



THE COMMUNICATOR



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

W4AC Repeaters: 444.100 MHz (DMR) & 146.805 MHz (-) (PL100Analog)

Incorporated 1984

<http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

October, 2020

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President's message...KJ4NDO

October is the month when many of our members, who have spent the summer in far away northern places with strange sounding names, return to the luxury of warm beaches and swaying palm trees. Welcome back. We've missed you.

Our club continues to function, and function well, in spite of the Covid-19 virus restrictions. I think that one of the attributes of any good club is the spark of perseverance; that spirit of all of the members making this club an enjoyable organization to be a part of.

Here are some examples of the activities we're involved in:

Repeater station. Before the Covid-19 virus fully hit, we had a chance to purchase a repeater with its antennas on a 200 foot tower. Our club had used this gear through the courtesy of a club member who had maintained the equipment for some years, but was now moving to other interests. We came together and by the generosity of another club member, purchased the repeater equipment. In short order, members organized a six-member repeater maintenance committee led by Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, to provide badly-needed technical care to the equipment.

Additionally, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, developed a club remote station at the repeater site using an IC 7300 transceiver. The remote site will be open to all club members via the internet. Tom also created an instruction video for the use of the station.

Fox Hunting. Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, and his team of devious minions hide "the Fox" radio transmitter, as a fox hunt challenge event, for operators interested in tracking down hidden radio signal emitters.

Venice Special Events. Our club, with the able assistance of Steve Phillips and a team of sharp shark-eyed race course observers, provides radio and safety monitoring for the Megalodon 10K race and the Shark Fin 5K race at the Venice airport. We also set up two high-frequency voice stations, one Morse code, and one FT-8 station that we operate during the three day Venice Shark's Tooth Festival. TARC uses a special event station call sign, K4S, during this event.

Sculling. The Battle of the Bridges is a national sculling event held on the local intracoastal waterway, usually in September. TARC teams, ashore and afloat, provide radio control and safety monitoring for this all-day event.

VE Testing. The Covid-19 virus safety requirements initially put a wrinkle in our club's VE testing schedule. Steve Phillips, NS4P, and his team of volunteer VE examiners quickly devised a system of test-taking and safe-space positioning to allow VE testing to go forward on schedule. It surely helped that the Philips' home had a very large lanai that allowed for the test to be taken outdoors, with space for social and test-taking separation. It must be an advantage to take the test whilst the soft Florida breeze is flowing through the lanai.

Our club is made up of adventuresome, curious, intelligent men and women amateur radio operators. The events listed above are only a short sample of what we do. Although Covid-19 put a cramp in our physical meetings, our spirit for creativity was not diminished. There is a lot going on. If you're a quiescent club member, or someone who is thinking about joining, or a curious person bouncing off the walls of your home, get involved in our club and some flourishing club activity. Welcome home. I hope everyone has an enjoyable October. **73s to all, Jim, KJ4NDO**



**Next meeting
October 14,
2020 via
ZOOM.**

**The meeting will
start at 7:00 PM
on Wednesday,
14 October,
2020. Check
Groups.io for
the link to
connect.**

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 09/09/20 Meeting*

The monthly club meeting was conducted on Zoom and was called to order at 7:02 PM by president Shortill, KJ4NDO. Jim recited the pledge to the flag. Attendance was captured via the Zoom session.

There were no visitors or new members; however, we welcomed one of our Life Members, Bryon Hume, K5AIA, was present from his Baton Rouge QTH.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting, as published in The Communicator, were accepted by motion made, seconded, and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$5,244.89, receipts of \$5,167.34, expenses of \$3,770.35, and an ending balance for the month of August of \$6,891.88. The large amount of receipts was due to donations. Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, donated \$2,574.00 for a new VHF repeater. In addition, the club received \$2,450.00 for insurance claim payment for the fried DMR repeater. Also, the club received a \$250.00 donation from Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund. The Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you letter was sent to the donors who contributed to TARC via the Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUNSHINE: Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, reported that sympathy cards were sent to Patti Phillips, N4IGI, for the passing of her father and Frank, W2XYZ, for the passing of his daughter's mother-in-law. Just a reminder to please inform Jim if anyone is sick or in the hospital so he can send a get well card. Also inform Jim of happy occasions like a new baby.

VE TESTING: Steve Phillips, NS4P, said that the Sarasota County libraries are still closed for meetings; however, the Phillips' lanai is open again for the VE test session on September 12 adhering to social distancing and VE testing guidelines. Since our last club meeting there have been 21 candidates and 20 passed their respective tests.

LIAISON TO QCWA: Due to COVID-19 and Florida's social distancing restrictions, there was no September QCWA meeting.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL: Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported that the repeaters were working fine until July 17 when a lightning strike took out the

DMR repeater. Much work has been done since making sure everything is surge protected. Chet, KG4IYS, bought the club new 2meter and DMR repeaters.

