



WA4GDN

NEWSLETTER

www.gulfcoastarc.com



Vol. 1, Issue #5 **AUGUST 2023**

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Hello all again. I hope you are enjoying this nice hot weather we are having. I do hope you all are staying cool indoors. The weather should be changing soon, hang in there. Well we still have a hamfest coming up in October. Hope all will help in some way or another. Remember more hands means less work. The date is going to be Oct 7th. Along with the hamfest we will have VE testing. Contact Al at AJ4JA@icloud.com. The testing time will be around 10 am.

We have a UPS on the 67 repeater now so hope it won't be off the air and it will be somewhat more protected. We have new hams on the repeater so if you hear them say hello. Make them feel welcome. I do and try to say hello and make them feel at home. The other repeater, 33, in LOL will also have a UPS soon. Coming soon our 440 repeater will be heard. It is at Al's house, AJ4JA. The freq is 444.650 pl 146.2 or tone as some radios call it. It is on the air now, but the coverage is same area around Hidden Lakes on Ridge Rd. Soon we will be linking the 33 to the 67 which has the 135 link to it already.

Coming in September POTA on the 23rd. The club will be at Starkey Park. So keep that date open and come out and join us. The time will be 8 to noon. More details to come. The club luncheons are moving right along. August's will be at Franks in Hudson. Contact Chris, KC3CJU@gmail.com if you are attending so we can get a head count. Don't forget about the nets we have. On Monday we have digital net, On Tues is our weekly net the announcements and other thing, Wed is the ARES net, Thur is on HF at 28.430usb. All nets start at 7:30 ET. The Monday and Thursday net are a little light, so come join us. Remember don't be afraid to key the mic and say hello. 73 until next month Barry N2NVP

DOG DAYS of SUMMER!

August, the "dog days of summer"! Hope everyone is enjoying their summer activities. Just a reminder, the schools will be reopening locally this month, keep alert for the busses and kids walking along the side of the road. In an effort to bring some consistency between the website and the newsletter I have changed the format of the "Calander of events" pages here. If anyone has any thoughts about the change please let me know. I constantly seek feedback from our members and attempt to implement your ideas and suggestions. Remember, this is the "club's" newsletter and the "members" are the club!

What's up with the sun? Seems to be a lot of activity lately. Some scientists think there may be a peak in this cycle sooner than expected. I have included in this issue an article from Space.com. There are many articles around the "interwebs" about the effects of the recent activity on HAM Radio. You should check those out!

Next month the club will hold a POTA Activation at Starkey Park. Any club member may participate. I am looking forward to this event and I hope we get a large turnout for this event!

If anyone has any thoughts or ideas on activities the club can hold such as antenna building, soldering classes, radio programing anything like that, please share them.

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club Operating Event

SAVE THE DATE for the club's first



ACTIVATION!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

8:00am til Noon



The Goals for this event are :

- ◆ Allow club members who currently hold a Technician class license an opportunity to operate on some new bands with expanded HF privileges.
- ◆ Allow club members who currently don't own HF equipment an opportunity to operate on HF bands.
- ◆ Allow club members who are new and have limited operating experience, an opportunity to gain some on-the-air experience.

NewsUpdate

From ARRL.org

Commercial Interests Petition FCC for High Power Allocation on Shortwave Spectrum

[Updated 7/18/2023]

7/11/2023

The ad hoc group "Shortwave Modernization Coalition" petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 – 25 MHz range with up to 20 KW, including in bands immediately adjacent to spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is treating the petition as a subject of concern for its members and the greater Amateur Radio Service. ARRL Laboratory staff are studying the matter from a technical standpoint, including analysis of transmitted signals potentially interfering with Amateur Radio communications on Amateur Radio spectrum. The results from this expert review are being finalized and will inform ARRL's filed comments on the matter.

The FCC has assigned the petition RM-11953. Comments are due by July 31, 2023, and reply comments by August 15. While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed.

A copy of the petition is at: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1> (PDF).

