



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society February 2006



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

Guest Speaker for the February Meeting
Theo Titus k4mvl will present the program for the February meeting. The topic is radio controlled air craft.
Demonstrations

The President's Corner:

Emcomm Training Comes To the Capital District.

Over the three-day holiday weekend celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday, ten local hams set out to learn about emergency communication. In an effort organized by Gene Floyd, AI 4KK, the session was billed as a question and answer review session that quickly evolved into more of a traditional training experience.

One of the highlights of the weekend was when David Miner, KI 4LHH, demonstrated his skill in teaching. The class was also attended by several subject matter experts. Among them, Larry Workman, KI 4JOJ, led the marine communication segment, and lent a personal experience to the class, which although humorous now, was live drama when he needed to use the marine communication. Paul Eakin, KJ4G, kept the ball rolling on Sunday, when Gene had to take a trip out of town.

One special note is that each of the students was motivated and each contributed to the learning experience. Testing was coordinated by James Montague, better known as K4IMO. No one who chose to take the test failed to pass it.

The following individuals attended the class and completed level one of the emergency communications course: [Larry Workman, KI 4JOJ](#); [David Miner, KI 4LHH](#); [Donald Bartnik, WA4DSW](#); [Wayne Kocher, KA4IQZ](#); [Paul L. Eakin, KJ4G](#); [Mary S. Saunders, KI 4JOO](#); [Bill Schmidt, KI 4JOG](#); [Art Marshall, W1FJI](#); and [Alan Torledski, W1ABT](#). [Bonnie Floyd, KI 4JOL](#), did not attend the class, but passed both the level one, and the level two tests.

Also attending the class but not present for testing was: [Michael Thomas, KI 4KWC](#)

Future classes will be held, so stay tuned. We have feedback from this event that we will use to improve future classes for emcomm training. Our congratulations go out to each of those who passed one or more levels of this important training.

De John ki4ewb

Tallahassee 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.

Orlando HamCation

The 60th Orlando HamCation Amateur Radio & Computer Show will take place February 10, 11, & 12, 2006. It will be at the Central Florida Fairgrounds on 4603 W. Colonial Drive (SR 50), Orlando, Florida. For more information go to www.hamcation.com, call 407-273-1406, or email hamcation@oarc.org.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio is accepting applications for 54 scholarships for the academic year 2006-2007. A copy of the news release requested from aa3of@arrl.net. A copy was passed around at the January TARS meeting and also will be available at the February TARS meeting.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2006 from: FAR Scholarships, Post Office Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.

New Technician Class Question Pool Releases

(From ARRL.org website)

de Phil N4IPH

The National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators (NCVEC)-Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the new Technician Class (Element 2) written exam pool of questions. The new questions will be used on all Technician VE Exams starting on or after July 1, 2006. The question pool will remain valid through June 30, 2010. The pool is available in several formats MS Word (.doc), Adobe PDF (.pdf), RTF and ASCII Text...so what ever computer system you have you should be able to download a copy of the 396 questions (www.ncvec.org/downloads/techpool.pdf). One major difference in the latest question pool is that there are NO GRAPHICS or DIAGRAMS...that means no more "block diagrams" or "schematic symbol" recognition. Briefly looking over the questions..I noticed a few changes..

There is a question dealing with "improper transmissions" and ethnic origin..that I don't remember seeing in previous releases...There are also more questions that deal with electronic calculations...especially OHMS LAW...these usually showed up on the GENERAL exam. A few questions on different types of batteries and their "nominal voltage" have also been included. There is an increase in questions dealing with "digital" communications (EchoLink, VoIP and IRLP) since this seems to be one of the modes gaining interest and experimentation in the Amateur Service. While some feel that this is not "Real Amateur Radio" there is an ever increasing number of hams that are using this form of "computer" communication..."Amateur Radio without using a radio".

