

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 8, 2024**  
**@ 6:30 PM**

At Venice Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall  
825 The Rialto, Venice, FL 34285  
(Sale of 50-50 tickets)

**Note, Elmer assistance from 6- 6:30 pm for information and mentoring of interested ham radio operators. So we can be better prepared, tell us what you need help with; [askelmer@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:askelmer@tamiamiarc.org)**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

**Flag Salute\***

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Visitors** - Do we have any visitors tonight?

VA3CKI Alex Szkabarnicki and Ms. Rimma Vander visiting from Ontario

**New members** - Do we have any new members?

KQ4RTA Neil Yuenger

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR:

- Paul informed the membership that club secretary, Art N4NUM was back in the hospital for complications from a pacemaker procedure several weeks ago. Art has resigned as club secretary, effective immediately due to these health issues and his belief that recovery may be long term. ***Therefore: the club needs a new secretary. Anyone interested in serving the remainder of Art's term (through 12/31/24) should contact Paul or any other board member. Our bylaws require a vote of the full membership to appoint anyone to the board so we would really, really like to have a candidate to present to the membership at the June meeting!***
- Motion to approve March 13, 2024 meeting minutes as published in Groups.io on April 11, 2024 was made by Hop AC8NS, seconded by Nancy N4ZM, **APPROVED**.
- Motion to approve April 10, 2024 meeting minutes as published in the May Communicator was made by Paul K1YOU, seconded by Chet KG4IYS, **APPROVED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Paul KN4BAR is monitoring the club's [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org) email address and reviewing postal mail received. There was no correspondence of significance last month.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob McAlister KN4RKE. Bob reported as follows:

- Sterns Bank account: spent \$3097.01 (2m repeater antenna purchase); revenue \$91; balance \$4383.56
- PayPal account: \$28.69 in fees; revenue \$61; balance \$2551.44
- Vanguard money market: interest earned \$91.42; balance \$21198.40
- Total: \$28,133.40
- Motion to approve by Chet KG4IYS, seconded by Paul K1YOU, **APPROVED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SUNSHINE;** Shaun Helgesen, KO4YAX reported:

- Gary (W8SKI) had a Maze Procedure for Atrial Fibrillation on Wed April 24th. He remained in the hospital until Sunday April 28th when he was released. He then spent several days with friends for needed rest and relaxation. He is currently on antibiotics for warmth/redness at the site where the drainage tube was removed. He is recovering reasonably well since his surgery and is thankful for TARC members' thoughts and prayers. Gary was at the meeting in person and looked well!
- Mike Lechky (W0MJL)- Slowly recovering from surgery. After surgery Mike experienced pneumonia in addition to an ulcerated stomach. The pneumonia has now cleared up and he is now slowly recovering and on the mend. TARC Get well Card sent 4/9.
- Art Wester (K4NUM)- Art underwent surgery to replace his pacemaker on 4/15. Recovery is not going very well. He experienced water on his lung and needed to go back in to have it removed. He is experiencing trouble breathing and lack of energy/strength. Doctors think the water in his lung has returned so he will be going back to the hospital to have it addressed. May need to add a drainage tube to prevent the return. He mentioned that Steve Phillips set up a new antenna around his house utters, and that it seems to be working pretty good. TARC Get Well Card sent 4/15.
- Tom Wilson (W1ICU)- Tom had a routine medical procedure on 4/15. Results of testing was good news, no issues. TARC Get Well Card sent 4/15.
- Frank Wroblewski (W2XYZ)- Frank is scheduled for heart bypass surgery on 5/9 at SMH-Sarasota. He will be in ICU for about 2 days after surgery and in the normal hospital room for about 5 additional days before being released. One of his daughters will be there to help when he returns home. He should be in the regular coronary care unit by Monday 5/13 and would welcome visitors!

