



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society July, 2009



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

**There will be a TARS meeting on Thursday
July 2, 2009.**

David Minor made me do it!!!!!!



Minutes

Minutes of the TARS Annual Meeting TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society Thursday, June 4, 2009

The TARS Annual Meeting was held at Publix on Ocala Rd. on Thursday, June 4, 2009.

CALL to ORDER at 7:00 p.m.

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO welcomed the members and guests who signed in. TARS officers KI4HGO, W1ABT, KI4MAJ, and KI4NBU were all present.

** The sheet listing those in attendance is made a part of these minutes.*

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS

Dan and attendees congratulated James WOJAG who became a new General at the test session on Tuesday. Two youngsters received an especially warm welcome: Josh, son of Mike K4ICY, and Catherine, whose dad Randy AG4UU had introduced her to the club as a tiny baby at the holiday party in 2006.

PROGRAM

Dan recognized David KG4DVW, who took the floor to proudly introduce his father, SMSgt. Phillip Pienta (Ret.). David briefly cited the high points of his father's distinguished service in military communications, with 26 years in the Air Force and 26 medals to recognize his work.

Phillip Pienta then gave an engaging power-point presentation, recounting the highlights of his many years, locations, and types of service with a broad variety of communications. He started in 1969 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, communicating 12 hours a day, 6 days a week during the Vietnam war; and experienced MARS radio helping servicemen call home. He proceeded to Patrick AFB in Florida before serving as a high-security teletype operator in Ramstein, Germany during the Henry Kissinger years of shuttle diplomacy. Although he alluded to the general topics of messages he transmitted, Pienta - - like any good radio communicator - - did not reveal details of his sensitive communications. Back in the USA, he joined the Joint Communications Support Element (JSCE), learned about complex antennas to support military operations, and served on the airborne command post "Jackpot" which handled delicate communications for events such as the rescue attempts in 1977 in Iran and the aftermath of the murder of Congressman Leo Ryan and mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana.

Next came service on the National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP, pronounced "kneecap") with a team of 25 to 30 comm's specialists, staff, and flight crews. With good humor, Pienta described interactions with Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, as well as VLF comms with untold numbers of garage door openers. From 1984-89 he ran the school for communications at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS, where he experienced his first hurricane, Category 3 Elena, and operated a machine that translated Morse Code. The final chapter was serving with the airborne Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), a long-range surveillance, battle management, and command and control platform which was deployed to Desert Storm and other engagements.

Pienta described the challenge of serving 16 UHF radios with only 4 antennas, but marveled at surveillance gadgets that could distinguish between real and dummy targets, and special radios capable of communicating with submarines. He concluded by highlighting the dizzying rate of technological advances through the years and how many former military systems of communication and information have been mainstreamed into civilian life.

It was clear why Pienta was a Senior Master Sergeant, the most difficult enlisted promotion to attain in the Air Force. Following a warm round of applause, Dan KI4HGO thanked him for his service.

A motion was approved to vary the order of the meeting to prioritize discussion of Field Day after the break.

BREAK

Two-and-a-half-year-old Catherine Pierce selected the 50-50 winner, Alan W1ABT, who kindly donated his share to TARS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Field Day

Dan asked who would take charge of Field Day, and after a brief discussion, Mike K4ICY volunteered and Larry KI4MAJ offered to assist with organizational matters. Possible locations include last year's site at J. Lee Vause Park, Tom Brown Park, or Mission San Luis; and Alan W1ABT will again seek to have fees waived in recognition of TARS' public service contribution. Mike said he would work with a core group to select the location and will get news out through Dan's email network and announcements on the Sunday 8 p.m. ARES nets.

Website

Various people asked what had happened to the K4TLH website. Dan and Randy briefly outlined conversations with Nirmal KE4URL about unauthorized use of the website, with the core issue apparently being TARS' previous decision to not spend funds for the domain name. It appears that Nirmal plans to redirect queries to the K4TLH website, thereby closing the issue.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT and Minutes

Dan said the Treasurer's Report and Minutes were printed in the Newsletter. There being no objections or corrections, both were approved unanimously.

* A copy of the Treasurer's Report is made a part of these Minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Testing - Alan Terrell N4KGT reported that there had been a test session Tuesday June 2nd, drew attention to the fact that the new location is St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church on Old Bainbridge Rd., and thanked Church elders Mike KI4KWC and Dave W4SKG for their generosity to TARS. Alan said all 3 applicants were successful, either receiving a new license or an upgrade. He announced that the next session will be at TARS Field Day, with location and time to be announced; and the next after that will be at the church at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2009.

Education -

Dave W4SKG announced that Emcomm Level I class starts next Thursday, June 11, from 6-9 p.m. for all hams interested in emergency communications and ARES. He also announced that ARRL has cancelled Emcomm Levels II and III which will be merged into an "Advanced" level.

