

The Titusville Communicator



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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 NOVEMBER SITREP

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

November has brought us wonderful cooler temperatures, plenty of yummy Thanksgiving meals & treats, and time to prepare for a brand new year which is rapidly approaching whether we want it to or not. 2025 is now staring us right in the face and brings with it new challenges and new opportunities.

It's time to start making plans, and start constructing a path towards completion for both short and long term projects. Short term, we are fixing the TARC trailer rear door with new materials, we are re-constructing the antenna structural mount on the Denman Road repeater

building, and we are prepping for the ARRL Winter Field Day 2025 which is January 25-26 and the Florida QSO Party 2025 which is April 26-27.

We've been invited by the SCARS group to co-locate at the Rotary Park on Merritt Island for Winter Field Day this year ~ and turn it into a teambuilding activity, and we can discuss that possibility to see if it's something the club would like to do. Please forward comments and ideas so we can circulate.

For safety purposes, we absolutely must get the rear door structural repairs done so we can safely use the trailer before either of these activities. Please

step forward with your wood-working skills to help get this work underway, Tom and Roy have been pricing the materials, so we just need to start planning out the project and make it happen.

Just one of the many opportunities to excel here at the Titusville Amateur Radio Club! Always something interesting going on if you look for it.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Christmas Dinner at Dixie Crossroads!!!!

N6PDF—TARC President

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2024 Elections and TARC Leadership

By Paul Fee, N6PDF

At the end of each calendar year, we gather nominations and vote on a slate of club officers and leadership for the year. It's a necessary part of any organization to have some folks willing to organize, promote, and cheerlead for the goals and projects that the membership want to participate in and to help encourage the personal and professional growth of the club as a whole. We've just accomplished that for the upcoming year, and I'm glad we have folks willing to step up and fill those critical needs.

We need individuals to step up

and help make things happen, and I'm very pleased we do have those folks.

The official results of the election are reported as part of the minutes at the end of this newsletter. Congratulations to all!

Frankly, we do need more that are ready, willing, and able to jump in and "take the wheel" of projects, planning, and objectives of the group, because we are only as strong and as vibrant as those that make up the group. I've said it many times, and believe it to be 100% true ~ our membership is what drives our club forward, not the officers or board members.

If you have ideas, interests, projects or challenges you'd like the group to take on ~ please do bring them forward at our meetings, and on our weekly nets. We can and have accomplished some pretty incredible things when we put out time, energy and talents into those things. It's just a matter of focusing on worthy and desired goals and then bringing the resources to bear to make them happen.

Please be thinking about your Ham Radio goals for 2025, and be thinking about your goals for TARC in 2025. Let's all work together to improve both our personal goals, and

our club goals ~ and perhaps even mix them together to some extent. At the January general meeting on the 4th Tuesday (Jan 28th) I'll be soliciting the membership for discussing some of those personal and club goals for the year ~ please put some thought into the subject so we can start laying out some plans.

We're only as productive as we choose to be, and I want 2025 to be a great year for TARC, and I'm sure you join me in this plan.

2024 was actually a pretty good year all in all, but we can pull together to make 2025 an even better year!

Ongoing Projects and Status Updates

1. Denman Road Antenna Structural Mount

This has been one of those stealth projects that was worked on and off during the year. It was noted that the steel braces between the Denman Road Repeater antenna tower and the repeater building itself had rusted through at several points. Attempts to find the same steel "L brackets" were unsuccessful, and so some sturdy "Unistrut" structural steel was donated by one of our members to perform this repair, and that's been ongoing recently. What is remaining is to cut/shape the steel and bolt the new pieces to the antenna

tower and the building. That will complete the repair action.

2. Repair the rotted wood on the rear door of the TARC trailer

This was noted during our events this year, that there's a section of the rear door/ramp that has wood that is no longer able to support the weight of folks walking on it, and it's failing structurally. We've approved the expenditure of funds to get this replaced, now we just need some woodworker folks to step up and make it happen. Please make some noise if this sounds like you! It needs to get going ASAP.

3. Sale of the donated FT-1000 HF Radio

This is in progress, and the unit will be advertised for sale in the nominal Ham Radio online sales venues. The notional price of this unit will be \$1,000 + shipping to the general public, but there was some latitude for TARC members, so if you're interested, now is the time to speak up.

Also, I am not familiar with the FT-1000 rig itself, and if there is a member that is capable of giving this radio a functional check please contact the club President for scheduling that checkout. Email: president@k4ksc.com

Christmas Party at Dixie Crossroads

We have had a traditional Christmas Celebration Dinner at Dixie Crossroads for many years, and it's been a festive gathering enjoyed by all. Members and family are very much welcome. It will be held on Thursday December 12th at 6 PM in the rear meeting room closest to Garden Street. That gives us some privacy and ability to conduct some activities without disturbing the other restaurant patrons.

