

The Titusville Communicator



Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

WWW.K4KSC.COM

"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 MARCH SITREP

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

There's been a couple of "Front Page News" items come up this month, so I'm just going full throttle right into them. Hang on tight...

Our tried and true primary TARC repeater on 146.970 located atop Titusville Towers went "Silent Key" on the afternoon of Thursday, March 13th. The "Mosquito Net" wasn't able to be held at 7 PM, so the net shifted over to a backup repeater. (Good thinking by Net Control, For reference, if the primary repeater goes off the air, shift to one of our other repeaters!)

The cause for this outage was not technical, but administrative. It

could have been easily avoided if the posted FCC license copy was updated when the license was renewed. Because of that oversight, the facility management could not verify it was a legally operating station, so they removed the power. It took several days to work through the site access and to verify the failure and resolve the administrative issue. It was fully restored to normal operations and there were some productive meetings held with the facility management and leadership. Good learning experiences came out of this for all involved.

The next big news is that the new TARC trailer HF radios are installed and almost ready to use!

As reported last month, through the kind donations of some of our members, and the leadership of the AA4HP Sport Radio Club, we have not one (1) but two (2) brand new Icom IC-7300 HF radios ready to use in our trailer. These will be a very welcome upgrade to our upcoming operating events, so be sure and sign up for some time behind the microphone/key. These are very cool radios, and the addition of very cool Band Pass Filters designed and built by Tom - KN4GLO, we are now equipped to do some serious operating! Let's get to it!

N6PDF ~ TARC President

73 *Paul*

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Mosquito Net Tailgate and other events...

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

Big thanks to Tom & Sally Fuller for taking the mosquito by the stinger and making this years Mosquito Net Tailgate Party a HUGE success! The turnout was very impressive and lots of fun was had, many folks meeting up for the first time face-to-face, and lots of equipment changed hands. Weather cooperated nicely after that chilly, foggy 7 AM start. The jackets came off by about 9 AM.

We had folks from all over Florida, and even a couple for Alabama show up and participate. Good to meet everyone and share some good camaraderie

in a beautiful setting like Fox Lake Park.

The club was able to pass along some of the items collected and donated over the years, and there will be an upcoming antenna tower party coming up for Mike - KW4DX, who purchased a tower and antenna! Looking forward to helping him reach out over the air!

More Events!

There are more upcoming events, and starting off with the Florida QSO party being held at Tom & Sally's QSO, we've got lots of ways to participate coming up. Mark your calendars for these events which will be here

before you know it:

- Florida QSO Party—April 26, 27
- ARRL Field Day—June 28-29
- 13 Colonies Special Event—July 4th

All these activities are conducted for multiple purposes. They are wonderful training exercises for all of us to hone and maintain our operational skills. They are also a full checkout of our equipment and facilities, giving us real-world simulation of radio operations in times of crisis. Most importantly, they are opportunities to have some fun with your fellow ham radio operators! If work, chores

and "honey-do's" keep you away from your radio at home, this is a great excuse to get away and focus on the hobby you enjoy so much.

Some people really get challenged by contesting, and fully immerse themselves into the competition and put everything into racking up the contacts. That's a good thing, but some people are just in it for the fun. There's nothing wrong with that either! Whatever the reason, sign up for operating this year with new radios, new antennas, new rotators, and just have fun regardless!!

Join in on the fun! Florida QSO Party!

By Mike -KW4DX, Florida QSO Party Coordinator

Please sign up and jump in on the fun at the 2025 Florida QSO Party being held at Tom & Sally's QTH on April 26 & 27.

This event is OPEN to ALL and is a great event for everyone. If you have never made a HF contact, this is for you! If you want to practice and improve your contesting skills, this is for you! If you just want to make simple contacts, this is for you! Every Florida county from Alachua County to Washington County will be activated at least once during the 20 hour Florida QSO Party. Florida QSO Party is the one event where Hams all over the nation can attempt to work each of the 67 Florida counties in one week-end!

OBJECT: For radio amateurs outside of the state of Florida to make contact with as many Florida stations in as many of the 67 Florida counties as possible. Florida operators can work anyone outside and within Florida.

CONTEST PERIOD: Starts the last Saturday of April. Operates both Saturday and Sunday.

There are two 10-hour operating periods separated by a 10-hour break period. All operators may operate the full 20 hours. Logs will be maintained, and we will be using our logging software to keep track of all our contacts over the contest. We've worked out the kinks, and got the computers all talking and it's much easier than trying to maintain paper logs during a contest.

Give it a try! If you have any problems with the logging, please ask for help. The first few might be a bit of a hurdle, but before long, you'll be typing away and racking up the contacts. We need operators, loggers and support crew, setup, food helpers, cleanup and securing crew. Come give a hand and make this event a big success!