From Amateur Radio Daily by K4HCK

ARRL Board Votes to Increase Membership Dues for 2024

July 26, 2023

The ARRL board has voted to increase membership dues starting January 1st. In addition, members will be required to pay \$25 on top of the membership dues in order to continue receiving printed copies of ARRL magazines such as *QST* and *On the Air*.

ARRL President Rick Roderick called the dues increase "a necessary part of ensuring ARRL is supported so we can continue to promote and fight hard for our Amateur Radio Service..."



An image of sunspots dotting the face of the sun on July 3, 2023 as imaged by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. (Image credit: NASA/SDO)

Sun blasts out powerful X-class solar flare causing radio blackouts on Earth

The solar flare erupted from a sunspot seven times the width of the Earth.

A giant sunspot exploded on Sunday, July 2, creating a powerful solar flare that lashed Earth's atmosphere and caused a radio blackout over parts of the U.S. and the Pacific Ocean.

The [solar flare](#) erupted from the sunspot AR3354 which is seven times the width of the Earth. The flare which blasted out of the sun at 15:14 EDT (1914 GMT), was seen as a bright ultraviolet flash by NASA's [Solar Dynamic Observatory](#) (SDO). It was classified as an X-flare, the strongest type of solar flare that exists.

[Spaceweather.com reports](#) that radiation from the flare ionized the top of [Earth's atmosphere](#), resulting in a deep shortwave radio blackout over western parts of the U.S. and the Pacific Ocean that lasted around 30 minutes. Solar physicist Keith Strong shared stunning footage of the flare on Twitter, [writing](#) "X FLARE IN PROGRESS!!! Sunspot region AR3354 near the NW limb just produced an X1.07 Flare (between the 10th and 14th biggest flare so far, this solar cycle). That is the 18th X flare during SC25 [Solar cycle 25, the current solar cycle] (compared to just 14 from SC24)."

Strong also pointed out on Twitter that June 2023 marked the highest monthly average for sunspot numbers in 21 years. In a separate tweet, the solar physicist [wrote](#) that June 2023 marked the "HIGHEST MONTHLY AVERAGED SUNSPOT NUMBER SINCE SEPTEMBER 2002! The June 2023 SNN was 163.4 the highest value for over 20 years. The CM model is now forecasting a peak for SC25 of just under 200, the CM model at 125 (SC42 was 116). Any Grand Solar Minimum believers left out there?"

Solar flares are created when magnetic fields around sunspots become tangled, break, and then reconnect, a process called reconnection. This footage of this flare appears to show that it was helped along by a plume of plasma, causing magnetized material to land on sunspot AR3354.

Flares are grouped according to their strength, with the smallest flares called B-flares, which are followed by C-flares, then M-flares. The strongest class of solar flares are X-flares like that which was seen from AR3354 on Sunday.

Solar flare classes increase in strength by magnitude, much as the Richter scale ranks earthquakes. That means that an X-class flare is ten times the strength of a M-class flare, and is 1,000 more powerful than a B-class flare.

Long-lasting flares such as this one are sometimes accompanied by [coronal mass ejections](#) (CMEs), events in which magnetic fields lash out a huge amount of stellar material in the form of plasma shooting out from the sun.

Though Sunday's X-flare was long-lasting enough to trigger a CME, sun observatories have yet to see a significant ejection of plasma associated with either this flare or the sunspot AR3354

GCARC CLUB LUNCHEON

FRANK'S RESTAURANT

12925 US-19, HUDSON, FL 34667



RSVP TO CHRIS:

kc3cju@gmail.com

AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		LICENSE EXAM SESSION 10:00am Apoinment Only aj4ja@icloud.com
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		CLUB LUNCHEON FRANK'S RESTAURANT 12NOON
27	28	29	30	31		
	GCARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00pm	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		

NOTES:

- * August 12, Exam Testing contact Al at aj4ja@icloud.com for reservation and further info.
- * Monthly membership meeting is scheduled for the 28th at 7:00pm at Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge rd. Port Richey
- * Club luncheon is scheduled for noon on the 26th at Frank's Restaurant, 15925 US-19, Hudson, FL 34667.

Always check the website and our facebook page for any changes in times or dates for club events!

