



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>

September, 2023

In this issue:	
President's Message	1
Meeting Notice	1
Meeting Minutes	2-3
Scam Alert & Programs	3
Chasing DX	4
Upgrades & New Memb.	5
Library Display	6
Library & N4V	7
OP OPS & Awards	8
Tiny Ground Station	9
JTAlert & Billionaire?	10
Club Calendar	11
Membership Application	12

President's message .. KN4BAR

Our summer break is over and club meetings resume on Wednesday September 13, 2023 at 7 pm. I hope everyone had a great summer, even as hot and dry as this one has been. I know Dwight KT4DDS and Tom W4IEE had fun this summer putting together the Venice Island Library lobby display case with club and amateur radio items and information. The display was active for the entire month of August and it looked really, really good! Well done guys for helping to promote the club and ham radio in the community.

A special recognition goes out to Brian K1JBD for preparing a library book grant request that was approved by the ARRL Foundation over the summer. More than a dozen new ham radio reference and test preparation books will be hitting the local library shelves in September. Brian has prepared an article in the newsletter to explain what was done and how it will work. Thank you Brian! And.....these three club members aren't done yet! Dwight and Tom are working on putting our ham radio display in other library lobbies in the area.

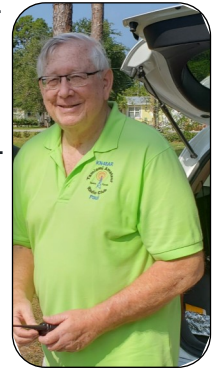
Brian has scheduled a "Ham Radio Day" at the Venice Island Library for October 14th; complete with an operating special event station call sign of N4V. Brian is looking for operators and helpers for this event so get in touch with him soon.

We had 15 club members take advantage of the club's License Upgrade Incentive in the spring! Congratulations

to each of you for advancing your amateur radio knowledge. This program was far more successful (and expensive) than originally envisioned. Luckily, the club received a windfall of over \$12,000 in donated cash and equipment sales during the year. DX Engineering donated 6, \$50 gift certificates to support the incentive too. Thank you DX Engineering! See Steve's NS4P article in this Communicator issue for details of the 2023 license upgrades. The board of directors has included \$300 in funding for an incentive program in 2024 that will pay bonuses for six more upgrades. Details to be announced.

The **24th Annual Route 66 On The Air Special Event** will take place September 9-17, 2023. (<https://w6jbt.org/>). The 1964 golden oldie "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" song mentions 11 cities by name along the 2,000 miles of old Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles. There will be a special 1x1 call sign station operating from each city during the event. Working western US stations can be challenging and some of these only operate at 100 watts. Give it a try and be ready to brag about your accomplishments at the club meeting on the 13th!

The TARC Holiday Party is December 6th at Plantation Golf and Country Club. Make your plans now and mark your calendars.
73, Paul, KN4BAR



Next Issue
Mag Loop Study

Next meeting 7:00 PM, Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at Venice Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 825 The Rialto, Venice, 34285

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of the 6/14/23 Meeting

Elmer assistance hour from 6 - 7 pm for information and mentoring of interested ham radio operators. So we can be better prepared, tell us what you need help with by email to: askemer@tamiamiarc.org

Meeting called to order at 7pm. followed by flag salute.

The TARC Secretary Gary Youngberg, W8SKI, resigned due to personal reasons. He was thanked and applauded as the outgoing Secretary.

Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, club President asked for a motion to nominate a new secretary. Art Wester, K4NUM was nominated by Paul KN4BAR, seconded by Steve KN4NFX. There were no other nominations. Art, K4NUM was elected as Secretary by acclamation.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Visitors - Tony, KB9A, from Englewood. (There were two late walk-in visitors who missed the introductions.

New members – Farrell Vogelhut, KC1ENH.

