



THE COMMUNICATOR



President's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of **The Communicator**. I hope all of you are enjoying your summer activities. I am having fun this summer with cataract surgery.

Congratulations to all of those that participated in the ARRL Field Day this past June. Many thanks to Frank W2XYZ for managing a well run operation smoothly; and to John Zenner N3PQD for arranging the location again this year. I spent some time Saturday late afternoon and observed the professional operations. It was impressive, and thank you to all those who provided the great food. Thanks to Karl K4RLX for arranging the many public official visits; well done Karl. I am sure that Frank will provide a detailed report soon. Our numbers look impressive this year.

I hope to soon see another PICO Balloon launch this summer as we prepare for assisting Pine View School this Fall. We are learning a lot about the engineering issues to successfully launch. The PICO Balloon team has laid out some excellent procedures to follow for the

future. I recommend reading these procedures for your personal education.

When you have a few free minutes this summer, please write down some thoughts about how we might improve the club and/or do some more interesting projects. The board and I are quite open to new ideas and we would appreciate your thoughtful input.

BTW, thank you to Dan O'Donovan for his very kind compliments about the club in a recent email.

After my eyes settle down a bit, I hope to spend some time exploring different radio projects. Meanwhile please have an enjoyable summer; and be safe, please. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

73...de OM Chet KG4IYS

KG4IYS



We are on Facebook

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Upcoming Events

- ♦ **NO CLUB MEEINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST**
- ♦ **SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER**
Club Meeting Date
Wed. September 9, 2026
- ♦ **Holiday Party**
Wed. Dec 2, 2026
Menu and Cost to be discussed at the September club meeting

Welcome New Members

06/06/26	Member	Phil Mc Corkle	General	KC7OJS
06/02/26	First Year	Jim 'IKE' Eisenhower	Technician	K7IKE
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

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”](mailto: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

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 set-up 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.

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:



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

Barbara Harrison

Red Hott Press Inc.

941-526-3964

Barbara@RedHottPress.com

Super Successful PICO Balloon Project

TARC is pleased to congratulate the Englewood Amateur Radio Society (EARS) on their first PICO balloon project this spring. They supported the Sky Academy in Englewood in assisting them to get a balloon into the air on February 18, 2026.

Over the next 3 and 1/2 months their balloon circled the globe 6 times and was well on its way to a 7th circuit when it disappeared over the Pacific off the Japanese coast on or about June 3rd when location transmissions stopped. It is assumed that the balloon fell victim to a thunderstorm that can have cloud tops well over 50,000 feet.

The statistics for the flight ... thanks to Ken NS1C:

- Flight duration—118 days, 7 hours, 10 minutes
- Laps around the world—6
- Distance Traveled—264,855 Km / 164,585 miles
- WSPR spots on 15m—4,352

PICO Balloons are small, superpressure balloons that carry extremely light payloads, typically between 12 to 50 grams, allowing them to float at high altitudes without bursting like traditional weather balloons. Amateurs fly over 300 of these project balloons every year! TARC's first attempt failed in May but we will try again soon!

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 TARC get well soon card to David Brian KZ4UU. Brian Broke his ankle during a trip to Scotland. He's been on groups.io (GiO) a lot with question regarding CW and DMR during his recovery. The club wished him a quick recovery. We also offered any assistance/support he might need from TARC his recovery.

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: 06/13/26 and 07/11/26

Number tested: 3 and 7 respectively

Passed: 3 and 7 respectively

New Members: 1 and 0 respectively

Member Upgrades: 0 and 0 respectively

Next Test Date: 08/08/26

CLUB UPGRADE INCENTIVE

Ended July 11th. There is always next year!

[Incentive Details](#)

7 Incentive Offers Went **UNCLAIMED** in 2026!

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: 07/08/26

Total Membership: 169

146 Regular Members

1 Associate Member

5 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 License Upgrade Incentive Results

TARC has offered a license upgrade incentive to active club members for the past 3 years. The board of directors hope was to incentivize members to upgrade their licenses ... especially from Technician to General. In 2024 we awarded 11 incentives. In 2025 we awarded 8 incentives. Unfortunately, in 2026 only 3 club members took advantage of the upgrade offer. Maybe next year we will get a few more?

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

The incentives were:

- **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**

Congratulations to the 2026 incentive award club member recipients:

- **Allan KC1IWF to Amateur Extra (May 2026)**
- **Mike KR4JOY to General (May 2026)**
- **Kevin KR4JNL to General (June 2026)**

73, de your board of directors

HOW TO GET YOUR TARC CLUB NAME TAG

Frank W2XYZ takes the orders from members at club meetings or events or by email. He works with a local company in Sarasota to have them made and that company prefers to process orders in bulk at one time. So, Frank normally holds the orders he receives until he has enough to make it worthwhile for the vendor to process and for Frank to drive up to Sarasota to pick them up.

