



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society

March, 2008



The Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society meets at 7:00 p. m. on the first Thursday of every month. Our primary meeting location is the conference room on the upper floor of the Publix on Ocala Road in Tallahassee. Talk-in on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (down .600, tone 94.8), or 146.520 simplex if you require entry into the building

**There will not be a TARS meeting on
Thursday March 6, 2008.**

Annual TARS Auction and Cookout

The annual TARS auction will be held on the second Saturday of March (March 8, 2008) at Tom Brown Park. Tables and an area will be on a "first-come, first-serve" basis. If we don't get the Pavilion, look for everyone behind the recreation area. Talk-in will be the 146.655 repeater or talk-around within the park.

Plan to be there around 8 AM so we may start the auction promptly at 9 AM and eat around noon-ish. Gather up any equipment, goodies, or junk that others may "treasure" and bid on. Randy Pierce, AG4UU will grace us with his fast-talking, very convincing pitch to buy everything in sight.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and other food will be provided. If you want to bring a side dish (like baked beans, potato salad, etc.), email Dan Moniz at ki4hgo@arrl.net or Larry at lpushor35@yahoo.com

Minutes of the February TARS Membership Meeting
TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society
Thursday, February 7, 2008

The TARS February Meeting was held at Publix on Ocala Rd. on Thursday, February 7, 2008.

CALL to ORDER at 7:00 p.m.

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO thanked the members for their support and patience during his recovery from surgery. He cordially welcomed the 34 members and guests who signed in. The normal order of the meeting was varied to accommodate a celebration in substitution for the program.

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

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS

Several new KJ4-prefix hams were recognized: Micah KJ4AZW, Tom KJ4AZV, and Sylvie Grimes who just passed her Tech test on Tuesday and awaits a callsign. Bob Bull will take the test soon. Donna has a new callsign, WQ4M (formerly W6DBJ).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan announced, with deep regret, the passing of the wives of Warner Garrison (K4UAT) Jeanette and Randy Moore, (AI4CO) Nancie.

The Thomasville club is mourning the loss of a faithful and beloved member, Shug Carroll, wife of Joe W4EAN. A tribute to Shug was in the TARC and TARS Newsletters.

Dan said Steve AD4E had asked TARS to consider providing radio support for the Blue Line 100 bike ride on Sunday, March 30, 2008. The ride makes a 100 mile road loop and a Metric 100 (68 mile) road loop. The funds generated are to support the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in Washington, D.C., which recognizes officers killed in the line of duty. The ride starts 8:00 a.m. from the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy on W. Hwy 90 Northwest of Tallahassee and loops north through Quincy, Climax GA, and Havana, then back to the Academy. After a short discussion, it was agreed that TARS would participate, and Dan will inform Steve.

Dan reported that Mike KE4FGF, President of the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club (TARC) has offered to host a cross-border (SW Georgia/Capital District of Florida), BBQ chicken, multi-club meeting at Thomasville on March 29, 2008. It was enthusiastically agreed that TARS will participate, and Dan will inform Mike.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chantal KI4NBU read the Treasurer's report, which was approved.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 2008 meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Testing -

Alan N4KGT announced positive results of the test session of Tuesday, February 5, 2008. Eight aspirants showed up and all passed the Technician test: Sylvie Grimes, Christopher Bartels, Patti Lester, Donald Sapp, Dawn McDermott, Max Gross, Robert Blow, and Kenneth Livingston who also passed his General test. Congratulations to all!

Repeater -

The detailed "TARS Repeater Report, November 1, 2007" by Repeater Trustee Randy Pierce AG4UU was printed in the February, 2008 newsletter. Randy gave an update to the report, saying the 53.036 meter repeater will be online by this coming weekend. He requested authorization for \$100 for parts (cable, ductwork, relays, etc.) to wire the beacons on the tower, as part of the agreement with the tower owner. The amount was approved unanimously. Randy recounted the negotiations to avert removal of the 146.91 and 442.85 repeaters and, in fact, to relocate them from the 325' to the 400' level. He reiterated the need to maintain a replacement cycle for older equipment. Randy and his team were thanked and applauded for their great efforts.

** A copy of Randy's report will be attached to these minutes, but will not be repeated in the March newsletter.*

Education -

Phil N4IPH reported on the completion of the class that had run through January at the American Red Cross Chapter House in Tallahassee. Sixteen attended the first class, then it dropped to 11 or 12, and 8 came to the test session. Several others were ill or out of town and expect to take the test later. Phil hopes that the new ARC management will continue sponsoring amateur radio training, though the recent management turmoil at ARC had complicated set-up, and space was limited. He hopes to hold another class before summer, perhaps in time for testing at Field Day. He has added some of the General class information.