The Question Pool Committee (qpcinput@ncvec.org) is asking anyone spotting possible errors, having suggestions, or corrections on any of the question pools (Tech, Gen or Extra) to contact them with a reference to the pool and question number. They are also interested in suggestions for new questions to be used in future releases.

If you know of anyone interested in getting their Technician License and are currently studying the "Now You're Talking" text...the questions at the back of the book will be current through June 30 of this year...After June 30, 2006, they need to study the new questions in preparation for the Element 2 exam.

If you plan on upgrading to General..the current question pool will expire on June 30th 2007 (a new release of the questions is scheduled for December 2006). For those trying to upgrade to Extra..the current pool will expire June 30th 2008 (a new release is scheduled for December 2007). Copies of each of the question pool for all classes may be downloaded from the ARRL Website (www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html). The FCC has not made any decision on the Morse Code...so you still need to pass the 5 wpm to pick up HF privileges...or to upgrade to General or Extra class.

TARS Treasurer's Report

January 2006

As of 1/5/06:

Checking Account Balance: \$321.85

Savings Account Balance: \$4000.28

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$215.00

Receipts deposited in savings account: \$0.00

Receipts derived from the following:

\$15.00 Dues

0.00 TARS Auction

200.00 Donations (Tallahassee CCC)

0.00 50/50

0.00 Savings to Checking Transfer

\$215.00 Total

1 member renewed or joined last month.

1 individual

0 family members

0 students

Expenses:**

None.

Outstanding expenses:

None.

Donations:

None.

ARC (~\$202.00, less \$134.55) 2004 TARS Auction proceeds.

*Reimbursement request for 2004 hurricane-related expenses submitted to State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management (Ivan Tracker #1819 and Charlie Tracker #4757). John Fleming, FDEM is looking into to the status of request.

TARS Meeting

(No Report Available for January)

Silent Keys

From ARRL Headquarters, February 2006

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of these amateurs:

- * W4DOI Smith, Charles A., Clearwater, FL
- AA4IY Jordan, Charles R., Fernandina Beach, FL
- K4NBN Popwell, Del, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
- K9DPU Bassett, Ed, Port Charlotte, FL
- KS4QZ Thackham, William E., Fort Walton Beach, FL
- WA4NQM Stables, Leroy C., Pensacola, FL
- W1FXS Edwards, Richard B., Dunnellon, FL
- W20BK Becker Robert N., Pompano Beach, FL
- W30VV DeNuzzo, Jane B., Gainesville, FL
- W4VBQ Ruse, Layton N., Miami, FL
- WA4NQM Stables, Leroy C., Pensacola, FL

FCC ORDERS AMATEUR RULE CHANGES TO CONFORM WITH WRC-03

From The ARRL Newsletter, Vo. 25, Nov. 24.

de Carlton AG4UT

"What stands out for me is disaster communications permitted to any country, regardless of prohibition during normal times."

The FCC has ordered several rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). Acting Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Catherine W. Seidel signed the Order, released January 19. The changes affect §97.111, Authorized transmissions; §97.113, Prohibited transmissions; §97.115, Third party communications, and §97.117, International communications.

"These amendments will ensure that the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission's ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules," the FCC said. ["The overall effect of this action is to update the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules in the Code of Federal Regulations to conform to now-effective international agreements."](#)

The rule changes will become effective upon publication in The Federal Register. The FCC Order revises:

* §97.111(a)(1) to permit "transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur

Service, except those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications." The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries "except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications." The FCC said the change does not prejudice its proposal to amend §97.111(a)(2) to clarify that amateur stations may, at all times and on all authorized channels, transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

* §97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station "when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications" as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties." The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic other than emergency or disaster relief communications to a station in a country lacking a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

* §97.113(a)(4) to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to the use of "codes and ciphers." The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

* §97.117 to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character.

The FCC also revised §97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the international Radio Regulations.

Consider sending the man your qsl card.

