

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 June SITREP

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

The antennas have been taken down, the rigs are all silent and stowed away. The coax cables are rolled and coiled. Field Day 2025 is now in the history books and we can now relax and look back to examine the many thrills of victory, as well as ponder and deconstruct those couple of agonies of defeat that come with any major club event. Can we always do better? You betcha.

What goes into an event that makes it either successful or a bust? Just like any good meal, it's the thoughtful combination of planning, ingredients, preparation and presentation. But a key part of any successful event is

energy, enthusiasm, dedication and the commitment to make it a success by whatever means are necessary to do so.

I'd like to express my personal thanks to Mike KW4DX that volunteered to step up and take on the challenges of being the event coordinator for Field Day 2025. It's a LOT of work, the majority of which you don't see and don't know about. He organized a small but dedicated group of our members to focus on antenna preparation. For weeks they worked on various combinations of HF beam antennas to get us the best possible capability to gather and broadcast RF. That involved assembling, refurbishing, repairing

and even designing some elements of the antenna system which resulted in our ability to operate efficiently. Lots was accomplished, and there will be more to do in this regard. We've got some really nice hardware that needs more repair and testing and more hands-on work for future events. If this is your cup of tea, don't hesitate to step up and assist in this effort. Dave KY4F, Jay NB4B, Dave AD6Q, and Mike KW4DX led this charge, but others are welcome to join in. Believe it or not, Field Day 2026 will be here before you know it!!

N6PDF ~ TARC President

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2025 ARRL Field Day Results and Adventures!

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

ARRL Summer Field Day is the Superbowl of Amateur Radio. It's when we stand up as a unified club and square off against the ever challenging band conditions, and test our mettle that is forged of technical knowledge, careful preparation, and sheer determination to reach out and communicate to others in an attempt to rack up QSO points.

This year, TARC has literally outdone itself, setting the bar so high that it may be tough to beat in the future. Running four stations utilizing a variety of antenna structures, we accumulated a

club record of 743 QSO contacts. When combined with the multipliers of emergency power operations, public relations and community leadership involvement, and the other bonuses available per the contest rules ~ we stand to have a very respectable final score when the results are published in QST magazine. Everyone should be very proud of our club and recognize that we can accomplish whatever we put our minds, hearts and energy into.

We overcame multiple challenges, which from my observation were focused on antenna performance and consistent console operations. We need to

find the right combination of HF antennas for our two great IC7300 radios, and we need to have a greater number of club members ready, willing and able to commit to on-the-air time while the contest is going. Idle radios rack up no contacts and we can do better in this regard.

We did have an injury this year, which required a trip to a medical facility to seal up a nasty cut. It's a reminder that we need to be very careful and cautious when we're working, and to always include a through safety briefing as part of our preparations.

There were several meals that were expertly prepared and served by Tom KN4GLO and Sally KN4HPX. There were visits by Titusville Mayor Andrew Connors and members of the Titusville Police Dept.

It is always great to have the ongoing support and assistance from the Brevard Parks and Recreation Dept. They have been very cooperative and helpful over the years and we want to keep that relationship going. We always do our best to be good tenants and clean up after ourselves when the events are completed.

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2025 Field Day Adventures (Continued)

Because this is a full 24 hour event, that means that somebody needs to keep the RF fires burning all night long. This year, we had the duo of Dave AD6Q and Greg KK4LWB providing the "Black Hand" of continuous operations throughout the night. Rob KN4ZGO also hung in there and was found upright and conscious when the daylight broke over South Lake on Sunday.

It would be a gross understatement to say that Dave and Greg provided the bulk of the Field Day QSOs. These guys are absolute beasts on the air! They operated under a variety of digital modes for hour after hour both day and night, and demonstrated extreme tenacity on their keyboards. It will be interesting to hear from them at upcoming meetings and discussions about



Field Day to find out what the band conditions were overnight. I've heard people say the wee hours of the morning can bring both silence and chaos on the bands. Hopefully they will share their experiences with their overnight adventures.