Remaining Introductions - Introductions from all attendees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Paul, KN4BAR motioned to accept the minutes of the May 10th meeting as published in the June Communicator, 2nd was made by Steve Froggatt, KN4NFX, and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: Two letters: Conrad Owen, longtime member, thanked the club for making him a Life Member. A contribution of \$100 was made to the club by Dennis and Jill Hudson. The TARC Secretary will send a thank you note.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ

Gave summary for the period ending 5/31/2023. Beginning balance \$22,477.45, receipts this period were \$4854.75. Expenses were \$3,071.72. Ending balance was \$24,512.87.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Steve Frogatt, KN4NFX, and seconded by Steve Phillips, NS4P. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SUNSHINE; Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO. Steve, NS4P commented that Jack, W4JS was recovering nicely from a fall he had last month.

VE TESTING: The following club members have upgraded their licenses in response to the challenge from Paul KN4BAR: John McEnerney, KQ4ELH, Art Wester, K4NUM, Phil House, KD8HXA, Tom Potts,

KQ4DEP, Shaun Helgeson, KO4YAX, all from General to Extra. Steve Froggatt, KN4NFX, Irv Davis, KC6ZPO, Bob Wolfe, W3RLW, Jim Miller, N7JIM, Eric Austin, KO4ESX, Don Spivey, KO4KVS, Richard Lewis, KN4NBU, all from Technician to General.

All listed will have their 2024 dues paid for by TARC. McEnerney, Wester, House, Froggatt, Potts and Davis have received \$50 gift certificates from the club to DXEngineering. Gift certificates have been ordered for Wolfe, Miller, Helgeson, Austin, Spivey and Lewis.

LIAISON TO QCWA; by Al Culbert, K0AL. Summer recess; will be resuming their meetings on the first Monday in October and thereafter.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL; Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ. Frank reported that the intermodulation problem had been solved DMR net is on Tuesdays @ 7pm. Analog 2M net is Thursdays @ 7:30pm, with 10M net following on 28.460 MHz USB.

REMOTE STATION UPDATE; Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ report it was functioning well.

PIO INFORMATION AND REPORT; Dwight Sullivan, KT4DDS reported that several newspapers had published articles about the upcoming ARRL Field Day on June 24 and 25. The members applauded Dwight for the great job! Dwight, KT4DDS and Steve, NS4P had new club brochure and business cards that all club members may use to promote the club at various club activities such as the upcoming field day and POTA events by club members.

MEMBERSHIP; Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR. Paul reported 160 total club members; 138 full members, 5 associate members, 5 first year free members, and 12 life members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tony, KB9A talked about ARRL Teacher Education Programs, 5 day week long programs in Connecticut designed to expand the reach of ham radio in classrooms around the country.

Paul, KN4BAR announced that there will be a slimming of the BOD from 12 to 9 members effective January 1, 2024. Several members of the board have expressed a desire to retire, so no-one gets fired! A nominating committee will gather in October/November to nominate new board members.

Steve K4EU is the new QSL manager for TARC. Jack Sproat W4JS was thanked for his many years of service to the club in this role.

OLD BUSINESS: TARC Club Ham Reference Library; Brian Jacobson, K1JBD. Brian has written a grant proposal to the ARRL for funds to purchase modern ham books for the Venice library system. In

TARC Minutes, continued

addition to the grant, Paul, KN4BAR proposed that \$150 of club funds supplement Brian's grant request. Dwight KT4DDS made the motion, and Steve NS4P seconded. The motion passed.

Field Day, the club will set up after breakfast at Perkins on June 23rd at the Venice Coast Guard Auxiliary Station at 1200 Harbor Drive South. During the Field Day the club will offer a GOTA (Get on the Air) for new members wishing to gain operating skills.

Property manager Rich MacCready, KK4AHZ, reported the TARC property inventory list was in good shape, and that there was a list of club equipment on the website that can be borrowed by club members for 1 week, with a 1 week extension available. Club property is now stickered with new labels.

