



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

August 7, 2008



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 Speaker for the August Program is Pat Kelly the new Red Cross Emergency Services Director. We are very interested in Pat's ideas regarding the relationship Ham Radio has with the American Red Cross
Don't miss this one!!!**

Minutes of the July TARS Membership Meeting
TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society
Thursday, July 10, 2008

The TARS July Meeting was held at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church hall at 3413 Old Bainbridge Rd., Tallahassee, on Thursday, July 10, 2008.

CALL to ORDER at 7:07 p.m.

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO welcomed the 40+ members and guests who attended, and Dan thanked Pat and Mike Thomas KI4KWC for arranging TARS' use of the great facility. He invited members to consider it for club activities such as the Radio Reunion or Field Day.

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

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS

New faces included: Marty Libby of Premier Motorcars in Crawfordville, who wants to become a ham; Michael Turner of FDLE, who had exposure to radio in the military and wants to get back into it; and retiree Dorothy Martin (see below) whom Pat Thomas said would arrive shortly. The following hams were recognized: Scott Prentice K3UM who is involved in Boy Scouts; Mike Dodson N4JEL; and Farley Light AE4KJ whose repaired heart was just as big, warm, and friendly as ever. Catherine, little daughter of Randy AG4UU, was very patient with all the droning adults throughout the evening.

PROGRAM

Dan announced that there would be no formal program because Pat Kelley, new Director of the American Red Cross Chapter House in Tallahassee, might not be able to attend as had been expected. He said members could take advantage of the extra time to tour the facility.

ARES

Dave WA4WES, Capital District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) covered various ARES items:

- § Last Sunday during the 8 p.m. ARES net there were problems with the 146.655 repeater. The District plan in such cases is to use 146.655 simplex. The net moved on to Kimo's repeater to take advantage of its wide footprint.
- § Dave announced he has officially appointed Dan Moniz KI4HGO as his Assistant *DEC*. Dan will be prepared to take over DEC duties in case Dave could not respond. Dan was congratulated on his new appointment.
- § Hams should review ARES information on the K4TLH website and prepare for hurricane season long before storms arrive.
- § Sign-up sheets were passed so Dave would have new hams' contacts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Paul KJ4G reported that John Ryan KD2NL is at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and would be very glad to have visitors.
2. Dan reported that he had computer problems and could not link all the photos from Field Day into the Newsletter, so he may put them on the K4TLH website. Dave Heupel WE4RA agreed to help.

3. ARES Section Manager Paul KJ4G reported on his activities for the North Florida Section:
- § North Florida Plan - Revision is in process, and Paul is working with John Fleming W4FFX to coordinate with the State's plans.
 - § ARES-SM is advertising for an Official Observer Coordinator because the current OOC stepped down. [The object of the OO program is to notify amateurs by mail of operating/technical irregularities before they come to the attention of the FCC.]
 - § ARES-SM is advertising for a Public Information Officer (PIO), at least one for each district and for counties with large populations. Interested persons can contact Paul.

4. Dan KI4HGO said the Board appreciates the membership's confidence in returning the Board to serve. He said one of his goals was to see another of the repeaters that has a wide footprint operational. Randy AG4UU said the O3 machine has the widest footprint, similar to 147.285 or 146.655, and work was proceeding to keep club repeaters functional and updated with new equipment, as time and finances permit.

5. Phil N4IPH said a new Technician class will begin on August 19th. Classes will be held at TMH and Alan W1ABT will give directions to the training room. TMH is supporting its staff with books, but students not from TMH will have to purchase their own books, now that the Red Cross is not involved. There was discussion of writing a grant to obtain books in the future. The class will also include some material from the General Class exam. Phil said that TARS operated the GOTA (Get On The Air) station during Field Day and Larry KI4MAJ made his first HF contact there.

6. David KG4YZI said the Airfest Committee of the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) donated \$400 to TARS, and Dave will give the check to Treasurer Larry KI4MAJ. On the topic of the reorganization at the local American Red Cross Chapter House, David said the new Emergency Services Director, Patrick "Pat" Kelley, is very positive about supporting the amateur radio community and had said that, in the future, TARS will have use of ARC equipment as needed for emergency radio communications and events such as Field Day. Mr. Kelley wants this chapter to set up under the ICS format.

7. Mike KI4KWC and Pat Thomas, who works with the Senior Adventure Club at the Tallahassee Senior Center, thanked TARS and the Decoteau family for giving an excellent and entertaining program on amateur radio at the Center. Dorothy Thomas and several other seniors enjoyed the presentation so much that they now wish to become hams. Dan KI4HGO said it's a worthy cause for TARS members to teach these folks who are now so motivated to become involved in the hobby.

8. Discussion of Field Day 2008:

- There was a request to describe the purpose of Field Day. Dave WE4RA explained that Field Day is an annual amateur radio operating event for the entire USA, held on the 4th weekend in June and lasting 24 hours, organized as a contest for points. The event is geared toward operating on emergency power, honing skills, and general emergency preparedness and eating great BBQ! He directed members to the ARRL Field Day website or QST for details on the types of stations, setups, and rules.

