



# Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

## November 6, 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 June Program is Roger Madden AJ4GF. Roger will present the second half of his program. Don't miss this one; Roger is considered an expert on FCC Part 97**

**Minutes of the May TARS Membership Meeting**  
**TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society**  
**Thursday, November 6, 2008**

The TARS Monthly Meeting was held at Publix on Ocala Road on Thursday, October 2, 2008.

**CALL to Order at 7:00 p.m.**

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO welcomed the 24 members who signed in.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Dan Moniz introduced his co-worker, Noel Davis, who will be taking his technician testing in the next week. Noel indicated that he saw the antenna farm in the parking lot and felt quite comfortable in coming upstairs to the meeting. Also welcomed was Dennis Blofield K9ADB who was a guest of Phil Ashley N4IPH.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, Part 1**

1. The October newsletter was sent out by email. Please email Dan at [ki4hgo@arrl.net](mailto:ki4hgo@arrl.net) if you did not receive the newsletter. Please pay attention to the repeater report; it was very good. Dan noted that there are a number of events on our calendar: JOTA, the Spaghetti 100, the Christmas party, and the fish fry at Thomasville in November.
2. David Perryman KG4YZI reminded the group that the Halloween Howl will take place on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Friday and Saturday night. Volunteers are needed. Please email David at [kg4yzi@arrl.net](mailto:kg4yzi@arrl.net). Dave will let volunteers know their assignments by email. As far as the Red Cross's new building, Pat Kelley, ARC Emergency Assistance Director, says the completion date for the new building should be about November 2009. They have had several meetings with the project manager.

**PROGRAM**

Randy Pierce AG4UU agreed to provide tonight's program. Since he had just finished the repeater report for the newsletter, he chose to amplify that report and entertain further discussion. He noted that all the repeaters are now up. As far as digital, he has been working with Doug Ferrell KD4MOJ. Some of the details on the digital operations will be up to that committee. A new development that people may not have known about is the 147.165 repeater that is going up in Quincy. Nick Adams W4EAF is working with him on this repeater. Randy is aware of the tinny sound on the 147.03 repeater. They are beginning to understand why this is happening and are working on that. The pager system out at TV 40 is experiencing some interference from the TV station. The 146.91 repeater is doing well although not many people are on it. The 422.85 repeater needs a controller on it. For the future, he has been working on a site at the Wakulla/Leon County line. He just received a call indicating that the site is available to us. There is a UHF antenna there right now, but no power. If we want to use the site, we just need to let Talquin Electric know. It would be advantageous to have a little better foot print than we do now down in Wakulla County. There is no VHF antenna on it currently. We would need a bonded climber to work on this antenna. The bond to cover the climber and the other details need to be discussed with SPARCS and TARS. Electricity needed would cost about \$20 to \$30 from Talquin Electric; someone would need to pay the bill. Other costs such as a

meter would have to be worked out with Talquin. There will also be other costs, of course. Someone would have to enter into a contract with Talquin. Another site that we have been given access to is out at the Bloxam Dam. This site would potentially give us coverage in the national forest and to points southwest of us. There are no plans to do anything with this right now.

John Swindel KI4EWB started a discussion on the use of the repeaters and the ARES Capital District Communications Plan. For Tropical Storm Fay the plan was to adopt the Capital District Plan. But in a serious situation, the Capital District would have communication needs other than those used by Tallahassee. In fact, the plan should be to have two separate and distinct sets of repeater frequencies. This would allow uninterrupted communication at both levels. For some time many have expressed that Leon County needed a plan. Simply using the District Plan is an unsuitable means of having a plan. Most often we look at things as if Tallahassee was the only concern. But Fay did not affect Tallahassee and Leon County. It did affect Wakulla County. Disasters are local events and the response comes from the appropriate county. We need to look at tools for the county to use which would not be on the district level. We still need the district level communication. Some repeaters cover the district. Some cover the different counties. So we might have an incident in Wakulla County that would use specific repeaters and likewise one in Madison County which would use repeaters other than the district repeaters, such as 146.655. Tallahassee and Leon County would not have to be involved in the two incidents local to Wakulla and Madison Counties. Each county should have its own communications plan and the different repeaters that it would meet its need. It would be good to get people accustomed to using different repeaters. John has adapted the District Plan to better serve the needs of the county by choosing specific repeater frequencies NOT used in the District Plan. He also took out most references to the District and replaced them with specific county references. This draft plan was submitted to ARES officials for consideration and further involvement of others in developing a working plan for Leon County ARES.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, Part 2**

