

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 SEPTEMBER SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

TARC President

We have had a busy and productive September, punctuated by the appearance of Hurricane Helene, which had minimal local impacts other than preparation, but had tremendous destructive impact to the "Big Bend" region of Florida. Our repeaters were employed as part of the overall Emergency Operations Center (EOC) communications plan, and while there were no operational deployments or activities used, we were ready to support as needed.

Another activity was the "Hams Helping Hams" project where our members safely disassembled

an antenna tower and antennas from the family of a "Silent Key" amateur (Westly Baker—N4PDT) This was a very helpful act for this family and TARC came together to facilitate the tower's disassembly and removal. Thanks very much to Dave McLean's (KY4F) coordination on this effort, as well as those TARC members who pitched in to make this happen.

Attendees: Paul White KQ4APR, Barry Kennedy N4NMF, Dave McLean KY4F, Roy Merritt N4RKM, Mike Elledge KC4JEM, Paul Fee N6PDF, Jay Buie KB4B, Edward Allen KG4LKQ, Tom Fuller KN4GLO, Sally Fuller. KN4HPX

Mike Daniels KW4DX, George Swire KB4ES. Very professional and efficient operation with safety and personal protection being observed and practiced by all. Thanks very much!

Public service is tightly integrated into the Amateur Radio service, and I'm very proud to be part of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club where we take this seriously and rise to the occasion to help out our fellow hams, neighbors and community members. See you at 6 PM on Oct 22nd for our Potluck! Please bring a side-dish if you can!

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STAYING WEATHER AWARE

by Roy Merritt - N4RKM

We had an interesting, but brief discussion at our last club meeting regarding which weather apps and websites do you use? How do you keep weather aware? Now-a-days there are many sources available that will provide you with the latest-up-to-date weather condition and forecast. This typically comes from the weatherperson on your favorite news channel, in fact many of you know there is a channel that runs 24 x 7 dedicated to nothing but weather and weather-related programming and that is the Weather Channel.

Ok, so suppose you don't have access to the T.V. or up-to-date weather maps on your Multi-Function Device (MFD) on your boat courtesy (for a fee of course) of Sirius XFM, where do you look then? You could just walk outside and watch the sky which will tell you a lot about the immediate weather, but what's the prediction beyond the immediate weather outside? How long is this weather likely to last or indeed is there anything coming your way? Nowadays we are lucky enough to have a plethora of applications, or apps as they are called, that one can simply download onto your smart phone that can provide

you with a complete picture of the weather just about anywhere in the world, at our fingertips. Such apps as Wunderground, "Storm Radar", My Radar, Hurricane Tracker to name just a few. All these apps with the exception of Hurricane Tracker provide live weather radar over maps just like you see on T.V. Some even provide projected paths of weather for some hours past the current "weather picture". Handy if you are deciding to go out for the day, or not. These apps can also provide you with the same weather forecasts as seen on T.V. with the same accuracy

so if you miss the weather report on T.V., don't worry, be happy and just look at your favorite weather app.

For me, I have "Hurricane Tracker" which gives me all the latest info on Hurricanes, Tropical Storms / depressions or PTC's coming out of the National Hurricane Center (NHC). This is for both the Atlantic or Eastern Pacific Oceans. From this application I get up-to-date push notifications on my cell phone regarding any updates to any active storm be-

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ing tracked. This app also offers a premium service which provides more in-depth graphics than what you typically see on the generic NHC tracking charts. The graphics are more akin to what you might see on The Weather Channel.

Next, the everyday app I use for staying weather aware is "Storm Radar". This app is a product of "The Weather Channel". I love the graphics and like the layering you can do to see what the weather around you is doing, where is it heading, location of lightening strikes etc. As with other apps of this type you can see what the weather has been doing for the last 2 hours, at present and prediction for the next 8 hours. You can play the graphics as a movie so you can see how and from where the storm will develop and where it thinks the storm is going. Of course, you can get all the local weather information too such as temperature, feels like temperature, humidity, Dew point etc. for your location as well as a forecast for the next 7 days. I also love the timely push notifications from this service, especially the lightening notifications. Being a mariner, I also like knowing the barometric pressure and which way it is going (up, down or steady). The barometric pressure trend is an excellent way to track progress of a storm also.

"Storm Radar" is my go-to app for all things weather around me.

Finally, there is My Radar, an app I have not tried so I cannot comment on, but I believe one of our members is an avid user and speaks highly of it. I will leave it to you to discover this app for yourself. The other two apps I will mention, and I do have them on my phone, are Windfinder and Windy app. These provide in-depth wind field motion in real-time. OK, probably not of much interest to anyone outside of boating, but they are good for reviewing wind conditions if you are going boating or are just curious about wind flow. They do offer another perspective on the wind pattern and intensity that the previously mentioned weather apps do not.

In closing, I hope you found this quick review interesting and useful. I know there are many other apps on the market and perhaps you use one of them and love it. I encourage you to share that with the rest of us. Having said all that, we all live in weather each and every day of our lives. It affects everything we do whether we are conscience of it or not. So, there is no reason you cannot stay weather aware.

