

# SPIRIT OF THE RADIO

Volume 1 / Issue 1

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the newsletter for the Space Coast Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (SCARS).

## INVISIBLE AIRWAVES CRACKLE WITH LIFE (AKA NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT)

2024 is concluding and as we talked about at our December meeting has been a very busy year for SCARS. We have come a long way from a handful of people texting back and forth about the need for an open club focused on public service in Central Brevard to a membership of 35 and multiple community focused events under our belt. We have established a solid relationship with Brevard County Parks and Recreation and have a full calendar planned for 2025.

2025 will see multiple new nets (analog voice and digital FM over the county central repeater). Anyone interested in both being net control for these new nets or developing the net script for these nets please reach out to me. If someone is interested in taking on managing all of our nets that would be a great help as well.

Parks on the air in 2025 will also become a more active part of our calendar. These park sites need to be scouted, a recommended operating location found, and preferable tested would also be helpful. There are MANY POTA sites in Brevard County (although most of them are in the North and South areas, not Central). Anyone interested in becoming the POTA chair, please reach out as well.

Special thanks to the members who served as the initial officers of SCARS for 2024. They will all continue in these roles in 2025. Term limits prevent people from remaining in the same role for more than two consecutive years so we will be looking for more members to consider taking on these critical leadership roles (and/or roles not on the board in 2025). This will help keep SCARS relevant to your interests as well as keep our open and transparent operations moving forward. All Board Meetings are open to all members.

Friendly reminder to all members, 2025 dues (\$20/full (licensed) member, \$10/associate (not yet licensed) member) is due now. Please contact Rick Segrist [rsegrist@att.net](mailto:rsegrist@att.net) to arrange payment or bring it to any of the upcoming events.

I wish all our members had a happy new year and hope that SCARS is in your new years resolutions to operate more as amateurs.

## STATUS OF OUR LAUREL VEC TEAM

Our Laurel VE team is strong and active. While we only staffed 3 test sessions, we administered exams to 13 applicants, 8 of which either advanced their license or obtained new licenses. We have had 2 people reach out already, one for January and one for February to take exams. One for his Extra and one to retake their technician exam to regain their expired



*SCARS is a 501(c)3 incorporated club focused on auxiliary communication and public service for central Brevard County FL.*



SCARS is on Facebook, join us here

## Contact Us

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Extra operating privileges. If you did not receive your personalized VE Handbook at the December meeting it will be available at our January Test Session. The issues in the last sessions with answer keys has been resolved and we are changing the test forms and answer key formats, and they have all been tested and align better. Additionally, a more streamlined checklist has been developed and we will be using that going forward.

## OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Winter Field Day is our next major operating activity on Jan 25 2025 at Rotary Park, Merritt Island. We will be operating out of the soccer pavilion like we did for our last event. This is a better space for us and we will have access to the refrigerator for food (to keep away from the active squirrel population. We have invited TARC to participate in this event with us, but they also execute a Winter Field Day event for their members in Titusville. I encourage members to go visit their operation when they are not participating in our event to learn how other groups operate and find new best practices to bring back to improve our operations. The rules for WFD have changes slightly for 2025 and can be found at <https://winterfieldday.org/>.

The bonus point system has changed significantly but the basic operation is the same (CW, Voice and Digital are allowed FT4/8 are NOT allowed). We will be operating as K4SFL with each operator logging into N1MM to get credit for the QSOs they make. We will be operating as either a 2 or 3 Outdoor (we will determine that over the next few days/weeks). The goals

are the same as before, 1) Have Fun, 2) Get SCARS members to improve operating in a congested environment, 3) Get new people (members or not) on the air, 4) Gain exposure in the community to SCARS and Amateur Radio in General, 5) Test equipment and our ability to set up a multi-radio station in a rapid manner, 6) Submit a score (and improve that score over time).

Bonus points are now objectives and SCARS should be able to achieve most of these objectives

- Operate on 100% alternate Power (1 OM)
- Operate away from home (1 OM)
- Deploy Multiple antennas (1 OM)
- Send and receive at least one winlink message (may do this with TARC) (1 OM)
- Copy the WFD Special Bulletin (1 OM)
- Use Multiple Modes (Voice and Digital unless we have any CW operators) (2 OM)
- Operate six continuous hours (2 OM)

### Stretch Goals

- Operate on 6 different bands (6/10/15/20/40/80 would work, as would 2m simplex FM or SSB) (6 OM)
- FM Satellite Contact (2 OM)
- SSB/CW Satellite Contact (3 OM)

## MONTHLY TRAINING ACTIVITIES

To prepare for digital nets, this month's training will be on FLDIGI over the Central County Repeater. The mode proposed for this first net will be MT-63 2K Long since that is the preferred Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEAMS)

mode for FM Repeater use. Please come to the meeting with an FM capable radio (HT is fine) along with the appropriate hardware to connect that radio to a computer (could be anything from a sabrent usb sound card and the Baofeng APRS cable to a signalink or a digirig with the appropriate cables). On your computer you will need FLDIGI and FLMSG installed. If you don't already have these installed, we will help you get them installed at the meeting

## **SCARS AND NEARBY NETS AND CONTESTS FOR NEXT MONTH (ALL TIMES EASTERN)**

1 Jan 2025 7pm Mosquito Net (TARC) 28.333 USB

7 Jan 2025 7pm DMR Net TG 3206945 Brandmeister

9 Jan 2025 7pm Mosquito Net (TARC) 28.333 USB

14 Jan 2025 7pm FM Voice Net on the County Central Repeater 147.135 +0.6 107.2 Hz CTCSS

16 Jan 2025 7pm Mosquito Net (TARC) 28.333 USB

21 Jan 2025 7pm DMR Net TG 3206945 Brandmeister

23 Jan 2025 7pm Mosquito Net (TARC) 28.333 USB

28 Jan 2025 7pm FM Voice Net on the County Central Repeater 147.135 +0.6 107.2 Hz CTCSS

28 Jan 2025 8pm NBEAMS Test Net (MT-63 2K Long) on the County Central Repeater 147.135 +0.6 107.2 Hz CTCSS

30 Jan 2025 7pm Mosquito Net (TARC) 28.333 USB