



# THE COMMUNICATOR



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

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

Incorporated 1984

<https://www.tamiamiarc.org>

May, 2022

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



"A QSL is the final courtesy of a QSO". QSL is CW shorthand for "Can you acknowledge receipt/I am acknowledging receipt". Three letters that hams use on the air daily to indicate that we understand a conversation or comment. But "QSL" also applies to a system of exchanging formal acknowledgement of a QSO. Originally postcards, and now supplemented by online databases, exchanging QSLs is a practice nearly as old as radio itself.

Hams have multiple motivations for exchanging QSLs. Originally QSL cards were very basic, just a record of the call signs, date, time, band and signal reports. Hand-drawn graphics were added later, and with full-color photo printing now available, today's QSL cards are often a tour of a ham's shack, house, and neighborhood. QSL cards often contain hints about a ham's "real life" – pictures of their station or antenna farm are common, as are references to other hobbies, as well as pictures of the surrounding countryside. To the ham that receives the card, it's often a priceless memento, a tangible reminder of a friend they may never meet "in real life", and a window into a place they may never get to visit. QSLs are also a way to keep score, used as proof of a successful contact that can be used to earn operating awards, and that leads back to the beginning of this post.

You never know if that last QSO was the last contact your QSO partner needed to reach some milestone. In addition to DX, hams can keep score for states, counties, grid squares, callsign prefixes, and a host of other things. Band and mode matter also, so that routine contact you just made on 10 meters might be very important to the ham you talked to, and your QSL is the proof needed to get credit for the QSO. In my view, it's important to actively participate in the QSL system – if you are going to get on the air and make contacts on HF, I believe you should be prepared to QSL.

I will admit that there are a lot of viewpoints on exactly how to QSL, and space does not enable a full discussion here. I expect that we will have some presentations at club meetings and articles in the Communicator about various options for exchanging QSLs, but here are a few ways you can started.

Find out who is your incoming QSL bureau, based on your call sign, and register with them so incoming cards will get to you rather than be thrown away. The ARRL web page has a list of organizations who handle incoming DX cards.

Be prepared to send out QSL cards. Basic QSL cards can be obtained inexpensively, or you can print them on your home printer. Join the ARRL so you can use their outgoing QSL service – If you are an ARRL member, TARC will collect your cards and forward them to ARRL at no charge to you. **Continued page 3 >>>>>**

***Next Month***  
**Florida QSO**  
**Party Report**

**Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at Venice Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 825 The Rialto, Venice, 34285**

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *Minutes of the 4/13/22 Meeting*

Note, Elmer assistance meeting has been planned to occur at 6 pm for information and mentoring of interested ham radio operators.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. - Pledge of allegiance followed.

**Introductions: Visitors** - Rich Greenspan, Sarasota, taking test next month. **New members** – Jay Willever, K0LJW, Bradenton; Mike Logan, W0SPR, Venice

**Remaining Introductions** - Introductions from all those remaining.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A motion was made by Steve Phillips, NS4P, to accept the minutes of March 9, 2022 membership meeting as published in The Communicator. The motion was seconded by Al Culbert, K0AL, and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Gary Youngberg, W8SKI, mentioned email dated 4/13, from Keri Nakamoto interested in Ham Radio.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, reported for the period from 2/28/2022 thru 3/31/2022, beginning balance of \$16,892.39, receipts were \$114.80, expenses were \$419.94, and ending balance for the period was \$15,754.25.

A motion was made by Tom Porada, W4IEE, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the above period. The motion was seconded by Steve Froggatt, KN4NFX, and was passed by unanimous voice vote

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**SUNSHINE:** Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, gave information that Jesse, KW4IT, was hospitalized and expected to be discharged home soon.

**VE TESTING:** Steve Phillips, NS4P, explained that ten candidates were tested on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wm. Jervy Library, Venice. Results were 5 passing Tech, 2 passing General, 1 passing upgrade to General, and 2 passing Extra. Mentioned that TARC VE testing was only testing event in the vicinity. Informed that the FCC will begin charging \$35.00 fees for initial ham license, renewals, and vanity call signs. There is no charge for administrative changes like upgrade of license class or address change.

**LIAISON TO QCWA:** Nancy Heinrich N4ZM, reported that 18 members attended last chapter's meeting on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Program subject was re-purposing of parts and components for ham radio use.

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL:** Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, gave information that all repeaters were working fine except for outage when tower climbers were performing antenna relocation and service. Upcoming Nets: DMR Digital Repeater on 440.100 with Talk Group 310442 opens Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm; Analog FM 2M 146.805- 100PL, on Thursdays @ 7:30 pm; HF 10M net on 28.460 USB begins when the 2M Net concludes.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR. Current membership is 128, including 4 associate members, 7 first year members, 11 life members. Membership dues become due at end of calendar year.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**1. Repeater Maintenance Committee:** Steve Phillips, NS4P, gave summary of antenna relocations at antenna site, successfully completed (see Repeater /Technical summary above).