Newsletter -

Dan KI4HGO said the February 2008 Newsletter was sent out to all members. Anyone who did not receive an electronic copy is asked to please email Dan at ki4hgo@arrl.net. Dan reminded members to please send him an update of email addresses and other contacts, when changes occur.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS and OPEN DISCUSSION

1. Dan KI4HGO: The Hernando Co. Hamfest will be at Brooksville, FL on February 16, 2008. Details are in the Newsletter.
2. David KG4YZI: Airfest 2008 is May 17 and 18, 2008 at the Tallahassee Regional Airport, and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 445 invites hams to participate. Featured planes include the warbirds: a P51 Mustang, LT-6 Mosquito, and an open-cockpit WWII pilot trainer. Interested hams are asked to send an email to kg4yzi@arrl.net saying when they are available to volunteer.

3. Richard W1AAO: Announced that the Panama City club has its picnic the first Saturday in March at Falling Waters State Park, and asked whether TARS' auction would be the same day or a week later. He asked if people going could share a ride with some hams who, otherwise, could not attend; and said Steve AD4E had details.

4. Dan KI4HGO:

§ The TARS Auction and Picnic date and time will be announced on the Sunday night ARES net. In March there will be NO meeting at Publix.

§ Dan has spoken with interested parties about the Scouts' Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). More information is to come as plans firm up.

§ Dan thanked Theo K4MVL for the BPL information for the Newsletter.

§ It is not clear whether TARS will be needed for the Capital City Cyclists 2008 TOSRV bike ride. Dan will advise the ham community via the Sunday night ARES net.

8. Alan W1ABT: TARS is participating in the Airport Exercise, a simulated emergency response to an air disaster. It will be Thursday, March 13, 2008. About 6 hams are needed. David KG4YZI asked hams to sign up on the ARC website and be sure to get an ARC credential for access through the event security.

9. Randy AG4UU: Asked if Leon County EC, Alan W1ABT, could check with Richard Smith at Leon County Emergency Management to see if the county would supply identification badges to hams who participate in emergency communications. He said that, years ago, hams went through the process with Leon County to have ID badges. He asked whether such ID would meet the requirements of ARC and Leon County for the Airport Exercise. Nick W4EAF said they did an ARES class, years ago, and got the badges at its conclusion. Alan W1ABT agreed to check with Leon County on the matter.

RECOGNITION

Dan KI4HGO said he was pleased to recognize a member of TARS for outstanding achievement and dedicated service. He described him as an educator who had trained and elmered many of TARS' members, and who had recently joined the elite ranks of ARRL Volunteer Examiners who had completed over 100 VE sessions: Phil N4IPH. After a hearty round of applause and banter about who would cut the cake, Phil stepped up to the plate, skillfully brandished the knife, and attendees shared in refreshments to celebrate.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantal Blanton, KI4NBU

TARS Treasurer's Report

March 2008

As of 03/01/08:

Checking Account Balance: \$913.90

Savings Account Balance: \$3189.55

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$182.00

Receipts deposited in savings account: \$ 60.00

Receipts derived from the following:

\$230.00 Dues

0.00 TARS Auction

0.00 Donations

12.00 50/50

0.00 Bank Account Interest

\$242.00 Total

13 members renewed or joined since last report.

13 individuals

0 family members

0 students

Expenses:

None

Outstanding expenses:

None

Annual Dues for 2008 are due: \$15.00 for individual membership as well as family.

Membership fee for new members joining in March is \$12.50.

All new memberships and renewals are joyfully received. .

The member roster on the web site has been updated. However, some errors crept in overnight; these will be corrected. Some renewal checks were received after the update was done; these will show up in the next update. Call sign and other changes can be emailed to lpushor35@yahoo.com .

MARCH MADNESS

Well, March Madness has started. Below is a summary of the Events in March:

March 1, 2008:

Falling Waters

March 08, 2008:

TARS Picnic and Auction. Plan to be there around 8 AM so we may start the auction promptly at 9 AM and eat around noon-ish. [Talk-in on the AE4S repeater 146.655 \(down .600, tone 94.8\)](#)

March 13, 2008:

Tallahassee Regional Airport Exercise. Please sign up on the Red Cross website. In addition send an e-mail to Alan W1ABT confirming that you are volunteering as a Ham Operator.

March 15, 2008:

Annual Shamrock Scurry 5K Race: this is a great event for New Hams (as well as seasoned Hams). It will last just a few hours in the Morning followed by a Pancake Breakfast for all. Please see the below article for more detail.

March 22, 2008:

OPEN

March 29, 2008:

Radio Reunion Thomasville Ga at the Morningside Methodist Church at 2pm. Each year a different club will host the event. This is a great opportunity to put a face to a name, after all if a disaster strikes the Tallahassee area, we will all be in the same boat. We will need each other to get through the ordeal. For more information please read Mikes KE4FGF article below:

"The Radio Reunion"

March 30, 2008:

"BlueLine 100" This is a 100-mile bike ride leaving out of Pat Thomas Law Academy (just west of Midway on Hwy 90) & tours into South GA and then back to the Pat Thomas Law Academy.

