

Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society December 2005



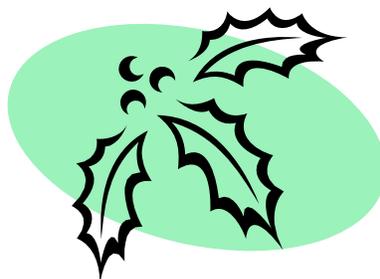
The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society meets at 7:00 p. m. on the first Thursday of every month. Our primary meeting location is the conference room on the upper floor of the Publix on Ocala Road in Tallahassee. Talk-in on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (down .600, tone 94.8), or 146.520 simplex if you require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

ABREVIATED HOLIDAY NEWS LETTER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



**Holiday Party set for
Thursday December 1st,
2005 7:00pm at Durango on the
Parkway**



News from our Neighbors

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.

Holiday Party: Thursday December 15, 2005 at 7:30pm at The Landing.

Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex



Thomasville Amateur Radio Club: meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Plaza Restaurant at 7:30pm

Holiday Party: Saturday December 17, 2005 at JB's BBQ on Thomasville Rd.

Don't Forget the TARC Holiday Nets!!

Christmas Eve, 12/24/05 – 8pm

New Year's Eve, 12/31/05 – 8pm

147.195 MHz. PL tone 141.3

Kids and Family members are welcome as 3rd Parties !

Net every Tuesday night at 8:00pm on 147.195MHz Duplex.

Testing Information:

The ARRL/VEC administered FCC Amateur Radio License Examinations are provided in Tallahassee the first Tuesday of EVEN numbered months (February, April, June, etc.) in the conference room located at 2631 Municipal Way at 7:00 p. m.



Holiday Thoughts from Brett



Shortly after getting my ham radio ticket, I was reading something on the Internet about ways amateur radio was being used to help others, besides as a form of emergency communications. One of the things mentioned was called the "North Pole Network", where hams took their radios and let kids at a local hospital talk to Santa Clause. This particular group had been doing it for years and their setup was quite elaborate, advancing way past a 2m HT to using closed captioned TV to show Santa sitting in his den at the North Pole while talking on the radio! Needless to say, it took years for their production to grow to this magnitude.

On a whim, I placed a call to the pediatric ward at TMH (Capital Regional Medical Center does not have a specified pediatric ward, otherwise I would have called them, too) and the nurses were interested in doing this for the children, but had a few reservations. First, the radios scared them because of the possibility it would interfere with some of their medical equipment. Second, they wanted to make sure there was the utmost respect for the privacy of the children, their medical condition, and their visiting family members. I threw together a packet of information about the amateur radio hobby, frequency allocations (to show that EMS was also on UHF and didn't cause problems), and some information about how this had been done successfully for years in other hospitals. They agreed to give me ten minutes of their time to explain all of this to them and answer any other questions they may have.

After just a few minutes they were at ease with my plan of action to make the production a reality and were enthusiastic about assisting. Their only hesitation was the press coverage. The FSU women's basketball team had been through a few days before with TV crews clamoring around to get the best angle for the evening news. Because a waiver must be signed by a guardian for each child that appears on camera, it caused a huge challenge for the nurses, an added stress at a stressful time of year with an ordinarily overly-stressful job. Much to their amazement, I told them we didn't want any publicity. This was not about getting free exposure for the amateur radio hobby, but instead we wanted everything focused on the children and making their experience as magical as possible. I promised we were very low maintenance and would cause as little disruption as possible. In fact, I believe I mentioned to them my goal was for them to only be able to tell we were there by the cheers and laughter coming from the children as we went from room to room.

This will be the fourth year of connecting to Santa via amateur radio at the TMH pediatric floor. The nursing staff is always so gracious and enjoys helping us prepare. In the mornings, while doing the routine checks of vital signs, the nurses casually ask what the child would like from Santa. Little do the children know that their answers are going directly to Santa! When we arrive, they give us a map of the floor with first names and a list of toys they'd like. As the elves enter each room to pay the child (and family) a visit, there's no need for an introduction...Santa already knows their name! If that doesn't make the



child a believer, Santa also knows some of the things they would like to find under the tree! It is truly an amazing moment for the child, their family members, the nurses, and those of us lucky enough to be doing this neat event.

Each year has some very special moments. There's the time a child that was lethargic and not talking, jumped up, monitoring wires protruding from all angles of her body, and bounced across the bed towards the radio when she heard Santa say her name. Because of us her eyes opened up, her spirits lifted, and she had a wonderful experience. Last year there was the 6 year old boy who was not feeling well, but when Santa knew he wanted a guitar and asked what the boy would do with it, the reply was "I'll play you any song you want, Santa". So innocent, so genuine. When they say, "I love you, Santa", how can we reply with anything but an "I love you, too" while swallowing a lump, knowing how deeply these children are touched.



Unfortunately there are strict regulations on how many in a group can visit the pediatric ward, otherwise I would gladly invite every ham, their spouses, and their friends if they wanted to participate. Keep in mind, though, that this is not the only worthy cause, and this is not the only time of year to do it. There are children on the pediatric ward 365 days a year, and they are usually overlooked until the holidays. I'm as guilty of doing that as anyone else. And TMH is not the only place to do such easy, but yet inspiring event for kids.