**2. Remote Station Update:** Tom Shrilla, W8QJF, informed that remote station is working well, uses an Icom IC7300 Xcvr, will have a vertical HF antenna @ 150 ft height in the future. Information on access and rules of use is available on TARC's website

**3. Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN):** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR

Tower work is completed at antenna site. Gave information that TARC is assisting with expansion of backbone of AREDN in the south county. Antenna height of newly installed 5 GHz antenna is 181 ft. Also explained the 2.4 GHz antennas have been re- aimed, resulting in improved performance.

**4. Training / Mentoring Hams,** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR—Had first time mentoring "Elmer" here prior to starting of this evening's meeting. Gave information that help can be found by emailing askelmer@tamiamiarc.com. Invitations are extended to new hams to events such as POTA,

**5. Jerry Spears Memorial Update:** Steve Phillips, NS4P – Discussions took place whether to use Jerry's XYL's donation to obtain a linear amplifier or an auto- antenna tuner. After discussion, a motion to authorize \$500.00 towards purchase by Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ while at Hamvention, of a new LDG AT-1000 Pro II automatic antenna tuner was made by Tom Porada, W4IEE. The motion was seconded by Paul Aubuchon, K1YOU, and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Continued >>>>

## TARC Minutes, continued

**6. FLSPOTA Event:** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR—TARC is now registered with POTA. 353 QSO's logged. Four new club members participated, worked, and logged. Equipment on site was powered by a 2 Kw generator, transceiver was an Icom 7300 Xcvr on HF. Dwight, KT4DDS, obtained permission from the park to support antennas in the trees.

**7. Fox Hunt March 19:** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR—Event was attended by five people. Two Xmt'r's were on same frequencies at different times. In future, will be on separate frequencies with longer Xmit cycle.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**1. Myakka River State Forest POTA, Sat. April 16,** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR-- Has page to provide directions to the park and is open to all hams. Event starts at 8 am, Paul has reserved the site.

**2. FL QSO Party, April 30 - May 1,** Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ—This is a 20-hour event. Will be worked from Al Culbert K0AL's cottage. Needs for the event are operators and loggers - a sign-up sheet was passed during the meeting.

**3. Field Day, June 24 - June 26,** Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ-- Taking place at USCGA, Venice, event duration 24 hrs. Will have a presentation of logging instructions and methods for those writing logs. A two-page article on the event featured in QST. Antennas used for the event must be portable, not installed.

**4. Possible TARC Special Event Stations,** Dwight Sullivan, KT4DDS—Due to Shark's Tooth Festival no longer taking place, Dwight is checking

with the City of Venice for lists of other community events. One upcoming event noted is the Hurricane Expo, May 2022. Members of TARC are encouraged to suggest possible events.

**5. TARC Public Information Officer,** San Yoder K3SY—Entertained discussion on TARC's considering a member who would serve as a liaison between the club and the public, assisting the club in communication with event organizers and the media.

**6. TARC Merchandize:** Steve Phillips, NS4P-- Mentioned the TARC website has a link if anyone is interested in purchasing a green club shirt or other apparel with the club logo. If interested in a name tag, let Frank, W2XYZ, know.

**7. Unused receiving antenna:** Steve Phillips, NS4P – Mentioned email from USCGA inquiring about TARC considering removal of unused receiving antenna at their site.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Nancy Heinrich, N4ZM, seconded by Steve Froggatt, KN4NFX, and was passed by unanimous voice vote. Time of motion 8:14 pm

**50-50 DRAWING:** Winner Jay Willever, K0LJW, Amount \$27.00

**Attendance:** Number of members 34  
Number of guests 1

**Featured Program:** Parks on the Air (POTA) presented by Chip Estabrooks, WO0S.

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, May 12 at VPC Fellowship Hall @ 7 pm (with Elmer Mentoring taking place at 6 pm, prior to meeting.)



## Presidents Message, con't

If you keep an electronic log, then sign up for one (or more) of the available electronic QSL systems. Creating an online ARRL Logbook of the World (LOTW) account is free, and there is no charge for using the service (you do pay for awards though).

Remember, you may not have any interest in collecting ham radio "wallpaper", but any of those QSOs you make might be important to someone else – so keep the tradition alive and keep on QSLing on.

