



Newsletter of the TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, (TARC) Venice, Florida

# THE COMMUNICATOR



Mailing Address: P. O. Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274

Serving the communities of Sarasota, Nokomis, Venice, Englewood, North Port

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[www.tamiamiarc.org](http://www.tamiamiarc.org)

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## President's message ....

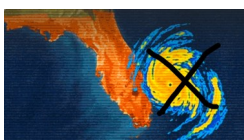
I hope everyone is having as great a summer as I am. I know many members have gone North to be with family and friends, and Steve NS4P is on a 13,000 mile motorcycle ride to and from Alaska. I'll bet he will have some great stories to tell. The next club meeting will be on September 11<sup>th</sup> and we can all tell our tall tales of summer adventures then.

We had a fantastic ARRL Field Day at the end of June. Over 40 club members participated in setting up our antennas and in operating SSB, FT8, and CW during the event. Our youngest club member, 11 year old Nolan KQ4KOY earned the club 100 bonus points for his 20m USB operating shift on Sunday. This young ham did a great job working the pile-up and getting us a bunch of contacts! We also had a wonderful visit Sunday afternoon by about a dozen students and parents from Pine View School for the Gifted in Osprey. We gave them a nice 30-minute overview presentation of what ham radio is about and they spent an hour or two with us learning about our hobby. We all owe Tom KE4RXM and Richard KK4AHZ a huge thank you for organizing, resourcing, and managing the event. Special mention also goes to Jim N7JIM and Mark KQ4EKK for helping with the antenna placement, erection, and tuning.

**Now for the big announcement!** TARC has entered into a formal support agreement with Pine View School for the Gifted and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) organization for a planned ISS school contact mission in the Spring of 2025. The school's STEM Director is planning her curriculum for the Fall school term, and she hopes to have support from TARC in introducing ham radio concepts and in preparing and practicing for the actual contact itself. As events unfold this Fall there will be many opportunities for interested club members to participate in this activity. We have mentioned the possibility of placing an amateur radio station in the school and conducting an after-school licensing training program for interested students and faculty. We may finally have the entry into the Sarasota County school system that we have searched many years now to find.

### Next Month:

**No meeting, No newsletter, and hopefully NO hurricanes.**



Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

**NO SUMMER MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST.  
See you on September 11th.**



## Chasing DX....CQ DX ...CQ DX ...

Tony KX1G

### SPECIAL MID-SUMMER ISSUE

The Chasing DX column for this special Mid-Summer issue of The Communicator will look at a couple of fine points in the quest to work ATNOs and achieve DXCC awards. The topics will be posted on TARC's Groups.io page for follow-up discussion. **Chasing DX will resume it's regular format with the September issue,** Enjoy your summer!

### An old hobby gets some new blood: FT8 and RIB

FT8 –FT8 has found a place as an important mode having given nearly 50,000 of us an ATNO during the Glorioso Island DXpedition in May-June of this year. One person made over 60,000 contacts! Without it, the FT4GL DXpedition would have worked at most a few thousand SSB contacts (no CW was offered).

RIBS (Radio in a box). I got to experience a RIB a few months ago at a back yard family-OTA. We were on the air in minutes. Placing a fully equipped station in a box that can be placed in a difficult remote location and operated remotely can reduce the danger of a team having to endure harsh environments and significantly lower the cost of major DXpeditions. It has been pointed out that it is the radio signal coming from the shores of the entity, not the operator having to risk life and limb that is important.

TARC can dramatically increase its contest participation and scores using these two technologies, with the RIB having the added benefit of allowing members to participate from where they are.

### If you thought FT8's Fox-Hound Mode was piling up the contacts, get ready for *SuperFox mode*

Apparently it was not enough that the WSJT-X software has been able to let a DXpedition work several hundred FT8 and FT4 contacts per hour in what it calls Fox Hound Mode. A new version of the software has what it is calling *SuperFox Mode*. Using *SuperFox* and the associated *SuperHound* mode, it has been tested to enable working up to 9 simultaneous contacts, resulting in upwards of 500 contacts or more per hour. How will you know it is in Super Mode? A normal FT8 signal is only 50 Hz wide. The *SuperFox* signal is 1512 Hz or 30 times as wide and the sequence of tones is markedly different, making it easy to tell that *SuperFox* is not a normal FT8 signal. Watch out CW and SSB fans. Super Mode is going to be crowding you soon. Check out the specifics on the N5J Jarvis Island DXpedition web site here: <https://jarvisisland2024.com/operating/super-fox-mode>.

