

Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society September 3, 2009



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

The program will be presented by Thomasville's resident antenna expert Terry Webb, NOTW the Antenna Wizard. Terry is very active on 10M likes CW; he also is a big fan of DX and has a monthly column in the TARC newsletter.

Minutes of the August TARS Membership Meeting

TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

Thursday, August 6, 2009

The TARS August Meeting was held at the Publix on Ocala Rd. on Thursday, August 6, 2009.

CALL to ORDER at 7:00 p.m.

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO welcomed the **45** members and guests who signed in.

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

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS

Keith Flynn introduced himself and his wife Zulma, saying he is very interested in learning more about amateur radio and wants to get his ticket. This brought a warm round of applause. Charles Richard said he had let his license lapse (KE4QPU), but he wants to get back into the hobby, and he brought along his daughter Ginger. And this meeting gave us the chance to finally meet Robert ("Bob or Jake") Jakeman KD4AIS, whose project to get on the air was featured in the August Newsletter .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A motion was approved to vary the normal order of the meeting, at Dan's request, replacing the usual program with a much needed discussion of the communications van.
2. Roger AJ4GF reported on an antenna party to help Bob ("Jake") KD4AIS get back on the air. Much work was done by Roger's crew of Randy AG4UU, Dan KI4HGO, Kimo K4IMO, Dave AI4GF, Nick W4EAF, and Bill Adams. Roger reported that although "Sam Adams" was the only Adams who did not show up, a good time was had by all. Photos are in the August Newsletter.
3. ARES - Dave WA4WES reminded everyone that hurricane season is here, although very quiet so far. The mantra is "it only takes one." September is the peak time, so hams should check their gear and get ready. ARES information is available on the TARS webpage, including a useful checklist for jump teams. Dave also encouraged everyone to sign up on the webpage that Paul KJ4G has established www.arrl-nfl.org.

Dave said the Suwannee River district has a Wednesday night net on 146.94 and would like someone on the east side of the Capital District to check in there and report any news, to aid in coordination between Districts. If anyone can do so, please contact WA4WES.

He also asked if there were any strong preferences on a topic for a forum to be held in the Fall of 2009, perhaps antennas or anything else.

4. AMERICAN RED CROSS

Pat Kelley, Director of Emergency Services for the Capital Area, said he would like to put a full beam up on the 40 foot tower on the hill behind the new ARC site. Dave WA4WES said he will discuss that

with Repeater Trustee Randy AG4UU.

DISCUSSION

Dan introduced Randy, AG4UU, who was appointed at the July meeting to chair a committee to study the matter of the TARS van and report findings to the membership. Randy said Kent KC4TOC agreed to serve on the committee along with those named in July, and he supports decommissioning. Randy has procured a new storage location with security and good access near Orange Ave. and Springhill Rd., where work can proceed.

The committee's answers to some questions raised in July were:

- The antenna tower was once 100 ft tall, but the mast is now 60 ft because each section had 5 ft removed for transport. It weighs over 400 lbs, so cannot be hauled by the trailer mentioned in July.
- Randy and the committee will coordinate moving the van to the new location, as various towing options are not practical. Only once the van is in its new location should it be decommissioned and TARS equipment removed and returned to the club inventory.

After further useful questions and discussion, Carl NN5I, Richard W1AAO, and Pat Kelley made various motions to postpone a decision, modify plans, or vote on the fate of the van. However, after the Secretary read the motion that remained tabled since July, Dan KI4HGO called for a vote and the vote was unanimous to decommission the van. Carl NN5I moved this be completed by July 1, 2010 and his motion was approved unanimously. Randy AG4UU requested TARS' authorization to move the van to its new location, and this was granted by acclamation. Randy said he will take photos for custodian Steve AD4E as a record of the current contents. John KI4EWB suggested any new ideas or suggestions be channeled through the committee, so the membership can contribute ideas in a timely and orderly way. The suggestion was accepted by acclamation. Following these great achievements, Dan KI4HGO declared it was time for a break and refreshments. TARS adhered strictly to its "no cake left behind" policy!

BREAK.

Being declared the youngest person in attendance, Charles Richard's daughter Ginger selected the winning 50-50 ticket of Mike K4ICY (we hope he celebrated with something to help him get over his cold.)

OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for August and Minutes from July were printed in the Newsletter and Carl's motion to approve passed unanimously.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Testing -

Alan Terrell N4KGT said the test session was held Tuesday evening and Richard K4DMZ passed his General exam. Paul KJ4G reported that just afterwards, Richard drove off to Gainesville to continue his studies. Richard said he enjoyed being part of TARS and knowing everyone. Alan said the next

TARS test will be the first Tuesday in October [6th], but in 2 weeks on Saturday there will be a TARC test in the Library of Thomasville, Georgia. Paul KJ4G said SPARC also has an upcoming test session.