**73, Steve, NS4P**

## Meeting program schedule

**May 11 - Using N3FJP and N1MM Logging Software, Frank W2XYZ**

**June 08 - Sarasota ARES, Gary, WB9AYD**

**September 14 - NXDN Digital Radio, Paul Toth NB9X,**

**October 12 - Open**

**November 09 - Open**

**December 14 - No program**

**January, 2023 - Open**





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          |
| Jan Mayen – JX/LB4MI, QRS CW & SSB      | Now to 01 Oct   | 21      | NO                                    | 01-08 | 00-09 | 0200  | NL    | NL    | NO          | NO          |
| Senegal – 6W1TG by EA4ATI, holi style   | Now to 01 Jun   | 87      | 00-07                                 | 22-09 | 21-10 | 18-08 | 12-04 | 17-02 | 16-22       | NL          |
| Monaco – 3A5M, Club SES, SB/FT8         | Now to 31 May   | 50      | 01-04                                 | 23-07 | 22-08 | 19-02 | 12-24 | 2100  | NL          | NL          |
| Botswana – A25VR by VE7VR               | Now to 26 May   | 103     | NL                                    | 00-05 | 23-03 | 20-01 | 13-14 | 13-14 | 15-16       | NL          |
| Nepal – 9N7WE & 9N7CI by 2 ops          | Now to 18 May   | 13      | NO                                    | NO    | NO    | 2300  | 16-18 | NL    | NL          | NL          |
| Mauritius – 3B8/OM5ZW, all modes        | Now to 06 May   | 88      | NO                                    | NO    | 2400  | 04-05 | 0400  | NL    | NL          | NL          |
| Mozambique – C91AHV by CT7AHV           | Now to 04 May   | 104     | NO                                    | 00-04 | 00-02 | 06-07 | 13-14 | 13-14 | 13-14       | NL          |
| Philippines – DU/W6QT, SSB/FT8          | 01 May - 15 Sep | 324     | NO                                    | NO    | NO    | 12-14 | 14-18 | NL    | NL          | NL          |
| Svalbard – JW9DSA by 6-op team, CW/SSB  | 01 to 05 May    | 12      | NO                                    | 03-07 | 01-06 | 20-04 | NL    | NL    | NL          | NL          |
| Azerbaijan – 4K7DK by DK1DKE, SSB/FT8   | 02 to 06 May    | 36      | NO                                    | NO    | 01-03 | 21-05 | 14-21 | NL    | NL          | NL          |
| Svalbard – JW4D by 8-op team, all modes | 03 to 08 May    | 12      | NO                                    | 03-07 | 01-06 | 20-04 | NL    | NL    | NL          | NL          |
| Andaman Is – VU4W by 3-op team          | 03 to 16 May    | 8/188   | NO                                    | NO    | NO    | NL    | 2400  | 2400  | <u>0200</u> | <u>0200</u> |
| New Caledonia – FK/F5NHJ, holiday style | 05 to 11 May    | 258     | NL                                    | 08-09 | 07-11 | 06-12 | NL    | NL    | NL          | NL          |
| San Andres Is – HK0/PY8WW, focus on 6m  | 06 to 12 May    | 177     | --                                    | 20-13 | 00-24 | 00-24 | 16-05 | 18-03 | NL          | NL          |
| Sao Tome & Principe – S9EFW by K9EFW    | 08 to 14 May    | 90      | --                                    | 22-07 | --    | 19-04 | --    | 11-23 | --          | 19-20       |
| Kyrgyzstan – EX/R5AF & R4FCN, CW/FT8    | 09 to 14 May    | 17      | NO                                    | NO    | NO    | 00-03 | 13-17 | NL    | NO          | NO          |
| Gambia – C5C by 3-op team, CW/SB/Digi   | 22 May – 08 Jun | 88      | --                                    | --    | --    | 18-08 | --    | 17-02 | --          | NL          |
| Kuwait – 9K2K by 9K2GS, CW              | 28 to 29 May    | 44      | NO                                    | 01-02 | 23-03 | 21-04 | 13-18 | 2100  | NL          | NL          |

Prepared 28 April 2022 based on <https://www.ng3k.com/>, *The Weekly DX* 22-17, [info@dxnews.com](mailto:info@dxnews.com), and *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* No. 1562.

**Notes:** Times shown are for S-5 or better signals and 50% 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 forecast opening times are calculated using VOACAP <http://www.voacap.com/hf/>.



-- APRIL SOLAR ACTIVITY --

From 01 through 28 April, the 10.7 cm Solar Flux ranged from 96 to 164, with a mean value of 130.0. The  $A_p$  index was  $\geq 7$  on 23 days during that period. Sunspot regions were visible on every day, varying from one to eight groups. There were C-class flares every day, 23 M-class flares and three X-class flare thru 27 April.

-- MAY FORECAST --

Solar activity is expected to be at moderate to high levels (R-R2, Minor-Moderate), with a slight chance for very high levels (R3, Strong) on 11-21 May due to the flare potential from

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels on 1 May, 7-9 May, and 14-17 May due to recurrent CH HSS influences. Normal to moderate levels are expected for the remainder of the month.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels are expected on 7-8 May, 14 May, 20 May and 26-27 May all due to

recurrent CH HSS influences. Quiet levels are expected for the remainder of the month.

