

Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society November 1, 2009



www.K4TLH.NET



The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society meets at 7:00 p. m. on the first Thursday of every month. Our primary meeting location is the conference room on the upper floor of the Publix on Ocala Road in Tallahassee. Talk-in on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (down .600, tone 94.8), or 146.520 simplex if you require entry into the building

What is hot with digital communications, see D-STAR technologies Brought to you by KJ4G PowerPoint presentation. Don't miss the HF presentation.

Minutes of the October TARS Membership Meeting

TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

Thursday, October 1, 2009

The TARS February Meeting was held in the training room at Publix on Ocala Rd. on Thursday, October 1, 2009.

CALL to ORDER at 7:10 p.m.

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO welcomed the 38__ members and guests who signed in.

* *The sheet listing those in attendance is made a part of these minutes.*

Dan said this meeting will differ from the usual, and will include some new faces and visitors not seen in awhile. He asked if anyone read the newsletter (sent in an unusual .xls format) and promised to send and post it again in the normal pdf format. A motion was approved to vary the normal order of the meeting.

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS

Dan introduced David Kerns KD4CAF, a US Air Force veteran, who is a very young 90; David received a round of welcoming applause. Dan invited folks to give a call to David's good pal, Ray KD4VQS, who has been under the weather lately. Also receiving a warm greeting were John WD4FFX and Terry W9TT of the State EOC, Chris Floyd, and the guest of honor, Dave Davis WA4WES

ARES ANNOUNCEMENT

Dan gave the URL for a website Dave Barton established to inform hams involved in the National Weather Service SKYWARN (weather spotter) network:

<http://www.nettally.com/dbarton/hamradio/wx4tae.html>

A weather spotter class will be held online on October 20, 2009. Interested spotters should sign up before the class.

PROGRAM

Dan said tonight's program will be a bit unusual. We are here to celebrate Dave WA4WES, who recently stepped down after many years in the post of ARES District Emergency Coordinator for the Capital District.

Dave has been in ham radio since 1965, and Dan said he has really enjoyed and learned a eat deal, working with WA4WES through the years. Dan added that Dave is a true gentleman, he cares deeply about people, he cares about the hobby, has done great things to get many different groups of people working together, and is really "into" emergency communications. Dan said he hoped to keep Dave and his counsel close at hand, because Dave has a great deal of knowledge to share, is a very dependable and trustworthy man, and has earned a lot of goodwill in the community.

Dan invited others to share their stories, and the (relatively gentle) roast began:

Carl NN5I started with his recollection of Dave's automatic telephone notification device, which called Carl's phone 23 times in one day, but left no message and rang 17 times each time. Someone commented that the system belonged to John WD4FFX, who said "that's why we took it away from Dave!"

Paul KJ4G, Section Manager, said he wanted to say a few words on behalf of ARRL headquarters. He said that ARRL, via the North Florida section, will provide David with a plaque in honor of his service, adding that this plaque goes to ECs and DEC's who have done a lot or have served a long time. Paul said an example of Dave's contribution is that throughout Wakulla County, there are now J-poles at fire stations that were built after Dave taught classes in antenna building. He said Dave had taken an early interest in digital communications and his seminars on that and other topics have helped hams learn a lot. He added that

Dave's 6 years of service is amazing, considering his obligations as a lawyer and parent. Paul promised that the plaque will be presented to Dave "post-humorously" once it arrives.

All agreed Dave WA4WES should speak. Dave said there were several events that really stuck in his mind, after all these years.

One was during the TOSRV bike race, when the route on SR 12 crossed US 27. Two hundred bikers took off from Quincy, and Carlton AG4UT was at the US 27 intersection. A policeman turned the bikers north onto 27, Larry KI4MAJ who was race coordinator said "oh my" and Dave thought "they're going to New York at 35 mph!!! But Dave marveled at how Carlton coolly moved up and got the bikers turned around, and Alan N4KGT with net control told them to take 12B; so a ham stopped the northbound traffic, Carlton flew past and led the peloton onto the correct route, and the racers resumed their course. This was an incident where there could have been a lot of people injured or worse, but a couple of hams with cool heads reacted so fast and well, using their radios strategically, and with knowledge of the local area, and saved the day.

