

# QRM de TARC

May 2003

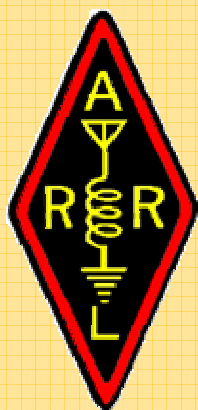
## Special Interest Articles:

- Letter from the President.
- Letter from the HF Director
- Letter from the VHF Director
- Repeater Status

## TARC Meeting Schedule:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday – HF Council
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday – VHF Council
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday – Technical
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday – Program night
- 5<sup>th</sup> Monday – General

Club opens 6:30 – Meetings 7:30



## Individual Highlights:

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## TARC Fest IX Smashes Records

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

In an era where hamfest attendance at most shows continues to shrink, TARCfest has once again shown a significant increase at the gate. TARCfest IX, held on April 19<sup>th</sup> was one for the record books, smashing more records than Rush Limbaugh in the Dixie Chicks section at Sam Goody's. There was some concern as to the effect that the Easter Bunny would have on TARCfest IX (this was the first time the holiday weekend

and TARCfest collided), the bunny was good to us with over 350 in attendance for the show, which featured a record 56 sellers, in addition to the record buyers. Splendid weather and great bargains conspired together to make IX extraordinary.

Dave Neubauer, K4FRQ of CGA Enterprises was all smiles as he reported to me that he had his best TARCfest as well. Dave even stated that he does better at TARCfest than many of the larger shows that he

attends. Before he and his family (and the family dog) left TARCfest he made sure we had coordinated the dates for the August event. Dave continues to be one of our strongest supporters, along with Dixie (aka the "Push Up Pole Lady") and her hubby Starface. This was 8 out of 9 for them, and Dixie won the ARRL Amateur Radio Handbook and was heard to say as she left, that she wanted to get her ticket and join our club. Friends like Dave and Dixie

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## Letter from the Chairman

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

What a great bunch you are! Two days after our most successful TARCfest ever, and there's a crowd of hams banging and sawing a drilling away at making horizontally polarized 2 meter beams at the clubhouse.

Years ago when the leadership of TARC and the Tampa Bay Amateur Radio Society (TBARS) were discussing the possibility of

being able to support and maintain the facility that we are in now on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Mike Fletcher, NI4M came up with the idea to move the TBARS monthly business meetings from Tuesday to Monday nights on the second Monday of the month. This would give us the TARC meeting the first Monday, the TBARS meetings the second Monday. The he went a step farther. "Let's meet every Monday night. That way, we

can say there is always something happening at the continued page 3



## Letter from the HF Director



We have a very interesting dichotomy in the Radio Room at the Clubhouse. Park yourself at one of the operating positions and you will be sitting in front of one of the best radios on the market today -- the Icom 756 Pro II. Now you have to understand one thing; I'm a confirmed Kenwood fan.

Don't ask me why. I just have always liked Kenwood radios. I've got one in the car and another in the house. So, for me to say that an Icom radio is better than a Kenwood takes quite a lot for me but it's true. This radio is a DX'ers dream. It has a vast array of bells and whistles that enhance any QSO. With just a few adjustments any signal that is even barely above the noise floor becomes armchair copy. Have a sked on 15 meters but you're working DX on 20? Not a problem with this radio and its 'dual watch' function. The "screen" is just that. A screen, which contains all the

information you need to operate the radio.

To the right of the Icom is the AM station. This consists of the DX-100 for a transmitter and the National HRO-50T receiver. What a contrast! In the age of radios that 'point and transmit', the AM station appears as time travel back into the 50's. And what a wonderful trip it is. With most of our radios today when we hear a station we wish to work it's just a matter of checking to make sure the antenna is tuned and then hit the PTT switch. It is not that easy with the tube radio station. When you find the station you need you have to move the VFO on the

