Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34273

Est. 1960

ISSUE DATE
December 2026

THE COMMUNICATOR

President's Message

KG4IYS



As I write this message for December, I am reflecting over the past year of activities for the club membership. It has truly been a great year. The various programs; like the various annual contests, the POTA programs, the assistance given to the advanced elementary and high schools like Pine View and Sarasota Military Academy (in particular, the ARISS contacts, the education of youth HAMS, etc.) The excitement I witnessed was definitely palpable and wonderful to behold.

Since I joined the club in 2018, I have witnessed superb growth of the membership. As new members have joined the club, the number of programs that can be undertaken has increased. When I query some of the members, the response I most hear is that this is a very friendly club with so many members willing to help each other. Also, I have witnessed increased willingness to start learning new technologies as well as continuing the technologies that are the basis of amateur radio. This is very important to creating a more energetic and giving club. No one technology, old or new, is more important to the hobby. What is really important is that we pool our personal experiences and assist each other in researching new ways to encourage old and new members to enjoy the hobby as well as benefiting the community.

Becoming President for 2026, I was blessed to start with an experienced board of officers and directors. This certainly made my leadership for the year quite easy to perform. I wish to thank each and every member of the board for their active contributions and assistance. Fortunately most of the officers and directors will continue for another year. I welcome Dan O'Donovan W4DOD as he assumes

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome New Members

11/05/26	Member	John Valvo III	General	KE2COY
10/11/26	Member	Mark Willoughby	General	W1EKU
10/05/26	Member	John Donovan	General	WA1PBJ
09/20/26	First Year	Cef Cruz	Technician	KR4OYH
09/12/26	Member	Julian Phillips	Technician	KR4OYF

We are on Facebook

Inside This issue

TARC Email Contact List 2
2027 Get Off You Butt Incentive .. 2
2027 Officers and Directors 3
COMMITTEE REPORTS 4
ARRL 10m Contest Club Station ... 5
Life Member—Herb W8MA..... 5
Digital Corner: Bridging the Gap .. 6
Ambassador Program Good Start 7
Parks to RadioSport 8
POTA Open House—2026..... 10
Pine View School Update..... 11
W4AC-2 Pico Ballon Launched... 12
TARC Makers Initiative..... 13

Upcoming Events

- **Holiday Party—Wed. Dec 2, 2026**
  Reservations Closed on 11/23
- **Club Meeting 12/9/26**
  NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
- **10m Contest—W4AC Club Operating Event**
  December 12-13, 2026
- **Club Meeting: Jan 13, 2027**
  Program:

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

President's Message (Cont'd)

the role of President for 2027 and I will continue as a director for the same year. As well, I welcome the new directors who were elected to the board and look forward to their contributions.

Finally I would like to thank the membership for their confidence in me for leading the club for 2026. I am truly honored by your support.

Happy Holidays and have a great New Year!

73, de

Chet Fennell de OM KG4IYS



License Upgrade Incentive is Back!

It is also know as the "get off your butt" and "Spring into action" incentive program. First started in 2024 by the TARC board of directors, the program is intended to motivate Technician, General, and Advanced class licensed operators to get back into the books and upgrade their licenses. Too many hams are in perpetual "I'm going to work on getting my license upgrade" mode that can last for years if not a lifetime. We want you to **upgrade that license now!**

Starting with the January 9th TARC Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing session in Venice, TARC will give the first 4 club members in good standing who upgrade their existing FCC license with our VE team a **$50 DX Engineering gift card and we will credit you with one additional year of paid club membership dues.**

ONLY the first 4 club members who upgrade will be eligible for this incentive. That's all the funds budgeted for it in 2027.

Your last chance to take advantage of this offer will be the TARC VE test session on July 10, 2027.

JUST DO IT!

73, de your board of directors

Club Officers and Directors for 2027

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME—ONE AND ALL

Elected by acclimation at the November 7, 2026 Annual Meeting of the club.

OFFICE	Name and Call Sign
The "Executive"	
President	Dan O'Donovan W4DOD
Vice President	Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ
Secretary	Lou Ronnau KC4LR
Treasurer	Dwight Sullivan KT4DS

General Board of Director Positions

Director	Steve Phillips NS4P
Director	Roger McEntarfer N9RM
Director	Allan 'Al' Culbert K0AL
Director	James 'Jim' Miller N7JIM
Director	Chet Fennell KG4IYS
Director*	Randy Aitken KO4PIV
Director*	Karl Downing K4RLX
Director*	Tom Ziroli N2UD

* 3 new Director positions have been added to the board of directors for 2027

Nominating Committee Chairman
John KQ4ELH

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

Nancy W4ZM is home now recovering from a minor stoke after a short 3-day hospital stay a few days before Thanksgiving. Get well soon Nancy.