The other situation, Dave recalled, was during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when the levees had broken in New Orleans and there was a problem communicating with Tulane hospital. An inquiry came from Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) which has a regional headquarters on Park Ave., as to whether the hams could help. Randy AG4UU spoke with HCA's Richard Chase, John WD4FFX lent 3 of the State's satellite radios to the effort, and Dave asked for volunteers. Theo K4MVO and Gene AI4KK had precious little time to prepare, and were flown by helicopter into the affected area. Gene stayed at the airport, and Theo staked out a tiny space in the parking garage at Tulane Hospital and used the satellite radio to speak back to Dave AI4GF who was supported by a whole team of operators and liasons at the HCA headquarters here. They were needed because the film on HCA's windows wouldn't let the signals pass, so an elaborate message-transfer system was set up in the HCA garage and messages passed night and day from the satellite phone to radios in and outside HCA headquarters in Tallahassee; and from Theo's sat phone onto pieces of paper to helicopter pilots and HCA's representatives at Tulane. Dan and Alan W1ABT kept folks coming in rotation in Tallahassee, Paul KJ4G helped establish a logging protocol, and many folks participated over 2 days to help coordinate the arrival and dispatching of helicopters, and eventually the retrieval of Theo and Gene from the chaos of New Orleans. Dave concluded: it was a neat operation, hams doing a very careful job, very slick, well run, and a great can-do attitude by everyone that got past dozens of obstacles and contributed to saving many lives.

Dave said he had spent several years in the army, working with Rangers and special ops, and said his impression of the people here is much the same. He said "you people get the job done very professionally, and it gives me a great feeling of pride to work with this group of people."

Next up was Mary KI4JOO, who spoke with strong emotion about her experience with Dave. She, too, recalled the Capital District's response to Hurricane Katrina, remembering her little handheld radio and how she would have to hang out the window to communicate. She was a brand new ham, at the time, and volunteered to go to the affected area with Bill KI4JOG. What impressed her was that Dave had the confidence in them to send them out and trusted them to do the job. She recalled how, when Dave himself was called to Hancock County, MS by his church, he took time to come by personally and check on the hams to see how they were doing - - and she said, with some emotion, that it meant the world to them, and how much she appreciated his leadership.

Dan added that Dave has always been a very good judge of character, and he always trusted hams in the Capital District to rise to the challenges he presented to them. Dan then invited everyone to give Dave a round of applause and to join in refreshments and a celebratory cake.

BREAK

Thanks to everyone who participated, and to Theo K4MVL for donating his share of 50-50 to TARS; and congratulations to Carl NN5I who netted the aged Wisconsin cheddar (we guess that makes him a cheesehead!)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOTA. Phil N4IPH said that JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) will take place October 17 and 18, 2009. The location is the Youth Camp at St. George's Island State Park, on the sound side (left) after you enter the Park. Phil invited hams to come down and help the kids make contacts, and he encouraged those with equipment and alternate modes, such as slow-scan and other digital modes, to participate. Phil, James KG4YZM, Mike K4ICY, Paul KJ4G and others said they planned to participate.

Phil and Paul KJ4G said a Technician class is planned for November 14th, 2009 at the Gulf County EOC in Port St. Joe. The class will be used as a review and question-and-answer session, so students should study in advance, as the exam will be given the same day. Paul said they will advertise the class, and anyone wanting to take a test can do so.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT and MINUTES

The Treasurer's Report and Minutes were approved as printed in the October Newsletter.

* A copy of the Treasurer's Report is made a part of these Minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education / Testing -

Phil N4IPH reported that 8 took the last TARS Technician class, and 3 successful students were in attendance tonight: George Harmon, and Zulma and Keith Flynn. They were given enthusiastic applause and welcomed to the hobby. David W4SKG noted that he had already recruited the new hams to help TARS with radio communications for the Tallahassee Museum's Halloween Howl. (Catch 'em young and teach 'em right, Dave!)

NEW BUSINESS

Spaghetti 100. Dan KI4HGO invited all interested hams to participate with radio communications for this cross-border bicycle ride that begins and ends at the Miccosukee community, with a route through rural north Florida and south Georgia. Dan needs a couple of net controls and various hams to take positions along the route. Dave KG4YZI said the spaghetti at the end is worth the wait!

Jerry N4JL asked about plans for the TARS Christmas party. There was discussion about locations that might be available and/or large enough to accommodate the group, Dan said there were always concerns about having enough participation to meet the minimum number required by the restaurants, and he would like a volunteer to organize the event. Dave W4SKG suggested Dan would be the best person to find a location, and discussion will continue after the meeting.