### ARRL issues with ARRL's LogBook of the World (LoTW) have been resolved

IF you were like me, you stood by helplessly awaiting ARRL to recover from a vicious hacking attack on the ARRL's LogBook of the World tool (LoTW). It took a couple of weeks, but LoTW has fully recovered and is processing new submissions. Since there was a huge backlog of submissions, you may have a delay in getting your submission processed. That should soon be reduced.

### The cost of sending a QSL is going up

The ARRL QSL service is looking better and better. First class postage for an International Postcard increased to \$1.65, a domestic postcard/QSL to 56 cents and a 1 oz letter stateside increased to 73 Cents on July 14. This will also drive more and more people to use LoTW, and social media, like texting and Facebook. ARRL would do well to pay attention and relax their QSL rules.

# FIELD DAY 2024—HAM RADIO'S OPEN HOUSE

**OBJECTIVE:** To contact as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.



TARC Holds Field Days at the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 86 facility at 1200 Harbor Dr in Venice.

ARRL Field Day is in June, and [Winter Field Day](#) is held in January. We are very fortunate to have access to a primo facility to hold the club's major events.



More than 40 club members participated in the setup and operation of our W4AC club station this year.

We managed to earn bonus point in all categories for the event except *Satellite QSO* and *Elected Dignitary participation*. The club is embarking on an endeavor to win an ARRL grant which would permit us to build our own very sophisticated satellite ground station which can be used in multiple scenarios. That way it doesn't matter if Steve NS4P is on vacation or not, we can get those points back next year. It would be greatly appreciated if a member of the club would run for (and win) public office so we can secure that category as well. Remember, Field Day is "not a contest" but inexplicably, there are points, bonuses, standings, and rankings. TARC desires to nab every single one we can by deploying a tremendous station setup.

Due to the IT hack at the ARRL, final results and nationwide scores are not yet available. Keep your eye on groups.io where they will be published as soon as they are available.

When I was "appointed" FD chairman, because Frank W2XYZ and Steve NS4P were unavailable to coordinate this year, my fight-or-flight response kicked right in..

One of the essentials of leadership is that "every good leader surrounds himself with **great** managers and staff". I immediately reached out to Richard, KK4AHZ to be the co-chairman and Mark, KQ4EKK who filled the technical director role. Jim N7JIM was tasked with providing invaluable planning and event support. Without their help, none of this year's success would have been possible. A stalwart crew of dedicated regulars gave up their Friday after Perkins once again and did an outstanding job running miles of wire, assembling complex antennas, and sweating buckets to construct a safe, efficient, and truly professional station.

Contest: FD				
Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pt/Q
7	CW	72	144	2.0
7	FT4	96	192	2.0
7	FT8	9	18	2.0
14	USB	829	829	1.0
21	CW	36	72	2.0
21	FT4	75	150	2.0
21	FT8	90	180	2.0
28	FT8	27	54	2.0
28	USB	5	5	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>1644</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Score: 1,644</b>				