The ARRL Web site and K7RAN reports the lone survivor of that mining accident in West Virginia is none other than KC8VKZ, Randal McCloy Jr. He was transferred to the Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. One of Randy's dreams is to become an electrician. Let's all hope he has a speedy recovery. I sent him a QSL (get well card) via the hospital address, which is Allegheny General Hospital, 320 East North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Wes - W3WL

2006 TARS Membership Roster

By Carlton Wells

The 2005 TARS Membership Roster has been posted the TARS web site, <http://www.K4TLH.net>. Please check the roster for proper spelling of your name and callsign. Email the Treasurer, ag4ut@arrl.net with any comments or questions.

If your name is missing from the roster, it indicates your dues payment has not been received. If you are a student and your name is missing from the roster, it indicates your renewal form has not been received (dues for students are free). Use the form in this newsletter for mailing your renewal to the Treasurer or see him at the next TARS meeting.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Work Party

Don Bartnik, WA4DSW, graciously hosted a small work party at his home on Thursday, 26 January 2006. This work session was quickly put together by word of mouth (or perhaps I should say radio) using the 443.400 repeater after a few people expressed an interest in learning how to assemble the components for the Winlink radio system. After a "light" supper at the Golden Corral, Bill Schmidt (K14JOG), Bill Mapoles (KG4LFT), Art Marshall (W1FJI), Paul Eakin (KJ4G), and Mary S Saunders (KI4J00) in met at Don's to learn how to solder and assemble a few TNCs for Winlink packet radio. We were later joined by Larry Workman (KI4JOJ). We learned at the Winlink Wednesday night net (Echolink node 129799 *W8FSM* - Fred's Happy Serve) that the 1200 baud KPC 3s are a good place to start learning how to put the system together. However, some or all of us in the group may want to get or upgrade to a TNC that will run at 9600 baud, perhaps the 9612. The Winlink net is also carried live via the 443.400 repeater (pl 131.8), Echolink node 3950 and all are welcome to listen and participate.

Bill (KG4LFT) showed Larry and me how to solder and assemble the TNCs for the radio of our choice. I am setting up the TNC to go with my Yaesu 7800 or the 8900. The TNC to computer connection is the same for either radio. One of the things I learned watching Bill, was that it is easier to solder wires to connectors if you "tin" both the wire and the connector first. That is; flow the solder onto the wire and the connector first. Then all you have to do is put the wire in the correct place on the connector and hold the soldering iron on the tip of the connector and the solder will flow together allowing everything to join smoothly and easily. You also need a soldering iron like the Radio Shack Model: 64-2184 or better and a small stand with alligator clips to hold the connector you are trying to solder. A small vice is also useful. Bill also taught us how to read the pin out diagram so that we knew which wire to solder to which pin. He suggested you cut the wires that are not used slightly shorter than the wires that you are using and then fold them back and shrink wrap the wires to hold them and make the connector look good. Bill also suggested you start soldering the middle pin of the connector first and work your way out so that you have a less of a chance of burning wires that you have already soldered. We soldered the power plug for the TNCs and put Anderson Power Poles connectors on them using a crimping tool. Strip and tin the power wire before putting it in the power pole contact and cut the stripped wire to just fit the length of the power pole contact. It is important to have the joint of the contact that goes over the wire facing down when you use the crimpers. After the contacts are connected to the wire push them onto the shell until they snap in place. Make sure black wire goes with black power pole and red wire goes with red power pole.

If you are interested in these work sessions, we'll try to announce them on the Friday Night Informal Net (443.400, pl 131.8 - Echolink node 3950) which meets for about an hour starting at 8:00 pm. You can also drop an email to me at KI4JOO@arrl.net.

