



# THE COMMUNICATOR



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

W4AC Repeaters: 444.100 MHz (DMR) & 146.805 MHz (-) (PL100 Analog)

Incorporated 1984

<http://www.tamiamiarc.org>

February, 2021

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## President's message.....NS4P

Some of you may have seen the recent announcements from the ARRL and FCC regarding the purpose and proper use of amateur radio. While I was initially taken aback and disappointed about the need for these announcements, it got me thinking about what amateur radio has meant to me over the years. I thought I might share some of these thoughts.



Certainly, there are a lot of aspects to amateur radio. Experimentation; either building rigs and antennas or inventing new communications modes and techniques. DXing and related pursuits; whether it be DX entities, continents, zones, prefixes, oblasts, prefectures, territories, counties, states, parks, summits, islands or any other thing that you can check off a list. Contesting; ranging from CWops Tests that last just an hour, and weekend-long endurance efforts fueled by adrenaline and caffeine, to the CQ Marathon that lasts an entire calendar year. Public Service; events such as the Shark Tooth 10K, emergency service such as CERT and ARES, and search and rescue. But above all, I like the description of amateur radio as "The Original Social Media". While I have enjoyed all aspects of amateur radio to a greater or lesser extent, it is the social aspect that I have enjoyed the most.

In looking back over 45 years or so, I realized that most of my longest lasting friendships are related to amateur radio. Starting in upstate New York, to Connecticut, to Pittsburgh and ending up here in Florida, usually the first friends I made in each new location were amateur radio operators, and I keep in touch with many of these same hams to this day. These friendships have lasted despite the passage of time and changes in locations. It was this, the realization that the social dynamic of amateur radio was the most important part of the hobby, that really brightens my mood.

I expect that many of us have friends via amateur radio that we have never met in real life. I hear the conversations on HF every day, fellow hams, oceans apart, presumably from widely different backgrounds, that have clearly been on-the-air friends for a very long time. They exchange greetings, ask about each other's families, discuss changes in their life as if they were having breakfast at Peach's. I see it here locally, that despite the pandemic, we are using the tools we have (e.g., weekly nets, Zoom breakfast) to maintain the relationships that make this hobby and our club so special.

As we head into the Spring, and hopefully some control over the pandemic, please take a minute to think about the purpose of amateur radio, and how this hobby has helped us keep in touch over the last year, and the better times ahead. I hope that this will give you the same feeling of optimism that it did for me.

Thanks & 73, Steve

***Next Month***  
**Winter Field Day Report**

***No dues?***  
***Last Issue!***

**Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021 via ZOOM. Check Groups.io for the link to connect.**

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 1/13/21 Meeting*

The monthly club meeting was conducted on Zoom and was called to order at 7:01 PM by president Phillips, NS4P. Steve recited the pledge to the flag. Attendance was captured via the Zoom session with new club member Rick Pomerleau, KO4ETQ, and new Tech Don Spivey, KO4KVS, present.

**MINUTES:** Steve, NS4P, requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting as published in The Communicator. Motion was made by Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, seconded by Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported a beginning balance of \$9,280.39, receipts of \$3,042.00 the majority coming from selling club equipment at the Plant City Hamfest, expenses of \$354.14 mostly due to the purchase of pulleys and line for the repeater site, and an ending balance for the month of December of \$11,968.25. Motion was made by Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, seconded by Chet, KG4IYS, and the Treasurer's report was approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Patti Phillips, N4IGI, said thank you letters were sent out for recent donations and Federal tax form and FL annual report for non-profits were filed with the appropriate agencies. The FCC and ARRL were notified of recent silent keys.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SUNSHINE:** Jim, KJ4NDO, requested if anyone knows of a club or family member in the hospital or sick at home, please contact him so he can send a get well card.

**VE TESTING:** Steve, NS4P, mentioned Don Spivey was the only candidate for the VE test session who passed the Technician exam with a perfect score. In 2020, there were 31 Technician, 17 General, and 6 Extra new licenses granted.

