



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, Venice, Englewood, North Port, and the surrounds.

A 501c(3) Incorporated 1984

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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	
Chasing DX	2
Member Spotlight	3
Shark's Tooth	4-6
QSO No-Go	7
FLORIDA STATE	8-9
It's NOT all OK!	10
WHAT' NEW IN HAM RADIO	11
TECH TIDBITS	12
BUSINESS OF TARC	13-14
EVENTS	15
REPEATERS	
MEETING MINUTES	16-17
REMINDERS	18

## President's message .... KN4BAR



**We** had a very successful K4S Special Event Station activity at Centennial Park for the Venice Shark's Tooth Festival April 13-14. Dozens of visitors came by to talk amateur radio with us and we made a lot of contracts on HF, USB, and DMR. It was not quite the same without Frank W2XYZ at the helm. Steve Phillips, NS4P stepped up and did a super job of organizing and resourcing TARC's operation. Check out the article and pictures of the event inside **REMEMBER**, please send any photos you take at TARC events to the newsletter editor for possible inclusion in The Communicator via email: [communicator@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:communicator@tamiamiarc.org).

In April, we saw the departure of Frank W2XYZ as our club Treasurer. Frank served faithfully for over 7 years. Only an illness was able to sideline him. At the April membership meeting, club members elected Robert "Bob" McAlister KN4RKE as our new treasurer and I am pleased to report that all fiscal affairs of the club have been transitioned to Bob. Read more about both of these fantastic individuals inside the Communicator.

2023-24 has been a period of great leadership and management transition for TARC. We elected a new Secretary (Art KN4NUM) mid-term last year, also due to an illness. This year we elected a new Vice-President (Steve KN4NFX) and now in mid-term a new Treasurer. We have a new newsletter editor (Tom KE4RXM), a new Membership Coordinator (Jack W1JJR), and a new Sunshine Chairman (Shaun KO4YAX) so far in 2024. We are now in need of an event planner/organizer due to Frank (W2XYZ) departing the board due to illness and expected long recovery time. All of these changes have put the club and your Board of Directors on notice that some level of succession planning needs to be implemented.

We were very lucky this year that so many new hams and club members stepped up and volunteered to fill these important club management and leadership positions. Notice the callsigns; many were just licensed just in the last few years. We **thank you** all for your volunteerism and willingness to serve. You're all doing such a great job in your new roles at TARC!

At the May 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting the directors will discuss the need for volunteers and succession planning, and how best to promote and achieve these vital club functions in future years (starting with the 2025 elections). We'd like to continue the discussion at the club membership meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please come to the meeting with your suggestions and thoughts on how best to support these vital club functions.



### Next Month:

Hurri (cane)  
Up!  
&  
Summer  
Slowdown

**Next meeting 6:30 PM, Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at Venice Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 825 The Rialto, Venice, 34285**

# CHASING DX

CQ DX CQ DX....  
May 2024 - Issue 19

DX Editor: Tony DiCenzo, KX1G  
KX1G@ARRL.NET

## Announced Top-100 DXPEDITIONS scheduled in May 2024

DATES	ENTITY	CALLSIGN	QSL INFO	INFO
April 18 – May 8	Bhutan #69	A52P and A52CI	TBD	By SP9FIH as A52P and SP6CIK as A52CI fm Dochula; 40-6m; SSB CW + digital
May 24 – June 19	Glorioso Is #7	FT4GL	LoTW; for QSL card direct to F4FTV	Single operator working during his free time. May be SSB only. Not to be missed, but will be hard. Look for daily info on Groups.io

For the latest info, always check [Announced DX Operations](https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html) at <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

### A chance at Glorioso Is., ClubLog #7

The Big Elephant in the room this month and June is a Glorioso Island DXpedition. While this is getting a huge amount of publicity, chances of getting this one appear difficult as it is a one person effort with operations limited to SSB and possibly FT8, and limited hours of operation. This column does not have the space to go into details, so check [Announced DX Operations](https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html) at <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> and other DX newsletters. Good luck! And don't forget Bhutan if you still need it.

### May Contests- The big contest this month is the CQ WW WPX, CW\*, on May 25-26

\*At the time this went to press, CQ Magazine contests have continued despite the magazine having ceased publishing. Any further news will be posted on the club's Groups.io web page.

### Summertime Fun: Time to check your antenna/coax?

Besides being a good time to chase DX, one of the best things you can do in the summer months to increase your DX totals is check your antennas! Lower that dipole or that beam and check the coax connection to the balun or the insulator. Check the condition of the coax. Check the connection to the shack equipment it connects to. Consider replacing that 100' of RG58 with RG8 or equivalent. It will increase the power delivered to the antenna. As we say up north, do it before winter sets in. Hi hi.

### Question of the Month for May 2024...How high is your DX IQ?

When I took over this column in November 2022, my first column included a list of things serious DXers do. If you've been reading this column since then you know that it has provided info on each of the listed items. Done well with DX since then? Need a refresher? Check yourself against the list again:

- I use ARRL's Logbook of the World
- I use a DX Cluster to check for DX spots. check the SFI, and more
- I can make QSOs in CW, SSB, Digital
- I Listen before I call a DX station
- I check the bands at gray-line UTC, both morning and evening
- I check into DX nets
- I know how to use ClubLog and OQRS
- I regularly check NG3K's website for Announced DX Operations, contest info, and more
- I use my radios signal processor to make my signal stand out
- I use Split operation when directed

How did you do? If you checked all 10 you are a Pro! Seven, you are doing great!. Five or less? Time to re-read the newsletters and speak to club Elmers.