Repeater -

Trustee Randy Pierce AG4UU reported that the 442.85 will be up and identifying. The 442.100 is the new machine, with good front-end sensitivity. The 147.03 still has a tinny sound and Midland is trying to help resolve the problem. As to 6-m, Randy has the antennas at home to work on. The 10-m is on the bench; the transmitter has problems. The 145.05 is working great in Wakulla county.

Website - (see Unfinished Business above)

Newsletter -

Dan KI4HGO said the June Newsletter was sent out to all members, but anyone who did not receive an electronic copy is asked to email Dan at ki4hgo@arrl.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dave KG4YZI invited all to the Hurricane Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 6th at the Crawfordville Hwy. WalMart. A good event is planned with Wakulla County emergency services and other participants.

Dave also said the new American Red Cross building is in progress and still scheduled for occupancy in November, 2009.

ELECTIONS

Dan turned the elections over to the Nominating Committee comprised of Nick W4EAF, Dave AI4GF, Chuck AI4KA, and Sal K4YFW. Sal presented the slate of nominees, consisting of the current Board. He asked for nominations from the floor, and there being none, it was moved that the nominations be closed and the current officers be reinstated. The motion was approved unanimously, there was a round of applause, and the following will serve TARS for the coming year:

President: Dan Moniz KI4HGO
Vice President: Alan Torledsky W1ABT
Treasurer: Larry Pushor KI4MAJ
Secretary: Chantal Blanton KI4NBU

Dan thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and continuing to support TARS in all its activities. He expressed special appreciation to everyone who has turned out for all the public service events and storms, and especially for supporting cross-border and multiple-club events like the Radio Reunion. He closed saying he had bright hopes for continuing to work with everyone for the coming year, and looks forward to seeing everyone at Field Day.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Chantal Blanton, KI4NBU

TARS Treasurer's Report

July 2009

Beginning balance June 1, 2009

Checking Account:	\$ 983.33
Savings Account:	<u>\$2926.71</u>
Total	\$3910.04

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$222.84

Receipts deposited in savings account: 0.00

Receipts derived from the following:

\$ 30.00	Dues
10.00	Member Donations
139.15	TARS Clothing Order

\$222.84 Total

Expenditures:

\$21.16 Talquin Electric 6-8-09 bill for Bethel Tower

\$21.16 Total

Outstanding Expenses:

Field Day

Ending Balance, June 30, 2009

Checking Account:	\$1185.01
Savings Account:	<u>\$2926.71</u>
Total	\$4111.72

1 members renewed or joined since last report.

1	individuals
0	family member
0	students

Dues for renewing individuals, as well as family members are \$15.00.

Membership fee for new members joining in June is \$7.50.

Field Day 2009

List of attendees, Saturday 6/27/2009

(53 are listed, plus 4 official visitors = 57; others may have escaped detection; * = hamster)

Mike Maynard, Coordinator

Larry Pushor, Assistant to Mike

AI4AI Brian - CW

N4IPH Phil - GOTA

KI4HGO Dan

KI4NBU Chantal

WE4RA David - Networking computers, building antennas, troubleshooting, whew!

W1XO Ted - CW and antennas

and wife Sherry Mills

N4VHF Paul - 6m SSB in the big ARC tent

KI4AGD Mike

* and son Tyler Matthews

KG4YZE Art

N4KGT Alan - Testing

KI4KWC - Mike "Drink the Kool-Aid"

NN5I Carl - CW, truck to get gas and other supplies, etc.

KJ4HEE Troy M. Powell - took Extra test

W4SKG Dave - GOTA station, elmered new Technician Kurt

KD4QKI Bobby - lasagna chef

KD4QKL John - helped the chefs

KD4OPU Buck Jackson - lasagna chef

KI4PZS Mo - brought equipment from American Red Cross

Kurt Murrell - Callsign Pending - took test and passed, new Technician

WA4WES Dave

AI4GF Dave - CW

KC4TOC Kent

and wife

W1AAO Richard

W4MIT Lois

W2FM Davis Beck from Deltona

and adult son Charlie Beck formerly WA2RMP

KI4EWB John

KI4PRW Ronald

N4TML Jeff

AD4E Steve Welch (CW) and

K4HIM Tersha Welch and children:

* Christopher Welch

* Hope Welch

KJ4AZV Tom, HF voice

W1ABT Alan - Site arrangements

* and son Tyler

KI4WWJ - Natalie (her first Field Day was 2007)

WB4LNO Bill

and wife Laura Bowen

N4OLW Ed Mallory from Whigham, GA (gave him TARS newsletter info)

K4IMO Kimo

WB4FSU Don Hartsfield

KK0VUU Leonard Kinerson (Chaires EMT)

KI4BIT David Nowak

K2FSU Tom Berlinger

W0JAG Jim Mogle

KI4MAI Herman

and son (name?)