**LIAISON TO QCWA:** There was no meeting this month.

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL:** Frank, W2XYZ, reported both the digital and analog repeaters were working well. 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 10m net is on frequency 28.450 MHz, Upper Side Band, and begins immediately after the conclusion of the 2m net.

Tom Wilson, W1ICU, continues to host via Zoom a Virtual Breakfast gathering on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. For details, please refer to the Groups.io site.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Paul, KN4BAR, reported there are 122 regular members, 5 first year members, 8 life members, and 1 comp for a total membership of 136. Only 53 members have paid their 2021 dues. Remember club dues are due now and must be paid by March 1 or else you will lose club privileges; pay online on the website via PayPal or mail a check.

**OLD BUSINESS:** 1. Repeater Maintenance Team update. Chet, KG4IYS, reported the three-person team led by Jeff Bookout, KC4SME, completed the much-needed tower work including replacing five levels of guy wires, new concrete base with rust proofing, moving up and re-orienting the 2m antenna, with early reports indicating fantastic coverage, adding pulleys, and painting the tower. The entire club is thankful to Chet, KG4IYS, who personally financed the entire project at a cost of \$8,500.

2. Club Remote Station. Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, is still waiting patiently for the AV-680 antenna. Meanwhile Tom and Steve, NS4P will test the existing dipole.

3. Winter Field Day. Frank, W2XYZ, mentioned Winter Field Day will begin 2:00 PM Saturday, January 30, thru Sunday January 31 at 2:00 PM. Rules are documented on winterfieldday.com and Frank has a presentation on the TARC website.

4. License Classes. Paul, KN4BAR, said the next Tech class will begin on February 7, 2021. He has five students including Jon Cole, owner of repeater site, and Micky Taylor, KM4BHF, who is auditing the course.

**Continued >>>>>**

## TARC Minutes, continued

5. Club Gear for Sale. The majority of the club gear for sale was sold at the Plant City Hamfest reported Steve, NS4P. The remaining items available for sale will be posted in The Communicator.

**NEW BUSINESS:** 1. Paul, KN4BAR, is looking for volunteers to help with event planning. We have increased our membership and we want to keep our members active. If anyone has any ideas for events,

want to organize or volunteer for an event in any way please contact Paul at paul9aber@gmail.com.

2. Hamvention 2021 in Xenia, OH has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM. There were 32 people at the meeting.

**Program:** Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, facilitated "Show and Tell".

## Welcome to TARC!

The following are new first-time members. We welcome them to TARC, and hope they will find opportunities to share experiences with our group, learn from our members, teach where they may have expertise, and above all, contribute to the life of the club.

**Joined December 2020** - Billc DeSantis, KC1NXD, Tech - David Gregorich, W0QCQ, Gen - Paul Klebaur, W1BIU, Tech - Don Spivey, KO4KVS, Tech - Lance Thomas, KF0CXI, Gen (YL Alyssa) - Alyssa Thomas, KF0CXH, Gen (OM Lance) - **Joined January, 2021** - Randall Aitken, no call - Joe DuPont, no call - Chad Palcic, no call - Gary Wells, WB9AYD

**Fox Hunt Practice Session** These fox hunting practice sessions started last year and have proved to be both fun and challenging. We will do our next session on Saturday, February 20th from 9 am to about 12 noon. Fox and hunters will meet at the old Albertsons parking lot near the intersection of US 41 and the By-Pass (next to Office Depot). The suc-

cessful hunters from last session, Tom, W8QJF and San, K3SY, will be the foxes. Details will be posted to [Groups.io](https://groups.io) before the hunt. Anyone interested in hunting the fox can find out more about fox hunting and equipment on the Elmer pages of our website. Contact Paul, KN4BAR for more information at 941-468-3843 or by email to [paul9aber@gmail.com](mailto:paul9aber@gmail.com).



## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

The following donated items remain in TARC inventory, and are available for cents on the dollar to interested parties. Contact Steve Phillips, NS4P for details.

Make	Model	Description	Notes
Heathkit		Single Sideband Adapter	
Heathkit	HW-20	Pawnee 2M Transceiver	
Heathkit	HW-20	Pawnee 2M Transceiver	
Ameco	TX-62	2M and 6M Transceiver	
DX Engineering	CW8	8-conductor control cable	Labeled as 50 feet
Pace	Communicator II	2M FM mobile Transceiver	
Larsen	CS-270	2M/70cm antenna coil and whip	NMO mount
Cable X-Perts	1318FX	RG-8 type coax - 100 Ft – PL-259 one end	Rodent teeth marks at 50'
Cable X-Perts	1318FX	RG-8 type coax - 24 Ft – PL-259 one end	
Cable X-Perts	1318FX	RG-8 type coax 20 Ft – PL-259 one end	
Yaesu	FT 8900R	Four band mobile transceiver	10, 6, 2, M & 70 CM
Yaesu	YSK 8900	Separation kit for FT 8900R	
MFJ	MFJ 864	HF-144-440 MHz SWR Wattmeter	330 & 300 W ranges

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
Kenya – 5Z4VJ by G3AB	Now Active	76	NO	23-04	22-05	20-01	16-23	13-22	16-18	NO
Kenya – 5Z4PA	Now Active	76	NO	23-04	22-05	20-01	16-23	13-22	16-18	NO
Angola – D2EB	Now Active	96	0200	23-06	22-06	19-01	18-23	16-23	13-22	1900
Ascension Is – ZD8HZ by TA1HZ, FT8	Now Active	108	00-06	22-09	21-09	19-05	16-24	12-23	13-22	2100
Antarctica – 8J1RL, CW/SSB/FT8	Now to Jan 2022	158	NO	NO	0200	23-07	NO	NO	NO	NO
Svalbard Is – JW/LB2PG, SSB	Now to June	13	02-04	23-11	--	NIL	NO	NO	NO	NO
Antarctica – RI01ANT, CW and FT8	Now to 30 May	185	NO	02-09	01-09	22-08	21-02	2400	NO	NO
Jan Mayen – JX2US by LA2US, ** FT8	Now to 31 Mar	21	00-08	22-11	2100	1400	NO	NO	NO	NO
Dominican Rep. – HI9/F5PLR, mostly CW	Now to ???	124	21-13	00-24	00-24	11-24	13-24	14-23	NO	NO
Dominican Rep. – HI3/KC1XX, mostly CW	Now to ???	124	21-13	00-24	00-24	11-24	13-24	14-23	NO	NO
Afghanistan – T6AA	Now to ???	25	NO	0100	01-03	NIL	13-14	NO	NO	NO
Niger – 5UAIHM by F4IHM, CW	Now to 11 Feb	80	00-05	22-07	21-08	19-01	17-23	12-23	13-20	NO
Maldives – 8Q7AO by HB9WDF	Now to 07 Feb	41	NO	23-04	22-23	19-23	13-19	13-18	NO	NO
Guadeloupe – FG/F5HRY, CW holiday style	Now to 06 Feb	115	22-12	20-14	00-24	06-24	12-24	12-24	13-23	14-22
Togo – 5VDE by HB9EHD	11 to 20 Feb	87	--	22-07	21-05	18-04	15-24	12-23	13-22	1400
Wake Is – NL7RR/KH9, SSB (approx. dates)	15 Feb to May	297	NO	06-13	--	0900	2000	20-24	21-22	NO
Monaco – 3A/F4FRL & F5RBB, SSB + Digi	24 Feb to 02 Mar	50	23-07	21-09	21-03	17-20	13-18	14-16	NO	NO
Sint Maarten – PJ7AA by AA9A, CW/SB/FT	27 Feb to 27 Mar	114	22-12	20-14	00-24	00-24	12-24	13-23	14-23	19-21

Prepared 29 Jan 2021 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX* 21-4, and the *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* No. 1500

**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/>.

-- JANUARY SOLAR ACTIVITY --

Through 29 January, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 73 to 82, with a mean value of 76.2. The  $A_p$  index was  $\geq 7$  on 9 days during that period. Sunspot groups were visible on 15 days, varying from one to three groups at a time. Single minor C-Class flares occurred on two days.