NEW BUSINESS: Solar charging system for our repeater site. Steve, NS4P discussed problems in using the generator in emergency situations; difficult to fuel when traffic is restricted, and theft of generator is an issue. Tom Porada has proposed a series of 3 solar panels mounted on the cable bridge. Paul, KN4BAR made motion to approve \$1700 for the project, seconded by Richard MacCready, KK4AHZ. Motion passed with one nay.

A Force 12 antenna is being offered to the club for \$600 by Captain Bob, W5GJ. The antenna will be tested on Field Day on 40 and 80 meters. If it performs well the club will purchase the antenna.

Motion called by Steve, NS4X, second by Nancy, N4ZM - motion passed.

Paul, KN4BAR made a request that the club purchase a RF noise detection meter and a field strength meter. John KQ4ELH made the motion, seconded by Brian W1JBD, motion passed.

Steve NS4P proposed the club fund a possible \$500 one time scholarship for graduating STEM students. Steve will investigate with the Venice School Board. Scholarship could be renewed if funds available. Club members were asked to give Steve ideas and recommendations on how to structure the scholarship.

Other new business: None.

COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Steve, NS4P, seconded by Hop, Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:07 pm.

Attendance: Number of members 38. Number of guests 3.

Tonight's Meeting Program: Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ – Field Day Computer logging system using N1MM program.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 @ 7PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Art Wester, K4NUM,
Recording Secretary.

★★★ SCAM ALERT ★★★

Club members may be the target of spam emails soliciting the sending of gift cards or money for some purpose and using the club president's name, title, and club's website address. E.G., "Paul Nienaber, President, www.tamiami arc.org".

I am truly sorry for the inconvenience these spam messages may be causing everybody. But, fixing the problem is totally beyond my control. It is not that my email account has been hacked. Rather it is that someone has pulled my name and title off of our website and/or off of QRZ/ULS since I am the trustee for the club's call sign. I am guessing that your names and email addresses are somehow being collected off of our website and/or QRZ/ULS.

EVERYONE SHOULD BE MARKING/REPORTING THESE MESSAGES AS SPAM TO ALERT YOUR SERVICE PROVIDERS. 73, Paul, KN4BAR

Scheduled Programs

September 13 - Real time flight tracking - Tom Waters, KE4RXM

October 11 - Evolution of Ham Radio from the 1930s – Al Culbert, K0AL

November 8 - "File of Life" - Battalion Chief Steve Worobel, Venice Fire Department

December 13 - No official program - Holiday events

CHASING DX CQ DX CQ DX....

September 2023

DX Editor: Tony KX1G
KX1G@ARRL.NET

Announced Top 100 DXpeditions in September

Dates	Entity	Call Sign	QSL info	Comments
Mid-Sept for 20 days	Tuvalu #55	T22T	ClubLog OQRS	9 stations; 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT4, FT8. CW and FT8 are priority.
Sept 20 – Oct 4	Lord Howe Is #60	Vk9LAA	Via W7YAQ, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.	160 - 6m Bands, including activity in CQ WW DX RTTY Contest
Aug 21-Sept 5	North Cook #63	E5/N (call to be assigned)	To be announced	160 to 6 m, on CW, SSB and FT8, using a RIB
Sept 1 – Oct 17	East Kirabati #81	T32AZ	TDDX (Daliy DX)	By KH6QJ; HF

Not in the top 100, but still good to work in Sept– Guam KH2, Palau, T8, Cape Verde, D4 and more.
 Check Announced DX Operations: <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

ALERT! As we go to press there are announcements for Four Top100 DXpeditions this month .., and maybe others! Organizers have alerted us to potential North Cook Island and Glorioso Island DXpeditions.

Answer to the July-August 2023 Question of the Month

The Question: The DXCC Award has a rich history. Search for it and you will find it on the web (this is a clue, folks!)

Q1: In the March 1955 QST, there was mention of an FCC banned list which included French Indo-China (Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam), Republic of Indonesia, Iran, Korea, and Thailand. What was the ARRL's response?

A: There is to be no communication with the countries listed in the FCC ban.