Why not place an order now over the summer for your new TARC



name tag and have it ready for pickup at the September club meeting?

Be sure to give Frank your first name exactly as you want it to appear on the name tag along with your call sign. [Email Frank](#)

SK—Phil Jung K9PJ

Phil Jung, K9PJ was a ham since the late 1950s and former member of TARC. He passed away June 4, 2026. He and his wife Gwen had relocated to Roanoke, VA in 2018 and just recently returned to the Venice area.

He and Al, KOAL had been friends since grade school days.

Prior to his retirement he had been involved with international logistics and had lived and worked in California, Illinois, Florida and Germany.

He was a Vietnam veteran. RIP Phil.



“In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

Although others have used these or similar words for many centuries now, we Americans attribute this phrase to none other than Benjamin Franklin. We can't cheat death; but there may be a few ways around taxes in good estate planning.

For most of our club members, we have more years behind us than ahead of us. Most of us already appreciate the value of having a valid will or trust that makes our final wishes known regarding our property and its distribution to our loved ones. Past experience has shown the club that many of our members have not thought about or included their ham radio equipment in these final plans. Too often, the surviving spouse or family member has no idea how to value or dispose of the shack contents. Why not take a few minutes to think about what you want to have done with your ham gear when you become a silent key (SK)? Having an inventory of major equipment items with manufacturer, model, date purchased and estimated current value is a great start to this planning.

Discuss the disposition of your ham radio gear ahead of time with your loved ones. What are your wishes? Do you want to donate your equipment to TARC or some other entity? Prior planning can go a long way towards alleviating some of the stress of your passing on loved ones. They won't have to avoid the dreaded shack room and all of the worries and decisions about what to do with your stuff!

Since we are on this morbid subject, why not also consider a bequest to TARC in your estate plans? We keep the dues low to support just the day-to-day operating and maintenance costs of the club's operations. Purchase of new capital equipment is always accompanied by the question of how will it be paid for. You can help with answering that question. TARC is an IRS 501(c)3 charitable organization. Perhaps a charitable gift in your estate plan may be desirable?

Everything you might want to know about bequests can be found at this link:

<https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/guidance/philanthropy/what-are-bequests.html>

TARC members approved a formal policy and plan at the June club meeting for the acceptance of bequests made to the club. Contact the club secretary or treasurer for details on how to begin the process.

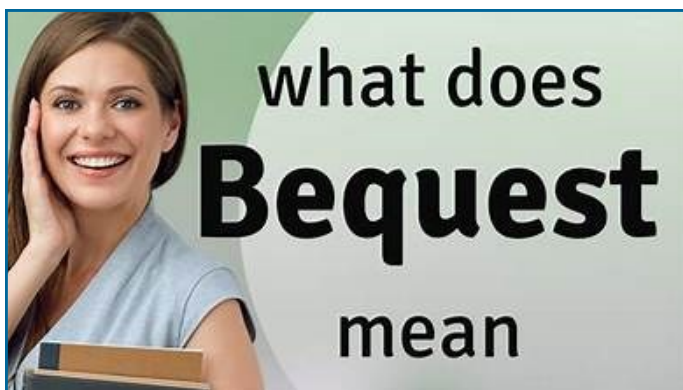
The TARC secretary is responsible for notifying the ARRL and FCC of your passing. This is one small detail that your survivors will not need to concern themselves about. Why not take care of a few other details now, while you are still young.

August is "National Make A Will Month" and the August issue of QST magazine has a great article on page 69 about the significance and benefits for ham radio operators to plan their ham radio legacy and direct how they wish their equipment to be passed on when they become a SK (silent key). ARRL also has published a great document that hams can use to begin making their estate plans:

<http://www.arrl.org/estate-planning-workbook>

And we always have the legal disclaimer. TARC isn't a professional estate planning organization. You should always seek out the services of a professional estate planner when researching and preparing your own estate plan.

de W4AC TARC board of directors



ARRL Field Day June 27-28, 2026

Congratulations. We made 4038 points in the recent Field Day event. This is the highest score our club has ever submitted (since 2017). I reported 23 members attended, but it might have been more. I only went by the names listed on the sign-in sheet. If you forgot to sign in, then my apologies for not numerically counting you, but your efforts, and the efforts by all members, are appreciated.

The GOTA station did excellent and it made 50 QSOs, which is great, as they are worth 5 points each for a total of 250 points.