We will have decorations, some festive snacks and treats, and will participate in a gift exchange, so please bring a wrapped gift (No more than \$20) so we can have a

great time exchanging presents. Men please bring an appropriate male-oriented gift, and women, a female-oriented gift just to make it interesting. To make sure that we have seating and supplies for everyone, make sure that you've contacted Sally or Stephanie to purchase the \$1 per person ticket prior to the dinner. We will be ordering through the restaurant menu as normal, we'll just have our own room and servers.

Looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season with our dear friends at Dixie

Crossroads!



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Titusville Amateur Radio Club

November 26, 2024, Regular Meeting

Our regular meeting was called to Order at 7pm, by President Paul Fee, N6PDF; followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Vice President Mike Elledge, KC4JEM.

A Quorum was Present, and the Treasurer's Report provided by Treasurer Sally Fuller, KN4HPX, was approved unanimously. There were no meeting minutes to be approved because our October meeting - our 'Annual Pot Luck Dinner' gathering was a social event and no minutes were taken.

2025 Election of Officers:

The Election of Officers for next year was conducted, and the following personnel were unanimously elected for 2025 by our general membership as follows:

Executive Staff:

President: Paul Fee, N6PDF
 Vice President: Keith DeSoto, KN4AQJ
 Treasurer: Steve Schindler, NA4SA
 Secretary: Stephanie Merritt, K4MVO

Board Members:

Position #1: Barry Kennedy, N4NMF
 Position #2: Donald Spade, N1DES
 Position #3: Roy Merritt, N4RKM

The following Board of Director positions will continue to be filled by the following members as defined by our club's By-Laws: Past President: Tom Fuller, KN4GLO; and Repeater Custodian: Dave McLean, KY4F.

New Business:

Our next scheduled meeting will be our upcoming Christmas Party, at Dixie Crossroads, December 12, 6pm; with Gift Exchange: No more than \$15-20, Flyer is being distributed and \$1.00, 'reservation tickets' were being sold. We will be again collecting canned, non-perishable food to donate to an area Food Banks.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to pay for the repair of the back door/gate to our communications trailer. It is a safety hazard and needs to be addressed before further use.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to spend the funds on Band Pass Filters for our communications trailer. Estimate \$1000.00, for complete modifications/upgrade. It was suggested and approved that we could start with one operating position, and then modify/improve additional positions as needed. The filters can be manually installed until the switches can be procured.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to file for our 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, even if it means applying for a new EIN. *Background:* Our previous status was 501(c)(4), that had been revoked due to lack of annual filing; thus we are required to complete the Long (on-line) Form 1023, and not just the 1023EZ. Stephanie K4MVO, has been unable to get that 'digital' form from the IRS. Stephanie and Sally, KN4HPX, will continue work on this task.

The following other topics of interest were brought up:

SkyWarn Recognition Day participation

Winter Field Day, at Tom's, KN4GLO, and Sally's, KN4KPX, QTH.

Upcoming Florida QSO Party: we will ask Marty, KJ4LQX, if he can provide us with guidance (maybe a week prior) for the event so we don't make the unfortunate errors we did during our last contesting effort.

Annual Mosquito Net Tailgate at Fox Lake Park: we need to check our date with area clubs so that we don't have the same conflict/competition as last year.

Tom, KN4GLO, is looking for a new Net Control for the Mosquito Net. It was suggested that members could consider take turns running the net.

We need more advertising for upcoming events and activities. FaceBook, X, Website, e-mails, etc..

Ham License Testing and Training/Classes: Stephanie will coordinate with Sherry, KU4ZO, about what is needed to accomplish the testing through W5YI; and she offered to organize a Study Class but would need some help from members.

Upcoming HamCation in Orlando: there is no interest in purchasing a table, but members are interested in car-pooling on Saturday.

POTA (Parks On The Air): there is considerable interest in setting up a POTA event for TARC. We just need a location and volunteers.

ARRL Summer Field Day in June 2025: Sally, KN4HPX, has already made the reservation for our Fox Lake Park site.

Paul mentioned the FT-1000, that has been donated to TARC has not been sold within our membership, so permission to advertise openly was approved.

We also discussed the scheduling of a Board of Directors meeting to close out some issues such as updating the By-Laws and adjustments of the annual dues.

The 50/50 Ticket Winner was Diane Kennedy, N1JCK, for \$20. Our meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm, and members continued to socialize until almost 9pm

Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary