



Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society March, 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 not be a TARS meeting on
Thursday March 5, 2009.**

Annual TARS Auction and Cookout

The annual TARS auction will be held on the first Saturday of March (March 7, 2009) 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 9:30 AM so we may start the auction promptly at 10 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.

Minutes

Minutes of the February TARS Membership Meeting TARS - Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society Thursday, February 5, 2009

The TARS February Meeting was held at the State of Florida Emergency Operations Center at 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard in Tallahassee on Thursday, February 5, 2009. The meeting was kindly hosted by EOC staff members John Fleming WD4FFX and Kimo Montague K4IMO.

CALL to ORDER at 7:00 p.m.

President Dan Moniz KI4HGO welcomed the 42 members and guests who signed in.

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

INTRODUCTION of GUESTS

Dan introduced EOC staff member and John Fleming WD4FFX. John explained that the meeting was taking place in a room apart from the EOC control area where new shelving posed an obstacle to large meetings.

At Dan's request, a motion was approved to vary the normal order of the meeting by carrying out TARS' business meeting first. John Fleming said visits to the EOC control area would be conducted afterwards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dave WA4WES, Capital District Emergency Coordinator for ARES, announced:
 - § He is updating his ARES database and he passed a list for participants to update with any changes, especially phone, email, or other contacts.
 - § Following the PSK-31 seminar in January, Dave has begun a PSK-31 net at 7 p.m. Sundays and invites any interested hams to participate.
 - § Dave has several pieces of functioning radio equipment available, and interested members can contact him after the meeting or by email
 - § Tornado season is coming soon, so hams should be alert to weather conditions; Dave will continue to send out phone and email alerts. He mentioned that the SW Georgia ARES group has been very active in sharing weather alerts from their side of the border.
2. David KG4YZI said a lady in Indian Head Acres has 60-80 feet of Rohn 20 available on a tower. If anyone is interested, they will need a hacksaw to bring it down. Please contact KG4YZI for details.
3. Dave WE4RA said there are 50-60 feet of Rohn 25 available on a tower near FSU. Please contact WE4RA if interested.
4. Dan KI4HGO passed around the QSL card for SKYWARN Appreciation Day, and thanked all who helped with producing the very attractive prototype. The size will be reduced to standard QSL card size for final production of the cards.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT and MINUTES

The Treasurer's Report and Minutes were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Repeater -

Trustee Randy AG4UU reported that the 53.03 6m repeater is hurting and he will get at it as soon as

possible. He mentioned that various difficulties are arising in repeater coordination, due in part to delays in request processing within the Florida Repeater Council. He mentioned the requirement every 2 years to inform the FRC that the various repeaters are up and still operating. A long discussion followed, with comments by various members on the model of SERA (Southeast Repeater Association), the important advantages of coordination, and difficulties that arose during the coordination of the Section's D-Star system. The role of ARRL was discussed as it relates to coordination issues under Part 97, and a suggestion was made to raise any serious problems during meetings at the Orlando Hamfest or afterwards with ARRL Southeast Division Director Greg Sarrat W4OZK. Several expressed concern that the 146.655 had been uncoordinated due to similar delays. Randy continued his report on the new Bethel Road repeater, saying he would be out there Monday afternoon; but he mentioned that it also will be uncoordinated due to its new ERP and change in altitude. Randy and his team were thanked for their continued efforts.

Testing -

Alan Terrell N4KGT reported that 4 people took tests at the session on Tuesday and 3 received their license or upgraded. The results were: 1 new Technician; 1 new General who had passed her Technician test at the same session; and 1 upgrade from Advanced to Extra Class. Alan thanked the VE team members for their service and asked to meet with all VEs after the Business session.

Education -

Phil N4IPH announced that the Technician class will start February 17th at 5:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Chapter House, and will also meet on the 19th, 24th, and 26th, with testing on Thursday, February 26th. Applicants should call the ARC at 878-6080 to let them know they plan to attend. The ARC has no grant money for books, so applicants will need to place an order through the ARRL. Information on the class will be placed on the K4TLH website. Phil mentioned that on February 26th the class may need to be moved because of scheduling conflicts for the room, but that will be announced later. It was mentioned that February 26th is also the date of the dual Hospital Emergency exercise. Phil said the next class at Tallahassee Municipal Hospital will probably be scheduled later in Spring.

Website -

Webmaster David WE4RA reported that the upgrade went well. Many problems arose during replacement, so he felt this was good timing. He has invested funds in new server hardware and hopes users will see improvement. David was thanked for his efforts.

