no article for this month but some great pictures of ham club members learning about ham radio fox hunting.

Congratulations Diya KZ4ZT on your selection to compete and we hope you and your team can win, win, win. Well ... at least have fun trying!! Good luck.

See "Technical Student Association" (TSA) STEM competition for high school students. [link](#)

Don't Pull the Plug – Taking TARC With You

As the Florida mercury begins its steady climb, many of our TARC “snowbirds” are starting to eye the calendar and prep their northern-bound vehicles. Usually, this means the bittersweet ritual of taking down the HF wire, disconnecting the coax, and wondering if you’ll be able to catch the 441.200 repeater from a thousand miles away.

But this year, things are different. Moving north doesn’t have to mean moving “off the air” in Venice. Thanks to modern technology and TARC’s own infrastructure, you can stay connected to the club and your Florida radio friends from your northern patio.

1. The TARC Remote HF Station

Did you know TARC maintains a high-end ICOM IC-7300 remote access station? It is located at our Paul Morris Drive site in Englewood. This station features an inverted V OCF multiband antenna at a staggering **125 feet**.

If you have an “active” club membership status by attending at least 4 meetings in the last 12 months, you are eligible to use this powerhouse. It’s perfect for those who live in antenna-restricted HOAs up north or simply want to keep a “Florida footprint” on the HF bands.

How to get started:

Visit the TARC [website](#) and find out how to request access.

2. Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)

If you want to stay on the local TARC repeaters while you’re in Michigan, Ohio, or New York, DMR is your best friend. By using a handheld DMR

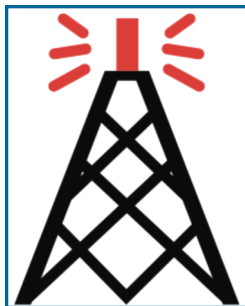
radio and a “hotspot” (a tiny device that connects your radio to your home Wi-Fi), you can link directly into the Florida talkgroup (TG3112). You’ll hear the local chatter as if you were sitting in Perkins on a Friday morning.

Great [YouTube Video](#) to learn all about hotspots.



TARC has a DMR chat net with Frank W2XYZ as net control every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm eastern time on TG310442. This is a TARC only TG just for us!

3. EchoLink: The “No-Hardware” Solution



If you aren’t ready to dive into DMR then [EchoLink](#) remains the gold standard for seasonal travelers. Using just your smartphone

or laptop, you can “link” into thousands of repeaters worldwide including many in the Suncoast area. It’s the easiest way to check into local nets from your phone while you’re waiting for your northern grass to grow.

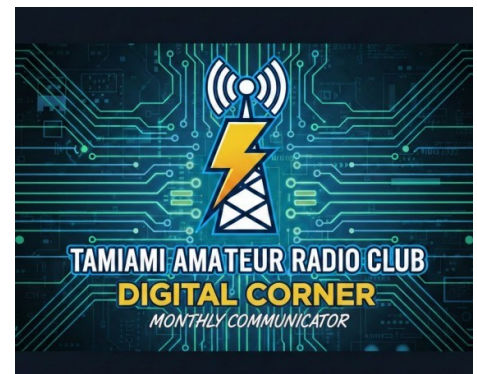
TARC’s 2m repeater on 146.805 MHz, PL 100 Hz is identified as Node 513309, “W4AC-R” in the EchoLink directory. You must be a licensed amateur radio operator to use Echo-

Link and you must request an account with them by showing proof of your active license status. Contact EchoLink on their website at: <https://echolink.org/>

TARC has a 2m chat net on this repeater every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm eastern time. Various club members have the net control duty for this very informal and fun radio net.

Next Month: In the May issue, we’ll dive into “The Remote Shack”; exploring how you can set up your own Florida station to be controlled from your laptop anywhere in the world.

73, de The Digital Committee



If you would like to join the TARC Digital Committee and be part of charting a new and exciting digital amateur radio future for the club, then please contact one of these fine club members:

- Lou Ronnau, KC4LR
- Dan O’Donovan, W4DOD
- Chet Fennel, KG4IYS

Collision Alert!!!

One of the basic principles of the FT8 protocol is that the standard messages are fixed length, 13 text characters, which are converted into a digital message 77 bits long. This works fine for standard callsigns, which generally are no more than 6 characters long (e.g. WA1ZKN). However, for long or complex callsigns, which can occur for special events or DXpeditions (e.g. P5/WA1ZKN), the FT8 algorithm has a method of converting the call into a shorter, fixed-length numeric identifier before transmission. This allows the long call to be transmitted along with a standard call in the same 77-bit message. This conversion method is known to computer nerds as a “hash algorithm”.

Hash algorithms have a wide variety of uses, such as cryptography, password storage and data integrity checks. Hash algorithms have some specific characteristics, three of which are of interest to FT8 users:

- 1) The same input always produces the same output (Deterministic and fixed output).
- 2) It is impossible to calculate the input from the output (Irreversible).
- 3) There should be a low probability that two different inputs produce the same output (collision resistance).