May you always enjoy fair winds and following seas...

Roy - N4RKM

Photos from the recent tower and antenna removal project



President

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

Vice President

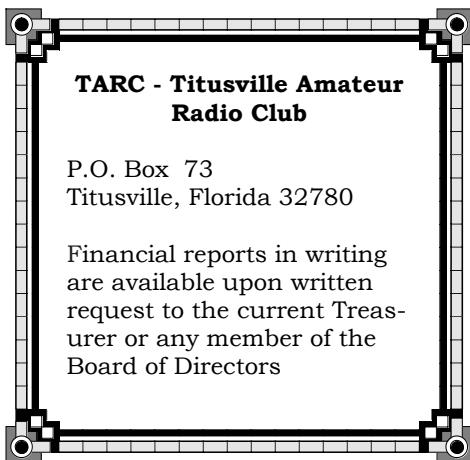
Michael Elledge—KC4JEM
elledge54@gmail.com

Secretary

Stephanie Merritt—K4MVO
spmerrittflorida@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Sally Fuller—KN4HPX
sful1974@gmail.com



Titusville Amateur Radio Club
September 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Our Monthly Meeting was Called to Order at 7:00pm, by President Paul Fee, N6PDF; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by VP Mike Elledge, KC4JEM.

Our president welcomed everyone, recognized visitors in attendance, a gave us a brief introduction to the topic for the evening’s presentation; invited us to read the TARC History article written by Steve Schindler, NA4SA, as published in our most recent newsletter. He also shared with us that his in-laws are now Florida residents. He then asked members and visitors to introduce themselves. He established we had a Quorum present - all board members and executive staff were present.

The Last Meeting Minutes as published in our newsletter were Unanimously Approved. The Treasurer’s Report as read by our Treasurer Sally, KN4HPX, was also Approved Unanimously.

Old Business:

Repeater Status: Dave, KY4F: All repeaters up and running fine. Paul, N6PDF, stated that both the 147.775 Repeater, and possibly (if needed) the NBARC/TARC Repeater, 147.330, would be available for use by Volunteer Emergency Communicators if necessary.

Steve, NA4SA, who is working on our club Website gave us an update -Up and Running! He has added a ‘Projects Page.’

The Updated By-Laws Status was discussed, and it was determined that the Board of Directors will first vote on approval of the new By-Laws before presenting them to the club membership for a vote. 501 c 3 application status, Secretary Stephanie, K4MVO, explained the roadblock in completing this effort. And she informed us that after a long discussion with the State of Florida, Corporations Department, a way forward has been determined and she will complete the IRS application paperwork accordingly.

New Business:

Upcoming Tower takedown was explained by Paul, N6PDF; and a volunteer crew will do this work - weather permitting – coordinated by Dave, KY4F, at 9am, on Saturday, September 28.

Mike, KC4JEM, reminded us that we will have our Pot Luck Dinner for our October meeting, at 6pm; we will have our Election of Officers and Board Members in November; and our Holiday/Christmas gathering at Dixie Crossroads in December. He asked us for suggestions/input for Guest Speakers and/or Topics we’d like to have for our January, February and future meetings.

Al very kindly purchased and donated the replacement Rotor Mounting Bracket for the Yaesu brand Rotor that we are planning on mounting to our antenna trailer tower. Thank you Al!

Both Dave, KY4F, and Bill, KA4VYH, visited the SCARS Public Event at the rotary Park in Merritt Island, and mentioned that use the Park & Rec’s facilities for free, and we should investigate it for TARC.

Paul, N6PDF, reminded us that we can check the Brevard County EOC website for Tropical System/ Hurricane Helene status. Rick Harrison, K4KGR, from SCARS, (and now new TARC member) mentioned “MyRadar” as another source for accurate weather information. It was suggested we could keep a list of resources on our website.

The topic of the possibility of raising our membership dues going forward -next year, as mentioned in or updated By-Laws, and it was suggested by Dave, KY4F, that we first determine TARC’s expenses, and if an increase is necessary.

Our program for the evening was An Introduction to Morse Monkey, by June Stadnik, KQ4JSF, who is fairly new to Ham Radio, an Extra Class who is applying for a vanity call-sign and mentioned that the process is like playing the Lottery, an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, and member of several clubs to include the Long Island CW club – with over 5,000 worldwide members. She gave an enjoyable and very informative introduction to both Morse Monkey and Morserino 32. She demonstrated her equipment set-up, various keyers, and how different techniques are used to learn Morse Code. “Why Learn Morse Code?” she asked. To which she responded: to use lower power (QRP) to have actual QSO’s, it’s not FT8, and it’s a personal challenge to keep her brain sharp.

The 50/50 Tickets Winner was Steve Schindler, NA4SA, who won \$45.50, which he returned/donated to TARC.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 PM, and members socialized and drifted out an hour later at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary

Stephanie Merritt, K4MVO