1. October 11<sup>th</sup> is the Spaghetti 100. An all out effort is needed for the Capital City Cyclist's (CCC) event. Last year TARS had 16 volunteers and TARC had 6. The course will be almost the same as last years. The map is on the CCC website, [www.cccyclists.org](http://www.cccyclists.org). We will be using the 145.170 repeater, same as last year. Volunteers are needed. This is a great opportunity for new hams.
2. JOTA will take place on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Wallwood Scout Reservation. The Boy Scout council has asked that the event take place at Wallwood this year as it coincides with Cub Scout Family weekend there. There will be an abundance of scouts there. James Ryder, KG4YZM, will be the lead person. It will start 8 a.m., go to noon, break and then go from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Two HF radios are needed for the two working stations, a generator, other equipment and dipole antennas. The enthusiasm of the scouts and the parents makes it fun.
3. Mike Brown, KE4FGF, is inviting all hams in our area to the TARC fish fry in Pavo, GA, on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Pavo is east of Thomasville on Hwy 122. Supper is at 6:00 pm. There is no charge. Please bring a covered dish. It is a fun event. If you wish to attend, please email Mike at [ke4fgf@surfsouth.com](mailto:ke4fgf@surfsouth.com) by November 3. He needs to know if you are coming, how many will be with you, and what side dish

you will be bringing. He needs an exact head count to know how much fish to order. The menu will be catfish and mullet. Let Mike know if you need more detailed instructions on how to get there.

4. The Christmas Party will be at Marie Livingston's Steak House off of north Monroe Street. We were unable to secure the first Thursday for the event, so it will take place on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We will need to give them the number of the people who will be attending.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The question as to whether TARS could be approved as a service club under the United Way came up a while ago. Do we want to be a part of this? Our status as a 501(c)(3) would need to be considered first. We would have to consult a tax attorney. The matter was tabled pending further study of the ramifications. The question came as to what do we want additional money for? The discussion continued with ideas of what the club could do with increased and predictable revenues. Do we want to stay as we are, or expand our sights and efforts? We could do more to encourage new hams, expand ARES, purchase additional equipment to temporarily lend to new hams or have accessible for events like JOTA. Buy another "red truck", with qualifications. Take digital to a whole new level. 'We need to dream, and keep the idea alive.'

Two checks for expenses were approved. The first was for \$250.00 for the installation of a controller (CAT-250) on the 442.85 repeater. The second expenditure was for one pre-amplifier (AR2) with a corresponding filter circuit (mini circuit) for each of two repeaters, 147.03 and 53.03 for a total of \$186.

The minutes of the September meeting along with the treasurer's report were both in the newsletter and were approved without correction.

Dan called attention to the efforts of 'Mo' Wright, KI4PZS, and Mike Maynard, K4ICY, in developing a new look for the TARS website. David Heupel, WE4RA, TARS webmaster, has given his blessing to their efforts. You can view their home page at [www.k4tlh.50webs.com](http://www.k4tlh.50webs.com).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Following a brief discussion, the meeting closed about 8:55. The acting secretary was too bleary eyed to note the specific time.