transmitter to about 5 kc. or so away from the frequency checking, of course, to make sure that there isn't a QSO on that frequency. Then you begin to tune the transmitter using the 'peak the grid and dip the plate' method. Then tuning the receiver back to the frequency of your desired station you proceed to 'spot' the transmitter to match the frequency of the receiver. Once that is done you're ready to start the QSO. That's quite a difference between the two stations. Is the Icom station better than the DX-100 & HRO Receiver? It depends upon what you would consider better. In my mind absolutely not. Both stations have their place and both stations have their advantages. While I am impressed with what the Pro II is able to do, I also find it very rewarding and relaxing to sit back in the chair and talk to Jack KH6CC in Hawaii on ten meters AM as if he was sitting next to me. At the end of my conversation to just leisurely lean over and throw the switch on the transmitter and hear what he has to say is the most wonderful style of operating I know. It would seem all that is missing would be the crackling fireplace and your dog sitting at your feet. A real Norman Rockwell method of operating. That type of operating is what attracted me originally to ham radio and it has never left me.

So, whatever type of operating you like, we are able to offer it to you. We have an Open House at the Clubhouse every Sunday afternoon from about 2 to 5 pm. Hope to see you there.

## Letter from the VHF Director

By Bruce Orand – N4ZXXI

Coming this May 10<sup>th</sup>, we are planning on holding an ARECC Level 1 crash review and testing session. For those of you are not familiar with ARECC, it is the League's well thought out concept on how to provide communications in times of disaster, nets, and special events. In my opinion this is the best layed out structure for

teaching how to be a "communicator" yet. Even if you have been running nets or providing public service communications for years you should check into getting certified.

Get a hold of Gary Sessums about the book. Don't wait, our class will be a review, not instructional, then there is the test!



## Repeater Status

The '105 is running great and about to get better. We have approved the purchase of an analog delay device that will clear up the missing audio from the slow activations due to tone-squelch. So those of you who refuse to key for ½ second before you talk and insist on counting to make a point of how long it takes

will soon be pacified. So, stay tuned to the 105!

Also, the 440 machine will soon be on-line with the 105's old controller, and will be sporting the club call W4DUG.

Keep your radio's on! Good things are-a-coming!





## the Chairman's letter – continued.

clubhouse on Monday night.” And thus the Monday night tradition was born.

And so it was the Monday following TARCfest. This was a program night that had been planned by Picot, AG4JK and Keating, KC4HSI as a project night where everyone would build 2 meter yagis. Discussing the flurry of activity we had seen at the clubhouse moments earlier, Warren and I thought that this kind of program should be called a “Murphy Night”, not for the Murphy of Murphy’s law fame but rather in honor of Bud Murphy, AC4MY. Bud was a member of both of the old clubs, TARC and TBARS who used to describe himself on the air as 6 foot 5 with red hair, when in fact he could have looked in your belt buckle to tie his tie. He would say that his memory was good it just wasn’t that long.

Bud, who was a ham longer than I have been alive, often talked about giving back to the hobby. So Bud made us take 300 ohm TV lead-in wire and make dual band J poles from it. Bud ordered a dozen or so 80 meter QRP PSK31 kits, from his own money, and sold them to members at one of his building sessions where many assembled and tested those 80 meter “Warblers” under his watchful eye. Bud was in his 80’s then and he was still pushing us and giving back to the hobby he loved so much. Even though he has been a silent key for nearly two years, I felt the spirit of Bud Murphy there at our clubhouse on that project night, that Murphy Night.

A little of that spirit lives in all of us.

I am proud to report that as of TARCfest IX, less than three weeks after dues were

due, we have reached the 100 *paid* Member mark. Judging from the familiar names that are on the 58 name unpaid list, by the time of our next newsletter, TARC membership will be at an all time high. We embrace members from all walks of life, all socioeconomic backgrounds all brought together by our common interest – Amateur Radio. We all get something different from amateur radio, but we all get *something* from amateur radio. We all need to look for ways to give something back to the hobby for the things we have gotten from the hobby.

That’s why there’s always something going on at the clubhouse on Monday night.

## Bon Voyage to Our Friend

Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> was a special day for all of us in the Tampa Amateur Radio Club. Meeting at the Golden Corral Restaurant we bid a sad farewell to one of our most endearing members Heinz – DJ1HG.

Heinz, who has held a valid German Amateur license since the mid-fifties, added an international flair to our Club. Having been with us for the past four winters from his home in Munich, Germany, he probably qualified as being our “furthest to come snowbird”. Unfortunately for us, this was his last year to be with us in person.