Q2: In 1992 there was a big jump in the number of members who achieved Honor Roll. To what ARRL program was that credited to?

A: Field QSL Checkers

Q3: In what year was the first Honor Roll issued?

A: 1947.

Q4: DXCC started in 1937 but was suspended from 1939 - 1945. When DXCC resumed in 1945 how many entities did it start with?

A: 255. But it ended the year with 262!

Q5: Before 1976 the entity whose prefix was VQ9 changed its name four times! The VQ9 prefix was re-assigned to what entity?

A: Chagos. [Chagos is a British India Overseas Territory (BOIT). It is a contested area, however, and is expected to be reassigned to Mauritius. – editor]

Question of the Month for September 2023

If you are operating while visiting another country, one of the *two* agreements that permit this is called CEPT.

What is the other called?

73 and Good DX! KX1G



UPGRADE UPDATE

TARC 2023 “Get Off Your Butt” Upgrade Incentive Program Results ... *by Steve, NS4P*



In March, the TARC Board of Directors announced a license upgrade incentive program to encourage club members to upgrade their FCC license class. The idea was to generate some interest and hopefully get members, especially those at the Technician level, to upgrade to a higher license class and get more involved in ham radio.

The program ran from March 2023 until the license exam session held on July 8th. Any club member in good standing at the Technician or General level was eligible to participate, and the incentives were the following:

- ➔ TARC paid the examination fee (pass or fail).
- ➔ 2024 TARC membership paid for those that passed.
- ➔ \$50 gift card to DX Engineering for those that passed.

A total of 15 club members successfully upgraded – congratulations to:

Jim Miller N7JIM – General
John McEnerney KQ4ELH – Extra
Eric Austin KO4ESX – General
Richard Lewis KN4NBU – General
Arthur Wester K4NUM – Extra
Shaun Helgesen KO4YAX – Extra
Don Spivey KO4KVS – General

Steve Froggatt KN4NFX – General
Tom Potts KQ4DEP – Extra
Irv Davis KC6ZPO – General
Robert Wolfe W3RLW – General
Tom Waters KE4RXM - General
Phil House KD8HTS – Extra
Gerard Dunn KQ4DVD – General
Dave Moulds KQ4IOI – General

Well done! Congratulations to all.

I would be remiss if I failed to make a couple of acknowledgements:

First of all, many of the members who upgraded also participated in the first fully electronic test sessions run by the TARC Volunteer Examiner team – The VE team sincerely appreciates their patience and understanding as we worked through the learning curve and came up to speed – Thank you very much.

In addition, TARC would like to thank DX Engineering for donating \$250 worth of gift cards to TARC for this upgrade program. This donation was made with no strings attached. DXE is well known for supporting DXpeditions and hamfests and is a very strong supporter of ham radio in general. You do have a choice of whom you buy from, so please consider DXE when you are buying that new radio down the road.



NEW MEMBERS

Among this month's new members are Clark Gambrel, KE4PPN, and 11 year old son Nolan, KQ4KOY, seen here as Clark congratulates Nolan on passing the technician exam at the August 12th VE session.

DATE	CLASS	First Name	Last Name	CALL	LICENSE
6-Aug-23	Member	John	DeBoer	W4DBJ (VE3XXJ)	General
17-Aug-23	Member	Bruce "Clark"	Gambrel	KE4PPN	Extra
17-Aug-23	Member	Nolan	Gambrel	KQ4KOY	Technician
24-Jul-23	Member	Christian A	Nielsen	KC9N	Extra
12-Aug-23	Member	Mike	Tinsley	KK4WP	Extra



Ham Radio and TARC showcased at Venice Library

by Tom, W4IEE

A month or two ago as I was walking into the main room at the library going into a VE testing session I noticed the display cases to the right. I've seen them before but never paid a lot of attention to them. The large center case has had saddles in it for a while, or so it seemed. I suppose Jack may have been interested but not I. The other side cases always seemed to contain books. Again, not my cup of tea, so I didn't spend much effort to look further.