# TARC Has a Lot of Gear. And a What???

*Member Spotlight* - By Tom Waters, Editor

The term **QUARTERMASTER** comes from the military. Both the US Army and Navy still appoint them. So does the Boy Scouts.

It is an extremely important position which, in general, is the person who is in charge of all equipment and supplies. In the Army, they are also known to assign quarters, and distribute rations. Interestingly, the Navy also tasks the Quartermaster with Steering and *Signalling* duties! I guess texting while boating is legal. :)



**Rich, KQ4AHZ**

We all go to (or read about) the many events that TARC hosts or participates in. But I bet most of you never think about all the radio equipment, the popup tent, the cables, the antennas, miles of feedline, tables, signs, chairs, and everything else it takes to hold an event. You show up, it's there, you go home after a great time with fellow hams, at a VERY well-equipped Club. TARC maintains a large storage unit in a temperature controlled facility here in Venice (at a considerable but necessary yearly expense). All of this equipment MUST be accounted for. We have a LOT of money invested in these assets and rely on them not just for our fun events, but this equipment is what we deploy in the event TARC is called upon for supporting an Emergency in the community.

Rich MacCredy, KQ4AHZ is the TARC Quartermaster. He took over the daunting role back in early 2023. He and I share a similar background in EMS (Emergency Medical Services) so we usually are found at the same end of the Perkins tables on Fridays swapping war-stories. and nerding-out about barcode labels and clipboards. Rich has a fascinating career history, which you can read about below. I will say, and I mean this as a compliment, he should apply for the vanity Callsign KQ4OCD. He has taken over his role with gusto. There is a level of organization that befits, well, a Military unit. Things are clean, organized, labeled, inventoried, and secure.

Rich was featured in a recent edition of *The GP Responder* which is a publication of the Gran Paradiso CERT Team and he has provided me with this biopic.

Richard MacCready retired from the CIA after 37 years in communications, soft-ware engineering, Presidential communications, Emergency Management and IT program management. After retirement he spent another three years supporting the CIA through contracting efforts in both the IT and medical areas. Mr. MacCready also has 25 years of operational experience with Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad in Loudoun VA as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider. Of special note is his leadership of a volunteer programming effort that replaced the County's outdated pager system with a more cost effective, phone text-based system saving the county \$250K a year. He also holds ICS certification in both the EMS and CERT arenas.

Mr. MacCready taught Emergency Medical Services classes for 16 years at the Northern Virginia (VA)

Community College in Springfield, Virginia. He also taught similar classes for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Academy in Leesburg, VA for 10 years. Throughout his EMS career, he often served as an EMS certification evaluator for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. MacCready moved to Gran Paradiso in June 2020 and immediately joined the CERT effort. He has taken an active role in helping the GP-CERT run its training and practice drills as well as working to document lessons learned and managing the GP-CERT communications. Mr. MacCready has a Technician-level amateur radio certification and is a member of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, where he recently accepted the role of Quartermaster. Mr. MacCready recently accepted the role as President of the SRQ CERT Association, an organization with the charter to provide CERT based training and standard communications to the CERT teams of Sarasota County.

## CQ THE FEST... TARC Has A Very Successful Showing For The 2024 Venice Shark's Tooth Festival

It felt good to "be home" again! TARC has operated a K4S Special Event Station at the Venice Shark's Tooth Festival (STF) since 2005 (except for the Covid years; 2020-22). Last year we operated dispersed from home QTH stations since the new venue in Centennial Park was of concern for effective amateur radio operations. This year we returned to the festival grounds and had a very successful operation with 354 QSO's logged on USB, 40 logged on FT8, and many dozens of contacts made on DMR. Yes, DMR! Dwight KT4DDS suggested trying this since we did have some concerns about RFI at the downtown Venice location and it turned out to be a big hit with the festival goers listening to all the DX coming over that radio on Saturday during the world-wide chat net!

We did miss having Frank W2XYZ as the planner and manager for the event. Frank has been doing this and most of the other club events (winter/summer field day, FL QSO party, etc.) for the past 7 years. His recent illness and expected long recovery time has temporarily sidelined him. Steve, NS4P stepped up and he did a fantastic job for getting our K4S station resourced, staffed, and operating for the event. Thank you Steve!

Another special thank you goes out to Dwight KT4DDS for his role in organizing and promoting the event, and in greeting the public during the event. Dwight suggested TARC's membership in the Venice Mainstreet Association last year for a cost of \$125 a year as a way to promote the club and to recruit new hams. This year that membership paid off with a free (\$600 value) 10x10 foot tent space in Centennial Park for the STF!

Setup began late on Friday afternoon with John N3PQD, Jim KJ4NDO, Paul KN4BAR, and Steve NS4P meeting at the club's storage facility (Cube Smart on Executive Dr.) to load up club equipment for the event. The team reassembled at Centennial Park and was joined by Dwight KT4DDS where the tent and antennas were setup and everything was tested and made ready for the weekend event. Available space for an antenna limited us to one HF station so having a multi-band antenna was a necessity. We used the club's Buddi-Hex antenna and it performed very well making the setup time for the antenna a worthwhile effort.

We had no shortage of volunteer operators for the event with help from Phil KD8HTS, Roger KY4RS, Mark KQ4EKK, Roger N9RM, Andy KB1HIP, Jim KJ4NDO, Steve NS4P, and Dave KQ4IOI. Saturday started off great with a low noise floor and plenty of contacts being made. And then, the band started playing. We aren't sure if it was a generator or some of the amplifier gear, but suddenly we had an S-8/9 broadband noise. Switching to 10 meters helped a little but not much. Steve came to the rescue placing an RF choke on the feedline to minimize the noise greatly; but making contacts with weak stations was still difficult.

