

The Titusville Communicator



Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

WWW.K4KSC.COM

"Dedicated to the Promotion and Preservation of Amateur Radio in Central Florida, Across the United States, Around the Globe, and Throughout the Universe"

TARC SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

TARC President

HUGE Thanks to Tom and Sally Fuller for their hard work over the last two years of his leadership. They have set a high bar for the new board to reach!

This new year promises to be a year full of accomplishments to be made, of opportunities to explore, and of challenges to be met.

It's up to the group as a whole to decide which directions we want to go, what new areas that we want to dive into, what existing areas we want to improve on and expand on. One

of my personal goals for my time as President is to expand upon our active participation in activities, and get as many people actually hands on with projects. In the seven or eight years that I've been a member of TARC, it's been evident that a relatively small number of members are doing the heavy lifting for most of the activities. That's not unusual in volunteer organizations such as ours, but we can improve upon our member participation, and that's something I'm going to focus on.

Don't be surprised when you see me actively doing this,

because one of my core beliefs is that the more you put into an organization, the more you get out of it. Ask any of the super-active contributors to TARC and they'll tell you that it's more fun and more rewarding when you dive into the deep end of the pool and commit yourself to doing more. There's lots of great ideas out there, so let's get them up for discussion.

Don't be hesitant to speak up and share your thoughts and ideas!

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Net Traffic

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

Do you participate in our local Amateur Radio nets? There's lots of opportunities to jump on and join your fellow Hams on the air. It's a great way to keep informed, get involved, and test out your shack.

Nets have a net control operator who moderates the conversation during a net. The net control operator opens the net, provides the day and time of the net, the frequency, PL tone and (positive or negative) offset when conducted through a repeater and explains the general purpose or topic of the net. The net control operator will ask for

ham radio operators (or stations) to check in. Net control will specify the information needed for check in. Generally, check ins are limited to basic information such as call sign and location. Once everyone is checked in, the net control operator will call each station that checked in and invite them into the topic of discussion. Rag chews don't have a net control operator but often have regular participants.

Nets serve several purposes, important to Amateur Radio Operators:

Emergency Communication: Nets can be crucial in emergen-

cy situations when other forms of communication are unavailable. They allow amateur radio operators to coordinate and provide assistance during natural disasters or other emergencies.

Information Sharing: Nets are used for sharing information about amateur radio activities, technical knowledge, and experiences. This can help newcomers learn from more experienced operators and stay updated on developments in the field.

Social Interaction: Nets provide a platform for amateur radio enthusiasts to connect,

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What's Happening:

- Welcoming in 2024
- New Members and Officers
- Winter Field Day 2024

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Meet the new TARC President—Paul N6PDF

You've elected a new TARC President for 2024, so let's kick the tires a little bit, and find out why this guy should be standing up and flapping his gums at our meetings. Who is this guy anyway??

Paul Dennis Fee, originally from that other state way out West, and he grew up in the Sierra Nevada mountains. His first exposure to radio communications was as a child of 10 years, playing with a Wells Gardner Shortwave Radio, and figuring out all on his own that it worked better if you attached an outside wire to the ANT terminal. Listening to the BBC and Radio Moscow during the cold war got him hooked,

which led to a career in the electronics and engineering field. In 2001 he was licensed as N6YCC while living in Lompoc, CA. and launching Atlas and Delta rockets out of Vandenberg AFB. In 2005, he moved to Florida to continue his career. He retired from United Launch Alliance in 2017 as a Principal Engineer/Scientist, and was offered a position working for the 45th Space Wing of the newly formed Space Force and is actively engaged in the certification of the Vulcan Centaur launch vehicle which recently had it's first successful launch.

What's next for Paul?

REAL Retirement this time!



BREAKING NEWS

That retirement is coming sooner as opposed to later. Stand by for an announcement very soon on this topic!

Next Month: Meet the Vice President!

TARC Technical Committee?

There has been some very good discussion and input regarding the setup of a formal technical committee so that we can better organize and accomplish some of the projects we've got ahead of us.

This has been fairly informal ad hoc committees in the past, and what we're talking about is setting up an actual committee that reports to the board and is the focal point for planning and performing the various projects that we accomplish over the course of a year.

This concept is in it's initial Planning

Phase, but the concept is being met with a large amount of support ahead of big projects coming up. Having a competent and energetic technical committee is a really important part of getting hard things accomplished.

If this is something that you support and want to be a part of, please step up and let your TARC leadership know that you are ready, able, and willing to sign up and take charge of a specific project, or just be part of a group ready to do whatever is needed.

CHECK OUT
WWW.TITUSVILLEARC.COM
 OR WWW.K4KSC.COM (SAME
 CONTENT)

Last year, one of our very competent and capable members, Marty – KJ4LQX stepped up to the plate in a big way and started administering our website. It's undergone significant

improvements and modifications recently, and if you haven't been there in a while, you should really take a look. He's got it whipped into shape, and it looks very professional and is easy to use.

Big thanks to Marty for taking on this task, it's a big help. Our membership can help out with this effort by shooting off ideas and

NET TRAFFIC Continued:

share stories, and build friendships within the community. This social aspect contributes to the overall enjoyment of the hobby.

