

Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

August 2011



Next Meeting
August 4, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Fellowship Hall,
 3413 Old Bainbridge Road,
 North of I-10**

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society meets at 7:00 p. m. on the first Thursday of every month.

Our primary meeting location has been changed, on a trial basis, to the St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Fellowship Hall, 3413 Old Bainbridge Road, North of I-10 in Tallahassee in Tallahassee. Talk-in on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (-.600, tone 94.8), or 146.520 simplex.

TARS Officers

President: Stan Zawrotny – K4SBZ
 Vice President: Mike Maynard – K4ICY
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer: Larry Pushor - KI4MAJ

TARS Committees:

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU
 Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant
 Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Zawrotny K4EAZ
 Historian: Vacant
 Equipment Manager: Steve Welsh AD4E
 Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH
 Testing Coordinator: Alan Terrell N4KGT
 Special Events: Vacant
 Webmaster: David A. Heupel WE4RA
 Public Information Officer: Vacant

Upcoming Events

July	30	D-Star Academy
August	2	License Testing
August	4	TARS Meeting
August	20	Get On the Air Day

Club News

MEETING LOCATION CHANGE Is It Permanent?

At the April meeting, the membership voted to change the meeting location to the St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Fellowship Hall, 3413 Old Bainbridge Road, North of I-10 in Tallahassee. This was to be a three-month trial move. At the August meeting, the membership will determine whether to make the move permanent. Be there to vote!

This is the same location where we hold classes and license testing.



License Testing – August 2

The ARRL/VEC administered FCC Amateur Radio License Examinations for all levels (Technician, General, Extra Class) will be provided at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at the St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, 3413 Old Bainbridge Road, Tallahassee, Florida, 32303.

There is a \$15 non-refundable examination fee that is payable to the ARRL for the administration of the test. Please bring your checkbook to the testing session, along with two forms of identification, with at least one being a photo ID.

D-STAR Training July 30 in Central Florida

The Central Florida D-STAR Group is hosting a D-STAR Academy on July 30 in the central part of Florida at Mt. Dora (near Orlando). The academy has three different sessions designed to give operators of every level a chance to learn more about D-STAR and recent advances. It will give operators - new and experienced -- more knowledge on the operation of and new applications used with D-STAR.

One of the sessions, the "ID-1 Demonstrations," is designed for emergency management officials to see what the new radio technology is all about, and how it can be a tool during emergency events. The group is inviting emergency managers, DEC's, ECs, hospital administrators, NGOs like the Red Cross and more to attend.

The first part of the class will focus on what D-STAR can do during emergencies. There will be live connections to various agencies, the EOC in Tallahassee, and mobile units outside in the parking areas that will also be part of the demonstrations.

With the assistance of Northern Florida Section Manager Paul Eakin, KJ4G, Donna Barker, WQ4M, Bob Jones, N6USP, Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC, Ray Novak, N9JA, and others, the attendees for this class will view a wide range of services that Amateur Radio operators can provide using D-STAR -- in the EOC, shelters, or in the field. They will also be showing how D-STAR worked during the recent tornado disasters in Alabama and Georgia.

In the afternoon, the ID-1 Demonstrations session attendees will be part of the D-STARters Class and will get a look at how the types of radios most D-STAR operators have work in shelters and in the field.

For up-to-date information about the D-STAR Academy, ID-1 Demonstrations, and who will be attending to assist, see the D-STAR Academy Web site. -- Ed Biederwolf, W9CHA, Ocala, Florida

TARS Yahoo Group – K4TLH

TARS has a Users Group on Yahoo. Yahoo! <groups.Yahoo.com> has one of the largest websites for user groups. A user group is a group of people with a similar interest who share an online space and discuss topics of mutual interest.

Our users group is known as K4TLH Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society. Its purpose is to provide timely information for TARS members and prospective members – a general discussion, antennas, Field Day, how to program that Chinese HT, general help, HF rigs, digital HF, APRS and more!

Most of the activity of a users group is on the Message Board, where members “post” e-mail-like messages for everyone to see and respond to. Nearly all groups also have an archive, where they keep files and photos that can come in handy.

Joining is simple. First you have to register with Yahoo. After you do, go to “Groups” and search for “K4TLH.” Then click the “Join this Group” link and follow the instructions. You will then have to wait until a moderator of the group approves your request to join. There are currently two moderators, Doug Ferrell, KD4MOJ, who set up the group, and Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ, President of TARS. The approval is mostly a formality in an effort to control spammers.