73, Mary

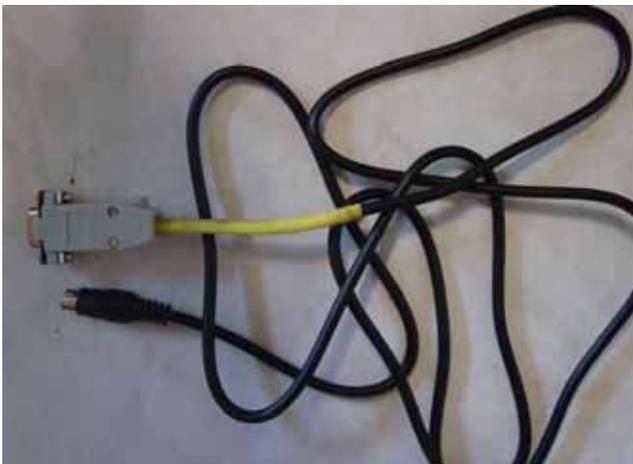


Figure 1 - CT-39A miniDIN



Figure 2 - Connector



Figure 3 – TNC Power Cord



Figure 4 – Andersen Power Pole



Figure 5 – Crimping Pliers

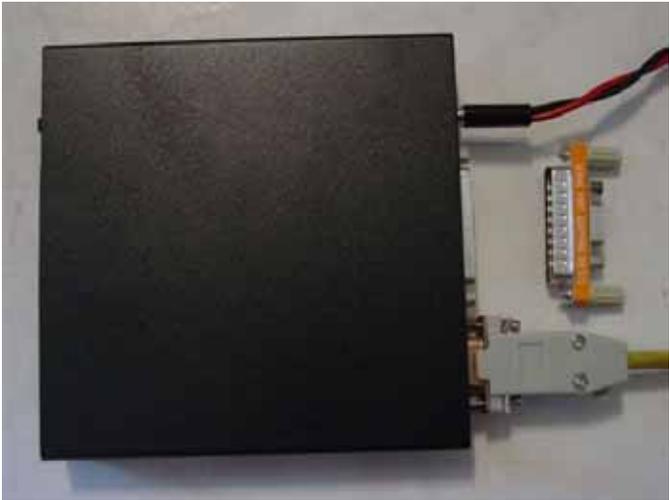


Figure 6 – TNC with Connectors

Please Support AE4S Repeater...

For the past 28 years, Bill Jordan (AE4S) and I have operated AE4S Repeater. It is the product of Bill's vision to establish a high quality, wide area communications system providing daily benefit to the local amateur community and a valuable technical resource to aid the public during periods of emergency and natural disaster. In order to accomplish this feat, we decided to mix business with pleasure. Out of a couple of communications-related commercial activities came a 600-foot tower, communications equipment building, and emergency power generator. And, the repeater antenna was placed very prominently at the top of the tower.

As a result of the antenna site changing hands a couple of times, we have lost much of the autonomy we enjoyed over the years with our repeater system. As of five years ago, the current owner asked us to pay monthly rent. Since Bill and I still had certain extracurricular business interests, we continued to fund the repeater from our profits along with a few contributions from local amateurs. Unfortunately, the major source of our funding has declined to the point where we must ask the local amateur community to shoulder more of the burden so that we may preserve this valuable communications resource for our amateur community.

The annual rent for the antenna site is \$2,000. The autopatch line adds another \$300 annually; resulting in a combined monthly outlay of almost \$200. Add to this the expense of equipment maintenance and renewal, the cost of operating the repeater becomes a bit daunting for the amateur budget. But it's worth it! There are few communications sites in our local community that rival the performance of the AE4S repeater system. With your help, Bill and I will endeavor to maintain the quality of AE4S Repeater in the tradition you've experienced since its inception.