Whirlwind 2010. Chris Floyd thanked TARS for helping with the John Paul drill in July 2009, saying it was so successful that another similar statewide hurricane drill has been planned for 2010, and he hopes the ham community will again participate. He expressed particular thanks to Paul KJ4G and all the hams who participated this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan closed the meeting by again thanking Dave WA4WES for his many years of service, and said he looked forward to continued work with Dave in the future. The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantal Blanton, KI4NBU

TARS Treasurer's Report

October 2009

Beginning balance September 1, 2009

Checking Account:	\$ 732.07
Savings Account:	<u>\$2927.06</u>
Total	\$3659.13

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$53.76

Receipts deposited in savings account: 0.00

Receipts derived from the following:

18.75	Member Dues
2.50	Donation
32.51	TARS clothing order

\$53.76 Total

Expenditures:

\$123.73	Talquin Electric, Bethel Road Tower
267.29	Clothing order with TARS emblem

\$391.02 Total

Outstanding Expenses:

None

Ending Balance, September 30, 2009

Checking Account:	\$ 394.81
Savings Account:	<u>\$2927.06</u>
Total	\$3321.87

(The Talquin Electric billing has been set at the minimum rate of usage for the past 6 months. Talquin only reads the meter every 6 months. The current charge reflects the difference in usage from the minimum to the actual usage to date. This makes an average charge of about \$36 per month for the electric bill.)

3 members renewed or joined since last report.

3 individuals 0 family members 0 students

Dues for renewing individuals, as well as family members are \$15.00.

Membership fee for new members joining in September is \$3.75.

Results of Completed Technician License Class de Phil N4IPH

The Tallahassee area has at least 6 new Amateurs from our Technician License Class held at the St. Francis Episcopal Church parish hall. I want to thank St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, David W4SKG and Mike KI4KWC for allowing us to use the church facilities for the class. Also thanks to the hams to come out to the three class sessions and offer their assistance Kerry AI4CW, David KG4YZI, James KG4YZM, Donna WQ4M, Paul KJ4G and Alan N4KGT. Thanks also for the VE that assisted with the testing session on October 6th. We will probably have another Technician License class in Tallahassee after the first of the year due to the holiday schedule. If you want to drive to Port St. Joe on Saturday November 14th..we will have a "one day" Tech class at the EOC...see the ARRL website under classes for information

Newly licensed Technicians are **Keith Flynn KJ4PVC**, **George Harmon KJ4PVB**, **Wanda Hinton KJ4PUZ**, **Zulma Jimenez KJ4PUD**, **Delores Weldon KJ4PVA** and **Gary Wilson KJ4PVE**.

Congratulations to our new HAMs!

Give Your Generator Some Space

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the same folks that bring you WWV, publish a monthly newsletter called NIST Tech Beat. Here's an item from the 10/6/09 issue of NIST Tech Beat that will be of interest to radio amateurs:

To subdue the steaming heat of hurricanes or to thaw out during a blizzard, gasoline-powered, portable generators are a lifeline during weather emergencies when homes are cut off without electricity. But these generators emit poisonous carbon monoxide—a single generator can produce a hundred times more of the colorless, odorless gas than a modern car's exhaust. New research from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) shows that to prevent potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, users may need to keep generators farther from the house than previously believed—perhaps as much as 25 feet.

Up to half of the incidents of non-fatal carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning reported in the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons involved generators run within 7 feet of the home, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Carbon monoxide can enter a house through a number of airflow paths, such as a door or window left open to accommodate the extension cord that brings power from the generator into the house. While some guidance recommends 10 feet from open windows as a safe operating distance, NIST researcher Steven Emmerich says the "safe" operating distance depends on the house, the weather conditions and the unit. A generator's carbon monoxide output is usually higher than an automobile's, he says, because most generators do not have the sophisticated emission controls that cars do.

"People need to be aware that generators are potentially deadly and they need to educate themselves on proper use," Emmerich says. With funding from CDC, NIST researchers are gathering reliable data to support future CDC guidance.

NIST building researchers simulated multiple scenarios of a portable generator operating outside of a one-story house, using both a test structure and two different computer models—the NIST-developed CONTAM indoor air quality model and a computational fluid dynamics model.

The simulations included factors that could be controlled by humans, such as generator location, exhaust direction and window-opening size, and environmental factors such as wind, temperature and house dimensions. In the simulations the generator was placed at various distances from the house and tested under different weather conditions.

"We found that for the house modeled in this study," researcher Leon Wang says, "a generator position 15 feet away from open windows was not far enough to prevent carbon monoxide entry into the house."