When posting messages, please give your message a helpful subject line. Try to use proper grammar and spelling, but don’t let that keep you from getting involved. Please do avoid SHOUTING (typing in all caps). Respond to a post by clicking on the “Reply” link. While some of us may have the time to check the user group frequently, most choose to have new posts delivered to their e-mail inbox.

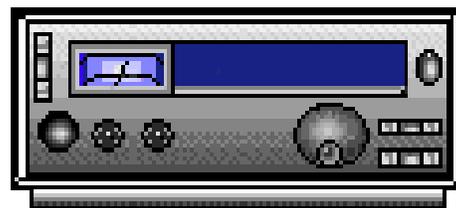
While there are many ways for us to choose from, this Yahoo user group

adds an additional means for us to share information. Doug, KD4MOJ, who set up the K4TLH Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society Yahoo User Group calls it “another tool in the box” for us to use to communicate with members, who can respond back to e-mails with discussion. My thanks to Doug for setting it up for us all to use. Be sure to sign up as a member today. You don’t have to be a TARS member to join the users group.

Stan, K4SBZ

Get on the Air Day

On Saturday, August 20, we will be holding our ever-popular Get on the Air Day at the St. Francis of Assisi Church. We will have our usual HF and VHF+ stations so that newly licensed Amateurs can get on the air after receiving their licenses following the testing session on August 2. This is also an opportunity for hams who have been inactive for awhile to get back on the air or for others to come out and possible experience a mode transmission that they haven’t been using. You can also come out and check out our antennas and rigs. Or have you just bought a new HT and are having trouble getting it programmed? We usually have an Elmer handy that can help you. There is usually a reason for everyone to come out, even if it’s just to have an eyeball QSO!



The Lunch Bunch

Every Friday about 11:30 a.m., the parking lot of the Golden Corral on Monroe Street fills with vehicles with radio antennas attached. Many members of TARS and even non-members get together for lunch and lively conversation about Amateur Radio and any other topic that might come up. Frequently someone will bring a new HT that they are having trouble programming.

A number of local amateurs are unable to attend the monthly meetings, so this is their contact with other club members. Others attend both the luncheons and the regular meetings. Although no business is conducted, the president tries to attend as many luncheons as possible so that members can discuss issues of interest. Everyone is welcome.

Next Meeting - Speaker Topic: Ivan Cook, W4FWL: Cubic-Quad Antenna

Our August speaker is Ivan Cook, W4FWL, who will be discussing the use and fabrication of his home-brew customizable Cubic-Quad antennas. A 6-meter version of this antenna was used at this year's Field Day event and had very successful results.

He will talk about

- Advantages of a quad
- His early attempts at quads
- The kit and scalability/adjustability features of his current design
- Performance characteristics of quads: forward gain, half power

beamwidth, front-to-back ratio, bandwidth, feedpoint impedance, etc.

- What's in the works for antennas and you

He will bring a 3-element 2M quad, and possibly a 2-element 6M quad, and possibly bring elements of quads sized for 1.25M ("220") and 70cm ("440").

The meeting will be held on August 4 at 7 pm at the St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Fellowship Hall, 3413 Old Bainbridge Road.

ARES News



ARES Liaison Needed

At the July TARS meeting, there was a discussion about the fact that TARS and ARES are two separate entities. TARS is a club whose purpose is to promote the enjoyment of Amateur Radio throughout the Big Bend area. ARES, as its name suggests, focuses on emergency activities. ARES members must be members of the ARRL, whereas anyone, even non-amateurs who have an interest in the hobby, can become members of TARS.

TARS-sponsored activities, such as TOSRV or the Tallahassee Marathon are often used to provide training for ARES members. Because TARS needs to maintain a close relationship with the local ARES districts and counties, it was suggested that an

ARES Liaison be appointed. This person's responsibilities would be to interface between the two organizations as needed; for example, to offer ARES assistance for a TARS-sponsored event or, vice-versa, to offer ARES the opportunity to use a TARS event for training purposes. Anyone interested in holding this position should contact Stan, K4SBZ at K4SBZ.Stan@gmail.com.