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. At our November we set the dates for the 2027 event to be April 16-19 and we finalized and published draft rules for 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VE Testing

Steve NS4P

Last Test Date: 11 /14/26
Number tested: 1
Passed: 1
New Members: 0
Next Test Date: 12/12/26

QCWA Liaison

Al K0AL

Chapter 53 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) meets on the first Monday of the month at 11 am at the Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, 1331 US-41 Bypass in Venice. ***[new location beginning October 2026]*** 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 on programming 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: 11/24/26
Total Membership: 178
151 Regular Members
1 Associate Member
9 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>

ARRL 10m Contest—TARC Club Station

The summer propagation doldrums are over. The contest season has resumed. For the last several years our club has participated in the ARRL 10 meter contest. **The contest begins on Saturday Dec 12, at 0000 UTC and runs until Sunday Dec 13 at 2359 UTC**. Permitted modes of operation are SSB and CW. No digital modes are used in this event. Although the contest runs for for 48 hours, participants are limited to a maximum of 36 hours of operation.

Once again Al K0AL is graciously making his mini-superstation available to us. Although we are allowed up to 1500 watts in this contest, we will participate in the 100w class. The strategy is, with us having a superior antenna system it gives us a great advantage over most other stations in that category. We will score 2 points for every SSB contact made and 4 points for every CW contact. The high power class only gets 1 point and 2 points respectively.

The 10m band is a daytime band, sort of sunrise to sunset. **We will operate from 8 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and on Sunday.** Our SSB station will be using Al's tower mounted yagi antenna and we'll erect the club's Buddy-Pole Hexbeam for CW operation.

A clipboard was passed around at November's Wednesday club meeting to give everyone a chance to sign up for a 2 hour (or more) block of operating time, as either a CW operator, SSB operator, or SSB logger. Even those that don't sign for a time block are encouraged to come by Al's Cottage. See how contests operate and possibly pick up techniques that will help at our Winter Field Day event in January.

It's not too late to signup for an operating shift. Contact Frank W2XYZ or Al K0AL to see what is available. More information and directions are on the website.

73, de Frank W2XYZ

New Life Member—Herb W8MAO!

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club was pleased to recognize **Herb Lauber W8MAO** as an honorary life member of the club. The recognition comes with no further annual club dues payments due and is given in recognition of a club members age and years of membership and service to the club.

CONGRATULATIONS HERB!

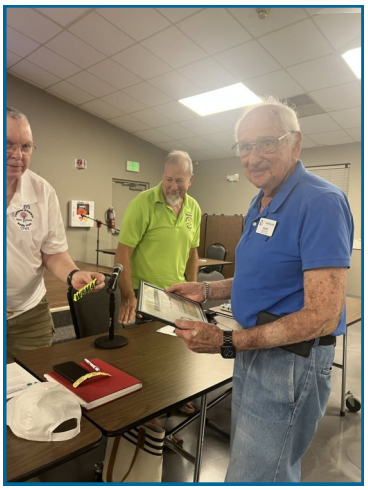
The criteria for honorary life membership recognition is based upon a ***magic number***:

- Age 90 and over, magic # => **100**
- Age 80 to 90, magic # => **105**
- Magic number = Age + years of TARC membership plus 2 bonus points for each year of office held.
- Below age 80, special circumstances in accordance with the bylaws prevails, including special financial support.

Any club member who thinks they qualify for an honorary life membership should contact the club secretary:

secretary@tamiamiarc.org

73, de your board of directors



The Digital Corner Bridging the Gap

Why Mesh Networking is an Asset; Not a Threat, to Amateur Radio.

When new technologies breach the traditional borders of amateur radio, a familiar cycle often follows. Oldtimers worry that the craft is being diluted, that " appliance operators" are replacing builders, or that emerging trends will pull hobbyists away from core RF principles. We saw it with the transition from CW to SSB, the rise of packet radio, and more recently with automated weak-signal modes like FT8.