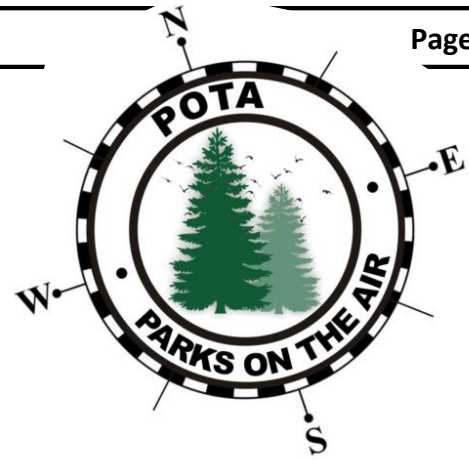
The solar flux should range from 125 to 160, and average 137.5 for the month of May.

From *NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts*, 25 April 2022, *NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table*, 25 April 2022, and *45 Day AP Forecast, USAF*, 25 April 2022.

-- TIGER'S KITE --

This old "Tiger" cartoon has personal meaning to me. When I was YB2ARW in Semarang, Central Java, our home was on a moderate slope about 300' above the Java Sea. I had a 30' tower with stacked 3-el beams for 12m/17m over a 10m/15m/20m. Down the hill north of us was a "kampung" (small basic homes) with a "gang" (paved path for motorcycles and pedestrians) going down to the city. Kite flying was very popular with the young kids in the kampung and, in time, several of their kites got tangled into my antennas. We retrieved most of them, but a couple remained until the tower came down.

# 1-POTA, 2-POTA, 3-POTA



## 1-POTA Oscar Sherer State Park activated April 3rd for Florida State POTA

Congratulations TARC for a record performance of **353 total Qs** in about 7 hours of operation or about **1 Q per minute!**

Thank you to all who participated in the event or visited the site. We all had a great time and the overcast skies with no direct sun was a welcome WX condition. The little bit of rain showers in the morning were welcome to cool us all off after setting up the station and antennas. If I missed your name below in the list of participants, please reply to this message to give yourself credit for being part of the fun. All of the operators will get credit on the POTA

website for the Qs they made using the club's call sign.

Note the number of new ham call signs in the participants list. Great experience for all of them in setting up and operating an HF station. For most of the new ham operators who made QSOs this was their **FIRST** time on HF. There was a steep learning curve and a real baptism by fire as the contacts were coming in fast and furious all day long. **GREAT JOB** by all to have made this a real fun and very successful event for the club.

### Participating were:

**KB1HIP** Andy visitor, helped with tear down  
**K3SY** San visitor  
**KY4RS** Roger 2 Qs  
**K4NUM** Art 7 Qs  
**W2XYZ** Frank 58 Qs (CW !)  
**K04YAX** Shaun 50 Qs

**KO4ZMT** Dr. Eric (great job as logger!)  
**KO4GKT** Betty visitor  
**KT4DDS** Dwight 60 Qs (+super job as logger )  
**N2SQ** George 1 Qs  
**KN4BAR** Paul 101 Qs  
**NS4P** Steve 61 Qs

73, Paul, KN4BAR



TNX to Betty, KO4GKT for the photos



## 2-POTA Chip, WO0S presents a program on the joys of operating stations for POTAs at the April TARC meeting



The after meeting program at the April session featured Chip, WO0S, giving a detailed explanation of what Parks On The Air involves, and the equipment needed to activate a station. Unfortunately, gremlins nixed the planned YouTube video with details. For those interested, here is the URL for that video: <https://youtu.be/odegfaGczAc>

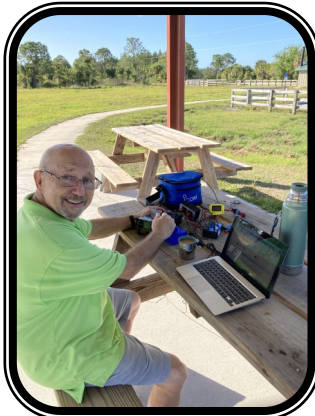
And, you can visit the P{OTA} website here for detailed information on participation: [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com)

More POTA >>

**3-POTA  
Myacca  
River  
State  
Forest  
activat-  
ed for  
POTA  
Satur-  
day,  
April  
16th**



Once again, Paul, KN4BAR, initiated a Saturday outing to promote TARC members getting on the air from a state park. Several individual stations participated, with a fun day for all.



**DANGER**

**TURN OFF  
DIGITAL MONITOR**

I am guilty of this disruptive act, and you could be too. Occasionally I will put my DMR radio into "Digital Monitor" mode.