Many of us found him to be a fascinating person to speak with. Heinz had been a radio operator during WWII for

the German Luftwaffe High Command and I remember one time listening to him and a veteran of our own forces during the War talking about their experiences from opposing sides. Heinz related how, when the officers were out of the area, they would tune over to the BBC to hear news from the outside.

There wasn’t a meeting that Heinz didn’t attend or an event that he did not participate in with TARC. In addition to his activities here at TARC, he was also a volunteer with the Museum of Science and Industry ham station having logged many hours demonstrating ham radio to those that visited the

museum.

At the last Board of Directors Meeting of TARC it was a unanimous vote to grant Heinz a lifetime membership in the Club along with a TARC mouse pad with the Club logo. While Heinz may not be with us physically, he is always reachable through his HamClub email address: [dj1hg@hamclub.org](mailto:dj1hg@hamclub.org)



## Dan Street to be Inducted

By Biff Craine, K4LAW

Dan Street is familiar to many of us in the contest business due to his win streak in the World Radio Sport Team Competition in San Francisco, Slovenia and Finland. Dan is the current President of the Florida Contest Group and was a guest speaker at TARC after his win in WRTC 2000 in Slovenia. Dan also is one of those guys that participates in Field Day with the Sarasota Emergency Radio Club (SERC) that we had been chasing until last year

when we chased them into the 3A category.

When Dan spoke to TARC fresh off his win in Slovenia, I introduced him as the best ham radio operator in the world. Now CQ has announced that K1TO will be one of two new additions to the Contest Hall of Fame inducted at the Contest Banquet in Dayton. Ken Keeler, N6RO will also be one of the 2003 inductees. Also officially receiving his Hall of Fame plaque will be Leif, OZ1LO who was elected last year but could

not attend. The official presentations will be made at the Dayton contest banquet on Saturday, May 17th.

A new member of the DX Hall of Fame is James Brooks, 9V1YC. In addition to supporting/attending many rare DXpeditions, James has uniquely contributed his expertise to create video documentaries, thus bringing the DX experience to a wide audience. We have the documentary on WRTC 2002 from Finland produced by James which we will be showing at an upcoming club meeting.

*...two new additions to the Contest Hall of Fame...*

## Hams Abound on UN World Food Program's Iraq "Fast Intervention Team"



From the ARRL Letter

Several radio amateurs--including some of the world's top operators--are among United Nations World Food Program (WFP) "Fast Intervention Team" (FITTEST) personnel already in Iraq or poised nearby and expected to be inside the war-ravaged country very soon. FITTEST is responsible for building technical infrastructure to ensure WFP can move relief food supplies rapidly and

safely. Any ham radio operations would be secondary to the WFP's efforts in Iraq, however.

Peter Casier, ON6TT--who's expected in Baghdad as early as next week--says the WFP will have a critical role in the post-conflict era in Iraq "where 60 percent of the population is dependent on external food aid." In ham radio circles, Casier may be better-known as a top tester and one the operators of Afghanistan's YA5T after the US-led military action there in 2001.

Other YA5T alumni expected to soon be in Iraq as part of the WFP effort include Robert Kasca, S53R--the last UN international staff person evacuated from Iraq before the conflict--Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, and Mats Persson, SM7PKK. Casier and Demeuleneere paired up at World Radios port Team Championship (WRTC) events in 2000 and 2002. Kasca was director of competition for WRTC 2000. Casier says he, Kasca and Dane Novarlic, S57CQ, were on the air from Iraq until just before the war broke out. Casier reports that Diya Sayah, YI1DZ--one of the primary operators at the Baghdad Radio Club's YI1BGD and the WFP's Baghdad telecommunications officer--is safe and well in Iraq.

FITTEST also has a mandate to install or build basic technical networks, Casier said, including such systems as VHF repeaters, satellite communications and

HF fixed and mobile stations. The team also will set up radio rooms, rework administrative procedures, and assign call signs for all UN humanitarian-aid workers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)--other international aid organizations.