But on this occasion, the red, white and blue and Coast Guard insignia caught my eye. One of the cases had a full display of CG paraphernalia. Ships, letters, safety equipment, and a talkie were among the items displayed. Interesting I thought.

During the VE session that darn display case played on my mind. After the VE session I took another look at it on my out. Now the wheels were in motion.

Why can't we do a ham radio display was bouncing off the walls in my brain? I didn't believe one had ever been done there before. What would go into it?

I talked with Dwight, our PIO, and asked him to find out more about using one of the three cases. It turned out that the library is more than willing, eager, in fact, to have interesting displays put in place. So that was the start.

Again, I asked myself "what would go into it?" That took a while and many conversations until some ideas gelled. While the gel was forming, I started with the main sign "Ham Radio – Communications when all else fails". That was a favorite expression of Jim S, and we have it embedded on our two tents.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) came to mind as something that should be either implicit or explicit within the display. So, the large letters HAM RADIO in the main sign were 3D printed and the edges painted black by my wife.



The overall display talks to technology throughout as it applies to ham radio. The lower shelf begins the journey with morse code and a 100+ year old telegraph sounder from Steve, NS4P, old keys and an ARC5 radio from AI, KOAL

The main shelf has a modern station mock-up showing multiple monitors, computer (thanks Chet), keyboard, mouse, paddle, mic, transceiver, headphones, USB & network cables, and a network switch. There's also a sign saying "Software Everywhere". The same stuff we all have in our shacks, right??!!

The upper shelf has a mock-up of a tablet showing a VE license pool question to capture our current state-of-the art testing technique.

There are plenty of other items in the case that are worthy of a look-see including books, an old 1947 ham ticket as well as a 2023 ticket, a proclamation from Gov DeSantis, a front page of The Communicator, and colorful QSL cards everywhere. The large mock-up of our new brochure is in there and we have our brochures and business cards in a holder on the front glass for passers-by to take. Lastly, QR codes are available on the glass to be scanned to get to the important areas of our web site.

The only slight disappointment in this project was that there was no power available within the case to make it radio-active. Perhaps we can get some power for the next display.

So, club members, I challenge you to come up with the next display. Get power into the case, make it flashy, link to a repeater in real time, show Echolink, cell phones, and internet in real time, operating in some manner. Flashing LEDs on your hotspots or other ham related projects. Go for it.



It's not Books-A-Million, but it's a good start!

Library Update by Brian Jacobson, W1JBD



During our summer club meeting hiatus I received word from the ARRL Foundation that our grant request for just under \$1,400 to purchase and donate 45 paper and hard cover books to the Sarasota County Library System had been approved. I broke out a 16

ounce bottle of North Port's finest vintage water, added ice cubes to the drinking glass (made from the same water) and it all went down quite smoothly considering the ongoing heat that we have been experiencing.

So, where we are now is that the books were shipped to the Sarasota County Library System and arrived in early August. I am told that they will be catalogued, labeled appropriately, and distributed to the various county libraries. The labeling will include one in each book that states that it was donated by the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, and it will include our website address should anyone need further information.

Additionally, club member Tony Di Cenzo, KX1G, provided the funding for a copy of the 100th Anniversary ARRL Handbook to be added to the books sent to the library system. Many thanks, Tony, for your generous donation.

We chose to partner with the Sarasota County Library System because there are 11 libraries across the county. That means that each TARC member who lives in Sarasota County is likely to have easy access to one of the libraries. If TARC tried to establish a full

-time library service for our members with an internal library, we could never compete with the services available through the county system.

The Sarasota County Library System has an outstanding online presence. Please take the time to visit them at <https://www.scgov.net/government/departments/libraries>. You will find everything you need to know from searching for our amateur radio publications to ordering books online for pickup. And with a free library card you will have access to everything the library offers in addition to our donated titles. If you are not a resident of Sarasota County and live in a surrounding county please visit the website to discover how you may be eligible for library access. Click on "Get a Library Card" for more information.