Today, that conversation often centers around **RF Mesh Networking** (such as AREDN Mesh Core and related off-grid node systems). Because mesh technologies utilize modified consumer hardware, IP packets, and high-speed data protocols, some traditional operators view them with skepticism—wondering if they belong in ham radio at all, or worse, if they are driving tech-savvy newcomers away from traditional frequencies.

A closer look reveals the exact opposite. Mesh networking isn't a wedge driving hams away; it is one of the most powerful **gateways** into amateur radio we have seen in decades.

1. Speaking the Native Language of the Digital Native

The demographic entering technology fields today grew up with internet protocols, WiFi, local area networks, and packet routing. To a younger tech enthusiast or computer science student, a traditional analog voice repeater can feel opaque and disconnected from the modern networking concepts they understand.

Mesh networks bridge that gap instantly. By leveraging familiar tools—web interfaces, node maps, IP routing, and streaming data—mesh invites tech-minded individuals into a space where they immediately recognize utility. Once they are inside the network, tinkering with nodes, antenna positioning, and line-of-sight propagation, they inevitably run into the underlying physics of radio frequency (RF). Mesh serves as the "hook" that demonstrates why frequency coordination, antenna gain, and transmitter power matter in the physical world.

2. Revitalizing Hands-On Technical Experimentation (The New Homebrewing)

Ham radio has always been rooted in experimentation. While building vacuum-tube transmitters defined earlier decades, today's "homebrewing" often involves microcontrollers,software-defined radios (SDRs), and Linux networking. Mesh networking is a goldmine for modern technical skills:

- RF Engineering: Optimizing high-gain sector antennas, calculating link budgets, and managing Fresnel zones.
- Network Infrastructure: Configuring subnets, managing DHCP, setting up node tunnels, and maintaining autonomous local infrastructure.
- Emergency Resilience: Deploying self-healing, infrastructure-independent communications nodes that can pass high-bandwidth data (such as live telemetry, maps, and text messaging) when commercial internet fails. Rather than drifting away from the hobby, hams who embrace mesh are expanding their technical repertoire, learning skills that directly benefit emergency management and public service agencies.

3. Complementing, Not Replacing, Traditional Operations

A common fear is that mesh users will sit glued to computer screens and abandon traditional voice or CW nets. However, experience within progressive clubs such as TARC, shows that technology cross-pollination strengthens the entire ecosystem. Anon-ham, mesh user who joins TARC often discovers a curiosity for VHF/UHF repeaters, HF contesting, or Parks on the Air (POTA). The licensed technologist realizes that emergency communications (EmComm) require a multi-layered approach: when the internet is down, mesh handles local data sharing, while HF and VHF voice handle widearea coordination. Mesh expands the toolkit; it doesn't empty it.

4. Embracing the Future Together

At TARC, our strength has always-been our diversity of interests—from classic CW operators to digital innovators exploring the cutting edge. By welcoming mesh enthusiasts with open arms, mentorship, and “elmering,” we don't dilute amateur radio—we future-proof it. Let's embrace the digital frontier,share our knowledge of RF propagation with newcomers, and keep our club at the leading edge of communication.

73, de the TARC Digital Committee

TARC Ambassador Program

Building Connections and Strengthening Our Club

The Tamiami Amateur Radio Club's Ambassador Program is proving to be a great success! Launched just two months ago, the program is already making a positive difference in welcoming new members and helping them become part of our amateur radio community.

In just 60 days, eight new members have been paired with experienced TARC members who volunteer their time as ambassadors. These dedicated operators are helping newcomers get acquainted with our local repeaters, weekly nets, radio equipment, club activities, and the many opportunities available through TARC.

While eight new member pairings are an impressive start, the real success of the program goes beyond the numbers. It's about making connections, building friendships, sharing knowledge, and ensuring that no new member feels like a stranger when they join our club. Whether someone is a newly licensed Technician or an experienced operator relocating to the area, having a friendly face and someone to turn to makes all the difference.

A special thank-you goes to our ambassadors for stepping up and sharing their experience, enthusiasm, and time. Their willingness to help others reflects what amateur radio and the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club are all about.

As TARC continues to grow, we encourage more experienced members to consider becoming ambassadors. You don't have to be an expert or have decades of experience. Sometimes, a simple phone call, an introduction at a meeting, or helping someone make their first net check in is all it takes to make someone feel welcome.

