

The Titusville Communicator



Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

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"Titusville Amateur Radio Club's purpose is to conduct our Club programs and activities to help advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in our area communities."

TARC AUGUST SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

TARC President

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the warm weather (!) and the ongoing Florida Summer afternoon rain showers. We've had a good month of TARC activities with projects in both the planning phase, and active phase, and being completed phase.

One of the major projects has been active by our Board of Directors which is a significant revision of the TARC By-Laws which have been needing updates for quite some time. We are heavily into that revision, and will have a finished document to present to the member-

ship very soon. The goal is to have an accurate and helpful guideline by which the organization will continue to operate smoothly now and into the future.

Big thanks to Steve - NA4SA for the below history of TARC. He had asked some questions regarding the history of our group which no one had good answers for, so he took on the challenge answering his own questions with this article!

That is a great segue into the following request; the TARC organization would definitely appreciate more folks willing to raise up their hands, and say, "I'd like to get involved in that!"

so that we can continue to grow as a Ham Radio club. We grow by having varied and interesting projects that are supported and brought to life by active participation of our group as a whole. If there is something you'd like to do, or see happen ~ bring it up for discussion. If you want to learn something new and different, let's learn it all together and share the knowledge.

That's how clubs like ours grow and thrive, and we would all appreciate more of that kind of activity in the future.

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Inside this issue:

TARC SITREP	1
The History of TARC	1
Meeting Minutes	2
Upcoming Special Events	3

The History of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

By Steve Schindler—NA4SA

When I wrote last month about updating the website, I mentioned that each step in that process seemed to spawn yet another unexpected step. The most recent step was updating the Club's history section. To do that I had to dig through two decades of TARC newsletters (June 1988 - June 2007) and seven years of stand-alone minutes (2014 - 2021). The President's Corner in the newsletter provided a monthly snapshot of club activities. The minutes, although helpful, were less informative since they only chronicled what was discussed at the monthly meeting.

The Titusville Amateur Radio Club Handbook for New Members (1994) also provided a wealth of information. Note that the history presented on the website is a less detailed version of the history presented below. The website version is intended for folks who are

looking for background information and are probably not familiar with specific individuals and locations.

The following is a compilation of my notes from the sources mentioned above. A copy of this information will be retained in the Club's archive and will be updated when new information becomes available.

The Titusville Amateur Radio Club (TARC) began as an informal group in the mid-1950s. Most members of this group worked in the early space program at Kennedy Space Center or Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. They gathered in each other's home after work for social and technical sessions. Eventually, Harold Weir (K4RLK) built a room on the back of his house for Club meetings. The Club provided emergency communications during Hurricane Donna (1960) and

Hurricane Betsy (1965) using Gonset Communicator two meter (VHF), amplitude modulation (AM) transceivers. Eventually, as the member's families grew up and other outside activities became available, the Club declined.

In early 1970s, Fred McKenzie (K4DII) manually compiled a list of hams in the 32780 (Titusville) Zip Code area using the Amateur Radio Callbook. Fred Kienzle (K4ZS) and two other hams used that list to contact local hams and revive TARC. They got 35 interested people to come to their first, renewed club meeting. With a lot of help from Les Griner (K4SJC), Bill Hoskinson (K4CUO), Bud Hughes (K4CWG) and several others, TARC was reformed in 1976.

Continued on Page 2

TARC MONTHLY MEETING IS AT 7:00 PM ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 27TH 2024

The History of TARC — Continued

TARC grew steadily over the years and supported many local causes including the Titusville Christmas Parade, Mims Christmas Parade, Race for the Cure (cancer), Cross Florida Bicycle Tour, Sun Day Challenge, Apollo Motorcycle Club, Space Shuttle launch viewing sites along the Indian River lagoon, Titusville Fourth of July fireworks shows, the Indian River Festival raft race, Valiant Air Command Air Show, Run For Life (women's shelters), Space Coast Cycle Club, and Tour de Cure (diabetes). TARC provided communications in support of the city of Titusville and Brevard County during emergencies (mainly hurricanes). As of 2024, many of these events are no longer in existence while others now use their own communications resources.

In 1990, TARC became an ARRL affiliated club and became an incorporated organization in Florida. Also, TARC acquired the use of Post Office Box 73 in Titusville, Florida.

The TARC "Mosquito Net" was started by Carole Ann Ramos (KC4VIN) in 1991 as a way to promote the use of the ten meter band. At one point there were over 930 net members in all 50 states and 15 countries. The Net is still active, albeit with fewer participants.

The first TARC hamfest was held in conjunction with the Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in at Arthur Dunn Air Park in October 1991. Hamfests were held annually through 1998 at Dunn Air Park, Fox Lake Park, or Sand Point Park. In 1999, TARC voted to hold two tailgates per year (March and November) in place of the annual hamfest in November.

In August 1994, TARC was granted tax exempt status as a 501(a) organization; however, that status was revoked in 2010.

TARC received its original club call sign, KC4CFN, in September 1995. In November 2003, KC4CFN was replaced with the current club callsign, K4KSC.



Denman Road Repeater Bldg

downtown Titusville.