Repeater -

Trustee Randy Pierce AG4UU reported that the K4TLH repeater 442.850 is back on the air; and he is working on the 146.910 machine.

Newsletter -

Dan KI4HGO said the August Newsletter was sent out to all members; and he again asked everyone to send any changes in email address to Dan at ki4hgo@arrl.net.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Nick W4EAF said it's never too late to order shirts with the TARS logo. He has 8 orders and needs 4 more, so please contact him soon so he can place the club's order.
2. Dan KI4HGO reported on a class and test session in Franklin County, which was detailed in the Newsletter. Dan said participation by club volunteers was great, and he was very proud of everyone who participated. Paul KJ4G said 5 people came for the class on Friday afternoon, 4 of 5 passed their test, and there is a lot of enthusiasm in the small but growing group of Franklin County hams.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pat Kelley offered the availability of a classroom for TARS meetings and classes in the new American Red Cross facility. The Tactical/Operations center will be set up with laptops and other equipment, so TARS could have presentations or webinars online, if desired. Pat said, however, it will not be feasible to hold the 2010 Field Day at the new facility.
2. Dave WE4RA reported that Williams Communications has completed negotiations with ICOM, and interested members can contact Dave about ICOM equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chantal Blanton, KI4NB

TARS Treasurer's Report

September 2009

Beginning balance August 1, 2009

Checking Account:	\$ 836.22
Savings Account:	<u>\$2927.06</u>
Total	\$3763.28

Receipts deposited in checking account:	\$101.60
Receipts deposited in savings account:	0.00

Receipts derived from the following:

66.25	Member Dues
12.50	50/50
22.85	TARS clothing order
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\$101.60	Total

Expenditures:

22.16	Talquin Electric, Bethel Road Tower
183.59	Food for Field Day, Supper and Breakfast
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\$205.75	Total

Outstanding Expenses:
None

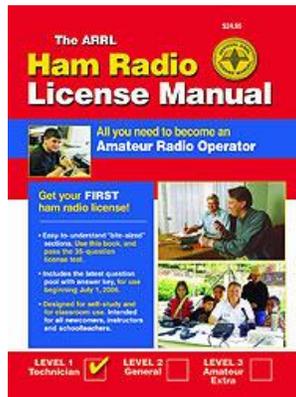
(Note: Field Day expenses for 2009 were \$323.72.)

Ending Balance, August 31, 2009

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

3 members renewed or joined since last report.
1 individuals
2 family member
0 students

Dues for renewing individuals, as well as family members are \$15.00.
Membership fee for new members joining in September is \$5.00.



Technician License Class September 21, 22 & 24 2009 de Phil N4IPH

The next Technician License Class sponsored by TARS will be held at St. Francis of Assasi Episcopal Church at 3413 Old Bainbridge Rd, in north west Tallahassee on **September 21, 22 & 24 2009**. ..The same location as our current VE Testing Sessions. The class will run for three nights from 5:30 PM until 9 PM in the Parrish Hall of the church. We also have Friday the 25th if we don't complete everything in three sessions.

Testing will be held the first Tuesday in October at the regular testing session..also at the church. Those attending the class will need to order (or borrow) the Technician License Manual from the ARRL or one of the Amateur Radio suppliers. If you use an older copy of the Technician License manual...be sure to download a copy of the current Technician Class Question Pool (valid from 7/1/2006-6/30/20010) from the ARRL (www.arrl.org).

If you have a Boy Scout that wishes to earn the Radio, Electricity and Electronics Merit Badges..we will be glad to help them complete the requirements. Check the BSA Merit Badge website (www.meritbadge.com) for the current ones for each badge.

Thanks to David Miner W4SKG and St. Francis for providing the space for the class. For more information contact me at N4IPH@arrl.net



JOTA Scout Jamboree on the Air October 17, 2009 de Phil N4IPH

TARS has been asked by the Suwannee River Area Council of the Boy Scouts to set up several stations for JOTA at the Council's Fall Camporee which will be held at St. George State Park the weekend of October 16th-18th 2009. In the past we have set up at Wallwood Scout Camp (south of Quincy) and the local Scout Office (on Thomasville Road). Every few years the Council Camporee and JOTA fall on the same weekend. The Scouts will be there from Friday night (October 16th) through Sunday (October 18th)...

I'm planning on setting up our stations from Saturday morning (~9 AM) until late afternoon Saturday. If you wish to operate outside these time...I'm sure the Scouts would appreciate it. The most popular mode of operation during JOTA is SSB..it would be nice to have at least two stations...20 meters & 40 meters for example...don't think 10 meters has opened back up yet. If someone would like to provide a demo of PSK-31...Satellite..SSTV or some of the other modes...come on down! We will need operators..but also equipment, antennas and power sources.