- Sal K4YFW asked if TARS is obliged to be a type 2A competitor, noting that there was not much

chance to socialize since operators were off in their own trailers. Paul KJ4G said SPARC encourages socializing in a central area where people congregate when not transmitting.

- Dave WE4RA said TARS had been a 2A for many years, but due to growth in the club, maybe it's time for new options, like more transmitters or a change in location. He said one of the best Field Days was 1999 or 2000 at Mission San Luis where TARS scored over 7000 points with everyone operating and interacting in the old caretaker's house. Dave and Larry said they will tally up the points and turn in the results for 2008.
- John KI4EWB asked if anyone felt they did not get to operate as much as they wished during Field Day, and suggested that expanding to include more modes might be helpful.
- Several members said it is hard to organize any TARS event, because it's hard to get people to commit to attending.
- Everyone agreed that Larry KI4MAJ did a great job organizing, and that Bobby KD4QKI headed a super cooking team that put on a fine spread for all. Both received enthusiastic applause.

Break - Thanks to Sal K4YFW for donating his 50-50 share to the club.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Larry KI4MAJ reported that income exceeded expenditures in June because payment was still pending for Field Day expenses. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes were printed in the Newsletter, and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (see Announcements above.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dan KI4HGO reported that he and the group working on the National Weather Service antenna gave a report to Paul Duval KA7RAV, Meteorologist in Charge at the NWS, on the half-wave dipole antenna proposed to improve amateur radio communications with the Weather Service. Team members: Jerry N4JL, John KI4EWB, Dave AI4GF, and Alan W1ABT.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantal Blanton, KI4NBU

TARS Treasurer's Report

August 2008

Beginning balance: July 1, 2008

Checking Account:	\$790.71
Savings Account:	<u>\$3191.02</u>
Total	\$3981.73

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$ 469.00

Receipts deposited in savings account: \$ 1.19

Receipts derived from the following:

\$ 30.00	Dues
0.00	TARS Auction
400.00	Donation - Experimental Aircraft Association, EAA Chapter 445
20.00	Donation
(72.00)	In Kind, fuel donation
19.00	50/50
<u>1.19</u>	Bank Account Interest
\$470.19	Total

Expenditures:

\$198.82	Battery and Road Service for Van
160.61	Gas for Van
73.13	Fuel for generators
283.85	Food for Field Day
<u>94.00</u>	Post Office Box Rental, 1 Year
\$810.41	Total

Outstanding Expenses:

None

Ending Balance, July 31, 2008

Checking Account:	\$449.30
Savings Account:	<u>\$3192.21</u>
Total	\$3641.51

Total Field Day related expenses for the club was \$716.

4 members renewed or joined since last report.

4 individuals

0 family members

0 students

As of August, dues for renewing members are due: \$7.50 for individual membership as well as family. Membership fee for new members joining in August is \$6.25.

"Tennis", anyone? -Ted Zateslo, W1XO

A lot of folks enjoyed using (and playing with) the tennis-ball antenna launcher I brought to this year's Field Day. Here's some information that will help if you're interested in making one.

I got the plans from a website run by WB6ZQZ: <http://www.antennalaunchers.com>. ZQZ sells kits and assembled launchers, but I decided to do it the hard way and make one from scratch (not to mention that he was taking no new orders until after Field Day!). I decided to build the model he calls the CSV19. Complete instructions and a bill of materials are at the website.



This beast uses some odd sizes of PVC fittings, and chasing down all the parts was the biggest challenge of the project. The recommended tubing for the barrel is 2 ½" PVC of a type called SDR-21. It's the same O.D. as other 2 ½" PVC, but thinner-walled, so the I.D. is larger, just the right size for a tennis ball. I found it at Ferguson Waterworks near the airport. I had to buy a full 20' stick and needed just 18 inches, so anyone building a launcher is welcome to free barrel material until it runs out!

Most of the other PVC bits came from Lowe's and Ace Hardware, but I had to get a couple of odd pieces from other places. The Schrader valve and a couple of PVC fittings came from Grainger. Grainger doesn't normally sell retail, but those parts can be ordered from McMaster-Carr (<http://www.mcmaster.com>), an excellent source for little (and big) parts of all sorts, and there's no minimum order. The air gun that is used for the "trigger" came from Harbor Freight, along with the pressure gauge. I had to drill extra holes in the air gun to increase flow: you want a very sudden release of pressure for good take-off velocity. That air gun leaks at pressures greater than 50 psi (the system should be good for 80), so I'll be replacing it with a better one. The sprinkler valve specified by ZQZ was not available locally, so I ordered it from <http://www.sprinklerwarehouse.com>. Now that I've built the thing, I can see that other valves would work, some of which are available at Lowe's and Home Depot.