Some radios call this "Promiscuous mode". This mode allows you to listen to whatever talk group the repeater is on, not just the talk group your radio is tuned to.

Here's where the danger lies. Say my radio is on the worldwide talk group and I have digital monitor turned on. I hear W2XYZ make a call to start the TARC DMR net. I heard him because my radio is in digital monitor mode, even though I am still on the worldwide talk

group. I check into the net. **Trouble starts!** When I checked in, the repeater switched over to the worldwide talk group and the world heard me check into the TARC net. BUT – anyone tuned to the TARC talk group with digital monitor off did not hear me. **Double trouble!** If W2XYZ also had digital monitor on, he heard me check in and when he acknowledged me, the repeater switched back to the TARC talk group. Everyone heard me get acknowledged



even though they didn't hear me. Not all radios handle digital monitor the same. Many of us have the Anytone DMR HT's. They indicate digital monitor is on by displaying the red speaker icon on the top line of the display. They also remember if digital monitor is on or off when cycling power, and it will power up in the state it was in when powered off. My other DMR radio is a CS800D. It has no indication on the display to show digital monitor is on, but as soon as the talk group is changed digital monitor turns off. Digital monitor will also be off whenever it powers on.

So the moral of the story is – take some extra effort to know what talk group you are on, and know if you digital monitor is on or off. It will make for smoother nets and less work for the net control!

*de Tom, KN4ONE*

# Radio-Computer Interfacing for Winlink by Tom, KN4ONE

With the installation of the new Winlink VARA FM and Packet nodes on the new hospital, it became worthwhile to figure out how to send email using any of my UHF/VHF radios. Some high end radios have a built in "sound card" and use an easy USB connection between the computer and the radio. Anyone with an IC-7300 who does FT8 knows this. (The term "sound card" is often used to mean a chip that can take audio in and out and processes it into digital information.)

Most older and lower end radios do not have an internal sound card or USB connection. The traditional method for interfacing these radios to a computer is with an intermediate device like the popular Soundblaster or SignalLink. Many of these provide the audio/data connection and key the transmitter (PTT). Many generate the PTT signal using an internal VOX circuit. They can also provide electrical isolation between the radio and computer. Isolation is usually done using 1:1 audio isolation transformers.

New higher speed data protocols like VARA can have issues with the "old" interfacing methods. First, a PTT signal generated from a VOX signal is slower than a hardware PTT signal directly from the computer software. Second, isolation transformers may not provide the required audio bandwidth required by the new protocols. A solution to these issues is to use a higher quality sound chip that is also capable of handling some digital outputs to key the transmitter. One such chip is the CM119B. Specific to HAM use, VARA, FLdigi, and UZ7HO Sound Modem software have added functionality to use this chip to send PTT signals.

Interfaces using this chip are made by Masters Communications in Palm Coast, FL. They are the DRA series and are sold as kits or fully assembled, starting as low as \$35 for an unassembled kit. It is not the easiest website to use, or to figure out what you need. There are several models, with new ones being added frequently. There is even a kit to drop in a

replacement for the guts of a SignalLink. A cable is required to connect the DRA to a radio. Only one cable is sold by Masters Comm. For other cables he refers you to a custom cable building site. I found it un-helpful that there is no list of radios and cable pinouts, since I tend to build my own cables.

I purchased a DRA-65 kit. This model has the basic DRA circuit, some extra internal audio amps, and an internal VOX circuit if needed. I wanted something versatile since I tend to experiment a lot. It also has a DB-9 connector that I find easier for making custom cables. I could have gotten by without the extra features. Assembly was straight-forward, but it is not a beginner project due to the small components and tight spacing. They sell a 3D printed enclosure but I printed my own from a design on Thingiverse (a website for sharing 3D printed object designs).

Once you get the cable correct, and the software configured, and the audio levels set correctly in the computer and radio, it works very well. I have tested it using Winlink over VARA FM, and Winlink Packet.

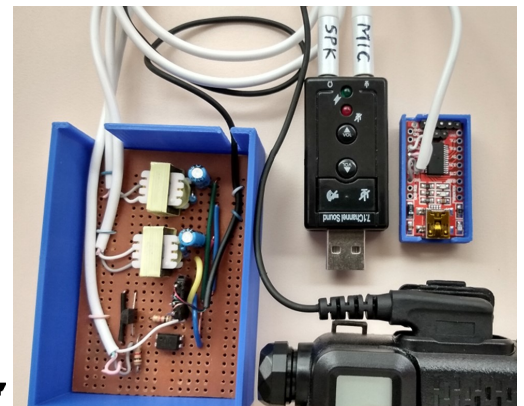
Does it work? Yes! I am 6.5 miles from the new hospital. With a 5W Baofeng connected to my external J-pole, I can send UHF WinLink VARA FM email from my QTH. I have also built cables for my CS800D and Anytone 778UV. I found that in order to use VHF Winlink Packet I need a bit more power than 5W.

