



The Club's Christmas party was held on December 2nd at the Academy. It began with President elect Mark Toussaint calling to order a "special" board meeting for the newly elected board members to be sworn in. Secretary Ralph McCullough swore in, Mark Toussaint, President, Garry LaMunion Treasurer, director Chris McCullough and Barry Keaveny past president!

Following that we enjoyed some great BBQ catered by Mission BBQ, Brisket, pulled Chicken and Pork with sides! Members brought a plethora of desserts!

After the meal, Pam LaMunion hosted the "party games"! Everyone laughed and had a good time until the serious part, the "UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER" contest! Truly, I was not going for the "ugliest", just the most OUTRAGEOUS AND I GUESS THE "Elf Hat" put me over the top!



We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Al & Lori Ekblad for their continuing generosity in providing us use of the Academy whenever we need it. Weather it be for meetings, testing, field days or Christmas parties! The Academy is collecting winter jackets to send to Ukraine. If you have any used, adult sized winter jackets, gloves or hats to donate, you can drop them off at the academy before December 21st. This is a chance for us to give back, if you can help, please do!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024

And with that, we roll on out of 2023 and into the Christmas holiday and a New Year! For all that are traveling to spend the Holidays with Family and friends please drive carefully if you are driving if not I hope your travels are STRESS free on all other modes of transportation!

My wife and I will be traveling to the northeast as we have done every year since we moved here. Although I no longer tolerate the cold and the snow there is no better place to spend Christmas than in New England with our family.

January's Newsletter will be done from the road and distributed a few days into the new year. If you have content please email me at chuck5kaz@gmail.com, be patient for a response since I will be on the road for some of that time.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEWYEAR TO ALL

73





Common Tuner, Common Problem

By Mark Toussaint, N1MT

Many of today's radios have built in tuners but older ham gear typically did not come with built in antenna tuners. I operate a Ten Tec Omni 6+ which falls into that category of not having an internal tuner. A few years back at a local ham fest, I saw a MFJ high power tuner that uses a roller inductor. The model was the 989B, it has the cross needle design for forward and reflected power. The sticker on the top of the unit said "Bad meter, not working". I figured I'd take a chance on it and I was able to pick up the tuner for \$30. After bringing it home and hooking it up, what I found was the forward power meter was working but the reflected power meter had no movement. I opened it up and started trouble shooting and what I found was the Schottky diode in the reflected power meter circuit had low resistance both ways. A diode acts as an electronic switch, with polarity one way, it allows current flow and with polarity the other way, it doesn't. Because mine had low resistance both ways, I replaced it with another 1N34A Schottky diode. I hooked the antenna tuner back up and the tuner and meter worked great. Come to find out, after doing some searching on the internet, this is a common problem with MFJ tuners. From what I read, the diodes are easily damaged by operators pushing the tuner power limits or even static electricity from lightning storms. Since then, I have picked up two other MFJ tuners, with similar problems, and have repaired them by making similar fixes.

The repair is simple. All you will need is a soldering iron, a VOM meter, and a replacement 1N34A diode which I purchased a pack of 20 for \$6. Because MFJ has sold many, many tuners over the years, and knowing they are commonly found for sale online and at ham fests, I thought passing this repair tip along might be helpful. If you have a MFJ tuner with this problem, let me know, I have extra diodes and I'd be happy to help you with the repair. 73 and Merry Christmas.



If any member is interested, the club has radios it is willing to loan out! If you are licensed and have not purchased a radio yet and would like to make some contacts, contact any board member for information on borrowing a radio from the club!

Next testing date is Saturday December 9th at 10:00am. Anyone interested in taking the Technician test or upgrading to General or Extra, please contact Al at AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM!

January test date will be the 13th at 10:00am.







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						GCARC CHRISTMAS PARTY 2:00PM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	YAESU FUSION 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		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	YAESU FUSION 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
	YAESU FUSION 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		
24	25	26	27	26	29	30
31						

Testing for December will be held on the 9th at 10:00am please contact Al at AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM!

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

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	YAESU FUSION 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		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	YAESU FUSION 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		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	YAESU FUSION 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		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	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		
28	29	30	31			
	YAESU FUSION NET 7:30PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC TRADER & INFO NET 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	ARES & Skywarn Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz			

Winter Field Day will take place on the 27th and 28th of January. Cochairs for this event are Mark Toussaint N1MT, Kevin McConn KO4RIK and Chuck Martin KA4CEM. If you can help with this event please let anyone of them know. The actual event starts on Saturday at 2:00pm and runs for 24hrs. Help is appreciated and needed Saturday morning around 9am for setup and especially Sunday afternoon 2pm for breakdown! Check the website or FB page closer to the event for exact times the cochairs would like your help!

Fox Hunt January 20th 10:00am

Testing for January will be held on the 13th at 10:00am please contact AI at AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM!

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.

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

The Club held a “Fox Hunt” in November. The “FOX” (Al aj4ja), decided to throw us “hunters” a curve and hide the transmitter not in a public “park” but a public “place” ie a “Publix parking lot. The problem with a public place is, well, it’s public! You can not always control what the public does. Shortly after placement, a large rv parked in close proximity to the xmtr. This acted as a huge reflector intensifying the signal into a nearby public park where some of us suspected it was to begin with. However it didn’t fool Kevin McConn ,k04rik, who was the first to find the transmitter.

We are going to schedule another Fox Hunt, probably the second half of February, check out the website and our FB page for further details!



****2024 DUES are DUE!****

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME / CALL	BOARD POSITION	EMAIL
Mark Toussaint, N1MT	President	n1mt@arrl.net
Kevin McConn, KO4RIK	Vice-President	ko4rik@gmail.com
Ralph McCullough, WA3YFQ	Secretary	wa3yfq1@gmail.com
Gary LaMunion, W8GLL	Treasurer	skysea3200@gmail.com
Chris McCullough, KC3CJU	Director	kc3cju@gmail.com
Barry Keaveny, N2NVP	Past President	keavbv@msn.com

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

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