This will take a considerable number of Ham Operators. As soon as I get the particulars I will share them with you. Contact me Dan ki4hgo if you are interested in volunteering for the event.

Don't forget the TARS Picnic and Auction!!!!!!!

Annual Shamrock Scurry 5K Race

Last year's Annual Shamrock Scurry 5K Race on Saturday, March 17th, at Celebration Baptist Church, was a big success. A record breaking number of participants ran the course. Runner Pre-Registrations DOUBLE the rate of last years, nearly 300 participated in the event. After the race, there was the pancake breakfast and awards ceremony.

This is a great event for new hams, it takes about half of the morning, including the pancake breakfast. The event is on Saturday March 15, 2008. We need a net control for the event as well as 12 ham radio operators. This year's event is going to break all participation records. Please send me an e-mail (ki4hgo@arrl.net) if you want to participate or need more information.

A note from Terry (the organizer) to the Hams:

Hi Dan and fellow Amateur Radio Operators!

Things have finally gotten back to "normal" after the Shamrock Scurry 5K Race, so I wanted to again thank each of you for all the help you provided during the race! It was invaluable to know continually how things were going, any problems, and so on!

Thank you very much for all your help and, most especially, to Dan who coordinated it all!

See you next year!

J. Terry Ryan, President
Children of Ireland Group, Inc.
A 501c3 US Non-Profit Organization
2580 Care Drive, Suite #2
Tallahassee, Florida USA 32308



Kudo's to:

W1ABT - Alan
KI4OEE - Ben
WA4WES - Dave
KG4GXT - John
AI4CW - Kerry
KI4MAJ - Larry
KI4AGD - Mike
KI4OVG - Kalynn
K4MVL - Theo



"The Radio Reunion"

It's an ambitious project. We knew it was before we started. How's the best way to get 5 different clubs under one roof simultaneously? And the ultimate question...why would we want to do this? The answer to the first question is easy...FEED THEM! The answer to the second question is also simple. If a situation came up where we'd have to work closely together, wouldn't it be smoother sailing if we actually knew each other better beforehand? Still it is a daunting challenge to schedule 5 separate groups, the Valdosta ARC, Madison County ARES, Sportsman's Paradise ARC, the Tallahassee ARS, and the Thomasville ARC, to all be in one place at one time. Thankfully, the month of March was kind enough to give us a fifth Saturday to make this work for all concerned.

Reunions are common in larger families, as the various branches in the "family tree" turn inward towards the "trunk" if you will, to see where they've come from. Love of the art of radio communications is the common "trunk" for our various clubs. We most often find ourselves caught up in the gear and technical aspects of the hobby, but what we're after with this event doesn't actually involve the gear ...it's about getting to know the people behind the microphones, and the families behind those people. It's not a tailgate party, and outside of a talk-in station, there won't be any equipment set up. What we're after is a social event with actual face to face communications and fellowship. We want to get to know each other as people, without any radio traffic or bike riders needing to be dusted off stealing the limelight. A number of folks have membership in more than one club, but even so, each group represented is a little bit different and unique in its own right. And, a good idea may be to have an informal meeting *after the meal* where the leaders of the various groups can tell a little about their group and what they have planned for the year 2008. The discussion should also be nothing really heavy because we want our families to attend this too, and they're probably not going to want to hear a lot of long drawn out radio talk. I do hope it will set the stage for those "long drawn out discussions" later on in a different setting, because we are all too close geographically not to have the other groups included in our long range plans and goals.

So what needs to happen beforehand to pull this off? The most important information we need is a very accurate head count of who is going to be there and how many are coming with them. If we don't have that, we risk either someone going home hungry, or that all of us will be eating barbecue chicken for several days *after* the event. **And we need that count by at least March 15th to assure we have time to get the chickens ordered.** The individual clubs need to get together on what kind of side dishes they're bringing so we don't end up with BBQ chicken and a lot of chocolate cake...not that chicken and cake is a bad combo, I'd just personally want more variety than that. If each Club President will have their "Events Manager" gather this information and send it to me, we can proceed ahead.

We've chosen Morningside Methodist Church for the site as it is pretty easy to find and gives easy access despite what direction you're coming from. The time chosen is 2pm and there are two reasons for that. First is to have additional time to have the chicken finished. Second, we want it to be in the afternoon so the folks travelling the furthest don't have to leave too early and can also be home before dark. The church has a fenced playground to keep the kids (and some of the hams) busy. Again, we want this to be a fun family outing where we find out more about each other... Talk it over with your family and give serious thought to coming to Thomasville on the 29th and enjoying a meal with us... de **Mike, KE4FGF**

Please Support AE4S Repeater...

For the past 29 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 auto patch 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

New Membership or Renewal Form



2008 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:

TARS Committees:

Repeater Trustee #1: Randy Pierce AG4UU

Repeater Trustee #2: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Dan Moniz KI4HGO

Historian: Shawn Wilson AG4VE

Equipment Manager:

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

