



GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB **Newsletter**

www.gulfcoastarc.com

March 2025



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Back about 8 months ago, we changed the monthly meeting format to include educational and informative presentations and workshops. So far, all our presenters have been members of our club and they have all done a wonderful job and the feedback I've been receiving has been great. In addition, attendance at the meetings has been trending upward ever since the change. Let's keep it rolling. In March and April, we are planning to have two different guest speakers at our monthly meetings. In March, Ron Bouthillier, W1VET, will be talking to us about 3D Printing. At our April meeting, Tim Fida, WBOYSX, will be talking to us about Planning and Running a Successful Hamfest. I ask that we all show our support and appreciation for these guest speakers, and please try your best to make each of these meetings.

On the topic of Hamfest, keep on the lookout for an email which will be calling for GCARC volunteers to help at a future club sponsored Hamfest. Hamfests, when done correctly, can provide the club with a large portion of the revenue needed to operate effectively. But, to be done correctly, we'll need volunteers and many of them.

Finally, I want to thank Al Ekblad, AJ4JA, on behalf of myself and the entire membership for agreeing to fill the open position of Board Secretary for the club. Thank You, we appreciate your willingness to serve. Remember, this is your club so please let your voice be heard. Should you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at N1MT.CW@gmail.com

73 Mark, N1MT dit dit



GCARC MEMBERS AT HAMCATION 2025



GCARC NEWS

Last month members of GCARC attended HAMCATION 2025 in ORLANDO. Some made it a day trip while others spent the weekend in Orlando. We all had a good time. Hamcation is one of the largest Hamfests in the US along with Huntsville AL and Dayton OH. Hams from all across the country attended.

On Monday, April 14th at 1:00pm, Wayne KD2UDU will be making a presentation to a group of home schooled students and some of their parents about Amateur Radio. It will be held at the library in New Port Richey.

Tomorrow, March 1st, Pam KQ4IOT will be making a presentation on "THE HISTORY OF RADIO COMMUNICATION" at the Centennial Park branch library, 5740 Moog Road, Holiday.

Any and all members are welcome to submit content for this monthly newsletter. If you have something to say or if you have an item you want to sell (ham related), just email me at chuck5kaz@gmail.com and I will include it the next newsletter.

For any updates made after distribution of this newsletter please check the website at GULFCOASTARC.COM



Member Meeting Upcoming Presentations

Month	Topic	Presenter
March 2025	3D Printing	GUEST - Ron Bouthillier, W1VET
April 2025	Planning and Running a Successful Hamfest	GUEST - Tim Fida, WB0YSX
May 2025	How to build a Yagi, Vertical, or Dipole Antenna	MEMBER - Nico Maldonado
June 2025	What is GMRS?	MEMBER - Scott Allshouse
July 2025	How to build a 9:1 Balun	MEMBER - Mark Toussaint



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACT REINTRODUCED

FROM ARRL

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Representatives August Pfluger, R-Tex., and Joe Courtney, D-Conn. announced their joint re-introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to restore the right to Amateur Radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities.

Homeowner association rules often prevent Amateur Radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though Amateur Radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes when other means of communication fail.

Background:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094 and S. 459) would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban, prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station antennas. Homeowner associations have often prevented installation and use of such antennas through private land use restrictions. This has hindered voluntary training for emergency situations and blocked access to necessary communications when disaster strikes.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that would prevent or ban Amateur Radio antennas;
- Specify an approval process for installing Amateur Radio antennas;
- Provide a Federal private right of action to Amateur Radio operators in disputed cases.

On behalf of America's Amateur Radio licensees, Rick Roderick, the President of The American Radio Relay League, re-confirmed the ARRL's full support for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 and extended his thanks and appreciation to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their unflagging leadership of the bi-partisan effort to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 
Sunday Net 7:00pm 145.350 MHz	FUSION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC Info & Trader Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	SKYWARN NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sunday Net 7:00pm 145.350 MHz	FUSION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC Info & Trader Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz		10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday Net 7:00pm 145.350 MHz	FUSION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	GCARC Info & Trader Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	SKYWARN NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday Net 7:00pm 145.350 MHz	MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING	GCARC Info & Trader Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz		10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
30	31					
Sunday Net 7:00pm 145.350 MHz	FUSION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz					

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		GCARC Info & Trader Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz	SKYWARN NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30			
Sunday Net 7:00pm 145.350 MHz	MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING	GCARC Info & Trader Net 7:30pm 146.670Mhz				



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.

Skywarn net!

Held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month!

146.670Mhz WA4GDN repeater!



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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	w8gl18@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 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.

Associate memberships for those not yet licensed.

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**



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.

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

MARCH TUESDAY NIGHT CONTROLLER SCHEDULE

March 04	Wayne KD2UDU
March 11	Barry N2NVP
March 18	Nick KN4IKR
March 25	Chuck K5KAZ