—-I can't thank you all enough! -Tom KE4RXM—-

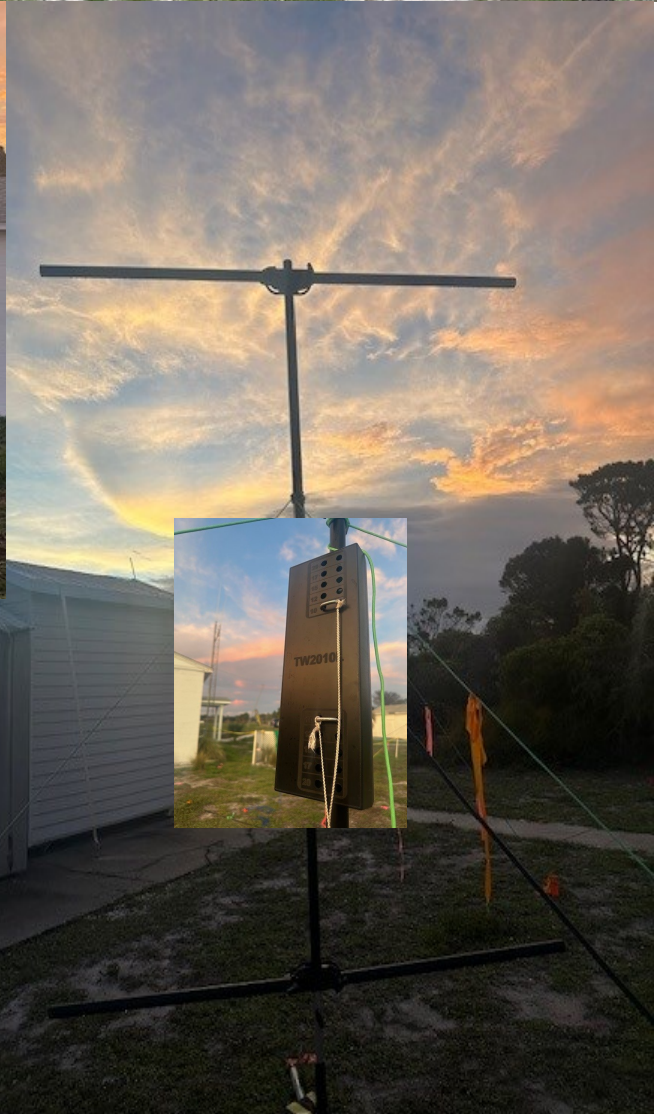














# What's NEW(S) in Ham Radio

TARC Welcomes the following NEW CLUB MEMBERS, and Congratulates members who recently UPGRADED:

Alex Szkabarnicki VA3CKI has been participating in nets and getting to know us for a few months now. Alex officially joined this month. He holds the AD (Advanced) license in Canada.

William Richardson KQ4TUN joined on 7/13 and is a new ham with a Technician license.

Steve Reid N3SEA [E] of Venice joined the club in July.

Matt Campbell, who joined after testing with TARC at our regular VE Test Session in April, gained Technician class licensure. Matt has now upgraded to General after the July TARC Test Session. He is hard at work towards his Extra class. Not only is Matt working on his final upgrade, but he is also learning CW! He has received his new, "easier to key" vanity call sign of W5HSO. It was not his 1<sup>st</sup> choice, but *Whiskey 5, Ham Super Operator* is not too shabby!

**A WARM AND SUNNY WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF TARC.**

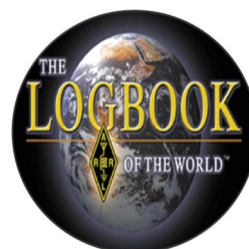
**IF you are new to the club, GET INVOLVED. New Ham or returning after an absence from the hobby like many operators do, EVERYONE has something to contribute. Be it your current or former profession, your past radio career, your current goals, there's ample opportunity for YOU to become an Elmer. At TARC, Elmer is NOT synonymous with grumpy OMs, or Sad Ham. This is THE Club that prides itself on genuine, caring help and support of one another. Nowhere else will you be more welcome. BE SURE to check the calendar, find an event to attend, or present an idea of your own.**



## MAJOR AMATEUR RADIONEWS:

ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) logging system has been unavailable for some time due to an intentional service disruption (aka hack) that took the service offline for several weeks. The ARRL worked diligently to identify the source, restore services, and mitigate future risk. As of July 1, services have been restored, and the ARRL is processing a large backlog of logbook submissions. Patience is appreciated as they work through the extraordinary amount of unprocessed data. Although there has been the *reassurance* that there were no personal data privacy issues, it is **always** a good idea to change your password and/or login information after such an event and if you are a LoTW user, now would be a good time to consider doing that.

An official statement can be found by clicking here:



# TECH TIDBITS

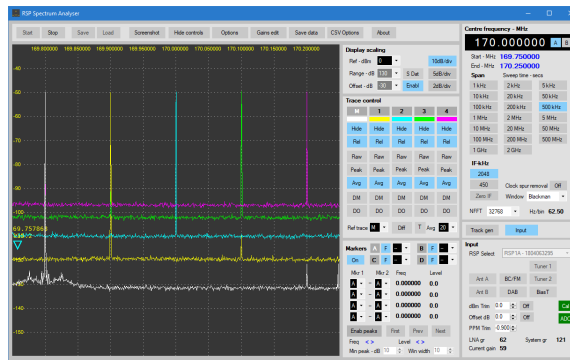
## Unique Uses for Your Unique Devices

### Brought to you by 2 members of the Tom Squad

**Tom, K7ONE** explains that you can use an SDRPlay device as a Spectrum Analyzer

*If you have an SDRplay you also have a spectrum analyzer! Try out this software. It works great for pointing your TV antenna and countless other tasks I have yet to discover and learn.*

