



GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Newsletter



www.gulfcoastarc.com

Vol. 3 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2025

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

I have been an active member in our club for 3+ years now and we have struggled, like many other clubs, keeping our club and member information up to date and in sync. We have our public information officer sending out club related announcements and event information, we have our treasurer sending out financial reports, we have our secretary sending out meeting minutes, as well as the stuff I periodically send out. What ends up happening over time is we get multiple versions of our club roster circulating and the data integrity becomes suspect over time. Well, one of my action items for 2025 is to address this issue and hopefully we are well on our way.

GCARC has decided to try a solution offered by HamClubOnline. This package offers a database that stores club and member information in one place. We will use the system to distribute and track the following:

- Our meeting minutes and financial reports.
- Our monthly Newsletters.
- Reminders for upcoming events.
- Welcome emails when new members join.
- Upcoming membership expirations and membership paid receipts.
- Track member skills to aid the Elmer program

And much more. This system is **NOT** an accounting system, so what Gary has in place will remain as will the application process and payment processing. It's not an individual email system, and it does not interface with social media. Our goal is to have 1 place where the Club goes pushes information to its members and one repository to hold member info, thus improving integrity.

By now, all active club members should have received an email from me introducing the new system. As with any new endeavor, there will be bumps along the way as we fine tune this new system and process but I feel the improved communication it will be worth it. As members, you can also access the system to get things like the club roster, calendar, and past communication pieces. Go to www.HamClubOnline.com and register for an account. Should you have any questions, let me know at N1MT.CW@gmail.com

73 Mark, N1MT

CLUB NEWS

We have made it through the holidays and we are ready to embark on a new year! I am looking forward to this year for the club!

First let's start with some changes that have been made. The "SKYWARN" Net will be held on the 1st & 3rd Wed. of the month rather than every wed. This may change as we approach "storm season" and events warrant an increase in the nets! The Monday Night Fusion Net has been moved to the 145.350Mhz repeater. The equipment we received from the Suncoast Club has been retired to back up status and we took advantage of Yaesu's discount to Ham Clubs to upgrade the 145.350.

As Mark N1MT mentioned in his article above the club will be utilizing "HAM CLUB ONLINE" for our member database. You have received this newsletter through a distribution from that database. Please mark the email you received as "not spam" so you will get in your in box all club related communications.

HAMCATION 2025 is being held this weekend at the Central Florida Fairgrounds in Orlando. ARE YOU GOING? Let me know by email or down load the ARRL Events app (we can use the app to communicate while at the event). I would like to get photos of club members attending.

Tomorrow February 1st, 2025, the GCARC will be holding a memorial service for SILENT KEY, Ralph McCullough, WA3YFQ. Ralph was a valued and loved member of the club. He was a wealth of knowledge and anyone who had contact with him came away a little smarter. Please stop by Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge Rd. New Port Richey, between 2:00pm and 3:30pm to share memories of Ralph and condolences to his family.

Lastly, as we say goodbye to a longtime member, the club would like to welcome our newest members.

Steve Rady KR4AKC, Connie Widman KC3EFZ and Frank Steinback



WINTER FIELD 2025



The GCARC had a very successful Winter Field Day!

Thank you to all the members who came early to help set up and all those who stopped in over the two days! A special thanks to Pam KQ4IOT who did a great job along with Chuck (too) KA4CEM on organizing this years event!

Below are some more pictures and some “stats” on how we did!



PAM KQ4IOT, PUT OUT A GREAT
SPREAD OF FOOD!

SHE ALSO GOT US BONUS POINTS
SENDING OUT WINLINK MESSAGES



QSO'S BY BAND / MODE

BAND	CW	PHONE	DIGITAL	TOTAL
80	0	6	0	6
40	23	26	3	52
20	0	195	0	195
15	0	68	0	68
10	0	47	0	47
2	0	1	0	1
		TOTAL		369



QSO'S BY STATION

STATION 1	CLASSROOM	239
STATION 2	AUDITORIUM 991A	13
STATION 3	AUDITORIUM 7300	117
TOTAL		369




**SHOUT OUT TO ROB VE3RXH! HE
KILLED IT ON 20M**

QSO'S BY OPERATOR

VE3RXH	155
N1MT	93
KA4CEM	67
W0MES	25
W8GLL	13
K5KAZ	7
KD2UDU	4
N2OWE	2
KK4GNU	2
N2NVP	1
TOTAL	369





FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNSDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunday Night Net 7:00pm 145.350Mhz	Fusion Net 7:30 145.350MHz	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	SKYWARN NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB	HAMCATION	
9	10	11	12	13		
Sunday Night Net 7:00pm 145.350Mhz	Fusion Net 7:30 145.350MHz	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday Night Net 7:00pm 145.350Mhz	Fusion Net 7:30 145.350MHz	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	SKYWARN NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Sunday Night Net 7:00pm 145.350Mhz	MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING	GCARC INFORMATTION NET 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		10M HF NET 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		

Testing will be held on the **THIRD SATURDAY** this month!!! For info or to register please contact AL, AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM!

