

Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society November 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

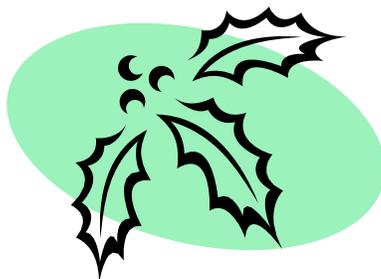
Guest Speaker for the November Meeting

Chris Floyd, Director of the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross will present the program for the October meeting.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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



DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

The digital communications group formed by Dave WA4WES kicked off its first class on Friday night at the Tallahassee Fire Training Center on Municipal Way. Dave introduced the various modes of digital communications with an over view of PACKET, ECHOLINK, PSK 31, APRS, SSTV as well as a demonstration of interfaces using TNC and Soundcard to a room filled with local hams. Dave also demonstrated several antennae he built including a couple of J-Poles.



Paul KJ4G, dazzled the group with an impressive demonstration of ECHOLINK and its capabilities using either computer to computer VOIP or computer to radio or radio to computer.



HandiHams-A Valuable Resource for ALL Hams

de Phil N4IPH

The next time you are looking up something on the internet...Take a few minutes to check out the HandiHam website www.HandiHam.org. You are greeted with the statement..." *Welcome to The Courage Handi-Ham System: Ham radio for people with disabilities*". The nice thing is that All hams can use the resources. The newsletter has a variety of articles..the current one talks about Mobile Antenna Safety, FCC Part 15, A source to verify old amateur calls (to show code credit for upgrading) and ESD-Electrical Static Discharge. The last article is a good one to read for both new and experienced amateurs. The nice thing is that you can read it on line, listen to a "stream" or download a MP3 file for listening later. One of the newer additions is podcasting...se the web site for more details. You can become a member for only \$10. One of the more valuable article I can remember reading was a simple guide for the Icom T-90A MultiBand HT.. I found this shortly after I picked one up from HamRadio Outlet a few years ago. Designed originally as a guide for blind hams...it went over all the programming details for the rig in a step-by-step process. Camps are held several times a year...usually on the western part of the country...to help new hams with a variety of disabilities earn their amateur ticket. If you would like to be put on the list to help locally...drop Patrick Tice WAOTDA an e-mail and he will send you an informational packet on the Courage_HamdiHam organization. Check the website every week or so...There is always something interesting...



TARS Meeting (October 6, 2005)



Meeting called to order by President John KI4EWB 7:30 P.M. at Publix Ocala Rd.
34 members and 6 guests present

Art Yarborough (KG4YZE) gave a presentation on the C.A.P. communications procedures and their relationship to the ARRL.

Randy AG4UU reported on the repeater status.

Alan reported 6 people took tests and all passed some portion. 1-general, 2-techicians, and 3 general written.

Next testing Dec 6 2005 at 2006 Municipal Way 7:00 P.M.

Dan gave a report on the newsletter indicating requests for input by the members.

Phil N4IPH reported that the next ham class will start Oct. 19th 2005

50-50 netted \$16.00

Dave Davis WA4WES gave a report on hurricane operations in Hancock Miss.

Dave Perryman presented a check for \$ 200.00 from the AirFest program in appreciation for the TARS assistance,

Alan (W1ABT) requested help for the spaghetti 100 Oct. 22nd

Meeting adjourned 9P.M.

Silent Keys



From ARRL Headquarters, October 2005

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

- W4AUH, Glen L. Taylor, Orlando, FL
- N4FIZ, Martin C. Leake, Palm Bay, FL
- KA4RZM, Edward Tobatto Jr, Merritt Island, FL
- WB9JSW, Carl H. Plotz Jr, Lawrenceville, GA
- KF4GEZ, James D. Reeves, Tucker, GA

TARS Treasurer's Report

October 2005

As of 10/1/05:

Checking Account Balance: \$465.68

Savings Account Balance: \$4499.03 (\$500 transfer from savings to checking)

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$50.00

Receipts deposited in savings account: \$0.00

Receipts derived from the following:

\$50.00	Dues
0.00	TARS Auction
0.00	Donations
0.00	50/50
<u>0.00</u>	Savings Interest
\$50.00	Total



5 members renewed or joined last month.

4 individuals

0 family members

1 students

Expenses:**

\$408.46 - Bill Caipon's Auto Service, TARS Van brake repair.