Perhaps the most interesting and noteworthy thing to happen during the STF was a third party QSO that was unplanned and surprised everyone. Steve was operating when a father and son duo stopped by to talk with us. The father said his dad was an active ham and after some conversation he asked if we could talk to him? Well, the father texted his father in Norway, Maine and gave him the frequency and K4S call sign of our station. Lo and behold the grandfather was on the radio calling K4S! Steve put the grandson on the radio and he had a QSO with his grandpa from the STF courtesy of TARC. Outstanding!!

Dwight and Tom K7ONE stayed busy during the STF greeting the public and answering their questions about amateur radio. We had a number of visitors walk away with club brochures and promises of looking into getting licensed. We even had a few "old" hams stop by asking if they were still active or how they could get their licenses renewed. STF, getting to meet the public and raise awareness of amateur radio was perhaps the most rewarding aspect of our participation in this event.



### TARC Showing It's Teeth at the Festival (continued)

Dwight and Tom K7ONE stayed busy during the STF greeting the public and answering their questions about amateur radio. We had a number of visitors walk away with club brochures and promises of looking into getting licensed. We even had a few "old" hams stop by asking if they were still active or how they could get their licenses renewed. Aside from the operating fun of making 394 Qs from the STF, getting to meet the public and raise awareness of amateur radio was perhaps the most rewarding aspect of our participation in this event.

Of course all the toys have to be properly put away when done using them. The tear down crew included John KQ4ELH, Roger KY4RS, Mark KQ4EKK, Jim KJ4NDO, Steve NS4P, and Paul KN4BAR. Overseeing the return of club equipment to the storage facility was our club Quartermaster, Richard KK4AHZ who made sure everything was complete, clean, and put it the right place so it would be ready for the next time.

On Sunday as we were taking everything down and loading it up for return to the storage facility, Roger KY4RS commented that we have a remote HF station at the repeater site in Englewood and he asked why we didn't consider using that to beat the RFI issue we had at Centennial Park. I think someone else may have brought up that idea at a club meeting a few months ago too; but we had all forgotten about that. Next year, our planning for the STF should include having access to the remote HF station for sure! Not only could that solve the RFI issue if/when it occurs; but it would be yet another demonstration of amateur radio capability and utility.

Gee; I can't' wait until next year! Bigger, better, more stations and more Qs. Thanks to everyone who participated in making this such a fun and successful club event. It could not have happened without you.



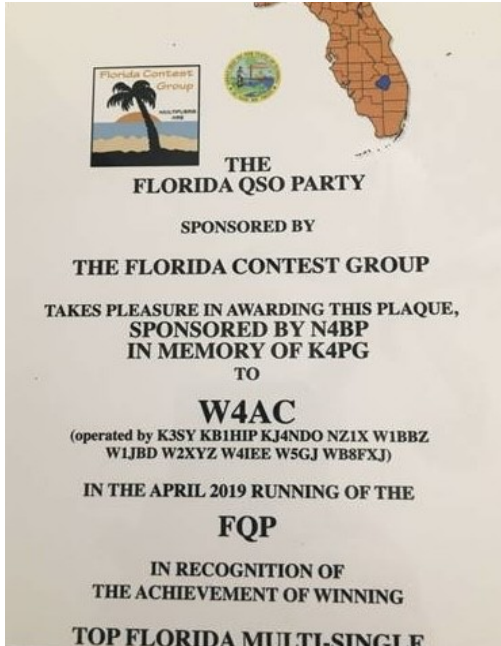


CLASSIC		DIGITAL	
20M - Phone	Georgia	Italy	Ohio
Washington DC	Oklahoma	Netherlands	Indonesia 12
New Hampshire, NH	Illinois	El Salvador	Belgium
Virginia	Massachusetts	Norway, US	Michigan
Texas	15M - FT8	Florida, US	United Kingdom
Wisconsin	Japan	France	Bangladesh
Tennessee	Costa Rica	Spain	Norway, US
Colorado	Iceland	Denmark	
Kentucky	Cuba	Norway	
Alabama	Alaska	Finland	
Arizona	Saskatchewan	India	
South Carolina	20 Phone	Sweden	
Ohio	New York	Germany	
Mississippi	North Carolina	New Mexico, US	
Louisiana	Illinois	France	
California	Florida	Spain	
New Mexico	Tennessee	Denmark	
	Ohio	Norway	
10M - FT8	Texas	Virginia	
Spain	Louisiana	Kentucky	
Russia	Arkansas	Tennessee	
France	North Carolina	Texas	
Finland	Mississippi	Arizona	
Poland	Alabama	Portugal	
Czechia	Tennessee	Philippines	
Poland	Ohio	China	
17M - Phone	Mississippi	Russia	
No Ireland	Alabama	Denmark	
	Mississippi	Finland	
	Michigan	Norway, US	
	Michigan	Mexico	

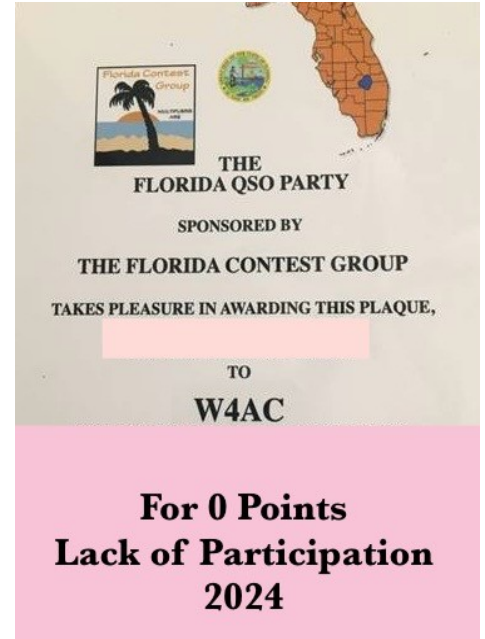


# FLORIDA QSO PARTY—NOT!

By President Paul Nienaber



TARC has operated as a club station, W4AC, in the Florida QSO Party event for at least the past 7 years; but not so in 2024. In 2019 we won the *Top Florida Multi-Single* award for most QSO points that year! The club is very fortunate to have Al W0AL as a member who is willing to make his most excellent amateur radio station and antenna farm available for the club to use during this event.