Just a reminder that the digital net is held on the club 444.100 DMR repeater using Talk Group TAC 315. The club 2m analog repeater frequency is 146.805 MHz (-) PL 100. The digital net opens Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The 2m net opens Thursday at 7:30 PM. Hams can participate on this net via EchoLink using a computer, an iPhone or an Android system based phone. Click on W2XYZ-R (Node 571146) on the EchoLink directory screen to establish EchoLink contact. The 10-meter net is on frequency 28.450 MHz, upper side band, and begins immediately after the conclusion of the 2m net.

For those that are looking for an alternative to breakfast at Peach's, Tom Wilson, W1ICU, hosts via Zoom a Virtual Breakfast gathering on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. For details please refer to the Groups.io site.

MEMBERSHIP: We recently added six new members to the club. There are 101 regular members, 26 first year members, 7 life members, and 1 comp for a total membership of 135. The club roster is available on our member's only website page.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. June 2020 Field Day recap. Jim, KJ4NDO, reported that this year there was a rule waiver allowing operators of "1D" home stations to contact other "1D" stations for points. Approximately a dozen TARC members participated in Field Day the last weekend in June. Some bands (i.e., 20m and 40m) were more popular than others. Paul Bourque from ARRL Radiosport mentioned to Jim that the official rankings for Field Day will be published in the December issue of QST magazine.

2. Repeater Maintenance Team update. Chet, KG4IYS, mentioned that there have been three lightning strikes at the repeater site since July. The summertime is a constant reminder to us that the Tampa area is the lightning capital of the U.S. The team has been busy cleaning and organizing the shack, repairing the IC-7300, testing the generator, etc. The tower climber is coming to the site next week to do an assessment. Chet shared some site pictures and will present more pictures at the October meeting.

Continued >>>>>

TARC Minutes, continued

3. Club Remote Station. Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, stated the remote station is running well on 20m and is hoping to have other bands up and running in a couple of weeks. All you need to work the station is a device that has an Internet connection. Tom has developed two YouTube videos on how to use the station, and if anyone needs a refresher contact Tom. If you log on and another ham is operating you will receive a message to select cancel and wait for the operator to finish his session. In October, Tom is planning to have the remote site available to all club members for a free trial week. The remote club station will be a subscription service at a cost of \$60 per year per user. If you are interested, please let Tom know and give your money to Frank, W2XYZ, by October 31.

4. Fox Hunting. All you need for fox hunting is a 2m HT and a directional antenna. If you are interested, the next fox hunting practice session will be in November. When a date has been selected, it will be posted on Groups.io.

5. Classes in 2020 – The Technician class wrapped up on September 6. There were eight people who signed up and five were active participants. The cohort of instructors included Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, Andy Durette, KB1HIP, Chet, KG4IYS, and Steve, NS4P. They will be offering a General class starting September 20 lasting eight weeks.

6. Club Equipment. Steve, NS4P, mentioned that he still has lots of donated ham equipment in his garage and trailer that is available at very reasonable prices. The complete list of equipment is available in back issues of The Communicator and on Groups.io.

7. Zoom Subscription. The club unanimously approved the expenditure of \$150 for a yearly Zoom Pro subscription. The Pro subscription allows us to host up to 100 participants and unlimited group meetings. The Zoom subscription will be used for club meetings, board of directors meetings, virtual breakfasts, classes, and other club events.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. The Board recommended that the secretary be the custodian for all passwords and trustee for the club call sign. The secretary will also keep a key for the repeater site.

2. San Yoder, K3SY, proposed that Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, be granted Honorary Life Membership for his exemplary service to the TARC repeaters. Chet has donated much equipment and money for the repeater site. The proposal met with unanimous approval.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM. There were 26 members on the Zoom session.

Program: Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, shared with the group “Passwords, How Do I Remember Them?”.



TOM'S TECH TIPS: Where did I park? (Using Google Assistant):

Sooner or later we'll be parking at stadiums, shopping malls, airports, and HamCation again. Just the other day I started to panic at the mega-market when I thought someone stole my car until I remembered it was over by one of the dozen unused Tesla charging stations. Avoid the angst and use

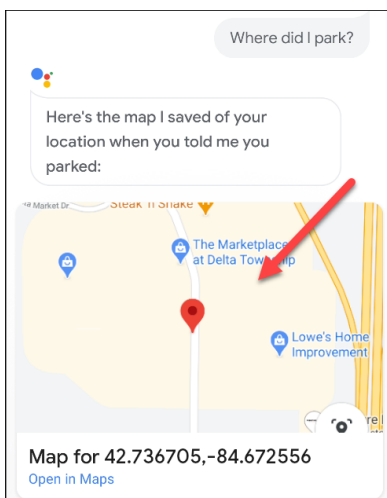
Google Assistant on your Android device, iPhone or iPad. To avoid wandering all over the parking lot you'll need to have **Location** activated on your device and the Google Assistant app.