-- FEBRUARY FORECAST --

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

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at moderate levels throughout the outlook period.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to reach unsettled levels on 1-2 Feb, 7-8 Feb, 20-22 Feb and 28 Feb, due to recurrent CH HSS activity. Quiet levels are expected for the remainder of the month.

The solar flux should range from 75 to 77, and average 76.1 for the month.

(From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 Jan 2021, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 Jan 2021, and *45 Day AP Forecast*, USAF, 26 Jan 2021.)

-- ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST --

A reminder that the CW stage of this contest, where the World works just US and Canadian stations, will be 20-21 February. Details at <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/DX-Rules.pdf>

*(Out California way, the Palos Verdes Sundancers work day and night to bring back sunspots. The beating of their bongos and their intense pirouettes brought great propagation during Cycle 24. Locally, we are seeking help from those who frolic amongst the dunes on Caspersen Beach at sunset, looking for that elusive "Green Flash" as the Sun melts into the Gulf.)*

The other evening we found the Caspersen Sunsetters doing a soft-shoe routine. "What do you think of the Cycle 25 sunspots?" we asked. The leader gave us a double shuffle and a derisive snort. "Whoever won a popularity contest with bad news?" he replied. "Instead of counting spots, why don't they get on their dancing slippers and do something creative? Evoke the spirit of sunspots of the past and the bright vigor of the sunspots to be with some of our routines. Then at least they'd be doing something to help things." Often we're lost between the scientific and the artistic, and we had to pursue this further. "Look Buster", the leader of the Bongo Beaters said, "we let them fumble through 2020 but next year will be noted. We will tell you right now that our platform—the platform of the Caspersen Bongo Beaters—will turn things around, and we guarantee that the sunspots will go up in 2021. Absolutely! And when it happens, remember who did it for you. The Caspersen Beach Sunsetters! That's who!" May it be so!

(Adapted from *DX IS! The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin*, edited/published by C. T. Allen, W5DV and J. M. Allen, W6OGC. c. 1981)

-- THE CASPERSEN BEACH SUNSETTERS --



# W4AC Repeater tower renovation story in pictures

With little fanfare, a TARC repeater maintenance committee was formed about the time the pandemic hit. That committee has been very active behind the scenes, and has made profound improvements to our repeater operations. Here are the committee members:

- ◆ Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, Chairman
- ◆ Tom Babcock, KN4ONE
- ◆ Robert Schneider, W5GJ
- ◆ Tom Porada, W4IEE
- ◆ Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ
- ◆ Peter Boers, KV4LR
- ◆ Steve Phillips, NS4P
- ◆ Tom Shrilla, W8QJF

During the process of replacing and upgrading repeater equipment, the antenna tower itself appeared to need significant maintenance. TARC has enjoyed antenna space on the tower, owned by Jon Cole, for many years at no cost to the club. Thanks to the generosity of Chet, KG4IYS, who funded repairs, the tower has been refurbished and should provide many more years of service. The following photos describe what went on the second and third weeks of January.