**VE TESTING;** Steve Phillips, NS4P was absent, Tom W4IEE will fill in for the upcoming May 11 testing session. Tom reported there are 5 candidates so far. The club has recognized 5 license upgrades so far this year with a \$50 DxEngineering gift card and by paying the members 2025 annual dues. This incentive program ends with the club's VE testing session on July 13<sup>th</sup> so get busy, open the books, and **UPGRAD YOU LICENSE NOW!**

**LIAISON TO QCWA;** Al Culbert, K0AL was absent. Nancy N4ZM reported that regular QCWA meetings were now suspended for the summer to resume in October. At the last regular meeting of the season, May 6<sup>th</sup> there were 20 members in attendance. There will be informal monthly meetings being held though the summer months. Contact Nancy for location information.

**REPEATER / TECHNICAL;** Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ was absent. Paul KN4BAR reported that the 2m repeater antenna bent severely during hurricane Ian had been straightened by a tower climber last week and that the performance of the repeater was now much better, especially to the north. A replacement antenna has been ordered and the expected delivery date is May 15 at the repeater site in Englewood. The following club members volunteered to be available, on call, to meet the delivery truck and help unload the antenna: Shaun, Lou, Mark, Jim, Tom, and Dwight

**REMOTE STATION UPDATE;** Tom Shrilla, W8QJF was absent. Tom W4IEE reported that a new solar charge controller and several layers of RFI filtering had been installed at the repeater site and that the RFI problem seems to have been mostly solved.

**PIO INFORMATION AND REPORT;** Dwight Sullivan, KT4DDS reported we have 609 subscribers to our Face Book page. He will begin promoting ARRL summer Field Day in the coming weeks.

**MEMBERSHIP;** Jack Rosen W1JJR reported we have 154 total members in the club with 3 new members joining in April.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Saturday, May 18th EARs will be conducting it's 3rd Foxhunt! This fox hunt is a bit different than our first 2 "walkabouts". The fox will be placed somewhere on the map below. We will start at noon at the Tringali Library on Rt 776. The idea is to take a bearing on the Fox signal at Tringali and plot a course on a map. Then move to another location and take another bearing. Where the two lines cross will mark the location (depending on your bearing accuracy). We are suggesting teams of two people, but one is good too! The fox will be on 146.565 Mhz. See our Groups.io service for details and a location map. Bob KN4RKE

Our new 2m repeater antenna has been ordered and will be shipped by motor freight to the Paul Morris Dr. repeater site in Englewood. A crew of 6 volunteers will be needed on short notice sometime in May to meet the truck and unload the long, heavy crate containing the antenna. Volunteers, contact Paul KN4BAR.

The nonprofit, KDWR radio station in Warm Mineral Springs will most likely be relocating its antenna and transmitter (along with our W4AC repeater) to a new, undetermined yet, location in the downtown Wellen Park area of North Port. The station has no technical staff, only programmers and on-air personalities, and has asked TARC to assist in dismantling the station and reassembling it (just the antennas and transmitter/transceiver) at its new location. All the heavy work (crane, flatbed truck, tower foundation, etc.) will be done by others (professionals). Sometime this summer is the approximate time frame. Anyone interested in helping with this work should contact Paul KN4BAR.

***The following members volunteered to help if available: Paul K1YOU, Jim N7JIM, Mark KQ4EKK, Tom KE4RXM, John N3PQD, Lou N0MUQ, and Steve KN4NFX***

After Meeting Speakers. We need some. Many of us have long and successful careers in business, industry, and amateur radio; why not share a story or two with the club membership? Steve KN4NFX