There is another way to perform hardware PTT using an inexpensive USB to serial adapter. One of my goals was to be able to send email using only my laptop and an HT. I will post additional information on a home brew interface with hardware PTT using a USB to serial adapter to the Elmer section of the TARC website. I will also post the cable pinout for using the DRA interface with a "Kenwood style" speaker/mic connection used on Baofeng and Anytone.



**A home brew interface with hardware PTT and complete isolation. >**

**< The DRA-65 assembled.**



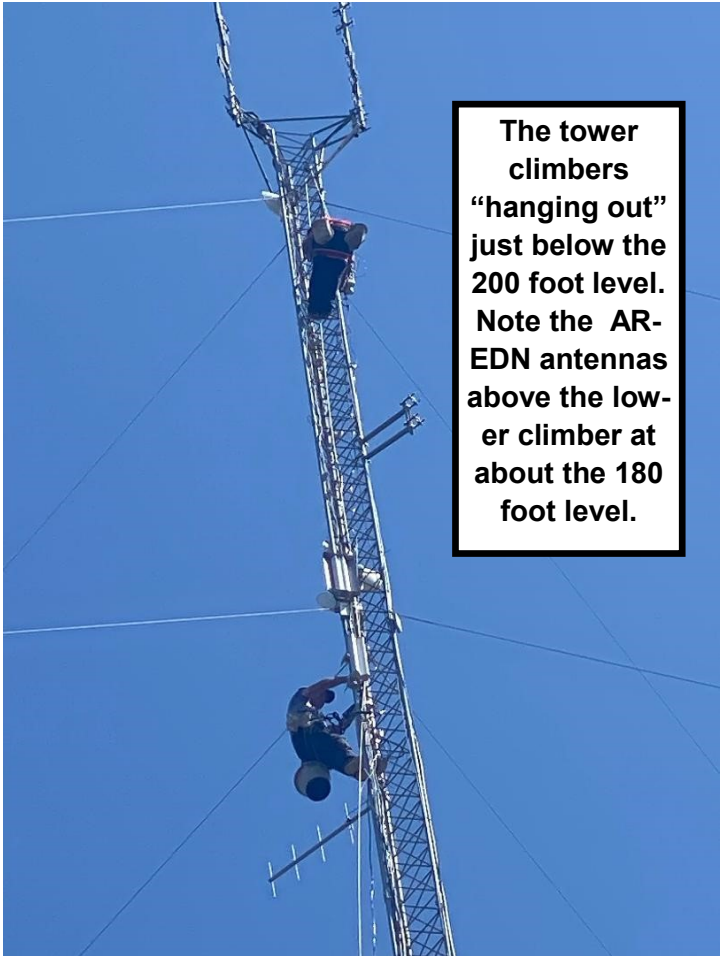
# Climbers install AREDN antennas by Paul, KN4BAR

**T**uesday, April 13th was a banner day for the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) in Sarasota County. The final leg of a 5 GHz amateur radio band microwave data network backbone was installed and tested.

There now exists a ham band, 40 Mbps data network from North Port and Englewood north to Sarasota and Bradenton. This project has been 5 years in the making. User access points using the 2.4 GHz ham bands are now active from the TARC tower on Paul Morris Dr. in Englewood and the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital in North Venice.

The next phase of development will be to establish more access points and user nodes in the area. The more nodes established, the better the coverage will be. More information about AREDN can be found at <https://www.arednmesh.org/>

Thanks to Steve, NS4P and Frank, W2XYZ for coordi-



The tower climbers “hanging out” just below the 200 foot level. Note the AREDN antennas above the lower climber at about the 180 foot level.

nating the tower climbers on our TARC repeater site tower in Englewood. Ron LeBrun and his assistant Dave did a spectacular job of raising the 2.5 GHz sector antennas to about 180 feet, and repointing the antennas to provide coverage further away from the tower.

Ron and Dave then installed a 5GHz antenna to provide a backbone link to Sarasota via the node on the new hospital at Laurel Rd. Thanks to good conditions, Ron and Dave were able to get all the work done very quickly with no drama.

Paul, KN4BAR coordinated closely with the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club to ensure all the technical details and interconnections were done correctly.

This network will support digital voice and data communications for disaster response within the county by the Sarasota Amateur Radio Emergency Service. It can also be used to support community events and for amateurs to experiment with microwave communications and data networks.



Paul, KN4BAR, the “Godfather” of TARC’s participation in the establishment of the AREDN mesh network in south Sarasota County monitors progress of the 5 GHz antennas.