Contributions to the AE4S Repeater operating fund may be mailed to me directly or via PayPal to e-mail N4JL@att.net. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Jerry Kessler (N4JL)
6628 Tim Tam Trail
Tallahassee, FL 32309-1937

**List of Items Donated by Robert Parker
to TARS, Inc. - 501(c)(3) Corporation**

Est. Cost	Item Description	Model	S/N	Age/ Condition	Recomm. Use
\$550	Heathkit 2kw linear amplifier	SB-220	12442	V. Good	Club activities
\$160	MFJ Versa Tuner	989	012854	V. Good	Club activities
\$175	Yaesu hvy. duty power supply	FP-757GD	010191	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$75	Unique wire tuner	n/a	n/a	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$40	Yaesu desk mic, w/stand	MD-1	n/a	Fair	Club activities
\$40	Heathkit "Cantenna" dummy load	HN-31A	0264607	NIB	TARS Auction
\$5.50	Bencher automatic keyer	n/a	n/a	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$5	Larson Kulrod 2m antenna w/mag. mount	NLA-150, NLA-MM	n/a	Fair	Member Checkout
\$15	Yaesu headphones	n/a	n/a	Fair	Club activities
\$50	B&W antenna switch, 6-port	595	n/a	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$10	Viking phone patch	250-0046-001/3	09428	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$25	NYE Viking 2kw low pass filter	n/a	n/a	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$20	Yaesu antenna relay	FRB-757	n/a	V. Good	TARS Auction
\$10	Hygain end insulators (x5)	156	n/a	NIB	TARS Auction
\$18	Yaesu wall charger	NC-28B	n/a	Good	TARS Auction
\$18	Yaesu wall charger	NC-88B	n/a	Good	TARS Auction
\$10	Antex solder pencil, 12vdc	MLX25	n/a	V. Good	TARS Van
\$5	Enamel Wire	#26	n/a	V. Good	TARS Auction
\$1.50	2-way standoff, 7" (x6)	n/a	n/a	Like New	TARS Auction
\$0.50	Ground clamp	n/a	n/a	Like New	TARS Auction
\$0.25	Mobile radio bracket	n/a	n/a	Fair	TARS Auction
\$5	"Wire Antennas," Orr	n/a	n/a	V. Good	Member
\$5	"73 Vertical Beam & Triangle Antennas," Noll	n/a	n/a	V. Good	Member Checkout

\$5.50	“All About Cubical Quad Antennas”	n/a	n/a	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$2	“Amateur Radio Theory Course,” Ameco Pub.	n/a	n/a	V. Good	Member Checkout
\$10	Ringo Rangr, 2m	n/a	n/a	Fair	TARS Auction
\$2	Misc. coax, ladder, and long wire	n/a	n/a	Fair	TARS Auction
\$1263.25	Total of all items				

Simple QSL Cards

de Phil N4IPH

If you are one of the newly licensed hams or have been licensed for a number of years...you have probably have had requests for QSL cards. If you work any of the DX contests or are working towards any of the awards (Worked All States, DXCC...) you need QSL to apply for the awards or to exchange with the other station. You have several options...(1) purchase “ready made” stock QSL cards from mail order suppliers like W4MPY (2) design your own and pay someone to do the artwork and print the card or (3) design and print your own. As most hams...I like to spend my money on antennas and radios...not on paying someone to print my QSL cards...

Shortly after I received my HF privileges in the early 80's I used the old “cut and paste” method to make my own cards on a copier...I found a small cartoon...some rub-off lettering and typed my information on an old Underwood. The card looked fairly crude...but I took the template to a copy shop and had my first QSL card in a matter of minutes...in black and white. But at least I had some cards I could mail out when I made a contact..

Things have changed since then...we now have computers to help make the QSL's look more “professional” and can do our own printing at home in color. Unless you have shelled out some big bucks for PageMaker or Photo-Shop..you probably don't have much in the way of a graphic program other than “Microsoft's Paint”...which isn't the easiest thing to use. Microsoft Word... says it will allow you to use graphics...but it doesn't always put them exactly where you want them. Make one minor change and the whole page can change. Check to see if you have Microsoft's Excel as part of your Office package..if so..is not only for spreadsheets...it makes a great QSL generator! Unlike Word...if you place a graphic in the cell of Excel...it stays there...no matter what you do to the rest of the page.

