

September 2003



## EchoLink Now Available In Tallahassee

By John D. Flemming, WD4FFX

EchoLink is a computer program that opens up new possibilities for communicating around the world with other amateur radio operators. Your PC links you or your local repeater to any of more than 99,000 other stations over the internet.

From your PC, you can connect with other stations that are similarly equipped and communicate over the internet.

Virtually any type of internet connection may be

used with EchoLink, from dial-up to DS3. Custom settings allow you to tailor EchoLink to compensate for older computers or slower internet connections.

A UHF transceiver at the state EOC has been configured as an EchoLink node for communications through the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Club's 442.100 repeater.

Since the node was installed last week, a number of local, regional, national and DX stations

have worked the repeater. As of early this week, amateur operators in 19 states and 7 countries have been worked using a mobile rig or handy-talkie on the 442.100 repeater. If you have a good signal to this repeater, you can either originate connections to any EchoLink station in the world or respond to stations connecting to the repeater.

To participate in this interesting and exciting method of communication

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### Special points of interest:

- Your articles wanted for the newsletter.
- Newsletter is back in publication. We apologize for the interruption in your service.

## President's QSO

### *Educational Programs*

We are looking into providing more for people who are trying to obtain or upgrade licenses. This would include collecting and purchasing books, computer programs, and other study aids to loan out. If you have any useful materials of this nature, please bring them to

a club meeting or contact me.

### *Inventory Status*

Progress is being made on compiling an inventory of the club's assets. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, TARS has a lot of "stuff" that's spread out over several locations.

## Meeting Minutes – August 2003

Monthly meeting of TARS was held Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Claude Pepper Bldg. Tallahassee.

The meeting was opened by President Brian Dunworth (AI4AI).

Twenty-one were present.

Dave Davis (WA4WES) discussed Skywarn and hurricane preparedness, and provided a number to call in any disturbance (942.8839).

Phil Ashler (N4IPH) announced that a new class will start August 13 at the Red Cross building on Office Plaza behind the Ford garage on Magnolia. Classes will continue for about 8 weeks.

David Heupel (WE4RA) announced a need for help with the newsletter. Dis-

cussion followed with suggestions for the future of the publication. David will give a recommendation at the Sept. meeting.

Treasure's report: Checking account \$139.14, savings \$3384.83. Deposits \$29.25 from dues, and \$7.00 from 50/50.

In response to Kent Hutchinson's (KC4TOC) request concerning the 576-4200 phone at his residence, John Love (NZ4QJ) made a motion seconded by Carl Hayes (NN5I) to discontinue the phone. Motion passed.

A committee was formed to discuss amending the by-laws to report back at the September meeting.

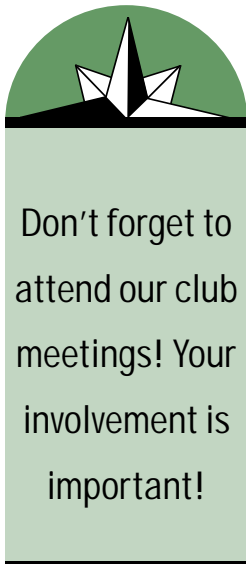
Alan Terrell (NK4GT) reported a new repeater in town (1291.5 MHz, PL tone

of 94.8) is up and running.

Brian reported the availability of 6 volt batteries. These are spares from emergency lighting units. Wire a pair together, and you have a nice 12V backup power supply for your HT, or QRP station. If you would like to get hold of one or two, contact Bill Frieder (N4QNF).

The 50/50 raffle net \$14.50 for the club.

Respectively submitted, John (NZ4QJ).



## Sealing Your Connections Can Be Corrosive

*By Carlton Wells, AG4UT*

What may be corroding your electrical connections or other metal contacts? Would you have guessed your sealant?

While recently traveling I-75N to Dayton for the HamVention, I chatted with this guy (on 146.520 MHz simplex) who seemed to really know his stuff.

We talked about amplifiers based on 3-1000Z tube, towers, and RTV sealant. Check the ingredients of the sealant you may be applying to determine if it contains "acetic acid." Another check is the smell of vinegar emanating from the sealant.

There is at least one sealant that doesn't use acetic acid. Look for Permatex ULTRA BLACK, (no. 598B)

which should be available at your local automotive store. Although it's a "gasket maker," it works like a sealant and is non-corrosive.

## EchoLink Now Available in Tallahassee

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tion, go to <http://www.echolink.org> and download a copy of the latest version of the program. It is free-ware and will never cost you anything. The same URL will provide additional information on how it works.

Once you install the program, the EchoLink server will verify your callsign to ensure that you are a licensed amateur and authorize you to make connections. Non-amateurs cannot use the system or connect to any station. This authorization process interesting and exciting method of communication, go to <http://echolink.org> and download a copy of the latest version of the program. It is freeware and will never

cost you anything. The same URL will provide additional information on how it works.

Once you install the program, EchoLink will verify your callsign to ensure that you are a licensed amateur to authorize you to make connections, since non-amateurs cannot use the system. This authorization process can take from an hour to a day and any class amateur radio operator can use the system and connect to any station.

There are four classes of stations on EchoLink: Repeaters, Links, Users and Conferences. Descriptions of the differences between these classes of stations can be found in the program's help files or on the web. Setting up the program on

your computer is relatively easy but there are some firewall and security concerns to consider.

Download the program, install it and try it. You may like it. It is just another aspect of this fascinating hobby. Remember, please be courteous and use good operating practices.

You can contact Brian Dunworth (AI4AI) if you have any questions or need any help locally.



Please submit your articles and announcements to the newsletter editor by the 15th of the month... info on back.



Amateur Radio  
Around the  
World

We're on the Web!  
<http://www.k4tlh.org>



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tars>

## Your Officers

### President:

Brian Dunworth, AI4AI

### Vice-President:

Shaun Hancock, AF400

### Treasurer:

Carlton W. Wells, AG4UT

### Secretary:

John Love, NZ4QJ

## Upcoming Events

**Testing Session:** 7:00 p. m. on the first Tuesday of odd numbered months, at 2631 Municipal Way in Tallahassee. For more information, visit <http://www.k4tlh.net/testing.htm>.

**TARS Meetings:** Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p. m. EDT.

**Friday Lunch:** Every Friday, 11:30 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on North Monroe St.

**Saturday Breakfasts:** Every Saturday, 8:00 a. m. EDT at Golden Corral on N Monroe St.

### Capital District ARES

**Net:** Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater (146.655).

### North Florida ARES

**Net:** Every morning, except Sunday on 3950 KHz at 9:00 a. m. Eastern.

### North Florida Phone

**Net:** Every evening, on 3950 KHz at 2330 UTC.

## Editorial Policy

Submitted material received by the editor from dues-paying members in good standing, on or before the 15th of the month will appear in the following month's newsletter as space permits. Articles published in *The Printed Circuit* are not representative of the views or opinions of the whole organization, and such views and opinions are of the individual author(s). Currently, the editor is Ryan Harris, KC4FSU (KC4FSU@Comcast.net) and is published by David Heupel, WE4RA (WE4RA@arrl.net).