Outstanding expenses:

Kent Hutchinson (KC4TOC) for TARS van gas, TARS battery, and TARS Dept. of Revenue fee.

Randy Pierce repeater antenna expenses.

Donations:

None.

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



*Reimbursement request for 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.



Amateur Radio License Class

Started October 19th, 2005

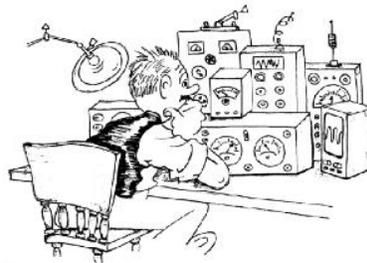


The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society are sponsoring an Amateur Radio License Class which started **October 19th, 2005**. The class runs from **6 PM to 9 PM** at the **Red Cross Offices**, 187 Office Plaza Drive. There is no charge for the class. We meet each Wednesday night for about 7 weeks and conclude with a ARRL Volunteer Examiner test session (\$14 test fee). FCC Exams will be given on **December 6th, 2005** by our local ARRL-VE team...at the regular testing site...more information on this during the classes.



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.



"World Radio" de Phil N4IPH



One of the handouts I pass out during our License Classes covers the major ham radio magazines..at least those that are still around !. *QST* and *CQ-Amateur Radio Today* are probably the most widely known. But there is another one you might be interested in reading.. *WorldRadio* a magazine "for hams" by "hams" ...no frills just good information on Amateur Radio... \$16 a year for 12 issues (newspaper magazine ~60 pages). Covers majority of interest for the average Amateur Radio operator that the other magazines cover...but with an independent view. Emphasizes the positive aspects of Amateur Radio..stays out of the politics! Very good articles written by the average ham..especially the monthly AERIALS, CONTESTS & DX columns. The magazine has been around

for over 34 years! If you check out their web site at www.wr6wr.com ..If you drop them a note..they will even send you a FREE copy to check out their publication..Where else can you get that offer?

Hurricane Katrina: Young Hams to the Rescue (ARRL)



Sixteen-year-old Stefan Floyd, KI4JTA, who spent a week providing emergency communication in Mississippi.

Since late August, the nation has focused on the devastation wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and in the subsequent relief and recovery efforts. Most people immediately wanted to help, and through ham radio, several youth were able to do just that.

Sixteen-year-old Stefan Floyd, KI4JTA, who spent a week providing emergency communication in Mississippi. Sixteen-year-old Stefan Floyd, KI4JTA, knows firsthand what a disaster site is like, and especially after he and his dad, Gene Floyd, AI4KK, spent a week in Hancock County, Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. By assisting the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), they performed a variety of duties, such as transporting supplies and relieving tired operators. Their other responsibility was to obtain GPS (global positioning system) coordinates for various locations to aid in navigation, since street signs were scarce.

Stefan served as a navigator, so that the relief organization's driver could concentrate on driving through the rugged, and, at times, hazardous, conditions. As one of his last duties before leaving the disaster area, he assisted in getting a local broadcast station back on the air, which involved wading through waist-deep flood waters to refuel the generator.

Hurricane Katrina was certainly not Stefan's first time providing disaster relief. As a member of Capital District ARES in his hometown of Tallahassee, Florida, the Tallahassee Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and the local chapter of the American Red Cross, he has also responded to several hurricanes in Florida. In 2005, he was even awarded the Red Cross Youth in Action award.

22nd Annual Spaghetti 100 Bicycle Race A Huge Success!

E-mail from Larry Pushor (KI4MAJ)



On behalf of Nancy Wright, CCC president, and the CCC membership, I want to thank all of you for the fantastic job you all did. It never ceases to amaze me at the work that the two radio clubs (and three with TOSRV) accomplish and how much they work toward the success of the ride. We had sag vehicles on each section of the route, but the radio people were effectively there providing that many more sags on each section. You can't



beat that kind of coverage. I have not been on a lot of out of town rides, but the ones I have been on I have not seen anything like what the radio clubs provide here. And "tail end Charlie" is a wonder in patience and staying with it. And the other thing, there are only two days to the weekend, and each of the radio operators either gave up the whole day or a big part of it to help assure the safety and success of the ride. Many thanks to you all!



There were only two minor injuries that the medic had to attend to, and I just read that another rider tumbled but got right up and continued on. He didn't need the medic, apparently. That record is always great news.