Now all you have to do is say, “**OK Google...I parked here**” or “**Remember where I parked**”.

Google Assistant marks your location on a map and remembers it for 24 hours. To remove it sooner just say “**Forget where I parked**”. When returning to your car just say “**OK Google...Where's my car?**”, or “**Where did I park?**” or “**Find my car's location**”. Up pops a map (including longitude & latitude) of where you parked.

If you have an iPhone and don't prefer to use Google Assistant you can use the **Maps** feature. The procedure varies somewhat based on your version of IOS. Learn more here:

<https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/find-your-car-iph13ef1c2e/12.0/ios/12.0>



DX Jack's page....

..... By Jack Sproat, W4JS

MAJOR CURRENT/UPCOMING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS



CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY

COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)								
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	
Palau – T88SS by KE1AT, FT8 w/40/80 CW	Now Active	308	NO	09-12	08-13	13-15	NO	NO	21-23	NO	NO
Iraq – Y19WS by IU5HWS	Now Active	43	0100	23-05	22-05	1800	12-16	13-15	NO	NO	NO
Niger – 5U4IHM by F4IHM, **, some FT8	Now Active	77	00-04	22-07	21-07	18-24	17-23	12-22	14-21	NO	NO
South Sudan – Z81D by Y11DZ, SB.Dgy.FT8	Now to 10 Nov	74	NO	23-04	22-05	19-23	17-23	12-22	17-21	NO	NO
Iceland – TF/DJ7JC, CW, FT8, RTTY	Now to 18 Oct	28	00-10	21-11	20-03	18-21	18-19	NO	NO	NO	NO
Dodecanese – SV5/DL3DRN, CW/SSB/RTY	Now to 14 Oct	49	00-04	21-06	21-06	17-19	12-18	13-16	NO	NO	NO
Jan Mayen – JX2US by LA2US, CW, FT8	01 to 31 Oct	21	01-09	22-10	1200	1300	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BLY by JI5RPT, all modes	03 to 06 Oct	317	NO	08-12	12-13	2200	21-23	21-23	NO	NO	NO
Svalbard – JW6VM, 9DL, 7XK	07 to 12 Oct	13	03-08	23-10	00-03	19-22	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Svalbard – JW4O by 7-op team	08 to 12 Oct	13	03-08	23-10	--	19-22	--	NO	--	NO	NO
Surinam – PZ5GE by DJ4EL, ++	12 to 24 Oct	126	--	21-12	--	10-23	11-22	14-23	NO	14-17	NO
Luxembourg – LX/home call by 6 PA ops	15 to 18 Oct	44	23-07	21-09	20-03	11-20	12-19	14-16	NO	NO	NO
Svalbard – JW/LB1QI, CW and SSB	15 to 18 Oct	13	03-08	23-10	00-03	19-22	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Surinam – PZ5G by DJ4EL, CW and SSB	16 to 19 Oct	126	23-11	21-12	20-24	10-23	11-22	14-23	NO	14-17	NO
Kosovo – Z66DX by 6-op team	19 to 28 Oct	47	23-05	22-08	22-03	17-19	12-18	13-16	NO	NO	NO
Curacao – PJ2C by 3 Dutch ops, ++ some FT	20 to 20 Oct	137	--	--	--	11-01	12-24	--	--	--	--
Cape Verde Is – D4Z by SQ9D, CQWW SSB	28 to 29 Oct	90	23-08	21-10	--	17-23	11-22	17-21	17-20	1900	NO
French Polynesia – TX0T by VE3LYC	29 Oct to 05 Nov	243	--	03-12	02-11	23-02	16-02	--	--	--	--

Prepared 29 Sept 2020 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX* 20-36, *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* No. 1483 and *DX World.Net*

Notes: Times shown are for S-5 or better signals and 60% or better opening probability. ??? = Call Sign or Date not yet known; ++ = Mostly SSB; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast, NIL = band is open but signals below S-5 threshold. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts are calculated using VOACAP <http://www.voacap.com/hf/>.

-- SEPTEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 28 Sept, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 69 to 74, with a mean value of 71.1. The A_p index was ≥ 7 on seven days during that period. G1 (Minor) geomagnetic field storm levels occurred 24-24 Sept with G1-G2 (Minor-Moderate) storm levels 27-28 Sept.

A single sunspot group was visible on two days.

-- OCTOBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels throughout the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is anticipated to reach G1-G2 (Minor-Moderate) storm levels 25-26 Oct and G1 (Minor) storm levels 21-23 and 27 Oct, due to CH HSS influence. Active conditions are likely on 01, 20, 24 and 29-30 Oct. Quiet and quiet to unsettled conditions are expected to prevail throughout the remainder of the month.

(From NOAA *Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 29 Sept 2020, NOAA *27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 29 Sept 2020, and 45 *Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 29 Sept 2020.)

