



GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ***Newsletter***

www.gulfcoastarc.com

June 2025

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

At our May membership meeting, Nico Maldonado made an excellent presentation on building a dipole antenna from the motor windings of an old vacuum. Instead of spending \$50 on a commercially available 28MHz dipole, Nico used skills like resourcefulness, creativity, innovation, and imagination to make a very sound performing dipole. I can only imagine its performance if it was mounted at 30 or 40 feet. Homebrewing equipment and antennas is such a rewarding and very educational experience. To keep with Nico's theme, I'd like to share a homebrewing project I did about 10 years ago when I first moved to Florida.

My first home in Florida was in an HOA community that frowned on any type of outside antenna. I put up an EFHW wire that I ran from the peak of my eave to a tree in my backyard. Even though I built it black wire and did my best to make it not visible from the street, within 3 weeks, I received a violation letter in the mail. I didn't bother to fight it, so what I ended up doing was constructing a 9:1 unun that I fed with 50 ohm coax. I connected the unun to the base of my downspout with a short piece of copper braid wire. Then, where the downspout connected to the gutter, I put another short piece of copper braid to ensure connectivity between the two. I then installed an 8-foot ground rod next to the unun and used this as my ground point. I also put ferrite beads over the coax, at the feed point, to help reduce RF on the coax shield. In total, I estimate that I had about 65 feet of antenna length, most of which was about 10 feet off the ground, running horizontal. What I built was known as "End Fed Random Length Antenna". Using an antenna analyzer, I found the SWR on 10, 20, and 40 to be less than 2:1 but found 12, 15, 17, 30, and 80 to have an SWR well above 3:1. Using an older Dentron external tuner, I was able to make the antenna usable on every band except 30 and 80. Surprisingly, the antenna played very well on 15, 20 and 40. I made numerous contacts, with good signal reports. No, it wasn't like the 4 element, 20 meter Yagi, at 70 feet that I had while living in Connecticut, but it got me on the air. Total cost of this antenna was less than \$30, most of which was for the 8 foot ground rod at Lowes. So, for those living in an HOA community, there are always ways to get on the air.

Remember, this is your club so please let your voice be heard. Should you have any questions or concerns, any of the club Board members can help you or feel free to reach out to me directly at N1MT.CW@gmail.com

Member Meeting Upcoming Presentations

Month	Topic	Presenter
June 2025	What is GMRS?	MEMBER – Scott Allshouse
July 2025	Planning and Running a Successful Hamfest	GUEST – Tim Fida, WB0YSX
August 2025	How to build a 9:1 Balun	MEMBER – Mark Toussaint
September	???	



GCARC News

The “Sunday Night Net” has been suspended due to lack of interest. We will try to start it up again when the “snow birds” return. The same may happen with the Monday night fusion net if participation does not increase.

The “Rap River Run” is being held on Saturday June 14th. **Testing has been moved from the 14th to the 21st!** The Rap River Run is an event that this club has been involved with for a number years, if you can volunteer please contact Barry N2NVP.


As mentioned above, because of the road race on the 14th the monthly test session will be held on the 21st. Contact Al (AJ4JA@icloud.com) if you would like to take a test!

The Club POTA event will be held on Saturday June 7th at Werner-Boyce Salt springs State Park, 8737 US-19, Port Richey. Aprox 9am to about 1pm. Stop by, we will have radios for you to try and make a few contacts.

Field Day 2025, June 28th & 29th! As always we need people to help set up on Sat. morning and break down late Sun. morning. We also need operators for “off hours”!

No July calendar in this newsletter. I will update the website calendar page as soon as I can!

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			SKYWARN NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	FUSION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		RAP RIVER RUN
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	FUSION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	SKYWARN NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		License Testing
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	FUSION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		ARRL FIELD DAY RADIO CONNECTS FDV25 JUNE 28-29
29	30					
ARRL FIELD DAY RADIO CONNECTS FDV25 JUNE 28-29	MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		

GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

WEEKLY NETS



MONDAYS

DIGITAL NET



7:30pm 145.350Mhz

TUESDAYS



INFO & TRADER'S NET
7:30pm 146.670Mhz
PI tone 146.2hz



SKY WARN NET

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS
and as necessary

7:30pm 146.670Mhz
PI tone 146.2hz

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THURSDAYS
7:30PM
10M 28.430MHZ SSB

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

June Tuesday Night Net Controller Schedule

June 03	Wayne	KD2UDU
June 10	Barry	N2NVP
June 17	Nick	KN4IKR
June 24	Chuck	K5KAZ

Board of Directors

NAME / CALL	BOARD POSITION	EMAIL
Mark Toussaint, N1MT	President	n1mt@arrl.net
Chuck Miller K5KAZ	Vice President	chuckmk5kaz@gulfcoastarc.com
Al Ekblad, AJ4JA	Secretary	aj4ja@icloud.com
Gary LaMunion, W8GLL	Treasurer	w8gll8@gmail.com
Chris McCullough, KC3CJU	Director	kc3cju@gmail.com
Barry Keaveny, N2NVP	Past President	keavbv@msn.com
Chuck Martin, KA4CEM	Director	chuck33@tampabay.rr.com

Membership Information

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club offers 3 levels of memberships.

Individual, Family and Junior. Applicants need not be licensed to become members.

Membership runs for 12 months, beginning on January 1 and ends December 31.

For more information, email membership@gulfcoastarc.com.

All memberships are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors!

Regular & Associate Membership* \$25

Junior Membership \$15

Family Membership* \$30