



# Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society September 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 September Meeting**

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

## **Hurricane KATRINA Edition**

**A quick but very sincere thanks to all the Hams that participate in the Hurricane Katrina event this past weekend. Substantial efforts by local Hams supported the missions of the Red Cross and Nation Weather Service who greatly appreciated your contributions.**



## 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.

# Amateur Radio License Class

Starting October 19th, 2005



The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an Amateur Radio License Class starting **October 19th, 2005**. The class will run from **6 PM to 9 PM** at the **Red Cross Offices**, 187 Office Plaza Drive. There is no charge for the class. We will 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.

The course will cover the necessary FCC rules & regulations, electronic theory, operating practices and Morse Code (5 wpm) instruction for the FCC **Technician Class Amateur Radio License**.

To register for the Amateur Radio License Class:

Call the **American Red Cross Office** at **(850) 878-6080**.



# TARS Meeting

## August 4, 2005

President John KI4EWD called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. at Ocala Rd. Publix

John presented a gavel to Brian AI4AI for his past service as president.

John read the treasurer's report (attached)

Chris reported that the next amateur class will be in Sept. at the Red Cross

Alan reported on the Aug. test session

50 50 netted \$15.00

Paul Duval, chief meteorologist National Weather Service, gave an excellent program on hurricanes of 2004.

Randy (AG4UU) gave a report on the need to expend funds for repeaters at a new site.

A motion by kg4YZI to expend up to \$3,000 on an antenna and repeater, seconded by AI4AI

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

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## Silent Keys

From ARRL Headquarters, September 2005

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

KZ4C, Edward Link, Lake Worth, FL  
WB4FJY, Herman Agostini, Winter Park, FL  
KC4OGH, Loren E. Edwards, Dade City, FL

# TARS Treasurer's Report

August 2005

As of 07/23/05:

Checking Account Balance: \$400.04

Savings Account Balance: \$4999.03

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$50.50

Receipts deposited in savings account: \$1.15

Receipts derived from the following:

\$45.00 Dues

0.00 TARS Auction

5.50 Donations

0.00 50/50

1.15 Savings Interest

\$51.15 Total

7 members renewed or joined last month.

3 individuals

4 family members

0 students

Expenses:\*\*

\$98.63 - Reimbursement to Dan Moniz, KI4HGO for Field Day signage and gavel award purchase.

Outstanding expenses:

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

Donations:

**WA4NEB**, Dr. Peter Wright - 707 DynaJet tube tester.

**WE4RA**, David Heupel - \$1.45 of \$8.95 URL fee for K4TLH website. Remaining applied to TARS membership.

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.

## **World's First Satellite Antenna for High Speed Internet Access and Digital TV Reception in cars**

**(WORLD RADIO)**

LAS VEGAS, Jan. 7 Ubiquitous 24-7 high-speed communications access is one of those things we have long talked about being in the future - at the CES today, it became a stark reality when RaySat introduced the world's first vehicle-based satellite antenna providing in-motion, high-speed Internet access to motorists, including emergency personnel, riding in cars, trucks, or motor homes. The new SpeedRay 3000 is based on an enclosed low-profile, roof-mounted antenna, which turns any vehicle into a rolling "hot spot," enabling Internet access to laptops, PDAs, or other devices equipped with Wi-Fi wireless networking technology.

The innovative system is a breakthrough in mobile computing and communications, providing Internet download speeds up to 2 mbps and upload speeds up to 128 kbps, shared among users in the vehicle.

In addition, using technology also developed by RaySat, the SpeedRay 3000 provides moving vehicles with strong reception of digital satellite TV and music channels.

Since it communicates solely via satellite, the antenna can be used effectively in remote areas where cellular and land-line connections are not available.

"With our latest breakthrough technology, we're moving from being purely an in-vehicle entertainment company to being a communications solution provider in moving vehicles," said RaySat President and CEO Samer Salameh.

The SpeedRay 3000 is compact, easy to install and employs a five-inch high dish antenna housed in a low-profile, roof-mounted, impact-resistant case. Designed for use by consumers as well as emergency "first responders," the new antenna provides a highly reliable alternative to terrestrial based communications systems, which may fail in emergencies or not provide sufficient range in remote areas.

To provide continuous signal feeds, the SpeedRay 3000 uses a phased-array antenna that rotates (inside its housing). Its panels constantly move up and down and back and forth, to track and maintain the satellite signal regardless of the vehicle's position relative to the satellite with which it is in communication. For convenience and reliability, the system's Wi-Fi transceiver, which supports the most widely used wireless networking standards (IEEE 802.11b and 802.11g), is built into the dish antenna housing and so requires no separate installation or connections.