I have asked the participants in Field Day to come up with a list of "lessons learned" to highlight and review the good, the bad, and the ugly of Field Day operations. The good we'll try to do more of. The bad we'll try to avoid. The ugly might be something we can pretty up next time, you never know. We can look forward to a presentation of these items at the July membership meeting on Tuesday, July 22nd at 7 PM.

I want to share my appreciation for Conan, who drove up Saturday morning and introduced himself, asked a few questions about Ham Radio and TARC. That was

great that he took the time and effort to come out and check out our club.

But then... Conan proceeded to work with us for FOUR HOURS on Saturday morning getting set up, erecting antennas, running cables, coordinating efforts to get us up and running on time ~ and then he came back on Sunday and did the same thing to get us secured!! Before you ask the obvious questions... Yes, he's going to be at a testing session very soon, and Yes, he's certainly got a unanimous vote for club membership coming up! Welcome Conan!!! (Callsign to Follow)

Thanks again all! What an amazing Summer Field Day! See you all soon at the Thursday eating meeting and on the air!

Pictures from ARRL Field Day 2025



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**PLEASE COMPLETE
THE TARC SURVEY
THAT WAS EMAILED
OUT EARLIER THIS
MONTH.**

**WE NEED EVERYONE'S
INPUT TO HELP PLAN
FOR FUTURE ACTIVI-
TIES OF THE CLUB.**

**THANK YOU VERY
MUCH FOR YOUR IN-
PUTS!!**

TARC General Membership Meeting 06-24-25

President, Paul N6PDF: Call the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Vice President, Keith KN4AQJ, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was established that we had a Quorum and those in attendance introduced themselves.

It was unanimously Approved to accept the membership of new member Rick Bouge KD8ZWT.

A Motion was made and seconded, then unanimously Approved to accept the meeting minutes for May 27, 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 three 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 and no issues have been reported.

The Status of Old or Unfinished business is as follows:

- a. New By-Laws: Paul, N6PDF: on-hold pending Board of Directors meeting to discuss.
- b. Communications Trailer Ramp Seal Replacement, status: Paul N6PDF reports that the seal has been replaced. Worked well during Field Day with no visible leakage. Future possible rain "lip" upgrade discussed.
- c. 501 (c) (3) Application: Stephanie, K4MVO: On vacation in Europe, will update next month.
- d. Mission Statement and Club Future: Paul, N6PDF: Survey has been sent to all membership. Only 17 members have responded thus far. Need more inputs from all members if at all possible.
- e. Along with Club's Future, it was mentioned that we had recently discussed the possibility of raising Club Dues to \$25, or possibly \$30. Survey covered this possibility.
- f. July 4th, 13 Colonies Special Event: Barry, N4NMF will serve as event coordinator and update the membership.
- g. We are still waiting on the official results of our participation in the Florida QSO Party, sponsored by the Florida Contest Group. No expectation until early 2026.
- h. 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. An extensive discussion was held about the requirements and plans for a successful ARRL Field Day activity.

The following New Business was discussed:

- a. Treasurer, Steve, NA4SA: mentioned two items of spending necessary for TARC trailer rear door seal and the annual cost of website hosting and the associated SSL security certificate. A motion was made to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$200 to cover these costs. The motion was seconded and approved.
- b. TARC Survey needs more inputs from members. More reminders will be sent out.

Our Speakers for the evening were our VP Keith KN4AQJ who did a show & tell with a few HT units, and more discussion followed regarding the plans for the upcoming ARRL Field Day.

Following a call for membership input and comments by President, Paul, N6PDF, the meeting was Adjourned at 9:11 PM.

The 50/50 winner was Barry N4NMF. This was followed by a lively social time which concluded at approximately 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by

TARC President Paul Fee, N6PDF for 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