-- JAN MAYEN – JX2US --

Erik LA2US will be active as **JX2US** from Jan Mayen where will operate CW, FT8 and probably some more modes focusing on 160 – 30m. Scheduled date for the flight to Jan Mayen is October 1st. It might be delayed depending on the WX. The first days will be used for training and settling in, so not expect much activity then.



-- SURINAM – PZ5G & PZ5GE --



Markus-DJ4EL has advised that his 12-24 October DXpedition to Surinam is on! Flight tickets are in hand. He will be operating as PZ5GE from Houttuyn (GJ15kr) on 40-10m SSB, and as PZ5G from Papegaaien Island (IOTA SA-092; GJ15kv) on 80-10m CW and SSB.

-- CQWW PHONE DX CONTEST --

This is the biggest contest in October taking place on 24-25 October. Don't miss it!!

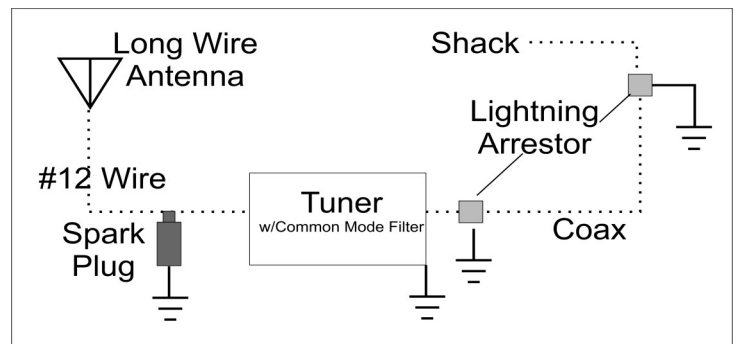


Ground that shack!!

by Tom Porada, W4IEE

which) solid copper wire lying an inch or so below the mulch then connected to an outside bonding block just below the meter box designed for this purpose.

My antenna is a simple long wire that goes up a 15' fiberglass mast then out across the yard maybe 70' & up 40', then down a tree maybe another 35' or so. At the input side there is a MFJ 998RT remote tuner. Tuners typically have no surge or lightning protection on their antenna input, so what to do? I recall once reading in a way-back QST from the 50s about the days when twin lead was all there was for feed line. They often put an automobile spark plug from each leg to ground for protection.



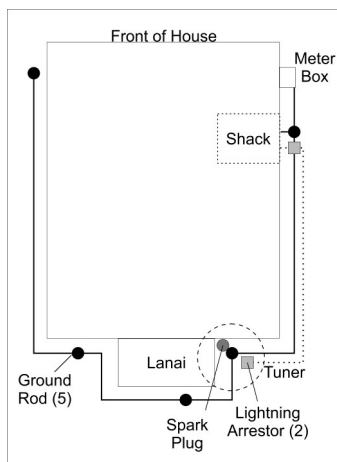
Every ham knows that they should do something to protect their shack from lightning and static surges, but what does that really mean?

There was a recent video I found and posted on Groups.io <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4H4Ozh7By4&feature=youtu.be> that gave a pretty good explanation. Watch it if you haven't done so already.

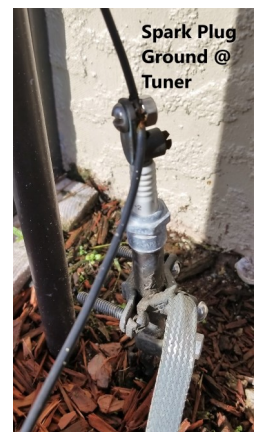
Over the years I've read numerous articles about having lots of ground rods connected outside and around the shack, the importance of *bonding* them to the meter box, having some sort of single point ground within the shack and connecting every metal box in the shack to it.

Well, I've kind of taken that to heart, and made a reasonable attempt at providing perimeter grounding following right thru into the shack.

I now have five 8' ground rods around the house but should probably have more. Maybe one every 16' or so – a future project perhaps. All the rods are connected with bare #6 or #8 (can't recall



I followed that idea and put one on the #12 antenna wire before the tuner input insulator. To do so I used a small piece of copper plumbing tubing, threaded it with a spark plug tap, lightly hammered it on top of the ground rod, screwed the plug into it using some copper thread anti-seize compound, then put the ground clamp around it to secure it to the rod. I connected the antenna wire to the plug using an electrical connector I found at Home Depot.



My tuner, common mode choke and lightning arrestor are in a large plastic container just outside my lanai. The tuner chassis and lightning arrestor are grounded via 5/8" flat tinned braided wire to the same ground rod as the spark plug. After the lightning arrestor I use a 5KW common mode choke/line isolator in the coaxial line running to the shack. Before the coax runs up into the shack via an under window panel, I have yet another lightning arrestor sitting on a ground rod. My shack ground also >>>>

Ground that shack!

comes off this ground rod via 5/8" tinned braided flat wire.

