



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message

Once again May was a busy month for club members. The most significant convention for Ham Radio in the United States, called the Dayton Hamvention, was held again near Xenia, Ohio. The reports state this year had the largest attendance in it's history; hosting large flea markets, educational forums, vendors, and exams, etc. While attendance from our club may have been less this year, I saw many of the usual suspects there in the group photos. I have not yet heard whether any good boat anchors were purchased (but I suspect there were some). I know that Frank (our V.P., W2XYZ) met up with some important vendors and made good contacts going forward. He may report on that at the next club meeting.

The other significant event this past month was the first launch attempt of a PICO balloon carrying an approximately 12 gram transmitter and solar panels for power and operating on 15m WSPR. This was called the W4AC-1 **Venice Voyager**. It soared into the skies at

about 7:15 am Sunday, May 24, 2026, and quickly rose to an approximate height of 41,000 feet, and started traveling east-erly, but later reversed directions and was last seen over the gulf past Bradenton on May 25th. We are unable to track it on its voyage further because the WSPR frequency is wrong somehow. It is currently unknown now where it has gone, but there is speculation.

The important thing to remember is that this was a learning experience. We will launch again with the proper corrections applied, and this will position the team to well assist the Pine View School with their planned Fall launch. In my humble opinion, this first launch was quite successful, and I sincerely applaud the members of

KG4IYS



(Continued on page 3)



We are on Facebook

Inside This issue

TARC Email Contact List 2
 Please Subscribe to Groups.io 2
 Club QSO Party?..... 2
 COMMITTEE REPORTS 4
 2026 Florida QSO Party Report.... 5
 License Upgrade Incentive..... 6
 TARC Launched a PICO Balloon ... 6
 Exploring MeshCore..... 8
 TARC at Hamvention..... 10
 ARRL Field Day Plan 2026 11
 Shack-of-the-Month 12

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Club Meeting 6/10/26](#)
[After Meeting—Mesh Net-working by Lou KC4LR](#)
- ◆ [ARRL Field Day 6/27-28/26](#)
- ◆ [NO CLUB MEEINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST](#)
- ◆ [SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!](#)

Welcome New Members

05/09/26	Member	Ted Thompson	Extra	AA3ET
04/15/26	First Year	Stuart Mushlin	Technician	KR4LJD
04/13/26	Member	Ronald Grew	Extra	W8RDG
03/20/26	First Year	Dan Kennedy	Technician	KR4KQO
03/11/26	Member	Dorian Phillips	Technician	K04CDN



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

We Use Groups.io (GiO) DO YOU?

In an effort to improve communications between club members themselves, and between the members and our officers and directors, we have decided to use this Groups,io email messaging service. We hope that the majority of our membership will subscribe to and make use of this service. If so, we can then use Groups.io to:

- announce planned special and other operating events
- coordinate operating shifts and equipment for these events
- take polls of member preferences for issues being considered
- alert members to EmComm needs in our area
- distribute the Communicator monthly newsletter letter
- discuss equipment and operating issues among club members
- share files and pics with the membership
- engage in real-time online chat sessions
- Buy, barter and sell equipment

A spot check of the club’s membership records in May showed that a shocking 10 out of 15 new club members that have joined the club since December 2025 **HAVE NOT** subscribed to our **GiO** service. This means that these members are missing out on announcements of club activities, equipment being offered for sale, and message threads about timely and interesting amateur radio topics.

Aside from the monthly club meetings that are only attended by about 30-40 percent of the club membership, **GiO** is the **ONLY** way we have to communicate among ourselves. Please consider subscribing to the TARC-VeniceFL@groups.io message service.

de Paul KN4BAR

Subscribing is easy Just **send an email to:**
subscribe@TARC-VeniceFL.groups.io
 With the subject of: **Subscribe**

Club QSO Party?

The ARRL has officially declared 2026 the Year of the Club, and we’re answering that call with a brand new on the air event built specifically to energize your members and put your club front and center.



At our June 10th club meeting we will be discussing this new and exciting operating event for possible club participation. Bring your ideas and a commitment to participate on the air.

June 20th 00:00 UTC through June 21st 23:59 UTC

Introducing the Club QSO Party — the operating event designed **FOR** clubs, **BY** clubs.

www.clubqsoparty.org

President's Messge (Cont'd)

the PICO ballon project. Well done guys!!