Training and Education: Nets can also be used for training and educational purposes, such as conducting practice drills, discussing radio operating procedures, and mentoring new operators.

Service to the Community: Some nets are dedicated to providing volunteer communication services for public events, such as marathons, parades, and charity events.

Jump In and Get Radioactive!

suggestions to Marty.

If there are some things you think would help project a good image of TARC and of Ham Radio in general, please do send him ideas and the stories and content you'd like to see. It all works better when we work on it together and promote our hobby and our club as much as we can.

General Items of Interest

Local TARC News Headlines:

The Board of Directors held a meeting last Friday evening and lots of great topics were discussed and plans were made for some forward action on multiple issues. These will be discussed at the Tuesday board meeting.

Repeater Status:

CALL	FREQ	TONE	PWR	LOCATION	STATUS
K4KSC	146.910	107.2	80 W	Titusville	Operational
K4KSC	146.970	107.2	80 W	Titusville	Operational—Work Party Being Scheduled to replace coax cable.
K4KSC	146.775	100.0	80 W	N. Mims	On Solar Only

Trailer Status:

There are discussions upcoming that will discuss both the present state of the TARC communications trailer, as well as some desirable upgrades, maintenance and modifications we may want to pursue. Please submit your ideas and proposals at the upcoming monthly meeting. These include changes to both the trailer itself, the equipment that is used within it, and the antenna trailer and possible antennas to be used for our remote activities. We'll be looking for ideas, input and active participation! Stay tuned!

Upcoming Events:

Winter Field Day 2024 January 27th - 28th

4445 Aurantia Rd., Mims, Florida

Setup starts at 9 AM Local

Contest Starts 1900 UTC (2 PM Local) Saturday January 27th

Ends 18:59 UTC (1:59 PM Local) Sunday January 28th

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. TARC will be sponsoring a station located at Tom & Sally's QTH at This will be discussed at length at the January monthly meeting. Full contest info at: <https://winterfieldday.org/>

WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact.

Hams Helping Hams:

We've had some of our members ask for assistance in putting up, taking down, and repairing antennas and feedlines. If you would specifically like to make a request for assistance, please notify our club leadership and we'll try to help arrange for that assistance. If you know of anyone needing help, please bring it to the leadership and we'll help make it happen.

If you are willing to help out, let the TARC leadership know also! We'll need to get these folks together.

Items Needed for the Club:

We will be in need of some equipment/planning/building for a reliable and robust means to provide +12VDC to the Denman Road Repeater Site. Several configurations are being discussed. Please contact the Technical Committee which is being formally organized this month. If you are willing and able to donate time, energy, knowledge, equipment and/or cash ~ your participation will be greatly appreciated!

Secretary – No December Meeting Minutes. We were enjoying ourselves at the Christmas Party! Thanks to all who participated! Look for the January minutes to be posted here next month.



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Closing Notes

We welcome articles, comments, stories and any items of interest you'd like to submit. Email your story, article, comments or favorite recipe to the editor at:

Email: paul.n6pdf@gmail.com

Please visit our website at: www.k4ksc.org

HAM RADIO LOCAL AREA NETS (Thanks to Barry –N4NMF)

All Frequencies are in MHz, 6 Meters (50.0 MHz and up.), are FM Mode (*unless otherwise noted.) Thank you for your participation on our Nets, it is appreciated and a great way to check communication ability with our equipment!

Sunday:

Florida AM Carrier Net, 7:00 AM, Various Net Controls, 3.885.0 MHz AM
Brevard County ARES / RACES Net, 7:00 PM, N4TDX.Org Rptr, 147.135 – PL 107.2

Monday:

Florida 2 Meter SSB Net, 7:00 PM, George – WG4ES, 144.210 * USB (Horiz. Polarized.)

Tuesday:

Titusville ARC Skywarn Group Net, 7:00 PM, Barry – N4NMF, K4KSC Rptr, 146.970 – PL 107.2 (Except 4th Tue!)

Wednesday:

Titusville ARC Mosquito Net, 7:00 PM, Tom – KN4GLO, 28.333.0 USB (Vert. Polarized.)

Indian River ARC Weekly Net, 7:15 PM, Steve – N4UTQ, W2SDB Rptr, 145.370 – PL 156.7 or via the 220 Link – AJ4IR Rptr, 224.120 – PL 123.0

Thursday:

Titusville ARC Friendship & Traders Net, 7:00 PM, Keith – KN4AQJ, K4KSC Rptr, 146.970 – PL 107.2

Friday:

Saturday:

Monthly Brevard County ARES Simplex Net – Last Saturday of month, 9:00 AM, Steve – N4UTQ, 147.420, Monitoring W2SDB Rptr, 145.370 – PL 156.7 for Assistance with Simplex contact.

Florida SARNET Local Repeaters: Christmas, 442.875 – PL 123.0; Cocoa, 444.650 – PL 107.2

If you know of a Ham Radio Local Area Net that is not listed here, a typo on the information, or a Net listed which is no longer active, please contact Barry – N4NMF at: N4NMF@outlook.com , so this list can be updated, and shared.

