



GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Newsletter

www.gulfcoastarc.com

SEPTEMBER 2025



Club News

As summer winds down we are starting to ramp things up for the fall.

We will kick things off with a club POTA from Werner-Boyce state park on Saturday Sept. 6th starting at around 9:00am. The bands are beginning to open up again so we should be able to have a successful activation. Everyone is welcome. If you have never done POTA before or you haven't done much on HF, stop by, see what it's all about and make some contacts.

Our next test session will take place on Saturday September 13th at 10:00am. Millenium Academy 10005 Ridge Road, New Port Richey. Contact Al, AJ4JA@icloud.com if you would like to take the test for any level.

On October 18th we will be once again providing race communications for the Tunnel to Towers 5k walk & run. We need volunteers to help with this event. Please contact Barry N2NVP keavbv@msn.com if you are available!

We will also be starting back up with the monthly club luncheon very soon. Keep an eye out at our web page and facebook page for updates.

December 12th & 13th is the Tampa Hamfest. (see the flyer below for details) We will have two tables at the hamfest, one will be a club info table the other a sales table. We are looking for 1) donations of eqpt we can sell with proceeds going to the club and 2) volunteers to help at the tables for an hour or two. If you can help out please contact Pam KQ4IOT at PAMKQ4IOT@gmail.com.

At the August membership meeting it was suggested we look into hiring a bus to take members to HAMCATION in Orlando in February. Check your email for an inquiry on interest in participating in this. Once we have an approximate number we can start investigating our options and costs. Please respond to that email if you would like to participate.

Circling back to POTA. We would like to expand our club POTA locations. Some parks will require a bit of a longer "commute". If you would be willing to travel to a park please let me know chuck5kaz@gmail.com. Also I have been increasing my POTA activations. Sometimes on a whim, sometimes planned. You do not have to wait for a monthly club POTA. As much as I can, I will post on the club facebook page when I will be going to a park. Anyone is welcome to join me. You don't need to bring any equipment, we can "share the mike" or you can just observe if you want to learn!!

Members, at the monthly meeting on 25 Aug. 2025, those present voted to invest some of the money in the clubs savings account into a higher interest bearing account.

Gary Lamunion, club treasurer, presented that currently two options were available.

1 - money market - \$10,000.00 minimum deposit. 3% return

2 - CD (8 month, 14 month, 36 month). minimum deposit on all is \$1,000.00 and interest on all 3 is 4%.

After discussion it was voted and passed, to invest \$5000.00 in the 8 month CD and an additional \$5000.00 in the 14 month CD.

We will still retain over \$7000.00 in our savings account.

Sometime in early September, these new accounts will be opened.

In November the club will be conducting it's annual election. Over the past 18 months the membership has grown. Financially the club is in good shape. We have made the monthly membership meetings more interesting with presentations. There are 3 board seats up for election, President, Treasurer and a board member.

In order to continue our growth and evolve, I ENCOURAGE new people to consider running for these positions. Turnover is not a bad thing! New blood, new ideas are how we continue to grow. We need to refresh from time to time to stay away from becoming stagnant as an organization.

Chuck Miller

K5KAZ

Member Meeting Upcoming Presentations

Month	Topic	Presenter
<i>September 2025</i>	<i>Lightning Protection / Grounding</i>	<i>Karl Schulte</i>
<i>October 2025</i>	<i>ARES Presentation / Q&A</i>	<i>Dave Rockwell, ARRL assistant section manager</i>

From ARRL

Hurricane Watch Net Marks 60 Years of Service



This Labor Day weekend, the [Hurricane Watch Net \(HWN\)](#) celebrates its 60th anniversary of providing critical communications support to the [National Hurricane Center \(NHC\)](#) and communities impacted by hurricanes.

As Hurricane Betsy was pummeling the Caribbean on Labor Day weekend 1965, a ham radio operator started hearing calls for information from operators in the Bahamas. Jerry Murphy, K8YUW, sprang into action. He began relaying surface data and storm conditions to help those in the path.

That first net paved the way for what would become the Hurricane Watch Net.

HWN has been active for 156 landfalling hurricanes, including 60 major hurricanes (Category 3 or stronger). Of those, 12 struck as Category 5 hurricanes. The net's longest continuous activation occurred during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, when operators remained on the air for 151 hours straight. Among the deadliest storms ever recorded by the net was Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which claimed more than 11,000 lives in Central America.

[HWN operates](#) on 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, often simultaneously, with net control stations strategically positioned throughout the region to maximize coverage.

"The Hurricane Watch Net continues to serve the public interest by helping save lives during hurricanes. We are proud to carry forward the vision of our founder, Jerry Murphy, who passed earlier this year at age 88," said HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV.