This year we got caught flat footed with the very sudden and unexpected unavailability of our most excellent and experienced club radio event planner, Frank W2XYZ. Frank was scheduled for surgery, told to not exert or excite himself, and can expect a long recovery from his illness. We certainly understand why he wasn't available this year and we all wish him well and a speedy recovery. The club's number 2 and 3 goto guys were also not available on such short notice. Steve NS4P was out of town and Jim KJ4NDO stepped down this year for a well earned and deserved respite from direct club activities.

There was no one else with the time, interest, or ability to step in with just a little over 2-weeks notice to plan and organize a TARC station event. Yes, the time frame here was a major factor; but this does point to what may be an unfilled need within the club. Someone to fill in for Frank. Maybe just temporarily this year; or maybe for a longer term. We do have the ARRL Field Day coming up June 22-23 and planning for that event needs to start with the May club meeting on May 8th.

I think we all recognize and appreciate Steve NS4P as a main workhorse for the club. He is all things to all people because of his knowledge, experience, ability, and unlimited willingness to be of service to anyone who asks. Frankly though.....Steve is stretched too thin already and his service as VE coordinator, board member, repeater/HF remote station maintainer, and on call Elmer to everyone does not leave him really available for any other duties. After all, he does have a life outside of radio!

SO. The bottom line here is we need a new club radio event planner and organizer. Is it YOU?

It's NOT That Hard. Remember, a GOOD leader surrounds themselves with GREAT people.

- \*When is it and Where?
- \*What jobs are there to fill?
- \*What supplies are needed?
- \*Publicize and pass the "sign-up clipboard"
- \*Direct the pickup of equipment, and setting up
- \*Help tear down
- \*Submit your receipts and newsletter article





# HERE ARE THE KEYS TO HAM RADIO FUN IN THE SUN!

*Brought to you  
by Mark Leber,  
KQ4EKK*

On April 6th and 7th, 2024, Florida State Parks on the Air (flspota.org sponsored by the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club LARC) held a contest. The goal was to acquire points by making contacts to and from Florida State Parks and other stations anywhere. I thought this would be interesting and generally difficult. And, I will explain why.

The way the point system was structured, you get point multipliers for each different FL State Park you activate. You also get point multipliers for each FL State Park that you contact. There is a bonus point structure as well and a myriad of other confusing point scoring rules that a HAM University PHD candidate is currently writing a thesis on (good luck!).

In the end, basically, get out there, make contacts, log them and most importantly HAVE FUN enjoying the outdoors.

Challenge accepted.

I have a bunch of different POTA setups and felt that I was ready to hit the road, but where do I go? Well, the simple answer is to any FL State Park that is on the list. These turned out to be basically the same FL State Parks that reside on the "POTA" list. OK, so anywhere in FL works.

Now to figure out where I will not bump into other operators AND where I have the best opportunity to actually contact other FL State Parks.

My answer was that I needed a vacation (from trying to figure out the rules). I have a friend that is studying for his Tech license, and he has never seen firsthand HF operations AND he has a place in Key Largo, FL. He was excited and wanted to help and watch and learn (I should have gotten bonus points for introducing a new HAM, but no that didn't exist in the "Rules").

With this, I now had a new home base for travel to all the parks in the Florida Keys. There are a whole bunch of them down there including trails, offshore islands, historical sites, botanical parks, a military fort, and one even parks that are 100% underwater. I figured being so far south in FL would give me the best chance to get some of the northern parks in FL. I was only operating SSB and did not want to do any digital, which

might have given more promising results in getting FL parks in general.







## Continuing Mark Leber KQ4EKK's account of the most bestest POTA you've ever heard of...

Drawing up a possible 2-day itinerary, I ended up with a total of 8 valid FL parks, trails, sites, etc. Possible, but very tight scheduling for the allowed operating hours of the contest and park closing times. In the end I was able to activate 4 of the 8 on my list and got quite a bit of windshield time in between.

My 2-day contest rewarded me with 4 new activated parks, 80 QSOs, an infinite number of beautiful views, many hours of fun with my buddy Bob Brockway and a 7-day vacation. While the contest may have been over on Sunday evening, it did not stop me from returning to several of the other parks available to me while still in the area. I activated 2 more parks with 99 additional QSOs. Conditions were so perfect one morning, that I had a run rate of 58 QSOs in 62 minutes with contacts from all corners of the US and Canada.