The crew arrives



Jeff Bookout, KC4SME

Tom Jeffries

Brandon Evans KO4KLD



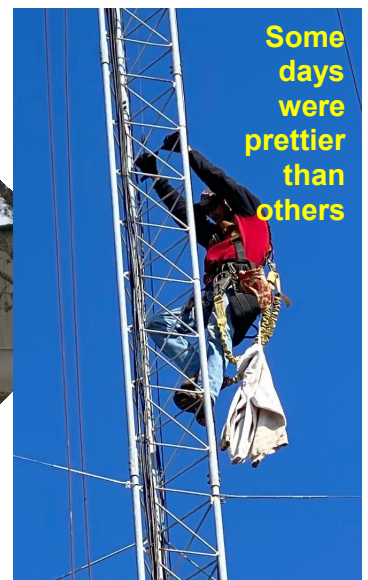
The climbing starts



100 foot level-time for a rest



Tensioning the guys

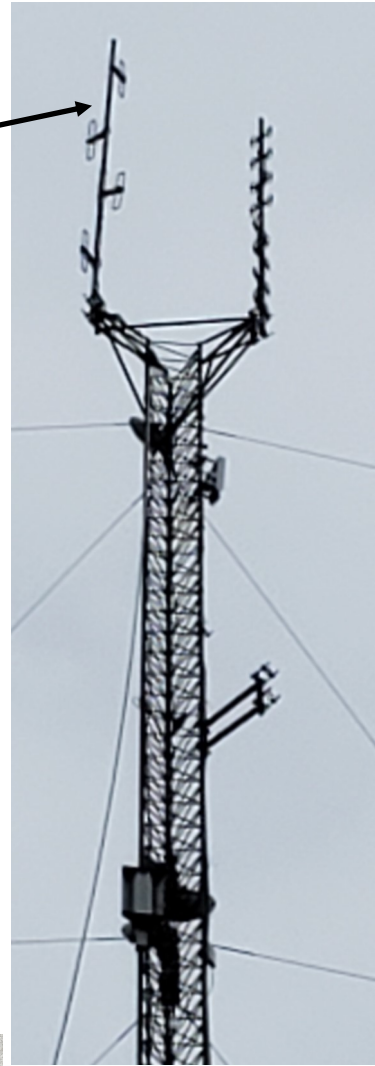


Some days were prettier than others

**Pensacola Tower Service, LLC**  
 Jeff Bookout KC4SME  
 President/Owner  
 2852 Pine Forest Road  
 Cantonment, Florida 32533  
 Office: (850) 484-3555  
 Mobile: (850) 393-4114  
 Email: jeffbookout13@gmail.com  
 Maintenance, Service & Installation  
 Broadcast & Communications



# Repeater tower repairs, con't



Guy wire rust - where??



The 2 meter antenna^^ moved to the top. Note repositioning of the elements.



Wonder how the mice got up 200 feet to chew on the 2-M antenna?



New paint job and new concrete base pad



Ain't she a thing of beauty? >>>



# Repeater tower repairs, con't

These are the men who made things happen.

Left, Chet Fennell, KG4IYS, repeater committee chairman and financial supporter.

Center, Jon Cole, tower owner, and long-time repeater host.

Right, Jeff Bookout, KC4SME, Pensacola Tower Service



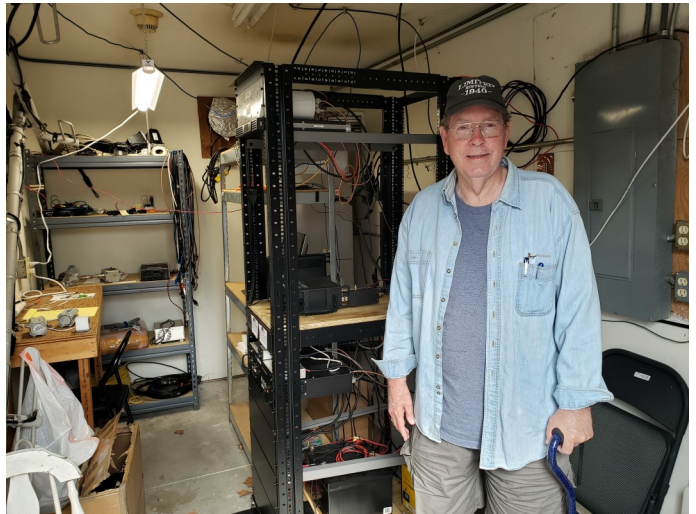
A few of the dozen or so TARC "grunts" who stood by to assist