Winds perpendicular to the open window resulted in more carbon monoxide entry than winds at an angle, and lower wind speeds generally allowed more carbon monoxide in the house. "Slow, stagnant wind seems to be the worst case because it leads to the carbon monoxide lingering by the windows," Wang explains. Researchers determined that placing the generator outside of the airflow recirculation regions near the open windows reduced carbon monoxide entry.

In the next phase of the study NIST will model a two-story house that researchers believe will interact with the wind differently. NIST researchers also have worked with the Consumer Product Safety Commission on related work. (See: "NIST to Study Hazards of Portable Gasoline-Powered Generators," NIST Tech Beat, March 5, 2008.)

The generator study can be downloaded at <http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/build09/PDF/b09009.pdf>.
* L. Wang and S.J. Emmerich. Modeling the Effects of Outdoor Gasoline Powered Generator Use on Indoor Carbon Monoxide Exposures. (NIST Technical Note 1637,) 2009.

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 interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

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.

Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) at St. George Island State Park de Phil N4IPH

If you were on HF the weekend of October 17th..you probably heard a number of "young voices"..this was JOTA weekend for the World Scout Organization. Each year Scouts have a chance to experience Amateur Radio by talking to other Scouts both in the US and around the world. We had a number of TARS hams make the trek to St. George State Park and set up several stations early Saturday morning. With upper 30's and lower 40's temperatures and a shore breeze... we were able to get a number of wire antennas up and on the air. Mike and Micah used the "pneumatic antenna launcher" to get the first one in the trees.

Paul KJ4G and Donna WQ4M brought Paul's RV "Communications Center and HamRadio South" down that Friday afternoon. Norm K4GFD provided a backup generator and other supplies. Donna and Norm provided a demo of some digital communication. Mike K4ICY, Micah KJ4AWZ James KG4YZM, Paul KJ4G, and I spent several hours allowing the Scouts to talk to other Scouts over the air. The first two contacts were with Germany on 20 meters..we then moved to several Coast Guard Special Event stations...the rest of the time we talked to other Scout groups.

James held a Radio Merit Badge class Saturday afternoon and 16 Scouts completed the requirements..including their "on air" contacts by Amateur Radio. Paul experimented with a new RV HF antenna mounted on the rear ladder of his RV...after some "evaluation" and "technical adjustments" ...he was able to get it on most of the HF bands.

Thanks to all who made the **2009 Jamboree on the Air** from St. George State park a success this year..sure beats working the event out of the Boy Scout Council parking lot on Thomasville Road..



Fall W1AW CW Practice Schedule

Code freqs; 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675

Code Speeds;

Slow-----5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15wpm

Fast-----35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10wpm

Digital-----3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.025, 21.095, 28.095

Voice-----1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590

EDT	CTRL	MTN	PACFI	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
9AM	8AM	7AM	6AM	-	FC	SC	FC	SC
4PM	3PM	2PM	1PM	FC	SC	FC	SC	FC
5PM	4PM	3PM	2PM	CODE BULLETINS				
6PM	5PM	4PM	3PM	DIGITAL BULLETINS				
7PM	6PM	5PM	4PM	SC	FC	SC	FC	SC
8PM	7PM	6PM	5PM	CODE BULLETINS				
9PM	8PM	7PM	6PM	DIGITAL BULLETINS				
9:45PM	8:45PM	7:45PM	6:45PM	VOICE BULLETINS				
10PM	9PM	8PM	7PM	FC	SC	FC	SC	FC
11PM	10PM	9PM	8PM	CODE BULLETINS				

New Membership or Renewal Form



2009 has arrived and so has TARS membership renewal. Make the form easy on yourself. 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: _____ Callsign: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

Member type: Individ. _____ Family _____ Student _____ (check one)

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

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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

Membership dues for the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society run \$15 annually per individual or family. **Students** (with valid ID) **can join for free!** You need not be a licensed amateur radio operator to join the Society. An interest in radio communications is all that is required. 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 information.

TARS Officers

President: Dan Moniz - KI4HGO

Vice President: Alan Torledskey - W1ABT

Secretary: Chantal Blanton - KI4NBU

Treasurer: LarryPushor KI4MAJ

TARS Committees:

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU

Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI4HGO

Historian: Shawn Wilson AG4VE

Equipment Manager: Steve Welsh AD4E

Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH

Special Events: Carliane Johnson KG4CJT

Webmaster: David A. Heupel WE4RA