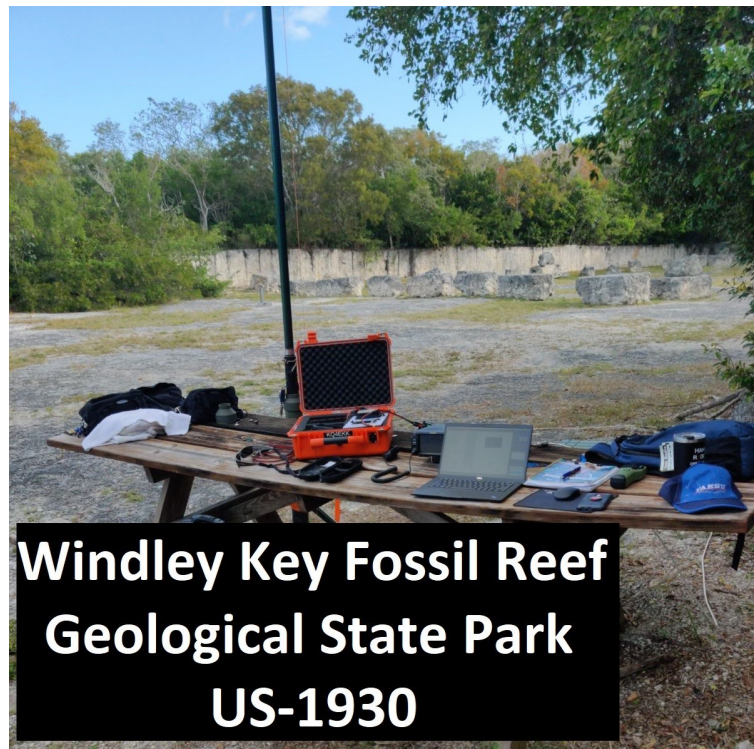
Bob and I also grabbed some maps, antenna parts and jumped aboard his boat as we made plans for future expeditions in the Keys. We plan on activating several island parks, San Pedro Underwater Archaeological Preserve State Park, and several National Parks only accessible via boat. Maybe some fishing and scuba diving will fall on the schedule as well.

*Points don't matter. Fun in the sun, friendship, sharing, helping are my reward. NO certificate needed.*



Fort Zachary Taylor  
Historic State Park  
US-3623

Setting Up for FL State Parks  
on the Air Contest in Key  
West, FL and we got a visitor  
from the Netherlands -  
HNLMS Groningen (P843)



Windley Key Fossil Reef  
Geological State Park  
US-1930



## Everything is NOT “(O) K” Anymore... POTA PARK IDENTIFIER CHANGES

The POTA organization has recently made a significant change to the Park Numbering system. In the past, parks in the United States were identified with a 4-digit number, with a Prefix of “K”.

POTA popularity has exploded, since the time of COVID-19 when we needed to stay away from each other, as well as the proliferation of available resources on YouTube, in QST, and other sources displaying it live, and how much fun you can have getting out in the fresh air and playing radio.

Because of this, POTA interest and participation has surged on an *International* level and quite frankly, they were running out of numbers, and the prefixes were confusing. Canadian parks had the prefix of VE (just like their callsigns) but the US was “K” which does not seem to have any direct correlation.

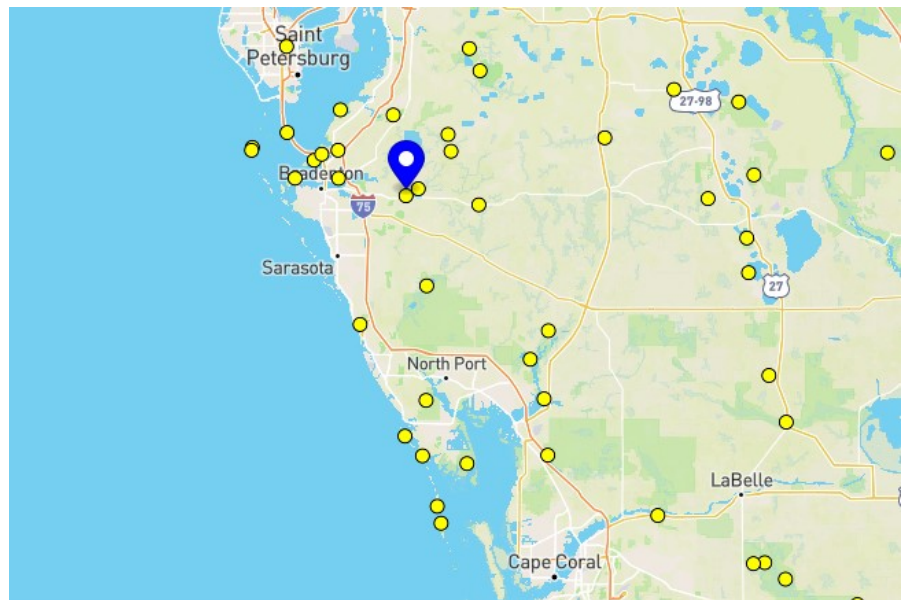
So, the **US parks will now have the prefix “US” (go figure!) and Canadian parks have CA.**

It is certainly possible to activate or hunt with POTA in DX so other countries have been aligned with a more straightforward nomenclature as well.

See this website for the official information: <https://docs.pota.app/docs/changes.html>

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*There are TONS of Parks in our area. There are 6 in the immediate vicinity of South Sarasota, Venice, and Englewood. There are lots more within a quick drive. Click the map to go to the POTA page.*



# What's NEW in Ham Radio

## A WARM AND SUNNY WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF TARC:

3/8/24	Member	Karl Kaukis	Extra	K0CIE
3/27/24	Member	Sean Hynds	Technician	KQ4QGK
4/9/24	Member	John Farley	General	KC3BOG
4/13/24	First Year	Matt Campbell	Technician	KQ4RGA

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 HAM NEWS:

The staple of many hamshacks the World over, MFJ Enterprises will cease manufacturing after more than 50 years.