Looking forward into June, there are significant ARRL planned events. Look for the Digital contest the first weekend of June. The club will not officially participate again this year, but it is a great way to learn your digital skills with the various digital modes. The last weekend of June is the annual ARRL Field Day event. This is important for Amateur radio because we demonstrate our skills to operate under emergency conditions to the public at large. We will be getting this organized at the next club meeting this month and we wish as many participants as possible to sign up for operating slots in the 24

hour schedule. This also is a great way for new hams to participate and learn by operating GOTA stations (Get On The Air).

We will not hold club meetings during the summer (July and August), so I wish all of you and yours a wonderful summer (please no hurricanes, just some nice rain).

73...de OM Chet KG4IYS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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!

Sunshine

Shaun KQ4YAX

We sent a sympathy card and a get well card from TARC and offered prayers for the following:

- Sympathy card to Richard KK4AHZ for the passing of his wife, Jean.
- A get well card to Steve KN4NFX regarding his surgery and pending immunotherapy and chemotherapy for the recurrence of his lymphoma cancer.

We also offered any assistance/support they might need from TARC during this stressful period.

Florida State POTA Contest

Jim N7JIM

<https://fspota.org>

We closed our very successful 2026 event in April and have taken notes to improve the 2027 event. Thanks to everyone who helped in the event planning and operations. We will be meeting in November to kick off the 2027 event. If you are interested in being on the planning committee, contact N7JIM Jim at V8MGB@yahoo.com

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.

We really could use another 2m net control station for the Thursday 7:30 pm net. If you are interested, please [contact me](#). We will be especially short handed this summer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VE Testing

Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 05/09/26
 Number tested: 3
 Passed: 3
 New Members: 1
 Member Upgrades: 0
 Next Test Date: 06/13/26

CLUB UPGRADE INCENTIVE

Only June and July remain for Incentive Upgrading!

[Incentive Details](#)

8 Incentive Offers Remain to be Had!

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)

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.

Digital Committee

The TARC Digital Committee is looking for enthusiastic members to help shape the future of our club's digital operations. Our mission is to explore and promote digital excellence through open-source technologies, ensuring our members stay on the leading edge of the hobby. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with:

- Education & Mentorship: Helping fellow members get on the air with modes like FT8, JS8Call, and FreeDV.
- Technical Research: Testing open-source software and hardware configurations.
- Content Creation: Contributing to the "Digital Corner" in *The Communicator*.

Please reach out to the Digital Committee chair, Lou, KC4LR at our next meeting.

Membership

Roger N9RM

As of: 05/19/26

Total Membership: 168

146 Regular Members
 1 Associate Member
 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

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](#)>

2026 Florida QSO Party Report We Done Good!

Did you ever fantasize about being a Rock Star with hundreds of fans dying to hear you? How about a movie star with thousands of adoring fans wishing to somehow connect with you? Several club members had that opportunity on the weekend of April 25-26. That particular weekend was the 2026 Florida QSO Party, and what a party it was. The basic idea of QSO Parties is for hams in the other 49 States and 10 Provinces of Canada to contact as many hams as possible in Florida, especially in different counties for point multipliers.

To begin with, we had a phenomenal station to work from: Al's Cottage (K0AL). We were able to use his multi-element yagies, up almost 100 feet on 40 meters, 20 meters, and 15 meters. It would have been possible to use 10 meters as well, but the propagation wasn't good for it. More on that thought later. In past Florida QSO Parties, we used Al's beam for one station, but either ran only one station or we erected another antenna for the second station. This year was different. We had our new triplexer. That meant both the SSB station and the CW station could be connected to the same antenna at the same time. On the SSB station, we ran a kilowatt. On the CW station, we ran 500 watts. No one we contacted had any trouble hearing us and with that antenna system, we heard many stations that normally wouldn't be heard with average antennas. The triplexer worked beautifully. We had absolutely no interference from the other station on the same antenna we were using at the same time, and that's with running high power.

Scores this weekend could have been much higher, if propagation were better. 20 meters was okay, but propagation on 15 meters was poor, and on 10 meters essentially nonexistent. 40 meters was also okay, but it's a nighttime band, and most of the QSO party occurred during hours of daylight. On Saturday, the SSB station worked the 20 meter band, and work it they did. For the most of the day, it was near continuous QSOs. At times it was pile-ups like a rare DX station would expect.