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# 2022 ARRL Field Day is June 25-26



ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



### Event Location

The Official Greene County Fairgrounds web site:

[greenecountyfairgrounds.com](http://greenecountyfairgrounds.com)

The physical address for GPS use is: [120 Fairgrounds Road, Xenia, OH 45385](https://www.google.com/maps/place/120+Fairgrounds+Road,+Xenia,+OH+45385) For Lat/Long Navigation Use: 39.7021, -83.9420

Event Hours - Flea Market and Inside Exhibits

Friday: 9 AM to 5 PM, Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM, Sunday: 9 AM to 1 PM

## FLORIDA HAMFESTS

*The Glorious Society Of The Wormhole*

### 2022 WORMFEST



#### Free Tailgate

Saturday May 28th, 2022 at:  
Freedom Lake Park in Pinellas Park Florida  
7:00 AM to ???

Talk-in on 146.850—PL. 146.2

Freedom Lake Park is located on the southeast corner of US19 and 49th Street. On 49th Street go to the light just north of US19 overpass. Turn east into Lake Blvd and then immediately turn right onto 102nd Ave N. Follow 102nd Avenue N around till you come to 46th Street N. Turn right and the park is straight ahead. The tailgate is under the trees on the right as you enter the park.



Due to new restrictions at the park we will not be selling food or coffee. Bring a table and sell some stuff or bring lots of money and get in on some terrific Ham Bargains. We have reserved the Park for the day and look forward to seeing all of our ham friends. Maybe you are just curious about Amateur Radio—this event is definitely for you. See what Ham radio is all about and make some new ham friends.

For more information contact :  
Mike Scott at: [k4zpe@jemke.com](mailto:k4zpe@jemke.com)

East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, INC.



### SATURDAY MAY 28th 2022

admission \$5  
(Donation)  
Sellers \$10

Ham Radio License Testing - 9am  
\$15.00 cash (ARRL Fee)  
Candidates must have FRN  
from FCC and a valid email address  
in advance

(includes 1 admission) To reserve your seat for a test email [K4EX@arrl.net](mailto:K4EX@arrl.net)



**37744 Church Ave Dade City, FL 33525**  
Tailgate is located across from American Legion  
Country atmosphere - All Outdoors  
Restrooms and ATM available  
Free Parking

#### Official Hamfest Repeater

Rx 146.880 Tx offset +.600  
Tone encode 146.2

For questions regarding the Tailgate, contact:  
Chris Bloxom [aa4cb@arrl.net](mailto:aa4cb@arrl.net)  
visit our website : <http://eparsonline.org>

# IRCs - A vanishing breed

By San, K3SY

Recently while looking through some old files, I came upon an envelope containing several old IRCs. The old-timers will know immediately what I am referring to, but newer hams may not have ever heard of such a thing. In “the old days” (prior to LOTW) when you wanted to get a coveted QSL card to confirm that rare contact, you would send your card with an IRC enclosed.

Wikipedia states “An **international reply coupon (IRC)** is a coupon that can be exchanged for one or more postage stamps representing the minimum postage for an unregistered priority airmail letter of up to twenty grams sent to another Universal Postal Union (UPU) member country. IRCs are accepted by all UPU member countries.

“UPU member postal services are obliged to exchange an IRC for postage, but are not obliged to sell them.

“The purpose of the IRC is to allow a person to send someone in another country a letter, along with the cost of postage for a reply. If the addressee is within

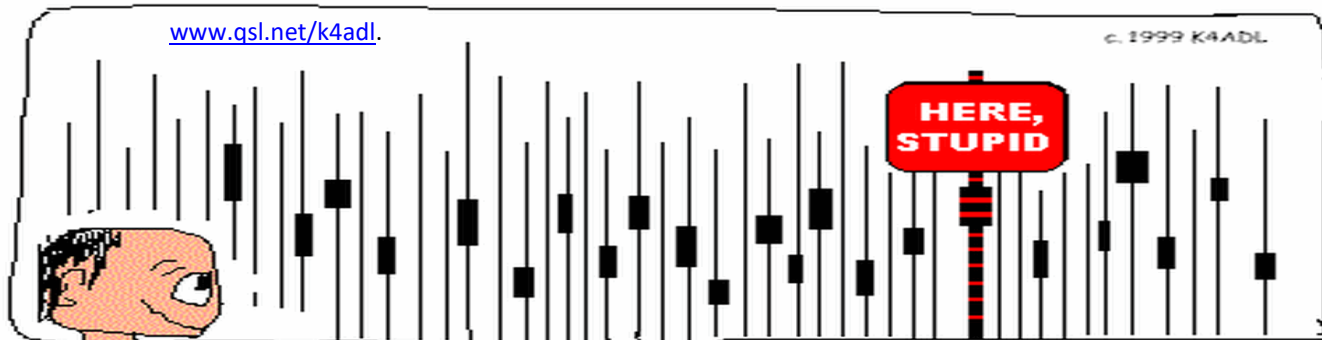
the same country, there is no need for an IRC because a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) or return postcard will suffice; but if the addressee is in another country an IRC removes the necessity of acquiring foreign postage or sending appropriate currency.