**CLICK HERE**  
To learn more

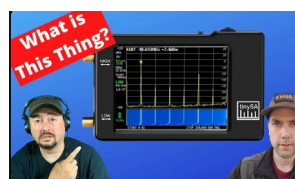
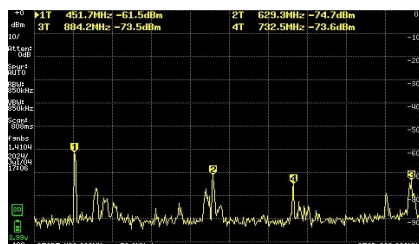


**Tom, KE4RXM** came across this spirited video from [Andy Kirby](#), a very popular YouTuber showing how to use the TinySA by itself to do something similar and *listen* to what you see. The TinySA is one of the most versatile and affordable tools that a modern Ham should consider for their shack. The newer *Ultra* model has even greater bandwidth and, most importantly, a screen that our older eyes can see. I used mine just the other day to track down a birdie on a particular signal that appears when I use my more sensitive UHF base antenna. Most commonly used for checking how “clean” a radio is, there are a wealth of other great uses.

Andy is from the UK, so a note about something he says about 3/4 of the way through...scanners and scanning is generally illegal in the UK so disregard that comment.



Here are some great additional videos by my buddies Steve, KM9G, and Thesmokinape. Both give good overviews of the device as well as why the Ultra is the better buy. I got mine on an Amazon flash-deal. You can find the Ultra for around \$130 and it is money well spent.



### CQ THE NET!

DID YOU KNOW, there is an On-Air “Tech Support” net? This isn’t to say it’s a Technician Class net, but the net is Open to all, where one can ask a technical question of the participants at large. It will be very likely that another ham has the answer you seek. YOU may be that other ham to someone else!

### Tune IN...

**THURSDAY NIGHT @ 9pm**

Is the WCF Section Technical net on the NI4CE system  
145.430 (-) / 442.950 (+) 100 Hz



**DO YOU WANT THE BEST MOBILE PHON LIGHTNING ALERT App ?**  
Check out [My Lightning Tracker](#)  
It’s clean interface is very accurate, and best of all, ham-friendly, aka CHEAP! The Pro version is .99!

Available for iOS and Android, this is a great tool in your Florida Summer weather preparedness arsenal. Click below to learn more.

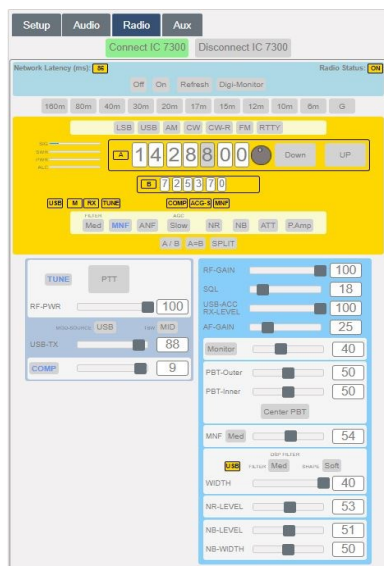
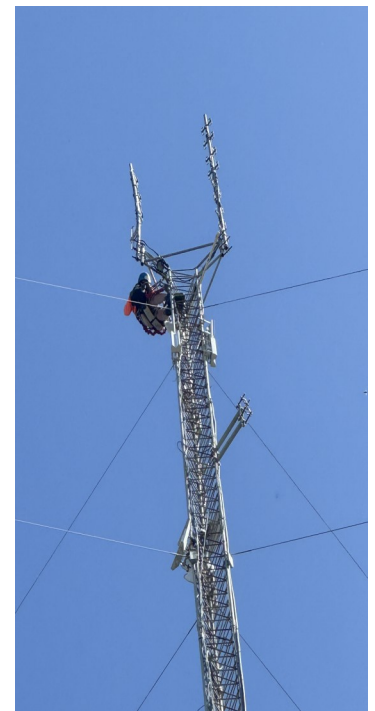




# Loads of Modes

**Repeater Update** During the 2m Net on Thursday 7/18, Paul KN4BAR advised he had just had a conversation with our contracted tower climber, John who indicated we are nearly next-up on his job list. He anticipates getting to us very soon and our new antenna will be installed. In the mean-time, Tom KE4RXM advised that he regularly QSO's with friends in northern Manatee county, and also a new contact with a colleague who resides well into DeSoto county on our existing antenna which John re-attached recently after being displaced by hurricane Ian.