Mike—KW4DX



We had a "bonus" performance by an intrepid paraglider that saw our merry band of hams and came over to give us an impressive display of his flying skills. It was a beautiful morning for flying, as well as for horse trading with radio equipment. Big thanks to all that came out for this fun event!

The results from the 2025 Winter Field Day have been posted! Here are K4KSC Scores:

Calllog	Class	Location	Total QSOs	Final Mult	Final Score	Objectives
K4KSC	4	571	120	8	1200	50%

Pictures from the Mosquito Tailgate Party 2025



The fog really rolled in overnight, but it broke up quickly right after sunup and it warmed up nicely!



Barry—N4NMF sold a bunch of treasures from his collection.



Good turnout this year! Weather was great!



Mike and Paul getting tower and antenna ready for transport.

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TARC March 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes 03-25-25

Paul, N6PDF—President: Call the meeting to order at 7pm, followed by Keith, KN4AQJ, Vice President, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance introduced themselves, and it was determined that we had a Quorum. We had one visitor, Greg M. who is new to Ham Radio and came to visit us from Christmas! We are scheduling up some testing to help get him licensed before his RV trip in April.

A Motion was made and seconded, then unanimously Approved to accept the meeting minutes for February 25, 2025, as printed in the newsletter. Treasurer, Steve, NA4SA, read the Treasurer’s Report and a Motion was made to accept it as read, which was then, seconded, and then unanimously approved.

Paul, N6PDF, Announced our Weekly Net Times/Net Controls. Repeater Trustee, KY4F, Reported on the Status of Repeater Equipment – all are functional. N6PDF added that both the Contact information and the Station License for the 146.97, Repeater at the Titusville Towers has been updated, and this repeater is now fully functional. Details to follow in March newsletter.

1. Old/Unfinished Business:

- a. Inventory - Status: Roy, N4RKM, reported that it is just about completed.
- b. Communications Trailer Band Pass Filter Project: all acquisitions completed, Mike, KC4JEM, made a very nice 3D-printed Face Plate for the switches.
- c. 501 (c) (3) Application - Status: Stephanie, K4MVO - ongoing.
- d. Winter Field Day Logs Submission - Paul, N6PDF: Completed
- e. Mission Statement and Club Future – Status: Paul, N6PDF, ongoing
- f. Net Anniversary 2025 Tailgate Party at Fox Lake Park – March 22, 2025 -: Event Coordinators Report: Tom, KN4GLO & Sally, KN4HPX: another successful annual event with lots of Team Work involved, and a net contributions of \$93.
- g. July 4th, 13 Colonies Special Event: there is interest, and Tom, KN4GLO will coordinate our club’s participation

2. New Business:

- a. Replacement Radio for Comm Trailer: 2 New ICOM 7300 – donations received by the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., from TARC members towards the purchase was \$250. Tom, KN4GLO, said then installation is underway.
- b. Mike Daniels, KW4DX, has volunteered to organize our participation in the Florida QSO Party sponsored by Florida Contest Group: <https://floridaqsoparty.org/>
The 2025 Florida QSO Party will be held the weekend of April 26th – 27th, 2025.
Saturday 16:00:00Z (Noon EDT) – Sunday 01:59:59Z (9:59:59 PM EDT)
Sunday 12:00:00Z (8 AM EDT) – 21:59:59Z (5:59:59 PM EDT)
- c. ARRL Field Day – June 28 – 29, 2025: We are organizing a team of volunteers to participate in this annual ARRL event. A sign-up sheet was circulated, and anyone with a Camper or Tent is more than welcomed to set up – the Parks and Recreation usually give a special overnight ‘pass’ for this event.

3. Presentation:

Our Speaker for the evening was our President, Paul Fee, N6PDF, who spoke on the subject of operating the ICOM IC-7300 Radio. He brought his own mobile/portable set-up, and demonstrated the functionality of the radio, and how easy (intuitive) it is to use. VP Keith DeSoto, KN4AQJ, also demonstrated the capabilities of his new \$50.00, BAOFENG UV25M Tri-Band Ham Radio Handheld, and how he gets a great coverage for little \$, and how long the battery lasts – a real plus when on back-up power.

Paul, N6PDF, ask for items of interest for future meetings and the following suggestions were made:

- a. Mike, KW4DX, suggested robotics as a topic of discussion;
- b. Dave, AD6Q, suggested digital communications, FT4, FT8, WSPR, etc.;
- c. Packet Radio was also mentioned as well as Remote Capability for the Denman site

Our Meeting was Adjourned at 8:15 PM, followed by a lively social time with members, finally locking the doors at 8:45 PM. Our 50/50 winner of \$34.00, was Roy, N4RKM, who kindly donated the money back to our club.

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/	146.970 MHz	Thursday	7:00 PM	Keith KN4AQJ