The first thing to do is create a “spreadsheet” with a layout for your QSL cards...this takes a little bit of work...but all you have to do is decide how many cells..down and across it takes to make one sheet with 4 even rectangles...draw a border around them. This allows you to produce four cards with one sheet of cardstock. Select the upper left group of cells as your template...this is where you design your card. When it is completed you simply copy and paste it into the other three rectangles...nothing could be easier. To add a graphic...simply insert a scanned image or one off the internet...Excel allows you to put the image exactly where you want it...it doesn't move after you

release the mouse button. Add your contact information...callsign...address..and anything else you want. You can even add the contest or special event and use the same card over and over again.. I have several templates I use when working with the Boy Scouts, DX Contests and Special Events ..each year I change the date and possibly the graphic and everything else stays the same.

So if you need an inexpensive method of generating QSL cards...give Excel a try...If you have any questions...give me a call

Capital District EC Meeting Held at the NWS

Dave Davis held a planning and discussion meeting on January 12, 2006. Hot topics included: training, jump teams, advanced jump teams, net control operations, the upcoming hurricane season as well as upcoming events.

Attending were:

Dave wa4wes, Bill kg4lft, Wayne ka4iqz, Alan w1abt, Dan ki4hgo, Pat wd4odb, John kd4eks and Paul ka4rav hosted the meeting at the National Weather Service.



TARS

Highlight and Pictures of the TARS meeting January 5, 2006:

- *Dave Davis wa4wes announced the application for a grant for Winlink Airmail capability;
- *Jerry Kessler – n4jl presentation of the program regarding regulation by Band Width ‘The ARRL Proposal’ it was extremely informative if didn’t receive a copy of it last month please let me know, I will forward it to you.
- *Tars is considering applying for the FSECC , the cost is \$10. Marty Bishop K4TEM motioned to form a committee, Dan KI4HGO with a second.



THE LUNCH BUNCH!!!!

Come join us on Fridays at the Golden Coral on North Monroe St. between 11:30am to 1:00pm (-+).



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.

Chris Floyd from the Red Cross will be guest speaker at the SPARC February meeting.

Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex

SPARC Testing Information:

At the present time, SPARC is administering Amateur Radio Test the second Tuesday of January, May and September. It will remain as such until further notice. A fee of \$14 will be charged. No reservations are required. It is a walk-in test session. No reservations are required.

If you intend to take a test at one of these sessions, the following is required:

- 1 - A Photo ID or two accepted forms of proof of identity.
- 2 - If you are upgrading, Your original license and a copy that we may keep.
- 3 - If you are completing a second part of a required upgrade, such as code, the original CSCE and a copy of it that we may keep.

The test site will be the Shriner's Club House on US 319, about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the Crawfordville Traffic Light. Just past Woodland Rd and before the road turns to the left. If you pass the Library at Emmett Whaley Rd. you've gone to far.

Testing will begin at 7 pm

For more details contact [John](#) kd2nl

SPARC News

Dear Members:

We had a nice meeting last night. Paul Duval gave a very informative presentation and the Q&A afterwards was just as good. I think everyone enjoyed the evening. For those of you who were not able to attend we are going to



have a Tower/Generator test Feb 4 at 9:30AM. This is in

preparation for a display by the Wakulla Sheriff's Office March 4. More information on this event as it develops, but we were asked to erect the tower and a check-out is required in case some maintenance is required.



Chris Floyd will be our guest speaker next month. If there is enough interest we can have a Skywarn class set up for us, if you are interested let it be known. Paul, KG4J, gave us an update on the latest APRS development and there seems to be a very exciting future for the use of digital communications during an emergency. Stay tuned as digital seems to be the way to go in the future for emergency use. We had several people pay



their dues, how many I am not sure. If you have not paid please do so. It can be mailed in to the address given on the web site or given to Warner our Treasurer. That's all for now but there will be more soon.