It is anticipated that the new antenna will provide even more enhanced coverage for the area. Although the SERC's "73 Machine" is assumed to be the tallest in Florida with a huge footprint, we are fortunate to have an excellent stance ourself. The .805 repeater sits in an RF-quiet environment, over 200' agl. Our Englewood site houses 2 repeaters and the remote HF station They are meticulously maintained. Should a significant issue arise, keyholders are able to respond in about 30 minutes to asses and fix.



For the latest on the Club's repeater system, and information on other repeaters in the area, check out the link by clicking on the TARC logo.

There is a robust system serving the Sarasota/Manatee county area and TARC is proud to be a part of it!



TARC offers an internet-based HF station for it's members. Click the image above to learn more...

# CLUB BUSINESS

## Meeting Minutes Distribution Change

The publishing of the minutes of the General Membership meetings serves an important purpose.

Historically they have appeared here in The Communicator.

Making them available in a timely manner is vital to members who are unable to attend meetings. Publishing them here is *not* timely.

Going forward beginning this month, we will email them directly to the full membership after review by the Board of Directors. You will now get them in days, instead of weeks.

Minutes have always been available on the Club website. Follow the example here to find them easily.



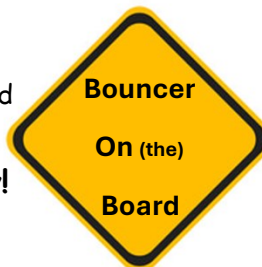
You Can Always Find Current and Past Meeting Minutes on the Homepage

The SUNSHINE committee is an effort that the club maintains to support members who are ill, or otherwise impacted by major life events. We want them to know that even in their absence, they are in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers. Please contact [Shaun KO4YAK](#) with any information on members who may need a little cheering up, or assistance during a difficult time.

• Recently, **Art Wester K4NUM** was diagnosed with mesothelioma and is currently managing his care with the intent of “living his best life”. He is on immunotherapy treatment that he feels is working well and is very encouraged. It was great seeing him at breakfast recently where he was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his tenure as club secretary. Keep Art top of mind as you work the bands and reach out to him when you can.



What do you get when you cross a bar security agent and an administrative assistant?  
**A NEW Club Secretary!**



Randy Aitken, KO4PIV was elected at the last meeting and he will no doubt keep a tight hold on the meeting minutes and all other club correspondence.





# ~ CLUB CALENDAR ~

TARC MEETINGS	SCHEDULED	TIME	LOCATION	THIS MONTH:
Board of Directors	1st Saturday	1:00pm	Zoom	<b>August 10th</b>
General Membership	2nd Wednesday	6:30pm	Venice Presbyterian Church	<b>September 11th</b>
TARC Annual Meeting	Once Yearly		During the Holiday Party	<b>December 4th</b>
NETS				
North Port Diehards*	Mondays	8:00pm	TARC 147.120 Repeater	
TARC DMR Net	Tuesdays	7:30pm	TARC DMR TG 310442	
Tamiami Tradeshow	Tuesdays	8:00pm	TARC 146.805 Repeater	
TARC 10m HF Net	Wednesdays	7:30pm	28.460 +/- QRM 10m**	
Greybeard Knuckle Draggers*	Thursdays	5:00pm	7.215 (40m LSB)	
TARC 2m Chat Net	Thursdays	7:30pm	TARC 146.805 Repeater	
FELLOWSHIP				
Breakfast	Tuesdays	6:00am	Peach's in Venice	
Breakfast	Wednesdays	11:00am	Zoom	
Breakfast	Fridays	9:00am	Perkins in Venice	
Breakfast	Saturdays	9:30am	DAV in Venice	
OTHER INTERESTS				
Quarter Century Wireless Club	1st Monday	11:00am	Buffet City on Bee Ridge	<b>Contact N4ZM</b>
<b>TARC VE Licensure Testing</b>	2nd Saturday	10:00am	Venice Library	<b>NO August Testing</b>
DARN Net	2nd Monday	11:00am	NI4CE Repeater (145.430)	
SERC Swap 'n Shop Net	Mondays	8:00pm	N4SER Repeater (146.730)	<b>NO Net on 8/7</b>
EARS 2m Chat Net	Tuesdays	7:00pm	K8ONV Repeater (146.865)	
MARCI (Manatee) Trader's Net	Wednesdays	8:00pm	K4GG Repeater (146.820)	
HAMCATION	2nd Weekend in Feb		Orlando Fairgrounds	
HAMVENTION	3rd Weekend in May		Xenia (Dayton), Ohio	
Winter Field Day	4th weekend in January		Coast Guard Stn. Venice	January 25/26th 2025
* Former members of the NPARC Class Portion of the 10 meter Band		**Technician	Please submit any changes or event information to the Editor via email: <a href="mailto:communicator@tamiamiarc.org">communicator@tamiamiarc.org</a>	