“IRCs are often used by amateur radio operators sending QSL cards to each other; it has traditionally been considered good practice and common courtesy to include an IRC when writing to a foreign operator and expecting a reply by mail. If the operator's home country does not sell IRCs, then a foreign IRC may be used.”

The UK Royal Mail stopped selling IRCs on 31 December 2011 due to a lack of demand.

The United States Postal Service stopped selling international reply coupons on 27 January 2013.

So there you have it - another old-time practice killed by modern technology.



OWING TO HIS EXCELLENT BUT SOMEWHAT SELF-EFFACING SIGNMAKING SKILLS, LEONARD QUICKLY LOCATES HIS VEHICLE AT THE DAYTON HAMFEST.



# ~ May, 2022 ~

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                        | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1<br><b>FL QSO Party</b>  | 2<br><b>QCWA 11 AM @ Denny's Bee Ridge</b>  | 3<br><b># DMR net 7:30 PM</b>  | 4<br><br>~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM  | 5<br>* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net  | 6<br><b>Breakfast @ Perkins 9A</b>   | 7<br><b>Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A</b><br><b>BOD 1P</b>  |
| 8<br>    | 9<br><b>DARN net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 pl100</b>                            | 10<br><b># DMR net 7:30 PM</b> | 11<br><br>~ Virtual breakfast<br><b>TARC MTG 7:00 PM @ Venice Presbyterian</b>                           | 12<br>* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net | 13<br><b>Breakfast @ Perkins 9A</b>  | 14<br><b>Bkfst @ DAV 9:30</b><br><b>TARC VE session @ Venice Library 10 A</b>  |
| 15  | 16  | 17<br><b># DMR net 7:30 PM</b> | 18<br><br>~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM   | 19<br>* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net | 20<br><b>Breakfast @ Perkins 9A</b><br> | 21<br><b>Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A</b><br> |
| 22<br> | 23  | 24<br><b># DMR net 7:30 PM</b> | 25<br><br>~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM   | 26<br>* 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net | 27<br><b>Breakfast @ Perkins 9A</b>  | 28<br><b>Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A</b>  |
| 29  | 30<br> | 31<br><b># DMR net 7:30 PM</b> |  = Breakfast at Peaches (opens at 6, orders taken at 7)<br><br>~ See <b>Groups.IO</b> for ZOOM sign-on |  |  |  |

# DMR net on W4AC UHF repeater - 444.10 MHz - Talk Group 310442  
 \* 2 meter net on W4AC VHF repeater - 146.805 MHz, (-), PL 100 or W4AC-R EchoLink  
 + 10 meter net on 28.460 MHz +/- 10 MHz (depending on band activity) immediately following 2 M net.

**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, Gary Youngberg, W8SKI, Jack Sproat, W4JS, Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, and Tom Babcock, KN4ONE..

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

#### 2022 TARC officers:

##### President

Steve Phillips NS4P  
[sphillips3@gmail.com](mailto:sphillips3@gmail.com)

##### Vice president

Paul Nienaber KN4BAR  
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##### Secretary

Gary Youngberg W8SKI  
[secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

##### Treasurer

Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ  
[w2xyz@arrl.net](mailto:w2xyz@arrl.net)

#### Directors:

|                 |        |  |
|-----------------|--------|--|
| Tom Babcock     | KN4ONE | <a href="mailto:t.m.babcock59@gmail.com">t.m.babcock59@gmail.com</a>     |
| Peter Boers     | KV4LR  | <a href="mailto:peterboers@ieee.org">peterboers@ieee.org</a>             |
| Patti Phillips  | N4IGI  | <a href="mailto:pat.phillips3@gmail.com">pat.phillips3@gmail.com</a>     |
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|                                 |                       |                                   |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NAME _____                      | Call Sign _____       | Class _____                       | ARRL ? Yes ___ No ___ |
| 2nd Fam. Memb. [or YL/OM] _____ | Call Sign _____       | Class _____                       | ARRL ? Yes ___ No ___ |
| LOCAL ADDRESS _____             | CITY _____            | ZIP _____                         |                       |
| PHONE _____                     | CELL _____            | e-mail _____                      |                       |
| SUMMER ADDRESS _____            | CITY _____            | STATE _____                       | ZIP _____             |
| 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.

PO Box 976

Nokomis, FL 34274

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: tested by TARC VE 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: <https://www.tamiamiarc.org>

Contact: Secretary, Gary Youngberg, W8SKI - [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org)