There's a website that everyone should look at: <http://www.hobbiesforhealing.com/> This has some good ideas of ways to use the hobby to inspire others, not necessarily to become a ham, but to enjoy life and find a new meaning, inspiration, or reasons to smile. Healing Hobby, Holiday Hams, Kids Club, Recovery Radio, and Senior Signals are some of the fantastic ideas explained on the website. I would like to see our amateur radio group become more active with the community in an assisting manner. We have emergency communications covered, and the marathon and bike race planners know how to reach us, but lets go deeper into the community and help others out, not by just talking into a radio to relay a message, but by talking to a person, face to face, about radio.

There is no better feeling than leaving TMH every year with a floor full of kids that think.... I mean know, they spoke to Santa Clause. Try it sometime; you'll be amazed how a smile stays on your face for weeks!

Happy holidays.

73,
Brett Wellman
KG4KLR
Kg4klr@arrl.net

From the Treasurer's Table

It's been a banner year for TARS membership. While student membership slipped, individual and family memberships were right up there with last year. It's just a number, but let's shoot for 100 dues paying members or more. The form is included with the newsletter each month. (In fact, it takes up a whole page! I'll work on a reduced size.)

Please plan for 2006 by completing this membership form and sending it in with your dues payment. You can bring it to the January (not December) TARS meeting. The December TARS meeting is avoided so as to enjoy the holiday dinner activities.



Whether or not you are a dues paying member, your participation at TARS meetings and TARS activities is welcome. Let's grow the hobby.

Happy Holidays! Carlton Wells, AG4UT

New Membership or Renewal Form

2005 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: Indiv. ____ 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.

Current Events

A (TARS) Clandestine Operation:



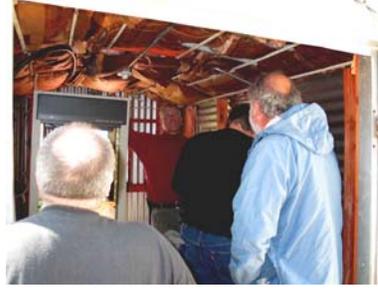
In the early morning hours of November 19th, a small stealthy group of hams met at a local restaurant, often visited by hams, to plan their next operation.

The mission: to secure and clean the old O3 repeater site in Kilearn Lakes.

The purpose: preparation for the return of the rehabilitated O3 repeater system, in addition to the VHF equipment, the site will house 6M capabilities.

Due to the limited work space at the site, it was decided to limit the work force to a extremely small group of volunteers.

THANKS to: ki4ewb, w1abt, ag4uu, kd4qki and ki4hgo.



The Thomasville Radio Club held their annual fish fry November 12th. In attendance were special quest included ARRL Georgia Section Manager Susan K. Swiderski, AF4FO, and eight veterans of war were honored:



Right to left are..Ken Lanter...W4MWW...Ray Phillips...WB4YCG...,Joe Carroll...WE4AN...,Edna Earl Carroll Army nurse WW11....Billy Joe Lewis...W4ZDP....,Ray Prim...KD4VQS....,Lawrence McCuthin....KC4LYC...in wheelchair is Walter Childs...KQ4SF.

to him for a well-deserved award.

In addition, Lawrence Mccuthin, KC4LYC, received a special Recognition Award in honor of his selfless devotion to the club and the community. Congratulations

Slate of officers nominated for the 2006: President: Mike Brown ke4fgf, Vice President: Wynona Sadler kf4hsm, VP of Special Events: Terry Sadler kf4cle, Secretary: Terry Hunt ki4mah, Newsletter Editor: Buddy Peoples wd4cji, Treasurer: Bobby Cooper n4kxl.

The Sportsmans Amateur Radio Club held its November 17th meeting at the Wakulla County Emergency Management Facility (Sheriff's Department). The main topics of discussion included members' dues, nomination of officers and the Holiday Party. Hams elected to the board for the upcoming year are President: Ed Miller KC4MHM, Vice President: Greg Moore W4GJM, Treasurer: Warner Garrison KG4MIU and Secretary: Judy Miller KD4SFW.

Excerpts from the Minutes:

We are planning to have our annual holiday dinner meeting on December 15th at 7:30 PM. Greg is checking with The Landing restaurant and will send out particulars as soon as he gets them. Put the date on your calendar now. We hope to see you along with your family and friends. It is the time to budget for your SPARC dues. A decision was made to make no changes in the dues structure. They will remain at \$20. Please give your check to an officer or mail it to SPARC at PO Box 1840, Crawfordville, 32326. They are due January 1st. Plans are in the works for some fine speakers for next year and the meetings should become "events to attend". We need your money, but we also need your attendance and participation! We are going to proceed with the process to incorporate and should do so in January. Officers were elected and we ask that you review the club By-Laws so we can review and up-date at the January meeting, if necessary. Contact Warner if you were unable to be there last night and you need a copy. Thanks for a great meeting and I hope you and your families have a terrific Thanksgiving. We surely have a lot to be thankful for. 73

Ed **KC4MHM**



Happy Holidays from All of Us at TARS To all of You!!!!



TARS Officers

President: John Swindle - KI4EWB
Vice President: Dan Moniz KI4HGO
Secretary: John Love - NZ4QJ
Treasurer: Carlton W. Wells - AG4UT

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