[Charles Richards \(formerly KE4QPU\) a backsliding tech thinking of retesting](#)

VE Team:

N4KGT Alan

N4IPH Phil

?

?

Took tests:

Kurt Murrell - new Technician

Troy M. Powell - took General test

?

?

Visitors:

WCTV Channel 6 TV - Sandra Weathers, reporter and videographer

Tallahassee Democrat newspaper - Reginald "Reggie" Alceus, and a photographer

Commissioner Bill Proctor

Partial list of equipment providers (perhaps Mike and others can add more info):

Trailer for HF voice team:

Williams Communications (arrangements by David WE4RA)

Van for CW team:

Carl NN5I

Big tent for 6m SSB:

American Red Cross

Generators:

Carl NN5I

?

?

Coolers:

American Red Cross - Tallahassee

Mike K4ICY

OJ-cooler - Mike KI4KWC

The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

July 2009

7

?
?

Tables and chairs:

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church (arrangements by Dave W4SKG and Mike KI4KWC)

Computers

?

Computer wireless networking and logging programs

Dave WE4RA

Antennas

?
?
?
?
?

Dave Davis

DEC

Dear Fellow amateur radio operators: As we approach Field Day weekend, I thought I would pass along some information.

Field Days: TARS and SPARC are both putting Field Day stations on the air. TARS will be at the Vause County Park off Old Bainbridge Road. Talk in is on the 146.655 repeater. SPARC is also fielding a station at the trail head park on the St. Marks Trail. The Wakulla County repeater is 145.45, and it will probably be manned for those who need directions on how to get there. Field Day is an important exercise to see how ready we are for emergencies. I encourage you to go to one of these clubs' sites, help put antennas, or work some stations on CW, voice, or digital. The camaraderie alone is worth the time spent there.

Databases. The North Florida Section is developing a database for use when an emergency arises. It is designed to give emergency managers a listing of people who are willing and to some degree able to provide emergency communications. I have tried to maintain a database in the past but gave up because it was so hard to maintain. This one looks better because you can change your information as your situation changes. If you are interested, I encourage you to go to www.arrl-nfl.org and complete the short questionnaire. This does not absolutely commit you to a deployment, but it does say that you are interested in helping out, and it will us some needed information on who can possibly be deployed.

Training. There is a lot of training available. The NIMS people have a lot of on line courses, some of which are simply outstanding (There is a hurricane planning course that is superb). All hams should take ICS 100, 200, 700, 800. These are on line courses and can be completed in a couple of hours. They will give you a good understanding of emergency planning. Their website is www.fema.gov. The ARRL's Emergency Communications Courses, Levels I, II, and III are excellent and well worth the cost to take them. Levels II and III are currently being revised and condensed into a single course, so you may want to hold off taking them until the dust settles on what the League plans to do with them. If you are at all interested in emergency communications you should take these courses.

Jump Team. John Swindell, KI4EWB, has resigned as the leader of the Capital District's Jump Team. I appreciate the fine work he did in organizing the team and training it. He did a great job. Chuck Basham, AI4KA, has agreed to take over as the Jump Team Leader. I have known Chuck for many years, and have seen him operate in many exercises and drills. I have every confidence that he will continue John's tradition of having a team of amateur radio operators capable of deploying into a disaster area on 24 hours notice and establishing communications there. If you are interested in joining this select group, give Chuck a call.

Further information: If you would like more information on what to do and what to take to a major emergency, such as a hurricane, go to the ARES page of the www.k4tlh.net web page.

D-Star- Paul, KJ4G, and his D-star group have put up a D-Star repeater on the old Lewis State Bank
The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

July 2009

Building in down town Tallassee. This is one of those cutting edge technologies. Paul will give us some more details about D-star on the ARES net this Sunday, and after the net, we will have a brief D-star net on the 146.835 D-star repeater.

Digital. A psk 31 and other digital mode net is conducted at 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Currently, we meet on 3.850 MHz. If you are interested in trying PSK 31 or other modes, join us for that net. If you can only do VHF digital let me know and we will accommodate you.

Sunday night ARES nets. As you may have noticed there have been a few additions to the 8 p.m. Sunday night ARES net. Here is a summary of what is happening:

1st Sunday-Skywarn net

2nd Sunday-Report on what is going on in the East Panhandle, Georgia and Suwannee Districts(Junior-KG4ITD and Gina-W4GNA give these reports.)

3rd Sunday-Repeater Status Report-Sal-K4YFW-will give a status report of the various repeaters in the Capital District and selected repeaters in South Georgia.

4th Sunday, Vern-KI4PRX will conduct radio tests of various sorts and types.