Steve, NS4P said it best...*"You can make all the jokes you want about "free extra parts" and "Mighty Fine Junk" but the fact of the matter is that a huge number of hams would not be on the air but for MFJ and all their affiliates."*



NOTHING TO SEE HERE...  
The Solar Eclips Had NO Discernable Effect To Ham Radio

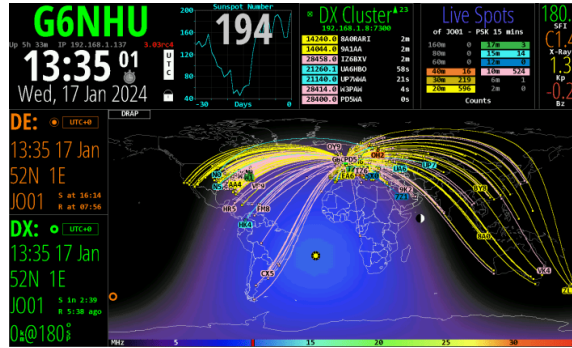
**FREE \$50 GIFT CARD FOR**  **CLICK TO LEARN MORE**

# TECH TIDBITS

## HAMCLOCK IN YOUR BROWSER

**IF** you are running this amazing program on a Raspberry Pi or Inovato Quadra, here is a neat way to view it simultaneously in a browser window on any device on your network.

(Note, this requires you to know how to get into the file directory of the device to type in a simple line of instructions)



**FIRST.** Navigate into the device using SSH or FTP.

The command you will enter can go in the root directory.

**NOW,** Type `sudo apt install lighttpd` and hit Enter.

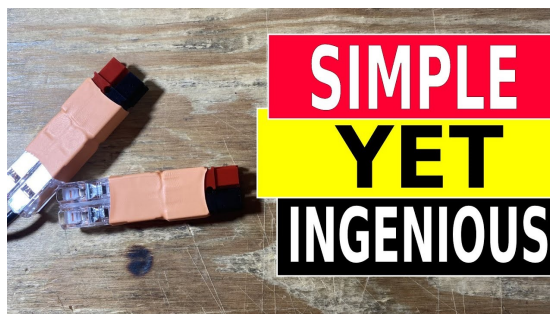
**YOU** will see that the device will fetch and install a small program.

**AT** this point, **REBOOT** the device. When it restarts, take note of the IP Address of your Pi or Quadra. Hint: It's right there under your callsign!

At this point, you should be able to open a browser (I have used it on Firefox for PC, and Safari on my iphone)

Type `http://<device IP address>:8081/live.html` (do not type the < or >, just the address, for example 192.168.0.42

You can actually **USE** the clock, not just view it. Select DX locations, change settings, and most other functions are available!



## CQ THE NET!

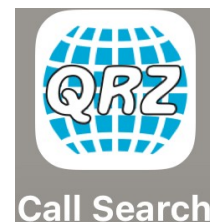
Tom KE4RXM, who is one of our 2 Net controllers for the 2m Chat net has launched a Tradert's Net, which airs on the .805 machine on Tuesday nights, @ 8pm. Sandwiched between the SERC Swap n' Shop on Monday nights, and the MARCI Trader's Net on Wednesdays, the Tamiami Tradeshow will serve the southern Sarasota and Charlotte County region. Stop by to check in, offer your gear for sale, ask the net for items you may be looking for, request gear advice, etc. ALL traffic is welcome!

**WANT** The

**BEST** Callsign Lookup App

**Out There?** Check this one out.

It is iOS Only, but this app alone is a great reason to go buy an iphone if you are an active ham!



## SERIOUS BUSINESS...What's going on around here?

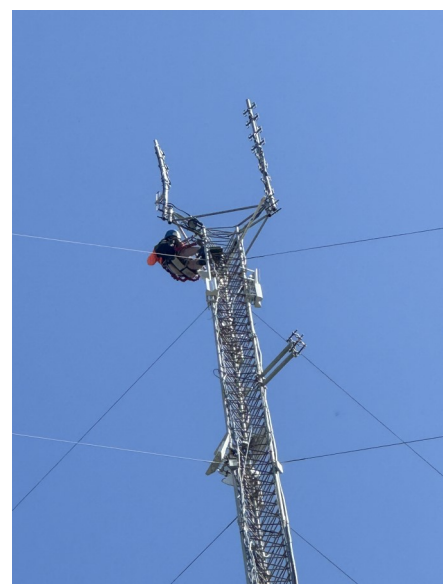
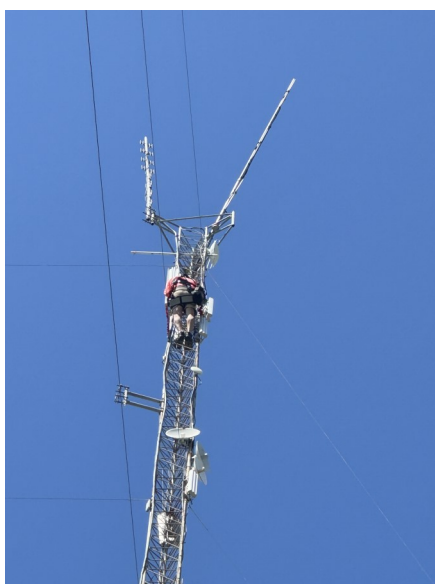
**YARN (Yet Another Radio Net)** Months ago, the Board approved a request from Tom Waters, KE4RXM to operate a Trader's Net on the 146.805 2m repeater. The net, which Tom calls the *Tamiami Tradeshow* debuted in April. It is similar in format to the other local trading nets hosted by the SERC in Sarasota, and MARCI in Bradenton. The Tamiami Tradeshow is on Tuesday nights at 8pm. One thing that sets this net apart from others is that on Tuesday May 7th, Tom will launch a Companion Website, [www.tamiamitradeshow.net](http://www.tamiamitradeshow.net) where items currently available in the local area will be featured. You can view a person's listings and contact them directly. Any ham is welcome to submit listings online or on the air. This is NOT a commercial endeavor; Tom just really enjoys talking gear, and helping match buyers and sellers. All members, and any other Ham is encouraged to tune in, check in, and support the net. Additionally, the net fully supports a little tech-talk, so if you have a question about a piece of gear, feel free to bring it to the "Show" on Tuesday nights.