Some Local Nets

North Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Net: Dailey, 9 a. m.: except Sunday, 3950 kHz

Capital District EmComm Training Net: Sunday, 7:30 p. m.: 146.655 MHz

Capital District ARES: Sunday, 8 p. m.: 146.655 MHz

The first Sunday of every month, we have three special ARES nets. One on 75 meters, on or near 3958KHz (+/-) at 1930 hours Eastern time. At the conclusion of this net, most everyone moves to 7245KHz (+/-), and picks up the round table there. At 2000 hours Eastern, the regular weekly Capital District ARES net meets on 146.655MHz, and we are joined by station WX4TAE, at the National Weather Service Office in Tallahassee. During the first portion of this net, one of the staff meteorologists joins us on the air and provides a retrospective of the previous month's weather patterns, a brief forecast of what we might expect for the coming month, and also takes specific questions from stations who have checked in to the net. Please join us for these very informative ARES nets - the first Sunday of every month.

Florida Phone Traffic Net: Daily, 6:55 am: 3940 kHz

Florida Midday Traffic Net: Daily, Noon: 7242 kHz

North Florida Phone Net: Daily, 2330Z: 3950 kHz,

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club
Thursday, 8:00 pm, 145.17 MHz Duplex, PL 141.3, --600

Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club: Monday, 8:00 pm, 145.450 MHz, PL 94.8

Jefferson County Net: Monday, 8:00 pm on the Monticello, WX4JEF, 145.43 MHz, PL 94.8

Our Neighbors

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club (TARC)

Meetings: The first Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Plaza Restaurant in downtown Thomasville.



Net: Thursday night at 8:00 pm on 145.17MHz Duplex

Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club (SPARC)

Meetings: Third Thursday of each month at the Wakulla County Emergency Management Facility at 7:30 pm

Net: Monday Night at 8:00 pm on 145.450 MHz, pl 94.8

Jefferson County

Net: Monday evening at 8:00 pm on the Monticello, WX4JEF, 145.43 repeater; PL 94.8.

Trading Post

For Sale

Yaesu FT-950, 100W HF-6 M transceiver, excellent condition – no marks or blemishes. Includes hand microphone, digital voice recorder option, original and Nifty manuals, amplifier interface cable, and original boxes. \$1,000.00. If needed, will include an Astron 35A power supply also in excellent condition, for \$50.00 (not for sale separately). TOM, K4TB – k4tb@earthlink.net



For Loan

TARS Equipment available to members (short/long term):

MFJ 259 Antenna Analyzer

Heathkit SB-220 80 thru 10 meter amplifier

Contact Steve, AD4E, ad4e@arrl.net, for more info

Repair

Here is info on TV shop that does Amateur Radio repair in Quitman, GA

Ley's Radio & TV
1150 Webster Rd, Quitman, GA
(229) 263-4861

I suggest you look up their address on MapQuest before driving to Quitman. It is just 1 turn off of Hwy 84 East - but it is about 3 or 4 miles up to their shop. They are very good!

Tell them N0TW, Terry, recommended you.

73, Terry, N0TW



If you have personal amateur radio items that you would like to sell or need, we will publish short requests in the newsletter, subject to editorial review. Please send your requests to the newsletter editor at K4EAZ.Elizabeth@gmail.com by the 15th of the month.

Grandfathered General Class License Opportunities

There are some little-known opportunities for amateurs who received their licenses many years ago to receive automatic upgrades of their licenses. The most common is that holders of an original Technician class license, earned before March 21, 1987 may get a paper upgrade for full General Class privileges according to the FCC Report and Order, effective April 15, 2000.

Even holders of Technician Class licenses issued before that date who let them expire may receive General Class Element 3 credit when they successfully pass the current Technician Class Element 2 exam and be awarded a General Class license.

In order to qualify, you have to prove to a volunteer examination team that you held a license prior to that date. If you don't have an original license, an old copy of the *Callbook* with your call in it will work. Those are often available at swap meets or online.

The TARS VE team conducts license tests at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every even-numbered month at the St. Francis of Assisi Church. The team is headed by Alan Terrell, N4KGT.

Stan, K4SBZ

Antenna Engineering

You may be interested to know that a classic work in antenna engineering, "Radio Antenna Engineering" by Edmund Laporte, is currently available for free via Internet download (pdf file) from the Lulu website. Simply go to www.lulu.com, enter the title in the search field, and hit return to get to the download page. The book contains a wealth of information on LF, MF and HF antennas.

Randy, AG4UU

Topics of Interest

Have an idea you would like to share with your fellow hams? Interested in one of the new exotic digital modes and would like to get others interested in it too? Found a blog somewhere that you think others would find interesting?

Pictures, too. If you have taken pictures at an event and would like to submit them for possible inclusion in the newsletter, please forward them to the Newsletter Editor or to the President.