Others ready to go include Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, who's in Turkey. Until last November Giorgadze had operated from North Korea as P5/4L4FN while on a WFP assignment in Pyongyang. Patrick Pointu, F5ORF, and Mark Tell, VK4KMT, among several other FITTEST team members who are radio amateurs.

The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> reported this week that Willie Mohny, YI/KV4EB, has been operating daily on 15 meters at or around 21.270 MHz, moving to 20 meters--perhaps around 14.255.



## Beam me up to the TARC Clubhouse

One recent balmy Tampa night, the denizens of the Tampa Amateur Radio Club descended on their clubhouse, with a simple mission in mind: build a 2-Meter Beam Antenna!

Hosted by TARC, and moderated by Keating (KC4HSI) and Picot (AG4JK) Floyd, the TARC family cut out, drilled, poked and sawed their way through creating enough 2-meter 2-element yagi antennas to provide 17 families with something new to save their money for: a new 2-meter Sideband radio!

Warren (W1GUD) Ely, who has been hosting a Sideband (SSB) net on 144.210 Tuesday nights after the regularly scheduled TARCnet, inspired this project. This SSB net has been going great guns, but something was missing. Many people were checking in, but their signals had problems, as the only antenna available was a 2-meter vertically polarized antenna. Conversations ensued between various TARC members, and Keating and Picot gathered the materials for a Monday night program.

The antenna proved simple to build, with only the standard set of hand tools needed. A drill press came in handy, and Bart (AF4TK) Houser was a lifesaver with his Heat Gun. There was a lot of laughter, and good-natured fun as the jostling for the one hacksaw began. Fortunately, Ed (W7LGD) Hohenthaner had a hacksaw with him, and the group only fought over two hacksaws. Ken (N4TCP) Salhoff was determined to be the first one finished. In his enthusiasm, he had to be sent back to the measuring table 2 times! Even so, he was one of the first ones finished, and his antenna came out with a 1-to-1.45 SWR. Never let it be said that amateur radio is a man's-only hobby, either - Kathy (KG4WKN) Pence and Carrie (KG4HPJ)Wenholz each made antennas of their own. Ron (KC4HAY) Morgan and Bart (AF4TK) Houser proved handy with the antenna analyzer, so kindly provided by Carl (K4YI) Lemay.

The materials are all available from Home Depot and Lowe's home improvement centers, and came to under \$10 per

antenna, purchased from those outlets.

Keating and Picot discovered these plans on the Internet, and built one several months ago. These links may help you discover how to do this at YOUR next program night!

<http://ac3l.com/tiny2.htm>

<http://ac3l.com/undconst.htm>

<http://ac3l.com/tiny3.htm>

<http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety>

<http://www.rohnnet.com/rohnnet2001/catalog/pdfs/SafetyBroch.pdf>

(Adobe Acrobat required. Available from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/>)

The TARC family has named these get-together-and-build-something-cool nights "budmurphies," in honor of Bud (AC4MY) Murphy, now sadly a Silent Key. Bud was famous for project nights, bringing people together to build something. We look forward to many more of these budmurphies, whether for a different antenna project, or even that new 2-meter Sideband radio.

## The New TARC IC-756PROII and You!

By Warren Elly – W1GUD

Are you ready for a whole new dimension in Ham Radio? It's arrived at the TARC Clubhouse in the form of the most advanced Amateur Radio Transceiver now available. You will control the horizontal. You will control the vertical.

Not only do you hear the signals clearly, but you can see them too! The PRO series is the only ham transceiver with a true, real time spectrum scope, allowing the operator to simply switch through the bands and see instantly if a band is open or closed! Need to find a hole in the QRM to call that FQP Contest CQ from the clubhouse? There's one right there on the scope! Want to

view the waveform of the PRO's output? Its right there on transmit on the spectrum scope.

This newest version of the PRO offers a wide range of tools that literally allow the operator to slice a signal like your grandfather used to do to an apple with his pocketknife. By the time you get to the core, you can hear signals others can't.

At the heart of all this is DSP digital signal processing. Not a new concept, but there has never been a more powerful DSP than this one. First of all it's a 32 bit processor, and the sensitivity and dynamic range of this receiver is indescribably delicious.