5th Sunday-open

May 9 exercises. The Capital District held its annual pre-hurricane season exercise on Saturday May 9. It was an interesting event. Each county did something different. Leon and Madison Counties simulated a tornado hitting a shelter. This called into operation the stations at the two Tallahassee Hospitals as well as the Archibald hospital in Thomasville. In Jefferson County, a person wandered away from a shelter and the Search and Rescue people actually got their dogs (there were about 4 teams) and they spent several hours looking for him. In Wakulla county, the hams helped a simulated church group clean up along the coast. The exercise was a lot of fun, and we learned a lot.

When the rubber hits the road, it is your county EC that will be the most important radio communicator you should know. If you do not know him or her, give him or her a call and let him know who you are and your willingness to help. Doing so as a category 3 storm heads our way may present some problems.

I very much appreciate the hard work that your ECs, Assistant ECs and many others have done. We have made significant progress in increasing our readiness to respond to emergencies, and I am grateful for the many people who do their part. Thanks,

73

Dave

WA4WES

Capital District Emergency Coordinator

Some EOC Picts from ec meeting, more to follow!



Does Your Club Have an Elmers List?

- >
- > By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU
- >
- > Whilst looking up information for a recent hamfest, I found the club's > website and began surfing around. In doing so, I came across their Elmer page (<http://www.mcrca.org/elmers.htm>). On it, they list a variety of topics with the name, call, and phone number of someone who can answer questions on that topic.
- >
- > My club something similar once, but it was less than successful. I think that one of the problems was that we asked people to fill out a form on our website if they needed any help. That information was e-mailed to one guy, who then forwarded it to the appropriate Elmer. There was just too much time lag between the time someone asked for help and when they got it. Or, it may have been that filling out the form was just too impersonal.
- >
- > We are going to try it again, though, using the format that the Monroe > club uses. I'm also going to give it more billing on our website, and push it more at meetings and other gatherings.
- >
- > The topics the Monroe club lists on their website are:
 - > * Antennas
 - > * Buying Your First Radio
 - > * Code Practice
 - > * Computers
 - > * Packet
 - > * County Hunting
 - > * DXCC Awards
 - > * Rag Chewers Club
 - > * Worked All States
 - > * DX
 - > * FM
 - > * Homebrew
 - > * Testing
 - > * Public Service
 - > * Technical Q&A
 - > * Traffic
 - > * Tube Radios
- >
- > We already have Elmers for several of these topics. I, for example, would be more than happy to volunteer to be the Morse Code/CW Practice Elmer. We have one member who is an avid County Hunter, another who restores vintage gear, and yet another whos been spearheading a statewide effort to set up a packet network throughout Michigan.
- >
- > In addition, we are going to add or modify several of the categories.

> For example, Computers might become Computers/Software depending on who volunteers to be the Elmer. We have a couple of guys who are heavily into VHF/UHF operation and contesting, so we'll be adding those topics as well.

>

> I really do hope that this will be an important resource for our club. In the past year, we've helped quite a few folks get their licenses, and now we need to help them take advantage of that license and get the most out of the hobby. Elmering is the way to do that.

>

> Does your club have an Elmer list? If so, does it have topics that I haven't thought of yet? How do you get newcomers to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of your Elmers? And, finally, what topics have you volunteered to be Elmer for? Let me know by e- mailing me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

>

> === end column ===

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>

New Membership or Renewal Form



2009 has arrived and so has TARS membership renewal. Make the form easy on yourself. If you have not changed any information from last year, merely make payment to TARS. Complete the form with your name and indicate your member type and ARRL membership status. For Family status, complete a form for each member.

Name: _____ Callsign: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____-_____
Member type: Indiv. _____ Family _____ Student _____ (check one)
Home Phone () _____-_____
Work Phone: () _____-_____
Cell Phone () _____-_____
E-Mail Address: _____
ARRL member (y/n) _____ TARS Van trained (y/n) _____

Membership dues for the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society run \$15 annually per individual or family. **Students** (with valid ID) **can join for free!** You need not be a licensed amateur radio operator to join the Society. An interest in radio communications is all that is required. New members pay pro-rata based on the number of months remaining in the calendar year (\$1.25 per month). Renewing members pay \$15 dues; except after July, dues become \$7.50.

Please make your dues check payable to the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (or TARS). Bring your check with the additional information to the next monthly meeting of the Society and give it to the Treasurer, or mail your check and information to the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society, C/O Treasurer, P. O. Box 37127, Tallahassee, FL, 32315.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), their dues are \$39 annually. TARS is an ARRL sanctioned organization. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/join.html> for more membership information.

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: Steve AD4E
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 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). The editor is Dan Moniz KI4HGO. Submissions for The Printed Circuit may be emailed to: KI4HGO@arrl.net