Respectfully submitted for Chantal Blanton in her absence,

Larry Pushor, KI4MAJ

## TARS Treasurer's Report

November 2008

Beginning balance: October 1, 2008

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Checking Account: | \$521.10         |
| Savings Account:  | <u>\$3192.21</u> |
| Total             | \$3713.31        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Receipts deposited in checking account: | \$ 31.00  |
| Receipts deposited in savings account:  | \$ 1.21   |
| Transferred from Savings to Checking    | \$ 600.00 |

Receipts derived from the following:

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| \$ 15.00    | Dues             |
| 8.00        | Member Donations |
| <u>8.00</u> | 50/50            |
| \$31.00     | Total            |

Expenditures:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| \$250.00 | Installation of controller (CAT-250) on 442.85  |
| \$186.00 | One pre-amplifier (AR2) with corresponding filter circuit for each of<br>147.03 and 53.03 repeaters |

Outstanding Expenses:

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| \$349.76 | Marsh Affinity Group, Liability Insurance for 2009 |
|----------|--|

Ending Balance, October 31, 2008

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Checking Account: | \$716.10         |
| Savings Account:  | <u>\$2593.42</u> |
| Total             | \$3309.52        |

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1 members renewed or joined since last report.

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1 | individual     |
| 0 | family members |
| 0 | students       |

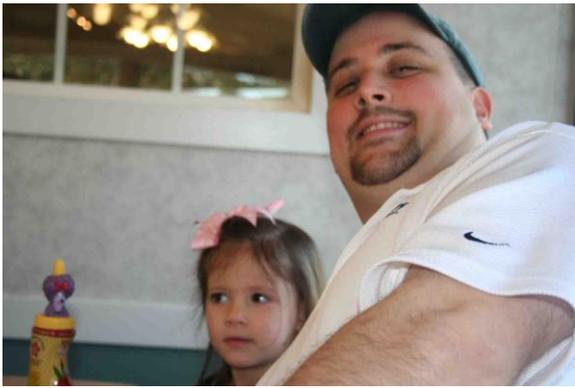
As of November, dues for renewing members are \$7.50 for individual membership, as well as for family.

Membership fee for new members joining in November is \$2.50.

# Spaghetti 100 pictures



# The lunch bunch at the golden coral



## CAPITAL DISTRICT EMERGENCY COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE FOR November 2008

The Capital District of the North Florida Section conducted a Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday October 25, 2008. The SET was intended to test the abilities of the Capital District Amateur Radio operators to respond to a large scale emergency. The exercise kicked off with Pat, K4NRD, the Madison County Emergency Coordinator, announcing that a large F-3 tornado had left a large swath of destruction through most of Madison County. The tornado had also cut the local fiber optic cable that linked Tallahassee, 70 miles to the west with Madison County. The Madison County ECO was also knocked out of commission. The local medical facility was quickly overloaded, and it was decided that amateur radio was needed because the local communications outside of the county was inoperable. Pat and his group of Madison County hams, quickly established two meter communications from the county triage point and the Incident Command with the two Tallahassee hospitals. Each hospital had amateur radio stations located in their command centers and Emergency room reception areas. Pat also announced the SET on the North Florida ARES net that meets at 0900 on Saturdays on 3.950 MHz. Richard, W1AAO, contacted the Tallahassee office of the National Weather Service and relayed what the current weather conditions were.

As the exercise developed Madison County also established links with hospitals in Lake City, Live Oak, and Gainesville, all to the east. The local two meter repeater was used heavily, but another repeater soon interfered with it, so the NCS, Kerry, AI4CW, switched to an alternate two meter frequency. HF communications from Madison County was also established and traffic was relayed to Tallahassee via Jacksonville and Clearwater with the Section Manager, Paul, KJ4G, acting as a mobile HF relay.

The EOC at Jefferson County was also activated and Roberta, KI4CLG, the County's Emergency Coordinator, and Mary, KI4JOO, the Assistant EC, along with KALYNN, KI4OVG, responded to requests for assistance. Mary, who also participates in the local Search and Rescue Team, was specifically asked to provide a search dog team. The Madison County high school had been destroyed, and it was unknown if there were any survivors in the rubble, so a dog team was requested. Mary used the SAR team's alert roster to simulate activating them.

Several formal messages were sent to and from Madison, and a lot of informal operational traffic was also passed.