Newsletter -

Dan KI4HGO said the February Newsletter was sent out to all members. Anyone who would like to receive an electronic copy and did not get one, please email Dan at ki4hgo@arrl.net

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dan KI4HGO mentioned the shirts that W4EAF had researched, and directed members' attention to the forms in the Newsletter where members can place their orders.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan received an email request for assistance to get an HF antenna up for Robert Jakeman KD4AIS of Havana, so he can continue to operate on CW and voice. Several members said they could help.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a brief discussion, Dan formally thanked John and Kimo for inviting TARS to visit the facility. The formal business meeting closed at 8:20 p.m. and members proceeded to observe the changes to the EOC and receive a guided visit to the State Warning Point.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantal Blanton, KI4NBU

TARS Treasurer's Report
March 2009

Beginning balance February 1, 2009

Checking Account:	\$429.84
Savings Account:	<u>\$2594.32</u>
Total	\$3024.16

Receipts deposited in checking account: \$ 298.75

Receipts derived from the following:

\$148.75	Dues
10.00	Donation
<u>140.00</u>	Received from SPARC for Bethel Road Tower
\$298.75	

Expenditures:

\$22.74 January bill from Talquin Electric for Bethel Road Tower

Outstanding Expenses:

None

Ending Balance, January 31, 2009

Checking Account:	\$ 705.85
Savings Account:	<u>\$2594.32</u>
Total	\$3300.17

10 members renewed or joined since last report.

- 9 individuals
- 1 family member
- 0 students

Dues for renewing individuals, as well as family members are \$15.00.
Membership fee for new members joining in March is \$12.50.

Results of the Technician License Class de Phil N4IPH

The Technician License Class held at the Red Cross the past two weeks was very successful...we had 100% pass their Technician Class exam on February 26. Hopefully in the next week or so we may hear some new call signs on the local repeaters. Those completing the class were:

**Mary DuBois-Bruner,
Patricia Hall,
Ellen Hartman,
James Hartman,
Rick Jimmerson,
Frank Lupo,
Roy Mersdorf,
Don Ritchie
Glenn Turner.**

"Congratulations and Welcome to Amateur Radio !! ". They also signed up for **ARRL Membership** to help us support Amateur Radio.

I want to thank the following hams who supported the class and VE Testing..**David KG4YZI, Moe KI4PZS, Kerry AI4CW, Alan N4KGT, Farley AE4KJ, Paul KJ4G and David W4SKG.**

Thanks also to Pat and the Red Cross for allowing us to use the facilities for the class and VE exam session.

Hopefully we can get a *General Class* course scheduled in the spring...I'll keep you posted...

73
Phil

Tallahassee Hospitals and local Hams, participate in Emergency Exercise

On February 26th, both the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and the Capital Regional Medical Center performed an drill of their emergency capabilities using their night shift personnel. We provided the Amateur Radio communications in this drill.

We were called out through our chain command with the acting SEC, Paul Eakin receiving the call at about 5 pm and the request was rapidly passed down to Dave Davis, DEC, to Alan Torledsky, EC, and then to the hospital coordinator.

WE had planned to meet for this exercise at 6pm at the nearby Publix parking lot. With the activation at 5pm meant we deployed as hams arrived at the staging area similar to a real situation. The following HAMS participated:

TMH LEAD W1ABT -- Alan Torledsky
TMH VE2AHH -- Art Horovitch and Susan
CRMC Lead KJ4G -- Paul Eakin
CRMC NS4G -- Bob Maiden
CRMC AI4GF -- Dave Barton
CRMC AG4UU -- Randy Pearce
NCS WA4WES -- Dave Davis
TMH K4YFW-- Sal Matocci
TMH KI4YZI -- Dave Perryman
TMH W4SKG---David
Backup KI4HGO--Dan

Each hospital handled its internally communications on their assigned 2m repeater. One ham at each hospital handled the hospital to hospital communications through an admin operating on a third repeater. Problems were discovered with the frequencies. At CRMC, the 2m repeater was weak inside the hospital, so a switch was made to the 444.400 which is located on hospital grounds. By bringing our own ham radios, this switch could be made. Note also that the hospital radios are only 2m. Also a few problems were discovered in the programming in the hospital radios.

We successfully demonstrated our capabilities as well as learned of areas we need to improve. At the CRMC, the hospital radios in their temp ER failed and the HAM radios were right there. At the TMH hot wash, the hams were given a standing ovation.

73,
WQ4M, Donna Jean Barker
Hospital Coordinator

Upcoming Major Events:

March 7, 2009:

Falling Waters Ham gathering

March 07, 2009:

TARS Picnic and Auction. Plan to be there around 9:30 AM so we may start the auction promptly at 10 AM and eat around noon-ish. Talk-in on the AE4S repeater 146.655 (down .600, tone 94.8)

March 29, 2009:

"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 is a major event this year and we will need more 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.

Pictures from WeatherFest @NWS



Pictures from the digital forum



Pictures from the EOC



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



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