Members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication. Items should be brief and may be edited for spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. The President and Newsletter Editor reserve the right to determine which items will be included in the Newsletter. The deadline for publication is the 15th of the month.

Disclaimer

The Printed Circuit is not representative of the views or opinions of the whole organization, and such views and opinions expressed herein are of the individual author(s).

E-mail Addresses

Please forward any additions or changes of e-mail addresses for delivery of the Newsletter to K4EAZ.Elizabeth@Gmail.com.

Also notify me if you do not wish to continue to receive the newsletter.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the July TARS Membership Meeting
TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

The TARS July Meeting was held at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church on Old Bainbridge Road on Thursday, July 7, 2011



Does anyone have a key?

CALL to ORDER at 7:16 pm

President Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ, welcomed the members and guests.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Kevin Peters - Assistant Director, Leon County Emergency Management / EOC.
Kevin is one of the many local key players involved when "all else fails"
and amateur radio is called into action.

Discussed the structure, roles, and functions of Leon County Emergency Management and the county EOC (emergency operations center).

Kevin expressed a brief overview of deployment requirements for ham radio operators including: No Self-Deployment, deployment through ARES officials, namely Alan Torledsky, W1ABT - Leon Co. ARES emergency coordinator. and the course by which served agencies such as the local Red Cross would make requests for ham volunteers.

He urged all to visit Leon County's Emergency Information web site: <http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/>
As stated there "you will find useful tips on protecting you and your family in the event natural or man-made disasters occur in Leon County"



BREAK: 7:58 pm

50-50 during the break. "Chief," W1PLF, was the winner.

STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT: 8:13 pm

Stan gave an impassioned speech about the life and accomplishments of Dan Moniz KI4HGO TARS's former president.

He also reviewed his agenda for his term as president and urged membership participation.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: 8:22 pm

Treasurer's Report - Larry Pushor, KI4MAJ - Reported in June's TARS newsletter.

Minutes - Reported in June's TARS newsletter and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: 8:26 pm

Testing - Alan Terrell, N4KGT - 4 out of 5 passed the last session held at the TARS Field Day.
Next test session to be held the first Tuesday of August;
Aug, 2nd 2011 at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal on Old Bainbridge Rd.

BUSINESS and OPEN DISCUSSION: 8:40 pm

Field Day - Synopsis of the event by Mike Maynard, K4ICY

- Mike expressed that the event was a success at our new location.
- We had over 50 visitors and everyone put in a strong effort.
- Over 700 contacts were made at a total score of 1100 points.
- 177 of them were made by Ivan Cook, W4FWL, at the VHF/UHF station with his home-brew 6m band cubic-quad that he will be presenting at the August TARS meeting.
- Commendation was given to many involved, including Norm, K4GFD, and Nick, KI4FTK.

- Operations went as smoothly as possible with very little rain.
- Suggestions and comments were given from the floor.

Manly-Man Feast - Stan relayed a heart-felt thank-you from Celebration Baptist Church on our participation at this year's Manly-Man Feast.

Estate Sale - Paul Nostrand W4HVD announced that he would be holding an estate sale at his home on Saturday, July the 9th. Ham gear would be up for sale.

Message from the President - Explained that TARS and ARES are two separate entities.

- Described the role of each organization and their standing with the ARRL.
- Opened the floor to a volunteer position needed for liaison between TARS and ARES.
- Comment was made by David Minor, W4SKG, for the stipulation that the liaison position would not be filled by an ARES official.

Discussion of the old TARS ambulance -

- David Minor, W4SKG, explained their plans to reclaim the radio gear and folding antenna mast from the vehicle.
- A work party will most likely be required for remove and should take place in October or November.
- Mention was made for the considered possibility of mounting the antenna mast on a portable hitch mount trailer.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:57 pm



TARS Treasurer's Report

August 2011

Beginning balance June 15, 2011

Checking Account:	\$ 424.63
Savings Account:	<u>2289.45</u>
	\$2714.08

Summary of month's activities:

Receipts deposited in Checking Account	\$592.90
Transfer out of Savings Account	\$500.00

Receipts into checking account derived from the following:

\$37.50	Member Dues
.50	Member Donation
41.90	Money collected at Field Day for St. Francis Church
13.00	50/50 from June and July
.28	Interest paid to Savings Account
<u>500.00</u>	Transferred into Checking Account from Savings Account
\$593.18	Total

Expenditures:

\$ 27.84	Talquin Electric for Bethel Rd Tower, 7-8-11 billing
391.64	Food, supplies and fuel for Field Day
51.04	Purchase of an Olympus VN-7000 digital voice recorder
41.90	Gift to St. Francis Church for use of facility
<u>500.00</u>	Transferred out of Savings Account to Checking
\$1011.42	Total

Outstanding Expenses:

None

Ending Balances on July 15, 2011:

Checking Account:	\$ 506.11
Savings Account:	<u>1789.73</u>
Total	\$2295.84

3 Members renewed or joined since last report.

2 individuals

1 family member

0 students

Dues for renewing individuals, as well as family members are \$7.50 Membership fee for new members joining in August is \$6.25.