The bottom line is simple: A strong radio club isn't just built on radios, antennas, and operating events. It's built on people. And thanks to our ambassadors, TARC is off to a terrific start!

73, de 2026 Ambassador Committee Members:



Upcoming Club Events — Mark Your Calendar







- Dec 2, 2026—TARC Holiday Party at Hotel Venezia
- Dec 9, 2026—**NO CLUB MEETING IN DECEMBER**
- Jan 9, 2027—First TARC VE session where club members can earn the "get off your butt" license upgrade incentive. It runs through July 10, 2027.
- Jan 23-24, 2027—WINTER FIELD DAY at VGCA
- Feb 12-14, 2027—HamCation in Orlando.
  Ride the bus!
- Mar 21, 2027—TARC Picnic at Oscar Shearer SP
- Apr 16-19, 2027—Florida State POTA Event
- Apr 24-25, 2027—Florida QSO Party



From Parks to Radiosport

How POTA Can Be Your Gateway to Amateur Radio Contesting.

If you have ever thought about trying amateur radio contesting but felt intimidated by the fast pace, complicated rules, or high-end equipment, there is a great way to get your feet wet: Parks on the Air (POTA).

POTA has become one of the most popular activities in amateur radio, giving operators an opportunity to get outdoors, operate portable, and make contacts with fellow hams around the world. But beyond the enjoyment of operating from a park, POTA offers something else: an excellent introduction to the skills and excitement of contesting.

One of the biggest similarities between POTA and traditional contesting is the goal of making as many contacts as possible within a given operating period. During a POTA activation, operators work stations that are hunting from home or other locations. You quickly learn the importance of operating efficiently, maintaining a steady rhythm, and making accurate contacts.

POTA also introduces operators to the experience of working a pileup. When you activate a popular park, you may find several stations calling you simultaneously. Learning how to recognize callsigns, manage callers, maintain your operating frequency, and move efficiently from one contact to the next are all valuable skills that translate directly into contesting.

Another important skill is logging. Accurate logging is essential in both POTA and contesting. Operators become familiar with logging software, entering callsigns correctly, recording frequencies and operating modes, and submitting logs. These are habits that make transitioning into formal contests much easier.

My interest in contesting actually grew out of my experiences with POTA. As I became more comfortable making contacts, handling pileups, and trying to improve the number of stations I could work during an activation, I started becoming curious about the competitive side of amateur radio.

That interest really grew when I participated in the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club-sponsored ARRL 10-Meter Contest at Al's (K0AL) house. It was an opportunity to experience contesting firsthand, see how experienced operators worked stations, and get a better understanding of the strategy and excitement behind radiosport. What started as an interest sparked by portable park operations was becoming something much more.

It also reinforced something important: sometimes all it takes is participating in one club event to discover another side of amateur radio that you never knew you would enjoy.

POTA also helps develop an understanding of band conditions, propagation, operating times, and frequency selection. Learning when a band is active and how to take advantage of openings can make a significant difference in the number of contacts you make.

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club events provide a great opportunity to take your POTA experience to the next level. Participating in club activities such as ARRL Field Day, the Florida QSO Party, and other sponsored contests lets you experience organized operating events while learning alongside seasoned hams. For a newly licensed amateur, this is especially valuable. You can observe experienced operators, practice logging, learn contesting techniques, and even get behind the microphone or CW key. You may also have the opportunity to operate a club station running up to 1,500 watts of legal-limit power, when permitted by the event rules and station setup. That's an exciting experience you probably won't get with your typical portable POTA station!

If you're a TARC member, don't just watch from the sidelines—get involved! Join us at our next operating event, meet fellow operators, share your knowledge, and discover what you can accomplish as part of a team. If you're a newly licensed ham, this is one of the best ways to build confidence, develop your operating skills, and make lasting friendships in amateur radio. And if you're not yet a member, we invite you to come out, meet the club, and see what TARC is all about. There's a place for every operator, regardless of experience or license class!

From Parks to Radiosport (Cont'd)

Perhaps the biggest benefit of POTA is the confidence it builds. It gets operators comfortable calling CQ, responding to stations, managing contacts, and operating under different conditions.

You don't have to be a competitive contester to enjoy these activities. Start with POTA, participate in TARC events, and gradually explore other operating opportunities. Each experience builds on the previous one.

The next time you set up your portable station for a POTA activation, remember that you are doing more than collecting park contacts. You are developing the skills that make a good contest operator.