Inside the shack I have a ground block I put together using a 1/4" piece of copper plate. I drilled multiple holes into the plate and threaded each one. Again I used electrical connectors from Home Depot. Each piece of my

gear is grounded to that block using the flat braid wire. Where I didn't have a ground screw, as on my computer, I added one.

I use the 5/8" flat braid (Ebay) mostly because it is very flexible and easy to work with. I terminate the ends for a #10 screw by pushing an awl thru the braid so as not to cut wire, apply a little liquid flux then solder around it with either my 100 watt Weller gun or with a propane torch. Usually I have to play with the awl after soldering to open the hole slightly. So, does all this work? How do you define work? I have not had a major in-shack issue from lightning

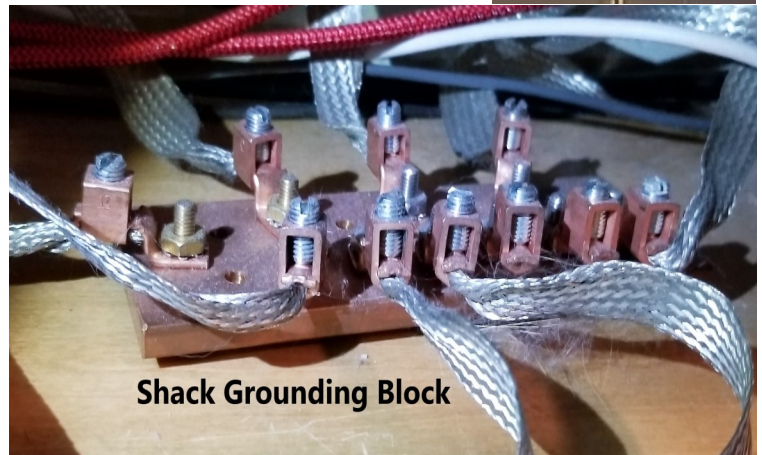
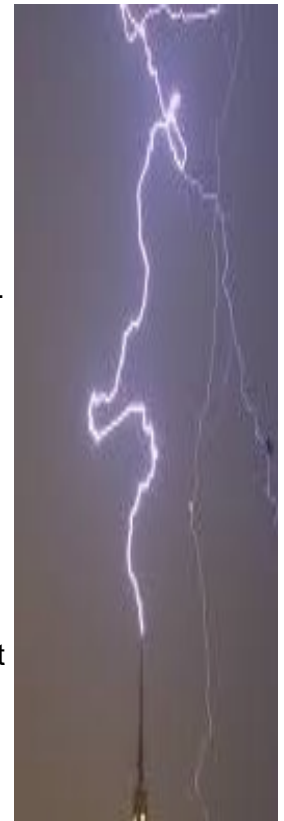


Grounding
before shack

or static. But, I did have an issue where my Bias-T connection inside my tuner got fried required a return trip to MFJ. Was it lightning? Was it a static surge? Or was it simply a set of random component failures? Who knows.

All I know is that one should always try to minimize voltage differences everywhere in the ground system. No voltage difference = no current flow. I suppose that more ground rods would help normalize the voltage along the ground.

Do the best you can and hope it's good enough. Just remember that if lightning strikes real close or on one of your wires, make sure you have the ARRL insurance!!



Shack Grounding Block

from: Den W2DEN <w2den@comcast.net> Subject: [SRQARES] Acronym soup

There are quite a few new SRQ ARES members that may be wondering just how we divide up the responsibilities between the various groups here in Sarasota county. With the current situation not allowing us to get together, understanding the entire picture can be confusing. Hopefully this will help the newcomers and refresh those who have been around for a while.

SRQ ARES is a service consisting of licensed amateurs who volunteer for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. As a service SRQ ARES does not own any equipment and does not have a budget. SRQ ARES organization follows the ICS guidelines reporting to the ARRL West Central Florida (WCF) Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). SRQ ARES relies on local clubs to provide equipment such as go-boxes, repeaters, MESH networks etc. SRQ ARES communicates with its members via the [SRQ ARES Groups.io](http://SRQARESGroups.io), the [SRQ ARES Web site](http://SRQARESWebSite) and a Thursday evening (7 PM) net.