Other features, full function Digital Voice recorder and



playback. Adjustable Digital Noise Blanker that can even tame the infamous TARC clubhouse QRM. Automatic and Manual Digital Notch Filtering...you can null an adjacent CW signal!!! (a very big deal if you are a CW person).

Bottom line is that the HF council has provided an incredible state of the art collection of radios...and the PROII is at the core of that

upgrade. With the wonderful work the propeller heads have been doing, we will soon be controlling the radios, including the PROII, Rotator, and Logging completely by computer.

The bottom line is, if you want to get on the air with the very latest technology...or just operate a 1950s Boat Anchor rig...the TARC Clubhouse is, well, "Simply the Best".





## Hamvention Announces 2003 Award Winners

From the ARRL Letter

Hamvention has named the winners of its 2003 Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement and Technical Excellence awards. Well-known contester Larry "Tree" Tyree, N6TR, will receive Hamvention's 2003 Amateur of the Year Award. Tyree is the creator, organizer, and promoter of the successful Kid's Day

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>--

now administered by the ARRL. Kid's Day is an operating activity designed to give young people a chance to experience Amateur Radio firsthand and possibly inspire them to become licensees. Tyree also developed the popular TR-LOG contest logging software. A ham since 1967, Tyree lives in Boring, Oregon, with his wife and three daughters.

"I hope to be able to use this to help encourage

others to encourage young people to join our hobby," Tyree commented. "Obviously the help the ARRL has given me by taking over the event has been part of the success that enabled this [award]." The award to Tyree is in line with Hamvention's 2003 theme, "Year of the Youth." The show, May 16-18 at Hara Arena near Dayton, Ohio, will be on young hams and on attracting 12 to 18-year olds into Amateur Radio.

Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, is the winner of Hamvention's 2003 Special Achievement Award. Taylor developed the Internet-linking program called EchoLink and the repeater-control program called EchoStation. EchoLink allows amateur stations to connect with each other via the Internet to expand repeater and simplex coverage and to provide Amateur Radio operators with access from their PCs.

Hamvention's 2003 Technical Achievement Award goes to Dr Steve Dimse, K4HG, of Cudjoe Key, Florida. Dimse was behind the development of the global Automated Position Reporting System (APRS) Internet network <http://www.aprs.net/> that links more than 20,000 APRS operators around the world. Dimse also wrote the findU global database software <http://www.findu.com>, and he helped form the Citizens Weather Service (CWS).

Awards will be presented at an award winners' reception at Hara Arena May 17.

Hamvention 2003 also recognized the contributions of several Silent Keys to Amateur Radio. Those recognized include the crew of the shuttle Columbia STS-107 mission, which included three Amateur Radio licensees.

Other Silent Keys honored included ham radio author Joe Carr, K4IPV; inventor Al Gross, W8PAL; ham radio author Bill Orr, W6SAI; and ham radio volunteer and Elmer Ernie Hudson, K18O.

## Two-Ham Crew Launched to International Space Station

Space veterans Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ are headed to the International Space Station to assume the reins of the International Space Station (ISS) as its Expedition 7 crew.

Commander Malenchenko, 41, and Science Officer Lu, 39, are the first two-person ISS crew and the first primary crew to travel to the space station on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

Their Soyuz TMA-2 vehicle was successfully launched April 26, at 0354z from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Originally scheduled to return in March aboard the space shuttle Atlantis, Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT will return to Earth aboard the Soyuz TMA-1 craft that's

now attached to the space station. They're scheduled to land on May 3 in Kazakhstan.

Expedition 6 has been in space since November 23. Malenchenko and Lu will remain in space until October, when a new crew will be sent up. They are expected to continue School contacts, and occasional random QSOs on 2meter FM.



*CQ Space Station  
CQ Space Station....*

## DXCC to Accept Iraq Portable Operations by Commanding Officers

From the ARRL Letter

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the League will accept for DXCC credit YI/ operations from Iraq by US or British military personnel provided the operator has written permission from his or her commanding officer.

"There is precedent for this," Mills said, citing an operation during the 1991 Gulf War. "These operators will need written authorization to

operate from their commanding officers until an interim Iraqi civilian government is in place," Mills said. After that point, operators would need documented permission from Iraqi authorities.