**Repeater Update** On Monday, April 29 John Chaput - KK4LI, owner of JC Tower Services, came over from Lake Placid to make some temporary repairs on the 2-Meter antenna at the Englewood repeater site. You may recall that the antenna was bent in Hurricane Ian, and had recently come loose in its mount, causing it to "weathervane" in strong winds. To mitigate the risk of the antenna falling off its mount, and to prevent damage to the feedline, the club decided to make temporary repairs to the current antenna.

John was able to secure the antenna in a near-vertical position and inspected all the hardware at the top of the tower. John reported that the tower is in very good condition. While he was up on the tower, John was also able to replace a malfunctioning AREDN WiFi transceiver, restoring the TARC mesh WiFi system to full capability.

The club has ordered a new 2-Meter antenna to replace the damaged antenna, using the insurance money we received after Ian, and some of the reserve funds the club keeps for repeater repairs. We expect the antenna to be delivered within a month, at which time we will arrange for John to come back and install it. The inspections John did on this trip will make the installation of the new antenna go smoothly.

73 Steve Phillips

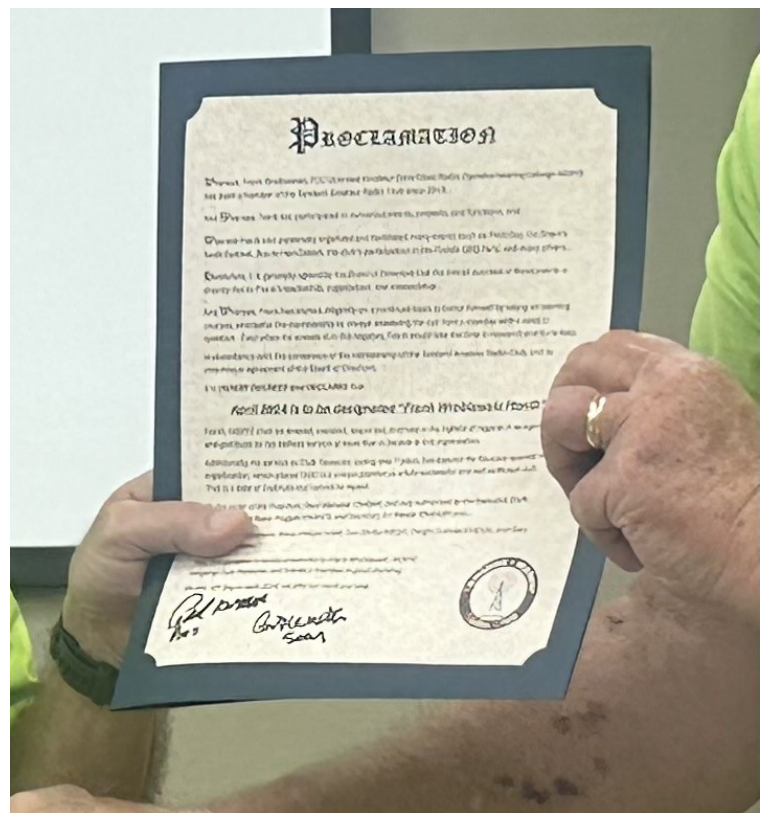


## Robert “Bob” McAlister Elected April 10th as Treasurer

**Congratulations** to our new club Treasurer, Bob KN4RKE. Bob was nominated by the board of directors to fill the vacancy that resulted from Frank’s W2XYZ unexpected resignation in April due to health issues. Of course we all understand Frank’s reasons for stepping down, we wish him a successful and speedy recovery from his pending surgery, and we thank him for seven years of faithful and dedicated service to the club.

Bob has been a quiet member of TARC since 2018. As an Englewood resident he is also a member of the Englewood ARS (EARS) and he has been most active with them in recent years. He is currently serving as their Treasurer and he began organizing Fox Hunt events for EARS this year with TARC participation welcomed and encouraged. As a retired electrical engineer Bob is very computer literate and he uses his own designed database to manage the EARS treasury duties. The board of directors has the utmost confidence in Bob’s ability to manage our club’s funds and we look forward to working with him on the board.

Transition of TARC fiscal affairs was completed shortly after his election at the TARC general membership meeting on April 10, 2024. Bob can be easily reached via the email address [treasurer@tamimiarc.org](mailto:treasurer@tamimiarc.org) for questions about dues or other financial matters.