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		LICENSE EXAM SESSION 10:00am Apoinment Only aj4ja@icloud.com	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	FUSION RAG CHEW NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB		WA4GDN POTA ACTIVATION 8AM-12NOON STARKEY PARK	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	GCARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:00pm	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	10 METER HF NET 7:30pm 28.430Mhz USB			

NOTES:

- ◆ Highlight of this month will be the club's first POTA Activation at Starkey Wilderness Park. This is an opportunity for any club member to make HF POTA contacts. Don't miss this!
- ◆ Exam Session scheduled for the 9th, contact Al, aj4ja@icloud.com.
- ◆ Membership meeting on the 25th 7:00pm Millennium Academy.
- ◆ Club luncheon for September has not yet been scheduled!

As always keep abreast of any updates or changes at the website or facebook!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME / CALL	BOARD POSITION	EMAIL
Barry Keaveny, N2NVP	President	keavbv@msn.com
Kevin McConn, KO4RIK	Vice-President	ko4rik@gmail.com
Ralph McCullough, WA3YFQ	Secretary	wa3yfq1@gmail.com
Maureen Keaveny, KB2QNK	Treasurer	keavme50@outlook.com
Chris McCullough, KC3CJU	Director	kc3cju@gmail.com
Mark Toussaint, N1MT	Director	n1mt@arrl.net

GCARC NETS

On **Monday** nights at 7:30pm we hold a “**system fusion**” net on the WA4GDN repeater at 146.670. We discuss all Amateur Radio topics, with an emphasis on the various Digital modes and beyond.

On **Tuesday** nights at 7:30pm we hold a **trader’s and general information net** on the WA4GDN repeater at 146.670. If you have an amateur radio related item to buy, sell, trade, or want, you may list it here. All brief amateur related announcements may be made here.

On **Thursday** nights at 7:30 pm the GCARC club holds a **10 meter HF net**. 10 Meters HF – 28.430 MHz SSB (USB). The purpose is to promote activity on the 10 meter band (especially during low sunspot activity). To give technician class operators an opportunity to operate phone, and to provide a venue for conversation and experimentation with antenna and ground wave propagation.

CLUB REPEATERS

New Port Richey 146.670/146.070 MHz PL Tone – 146.2 Hz Yaesu System Fusion Capable	Land O Lakes 145.330/144.730 MHz PL Tone – 146.2 Hz Yaesu System Fusion Capable
---	--

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & DUES

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club has Regular memberships available for licensed hams, Junior memberships for licensed hams under the age of 18, Family memberships for all family members residing at the same address, and Associate memberships for those not yet licensed. Membership runs for 12 months, beginning on January 1 and ends December 31.

For more information, you can contact Mark Toussaint at membership@gulfcoastarc.com. There is also a downloadable membership application on the website, gulfcoastarc.com/membership !

Regular & Associate Membership* \$25 Junior Membership \$15 Family Membership* \$30

- Associate & Family members who are non-licensed hams will not be granted voting privileges or have the privilege to serve on the board.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A NET CONTROLLER?

The club is looking for members to be **Net Controllers**

The Tuesday Night Net is an important function of the GCARC, and the Nets must have a controller to keep the flow of information orderly. Right now we need more Net Controllers, so the same few people aren't holding the Nets week after week.

Being a Net Controller is fun, you get to practice your on-the-air skills, and you get to use your radio equipment in a live exercise. And you are helping the club by donating about 30 minutes of your time for maybe one night a month. You will even be furnished scripted dialogue, so you don't have to ad lib.

If you are a member in good standing, and you have a radio rig that can reach the club repeater clearly and reliably, you can let us know if you'd like to be a Net controller by several means: you can post a message on our Facebook site, or send us a message through the "contact us" link on the web site, or just say so during a Net.

Please give it some thought. We'd love to have you join us as a Net Controller.

Nick

KN4IKR

stewartnick@erols.com

PASCO COUNTY ARES & SKYWARN NET



Wednesday at 7:30 PM.
146.670 GCARC Port Richey
147.135 Pasco County ARES Dade City
- All have PL-146.2