We will probably have to operate from batteries (deep cycle) or possibly a small generator.. not sure how much noise will be allowed or where we will set up...I'm waiting to hear back from the Scout Office when the details are released. We would also need to provide our own food and refreshments during our operating time. I think it takes about two hours from Tallahassee to get to St. George State Park...so that means getting up early on a Saturday morning

If you are interested in helping..please contact me at N4IPH@arrl.net . This would be an excellent time to show the Scouting organization what we can do and how much fun we have with Amateur Radio. We might even pick up a few more "potential Hams". For more information on JOTA...check the ARRL website (www.ARRL.org).

Broadband over Power lines

For newsletter:

For anyone interested in the dispute over standards for Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL) debate, here is a source for the latest info.

<http://cryptome.org/0001/fcc082409.htm>

It is long but has some interesting stuff.

JRW

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**If you are interested in Space Weather
Check out this internet site**

Space weather

<http://www.spaceweather.ca/sx-eng.php>

DJM

D-Star on display at Four Akers Electronic parts store

Late in August, the NFDG installed a 2M D-Star radio in Four Akers electronic parts store. The radio is programmed to KI4EUV, Ichabod. He is the control operator as his callsign is transmitted on every key up of the mic.

Along with his interest, he graciously provided the location for any amateurs who would like to stop by and try D-Star out or get a feel for it. Any licensed amateur may use the station.

Soon when the D-Star system is back on G2 internet, it will be possible to participate in world wide communications and listen in on what's going on locally from this station.

This is not a business venture for Ichabod. He is in no way selling or representing Icom, D-Star, or in any way receiving funds for this operation. This is a way for local hams to learn more about digital comms.

Feel free to stop by and say hello and check out D-Star. If you have any questions and Ichabod can't answer, get a hold of one of the regulars for more info.

73,

Paul L. Eakin, KJ4G@arrl.org

From the ARRL ARES E-Letter

KJ4G makes impression on the No FL Section

If you are having trouble reading this message, you can see the original at:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/?issue=2009-08-19>



August 19, 2009

Editor: [Rick Palm, K1CE](#)

[ARES E-Letter Archive](#)

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I am a D-RAT.

The View from Flagler County

Here in Northern Florida, we have enjoyed the excellent leadership of new Section Manager Paul Eakin, KJ4G. Eakin has been in office for eighteen months, and in that short period of time he has been able to effectively address several ARES issues that have simmered throughout the section, including redistricting here in our area on the central east coast, with a re-staffing effort currently underway.

Perhaps his finest achievement was due to his up close and personal approach with disenfranchised emcomm operators in the major Orlando metro area of Orange County, to bring that community back into the ARES fold. Eakin's style of shuttle diplomacy among area clubs, individual operators, and the major EOC staff was key to effecting the change. "He's a breath of fresh air," and "He cares about us," were two comments I received from Orange County hams.

In an effort to revitalize ARES here in the new East Coast District, which now comprises Flagler and Volusia (Daytona Beach area) counties, Eakin has called a special meeting to be held this Saturday in Volusia. All amateurs in Flagler and Volusia Counties who are interested in ARES can attend. Several key Section officials will be on hand to support the effort. It is hoped that volunteers will step forward to apply for ARES leadership positions during this meeting.

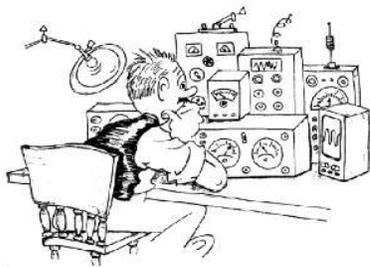
Because of the challenges posed by the major storms of last year, it became apparent that we needed a way to contact amateurs for deployment in a more expeditious manner. The Northern Florida

Database was just created and put on line on June 20, 2009. It is a complete tool to keep records of training, deployments, contact information, availability time frames, special skills, equipment inventories, memberships in ARES and other emcomm groups, emergency contact information for those on deployment, and other information. All Florida State EOC ESF-2 requests for amateurs to be deployed will be coordinated through the data base. It is the official application platform for ARES registration.

Eakin also works closely with Florida EOC officials in Tallahassee, including well-known veteran John Fleming, WD4FFX, a long time supporter of state Amateur Radio emcomms. Together, they sponsored a hugely successful conference recently at the Tallahassee facility. ARES expenses were covered by funds from the FEOC, and several key staffers made presentations. ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, Vice Director Jeff Beals, WA4AW, and Assistant Director Blanche Sarratt, N4LUV, were also in attendance to support the conference. A new Northern Florida ARES Plan is being drafted and should be completed soon.

As we watch the Atlantic off the coast of Africa spin up embryonic cells of weather potentially destined for the magnificent Florida peninsula, it is reassuring that the state has an ARES program that is seeing new vitality with not only vigorous new SM Paul Eakin, KJ4G, at the helm of Northern Florida, but also with the seasoned veterans like Southern Florida SM Sherri Brower, W4STB, and West Central Florida SM Gerald Turner, N4GD. Florida ARES is ready for whatever comes over the horizon.

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