Prez Steve, NS4P



<<< Veep Tom, KN4ONE



Chet in the repeater shack with everything humming along smoothly

<<<<<< Past Pres "I came for the donuts" Jim, KJ4NDO





# Greyline 24-foot Flag Pole Antenna

by: Paul, KN4BAR & Steve, NS4P & Tom, W8QJF



This is the perfect full power (1.5 kW) antenna for deed restricted communities. Florida statute [Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine \(state.fl.us\)](#) gives any property owner the authority to erect a 20-foot flag pole to fly the US flag (4.5 x 6-feet maximum) and an additional flag for the State of Florida or a US military branch flag (FS 720.304(b)). An HOA has no option to not approve your request regardless of any CC&R to the contrary. This is an off center fed (OCF) vertical dipole type antenna where the bottom 20% of the pole is the counterpoise and the top 80% of the pole is the radiating element. Therefore, no radials are needed. This is a compromise, non-resonant antenna design. Neither Sarasota County or City of North Port require a permit for installation. Be sure to get a "formal" approval from your HOA before ordering and installing the flag pole antenna.

KN4BAR measured the 24-foot flag pole from Greyline with the following SWR measurements at the base of the antenna feed point:

80m	SWR 10+	40m	SWR 10+	30m	SWR 6	20m	SWR 3-4
17m	SWR 3	15m	SWR 6-8	12m	SWR 10+	10m	SWR 10+

Therefore, an antenna tuner is an essential component of this antenna system. Greyline strongly recommends that a remote tuner be used at the base of the antenna for best performance. KN4BAR tried using an LDG AT-600 Pro II Autotuner at the radio with about 35-feet of LMR-400 to the antenna base. It only worked "well" on 17, 20, and 30 meters where his station could both hear and be heard. It would not tune 75/80 or 6 m at all. And, even though it tuned 40, 15, 12, and 10m to a 1.1 SWR at the radio, it did not get out at all.....no one was hearing him! This very poor performance was due to the high SWR on the feed line between the antenna and the radio. Most of his RF energy was going into heating the soil and keeping the worms warm. Very little RF was being radiated from the antenna.



Tom, W8QJF elected to install his remote tuner below grade using an irrigation valve box purchased from one of the big box hardware stores. This made for a very clean looking installation without the "ugly" remote tuner visible at the antenna base. He suggests that the antenna location be as far away from the home and noise generating equipment (AC unit) as possible. The manufacturer recommended isolation chokes (1:1 current BALUN) at the antenna base and shack-entry are absolutely essential to reduce noise and stray RF.

There are two excellent YouTube videos available from Greyline for this antenna that show both the components and assembly of the antenna; but also address the advantages of, and reasons for using a remote tuner at the antenna:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Grc2aaY32ZA&feature=share>

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=rJR2DaT7S6A&feature=share>



>>>>>>>>



## Greyline Flagpole, continued



Steve NS4P is using a MFJ-998RT full legal-limit remote tuner at the base of the antenna, with the tuner obscured by landscaping stones. Steve added a four-foot whip at the top of his antenna for a full length of 28 feet.

By now everyone has probably heard horror stories about the delivery of this antenna from Greyline and through 2020 there were numerous delays in getting various parts for the antenna system. These supply issues seem to be abating in recent months. KN4BAR ordered his Greyline Flag Pole from Gigaparts. It was in stock in December 2020 when his order was placed. It shipped the next day and arrived almost complete and ready to assemble in just a few days.



The parts package was short two, 2-1/4 inch screws and self-locking nuts.

Otherwise, it was complete and ready to assemble. These excellent antennas can be ordered direct from **Greyline at <https://greylineperformance.com/>**.