The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> has reported that several hams with the US military in Iraq have been showing up on the air in recent days. Mark Smith, NG5L, has been active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around

0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz. He's also been spotted in Europe and North America on other 20-meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith is in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Jim Dunkerton, YI/KT4CK, has been active on 15-meter SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. Dunkerton is believed to be with the 101st Airborne. Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ/K4CY, reportedly has been on the air from Iraq as K4CY/p or K4CY/m. Other hams

are known to be in Iraq but have not yet been reported on the air.

Still not known is whether Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN--now in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation last fall--will be on a United Nations World Food Program assignment inside Iraq in the near future. That could depend in part on how big a role the UN plays in rebuilding Iraq.



## KB3DYO Silent Key

By Biff Craine – K4LAW

*Our friend Linda, KB3DYO, died due to complications from heart surgery. Linda was a regular at TARC, even though she had to drive across the bay from Pinellas. She often stayed for the meeting after the meeting. Linda was looking forward to her recovery time and had vowed to study the code while recovering. While she did not talk much about her condition, in March she shared these thoughts.*

*"Thanks for letting me keep the code box a little longer. I was born with a congenital heart condition, and had surgery about 15 years ago, and I thought that would be it. I've been kinda overwhelmed with this, because I have been so healthy.*

*My parents are here, and my father is taking care of things and researching the credentials of the surgeons that will be performing the surgery. He is a "team of one" -- no one messes with my father! My mother has been waiting on me and fixing anything I want to eat. I'm in good hands. So, recuperation will be spent on getting "unspoiled". :)*

*The surgery will be done at All Children's Hospital. It's kinda risky, but I am not afraid -- I'm Tough! I don't know the exact date.*

*I have missed all you "Ham Goons", but "I'll be back" (to quote Arnold Schwarzenegger)."*

*I am sure all us Ham Goons will miss her too.*

## Musical Ham on the Run

From the ARRL Letter

Internationally known pianist Martin Berkofsky, KC3RE, has made it into Kansas on his 860-mile run to Chicago. A cancer survivor, Berkofsky is celebrating his recovery and raising money for Tulsa's Cancer Treatment Research Foundation (CTRF) [www.ctrf.org/](http://www.ctrf.org/) with his CelebrateLifeRun [www.celebrateliferun.com/](http://www.celebrateliferun.com/)

Berkofsky left Tulsa April 8, his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. "Holding up wonderfully," Berkofsky reports. "The best day was 12.9 miles." He said he's now out of range of the Oklahoma UHF "Super System," where he enjoyed many nice QSOs and had some stations checking in with him daily as the run progressed. Joni Shulman, CTRF's director of

programs, said Berkofsky still needs places to stay and spotters to watch out for him along his route. He also enjoys having others run with him.

Berkofsky is using APRS to radio his position at least on a daily basis, and he can be tracked on the Web via the findu.com site [www.findu.com](http://www.findu.com).

## TARC Fest X is a Reality!

By Bruce Orand – n4zxi

It's official! TARC Fest X is now registered with the ARRL. And on August 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be hosting Tampa's Friendliest Hamfest!

Tickets at the gate will still be \$2 per person  
\$3 for tail-gate space  
\$15 per table for space inside the main hall

Make your reservation's early, vendors are welcome

Location will again be at the TARC Club house, located 7801 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Tampa, FL

Details and directions are located on the club's web-site [www.hamclub.org](http://www.hamclub.org).



As with TARC Fest IX, we will also be hold a test session for upgrades and new licenses at the conclusion of the selling around 1:00 to 1:30 pm.

If you have missed all the prior TARC Fest, then you really must mark your

calendar and plan on attending. It's always a lot of fun! And with over 350 attendees during TARC Fest IX, we have a few new records to break!