For information on the book titles we have donated and the books we have in our own stock please click here. <https://tamiamiarc.org/ham-radio-books/>. There are 15 different titles with multiple copies of most of the books for a total of 45 books we donated to the library. In our own club library we have 24 books.

The books we have in our own stock are left over from the in-house library the club had a number of years ago, and I suspect that some of the later volumes were donated to the club after the library suspended operations. As of this writing all of the details of loaning the books have not been worked out, but I will bring the books to our regular club meetings, so it seems that a one month term for each book should work. One could be borrowed at one meeting and returned at the next. We'll have more details in the very near future.

73, Brian, W1JBD

Ham Radio Day at Venice Library Scheduled for October 14th

To promote our efforts to provide Sarasota County residents with useful information about ham radio we are planning a 'Ham Radio Day At The Library' for Saturday October 14, 2023 from 10AM to 3 PM. The focus for this event will be making local residents aware of ham radio and the availability of the books we have donated to the library.

Dwight Sullivan, KT4DDS, our public information officer, is promoting the event in similar fashion to the Field Day event we had in June. We will feature our

Special Event Stations operating SSB and CW as **N4V** from our TARC tent on the front lawn of the Jerry Library. We are in need of several club members for setting up, operating, greeting and speaking with visitors - and tearing down the equipment. If you will be available that day please send an email to:

librarian@tamiamiarc.org.



OP OPS

K4A "9-11 Still in Our Heart and Mind"

September 8, 2023 00:01 till 23:59 GMT September 12, 2023

The Alabama Contest Group is proud to honor for the third year the victims of 9-11. New York City, Washington D. C. and Shanksville Pa.

As in the previous two years we have a dedicated crew with almost all operators from 2021 and 2022 returning this year !

A special QSL is on hand, and for those who collect certificates we have an entirely different unique certificate this year. A certificate is earned by contacting K4A on 3 bands using any combination of bands or modes. Our operators will be on SSB, FT8, CW, as well as RTTY. We will be on 160 through 10 meters. You do need to put each QSO information on your QSL.

Our certificate is on full color glossy card stock mailed in a large Manila envelope all postage paid by us. This applies even if your DX !

We do request a \$2. donation to help with expenses. SASE if only for QSL DX can use Buro

24th Annual Route 66 On The Air Special Event will take place September 9-17, 2023. - <https://w6jbt.org/> [See President's message, page 1 for details]

TARC Special Event Station N4V

'Ham Radio Day At The Library' - Saturday October 14, 2023 from 10AM to 3 PM. At Jervey Library in Venice. See page 7 for details.

And the rewards!

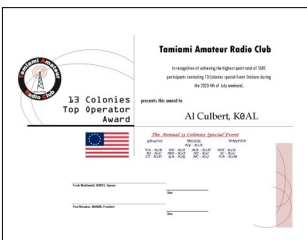
From Jack, W4JS. "Well, the DX gods were with me and I managed to get two more QSOs in this Lituania SE operation to earn the Silver certificate. I was hoping for a flurry of activity today, which is the final day, to get enough points for the Gold certificate, but such was not the case."



Frank, W2XYZ presents the 13 Colonies top Operator Award to **Al, K0AL** at recent Peaches breakfasts - TWICE. First, Al received a certificate proclaiming him the top op for the **Thirteen Colonies Challenge**. Next, Al gets to display the plaque with his name and call engraved on the first of twelve spots for winners of the annual challenge. Who's next? Presumably the last slot will be filled in 2034. Plenty of time to work on our skills!



Results were posted in the July/August Communicator.



Have you room in your tiny house for a TinyGS?

By Tom, K7ONE

A fellow club member, Chet KG4IYS, was inspired by an article in the May 2023 QST magazine to set up a Tiny Ground Station (TinyGS). After discussing some difficulties with him about problems loading software, I was also inspired to try. I quickly remembered why I had passed up this project some time ago. I could not figure out exactly what hardware to use. Fortunately I remembered discussing this project with another club member, Ken, NS1C, who had successfully set up a station. Ken provided some valuable information and a photo of the exact hardware he used. So both Chet and I ordered the same hardware.