The guys on phone worked hard and I think they enjoyed every minute of it. The CW station was on 15 meters on Saturday and worked some 40 meters when the sun set. The CW ops also worked hard, but with poor conditions they never got the pile-up the SSB station experienced. We reversed operations on Sunday. 15 meters was used by the SSB station and the CW crew got 20 meters. With conditions the same or maybe even worse on Sunday, the results were as expected. CW had tons of contacts while SSB struggled on 15 meters. During the last hour or two on Sunday, the CW station was beginning to get a lot of dupes (duplicate contacts). To improve our score, we switched again and gave SSB 20 meters. They went to town and worked a significant number of stations.

How did we do? Considering propagation as it was, I'd say we did better than I thought we would. How we did in comparison to the other Florida stations won't be known for quite some time until all logs are submitted, checked, and tallied. Specifically, we worked 914 stations with SSB and 705 stations with CW. With one point per SSB QSO and two points per CW QSO we had 1619 basic points, but wait, there's more. We also had 122 multipliers which gave a final score of 283,528 points. Between both of our stations, we managed to work every U.S. state except Alaska and Wyoming. Although not trying to specifically work DX stations, we were contacted by 14 different countries and we did contact 39 different Florida counties.

We didn't have a sign-in sheet, so I hope I'm not forgetting anyone. As best as I can recall, the SSB 'Rock Stars'

were: Al K0AL, Tony W4RFV, Karl K4RLX, Jonathon W4OMX, and Andy KB1HIP. On the CW station we had 'Movie Stars': Tony KX1G, Ken NS1C, and Frank W2XYZ.

P.S. Autographs and assorted merchandise available on request at nominal prices.

de Frank W2XYZ



**Hosted by Al K0AL at his "cottage"
Managed by Frank W2XYZ
Thank You Both!**

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 Launched a PICO Balloon

As announced at the April club meeting, and in several emails following that meeting, TARC formed a project team in May to build and launch a PICO balloon just like the Englewood club did back in March. We had the following club members sign up to participate: Paul KN4BAR, Jim N7JIM, Karl K4RLX, Lou KC4LR, Dan W4DOD, Paul W1BIU, Paul K1YOU, Scotty KQ4UFY, and Ken NS1C.

We organized ourselves into two groups; one to build and test the payload, and one to stretch, test, and prepare the balloon. We decided to use Helium gas for lift and a U4B tracker from QRP Labs operating on 15m to send telemetry back to the surface for the WSPR network receiving stations to receive.

None of us had any prior experience with PICO ballooning or ballooning in general. We did a lot of research and followed the literature as best we could to build our first balloon.

Dan W4DOD came up with a name for our balloon, "**Venice Voyager**" that we all unanimously accepted and began to use. Karl K4RLX used his AI interface skills to generate a



great looking log for the project. The final balloon package looked like this:

- 60-inch Crymylar clear balloon
- QRP Labs U4B tracker
- 3D printed frame by N7JIM
- Solar Cell Polymer 4.8V 50mA (2 of them)



One group stretched and leak-tested the balloon before flight. Stretching involves filling the balloon with air to very close to its bursting pressure. This ensures that the balloon will be inflated to its maximum volume at altitude when it achieves its designed "float level" and full "superpressure". If the balloon rises too fast or too high It POPs and that's the end of the mission!

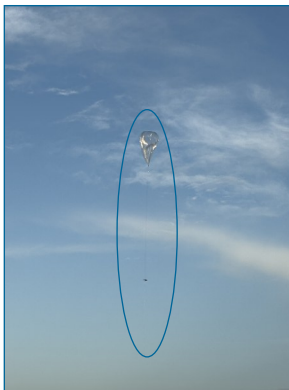
(Continued on page 7)

Venice Voyager Pico Balloon Project (Cont'd)

The other group focused on programming, testing and assembling the payload part of the project. They fabricated and tuned a 15m dipole antenna using enameled transformer wire to reduce weight. Jim N7JIM used his 3D printing equipment to fabricate a light weight frame to support the tracker, photovoltaic power panels and antennas (15m and GPS) and a Kevlar thread tether line to connect to the balloon.



We decided on a launch date of Sunday, May 24th at 7 am to have the lowest possible wind speed at launch. The large empty field behind the new HCA hospital in North Port's Wellen Park area was used as a convenient and safe from obstructions launch location. At 7:15 am **AWAY IT WENT!**



Look carefully and you can see the tracker payload suspended from the balloon on 1/2 of the 15m dipole antenna.

Launch Team from L to R:

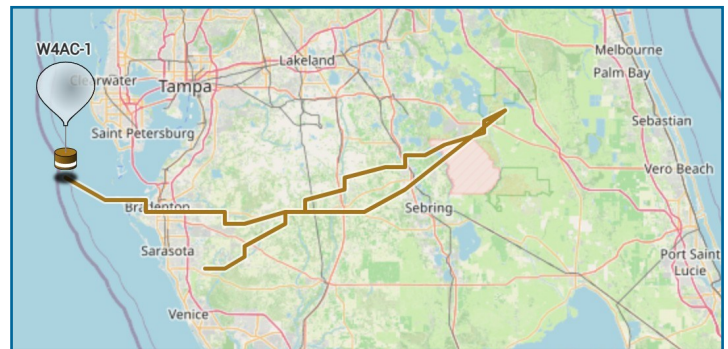
- Paul KN4BAR
- Paul K1YOU
- Jim N7JIM
- Scotty KQ4UFY
- Dan W4DOD
- Lou KC4LR



The First 36 Hours. You can't make this up!

After a perfect launch the balloon climbed normally to altitude as the wind carried it eastward ... like it should. We all patted ourselves on the back for a job well done, and then around 3:15 pm at 41,000 feet we ran into a line of thunderstorms a few miles southwest of Melbourne. The last transmission from the balloon showed a 2,000 foot drop in elevation and a descent rate of 197 feet per minute. It looked like a crash!

Mother Nature Has a Sense of Humor



We were on pins and needles all night long until the sun was high enough the next day to get some energy for the photovoltaic panels that power the transmitter. At about 9:15 am we got the first transmission and by 10 am we saw that the balloon was alive, at 40,000 feet, and had drifted west overnight to be over Avon Park! All during the day it continued slowly drifting west back over Florida and by 5:30ish when the sun power was lost again it was still at 40,000 feet, over the Gulf of America/Mexico (take your pick), and well west of the entrance to Tampa Bay. Yes, Tampa Bay! We had just made one back and forth trip across the peninsula.

Unfortunately, our balloon never woke up with the sun on Tuesday. We listened all day and again on Wednesday morning for a signal from it. Looking at the weather radar tracks for the Tampa Bay area overnight Tuesday we saw several major thunderstorm tracks passing over the area from the southwest. We assume that one of them brought the balloon down.

We will try again!

73 from the Venice Voyager balloon team

The Digital Corner— Exploring MeshCore

The Next Evolution in Off-Grid Text Mesh Networking

Amateur radio has always been at the forefront of experimental, decentralized communication. From the golden days of VHF packet radio and AX.25 digitizing to modern digital voice modes like DMR, we thrive on building networks that don't rely on commercial infrastructure.

Recently, a new digital mode has been making waves across the global ham community: MeshCore. If you've heard of or experimented with Meshtastic over the last couple of years, MeshCore will feel instantly familiar, yet technologically refreshed. It represents a significant evolution in how low-power, off-grid data networks manage routing, efficiency and scale.

What is MeshCore?

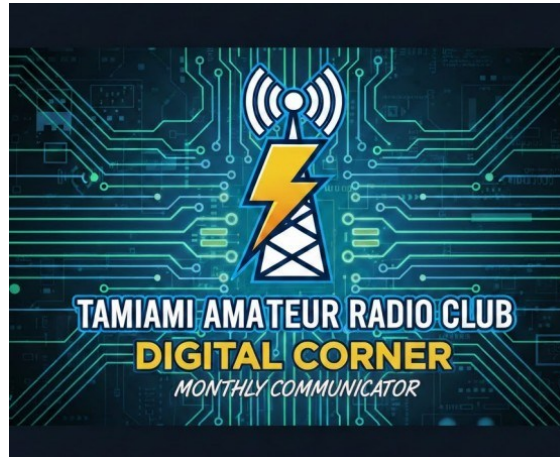
At its core, MeshCore is an open-source, decentralized, off-grid text messaging and telemetry platform powered by LoRa (Long Range) radio technology. It allows users to link smartphones, tablets or computers to small, inexpensive radio nodes via Bluetooth or USB. These nodes talk to one another directly, forming an ad-hoc, self-healing network that functions entirely independent of cellular towers, the internet or the electrical grid.

How It Works: The Hybrid Routing Difference

For those familiar with traditional packet radio or older LoRa mesh frameworks, standard networks often rely heavily on "flooding"—where every node repeats every packet it hears. While simple, flooding can rapidly congest the RF spectrum as a network grows.

MeshCore addresses this limitation by using a more intelligent, hybrid routing protocol.

Dynamic Pathfinding: Once a communication path is established between nodes, messages follow the best-known point-to-point route rather than blindly broadcasting to every device in range. **Less Airtime Congestion:** By reducing unnecessary transmissions, MeshCore optimizes precious airtime, meaning



cleaner spectrum and faster throughput.

Scalability: The network becomes more efficient as it expands, allowing a town, city, or county-wide network to handle far more traffic without collapsing under its own weight.

Technical Specifications - The Ham's Breakdown:

Because MeshCore utilizes unlicensed ISM (Industrial, Scientific, and Medical) bands, anyone can participate. In the United States, MeshCore operates in the 902 to 928 MHz band (typically at 910.525 MHz in North America, depending on local frequency plans).

Here is a quick look at a standard North American MeshCore configuration:

- Standard US/Canada Frequency Band: 915 MHz LoRa (Long Range)
- Bandwidth: 62.5 kHz
- Encryption: End-to-End AES-128
- Primary Uses: Text messaging, GPS tracking, sensor telemetry

Because LoRa leverages spread-spectrum technology, these tiny devices can pull signals out of the noise floor at remarkably low power levels (often transmitting at just 22 dBm, or about 160 milliwatts).

Hardware: Getting On the Mesh for Under \$40

One of the most appealing aspects of MeshCore is its low barrier to entry. There is no soldering required, and firmware can be flashed in seconds directly from a Google Chrome browser via a web configurator. Popular hardware options include:

- Heltec V3 / LilyGo T-Beam: Inexpensive ESP32-S3 based development boards equipped with a built-in LoRa chip, battery management and often a small OLED screen.

(Continued on page 9)

Exploring MeshCore (Cont'd)

- XIAO nRF52840 + Wio-SX1262: An ultra-low-power option that draws minimal current, making it the gold standard for solar-powered field installations.

Height is Might!

Just like with VHF/UHF, 900 MHz propagation is strictly line-of-sight. While a small "companion node" inside your house will let you message someone down the street, putting a dedicated repeater on a roof, tower, or nearby hilltop completely changes the game. A well-placed node paired with a modest 3 dBi to 5.5 dBi external vertical antenna can easily bridge gaps of 10 kilometers (over 6 miles) or more.

Why MeshCore Matters for TARC and EmComm

While MeshCore doesn't require an amateur radio license, it is a perfect sandbox for hams. It combines the fundamental skills of RF experimentation—antenna building, line-of-sight propagation analysis, feedline loss management—with modern digital network routing.

From an Emergency Communications (EmComm) per-

spective, the utility is obvious. If a hurricane or severe storm hits Southwest Florida and knocks out the local cell grid, a pre-established MeshCore network allows local operators, neighborhood watch groups, and families to maintain an encrypted, reliable, text-based lifeline. It can also be deployed seamlessly during public service events, such as tracking volunteers or coordinators across a large festival footprint where cell networks are bogged down.

Want to Learn More?

If you want to see MeshCore in action, check out the web flasher and map ecosystems at <https://meshcore.io/> or look up recent video deep-dives on the Ham Radio Crash Course or Ham Radio DX YouTube channels.

Do you have a MeshCore node running in Venice, or are you interested in starting a TARC mesh project? Bring your ideas to our next breakfast at Peach's or Perkins or share them at the monthly club meeting!

73, The TARC Digital Committee

Collectables — Karakatures and Kreation by Karl K4RLX



TARC Was Well Represented at Dayton Hamvention

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these Hams from the swift completion of their appointed round to Hamvention. That's a slight variation of the Post Office's motto, but it also applies to amateur radio. One would think with gas prices being near record high, and airlines fares out of sight, Xenia Ohio would remain its usual tiny bedroom community. Not this May, or several Mays in the past. Hara's Arena held it's last Hamvention in 2016, Greene County Fairgrounds, just outside of Xenia, Ohio has hosted the annual radio convention since then. It had a bumpy start in Xenia, or perhaps I should say a muddy start in Xenia. If you were there in 2017, you know exactly what I mean by that. The COVID pandemic caused Hamvention not to be held for two years, but the pandemic is gone and the mud-parking is under control, so Hamvention is back in full swing.

So even with gas and air fare being what it is, Hamvention had 38,000 attendees from more that 43 different countries. What is this weird attraction that brings reasonably sane people from across the country and around the world to Xenia every year? Most likely not because of the fine weather (it ALWAYS rains on at least one of the three days). Probably not because vendors are offering wares that cannot not be obtained elsewhere. Online buying put an end to that exclusive availability idea. Many vendors do offer modest discounts, but the discounts are hardly enough of a reason to travel that far. It is nice to meet up with old friends at Hamvention that you haven't seen in a long time. With Facetime, Zoom, and even cell phones, traveling to Xenia for that reason doesn't make good sense. So why do thousands (and that number is increasing every year) of Hams make the trek to Hamvention? For the same reason people climb Mt. Everest, or dive to great depths in the ocean. The same reason man has always wondered, what is on the other side of that hill. We go to Hamvention because it is there! Some say, it's a rite of passage. Some refer to it as our Mecca. I'll guess there were at about 38,000 reasons this year. For me, because it's the thing I do. In fact, this year was my 28th time attending Hamvention, and if possible, I'll be there next year too.

de Frank W2XYZ



ARRL Field Day Plan June 27-28, 2026

TARC will operate as a multi-station, multi-mode club entrant in this year's ARRL Field Day event. We will be operating from a new location this year. Our old Coast Guard Aux. location on Venice island is now the home of a new Air Force radar installation. Our concerns over future access and the strong possibility of RFI either from us or to us led to the board of directors looking for an alternative location.



Thanks to John N3PQD, we found a new home at the Venice Gardens Community Association, 406 Shamrock Blvd. in Venice. All club members are invited to participate in the setup, 24 hour operation, and tear down of the club station. <arrl-website>

DATES: Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and June 28, 2026

Setup of antennas will be done on Saturday morning starting at 9 am and operating shifts of 2 hours per station/mode will be established for club members to sign up for participation. A sign up sheet to select your operating date and time or to help set up or tear down will be circulated at the June monthly club meeting.

Field Day or any club operating event like this is a great opportunity for new hams to get some experience and exposure to HF operations and contesting. Learn how to setup and tune a portable antenna. Learn how to "talk" ham speak on the radio. Make contacts with other sta-



tions around the country and the world. Help is always needed at the beginning to erect the portable antennas and to connect and test all the station equipment. During the event we are always looking for operators to work SSB, CW, and digital modes. If you don't know how to do this someone will be more than willing and happy to show you and to work with you to learn more about your ham radio hobby.

Don't be a stranger. Come visit, say hello, watch, listen, and learn. For more information please contact Frank W2XYZ. Or visit the TARC website for other details:

<https://tamiamiarc.org/events/event/field-day/>



Pictures from our 2025 ARRL Field Day activation at the Venice Gardens Community Association building on Shamrock Blvd. in Venice.

Shack of the Month—Jack W1JJR



I purchased a tool chest from Harbor Freight with 9 drawers. I am using it for organizing my Ham Gear. This purchase was a big plus for helping me or-

ganize my shack. A 9-drawer chest from Harbor Freight is perfect for ham gear because it forces everything into a logical place instead of scattered piles. If you want to really get the most out of it, a little structure goes a long way.

Many operators organize drawers by function so you're not hunting mid-project. For example: Top drawer: frequently used tools (crimpers, cutters, small screwdrivers, SWR meter accessories). One drawer: coax jumpers, adapters (SO-239, BNC, PL-259, SMA, etc). Another: power-related items (Powerpole connectors, fuses, inline meters). One for RF tinkering: spare connectors, ferrites, baluns, small components. Dedicated "project drawer": parts for whatever you're currently building or repairing.

Drawer liners keep connectors from sliding around. Small compartment trays or dividers for adapters and tiny parts. The real win here is workflow—you'll spend less time digging and more time operating or experimenting.

My station equipment consists of:

- Yaesu FTX-1 Optima
- Yaesu FT-710



- Acom Linear Amplifier 1010
- 3 HT's and 2 Hot Spots
- TP30SWV Power Supply
- Daiwa CN-501H SWR Meter
- Bluetti AC180P 1800W solar generator
- Hustler BTV-6 Antenna

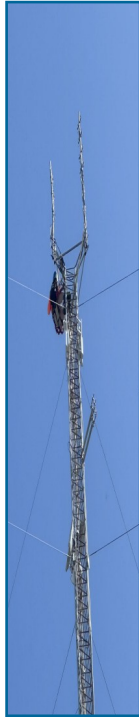
de Jack W1JJR 73

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

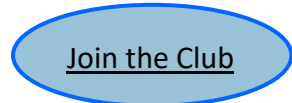
2026 TARC Directors:

- 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