For table reservations and vendor information contact Biff Craine – [k4law@arrl.net](mailto:k4law@arrl.net)





**Tampa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
HF Council W4DUG  
VHF/UHF Council N4TP  
Post Office Box 11933  
Tampa, FL 33680

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Class   N  T  T+  G  A  E  

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1<sup>st</sup> licensed \_\_\_\_\_ Member ARRL Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter desired password for your HamClub.org e-mail account \_\_\_\_\_ (already have one) \_\_\_\_\_

We are in need of people to teach and/or take classes, operate out of the clubhouse during contests and on weekends, operate during emergencies, and just help out around the club. If you think you can be available for any of these or other activities please mark them below. Thank you.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code Proficiency        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theory Training          | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Code            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TVI/BCI                 | <input type="checkbox"/> VE Program               | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining Equipment    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas                | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Talks/Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Club Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities Coordinator   | <input type="checkbox"/> News Letter Editor       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Building        | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Author               | <input type="checkbox"/> CW                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSB                     | <input type="checkbox"/> QRP                      | <input type="checkbox"/> DX                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting              | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Handling         | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Modes           | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeaters                | <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF Multi-Mode       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSTV/ATV                | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> EME                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Band Operations   | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Communications  |   |

Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Tampa Amateur Radio Club

TARC  
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Tampa, FL

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*Amateur Radio for  
the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

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## Florida QSO Party - 2003

By Jim Gerhart – WA3DIT

The last weekend in April was the occasion of the Florida QSO Party. This contest is one of the most popular QSO party contests. It's fun for those of us who live in Florida because it's one of the times that we can experience a pile-up -- on us! Our primary purposes of operating the contest were to give some exposure to new hams on the ways of contesting and to work through some equipment needs. We should have the

results of our efforts after the log has been compiled.

The band conditions for the contest were horrible. The only band that was usable was 20 meters and 95% of all contacts were made on that band. There were a few contacts on 15 meters but 40 & 10 meters sounded like the antennas had fallen down. We can only hope that we don't have a repeat for Field Day. The only advantage is that everyone was subjected to the same conditions. But even though conditions were

difficult there were only a few sections that were missed and stations were logged from England, Germany, Hungary, Croatia, and Spain.

The Icom 756 ProII performed beautifully. The built-in voice keyer makes contesting so much easier on the voice. I estimate that it reduced the "tongue-tied syndrome" by 90%. We've got some great ideas that we will be able to implement for Field Day.

### *About TARC...*

The Tampa Amateur Radio club is focused on the growth and development of ham operators in the hobby and in the support of our local, national and international emergency communication needs.

## TARC Fest IX continued

help make TARCfest the success it has become.

For a brief time I thought I was seeing an old German ghost haunting the clubhouse grounds. While standing in the front yard, I spotted Heinz, DJ1HG coming around the corner and I thought I had had one to many Kathy burgers. Heinz explained the snafu with is lost passport had prevented his travel, as scheduled earlier in the week. I think he faked the whole thing just to stick around for the TARCfest.

A special thanks to all of you who worked on putting this successful event together, including but certainly not limited to Bruce, N4ZXI; Keating, KC4HSI; Picot, AG4JK; Joe KF4MJO; Don, KG4HBC and Bill, N4WEB who handled the mad rush of tailgaters who were once again standing in line at 6:00 am. 37 inside the fence and 19 outside

the fence. Beat our best by 18 tailgaters. And what tremendous deals were out there under the shade trees. Praise once again goes to Chef Kathy, KG4KYJ, Sous Chef Mark, N4SEX and first-timer Patty, N0CALLYET for the outstanding food. If you haven't tried one of Kathy's Chef Special's -- genuine Italian sausage, peppers and onions, you have missed out. Ron, KC4HAY put all the final touches on the clubhouse, secured the place overnight by camping out there to accommodate early set up for inside vendors and was largely responsible for making the clubhouse look like we had 35 rather than 350 people through the door.

The Thursday night cleanup crew was great getting all the inside and outside clean and pretty...and getting to the bottom of the missing table

caper. There were so many down there I am afraid to begin listing everyone for fear of leaving someone out.

TARCfest has become, in just a few short years, a bay area tradition. This is simply an old fashion good time. Just a bunch of hams having a great time, swapping stories and ham gear on a perfect spring morning. I cannot tell you how many positive comments I heard that morning and in subsequent, unsolicited emails. The comment I think I liked the most was, "Your club really knows how to do things right!" These sentiments along with the looks on the faces of visitors who have never seen our radio room, the smiles and sore backs from carrying equipment to the car and the money we raise for our toys at this event should make all of us proud. We do things right at TARC.