SERC Sarasota Emergency Radio Club, a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, is a general purpose ARRL Affiliated club open to all who have an interest in amateur radio. SERC encourages all types of amateur radio activities from DMR to contesting to hamfests etc. SERC owns, operates and maintains 4 repeaters, call signs N4SER and W2DEN, as well as most of the digital equipment in the county including the AREDN MESH, Packet radio, and VARA FM gateways. SERC communicates with its members via the [SERC Groups.io](http://SERCGroups.io), the [N4SER.org web site](http://N4SER.org) and a Wednesday evening net at 7 PM. The word 'Emergency' in the name is historical and has no significance.

more >>>>>>>>

Acronym soup, con't

SDG Sarasota Digital Group. Formed originally to put the Red Cross packet Winlink gateway back on the air, the group has evolved into a general purpose work service. SDG does not exist as an entity having no formal structure nor any type of budget. SDG does maintain a user supported slush fund, all purchases, such as Pactor modems, are donated to SERC. Prior to COVID 19 SDG met every Tuesday to spend a few hours working on the 'project of the week'. This includes the complete rework of Redcom (more than once), installing MESH equipment around the county, installing and maintaining the Red Cross antennas and the SHARES gateway, testing new technologies etc. SDG is available to ALL local amateur radio clubs if needed. We have assisted SARA installing their MESH equipment on Sarasota memorial Hospital..SDG communicates with its members via the [SDG groups.io](https://sdggroups.io), a [SDG web page](#) on the N4SER.org site (a bit dated) and a digital training net every Wednesday at 9 AM on the W2DEN repeaters.

Additional clubs in Sarasota county (acronym is a link to their web sites):

[SARA](#) Sarasota Amateur Radio Association. [NPARC](#) North Port Amateur Radio Club.

[TARC](#) Tamiami Amateur Radio Club. [EARS](#) Englewood Amateur Radio Society

Additional acronyms can be found in the N4SER,.org Elmer web pages. ([Link](#))

By Tom Shrilla, W8QJF



Our TARC club remote HF station is nearing fruition as we await diagnosis and repair of its multi-band Bushcomm dipole antenna. Presently we can receive on all bands, but transmit on only 20-6 meters. When completed it will feature 80-6 meters operation at 100 watts on SSB, AM, FM and CW. The user interface is web-based

which allows total control via a web browser, tablet, smart phone, etc. on any operating system. The base station is located at our Englewood repeater site. The station “gets out” remarkably well and can ‘hear’ likewise. We have made numerous contacts worldwide over the spring and summer.

Since we anticipate a diverse group of users and remote “devices” we wanted a reliable, straight-forward and generic interface which could potentially grow to multiple radios and antennae. To that end we are utilizing RemoteTX. If you go to their website - <https://remotetx.net> - you’ll see a thorough background on the system and sample QSO videos.

In addition to equipment acquisition and maintenance outlays, the Club pays an annual subscription to RemoteTX for the remote station. To offset costs we are offering remote station access to individual TARC members for an annual \$60 subscription. Each paid user is issued unique login credentials and documentation (instructional videos) on station operation. Subscriptions will be limited to approximately ten users.

At the October TARC meeting we will have updates on the antenna repairs and station status, and hopefully a time frame for offering access to club members.



FALL Club Fox Hunt. Sunday, November 15, 2020, 9 am in the parking lot by Norma Jeans sports bar, 1635 U.S. 41 Bypass S, Venice, FL 34285. This is the north end of the former K-Mart shopping center. Steve, NS4P was the winner of our spring fox hunt so he will be the fox for this event. Paul, KN4BAR will meet in the parking lot with all the hunters. There will be a Q&A session and equipment setup/testing opportunities for all hunters before the hunt begins. First one (individual or team) to find the fox WINS! Visit the Elmer area of our club website for information about fox hunting, antennas, and attenuators.



Life Members - the life of TARC

Article III, 5 – d of the TARC bylaws reads thus:

Honorary Life Membership may be granted, by vote of the Club, to those regular members in good standing who may no longer be able to attend meetings, or who have performed some exemplary service to the Club. Such Life Members shall have no further obligation for annual dues.

Our current TARC roster lists nine Life Members - the latest addition is Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, who was elected as a life member at the September meeting in recognition of his outstanding contributions to TARC repeater operations as noted in the September Communicator.

Since the club has a goodly proportion of newer members who may not know the legacy of the other

eight current Life Members, or of former Life members, here's what we have:

- ◆ KG4IYS, Chet's story
- ◆ Notes on the other eight current Life Members
- ◆ Notes on some former Life Members

Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, Extra Class, TARC Life Member

Graduated 1964 Cleveland State University - Bachelor of Engineering Science, major in physics and mathematics – plus coursework in physics at the Masters and PhD level

Began work while in undergraduate college with Naval Research in 1959 and worked there after graduation until 1967, specializing in electromagnetic fields with respect to magnetic field weapons and deterrents. There I created dynamic solutions to essentially hide the Navy's ships magnetically while underway in the earth's magnetic field. Also studied and solved the issue of the USS Nuclear Submarine Thresher's demise off the Atlantic coast during field trials.

First and second generation computers began to emerge in government in the early 60's. I was fascinated with these new machines, so I self-taught myself computers and programming as few graduate level studies were available. By 1967 third-generation mainframes were emerging as well as the first minicomputers. I became completely immersed in the hardware and software technologies and finally was hired away to IBM where I quickly became one of their top experts in the computer field. I started developing operating systems, virtual operating systems (created the first hypervisor in the world), compilers, and special applications for the huge databases of the Social Security Administration, and the high speed computing requirements of Johns Hopkins University laboratory. I wrote/modified many operating systems for IBM.