The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is...

CONSIDERATE... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL... offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

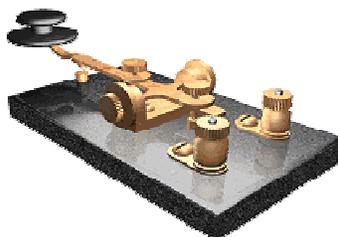
PROGRESSIVE... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur service.

BALANCED... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

-- The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.



Repeaters

	Location	County	Call Sign	For Emerg Mgt Use	D-Star	Output Freq	Encode	Aux or Remote Site
1	Crawfordville	Wakulla	K4WAK	Yes		145.450 -	94.8	
2	Crawfordville	Wakulla	KD4MOJ	Yes		444.000	None	
3	Greensboro	Gadsden	K4GFD	Yes		147.390	94.8 Tsq	
4	Monticello	Jefferson	WX4JEF	Yes		145.430 -	94.8	
5	Monticello	Jefferson	KA3FZO	Yes	D-Star	444.050	None	
6	Quincy	Gadsden	W4EAF	Yes		147.165	94.8	
7	Tallahassee	Leon	N4PG	Yes		146.610 -	203.5	
8	Tallahassee	Leon	AE4S	Yes		146.655 -	94.8 Tsq	
10	Tallahassee	Leon	K4TLH	Yes		146.910 -	94.8	
11	Tallahassee	Leon	K4TLH	Yes		147.030 +	94.8	
12	Tallahassee	Leon	KA4EOC	Yes		147.285	94.8 Tsq	
14	Tallahassee	Leon	K4TLH	Yes		442.100 +	94.8	
15	Tallahassee	Leon	K4TLH	Yes		442.850 +	94.8	
16	Tallahassee	Leon	KJ4G	Yes		443.400 +	131.8 Tsq	LK. TALQUIN; 147.495 smplx, Tsq 146.2 PANACEA; 146.505 smplx, Tsq 131.8 CRAWFORDVILLE; 147.555, smplx, Tsq 88.5 APALACHICOLA; 147.435, smplex, Tsq 100.0
17	Tallahassee	Leon	AE4S	Yes		443.950 +	94.8 Tsq	
18	Tallahassee	Leon	N4NKV	Yes		444.400 +	131.8	
19	Tallahassee	Leon	K4WAK	Yes	D-Star	146.835	DNA	
20	Tallahassee	Leon	K4WAK	Yes	D-Star	443.450	DNA	
21	Tallahassee	Leon	K4WAK	Yes	D-Star	1293.000	DNA	
22	Tallahassee	Leon	K4WAK	Yes	D-Star	1253.000	DNA	
23	Wacissa	Jefferson	K4TLH			147.000	94.8	



New Membership or Renewal Form

This form can be used for new members or for renewals. If you have not changed any information from last year, merely make payment to TARS. Complete the form with your name and indicate your member type and ARRL membership status. For Family status, complete a form for each member.

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

Member type: Individual Family Student (check one)

Home Phone () _____ - _____ Work Phone: () _____ - _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

ARRL member (y/n) _____ TARS Van trained (y/n) _____

You need not be a licensed amateur radio operator to join the Society. An interest in radio communications is all that is required.

Membership dues for the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society run \$15 annually per individual or family.

Students (with valid ID) can join for free!

New members pay pro-rata based on the number of months remaining in the calendar year (\$1.25 per month). Renewing members pay \$15 dues; except after July, dues become \$7.50.

Please make your dues check payable to the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (or TARS). Bring your check with the additional information to the next monthly meeting of the Society and give it to the Treasurer, or mail your check and information to the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society, C/O Treasurer, P. O. Box 37127, Tallahassee, FL, 32315.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), their dues are \$39 annually. TARS is an ARRL sanctioned organization. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/join.html> for more membership