Several lessons were learned from this SET. First, do not limit yourself to two meter operation, even if you think it is reliable. Have the capability to use other bands and modes, such as HF, D-Star, and digital. Bands conditions change, interference happens, and equipment and repeaters fail. Second, have a plan and be willing to use it. Third, if the plan does not precisely fit the situation, have the confidence and flexibility to adapt it to the needs of the emergency. Fourth, know not only your equipment, but the equipment you may be expected to use. Similarly, be familiar with the facility where you will operate. Finally, even though the place where you may be sent may have a complete radio, take your own, including a power supply and antenna. You never know when it will be needed.

As the DEC I thought this would be a small scale test of communications between a few hams in Madison and Tallahassee. I was very surprised and impressed with how large it became, how many hams within and without the Capital District responded, and how creative members of the Capital District became in solving the problems that arose. It was very gratifying to see the enthusiasm and skill.

The following hams participated in the exercise:

Kerry, AI4CW (NCS); Mike, KJ4HEE; John, KG4GXT; Dave, AI4GF; Bobby, KD4QKI; Farley, AE4KJ; Paul, N4VHF; Roberta, KI4CLG; Mary, KI4JOO, KALYNN, KI4OVG, Pat, K4NRD; Junior, KC4VPJ, John, KD4EKS; Paul, KJ4G; Dave, WA4WES. Richard, W1AAO, Alan W1ABT, Dan, KI4HGO.

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## 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.

## TARC Minutes for 10/04/08

Mike, KE4FGF, opened the meeting at 7:35 and after welcoming everyone made the following announcements

- a) The Technician Class has 8 graduates so far
- b) This months Test Session, may be part of a class session on 10/18
- c) The Midmonth Breakfast will be part of the Spaghetti 100 on 10/11 at 7:30am
- d) The APRS session will be re-scheduled according to KD4MOJ's availability

This month's Program was a presentation on the 10-10 International Group by Terry, NOTW. He showed various awards, and explained how to get involved in that organization. He also presented the club with a plaque making TARC an official member with member number 75257.

The Minutes and Treasurer's reports were accepted as presented

In Old Business, the following stations were recognized for taking part in the Thomas County Emergency Preparedness Fair: KF4HSM, KJ4GOO, K4BEE, WD4CJI, N4KXL, N4KGT, AI4CW, W4FWL, KE4RWR, W4EAN and KE4FGF. Mike also reported that the 147.06 repeater move is awaiting final paperwork approval, and hopes the move will take place before the Spaghetti 100. It was also mentioned that the Boston repeater site is still in need of a clean-up detail to clear some weed growth.

In New Business, the following stations indicated they would be available for the Spaghetti 100 - KF4HSM, N4KXL, WD4CJI, KJ4GON, KJ4GOM, KJ4GWC, KF4GBS, KI4TFL, KI4RGD, KE4FGF, KC4LYC, KC4AMY and KD4EYF. The stations volunteering for the Boston Mini Marathon are KF4GBS, KF4HSM, WD4CJI, N4KXL, KJ4CQN, KI4HGO, KJ4GON, KJ4GWC, KC4LYC, and KE4FGF. Wynona, KF4HSM indicated she'd have breakfast available for those helping out in Boston.

Mike then moved the discussion on to the November Fish Fry. It was decided to once again make the main course a combination of catfish and mullet and several members indicated they'd like to have roe as well. Mike indicated that a head count would be necessary by November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Wynona indicated everyone would need to get in contact with her regarding what side dishes they would be bringing.

Finally, Mike indicated it was time to name a 2009 Nominations committee, and Wynona, KF4HSM, who as Vice President actually chairs the committee, named Dan, KI4HGO, Mark, KD4EYF, and Bill, KD4WQR to be part of the committee. They will present a suggested slate at the November meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with 27 members present.

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

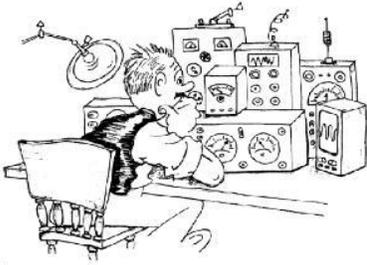
**The Big Bend Hamster Net:** This net meets on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm Eastern on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (tone 94.8). Call 574-7965 for more detail information.

**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



2007 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:KI4HGO@arrl.net)