For a given hash algorithm, the total number of possible unique output results is determined by the length of the output. Depending on the sce-

nario, FT8 uses either a 10-bit or 12-bit hash algorithm, with 1024 or 4096 possible results respectively. With over 3 million ham radio operators in the world, it's obvious that several call signs will produce the same hash output – this is known as a “hash collision”.



So, how is this im-

portant to us as users of the FT8 protocol? As mentioned above, FT8 converts long call signs into a hash code, an action called “hashing” and stores the call sign and it's hash code in a lookup table. Then two FT8 stations only need to exchange the hash code via RF, and then lookup the hash code in the table, and convert back to the actual call sign to display to the operator. This all works great, until it doesn't.

As mentioned above, multiple call signs can produce the same hash output. So, if in the course of operations you come across one of these cases, FT8 can do a lookup and display the “wrong” call sign. In my experience, this results in what looks like two different stations competing for the same frequency. In fact, by all appearances, one station seems to be “following” the other station within the FT8 window, seemingly causing intentional interference.

I had this happen to me – 9V1RS (Singapore) appeared to pop up on 10 meters. Since I was (and still am) interested in logging a contact with Singapore, I immediately jumped on

that and started calling them. Almost immediately, FJ/DK6AS (St. Barthelémy) appeared on the exact same transmit slot, appearing to block my station from receiving the Singapore station. This went on for about an hour, across 3 different bands.

Singapore would pop up, I would call them, and St. Barts would immediately start blocking them. Only after checking the 9V1RS QRZ page did I realize what was happening. It turns out that 9V1RS never operates on HF, so any decode on 10 Meters or lower is a “hash collision”.

How did 9V1RS get into my hash table? That part I do not know – since they do not operate on HF, I would never have heard them. My best guess is that I decoded another transmission from someone attempting to call the phantom 9V1RS, but that may be wrong.

Once you recognize that a hash collision may be occurring (a compound callsign appearing to interfere with a standard call sign), it seems that best course of action is to shut down and then restart your instance of WSJT-X. No need to reboot the computer; just the software. Although I have not been able to find a definitive statement, people that know this stuff have concluded that shutting down WSJT-X flushes all the temporary files. Given that in 9 years of extensive FT8 operating I have only noticed this behavior once, it seems plausible that the hash tables are not retained indefinitely.

73, de Steve NS4P

Support Amateur Radio Infrastructure in Sarasota County



Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Celebrating the 10th Giving Challenge

The SARASOTA EMERGENCY RADIO CLUB has partnered with Sarasota Memorial Hospital to provide emergency communication back-up at all four SMH locations in case their primary radio communications, telephone, Internet or back-up generators fail during a hurricane or other emergency. There is no greater need than making sure our hospitals are safe places where emergency care can continue without interruption during times of disaster.

Trained SRQ ARES licensed radio operators arrive ahead of storm force winds, ready with our radio equipment to connect the other SMH locations to the airwaves in minutes.

Our robust repeater network is a vital part of the local communications infrastructure that many licensed amateur radio operators use. S.E.R.C. has a tower and antenna repair at our home base that needs funding. This is another important part of our infrastructure that helps provide emergency communications to our served agencies.

During the 24-hours of the Giving Challenge our focus is to raise awareness for hurricane preparedness and this donor-funded initiative. Donations up to \$100 will be matched by The Patterson Foundation. **Please donate using your credit card during the 24-hour Giving Challenge from noon to noon on April 15 & 16 to qualify for The Patterson Foundation match at:**

<https://www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/sarasota-emergency-radio-club-inc>

THANK YOU!

Please go to n4ser.org for more information on becoming an amateur radio operator.

*OUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA: CH50303
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE
OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-
7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR
RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.*

Please consider making a donation to help support the amateur radio equipment, repeater, digipeater, and WinLink gateway infrastructure in Sarasota County. The Sarasota Emergency Radio Club (SERC) maintains more than a dozen repeaters, digipeaters, and WinLink gateways located at multiple tower and rooftop locations in the county.

I make use of the WinLink gateways they provide and have used them following storms to make contact with loved ones up north for myself and my neighbors.

I am pledging a \$100 donation because I believe in the necessity of the amateur radio infrastructure SERC provides to amateurs in the county and I use many of those services.

73, de Paul KN4BAR

GET "RADIO-ACTIVE" IN APRIL



[APRIL 11—12, 2026](#)



[APRIL 17—20, 2026](#)



[APRIL 25—26, 2026](#)

4th Annual TARC BBQ&Q Party Pictures



4th Annual TARC BBQ&Q Party Pictures



[SEE THE VIDEO REEL](#)
Thank you Karl K4RLX

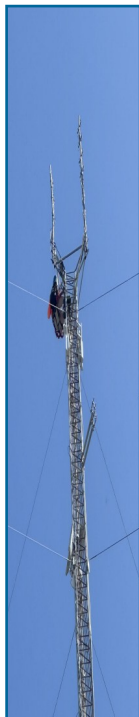


Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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](#)>

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

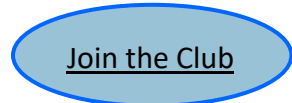
2026 TARC Directors:

- 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