Assembly is simple with just a hex wrench and 7/16-inch wrench. The hardest part and most time consuming part is digging a hole to install the antenna. Greyline recommends a 48-inch deep hole, 18-inches in diameter. Most operators elect to use concrete in the hole but according to Greyline, compacted soil works well also. The antenna system is rated for 90 MPH winds with the flag flying, and 130 MPH for just the pole itself. Also, for severe weather, the entire flag pole can be easily lifted out of the 2-1/4 inch PVC pipe sleeve that is set into the hole during installation. This eliminates any possibility of damage from high winds. For seasonal residents, this is a great feature allowing the entire flag pole to be removed and stored in the garage or lanai.

The provided 72-inch long piece of ladder line is used to feed the antenna from the bottom insulator at the base of the flag pole through the first 48-inch section of flag pole pipe. Four plastic inserts are provide with the kit to keep the ladder feed line centered inside this section of pipe. The next insulator separates this bottom pipe from the remaining 5 sections of 48-inch-long pipe that are the radiating part of the antenna. At this middle insulator, the feed line is attached with one leg to the bottom (counter poise) section of the flag pole, and the other leg to the top (radiating) portion of the flag pole. This provides the approximate designed 20/80 percent OCF feed point.



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## Greyline Flagpole, continued

For a compromise antenna design, its performance has been very, very good. Compared to an OCF horizontal dipole at 20-feet AGL it is amazingly good. KN4BAR reports his noise level dropped by almost 2 full S units allowing those weak, distant or low power stations to be heard. At 100 Watts he had consistently good signal reports where, for the most part, if you can hear them, they can hear you....even at just 100W. He was using a borrowed SGC SM-230 Smartuner (thank you Tom W4IEE) and could tune to a 1.1 SWR on all bands except the high end of 20m (1.4), 12m (1.4), and 10m (1.3). He still could not tune to 6m.

Tom, W8QJF had this to say:

♥ My results were jaw-dropping, going from 10/9 of noise to S0-S1. Signals have come up 5-10 S-units.

♥ My waterfall has a purpose now!!! I'm able to tune a 1:1 SWR from 80-6 meters. BUT be advised that a high-power tuner will cost as much as the flagpole system! Lower-power models are available.

♦ Time-line: Much longer than expected

♦ Preparation & Installation: Much more involved than I thought

♦ Frustration with product delivery from manufacturer [Greyline]: High frustration

♦ Cost: STEEP! Flagpole+tuner+feed line about \$2K [1.5kW. <\$1.5K for 600W]

♥ Performance: Outstanding! It makes radio fun again and gets me on-the-air

♥ Would I do it again? Absolutely!