So get outside, fire up the radio, call CQ POTA, and then join your fellow TARC members for the next operating event. Your next activation might just be the beginning of a new contesting adventure!

73, Karl K4RLX



Steve NS4P and Patti N4IGI helped to activate Oscar Shearer State Park in March 2026 during the TARC Annual BBQ&Q



Jim N7JIM hosted a POTA Open House in November 2025 at the Myakka State Forest where club members could see and learn about POTA operations



There are 173 State Parks in Florida and another 300 or so more other POTA operating locations to choose from in the state.

In 2025, TARC took over the sponsorship of an annual POTA operating event in Florida. "Florida State Parks on the Air" is a 4 day operating event in April of each year held to encourage Florida amateurs to get out into our state's many parks, trails, forests and historical locations to activate them. Make your plans now to participate in 2027 from April 16-19. TARC will be hosting a club activation of two local parks at this time.

POTA Open House Was Well Attended

Jim N7JIM hosted a Parks on the Air (POTA) Open House on November 14, 2026 at the Myakka State Forest on River Rd. in Englewood. About a dozen club members and other visitors attended the morning event where a number of different radios, batteries, and portable antennas were on display. Jim worked with those wishing to learn more about POTA operations and equipment.

Several operators, new to POTA, made their first park activation during the event. Everyone came away with a better understanding of the variety of radios, antennas, and operating methods useful for POTA activations.

Thank you Jim for organizing and hosting this great event for the second year. It remains a big hit with club members and there is never any shortage of new club members or newly licensed amateurs eager to learn about POTA activations.

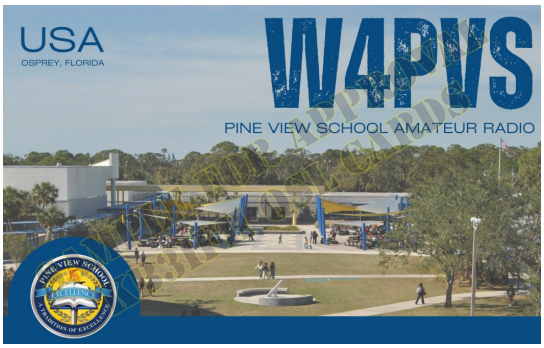








Pine View School Update



It's been a couple of months, but in that time, Pine View HAM Radio has made tremendous progress! We competed in the ARRL School Club Round-Up Competition and earned an impressive 26,640 points—a remarkable increase from our 7000 points this time last year. Results have not been released yet, but we hope to place higher than last year, especially with so many more points!

We've been gaining members as well, getting more students (especially younger ones!) interested in the art of HAM radio. With the help of TARC members who dedicate their Fridays to attending our club meetings, we're teaching younger students the fundamentals of radio communication. We love getting our members on the air and connecting with people from all around the world!

Aside from radios, we've also been preparing to launch a Pico Balloon. We're prototyping the sensor payload we'll be sending up and testing smaller balloons by filling them with air to evaluate our setup. We're hoping to launch quite soon! We've had practice sessions of soldering as well, and students have a blast during meetings. It's been an exciting start to the year, and we can't wait to keep growing as a club. Thank you for all of your support!

73, de Diya KZ4ZT



Editors's Note: Well done PVS ham radio club members and thank you **John W4OMX** who worked for a few hours every day during the week long contest to help them make all these Qs! Huge improvement over the Spring event results. The students have been working with **Jim N7JIM and Paul KN4BAR** to build their very own Pico Balloon. ***Up, up and away Pine View!***

ARRL School Club Roundup Contest October 2026
RESULTS

Call Used	Category	QTH	Club/School Name	Participants
W4PVS	Middle/Intermed/JR High	FL	Pine View School HAM RADIO CLUB	26

Primary Operator/Sponsor:

Full Name	Call	E-mail Address
MARIE ROSANDER	KQ4VZO	Marie.Rosander@sarasotacountyschools.net

Score Calculation:

QSOs			Multipliers						
CW/RTTY/Dig	Phone		States	VE Prov/Ter	DX	Clubs	Schools		
0	240		35	1	14	8	9		
QSO Points			Total Multipliers						Total Score
(2x0 + 1x240)		x	(1x35 + 1x1 + 1x14 + 2x8 + 5x9)					=	**26,640**

Number of QSOs in Log: 243

Operating Time: 8:07 (hrs:min) Max Op Time in 24 hrs: 2:46 (hrs:min)

Log received at: 2026-11-04 21:17:42 UTC

W4AC-2 Pico Balloon in the Air!