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Repeater site 2m antenna update, Paul KN4BAR reported that the replacement 2m repeater antenna had been shipped. Steve is talking with our tower climber about scheduling the installation of the new antenna at the end of May or early June.
2. Shark's Tooth Festival, April 13 and 14 was very successful, Dwight KT4DSS spent time both days meeting with the public, explaining ham radio, and cataloging all the DMR and HF contacts being made on a white board display. He was ably assisted in this effort by Tom K7ONE. A host of club members helped to set up, operate, and tear down the station. The club's Buddi-Hex antenna functioned very well in the limited space available.
3. Hamvention – May 17-19 at Zenia, OH. Who's going? Plan is to meet at "the flagpole" on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 12 noon.
4. License upgrade incentive program progress: Steve NS4P was absent. Paul KN4BAR stated that there were just 5 incentive awards remaining and that the offer would expire on July 10, 2024 with the club's VE testing session on that date.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Ham Radio Day” at the Library” is tentatively planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October at the Venice island public library. Brian W1JBD reported that he was still talking with the library staff to confirm this date. Our first event last year was a great success. Anyone interested in helping with this year’s event should contact Brian.
2. ARRL Field Day is June 22-23. Planning starts now. Frank W2XYZ was absent but he hopes to be well enough by Field Day to resume his oversight of the event. He met on May 7<sup>th</sup> with Tom W4IEE and Tom KE4RXM to review planning requirements. “The Two Toms” will be taking the lead on getting the club ready for field day while Frank is recovering from his surgery. Paul KN4BAR reported that he has contacted the USCG Aux to secure permission to use their property on Harbor Dr. S. in Venice as in past years. There is still the possibility that the USAF will begin construction activities at the site; but there is no current schedule or notice of that at this time. Mark your calendars for what will be the biggest club opening event of the year! Antenna set up will be on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> and there will be multiple operating and logging shifts on HF, FT8, SSB, and CW available for you to sign up for over the weekend. This is a great opportunity for newer hams to experience HF operations and contesting. The Two Toms will provide the after meeting program in June to inform members about the logging software being used, contesting tips, tricks, protocols, and etiquette, and basic operation of the IC-7300 transceiver that the club will be using.

Steve NS4P will not be available to set up and operate his V/UHF satellite and 6m VHF station this year. Are there any other club members that would like to give this a try for Field Day.....it is worth some bonus points if we can do it! Contact either of the Two Toms if you think you can help.

3. Should meeting minutes be distributed right after the meeting directly to members by email? BOD recommends, yes. Paul KN4BAR led a discussion about this topic. By voice vote, the membership present approved changing the way meeting minutes are distributed. Starting with these minutes from the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, minutes will be sent by direct email to all club members using their personal email address as recorded in the club roster. This is the same method used to distribute the Communicator newsletter. The minutes will also now be posted to the club website on the Officer’s and Directors page and a link to these posted minutes will be published in the monthly newsletter.

**Comments:** Paul - Are there any comments from the floor?

1. Hop AC8NS asked if club Board of Directors meetings were open to members and or the public. Paul KN4BAR answered that YES they were. Currently board meetings are held by ZOOM at 1pm on the Saturday before each monthly club meeting. Anyone that wishes to attend should send an email to the club secretary at [secretary@tamiamiarc.org](mailto:secretary@tamiamiarc.org) to request a link to these meetings.
2. Paul KN4BAR brought up the subject of volunteerism and leadership participation in club activities. The board of directors is concerned that there may be a trend towards less participation noticed over recent years. Case in point is the North Port club that disbanded last year after no members were willing to take on board/officer positions in the club. We would hate to see TARC go down that path. Right now our current membership is vibrant and active. We would like to hear ideas from club members about how to better maintain and improve upon the level of member involvement. Please contact one of your board members with any thoughts or ideas you may have.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Time of motion 7:32 pm by (motion/second not recorded). **ADJOURNED.**

**Attendance:** Number of members 42. Number of guests 2.

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at VPC @ 6:30 pm

**Post meeting program: San K3SY, “A Story, Story”**

**Next Post meeting program:**

**The Two Toms (W4IEE and KE4RXM) with Field Day Preparation Infomaton**

Respectfully submitted, Paul KN4BAR, president