# ~ CLUB REPEATERS ~

>DMR Repeater - 444.100 MHz (+) Color Code 1 — TARC PrivateTalk Group 310442  
 >Analog 2m Repeater - 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100Hz — EchoLink W4AC-R (Node# 513309)  
 >Dual Mode Yaesu System Fusion (YSF) / Analog 2m Repeater 147.120 MHz (+) PL 136.5Hz  
 This repeater can be accessed using standard analog radios, OR Yaesu C4FM Radios and will auto-detect what mode is being received so there are no special settings for the end-user to access it.  
 >ALL TARC Repeaters bear the FCC Callsign of W4AC [<FULL REPEATER INFORMATION HERE>](#)



## REMINDERS:

### Upcoming Events Nearby-

7/27 AI K0AL's [FlashFest](#) Ham Radio Garage Sale

8/3 Englewood ARC's Fox Hunt

8/24 [TarcFest](#) Tampa Amateur Radio Club quarterly hamfest

### —PROGRAM UPDATE—

**THE PROGRAM HAS RUN IT'S COURSE FOR 2024. 8 PEOPLE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT AND SUCCESSFULLY UPGRADED. THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXTENSION TO THE OFFER BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE YEAR. STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DECIDES THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.**

**Get Paid to Upgrade!** The TARC has a revolutionary initiative program to encourage its members to upgrade their license. To take advantage, all you need to do is take (and pass) an Amateur Licensing Exam which would upgrade you from a Technician to General, or General to Amateur Extra class license. TARC will match your efforts by: covering the cost of the exam, covering the cost of your 2025 club dues, AND give you a gift card worth \$50 at DXEngineering (a sponsor of this event).

**THE COMMUNICATOR** is a publication of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC). It is published monthly; except during the summer months, the July and August issues will be 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](http://www.tamiamiarc.org) - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Editor - Tom Waters, KE4RXM, who acknowledges and thanks contributing writers and photographers.

#### 2024 TARC Officers:

##### President

Paul Nienaber KN4BAR  
paul9aber@gmail.com

##### Vice President

Steve Froggatt KN4NFX  
sparkythefrog@hotmail.com

##### Secretary

Randy Aitken KO4PIV  
secretary@tamiamiarc.org

##### Treasurer

Bob McAlister KN4RKE  
treasurer@tamiamiarc.org

#### Directors:

Brian Jacobson	W1JBD	odyssey922@earthlink.net
Steve Phillips	NS4P	sphillips3@gmail.com
Tom Shrilla	W8QJF	tshrilla@gmail.com
Dwight Sullivan	KT4DDS	dwightsull@gmail.com
Gary Youngberg	W8SKI	gary.kb8ski@juno.com

#### Dues:

Regular member: \$25.00/year

After 6/1 - \$12.00 to year end. After 10/31 \$25.00 thru next year.

Family membership: \$30.00/year. Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.

Please note: After two month grace period thru Feb., non-renewals will be

TARC Website: [www.tamiamiarc.org](http://www.tamiamiarc.org) Webmaster: Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR

General Info Contact the club secretary - [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

