

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 DECEMBER SITREP

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

I can't believe it, but I'm looking right at it, so I have to believe it! ~ 2024 has officially drawn to a close! How about that?

I'm pretty confident in the fact we had a reasonably successful 2024 here at TARC and while we haven't done everything possible, we've done a lot, and we have to be thankful for our successes where we can, and we had plenty during the last year.

We had a lot of fun during the Winter Field Day, I officially retired for good in February, the Mosquito Net Tailgate was a big success in March. We actually achieved a 1st Place award for our efforts in the Florida QSO

contest this year, which really gave a big boost to our interest and efforts in contesting. We hope to continue on with that boost as time marches forward. There was the successful conversion of the Denman Road Repeater (146.775) from FPL to Solar power, which continue to give us trouble-free power and support for our northern repeater. Big thanks to all that jumped in and made that a success. It was good to be past all the power issues with that site. Through the troubleshooting and repair efforts of Dave KY4F and Jay NB4B, the 147.330 repeater on Parrish Hospital has been fully operational this year, and used for several of the weather related

events this year. Steve, NA4SA has done a great job of fully updating and refreshing our club website, and just so no good deed goes unpunished, we have elected him as our Treasurer for the upcoming year. He brings a considerable amount of talent, energy and knowledge with him. Thank you Steve!

Now a brand new year lies before us. What will we do with it? Hmmm? Lots of possibilities! Let's do it!

N6PDF ~ TARC President

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Help Wanted - Seriously!

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

There are several openings in our organization that could use **your** talents, and I really hope that everyone will consider jumping in at whatever level of effort they feel comfortable with (or even a little uncomfortable with) to keep TARC running at full operational capability.

No one stepped up to fulfill the request for a 2025 TARC Secretary, and Stephanie K4MVO graciously agreed to continue on in this capacity for the time being, and while everyone appreciates her dedication and energy, it would be very good for someone to work with her so

we could transition this position if at all possible. It's an important role in our group, and we really need assistance in that area.

If there is someone interested in taking over the compilation, editing and publication of THIS newsletter, it would be of great help. It's constructed on the Microsoft Publisher platform, with an easy template to follow. Responsibilities consist of taking the inputs from club officers and members, and compiling, editing and distributing the newsletter. Usually just takes a few hours of time and effort each month, but it would help greatly if someone would step

up and take over the responsibilities.

There are various events, contests and parties we have each year, and it would behoove us to have an Event Coordinator for each one. That doesn't mean you have to DO everything, it just means you have to make sure everything gets done!

- ARRL Winter Field Day
- Florida QSO Party
- Mosquito Net Tailgate
- ARRL Field Day
- Christmas Party

All these are examples of the types of events that TARC participates in and we need to have coordinators for these events. Again, this is someone to oversee the planning, execution, and successful completion of these events. It's too much for just a small handful of folks to always make happen, and if we have a specific coordinator that can take charge of each event, it will make the chance of success much greater.

Thank you all for what you do, and I appreciate everyone taking these requests for help seriously. We're a strong group with lots of talent out there!

Programming your Radios Keith ~ KN4AQJ

Programming ham radios can be a complex and time-consuming task for both beginners and experienced operators. One of the primary challenges is configuring frequency bands, memory channels, and modes of operation. Each radio model has its own interface, requiring operators to familiarize themselves with unique programming software or manual input methods. This process becomes even more challenging when setting up multiple radios or configuring complex features such as digital modes, repeaters, or automatic identification. Mistakes can result in poor performance or difficulty accessing certain frequencies, which can be frustrating, especially in emergency situations. Another challenge is maintaining compatibility with modern technologies and evolving communication stand-

ards. As ham radio equipment ages, manufacturers may stop supporting older models or release updates that improve functionality. Failure to keep radios up to date can lead to issues such as incompatibility with newer digital modes, loss of critical features, or even security vulnerabilities. We've all experienced just how tricky the little buttons and multi-layer programming menus are, but they can be mastered with practice.

Regular firmware and software updates are essential for ensuring that radios stay current with these advancements. Keeping a radio's software up to date also allows operators to benefit from bug fixes, enhanced features, and better performance. In addition, new updates often address potential security vulnerabilities,

which can help prevent unauthorized access to sensitive communication channels.

For ham radio operators, regular updates and proper programming are vital for ensuring efficient, reliable, and secure communication. Whether for casual use or during emergencies, having a fully functioning and up-to-date radio system is crucial for optimal performance and safety. If you have difficulties or need assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to your fellow hams for help. Be sure and share your knowledge and experience too!

Keith ~ KN4AQJ

Email: vice.president@k4ksc.com

Ideas and Suggestions for Projects and Events in 2025

The following ideas and suggestions have been submitted for discussion about upcoming projects:

- Repair trailer ramp (Needed NLT Jan 19)
- Resolve dues increase question
- Approve bylaws update
- New members
- Build up club savings account
- Evaluate the 146.970 repeater coax.
- Adding EchoLink to one or more of our repeaters.
- Setting up Zoom sessions for club meetings for those members who wish to join in but are unable to travel.
- Facilities review. Let's go over the repeaters, the trailers, any critical repair/maintenance issues that need addressing or any ideas or suggestions for future projects or improvements.
- Work bench inside trailer
- Install propane on generator
- Inventory of club equipment. We need to have a written record of our assets and their value.
- New Events and activities. (fox hunts,

special event stations, moonbounce, other tech challenges)

- Special event stations. 321 Day (March 21) or Easter Surfing Festival in Cocoa Beach, or Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge anniversary (November).
- Increase Club Participation.
- Club-owned antenna and rotor for tower trailer. (We may be close on this one)
- Disposition go-boxes. Auction/raffle off any excess equipment?
- Wish list for new radios in TARC trailer.
- Membership drive.
- Technician license classes for Boy Scouts and STEM students
- Plan some field trips to amateur radio club meetings and hamfests in neighboring counties.

These are some of the ideas and thoughts that have been forwarded to me ~ but they are only on paper until we commit the time, energy and resources into making them happen.

It's up to the Titusville Amateur Radio Club members to determine what hap-

pens, and how successful it is by their input, energy and enthusiasm. If these, or any other projects or events appeal to you, please forward your thoughts and desires to our membership so we can get heading in that direction.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our organization and we all look forward to what will happen in the coming new year. Just to re-emphasize the point ~ what we accomplish is due to the active participation in our club! Be "Radio-Active" when it comes to our hobby, and it will come back to benefit us all. Thanks!

Here is a Tower, Multiband Beam Antenna and Rotator donated to TARC by Mike ~ WY1K that we can use for contesting!

Thank you Mike!!



President

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Our December TARC meeting was the annual Christmas Party and no minutes were taken.

Thanks to all of the members that organized and participated in this annual event. Eight large shopping bags full of non-perishable food items were collected by the club and donated to the American Legion food pantry collection effort headed up by their Auxiliary group.

Respectfully submitted by TARC Secretary

Stephanie Merritt ~ K4MVO



Weekly On-the-Air Nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time	Net Control
Skywarn Net	146.970 MHz	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Barry N4NMF
Mosquito Net	28.333 MHz USB	Wednesday	7:00 PM	George WG4ES
Friendship/ Traders Net	146.970 MHz	Thursday	7:00 PM	Keith KN4AQJ