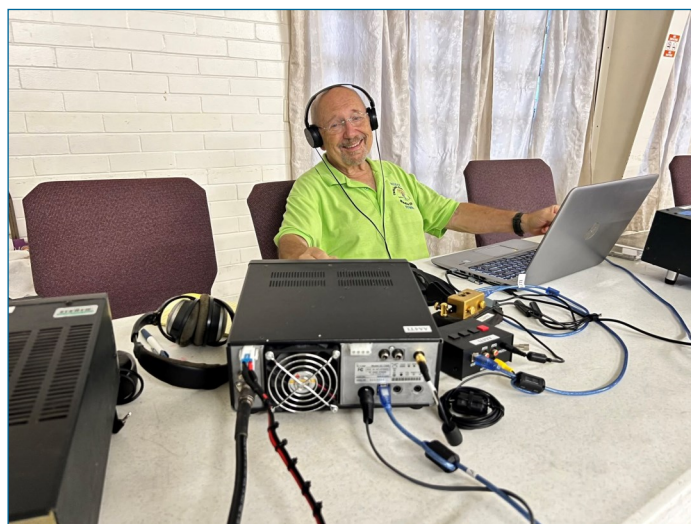
The Field Day gang who made it all possible

Again, thanks to all members for doing such a super job, and a special thanks to the crews who put up and took down antennas and those that operated during Field Day. We managed to work all 50 States and most of Canada. Six percent of our QSO's were on 80m, while we did 15% on 40m, 54% on 20m, 15% again on 15m, and 9% on 10m. Most of our QSO's occurred on 20m, as it was open nearly the whole 24 hours. The other bands were more dependent on the time of day, which is why it is split between so many bands.

We received nearly all the bonus points available. The breakdown of QSOs by modes is as follows:

- Digital: 282 and CW: 379
- SSB: 788 and GOTA: 50

We have an excellent score, it might be the highest TARC

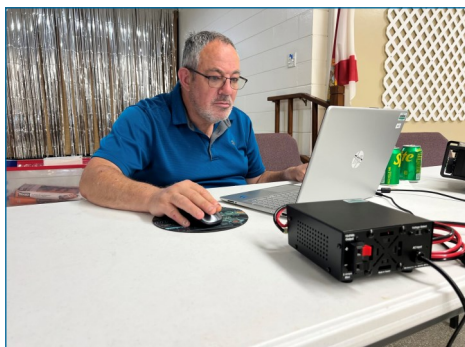


The Field Day Manager, Frank W2XYZ



(Continued on page 9)

ARRL Field Day June 27-28, 2026 (Cont'd)



A few great video shorts links from Karl W4KRL:

- A compilation of several club members calling CQ at our 2026 Field Day!
<https://youtu.be/iUK3xKGdTI>
- Take a tour with me while we check out the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club's setup for ARRL Field Day 2026.

<https://youtu.be/QBPDpFju1Mc>

- Here I interview Frank W2XYZ, the Field Day Commander and VP of the club, as well as Chet KG4IYS the President of our Club. They talk about how Field Day is a preparedness drill for times of disasters.
<https://youtu.be/ldczAm1BYGM>

ARRL Field Day June 27-28, 2026 (cont'd)

ever made, but the best part about this is how we worked together to get this accomplished ... right from transporting equipment, to erecting antennas, setting-up stations, manning the stations around the clock, dismantling stations and antennas, followed by transporting everything back to storage. Equally important are the food and drinks brought by members to keep us going, and all the advertising made to the general public plus

the specific invitations made to elected officials and served agencies. Another plus, which can't be measured in numbers, is the training and experience gained by participants with the feeling of knowing, if they had to communicate in a disaster, they can meet that challenge.

73, de Frank W2XYZ



Christmas in July? Food for Thought.

TARC Holiday Party for 2026 will be held at the Hotel Venezia in Venice on December 2, 2026 from 6 PM to 9 PM. Address is:

**Hotel Venezia
425 Us Highway 41 Bypass N.
Venice Florida 34285**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS DATE!



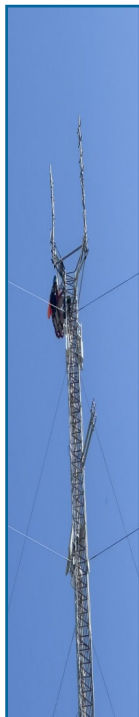
The date and location are locked in. The menu options and pricing are still being negotiated with the host. More details should be available by the September club meeting.

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 Lou KC4LR. 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 Ronnaou 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.

[Join the Club](#)

TARC Website: www.tamiamiarc.org

Contact: webmaster@tamiamiarc.org

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