On a separate and more private note, several radio operators went out of their way big time to get my loaner radio ready...my first after getting my license as a Technician. This happened not only on Saturday but also today to get everything working well. I didn't have a radio operator traveling with me all day, but I did have the radio and could hear all that was going on. I totally felt tied into the ride. The radio clubs are a great group of people to be part of. I am looking forward to being involved. Larry, KI4MAJ



Tars Hams Involved: John - KI4EWB, Alan - N4KGT, David - AI4GF, John - KG4GXT, Larry - KI4JOJ, Sheri - KI4LHI, Theo - K4MVL, Wayne - KA4IQZ, JOHN - KD4QKH, Kerry - KI4IXK, Mary - KI4JOO, Larry - KI4MAJ, Lowell - NY4D, Dan - KI4IGO, Alan - W1ABT, Dave - WA4WES

Fall Antenna & Equipment Check-Up

de Phil N4IPH



As the cooler weather arrives in the fall..it's 58 outside and sunny as I'm writing..it's a good time to check out you equipment and antennas. To start off..it's a great time to put up new antennas...especially dipoles and loops. There are few leaves on the trees so you see from one antenna support to another. If you want a great antenna that will cover most of the HF frequencies...try a loop & antenna tuner. You can pick up a 500 spool of #14 wire at Home Depot or Lowes for about \$20...If you don't have "egg insulators" cut a few pieces of PVC pipe and put a few holes in the ends..they work almost as well. I was told that the bigger the loop..the better the antenna! Mine is about 225 feet and runs around the back yard suspended from 4 large trees. Feed it with 450 ohm ladder line connected to the tuner and a short piece of coax from the tuner to the rig and your on the air. The loop works great on 40 & 80 meters..and equally as well on 15, 20 and 10 (when it's open).

Back to the check-up..If you have been a ham for a while...you probably have a backyard full of wire antennas and possibly a tower with a beam. Now is a good time to check the connections..both feedline and electrical (rotator) cables. The summer rain and high moisture during the summer months can degrade the efficiency of many antennas. Check for poor or broken solder joints..it just takes a few minutes to repair. Remember that poor soldering or mechanical connections produce high resistance to your signal on it's way to the antenna. Solder is for electrical..not mechanical connections! While your working on the good antennas...you may want to remove any old antennas. Again with the leaves off the trees...it's easier to work.

You might also want to check your "common ground" connections...most of us use a ground rod or rods with a copper or brass sleeve which the station wire is attached. Make sure you have a good mechanical contact...temperature changes may cause these connections to loosen.

If your lucky enough to have a tower and beam..check the electrical control cables going to the rotator...If you are using the old flat "TV" rotator cable..chances are that the wire has degraded if it has been up for a few years...Invest in a good quality rotator cable..it will pay off in the future. You may also want to put a "multi-pin" connector on the rotator cable...similar to one used on boat trailers. RadioWorks sells a very nice one for less than \$10. It sure makes it easy to disconnect the cable if you need to work on the rotator or in the event of an electrical storm. Don't forget to check out your mobile setup..If you use one of the commercially made antennas...either the NMO or PL-259 mounts...You might want to pull the antenna off the mount and check the electrical connection..If necessary..pick up some contact cleaner and remove the white powder that seems to develop after a number of years. Check the condition of the coax & connectors...replace if necessary. While your at it..why not dust off that old SWR/Power meter and check efficiency of your mobile station.



The Amateur's Code

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.

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.

Wednesday Night Net Meeting 2000 Hours 146.550 MHz Simplex

SPARC MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2005



From the Minutes:

John Ryan reported the results of the September testing session. We welcome two new technicians - William Light and Beverly Walker-Payzant. Taking and passing both the general and extra class test was Kerry Lemley, KG4IXK.

Ed Palagyi announced up-coming contests for October and November. The Texas QSO will be October 29-30 and in November there will be the CW Sweepstakes and the Worldwide DX Contest.

Regarding 501(3)(c) status - Preliminary considerations are that we must be incorporated (\$78.75 for the first year and \$61.25 per year thereafter) and we must file for 501(3)(c) status (\$150). The initial cost would total \$228.75. Ed Miller will draft the paperwork and bring back to the club the items which will need decisions on for the paperwork along with the club needing to make a decision about whether or not to proceed.

Under new business -

1. A request was made to have a display at Home Depot on October 1st
2. The section emergency test will take place October 1-2
3. Katrina up-date was given by Brett outlining his trip and the work done by other amateur operators from this area.