This project won't break the bank. The hardware is a very small development board that contains an ESP32 processor, a LoRa radio module, and a tiny OLED display among other circuitry. LoRa is a spread spectrum modulation scheme. Total cost is less than \$30. Unfortunately, hardware versions progress and the TinyGS project did not. Therefore newer versions of the development boards will not work with the available software. With the proper board, loading the software and configuring the station is fairly easy. Hopefully the outdated boards will remain available, or someone will update the TinyGS software.

The ground station receives data packets from experimental satellites in low earth orbit. The packets are small and contain just a few pieces of data like their battery status, temperature, etc. Different satellites transmit different things. It's just fun to be able to receive the signals. You can also experiment with different antennas to see signal strengths and the reception distance you can achieve. My antenna is just a simple $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane antenna on a 15' pole. So far I am impressed!

To learn more or to see my ground station's receptions, visit TinyGS.com. Zoom in on the map to our area. My Station is named "Tamiami". When you click on it, you will see all about my station and the packets I have received.

For anyone interested, the exact board I used is the TTGO T3_V1.6. It may come loaded with a software package called Paxcounter which is another project. It will be overwritten when you load the TinyGS software.

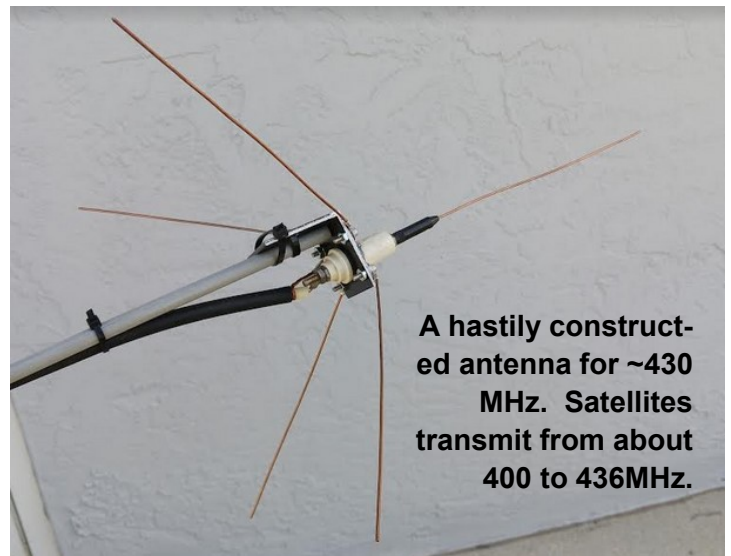
Extra thanks to Ken NS1C for his help.

73 from inner space.

de Tom, K7ONE



My ground station is smaller than a computer mouse!



A hastily constructed antenna for ~430 MHz. Satellites transmit from about 400 to 436MHz.



A plot of receptions made after 3 days in operation. Those Chinese birds put out 3W and are easy to receive!

POTA'S on the air, POTA'S on the air!

Were you aware that you can set an alert in JTAlert to notify you when an activator is calling CQ POTA? Now you can sit around and just wait for the notification to go off then spring into action!! Steve, NS4P, led me onto this. I tried it and found it useful so I thought I'd pass it on.

The feature is called "Directed CQ" and can be found under the first tab "Alerts" on the main screen. Click on it to put a check mark in front of it. (Open the .png file attached to follow along. The .wav file will be mentioned below.) Next, go into the "Settings" tab and choose "Manage Settings". In the 'Alerts' tree click on "Directed CQ". In the middle of the page add "POTA" as the "Direction Word". And, click the top check box to "Enable Directed CQ Alert"

At the bottom of the page choose the sound file you want for the alert (mine is attached) or make your own. I made one using Audacity that simply says

"Parks On The Air" with the trumpets file playing underneath.

