

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 May SITREP

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

I hope everyone is staying dry as we enter the "rainy season" here in Florida. May was a very wet month, with very near twice the average monthly rainfall this May in Brevard county. It caused a great deal of work in our household, I hope everyone got through it ok.

Plans are well underway for the ARRL Summer Field Day being held June 28-29. ARRL Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators in a friendly contest. The theme for 2025 Field Day is "Radio Connects" – highlighting the many ways that wireless technology

connects people across distances near and far. TARC will be participating across a wide spectrum of frequencies and modes, and YOU are encouraged to come take part in the excitement. There is always something to do, something to help with, something to enjoy. Mike KW4DX, Dave KY4F and Dave AD6Q have been busy getting the antenna farm ready for use. There are some challenges yet to overcome, but they can make it happen. Thanks to Roy N4RKM for the use of his Buddi-Hex antenna while he and Stephanie are exploring Germany.

We've got some volunteers set up to spend the overnight portion of the contest collecting contacts, which is uniquely challenging. Sometimes the bands are quiet as a mouse late at night, other times, hot as a pistol. It's like a box of chocolates ~ you never know what you're going to get.

Please do make plans to participate in some way. I'm sure you'll enjoy Summer Field Day. Be watching for a detailed Field Day email with the full schedule.

N6PDF ~ TARC President

Paul

Volume II, Issue 5 May 2025

Inside this issue:

TARC SITREP	1
Amateur Code - It's still required!	1
Party Time	2
TARC 2035. What will it be?	2
Minutes, Club Information	3

What is the "Amateur Code", and why do we follow it?

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

A quick reminder of the Amateur's Code by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928) may be helpful to remember. The Radio Amateur is:

Considerate – never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

Loyal – offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

Progressive – with knowledge abreast of science, a well built

and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

Friendly – with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

Balanced – radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

Patriotic – with station and skills always ready for service to country and community.

Spend most of your time listen-

ing, not talking. Be a good neighbor and don't hog the bands.

I'm thinking back over my decades as a Ham Radio Operator, and I've met, worked with, and become very good friends with some of the most interesting, compassionate, kind, considerate and professional people you'd ever want to meet. A great many of them have become lifelong friends for whom I cherish deeply.

The sad truth is, I've also had to deal with a few inconsiderate people in this hobby that are rude and quick to anger. It's not pleasant to deal with

those who publicly criticize and ridicule others. I've been threatened with lawsuits, I've been lied to, lied about, and harassed by people who just have nothing better to do than harass others. I've been called things that would make a sailor blush. It's not fun and nobody gains anything from such childish behaviors. Please discourage this.

Strive to be a good ambassador for our hobby and work with others professionally and courteously. Treat others as you would like to be treated, and by all means apologize if you've made a mistake. Let's make this a fun and productive hobby for all to enjoy! Thanks!

Pictures from the dinner for Jan W4REN and Sherry KU4ZO



Thanks to all who came out to have a nice dinner for Jan & Sherry. There were some fun stories told and touching tributes made to these folks who have encouraged, mentored and licensed so many hams over the years. Lambert Mills gave a very touching and heartfelt speech honoring their impact on his life. It was wonderful to hear these stories about these TARC founding members who paved the way for many of us. Thanks very much!

What will TARC be in 2035? What would you like it to be? Tell us!

The answer to this basic question is actually very simple. TARC will be in 2035 what WE make it to be. It's really that easy.

This is our club that we enjoy, that we support and that we make happen. The things we want to do more of, we find a way to do more of. The things we want to do less of, we do less of. The new things we want to try, we try them! I really want to encourage our membership to stand up and be participative in what we do and how we do it. We need to hear of the interests, the projects and the future directions that our members would like to take our club. It's time to speak up and share your thoughts.

There is a survey being generated that will be sent out before the next TARC meeting, and that survey will be asking some very direct and honest questions about your wishes and your desires about the future projects and plans for the Titusville Amateur Radio Club. When this survey arrives in your email, please take the short time it will take to fill it out honestly and completely. Without your input, we cannot build the club you

want with the focus you desire and with the future that you want to be a part of. Ham Radio in general is undergoing lots of changes. Some of those changes you may like a lot, and some changes you may not care for. That's just the nature of life.

We want TARC to grow in directions that our club wants it to go, and focus on those part of the hobby that our members enjoy the most, and avoid those they don't.

For example, we have expanded our involvement in contesting the last few years. We've had some very enthusiastic and active events. Not everyone has jumped in and participated, but that's OK. Not everyone is into contesting. We need to know how our members feel about these events, and what they want future plans to include. There's also the new digital modes and capabilities. Some people are interested in learning about these, trying them out and exploring the capabilities. We've got some great new radios in the TARC trailer that are fully capable of operating in that way, and we're already exploring more.

Speaking of goals, this is a time to explore thinking "Out of the Box" and look far beyond what we've done, and look towards

what we dream about. For example, I've been a member of a club (www.satellitearc.com) that had a club station, with great facilities and operating stations, a big meeting room, tech benches and space to hold training sessions, public events, and a wide variety of amateur radio activities. That club was able to grow into this by lots of hard work and coordination with local, state and federal organizations, and lots of dedicated and involved amateur radio operators that started with the desire to make it happen. It only goes to show that nothing is impossible when enough people get involved and have the coordinated desire to make things happen.

Please take the opportunity to express yourself freely through this survey. Your board of directors need to hear from you. This will be an anonymous survey, and you can speak your mind without concern of judgement or reprisals. Just speak the truth about what you want and the board will listen to your advice, wishes, encouragement and criticism.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for your ongoing contributions to TARC.