The actual assembly was relatively easy. A couple of PVC parts need to be modified, and the easiest way is with a lathe - thanks to Ken Decoteau, KG4DXH, for assistance. The work can be done with a reamer by hand if you're patient. The sprinkler valve needs to have a piece sawed off - a hacksaw worked fine - and a few holes stopped up with epoxy. I used the hacksaw to cut all the PVC, but I wish I had a chop saw or the like. A hand-held rasp made all the ends nice and smooth. The only scary moment was when I discovered that, with the fittings I bought, the barrel and air reservoir were closer together than in ZQZ's pictures. Luckily, they just touched, so there was no real problem.

WB6ZQZ has lots of good advice on his site; probably the most important is "Be patient". Be thorough and careful in applying PVC primer and cement, and give the joints plenty of time to cure

before applying pressure. Also, while the PVC pipe and fittings will easily stand the pressures used, PVC is not officially recommended for air pressure because, if it is damaged by dropping or the like, air pressure can make pieces fly off dangerously (whereas water pressure will just squirt water out the leak). So be very careful not to drop the contraption, and inspect it carefully before using it.

As people saw at Field Day, the thing will easily top most any tree, and the weighted tennis ball drops nicely to the ground on the far side (unlike fishing sinkers!). I'd never go back to the old slingshot.

I'd be happy to advise any potential launcher builders with questions - email me at W1XO@arrl.net

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2008

For Information:
Todd W. Schroeder
Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
Florida Division of Forestry
(850) 414-1138

This summer, Californians have experienced 1420 fires encompassing some 364,600 acres or roughly 570 square miles have been burned. Most of these fires have been sparked by lightning storms.

Likewise Florida experiences a very active lightning storm season during the months of June through early September. During this time it is possible for lightning strikes to cause wildfires.

We truly have no control over lightning and when it occurs. Therefore, first- hand sighting becomes essential to rapid response and prevention of wildfire.

If you witness a lightning strike that produces fire dial 911 or the Fire Department for rapid response. If you witness a lightning strike that produces no visible fire it is still important to report the location of the strike. Some lightning strikes deep within the ground burning and heating the surface from below. A few days later after the ground has been preheated to its ignition point fire will break out on the surface.

Florida Summers call people to the beaches and lightning storms to the skies. Report any lightning strike activity so emergency response can be initiated.

Help us keep you and Florida safe from Wildfire!!

Pictures from St. Francis Church

We want to thank the Church Elders for their gracious hospitality during our TARS July meeting.



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.

Local Net News:

Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club meetings are every 3rd Thursday of each month at the Wakulla County Emergency Management Facility (Sheriff's Department) at 7:30pm. **Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex. Repeater:145.45 tone:94.8**

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club: This net meets every **THURSDAY** night at **8:00pm** on **145.17MHZ** Duplex. Club meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Plaza Restaurant at 7:30pm. **Temporarily now using 145.17MHZ Duplex - tone 141.3**

Capital District Message Handling Practice Net & Net Control Operations Practice Net
Every Sunday, 7:30 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8)

Capital District ARES Net: Every Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8)

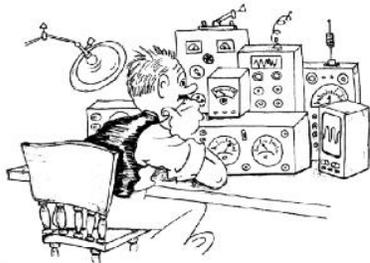
The Big Bend Hamster Net: This net meets on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8). Call 574-7965 for more detail information.

Morse Code Practice Net: This net meets Monday through Friday on 28.180 (cw) at approximately 8pm or at the conclusion of the North Florida Phone Traffic Net.

The "Winlink Conference": This net is held every Wednesday evening starting around 8PM. This is moderated by Al, W3YVQ, out of Baltimore, Md. Hams can connect direct to "Fred's happy serve" on node #129799, or tune into 443.400 UHF repeater to participate. This is a loosely directed net and pertains solely about digital communications. Regulars check in from around the USA and discuss all issues of Em Comms using digital equipment. It's mostly a technical group. A large amount of the success of the TLH DIGITAL GROUP comes from the elmering from this group. This net can be lengthy in time, sometimes lasting up to 3 hours.

Other nets are listed on the K4TLH website. All the new ham radio operators are welcomed to use the repeaters and join in on the nets.

New Membership or Renewal Form



2008 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 B. Torledsky - W1ABT
Secretary: Chantal Blanton - KI4NBU
Treasurer: Larry Pushor - KI4MAJ

TARS Committees:

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU
Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant
Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI4HGO
Historian: Shawn Wilson AG4VE
Equipment Manager: Carlton Wells AG4UT
Education: Phil Ashler N4IPH
Special Events: Carliane Johnson KG4CJT
Webmaster: David A. Heupel WE4RA

Upcoming Events:

TARS Meetings: Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. EDT at Publix at Ocala Rd.
Friday Lunch 11:30 a. m. EDT at Golden Coral on No. 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

EDITORIAL POLICY

Submitted material received by the editor on or before the 20th of the month will appear in the following month's newsletter as space permits. Comments and/or suggestions to improve the newsletter are welcomed. The Printed Circuit is not representative of the views or opinions of the whole organization, and such views and opinions are of the individual author(s). The editor is Dan Moniz KI4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: KI4HGO@arrl.net