Ed KC4MHM

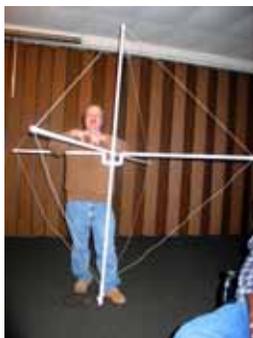
Thomasville Amateur Radio Club

Net meets every Tuesday night at 8:00pm on 147.195MHZ Duplex. Club meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Plaza Restaurant at 7:30pm.

President's letter:

Hi Folks,

We've got a good start on the year and I've been really glad to see the turnout we've had both on the



Tuesday nets and at the midmonth breakfast as well. The Nets are averaging 16 check-ins and we've got a few new folks checking in from Tallahassee via Echolink and Dan, KI 4HGO. 16 members and a few additional non-ham friends showed up at "The Eating Edge" for breakfast on the 21st and that's the most I believe we've ever had. I hope it works out that way for TOSRV in April. We found



out at the last meeting that the Plaza also has a breakfast buffet and for February (specifically the 18th) we'll have breakfast there. Buddy and I tried it out in advance and it was also really good. George said he'd set us up in a room but if there's no large crowd in the regular dining room, we may just eat out there. We had a really good antenna presentation from Ivan, K4SRB, on his latest, greatest 6 meter antenna and the Big Bend 6 meter net is back in session again, on Monday nights at 7:30pm on

50.150 MHz USB. I checked in to the inaugural net and there were a goodly number of stations there. The second time around, which I missed, saw check-ins from as far as Canada, due to a band opening, proving that you never know who may be there on the "Magic Band". I also checked in once during the 2 meter SSB net on Sunday night but it proved that I need a bit more height for an adequate give and take on that band.



February's sole event is the Orlando Hamcation, which is Feb. 10-12 and as always is located at the fairgrounds. While it's a bit of a drive, it's not too bad for a day's outing and is the largest event within a days round trip

(Lawrenceville is catching up though). These shows are a good time to do some wheeling and dealing if you need new or used gear and that's a good thing for those of you who are new to the hobby. A number of us have indicated interest in making the trip and I'm sure the better traders would be willing to help if you need advice on a purchase (or maybe good ways to hide it from those who'd frown on how much you spent!). I know of one local who used to pull the knobs off the front of a new radio and explain to his wife that he got it off a "grab table". I can't speak to whether that ruse worked but I've never had the courage to try it myself. I've been thinking that because of the new folks populating our ranks, we might start doing some brief programs during the meetings on the equipment we own. I'd



entail bringing the gear in to show it off and while that might be a bit cumbersome for a larger HF radio, it'd be a good opportunity for new ops to see what kind of gear is available. Granted this happens during Field Day, but that's only once a year. If you have an interesting mobile radio, an HT, an antenna or maybe an interesting piece of test gear, it would probably be of interest to some of your fellow club members. Home built equipment would also count here. I've already heard interest in getting a group together one Saturday morning to build some of I van's antennas so you see what interest one simple program can generate.



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I had a call from Jim Ellis, the Emergency Director for Grady County a few days back and he requested that I be a part of his group attending a March 1st conference in Thomasville called "Crossing the Imaginary Line". There will be representatives from 13 counties in South Georgia and North Florida as well as a few people from both State governments. The goal of this meeting is to establish better communications and coordination across the state line and allow the represented groups to get to know one another a bit better. I'm reading between the lines here that they also realize we could have easily been Katrina victims and they are now trying to proactive about making plans *before something happens*. Twice in the last few weeks, amateur radio