*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Miller*

Tallahassee Ham Charlie Liem (N1CWL) Published in QST

Charlie Liem's "A Moment of Grace.." is a real life account of how Tallahassee Ham Radio Operators assisted in the rescue of critically ill patients at Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina ravaged coastal Louisiana and Mississippi in September. Checkout the ARRL November 2005 issue of QST. The article is titled 'The Katrina Chronicles' starting on page 43.

See Participating Hams below

From the shack of W1ABT, Emergency Coordinator, Leon County:

Re: Hospital Corporation of America

Dear Members;

Let me thank you first as having me as your ARES EC. It is a privilege and an honor to be part of the entire program...and I must say I am humbled and thank all of my ELMERS for your tutelage and the rest of you for the great teamwork.

The letter depicted below has some errors and emissions as follows:

1. Unless someone has not told me... I am not the Coordinator for Leon County Emergency Management...that is an error.
2. The following item is a serious admission...the letter should have been most appropriately addressed as, Dear Theo, K4MVL and Gene AI4KK for being on the front line and most importantly heaving too and thricing out at a moments notice along with, ai4gf Dave Barton, ki4joj Larry Workman, ki4jol Bonnie Floyd, kg4yzi David Perryman, n1cwl Charlie Liem, ki4kpy Jim Pinson, Chantal Blanton, kg4gpx Regina Sharp, ke4rwr John Swicord, ki4hgo Dan Moniz, w1abt Alan Torledsky, AG4UU Randy Pierce, kj4g Paul Eakin, wa4wes Dave Davis, Ke4url Nirmal Singh, ki4jog Bill Schmitt. With out the aforementioned participation I do not think the outcome would have been the same.
3. Let me also thank Dave, WA4WAES for direction and you Dan KI4HGO for your great coordination of the hams that participated. Special thanks to you Paul, KJ4G for setting up the message traffic documentation in the form of the written word.
4. Let me also say special thanks to the Florida State EOC.. John Fleming, Brian and Kimo, for the loan and use of the Satellite Coms including the training and access to the Florida EOC talk group.
5. Lastly to you Mr. Fleming thank you and Randy for your personal direction.

With respect to all thank you again!!

W1ABT
Alan
EC Leon County
73

Hospital Corporation of America

P 615 344-1590
F 615 344-2015

Jack O. Bovender, Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

October 20, 2005

Mr. Alan Torledsky
Coordinator
Leon County Emergency Management
535 Appleyard Road
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Dear Alan:

I want to personally thank you for your help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. When HCA was told to contact you for HAM radio operators, your assistance was invaluable. In a short time you had pulled together HAM radio operators who were willing to come to our aid. During the evacuation of everyone they worked tirelessly making sure the helicopters were on course. With all of the helicopters we were utilizing there was not one incident.

Our mission statement begins with, "Above all else, we are committed to the care and improvement of human life." The HAM radio operators were also committed to the same mission. They were responsive, exceptionally diligent and helpful under extremely difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions. They are our unsung heroes.

All of us at HCA are indebted to you. We want to thank you for supplying us with men and women whose sense of duty and acts of selflessness and kindness extended not only to us, but our patients and employees during our time of need.



Jack O. Bovender, Jr.

Sincerely,

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.

Mini Marathon Boston Ga.:

Members of the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club participated in the annual Mini Marathon in Boston, Ga. on the October 29th. The race course was 13 miles and lots of runners participated including a handicap lady in a wheel chair.

Participating Hams included: Mike - KE4FGF, Wynona - KFF4HSM, Russell KF4GBS, Bobby - N4KXL, Buddy - WD4CJI, Mike - KE4BZG, James - KC4SEH, Terry - KI4MAH, Bobby - KD4QKI, Dan - KI4HGO, and Coordinator Terry - KF4CLE



2005 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.

Currently, there are **92 TARS members**.

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



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

6 METERS

The **Big Bend Six Meter Net** meets Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time or at the conclusion of the Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club Two Meter Simplex Net - - whichever is later. 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)

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

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: Individ. _____ Family _____ Student _____ (check one)
Home Phone () _____-_____
Cell Phone () _____-_____
Work 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: 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



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 Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on 50.150 MHz upper sideband.

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 KI4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to:

KI4HGO@arrl.net



Please submit
your articles
and
announcements
to the news-
letter by the
25th of the
month