Salameh said the RaySat is scheduled for availability in the third quarter of 2005 and will retail for US\$3,495.00. Installation and subscriptions to TV and Internet services are additional charges. We are currently obtaining information regarding the areas in which this service will be available. Stay tuned!

## Amateur Radio CQ Survey

(from CQ-Amateur Radio August 2005)

de Phil N4IPH

Each month CQ-Amateur Radio publishes the results of short surveys they conduct concerning the various aspects of Amateur Radio. The results this month were from the May 2005 survey concerning the availability of License Courses and VE Exams in a specific area. This caught my attention since I've been involved in both for a number of years. Tallahassee is fortunate that we have classes twice a year, VE Testing Sessions every other month and at least three active radio organizations within a short driving distance.

Below are some of the statistics:

- **Overall accessibility and frequency of Technician License at least once a year.**

69% approval..

We do it twice a year through the Red Cross.

51% offer a higher class (usually General)..

We cover most of the General info in our classes

- **Availability of a VE Exam Session at least 4 times a year..**

70% approval..

TARS does a VE session every other month (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of even months and at Field Day)..

40% have a session available every month

SPARCS does it quarterly in Wakulla County.

- **Distance willing to travel for License Class or VE Exam..**

13% less than 10 miles

45% between 10 and 25 miles

30% between 25 and 50 miles

9% for over 50 miles

- **Availability of License Classes and VE Exams within your "Reasonable" Range.**

58% both are available within the reasonable range

21% only VE Exams are available within your range

1% only License Courses but not VE Exams in your range

4% say neither is available within the range

- **Availability of License Courses in your area**

62% were satisfied (40% very satisfied 22% satisfied)

At one time we offered VE Exams every month...it got to a point where we had more VE's than test takers..that's when the decision was made to offer VE Exams every two months. It's also interesting that many organizations charge for their license courses..Tallahassee is fortunate that we have a good relationship with Chris Floyd at the Red Cross..we're going to have our next class starting this fall. I can remember when we held classes in a Scout Hut..Leon High Cafeteria & portable classroom and the local Library.

The Red Cross partnership is the best for both groups. We have a great place to hold license classes..the Red Cross has a supply of volunteers to provide communications. You might also want to check out the variety of community service classes the Red Cross provides, many of them are held on Saturdays ..



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## 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**

Message from the President:

Dear Members:

We had a good meeting last night. We are going ahead with the 501(3)(c) effort and there seems to be some interest in SEDAN, Paul gave an up-date on the Red Cross SEDAN station. The high light was Brett's presentation of the video Richard took during Field Day documenting the tower erection. The video was well edited and included music and text. A very nice presentation to be given to the Sheriff's Department as a training aide. A real treat to watch.

73 Ed KC4MHM

**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. **This month's meeting will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2005**

Clips from the President:

...Paul Duval, KA7RAV, who heads up the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) in Tallahassee, is coming to this months meeting to give a presentation on NOAA and the 2005 Atlantic Storm Season. Paul will give a presentation similar to the one he gave at the TARS meeting last month. If you have any non-ham friends who might be interested in this presentation, they're of course welcome to attend so pass the word and remember that the club meeting this month is one week behind because of Labor Day and will occur on September 10th. Also, Jim



Ellis, the County Emergency Coordinator for Grady County has arranged a Weather Spotter's Class for September 8th at 5pm, and the location is the Roddenberry Memorial Library in Cairo. If you haven't had this class, or know someone who is interested in taking it, pass the word.

The Tuesday Nets are going well again after a month off and despite some problems with the 147.195 repeater. The Repeater Committee is working on the problems and hope to have them ironed out shortly. I've also begun repairs on the TGA and RENO SEDAN packet nodes. I'm seeing some renewed interest in that facet of Amateur Radio and in light of the recent number of storms, it just seems like a good idea to get them



operational again. We had a good group of "packeteers" a while back so it's time to dust off your TNCs and jump back in there.

Our Midmonth Breakfast will be on September 17th at the Dairy Queen on US 19 south at 8:30 am. A test session will also occur that day at the Thomas County Public Library at 1pm. We'll be testing all classes so if you know of someone who needs to take a test, let them know we'll be there.

73 de Mike (ke4fgf)



## 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](mailto: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 **86 TARS members**.



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## 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.

## Membership Renewal

A new year 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 anytime throughout the calendar year.

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 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 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). Currently, the editor is Dan Moniz KI4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: [KI4HGO@arrl.net](mailto:KI4HGO@arrl.net)