But wait, there's more...Many times you've worked the activators previous-

ly either on a different frequency, different day, or different park, but contacting them still gives you various types of credits and you may want them again. In the "options" box click the box "Alert when decoded Callsign worked B4". Click OK and you are done.

The bad news is - when you click this box, as long as the station continues to call CQ, you will get alerts every time. Using it is a trade-off but it is relatively easy to check and uncheck the box.



de Tom, W4IEE

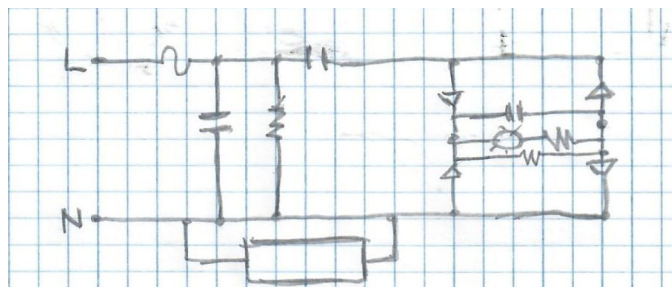
Who wants to be a billionaire?

by San, K3SY

Recently I got an inquiry about those famous ads touting a device that you plug into an outlet and it will cut your electric bill by 80%, or some such claim. (Just do a search on Amazon).

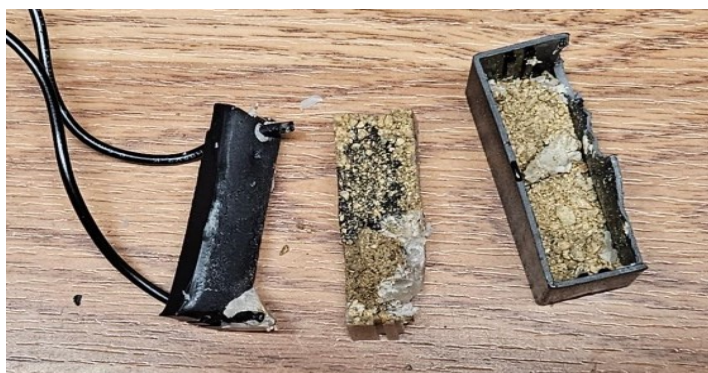
Having worked as a distribution engineer for an electric company for 33 plus years, to say I was highly skeptical would be a gross understatement.

So, I acquired a sample model and proceeded to reverse-engineer it. Inside was a printed circuit board with a number of resistors, capacitors, diodes, an LED, and a "black box" sealed with epoxy. My version of the circuit was this:



It seems the entire board is dedicated to lighting up the LED, with the exception of the "black box" with leads soldered to the same trace, essentially shorting out whatever might be inside. So, my crude method

of looking inside involved taking a screwdriver and prying it open. I found the astounding secret of the devices magical powers – sand, wax, and epoxy housing the two leads not attached to anything. So that's how it cuts your usage!



A little more digging found a better version of my investigation on YouTube.


[power saver pro youtube](#)

So, if you want to become a billionaire, just invent something worthless, sell enough of them and you've made it!





~ September, 2023 ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			~ See Groups.IO for ZOOM sign-on		1 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	2 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A BOD 1P
3	4 	5 Breakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	6 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	7 * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	8 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A K4A starts	9 Bkfst @ DAV 9:30 
10	11 DARN net 11:00 AM Starts on NI4CE/rpt 145.43 pl100	12 Breakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	13 ~ Virtual breakfast 	14 * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	15 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	16 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A
17	18	19 Breakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	20 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	21 * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	22 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	23 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30 A 
24	25	26 Breakfast @ Peaches 6 - 7 AM # DMR net 7:30 PM	27 ~ Virtual breakfast via ZOOM 10 AM	28 * 2 meter net 7:30 PM followed by + 10 meter net	29 Breakfast @ Perkins 9A	30 Breakfast @ DAV 9:30

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 - Webmaster - Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

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

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