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society



operators have been mentioned in the *Times Enterprise* in conjunction with emergency operations. There was a citizens meeting a few weeks back where our Emergency Coordinator laid out his plans for Thomas County, and there in print was the fact that they'd have "ham radio communications" as a back up. Then last night, in a letter to the editor from a "Dr. S. Hawkins" there was a question if the local amateur radio clubs had been approached about being part of the plans. A search of the phone book did not show an entry for Dr. Hawkins, which I regret because I'd like to have a chat about that letter. I'm looking forward to the conference but am curious if any other amateur organization in the area has been asked to send a representative. If anybody knows that answer, please let me know. If you'd like to check it out yourself, the link to the conference info site is:

www.tallytown.com/redcross/leon/nims

I listened around on Kid's Day this past month and didn't hear a lot of activity. I hate that it slipped up on me too quick to see if we drum up some more interest in doing something with it. If I'm not mistaken, there is a second time around for this event in either June or July and I'd like to see us work on a special event for getting our new younger ops on the air. A few years ago, the SPARC group in Wakulla County had a special event station for putting the St. Marks Lighthouse on the air during Lighthouse/Lightship weekend. Since I know there are some newly licensed kids in that group, TARS, and our group, maybe this would be a good time to get all three groups together for a cookout and fellowship, while letting the kids get on HF and make a few contacts. I put this forth because I know a fair number of members of the other two groups read this newsletter. For us, it'd almost be like the [Field Days of old, where our group used to set up at Dog Island. So, you folks from SPARC and TARS, I've laid down the gauntlet. If we want younger participation in our hobby, this could be a good time to get them involved and provide a chance for all three groups to get better acquainted with each other without having to chase bicycles at the same time.](#)

[The VEs will be available again on February 18th at 1pm for a test session and KF4GBS has already indicated he'll be there to try for his General written. If you know someone else who wants to try their hand, please let them know we'll be there. The December session has added Chantal, KI 4NBU, Beth, KI 4NBV, and Jorden, KI 4NBW to our on air operators and we congratulate them on their new calls.](#)

Well, enough for the short month of February. Our meeting will take place on February 4th at our usual location, The Plaza in downtown Thomasville. We begin arriving around 6pm for supper and the meeting will follow at 7:30pm. If you'd like to do a quick program on a piece of gear like I suggested, just let me know before we get started and I'll be sure you get some time during the meeting. I've given you a bit to think about so why not join us for some spirited discussion and fellowship on February 4th. I look forward to seeing YOU and your family there!

73 de Mike KE4FGF

Thomasville Mid month Breakfast



Net News:

Don't forget these popular nets in the Tallahassee area:

2 METERS

The Seven Hills Two Meter Side Band Net meets every Sunday night at 8:45pm.

The frequency is: 144.208 USB Everyone is welcomed.

73's John KG4GXT

6 METERS (revised)

The Big Bend Six Meter Net meets **Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** Eastern Time. The Net meets on 50.150 MHz upper sideband. Use whatever antenna you have, but try to get around to using a horizontally polarized antenna.

73's IVAN (K4SRB)

New UHF Nets:

Friday Night informal net at 8pm on the KJ4G repeater: 443.40offset: 448.40 - tone:131.8. For those using Echolink the Node is 3950. Everyone is invited to participate, it's a good way to learn your way around Echolink. Please observe Echolink protocol: pause 4-5 sec before you transmit to allow the links to drop.

Another new net: "Happy Times" Winlink net on Wednesday night on Echolink. For additional information please contact Mary KI 4JOO

SPARC Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex

Thomasville Amateur Radio Club net every Tuesday night at 8:00pm on 147.195MHZ Duplex. Club meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Plaza Restaurant at 7:30pm

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

Want to become a dues paying member of TARS? Complete the form below. Annual dues are \$15 for Individual or Family membership. For Family status, complete a form for each member. Students join for free.

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) ____

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: John Swindle - KI 4EWB
Vice President: Dan Moniz KI 4HGO
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 KI 4HGO
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 starting 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.
The Seven hills two meter side band net meets every Sunday night at 8:45pm. on 144.208 USB
The Big Bend Six Meter Net meets Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on 50.150 MHz upper sideband.
The Friday Night informal net at 8pm on the KJ4G repeater: 443.40 /offset: 448.40 tone: 131.8. Everyone is invited to participate.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Submitted material received by the editor from dues paying members in good standing, 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). Currently, the editor is Dan Moniz KI 4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: KI4HGO@arrl.net