TARC has operated the 146.91 MHz repeater since the mid 1980s and the 146.97 MHz repeater since the early 1990s. Both repeaters are located in Titusville. "The 91 repeater was not part of the club. Larry Skidmore (WB4LOE) owned the repeater and in the summer of 1977 he sold it to the "Dirty Dozen" - 12 local hams who put up the money to buy it. The repeater remained independent of the club and operated as the Titusville Repeater Association. Fred McKenzie (K4DII) had the 97 repeater but it was open to local hams. The 67 repeater was operated by Coffey Coffman (WOLRC) and it was also open to locals. In the mid 1980s the Titusville Repeater Association was merged into TARC and remains in that status at this time. Larry gave the 97 repeater to the club in the fall of 1991 after obtaining the frequency from K4DII.", per Les Widick (K4BZJ). The club also had a packet node and a UHF repeater, but they are no longer in operation. The 146.91 MHz repeater had an Echolink interface in 2007. The 146.775 MHz repeater in Mims has been in operation since 2001. In 2024, it was updated to operate exclusively on solar power. As of 2024, the 146.775 MHz repeater was located near Denman Road in Mims, the 146.91 MHz repeater was located at Roy (N4RKM) and Stephanie (K4MVO) Merritt's home in northwest Titusville, and the 146.97 MHz repeater was atop Titusville Towers in

TARC has participated in Field Day in every year for which we have records. Operating locations were Draa Field (now the site of the Brevard County Schools bus parking compound), Miracle City Mall (now the site of Titus Landing), Sand Point Park, Fox Lake Park, and City of Titusville well field #3 (south of Highway 50 and east of Barna Avenue). In 2001, there were two Field Day sites - in Titusville at well field #3 and in Mims near Denman Road.

Fox hunts were a popular Club activity from early 1991 until May 1998. Additionally, TARC occasionally participated in fox hunts sponsored by the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association.

Weekly "eating meetings" are a TARC tradition. Locations included Beef O'Brady's, Denny's, Good Thymes, Howard Johnson's, International House Of Pancakes (on US 1), Jalopy's, Kelsey's, Loyd Have Mercy, Morrison's Cafeteria, New York New York, Quincy's, Sadie's, Sambo's, and Village Inn.

The Club's membership peaked at almost 300 members 1995. In 2024, there were 56 members.



Picnic Benches at Denman Road Site—Still there!!

At the August meeting, I received PDF copies of the newsletter from July 2021 through January 2024 so I'll be updating this history in the not-too-distant future. If anyone has any additional information or memories that they would like to share, please get in touch with me. So now that you know where we've come from, where do you think TARC will be in five years? Please share your thoughts on the future of TARC at our meetings, nets, the Facebook group, or even a letter to the editor.

The future of TARC rests with us.

Steve - NA4SA



Here is a photo of the first Field Day held at the Denman Road Repeater Site. Big thanks to Kenny Denman—KD4HNW for all he has done for TARC over the years. The tower was erected the same day as Field Day so that it could legally be used during that field day. Kenny says there were many contacts! The building was built later. Kenny also supplied these photographs for inclusion in the history article.



Titusville Amateur Radio Club
August 27, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes

President

Paul Fee—N6PDF
(321) 264-8985 Cell/TXT
paul.n6pdf@gmail.com

Vice President

Michael Elledge—KC4JEM
elledge54@gmail.com

Secretary

Stephanie Merritt—K4MVO
spmerrittflorida@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Sally Fuller—KN4HPX
sful1974@gmail.com

Meeting Called to Order: by President Paul Fee, N6PDF, followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: led by Vice President Mike Elledge, KC4JEM. President welcomed everyone with a brief update of our ongoing activities. Then Members in Attendance Introduced themselves, and we had a visitor, Mark Johnson, W3ZI, who is now a new member; and member Ken Denman, KD4HNV, is visiting for a while from Alabama.

A Quorum was Present.

The Last Meeting Minutes, as published, were Approved unanimously. The Treasurer’s Report, as given by Treasurer Sally, KN4HPX, was Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Repeater Status: Paul, N6PDF, reported that there have been no complaints with any of the 4 Repeaters maintained by our club.
2. Website: Steve, NA4SA, is working on the club’s new and updated website, and stated that he just has a few loose-ends wrap-up, needs back-up, and History updated.
3. Newsletter: was published on-time; and Paul, N6PDF, invited members to contribute articles.

New Business:

1. Updating By-Laws in the Process, and your Board of Directors should soon have something for you to review and approve, or to recommend changes.
2. TARC Trailer: Tom, KN4GLO, informed us that the Trailer needs some work, and he estimated that it would take about \$200.00, to repair the back gate and replace a seal.
3. Mike, KC4JEM, stated that he would like to look into returning/converting the Generator back to propane gas. Tom, KN4GLO, said he had not yet checked the carburetor.
4. Band Pass Filters: will cost between \$850 - \$1000.00.
5. Paul, N6PDF, gave an update on the N6USP’s (SK) old QTH, with the Beam Antenna, explaining that the tower fell-down and is now in the neighbor’s yard. (More complications.) It may still have an operational Rotor and Controller. 2 MFJ Tuners need refurbishing.
6. Paul, N6PDF, has been testing the cables and antennas harvested.
7. Barry, N4NMF, shared details about his participation in the International Lighthouse Weekend, working Cape Canaveral Lighthouse; and conducting 6 meter tests.
8. Next Meeting’s Program will be presented by member June, KQ4JSF, on Morse Monkey.

Our Program for the evening was presented by Alan D. Zimmerman, KM4ND, from SCARS, on DMR and it was a very interesting and thorough introduction to DMR in Brevard County.

50/50 Tickets: Our Guest Speaker, Alan, KM4ND; had the winning ticket, and he received \$27.00.

Our Meeting was Adjourned: at 8:47 pm, followed by some enjoyable socializing.

Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary
Stephanie Merritt, K4MVO