In 1973, I transferred to IBM Kingston where I was an architect for their network architecture and future computers, entered management in charge of the development of the 1800 minicomputer system, and was on special assignment to the Vice President of Development, as I was being groomed for senior management.

IBM changed in 1980, so I was lured away to become a Vice President of development for ITT computer products.

From 1980 to 2006, I held senior management positions in several corporations ranging from startup to half billion dollar revenues. Most positions were executive vice president of development, but I also was President and CEO of two small companies. I remained technical all my career, invented **con't>>>**



Life members, continued

several products, and have one patent. The companies ranged from computer products, to communication products, to telecommunication products.

After retirement I began volunteer work for the next ten years at Kitt Peak National Observatory where I took over computers, telescopes, networking; and programmed many applications for them. By the time I re-retired again, I calculate I have written over 10 million lines of code from machine language to the most powerful compiler languages available today across a variety of computer architectures.

After my first wife passed away after fifty three years of marriage, I decided to return to Florida, the home of my birth and many cousins. I discovered the Tamiami ARC and joined up in 2018. I had gotten a Technician license in 2000, but events kept me from using it. In 2018 I achieved the General and Amateur Extra licenses and threw myself in the hobby. To date, using

FT8/FT4 digital protocols I have contacted all US states (WAS Award) and 190 Entity/Countries (3 band DX Century Club Awards) and all QRZ awards plus other contest awards. I am using primarily a Flex 6600M transceiver with an end fed antenna in my attic (HOA). I have learned how to use other antennas in the field as well as at home. I also have an ICOM 9700 for VHF/UHF applications, and I plan to explore satellite applications soon, using some newer antenna technology. I am truly fascinated by the amateur radio hobby.

I was fortunate remarry in 2019 and add to my wonderful family.

For the club, I currently am a member of the board of directors, I chair the Repeater Maintenance committee, and I am an educator for the Technician and General courses we teach.

73, Chet, KG4IYS

The LM with the most tenure is **Bryon Hume, K5AIA**. Here is Bryon's story in his own words:

I joined the TARC as a 28 year old novice with the call KA1BIQ right after Hurricane Hugo cruised up the east coast. Met a ton of great guys and gals in the club, was fortunate to hold many offices and took the club members and XYL's to many hamfests on chartered buses.

Upgraded to General (At the Venice Library in 1989) and received the call N4XJX. Moved from Venice to Sarasota in 1992 and stayed active with the club until moving to Louisiana in

1995. I was the editor of the newsletter (late 80's and early 90's) [and] I had saved all editions of the Communicator on floppy disks, but unfortunately they have not survived the sands of time.

Bob Murphy, WA1UHG (a recent club member silent key) was the last surviving member that I personally remember from the club. Bob and I would take turns as net control on the local 2 meter repeater. Radio life was great in those days because of the quality of members in the club. Most hams are

lucky to have one elmer in their ham radio life, but how about an entire club of elmers? It was a blessing.

I appreciate you guys keeping me on as a Life Member and hope to contribute in some way to the Club. Let me know what I can do to help. Just remember I am still in my 50's, own an Architectural firm here in town and about decade away from retirement. But I have been making time for a few contacts using FT8.



Joy Klapp, N2WUD. Joy was the lifeblood of the TARC Christmas parties for many years. She hosted the holiday parties at her house, doing the cooking and providing the food. Joy could be seen occasionally at Peaches at the "TARC Ladies" table. Shown here in her kitchen at one of the parties.

Bob Avrituk, N1RA.

"Number one radio amateur", Bob is a long-time member who reached that magic age of 90, and recently moved to Sarasota.

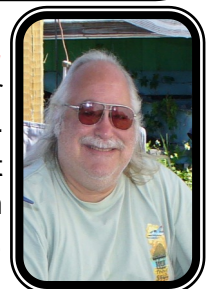


Stew Haag, W4MO. Stew was president several years and sponsored the TARC repeaters with his radio expertise and supply of repeater equipment. He recently sold the in-place equipment to Chet who in turn donated it back to TARC.



Bruce Brown, WA8IQF,

was a long-time member who gave significant financial support to the club at the time he moved from Venice to Georgia.

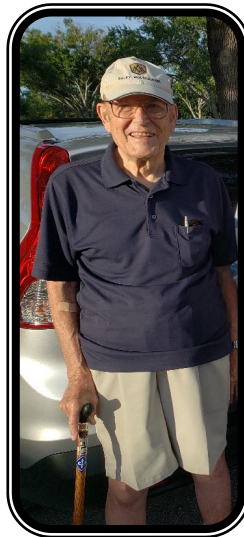


Life members, continued

James Murdock, KG4KOT. Jim is a long-time member who reached the magic age of 90. He has de-emphasized his ham radio activities. Shown here is Jim donating some no-longer needed equipment to TARC .