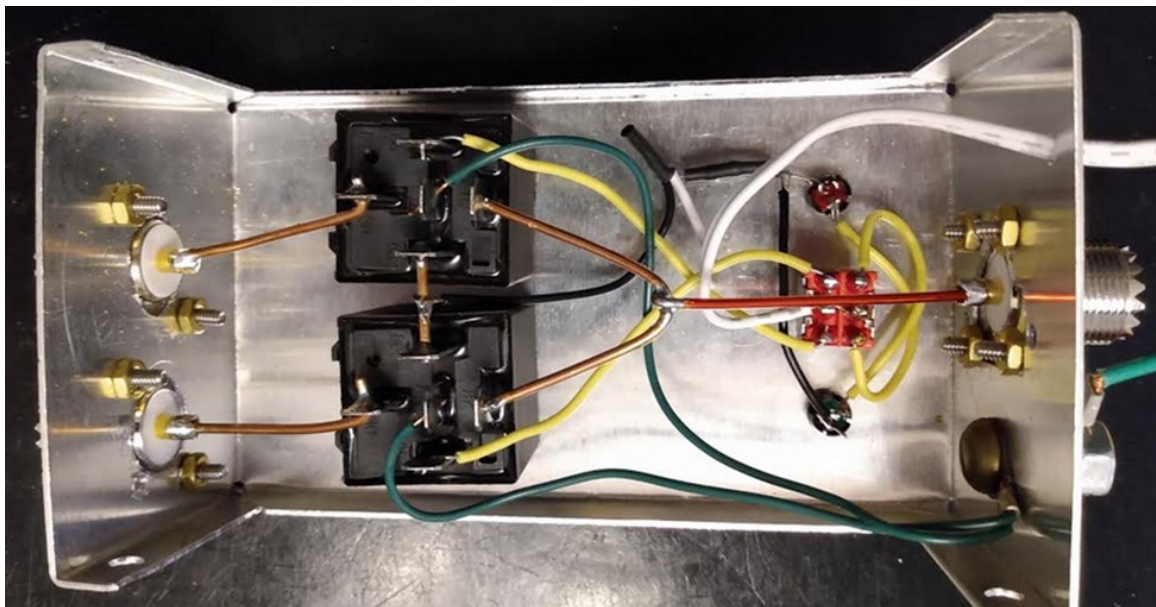


## A tinkerer's antenna switch

by Tom, KN4ONE

Here is a simple electrically controlled HF antenna switch. I use it to select one of two feed lines leaving my shack. One goes to my default antenna, and the other is used for testing other antennas. It is connected by a 6" jumper behind my radio. It makes it very easy to flick a switch and compare two antennas. Commercial ones are available, but where's the fun in that! There are also kits available on eBay with circuit boards.

This switch uses two standard SPDT automotive cube relays. They are about \$2 on eBay. Power is supplied from the same supply to the radio, so if the power supply is off, both antennas are grounded through the normally closed contact. A double throw switch is used to select which relay is on. In this case,



a DPDT switch is used so a pair of LEDs will light to indicate which relay is powered.

Everything is enclosed in a repurposed metal project box. While I have experienced no issues using this switch on HF with 100W, I would not recommend it on higher frequencies. As always – tinker at your own risk!







# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Peaches opens at 6:00 AM. Orders taken at 7:00	<b>1</b> QCWA 11:30 AM Denny's Bee Ridge Road	<b>2</b> Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	<b>3</b> # Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	<b>4</b> TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	<b>5</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>6</b> Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
<b>7</b>	<b>15</b> DARN net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 pl100	<b>9</b> Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	<b>10</b> # Virtual Breakfast 10 AM <b>TARC meeting 7:00 PM via ZOOM</b>	<b>11</b> TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	<b>12</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>13</b> DAV 9:30 <b>TARC VE session @ NS4P residence</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	<b>17</b> # Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	<b>18</b> TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	<b>19</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>20</b> Breakfast @ DAV 9:30
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Breakfast @ Peaches * DMR net @ 7:30 PM W4AC 444.1	<b>24</b> # Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	<b>25</b> TARC net @ 7:30 PM W4AC / RPT 146.805 ** +10M net	<b>26</b> Breakfast @ Peaches *	<b>27</b> Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 Shark's Tooth 10 K Sarasota
<b>28</b>			# See Groups.io for sign-on to virtual breakfast			

**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 - San Yoder, K3SY, who acknowledges and thanks these contributing writers this month: Steve Phillips, NS4P, Patti Phillips, N4IGI, Jack Sproat, W4JS, Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, and Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Articles of general interest to club members are solicited and welcomed. Please submit photos and/or copy (preferably in Word) to : [k3sy@arrl.net](mailto:k3sy@arrl.net). 73, San, K3SY

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PO Box 976  
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Web site [www.tamiamiarc.org](http://www.tamiamiarc.org) payments  
accepted via PayPal [Add \$1.00 convenience fee].

#### Dues:

Regular member: \$20.00/year

After 6/1 - \$10.00 to year end. After 10/31 \$20.00 thru next year.

Family membership: \$25.00/year. Non-voting student: \$5.00/year.

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>

Contact: Secretary, Patti Phillips, N4IGI - [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