# ~ CLUB CALENDAR ~

TARC MEETINGS	SCHEDULED	TIME	LOCATION	THIS MONTH:
Board of Directors	1st Saturday	1:00pm	Zoom	May 4th
General Membership	2nd Wednesday	6:30pm	Venice Presbyterian Church	May 8th
TARC Annual Meeting	Once Yearly		During the Holiday Party	December 4th
NETS				
North Port Die Hards*	Mondays	8:00pm	North Port Repeater	
TARC DMR	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**	NO Net on 5/8!
Greybeard Knuckle Draggers*	Thursdays	5:00pm	7.215 (40m USB)	
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	Denny's on Bee Ridge	May 7th
<b>TARC VE Licensure Testing</b>	2nd Saturday	10:00am	Venice Library	May 11th
DARN Net	2nd Monday	11:00am	NI4CE Repeater (145.430)	
SERC Swap 'n Shop Net	Mondays	8:00pm	N4SER Repeater (146.730)	NO Net on 5/6
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		Dayton, Ohio	May 17, 18, 19
ARRL Field Day	4th weekend in June		Coast Guard Stn. Venice	June 22-23
* 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 UHF Repeater - 444.100 MHz (+) Color Code 1 — TARC PrivateTalk Group 310442
- >Analog VHF 2m Repeater - 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100Hz — EchoLink W4AC-R (Node# 513309)
- >Dual Mode Yaesu System Fusion (YSF) Digital / 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>](#)

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB***Minutes of the 4/10 /24 Meeting*

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Paul Nienaber KN4BAR followed by flag salute.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Visitors** – Gus Hawkins AA4GH, Program Speaker

**Remaining Introductions** - Introductions from all remaining people. 50 total attendees.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Paul KN4BAR motioned to accept meeting minutes as published in the Communicator was tabled as the minutes were not published in March.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** No new correspondence

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Frank W2XYZ – Opening balance \$33,003.42. from March. Closing balance of \$31,015.68 Motion to approve was made by PAUL K1YOU, seconded by CHET. KG4IYS, motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SUNSHINE:** Shaun Helgesen KO4YAX, reported Paul, K1Y0U was recovering from shoulder surgery, which Paul attending the meeting, assured us he was OK! Mike Lechky, W0MJL was reportedly airlifted to either Tampa or Sarasota for a health emergency, we have no details yet.

**VE TESTING;** Steve NS4P, you must preregister for license testing, no walk-ins. We still have 5 slots available for the upgrade incentive program. Incentive ends in June.

**LIAISON TO QCWA;** Al K0AL reported that QWCA meets at Denny's on Bee Ridge Rd in Sarasota on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 11am. Non-members are welcome to attend the lunch meeting followed by a ham radio topic presentation. May 6, next meeting

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL;** Steve NS4P reported all repeaters working.

**REMOTE STATION UPDATE;** Steve, NS4P reported the remote station was working well, and that the new solar charging system is also working well. One charge controller is causing "birdies" on 20M and will be replaced.

**PIO INFORMATION AND REPORT;** no report, Dwight KT4DDS unable to attend meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Jack W1JJR reported that TARC has a total of 163 members as of April 10th. We have 13 new members since the beginning of January 2024.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Frank Wroblewski, TARC Treasurer for 7 years is stepping down due to health reasons. Frank was awarded a "gold" trophy and a Proclamation of Appreciation for his many years of service from the club and beautifully prepared by Tom Waters KE4RXM.

April has been proclaimed FRANK WROBLEWSKI month. Frank received round of applause for all his hard work doing the clubs business.



**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB***Minutes of the 4/10 /24 Meeting*

Continued

⋮  
**OLD BUSINESS:**

Repeater site report: Steve NS4P, we have found an affordable antenna climber who will come the last week of April to assess the project. Steve noted the cost of shipping was too high for the antenna he selected and is looking into alternatives. Road Trip?

2. Tampa TARC Fest this coming weekend, April 13-14.

3. SharkTooth Festival April 13-14. A sign up sheet was passed around for volunteers to help setup, operation, and tear down of our booth. K4S is our special call sign for the event. We will operate on 20m USB and DMR World Wide Net. Park at the high school on Indian Ave and take the shuttle to the event.

4. Florida QSO Party April 27 and 28. Although we have a great venue, Al Culbert's K0AL beautiful "antenna ranch" (my designation - ED.) we don't have a program manager to set things up and manage the weekend. No-one volunteered so there will be no W4AC station this year for the Florida QSO Party.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Bob McAlister, KN4RKE, club member since February 2019 was elected club treasurer to replace Frank Wroblewski. Unanimous vote!

Venice Presbyterian Church, our club meeting site, is upgrading their audio-visual equipment at a cost in excess of \$4000. The BOD recommend that the membership approve a \$1000 donation towards this project. Hop Evans, AC8NS motioned that the club donate \$1000 to VPC for the upgrade. 2nd by Nancy N4ZM, passed unanimously.

An advisory group consisting of Al K0AL, Tom KE4RXM, Gary W8SKI and Roger N9RM; will offer suggestions to the church for the addition of cameras and microphones to the AV upgrades.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul K1YOU and seconded by Roger N9RM, motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Time of motion 7:28 pm

**Attendance:** Number of members 50

Post meeting program: Gus AA4GH gave a presentation of the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda. (900 West Marion Ave.) Within the museum is amateur radio station W7MHM. The station received grant for \$60,000 from the ARRL Foundation and set up a station (W7MH) to work with local STEM students.

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at VPC @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Art Wester  
Secretary



# REMINDERS:

Upcoming Hamfests Nearby-

5/25 [Wormfest](#) in Pinellas Park

6/01 Hurricane Season Starts

6/22 [Dade City Lodge Pre-Field Day Hamfest](#)

**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).

- RULES:**
1. You take (and pass) your exam with TARC, either at a scheduled or arranged VE session.
  2. You test using the 2020-2024 Question Pool. The new 2024-2028 pool goes into effect July 1st so you must test by June 30th.
  3. Contact Steve Phillips NS4P or Paul Nienaber KN4BAR for details

**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**

Art Wester      K4NUM  
 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	dwrightsull@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:** Art Wester, K4NUM - [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

