

TARC 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 October SITREP

Huge thanks to all the participated and helped make the October Pot-Luck dinner a very fun and enjoyable event for our club members. We had a very nice turnout and we all enjoyed a fun evening of friendship and great food. I've added some random photos from the dinner for everyone to enjoy.

We cannot thank both Roy & Stephanie enough for their extraordinary level of support and kind generosity when it comes to these special events. They have consistently gone far and be-

yond to make our events successful, and this one was no exception. Thank you both, so very much.

Following our next regular monthly meeting which will be held on Tuesday, November 25th at 7 PM, we will quickly be staring into the face of several events in rapid succession, so plan ahead to avoid any panic!

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 11th at 6 PM. Dixie Crossroads. Tickets are being handled by Stephanie K4MVO.

Then Winter Field Day will be next, on Jan 24-25th and Greg KK4LWB is the Event Coordinator, with a whole bunch of information just a little bit further down this page.

2026 promises to be a big leap forward for TARC. This club operates because of it's active and involved members, and everyone benefits when everyone is part of the fun! Please do jump in and help make 2025 the best year ever for Amateur Radio in Titusville!

73

Paul

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Get Ready to Brave the Cold! Winter Field Day 2026

By Greg Hand KK4LWB

Fellow Titusville Amateur Radio Club Members:

Mark your calendars! January 24th – 25th, 2026, marks the return of Winter Field Day (WFD), and we're aiming for our biggest participation and highest scores yet. Whether you're a seasoned operator or new to the hobby, WFD is an incredible opportunity to hone skills, build camaraderie, and demonstrate the vital role amateur radio plays in emergency communications.

What is Winter Field Day?

Winter Field Day isn't a contest – it's an operating event.

Organized by the Winter Field Day Association (<https://www.winterfieldday.org/>), WFD challenges us to set up a temporary amateur radio station and make as many contacts as possible over a 30-hour period, starting at 1600 UTC Saturday January 24th (11:00 AM EST) and ending at 2159 UTC Sunday January 25th (4:59 PM EST).

The goal is simple: prove we can communicate effectively in challenging conditions.

Why Participate?

This event isn't just about logging QSOs; it's a fantastic learning experience.

Winter throws unique obstacles our way – short days, cold temperatures, and unpredictable weather. Successfully operating under these conditions builds confidence and prepares us for real-world emergency scenarios. It's also a great chance to test new equipment, experiment with different antenna configurations, and meet fellow hams!

Planning is Key: Let's Strategize!

To maximize our success (and fun!), let's start planning now. Here are some things to consider:

Station Setup: Think about your location. Will you be operating from a heated space, a tent, or fully exposed? Ensure safety is paramount – have backup power sources and appropriate clothing for the weather.

Winter Field Day 2026 - Continued

Antenna Selection: A variety of antenna types can be used! Dipoles are simple and effective, while Yagis offer directional gain. Consider vertical antennas if space is limited. Experimenting with different set-ups before WFD will help you optimize performance.

Power: Alternative power sources are a key objective this year, with specific requirements for laptops and HVAC equipment. Let's discuss options like generators, batteries, and solar power at our next club meeting.

Scoring Strategy: WFD is multi-objective. While making contacts is primary, bonus points are awarded for using alternative power, operating digital modes, engaging in public outreach, and completing other challenges. Review the official rules (<https://www.winterfieldday.org/>) – look for the “Rules” section) to understand how to maximize our score.

Logging: Accurate logging is crucial! Familiarize yourself with software options and ensure you're correctly recording the required exchange information.

New Operators: Don't Be Intimidated!

WFD is incredibly welcoming to newcomers. Experienced members will be on hand to provide guidance and support. We can pair new operators with mentors, help with setup, and assist with making contacts. We can operate on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands and all bands above 50 MHz using all modes, except WSJT. The Winter Field Day is an excellent event for operators of all experience levels to work with others, either solo or with clubs in the area building camaraderie and friendships along the way.

Let's make Winter Field Day 2026 a resounding success for the Titusville Amateur Radio Club! Start brainstorming ideas, coordinating equipment, and preparing your stations. Check out videos of past

events and history with these links:

History of WFD <https://winterfieldday.org/history.php>

WFD FAQ <https://winterfieldday.org/resources.php>

WHAT And WHY Is Winter Field Day On Ham Radio??? (HamRadioConcepts) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_sD51Kie2c

Stay warm, stay safe, and we look forward to hearing you on the air!

Gregory Hand

KK4LWB

**Dinner
Photos !**



President

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

TARC Special Annual Pot Luck Dinner / Welcome Back 'Snow-Bird' Members Meeting Minutes

10/28/2025 - 6PM EST

Masonic Lodge, 19N Washington Ave., Titusville, FL

Vice President

Keith DeSoto ~ KN4AQJ
vice.president@k4ksc.com

President, N6PDF, Called the meeting to order; 6 pm, followed by Vice President, KN4AQJ, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees and members introduce themselves.

Secretary

Stephanie Merritt ~ K4MVO
spmerrittflorida@yahoo.com

A Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for 9/23/2025, as printed in the newsletter, was made, seconded and unanimously approved. Our Treasurer Steve NA4SA was not in attendance, thus the report for this month will be pushed to next month's business meeting.

Treasurer

Steve Schindler ~ NA4SA
treasurer@k4ksc.com

President, N6PDF, thanked everyone for their contributions and hard work to the upcoming changes and improvements to our organization and then introduced Roy Merritt, N4RKM, to give a status report of the 501(c)3 application process and announced that it will be up and running by January 1 2026.

President, N6PDF, Our Upcoming Christmas Party on Dec 11th was announced, and that Stephanie has the \$1.00 Reservation Tickets for sale.



A Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn our business meeting. We dined and chatted for a good long while and finally cleaned up and locked-up at just about 8pm. A good time had by all!

Door Prizes donated by AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., were given out, and most everybody went home with something!

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