With a very last minute decision, the TARC Pico Balloon team decided to try a launch just before Thanksgiving. We had been waiting for the seasonal weather change to bring the jet stream closer to us and for a reduction in the threat of hurricanes and thunderstorms over the peninsula in the first day after a launch from our West coast location. The stars aligned close enough for a Sunday, November 22, 2026 launch of our second balloon … W4AC-2.

Track it with us at:

- https://traquito.github.io/search/spots/dashboard/?band=15m&channel=530&callsign=W4AC&dtGte=2026-10-22
- https://amateur.sondehub.org/#!mt=Mapnik&mz=8&qm=12h&f=W4AC-2

Our team "weather" experts are looking into their crystal balls now and hopefully we can give the Pine View School some guidance to plan their first balloon launch in early December. Jim N7JIM and Paul KN4BAR have been working with the students to get their balloon ready for a launch. We will have a balloon ready to launch also along with them. Watch the video reel made by Karl K4RLX:

https://youtu.be/tXY3kivNQHc

If you are interested in joining the TARC Pico Balloon team just send us an email:

PicoBalloon@TARC-VeniceFL.groups.io

73, Paul KN4BAR



Breakfast at Louie's Bistro in Downtown Wellen Park after the launch.







UP, UP and AWAY launch at 7:30ish am, Sunday, November 22, 2026

Near RECORD Breakfast Crowd

At Perkins in Venice

On Friday, November 20, 2026

25

(about half of a normal club meeting size group!)



TARC Makers Initiative Gets Started!

We are excited to announce the first official project of the 2027 TARC Makers Initiative: building a 100W Multi-Band Linked End-Fed Half-Wave (EFHW) Antenna! A hands-on build session will be held during Winter Field Day weekend January 23 and 24th (building on Saturday, with antenna tuning on Sunday—and possibly starting tuning on Saturday depending on group pace). Our club Elmers will be on hand to guide everyone through the process, and I will pre-drill the enclosures and organize the kits in advance so we can hit the ground running.

What You Will Get ($39 per kit):

- A fully functional multi-band antenna covering 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters (no antenna tuner required once trimmed and tuned)
- 66 feet of flexible BNTECHGO 20-gauge yellow silicone stranded tin-plated copper wire, linked with a 33-foot section so you can also operate 10m and 20m in smaller spaces
- High-efficiency ferrite core and winding method (specifically optimized for strong performance even on 10m)
- Pre-drilled enclosure with mounting points
- Wire strain reliefs, clips, and banana plug connections for a linked EFHW.
- Rated up to 100W SSB (tested successfully at 100W on FT8)
- Please Note: A common-mode choke and wire support/mast are not included in the kit.
- How to Order & Important Deadline:

To lock in our bulk pricing (we need at least 10 participants to get this $38 price), all kits are 100% self-funded and must be pre-ordered directly on the TARC website store using the link below:

https://tamiamiarc.org/store/endfed-half-wave-efhw-antenna-kit-100w/

DROP-DEAD ORDER DEADLINE: Wednesday, January 13, 2027. All orders are non-refundable once placed so we can lock in the bulk component order in time for Winter Field Day. Ordering early will help us put kits together and have a successful event.

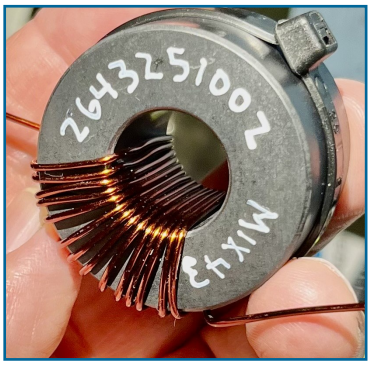
If you want to see a similar EFHW build in action and efficiency measurements before the workshop, check out these reference videos:

EFHW Build Walkthrough: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUM2XEPHLuM

Efficiency Measurements: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SHvOE8dV3w&t=288s

Whether you are a seasoned homebrewer or have never picked up a soldering iron, this is a great opportunity to build a versatile portable or home antenna alongside fellow club members. Place your order via the TARC store link above by January 13, 2027!

73, de Jim N7JIM





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)

7255 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
Treasurer
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