For more information about the HWN, or to get involved as a volunteer, visit www.hwn.org.



Just sittin around
at Starky Park
waiting for band conditions
to improve!

Resilience Through Amateur Radio for National Preparedness Month 2025

08/29/2025



September is [National Preparedness Month](#), which is a good time to look at your personal, family, and community resilience levels. For 2025, the National Preparedness Month theme is “Preparedness Starts at Home.”

Amateur radio is a valuable resource for communication and community service before and during times of crisis, and can be a significant factor in your home’s level of preparedness.

“Now is the time to make sure everything is in order,” said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. For hams, it means taking the time to check their equipment – from the ground to the antenna, so that it is ready. “Many hams already participate in daily, weekly, and monthly nets that help them hone their communication skills, but if you’re not already active in one, this could be a good opportunity to get into it,” said Johnston.

To extend your personal preparedness into helping provide community resilience, Johnston invites operators to become active in their local [ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](#) (ARES®) activities. “ARES has been leveraging the utility value of the Amateur Radio Service for 90 years,” he said. “We saw last year during Hurricane Helene how vital of a lifeline ham radio operators were for the affected areas.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [is predicting an above-normal 2025 Atlantic hurricane season](#).

Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says that should motivate hams, but not scare them. “Never let your guard down,” said Graves. “Don’t live your life in fear, just be aware.” Graves added that his net operators are spread across the Western Hemisphere, but they still have training sessions via radio nets and Zoom meetings.

The Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council Presents:

The **50th Annual**

TAMPA BAY HAMFEST

and Electronics Show

ARRL West Central Florida Convention
Second Largest Hamfest in Florida



Expo Building
Strawberry Festival Grounds
Parking behind 301 N Berryfest Pl (was N Lemon St)
Plant City, FL 33563

December 12th-13th, 2025
Friday, 1PM to 6PM—Saturday, 8AM to 3PM

Talk-in Brandon - 147.165 +, PL 136.5

For up-to-date information visit www.TampaBayHamfest.org

ARRL-VEC Exam and Commercial license testing
WAS, DXCC, IARU, VUCC Card Checking

Forums and Programs are updated regularly on website

Admission at the gate	\$13	Under 12 accompanying a paid admission	FREE
Advanced ticket purchase	\$10	Public service/military in uniform	FREE
Student with ID	\$5	Bulk Tickets Sales	10/\$92
Indoor tables, 8ft	\$20	No vehicles of any kind in building	
Booth, 10ft x 10ft with 2 8ft tables	\$60		
Electric	\$10		
Tailgate space	\$10		
Camping	\$20	See website for details	
Club table, 1 free for club activities	\$0	No selling allowed	
Club tables	\$15	Each for selling	

Everyone entering the parking/tailgate/inside area must have a ticket visible.

See webpage for more information—www.tampabayhamfest.org

Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club



PARKS ON THE AIR

Saturday, September 6th
9:00 until about 1:00

WERNER-BOYCE SALT SPRINGS STATE PARK

8737 US-19, Port Richey,

2025 Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk, Trinity Pasco
October 18, 9:00 am

Venue

Starkey Ranch District Park
11880 Lake Blanche Drive
Odessa, FL 33556

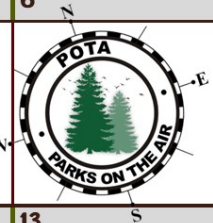


The Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club will be providing "race communications" for this event!
If you can volunteer your time please contact Barry N2NVP KEAVBV@MSN.COM

Board of Directors

NAME / CALL	BOARD POSITION	EMAIL
Chuck Miller K5KAZ	"Acting" 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

SEPTEMBER

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

POTA September 6th 9:00am Werner-Boyce State Park

**Test Session September 13th 10:00am Millenium Academy,
10005 Ridge Rd.**

Contact Al aj4ja@icloud.com

Club Membership

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

SEPTEMBER 2 NICK KN4IKR

SEPTEMBER 9 CHUCK K5KAZ

SEPTEMBER 16 PAMELA KQ4IOT

SEPTEMBER 23 BARRY N2NVP

SEPTEMBER 30 NICK KN4IKR

We are always 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

MONDAYS DIGITAL NET



7:30pm 145.350Mhz

TUESDAYS



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



THURSDAYS

7:30PM

10M 28.430MHZ SSB



SKYWARN

SKY WARN NET

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAYS
and as necessary

7:30pm 146.670Mhz

PI tone 146.2hz

Skywarn® and the Skywarn® logo are registered trademarks of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, used with permission.

145.350Mhz Repeater

is now

WIRES-X

Capable!

Wa4gdn - Florida