Paul N6PDF

President

Paul Fee ~ N6PDF
(321) 264-8985 Cell/TXT
president@k4ksc.com

Vice President

Keith DeSoto ~ KN4AQJ
vice.president@k4ksc.com

Secretary

Stephanie Merritt ~ K4MVO
spmerrittflorida@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Steve Schindler ~ NA4SA
treasurer@k4ksc.com

TARC General Membership Meeting 05-27-25 DRAFT

President, N6PDF: Call the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Vice President, KN4AQJ, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was established that we had a Quorum and those in attendance introduced themselves. Recognition was given to longtime members Kenny Denman, KD4HNW, and Nan Denman, KJ4ZZZ, who travel back and forth from Alabama will be visiting in our area for a few weeks. Great to see them and catch up with their adventures.

It was unanimously Approved to accept the membership of new member Greg Hand, KK4LWB.

A Motion was made and seconded, then unanimously Approved to accept the meeting minutes for April 22, 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 unanimously Approved.

President, N6PDF, announced our 3 Weekly Net Times/Net Controls, and added the 2 meter single sideband net run by George Swire, WG4ES, on Mondays at 7pm, to the list of nets in our area. N6PDF stated that all repeaters are functioning.

The Status of Old or Unfinished business is as follows:

- a. Paul mentioned the wonderful turn-out great fun we had for the Recognition Dinner for longtime members, Sherry Ferguson, KU4ZO, and Jan Ferguson, W4REN, at the La Marimba Restaurant on 5/17/2025.
- b. New By-Laws: Paul, N6PDF: on-hold pending board of directors agreement on further steps.
- c. Communications Trailer Ramp Seal Replacement, status: Paul, N6PDF. Searching for a better solution to the water intrusion problem – maybe it needs just a better rain-drip lip. New Seal arriving June 3rd and will be installed upon arrival.
- d. 501 (c) (3) Application: Stephanie, K4MVO: ongoing/no change.
- e. Mission Statement and Club Future: Paul, N6PDF: ongoing, asked for membership input, and suggested that we might consider not just the immediate and near future goals, but also "Stretch Goals," a concept of a stating a goal, but have no idea how it might be achieved, but is something we'd like to do in the future.
- f. Along with Club's Future, it was mentioned that we had recently discussed the possibility of raising Club Dues to \$25, or possibly \$30.
- g. July 4th, 13 Colonies Special Event: if there is interest, Barry, N4NMF, provided lots of great information and you should be able to see it on our website and in our next newsletter. He added information about Museum Ships Special Events (at least 100 ships participating,) and Lighthouses on the air. All great special Events for Hams.
- h. We are still waiting on the official results of our participation in the Florida QSO Party, sponsored by the Florida Contest Group. We had an improved score from last year, and we again thanked Tom Fuller, KN4GLO, and Sally Fuller, KN4HPX, for hosting us at their QTH/Ranch.
- i. ARRL Field Day – June 28 – 29, 2025: Ongoing: Mike Daniels, KW4DX, has taken the Lead on this year's participation, and Greg Hand, KK4LWB, and Dave Black, AD6Q, have volunteered to do the overnight operations.

The following New Business was discussed:

- a. Treasurer, Steve, NA4SA: mentioned 2 items of spending necessary for the upcoming ARRL Field Day Event: a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to spend the reimbursable \$125.00, deposit for our reservation at Fox Lake Park.
- b. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to spend no more than \$250.00, on food and other supplies for the event. This was followed by a \$100.00 donation from the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc.
- c. After a brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to ask George Swires, WG4ES the net control for the local 2 meter, SSB net, held on Monday evenings at 7PM, to add TARC's 'sponsorship' in the preamble
- d. Paul mentioned that he would like to see our club members volunteer some time and effort to help the Masons with their building improvement projects, such as; picture hanging, door repair and painting, and audio visual equipment installation/upgrade. All items will be donated, so there will be no cost to our club.
- e. Stephanie, K4MVO, President of the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., presented a Letter of Contribution/Recognition to TARC members Mike Daniels, KW4DX, Dave McLean, KY4F, and Greg Hand, KK4LWB, for helping her move and identify a large amount (a garage full) of older radios and test equipment that had been donated to her organization.

Our Speakers for the evening were our newest member Greg Hand, KK4LWB; and Ricky Deluco, K4JTT, of BCAT, ARRL ARES. Greg, KK4LWB, gave us a lively and thoroughly informative presentation on his recent POTA activation at the nearby Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area. He brought his gear to demonstrate how little he had to haul into the park, and he discussed the need to 'know your park' before packing. His entire presentation and additional information should soon be available on our club's website.

Ricky, K4JTT, gave an informative presentation on the current status BCAT efforts to expand local digital modes to WinLink, StarLink, Arden, Meshtastic and other recent digital modes available to the amateur community. These are something that we are actively exploring becoming more connected with. Ricky offered to teach anyone who is interested in these digital modes at the BCAT meeting location, Volunteer Fire department in Mims. Second Saturday of each month 10:00am - 12:00pm. Next meeting is June 14th. Mims Volunteer Fire Department, 2476 Taylor Street.

We were also able to break and watch the SpaceX Starship test launch live at 7:37 EDT that launched in Texas.

Following a call for membership input and comments by President, Paul, N6PDF, the meeting was Adjourned at 8:57 PM. This was followed by a lively social time which concluded at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by

TARC Secretary, Stephanie Merritt, K4MVO

Weekly On-the-Air Nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time	Net Control
2 Meter SSB Net	144.210 MHz USB	Monday	7:00 PM	George WG4ES
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