Jack Sproat, W4JS. Jack, an avid DXer, edited "The Communicator" for many years and held the office of secretary for a number of years. He still edits the newsletter for QCWA, and contributes to this newsletter monthly with his DX page. Jack provided the insight on former Life Members which follows.



Fred Lathwood, KJ4TNI, served as TARC President for several years prior to his moving to Arizona. Shown here making a donation from the club to Special Olympics.



Former Life Members - with notes provided by Jack, W4JS

Lee Darby, K4GCY. Lee had a great sense of humor; every time the TARC or QCWA treasurer would read the balance, Lee would say "Let's have a party!" He kept a regular schedule with some old buddies on 20m SSB. Lee was in charge of the USN communications station in Morocco back in 1967 during the Israeli / USS Liberty kerfuffle in the Mediterranean. As such, he heard the Liberty's calls for help, the launch of USN fighters from a carrier near Italy, and the commands from the White House and DoD to recall those fighters. Lee is mentioned in the book "Attack on the Liberty", and I had him autograph the page near his name in my copy of that book. One other historical note - USN Captain Lee Darby was in command of a destroyer in the Pacific theater during WW II. Lee liked to recall that when the formal surrender ceremony was being held on the USS Missouri, he was up on the bridge sitting in Fleet Admiral Halsey's chair.

Hal Cole, W4GUY. Hal lived in the same Nokomis development as did Bob-N1RA, and was TARC treasurer for a number of years. His on-the-air activities were very limited.

Ed Cronk, W9ATV. Ed was active with SSTV. When I was EARS president I asked him if he could do a SSTV presentation, to which he agreed. He gave a nice program and then showed a QSO or two which he had recorded on a VCR, using a TV which he had lugged down to Englewood. He moved into an ALF, and just faded away.

Alma Fontaine, N4MML. Alma and Don lived on Cocoa Ln, near Shamrock and US 41. Alma was a cracker jack CW operator and I believe she participated in the CW traffic nets that were popular 20+ years ago. She and Don were both active in our QCWA chapter.

Don Fontaine, N4ET. Don and Alma were two of the nicest folks I've known here. Don came to the aid of the TARC following a dust-up ca. 2005 by agreeing to serve as TARC president until we had a formal election. Don helped get us through that dark period.

Jack Godefroy, KA0DZE. Jack was a good-natured guy who was often the target some intense ribbing.

George Robinson, KD4IDT. George was a quiet, laid back guy, but pretty faithful at our breakfasts, as I recall.

Melton Bullock, W4PSE. Mel lived in Nokomis and was a close buddy of Lee Darby, so, if Lee was there Mel was usually right with him. After Lee died in 2011, Mel just "disappeared" from TARC and QCWA. (Not related to Sandra Bullock of film fame.)



October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM. Orders taken at 7:00	+10 M net meets at 28.450 MHz	Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	# See Groups.io for sign-on	1 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 +10M net	2 Breakfast @ Peaches *	3 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
4	5 QCWA 11:30 AM Denny's Bee Ridge Road	6 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	7 Virtual # breakfast <u>TARC meeting 7:00 PM on ZOOM</u>	8 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 +10M net	9 Breakfast @ Peaches *	10 DAV 9:30 TARC VE session @ NS4P residence
11	12	13 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	14 Virtual # breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	15 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 +10M net	16 Breakfast @ Peaches *	17 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
18	19	20 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	21 Virtual # breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	22 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 +10M net	23 Breakfast @ Peaches *	24 DAV 9:30 CQWW DX Phone contest
25 CQWW DX Phone contest	26	27 Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	28 Virtual # breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	29 TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 **10M net	30 Breakfast @ Peaches *	31 DAV 9:30 

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 - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Editor - San Yoder, K3SY, who acknowledges and thanks these contributing writers this month: Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Patti Phillips, N4IGI, Jack Sproat, W4JS, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, and Tom Porada, W4IEE.

Articles of general interest to club members are solicited and welcomed. Please submit photos and/or copy (preferably in Word) by the 25th to : k3sy@arrl.net. 73, San

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 LOCAL ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
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 PHONE _____ ALT. e-mail _____
 Application date _____ PAYMENT: Amount _____ by: Check ___ Cash ___ PayPal ___ First year free ___

For payments by mail send to:
 TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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 Web site www.tamiamiarc.org payments
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Dues:
 Regular member: \$20.00/year
 After 6/1 - \$10.00 to year end. After 10/31 \$20.00 thru next year.
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 New licensee: 1/1 to 10/31 - free to year end.
 11/1 to 12/31 - free thru next year.

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

TARC web site: <http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

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