Please Note: The "SKYWARN NET" will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month! That may increase as we get closer to "Storm" season.

MARCH

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

Testing will be held on the 2nd SATURDAY this March 8th!!! For info or to register please contact AL, AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM!

Please Note: The "SKYWARN NET" will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month! That may increase as we get closer to "Storm" season.

POTA ! March 1st! Check the website for location!

**THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT SKY WARN NET IS LOOKING FOR NET CONTROLLERS!
PLEASE CONTACT GARY AT W8GLL8@GMAIL.COM**



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REMINDER TO MEMBERS!

2025 dues are due!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME / CALL	BOARD POSITION	EMAIL
Mark Toussaint, N1MT	President	n1mt@arrl.net
Chuck Miller K5KAZ	Vice President	chuckmk5kaz@gulfcoastarc.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 & 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.

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.

Regular & Associate Membership* \$25

Junior Membership \$15

Family Membership* \$30

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

Used Equipment – Making it Look New

One of the things I enjoy doing is purchasing used radio equipment and refurbishing it. In some cases, the equipment is not functioning and others, it just needs some TLC. There are times that the repairs are beyond my abilities, and I seek help from an experienced repairman. However, many of the radios just need a good cleaning of the controls, switches, and plug contacts and that brings them back to life. Recently, I purchased an Icom IC-756 ProII which is an HF and 50MHz transceiver that was manufactured back in 2002. The person I bought it from had no idea of the radio's history. They had purchased the radio as part of a larger estate sale. Based upon the pictures, one thing for sure was this radio needed a complete cleaning of the faceplate, knobs, and case. To be honest, the dirt, grit and grime build up was unbelievable. In the 48 years of ham radio, I have never seen one this bad. I just don't understand why people let their radios get this filthy, but that's another topic for another day. Over the past year, I found a product that I feel is truly the best for cleaning a radio's faceplate, knobs, and switches without damaging the lettering, paint, or plastic. Trust me, I have first-hand knowledge at using to harsh a product and regretted it later. I purchased the product on Amazon along with a pack of microfiber cleaning clothes. The cleaning product is called "Goo Gone Foaming Kitchen Degreaser". You could probably pick this up at Lowes or Home Depot as well. What I did was cover the plastic cover on the meter and the display with masking tape. I left the faceplate, buttons, and knobs all exposed. I put a bunch of paper towels under the radio's face to catch any dripping after spraying. I applied a light coat of the foaming cleaner and allowed it to sit for about 30 seconds. I then wiped the entire surface with a microfiber cloth. I couldn't believe the amount of grit and grime that had dripped on the paper towel even prior to me wiping the face. All I can say is WOW. The 24 year old radio looked brand new and there were no streaks and residue left behind. I removed the masking tape and used some glass cleaner on the plastic meter and display covering however, I since have talked with others that have used the Goo Gone product on the entire face, including the meter and display face with good results and no damage. All I can suggest is, try it, you won't be disappointed.

Member Meeting Upcoming Presentations	
Month	Topic
February 2025	<i>What is ACS?</i>
March 2025	<i>3D Printing</i>
April 2025	<i>How to build a Yagi, Vertical, or Dipole Antenna</i>
May 2025	<i>What is GMRS?</i>
June 2025	<< Nothing Scheduled, Suggestions >>



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

FEBRUARY TUESDAY NIGHT NET CONTROLLERS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 4 WAYNE KD2UDU

FEBRUARY 11 BARRY N2NVP

FEBRUARY 18 PAMELA KQ4IOT

FEBRUARY 25 CHUCK K5KAZ

GCARC NETS

On **Monday** nights at 7:30pm we hold a “**system fusion**” net on the WA4GDN repeater at **145.350**. We discuss all Amateur Radio topics, with an emphasis on the various Digital modes and beyond.

Fusion Net has been moved from the 146.670 to the 145.350 repeater!



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

Change of “Skywarn Net” schedule!

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

146.670MHz WA4GDN repeater!



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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

New Port Richey
145.350/144.750MHz
PL Tone – 146.2 Hz
Yaesu System Fusion Capable